



St. Johns County
Continuum of Care
ENDING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

FL-512 2022 Gaps Analysis

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Introduction

The St. Johns County Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts an annual gaps analysis/needs assessment of the homeless needs and services available within the geographic area. The following information will inform the lead agency, board, and community about the gaps in the system and services within the CoC. The information will be used to set performance standards and goals with the intention that homelessness is rare, brief and one time in St. Johns County.

Goals

1. Identify any gaps and areas of growth within services, and the system running within the CoC.
2. Provide actionable take-aways for members of the lead agency, board, and general membership.

Definitions

1. Continuum of Care (CoC): A program designed to promote a community wide commitment to end homelessness.
3. Category 1 – Literally Homeless [HUD Definition]: Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - a. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
 - b. Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs);
 - c. OR - Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation.
4. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS): A database application used to confidently aggregate data on homeless populations served in the United States.
5. Lead Agency: Those tasked by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with developing a systemic response to homelessness.
6. Point In Time (PIT): PIT is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness that HUD requires each Continuum of Care (CoC) nationwide to conduct in the last 10 days of January each year.

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7. Housing Inventory Count (HIC): HIC is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve people experiencing homelessness.
8. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): PSH is permanent housing in which housing assistance (e.g., long-term leasing or rental assistance) and supportive services are provided to assist households with at least one member (adult or child) with a disability in achieving housing stability.
9. Chronic Homelessness: a homeless individual with a disability who lives either in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter or in an institutional care facility if the individual has been living in the facility for fewer than ninety 90 days and had been living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven or in an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility.

In order to meet the “chronically homeless” definition, the individual also must have been living as described above continuously for:

- a. At least twelve 12 months.
- b. Or on at least four 4 separate occasions in the last three 3 years, where the combined occasions total to 12 months.
- c. Each period separating the occasions must include at least seven (7) nights of living in a situation other than a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter or in a safe haven.

Methodology

All funded homeless services agencies are expected to input their information within the CoC’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Victim service providers enter the same data in a comparable database to help ensure the safety of individuals experiencing homeless and either domestic violence or sexual assault.

The CoC utilized the HMIS database to pull data for this report as well as reports that are already completed for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). The reports include:

1. The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)
2. System Performance Measures (SysPM)
3. Point-In-Time (PIT)
4. Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

The CoC also utilized demographic information for the county from the 2021 Census – found [here](#).

Looking at the Numbers (10/01/2021 – 09/30/2022)

Total served by the CoC:

Households
567

Individuals
726

Demographic Information Throughout the System

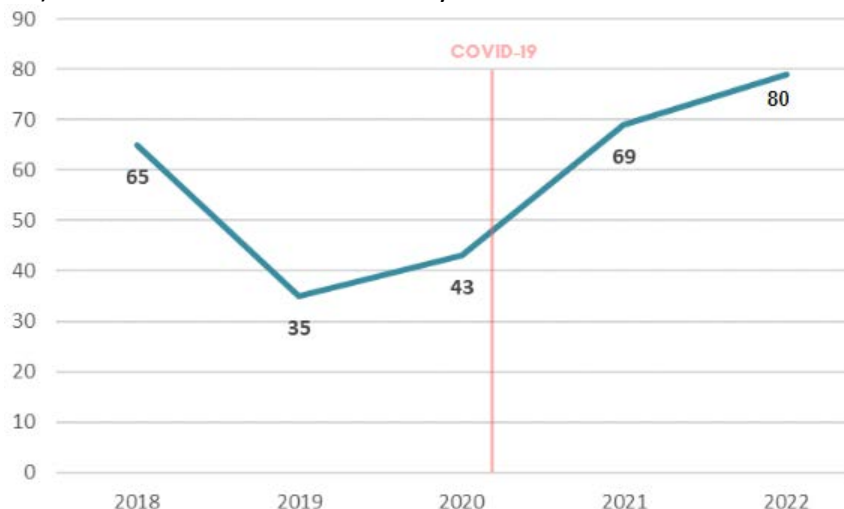
	Totals	% of Total
Adults (18+)	609	84%
Children (Under 18)	117	16%
Youth (18-24)	76	10%
Veterans	42	6%
Chronically Homeless	189	26%

	Totals	% of Total
Male	446	61%
Female	276	38%
No Single Gender	0	0%
Questioning	1	.001%
Transgender	3	.004%

	Totals	% of Total
White	506	70%
Black or African American	157	22%
American Indian	8	1%
Asian	2	.003%
Native Hawaiian	12	2%
Multi Race	41	5%
Unknown	0	0%

Chronically Homeless

Point in Time (PIT) Count - Number of Chronically Homeless:



HMIS data shows that 26% of people served by homeless providers were considered chronically homeless. Similarly, 23% of people surveyed during the annual PIT count were considered chronically homeless. These numbers have increased significantly over the last two years.

Gap

The percentage of chronically housing has steadily increased over 3 years even when the number of homeless has decreased. The most effective strategies to assist the population are either (a) in their early stages or (b) do not exist in the county at this time.

Research Base

Strategies that have been shown to work in reducing the number of chronically homeless:

1. Permanent Supportive Housing:
<https://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/permanent-supportive-housing/>
 - a. Shown to reduce homelessness by nearly 8% nationally since 2007
 - b. Cost effective
 - c. Improves housing stability and health
2. Understanding the Presence of Disabilities:
https://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ChronicallyHomeless_T.pdf
 - a. Seek to understand the underlying barriers facing the clients who are identified as homeless.
 - b. Include stakeholders/providers in the process to help address the needs of the client. (e.g. substance abuse providers, mental health providers, medical providers).

3. Engagement In the Process :

https://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ChronicallyHomeless_T.pdf

- a. Including individuals with lived experience in the process.
- b. Currently the St. Johns County CoC has increased the amount of people with lived experience in the process – i.e., Youth Advisory Board, hiring people with lived experience, and incorporating individuals in the PIT count.

Race and Ethnicity

Race	County	Served by the system in 2022	Housed in 2022
American Indian	-%	1%	1%
Black or African American	5%	22%	23%
Native Hawaiian/Pilipino	-%	2%	-%
Asian	3%	1%	-%
White	83%	70%	70%
Multiple Races	2%	5%	6%
Unknown	-%	-%	-%

In the 2022 PIT count African Americans represented 12% of people experiencing homelessness.

Gaps

The individuals who identified as Black or African American or having multiple races have accessed the system at a higher rate.

Next Steps

The CoC can begin to take steps to identify what factors are impacting people who identify with the aforementioned races. These factors would be beneficial in onboarding new providers who specifically work in the service area needed.

Inventory – As of the HIC Reporting

Emergency Shelter Utilization Rate: 67%

Transitional Housing Utilization Rate: 72%

Permanent Supportive Housing Utilization Rate: 0% - No current programs

State of the Community

Overall, housing in St. Johns County has become more expensive over the last two years. While this is no different than what is seen throughout the rest of the United States, the median home price in St. Johns County is \$425,000.00. The average home price in the State of Florida is

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\$325,000.00, which is significantly less than St. Johns County. Additionally, as rental programs (such as OurFlorida) and ESG-CV come to an end, there will be less financial opportunity to assist those in need of prevention services.

Compounding with the above factors is the availability of rental housing within St. Johns County. Currently there are 91,243 occupied housing units within the county. Of those occupied housing units, only 16,935 (18.6 % of the total) are considered renter occupied. This is a 3% reduction in the total number of people living in rentals since the previous year. This coincides with the number of individuals moving to the area.

Gaps

Currently there is less housing, less funding, and less Transitional Housing available. The changes in the economy and reduction in prevention resources and transitional housing will affect the Emergency Shelter services and utilization. In addition, the reduction of Transitional Housing units will mean higher utilization rate and the potential increase in the number of unmet needs within the system.

Coordinated Entry and Rapid Rehousing

In 2021, 442 people were assessed for housing assistance. Of those assessed:

- 18% were potential candidates for Permanent Supportive Housing (chronically homeless with a disabling condition)
- 54% of adults score vulnerable enough for Permanent Supportive Housing services
- 28% of adults express a history of Domestic Violence
 - 11% were actively fleeing
- 7% were considered youth experiencing homelessness

Gaps

There has been a decrease in youth engagement in services as compared to previous years. St. Johns County has limited youth services available outside of the youth shelter and day services. Gaps in service are currently being analyzed by the Youth Advisory Board (a group of youth with lived experience of homelessness). There is currently a lack of resources to address the need within the county.

Availability of Permanent Supportive Housing is a reoccurring theme within the numbers. The number of people who could or would be served by Permanent Supportive Housing is significant and warrants serious consideration.

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