

2015 State of Homelessness  
**Annual Report for the  
Detroit Continuum of Care**  
January - December 2015



# 2015

HOMELESS ACTION NETWORK OF DETROIT

# Homeless Action Network of Detroit (HAND)

The Homeless Action Network of Detroit (HAND) was created by local service providers, as a collaborative planning organization, to provide leadership to address homelessness in Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park. HAND coordinates annual funding applications resulting in more than \$26 million in homeless programming for the community. These resources support local service agencies in their mission of ending homelessness. Since 1996, HAND has served as the region's leading resource on issues related to homelessness.

HAND is dedicated to increasing awareness of homelessness in the region and advocating for solutions that will address and end homelessness. To accomplish this, HAND directs the region's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), to ensure the community has accurate information on who is homeless, what their needs are, and what is working to address those needs.

HAND also works with our community partners and elected officials to advocate for policy solutions to end poverty and homelessness. We are working to raise awareness locally, across the State of Michigan, and at the federal level, about what our community needs to end homelessness.

In all that we do, we are guided by the following purpose and values:

## Our Purpose

Providing leadership to address homelessness.

## Our Values

- **Collaboration:** We promote partnerships and consensus
- **Competence:** We advance knowledge and expertise
- **Commitment:** We live it and expect it
- **Performance:** We support outcome-driven best practices
- **Integrity:** We strive to be fair and transparent
- **Advocacy:** We create awareness and promote policy solutions

This report provides a look at the state of homelessness in our community during the past year. For more information, please visit our website at [www.handetroit.org](http://www.handetroit.org).



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# Our Vision

Our vision is that every individual and family in our community has a home that is decent, safe and affordable, and that they receive every support needed in order to remain housed. This vision is grounded in the belief that through our commitment to working together, being open to new ways of thinking and acting, and having this shared vision, we can - and will - move forward together to achieve real change in our community.



# Homelessness In Detroit: Overall Picture

CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS	OVERALL HOMELESS <sup>1</sup>	SINGLE ADULT	ADULTS IN FAMILIES	CHILDREN IN FAMILIES	UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH UNDER 18	CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
TOTAL IN HMIS-ACCOUNTING FOR 96% OF OVERALL HOMELESS IN THE DETROIT CONTINUUM <sup>2</sup>	<b>16,040</b>	<b>10,406</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>3,587</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>2,107</b>
<b>MALE</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>83%**</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>TRANSGENDER</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
<b>UNDER 18</b>	<b>22%</b>			<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
<b>AGE 18-24</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>28%</b>			<b>6%</b>
<b>AGE 25-54</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>66%</b>			<b>64%</b>
<b>AGE 55+</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>6%</b>			<b>30%</b>
<b>AVERAGE AGE</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>WHITE</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>AFRICAN AMERICAN</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>87%**</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
<b>OBTAINED GED OR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>34%</b>			<b>12%</b>
<b>SOME COLLEGE<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>			<b>3%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Overall Homelessness may be lower than the combined categories as categories are not mutually exclusive.

<sup>2</sup> See page 23 for details on data limitations. <sup>3</sup> Highest level of education attained

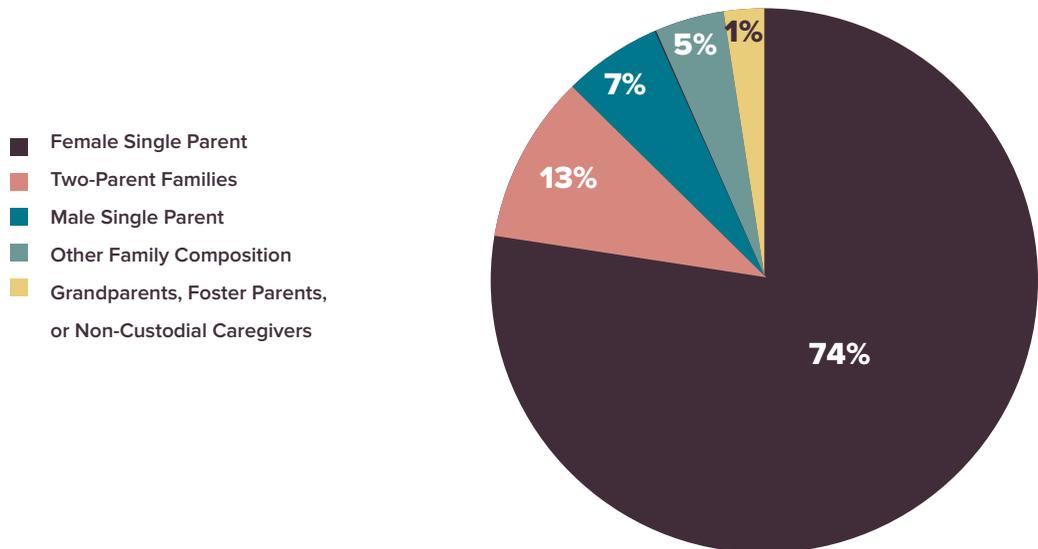
\*\* Small % of Gender and Race questions were not answered by unaccompanied youth

Source: Bowman Systems; Advanced Reporting Tool (ART)

# Homeless Family Characteristics

Over the course of 2015, we served **2,439** families

Composition of Homeless Families



## Education

**34%** of homeless adults in families who responded to the education question had a high school diploma or GED.

## Extent of Homelessness

**52%** of homeless families reported being homeless for the first time in 2015.

**12%** of homeless families were homeless for 12 or more months at the time of program entry in 2015.

**30%** of homeless families were homeless multiple times prior to program entry in 2015.

# Chronically Homeless

**Under the 2015 definition for Chronically Homeless:** A person is considered “chronically homeless” if he/she has been homeless 4 or more times in the past 3 years or has been homeless for one year continuously and has been diagnosed with a disability. A family is also considered chronically homeless if the head of household meets the requirements of the definition above. These individuals and families are often targeted for intensive housing and supportive services, as they have significant barriers to housing, such as poor rental histories, no income, untreated mental health and/or substance abuse issues, chronic physical health concerns, unemployment, and more.

## Basic Demographics

- Over the course of 2015, a total of **2,107** chronically homeless people were serviced in the Detroit CoC.
- **73%** of the chronically homeless were males, **27%** were females.
- The average age for the chronically homeless was **46**.
- **89%** of the chronically homeless were Black/African American and **11%** were White.

## Education

- **12%** of chronically homeless adults had a high school education or GED.
- **3%** of chronically homeless adults had some college education.



# Youth

The data presented here provides information on homeless youth under the age of 18 and young people ages 18-24. For the purposes of this report, an “unaccompanied youth” is a young man or woman under the age of 18 who is not in the care of a parent or guardian. The youth may also be the head of a household if he/she is a teen parent.

## Basic Demographics

- **193** unaccompanied youth were served by our homeless service providers.
  - **12** were between the ages of 11-14
  - **181** were between the ages of 15-17
- **1,823** young people ages 18-24 were served by our homeless service providers.
- **59%** were females and **41%** were males.
- **87%** were Black or African American and **2%** were White. There were **8%** that refused to state their race and **3%** were from other races.

## Limitations on Youth Data

The total number of young people who experience homelessness may be an undercounting of the actual number of young people who find themselves without stable housing. During 2015, a young person who was “couch surfing” -- that is, staying temporarily with friends or family -- would not have been considered homeless by the definition in place at that time. Therefore, the many young people who were “couch surfing” are not included in these numbers of homeless youth. In reality, though, these young people need the same types of services and stable housing as other homeless youth.



# 3-Year Data Comparison

The table below shows a comparison of homeless data over the past three years.

<b>COMPARISONS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Change/ Trends 2013-2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Change/ Trends 2014-2015</b>
Total number of homeless	16,201	15,717	-3%	16,040	+2%
Number of singles	12,117	11,178	-8%	10,406	-7%
Number of adults in families	2,124	2,166	+2%	2,403	+11%
Number of children in families	2,742	2,947	+8%	3,587	+22%
Number of unaccompanied youth <sup>1</sup>	62	64	+3%	193	+200%
Chronically homeless <sup>2</sup>	3,468	3,300	-5%	2,107	-36%
Veterans	1,783	1,105	-38%	1,562	+41%

<sup>1</sup> See page 6 for a discussion on youth homelessness.

<sup>2</sup> See page 5 for a discussion on trends in chronic homelessness



# Changes In Homeless Numbers - 2015

Over the course of 2015, a total of 16,040 people have experienced homelessness. This is a 2% increase from the total number of people who were reported homeless over the course of 2014 (15,717).

Any increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness is disheartening considering the focused efforts that are being made to increase permanent housing resources for people experiencing homelessness. A closer look at the numbers show changes in specific populations of people experiencing homelessness:

**Changes in Family Homelessness:** The number of homeless families and children in those families increased from 2014 to 2015. This trend of an increase in family homelessness aligns with the data reported by the CAM Call Center. As the initial point of contact for homeless services, the CAM Call Center receives calls from people seeking emergency shelter. Over the past year, the Call Center has reported an increase in the number of families seeking emergency shelter and, unfortunately, a lack of availability in family emergency shelter beds.

The Continuum of Care will need to take a more strategic approach to planning for the housing interventions needed for the families in our community experiencing homelessness. One effort to be piloted in mid-2016 is a diversion program for families seeking emergency shelter. This program will identify families prior to their entering a shelter and provide a short-term intervention to assist with keeping them housed.

**Changes in Youth Homelessness:** There was a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18. One of the reasons for this increase in the number reported is that a provider serving youth under the age of 18 began reporting their data in HMIS during 2015. Therefore, with this additional data in our system, the youth served by this program are now included in the total number of youth served.

HAND, in partnership with City Councilmember Mary Sheffield and other youth homeless providers, are working to implement the Voices of Youth Count Initiative. This initiative, led by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, will conduct a count of youth experiencing homelessness in the summer of 2016. As a result of this count, our community will have a better understanding of the needs of the youth in our community.

# Resources: 2015

The Detroit Continuum of Care received a total of \$26,457,858 to fund projects serving people experiencing homelessness. The funding for these projects will be utilized over the course of 2015 and 2016.

## HUD FY2014 Detroit Continuum of Care Awards

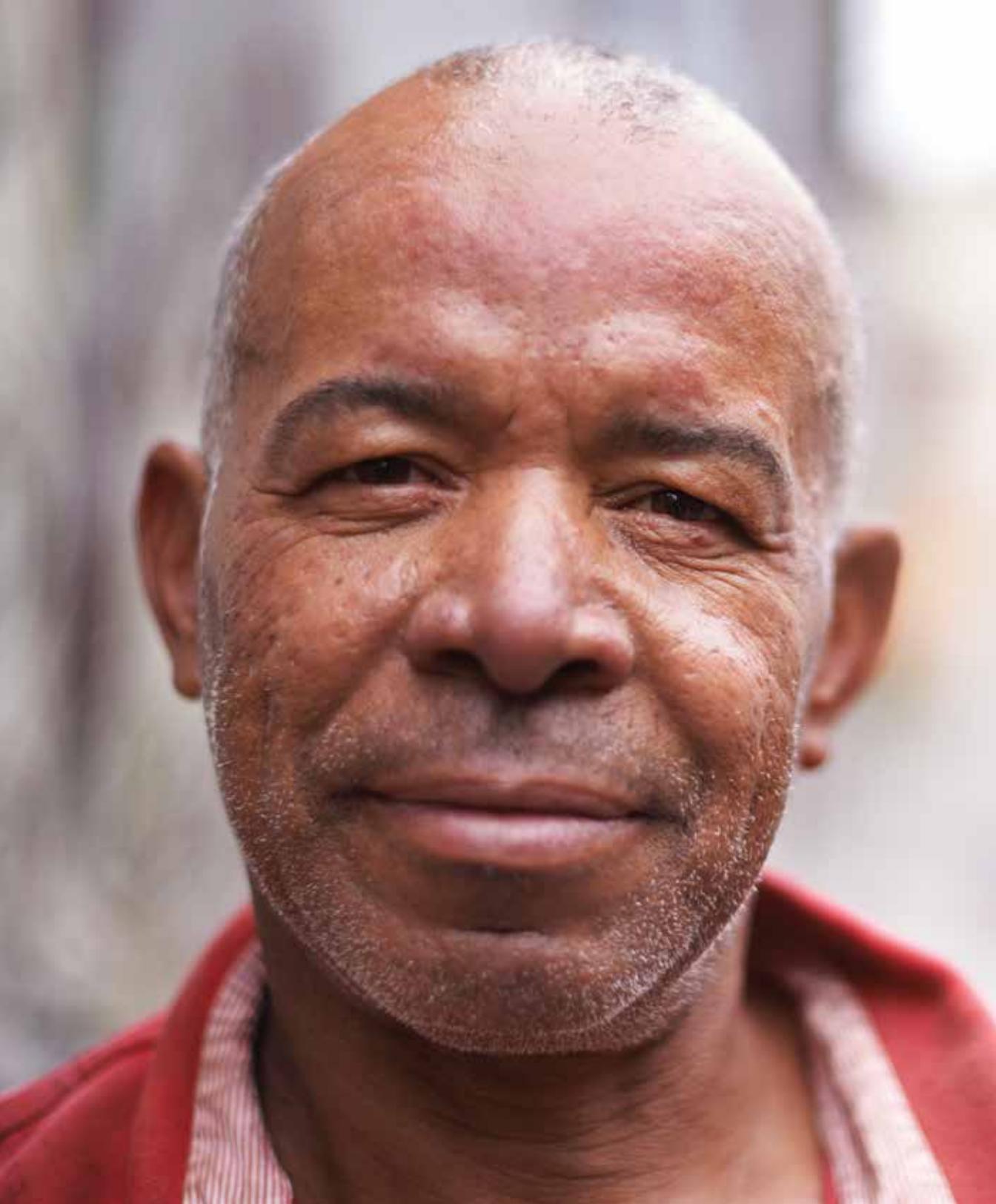
	New Awards	Renewal Awards
Permanent Housing		
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$1,814,469	\$12,465,794
Rapid ReHousing	\$880,171	N/A
Transitional Housing	N/A	\$7,621,870
Supportive Services Only	N/A	\$2,889,761
Homeless Management Information System	N/A	\$194,078
Safe Haven	N/A	\$428,000
CoC Planning	\$163,715	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,858,355</b>	<b>\$23,599,503</b>
	<b>\$26,457,858</b>	



## Homeless Services Funding: 2015

Project Type	# of Projects	CoC	State ESP	State ESG	City ESG	City CDBG	PATH	VA Funding	RHY	TOTALS
Emergency Shelter	22	\$ -	\$3,535,200	\$ -	\$945,000	\$1,300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$310,570	\$ 6,090,770
Permanent Supportive Housing	39	\$14,280,263	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	VASH	\$ -	\$ 14,280,263
Prevention	8	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$400,000	\$650,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,050,000
Rapid ReHousing	10	\$ 880,171	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,934,111	\$100,000	\$ -	SSVF	\$ -	\$ 2,914,282
Safe Haven	1	\$ 428,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	HCHV	\$ -	\$ 428,000
Street Outreach	11	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$ 846,142	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,096,142
Supportive Services Only	6	\$ 1,674,620	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,674,620
Transitional Housing	31	\$ 7,621,870	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$200,000	\$ -	GPD	\$ -	\$ 7,821,870
CAM Infrastructure Projects (includes some direct financial assistance for RRH & prevention)	7	\$ 1,215,141	\$ -	\$285,461	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800,602
CoC Infrastructure Projects (includes HMIS and CoC Planning)	3	\$ 357,793	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 357,793
		<b>\$26,457,858</b>	<b>\$3,535,200</b>	<b>\$285,461</b>	<b>\$3,629,111</b>	<b>\$2,450,000</b>	<b>\$846,142</b>		<b>\$ 310,570</b>	<b>\$ 37,514,362</b>

Acronym	Name	Source
CoC	Continuum of Care	Federal: U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
State ESP	State Emergency Shelter Partnership	State: TANF
State ESG	State Emergency Solutions Grant	Federal, via the State: HUD via the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)
City ESG	City Emergency Solutions Grant	Federal, via the City: HUD via the City of Detroit
City CDBG	City Community Development Block Grant	Federal, via the City: HUD via the City of Detroit
PATH	Projects for Assistance in Transitioning from Homelessness	Federal, via the State: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) via the State of Michigan Dept of Health & Human Services
VA	Veterans Affairs	Federal: Dept of Veterans Affairs
RHY	Runaway Homeless Youth	Federal: Administration for Children & Families



# 2015 Accomplishments

## **Transitional Housing (TH)**

**78% (1,008)** exited to Permanent Housing

- Compared to 2014:
  - 77% (1,006) exited to Permanent Housing

## **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**

**97%** of people served in PSH either retained their housing or moved to other permanent housing

- Same performance rate as 2014
- Served 352 more people in PSH in 2015 than in 2014
  - 2014: total served = 2,126
  - 2015: total served = 2,478

## **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)**

**81%** of people exited from RRH exited to a permanent housing destination

## **Emergency Shelter (ES)**

**25% (1,604)** of people exited from Emergency Shelter exited to a permanent housing destination

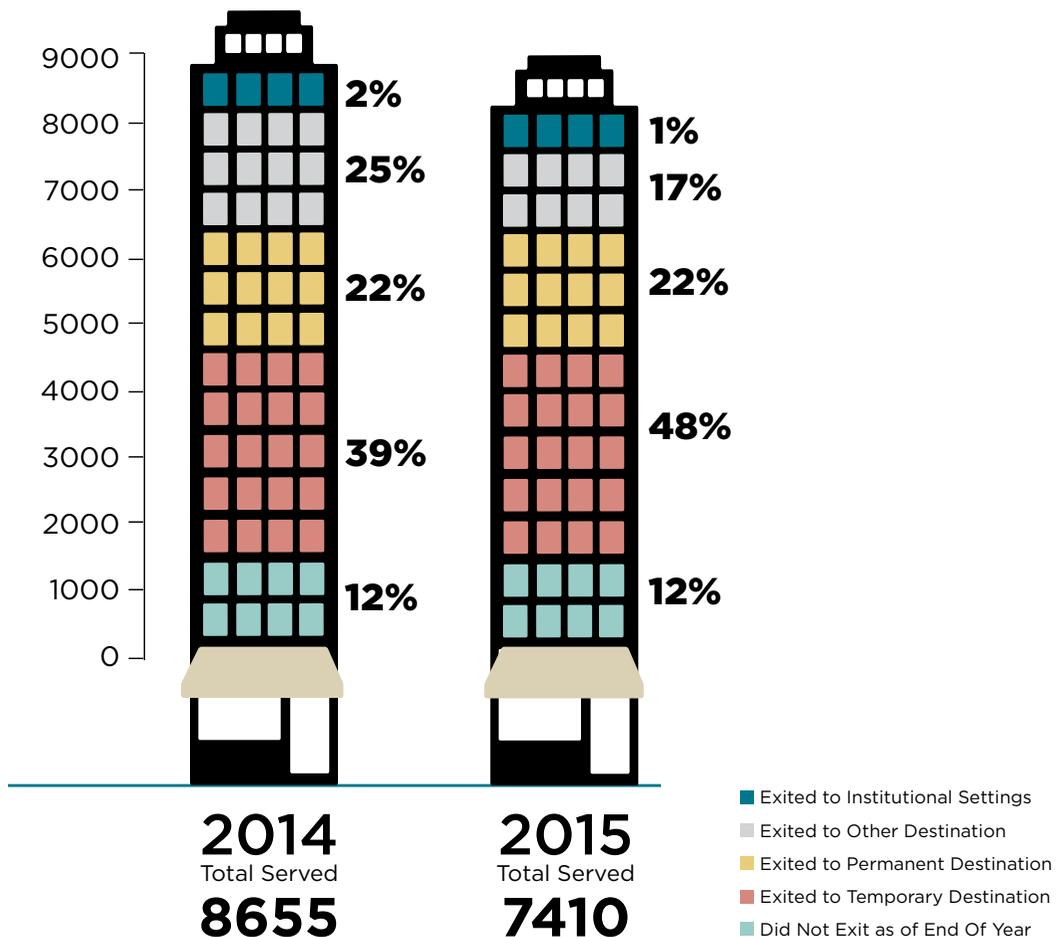
- The same performance rate as in 2014, although there were fewer people served in ES in 2015 than in 2014, and therefore fewer people who were exited

# Emergency Shelter Destination Comparison: 2014 and 2015

Fewer people were served by shelters overall in 2015 than in 2014

More people exited shelter to a temporary destination in 2015 than in 2014

Correspondingly, there were fewer “other” destinations in 2015 than in 2014, likely due to better data quality



## Outreach

**53% (648)** of people exited from Street Outreach program exited to a sheltered destination

- 39% (480) exited to a permanent housing destination
- 14% (168) exited to a temporary destination

- Although not permanent, exiting from the street to a temporary destination is considered a positive outcome for persons who are staying in an unsheltered situation. A temporary situation may include an emergency shelter, transitional housing program, or staying with friends or family on a temporary basis.

## Income

**1,001** adults increased their monthly income while receiving services.

- Average increase in income was \$639 a month



# Special Initiatives: Zero 2016 & Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness

## **What is Zero: 2016 and why is the Detroit Continuum of Care a part of it?**

Detroit has been a part of Zero: 2016 since January 2015. Zero: 2016 is a national initiative in which 71 communities across the country pledged to end veteran homelessness and chronic homelessness by the end of 2015 and 2016 respectively.

The Detroit Continuum of Care (CoC) has signed on to the Zero: 2016 initiative because we believe homelessness is a solvable community problem, and we are dedicated to implementing the systems-wide changes necessary to solve this problem.

## **Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness**

In June 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama challenged mayors across the U.S. to accept the challenge of ending veteran homelessness in their communities. Shortly after this announcement was made, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan accepted the challenge and has demonstrated his commitment to ending veteran homelessness in Detroit.

## **Progress Made: Veteran Homelessness**

Detroit set an ambitious goal to end homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015. Significant progress has been made to move every homeless veteran into permanent housing, including:

- From January to December 2015, over 700 veterans were permanently housed
- Veteran-specific homeless service providers worked together in a more coordinated and collaborative way to move homeless veterans to housing

## **Ending Veteran Homelessness: By 2016**

Although our community made great progress at ending homelessness among veterans in 2015, we fell short of our goal of ending veteran homelessness by the end of last year. The work to house every veteran continues with a revised goal to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2016. We will meet this goal by:

- Knowing each homeless veteran in our community by name; which is often referred to as having a “by-name-list”
- Targeting housing resources for veterans to the homeless veterans in our community
- Assigning each homeless veteran to a specific program that can help end his/her homelessness, whether that is by providing short-term rental assistance or a long-term housing subsidy
- Holding the service providers accountable for progress made in getting the veteran housed

## **Ending Chronic Homelessness**

The Detroit CoC has also made a commitment to end chronic homelessness by the end of 2016. The steps to accomplish this task are very similar to what it will take to end veteran homelessness, including:

- Knowing who in our community is experiencing chronic homelessness
- Targeting our housing resources to this population
- Holding service providers accountable for progress in housing people experiencing chronic homelessness

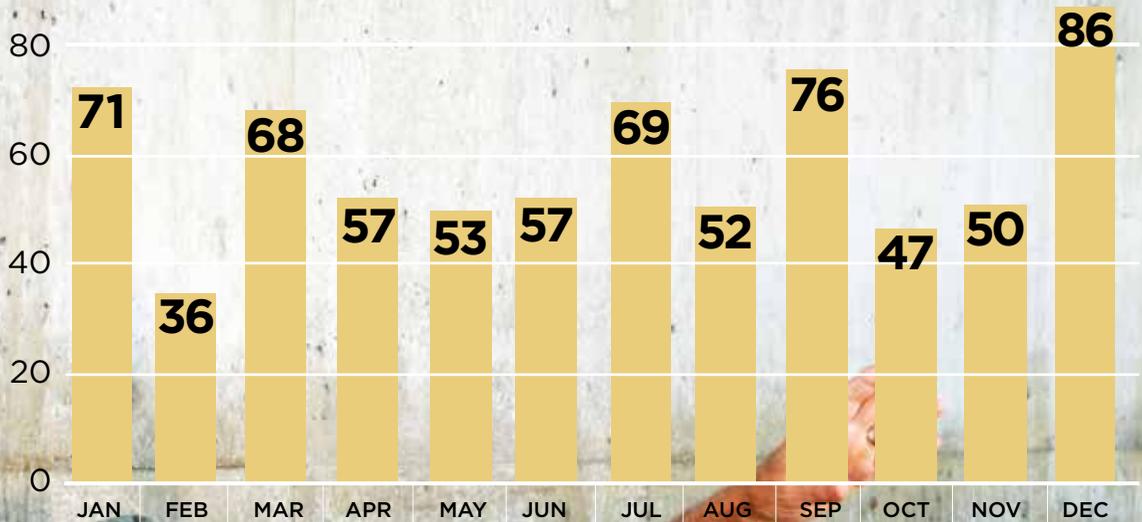
## **What does “getting to 0” really mean?**

The Detroit CoC is working with our federal partners at the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to determine when we will have met the federal benchmark criteria for ending homelessness among veterans or people experiencing chronic homelessness. A key piece of the work to “end homelessness” is to also ensure our community has a system in place to respond to housing crises, so that if a person becomes homeless, this homeless experience is brief and non-recurring. Additionally, to every extent possible, we will try to prevent homelessness before it ever occurs.

# Detroit CoC Zero: 2016

Number of Homeless Veterans Permanently Housed Each Month

Number of Veterans Permanently Housed in 2015: **722**



There were **1562** veterans served in 2015

# Coordinated Assessment Model (CAM) in the Detroit Continuum

## A Review of CAM

The Coordinated Assessment Model (CAM) had its first full year of implementation using the community agreed upon assessment tool in April 2015. The CAM continued to coordinate with family and single emergency shelters as well as pilot a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) matching process aimed at prioritizing and linking the clients from assessment directly to available housing units. The onset of the outreach coordination also kicked off in 2015 with plans for more streamlined access for clients being engaged on the streets.

### CAM IMPLEMENTATION 2015 – Major Highlights

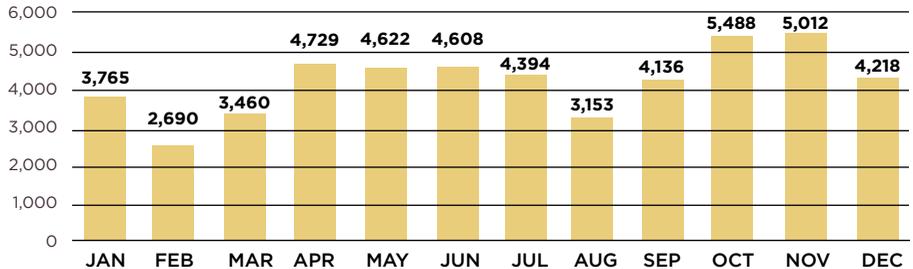
<b>January 2015</b>	<b>Pilot for coordinated PSH referral (known as “PSH Match Process”) began</b>
<b>September 2015</b>	<b>Outreach Team begin receiving (and submitting) coordinated referrals from (to) CAM</b>
<b>October 2015</b>	<b>Coordinated referrals to CoC Rapid ReHousing Family Program</b>

<b>NOVEMBER 4, 2013</b>	<b>CAM Soft Roll-Out</b> (Phase 1) - Family Shelter Placements Only
<b>APRIL 1, 2014</b>	<b>Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT) Implementation Process Initiated at Family Shelter Providers</b> (Families in shelter 14- 30 days & ESG)
<b>MAY 5, 2014</b>	<b>CAM Phase II Initiated</b> (Families in shelter over 30 days)
<b>JUNE 1, 2014</b>	<b>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) placements begin as a result of 25 Cities Initiative</b>
<b>JULY 1, 2014</b>	<b>CAM Call Center Soft Launch for Families Accessing Shelter</b>
<b>JULY 21, 2014</b>	<b>CAM Call Center Officially “GOES LIVE”</b>
<b>AUGUST, 2014</b>	<b>CAM/City ESG Coordination- CAM Lead Staff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated Rapid Re-Housing referrals through HMIS</li> <li>• Coordinated Prevention referrals through HMIS</li> </ul>
<b>OCTOBER 2, 2014</b>	<b>CAM/HARA Single Shelter Provider Coordination</b>

## CAM Call Center: Broadened scope for 2015

The CAM Call Center tracked calls through the HMIS Call Point module for clients identified as having a housing crisis and clients calling seeking housing assistance more generally. Towards the end of the year the Call Center coordinated with local Street Outreach teams to refer clients calling the CAM Line that were either on the street or refusing shelter for various reasons. This broadened the scope of the Call Center and more discussions took place in 2015 related to expanding the Call Center days and hours. The chart below shows the number of calls handled by the staff on the lines Monday-Friday - 8:30-5pm.

**CAM Call Center Answered 50,275 Calls**



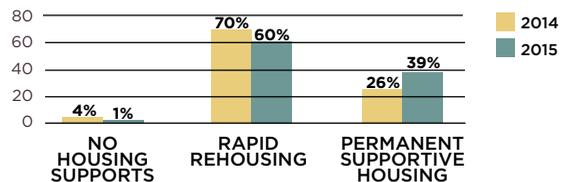
## CAM Assessment –Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool in Detroit

The Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool otherwise known as the SPDAT continued to be a major part of the Coordinated Assessment Model in 2015. The pre-screen or Vulnerability Index- SPDAT (VI-SPDAT) continued to be completed primarily by emergency shelters to determine if a full SPDAT was required for clients in need of housing assistance. The full SPDAT continued to be completed by trained assessment staff across the Detroit continuum. The full SPDAT scoring between 2014 and 2015 exhibited a 13% increase in clients scoring for Permanent Supportive Housing while the clients scoring for Rapid Re Housing decreased by 10%. The clients scoring on the full SPDAT for “No Housing Supports” continued to be below 5%. In 2015 the tool’s usage progressed while developing the process to match clients to Permanent Supportive Housing. The SPDAT outcome scores would be utilized as one of the key factors to prioritize clients for housing (Rapid Re Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Homeless Vouchers) in Detroit.

### 2015 SPDAT ASSESSMENT DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- **18%** of VI-SPDAT’s (pre-screens completed by Detroit emergency shelters staff) yielded No Housing Supports
- **24%** of full SPDAT’S were completed on families
- **76%** of full SPDAT’s were completed on singles

### FULL SPDAT OUTCOME SCORES COMPARISON



# Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Match Meeting Pilot – Overview

Starting in January 2015 a pilot Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) match meeting was launched in Detroit. The goal of the PSH match meeting was to prioritize and match eligible clients to PSH units in Detroit through our Coordinated Assessment Model system. The existing PSH processes in the Detroit Continuum were reviewed and revised, including navigation, prioritization, eligibility, housing search/placement and supportive services. It was important to start the conversations early to identify and work through any challenges or bottle necks that could impede implementation. This presented the PSH providers with an opportunity to participate first hand and be part of the community decisions that were going to be made that would affect their programs. It also opened another avenue to streamline the most vulnerable clients in need into housing. It was decided a “side doors closed” approach would be implemented the first quarter of 2016. This new approach meant that all client referrals for PSH units would come through the Coordinated Entry Model process. A PSH Sub- Committee was developed in October 2015 to establish a PSH Match Policy & Procedure Manual including prioritization and waitlist management processes for Detroit housing units. The pilot period served as a resource in developing best practices for the mandatory change in accessing PSH units in Detroit that was impending. The data below displays a snapshot of the activity that occurred during the PSH pilot.

## Referred

(thru 12/31/2015)

### Housed

163

TOTAL	505
FAMILIES	41
CHRONIC	228

### PSH Waitlist

83





# The Detroit Task Force on Homelessness

The Detroit Task Force on Homelessness was formed in 2015 by Detroit City Councilmember Mary Sheffield. The Task Force was formed after Councilmember Sheffield visited a make-shift “tent city” that formed during the winter of 2015. The Task Force is a forum for government, service providers, people experiencing homelessness, and other stakeholders to come together and work on solutions towards ending homelessness in Detroit.

Over the past year, the Task Force has partnered with the Detroit Workers and Builders and Brother Joe Hicks to host annual events which provide free food, clothing, and fun for people experiencing homelessness. Councilmember Sheffield and the Homelessness Task Force have recently partnered with the Greektown Preservation Society to launch the Detroit Donates Meter Program. The program, which was created to address panhandling in the downtown area, will allow people to donate to individuals experiencing homelessness by using repurposed parking meters. The program will also use corporate sponsorship to support the installation of new Detroit Donates meters throughout downtown.

The Homeless Youth Subcommittee of the Task Force tackles the specific challenges related to youth homelessness and unstable housing. The subcommittee is composed of a diverse group of youth service providers and advocates. In just a few short months, the subcommittee has addressed issues such as youth aging out of the foster care system and the need for better data related to youth homelessness.

The Detroit Task Force on Homelessness is already making a mark as a valuable asset to foster public and private partnerships to end homelessness in Detroit.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1:

### What is HMIS?

#### Background of the Homeless Management Information System

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a web-based database used by service organizations to collect and record information on the people they serve. This information is collected for people who are homeless and at-risk of homelessness. The use of the HMIS is federally mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for many programs that receive HUD funding. Likewise, the Veterans Administration, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the State of Michigan Department of Human Services, and the City of Detroit require the use of HMIS for certain programs. To improve our data completeness, the Detroit CoC continues to encourage other funders to require the use of HMIS.

In the Detroit Continuum of Care, there are currently 35 service organizations with 250 data entry end users entering data into the system. As the HMIS in Detroit continues to mature, there also continues to be improvement in data quality and data completeness. HAND greatly appreciates the agencies' continued hard work and dedication to this project.

#### Data Included in This Report

This report gives a review of data collected through the HMIS during the past year. Based on our estimates, the data in this report represents approximately 96% coverage of the homeless clients in Detroit's Continuum of Care from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

#### Data Limitations

The data in this report is not intended to provide a complete count of the homeless population due to the following:

1. The vast majority of homeless providers in Detroit use this system; however, there may be some organizations or programs that do not report into the HMIS.
2. Due to federal statutes, domestic violence programs are prohibited from using the HMIS, and therefore their data is not included here.
3. We continue to work to improve data quality and accuracy.
4. The data for this report was pulled from the HMIS using several different report queries. As each query may have pulled the data slightly differently from the system, there may not always be a one-to-one match of data among the graphs and tables.

## Appendix 2:

### Agencies Using the System

Over the course of 2015, there were 35 agencies actively entering data into the HMIS. These agencies are listed here.

Advantage Health Care	Love Outreach
Alternatives for Girls	Lutheran Social Services
Cass Community Social Services	Mariner's Inn
Catholic Social Services of Wayne County	Michigan Veterans Foundation
Coalition on Temporary Shelter	Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan
Community & Home Supports	Neighborhood Service Organization
Covenant House	New Day Multi-Purpose Center
Detroit Central City Community Mental Health	Operation Get Down
Detroit East Community Mental Health	Positive Images
Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries	Ruth Ellis Center
Development Centers, Inc.	SHAR House, Inc.
Effective Alternative Community Housing	Southwest Counseling Solutions
Emmanuel House	St. Francis Cabrini
Family Service, Inc./NOAH Project	St. John's Community Center
Freedom House	THAW
HAPI	The Salvation Army
Legal Aide and Defender	Traveler's Aid Society of Metro Detroit
	United Community Housing Coalition

HAND continues to work to implement HMIS data collection and reporting at additional agencies and within additional programs, to help ensure we have the most complete, robust data possible.





Mission:  
PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

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