

4 Conditions of Chronic Homelessness

	Unaccompanied individual		
AND	With a disabling condition		
AND	Continuously homeless for a year or more	OR	4 or more episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years
AND	Living/sleeping in street, etc.	OR	Living/sleeping in emergency shelter

Unaccompanied individual – A single person who is alone. Not part of a homeless family and/or is not accompanied by children.

Disabling condition – “a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. A disabling condition limits an individual’s ability to work or perform one or more activities of daily living.”

Episode of homelessness – An episode of homelessness is a separate, distinct, and sustained stay on the streets and/or in an emergency shelter. A chronically homeless person must be unaccompanied and disabled during each episode.

Verifying and documenting chronic homelessness – Obtain and retain in client files documentation that individuals identified as chronically homeless meet the criteria listed above. If a chronically homeless person come directly from the streets, obtain documentation, such as certification, from outreach workers or others who have assisted them in the recent past. If a chronically homeless person comes from an emergency shelter, documentation from the shelter should be obtained. For prior stays on the streets or in emergency shelters, participants or you should prepare a brief written statement. This certification should include information (i.e., dates and locations) about previous emergency shelter and/or street stays. In documenting a disabling condition, use the same methods you would use to document for HUD a person’s disability. All certifications and other documents should be signed, dated and maintained in client files.

Chronically homeless in transitional or permanent housing – Persons that have been identified as chronically homeless prior to entering a HUD project, including transitional or permanent housing are still considered chronically homeless for APR reporting purposes.

This document was prepared by Community Technology Alliance based on information provided by HUD Office of Special Needs. Please consult www.hud.gov for more information.