Chronic Homelessness & Disability Data Quality Issues in ServicePoint
HUD Definition of Chronic Homelessness

- A homeless individual with a disability who:
  - Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, in an Emergency Shelter, or a Safe Haven; AND
  - Has been homeless continuously for at least 12 months;*
  
OR

- Has been homeless on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined occasions total at least 12 months**

*Stays in an institution of fewer than 90 days do not constitute a break

**Occasions are separated by a break of at least 7 nights
HUD Definition of Disability

- A person is considered to have a disability if they have a disability that:
  - Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration;
  - Substantially impedes the individual’s ability to live independently;
  - Could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions; and
  - Has a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including impairment caused by drug or alcohol, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury.

Source: 24 CFR 582.5 - Definitions
Key Points

• The Chronic Homeless designation pulls from multiple data fields in ServicePoint.
  • The questions associated with client Living Situation and Disabling Condition need to be filled out completely and correctly.

• Note: For clients to appear as Chronically Homeless in reports, an answer of Disabling Condition – Yes is sufficient (provided the Living Situation data is complete and reflects the fact that the client meets the HUD definition of Chronically Homeless).
  • However, completely filling out the Disability data fields and Disabilities sub-assessment is necessary to ensure that Sub-Populations are correctly designated as having a Disabling Condition.
Living Situation 3.917

- The data fields listed here are for persons entering HMIS Project Type: Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, & Safe Haven
- Record the type of living arrangement the client was residing in just prior to project entry
- Record the length of time the client was residing in just their previous place of stay
- Record the approximate date this homeless situation began; have the client look back to date of the last time that they resided somewhere not on the streets, in ES, or SH
- Regardless of where the client stayed last night, record the number of times the client has been homeless on the streets, in ES, or SH, including today.
- Record the total number of months homeless the client has been on the streets, in ES, or SH; this is cumulative and does not necessarily have to be consecutive
Disabling Condition 3.8

• If a client has a Disabling Condition, select Yes
• Then click on either Add or HUD Verification to select which Disability Type a client has
• To ensure that a Disabling Condition is properly assigned to a client, you will need to click on the pencil next to each Disabling Condition a client has (it is not necessary to edit Disability Types that a client does not have)
Disabling Condition 3.8 (Cont.)

- Once you click the pencil next to a Disability Type, the Disabilities sub-assessment will pop up.
- Enter the Start Date of the Disabling Condition.
- Enter whether or not the condition is going to be long term; if not, the client does not meet the HUD definition of Disabling Condition.
- If the condition is going to be long term, enter whether it is expected to be long, continued and of indefinite duration and substantially impairs the client’s ability to live independently; if the answer is no, the client does not meet the HUD qualification of Disabling Condition.
- There are more fields in this sub-assessment that you may answer. Once you have input all necessary data, click Save.