

APPENDIX A

Speaking the same language

When sectors come together such as housing, health care, aging and disability services, often the first challenge is one of language. Neither sector speaks quite the same language, each has its own key terms, buzzwords, acronyms etc. Some identical words (case management, outreach, residential) mean very different activities in different sectors. Neither sector is right, or wrong. Each sector has evolved separately over the decades. Knowing what sector you speak about, by nature of your work history, knowing what sector your partners are speaking about by knowing their backgrounds, and taking time to clarify any uncertainties and confusion can be the foundation of a strong partnership.

To that end, the following guide is a list of terms common to the aging, disability, health and housing sectors. Section 1 lists terms that are used in counties, cities and states across the nation. Section 2 lists aging, disability, health and housing terms that are specific to Rhode Island.

Section 1: Health and Housing Terms and Definitions- Terms Used Nationally

Acronym (when applicable)	Definitions
	HUD 202 Program
	HUD 811 Program
ACO	Accountable Care Organizations
ACL	Administration for Community Living
ADRCs	Aging and Disability Resource Centers
	Affordable Housing
AHAR	Annual Homeless Assessment Report
Triple As (AAAs)	Area Agencies on Aging
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CDCs	Community Development Corporations
CILs	Centers for Independent Living
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CH	Chronic Homelessness
CCBHCs	Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers
CHC	Community Health Center
CMHC	Community Mental Health Center
CoC	Continuum of Care
CES	Coordinated Entry System
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant (HUD funding)
ES	Emergency Shelter

FMR	Fair Market Rent
FPL	Federal Poverty Level
FQHC	Federally Qualified Health Center
HRSN	Health Related Social Needs
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration
HFA	Housing Finance Agency
HIC	Housing Inventory Count
HIE	Health Information Exchange
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
HRP	Housing Related Provider
	Housing First
HUD	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
IHS	Indian Health Service
LIHTC	Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
MAGI	Modified Adjusted Gross Income
	Medicaid
	Medicare
MCO	Managed Care Organization
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
PBRA	Project Based Rental Assistance
PEH	People experiencing homelessness ¹ (HUD definition)
PHA	Public Housing Agency or Public Housing Authority
PIT Count	Point in Time Count
PLE	Person with Lived Experience
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
RRH	Rapid Re-Housing
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single Room Occupancy
TAY	Transition Age Youth (aged 18 -24 years)
TBRA	Tenant Based Rental Assistance
TH	Transitional Housing
	Unaccompanied Youth
USICH	United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing

Section 2: Health and Housing Terms and Definitions-

Rhode Island

Acronym (when applicable)	Definitions
AE	Accountable Entities, Rhode Island’s term for ACOs (defined above).
BHDDH	Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals
COC	Rhode Island Continuum of Care
DOH	Department of Health
DOH/ OHCD	Department of Housing/ Office of Housing and Community Development- Welcome Office of Housing & Community Development (ri.gov)
DDS	Division of Developmental Disabilities
DDC	Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council- Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council Charting A New Course (riddc.org)
EOHHS	Executive Office of Health and Human Services
OHHS	Office of Health and Human Services- State Medicaid office
OHA	Welcome to OHA Office of Healthy Aging (ri.gov)
RIHousing	Rhode Island Housing

¹ [Homeless Definition](#) (PDF), HUD Exchange, 2022.