**Upstate Continuum of Care**

*Acronym Cheat Sheet*

**AHAR**

The Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) is a HUD report to the U.S. Congress that provides nationwide estimates of homelessness, including information about the demographic characteristics of homeless persons, service use patterns, and the capacity to house homeless persons. The report is based on Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data about persons who experience homelessness during a 12-month period, Point in Time Count (PIT) data, and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data.

**APR**

Recipients of HUD funding received through CoC homeless assistance grants are required to submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) electronically to HUD every operating year. Data collection for the APR is aligned with the most recent version of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Standards.

**CAPER**

Recipients with HUD funding received through the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program are required to submit a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to HUD annually. The CAPER provides annual performance reporting on client outputs and outcomes that enables an assessment of grantee performance in achieving the housing stability outcome measure.

**CES**

The Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a process designed to coordinate participant intake, assessment, provision of referrals, and housing placement. It covers a geographic area, is easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing services, is well advertised, and includes a comprehensive and standardized entry tool. The Upstate CoC houses its Coordinated Entry System in HMIS and utilizes the VI-SPDAT as its assessment tool.

**CH**

According to HUD definition, a chronically homeless (CH) individual is 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. The individual must have been living in any of the above described places either continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last three years.

**CoC**

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. In 1995, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) began to require communities to submit a single application for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants in order to streamline the funding application process, encourage coordination of housing and service providers on a local level, and promote the development of Continuums of Care. By requiring communities to submit a single application, HUD hoped to encourage a more structural and strategic approach to both housing and providing services to homeless people. A CoC would provide this more strategic system by providing homeless people with housing and services appropriate to their range of needs.

**CWS**

Cold Weather Shelters (CWS) are extensions of year-round shelters that offer a greater number of beds during cold weather months. Cold Weather Shelters typically run from November to March and provide shelter on a nightly, first-come-first-serve basis.

**ES**

An Emergency Shelter (ES) is a facility that has the primary purpose of providing temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.

**E-SNAPS**

E-Snaps is the electronic CoC Program Application and Grants Management System that HUD’s Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) uses to support the CoC Program funding application and grant awards process for the CoC Program.

**ESG**

Formerly known as the Emergency Shelter Grant, the HUD Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) provides funding for five program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, homeless prevention, rapid rehousing, and HMIS administration.

**GCRA**

The Greenville County Redevelopment Authority (GCRA) works to improve and revitalize homes and communities in Greenville County. They build affordable housing and offer grant and loan programs for businesses. GCRA also administers froms from HUD and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

**HDC**

The Upstate CoC’s Housing Determination Committee (HDC) is comprised of representatives from the identified access point agencies and other housing and service providers in the Upstate CoC and is responsible for reviewing the CES prioritization list and making referrals to available housing vacancies. Staff and professionals from homeless service providers are invited to participate in the weekly HDC meetings.

**HIC**

The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness (and for permanent housing projects, where participants were homeless at entry per the HUD homeless definition), categorized by five Program Types: Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing; Rapid Re-housing; Safe Haven; and Permanent Supportive Housing.

**HMIS**

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is an internet-based client data management system that helps coordinate shelter and services for people who are experiencing homelessness or struggling with a housing crisis. Data collected in HMIS is utilized by homeless providers and federal and local governments to identify gaps in housing and services and to inform effective planning. United Housing Connections is the designated lead agency for the Upstate CoC.

**HOPWA**

The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program is the only Federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Under the HOPWA Program, HUD makes grants to local communities, States, and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

**HP**

Homelessness Prevention (HP) services are designed to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or living in a public or private place not meant for human habitation. Services usually consist of short-term and medium-term rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits and payments, moving costs, and housing stability case management.

**HUD**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the Federal agency responsible for national policy and programs that address America's housing needs, that improve and develop the Nation's communities, and enforce fair housing laws. HUD's business is helping create a decent home and suitable living environment for all Americans.

**LSA**

The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) report, produced from a CoC’s Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS), provides HUD and Continuums of Care with critical information about how people experiencing homelessness use their system of care.  For the people and households served by continuum projects during the fiscal year, the LSA includes: demographic data, length of time homeless and patterns of system use, and housing outcomes for those who exit the homeless response system.

**LOCCS**

The Line of Credit Control System (LOCCS) is HUD’s primary grant disbursement system, involving disbursements for most HUD programs. Grant disbursements are facilitated via the Internet through the eLOCCS system.

**NOFO**

The Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO), formerly known as the NOFA, is published each year on Grants.gov for HUD’s Discretionary Funding Programs.  These NOFOs describe the type of funding available on a competitive basis and provides information on submission of an application.

**OPH**

Other Permanent Housing (OPH) is defined as long-term housing that is not otherwise considered permanent supportive housing or rapid re-housing

**OEO**

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) is the state-centric administering agency for the Community Services Block Grant, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Weatherization Assistance Program and Emergency Solutions Grant. OEO works in partnership with community action agencies and other non-profit agencies to administer and distribute funds for local initiatives designed to appreciably impact the causes of poverty.

**PATH**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration administers the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program. PATH funds services for people with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness. Services include street outreach, diagnostic treatment, rehabilitation, substance use treatment, and referrals for healthcare and housing.

**PIT**

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.

**PSH**

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is permanent housing in which housing assistance (e.g., long-term leasing or rental assistance) and supportive services are provided to assist households with at least one member (adult or child) with a disability in achieving housing stability.

**RHY**

The Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program, administered by the Family and Youth Services Bureau, serves as the national leader for the provision of shelter to unaccompanied homeless youth. Grants are administered to public and private organizations to establish and operate youth emergency shelters and transitional living programs.

**RRH**

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) is permanent housing that provides short-term (up to three months) and medium-term (4-24 months) tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services to households experiencing homelessness.

**SCICH**

The South Carolina Interagency Council on Homelessness (SCICH) is a statewide network of advocates, service providers and funders committed to ending homelessness. The Council is a nonprofit, volunteer organization developed to support and represent the four South Carolina Continuums of Care.

**SH**

Safe Haven (SH) is a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.

**SO**

Street Outreach (SO) activities are designed to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness in **unsheltered** locations by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and providing them with urgent, non-facility-based care.

**SPM**

The System Performance Measures (SPM) report allows CoCs to regularly measure their progress in meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness in their community and to report this progress to HUD. There are 7 measures included in this report: length of time homeless, returns to homelessness from permanent housing, total number of homeless persons, income growth for homeless persons, persons who become homeless for the first time, homeless prevention services, and successful housing placements.

**SSVF**

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home or identify a new, more suitable housing situation for the individual and his or her family; or to rapidly rehouse Veterans and their families who are experiencing homelessness.

**TH**

Transitional Housing (TH) provides temporary housing with supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. Transitional Housing projects can cover housing costs and accompanying supportive services for program participants for up to 24 months.

**USICH**

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is the only federal agency with the sole mission of preventing and ending homelessness in America. They coordinate with 19 federal member agencies, state and local governments, and the private sector to create partnerships, use resources in the most efficient and effective ways, and implement evidence-based best practices.

**VASH**

Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) is a collaborative program which pairs HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with VA case management and supportive services for homeless Veterans. These services are designed to help homeless Veterans and their families find and sustain permanent housing and access the health care, mental health treatment, substance use counseling, and other supports necessary to help them in their recovery process and with their ability to maintain housing in the community.

**VI-SPDAT**

The Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) is a survey administered both to individuals and families to determine risk and prioritization when providing assistance to homeless and at-risk of homelessness persons.