



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Community Planning and Development

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**Special Attention of:**

All Secretary's  
Representatives

**Notice: CPD-16-11**

**Issued: July 25, 2016**

**Expires:** This Notice is effective until it is amended, superseded, or rescinded

**Issued:**

All Regional Directors for  
CPD

**Cross Reference:** 24 CFR Parts 578 and  
42 U.S.C. 11381, *et seq.*

**Expires:**

All CPD Division Directors  
Continuums of Care (CoC)  
Recipients of the Continuum of Care (CoC)  
Program

*source file:*

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/notice-cpd-16-11-prioritizing-persons-experiencing-chronic-homelessness-and-other-vulnerable-homeless-persons-in-psh.pdf>

preconditions for receiving such assistance (such as a disability or a minimum income threshold). HUD will require all recipients of CoC Program-funded PSH to follow a Housing First approach to the maximum extent practicable.

2. **Chronically Homeless.** The definition of “chronically homeless”, as stated in Definition of Chronically Homeless final rule is:

(a) A “homeless individual with a disability,” as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:

i. lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and

- ii. Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (a)(i) continuously for at least 12 months or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (a)(i). Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering an institutional care facility;
- (b) An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (a) of this definition, before entering the facility;
- (c) A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (a) or (b) of this definition (as described in Section I.D.2.(a) of this Notice), including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

**3. Severity of Service Needs.** This Notice refers to persons who have been identified as having the most severe service needs.