

2025 Annual Report

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025



Overview

This year continued to bring a series of transitions, including a new manager and coordinators for the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH). This year focused on re-establishing and expanding community partnerships as well as evaluation of current programs. We were also faced with much uncertainty and confusion as a new federal administration came into office. All of this validated the need for greater community partnerships and support of one another's efforts.

Challenges

One significant challenge remaining is lack of affordable housing in the County. In National Low Income Housing Coalition's annual report, "Out of Reach 2024," North Carolina ranked 28th as most expensive state in which to reside. In the Durham-Chapel Hill HMFA, the fair market rate for a two-bedroom rental was \$1,631 per month. For this to be considered affordable, an individual would need to earn \$31.37 per hour working full time. If an individual is working at the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, this individual would need to work 4.3 full time jobs for this rental to be considered affordable.

Another challenge that remains is the limited number of permanent housing openings available through government funded vouchers and subsidies. While our community list of those experiencing homelessness or are at risk of housing instability hovers between 200-300 households, Orange County Housing Authority closed their waitlist and temporarily ceased issuing Housing Choice Vouchers in January 2025. Also, there were consistently less than 75 slots available through Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing.

Successes

Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness recognized that the local Continuum of Care (CoC) – NC-513 Orange County/Chapel Hill - was not in compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations and standards. As this could have been viewed as something negative, this was approached as an opportunity of growth for the community. At the end of the Fiscal Year 2025, HUD approved the local continuum to receive technical assistance (TA) through an escalated engagement.

The community also started a collaborative exploration of our current coordinated entry process. Task forces were created to review, evaluate and potentially make changes to the existing process, policies, and procedures. Ultimately, these were paused during the HUD TA engagement, but process was achieved and noted for when this work begins again.



Other successes included (1) another season of providing Cold Weather Cots through a new partnership with University Baptist Church and use of their facility, (2) facilitation of sheltered and unsheltered Point-in-Time Count, and (3) initial planning for a street medicine event to serve our unhoused neighbors.

Our biggest successes are those of our neighbors experiencing homelessness. As shown in the charts below, 64% of our unhoused neighbors that engaged with our Street Outreach Team (SOHRAD) exited homelessness to positive housing destinations, and our Rapid Rehousing Team was able to facilitate 40 new move-ins to permanent housing.

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. We continue conversations regarding a permanent location for our Cold Weather Cots and potential integrated multi-service day center. While also working to be in compliance with HUD's regulations for our local Continuum of Care, we seek greater involvement and engagement from the local community to address ending homelessness. With the aforementioned unpredictable federal funding, we must come together as community to find additional and creative ways to address homelessness.

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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.

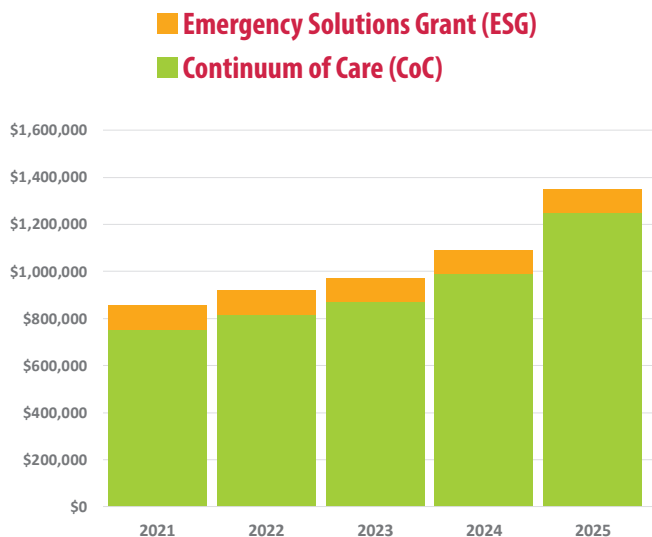
FY2025 Budget:	FTE through OCPEH Cost Sharing	Cost Sharing Total	Orange County (39.5%)	Chapel Hill (39.7%)	Carrboro (14.3%)	Hillsborough (6.5%)
Continuum of Care Personnel	2.625 FTE	\$241,173.00	\$95,263.00	\$95,746.00	\$34,488.00	\$15,676.00
Continuum of Care Operations		\$82,460.00	\$32,572.00	\$32,737.00	\$11,792.00	\$5,360.00
SOHRAD Personnel	4.0 FTE	\$285,516.00	\$112,779.00	\$113,350.00	\$40,829.00	\$18,559.00
SOHRAD Operations		\$37,050.00	\$14,635.00	\$14,709.00	\$5,298.00	\$2,408.00
RRH Personnel	0.5 FTE	\$33,500.00	\$13,233.00	\$13,300.00	\$4,791.00	\$2,178.00
RRH Operations		\$3,415.00	\$1,349.00	\$1,356.00	\$488.00	\$222.00
Coordinated Entry Personnel	0.5 FTE	\$34,195.00	\$13,507.00	\$13,575.00	\$4,890.00	\$2,223.00
Coordinated Entry Operations		\$3,415.00	\$1,349.00	\$1,356.00	\$488.00	\$222.00
Bridge Housing Operations		\$147,887.00	\$58,415.00	\$58,711.00	\$21,148.00	\$9,613.00
FY2024 Fund Balance		\$(70,000.00)	\$(27,650.00)	\$(27,790.00)	\$(10,010.00)	\$(4,550.00)
Additional Local Investment – Landlord Incentive, PSH, Cold Weather Cots, Bridge Housing			\$309,294			
TOTAL	7.625 FTE	\$1,107,905.00	\$624,745.00	\$317,048.00	\$114,201.00	\$51,910.00

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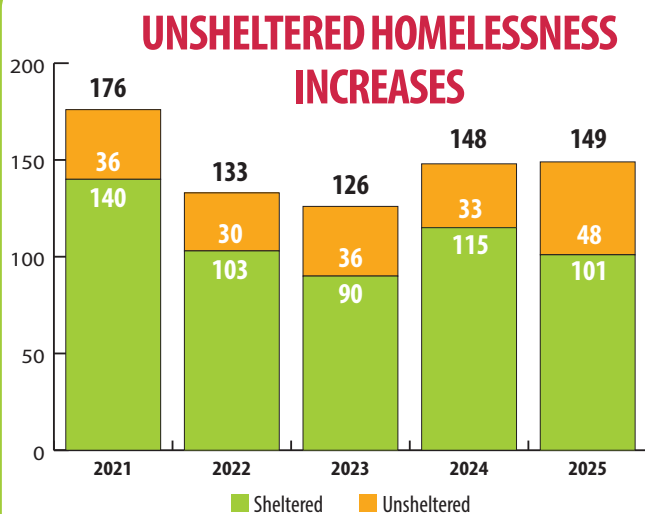
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Federal Funding



POINT-IN-TIME COUNT DATA 2021-2025



Total Persons Served in Federal Fiscal Year 2025

353

SHELTER & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

225

SHELTER

128

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

119

RAPID RE-HOUSING

27

STREET OUTREACH

39

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

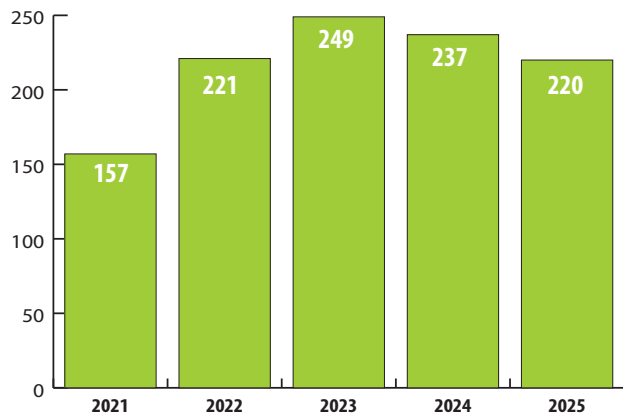


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Total Persons Exiting to Permanent Housing Destinations



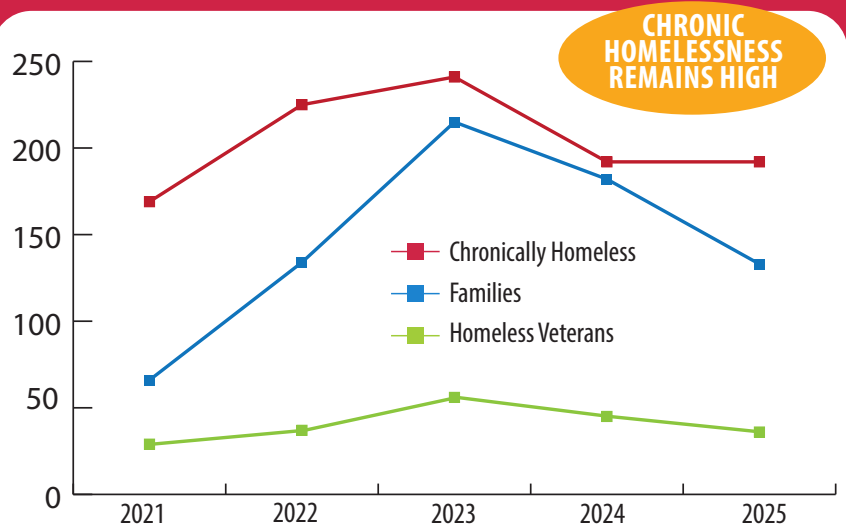
149 PEOPLE IN ORANGE COUNTY EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS ON ONE NIGHT



Direct Service Programs	Description	Impact in FY2025
Housing Helpline	Coordinated entry point for people seeking housing and homeless services	Conducted 437 coordinated entry assessments and over 5000 initial contacts with those seeking services
Housing Access & Navigation	Working with landlords to make units available for people at very low incomes	Enrolled 25 new landlords and added 110 units to our publicly shared housing list
Rapid Rehousing	Short to medium term rental assistance with supportive case management services	57 households served with 40 moving into permanent housing
SOAR	Supports to help people experiencing homelessness apply for SSI/SSDI	25 referrals
Street Outreach, Harm Reduction, & Deflection	Connections to housing and services for people living unsheltered	61 individuals enrolled, 36 individuals engaged, 23 individuals with positive housing destinations

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Slight Decrease in Family and Veteran Homelessness



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

NEED HELP?

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