

# LENGTH OF TIME DATA

## HUD DATA STANDARDS REVIEW



HOUSING  
ALLIANCE  
DELAWARE



### LENGTH OF TIME DATA OVERVIEW

This document is to review the data elements relating to a client's length of time homeless (LOT), a HUD-required data standard collected in CMIS.

LOT is important to collect as it is used for:

- System Performance Data
- Rapid Rehousing prioritization
- Chronic Homeless status determination
- Program Eligibility (PSH)

### HOW TO COLLECT THIS DATA DISCLAIMER

Housing Alliance Delaware is aware that the definitions set by HUD are stricter and differ from normal practice when working with homeless clients.

Interviewing processes to get more accurate responses should be:

- Person-focused
- Empathy-driven
- Conversational



#### LOT DATA ELEMENTS

LOT data asks for information on the client's **current, continuous episode of literal homelessness**.

- Approximate Date Homelessness Started
- Number of times homeless in the last three (3) years.
- Number of months homeless in the last three (3) years.



#### LITERAL HOMELESSNESS

Per HUD, a client is **literally homeless** only when their living situation **immediately prior to project entry** is:

- Place not meant for habitation
- Emergency Shelter, including a hotel/motel paid for by a voucher or charity
- Homeless-dedicated Transitional Housing



#### BREAKS IN HOMELESSNESS

Temporary sleeping situations can **only** be included in LOT calculation if:

- Staying with friends, family, or in a hotel/motel out of pocket for a maximum of seven (7) days.
- Staying in an institutional setting (medical or legal) for a maximum of 90 days.

# APPROXIMATE DATE HOMELESSNESS STARTED

## HUD DATA STANDARDS REVIEW

### DATA ELEMENT INTERPRETATION

The goal of the **Approximate Date Homelessness Started** data element is to better understand the length of time a client has been continuously literally homeless and unable to be housed, temporarily or permanently.

To accurately calculate a client's Approximate Date Homelessness Started, breaks in homelessness should *not* be included.

### DATA ELEMENT APPROXIMATE MARKERS

Other time markers that staff can ask clients to use to gauge when they became literally homeless, if the clients do not know an exact date, can include:



YEAR



MONTH



SEASON/  
WEATHER



RECENT  
HOLIDAYS

## FLOWCHART

