

Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC)

Members Meeting

Zoom Meeting

March 15th 2021

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

At 2:03pm Marcie Bragg, Chair of the HCCSC Board and Executive Director of the Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHNI), called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the first HCCSC Members meeting of 2021. Marcie welcomed new HCCSC Members to the meeting and reminded Members that a HCCSC Members Roster is located on the Starkcountyhomeless.org website. Due to utilizing a virtual platform to hold the meeting, Marcie requested that members mute themselves after speaking and enter any questions in the chatbox.

Scott Schnyders of the Refuge of Hope made an announcement that there is a Rapid Rehousing case manager position posted to the Refuge of Hope website; the position is expected to be filled within the next few weeks.

II. Approval of November 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Marcie requested a motion to approve the November 2020 Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County Members meeting minutes. Shirene Starn-Tapyrik motioned to approve. Jennifer Keaton seconded the motion, and it was carried by all members present.

III. Conflict of Interest

Marcie reminded everyone of the HCCSC's conflict of interest policy. During today's meeting, there are no agenda items that will require a vote from the HCCSC Members.

IV. Homelessness Assistance Funding *(See PowerPoint Attached Slides 1-6)*

A PowerPoint presentation was displayed for all members to view. Marcie thanked providers for their continued efforts to provide homelessness assistance services to those in need within Stark County throughout the pandemic. Marcie pointed out the following key takeaways:

1. In 2020, providers exited 357 households to Permanent Destinations in comparison to 285 households exited to Permanent Destinations in 2019.
2. In 2020, 846 households were served by Emergency Shelter in comparison to 1,163 households served in 2019. Although emergency shelters remained open during the pandemic, emergency shelters did decrease capacity in response to the pandemic. Another factor that contributed to the lower number of households served in shelter was family and friends allowed a longer length of time for individuals / families to stay in doubled-up situations.
3. In 2020, 9% of Household Returns within 6 months of Exiting to a Permanent Destination compared to the 13% in 2019.
4. There were 887 Households referred by Homeless Navigation to a HCCSC Project that offers Rental Assistance (homelessness prevention).

V. 2021 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count *(See PowerPoint Attached Slides 7-9)*

The 2021 PIT Count efforts differed slightly this year due to the pandemic. ICAN Housing was thanked for their extensive efforts to conduct the 2021 PIT Count. Natalie McClesky, of ICAN Housing is the chair of the Main PIT Count committee that worked on 2021 PIT Count per the guidance provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Aaron Wagster of ICAN Housing and chair of the Street Outreach PIT Committee worked closely with Natalie to conduct outreach efforts. On November 16, 2021, HUD issued an update on exception requests submitted by CoCs for the 2021 PIT Count. The Main PIT Committee recommended that the HCCSC still conduct a 2021 PIT Count using data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and additional efforts of the street outreach and Homeless Navigation team to connect with households regarding their living status the night of the PIT Count, January 24th. The Stark Housing Network, Inc. submitted the 2021 PIT Count Exception request to William Snow (Department of Housing and Urban Development representative) on January 12, 2021. William Snow asked for

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additional information on how the HCCSC plans to utilize the HMIS to compare to previous PIT Count data. After providing this additional information and data, William Snow approved the HCCSC's 2021 PIT Count Exception request on January 15, 2021. ICAN's PATH team and Homeless Navigation staff reached out to 399 households that completed a Coordinated Entry intake within the last 30 days including any active participants on the housing Prioritization List. When reviewing the FY2021 PIT Count Summary, the following items were outlined:

1. Participants provided different responses to the question regarding where they stayed on the night of the count when compared to previous years. This may have been a result of the standard PIT County survey responses not being provided as the only response options.
2. The overall count of homeless persons went down from the FY2020 count. There was a total of 234 sheltered and unsheltered homeless which was a 6.4% reduction from the FY2020 count.
3. There was a total of 43 unsheltered homeless which was a 169% increase from the FY2020 count.
4. The Transitional Housing (TH) count was the same as FY2020; the Domestic Violence Project Inc. has 23 TH beds.
5. The domestic violence shelter in Massillon reopened and there was an influx of participants which slightly impacted the sheltered count.
6. Honor Home, a Veteran project, which began accepting Veterans this past year also impacted the sheltered count.
7. The Refuge of Hope had a 59% reduction in sheltered individuals due to the emergency shelter being a congregate shelter with shared sleeping space; max capacity is 54 and only 22 were sheltered during the time of the count.
8. There were no children that were counted as unsheltered.

VI. Racial Equity *(See PowerPoint Attached Slides 10-12)*

A Racial Equity Committee (REC) was created in 2020 to begin discussing system disparities and the committee was paused during the beginning of the pandemic. Many of the REC members consisted of members from the System Performance Committee (SPC) and it was decided that the REC would join the SPC. The SPC reviewed data utilizing the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Tool. The NAEH Tool provided a Racial Equity analysis of the system. The committee identified disparities in the data of those who entered the homeless system by race compared to Stark County's racial demographics and persons who return to the system after receiving assistance. After review of this information, one of the next steps is to have a Homelessness Prevention Evaluation Project evaluate whether the administration of homelessness prevention programs is equitable.

VII. Stark County Homeless Prevention Evaluation Project *(See PowerPoint Attached Slides 13-14)*

There has been a significant increase in funding for Homelessness Prevention (HP) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not provided significant guidance for HP projects. The HP evaluator would provide the HCCSC with an opportunity to learn how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HP projects as well as build system capacity. Typically, the City of Canton awards around \$110,000 in HP ESG (annual) awards. With additional efforts to keep households in stable housing during the pandemic, funding for HP has been provided by other resources including the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA), Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) and Emergency Solution Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV). The HP funding awards have increased from \$110,000 to \$1.8 million. The Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHNI) has entered a contract with Barbara Poppe and Associates for the Stark County Homelessness Prevention Evaluation Project. Barbara Poppe has over 30 years of experience and has previously served as the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and the Columbus based Community Shelter Board. Matt White has been contracted by Barbara Poppe and Associates and will assist with the data analysis for the evaluation. Matt White has 25 years of experience and previously worked for Abt Associates (HUD technical assistance partner) and the Community Shelter Board. Matt White's

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expertise focuses on research, policies, data and coordinated entry. The evaluation began in December and will continue into 2023 (with six months of time to close out the evaluation). The HCCSC will receive a formative evaluation that studies outcomes as time goes, assistance in refining HP processes, and building capacity for the HMIS, HP providers, and CoC leadership. The HP evaluation will provide information over two years that will inform policies and practices for the administration of HP projects. There are two providers administering six projects; both providers have staff involved with the HP evaluation process. The HP evaluation project is funded by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton and the Stark Community Foundation.

VIII. Veteran Workgroup *(See PowerPoint Attached Slide 15)*

The Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHNI) led the discussion on Community Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness created by United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and the Stark County Veteran Benchmark Workgroup. The SHNI discussed the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) privacy and security policies regarding the Veteran Benchmark Workgroup that discloses sensitive participant information. The SHNI sought the HMIS Committee's guidance on how to protect the system's data and information throughout the Veteran Benchmark Workgroups being held since workgroups are not structured as a standing committee under current CoC policy. The HMIS committee indicated that any agency contributing data into the HCCSC's HMIS would be covered under the current CoC policy due to annual privacy and security training. The HMIS recommended that attendees of the Veteran Benchmark Workgroup must be a part of an organization, must be an authorized person that is able to provide updates on behalf of the organization and is able to share Veteran information with the HCCSC. The HMIS committee members also recommended the creation of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) separate from the existing HCCSC participating agency agreements. The SHNI created a MOA between the HCCSC and Stark County Veteran Benchmark Workgroup Participating Agency(s) and an Authorized Representative Form that Veteran agencies sign prior to participating in the Veteran Benchmark Workgroup. These documents verify that agencies can share data / information with the HCCSC and Veteran agencies follow their agency's privacy and security policies. The Veteran Benchmark Tool access has been enhanced to include a real-time document where information can be shared between the HCCSC and Veteran partner agencies.

IX. FY2021 Continuum of Care Competition

HUD has not released significant information regarding the FY2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program competition. For the FY2020 CoC Program competition HUD provided renewal CoC projects with funding similar to past awards with small variances due to the increase of Fair Market Rent (FMR). HUD will hold a FY2021 CoC Program competition, but no additional details have been provided. Typically, during the March Members meeting, the CoC Local Application competition documents are reviewed. Due to HUD providing no additional guidance at this time, the HCCSC is waiting on the release of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for further details that could shape the HCCSC's process and documents utilized. The Ohio Development Service Agency's (ODSA) Homelessness Crisis Response Program bi-annual grant does not need to be endorsed by the HCCSC this year.

X. 2021 HCCSC Members Meeting Dates

The remaining HCCSC Members meeting dates for 2021 are July 19 and November 15. There may be additional meetings if a NOFA is released to review CoC documents and discuss the FY2021 CoC Program Competition.

XI. Questions/Old Business/New Business

There was discussion of other funding and assistance being provided in the community. Stark County Community Action Agency (SCCAA) has received funding for COVID relief. Legal Aid is organizing

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meetings with SCCAA, SHNI, Homeless Navigation, United Way, Stark County Jobs and Family Services and area landlords to coordinate efforts for utilizing funding; these conversations will assist with targeting funding for project specific eligibility requirements.

XII. Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, at 3:16pm the meeting adjourned.

DRAFT

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Stark County
MEMBERS MEETING
March 15, 2021

AGENDA

- Homelessness Assistance Funding
- Point in Time Count
- Racial Equity
- Stark County Homelessness Prevention Evaluation Project
- Veteran Workgroup
- FY2021 Continuum of Care Competition



There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we can not prevent all conflict, but when we know where the hungry, the homeless, the sick exist, then we can help.

*- Jan Schakowsky
American Politician*

Whoa! You did help, thank you service providers!

Households Served by
Emergency Shelter

846

FFY2019
1163

Households
Exited to Permanent
Destinations

357

FFY2019
285

Household Returns
within 6 months of
Exiting to a Permanent
Destination

9%

(15 of 160)

FFY2019
13% (38 of 284)

And, you decided and continue to do more!

Project Intakes
Completed

567

Households
Referred by Homeless
Navigation to a
HCCSC Project that
offers Rental
Assistance

887

Active Referrals

162

HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE FUNDING

HOMLESSNESS FUNDING

- FY2021 Appropriations
 - CoC \$2.71 Billion
 - ESG \$290 Million
 - Vouchers \$43 million

- 2020 COVID Funds
 - ESG CV \$4 Billion
 - ERA (Treasury) \$25 Billion

- American Rescue Funds
 - \$21.5 Billion ERA (Treasury)
 - \$5 Billion Vanishing Vouchers
 - \$5 Billion HOME Funds (Capital Investment)

HCCSC Coordinated Entry System Refers to Projects Funded *by*:

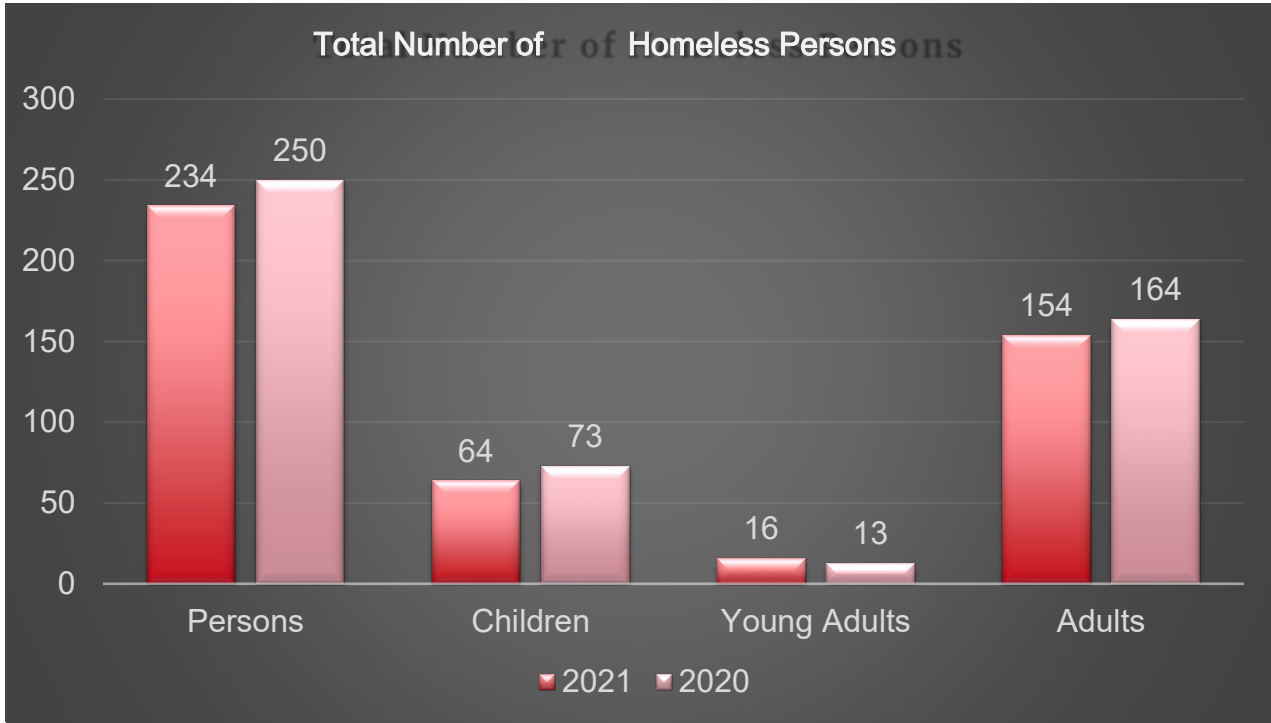
● FY2020 CoC	\$3,106,639
● FY2020 ESG	\$227,312
● FY2021 ESG	\$227,094
● FY2020 ESG Cares Act	\$1,603,885
● COHHIO TANF	\$1,500,000
● OHFA	\$250,453
● ODSA	<u>\$421,200</u>
Total	<u>\$7,336,583</u>

Funding amounts listed above represent a variety of project start and end dates ranging from 2020 to 2022 .

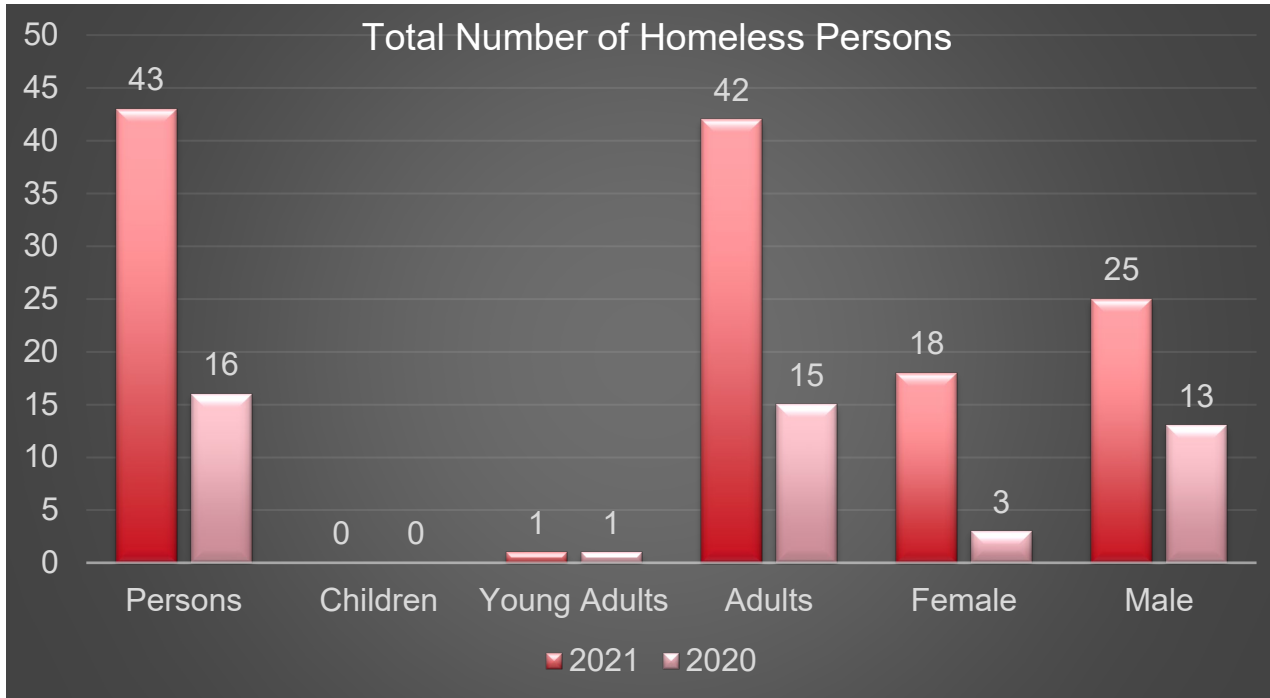
2021 POINT IN TIME COUNT (PIT)

- Local agencies and organizations conduct a count to determine the extent of homelessness in our community
- Information is used to submit the Continuum of Care grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - Stark County receives approximately \$3 million dollars each year from the Continuum of Care Grant Program to serve people who are homeless
- Differences and HUD approved exceptions for the 2021 PIT Count
- Everyone was asked where they stayed on the night of January 24, 2021

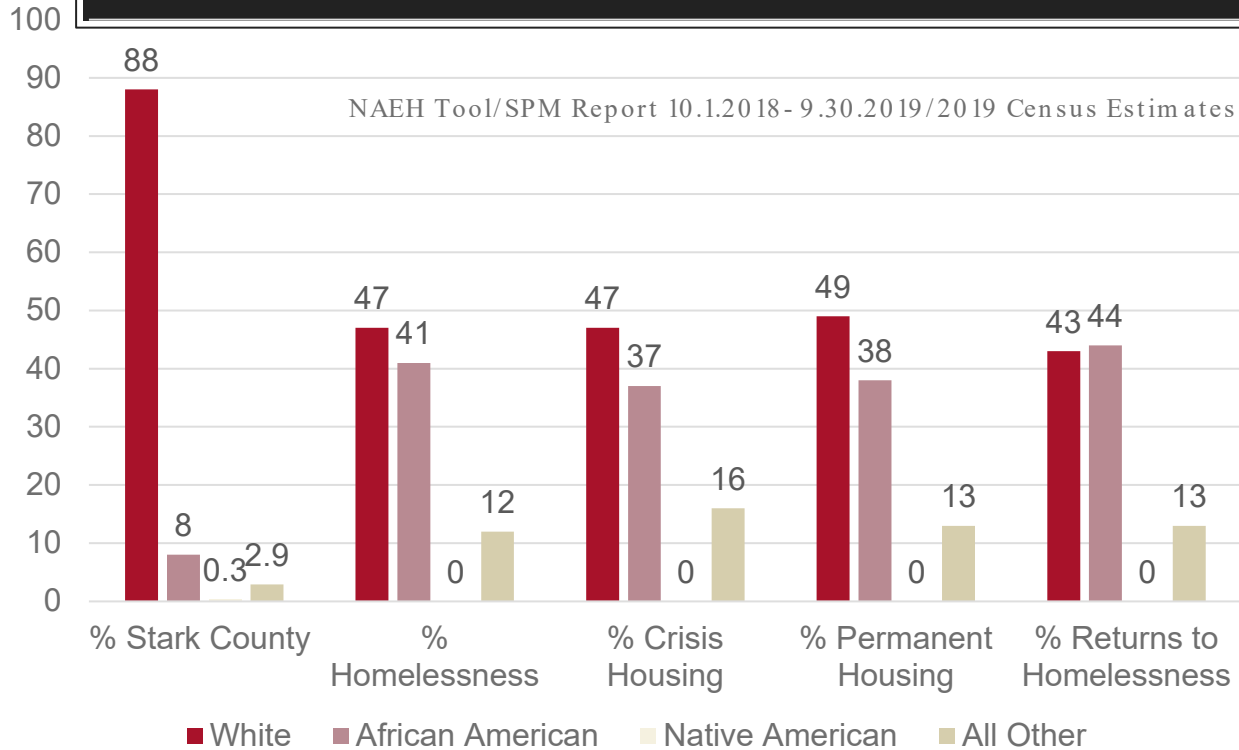
2021/20 Stark County Point in Time Count Comparison



2021/20 UNSHELTERED Count Comparison



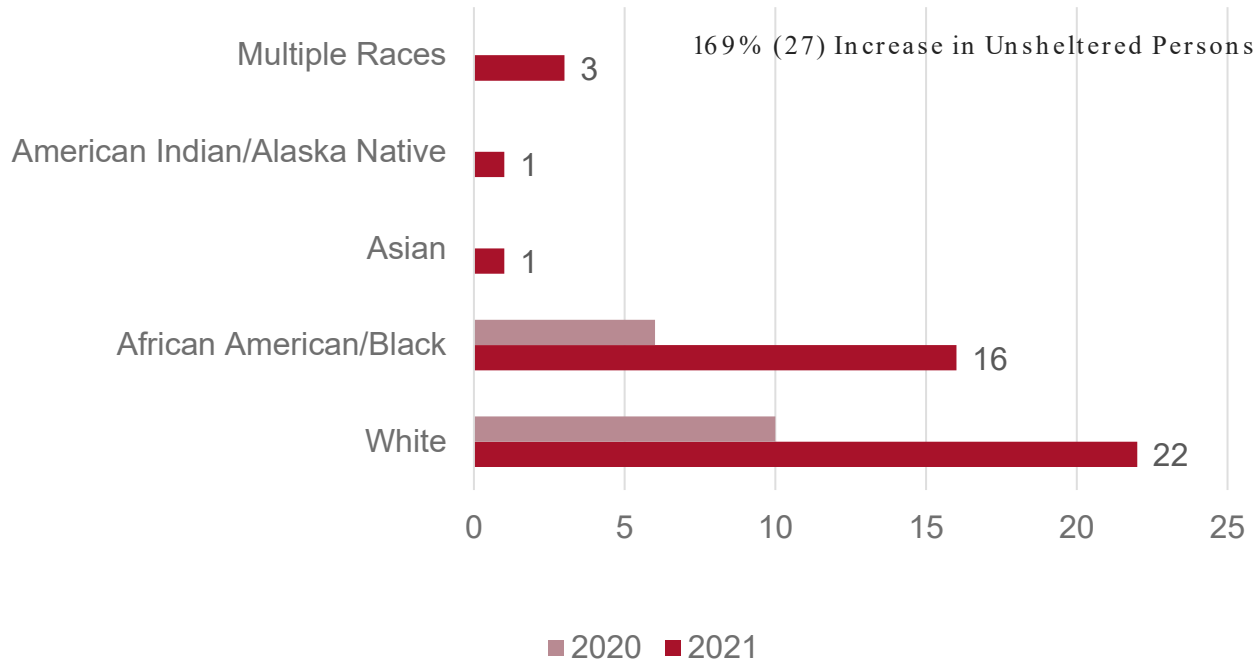
RACIAL EQUITY ANALYSIS



HCCSC RACIAL EQUITY EFFORTS

- System Performance Committee Analysis
 - National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Tool
 - Homeless System Returns from Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH)
- Next Steps
 - Stark County's Homeless Prevention Evaluation Project
 - Rapid Rehousing Policy

2021/20 Unsheltered Data by Race



Stark County Homelessness Prevention Evaluation Project

- Selected **Barbara Poppe and Associates** to complete the informative evaluation
 - Evaluation date – 12.1.2020 to 3.1.2023
 - Total amount of funds leveraged for Homelessness Prevention programs is **\$1,828,363**
 - Ohio Housing Finance Agency – Emergency Housing Assistance Program - \$108,700
 - Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio – Housing NOW for Homeless Families - \$1,100,000
 - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-Emergency Solutions Grant Cares Act (ESG-CV) - \$505,784
 - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-Emergency Solutions Annual - \$113,879
 - Six homelessness assistance projects operated by Alliance for Children and Families and ICAN Housing
- Project funded by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton and the Stark Community Foundation
- Evaluation Objectives Include:
 - Evaluate the programs’ implementation and guide their efficiency in targeting the most at-risk population(s)
 - Measure the program’outcomes and guide the programs’ effectiveness in using interventions to achieve positive outcomes
 - Aid in ensuring that the programs’ designs, operations, and outcomes are equitable

Racial Equity Learning Opportunities

- Racism Coalition of Stark County - Unity Challenge to Dismantle Racism

dismantlingracismstarkcounty.org

- National Alliance to End Homelessness – Racial Equity Learning Series

[Racial Equity Learning Series - Center for Learning \(instructure.com\)](https://instructure.com)

VETERAN WORKGROUP

- Community Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness created by United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
 - Identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness
 - Provides shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it
 - Provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances
 - Capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing
 - Resources, plans, partnerships, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future

- Stark County Veteran Benchmark Workgroup Structure
 - Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the HCCSC and Veteran Agency Participating Programs
 - Participating Program Authorized Representative Form

- Veteran Benchmark Tool Access for HCCSC and Veteran Agency Participating Programs

FY2020/2021 Continuum of Care Competition

- FY2020 Continuum of Care Competition
 - HUD conditionally awarded amounts included in CoC renewal projects without a CoC competition; amounts awarded were adjusted for FY2021 fair market rents (FMR)
- FY2021 Continuum of Care Competition
 - Competition will occur, additional details pending

2021 HCCSC Members Meeting Dates

SAVE THE DATES

July 19, 2021

&

November 15, 2021

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We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make, which overtime, add up to big differences that we often cannot see.

Marian Wright Edelman