

# Appendix

## Glossary

### **Affordable Housing**

Affordable housing units rent for less than the market rate and are reserved for people who earn less than average income. Some developers specialize in affordable housing, while others may make some units in their buildings affordable in order to access tax breaks or other incentives.

### **Ballot Measure**

A ballot measure is a piece of proposed legislation to be approved or rejected by eligible voters. Ballot measures are also known as “propositions”.

### **Civic Activism/Engagement**

Civic engagement involves working to make a difference in the civic life of one’s community, typically through promoting the quality of life in a community through both political and non-political processes. It includes volunteering, political activism, environmentalism and community service.

### **Collective Action**

Collective action refers to action taken together by a group of people whose goal is to enhance their status and achieve a common objective.

### **Compassion Fatigue**

Compassion fatigue is the physical and mental exhaustion and emotional withdrawal experienced by those who care for sick or traumatized people over an extended period of time. It can also be described as apathy or indifference toward the suffering of others as the result of overexposure to tragic news stories, images, and the subsequent appeals for assistance.

### **Criminalization of Poverty**

When the criminal justice system produces harsher outcomes for poor defendants due to their **poverty**, leading to profound constitutional, policy, and moral concerns. This can happen through excessive imposition of fees and fines, and harsh practices to enforce those debts, and the cash bail system.

### **De-stigmatizing Language**

De-stigmatizing, or person-first language, doesn’t define a person based on any medical condition, life circumstance, or experience they may have or go through. It’s nonjudgmental, neutral, and allows us to see the whole person rather than viewing them through the lens of one aspect of their experience or identity. Saying someone experiences homelessness rather than saying someone is a “homeless person” means that we recognize that the circumstances of homelessness are not something people should be ashamed of and that we place the individual before the generalization of their situation.

### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence (also called intimate partner violence (IPV), domestic abuse, or relationship abuse) is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship. Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of domestic violence/abuse can be occurring at any one time within the same intimate relationship.

**Doubled-up Homelessness**

Doubled-up homelessness is defined by the McKinney-Vento Act as “sharing the housing of other persons due to economic circumstances.” It is a form of homelessness caused by lack of housing and economic hardship that forces individuals to share housing beyond the intended occupancy of the residence.

**Evict/Eviction**

The action of expelling someone, especially a tenant, from a property.

**Homelessness**

A person experiences homelessness when they are lacking proper housing and therefore live in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. tents, cars, parks), in an emergency shelter, or in transitional housing.

**Homeless Service Provider**

Homeless service provider is an umbrella term for individuals and organizations that provide support for the homeless population in the pursuit of enhancing opportunities and helping improve quality of life

**Immediate Housing**

Immediate housing is a broad term that covers housing that is temporary, such as bridge housing and emergency shelters. These facilities are designed to provide safety and stability so the people staying there can access services and secure permanent homes. Immediate housing does not end homelessness, but it’s an important part of the larger effort to support the many people sleeping outside with nowhere to go, temporary or otherwise.

**Low-Income**

Low-income families are defined by HUD as families whose incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the median family income for the area. Very low-income families are defined as families whose incomes do not exceed 50 percent of the median family income for the area.

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) (42 U.S.C. § 11431-11435) is federal legislation that ensures the educational rights and protections of children and youths experiencing homelessness. It requires all local educational agencies (LEAs) to ensure that homeless students have access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschools, as provided to other children and youths.

**Measure H**

Measure H is a quarter-cent sales tax increase in the county of Los Angeles that was passed by an overwhelming majority of voters in 2017. It created the first dedicated funding in L.A. for homeless services and short-term housing, raising roughly \$350 million a year. Thanks in large part to the services provided by Measure H, which include mental health care and substance use counseling, roughly 133 people move from homelessness into housing every single day.

**NIMBYism**

NIMBY, an acronym for “Not In My Backyard,” describes the phenomenon in which residents of a neighbourhood designate a new development (e.g. shelter, affordable housing, group home) or change in occupancy of an existing development as inappropriate or unwanted for their local area. The opposition to affordable, supportive or transitional housing is usually based on the assumed characteristics of the population that will be living in the development. Common arguments are that there will be increases in crime, litter, thefts, or violence and that property taxes will decrease. The benefits for the residents of the development are often ignored.

**Outreach Worker**

Outreach workers directly engage with people experiencing homelessness and are responsible for responding to the immediate needs of people who are at risk of experiencing homelessness, who are currently experiencing homelessness or who are transitioning into housing. They work to connect people experiencing homelessness with services like housing readiness, accessing housing assistance programs, permanent housing placement, case management, crisis intervention, healthcare, mental health treatment and job training.

**Proposition HHH**

Prop. HHH is a 2016 bond measure in the city of Los Angeles that raised more than a billion dollars for the creation of supportive and affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness. It sparked the investment necessary to create more than 8,000 permanent homes. HHH money has also been used to identify innovative ways to reduce the cost and time it takes to build supportive housing.

**Rapid Rehousing**

Rapid rehousing is a program that provides rent vouchers to people in danger of falling into homelessness. They might receive enough for a security deposit and then around three to six months of support. The idea is to step in and stop homelessness before it happens and to provide support long enough to allow people to regain financial stability. It is much more cost-effective to prevent homelessness through programs like rapid rehousing than it is to wait until after someone loses their home.

**Redlining**

For decades, many banks in the U.S. denied mortgages to people, mostly people of color in urban areas, preventing them from buying a home in certain neighborhoods or getting a loan to renovate their house. The practice—once backed by the U.S. government—started in the 1930s and took place across the country, including many of the nation’s largest cities, such as Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Tampa and others with large minority populations. As a result, banks and other mortgage lenders commonly rejected loans for creditworthy borrowers based strictly on their race or where they lived. As part of that practice, financial firms, real estate agents and other parties demarcated geographic areas that were effectively off limits for issuing loans.

**Rent-Burdened**

HUD defines rent-burdened families as those “who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing” and “may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.” Severe rent burden is defined as paying more than 50 percent of one’s income on rent.

**Sheltered Homelessness**

Sheltered homelessness is experienced by people who are living in a supervised shelter designed to provide a temporary living arrangement, or who live in a residence that is not their home, such as the home of a friend or family member. Examples of supervised shelters include an emergency shelter, transitional housing, and/or using motel/hotel vouchers.

**Stigma**

Social stigma is the disapproval of, or discrimination against, a person based on perceivable social characteristics that serve to distinguish them from other members of a society.

**Supportive Housing**

Supportive housing is permanent, affordable housing that's paired with on-site services, like mental health care, job training, or addiction treatment. It's for especially vulnerable people, like those with disabilities or survivors of trauma, who otherwise have difficulty staying in stable housing. Supportive housing is remarkably effective: 90 percent of residents stay housed and have improved health, financial stability, and self-sufficiency.

**Unsheltered Homelessness**

Unsheltered homelessness is experienced by people whose primary residence is a place not meant for human habitation, specifically a place outdoors such as the street, in makeshift shelters, vans and/or cars.

*Note: The two major definitions of homeless in use by federal agencies are the education definition in Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act, and the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition in Section 103 of Subtitle I of the McKinney-Vento Act. The definitions overlap and diverge in ways that can cause confusion. [Source](#)*