

2024 Annual Report Executive Summary



Overview

This year has seen a series of transitions in leadership and staffing, as well as the expansion of programs amid uncertain funding. Community partners have experienced reductions in grant and small donor revenue which has resulted in diminished program capacity at a time when community need remains high.

This period has also highlighted the importance of local and regional collaboration to address the rise of homelessness, and OCPEH has made inroads with community partners for this purpose.

Challenges

Orange County has seen a significant increase in Fair Market Rents leading to over half of the rental households in this community being cost-burdened. The Durham/Orange FMR is currently the highest in the state, above Raleigh, Charlotte and Asheville.

Compounding the rental pressures are the expiration of COVID-era Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) funds, which are now locally (county) funded at about 1/15th the amount that was available at the height of ARPA funding. This is enough to assist approximately 150 households per year.

Additionally, through high utilization we ran up against the cap of one of our two biggest tools for addressing homelessness: Rapid Rehousing (RRH) placements. RRH referrals were paused from spring 2024 while we awaited funding renewals from federal grants. The pause has meant the loss of a key strategy in moving clients off to housed, and has necessitated creative problem-solving by the CE Planning Committee and Leadership Team.

While emergency shelter capacity has increased in 2024 and served more people than ever before, the need for emergency shelter during inclement weather outstripped shelter capacity, and led to the pursuit of alternative arrangements for Winter 24-25.

Like many communities, Orange County has also seen the loss of institutional knowledge through staff turnover with local partners as well as OC Housing Dept., and the loss of non-local and non-HUD funding.

Successes

As a small Continuum of Care, OCPEH expanded its impact by partnering with other local homeless systems on federal funding opportunities, such as the Youth Homeless Systems Improvement (YHSI) grant.

County government has increased its commitment to address system needs by continuing to invest in Permanent Supportive Housing expansion, and funding The Wonderful House Bridge Housing which opened in September 2024.



County and local governments have also supported the expansion of life-saving inclement weather sheltering with plans for greater collaboration and capacity in 2024. OCPEH has also leveraged Managed Care Organization funding to address a homeless system gap. OCPEH continues to perform well during federal funding competitions, increasing the funding that is available for homeless system services.

The Road Ahead

The federal funding climate around homelessness programs has created uncertainty and anxiety about the future of many direct service programs. We do not have any concrete updates at this time, but we have developed contingency plans that may need to be implemented in the coming fiscal year. Our HUD partners are advising us to continue our work as if funding will be in place for the time being.

OCPEH continues to work with regional partners to identify and recruit providers to Orange County to address system gaps. In the first months of 2025 OCPEH has been part of several multi-stakeholder conversations about developing an Integrated Day Center to serve unsheltered residents during the day. Those talks are ongoing and include municipal staff as well as UNC representatives. These conversations also include the potential operations of Cold Weather Shelter in such a space.

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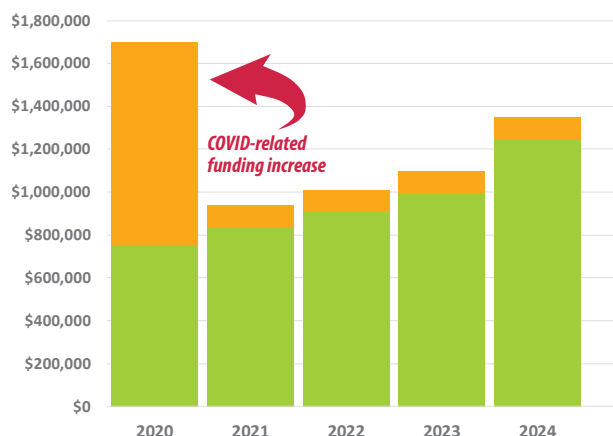
Budget

Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH) uses a variety of funding sources to support community-level planning, coordination and evaluation efforts. Funders include federal and local government, foundations, and private partners.

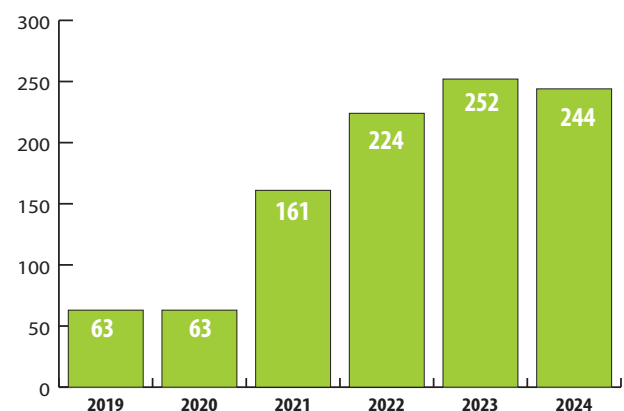
FY2024 Budget:

	FTE through OCPEH Cost-Sharing	Cost-Sharing Total	Orange County (39.5% cost sharing)	Chapel Hill (39.7%)	Carrboro (14.3%)	Hillsborough (6.5%)
Continuum of Care Personnel	2.65 FTE	\$237,310	\$93,737	\$94,212	\$33,935	\$15,425
Continuum of Care Operations		\$87,460	\$34,722	\$34,722	\$12,507	\$5,685
SOHRAD Personnel	4.0 FTE	\$285,515	\$112,778	\$113,349	\$40,829	\$18,558
SOHRAD Operations		\$40,380	\$15,950	\$16,031	\$5,774	\$2,625
RRH Personnel	0.5FTE	\$32,500	\$12,838	\$12,903	\$4,648	\$2,113
RRH Operations		\$3,415	\$1,349	\$1,356	\$488	\$222
Additional local investment-Land-lord Incentives, PSH Funding, Cold Weather Cots, & Bridge Housing			\$309,294			
TOTAL		\$995,874	\$580,493	\$272,572	\$98,181	\$44,628

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Continuum of Care (CoC)



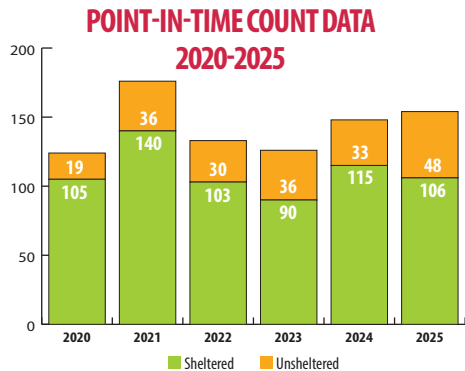
Total Persons Exiting to Permanent Housing Destinations



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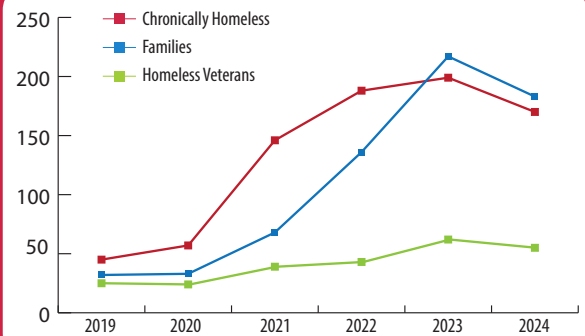
Orange County Point-in-Time (PIT) Increase in Unsheltered Homelessness



SPECIAL POPULATIONS

**CHRONIC
HOMELESSNESS
REMAINS HIGH**

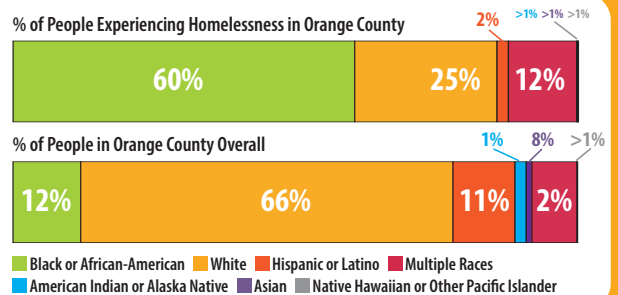
**Slight
Decrease
in Chronic,
Family, and
Veteran
Homelessness**



154

**PEOPLE IN ORANGE COUNTY EXPERIENCED
HOMELESSNESS ON ONE NIGHT**

People experiencing homelessness are disproportionately people of color



Total Persons Served in Federal Fiscal Year 2024

396

**SHELTER &
TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING**

282

SHELTER

114

**TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING**

98

**RAPID
RE-HOUSING**

41

STREET OUTREACH

30

**PERMANENT
SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING**



For more information about homelessness in Orange County, contact **Danielle DeCaprio**, dabutler@orangecountync.gov, (919) 245-2496.

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**We can end homelessness
by closing the 15 current
system gaps.**

GAPS



Income-Based Rental Units
Housing Locator
Furniture and Household goods
Rapid Re-Housing
Landlord Incentives
Youth Housing
Permanent Supportive Housing








Accessible, housing-focused shelter
Medical Respite Beds
Bridge Housing



Housing Helpline staffing
Integrated Service Center
Crisis/Diversion Facility



24 hour bathrooms
Memorial Service Funding

Direct Service Programs	Description	Impact in FY2024
 Housing Helpline	Coordinated entry point for people seeking housing and homeless services	Conducted 445 homeless assessments, Close to 8,000 contacts
 Housing Access & Navigation	Working with landlords to make units available for people at very low incomes	44 Landlords added; 85 Units added
 Rapid Rehousing	Short to medium term rental assistance with supportive case management services	78 households served, 66 households moved into housing
 SOAR	Supports to help people experiencing homelessness apply for SSI/SSDI	27 referrals
 SOHRAD	Connections to housing and services for people living unsheltered	52 individuals enrolled, 42 individuals engaged, 22 individuals with positive housing destinations

NEED HELP?

Contact the **Housing Helpline** at
919-245-2655 or **housinghelp@**
orangecountync.gov or visit the online
resource database: **www.occonnect.info**

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