



City of Huntsville

Homeless Outreach Initiative

City of Huntsville Community Development Department
Huntsville Police Department Community Outreach Unit

Timeline

2020-2021

- Covid-19 (Mental Health, Substance Use, Homeless)
- City, HPD, Homeless Service Providers work independently
- City becomes Lead Applicant of CoC
- Closure of two camps on City property

2022-2023

- City collaborates with HPD and First Stop to execute PIT
- Community Outreach Unit created
- Partnership between HPD and Community Development
- Outreach Team including Service Providers created
- Development of Homeless Outreach Initiative (HOI)

2024-2025

- HOI Steering Committee developed. Monthly meetings
- Community HOI presentations, discussions, and trainings
- Homeless Resources Meetings with community partners
- South Derrick Camp closure. Temp Derrick Camp transition
- Newly managed South Derrick Camp

Homeless Outreach Initiative (HOI)

City program administered and facilitated by the COH Community Development Department and the HPD Community Outreach Unit to execute a multidisciplinary outreach team to address unsheltered homelessness in the community.

Homeless Outreach Initiative

VISION

To improve the quality of life for all individuals living in our community.

MISSION

Deliver a multidisciplinary and community-wide approach to addressing and reducing unsheltered homelessness in the City of Huntsville.

Goals and Objective

Goals

- Reduce unsheltered homelessness
- Increase accountability
- Conserve public resources
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of services and programs
- Provide a safer and healthier community

Objectives

- Collaborate and partner with service providers, agencies, and city departments to identify and develop solutions surrounding unsheltered homelessness
- Engage and encourage individuals experiencing homelessness to access resources and seek self-sufficiency
- Assist and inform citizens and community stakeholders

Outreach Team

Administration	Law Enforcement	Community Partners
Community Development	Community Outreach Unit and HPD Patrol	Service Providers and City Departments

Community Development

The Community Development Department's mission is to stabilize lower income neighborhoods, encourage economic empowerment of lower income persons and/or of persons living in lower income neighborhoods and provide assistance to the special needs population in our community through federal and state grant programs.

CITY OF HUNTSVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SUMMARY ON HOMELESSNESS

VISION

The City of Huntsville approaches homelessness with the understanding that everyone experiencing homelessness is vulnerable and deserving of being treated with dignity and respect. The City's Community Development Department will collaborate with community partners to connect persons experiencing homelessness to housing, shelter, and services within the community.



HOMELESSNESS as defined by US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;
- Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
- Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition; and
- Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member

GOALS

- Help homeless persons, chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth gain access to permanent housing that is safe, stable, and affordable
- Assist persons in making the transition to permanent housing and independent living, and reducing the period of time persons experience homelessness
- Aid in preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

2022 – 2025 ESG GRANT FUND DISTRIBUTION	
• Emergency Shelter:	\$550K
• Prevention:	\$280K
• Rapid Rehousing:	\$250K
• Street Outreach:	\$419K
2022 – 2025 CDBG GRANT FUND DISTRIBUTION	
• Health and Medical:	\$30K
• Emergency Shelter:	\$30K
• Prevention:	\$540K
• Street Outreach:	\$75K
2022 – 2025 ERAP FUND DISTRIBUTION	
• Rent & Deposits:	\$13.5M
• Permanent Supportive Housing:	\$4.7M

For further information contact the City of Huntsville Community Development Department at 256-427-5400 or www.huntsvilleal.gov/communitydevelopment

COMMUNITY SUMMARY ON HOMELESSNESS

**2025
POINT-IN TIME COUNT**
466 (Estimated) Sheltered Homeless
266 Unsheltered Homeless
2024 HOUSING INVENTORY
564 Beds



2024 ESG COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- AshaKiran, Inc.
- Community Action Partnership
- Crisis Services of North Alabama
- Family Services Center
- First Stop
- Hands Across Decatur
- New Futures
- North Alabama Coalition for Homeless (NACH)
- Salvation Army

STRATEGIES

- The City of Huntsville Community Development Department's strategy to reduce and end homelessness includes continued support of the Continuum of Care (CoC) community partners.
- The City of Huntsville Community Development Department and Department of Multicultural Affairs developed and assists in the facilitation and leadership of the Homeless Strategy Network (HSN). The Homeless Strategy Network is a community group that meets bi-monthly to develop strategies and execute activities that serve the overall community goal of reducing homelessness. The areas of focus with active working groups include: Legislation and Policy, Housing and Shelter Solutions, Workforce Development and Self-Sufficiency, Outreach and Engagement, and Systems Coordination and Accountability.
- Since 2022, the City has distributed over \$20 million of federal and state grant funds to 20 agencies within the community to aid in preventing and assisting with homelessness.
- The Homeless Outreach Initiative (HOI) is a City of Huntsville program administered by the Community Development Department and the Huntsville Police Department to implement a multidisciplinary outreach team to address unsheltered homelessness in the community. The vision is to improve the quality of life for all individuals with a mission to deliver a multidisciplinary and community-wide approach to addressing and reducing unsheltered homelessness in Huntsville. The purpose of the HOI is to identify goals and objectives that will produce positive outcomes bene-



As lead of the CoC, the City of Huntsville Community Development Department has partnered with service providers and Family Services Center, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) lead, to coordinate an annual Point in Time (PIT) count and assessment of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in Madison, Morgan, and Limestone Counties. The assessment allows for distribution of federal funding from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Acts Program.

For further information contact the City of Huntsville Community Development Department at 256-427-5400 or www.huntsvilleal.gov/communitydevelopment

Community Development

- Provide administrative coordination of the HOI Outreach Team's efforts and implementation
- Ensure information and access to community programs and opportunities are provided to the unsheltered
- Collect and manage data submitted to government entities and the community
- Communicate goals, objectives, activities and results to city leaders, stakeholders, and partners
- Establish accountability protocols
- Initiate and develop partnerships with city departments and community organizations
- Co-facilitate the Homeless Strategy Network in partnership with the Department of Multicultural Affairs

HOMELESS RESOURCES



Catholic Center of Concern – Rent & Utility Assistance 1010 Church Street NW, Huntsville	256-963-9355 https://catholiccenterofconcernhsv.org/
Christmas Charities Year Round – Clothing 1035 Putman Drive NW, Suite D1, Huntsville <i>South Derrick Camp: Every other Friday</i>	256-837-2373 https://ccvr.org/
City of Huntsville Community Development – Contact: Joy Davis 305 Fountain Circle, Huntsville	256-427-5400 https://www.huntsvilleal.gov/community-development/
City of Huntsville Police Department – Non-Emergency	256-722-7100
Community Action Partnership – Rental & Utility Assistance 3516 Stringfield Road, Huntsville	256-851-9800 https://caa-htsval.org/
Community Free Clinic – Healthcare 410 Sivley Road SW, Huntsville	256-533-2910 https://hsvfreeclinic.org/
Crisis Services of North Alabama, Inc. – Domestic Violence Services Help Line: 211 Administration: 256-716-1000	256-716-4052 https://csna.org/
Downtown Rescue Mission – Food & Emergency Shelter 1400 Evangel Drive, Huntsville <i>Open 24/7</i>	256-536-2441 https://www.downtownrescuemission.org/
Family Services Center – Counseling, Housing Needs, & Workforce Development 4092 Memorial Parkway SW, Suite 205, Huntsville	256-551-1610 https://fsc-hsv.org/
First Stop, Inc. – Case Management, Clothing, Food, Recovery & ID Assistance 206 Stokes Street, Huntsville <i>Day Center Hours: Mon - Fri from 8am - 1pm</i> <i>Case Management Hours: Mon - Thurs from 8am - 4pm Fri from 8am - 1pm</i>	256-533-3391 https://firststop.org/
Food Bank of North Alabama 225 Finney Drive SW, Huntsville	256-539-2256 https://www.foodbanknorthal.org/
Huntsville Hospital Mobile Medical Unit – Healthcare <i>First Stop – Second Tues of month from 9am - 12pm</i> <i>Downtown Rescue Mission – Second Thurs of month from 8 - 11am; First Sun from 2 - 5pm</i>	256-265-9273
North Alabama Coalition for The Homeless (NACH) Downtown Rescue Mission, 1400 Evangel Drive NW, Huntsville <i>Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm</i>	256-261-3029 https://help@nachcares.org/



Community Outreach Unit

The purpose of the Community Outreach Unit is to be a system for the delivery of police services to our most vulnerable communities. The foundation of this system is the relationships developed between citizen groups and police, in which these citizen groups acquire vested interests and perform vital roles in the prevention and reduction of homelessness.



Community Outreach Unit

The Community Outreach Unit is assigned directly to the Community Outreach Supervisor to assist Community Development with the City of Huntsville's Homeless Outreach Initiative for the purpose of addressing homelessness. The Community Outreach Unit implements a general knowledge of state laws, city ordinances, public and private property rights as well as resources available to persons experiencing homelessness.

Community Outreach Unit

- Educate Public
- Provide access to resources
- Address citizen concerns
- Hold unsheltered accountable



Community Partners

Service Providers

- Catholic Center of Concern
- Continuum of Care (CoC)
- Downtown Rescue Mission
- First Stop, Inc.
- Huntsville Hospital
- Manna House
- Rose of Sharon
- R.O.S.S. Recovery
- Salvation Army
- ShowerUp
- Wellstone

City Departments

- Animal Services
- City Council
- Code Enforcement
- Communications
- Emergency Management
- Fire and Rescue
- General Services
- Landscape Management
- Legal
- Municipal Court
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Transportation
- Public Works



Outreach Implementation

- Weekly South Derrick Camp (SDC) Outreach and Facilitation
- SDC Volunteer Coordination
- Unsheltered Engagement
- Point in Time Counts (PIT)
- Homeless Data Management
- Warming/Cooling Centers
- Citizen Engagement
- Training Sessions & Community Presentations
- Homeless Strategy Network
- Empathy without Enabling



Empathy vs. Enabling

Empathy

- Being aware of and sharing another's feelings, experiences and emotions
- Accountability! We want it.
- Stable and Sustainable Future
- Self Empowerment
- Mental and physical health
- Productive member of society

Enabling

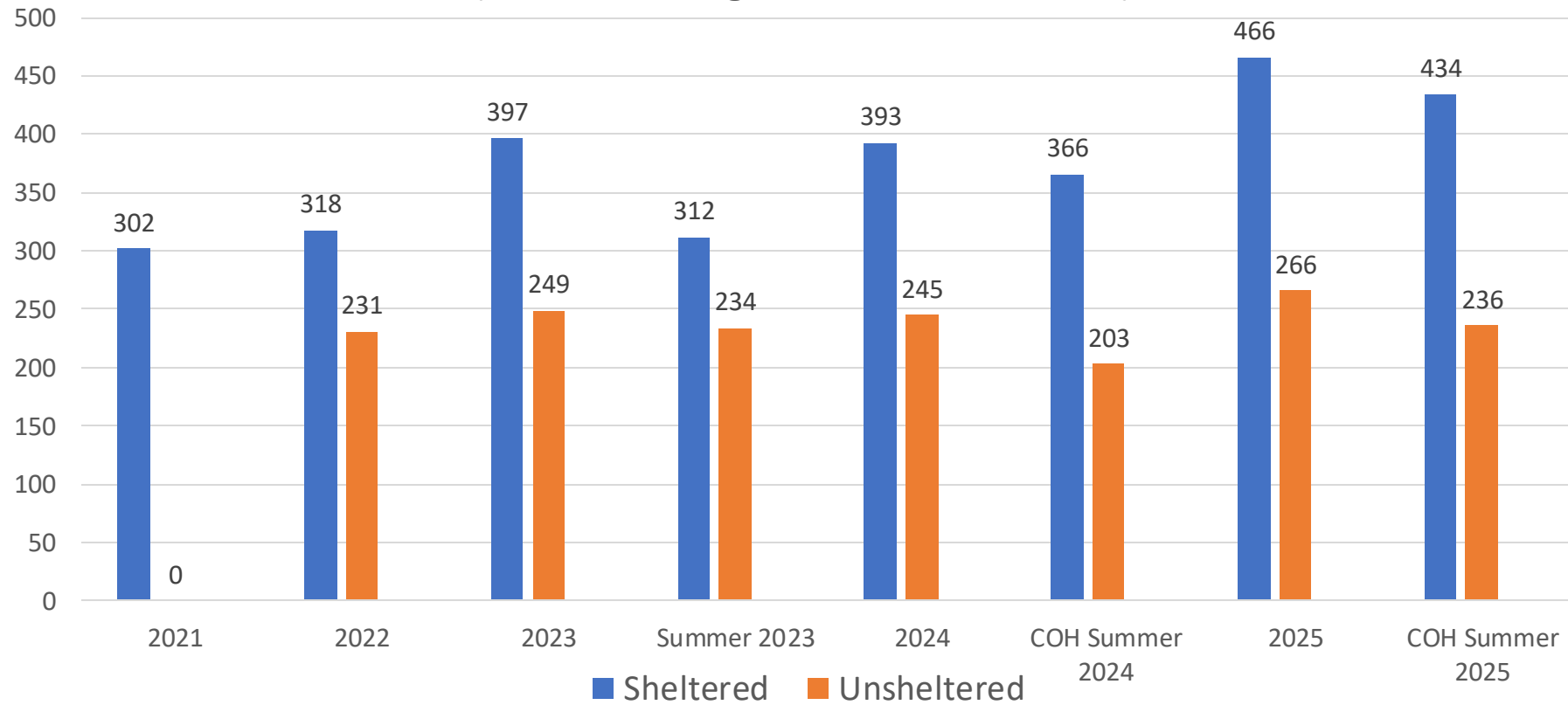
- To justify or support problematic or self-destructive behaviors under the guise that you're helping them
- Sympathy: To feel sorry for
- Irresponsible giving
- Lack of accountability
- Abuse of services
- Exploitation
- Unlawful behaviors

Projected Outcomes

- Reduce the number of unsheltered homeless
- Reduce homeless-related crime
- Increase effectiveness and utilization of service providers
- Ensure both individual and property rights are protected
- Collect and dispense accurate data and information
- Reduce burden on emergency response agencies
- Increase trust and reliability
- Improve quality of life for the community

Outcomes

AL-503 Point in Time Count (Madison, Morgan, and Limestone Co.)



Questions?

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