

Emergency Housing

Provide temporary, typically overnight accommodation to individuals who would otherwise sleep on the streets. They are not intended to be regular residences. Shelters may also provide support services in relation to addictions and/or mental health, health, education and employment needs.

Transitional Housing

Housing that typically provides temporary accommodation (up to three years) to individuals who wish to stabilize their housing situation while resolving other issues in their lives, such as unemployment, addictions and/or mental health, education and violence. Individuals and families living in Transitional Housing have access to a mix of supportive services that would enable them to move towards self-sufficiency and more independent living. Those persons also often receive some direct funding.

Long Term Supportive

Also called “special needs housing,” supportive housing typically provides long-term accommodation, with a support component to allow people to live as independently as possible. The housing providers, whether public, private or non-profit, receive funding to provide the support services to the residents, who also often receive some direct funding.

Pilot Project

Project trying out a new approach or program. A pilot usually runs for a short, predetermined length of time to determine success and assess the benefits and outcomes. The length of a pilot varies anywhere from 6 months to 2 years.

Homeless

Persons or families living on the street or in other places that are not intended or suitable for permanent residence. (as defined in Homeless Count 2010)

Absolute Homeless: Individuals and families with no housing alternatives. They may be sleeping “rough” on the street, in a stairwell or campsite. (as defined in Homeless Count 2010)

Chronically Homeless



Homeless persons or families who have been continuously homeless for a year or more, or have experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Episodically Homeless

Persons who become homeless periodically over time and who remain homeless for shorter periods (not chronic).