

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

March 10, 2016



Chronic Homelessness

We are going to review three ways to look at chronic homelessness:

1. Chronically homeless at project **intake**
2. **Aging into** chronicity
3. **Documentation** an HMIS can provide

All three ways are based on the same definition.

Final definition – CH individual

- A “**chronically homeless**” **individual** is defined to mean a homeless individual with a **disability who lives** either in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, or, in an institutional care facility if the individual has been living in the facility for fewer than 90 days and had been living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility. In order to meet the “chronically homeless” definition, the individual also must have been living as described above **continuously for at least 12 months**, or on **at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least 12 months**. Each period separating the occasions must include at least **seven nights** of living in a situation other than a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a safe haven.

Final definition – CH family

- **Chronically homeless families** are families with adult heads of households who meet the definition of a chronically homeless individual. If there is no adult in the family, the family would still be considered chronically homeless if a minor head of household meets all the criteria of a chronically homeless individual. *A chronically homeless family includes those whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.*
- In all HMIS's heads of household = any adult in the household or for youth only household the youth who is labeled the head of household in HMIS.

Three Factors

1. Disabling Condition
2. Living situation
3. Length of time homeless

CH Factor 1 – Disabling Condition

Disabling condition = YES

OR

Expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs ability to live independently = yes for:

- ✓ physical disability & long term/inability to live independently.
- ✓ developmental disability & long term/inability to live independently.
- ✓ chronic health condition & long term/inability to live independently.
- ✓ HIV/AIDS & long term/inability to live independently.
- ✓ mental health problem & long term/inability to live independently.
- ✓ substance abuse & long term/inability to live independently.

Final rule defining CH = *“a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability”*

VESTA Special Needs – for disabling condition



Health conditions

General Health

Chronic health condition ?

Substance abuse problem

Development / cognitive disability

Mental health problem

--> **Expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs ability to live independently?**

--> **Documentation of the disability and severity on file?**

--> **Currently receiving services/treatment for this condition? ?**

Physical / sensory disability

HIV / AIDS

Is at least one of the above health conditions a disabling condition? ?

Domestic violence victim / survivor

Very good	▼
No	▼
No substance abuse issues	▼
No	▼
Yes	▼
No	▼
Yes	▼
No	▼
No	▼
No	▼
No	▼
No	▼

Health conditions

General Health

Chronic health condition ?

Substance abuse problem

Development / cognitive disability

Mental health problem

--> **Expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs ability to live independently?**

--> **Documentation of the disability and severity on file?**

--> **Currently receiving services/treatment for this condition? ?**

Physical / sensory disability

HIV / AIDS

Is at least one of the above health conditions a disabling condition? ?

Domestic violence victim / survivor

Very good	▼
No	▼
No substance abuse issues	▼
No	▼
Yes	▼
Yes	▼
No	▼
No	▼
No	▼
No	▼
Yes	▼
No	▼

CH Factor 2 – Living Situation

On intake you indicated:

- Client is entering from the Streets, Emergency Shelter or Safe Haven = **YES**

OR

- They have a current project entry date and homeless certification from either:
 - Emergency Shelter – project type 1
 - Street Outreach – project type 2

CH Factor 3 – Length of Time Homeless

Homeless for a year or more by the Approximate Date Started = **365 days from project entry**

OR

Regardless where they stayed last night the number of times the client has been on the Streets, Emergency Shelter or Safe Haven in the past 3 years including today = **4 or more times**

AND

The total number of months homeless on the Streets, Emergency Shelter or Safe Haven = **12 - or is more than 12**

VESTA Intake Details – for Length of Time



Standard Fields

Done by ?

Living situation at intake ?

Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher

Length of stay in current place

1 year or longer

Is client entering from streets or shelter?

Yes

--> Approximate date started ?

01/01/2014

Number of times client has been homeless on streets/in shelter in the past 3 years (including today) ?

Four or more times

--> Total number of months homeless on the street or in emergency shelter in the past three years

4

Tip: Approximate start date means the date they started being homeless this time!

Reporting – based on situation at intake



If, on intake, the questions for all three factors meet the requirements, then the individual will count on a report as chronically homeless.

1. **Disabling Condition**
2. Living Situation
3. **Length of Time Homeless**

Reports like the APR count a client as chronically homeless at intake.

Reporting – based on a point in time

If the person is residing on the streets in emergency shelter or in a Safe Haven they can age into CH by having their Length of Time Homeless change.

Programming:

Take the “**approximate start date**” and “**project entry date**” and calculate the number of months homeless.

PLUS

Add months in project (one day in a month counts as an entire month)

Documentation from an HMIS



Documentation is required for:

1. Length of Time
2. Disabling Condition

An HMIS, VESTA included, can ONLY document the Length of Time Homeless for stays in emergency shelter and Safe Havens and for contacts with outreach workers

Residential facilities = 1 day per month in a bed

Outreach = 1 street outreach contact per month

The HMIS cannot create any documentation for disabling condition.

Importantly, documented reality may turn out to differ from HMIS data. Documentation is required for all projects which require CH as a condition of entry.

Documentation from VESTA



Chronic homelessness

Zebra is active in this project and [is chronically homeless](#) based on his/her own data at entry.

There are no other chronically homeless people in this household based on their own data.

If a report is run as of today, everyone still in the household would be considered [chronically homeless](#).

> [VIEW this client's chronic homelessness status at entry](#) ↗

> [VIEW this client's chronic homelessness status today \(point-in-time\)](#) ↗

CH at Entry Report

Chronic Homelessness Status - at Entry

[PRINT](#)[CLOSE](#)

Serious, Goldie
at 4.0 Homeless outreach on 10/1/2014

Data from this project stay

Chronically homeless at entry for that intake?	Y
Approximate date of homelessness prior to intake	9/1/2014
Number of times client has been homeless on streets/in shelter in the past 3 years (including today)	Four or more times
--> Total number of months homeless	More than 12 months
Disabling condition on special needs at intake	Yes

Last three years of homelessness history in VESTA

The list below shows shelter stays at entry-exit and night-by-night shelters, street outreach intake dates, encounter dates, engagement dates, and recertify-homeless dates.

Month	Events
10/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• outreach engagement• outreach intake
8/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EE shelter stay
7/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EE shelter stay

CH at a Point in Time Report

Chronic Homelessness Status - Point In Time

[PRINT](#)[CLOSE](#)

Jeans, Skinny

at 1.2 Emergency shelter - entry exit on 1/29/2016

On this project stay

Last three years of homelessness history in VESTA plus time in project

The list below shows shelter stays at entry-exit and night-by-night shelters, street outreach intake dates, encounter dates, engagement dates, and recertify-homeless dates.

Chronically homeless at entry for that intake?	N
Approximate date of homelessness prior to intake	1/1/2015
Chronically homeless as of 1/29/2016 (aging into chronic homelessness while in a project)	Y
Disabling condition or necessary needs as of 1/29/2016 (last updated on 4/6/2015)	Yes

Month	Events
1/2016	• EE shelter stay
12/2015	• EE shelter stay
11/2015	• EE shelter stay

Length of time documentation report

Scenario 1: Homeless for a year = 12 consecutive months

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2015		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2016	X											

Scenario 2: 4 times in 3 years = 4 groups of months & 3 breaks

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014		X	X							X	X	X
2015					X	X	X			X	X	X
2016	X											

Length of time documentation report

Scenario 3: Homeless for a year according to responses, not according to HMIS data.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2015		X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X
2016	X											

Element 3.17 shows this person began his homeless occurrence on February 1, 2015.

So the HMIS reports them as being chronically homeless.

The HMIS can only provide the documentation for the 9 months with “X” above.

For the client to enter a project which requires CH status for entry case worker must further document May, June and November.

Length of time documentation report

Scenario 4: Homeless for 4 times over three years equaling 12 months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014		X								X	X	X
2015					X	X	X					
2016	X											

Element 3.17 shows that this person said to “regardless of where they stayed last night -- Number of times the client has been on the streets, in ES, or SH in the past three years including today” --- “4 or more times”. AND “Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES, or SH in the past three years” = “12 or more than 12”

So the HMIS reports them as being chronically homeless.

For the client to enter a project which requires CH status for entry case worker must further document 4 additional months of homelessness.

Length of time documentation report

Scenario 5: Homeless for 4 times over three years equaling 12 months - without documentation of breaks

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014		X								X	X	X
2015					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2016	X											

Element 3.17 shows that this person said to “regardless of where they stayed last night -- Number of times the client has been on the streets, in ES, or SH in the past three years including today” --- “4 or more times”. AND “Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES, or SH in the past three years” = “12 or more than 12”

So the HMIS reports them as being chronically homeless.

For the client to enter a project which requires CH status for entry case the worker must document another “break” of at least 7 days.

FAQ – Institutional break

“The Final Rule on Defining Chronically Homeless states that 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 if the person entered in the institution directly from the streets, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter and returns to one of those locations upon discharge.”

Storing the Chronic Homelessness Report

Arabica Whistle (Arabica8578)

Client summary

Basic client info

Homeless cert.

Intakes / exits

Encounters

Income and benefits

Health insurance

Rental data

Budgeting

Special needs

Household

Consents

Messages

Case plan

Documents

Add new Documents for Arabica Whistle (Arabica8578)

This form allows a document to be uploaded and stored.

Date

1. Choose a document type

Document type

Files already stored (none)

- Arrears letter
- Chronic homelessness documentation
- Client ID
- Disconnect notice
- Eviction notice
- Food form
- Housing inspection
- Income verification
- Intent to rent
- Lead inspection
- Lease
- Moving expenses
- Other
- Rent Reasonableness
- Rental agreement
- Staff affidavit
- Utility bill
- Converted document

Coming Soon-Homeless Certificate Icons



Street Outreach



Emergency Shelter





Transitional Housing




Permanent Housing

● Homeless certification

This form shows all homeless certificates issued for this client.


  Homeless certificate timeline

  12/01/2014

  11/05/2014 (expired on 12/01/2014)

  07/28/2014 (expired on 10/26/2014)

  05/09/2014 (expired on 06/03/2014)

  04/16/2014 (expired on 05/09/2014)

Coming Soon-Improved Searching

Search for a client

Please enter the social security number, last name and date of birth. Or you can search by VESTAcad ID or look up a homeless certificate.
SSN (no dashes) **Last name** **VESTAcad ID** **Homeless cert code**
DOB (m/d/yyyy)

Search results: 1 clients found

Search rank	Public ID	Name	SSN	DOB	Gender	Race	Active	Primary client	Homeless Cert & Chronic Homelessness
★★★★★	William1234	William Smith	*****1234	5/3/1966	Male	Black/African American	+ ADD intake for William1234 at BHS - Family Shelter		> VIEW active cert > VIEW cert history > VIEW chronic homelessness