

# WASHTENAW COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS ACRONYMS

2018

- AHAR      **Annual Homelessness Assessment Report:** Yearly HUD report estimating the extent and nature of homelessness in the U.S. using Homeless Management Information System data.
- AMI      **Area Median Income:** HUD 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.
- APR      **Annual Performance Report:** HUD required annual progress report for all homeless projects.
- ARD      **Annual Renewal Demand:** Total amount of all the CoC's projects (HUD funded) that are eligible for renewal.
- CDBG      **Community Development Block Grant:** A federal program that allocates money to local governments for low/moderate income community-based projects. The City of Ann Arbor and some jurisdictions elsewhere in Washtenaw County (who have come together under the name Washtenaw Urban County) receive these funds which can then be spent on a wide variety of housing, infrastructure, human services and economic development activities.
- CH      **Chronically Homeless:** A person is considered chronically homeless if he/she has been continually homeless for a year or more or experienced 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years and has a diagnosed disability. [www.endhomelessness.org/section/policy/focusareas/chronic](http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/policy/focusareas/chronic)
- CMH      **Community Mental Health:** The county agency which provides services to mental health consumers. ***In Washtenaw County, Community Support & Treatment Services is the CMH agency.***

CoC	<b>Continuum of Care or Continuum of Care Board:</b> A phrase related to HUD-mandated processes for structuring local housing and services targeted at homeless persons. The Continuum of Care is a HUD-required local process that is responsible for coordinating services and housing for homeless persons and, in particular, approving the annual funding application submitted to HUD. In Michigan, MSHDA also requires that the CoC approve certain applications to MSHDA, such as the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).
ConPlan	<b>Consolidated Plan:</b> A locally developed plan that must be submitted to HUD as part of the eligibility process for certain HUD programs, including Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program.
CPD	<b>Community Planning and Development:</b> The office within HUD that oversees homeless funding. <a href="http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/">www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/</a>
CSH	<i>Formerly known as:</i> <b>Corporation for Supportive Housing:</b> 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. <a href="http://www.csh.org">www.csh.org</a>
DHS	<b>Department of Human Services:</b> The state agency which oversees welfare and Medicaid. Each county has its own DHS office.
DV	<b>Domestic Violence:</b> Domestic violence 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.
ESG	<b>Emergency Solutions Grants:</b> A federal program administered by MSHDA which provides funding for a variety of homeless services including homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, and our Single Point of Entry. <i>ESG was formerly known as Emergency Shelter Grants, with the name change occurring in 2009.</i>
eSnaps	<b>Homeless Assistance Application &amp; Grants Management System:</b> Online grants managements system for HUD funding.
FMR	<b>Fair Market Rent:</b> HUD calculation of a mid-market rent for localities that are established by unit size and updated each year. FMR is sometimes used as

a ceiling for allowable rent in Section 8 or other Tenant-Based Rental Assistance programs. [www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr/html](http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr/html)

- FUSE **Frequent Users of Systems Engagement:** 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.
- GIW **Grant Inventory Worksheet:** Document annually submitted to HUD 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).
- HCV **Housing Choice Voucher:** Rental subsidy program (also known as Section 8).
- HDX **Homelessness Data Exchange:** Point in Time, Annual Homeless Assessment Report and Housing Inventory Chart Data are entered on HUD's Homeless Data Exchange website. [www.hudhdx.info/](http://www.hudhdx.info/)
- HEARTH **Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing:** 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.
- HF **Housing First:** Housing First is an approach to ending homelessness that centers on the concept that a homeless individual or household's first and primary need is to obtain stable housing, and that other issues that may affect the household can and should be addressed once housing is obtained.
- HHN **Hold Harmless Need:** 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.
- HIC **Housing Inventory Chart:** Document submitted to HUD that lists all of the housing available in the CoC dedicated for homeless persons and families.
- HMIS **Homeless Management Information System:** A federally- and state-mandated computerized data base system for programs serving homeless

persons, especially programs receiving certain federal homeless program funds. In Washtenaw County and Michigan, a software program called ServciePoint is the software by which agencies participate in the HMIS requirement. The HMIS system is intended to provide the data foundation for program outcome and evaluation monitoring. [www.hmis.info](http://www.hmis.info)

- HOME **HOME Investment Partnership Program:** A HUD 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.
- HOPWA **Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS:** A HUD housing subsidy program for persons living with AIDS.
- HPRP **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program:** HUD program created in 2009 under the Recovery Act that ended in August 2011. It focused on preventing homelessness and rapidly re-housing persons who were living on the streets or in emergency shelter. Washtenaw County got \$1.3 Million in funding.
- HUD **Department of Housing and Urban Development:** The federal department which allocates most funding pertaining to housing and homelessness. [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)
- JIF **Joint Integrated Funding:** Local cooperative funding model including the participation of the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, United Way of Washtenaw County and others. This provided approximately \$1.5 Million for support services for 2 years, 2009-2011.
- LIHTC **Low Income Housing Tax Credit:** A part of the IRS code which grants tax credits to equity investors in low-income housing projects. Administered in Michigan by MSHDA.
- MOU **Memorandum of Understanding:** An MOU is 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.
- MSHDA **Michigan State Housing Development Authority:** The state office which supports low and moderate income housing development. MSHDA uses

federal money and raises its own money through issuing bonds.  
[www.michigan.gov/mshda](http://www.michigan.gov/mshda)

- MSHMIS **Michigan Statewide Homeless Management Information System:** Statewide HMIS network (see HMIS).
- NAEH **National Alliance to End Homelessness:** 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.  
[www.endhomelessness.org](http://www.endhomelessness.org)
- NOFA **Notice of Funding Availability:** A NOFA is issued by a governmental body, foundation, etc. which is looking for organizations or individuals to submit proposals in response to a funding opportunity, generally a grant.
- OC **Operations Committee:** Provider/member committee of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance.
- OCED **Office of Community and Economic Development:** Joint office of the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County that manages housing, homelessness, and community redevelopment activities.
- EXCHANGE **HUD Exchange:** The HUD listserv and Resource Exchange website:  
[www.hudexchange.info/](http://www.hudexchange.info/)
- PH **Permanent Housing:** A general name for a variety of housing projects which are ongoing and unending. **Also see PSH.**
- PIT **Point-In-Time Count:** A HUD-mandated biennial count of persons experiencing homelessness on a specified day of the year intended to provide a snapshot report on the extent of homelessness.
- PHA **Public Housing Authority or Agency:** A local quasi-governmental agency that typically owns and manages public housing units and may administer a Section 8 program.
- PORT **Project OutReach Team:** The PORT team is part of the mental health services network (Community Support & Treatment Services) that focuses on street outreach to homeless persons. They engage homeless persons who are not in the shelter and attempt to link them up with appropriate services and ultimately housing.

PRN	<b>Pro Rata Need:</b> The term used to describe the relative portion of funds a CoC could receive based on CoC geographic areas.
PSH	<b>Permanent Supportive Housing:</b> PSH is permanent housing, with indefinite leasing or rental assistance, paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability. PSH is a critical component of plans to end homelessness, by providing a housing opportunity that enables persons with a history of homelessness and disability to succeed in stable, affordable housing. With some specific exceptions, services are voluntary in a PSH model.
RFP	<b>Request for Proposals:</b> An RFP is a request for organizations or individuals to submit proposals/bids to provide services or a product outlined in the RFP.
RFQ	<b>Request for Qualifications:</b> A request for proposals to select a consultant or partner that focuses less on cost and more on experience. It may generate a list of bidders who are then used for an RFP process or it may lead to a collaborative process to determine projects costs.
ROI	<b>Release of Information:</b> Consumer/patient consent to release private or protected information.
RRH	<b>Rapid Re-Housing:</b> Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are typically tailored to the unique needs of the household. The core components of a rapid re-housing program are: housing identification; rent and move-in assistance (financial); and, case management and services.
SAMHSA	<b>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:</b> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services program providing funding and research on these issues.
Section 8	<b>A federally funded rent-subsidy program for low-income households-</b> recently renamed the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) 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). Section 8 vouchers in Washtenaw County are primarily administered by MSHDA, the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, the Ypsilanti Housing Commission, or the Plymouth Housing Commission.

- SHP **Supportive Housing Program:** 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.
- SOAR **SSI/SSDI Outreach, Advocacy, and Recovery:** 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.
- SPC/S+C **Shelter Plus Care:** A HUD homeless program that was once a program under the McKinney-Vento Act. SPC provided rent subsidies to households that are homeless 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.
- SPMI **Severe and Persistent Mental Illness:** The diagnostic threshold that is used to determine if an individual is eligible for mental health services through Community Support & Treatment Services/Washtenaw Community Health Organization.
- SRO **Single Room Occupancy:** Sleeping room type living accommodations in which residents have their own private bedroom and share cooking and bathroom facilities.
- SSO **Supportive Services Only:** HUD Homeless Assistance Program term for projects which provide support services only (no housing provided).
- TA **Technical Assistance:** Refers to the provision of support training to organizations that is intended to help the organization strengthen its ability to perform key tasks in the future.
- TANF **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families:** The major welfare program that provides income support to poor families. Replaced AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children).

- TH            **Transitional Housing:** A general name for a variety of time-limited housing programs that are intended to help households ready themselves to move to permanent housing. HUD TH programs are limited to homeless households and are intended to serve households for no more than 2 years and usually have specific supportive services as a part of the program.
- USICH        **United States Interagency Council on Homelessness:** 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. [www.usich.gov](http://www.usich.gov)
- WHA            **Washtenaw Housing Alliance:** Coalition of 30+ non-profit and government entities providing services and housing to people who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. The mission of the WHA is to end homelessness in Washtenaw County. In 2004, the WHA assumed oversight responsibility for the implementation of the community's plan to end homelessness, "A Home for Everyone: A Blueprint to End Homelessness in Washtenaw County", after endorsement of this role by leaders in the public sector. [www.whalliance.org](http://www.whalliance.org)