



HMIS QUARTERLY SPOTLIGHT

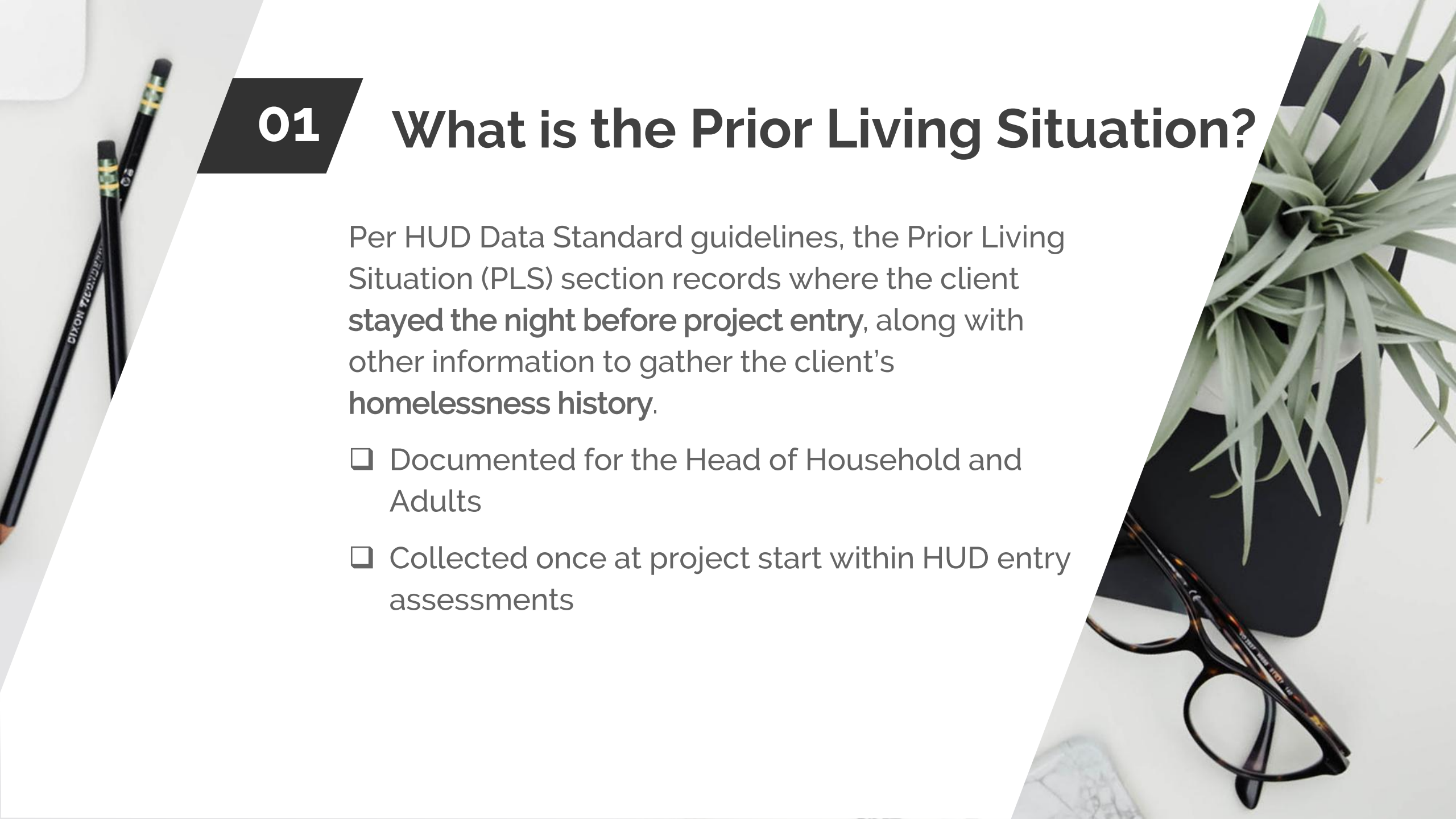
Prior Living Situation

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- ② Parts of the Prior Living Situation Section
- ③ Chronic Homelessness
- ④ Common Scenarios and Live Demo
- ⑤ Prior Living Situation in Reporting





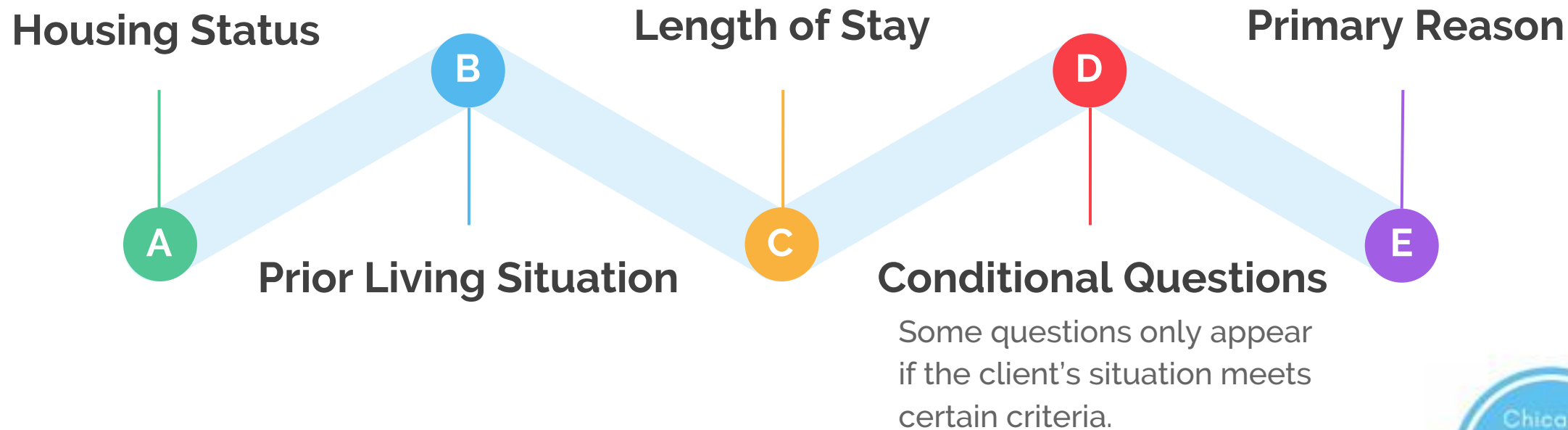
01

What is the Prior Living Situation?

Per HUD Data Standard guidelines, the Prior Living Situation (PLS) section records where the client **stayed the night before project entry**, along with other information to gather the client's **homelessness history**.

- ☐ Documented for the Head of Household and Adults
- ☐ Collected once at project start within HUD entry assessments

Parts of the Prior Living Situation Section



2a

Housing Status: HUD's Categories of Homelessness

This question categorizes the client's situation based on HUD's Categories of Homelessness. Assessors have the following options available:

Prior Living Situation

Housing Status
-Select-
-Select-
Category 1 - Homeless (HUD)
Category 2 - At imminent risk of losing housing (HUD)
Category 3 - Homeless only under other federal statutes (HUD)
Category 4 - Fleeing domestic violence (HUD)
At-risk of homelessness (HUD)
Stably housed (HUD)
Client doesn't know (HUD)
Client refused (HUD)
Data not collected (HUD)

*Selecting **these options** flags the question for missing data



2a

Category 1: Literally Homeless

A household who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meeting at least **one** of the following circumstances:

- ✓ Primary nighttime residence is **not** meant for habitation, or
- ✓ Living in a **shelter** designed for temporary living arrangements, or
- ✓ Exiting an **institution**, where they stayed for **less than 90 days**, and who's stayed in **one of the above** situations immediate before

Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness

A household who will lose their primary nighttime residence soon, and meets all the following circumstances:

- ✓ Residence will be lost within **14 days** of application,
- ✓ No following residence has been identified, and
- ✓ The household lacks the resources or support to obtain other permanent housing

2a

Category 3:

Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes

Unaccompanied youth under 25, families with youth, who otherwise would not qualify as homeless:

- ✓ Defined homeless under other federal statutes
- ✓ Have not had permanent housing and have moved 2 or more times in the 60 days prior to the program
- ✓ Can be expected to remain in their situation due to special circumstances

Category 4:

Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

A household that:

- ✓ Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee domestic violence
- ✓ No other residence
- ✓ The household lacks the resources or support to obtain other permanent housing

2b

Prior Living Situation

This question collects where the client slept the night before. Assessors have the following categories to select from:

Homeless Situations



Institutional



Temporary Housing



Permanent Housing



See this article for a full description of each option available: [Living Situations](#)



2C

Length of Stay in Previous Place

The length of time the client was residing in the living situation.

- If the client moved around, but was in the same type of situation, include the total time in that type of situation.
- If the client moved around from one situation to another, only include the time in selected situation.



2d

Conditional Questions: Homeless Situations

If the client's Prior Living Situation is one of the listed Homeless Situations, then **additional data** will be required. These questions are used to determine Chronic Homelessness, which is used for prioritization.

Prior Living Situation	-Select-
Length of Stay in Previous Place	-Select-
If selected a situation that falls under "Place Not Meant for Habitation"	HOMELESS SITUATIONS Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside) (HUD) Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher, Host Home shelter (HUD) Safe Haven (HUD)

Prior Living Situation	Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside) (HUD)
Length of Stay in Previous Place	-Select-
Approximate date this episode of homelessness started	/ /   
Regardless of where they stayed last night - Number of times the client has been on the streets, in ES, or SH in the past three years including today	-Select-
Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES or SH in the past three years	-Select-
If selected a situation that falls under "Place Not Meant for Habitation" please ask if they currently stay in this setting with children.	-Select-

If households are living in a place not meant for human habitation with minor children, please assist the household with accessing shelter or finding a safe place to stay for the night. Please contact the CE team with any questions at ces@chicagococ.org

2d

Conditional Questions: Homeless Situations

- Approximate date this episode of homelessness started

This question is the beginning of the continuous period of homelessness on the streets, in emergency shelters, in Safe Havens, or moving back and forth between those places. Have the client look back to the date of the last time the client had a place to sleep that was not on the streets, ES, or SH

- Regardless of where they stayed last night -

Number of times the client has been on the streets, in ES, or SH in the past three years including today

Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES or SH in the past three years



2d

Conditional Questions: Institutional Situations

An individual residing in an institutional care facility does not constitute a break in homelessness.

If the client's Prior Living Situation is one of the listed Institutional Situations, then **additional data** will be required.

Prior Living Situation	-Select-
Length of Stay in Previous Place	-Select-
If selected a situation that falls under "Place Not Meant for Habitation" please ask if they currently stay in this setting with children.	----- HOMELESS SITUATIONS ----- Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside) (HUD) Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher, Host Home shelter (HUD) Safe Haven (HUD)
If households are living in a place not meant for habitation, please contact the CE team with further information on the client's type of situation.	----- INSTITUTIONAL SITUATIONS ----- Foster care home or foster care group home (HUD) Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility (HUD) Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility (HUD) Long-term care facility or nursing home (HUD) Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility (HUD) Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center (HUD)

Prior Living Situation	Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility (HUD)
Length of Stay in Previous Place	One week or more, but less than one month
Did you stay less than 90 days?	Yes
On the night before did you stay on the streets, ES or SH?	-Select-



2d

Conditional Questions: Institutional Situations



Did you stay less than 90 days?

This question does not need to be answered and is automatically populated depending on the answer to Length of Stay in Previous Place.



On the night before did you stay on the streets, ES or SH?

- If the client stayed in the institution for less than 90 days, then this question will populate. This is because stays less than 90 days for clients that were previously literally homeless does not count as a break and would be included in the count for Chronic Homelessness.
- If the client's stay is for more than 90 days, then this question will not populate. No further data needs to be collected in this case.



Primary Reason

This question documents the primary reason the client is in their current situation.

The primary reason text box should be used only if you select "Other". Otherwise, this text box should be left blank.

	Please choose the primary reason the client is in their current housing situation:
	If 'other' was selected, please indicate what:

-Select- ▼

-Select-

Aging out of foster care

Disagreement with family/roommate

Discharge from hospital

Discharge from jail/prison

Discharge from mental health/substance abuse facility

Divorce

Eviction

Experienced human trafficking

Experiencing mental health issues

Family or personal medical issues

Fleeing domestic violence

Fleeing human trafficking

Insufficient income

Loss of public assistance

Natural disaster or fire

Other (specify below)

Substance use or abuse

Voluntarily left rental unit

Chronic Homelessness

Some projects, usually Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects, are funded to **only** serve Chronically Homeless households. This is documented using the Prior Living Situation data element in the client's record.

Providers of these projects should document the client's PLS in the HMIS that, not only best describes their overall current homeless situation, but is also consistent with their provided documentation for eligibility.



Chronic Homelessness: HUD Criteria

Individuals who have the chronic homelessness status meet the following criteria:

1. Has a disability
2. Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter
3. Has been in the current situation for at least 12 months or 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, totaling 12 months

OR

An individual who stayed in an institution for less than 90 days, but otherwise meet the above criteria

OR

A household with a head of household that meets the above criteria





04

Common Scenarios and Live Demo

Scenario #1



Client: Marcus Jacobs (1362)

Age: 42

Race/Ethnicity: Black, Non-Hispanic

Gender: Male

- **Before January 2026:**
 - Marcus lived in his car for approx. 3 months after losing his job and being evicted from his apartment.
- **January–April 2026:**
 - He stayed with his sister and her family.
- **May–September 2026:**
 - After the family arrangement ended, Marcus began sleeping in a park.
- **This Week:**
 - Marcus stayed at an emergency homeless shelter for the first time.



Scenario #2



Client: Elena Ramirez (1363)

Age: 35

Race/ Ethnicity: Hispanic/ Latina

Gender: Female

- **June–October 2026:**
 - For the past 4 months, Elena has always slept in a subway station after being evicted from her townhome.
- **October 4, 2026:**
 - She reported that she stayed at a friend's house the night before enrollment, but this is not her typical place to stay/sleep.
- **Currently:**
 - Elena has no current permanent housing and continues to return to the subway station most nights.



Scenario #3



Client: Jordan Lee (1366)

Age: 31

Race/Ethnicity: Asian/Pacific Islander

Gender: Non-binary

- **Jan–Mar 2025:**
 - Jordan sleeps in their car after eviction.
- **Apr–Sept 2025**
 - They temporarily stay with family, then sleeps in the park.
- **Oct 14, 2025**
 - Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) enrollment
- **Nov 4, 2025**
 - They move into an RRH assisted unit
- **Nov 4–30, 2025**
 - They remain housed in the RRH unit
- **Dec 1, 2025**
 - They transfer to a new RRH agency provider, but remain in the same unit.



Scenario #4



Client: David Keplin (1364)

Age: 23

Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian

Gender: Male

- **May–October 2026:**
 - David has been evicted from his apartment 5 months ago. He has since usually slept at the bus terminal.
- **October 2026:**
 - Last night, David slept at his brother's house because of bad weather. He does not plan to stay/sleep here.
- **Currently:**
 - David completes an assessment with a PSH provider and continues to return to the bus terminal in the evening.



Prior Living Situation in Reporting

Reporting Types

01

System Level

- HMIS System Performance Measures (SPMs)
- Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)

02

Agency/Project Level

- SAGE Annual Performance Reports (APRs)
- SAGE Program Eligibility Form
- DFSS Quarterly Reports

03

Self-Monitoring

- CoC APR
- Business Objects Report
- EVA



System Level: HMIS System Performance Measures (SPMs)

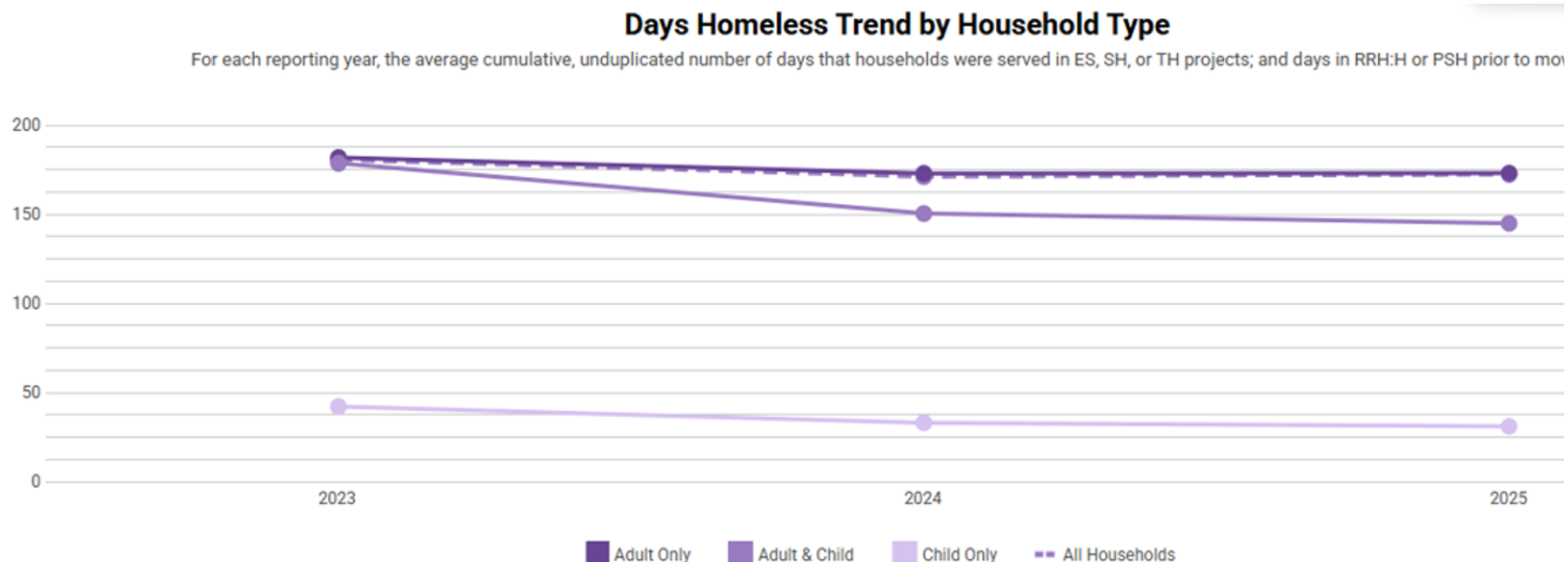
- The SPM report is a summary and year-to-year comparison of system wide counts, averages, and medians related to seven areas of performance.
- Submitted to HUD annually
- Measure 1 (specifically 1b) uses data from PLS.
 - 1a: Change in the average and median length of time persons are homeless in ES, SH and TH projects
 - 1b: Change in the average and median length of time persons are homeless in ES, SH, TH and PH projects

1a - Length of Time Persons Experience Homelessness			
	Current FY Universe (Persons)	Current FY Average LOT Experiencing Homelessness	Current FY Median LOT Experiencing Homelessness
Persons in ES-EE, ES-NbN, and SH	0	0.00	0.00
Persons in ES-EE, ES-NbN, SH, and TH	0	0.00	0.00
1b - Length of Time Persons Experience Homelessness			
	Current FY Universe (Persons)	Current FY Average LOT Experiencing Homelessness	Current FY Median LOT Experiencing Homelessness
Persons in ES-EE, ES-NbN, SH, and PH	0	0.00	0.00
Persons in ES-EE, ES-NbN, SH, TH, and PH	0	0.00	0.00



System Level: Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)

- LSA is an annual system-wide report that all CoCs submit to HUD in January. LSA data is then used to create the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) that goes to Congress for funding decisions/discussions.
- Like the SPMs, the LSA uses PLS data to determine the Length of Time Homeless for clients served during the year.
- The LSA will not flag eligibility issues, but will flag data issues (null/retired fields)



Agency/Project Level: SAGE Annual Performance Reports (APRs)

- All CoC-funded HMIS projects are required to submit APRs to SAGE.
- Continuum of Care-funded projects may only provide housing and services to persons who are experiencing homelessness as defined by HUD.
- All Full APR submissions and resubmissions in SAGE are required to include the Program Eligibility form. This form uses the information uploaded in the APR CSV from Q15: Living Situation. This data reports where all adults and heads of household resided immediately prior to project start, thereby in part identifying eligibility.
- For more information about how prior living situation may impact eligibility, please reference the NOFO under which your project was funded.
- Clients who do not have a homeless situation in the PLS field need to explain in the eligibility form (e.g. project transfers).



Agency/Project Level: SAGE Program Eligibility Form

Living Situation	Total Persons	Response Option	Status	How was eligibility determined/documented by this project
Homeless Situation	5	All	These persons are all assumed eligible.	
Institutional Situation	4	All	These persons are eligible if they entered the institution homeless and exited within 90 days.	
Temporary Situation (Transitional Housing)	3	Transitional Housing for homeless persons	Eligibility must be explained.	
Temporary Situation (Other)	2	Other Temporary Situations including residential project without homeless criteria, hotel/motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher, host home, staying/living temporarily with family or friends.	Eligibility must be explained.	
Permanent Situation	0	Permanent Situations include rental by client with or without a housing subsidy and owned by client without housing subsidy.	Eligibility must be explained.	
Client Doesn't Know/Prefers Not to Answer	0		Eligibility must still be determined.	
Data Not Collected	2		Eligibility must still be determined.	

Agency/Project Level: DFSS Quarterly Reports

2- Prior Living Situation - DFSS Categories	Households	Adults	Children
Non-housing (street, park, etc.)			
Emergency Shelter			
Transitional housing homeless persons			
Psychiatric facility			
Substance abuse treatment facility			
Hospitals			
Jail or Prison			
Domestic violence situation			
Living with relatives / friends			
Rental housing / Eviction			
Disaster / Fire			
Condemned housing			
Public Housing (CHA)			
Non-lease holder (CHA)			
Other: _____			

2- Prior Living Situation - HUD Categories	Households	Adults	Children	No DOB
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0

- Question 2 of Quarterly Report Details has projects enter DFSS Categories for PLS.
- For more information on DFSS Quarterly Reports, please review [this Help Desk article](#).



Self-Monitoring: CoC APR

- Question 15 – Living Situation
- Question 22e – Length of Time Prior to Housing
- Question 22g – Length of Time by Race and Ethnicity

15 - Living Situation			
	Total	Without Children	With Children and Adults
Homeless Situations			
Place not meant for habitation	3	3	0
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher, Host Home shelter	8	8	0
Safe Haven	0	0	0
Subtotal	11	11	0
Institutional Situations			
Foster care home or foster care group home	0	0	0
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	0	0	0
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility	0	0	0
Long-term care facility or nursing home	0	0	0
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	0	0	0
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0
Temporary Situations			
Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)	1	1	0
Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria	0	0	0
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	0	0	0
Host Home (non-crisis)	0	0	0
Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment, or house	2	2	0
Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment, or house	5	5	0
Subtotal	8	8	0
Permanent Situations			
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	0	0	0
Rental by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	0	0	0
Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	0	0	0
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0
Client Doesn't Know/Prefers Not to Answer	0	0	0
Data Not Collected	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0

Self-Monitoring: Business Objects Report

- ChicagoDQ_---_yyy-mm-dd
- Public Folders > Chicago_live_folder > Chicago CoC Reports> Data Quality

Race and Ethnicity	Sex	Veteran Status	Prior Living Situation	Length of Stay
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One year or longer
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	Two to six nights
White	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One week or more, but less than one mo
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One night or less
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One week or more, but less than one mo
White	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	Two to six nights
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One week or more, but less than one mo
panic/Latina	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One week or more, but less than one mo
or Asian Ame	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	Two to six nights
aiian or Paci	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One month or more, but less than 90 da
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	30 days or more, but less than one yea
White	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One month or more, but less than 90 da
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One night or less
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	30 days or more, but less than one yea
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One month or more, but less than 90 da
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	Two to six nights
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One night or less
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One night or less
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One night or less
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One night or less
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	Two to six nights
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an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	One night or less
White	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	30 days or more, but less than one yea
an American	Male	No (HUD)	Emergency shelter, includin	30 days or more, but less than one yea
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Self-Monitoring: EVA

- Will flag incomplete PLS data (questions not answered)
- Missing Rental Subsidy Type
- Invalid Homelessness start date and/or number of months homeless
- Does not check eligibility of PLS

B	C	D
Type	Issue	Enrollments
High Prior	No Head of Household	1
Error	Conflicting Income yes/no at Entry	5
Error	Missing Prior Living Situation Subsidy Type	3
Error	Incorrect DOB or Entry Date	2
Error	Conflicting Income yes/no at Exit	1
Error	Conflicting Non-cash Benefits yes/no at Entry	1
Error	Incomplete Living Situation Data	1
Warning	Homelessness Start Date conflicts with Living Situation data	7
Warning	Invalid Homelessness Start Date/Number of Months Homeless	1
Warning	Long Stayers (Outliers)	1



Prior Living Situation Summary

- Records where the client stayed the night before project entry, along with other information to gather the client's homelessness history.
- Documented for the Head of Household and Adults **once** at project start within HUD entry assessments
- Some projects are funded to **only** serve Chronically Homeless households. Providers should ensure client eligibility is documented accordingly.
- Use various system-level, agency-level, or self monitoring reports regularly to ensure accuracy and consistency in client data
- Additional Resources:
 - [Living Situations](#)
 - [Documenting Prior Living Situation and Eligibility for Transfers](#)
 - [DFSS Quarterly Report Submission Guide](#)
 - [HUD Data Standards – Prior Living Situation](#)

