Health and Housing Acronyms, Terms and Definitions

This resource was created in 2016 by CSH in coordination with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Regional Primary Care Coalition. It was first intended for county and state planning meetings that include leaders from housing, health, and homeless sectors. Each system has its own set of acronyms that its members use fluently in conversation. When bringing multiple systems together for integrated approaches to problem solving using acronyms can lead to confusion around their meaning. Having all commonly used acronyms in one place for leaders to reference helps to keep conversation flowing. The list below includes direct definitions pulled from the sources included in the bibliography. In some cases, definitions were combined or edited for brevity.

Acronym	Full Name	Definition
ACA	Affordable Care Act	Also known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), healthcare reform (HCR) and Obamacare, it is the comprehensive healthcare reform law enacted in March 2010. The law was enacted in two parts: PPACA was signed into law on March 23, 2010. It was amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act on March 30, 2010. Affordable Care Act refers to the final, amended version of the law. https://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/about-the-law/read-the-law/
ACF	Administration for Children and Families	A division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). ACF has a budget for 65 programs that target children, youth and families, including for assistance with welfare, child support enforcement, adoption assistance, foster care, child care, and child abuse.
ACO	Accountable Care Organization	A group of healthcare providers that gives coordinated care for chronic disease management with the goal of improving the quality of patient care. The organization's payment is tied to achieving healthcare quality goals and outcomes that result in cost savings. ACOs can include various types of doctors – primary care, specialists, etc. – as well as other medical providers (nurses, physician's assistants, etc.) and institutions (hospitals, multi-physician practices).
Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	Affordable means that rent or homeowner burden is no more than 30 percent of 80 percent of area median income.
AHAR	Annual Homeless Assessment Report	Annual report to Congress completed by CoCs October through December each year for submission to HUD. It provides nationwide estimates of the extent of homelessness and demographics of households experiencing homelessness, including service use patterns and housing capacity.
AoA	Administration on Aging	Federal agency responsible for advancing the concerns and interests of older people and their caregivers.
APR	Annual Progress Report	Report that tracks program progress and accomplishments in HUD`s competitive homeless assistance programs. The APR provides the grantee and HUD with information necessary to assess each grantee`s performance.
BHO	Behavioral Health Organization	A managed care organization overseeing behavioral health, also referred to as BHMCO (Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization). See managed care organization (MCO) for definition.

BPHC	Bureau of Primary Health Care	Funds health centers through section 330 of the PHSA to provide health care for underserved communities. Funds health centers to provide health care for underserved communities. Also administers the National Hansen's Disease Program.

Care Coordination	Care Coordination	The process of organizing your treatment across several healthcare providers. Medical homes and Accountable Care Organizations (see definition) are two common ways to coordinate care.
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant (HUD funding)	A flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD. The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to 1,180 general units of local and State governments.
CDC	Community Development Corporation	A community development corporation (CDC) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated to provide programs, offer services and engage in other activities that promote and support community development. CDCs usually serve a geographic location such as a neighborhood or a town. They often focus on serving lower-income residents or struggling neighborhoods. They can be involved in a variety of activities including economic development, education, community organizing and real estate development. These organizations are often associated with the development of affordable housing.
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	HHS operating division (OPDIV) that promotes disease specific surveillance and intervention to protect the public welfare.
CDFI	Community Development Financial Institution	CDFIs can be banks, credit unions, loan funds, microloan funds, or venture capital providers. CDFIs are helping families finance their first homes, supporting community residents starting businesses, and investing in local health centers, schools, or community centers. CDFIs strive to foster economic opportunity and revitalize neighborhoods.
CHC	Community Health Center	Deliver preventive and primary health care to an underserved community/population.
CHIP	Children's Health Insurance Program	Insurance program jointly funded by state and federal government that provides health insurance to low-income children. In some states, it covers pregnant women in families who earn too much income to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford to purchase private health insurance coverage.
CHIP	Community Health Improvement Plan/Process	A community health improvement plan is a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems on the basis of the results of community health assessment activities and the community health improvement process. This plan is used by health and other governmental education and human service agencies, in collaboration with community partners, to set priorities and coordinate and target resources. It should define the vision for the health of the community through a collaborative process and should address the gamut of strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities that exist in the community to improve the health status of that community.

Chronically Homeless	Chronically Homeless	An individual or family that is homeless and resides in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, or in an institutional care facility if the individual has been living in the facility for fewer than 90 days and had been homeless before entering the institutional care facility and has been homeless and residing in such a place for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least 12 months. Each period separating the occasions must include at least 7 nights of living in a homeless situation. The head of household has a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental

		illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairment resulting from a brain injury or chronic physical illness or disability.
CMHC	Community Mental Health Center	A local health center that provides mental health services.
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	HHS operating division (OPDIV) which manages the Medicare and Medicaid programs
CoC	Continuum of Care	CoCs are located in every state, nationwide. The Continuum of Care is a regional, year round planning body of representative stakeholders in the community's work toward ending homelessness. Its work includes creating a unified plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximize self-sufficiency; gathering and analyzing information in order to determine the local needs of those experiencing homelessness; implementing strategic responses; and measuring results. HUD funds many homeless programs and HMIS implementations through Continuums of Care grants.
Collaborative Applicant		The eligible applicant designated by the CoC to compile and submit the annual application for HUD CoC Program funds on the CoC's behalf. The Lead Agency can also apply for CoC planning funds on behalf of the CoC.
Con Plan	Consolidated Plan	The Consolidated Plan is designed to help states and local jurisdictions to assess their affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions, and to make data-driven, place-based investment decisions. The consolidated planning process serves to align and focus funding from the CPD formula block grant programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program, and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program. The Consolidated Plan is carried out through Annual Action Plans.
Coordinated Entry		System to coordinate program participant intake, assessment and provision of referrals
CSH	Corporation for Supportive Housing	CSH transforms how communities use housing solutions to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people. CSH offers capital, expertise, information and innovation that allow partners to use supportive housing to achieve stability, strength and success for the people in most need. CSH blends over 20 years of experience and dedication with a practical and entrepreneurial spirit, making us the source for housing solutions.

CMMI	Center for Medicaid and Medicare Innovation	The Innovation Center was established by section 1115A of the Social Security Act (as added by section 3021 of the Affordable Care Act). Congress created the Innovation Center for the purpose of testing "innovative payment and service delivery models to reduce program expenditures …while preserving or enhancing the quality of care" for those individuals who receive Medicare, Medicaid, or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) benefits. Innovation Center is currently focused on the following priorities**:** testing new payment and service delivery models; evaluating results and advancing best practices; engaging a broad range of stakeholders to develop additional models for testing. https://innovation.cms.gov
DURSA	Data use and reciprocal support agreement	An agreement around rights and responsibilities for data use and security in a health information exchange.
DV	Domestic Violence	Occurs when a family member, partner or ex-partner attempts to physically or psychologically dominate another. Includes physical violence, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, intimidation, economic deprivation, and threats of violence. Also referred to as Intimate Partner Violence.
E*SNAPs	Electronic Special Needs Assistance Program	The electronic update from HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs) in the Office of Community Planning and Development, offers policy and program highlights, resource links, and community spotlights. The e*SNAPs update is issued bi-monthly to members of HUD's Homeless Assistance Program listserv.
EDM	Electronic Data Management	A system or approach used to track electronic documents.
EHR / EMR	Electronic Health Record / Electronic Medical Record	Medical records that are saved and shared electronically, through many different methods. A health or medical record in digital format
ES	Emergency Shelter	Any facility whose primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grant (formerly Emergency Shelters Grant)	Federal program providing funding to engage homeless individuals and families on the street, improve and operate emergency shelters, rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families, and homelessness prevention
FFS	Fee-for-service	A reimbursement plan in which doctors and other healthcare providers are paid for each service performed, such as for tests and office visits.
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year	Measuring a year beginning October 1 and ending September 31.
FMAP	Federal Medical Assistance Percentage	The Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAPs) are used in determining the amount of Federal matching funds for State expenditures for assistance payments for certain social services, and State medical and medical insurance expenditures. The Social Security Act requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to calculate and publish the FMAPs each year. The "Federal Medical Assistance Percentages" are for Medicaid.
FMR	Fair Market Rent	Area rent levels published by HUD and used in determining Section 8 payment standards
FPL	Federal Poverty Level	A measure of income level issued annually by the Department of Health and Human Services. FPL is used to determine eligibility for certain programs and benefits. Many public health insurance programs set eligibility based on a percentage of the FPL.

FQHC	Federally Qualified Health Center	Entities as defined under Sections 1861 and 1905 of the Social Security Act as being eligible to be reimbursed under Medicaid and Medicare as federally qualified health centers. Receives funds from BPHC to provide health care.
DSRIP	Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program	State and federal partnerships to achieve the Triple Aim.
HAB	HIV/AIDS Bureau	HRSA bureau that grant funds providers/institutions/states to provide HIV/AIDS services for medically underserved or those with poor health care access.
HCBS	Home and Community-Based Services	Services and support provided by most state Medicaid programs in your home or community that gives help with such daily tasks as bathing or dressing. Covered when provided by care workers or, if your state permits it, by your family.
HCV	Housing Choice Vouchers	Tenant based rental vouchers, formerly known as Section 8 vouchers.
HEARTH Act	Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid	Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 amending and reauthorizing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act with

	Transition to Housing Act	substantial changes, including a consolidation of HUD's competitive grant programs, creation of a Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program, a change in HUD's definition of homelessness and chronic homelessness, a simplified match requirement, an increase in prevention resources, and an increase in emphasis on performance.
HEDIS	The Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set	A tool used by more than 90 %of America's health plans to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service. HEDIS consists of 71 measures across 8 domains of care. Its measures address a range of health issues including: asthma medication use; persistence of beta-blocker treatment after a heart attack; controlling high blood pressure; comprehensive diabetes care; breast cancer screening; antidepressant medication management; immunization status; and advising smokers to quit.
HFA	Housing Finance Agency	State bond and tax credit allocating agency
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	A Cabinet department of the United States government with the goal of protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services.
HiAP	Health in All Policies	Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a collaborative approach that integrates health considerations into policymaking and programming, across sectors and at all levels, to improve the health of all communities and people. HiAP requires public health practitioners to collaborate with other sectors to define and achieve mutually beneficial goals.
HIC	Housing Inventory Count	Report completed by a CoC in March and April providing an inventory of beds and units available to serve persons who are homeless as well as persons in Permanent Supportive Housing. Consists of three housing inventory charts for: emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.
HIE	Health Information Exchange	An entity comprised of multiple stakeholders (i.e., providers, clinics, health departments, state actors, etc.) exchanging health information in a digital format. The goal of HIEs is to facilitate sharing of patient health information to improve care, care coordination and billing.

HIMSS	Healthcare Information Management Systems Society	Organization dedicated to promoting a better understanding of health care information and management systems.
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996	Legislation that ensures a right to buy health insurance after losing a job, sets standards for EMRs, and protects the privacy health information. HIPAA provides privacy standards to protect patients' medical records and other health information provided to health plans, doctors, hospitals, and other covered entities.
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System	Computerized data collection tool designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness. There are multiple versions of HMIS, developed by multiple vendors. It is a community-based software application that collects and reports on pertinent information in order to better serve individuals and families receiving services and/or housing from programs intended to prevent and end homelessness.
HMIS Final Notice	HMIS Data and Technical Standards Final Notice	Regulations issued by HUD via the Federal Register describing the requirements for implementing HMIS. The HMIS Final Notice contains rules

		about who needs to participate in HMIS, what data to collect, and how to protect client information.
HMIS Lead	HMIS Lead Organization	The central organizations that will house those individuals who will be directly involved in implementing and providing operational, training, technical assistance, and technical support to participating agencies.
Homeless	Individual experiencing homelessness	An individual or family who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution; People who are losing their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing; Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed; People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, have no other residence, and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	Established by HUD to address the specific needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. HOPWA makes grants to local communities, States, and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low-income persons medically diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and their families.
Housing First	Housing First	An approach to housing whereby consumers are offered immediate access to permanent affordable or supportive housing, without clinical prerequisites (like sobriety or medication compliance) that formerly had been common in shelter or housing programs. The housing in Housing First can be scattered-site, singlesite or use an integrated approach.
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration	HHS operating division (OPDIV) which seeks to improve access to health care for underserved populations.
HSB	Healthcare Systems Bureau	HRSA bureau oversees organ, bone marrow and cord blood donation & transplantation programs; assists poison control centers; administers vaccine injury compensation; provides a drug discount program for safety-net providers.

HUD	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development	The Federal agency responsible for national policy and programs that address America's housing needs that improve and develop the Nation's communities, and enforce fair housing laws. Established in 1965 with the mission to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes nationwide.
LIHTC	Low-Income Housing Tax Credit	Federal tax credit to encourage investment in low income housing.
LTC	Long Term Care	Medical and nonmedical services provided to people who are unable to perform basic activities of daily living such as dressing or bathing. Long-term supports and services can be provided at home, in the community, in assisted living or in nursing homes. Individuals may need long-term supports and services at any age. Medicare and most health insurance plans do not pay for long-term care.
LTSS	Long Term Services and Supports	A Medicaid term that includes nursing home and Home and Community based waiver services.
MA	Medicaid Agency	State agency overseeing implementation of State Medicaid Plan.
MA	Medical Assistance	Term used by some states to refer to their state public health insurance program, or Medicaid program.
MAGI	Modified Adjusted Gross Income	The figure used to determine eligibility for lower costs in the Marketplace/Exchange and for Medicaid and CHIP. Generally, modified adjusted gross income is your adjusted gross income plus any tax-exempt Social Security, interest, or foreign income you have.

McKinney-Vento Act	McKinney-Vento Act	The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on July 22, 1987. The McKinney-Vento Act funds numerous programs providing a range of services to homeless people, including the Continuum of Care programs: the Supportive Housing Program, the Shelter Plus Care Program, and the Single Room Occupancy Program, as well as the Emergency Shelter Grant Program.
MCO	Managed Care Organization	Managed Care is a health care delivery system organized to manage cost, utilization, and quality.
MH	Mental Health	State of emotional and psychological well-being in which an individual is able to use his or her cognitive and emotional capabilities, function in society, and meet the ordinary demands of everyday life.
MIS	Management Information System	Management Information System
MMCO	Medicaid Managed Care Organization	Medicaid managed care provides for the delivery of Medicaid health benefits and additional services through contracted arrangements between state Medicaid agencies and managed care organizations (MCOs) that accept a set per member per month (capitation) payment for these services.
MMIS	Medicaid Management Information System	The mechanized claims processing and information retrieval system which states are required to have for Medicaid purposes. Contractual services may be utilized to perform work for the design, development, installation, or enhancement of a mechanized claims processing and information retrieval system. A fiscal agent who is a private contractor to the state, normally selected through a competitive procurement process, may operate the state's MMIS.
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement	A signed agreement between two or more parties (ex: an agreement signed by a community, the NHSC, and a health professional which allows him/her to be assigned to a practice site).

MUA	Medically Underserved Area	An area that has a shortage of primary care physicians, and is eligible for federal support. Designation is applied for by the State Health Department and granted by the federal Office of Shortage Designation.
MUP	Medically Underserved Population	A population identified by certain criteria as having a shortage of primary care physicians, and is eligible for federal support.
NCHPH	National Center for Health in Public Housing	A project of North American Management that provides training and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of federally funded PHPC health centers and other health centers to meet the special health care needs and to enhance health care delivery to residents living in public and assisted housing.
NIMBY	"Not In My Back Yard"	Term used to refer to neighbors who oppose a housing project.
NMTC	New Markets Tax Credit	Federal tax credit to encourage investment in low-income communities (not housing)
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability	An announcement of funding available for a particular program or activity. See also SuperNOFA.
PCA	Primary Care Association	Primary Care Associations are established by HRSA through cooperative agreements with state and regional organizations to provide training and technical assistance (T/TA) to potential and existing Health Center Program award recipients and look-alikes. PCAs provide T/TA directly and through collaborative partnerships to support health centers in providing comprehensive, high quality primary health care and improving the health of individuals and communities consistent with the goals of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) National Quality Strategy.

PCP	Primary Care Practitioner	A practitioner recognized by the National Provider Identifier (NPI) who is a physician with a primary specialty designation of family medicine, internal medicine, geriatric medicine, or pediatric medicine OR a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant offering primary care.
PHA	Public Housing Agency	Administers HUD's low-income and public housing programs.
PHA	Public Housing Authorities	Local housing authorities
PHPC	Public Housing Primary Care	A program that provides residents of public housing with increased access to comprehensive primary health care services through the direct provision of health promotion and primary health care services on the premises of public housing developments, or at least other locations immediately accessible to residents of public housing.
PIT	Point in Time	Point in Time Count annually counts all sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in a community on one single night in January.
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing	An evidence-based housing intervention that combines non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services for people experiencing homelessness, as well as other people with disabilities. This type of supportive housing enables the special needs populations to live independently as possible in a permanent setting. Permanent housing can be provided in one structure or in several structures at one site or in multiple structures at scattered sites.
QAP	Qualified Allocation Plan	Details the selection criteria and application requirements for housing tax credits and tax-exempt bonds.

RHIO	Regional Health Information Network	An entity comprised of multiple stakeholders exchanging health information in a digital format across a designated region.
RHYMIS	Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System	An automated information tool designed to capture data on the runaway and homeless youth being served by FYSB's Basic Center Program and Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth (TLP). RHYMIS also captures information on the contacts made by the Street Outreach Program grantees and the brief service contacts made with youth or families calling the FYSB programs
RRH	Rapid Re-Housing	The provision of housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.
S+C	Shelter Plus Care (McKinney-Vento Program)	A program that provides grants for rental assistance for homeless persons with disabilities through four component programs: Tenant, Sponsor, Project, and Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Rental Assistance.
SA	Substance Abuse	Substance Abuse
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration	HHS operating division (OPDIV) which manages substance abuse and mental health programs.
SH	Supportive Housing	Long-term, community-based housing that has supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. Housing is affordable, permanent, and integrated in the community. Services are voluntary, flexible, and tenant-centered.
SHIP	State Health Improvement Process/Plan	The state health department's SHIP is a long-term, systematic plan to address issues identified in the State Health Assessment. The purpose of the SHIP is to describe how the health department and the community it serves will work

		together to improve the health of the population of the jurisdiction that the health department serves. The community, stakeholders, and partners can use a solid SHIP to set priorities, direct the use of resources, and develop and implement projects, programs, and policies.
SIM	State Improvement Model	The State Innovation Models (SIM) Initiative of CMMI is providing financial and technical support to states for the development and testing of state-led, multipayer health care payment and service delivery models that will improve health system performance, increase quality of care, and decrease costs for Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries—and for all residents of participating states. In Round One of the SIM Initiative, nearly $300 million was awarded to 25 states to design or test innovative health care payment and service delivery models. In Round Two, the SIM initiative provided over $660 million to 32 awardees (including 28 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia).
SMI	Serious Mental Illness	Definitions of serious mental illness vary by state and may be less restricted than the federal regulations. See the NREPP SAMHSA report: Beyond the Term: Serious Mental Illness
SPA	State Plan Amendment	Proposed change to State Medicaid plan that can address any aspect of Medicaid program administration (eligibility, benefits, services, provider payments, etc.). The federal government sets requirements for state Medicaid plans that a SPA must meet.

SPMI	Severe and Persistent Mental Illness/ Serious and Persistent Mental Illness	Definitions of severe and persistent mental illness vary by state. SPMI typically refers to a serious mental illness that is chronic in nature and has disabling conditions.
SRO	Single Room Occupancy	A residential property that includes multiple single room dwelling units. Each unit is for occupancy by a single eligible individual. The unit need not, but may, contain food preparation or sanitary facilities, or both. It provides rental assistance on behalf of homeless individuals in connection with moderate rehabilitation of SRO dwellings.
SSO	Supportive Services Only	Refers to a variety of services outside of housing, such as: job training, resident engagement, ESL, community building, domestic violence support, healthcare, mental health, quality of life, environmental controls, disaster preparation, education support, financial literacy, veteran services, transportation options, food services, disability services.
SUD	Substance Use Disorder	The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM5), no longer uses the terms substance abuse and substance dependence, rather it refers to substance use disorders, which are defined as mild, moderate, or severe to indicate the level of severity, which is determined by the number of diagnostic criteria met by an individual. Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically and functionally significant impairment, such as health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home. According to the DSM-5, a diagnosis of substance use disorder is based on evidence of impaired control, social impairment, risky use, and pharmacological criteria.
SuperNOFA	Super Notice of Funding Availability	The consolidation of all of HUD`s homeless grants program into one notice of funding availability. The SuperNOFA funds the Continuum of Care Competition.

TAY	Transition Age Youth	Youth aged 16-24 who are experiencing challenges on their path to a successful adulthood, including youth transitioning out of foster care or juvenile detention facilities, youth who have run away from home or dropped out of school, and youth with disabilities. Youth in this age group are sometimes also called "youth in transition," or "youth aging out."
TBRA	Tenant Based Rental Assistance	Rent subsidies that a tenant can take from unit to unit
TCAP	Tax Credit Assistance Program	Provides grant funding for capital investment in Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects via a formula-based allocation to State housing credit allocation agencies
TCEP	Tax Credit Exchange Program	Administered by the Treasury Department and is designed to help stalled LIHTC programs move forward
TDC	Total Development Cost	Sum of acquisition, construction and development costs in a housing project – hard and soft costs
TH	Transitional Housing	A project that has its purpose facilitating the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing within a reasonable amount of time (usually 24 months).
Triple Aim	Triple Aim	Also referred to as the Medicaid Triple Aim. A framework developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and adopted by CMS. The framework promotes health system performance initiatives that simultaneously improve the patient experience of care (quality and satisfaction); improve the health of populations; and reduce the per capita cost of health care.

UC	Unduplicated Count	The number of people who are homeless within a specified location and time period. An unduplicated count ensures that individuals are counted only once regardless of the number of times they entered or exited the homeless system or the number of programs in which they participated. Congress directed HUD to develop a strategy for data collection on homelessness so that an unduplicated count of the homeless at the local level could be produced.
UDE	Universal Data Element	Data required to be collected from all clients serviced by homeless assistance programs using an HMIS. These data elements include date of birth, gender, race, ethnicity, veteran`s status, and Social Security Number (SSN). These elements are needed for CoCs to understand the basic dynamics of homelessness in their community and for HUD to meet the Congressional directive to support AHAR.
UDS	Uniform Data System	System into which all community health centers must annually report their data on work force, service delivery, patient demographics, finance and specified clinical measures
Unaccompanied Youth	Unaccompanied Youth	Minors not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, including those living in inadequate housing such as shelters, cars, or on the streets. Also includes those who have been denied housing by their families and school-age unwed mothers who have no housing of their own.
USICH	United State Interagency Council on Homelessness	United State Interagency Council on Homelessness authorized in 1987 to coordinate and catalyze the federal response to homelessness by working in close partnership with Cabinet Secretaries and its 19 federal member agencies and supporting Governors, Mayors, Continuum of Care leaders and other local officials.
VA	Veterans Affairs	A government-run military veteran benefit system. It is responsible for administering programs of veterans' benefits for veterans, their families, and survivors. The benefits provided include disability compensation, pension,
		education, home loans, life insurance, vocational rehabilitation, survivors' benefits, medical benefits, and burial benefits.
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	VA programs for homeless vets
VAWA	Violence Against Women Act	Programs range from policies to encourage the prosecution of abusers to victim's services to prevention programs. VAWA helped forge new alliances between police officers, courts, and victim advocates.
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool	Assessment tool used by many communities to determine chronicity and medical vulnerability of homeless persons to intake and case management with a standardized tool.
Waiver	Medicaid Wavier	Authority to make proposed changes to state Medicaid Plan. A Waiver application is a formal request to CMS to have certain federal Medicaid requirements waived. Main waiver types include: 1915(b) Managed Care Waivers; 1915(c) Home- and Community-Based Care Waivers; Combined 1915(b) and (c) Waivers; and 1115 Research and Demonstration Waivers

This resource pulled direct definitions from many of the sources below. In some cases, definitions were combined or edited for brevity.

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