



# *Charlotte-Mecklenburg* **HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS** Dashboard

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **Adult Only Household**

A household with single adult(s) and adult couple(s) unaccompanied by children under the age of 18.

### **Affordable Housing**

Housing where a household with annual income between 0% of area median income and 120% of area median income does not spend more than 30% of their pretax gross annual income on rent and utilities.

### **Area Median Income (AMI) or HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI)**

Income level estimate set by HUD for an area in the current year. The estimate is adjusted for different family sizes so that family income may be expressed as a percentage of the area median income.

### **Child Only Household**

A household in which all member(s) are under the age of 18.

### **Chronic Homelessness**

Type of homelessness defined as an individual or head of household with a disability who lives in a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter; and who has either been continuously homeless for at least 12 months or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years where the combined occasions total at least 12 months. Occasions are separated by a break of at least seven nights. Stays in institutions of fewer than 90 days do not constitute a break.

### **Continuum of Care (CoC)**

Local planning body designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. The CoC is responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in the designated geographic area, which covers all of Mecklenburg County. The Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg has oversight responsibility for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Continuum of Care.



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### **Emergency / Seasonal Housing (ES)**

A facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness. It can include facility-based beds and vouchers for beds located in hotels/motels made available by a homeless assistance project.

### **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program**

A program that administers grants to support essential services related to emergency shelter and street outreach, rehabilitation and conversion of buildings to be used as emergency shelters, operation of emergency shelters, short-term and medium-term rental assistance, and housing relocation and stabilization services.

### **Extremely Low Income Household**

A household with a gross annual income that does not exceed approximately 30% of the area median income.

### **Family (Household with Adult(s) and Children)**

A household with at least one adult (age 18 or older) and one child under the age of 18. This definition of a family is used for the Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count. (Please note: The definition of family may differ based upon the funding or reporting source.)

### **Fair Market Rent (FMR)**

According to 24 CFR 5.100, Fair Market Rent (FMR) means the rent that would be required to be paid in the particular housing market area in order to obtain privately owned, decent, safe and sanitary rental housing of modest (non-luxury) nature with suitable amenities. The FMR includes utilities (except telephone). Separate FMRs are established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for dwelling units of varying sizes (number of bedrooms).

### **Federal Poverty Level**

A measure of income level issued annually by the Department of Health and Human Services. Federal poverty levels are used to determine eligibility for certain programs and benefits.



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### **Homeless (HUD Definition)**

When an individual or household experiences literal homelessness, including sleeping in an emergency or seasonal shelter, transitional housing, or a place unfit for human habitation. According to HUD, doubled up and staying in a hotel/motel (when the household is paying for the hotel/motel) are *not* considered homeless. All programs who receive Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) dollars must use this definition of homelessness to determine eligibility for services. All outcomes related to homelessness on the Housing & Homelessness Dashboard use this definition of homelessness unless otherwise noted.

### **Homeless ([McKinney-Vento Definition](#))**

When an individual or household lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. According to the [McKinney-Vento Homelessness Act](#), this includes children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (doubled up); are living in motels/hotels, trailer parks, or camping groups due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.

### **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)**

A software application designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of people experiencing homelessness. Each CoC maintains its own HMIS, which can be tailored to meet local needs, but must also conform to HUD's HMIS Data and Technical Standards. Charlotte-Mecklenburg is part of a statewide HMIS system that is managed by the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH).

### **Homeownership Rate**

The number of owner-occupied units as a percentage of all occupied housing units.



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### **Housing Choice Voucher Program**

The federal government's major rental assistance program for assisting very low-income households, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. The Charlotte Housing Authority oversees this program in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

### **Housing First**

An approach that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). It is intended to quickly connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without barriers to entry and without preconditions that might lead to the program participant's termination from the project (e.g., supportive service participation requirements or rules beyond normal tenancy rules). Supportive services are voluntary, but are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness.

### **Housing Instability**

When an individual or household experiences any of the following: difficulty paying rent, experiencing frequent moves due to economic or affordability reasons, doubling up with family or friends, or living in hotels. Many people who become homeless have faced housing instability.

### **Cost Burdened**

When a household spends more than 30% of their gross income on rent and utilities, if a household spends more than 50% of their gross income on rent and utilities, they are considered extremely housing cost burdened.

### **Housing Inventory Count (HIC)**

A snapshot of the number of beds and units on one night that are dedicated to persons currently and formerly experiencing homelessness. This is completed each year during the last week in January, coinciding with the Point-in-Time Count.



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### **HUD ([U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development](#))**

A cabinet-level government agency created in 1965 with a mission to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD enforces the Fair Housing Act and oversees multiple programs and funding sources including the Community Development Block Grant, Continuum of Care Program, Emergency Solutions Grants Program, HOME, HOPWA Housing Trust Fund and Housing Choice Voucher program.

### **Low Income Household**

A household with gross annual income between 51% and 80% of the area median income.

### **Minimum Wage**

The North Carolina current minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour.

### **Mixed-Income Housing**

Housing development that includes a diversity of units at a variety of price points.

### **Moderate-Income Household**

A household with gross annual income between 81% and 120% of the area median income.

### **Parenting Youth**

An individual (under age 25) who identifies as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who is present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent.

### **Other Permanent Housing**

An intervention that provides long-term permanent housing not otherwise considered permanent supportive housing or rapid re-housing. It can include supportive services or provide housing assistance only. This is considered permanent housing.



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### **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**

An intervention designed to provide housing and supportive services on a long-term basis. This is considered permanent housing. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Continuum of Care has adopted the [Notice CPD-16-11](#), which prioritizes permanent supportive housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness.

### **Permanent Housing**

A desired destination for all people entering the homeless services system. It includes permanent housing programs and other permanent housing destinations. The full list of permanent housing destinations includes long-term care facility or nursing home, a unit that is owned or rented with or without a subsidy, and staying or living with friends or family that is considered to be permanent in tenure.

### **Point-in-Time Count (PIT)**

An unduplicated one-night estimate of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. This is completed each year during the last week in January, coinciding with the Housing Inventory Count.

### **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)**

An intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and not become homeless again. Rapid re-housing is defined as an intervention providing short-term or medium-term (up to 24 months) financial assistance and services to help those experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. The lease for the unit must be between the landlord and the program participant. This is considered permanent housing.

### **Rare, Brief and Non-Recurring**

A way to define an end to homelessness in the community. An end to homelessness means that the community has a comprehensive response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a rare, brief and non-recurring experience (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2017). The System Performance Measures are outcomes designed to measure a community's progress on making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.



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### **Sheltered Homelessness**

Type of homelessness in which people live in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals.). Projects that are classified as emergency shelter / seasonal housing and transitional housing are included within the sheltered count of the Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count.

### **Transitional Housing (TH)**

An intervention designed to provide temporary housing and appropriate supportive services to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing within a reasonable amount of time (usually 24 months).

### **Unaccompanied Youth**

An individual who is not part of a family during their episode of homelessness and is between the ages of 18 and 24.

### **Unsheltered Homelessness**

Type of homelessness in which people have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. It includes the street, parks, camps, vehicles, storage units, and bridge underpasses.

### **Very Low Income Household**

A household with gross annual income between 30% and 50% of the area median income.

### **Veteran**

An individual who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.



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### **Workforce Housing**

A type of affordable housing that is affordable to households earning 60% to 120% of area median income.