
TARRANT COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION

STATE OF THE HOMELESS REPORT

2020

*"A vibrant community where individuals and families have
a place to call home and the resources to live their best life."*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2020 HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM

VISION

A vibrant community where every individual has a place to call home and the resources to live their best life.

MISSION

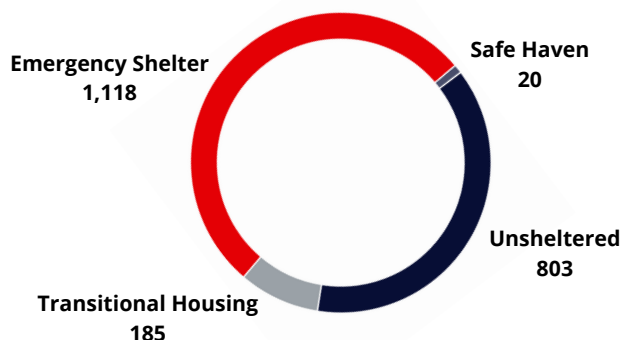
The CoC cultivates partnerships to collectively create effective and efficient community solutions to homelessness.



35+ AGENCIES | 117 PROGRAMS | 10,645 SERVED

2020 POINT IN TIME COUNT RESULTS

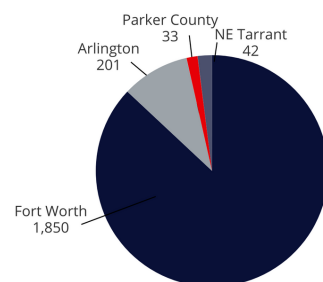
2020 TOTAL: 2,126



ANNUAL TRENDS

5% Overall Increase	↑
43 % Increase in unsheltered	↑
26% decrease in Veterans homelessness	↓
12% increase in Family homelessness	↑
16% decrease in Chronic homelessness	↓

WHERE?



WHO?



WHY?

Top reasons people become homeless:

1. Unemployment/No Income
2. Inability to pay rent
3. Physical/Mental Disability

SYSTEMS CHANGE

In 2018, we saw a year of **transformation** as we worked together to reshape what homeless services looked like for our community.

In 2020, we are focused on **problem solving** and what comes next for our community.

In 2019, together we focused on the **implementation** of our new community strategic plan.

INTRODUCTION

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (the Homeless Coalition) is pleased to present the 2020 State of the Homeless Report. The 2020 State of the Homeless Report is a powerful resource for understanding the scope and intricacies of homelessness in Tarrant and Parker counties. This report contains the most current and accurate data and analysis available surrounding homelessness in Tarrant and Parker counties. The Homeless Coalition hopes to convey an understanding of how our system works together, the magnitude of the response, accomplishments, how community members can get involved and where we're headed next.

2020 is all about the "why" behind what we do and what statistics and numbers say. We spent 2019 establishing a strong foundation by aligning work and funding across the community. We're moving forward with the theme of problem solving to better understand trends we're seeing, figure out how to best serve people, and start to move upstream to prevent people from ever becoming homeless. Committees met, conversations changed and progress was made.

Thank you to all of our partners for coming alongside us on this journey. We know it is not easy, but we're here with you, and could not do our work without you. Thank you for taking the time to read and engage with this critical issue.

VISION & MISSION

SHARED VISION

A vibrant community where individuals and families have a place to call home and the resources to live their best life.

MISSION

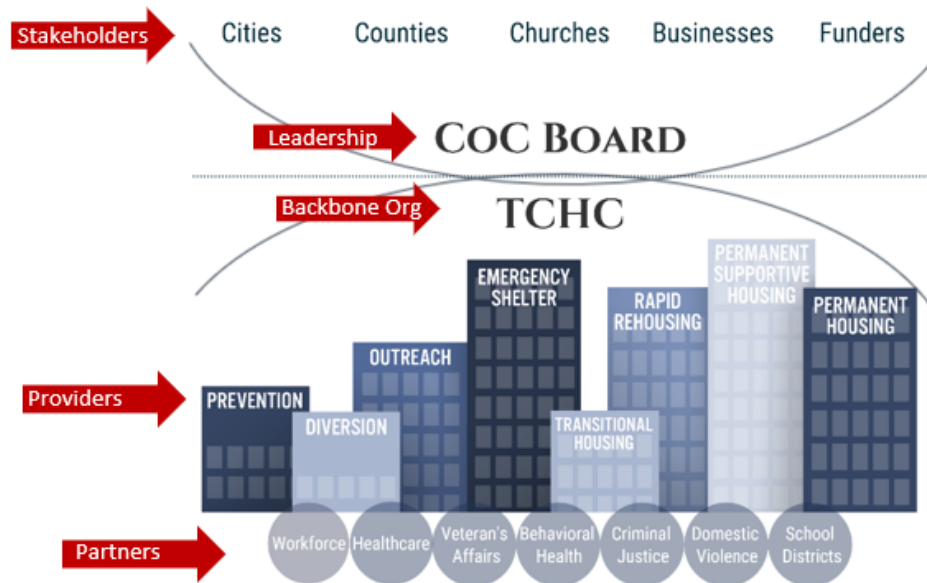
The CoC cultivates and creates partnerships to collectively impact effective and efficient community solutions for those experiencing homelessness.

2018 was a year of transformation and 2019 was a year of implementation. With an agreed upon community-wide strategic plan, our housing crisis system of care began to truly move forward together. Out of this alignment came a strong committee structure, with groups establishing metrics and baseline performance expectations. Processes for making systems change were established, with significant support from committees within the board structure. Additionally, we continued to work on maximizing technology solutions to improve how our system functions. This allows us to not only look at homeless data, but also see our data with and compared to other data sources.

LEADERSHIP

Housing Crisis System of Care

Our Housing Crisis System of Care encompasses a wide array of services available to those in need. The System of Care not only includes organizations with the primary mission of addressing homelessness, but also includes community stakeholders, leadership and other partners who provide essential services.



The Continuum of Care Board of Directors

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Board of Directors is a community-based planning body committed to the goal of ending homelessness. The CoC is responsible for providing community leadership to guide Tarrant and Parker Counties toward the goal of providing a home for all, putting the mission into action to realize our community's vision. The Board's responsibilities are to:

- Understand the size and scope of the problem of homelessness in our community;
- Promote funding efforts by non-profit providers, for profit entities and state and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma caused by dislocation;
- Promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families;
- Lead the collective purpose surrounding the issue of homelessness;
- Optimize the self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and
- Design effective strategies and solutions to address homelessness.

Board Structure

The CoC Board of Directors is made up of a five-member Leadership Council and a 28-member Membership Council. The Leadership Council meets three times annually; the Membership Council meets on the fourth Monday of every other month. Within the CoC structure there are also standing committees, ad-hoc committees, subcommittees and work groups, all of which meet on a monthly or quarterly basis.



Committee Purpose and Alignment

Allocations

Purpose: The Allocations Committee conducts the CoC Program Grant and State ESG project prioritization and prepares allocation recommendations. Committee members cannot currently receive funding and must not have submitted an application for funding.

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal 5: Committed Resources

Governance

Purpose: The Governance Committee conducts the annual nominations process for the CoC Board of Directors and oversees community engagement efforts. Committee members must include representation from both the Leadership and Membership Councils.

HMIS Governance Committee

Purpose: The HMIS Governance Committee oversees the Homeless Information Systems Management, including planning, participation, selection, implementation and ongoing oversight of systems such as ETO, Green River and Outreach Grid.

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal 2: Data Driven Solutions

Housing Committee

Purpose: The Housing Committee makes recommendations to the CoC Board on the planning, CoC wide policies, procedures, implementation and oversight needed to ensure adequate housing stock and access for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal 3: Housing Focused

Improvement, Coordination & Training Committee

Purpose: The ICT Committee oversees the development and implementation of CoC-wide policies, processes and training and oversees all intervention and population workgroups.

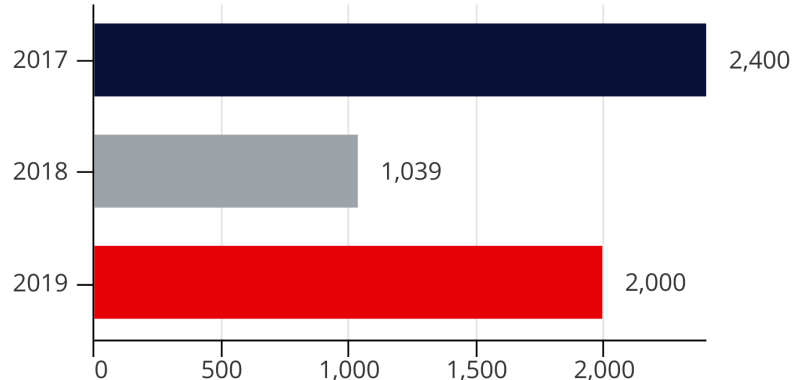
Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal: 1: Effective Response System

CORE INTERVENTIONS

Our Housing Crisis System of Care is made up of core interventions designed to serve people who have experienced housing instability and homelessness. Services provided range from homeless prevention to crisis response services to longer term housing solutions. Each intervention is specifically designed to respond to meet people's needs and meet them where they are at that time.

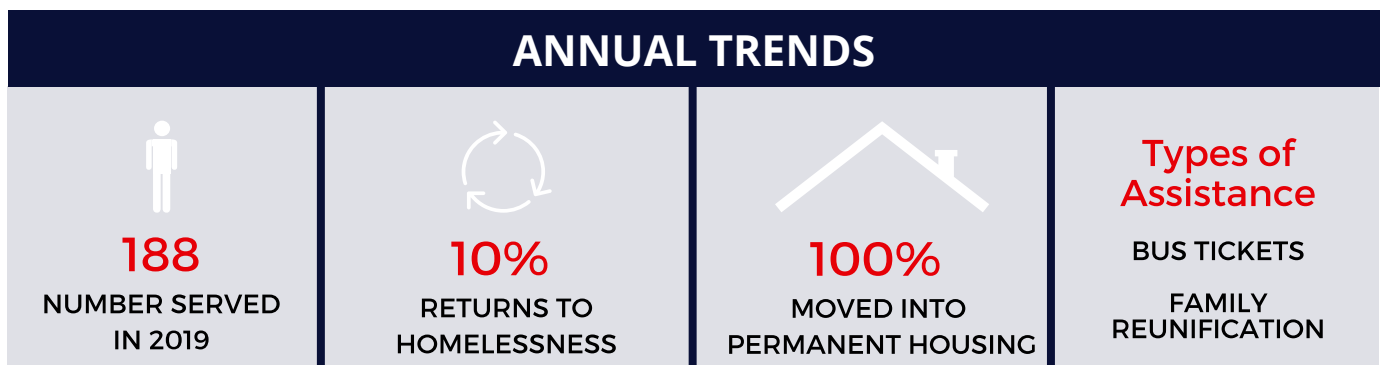
HOMELESS PREVENTION

Homeless Prevention services provide direct financial assistance to keep people from becoming homeless. Homeless Prevention is considered the most cost-effective way to help those who are at risk of losing their housing and can ultimately reduce a community's need for and reliance upon emergency solutions.



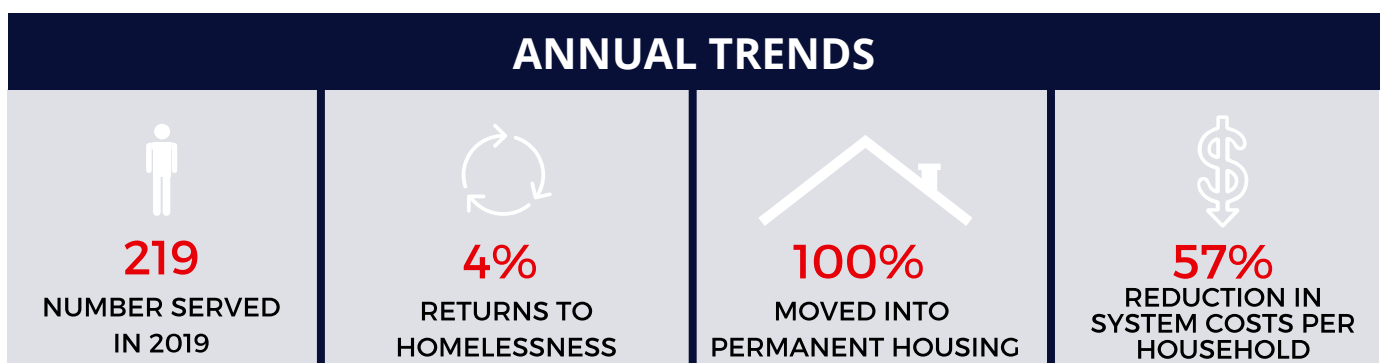
HOMELESS DIVERSION

Homeless diversion is an intervention strategy used to keep people from entering homelessness. Diversion happens after households have lost their housing and helps to identify immediate alternative housing arrangements to assist them in securing permanent place to live.



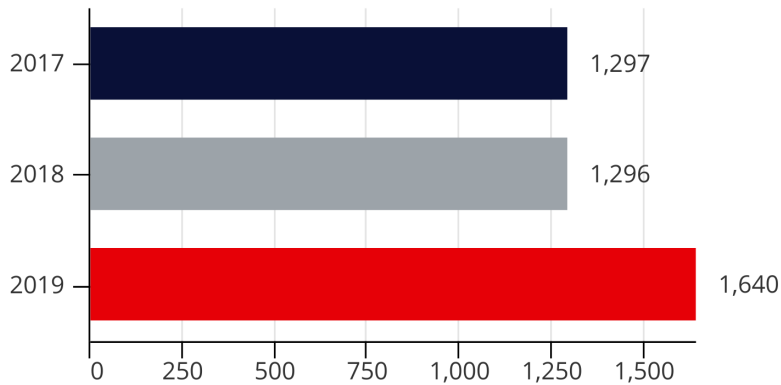
RAPID EXIT

Rapid Exit is a new intervention that reduces homelessness by quickly connecting employed clients with one-time move-in assistance including costs such as application fees, administrative fees, double deposits, and rental assistance. Rapid Exit has already begun to ease burdens on many other housing systems.



STREET OUTREACH

Street Outreach teams work daily to make relationships with people, helping them take steps to staying inside and ultimately becoming housed again. As Tarrant and Parker counties have experienced explosive growth, unsheltered homelessness has become more visible to community members. 803 individuals were living outside on the night of the count, an increase of 43 percent from the previous year.



AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES

Hands of Hope
JPS
MHMR
FWPD H.O.P.E Team
Veteran's Affairs

ANNUAL TRENDS



320 Days

AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS



16%

EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING



43%

INCREASE IN UNSHELTERED

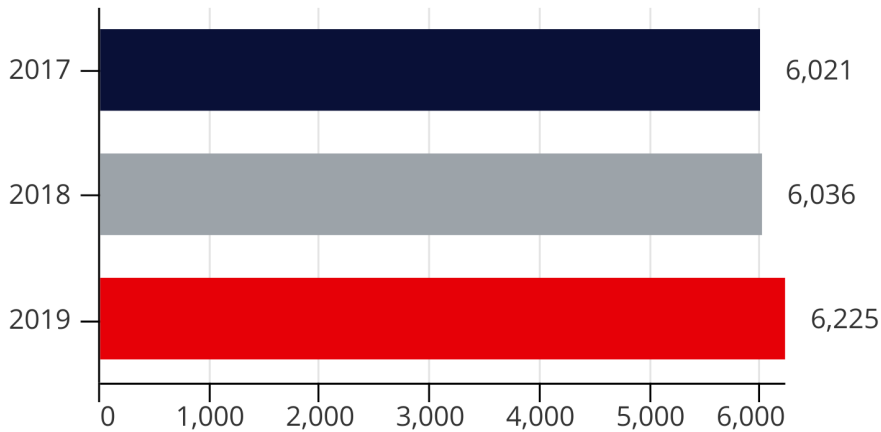


28%

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Emergency shelters (ES) are intended for temporary shelter and crisis relief. Nine agencies in Tarrant County provide emergency shelter. There are 18 programs with 1604 beds available to those experiencing homelessness. On count night, 1,118 people were sleeping in emergency shelter. Emergency shelters are a critical component of our community's ability to respond to a person or family experiencing a housing crisis.



AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES

ACH Child & Family Services
Arlington Life Shelter
Center for Transforming Lives
Presbyterian Night Shelter
SafeHaven of Tarrant County
The Salvation Army Arlington
The Salvation Army Fort Worth
Union Gospel Mission

ANNUAL TRENDS



56 Days

AVERAGE TIME SPENT HOMELESS



12%

INCREASE IN INCOME



1,118

PEOPLE IN SHELTERS ON NIGHT OF 2020 PIT COUNT



40%

EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING



19%

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS



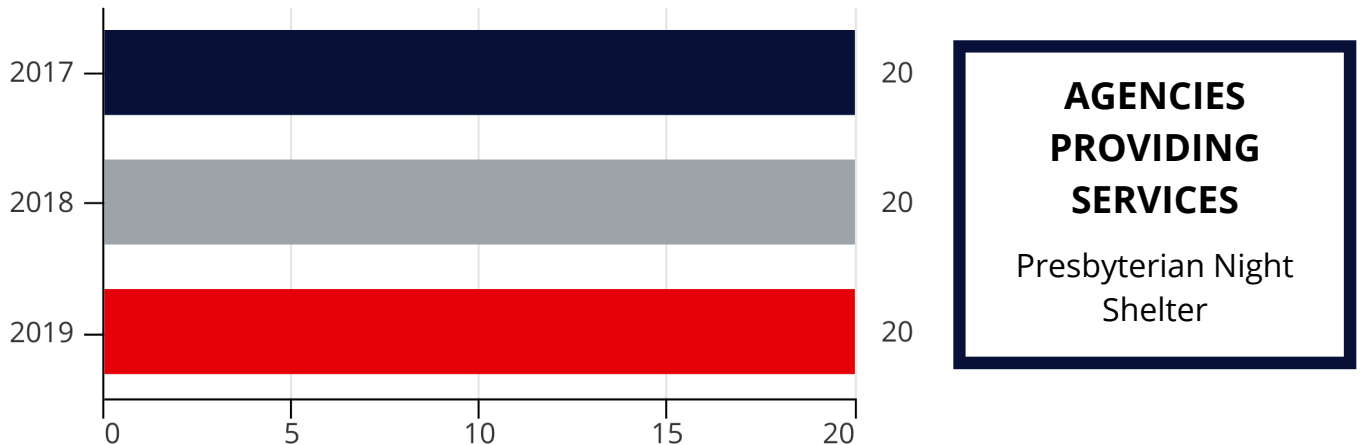
1,604

BEDS AVAILABLE:
OVERNIGHT & PROGRAM

SAFE HAVEN

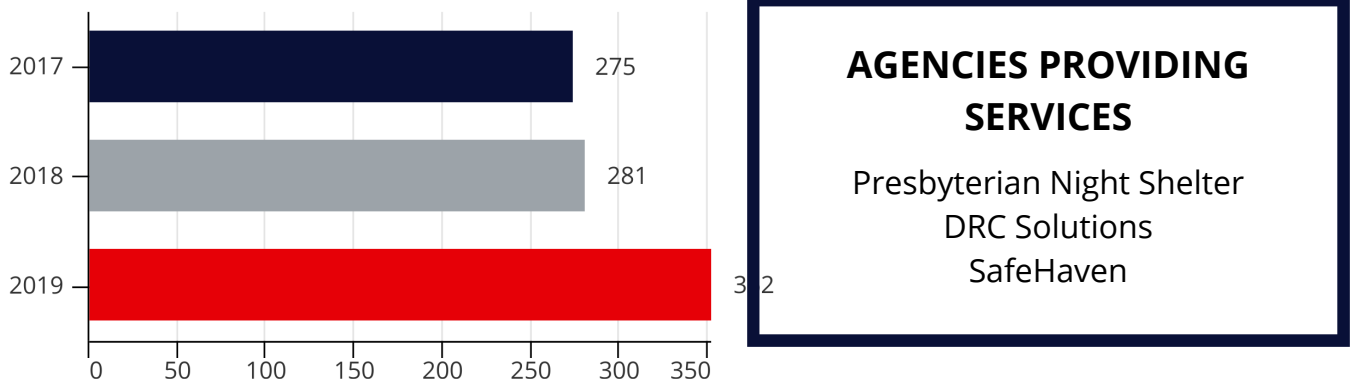
Safe Havens are small facilities that provide permanent housing for persons with severe and persistent mental illness. Locally, the only Safe Haven facility is operated by Presbyterian Night Shelter—and should not be confused with the organization SafeHaven of Tarrant County, which provides services for victims of domestic violence.

Safe Haven is designed to meet the immediate medical, emotional, psychological, and psychiatric needs of its guests. Long-term, the program also assists with identifying solutions to resolve legal concerns and substance dependency. While housing placement is an ideal outcome for the program, the main purpose of Safe Haven is to provide a safe and secure place for guests to reside while living with severe mental illness. Safe Haven serves 10 men and 10 women for a total of 20 guests at any given time.

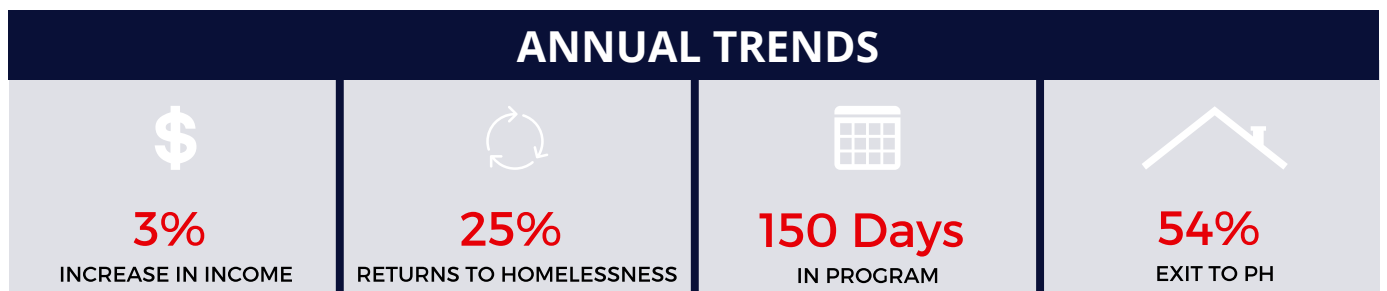


TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional housing (TH) programs provide time-limited housing assistance (2 years or less) and supportive services geared toward self-sufficiency and independence. The use of TH has proven effective for certain specialized populations including those experiencing domestic violence, youth aged 18 to 24, Veterans, and those dealing with chronic substance use. These recommendations are embraced by the Continuum of Care, as we strive to provide tailored interventions to populations with specific needs.



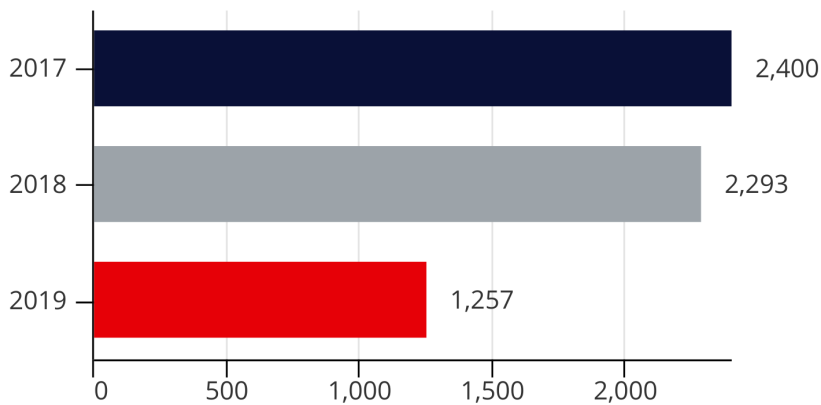
ANNUAL TRENDS



RAPID REHOUSING

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) quickly connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to move-in and short-term rental assistance, coupled with case management to help people get back on their feet. These programs reduce the amount of time individuals and families experience homelessness, avoid a return to homelessness, and link them to community resources to achieve long-term housing stability.

Rapid Rehousing has been proven to be extremely effective with families and is more cost effective than other long-term interventions such as Transitional Housing. Rapid rehousing served more than 1,200 people in 2019, with nearly 90% completing the program and successfully retaining permanent housing.



AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES

Arlington Housing Authority
Center for Transforming Lives
City Square
DRC Solutions
Family Endeavors
MHMR
Presbyterian Night Shelter
Recovery Resource Council
RISE
SafeHaven
Tarrant County Community Devt
The Salvation Army- FW

ANNUAL TRENDS



226 DAYS

AVERAGE TIME IN PROGRAM



14%

INCREASE IN INCOME



17%

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS



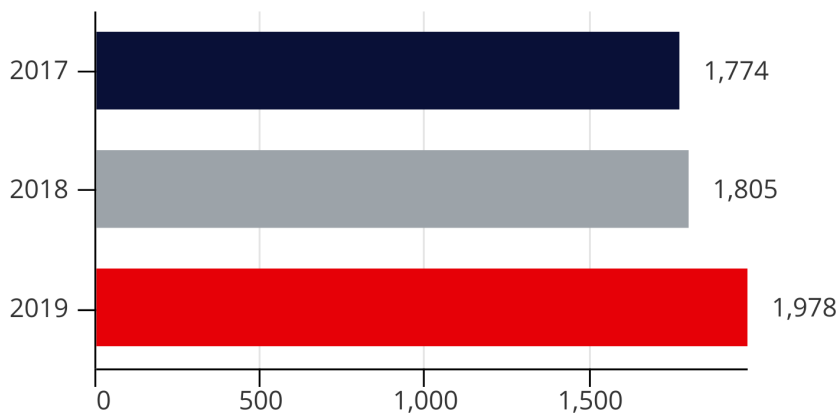
87%

EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) combines long-term rental assistance and supportive services tailored to people with complex barriers to getting and keeping housing. PSH is designed for people with a disabling condition who need permanent support to live stably. PSH is a proven solution for people who have experienced chronic homelessness, including people leaving institutional and more restrictive settings.

12 agencies operate 32 PSH programs in our housing system of care, which served 1,978 people last year. PSH is designed to be permanent and typically has a low turnover rate. PSH is best suited for approximately 20% of people experiencing homelessness in our community, and should be reserved for those with the most severe challenges to becoming and staying housed.



AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES

Arlington Housing Authority
DRC Solutions
Fort Worth Housing Solutions
MHMR
Presbyterian Night Shelter
Recovery Resource Council
SafeHaven
Samaritan House
Tarrant County Community Devt
The Salvation Army- FW
Veterans Administration

ANNUAL TRENDS



3.8 Years

AVERAGE TIME IN PROGRAM



55%

INCREASE IN INCOME



23%

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS



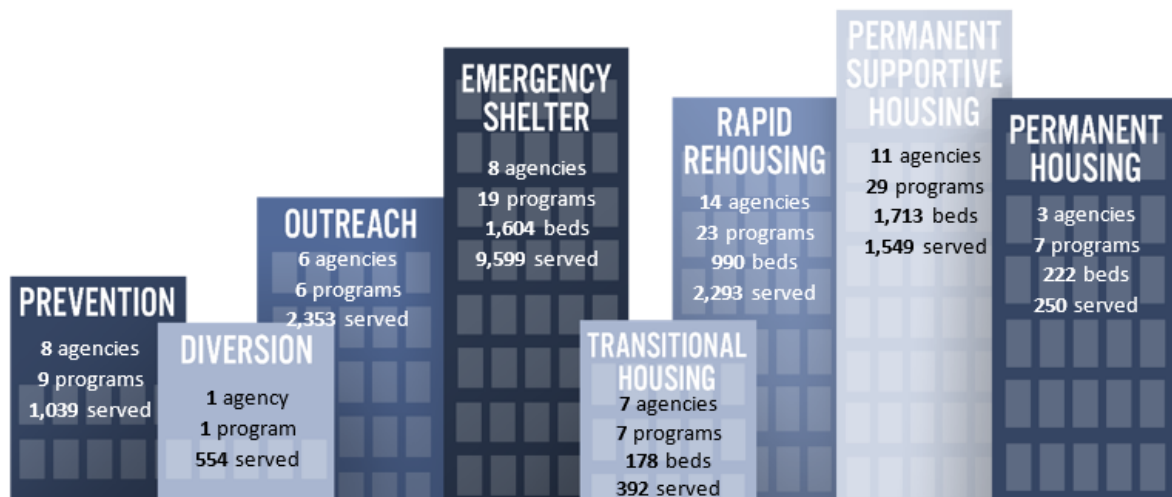
91%

EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING

SYSTEM CAPACITY

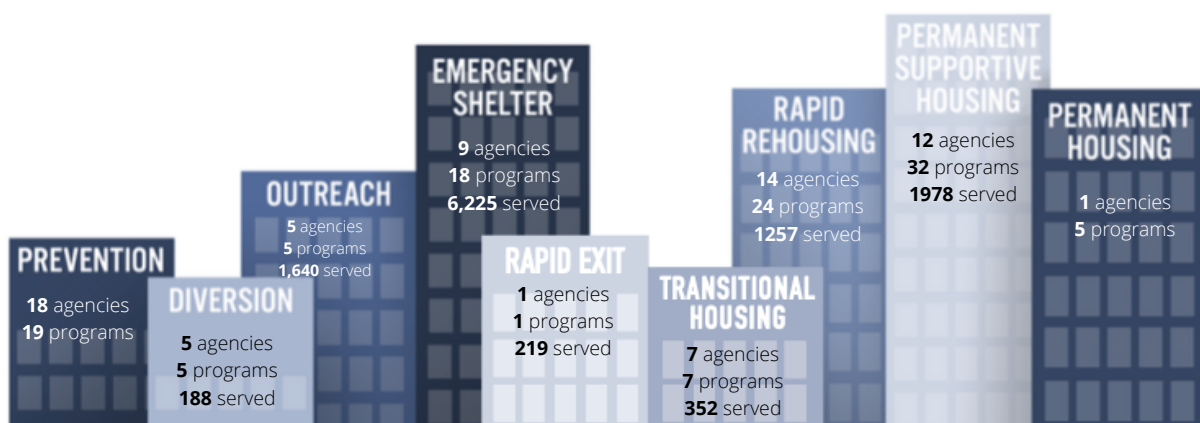
Our Housing Crisis System of Care encompasses a wide array of services available to those in need. The System of Care not only includes organizations with the primary mission of addressing homelessness, but also includes community stakeholders, leadership and other partners who provide essential services.

2018 HOUSING CRISIS SYSTEM OF CARE CAPACITY



35 agencies | 101 programs | 4,707 beds | +10,000 Served

2019 HOUSING CRISIS SYSTEM OF CARE CAPACITY



+35 agencies | 117 programs | 10,645 Served

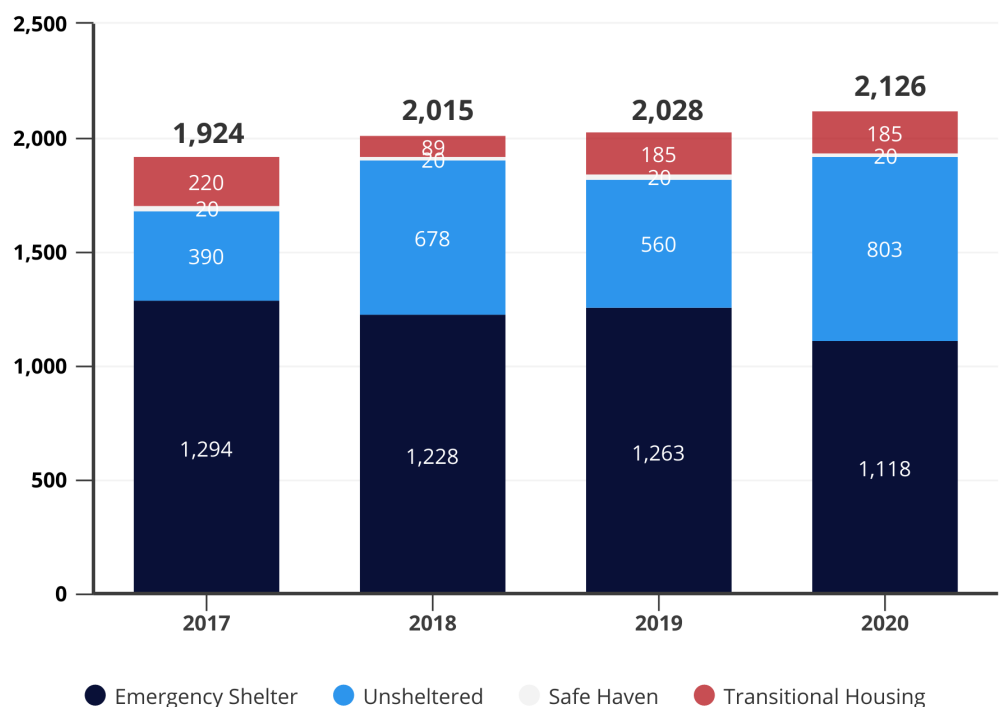
POINT IN TIME COUNT

2020 Point in Time Count

One way we understand what homelessness looks like on a given night is by conducting an annual Point in Time Count. The 2020 Homeless Point in Time Count was held on Thursday, January 23, 2020, and included identifying and surveying those living outdoors along with using HMIS data to identify those living in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

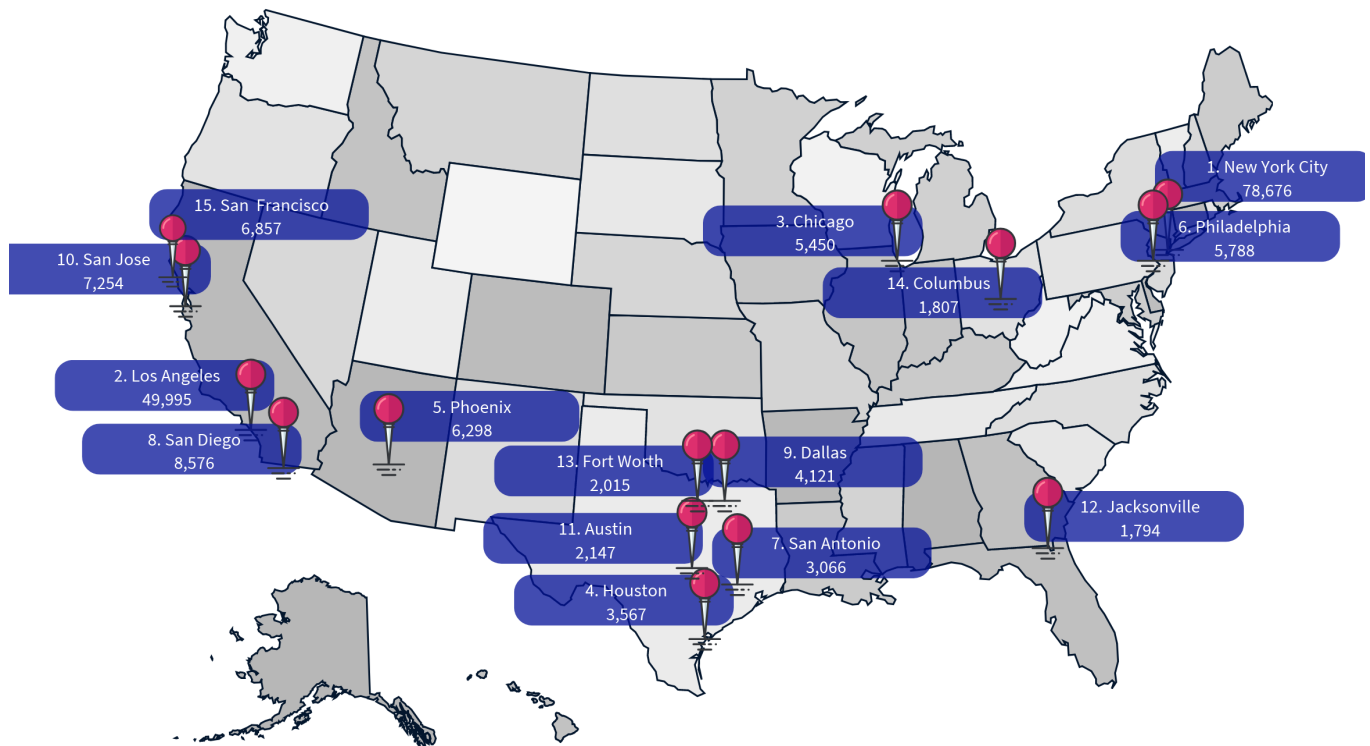
Each year the Point in Time Count is held during the last week of January when more than 550 volunteers and 100 Neighborhood Police Officers go out into our community to physically find and survey anyone sleeping outside on that night. This is an incredibly committed group of people who chose to spend what is potentially the coldest night of the year to ensure we get the most accurate information possible about everyone experiencing homelessness. This year volunteer deployed from five sites: Fort Worth, Arlington, North East Tarrant County (Hurst), Parker County (Weatherford), and Mansfield.

On the night of the count a total of 2,126 people were identified as homeless in Tarrant and Parker counties. This was a 5% increase in people experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, as compared to 2019. Over the past 4 years homelessness on count night has remained relatively static, hovering around 2,000 people.



How do we compare?

Tarrant County is the 3rd most populous county in Texas and the 15th largest county in the United States, with an estimated population of 2,127,850 in 2020. Homelessness as a percentage of the population continues to decline, which is movement in the right direction and a testament to how well our system works to move people quickly out of homelessness. In comparison to being the 15th largest county, Tarrant County has the 57th largest homeless population- a significant difference in rankings.



HOMELESS POPULATIONS IN THE 15 LARGEST CITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

*2018 NATIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

YEAR TO YEAR

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Annual Change	-0.7%	+5%	+0.6%	+5%

Where people are sleeping

Understanding where people chose to sleep is critical in understanding how our system is functioning to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. 53% of people experiencing homelessness on Count night accessed emergency shelter, while 38% were staying in places not meant for human habitation. Like most other large counties across the United States, Tarrant County has experienced a significant increase in unsheltered homelessness. At the same time, we also experienced a decrease in outreach teams, impacting our ability to respond and connect people to housing.



SAFE HAVEN

Safe Havens are small facilities that provide permanent housing for persons with severe and persistent mental illness.



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional Housing (TH) programs provide time-limited rental assistance (less than 2 years) and supportive services geared towards self-sufficiency.



UNSHELTERED

Individuals sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, including cars, vacant lots and buildings, under bridges or in the woods.



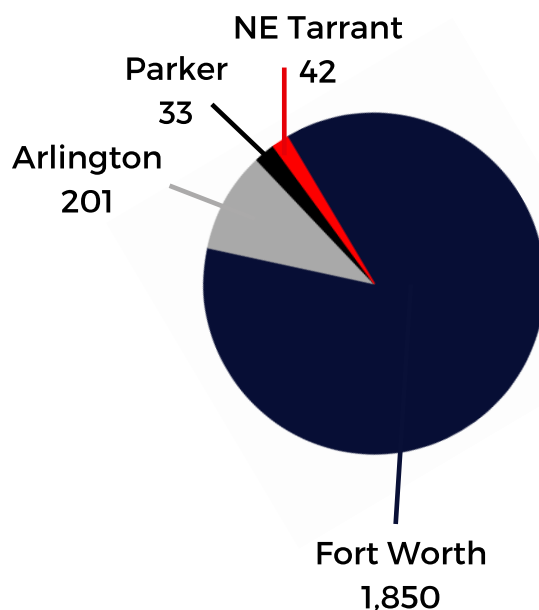
EMERGENCY SHELTER

Emergency shelters (ES) are intended for transitional or temporary shelter and crisis relief.

Geographic Distribution

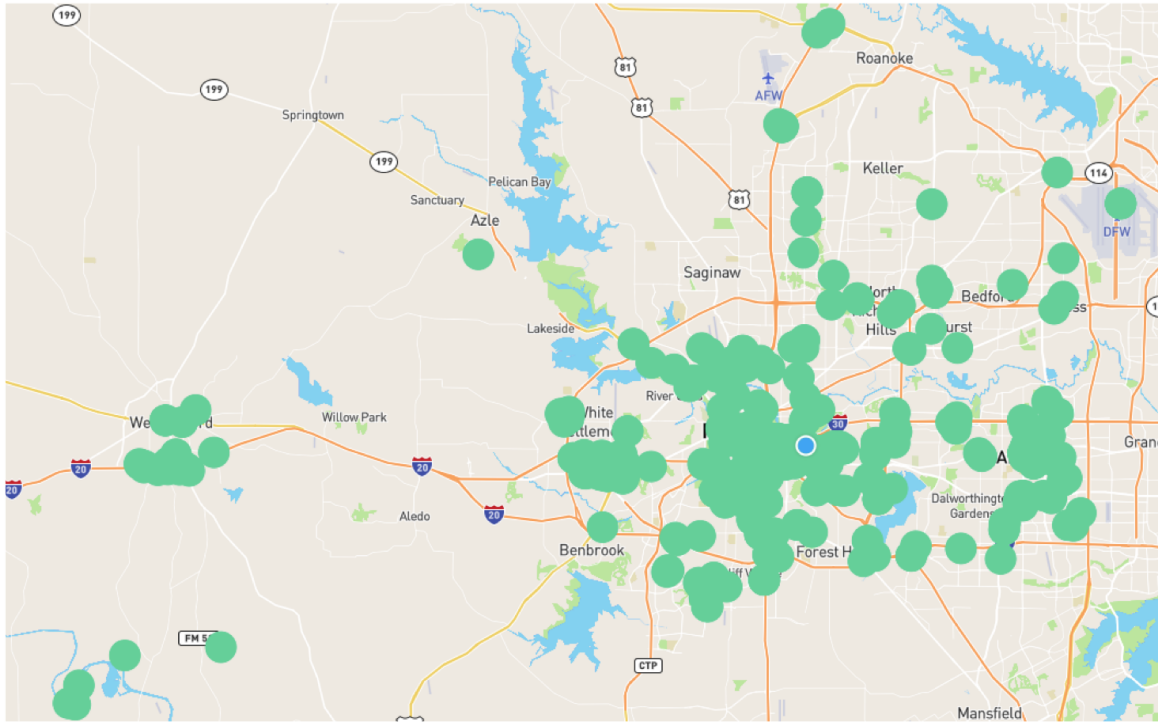
The majority of those experiencing homelessness are located within the City of Fort Worth, as most homeless services are located in Fort Worth. Fort Worth saw an overall increase of 5%, and saw a significant increase in unsheltered homelessness.

Additionally, knowing where our homeless population lived prior to experiencing homelessness and where they have resided since allows us to identify those who have entered our system of care from other regions. Of the unsheltered individuals and families surveyed during the 2020 Point in time count about their residence prior to homelessness, only 5% reported being from Dallas or somewhere else in Texas.

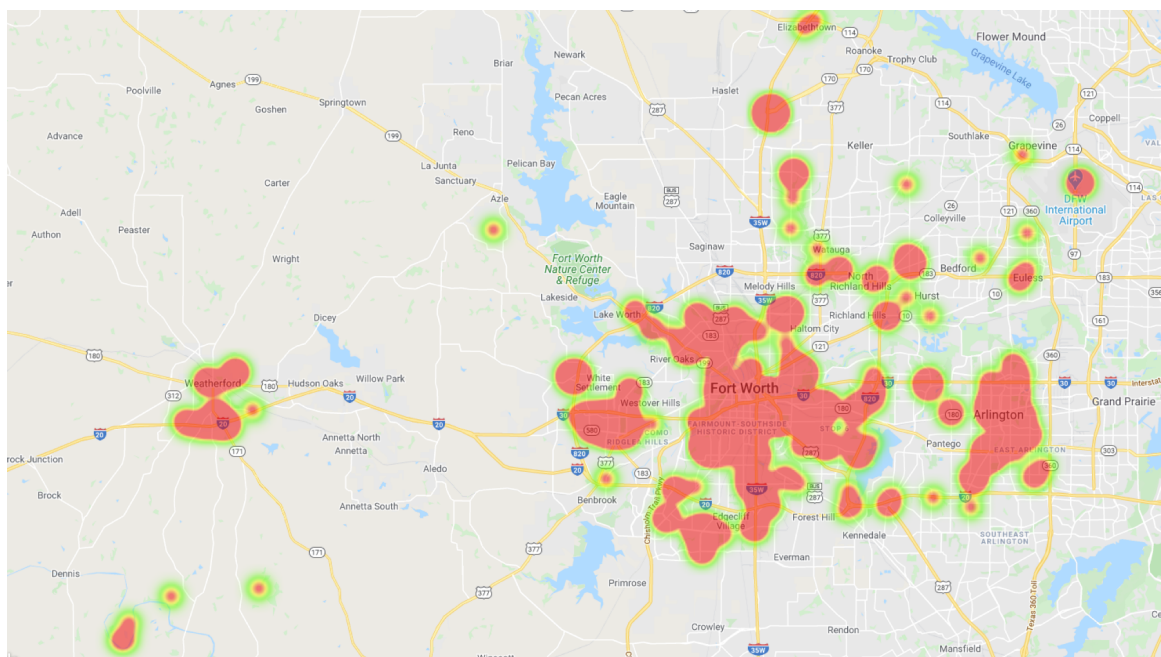


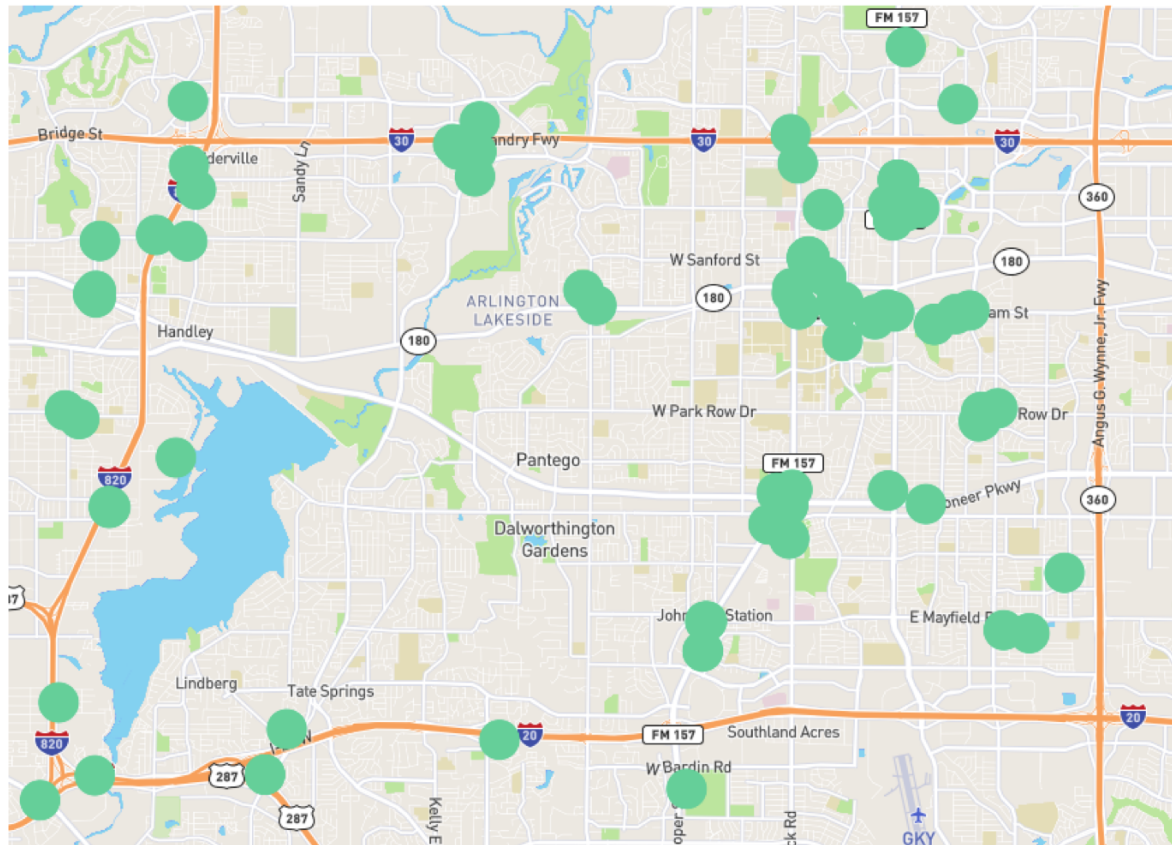
The included heat maps represent various geographic areas within the system of care. A lighter color on the map represents a less concentrated number of homeless individuals and families. The red areas show the most densely populated areas.

Map 1: Tarrant and Parker County Geographic Distribution

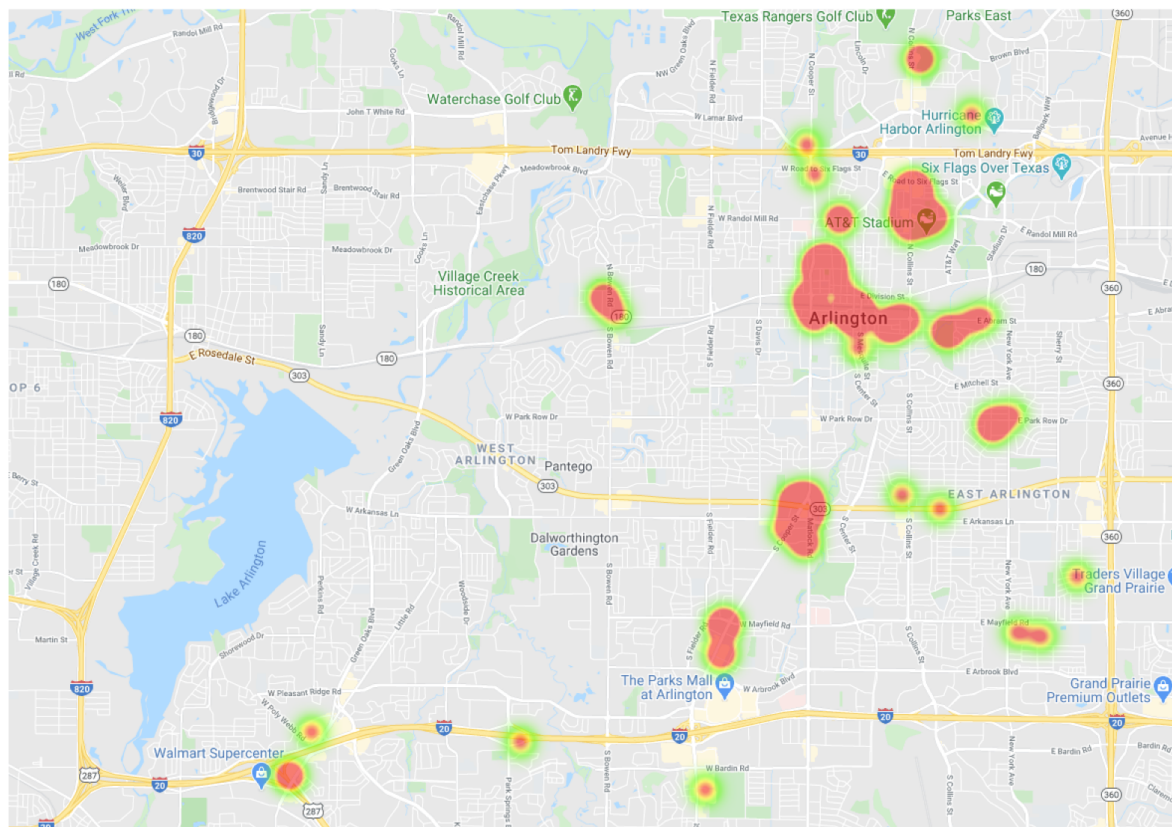


Map 2: 2020 Homeless Count Geographic Distribution



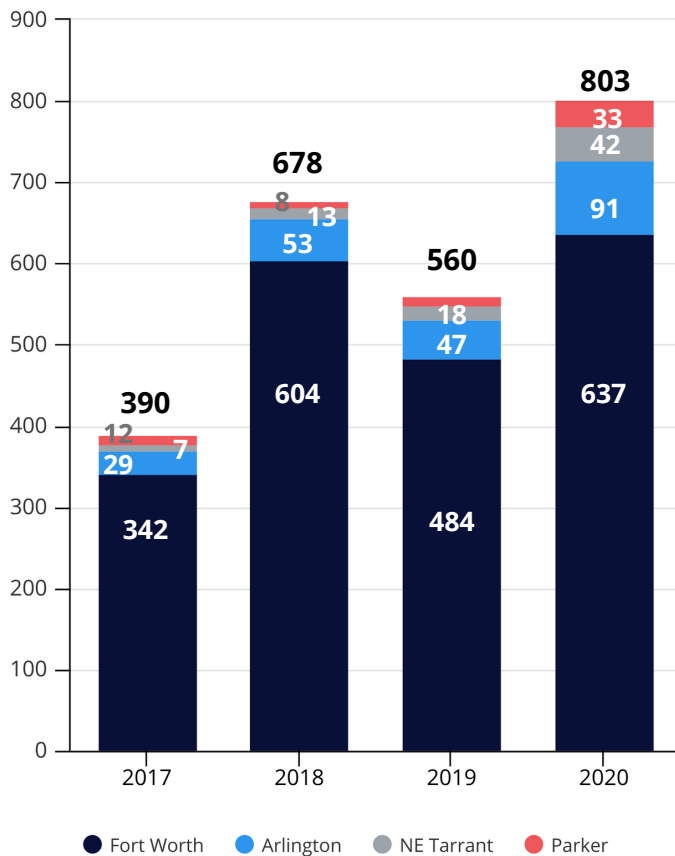


Map 4: City of Arlington 2020 Homeless Count Geographic Distribution



Unsheltered Homelessness & Sleeping Outside

Unsheltered homelessness is increasing in our community. This is a national trend that cities and communities across the U.S. have grappled with in recent years. **In Tarrant and Parker counties unsheltered homelessness increased by 43% from 2019 to 2020.**



On the night of our 2020 Point in Time Count we asked, "If given the option for shelter, would you go?" **60% said they would not enter shelter, while 40% said they would sleep in shelter.** There are many reasons someone might choose to live in an unsheltered setting, but the **primary answers given for not entering shelter are due to safety concerns and to avoid large crowds**

WHO IS SLEEPING OUTSIDE?



70%
Men



29%
Women

WHERE DID PEOPLE LIVE BEFORE BECOMING HOMELESS?

84%	5%	5%	5%
TARRANT COUNTY	DALLAS	ELSEWHERE IN TEXAS	OUT OF STATE

Why people become homeless

An important insight we get from the Count data collected is why people become homeless. For more than five years, people have consistently reported **two primary reasons for experiencing homelessness:**

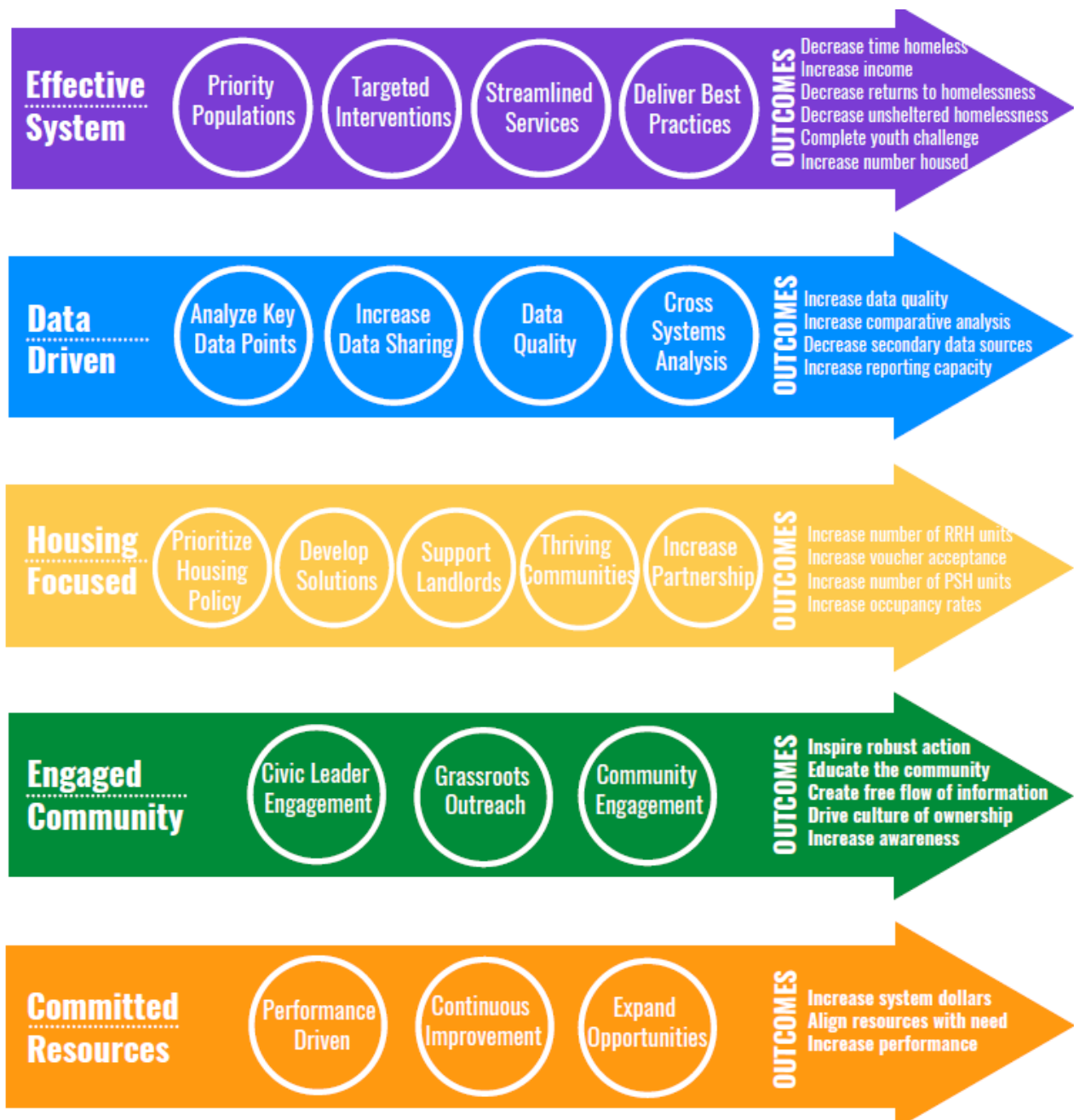
- 1) A lack of income**
- 2) Inability to pay rent.**

2020: PROBLEM SOLVING

Alignment

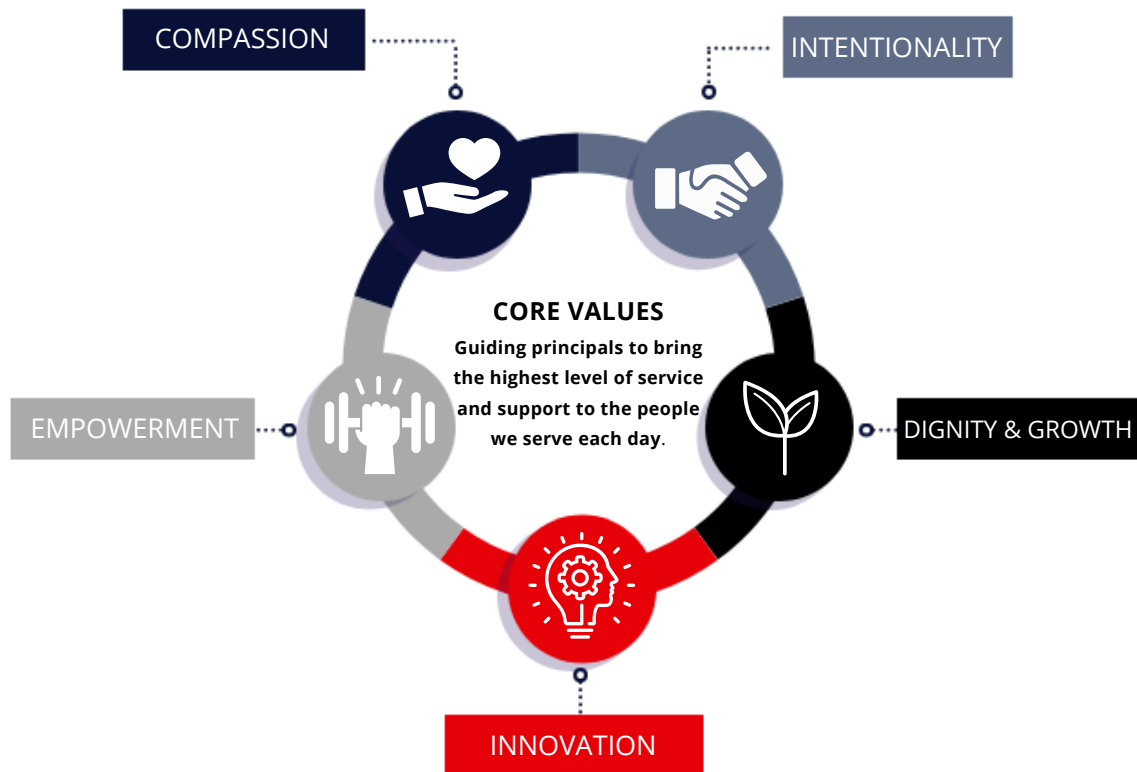
The Homeless Coalition and our partners serving people experiencing homelessness have committed to the CoC Strategic Plan to guide all planning and services in our housing crisis system of care. The strategies in the plan serve as the backbone of all efforts around homelessness, including planning and implementation of programs and services. The strategic plan was created with much thought and is designed to ensure the CoC is well prepared for growth, expansion, and new partnerships far into the future.

Working together, the vision of **a vibrant community where every individual has a place to call home and the resources to live their best life** will be realized.



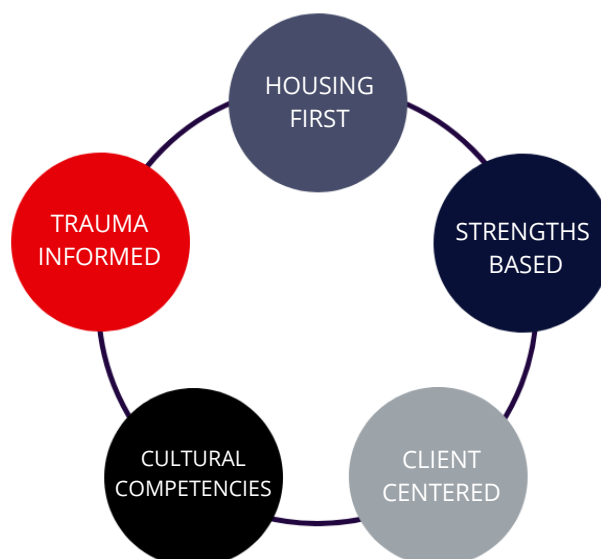
Core Values

Just as we have a shared community vision, our community of service providers also has shared core values that are embedded into our strategic plan and guide interventions in our system. Core values give us guiding principles to bring the highest level of service and support to people experiencing homelessness being served each day.



Core Competencies

Core competencies establish a community wide standard of care to ensure anyone who experiences homelessness receives consistent and high-quality services, regardless of where or what type of services they are seeking.

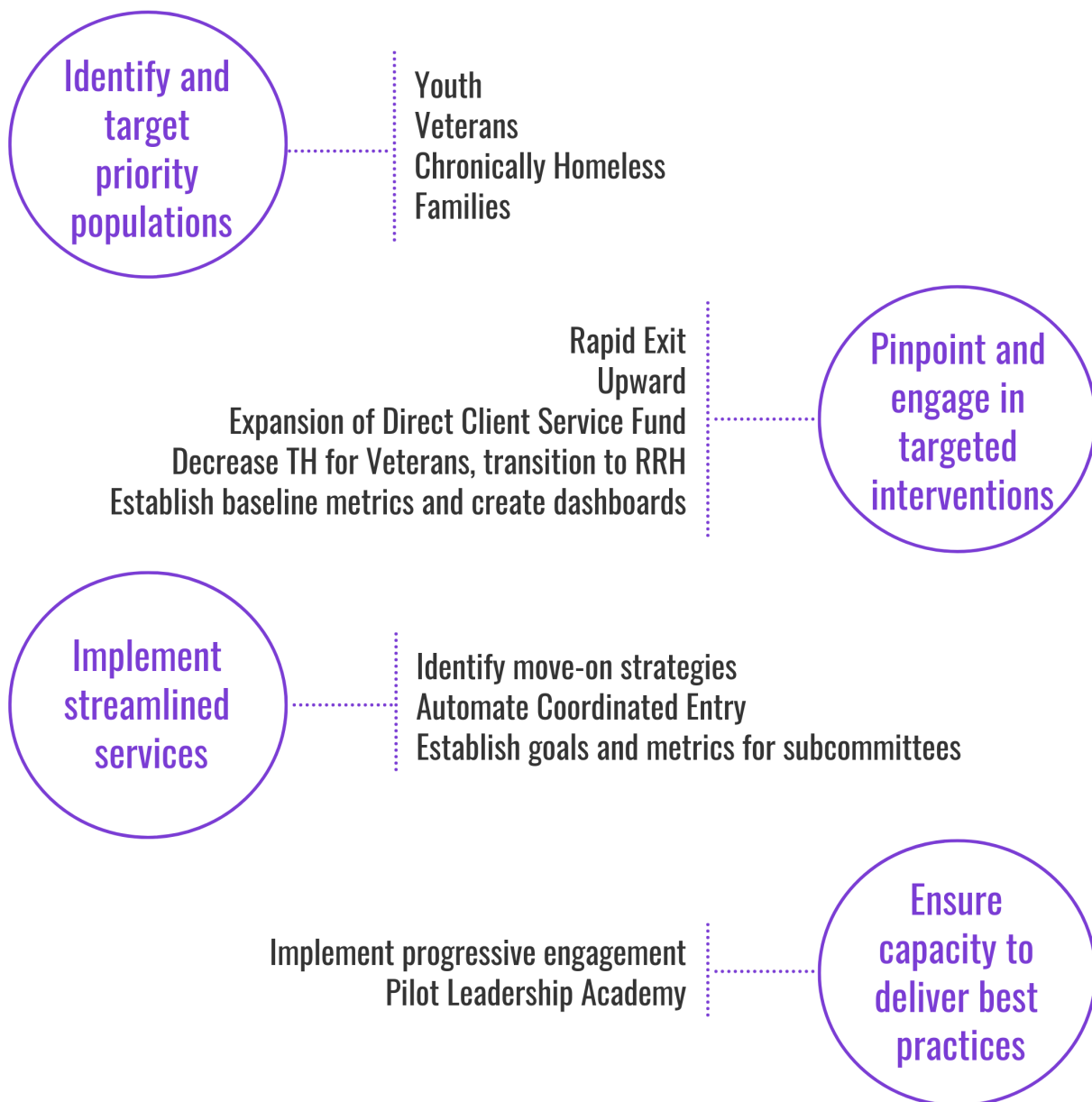


GOAL 1: EFFECTIVE SYSTEM

Build an effective and efficient housing crisis system of care



Strategies



STRATEGY: PRIORITY POPULATIONS

Identifying and targeting priority populations has been recognized as a national best practice to address homelessness. **Our community has identified four priority populations for 2018 to 2023: veterans, youth (18-24), chronically homeless individuals, and families.** Each year we kick off efforts with the target population with a 100-Day Challenge, usually in the fall. During these Challenges our community brings providers serving specific populations together to get creative about their services, figure out how to serve complex cases within the population, and work together to make our system function the best it possibly can to provide tailored services to the population. Our community responds well to challenges and has seen great results from each challenge accepted. We have exceeded goals set and the challenges have helped propel us into long-term systems change.



Youth

Young adults, age 18 to 24 and those who are under 18 and unaccompanied, were identified as our community's priority population for 2019-2020. Youth in this age range are especially vulnerable on the street and are often taken advantage of and exploited in different ways. Additionally, a subset of the population needs specialized services to help overcome barriers and past trauma. These youth include LGBT+ youth, foster care alumni, and trafficked youth.

We kicked off this effort in September 2019 with a 100-Day Challenge to house 50 youth in 100 days. Thanks to dedicated resources and strong collaboration from partners, **our community exceeded the goal and housed 65 youth during the challenge.** Our community also implemented mixers as a new way to reach youth experiencing homelessness to engage them in a different way.

681
youth served in 2019

76
youth found experiencing
homelessness on the night
of the 2019 count.

65
youth housed during the
2019 100 day challenge!

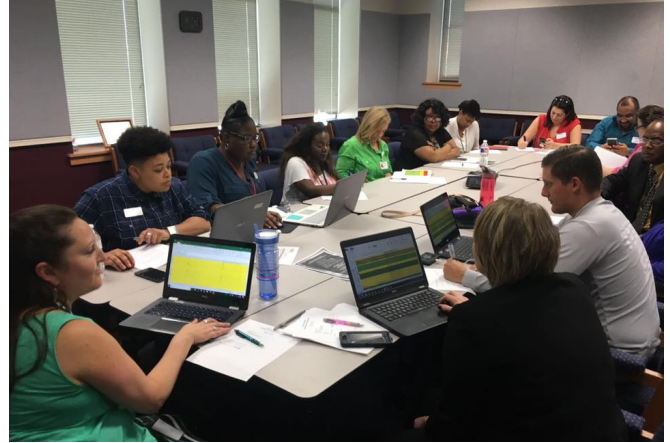
A key to success in youth efforts is our local Youth Action Board- a group of youth with lived experience who come together to guide our community toward solutions that best meet changing needs. Outside of housing, these youth have identified transportation, driving lessons, housing locators and emotional support as some of their most pressing needs.

Future Focus

- Youth NOFA
- Family Unification Program rental assistance available

Veterans

Veterans experiencing homelessness remain a focus for our community. More than two years ago, a group of dedicated service providers began reviewing progress and determining a clear path forward to create a system in our community to reach functional zero- that is, there are more veterans leaving homelessness than entering. Our community is committed to not only getting to functional zero, but also to maintaining it- an accomplishment not achieved by many.



In September 2018, we embarked on the first 100-Day Challenge to house 100 veterans in 100 days. We surpassed the community goal significantly and housed 181 veterans in 100 days. We are excited to report that one year later, 92% of veterans housed through the Challenge remained successfully housed and had not returned to homelessness. The Veteran Leadership Taskforce continues to play a critical role in moving our community toward ending veteran homelessness. This dedicated group meets quarterly to review progress and ensure continuous system improvement for veterans experiencing homelessness.

Our housing crisis system of care did not exceed this significant goal alone. It took partnership at numerous levels within our community. Elected officials championed the cause and brought needed attention to the issue of veteran homelessness, including barriers they face getting approved for apartments. The Apartment Association of Tarrant County advocated for housing veterans, encouraging their member properties to give vets a second chance, serving them like they served our country.

The success of the Challenge has led our community to the point where we are well on our way to officially declaring an end to veteran homelessness. Thanks to all the partner agencies, community members, elected officials and others who made this possible!

438
Veterans served in 2018

167
Veterans found experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2018 count.

181
Veterans housed during the 2018 100 day challenge!

Future Focus

- Meet metrics for system functioning to be at functional zero

Chronically Homeless

People experiencing chronic homelessness have been identified as our community's priority population for 2020. Chronically homeless individuals are people who have experienced homelessness for more than one year or more than four times in three years and have a disability. People experiencing chronic homelessness often face complex and long-term health conditions such as mental illness, substance abuse disorders, physical disabilities and other chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

People experiencing chronic homelessness are considered particularly vulnerable because they often live outdoors or in other living situations not meant for human habitation, which typically intensify or worsen any disabilities or ongoing medical conditions present. Additionally, chronically homeless individuals are often the most visible population experiencing homelessness and personify stereotypes about the homeless population.

We have started detailed work on understanding who is experiencing chronic homelessness, and additionally who are the highest utilizers of homeless and public services. With our partners, the Homeless Coalition is determining what the goals for this 100-Day Challenge should be and what success would look like for our community.

The availability of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) will be a key to Challenge success, as it is a proven solution for chronic homelessness. PSH is the most service intensive housing program our community has available in our housing crisis system of care, providing long-term rental assistance and supportive services to people who have moved off the street. PSH has been proven to not only help people achieve housing stability, but also improves health and well-being outcomes and lowers the burden on public costs such as hospitals, jails, shelters and other emergency services.

*Note: Due to COVID-19 Chronic Homeless as a priority population has been delayed to 2021.



Photography courtesy of Hands of Hope Street Outreach Team

Future Focus

- Hardest to House

Families

Our community is working very intentionally to address family homelessness, including putting a leadership focus on the issue. The Family Committee has been created as a subcommittee of the CoC Board to specifically address family homelessness in our community. This group has identified several goals to begin impacting family homelessness including:

- Increased efforts to prevent and divert families from becoming homeless,
- Increased landlord engagement
- Engaging local law schools to assist with evictions, and
- Working with local school districts to truly understand the size and scope of family homelessness.

The committee has seen great success in collaborating with new partners to address family homelessness including Early Childhood Intervention (ECI), Childcare Management Systems (CCMS), and ISD homeless liaisons. This committee is also working to standardize how our community talks about and counts families experiencing homelessness. Together, the group is working to standardize data collected from homeless services, school districts and early learning partners and is investigating what partnership with other public services, such as Child Protective Services, might look like.



Photography courtesy of Sara Liz Photography

154

Households experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2020 count.

525

People in families experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2020 count.

15%

Returns to homelessness after two years

Our system serves families exceptionally well and is able to quickly respond to their needs, primarily through the rapid exit and rapid rehousing interventions. Families have a shorter than average time spent homeless, move into housing faster than other populations, and have lower returns to homelessness.

Future Focus

- Data integration
- Assess metrics

STRATEGY: TARGETED INTERVENTIONS

Our community is committed to serving people with best practices for homeless services. Research has shown that certain interventions are better suited for specific populations. For example, Rapid Rehousing works really well for families.. They get housed quickly, increase their incomes, and have low returns to homelessness. Pinpointing and engaging in targeted interventions to address different populations within homelessness results in more effective delivery of services and a more efficient use of resources within our system of care.

Rapid Exit

Rapid Exit is a new intervention being provided in the City of Fort Worth by Presbyterian Night Shelter, in collaboration with The Salvation Army and other partners. The **Family/Individual Rapid Exit (FIRE)** program targets people who need short-term assistance and are either currently working or are employable and seeking work.

Before the implementation of this intervention, families and individuals would often find themselves living in emergency shelters for weeks or months, to save for the cost of getting back into an apartment or place to stay. After an eviction, or loss of home, households often face significant financial barriers to getting into another place to live, such as increased administrative fees, double deposits additional rent paid up front. With the implementation of Rapid Exit, we can now quickly move people out of homelessness and provide additional supports to ensure success. Rapid Exit provides financial assistance along with the following supports:

Family Rapid Exit

- Short-term child care
- Critical documents
- Transportation assistance
- Work related items
- Past due rent and utilities
- Application fees, deposits and high risk fees
- Three months of rental assistance

Individual Rapid Exit

- Critical documents
- Transportation assistance
- Work related items
- Application fees, deposits, high risk fees
- Three months of rental assistance

This is an effective tool that is being used to lessen the time people experience homelessness and is showing very positive results. This was a new intervention in 2019, but served 219 people and saw only 4% returns to homelessness after households moved into permanent housing.

We expect these positive results to continue and the burden to be eased on longer-term housing voucher programs, such as rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing.

Future Focus

- Expansion of Rapid Exit to areas outside of Fort Worth
- Strengthen employment focus and appropriate referrals to partners
- Continued expansion of Direct Client Service Fund throughout Tarrant and Parker Counties
- Begin to explore upstream prevention metrics to prevent homelessness and reduce inflow

STRATEGY: STREAMLINED SERVICES

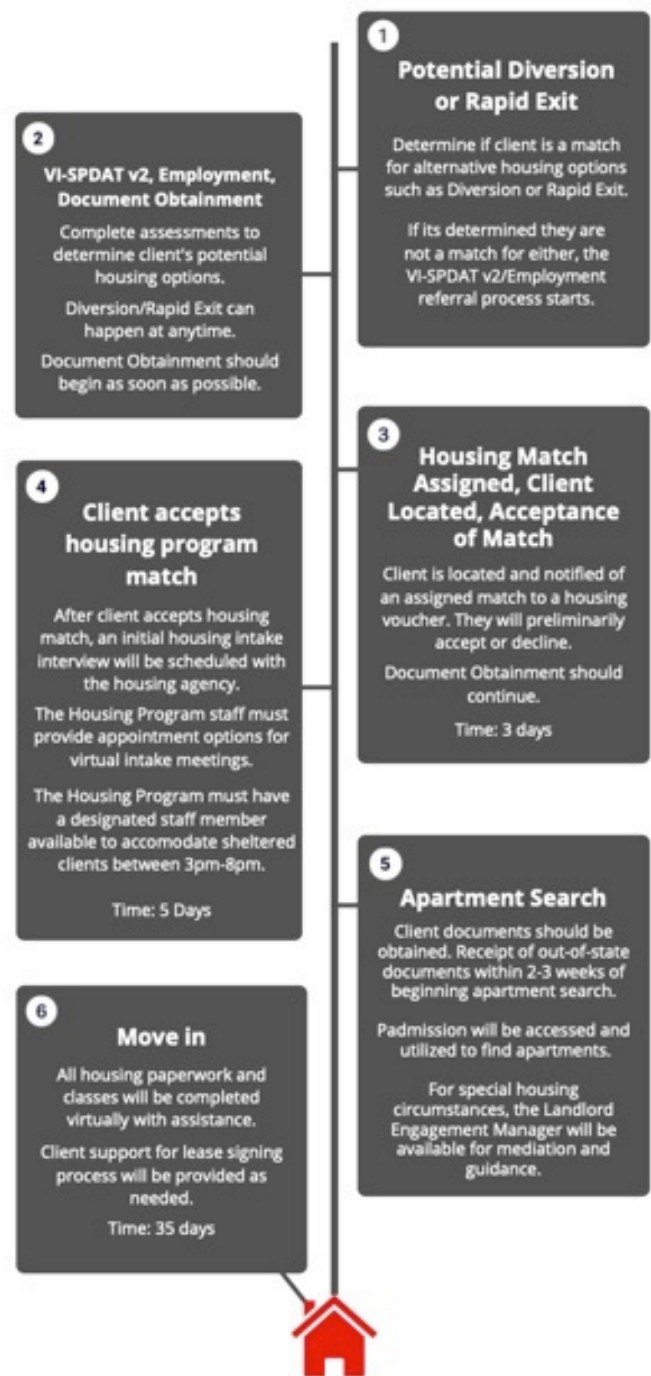
Streamlined services ensure people experiencing homelessness are receiving the services that are a best fit for their needs and are being quickly matched with housing interventions well suited to their specific situation. Streamlining services and expanding our community's understanding of what types of interventions can and should be offered to people at various stages of homelessness help maximize resources and serve people with the intervention that best meets their needs at the time.

Automation of System Processes

In 2019, the Homeless Coalition automated a number of processes to make our system more efficient in both use of people power and use of housing resources available. Green River has significantly changed the coordinated entry process. Instead of a staff person manually matching each person experiencing homelessness to an appropriate housing program, now a Green River software program automatically matches people to housing according to data in our system. This reduces the amount of staff time it takes to match and also reduces any potential bias that may have been present before.

We have moved from using a "housing list" to essentially having two "buckets" - one bucket of housing programs with specific eligibility and one bucket of people who need those programs. Green River joins them together.

The path a household takes to move from homeless to housed starts when they are at the front door of homelessness, and begin the coordinated entry process through shelters, assessors, mobile outreach teams, the Homeless Helpline and other agency partners. Currently it takes people 54 days to move into housing after being matched; our community goal is to get that to less than 35 days.



Future Focus

- Reduce length of time from match to move in
- Remove barriers in system and reassess how staff are utilized to focus on housing

STRATEGY: DELIVER BEST PRACTICES

Delivering best practices to people experiencing homelessness results in better system functioning, better program performance, and should ultimately lead to a reduction in homelessness. Establishing a system-wide standard of care ensures that regardless of where or what type of services a person is seeking, they receive consistent high-quality services. Our community has agreed upon values and competencies, which serve as the foundation for our standard of care. Core values include: innovation, empowerment, dignity and worth, intentionality, and compassion. Core competencies are Housing First, cultural competence, client centered, strengths based, and trauma informed practice.



Leadership Academy for Homeless Services

The Homeless Coalition kicked off the Leadership Academy for Homeless Services in January 2020. The overarching goal of the Leadership Academy is to have system-wide standard of care so that regardless of where people seek assistance they receive the same standard of care and are served with best practices, proven to work.

The initial cohort is 10 participants who have the opportunity to learn, network and practice new skills together. Content is delivered using a mix of in-person and online computer-based learning courses over 10 weeks.. The Homeless Coalition expects to host three cohorts per year, with sessions starting in January, May and September.



**INCREASING KNOWLEDGE ON
RESEARCHED BASED
INTERVENTIONS AND BEST
PRACTICES.**



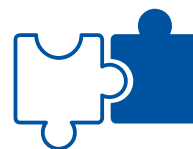
**ENABLING NEW AND
EXISTING CASE MANAGERS
TO BETTER SERVE CLIENTS.**



**CREATING A UNIFIED
CASE MANAGEMENT
APPROACH IN OUR
COMMUNITY.**



**EXPANDING LEADERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ACADEMY GRADUATES.**



**INCREASING COLLABORATION
AND PROBLEM SOLVING
BETWEEN PARTNER AGENCIES.**

Future Focus

- Further refine Leadership Academy
- Add additional specialized tracks such as landlords, volunteers and management

GOAL 2: DATA DRIVEN

Understand scope and need through data analysis and sharing



Strategies



- System performance measures
- Performance by intervention
- Performance by population
- Coordinated Entry metrics
- Non-CoC grant metrics

Internal data systems share data
Integrate external data: hospitals, jails, ISDs, housing, MHMR
Integrate employment information



- Map and redesign system data entry
- Streamline specific training
- Develop data quality metrics
- Identify secondary data sources and plan for incorporation

- Identify high utilizers
- Track employment in HMIS
- Family homelessness analysis



STRATEGY: INCREASE ANALYSIS

Data guides decision making in homeless services, allowing our system of care to be responsive to emerging needs and foreseeable trends. By increasing analysis of key data points our community can understand resource utilization and potential emerging trends to better design programs and services that meet the most current need. Over the past year our community has embraced data analysis and making data-driven decisions, with nearly 20 committees digging into the data and metrics for their interventions and populations to determine what is working, what needs to change, which way things are moving, and the "why" behind what we're seeing.

Additional Systems Provide Information

Recognizing that data about people's homelessness does not tell the whole story of how well our community is performing, we integrate many other types of data to determine how our community should move forward. Additional data efforts include annual needs and gaps analyses, yearly system mapping, periodic case manager surveys, system modeling, quarterly fatality reviews, and the ongoing use of Outreach Grid and Green River systems- two additional systems used to capture information.

All of these efforts help our community identify gaps in knowledge with direct service staff; have an understanding of interventions in the community that may not be fully implemented; have a consistent systems-level view of how and where resources are allocated, including if something needs to change; and allow us to overlay other data with homeless data to create a complete picture of what is happening, on both an individual and community level.

QUOTES FROM CLIENT FOCUS GROUPS

INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCES

"Couldn't manage finances, I was codependent on those around me to help. Didn't know how to save money or pay bills."

"I am a single mom to 2 special needs kids. I can't be everything they need me to be but I'm trying. I'm doing it by myself. No dad. No child support. Nothing."

"I hurt my back and was put on medical leave."

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

"During the holidays, there were 4 moms that lost their jobs during thanksgiving because they didn't have anywhere to take their kids. It's like being back at square zero when you already tried to go out and get everything handled."

"I interviewed for a job outside the city limits but I didn't have transportation to get there. Continuously losing out on jobs because of these factors is frustrating and it's not because of me."

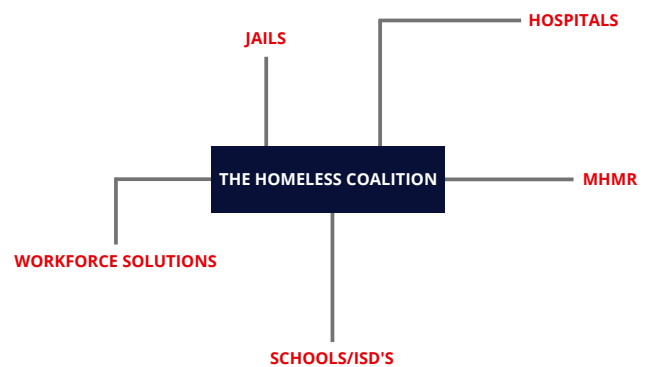
"I use the shelters because it's warm in the winter, it's safer, and I just don't want to be outside."

Future Focus

- Dashboards: further analysis and creation of public-facing tool
- Determine metrics for non-CoC grant programs

STRATEGY: DATA SHARING

Currently 35 organizations utilize a common database that links providers and services together, specific to homelessness. Our community uses numerous data sources to paint a clearer and complete picture of what is happening with our housing crisis system of care and with individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. When used together this valuable information informs strategies and decisions, pointing a way home for many.



The Homeless Coalition has significantly increased our community's investment in technology to facilitate more in-depth data analysis that previously possible. One of the tools implemented is Green River, which serves as both a data integration platform and an analytic data warehouse. With Green River we are able to cross-reference HMIS (homeless) data with healthcare data, criminal justice data and school district data. This allows our community to have a multilevel view of resource use and better understand services accessed across various types of entities in our community. Green River has significantly improved care coordination and has increased in-depth analyses of homeless services.

The screenshot shows a client profile for "Joel Fake" (TX-601, Client ID: 33896) with a "Track Issues" button. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs: Dashboard, History, Chronic, Notes, CAS Readiness, Files, Relationships, Merge, and Audit. The main content area displays client information in a grid:

Last Seen 1 day ago	Last Seen Location Central Intake TX-601, Coordinated Entry, and Street Outreach	Days in Last 3 Years 61 homeless ⓘ 61 literally homeless ⓘ	Enrolled in ES SO
Homeless Span Jun 23, 2017 to Mar 1, 2020 61 days ⓘ	Veteran ✗ No	Disabled ✓ Yes ⓘ	

Below the grid, there is a "Consent Form" section with a "None on file" status and a "Housed in CAS on Mar 26, 2019" status. At the bottom, there is a "Document Readiness" section with a "View File Uploads" button.

Future Focus

- Enable ETO, Green River and Outreach Grid to share data elements
- Integrate Hospital data
- Integrate Jail and PD data
- Integrate ISD data
- Cross reference housing authority lists
- Integrate employment programs information

STRATEGY: DATA QUALITY

Data guides decision making in homeless services, allowing our system of care to be responsive to emerging needs and foreseeable trends. Data accuracy and integrity is a high priority for our community. As the HMIS Administrator for our CoC, the Homeless Coalition is focused on this at every level- individual client records, program functions, and systems level performance. More accurate data leads to increased investment in proven programs, while enhanced data sharing provides a more comprehensive picture of homelessness in our community. By increasing analysis of key data points our community can understand resource utilization and potential emerging trends to better design programs and services that meet the most current need.

Increased Investment >> Improved Data Quality

This year the Homeless Coalition was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to enhance our community's HMIS system. This grant is enabling us to create a sustainable data quality management plan, develop robust user training for the HMIS system, and purchase a computer based training system to serve as a mobile training lab. The grant is for one year and will help ensure that we as a community will have the most accurate data possible and achieve the data outcomes of:

- Increasing data quality
- Increasing comparative analysis
- Decreasing the use of secondary data sources, and
- Increasing our community's reporting capacity.

The Homeless Coalition is committed to having the most accurate and current (real-time) data available. This enables us to provide the most honest assessment of the issue and the effectiveness of the interventions our community puts in place. Without continuous monitoring and quality improvement, the CoC cannot make the most effective strategic decisions about allocation of resources and improvement to programs.

STRATEGY: CROSS SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

Data guides decision making in homeless services, allowing our system of care to be responsive to emerging needs and foreseeable trends. Cross system analysis allows our community to understand how homelessness impacts other systems outside of our housing crisis system of care. With this analysis we can identify high utilizers of both homeless services and other services to potentially provide a housing intervention that relieves the burden on all systems involved, such as jails and hospitals. Additionally, cross systems analysis paints a clearer picture of how our systems intersect with others and how, as a community we can streamline all services available to those in need. By increasing cross systems analysis of key data our community can understand resource utilization and potential emerging trends to better design programs and services that meet the most current need.

Future Focus

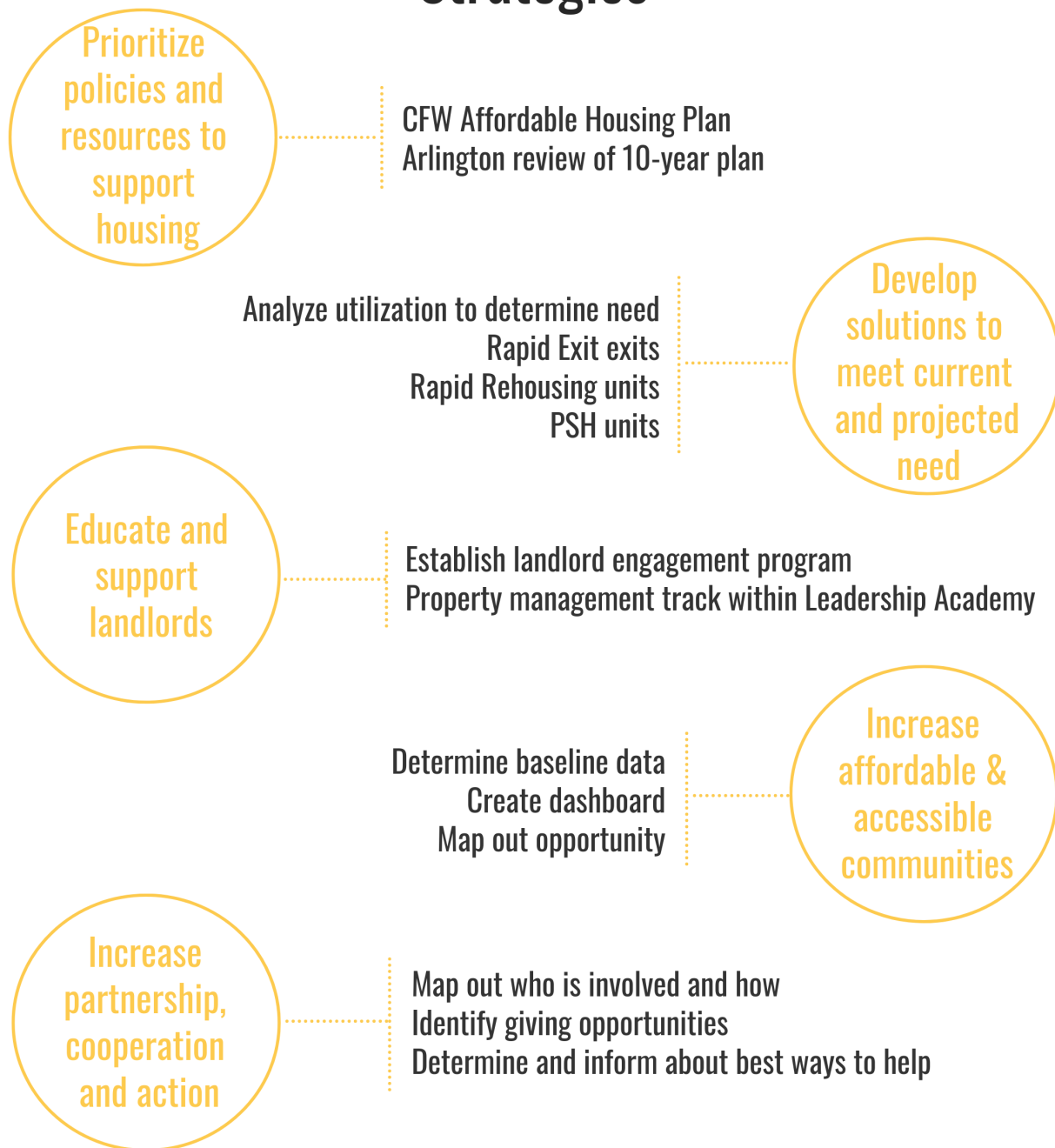
- Progressive Engagement
- Training
- Identify secondary data sources and create plan to incorporate reporting needs into ETO
- Identify High Utilizers
- Track Employment efforts in HMIS
- Family Homelessness analysis

GOAL 3: HOUSING FOCUSED

Ensure adequate housing stock and access



Strategies



STRATEGY: PRIORITIZE POLICIES

The Housing Committee of the Coc Board was approved and implemented in 2019 to specifically address housing needs for people exiting homelessness. The committee has a focus on, and works to help municipalities prioritize local housing policy. Both the cities of Arlington and Fort Worth have recently worked in cooperation with the Housing Committee to review housing plans for their cities, welcoming feedback from the committee.

The City of Fort Worth recently had the committee review the housing chapter of their consolidated plan, which includes information on homelessness and housing development. The committee offered significant feedback and was able to impact changes, including an increased focus on the 0%-30% AMI household income and updating the plan more frequently to keep up with a changing environment. In February, the committee reviewed the Arlington Housing Needs Assessment and provided feedback to the city regarding the report. Tarrant County Community Development has also engaged the committee to provide feedback on their consolidated plan as well. These interactions ensure that homelessness and affordable housing have a voice and are represented in conversations throughout our community.

STRATEGY: DEVELOP SOLUTIONS

A community-wide effort will be essential to address the shortage of affordable housing in Tarrant County. The creation of affordable housing is not only about meeting the current need. It is also about being able to look out into the future to know and estimate the supply we will need in the future to accommodate for future population growth, an aging population and other factors that impact the demand for affordable and accessible housing.

Housing Inventory

Before our community can determine where we need to go with housing, we must know where we currently stand. The Housing Committee has recently begun in-depth analysis of housing stock including units with a homeless preference; rental assistance and housing programs available for people exiting homelessness; and units in the pipeline and potentially expiring. A dashboard for each type of housing intervention is being developed to illustrate current status, progress and needs.



Future Focus

- City of Fort Worth Affordable Housing Strategic Plan
- City of Arlington 10-year plan update
- Municipalities Consolidated Plans
- Housing Authorities annual plan and admin plan
- Rapid Exit Unit Goal
- Rapid Rehousing Unit Goal
- Permanent Supportive Housing Unit Goal

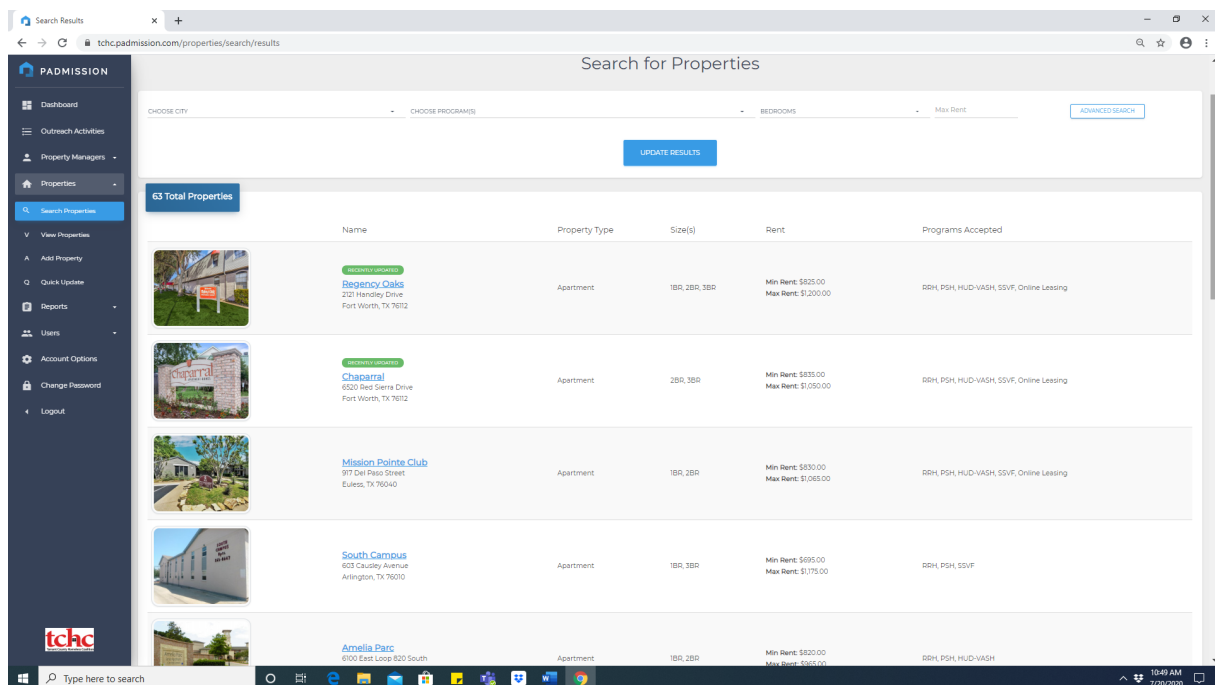
STRATEGY: SUPPORT LANDLORDS

Ending homelessness requires more than simply having a certain number of units of affordable housing available. The other part of the equation is increasing the number of landlords and property owners willing to lease to people exiting homelessness. Many landlords have negative perceptions of voucher holders, and because of these stereotypes they reject participation in the program overall. As a community, it is important to change this perception and support landlords willing to give people a second chance.

Landlord Engagement

The Homeless Coalition has been working to fully implement landlord engagement for our community, including new landlord supports and enhanced technology. The Landlord Engagement Program is expected to fully launch in April 2020. New landlord supports include access to mediation services, risk mitigation funds and enhanced support through a central point of contact.

Padmission is a new technology being implemented specifically designed to reduce the amount of time it takes to find an available unit for someone to rent. Padmission allows people exiting homelessness to search for units who accept rental subsidies, which types of subsidies they take, and how many units are available. This technology was developed in Phoenix, where they have seen a significant reduction in the amount of time it takes for people to find a unit available for rent, and ultimately has reduced the amount of time spent homeless.



Future Focus

- Establish Landlord Engagement program
- Property management track within Leadership Academy

STRATEGY: INCREASE STOCK

The key to success for our community meeting the demand for affordable and accessible housing for all is to start getting creative with how we create housing. The traditional model of 1 unit for 1 person in a large multi-family development will never meet the existing need for affordable housing. Our community must start thinking differently about how we raise capital, the types of housing being built and how we sustain that housing to keep it affordable for years to come.

Alternative housing and financing models

Creating a variety of housing types to meet various needs at different stages in life is critical and can help meet the diverse needs of people who need affordable housing. For example, shared housing is proven model that allows people who have more housing than they need to share housing with those in who need housing. Additionally, host homes provide safe, supportive transitional housing and support for homeless youth by connecting them with caring adults willing to provide safe housing and support. In addition to providing different types of housing our community must also provide new opportunities to allow community members to invest in a portfolio of housing options to meet the need in our community.



Future Focus

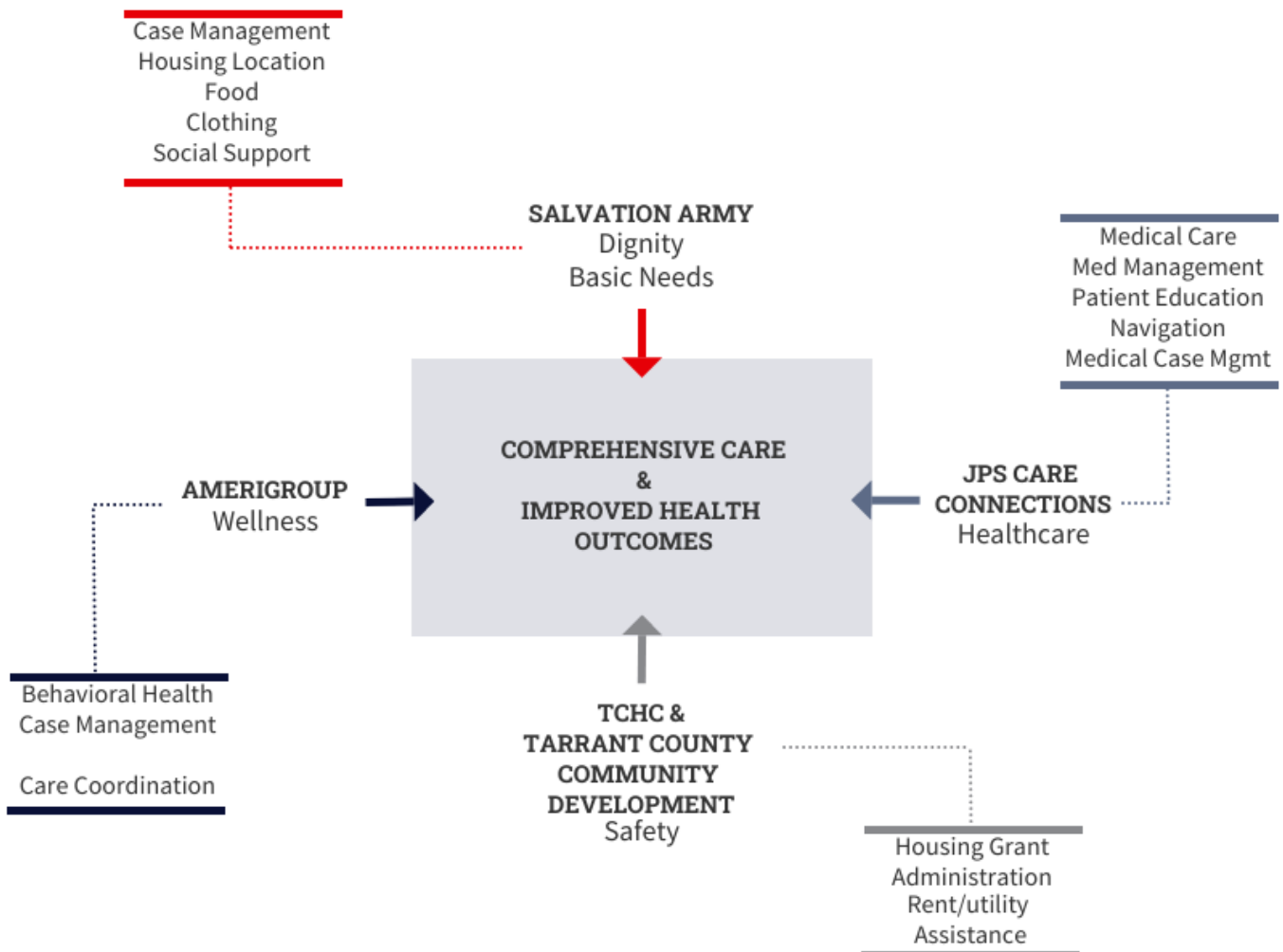
- Determine baseline data regarding stock, including pipeline, existing and sunsetting units
- Create dashboard to understand units + services
- Map out opportunities where housing might be possible

STRATEGY: INCREASE PARTNERSHIP

Affordable housing is not only about providing a place to call home; it's also about ensuring that everyone has the resources to live their best life. Increasing partnerships around affordable housing starts with understanding which agencies are providing services beyond housing as well as identifying existing gaps and how the community at-large can be part of the solution. As a community we must begin to identify opportunities where we can easily increase cooperation and action around affordable housing.

Housing development is a different way for congregations, corporations and healthcare organizations to be involved in the solution to homelessness. Different types of organizations have the opportunity to give in new and different ways, depending on their capacity, how it might benefit the organization and how it meets an overarching community need.

Housing + Healthcare



Future Focus

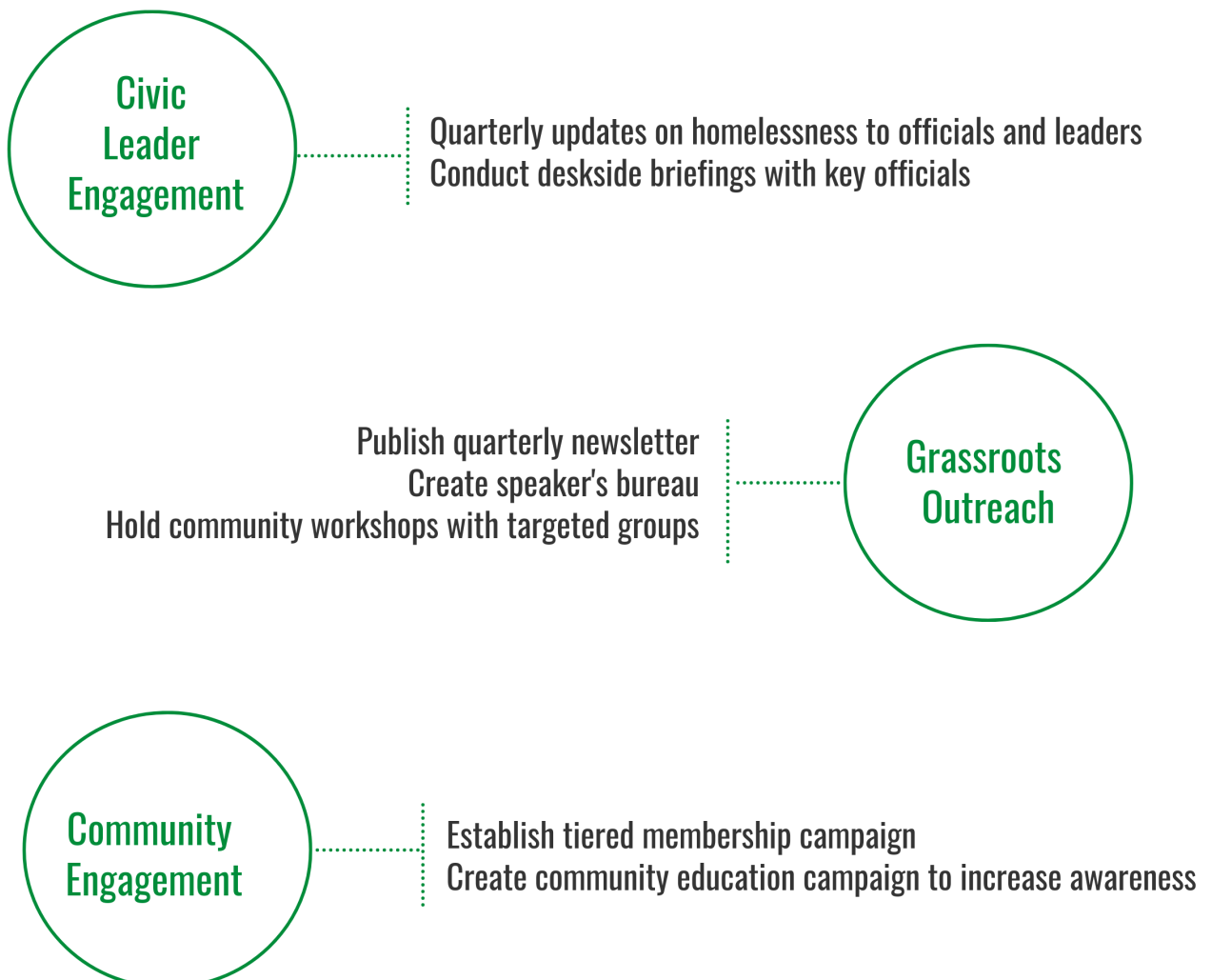
- Map out who is currently involved and how
- Identify giving opportunities
- Determine and inform about best ways to help

GOAL 4: ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Increase community knowledge and response around homelessness



Strategies



STRATEGY: CIVIC LEADER ENGAGEMENT



The Homeless Coalition and the CoC are implementing a strategy to increase and reinforce the capabilities of our partners to engage effectively and persuasively around issues touching homelessness. An important piece of that strategy is fully partnering with community leaders so that they can make the most informed decisions about the pertinent issues. By mobilizing the community with one unified message, we will take dramatic strides to influence the conversation around homelessness.

QUARTERLY LEADERSHIP REPORT

HOMELESS SERVICES IN TARRANT & PARKER CO

LAUREN KING
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE HOMELESS COALITION

SECTION

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

CONTENTS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LEADERSHIP

GOAL 1: EFFECTIVE SYST

GOAL 2: DATA DRIVEN

GOAL 3: HOUSING FOCI

GOAL 4: ENGAGED COM

GOAL 5: COMMITTED RI

ON THE HORIZON

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1

Outreach Teams Join Together

Outreach is a crucial part of the array of services provided by Continuum of Care partners. At its core, outreach brings assistance directly to those that need it, primarily people who live unsheltered that may not access services offered through traditional outlets. Our homeless services community boasts five outreach teams that offer a multitude of services from medical to behavioral health to housing assessments.

As part of the COVID-19 response, all outreach teams are joining together one day each week to canvas the area in an

attempt to interact with as many people as possible. Bringing services to people where they are has never been more important. Vital medical screenings are performed and those needing further assistance can immediately be referred to the JPS medical clinic at True Worth Place or the hospital for further care. MHMR conducts behavioral health screenings and can refer clients needing further treatment to their facilities. In addition, housing assessments are conducted in the field to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to potentially match for housing as quickly as possible.

Street Outreach has never been more crucial than right now. By offering a comprehensive suite of services throughout the community, we can ensure that we are meeting the needs of all our clients, regardless of where they call home.



Future Focus

- Build on Leadership Report to provide shorter, more frequent updates.
- Deskside Briefings to share information about policies impacting homelessness.

STRATEGY: GRASSROOTS OUTREACH

The Homeless Coalition, with the CoC Governance Committee is working to create a comprehensive community education and engagement campaign. This campaign will be engaging, innovative, relevant and locally-focused and will seek to inform the community at-large about how they can impact the issue of homelessness. Additionally, the campaign will prompt people to action, growing the community volunteer and donor base for all partners involved. By joining in the campaign to reduce and end homelessness, community members can become a powerful force for change. Each person can play a role in the community solution to end homelessness by contributing in ways that meet needs.

Top five ways people can impact homelessness:

1. Donate

Give financially to the organization of your choice. By giving directly to an established organization you will ensure that the resources are used in the way they are most needed at that time.

2. Give Items

The Homeless Coalition encourages community members to give to organizations in three primary areas: providing goods to outreach teams; strengthening the safety net by giving to emergency shelters; and providing welcome baskets to housing programs who are moving people off the streets and into a place to call home.

3. Volunteer

People can also give their time to a partner organization who uses volunteer people power to accomplish their mission. Get in touch with one of our partners to find out how you can best serve.

4. Say Yes to Affordable Housing Development

People can be involved in the solution to homelessness by saying yes to affordable housing development in their neighborhood. You can help dispel myths and educate people on why everyone should have a place to call home.

5. Membership

The Homeless Coalition, with the CoC, will be launching a membership campaign in 2020. Community people and groups can show their support for the issue of homelessness by becoming a member of the Coalition. Look for more information coming this fall.



Future Focus

- Create speakers bureau to get advocates in front of key audiences
- Hold community workshops with targeted groups, likely will start virtually

STRATEGY: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In conjunction with education efforts, the Homeless Coalition will launch a membership campaign this spring, giving people a concrete way to show support for the issue. Additionally, organizations will have the opportunity to join and become a vetted member of the Continuum of Care. Initiating a membership campaign has two primary purposes: to build consensus and buy in for community efforts around homelessness and to provide additional supportive services to both the community at-large and partner organizations.

SAMPLE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Member organizations receive invitations to be voting members on CoC subcommittees



Member organizations receive discounts on case manager and community training programs



Members can advertise their employment and volunteer opportunities through the Homeless Coalition



Member organizations receive first access to trainings offered through the Homeless Coalition



Case Managers receive access to available housing properties through Padmission

Future Focus

- Launch membership opportunity to support the issue of homelessness
- Focus community education campaign on issues that impact public health and safety of people experiencing homelessness

GOAL 5: COMMITTED RESOURCES

Maximize resources by strengthening community support



Strategies



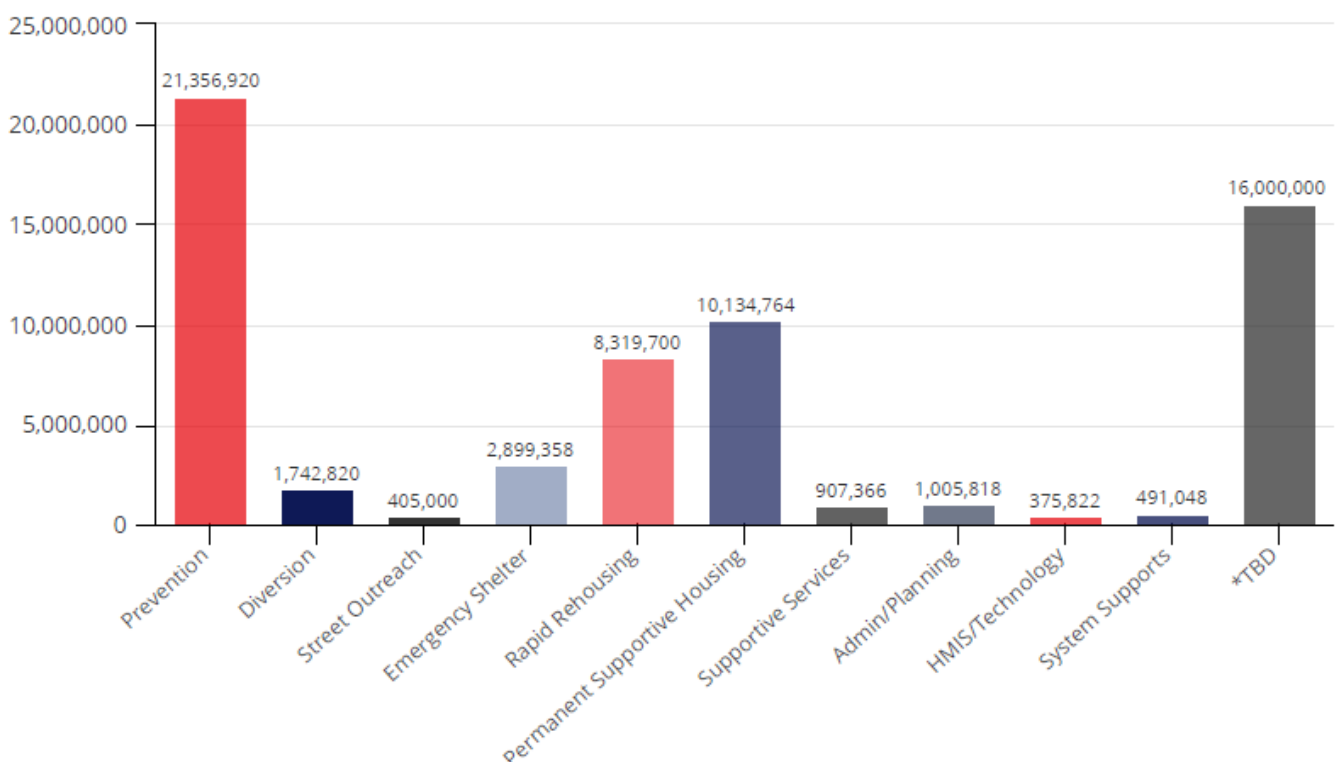
STRATEGY: PERFORMANCE DRIVEN

The Continuum of Care has a finite amount of resources to utilize at any given time, making it imperative that existing resources are used efficiently to maximize their impact and affect real change. Of equal importance is seeking out and investing in interventions that produce results.

Currently, the vast majority of our system of care funding comes from HUD. This is critical support, and we should not leave money on the table, but we cannot solely rely on these dollars alone to support needed interventions. Our community must have a clear understanding of how much of each intervention we need to create flow in our system of care and invest resources accordingly.

CARES funding has created incredible opportunity for our system of care, with an unprecedented amount of funding available for homeless services. Municipalities have worked closely with the Homeless Coalition and CoC to ensure coordinated investment planning, maximizing resources to meet identified system needs. This coordination allows us to continue to meet emergency needs and house as many people as quickly as possible.

System Investment- As of June 30, 2020



***TBD:** Includes EFSP Phase 37, EFSP CARES, CARES ESG Phase II (approximately \$14M)

Future Focus

- Develop & incorporate metrics to identify populations at risk for mortality
- Review of best and emerging practices from around the nation through participation in learning collaboratives and conferences
- Needs and Gaps analysis through system review, case manager survey and system mapping

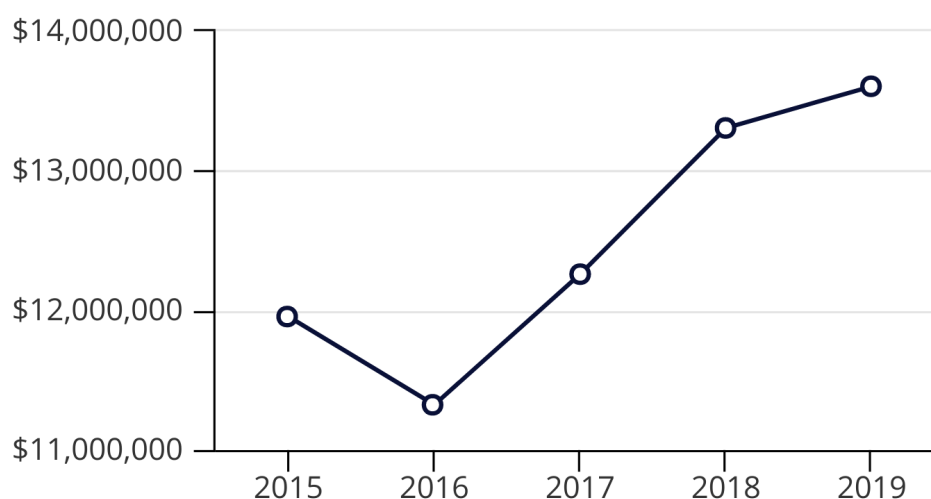
STRATEGY: CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The Homeless Coalition is focused on continuous quality improvement and seeks to improve the provision of services with an emphasis on future results and performance. Using our data to understand interventions and uncover any existing problems allows us to address issues and maintain quality as we move forward. To ensure continuous quality management within our system of care, the Homeless Coalition has implemented a monitoring plan that demonstrates an intentional and systematic approach to improving program performance. We measure and review progress in HUD compliance and achieving project goals established by the program and the CoC Board of Directors. Monitoring program performance ensures all programs in our community are making positive impact and helping our community move toward agreed upon goals. The table below details information reviewed during routine monitoring.

Success for One is Success for All

In its role as the collaborative applicant, the Homeless Coalition is tasked with ensuring that all programs are meeting goals and performing up to standards. We look at this with not only one program in mind, but also for the greater good of the community. When our programs perform well, our community performs well and our collaborative application to HUD for housing funding is stronger. Over the past three years, our community's score has increased, improving our rank against other CoCs across the nation. An increased score also equates to additional funds flowing into our community for housing interventions, including the opportunity to launch new programs.

Continuum of Care Grant Awards

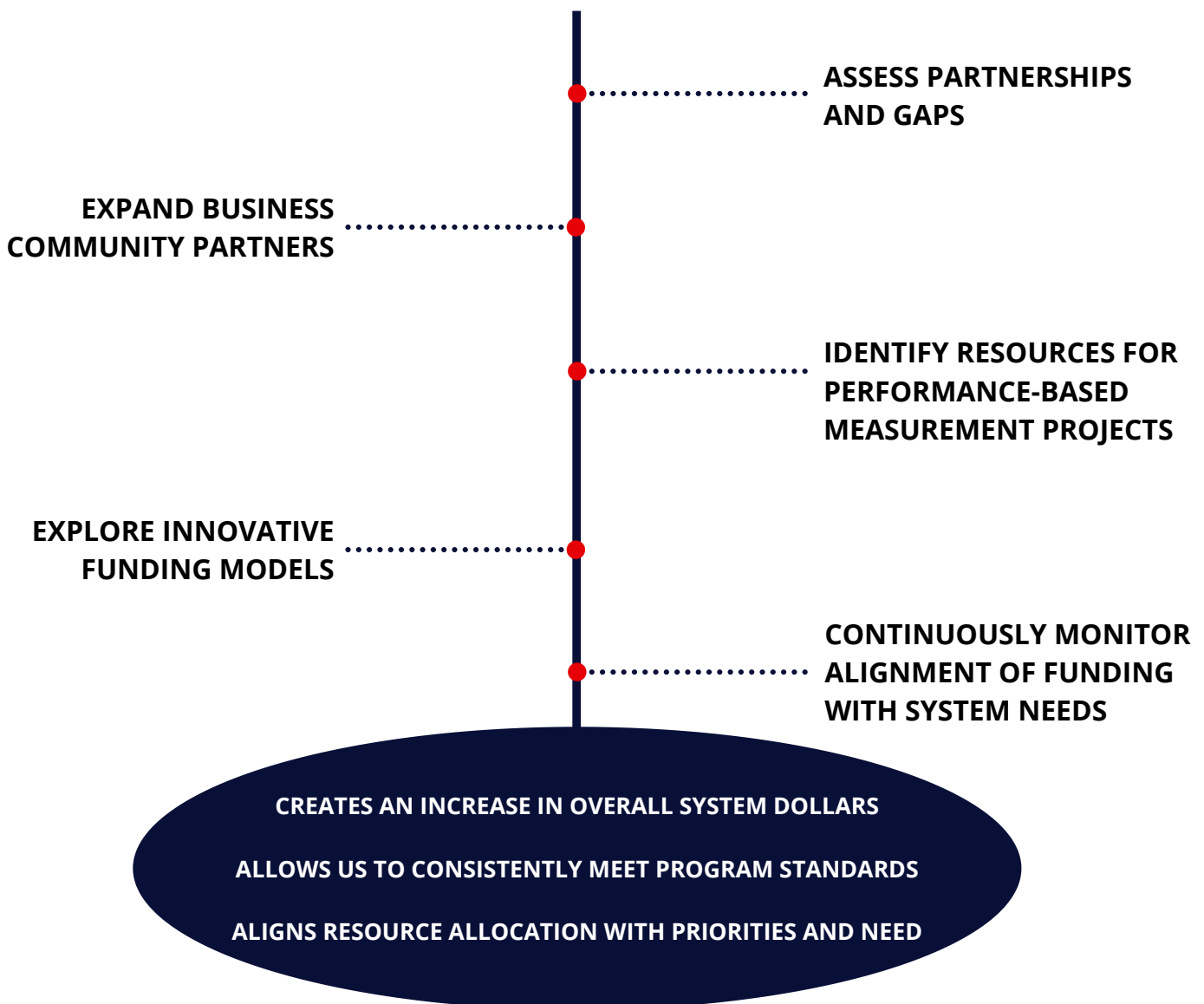


Future Focus

- Implement monitoring plans for programs
- Increase use of self-sufficiency matrix by programs to measure client well-being outcomes
- Conduct annual focus groups to measure client satisfaction with case management and housing and program choices

STRATEGY: EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES

As previously mentioned, HUD and its funding are not going to solve homelessness for our community. It will take additional resources and new partnerships that expand opportunities to address homelessness from a variety of directions and interventions. To successfully complete this expansion and look at new ways to address homelessness our community must inventory existing partnerships; assess those partnerships and any gaps that exist; identify opportunities to expand business community partnerships; identify resources for performance-based measurement projects; explore innovative funding models; and continuously monitor alignment of funding with system needs and provide feedback accordingly. These efforts will lead to an increase in overall systems dollars, increase the number of programs meeting performance standards and shift resource allocation to align with priorities and system needs.



Future Focus

- Community collaborative grants: Increase collaborative grant funding applications
- Local planning collaboration: collaboration with local municipalities and funders
- Business: identify opportunities to expand business community partnerships

APPENDICES

History, Scope, and Geography

The McKinney-Vento Act was signed into law by President Reagan in 1987 and was the first of its kind, on a national level, to address homelessness. Twenty-two years later, the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Actxi) was signed into law in 2009 by President Obama to provide additional resources and opportunities for communities to address the issue of homelessness. The HEARTH Act expanded the definition of homelessness and combined several HUD (Housing and Urban Development) programs into a single Continuum of Care program. The HEARTH Act mandates that communities quantify the level of need in their area and the effectiveness of community-wide interventions. The Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count) accomplishes both of these tasks.

Reports have been issued on the extent and characteristics of the homeless population in Tarrant County since 1994. Early reports were published by Tarrant County Homeless Coalition with staffing support provided by Tarrant County Community Development Division. These reports relied on counts conducted inside shelters, limited canvassing of the unsheltered by volunteers, and estimation methods.

Counts and surveys have been completed in:

1994	2006	2014	2019
1997	2007	2015	2020
2000	2009	2016	
2002	2011	2017	
2004	2013	2018	

The 2007 count was the first to utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and include a robust “street count” in Arlington. Parker County has been included in the PIT count since 2014. The cities of Arlington and Fort Worth both utilized the 2007 count as baseline data for their respective ten-year plans. Subsequent PIT counts have utilized both HMIS to enumerate people sleeping inside shelters and volunteers to canvas areas within Tarrant and Parker Counties to count people who were sleeping unsheltered.

Terms used in Report

Bed Utilization

An indicator of whether shelter beds are occupied on a night or over a period of time.

Consumer

An individual or family or has or is currently experiencing homelessness.

Continuum of Care

The work of ending homelessness in a community is carried out by a Continuum of Care—the collective networks, institutions, and organizations that provide housing and services to people who are experiencing homeless. Each Continuum of Care (or, “CoC”) serves a designated geography and is responsible for: operating the Continuum of Care, administering an HMIS (Homeless Management Information System); 3) planning for the CoC; and, 4) applying for competitive CoC Program funding from HUD.

Each Continuum of Care appoints an entity (or entities) to lead its strategic, administrative, and information technology efforts. Locally, the Fort Worth/ Arlington/ Tarrant County Continuum of Care (also known by its HUD designation, “TX-601”) has selected Tarrant County Homeless Coalition to serve as its “Lead Agency”, “HMIS Administrator”, and “Collaborative Applicant”. The service area of TX-601 includes Tarrant and Parker Counties.

Continuum of Care Strategic Plan

A plan identifying the CoC goals and objectives, action steps, performance targets, etc. and serves as a guide for the CoC development and performance improvement related to preventing and ending homelessness. This may be the same as or different than a community's "Ten Year Plan" or other community-wide plan to prevent and end homelessness and may be generated by the CoC lead decision making group or another community-planning body. If the CoC follows a regional or statewide 10 year or other plan to prevent and end homelessness, the CoC strategic plan would be the CoC's specific goals and objectives, action steps and timelines to support the regional or statewide plan.

Chronic Homelessness

HUD defines chronic homelessness as an individual with a disabling condition who has lived in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven or an emergency shelter and has been homeless for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the past 3 years as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months. xii

Unaccompanied Youth

Minors up to the age of 24 not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, including those in inadequate housing such as shelters, cars or on the streets. Includes those who have been denied housing by their families and young mothers with no housing options of their own.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The Federal agency responsible for national policy and programs that address America's housing needs that improve and develop the Nation's communities and enforce fair housing laws. HUD's business is helping create a decent home and suitable living environment for all Americans and it has given America's cities a strong national voice at the Cabinet level.

Definitions of Homelessness

The Federal Government has five definitions of homelessness that approach living situations in different ways. This report primarily relies on Categories 1 and 4 of the HEARTH Act definition of homelessness. Included in these definitions are families living in places not intended for human habitation, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The table below has detailed descriptions of each category.

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
Literally Homeless	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes	Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence
<i>Living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or exiting an institution where they temporarily resided if they were in shelter or a place not meant for human habitation before entering the institution</i>	<i>Losing primary nighttime residence, including a motel or hotel or a doubled-up situation, within 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing</i>	<i>Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state</i>	<i>Fleeing or attempting to flee DV, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening situations related to violence; have no other residence; and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing</i>
January 24, 2019 Tarrant and Parker County 2,028	2018 Tarrant and Parker County 1,593	2017-2018 School Year Tarrant and Parker County 4,908	January 24, 2019 Tarrant and Parker County 252
PIT Count	Prevention and Diversion	McKinney-Vento (cite TEA)	PIT Count

Housing Types

This report employs HUD terminology to describe where people were sleeping on the night of the count. A distinction is drawn between persons sleeping in permanent housing that is operated by the Continuum of Care—where the tenant typically has a lease in their name—and other places people sleep that fit the definition of homelessness. The housing types include:

Housing Type	Description	Homeless or Permanent Housing
Unsheltered (UN)	Includes people living in places not intended for human habitation, such as in cars, vacant lots/ buildings, under bridges, or in the woods	Homeless
Emergency Shelter (ES)	Are intended for short-term lodging and crisis relief; TX-601 ES include: ACH Child & Family Services, Arlington Life Shelter, Center for Transforming Lives, Presbyterian Night Shelter, <u>SafeHaven</u> of Tarrant County, The Salvation Army – Arlington, The Salvation Army <u>Mabee</u> Center, Union Gospel Mission	Homeless
Transitional Housing (TH)	Programs provide time-limited rental assistance (\leq 2-years) and supportive services geared toward self-sufficiency and independence	Homeless
Rapid Exit (RE)	Rapid Exit provides one time, limited financial assistance to those with income potential and minimal barriers to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing	Permanent Housing
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	PSH combines rental assistance and a package of robust supportive services tailored to the needs of tenants with complex and often compound barriers to getting and keeping housing	Permanent Housing
Rapid Re-housing (RRH)	RRH provides short- and mid-term rental assistance intervention to help people quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing	Permanent Housing
<u>Safe Haven</u> (SH)	Safe Havens are small facilities that provide permanent housing for persons with severe and persistent mental illness. Locally, the only Safe Haven facility is operated by the Presbyterian Night Shelter—and should not be confused with the organization, <u>SafeHaven</u> of Tarrant County which provides ES for victims of domestic violence.	Permanent Housing
Permanent Housing (PH)	<p>The HUD definition of Permanent Housing (PH) is defined as community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible. The <u>CoC</u> Program funds two types of permanent housing: RRH & PSH</p> <p>PH may also be defined as community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible. This housing includes a rental subsidy but does not include supportive services. PH is often administered by local Public</p>	Permanent

	Housing Authorities in the form on Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to serving homeless populations.	
Shared Housing	Consists of a single housing unit occupied by an assisted family sharing a unit with other persons assisted under the housing choice voucher program or with other unassisted persons. The unit contains both a common space for use by the occupants of the unit and separate private space for each assisted family. For example, People who have a roommate are said to be living in "shared housing."	Permanent
Other Permanent Housing (OPH)	OPH is long-term housing not considered as permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing. OPH consists of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) PH: Housing with Services providing long-term housing and supportive services for homeless persons, but no disability is required for entry 2) PH: Housing Only providing long-term housing for homeless persons, but do not offer supportive services as part of the project. 	Permanent

Point in Time Count

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that local Continuums of Care conduct an annual point-in-time count of the homeless in the last ten days of the month of January. The local count was held on January 24, 2019. "PIT Count" requirements derive from the HEARTH Act and are described in the Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule (CoC Interim Rule xiii). Further guidance for local Continuums is provided in HUD Methodology Guides xiv and Notices xv. Tarrant County Homeless Coalition developed the 2019 PIT Count methods to conform with HUD requirements and align with best practices.

Methodology

Sheltered PIT Count Methods

The TX-601 Homeless Management Information System was used to conduct the sheltered PIT count of homeless individuals and families who were spending the night of January 24, 2019 in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. The data was reviewed to the client record level to ensure de- duplication with personal identifiers. Additionally, bed stays, enrollments and exit data is reviewed for accuracy for the night of the PIT Count. HMIS data meets the required HUD data standards and produces comprehensive PIT Count data.

Organizations that are not "Contributing HMIS Organizations" (CHOs) are provided templates to gather all required PIT Count data. Each non-CHO has an HMIS-equivalent data system that can provide universal data elements and de-duplication methods to ensure an accurate count. This methodology was selected due to its HUD compliance and reliability. HMIS staff review HUD guidance to ensure the data is at the highest quality and is compared against prior year data to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Unsheltered PIT Count Methods

During the night of the unsheltered PIT Count, TX-601 canvassed as much of the CoC geography as possible with the available volunteers. TX-601 produces PIT Count route-maps that are prioritized

with the aid of street outreach workers and law enforcement so that routes with known and suspected encampments are covered before volunteers are dispatched to canvass routes with no known or suspected encampments. 550+ volunteers in teams of 2-5 persons participated in the blitz count, deploying at the same time from five locations after all shelters had ceased intake.

Duplicated data is prevented by utilizing personal identifying information, conducting the blitz count, and interviewing those who were willing to volunteer their information. All volunteers return their results on the night of the count which ended at approximately 2:00 am.

Starting in 2019, TX-601 utilized a mobile application that allowed volunteers to conduct the voluntary client surveys directly from their smart phones. The app allowed for full interviews as well as for collecting observation level data. Additionally, the app permitted for faster and more accurate data collection, complete data sets with improved data quality and possibilities for enhanced data analysis. The technology allowed for GPS tracking which led to more accurate location plotting, removing a barrier to follow up by street outreach staff.

Limitations

While significant efforts were undertaken to ensure the 2020 PIT count was as comprehensive and accurate as possible, limitations include but are not limited to concerns about the completeness of the dataset. Tarrant and Parker Counties total 1,807 square miles (1.16M acres). Although the 550+ volunteers and nearly 100 police officers who assisted with the 2019 count were able to canvass a significant portion of the CoC geography—including all the highest priority count routes—geographic coverage was not 100%.

Data captured in the HMIS and in the street count relies on self-reports from the person being surveyed and has not necessarily been verified by an expert such as a clinician in the case of a mental illness or an official with the VA in the case of Veteran status. While training is provided to everyone who has access to HMIS and to the volunteers who conduct the surveys, implementation is not uniform. Participation in the unsheltered count is voluntary; therefore, not all data elements were captured for each person counted.

Periodic changes in regulations, programs, definitions, and HMIS software mitigate absolute year-to-year comparisons of some data. For example, the definition of chronic homelessness changed in both 2010 and 2016; however, the data published, retained and assessed by HUD and presented in this report reflect the definitions in place at the time that the counts were taken.

Lastly, point-in-time counts are a snapshot of a single, January night. Weather conditions alone can impact both volunteer turnout and the number of people sleeping outside in both positive and negative directions. While imperfect, the PIT count remains a requirement for federal funding and has utility as a national and local benchmark.

Data Sources for Report

Annual Point in Time Count (PIT)

The PIT Count is a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required activity for communities receiving HUD funding.^{xvi} The PIT Count provides a one day snapshot on the number of persons who are literally homeless. The 2019 PIT Count occurred on January 23, 2020.

Housing Inventory Count

Like the PIT Count, the HIC is required by HUD and occurs on the same day. The HIC gives us a one day snapshot of the number of beds dedicated to serving the homeless in our community. Beds included in State of the Homeless Report 2020 from the HIC are emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, safe haven, and other permanent housing programs.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Reporting

Various HMIS data pulls were used throughout this report. Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) is the local HMIS system which is used to collect client-level data and statistics on the provision of housing and services provided to homeless individuals.

Client Focus Groups

During the months of December and January, Homeless Coalition staff conducted client focus groups at emergency shelters and outreach locations. 12 focus groups were completed and consisted of standard questions for each group. Groups ranged in size, but generally had fewer than 12 participants in each group to facilitate meaningful discussion. Responses were recorded and used to assist in community analysis of needs and gaps.

Data Charts

Total Homeless Population

Year	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Total	Annual Change
2020	803	1,118	20	185	2,126	+5%
2019	560	1,263	20	185	2,028	+0.6%
2018	678	1,228	20	89	2,015	+5%
2017	390	1,294	20	220	1,924	--

Homeless Geographic Distribution

Location	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Total	Percent of Total	Annual Change
Fort Worth	637	1,024	20	169	1,850	87%	+5%
Arlington	91	94	0	16	201	9%	-16%
NE Tarrant	42	0	0	0	42	2%	+133%
Parker County	33	0	0	0	33	2%	+200%
Total	803	1,118	20	185	2,126		

Homeless Demographics

Race	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Total	Percent of Total
Black/African American	195	597	7	95	894	48%
White	323	482	9	89	903	49%
Asian	3	5	4	1	13	0.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	12	7	0	0	19	1%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	4	4	0	0	8	0.3%

Ethnicity	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Total	Percent of Total
Hispanic	72	112	3	39	226	13%
Non-Hispanic	369	983	17	146	1,532	87%

Age	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Total	Percent of Total
Children Under 18	5	282	0	76	363	19%
Youth 18-24	27	54	0	23	104	5%
Adults 25 & Over	609	759	20	86	1,474	76%

Gender	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Total	Percent of Total
Male	437	642	10	101	1,190	61%
Female	181	475	10	84	750	39%
Transgender	3	1	0	0	4	0.2%

Unsheltered Homeless Population

Year	Fort Worth	Arlington	NE Tarrant	Parker County	Total	Annual Change
2020	637	91	42	33	803	+43%
2019	484	47	18	11	560	-17%
2018	604	53	13	8	678	+74%
2017	342	29	7	12	390	--

Emergency Shelter Homeless Population

Year	Fort Worth	Arlington	NE Tarrant	Parker County	Total	Annual Change
2020	1,024	94	0	0	1,118	-11%
2019	1,073	190	0	0	1,263	+3%
2018	1,074	154	0	0	1,228	-5%
2017	1,132	162	0	0	1,294	--

Safe Haven Homeless Population

Year	Fort Worth	Percentage of Total
2020	20	100%
2019	20	100%
2018	20	100%
2017	20	--

Transitional Housing Homeless Population

Year	Fort Worth	Arlington	NE Tarrant	Parker County	Total	Percentage of Total
2020	169	16	0	0	185	0%
2019	177	8	0	0	185	+108%
2018	89	0	0	0	89	-60%
2017	100	61	59	0	220	--

Rapid Rehousing Population

January 23, 2020	Total	Percentage of Total
Adults	356	45%
Children	427	55%

Permanent Supportive Housing Population

January 23, 2020	Total	Percentage of Total
Adults	1,016	84%
Children	196	16%

Homeless Veterans

Veterans	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Total	Percent of Total Homeless	Annual Change
2020	20	48	1	59	128	6%	-14%
2019	32	61	1	74	168	8%	+5%
2018	31	61	1	66	159	8%	--
Chronically Homeless	7	8	1	0	16	0.7%	-50%

ABOUT TCHC

Shared Community Vision

A vibrant community where every individual has a place to call home and the resources to live their best life.

Mission

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition leads the community solution to homelessness in Greater Tarrant and Parker counties by serving as a catalyst for community transformation.

TCHC Board Members

Matt Canedy, Chair	Paul Harral
Nathan Davis, Vice-Chair	Sonya Hutton
Tiffany Kutch, Secretary	Katie Jacobs
Tolbert Greenwood, Treasurer	Deborah Kratky
Devan Allen	Dr. Frank Lonergan
John Avila	Sergio Martinez
Amanda Cooper	Dr. DiAnn Sanchez
Christie Eckler	
Krystle Gandhi	