



# home

YOUR IMPACT REPORT

STRATEGIES TO  
END HOMELESSNESS.ORG

Dear Friends,

## You have made a difference.

Now more than ever families need our help. Families who, due to the pandemic, are facing homelessness for the first time ever.

## You have helped us respond.

Because of you our Intake Specialists are there to answer the call for help. There to help provide families safe shelter and there to help prevent families from ever experiencing homelessness in the first place.

Thank you for investing in our community and fighting to end homelessness in Greater Cincinnati.



Kevin Finn, President/CEO  
*Strategies to End Homelessness*

## KEYS to a Future Without Youth Homelessness

Now in its third year, **KEYS to a Future Without Youth Homelessness** (KEYS) is making a positive impact by working to end youth homelessness in Hamilton County.

The KEYS initiative is comprised of **Lighthouse Youth & Family Services, Bethany House Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati, Salvation Army**, and the **Children's Law Center**, in partnership with **Strategies to End Homelessness**.

Since the beginning of the **KEYS** program, the rate of youth homelessness in Hamilton County improved on several key measures:

- 24% reduction in the number of youth becoming homeless for the first time
- 19% decrease in the total number of youth experiencing homelessness
- 12% increase in the number of youth exiting homelessness into permanent housing

Throughout the pandemic, KEYS staff have continued working to move homeless youth into shelter and stable housing. They have also continued to meet with the Youth Advisory Council, which is made up of formerly homeless youth, and which has been providing valuable input toward making the components of the KEYS program more effective.

# Who is most likely to become homeless?

## People Facing Eviction?

Local and national data indicate that very few people go straight from being evicted into literal homelessness, even in non-COVID-times.

Millions of dollars are currently available through the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan to assist people who are renting apartments but facing eviction. However, most people, following being evicted or otherwise losing their housing, stay with friends & family (“**Double-up**”).

## Who then is most likely to become homeless?

People living doubled-up and running out of options. But this group of people are not being assisted with CARES Act and ARP funds. Local and national data show that, “living with friends and family” as the most common living arrangement immediately before a person enters an emergency shelter or finds themselves on the street.

That's why homelessness prevention programs that target people who are already “doubled-up” — like our **Shelter Diversion** program — are so important. **Shelter Diversion** targets those families that are most likely to enter a shelter or be on the street. It is also the most cost-effective strategy and has best outcomes for clients.

But **Shelter Diversion** is largely unfunded. The vast majority of government funding is either targeted on people who are still in an apartment or who are already on the street or in a shelter.

**Very little is going to help the people in the middle — living “doubled-up” — who are most likely to be literally homeless and soon.**

# Helping End Homelessness Across our Region

**Strategies to End Homelessness**, was founded in 2007 to serve as the lead agency for the **Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless**, and to oversee funding from the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**.

In this role, we oversee and coordinate HUD funds, in partnership with **Hamilton County** and the **City of Cincinnati**, to more than 20 partner agencies providing supportive housing and services to nearly 12,000 people annually.

We are proud to serve our community and are actively working to expand our programs across the region. Our city is unique. We can see Northern Kentucky from our office. But our work and our funding cannot cross the Ohio River.

We know people experiencing homelessness across Northern Kentucky come to Cincinnati to access services. And 5% of all callers to our CAP Helpline are from Northern Kentucky.

That's why we are committed to creating a Shelter Diversion Program to directly serve citizens of Northern Kentucky.

## We are just getting started.

Our thanks to our friends and partners who are helping shape the Northern Kentucky program and helping more people in our region — especially the **Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation**, **Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation**, the **United Way of Greater Cincinnati**, and the **Life Learning Center**.

# Focus on Family Homelessness

In response to the rise of family homelessness in Cincinnati, **the Solutions for Family Homelessness Plan** was released in 2015.

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**This collaborative group is on a mission to end family homelessness.**

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Strategies to End Homelessness, Bethany House Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati, St. Vincent de Paul Society, The Salvation Army, YWCA Greater Cincinnati



## 5-Year Report on the Solutions for Family Homelessness Plan

We invite you to read the full report on our website. Initiatives in the plan include:

- Expand **Emergency Assistance** and **Shelter Diversion** in order to prevent more families from experiencing homelessness
- The **Children and Youth Taskforce** developing strategy and programming, creating system change, and networking with the sole focus of improving services for children and youth experiencing homelessness
- The Solutions for Family Homelessness team implemented an **Aftercare program** to decrease the number of families that return to homelessness
- A major initiative of increasing capacity in the system has been the trainings provided, including **Trauma-Informed Care Training**, for the entire homeless family services system.
- **Child Services Coordinators** focused on the unique needs of children staying in shelter and connect that child to services that will positively affect their life going forward.
- In direct response to the community need, **Bethany House Services** broke ground in 2021 on a new and life-changing shelter and comprehensive services center in the heart of the Bond Hill community.

Prior to, and since the plan launch, many local foundations and organizations have generously funded initiatives called for in the plan and for that **we are grateful**. And our work continues.

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## CAP Helpline: Connecting Callers to Home

During the first 9 months of 2021, the number of families calling the CAP Helpline increased by **32% over the prior year**. Families facing homelessness. Families with nowhere else to go. Operated by Strategies to End Homelessness, the CAP Helpline is here to answer their calls.

Families can be placed in an emergency shelter or housing. When families are facing a housing crisis, our CAP Intake Specialists are there to calmly listen and help families begin their journey to housing stability. It starts with a call to the CAP Helpline and ends with home.



**And your support  
makes it possible.  
Thank you!**