

December 3, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Health and Human Services Committee
Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst *LAMc*

SUBJECT: **Updates:** Homelessness, the 100,000 Homes Campaign,
and Housing First

Expected for this session:

Nadim Khan, Chief, Special Needs Housing, DHHS

At the session, the joint HHS and PHED Committee will receive updates on homelessness (including data on prevention and permanent supportive housing), information on the Continuum of Care's Ten year Plan to End Homelessness, the plans for the first meeting of the Interagency Commission on Homelessness, and the transition from the 100,000 Homes Campaign to the Zero 2016 campaign to end Veteran homelessness.

The key performance measure for Housing First is to reduce the length of stay in homelessness and provide stable housing for those existing homelessness. The following data assists in determining how well the County is achieving this goal. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has provided a status report which is attached at © 1-27. In addition, the Montgomery County section from the Council of Government's Point-in-Time Count is attached at ©28-32.

Update: 2014 Point-in-Time Survey

The DHHS report highlights the changes in Point-in-Time Count on ©1. The following is a summary of some of the categories counted.

	2013	2014	% Change
Total Number Counted	1004	891	-11%
Total Individuals	638	603	-5%
Total Number of Families	117	91	-22%
Total Persons in Families	366	288	-21%
Total Adults in Families	137	100	-27%
Total Children in Families	229	188	-18%

Some interesting notes on the subpopulations counted in 2014:

- 63% of homeless households without children reported chronic substance abuse, serious mental health problems or co-occurring disorders.
- There were 58 households headed by a transitional aged youth.
- The percent of households without children reporting employment was 22%. Employment in household with children was 53%.
- According to HMIS data, 60% of households with children that existed homelessness left for a permanent housing destination with 31% of those returning to family or friends and 29% to permanent supportive housing (including VASH).

Homelessness Prevention

It is more efficient to prevent homelessness than to have to work to re-house an individual or family after they become homeless. The DHHS report shows that in FY14, 3,749 emergency services grants were provided at a cost of \$2,922,700. Most of these grants are focused on preventing eviction or utility cut-offs. While the total number of grants in FY14 was less than in FY13 or FY14, the average amount granted increased. The majority of these grants are County-funded. In FY14, the State provided \$441,460, or 15%, of the total funding.

	Total Grants	Total \$	Average
FY14	3,749	\$2,922,700	\$779
FY13	4,095	\$2,991,074	\$730
FY12	5,300	\$3,768,705	\$711

The report also notes that the number of grants in the first quarter of FY15 is about 4% higher than for the first quarter of FY14. The average grant is \$820.

Rental Assistance Program

This program provides a shallow subsidy to low-income households. All 1,720 subsidies are being used. As of October 31st there was a waiting list of 2,753 names.

Rapid ReHousing

Rapid ReHousing provides time-limited rental subsidies of \$400 per month for single adults and \$600 for families as well as 12 months of case management services. Currently, 20 households are receiving Rapid ReHousing Assistance with Emergency Service Grant funds. In addition, the Council added 20 subsidies for families as a part of the FY15 budget. Seven households are now in housing, two households are leasing units in December, and eight households are looking for housing.

100,000 Homes Campaign

Community Solutions has announced success with the 100,000 Homes Campaign having more than 101,000 homes registered nationally.

In Montgomery County, 369 individuals were surveyed during the 100,000 Homes Campaign Registry Week and 159 (43%) were considered vulnerable based on the assessment. The County has continued to identify people, use the assessment tool and prioritize those individuals that are ranked as the most vulnerable. To date, a total of 68 vulnerable and/or chronically homeless individuals have been housed; 26 of these people were identified during registry week and 42 identified later.

The Continuum of Care continues to place individuals based on their level of vulnerability.

Veterans Housing

The COG 2014 Point-in-Time Survey counted 34 Homeless Veterans in Montgomery County. While this was 3 more than counted in 2013, it was a 47% decrease from the 64 counted in 2009. The report notes that the County has received 80 VASH Vouchers and that the Montgomery County Coalition for Homelessness has supportive Safe Havens shelter for 15 Veterans. Community Solution has launched the Zero 2016 Initiative to end Veteran Homelessness by 2016. Montgomery County has signed on as a participant and included this goal in its Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to end Homelessness. The Community Solutions web page says:

The success of the 100,000 Homes Campaign has generated huge momentum in the fight to end homelessness. Still, while greatly decreased, chronic and Veteran homelessness continue to plague our nation's streets, and the health effects of these solvable problems remain as lethal as ever. We know what works to end homelessness, and, as a nation, we have a moral imperative to bring the solutions to scale. The time to

finish the job is now. Community Solutions is excited to announce the application process for Zero: 2016, a rigorous follow-on to the 100,000 Homes Campaign designed to help an elite group of communities do whatever it takes to end chronic and Veteran homelessness in the next two and a half years. Zero: 2016 will involve hands-on coaching, implementation of transparent data and performance management, and a shared learning environment. Admission is by application only, and communities should use the application process to take inventory of their local resources and processes and to demonstrate their commitment to the task of getting to zero. Any community can apply, regardless of whether they participated in the 100,000 Homes Campaign. Getting to zero will be hard and will require a new level of commitment from all of us, but the key lesson of the 100,000 Homes Campaign is that we can end homelessness much faster by learning together as we go, rather than waiting for a perfect plan or perfect resources. To join Zero: 2016, you don't need to know exactly how you're going to get to zero, but you do need to be ready to roll up your sleeves with your peers across the country and get to work. Community Solutions' dedicated improvement staff is eager to support you. We'll also work with you to ensure that these efforts are well aligned with current Federal policy priorities, programs, and initiatives. If you think your community should join Zero: 2016, please review the application, reach out to other groups and agencies in your area, and begin building the local team you will need to participate. Let's get to zero together! - See more at: <http://100khomes.org/blog/apply-now-to-join-zero-2016#sthash.S31uxBEq.dpuf>

Community Solutions defines “functional zero” this way: “At any point in time, the number of Veterans experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness will be no greater than the current monthly housing placement rate for Veterans experiencing homelessness.”

Montgomery County Housing First Plan Implementation Status Update December 1, 2014

Approved by the Montgomery County Council on June 25, 2008, the Montgomery County Housing First Initiative is designed to reduce homelessness through a broad array of strategies that help stabilize at-risk individuals/families to prevent loss of housing and to help homeless individuals/families rapidly exit homelessness. The Housing First Initiative is a public-private partnership that includes County and other government agencies, nonprofit service providers, landlords and others who have a role in the County's housing market. The underlying philosophy of the program reflects a shift away from "housing readiness" towards a model where the primary focus is to quickly house persons and address service needs once they are in permanent housing.

The key performance measure in Montgomery County's Housing First plan is to continue to reduce the length of stay in homelessness and provide stable housing for those exiting homelessness. Efforts focus both on assisting households at imminent risk of homelessness to remain housed and assisting homeless households to rapidly exit homelessness to permanent housing. Outlined below are the accomplishments and ongoing activities for the past year.

1. Annual Point-in-Time Count

Montgomery County's homeless Point-in-Time Survey was conducted on January 30, 2014. A total of 891 homeless persons were counted that day. This is an 11% decrease since the 2013 count. The overall decrease in homelessness could be attributed to several factors including an increase in permanent supportive housing and additional units that were created via the Housing Initiative Program (HIP) Medical component and the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH). Another indirect factor may have been severe winter weather. The number of unsheltered persons decreased by approximately one-third (34%) from 143 in 2013 to 95 in 2014. In response to the frigid weather, local outreach teams were out on a daily basis encouraging people to accept shelter and local police units were provided the location of "hot spots" / encampment areas to ensure that unsheltered persons were provided transportation to shelter or additional blankets if they refused shelter. Despite this effort, the sheltered number only increased slightly 4%.

Households without children experienced a 5% reduction from 638 in 2013 to 603 in 2014. As noted above the most significant part of the decrease was due to the decline of unsheltered persons. The Continuum of Care's (CoC) concerted effort to address this issue with new funding for permanent supportive housing has made a significant impact and the continued outreach efforts to engage unsheltered has also been beneficial.

This enumeration indicated a 22% decrease in the overall number of homeless households with children from 117 households in 2013 to 91 households in 2014. This decrease can be attributed to several factors: 1) Re-design of the Emergency Solutions Grant Rapid Re-housing Program, which as of the enumeration assisted in providing 9 households to become stably housed directly from emergency shelter; 2) prevention and diversion efforts to place families in the community; and 3) increase in permanent supportive housing via our Housing Initiative Program. (See **Attachment A for more details**).

2. Homelessness Prevention

The Department of Health and Human Services provides an array of strategies including financial assistance, case management and linkages to community resources to resolve housing emergencies and stabilize the living situation of vulnerable households including the following:

- Emergency Assistance Grants to resolve housing emergencies - In FY14 almost \$3 million in County and State funds was expended for 3,749 crisis intervention grants to stabilize at-risk households. In FY15 (July-September), 1,174 State and County funded Emergency Assistance Grants were issued compared to 1,129 ES grants were issued for the same time during FY14, representing 4% increase in number of grants this year and 14.86% increase in the funds spent to stabilize housing.

Crisis Intervention Emergency Grants Issued in FY14 by Funding Source

GRANT TYPE (Most grants are given to prevent eviction and utility cut-offs.)	# of Grants	Expenditure	Average
STATE Funded	756	\$441,460	\$583
COUNTY Funded	2,166	\$1,427,225	\$659
County Recordation Tax	827	\$1,054,015	\$1,275
Total	3,749	\$2,922,700	\$779

EMERGENCY SERVICE (ES) GRANT EXPENDITURE UPDATE

ES Grants		# County Funded Grants	(County) ES Grant \$ Issued	# State EAFIC Grants	(State) Grant \$ Issued	# of Record Tax Grants	Recordation Tax Grant \$ Issued	# of HPRP Prevent Grants	HPRP Prev \$ Issued	Aggregate Grant Totals
FY14	July-June	2,166	\$1,427,225	756	\$441,460	827	\$1,054,015	0	\$0	3,749/\$2,922,700
FY13	July-June	1,927	\$995,367	1134	\$663,468	1,034	\$1,332,240	0	\$0	4,095/\$2,991,074
FY12	July-June	2,562	\$1,471,472	1,791	\$975,889	854	\$1,029,491	93	\$291,853	5,300/\$3,768,705

EMERGENCY SERVICE (ES) GRANT EXPENDITURE UPDATE FY2015

ES Grants		# County Funded Grants	(County) ES Grant \$ Issued	# State EAFIC Grants	(State) Grant \$ Issued	# of Record Tax Grants	Recordation Tax Grant \$ Issued	Aggregate Grant Totals
FY15	Jul-Sept	707	\$474,741	182	\$113,728	285	\$375,258	1,174/\$963,727
FY14	Jul-Sept	525	\$292,827	287	\$162,485	317	\$383,755	1,129/\$839,066
FY13	Jul-Sept	531	\$275,673	352	\$201,382	278	\$381,328	1,161/\$858,384

Effective March 2012, the State made significant changes to the Emergency Assistance to Families with Children program narrowing eligibility for the assistance.

Rental/Energy Assistance

- Rental Assistance Program (RAP) – An average of 1,675 households have received County RAP each month in FY14. Effective July 1, 2014, the RAP program capacity increased to 1,720 households and the program is fully enrolled.
- As of October 31, 2014, there were 2,753 names on the RAP waiting list. Applicants an approximately 8 month wait before being pulled off the list to apply for benefits.
- A total of 11,372 OHEP applications were received during FY14, a 4% increase over FY13.
- During OHEP program year 2014 Montgomery County approved \$1,312,179 in EUSP Electric Arrearage funds, a 40% increase over 2013. (See Attachment B for more details)
- Neighborhood Opportunity Network – Continued to collaborate with the Neighborhood Opportunity Network to bring emergency assistance and entitlement programs to neighborhoods most impacted by the recession. Emergency Services intake staff is deployed to the Gaithersburg and Wheaton offices one day each week to assess the needs of families applying for emergency assistance to prevent eviction.

3. Rapid Exit from Homelessness:

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in collaboration with community partners, provides a range of services to homeless households including temporary shelter, case management and permanent supportive housing designed to limit the time spent in homelessness and improve housing outcomes.

- Outreach – Four providers conduct outreach services in Montgomery County via contracts with the County: People Encouraging People Homeless Outreach, Community Visions, Bethesda Cares, and City of Gaithersburg.
- Family Assessment Shelters – Family shelters continue to focus on reducing the barriers to obtaining permanent housing. To better address the needs of families with significant housing barriers, DHHS implemented a Service Integration Team model to work collaboratively with shelter staff to help families address their behavioral health, credit and criminal justice issues. In FY13, the average length of stay for families discharged from shelters was 108 days. As of June 30, 2014, the average length of stay for discharged families increased to 117 days. Factors contributing to this increase include lack of housing affordable for low-wage working families, a shortage of permanent housing with supports, and increasing rental costs.
- Motel Overflow Shelter – DHHS continues to utilize hotels as overflow emergency shelter for families to ensure that families remain safe. In FY14, 377 households were provided overflow shelter in hotels compared to 416 in FY13.

SNH Household Placements			
	Family Shelter Overflow (hotels) Households	Emergency Assessment Placements Family Shelter Households	Individual Shelters
FY15 July 1 – November 15, 2014	168	54	534
FY14 July 1 – November 15, 2013	217	51	552

- The reduction in overflow placements for families is due to a reduction in hotel availability during the first quarter of FY15 as a result of the loss one contract for 23 rooms not due to reduction in demand. New contracts are now in place to better meet the need for overflow shelter. As of November 23, 2014 there are 62 families placed in overflow shelter compared to 47 families for the same time in 2013.
- Emergency shelter for single adults – In FY14, a total of 1,243 homeless singles were provided emergency shelter compared to 1,283 in FY13. The average length of stay of those exiting shelter was 57 days. All seasonal and overflow shelters were encouraged to refer unsheltered homeless adults to People Encouraging People Homeless Outreach for continued case management services.
- In FY14, 255 families and 453 individuals were served in permanent housing. Permanent Supportive Housing is provided via County, HUD, local and private community partnerships.
- In 2014, there was an increase of 46 permanent supportive housing beds from 1,826 in 2013 to 1,870 in 2014.
- Housing Initiative Program (HIP) – Provides permanent supportive housing including deep rental subsidies and service coordination services to up to 220 vulnerable low-income homeless households. Since the inception of the program (April 1, 2007) through June 2014, a total of 315 households have been placed in permanent housing, of which 216 are still housed. An additional 6 households were newly enrolled in the program and searching for housing. Applicants are being processed for one currently available subsidy. (See **Attachment C for more details**)
- Medically Vulnerable Initiative – In FY13, 25 new HIP slots were designated for medically vulnerable homeless adult. In addition to service coordination, Special Needs Housing has partnered with Public Health Services to provide nursing support to these clients to triage medical issues, coordinate medical care, link to medical services and provide health education. A total of 25 households have been placed in housing through June 2014, of which 22 are still housed. An additional 3 households are currently going through the enrollment process.
- Cordell Avenue Private Living Quarters (PLQ) – Twenty-four rental subsidies from the HIP program are being used to support the Cordell Avenue PLQ, which opened in November, 2010. The program serves 32 formerly homeless single adults and is operated by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. All subsidies are committed at this time.

- **Rapid Re-housing Program (RRH)** – The Rapid Re-housing program provides a time-limited, shallow rental subsidy (\$400 per month for singles, \$600 per month for families) and case management services for up to twelve months. This has been a valuable resource for households who are not in need of permanent supportive housing but who cannot exit homelessness without assistance.
 - FY14 26 household received ESG Rapid Re-housing (RRH) assistance
 - FY15 20 household are being served with ESG RRH – 15 families and 5 singles
 - FY15 Council funded 20 RRH subsidies for families – 7 households are housed, 2 leasing units December 2 and 8 have been approved and searching for units.

- **Housing Locator Services** – Housing Locator services continue to be a critical resource to help households quickly locate housing and exit homelessness. The Housing Locator provided assistance to HIP participants and RRH households. When possible, the Housing Locator will assist households in hotel or family shelters with significant housing barriers.

- **Veterans Housing** – Montgomery County continues its efforts to meet the needs of homeless veterans living in Montgomery County via its one-stop center, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where veterans can apply for benefits, get linked to housing and receive case management. Montgomery County has received a total of 80 veteran subsidies and works with Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) providers to serve individuals and veteran family households. In March 2014, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless opened a Veteran Safe Haven (which serves the metropolitan area including Baltimore County and City) to provide shelter for 15 homeless veterans, which further increases options to serve this population.

- **SNH Homeless Services** relocated of two single adult transitional shelters, Dorothy Day Place and Bethesda House. The new site is located at 5320 Marinelli Road. The facility now serves a total of 18 men and 19 women.

- **SNH and BHCS** will be collaborating on 3 – 4 homes located on Fleet Street. These homes will be for single female headed households (18 – 25) that may have domestic violence issues and need transitional housing to stabilize.

- Due to community concerns regarding continued placement at the East County Community Center, several options were explored for winter overflow shelter. The County determined at the start of the fiscal year to seek out a permanent location for the Winter Overflow Shelter. This has been identified at the Crabbs Branch location. According to the Department of General Services the Overflow Shelter will be ready to open in January of 2015 and will be able to accommodate 75 to 100 individuals experiencing homelessness.

4. Special Projects:

100k Homes Campaign – During the fall of 2013, Montgomery County CoC formally launched its 100k Homes Campaign with a registry week held from November 3 – 6. This public/private effort surveyed individuals experiencing homelessness across the region to determine who is the

most vulnerable and in greatest need of housing. Adoption of this national model is intended to enhance the community's commitment to understanding and ending homelessness.

- During Registry Week, 369 individuals completed a survey and another 62 individuals were identified who refused to take the survey. Those individuals who refused have been assigned to outreach providers for ongoing engagement in an effort to get them surveyed. Of those surveyed, 159 or 43% were considered to be vulnerable.
- December 2013, the Montgomery County Council approved a FY14/15 special appropriation of over \$649,000 to provide permanent housing with supportive services for 15 additional homeless individuals, identified as the most vulnerable. Additionally, in FY15, Council approved funding in the amount of \$437,120 to serve 16 vulnerable and / or chronically homeless individuals in permanent supportive housing for a total of 31 slots.
- CoC housing providers have agreed to prioritize vacancies in their existing programs for those experiencing chronic homelessness. Furthermore, the local housing authority, Housing Opportunities Commission, is exploring prioritizing homeless persons identified as vulnerable homeless for housing choice vacancies.
- As of November 20, 2014, a total of 68 Vulnerable and/or Chronically Homeless has been placed in housing.

<u>100,000 Homes Housing Placements</u>			<u>Total Vulnerable and/or Chronically Homeless Placed</u>
Vulnerable and/or Chronically Homeless	Identified from Registry Week	Identified After Registry Week	
FY14 – November 20, 2014	26	42	68

- Bill 34-13, Interagency Commission on Homelessness was introduced on December 10, 2013 and approved unanimously by the County Council on April, 1, 2014. The CoC has unanimously voted and approved that the Interagency Commission on Homelessness be constituted and function in such a manner that it may serve as the governing board of Montgomery County CoC. County Executive has nominated members to the Interagency Commission on Homelessness and the list has been forwarded to the County Council for final approval. The tentative date for the first meeting of the Commission has been scheduled for December 17th from 3:30 to 5:30. This meeting will take place at the Rockville Memorial Library, First Floor Conference Room, located at 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland.
- During 2014, Montgomery County held its fourth annual "Homeless Resource Day" as a way to reach out to residents experiencing homelessness and connect them with needed community resources and supports. More than 462 households attended this highly successful event and were able to receive health screenings, registration for mainstream

benefits, legal assistance, employment, haircuts and more. The event drew 271 volunteers from the community and 71 Service Providers or vendors.

- Montgomery County is currently planning for the relocation of the Interfaith Works Community Visions Program and Shepherds Table from Progress Place in downtown Silver Spring to a new location. The site also includes plans for a new single room occupancy program of 21 units.
- Montgomery County Continuum of Care has approved an updated Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness that is aligned with the Federal plan to end homelessness, *Opening Doors*, which was developed by the U.S. Interagency Council to End Homelessness. The plan's goals include ending veterans' homelessness by 2015, chronic homelessness by 2016, family homelessness within 5 years and setting a path to ending all types of homelessness in 10 years. (See Attachment D for the full plan).

Montgomery County Homeless Count	2012	2013	2014	% Change
				2013 to 2014
Total Homeless Persons	982	1004	891	-11.25%
Individual Adults				
o Unsheltered	130	143	95	-33.57%
o Emergency Shelters	328	337	352	4.45%
o Transitional Housing	142	158	156	-1.27%
o Total Individual Adults	600	638	603	-5.49%
Families with Children				
o Unsheltered	0	0	0	0%
o Emergency Shelters	69	66	48	-27.27%
o Transitional Housing	57	51	43	-15.69%
o Total Families	126	117	91	-22.22%
o Total Persons in Families	381	366	288	-21.31%
FY14 Fam. Shelter/Hotel Households (7/1/13 – 4/22/14)	415	388	343	-11.6%
Total Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing Programs (PSH)				
o Individual Adults	598	636	646	1.57%
o Families with Children	310	312	324	3.85%
o Total Persons in Families	1042	1059	1125	6.23%
o Total Persons in PSH	1,640	1,695	1,771	4.48%
o Total Persons HSS Rapid Re-Housing and NCCF RRH DEM			55	

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS				
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	Change 2013 - 2014
Chronic Substance Abuser (CSA)	115	146	93	-36.3%
Severe Mental Illness (SMI)	199	174	165	-5.2%
Dually Diagnosed (CSA & SMI)	149	134	123	-8.2%
Chronic Health Problem	142	184	164	-10.9%
Living with HIV/AIDS	6	2	5	150%
Physical Disability	95	98	99	1.0%
Domestic Violence Victim*	205	231	187	-19.0%
Limited English Proficiency	106	104	85	-18.3%
U.S. Veterans	37	31	35	12.9%
Chronically Homeless	199	228	181	-20.6%
Unsheltered Chronically Homeless	130	143	95	-33.57%

*Any history of DV

Stats

SNH Services	FY12	FY13	FY14
Crisis Intervention			
# of Applications	7,107	6,431	6,279
# of Grants	5,422	4,124	3,749
Average Grant	\$707	\$724	\$779
Home Energy Assistance			
# of Applications	11,692	10,962	11,372
# Grant Households	8,778	7,308	7,951
Rental Assistance			
Average # of households receiving subsidy per month	1,434	1,600	1676
Emergency Shelter Services			
Single Adults Served	1,280	1,283	1,243
Families in Shelter	116	111	99
Motel Overflow	377	416	377
Total # of families served in Shelter & Motels (Unduplicated)	414	449	404
Transitional Shelter			
Single Adults Served	299	334	312
Permanent Supportive Housing (Households)*			
Families	249	248	255
Singles	480	478	453
Total Households	729	726	708
Housing Initiative Program			
Total HIP Households	209	244	259

*Permanent Supportive Housing numbers exclude HIP which is reported elsewhere

Attachment C

	Singles	Families	Total
Housing Initiative Program Placements			
Effective 4/1/2007 (FY 08) - 6/30/2013 (FY 13)	108	174	282
7/1/2013 - 6/27/2014 (FY 14)	14	10	24
Total HIP Placements to Date	129	186	315
Single/Family Reconfiguration	7	-7	0
Total HIP Housed	136	179	315
Closures			
<i>Deceased</i>	-15	0	-15
<i>Received HCV - Other Subsidy</i>	-9	-11	-20
<i>Closed - Terminated Failed to Comply</i>	-20	-15	-35
<i>Closed - Client Request</i>	-4	-7	-11
<i>Moved</i>	-6	-5	-11
<i>Over Income</i>	-2	-4	-6
<i>Over Assets</i>	0	-1	-1
TOTAL Closures	-56	-43	-99
TOTAL HIP CURRENTLY HOUSED IN HIP	80	136	216
Assigned to Housing Locator-Search for Housing	2	4	6
TOTAL HIP SUBSIDIES COMMITTED	82	140	222
Total HIP Subsidies Available	0	1	1
HIP SUBSIDIES BUDGETED	82	141	223
Housing Initiative Program Placements - Medically Vulnerable			
Housed HIP - Medically Vulnerable (FY 13)	15	0	15
Housed HIP - Medically Vulnerable (FY 14)	10	0	10
Total HIP Housed - Medically Vulnerable	26	0	26
TOTAL Closures - Medically Vulnerable	-4	0	-4
TOTAL HIP CURRENTLY HOUSED - Medically Vulnerable	22	0	22
Assigned to Housing Locator-Search for Housing	3	0	3
TOTAL HIP SUBSIDIES COMMITTED	25	0	25
Total HIP Subsidies Available - Medically Vulnerable	0	0	0
Total HIP - Medically Vulnerable Budgeted	25	0	25
Cordell Place	24	0	24
TOTAL HIP SUBSIDIES BUDGETED	131	141	272

**MONTGOMERY
COUNTY
CONTINUUM
OF CARE**

**TEN YEAR PLAN
TO END
HOMELESSNESS**

October 2014

Montgomery County: Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Strategic Planning Committee Membership

Sara Black

Administrator, Special Needs Housing, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Lillian Durham

(former) Director of Resident Services, Housing Opportunities Commission

Marie Henderson

(former) Executive Director, Interfaith Works

Priscilla Fox-Morrill

Director of Homeless/Housing Services, Interfaith Works

Denise Fredericks

Executive Director, Stepping Stones Shelter

Nadim Khan

Chief, Special Needs Housing, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Susan Kirk

Executive Director, Bethesda Cares

Luann Korona

Chief, Community Development Division, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Susie Sinclair-Smith

Executive Director, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

Fred Swan

Director of Resident Services, Housing Opportunities Commission

Montgomery County: Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Plan Development Overview

In the Spring of 2012, The Montgomery County Continuum of Care (CoC) began the process of reviewing and updating the community's 10 Year Plan to prevent and end homelessness. Efforts were led by the CoC Strategic Planning Committee which was comprised of public and private organizations from the CoC including the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Bethesda Cares, Helping Hands, Housing Opportunities Commission, Interfaith Works and Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless.

The Committee developed a draft 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness in Montgomery County that is aligned with the Federal plan to end homelessness, *Opening Doors*, which was developed by the U.S. Interagency Council to End Homelessness. Two work sessions were held to solicit feedback on the plan from a broad array of CoC stakeholders, to validate the plan goals and strategies, and to develop action steps. Additional input was also solicited from persons who have experienced homelessness, which helped to further inform the plan. The Plan was then distributed to the full membership of the Montgomery County CoC for input and final approval.

About Montgomery County

Montgomery County Maryland, with a population of 1,016,677, is a place of contrasts and diversity. At one end of the economic ladder the county is one of the wealthiest in the country with among the most educated residents and a median household income of \$96,985. At the same time, in the midst of affluence, 6.5% of residents live below the poverty level (U.S. Census Quick Facts 2012).

Among county residents, 31.8% are foreign born. The largest racial groups among residents include 63.2% white alone, 18.3% black, 14.7% Asian alone, and 3.1% two or more races. Ethnically, the population is 17.9% Hispanic or Latino and 47.8% of residents identify themselves as white alone, not Hispanic or Latino. (U.S. Census Quick Facts 2012).

Montgomery County continues to experience high housing costs. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a family living in Montgomery County would need to earn a housing wage of \$28.25 per hour or \$58,760 annually in order to afford the fair market rent on a two-bedroom apartment of \$1,469 per month. In contrast an extremely very low income household earning \$32,100 annually can afford to pay no more than \$803 in rent (National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2014). This disparity between housing costs and earned income of households in Montgomery County leaves many households cost burdened in the community. Among owners with a mortgage, 32 percent are paying more than 30% of their monthly income for their housing, and among renters, that number is even higher, at 50 percent of households (American Community Survey, 2012).

Homelessness in Montgomery County

Montgomery County's annual one-day census of persons experiencing homelessness was conducted on January 30, 2014. A total of 891 persons experiencing homelessness were counted, of whom 68% were individuals and 32% were persons in families. Eighty-nine percent of persons counted were living in emergency or transitional housing while 11% were unsheltered.

Montgomery County: Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Among individuals experiencing homelessness, 63% percent reported chronic substance abuse, serious mental health issues, or co-occurring disorders while 42% reported a chronic health condition and/or physical disability. Twenty-nine percent met the criteria for chronic homelessness defined a person who has a disabling condition and who has been homeless for at least 12 months or had four episodes of homelessness in three years. Looking at family households, 21% of adults in families reported chronic substance abuse, serious mental illness, or co-occurring disorders while 9% reported a chronic health condition and/or physical disability. Nineteen percent of households with children reported that domestic violence contributed to their homelessness.

The table below provides a comparison of the past 3 years.

TABLE 31: MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S HOMELESS COUNT BY CATEGORY

Category	2014	2013	2012	Percent Change 2012 to 2014	Percent Change 2013 to 2014
Total Number Counted	891	1004	982	-9%	-11%
Total Individuals	603	638	600	0%	-5
Total Number of Families	91	117	126	-28%	-22%
Total Persons in Families	288	366	381	-24%	-21%
Total Adults in Families	100	137	152	-34%	-27%
Total Children in Families	188	229	229	-18%	-18%

Homelessness Response in Montgomery County

In 2002, Montgomery County became one of the first localities nationally to develop a ten year plan to end homelessness. Developed as part of a community-wide planning process that included a broad array of nonprofit and government stakeholders, the plan proposed strategies to end homelessness on three fronts: 1) *Closing the Front Door* through efforts to prevent people from entering homelessness, 2) *Opening the Back Door* by rapidly moving people out of homelessness into permanent housing, and 3) *Building a Foundation* to assure that people have access to employment, treatment and other supports that they need to be successful members of our community.

Over the past decade, guided by the plan, the Montgomery County Continuum of Care has implemented a "Housing First" model that provides a range of housing services to persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, including outreach and engagement, emergency and transitional housing, safe havens, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing. Case management is provided at all levels of the continuum with an emphasis on removing housing barriers and connecting homeless persons with housing, employment, disability entitlements and other behavioral health services. The continuum also utilizes a range of homelessness prevention strategies including emergency financial assistance, shallow rent subsidies, and energy assistance designed to prevent the loss of permanent housing.

Montgomery County: Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Despite a decade during which rising housing costs far out-paced increases in income and the extended economic downturn of the past few years stretched the resources of many residents, the community has made great strides since 2002 in meeting our goals to end homelessness including:

- Reducing the number of homeless persons living on the streets by sixty percent (from 240 people to 95 people).
- Increasing permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless persons six-fold (from 308 beds to 1,886 beds).
- Expanding resources to prevent loss of housing including emergency financial assistance, utility assistance and rental assistance.
- Increasing community outreach to identify and link homeless residents to services including healthcare and housing.
- Implementing a coordinated assessment system to quickly identify needs and prioritize persons experiencing homelessness for housing.
- Creating the Montgomery County Interagency Commission on Homelessness to better coordinate community-wide efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

Ending Homelessness in Montgomery County: Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 3 years.

Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2 years.

Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 5 years.

Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

Objective One: Provide and Promote Collaborative Leadership

Strategy: Educate and engage the public about homelessness and the need to take action.

Action Steps:

1. Engage Montgomery County Interagency Commission on Homelessness educate the community about homelessness, best practices, resources needed reduce homelessness, and long term savings achieved by providing permanent stable housing.
2. Create an advocacy committee within the Continuum of Care (CoC) to develop a tool kit of engagement resources to present to local leaders, home owners associations, civic associations, labor and business associations and other groups.
3. Develop an engagement schedule to present at meetings with local leaders, home owners associations, civic associations, faith-based organizations, to educate the community about homelessness, about how to create housing, and the need to increase resources.
4. Develop and deliver training sessions that educate newly elected city, county and State officials on the Continuum of Care.
5. Develop a document that identifies the cost savings and impact of investing in strategies to prevent and end homelessness.
6. Develop a strategy for community outreach including a list of meaningful volunteer activities that residents can undertake.

Objective Two: Strengthen the Capacity of Organizations by Increasing Knowledge about Collaboration, Homelessness, Best Practice

Strategy: Collaborate and compile research to ensure that information about best practices is more readily available.

Action Steps:

1. Develop a process to centralize the information gathered at local and National conferences.
2. Identify groups to take the lead on compiling the best practices in areas of focus for specific target populations – veterans, criminal justice involved, chronically homeless and families and children.

Strategy: Create common data standards and uniform performance measures across targeted programs to allow for better understanding of homelessness in Montgomery County and success of strategies.

Action Steps:

1. Develop a process and tools that assists all homeless providers to review their current outcomes and develop commonalities and agreements leading to common benchmarks.
2. Reactivate and expand the CoC performance committee to evaluate the existing programs to establish who is doing well and address barriers and gaps. The performance committee would review current existing data to identify gaps in information and make recommendations regarding the collection of needed information.

Strategy: Continue to increase use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) by programs targeting homelessness.

Action Steps:

1. Develop and deliver training and create ongoing resources for providers to ensure a standard use of HMIS and increase awareness of how to view existing records, address client needs more efficiently and increase use of system for effective case management and reporting.
2. Create a quality HMIS newsletter for the web that shows how programs address goals of increasing income, move to permanent housing, etc.

Montgomery County: Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Objective Three: Increase Access to Housing Options

Strategy: Support rental subsidies through federal, state and private resources targeted to those experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.

Action Steps:

1. Explore new sources of public and private funding, not only for rental subsidies but for all aspects of support necessary for stable affordable housing.
2. Develop an education campaign/marketing strategy with targeted approaches for the different funders.
3. Convene/develop multiple groups: corporate; faith-based; foundations to identify and seek federal state/local/philanthropic funding, cultivate political leaders to maximize our connections with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and other relevant local, state and federal agencies.

Strategy: Preserve and expand supply of affordable rental homes where they are most needed through federal, state, local efforts.

Action Steps:

1. Explore opportunities to leverage funding (eg. State Bond Program).
2. Identify additional funding sources to reduce housing development costs in order to facilitate the development of rental units affordable to lower income households with an emphasis on those with the lowest incomes (e.g. at or below 30% of area median income).
3. Increase advocacy regarding affordable housing priority in the zoning code re-write; partner with the Affordable Housing Conference and the Nonprofit Roundtable for new housing development.
4. Research best practice models for house sharing and analyze the HOC "Operation Match" program for 'lessons learned'.

Strategy: Improve access to federal, state and locally funded housing assistance by eliminating administrative barriers and encouraging prioritization of people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.

Action Steps:

1. Focus specifically on the under-25-homeless-parent as a group with unique needs and review what is currently in place in the CoC that works for or doesn't work for this group – develop a specific strategy for this growing population of homeless. (determine where this is most appropriate).
2. Advocate for the Housing Opportunities Commission to develop a prioritization for access to units/vouchers, building on what was done to support the 100k Homes campaign.
3. Develop a program to assist clients in expunging criminal records as allowed by existing laws and procedures.

Montgomery County: Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

4. Review barriers, like criminal background/ poor credit history, to clarify who has imposed the barrier (federal, local or landlord) and then focus on what can be done with the client to overcome the barrier (e.g. integrate financial literacy education into the MCPS curriculum; expunge criminal records if possible) and continue to educate/address landlords' concerns

Strategy: Increase service-enriched housing by co-locating or connecting services with affordable housing.

Action Steps:

1. Increase effective partnering with Montgomery County Public Schools to build a better connection with housing and support.
2. Identify service gaps and look for assistance in addressing them (eg. partner with Wells Fargo for financial literacy or Adventist around special needs of homeless/formerly homeless seniors)

Strategy: Create protocols and incentives to help people who achieve stability in supportive housing – who no longer need ongoing supports – to move into affordable housing to free up Permanent Supportive Housing units

Action Steps:

1. Provide security deposits and first month's rent to support individuals and families who are able to move from supportive housing.
2. Analyze the Family Self-Sufficiency Model and Two Generation Poverty Strategies to assess their use in the supportive housing model.
3. Analyze best practices for supporting people to work without jeopardizing benefits (e.g. "Ticket to Work" program).

Objective Four: Improve Access to Education and Training and Increase Employment

Strategy: Improve coordination and integrate employment programs with homelessness and prevention programs including those serving veterans, victims of domestic violence and youth.

Action Steps:

1. Conduct an annual Community Needs Assessment regarding education and training, job readiness and vocational needs.
2. Identify best practices working elsewhere and determine what can be brought to Montgomery County CoC. Use information to determine whether existing programs need to be redesigned or new service models are needed.
3. Develop partnerships with programs serving homeless and low income populations, employers and the Department of Economic Development to address needs including basic literacy skills, socialization skills, English language skills.
4. Identify and engage community partners such as Montgomery College and other educational providers with expertise in education and training programs to design/develop training and educational opportunities including a two track basic education system: 1) GED track as a base to move toward other employment/training programs; 2) Track for those unable to attain GED – training program for low-skilled workers.
5. Develop strategies that offer ongoing support, once employed to assist with job retention.

Strategy: Improve access to and retention in high quality educational and child-care programs.

Action Steps:

1. Advocate with Montgomery County Public Schools to adopt the best practice of individual placement and support (IPS) countywide.
2. Determine best assessment tools for individuals to identify undiagnosed substance abuse and/or mental health issues that may impact access and retention.

Strategy: Collaborate with economic recovery and jobs programs to ensure that job development and training strategies focus attention on people who are experiencing or are most at risk of homelessness.

Action Steps:

1. Develop mechanism for people who apply for utility assistance, rental assistance or other financial support to assess, refer and connect them to appropriate services prior to falling into homelessness.

Objective Five: Improve Access to “Mainstream” Programs/Services in order to Reduce Financial Vulnerability

Strategy: Create clear pathways, by removing barriers and promoting best practice, for greater financial independence.

Action Steps:

1. Improve the mechanism for linking persons at risk or experiencing homelessness to pre-vocational structured workshop with emphasis on soft skills including communication, problem solving, conflict management, and teamwork.
2. Identify opportunities to engage private employers in creating job training and work opportunities.
3. Create a no wrong door approach to services – if come in for stop gap measures, use opportunity to address what other benefits/resources may be needed/helpful.
4. Review eligibility requirements for existing programs – are we trapping people in poverty? E.g. if an individual earns 25¢ more per hour but loses child care subsidy, we are not doing the family a service.
5. Explore best practices for connecting veterans to mainstream services.
6. Advocate for living wage, affordable housing and education as an approach to addressing poverty in Montgomery County.
7. Integrate credit counseling and financial literacy into the current delivery system.

Objective Six: Integrate Primary and Behavioral Health Services with Homeless Assistance and Housing Programs

Strategy: Increase availability of behavioral health services, including community mental health centers, to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Action Steps:

1. Assess population to determine who is at risk, identify availability of services and understand barriers to services.
2. Engage service providers in developing creative strategies (e.g. providing space for psychiatrist to see Medicaid clients).
3. Work with service providers to develop a protocol to identify risk factors.

Strategy: Encourage partnerships between housing providers and health and behavioral health care providers to co-locate and/or coordinate health, behavioral health, safety and wellness services with housing and create better resources for providers to connect people to housing resources.

Action Steps:

1. Improve/strengthen partnerships between agencies (whole agencies versus individuals).
2. Address barriers for special populations: criminal background, sex offenders, clients with combative behavior, undocumented.

Strategy: Improve access to child and family services that improve early child development, educational stability, youth development, and quality of life for families – including expectant families, children, and youth experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.

Action Steps:

1. Engage child and family services providers to identify resources they can provide to homeless/at risk families.
2. Work with MCPS to assess the potential to expand in-school homelessness prevention efforts.

Strategy: Build successful in-home service delivery models to provide services in the homes of people who have experienced homelessness including using Medicaid-funded Assertive Community Treatment Teams for those with behavioral health needs.

Action Steps:

1. Advocate for expansion of in-home services – educate Managed Care Organizations about the importance of integrating behavioral health with somatic health services.
2. Identify resources to expand ACT Teams.

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Montgomery County: Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Strategy: Establish medical respite programs to expand options for people experiencing homelessness with complex medical needs who are being discharged from hospitals.

Action Steps:

1. Collaborate with Skilled Nursing Facilities to develop service models and resources.
2. Research national best practices for medical respite care.

Objective Seven: Advance Health and Housing Stability for People Experiencing Homelessness with Frequent Contact with Hospitals, Criminal Justice, and for Unaccompanied and Youth Aging Out of Public Systems

Strategy: Improve discharge planning from hospitals, VA medical centers, psychiatric facilities, jails and prisons to connect people to housing, health support, income and work supports and health coverage prior to discharge.

Action Steps:

1. Establish a formal process for regular communication regarding high users among mental health, somatic health and housing providers to promote planning and services.
2. Expand relationships with hospitals and jails to promote planning and services.
3. Create a process to track high users for diversion to the appropriate services.

Strategy: Improve discharge planning from foster care, juvenile justice and other systems to connect youth to education, housing benefits and health care prior to discharge.

Action Steps:

1. Develop a protocol that a full range of entities in the discharge planning use: court officials (judges) Job Corp, DJS, HHS, Montgomery College, MCPS, GED resources, Crisis Center ACCESS, Corrections, Police, Health Care System.
2. Develop a discharge planning team with consistent membership to coordinate across services as needed to achieve independence for youth.
3. Develop a treatment triage and evaluation plan that provides temporary housing on a time limited basis to young adults.
4. Provide outreach for youth about organizations that provide stable addresses.
5. Develop community based resources in home communities for youth/young adults.

Strategy: Promote targeted outreach strategies to identify people experiencing homelessness most likely to end up in emergency room, jail, hospital, or prison, and connect them to the housing and support they need.

Action Steps:

1. Improve HMIS to interface with other data systems to track clients and capture accurate client histories.
2. Create assessment tool to evaluate risk factors of clients experiencing homelessness.

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Montgomery County: Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Strategy: Review federal program policies, procedures and regulations to identify administrative or regulatory mechanisms that could be used to remove barriers and improve access to stable health care, housing, and housing supports for youth.

Action Steps:

1. Identify resources and funding from all levels (federal, state and local) and best practices for providing outreach, permanent housing and triage.
2. Research opportunities to increase affordable housing for youth/young adults.
3. Research opportunities for increased vocational and employment opportunities for youth/young adults.
4. Provide outreach to young adults who have been discharged from the foster care system about opportunities for health insurance and health care.
5. Research opportunities to engage LGBTQ and support them in housing.

Strategy: Promote targeted outreach strategies to identify youth experiencing homelessness who are most likely to end up in an emergency room, hospital, jail, or prison, and connect them to the housing and support they need.

Action Steps:

1. Research other effective national models for outreach, triage and permanent housing for youth and youth adults.
2. Partner with universities to research youth homelessness in Montgomery County to give us an opportunity to know needs of homeless youth in County.
3. Develop and conduct a public relations campaign to raise awareness around homeless youth and need for resources to be offered in County.
4. Identify gaps in services for youth who are homeless and determine ways to fill the gaps.
5. Conduct specific outreach to identify youth who are homeless in hospitals, jails or prisons to have a specific point of contact to assist in referring youth.
6. Connect DJS/DHR on cases. Distinguish to two different populations.

Objective Eight: Continue to Retool Crisis Response System to Prevent and End Homelessness

Strategy: Develop and promote best practices in crisis response programs.

Action Steps:

1. Develop CoC policies and procedures to determine prioritization for emergency shelter and transitional housing.
2. Review coordinated assessment system for adults and explore aligning system with family system.
3. Identify groups underserved by crisis response system and identify ways to increase access (e.g. youth, elderly with medical needs, LGBTQ persons).
4. Determine ways to incorporate trauma informed care into the service system.
5. Develop diversion program for single adult system.

Strategy: Continue to utilize mainstream resources to provide housing stabilization assistance to clients who are homeless or at high risk of homelessness.

Action Steps:

1. Increase strategies such as prevention case management for households (families and singles) at highest risk of homelessness to stabilize housing and prevent future emergencies.
2. Review and strengthen public/private partnerships (e.g. Emergency Assistance Coalition) providing emergency assistance to at-risk households.
3. Continue to train CoC providers on available mainstream resources and how to access services.
4. Explore strategies for increased role of housing locators to prevent entry to homelessness and facilitate rapid exit from homelessness.

Montgomery County: Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

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Montgomery County, MD

Description of Homeless Services

The Montgomery County Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) is a public-private partnership that includes state and local government agencies, non-profit service providers, landlords, and other stakeholders who have a role in preventing and ending homelessness. Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Special Needs Housing (SNH) serves as both the Collaborative Applicant and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead, and manages the CoC Coordinated Assessment system. The CoC continues to provide a full continuum of housing services to homeless persons including outreach and engagement, emergency and transitional shelter, safe havens, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing and permanent housing with supports. Case management is provided at all levels of the continuum with an emphasis on removing housing barriers and connecting homeless persons with housing, employment, disability entitlements, and other behavioral health services. The continuum also utilizes a range of homelessness prevention initiatives including emergency financial assistance, shallow rent subsidies, and energy assistance designed to prevent the loss of permanent housing.

During 2013 Montgomery County CoC launched its 100,000 Homes Campaign with several members attending the "Boot Camp" in California and Virginia. Registry week was held November 4 - 6, 2013 and resulted in the completion of 369 surveys. Utilizing the CoC's approved vulnerability definition, 159 (43%) of

those surveyed were considered vulnerable. Following registry week, the CoC held its third "Homeless Resource Day" and continued its efforts to utilize innovative ways to reach out to, and provide assistance to, persons experiencing homelessness. More than 319 households attended this highly successful event. Participants were connected to a wide range of community resources and supports including vision and health screenings, mainstream benefits, legal assistance, employment guidance, haircuts and more.

As part of its commitment to ending homelessness for the most vulnerable and chronically homeless, Montgomery County approved a special appropriation to provide permanent supportive housing to a minimum of 15 of the most vulnerable homeless adults and has begun development of a 21-bed Personal Living Quarter facility slated to open in 2016. In addition, CoC housing providers have agreed to prioritize vacancies in their existing programs for those experiencing chronic homelessness. Furthermore, the local housing authority, Housing Opportunities Commission is exploring prioritizing homeless persons identified as vulnerable homeless for housing choice vacancies.

Montgomery County continues its efforts to meet the needs of homeless veterans living in Montgomery County via its one-stop center, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where veterans can apply for benefits, get linked to housing and receive case management. This past year, Montgomery County was awarded additional VASH vouchers, bringing the total number received over the past four years to 80. In March 2014, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless opened a Veteran Safe Haven to

TABLE 40: MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S YEAR-ROUND AND WINTER INVENTORY OF BEDS

Inventory Type	Beds for Individuals	Beds/Units for Persons in Families	All Year-Round Beds	Winter Beds
Hypothermia/Overflow/Other (additional winter capacity)	260	59/17	0	319
Emergency Shelter Beds	140	144/41	284	0
Transitional/Safe Housing Beds	170	140/47	310	0
TOTAL	570	343/105	594	319

provide shelter for fifteen (15) homeless veterans, which further increases options to serve this population.

The County continues to provide emergency shelter to households with children through three family shelters with the capacity to serve 27 families. An additional 15 families can be served through the County's domestic violence shelter. During this year's enumeration, sixteen (16) families were residing in motels which serve as overflow when shelters are at capacity, a reduction over the previous year.

Emergency shelter capacity for adults without children expanded to 140 year round beds (5 designated for domestic violence victims) due to the addition of 10 additional year round beds for men. During hypothermia season from November to March, capacity further expands to 400 beds. On the day of the 2014 enumeration, there were 352 emergency shelter beds occupied, 209 of which were designated as seasonal or hypothermia beds.

Transitional housing and Safe Havens programs provide 170 beds for households without children. On the day of the enumeration, there were 156 beds occupied. The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) developed a new transitional program targeted toward families headed by transition-aged youth mothers between 18 - 24 years old. This program will provide 8 additional beds. The Rapid Re-

housing Demonstration grant that is provided by NCCF is no longer considered transitional housing by HUD therefore the number of units for households with children has decreased.

Montgomery County in consultation with the CoC has developed a Rapid Re-housing program operated by Special Needs Housing to serve 20 family and single households. Participants receive a shallow rental subsidy (\$400 for singles, \$600 for families) coupled with case management for up to twelve months.

Homeless Point-in-Time Results

Montgomery County's homeless point in time survey was conducted on January 30, 2014. A total of 891 homeless persons were counted that day. This is an 11 percent decrease since the 2013 count. The overall decrease in homelessness could be attributed to several factors including an increase in permanent supportive housing and additional units that were created via the Housing Initiative Program (HIP) Medical component and the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH). Another indirect factor may have been severe winter weather. The number of unsheltered persons decreased by approximately one-third (34%) from 143 in 2013 to 95 in 2014. In response to the frigid weather, local outreach teams were out on a daily basis encouraging people to accept shelter and local police units were provided the



TABLE 41: MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S HOMELESS COUNT BY CATEGORY

Category	2014	2013	2012	% Change 2012-2014	% Change 2013-2014
Total Number Counted	891	1004	982	-9%	-11%
Total Individuals	603	638	600	0%	-5
Total Number of Families	91	117	126	-28%	-22%
Total Persons in Families	288	366	381	-24%	-21%
Total Adults in Families	100	137	152	34%	27%
Total Children in Families	188	229	229	-18%	-18%

location of "hot spots" / encampment areas to ensure that unsheltered persons were provided transportation to shelter or additional blankets if refused. Despite this effort, the sheltered number only increased slightly 4 percent.

Households without children experienced a 5 percent reduction from 638 in 2013 to 603 in 2014. As noted above the most significant part of the decrease was due to the decline of unsheltered persons. The CoC's concerted effort to address this issue with new funding for permanent supportive housing and permanent housing with supports has made a significant impact and the continued outreach efforts to engage unsheltered has also been beneficial.

This enumeration indicated a 22 percent decrease in the overall number of homeless households with children from 117 households in 2013 to 91 households in 2014. This decrease can be attributed to several factors: 1) Re-design of the ESG Rapid Re-housing Program, which as of the enumeration assisted in providing 9 households to become stably housed directly from emergency shelter; 2) prevention and diversion efforts to place families in the community; and 3) increase in permanent supportive housing via our Housing Initiative Program.

The table below provides a comparison of the past 3 years.

During this year's enumeration, there was a change in the classification of the Rapid Re-

Housing Demonstration Grant from transitional housing to its own separate classification. This change reduced the number of families that would have been considered literally homeless by a total of 20 persons and a total of 7 families. Despite this reclassification, the total number of homeless persons in Montgomery County has decreased. It is anticipated with the increased community support generated by the 100,000 Homes Campaign, the development of additional private living quarters, and the use of Emergency Solutions Grants for rapid re-housing that the decrease in the homeless population will continue.

Subpopulations

Six-three (63%) percent of Montgomery County homeless households without children reported chronic substance abuse, serious mental health issues, or co-occurring disorders, which is a decrease from the previous year when 68% reported these conditions. This decrease could be attributed to increased outreach to engage persons in accessing behavioral health treatment. During this enumeration Montgomery County made an increased effort to collect information about chronic health conditions and / or physical disabilities. Forty-two percent of homeless households without children reported having these challenges.

Twenty-nine percent of the County's households without children counted during the enumeration met the criteria for chronic homelessness, which is a decrease from 2013



TABLE 42: MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS

	Individual Adults	Adults in Families	Children in Families	Total
Substance Use Disorder (previously chronic substance abuse)	90	3	N/A	93
Severe Mental Illness (SMI)	156	9	N/A	165
Dually Diagnosed (CSA & SMI)	114	9	N/A	123
Chronic Health Problem	157	7	N/A	164
Physical Disability	97	2	N/A	99
Domestic Violence Victim*	32	17	83	132*
Limited English	75	10	N/A	85
U.S. Veterans	34	1	N/A	35

when thirty-five percent were reported to be chronically homeless.

Although Montgomery County has seen an increase in the number of immigrant families, only three percent reported limited English proficiency as a barrier to housing, similar to the four percent noted last year. The number of households without children reporting limited English proficiency as a barrier to housing decreased to 12 percent in 2014 from 14 percent in 2013.

The veteran population increased during this enumeration by 13 percent for households without children from 31 in 2013 to 35 in 2014. This increase could be attributed to an improved definition and the "one stop" drop-in center created for veterans to improve access and coordination of services. Overall, the percent of homeless veterans remains low at four percent.

HUD did not require domestic violence be counted during this enumeration; however, it is considered valuable information toward understanding the factors that lead to homelessness. There was a slight increase to five percent of households without children and a decrease to 19% of households with children

reporting that domestic violence contributed to their current episode of homelessness. Two (2) families were identified as chronically homeless. Both chronically homeless families were reported a history of domestic violence, which highlights additional challenges this population faces.

In comparison to last year, 48 transitional aged youth were identified which is an increase from the 43 identified in 2013. Continuing with the decrease in households with children only eighteen percent were households headed by a transitional aged youth compared to twenty-five percent in 2013. During the County FY13 as of January 31, 2013 there were 75 households headed by transitional aged youth compared to 58 in 2014. Many entered the system with no income and receive support in applying for Temporary Cash Assistance and engaging in employment services.

Employment and Monthly Income

Employment – The number of households without children reporting employment decreased to 22 percent in 2014 from 27 percent in 2013. There has been a concerted effort to



connect homeless persons with vocational and employment supportive services, but it has not yielded consistent results. However, employment among adults in households with children has consistently increased over the past few years to 53 percent in 2014 from 48 percent in 2013 and 46 percent in 2012.

Monthly Income – Among households without children including the unsheltered, the number reporting monthly income decreased to 52 percent in 2014 from 58 percent in 2013. Eighty-six percent of adults in household with children reported some form of monthly income. Unchanged from last year's enumeration, HUD required collection of demographic information about transitional age youth (18 -24).

Permanent and Permanent Supportive Housing Placements

Permanent Housing

In Montgomery County there has been little change in the availability of affordable housing for persons with low to extremely-low incomes. The high cost of housing in Montgomery County is a significant barrier to preventing and ending homelessness. A household would need to earn more \$56,400 annually to be able to afford the HUD Fair Market Rent of \$1,469 per month for a two-bedroom apartment. For many residents, living in Montgomery County this not possible without on-going financial support.

The local housing authority, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), continues to play vital role in making housing affordable in Montgomery County. HOC is exploring adopting a housing priority for homeless persons as their vacancies become available. Considering the housing authority waitlist has not opened in the past six years, this is a tremendous step forward.

Other housing options include the Rapid Re-housing Program, which has increased options

for households who do not need a permanent subsidy. In consultation with the CoC, this program can serve up to 15 families and five individuals at one time.. Another permanent housing option, the State Rental Allowance Program, which provides twelve months of subsidy. The County Rental Assistance program provides shallow rent subsidy to households with children and special populations. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs operates a Moderately-Priced Dwelling Unit program which offers units at reduced rates.

According to HMIS data, from 7/1/2013 through to the PIT date, 60% of households with children that exited homelessness, left for a permanent housing destination. Of those, 31% exiting permanent housing including returning to family or friends and 29% to permanent supportive housing, including VASH. For households without children, 67% of those exiting to a known destination went to permanent housing. Of those, 38% housing options including returning to friends or family; while 29% exited to permanent supportive housing including VASH.

Permanent Supportive Housing

The number of persons residing in permanent supportive housing increased to 1,771 in 2014 from 1,695 in 2013. This represents a 4% over 2013 and 7% percent over 2012. This increase reflects the continued commitment of Montgomery County to increasing the supply of permanent housing. The Montgomery County CoC strategic plan to end homelessness continues to emphasize the need to increase the number of permanent supportive beds. Current activities include the development of a new 21-bed Personal Living Quarter and increased funding for permanent supportive housing for 15 vulnerable homeless adults and outreach to private landlords who will accept homeless persons with multiple housing barriers.



TABLE 12: HOMELESS VETERANS BY JURISDICTION, 2009-2014							
Jurisdiction	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Percent Change 2009 - 2014
Alexandria	23	19	27	20	11	18	-22%
Arlington County	25	17	29	24	14	21	-16%
District of Columbia	702	512	515	531	499	408	-42%
Fairfax County	89	66	55	60	67	51	-43%
Frederick County	12	12	7	7	13	10	-17%
Loudoun County	8	4	10	8	9	7	-13%
Montgomery County	64	56	41	37	31	34	-47%
Prince George's County	47	32	15	24	25	21	-55%
Prince William County	34	0	40	27	23	19	-44%
TOTAL	1,004	718	739	738	692	589	-41%

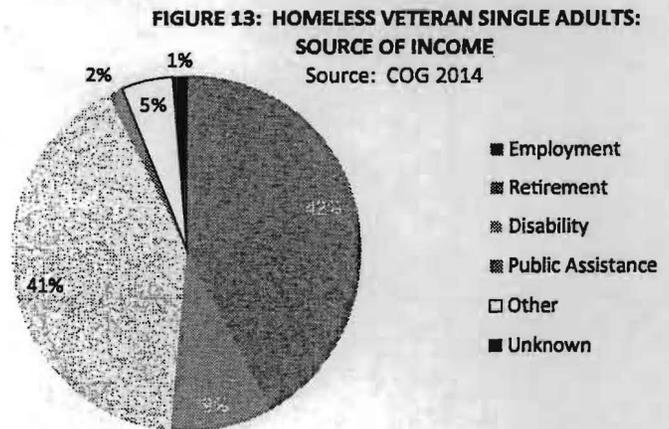
The likelihood of having a disability is reflected in the veteran populations' source of income, for those persons who reported receiving income. A nearly equal percentage of veterans received income from employment (42 percent) as from SSDI/SSI/VA disability (41 percent), as shown in Figure 14.

The majority of homeless veterans who reported their race selected Black or African-American (72 percent of single adults and 81 percent of adults in families). White veterans made up the next largest group, with 20 percent of single veterans and 16 percent of adult veterans in families, as shown in figures 15 and 16.

HUD and the VA, through the VA's Supportive Housing program (VASH) and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), have focused efforts to increase the supply of housing choice vouchers to put more homeless veterans into permanent housing. The VASH and SSVF programs are the only voucher programs that have been spared in recent federal budget cuts. For that reason, with a coordinated, concerted effort, there is an opportunity for the region's CoCs to house significantly more homeless veterans during 2014.

Table 12 demonstrates that during the period of 2009 to 2014, the region reduced the number of homeless veterans by an impressive 41 percent. This exceeds reductions achieved at the national level (24 percent since 2010).¹⁷

Newer veterans' programs, such as the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) and the VA's Supportive Housing program (VASH), may have contributed to the region's decrease in homeless veterans. Not all jurisdictions have access to these programs, however.



¹⁷ http://nchv.org/index.php/news/headline_article/va_and_hud_announce_24_reduction_in_veteran_homelessness_since_2010/

FIGURE 14: THE REGION'S VETERAN SUBPOPULATIONS

Source: COG 2014

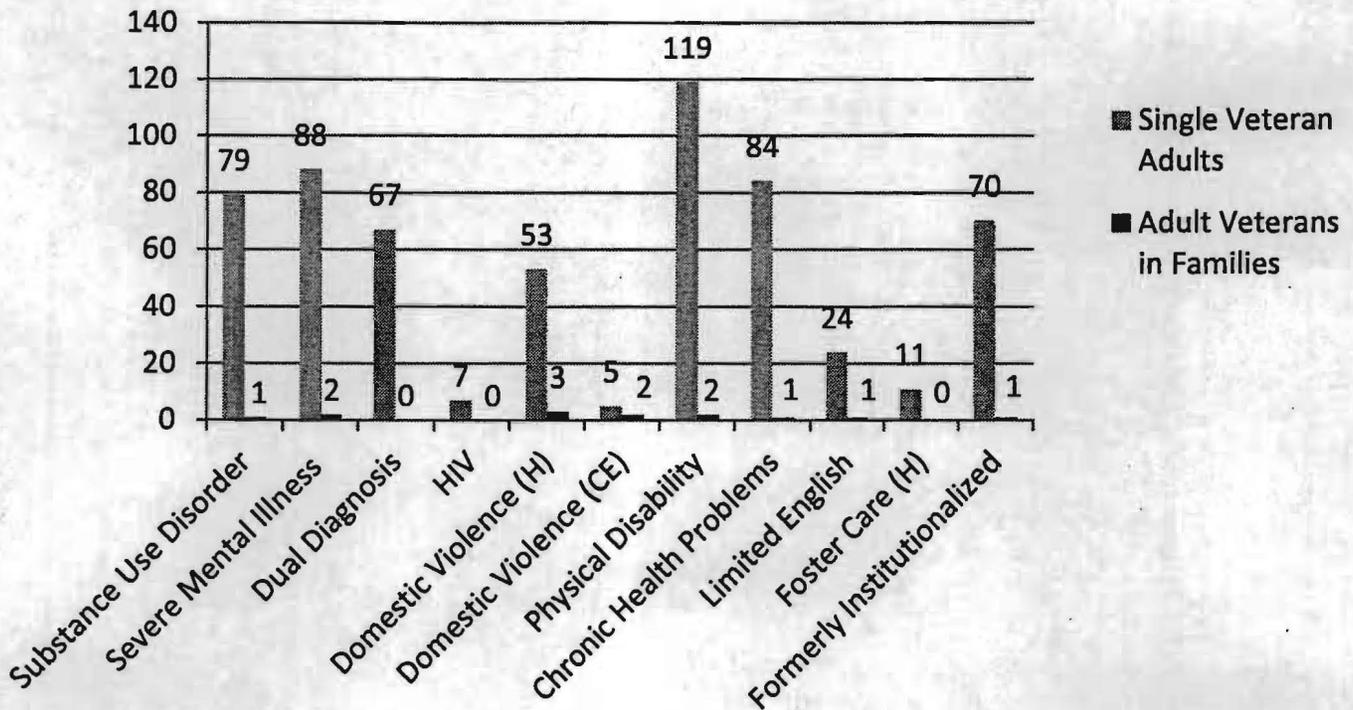


FIGURE 15: HOMELESS SINGLE ADULT VETERANS (RACE)

Source: COG 2014

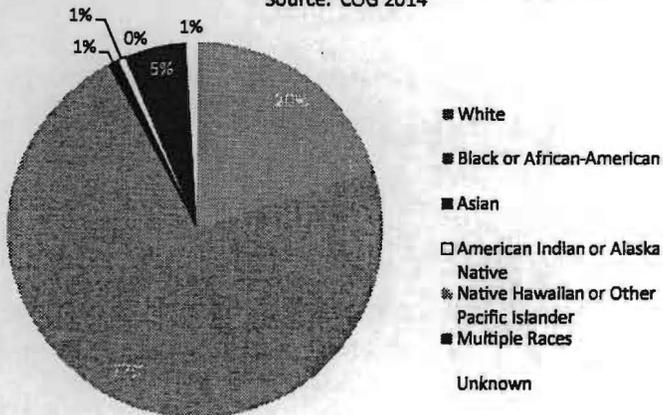


FIGURE 16: HOMELESS ADULT VETERANS IN FAMILIES (RACE)

Source: COG 2014

