



Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

2018-2019 Annual Report



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH) provides leadership, accountability, and oversight to support a framework that addresses the causes of homelessness and increases access to stable housing in our community. As the lead agency for the Greater Kansas City Continuum of Care (CoC), we coordinate the efforts of more than 40 programs to provide shelter, services, and housing - making a difference in the lives of over 3,000 people annually who struggle with the experience of homelessness in their lives. In addition, we have at least 40 additional partners throughout the community with whom we work toward ensuring that homelessness is a rare, brief and nonrecurring experience in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

This report highlights the collaborative efforts of GKCCEH, our member programs, and numerous partners in the community during the period between January 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019, to address homelessness in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

In late 2016, the Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City (HSCGKC), merged with the Wyandotte Homeless Services Coalition, Inc. of Kansas to create the nonprofit Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH). GKCCEH now serves as the CoC lead agency for Wyandotte County, KS and Jackson County, MO (MO-604). Since that time, some successes of note include:

- A 34% decrease in the number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness;
- A 29% decrease in the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness;
- A 35% decrease in the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Through working together toward shared goals, the Greater Kansas City homeless Continuum of Care has improved our systemic response to homelessness:

- Providing shelter for 87% of those experiencing homelessness, as compared to a national average of 65%;
- Creating permanent housing solutions, including 537 rapid re-housing beds and 1,922 permanent supportive housing beds and successfully connecting 68% of households experiencing homelessness with permanent housing, as compared to a national average of 41.3%;
- Reducing returns to homelessness over a two-year period from 28% to 24%;
- Decreasing the average length of time that people experienced homelessness prior to finding permanent housing by 33%, from 354 days to 236 days;
- Supporting 95% of households in permanent housing projects in maintaining their housing; and

- Increasing the percentage of adults in CoC-funded programs who increase their total income from project start to project exit.

While the lives of many have improved due to coordinated action in the community, we recognize that there is more work to be done. We believe that by working together we can create a Kansas City where our neighbors:

- Are able to avoid the devastating impact of homelessness altogether by receiving timely services to assist in diverting away from homelessness, and
- Homelessness is a rare, brief, and non-recurring event, if encountered.

As we continue to work with the community to address and end homelessness, our key priorities include:

- Improving the Greater Kansas City Coordinated Entry System by diverting households from experiencing homelessness and more quickly connecting those who fall into homelessness with housing and supportive services;
- Developing and supporting housing retention programming and policies that prevent households from returning to homelessness;
- Supporting focused programs and services that address the specific and unique needs of youth and families;
- Developing strategies to address the systemic and structural inequities that perpetuate homelessness;
- Strengthening and expanding our partnerships in the community to address homelessness; and
- Assessing the needs of the community to develop a roadmap toward ending homelessness in the Great Kansas City region.

Executive Summary



This report highlights the collaborative efforts of GKCCEH, our member agencies, and numerous partners in the community in 2018-2019 to address homelessness in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Successes



The total number of unaccompanied youth **decreased 34%** between 2016 and 2019.



Veteran homelessness **decreased 44%** between 2014 and 2019.



Chronic homelessness has decreased 35% between 2016 and 2019.

Existing Need

1,877 individuals experiencing homelessness at a point in time.



This represents a **14.7% decrease** in the unsheltered count, and **13.8% increase** in the overall count over the 2018 census.



System Capacity

50+

members are collaborating as a part of Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

\$60 million+

in funding secured from federal, state, and private sources towards ending homelessness during 2018-2019

System Performance

Kansas City is **improving its system performance in 5 of 7 measures**, with significant improvements in **accessing housing and income** for persons experiencing homelessness.



Housing Stock

The homeless system of care in the region has about one emergency shelter **bed per 1.3 people** experiencing homelessness.



Increased overall homeless housing capacity **by 6%** from 2016 to 2019.

Key Initiatives in 2018-19



- Increasing Rapid Re-Housing
- Strengthening Coordinated Entry
- Reducing Homelessness among Veterans & Youth

Next Steps



- Improving Coordinated Entry System
- Racial equity analyses and trainings
- Building partnerships
- Needs assessment

INTRODUCTION

Mission and Vision

The work of the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH) advances the community's collaborative goal to prevent poverty and end homelessness through knowledge sharing, creative strategies, and community partnerships.

GKCCEH is the nonprofit lead agency of the Jackson County, MO and Wyandotte County, KS Continuum of Care - the regional planning body that coordinates housing and services programming and funding for homeless families and individuals. Our team of committed nonprofit professionals:

The mission of the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH) is *to provide leadership, accountability and oversight* in the Kansas City area to support a framework that *address the causes of homelessness* and *increase access to stable housing*.

- Collaborates with community stakeholders,
- Leads efforts to identify and prioritize vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness and connects them to available housing units,
- Promotes education about available resources for those experiencing homelessness, and
- Supports area agencies that desire to receive U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding through the yearly Continuum of Care Program Competition.

GKCCEH's team of committed nonprofit professionals and Coalition member programs work tirelessly to end homelessness in the Kansas City metropolitan area. GKCCEH partners with stakeholders in the community to provide a coordinated system to ensure that **anyone at-risk of or experiencing homelessness is connected as rapidly as possible to housing solutions, ensuring it is rare, brief, and nonrecurring in their lives.**

Role of GKCCEH

Our vision is to create a community where every person has access to housing as a platform upon which to build a healthy, stable and meaningful life.

GKCCEH partners and collaborates with over 80 programs in Kansas City, Independence, Lee's Summit, Jackson County, and Wyandotte County who are

working together to address housing and homelessness throughout the Kansas City metropolitan region. As the lead agency, GKCCEH provides strategic direction for homeless housing and services programs and coordinates key community initiatives to address and end homelessness.

Our role in the community includes:

- Advancing partnership and collaboration with housing providers, physical and behavioral health services providers, shelter providers, legal services organizations, employment and workforce development agencies, state and local governments, and other community leaders, to address the needs of our community's most vulnerable residents,
- Building capacity with local and federal resources,
- Implementing and managing community-wide initiatives,
- Implementing a Coordinated Entry System to prioritize and refer those at-risk of and experiencing homelessness to appropriate housing solutions,
- Coordinating the annual homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) census of all homeless individuals and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) of all housing and beds serving people experiencing homelessness,
- Oversight of a Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) which collects and aggregates client-level data regarding the provision of housing and services to those at risk of and experiencing homelessness,
- Coordinating HUD CoC funding and programmatic oversight to ensure that the community and homeless housing and services providers implement strong solutions to homelessness,
- Measuring and reporting outcomes through performance measures and evaluation efforts, allowing for the utilization of a community-wide, united and data-informed approach to improving outcomes and addressing homelessness, and
- Developing, providing and supporting ongoing education and training opportunities to end homelessness in the Kansas City community.

Methodology

Information for this report was gathered through both qualitative and quantitative methods. Homebase, a nationally-known nonprofit that has been providing public policy-oriented technical services to assist communities in developing effective responses to homelessness and poverty for more than 30 years, was contracted to complete this report. Homebase gathered information for this report from GKCCEH staff, member programs, and board members via two online surveys and interviews with key board members and providers. Data used for the report is from CoC data reported in the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX), an online data submission tool for reporting to HUD. Further data was collected via the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); the U.S. Census Bureau; the City of Kansas City, Missouri; The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas; the Missouri Housing Development Commission; and other online research.

Surveys of GKCCEH board members and member organizations via SurveyMonkey received responses from 23 programs and 5 board members. These surveys informed the focus and outline of the report as well as baseline information regarding funding and services to address homelessness in the region. In addition, interviews with four board members and two staff provided qualitative information regarding the homeless system of care and GKCCEH's role in addressing homelessness in the Greater Kansas City region.

Homelessness and housing instability take many forms and these challenges affect individuals and families with a diversity of life experiences. This report primarily uses the following components of the definition of homelessness developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants programs. Under this definition, a household who falls into any one of the following criteria are considered homeless:

1. An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including households living outside, in cars, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and some short institutional stays;
2. An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, or;
3. An individual or family who is fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

Other key terms that are used throughout the report whose definitions may be helpful are:¹

- **Chronically Homeless** is defined by HUD as:
 1. A “homeless individual with a disability,” as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:
 - (i) Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
 - (ii) Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (1)(i) of this definition continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (1)(i). Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility;
 2. An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, before entering that facility; or
 3. A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) or (2) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.
- A **Continuum of Care (CoC)** is a regional or local planning body that coordinates policies, strategies, activities, and housing and services funding to address and end homelessness for a defined geographic area set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A CoC is composed of representatives of relevant organizations in the geographic area, including nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and formerly homeless persons. Its work includes establishing a board to act on its behalf

¹ Definitions here are informed by: Code of Federal Regulations, Continuum of Care Program, Title 24, sec. 578.3.; and HUD Exchange: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>

and governance charter to document responsibilities, gathering and analyzing information to determine local needs of people experiencing homelessness and measure project and system-level performance, coordinating the implementation of a housing and service system that meets the needs of the individuals and families who experience homelessness in the area, and designing and implementing the process associated with applying for CoC Program funds.

- **Coordinated Entry (CE)** is a centralized process that coordinates community resources to efficiently serve people experiencing homelessness and prioritizes the most vulnerable households for available housing opportunities. CE standardizes the way individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness access, are assessed for, and are referred to and prioritized for the housing and services that they need for housing stability.
- A **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. Each Continuum of Care (CoC) is responsible for selecting a HMIS software solution that complies with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards.
- The **Housing Inventory Count (HIC)** is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve people experiencing homelessness (and, for permanent housing projects, were homeless at entry, per the HUD homeless definition), categorized by five Program Types: Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Rapid Re-housing, Safe Haven, and Permanent Supportive Housing. The HIC is conducted by CoCs annually during the last ten days in January.
- **Permanent Housing (PH)** within a CoC program is affordable community-based housing without a designated length of stay and includes both permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing. To be permanent housing, the program participant must be the tenant on a lease for a term of at least one year that is renewable and is terminable only for cause. The lease must be renewable for terms that are a minimum of one month long. HUD has determined that requiring a lease for a term of at least one year that is renewable and terminable only for cause, assists program participants in obtaining stability in housing, even when the rental assistance is temporary.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** is permanent housing that includes optional, voluntary supportive services tailored to the needs of each household. To be eligible for PSH, one adult or child in the household must have a documented disabling

condition. PSH typically serves the highest need homeless households who have the most barriers to permanent housing.

- The **Point-in-Time (PIT) count** is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness at least every other year (odd-numbered years). GKCCEH chooses to conduct this count every year. Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally and reported by CoCs into the national Homeless Data Exchange (HDX).
- **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)** assistance aims to help individuals or families who are homeless move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing through a combination of temporary, time-limited rental assistance and supportive services.
- **Safe Haven (SH)** is a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with a severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. HUD no longer funds new Safe Haven projects, although exiting SH projects can receive renewed funding as long as they meet HUD's compliance requirements.
- **Transitional Housing (TH)** provides housing and appropriate supportive services to those experiencing homelessness, with the goal to facilitate movement to self-sufficient, independent living in permanent housing within 24-months or less. TH often targets special populations, including youth, families, survivors of domestic violence, and consumers negatively affected by substance use.
- **Unaccompanied Youth** are persons under age 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as his/her child(ren). Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household.
- The **Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT)** is a brief screening instrument used for determining the placement of people experiencing homelessness into supportive housing. The tool provides a structured way of measuring an individual's vulnerability to continued instability. By rating an individual's level of functioning or severity of condition across 10 domains, a comprehensive assessment of vulnerability can be reached and then compared with vulnerability assessments of other people

experiencing homelessness. The assessment process entails a structured interview followed by completion of the rating scales. The tool is designed for use by service workers accustomed to interacting directly with individuals experiencing homelessness, and training is required to ensure reliable application of the tool. VAT allows providers to do two things: 1) develop an objective sense of an individual's vulnerability to continued instability, and 2) distinguish among the many adults experiencing homelessness in the community who have also had a vulnerability assessment.²

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS IN KANSAS CITY

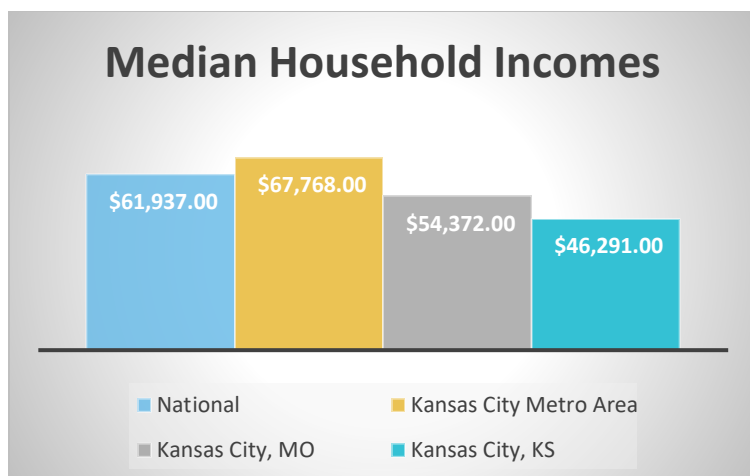
Despite a steady local economy with low overall unemployment, rising wages and no inflation during the time period covered by this report, there continue to be many residents in the Greater Kansas City region experiencing homelessness and on the verge of homelessness every year. Local volunteers counted close to 1,900 individuals experiencing homelessness on an extremely cold night in January 2019, during the annual Point-in-Time count. Given that this count is merely a snapshot of the situation, it is imperative that that our community continues to work on solutions that address and end homelessness.

Housing Affordability and Availability

Housing affordability in the Kansas City Metro area varies greatly between areas and across income-level. While the entire metro area's median household income of \$65,768 is slightly higher than the national median of \$61,937, the median incomes within the city limits of Kansas City, KS and Kansas City, MO are much lower, at \$46,291 and \$54,372.³

² <https://www.desc.org/what-we-do/vulnerability-assessment-tool/> and GKCCEH

³ 2018 Census Data for Kansas City Metro Area, Kansas, Missouri and United States; <https://censusreporter.org/profiles>



With 27.5% of households earning less than \$25,000 in Kansas City, the supply of affordable housing at 30% or less of household income does not meet the demand. According to Kansas City, Missouri's recent Five Year Housing Policy, average rental housing can range from \$600 per month in some areas to \$1,600 per month in downtown areas, with an undersupply of units at the lower range.⁴ In addition, the Kansas City metropolitan area has been found to have higher than average energy costs as a proportion of income, with low-income households facing an energy burden almost twice that of all households (8.5% versus 4.5%). In a study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, Kansas City was found to have the seventh highest energy burden of 48 of the largest US Metropolitan Statistical Areas – and the highest energy burden of ten Midwest cities.⁵ Along with limited affordable housing supply, this means that a large portion of residents across the metropolitan area struggle to afford a safe, warm home for themselves and their families.

A lack of affordable housing options for the community's most vulnerable residents means that thousands of households live on the brink of housing loss, and many become homeless for the first time each year. Individuals and families, adults and children, people with jobs, and those with severe disabling conditions all face challenges finding and retaining safe and stable housing in Kansas City.

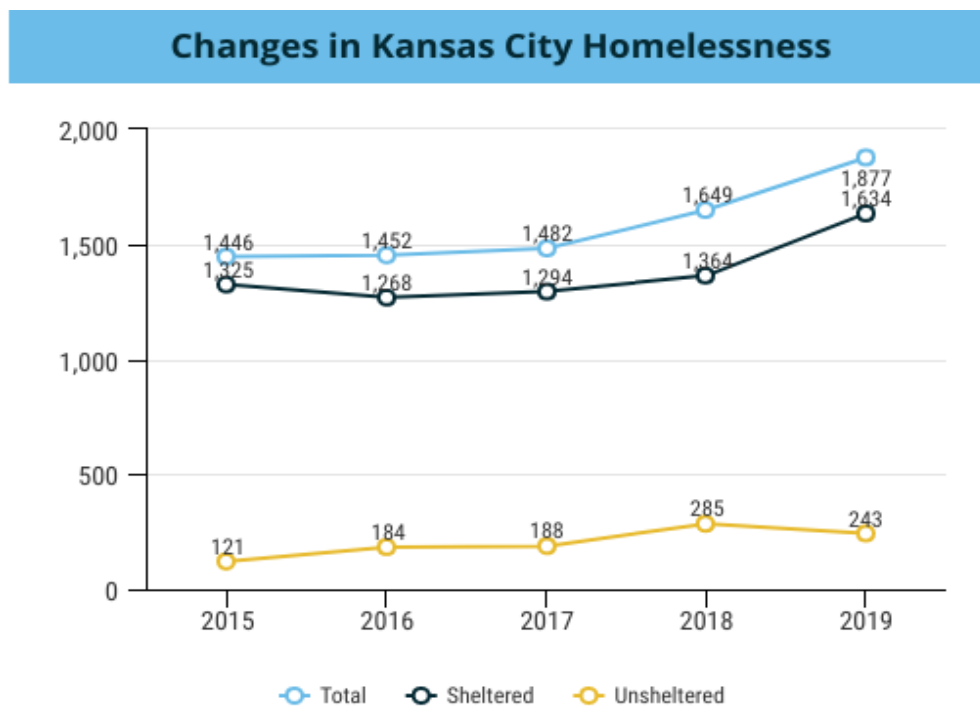
Homelessness in the Greater Kansas City Region

On any one night, close to 1,900 people experience homelessness in the Greater Kansas City region. While most of these residents are sheltered through local programs, the 2019 Point-in-Time count found that 13% (243 people, out of 1,877) of those counted were unsheltered – sleeping on the streets, in tents, or in vehicles. This count identified 197 family households

⁴ Kansas City, MO Five Year Housing Policy; <https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/departments/neighborhoods-housing-services/five-year-housing-policy>

⁵ American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE); "Lifting the High Energy Burden in America's Largest Cities," April 2016.

(with at least one adult and one child) with 576 persons, including 373 children under the age of 18, 68 unaccompanied children under the age of 18, 84 transition aged youth (18-24), and 1,167 single adults (over age 24). Homelessness affects people of all ages, family compositions, and stages of life, and from each of the diverse communities within our community. To address the needs of our most vulnerable residents, the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness works together with our community partners and program participants to provide leadership, coordination, planning, and mobilization of resources to ensure that homelessness is prevented whenever possible and brief and non-recurring when not.



Source: 2015-2019 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Data accessed via HDX.

During the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count on January 30, 2019, more than 150 volunteers scanned the region and surveyed those staying in emergency and transitional shelter, identifying 1,877 people experiencing homelessness. This was an increase of 13.8% as compared to the Point-in-Time count on January 24, 2018. Trends over the past five years indicate increasing numbers of people experiencing homelessness in the region, which may be attributed to an escalating housing crisis with costs going up while supply of affordable housing struggles to meet community needs.



Homelessness in Kansas City



The January 30, 2019 Point In Time Census found that...



1,877

people were experiencing homelessness



13.8%

increase from 2018 Point-In-Time Census



1,233

were adults without children



576

people in households with adults and children



68

unaccompanied children



243

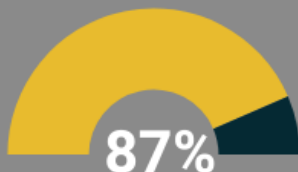
people were living outside, unsheltered



14.7%

decrease from 2018 Point-In-Time Census

Homeless Subpopulations



367

were adults with serious mental illness



453

were adults with a substance use disorder



89

were unaccompanied youth



256

were adult survivors of domestic violence



112

were veterans



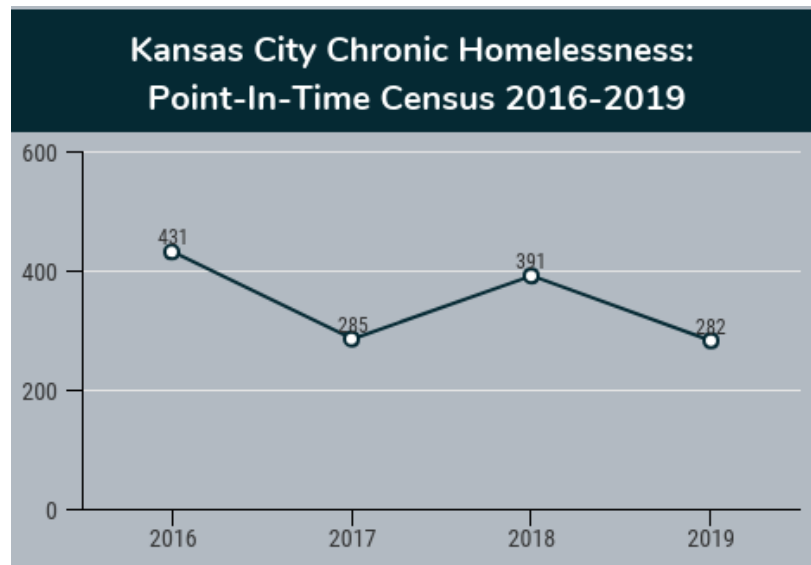
282

were chronically homeless



Homebase

ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS



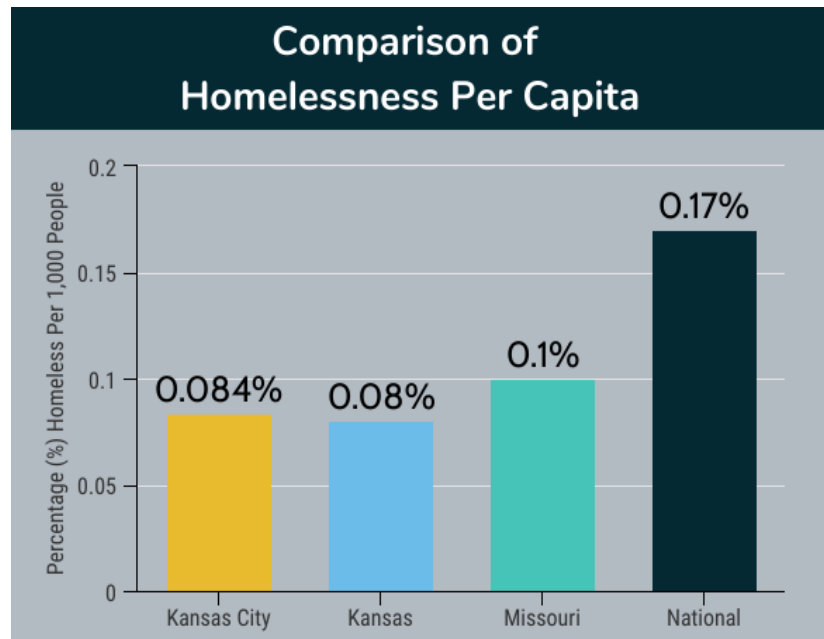
The data also reflects positive trends:

- 87% of those experiencing homelessness were sheltered in local programs in 2019, versus 82% in 2018;
- Fewer people overall were sleeping outside - 243 in 2019 versus 285 in 2018;
- The average length of time that households experienced homelessness prior to finding permanent housing decreased by a third, from 354 nights to 236 nights; and
- Those experiencing chronic homelessness (longer than one year or four or more times in the last three years) decreased by 35%.

People experiencing homelessness represent .084% of Kansas City's population. In comparison, homelessness in the region is **50% less than the national average of .17%** and about 6.7% less than the combined average in the states of Kansas and Missouri.⁶

These numbers are indicators that the work being done in the Greater Kansas City region to address homelessness is having a positive impact – providing safe emergency and transitional shelter when necessary and making the experience of homelessness as brief as possible.

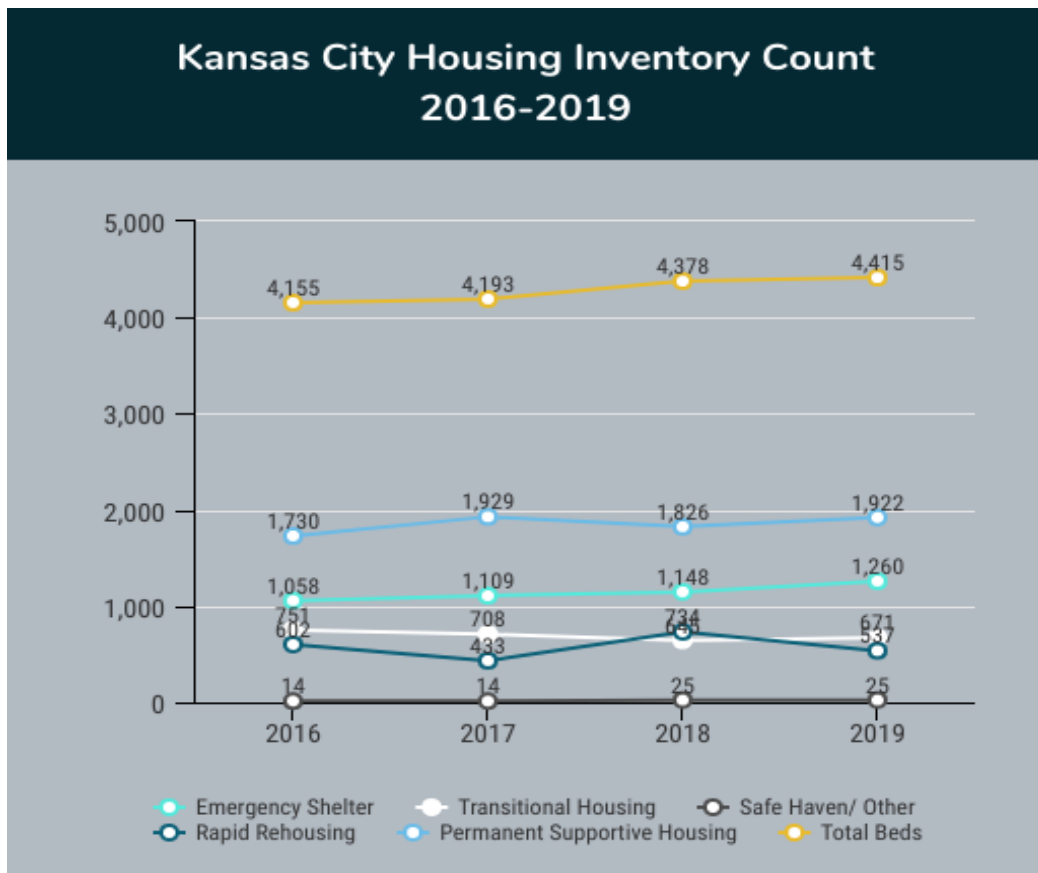
⁶ From 2018 PIT numbers for MO-604 CoC, Kansas, Missouri and United States; <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5783/2018-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us/>; and 2018 Census Data for Kansas City Metro Area, Kansas, Missouri and United States; <https://censusreporter.org/profiles>



Resources to Address Homelessness

Stable and affordable housing, emergency shelter, and support services for housing retention are keys to solving homelessness in the Greater Kansas City region. While many households that fall into homelessness are able to quickly resolve their housing crisis, many others face steep barriers to regaining housing stability, such as physical and mental health issues, experiences of trauma, extremely low or fixed incomes, and discrimination. To address these urgent needs, the member programs of the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness provide a range of emergency and transitional shelter, supportive housing, and homelessness prevention services throughout the area. With these robust services, the system of care in the region has about one temporary shelter bed per person experiencing homelessness (2019 PIT/ HIC numbers) and provides 2,459 permanent supportive housing units and rapid rehousing subsidies nightly.⁷

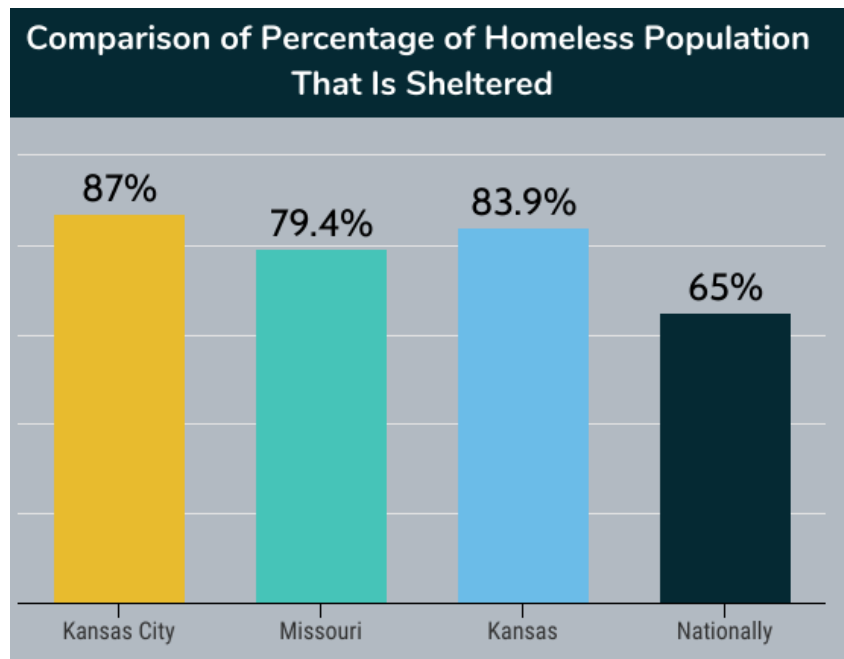
⁷ MO-604 2019 Housing Inventory Count and 2019 Point-in-Time Count



Providers of housing and services for persons experiencing homelessness are the key to responding directly to homelessness in Kansas City. Through their efforts, there has been a **6% increase in overall homeless housing capacity in Kansas City from 2016 to 2019**, including:

- **7% more temporary shelter capacity** (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven), and
- **5% more permanent housing capacity** (permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing).

In addition, the number of **beds dedicated to chronically homeless persons increased from 524 to 1,685, a 222% increase**. In the same period, Missouri overall decreased housing capacity by 1% with decreases in shelter and transitional housing and moderate increases in permanent housing solutions.



Homeless housing and shelter are also effective at meeting their goals:

- **Emergency Shelter:** In the Kansas City metropolitan area, 87% (1634 of 1877) of homeless individuals were housed in shelter in 2019 including 58% of chronically homeless individuals. By comparison, 79.4% of homeless individuals were sheltered in Missouri, 83.9% were sheltered in Kansas, and only 65% were sheltered nationwide.
- **Rapid Re-Housing:** In 2019, this community had 537 active rapid re-housing beds. At the end of FY2019 (3/31/19), rapid re-housing resources had served 949 people, including over 600 members of families with children, 88 unaccompanied youth, 192 vets, and 99 chronically homeless individuals. Of the 537 rapid re-housing beds, 20% (105) were dedicated to families with children.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** In FY2018, 43.5% of beds in the homeless system of care were permanent supportive housing beds. Those beds served 1644 households during the year and maintained a 95% housing retention rate.
- **Shelter and Housing Capacity:** Overall capacity to shelter and house those experiencing or who have experienced homelessness in Kansas City has increased by 20% during the past five years. The community has continued this trend from FY2018 to FY2019, increasing the total number of shelter and housing beds documented in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) from 4,378 in FY2018 to 4,415 in FY2019 (9.75% increase), improving our ability to connect people with solutions to end homelessness.

PARTNERING TO END HOMELESSNESS

The Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness works together with a continuum of agencies and programs who systematically address homelessness throughout the region. Through partnering across agencies and systems to prevent homelessness when possible, the stakeholders provide a crisis response system for households experiencing homelessness and support people in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing solutions. As a result, the community is having a tangible impact on the lives of our most vulnerable residents. While this impact can be heard and seen qualitatively in the lives of our neighbors, data shows the story of what is working and where efforts can be more focused in our system of care.

System Performance Measures

How We Know Kansas City Is Effective at Responding to Homelessness

The federal government has identified seven metrics to assess the impact of the homeless response system in the United States. These performance measures are designed to assist both the federal government and local communities in measuring the overall impact that each community is making on preventing and ending homelessness locally. These measures complement and balance one another and indicate a larger picture of how the system is working together to move toward ending homelessness. They are indicators of how a system is both reducing the number of people becoming homeless and helping people to become quickly and stably housed – resulting in reducing and eventually eliminating homelessness.

How Federal System Performance Measures Complement Each Other



The Community is Succeeding at Responding to Homelessness

Overall Performance: How Many People Experienced Homelessness in Kansas City?

The summary measure of a community's success in preventing and ending homelessness, the total number of people counted as experiencing homelessness, **increased from 2017/18 to 2018/19** in the Greater Kansas City CoC.

- The January 2018 Point-In-Time census identified 1,649 people experiencing homelessness which increased to 1,877 January 2019 - an increase of 14%.
- Likewise, annual service data from HMIS, which counts the total unduplicated annual count of persons who are sheltered by the homeless system of care, indicated 1,574 persons were served in 2017, which increased to 2,170 in 2018 - an increase of 38%. In the same time period, though, more shelter beds were opened, so there was a higher capacity to serve, not just a higher demand for service.

First Time Homeless: How Effective Is Kansas City at Preventing Homelessness?

The measure of first-time homelessness tells us about the success of the system of care at preventing homelessness before it begins. While more people experienced homelessness for the first time more recently, **Kansas City's performance is still better than the national average.**

- In 2017, 59% (1,788 out of 3,010) of entries into emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing or permanent housing were experiencing homelessness for the first time in the Greater Kansas City area. In 2018, the percentage of first time homeless increased to 66%.
- Nationally, 76% of people reported as experiencing homelessness had not had a prior entry to the homeless system within the previous 24 months.

This measure can be improved by ensuring that homelessness prevention projects are targeted and evidence-based.

Returns to Homelessness from Permanent Housing: How Effective Is Kansas City at Maintaining Housing for People Recovering from Homelessness?

This measure reflects the success of the system and ending homelessness for a household permanently. Kansas City is **improving its performance, reducing returns to homelessness**, but **has a higher level of returns to homelessness than the national average.**

- In 2018, the Greater Kansas City CoC reported a 24% total return to homelessness rate over a 2-year period for all persons who exited to a permanent housing destination. This was an improvement from 2017 when the return rate was 28%.
- Still, Kansas City's return to homelessness rate is higher than the most recent national average of 19.5%.

To continue to improve this indicator, the community can adjust our placement processes and diversify placement options to ensure that people are placed in sustainable housing and provide follow-up support to households to assist with housing retention.

Length of Time Homeless: How Quickly Does Kansas City House People Experiencing Homelessness?

This measure shows how quickly the system of care resolves homelessness for people in the community. **Kansas City reduced the length of time that people experienced homelessness during the report period, although its performance is higher than the national average.**

- The average number of days that participants enrolled in emergency shelter, safe haven and transitional housing programs in the Greater Kansas City CoC experienced homelessness in 2017 was 207 days and in 2018 was 193 days.
- In addition, the average length of time that households experienced homelessness prior to finding permanent housing decreased from 354 days to 236 days from 2017 to 2018, a 33% decrease.
- However, 193 days is still 28% higher than the national average of 151 days.⁸

This measure can be improved by prioritizing chronically homeless or others with long lengths of time homeless for permanent housing, which is currently being done through the CoC's Coordinated Entry System assessment.

Successful Placement in Permanent Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness: How Successful is Kansas City at Ending a Household's Homelessness?

This measure shows how many homeless households find permanent housing. **Kansas City has been very successful at helping people access permanent housing.**

⁸ MO-604M data from HUD HDX 1.0; National data from National Summary of Homeless System Performance 2015-2017; <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/National-Summary-of-Homeless-System-Performance-2015-2017.pdf>

- For those in emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing and rapid rehousing, the percentages of successful exits to permanent housing were 61% in 2017 and 68% in 2018, compared to 41.3% nationally.

Successful Maintenance of Permanent Housing for People Who Have Experienced Homelessness: How Successful is Kansas City at Ending a Household's Homelessness?

This measure shows how many homeless households stay in permanent supportive housing after placement. Kansas City has been **successful at maintaining households in permanent supportive housing**.

- For participants in permanent housing projects, 95% successfully retained or exited to other permanent housing in 2018, compared to 94.8% nationally.









Employment and Income Growth for Participants in CoC Program-Funded Projects: How Does Kansas City Improve Access to Income?

This measure reflects how the system of care helps households experiencing homelessness access income, because with increased income generally comes increased retention of housing and decreased homelessness. Kansas City's system of care is improving its performance although it is still performing below the national average.

- In 2018, 27% of adults in CoC-funded programs increased their total (earned and non-earned) income from project start to project exit in the Greater Kansas City CoC, an increase from 2017 when 19% had increased their total income.
- In comparison, the most recent national average was 33.2%.

This is an area where the CoC can continue to focus on strengthening partnerships with mainstream benefits providers, and employment and workforce development connections for people experiencing homelessness in the community.

A Summary of Kansas City's Performance in Ending Homelessness

	2018	2019	Positive Trend?		
How Many People Experienced Homelessness?	1,649	1,877			
	FY2017	FY2018	Positive Trend?	National Average	KC Exceeding?
First Time Homelessness	59%	66%		76%	
Returns to Homelessness	28%	24%		19.5%	
Length of Time Homeless	207 days	193 days		151 days	
Households who Access Housing	61%	68%		41%	
Households who Maintain Housing	91%	95%		95%	
Job & Income Growth	19%	27%		33%	

Funding to Address Homelessness

Member programs of the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness provide a vast array of services and housing focused on addressing and ending homelessness throughout the region. These programs provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing, rental assistance, and other services and support to ensure that the experience of homelessness is rare, brief and nonrecurring in our community.



Public Funding for Kansas City Homeless System of Care

- Federal HUD Continuum of Care Program: \$13,556,575
- Federal HUD Emergency Solutions Grant Program: \$1,145,297
- Federal SAMHSA Projects Assisting in the Transition from Homelessness: \$571,666
- Kansas Housing Resources Corporation - Tenant Based Rental Assistance: \$80,000
- Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services - Supported Housing Fund, Interim Housing and Bridge Housing Program: \$192,060
- Missouri Housing Innovation Program: \$150,936
- Missouri Housing Trust Fund: \$636,300

As the lead agency for the Continuum of Care, GKCCEH ensures that over \$14 million of federal and state funding is effectively harnessed to directly address homelessness. The majority of this funding comes from the federal HUD annual Continuum of Care competition, with \$13,556,575 awarded for use in the 2018 calendar year and **\$13,361,804 awarded in for use in the 2019 calendar year**. Continuum of Care funding supports housing-related projects, including permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing.

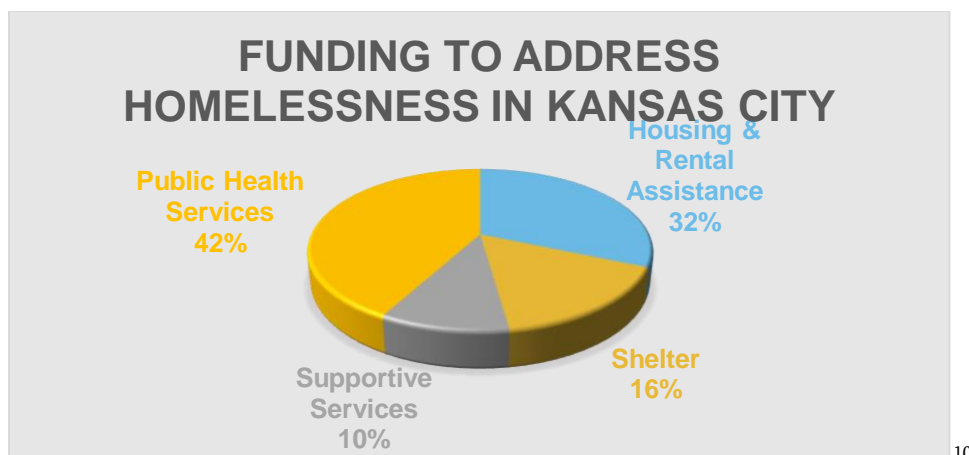
Additional public funding for the Homeless System of Care in Kansas City in 2018-2019, supporting both housing and services for those experiencing homelessness, included:⁹

- A total of \$1,145,297 from the federal **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)** program, administered by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas Housing Resources Corporation in Kansas and the Missouri Housing Development Corporation (MHDC) in Missouri. These federal funds from HUD support homelessness prevention and provide services to assist those experiencing homelessness to quickly regain stability in permanent housing.

⁹ The information provided herein was gathered from public records and websites. It may not represent the totality of public funding addressing homelessness in Kansas City as sources may provide broad services that are not homelessness specific and/or may not be published.



- The **Missouri Housing Innovation Program** provided \$150,936 to support housing, street outreach and coordinated entry during the past year, and the **Missouri Housing Trust Fund** awarded \$636,300 to support homelessness prevention, emergency assistance, and housing in Missouri.
- The **Kansas Housing Resources Corporation** awarded \$80,000, the **Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Community Development Division** allocated \$593,408, and the **Kansas City, MO Neighborhoods and Housing Services Department** allocated \$1.3 million from federal HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance funds to provide rental assistance.
- The **Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services** funded three programs that assist persons experiencing homelessness: \$50,000 for the Supported Housing Fund (SHF) which provides limited financial assistance to persons who are homeless and are experiencing mental illness obtain and maintain housing; \$23,847 for the Interim Housing program to provide temporary housing; and \$118,213 for the Kansas Bridge Housing Program (BHP), which assists persons who were homeless obtain housing for up to 90 days.
- Federal PATH (**Projects Assisting in the Transition from Homelessness**) funds awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) totaling \$571,666 were awarded to agencies in the Kansas City region to provide services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, as well as individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.



In addition to these public funds, GKCCEH member programs who participated in a survey reported that they invest over \$60 million annually in housing and services to address poverty and homelessness in our community. The Kansas City community supports this work through a strong network of private foundations, private donors and earned income, providing more than \$17 million annually to support the work. In addition to HUD funding

¹⁰ These figures are a snapshot of funding for a total of 32 member programs, based on information received from a survey of GKCCEH member programs and public funding information.

specifically to address homelessness, member programs also harness funds from many other public funding sources to serve specific populations and/or provide non-homeless specific services. These funding sources include the Veterans Administration, Office of Violence Against Women, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, as well as other funding.

Partnerships

One of the primary strengths of GKCCEH is our partners and members who are working throughout the Kansas City region to address and end homelessness. This wide variety of nonprofit organizations, governmental representatives, and other community stakeholders that work together with GKCCEH make our work possible. In addition to GKCCEH member programs who pay dues to support the GKCCEH mission and board members who volunteer their time, community partners include committee members and others who have partnered in GKCCEH initiatives.

GKCCEH Board

The GKCCEH Board includes a wide variety of experience with invested and dedicated membership. Some members have served on our board for several years through the merger that formed GKCCEH, hiring of professional staff, and the development of several initiatives, including ending Veteran homelessness and launching coordinated entry. The diversity and dedication of the CoC's leadership board distinguishes Kansas City from other communities responding to homelessness.

GKCCEH Board of Directors at End of Reporting Period (April 30, 2019)

- **Chair:** Greg Porter, Catalyst Group
- **Vice-Chair:** Heather Bradley Geary, Vecino Group
- **Treasurer:** Matt T Watkins, Reece Commercial Real Estate
- Aric Anderson, Kansas City, MO Police Department
- Michael Barrett, Attorney
- Hillary Beuschel, Kauffman Foundation
- Dan Doty, City Union Mission
- Cara Hoover, Kansas City Power & Light
- Brian McKiernan, Ph.D., Unified Government of Wyandotte County
- Christy McMurphy, Kim Wilson Housing
- Dr. Jane Winkler Philbrook, Unified Government of Wyandotte County

GKCCEH Members and Community Partners

GKCCEH hosts monthly meetings where GKCCEH member programs and community members discuss strategies for responding to homelessness including affordable housing, system outcomes, and right-sizing available resources. In the time period of this report, GKCCEH has begun to host twice-annual town hall meetings that focus on strategic responses to homelessness.

GKCCEH Member Programs (as of April 30, 2019)	
• Amethyst Place	• Kansas City Rescue Mission
• Artists Helping the Homeless	• Kim Wilson Housing
• Avenue of Life	• Legal Aid of Western MO
• Benilde Hall	• Mental Health America of the Heartland
• Bishop Sullivan Center	• Metro Lutheran Ministry
• Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas	• Mid America Assistance Coalition
• City Union Mission	• Mission of Hope Clinic
• Community Assistance Council	• Missouri Department of Mental Health
• Community LINC	• Mother & Child Health Coalition
• Community Services League	• Mother's Refuge
• Comprehensive Mental Health Service	• Newhouse Domestic Violence Shelter
• Cornerstones of Care	• Northland Assistance Center
• Cross-Lines Community Outreach	• Phoenix Family Housing
• Episcopal Community Services	• Reconciliation Services
• God & Me Ministries	• Rediscover, Inc.
• Good Samaritan Project	• reStart, Inc.
• Goodwill of Western MO	• Rose Brooks Center
• Grand Avenue Temple	• SAVE, Inc.
• Grandview Assistance Program	• Sheffield Place
• Guadalupe Center	• St. Michael's Veterans Center
• Habitat for Humanity	• Steppingstone
• Hillcrest Transitional Housing	• Swope Health Services
• HOPE Africa	• Synergy Services
• Hope Faith Ministries	• The Family Conservancy
• Hope House Domestic Violence Shelter	• The Salvation Army
• Housing Authority of Kansas City	• The Whole Person
• Jewish Family Services	• True Light Family Resource Center
• Journey to New Life	• Truman Medical Center – Behavioral Health
• Kansas City Public Library	• United Services Community Action

Key Activities During the Reporting Period

(January 1, 2018- April 30, 2019)

During the reporting period, GKCCEH focused on strengthening our ability to lead and guide the community in working together to address and end homelessness throughout 2018-2019. Our first priority was ensuring that the staff of GKCCEH have the capacity to serve as the backbone of Kansas City's response to homelessness. We enhanced our staffing structure and expanded our staff of professionals with extensive experience in addressing homelessness. This included a Director of Programs position and plans to add an Entry Systems Coordinator, and a Policy and Procedure Coordinator to work alongside our Executive Director and provide community leadership.

Our staff team worked alongside community providers and stakeholders and the GKCCEH Board of Directors in 2018-2019 to:

- Expand **Rapid Rehousing** services in the community;
- Strengthen and streamline the **Coordinated Entry System** to more effectively assess and connect households to housing solutions; and
- Support community work toward ending homelessness for all, with a particular focus on continuing gains in addressing and ending homelessness among **Veterans and Youth**.

Active GKCCEH Committees

- **Coordinated Entry Workgroup** monitors and improves the implementation and effectiveness of coordinated entry system.
- **Progress & Evaluation Committee** reviews and reports data and outcomes to support community decision-making.
- **Supportive Services Committee** develops programming and partnerships to increase access to income sources and other resources for program participants.
- **Youth 4 Change KC**, made up of youth with lived experience of homelessness, supports better policy development and programming to educate about and respond to youth homelessness
- **Finance and Administration Committee** prepares for the annual U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development competition for Continuum of Care funding.
- **Community Standards Committee** creates written standards for homeless housing and services.
- **Executive Committee** supports GKCCEH's nonprofit operations.

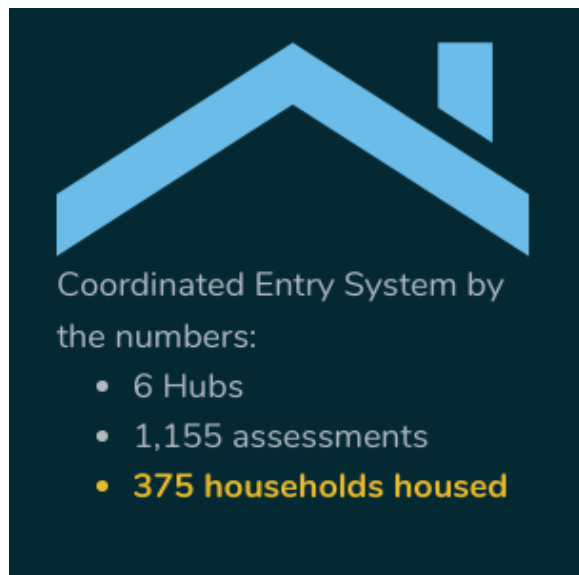


Rapid Rehousing

The Greater Kansas City CoC has prioritized the implementation of Rapid Rehousing programs that provide temporary, time-limited financial assistance to assist households experiencing homelessness to quickly re-house and stabilize in housing of their choosing. This assistance includes rental and utility subsidies as well as supportive services to find, retain, and maintain housing. In 2018, GKCCEH member programs provided **734 rapid rehousing beds – a 65% increase from 2017**. While the reported number of rapid rehousing beds in HMIS decreased in 2019, this was due to program transitions rather than an actual decrease in service availability. These programs offer households the opportunity to quickly resolve their housing crisis and stabilize. Rapid Rehousing is a cost-effective way to reduce the amount of time that people experience homelessness. Two programs that target the needs of youth and families experiencing homelessness began providing Rapid Rehousing during 2018-2019. These programs provide households with employment services, budgeting classes, and housing coaching to create a targeted plan to reduce barriers to maintaining housing. They work in tandem with the community's Coordinated Entry System to provide case management to families experiencing homelessness and swiftly connect them with housing placement, after which families continue to receive in-depth case management to support their housing stability.



Strengthened Coordinated Entry System



In 2018, GKCCEH oversaw the implementation and strengthening of the region's Coordinated Entry System. Coordinated Entry (CE) is a process that communities across the



nation have adopted to coordinate and manage resources within a homelessness response system. CE ensures that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs.¹¹ It provides a consistent, streamlined process for accessing the resources available in the homeless crisis response system. Through Coordinated Entry, the homeless system ensures that the highest need, most vulnerable households in the community are prioritized for services and that the housing and supportive services in the system are used as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Greater Kansas City Coordinated Entry System (CES) was launched in late 2017. GKCCEH worked together with the community and Coordinated Entry Workgroup to strengthen our CES throughout 2018 and into 2019, focusing on:

- ***Expanded Access*** – GKCCEH led an effort to **extend hours** at existing CES Hubs (access sites), to increase to **six physical Hubs** with plans to open a seventh, and to implement an innovative **mobile screening team** that coordinates with local street outreach workers, libraries, and police departments to ensure that those most in need of immediate housing and support services to end their housing crisis are assessed and connected with solutions.
- ***Confidential Access and Support for Survivors*** – GKCCEH and partners created a confidential and integrated CES for survivors of domestic violence in coordination with four local DV service providers, with **430 beds dedicated to those experiencing homelessness while fleeing personal violence**.
- ***Coordinated Entry Navigators*** – GKCCEH and partners created positions for **two Coordinated Entry Navigators** to move clients quickly through the system by supporting clients to procure identification documents, process application paperwork, and locate affordable housing options.
- ***Housing Placements*** – The number of households connected with housing via CES has consistently increased since its implementation. In 2018, the CES completed 1,155 assessments, resulting in **375 households getting housed**.

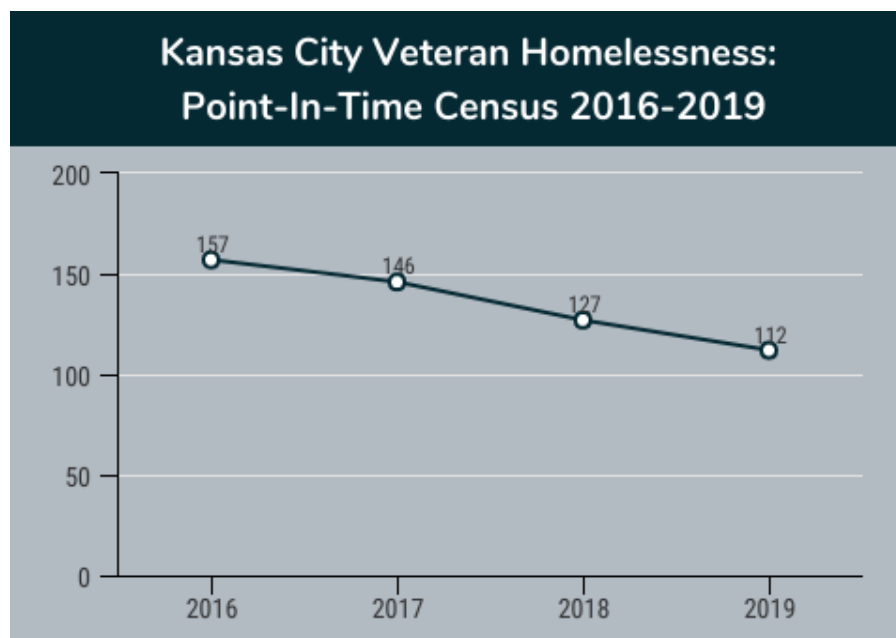
¹¹ HUD Exchange: “Coordinated Entry and Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)”



Addressing Homelessness among Veterans and Youth

Veterans

The Greater Kansas City region prides itself on the success of our community partnerships to address and end homelessness among veterans.



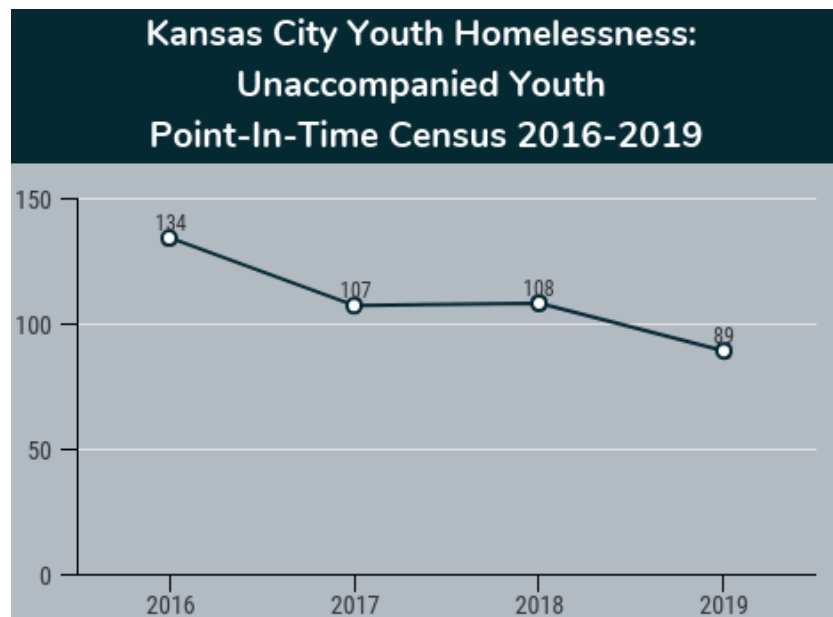
- ***Ending Veteran Homelessness*** - In November 2017, the Kansas City Continuum of Care became the 55th community in the nation to be recognized by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to have effectively ended veteran homelessness through implementing a comprehensive response that ensures that homelessness among veterans is prevented whenever possible, or if not prevented, it is rare, brief and nonrecurring. This means that the community has a coordinated process to quickly identify and engage Veterans at-risk of and experiencing homelessness, intervene to prevent people from losing their housing, provide immediate access to shelter and crisis services if homelessness does occur, and quickly connect Veterans experiencing homelessness to housing assistance and services to help them achieve and maintain stable housing.¹²

¹² United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), <https://www.usich.gov/goals/what-does-ending-homelessness-mean>

- **Housing** - Veteran homelessness in the region decreased by 29% between 2016 to 2019 – from 157 individuals to 112. **Two new Permanent Supportive Housing programs** with dedicated beds and focused services for Veterans opened in 2018, providing more options to address and end Veteran homelessness in the community.
- **Continued Collaborations** - GKCCEH collaborates closely with the **Veterans Administration (VA)** to share information across systems about Veterans who are being housed and those who require assistance in accessing housing and community resources. GKCCEH also actively participates in decision making to ensure that Veterans seeking housing continue to be prioritized.

Youth

Addressing and ending homelessness among youth is one of the Greater Kansas City Continuum of Care's top strategic priorities. To achieve this goal, GKCCEH has emphasized the importance of educating its staff and community members on best practices and new strategies and has engaged in various collaborations to pool the knowledge and resources required to best serve an often hidden, challenging to engage population with different needs and characteristics than its single adult counterpart. The **number of unaccompanied youth has declined steadily between 2016 and 2019**, from 134 identified in 2016 to 89 youth in 2019.



In 2018-19, the work done to increase housing and supportive services for all youth experiencing homelessness included:

Coalition Building –

- Participation in the **Coalition of Homeless Youth Providers Services** with program staff and managers from youth-serving agencies involved in various training, brainstorming, and resource-matching activities;
- Sponsorship of **Youth 4 Change KC**, the Continuum of Care's Youth Action Board, lead by youth with lived experience engaged in various GKCCEH activities, community service, and awareness-raising efforts calling attention to the crisis of youth homelessness;
- Engagement in the **"500 in Five"** program, a partnership between Truman Behavioral Health and The Vecino Group, to develop 500 supportive housing units that prioritize youth within five years; and
- Extensive collaboration among community stakeholders in the federal **Youth Homeless Demonstration Project application process**, which generated many new insights, ideas, and proposed solutions.

Innovative Programming –

- Formal Initiation of the **Keeping Families Together Family Unification Program** in both Jackson and Wyandotte Counties, in partnership with KCK and KCMO Housing Authorities and the One Roof team. Keeping Families Together is a collaborative, cross-sector effort of community stakeholders, including the Public Child Welfare Agency, family courts, school districts, behavioral health, developers, service providers, and GKCCEH, with technical assistance from the Corporation for Supportive Housing. This program provides families experiencing homelessness who are involved with the child welfare system with Family Unification Program (FUP) housing choice vouchers that allow them to reunify in their own permanent home, as well as services and case management to support their housing stability and improve the lives of children and their parents.
- Creation of **an innovative joint youth program by youth providers**, funded by a federal Housing and Human Services Street Outreach grant. The program represents a strategic partnership through which two experienced agencies have been able to bring additional funds into the community and maximize capacity to increase the number of youth placed into safe, stable housing from 15% to more than 35%.

Youth Coordinated Entry -

- Implementation of a **mobile screening process for Coordinated Entry** which 'meets youth where they are';
- **Analysis of youth inflow into Coordinated Entry**, indicating a continued need for affordable and centrally located housing for youth and a dire need for appropriate

housing of all types, and at all levels of homeless intervention, for youth who identify as LGBTQ+; and

- A **comprehensive survey of youth in the community** provided a wealth of actionable insights about how youth access the system, agencies, programs, and informal supports they rely upon, and what specific needs they may have that are not adequately being met. This survey identified the need for more robust services, in addition to housing, with a specific focus on youth including safe spaces to seek assistance, childcare, education, employment, transportation, access to food, legal advocacy and substance use treatment.

LOOKING FORWARD

A shared vision and commitment to mutually beneficial partnerships and collaboration are at the core of the progress made by the Greater Kansas City community in addressing homelessness in 2018 and early 2019. This includes working together with community agencies, public departments in both CoC counties, private foundations, donors, volunteers and those with lived experiences of homelessness.

Looking forward, GKCCEH is committed to working together with all stakeholders to further strengthen and align our efforts to address and end homelessness in our community.



Coordinated Entry System Improvements

As the Greater Kansas City Coordinated Entry System continues to grow, GKCCEH and the community are **identifying dynamic ways in which the system can more accurately and equitably identify the needs of each household and what housing and other supportive interventions would be a good fit to address them**. GKCCEH actively seeks feedback from the community about how effectively the system is identifying and connecting people with housing, including surveys, bi-annual town halls, and our Coordinated Entry Committee. Based on community input and best practices, we have begun to implement problem-solving conversations at the front door to the system, focused on preventing homelessness and diverting households from the homeless crisis response system. The community is also analyzing the effectiveness of the Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT) that is used to assess the needs of households and prioritize the most vulnerable for housing, with a focus on ensuring that the tool accurately prioritizes persons experiencing DV, medically fragile persons, families with children under 5, and other factors of high vulnerability. This will ensure that households receive timely interventions and assistance that effectively address and end their experience of homelessness as rapidly as possible.

Housing Retention Support

There is evidence of a significant number of people who have returned to homelessness after having been housed for nearly two years – as seen in the CoC’s 24% overall return to homelessness rate in our 2018 system performance measures. GKCCEH is exploring the reasons for this along with our member programs. However, there is a clear **need for long-term housing retention support and a focus on diverting households from returning to homelessness after being housed**. GKCCEH is working to address this through case consultation with programs and focusing on developing and supporting post-exit programming and policies to reduce returns to homelessness.

Reducing Homelessness among Specific Populations

Through focusing on programming and services to address the specific and unique needs of veterans, youth, and those who have been chronically homeless, our community has seen a tangible decrease in the number of people in these populations who experience homelessness. Looking forward, GKCCEH is committed to continuing to support this work within the community through activities such as a youth-specific coordinated entry assessment and expanding and strengthening permanent supportive housing. Moving forward, GKCCEH intends to focus in with providers on **addressing the increase in family homelessness that we have witnessed over the past five years**. This includes a commitment to rehouse households of families with children within 30 days or less of becoming homeless. To do this, GKCCEH is increasing the number of rapid rehousing units that can serve both families and individuals and prioritizing families with children for rapid rehousing units as they become available. We are also working to ensure that families have the opportunity to engage in services across the CoC’s network of providers.

Focus on Racial Equity

In the past few years, the emergence of research into the intersection between racial disparity, housing justice, and homelessness has prompted a dramatic shift in the national conversation around effectively ending homelessness by approaching and tackling the problem from the system level. The Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, in its effort to **develop targeted strategies to address the systemic and structural inequities that perpetuate homelessness and act as barriers to safety and permanency for individuals and families in housing-related crisis**, is committed to identifying how our community can meaningfully add to the national momentum and contribute to the knowledge base while improving our local service delivery system performance so that the experience of

homelessness in our community is truly “a rare, brief, and one-time occurrence.” To do this, GKCCEH has prioritized analyzing local data that might inform this work and challenged community members and service providers to share knowledge and insights gained from direct client service. This ongoing work includes:

- Racial equity analyses across the CoC;
- Trainings for member programs on ensuring equity and inclusion at the program, agency and system level;
- Assessing and strengthening CoC policies and practices, including the Coordinated Entry System, to ensure that they are more inclusive and equitable for all populations; and
- Engaging and partnering authentically with program participants and those with lived experience to inform and drive activities and best practices.

Strengthening and Expanding Partnerships to Address Homelessness

To truly shift the entire system of care to solve homelessness in our community, we must strengthen and expand partnerships to address homelessness. This includes ensuring that **key players are at the table, focused on a mutual definition of success, gauging that success via data-driven analyses, targeting investments toward effective solutions, and basing our work on the belief that homelessness is solvable.** Some of the activities that GKCCEH is actively engaged in to this end include:

- Reaching out to programs throughout the Greater Kansas City region who are addressing homelessness to **expand our member base** and participation;
- Strengthening local and national partnerships to implement innovative programs and initiatives including:
 - **Moving On partnership** with the Independence, MO Housing Authority and Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) to provide households who are ready to move from supportive housing to independent housing with admission preferences;
 - Partnerships with **Built for Zero**, a national alliance of communities taking action to realign systems to address and end homelessness, and the Veterans Administration to continue our progress toward ending Veterans homelessness and systematically address all forms of homelessness in our community; and
 - Implementing the **Keeping Families Together** program to permanently house at least 55 families in collaboration with the cross-sector One Roof team.

Assessing Community Needs

Moving forward, GKCCEH is working to thoroughly assess the needs of the community and understand trends to develop a roadmap toward ending homelessness in the Greater Kansas

City region. This annual report serves as a foundation from which we will perform deeper analyses with community members, including focus groups, surveys, and a gaps analysis. Working together with the University of Kansas, GKCCEH will assess the strengths and weaknesses of our community's housing services and identify what is needed to end homelessness in the Kansas City Metro Area.

As may be seen throughout this report, the coalition of individuals, public and private agencies and funders who partner strategically to address homelessness with the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness are having a tremendous impact on the lives of residents faced with a housing crisis in our metropolitan area. During the period of this report, this coalition ensured that more than 1,600 people experiencing homelessness were sheltered while searching for permanent housing solutions and almost 2,600 were housed permanently with subsidies and support to assist them with retaining housing. Furthermore, it is evident that the community's efforts to address homelessness are effectively having an impact on the length of time that people experience homelessness, rehousing those who become homeless and the retention of housing – making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

The Greater Kansas City community has greatly reduced homelessness among veterans and youth during the time period covered by this report, continuing the trend that resulted in the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness recognizing Kansas City in 2017 as the first community in Kansas or Missouri to effectively end veteran homelessness. These gains are evidence that homelessness in our community is solvable and we must continue to strive to maintain these gains and ensure that anyone facing a housing crisis can resolve that crisis as rapidly as possible. As such, the GKCCEH is committed to continuing our work to strengthen the homeless system of care through leveraging the expertise of each partner and maximizing the resources available to address this crisis.

Appendix A – Summary of System Performance Measures

Kansas City System Performance Measures

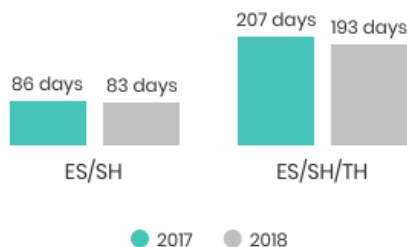


This document provides general information on Kansas City CoC's System Performance Measures. The agency data comes from the CoC's HMIS and was submitted in HDX. The data labeled "2017" covers October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. The data labeled "2018" covers October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. Using these metrics to better understand program outcomes supports strengthening the performance of the system as a whole.

Average Length of Time Homeless

Average length of time homeless measures the average **number of days** a participant is enrolled in an Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing program. This includes *stayers* who have remained in the program, and *leavers* who have exited to other destinations.

HUD System Performance Measure 1.

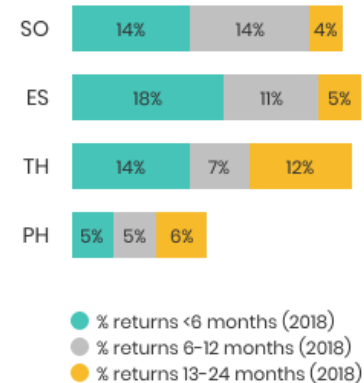


Returns to Homelessness

This measures the extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing (PH) return to homelessness within less than 6 months, 6 to 12 months, or 24 months.

According to 2018 SPM data, 24% of participants who exited to PH returned to homelessness within two years.

HUD System Performance Measure 2.



Increases in Income

Increases in employment and non-employment income occur between clients' enrollment and exit or follow-up assessment.

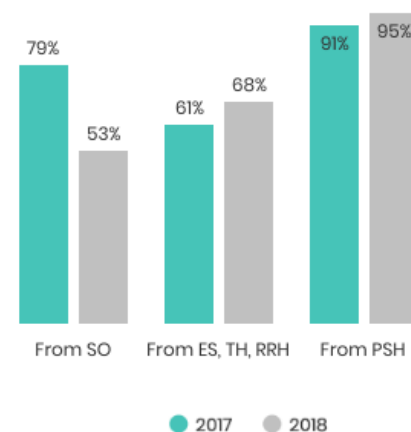
HUD System Performance Measure 4.

		% Increased Earned Income	% Increased Non-Employment Cash Income	% Increased Total Income
2017	Leaver	14%	8%	19%
2018	Leaver	16%	15%	27%
2017	Stayer	7%	27%	32%
2018	Stayer	8%	32%	37%

Exits to Permanent Housing

This measure identifies the percentage of all persons served during the reporting period who remained in the program or exited to permanent housing destinations.

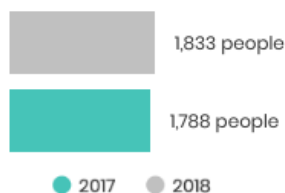
HUD System Performance Measure 7.



First-Time Homeless

Measures the number of persons who become homeless for the first time.

HUD System Performance Measure 5.



ES=Emergency Shelter, TH=Transitional Housing, SH=Safe Haven, SO=Street Outreach, PH=Permanent Housing