

As a County department since 1974, we support all residents by leading policy innovation, inspiring collaborative solutions, and facilitating partnerships to improve quality-of-life while maximizing resources.

Definitions of Terms

- **US Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Defines Four Categories:**
 - Homeless
 - Imminently Homeless
 - Federal Statutes
 - Victims



Definition of Terms

- **'Homeless' is further defined by two categories:**
 - Sheltered
 - Emergency Shelter
 - Transitional or Supportive Housing
 - Unsheltered
 - Cars
 - Parks
 - Sidewalks
 - Abandoned Buildings
 - 'Street Homeless'



What constitutes 'Chronic'?

- Chronically Homeless
 - Continuously homeless or four episodes of homelessness in past 3 years
 - Diagnosable disabling condition:
 - Substance use disorder
 - Serious mental illness
 - Developmental disability
 - Chronic physical illness or disability



Urban vs Rural Homelessness

- 7% of Nation's Homeless in Rural areas
- Characterized by **Persistent Poverty**
- Patterns:
 - Rapid economic growth ("Silicon Valley")
 - Rapid economic decline ("Rust Belt")
 - 64% rural counties have high child poverty
- Limited Rural Capacity
 - Lower Median Income
 - Limited Transportation
 - Low Priority Funding



Homelessness is Symptomatic

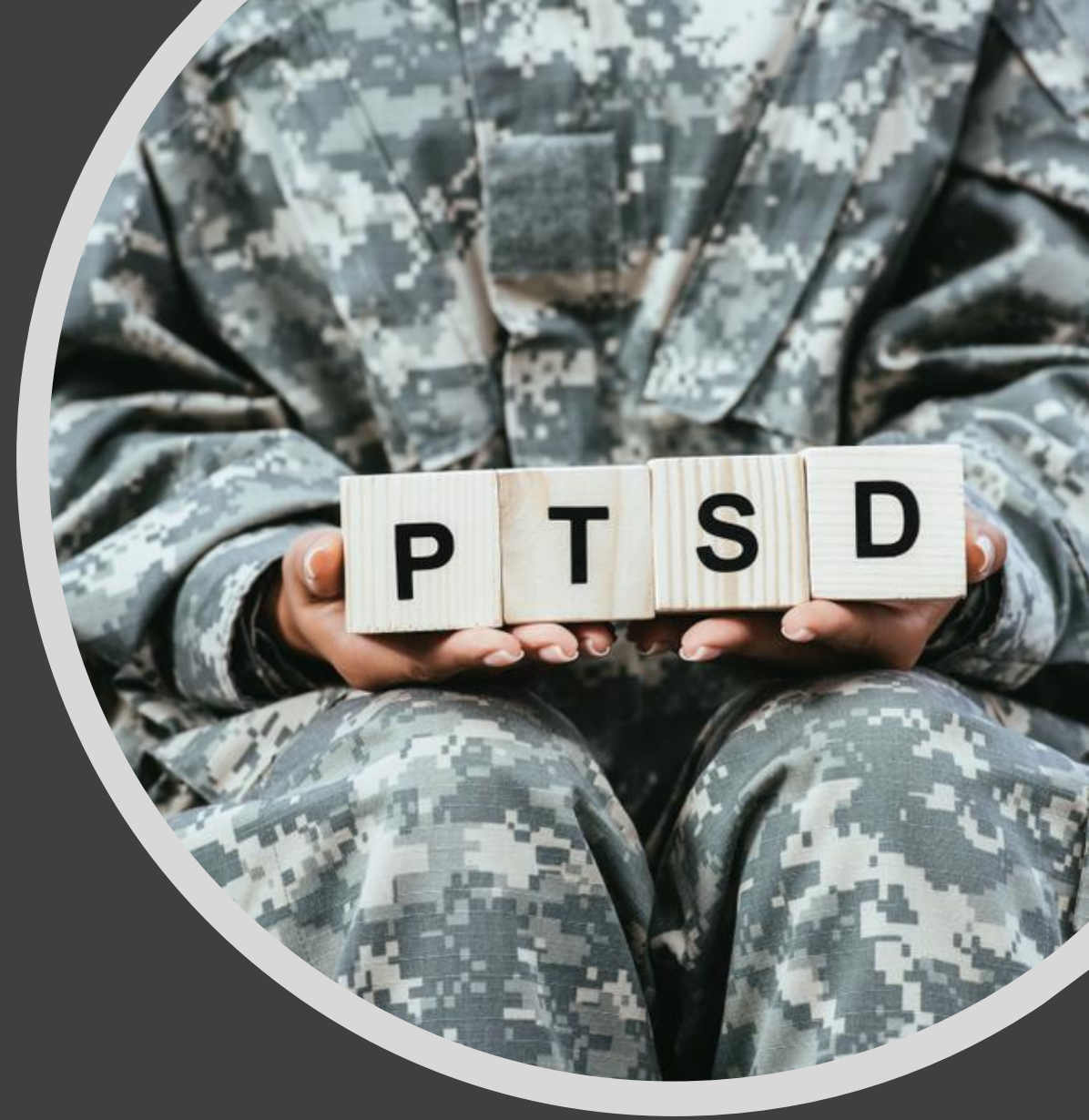
- Mental Illness
- Substance Misuse
- Natural Disasters
- Job Loss
- Victim of Violence
- Criminal Background



Homelessness is Symptomatic

Primary Causes of Housing Insecurity

- **Mental Illness & Trauma**
 - Intervention:
 - Psychiatric Care
 - Transitional Housing
 - If Severe, Permanent Supportive Housing



Homelessness is Symptomatic

Primary Causes of Housing Insecurity

- **Substance Misuse**
 - Intervention:
 - Addiction Treatment
 - Transitional Housing
 - Residential Treatment
 - Halfway House



Homelessness is Symptomatic

Primary Causes of Housing Insecurity

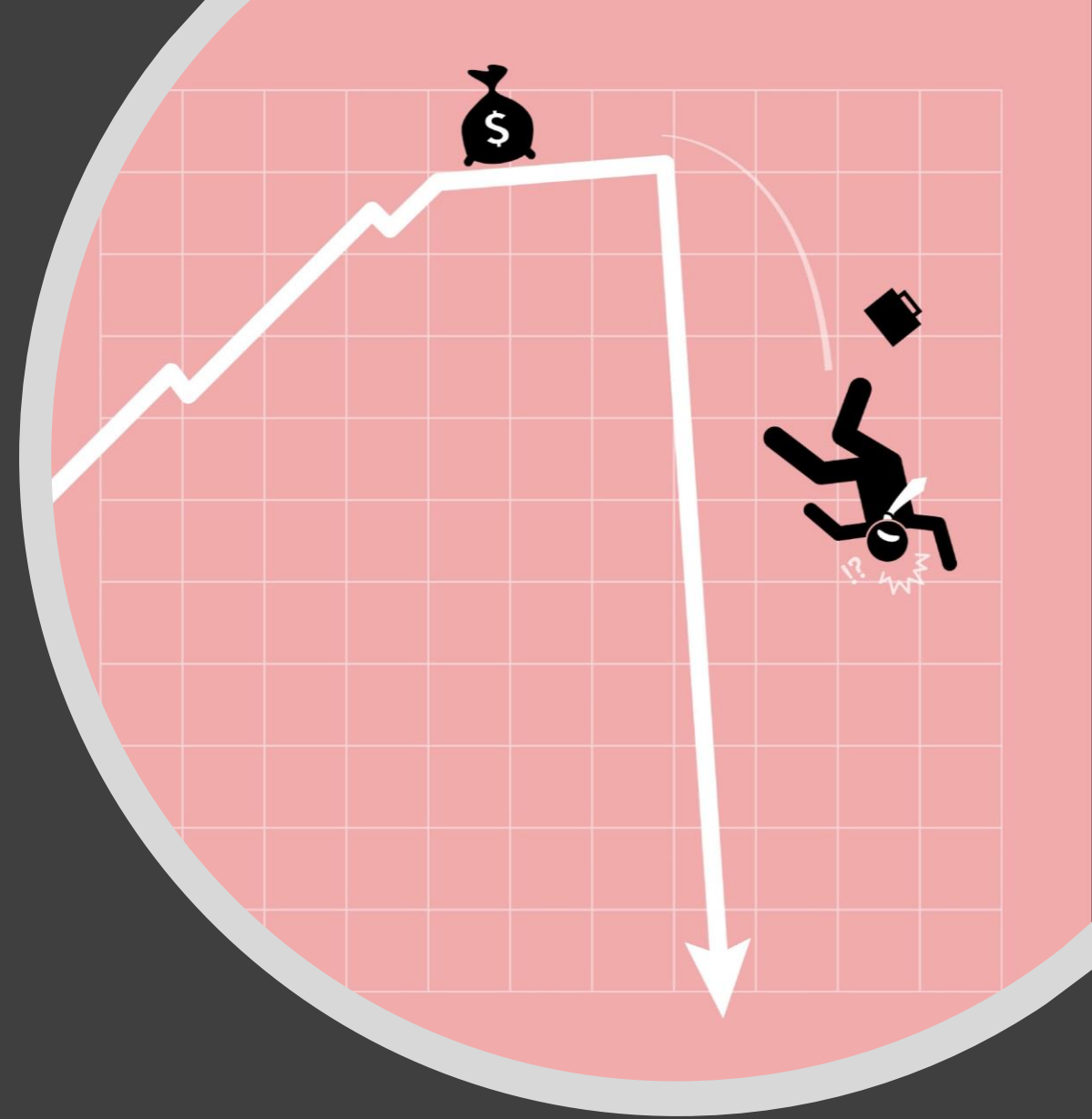
- **Fire or Natural Disaster**
 - Intervention:
 - Emergency Response
 - Charity
 - Transitional Housing



Homelessness is Symptomatic

Primary Causes of Housing Insecurity

- **Economic Pressures**
 - Intervention:
 - Financial Counseling
 - Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Transitional Housing



Homelessness is Symptomatic

Primary Causes of Housing Insecurity

- **Violence (victim)**
 - Intervention:
 - Law Enforcement
 - Victim Support Services
 - Domestic Abuse Shelter
 - Transitional Housing



Homelessness is Symptomatic

Primary Causes of Housing Insecurity

- **Criminal Behavior**
 - Intervention:
 - Law Enforcement
 - Justice System
 - Incarceration
 - Correctional Re-Entry Services
 - Transitional Housing



Homelessness is Symptomatic

There may not be an underlying cause

- **Lifestyle Choice**
 - 'Van Life' trend
 - Potential Intervention:
 - Appreciative Inquiry
 - Motivational Interviewing
 - If Lawful, Live and Let Live



Housing Continuum



*Includes public housing

Shelter Feasibility

Types of Homeless Shelter:

- Prototypical Homeless Shelter
- Emergency Shelter
- Youth Shelter
- Family Shelter
- Domestic Violence or Women's Shelter



Shelter Feasibility

Emergency Shelter

- Natural Disaster
- Inclement Weather Shelter
 - Red Cross & Faith Community Partnership
 - < 24-Hour Notice of Opening
 - Transportation Challenges
 - Outcome: Underutilized



Shelter Feasibility

Prototypical Homeless Shelter

- Varied Implementation
 - 24/7 Shelter vs Overnight Only
 - Limited Stay Policies
 - Expensive
 - Staff
 - Facility
 - Food and Transportation
 - Only available to Adult Men and Women
 - Often Unpalatable



Unpalatability

- Columbia, SC Cold Weather Shelter Article, November 14, 2019: **Columbia's homeless brace for winter chill, but many don't come inside**
- "Would I use it again or recommend it? I wouldn't, seriously," Butcher said. She recalls an **overcrowded bus ride** to the facility, **lack of cleanliness** of the showers, and **rude interactions** with others seeking shelter.



Startup Costs

- 20-Bed Facility (5bd): \$400,000
- Retrofit and Furniture: \$40,000
- Technology: \$8,000
- Vehicles: Two 8-passenger vans \$60,000
- Total:

\$508,000



Operating Costs (24/7 Model)

- Personnel: \$268,200
- Supplies: \$6,000
- Utilities: \$14,500
- Facility Maintenance and Repairs: \$7,500
- Vehicle Gas/Maintenance: \$6,000
- Client Food Service: \$90,000
- Client Supplies: \$16,000
- Insurance: \$18,000
- Total Annual Expenses:

\$426,200

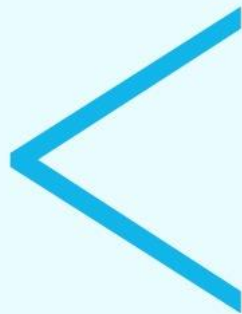


Goal: “Functional Zero”



FUNCTIONAL ZERO

**# ACTIVELY
HOMELESS**



**AVERAGE MONTHLY
HOUSING RATE**

(MINIMUM 3)

CharityTracker

Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2020

Homeless

- 100 Adults (19-64)

Imminently Homeless

- 234 families or households, 656 individuals
 - 321 Adults (19-64)
 - 224 Children (0-18)
 - 111 Seniors (65+)



CharityTracker

Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021

Homeless

- 17 Children (0-18)
- 100 Adults (19-64)
- 9 Seniors (19-64)

Imminently Homeless

- 204 families or households, 525 individuals
- 166 Children (0-18)
- 250 Adults (19-64)
- 84 Seniors (65+)



What else might help? (illustrative examples)



Who:

X% mental illness
X% addiction
X% lost their homes due to disaster
X% lost their homes due to emergencies

What:

X% have refused service
X% are participating in programs

Where:

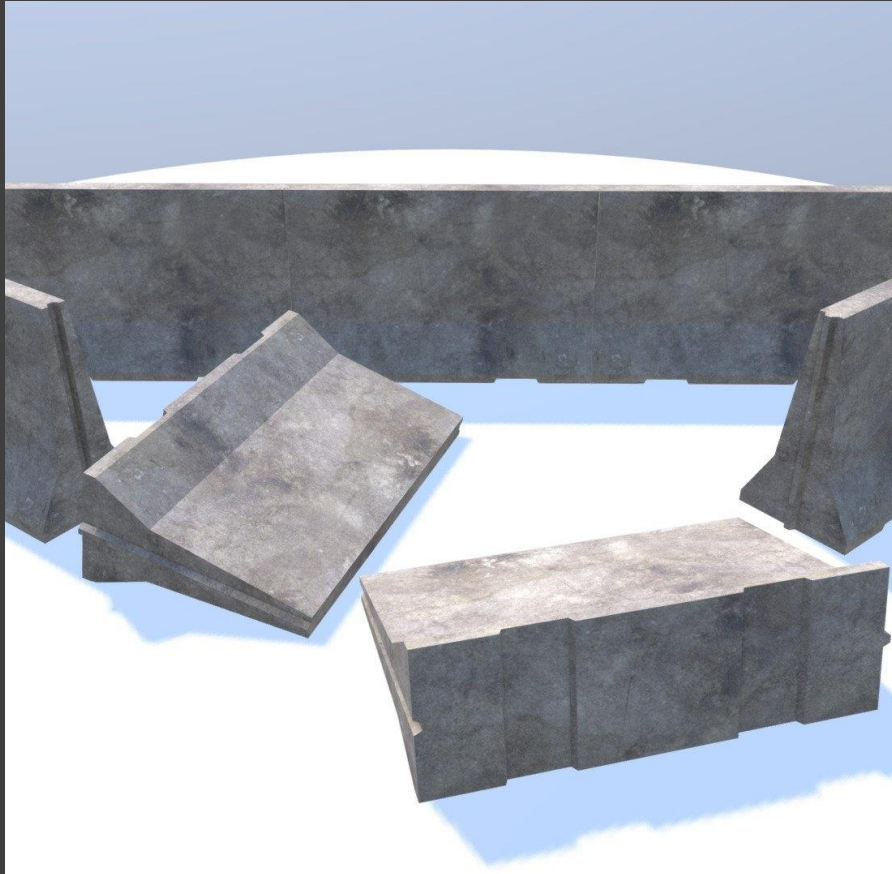
X% live at the waterfront park
X% live in motels
X% live in their cars
X% live at campgrounds

Why:

Identified barriers to treatment include:

- lack of family support;
- high cost of healthcare;
- long waiting lists for mental health facilities;
- mental health interfering with addiction treatment;
- low wages; etc.

Barriers and Strategies



- What barriers must we accept and strategize around?
 - Global Economy
 - Federal Policy
 - Federal Law
 - Private Sector
- What barriers can we change, mitigate, or eliminate?
 - Local Policy (Gov't and NGO/NPO)
 - Common Language
 - Targeted Populations
 - Personnel Training
 - Public Education Campaign
 - Donor Engagement
 - Strategic Resource Redistribution
 - Relocation

5-Year Plan for Outreach Specialist



- Immediate implementation:
 - Primary Point-of-Contact
 - Resource Navigation
 - Data Collection
 - Identify Barriers

5-Year Plan for Outreach Specialist

- Mid-term goals (1-2 years):
 - Coordinated Entry System
 - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
 - Annual Point-in-Time Count (US HUD Partnership)



5-Year Plan for Outreach Specialist



- Long-term goals (3-5 years):
 - Leverage Local Data and Resources for Grants
 - Recommend Policy Changes
 - Support Grassroots Efforts
 - Achieve 'Functional Zero'