Measure 6:
Homelessness Prevention and Housing Placement
of Persons Defined by Category 3 of HUD's Homeless Definition
in CoC Program-funded Projects

Ending homelessness in the U.S. by 2020 will require us to make significant improvements in the way our homelessness systems function. The department has developed a set of seven system-level measures to help communities understand their systems' performance. This video features Measure 6 of the seven, and explains why this measure is important, how it is calculated and how you might consider using this measure locally.

This measure is required only for the CoCs who have been approved by HUD to serve persons who are homeless under Category 3 of the Homeless Definition; currently no CoCs have been approved. Without HUD's approval, people who are homeless under Category 3 are ineligible for CoC Program-funded housing and services. So let's look at who's covered.

Category 3 covers families with children and youth or youth under the age of 25 who are considered homeless under other federal statutes because of their living situation but who are not literally homeless. These federal statutes include the Runaway & Homeless Youth Act, Head Start Act, Violence Against Women Act, and the Department of Education section of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. If you want more information, we encourage you to look at the summary of these statutes on the HUD Exchange website.

To receive CoC funded services or housing, families with children and youth and youth who meet the criteria under any of these other statutes must also have additional characteristics indicating they have barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing. These characteristics are that they:
- must not have had a lease or other interest or agreement in permanent housing in the preceding 60 days,
- must have had two or more moves in the preceding 60 days, and

- must be expected to continue in their housing instability because of a disability, history of domestic violence or various barriers to employment.

Let's look at a family and see whether they are considered homeless under these other federal statutes. We are going to use this chart of the other federal statutes to quickly evaluate households' Category 3 eligibility. Barbara and her two daughters live with Barbara's mother since Barbara lost her job nine months ago and then was evicted from her apartment. She has been sick and hasn't been able to look for work. Barbara does not meet any of the other categories of homelessness (because she isn't living on the streets or in shelter, doesn't have to leave her mother's within 14 days, and isn't fleeing or attempting to flee DV) but if we look at the other federal statutes, we see that she would be considered homeless under the education section of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the Head Start Act because she is sharing the housing of other persons because of the loss of housing and economic hardship. Because we have determined that the family is considered homeless under the first statute we will go on to determine if they meet the other Category 3 criteria.

Remember that to meet the Category 3 definition she has to meet all three of these criteria. She hasn't had a lease in the preceding 60 days but she hasn't had two or more moves in the preceding 60 days and we don't know enough about her disability or employment history to see if she has the level of barriers that would contribute to continued housing instability. Reviewing all our answers we can see that the family does not qualify as homeless under Category 3.

Now let's look at Bob who is 19 and has not been in touch with his family for some time. Recently he has been couch-hopping but he can never stay with anyone for more than a week. He has never had a regular job and didn't graduate from high school. Bob is considered homeless under the education section of the McKinney-Vento Act and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act because he cannot live with a relative and doesn't have a safe alternative living arrangement. He meets the other Category 3 criteria because he hasn't had a lease in his name and he has had more than 2 moves in the last 60 days, with his employment and

education barriers he also meets the criteria for continued housing instability. So Bob would be eligible for CoC funded assistance in projects that had been approved to serve households who are considered homeless under Category 3.

So that's how you determine whether people are eligible for Category 3. Now let's talk about how CoCs get HUD approval to serve these folks. CoCs who would like to serve people under Category 3 must demonstrate to HUD that the use of CoC funds to serve this group is an equal or greater priority than serving people who meet the other definitions of homelessness. CoCs must indicate the specific projects that will serve these households in their request to HUD, the types of projects that are allowed to serve people who are homeless under Category 3 may be limited in the NOFA or other Notice. Only 10% of the total funds awarded to the CoC may be used for this population. HMIS vendors will program their systems to allow providers to indicate which projects have been designated to serve this population and which households fall under Category 3.

The measures themselves are very similar to the other performance measures but the biggest difference is that these measures only cover certain households who meet the Category 3 definition and who are served in certain projects approved by HUD, so the universe of clients will be much smaller than for the other measures.

Ok now for the calculations themselves. Under measure 6a, we're looking at returns to homelessness after exits to permanent housing similar to the process to calculate Measure 2, but again, with the limited universe of projects and people. Let's look at a picture from the video for Measure 2. We need to remove shelter from this picture because this measure only cover approved CoC Program funded projects, so then we add rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing projects. The people who are homeless under Category 3 in the approved CoC funded projects are highlighted. Four of these people move to permanent housing. Of these four, one loses her permanent housing with friends and family, and returns to a shelter. In this case one out of four people in Category 3 returned to homelessness after exiting to permanent housing, for a

rate of 25%. Also like Measure 2, Measure 6a calculates returns to homelessness within 6 and 12 months and then measure 6b looks at returns within 24 months.

Measure 6c looks at successful exits to permanent housing and exits to or retention of permanent housing… similar to Measure 7b. We'll start with 6c.1 – the change in the rate of exits to permanent housing destinations. We just need to remember that we are only looking at the projects approved to serve people who are Category 3 so we will take out the shelter projects in this picture from the video for Measure 7. The remaining CoC funded projects have two Category 3 households who are highlighted. In this case a family has exited a rapid re-housing project to their own rental housing and another person exited transitional housing to permanent housing with family & friends. For this measure 100% of the people exiting the project successfully exited to permanent housing. Once you have more than one year of results from this measure you will be able look at whether there has been an increase in the percent of people in Category 3 who are exiting approved CoC-funded projects to permanent housing.

Then, measure 6c.2 looks at changes in the rate of exits to or retention of permanent housing for residents of CoC-funded permanent supportive housing projects who were Category 3 at project entry. We will start again with a picture from Measure 7. The people who are homeless under Category 3 are highlighted and we can see that, of these three people, two have exited, one to shelter and one to public or assisted housing. So the person who remained in PSH is considered a positive outcome and then we add the one person who exited to permanent housing for a 67% rate of exit to or retention in permanent housing, or 2 out of 3. The person exiting to shelter did not meet the permanent housing outcome. This measure is also calculated every year so you can see if there is an increase in the percent of people who are homeless under Category 3 who exit to or are retained in permanent housing.

Check out our videos on Measure 2 and Measure 7 to understand the ins and outs of these calculations! As CoCs are approved to serve Category 3 folks, HUD will provide more guidance on this measure.