

**Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust
FY 2017-2018 State of the County Highlights
(Category: Health and Human Services)**

In June 2018, Miami-Dade County became one of only a handful of communities to Effectively End Veteran Homelessness, thanks to the hard work of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, the Miami VA, and a network of committed partners and providers. U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson joined us in making this historic announcement. Today, unsheltered veterans make up less than 1-percent of the total homeless population. While we know we can never say that no veteran will ever become homeless again, we do have the infrastructure and systems in place to ensure homelessness for veterans is rare, brief and one-time.

– 2014:	Sheltered: 175	Unsheltered: 142
– 2015:	Sheltered: 213	Unsheltered: 23
– 2016:	Sheltered: 126	Unsheltered: 31
– 2017:	Sheltered: 158	Unsheltered: 9
– 2018:	Sheltered: 111	Unsheltered: 9

On the heels of Effectively Ending Veterans Homelessness, U.S. HUD invited our community to embark on a 100-Day Challenge to end youth homelessness. We were among only 5 communities selected nationwide (Sacramento, CA, Las Vegas, NV, Prince George’s County, MD and Suburban Cook County, IL). We are focused on ensuring these young people are not relegated to a life in and out of systems, but quickly connected to the housing and supports they need to grow and thrive. Our 100-Day Challenge Commitments include:

- 1) ensuring every unaccompanied 14-24 year old who presents at one of the CoC’s Access Points is off the street in 48 hours, and at least 67% exit crisis housing into safe, stable housing, and
- 2) at least 75% will be connected to training/education/employment, and behavioral health services as needed. (Note: A partnership with CareerSource South Florida seeks to enroll/employ 100% of eligible young adults.)

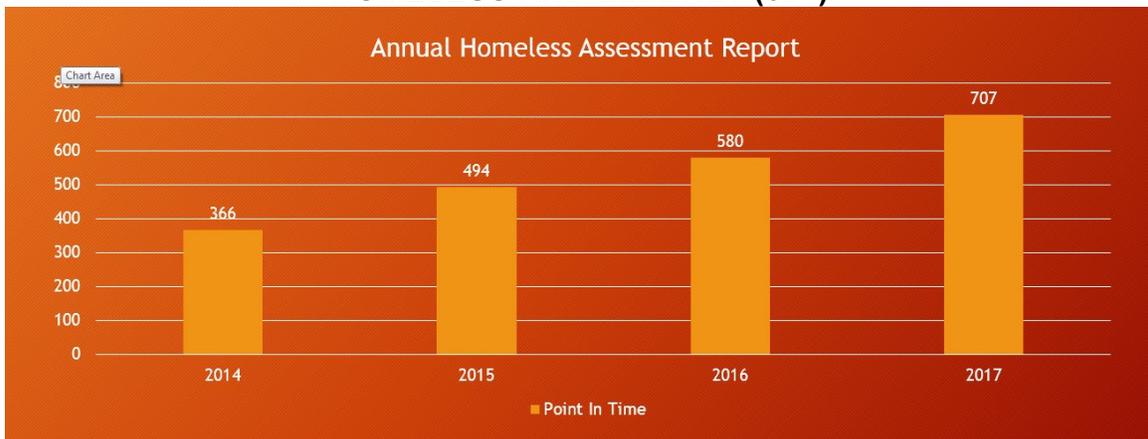
Among our accomplishments designing a system that makes youth homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring:

- Finalization of a Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness
- New dedicated emergency shelter beds funded through \$326,200 (\$171,600 for unaccompanied youth; \$154,600 for unaccompanied parenting youth) in Food & Beverage Tax proceeds to ensure no youth sleeps on our streets
- Youth By Name List case staffing to understand the unique needs of the estimated 140+ unaccompanied youth (under 25) in our system and move them to safe, stable housing
- Creation of Youth Access Points to ensure quick and easy access to the system
- Funding commitments from partners including Our Kids, the United Way and others
- Refinement of our iCount, an annual survey to better identify and understand the needs unaccompanied youth
- Continued engagement of HUD-assisted property owners

- Participation in the national A Way Home America dashboard enabling us to publically track and share with other communities our data and progress toward ending youth homelessness
- Creation of a System Map to better understand the movement of youth through the homeless system
- Continued engagement from more than 75+ youth partners under the umbrella of the Housing Our Miami-Dade Youth (HOMY) collective, including the participation of youth with lived experience in decision-making and system design
- Securing of 109 vouchers together with the Hialeah and Homestead Housing Authorities, and in partnership with the Department of Children and Families and Our Kids, to provide rental assistance and support services for youth and public child welfare involved households.

While we tackle ending youth homelessness, we must never forget those who are aging and ailing in our community – our seniors. Today, and estimated 700+ seniors (62+) are living homeless in Miami-Dade – not unstably housed, but homeless. They have fixed incomes, few to no supports, and are among our community’s most vulnerable. Over the past four years, we have seen the number of homeless seniors rise at an alarming rate and the problem isn’t going away. It’s getting worse. We are committed to identifying the resources to ensure suitable permanent housing for homeless seniors so they can live out their remaining years with dignity. We need to take care of those who took care of us, not passively watch as they languish in our shelters for days, months and sometime years. We must redouble our efforts to ensure this often unseen homeless sub-population is not forgotten. Only one thing can pull these seniors out of homelessness and that is housing, and it will be a top priority in this new year.

HOMELESS AND ELDERLY (62+)



The Homeless Trust served as the host community for HUD’s first ever Southeast Regional Conference. Continuums of Care from Alabama, Florida, George, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico the U.S. Virgin Islands joined U.S. HUD leaders including the Region IV Administrator and the Director of the SNAPs office, to share best practices and innovation. The Trust was asked to present on its work in effectively ending veteran homelessness and an innovative partnership with South Florida Behavioral Health Network which is helping chronic substance users at risk of dying get off the streets -- for good.

The Homeless Trust further increased its inventory of permanent housing for homeless households through creative partnerships.

- We expanded our Public Housing Pilot with Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD) adding 20 units to the existing 25 for a total of 45 units. The Trust rehabilitates units in need of major repairs in exchange for the opportunity to refer homeless households.
- We partnered with Miami-Dade and Hialeah Housing Authorities to secure 139 Mainstream Vouchers (89 PHCD, 50 Hialeah), and as a result, helped non-elderly disabled households exit homelessness.
- We partnered with Hialeah and Homestead Housing Authorities, to secure an additional 109 Family Unification Program Vouchers (81 Hialeah/28 Homestead), to help child welfare involved youth and adults.
- The Trust reallocated funding from underspending and underperforming U.S. HUD projects to create 42 new units of Permanent Supportive Housing, including:
 - o Expansion of Royalton, a former historic downtown Miami hotel which is located at 131 SE 1st Street, was previously renovated and restored into an affordable housing community. The funding extends supportive services to the existing 77 program participants, plus expands support services and housing for another 15 households using Housing First model.
 - o Permanent Supportive Housing for 27 homeless, disabled individuals without children in scattered-site housing through Camillus' Good Shepherd project.
- The Trust issued a competitive process awarding an additional \$900,000.00 in funding for Rapid Rehousing (RRH) to Chapman Partnership to serve an estimated 125 homeless households (105 families/20 individuals) with rental assistance and follow-up supportive services.
- The Trust finalized a Move-Up Pilot with the Housing Authority of the City of Miami Beach securing 10 vouchers to move formerly homeless households out of service intensive Permanent Supportive Housing allowing for long-time, chronically homeless. As part of the agreement, a Move-Up Assessment Tool was created for use across the CoC.
- The cities of Miami Gardens (\$45,000.00) and Hialeah (\$232,571.55) again committed to partner with the Trust and use State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program funds to provide rapid rehousing and prevention assistance for homeless and at-risk families.
- The Village of Surfside also provided the Trust with an unsolicited gift of \$50,000.00 to assist in our community's work to end homelessness.
- The Trust signed Memorandums of Understanding with a number of tax credit developers bringing new rental units online with special needs set-asides. Partnerships with Pinnacle, Gatehouse Group, Carrfour and Royal American have netted an additional 39 permanent housing units for homeless households.

The Homeless Trust was awarded \$30,682,032.00 in funding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, including two (2) new projects creating 42 units of new Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless individuals and families, plus rental assistance increases to continue to support program participants.

The Trust partnered with other community organization and agencies to deliver enhanced services to homeless households, with an emphasis on unsheltered persons. Among those partnerships:

- A Marchman Act Pilot Program with South Florida Behavioral Health Network’s Care Coordination Team and the City of Miami Beach Homeless Resource Officer Unit targeting chronic substance users likely to die on the streets providing substance abuse treatment and housing.
- Retooling the Projects for Assistance in Transition (PATH) program, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), to better target unsheltered people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) experiencing homelessness with mental health services through New Horizons Community Mental Health Center.
- Collaborating with the City of Miami Police Department and Jackson Behavioral Health on a Pre-Arrest Diversion Program targeting homeless opioid users facing arrest, facilitating access to treatment and housing.
- Providing an additional \$50,000.00 to further evolve the Camillus Day Center Program from one that is service focused to one that is more housing focused, offsetting the cost of a position facilitating rental subsidies for unsheltered persons who access meals, showers and mail services but not emergency shelter.
- Coordinating care, including housing, through the Trust’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), for unsheltered persons served by Anthem, a large operator of Medicaid and Medicare health plans in Miami-Dade, for high utilizers of emergency health care services.
- Providers and partners serving unsheltered persons now collaborate bi-monthly at By-Name List meetings (case conferences) specifically targeted unsheltered single adults to break down barrier and expedite permanent housing placements.

The Trust also collaborated to better serve homeless families with minor children.

- An estimated 50 new joint project offering emergency shelter beds and rental assistance with support services for 28 households with minor children will come online in FY 2018-2019 through a new \$1,000,000.00 RFA funded through Food and Beverage Tax proceeds.
- The Executive Director of the Trust served as a national advisor for the Bezos’ Day One Family Fund. The Day One Fund provided nearly \$100 million to 24 groups helping the homeless. Catholic Charities, serving Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties, received \$5 million to assist the Southeast Florida region with both shelter and RRH for families.
- Enhancements at Verde Gardens, 145 units of county-owned Permanent Supportive Housing along with a 22-acre farm and farmer’s market, to include a new farm/farmer’s market operator, Redland Ahead, Inc., improved lighting, new farm/farmer’s market fencing, and a host of additional aesthetic and security upgrades.

Homelessness declined 8% as evidence by the annual Point in Time Count, including a reduction in the total number of homeless families and veterans. An analysis of the most recent System Performance Measure data (2016-2017) also shows year over year improvements in the length of time homeless; increases in employment and income for persons remaining in and exiting permanent housing; placements from street outreach into housing; retention in permanent housing; and significant reductions in first time homelessness.

In FY 2017-2018:

- 16,334 homeless adults and children were placed into emergency, transitional or permanent housing.
 - 7,929 homeless adults and children were placed into emergency housing
 - 329 homeless adults and children were placed into transitional housing

- 8,076 formerly homeless adults and children were placed into permanent housing
- 63,405 contacts were made by HT contracted outreach teams.

The Trust also worked on the following policy initiatives in 2018, including:

- Revision of the CoC Governance Charter to better align with U.S. HUD guidance on the administration of Emergency Solutions Grant programming.
- Diversion Standards and Practices to better reconnect clients presenting for shelter to services which enable them to secure stable, permanent housing.
- Streamlining of the list of required documentation for Permanent Supportive Housing and CoC Rapid Rehousing
- RentConnect Mitigation Fund Claims process to support the newly created Risk Mitigation Fund, part of an overall landlord engagement and retention strategy
- Revised Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures incorporating Access Points particularly for unaccompanied homeless youth; a youth-targeted vulnerability assessment; diversion standards and training requirements; and the introduction of the new HUD DedicatedPLUS concept (for persons with long histories of homelessness and severe service needs who do not meet the chronic homeless definition.
- Revised Orders of Priority which dictate the order in which clients are referred to Permanent Supportive Housing, prioritizing unsheltered persons and incorporating DedicatedPLUS.
- Revised Disability Verification Form removing language detailing a person's disability, and reinforcing the responsibility of the disability-certifying licensed professional.

The Trust restructured its committees in FY 2017-2018 joining the Housing and Services Development Committees, and creating a new Performance Evaluation Committee to reinforce the Trust's continuing emphasis on system and program performance and outcomes.

The Trust utilized the services of the Offices of Management and Budget Management Planning and Performance Analysis Division to analyze the provider payment process and improve the speed of reimbursement for housing and services. A number of recommended actions will be implemented in FY 2018-2019.

In November 2018, the Homeless Trust hosted a series of Homeless Awareness Day events, including partnering with Venture Café Miami to bring together community leaders and advocates for a discussion on innovative solutions to address the issues of housing and homelessness. A student rally was also held at St. Thomas University. More than 350 attendees participated in HAD activities, including 19 schools, 900 students.

More than 200 students participated in the Homeless Awareness Poster and Essay Contest in 2018, giving Miami-Dade County Public Schools students an opportunity to reflect on, and create awareness of, homeless issues.

The Trust showcased Miami-Dade County's Continuum of Care (CoC) to public sector and business leaders and elected officials across the nation interested in touring our programs, including most recently the Puerto Rico, Las Vegas and Broward County.

Trust leadership and staff continued to enjoy membership on a number boards in the region to better serve and advocate for homeless persons, including the Florida Coalition for the Homeless, Florida Housing Coalition, United Way's Mission United Housing Committee, Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership, Dade-Miami Criminal Justice Council, United Way's Emergency Food and Shelter Program, South Florida Behavioral Health Network, National Alliance to End Homelessness Leadership Council, Miami-Dade Opioid Addiction Task Force, and the Domestic Violence Oversight Board.

Domestic Violence Oversight Board

- The Empowerment Center's permitting process is nearing completion, and the bidding process for construction of the new 60-bed Empowerment Center is underway with Internal Service Department staff is vetting the contractors. 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.
- 452 households were provided domestic violence emergency shelter beds, representing 16,929 shelter days. In addition, 738 alternative placements were provided when shelter beds were not available or not in the best interest of the household.
- Domestic violence outreach services were provided to 825 women, children and men who were not in shelter.
- 15 permanent housing placements
- Court advocacy to 115 households
- 248 injunctions for protections
- 3,404 domestic violence telephone counseling calls were handled. These include information and referral services, hotline calls and assistance in developing a safety plan.
- The Domestic Violence Housing and Technical Assistance Consortium provided valuable input, including results and recommendations following a local Safe Housing Survey. The Miami-Dade based stakeholder group comprised of DVOB Board Members, OMB staff and other local representatives will meet to discuss findings and prioritize next steps to improving housing and service delivery to survivors.

Goals for FY 2018-2019

- 1) Increase the supply of Permanent Housing for homeless households, with a focus on seniors 62+.
- 2) Improve year over year HUD System Performance Measures
- 3) Reduce referral to placement time for households referred to permanent housing