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HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

City of Arlington

Grants Management Department

October 2022

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## THE HOME-ARP PROGRAM

Participating Jurisdiction: City of Arlington, TX

Date: October 2022

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) of 2021 into law allocating \$1.9 trillion in relief to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public health, State and local governments, individuals, and businesses. Congress appropriated \$5 billion in ARP funds through the HOME Investment Partnership program (HOME-ARP) to perform four activities that must primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations.

On Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the City of Arlington \$4,583,064 of funds from the HOME-American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("HOME-ARP"). HOME-ARP funds are to be used to help communities create affordable housing and services for people experiencing or who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

### Eligible HOME-ARP activities

- Development and Support of Affordable Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Provision of Supportive Services  
(such as housing counseling, homelessness prevention, childcare, job training, legal services, case management, moving costs, rental applications, and rent assistance)
- Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter Units
- Administration and Planning

### Qualifying Populations

HOME-ARP requires that funds be used to primarily benefit individuals and families in the following specified “qualifying populations.” Any individual or family who meets the criteria for these populations is eligible to receive assistance or services funded through HOME-ARP without meeting additional criteria (e.g., additional income criteria). Veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet the criteria for one of the qualifying populations described below are eligible to receive HOME-ARP assistance.

- People experiencing homelessness
- People at risk of homelessness
- People fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or
- Human trafficking
- Other populations where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent the family’s homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability

For additional information about the HOME-ARP program regulatory requirements, visit:

[Final HOME-ARP Implementation Notice \(hud.gov\)](#)

## Consultation

### **Describe the consultation process including methods used and dates of consultation:**

#### Consultation Requirement

Before developing its plan, the City of Arlington consulted with the Tarrant County Continuum of Care, homeless and domestic violence service providers, veterans' groups, the Arlington Housing Authority, public agencies that address the needs of qualifying populations, and organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities.

#### Summary of Consultation Process

In developing its HOME-ARP allocation plan, the City of Arlington began initial discussions regarding how to best appropriate funds in October of 2021. During this timeframe, the Tarrant County Continuum of Care provided a generous amount of feedback and recommendations regarding homeless needs within the City and county wide. Monthly meetings were held among the City of Arlington's City Manager's Office, Grants Management Department, and the Arlington Housing Authority to strategize on how to effectively allocate the one-time HOME-ARP allocation.

The City of Arlington held consultation meetings with community service providers and partnering agencies to garner vital input in the planning process for the allocation of HOME-ARP funds. In all meetings, information on the program was shared with those in attendance. The City's Grants Management Department facilitated the consultation process, which allowed partnering agencies to describe current barriers to serving Arlington's homeless population and to offer feedback on strategies to curtail the issue. The presentation which included HUD recommended consultation questions can be found in appendix A.

The City held the following consultation meetings and received consultation feedback from various service providers and stakeholders to include:

- Tarrant County Homeless Coalition
- Arlington Housing Authority
- The Salvation Army Family Life Center
- SafeHaven of Tarrant County
- Arlington Life Shelter
- Arlington Urban Ministries
- Rehab Warriors
- Advocates for Special People
- Recovery Resource Council
- Meals on Wheels

**Table 1: Organizational Consultations**

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Tarrant County Homeless Coalition	Continuum of Care	Virtual Consultation Meeting	See Summary Below
Arlington Housing Authority	Public Housing Authority/Fair Housing Organization	Virtual Consultation Meeting	See Summary Below
The Salvation Army Family Center	Homeless/Veterans Service Provider	Virtual Consultation Meeting	See Summary Below
SafeHaven of Tarrant County	Domestic Violence Provider	Virtual Consultation Meeting	See Summary Below
Arlington Life Shelter	Homeless Service Provider	Virtual Consultation Meeting	See Summary Below
Arlington Urban Ministries	Homeless Service Provider	Virtual Consultation Meeting	See Summary Below
Rehab Warriors	Homeless/Veterans Service Provider	Consultation Survey	See Summary Below
Advocates for Special People	Provider for persons with disabilities/Civil Rights	Consultation Survey	See Summary Below
Recovery Resource Council	Veterans Service Provider	Consultation Survey	See Summary Below
Meals on Wheels	Provider for Persons with disabilities	Consultation Survey	See Summary Below

## Organizational Consultation Feedback Summary

### **Summarize feedback received and results of upfront consultation with these entities:**

#### Tarrant County Homeless Coalition

Formally established in 1989, the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (TCHC) began as a volunteer-run organization providing oversight and planning for homeless services in Tarrant County.

Led by a volunteer board comprised of mainly homeless service providers, TCHC partners with local municipalities to plan and apply for federal funding to benefit providers in the community. As the Lead Agency for the Continuum of Care (CoC), the Homeless Coalition continues to submit the collaborative application for the Tarrant County community to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Homeless Coalition serves as a collaborative force, providing partner agencies with guidance and resources to ensure that interventions are effective and efficient for people in need throughout the county, to include the City of Arlington.

#### *Consultation Feedback:*

Safe, affordable housing is a significant need in Tarrant County. Start with those most in need, who currently do not have a home, and aim to address numerous problems with one solution.

- Currently, the largest system need is physical units. There are more than 500 households who are experiencing homelessness and are matched with rental assistance, actively searching for a place to call home. The lack of inventory combined with stringent rental requirements are preventing people from finding a place to live and ultimately keeping people homeless.
- Dedicate all HOME-ARP funds to the development of Permanent Supportive Housing to create approximately 222 new units of PSH and end chronic homelessness throughout Tarrant County.
- Dedicate \$3,250,000 to the development of 26 Permanent Supportive Housing units in the City of Arlington.
- The community can do great things and has the potential to drastically reduce the number of households experiencing homelessness. This investment would transform how the community responds to homelessness for years to come.

## Arlington Housing Authority

The mission of the Housing Authority of the City of Arlington is to advocate for and pursue affordable and fair housing opportunities for low-income persons in Arlington by:

- Establishing partnerships with public or private community service providers;
- Effectively communicating with internal and external constituencies;
- Attracting and retaining knowledgeable staff and Board members by supporting professional development and personal opportunities; and
- Maintaining and improving fiscal accountability and operational efficiency.

The Arlington Housing Authority (AHA) is recognized by the community as the leader in providing quality housing assistance for low-income individuals and families in the city of Arlington. The AHA provides a full range of housing opportunities and solutions to enable clients to reach their highest potential. The AHA earns and maintains the public's trust by demonstrating expertise, professionalism, integrity, and accountability.

### *Consultation Feedback:*

- Fair Market Rent's (FMRs) are an issue. Payment standards for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program help, but Payment Standards are generally not used for the CoC programs that help the homeless population.
- Increased interest rates have forced first time homebuyers to stay in rentals;
- Society does not support shared housing; people are unwilling to colocate. In depth study of a good model for shared housing is needed. We are discussing shared housing with among clients exiting the Emergency Rental Assistance Programs.
- There are currently over 100 families in extended stay hotels.
- The Emergency Rental Assistance Program has assisted well over 1,000 households with rental assistance during the pandemic. That assistance in Arlington is ending in August because the \$26M allocated has been utilized. Many of the 750+ families who had their final rental assistance in August will be left in a vulnerable position.
- The Housing Authority has increased challenges in housing families and individual with CoC vouchers because the Housing Authority doesn't own units.

## The Salvation Army Family Life Center

Backed by 131 years of expertise, The Salvation Army of North Texas is uniquely positioned to respond to the changing needs of the Arlington community. Their footprint across 4,078 square miles in Dallas, Tarrant, Ellis, Denton and Collin Counties makes it the largest Salvation Army Command in the world. But more importantly, it allows them to reach the most vulnerable neighbors in every pocket of North Texas. The Salvation Army of North Texas works to address the startling realities of addiction, homelessness, and poverty across the City of Arlington.

#### *Consultation Feedback:*

- Case management is needed for people who have been housed. Many of them return to the shelter within six months, we need to decrease recidivism, it is alarmingly high.
- The Salvation Army has the capacity and space required to serve families in need.
- Experiencing an uptick of families especially as school ended in May.
- There is an increase in need for space for more extended families.
- The size of family ranges from one or two individuals to eight.
- The fair market rent in Arlington is an issue.
- Currently have 15 rooms with one under construction.
- The Arlington Salvation Army location provides shelter for 30 days to 6 months and will keep them longer if they can't find housing.
- Criminal history and poor rental history have been huge barriers lately, the difficulty in finding a unit can result in depression of the applicant.
- There are challenges working with undocumented individuals.
- Having specific topics for case management is needed to teach life skills and assist clients to change repetitive behavior.

#### SafeHaven

SafeHaven is the largest and most comprehensive domestic violence agency in North Texas providing services at no cost to domestic violence victims and their children. It is the only state designated family violence center in Tarrant County.

SafeHaven prides itself in giving victims who reside in their shelter a clean, welcoming, and functional environment. Their mission is to end domestic violence in Tarrant County.

#### *Consultation Feedback:*

- Permanent Supportive Housing is needed, as there are not enough available units to place clients.
- This year we have served an increased number of single women.
- We have also served an increased number of clients with mental health needs and those with substance abuse. They must address these issues prior to finding permanent housing.
- Landlords are conducting more thorough background checks which eliminates more people.
- Clients need case management resources. When they transition to apartments to support sustainability, they are serving a lot of repeat clients, this is going to take collaboration.
- Units for larger size families are hard to find, especially with 8 or more family members.
- The case management needs to be extensive with smaller caseloads for case managers, caseloads must be small enough for them to make a significant impact.
- Case management in the shelter may have limited impact as people are in crisis and dealing with stability and substance abuse, once a client gets into housing, they are still not able to maintain. Ownership of the situation must be placed on the client.



### Arlington Life Shelter

The mission of Arlington Life Shelter is to promote self-sufficiency by providing shelter, employment programs and transitional services for North Texans impacted by homelessness. Arlington Life Shelter envisions a community where all individuals, families, and children affected by homelessness have access to the services and support necessary to restore ability and achieve personalized success.

#### *Consultation Feedback:*

- Permanent supportive housing and case management after leaving the shelter would be helpful.
- Clientele is predominantly Single Women and Single Men. Historically client base was more men than women, but now those numbers are even. The demographic also includes older adults and those with physical and mental disabilities.
- People with criminal backgrounds are not able to find permanent housing; not enough landlords will accept the vouchers.
- People with fixed incomes are challenged, those with recent evictions are also challenged especially when there is little assistance available to pay outstanding balances.
- Currently have 83 people in the shelter with 2 open spots for singles or a family of two, they have just hired 4 new front-line workers so they can increase occupancy to 95, they have 125 beds but need the staff and food and supplies to manage them.
- The shelter provides the life skills training classes. They have case managers on site who work with the client from day one.
- We need more units with income restrictions targeted at low income.
- Some clients just need short term assistance just to get back on their feet, there is currently no program to pay a few months of assistance.

### Arlington Urban Ministries

Arlington Urban Ministries provides emergency assistance for utilities, rent and food for those in crisis in Arlington. Since 2001, their programs have helped with the most basic needs including: Financial Assistance, Homeless Prevention, emergency needs for the homeless, Mobile food pantry, Resale, and seasonal assistance. Arlington Urban Ministries goal is to prevent homelessness, eviction, utility disconnection and hunger.

#### *Consultation Feedback:*

- The City of Arlington needs additional permanent supportive housing units because people can't use their vouchers.
- The fair market rent and/or income disqualifies people.
- Additional CARES funds to meet client need needs has been helpful.

- People on Social Security Income (SSI) and who have disabilities, are best assisted with CARES funding.
- Those with criminal backgrounds or evictions are extremely difficult to manage; we had to pay \$3,000 to get a client with a 6-year-old conviction into a unit.

### Rehab Warriors

Rehab Warriors empowers banks, municipalities, and institutions to revitalize communities, remove neighborhood blight, and create workforce housing; while supporting military veterans with meaningful high earning post service careers as America's Developer. Their mission is to increase housing supply through an integrated education program exclusively for military veterans as a post service career.

#### *Consultation Feedback:*

- Given the state of homelessness in Arlington the purchase and development of a non-congregate shelter is a priority need.
- A significant barrier is that the Arlington NRSA is being priced out of reach for Low/Moderate Income (LMI) residents. Income and lack of vehicles to homeownership have created more of problems. The solution is a pathway to homeownership coupled with the preservation and development of scattered site homes.
- City leadership can institute a housing land bank and community land trust with an integrated workforce development model.
- The biggest challenge facing the City of Arlington is natural growth from economic development with no concrete strategy to support long term housing cost control and or pathways to homeownership in targeted areas impacted by development.

### Advocates for Special People

Advocates for Special People, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that supports parents and families with adult children who have intellectual and /or developmental disabilities. The mission of Advocates for Special People is to improve the quality of life of intellectually disabled adults and their families by providing programs for socialization, recreation, and habilitation.

#### *Consultation Feedback:*

- Given the state of homelessness in the City of Arlington, production or preservation of affordable housing units is a high priority need for the City.
- Barrier to rental assistance are that Health and Human Services does not support intentional communities such as Daymark Living, 29 Acres, Marbridge or Brookwood.
- City leadership can aid in the plight against homelessness by supporting the expansion and support of intentional communities.

## Recovery Resource Council

Recovery Resource Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with over 70 years of experience in executing their mission to promote wellness and recovery from alcohol and substance use disorders and trauma.

In November 2018, Recovery Resource Council a Fort Worth based agency, merged with the Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drugs, to now serve 19 North Texas Counties. With the merging of these two strong, yet mid-sized agencies, the current Recovery Resource Council is now one of the largest and most comprehensive non-profit mental and behavioral healthcare providers in North Texas, providing services to the most vulnerable North Texans.

### *Consultation Feedback:*

- Given the state of homelessness in the City of Arlington, Tenant Based Rental Assistance is a priority.
- CDBG funds received from HUD are resources available to help in the plight against homelessness.
- City leadership can implement policies that add more funding for shelters.
- The biggest challenge facing the City is the ability to obtain access to affordable housing for its growing population.

## Meals on Wheels

Meals On Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization that started in 1973 as a collaboration between 11 faith-based organizations in downtown Fort Worth to bring food to the elderly. Over the years, they have grown and now serve all of Tarrant County, providing approximately 1.7 million meals each year to some of Tarrant County's frailest citizens. By providing home-delivered meals, professional case management, and other needed items or services to homebound, elderly, and disabled clients, they enable them to remain living independently in their own homes, surrounded by a lifetime of memories.

The mission of Meals on Wheels is to enable people to live with dignity and independence by offering community support through nutritious meals and coordinated services that improve well-being.

### *Consultation Feedback:*

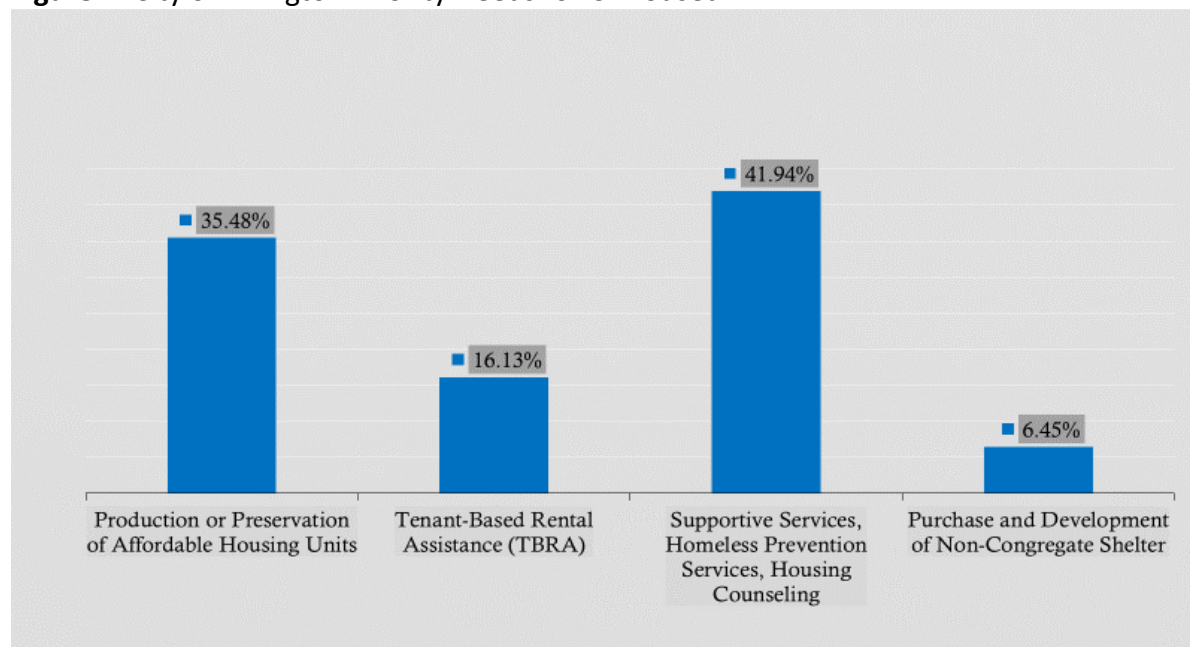
- Given the state of homelessness in the City of Arlington, Tenant Based Rental Assistance is a priority.
- Rental and homeownership have both become out of reach for many.
- The biggest challenges that face the City is aging infrastructure.

## Summarization of feedback and Consultation Results

The City of Arlington held consultation meetings with community service providers and partnering agencies to garner vital input in the planning process for the allocation of HOME-ARP funds. In all meetings, information on the program was shared with those in attendance. The City's Grants Management Department facilitated the consultation process, which allowed partnering agencies to describe current barriers to serving Arlington's homeless population and to offer feedback on strategies to curtail the issue. These consultation efforts further solidified the need to focus on allocating permanent supportive housing units to homeless individuals and families as defined in 24 CFR 91.5 (1). This includes individuals or families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

In addition to the virtual consultation needs assessment meetings, the City posted information detailing ways to provide consultation feedback on its website under the Grants Management Departments webpage and the City Clerk's webpage. The City also distributed a questionnaire via SurveyMonkey to a community database of over 300 individuals and stakeholders who expressed interest in being kept informed about housing related topics to better determine uses for funds and gaps in services. Additionally, the City advertised the opportunities to comment on the survey using posts on its Facebook and Twitter pages. A total of 57 participants responded. When asked about the priority needs of the unhoused, survey participants indicated that providing supportive services and the production and preservation of affordable housing units were a top priority. Figure 1 depicts the survey distribution results for the priority needs of those that are unhoused in the City of Arlington.

**Figure 1:** City of Arlington Priority Needs for Unhoused



Data Source: City of Arlington 2022 HOME-ARP Consultation Feedback Survey

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The City of Arlington provided an avenue for and encouraged citizen participation in the development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. Before submission of the Plan, the City provided residents with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for no less than 15 calendar days. The City followed its adopted requirements for “reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment” for the plan amendments in its current Citizen Participation Plan. In addition, the City held a public hearing during the development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and prior to submission. No public comments were received during the public hearing or during the public comment period.

For the purposes of HOME-ARP, the City made the following information available to the public:

- The amount of HOME-ARP funds the City will receive; and
- The range of activities the City may undertake.

This section discusses how citizens were involved in the process, how the City consulted with public and private service providers, and other stakeholders to facilitate the development of the Plan. During the HOME ARP allocation plan public participation process, the following are dates of the public comment period and public hearing(s) held during the development of the plan.

**Describe the public participation process, including information about and the dates of the public comment period and public hearing(s) held during the development of the plan:**

**Date of Public Notice:** Sept.5, 2022

**Public Comment Period:** Sept. 5, 2022- Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Date of Public Hearing:** Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6:00 p. m

**Describe the public participation process:**

### Public Comment Period

The public comment period for the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was scheduled for Sept. 5, 2022, and concluded on Sept. 20, 2022, at 5 p.m. A Public Notice was published in the Star Telegram on Sept. 5, 2022 and included information regarding how comments could be submitted. Additionally, the City advertised the public comment period through social media.

### Public Hearing

The Public Hearing for the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was scheduled for Sept. 12, 2022, at approximately 6:00 p.m., prior to City Council consideration of the Plan. If special accommodations or translation services were required, interested parties were given the option to submit requests for such accommodations to [grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov),

prior to Sept. 10, 2022. No public comments were received during the public hearing or comment period regarding the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

**Describe efforts to broaden public participation:**

In addition to the dates listed above for the Public Hearing and Public Comment Period, two public meetings were held with the Community Neighborhood and Development Committee, of the Arlington City Council, which included informational presentations on HOME-ARP.

The City also sent e-mails to community stakeholders requesting comments, and provided staff reports to the public on eligible uses of HOME-ARP funding. The public hearing was held virtually, which allowed the public option for closed caption for the hearing impaired, and Spanish translation.

**Summarize the comments and recommendations received through the public participation process either in writing, or orally at a public hearing:**

No public comments were received during the public hearing or comment period regarding the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

**Summarize any comments or recommendations not accepted and state the reasons why:**

None



## NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND GAPS ANALYSIS

The City of Arlington is part of the Tarrant County Continuum of Care (Arlington, Fort Worth, Tarrant CoC). To gain a better understanding of the needs within the community, the City of Arlington evaluated the number of beds that are set aside for people experiencing homelessness. Table 2 depicts the data from the HUD 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Housing Inventory Count, which provides the most recent detailed reporting on housing inventory numbers. The Count demonstrates the gap in housing needs collectively for the Fort Worth/Arlington/ Tarrant COC. Table 3 Provides a gap analysis of the rental unit inventory for the City of Arlington. Sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations are significant qualifying populations for the HOME-ARP program.

**OPTIONAL Table 2: Housing Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table (Homeless)**

Homeless													
	Current Inventory					Homeless Population				Gap Analysis			
	Family		Adults Only		Vets	Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Vets	Victims of DV	Family		Adults Only	
	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds					# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units
Emergency Shelter	656	170	857	857	32								
Transitional Housing	119	48	24	24	60								
Permanent Supportive Housing	325	181	773	773	584								
Other Permanent Housing						0	0	0	0				
Sheltered Homeless						40	478	62	228				
Unsheltered Homeless						0	319	41	119				
<b>Current Gap</b>										See Narrative	See Narrative	See Narrative	See Narrative

Data Source: Pont in Time Count (PIT); 2. Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

**OPTIONAL Table 3: Housing Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis (Non-Homeless)**

Non-Homeless			
	Current Inventory	Level of Need	Gap Analysis
	# of Units	# of Households	# of Households
Total Rental Units	60,405		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI	2,190		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 50% AMI	1,155		
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/1 or more severe housing problems		10,060	
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems		9,455	
<b>Current Gaps</b>			16,170

Data Source: Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data (2014-2018 ACS), City of Arlington

**Describe the size and demographic composition of qualifying populations within the PJ's boundaries:**

**Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5**

Within the City of Arlington, there were a total of 913 households who experienced homelessness between Oct 1, 2021, and September 30, 2022. Roughly 142 households, or 16% of total households, are family households (adults and children). The other 84%, or 771 households, are adult only households.

**Additional Demographics:**

**Gender**

- Female = 441 head of households (48.3% of total households)
- Male = 464 head of households (50.8% of total households)
- Transgender/Non-Binary/Questioning = 5 head of households (0.55% of total households)
- Data Not Collected = 3 head of households (0.33% of total households)

**Race**

- Black/African American = 522 head of households (57.2% of total households)
- White = 325 head of households (35.5% total households)
- Multiple Races = 26 head of households (2.8% of total households)
- Asian or Asian American = 8 head of households (0.87% of total households)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander = 2 head of households (0.22%)
- American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous = 12 head of households (1.3% of total households)
- Unknown = 18 head of households (2.07% of total households)

**Ethnicity**

- Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino = 796 head of households (87.2%)
- Hispanic/Latino = 109 head of households (12.0%)
- Client doesn't know/Client refused = 8 head of households (0.87%)

**At Risk Of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5**

HUD defines those at risk of homelessness as individuals and families who have an income below 30% of the area median income (AMI) and do not have sufficient resources or support networks immediately available to prevent them from moving into an emergency shelter or another place of homelessness.

They must also meet one of the following criteria:

- Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;
- Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
- Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days of the date of application for assistance;



- Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;
- Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons, or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;
- Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as health-care facility, mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or
- Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.

Individuals and families at risk of homelessness require housing assistance that could vary from eviction assistance, diversion assistance, or rent and utility assistance in addition to other types of supportive services. There were about 1108 eviction filings per month in two of Arlington's precincts combined (Precinct 2 & 7 combined) as of June 2022. In Arlington, this equates to about 22 evictions per month that result in homelessness.

#### **Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice**

In Texas, one in three women will experience domestic violence. In the City of Arlington, there were a total of 400 people fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking in 2021. Of those 400 people, 160 were adult victims and 240 were child victims. These individuals were reported as receiving ESG-CV funding from the City of Arlington through services provided by SafeHaven of Tarrant County. Local data would certainly indicate that the at-risk group of those fleeing or attempting to flee abuse situations is larger than those reporting as homeless.

#### **Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability, as defined by HUD in the Notice**

Those at greatest risk of housing instability include households with annual income less than or equal to 30% of the AMI and experiencing severe cost burden (>50% of income on housing costs) or households with annual income less than or equal to 50% of the AMI and meeting a condition that puts them at risk of homelessness.

Applying estimates from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to the City of Arlington, 7.5 percent of men and 4.0 percent of women over the age of 18 experienced alcohol and drug abuse, estimating 29,859 men and 15,924 women of Arlington's 2018 population needed support services. In 2018, the national percentage of people aged 12 years or older experiencing substance abuse disorder was 7.4. Applying the national percentage to Arlington, 29,461 persons over the age of 12 experienced substance abuse. In 2018, Disabilities among non-institutionalized persons accounted for 38,714 or 9.9 percent of the population within the City of Arlington. The largest age group with disabilities were persons 65 years and over at 34.9 percent.

In addition to the needs previously noted, those at greatest risk of homelessness are often highly cost burdened and live in housing with poor conditions. They often earn low wages and can have difficulty affording transportation to work. Some lack the needed skills, to find work that improves financial security and lessens housing instability.

Service needs identified from consultations included, but are not limited to, case management, childcare, education services, employment assistance, job training, outpatient health services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, and transportation.

**Identify and consider the current resources available to assist qualifying populations, including congregate and non-congregate shelter units, supportive services, TBRA, and affordable and permanent supportive rental housing (Optional):**

The City of Arlington receives an annual allocation of over \$5 million in federal formula grant funding, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Grant, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). The City utilizes funds to assist families with obtaining affordable homes, supportive services, rental assistance, emergency shelter and other essential services.

The City allocated funding received through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) act to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Community Development Block Grant- Covid (CDBG-CV) funds, were used to provide immediate needs to 5,621 Arlington residents such as food pantry services, meal delivery, youth services, dental care, foreclosure prevention counseling, mental health services, quality childcare, substance abuse, microenterprise support, housing, and resource navigation. Emergency Solutions Grant- Covid (ESG-CV) funds, were also to provide emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, homeless prevention, and street outreach services Arlington residents impacted by COVID-19.

**Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations:**

**Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5**

**(1) Needs: Sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations**

**Rental Housing**

Since 2010, Arlington has simultaneously experienced tremendous economic and population growth. However, the supply of housing units during this period has remained stagnant. Available units for people exiting homelessness are at an all-time low. Individuals are being forced to search for housing for much longer due to limited inventory. Affordable units and properties are in high demand from all income levels, giving landlords the ability to be more selective, often opting out of accepting any type of rental assistance, especially from people exiting homelessness.

According to the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition's apartment navigation database, there are only 350 units on average available at a point in time in Tarrant/Parker Counties that have

committed to accepting the COC system housing vouchers. However, many of these 350 available units are also available to the public. So, despite unprecedented levels of federal investment in rental assistance for people experiencing homelessness, the system does not currently have enough dedicated and available units to move people into stable housing.

Consultations for HOME-ARP indicated a significant need for more affordable rental housing. Additionally, there was support for such housing to be in context sensitive areas that provide access to transportation, jobs, retail, services, and medical support. Commenters noted that there is a significant need to allocate funding for permanent supportive housing and deeply affordable housing.

### **Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

The City of Arlington's Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program is a Federally funded program regulated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), managed and operated by the City of Arlington by the Housing Authority (AHA). The funding source for the TBRA program is the HUD HOME investment Partnerships program. HUD allocates HOME funds to the City of Arlington annually. The Arlington City Council determines the amount of HOME funding that will be allocated to the TBRA program. Through the TBRA program, the AHA can assist with rent, utilities, and security deposits for qualified participants. Housing assistance is provided for up to 2-years.

Consultations with service providers indicated that the lack of affordable rental housing inventory has created barriers to using TBRA for those qualifying populations that would typically be eligible to use this resource. This has created an unmet need, as clients are unable to locate properties to live and raise their families in.

### **Congregate and Non-Congregate Shelters**

The most substantial need for local shelter providers within the City is to attain and maintain adequate staffing levels. During the covid pandemic, shelter service providers expressed difficulty in hiring and maintaining sufficient staffing levels. This caused providers to reduce bed capacity and serve less clients. Providers have since began to return to pre-pandemic staffing levels, allowing them to assist more clients.

### **Service Needs**

According to the service providers consulted, the greatest barrier to providing services that qualifying populations need, is a lack of resources and funding available to provide those services. Consultation with homeless service providers and COC leadership identified an immediate need for the creation of permanent supportive housing coupled with intensive on-site wraparound services.

## **(2) Needs: At risk of homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5**

### **Rental Housing**

Persons at-risk of homelessness demonstrate housing instability, such as living in the home of another because of economic hardship or living in a hotel/motel. This population also has extremely low incomes at 30% AMI and lack of resources and supports.

As previously noted, consultations for HOME-ARP indicated a significant need for more affordable rental housing with the City of Arlington. The increased availability of affordable rental housing can ensure that those at risk of homelessness will pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent. This can assist in decreasing housing instability for this population.

### **Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

Rental subsidies from TBRA allow the City of Arlington to help individual households afford housing costs. Of the 105 households needing long term supportive housing, Arlington has the resources to serve 24 new households with Arlington's permanent supportive housing (PSH) and Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) resources. On average, 6 PSH vouchers + 18 EHVs become available to new clients each year.

Consultations revealed that current resources are not on pace to manage the number of households that require long term supportive housing. Also, as previously mentioned, the lack of housing inventory has created an unmet need for those qualifying populations that would typically be eligible to use this resource.

### **Congregate and Non-Congregate Shelters**

The City of Arlington's goal is to find permanent housing for those who are unhoused. Hence, shelters are not designed to be a permanent solution. However, they provide a safe space for homeless clients, while building resources to secure permanent housing. Local shelters also provide a village of support systems and services for those at risk for homelessness, hence this need is currently being met for this qualifying population.

### **Service Needs**

Arlington residents at risk of homelessness can apply for assistance through the City's Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) which is a state funded initiative used in Arlington to help the homeless and those in imminent danger of becoming homeless. The funds are primarily utilized for Arlington renters who are in imminent danger of being evicted from their rental unit and, without financial assistance, would become homeless. For persons already experiencing homelessness, funds are used to help them re-enter stable rental housing by assisting with payments for security deposits and first month's rent.

Public transportation continues to be a challenge and unmet need that the City is addressing at a regional and local level. Existing transportation services include Handitran, Via, Mission Arlington transportation services, Trinity Railway Express (TRE), and other rideshare services

(e.g., Uber and Lyft). During the 2020 program year, the City of Arlington utilized CARES Act CDBG-CV funds to implement a pilot Via rideshare program for a network of non-profits to provide free rides to low- to moderate-income Arlington clients impacted by COVID-19.

The City of Arlington continues to pursue transportation solutions to improve service delivery and provide access to jobs and education for low- to moderate-income individuals and those at risk for homelessness.

### **(3) Needs: Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking**

#### **Rental Housing**

Consultations with domestic service providers indicated that individuals fleeing domestic or dating violence need increased safety measures to minimize risk of returning to unsafe residential environments. This qualified population has a critical need for supportive services to help them transition into affordable housing. Additionally, these individuals need services that aid with legal advocacy, childcare, employment services, and case management.

#### **Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

The Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) was created to streamline service from community members who encounter high-risk domestic violence victims.

The DVHRT model has two parts: a case-management level where SafeHaven case managers directly support high risk victims, and a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) systems-level meeting where staff from SafeHaven, law enforcement, the Criminal District Attorney's office, probation and all three county hospital systems meet to work through cases.

Victims of domestic violence are at great risk of experiencing housing instability. During consultations advocates expressed a need more resources allocated to rental assistance. They also emphasized that the lack of units available for those who currently have vouchers is a great barrier. For this subgroup, there is need for deeply affordable subsidized units.

#### **Congregate and Non-Congregate Shelters**

Without economic independence, many domestic violence survivors are caught in abusive relationships. Amid trauma, the benefits of traditional social services are not fully realized by clients. Consultations with domestic service providers revealed the need to create better access to transitional shelters that offer mental health, credit assistance, and educational training to help stabilize this population. Shelter providers such as Safehaven, in Arlington have long provided these types of services, hence this need is currently being met for this audience.

#### **Service Needs**

Access to mainstream resources for people who are fleeing non-safe circumstances, is a critical component in moving a person from homelessness to stable, permanent housing. Safehaven

provides shelter, case management, counseling, and assistance with the court system to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. It is the only state designated family violence center in Tarrant County.

According to the service providers consulted, the greatest barrier to providing services that qualifying populations need, is a lack of resources and funding available to provide those services. The most substantial gap in the service delivery system is adequate staffing to provide the level of case management and support that is needed to address the many challenges that the qualifying populations encounter.

**(4) Other Populations: (a) Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Return to Homelessness; or (b) At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability**

**Rental Housing**

Persons who were formerly homeless but temporarily housed with assistance may benefit from an option of rental housing that is deeply affordable as a permanent solution. This includes persons requiring services to prevent homelessness, such as living in the home of another due to economic hardship or living in a hotel/motel. If ongoing assistance to prevent homelessness continues to be needed, permanent rental housing that is affordable may offer a more sustainable option without having to continually apply for and coordinate assistance.

Elevated levels of funding received by the City of Arlington over the previous 18 months, has been allocated to homelessness-prevention activities to ensure that at-risk households do not fall into homelessness. More affordable rental housing is also needed to help house persons with severe cost burden and provide more affordability to those at-risk of homelessness.

**Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

TBRA can be used to support those at greatest risk of housing instability or those in unstable housing situations. This includes all qualifying populations including homeless, at-risk of homelessness, domestic violence victims and other populations, where such support would prevent homelessness.

Tenant Based Rental Assistance is a viable solution for families so long as inventory is available. However, Inflation and current market conditions with the City have exasperated the challenge of finding landlords willing to accept Tenant Based Rental Assistance. In addition, persons experiencing homelessness may have greater history of housing instability, which could cause them to be high-risk tenants. To alleviate this unmet need, landlord incentives may also be required with the use of TBRA for this qualifying population.

**Congregate and Non-Congregate Shelters**

Just as with other qualifying populations, the most substantial unmet need is adequate staffing to serve clients. However, this barrier can be alleviated through housing navigation and placement support (particularly with private landlords), landlord incentives, and ongoing support from case management.

### **Service Needs**

In addition to current support services that are provided within the City of Arlington, consultations with providers also highlighted the need for additional workforce development and employment services. They also advocated greatly for the development of intentional communities for those with special needs. These communities have a high degree of social cohesion and provide a supportive yet independent lifestyle. Additionally, persons who were formerly homeless and temporarily housed need service coordination amongst providers if one type of assistance is ending and another is beginning.

### ***Identify any gaps within the current shelter and housing inventory as well as the service delivery system:***

#### **Housing Inventory:**

The City of Arlington housing inventory has a severe gap in the number of affordable homes available in comparison to those needed. Housing affordability in Arlington and the surrounding region impacts the HOME-ARP qualifying populations.

There is a total system gap of 105 households needing long-term supportive housing. Arlington has the resources to serve 24 new households with Arlington's Permanent Supportive Housing and Emergency Housing Voucher resources (on average, 6 PSH vouchers + 18 EHV's become available to new clients each year). Arlington needs an additional 81 long-term supportive housing vouchers dedicated to households experiencing homelessness in Arlington. Without these additional 81 dedicated units, these households will most likely remain in the homeless services system.

Of the 337 households needing rapid rehousing assistance, about 51 homeless households in Arlington receive one of TX-601's rapid rehousing vouchers annually. Arlington needs additional rapid rehousing vouchers to serve an additional 286 households annually.

Fair Housing progress to address impediments and gaps during Program Year 2021 consisted of the following:

- The City of Arlington provided outreach and education marketing materials to local non-profits for distribution to their clients, fair housing information on the website, updated training for staff, virtual fair housing information sessions, and newsletters, brochures, and monthly social media marketing to Arlington residents.
- The City's Grants Management department partnered with the Hispanic Real Estate Brokers Association (HREBA) and Housing Channel to a Homeownership Fair on May 25, 2022. The fair was attended by approximately 300 people and included classes which covered fair housing topics with attendees.
- The City added to the supply of affordable housing by using community resources and local, state, and federal resources to construct new subsidized and market rate multifamily housing units, repair older housing stock, provide homeless prevention



rental resources, and provide housing assistance vouchers for very low-income Arlington residents.

### **Shelter:**

The City of Arlington supports existing emergency shelters and provides resources to enable the continuity of operations. Emergency shelters in Arlington include the Arlington Life Shelter, SafeHaven of Tarrant County, and the Salvation Army Arlington Family Life Center. Each of these shelters also received additional ESG-CV funding to ensure adequate social distancing and services to vulnerable populations during the pandemic. During PY22, these services continue to keep families and individuals safe while residing at the shelter and as they move to more stable housing in the community.

As previously mentioned, the most substantial gap in need is adequate staffing. During the covid pandemic, shelter service providers expressed difficulty in hiring and maintaining sufficient staffing levels. This caused providers to reduce bed capacity and serve less clients. Providers have since began to return to pre-pandemic staffing levels, allowing them to assist more clients.

### **Services:**

Homeless service providers provide several support services for homeless persons residing in the City of Arlington. There are few, if any, gaps in terms of the range of services available, however providers do not have the capacity to take on and serve significant numbers of additional clients without additional funding.

In program year 2021, public service programs were funded with the maximum amount allowed 15 percent of the CDBG allocation. Non-profit organizations and city departments provided services to approximately 8,621 persons. Organizations offered services such as day habilitation, food pantries, housing navigation for homeless, transportation, job skills training, childcare, meals for seniors, tutoring and mentoring for youth, and dental health services. Coordinated approaches to service delivery are common in Arlington and Tarrant County. Examples of collaborative methods include:

- To address the impediment on improved transportation access to low to moderate-income residents, the City partnered with local homeless shelters and non-profits to provide free rides on the Via rideshare program for their low-income clientele impacted by COVID-19.
- United Way Arlington facilitated the Financial Stability Partnership and Arlington Resource Sharing Group, which successfully increased community awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and financial literacy programs. A total of 356 Arlington tax returns were prepared at four Arlington VITA sites. VITA volunteers yielded \$564,992



in tax refunds. The programs claimed a total of \$154,930 in Earned Income Tax Credit for 107 residents receiving tax preparation assistance. A total of \$182,098 in Child Tax Credits was received.

- Youth services included dental health education, day camps, one-on-one mentoring, computer classes, educational tutoring, health and life skills training, and after-school programming. Over 7,805 low-income Arlington youth benefited from these programs.
- CDBG funds were used to fund street improvements on Herschel Street from Martin Luther Drive to Browning Drive. CDBG funds will cover the cost of street and sidewalk improvements for approximately 827 linear feet. The project will include rebuilding the 28-foot-wide street, replacing existing sidewalks, curb and gutter, streetlight poles, and rebuilding stormwater inlets. This project is expected to be completed mid-year 2023.

***Under Section IV.4.2.ii.G of the HOME-ARP Notice, a PJ may provide additional characteristics associated with instability and increased risk of homelessness in their HOME-ARP allocation plan. These characteristics will further refine the definition of “other populations” that are “At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability,” as established in the HOME-ARP Notice. If including these characteristics, identify them here:***

The number one indicator associated with instability and increased risk of homelessness is a previous history of homelessness. When comparing the total number of monthly eviction filings pre-pandemic versus present day, there has been a 31% decrease in total number of monthly evictions filed in Tarrant/Parker Counties (2400 monthly filings pre-pandemic vs 1640 monthly filings present day). This was due in part to executive orders that mandated a moratorium on evictions. We anticipate a significant increase in this number with the end of Emergency Rental Assistance programs.

***Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:***  
**Priority Needs for Homeless as defined in 24CFR 91.5:**

According to the COC and several service providers who responded during HOME-ARP consultations, The largest identified need in the City of Arlington, is additional long-term permanent supportive housing units dedicated to households experiencing homelessness. These additional units would be used to serve households who are typically unable to work due to disability and/or older age and who have limited to no income to afford rent. Without these additional resources, these households are unable to get out of homelessness on their own. Consultations also revealed that supportive services for housing stability, such as counseling, substance abuse service, case management, job training and transportation are also priority needs for this qualifying population.

**Priority Needs for At-Risk Populations:**

Individuals and families at risk of homelessness require housing assistance that vary from eviction assistance, diversion assistance, or rent and utility assistance in addition to other types

of supportive services. Using ESG funding, the City of Arlington currently provides rapid rehousing and homeless prevention resources to those most in need. Service needs identified from consultations included, but are not limited to, case management, childcare, education services, employment assistance, job training, outpatient health services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, and transportation.

**Priority needs for persons fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking”:**

Consultations with domestic service providers revealed the need to create better access to transitional shelters that offer mental health, credit assistance, and educational training to help stabilize this population. Additional priority needs may also include transitional housing and supportive services, in particular mental health services.

**Priority Needs for Other Populations: (a) Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Return to Homelessness; or (b) At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability:**

Individuals and families in need of services to prevent returning to homelessness require rental and utility assistance to stay in homes. Support services to maintain housing stability is also a priority. Wrap around services which include case management, to help families connect to resources in the community are also much needed support services.

***Explain how the PJ determined the level of need and gaps in the PJ’s shelter and housing inventory and service delivery systems based on the data presented in the plan:***

Data for this plan was gathered from multiple sources including Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, the Census, consultation feedback and stakeholder engagement. The level of need was determined by assessing the community’s total available housing resources for households experiencing homelessness and for households at risk of homelessness. The Tarrant County Homeless Coalition also provided data from the community’s Homeless Management Information System as well as monthly eviction data to determine the number of households currently experiencing homelessness and at risk of experiencing homelessness.

## HOME-ARP ACTIVITIES

**-Describe the method(s) that will be used for soliciting applications for funding and/or selecting developers, service provider, subrecipients and/or contractors.**

**-Describe whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly:**

Pending HUD approval of its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, the City will issue a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for interested and experienced service providers and developers of affordable multi-family housing. The City will promote the NOFA in the following ways:

- Emails will be sent using a list of interested individuals and organizations.
- Posts on social media will be made through the Communications Department and recommended to be made to each Council office.
- Information will also be distributed through traditional media channels through the Communications Department.
- Technical assistance webinars will also be made available at predetermined dates to provide applicants with more information about completing eligible applications.
- Emails will be sent to developers interested in affordable housing in Arlington and those who have worked in Arlington historically.
- An Annual Developer Meeting is held in advance of the LIHTC 9% cycle and information will be shared at that forum.

The NOFAs will be released on the City's Grants Management Department webpage ([Grants Management - City of Arlington \(arlingtontx.gov\)](#)) under the Funding Opportunities tab. The City will contact previous applicants, interested individuals, and other potential partners through email to notify them when the NOFA is released. Additionally, it will notify the public via social media and posts to community calendars.

***If any portion of the City's HOME-ARP administrative funds were provided to a subrecipient or contractor prior to HUD's acceptance of the HOME-ARP allocation plan because the subrecipient or contractor is responsible for the administration of the City's entire HOME-ARP grant, identify the subrecipient or contractor and describe its role and responsibilities in administering all the City's HOME-ARP program:***

The City has not, and does not intend to, provide a subrecipient with funds to administer the entirety of the City's HOME-ARP program.

## USE OF HOME-ARP FUNDING

The following table describes the amount of HOME-ARP funding that is planned for each eligible HOME-ARP activity type and demonstrates that any planned funding for non-profit organization operating assistance, non-profit capacity building, and administrative costs is within HOME-ARP limits.

**Table 5:** Use of HOME-ARP Funding

	Funding Amount Statutory Limit	Percent of Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 645,604.40	14%	
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter			
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)			
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 3,250,000.00	71%	
Non-Profit Operating			5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building			5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 687,459.60	15%	15%
Total HOME-ARP Allocation	\$ 4,583,064.00		

***Describe how the PJ will distribute HOME-ARP funds in accordance with its priority needs identified in its needs assessment and gap analysis:***

The use of the preferences above will ensure that those in most need of services will be targeted for assistance. These populations are likely to have great compounded challenges that require more intensive supportive services to achieve and maintain housing stability. These mid-term to long-term services require assistance transitioning to housing and providing permanent supportive housing, along with case management, healthcare, legal services, and other supportive services. With better housing options and wrap-around services, these families will have a higher likelihood of becoming self-sustaining over time.

### **Permanent Supportive Housing:**

#### **Qualifying Population:**

Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.6

- Priority Needs: funds will be distributed for those who are homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.6 for the development or rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing units.

### **Supportive Services:**

#### **Qualifying Populations:**

- (1) Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5
- (2) At-risk of homelessness (McKinney Act definition at 24 CFR 91.5)
- (3) Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking

(4) Other Populations: (a) Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Return to Homelessness; or (b) At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability

Services offered include:

- Case management
- Mental health counseling
- Dental care
- Credit counseling
- Rental assistance
- Education services
- Transportation vouchers
- Substance abuse programs
- Employment training

***Describe how the characteristics of the shelter and housing inventory, service delivery system, and the needs identified in the gap analysis that provided a rationale for the plan to fund eligible activities:***

The number of affordable rental housing units in the City are too low to meet the needs of all the qualifying populations outlined in the HOME-ARP regulations. To mitigate this issue, the City is proposing to allocate the greatest amount toward closing that gap through the development of affordable rental housing. Although this is a step in the right direction, it can't be accomplished in isolation. The need for housing opportunities is closely matched by the need for supportive services in the community. The community expressed its desire to broaden the number of access points to mental health services, physical health services, substance abuse treatment, and case management to support those that will require permanent supportive housing. Addressing these supportive services require either access to no-cost transportation or the ability of the service provider to bring services directly to the people who need them.

## HOME-ARP PRODUCTION HOUSING GOALS

***Estimate the number of affordable rental housing units for qualifying populations that the City will produce or support with its HOME-ARP allocation:***

The City intends to construct or rehabilitate at least 26 rental housing units for qualifying populations using HOME-ARP funds. The amount projected is based upon data provided by the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care.

***Describe the specific affordable rental housing production goal that the City hopes to achieve and describe how it will address the City's priority needs:***

Consultation participants frequently highlighted the barriers and needs related to homelessness. These included needs for more low-barrier housing units, case management for people experiencing homelessness, job and skills training and drug/alcohol counseling.

As a result, the City created a goal of constructing or rehabilitating permanent supportive housing units using HOME-ARP funds. Through its allocation toward development of affordable rental housing, the City anticipates it will be able to construct or renovate at least 26 rental housing units.

To assist qualified populations that have high barriers obtaining and maintaining their homes, especially those who are chronically homeless, PSH will provide housing assistance interlaced with supportive services and case management that help improve independent living and tenancy skills. This type of intervention is designed to serve the most vulnerable qualified populations.

## PREFERENCES

***Identify whether the City intends to give preference to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project:***

In terms of referral methods for HOME-ARP assistance, the City of Arlington will use the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition's coordinated entry system, and the Arlington Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher program waiting list with other referral methods, consistent with HOME-ARP requirements. The City has a community-wide process to address the needs of the qualifying populations. Using this system, all individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis are assessed for need, prioritized, and matched to appropriate housing and support in the community.

Permanent Supportive Housing: Preferences for this activity will be three subpopulations under the homeless qualifying population. The first preference is chronically homeless individuals and families with a disability with the longest history of homelessness and the most severe service needs; the second preference is literally homeless individuals and families with a disability and the most severe service needs; the third preference is literally homeless individuals and families with the most severe service needs. The goal is to assist populations who have the most vulnerability and severe needs.

Supportive Services: Supportive services, shall include but not be limited to case management, employment support, mental health support.

***If a preference was identified, explain how the use of a preference or method of prioritization will address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or category of qualifying population, consistent with the PJ's needs assessment and gap analysis:***

Anyone is eligible to seek assistance through Coordinated Access, including all qualifying populations irrespective of preferences. No qualified populations will be excluded from applying and receiving assistance through HOME-ARP. Coordinated Access directs applicants to the interventions and services that are most aligned to their needs. Prioritization will occur after coordinated intake and will align with the preferences stated above.

The City intends to prioritize chronically homeless populations because they need immediate placement in housing. However, no qualifying population shall be excluded or denied access. Hence although priority will be given to those who are defined as homeless as stated earlier, the bulk of HOME-ARP funding (together with other resources described above) is expected to be used to create permanent supportive housing units for individuals and families and provide the support systems necessary for them to maintain their housing placement. Qualified populations that are at imminent risk of homelessness or literally homeless may also receive

assistance through diversion services where they will be diverted from emergency shelter to housing that provides safer alternatives.

The use of the preferences above will ensure that those in most need of services will be targeted for assistance. These populations are likely to have great compounded challenges that require more intensive supportive services to achieve and maintain housing stability. These mid-term to long-term services require assistance transitioning to housing and providing permanent supportive housing, along with case management, healthcare, legal services, and other supportive services. With better housing options and wrap-around services, these families will have a higher likelihood of becoming self-sustaining over time.

***If a preference was identified, describe how the PJ will use HOME-ARP funds to address the unmet needs or gaps in benefits and services of the other qualifying populations that are not included in the preference:***

The preference for serving persons experiencing homelessness with HOME-ARP funds is not meant to exclude at-risk, other unstably housed populations, particularly those who need help to relocate to other suitable housing. This includes those fleeing or attempting to flee abusive situations. These qualifying populations will still be prioritized to receive supportive services. It is also anticipated that individuals and families who are at-risk of homelessness or members of other qualifying populations needing homeless prevention assistance or who are at risk of housing stability will have their needs most appropriately met through other federal, state, and local resources that are supporting rental assistance for those populations, as described earlier. Additionally, other qualified populations like veteran households or households who are at or below 50% AMI and experiencing housing problems will be eligible to receive rental assistance or supportive services.



## HOME-ARP REFINANCING GUIDELINES

If the City intends to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds, the City must state its HOME-ARP refinancing guidelines in accordance with 24 CFR 92.206(b). The guidelines must describe the conditions under which the City will refinance existing debt for a HOME-ARP rental project, including:

***Establish a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing to demonstrate that rehabilitation of HOME-ARP rental housing is the primary eligible activity.***

Not Applicable - The City of Arlington does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds.

***Require a review of management practices to demonstrate that disinvestment in the property has not occurred; that the long-term needs of the project can be met; and that the feasibility of serving qualified populations for the minimum compliance period can be demonstrated.***

***State whether the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units, create additional affordable units, or both.***

Not Applicable - The City of Arlington does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt for units that are being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds.

***Specify the required compliance period, whether it is the minimum 15 years or longer.***

Not Applicable- The City of Arlington does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt for units that are being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds.

***State that HOME-ARP funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG.***

Not Applicable- The City of Arlington does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt for units that are being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds.

***Other requirements in the City's guidelines, if applicable:***

Not Applicable- The City of Arlington does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt for units that are being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds.

# APPENDIX A

## Public Notice

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**This is a draft document that has been made available for public review and comment.**

The Public Comment Period will begin Sept. 5, 2022, and conclude on Sept. 20, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Residents are encouraged to submit comments by one of the following methods:

#### **Submit Comments by Mail:**

City of Arlington  
Attn: Grants Management Department  
101 West Abram Street  
P.O. Box 90231  
Arlington, TX 76004-3231

#### **Submit Comments by Email:**

[grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov)

Please include “2021 HOME-ARP Allocation Plan” in the subject line

#### **Submit Comments by Phone:**

817-459-6258

#### **Submit Comments by Survey:**

or by scanning the QR code below:



Residents may also submit comments during a Sept. 12, 2022, Public Hearing to be held virtually via TEAMS at approximately 6:00 p.m., prior to City Council consideration of the Plan. For participation instructions, visit [Planning and Reporting - City of Arlington \(arlingtontx.gov\)](https://www.arlingtontx.gov/planning-and-reporting). For special accommodations please email [grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov), prior to Sept. 10, 2022.

## ORDER DETAILS

## PREVIEW FOR AD NUMBER IPL00887060

**Order Number:**  
IPL0088706  
**Order Status:**  
Approved  
**Classification:**  
Legals & Public Notices  
**Package:**  
FTW - Legal Ads  
**Final Cost:**  
50.97  
**Payment Type:**  
Account Billed  
**User ID:**  
IPL0019771

## UPDATE STATUS

**Current Status:**  
Approved  
**New Status:**

Approved

## ORDER NOTES

Additional Information

Update

## ACCOUNT INFORMATION

CITY OF ARLINGTON/OFFICE IP  
101 W. ABRAM ST. MS 01-0260  
ARLINGTON, TX 76004-3231  
817-459-6614  
noemail@noemail.com  
CITY OF ARLINGTON/OFFICE OF STRATEGIC  
INITIATIVES

## TRANSACTION REPORT

**Date**  
September 2, 2022 1:40:23 PM EDT  
**Amount:**  
50.97

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT  
ON THE  
CITY OF ARLINGTON DRAFT  
PROGRAM YEAR 2021 HOME-  
ARP ALLOCATION PLAN**

On September 20th, 2021, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the City of Arlington of \$4,583,064 in funds from the HOME-American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("HOME-ARP"). HOME-ARP funds are to be used to help communities create affordable housing and services for people experiencing or who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The City of Arlington has completed the draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for Program Year 2021 and hereby presents the plan for public review and comment. The comment period will be open for 15 days from September 5, 2022, to September 20, 2022, by 5:00pm CST. A draft of the plan can be located here. Requests can also be made to receive the plan via mail or by email by contacting grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov or by dialing 817-459-6229.

Notice is hereby given, that the City of Arlington will hold a virtual public hearing:

1) Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6 p.m. via Microsoft TEAMS (Click here to join the meeting) or by calling (469) 375-9689 or (833) 268-8354 Conference ID: 533 077 146.

The Arlington City Council is expected to take action on the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan on September 27, 2022, at their regular meeting. The plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on or about October 1, 2022.

If you need special accommodations, translation services or if you are unable to access the virtual public hearing, you may submit your requests to grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov prior to Sept 10, 2022.

Comments on the draft plan can also be shared by mail prior to the close of the public comment period:

City of Arlington  
Grants Management  
P.O. Box 90231, MS-01-0330  
Arlington, TX 76004

If you have questions, please call 817-459-6229.

Se publicará el lunes 5 de septiembre de 2022.

AVISO DE AUDIENCIAS PÚBLICAS Y SOLICITUD DE COMENTARIOS SOBRE EL BORRADOR DEL PROGRAMA DE LA CIUDAD DE ARLINGTON AÑO 2021 PLAN DE ASIGNACIÓN HOME-ARP

El 20 de septiembre de 2021, el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE. UU. otorgó a la ciudad de Arlington \$4,583,064 en fondos de la Ley del Plan de Rescate HOME-American de 2021 ("HOME-ARP"). Los fondos de HOME-ARP se utilizarán para ayudar a las comunidades a crear viviendas y servicios asequibles para las personas que experimentan o corren el riesgo de quedarse sin hogar.

La ciudad de Arlington ha completado el borrador del Plan de asignación de HOME-ARP para el programa del año 2021 y por la presente, se presenta el plan para revisión y comentarios públicos. El periodo de comentarios estará abierto durante 15 días desde el 5 de septiembre de 2022 hasta el 20 de septiembre de 2022 a las 5:00 p. m. CST. Puede encontrar un borrador del plan aquí. También se pueden realizar solicitudes para recibir el plan por correo o por correo electrónico comunicándose con grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov o llamando al 817-459-6229.

Por la presente se notifica que la Ciudad de Arlington llevará a cabo una audiencia pública virtual:

1) Lunes 12 de septiembre de 2022 a las 6 p. m. a través de Microsoft TEAMS (haga clic aquí para unirse a la reunión) o llamando al (469) 375-9689 o (833) 268-8354 ID de conferencia: 533 077 146.

Se espera que el Concejo Municipal de Arlington tome medidas sobre el Plan de asignación de HOME-ARP el 27 de septiembre de 2022, en su reunión ordinaria. El plan se presentará al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE. UU. alrededor del 1 de octubre de 2022.

Si necesita adaptaciones especiales, servicios de traducción o si no puede acceder a la audiencia pública virtual, puede enviar sus solicitudes a grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov antes del 10 de septiembre de 2022.

Los comentarios sobre el borrador del plan también se pueden compartir por correo antes del cierre del periodo de comentarios públicos.

Administración de subvenciones de la ciudad de Arlington

Apartado postal 90231, MS-01-0330  
Arlington, TX 76004

Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame al 817-459-6229.

IPL0088706  
Sep 5 2022



9/2/22, 12:45 PM

[View Order](#)

**SCHEDULE FOR AD NUMBER IPL00887060**

September 5, 2022

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

## APPENDIX B

### HOME-ARP Consultation Presentation

# HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP)

Arlington Homeless Service Providers  
Consultation Meeting

ARLINGTON SM  
THE AMERICAN DREAM CITY

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides \$5 billion to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations, by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter, to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability across the country. These grant funds will be administered through HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

## SYNOPSIS

2

**Purpose:**

To house those experiencing homelessness or those most at risk of becoming homeless.

**HOME-ARP funds can be used for four eligible activities:**

- Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Supportive Services, Homeless Prevention Services, and Housing Counseling
- Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter

## PUPOSE/ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

3

### CITY OF ARLINGTON

\$3,895,604.00 (Program Funds)

\$687,459.60 (Administrative Funds)

Total Allocation: \$4,583,064.00

**Expenditure Date:** September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2030

4

## Types of Housing

### Permanent Supportive Housing

Housing for people who have been homeless for more than one year and have a disability

### Supportive Housing

Housing for people who have been homeless for less than one year and have a disability

### Deeply Affordable Housing

Housing for families and individuals who are low-wage earners or on a fixed income

5

## Arlington's Identified Needs

In accordance with HUD Guidelines, the City is in the process of consulting with many different stakeholders to determine its allocation plan. Current focus being pursued in the region aligns with the first HOME-ARP eligible activity of “producing or preserving affordable housing.”



6

## Let's Talk About It...

- ◆ Who do you serve? Describe the size and demographic composition of the qualifying populations you serve
- ◆ Who is missing out? Please describe the unmet housing and services needs of the qualifying populations you serve in regards to:
  - a) Sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations,
  - b) Those currently housed populations at risk of homelessness,
  - c) The unmet sheltered, housing and service needs from information on waiting lists and other sources including the needs of people with disabilities.

7

## Let's Talk About It...

- ◆ What needs to be fixed? What are the gaps within the current shelter and housing inventory delivery system.
- ◆ Do we really understand? What are the priority needs of the unhoused.
- ◆ What are the Characteristics of the Arlington housing market including any barriers to using rental assistance?
- ◆ What are the current resources available? Congregate and non-congregate shelter units, supportive services, TBRA, and affordable and permanent supporting rental housing.

8





## Questions and Discussion

9

## APPENDIX C

### 2021 State of the Homeless Report

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TARRANT COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION

# STATE OF THE HOMELESS REPORT

2021

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

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2021 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.



TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED IN 2020: 10,268

### 2021 POINT IN TIME COUNT RESULTS

2021 TOTAL: 1,234

Emergency Shelter  
652

Safe Haven  
20

Unsheltered  
479

Transitional Housing  
83

#### ANNUAL TRENDS

42% overall decrease ↓

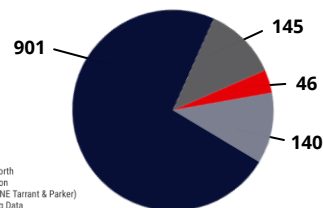
40% decrease in  
unsheltered ↓

23% decrease in  
Veterans homelessness ↓

46% decrease in  
Family homelessness ↓

32% decrease in  
Chronic homelessness ↓

#### WHERE?



\*Due to COVID-19, surveys this year were "observation only" and did not include survey questions like location.

#### WHO?

64% Men

36% Women

2.5% Children

22% Families

8% Veterans

#### 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 were focused on **problem solving**, **COVID-19 response**, and what comes next for our community.

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

In 2021, we are **building on momentum** fueled by increased system investment and continued strengthening of partnerships.

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# INTRODUCTION

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (the Homeless Coalition) is pleased to present the 2021 State of the Homeless Report. The 2021 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 and where we're headed next.

2021 is all about building on the incredible momentum we have after a year of protecting, responding, aligning and coordinating together to do the best work we could for our community. 2020 proved to be a year that no one expected. Our system of care was challenged in ways that we could have never predicted. However, we also responded together in incredible ways, keeping people safe and protecting the population that we work to care for every day. We continue to move forward working 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. Despite the pandemic, committees picked back up on their work, conversations changed and progress continues to be made.

Thank you to all of our partners for coming alongside us on this journey. The Homeless Coalition is here to serve you and could not do our work without you.

## 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

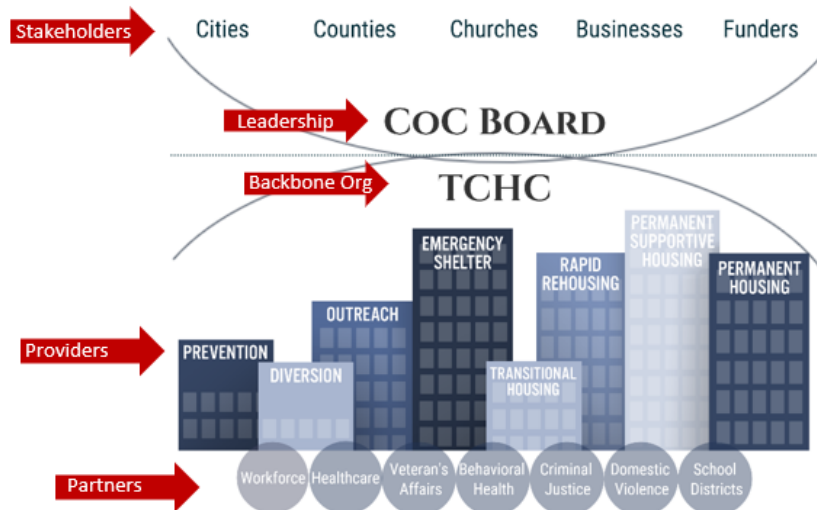
The CoC cultivates and creates partnerships to collectively impact effective and efficient community solutions for those experiencing homelessness.

With an agreed upon community-wide strategic plan, our housing crisis system of care has continued to move forward together, showing unity, especially during the pandemic. COVID-19 was a true stress test for our system and structure and it performed in an outstanding way. Significant systems changes were made, all coming from committees within the board structure. As the year went on, committees reemerged remaining committed to their goals and strategic actions for the year. 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: Allocation Committee's purpose is to align needs with resources, increase system dollars and improve performance across the continuum. Improving performance across the continuum includes prevention of homelessness and diversion all the way to emergency shelter and homeless response programs.

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 strategic recruitment of community members to the CoC Board and committees. 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 technology systems.

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

### Subcommittees, Workgroups and Taskforces

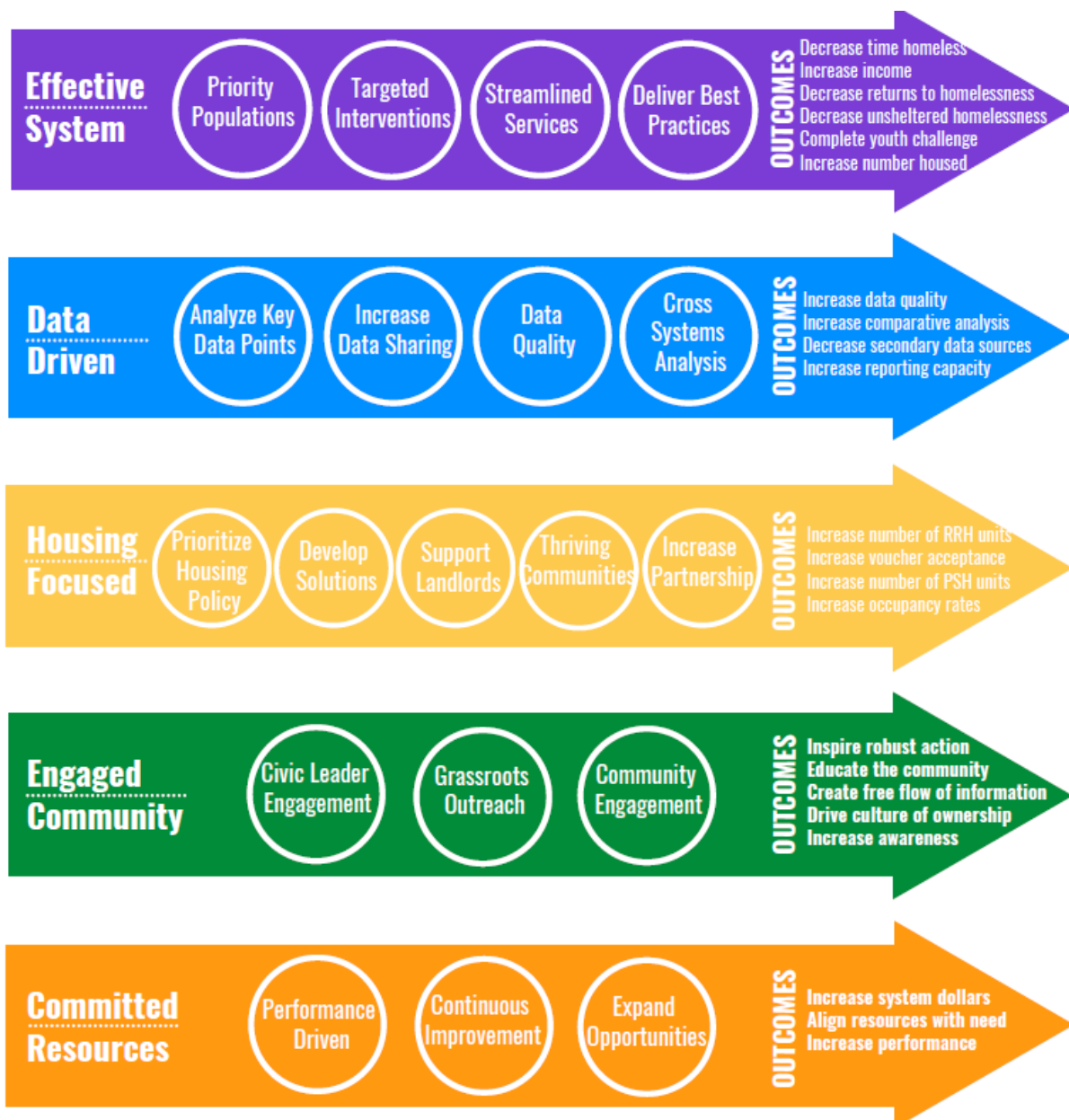
Emergency Shelter Strategy Committee, Family Committee, Youth Committee, Veterans Leadership Taskforce, Performance Workgroup, Ranking Workgroup, Outreach Leadership Committee; Case Conferencing Groups: Arlington, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Veterans, Youth, Families, Unsheltered

# 2021: BUILDING ON MOMENTUM

## Community Alignment

The Homeless Coalition and our partners serving people experiencing homelessness have committed to the CoC Strategic Plan to guide all planning and services within 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.

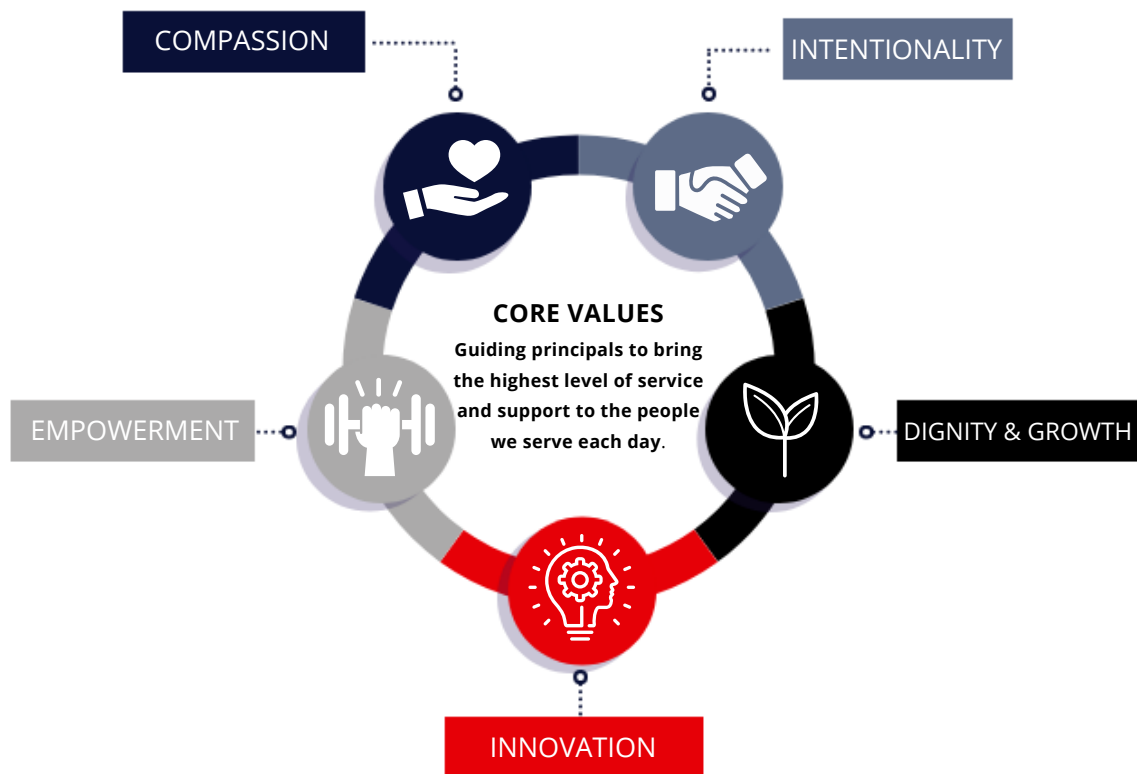




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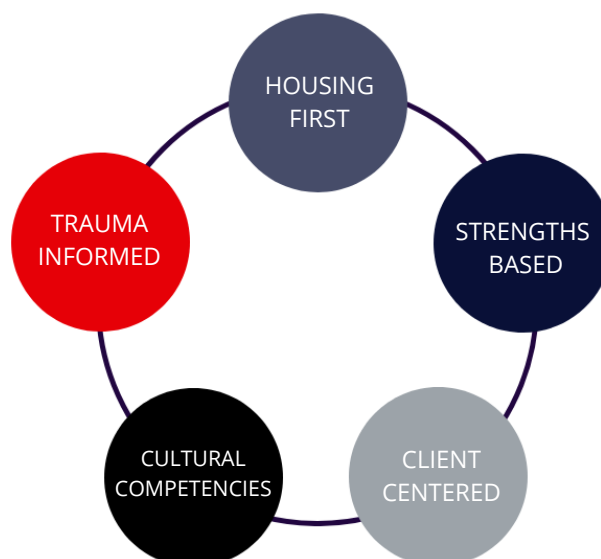
## Core Values

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.



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# SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The CoC made significant progress on the strategic plan with the following major accomplishments:

- **Prioritized people susceptible to COVID-19 for housing.**
- Expanded housing resources, including **119 new Permanent Supportive Housing units** through the City of Fort Worth.
- **Housed 525 people in the Housing 500 Challenge** at the end of 2020.
- Used new COVID-19 federal funding to **expand outreach teams** and provide services to people who were unsheltered.
- Leveraged new COVID-19 federal funding along with landlord engagement and eviction prevention measures to **reduce homelessness in the CoC.**
- Implemented **new Leadership Academy trainings** in best practices.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

The CoC responded quickly to reduce infections and fatalities from the COVID-19 pandemic among people experiencing homelessness.

- Emergency Shelters enacted social distancing, COVID-19 screening, and cleaning protocols consistent with the Centers for Disease Control guidelines.
- The city of Fort Worth set up a series of resources as additional capacity for people experiencing homelessness, including the Fort Worth Convention Center as an overflow shelter and a later separate shelter for people experiencing homelessness who were COVID+ or COVID-exposed.
- The Homeless Coalition began regular "Homeless Huddle" meetings with Emergency Shelters, outreach teams, housing programs, city and county staff, Tarrant County Public Health, and JPS Health Network to assess and respond to emerging COVID-19 needs. This allowed for more uniform and coordinated responses across the CoC in social distancing, COVID screening protocols, and COVID testing and medical care protocols. Emergency Shelters also received temperature kiosks that can measure temperature without staff resources or staff risk.
- The Homeless Coalition served as a distribution center for COVID-19 supplies; generous funders relied on the Homeless Coalition to respond to emerging and ongoing system needs.
- Outreach teams expanded with new COVID-19 funding to ensure that people who were unsheltered were receiving resources and connected to housing.
- The Homeless Coalition established a separate emergency non-congregate shelter for people who were homeless and COVID+ in December 2020.

---

# 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:

- 2018: veterans
- 2019: youth (18-24)
- 2020: people most at risk with COVID-19
- 2021: families
- 2022: chronically homeless



With the recognition that COVID-19 had potentially disastrous impacts in the congregate settings serving people experiencing homelessness, the CoC Board approved a change in priority population for 2020, refocusing our efforts on people who were most at risk for negative outcomes from COVID-19. The decision was also made to delay targeted work on other populations to keep people safe and move vulnerable people out of congregate settings.

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. Like many other things, the Challenge was different in 2020 and from October to December we embarked on the *Housing 500 Challenge*. This housing challenge had the goal of moving as many people as possible out of congregate settings and also getting the system of care moving again after experiencing significant slow downs due to the pandemic.

Our community responds well to challenges and this challenge was no exception. **Our system of care housed 525 people during the 2020 Housing 500 Challenge.** The Challenge helped us identify barriers people were having to moving into housing and allowed us to redirect resources where needed. Again, we have exceeded goals set and the challenges have helped propel us into long-term systems change.

## People Susceptible to COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control recognized that people experiencing homelessness were at great risk for COVID-19 infections and complications. People experiencing homelessness have increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection and they cannot “shelter in place” at home of their own. Additionally, people experiencing homelessness have co-occurring health conditions at higher rates than the general population. These conditions put this population at higher risk of COVID-19 complications. Because of this, our community designated people susceptible to COVID-19 as the priority population for 2020.

The CoC worked with JPS Health Network to identify factors that would qualify a person experiencing homelessness as at greatest risk of COVID-19 complications. Through a partnership, JPS helped identify people experiencing homelessness who had these factors, which then facilitated them being prioritized for housing.

The CoC continues to work closely with medical and health professionals to ensure those most vulnerable to COVID-19 continue to be prioritized for housing as we move through the pandemic.

# STRATEGY: PRIORITY POPULATIONS

## 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. 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.

As we embarked on the 100-Day Challenge in 2019, outside of housing, the most pressing needs identified by youth included transportation, driving lessons, housing locators and emotional support.

Youth homelessness decreased slightly in 2020. The percent of youth who moved into permanent housing increased from 32% in 2019 to 56% in 2020. Additionally, the percent of youth who returned to homelessness improved from 24% in 2019 to 18% in 2020. This means that the system was better at helping youth gain stability in 2020. However, youth who were homeless faced significant difficulties with employment during 2020, and the percent who retained or increased their employment income fell from 50% in 2019 to 22% in 2020. This decrease in employment income was likely due to the economic difficulties of the COVID pandemic, which have affected youth disproportionately.



Photos courtesy of Hands of Hope Street Outreach Team

### Notable Trends

Percent of youth who moved into permanent housing:

2019: 32%

2020: 56%

Percent of youth who returned to homelessness:

2019: 24%

2020: 18%

Percent of youth who retained or increased their employment income:

2019: 50%

2020: 22%

**536**

youth served in 2020

**92**

youth found experiencing homelessness in the night of the 2021 count.

**18%**

youth returned to homelessness after two years

---

## Veterans

Veterans experiencing homelessness remain a focus for our community. Veterans were the community's priority population in 2018, when we embarked on a 100-Day Challenge and 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, when 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.

During the COVID pandemic, veteran homelessness increased in our community. Building closures, long waits or the impossibility of receiving identifying documents, and shortages of affordable housing stock were barriers to reducing homelessness for veterans in 2020.

Our community has seen both positive and negative movement among our efforts to serve veterans experiencing homelessness during the pandemic. The percent of veterans moving into permanent housing fell from 65% in 2019 to 60% in 2020, indicating that fewer veterans attained stable housing out of homelessness. The percent of veterans who returned to homelessness after two years improved in 2020, decreasing to 29% from 35% in 2019. This means that veterans who received housing were better able to maintain it, as compared to 2019. The Veteran Leadership Taskforce is the group charged with continued efforts to address these barriers to end homelessness for veterans in Tarrant County.

**639**

Veterans served in 2020

**100**

Veterans found experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2021 count.

**29%**

Veterans returned to homelessness in 2 years

### Notable Trends

Percent of veterans who moved into permanent housing

2019: 65%

2020: 60%

Percent of veterans who returned to homelessness:

2019: 35%

2020: 24%



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## Families

Our community is working very intentionally to address family homelessness. The Family Committee works strategically to address family homelessness through coordinated services, identifying barriers and ensuring that families can access services immediately. The Committee is aligned with the USICH benchmarks to end family homelessness and has begun working on the first goals to achieve benchmarks.

The Family 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. The Committee is also working to standardize how our community talks about and counts families experiencing homelessness.



Photography courtesy of Sara Liz Photography

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 spend less time on average in homelessness, move into housing faster than other populations, and have lower returns to homelessness. In 2020, the number of families experiencing homelessness decreased 46%, and the rate at which families return to homelessness after two years fell from 20% to 13%.

### Notable Trends

Percent of families that moved into permanent housing:

2019: 92%

2020: 100%

Percent of families that returned to homelessness:

2019: 20%

2020: 13%

**82**

Households experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2021 point-in-time count.

**268**

People in families experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2021 count.

**13%**

Returns to homelessness after two years

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## Chronically Homeless

People experiencing chronic homelessness have been identified as our community's priority population for 2022. 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.



Photo courtesy of Hands of Hope Street Outreach Team

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, along with those 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.

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# CORE INTERVENTIONS

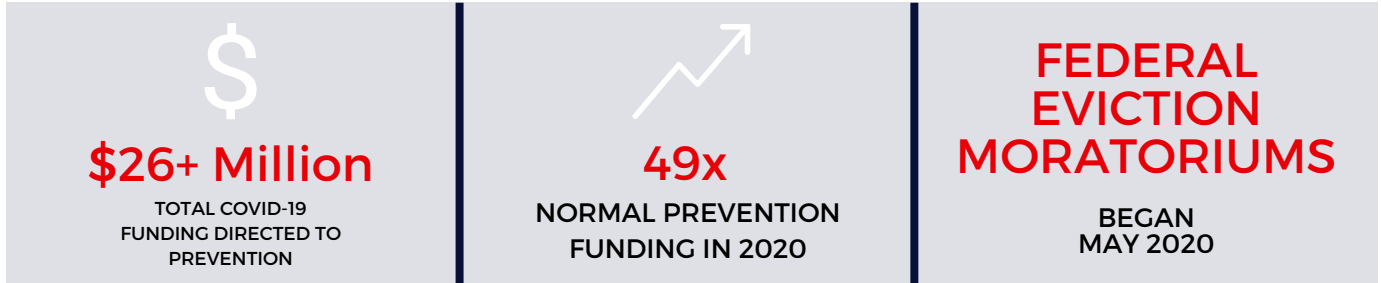
Our Housing Crisis System of Care is made up of core interventions designed to serve people who have experienced housing instability and homelessness. Services provided range from homeless prevention to crisis response services to longer term housing solutions. Each intervention is specifically designed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



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## HOMELESS PREVENTION

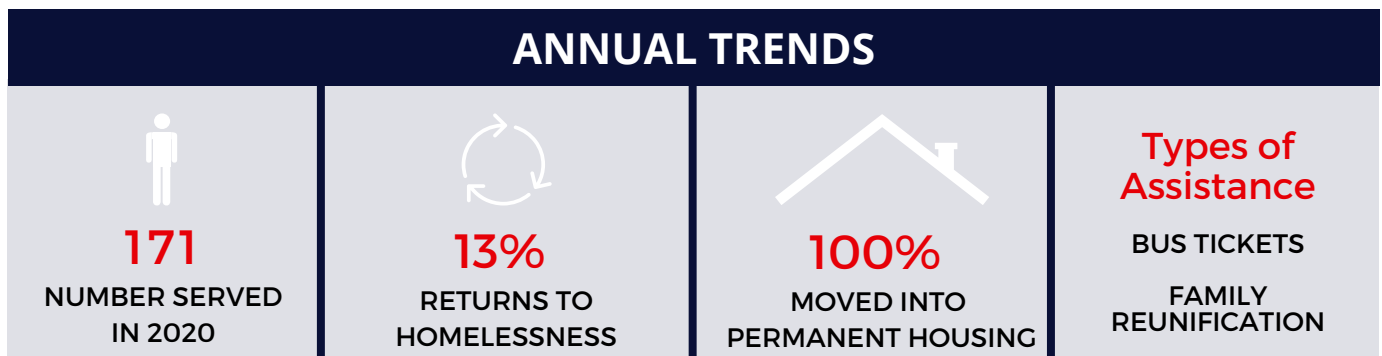
Homeless Prevention services provide direct financial assistance to keep people from becoming homeless. Homeless Prevention is considered the most cost-effective way to help those who are at risk of losing their housing and can ultimately reduce a community's need for and reliance upon emergency solutions. In 2020, funding for Homeless Prevention greatly increased with additional federal funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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## HOMELESS DIVERSION

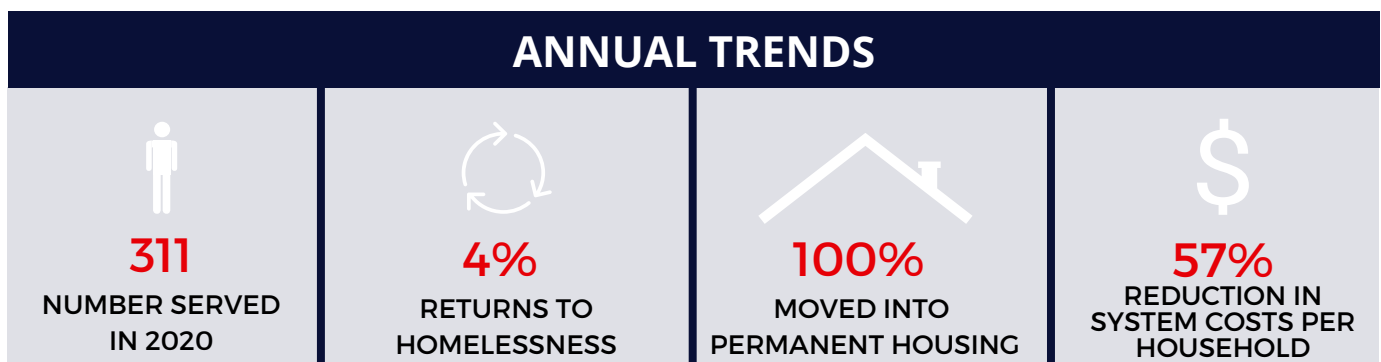
Homeless diversion is an intervention strategy used to keep people from entering homelessness. Diversion happens after households have lost their housing and helps to identify immediate alternative housing arrangements to assist them in securing permanent place to live.



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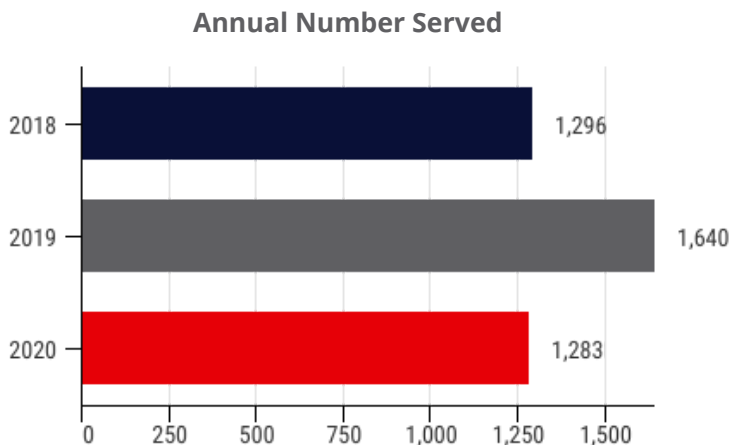
## RAPID EXIT

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 interventions. In 2020, Rapid Exit expanded with additional federal funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



# 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. **479 individuals were living outside** on the night of the count, a **decrease of 40 percent from the previous year.**



## AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES

Hands of Hope  
JPS  
DRC Solutions  
MHMR  
FWPD H.O.P.E Team  
Veteran's Affairs  
Hearts Full of Love

## ANNUAL TRENDS



**320 Days**

AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS



**16%**

EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING



**40%**

DECREASE IN UNSHELTERED

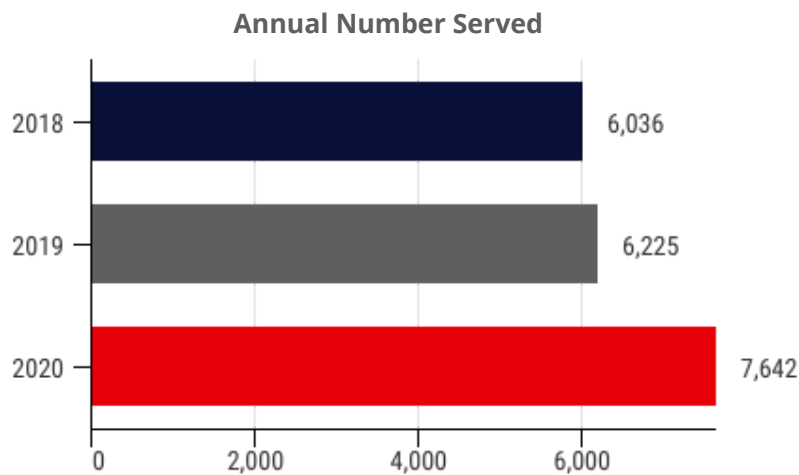


**18%**

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS

# EMERGENCY SHELTER

Emergency shelters are intended for temporary shelter and crisis relief. Nine agencies in Tarrant County provide emergency shelter. On count night, 652 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  
DRC Solutions - Cold Weather  
Presbyterian Night Shelter  
SafeHaven of Tarrant County  
The Salvation Army Arlington  
The Salvation Army Fort Worth  
Union Gospel Mission

## ANNUAL TRENDS



**67 Days**

AVERAGE TIME SPENT HOMELESS



**4%**

INCREASE IN INCOME



**22%**

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS



**43%**

EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING

**652**

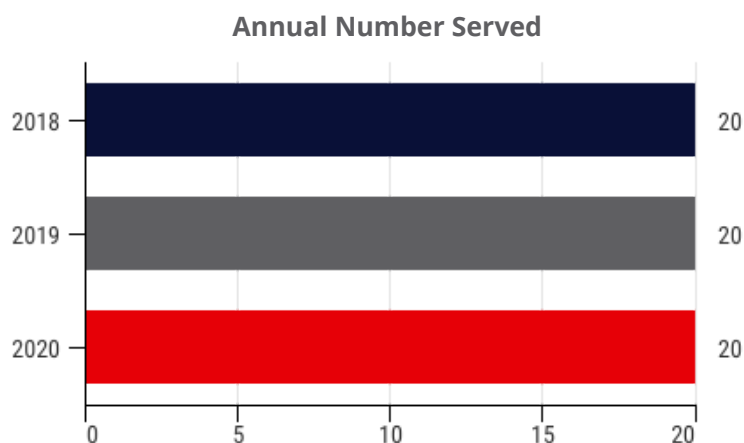
PEOPLE IN SHELTERS ON NIGHT OF 2021 PIT COUNT



# 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.

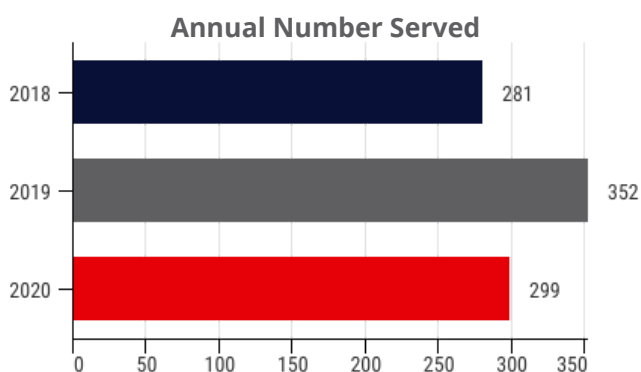


## AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES

Presbyterian Night Shelter

# 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.



## AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES

Presbyterian Night Shelter  
DRC Solutions  
SafeHaven

## ANNUAL TRENDS



**18%**

INCREASE IN INCOME



**26%**

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS



**115 Days**

IN PROGRAM



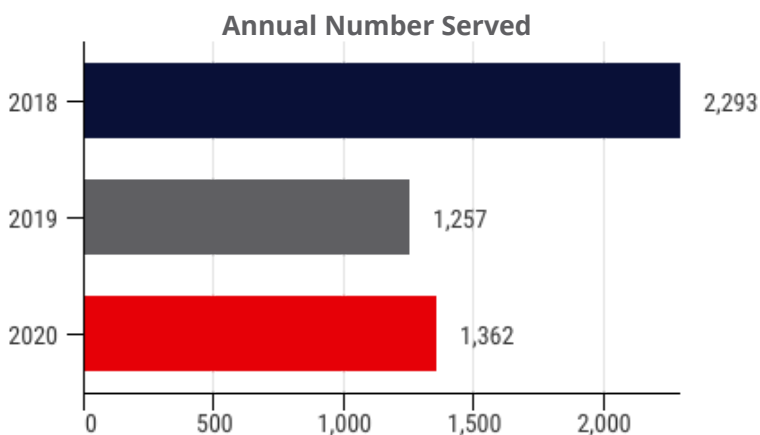
**51%**

EXIT TO PH

# 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 1,300 people in 2020, with nearly 60% 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



**10 MONTHS**

AVERAGE TIME IN PROGRAM



**53%**

INCREASE IN INCOME



**17%**

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS



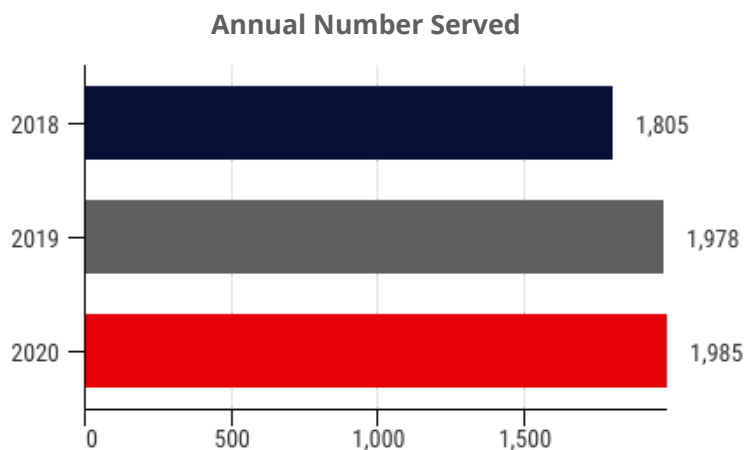
**56%**

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.

There were 1,985 people served in community PSH programs last year. PSH is designed to be permanent and typically has a low turnover rate. PSH is best suited for approximately 10% of people experiencing homelessness in our community, and should be reserved for those with the most severe challenges to becoming and staying housed. In 2020, the city of Fort Worth added a new PSH program, Casa de Esperanza, with 119 units.



## 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



# 4 Years

AVERAGE TIME IN PROGRAM



# 12%

INCREASE IN INCOME



# 14%

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS



# 91%

EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING

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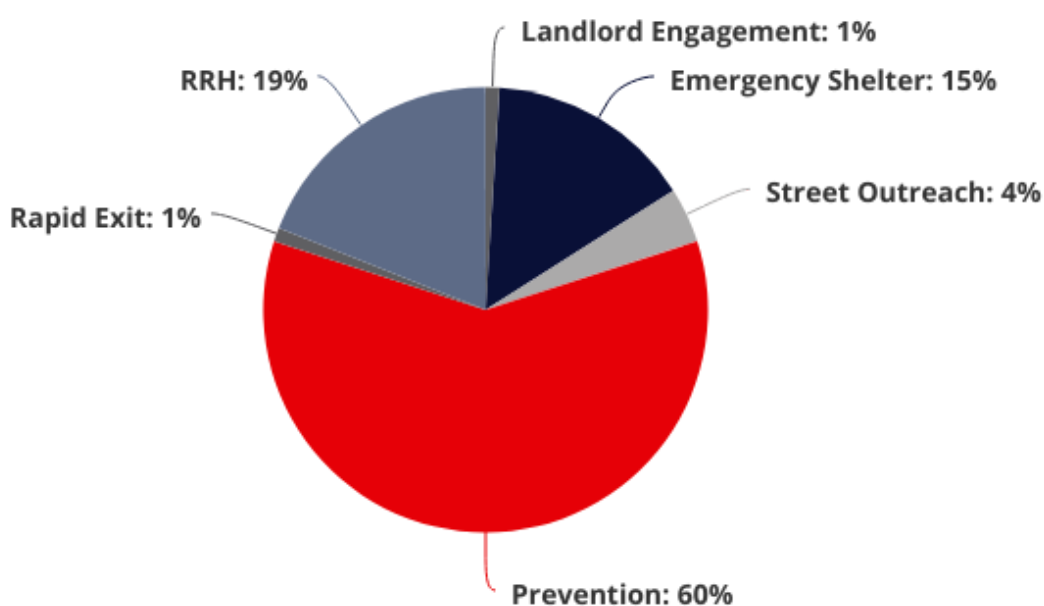
# SYSTEM CAPACITY

In 2020, the System of Care saw a great increase in funding with legislation to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic impact of COVID-19, and people at-risk of homelessness because of COVID-19. Overall, the system saw an additional \$29 million dedicated to homelessness in response to COVID-19. This additional funding represented 58% of our system funding for 2020. The additional funding expanded capacity in Homeless Prevention, Rapid Exit, Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and Permanent Supportive Housing.

The COVID-19 funding increases have continued into 2021. Yet, this funding is not permanent funding to our system. It is a short-term infusion of funding to meet increased need from the pandemic. This funding must be leveraged to prevent and respond to homelessness, with an aim of long-term improvements to our system.

The Homeless Coalition completed an analysis of 2021 projected need and available resources for housing programs for people experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Coalition and municipal partners received guidance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in this process and based projections on a model developed by HUD and consultants. The greatest need for 2021 is projected to be in Rapid Rehousing and/or short-term rental subsidies lasting up to 24 months. These projections do include the anticipated additional federal funding for COVID-19 which is not expected to continue in 2022.

## COVID-19 Funding By Intervention

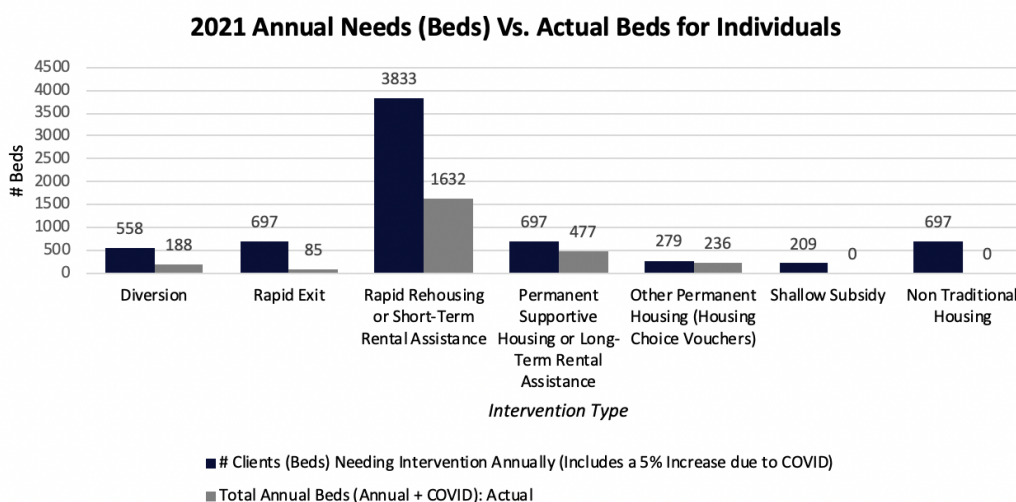
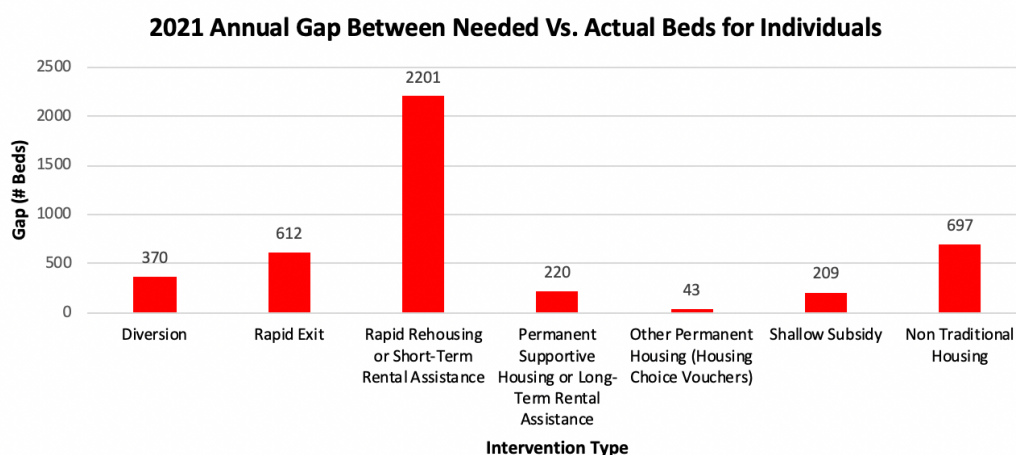


The analysis shows the largest gap between estimated need and available resources for rapid rehousing or short-term housing assistance. This is because most people who experience homelessness need short-term assistance (less than 24 months) to regain stability. In fact, the average stay in our rapid rehousing programs is about 10 months.

The analysis also predicted significant need above available resources for rapid exit and non-traditional housing. The continuum currently has no known resources for non-traditional housing for clients who need it. Non-traditional housing includes tiny homes or mobile homes, group homes, and shared housing. These forms of housing are necessary to help people whose best solution isn't independent living in an apartment.

Moderate need above available resources was also predicted for diversion and permanent supportive housing or long-term rental assistance. Another moderate need with no current available resources is shallow subsidies. Shallow subsidies provide 35% of rent to help people who just need additional financial support to maintain their housing. The need for shallow subsidies has grown as the average rent in the continuum of care has increased.

Additionally, the number one thing reported by people experiencing homelessness that they need is affordable rents or more income to pay rent. The continuum of care is exploring housing options that are more cost-effective in the rising rent rates of North Texas. Options that are more cost effective and could meet the need of many people experiencing homelessness are short-term or long-term rental subsidies without ongoing case management, shallow subsidies, group homes, mobile homes, and shared housing. While more than 50% of people experiencing homelessness benefit from our traditional pairing of apartment-style housing and case management, a significant amount of people experiencing homelessness could benefit from expanding new, more cost-effective options.





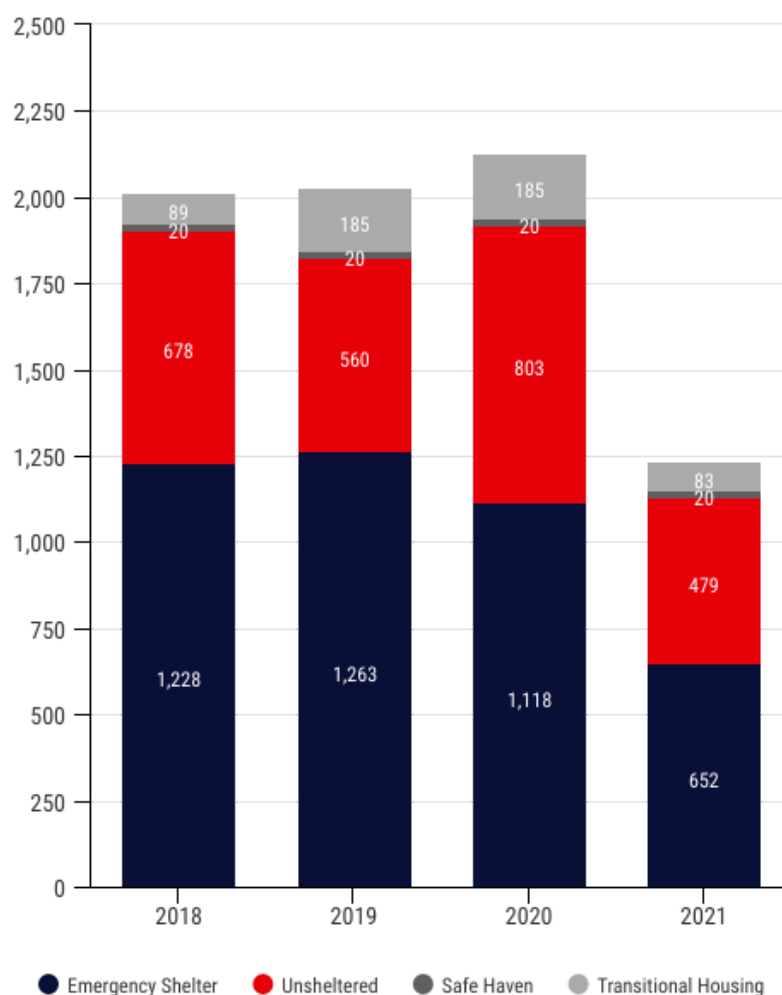
# POINT IN TIME COUNT

## 2021 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 2021 Homeless Count was held on Thursday, January 28, 2021, and included identifying and surveying those living outdoors along with using HMIS data to identify those living in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

The Point in Time Count was conducted differently in 2021 to protect the people experiencing homelessness from COVID-19 spread. Unfortunately, volunteers were not able to be mobilized this year and street outreach teams conducted the Point-in-Time Count over a two-week period from January 28 to February 11, 2021. During this time, street outreach teams asked people where they slept on the night of January 28 and asked them about their experiences. Street outreach teams gridded the CoC and counted all of Tarrant and Parker Counties.

On the night of the count a total of 1,234 people were identified as homeless in Tarrant and Parker counties. This was a 42% decrease in people experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, as compared to 2020. From 2017 to 2020, homelessness on count night had remained relatively static, hovering around 2,000 people.



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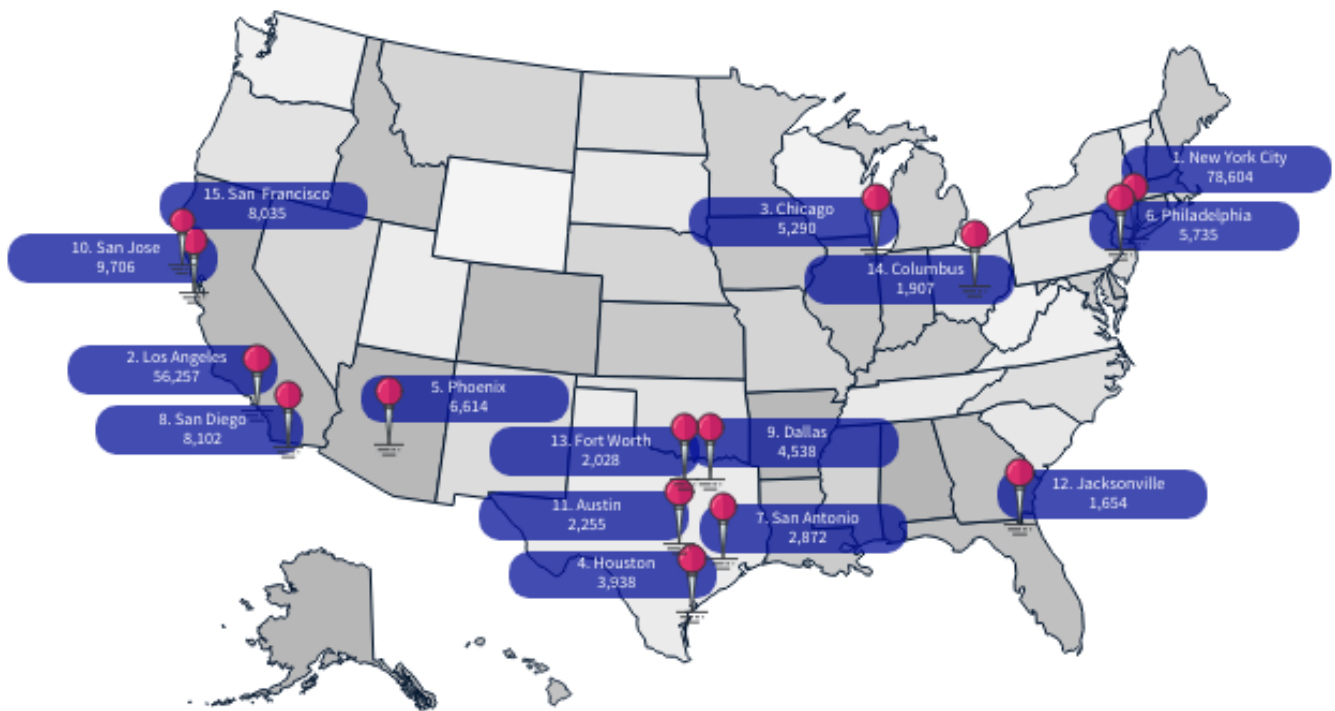
The drop in the point-in-time count mirrors a decrease in both the number served and the new people that came into our system from June 2020 to January 2021. During this time, the CoC served 1,363 less people and had 1,100 fewer people enter into the homeless system compared to the same months in 2019. **This represented a 24% drop in people entering into the homeless system and a 21% decrease in total people served compared to the same timeframe in 2019.** While we do not know definitively what caused this decrease, there are a number of contributing factors that have impacted the system.

- The Centers for Disease Control eviction moratorium which prohibited landlords from evicting tenants due to nonpayment of rent related to COVID-19 in 2020;
- The great increase in homeless prevention and rent assistance funding during this time; currently the system has 49 times more eviction prevention funding available for people in need;
- New housing developments that were made possible by CARES Act funding and implemented during the last year;
- People have reported more fear around entering emergency shelter because of the COVID-19 infection risk in congregate settings;
- Greater coordination among local governments and service providers to more adequately meet the system need with CARES Act and other relief funding; and
- The significant increase in funding to address homelessness in 2020 has impacted the number of people the system is able to house.

Additionally, since the 2021 point-in-time count used different methods than the previous point-in-time counts, the numbers for 2021 are not directly comparable to prior years.

## 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 2.1 million in 2021. 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. The map below represents the latest nationally available point-in-time data from 2019. At that time, Tarrant County had the sixth lowest rate of homelessness per population among the 48 largest cities.



## HOMELESS POPULATIONS IN THE 15 LARGEST CITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

\*2019 NATIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

## YEAR TO YEAR

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021
Annual Change	+5%	+0.6%	+5%	-42%

## 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.



### 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.



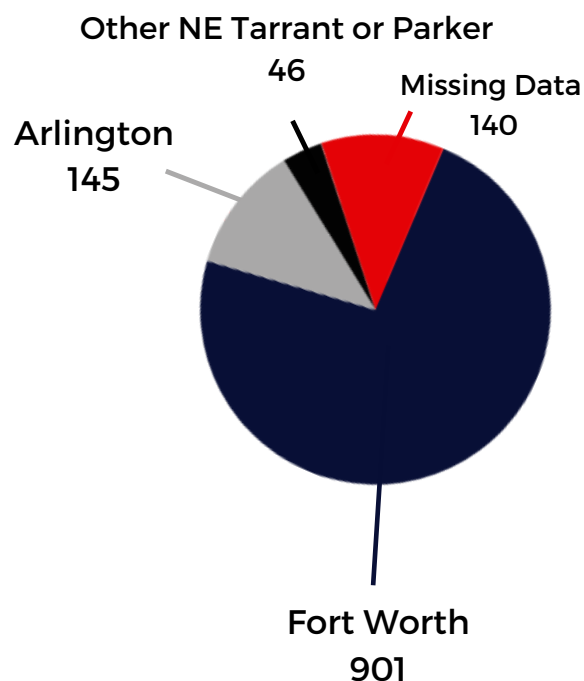
### EMERGENCY SHELTER

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. Geographic distribution is similar to trends in previous years.

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 surveyed during the 2021 Point in Time count about their residence prior to homelessness, 5% reported being from Dallas or somewhere else in Texas and only 4% report being from outside of Texas.



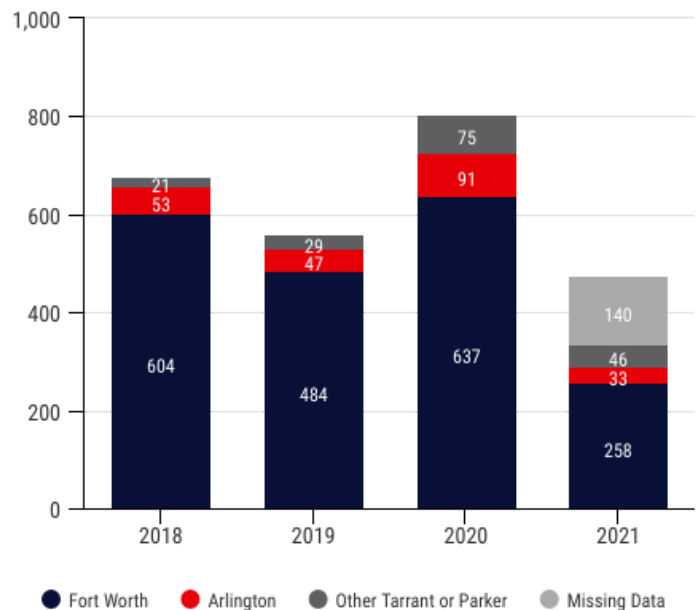
## Unsheltered Homelessness & Sleeping Outside

Unsheltered homelessness increased from 2017 to 2020, and decreased in 2021. The previous increase 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, and decreased by 40% from 2020 to 2021.**

On the night of our 2021 Point in Time Count we asked, "If given the option for shelter, would you go?" **66% said they would not enter shelter, while 34% 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?



73%  
Men



27%  
Women

### WHERE DID PEOPLE LIVE BEFORE BECOMING HOMELESS?

<b>91%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>
TARRANT & PARKER COUNTIES	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.**

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# NEW SOLUTIONS AND DIRECTIONS

The Continuum of Care is exploring new approaches to respond to homelessness, including:

- **Shared Housing.** In shared housing, two or more people live in one apartment or home and share the costs of living there, such as rent and utilities. This provides low-cost housing in high-rent markets. Shared housing also has other benefits, including the potential to share housing maintenance and cleaning responsibilities, social support, and sometimes child care support. In addition to being an option for reducing homelessness, shared housing is also an intervention to allow senior citizens to remain in their homes as they age.
- **Alternative Housing.** Alternative housing includes campers, trailer homes, Recreational Vehicles (RVs), and tiny homes. Alternative housing has a lower cost than building traditional low-rent housing, and can be sustained with lower monthly payments than traditional building rents. Alternative housing can also appeal to people who do not want to live in larger communities and want more privacy, space, and autonomy. The Continuum of Care estimates that about 10% of people experiencing homelessness in our continuum could benefit from alternative housing.
- **Shallow Subsidies.** Shallow subsidies provide a small payment to families to help them cover rent. This amount is much less than traditional housing assistance and is meant to meet the smaller gap between income and rent for people with employment or sustainable income. Shallow subsidies are ideal for people that just need a little help each month to make ends meet and keep people from returning to homelessness. The Continuum of Care estimates that about 3% of people experiencing homelessness in our continuum could benefit from a shallow subsidy.
- **Asset Building.** TCHC is launching a controlled, randomized trial research study with the Lab for Economic Opportunities at the University of Notre Dame in 2021. As part of this study, some households in Rapid Rehousing will receive financial coaching and a savings matching program. Participants can increase their savings to prevent returns to homelessness and increase their future housing stability. The Homeless Coalition was selected in a national competition for this program.
- **Bringing Back Partners.** During the Obama Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shifted funding priorities away from transitional housing. The continuum of care followed that HUD guidance at that time and shifted funding away from transitional housing. However, we recognize that transitional housing is a valuable resource and intervention to help some people experiencing homelessness get out of emergency shelter or off the streets and begin to gain stability. The continuum of care is working to increase coordination with transitional housing programs to help people experiencing homelessness move quickly into housing.

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# 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:

<b>1994</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2017</b>	
<b>2004</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2018</b>	

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
<b>Literally Homeless</b>	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
<b>Unsheltered (UN)</b>	Includes people living in places not intended for human habitation, such as in cars, vacant lots/ buildings, under bridges, or in the woods	Homeless
<b>Emergency Shelter (ES)</b>	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
<b>Transitional Housing (TH)</b>	Programs provide time-limited rental assistance (≤ 2-years) and supportive services geared toward self-sufficiency and independence	Homeless
<b>Rapid Exit (RE)</b>	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
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</b>	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
<b>Rapid Re-housing (RRH)</b>	RRH provides short- and mid-term rental assistance intervention to help people quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing	Permanent Housing
<b><u>Safe Haven</u> (SH)</b>	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
<b>Permanent Housing (PH)</b>	<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 &amp; 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.	
<b>Shared Housing</b>	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
<b>Other Permanent Housing (OPH)</b>	OPH is long-term housing not considered as permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing. OPH consists of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) PH: Housing with Services providing long-term housing and supportive services for homeless persons, but no disability is required for entry</li> <li>2) PH: Housing Only providing long-term housing for homeless persons, but do not offer supportive services as part of the project.</li> </ol>	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 from January 28, 2021 to February 11, 2021. "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 28, 2021 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.

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### *Unsheltered PIT Count Methods*

During the nights of the unsheltered PIT Count, TX-601 canvassed the complete CoC geography with the available street outreach teams. TX-601 produces PIT Count maps based on major highways and distributed the outreach teams to serve the whole continuum. TX-601 held three meetings with street outreach teams and created a survey for street outreach teams to gather feedback and plan prior to the count.

A web-based form was created for outreach teams to complete the PIT survey. The form was accessible over outreach teams' mobile devices or tablets. The form allowed for collecting surveys and also observational data. The form also allowed for GIS location which can be used for further outreach, connecting people to housing, and future PIT counts.

Outreach teams were assigned territories to avoid duplication. Teams were trained and the survey language included asking people where they were sleeping on the night of the count (January 28, 2021). The count survey language also began with a question on if the person had been asked the survey questions before, and outreach teams were instructed to not complete a survey for anyone who said they had slept in an emergency shelter on the night of January 28. Data was de-duplicated after the count completion starting on February 12, using clients' identifying information.

### **Limitations**

While significant efforts were undertaken to ensure the 2021 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 continuum was divided by major highways, was completed over two weeks, and utilized all of our street outreach teams, geographic coverage was not 100%. Outreach teams may have missed people especially who were not along major roads.

Because 2021's PIT count required different methods due to COVID-19, it cannot be directly compared to historical PIT data. Additionally, in the week prior to the PIT count, the city conducted a "clean up" of the main corridor of homeless services in Fort Worth and many campers who would have been easily found in that corridor moved on to other parts of the city. Another factor that may have impacted 2021's PIT number was that cold weather moved in in the second week of the PIT count. People may have gone inside during this week and would not have been found by street outreach teams. Additionally, this count was completed immediately before Winter Storm Uri, which was a historic winter storm. Outreach teams were focused on moving people into shelter or providing them with life-saving materials in the days prior to the major storm arriving and in the final days before the end of the PIT count.

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.

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## 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.<sup>xvi</sup> 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.

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# ABOUT THE HOMELESS COALITION

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

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# ABOUT THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

## Mission

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

## Leadership Council

Mayor Betsy Price | Mayor Jeff Williams | Judge Glen Whitley | Mayor Brian Johnson | Judge Pat Deen

## CoC Board of Directors

Steve Montgomery, Chair  
Beckie Wach, Vice-chair  
Cassandra Walker, Secretary  
Artie Williams, Allocations Chair  
Eddie Broussard, Governance Chair  
Dierdre Brown, ICT Committee Chair

Judge Brent Carr  
Dr. Bill Coppola  
Pat Jacob  
Leah King  
Lieutenant Amy Ladd  
Mary-Margaret Lemons

Tori Sisk  
Shannon Spriggs  
Beckie Wach  
Cassandra Walker  
Kristin Camareno  
Matthew Vrugink

Robyn Michalove  
Tara Perez  
Toby Owen  
Whitney Boyd  
Tod Liles  
Dr. Barbara Odom Wesley

Gage Yager  
Joy Parker  
Dr. Victoria Farrar-Myers  
Matt Canedy

