



Glossary of Terms

HIV/AIDS

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (acronym AIDS): the late stage of HIV disease; AIDS involves the loss of function of the immune system as CD4 cells are infected and destroyed, allowing the body to succumb to opportunistic diseases and cancers. The CDC defines AIDS as a CD4 cell count below 200 cells/mm³ or the presence of at least one opportunistic illness in an HIV positive individual.

AIDS service organization (acronym ASO): an organization that provides care, prevention, treatment education, and/or other services to people with HIV/AIDS.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (acronym CDC): the U.S. federal government agency within the Department of Health and Human Services that monitors disease occurrence and develops policies for preventing diseases and maintaining the health of the population.

Community advisory board (acronym CAB): a group of community members (e.g., people with HIV/AIDS, care providers, advocates) who provide recommendations regarding clinical research.

Continuum of Care: an approach that helps communities plan for and provide a full range of emergency and long-term service resources to address the various needs of PLWHA.

Core medical services: outpatient and ambulatory health services, medications, pharmaceutical assistance, oral health care, early intervention services, health insurance premium and cost sharing assistance for low-income individuals, home health care, medical nutrition therapy, hospice services, home and community based health services, mental health services, substance abuse outpatient care, and medical case management including adherence services.

Department of Health and Human Services (acronym DHHS): the U.S. federal government division that includes the Public Health Service and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Diagnosis: determination of the existence of a disease or condition; diagnosis generally involves the evaluation of an individual's medical history, clinical symptoms, and/or laboratory test results.

HAART (Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy): HIV treatment using multiple antiretroviral drugs to reduce viral load to undetectable levels and maintain/increase CD4 levels.

HIV Disease: Any signs, symptoms, or other adverse health effects due to the human immunodeficiency virus.

HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration): The agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that administers various primary care programs for the medically underserved, including the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

PLWHA: Person living with HIV/AIDS

Housing

Affordable Housing: In general, housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying no more than 30 percent of his or her income for gross housing costs, including utilities. Please note that some jurisdictions may define affordable housing based on other, locally determined criteria, and that this definition is intended solely as an approximate guideline or general rule of thumb.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): The Federal agency responsible for administering community development, affordable housing, and other programs including Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA).

Extremely low income (ELI): Household income below 30% of area median, as defined by HUD

Fair Market Rents (FMR): HUD's estimate of the actual market rent for a modest apartment in the conventional marketplace. Fair market rents include utility costs (except for telephones).

Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Federally-sponsored agency that insures lenders against loss on residential mortgages. It was founded in 1934 in response to the Great Depression to execute the provisions of the National Housing Act. FHA is a division of HUD.

Government Sponsored Enterprise (GSE): An enterprise established by the federal government but privately owned and operated. These enterprises are excluded from the budget totals because they are classified as private entities. Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Federal Home Loan Banks are GSE's.

Housing Costs: Essentially, the costs of occupying housing. Calculated on a monthly basis, housing costs for renters include contract rent, utilities, property insurance, mobile home park fee. For owners, monthly housing costs are the sum of monthly payments for all mortgages or installment loans or contract, except reverse annuity mortgages and home equity lines of credit. Costs also include real estate taxes (including taxes on manufactured/mobile homes, and manufactured/mobile home sites if the site is owned), property insurance, homeowner association fees, cooperative or condominium fees, mobile home park fees, land rent, utilities. Utilities include electricity, gas, fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood), water, sewage disposal, garbage and trash collection.

Housing Finance Agency: State agency responsible for financing housing and administering assisted housing programs

Low income (LI): Household income below 80% of metropolitan area median, as defined by HUD

Very low income (VLI): Household income below 50% of area median, as defined by HUD

Legislative

Amendment: A change in a bill or document by adding or omitting portions of it.

Appropriation Bill: A bill reported out of the House or Senate Appropriations Committee, which assigns government funds to a program.

Appropriations Committees: There is an Appropriations Committee in both the House and the Senate and both have a set of Subcommittees. These committees decide on funding levels for the programs that the federal government funds on an annual basis. Most of the homeless assistance programs and housing programs fall under the Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, and District of Columbia in the House. The Senate Subcommittee has a slightly different name.

Authorization Bill: Legislation establishing a program and setting funding limits.

Authorizing Committees: These committees set policy and also set the maximum funding levels allowed for programs. In some cases, the funding levels that the authorizing committees set are “locked in”; for instance, this is true of welfare legislation.

Bill: A legislative proposal that if passed by both the House and the Senate and approved by the President becomes law. Each bill is assigned a bill number. HR denotes bills that originate in the House and S denotes bills that originate in the Senate.

Budget Authority: Authority provided by law to enter into obligations that will result in immediate or future outlays involving State government funds.

Budget Resolution: The budget resolution is concurrently passed by both Houses of Congress and lays out the budget plan for the coming fiscal year and some years into the future.

Cloture: A motion generally used in the Senate to end a filibuster. Invoking cloture requires a vote by 3/5 of the full Senate. If cloture is invoked further debate is limited to 30 hours, it is not a vote on the passage of the piece of legislation.

Co-Sponsor: A member or members that add his or her name formally in support of another member’s bill. In the House a member can become a co-sponsor of a bill at any point up to the time the last authorized committee considers it. In the Senate a member can become a co-sponsor of a bill anytime before the vote takes place on the bill. However, a co-sponsor is not required and therefore, not every bill has a co-sponsor or co-sponsors.

Committee: A sub-organization within the House or Senate established for the purpose of considering legislation, conducting hearings and investigations on specific issues.

Conference Committee: Temporary joint committee composed of House and Senate conferees, formed for the purpose of reconciling differences in legislation that has passed both chambers.

Continuing Resolution: Legislation in the form of a joint resolution enacted by Congress, when the new fiscal year is about to begin or has begun, to provide budget authority for Federal agencies and programs to continue in operation until the regular appropriations acts are enacted.

Discretionary Spending: Spending that is controlled through an annual appropriations process.

Earmark: An amount set aside in an appropriations account for a specific purpose.

Filibuster: An informal term for extended debate or other procedures used to prevent a vote on a bill in the Senate.

Fiscal Year: The period of time from October 1 to September 30, 2006 for which Congress is currently creating a budget.

Mandatory Spending: Mandatory spending is authorized by Congress by setting out eligibility or other criteria. Examples of mandatory spending include Social Security and Medicaid.

Marking Up a Bill: The process by which Congressional committees and subcommittees debate, amend, and rewrite proposed legislation.

Omnibus Bill: A single document that is accepted in a single vote but contains amendments to a number of other laws or even many entirely new laws. Omnibus spending bills, for example, are regularly used to group together the budgets of all departments in one year.

Ranking Member: The most senior member of a committee from the party not in the majority.

Sponsor: The original member who introduces a bill.

Subcommittee: Subunit of a committee established for the purpose of dividing the committee's workload. Recommendations of a subcommittee must be approved by the full committee.

Veto: A power that allows the President, a Governor or a Mayor to refuse approval of a piece of legislation. Federally, a President returns a vetoed bill to the Congress, generally with a message. Congress can accept the veto or attempt to override the veto by a 2/3 majority of those present and voting in both the House and the Senate.