

## **Definitions:**

The intent of these initiatives (all except youth) is to target the most in need, including those with incomes at or below 30% Area Medium Income (AMI), those facing long-term barriers to gaining economic resources for stable, safe and quality permanent housing, and those at greatest risk of experiencing long-term homelessness. The intent of the youth initiative is to target youth most in need, including those with incomes at or below 20% AMI, and those at greatest risk of experiencing long-term homelessness.

### ***Homeless:***

- A family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, with first priority given to those living in:
- A publicly or privately operated shelter and/or transitional facility designed to provide temporary living accommodation for human beings (including those being assisted with hotel vouchers);
- A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (including living on the streets, in a state park, or automobile);
- An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
- Doubled up (couch surfing) (secondary priority).

***Families with Children:*** For the purpose of this initiative, family is defined as an adult(s) with a biological child(ren) or legal guardianship of a child, who is under the age of 18, or enrolled in school and expected to graduate by the age of 19. This includes, but not limited to, grandparents raising grandchildren.

***Chronically Homeless:*** (Population consistent with HUD's definition of chronically homeless.) A chronically homeless person is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. To be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation or in an emergency shelter during that time.

### ***Domestic Violence (DV)/Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)***

- Domestic violence is the occurrence of any of the following acts by a person that is not an act of self-defense:
  - Causing or attempting to cause physical or mental harm to an intimate partner;
  - Placing an intimate partner in fear of physical or mental harm;
  - Causing or attempting to cause an intimate partner to engage in involuntary sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress;
  - Engaging in activity toward an intimate partner that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested.
- 'Intimate Partner' includes any of the following:
  - A spouse or former spouse;
  - An individual with whom the person has or has had a dating relationship;
  - An individual with whom the person is or has engaged in a sexual relationship;
  - An individual with whom the person has a child in common with.

**Youth:** For the purpose of this initiative, a youth is defined as someone (between the ages of 18 and 24) or a legally emancipated minor. This includes youth that are homeless, have runaway, aged out of the foster care system, and/or exited the juvenile justice system.

**Interagency Service Team (IST):** A team of representatives from human service agencies that serve the low-income population in their community. This team should consist of representatives from the key stakeholders within the community including:

- Department of Human Services
- Community Mental Health Provider
- Michigan Works! Agency
- Emergency and/or Domestic Violence Shelter Provider

If possible, communities that have special programs that serve homeless populations should also be included as part of the IST:

- Hospital Administrators
- Local Police or Sheriff's Department
- Housing Resource Specialist
- Veterans Affairs
- Homeless Youth Programs
- Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative
  
- School District Homeless Liaison/School representative
- Community Action Agencies
- Substance Abuse Agencies

It is recommended that a single IST be created that encompasses all initiatives. If your community already has an existing IST, membership should be broadened to include the representation necessary for all of the initiatives. The IST should meet minimally quarterly.

**Project lead Agency:** This agency assumes the responsibility of project management and coordination and is the fiduciary for the funding.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** A MOU must be created between identified supportive service agencies and other key stakeholders that clearly define the relationship between all parties.

**Michigan Statewide Homeless Management Information System (MSHMIS):** This system details the homeless demographics in Michigan including the problems they face, the resources used, and where current services are falling short.

### **Special Requirements:**

- **Youth Initiative:** After the youth enter the TBRA program, they will be required to participate in financial literacy classes and be enrolled in education/training programs or actively seeking employment. (During the one one-year period on TBRA, the youth will have the opportunity to participate in a savings account managed by the Project Lead Agency.)

- At the point of entry or when the youth has **earned** income, the youth's portion of rent (30% of monthly income) will be established as an income baseline. When there is an increase in earned income, the amount of rent the youth will pay will also increase. The difference between the baseline and the increase in rent will be set-aside in an account to be managed by the Project Lead Agency.
- At the end of their rental assistance, if the youth has monies in their account, the monies along with any interest would be paid to them upon their departure from the program. The youth should be encouraged (not required) to use these funds, to continue their rent payments on their own, or obtain necessary education, transportation, job skills, etc. to enhance their professional development.

*For more information about this program, please refer to the Youth Savings Account, under the 'Resource Information' tab.*