



2016

HOMELESS ACTION NETWORK OF DETROIT



2016 State of Homelessness  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
January - December 2016



## HOMELESS ACTION NETWORK OF DETROIT (HAND)

Since 1996, the Homeless Action Network of Detroit (HAND) has served as the region's leading resource on solutions to homelessness. Known as the Continuum of Care Lead, HAND is the only agency recognized by HUD to apply for homeless funding in Detroit. We secure over \$26 million dollars annually in federal funds. These resources support local service agencies in their mission of ending homelessness. HAND is unique in its perspective on homeless data. We coordinate the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which is the only comprehensive database on homelessness in Detroit. With over 85,000 distinct client records, we are able to ensure that we have thorough and 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.

## ENDING HOMELESSNESS

We help to make ending homelessness a reality by securing funding, analyzing data, and driving change in our community.

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)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** Homelessness in Detroit: Overall Picture
- 4** Homeless Families Characteristics
- 5-7** Special Populations: Chronically Homeless and Youth
- 8** 3-Year Data Comparison
- 9** Decrease in Homeless Numbers
- 10-11** Resources & Funding
- 12-15** 2016 Accomplishments
- 16-17** 2016 Homelessness Awareness Week
- 18** Detroit Veteran Update 2016
- 19-20** Coordinated Assessment Model (CAM) – 2016 Summary
- 21** Permanent Supportive Housing in Detroit –  
Prioritization and Coordinated Referrals
- 23-24** Appendices
  - Appendix 1: What is HMIS?
  - Appendix 2: Agencies using the System



# 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 95% OF OVERALL HOMELESS IN THE DETROIT CONTINUUM <sup>2</sup>	<b>14,117</b>	<b>9,560</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>2,913</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>2,107</b>
<b>MALE</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>TRANSGENDER</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>UNDER 18</b>	<b>21%</b>			<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>AGE 18-24</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>29%</b>			<b>6%</b>
<b>AGE 25-54</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>65%</b>			<b>60%</b>
<b>AGE 55+</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>6%</b>			<b>32%</b>
<b>AVERAGE AGE</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>WHITE</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>AFRICAN AMERICAN</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>OBTAINED GED OR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>18%</b>			<b>33%</b>
<b>SOME COLLEGE<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>6%</b>			<b>12%</b>

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

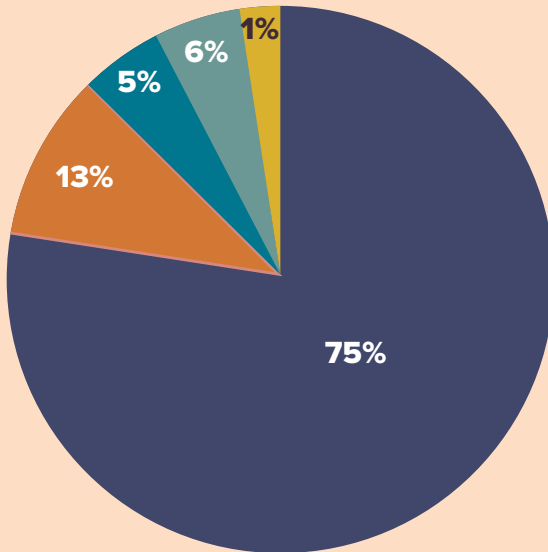
<sup>2</sup> See page 23 for details on data limitations. <sup>3</sup> Highest level of education attained

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

# HOMELESS FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

Over the course of 2016, we served **2,019** families

Composition of Homeless Families



- Female Single Parent
- Two-Parent Families
- Male Single Parent
- Other Family Composition
- Grandparents, Foster Parents, or Non-Custodial Caregivers



**46%** of homeless adults in families who responded had a High School Diploma/ GED or better

**37%** of homeless families reported being homeless for the first time in 2016

**18%** of families were homeless for 12 or more months at the time of program entry in 2016

**12%** of families were homeless four or more times prior to program entry in 2016

# CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

A person is considered “chronically homeless” if he/she has been homeless four or more times in the past three 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 2016, a total of **2,107** people were identified as being chronically homeless
- **71%** of the chronically homeless were males, while **29%** were females
- The average age for females was **43**
- The average age for males was **48**
- **90%** of the chronically homeless were Black/African American and **9%** were White, and 1% was other
- **94%** of chronically homeless were singles and **6%** were adults in families
- **32%** of chronically homeless were ages **55** and older

## Education

- **33%** of chronically homeless adults did not have a high school diploma or GED
- **12%** of chronically homeless adults had some college education







# YOUTH

The following data for youth outlines youth ages 18-24 and those under the age of 18 that are “unaccompanied” and 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

Overall (Youth ages 24 and under)

- **90%** were black, 4% were white and 1% other\*
- **18%** were domestic violence victims/survivors
- **35%** have a disabling condition
- **32%** were not covered by health insurance

## EXTENT OF HOMELESSNESS

# of times on streets, in emergency shelter or safe haven in the past 3 years:

- **43%** reported one time
- **21%** reported 2 times

Youth ages 18 – 24:

107 unaccompanied youth (under 18 years of age) were served by homeless service providers

- **7** were ages 11-14
- **98** were ages 15-17
- **85%** were females
- **15%** were males

*\*a small percentage of race questions were not answered by unaccompanied youth*

## 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. 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, many young people who were “couch surfing” are not included in these numbers of homeless youth. 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.

COMPARISONS	2014	2015	Change/ Trends 2014-2015	2016	Change/ Trends 2015-2016
Total number of homeless	15,717	16,040	+2%	14,117	-12%
Number of singles	11,178	10,406	-7%	9,560	-8%
Number of adults in families	2,166	2,403	+11%	2,019	-16%
Number of children in families	2,947	3,587	+22%	2,913	-19%
Number of unaccompanied youth <sup>1</sup>	64	193	+200%	107	-45%
Chronically homeless <sup>2</sup>	3,300	2,107	-36%	2,107	-
Veterans	1,105	1,562	+41%	1,407	-10%

<sup>1</sup> See page 7 for a discussion on youth homelessness.

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





# DECREASE IN HOMELESS NUMBERS - 2016

Over the course of 2016, a total of 14,117 people experienced homelessness at some point during the year. This is a 12% decrease from the total number of people who were reported homeless over the course of 2015 (16,040)!

It is exciting and encouraging to be able to report on this overall decrease in the number of people who experienced homelessness in 2016. All population types experienced a decrease in numbers, with a slight exception in the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness.

## **Single Individuals**

Over the course of 2016, there were approximately 840 fewer single individuals who were homeless than the year prior. Part of this decrease may be a result of new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units that became available during 2016.

## **Family Homelessness**

The number of homeless families, and children in those families, decreased from 2015 to 2016 by 18%. Part of this decrease may be due to an increase in Rapid Rehousing (RRH) resources that were realized in 2016. RRH is typically targeted to families, and provides short to medium term rental assistance to help the families become rehoused.

Although fewer families were reported as homeless, it is important to note that the CAM Call Center continues to report a high volume of calls from families seeking emergency shelter, and a continued lack of emergency shelter capacity to serve these families. Therefore, our Continuum must continue to target resources toward families.

## **Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness**

There was a significant decrease in the number of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 (45%). Detroit City Councilmember Mary Sheffield and other youth serving homeless providers formed the Youth Homelessness Subcommittee, which is tasked with developing and implementing a community-wide, strategic response to youth homelessness.

## **Chronic Homelessness**

Determining a precise number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness over the course of a year is challenging, given that the definition of “chronic homeless” is complicated and difficult to document. Additionally, a person’s status as being “chronically homeless” can fluctuate throughout the year. Given these factors, the CoC has made many attempts to improve our data on persons experiencing chronic homelessness. These efforts may be a contributing factor to the slight increase in the number of chronically homeless persons reported in 2016.

## RESOURCES & FUNDING

The Detroit Continuum of Care received a total of \$26,130,090 to fund projects serving people experiencing homelessness. The funding for these projects were utilized over the course of 2015 and 2016.

### HUD FY2015 Detroit Continuum of Care Awards

	New Awards	Renewal Awards
<b>Permanent Housing</b>		
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$2,419,304	\$12,631,373
Rapid ReHousing	\$2,601,615	\$ 890,659
Transitional Housing	N/A	\$3,907,993
Safe Haven	N/A	\$ 428,000
<b>Supportive Services Only</b>		
Coordinated Entry Services	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,215,141
Other Services	N/A	\$ 1,370,772
<b>Homeless Management Information System</b>	N/A	\$ 290,233
<b>CoC Planning</b>	\$ 175,000	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,395,919</b>	<b>\$20,734,171</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$26,130,090</b>



## Homeless Services Funding: 2016

Project Type	# of Projects	CoC	State ESP	State ESG	City ESG	City CDBG	PATH	VA Funding	RHY	TOTALS
Emergency Shelter	26	\$ -	\$ 3,251,370	\$ -	\$1,365,000	\$1,042,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,028,639	\$ 6,687,609
Permanent Supportive Housing	39	\$ 15,050,677	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	VASH	\$ -	\$ 15,050,677
Prevention	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$160,073	\$ 287,347	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 447,420
Rapid ReHousing	10	\$ 3,492,274	\$ -	\$ -	\$917,372	\$ 400,000	\$ -	SSVF	\$ -	\$ 4,809,646
Safe Haven	1	\$ 428,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	HCHV	\$ -	\$ 428,000
Street Outreach	8	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$1,296,325	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,596,325
Supportive Services Only	6	\$ 1,370,772	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,370,772
Transitional Housing	32	\$ 3,907,993	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 338,400	\$ -	GPD	\$ -	\$ 4,246,393
CAM Infrastructure Projects (includes some direct financial assistance for RRH & prevention)	8	\$ 1,415,141	\$ -	\$407,154	\$200,00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,022,295
CoC Infrastructure Projects (includes HMIS and CoC Planning)	3	\$ 465,233	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 465,233
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 26,130,090</b>	<b>\$ 3,251,370</b>	<b>\$407,154</b>	<b>\$2,642,445</b>	<b>\$2,368,347</b>	<b>\$1,296,325</b>		<b>\$ 1,028,639</b>	<b>\$ 37,124,370</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



## 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Transitional Housing

**84% (939)** exited to Permanent Housing

- Compared to 2015:
  - 78% (1,008) exited to Permanent Housing

### Permanent Supportive Housing

**96%** of people served in PSH either retained their housing or moved to other permanent housing

- Slightly lower (1%) performance than in 2015
- Served 71 more people in 2016 than in 2015
  - 2015 total served: 2,478
  - 2016 total served: 2,549

### Rapid Re-Housing

**85% (896)** of people served by a RRH program exited to a permanent housing destination

- This is an increase from 2015, where 81% of people served exited to permanent housing

### Emergency Shelter

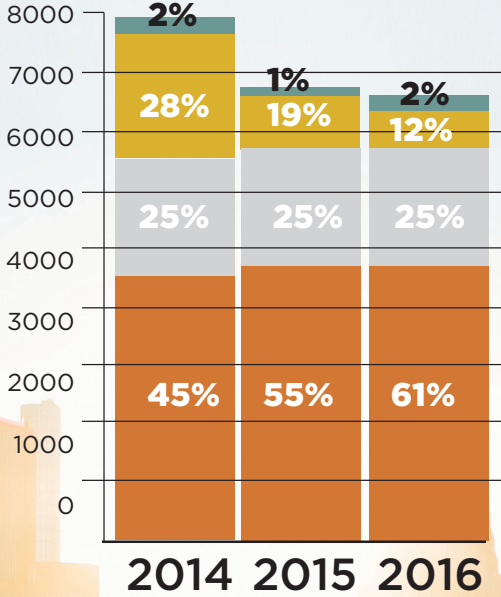
**25% (1,465)** of people exited from Emergency Shelter exited to a permanent housing destination

- Performance remains steady over the past two years, although there were fewer people served in ES in 2016 than in 2015.





# 3-YEAR EMERGENCY SHELTER DESTINATION COMPARISON: 2014 AND 2016



- Exited to Institutional Settings
- Exited to Other Destination
- Exited to Permanent Destination
- Exited to Temporary Destination



## Outreach

**48% (758)** of people exited from Street Outreach programs exited to a sheltered destination

- 31% (483) exited to a permanent housing destination
- 17% (275) 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

**1,026** adults increased their monthly income while receiving services

- Average increase in income was \$639 a month



## 2016 HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK — PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (HAW) is held annually during the week before Thanksgiving. This is a time to focus on our compassion toward those who are experiencing homelessness, and also to reflect on ways to change our world so that no one has to be hungry or homeless. Each year, during this week, agencies and organizations across the nation host and participate in a myriad of activities and events geared towards bringing awareness to this devastating issue. The Detroit Continuum of Care and HAND (as the lead agency) participate in HAW each year by hosting events that bring together the community and our partner agencies in an effort to bring awareness to homelessness in the city of Detroit.

On Wednesday, November 16, 2016, HAND and the Detroit CoC hosted Project Homeless Connect at Perfecting Church located in the heart of the city's northeast side. Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is designed as an all-inclusive community oriented event for individuals and families who are at-risk of becoming homeless or already experiencing homelessness. The goal is to bring together community resources that can support individuals and families in times of economic hardship. These range from typical social service providers to free goods and services.

PHC connected the most vulnerable Detroiters to vital resources throughout the city by bringing them together in one place at the same time. By mobilizing city and community agencies, as well as numerous volunteers, we were able to ensure that our participants received holistic care in a dignified setting. This was the first time PHC was hosted as part of Homelessness Awareness Week in Detroit and it was a success. Having served over 150 individuals that came through the doors, it was rewarding to see the hope on their faces as they left; knowing they had been empowered by the information and resources they were provided.



Several vendors were on site to provide services and goods to individuals who were present, including:

- Absolute Communications
- Awrey Bakery
- Best Bank
- Better Made Potato Chips
- Community Home Supports
- Community Social Services
- Detroit Central City CMH
- Detroit Harley Kingz & Queenz
- Detroit Housing Commission
- Development Centers
- Goodwill Flip the Script
- Lakeshore Legal Aid
- Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
- Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan
- Oak Street Health
- Simply Casual
- Southwest Counseling Solutions
- THAW (The Heat And Warmth Fund)
- Uncle Rays
- Veteran's Administration
- Volunteers of America
- Walgreens

Additional services provided at event:

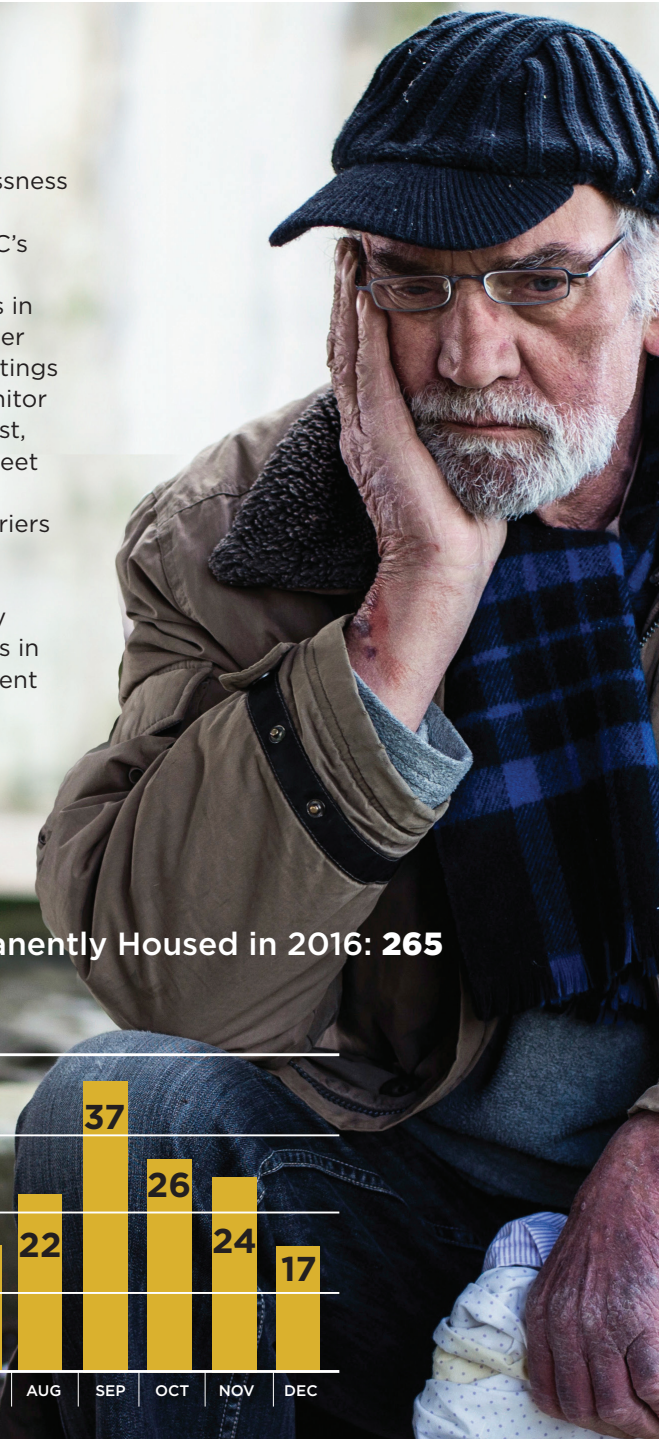
- Free Flu Shots
- Free Mobile Dentist
- Free Haircuts
- Free Clothing & Footwear

We absolutely could not have done it without our community partners and volunteers! The 2016's Project Homeless Connect was a complete success and the Detroit CoC is looking forward to greater things in 2017!



## DETROIT VETERAN UPDATE 2016

In 2016, efforts to house veterans experiencing homelessness continued to progress. Beginning in the spring, veteran service providers convened bi-weekly to review our CoC's By-Name List. This list contains information for each veteran engaged by veteran homeless service providers in our community along with the name of the case manager assigned to assist them in securing housing. These meetings also served as check points throughout the year to monitor progress toward ending veteran homelessness. In August, key stakeholders gathered to review Detroit's plan to meet the federal criteria and benchmarks for ending veteran homelessness by April 2017. Participants discussed barriers encountered in getting veterans off the streets and into stable housing - and brainstormed solutions. In the fall, this information was used to map out coordinated entry for veterans seeking housing and spurred improvements in the local system structured to connect them to permanent housing opportunities.



### Number of Homeless Veterans Permanently Housed in 2016: **265**





## COORDINATED ASSESSMENT MODEL (CAM) IN THE DETROIT CONTINUUM A REVIEW OF CAM IN 2016

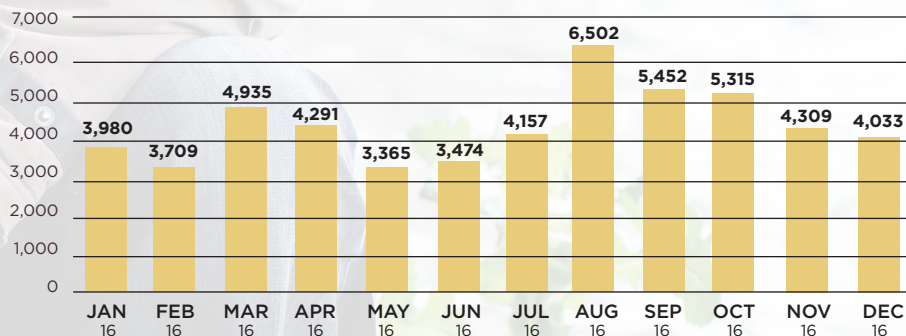
The Coordinated Assessment Model (CAM) process aimed at prioritizing and linking the clients from the entry point (assessment/eligibility) to placement in available housing. CAM continued to coordinate referrals with family and single Emergency Shelters, Rapid Rehousing providers and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) providers in the Detroit CoC. In 2016, street outreach coordination was strengthened as well as a community commitment to prioritize chronic individuals and families for resources.

### CAM Call Center: 2016

The CAM call center primarily provided referrals for shelter and street outreach engagement during 2016. Efforts were made to improve response time, decrease dropped calls and increase referrals to beneficial resources. There was a greater focus on assisting those with a housing crises versus general housing needs. As 2016 rounded out there was an opportunity to coordinate with the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan as they started planning for a pilot diversion program in Detroit.

There were **53,522** calls answered during the year. The chart below details the monthly call volume answered by the staff during regular business hours. The call center developed a daily prioritization process to address individuals and/or families who were not able to access our communities shelter beds. During 2016, there were **8,010** unduplicated callers that were unable to access shelter at first inquiry due to lack of shelter space. Families represented **43%** of these callers.

CAM Call Center: Monthly Call Volume (business hours only)

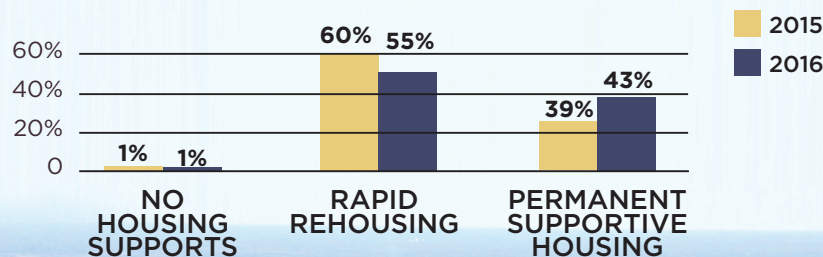


# SERVICE PRIORITIZATION DECISION ASSISTANCE TOOL (SPDAT): 2016

We continued to utilize the Service Prioritization Assessment Tool (SPDAT) to determine acuity and service needs to aide in assisting with prioritizing clients in Detroit. In the fall of 2016, it was determined that for Rapid Rehousing referrals, only the VI-SPDAT (pre-screen) would be completed.

There were **1,256** Full SPDAT's completed on clients in shelter and/or a place not meant for habitation in 2016. The Full SPDAT scoring between 2015 and 2016 exhibited a **4%** increase in clients scoring for Permanent Supportive Housing while the clients scoring for Rapid Rehousing decreased by **5%\***. The clients scoring on the full SPDAT for "No Housing Supports" was below **2%**. The Full SPDAT outcome scores continue to be utilized as one of the key factors to prioritize clients for Permanent Supportive Housing.

## FULL SPDAT OUTCOME SCORES COMPARISON



*\*The data above includes Rapid Rehousing Full SPDAT results through October 2016.*



# PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING — PRIORITIZATION AND COORDINATED REFERRALS

## What is Permanent Supportive Housing?

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is an intervention targeted a people who have long histories of homelessness, and have significant barriers to accessing and maintaining housing. These barriers may be lack of income, a disabling condition, a poor rental history, or any combination of these factors. PSH provides long-term, subsidized housing and wrap-around services. The tenant pays a portion of his/her income towards the rent, but because it is subsidized, the housing remains affordable. The wrap-around services are there to help the tenant keep that housing and prevent eviction. The services are tailored to the tenants needs and wants and may include mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, job training, or life skills assistance. PSH has been proven to be an effective model of housing - and keeping housed - individuals who would otherwise continue to be homeless.

Starting in March 2016, all Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects began exclusively accepting prioritized referrals to their projects through our community's coordinated entry process. This meant that as clients were referred to PSH, our community was ensuring that those clients presenting with the greatest vulnerabilities and greatest barriers to housing were prioritized for housing. We further refined our PSH matching process over the course of 2016.

The community was also excited to have five new CoC-funded Permanent Supportive Housing projects begin leasing up in 2016. Together, these five projects began providing 155 new units of Permanent Supportive Housing for people who are chronically homeless.

We are committed to continue to refine the polices and procedures around our community's PSH prioritization referrals as well as creating fair and effective methods for serving individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness that are best served with this resource.

### Permanent Supportive Housing Match Data Snapshot (March - December 2016):

Referred <small>(thru 12/31/2015)</small>		Housed
TOTAL	495	383
FAMILIES	21	
CHRONIC	82	



# HandUp

## DETROIT


Initiated and lead by South Oakland Shelter (SOS), HandUp Detroit is a collaborative effort among Oakland County and Detroit nonprofits. HandUp Detroit partners are working together across city and county lines to more effectively remove barriers to stability for those experiencing poverty in our community.

This fund will remove many of the hurdles that people face when they are trying to find or maintain housing. Costs associated with moving, such as security deposits, furniture, and utility bills that are usually difficult for agencies to fund, can all be covered by donations to the campaign. This will increase the capacity of participating agencies to move more people out of homelessness and poverty.

Clients at participating agencies can share a bit about who they are and fundraise for basic needs related to housing, transportation, employment, education, and medical care. Donors can then give directly to those needs in a responsible way and post words of encouragement to which clients can respond. Through this engagement, donors learn about the people they are helping and foster a personal connection. This campaign empowers clients to share their stories, post images and thank you's to donors. Donors are encouraged to view client profiles and give. HandUp Detroit helps break the stigmas and stereotypes of homelessness while raising critical funds.

100% of donations go towards meeting clients basic needs. Together, the collaborative has raised over \$187,000 to help over 440 people. The Detroit HandUp Campaign was made possible through the support of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the McGregor Fund.

Visit [Detroit.HandUp.org](http://Detroit.HandUp.org) to experience the full impact.

 [facebook.com/HandUpDetroit](https://facebook.com/HandUpDetroit)  
 [twitter.com/HandUpDetroit](https://twitter.com/HandUpDetroit)

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE DETROIT CoC CHRONIC LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Modeled after the Veteran's by name list (BNL), the Detroit CoC is endeavoring to tackle the issue of chronic homelessness in our community. In December of 2015 the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the final rule on defining "Chronically Homeless". To be considered chronically homeless an individual (or head of household) must have a verified disabling condition which include one of the following:

- A diagnosable substance abuse disorder
- A serious mental illness
- A developmental disability
- A chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions.

Accompanying a disabling condition, to be considered chronically homeless one must have been continuously homeless at least a year or have had four episodes of homelessness in the last three years (totaling 12 months). Chronic homelessness is further defined by an individual or family sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (i.e. sleeping in a park, in their car, or an abandoned building), living in an emergency shelter or safe haven.

After the change in the chronic homelessness definition was more clearly defined by HUD, street and shelter outreach workers began to identify a targeted population that fit into this category. By beginning to prioritize those who are the most vulnerable in our community (hard sleepers, persons with disabling conditions, and those not otherwise housed by traditional means), we are honoring the mandate of the federal strategic plan to end homelessness, "Opening Doors".

This initiative began in late 2016 by reaching out to our state partner Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH). This program is designed to engage vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness. PATH and local outreach teams will begin with those who are living unsheltered, as those are the most vulnerable in our community.

The ability to automate the Chronic BNL using real-time HMIS data is key in capturing all those who are maturing into and losing their HUD defined chronic-status. By working collaboratively, using HMIS data, along with information gathered from outreach workers and navigators, the Detroit CoC is hopeful that we will be able to locate, engage, assess, and house the chronically homeless in our community.

# APPENDICES

“DATA IS ONE OF THE MOST  
POWERFUL TOOLS WE HAVE IN OUR  
TOOLKIT TO END HOMELESSNESS”

– Mark Johnston,

Retired Assistant Secretary U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

– Office of Community Planning and Development

## 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/or 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 (VA), the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), the State of Michigan Department of Human Services, and the City of Detroit require the use of HMIS for certain programs. To improve our coverage rate, the Detroit CoC continues to encourage other funders to require the use of HMIS.

In the Detroit Continuum of Care, there are currently 37 service organizations with 223 data entry end users entering data into the system. As the HMIS in Detroit continues to mature, there also continues to be improvements 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 95% coverage of the homeless clients in Detroit's Continuum of Care from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

#### 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 2016, there were 37 agencies actively entering data into the HMIS. These agencies are listed here.**

Alternatives for Girls	Michigan Veterans Foundation
Blue Water CIL	Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan
Cass Community Social Services	Neighborhood Service Organization
Central City Integrated Health	New Day Multi-Purpose Center
Coalition on Temporary Shelter	NOAH Project
Community & Home Supports	Operation Get Down
Community Social Services of Wayne County	Positive Images
Covenant Community Care	Ruth Ellis Center
Covenant House	Samaritas
Detroit East/Gateway Community Mental Health	SHAR House, Inc.
Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries	Southwest Counseling Solutions
Development Centers, Inc.	St. Francis Cabrini
Emmanuel House	St. John Community Center
Faith Love N Kindness	THAW
Freedom House	The Salvation Army
Legal Aid and Defender	Travelers Aid Society of Metro Detroit
Love Outreach	United Community Housing Coalition
Mariners Inn	Volunteers of America
Matrix Human Services	

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.



HOMELESS ACTION NETWORK OF DETROIT

Mission:  
PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

[handetroit.org](http://handetroit.org)