

WESTERN PA CoC STRATEGIC PLAN TO PREVENT & END HOMELESSNESS

5-Year Plan: 2017-2021

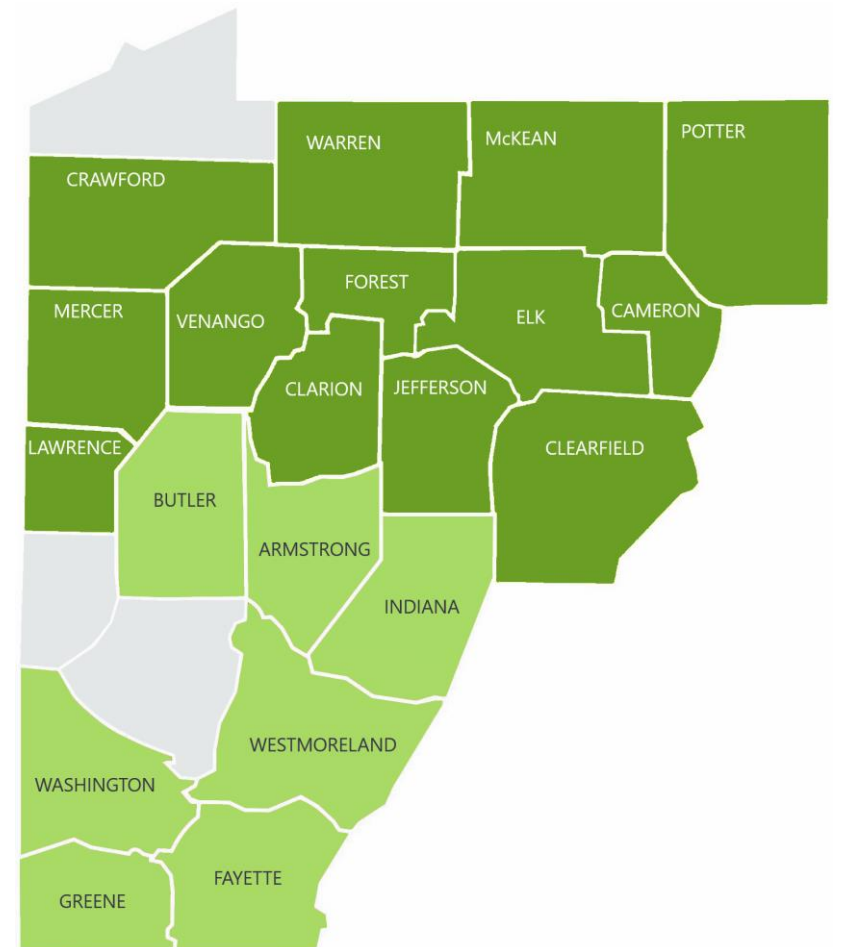


OUR CoC

About the Western PA Continuum of Care

GEOGRAPHY

- 20 counties
- Home to 1,716,565 Pennsylvanians
- Covers 15,230 sq/miles
- Includes 720 municipalities with 122 school districts
- Largely rural, with 74% of all municipalities having less than 2,500 residents.
- 149 municipalities are considered to be “urban.”
- 15,000+ farms with over 2 million acres of farmland.



WHAT DOES THE CoC DO?

- Coordinates activities
- Advances systems change
- Expands resources
- Serves thousands of people annually

WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE CoC?

- Homeless service providers
- Housing providers
- Mental and behavioral health agencies
- Hospitals
- Veterans services
- Education
- Child welfare
- Criminal justice
- State agencies
- County agencies
- Public Housing Authorities
- Many more!



OUR VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The vision & principles driving the CoC's Strategic Plan

VISION

- Homelessness will be **RARE, BRIEF & NON-RECURRING**
- Our system will meet people where they are and offer **SUPPORT in OBTAINING & RETAINING HOUSING**
- Our system will be **SUSTAINABLE**
- Our system will **WORK WITH OTHER SYSTEMS**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Ending homelessness is **POSSIBLE**
- Homelessness **SHOULD NOT DEFINE** those who experience it
- **HOUSING IS ESSENTIAL** to ending homelessness
- We must **WORK TOGETHER**, engage the wider **COMMUNITY** & use resources **STRATEGICALLY**



OUR GOALS

What we want to accomplish

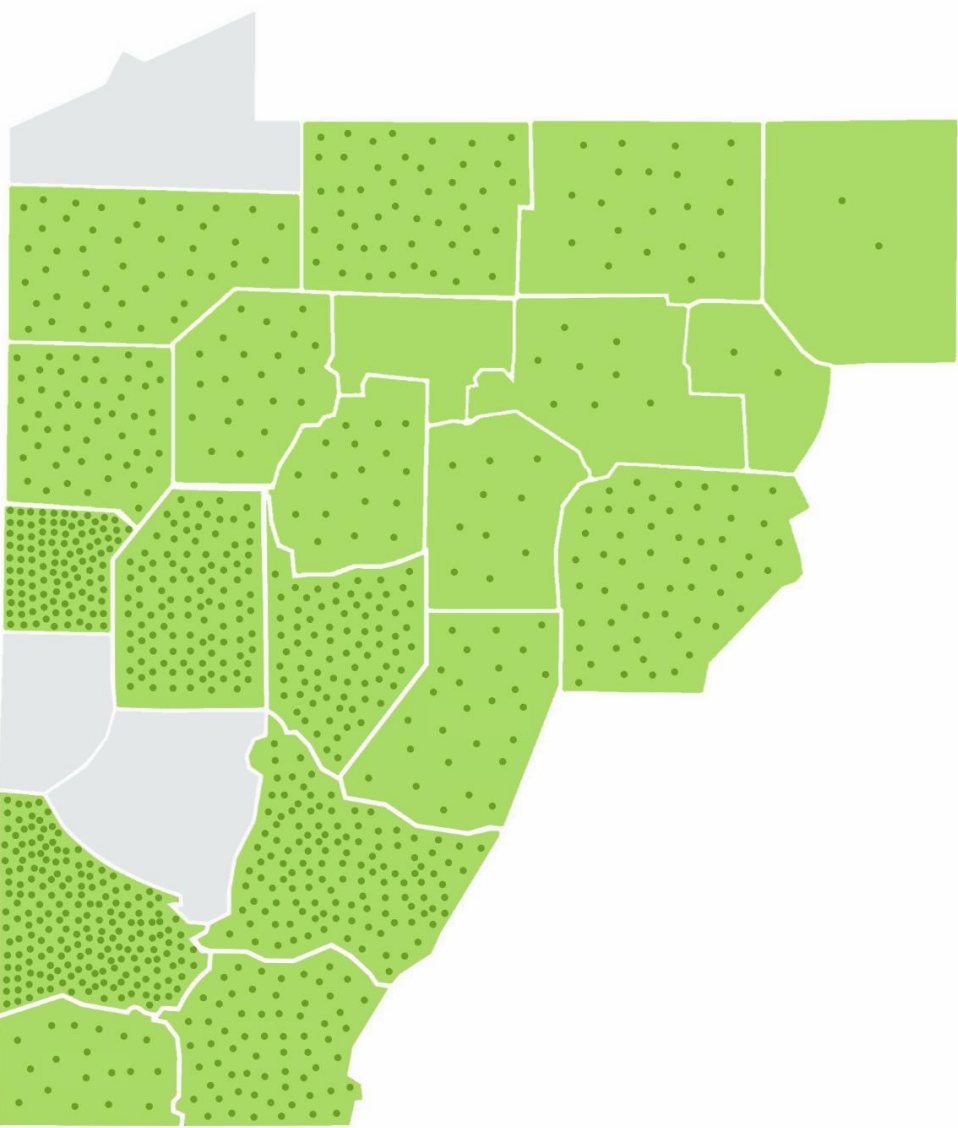
REDUCE ALL
HOMELESSNESS

OUTCOME:

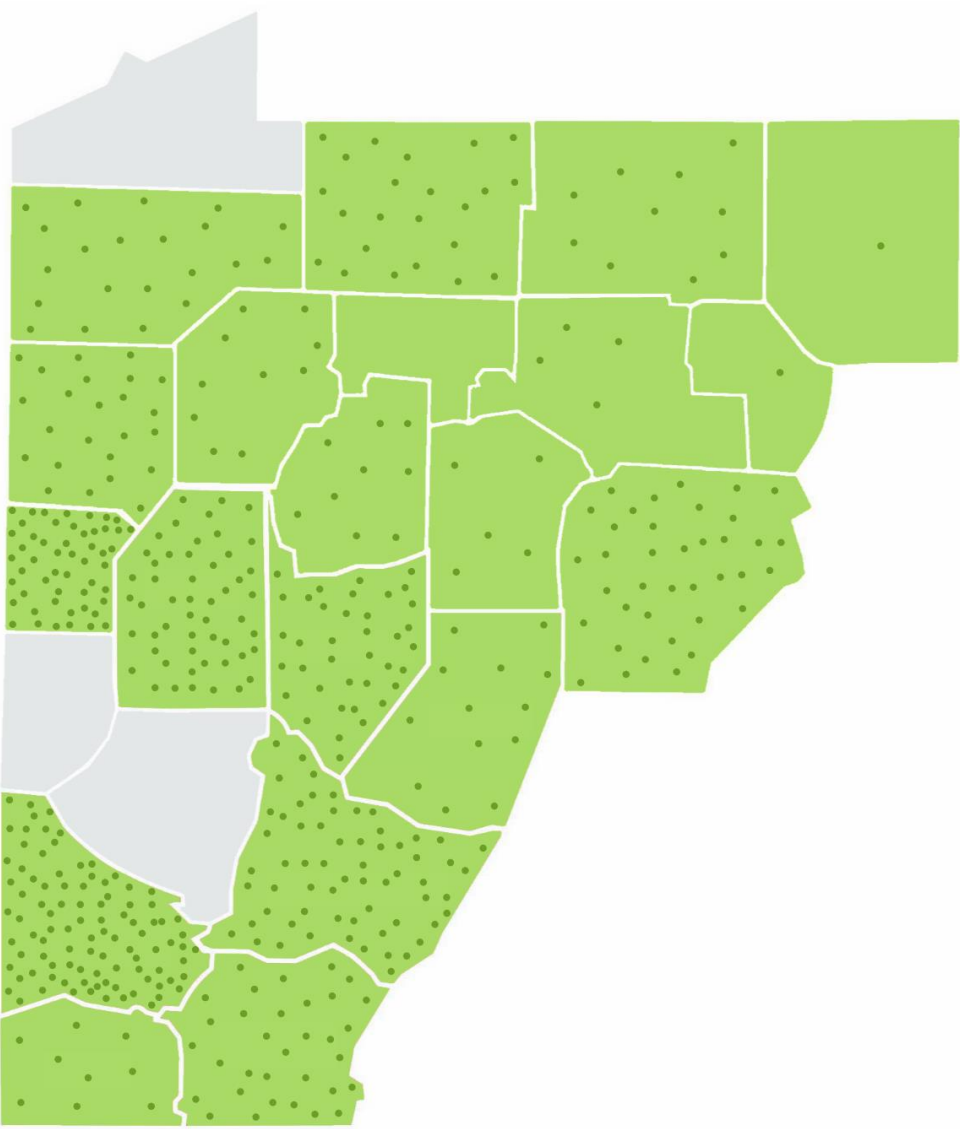
Reduce the
number of
people
experiencing
homelessness
by 50%



HOMELESSNESS IN 2016



HOMELESSNESS IN 2021



END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



OUTCOME:

Achieve & maintain functional zero

- **Functional zero:** Your system has enough resources & capacity to quickly help those entering homelessness obtain housing again.
- **Chronic homelessness:** Long-term homelessness - 12+ continuous or episodic months - among those with a disability.

END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS



OUTCOME:

Achieve & maintain functional zero

REDUCE HOMELESSNESS AMONG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

OUTCOMES:

- Reduce all homelessness among families with children by 50%
- Achieve & maintain functional zero for unsheltered families with children
- Reduce the number of families with children in transitional housing by at least 50%



REDUCE HOMELESSNESS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

OUTCOME:

Reduce the number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness by 50%



- **Youth:** Those under 25 years of age, including single individuals and parenting youth.

SET A PATH TO END ALL HOMELESSNESS:

FAMILIES W/CHILDREN,
YOUTH, COUPLES, PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES
INCLUDING ADDICTION,
AND THOSE FLEEING
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



5-YEAR OUTCOME:

Reduce duration of homelessness to an average of 50 days or less

- **CoC's long-range goal:** Reduce the average length of time homeless to 30 days or less

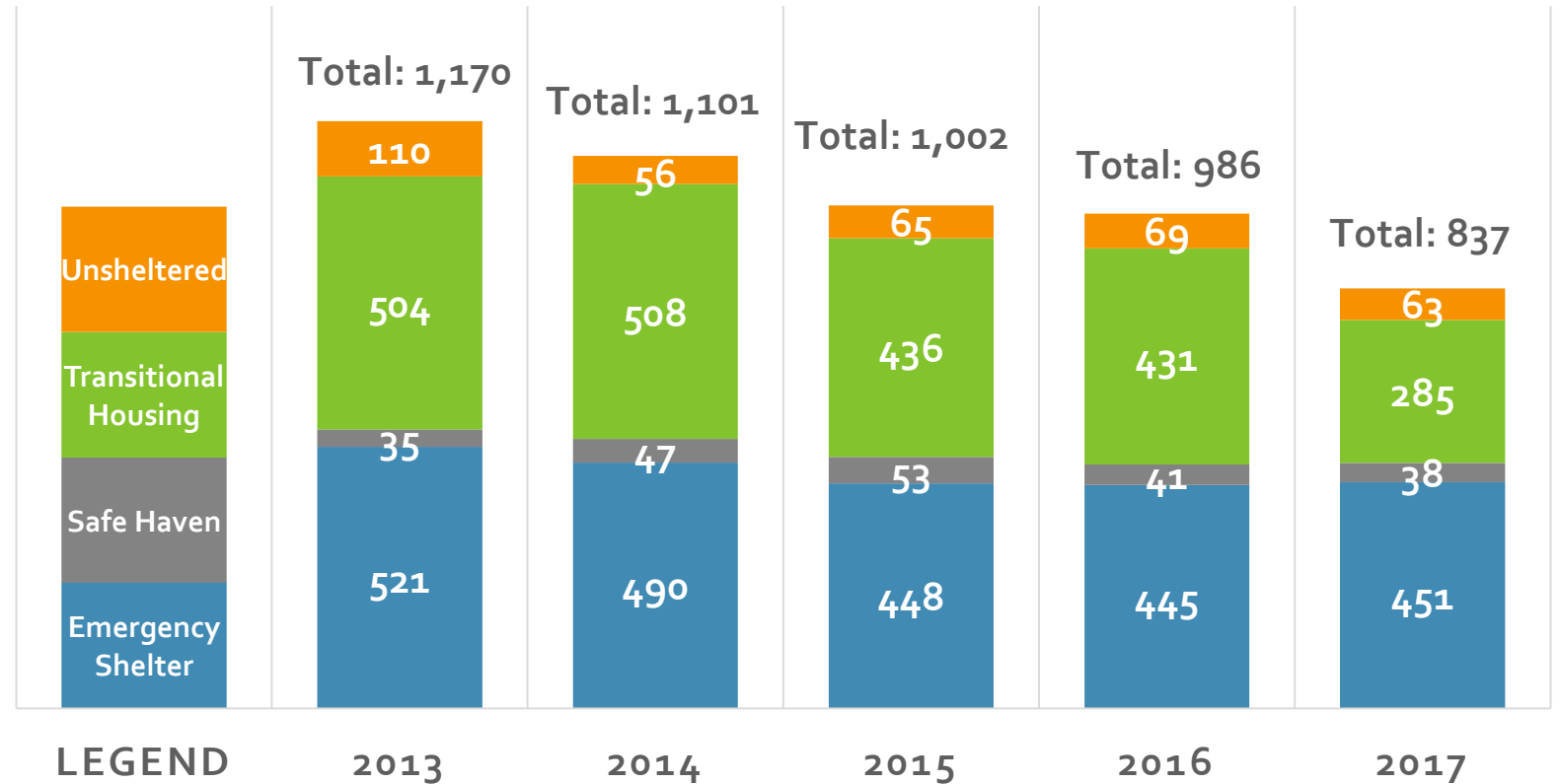


OUR DATA

What we know about the number of households experiencing homelessness

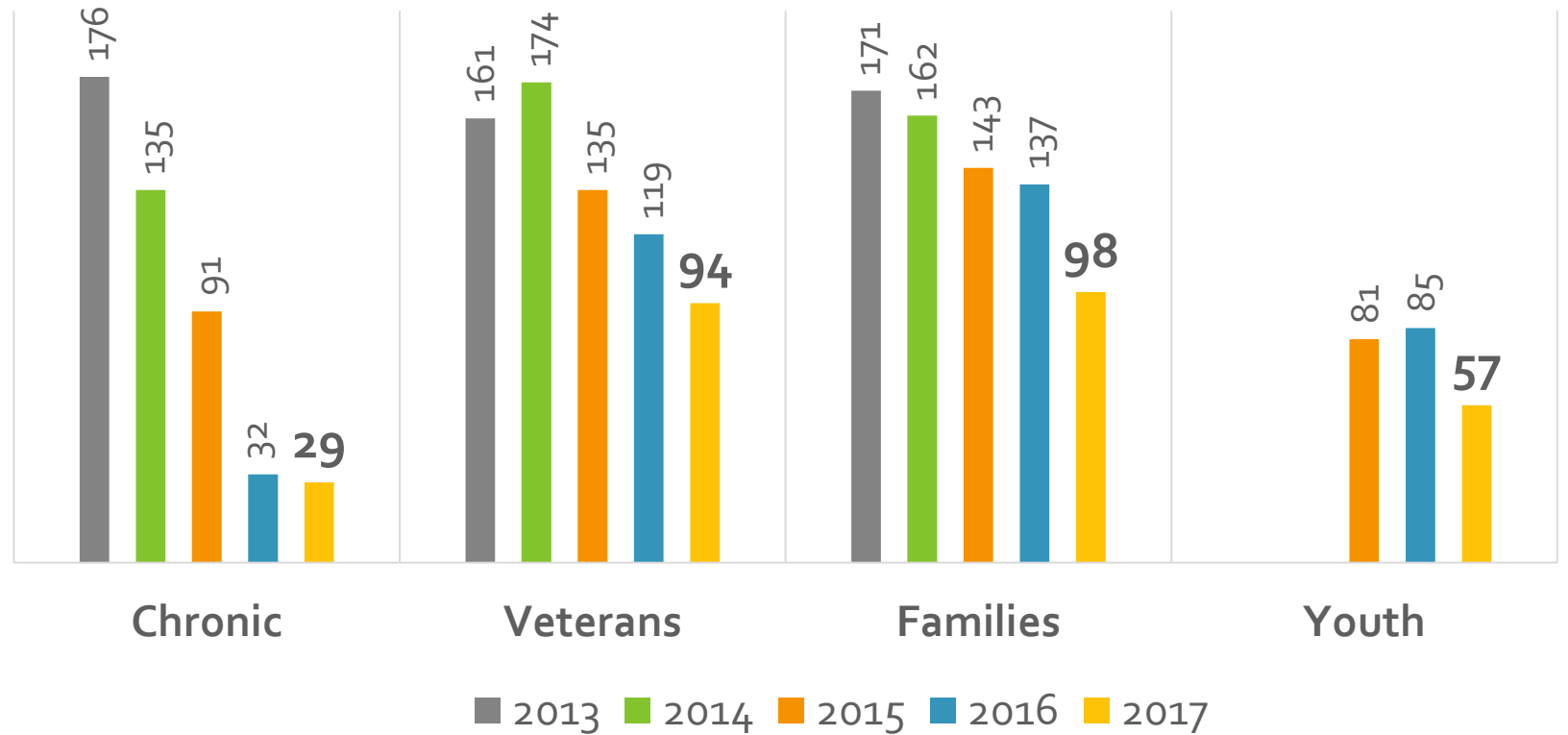
TOTAL HOMELESSNESS: 2013-2017

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT DATA: TOTAL HOMELESSNESS



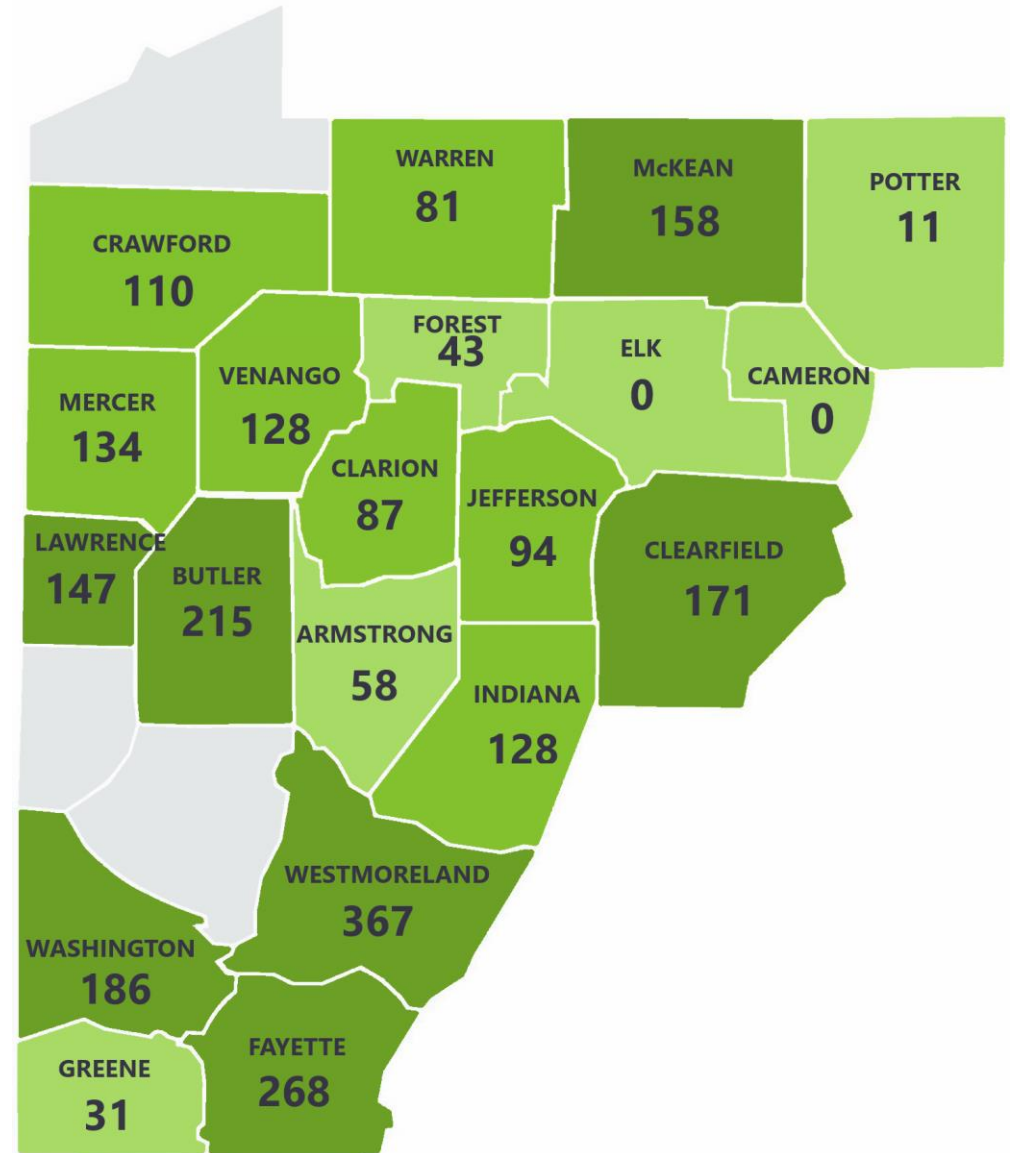
HOMELESSNESS BY SUBPOPULATIONS 2013-2017

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT DATA: SUBPOPULATIONS



NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Data from the Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness program indicate that **2,417** children experienced homelessness throughout the Western PA CoC during the 2015-16 school year.



SYSTEM
PERFORMANCE
MEASURES:
LENGTH OF
TIME
HOMELESS

AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS IN FY16



75 Days

Emergency Shelter &
Safe Haven

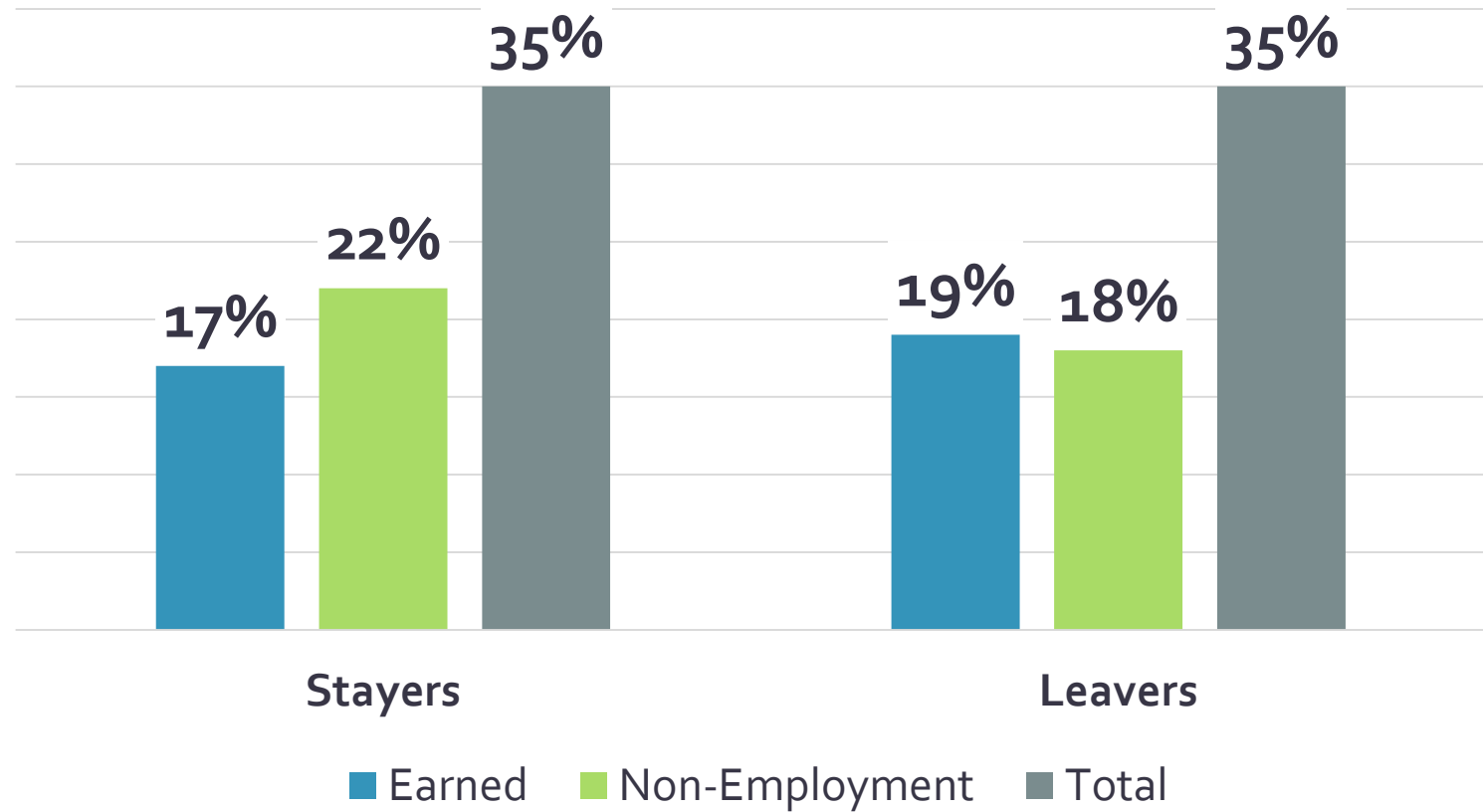


126 Days

Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven
& Transitional Housing

SYSTEM
PERFORMANCE
MEASURES:
EARNED
INCOME

PERCENT OF CoC PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO
INCREASED INCOME IN FY16



SYSTEM
PERFORMANCE
MEASURES:
SUCCESSFUL
PLACEMENTS

EXITS TO PERMANENT
HOUSING IN FY16:



Emergency Shelter,
Safe Haven,
Transitional Housing &
Rapid Rehousing

EXITS TO OR RETENTION OF
PERMANENT HOUSING IN FY16:



Permanent Housing
Programs, including
Permanent Supportive
Housing



KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR SYSTEM

The foundations of our Strategic Plan

PREVENTION & DIVERSION

Work with
**MAINSTREAM
SYSTEMS &
HOUSEHOLDS**
AT RISK of
becoming homeless
to **RETAIN OR
IDENTIFY** viable
housing options



CLIENT-CENTERED

Provide a **CONTINUUM OF HOUSING & SERVICE** options that are appropriately **PRIORITIZED & MATCHED** to those who need them most.



HOUSING FIRST

IMMEDIATELY
HOUSE those who
experience
homelessness
because
PERMANENT
HOUSING is the
foundation for
regaining
STABILITY and
achieving **SUCCESS**



SUSTAINABLE

Create a
**SUSTAINABLE,
DURABLE
SYSTEM** of
**HOUSING &
SERVICE** options
that engages a wide
range of
stakeholders from
across **THE
COMMUNITY.**





OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Issues that may impact our work

OPPORTUNITIES

- Understanding of housing's role in economic security and stability
- Data showing connections between housing and issues like education and health
- Awareness of the intersections between housing/homelessness and other systems
- Access to better technology and data collection/analysis

CHALLENGES

- Transportation barriers
- Inadequate employment opportunities
- Lack of affordable housing
- Funding programs geared towards urban areas
- Reduced state resources



OUR STRATEGIES

How we will accomplish our goals



INCREASE LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Increase awareness of the CoC, its mission, goals, vision and strategies
- Enlist & engage champions



INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESOURCES

- Assess housing supply/needs
- Advocate for homeless preferences
- Engage affordable housing developers
- Engage with landlords
- Preserve affordable housing options



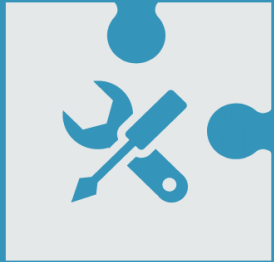
INCREASE THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF HOUSEHOLDS

- Effectively collaborate with the workforce development system
- Connect clients to mainstream income supports
- Address barriers to obtaining & maintaining employment
- Work with local employers to expand employment opportunities



EXPAND & ALIGN RESOURCES

- Assess funding opportunities
- Engage with other systems to align resources



RETOOL & STRENGTHEN THE HOMELESS ASSISTANCE SYSTEM

- Evaluate and improve discharge planning
- Increase coordination of homeless prevention resources
- Implement diversion programs
- Continue implementation of the CoC's Coordinated Entry system
- Ensure coordination of street outreach within the CoC
- Expand Housing First and low-barrier access to homeless assistance
- Develop mechanisms to support providers and agencies



INCREASE CAPACITY FOR DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

- Increase provider participation in HMIS
- Leverage data collection efforts related to Coordinated Entry
- Identify data sharing opportunities

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM

A structure for implementation

ACTION STEPS FOR CoC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Assess roles and define responsibilities
- Re-design the Western PA CoC operations and structure where needed
- Monitor progress in achieving goals
- Develop communications structure to allow for improved information sharing and coordination



PRIORITIES

2017-2018 Activities

YEAR 1 PRIORITIES

- Redesign Committee/subcommittee structure and recruit volunteers for committees.
- Establish an effective communications structure
- ID and cultivate local champions.
- Establish a “name” for the CoC.
- Formalize the relationship between Local Housing Options Teams (LHOTs)/ county housing and homeless coalitions
- Continue implementation and strengthening of the CoC’s Coordinated Entry System.
- Provide education on homeless prevention and diversion and develop a strategy for implementation and expansion of these practices.

YEAR 1 PRIORITIES

- Increase data collection and quality of data.
- Establish specific goals for expansion of permanent housing resources and begin implementation.
- Increase coordination of ESG & CoC funding.
- Expand street outreach efforts.
- Engage and coordinate with the Department of Human Services (DHS) around better discharge planning
- Continue providing training & learning opportunities to homeless assistance providers
- Collaborate with existing statewide/regional groups working on homelessness, affordable housing, service delivery, employment and other related issues.



JOIN US!

Ways to engage & participate in the CoC

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

- Join one of the CoC's committees: Youth, Veterans, Data, System Performance
- Invite the CoC to present to your organization or a group with whom you work
- Join your county's Local Housing Options Team (LHOT)
- Participate in Regional Housing Advisory Board meetings
- Participate in the annual Point-in-Time Count
- Got an idea for collaborating with the CoC? Share it!

QUESTIONS?
WANT MORE
INFO?

To learn more about the Western PA CoC:

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THANK YOU!