

Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust
FY 2016-2017 State of the County Highlights
(Category: Health and Human Services)

- 16,107 homeless adults and children were placed into emergency, transitional or permanent housing.
 - o 7,716 homeless adults and children were placed into emergency housing
 - o 599 homeless adults and children were placed into transitional housing
 - o 7,992 formerly homeless adults and children were placed into permanent housing
- 64,265 contacts were made by HT contracted outreach teams.

Homelessness declined 12% from 2016 to 2017 as evidenced by the annual Point-In-Time Count. The number of chronically homeless households and unaccompanied minors also declined. Year-over-year improvements were made in the length of time persons remain homeless, employment and income growth, and a reduction in first time homeless.

- Incoming U.S. HUD Secretary, Dr. Ben Carson, visited with Homeless Trust leadership as part of a nationwide listening tour. Carson toured Carrfour's Villa Aurora, a 76-unit apartment building which includes 39 units of Permanent Supportive Housing for formerly homeless households and 37 units of affordable housing for low-income households. The project is built atop the 12,000 square foot Miami-Dade County Hispanic Public Library. The Homeless Trust also showcased Miami-Dade's Continuum of Care to a host of other federal, state and local officials, including U.S. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, Lt. Governor Carlos Lopez-Cantera, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs Ann Oliva, Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Matthew Doherty, and a contingent from Marion County (Ocala).
- Hurricane Irma tested the CoC's disaster response and recovery abilities. More than 500 homeless individuals seamlessly accessed homeless shelters prior to the storm. Homeless and formerly homeless individuals in properties that fell within mandatory evacuation were successfully moved, vulnerable clients were assisted following prolonged post-storm power outages, and collaboration with the American Red Cross and FEMA allowed for the successful closure of the county's last remaining general population shelter.
- The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, in partnership with the Miami VA, led an unprecedented effort to house homeless veterans in our community. More than 270 homeless veterans were placed into permanent housing in Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Fewer than 10 veterans are chronically homeless in our community.
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) came online to serve 34 high needs/high costs chronically homeless individuals who have a history of cycling through the healthcare and criminal justice systems. Coalition Lift, a partnership between the Trust, Carrfour Supportive Housing, Citrus Health Network, Camillus House and the University of South Florida, is part of a demonstration project for the State of Florida designed to highlight the cost-effectiveness of PSH.

- The Homeless Trust further expanded its inventory of permanent housing for homeless households through creative partnerships. Together with Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development:
 - o 25 homeless households were referred into Public Housing units with renovations paid for by the Homeless Trust.
 - o 120 Housing Choice Vouchers were set aside for homeless veterans and move-in was expedited through five (5) “surge” events designed to expedite housing placement.
 - o 95 Project Based Vouchers were allocated to non-profit providers allowing the Homeless Trust to refer additional homeless households into permanent settings.

- The Homeless Trust formed new homeless housing referral partnerships with the Urban League of Greater Miami (Covenant Palms) and Pinnacle Housing (Pinnacle Heights), and continued to work with all of Miami-Dade County’s four (4) Housing Authorities (Miami-Dade, Miami Beach, Homestead, Hialeah) to leverage permanent housing resources for homeless and at-risk households.

- The Homeless Trust was awarded nearly \$30,000,000 in funding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, including three (3) new projects totaling \$1.5 million to create 111 new units of Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless individuals and families.

- With the help of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, the Homeless Trust was awarded an additional \$4.1 million in federal Emergency Solutions Grant funds to provide rental assistance to homeless and at-risk households.

- The Homeless Trust successfully secured state funds for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (rental assistance), including:
 - o \$200,000.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds
 - o \$158,500.00 in Challenge Grant funds
 - o \$35,000.00 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds

The Trust also partnered with (4) Entitlement Jurisdictions, including Miami-Dade, Miami, Hialeah and Miami Gardens to earmark an additional \$1.7 million in rental assistance to assist homeless and at-risk households.

- The Homeless Trust launched the 2017 Landlord Recruitment and Retention Program and Marketing Campaign, creating a Risk Mitigation Fund, CoC Exclusive Landlord Listing Tool, Landlord Hotline and Lead Coordinator position in an effort to ramp up landlord engagement and retention activities. With the help of City of Miami Anti-Poverty Funds, City of Miami Commissioner (now Mayor) Francis Suarez granted \$80,000 to the newly created Landlord Mitigation Fund which provides added protection for landlords who are willing to reduce screening criteria to rent to someone with limited income, a poor rental history or a criminal history.

- The Homeless Trust hosted a joint meeting with private sector partner Chapman Partnership and undertook a comprehensive review and update of the Miami-Dade County Community Homeless Plan: Priority Home. New strategies were incorporated, including enhanced

landlord engagement activities, a focus on diversion, and expansion of permanent housing opportunities. Together with U.S. HUD-provided Technical Assistance, a Transitional Housing review and Housing Stock Analysis were also conducted to analyze the movement of people through the homeless system, and make adjustment or right-size as appropriate.

- Emergency Shelter Standards of Care were revised to reduce barriers to program entry and ensure a Housing First approach. Homeless Management Information System policy was amended allowing housing and services providers to better understand and coordinate client care. Local Outcome Measures were revised to better align with HUD System Performance Measures to drive positive outcomes.
- Formal Grievance Standards utilizing Restorative Practices were adopted Continuum-wide with the goal of positively influencing human behavior through more collaborative and cooperative dialogue amongst services providers and clients.
- An Equal Access policy was developed and adopted to ensure housing programs are open to all eligible individuals and families regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.
- Violence Against Women Act policies were adopted to ensure the physical safety and housing opportunities for survivors of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.
- A total of 84,717 calls were made to the Homeless Helpline for the period of October 2016 through September 2017.
- “Roofs Rising” served as the cornerstone of Homeless Awareness Day (HAD) 2017. The travelling art exhibit was designed to raise awareness of the need for housing to end homelessness, and encourage landlords to work with our programs. Two dozen landlords and developers stepped up to show interest in participating. As part of HAD, a dozen schools raised money, clothing and toiletries for homeless shelters; 60 other schools hosted brigades and informational sessions for students.
- More than 200 students participated in the Homeless Awareness Poster and Essay Contest in 2017, giving Miami-Dade County Public Schools students an opportunity to reflect on, and create awareness of, homeless issues.

Domestic Violence Oversight Board

- Design and construction documents are nearly finalized and the permit process is beginning for the development of a new 60-bed domestic violence shelter dubbed “The Empowerment Center”. The 26,657 square foot facility will include a labyrinth in the garden and inspirational three dimensional glass and metal words above the facility’s reception area, as part of the Art in Public Places program. The new center will complement “The Lodge”, a 50-bed shelter and the only private, not-for-profit certified domestic violence center in Miami-Dade County which has been in operation since 2004.

- 393 women and children were provided domestic violence emergency shelter beds, representing 18,591 shelter days. In addition, 667 alternative placements were provided this when shelter beds were not available or not in the best interest of the household.
- Domestic violence outreach services were provided to 704 women, children and men who were not in shelter.
- Relocation support was provided for 213 women and 9 men fleeing life-threatening domestic violence relationships
- 4,921 domestic violence telephone counseling calls were handled. These include information and referral services, hotline calls and assistance in developing a safety plan.

Goals for FY 2017-2018

- 1) Increase the supply of Permanent Housing for homeless households
- 2) Develop a system for homeless youth to access assessment, referral and housing options
- 3) Improve year over year HUD System Performance Measures