

"When we know where the hungry, the homeless, and the sick exist,  
then we can help."  
- Jan Schakowsky

# ANNUAL REPORT

THE HOMELESS COALITION OF THE  
ALABAMA GULF COAST  
CONTINUUM OF CARE AL-501



For Information  
[al501coc.org](http://al501coc.org)



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**Continuum of Care (CoC)**

The Homeless Coalition of the Alabama Gulf Coast



## Reaching Out

serving community through  
outreach, response &  
collaboration

# SUPPORT THROUGHOUT MOBILE & BALDWIN COUNTIES

This is our community and there is work to be done.

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# 2,571

**PERSONS SERVED  
THROUGH ALL  
CONTINUUM OF CARE-  
FUNDED PROJECTS**



**AS WE TELL YOU THE  
STATS. WE NEVER FORGET  
THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE  
NUMBERS**

# A MESSAGE

# FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



**SHARON MURRILL**  
CoC Board Chair

Alabama Power Company Govern-  
mental and Community Relations  
Manager

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the local Continuum of Care, the Homeless Coalition of the Gulf Coast, we would like to welcome each of you to our member agencies and public annual Community Report Meeting. The CoC Board of Directors, through our relationships with many community agencies, is charged with coordinating and implementing a community-wide system for serving citizens experiencing homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

Although things opened more toward the end of the year, last year continued to provide many

challenges to our community, and those we serve. Despite these challenges, our partner service providers continued to look for ways to identify and serve the homeless in our community. The CoC is so appreciative of the effort and time spent seeking out those in need, and providing the services so desperately needed. Many thanks also to the administrators and staff of Housing First for their dedication and role as CoC's Collaborative Applicant. I would also like to thank them for their professionalism and great working relationship we have with them, as we depend on several of the Housing First employees for information and responses to requests. The CoC Board of Directors is comprised of part-time volunteers, and I appreciate the time, dedication, and thoughts and ideas that each member brings to our Board meetings.

Now, let me share with you some specifics regarding homelessness. In accordance with the requirements of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, the CoC is tasked with reviewing and ranking project applications for HUD funding. In

2021, the CoC Board reviewed and ranked all project applications and in 2022, HUD awarded our CoC \$4,056,865. That is an increase of \$126,856 over last year's funding of \$3,930,009. The award consists of grants for Coordinated Entry, HMIS, CoC administration, and six homeless housing programs. In 2021, the CoC funded project served 2,571 homeless individuals. The CoC Board is extremely pleased with the 2022 funding, as we are confident this will make a positive impact on those homeless in our community.

Last year, we made everyone aware that we had several board members cycling off in accordance with our Governance Charter, and the same is true again this year. We have once again been actively recruiting nominees to fill the vacant positions on which you will be asked to vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Murrill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Murrill  
CoC, Board of Directors Chair

# WHAT IS A CONTINUUM OF CARE?

Our Continuum of Care (CoC) is comprised of representatives from nonprofit service providers, the business community, local government, housing agencies, school districts, hospitals, universities, law enforcement, and faith-based organizations.

A Continuum of Care is a group of representatives from local organizations, assembled to plan for and provide a system of outreach, engagement, and assessment of homelessness in our geographic area (Mobile and Baldwin Counties).

The CoC implements various strategies to prevent and end homelessness including rapid-rehousing, transitional housing,

homelessness prevention, and homelessness diversion strategies.

At its simplest, a CoC is established by representatives of relevant organizations to carry out the responsibilities set forth in the CoC Program Interim Rule, which include establishing and operating a Coordinated Entry and an HMIS.

From Project Homeless Connect to the Community Housing Program, from the MAIC's Returning Neighbors Housing Program to AltaPointe Health Systems efforts to support those with mental illness, CoC partners are making a difference.

**In 2021**

# 2,571 PERSONS

**were served through all CoC-funded projects**



IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO

SUPPORT A COMMUNITY



Veronica Willis and her brother, Bryant

## Meet Veronica Willis

Ms. Veronica was a client of our CoC/HUD-funded Supportive Housing Program, administered by Housing First, Inc.

While in the care of Housing First, Veronica was able to begin receiving her disability income, and was eventually granted custody of her disabled brother. She has also reunited with her husband, who was himself homeless, and they were able to take over the lease of their apartment without any additional assistance from the CoC. Veronica says that, "Housing First was the best thing that ever happened to me, and my case manager is an amazing person."



# COORDINATED ENTRY

The CoC oversees the operation of the community's Coordinated Entry system, known locally as the Community Connections Network (CCN). CCN maintains a real-time list of individuals in the community who are experiencing a housing crisis, and links them with resources and community partners who can help.

In response to the introduction of Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV), as made available through the American Rescue Plan, the Coordinated Entry Department at Housing First worked in partnership with the Continuum of Care and the Mobile Housing Authority to develop prioritization and referral processes for these new vouchers. Through this collaboration, the Move-on Strategy was developed to support the transition of formerly chronically homeless persons from Permanent Supportive Housing to housing independence through the EHV project.

**1,394**

**Households Assessed**

**596**

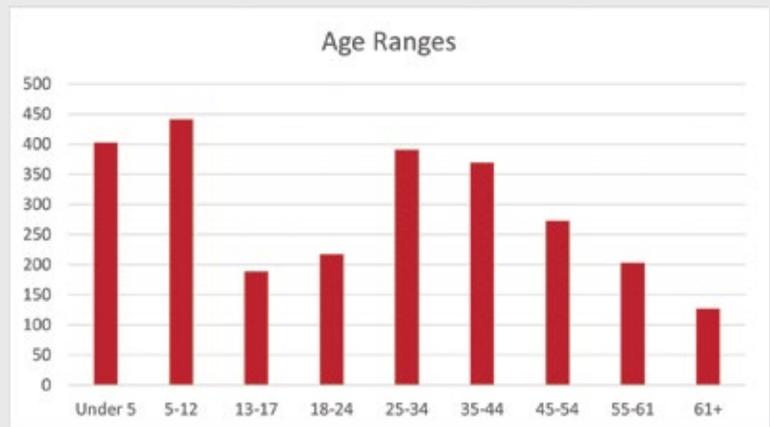
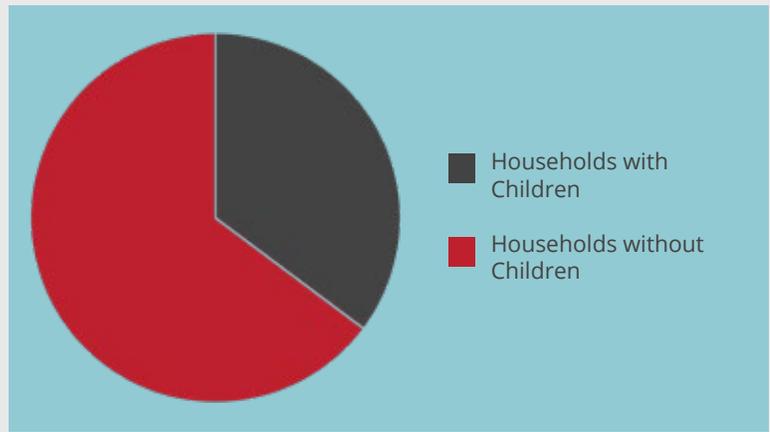
**Households Referred**

**694**

**Persons Achieving Permanent Housing Destinations**

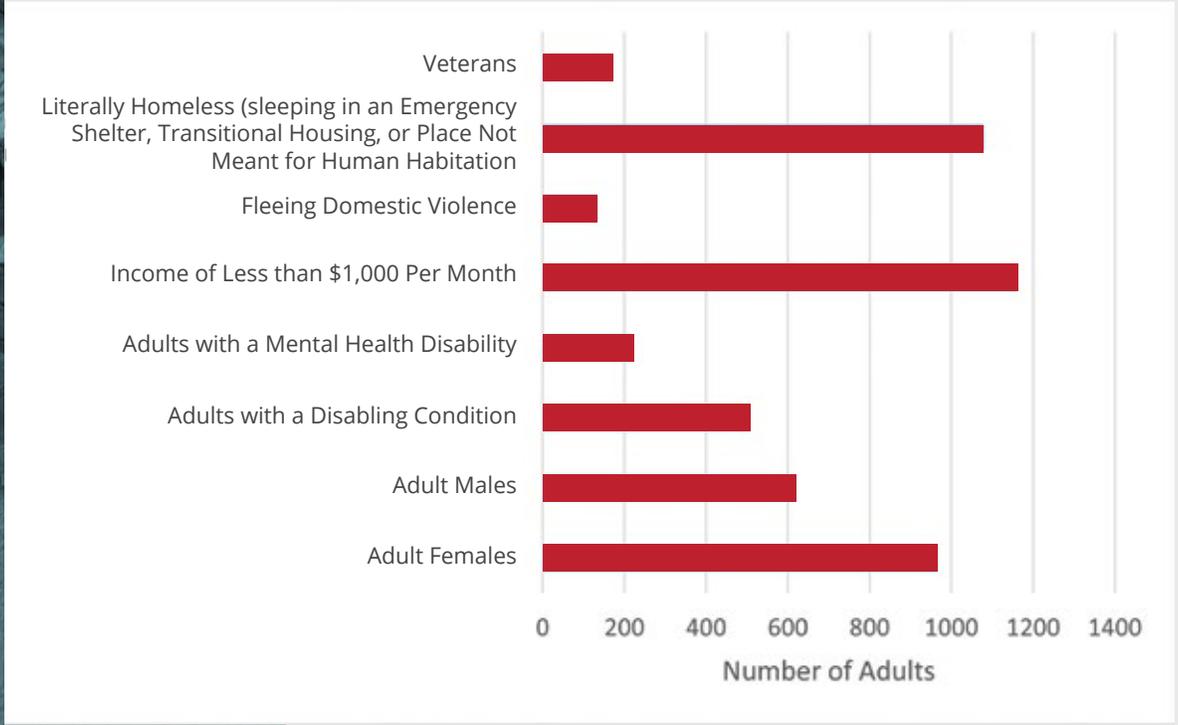


**A VISUAL OF OUR HOUSING CRISIS**



# WHO IS EXPERIENCING A HOUSING CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Data obtained through CCN



# POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

VOLUNTEERS PREPARING FOR THE COUNT

## One day. One point in time.

Gathering data to develop a snapshot

During the last ten days of January each year, communities nation-wide participate in the HUD-mandated annual Point-in-Time Count to capture a snapshot of homelessness in the United States. Community agencies and volunteers join Housing First staff to survey sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

219

PERSONS EXPERIENCING  
SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS ON  
JANUARY 24, 2021





# PROJECT HOMELESS

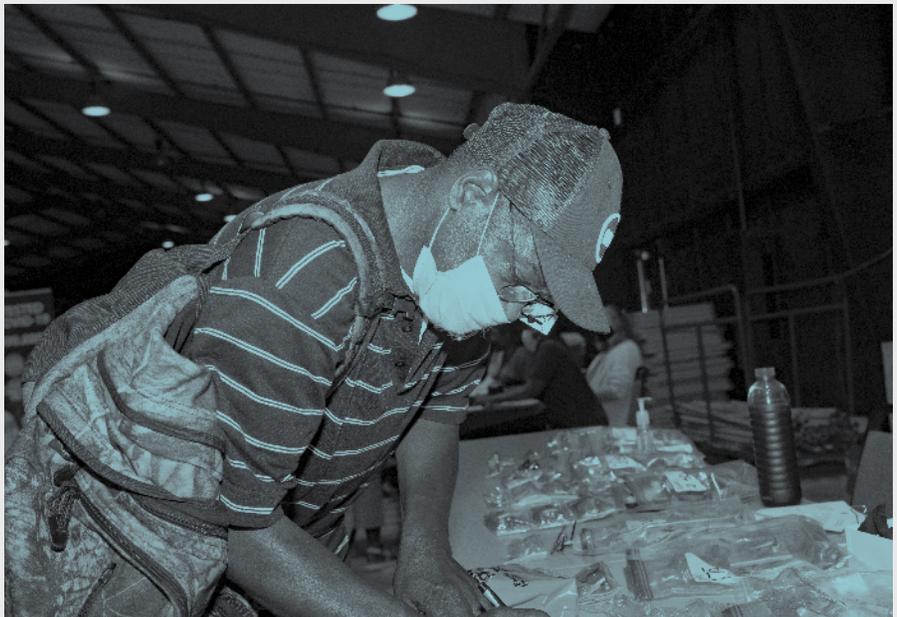
# CONNECT

**Securing essential life resources.**

Project Homeless Connect is an annual event held at the Grounds where those experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of becoming homeless receive health and wellness services, legal assistance, dental and vision screenings, access to housing assistance, and mainstream

resources such as State-issued ID cards, food stamps, and more.

All services are provided free of charge.



**259**  
**PERSONS**  
**SERVED**



- 1 HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES
- 2 LEGAL ASSISTANCE
- 3 DENTAL & VISION SCREENINGS
- 4 HOUSING ASSISTANCE
- 5 STATE-ISSUED IDS
- 6 FOOD STAMPS

# COMMUNITY HOUSING PROGRAM



The Community Housing Program is focused on ending homelessness through permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and homelessness prevention.

Numerous grants fund the Community Housing team's efforts, including two HUD permanent supportive housing grants—CHP and DHP, a HUD-funded rapid rehousing grant—FYS, an ADECA-funded emergency solutions grant—ESG, as well as local grants provided by the United Way and the Community Foundation.

Additionally, Community Housing received two new sources of program funding in 2021.

The Emergency Solutions Grant - Coronavirus (ESG-CV)

is a \$1,000,000 grant focused on assisting clients that have hit financial difficulties due to COVID. This program focuses on rapid rehousing and homeless prevention.

Awarded to HFI by the City of Mobile, the American Rescue Place (ARP) is \$500,000 in rental assistance and \$500,000 in utility assistance for those that have fallen behind due to COVID. These clients are in housing and receive up to 12 months of rental and/or utility arrears.

Every person housed in the Community Housing Program is partnered with a case manager who works to equip them with the skills and resources needed to achieve housing independence and avoid returns to homelessness.

## The Grants that fund the Community Housing Program



\*Calendar year, as term is in excess of 12 months.



## Engaging through diverse forms of outreach

The Community Outreach team engages in a variety of outreach activities in the community in effort to assist persons experiencing homelessness.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

# 474

**CONTACTS MADE**

**STREET OUTREACH:** Meeting those experiencing homelessness where they are, whether it's in an encampment in the woods, under a bridge, in their vehicle, or in a homeless shelter.

**RESPONSIVE OUTREACH:** Responding quickly to calls from partner agencies, law enforcement, or concerned citizens regarding persons in need of assistance.

**COLLABORATIVE OUTREACH:** Working together with partner agencies, municipalities, churches, schools, and law enforcement to educate, advocate, and develop resources for those experiencing homelessness.

# HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS



The Homeless Management Information System or HMIS is a locally managed database used to collect data about individuals and families seeking services to prevent and end homelessness.

The system is an integral part of the community's collaborative efforts as it allows providers to track the provision of services, maintain current case plans, and efficiently coordinate with other agencies.

The HMIS welcomed new partners to the system and provided its new and current users with a total of 65 trainings throughout the year.

All required federal reporting was successfully submitted, including the Longitudinal Systems Analysis, Systems Performance Measures, Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count reports.

## HMIS PARTNER AGENCIES

ALTAPOINTE HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.  
DUMAS WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER  
FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER OF MOBILE, INC.  
FAMILY PROMISE OF BALDWIN COUNTY  
FAMILY PROMISE OF COASTAL ALABAMA  
FRANKLIN PRIMARY HEALTH CENTER  
HOUSING FIRST, INC.  
LEGAL SERVICES OF ALABAMA  
MARY'S SHELTER GULF COAST  
MCKEMIE PLACE  
MOBILE AREA INTERFAITH CONFERENCE  
OZANAM PHARMACY  
SALVATION ARMY OF MOBILE  
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA SOUTHEAST

**86**

HMIS END USERS

**15 Partner Agencies participated in 65 training sessions throughout the year.**

# PERMANENT HOUSING FOR DISABLED HOMELESS & SHELTER + CARE PROGRAMS

Permanent Housing Disabled Homeless

**30** PERSONS SERVED

Shelter + Care

**40** PERSONS SERVED

The CoC-funded Permanent Housing for Disabled Homeless and Shelter + Care Programs are designed to prevent and end homelessness for citizens suffering from mental illness. To be eligible, the mental illness must prevent the individuals from obtaining and maintaining housing on their own.

Both programs are operated by AltaPointe Health Systems. AltaPointe Health is an extensive healthcare system providing primary and behavioral healthcare. Each year it provides more than 1 million services to 45,000 patients across Alabama. A national leader in behavioral health for more than 60 years, AltaPointe expanded its service array in 2018 to include primary care. Now focusing on the patient's whole health, it operates Accordia Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center with five clinic sites. Rounding out the continuum, AltaPointe operates two psychiatric hospitals serving children and adults, one Behavioral Health Crisis Center service adults across seven counties, and 23 outpatient behavioral healthcare clinics. Its team of physicians

serve as the administration and faculty for the University of South Alabama, College of Medicine-Department of Psychiatry.

AltaPointe serves Mobile County with two, permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs for patients experiencing homelessness and an outreach program (PATH) focused on providing services to people with serious mental illness, including those with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. PATH activities primarily include street outreach and case management in an effort to engage homeless individuals, like them to mental health services and other community resources, and end their homelessness.



# RETURNING NEIGHBORS

# HOUSING PROGRAM

Operated by the Mobile Area Interfaith Conference (MAIC)

**37\***  
**PERSONS SERVED**



\*Calendar 2021, APR has not been submitted due to extension. Represents 10 months of services, however, as grant start was delayed to 2/1/21.

**Joining them on the path to help them stay on the path.**

The Returning Neighbors Housing Program is operated by the Mobile Interfaith Conference (MAIC) and is focused on helping those leaving institutions to avoid homelessness. Because stable housing is essential to obtaining a job, maintaining health, and building positive relationships, those with inadequate housing often find themselves on a path back to jail. The Returning Neighbors Housing Program seeks to break the cycle and prevent homelessness for this vulnerable population.

# The Continuum of Care

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Sharon Murrill - Chair

Alabama Power Company  
Governmental & Community Relations  
Manager

### Beverly Reed - Vice Chair

City of Mobile  
Community Housing Development  
Assistant Director

### Angel Steadman - Secretary

Salvation Army of Coastal Alabama  
Director of Program Services

## GENERAL MEMBERS

Warren Green	TriMAG Properties
Phillip Davenport	Mobile County Commission
Christine L. Fouty, MD	USA Health
Marie Mhoon	Mobile Housing Authority
Michon Trent	Family Center
Beth Biggs	Family Promise of Baldwin County
Haley Pham	Mobile County Public School System
Angie Ishee	Waterfront Rescue Mission
Sara Laurio	Dumas Wesley Community Center
Tara Armbruster	McKemie Place
Mary Carmen Williams	USA Center for Healthy Communities
Chris McGadney	City of Mobile
Michael M. Linder, Jr.	The Atchinson Firm, P.C.
Robert Monk	Retired - Agriculture Land Financing
Stacie M. Hartsfield	Bellator Real Estate and Development
Ryan Lantaff	People Engaged in Recovery (PEIR)

**IT'S A TEAM EFFORT. EVERY  
STEP OF THE WAY.**



**Continuum of Care (CoC)**

The Homeless Coalition of the Alabama Gulf Coast

**Continuum of Care**

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