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CoC FAQ

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## How is the definition of 'family' that was included in the *Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs – Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity* apply to recipients and subrecipients of ESG and CoC Program funds?

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The Equal Access Rule defines family as follows:

*Family* includes, but is not limited to, regardless of marital status, actual or perceived sexual orientation, or gender identity, the following:

1. A single person, who may be an elderly person, displaced person, disabled person, near-elderly person, or any other single person; or,
2. A group of persons residing together, and such group includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. A family with or without children (a child who is temporarily away from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family);
  - b. An elderly family;
  - c. A near-elderly family;
  - d. A disabled family;
  - e. A displaced family; and,
  - f. The remaining member of a tenant family.

In general, this definition of "family" applies to both the ESG and CoC Program rules. However, the McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the HEARTH Act (<https://www.onecpd.info/resource/1715/mckinney-vento-homeless-assistance-act-amended-by-hearth-act-of-2009/>), distinguishes individuals from families. Therefore, paragraph (1) of the definition of family under the Equal Access Rule is considered an individual under the CoC and ESG programs and the definition of family for these programs is defined as follows:

**Links in This FAQ**

McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the HEARTH Act

(<https://www.onecpd.info/resource/1715/mckinney-vento-homeless-assistance-act-amended-by-hearth-act-of-2009/>)

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