

Glossary



Volunteers
of America

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
& NORTHERN NEVADA

General

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

A Cabinet department of the Executive branch with the purpose to provide housing and community development assistance and to make sure everyone has access to “fair and equal” housing.

Former Foster Youth - Young adults who had experience in the foster care system, but have now aged out. Former foster youth are statistically more likely to end up homeless than their peers.

Case Management - A collaborative and planned approach to ensuring that a person who experiences homelessness gets the services and supports that they need to move forward with their lives.

Wrap-Around Services - The practice of providing, or making available, all the various services that a person experiencing homelessness might need.

Moral Injury - A wound to the soul that violates one’s deeply held sense of right and wrong.

Homelessness

Homeless - People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.

Chronically Homeless - People who have experienced homelessness for at least a year - or repeatedly - while struggling with a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability.

Point in Time Count (PIT) - A biennial census of people who are experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. The count includes people who are in emergency shelters and those who are unsheltered.

Housing

Shelter - Shelters offer overnight and short term stays for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Emergency Housing - (Same as shelter)

Housing First - A homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness based on the concept that other issues that may affect the household can and should be addressed once housing is obtained.

Rapid Re-Housing - Similar to Housing First with a targeted focus towards people with low to moderate services needs.

Transitional Housing - Supportive, temporary accommodation that is meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing by offering structure, support, life skills, education, etc.

Permanent Supportive Housing - Combines rental or housing assistance with individualized, flexible and voluntary support services targeted to those with moderate to severe service needs.

Affordable Housing - Any type of housing, including rental/home ownership, permanent/temporary, for-profit/non-profit, that costs less than 30% of a household’s pre-tax income.

Market Rate Housing - An apartment/rental that has no rent restrictions. Conventional rentals that are not restricted by affordable housing laws.

Volunteers of America

VOA-NCNN - The shorthand and website name for the Northern California and Northern Nevada affiliate of Volunteers of America.

Mather Community Campus (Mather, MCC) - VOA-NCNN’s twelve month employment and rehabilitative transitional housing program.