

# Glossary of Policy and Advocacy (GPA)

**Accessible** – **1.** that can be approached or entered; **2.** easy to approach or enter; **3.** that can be got; obtainable; **4.** open to the influence of; **5.** easily understood; **6.** [as in “accessible health care”] care delivery systems that ensure the receipt of health care services, designed to overcome barriers caused by race, class, disability, or other factors

**Advocacy** – Etymology: Middle English *advocat*, from Middle French, from Latin *advocatus*, from past participle of *advocare* to summon assistance, from *ad-* + *vocare* to call, from *voc-*, *vox* voice. **1:** one that pleads the cause of another; *specifically:* one that pleads the cause of another before a tribunal or judicial court **2:** one that defends or maintains a cause or proposal. **3.** HCH Advocacy: The educational process through which data, experiences, and insight are shared with those who craft public policy so that they make informed decisions.

**Affordable** (as in “affordable health care” or “affordable housing”) – **1.** [In health care] care which is reasonably priced for an individual or family such that care is financially available; care that is subsidized for those with very low incomes; **2.** [In housing] The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines “housing affordability” as paying no more than 30% of an individual’s or family’s adjusted gross income on housing and related costs (rent/mortgage plus essential utilities).

**Array of Alternatives** – alternative approach to the “Continuum of Care” in the distribution of federal homeless assistance dollars, in which a full range of resources is available based upon the specific service needs and desires of an individual or family. See also: *Continuum of Care*; *Continuum of Coercion*.

**Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)** - the principal advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on policy development, responsible for major activities in the areas of policy coordination, legislation development, strategic planning, policy research and evaluation, and economic analysis. For contact information, visit <http://aspe.hhs.gov/>.

**Bringing America Home Act (BAHA) (H.R. 2897)** – a comprehensive bill designed to end homelessness in the United States; includes housing, health, income, and civil rights components; introduced in the 108th Congress by Rep. Julia Carson (D-IN) and John Conyers (D-MI). BAHA represents the most comprehensive initiative to date to address contemporary homelessness and includes the Health Care Access Resolution, the National Housing Trust Fund, and the Universal Living Wage Act. For additional information, visit [www.bringingamericahome.org](http://www.bringingamericahome.org). See *THOMAS* to read bill text.

**Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)** – One of four bureaus of the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; currently under the leadership of Dr. Sam Shekar; administers, among other programs, Consolidated Health Centers including the Health Care for the Homeless projects; recently reorganized, with various responsibilities for the Health Care for the Homeless program spread out among several offices. For more information, visit [www.bphc.hrsa.gov](http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov).

**Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS)** – an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with responsibility for Medicare, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and enforcement of your favorite Federal legislation and mine – the Health Insurance Portability and Accessibility Act (HIPAA). For more information, visit [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov).

**Chronic** – **1a**: marked by long duration or frequent recurrence : not acute <*chronic* indigestion> <*chronic* experiments> **b** : suffering from a chronic disease <the special needs of *chronic* patients> **2 a** : always present or encountered; *especially* : constantly vexing, weakening, or troubling <*chronic* petty warfare> **b** : being such habitually <a *chronic* grumbler> **3**. term used by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness to describe 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 (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years; **4**. term referring to the protracted underfunding of affordable housing in the United States.

**Chronic Homelessness Initiative** – policy initiative of the Bush Administration, implemented chiefly by the Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to end “Chronic Homelessness” within a period of 10 years. All localities are encouraged by the Administration to design local plans toward the fulfillment of this goal with the understanding that future funding decisions may take into account this Administration priority.

**Comic Relief** – **1**. organization founded by writer-producer Bob Zmuda in 1986, in memory of his friend Andy Kaufman, as a non-profit organization to help America's homeless. Eight successful comedy shows featured on HBO and hosted by Robin Williams, Billy Crystal, and Whoopi Goldberg and featuring other comedians generated financial support for the founding organizations of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. Due to discontinuation of HBO's once-generous subsidies, Comic Relief is no longer making grants to support the National Council or other nonprofit organizations. **2**. See: *Federal housing policy*.

**Congressional Budget Office (CBO)** – The Congressional Budget Office is a small, nonpartisan agency that produces policy analyses, cost estimates, and budget and economic projections that serve as a basis for Congressional decisions about spending and taxes. Every piece of legislation concerning the use of the nation's resources undergoes the scrutiny of the CBO. For more information, visit [www.cbo.gov](http://www.cbo.gov).

**Consolidated Health Centers Account** (also known as the Community Health Centers Account) – The account in the Department of Health and Human Services budget which funds Community Health Centers, including Health Care for the Homeless projects, Migrant Health Centers, and Public Housing Primary Care projects. By law, HCH receives 8.6% of the total allocation.

- **FY 2003 Appropriation:** \$1.505 billion
- **NHCHC Recommendation:** \$2 billion
- **Probable FY 2004 Appropriation:** \$1.617 billion

**Continuum of Care** – A construct of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development Super NOFA application that refers to the process through which people go to end their own homelessness with appropriate community support. Recognized components of the Continuum of Care include: Prevention, Outreach & Assessment, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Permanent Housing & Permanent Supportive Housing, and Supportive Services. HUD requires that all community stakeholders participate in the creation of a local continuum, a document that determines funding priorities. The Continuum concept is being eroded by the growing acceptance of “housing first” approaches to ending homelessness.

**Continuum of Coercion** (*variation of “Continuum of Care”*) **1.** a “Continuum of Care” process in localities in which the determination of funding priorities is less than transparent, not determined by stakeholders and/or exclusively in the hands of a unit of local government sans community input; **2.** a requirement implicit in the “Continuum of Care” that all individuals “progress” from an assigned starting point to an assigned ending point without consideration of an individual’s specific needs. See: *Array of Alternatives*.

**Cooperative Agreement** – **1.** a flexible contracting mechanism used by government agencies to provide technical assistance and other activities. **2.** specifically, a funding arrangement through which the Bureau of Primary Health Care supports education, training and research activities of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, with a current focus on activities that support the BPHC’s goal of doubling the number of health center users over five years.

**Disability Determination Services (DDS)** – State agencies responsible for determining disability for the Federal Social Security Administration.

**Discharge** – release from an institution, such as a mental health institution, hospital or prison. Individuals with no or low income who are released from public facilities without adequate social supports (shelter, housing, health insurance, income) often end up on the streets.

**Discharge Planning** – **1.** appropriate planning preceding release from a public institution that ensures access to those resources which will prevent an individual’s homelessness; **2.** a policy proposal advanced by the National Council which would curtail public institutions’ practice of releasing low-income individuals with no known address to the streets against their will following institutionalization, incarceration, or hospitalization.

**Disparities** – (In health care) **1.** vast differences in quality of services, quantity of services, and health outcomes experienced by certain populations based upon such factors as race, class, and insurance status. **2.** refers to the “Health Disparities” policy priority of the Bureau of Primary Health Care and other health care agencies to reduce disparities in health outcomes based upon factors of race.

**Domestic Policy Council (DPC)** – body that coordinates the domestic policy-making process in the White House and offers policy advice to the President; also works to ensure that domestic policy initiatives are coordinated and consistent throughout Federal agencies; the DPC monitors the implementation of domestic policy, and represents the President's priorities to other branches of government. For more information, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/dpc/>.

**Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)** – grant program of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development which provides funds to local governments to help improve the quality of existing emergency shelters for the homeless, to make available additional shelters, to meet the costs of operating shelters, to provide essential social services to homeless individuals, and to help prevent homelessness. For more information, visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/esg/index.cfm>.

**Ending Long-Term Homelessness Services Initiative (ELHSI)** - a legislative initiative, initiated by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, to fund supportive services for residents of housing programs; would create HHS-administered funding stream to replace HUD funding that is gradually being withdrawn from supportive services; supported by the National Council.

**Entitlement** – **1 a :** the state or condition of being entitled : **RIGHT b :** a right to benefits specified especially by law or contract **2 :** one of several government programs guaranteeing benefits to members of specified groups; *also :* funds supporting or distributed by such a program.

**Exclusion** – A social phenomenon or occurrence wherein the needs of certain populations such as “single adults” or “people experiencing homelessness” are specifically or by omission neglected by the public policies of state or local government, or by the larger society. Advocates for the poor in several countries have organized for change around the concept of social exclusion.

**Fair Housing** – Fair, **1 a :** marked by impartiality and honesty : free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism <a very *fair* person to do business with> **b (1) :** conforming with the established rules; **2.** [As in Fair Housing Act] Legislation first enacted in 1968 and expanded by amendments in 1974 and 1988, which provides the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development with investigation and enforcement responsibilities for fair housing practices; prohibits discrimination in housing and lending based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or familial status. For additional information, visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/index.cfm>.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** – a former independent agency that became part of the new Department of Homeland Security in March 2003; tasked with responding to, planning for, recovering from and mitigating against disasters. [In homeless services] Responsible for the *Emergency Food and Shelter Program*, which began in 1983 with a \$50 million Federal appropriation to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States and its territories; the program is governed by a national board composed of representatives of the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; United Jewish Communities; The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Salvation Army; and United Way of America; the Board is chaired by a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). For more information, visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

**Fifty-One Percent (51%) Solution:** Arising from an acknowledgement of the failure of “incremental” strategies to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and other organizations believe that in order to seriously eliminate the root causes of homelessness, more than half of an individual’s or organization’s advocacy time must be dedicated toward universal (rather than incremental) solutions – among them universal health care, affordable housing and livable incomes. [See: Universal] The 51% solution also carries with it the 49% solution, supporting incremental programs, such as the Health Care for the Homeless program, which remain necessary to meet the immediate needs of individuals currently experiencing homelessness.

**General Accounting Office (GAO)** – the audit, evaluative, and investigative arm of Congress, the GAO examines the use of public funds, evaluates federal programs and activities, and provides analyses, options, recommendations, and other assistance to help the Congress make effective oversight, policy, and funding decisions. For more information, visit [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov).

**Grants for the Benefit of Homelessness Individuals (GBHI)** – former name of a targeted homeless assistance program created in part through the advocacy of the National Council; See: *Treatment of Homeless Persons program*.

**Harm Reduction – 1.** refers generally to a set of philosophies and policies arising from an acknowledgement that given the inadequate supply of appropriate behavioral health services, or the public health failure of abstinence-based approaches, alternative interventions can reduce the harm an individual’s activities cause the individual or the larger community; **2.** refers specifically to such public health interventions as condom distribution and needle exchange programs to reduce the spread of HIV and other diseases; **3.** an emerging practice modality in the fields of social work, mental health, and addiction treatment

**Health Care Access Resolution – H.C.R. 99** – legislation directing Congress to enact legislation by 2005 that provides access to comprehensive health care for all Americans, adhering to 14 key principles of equity and accessibility; the campaign for its passage is lead by the *Universal Health Care Action Network*. For additional information, visit [www.uhcan.org](http://www.uhcan.org).

**Health Care for the Homeless Information Resource Center** – an extensive set of resources collected and maintained by Policy Research Associates as a contractor to the Bureau of Primary

Health Care to support the work of HCH projects. For additional information, visit <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/hchirc/>

**Health Care for the Homeless program (HCH)** – Federal program established by the Stewart B. McKinney Homelessness Assistance Act of 1987 to provide health and related services to people experiencing homelessness. Today, one of four (4) health center programs in the Consolidated Health Center account, the HCH program receives 8.6% of the total allocation; For more information, see <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/homeless/Default.htm>.

**Health Care for the Homeless project(s)** – an individual health department, hospital, Community Health Center or independent nonprofit organization that receives Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) funding from the Bureau of Primary Health Care. The Bureau of Primary Health Care currently funds 161 projects.

**Health & Human Services (HHS)** – the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, headed by Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, is the principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. HHS is comprised of 12 agencies (also known as operating divisions) including the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and nine staff divisions. An organizational chart is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/about/orgchart.html>. For additional information, visit [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov).

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** - The “Access Agency” of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA assures the availability of quality health care to low income, uninsured, isolated, vulnerable, and special needs populations and meets their unique health care needs through four bureaus:

- **Bureau of Primary Health Care**
- **Bureau of Health Professions**
- **Maternal and Child Health Bureau**
- **HIV/AIDS Bureau – Ryan White CARE Act**

**Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)** – **1.** a data collection system designed to capture both client-level data and aggregate statistics on people experiencing homelessness; **2.** systems being implemented nationwide for programs funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to more accurately count homeless individuals, reduce duplications of services, and to obtain a statistical picture of the homeless population in a given community; often associated with the “Continuum of Care;” **3.** initiative which raises significant and largely un-addressed confidentiality concerns, particularly with respect to the sharing of sensitive health information among service providers and government agencies. For more information, visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/hmis/>, or see the National Council’s formal comments on HUD’s proposed Rule governing HMIS at <http://www.nhchc.org/advocacy.htm>.

**House Resolution (HR) 676** – a bill sponsored by John Conyers (D-MI) and Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), entitled the United States National Health Insurance Act (or the Expanded and



Improved Medicare for All Act); creates a national single-payer publicly financed and privately delivered national health care system. See THOMAS to read bill text.

**Housing Choice Voucher Program** – previously known as the Section 8 program; the federal government's major (but obviously inadequate) program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. For more information, visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/>.

**Housing First** – Concept of providing stable housing and the supportive services necessary for an individual to remain in housing *before* an individual necessarily accesses addiction treatment or other services. Generally understood in combination with a “harm reduction” approach to care. See antonyms: “housing-readiness” and “Continuum of Care.”

**Housing Readiness** – **1.** phrase used currently in many localities to designate when a person is “ready” to go into permanent housing, after having passed through the “Continuum of Care” or a similar system; **2.** policies advanced by many localities or inherent in the requirements for certain programs that serve to deny access to housing for many clients of HCH projects and others without a regular place to stay.

**Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)**– program administered by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of HIV/AIDS Housing to address the specific housing and related needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. HOPWA makes grants to local communities, states, and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low-income persons diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and their families. For more information, visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/aidshousing/programs/index.cfm>.

**Housing & Urban Development, Department of, (HUD)** – The primary governmental agency responsible for providing affordable housing opportunities and for administering Stewart B. McKinney Homelessness Assistance Act programs. Key programs include Public Housing, the Housing Choice Voucher (formerly Section 8) program, the Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS, the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and others. For additional information, visit [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).

**Inclusion** – **1** : the act of including : the state of being included **2** : a relation between two classes that exists when all members of the first are also members of the second; **3.** a social situation where everyone regardless of potentially discriminating factors receives the benefits of the social structure and system. See *Exclusion*.

**Incrementalism** – [in social policy and social change advocacy] **1.** political or social change by degrees **2.** social or political gradualism.

**Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)** – federal body established in 1987 with the passage of the Stewart B. McKinney Homelessness Assistance Act, and recently reinvigorated under the staff direction of political appointee Philip Mangano. ICH is responsible for providing federal leadership for activities to assist homeless families and individuals. ICH recently has

focused on the Administration's goal of ending "Chronic Homelessness" within ten years. For more information, visit [www.ich.gov](http://www.ich.gov).

**Living Wage** – **1.** [n] a wage sufficient for a worker and family to subsist comfortably; **2:** [also known as the "Housing Wage] the wage necessary to spend no more than 30% of one's income on housing. See: *Universal Living Wage Campaign*.

**Mainstream** – **1.** *noun* prevailing current or direction of activity or influence **2.** *verb* to incorporate into a prevailing group; **3.** of or referring to current and proposed initiatives to ensure that the service needs of people experiencing homelessness and other special needs populations are adequately met by programs designed to assist low-income people. See the National Council's paper on *Mainstreaming Health Services for Homeless People* at <http://www.nhchc.org/Publications/Mainstreaming.pdf>

**Minimum Wage** – **1.** legislation of a base or "minimum" hourly level of pay for all workers; **2.** the Federal minimum wage for covered non-exempt employees is \$5.15 an hour. The Federal minimum wage provisions are contained in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

**National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)** - the national trade association serving and representing the interests of America's community health centers. For more information, visit [www.nachc.org](http://www.nachc.org).

**National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)** – a nonprofit organization whose mission is to mobilize the nonprofit, public, and private sectors of society to end homelessness. The Alliance works to address the root causes of homelessness and to challenge society's acceptance of homelessness as an inevitable by-product of American life. For more information, visit [www.naeh.org](http://www.naeh.org).

**National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH)** – a national membership organization of individuals and other organizations with a mission to end homelessness in the United States. The Coalition engages in public education, policy advocacy, and grassroots organizing and focuses their work on housing justice, economic justice, health care justice, and civil rights. NCH recently launched the Bringing America Home Campaign, (See the *Bringing America Home Act*), a comprehensive effort to end homelessness. For more information, visit [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org).

**National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV)** - Founded in 1990 by a group of community-based homeless veteran service providers, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans is a nonprofit organization that seeks to eliminate homelessness in the veteran community and work its way out of business. For more information, visit [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org)

**National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC)** - a membership organization comprised of organizational members and hundreds of individuals who are organized as the **HCH Clinicians' Network**. (If you're reading this, you're most likely one of us.) Consistent with our Mission Statement, we:



- **Advocate** for universal health care and for the improvement of current systems intended to serve people who are poor and homeless;
- **Research** critical issues;
- **Train** and organize health care providers, service agencies, and homeless people themselves to improve care;
- **Publish** newsletters, monographs, action alerts, policy statements, training videos and books; and
- **Collaborate** with a broad range of public and private entities interested in the problems of health care and homelessness.

For lots of additional information, visit [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org).

**National HCH Council Committee on Medicaid Reform** – a standing committee of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council responsible for coordinating the National Council’s advocacy to improve access to Medicaid services for people experiencing homelessness. The committee is currently involved in Federal and State-level advocacy to expand eligibility, preserve comprehensive benefits, reduce enrollment barriers for homeless applicants, make SSI eligibility determination more responsive to homeless claimants, and improve access to covered services for homeless beneficiaries. The committee is chaired by Susan Niebacher, Executive Director of Care for the Homeless in New York and is staffed by Pat Post of the National Council. For information on becoming a member, call 615/226-2292.

**National HCH Council Policy Committee** – a standing committee of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council that oversees the National Council’s policy and advocacy work, drafts an annual set of policy statements, plans an annual Policy Symposium, and endeavors during its monthly meetings to advance the cause of health care justice in the United States. The Committee is chaired by Jeff Singer, President & CEO of the Baltimore HCH project and is staffed by Matt Achhammer, the Baltimore-based Health Policy Specialist of the National Council, with support from Policy Analyst Patricia Post. For information on becoming a member, call 410/837-5533 x395. For more information on the Council’s policy and advocacy agenda, look under “advocacy & policy” at [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org).

**National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) – (H.R.1102)** – a bill in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress that would provide funding to create 1.5 million units of affordable housing over 10 years. This legislation currently has 4,627 endorsements from organizations across the country and 208 Congressional cosponsors. For additional information or to join the campaign, visit [www.nhtf.org](http://www.nhtf.org).

**National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCPH)** – a national organization serving as the legal arm of the nationwide movement to end homelessness. To achieve its mission, the Law Center pursues three main strategies: impact litigation, policy advocacy, and public education. For additional information, visit [www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org).

**National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)** – a national organization dedicated solely to ending America’s affordable housing crisis. NLIHC believes that the affordable housing crisis is a problem that Americans are capable of solving. While NLIHC is concerned about the housing circumstances of all low-income people, its advocacy is focused on those with the most

serious housing problems and the lowest income households. For more information, visit [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org).

**National Network for Youth** – a national organization dedicated to ensuring that young people can be safe and lead healthy and productive lives. In doing so, young people are championed, especially those who because of life circumstance, disadvantage, past abuse, or community prejudice have less opportunity to become contributing members of their communities. For more information, visit [www.nn4youth.org](http://www.nn4youth.org).

**NIMBY** – “**Not In My Back Yard**” – **1.** . the attitude of a person who hopes or seeks to keep features perceived as dangerous or unpleasant out of his or her neighborhood; **2.** a symbol or slogans used by neighborhoods to exclude certain people and programs because they are homeless, poor, disabled, formerly incarcerated or addicted, or because of their race or ethnicity. For more information on the term, visit <http://www.nlihc.org/nimby/>.

**Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)** — a notice published in the Federal Register to announce competitive funding programs

**Office of the Inspector General (OIG)** -The mission of the Office of Inspector General, as mandated by Public Law 95-452 (as amended), is to protect the integrity of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs, as well as the health and welfare of the beneficiaries of those programs. The OIG has a responsibility to report both to the Secretary and to the Congress program and management problems along with recommendations to correct them. The OIG's duties are carried out through a nationwide network of audits, investigations, inspections and other mission-related functions performed by OIG components. For additional information, visit <http://oig.hhs.gov/>.

**Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** – an office charged with the task of assisting the President of the United States in the preparation of the Federal budget and to supervise the administration of the budget in Executive Branch agencies. In helping to formulate the President's spending plans, OMB evaluates the effectiveness of agency programs, policies, and procedures, assesses competing funding demands among agencies, and sets funding priorities. For more information, see [www.omb.gov](http://www.omb.gov).

**Physicians for a National Health Plan (PNHP)** – a not-for-profit organization of physicians, medical students, and other health care professionals that support a national health insurance (NHI) program. Specifically, they believe that a single-payer system (where the government finances health care, but keeps the delivery of health care under mostly private control) is the only solution to solving the health care problems of the United States. For more information, visit [www.pnhp.org](http://www.pnhp.org). The National Council endorses the Proposal of the Physicians' Working Group for Single-Payer National Health Insurance, initiated by PNHP. The plan can be found at [www.physiciansproposal.org](http://www.physiciansproposal.org).

**Policy Academies** –meetings convened by the Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Federal Department of Housing and Urban development, and the Federal Department of

Health and Human Services designed to help State and local policymakers improve access to mainstream services for people who are homeless; Patricia Post of the National Council staff regularly presents on Medicaid issues.

**Policy Research Associates (PRA)** - Founded in 1987, PRA is a small business offering comprehensive services - applied research, policy analysis, evaluation studies, knowledge development and application, and technical assistance - with a primary focus on mental health services issues at the Federal, State, and local levels. PRA's main office is located just outside of Albany, New York. Through a contract with BPHC, PRA coordinates the National HCH Conference each year, and also operates the *Health Care for the Homeless Information Resource Center* at [www.prainc.com](http://www.prainc.com).

**Presumptive Eligibility** – a process by which an individual is assumed to be eligible for a program, such as SSI or SSDI, by following a set of established guidelines; the individual receives immediate short-term benefits while completing the application approval process. Currently, the National Council is working with the Social Security Administration on a proposed initiative to train HCH clinicians and/or staff to facilitate a presumptive eligibility process for people with disabilities experiencing homelessness, and to improve SSA policy to allow for rapid eligibility determination.

**Privilege** - Etymology: Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *privilegium* law for or against a private person, from *privus* private + *leg-*, *lex* law Date: 12th century: **1.** a right or immunity granted as a peculiar benefit, advantage, or favor: **2.** , a benefit or advantage that can be taken away, that is not guaranteed. See *Right*.

**Projects to Assist in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)** - grants to States to fund mental health services for people experiencing homelessness, administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The latest update on PATH appropriations:

- **FY 2003 Appropriation:** \$43.5 million
- **NHCHC Recommendation:** \$75 million
- **Probable FY 2004 Appropriation:** \$49.8 million

**Right** - Etymology: Middle English, from Old English *riht*, from *riht*, adjective Date: before 12th century **1:** qualities (as adherence to duty or obedience to lawful authority) that together constitute the ideal of moral propriety or merit moral approval **2 :** something to which one has a just claim: as **a :** the power or privilege to which one is justly entitled **b (1) :** the interest that one has in a piece of property -- often used in plural <mineral *rights*> (2) *plural :* the property interest possessed under law or custom and agreement in an intangible thing especially of a literary and artistic nature <film *rights* of the novel> **3 :** something that one may properly claim as due. See *Privilege*.

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Act** - The Family and Youth Services Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families administers the three programs created by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act -- the Basic Center Program, the Transitional Living Program and the Street Outreach Program.

**Safe Haven** – **1.** a place of safety, **1a.** offering reasonable opportunities or conditions. **2.** a specific modality of housing or shelter for immediate placement to prevent further harm, possibly in the case of mental illness or victims of domestic violence.

**Samaritan Initiative** – an announced program advanced by the Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness that would combine funding from the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) to fund permanent supportive housing for people who experience chronic homelessness.

**Shelter + Care** – administered by the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the program provides rental assistance for hard-to-serve homeless persons with disabilities in connection with supportive services funded from sources outside the program. For more information, visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/library/spc/index.cfm>

**Single Payer** (Variation, *Single Payor*) In the field of health care, a single-payer system refers to a health care financing mechanism in which one entity or “payer”—a governmental, nonprofit, or for profit entity—collects all health care fees and pays for all health care costs. Financial analysts suggest that the administrative savings from a single payer system could provide health insurance for all Americans through a universal health care system at no additional cost. The National Council long has supported a simply administered and financed “single payer” system as the most effective way to ensure insurance coverage to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

**Single Room Occupancy (SRO)** – **1.** A unit of housing typically consisting of a single room with a private or shared bathroom; **2.** The Section 221(d) program, administered through HUD, provides mortgage insurance for multifamily properties consisting of single-room occupancy (SRO) units. These units are intended for people--usually single persons--who have a source of income but are priced out of the rental apartment market.

**Social Security Administration (SSA)** – The Administration responsible for the management of the national Social Security retirement program and the SSDI and SSI disability assistance programs; headed by a Commissioner with a staff of over 65,000 employees within an organizational structure of 13 offices. SSA's central office is located in Baltimore, Maryland. The field organization, which is decentralized to provide services at the local level, includes 10 regional offices, 6 processing centers, and approximately 1300 field offices. The National Council has been meeting with members of the Social Security Administration and the Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness to explore ways to improve access to Social Security, SSDI and SSI benefits for eligible people experiencing homelessness. For more information, visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

**Social Security** – A program created in 1935 to provide old age, survivors, and disability insurance benefits to workers and their families. Unlike welfare, social security benefits are paid to an individual or his or her family in part on the basis of that person's employment record and prior contributions to the system. The program is administered by the Social Security

Administration (SSA) and, since 1965, has included health insurance benefits under the Medicare program (for which recipients are eligible after two years). For additional information, visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

**Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)** – A federal disability assistance program closely linked to Social Security. SSDI provides benefits to the individual and certain family members if that individual is disabled, has worked long enough, and has paid Social Security taxes. For more information, visit <http://www.ssa.gov/disability/>.

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** – the Federal agency charged with improving the quality and availability of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitative services in order to reduce illness, death, disability, and cost to society resulting from substance abuse and mental illnesses. SAMHSA houses the following centers:

- **The Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)**, heads efforts to speed the application of mental health treatments for persons with mental illness.
- **The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)**, leads the Federal efforts to prevent substance abuse among the nation's citizens.
- **The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)**, oversees programs designed to improve treatment services and make them more available to those in need.

For more information, visit [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov).

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** – a federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (*not* Social Security taxes) that provides cash assistance to meet basic needs for food and shelter. SSI is designed to help aged, blind, and disabled individuals who have little or no income. Approval for SSI results in immediate eligibility for Medicaid in most states. For additional information, visit <http://www.ssa.gov/notices/supplemental-security-income/>.

**Supportive Housing Program** – a program of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development that promotes the development of supportive housing and supportive services, including innovative approaches that assist homeless persons in the transition from homelessness and enable them to live as independently as possible. Eligible applicants are States, units of local government, other governmental entities such as PHAs, and private nonprofits. SHP funds may be used to provide transitional housing, permanent housing for persons with disabilities, innovative supportive housing, supportive services, or safe havens for the homeless. SEE: *HUD, Continuum of Care*. For more information, visit [www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/shp/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/shp/index.cfm).

**Symposium** – Etymology: Latin, from Greek *symposion*, from *sympinein* to drink together, from *syn-* + *pinein* to drink -- more at POTABLE, Date: 1711

**1 a** : a convivial party (as after a banquet in ancient Greece) with music and conversation **b** : a social gathering at which there is free interchange of ideas

**2 a** : a formal meeting at which several specialists deliver short addresses on a topic or on related topics -- compare COLLOQUIUM **b** : a collection of opinions on a subject; *especially* : one published by a periodical **c** : **DISCUSSION** **3. The Symposium**, a celebrated dialogue by the Greek philosopher Plato, in which he imagines a high-society dinner-party in Athens in 416 BC. The guests—including the comic poet Aristophanes and Plato's mentor Socrates—each deliver a short speech in praise of love. The sequence of dazzling speeches culminates in Socrates' famous



account of the views of Diotima, a prophetess who taught him that love is our means of trying to attain goodness, and a brilliant sketch of Socrates himself by a drunken Alcibiades, the most popular and notorious Athenian of the time. **4.** A shortened reference to “The Health Care for the Homeless Policy Symposium,” a celebrated annual event held concurrently with the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference but organized separately by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council to inform, enlighten, and motivate Conference attendees toward political participation to address the underlying causes of poverty and homelessness. Past Symposium keynote speakers have included Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Congressman Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Congressman John Conyers (D-MI), Philip Mangano, Director of the Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness, and Dr. Quentin Young, founder of Physicians for a National Health Plan.

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** – Created by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (commonly known as “welfare reform” or “welfare to work”) and administered through the Federal Office of Family Assistance (OFA), TANF provides assistance and work opportunities to needy families by granting States the Federal funds and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs. The creation of TANF ended the sixty-year old Federal guarantee of assistance to families with dependent children. As was the case with its predecessor program, *Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)*, single adults without children are not eligible for program assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ofa/>

**Ten Year Plan** – A strategic planning document developed by a locality, with vigorous encouragement from the federal Interagency Council on Homelessness, with the aim of ending “chronic homelessness” within the specified temporal parameters. See: *Chronic Homelessness Initiative*

**THOMAS Legislative Information on the Internet** – A web-based legislative reference service of the Library of Congress named in honor of the third U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson, and recently rumored by former Congressman Newt Gingrich to be the brainchild of former Congressman Newt Gingrich. Armed with a bill number, key word, or phrase, advocates and other interested parties can research bill language and follow bills through the arduous process toward becoming law. Visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

**Transitional housing** – **1.** Short-term housing, typically of specified duration, that precedes a formerly homeless individual’s transition to “permanent” or “long term” housing. **2.** One of several elements of the “Continuum of Care” as specified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; therein, the step before a formerly homeless individual or family proceeds to “permanent” housing.

**United States House of Representatives** – Find out who represents you at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).

**United States Senate** – Often called the world’s most exclusive club. Find out who represents you at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov). See *Exclusion, Inclusion*.



**Universal [As in “universal solutions”]** – **1:** including or covering all or a whole collectively or distributively without limit or exception **2 a :** present or occurring everywhere **b :** existent or operative everywhere or under all conditions <*universal* cultural patterns> **3 a :** embracing a major part or the greatest portion (as of mankind) <a *universal* state> <*universal* practices> **b :** comprehensively broad and versatile <a *universal* genius> **4 a :** affirming or denying something of all members of a class or of all values of a variable **b :** denoting every member of a class <a *universal* term> **5.** A term used by the National Council (opposite of “incremental” or “targeted”) to apply to a broad set of policy priorities including universal health care, increased availability of affordable housing and livable incomes.

**Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN)** – An Ohio-based nonprofit membership organization that serves as a national resource and strategic center supporting organizations and advocates working for comprehensive, affordable and publicly accountable health care for all in the U.S. For addition information, visit [www.uhcan.org](http://www.uhcan.org).

**Universal Living Wage Campaign:** A campaign sponsored by Texas-based nonprofit *Housing the Homeless, Inc.* that seeks to establish a national formula to index the minimum wage to the local cost of housing by jurisdiction, based upon the HUD definition of housing affordability. Individuals can sign the group’s petition; organizations are encouraged to endorse the campaign. For more information, visit [www.universallivingwage.org](http://www.universallivingwage.org).

**Upstream thinking** – **1.** A calm, meditative day by the river; **2.** of or referring to policy positions and anti-poverty strategies that are preventive in nature and that seek to solve social problems before they reach crisis proportions (see: “universal”). Refers to the parable of the villagers who devoted themselves to rescuing increasing numbers of drowning people from a river. Over many years, they developed ever more sophisticated technologies and services to resuscitate victims downstream. So preoccupied were the heroic rescuers with treatment and rehabilitation, it never occurred to them to find out why the people had fallen into the river in the first place.