A Humane Approach to Homelessness

"Using punitive measures to respond to homelessness, such as arresting and/or fining people who sleep outside, is not new."

And such measures don't address the real causes of homelessness: **a lack of affordable housing** and accessible supportive services.

That's why homeless services organizations across the country are advocating for Person-Centered Responses to Homelessness.

By promoting **humane, evidence-based approaches to the issue of homelessness**.

The Supreme Court recently deemed someone can be "fined, jailed, or ticketed for sleeping or camping in a public space when they're homeless and have nowhere else to go".

We can all agree this landmark decision will not address the actual problem of homelessness. And that the criminalization of homelessness will also not solve the problem.

Our goals are to prevent homelessness whenever possible, assist people out of homelessness, and offer solutions to homelessness through housing.

Through targeted intervention using predictive data analytics to **intercede early in a family's housing crisis**.

Or through the **Shelter Diversion Program** — moving families from housing instability to housing security with rental assistance and case management.

Together, we can **spare families and children from the trauma** of experiencing homelessness.

Making a lasting impact, <u>now</u>

The Cincinnati Family Housing Stabilization Collaborative

Last year, **Cincinnati City Council** set aside $2 million in funding to be put toward one project that Councilmembers thought had the greatest potential to reduce evictions and housing loss in the city.

The **Human Services Advisory Committee** reviewed the applications and presented their recommendations to City Council for approval. And **Strategies to End Homelessness** is honored to be chosen as the City's first ever **Impact Award** recipient.

The goal: Use data and predictive data analytics expertise to identify families in the early stages of a housing crisis – *perhaps before the head of household even realizes the situation could lead to housing loss* – and proactively offer assistance to resolve the crisis.

After a year of planning and building a data-driven, cost-effective services delivery model, the new system **went live on July 1st**.

Partners in the **Cincinnati Family Housing Stabilization Collaborative** include *Bethany House Services*, *Flywheel Social Enterprise Hub*, *Found House Interfaith Housing Network*, *Legal Aid Society*, *Lighthouse Youth & Family Services*, *St. Vincent de Paul*, *YWCA Greater Cincinnati*, and data science company *84.51*.

Predictive Data Analytics will identify which households are most at-risk of housing loss, and partner agencies will proactively reach out to these households, offering services and assistance to address their emerging housing crisis.

Services offered through an equity lens and guided by people with lived experience of housing instability and homelessness.

There is much more work to do -- watch for updates on the project's progress!

Cincinnati/Hamilton County Homelessness Data

The number of children who experienced homelessness in 2023 was a lot lower than in 2022.

Overall, the number of people who experienced homelessness increased by 1.7%. **But it is 16% lower than it was in 2013 10 years earlier**.

Homelessness did increase by 1.7%. **But there was a 46% increase in the number of people experiencing street homelessness.**

Our community is hard at work to understand this dramatic increase. And how to reverse it going forward.

Strategies to End Homelessness oversees our community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
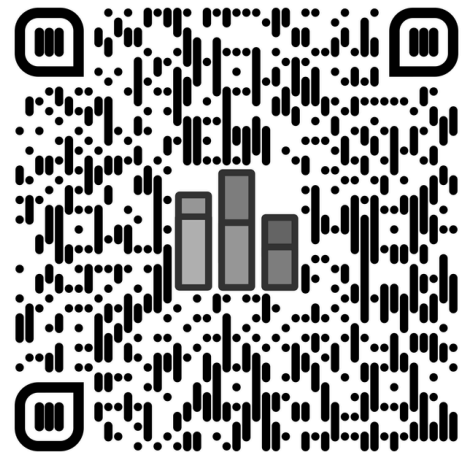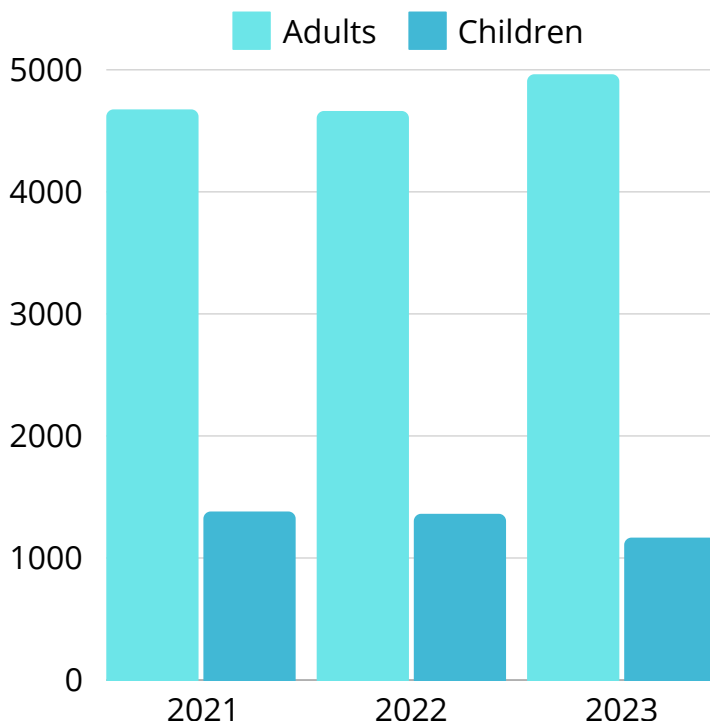
A system required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Overseeing the HMIS allows us to:
- Measure progress toward goals
- Track program outcomes, and
- Coordinate resources.

And adjust funding to meet changing needs and target limited funding to successful interventions.

ADULTS AND CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS 2021-2023

Legend: Adults, Children

Bar chart showing adults and children experiencing homelessness for years 2021, 2022, 2023. Y-axis from 0 to 5000.
- 2021: Adults ~4650, Children ~1400
- 2022: Adults ~4650, Children ~1380
- 2023: Adults ~4950, Children ~1180

Scan this QR code to view the full 2023 Data Deck

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Stay up-to-date on the impact of your support!

Scan this QR code then watch your inbox for updates on how together, we **are ending homelessness** in Cincinnati!