



# **GKCCEH HUD Continuum of Care Glossary of Terms & Acronyms**

MO-604 Jackson & Wyandotte County Continuum of Care  
[www.gkcceh.org](http://www.gkcceh.org)

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# Terms

**Adults with HIV/AIDS** – This subpopulation category of the Point in Time includes adults who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.

**Adults with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI)** – This subpopulation category of the Point in Time includes adults with a severe and persistent mental illness or emotional impairment that seriously limits a person's ability to live independently. Adults with SMI must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for disability.

**Adults with a Substance Use Disorder** – This subpopulation category of the Point in Time includes adults with a substance abuse problem. Adults with a substance use disorder must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for disability.


**Aftercare** – Any subsequent interventions provided after homeless households exit a homeless program that are offered and/or provided to help the client maintain housing, employment, sobriety, etc.

**Asexual** – An individual who may not experience sexual attraction or desire to engage in sexual activity.

**Bisexual** – A person who experiences attraction towards more than one sex/assigned sex or gender identity.

**Bridge (Reserved Crisis) Housing** – Safe, reserved, 24-hour emergency shelter to be utilized by eligible homeless individuals, identified through the Coordinated Entry System. The intention of this emergency housing is to provide individuals with some stability, so that they can more easily maintain contact with their Housing Navigator, as they are assisted in their efforts to housing. Rapid Rehousing may be used as a form of Bridge Housing.

**Case Conferencing** – A component of the Coordinated Entry process that is utilized when a client reaches the top of the By Name List. Case conferencing is used to identify or clarify issues regarding a participant's housing status and progress towards permanent housing, review activities including progress and barriers towards housing, assign primary Housing Navigation responsibilities, strategize solutions, and adjust current service plans as necessary. It is a formal, planned, and structured meeting in which providers coordinate staffing assignments, provide client level updates, and ensure coordination of services. The



goal of case conferencing is to provide the client with holistic, coordinated, and integrated services across providers and to reduce duplication. Case conferences are usually multidisciplinary and include multiple providers from throughout the Continuum of Care. They may be face-to-face or by phone/videoconference. They are held at routine intervals or during significant change. Case conferencing must be documented and follow any policies and procedures established for the Coordinated Entry System.


**Case Management** – A collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, evaluation, and advocacy for options and services to ensure that a person who experiences homelessness gets the services and supports that they need to move forward with their lives. Case Management in the context of the Coordinated Entry System should be voluntary, client centered, and trauma informed with the goal of identifying strengths and client-directed goals and service needs, while promoting health, recognition, and well-being. Case managers in the Coordinated Entry System should ultimately focus on linking the client to a permanent housing resource, provide the necessary services needed to promote housing stability, and reduce the risk of homelessness.

**Chronic Homelessness** –

1. An individual who:
  - a. Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 12 months or had at least four distinct and documented episodes (30 days or longer) in the previous 3 years; AND
  - b. Can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability
2. 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 1 of this definition, before entering that facility; or
3. 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 1 of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

**Cisgender** – The term used to describe individuals whose gender identity or expression aligns with those typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth

**Continuum of Care Lead Agency** – The CoC Lead Agency has a structured and clearly defined role and responsibility for handling the administrative aspects of the CoC. It is



responsible for organizing, but not necessarily leading, the planning process in the primary decision making group and sub-committees. It can be a 501(c)(3) or a unit of government.

**Crisis Housing** – An emergency shelter in the homeless Coordinated Entry System. Crisis housing means any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless or to provide a bridge to permanent housing.


**Disability** – An individual with one or more of the following conditions:

1. A physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that:
  - a. Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration;
  - b. Substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently; and
  - c. Could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions
2. A developmental disability, as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002); or
3. The disease of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or any condition arising from the etiologic agency for AIDS.

**Diversion** – Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. Diversion programs can reduce the number of families becoming homeless, the demand for shelter beds, and the size of program wait lists. When being diverted, the services that families are provided with include: provision of financial, utility, and/or rental assistance, short-term case management, conflict mediation, connection to mainstream services (services that come from agencies outside of the homeless assistance system, such as welfare agencies) and/or benefits, and housing search. The main difference between diversion and other permanent housing-focused interventions is centered on the point at which intervention occurs. Prevention targets people at imminent risk of homelessness, diversion targets people as they are applying for entry into shelter, and rapid re-housing targets people who are already homeless.

**Evidence of Site Control** – Documentation of an appropriate certificate of occupancy and/or a conditional use permit allowing the legal use of the property for the service/housing being proposed, and at least one of the following types of documentation securing the location for the use of the proposed system component:

- a) Proof of Ownership;
- b) Executed Option to Purchase;
- c) Executed Lease Agreement;

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- d) Executed Option to Lease;
  - e) Letter of Intent signed by both parties.

**Gay** – A person who experiences attraction to individuals of the same sex/assigned sex and/or gender identity. The word “gay” can be used to refer to attraction experienced by both men and women, or only men.

**Gender** – Gender is based on the expectations and stereotypes about behaviors, actions, and roles linked to being a “man” or “woman” within a particular culture or society. The social norms related to gender can vary depending on the culture and can change over time.

**Gender Creative** – A term sometimes used to refer to children or youth who identify and express their gender in ways that do not align with the social expectations associated with the sex assigned to them at birth (sex/assigned sex).


**Gender Diverse/Gender Independent** – An umbrella term for gender identities and/or gender expressions that differ from cultural or societal expectations based on assigned sex. Individuals may identify and express themselves as “feminine men” or “masculine women,” or as androgynous, outside of the categories “boy/man” and “girl/woman.” People who are gender non-conforming may or may not identify as trans.

**Gender Expression** – The way a person presents and communicates gender within a social context. Gender can be expressed through clothing, speech, body language, hairstyle, voice, and/or the emphasis or de-emphasis of bodily characteristics or behaviors, which are often associated with masculinity and femininity. The ways in which gender.

**Gender Fluid** – The term gender fluid refers to the potential for change in ideas, experiences, and expressions of gender at an individual and/or societal level. This concept recognizes the potential for individual movement within a gender spectrum when it comes to self-presentation or expression. Some people may choose to identify as gender fluid.

**Gender Identity** – A person's internal and individual experience of gender. This could include an internal sense of being a man, woman, both, neither, or another gender entirely. A person's gender identity may or may not correspond with social expectations associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. Since gender identity is internal, it is not necessarily visible to others.

**Gender Queer** – A person whose gender identity and/or expression may not correspond with social and cultural gender expectations. Individuals who identify as genderqueer may




move between gender identities, identify with multiple genders, or reject the gender binary or gender altogether.

**Harm Reduction** – An aspect of a program’s or system’s design whose objective is to reduce the negative consequences of participants’ high risk behaviors and/or continued use of drugs and/or alcohol or failure to be medication compliant. In housing settings, harm reduction is intended to prevent a participant’s loss of housing and/or termination from the program based solely on his or her inability to stop using drugs or alcohol or failure to take prescribed medications. Programs incorporating a harm reduction model must utilize all interventions possible, short of termination from the program to enable the participant to reduce or minimize their risky behaviors while at the same time assisting them to move into and become stabilized in permanent housing. Harm reduction is not intended to prevent the termination of a participant whose actions or behavior constitute a threat to the safety of other participants and staff.

**Homeless** – An individual who belongs to one of the following categories:

1. An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
  - a. An individual with 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;
  - b. An individual living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements;
  - c. An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
2. An individual who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
  - a. The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - b. No subsequent residence has been identified; and
  - c. The individual lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
3. Any individual who:
  - a. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual that has either taken place within the individual's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
  - b. Has no other residence; and
  - c. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing





**Homeless Management Information System Lead Agency** – Agency, organization or government department designated by CoC to administer and manage the HMIS.

**Housing First** – A low barrier homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing people experiencing homelessness, particularly for people with long histories of homelessness and co-occurring health challenges, with permanent housing as quickly as possible. It also provides the supportive services people need to keep their housing to avoid returning to homelessness. The provider ensures that the supportive services that program participants need or want in order to achieve permanent housing and to increase income are offered but not required as a condition of housing. Income, sobriety and/or participation in treatment or other services are voluntary and are also not required as a condition for housing.

**Housing Navigation** – Housing Navigation is the process by which homeless clients that have entered the Coordinated Entry System are provided ongoing engagement, document collection, and case management services in order to facilitate a match to an appropriate housing resource. In the context of Coordinated Entry System, outreach workers, case managers, and other homeless service providers may provide housing navigation assistance.

**Housing Navigator(s)** – Housing Navigator is the client’s primary point of contact in the Coordinated Entry System, often a social worker, case manager, outreach worker, or volunteer. The primary function of the Housing Navigator is to:


1. Assist clients in collecting necessary documents for housing applications
2. Accompany clients to housing appointments
3. Assist clients in navigating the entire housing search and placement process.

**Intersex** – A person whose chromosomal, hormonal, and/or anatomical sex characteristics fall outside the conventional classifications of male or female.

**Lesbian** – A woman-identified person who experiences attraction towards other women.

**Low Barrier** – A type of housing/program where a minimum number of expectations are placed on people who wish to live there/participate. There are few or no preconditions to housing, including employment, lack of criminal history, prior evictions, & participation in services.

**Mandated Reporters** – People who have regular contact with vulnerable people and are therefore legally required to ensure a report is made when abuse is observed or suspected. Specific details vary across jurisdictions—the abuse that must be reported may include



neglect, or financial, physical, sexual, or other types of abuse. Mandated reporters may include paid or unpaid people who have assumed full or intermittent responsibility for the care of a child, dependent adult, or elder. For more information about mandated reporting please refer to your state's social services agency.

**Matched** – The process by which an individual in Coordinated Entry System is determined to be eligible or initially eligible for a housing resource within the homeless system or mainstream housing options, and is “matched” to that resource.

**Outreach** – In the context of the Coordinated Entry System, outreach is defined as the activity of engaging a homeless individual through the process of rapport building with the goal of linking that individual to a permanent housing resource. Outreach and engagement are ongoing processes that involve creativity, flexibility, may take months or years, and establishes a relationship to connect a client to services. Outreach and engagement should be approached in a client-centered and voluntary manner that does not create any time constraints in relation to the speed that the client voluntarily seeks permanent housing. Outreach workers should have the capacity to refer clients to resources and services and should regularly participate in case conferencing to ensure clients entering the Coordinated Entry System are matched to the appropriate permanent housing resource.

**Outreach Coordination** – The planning and ongoing coordination of outreach activities in a region. This should include a multi-disciplinary approach that ensures adequate geographic coverage and the use of best practices to outreach.


**Pansexual** – A person who experiences attraction to individuals with diverse sexes/ assigned sexes, gender identities, and gender expressions.

**Parenting Youth** – A youth who identifies as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent where there is no person over age 24 in the household.

**Prevention** – Households who are at imminent risk of homelessness seek prevention services to help them maintain their current housing or to quickly relocate to another affordable housing unit so that they do not enter the homeless system. Prevention services often prioritize extremely low or very low income households and primarily provide financial, utility, and/or rental assistance.

**Queer** – A term used by some members of LGBT2SQ communities, as a symbol of pride and affirmation of diversity. It can be used by a community to encompass a broad spectrum of identities related to sex/assigned sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, or by an individual to reflect the interrelatedness of these aspects of their identity. Queer was





historically a derogatory term for difference, used in particular to insult LGBT2SQ people and communities.

**Questioning** – A term used to describe those who are in a process of discovery and exploration about their sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.

**Rent Reasonableness** – The total rent charged for a unit must be reasonable in relation to the rents being charged during the same time period for comparable units in the private unassisted market and must not be in excess of rents being charged by the owner during the same period for comparable non-luxury unassisted units. Such determinations should consider:

- a. Location, quality, size, type, and age of unit
- b. Any amenities, housing services, maintenance and utilities to be provided by the owner.


Comparable rents may be verified by using a market study, reviewing comparable units advertised for rent, or by obtaining written verification from the property owner documenting comparable rents for other units owned.

**Section 8** – A federally funded rent-subsidy program for low-income households that was recently renamed the Housing Choice Voucher program. Under Section 8, a tenant pays 30-40% of their monthly income for rent and the government pays the remainder, up to a set maximum Fair Market Rent. Section 8 subsidies can be tenant-based (awarded to a tenant household that can take them to any private landlord) or site-based/project-based (awarded to an owner who uses it on the same unit over time).

**Sex/Assigned Sex at Birth** – The classification of a person as male, female, or intersex based on biological characteristics, including chromosomes, hormones, external genitalia, and reproductive organs. The term “assigned sex” is used to acknowledge that sex is often a value determined by medical professionals and is commonly assigned to newborns based on visual assessment of external genitalia. Inclusion here of the recognized category of “intersex,” frequently overlooked in discussions of sex, serves as a reminder that even at the level of biology, sex is not a binary system.

**Sexual Orientation** – A term that classifies a person’s potential for emotional, intellectual, spiritual, intimate, romantic, and/or sexual interest in other people, often based on their sex and/or gender. Sexual orientation is often referred to as attraction.

**Social Enterprise** – Social Enterprises are profit or non-profit organizations whose primary purpose is “common good to advance their social, environmental and human justice agendas.” Many Social Enterprises provide a supportive work environment for those with significant barriers to employment. Social Enterprises provide those with barriers to



employment, including individuals experiencing homelessness, those reentering the community from incarceration, Veterans, disconnected youth, and those with disabilities, subsidized transitional employment combined with case management, supportive services and job readiness skills to prepare the hard-to-serve individual for unsubsidized, permanent employment.

**Supportive Services** – Services that may assist homeless participants in the transition from the streets or shelters into permanent or permanent supportive housing.

**Survivors of Domestic Violence** – Adults who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.


**Trans** – The term trans is frequently used as an umbrella term for a variety of other terms, including transgender, transsexual, and can also refer to terms like genderqueer, agender, bigender, Two-Spirit, etc. Some people may identify with these or other specific terms, but not with the term trans. Similarly, some people may identify as trans, but not with other terms under the trans umbrella. At their simplest, each of these terms has commonalities with the term trans, and yet they are all unique in their specific reference to the context of, and specific relationships between, conceptions of gender identity and sex/assigned sex.

**Transgender** – A person who does not identify (in full or partially) with the gender associated with their sex assigned at birth (sex/assigned sex).

**Two-Spirit** – The term Two-Spirit encompasses Indigenous cultures, spiritual beliefs, and values, as well as sexual orientation and gender identity. It is a term used by some, but not all, Indigenous people to describe their gender, sexual orientation, and/or sex and gender roles in Indigenous ways, using traditional terms and concepts. The Two-Spirit identity affirms the interrelatedness of all aspects of identity, including gender, sexuality, community, culture, and spirituality.

**Unaccompanied Youth** – Persons under age 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as his/her child(ren). Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household.

**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.



**Veteran** – Adults who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

**Victim service provider** – A private, nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This term includes rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, domestic violence transitional housing programs, and other programs.

**Youth** – Persons under age 25, including children under age 18 and young adults ages 18 to 24.

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# Acronyms

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** – Federal legislation that was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability.

**Annual Performance Report (APR)** – A reporting tool that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development uses to track program progress and accomplishments to inform the Department's competitive process for homeless assistance funding.

**Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)** – Total amount of all the Continuum of Care's U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-funded projects that are eligible for renewal.


**Area Median Income (AMI)** – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development calculations of the median income in an area that are presented by household size and adjusted each year. Many housing programs use percentages of AMI as the guidelines for income eligibility.

**By Name List (BNL)** – A list of homeless households who are seeking housing placement that have been assessed and prioritized based on need. The BNL is composed of the entire geography of the Continuum of Care and serves as the primary referral and placement source for Continuum of Care and Emergency Shelter Grant-funded Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing programs.

**Collaborative Applicant (CA)** – The eligible applicant designated by the Continuum of Care to collect and submit the required Continuum of Care application information for all projects that the Continuum of Care has selected for funding. The Continuum of Care may assign additional responsibilities to the CA so long as these responsibilities are documented in the Continuum of Care's governance charter.

**Community Action Agency (CAA)** – Non-profit private and public organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's war on poverty. These agencies help people to help themselves in achieving self-sufficiency.

**Community Based Organization (CBO)** – The focus of CBOs are to improve the general physical characteristics of a community.



**Community Based Development Organization (CBDO)** – The CBDO program provides funding for community economic development projects that increase economic opportunity for homeless persons.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** – The CDBG is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.


**Community Improvement Districts (CID)** – Designed to help improve the community by bettering conditions for existing businesses, and attracting new growth. Community safety, beautification, business retention, economic growth, and capital improvements are all domains in which CIDs can help improve business-minded communities. Different CIDs have different focuses, depending on the needs of the community they're serving.

**Community Planning and Development (CPD)** – The office within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that oversees homeless funding.

**Consolidated Plan (ConPlan)** – A locally developed plan that must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of the eligibility process for certain U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development programs, including Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program

**Continuum of Care (CoC)** – A regional or local planning body composed of agencies, organizations, and individuals who organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are experiencing homelessness and maximize self-sufficiency as they move to stable housing. It includes action steps that coordinate policies, strategies, targeted funding processes, and activities toward ending homelessness for a defined geographic area set by the Department of Housing & Urban Development. Its work includes gathering and analyzing information in order to determine the local needs of people experiencing homelessness, implementing strategic responses, educating the community on homeless issues, providing advice and input on the operations of homeless services, and measuring project and system level CoC performance.

**Coordinated Entry System/Coordinated Entry (CES/CE)** – A regionally based system that connects new and existing programs by assessing the needs of individuals, families, and youth experiencing homelessness and linking them with the most appropriate housing and services to end their homelessness. The goal of the CES is to streamline processes through which communities assess, house, and support housing retention for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness in order to ensure that they are known and supported, to target and maximize limited housing resources, and to comply with the federal mandate to adopt a standardized intake and coordinated assessment process for



housing. Coordinated entry processes help communities prioritize assistance based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most can receive it in a timely manner. Additionally, all people in the CoC's geographic area have fair and equal access to the coordinated entry process, regardless of where or how they present for services. The essential components of CES are: 1) a system that is low-barrier and easy to access 2) a system that identifies and assesses people's needs 3) a system that prioritizes and matches housing resources based on those needs. A coordinated entry process includes all subpopulations, including people experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, families, youth, and survivors of domestic violence, however; CoCs may have different processes for accessing coordinated entry, including different access points and assessment tools for the following different populations: (1) adults without children, (2) adults accompanied by children, (3) unaccompanied youth, or (4) households fleeing domestic violence. The CoC continuously evaluates and improves the process ensuring that all subpopulations are well served.


**Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)** – A national non-profit organization that provides organizational support and financing to non-profit housing developers to create permanent supportive housing. CSH also provides training and technical support for CoCs, and they conduct homeless research and advocacy via their state and national offices.

**Department for Children and Families (DCF)** – The mission of DCF is to provide a comprehensive child protection system of prevention, preservation, and permanency to ensure that children are safe, physically and emotionally healthy, educated, and in permanent homes. (Kansas)

**Department of Mental Health (DMH)** – Missouri state law provides three principal missions for the department: (1) the prevention of mental disorders, developmental disabilities, substance abuse, and compulsive gambling; (2) the treatment, habilitation, and rehabilitation of Missourians who have those conditions; and (3) the improvement of public understanding and attitudes about mental disorders, developmental disabilities, substance abuse, and compulsive gambling. In the Kansas City area, DMH is also a housing provider funded by the CoC.

**Department of Social Services (DSS)** – The mission of DSS is to serve the community through programs established to alleviate hardship and promote health, personal responsibility, and economic independence. This includes Children's Division. (Missouri)

**Department of Transportation (DOT)** – The mission of DOT is to ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests, and enhances the quality of life of the American people. (MODOT & KDOT)



**Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Domestic (DV/IPV)** – DV and emotional abuse are behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other. Partners may be married or not married; heterosexual, gay, or lesbian; living together, separated or dating.

**Emergency Assistance (EA)** – EA is the provision of essential services that is provided with limited frequency and for a limited period of time. It is intended to support a client with immediate emergency needs. EA often includes homelessness prevention/diversion assistance, paying on behalf of a client for rent, mortgage, utilities, hotel/motel, food vouchers, transportation, or other urgent personal needs. EA may also include the provision of direct commodities, including food and groceries, clothing, or other household items.

**Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)** – Allocates federal funds to local communities for programs such as soup kitchens, food banks, shelters, and homelessness prevention services.


**Emergency Shelter (ES)** – Any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations whose primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless.

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)** – ESGs provide homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services. Grantees are state governments, large cities, and urban counties.

**Fair Market Rent (FMR)** – Used to determine payment standard amounts for the Housing Choice Voucher program, to determine initial renewal rents for some expiring project-based Section 8 contracts, to determine initial rents for housing assistance payment (HAP) contracts in the Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy program (Mod Rehab), rent ceilings for rental units in both the HOME Investment Partnerships program and the ESG program, calculation of maximum award amounts for CoC recipients and the maximum amount of rent a recipient may pay for property leased with CoC funds, and calculation of flat rents in Public Housing units.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** – FEMA is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The mission of FEMA is to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, by leading and supporting the Nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation.





**Financial Opportunity Centers® (FOCs)** – Career and financial coaching service centers that help low- to moderate-income people build effective money habits and focus on the financial bottom line.

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)** – Federal legislation that allows for the full or partial disclosure of previously unreleased information and documents controlled by the U.S. Government. FOIA outlines procedures relating to disclosure and the agency records that must be disclosed.

**Frequent Users of Systems Engagement (FUSE)** – A permanent supportive housing model replicated across the country and targeted to break the cycle of homelessness and crisis among individuals with complex behavioral health challenges who are the highest users of emergency rooms, jails, shelters, clinics and other costly crisis service systems.

**Full Employment Council (FEC)** – The designated Missouri Job Center for the Kansas City area, serving Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray counties. The FEC connects people to debt-free career training, good jobs, supportive services and more.


**Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW)** – Document that is annually submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development confirming the amount of renewal funding to be requested by the CoC (lists the past CoC grants eligible for renewal in the upcoming competition year).

**Hold Harmless Need (HHN)** – In CoCs where the total amount needed to fund, for one year, all grants which are eligible for renewal in a competition year exceeds the preliminary pro rata need amount for that CoC, the CoC will receive the higher amount, referred to as the CoC hold harmless amount.

**HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)** – A U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development block grant program that provides housing subsidies to local and state governments who are recognized as Participating Jurisdictions. At the discretion of the local government, the money can be used to purchase, rehabilitate or construct housing; it can be used to subsidize rents of tenants as well.

**Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX)** – Point in Time, Annual Homeless Assessment Report and Housing Inventory Chart Data are entered on HUD's Homeless Data Exchange website. HDX 1.0 and HDX 2.0

**Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH)** – A federal act which amended and reauthorized the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The legislation increased priority on homeless families with children, significantly increased



resources to prevent homelessness, continued to provide incentives for developing permanent supportive housing, and granted rural communities greater flexibility.

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** – A local information technology system that is used to collect and aggregate client-level data regarding the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families, as well as to persons at risk of homelessness. HMIS is designed to capture client information over time on the characteristics, service needs, and accomplishments of homeless persons. Each CoC is responsible for selecting an HMIS software solution that complies with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's data collection, management, and reporting standards. GKCCEH encourages the use of HMIS by all members and service providers within the CoC, regardless of funding sources.

**Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)** – Rental subsidy program (also known as Section 8).


**Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)** – Document submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that lists all of the housing available in the CoC dedicated for homeless persons and families. It consists of three housing inventory charts for: emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing.

**Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)** – Established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 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.

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** – A federal department created in 1965 to increase homeownership, support community development and housing free from discrimination. Since 1987, HUD has been responsible for funding homeless programs, which today comprise the CoC.

**Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA)** – Connects people to opportunities through safe, reliable public transportation. KCATA is a bi-state agency charged with serving the transportation and development needs of the Kansas City region.

**Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)** – The dual goals of LAP are to educate IPV survivors about risk factors for homicide, provide safety planning and to connect people with support and safety planning services. Collaboration, education and self-determination are the touchstones of this intervention. The 11 question yes/no screen assists homeless services providers and survivors in determining if they are at high risk for being seriously



injured or murdered. The tool is designed for any first responder and training is required to ensure reliable application of the tool.

**Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)** – A part of the IRS code which grants tax credits to equity investors in low-income housing projects.

**Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)** – A report, produced from a CoC's HMIS and submitted annually to HUD via the HDX 2.0. It provides HUD and CoCs with critical information about how people experiencing homelessness use their system of care.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** – A document that outlines the roles and responsibilities of two or more organizations that are collaborating on a project. It is generally broader than a contract and often meant to retain its status over multiple contracts.

**Mentally Ill (MI)** – Programs that are tailored for individuals with mental illness are programs that serve individuals substantially limited in one or more major life activity by mental illness, based on confirmed clinical diagnosis, or initially by referral or staff assessment and later confirmed by clinical diagnosis.


**National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)** – A nationally-recognized leader on the issues of homelessness. NAEH studies and tracks public policies, data, and research, and best practices in the field of homelessness.

**Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)** – The annual notice made by HUD which establishes the funding criteria for each fiscal year's CoC programs. Organizations or individuals submit proposals in response to a funding opportunity, generally a grant.

**Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** – A cabinet-level office that is the largest office within the Executive Office of the President of the United States. It is an important conduit by which the White House oversees the activities of federal agencies.

**Permanent Housing (PH)** – A broad label for housing that includes permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent destinations with family, friends or rental housing, including subsidized housing. The HUD standard for maintaining PH is 6 months. The GKCCEH standard for maintaining PH is 12 months, dictated by consumer choice.

**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** – Long-term, affordable, community-based housing that has optional, voluntary supportive services that are tailored to the needs of each homeless individual. The head of household, including a minor head of household, must have a documented disability to be eligible for this program. This type of supportive



housing enables the special needs of populations to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. PSH typically serves the highest need homeless households who have the most barriers to accessing permanent housing.

**Point in Time (PIT)** – A one night count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in a CoC. Since 2005, HUD requires all CoC applicants to complete this count at least every other year in the last week of January. This count includes a street count in addition to a count of all clients in emergency and transitional beds.

**Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)** – A HUD eligible components of the Shelter Plus Care program.

**Pro Rata Need (PRN)** – The term used to describe the relative portion of funds a CoC could receive based on CoC geographic areas.

**Public Housing Authority or Agency (PHA)** – A local quasi-governmental agency that typically owns and manages public housing units and may administer a Section 8 program.


**Rainbow Services Inc. (RSI)** – Offers 24/7 services for Wyandotte, Johnson, and Douglas County residents (18 and older) who need non-medical help for a mental health or substance use crisis. RSI exists to provide care and treatment to individuals who are experiencing mental health or substance use issues that require immediate attention.

**Rapid Rehousing (RRH)** – A support intervention that uses a combination of case management, Housing Navigation, and temporary, time-limited financial assistance to assist those who are experiencing literal homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized in the PH of their choosing.

**Regional Alcohol and Drug Assessment Center (RADAC)** – Heartland RADAC is dedicated to raising awareness in our communities, serving those in need and reducing the stigma that is commonly associated with substance use disorders. (Kansas)

**Release of Information (ROI)** – Consumer/patient consent to release private or protected information.

**Residential Care Facility (RCF)** – A generic term for a group home, specialized apartment complex, or other institution, typically a skilled nursing facility, which provides care services where individuals live. After 90 days in an RCF, the consumer is considered to be in PH.



**Request for Proposal (RFP)** – A document that a business, non-profit, or government agency creates to outline the requirements for a specific project.

**Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** – RFQs are used to determine if an entity possesses the qualifications necessary to complete a project.

**Safe Haven (SH)** – A form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. SH projects must serve literally homeless individuals who reside on the streets or places not meant for human habitation and who have severe and persistent mental illness.

**Shelter Plus Care (SPC/S+P)** – A HUD homeless program that was once a program under the McKinney-Vento Act. SPC provided rent subsidies to households that are experiencing homelessness and in which at least one adult has a disability that prevents the person/household from being able to live independently. SPC projects are now part of the CoC program.

**Single Room Occupancy (SRO)** – Private rooms that contain either food preparation or sanitary facilities, or both, that are designed for occupancy by a single individual.


**Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)** – An insurance program for disabled people who have paid Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes for a certain number of calendar quarters. SSDI pays a variable monthly benefit amount, which depends on your work history. Payments begin after a 5-month waiting period from the time of disability. The Social Security Administration administers SSDI.

**Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance (SRA)** – A HUD eligible component of the S+C program.

**SSI/SSDI Outreach, Advocacy, and Recovery (SOAR)** – A technical assistance initiative that assists people who are homeless to successfully apply for Social Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Incomes (SSDI). The purpose of the initiative is to help people who are eligible for such benefits to receive them sooner, thereby more quickly facilitating that person's ability to move into housing.

**Substance Abuse (SA)** – Programs that are tailored for individuals with substance abuse issues are programs that serve individuals who have acknowledged addiction problems related to alcohol and drug use and who seek services or housing to support their sobriety.

**Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** – A public health agency within HUD. The mission of the agency is to be responsible for improving the



accountability, capacity, and effectiveness of the Nation's substance abuse prevention, addictions treatment, and mental health services delivery system.

**Supportive Services Only (SSO)** – HUD Homeless Assistance Program term for projects which provide support services only (no housing provided).

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** – A federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues and not Social Security taxes. SSI is designed to help aged and disabled people who have little or no income and provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

**Supportive Housing Program (SHP)** – A HUD homeless program that was once a program under the McKinney-Vento Act; now all SHP projects are now part of the CoC program. SHP provided funds for supportive services, as well as rent subsidies and/or housing operating subsidies.

**Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)** – Through the SSVF Program, VA aims to improve very low-income Veteran families' housing stability. Grantees (private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives) will provide outreach and case management services and will assist participants to obtain Veterans Affairs benefits and others.


**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)** – The major welfare program that provides income support to poor families. Replaced AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children).

**Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA)** – TBRA's are HUD eligible components of the S+C program.

**Transition Age Youth (TAY)** – An individual between the ages of 16 and 24.

**Transitional Housing (TH)** – A housing program designed to provide homeless individuals and families with housing and appropriate supportive services to facilitate movement to self-sufficient, independent living in PH within 24 months. TH may be used to cover the costs of up to 24 months of housing with accompanying supportive services. Program participants must have a lease, sublease, or occupancy agreement in place when residing in TH.

**United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)** – The mission of the USICH is to coordinate the federal response to homelessness and to constellate a national partnership at every level of government and every element of the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation.



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** – The mission of the VA is to provide excellence in patient care, veterans’ benefits and customer satisfaction.

**Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)** – Provides protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. VAWA protections are not only available to women, but are available equally to all individuals regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

**Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT)** – Provides a structured way of measuring an individual's vulnerability to continued instability. By rating an individual's level of functioning or severity of condition across 10 domains, a comprehensive assessment of vulnerability can be reached and then compared with vulnerability assessments of other people experiencing homelessness. The assessment process entails a structured interview followed by completion of the rating scales. The tool is designed for use by service workers accustomed to interacting directly with individuals experiencing homelessness, and training is required to ensure reliable application of the tool. VAT allows providers to do two things: 1) to develop an objective sense of an individual's vulnerability to continued instability; 2) to distinguish among the many adults experiencing homelessness in the community who have also had a vulnerability assessment.


**Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)** – A survey administered both to individuals and families to determine risk and prioritization when providing assistance to households experiencing homelessness.

**Women’s Employment Network (WEN)** – Helps establish, define, or re-define career direction. Through a proven curriculum and a series of personal and professional development workshops, our dynamic, experienced staff guides individuals on a path of self-discovery that creates self-acceptance, empowerment, and self-confidence.

**Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)** – A federal grant program for which Congress authorizes a specific amount of funds each year for low-income, nutritionally at risk pregnant women (through pregnancy and up to 6 weeks after birth or after pregnancy ends), breastfeeding women (up to infant’s 1st birthday), non-breastfeeding postpartum women (up to 6 months after the birth of an infant or after pregnancy ends), infants (up to 1st birthday), and children up to their 5th birthday.

**Workforce Partnership (WP)** – A community resource used by job seekers, employers, economic development entities and chamber organizations. (Kansas)





**Winter Shelter Program (WSP)** – A seasonal program that provides overnight mass shelter, two meals (dinner and breakfast) and limited case management services to people experiencing homelessness during the winter. The goal of the program is to provide shelter and basic services to people experiencing homelessness during the most inclement weather.

**Year Round Shelter Program (YRP)** – A program that provides overnight shelter, two meals (dinner and breakfast) and case management services to people experiencing homelessness throughout the year. Shelter is provided free of charge. Although there is no predetermined set time limit on residence in the Year Round Program, providers are encouraged to utilize a ninety-day time frame in which to place clients into appropriate long-term housing. The ultimate goal of the program is to enable clients to move into long-term housing programs including permanent housing.