

**APPENDIX 11:**  
**LIST OF ACRONYMS USED AND DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS**

**At-risk youth/young adult** – individuals age 24 or younger who are at an increased risk of running away from home or becoming homeless due to a variety of factors, such as family conflict or poverty

**BARJ:** Balanced and Restorative Justice – a program, administered by Vermont’s Department for Children and Families, that serves youth who are on juvenile probation, at risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system, or truant from school

**BCP: Basic Center Program** – a program, funded by the Family & Youth Services Bureau, that provides emergency shelter and homelessness prevention services to youth between the ages of 12-17, with the goal of family reunification

**BoS: Balance of State** – a type of state-based Continuum of Care (CoC) which includes all the jurisdictions in a state that are not covered by any other CoCs<sup>1</sup> (*Vermont’s Balance of State CoC covers the entire state except Chittenden County*)

**CE: Coordinated Entry** - a process through which people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness can access the crisis response system in a streamlined way, have their strengths and needs quickly assessed, and quickly connect to appropriate, tailored housing and mainstream services within the community; the most intensive interventions are prioritized for those with the highest needs<sup>2</sup>

**Chronically homeless** – when a homeless individual with a disabling condition has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years<sup>3</sup>

**CoC: Continuum of Care** – a community-based local planning group, the purpose of which is to promote community wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and state and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness<sup>4</sup>

**Crisis housing** – immediately accessible, developmentally appropriate, low-barrier shelters, host homes, or other temporary housing; options are not contingent on school attendance,

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<sup>1</sup> [HUD's Balance of State Continuum of Care Toolkit](#)

<sup>2</sup> [USICH's Opening Doors - Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Glossary of HUD Terms](#)

<sup>4</sup> [HUD's Balance of State Continuum of Care Toolkit](#)

sobriety, minimum income requirements, absence of a criminal record, or other unnecessary conditions<sup>5</sup>

**DCF:** Department for Children and Families

**D/SV:** domestic violence/sexual violence

**ES: emergency shelter** – a facility the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless<sup>6</sup>

**FAFSA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid

**FYSB:** U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Family & Youth Services Bureau

**GA: General Assistance** – a program, administered by Vermont's Department for Children and Families, that helps people meet their emergency basic needs, such as: personal needs and incidentals; housing; fuel and utilities; medical, dental, prescriptions, and medical supplies/equipment; or burial costs

**GED:** General Educational Development test

**GPA:** grade point average

**HMIS: Homeless Management Information System** - a computerized data collection application designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of people experiencing homelessness, while also protecting client confidentiality<sup>7</sup>

**HOP: Housing Opportunity Grant Program** – a program administered by Vermont's Office of Economic Opportunity that funds operations, staffing, homelessness prevention, and rapid re-housing assistance at non-profit emergency shelter, transitional housing, and prevention programs around the state

**Housing First** – a model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold)<sup>8</sup>

**HUD:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**IEP:** Individualized Education Program

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<sup>5</sup> [USICH's Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Glossary of HUD Terms](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Glossary of HUD Terms](#)

<sup>8</sup> [HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Project \(YHDP\) NOFA Appendix A](#)

**JJ:** juvenile justice

**LGBTQ:** lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer

**Literally homeless** – when an individual or family:

- Has a primary nighttime residence that is a place not meant for human habitation, or
- Is living in a shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement, or
- Is exiting an institution where they have resided for 90 days or less and who resided in a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter immediately before entering the institution<sup>9</sup>

**M-V:** McKinney-Vento

**PIT Count: Point-in-Time Count** – an unduplicated one-night estimate of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations, conducted by Continuums of Care nationwide during the last week in January of each year<sup>10</sup>

**Precariously housed** – when a person is couch surfing, doubled-up with friends/relatives, living in a hotel/motel while paying out of pocket, or at imminent risk of losing their housing

**Pregnant or parenting youth/young adult** – individuals age 24 or younger who are pregnant or who are the parents or legal guardians of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household<sup>11</sup>

**PSH: Permanent Supportive Housing** - 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<sup>12</sup>

**RHY:** runaway and homeless youth

**RRH: Rapid Re-housing** – a housing model with up to 24 months of rental assistance; a Housing First approach that provides immediate access to stable housing, low-barriers to entry and to keep assistance, and voluntary but persistent services with high expectations and high levels of engagement<sup>13</sup>

**SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** – a U.S. Department of Agriculture

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<sup>9</sup> [HUD's Homeless Definition](#)

<sup>10</sup> [HUD Glossary of Terms](#)

<sup>11</sup> [HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Project \(YHDP\) NOFA Appendix A](#)

<sup>12</sup> [HUD's CoC Program Eligibility Requirements](#)

<sup>13</sup> [HUD's Ending Youth Homelessness Guidebook Series: Promising Program Models](#)

program that offers nutrition assistance to low-income individuals and families (*In Vermont, SNAP is called 3SquaresVT and administered by the Department for Children and Families.*)

**TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** – a U.S. Department of Health & Human Services program that assists families with children when the parents or other responsible relatives cannot provide for the family’s basic need (*In Vermont, TANF is called Reach Up and administered by the Department for Children and Families.*)

**TAY-VI-SPDAT:** Transition Age Youth-Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

**TLP: Transitional Living Program** - a program, funded by the Family & Youth Services Bureau, that provides transitional housing and supportive services to youth between the ages of 16-21, with the goal of independent living

**TH: transitional housing** – time-limited (up to 21-24 months) supportive housing for youth who are not ready to live independently; this model has a focus on developing life skills and staying in school or securing work; possible housing types include:

- congregate housing with overnight staff
- clustered units with or without a supervisor on-site (sometimes referred to as Single-Room Occupancies/SROs)
- scattered site apartments or shared units in which a youth may hold the lease<sup>14</sup>

**Unaccompanied youth/young adult** – an individual between the ages of 12 and 24 who is not part of a family with children and who is not accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or caretaker during their episode of homelessness<sup>15</sup>

**UVM:** University of Vermont

**VCEH: Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness** – Vermont’s Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC), which supports the work of local CoC’s, connects them to a broader network of stakeholders, administers federal funds, and advocates for funding and policy changes

**VCRHYP: Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs** – a non-profit coalition of service providers who serve runaway and homeless youth (*In Vermont, VCRHYP is the only organization funded by the Family & Youth Services Bureau to administer Basic Center and Transitional Living Programs.*)

**VI-SPDAT:** Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

**WIOA:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

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<sup>14</sup> [HUD’s Ending Youth Homelessness Guidebook Series: Promising Program Models](#)

<sup>15</sup> [USICH’s Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness](#)

**YHDP:** Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

**YHPPC:** Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee

**YYA:** youth and young adults