

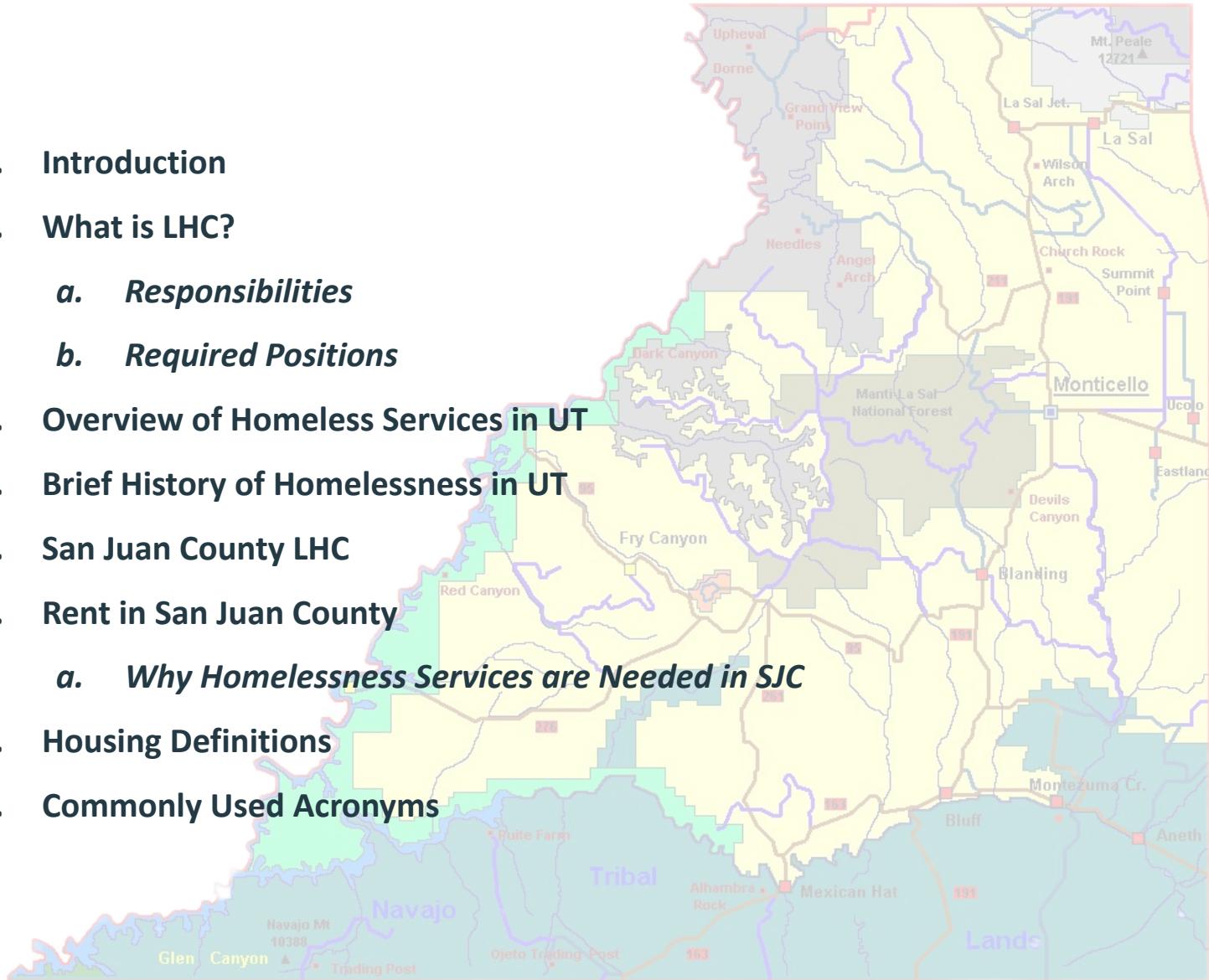


Local Homeless Council

SJCLHC Handbook

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. What is LHC?
 - a. *Responsibilities*
 - b. *Required Positions*
3. Overview of Homeless Services in UT
4. Brief History of Homelessness in UT
5. San Juan County LHC
6. Rent in San Juan County
 - a. *Why Homelessness Services are Needed in SJC*
7. Housing Definitions
8. Commonly Used Acronyms



Introduction



Welcome!

The purpose of this handbook is to orient new and current members of the San Juan County Local Homeless Council (SJCLHC).

We encourage you to use this handbook to guide your active participation on the committee.



What is an LHC?

LHC stands for Local Homeless Council. LHC's are the designated local oversight bodies in each county that are responsible for:

- Developing a common vision and agenda for reducing homelessness in their respective regions
- Developing a spending plan that coordinates the funding supplied to local stakeholders
- Monitoring the progress toward achieving state and local goals



Responsibilities

- Holding local meetings (open to all stakeholders) on at least a quarterly basis to address local needs and strategic plans, including funding opportunities. LHCs will also address the BOS CoC's strategic planning priorities.
- Conducting outreach into the community to make sure LHC's is representative and inclusive of all stakeholders
- Appointing members as leads to all State required committees and sub-committees
- Submitting updated membership list and attendance to the Collaborative Applicant on a quarterly basis
- Attending the BOS quarterly meetings and the annual strategic planning meeting



LHC Required Positions

LHC Chair: Individual who heads the group and leads monthly meetings.

CoC Board Member: This individual represents the LHC during board meetings. They vote for their LHC and relay important information from the board to their local homeless coordinating councils.

DV Lead: This individual works for an organization focused on Domestic Violence. They act as the expert for matters related to DV and help advocate for victims within the LHC.

CE Lead: This individual acts as the Coordinated Entry expert for the group, and attends CE-related meetings.

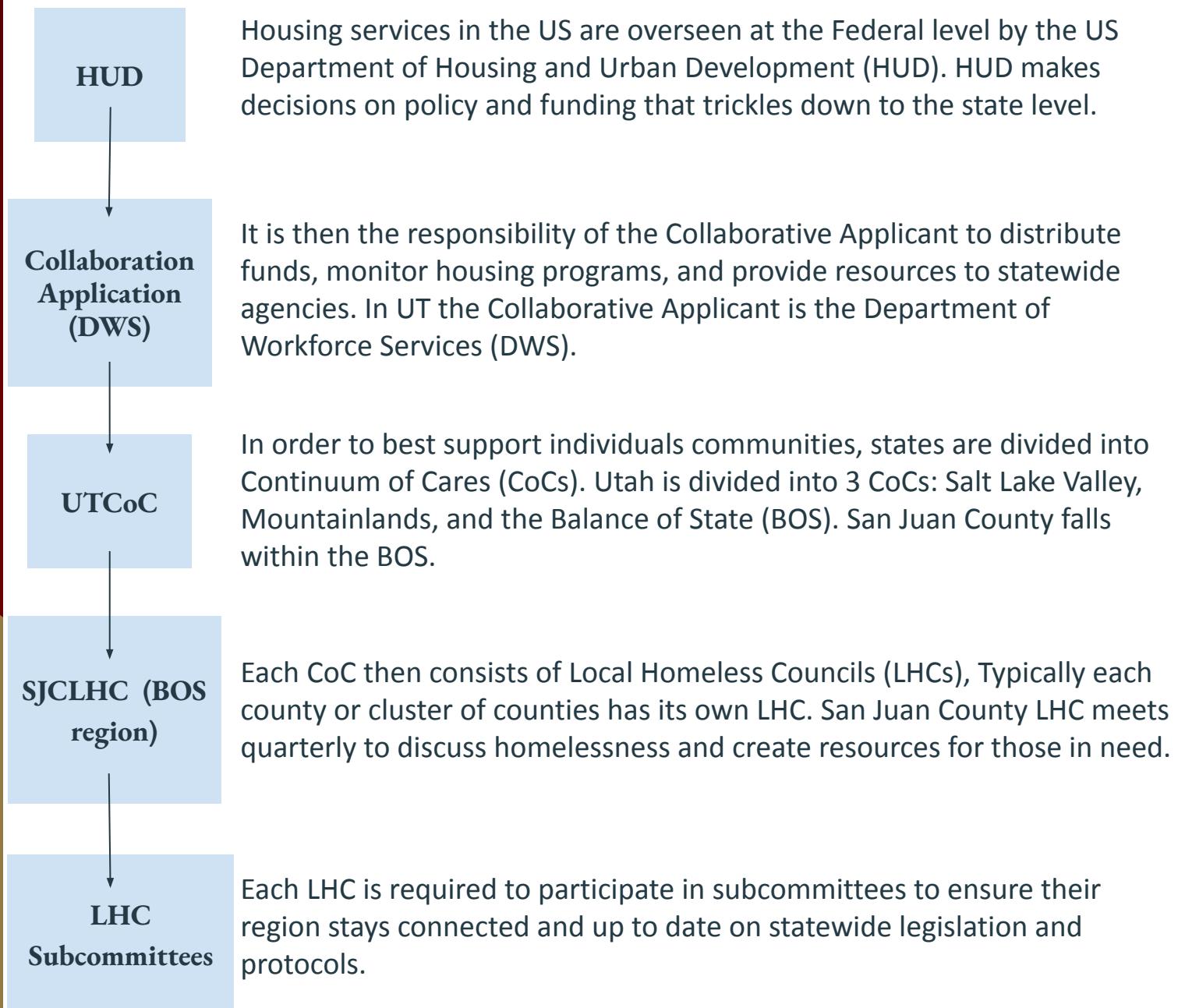
PIT Lead: This individual heads the PIT count in the LHC, and relays PIT-related data and information between DWS and LHC.

LHC Quarterly Reporter: This individual gathers the required information and completes the Quarterly Report given by the CoC.

LHC Point of Contact: This individual is the point person in relaying information and communications from DWS to the rest of the committee.



Overview of Homeless Services in Utah



Balance of State Workgroups

The BOS has several workgroup. Below are three examples:

Coordinated Entry Workgroup: develops coordinated assessment policies and procedures and oversees all aspects of implementation. This committee is made up of a Coordinated Entry Lead from each LHC. They are also charged with the responsibility of outreaching to, and educating, local communities about the coordinated entry programs.

Performance Review Workgroup: reviews data resorts and system performance measures in order to find and address issues and areas where improvement is needed in regards to data collection and reporting. This committee is made up of representatives from each LHC, these representatives are tasked with upholding the data quality of their community and relaying any new information to their LHC.

Point in Time (PIT) Workgroup: has been established to oversee the work of the annual unsheltered PIT count. This committee is made up of a PIT lead from each LHC. Members work closely with the State of Utah PIT coordinator and HMIS team to ensure each LHC adheres to HUD regulations during the PIT count and that they have adequate local support. This team also works to create the most accurate counts possible in order to fully understand the depths of homelessness in each county.



Brief History of Homelessness in Utah

- **1965:** The Department of Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 creates the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a cabinet-level agency. HUD's mission is "to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable housing for all"
- **2001:** Congress asks HUD to gather data on homelessness, and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is created
- **2009:** The "Housing First" model is adopted by HUD
- **2012:** Continuums of Care (CoC) are established in each state for the purpose of ending homelessness, quickly rehousing homeless individuals and families, giving access to mainstream programs, and optimizing self-sufficiency. The Utah CoC's are governed by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS)
- **2015:** Three regions of Utah are designated as CoC's: Salt Lake Valley Region (Salt Lake County), Mountainlands Region (Utah, Wasatch, and Summit counties), Balance of State Region (BOS) (All other UT counties)



San Juan County LHC

In order to take on the housing crisis and address homelessness in San Juan County, LHC was created in 2020. In 2024 the SJCLHC began taking the steps to become better established within the community and better aligned with State goals and requirements. It began by creating a mission and main strategic goals to focus on Winter Response, Homeless Prevention and Homeless local level needs.

Mission: Connecting services to address homelessness in our community

Strategic Goals:

Homeless local level needs:

- Designing innovative services to support community safety and increased access to services and support through San Juan County.
- Increase the inventory of emergency, short term, or transitional housing services.
- Create a community wide protocol for Coordinated Entry.
- Build and improve PIT count practices for increasing community participation.
- Year long effort to monitor the population for homelessness needs.



Why Homelessness Services are Needed in San Juan County?

San Juan County is made by small Cities and Communities like Spanish Valley, La Sal, Monticello, Blanding, Bluff and Mexican Hat. As we participate in the PIT count, we discovered that we do in fact have homeless individuals in our Communities. There is a great need for homeless and housing-related services in San Juan County, as well as a need for increased funding and capacity for existing service providers. These needs are highlighted in the following sections;

A Housing Crisis

The rental vacancy rate in San Juan County is 5.4 percent. This is a lower than average vacancy rate. When rental vacancy rates are low there are fewer available units. Rents tend to be higher as more people compete for scarce housing. A large number of apartments in San Juan County have two or fewer bedrooms. Seniors and young professionals especially may have more success finding an apartment that meets their needs.

A High Level of Poverty

There is a 18.4% of individuals and families living below the poverty level and there is a high rate of inter-generational poverty. There are renters living in other renters house in this County. Renters make up 17.29 percent of the population living in San Juan County.

Limited Affordable Housing

There is a need of 5,200 and 6,200 housing units needed in the San Juan County area. Of these, units are rental homes, making up percent of the housing market. For every renter household in San Juan County, Utah, there are 1.05 rental units. Renters with a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher must select a home that is at or below the area's Fair Market Rent. Markets with a large share of units above FMR tend to have longer search times to find a qualified unit, while those with a large share of units below FMR tend to have more choices and shorter search times.



Gentle Ironhawk Shelter in Blanding, UT

Domestic Violence Help in Blanding, UT



Emergency
Shelter

DV
Focused
Program

Profile
Strength 0%

Hotline
435-678-2445 (24/7)

TTY/TTD
435-678-2445

Toll Free
866-206-0379

Fax
435-678-3827

Gentle Ironhawk Shelter (Women)



BLUFF UTAH



Address PO Box 28, Bluff, UT 84512

Phone 334-324-6364

Email joe@stchristophersmission.com

Website <http://ecofnavajoland.org>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ECNUtahRegion>

Lack of Transitional Housing

There is no transitional housing in San Juan County for those recovering from addiction or coming out of incarceration.



Limited Mental Health and SUD Services

There are limited resources for individuals needing mental health and SUD support and no inpatient services. The current need of the community surpasses the availability and current capacity of local providers.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Mission

Seekhaven Shelter - Women with 2 dependent children & Men off site (Hotel)

Lack of Emergency Shelter

The only emergency shelters in San Juan County is St. Christopher's Mission and Gentle Ironhawk. Some cooperation exists with local hotels for short-term housing. Community members experiencing or managing mental health or substance use disorders are especially difficult to find emergency housing and semi- or permanent housing for.



Housing Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: Occurs when an unaccompanied homeless adult (18 years or older) with a physical or mental disability has either been continuously homeless for one year or more OR has had at least four separate occasions of homelessness in the past three years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least 12 months.

Collaborative Applicant: The lead agency of the Continuum of Care. In Utah, this is the Department of Work Services. They are the only ones who can apply to Housing and Urban Development for homelessness funding for their Continuum of Care.

Continuum of Care (CoC): The official body representing a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency.

Coordinated Assessment: An assessment that identifies the best services to match the needs of each individual, streamlining the path to stable housing. Utah uses the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool within the Homeless Management Information System.

Coordinated Entry (CE) Access Points: Identified agencies where persons experiencing homelessness can enter the Coordinated Entry System.



Coordinated Entry (CE) System: An important process through which people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness can access the crisis response system in a streamlined way, have their strengths and needs quickly assessed, and quickly connect to appropriate, tailored housing and mainstream services within the community or designated region. When possible, the assessment provides the ability for households to gain access to the best options to address their needs, incorporating participants' choice, rather than being evaluated for a single program within the system. The local access points to the coordinated entry system provide the assessment, information and referrals, and other resources to the person seeking housing.

Day Center Services: Day services that provide safe places for homeless individuals to bathe, do laundry, eat, receive case management services and work on self-resolution of their homeless issues.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): HUD is a Cabinet department in the executive branch of the U.S. federal government that is responsible for national policy and programs that address America's housing needs, that improve and develop the Nation's communities, and enforce fair housing laws.

Diversion Services: When safety is not a concern, diversion programs target those who are applying for entry to shelter and seek to divert them from entering the homeless system by connecting them with alternative housing resources, including friends and family. Limited financial support may be provided to maintain permanent housing (National Alliance to End Homelessness, "Closing the Front Door" 1-3).

Emergency Shelter (ES) (Entry/Exit and Night-by-Night): Any facility designed to provide overnight sleeping accommodations for the homeless. "Emergency shelter serves as temporary, short-term crisis housing with crisis services to alleviate people's immediate housing crisis as a first step to being quickly and permanently re-housed".



Homeless Management Information System (HMIS): A web based application where homeless service providers can input and track information about individual clients.

Homelessness Prevention (HP): Activities designed to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or living in a public or private place not meant for human habitation through housing relocation and stabilization services and short/medium-term rental assistance.

Housing First: "A homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues. Additionally, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life."

Literal Homelessness (as defined in the HEARTH ACT):

1. Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
2. Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence
3. Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition
4. Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member. Permanent Supportive Housing for



Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): Provides long-term housing and support services for individuals experiencing homelessness

Point in Time (PIT) Count: A physical count of all homeless persons who are living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and on the streets on a single night. This count is conducted annually in Utah during the last 10 days in January and provides a snapshot of homelessness on a single night. Rapid

Rapid Re-housing (RRH): An approach that connects an individual or family to housing as quickly as possible and provides limited assistance to re-establish housing stability.

Section 8 Voucher (Housing Choice Voucher): a governmental assistance program that helps very low income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Vouchers are administered by local housing authorities, and the participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program as long as the landlord agrees to participate. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly on behalf of the participating family, the family then pays the difference.

Situational Homelessness: individuals are referred to as "situational" or "temporarily" homeless, which generally means that their state of being without a home is temporary and can be resolved as a specific situation in their life is addressed.

Street Outreach (SO): An outreach method by which volunteers connect Utahns living on the streets or in other places not meant for habitation with shelter and services.

Transitional Housing (TH): Temporary housing, which an individual would occupy for up to 24 months, as well as supportive services, including case management.

Youth (as it relates to Housing and Urban Development and the PIT count): unaccompanied persons under age 25



Commonly Used Acronyms

BCOR: Building Communities of Recovery

BOS: Balance of State

CE: Coordinated Entry

CoC: Continuum of Care

DV: Domestic Violence

DWS: Department of Workforce Services

EO: Employment Opportunities

FCCBH: Four Corners Community Behavioral Health

HASU: Housing Authority of Southeastern Utah

HCD: Housing & Community Development

HEARTH Act: Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act

HIC: Housing Inventory Count

HMIS: Homeless Management Information System. Also known in Utah as UHMIS.

HP: Homeless Prevention

HTF: The Housing Trust Fund

HUD: Housing & Urban Development

LHC/SJCLHC: Local homeless council /San Juan County Local Homeless Council

Hospital MVMC: Moab Valley Multicultural Center

NLIHC: National Low Income Housing Coalition

NOFA: Notice of Funding Availability

OHS: Office of Housing Services

PATH: Projects for assistance in transition from homelessness

PHA: Public Housing Agency

PIT: Point in Time

PSH: Permanent Supportive Housing

RFP: Request for Proposal

RRH: Rapid Re-Housing

SMI: Serious Mental Illness

SPDAT: Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

SPM: System Performance Measures

SRO: Single Room Occupancy

SUD: Substance Use Disorders

TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

USARA: Utah Support Advocates for Recovery

Awareness VA: Veterans Administration

VASH: Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing

VI: Vulnerability Index

VR: Vocational Rehab.



Thank you!

