home

**Working to end homelessness
in Greater Cincinnati**
strategiestoendhomelessness.org

STRATEGIES TO
END HOMELESSNESS

We envision a community in which everyone has a stable home and the resources needed to maintain it.

Kevin Finn
President/CEO

In partnership with 30 local organizations we coordinate a centralized emergency shelter helpline, homelessness prevention programs, street outreach, emergency shelter, and housing solutions serving approximately 12,000 people annually.

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Strategies to End Homelessness is funded in part by The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, The State of Ohio, the City of Cincinnati, and Hamilton County.

A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, we are proud to be a BBB Accredited Charity and hold the 2023 Candid Gold Transparency Seal.

Please visit our website strategiestoendhomelessness.org for our current financials.

By the Numbers

The state of homelessness in our City

There was an overall decline in the number of people sleeping in emergency shelter and unsheltered on the streets from 2021 to 2022, though a very modest decline of less than 1%.

This does, however, continue what is now a six-year trend with the number of people on the streets and in emergency shelters having declined by **16% from 2017-2022**.

Other communities have had significant increases in homelessness, particularly unsheltered homelessness, during the same timeframe.

In 2020, the first year of the pandemic, unsheltered homelessness increased for the first time in seven years.

However, since 2020, **unsheltered homelessness has decreased by a total of 27%, and most significantly decreased by 18% from 2021-2022**.

Other communities have had significant increases in unsheltered homelessness during the same timeframe.

One of the reasons for this decline is because of the increase in the number of people served in our **Shelter Diversion program**.

2022 marked the first year that **unsheltered homelessness dropped below pre-pandemic levels**.

6% of people who are literally homeless in Hamilton County exclusively sleep outside on the streets and unsheltered, never entering an emergency shelter.

An additional 6% spend part of their year unsheltered, but also spent part of the year in emergency shelter. In total, 12% of people experiencing homelessness slept outside for some period of time during the year.

This compares favorably to the **national average of 40% of people experiencing homelessness being unsheltered** on the streets.

Our Prevention Program: Shelter Diversion

The most effective way to address homelessness, both from an outcomes and cost-effectiveness perspective, is prevention. Locally, our primary vehicle for helping people who have lost their own housing and are now at risk of finding themselves on the street or in a shelter is **Shelter Diversion** services.

In 2022, we saw a 20%+ increase in people provided with Shelter Diversion services. Thanks to funders like **Hamilton County** and the **City of Cincinnati**, we've seen an even more impressive 55% increase from 2019-2021. This is partially why there was a decline in local homelessness as mentioned earlier.

A nationally-recognized best practice, **Shelter Diversion** is the most cost-effective strategy for preventing homelessness. It prevents households, primarily families, from needing emergency shelter or ending up on the street.

Preventing homelessness is always preferable; it spares the family the trauma of entering and experiencing homelessness, and it costs the system less to stabilize them, making this a more efficient program to allow us to serve more households.

It targets households who have already lost their housing, are "doubled up", relying on others for a place to stay, and are out of options.

We provide rental assistance and case management for 3-6 months to restore people to stable housing.

Homelessness impacts the young

More than 1,300 children experienced literal homelessness (sleeping in an emergency shelter or unsheltered on the streets) in 2022, continuing to make up almost one-quarter (23%) of the total population of people experiencing homelessness in Hamilton County.

Locally, homelessness continues to disproportionately affect younger people, with 23% of people experiencing homelessness under age 18, 33% under age 25, and 51% under the age of 35.

What's Next

Using Data Analytics to Prevent Homelessness

Strategies to End Homelessness is the leader of a coordinated system of care for the homeless, and those at-risk of becoming homeless, in Greater Cincinnati. We also administer the local **Homeless Management Information System** (**HMIS**), the first community in the United States to have 100% of homeless services agencies contributing data to such a system.

We use data to monitor program outcomes, coordinate resources, and adjust funding for front-line homeless services agencies to meet changing systemic needs.

With support from the **City of Cincinnati**, we are taking our data analysis further – using predictive data analytics to identify households in the very early stages of a housing crisis – perhaps before they even realize their situation could lead to housing loss or homelessness – and proactively offer assistance to resolve such situations.

In partnership with local Data Science Company **84.51**, we are developing systems for comingling data from various sources to identify households in the early stages of a housing crisis.

84.51 has generously provided pro bono expertise to **Strategies to End Homelessness** since 2017.

With our partners, we will proactively reach out to households and offer case management and connection to community resources to address each household's situation well before eviction or homelessness.

Relevant and predictive data is normally siloed within and across many companies. But bringing data together will enhance coordination, decrease cost, and improve outcomes. We are seeking the support of new and like-minded funders who share our vision of using data analytics to end homelessness.

Community collaboration and investment will ensure households identified through data analysis receive the right support, at the opportune time, **to reduce the trauma of housing loss for families and children.**

A Report from the CAP Helpline

At-risk households are identified through our **Central Access Point (CAP) Helpline**, Hamilton County's emergency shelter centralized intake helpline.

When a household calls **CAP** for assistance, we determine if there is an opportunity to divert the caller away from homelessness.

The alternative for people who are about to become homeless and cannot get into the **Shelter Diversion** program is to enter emergency shelter.

At any given time in our system, shelter beds are consistently full or well over capacity. Beds that become available in shelters that take referrals from **CAP** are filled within the hour in most cases.

Homelessness prevention funding - when available - allows us to divert hundreds of families and their children from shelter each year.

And instead help them back on the path of self-sufficiency, ensuring shelter beds are reserved for those in need.

In 2022, 4,416 people called CAP and 1,804 (41%) were placed into a safe shelter or an appropriate housing program.

Additionally, in 2022 there was a 105% increase in the number of calls for help to **CAP** since 2020.

The goals of **CAP** are the same as our organization's overall goals. To reduce the number of people who become homeless, provide a high level of assistance to people who are homeless, and to offer solutions to homelessness through housing.

CAP isn't fully funded by the government funding that we administer. **CAP** is partially funded by the City of Cincinnati Human Services Fund, local foundations, and our generous donors.

5 Easy Ways You Can Help

"How can I help people experiencing homelessness?"
Here are a few ideas!

1   **If you're reading this, you're already helping!** Thank you for helping to dispel myths and share facts about homelessness here in Cincinnati.

2   **Share this information with friends and family!** Interested in a guest speaker for your business, social, or religious group? Just send us an email **info@end-homelessness.org**.

3   **Volunteer!** Volunteers are needed all year-round - not just during the holiday season! For current opportunities go to **bit.ly/STEHVolunteer**.

4   **Be our eyes and ears.** Download the *Street Reach App* - Android or iPhone - and send real-time information on people in need to our outreach teams.

5   **Donate.** Consider a financial donation and be assured your generosity will directly impact neighbors in need. **Thank you!**

Scan this QR code to donate today!

Our Partner Agencies

STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS

- ● Prevent
- ● Assist
- ● Solve

Bethany House Services ● ● ●
Brighton Center ● ●
Caracole, Inc. ●
Center for Independent Living Options ●
Center for Respite Care ●
Cincinnati Health Network ●
Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority ●
Cincinnati Union Bethel ● ●
City Gospel Mission ● ●
3CDC GeneroCity513 ●
Community Action Agency ●
Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky ●
Excel Development, Co. ●
Found House Interfaith Housing Network ● ● ●
Freestore Foodbank ●
Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services ●
Hamilton County Job & Family Services ●

Joseph House ●
Lighthouse Youth & Family Services ● ● ●
National Church Residences ●
Northern KY Independent District Health Department ●
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries ● ●
Over the Rhine Community Housing ●
Shelterhouse ● ●
St. Francis / St. Joseph Catholic Worker House ●
Society of St. Vincent de Paul ●
Talbert House ● ●
Tender Mercies, Inc. ●
The Salvation Army ● ●
Veterans Administration ● ●
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YWCA Greater Cincinnati ● ●

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United Way of Greater Cincinnati

You! **You make this work possible. Thank you!**

**STRATEGIES TO
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Thank you!
for providing opportunity and hope.
Your support makes all the difference.
It's an honor to partner with you in
the fight to end homelessness.