



Memphis / Shelby County
Homeless Consortium



Community Alliance
FOR THE HOMELESS

NOISE



Gaps Analysis

*TN-501: Memphis & Shelby County
Data from 2023-2024*



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Philanthropy Representative

Josh Hall
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For-Profit Representative

At-Large Members

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Catholic Charities of West Tennessee

Alethia Allen
Catholic Charities of West Tennessee

Designated by Bylaws Errin Woods, *Lead Agency Liaison*

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WHO WE ARE

Mission

Community Alliance for the Homeless unites partners and coordinates a comprehensive response system to end homelessness in Memphis and Shelby County.

Vision

We are devoted to ending long-term homelessness and ensuring that future homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time.

Guiding Principles

We believe that housing is a basic human right.
We believe that homelessness is a solvable problem.
We believe that our community is equipped with resources to impact positive change.

Community Alliance for the Homeless (CAFTH) is the Lead Agency for the Memphis/Shelby County Continuum of Care.

Across Memphis/Shelby County, Community Alliance provides planning, technical assistance, and service coordination to public and private agencies that are working to end homelessness. We link planners, providers, data, and resources to develop an effective and outcomes-driven system for ending homelessness.

WHAT IS A COC?

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a group of regional agencies that may include homeless assistance providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, public housing authorities, school districts, mental health providers, hospitals, affordable housing developers, formerly homeless individuals, and many other collaborative bodies.

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Community Members,

At Community Alliance for the Homeless (CAFTH), our mission has always been clear: to lead effective community practices to end homelessness in Memphis and Shelby County. Today, that mission feels even more urgent. As we work towards ending homelessness in partnership with advocates and community partners, we face nationwide challenges of rising costs, stagnant wages, and a severe shortage of affordable housing. Despite the challenges, Memphis and Shelby County is equipped with the tools necessary to create positive change and address homelessness at a systems level. Together with our community partners and advocates, our work to end homelessness will continue to depend on the dignity, rights, and humanity of every person in Memphis and Shelby County. Each of us plays a different role, but all of us are vital to the work ahead.

Together, we will listen and learn from one another, strengthening a foundation of partnership with all inhabitants of Memphis and Shelby County. This approach will maximize our priority of providing services to everyone in need based on a collective outcomes-driven response to homelessness. As a direct result of our continued collaboration with community partners and advocates, we will expand possibilities, drive innovation, and ensure that every person in our community has the opportunity to thrive.

That said, Community Alliance will continue to support our community's efforts and work towards a future where homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time. Leading the Memphis and Shelby County Consortium of Care (CoC) and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), CAFTH understands that progress and change require more than just vision and hope. It requires humility, persistence, technical expertise, partnership, and the ability to advocate for resources while implementing systemic and systematic change. We will continue to lead with purpose, bringing together resources, expertise, and dedication needed to create lasting change.

As the new CEO, I am humbled to step into this role with determination and hope to lead alongside the network of partners and advocates who have long carried this work forward before me.

In solidarity,

Dr. Sydne Taylor
President & CEO
Community Alliance for the Homeless





The Housing Landscape

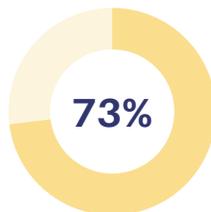
TN-501 is home to **46,997** Extremely Low Income (ELI) renters, but only **12,659** units are available for ELI renters.

46,997
ELI renters

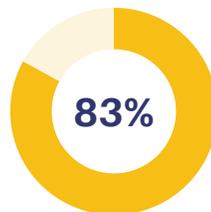


12,659
ELI units

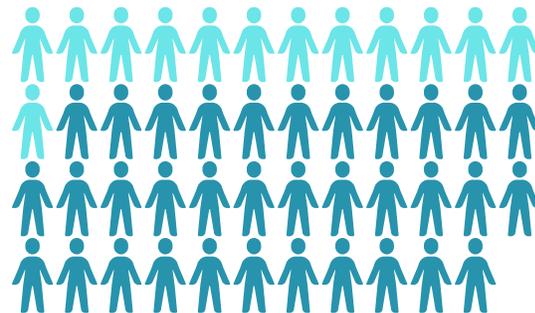
With a 34,338 deficit in ELI units, only 27% of our ELI neighbors can secure affordable housing options, while the other 73% of households must take on additional cost burden.



73% of ELI renters forced to pay for housing out of their price range.



83% of ELI renters are severely cost burdened.



only 27% of ELI renters have affordable housing options available to them in TN-501.

DEFINITIONS

Severely Cost-Burdened

spending more than half of monthly household income on housing costs.

Fair Market Rent (FMR)

Set by HUD to determine rent payment amounts and rent ceilings for HUD-funded programs, such as the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Extremely low-income (ELI)

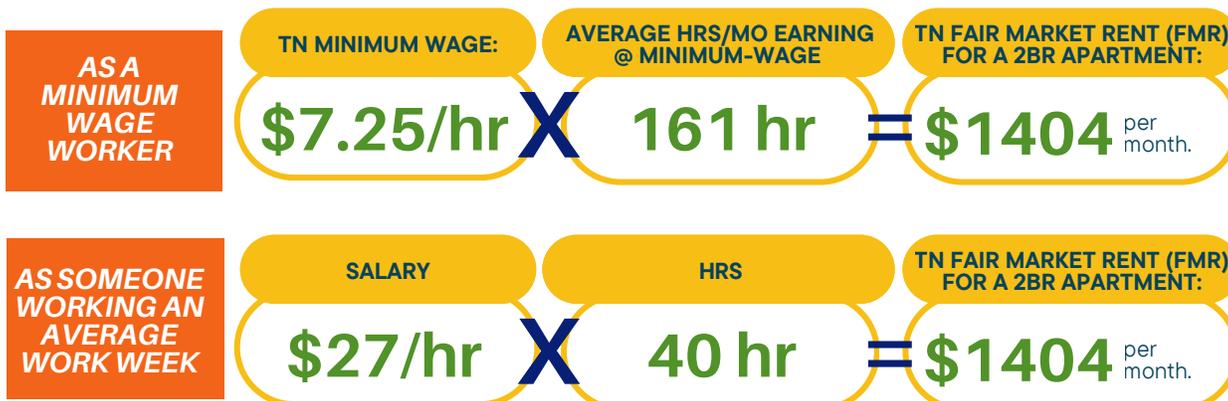
Households where total income <30% of the area median income.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN TN

In Tennessee, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom dwelling is \$1,404. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities – without paying more than 30% of income on housing – **a household must earn \$4680 monthly** or \$56,160 annually. This translates into \$27 per hour state housing wage, assuming someone works 40 hours per week, 52 weeks a year.

Workers in many of the top occupations in Tennessee earn median wages that fall short of what a full-time worker needs for a two-bedroom apartment. \$27 = 3.7x the minimum wage (\$7.25/hr). 25 of the 30 largest occupations in Tennessee pay a lower median hourly wage than the wage a full-time worker needs to earn to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment at the state fair market rent.

IN ORDER TO PAY FOR A 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT, ONE MUST EITHER:



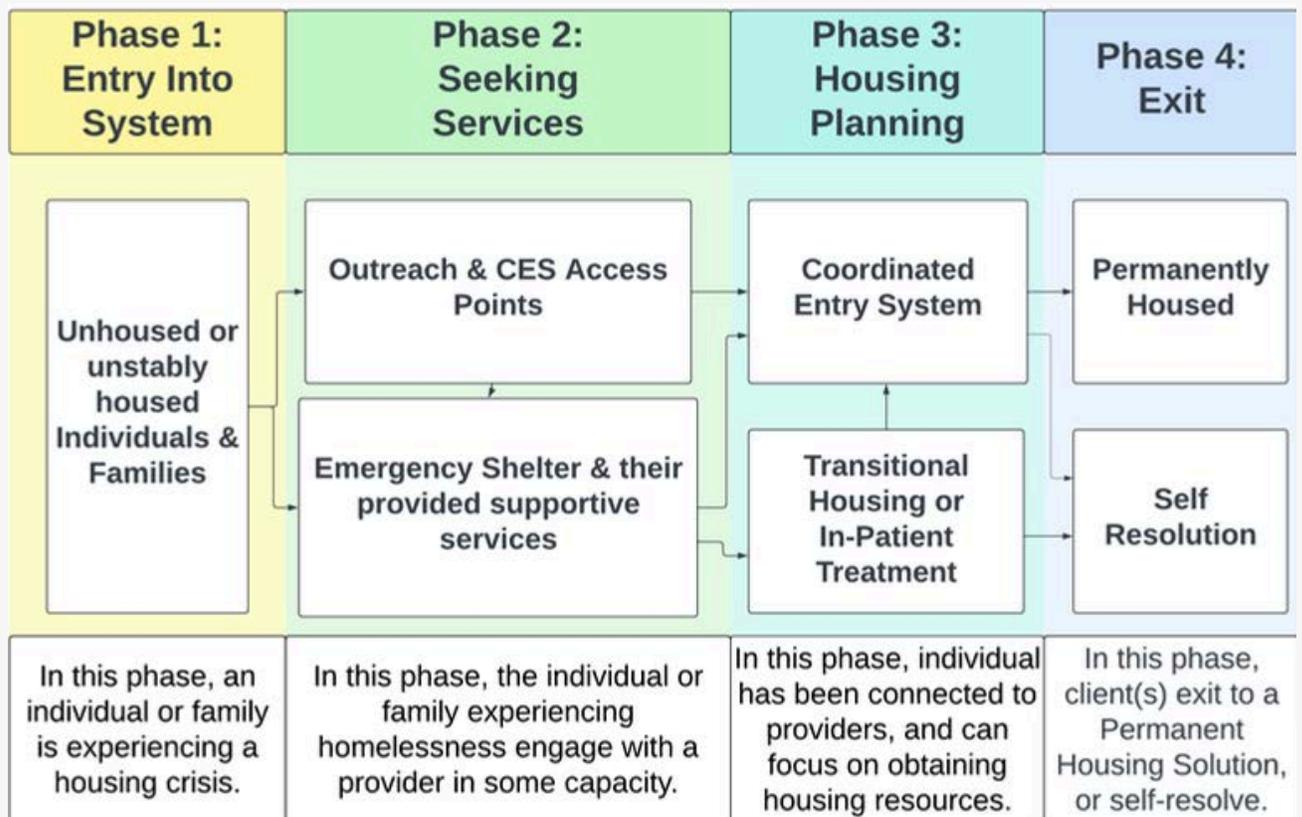
PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS CRITICAL TO PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS, REDUCING CHILDHOOD POVERTY, INCREASING ECONOMIC MOBILITY, AND BOOSTING LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH.

SOURCES CITED: The Gap report, NLIHC
Out of Reach report, NLIHC

About the Homeless Response System

A homeless response system (HRS) is a coordinated network of services, programs, and organizations working together to prevent, reduce, and ultimately end homelessness within a community or region.

HOW DOES A CLIENT MOVE THROUGH THE HRS?



THE HRS ENSURES THAT LIMITED RESOURCES ARE ALLOCATED EFFICIENTLY AND THAT PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ARE MOVED QUICKLY INTO STABLE HOUSING.



In TN-501, CAFTH manages all of the system-level tools underpinning service provision, including the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Coordinated Entry System, Rank & Review, and the Memphis & Shelby County Homeless Consortium.

These elements may not appear as urgent as direct services; however, they are **essential to ensuring the Homelessness Response System (HRS) operates efficiently, equitably, and strategically**. System-level tools help prioritize people appropriately, ensure they receive care tailored to their needs, and provide the data needed to understand long-term trends, identify gaps, and plan for a stronger, more effective homelessness response in the future.



Direct services include housing solutions, emergency shelters, street outreach, and prevention and diversion programs. These services are delivered directly and systematically by **staff at partner agencies** to meet the immediate needs of individuals and families seeking help.

AN EFFECTIVE HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM RELIES ON TWO INTERCONNECTED TYPES OF SUPPORTS: SYSTEMS-LEVEL TOOLS AND DIRECT SERVICES.

Continuum of Care Grant Impact

THE IMPACT AND SCOPE OF FY2024 FEDERAL FUNDING IN TN-501

WHAT IS THE COC GRANT?

Each year, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releases a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), launching a competitive, nationwide process soliciting applications for projects dedicated to addressing homelessness. Local Continuums of Care (CoC)—regional planning bodies designated by HUD—are responsible for managing this process within their geographic area. Here in Memphis and Shelby County (TN-501), Community Alliance for the Homeless (CAFTH) is the Lead Agency.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

CoC funding is essential because it supports the housing and service programs proven to reduce homelessness. These funds allow communities to meet urgent housing needs while also addressing systemic barriers that contribute to homelessness. Without CoC resources, many of the core programs and infrastructure that sustain the local homelessness response system could not operate at scale.

HOW DOES IT WORK, AND WHAT IS CAFTH'S ROLE?

Through the annual NOFO competition, HUD evaluates and awards funding based on each community's performance and alignment with federal priorities. As the CoC Collaborative Applicant, CAFTH manages the community-wide application process using the following steps:

- 1. Calling for HUD CoC NOFO Grant submissions when the application opens.**
 - a. Aside from simply announcing the opportunity, the lead agency often hosts info sessions and trainings; shares helpful resources for those applying; and conducts outreach to community organizations that may benefit from funding.
- 2. Collecting new and renewal project applications.**
- 3. Conducting Rank & Review Processes.**
 - a. This process follows fair, transparent, collaborative, and data-driven protocols. It helps prioritize funding allotment for program applications by assessing performance, alignment with community and national priorities, capacity, and need.
- 4. Compiling & submitting the TN-501 collaborative CoC application to HUD.**
 - a. The collaborative application includes CoC Lead Agency application (including system tools, gaps, performance, planning, strategies, etc.); priority listings, and individual project applications.

COC & YHDP FUNDED AGENCIES IN 2024

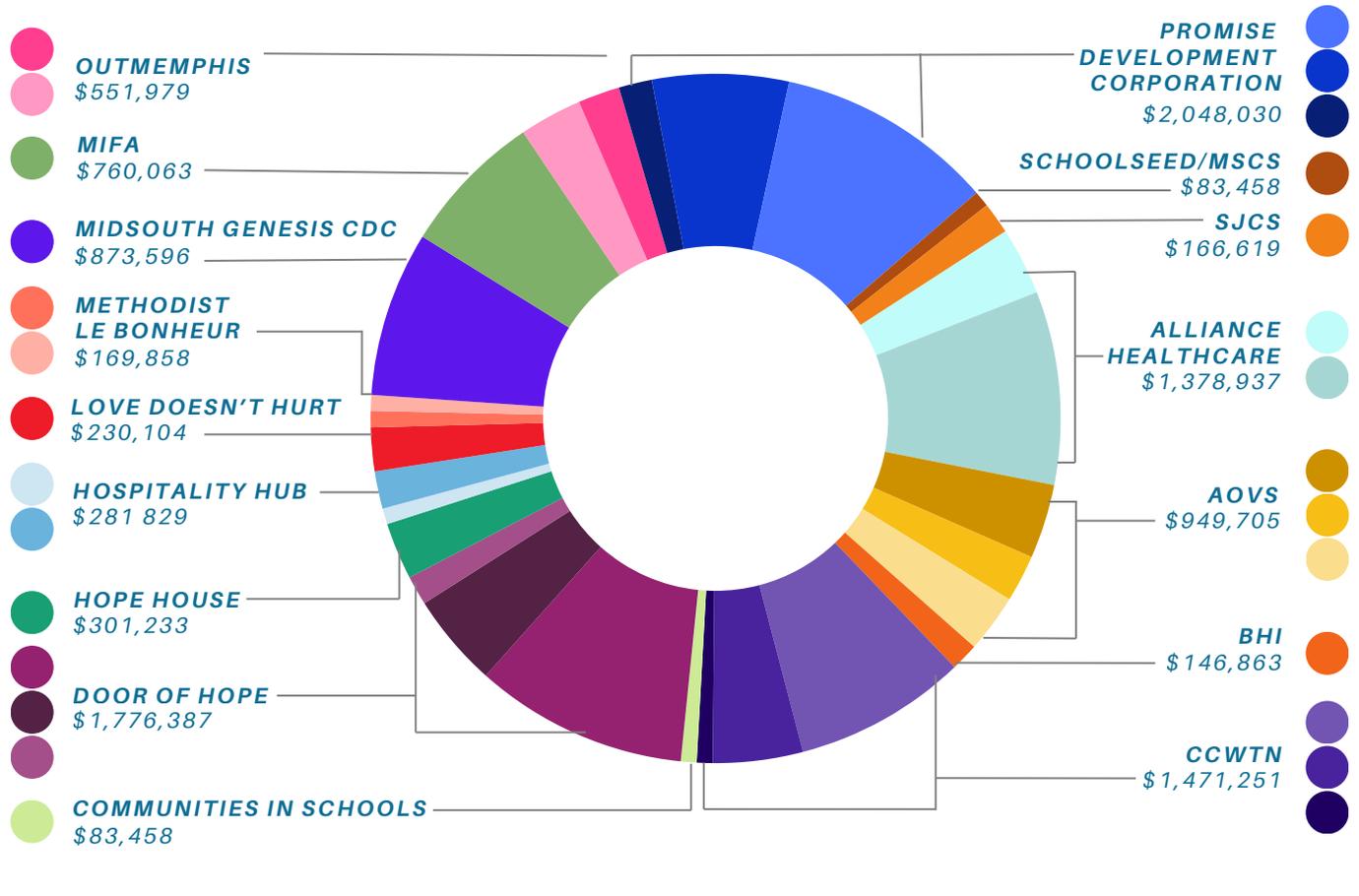


THIS REPORT PROVIDES A BREAKDOWN OF THE 2025 COC NOFO AWARD AND THE IMPACT OF THESE FUNDS ON THE HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SYSTEM IN MEMPHIS DURING 2024.

\$12,795,521

TOTAL AWARDED IN FY24

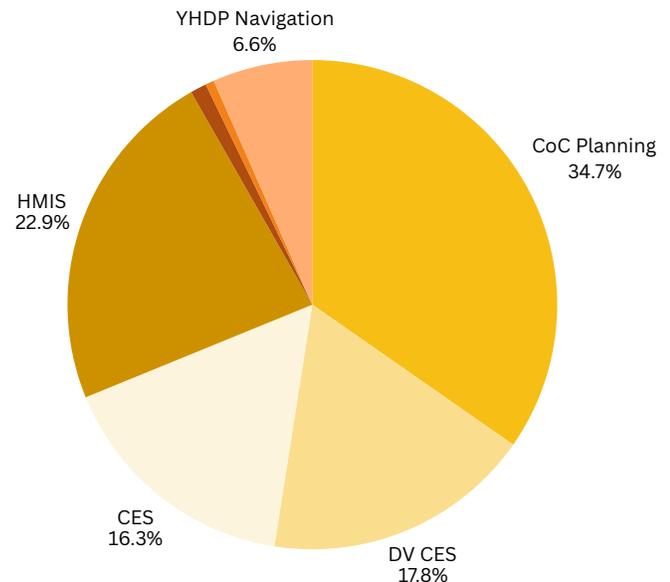
THE 2024 CoC NOFO Granted Funding to 29 programs between 16 organizations.



In addition to supporting direct service providers, HUD CoC NOFO funds are used to bolster key systems and staff at the Continuum of Care Lead Agency and beyond. This use of funds ensures that the planning and tools foundational to progress continue to function optimally.

Planning & Tools

- CoC Planning: **\$528,086**
- DV CES: **\$270,700**
- CES (CoC + YHDP): **\$248,805**
- HMIS (CoC + YHDP): **\$349,130**
- YHDP RRH: **\$16,250**
- YHDP TH: **\$8,750**
- YHDP Navigation: **\$100,430**



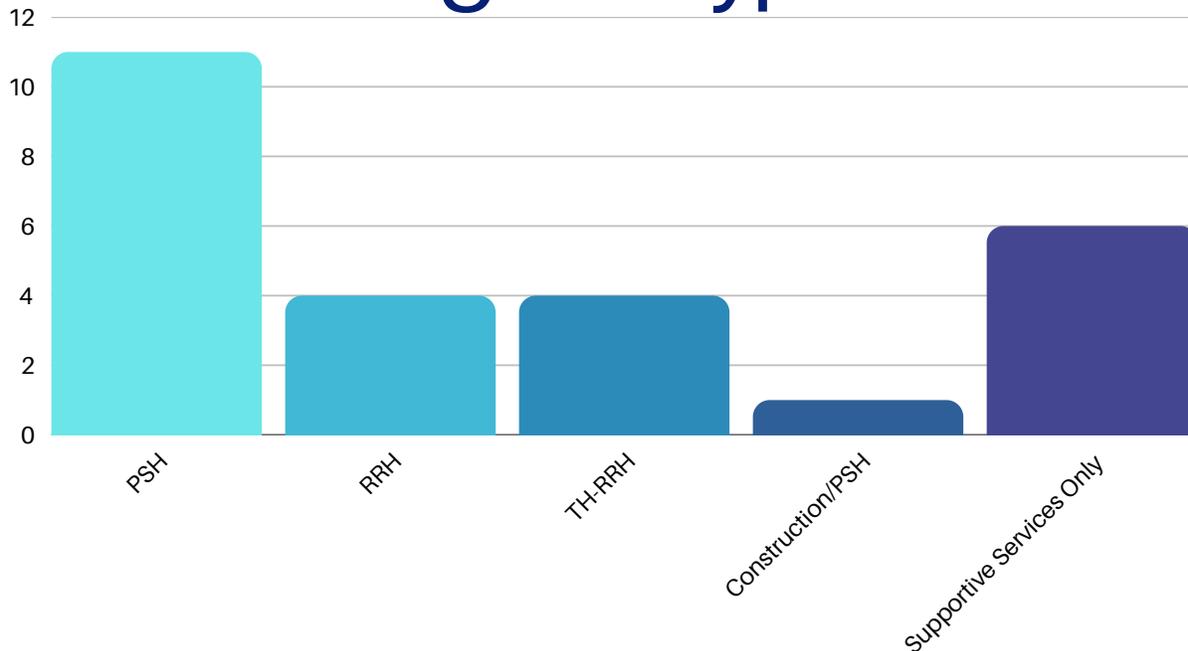
Projects + Funding Awarded

Organization	Program	Type of Project	Population	Funding
Alliance Healthcare Services	North Hill Woods	PSH	Single Adults	\$357,281
	STAY	PSH	Single Adults	\$1,021,656
Alpha Omega Veterans Services	Combined Depot	PSH	Veterans	\$393,614
	Court St	PSH	Veterans	\$248,559
	Lease program*	PSH	Veterans	\$307,532
Behavioral Health Initiative	Phoenix Project	PSH	Single Adults	\$146,863
Catholic Charities	Genesis Homeless Services	RRH	Single Adults	\$912,945
	YHDP Rapid Re-Housing Program	RRH	Youth 18-24	\$474,848
	YHDP Navigation Program	Supportive Services Only	Youth 18-24	\$83,458
Communities in Schools-Memphis	YHDP Navigation Program	Supportive Services Only	Youth 18-24	\$83,458
Door of Hope	245 N. Bellevue	PSH	Single Adults	\$1,125,823
	DV	Joint TH-RRH	DV	\$495,258
	Madison Place	PSH	Single Adults	\$155,306
Hope House	Housing Assistance for Youth Living with HIV	Joint TH-RRH	Youth 18-24	\$301,233
Hospitality Hub	YHDP Transitional Housing Program	TH	Youth 18-24	\$198,371
	YHDP Navigation Program	Supportive Services Only	Youth 18-24	\$83,458
Love Doesn't Hurt	Emergency Services	Joint TH-RRH	DV	\$230,104
Methodist LeBonheur	YHDP Memphis Host Homes	Supportive Services Only	Youth 18-24	\$86,400
	YHDP Navigation Program	Supportive Services Only	Youth 18-24	\$83,458
Mid-South Genesis CDC	The Healing Place*	Joint TH-RRH	DV	\$873,596
MIFA	MIFA-RRH Program	RRH	Families	\$760,063
OUTMemphis	Metamorphosis CoC	RRH	Youth 18-24	\$331,226
	Metamorphosis YHDP	Joint TH-RRH	Youth 18-24	\$220,753
Promise Development Corporation	Casey's Rehab Project*	Construction/PSH	Single Adults	\$175,000
	Promise Leasing Expansion	PSH	Families	\$720,213
	Promise Leasing	PSH	Single Adults	\$1,152,817
SchoolSeed Foundation/Memphis Shelby County Schools	YHDP Navigation Program	Supportive Services Only	Youth 18-24	\$83,458
St Johns Community Services	Oasis YHDP	PSH	Youth 18-24	\$166,619

*bolded sections designate new funds for our community, and the asterisks indicate new projects.

NOTE: Some individuals may have been served by more than one program in 2024. For example, a client could have participated in Navigation and Rapid Re-Housing. Thus, the number of people served by each program cannot be added to get an unduplicated number.

Program Types



ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS

Various housing programs get funded during the CoC and YHDP HUD NOFOs each year. Above, you can see how many of each kind exist in our community. Below, you can gain some quick definitions about what each of these housing programs might look like.

RAPID RE-HOUSING (RRH)

- Addresses non-chronic homelessness
- Time-limited intervention for moderate needs
- Rental assistance lasting 6-9 months (on average, but up to 2 yrs) before client takes over lease.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (TH)

- Bridge between emergency shelter and permanent housing
- Temporary housing with supportive services up to 24 months
- Recent NOFOs prioritize Joint TH-RRH over traditional TH

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)

- Permanent rental assistance and supportive services
- Most intensive housing model: requires Verification of Chronic Homelessness and a Verification of Disability
- Long-term housing (no time limit specified) for high-needs individuals who can still live independently

CONSTRUCTION/PSH

- long-term community investment
- funding for construction/renovation of property to be used for PSH programs
- Long-term housing (no time limit specified) for high-needs individuals who can still live independently

JOINT TH-RRH

- for individuals and families to have the crisis support of TH, while moving to permanent housing as quickly as possible
- Recommended by HUD as a model for victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault ; and youth.
- Clients given up to 24 months of support broken up between the TH and the RRH models

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ONLY

- Projects funded through YHDP funds to assist with alternative housing supports
- Supportive services include Host Homes, System Navigation, and other non-housing interventions that can be used to stabilize youth and young adults

Comparable Database

Comparable Database (CDB) activity; 7/1/2024 to 6/30/2025

The CDB is a separate, parallel instance of the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) for Victims of Violence.

5

participating agencies

28

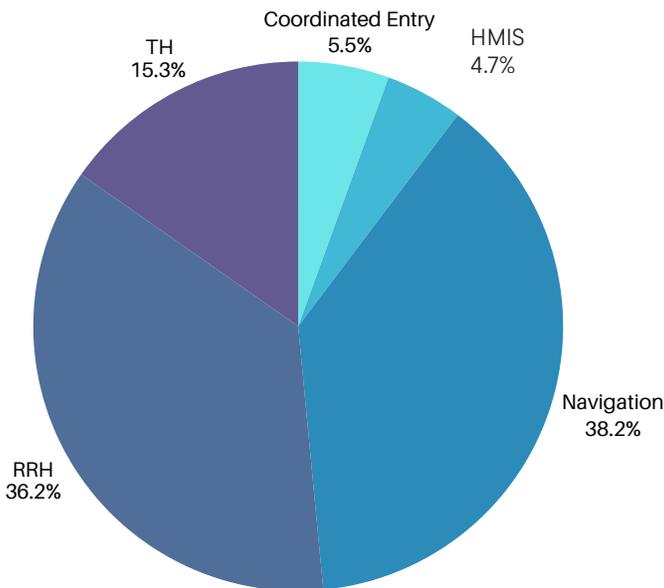
CDB CES clients
*since implementation in 10/24

**Data includes enrollments funded through DV-specific 2024 NOFO funds. These represent two agencies housing 5 programs (4 housing, 1 navigation.)

CAFTH implemented the Danger Assessment tool to assist with the process. This was done with collaboration and consent of the participating agencies throughout 2024.



HOUSING ASSISTANCE THROUGH CDB**



YHDP Funding

The Graphic on the left shows the YHDP funding going toward programs at CAFTH. YHDP funding goes directly to supporting the systems which allow our community to operate and maintain a network of support specifically targeting youth ages 18-24.

- CES: \$75,120**
- HMIS: \$64,368**
- Navigation: \$517,720**
- RRH: \$491,098**
- TH: \$207,121**





Populations Served

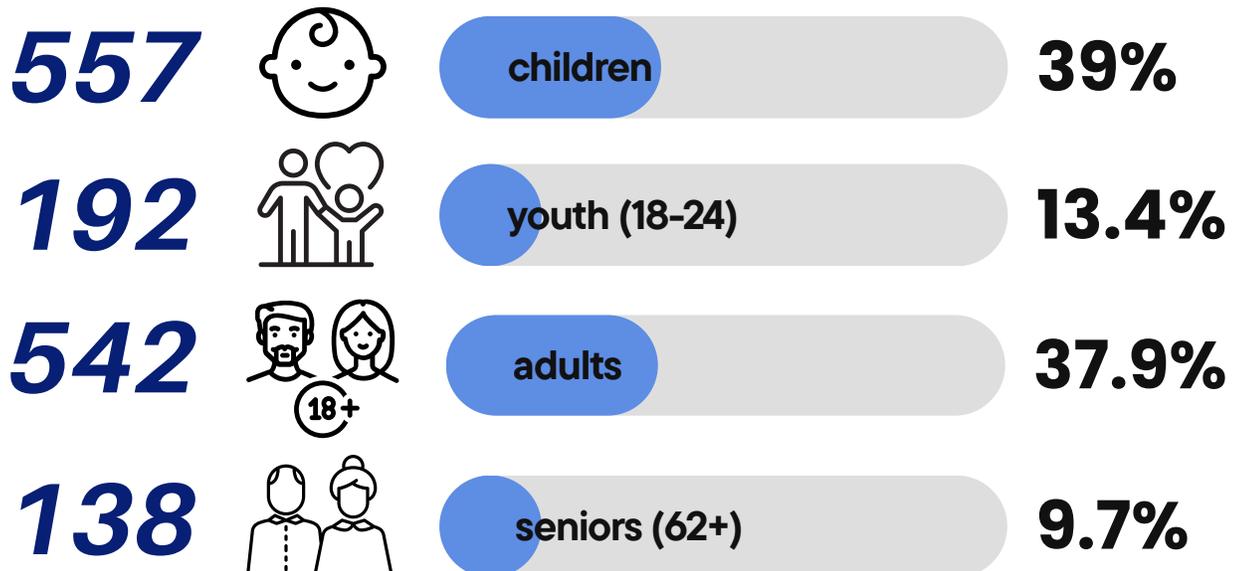
IN MEMPHIS & SHELBY COUNTY; FY2024

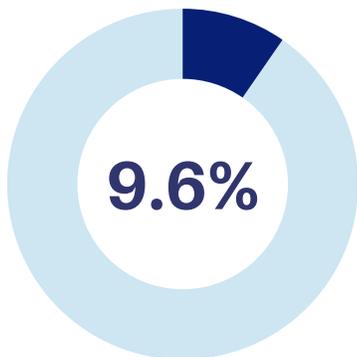
1,429 total people served

CONTEXT FOR COLLECTING AGE DATA

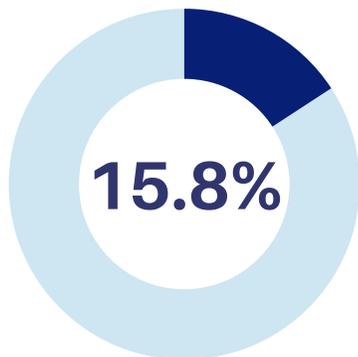
School-aged youth logged by our CoC Funded agencies receive services with a parent. This number surely does not reflect all of the youth experiencing homelessness in Memphis and Shelby County. Many youth experiencing housing instability in our community are identified in the Shelby County public school system, which uses McKinney Vento standards and funding for identifying and addressing homelessness for school aged youth.

Adults in the system may reflect a head of household, or a single adult seeking services.

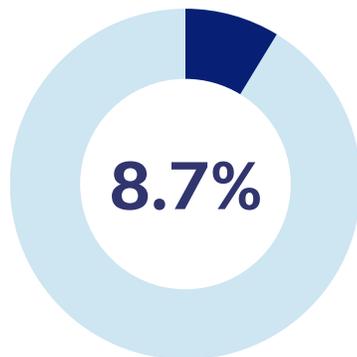




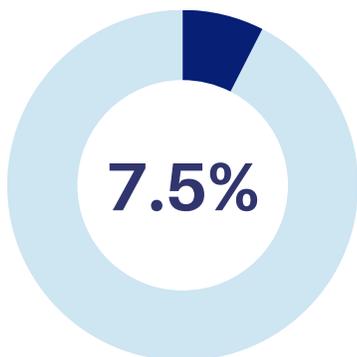
veterans



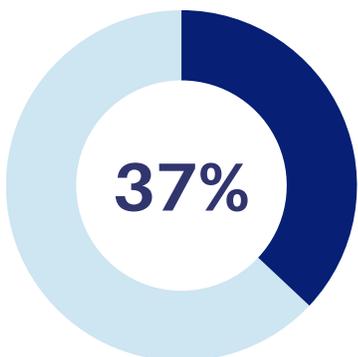
living with
HIV/AIDS



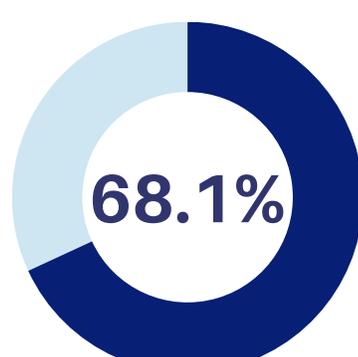
substance
use disorder



DV
survivors



chronically
homeless



living w/
disability

System Performance Measures



What are System Performance Measures?

System Performance Measures are part of annual reporting that help examine the CoC's performance by a set of advanced metrics. HUD requires every Continuum of Care to assess their homeless response system yearly for the following measures:

- 1) Median Length of Time Homeless
- 2) Returns to Homelessness
- 3) Number of Homeless Persons
- 4) Employment and Income Growth
- 5) Number of Persons who Become Homeless for the First Time
- 7*) Placement in or Retention of Permanent Housing

The following graphics assess data collected from TN-501 between 2020 and 2024 in relation to the system performance measures listed above. When a graph is displaying "number of people" in this context, it is referring to number of people in the **HMIS universe of data***.

*the HMIS universe of data includes ESG funded programs, people in shelter, anyone entered by any agency into HMIS.

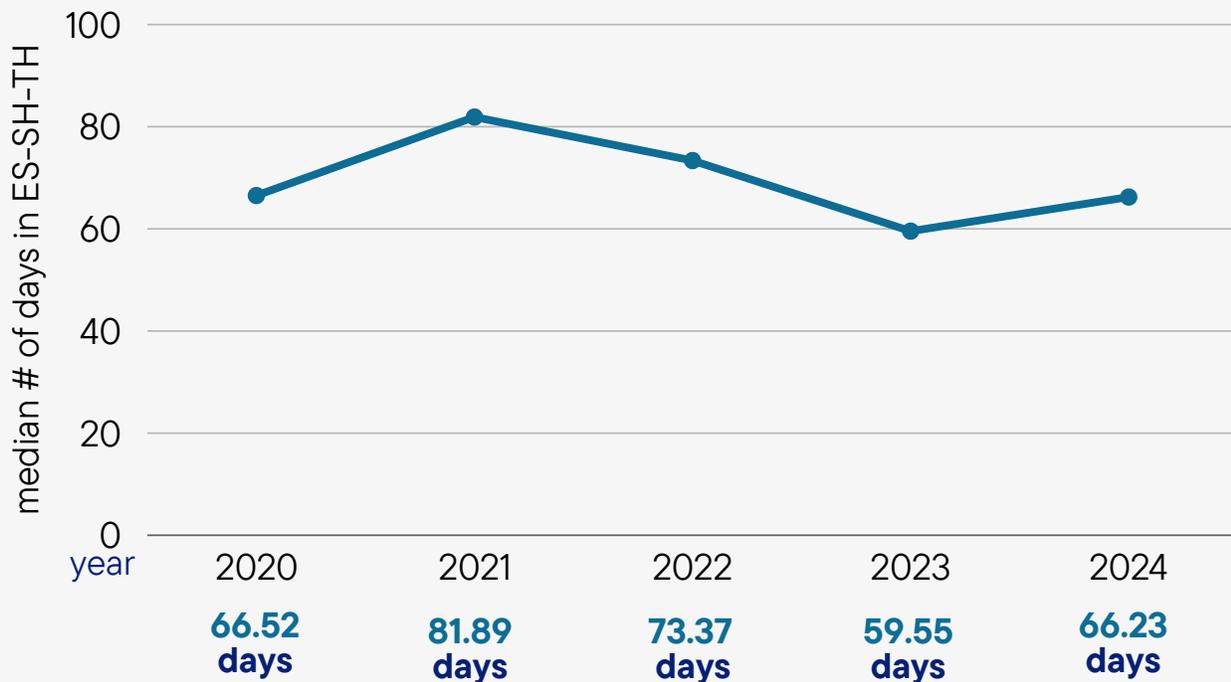
SPM 1) MEDIAN LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS

Data Trend: From 2019 to 2024, Memphis & Shelby County’s CoC experienced a reduction in the median length of time individuals spent in shelter.

This improvement reflects strategic investments in rapid rehousing, shelter diversion, and enhanced case management services. The COVID-19 pandemic initially intensified shelter demand, but through coordinated efforts, including the expansion of low-barrier shelter models and increased housing-focused navigation, the CoC worked to shorten shelter stays. Capacity constraints and community pressure to reduce time spent in congregate settings also played a role, pushing for faster transitions into housing or other stable alternatives. Compared to national and regional peers, Memphis & Shelby County demonstrated meaningful progress in shelter flow efficiency over this five-year period.

MEDIAN LENGTH OF TIME IN SHELTER

TN-501; FY20-24



SPM 2) RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS

Data Trend: In 2025, returns to homelessness increased significantly, even as exits reached an all-time high.

While the CoC's efficiency and additional funding helped households move through the system more quickly, the region's record-low availability of affordable housing left too many without a viable pathway to stability. Rising living costs compounded the challenge, and with exits to permanent housing at an all-time low, many households either returned to homelessness or cycled through temporary placements. This trend underscores the widening gap between short-term system improvements and the long-term solutions necessary for lasting stability, pointing to the urgent need for deeper investments in permanent housing and supportive services.

SPM 3) TOTAL # EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Data Trend: In 2025, the total number of people experiencing homelessness in Memphis & Shelby County remained at an elevated rate, though slightly lower than last year's all-time high.

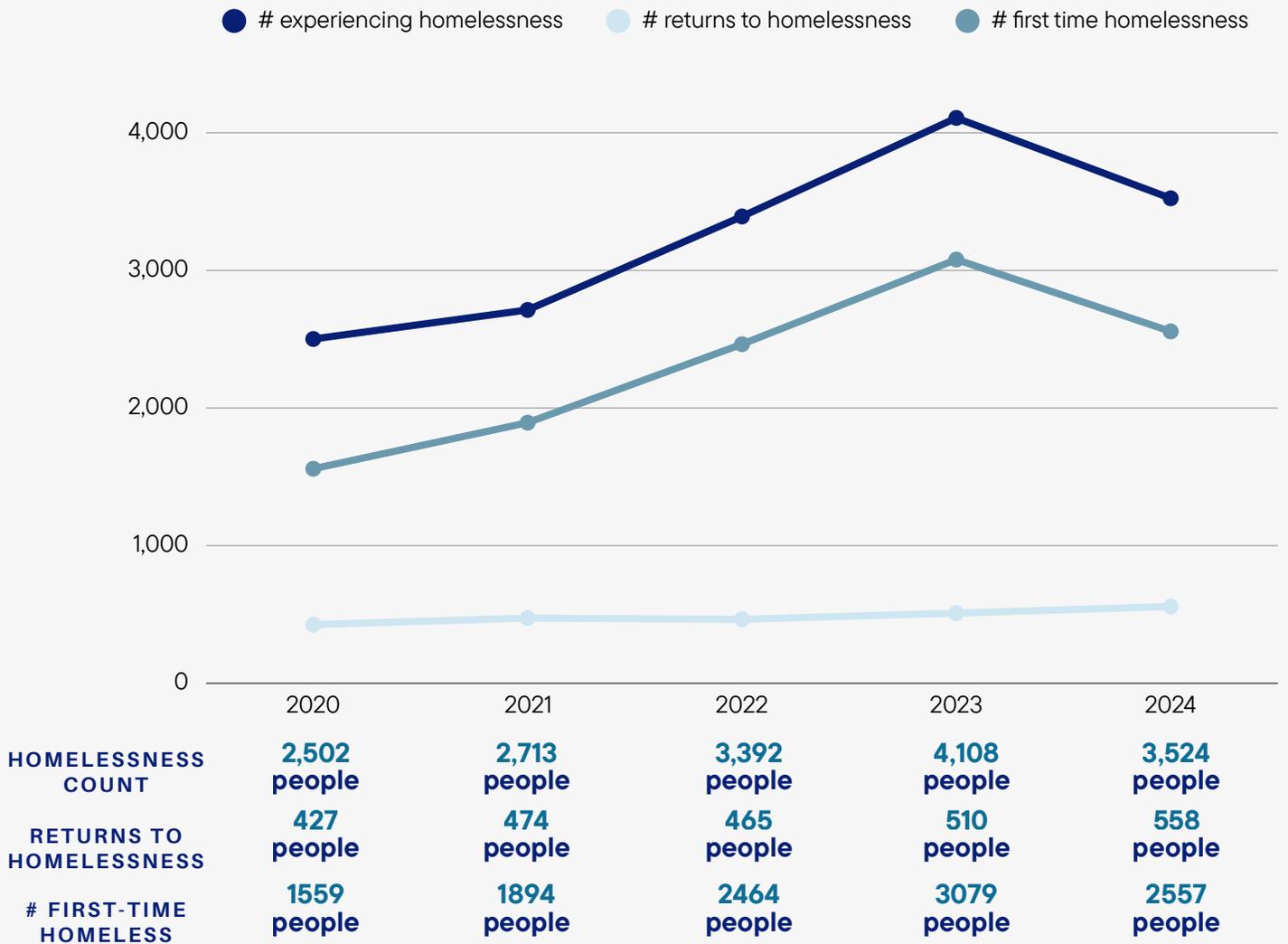
Increased funding and system improvements have helped shorten lengths of stay, but exits to permanent housing are at an all-time low, limiting the system's ability to reduce homelessness overall. The overarching drivers (an unprecedented shortage of affordable housing, rising living costs, and systemic economic inequities) continue to outweigh system-level gains. Even as the response system operates more efficiently, external pressures in the housing market keep homelessness at historically high levels, underscoring the limits of what the system can achieve without broader structural change.

SPM 5) FIRST-TIME HOMELESSNESS

Data Trend: In 2025, first-time homelessness in Memphis & Shelby County remained at historically high levels, though the numbers were lower than last year's peak.

During the pandemic, emergency diversion funds played a critical role in preventing many households from entering homelessness by covering short-term crises such as rental arrears, utility bills, or unexpected expenses. With those funds no longer available, many households that once could have been stabilized quickly are now entering the homelessness response system for the first time. While the CoC's increased funding has strengthened supports for people once they are already homeless, the loss of diversion resources has left a gap felt locally and across the country. With exits to permanent housing at an all-time low, this gap is even more significant, highlighting the need for diversion funding to work in tandem with long-term housing solutions to prevent system entry.

TN-501; FY20-24



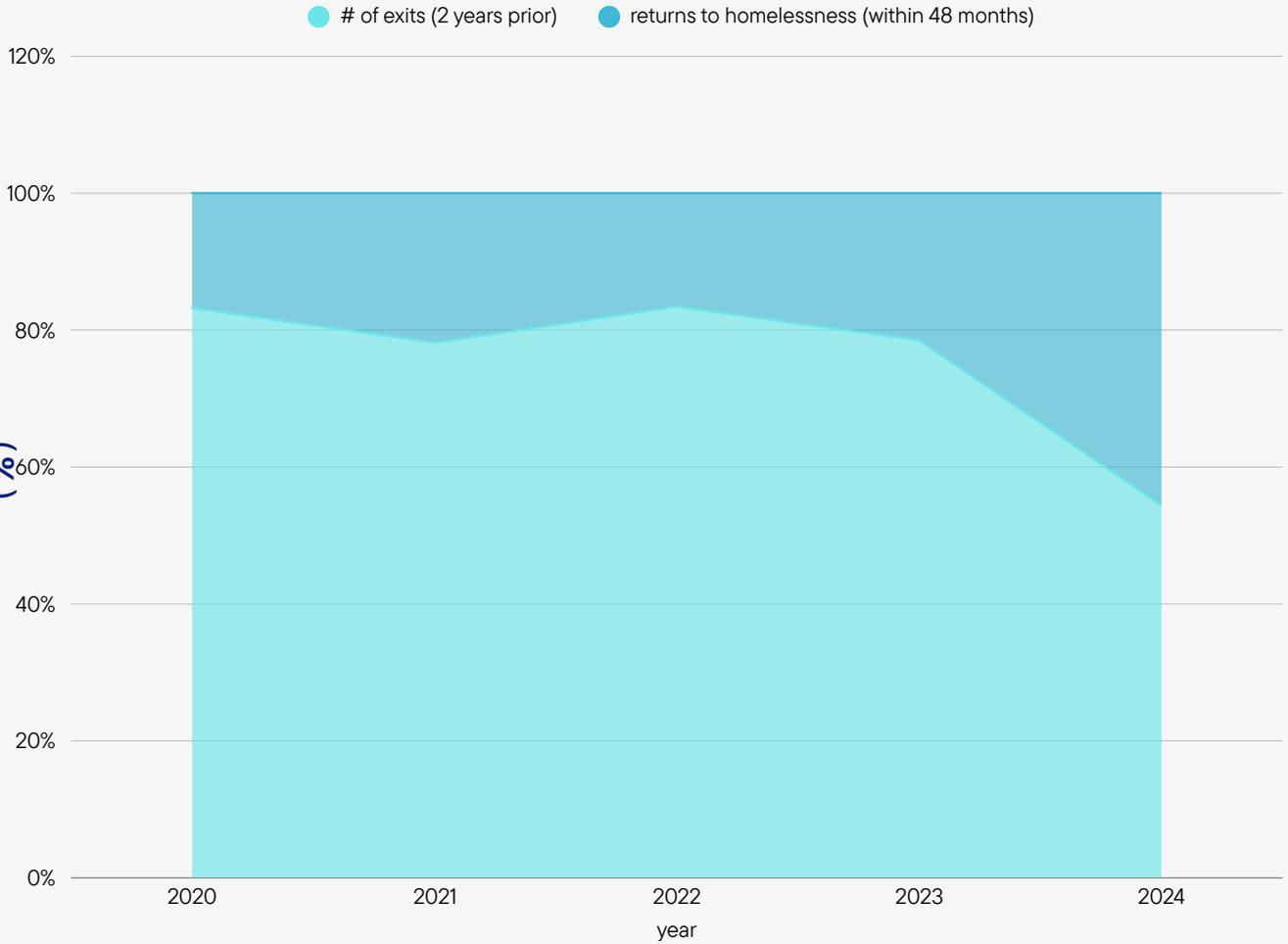
The affordable housing crisis is the main driver of these trends. Even with more funding this year than in additional years, if affordable units are at an all-time low, more people are pushed into homelessness, including those experiencing it for the first time.

Other factors contributing to these trends may include:

- Increased cost of living (rent, utilities, groceries).
- Landlords unwilling to renew leases or accept vouchers.
- Lack of supportive services paired with housing.

System improvements (like Coordinated Entry efficiency, better case conferencing, or increased rapid rehousing funds) mean people are rehoused faster. but even with quicker placement, the nature of the housing market may increase the chance of returns, since placements may be less stable or more precarious.

EXITS V. RETURNS
(%)



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
EXITS	2,119 people	1,697 people	2,342 people	1,864 people	666 people
RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS	427 people	474 people	465 people	510 people	558 people

Even though exits are happening, the lack of affordable housing means many exits are not sustainable long-term. People may leave the system but struggle to afford rent or maintain stability, leading to higher returns.

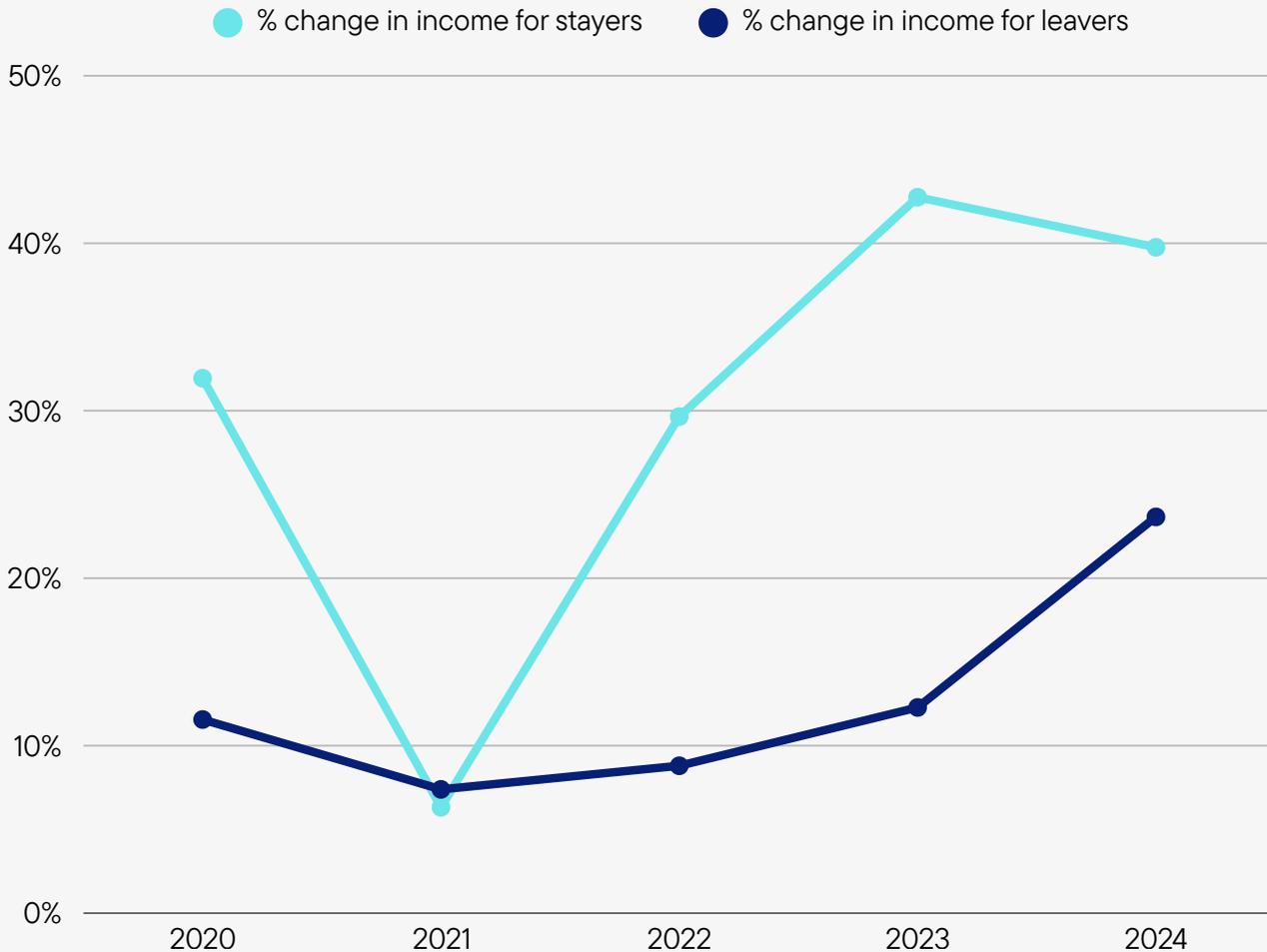
SPM 4) EMPLOYMENT & INCOME GROWTH

Data Trend: Income growth is down from last year, but up overall.

In 2025, the Memphis & Shelby County CoC saw notable improvements in income among individuals exiting homelessness, with average earnings rising 20% compared to previous years. This reflects the impact of expanded funding and stronger employment supports, which helped many connect to higher-paying opportunities. However, the broader context continues to pose challenges: affordable housing availability reached an all-time low, and many households still struggle to translate short-term income gains into lasting housing stability. Systemic barriers—including transportation, health concerns, and discrimination—remain entrenched, and rising housing costs continue to outpace wages. While progress in income growth is a promising sign, sustaining exits will require pairing these gains with long-term housing solutions.

% CHANGE IN INCOME

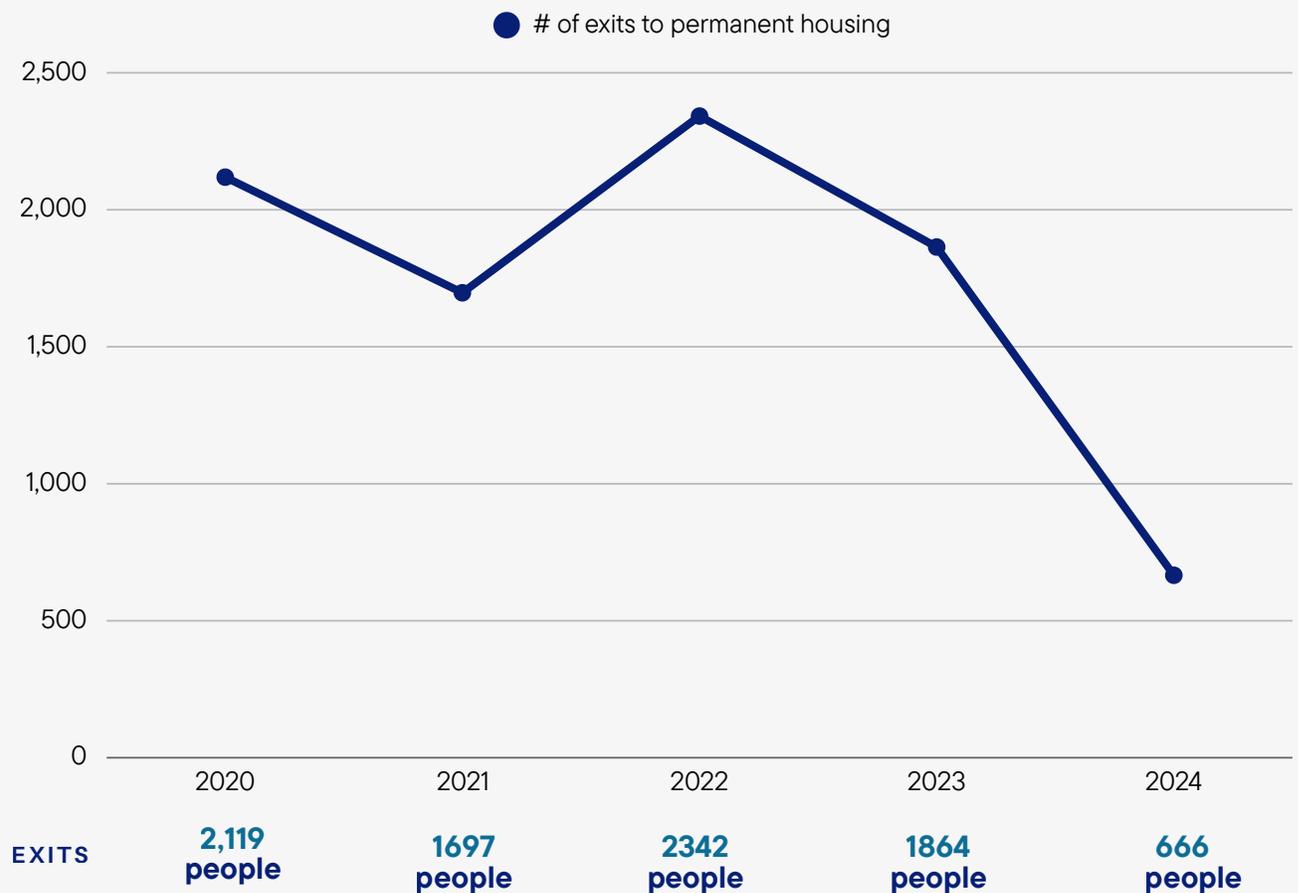
TN-501; FY20-24



SPM 7) EXITS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

Data Trend: Placement in permanent housing is at an all time low.

Over the past five years, the percentage of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing in Memphis & Shelby County declined due to a persistent mismatch between available resources and growing need. The CoC expanded housing-focused services and partnerships, but demand consistently outstripped supply, especially for deeply affordable and supportive housing. Systemic barriers—including background checks, past evictions, and limited landlord participation—remained obstacles to housing access. Without sufficient investment in housing development and targeted rental assistance, many individuals and families remained stuck in shelters or transitional programs without a viable path to permanent housing.



System Performance Data Summary:

Memphis & Shelby County's Continuum of Care (CoC) continues to navigate profound housing challenges, driven primarily by a historic shortage of affordable housing and broader economic pressures. While the total number of people experiencing homelessness remains elevated, and first-time homelessness continues at high levels, exits to permanent housing have reached an all-time low. Returns to homelessness are also increasing, underscoring the difficulty households face in achieving long-term stability. Factors such as rising rental costs, limited housing options, and systemic barriers—including prior evictions, background checks, and landlord participation—further complicate efforts to secure sustainable housing.

At the same time, the median time individuals spend in shelters is still at a relative low, reflecting increased efficiency in housing program placement, expanded case management, and other efforts. The CoC has also supported individuals in increasing their earnings, with average income for those exiting the system rising over 20% compared to previous years. While these gains represent meaningful progress in moving households toward economic stability, they have not translated into higher exits to permanent housing due to the region's constrained housing market.

The expiration of COVID-era diversion funds has created additional pressure, as households that might have been stabilized before entering homelessness are now more likely to enter the system for the first time. This highlights a critical gap: CoC funding supports households once they are homeless, but diversion resources are necessary to prevent homelessness before it begins.

Despite these persistent challenges, Memphis & Shelby County's CoC remains committed to addressing homelessness through coordinated system improvements and strategic investments. The community continues to work toward a future where homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time.

Data Source:

HMIS Data System APR for systemwide data, July 2025.

*the HMIS universe of data includes ESG funded programs, people in shelter, anyone entered by any agency into HMIS.



The Demographics:

Racial Disparities and Housing Outcomes

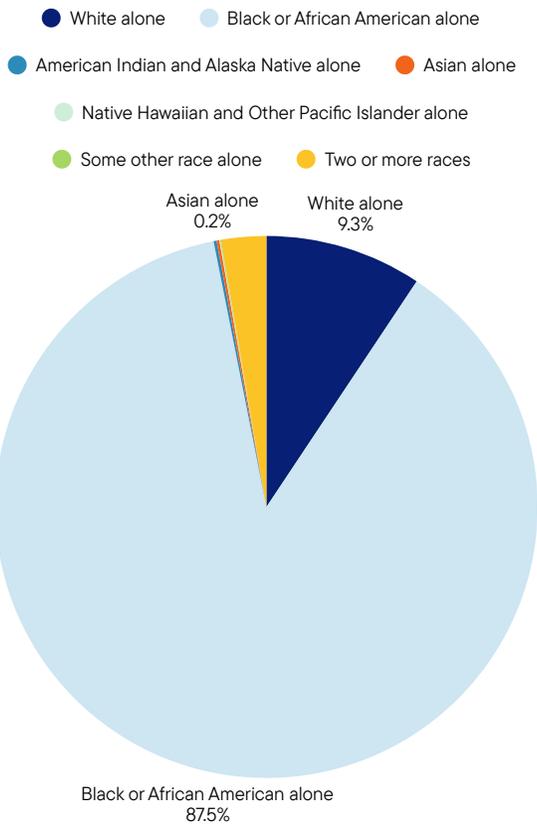
For years, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided the racial disparities dashboard to help us better understand the ways structural and institutional racism cause disproportionate detriment across our community, particularly when it comes to homelessness and housing security. Although this tool is no longer published, it served an impactful purpose. For this reason, we have looked to U.S. census data and HMIS data to assemble a new tool that allows us to look at key data through the same lens, and assess the demographics of homelessness in our community.

Race & Ethnicity	Experiencing Sheltered & Unsheltered Homelessness (in Shelby County)		In Poverty (in Shelby County)		General Population (in Shelby County)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
White alone	733	9.35%	20,341	12.82%	316,740	34.07%
Black or African American alone	6,863	87.53%	114,108	71.93%	475,074	51.10%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	14	0.18%	N.R.		1,561	0.17%
Asian alone	13	0.17%	2,450	1.54%	27,960	3.01%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	4	0.05%	N.R.		256	0.03%
Some other race alone	4	0.05%	8,681	5.47%	3,614	0.39%
Two or more races	210	2.68%	11,556	7.28%	26,832	2.89%
Ethnicity						
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	53		16,415	10.35%	77,707	8.36%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino			19,658	12.39%	852,037	91.64%
Total est.	7,841		158,630		929,744	

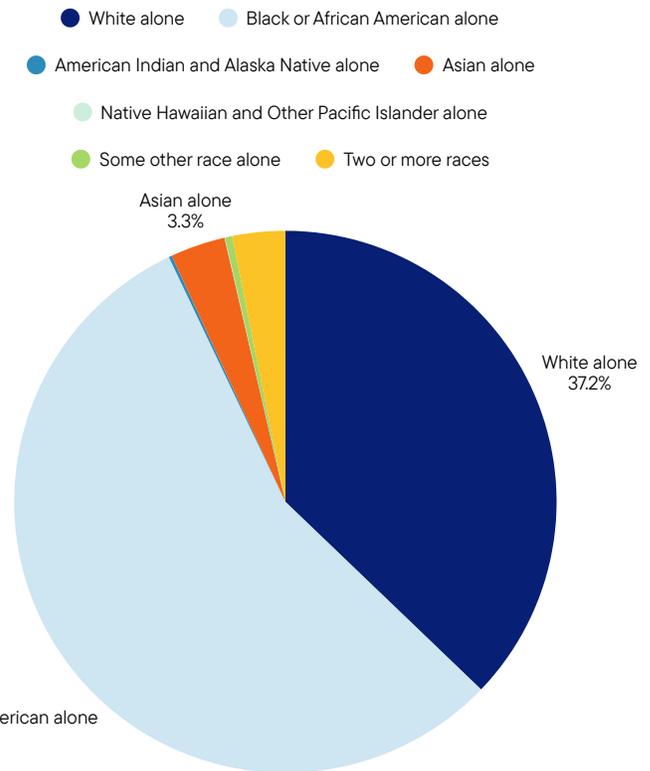
Individuals identifying as Black or African American alone account for 51% of the total Shelby County population. In contrast, they represent 72% of the population in poverty and nearly 88% of people experiencing homelessness.

In comparison, this same population made up 73% of the population in poverty and 75% of people experiencing homelessness just last year.

When the demographic breakdown of the general population differs from the population experiencing homelessness, it indicates that there may be systems disproportionately impacting these respective groups.



Demographic Breakdown of People Experiencing Homelessness in TN-501



Demographic Breakdown of TN-501 General Population

When individuals identifying as White make up 35% of the total population in Shelby County, data regarding the same population experiencing homelessness should theoretically reflect a similar breakdown.

However, the data visualization depicts that this is not the case: with less than 10% of individuals experiencing homelessness identifying as White, our data illustrates that White individuals in our community are disproportionately less effected by the homelessness crisis in TN-501. Conversely, Black individuals are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness in Memphis and Shelby County. While constituting only 51% of the entire population, they represent almost 88% of those experiencing homelessness.

While there are many factors that contribute to housing insecurity, this data underscores the undeniable correlation between race and housing insecurity. Race plays a major role in determining who faces a greater likelihood of experiencing homelessness.



2024 Unsheltered Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

This “snapshot” count is a HUD-required process organized and facilitated by the region’s CoC taking place on a single night in January.

On January 21, 2025, the day of the TN-501 2025 PIT count, weather conditions featured a low of 16 °F, a high near 26 °F, and consistent high-intensity rain. 17 groups comprised of 72 volunteers total braced the conditions to survey across the Memphis and Shelby County geographic area.

The numbers reported on the following page indicate the findings resulting from our volunteers’ survey work on the night of PIT count. Data is directly imported from the dedicated HMIS database.

Why is this important?

This data is used by the federal government as the main source of data about the numbers, needs, and demographics of homelessness within a given community. In addition, it is used to determine funding allocation.

Who gets counted?

For homelessness to be considered unsheltered, the individual(s) must be actively staying in a place not intended for human habitation (ie; cars, parks, abandoned buildings, public spaces).



2025 TN-501 PIT Data Summary

Population	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total	Prevalence of Population
All Persons				
All Persons	585	47	632	100%
Household Composition				
Individuals (not in family units)	238	47	285	45.1%
Chronically Homeless	45	0	45	7.1%
Veterans	77	4	81	10.2%
Unaccompanied Minors (Under 18)	6	0	6	<1%
Family Members (those in family units)	340	0	340	54.9%
Children in Families (under 18)	232	0	232	36.7%
Chronically Homeless	6	0	6	<1%
Veterans	3	0	3	<1%
Veterans				
All Veterans	77	4	81	12.8%
Chronically Homeless	0	0	0	<1%
Age				
Under 18	232	0	232	36%
18-24	25	1	26	4.1%
25 and Over	328	46	374	59.2%
Chronically Homeless				
Individuals (not in family units)	45	0	45	7.5%
Family Members (those in family units)	6	0	6	<1%
Total Chronically Homeless Persons	51	0	51	8%

The data shows a significant decrease in unsheltered numbers because of the following:

- Warming centers were open due to the forecast of freezing temperatures
- None of the participating service providers were open that night
- Access to several other housing options in Memphis and Shelby County outside the Community Homeless Response System (HMIS/PIT-based), including subsidies, affordable units, and private-market opportunities.

The data shows a significant decrease in ES sheltered bed utilization because of the following:

- Robust youth and special population network, including but not limited to navigation teams, hospitals, county school system, etc.
- Agencies not participating in bed count.

The Memphis & Shelby County Homeless Consortium

The Memphis & Shelby County Homeless Consortium (MSCHC) serves as the collaborative body guiding the region's Continuum of Care (CoC). Comprised of nonprofit agencies, local government, housing and healthcare providers, and community advocates, the Consortium coordinates strategies, establishes committees to address key issues, and advances the community's strategic plan to end homelessness. The Consortium works in partnership with Community Alliance for the Homeless (CAFTH), the designated HMIS and CoC lead agency, which provides administrative and technical support to ensure compliance with HUD requirements and alignment of system-wide goals.

IS THE MSCHC A CAFTH PROGRAM?

No; however, CAFTH does oversee and support the MSCHC's work. The Memphis & Shelby County Homeless Consortium (MSCHC) is made up of stakeholders who focus on specific issues (like youth homelessness, healthcare, etc.) and recommend strategies for the community's homelessness response system.

HOW DOES MSCHC INFLUENCE LOCAL OR FEDERAL POLICY ON HOMELESSNESS?

The Consortium identifies gaps, tracks trends, and voices community needs. These insights help shape local priorities and inform CAFTH's planning, which in turn influences how Memphis & Shelby County align with HUD's national homelessness goals.

HOW CAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHARE INPUT OR CONCERNS?

Community members can share input by attending Consortium meetings and speaking during open discussion periods, or joining a committee aligned with their interests.

MSCHC values the voices of those who have experienced homelessness firsthand. People with lived experience participate in committees, decision-making, and leadership roles to ensure the system reflects real needs and solutions.

In 2024...

3,161

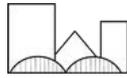
nights of shelter provided

98

households moved to
permanent housing

1,000

personal care bags distributed



Memphis / Shelby County
Homeless Consortium

2024-2025 MSCHC Members

Organizations:

Agape Child & Family Services
 Alliance Healthcare Services
 Alpha Omega Veterans Services, Inc.
 Baptist Memorial Healthcare
 Behavioral Health Initiatives
 Black Clergy Collaborative of Memphis
 Brown Missionary Baptist Church
 By Way of Love Light and Truth Outreach
 Ministries
 Catholic Charities of West Tennessee
 Chosen Vessel Ministries
 Christ Community Health Services
 Church Health
 City of Memphis
 CMI Healthcare Services
 Communities in Schools Memphis
 Door of Hope
 Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Inc.
 Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
 Family Safety Center
 Fair Housing Council of Metropolitan Memphis
 Friends for All

F.A.T.H.E.R.S. Organization
 Hitch Estates
 Hope House
 Hospitality Hub
 Love Doesn't Hurt
 Memphis Public Interest Law Center
 Merge Memphis
 Mid-south Genesis CDC
 Methodist Le Bonheur Community Outreach
 My Town Miracles
 P.E.A.R.L. with You
 Promise Development Corporation
 Room in the Inn- Memphis
 Shelby County Division of Human Services
 Shelby County Community Services
 Shelby County Office of Reentry
 Show Up TN Inc.
 Thistle & BeeDoor of Hope
 United Way of the Mid-South
 Volunteers of America Mid-States
 We Rise With U

Individuals

Elizabeth Anderson
 Andrea Askew
 Heather Boone
 Jacquelyn Bracey
 Kiera Coleman
 Taderius Sanders
 Adrian Solomon
 Iris Wade

150

Committee Meeting held

1000+

attendees present between

22

total training sessions

532

requests for technical
assistance addressed

Get Involved

There are a few different ways community members can get involved with CAFTH and the Memphis and Shelby County Homeless Consortium. Monetary donations help support our work. If you are interested in sharing thoughts and ideas, learn more about becoming a consortium member and attending committee meetings. You may also be interested in using your voice to advocate for those experiencing homelessness on a policy level.





Donations

For those who want to get involved via donation, CAFTH accepts monetary donations to support our operation and initiatives.

To learn more about how to donate, visit cafth.org/get-involved



Join the Consortium

As a part of the Memphis and Shelby County Homeless Consortium, CAFTH facilitates nine committees, a number of special interest groups, and trainings for consortium members. To take part in these events, individuals and organizations must have an active membership.

To learn more about membership, email [Tanisha Joyner](mailto:Tanisha.Joyner@cafth.org) at Tanisha@cafth.org.



Advocacy

CAFTH is in the process of developing an advocacy toolkit for community stakeholders and the general public. Updates for advocacy-related resources can be found via our social media and our Community Connector Newsletter.

To stay updated with advocacy resources, follow us! ([@cafthmemphis](https://www.instagram.com/cafthmemphis)) on Instagram and Facebook.



