



Standards for Success

Fact Sheet



Chronically Homelessness Status Code

This document provides information regarding identifying a Participant's Chronically Homeless Status including:

- The definition of homeless;
- The definition of chronic homelessness; and
- Two examples to illustrate determination of Chronic Homelessness Status.

Definition of Homeless

A Participant is considered homeless if the Participant lacks a fixed, regular, adequate night time residence such as a public or private shelter operated for temporary accommodation; an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or other place not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation.

Definition of Chronic Homelessness:

A Participant is chronically homeless if:

- The unaccompanied homeless Participant has a disabling condition and been continuously homeless for a year or more **or** had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, each lasting a minimum of 15 days.
 - Disabling conditions include substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability diagnosed by a medical professional, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability.
- The Participant is homeless when lacking a fixed, regular, adequate night time residence and has been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency homeless shelter during that time.
- An unaccompanied homeless Participant is an individual or an adult or minor head of household who is alone while homeless.
- A Participant who has been residing in an institutional care facility such as jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or similar facility for fewer than 90 days, and meets all of the criteria above before entering the facility is considered chronically homeless.



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Example A – Chris

Chris had been living alone on the streets of New York City for 6 months before being admitted to the mental health facility. Chris has schizophrenia and has resided in a mental health facility for the last 60 days. He has been in and out of homeless shelters for the last 2 years. During the last 3 years, he has had 5 episodes of homelessness. Two years ago, Chris spent 30 days in a homeless shelter, lived in Central Park for 14 days, and lived in a street alley for 20 days. Last year, Chris wound up staying in a homeless shelter for 15 days after losing his job.

Question: *Is Chris chronically homeless?*

Analysis:

Requirements	Analysis
Homeless?	<u>Yes</u> , Chris lacks a fixed, regular, adequate night time residence because he lived in areas not deemed to be suitable sleeping places for human habitation such as a homeless shelter, Central Park, a street alley, and on the streets.
Unaccompanied homeless?	<u>Yes</u> , Chris is an individual or an adult or minor head of household who is alone while homeless.
Disabling condition?	<u>Yes</u> , Chris has a disabling condition. He suffers from schizophrenia.
Continuously homeless for a year or more? OR Four episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, each lasting a minimum of 15 days	<u>No</u> , Chris has not been continuously homeless for a year or more. The longest period of time Chris remained homeless was 6 months. <u>Yes</u> , Chris had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years and each episode lasted at least 15 days. Chris lived in a homeless shelter for 30 days, a street alley for 20 days, another homeless shelter for 15 days, and lived on the streets for 6 months before being admitted to a mental health facility.
Meets the conditions for being chronically homeless before being institutionalized for fewer than 90 days	<u>Yes</u> , Chris meets the requirements for being chronically homeless before being institutionalized in a mental health facility for 60 days.

Is Chris chronically homeless?

Yes, Chris meets the definition for chronic homelessness.



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Example B - Ned

Ned has no family and was a member of the U.S. Army who returned from active duty 4 years ago after being stationed in Afghanistan. Ned has recently been living on the streets of Washington, D.C. for 10 months. Ned had 4 episodes of homelessness over the past 3 years where he has lived both on the street and in homeless shelters for the periods of 15 days, 20 days, 14 days, and 10 months before being admitted to a hospital for the last 60 days.

Question: *Is Ned chronically homeless?*

Analysis:

Requirements	Analysis
Homeless?	<u>Yes</u> , Ned lacks a fixed, regular, adequate night time residence because he lived in areas not deemed to be suitable sleeping places for human habitation such as living on the streets and a homeless shelter.
Unaccompanied homeless?	<u>Yes</u> , Ned is an individual or an adult or minor head of household who is alone while homeless.
Disabling condition?	<u>No</u> , Ned does not have a disabling condition.
Continuously homeless for a year or more? OR Four episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, each lasting a minimum of 15 days	<u>No</u> , Ned has not been continuously homeless for a year or more and the longest period of time Ned remained homeless was 10 months. The 60 days Ned was in the hospital do not count towards his year of homelessness because Ned must meet the conditions for chronic homelessness prior to being institutionalized for less than 90 days. <u>No</u> , Ned has had 4 episodes of homelessness in the prior 3 years; however, during one of these instances he was only homeless for 14 days. Therefore, Ned only had 3 instances of homelessness lasting 15 days.
Meets the conditions for being chronically homeless before being institutionalized for fewer than 90 days	<u>No</u> , Ned does not meet the requirements for being chronically homeless before being hospitalized for 60 days.

Is Ned chronically homeless?

No, Ned does not meet the definition for chronic homelessness.