# APPENDIX A – TERMS & DEFINITIONS

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary includes terms used within this Manual or terms that describe important parts of Pierce County’s Homeless Crisis Response System.

**AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS** See Appendix C.

**BY-NAME LIST** A by-name list is a real time, up-to-date list of all people experiencing homelessness in your community that can be filtered by categories and shared across appropriate agencies. This list is generated with data from outreach, HMIS, federal partners, and any other community shelter and providers working within the homeless subpopulation.

**CONSOLIDATED HOMELESS GRANT (CHG)** Funding stream provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce to Pierce County consisting of revenue generated from a document recording fee. CHG is allocated to Pierce County Human Services to administer to homeless projects throughout Pierce County.

**CHRONICALLY HOMELESS** See Appendix E.

**CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM** The HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to assist individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families experiencing homelessness, and to provide the services needed to help such individuals move into transitional and permanent housing, with the goal of long-term stability. More broadly, the CoC Program is designed to promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness; improve coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness; improve data collection and performance measurement; and allow each community to tailor its programs to the particular strengths and challenges in assisting homeless individuals and families within that community. Communities can apply to receive CoC funding.

**CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE (“COC” OR COC COMMITTEE)** The CoC Committee is the unincorporated entity responsible for developing a plan to address homelessness, designating a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) lead, and designing a coordinated entry system as part of its Homeless Crisis Response System. It also is responsible for preparing and submitting the annual application to HUD for funding to support plan implementation.

**COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM (CE)** A coordinated entry system standardizes and coordinates the way households experiencing homelessness across the community are assessed for and referred to the housing and services that they need for housing stability.

**CRITICAL TIME INTERVENTION (CTI)** CTI is a time-limited evidence-based practice that mobilizes support for society’s most vulnerable individuals during periods of transition. It facilitates community integration and continuity of care by ensuring that a person has enduring ties to their community and support systems during these critical periods. In Pierce County, an individual or family will be connected with a CTI Navigator who will help them navigate their transition to housing and build a network of resources from the time they are connected with CE and for a period of three to nine months, depending on their plan for exiting homelessness and degree of need. CTI is currently operating as a small pilot program in Pierce County.

**DIVERSION** Diversion is a strategy intending to divert households from the Homeless Crisis Response System. It does so by helping them, through a Housing Solutions Conversation (see below), identify immediate alternate housing arrangements, and if necessary, connect with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. Diversion is implemented within the coordinated entry system (CES).

**EMERGENCY SHELTER** Emergency shelter includes any facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for all people experiencing homelessness or specific subpopulations. Most shelters limit shelter stays to 90 days.

**EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)** Formula grant provided by HUD to Pierce County for Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Rapid Re-Housing or Prevention projects.

**HOMELESS** See Appendix B for HUD Definitions of Homeless

**HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)** An information system designated by the CoC Committee to comply with requirements prescribed by HUD. This system stores client information about persons who access homeless services in a CoC and is a core source of data on the population of people experiencing homelessness who engage with Coordinated Entry.

**HMIS LEAD** The organization designated by the CoC Committee to administer the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Pierce County Human Services fills this role.

**HUD** The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, which provides communities with resources for housing and to address homelessness. HUD requires communities to have a Continuum of Care Committee, a Collaborative Applicant, and to designate a HMIS Lead. HUD requires the CoC to implement and follow its policy guidance and to align with HUD’s plan. HUD also requires communities to have Coordinated Entry, Prioritization, and to meet system-wide performance measures.

**LANDLORD LIAISON PROGRAM** This is an innovative program that provides support to property managers/owners (landlords) who work with housing agencies in Pierce County. The program educates both tenants and landlords in operational etiquette and new housing related laws and policies and ensures that housing agencies continually offer support services to program tenants and respond rapidly to landlord concerns. The program offers Risk Mitigation Funds to landlords.

**OUTREACH** Services that focus on reaching out to unsheltered homeless persons to connect them to emergency shelter, housing, or critical services.

**PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)** PSH is long-term housing that provides supportive services for low income or homeless people with disabling conditions. This type of supportive housing enables special needs populations to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. Supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or coordinated by the housing provider and provided by other public or private service agencies.

**PREVENTION** Funding and services designed to support a household to avoid an episode of homelessness.

**RAPID RE-HOUSING (RRH)** Services and supports designed to help persons experiencing homelessness move as quickly as possible into permanent housing with time-limited financial assistance.

**RISK MITIGATION FUNDS** Reimbursement funds designed to incentivize and protect landlords who are willing to reduce screening criteria to rent to someone with limited income, poor rental history, or criminal history.

**SOAR (SSI/SSDI OUTREACH, ACCESS, AND RECOVERY)** A program designed to increase access to Supplemental Security Income (SS)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or co-occurring substance use disorder.

**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING** Temporary housing and supportive services for up to 24 months that serves households before transitioning into permanent housing.

**WRAPAROUND SUPPORTS** Services designed to address basic needs and the many and diverse aspects of individual wellbeing