

801 Homelessness

Definition/Cut-off Value

A woman, infant or child who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence; or whose primary nighttime residence is:

- A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter (including a welfare hotel, a congregate shelter, or a shelter for victims of domestic violence) designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
- An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
- A temporary accommodation of not more than 365 days in the residence of another individual; or
- A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Participant Category and Priority Level

Category	Priority
Pregnant Women	IV or VII
Breastfeeding Women	IV or VII
Non-Breastfeeding Women	VI or VII
Infants	IV or VII
Children	V or VII

Justification

Homeless individuals comprise a very vulnerable population with many special needs. WIC Program regulations specify homelessness as a predisposing nutrition risk condition. Today's homeless population contains a sizeable number of women and children – over one-third of the total homeless population in the U.S. Studies show forty-three percent of today's homeless are families, and an increasing number of the "new homeless" include economically-displaced individuals who have lost their jobs, exhausted their resources, and recently entered into the ranks of the homeless and consider their condition to be temporary.

References

1. WIC Program Regulations; Sect. 246.7(e)(2)(iv).