



San Francisco Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing (HSH)

HSH DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

Presentation to the Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB)

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

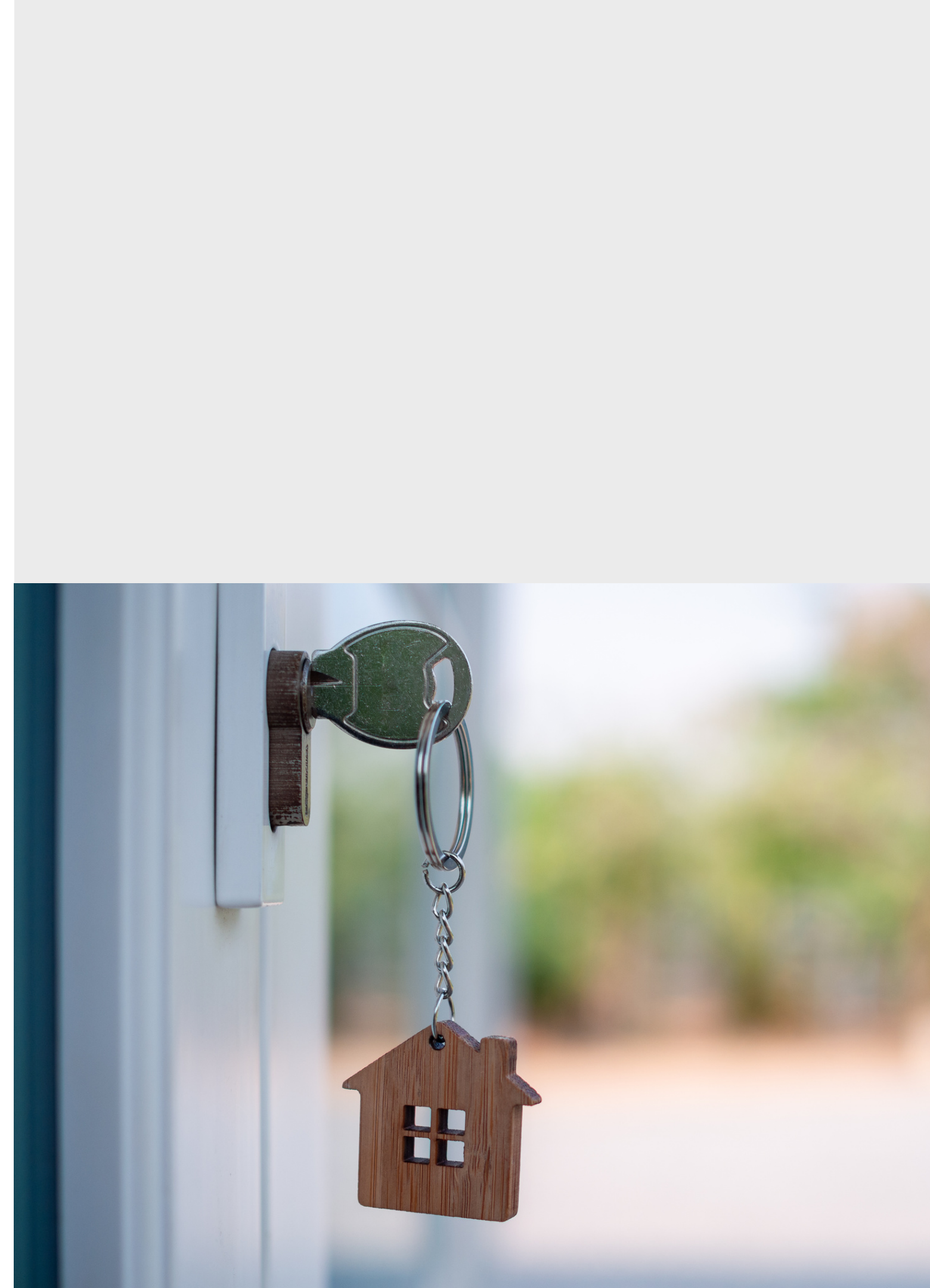




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BACKGROUND

The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) has adopted the HSH [Definitions of Homelessness](#). This policy informs the community on how HSH defines homelessness for residents who need assistance from the [City's homelessness response system](#).

HSH last revised our Definitions more than three years ago in 2019, and was largely based on federal and state categories of homelessness. This *re-introduction* expands on San Francisco's local definitions which incorporate a *broader category of people served*.

Policy components:

San Francisco's serves people experiencing homelessness based on three (3) **populations:**



- Adults
- Families with Minor Children
- Youth

For each of these populations, HSH provides guidance on **Current Living Situation (Housing or Homeless Status)** and **Connection to San Francisco**.

POLICY REVISIONS - FAMILY POPULATION

All people experiencing homelessness are covered by at least one population or household type: Family, Adult, or Youth. Under the local Family definition, HSH no longer stipulates specific timelines for reunification.

[SF Definitions of Homelessness \(11/2019\)](#)

Population Definition:

- Family
- One or more adults with physical and legal custody of one or more children; or
- One or more adults with one or more minor children not currently in their custody who are expected to reunify in less than 90 days and who have a letter from Child Protective Services stating that the only barrier to reunification is lack of shelter or housing.

NEW

[SF Definitions of Homelessness \(July 2023\)](#)

Population Definition:

- Revised to ***Families with Minor Children***
- Revised to *One or more adults with custody of one or more children under 18 who reside with the adult(s) on a regular basis.*
- Revised to *Adult(s) with at least one minor child not currently in their care who are involved with San Francisco child welfare services.*

POLICY REVISIONS - INDIVIDUALS FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To align with the federal and state definition for individuals fleeing or attempting to flee violence, HSH has updated the criteria for domestic violence and other dangerous/life-threatening conditions to include human trafficking.

[SF Definitions of Homelessness \(11/2019\)](#)

Literally Homeless:

- Fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member in the primary nighttime residence or has made the individual afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence

NEW

[SF Definitions of Homelessness \(July 2023\)](#)

Separate Category:

- Individuals fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence is no longer listed under Literally Homeless but is shown in a separate category.
- Fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, **human trafficking** and other dangerous or life-threatening conditions.

POLICY REVISIONS - LIVING SITUATION

Categories of Homelessness were largely based on federal and state definitions. San Francisco's local definition has consolidated these categories under one local definition of "Homeless."

[SF Definitions of Homelessness \(11/2019\)](#)

Housing/Homeless Status:

- Literally Homeless - Has been residing in an institutional care settings for fewer than 90 days and was homeless before entry
- At Risk of Chronic Homelessness (ARCH)
- Homeless (for Families with Minor Children)

NEW

[SF Definitions of Homelessness \(July 2023\)](#)

Housing/Homeless Status:

- Consolidates Literally Homeless, ARCH, and Homeless (for Families with Minor Children) to San Francisco's local definition of **Homeless**
- Removes *"90 days or less" criteria for people leaving institutional care settings* (under Literally Homeless)

Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) Recommendation



HSH seeks approval from the LHCB to include the revised [HSH Definitions of Homelessness](#) in the [Coordinated Entry Standards](#).

- Contingent upon approval, HSH will update the Coordinated Entry Standards and all associated materials, policies, procedures.
- HSH will socialize the revised HSH Definitions of Homelessness to homelessness response system providers, partners and the overall community.

Questions & Comments

[*Revised* HSH Definitions of Homelessness \(7/2023\)](#)

[HSH Definitions of Homelessness \(11/2019\)](#)

[HSH Homepage](#)

[Coordinated Entry Homepage](#)

Thank you