

Making Big Waves in Ending Homelessness

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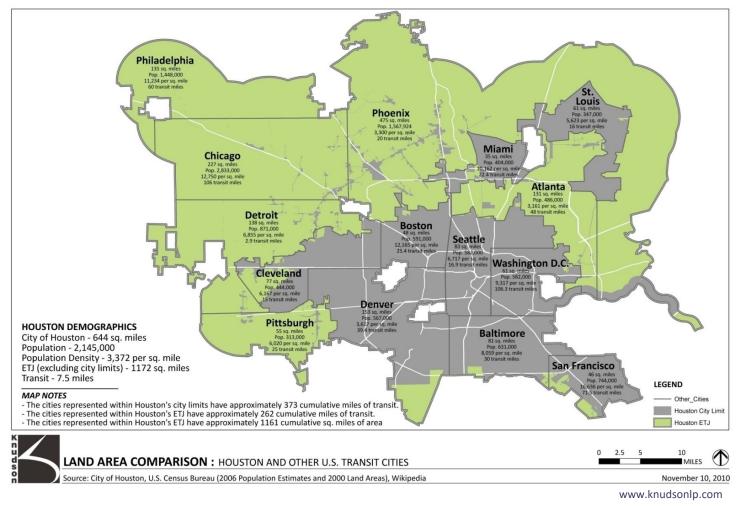
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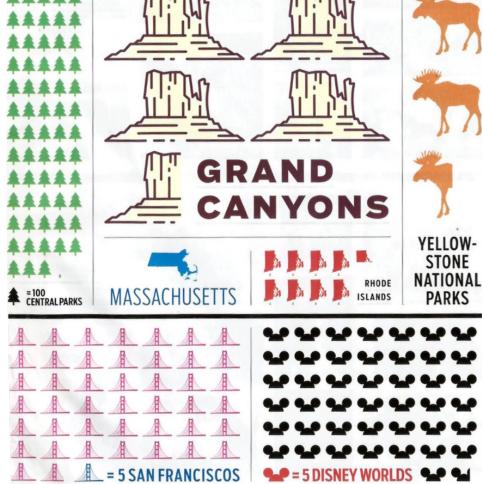
COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

The Way Home Continuum of Care

My, how big you are!!

TX-700 CoC = 3,739 sq miles









Non-Profit Organization

Lead agency for the TX-700 Continuum of Care

Coordinate the community response to homelessness

AKA: TX-700 Continuum of Care

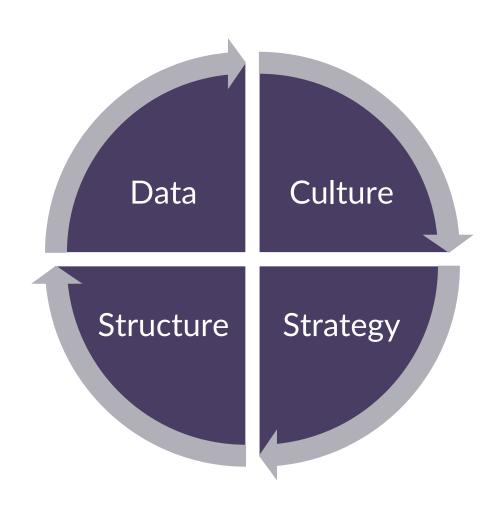
100+ partners working together to end homelessness

Permanent housing is the solution

Reality in 2011

- ✓ Houston had the 6th largest homeless population in the country
 - 8th highest when adding in balance of states
- √ Homeless service providers were spending millions
 - Still leaving federal funds unused
- √ Homeless service providers were operating in silos, with no collaboration
 - Services depended on what door you walked into
- ✓ Recidivism was high (not matching people to the right programs)
 - "Housing ready" philosophy was keeping hard to serve on the street
- √ Homelessness is expensive
 - Responding to homelessness with emergency services but not with permanent housing

Initiating Action (the shift)



• Two important events in 2012

> Technical Assistance

✓ Houston was identified as a priority community by HUD

≻Community Charette

- ✓ Brought everyone together
- ✓ Identified common goals for the homeless response system

Evolution to a Coordinated System

- ✓ Individual Change: Remove barriers that keep people from getting what they need
- ✓ Collective Change: Coordinate & simplify access
- ✓ Collective Change: Enhance collaboration among funders & partners
- **✓ Systems Change:** Build capacity
- ✓ Systems Change: Match resources with needs
- ✓ Systems Change: Use data to drive decision-making & promote quality
- ✓ Systems Change: Implement! Don't get paralyzed in planning alone, course correct as needed

Together, these changes allowed us to fully leverage federal resources, add units to the homeless response system, and begin to see reductions in homelessness

Final Governance & Implementation

The Continuum of Care Steering Committee

(Primary Decision-Making Body)

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION BODIES

SYSTEM

Standing Committees

HMIS Support
CoC Grant
Performance
Coordinated Access
Provider Input
Consumer Input

CHRONICS

Oversight

Mayor's Leadership Team

Work Groups

Pipeline Integrated Care PSH

VETERANS

Oversight

Housing Houston's Heroes

Work Groups

Outreach Data SSVF/Retention

FAMILIES

Oversight

RRH Funders

Work Groups

RRH Providers SSVF Domestic Violence

YOUTH

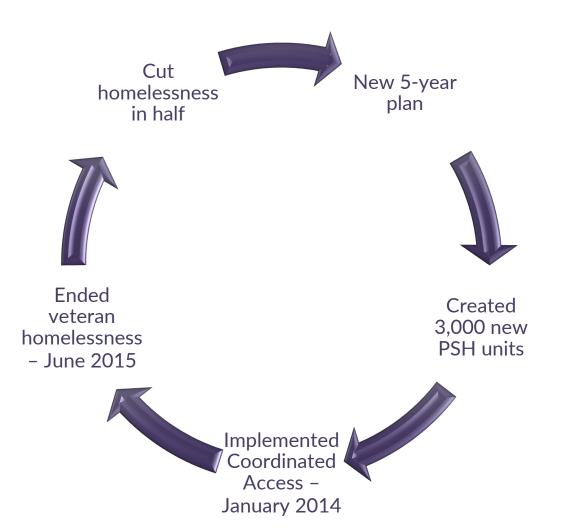
Oversight

Homeless Youth Network

Work Groups

Once Voice Housing Policy LGBTQ

Accomplishments 2011 - 2017



spotlight on...

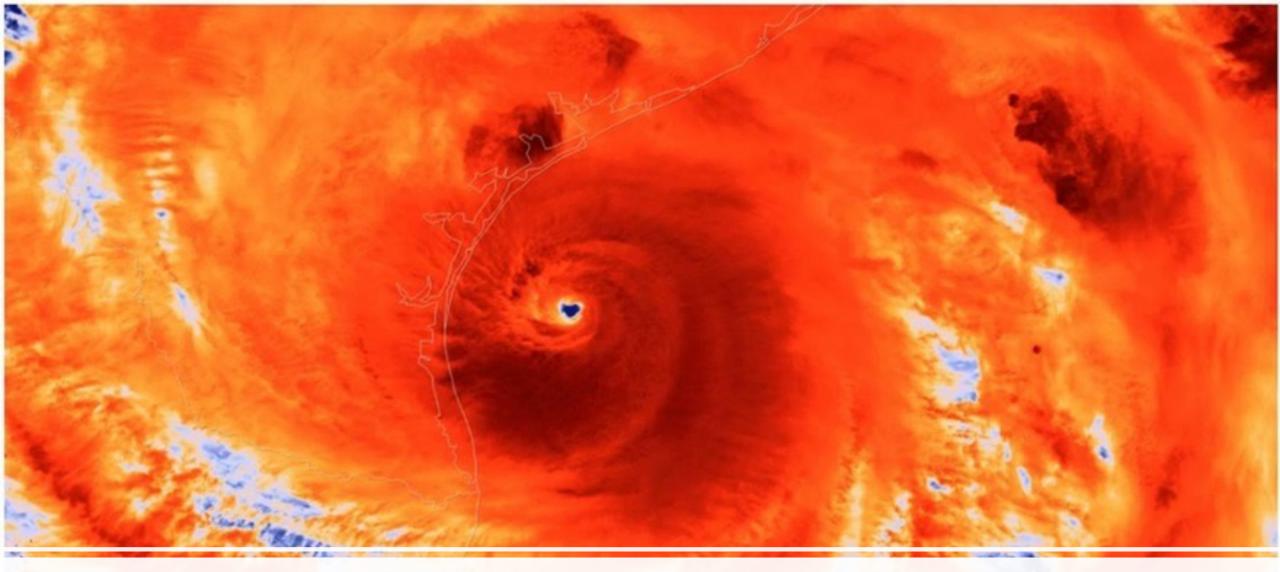
HOUSTON MAYOR: WE HAVE EFFECTIVELY ENDED VETERAN HOMELESSNESS



Congressman Al Green, Mayor Annise Parker, U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert F. McDonald, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretay Julián Castro, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, and U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Director Matthew Doherty. Photo courtesy of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Houston Effectively Ends Veteran Homelessness

Becomes Largest City in the Nation to Create System to House any Homeless Veteran



Hurricane Harvey - August 2017



Tidwell St Before

Tidwell St After







Source: Houston Chronicle

After Harvey Effects

More than 19 trillion gallons of rainwater fell on parts of Texas, causing widespread, catastrophic flooding Nearly 80,000 homes had at least 18 inches of floodwater, 23,000 of those with more than 5 feet The Houston area experienced the largest amount of rainwater ever recorded in the continental United States from a single storm (51.88 inches)

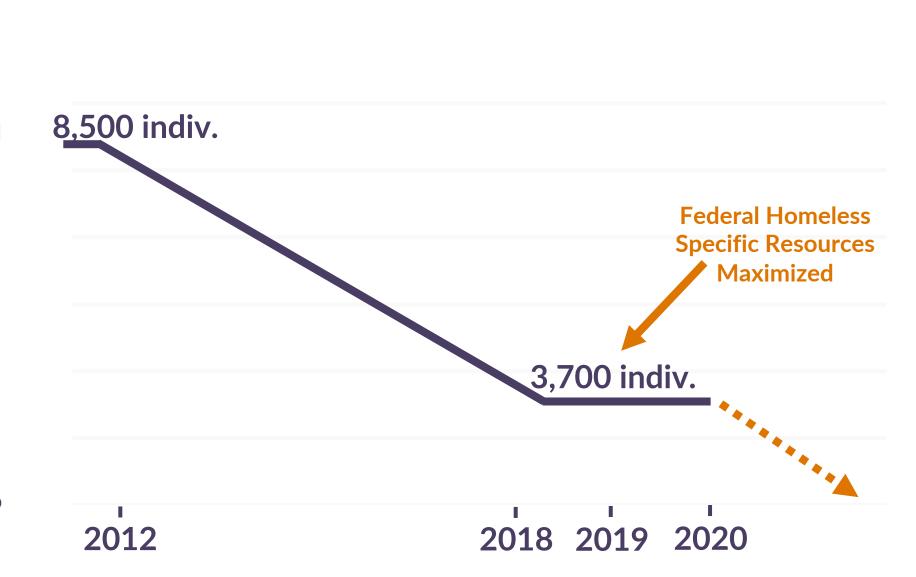
24 hospitals were
evacuated, 61
communities lost drinking
water, 23 ports were
closed, 781 roads
impassable

Nearly 780,000 Texans evacuated their homes, more than 42,000 housed temporarily in 692 shelters Local, state and federal first responders rescued 122,331 people and 5,234 pets

Houston Housing Authority estimated 1000 affordable housing units destroyed

Homeless Population – Houston / Harris County

- Since 2012, more than 25,000+ individuals experiencing homelessness had been permanently housed.
- Nearly 90% remained housed two-years after placement.
- After reducing homelessness by 54%, we saw an 18% increase after Harvey.
- Much attention & resources were diverted to respond to the disaster.
- Our region's homeless population became stagnant, due to a lack of financial resources and tools.
- Continued support needed to "get over the hump"





Let's close an encampment!

- Wheeler Encampment
- ➤ March 2018
- > 73 individuals
 - √73% housed
 - ✓ 5% refused
 - ✓ 22% left
 - Chartres Encampment
 - ➤ September 2019
 - ≥ 286 individuals
 - √70% housed
 - √8% refused
 - ✓ 22% left



The Way Home





The Way Home's community Plan to End Homelessness





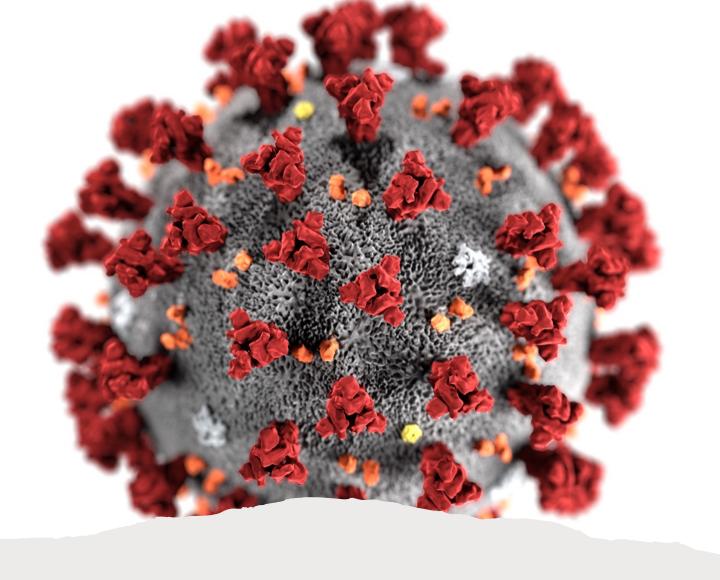
The Way Home is the collaborative model to prevent and end homelessness in Houston, Pasadena, Conroe; and Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery Counties.



2021-2026 UPDATE

Identifying the Need

Program Types	Current System (Units)	Demand	Difference (Need)
RRH for Singles	459	2,075	-1616
RHH for Families	553	948	-395
PSH for Singles	5,078	7,377	-2,299
PSH for Families	117	86	+31



COVID-19



Political Investment: Once in a Lifetime Opportunity



Homelessness is expensive

Housing is healthcare



Accelerate the work of The Way Home

Permanent Supportive Housing – 1,000

12-Month Rapid Re-housing – 1,700

Diversion - 2,000

Auxiliary/ Social
Distancing
Emergency Shelter

Mental Health Case Management

Enhanced Street
Outreach

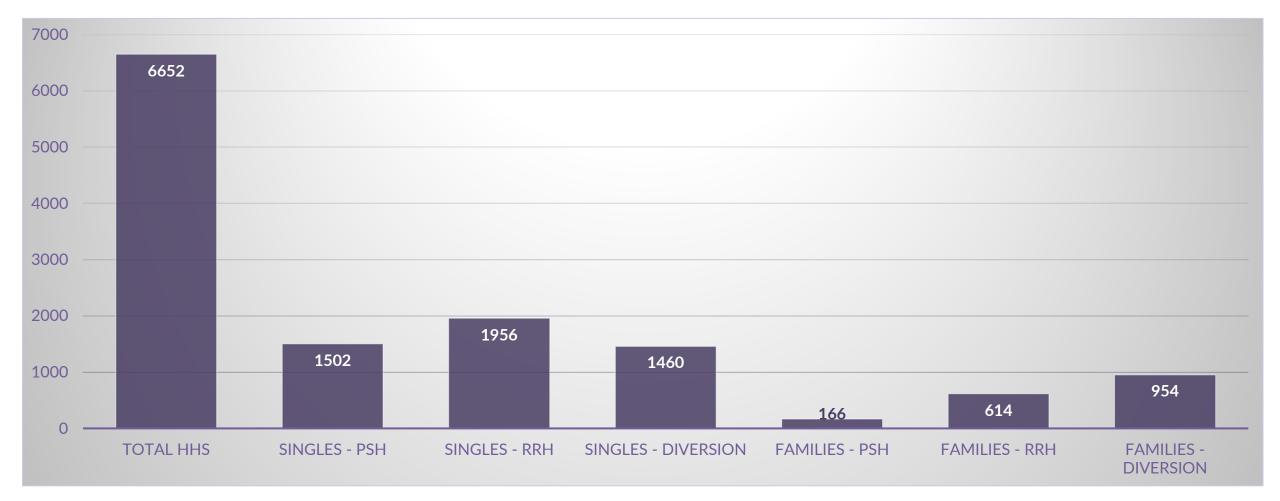
PSH Housing Preservation



September 20, 2022



Households*



Landlord Engagement

Act as the primary advocate, or "case manager", for landlords

Simplify program funding streams, payment processes paperwork, and services

Use feedback from landlords to advise system changes in practice and funding

Check-in regularly with LLs to troubleshoot issues & provide updates

Provide education for office staff on vulnerable populations and housing programs

Payment of Landlord Incentive Fees for every unit dedicated to the system

Encampment Response Strategy

- The CCHP allowed for the roll-out of an Encampment Decommissioning program that has demonstrated proven results in placing individuals living on the streets into housing.
- Official Encampment Response Strategy available.
- Currently being used by HUD as a national best practice.
- Houston Chronicle <u>cover story</u> featured our efforts.

63% reduction in homelessness since 2011





City, Harris County invest \$100M in plan to cut homelessness in half vester Turner in a press confer-hours after city council voted, I3

By R.A. Schuetz STAFF WRITER

noon a \$100 million increase in help cut the region's homeless funds they are funneling into efforts to reduce homelessness in people secure housing. the area. They had previously

"In Houston, we either go big together." or we go home," said Mayor Syl-

"And today, we are going big so ... Houston and Harris County Houstonians can go home." He

"Housing is a human right," said Harris County Judge Lina Hi-COVID-related funding to the inihousing is something we fight for

The announcement came

ence announcing the funds. to 4, to fund the transformation Ward into a place where people moved out of an encampment can live, along with pets and loved ones, while they await their permanent housing. The facility, known as a navigation center, is key to a plan by the city, Harris County, and their partners to reduce the number of people living in the streets.

Homeless continues on A8



Police officers hand out blankets last year. A new program is moving people from encampments to permanent housing.

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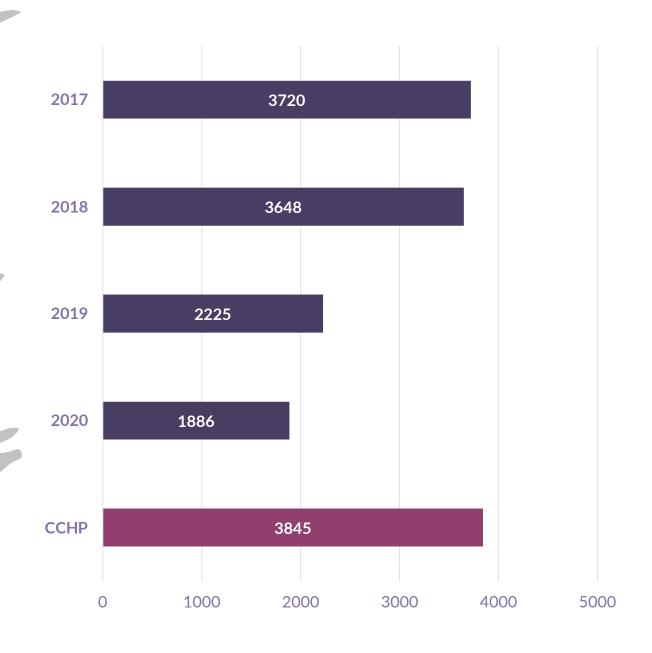


"In Houston, we either go big or we go home. And today, we are going big so...Houstonians can go home!" – Houston Mayor, Sylvester Turner

Houston and Harris County announce increased investment in efforts to reduce homelessness by \$100 million.

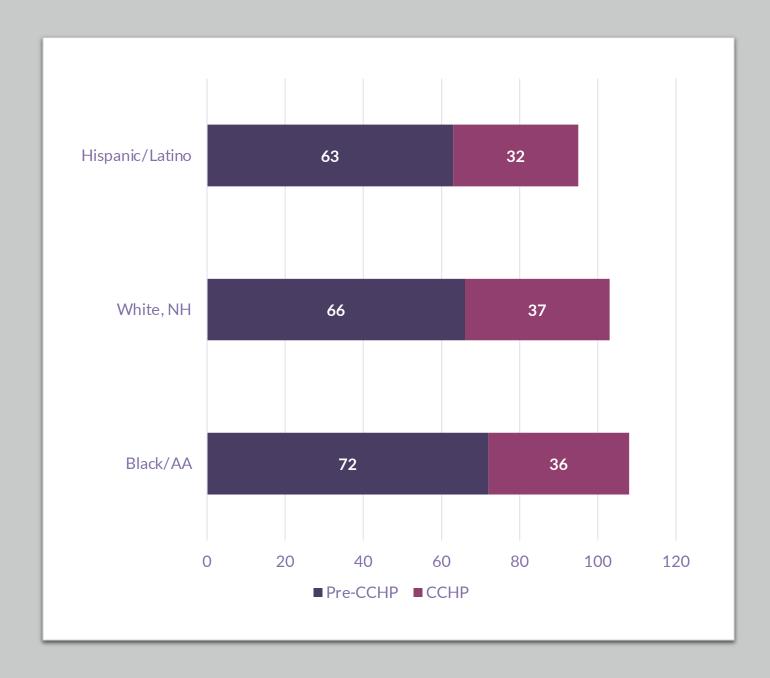
CCHP Impact

We have housed as many people in one year of CCHP as almost the past two years combined, & more than the two years prior

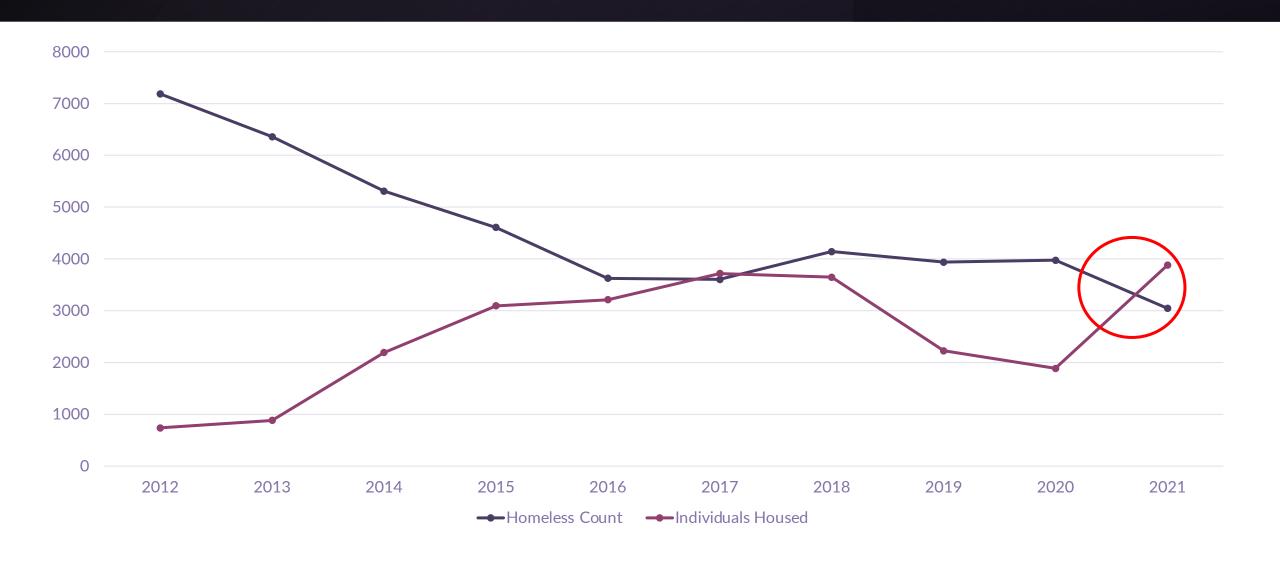


Race/Ethnicity - Referral to Lease-Up

• Unit acquisition & holding fees could have some effect on equalizing time to housing across racial demographics



Houston leads the nation in housing & reducing homelessness





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A COMMUNITY WIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING HOMELESSNESS

James Mathy

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Milwaukee County Information

County Demographics (Census)

Total Population = 939,489

White = 64%

Black / AA = 27%

Other = 9%





Income & Poverty (Census)

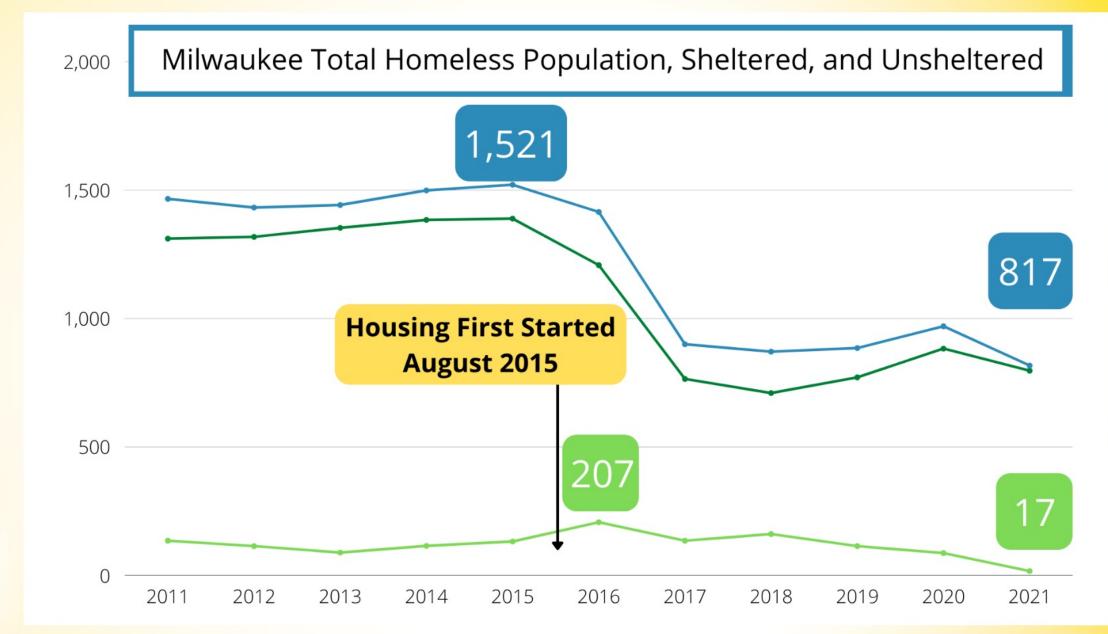
Persons in Poverty = 19%

Per capita income = \$2,513 per month

Median Household Income = \$4,355 per month

Housing Division – Combined Areas of Service

- Outreach Services (Housing First)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME and Home Repair
- Milwaukee County CoC Programs
- Housing related ARPA funds
- Milwaukee County Housing Authority
- Eviction and Homeless Prevention
- Real Estate Development



92% reduction in unsheltered homelessness

Housing First residents utilized crisis mental health services significantly less during their first year in housing.

Compared to the previous year spent homeless, during their first 12 months in housing, Housing First resident utilized 539 fewer mental health crisis services resulting in a cost savings of more than \$714,600.

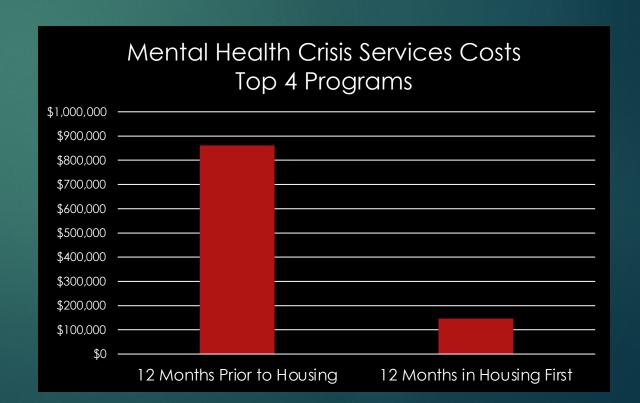
Mental Health Crisis Services Utilization Top 4 Programs 700 600 500 400 200 100 12 Months Prior to Housing 12 Months in Housing First

42 additional programs were utilized at lesser rates

Top 4 Utilized Programs:

- Crisis Mobile
- Detox
- Psychiatric Crisis Services
- Inpatient Services

Previous Year: 627 episodes; \$860,985 Year in Housing: 88 episodes; \$146,347



Community Partners in Housing First

- Milwaukee County
- City of Milwaukee
- Milwaukee Police Dept.
- Milwaukee County Sheriff
- Downtown Businesses
- District Attorney's Office
- Municipal Courts
- Milwaukee County Parks

- United Way
- Milwaukee CoC
- WI Dept. of Transportation
- HMOs & Hospital Systems
- Marquette University
- Resident Advisory Council
- Milwaukee County Furniture Bank
- Upstart Kitchen





Downtown BID Outreach Coordinator

- Partnership between Housing Division and BID #21
- Targeted outreach to BID jurisdiction
- Fully funded by Downtown BID
- Provide comprehensive street outreach services, with the ultimate goal of moving them off the street and into permanent housing
- First Response to concerns about people experiencing homelessness in the area from police, business owners, residents, and downtown visitors
- Collaborative working relationship with downtown ambassadors



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Questions?

Thank you for attending the panel!