Solving Homelessness in Washtenaw County 2012

The primary goal of Permanent Supportive Housing is that people will become and remain stably housed. PSH is permanently affordable (based on the tenant's income) with supportive services designed to provide assistance when needed to maintain stability. PSH has been proven to be the single most successful program for ending homelessness for people with significant challenges and disabilities.

Research confirms that it is 6 times less expensive to support a formerly homeless person in PSH than it is to pay for the costs of shelter and the other community costs that go with homelessness such as criminal justice, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations.

Permanent Supportive Housing is provided by Avalon Housing (231 units); Michigan Ability Partners (23 units); Ozone House (8 units); and the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County.

Data from: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) provided by agencies.
Homelessness in Michigan and Washtenaw County

**MICHIGAN 2011**

- **94,033** persons experienced homelessness
- **48,333** Persons in households with children
- Adults in Families who were employed **28%**
- **47,009** Individual adults
- Individual Adults who were employed **???**

**WASHTENAW COUNTY 2011**

- **4,069** persons experienced homelessness
- **2,252** Persons in households with children
- Adults in Families who were employed **37%**
- **1,786** Individual adults
- Individual Adults who were employed **21%**

While our economy continues to slowly rebound, the impact on struggling families will be felt long after “the recovery”. In 2011, we saw a slight decrease in the number of households experiencing homelessness over 2009 (7%). In 2011, 50% of the families with children reported their first time being homeless and 42% of the individual adults reported the same.

Overall, despite people reporting having “some employment” and despite even having “some college education” (20-24%), the fact that Washtenaw County continues to be the most expensive rental market in the state is our biggest challenge. Affordable housing remains elusive to those people in need.

The reasons for homelessness and the barriers faced by those who become homeless have not substantially changed.

Families with children report eviction, loss of job, under employment and family conflicts as the contributing factors to their homelessness. Individual adults report unemployment, jail or prison and substance abuse disorders as their factors.

The Washtenaw Housing Alliance, and its partners in our community, continues to develop best practices based on solid data and proven strategies to address the myriad of problems contributing to this community significant human tragedy.
## Homelessness among Veterans and Youth in Washtenaw County

### Veterans
There were **204** veterans experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw Co.

- 58% were 51 years old and up
- 31% were unemployed
- 30% were homeless for the first time
- 31% had been homeless 1-4 times in the past

Washtenaw County has **135** housing vouchers for veterans experiencing homelessness.

### Youth
There were **95** youth experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw Co.

Unaccompanied youth includes young people who have run away from home, been thrown out of their homes, and/or been abandoned by parents or guardians.

- 57% were females
- 88% were between the ages of 10 and 17
- 15% were employed
- 44% had been homeless at least one time in the past
- 92% remained housed for one year after leaving shelter.

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Working together, with best practices and data, we can see results in our community in...

**Emergency Shelter**
- Left Shelter for Positive Housing: 75%
- Stably Housed for 12 months after leaving shelter: 70%
- Increased or Maintained Income by the time they left shelter: 80%

**Transitional Housing**
- Left Program for Permanent Housing: 70%
- Stably Housed for 6 months after leaving the program: 76%
- Increased Employment Income by time they left the program: 44%

*Emergency shelter is provided by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County; IHN @ Alpha House; The Salvation Army; SOS Community Services; and Ozone House. Transitional Housing, a two year program of intensive supports and rent assistance, is provided by SOS Community Services, Michigan Ability Partners and Ozone House.*

Data provided by Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) provided by agencies.
...in Permanent Supportive Housing

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Remained Housed or Left for Permanent Housing during the year 93%

Maintained or Increased Total Income 72%

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Data from: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) provided by agencies.
Located in Washtenaw County, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA) is a unique coalition of 32 community-based organizations and government offices that serve people experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness. Founded in 2000, the WHA functions as a dynamic collaboration that harnesses the commitment, energy and resources of two major hospital systems, the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, institutions of higher education, the private sector and the community at large to end homelessness in Washtenaw County. The WHA has maximized this strong commitment to develop “A Home for Everyone: A Blueprint to End Homelessness in Washtenaw County”, our strategic plan. The WHA leads the way to creating a coordinated, thoughtful and responsive system of care for those in our community at risk of homelessness or who are experiencing homelessness.

For more information see: www.whalliance.org or Call: 734-222-6544
Know someone in need of assistance with housing?

**HOUSING ACCESS**

for WASHTENAW COUNTY

734-961-1999

Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm

Who should call?

- Facing eviction
- Owe back rent
- Experiencing homelessness
- With no ongoing place to stay

All shelters in Washtenaw County are filled by Housing Access

HAWC is a partnership of The Salvation Army, IHN® Alpha House, the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, Ozone House, SafeHouse Center, Michigan Ability Partners, SOS, Housing Bureau for Seniors, Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development and the Washtenaw Housing Alliance.

*Thanks to our funders: Washtenaw County, City of Ann Arbor, MSHDA, United Way of Washtenaw County and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation.*