

Terms and Definitions

1. **CE or Coordinated Entry**- A streamlined system that provides quick access to individuals and families seeking assistance through a coordinated referral and housing placement process. Households are assessed using a standard and objective tool that identifies their vulnerability and barriers to housing. Those who are assessed as having the highest vulnerability and housing barriers will be prioritized for access to available housing programs as vacancies occur.
2. **HMIS or Homeless Management Information System**- Locally administered, electronic data collection system that stores longitudinal person-level information about persons who access the homeless service system
3. **CoC or Continuum of Care**- A collaborative funding and planning approach that helps communities plan for and provide, as necessary, a full range of emergency and permanent housing and other service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons.
4. **BoS CoC or Balance of State Continuum of Care**- There are nine Continua of Care in Georgia- (1) Athens/Clarke, (2) Augusta/Richmond, (3) Columbus/Muscogee, the City of (4) Atlanta, and the counties of (5) Chatham (including Savannah), (6) Cobb, (7) DeKalb, and (8) Fulton (excluding Atlanta). The ninth (9th) continuum, the Georgia's Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC), is composed of representatives of relevant organizations organized within 152 of Georgia's 159 counties.
5. **Housing First**- Housing First (from the National Alliance to End Homelessness): A “housing first” approach rests on two central premises: 1) Re-housing should be the central goal of our work with people experiencing homelessness; and 2) Providing housing assistance and follow-up case management services after a family or individual is housed can significantly reduce the time people spend in homelessness. Case management ensures individuals and families have a source of income through employment and/or public benefits, identifies service needs *before the move into permanent housing*, and works with families or adults *after the move into permanent housing* to help solve problems that may arise that threaten their tenancy including difficulties sustaining housing or interacting with the landlord and to connect families with community-based services to meet long term support/service needs
6. **ESG or Emergency Shelter Grants**- Provides homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services including limited prevention services. Formula-funded to entitlement cities and states. ESG funds may be used for four primary activities: Street Outreach, Rapid Re-

Housing Assistance, Emergency Shelter, and Homelessness Prevention. In addition, ESG funds may be used for associated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) costs and administrative activities for some subrecipients.

7. **SPC or Shelter Plus Care**- provides rental assistance for supportive housing for homeless people with disabilities and their families. Primarily for people with serious mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and/or drugs, and AIDS or related diseases. Program allows for a variety of housing choices such as group homes or individual units, coupled with a range of supportive services (funded by other sources)
8. **PSH or Permanent Supportive Housing**- Long-term, community-based housing that has supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. This type of supportive housing enables special needs populations to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or coordinated by the applicant and provided by other public or private service agencies. Permanent housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site or in multiple structures at scattered sites. There is no definite length of stay.
9. **HUD VASH or Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing**- Assists homeless veterans and their families to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing through the distribution of housing vouchers. Combines the HUD Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless veterans and their families with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at its medical centers and in the community
10. **HOPWA or Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS**- A program administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development which provides funding to support housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. HOPWA has many programs funded in LA County to help provide housing and supportive services to this population.
11. **SSVF or Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families**- The SSVF program provides supportive services to very low-income Veteran families that are currently in or transitioning to permanent housing. SSVF is designed to rapidly re-house homeless Veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis. Funds are granted to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that will assist very low-income Veteran families by providing a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability.
12. **PIT or Point-in-Time Count**- One-night count of sheltered and unsheltered adults, child and youth who are homeless. Purpose is to understand the number and characteristics of people

sleeping in shelters and on the street, or in other places not meant for human habitation.

Reported in the population and subpopulation charts of the CoC application. Biennial

13. **RRH or Rapid Re-housing**- An intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and transition to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without required preconditions such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety. Support services are tailored to the unique needs of each individual participant household to facilitate a rapid transition to permanent housing. The three goals of rapid rehousing are identifying housing, providing rent and move-in financial assistance, and offering case management and related services. While a rapid re-housing program must have all three core components, it is not required that a single entity provides all three services nor that a household utilize them all
14. **Diversions**- A strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing
15. **Prevention**- ESG homelessness prevention services are intended to assist households at imminent risk of becoming literally homeless. Services funded under this component may include financial assistance and follow-up services to assist households with maintaining their housing as necessary to prevent homelessness