

HANDOUT ONE: DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

This is an excerpted definition from [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)⁴

THE U.S. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS:

- > People living in places not meant for human habitation (the streets, abandoned buildings, etc)
- > Living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing facility
- > Facing the loss of housing within the next seven days with no other place to go and no resources or support networks to obtain housing (this third bullet is not specifically described in the McKinney-Vento statute)

THE 2009 HEARTH ACT (HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RAPID TRANSITION TO HOUSING ACT) ADDED THIS TO THE DEFINITION:

- > A situation in which a person is at imminent risk of homelessness or where a family or unaccompanied youth is living unstably. Imminent risk includes when a person must leave his or her current housing within the next 14 days with no other place to go and no resources or support networks to obtain housing
- > Instability includes families with children and unaccompanied youth who:
 - Are defined as homeless under other federal programs (e.g. Department of Education's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program)
 - Have lived for a long period without living independently in permanent housing
 - Have moved frequently