



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CITY OF DURHAM

Homelessness and the Continuum of Care in Durham

September 5, 2024

Agenda

1. Overview of Homeless System
2. Role of the City in Homeless System
3. Other Public Funding in the Homeless System
4. Current trends
5. Challenges
6. Questions



Overview of the Homeless System



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Durham City and County Homelessness Continuum of Care

The **Durham Homeless Continuum of Care (Durham CoC)** is a collaboration of homeless service providers, housing providers, funders and government agencies involved in addressing homelessness in Durham County.

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that communities create CoCs in order to receive funding to address homelessness.

The **Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)** is the governance body for the Durham CoC. The HSAC is also tasked with advising the City and the County on the implementation of collaborative initiatives to prevent and end homelessness in Durham.

- The HSAC consists of a minimum of 19 members and a maximum of 29 members and includes four members appointed by the County and four members appointed by the City the rest of the seats are institutional seats.



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HSAC Committees

- **Executive Committee** - Sets agendas for HSAC meetings and appoints/approves members to join committees. Made up of elected HSAC officers as well as the Chairs of the Policy and Planning and the Performance Management Committees.
- **Policy and Planning Committee** - Sets priorities for funding when appropriate, updates and approves system policies to meet needs, seeks solutions for system challenges. Two thirds of the committee is made up of HSAC members and one third are CoC Liaisons appointed by the Executive Committee based on nominations.
- **Performance Management Committee** - Evaluates programs for effectiveness, sets performance benchmarks, as well as scores and ranks CoC and ESG projects. Two thirds of the committee is made up of HSAC members and one third are CoC Liaisons appointed by the Executive Committee based on nominations.



Useful Definitions

- **Coordinated Entry** – Front door of the homeless system, designed to assess the needs of individuals and families seeking homeless assistance and refer them to appropriate services through a coordinated process.
- **Diversion** – Assistance to prevent households from entering the Homeless System/emergency shelter(s); not the same thing as eviction prevention.
- **Emergency Shelter** – Temporary housing (30 days) for literally homeless households. Extensions can be given if people are working on their housing goals.
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** – Data system used to collect data on the provision of services to homeless individuals and families.

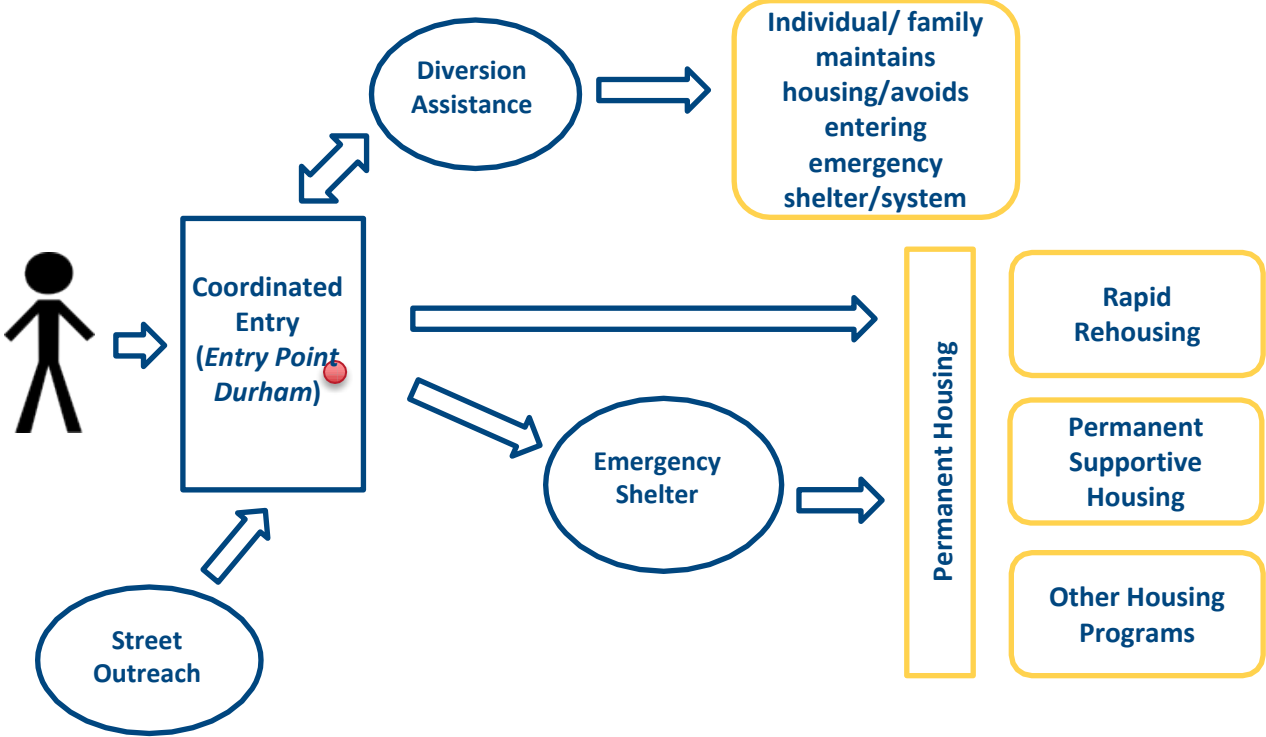


Useful Definitions - Continued

- **Permanent Supportive Housing** – ONLY for those who are Chronically Homeless (must have a disability AND 12 months of documented homelessness). The program is a combination of permanent affordable rental housing with supportive services.
- **Rapid Rehousing** – Short term financial assistance and supportive services (up to 24 months) for households who are homeless to to transition from homelessness to permanent housing.
- **Street Outreach** – Supportive services and outreach to households experiencing unsheltered homelessness with the goal of connecting them to appropriate services if wanted and needed.



How the Homeless System Works



Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Role of the City in the Homeless System



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Role of the City in the Homelessness System

The City is the **Lead Agency** for the Durham CoC, which includes:

- Organizing HSAC meetings and serving as staff for the HSAC and Committees
- Coordinating and writing the CoC applications for the annual HUD CoC funding competition and for the annual State Emergency funds
- Preparing required HUD reports, such as the annual Point-in-Time Count
- Coordinated Entry Administrator (ensuring the system follows policies and procedures)

The City is also a **funder** of the homeless system:

- Coordinated Entry, Landlord Engagement, Street Outreach, HMIS lead agency, emergency shelter and rapid rehousing.



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Public Funding for the Homeless System



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City Funds Recurring

City Dedicated Housing Funds – \$1,310,998 annually

- Rapid Rehousing as a match for HUD ESG Funds - \$200,000
- City's half of the Unsheltered Coordinating Agency Contract (County pays the other half) - \$215,000
- Coordinated Entry with Diversion - \$477,500
- HMIS - \$78,498
- Landlord Engagement- \$150,000
- White Flag Shelter- \$190,000



Durham County

- Durham County funds 50% of Unsheltered Coordinating Agency contract, \$215,000 per year
- Coordinated Entry – Durham County provides office space and funds two FTEs to work on as part of a joint coordinated entry team
- Durham County provides additional funding for the emergency shelters



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Federal Entitlement Funds – Recurring

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Entitlement Funds approximately \$1,475,000 annually:

- **Emergency Solution Grant (ESG):** City receives approximately \$175,000 annually (amount increases/decreases modestly annually).
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** City currently allocates \$300,000 in CDBG to support supportive services in Emergency Shelters and Permanent Supportive Housing Programs.
- **Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA):** For persons living with HIV who are low income and/or homeless in the Eligible Metro Statistical Area (EMSA) that includes Chatham, Durham, Granville, Orange and Person Counties, approximately \$1,000,000/yr.



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HUD CoC Funding

Annual competition for funding:

- FY23-24 amount- \$2,017,549
 - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)- \$929,064
 - Rapid Rehousing (RRH)- \$1,032,733 (\$525,798 is prioritized for DV Survivors)
 - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)- \$55,752
- Priority is given to renewal projects
- Funds may be reallocated from underperforming projects or agencies not wishing to continue a project. Reallocated funds can be used to expand existing projects or create new projects.



State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Activity	2023 Funding Amount	2024 Funding Amount
Emergency Shelter	\$0	\$64,600.00
Street Outreach	\$85,937.50	\$0
Rapid Rehousing	\$85,937.50	\$105,660.00
Total	\$171,875.00	\$170,260.00



Recurring Public Funding*, Annual Estimate

Source	Annual Amount
City of Durham Total	\$2,785,998
ESG	\$175,000
CDBG	\$300,000
HOPWA**	\$1,000,000
DHF	\$1,310,998
HUD CoC Grant	\$2,017,549
State ESG	\$170,260
TOTAL Fed, State, & City	\$4,973,807

** Does not include Durham County - ** For EMSA; not limited to homeless population*



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Homelessness in Durham by the Numbers



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Coordinated Entry Numbers

For the week of August 19, 2024:

- 35 families reported being unsheltered
- 55 single adults reported being unsheltered
-
- 36 families reported being at risk of homelessness in 14 days
- 49 singles reported being at at risk of homelessness in 14 days
-
- Clients exited from shelter and called to return get back into shelter: 5
- Clients exited from Durham Rescue Mission and called Entry Point for shelter: 3
- Clients that called seeking shelter in Durham rom other counties: 7
- Clients that arrived from another Country and called Entry Point for Shelter: 1



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Point in Time Count By Location (2016-2024)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Unsheltered	32	60	53	81	77	118	144	158	172
Transitional	106	54	45	44	33	28	29	34	10
Emergency Shelter	216	250	240	236	239	250	286	183	223
Total	354	354	338	361	349	396	459	375	405



Exits To Permanent Housing

Activities	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Street Outreach	9 (53%)	22 (50%)	19 (17%)	70 (34%)	72 (24%)	75 (23%)
Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, & Rapid Rehousing	558 (54%)	575 (60%)	263 (38%)	296 (40%)	360 (40%)	273 (34%)
Total	567	597	282	366	432	348



Challenges



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Challenges

- Previous prioritization policies made it difficult to help households move through the system and we lost landlords due to lack of supportive services.
 - ✓ We have been revising the policies and procedures and invested in relationship building with landlords.
- Landlords changing tenant selection criteria to reduce the chances of needing to file for eviction.
 - ✓ City is applied to HUD for an Eviction Protection Grant Program that may provide alternatives to eviction.
- Loss of 20 Emergency Housing Vouchers (10 were unable to find places to lease and 10 were unable to be issued).
- Not enough supportive services and housing for those with the highest barriers or needs.
- No shelter beds for couples, medically fragile, or households with pets.



Questions?



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