



### **Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust 2016 “State of the County Highlights”**

- Over 15,988 homeless adults and children were placed into emergency, transitional or permanent housing.
  - 7,092 homeless adults and children were placed into emergency housing.
  - 325 homeless adults and children were placed into transitional housing.
  - 8,571 formerly homeless adults and children were placed into permanent housing.
- 49,456 contacts were made by Homeless Trust-contracted homeless outreach teams.
- The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, in partnership with the Miami VA, has led an unprecedented effort to house homeless veterans in our community. More than 1,000 homeless veterans were placed into permanent housing since January 2015. With the commitment of Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development, two “surge” events provided the few remaining homeless veterans access to housing vouchers provided by Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development. The Homeless Trust also partnered with Local 10 to solicit new landlords to provide Veterans additional housing options. Fewer than a dozen homeless Veterans remain on our streets.
- Unsheltered homelessness declined 2.5% from 2015 to 2016 as evidenced by the annual Point-In-Time Count. Overall homelessness declined for families, youth, veterans and chronically homeless.
- The Homeless Trust further expanded its inventory of permanent housing for homeless households through creative partnerships.
  - New deals were struck with Public Housing Agencies in Miami-Dade, Hialeah and Homestead bringing an additional 178 Section 8 units online.
  - Section 8 HUD-Assisted Multifamily Properties, including Miami Beach Community Development Corporation, POAH Communities and Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development adopted a preference for homeless individuals and families, bringing an additional 45 units online.
  - The Trust inked a Memorandum of Understanding with Centro Campesino’s Palm Villa Apartments enabling homeless families to be referred into its 91 affordable housing units.
- The Trust took advantage of new State legislation allowing Supportive Housing Initiative Partnership funds to be used to prevent and end homelessness. New partnerships were formed with the cities of Miami Gardens, Hialeah and Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development bringing an additional \$1 million to the table to provide rental assistance.

- The Trust received federal funding for 183 new units of permanent housing from U.S. Housing and Urban Development, 114 of those are for chronically homeless individuals and families. Rental assistance will be provided to another approximately 69 households (125 persons), including victims of domestic violence, as part of a new Rapid Rehousing program awarded by U.S. HUD. In total, U.S. HUD awarded Miami-Dade in excess of \$29 million in 2015-2016, and provided an additional \$800,000 in planning grant funding to provide provider/partner training, spearhead a landlord marketing and outreach effort, and create a targeted system for unaccompanied minors. U.S. funds continue to provide permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, safe haven, transitional housing for youth and street outreach for homeless individuals and families.
- The Homeless Trust worked to infuse the homeless system with new Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (rental assistance) funds to prevent and end homelessness among individuals and families, and successfully competed for state funding, including:
  - \$200,000.00 for up to three (3) years in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds
  - \$158,500.00 in Challenge Grant funds
  - \$35,000.00 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds
- By lobbying the State legislature, the Homeless Trust successfully secured an additional \$439,000.00 in State funds to provide Transitional Housing Diversion Programming for Severely Mentally Ill individuals involved in the criminal justice system.
- The Homeless Trust extended its private-sector partnership with Chapman Partnership through 2033, with two five-year options to renew, which would extend the agreement through 2043. Since 1993, Chapman Partnership, formerly known as Community Partnership for the Homeless, has designed, sited, constructed and currently operates two (2) homeless assistance centers consisting of 800 beds. More than 100,000 men, women and children have entered its doors since its inception, providing a full range of services including health care, psychiatric services, a mobile dental unit, Head Start facilities, Family Resource Centers, employment assistance, on-site educational program, and partnerships with providers of ancillary services.
- More than 90 chronically homeless individuals in Downtown Miami were permanently housed as part of an effort to reduce homelessness in the urban core. The Strike Force: Urban Core initiative also brought an additional 158 emergency housing beds online, as part of a cooperative effort with the City of Miami. Specialized outreach teams with the ability to medicate the mentally ill on our streets were also deployed, and have been successful in housing some of the most hard to reach homeless in our community.
- The Homeless Trust worked with Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami and Better Way of Miami, to extend the provider's lease another 15 years, with two five-year extensions, to continue providing supportive housing and services for those suffering with substance abuse.
- Orders of Priority were adopted by the Homeless Trust to prioritize those who have the longest histories of homelessness and the highest need. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is now prioritized for those experiencing chronic homeless, with all referrals to PSH flowing through a Housing Coordinator. As part of the effort to end to chronic homelessness, the Homeless Trust, together with Community Solutions, brought together partners and providers for a Chronic Acceleration Challenge.

- Revised local outcome/performance measures were developed to better align with U.S. HUD performance measures as the Continuum of Care (CoC) works to prevent and end homelessness. These measures, which track homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, and other factors pertain to all services provided within the CoC, not just U.S. HUD funded services. The 11 measures include:
  - Empty bed rate at 3% or less.
  - At least 80% of participants will transition into permanent housing.
  - At least 95% of persons in Permanent Supportive Housing will not return to homelessness within two years.
  - 100% of referrals to Permanent Supportive Housing will follow the Orders of Priority.
  - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability.
- New Standards of Care (SOC) for Permanent Housing (PH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) were developed and approved in 2016 outlining placement procedures, parameters, engagement methods and denial processes for homeless households. The PH and RRH standards followed the approval of Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing SOC.
- A Youth Homelessness Workgroup was formed to finalize the building of a countywide system of care tailored to unaccompanied minors (under 25) experiencing homelessness. The workgroup will build on the work of the Youth Homelessness Initiative, spearheaded by Miami Homes for All, which has brought together 50 partners, including formerly homeless youth, to coordinate housing, health, education, employment, data and funding for this special homeless subpopulation.
- The Homeless Trust provided emergency services for homeless individuals as a Category 4 Hurricane Matthew threatened Miami-Dade, providing overflow placement for nearly 300 individuals. The Homeless Trust also coordinated with providers and partners to initiate emergency procedures and precautions to deal with the Zika virus outbreaks in Miami Beach and Wynwood.
- In partnership with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Miami Homes for All and Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development, the Homeless Trust hosted a forum on Developing and Financing Supportive and Affordable Housing. Bankers, developers and government entities were brought together to discuss the continuum of housing needs and how to incentivize development of new units.
- A total of 123,288 calls were made to the Homeless Helpline for the period of October 2015 through September 2016. Upgrades to the system allow the Homeless Trust to now track the average speed of answer, abandon rate and call handling time, and adjust accordingly to provide improved service.
- More than 4,000 business leaders, students and activists came together to advocate for homeless individuals and families as part of Homeless Awareness Day events. Leadership

from U.S. HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness headlined the annual business breakfast, complementing the continuum's hard work. Hundreds of students also participated in activities designed to raise awareness and foster sensitivity to homeless issues. The events prompted more than 20 community organizations to get further involved, including Macy's and iHeart radio. Earlier in the year, approximately 200 students from 20 schools and parks participated in the annual poster and essay contest.

- The Homeless Trust joined with the Homeless/Formerly Homeless Forum and Miami Homes for All to remember those who died while homeless as part of the annual Homeless Persons Memorial Day Remembrance event.

## **Domestic Violence**

- The permitting review process will soon commence on a new 60-bed state-of-the-art domestic violence shelter to address unmet needs of survivors of domestic violence and their children. The project, dubbed the Empowerment Center, is in the design development/construction document stage. The 26,657 square foot facility will include kitchens, laundry rooms, play spaces for children, counseling and training rooms, a garden and meditation area, and a kennel for the participant's pets. 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. Both centers are made possible by the Domestic Violence portion of the Food & Beverage Tax.
- 421 women and children were provided domestic violence emergency shelter beds.
- Domestic violence outreach services were provided to 662 women, children and men who were not in shelter.
- Relocation support was provided for 195 women and 4 men fleeing life-threatening domestic violence relationships
- 4,969 domestic violence telephone counseling calls were handled. These include information and referral services, hotline calls, and assistance in developing a safety plan.