



Continuum of Care (CoC)
The Homeless Coalition of the Alabama Gulf Coast

THE ANNUAL **REPORT**



20 24

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

For Information
al501coc.org



SUPPORT THROUGHOUT MOBILE & BALDWIN COUNTIES

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

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is dedicated to fostering a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness. We collaborate with local organizations to provide comprehensive support services and housing solutions, ensuring that every individual and family has the opportunity to achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

In 2024, 2,827 persons were served through all Continuum of Care-funded programs.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



BEVERLY REED

COC BOARD CHAIR

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 2024 the CoC Board reviewed and

ranked all project applications. As a result of HUD's FY2024 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity Competition, HUD awarded our CoC \$5,108,504 in project funding, an increase of 8% 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 a Domestic Violence project serving Mobile and Baldwin Counties, AL and two new rapid-rehousing projects. In 2024, CoC funded projects served 2,827 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 non-profit service providers, the business community, local government, housing agencies, school districts, hospitals, universities, law enforcement, and faith-based organizations.



More About CoC

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.

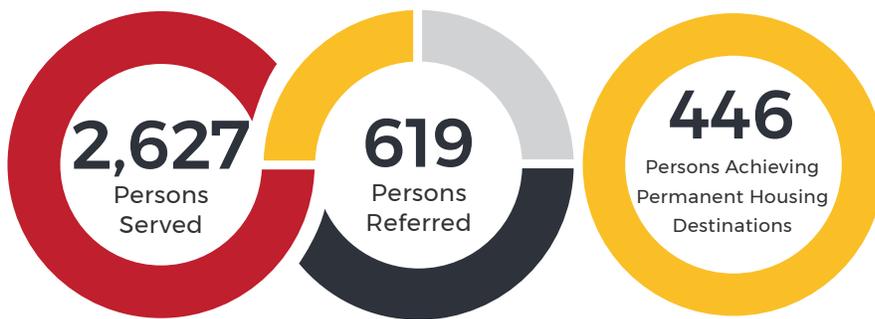
At its simplest, a CoC is established by representatives of relevant organizations to carry out the responsibilities set forth in the CoC Program Interim Rule, which include establishing and operating a Coordinated Entry and an HMIS (Homeless Management Information System).



In 2024, 2,827 persons were served through all CoC-funded projects.

COORDINATED ENTRY

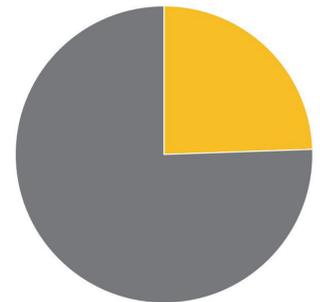
The Coordinated Entry department is where individuals experiencing imminent risk of homelessness, or literal homelessness, begin the process of identifying resources to prevent or end their housing crisis. The Coordinated Entry process is designed to ensure persons in need receive fair and equal access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

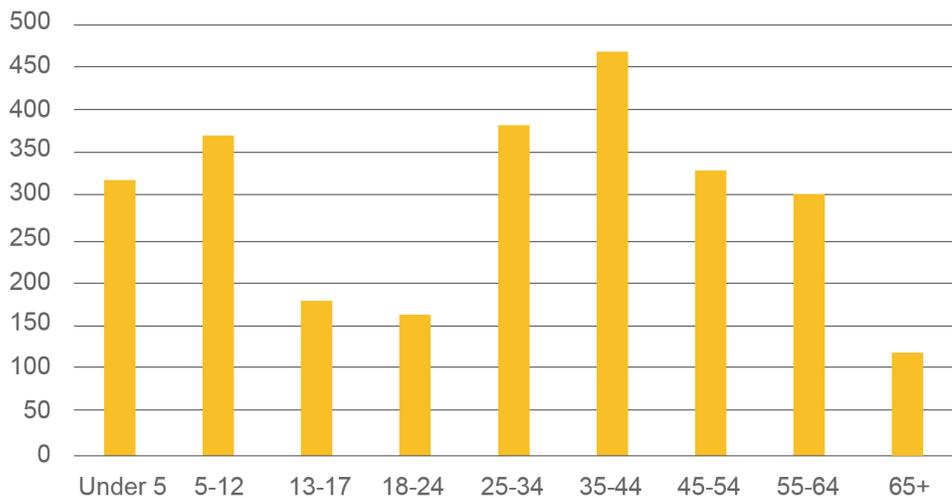
If you are experiencing homelessness, or are at imminent risk of becoming homeless, please contact us at **251-450-3345** or **coordinatedentry@hfal.org**.



Households with Children (391)
Households without Children (1,208)



WHO IS EXPERIENCING A HOUSING CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY?



Under 5.....	317	35-44	464
5-12	370	45-54	330
13-17	180	55-64	300
18-24	164	65+	121
25-34	381		

Number of Adults

Female	892
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Male	855
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Persons with Disabling Condition	650
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Persons with Mental Health Disability	299
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Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Human Trafficking*	125
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Literally Homeless (sleeping in an emergency shelter, safe haven, or place not meant for human habitation)	1,363
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Veterans	232
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**Experienced within the past three months*

Data obtained through CCN

“

Housing First has been so helpful! I love that I can come to the staff with questions, the support and encouragement has been awesome. I appreciate it all. It's exciting to go down my goal checklist and check things off that I'm able to accomplish. I'm growing, and I'm showing my daughter that mommy can do it and our life has changed so much for the better!"

Our client has spent the last year homeless and is now housed under our Returning Neighbors program. Since getting housed, she has started working as a paralegal at a local, downtown law firm. We are so proud to see this young lady work toward her goals to provide for herself and her children.

Client Spotlight

Building a
better life thanks to
Housing First.



HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

HMIS partners make it possible.



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 numerous 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.	Mary’s Shelter Gulf Coast
Dumas Wesley Community Center	McKemie Place
Family Counseling Center of Mobile, Inc.	Mobile Area Interfaith Conference
Family Promise of Baldwin County	Ozanam Pharmacy
Family Promise of Coastal Alabama	Ransom Ministries, Inc.
Franklin Primary Health Center	Salvation Army of Mobile
Housing First	Veterans Administration
Legal Services of Alabama	Volunteers of America Southeast



POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

One day. One point in time.



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 joined Housing First staff to survey sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

324

Persons experiencing
sheltered homelessness on
January 22, 2024

351

Persons experiencing
unsheltered homelessness on
January 22, 2024

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

Securing Essential Life Resources

Project Homeless Connect is an annual event hosted at the The Grounds in Mobile, 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.

563
Persons
Served



Connections to Crucial Resources

- ➔ Health & Wellness Services
- ➔ Legal Assistance
- ➔ Dental & Vision Screenings
- ➔ Housing Assistance
- ➔ State-issued IDs
- ➔ Food Stamps



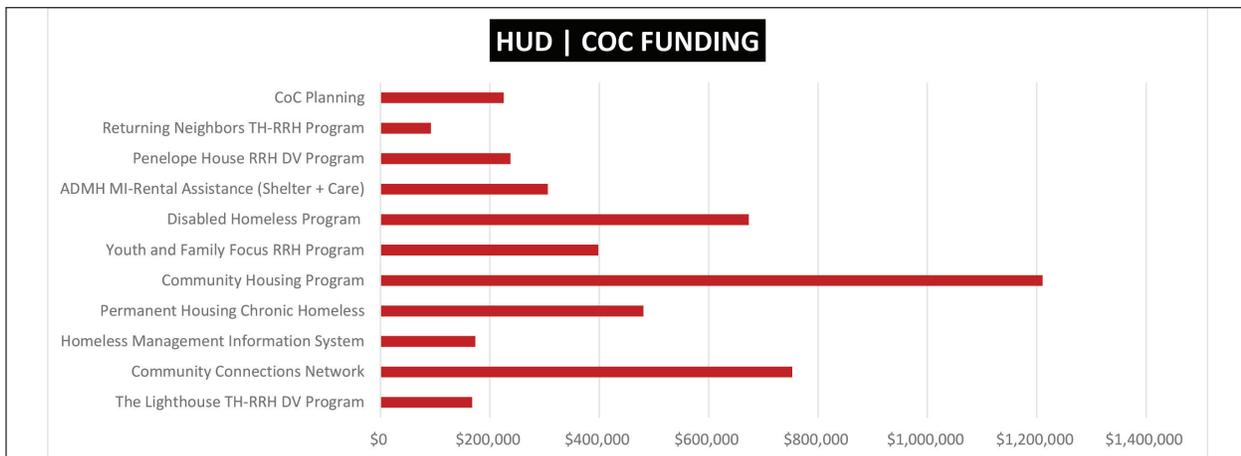
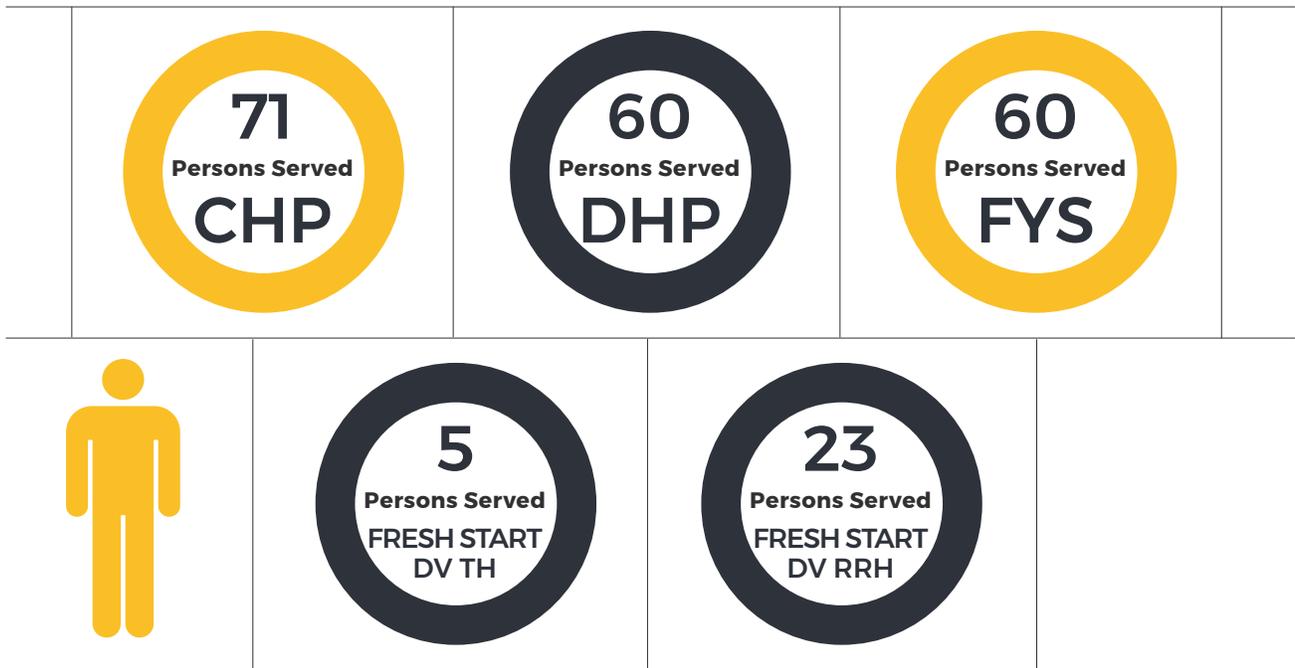
COMMUNITY HOUSING DEPARTMENT



Housing First’s mission is to ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness have access to safe, stable housing without unnecessary barriers or preconditions. Once housed, we offer personalized supportive services and community-based resources to help them maintain their housing and prevent a return to homelessness.

In addition to housing, many clients receive job training, GEDs, financial literacy training, legal assistance, life skills training, mental health and outpatient health services, and substance abuse treatment through active case management by agency professionals.

The Grants that Fund the Community Housing Department



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM



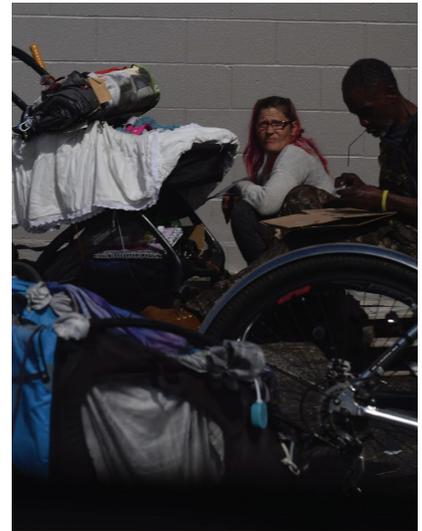
STREET OUTREACH

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



RESPONSIVE OUTREACH

Responding quickly to calls from partner agencies, law enforcement, or concerned citizens regarding person 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.



Engaging through diverse forms of outreach

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



PERMANENT HOUSING FOR DISABLED HOMELESS & SHELTER + CARE PROGRAMS

Providing ongoing life skills for a vulnerable population.



AltaPointe administers the CoC-funded Permanent Housing for Disabled Homeless and Shelter + Care Programs, which aim to prevent and end homelessness for individuals with mental illness. Eligibility requires that the mental disease significantly impacts their ability to obtain and maintain housing independently.

Ongoing skills training helps participants enhance daily living activities, including health, behavior, communication, safety, time and money management, nutrition, problem-solving, relationships, substance use, social connections, and personal care.

26

Persons
Served

Permanent Housing for
Disabled Homeless

32

Persons
Served

Shelter + Care





RETURNING NEIGHBORS HOUSING PROGRAM

11

Persons served
through the
**Returning Neighbors
Housing TH Program**

32

Persons served through
the
**Returning Neighbors
Housing RRH Program**

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

Breaking the cycle to prevent homelessness

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.

THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

MEET OUR OFFICERS

Beverly Reed
CHAIR

Assistant Director,
Community Housing
Development

Tara Armbruster
VICE CHAIR

Ransom Ministries, 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	Michael Linder, Jr.	The Atchison Firm, P.C.
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Sharon Brammer	Franklin Primary Health Care for the Homeless	Robert Monk	Retired - Agriculture Land Financing
Cindy Gipson	AltaPointe Health	Haley Pham	Mobile County Public School System
Stacie Hartsfield	Bellator Real Estate & Development	Gracie Suaglar	Catholic Social Services
Clinton Johnson, Jr.	Alabama Power Company	Carol Thompson	Retired - Education/Counseling
Ben Kim	Mobile County Commission	Mary Carmen Williams	USA Center for Healthy Communities



Continuum of Care (CoC)

The Homeless Coalition of the Alabama Gulf Coast

CONTACT US



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Continuum of Care