

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

ANNUAL REPORT



 For Information
al501coc.org





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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2,830

**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



BEVERLY REED
CoC Board Chair

City of Mobile Neighborhood
Development Deputy Senior
Director

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 to serve citizens experiencing homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin counties. The individuals serving on this Board are volunteers from local organizations and businesses who have a heart and interest in making a difference in the communities where we live, work, and raise our children.

Our CoC Board continues to look for ways and opportunities to address the challenges of homelessness in our communities. As we all know,

homelessness does not only impact individuals and their families, it also impacts our communities as well. Our Board also focuses on identifying ways to serve the homeless in our communities through outreach and projects such as Project Homeless Connect. PHC is an annual service event where clients experiencing homelessness receive free services such as healthcare/wellness checks, dental and vision screenings, legal assistance, resources for veterans, employment services, clothing and food, state-issued IDs, and many other services. This outreach and service event at which CoC Board Members volunteer is an amazing opportunity for those experiencing homelessness in our community, who are desperately in need of these services.

Many thanks to the administrators and staff of Housing First for their dedication and role as the CoC's Collaborative Applicant. I would also like to thank them for their professionalism, and the great working relationship we have with the staff, as they are always very responsive to our requests.

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 2023 the CoC Board reviewed and ranked all project applications. As a result of HUD's FY2023 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity Competition, HUD awarded our CoC \$4,719,165 in project funding, an increase of almost 10% over last year's funding. This award provides funding for the CoC's Coordinated Entry program, HMIS, CoC Planning, and eight programs that provide housing assistance and services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community including two new Domestic Violence projects serving Mobile and Baldwin Counties, AL. In 2023, CoC funded projects served 2,830 persons. The CoC Board is extremely pleased with this year's funding, and we are confident it will have a positive impact on those experiencing homelessness in our community.

As Chair of the CoC Board, I would like to personally thank each Board member for their time, dedication, and ideas that they consistently brought to our meetings. Thanks for the heart you have for serving the homeless community, I appreciate you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beverly Reed".

Beverly Reed
Chair, CoC Board of Directors

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 (Homeless Management Information System).

Whether at our annual Project Homeless Connect or during the day-to-day work of our CoC's housing programs, we're making a difference in the lives of people experiencing a housing crisis in our community.

In 2023

2,830 PERSONS

were served through all CoC-funded projects

PROVIDING HOUSING SOLUTIONS

TO THOSE IN NEED



For the Love of Family

Our client and his two teenage children were homeless in Baldwin County, mostly staying in a tent. He first engaged with our coordinated entry in June of 2023. The family was housed with the Family and Youth Services grant in October of 2023 with a private landlord. Since being housed, the client has been able to complete a work training program and secure a job. The client believes he will be able to financially support his family when he is exited from the program.



HFI staff preparing to support those in need at the annual Project Homeless Connect.

COORDINATED ENTRY

The Coordinated Entry department is where individuals experiencing imminent risk of homelessness, or literal homelessness, begin the process of identifying resources to prevent or end their housing crisis. The Coordinated Entry process is designed to ensure persons in need receive fair and equal access to limited resources through a standardized assessment and prioritized referral process.

The first step in this process is completion of the Coordinated Entry Pre-Screen Form, which can be found at our Washington Ave. location, or by mail or email upon request. Once a completed Pre-screen is received we will reach out to discuss eligibility and schedule an intake appointment, or provide community resources in cases of ineligibility. After intake households are linked with a case manager who will work to help identify and access community resources and potential housing solutions. While enrolled in Coordinated Entry, households will also be evaluated for referral to housing assistance programs designed to prevent and end homelessness based on eligibility and prioritization.

It is important to know that because there are many more people in need of housing assistance than there is assistance available, not all households will receive a referral for direct housing assistance. However, case managers and program staff will work with households to identify any available resources or supports to resolve the housing crisis.

If you are experiencing homelessness, or are at imminent risk of becoming homeless, please contact us at [251-450-3345](tel:251-450-3345) or coordinatedentry@hfal.org



1,498

Households Served

726

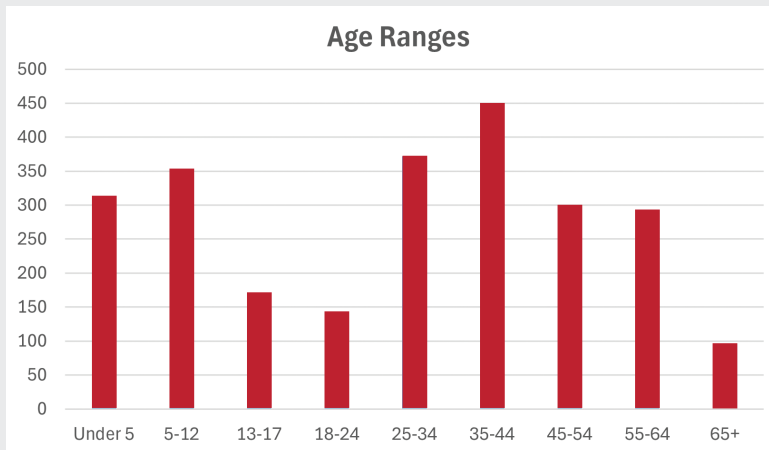
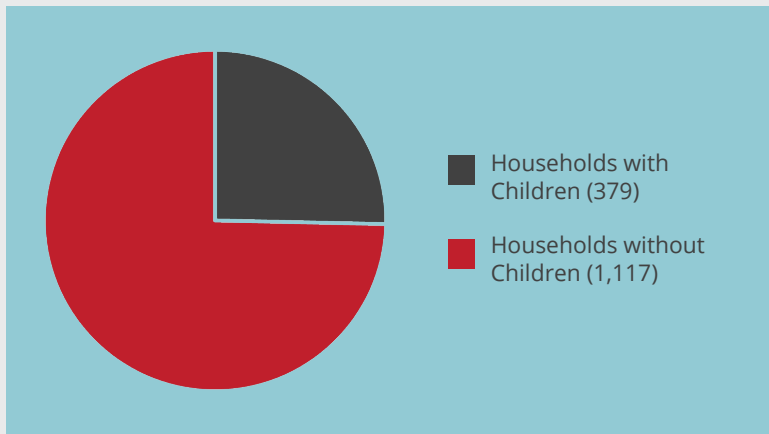
Persons Referred

549

Persons Achieving Permanent Housing Destinations

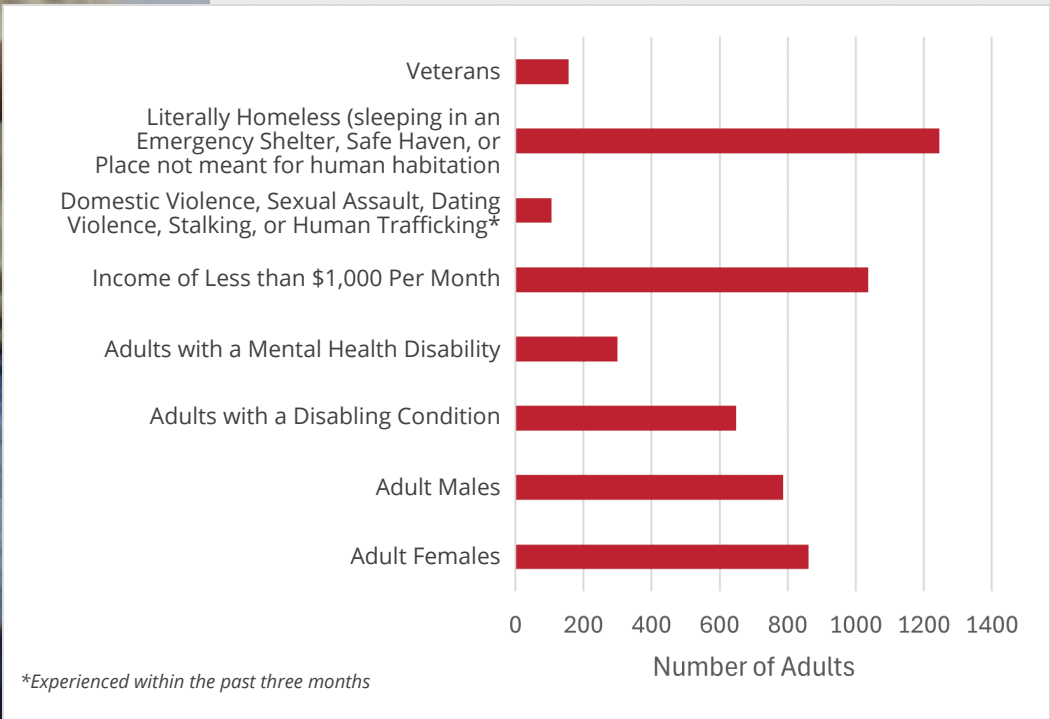


A VISUAL OF OUR HOUSING CRISIS



WHO IS EXPERIENCING A HOUSING CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Data obtained through CCN



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 over 50 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
RANSOM MINISTRIES, INC.
SALVATION ARMY OF MOBILE
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA SOUTHEAST

85+
HMIS END USERS

16 Partner Agencies participated in 50+ training sessions throughout the year.



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.

313
PERSONS EXPERIENCING
SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS ON
JANUARY 23, 2023

357
PERSONS EXPERIENCING
UNSHeltered HOMELESSNESS ON
JANUARY 23, 2023

PROJECT HOMELESS

CONNECT

Securing essential life resources.

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

530

**PERSONS
SERVED**

Project Homeless Connect is an annual event held at the Grounds where those experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of becoming homeless, receive vital services, including: 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, including transportation to and from the event, are provided free of charge.

COMMUNITY HOUSING DEPARTMENT

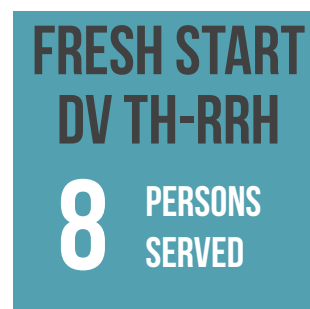
Housing First, Inc.'s Community Housing Department is focused on ending homelessness through permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and homelessness prevention. The Community Housing Department's efforts include two permanent supportive housing grants, Community Housing Program and Disabled Homeless Program, and two rapid rehousing grants, Family and Youth Services and Fresh Start Domestic Violence Program. Each client 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. These projects are funded through HUD's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition held annually. As a result of HUD's FY2023 NOFO Competition, the CoC was awarded funding for its programs that included an overall increase of nearly 10%.

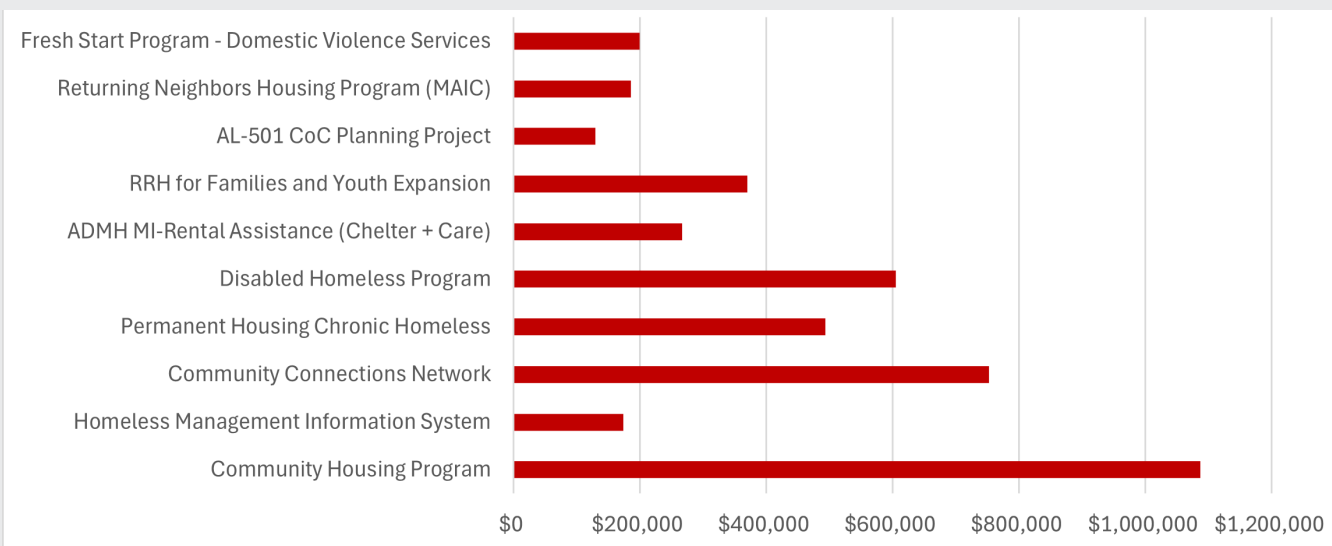


Councilwoman Gina Gregory joins Housing First's Derek Boulware and United Way's Justine Bixler during Project Homeless Connect.

The Grants that Fund the Community Housing Department



HUD | COC FUNDING



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

263

PERSONS CONTACTED

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.

PERMANENT HOUSING FOR DISABLED HOMELESS & SHELTER + CARE PROGRAMS

Permanent Housing for Disabled Homeless

21 PERSONS SERVED

Shelter + Care

32 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.

Case management services are provided to assist housing participants with access to necessary care

and services appropriate to each person's needs, including medical and behavioral healthcare. Ongoing skills training services assist participants with improving their functioning in multiple areas of daily living activities, including but not limited to: health practices, behavior norms, communication, safety, managing time, managing money, nutrition, problem solving, family relationships, alcohol/drug use, social network, personal hygiene, grooming and dress.



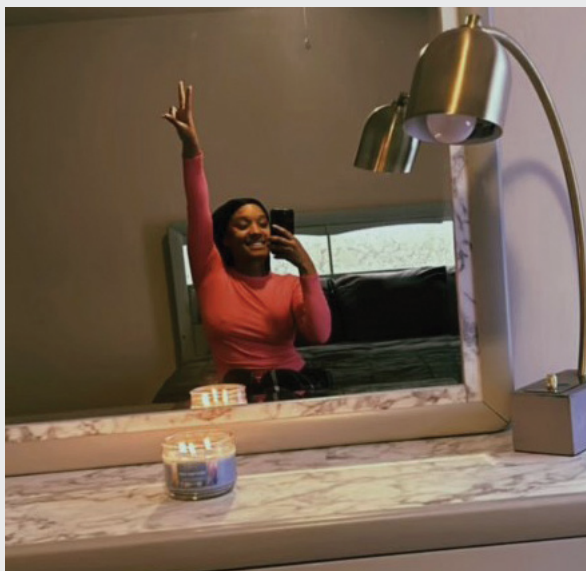
RETURNING NEIGHBORS HOUSING PROGRAM

Operated by Housing First Inc.



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

The Returning Neighbors Housing Program is operated by Housing First Inc. 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.



47
PERSONS SERVED

The Continuum of Care

OFFICERS

Beverly Reed - Chair

City of Mobile
Community Housing Development
Assistant Director

Tara Armbruster - Vice Chair

Ransom Minisries, Inc.
Co-Founder and Director of
Development

Sarah Laurio - Secretary

Dumas Wesley Community Center
Associate Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ed Aikens	Retired - Social Services
Beth Biggs	Family Promise of Baldwin County
Sharon Brammer	Franklin Primary Health Care for the Homeless
Cindy Gipson	AltaPointe Health
Stacie M. Hartsfield	Bellator Real Estate and Development
Ben Kim	Mobile County Commission
Michael M. Linder, Jr.	The Atchison Firm, P.C.
Chris McGadney	City of Mobile
Robert Monk	Retired - Agriculture Land Financing
Matthew Morris	Morris Insurance Agency
Sharon Murrill	Alabama Power Company
Haley Pham	Mobile County Public School System
Angel Steadman	The Salvation Army of Coastal Alabama
Gracie Suaglar	Catholic Social Services
Carol Thompson	Retired - Education/Counseling
Mary Carmen Williams	USA Center for Healthy Communities

**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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