

Glossary of Housing + Healthcare Terminology

Adult Day Services — Also referred to as respite services, adult day services are often located within a senior housing community. They often provide supportive services, meal preparation, enriching activities and more throughout the day. At the end of the day, the person returns to his or her home.

Aging in Place — Sometimes also called “aging in community,” this refers to living at home rather than a nursing home.

American Community Survey (ACS) — An ongoing survey of the U.S. Census Bureau that collects detailed population data previously collected by the decennial long-form Census.

Area Median Income (AMI) — 100% of the gross median household income for a specific Metropolitan Statistical Area, county, or non-metropolitan area established annually by HUD. Commonly used as the basis for income threshold for program eligibility.

Capitation — A payment approach that defines a specific payment for a specific [particular] population for a specific period of time. This payment method is often used in terms of managing the average total cost of care for a defined population for a month. This payment model is designed to encourage organizations to manage the cost of patient care by following best practices, boosting efficiency, and eliminating duplication of services.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — The federal agency charged with tracking and investigating public health trends and funding the U.S. public health system.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) — The agency under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that finances and administers Medicare, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA).

Community Benefit — Tax-exempt hospitals are required to collaborate with public health agencies and other local organizations to identify health needs and develop strategies to improve health in the communities they serve.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) — Federal funding to help entitled cities and urban counties meet their housing and community development needs. The program provides annual grants on a formula basis to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improved facilities and services for low to moderate income people.

Community Development Corporation (CDC) — Entrepreneurial institution combining public and private resources to aid in the development of socioeconomically disadvantaged areas.

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) — Community Health Needs Assessments help hospitals and other organizations to better understand the needs and assets of their communities in collaboration with local residents and stakeholders.

Continuum of Care (1) — A range of clinical services provided to an individual or group that may reflect treatment provided during a single inpatient hospitalization, or care for multiple conditions over a lifetime.

Continuum of Care (2) — The local or regional entity that coordinates the submission of requests for federal funds for HUD-funded homelessness assistance programs.

Dual Eligible — A person who is eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid benefits.

Federal Poverty Level (FPL) — The federal income threshold below which an individual or family is determined to be in poverty. Commonly used as an eligibility requirement for public assistance. The 2018 FPL for an individual is \$12,140.

Fee-for-Service (FFS) Reimbursement — Currently the most prevalent health care payment system, it provides physicians and other health care providers with a payment on a per-unit or per-service basis. FFS tends to incent the treatment of conditions rather than the whole spectrum of a person's health and wellness. Contradistinguished from Value Based Payment.

Health Equity — Attainment of the highest level of health for all people valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities and the elimination of health and health care disparities.

Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8 Program) — Federal rent-subsidy program under Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act, which issues rental vouchers to eligible households to use for the housing of their choice.

Housing Trust Fund (HTF) — A source of dedicated funding established by a government to support a range of affordable housing needs [] on federal, state, and local levels.

LIFE (Living Independence for the Elderly) — A managed care program that provides a comprehensive, all-inclusive package of medical and supportive services. Also known as PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly).

Low Income — Person or household with gross household income around 50% of the Area Median Income adjusted for household size.

Low Income Housing Tax Credit — A program to generate equity for investment in affordable rental housing. The program requires a certain percentage of units built be restricted for households earning 60% or less of Area Median Income; the rents on these units be restricted accordingly.

Managed Care Organization (MCOs) — An entity that offers Medicaid and/or Medicare health plans to their beneficiaries. MCOs accept a per member per month payment from the state and then attempt to provide quality healthcare and outcomes at a lower cost.

Medicaid — A joint federal and state program that helps qualified low-income individuals or families pay for the costs associated with long-term medical and custodial care. Although largely funded by the federal government, Medicaid is run by the state where coverage may vary.

Medicare — A federally administered system of health insurance available to persons aged 65 and over. It pays for some rehabilitation services, but otherwise does not pay for long-term care. It has four parts A, B, C and D.

Moderate Income — Person or household with gross household income around 80% of Area Median Income adjusted for household size.

Occupational Therapist — Occupational therapists evaluate, treat, and consult with individuals whose abilities to cope with the tasks of everyday living are threatened or impaired by physical illness or injury.

Permanent Supportive Housing — An affordable housing model most often designed for [homeless individuals] with disabilities. It offers individualized support services based on a resident's goals, including support for successful tenancy to prevent a return to homelessness.

Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) — A public housing authority in Philadelphia which manages public housing units as well as Housing Choice Vouchers.

Population Health — The health of a defined population which includes not only the amount of services they receive, but the general well-being of that group.

Primary Care Physician (PCP) — A physician whose practice is devoted to internal medicine, family/general practice, and pediatrics. An obstetrician/gynecologist sometimes is considered a primary care physician, depending on coverage.

Project-Based Rent Assistance — Financing from a federal, state, or local program allocated to a property or specific number of units in the property. It is available to each income-eligible tenant of the property or an assisted unit

Public Housing — A type of affordable housing unit owned and operated by a government public housing authority as distinguished from units operated by private entities.

Respite Care — Scheduled short-term nursing care provided on a temporary basis to an individual who needs this level of care but who is normally cared for through home and community-based services. It provides relief for caregivers while providing proper care for the individual.

Social Determinants of Health — Social determinants of health are conditions in the environment in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. In addition to the more material attributes, the patterns of social engagement and sense of security and well-being are also affected by where people live. Resources that enhance quality of life can have a significant influence on population health outcomes. Examples of these resources include safe and affordable housing, access to education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, local emergency/health services, and environments free of life-threatening toxins.

Utilization — The extent that the members of a covered group use a program or obtain a particular service or category of procedures over a given period of time. Usually expressed as the number of services used per year or per 100 or 1,000 people eligible for the service.

Value Based Payment (VBP) — A health care payment model concerned with the quality rather than volume of patient care. Contradistinguished from Fee-For-Service Reimbursement.

Very Low Income — Person or household whose gross household income is around 25% of Area Median Income adjusted for household size.

Note: This glossary is derived in large part from, and owes a debt to, a similar effort by Neighborworks America which can be found here:
https://www.neighborworks.org/Documents/Community_Docs/Health_Docs/Glossary-of-Terms-FINAL.aspx

Some definitions were derived from relevant websites maintained by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the PA Department of Human Services, the Build Healthy Places Network, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.