

Montgomery County Acuity Scale for Families

Start Date * [first day of the period that current Acuity Score covers]

Assessment Type:* [check one]

- ☐ Initial
☐ 6 Month Update
☐ Annual Update
☐ Major Life Change

Acuity is an assessment of the complex strengths and challenges of our clients. It is used to determine the level and frequency of housing support and case management services required to promote housing stability, personal recovery, and self-sufficiency. The Acuity Scale should be used in combination with the VI- or Full SPDAT to determine both the type of housing (PSH, RRH, limited case management/emergency services) and the level of support services.

Using your professional judgment, review the description for each service needs indicator and select the option that best describes the household's situation. *If the household's situation falls in between two categories, choose the **lower point option**.* Follow the instructions for each section and use one form to assess the whole household. You must answer every question. If you feel a question does not apply to the household, select the lowest score option for that indicator. When assessing, consider the household's situation over the **last six months** and the needs of **all members** of the household *unless* the indicator specifies Head of Household Only. The tool is broken up into four sections to capture the household's overall acuity.

Part 1 Economic Indicators

1=Very low needs, 2=Low needs, 3=Medium needs, 4=High needs, 5=Very high needs

Income and Benefits

For this indicator income is considered any funds that the household receives on a consistent basis, including food stamps, temporary cash assistance (TCA), retirement benefits, child support, alimony, etc. However, cash from "under the table" or odd jobs should **NOT** be considered. Consider the entire household when answering this indicator.

- ☐ 1=Income is sufficient, well managed & household is willing to save AND can likely afford housing without a subsidy
- ☐ 2=Income consists of public benefits & employment and household can meet basic needs, BUT can't afford housing without some kind of subsidy
- ☐ 3=Income consists of **only** public cash benefits (SNAP, SSI/SSDI, TCA, etc.), BUT can't afford housing without a subsidy
- ☐ 4=Public cash benefits (SNAP, SSI/SSDI, TCA, etc.), child support, and/or alimony that are less than \$500 per month
- ☐ **OR**
4=Medicare only OR ineligible for Medicaid
- ☐ 5=No income
- ☐ **OR**
5= No income **AND** ineligible for any public cash benefits (SNAP, SSI/SSDI, TCA, etc.)

Money Management (Head of Household Only)

- ☐ 1=Head of household has income that is well managed OR head of household has no income
- ☐ 2=Head of household has income AND requires some guidance on budgeting
- ☐ 3=Income is not well managed, BUT head of household is interested in money management guidance
- ☐ 4=Income is not well managed or head of household has debts WITHOUT a plan or interest in receiving money management guidance
- ☐ 5=Head of household has no available money because of chronic money management issues

Employment (Head of Household Only)

For this indicator, please consider all types of employment and sources of income, including from "under the table," odd jobs, or other non-taxed income.

- ☐ 1=Maintains permanent employment with adequate income and benefits
- ☐ 2=Employed full-time with adequate pay and benefits
- ☐ 3=Employed full-time with inadequate pay AND with no benefits
- ☐ 4=Part-time or seasonal work with inadequate pay AND with no benefits
- ☐ 5=No job

Annual Income

- ☐ 1= \$65,001 or more
- ☐ 2=\$45,001-\$65,000
- ☐ 3=\$30,001-\$45,000
- ☐ 4= \$30,000 or less
- ☐ 5=\$0

Education (Head of Household Only)

- ☐ 1=Completed some college education
- ☐ 2=Has high school diploma/GED AND enrolled in additional training program
- ☐ 3=Has high school diploma/GED
- ☐ 4=Has some education, BUT didn't complete high school
- ☐ 5=Literacy problems OR no high school diploma/GED AND no interest in obtaining additional education or training

Transportation

- ☐ 1=Household has full access to transportation via a personal vehicle and/or public transportation AND can afford all travel expenses without supports
- ☐ 2=Household has access to public transportation and can afford travel expenses with limited supports OR has access to a vehicle
- ☐ 3=Household has limited access to public transportation, BUT without support could not afford travel expenses
- ☐ 4=Household has no vehicle AND has very limited income or resources to use public transportation
- ☐ 5=Household has no vehicle OR income to assist with public transportation

Part 2 Demographic Indicators

1=Very low needs, 2=Low needs, 3=Medium needs, 4=High needs, 5=Very high needs

Age (Head of Household Only)

- ☐ 1=Age 25-29
- ☐ 2=Age 30-39
- ☐ 3=Age 40-49
- ☐ 4=Age 50-59
- ☐ 5=Age 60+
OR
5=Age 15-24

Language Skills (Head of Household Only)

- ☐ 1=Head of household has no language barriers
- ☐ 2=Head of household is proficient in English, but may require some translation of written documents
- ☐ 3=Head of household has some proficiency in English, but may require translation services on occasion
- ☐ 4=Head of household has very limited proficiency in English
- ☐ 5=No household member is proficient in English

Part 3 Social and Emotional Indicators

For the following indicators, select the option that best represents the **ADULT** household members' needs and select the option that best represents the person with the greatest level of need for each indicator.

1=Very Low needs, 2=Low needs, 3=Medium needs, 4=High needs, 5=Very high needs

Domestic/Community Violence

- ☐ 1=No history of abuse
- ☐ 2=History of abuse
- ☐ 3=Staff suspect that domestic/community violence may be present
- ☐ 4=Domestic/community violence is present AND household member acknowledges the abuse and seeks to change behavior
- ☐ 5=Domestic/community violence is present, BUT not acknowledged

Employability

- ☐ 1=Maintains permanent full-time employment with adequate income and benefits
OR
1=Not in the workforce due to retirement or receiving disability benefits
- ☐ 2=Employed part-time or full-time with somewhat adequate pay and benefits
- ☐ 3=Causal day labor OR intermittent employment OR struggles with maintaining employment
- ☐ 4=Household member is interested in employment, BUT has not found a job
- ☐ 5=Household member has limited skills and is not working AND is not interested in employment/educational programs
OR
5=Unable to obtain proper documentation to work

External Relations

- ☐ 1=Healthy and strong relationships with family/friends and actively involved in the community
- ☐ 2=Stable support from family/friends AND some community involvement, e.g. in support groups or volunteering
- ☐ 3=Intermittent support from family/friends AND household member is interested in becoming involved in community activities
- ☐ 4=Lack of healthy or positive support from family/friends AND household member is not interested in becoming involved in community activities
- ☐ 5=No family/friends present AND socially isolated
OR
5=Absent parent with no support from their family either AND socially isolated

Life Skills

- ☐ 1=Able to meet all basic needs of daily living without assistance
- ☐ 2=Can meet almost all basic needs of daily living with staff assistance
- ☐ 3=Can meet some basic needs of daily living with staff assistance
- ☐ 4=Unable to meet basic needs of daily living, e.g. hygiene, eating, etc., AND requires intensive support services
- ☐ 5=Unable to meet basic needs of daily living, e.g. hygiene, eating, etc., AND not willing to accept assistance to address these needs

Part 4 Extreme Vulnerability Indicators

For the following indicators, consider **ALL** household members' needs, including **CHILDREN**, and select the option that best represents the person with the greatest need for each indicator.

1=Very low needs, 2=Low needs, 3=Medium needs, 4=High needs, & 200=Extreme Needs

Mental Health

- ☐ 1=No known mental health issues present
- ☐ 2=Occasional mental health symptoms present that are usually triggered by life stressors AND only slight impairment in daily functioning
- ☐ 3=Mild mental health symptoms present AND moderate impairment in daily functioning
- ☐ 4=Presence of ongoing mental health symptoms that greatly impact a household member's ability to function in daily life, including engaging with service providers to obtain income or housing, BUT household member is not a danger to self or others at this time
- ☐ 200=Household member should be immediately connected to emergency services due to being a danger to self or others
OR
200=Household member has severe difficulties in daily life due to mental health symptoms AND should be immediately connected to professional services

Substance Use/Gambling

- ☐ 1=No known history of substance abuse or a gambling problem AND is not presently abusing any substance(s) or gambling
- ☐ 2=Household member has a substance abuse and/or gambling problem, BUT has not used drugs/alcohol or gambled in the last 6 months
- ☐ 3=Household member has used drugs/alcohol and/or gambled within the last 6 months
OR
3=Evidence of on-going social, occupational, emotional, or physical problems exist due to substance abuse or gambling AND household member is participating in any type of treatment for substance abuse or gambling
- ☐ 4=Household member uses drugs/alcohol or gambles on a daily basis OR preoccupation with drugs/alcohol or gambling resulting in avoidance or neglect of basic needs AND household member is willing to participate in services and/or is seeking program support
- ☐ 200=Household member has severe substance abuse or gambling problem AND rehab. or immediate detox. necessary for their safety AND household member may not acknowledge issues and/or refuses services

Medical Needs

- ☐ 1=No known ongoing medical issues
- ☐ 2=Acute or chronic condition present AND receives regular medical care to address needs
- ☐ 3=Two or more acute or chronic medical issues present AND household member is receiving medical care for at least one condition
- ☐ 4=Acute or chronic medical issues present with inadequate and/or sporadic medical care
200=Intensive medical needs present AND household member immediately needs treatment/medication
- ☐ **OR**
200=Household member often uses emergency rooms for medical treatment, e.g. at least 3 ER visits in the last six months

Cognitive Deficits

This indicator refers to issues with memory, decision-making, reasoning, planning, language, and attention. However, this indicator does NOT pertain to language barriers.

- ☐ 1=No known ongoing cognitive impairment
- ☐ 2=Mild cognitive problems that don't appear to be a barrier to safe housing
- ☐ 3=Moderate cognitive problems that could be a barrier to safe behavior
- ☐ 4=Cognitive problems present/diagnosed AND actively receiving outside care to alleviate risk
- ☐ 200=Severe cognitive problems that could be barriers to safe behavior

To determine the overall Acuity Level, add up all the score on all the indicators. Remember, you should only have one score per indicator.

Part 1: Economic Indicators Total (6-30 points)

Part 2: Demographics Indicators Total (2-10 points)

Part 3: Social and Emotional Indicators Total (4-20 points)

Part 4: Extreme Vulnerability Score (4-800 points)

Total Acuity Score *

Acuity Level * [check one below]

☐ Low Acuity: 33 or below

☐ Mid Acuity: 34-47

☐ High Acuity: 48-311

☐ Extreme Acuity: 312+

Acuity Justification

Provide a brief snapshot of the household's situation and a brief explanation of why numeric scores were selected, particularly for Part 4: Extreme Vulnerability indicators.

Acuity Completion Date *

Please enter the date this assessment was completed.

Acuity Completed by *