

DAKOTA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES

Policy # 3016

Section: Adult Services

Title: Housing Policy

POLICY

HOUSING DEFINITIONS AND STATUTES

PURPOSE

To clarify eligibility of any services, array of services available, the emergency housing intake and placement process, and County responsibilities in providing support to certain homeless and at risk households in Dakota County.

DEFINITIONS

Chronic homelessness: a household with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. ([24 CFR 578.3](#))

Coordinated Entry: a centralized or coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake, assessment and provision of referrals. A centralized or coordinated entry system covers the geographic area, is easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services, is well advertised, and includes comprehensive and standardized assessment tool. ([24 CFR 578.3](#))

Couch-hopping: Staying with friends or relatives for a few nights (short amount of time). The household does not have a designated room for sleeping. Household is staying at a residence temporarily that does not have space to accommodate the household for more than few days. (Dakota County defined)

County of Financial Responsibility: the County in which the applicant resides at the time of application. If exiting an excluded time facility, CFR is the county in which the applicant last resided in non-excluded status immediately before entering the facility. (MN State Statute [256G.02 Subd. 4](#))

Doubled-up: A household not on the lease but allowed to stay with friends/family until a housing opportunity is available. (Dakota County defined)

Emergency Shelter: Any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless. (24 CFR 91.5)

Family: the following individuals who live together: a minor child or a group of minor children related to each other as siblings, half siblings, stepsiblings, or adoptive siblings, together with their natural, adoptive parents, stepparents, or caregiver; and a pregnant woman with no other children. (Minn. Stat. § [256J.08 Subd. 34](#))

Homeless:

HUD: A household who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- (i) A household with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- (ii) A household living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
- (iii) An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution; ([24 CFR 578.3](#)) or

MHFA: A household lacking a fixed, adequate night time residence (includes doubled up).

Household: Single person or group of people seeking assistance together.

At-Risk of Homelessness: Proof of threat of eviction from regular, fixed, nighttime residence (Dakota County defined)

Long-term homelessness: Households who lack a permanent place to live continuously for a year or more or at least four times in the past three years, including couch hopping. Any period of institutionalization or incarceration shall be excluded when determining the length of time a household has been homeless. ([MHFA](#))

Prevention: Services and financial support intended to avoid an episode of homelessness.

Residency: To have an established place of abode in one state or county and not to have an established place of abode in another state or county. No waiting period is required before securing county or state residence (unless in an excluded time facility). (MN State Statute [256G.02 Subd.6](#) and [256G.03 Subd.2](#))

- Dakota County is the County of Financial Responsibility (CFR); or
- Physically present in Dakota County and not open to another county for financial or social services; or
- Open to Dakota County Social Services

Singles: Adults 18+

Social Services: those services otherwise provided in the County in which the person is physically residing at the time those services are provided. (Minn. Stat. § [256G.07 Subd.4](#))

Supportive Housing Unit (SHU): SHU serves as the main access point to housing services for households who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Youth: Adults ages 18-24.

AUTHORITY/REFERENCE

- Unitary Residence and Financial Responsibility: Minn. Stat. Chap. [256G](#)
- Group Residential Housing (GRH): Minn. Stat. Chap. [256I](#)
- Dakota County Board Resolution 10-482
- Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP): Minn. Stat. § [462A.204](#)
- HUD Continuum of Care: [24 CFR 578](#)
- HUD Emergency Solutions Grant: [24 CFR 91 and 576](#)

APPROVAL

As approved by:

Andrea Zuber, Director
Dakota County Social Services

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