

SELF-SUFFICIENCY MATRIX

The following matrix provides an overview of many of the challenges faced by those who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. This matrix is used to assess self-sufficiency and identify needs and risk for homeless or at-risk of homelessness individuals and families. The lower the total number the higher the need for services and the higher the risk of homelessness.

Domain	1	2	3	4	5
Income	No income	Inadequate income and/or spontaneous or inappropriate spending	Can meet basic needs with subsidy; appropriate spending habits	Can meet basic needs and manage debt without assistance	Income is sufficient, well managed; has discretionary income and is able to save
Employment	No job	Temporary, part-time or seasonal position; inadequate pay, no benefits	Employed full-time; inadequate pay, few or no new benefits	Employed full-time with adequate pay and benefits	Maintains permanent employment with adequate income and benefits
Housing	Homeless or threatened with eviction	In transitional, temporary or substandard housing; and/or current rent or mortgage payment is unaffordable (>30% of income)	In stable housing that is safe, but only marginally adequate	Household is in safe, adequate, subsidized housing	Housing is in safe, adequate, unsubsidized housing
Food	No food or means to prepare it. Relies to a significant degree on other sources of free or low-cost food	Household is on SNAP	Can meet basic food needs, but requires occasional assistance	Can meet basic food needs without assistance	Can choose to purchase any food household desires
Childcare	Needs childcare, but none is available or accessible or child is not eligible	Childcare is unreliable or unaffordable; inadequate supervision is a problem for childcare that is available	Affordable, subsidized childcare is available, but limited	Reliable, affordable childcare is available with no need for subsidies	Able to select quality childcare of choice

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Children's Education	One or more eligible children not enrolled in school	One or more eligible children enrolled in school, but not attending classes	Enrolled in school, but one or more children only occasionally attending classes	Enrolled in school and attending classes most of the time	All eligible children enrolled and attending on a regular basis
Adult Education	Literacy problems and/or no high school diploma/GED are serious barriers to employment	Enrolled in literacy and/or GED program and/or has sufficient command of English to where language is not a barrier to employment	Has high school diploma or GED	Needs additional education/training to improve employment situation and/or resolve literacy problems	Has completed education/training needed to become employable. No literacy problems
Legal	Current outstanding tickets or warrants	Current charges/trial pending, non-compliance with probation/parole	Fully compliant with probation/parole terms	Has successfully completed probation/parole within past 12 months, no new charges filed	No active criminal justice involvement in more than 12 months and/or no felony criminal history
Healthcare	No medical coverage with immediate need	No medical coverage and difficulty accessing medical care. Household members may be in poor health	Some members (i.e. children) on public health plan (OHP)	All household members can get medical care when needed, but may strain budget	All members are covered by affordable, adequate health insurance
Life Skills	Unable to meet basic needs such as hygiene, food, and activities of daily living	Can meet a few, but not all needs of daily living without assistance	Can meet most, but not all daily living needs without assistance	Able to meet all basic needs of daily living without assistance	Able to provide beyond basic needs of daily living for self and family
Mental Health	Danger to self or others; recurring suicidal thoughts, experiencing severe difficulty in day-to-day life due to psychological problems	Recurrent MH symptoms may affect behavior, but not a danger to self/others; persistent problems with functioning due to MH symptoms	Mild symptoms may be present, but are transient; only moderate difficulty in functioning due to MH problems	Minimal symptoms that are reasonable responses to life stressors; only slight impairment in functioning	Symptoms are absent or rare; good or superior functioning in a wide range of activities; no more than everyday problems or concerns

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Substance Abuse	Meets criteria for severe abuse/dependence; resulting problems so severe that institutional living or hospitalization may be necessary	Meets criteria for dependence; preoccupation with use and/or obtaining drugs/alcohol; withdrawal or withdrawal avoidance behaviors result in neglect of essential life activities	Use within last 6 months; evidence of persistent or recurrent social, occupational, emotional or physical problems related to use; problems have persisted for at least 1 month	Has used during last 6 months, but no evidence of persistent or recurrent social, occupational, emotional or physical problems related to use	No drug/alcohol abuse in the last 6 months
Safety	Home or residence is not safe; immediate level of lethality is extremely high, possible CPS involvement	Safety is threatened, but temporary protection is available; level of lethality is high	Current level of safety is minimally adequate; ongoing safety planning is essential	Environment is safe; however, the future is uncertain; safety planning is important	Environment is apparently safe and stable
Family Relations	Lack of necessary support from family or friends; abuse (DV, child abuse) is present or there is child neglect	Family/friends may be supportive, but lack ability or resources to help; family members do not relate well with one another, potential for abuse or neglect	Some support from family/friends; family members acknowledge and seek to change negative behaviors and are learning to communicate and support	Strong support from family/friends; household members support each other's efforts	Has healthy/expanding support network; household is stable and communication is consistently open
Mobility	No access to transportation, public or private; may have care that is inoperable	Transportation is available, but unreliable, unpredictable, unaffordable; may have car, but no insurance or license	Transportation is available and reliable, but limited and/or inconvenient; drivers are licensed and minimally insured	Transportation is generally accessible to meet basic travel needs	Transportation is readily available and affordable; car is adequately insured

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Community Involvement	Not applicable due to crisis situation; in “survival mode”	Socially isolated and/or no social skills and/or lacks motivation to become involved	Lacks knowledge of ways to become involved	Some community involvement, but has barriers (transportation, childcare, etc.)	Actively involved in the community
Parenting Skills	There are safety concerns regarding parenting skills	Parenting skills are minimal	Parenting skills are apparent, but not adequate	Parenting skills are adequate	Parenting skills are well-developed