

HUD Definitions

Race – The genetic makeup of the parents. For example: if a client states that their mom is Asian and their dad is Caucasian and African-American then the client’s race would be Asian/Caucasian/African-American.

With that being said we never want to make a client feel uncomfortable. If they do not select a race on the intake form you can kindly remind them they missed a question or make a judgment call and select what you feel is appropriate. As a last resort you can mark “Don’t Know/Refused”.

Ethnicity – References where the person was born. If a person was born in a traditionally Hispanic country (Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, etc.) they would be marked as “Hispanic or Latino”. If they were born in a country not traditionally considered Hispanic they would be marked “Not Hispanic or Latino”. This question has nothing to do with the client’s race or the race of the client’s parents. If someone is Hispanic then we traditionally mark Caucasian for their race.

Housed and at Risk of Losing Housing – Refers to a client who verbally tells the intake worker/case manager that they are about to be evicted or have their utilities cut off, or their mom will not let them live with them any longer, etc. The key is that they have nothing in writing and are verbally conveying this information.

Housed and at Imminent Risk of Losing Housing – The same as housed and at risk of losing housing except the person has the information in writing. This could take the form of an eviction notice, a utility cut off notice, a letter from Mom stating he/she can no longer stay here, etc. The key is the information has to be in writing.

Literally Homeless – Typically what a person thinks of when they think of someone who is homeless; a person living in their car, sleeping on a park bench, in a box under a bridge, in a van down by the river, etc. It also refers to someone who is living in a dwelling that is condemned and/or does not have plumbing and/or utilities (water and electric).

Place Not Meant for Human Habitation – See Literally Homeless. This is included because it is important to know that a person can be literally homeless and not be living in a place not meant for human habitation, but if a person is living in a place not meant for human habitation they must be classified as literally homeless. No exception.

Chronically Homeless – to be counted as chronically homeless a person has to have been homeless in one of the following time frames:

- Four or more homeless episodes in the last three years

- Continuously homeless for the last year

And have one or more of the following conditions:

- Chronic Illness – classified as any illness that is recurring or permanent and impedes a person's normal day to day activities
- Mental Illness
- Developmental Disability
- Substance Abuse

There is no clear cut definition on what continuously means, at this time, it is a judgment call. It is also important to note that a person can be classified as having four or more homeless episodes in the last three years and be continuously homeless for the last year.

It is also important to note that none of the conditions have to be medically documented. It is perfectly acceptable to take someone at their word or to make an observation and answer accordingly. If someone comes in with only one arm, for example, it is perfectly acceptable to mark developmental disability without seeing medical documentation that the person has only one arm. In this example it is also unnecessary to get verbal confirmation from the client that they only have one arm.