**ATTACHMENT A**

**Key Homeless Service System Definitions**

**Disabled Persons**

Either the head of household or a person (could be a child) in the household must be disabled

based on the following definition:

1. A disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act;
2. Having a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that (a) is expected to be of

long- continuing and indefinite duration, (b) substantially impedes an individual’s

ability to live independently, and (c) is of such a nature that such ability could be

improved by more suitable housing conditions;

1. A developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental

Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act; or,

1. The disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any condition arising

from the etiological agent for AIDS or

1. A diagnosable substance abuse disorder.

A disability may be physical or mental, including developmental, or an emotional impairment,

including impairment solely due to alcohol or drug abuse. Persons living with HIV/AIDS are

considered disabled for the purposes of this program.

**Chronically Homeless Individuals/Families – HUD Definition**

A person who is “chronically homeless” is an unaccompanied homeless individual or adult in a

family with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more

OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months over the past three

(3) years. An episode of homelessness is a separate, distinct, and sustained stay in a place not

meant for human habitation, on the streets and/or in an emergency homeless shelter. A

chronically homeless person must be unaccompanied and disabled during each episode. A

disabling condition is defined as “a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness,

developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of

two or more of these conditions.” A disabling condition limits an individual’s ability to work or

perform one or more activities of daily living. Institution stays that are less than 90 days in

duration can be included as part of an episode of homelessness.

**Housing First**

The traditional Housing First approach has two basic parts: First, individuals are rapidly placed

and stabilized in permanent housing without any preconditions regarding income, work effort,

sobriety or any other factor. Second, once in housing, individuals never face requirements to

participate in services as a condition of retaining their housing. The first part, placement into

permanent housing without preconditions, is an important priority to ensure that federal funds

are allocated to providers that serve the most vulnerable homeless individuals.

**Permanent Supportive Housing**

Permanent Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities is long-term, community-based

housing and has supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. This type of

supportive housing enables special needs populations to live as independently as possible in a

permanent setting. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the

housing or coordinated by the applicant and provided by other public or private service

agencies. Permanent housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site

or in multiple structures at scattered sites. In this type of housing, no more than 16 persons

may be housed in one structure – or an explanation is required as to how local market

conditions necessitate a program of the proposed size, and how “neighborhood integration”

can be achieved for the program participants.

**Supportive Housing Clearinghouse**

The Office of Homeless Services’ Supportive Housing Clearinghouse serves as the centralized housing referral entity for Philadelphia’s homeless system. The Clearinghouse manages the process of referring eligible households to available transitional housing (TH), rapid re-housing (RRH), and supportive housing (SH) programs as well as other housing resources committed to households who are or have experienced homelessness. Referrals are made based on funder required eligibility criteria and Coordinated Entry prioritization factors. Eligible households are experiencing street homelessness, currently reside in shelter, or safe havens; or are in homeless-dedicated housing programs (TH, RRH, PSH) and in need of a transfer to a more appropriate housing opportunity. Staff trained as Housing Assessors submit information on the household, their needs, and their level of vulnerability, into the Homeless Management Information System. The HMIS uses that information to determine what housing opportunities they are eligible for. When a vacancy is available, the highest priority household within those who are eligible is offered the housing opportunity.