

A close-up photograph of a pair of hands, one holding a key. The keychain is shaped like a small house with a red door, blue windows, and the word 'HOME' written on it. The background is blurred, showing a person in a light blue shirt.

FLORIDA'S COUNCIL
ON HOMELESSNESS

ANNUAL REPORT

SUBMITTED
JUNE 2026

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1 Cover Letter

June 30, 2026

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On behalf of the Florida Council on Homelessness, its members, and our state agency partners, I am honored to submit the Florida Council on Homelessness 2026 Annual Report for your review. In accordance with state law, the Council has prepared recommendations for reducing homelessness in Florida, along with data reflecting the extent of homelessness and the characteristics of the estimated 25,519 individuals and families experiencing homelessness on any given night.

Thanks to your leadership and the commitment of the Florida Legislature, our state has continued to make meaningful progress in addressing homelessness. Through the State's investment in the Homeless Challenge Grant, Florida's Continuums of Care (CoCs) and their partner agencies housed or sheltered more than 30,000 Floridians during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. These funds serve as a critical bridge between local and federal funding and play a key role in meeting the required match requirement of the \$159 million in federal homeless assistance resources applied for and administered by Florida's CoCs and their partner agencies. Collectively, these investments support emergency shelter, transitional housing, short- and long-term permanent housing, supportive services, and coordinated data management systems that align with the State's regional homeless response framework.

According to the annual Point-in-Time Count, Florida experienced a 10.45 percent reduction in literal homelessness compared to the previous year. This is coupled with a 25.4 percent decrease in unsheltered homelessness. While the overall number of individuals experiencing homelessness has declined, the proportion identified as chronically homeless has increased and now represents 19.5 percent of the homeless population, underscoring the growing need for permanent supportive housing and sustained investments in supportive services for the state's highest-need residents.

Florida's continued progress in reducing homelessness demonstrates that strategic investments and strong community partnerships can produce measurable results in ending homelessness.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any part of this report or the Council's recommendations in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Leeanne Sacino
Council Chair

2 Introduction

The State of Florida Interagency Council on Homelessness (the Council) was established in 2001 to develop policy and provide guidance to the State Office on Homelessness, as authorized in section 420.622(2), Florida Statutes. Comprising 19 public and private sector partners, the Council submits this Annual Report informed by current housing conditions across Florida and the collective expertise of its members in best practices for addressing homelessness.

The Council's assessment of homelessness in Florida draws on several key data sources including the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, the Housing Inventory Count, and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). These tools enable a comprehensive analysis of housing access, homeless populations, and the state's housing landscape.

In addition to evaluating current trends, this report provides policy and funding recommendations aimed at ending homelessness throughout the state. The report also highlights progress made to-date, as a result of sustained legislative support and cross-sector collaboration.

3 The Current State of Homelessness

The information presented is based on the Council's analysis of subpopulations and housing conditions to provide insight into homelessness conditions in Florida. This section will give an overview of homelessness trends, housing access, and current funding.

3.1 State and National Homeless Trends

Florida continues to show progress in reducing homelessness, with the 2026 PIT Count reflecting a **second consecutive year of statewide decline**. In 2026, 25,519 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness, down from 28,498 in 2025. This represents a **10.45 percent year-over-year (YoY) decrease** and an 18.63 percent decrease from the 2024 count of 31,362. This continued decline suggests that Florida's targeted investments, local Continuum of Care (CoC) implementation, and expanded emphasis on reducing unsheltered homelessness are producing measurable results.

The decrease was driven primarily by a reported reduction in unsheltered homelessness, which declined from 13,647 individuals in 2025 to 10,180 individuals in 2026, a 25.4 percent decrease. At the same time, sheltered homelessness increased from 14,851 individuals in 2025 to 15,339 individuals in 2026, a 3.29 percent increase. This shift suggests that more individuals are being connected to emergency shelter, transitional housing, and other temporary housing options rather than remaining in places not meant for human habitation. As with all PIT data, these trends should be interpreted with attention to local count methodology, especially because unsheltered counts are particularly sensitive to weather, volunteer coverage, access to encampments or private property, and whether local counts are conducted in a comparable manner year-over-year.

Several key subpopulations also saw reductions in 2026. **Homelessness among families with children decreased** from 6,911 individuals in 2025 to 6,558 individuals in 2026, a 5.1 percent decrease. **Veteran homelessness declined** from 1,898 individuals to 1,725 individuals, a 9.1 percent decrease. **Homelessness among older adults age 55 and older declined** from 8,095 individuals to 7,302 individuals, a 9.8 percent decrease. Chronic homelessness also declined in absolute terms, from 5,495 individuals in 2025 to 4,978 individuals in 2026. However, because overall homelessness declined at a slightly faster rate, chronically homeless individuals now represent approximately 19.5 percent of the statewide homeless population. This underscores the continued need for permanent supportive housing and sustained supportive services for individuals with the highest barriers to housing stability.

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At the national level, the most recent U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD) Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) available remains the 2024 AHAR, which reported a record 771,480 individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2024, an 18 percent increase from 2023 and the highest count since national reporting began. The national increase was particularly acute for families with children, which rose 39 percent, and for children under 18, whose numbers rose 33 percent. Key drivers of this trend include rising housing costs, inflation, and the expiration of pandemic-era relief programs. In contrast, **Florida has now recorded two consecutive years of decline.**

In 2026, Florida reached its **lowest recorded level of homelessness** in the available 2007–2026 PIT series, excluding the COVID-disrupted 2021 count, which is not comparable to surrounding years. Between 2007 and 2026, Florida’s PIT count declined from 48,069 to 25,519, a decrease of 22,550 individuals, or approximately 46.9 percent. During this same period, Florida’s population increased from 18,446,768 in 2007 to an estimated 23,379,261 in 2025, an increase of approximately 26.7 percent. If homelessness had remained at the 2007 per-capita rate, Florida would have had approximately 60,922 individuals experiencing homelessness in 2026; instead, the PIT count was 25,519, reflecting an approximately 58.1 percent population-adjusted reduction.

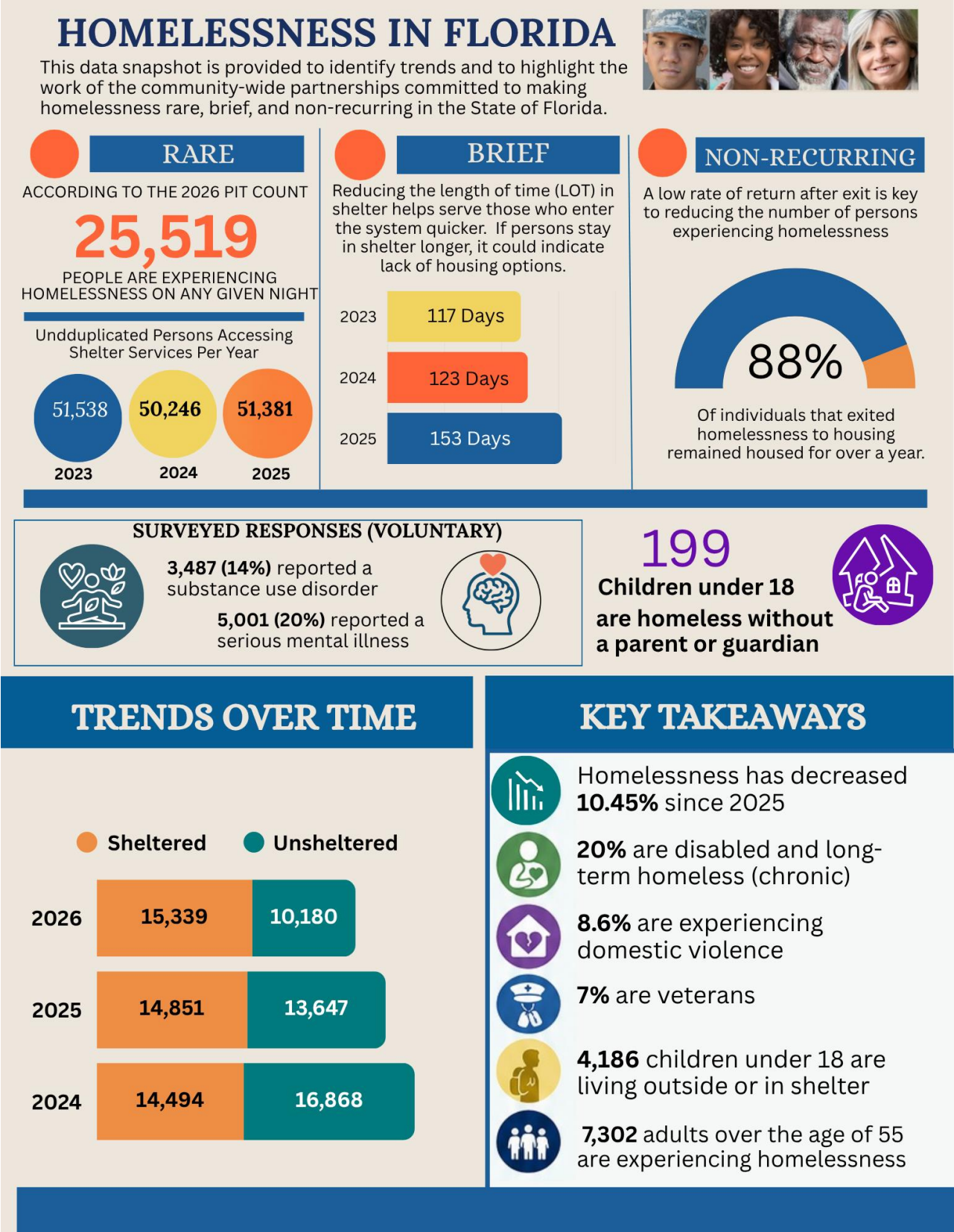
Florida’s back-to-back reductions stand in contrast to these most recent official national trends. These data points indicate that Florida’s homelessness response system is making meaningful progress, while also highlighting the need to sustain investments that support shelter access, rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention, permanent supportive housing, and local CoC capacity. Continued collaboration among the Legislature, state agencies, CoCs, local governments, and community providers remains essential to ensuring homelessness in Florida is rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

A NOTE ON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT DATA

The annual PIT Count provides the most consistent and widely used metric for assessing homelessness across the United States. Conducted on a single night in January, the PIT Count offers a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that moment in time. While not a complete census, it remains the best available tool for tracking trends and informing federal, state, and local policy decisions. PIT data is subject to variation based on local environmental conditions including weather, access to certain locations (such as private property), volunteer capacity, and individual willingness to participate. These limitations are common across all states and CoCs, and should be considered by HUD and others when interpreting and comparing data YoY.

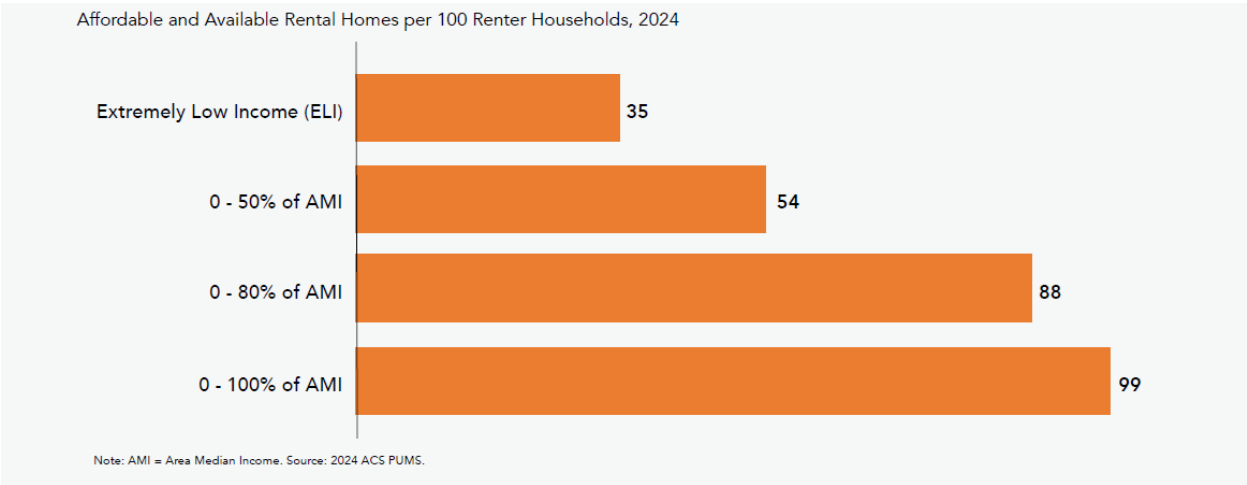
Additionally, it is important to note that PIT data for prior years may be updated as part of HUD’s data verification and reporting process. As such, historical figures in this report may differ slightly from those published in earlier annual reports, as they reflect HUD’s final reconciled data for each reporting year.

FIGURE 1: 2025 SNAPSHOT OF HOMELESSNESS IN FLORIDA



3.2 Housing Access

Affordable housing access for renters continues to worsen in the United States. For households classified as extremely low-income – those earning 30 percent or less of the Area Median Income (AMI) for their community, as defined in section 420.0004, Florida Statutes – estimates suggest that only 35 affordable and available homes exist for every 100 renters. The graph below demonstrates that this shortage is not unique to extremely low-income renters and exists in varying degrees for almost all renters.



The above data is collected in part by utilizing addresses, which results in the homeless population being excluded from housing shortage estimations. It is estimated that when considering individuals and families facing homelessness, the shortage of affordable and available homes increases to close to 7.8 million individuals and families (2026 GAP). This number is further increased when considering individuals and families who are doubled up in other homes, which is estimated to account for about 3.7 million individuals (2026 GAP).

Further, severe cost burdens for renters (defined as a household spending more than 50 percent of their income on housing and utilities) have been shown to increase mortality risk due in part to a lack of access to healthcare. This burden also negatively impacts family well-being, cognitive development, education, and employment (2026 GAP).

Florida faces one of the nation's most severe housing affordability challenges. Statewide, 82 percent of extremely low-income renters and 62 percent of very low-income renters spend more than half of their income on housing. Orlando ranks among the nation's most housing-constrained metropolitan areas for extremely low-income renters. Even among the broader population of low-income households, more than one in four households in both Miami and Orlando remain severely cost burdened. (2026 GAP Report). The severe shortage of affordable and accessible housing is driven by several interconnected structural factors. Understanding these factors is critical to developing effective strategies to increase housing stability and expand access to affordable housing.

A lack of subsidized housing is a primary factor, with 58 percent of the variation in severe cost burden prevailing across 50 metropolitan areas being explained by the share of the rental housing stock that is HUD- assisted. Further, the average rental unit operating cost in 2021 was \$566, which is more than an extremely low-income renter can afford. As a result, housing assistance is necessary to close the gap between development/operating expenses and renter spending capacity. Research is mixed regarding how the construction of high-rent units might ease affordability, though such downward filtering has historically been a way housing has become more affordable to renters. Since 2015, however, the impact of this filtering has slowed, and may not be the most effective method to increase housing access. Development is, however, necessary in moderating rents (2026 GAP).

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3.3 Current Funding from the Office on Homelessness

The Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Office on Homelessness administers a coordinated portfolio of state and federal grant programs to support Florida's 27 CoCs in providing services to individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. These funding streams are essential for delivering housing assistance, supportive services, operational infrastructure, and disaster recovery. Program funds are distributed in alignment with state statutory authority, federal regulations, and the Department's programmatic guidance.

Challenge Grant (State)

The Challenge Grant provides \$20,016,822 in state funding for FY 2026-27 to support direct services aligned with local CoC plans. Eligible activities include rental and utility assistance, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, emergency shelter operations, and case management. Grant-funded services must be delivered through the CoC's coordinated entry system and tailored to address the needs of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. CoCs are required to document a 25 percent match through cash or in-kind resources.

Staffing Grant (State)

The Staffing Grant provides \$5,205,055.80 in FY 2026-27 to strengthen the administrative and planning capacity of CoCs. Funds support staffing infrastructure necessary for compliance, oversight, and efficient service delivery.

Emergency Solutions Grant (Federal)

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is a federally funded program administered by the Office with an FY 2026-27 award of \$5,789,177.00. ESG supports a continuum of activities to reduce homelessness and promote housing stability, including:

- Street outreach
- Emergency shelter renovation and operations
- Rapid rehousing
- Homelessness prevention
- HMIS participation and data management

Eligible uses align with 24 CFR Part 576 and focus on quickly stabilizing individuals in permanent housing while minimizing time spent homeless.

Emergency Solutions Grant-RUSH (Federal - Disaster Recovery)

The Emergency Solutions Grant - Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (ESG-RUSH) is a special allocation from HUD to support disaster recovery. Florida received \$6,839,804 for FYs 2024-26 to respond to housing needs following Hurricanes Helene and Milton. ESG-RUSH funds support standard Emergency Solutions Grant activities for disaster-impacted individuals whose needs are not met by FEMA or other federal disaster programs. In April 2026, HUD notified the Office on Homelessness of an additional RUSH allocation of \$4,162,811 to further address the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in areas impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. These additional funds will be administered through the applicable federal grant, state budget authority, and contracting processes prior to distribution.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Federal)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Homelessness Prevention Program will allocate \$852,507 for FY 2026-27 to provide short-term financial assistance and case management for families with minor children facing housing crises.

4 Return on Investment

Florida's strategic investment in homelessness programs has generated meaningful outcomes across the state. The Office on Homelessness administers targeted funding streams that are not only responsive to urgent needs, but also

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flexible enough to support innovative, evidence-based solutions. The following highlights both innovative practices supported through these investments and case studies to demonstrate community impact.

4.1 Selected Narratives

Homelessness and Housing Alliance, Okaloosa and Walton Counties

A young woman struggling with addiction was referred to Catholic Charities seeking housing. Having been incarcerated and living in a home that was unsafe, this individual faced homelessness at just 25 years old. Meeting for the first time with the Catholic Charities Case Manager in mid-February, she was able to work towards and establish employment within just a week. Catholic Charities was able to secure motel shelter to provide her with a stable place to live. The client is now substance free, has secured housing (with the assistance of her Case Manager), and has completed a phlebotomy course to professionally grow. This case exemplifies that funding not only supports housing access but also is vital in stabilizing in all other areas of life including mental health, education, and employment status.

Taskforce for Ending Homelessness in North Central Florida

The Alachua County Commission approved the purchase of a former Budget Inn in February 2021 and the former Scottish Inns in December 2023 as part of a coordinated, community-wide response to homelessness that prioritizes individuals based on vulnerability and need. The former motels have since been transformed into safe, stable housing for some of the county's most vulnerable residents. These projects reflect a growing nationwide best practice of repurposing motel properties into permanent housing to expand access and reduce homelessness.

St. Johns County Continuum of Care/Flagler Hospital, Emergency Solutions Grant

For two years, "KD" lived in her car, navigating the daily stresses of homelessness. Her life was a constant calculation of survival: Can I afford to run the AC for a few hours of sleep in this heat? Do I have enough gas to drive to the next agency for help? Despite these overwhelming obstacles, KD remained focused on the single goal of stability. She utilized every community resource available to stay afloat, visiting the food pantry at the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County, St. Augustine Society/St. Francis for lunches, and Dining with Dignity for hot meals. To maintain her professional appearance and health, she relied on Planet Fitness for showers.

This past year, KD's perseverance began to yield results. Through the support of Vocational Rehabilitation, she secured a steady job, which she supplemented with a part-time cleaning position. She became a master of financial discipline by saving every penny and pinching every dollar possible to build a future. The real breakthrough came through collaborative case management. During a recent meeting regarding the St. Johns County Continuum of Care Rapid Rehousing list, two case managers from different agencies realized they were both working with KD. They decided to "tag-team" the situation, combining their resources and expertise to fast-track her housing process.

Armed with leads from her case managers from UF Health St. Johns Care Connect and the Homeless Coalition, she did the "leg work" by driving to various apartment complexes, asking the right questions, and touring potential homes. She refused to settle, waiting for a space that would not only provide shelter but also a sense of self. Finally, she found the perfect fit: A 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment. It was affordable, included water, and featured a washer/dryer hookup. Most importantly, the extra space meant KD could finally have an art studio again, a vital step in reclaiming her identity beyond her circumstances.

Though she could afford the monthly rent, the initial move-in fees were a significant barrier. Her team reached out to the CoC for assistance. While the initial news was uncertain, the power of advocacy prevailed. By facilitating a direct conversation between KD and a Case Manager to update her information, the team successfully secured funding through the ESG Rapid Rehousing program. This critical support will cover her application fees, security deposit, and pro-rated first month's rent. The next step for KD is her final home inspection, completing the application, and receiving her move-in date. This success is a testament to the power of a determined spirit and a community that refuses to let someone fall through the cracks. A dedicated team is assisting, advocating, and praying for KD as she prepares to add apartment keys to her keychain.

Taskforce for Ending Homelessness in North Central Florida

This fiscal year, the Taskforce for Ending Homelessness expanded services into Dixie and Union counties as planned. These rural areas are historically underserved, and under-resourced, and significant progress has been made since expanding coverage. To date, 88 adults and children have been served, two households diverted from entering homelessness, nine households placed into housing, and 49 households provided with homelessness prevention assistance.

4.2 Measurable Impacts

Completed FY 2024-25 data demonstrates meaningful statewide activity across Florida's homelessness response system, including housing assistance, shelter support, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, street outreach, case management, and CoC operational support. Because FY 2025-26 services are still ongoing, FY 2024-25

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represents the most complete and reliable data available for assessing the recent statewide impact of services delivered through the Office on Homelessness grant portfolio. The figures below reflect reported grant deliverables and service outputs submitted through the invoicing process. Unless otherwise noted, these counts should not be interpreted as unduplicated individuals served. Many measures represent monthly service intervals or service instances, meaning an individual or household may be counted more than once if assistance was provided across multiple months. For example, "Individuals Housed or Sheltered" under the Challenge Grant reflects monthly instances of individuals housed or sheltered, not 30,255 unique individuals.

Challenge Grant
Individuals Housed or Sheltered: 30,255 Case Management Services Delivered: 35,793 Individuals Served with Street Outreach and Transportation Assistance: 17,212
Challenge Plus Grant
Individuals Rapidly Rehoused: 5,867 Individuals Prevented from Homelessness: 5,460
Challenge Unsheltered
Program Need: 8,267
ESG
Street Outreach: 6,639 Emergency Shelter: 14,837 Homelessness Prevention: 5,281 Rapid Rehousing: 5,904
ESG-RUSH (Disaster Response) Grant
Street Outreach: 267 Emergency Shelter: 253 Homelessness Prevention: 246 Rapid Rehousing: 674
TANF Homelessness Prevention Program
Financial Assistance Provided: 2,534 Case Management Services: 7,069
Staffing Grant
Supported operational infrastructure across all 27 CoCs, enabling local leadership, planning, and effective use of coordinated entry and HMIS.

4.3 Long-Term Investments in Housing Stability

While many homelessness programs demonstrate measurable short-term outcomes, investments in affordable and supportive housing yield benefits that unfold over years and even decades. These initiatives provide foundational infrastructure that enables long-term housing stability and significantly reduce reliance on emergency systems over time.

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Affordable Housing Development

The Legislature, identifying the importance of affordable housing, created a strategy to encourage the production and rehabilitation of affordable housing through state and local government collaboration with communities and the private sector. The Florida Department of Commerce and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation lead this initiative, in collaboration with state and local initiatives (OPPAGA, 2025).

Affordable housing development requires multi-year planning, financing, and construction efforts. From FY 2019 through 2024, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and the Florida Department of Commerce administered 26 affordable housing programs, with about 38 percent of programs using federal financial tools (OPPAGA, 2025).

Historical data shows that in the last five years, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation funded 494 properties with 64,907 new rental units, with most of their rental portfolio located in or near low-income and cost-burdened populations. Further, the organization has established a plan to preserve existing affordable rental properties (up to 12,055 set to expire between 2024-2029). Finally, the organization has also provided funding to 37,617 homeowners throughout the state of Florida from 2020-2024. Florida Commerce funded the construction and rehabilitation of 1,717 rental units and 4,942 single-family homes from FY 2019-2024 (OPPAGA, 2025).

Although outcomes are not immediate, the return on investment is substantial and sustained. Ending homelessness requires prevention, in the form of affordable housing development, to best support the needs of low-income Floridians.

Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) pairs affordable housing with comprehensive, wraparound services for individuals with significant needs, including those experiencing chronic health conditions or behavioral health challenges. PSH is broadly recognized as a cost-effective strategy for reducing chronic homelessness, hospitalizations, and involvement with the justice system.

While the return on investment for supportive housing may not always be realized within a single fiscal year, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation has led statewide pilot initiatives demonstrating cost savings across publicly funded systems of care when individuals who were formerly chronically homeless receive PSH. Consistent with national research, Florida communities were found to spend roughly 30 percent less including housing and service costs, compared to the expenses associated with leaving these individuals unhoused. Additionally, the Medicaid Waiver PSH pilot, administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), has shown notable improvements in health outcomes along with reductions in emergency and crisis care costs for participants receiving PSH.

Florida's continued expansion of PSH through the development of housing designated for individuals exiting homelessness and other special needs populations, as well as initiatives like Link, partnerships with private funders and Managing Entities (MEs), and coordinated Medicaid collaborations, remains a high-impact solution for residents who might otherwise remain homeless or cycle through expensive institutional systems of care.

5 2026 Policy Recommendations

The Council presents the following 2026 policy recommendations to support the State of Florida's efforts to prevent and end homelessness. These recommendations are based on system-wide needs and collaborative input from local CoCs and stakeholders across the state. They aim to increase access to housing, enhance interagency coordination, and expand affordable housing infrastructure that assists individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The Council underscores that meaningful progress will depend on sustained state investment, collaboration across sectors, and a commitment to long-term housing solutions.

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The following recommendations have been proposed to strengthen localized homelessness response through state-supported initiatives:

1. **Increase Housing Access:** Recommend appropriating additional recurring funding to address Florida's affordable housing shortage.
2. **Strengthen Local CoC Partnerships:** Require all state-funded entities addressing homelessness to formally engage with their respective CoCs in the development of strategic plans and discharge planning, ensuring alignment of services, data coordination, and a more comprehensive system response.
3. **Expand State Support for Florida's CoCs:** Maintain ongoing investment in the CoC Staffing Grant and increase Challenge Grant funding to provide ongoing stability for Florida's response to ending homelessness through the Homeless CoC service delivery model.
4. **Expand Dedicated Affordable Housing Resources:** Ensure that state-designated affordable housing resources are used exclusively for their intended purpose of creating and preserving affordable housing, including housing with supportive services, which is essential to preventing and ending homelessness.
5. **Include Supportive Services Funding with Affordable Housing Placements:** Support federal policy by providing supportive services funding for recently housed individuals, ensuring housing stability.
6. **Adopt the Recommendations of the Statewide Permanent Supportive Housing Workgroup:** At the request of representatives from the Governor's Office, state agencies convened in 2023 to develop a coordinated response to the state's supportive housing needs. The intent was to identify strategies and solutions to improve the coordinated approach to the provision of supportive housing (and services) serving vulnerable households throughout Florida.

5.1 Increasing Housing Access

Floridians continue to encounter substantial and persistent barriers to achieving housing stability. Access to affordable, stable housing is essential to ending homelessness. The Council acknowledges that many Floridians, especially those with disabilities, chronic health conditions, or who are aging, face considerable challenges to maintaining housing stability without targeted support. To significantly expand access to housing, the Council recommends increasing dedicated funding for affordable housing aimed at those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This includes better alignment of housing resources across systems and strengthening local capacity to tailor housing solutions to community-specific needs.

Affordable Housing Funding

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2025 Gap Report indicates that Florida has only 26 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 extremely low-income renter households, with 576,381 extremely low-income renter individuals and families. This gap disproportionately impacts individuals and families with special needs, disabilities, or fixed incomes, including those earning at or below 30 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI).

To start addressing this shortage, the Council recommends increasing recurring appropriations to support the development and preservation of affordable housing statewide for homeless, extremely low-income (ELI), and special needs populations. When combined with stronger cross-system collaboration, this investment will allow communities to design housing solutions that address the diverse needs of Florida's most vulnerable residents.

Resource Coupling

Housing stability is most successful when paired with the services individuals need to sustain it over time. The Council recommends stronger coordination between housing programs and other systems of care such as behavioral health, aging services, and child welfare to further connect supportive services with permanent housing. By aligning existing funding streams with long-term housing assistance, communities can more effectively address the varied needs of

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individuals experiencing homelessness. This strategy may involve incorporating case management and supportive services into affordable housing developments or expanding supportive housing models for individuals with higher levels of need. Adapting service integration to local priorities will help make sure resources are used efficiently and outcomes are optimized for vulnerable populations.

5.2 Strengthening Local Continuum of Care Partnerships

Collaborative planning and coordination across service systems are critical to effectively addressing homelessness at the local level. Strong partnerships among agencies improve communities' ability to respond comprehensively to the diverse needs of individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. To support this integrated approach, the Council recommends that state-funded entities serving these populations – including, but not limited to, domestic violence providers, Community-Based Care agencies (CBCs), MEds, school districts, Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), healthcare coalitions, correctional agencies, local governments, and the Department of Health – actively engage with their local CoC. Engagement may take the form of joining the CoC as a member, attending regularly scheduled CoC meetings, and sharing resources, information, and expertise with CoC members.

Engagement in local efforts to prevent and end homelessness fosters stronger cross-sector alignment, better resource coordination, and more effective discharge planning. It also strengthens the State's capacity to align funding, data sharing, and program outcomes to better support Floridians experiencing housing instability. Through formalized partnerships, communities can more effectively utilize shared resources to build sustainable, coordinated responses to homelessness.

Coordinating with Local SHIP Administrators

As part of this broader collaborative effort, the Council encourages closer alignment between local CoCs and administrators of the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program. The SHIP program plays a vital role in the development and preservation of affordable housing and is administered by local governments in accordance with their Local Housing Assistance Plans (LHAPs). Although current SHIP guidelines allow for local flexibility, improved coordination between SHIP offices and CoCs can support housing needs related to homelessness being recognized and incorporated into local housing strategies.

The Council recommends including local SHIP administrators in CoC planning processes and encouraging CoCs to collaborate with SHIP offices to identify opportunities to use funds to address gaps in homelessness prevention, rental housing, and supportive housing where appropriate. Strengthened communication and joint planning across these systems will promote more responsive, community-driven solutions and improve alignment of resources across housing and service programs.

5.3 Expand State Support for Continuums of Care

The State of Florida's ongoing investment in local CoCs remains essential to advancing a coordinated and effective response to homelessness. By sustaining programs such as the Staffing Grant and expanding initiatives like the Challenge and TANF Grants, the State empowers communities to provide responsive, data-driven services to individuals and families most at risk.

Staffing Grant (State)

The Staffing Grant enables CoCs to maintain the professional workforce necessary to lead community-wide homelessness efforts. The current funding level has proven effective in supporting essential roles and is recommended to be maintained. Ongoing investment will ensure CoCs can continue delivering key functions, including:

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- **Community Engagement:** Facilitating collaboration among local service providers, healthcare organizations, housing authorities, local governments, and individuals with lived experience to ensure a unified and person-centered response.
- **Data Management and Reporting:** Operating the HMIS to track services, measure outcomes, and inform stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels.
- **Effective Grants Management:** Administering both state and federal resources – such as HUD CoC Program funds and DCF’s unified grant – ensuring funds are allocated to high-performing projects and fully compliant with regulatory requirements.
- **Strategic Planning and Coordination:** Developing and implementing community-specific plans to end homelessness, coordinating service delivery, conducting annual PIT Counts, and identifying local system gaps.

Challenge Grant (State) Expansion

The Challenge Grant, authorized under Section 420.622(4), Florida Statutes, offers critical flexibility to meet local needs as identified in each CoC’s homelessness plan. Funding in FY 2025-26 was \$20,016,822.00. These grants support shelter development and operations, rental assistance, supportive housing, case management, street outreach, and behavioral health services for vulnerable individuals and families.

The Council recommends increasing recurring funding for the Challenge Grant to \$30,016,822, restoring it to a level previously piloted under the Challenge Unsheltered initiative. That funding level enabled communities to expand housing opportunities, implement innovative pilot programs, and more effectively serve individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Increasing the Challenge Grant will allow these successful approaches to be sustained and expanded statewide.

TANF (Federal) Homelessness Prevention Grant Expansion

In addition to state and HUD resources, the TANF Homelessness Prevention Program provides targeted support to families with children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. TANF funds allocated to the Office on Homelessness are currently used to assist families in crisis by providing short-term rental and utility assistance, housing-related case management, and follow-up support to promote long-term stability.

Currently, the Office on Homelessness receives \$852,507 annually in TANF funds – an amount that has remained virtually unchanged since 2004. With only a tiny fraction of Florida’s total TANF award currently dedicated to homelessness prevention through the CoC system, each of the 27 CoCs receives an average of just \$31,574 per year, limiting their ability to address rising demand and inflation-driven cost increases.

Expanded TANF Homelessness Prevention funding would:

- Provide critical support to low-income families with children facing housing instability.
- Enhance coordination between TANF services and the broader homelessness response system.
- Promote long-term housing and economic stability through integrated case management.
- Improve outcomes consistent with the federal TANF program’s core purposes, including family self-sufficiency, child well-being, and the reduction of dependency on government benefits.

To strengthen service delivery and increase impact, the Council recommends increasing TANF funding allocated to the Office on Homelessness to \$5.6 million annually, equivalent to one percent of Florida’s total FY 2024 TANF award to the State. This would bring homelessness-focused TANF funding into greater alignment with other regional TANF investments and allow the Department to expand its reach across all CoCs.

5.4 Expand Dedicated Affordable Housing Resources

Affordable housing is a core element of Florida's long-term strategy to prevent and end homelessness. State resources specifically designated for the development and preservation of affordable housing such as those administered through the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund are essential to meeting the needs of extremely low-income households, individuals with disabilities, seniors, and others at risk of homelessness.

The Council recommends that state-designated affordable housing funds remain dedicated exclusively to their intended purpose: the development, preservation, and support of affordable housing opportunities statewide. Ongoing investment in affordable housing is critical to reducing the structural housing shortage and providing the long-term stability necessary to prevent homelessness and support successful transitions out of temporary shelter.

Maintaining the full use of these dedicated resources for affordable housing will help to support Florida as we continue progressing toward closing the affordability gap, decreasing reliance on crisis systems, and advancing the long-term goal of a state where every individual and family has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

5.5 Include Service Funds with Housing Funding

Florida has demonstrated a strong commitment to expand affordable and supportive housing by incorporating housing set-asides for individuals with complex needs. These efforts have helped create critically needed, affordable rental housing units. The State's investment in affordable housing provides a strong foundation upon which a more comprehensive supportive housing system can be built.

While current housing finance resources effectively support the development and operation of affordable housing, the supportive services component necessary for true permanent supportive housing remains difficult to sustain under existing funding structures. Current funding sources do not consistently provide flexible, long-term services funding needed to support residents experiencing chronic homelessness, behavioral health challenges, disabling conditions, or other significant barriers. In addition, many residents who are most vulnerable have extremely limited income and are unable to maintain housing stability without ongoing rental assistance or rental subsidies that bridge the gap between household income and housing costs. As a result, developments may include supportive housing units, but providers must piece together separate and inconsistent funding streams for both supportive services and rental assistance to effectively serve the intended population.

Braiding supportive services funding with housing resources and rental assistance would strengthen the effectiveness of Florida's existing investments and allow developments financed through Florida Housing to fully achieve the goals of permanent supportive housing.

Establishing dedicated operating subsidies, project-based rental assistance, or flexible rental assistance pools for residents with little to no income would help ensure long-term housing stability and reduce the risk of returns to homelessness, institutionalization, or crisis systems. A coordinated statewide funding strategy would improve collaboration among housing finance entities, behavioral health systems, Medicaid managed care organizations, homeless service providers, public housing authorities, and local governments. By aligning housing, rental subsidy, and service investments, Florida can create a more sustainable and outcomes-driven supportive housing model that not only expands affordable housing inventory, but also ensures residents receive the financial and supportive resources necessary to remain stably housed and thrive within their communities.

5.6 Adopt Recommendations of the Statewide Permanent Supportive Housing Workgroup

The Council acknowledges the shared vision and efforts of the members of the Statewide Permanent Supportive Housing Workgroup (Workgroup) in developing the 2023 Action Plan and Recommendations (Action Plan). This Workgroup included leadership from the Agency for Healthcare Administration, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, DCF, the Department of Elder Affairs, the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, and the Office of Policy and Budget within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Workgroup's Action Plan outlined a strategic framework for the coordinated development and management of PSH. The Council recommends that the state adopt the Workgroup's Action Plan and position itself as a model of best practices for other states.

The Action Plan recommendations are to:

1. Develop and implement a coordinated interagency approach, overseen and guided by a coordinated state entity to develop and sustain the provision of adequate levels of permanent supportive housing throughout Florida.
2. Begin efforts to design coordinated permanent supportive housing initiatives and consolidate related funding to create sustainable solutions.
3. Establish new approaches to assisting permanent supportive housing residents in ultimately achieving self-sufficiency and moving on to independent housing.
4. Implement a scaled approach to improve and enhance existing programmatic efforts that currently supplement permanent supportive housing initiatives.

Individuals and households in need of PSH often interact with programs and services administered by multiple state agencies. The Workgroup's cross-agency composition reflects the wide range of services that support this population and parallels the state agency representation on the Council. Establishing a dedicated state office modeled after a comparable existing state office focused on advancing PSH would improve outcomes for those served while promoting more efficient use of resources by directing funding and services to areas of greatest need. However, effective interagency coordination requires clear authority and oversight to address organizational, funding, and data-sharing silos. The anticipated benefits of adopting the best practice framework outlined in the Workgroup's recommendations include:

- Coordination to allow for the best and most efficient use of resources in providing PSH and serving vulnerable households.
- Implementation of data-driven public-private approaches to solve the multifaceted aspects of homelessness which are often limited in potential and effectiveness due to program silos.
- Coordination in program design and implementation, while also ensuring predictable funding for the necessary supportive services that accompany housing efforts.
- Integrating existing programs related to PSH into a more holistic model that will allow the State to better serve vulnerable households.
- Directing efforts to allow households to move between services using a "No Wrong Door" approach, thereby eliminating the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of starting anew each time a household is served by a different funding stream.

6 Appendices

Appendix I: Point-in-Time Data

HUD requires that CoCs conduct an annual PIT Count of persons experiencing homelessness, which are divided into unsheltered and sheltered population categories for further analysis.¹ The PIT Count requires significant effort by volunteers, as well as coordination, mapping, resources, and data entry. The preliminary 2026 PIT Count results are presented in this Appendix with comparisons to previous years.

TABLE 1: POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS BY CoC

CoC #	CoC Catchment Area (Counties)	2020	2021 ^a	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
FL-500	Manatee, Sarasota	1,044	526	1,138	1,150	1,157	966	931
FL-501	Hillsborough	1,452	870	1,513	2,040	1,893	1,796	1,761
FL-502	Pinellas	2,226	2,307	1,985	2,144	2,110	1,860	1,949
FL-503	Polk	612	385	506	776	1,207	737	926
FL-504	Volusia, Flagler	904	694	865	1,053	1,164	1,188	1,015
FL-505	Okaloosa, Walton	351	73	403	395	391	267	355
FL-506	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla	805	621	621	801	840	667	586
FL-507	Orange, Osceola, and Seminole	2,007	1,544	2,151	2,258	2,776	2,781	2,724
FL-508	Alachua, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Putnam	880	677	925	1,006	752	887	613
FL-509	Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie	1,379	814	846	925	701	569	574
FL-510	Clay, Duval, and Nassau	1,366	1,222	1,279	1,247	1,339	1,008	1,146
FL-511	Escambia and Santa Rosa	746	731	727	1,180	1,123	881	1,150
FL-512	St. Johns	367	420	349	435	442	390	367
FL-513	Brevard	940	432	916	1,052	1,116	1,062	1,039
FL-514	Marion	523	512	455	454	378	391	454
FL-515	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington	385	101	378	517	499	373	392
FL-517	DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee	403	27	650	1,016	641	608	500
FL-518	Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, and Suwannee	578	69	488	494	527	516	436
FL-519	Pasco	898	857	589	680	731	635	629
FL-520	Citrus, Hernando, Lake, and Sumter	703	638	745	649	786	767	889
FL-600	Miami-Dade	3,560	3,224	3,276	3,657	3,800	3,728	3,643
FL-601	Broward	2,211	2,561	2,054	2,487	2,469	2,636	955
FL-602	Charlotte	169	154	148	427	343	333	271
FL-603	Lee	444	394	560	862	941	734	838
FL-604	Monroe	421	242	526	493	450	382	405
FL-605	Palm Beach	1,510	458	1,404	1,855	2,126	1,520	538

¹ While PIT Counts provide valuable information and are used for statewide and cross-state benchmarking, it is a snapshot in time (i.e., a single night in January of each year). The difficulty of locating every person that is homeless in a community also means that the PIT data likely undercounts the total population.

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FL-606	Collier	603	568	462	703	660	756	433
Totals ^b		27,487	21,121	25,959	30,756	31,362	28,498	25,519

Notes:

a - The 2021 PIT Count numbers are not comparable to the previous or current years' counts. Typically, CoCs conduct a PIT Count of both sheltered and unsheltered households. In 2021, due to COVID-19 related safety concerns, only six of the 27 CoCs conducted such a count; 10 CoCs did not conduct an unsheltered count; and others conducted a modified form of the unsheltered count. All CoCs conducted a sheltered PIT count. For those that did not conduct an unsheltered count, the CoCs reported zero unsheltered persons, resulting in an undercount of homelessness.

b - Note that the PIT counts for 2025 and 2026 are preliminary, and subject to change prior to being later in the year. d - Note that although FL-508 expanded their catchment area to include Dixie and Union counties, and FL-510 expanded to include Baker County, these counties were not included in 2025 PIT Counts.

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TABLE 2: POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS BY COUNTY

County	2020	2021 ^c	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Alachua	657	521	625	931	639	746	536
Baker	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	0	6
Bay	378	185	351	342	335	216	226
Bradford	N/C	12	21	1	1	25	9
Brevard ^e	815	432	902	1,052	1,071	1,062	1,039
Broward ^b	2,312	2,561	2,054	2,487	2,469	2,636	955
Calhoun	N/C	0	0	29	8	0	1
Charlotte	169	122	148	427	343	334	271
Citrus	171	221	154	199	277	244	336
Clay ^e	74	57	43	16	81	25	38
Collier	603	568	462	703	660	816	433
Columbia	312	60	276	285	234	335	271
DeSoto ^e	104	N/C	239	57	115	69	183
Dixie	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	2	9
Duval ^e	1,494	1,137	989	1,176	1,209	967	1,071
Escambia ^e	504	770	724	1,168	1,087	881	1,111
Flagler	73	37	65	61	32	141	56
Franklin	7	0	N/C	9	0	0	0
Gadsden	14	8	10	29	9	13	20
Gilchrist	N/C	0	1	0	0	0	1
Glades ^e	34	N/C	49	18	91	87	40
Gulf	2	N/C	25	109	80	0	13
Hamilton ^e	45	N/C	42	40	47	38	32
Hardee ^e	70	N/C	406	494	195	23	16
Hendry ^e	45	N/C	124	4	39	99	20
Hernando ^e	151	169	112	183	193	296	233
Highlands ^e	102	N/C	246	402	159	293	179
Hillsborough ^e	1,650	870	1,513	2,040	1,893	1,796	1,761
Holmes	N/C	0	0	3	2	0	0
Indian River ^e	486	261	290	341	225	198	198
Jackson	3	N/C	1	32	58	157	151
Jefferson	6	N/C	3	1	0	0	0
Lafayette ^e	27	N/C	25	28	28	22	19
Lake ^e	254	223	141	228	277	209	298
Lee	444	394	560	857	941	734	838
Leon	761	539	596	732	831	654	557
Levy ^e	27	38	8	22	N/C	38	28
Liberty	45	0	N/C	0	0	0	0
Madison	N/C	0	N/C	4	0	0	0
Manatee	466	185	594	739	678	587	N/A ^f
Marion	523	512	455	454	378	391	454
Martin ^e	305	266	248	246	195	196	212
Miami-Dade ^e	3,472	3,224	3,276	3,657	3,800	3,728	3,643
Monroe	437	242	526	493	449	382	405

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Nassau ^e	86	28	17	55	55	16	31
Okaloosa ^e	372	73	353	189	204	204	0
Okeechobee ^e	48	N/C	79	30	30	37	388
Orange	1,401	1,162	1,532	1,626	2,090	1,972	1,979
Osceola	234	173	339	358	353	373	382
Palm Beach	1,510	458	1,404	1,855	2,126	1,520	538
Pasco ^e	894	857	516	680	695	635	629
Pinellas	2,209	2,307	1,985	2,144	2,110	1,860	1,949
Polk	565	385	506	607	1,300	737	926
Putnam	178	106	270	272	120	76	30
St. Johns	368	420	349	435	442	390	367
St. Lucie ^e	708	287	308	338	281	175	527
Santa Rosa ^e	13	24	3	12	36	0	44
Sarasota ^e	594	341	544	411	478	378	N/A ^f
Seminole	372	209	280	274	440	436	0
Sumter	24	25	13	39	39	18	22
Suwannee	182	9	145	141	146	121	114
Taylor	11	6	12	10	0	0	9
Union	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	0	0
Volusia	839	657	800	992	1,146	1,047	959
Wakulla	N/C	0	N/C	27	0	0	0
Walton ^e	27	N/C	50	206	38	63	24
Washington	2	0	1	9	16	0	1
Adjustment(s) ^d	-192	-20	149	-53	88	0	
Totals	27,487	21,121	25,959	30,756	31,362	28,498	25,519

Notes:

a - "N/C" indicates that no count was conducted. Zero indicates that no individuals were found in the count.

b - FL-601, which encompasses Broward County, did not conduct an Unsheltered count for 2024. The 2023 Unsheltered count of 1,624 was added to the 2024 PIT count to ensure that the total homeless population for 2024 was not skewed.

c - The 2021 PIT Count numbers are not comparable to the previous or current years' counts. Typically, CoCs conduct a PIT Count of both sheltered and unsheltered households. In 2021, due to COVID-19 related safety concerns, only six of the 27 CoCs conducted such a count; 10 CoCs did not conduct an unsheltered count; and others conducted a modified form of the unsheltered count. All CoCs conducted a sheltered PIT count. For those that did not conduct an unsheltered count, the CoCs reported zero unsheltered persons, resulting in an undercount of homelessness.

d - CoCs submit PIT data annually to the State and to HUD. Occasionally, there are technical adjustments made to the PIT data after the State's fiscal year end. In this case, the PIT data will be updated on the next annual report and marked as "Adjusted."

e - For the year 2020, the County used 2019 data due to COVID-19.

f - Manatee and Sarasota have a combined total of 931, however the exact county breakdown was not known at the time of the 2026 Annual Report.

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TABLE 3: SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS FOR 2026

CoC #	CoC Catchment Area (Counties)	Sheltered	Sheltered YoY % Change	Unsheltered	Unsheltered YoY % Change	Total	2025 Total	Total YoY % Change
FL-500	Manatee, Sarasota	608	37.9%	323	-38.48%		966	-3.62%
FL-501	Hillsborough	1,016	6.9%	745	-11.94%	1,761	1,796	-1.95%
FL-502	Pinellas	1,314	-0.6%	635	18.03%	1,949	1,860	4.78%
FL-503	Polk	753	48.5%	173	-24.78%	926	737	25.64%
FL-504	Volusia, Flagler	464	-9.6%	551	-18.37%	1,015	1,188	-14.56%
FL-505	Okaloosa, Walton	212	909.5%	143	-41.87%	355	267	32.96%
FL-506	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla	394	-12.8%	192	-10.70%	586	667	-12.14%
FL-507	Orange, Osceola, and Seminole	1,731	2.4%	993	-8.90%	2,724	2,781	-2.05%
FL-508	Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Putnam, and Union	414	-5.0%	199	-55.88%	613	887	-30.89%
FL-509	Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie	184	21.1%	390	-6.47%	574	569	0.88%
FL-510	Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau	767	6.7%	379	31.14%	1,146	1,008	13.69%
FL-511	Escambia and Santa Rosa	727	22.0%	423	48.42%	1,150	881	30.53%
FL-512	St. Johns	177	13.5%	190	-18.80%	367	390	-5.90%
FL-513	Brevard	421	16.3%	618	-11.71%	1,039	1,062	-2.17%
FL-514	Marion	253	9.5%	201	25.63%	454	391	16.11%
FL-515	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington	312	56.0%	80	-53.76%	392	373	5.09%
FL-517	DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee	112		-24.81%	-24.81%	500	608	-17.76%
FL-518	Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, and Suwannee	123	-8.9%	313	-17.85%	436	516	-15.50%
FL-519	Pasco	325	46.4%	304	-26.39%	629	635	-0.94%
FL-520	Citrus, Hernando, Lake, and Sumter	328	37.8%	561	6.05%	889	767	15.91%
FL-600	Miami-Dade	2,459	-14.3%	1,184	38.00%	3,643	3,728	-2.28%
FL-601	Broward	955	10.4%	0	-100.00%	955	2,636	-63.77%
FL-602	Charlotte	91	-25.4%	180	-14.69%	271	333	-18.62%

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FL-603	Lee	194	40.6%	644	8.05%	838	734	14.17%
FL-604	Monroe	253	18.2%	152	-9.52%	405	382	6.02%
FL-605	Palm Beach	538	-11.2%	0	-100.00%	538	1,520	-64.61%
FL-606	Collier	214	-64.3%	219	1.39%	433	816	-46.94%
Totals		15,339	3.3%	10,180	-25.40%	25,519	28,498	-10.45%

TABLE 4: CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS BY CoC

CoC #	CoC Catchment Area (Counties)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
FL-500	Manatee, Sarasota	188	72	255	132	289	218	101
FL-501	Hillsborough	266	64	114	260	245	333	271
FL-502	Pinellas	592	213	483	573	576	453	562
FL-503	Polk	78	22	57	135	53	43	94
FL-504	Volusia, Flagler	76	24	73	137	184	183	113
FL-505	Okaloosa, Walton	183	18	85	92	120	69	73
FL-506	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla	192	197	153	178	209	139	90
FL-507	Orange, Osceola, and Seminole	489	158	403	464	719	606	662
FL-508	Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Putnam, and Union	225	179	223	119	232	210	200
FL-509	Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie	45	0	48	207	113	71	65
FL-510	Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau	71	29	117	62	121	107	92
FL-511	Escambia and Santa Rosa	184	1	250	234	365	149	248
FL-512	St. Johns	43	71	80	145	133	106	41
FL-513	Brevard	245	15	290	218	356	316	339
FL-514	Marion	130	156	63	84	72	48	65
FL-515	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington	43	3	71	87	59	20	18
FL-517	DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee	98	2	12	120	104	46	66
FL-518	Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, and Suwannee	65	0	37	34	21	57	32
FL-519	Pasco	265	361	126	136	112	172	154
FL-520	Citrus, Hernando, Lake, and Sumter	58	42	50	46	99	90	85
FL-600	Miami-Dade	524	553	762	939	1110	717	999
FL-601	Broward	654	208	388	624	713	744	154
FL-602	Charlotte	23	3	0	0	0	0	0
FL-603	Lee	93	57	47	196	276	212	207
FL-604	Monroe	31	24	35	48	42	70	63
FL-605	Palm Beach	241	61	248	237	532	256	113
FL-606	Collier	80	73	39	472	5	60	71
Totals		5,182	2,606	4,509	5,979	6,860	5,495	4,978

Appendix II: Unsheltered Homelessness

Unsheltered homelessness refers to individuals residing in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, abandoned buildings, encampments, or streets. This population often faces the highest levels of vulnerability and the greatest barriers to accessing shelter, services, health care, and permanent housing. According to the 2026 PIT Count, unsheltered homelessness in Florida decreased from 13,647 individuals in 2025 to 10,180 individuals in 2026, a 25.4 percent reduction. This marks the second consecutive year of decline in unsheltered homelessness and is shown in Figure 2.

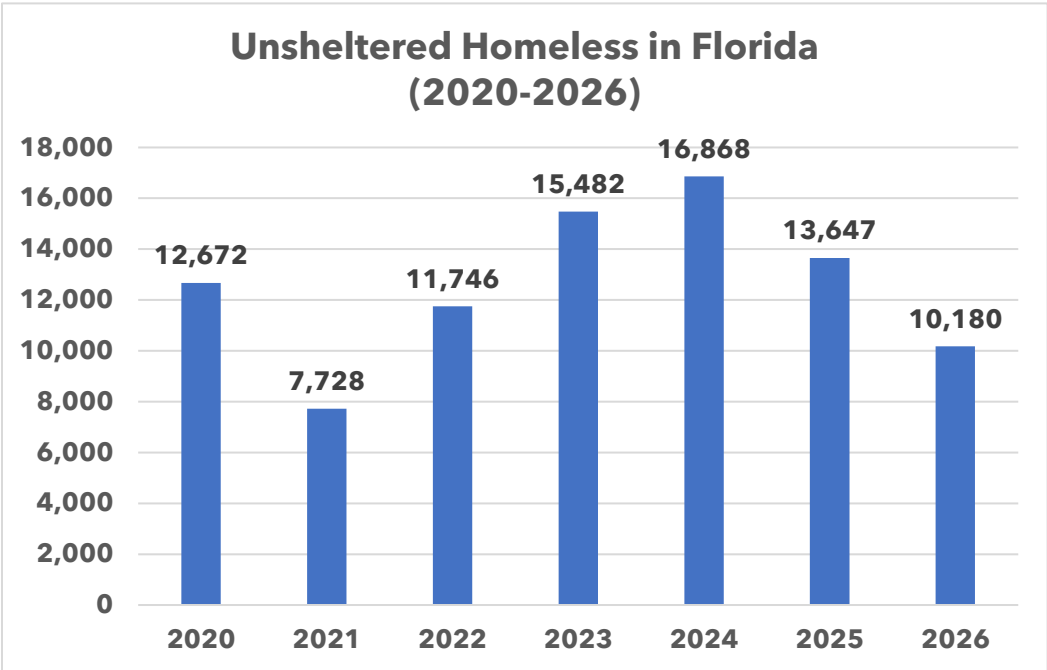


FIGURE 2 UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS IN FLORIDA

Shelter availability remains a critical factor in addressing unsheltered homelessness. To better understand access for this population, this report focuses on non-domestic violence (non-DV) shelter beds, as these beds represent the most immediate options available to individuals who are living unsheltered and do not qualify for specialized domestic violence (DV) services. While DV shelter beds serve a vital and protected population, they are not accessible to the broader unsheltered population and are often reported separately to maintain confidentiality and capacity protections. As shown in Figure 3, the number of year-round non-DV shelter beds in Florida has declined 19.76 percent over the last decade (2014 to 2024). This decline is partially attributed to shifting federal priorities toward permanent housing solutions, such as rapid rehousing, as well as the phase-out of pandemic-related emergency shelter funding like ESG-CV.²

² [CoC Housing Inventory Count Reports](#), HUD. Last accessed on March 6, 2025.

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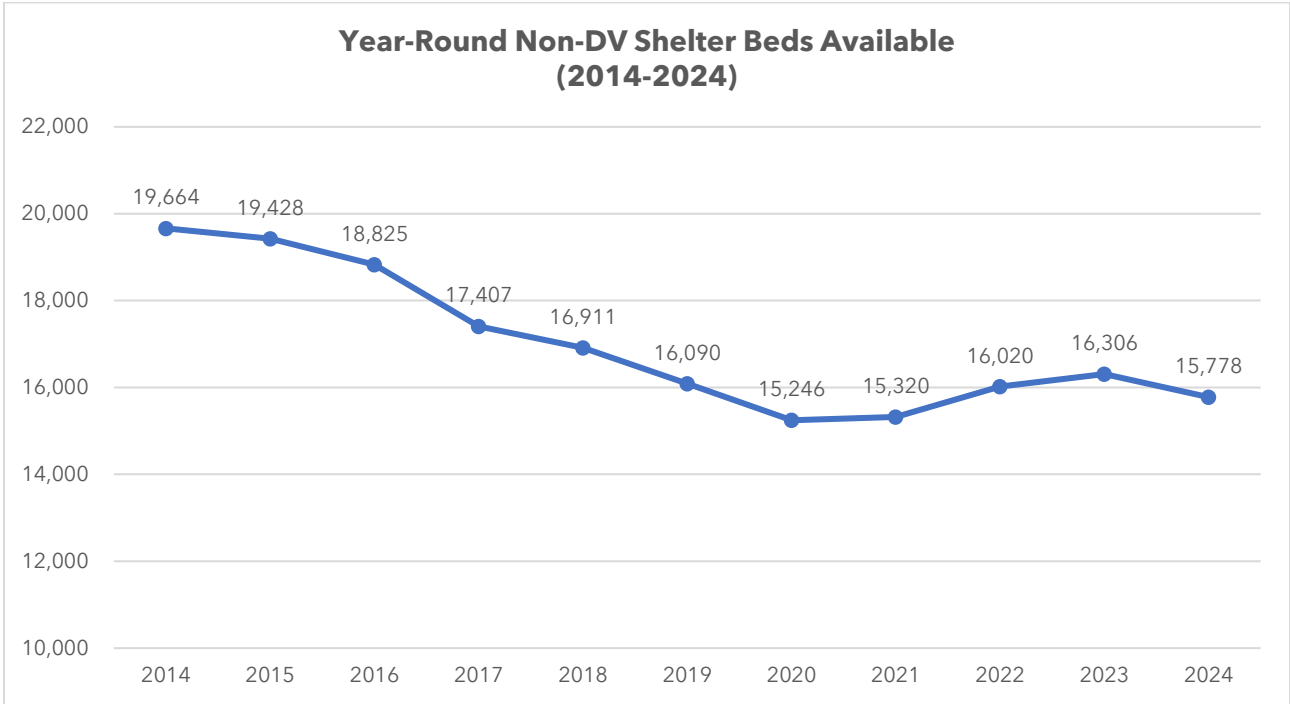


FIGURE 3: YEAR-ROUND NON-DV SHELTER BEDS AVAILABLE (2014-2024)

In recent years, state-level investments such as the Challenge Unsheltered Grant have helped stabilize this decline. These funds have enabled local CoCs to expand shelter infrastructure, including the development of low-barrier and transitional shelter beds specifically for unsheltered individuals. While the full effects of these investments are not yet visible in the current Housing Inventory Count (HIC), they are expected to result in increases in available beds in the 2025 and 2026 HIC, which has not yet been released at the time of this report.

As noted in previous annual reports, unsheltered homelessness places significant strain on public systems – contributing to higher utilization of emergency health services, increased interactions with law enforcement, and growing costs associated with managing encampments. Individuals living unsheltered are more likely to experience co-occurring challenges such as chronic health conditions, substance use disorders, mental illness, and recent histories of incarceration.³ Continued investment in shelter infrastructure and targeted outreach is essential to reducing the scale and impact of unsheltered homelessness statewide.

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³ [Unsheltered Homelessness: Trends, Characteristics, and Homeless Histories](#), Urban Institute. Last accessed May 27, 2024.

Appendix III: Sheltered Homelessness

Sheltered homelessness refers to individuals residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other temporary accommodations designed to provide safety and stability while permanent housing is secured. According to the 2026 PIT Count, the number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness in Florida increased from 14,851 in 2025 to 15,339 in 2026, an increase of approximately 3.3 percent, as shown in Figure 4.

This increase should be viewed alongside the significant decline in unsheltered homelessness during the same period. As more individuals are connected to emergency shelter, transitional housing, and other temporary housing options, sheltered homelessness may increase even as overall homelessness declines. In this context, the increase in sheltered homelessness may reflect expanded outreach, improved access to temporary shelter options, and local efforts to move individuals out of places not meant for human habitation.

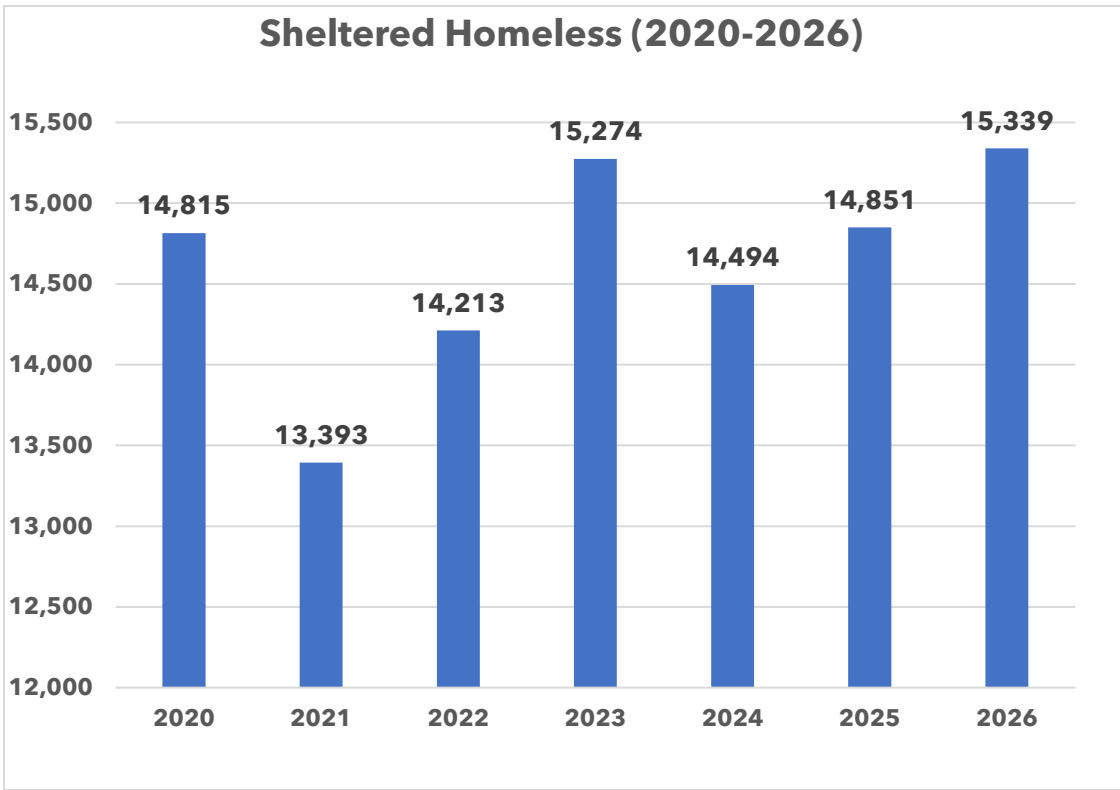


FIGURE 4: SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS IN FLORIDA

While sheltered settings provide immediate safety and stability compared to unsheltered homelessness, they remain temporary interventions rather than permanent housing solutions. Increased shelter utilization can place additional demands on local shelter systems, including bed capacity, staffing, supportive services, and housing navigation resources. Best practices for shelter services therefore include strong connections to coordinated entry, case management, behavioral health and employment supports, and rapid pathways to permanent housing.

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Appendix IV: Homelessness Among Families

Family homelessness refers to individuals experiencing homelessness as part of a household with at least one adult and one child. These families often face added challenges, including food insecurity, health concerns, disrupted education, economic instability, and risk of family separation. According to the 2026 PIT Count, family homelessness in Florida decreased from 6,911 individuals in 2025 to 6,558 in 2026, a 5.1 percent reduction, and has declined 13.3 percent since 2024. Continued investment in prevention, rapid rehousing, rental assistance, case management, and coordination with schools and child welfare partners remain essential to helping families return quickly to stable housing.

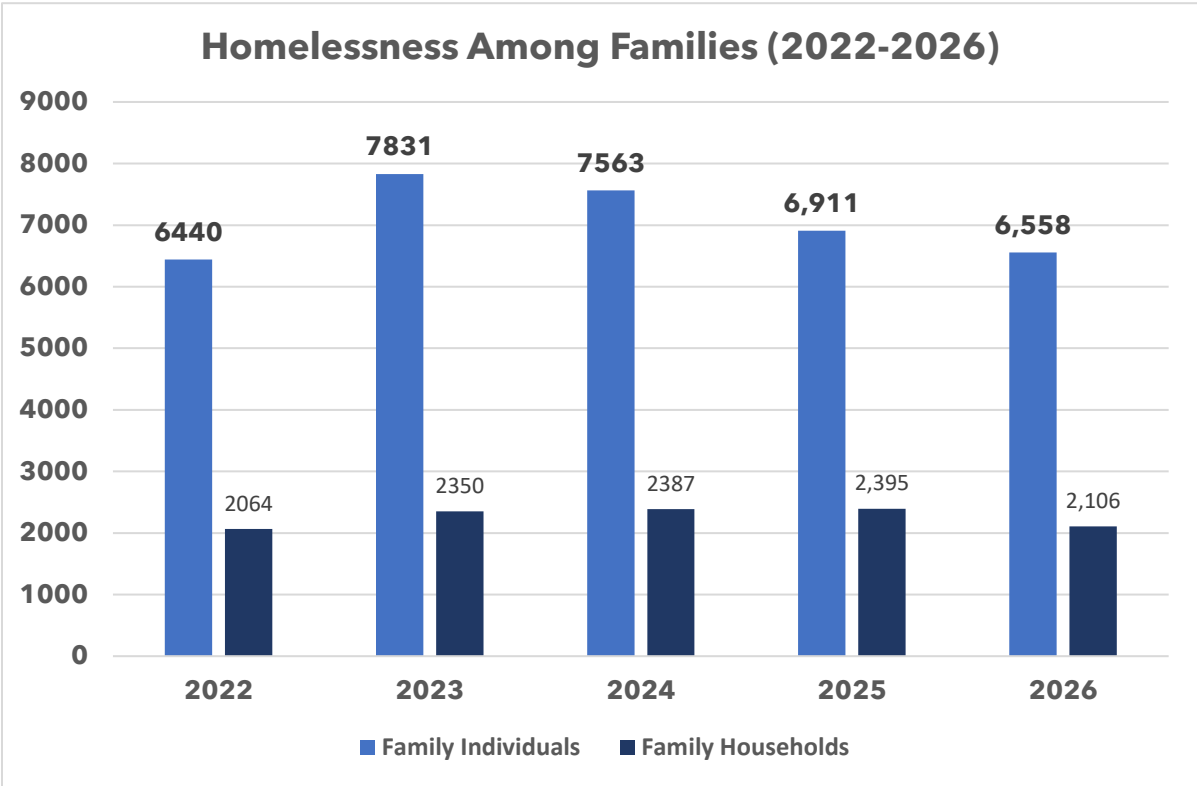
TABLE 5: HOMELESSNESS AMONG FAMILIES

CoC #	CoC Catchment Area (Counties)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
FL-500	Manatee, Sarasota	199	141	180	175	161	143	239
FL-501	Hillsborough	379	400	458	612	640	548	467
FL-502	Pinellas	350	372	449	506	515	328	369
FL-503	Polk	160	151	150	300	457	226	390
FL-504	Volusia, Flagler	300	199	322	312	359	298	327
FL-505	Okaloosa, Walton	56	39	83	81	70	31	73
FL-506	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla	215	109	139	170	218	94	155
FL-507	Orange, Osceola, and Seminole	657	659	858	793	766	746	732
FL-508	Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Putnam, and Union	163	95	122	99	119	95	196
FL-509	Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie	570	181	261	285	256	223	246
FL-510	Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau	375	247	292	276	239	188	198
FL-511	Escambia and Santa Rosa	75	3	36	140	98	122	21
FL-512	St. Johns	97	84	44	75	80	73	74
FL-513	Brevard	222	160	186	210	157	200	196
FL-514	Marion	161	145	127	116	96	138	155
FL-515	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington	39	18	22	91	66	16	82
FL-517	DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee	143	19	82	509	283	92	250
FL-518	Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, and Suwannee	205	32	105	160	186	148	88
FL-519	Pasco	211	152	129	135	138	133	167
FL-520	Citrus, Hernando, Lake, and Sumter	180	191	245	178	221	161	196
FL-600	Miami-Dade	1,299	1,011	1,054	1,219	1,254	1,109	986
FL-601	Broward	435	329	401	416	415	740	373
FL-602	Charlotte	32	32	46	97	76	48	47
FL-603	Lee	136	102	149	179	172	67	268
FL-604	Monroe	24	14	54	37	25	16	15
FL-605	Palm Beach	276	230	291	398	301	298	212
FL-606	Collier	184	152	155	262	195	630	36
Totals		7,143	5,267	6,440	7,831	7,563	6,911	6,558

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The 2026 PIT data indicates that the number of individuals in families experiencing homelessness decreased from 6,911 in 2025 to 6,558 in 2026, a 5.1 percent reduction. Since 2024, family homelessness has declined from 7,563 to 6,558, a 13.3 percent reduction.

FIGURE 5: HOMELESSNESS AMONG FAMILIES



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Appendix V: Homelessness Among Special Populations

This Appendix includes data and discussion of PIT counts for the special populations of students and unaccompanied youth, veterans, and seniors (i.e., older adults aged 55+).

Students and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Data on homeless students and unaccompanied homeless youth are reported through the Florida Department of Education’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (MVA) program. This data differs from HUD PIT Count data because the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness is broader and is designed to identify students experiencing housing instability that may affect school access, attendance, and educational outcomes.

Unlike HUD’s PIT Count, which generally focuses on individuals and families living in shelters, transitional housing, or places not meant for human habitation on a single night, McKinney-Vento data captures students identified at any point during the school year who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes students living in shelters, motels, cars, parks, or other temporary settings, as well as students who are sharing housing with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. As a result, the number of students identified as homeless under McKinney-Vento is significantly higher than the number of children captured in HUD’s PIT Count. For the 2024-25 school year, Florida school districts identified 95,759 homeless students, including students living in shelters, motels, doubled-up/shared housing, and other temporary living situations. Of these students, 7,859 were identified as unaccompanied homeless youth, meaning they were not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian while also experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento definition.

This data highlights the importance of coordination between local education agencies, CoCs, child welfare partners, youth-serving organizations, and housing providers. While not all students identified under McKinney-Vento meet HUD’s definition of homelessness, they represent a population experiencing significant housing instability and educational vulnerability. Continued coordination is necessary to connect students and unaccompanied youth to school stability supports, homelessness prevention resources, family reunification services where appropriate, and safe housing options.

TABLE 6: STUDENTS AND UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

Homeless Students, Non-Homeless Students, and Unaccompanied Youth by District
2024-25, Final Survey 5

Notes: Students with student demo and federal state indicator reported by homeless status (codes A, B, D, E). Charter LEAs are broken out in this report for specific monitoring purposes per the Bureau of Federal Education Programs.

District	District Name	Total Homeless and Non-Homeless	Living Situation at the Time the Student was Identified as Homeless					Non-Homeless	Homeless Unaccompanied Youth		
			Shelters (A)	Sharing Housing (B)	Other (D)	Motels (E)	Total		No (N)	Certified UHY (C)	UHY (U)
00	FLORIDA	3,079,176	5,877	72,248	6,141	11,493	95,759	2,983,417	87,900	3,688	4,171
01	ALACHUA	30,127	106	692	38	147	983	29,144	885	42	56
02	BAKER	4,977	2	186	34	15	237	4,740	187	27	23
03	BAY	29,532	52	1,155	40	132	1,379	28,153	1,252	106	21
04	BRADFORD	3,264	3	92	9	22	126	3,138	105	10	11

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05	BREVARD	75,522	112	955	93	230	1,390	74,132	1,142	167	81
05E	ODYSSEY CHARTER	2,443	0	17	2	3	22	2,421	20	1	1
06	BROWARD	266,388	236	4,214	257	628	5,335	261,053	4,829	259	247
07	CALHOUN	2,209	1	36	3	0	40	2,169	36	4	0
08	CHARLOTTE	18,433	35	499	54	86	674	17,759	620	33	21
09	CITRUS	16,430	52	641	54	49	796	15,634	621	113	62
10	CLAY	41,587	41	780	34	124	979	40,608	686	141	152
11	COLLIER	50,876	96	1,384	31	57	1,568	49,308	1,413	74	81
12	COLUMBIA	10,242	20	239	25	76	360	9,882	339	10	11
13	MIAMI-DADE	354,810	850	7,583	461	372	9,266	345,544	9,100	128	38
14	DESOTO	4,484	14	99	6	7	126	4,358	126	0	0
15	DIXIE	2,087	5	96	34	3	138	1,949	123	14	1
16	DUVAL	143,616	205	3,797	67	585	4,654	138,962	3,930	300	424
17	ESCAMBIA	39,048	104	1,484	94	254	1,936	37,112	1,794	63	79
18	FLAGLER	14,764	9	347	10	27	393	14,371	361	25	7
19	FRANKLIN	1,312	3	61	10	5	79	1,233	76	2	1
20	GADSDEN	5,238	4	81	7	7	99	5,139	91	3	5
21	GILCHRIST	3,036	6	125	16	11	158	2,878	150	8	0
22	GLADES	2,063	0	56	5	2	63	2,000	62	0	1
23	GULF	1,996	2	13	2	0	17	1,979	11	4	2
24	HAMILTON	1,717	0	230	6	6	242	1,475	239	2	1
25	HARDEE	4,911	22	260	44	2	328	4,583	318	7	3
26	HENDRY	19,581	316	564	23	16	919	18,662	871	21	27
27	HERNANDO	25,595	56	928	89	102	1,175	24,420	1,074	61	40
28	HIGHLANDS	12,721	22	382	13	36	453	12,268	442	2	9
29	HILLSBOROUGH	234,303	301	2,227	281	889	3,698	230,605	3,456	172	70
30	HOLMES	3,276	0	26	1	1	28	3,248	26	1	1
31	INDIAN RIVER	17,815	49	500	27	79	655	17,160	652	0	3
32	JACKSON	6,541	4	471	14	23	512	6,029	495	8	9
33	JEFFERSON	771	0	28	2	4	34	737	31	0	3
34	LAFAYETTE	1,260	0	93	124	0	217	1,043	217	0	0
35	LAKE	51,198	83	1,580	590	231	2,484	48,714	2,383	55	46
36	LEE	112,710	152	1,774	239	305	2,470	110,240	2,168	151	151
37	LEON	33,982	68	1,045	19	145	1,277	32,705	1,036	56	185
38	LEVY	5,790	14	283	23	20	340	5,450	310	14	16
39	LIBERTY	1,397	0	75	14	0	89	1,308	74	14	1
40	MADISON	2,441	5	78	22	26	131	2,310	127	4	0
41	MANATEE	57,693	73	1,294	40	144	1,551	56,142	1,470	28	53
42	MARION	50,269	106	966	126	296	1,494	48,775	1,168	196	130
43	MARTIN	19,720	77	680	25	35	817	18,903	763	3	51
44	MONROE	9,444	29	371	22	8	430	9,014	390	19	21
45	NASSAU	13,206	15	268	95	13	391	12,815	310	16	65
46	OKALOOSA	35,083	81	536	21	59	697	34,386	627	30	40

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47	OKEECHOBEE	6,467	17	280	78	17	392	6,075	334	35	23
48	ORANGE	218,345	370	6,339	618	1,423	8,750	209,595	8,264	117	369
48D	UCP CHARTER	1,536	2	19	2	2	25	1,511	25	0	0
49	OSCEOLA	84,079	96	2,456	131	805	3,488	80,591	3,363	77	48
50	PALM BEACH	200,807	349	4,345	285	358	5,337	195,470	5,222	88	27
50D	SOUTH TECH CHARTER	1,658	3	20	1	1	25	1,633	20	5	0
51	PASCO	91,996	145	1,594	159	361	2,259	89,737	2,015	144	100
52	PINELLAS	95,190	457	3,121	146	866	4,590	90,600	4,152	221	217
53	POLK	122,982	280	3,346	438	635	4,699	118,283	4,379	23	297
53D	LAKE WALES CHARTER	5,296	11	312	75	19	417	4,879	400	8	9
54	PUTNAM	10,861	52	386	49	15	502	10,359	424	21	57
55	ST. JOHNS	53,847	62	262	18	54	396	53,451	327	36	33
56	ST. LUCIE	52,753	42	3,412	77	301	3,832	48,921	3,547	19	266
57	SANTA ROSA	31,365	34	871	53	37	995	30,370	922	39	34
58	SARASOTA	48,013	128	417	27	122	694	47,319	613	65	16
59	SEMINOLE	67,418	109	2,500	388	514	3,511	63,907	3,097	169	245
60	SUMTER	10,646	26	126	20	51	223	10,423	214	2	7
61	SUWANNEE	6,485	17	177	32	32	258	6,227	224	11	23
62	TAYLOR	2,816	11	87	74	18	190	2,626	185	1	4
63	UNION	2,457	2	99	19	4	124	2,333	116	8	0
64	VOLUSIA	67,141	207	2,233	156	500	3,096	64,045	2,802	161	133
65	WAKULLA	5,539	0	48	3	0	51	5,488	45	6	0
66	WALTON	12,985	1	244	31	11	287	12,698	266	18	3
67	WASHINGTON	3,574	10	130	5	22	167	3,407	158	5	4
68	DEAF/BLIND	543	1	16	1	4	22	521	20	1	1
71	FL VIRTUAL	10,638	3	55	2	19	79	10,559	62	13	4
72	FAU LAB SCH	1,330	1	2	0	0	3	1,327	3	0	0
73	FSU LAB SCH	2,586	0	2	0	0	2	2,584	2	0	0
74	FAMU LAB SCH	538	0	1	0	0	1	537	1	0	0
75	UF LAB SCH	1,433	0	3	0	0	3	1,430	2	1	0
80	IDEA PUB SCH	5,791	3	26	7	16	52	5,739	51	0	1
81	TSC	286	0	0	0	0	0	286	0	0	0
815	MATER ACADEMY	1,303	1	6	0	2	9	1,294	9	0	0
82	FSU BAY	190	0	2	0	0	2	188	2	0	0
83	DJJ DISTRICT	2,935	0	0	0	0	0	2,935	0	0	0
98Z	KIPP CHARTER	1,439	6	20	0	2	28	1,411	28	0	0

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Homelessness Among Veterans

Reducing homelessness among veterans remains an ongoing policy focus for local, state, and federal partners. Veterans may experience elevated risks of homelessness due to factors such as poverty, behavioral health needs, substance use, service-related disabilities, and social isolation.⁴ According to the 2026 PIT Count, veteran homelessness in Florida decreased from 1,898 individuals in 2025 to 1,725 individuals in 2026, a 9.1 percent reduction. This continues the long-term decline from 2,472 veterans in 2019 and represents an overall decrease of approximately 30.2 percent since 2019. The trend in veteran homelessness is shown in Figure 6 and Table 6.⁵

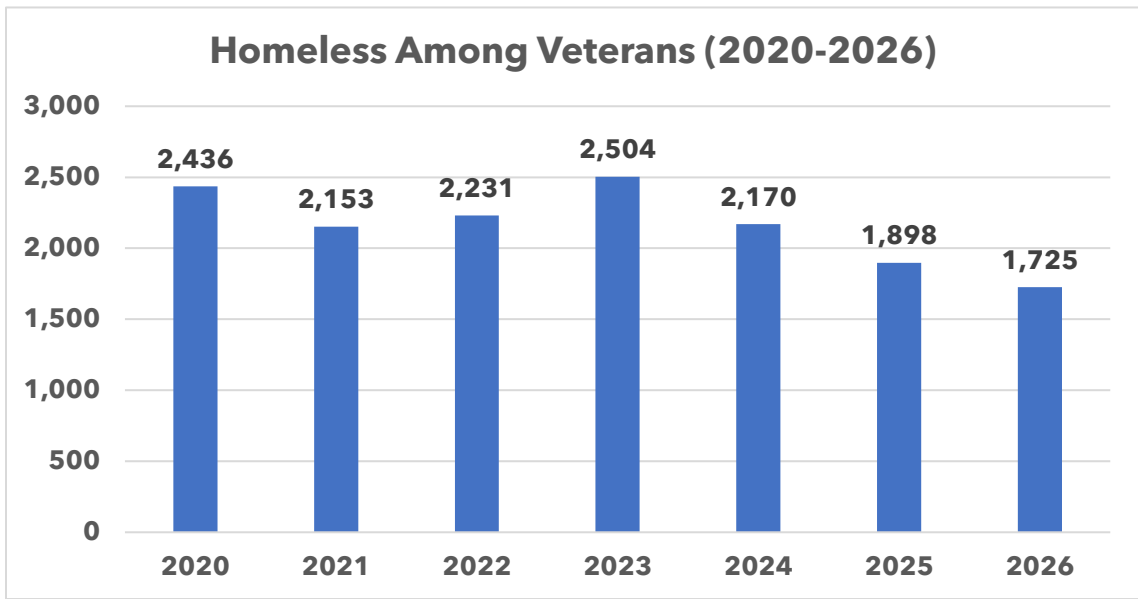


FIGURE 6: HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

Programs specifically aimed at reducing veteran homelessness include HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). Continued progress will require sustained coordination among CoCs, veteran-serving organizations, housing providers, and federal partners, along with investments in affordable housing, rapid rehousing, discharge planning, and supportive services.

⁴ [Risk Factors for Homelessness Among US Veterans](#), National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. Last accessed June 10, 2024.

⁵ The PIT count information in this report is based on data submitted by the 27 local CoC planning agencies and is subject to change based on HUD validation.

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TABLE 7: HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

CoC #	CoC Catchment Area (Counties)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
FL-500	Manatee, Sarasota	105	51	103	122	93	83	71
FL-501	Hillsborough	160	134	147	176	152	55	86
FL-502	Pinellas	265	285	310	292	231	254	209
FL-503	Polk	44	17	31	14	45	35	29
FL-504	Volusia, Flagler	73	25	38	80	75	52	48
FL-505	Okaloosa, Walton	31	3	30	24	29	8	26
FL-506	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla	83	92	86	92	112	70	50
FL-507	Orange, Osceola, and Seminole	190	177	149	189	218	210	201
FL-508	Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Putnam, and Union	155	115	135	164	77	128	57
FL-509	Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie	68	62	59	70	35	24	43
FL-510	Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau	177	160	91	84	122	90	106
FL-511	Escambia and Santa Rosa	89	37	150	134	123	113	125
FL-512	St. Johns	26	31	20	28	16	17	30
FL-513	Brevard	119	120	155	187	161	56	116
FL-514	Marion	80	61	67	53	14	13	14
FL-515	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington	18	1	19	55	51	15	14
FL-517	DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee	18	2	20	62	30	29	18
FL-518	Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, and Suwannee	39	22	75	31	24	36	22
FL-519	Pasco	92	90	44	58	66	62	46
FL-520	Citrus, Hernando, Lake, and Sumter	28	56	68	38	49	42	50
FL-600	Miami-Dade	163	145	131	111	134	134	134
FL-601	Broward	157	168	117	128	107	97	25
FL-602	Charlotte	51	25	40	66	54	42	51
FL-603	Lee	17	33	24	67	60	51	43
FL-604	Monroe	61	29	46	46	40	28	32
FL-605	Palm Beach	100	37	102	139	119	107	50
FL-606	Collier	27	33	22	48	96	47	29
Totals		2,436	2,011	2,279	2,558	2,333	1,898	1,725

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Seniors

The overlapping challenges of aging, fixed incomes, health-related vulnerabilities, and limited affordable housing continue to make older adult homelessness a critical concern in Florida. Based on the 2026 PIT Count, individuals aged 55 and older accounted for approximately 28.6 percent of Florida’s overall homeless population. As shown in Figure 8, a total of 7,302 older adults were counted as experiencing homelessness in 2026, including 4,761 individuals aged 55–64 and 2,541 individuals over the age of 64. This represents a 9.8 percent decrease from 2025, when 8,095 older adults were counted, and an 18.4 percent decrease from 2024. While this decline reflects progress, older adults remain a substantial share of Florida’s homeless population and often require housing solutions that account for age, disability, health care needs, transportation access, and fixed or limited incomes. The number of older adults experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness has been increasing nationwide, and this trend is expected to continue as the senior population grows. By 2040, the population of older Americans is projected to exceed 80 million, or 22 percent of the total population. As Florida’s older adult population grows, continued investment in affordable, accessible housing and age-appropriate supportive services will be necessary to reduce homelessness among seniors, particularly for those with compounding vulnerabilities such as disabilities, veteran status, chronic health conditions, or extremely low incomes.

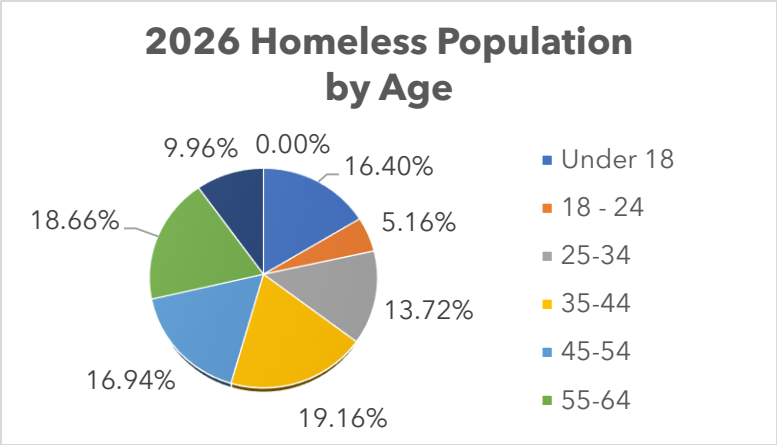


FIGURE 7: AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2026 HOMELESS POPULATION

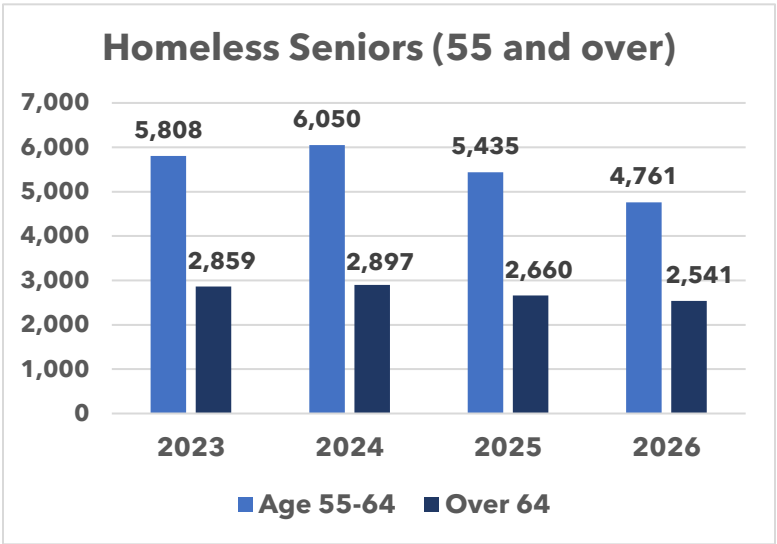


FIGURE 8: HOMELESSNESS AMONG SENIORS

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TABLE 8: HOMELESSNESS BY AGE GROUP ACROSS CoCs FOR 2026

CoC #	CoC Name	Under 18	18 - 24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 64	Total
FL-500	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness	157	21	116	178	173	188	98	931
FL-501	Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative	297	72	233	327	324	348	160	1,761
FL-502	Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board	246	70	242	361	366	464	200	1,949
FL-503	Homeless Coalition of Polk County	241	56	132	186	115	126	70	926
FL-504	Volusia/Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless	193	48	137	186	160	174	117	1,015
FL-505	Homelessness & Housing Alliance	50	11	62	78	75	53	26	355
FL-506	Big Bend Continuum of Care	146	28	92	100	106	86	28	586
FL-507	Homeless Services Network of Central FL	449	153	385	584	438	510	205	2,724
FL-508	United Way of North Central FL	110	64	65	109	96	104	65	613
FL-509	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council	168	15	72	85	85	100	49	574
FL-510	Changing Homelessness	151	63	170	220	203	231	108	1,146
FL-511	Opening Doors of NWFL	16	47	154	279	224	293	137	1,150
FL-512	Flagler Hospital - St Augustine	43	24	45	58	82	78	37	367
FL-513	Brevard Homeless Coalition	115	39	122	218	219	223	103	1,039
FL-514	Marion County BOCC	108	18	73	98	65	70	22	454
FL-515	Doorways of NWFL	51	22	61	74	87	87	10	392
FL-517	Heartland Coalition for the Homeless	133	18	90	74	95	46	44	500
FL-518	United Way of Suwannee Valley	65	20	76	91	74	71	39	436
FL-519	Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County	125	19	82	139	124	93	47	629
FL-520	Mid FL Homeless Coalition	134	58	115	205	156	161	60	889
FL-600	Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust	622	191	507	577	510	625	611	3,643
FL-601	Broward County Homeless Initiative Partnership	231	53	150	178	134	141	68	955
FL-602	Gulf Coast Partnership	24	11	40	60	50	56	30	271
FL-603	Lee County Human & Veteran Services	148	79	114	164	133	147	53	838
FL-604	Monroe County Homeless Services CoC	9	17	37	74	88	114	66	405
FL-605	Palm Beach County Division of Human Services	131	74	70	87	45	87	44	538
FL-606	Hunger & Homeless Coalition of Collier County	23	27	59	99	96	85	44	433
Totals*		4,186	1,318	3,501	4,889	4,323	4,761	2,541	25,519
Percentage of Total		16%	5%	14%	19%	17%	19%	10%	

Appendix VI: Evictions and Foreclosures Filed in Florida

The University of Florida’s Shimberg Center for Housing Studies tracks statewide eviction and foreclosure filings, which serve as important indicators of housing instability among renters and homeowners. These data help illustrate how housing costs, income pressures, and limited affordable housing options affect Florida households.

After sharp increases in eviction filings in 2022 and 2023, eviction activity has declined for two consecutive years. In 2025, Florida recorded 142,576 eviction filings, down from 146,856 in 2024, a decrease of approximately 3 percent. While this decline may suggest some stabilization in rental housing pressures, eviction filings remain above pre-pandemic levels, with 2025 filings approximately 10.7 percent higher than in 2019.

TABLE 9: EVICTION FILINGS

Year	Eviction Filings	Filings Change	Filings % Change
2019	128,754		
2020	82,525	(46,229)	-36%
2021	94,181	11,656	14%
2022	145,154	50,973	54%
2023	151,181	6,027	4%
2024	146,856	(4,325)	-3%
2025	142,576	(4,280)	-3%

Foreclosure filings have continued to rise since the pandemic-era low in 2021. In 2025, Florida recorded 36,436 foreclosure filings, up from 29,556 in 2024, an increase of approximately 23 percent. This represents the highest foreclosure filing volume since 2019 and brings foreclosure activity close to pre-pandemic levels. This increase suggests continued pressure on homeowners, particularly those facing higher housing costs, insurance costs, interest rates, or limited income flexibility.

Foreclosure risk reflects broader challenges facing cost-burdened homeowners, including older adults, first-time homebuyers, and households with limited savings or home equity. As with evictions, foreclosure filings often occur after a prolonged period of financial instability and can increase the risk of homelessness when households lack access to affordable replacement housing or financial assistance.

TABLE 10: FORECLOSURE FILINGS

Year	Foreclosure Filings	Filings Change	Filings % Change
2019	37,141		
2020	13,130	(24,011)	-65%
2021	10,142	(2,988)	-23%
2022	24,566	14,424	142%
2023	24,914	348	1%
2024	29,556	4,642	19%
2025	36,436	6,880	23%

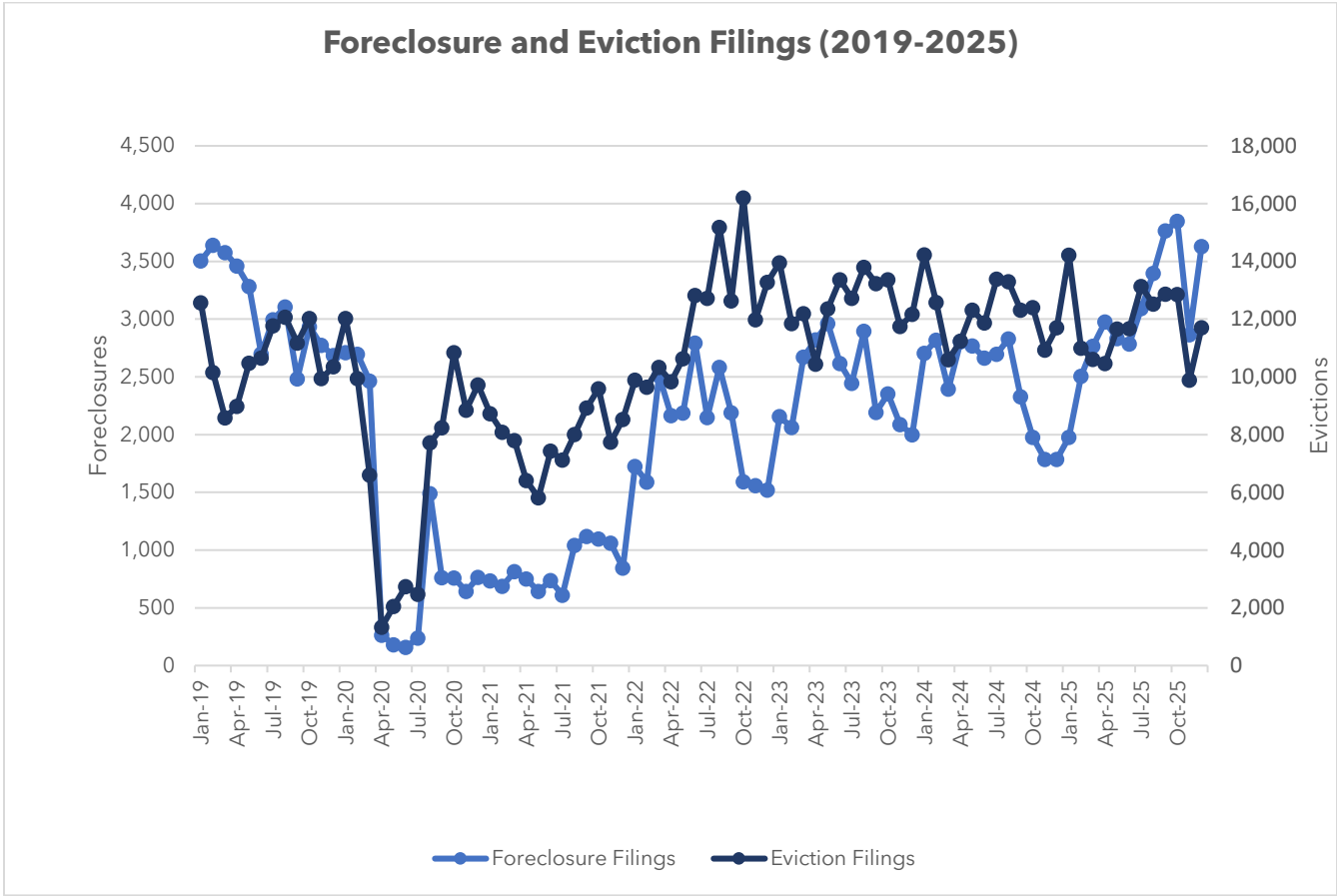


FIGURE 9: EVICTION AND FORECLOSURE FILINGS

As shown in Figure 9, eviction and foreclosure filings have followed different recent patterns. Eviction filings have declined modestly since their 2023 peak, while foreclosure filings have continued to increase. Together, these trends show that housing instability remains a significant concern for both renters and homeowners. Continued investment in homelessness prevention, legal supports, financial assistance, affordable housing, and housing stabilization services remains important to reducing the risk that eviction or foreclosure leads to homelessness.

Appendix VII: System Performance Measure Data

HUD System Performance Measures (SPMs) provide a system-level view of how effectively each CoC is helping people avoid homelessness, move through homelessness quickly, and exit to stable housing. Unlike program-specific measures, SPMs evaluate the performance of the local homelessness response system as a whole. The most recent HUD-published SPM data available for this report is from 2024. As a result, the figures in this appendix reflect the latest available federal data and should be updated when HUD releases newer SPM results.

The Council highlights three key measures: Returns to Homelessness, First-Time Homelessness, and Successful Exits to Permanent Housing.

Returns to Homelessness

SPM 2 measures the share of individuals who return to homelessness after exiting to permanent housing. Lower return rates suggest that housing placements are more stable and that households are receiving the support needed to remain housed. Florida's six-month return rate decreased from 9.9 percent in 2020 to 7.75 percent in 2024, reflecting improvement in short-term housing stability.

First-Time Homelessness

SPM 5 measures the number of people entering the homelessness response system for the first time. This measure helps assess whether prevention, diversion, and housing stabilization efforts are reducing new entries into homelessness. In Florida, first-time homelessness increased from 36,380 persons in 2020 to 41,667 persons in 2024, though the 2024 total declined from the 2022 peak of 43,507. This indicates that continued investment in prevention and early intervention remains necessary.

Successful Exits to Permanent Housing

SPM 7 measures the extent to which individuals exit homelessness to permanent housing or retain permanent housing placements. Florida's successful exits from emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing to permanent housing increased from 41.9 percent in 2020 to 49.0 percent in 2024. Florida also maintained a high permanent housing retention or successful exit rate of 95.45 percent in 2024 for permanent housing projects.

Together, these measures show progress in housing stability and permanent housing outcomes, while also underscoring the need to reduce new entries into homelessness. Continued investment in prevention, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and local CoC capacity remains essential to ensuring homelessness in Florida is rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

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Appendix VIII: State CoC Funding

TABLE 11: FY 2026-27 DCF OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS FUNDING BY CoC

CoC #	CoC Catchment Area (Counties)	Challenge	Staffing	ESG	ESG-RUSH ^b	TANF ^a
FL-500	Manatee, Sarasota	\$689,248.05	\$189,039.35	\$216,078.71	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-501	Hillsborough	\$738,062.12	\$181,270.61	\$218,514.29	\$0.00	\$0.00
FL-502	Pinellas	\$800,082.38	\$181,270.61	\$236,451.52	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-503	Polk	\$676,037.82	\$181,270.61	\$200,575.90	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-504	Volusia, Flagler	\$685,711.74	\$189,039.35	\$203,373.73	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-505	Okaloosa, Walton	\$851,507.91	\$189,039.35	\$251,324.57	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-506	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla	\$872,357.92	\$235,651.78	\$257,354.72	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-507	Orange, Osceola, and Seminole	\$770,279.63	\$196,808.08	\$227,832.08	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-508	Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Putnam, and Union	\$808,872.13	\$227,883.04	\$210,072.08	\$0.00	\$94,723.03
FL-509	Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie	\$882,322.82	\$196,808.08	\$241,291.42	\$0.00	\$0.00
FL-510	Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau	\$950,833.20	\$204,576.82	\$232,639.54	\$0.00	\$94,723.04
FL-511	Escambia and Santa Rosa	\$655,630.51	\$189,039.35	\$179,006.60	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-512	St. Johns	\$797,096.76	\$181,270.61	\$235,588.03	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-513	Brevard	\$625,008.74	\$181,270.61	\$185,817.48	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-514	Marion	\$699,954.62	\$181,270.61	\$226,253.99	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-515	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington	\$717,478.09	\$220,114.30	\$195,999.54	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-517	DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee	\$807,622.41	\$220,114.30	\$238,632.21	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-518	Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, and Suwannee	\$858,733.66	\$204,576.82	\$253,414.37	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-519	Pasco	\$754,805.21	\$181,270.61	\$223,356.63	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-520	Citrus, Hernando, Lake, and Sumter	\$630,109.32	\$204,576.82	\$182,237.43	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-600	Miami-Dade	\$780,449.50	\$181,270.61	\$213,301.23	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-601	Broward	\$653,637.82	\$181,270.61	\$178,459.12	\$0.00	\$0.00
FL-602	Charlotte	\$802,929.96	\$181,270.61	\$237,275.08	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-603	Lee	\$666,089.76	\$181,270.61	\$181,880.35	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-604	Monroe	\$695,711.84	\$181,270.61	\$206,265.92	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-605	Palm Beach	\$576,392.27	\$181,270.62	\$186,313.57	\$0.00	\$31,574.33
FL-606	Collier	\$569,856.81	\$181,270.62	\$169,866.89	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals		\$20,016,823	\$5,205,056	\$5,789,177	\$0.00	\$852,507

Notes:

a - The increase in TANF allocation for FL-508 and FL-510 is a part of a bonus for these two CoCs for expanding to surrounding counties which did not have CoC coverage.

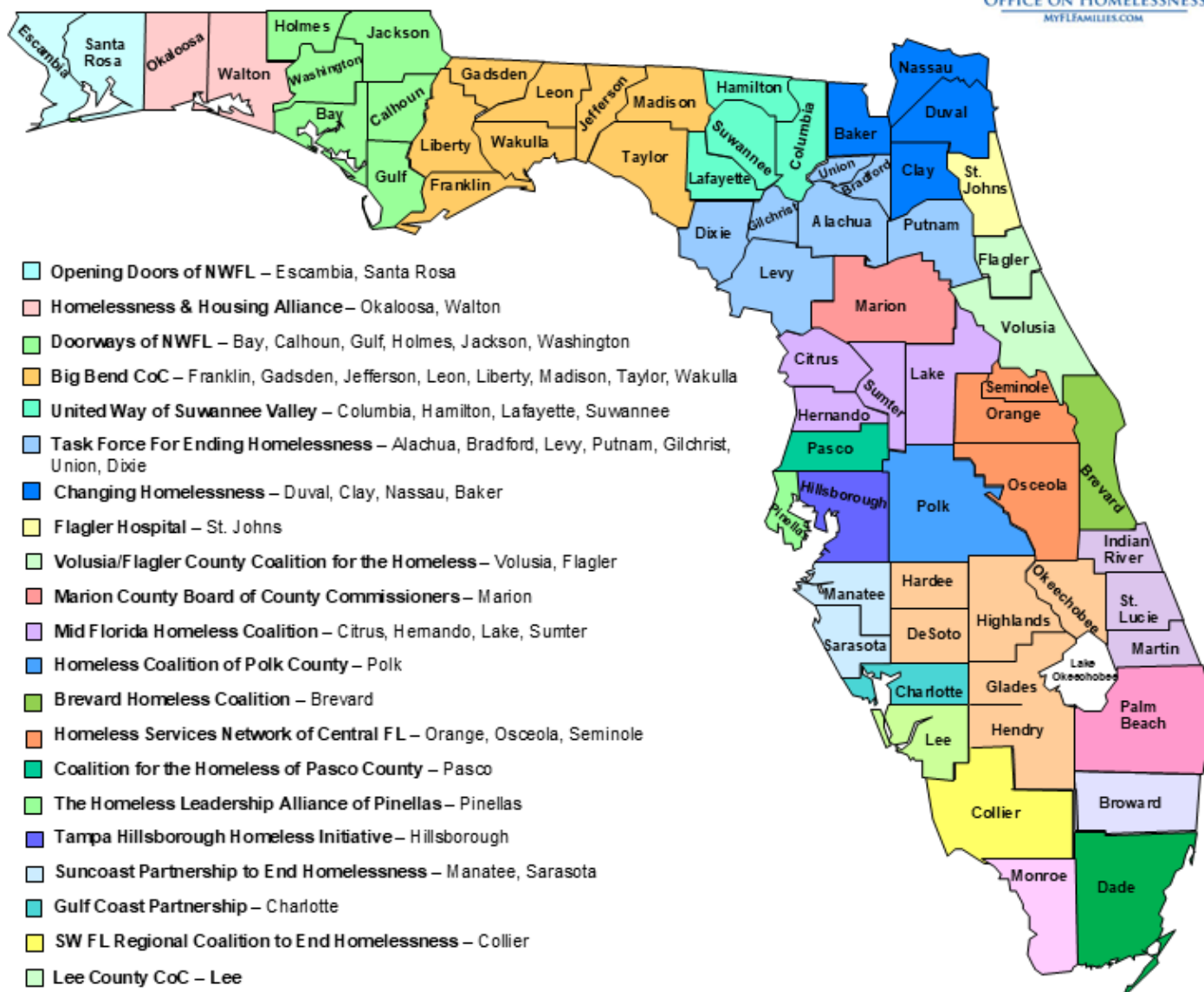
b - There will be rollover amounts of ESG-RUSH available from FY 2025-26 and potentially the additional \$4,162,811 which may be available in additional ESG-RUSH funding.

Appendix IX: Designated CoC Lead Agency Map



OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS
MYFLFAMILIES.COM

Florida 2026 Continuum of Care Map



Contact information for the CoCs can be found at www.myflfamilies.com/services/public-assistance/homelessness.

Appendix X: CoC Operation in Florida

A significant effort to prevent and end homelessness as modeled by HUD nationwide, is the establishment of a CoC model, which comprises all stakeholders in a geographical area that work together to prevent and end homelessness. The State of Florida has 27 CoCs of varying sizes and geographic areas of which some CoCs serve one county, while others can span up to eight counties.

In alignment with best practice, the CoC is composed of a broad array of stakeholders across multiple systems in the community, extending beyond nonprofits that provide homeless-specific services. To prevent and end homelessness, it is necessary to take a multi-disciplinary approach, encouraging participation in action planning to support activities that address homelessness in local communities. These efforts strengthen collective impact when addressing the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. These partnerships can assist CoCs to strengthen the housing crisis response system, expand funding opportunities, increase economic opportunity, and incorporate perspectives that help build a more effective system of care.

CoCs work to engage multiple sectors, including but not limited to:

- Philanthropy
- Local government
- Housing developers
- Realtors
- Health care systems
- Child welfare
- Criminal justice
- Workforce development

Prior to the development of the current CoC model, homeless services organizations worked individually and applied directly to HUD for funding. Currently, as required by the federal Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, the CoC establishes a local planning body to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. The planning body is typically a CoC Board or Council comprising community leaders and representatives of multiple stakeholder groups. The CoC also designates a “CoC Lead Agency.”

CoCs are required to submit an annual consolidated application to HUD for CoC Program funding. All CoCs have a designated Lead Agency that serves as this collaborative applicant. The CoC Lead Agency provides staff leadership for the system, submits funding applications on behalf of the CoC to HUD and the State of Florida, and has a wide range of responsibilities to ensure that the local system is effectively ending homelessness. CoC Lead Agencies are tasked with leading the coordination of community efforts that include a diverse group of stakeholders.

The State of Florida supports this vital work of the Lead Agency through CoC Staffing Grants. The CoC geographic areas are agreed upon by the local communities and HUD and are recognized by the State. The Florida CoC geographic areas and a link to CoC contacts are provided in Appendix IX.

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Appendix XI: 2026 Council Members

Council Member ^[1]	Representing
Council Leadership	
Leeanne Sacino, Council Chair	Florida Coalition to End Homelessness
Claudia Tuck, Director (Alachua) Council Vice Chair	Florida Association of Counties
Council Members	
Vacant	Florida Department of Children and Families
Isabelle Potts, Supervisor, Program Development and Research Unit	Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Cassandra Moore, Bureau Chief, Interstate Compact and Probation	Florida Department of Corrections
Bryce Trafford, State Coordinator, Title IX, Part A: Florida McKinney-Vento Program	Florida Department of Education
Yvonne Woodard, Division Director, Community Health Promotion	Florida Department of Health
Aaron Pelone, Director of Hope Navigators	Florida Department of Veteran Affairs
Warren Davis, Policy Analyst	CareerSource Florida
Shannon Nazworth, Board Member, Policy Committee Chair	Florida Supportive Housing Coalition
Leeanne Sacino, Executive Director	Florida Coalition to End Homelessness
Zachary Summerlin, Policy Director and Supportive Housing Coordinator	Florida Housing Finance Corporation
Lisa Kane DeVitto, Commissioner (City of Crescent City)	Florida League of Cities
Kim Smoak, Deputy Secretary	Agency for Health Care Administration
Sherry Ledbetter, Navigator Supervisor	Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Amanda Wander, Director, Ending Homelessness Team	Florida Housing Coalition
Governor Appointees	
Steve Smith, Founder	New Beginnings of Central Florida
Vacant (3 seats)	To apply please visit www.flgov.com
Ex-Officio Appointees	
Leah Harrison, Executive Director	Children's Home Society Pensacola
Steven Tillman, VISN 8 Network Homeless Coordinator VA Sunshine Healthcare Network	US Department of Veteran Affairs
Mary Mahew, President and CEO	Florida Hospital Association
Anne Ray	University of Florida

Appendix XII: Defining Homelessness

Homelessness occurs when a person lacks a home. While conceptually simple, state statutes and federal regulations dictate what it means for an individual or family to be defined as homeless. It is important to recognize that various systems may have different criteria/definitions, sometimes causing systems to become more complex and difficult to navigate for those who need it. A household's eligibility is often tied to definitions outlined by the funding source. Technical and varying definitions can create unintentional barriers to resolving an individual or family's housing crisis.

While the term "homeless" can paint various pictures for people, it is important to understand there is no singular defining characteristic of a household experiencing homelessness outside of lacking a stable place to live. Communities are tasked with addressing homelessness among a wide variety of households, including people who are unsheltered, living in places not meant for human habitation, fleeing domestic violence, aging out of foster care, staying in a homeless emergency shelter, and more. The entity responsible for coordinating, planning, and pursuing the end of homelessness in a community is the Collaborative Applicant or Lead Agency of the local. This work is primarily funded by HUD, therefore CoCs work within a specific definition and often are tasked with prioritizing households based on the federal goal to reduce and end homelessness.

As alluded to throughout this report, there are varying definitions of homelessness dependent upon sources of funding and state and federal funding or agencies. The report utilizes the HUD definition of homelessness, unless specified otherwise. The following section describes two of the varying definitions provided by HUD and the U.S. Department of Education.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

HUD defines homelessness among four categories to provide a defined scope that ensures individuals and families at the greatest risk are served with the limited resources available.

1. Literally Homeless: Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including outdoors or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and motels paid for by a government or charitable organization.
2. Imminent Risk of Homelessness: Individuals and families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and have no other resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.
3. Homeless Under other Federal Statutes: Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not meet any of the other categories are homeless under other federal statutes, have had a lease, and have moved two or more times in the past 60 days, and are likely to remain unstable because of their special needs or barriers.
4. Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence: Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and who lack resources and support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Subtitle VII-B of the MVA prescribes a definition of homelessness that more broadly accounts for the traumatic impact of housing instability on children and youth and the impact of that trauma on their education and development. The U.S. Department of Education uses the MVA definition of homelessness.

Homeless children and youth are defined as Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

1. Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative

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adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.

2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above in (1) through (3).

Subtitle VII-B of the MVA also defines unaccompanied youth as follows: The term “unaccompanied youth” includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

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Appendix XIII: Glossary

Affordable Housing - In general, housing for which the tenants are paying no more than 30 percent of their income for housing costs, including utilities. Affordable housing may either be subsidized housing or unsubsidized market housing. A special type of affordable housing for people with disabilities who need services along with affordable housing is "Permanent Supportive Housing."

Area Median Income (AMI) - The household in a certain region that is in the exact middle in terms of income compared to other households will set the AMI for their region (the household size is a factor considered; there are different AMIs for households of different sizes in the same region). This number is calculated every year by HUD. HUD focuses on a region, rather than a single city because families and individuals are likely to look outside of cities to surrounding areas when searching for a place to live.

Chronically Homeless - In general, a household that has been continuously homeless for over a year, or one that has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years, where the combined lengths of homelessness of those episodes is at least one year, and in which the individual has a disabling condition. (See 24 CFR 578.3)

Continuum of Care (CoC) - A local geographic area designated by HUD and served by a local planning body, which is responsible for organizing and delivering housing and services to meet the needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. The terms "CoC Governing Body" or "CoC Board" have the same meanings. In some contexts, the term "continuum of care" is also sometimes used to refer to the system of programs addressing homelessness. The geographic areas for the Florida CoCs are provided in Appendix XI. (See 24 CFR 578.3 and F.S. 420.621)

CoC Lead Agency - The local organization or entity that implements the work and policies directed by the CoC. In Florida, there are 27 CoC Lead Agencies, serving 64 of 67 Florida counties. The CoC Lead Agency typically serves as the "Collaborative Applicant," which submits annual funding requests for HUD CoC Program funding on behalf of the CoC. The contacts for the CoC Lead Agencies are linked in Appendix XI.

Coordinated Entry System - A standardized community-wide process to perform outreach and identify homeless households, enter their information into HMIS, use common tools to assess their needs and prioritize access to housing interventions and services to end their homelessness. Sometimes referred to as a "triage system" or "coordinated intake and assessment." (See 24 CFR 578.3)

Council on Homelessness - The Council on Homelessness was created in 2001 to develop policies and recommendations to reduce homelessness in Florida. The Council's mission is to develop and coordinate policy to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness and work toward ending homelessness in Florida. (See F.S. 420.622)

Diversion - A strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them stay housed where they currently are or by identifying immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. This strategy is used in order to keep individuals from entering the homelessness system in their county.

Emergency Shelter - A facility operated to provide temporary shelter for people who are homeless. HUD's guidance is that the lengths of stay in emergency shelters prior to moving into permanent housing should not exceed 30 days. (See 24 CFR 576.2)

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Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) - HUD funding that flows through the state and certain local governments for street outreach, emergency shelters, rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention, and certain HMIS costs. (See 24 CFR 576)

Encampment - The term encampment has connotations of both **impermanence and continuity**. People are staying in temporary structures or enclosed places that are not intended for long-term continuous occupancy on an ongoing basis. (Source: HUD)

Extremely Low-Income (ELI) - Household income that is 30 percent or less of the AMI of the community. (See F.S. 420.0004)

Florida Housing Finance Corporation - Florida Housing Finance Corporation was created by the Florida Legislature to help Floridians obtain safe, decent, affordable housing that might otherwise be unavailable to them. The corporation provides funds for the development of housing. (See F.S. 420.501-420.55)

Homeless - HUD defines homelessness among four categories to provide a defined scope that ensures individuals and families at the greatest risk are served with the limited resources available.

1. **Literally Homeless:** Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including outdoors or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and motels paid for by a government or charitable organization.
2. **Imminent Risk of Homelessness:** Individuals and families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and have no other resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.
3. **Homeless Under other Federal Statutes:** Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not meet any of the other categories are homeless under other federal statutes, have had a lease, and have moved two or more times in the past 60 days, and are likely to remain unstable because of their special needs or barriers.
4. **Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence:** Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and who lack resources and support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

The U.S. Department of Education through Subtitle VII-B of the MVA prescribes a definition of homelessness that more broadly accounts for the traumatic impact of housing instability on children and youth and the impact of that trauma on their education and development. The U.S. Department of Education uses the MVA definition of homelessness.

Homeless children and youth are defined as Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

1. Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above in (1) through (3).

Subtitle VII-B of the MVA also defines unaccompanied youth as follows: The term “unaccompanied youth” includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

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The Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act - Federal Legislation that, in 2009, amended and reauthorized the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The HEARTH/MVA provides federal funding for homeless programs, including the HUD ESG funds and the HUD CoC Grant funding. (See https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/S896_HEARTHAct.pdf)

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) - A web-based software solution and database tool designed to capture and analyze client-level information including the characteristics, service needs, and use of services by persons experiencing homelessness. HMIS is an important component of an effective Coordinated Entry System, CoC planning efforts, and performance evaluation based on program outcomes. (See 24 CFR 578.3)

Homelessness Prevention - Short-term financial assistance, sometimes with support services, for households at imminent risk of homelessness and who have no other resources to prevent homelessness. For many programs, the household must also be extremely low-income, with income at or less than 30 percent of the AMI, to receive such assistance. (See 24 CFR 576.103)

Housing First Approach - An approach to ending homelessness that centers on providing people experiencing homelessness with housing as quickly as possible and, once the person is housed, then providing services to help the person remain stably housed. This approach is consistent with what most people experiencing homelessness need and want. Housing First is recognized as an evidence-based best practice, is cost-effective, and results in better outcomes as compared to other approaches. The Florida Legislature encourages CoCs to adopt the housing first approach to reduce homelessness.

Housing or Permanent Housing - Any housing arrangement in which the person/tenant can live indefinitely, as long as the rent is paid, and lease terms are followed. Temporary living arrangements and programs - such as emergency shelters, transitional programs, and rehabilitation programs - do not meet the definition of housing.

Housing Trust Funds (Local and State) - Florida's Sadowski Act Affordable Housing Trust Funds receive funding from dedicated revenue from real estate doc stamps. 70 percent of these funds are allocated to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) that funds housing programs. 30 percent of these funds are allocated to the State Housing Trust Fund for programs such as the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program. In Florida, the Housing Trust Funds are used for affordable housing when appropriated for that use by the State Legislature. Housing Trust Funds may also be funded by general revenue and government bonds.

HUD (The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) - HUD provides funding to states and local communities to address homelessness. In addition, this department supports fair housing, community development, and affordable housing, among other issues.

HUD CoC Funding - Funding administered by HUD through local CoC Collaborative Applicant (i.e., CoC Lead Agency) entities. Eligible uses for new projects include permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, coordinated entry, HMIS, and CoC planning.

Low Income - Low-income persons means one or more natural persons or a family, the total annual adjusted gross household income of which does not exceed 80 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the state, or 80 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or, if not within an MSA, within the county in which the person or family resides, whichever is greater. (See F.S. 420.0004)

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Office on Homelessness - Created in 2001, the Office on Homelessness was established as a central point of contact within state government on matters related to homelessness. The Office coordinates the services of the various state agencies and programs to serve individuals or families who are homeless or are facing homelessness. Office staff work with the Council on Homelessness to develop state policy. The Office also manages targeted state grants to support the implementation of local homeless service CoC plans. The Office is responsible for coordinating resources and programs across all levels of government, and with private providers that serve people experiencing homelessness. (See F.S. 420.622)

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) - Safe and affordable housing for people with disabling conditions, legal tenancy housing rights, and access to individualized support services. PSH that is funded through HUD CoC funding should prioritize people who are chronically homeless with the longest terms of homelessness and the highest level of vulnerability/acuity in terms of health issues and service needs. (See 24 CFR 578.3)

Point-in-Time (PIT) Count - HUD requires CoCs to count the number of people experiencing homelessness in their geographic area through the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count on a given day. Conducted by most CoCs during the last ten days in January, the PIT Count includes people served in shelter programs every year, with every other year also including people who are un-sheltered. Data collected during the PIT Counts is critical to effective planning and performance management toward the goal of ending homelessness for each community and the nation as a whole. A one-night snapshot of homelessness in a specific geographic area, the PIT Count data are presented in Appendix I. (See 24 CFR 578.3)

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) - A housing intervention designed to move a household into permanent housing (e.g., a rental unit) as quickly as possible, ideally within 30 days of identification. Rapid Re-Housing typically provides (1) help identifying appropriate housing; (2) financial assistance (deposits and short-term or medium-term rental assistance for 1-24 months), and (3) support services as long as needed and desired, up to a certain limit. (See 24 CFR 576.104)

Services or Support Services - A wide range of services designed to address issues negatively affecting a person's quality of life, stability, and/or health. Examples include behavioral health counseling or treatment for mental health and/or substance use issues, assistance increasing income through employment or disability assistance, financial education, assistance with practical needs such as transportation or housekeeping, and connections to other critical resources such as primary health care.

Sheltered/Unsheltered Homelessness - People who are in temporary shelters, including emergency shelter and transitional shelters, are considered "sheltered." People who are living outdoors or in places not meant for human habitation are considered "unsheltered."

Street Outreach - A necessary homeless system component that involves interacting with unsheltered people who are homeless in whatever location they naturally stay (e.g., in campsites, on the streets), building trust, and offering access to appropriate housing interventions. (See 24 CFR 576.101)

Transitional Housing - A temporary shelter program that allows for moderate stays (3-24 months) and provides support services. Based on research on the efficacy and costs of this model, this type of program should be a very limited component of the housing crisis response system, due to the relative costliness of the programs in the absence of outcomes that exceed rapid re-housing outcomes. Transitional housing should be used only for specific subpopulations such as transition-age youth.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) - A federal Council that co-ordinates the federal response to homelessness, working in partnership with Cabinet Secretaries and senior leaders from nineteen federal member agencies.

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Very Low Income – Very-low-income persons means one or more natural persons or a family, not including students, the total annual adjusted gross household income of which does not exceed 50 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the state, or 50 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or, if not within an MSA, within the county in which the person or family resides, whichever is greater. The remainder of this page is intentionally blank.

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