



# Homeless Conditions in Gainesville 2009

Results from the  
Alachua County  
Coalition for the  
Homeless &  
Hungry's January  
2009 census &  
survey of local  
residents without  
housing.

# Homeless Conditions in Gainesville 2009

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## Executive Summary →→→

**On Jan. 28 & 29, 2009, the Homeless Coalition and volunteers - homeless and housed - conducted a point-in-time census and survey of the local homeless population.**

**Within this 24-hour window, surveyors counted 1,596 men, women and children without housing; of these, 624 are under 18.**

**This report provides a snapshot of local homeless conditions and the situations and experiences of the growing number of individuals and families without housing in Alachua County.**

**Less than 30 years ago, homelessness exploded across the American landscape at levels not seen since the Great Depression. The issue was quickly - and seemingly inextricably - linked to deinstitutionalization, an ongoing pattern of budget cuts and policy shifts that had, since the 1950s, virtually eliminated state-run psychiatric hospitals and pushed tens of thousands of mentally ill patients out of those facilities and into patchwork systems of community-based care.**

This narrow, albeit compelling, view ignores the root cause of modern-day homelessness - the concurrent movement of the federal government away from its previous commitments to create, maintain and subsidize affordable housing for low-income households.

Unfortunately, the connection to deinstitutionalization still resonates, framing the issue of homelessness as one of broken people instead of badly flawed - or altogether broken - systems.

Homelessness is, for most people, a temporary condition brought about by an economic or medical crisis that leads to a loss of housing. Alachua County residents with housing rarely see the true composition of the homeless population; rather, the relatively few, but highly visible, homeless people on sidewalks, in parks and soup kitchen lines dominate

perceptions of "homelessness" while hundreds more remain unseen in emergency and transitional housing programs, day labor pools, service-sector employment and education and skills training programs.

For years, homeless agencies and programs have focused largely on the symptoms of homelessness and poverty, rather than root causes. Nationwide, more than 300 communities have undertaken the creation of 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness, but against a backdrop of stagnant wages and rising rents, such plans at best minimize - and at worst, hide - the impact of a wide array of contributing factors.

Homelessness is, at its core, a housing issue, but to view the issue as separate and distinct from broader national trends - wages too low to meet basic needs, decreased

housing affordability, a lack of access to primary health care, deindustrialization, gentrification, and severe federal funding cuts to low-income affordable housing programs - is to overlook critical factors contributing to widespread homelessness in the United States.

Though federal support for subsidized housing itself has not decreased in the past three decades, a substantial shift in the prioritization of who receives housing assistance has left those most in need of such support without housing. Annual federal expenditures for homeowner subsidies have grown immensely since 1976, though the vast majority of this assistance is targeted to households earning more than \$34,000 annually.<sup>1</sup>

Florida's minimum wage, in contrast, provides a full-time employee an annual gross income of about \$15,000, assuming 40 hours of work a week, every week of the year, with no time off for personal or sick days.

The US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) sets the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment in Alachua County at \$788, including utilities.<sup>2</sup> Generally, housing is considered "affordable" if it can be had for less than 30% of a household's annual income - for a minimum wage earner, around \$375 a month.<sup>3</sup>

Though minimum wage sits at \$7.21, and the county's estimated mean income at \$9.52/hour, a worker must earn an hourly "housing wage" of \$15.15 to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment.<sup>4</sup> Alternately, a minimum wage-earner must work 84 hours per week, 52 weeks a year, in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.<sup>5</sup>

The disparity between wages and housing costs continues to grow.<sup>6</sup> Fair Market Rent for Alachua County has increased 44% since 2000; as of 2007, 64% of renter households in the county are unable to afford housing without a cost burden.

Nearly 15,000 housing units are currently vacant in Alachua County - almost 10 empty rooms for every man, woman and child without a safe place to call home.<sup>7</sup> There is no shortage of housing in the community; rather, the housing that exists is not affordable to the people who work and live in the county.

On behalf of the Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless & Hungry and the tireless advocates and agencies working to ensure everyone has a safe, affordable place to call home, thank you for taking the time to learn more about this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Jon DeCarmine, Executive Director  
Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless & Hungry, Inc.  
North Central Florida Continuum of Care

## Methodology & Limitations →→→

Point-in-time counts are designed to find the number of homeless people living on the streets and in abandoned buildings, in woods and campgrounds, and in vehicles, as well as those in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and hospitals, jails and treatment facilities.

They remain an imperfect science - homelessness is impossible to measure with 100% accuracy, and research on attempts to count homeless people finds that point-in-time surveys consistently undercount the population.<sup>8</sup> Surveyors venture into unfamiliar areas and attempt to locate sleeping locations that are, by design, hidden from sight and hard to find. Youth, the recently homeless, and people doubled up with family and friends are particularly difficult to find.<sup>9</sup>

Additionally, volunteers for the street count primarily canvassed areas within a 39-block radius of Gainesville's downtown area, but not campgrounds, motels, or other locations in which people may have taken up temporary residence.

Point-in-time counts consistently miss individuals who are staying inside or in vehicles on the night of the survey, even if they sleep on the street the other 364 days of the year. These "hidden homeless," including children temporarily doubled- or tripled-up at a friend or relative's place, are nearly impossible to find and count.

A large national study of formerly homeless individuals found that people

who had been literally homeless (and not doubled up) most often stayed in their cars (59.2%), and not on the streets.<sup>10</sup> Comparatively, only 16 respondents - 1.5% of the full adult population - reported spending the previous night in a vehicle.

Per HUD requirements, the point-in-time survey is performed during the last week of January to minimize seasonal and monthly fluctuations in homelessness in a given area. Florida communities typically see an increase in homelessness in winter months when colder northern climates drive unsheltered homeless individuals to warmer areas. Further, the surveys are conducted in the last week of the month to attempt to reflect individuals whose monthly Social Security, Disability, Veterans or other entitlement checks run out prior to the end of the month and leave people without adequate access to temporary housing that was affordable earlier in the month.

### Street Count Coverage Zones

-  E & W University Ave. Corridors
-  Downtown Plaza/Library
-  Waldo Road Corridor
-  N & S Main & 13<sup>th</sup> St. Corridors
-  Old Tent City, Encampments
-  I-75 interchanges
-  Outlying Towns
-  Cold Night Shelters
-  Day Labor Pools
-  Soup Kitchens

## Key Findings →→→

- ✚ This year's count represents a 70% increase in homelessness over the past two years. Financial hardship caused the loss of housing for 47%
- ✚ Men's violence against women caused the current episode of homelessness for 1 in 6 women.
- ✚ 58% of the population is unsheltered on any given night.
- ✚ The number of homeless men has nearly doubled in the past year; the number of women living outdoors has increased fivefold since 2003.
- ✚ 48% of respondents report using hospital ERs for basic medical care. Those in shelter were half as likely to do so.
- ✚ More people are homeless for the first time- 62%, - the highest rate since 2003.
- ✚ Among individuals, six in 10 have been homeless for longer than a year, a 20% increase from 2008.
- ✚ Roughly half the population lived and worked here before losing housing. Only 4% reported coming in search of shelter or services, down from 8% in 2008.
- ✚ Veterans and people with disabilities were three and five times more likely, respectively, to have come for services.
- ✚ 10% of the population counts panhandling as a source of income. The panhandling rate among people in shelter is 0%.
- ✚ 81% of homeless people are unemployed, up from 63% in 2008.

Street & Agency Count Results			
	2009	2008	2007
Residing in homeless housing programs	336	352	278
<b>SHELTERED SUBTOTAL</b> →	<b>336</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>278</b>
Streets & camps	626	465	325
Alachua County Jail	80	115	51
Hospitals/Detox/CSU	34	36	19
<b>UNSHeltered SUBTOTAL</b> →			
Children identified by County School Board	518	397	279
<b>CHILDREN SUBTOTAL</b> → (includes 106 children in shelters, counted above)	<b>624</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>279</b>
<b>TOTAL POPULATION</b> →	<b>1,596</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>952</b>

## Demographic Overview

Age (Full Population: N=1,596))		
Under 18	39.1%	624
18 & Up	60.9%	972
Family Status (N=1078)		
Individuals	82.3%	887
Family w/ Children	17.8%	191
Sex (N=1078)		
Male	79.8%	860
Female	20.2%	218
Race (N=1078)		
Black/African American	32.4%	349
Hispanic/Latino	2.0%	21
Native American	3.9%	42
Asian	0.7%	8
Pacific Islander	0.7%	8
White		
Other	2.0%	22
Veteran Status (N=972)		
Military Veteran	37.1%	361

\*Age calculation includes doubled- & tripled-up schoolchildren considered homeless by McKinney-Vento; these children are excluded in the family calculation, as HUD does not consider these adults homeless.

## Causes of Homelessness & Experiences While Homeless →→→ Changes & Trends

- Nearly half of respondents cited financial hardships as the leading cause of homelessness.
- Men's violence against women caused the current episode of homelessness for 1 in 6 women.

Homelessness in Alachua County remains a problem characterized by scarce affordable housing, low wages and financial hardship. Nearly half (47%) of respondents cited economic reasons as the primary cause of their loss of housing. Health problems and medical crises drove more than 1 in 4 (26%) to the streets.

Eviction, foreclosure, and other housing-related crises preceded the housing loss of 13% of respondents, with women twice as likely to report a loss of housing due to eviction or foreclosure. Another 8% of respondents cited family problems - including domestic violence - as the primary cause of homelessness.

The main causes of homelessness among men were unemployment or insufficient income (43.5%), substance abuse (16.2%), medical problems (9.4%) and release from a jail, hospital or prison into homelessness (6.2%).

Nearly 1 in 3 (31.7%) women cited unemployment or insufficient income as the main reason for their homelessness, making economic problems the most prevalent response among homeless women.

Only in the past two years have financial issues emerged as the primary

**Economic**  
**47%**  
→→

**Housing**  
**13%**  
→→

**Health**  
**26%**  
→→

**Family**  
**8%**  
→→

	2009	2008
Unemployed/lost job	35.4%	33.1%
Income too little	5.7%	7.4%
Welfare benefits ended	0.5%	0%
Lacks training/education	1.0%	1.6%
Money mgmt problems	0.5%	1.3%
No jobs available	3.6%	2.1%
Evicted/foreclosed	3.9%	6.1%
Release from jail/hospital	5.4%	6.9%
Unsafe housing	1.0%	0.5%
Homeless by choice	2.6%	1.3%
Medical problems	8.3%	6.1%
Mental health problems	3.6%	3.2%
Substance abuse	14%	14.6%
Divorce/breakup	2.8%	4.5%
Left to escape abuse	4.1%	4.8%
Ran away from home	1.0%	0.3%
Aged out of foster care	0.3%	N/A
Other	6.2%	5.6%

cause, however. Historically, men's violence against women has been the leading cause of female homelessness. It remains a significant contributing factor, however. Flight from an abusive situation prompted the current episode of homelessness for at least one in six (17.7%) homeless women.

Among families with children, 37.1% cited unemployment or lack of income as the major contributor to their

homelessness, followed by domestic violence (11.3%), the inability to find work (8.1%) and substance abuse (8.1%).

Four in 10 individuals (41.2%) attributed unemployment and insufficient income

(42.7%) as the cause of homelessness, followed by substance abuse (15.4%), medical problems (9.1%) and having been released by a jail, hospital or prison (6.6%) without adequate housing options upon discharge.

## **Unmet Needs: Shelter Access, Services & Health Care →→→**

### **Changes & Trends**

- ✚ 58% of the population is unsheltered on any given night.**
- ✚ Nearly twice as many men are homeless in Alachua County as were homeless a year ago.**
- ✚ Since 2003, the number of women living outdoors increased fivefold.**
- ✚ 48% of respondents report using hospital ERs for basic medical care. Those in shelter were half as likely to report doing so.**

Area housing providers have operated at or above capacity for years. Bed space for single men and women - over 80% of the population - is scarce at best. Rents rise as real earnings drop, pushing demand for shelter space far beyond the capacity of local providers.

In all, 58% of Alachua County's homeless population is unsheltered on any given night. The lack of shelter is most common among single men, and least prevalent among family members.

Women and families with children remain more likely to find shelter through local housing programs than their male or non-family counterparts; 34.4% of women and 43.7% of families are housed through local providers,

compared to 25.9% of males and 27.7% of individuals.

Homelessness among women dipped slightly in 2009, to 218 women, a decrease from 2008's peak of 233. Local providers housed 75 women in 2009, a sharp decrease from the 135 housed at the same time last year.

The number of women living on the street or in encampments has more than doubled since 2008, to 104 from 47 last year. The past six years have seen a fivefold increase in the number of women on the streets of Alachua County, from 21 in 2003 to 104 in 2009.

The number of homeless men in Gainesville has almost doubled since 2007, from 448 to 860 this year. Shelter space for non-veteran single men is practically non-existent, forcing most men into makeshift encampments around the city. Only 25 beds - roughly 5% of the local homeless housing inventory - exist to accommodate the lion's share of the local homeless population. The number of men found living on the streets or in the woods of Gainesville has increased 261% since 2007, from 124 to 450 in 2009.

Though recent federal initiatives to reduce homelessness among veterans have expanded housing options, 54.7%

of those with prior military service remain unsheltered, up from 45% in 2008.

This is the fourth year in a row that the Alachua County Jail housed more homeless individuals during the survey (80) than any single homeless housing program, at a cost of over \$70 per day, per person.

### Health Care & Disabilities

Homeless people are subject to a disproportionately high rate of physical, mental and addiction-related health problems. These present themselves both as causes and effects of homelessness; symptoms existing prior to the loss of housing often are exacerbated by the difficulties of living on the street.

More than 60% of homeless people self-reported having some form of disability. Physical disabilities were most prevalent (36%); followed by mental health issues, including depression (34%); and addiction (29%).

These disabilities are self-reported, and likely underrepresent the prevalence of health problems in the homeless community, particularly mental health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. Of those who report a disability, 59% say it prevents them from working.

Many of the ailments for which homeless individuals seek medical attention in local emergency rooms - at an average cost of over \$700 per visit - could be mitigated or prevented altogether with improved access to primary health care.

This lack of access to health care, and particularly preventative care, led 48% of the population to emergency rooms for basic medical care. The raw number of homeless people obtaining basic care through emergency departments continues to rise - from 296 in 2007 to 520 in 2009.

Those in housing programs were half as likely to have used ERs for this purpose.

	All	Individuals	Families	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Emergency Shelter	23.2%	24.0%	20.9%	5.3%	28.8%
Transitional Housing	28.5%	29.5%	28.4%	16.1%	32.3%
Permanent Housing	67.0%	66.1%	78.8%	51.1%	71.9%
Health Care	48.7%	50.2%	38.8%	13.8%	59.6%
Dental Care	60.0%	62.9%	47.8%	31.9%	68.8%
Mental Health Treatment	22.4%	24.3%	19.4%	9.6%	26.4%
Alcohol or Drug Treatment	18.0%	17.1%	22.7%	7.4%	21.3%
Financial Assistance	63.5%	65.0%	63.6%	39.4%	71.0%
Food/Meals	47.7%	49.5%	40.3%	9.6%	59.6%
Transportation	53.4%	53.7%	53.0%	35.1%	59.2%
Legal Services	34.9%	36.6%	33.3%	22.3%	38.9%
Education/Job Training	37.1%	39.7%	35.8%	25.5%	40.7%
Veterans Services	9.1%	9.3%	9.1%	2.3%	11.2%
Day/Drop-In Center	41.0%	42.0%	37.3%	5.3%	52.2%
Other*	11.1%	11.5%	16.4%	8.5%	11.9%

## Duration of Homelessness →→→

### Changes & Trends

- More people are homeless for the first time- 62%, up from 54% last year and the highest rate since 2003.
- Among individuals, six in 10 have been homeless for longer than one year, a 20% increase from 2008. Only 1/3 of family households spent more than a year without housing, down from 51.6% last year.

	All	Individual	Families
1 time	61.9%	62.1%	61.2%
2-3 times	25.1%	22.5%	32.8%
4x or more	13.0%	15.4%	6.0%

	All	Individual	Families
1 month or less	7.3%	5.5%	14.7%
1 to 6 months	19.5%	15.8%	30.9%
6 months to 1 year	19.5%	18.8%	20.6%
1 year or more	53.6%	59.9%	33.8%

Homelessness is a housing condition, not a permanent identity. Homelessness remains a temporary situation remedied within a few years, though a wide variety of factors impacts that timeframe, particularly the ability to meet available program criteria and the ability to establish sufficient income for housing.

More than six in 10 on the streets are homeless for the first time. This is the second consecutive year in which more than half the population has spent over a year without housing. Individuals remain more likely to become homeless multiple times.

## Community Ties →→→

### Changes & Trends

- Roughly half of the homeless population lived and worked in the community prior to becoming homeless.
- Only 4% reported coming to Alachua County in search of shelter or services, a 100% decrease from 2008.
- Veterans and people with disabilities were three and five times more likely, respectively, to have come for services.

Born or grew up here	17.7%
Family or friends are here	22.8%
Good weather	5.1%
Thought/heard there were good jobs	19.5%
Seeking services/shelter	4.1%
Visited and decided to stay	6.6%
Other*	24.3%

one in five (18%) grew up here. The presence of family or friends drew 23%, of respondents to the county; another fifth came seeking employment.

Ties to the local community were the most prevalent reason cited regarding why someone was in the area. Almost

Residents of Alachua County - those who lived and worked in the community prior to their loss of housing - constitute 49% of people on the street. In raw numbers, 528 people report an Alachua County address as their last residence prior to becoming homeless, up from 378 in 2007. An additional 29% became homeless elsewhere in Florida before coming to the county; 22% became homeless out of state.

Only 4% came seeking shelter or services, a 100% decrease since last year and down from 18% in 2007. Veterans are three times as likely to report coming for services, particularly the Malcom J. Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center. People with disabilities were five times as likely as those without health problems to have come here seeking shelter or services.

## Employment, Education & Income →→→ Changes & Trends

- 81% of homeless people are unemployed, up from 63% in 2008.
- Rates of all forms of employment - part- and full-time work, and day labor - dropped.
- Income from mainstream sources - Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Disability benefits (SSDI), and food stamps - dropped.

Most housing programs require employment as a condition of residency, and give residents access to hygiene facilities and a means of keeping work-related clothing and other items clean and out of the elements. More than 4 of every 5 homeless adults are unemployed. Access to emergency, transitional or permanent supportive housing correlates most strongly with employment rates; education levels had little impact.

Residents of housing programs are nearly twice as likely to be employed as their unsheltered counterparts. Program participants are seven times more likely to hold a full- or part-time job.

	All Adults	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Work Income	16.7%	24.2%	14.3%
Help from Family	3.5%	3.2%	3.7%
Child Support	1.6%	6.7%	0.0%
Veterans Benefits	5.6%	14.7%	2.7%
Social Security (SSI)	7.6%	6.3%	8.0%
Disability (SSDI)	5.6%	2.1%	6.6%
Food Stamps	41.9%	56.8%	37.2%
Panhandling	10.9%	0.0%	14.3%
Welfare/TANF	1.0%	2.1%	0.7%
Unemployment	1.5%	1.1%	1.7%
Other*	10.1%	11.6%	9.6%

## Sources of Income & Assistance

A critical first step upon entry into a housing program is to initiate the often arduous process of linking clients with mainstream assistance programs. Over time, this help move clients closer to self-sufficiency while helping to preserve scarce agency resources. Although overall fewer people reported such income, sheltered respondents were more likely to report income from virtually all sources.

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# Appendix I →→→ Survey Instrument

NCF COC 2009  
PIT Survey Form

1a. First name and last initial: \_\_\_\_\_ 1b. Date of birth? \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

2. Sex: 0  Male 1  Female 3. Race: 1  Black/African American 2  White 3  Native American 4  Asian  
5  Pacific Islander 6  Hispanic/Latino 7  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Where did you stay last night?

1  COLD NIGHT SHELTER 4  Perm. Supportive Housing 7  Friend/Relative's Home 10  Treatment Facility 13  Vehicle  
2  Emergency Shelter 5  My Own Home/ Apt 8  Foster Care 11  Hospital 14  Other  
3  Transitional Housing 6  Street/Woods/Camp 9  Hotel/Motel 12  Jail/Prison

IF ANSWER IS "ST. FRANCIS HOUSE," "SALVATION ARMY," OR "HOTEL/MOTEL," ASK IF IT WAS COLD NIGHT SHELTER.

5. Are you a military veteran? 0  No 1  Yes 6. Family Status? 1  Single, no kids 2  Single, w/ kid(s) 3  Married, no kids  
4  Married, with children *staying with you now*  
*Kids MUST LIVE WITH parents to be included!*

#### 7. How long have you been staying in Alachua County?

1  Born/grew up here 2  1 month or less 3  1-6 months 4  6 months-1 year 5  1-5 years 6  More than 5 years

#### 8. What brought you to Alachua County (choose only ONE reason)?

1  Born/grew up here 2  Family/friends here  
3  Good weather 4  Looking for work 5  Local shelters/services 6  Visited & stayed 7  Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### 9. Where did you live when you became homeless?

0  Alachua County 1  Elsewhere in Florida 2  Out of state

#### 10. How long since you last had a regular place to stay?

1  1 month or less 2  1-6 months 3  6 months-1 year 4  More than 1 year

#### 11. How many separate times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?

1  1 time 2  2-3 times 3  4 or more

#### 12. What caused you to become homeless (please give only ONE reason)?

EMPLOYMENT/FINANCIAL	HOUSING-RELATED	MEDICAL/DISABILITY	FAMILY-RELATED
0 <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed/lost job	8 <input type="checkbox"/> Evicted/foreclosed upon	12 <input type="checkbox"/> Physical/medical problems	16 <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce/breakup
1 <input type="checkbox"/> Income doesn't meet needs	9 <input type="checkbox"/> Released from jail/ hospital/prison	13 <input type="checkbox"/> Mental/emotional problems	17 <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence/abuse
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Welfare benefits ended	10 <input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe housing	14 <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/drug problems	18 <input type="checkbox"/> Ordered to leave by police or court system
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of job training/education	11 <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless by choice	15 <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS	19 <input type="checkbox"/> Ran away from home
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Money management problems			20 <input type="checkbox"/> Aged out of foster care
5 <input type="checkbox"/> Can't find a job			
6 <input type="checkbox"/> No one to watch my children			
7 <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to work		21 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

#### 13. Are you currently employed?

0  No 1  Yes – Day Labor 2  Yes – Part-time 3  Yes-Full-time

#### 14. Do you have any of the following health problems: (choose all that apply)

★ 0  NO HEALTH PROBLEMS

14a  Physical 14b  Mental 14c  Addiction 14d  Developmental 14e  HIV/AIDS

#### 14a. If YES, does this health problem prevent you from working?

0  No 1  Yes

#### 15. Do you receive any of the following forms of income or assistance? (check all that apply)

★ 0  NO INCOME RECEIVED

15a  Income from work 15b  Help from family 15c  Child Support 15d  Veterans benefits

15e  Social Security (SSI) 15f  Disability (SSDI) 15g  Food stamps 15h  Panhandling 15i  Welfare/TANF

15j  Unemployment 15k  Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### 16. In the past year, have you at any time:

- 16a. Gone to a hospital emergency room for basic medical care? 0  No 1  Yes  
 16b. Been discharged from a jail, hospital or prison with no place to go? 0  No 1  Yes

**17. What is the highest level of education you've completed?**

- 0  Grade school      1  Some HS      2  HS Diploma/GED      3  Some college      4  College degree

**18. Of the following services, what do you really need right now that you are unable to get?**

**★  NO SERVICE NEEDS**

- |     |                         |                               |                                |     |  |                               |                                |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 18a | Emergency shelter       | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 18l | Education/job training   | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 18b | Transitional housing    | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 18m | Veterans' services   | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 18c | Permanent housing       | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 18n | Drop-in Center (showers, storage, mail, phones, laundry, etc.) | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| 18d | Health care             | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 18o | Other (please specify):  |                               |                                |
| 18e | Dental care             | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |     | _____  |                               |                                |
| 18f | Mental health treatment | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |     | _____  |                               |                                |
| 18g | Alcohol/drug treatment  | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |     |  |                               |                                |
| 18h | Financial assistance    | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |     |  |                               |                                |
| 18i | Food or meals           | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |     |  |                               |                                |
| 18j | Transportation          | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |     |  |                               |                                |
| 18k | Legal services          | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |     |  |                               |                                |

**19. Do you have a pet/companion animal with you now?** 0  No 1  Yes

**Interviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** 0  Street/woods 1  Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix II →→→ Definitions of Homelessness

### U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development & McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

According to the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), a person is considered homeless only when she or he resides in one of the places described below:

1. In places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings (on the street)
2. In an emergency shelter
3. In transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters.
4. In any of the above places, but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution.
5. Is being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified, and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
6. Is being discharged within a week from an institution, such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility or a jail/prison, in which the person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified, and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
7. Is fleeing a domestic violence housing situation and no subsequent residence has been identified, and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.

The HUD definition does *not* include as homeless those who are:

1. In housing, even though they pay an excessive amount for their housing, their housing is substandard and in need of repair, or the housing is crowded (such as instances when multiple families share a single-family home due to economic hardship).
2. Incarcerated. However, upon discharge, the person is eligible if no subsequent housing has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
3. Living in a long-term (greater than 30 days) arrangement with relatives or friends.
4. Living in a Board and Care, Adult Congregate Living Facility, or similar place.
5. Being discharged from an institution that is required to provide or arrange housing upon release
6. Wards of the state, including youth in foster care of juvenile detention facilities.<sup>1</sup>

The educational subtitle of the Stewart B. McKinney Act expands the definition of homeless to include:

1. Children and youth who are "doubled up" with friends or family due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).<sup>2</sup>

The broadness of the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness for children and youth encompasses more children than the HUD definition, which makes no allowances for shared housing made necessary as a result of economic hardship. The McKinney definition, however, provides a more accurate glimpse into the magnitude of poverty, homelessness and near-homelessness in Alachua County.

<sup>1</sup> HUD NOFA applications website: <http://documents.csh.org/documents/ke/HOMENOF10-15-03.doc>. Accessed April 5, 2007; US Code, Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter I, Section 11302. <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/usdoce/42/11302.html>.

<sup>2</sup> "The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act." National Center for Homeless Education. [http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/mv\\_full\\_text.pdf](http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/mv_full_text.pdf). Accessed July 3, 2008.