

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON
SENATE DISTRICT G

Terms and Definitions

	United States Code - Office of Law Revision Counsel (OLRC)	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Living Situation	Public Schools, Institutions of Higher Education, Child Care, Head Start, School Meals, DV Programs (U.S. Department of Education: definition)	Homeless Assistance, Public Housing Programs, Veterans Programs (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: definition)
Unsheltered	Yes	Yes
Emergency Shelters/Transitional Housing	Yes	Yes
Hotels/Motels	Yes, if due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.	Only if paid for by government or charity; otherwise, only very limited circumstances.
Staying with Others Temporarily	Yes, if due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason	Only under extremely narrow circumstances.

United States Code - Office of Law Revision Counsel (OLRC)

§11434a. Definitions

(2) The term "homeless children and youths"-

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 11302(a)(1) of this title); and

(B) includes-

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;

(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 11302(a)(2)(C) ¹ of this title);

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces,

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abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 6399 of title 20) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this part because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Homeless Definition

- Provides a good, high-level overview of each of the four categories of HUD's definition of homelessness (the second page details the recordkeeping requirements). Since its publication, HUD has also published Determining Homeless Status of Youth to help providers understand how youth meet HUD's definition of homelessness in each of the four categories, though that guidance expands easily to help providers assess definition eligibility of other populations. This document helps to clarify that individuals who lack resources and support networks to obtain permanent housing meet HUD's definition of homeless.
 - Categories of homeless include experiences of those who:
 - Are trading sex for housing
 - Are staying with friends, but cannot stay there for longer than 14 days
 - Are being trafficked
 - Left home because of physical, emotional, or financial abuse or threats of abuse and have no safe, alternative housing.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Program (HHS) Definitions of Homelessness

- Individuals who are "not more than 21 years of age...for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative and who have no other safe alternative living arrangement."

Health Care for the Homeless (HHS) Definitions of Homelessness

- A person who lacks housing "a recognition of the instability of an individual's living arrangements is critical to the definition of homelessness."

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) Definitions of Homelessness

- Includes same categories of HUD definition but also includes "a temporary accommodation for not more than 90 days in the residence of another individual."

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The McKinney-Vento Act

- Defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence. This includes sharing housing due to economic hardships (doubled-up), living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, shelters, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, or substandard housing.

Unaccompanied youth

- Includes homeless children and youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. 42 U.S.C. 11434a(6).

Throwaway (or thrown-away)

- Is frequently used to refer to youth who have been asked or told to leave by their parents or caregivers.