

**Atlanta Continuum of Care + Governing Council Joint Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 13, 2025**  
**In-Person Meeting**

❖ **Governing Council Executive Session**

- Attendees – Rev. Sean Smith, Leslie Marshburn, Commissioner Mo Ivory, Julio Carrillo, Maxwell Ruppensburg, Cathryn Vassell, Philip Gilman, Richard Deshields, Bidemi Animashaun (YAB representative), Jeff Chesnut, Marcus Mister, Amelia Nickerson
- March Minute Approval
  - The minutes from the March meeting were unanimously approved as presented.
- Governing Council Committee Updates
  - Governance Committee – Leslie Marshburn
    - The Governance Committee hosted an orientation session for new members: Commissioner Mo Ivory, Marcus Mister, Josh Humphries, Jeff Chesnut, and Dawn Kentish. They received an overview of the CoC and the role of Partners for HOME as the collaborative applicant.
    - The Governance Committee met to discuss surveying the CoC. The Governing Council has already been surveyed and provided input to Partners for HOME and the Governance Committee. The general CoC survey will be issued from the Governing Council and will be anonymous. The results will be shared internally with Partners for HOME staff and the Governing Council. The goal is to allow an avenue for CoC members to provide feedback and make improvements.
    - The Governing Council retreat will likely be pushed back to August due to lack of availability for June.
    - Josh Humphries is leaving Atlanta and will no longer be on the Governing Council. The Governance Committee will be looking for a replacement for his seat as a City of Atlanta representative.
    - The Governance Committee is still exploring the format of the CoC/Governing Council meetings and engaging the Governing Council members more. The Committee welcomes any input and thoughts on how to grow and engage the group.
  - Client Advisory Council (CAC) – Richard Deshields
    - The CAC has conducted nearly 300 surveys with the unsheltered community in the downtown area to understand why people are not accessing services.
    - The CAC is working with Brianna Flowers on the Partners for HOME team to implement trainings that will help the CAC members be better advocates. The CAC will also be collaborating with the Youth Action Board (YAB) to get them more involved so that they feel comfortable when transitioning over to the CAC.
    - CAC members are represented on the homeless taskforce that was set up by the City of Atlanta after the death of Cornelius Taylor.
  - Youth Action Board (YAB) – Bidemi Animashaun
    - The YAB has added three members for a total of seven. They've elected a secretary and treasurer and are working on a chair and co-chair.
    - The YAB is working on professional development workshops and recruitment. They will be attending a City Council meeting soon and are being encouraged to write and present statements.

- The YAB is also refining the youth resource guide. They published the first edition last year and want to add a CoC services map to the new version. They've also expanded their section on pregnant and parenting youth and added an under-18 and foster youth section.
- The YAB is finding ways to increase activation with the youth population by introducing topical conversations. They have talked to service providers and youth about problems that concern them.

#### ❖ **CoC General Meeting**

- Client Advisory Council Survey Updates – Richard Deshields and Shemeka Dawson
  - The CAC has conducted nearly 300 surveys with the unsheltered population downtown (Woodruff Park, Gateway Center, Pryor Street, and Garnett MARTA Station). Data highlights include:
    - 91% of survey respondents were African American. 69 were female, and 223 were male.
    - Many respondents indicated that they felt welcome and respected by outreach workers and service providers and that information about services was clear to understand.
    - Only 47% of respondents who had case managers said that their needs were met.
    - Top barriers to receiving services and shelter include lack of ID, lack of beds available, and curfew.
    - 81% of respondents said that if a shelter bed were available that night, they would go, but cited safety and shelter rules as the top reasons why they aren't currently accessing shelter.
- Family Homelessness Spotlight
  - PCCI
    - PCCI and the GA Department of Human Services (Division of Family & Children Services) presented on the child welfare rapid rehousing project.
    - PCCI approached the department about creating a partnership in August. PCCI and the Division of Family & Children Services came together to reunify families quickly and prevent foster care entry. They're reducing childhood trauma, keeping families together, increasing housing stability, and helping families thrive. 15 families have successfully completed the program.
    - PCCI has a team of case managers who work at Fulton and DeKalb County. The counties work directly with the case managers who are triaging the families coming through.
    - 124 children across 55 families have been supported with housing stability.
    - The movement from Fulton to DeKalb was the first step in growing the program. PCCI is looking for funding to train other counties across the state.
  - HOPE Atlanta
    - HOPE Atlanta staff reviewed their Family TANF rapid rehousing program. TANF and Bezos funding will serve 100 families. TANF funding provides 4 months of rental assistance for 100 families through September 2025. The Bezos funding provides additional rental assistance based on individual households' needs. The funding provides wrap around services and linkage to various providers.
- Downtown Rising Update
  - The Downtown Rising initiative focuses on reducing unsheltered homelessness and eliminating street sleeping downtown by 2026.
  - Inflation, income inequity, and rising rents are contributing to rising rates of homelessness. For every household we house, another 2.5 come into the system. Moving forward, the system will focus on prevention work with the LEO Institute.
  - 500 units of rapid housing will be online by the end of 2025.
    - Move-ins are occurring at Bonaventure.

- Waterworks is under construction on waterworks and will bring 100 units online by end of the year.
- Cooper Street will have a groundbreaking soon.
- Partners for HOME has been working with downtown stakeholders to come up with a comprehensive approach to address downtown homelessness. This approach will go beyond supporting people who are homeless and will seek to improve infrastructure, build more bathrooms, and utilize parks and public spaces more equitably. Downtown Rising's implementation will be in phases. Service areas have been divided up into 6 different zones.
- A group at the City has been working with Partners for HOME and other CoC partners on street feeding. This group has been charged with looking at the status quo of street feeding and addressing the unintended consequences of unregulated street feeding. The goal is for everyone to have the same information and resources to direct folks to the appropriate location for street feeding. The group acknowledges the intent and goodwill of groups who come downtown to feed and want to redirect their energy, not punish them. A survey has been conducted with all of the downtown service providers to assess what they're currently providing. Gateway and Safehouse Outreach in particular have offered to connect with volunteers to redirect street feeding efforts to dedicated locations.

# **Client Satisfaction Survey 2025**

- **Based on 292 Responses From**
- **Woodruff Park, Gateway Center ,  
Pryor Street & Garnett Station**

**Compiled by : The Client Advisory  
Council (CAC)**

- **Presented by: Shemeka Dawson**

# **Who we served : Demographic**

**69 Women**

**223 Men**

**91% African American**

# **Largest Demographic**

- **Black male**
- **Ages ranges from 45- 54**
  - **54-55 -55-65 oldest**
- **170 between two age groups**

## **Service & Service Providers**

- 71% of people said they felt welcome and respected when interacting with outreach workers or service providers.**
- 75% said that information about service was clear to understand in a language that was comfortable.**
- 64% said that it was easy to contact providers when they needed assistance.**
- 64% said they are kept informed in ways that make them feel like the organization is committed to treating**

# **Case Management Gaps**

- **47% Said there needs were met**
- **Urgent need for more case managers**

# Top barriers to receiving service

**Lack of ID/ birth certificate**

**Social Security**

**Lack of beds**

**Curfew**

# **Lowest Categories For Star Ranking**

- **Timelines -3.2 out 5**
- **Wait Time- 3.12 out 5**
- **Need's Met -3.02 out 5**

# Conclusion

- **81% said that if a shelter bed was open tonight they would go.**
- **The people top concerns were shelter rules and safety.**



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The CAC is  
looking forward  
to making even  
more of an  
impact by  
working with

PARTNERS FOR

HOME

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES MADE FOR EVERYONE



PARTNERS FOR  
**HOME**

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Atlanta continues to rise. There are more than 4,000 people engaged and receiving support from our response system; in 2023, the number increased by 1,000 from the year before.

The leading cause of homelessness is an insufficient supply of affordable housing. It is further compounded by:



Inflation, Income Inequity & Rising Rent



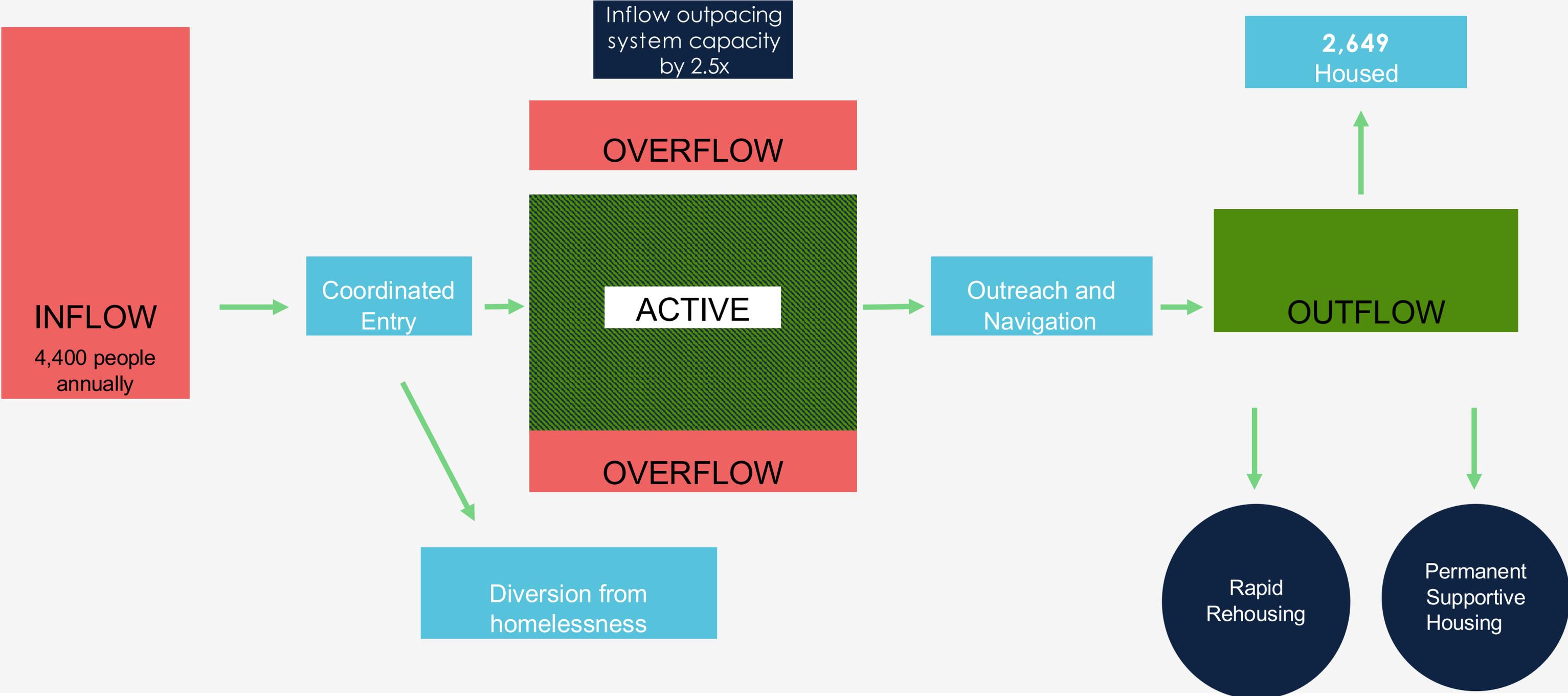
Increasing Mental Health Challenges



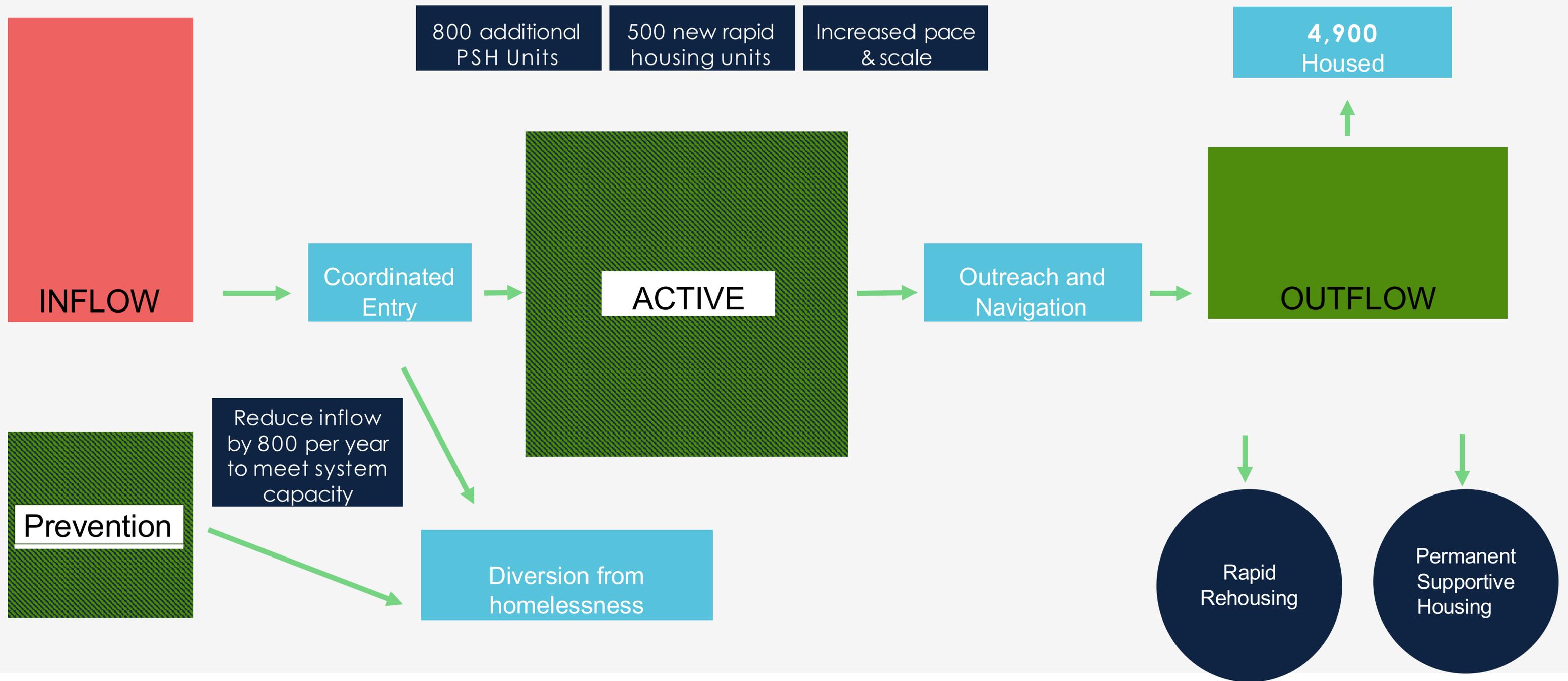
Affordable Housing Shortages

Until we address these factors—at pace and scale and beginning at the source—inflow and first-time homelessness will rise.

# CURRENT STATE: ADDRESSING HOUSING FLOW



# OUR VISION: ADDRESSING HOUSING FLOW



# Atlanta Rising - \$212 M Campaign

Inputs

**Prevention & Diversion**  
\$10 M

**Housing & System Infrastructure**  
\$137.5M

**Holistic Programmatic Services**  
\$57.5M

**Downtown Reimagined**  
\$7M

Activities

- Destination Home Partnership
- Pilot + Partner Delivery
- Predictive Analysis with LEO & Partners

- Rapid Housing Construction
- Rapid Housing Supportive Services

- Project HEAL: Onsite Medical & Mental Health Support
- Rapid Rehousing Programs
- CoC Admin & Training

- Public Safety & Enforcement
- Centralized Services Hub
- Dedicated Outreach

Outputs

- Detailed analytics on predictive risk factors
- Priority populations
- Temporary Financial Assistance
- Legal Support
- Additional Preventative Services

- 500 new rapid housing units online by December 2025
- 5 years\* of the on-site property management
- 5 years\* of on-site standard supportive services

- 100+ units with specialized medical and mental health services over 3-5 years
- Help people return to permanent housing at \$25k/household

- Dedicated hub for centralized services
- Reduction in illegal meal distribution & quality of life violations
- Dedicated FT street outreach
- Encampments closures

Outcomes

- Prevention of 1,600 new families from entering homelessness over two years
- Scaled diversion services across the city
- *Long-term: research that unlocks federal funding opp?*

- Capacity to increase the pace at which system serves clients
- System increase in the total number of people that can be supported with housing at one time

- Reduction in individuals who are chronically homeless
- Reduction in the burden on hospitals, detention facilities, & safety services
- 4,000+ individuals & families rehoused
- Improved coordination and training through CoC

- Connect and direct more individuals with the available services
- Improve the livability and walkability of Downtown

Impact

Reduced burden on the CoC's response system

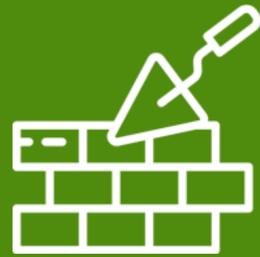
Increased physical capacity to move more people through the system annually

Increased ability to address underlying causes of homelessness and move people through the system faster.

Improved appearance and livability of the Downtown area in preparation for the FIFA 2026 World Cup and beyond

**Long-term reduction in the total number of people experiencing homelessness in Atlanta**

# RAPID HOUSING: PRODUCTION



PRODUCE 500 UNITS BY 2025

## ACQUISITIONS/TURNKEY PROJECTS

**729 Bonaventure**  
(24 units)

**Future Projects**  
(226 units)

## NEW BUILD

**Melody – Completed in February 2024**  
40 units

**Waterworks Reservoir – Completed in May 2025**  
100 units w/ expanded supportive services pilot for high-care populations

**405 Cooper St. – Completed by end of 2025**  
100 units



# DOWNTOWN REIMAGINED

In anticipation of the millions of visitors expecting in the coming years for major events, the Dickens Administration is making unprecedented investment in the experience of both visitors and residents in Downtown Atlanta.

## PARTNERS INCLUDE:



# DOWNTOWN REIMAGINED: HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

With an aligned vision and plan and through a coordinated effort with partners, stakeholders and respective teams (outreach, rehousing and enforcement), we will execute a multi-pronged approach to addressing homelessness in Downtown in a way that is lasting, dignified, and sustainable.

Our phased approach will target prioritized areas and follow scheduled improvement using research-based strategies including:



**REACHING 400 HOUSEHOLDS**  
through targeted and branded street outreach

## PROPOSED COMPONENTS



**STREET OUTREACH:**  
Branded outreach workers offering medical, mental, and behavioral resources.



**FEEDING STRATEGY**  
Structured feeding spaces; education campaign; approved feeding practices



**Infrastructure:**  
Woodruff and Hurt Parks upgrades, cleanup, and activation



**PROVIDER SUPPORT:**  
Infrastructure & staffing to manage and prevent illegal campings.



**TRANSITION SERVICES**  
Rehousing with 30-day turnover



**COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT:**  
Ordinance compliance, utilizing the Diversion Center



# Downtown Rising Response Model

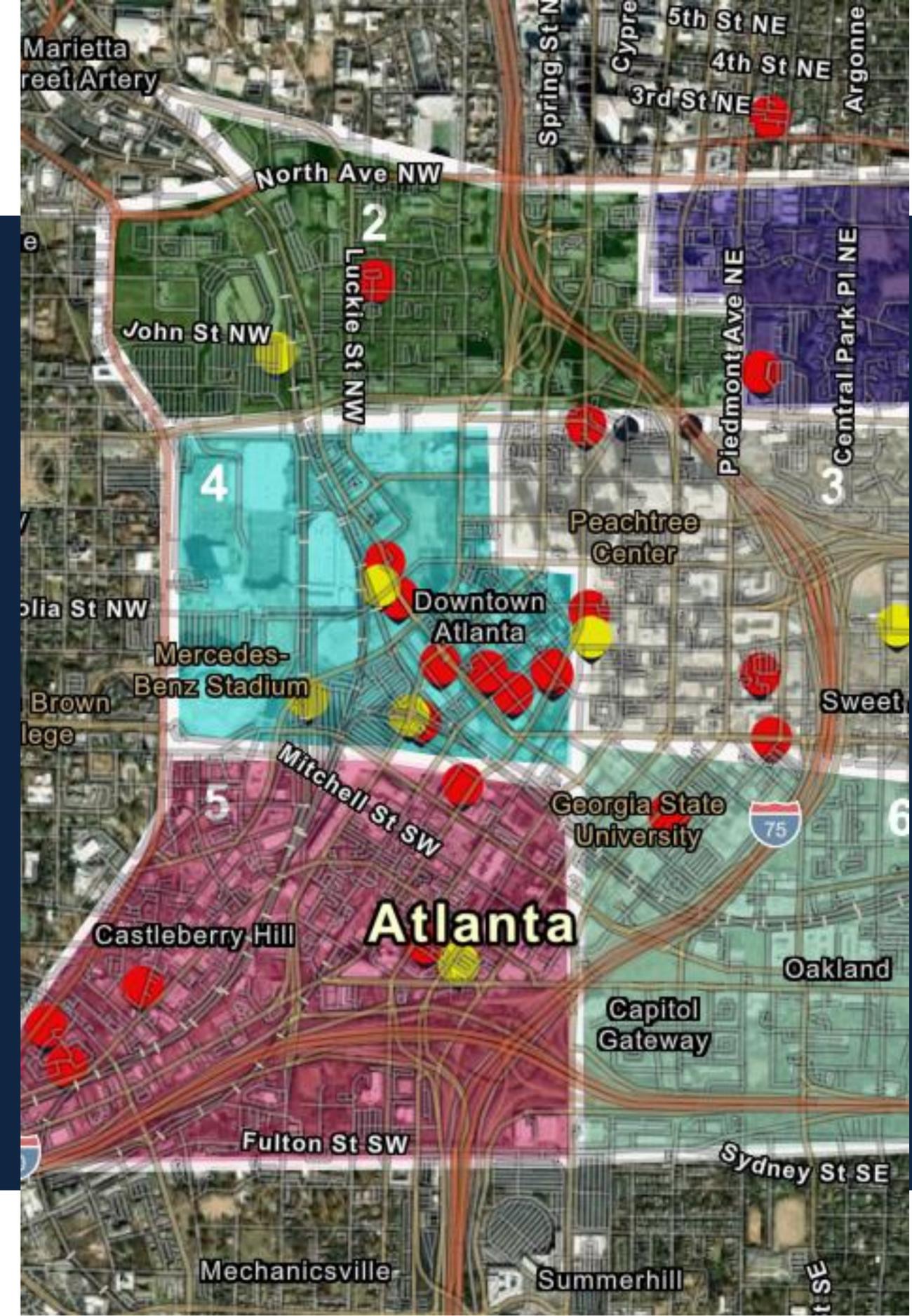
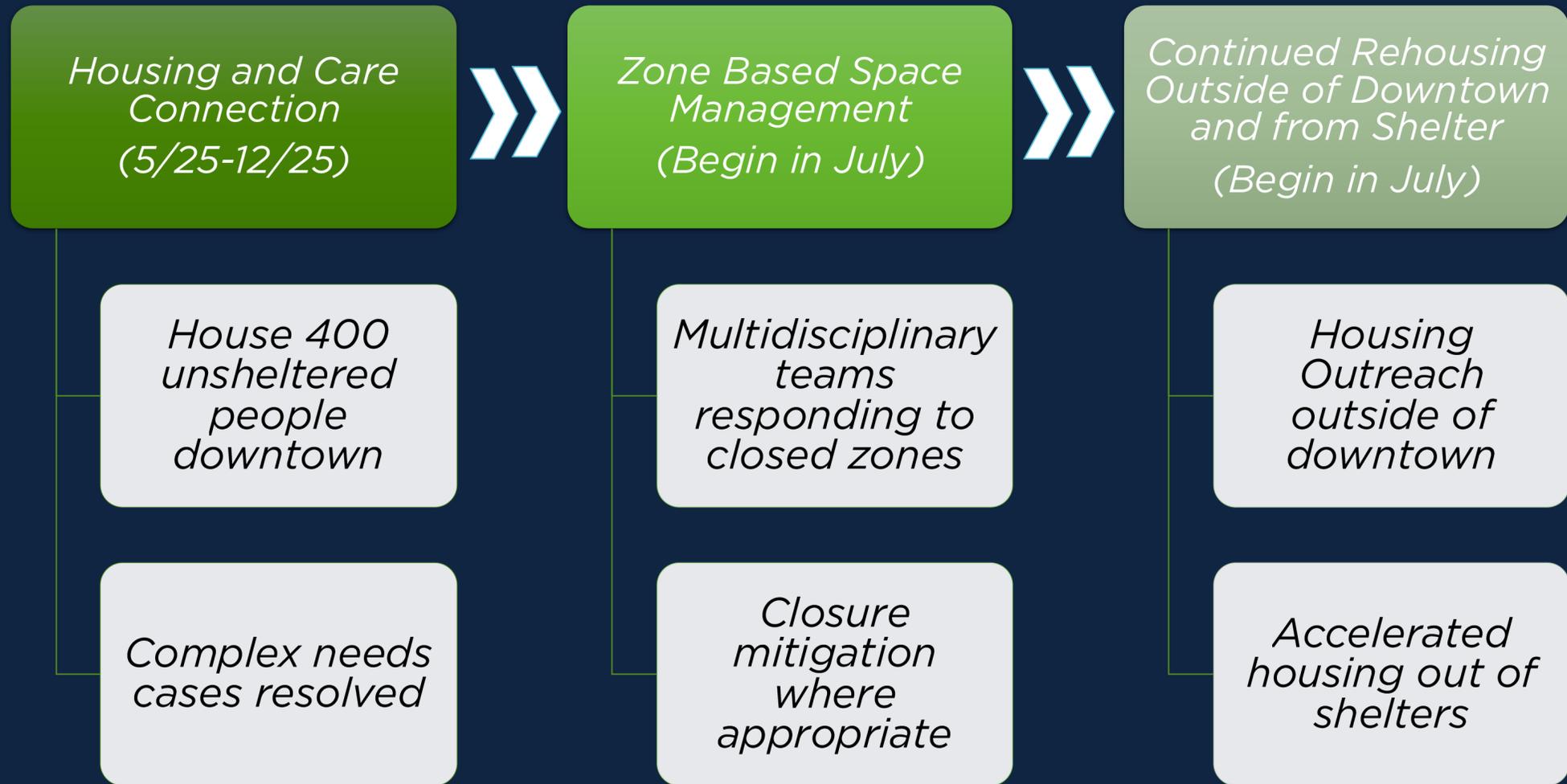
What does closure look like?

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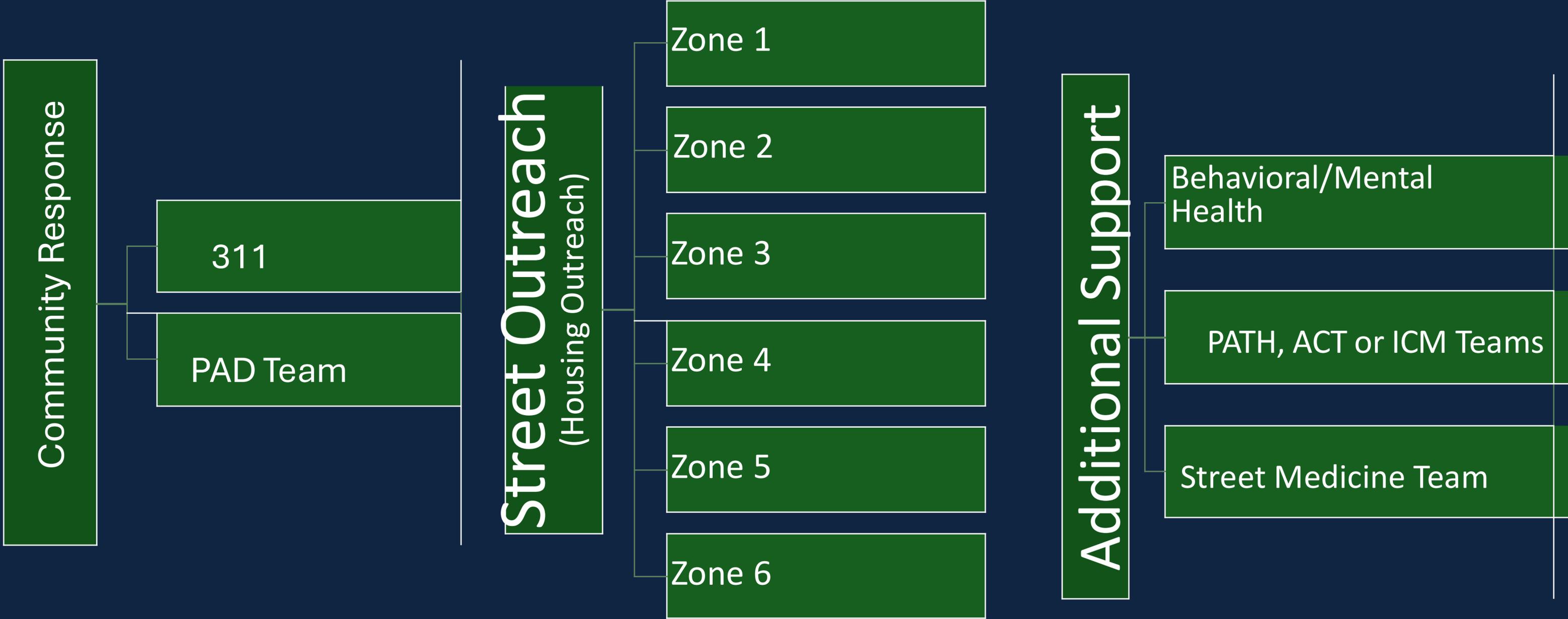
- People regularly sleeping in downtown have been housed
- Re-activation of public spaces, patrols, and security supporting long term closure maintenance
- Homeless response system continues to house people, from next locations and shelters



# Phases of Downtown Rising Implementation



# Coordinated Outreach Structure



# Requirements for Success

## Housing and Care Connections

- Outreach Coordination
  - Housing Outreach and Community Response Outreach
- Aligned and dedicated housing resources
- Complex needs partners aligned and identifying exit strategies for medically fragile and high needs clients

## Zone Based Space Management

- All zones closed on agreed upon dates
- Alignment of public and private security resources
- Street feeding strategy aligned with space management plans

## Continued Rehousing

- Sustainable rehousing resources
- Shelter shift to accelerated housing placement
- Coordinated Outreach shift to shelter placement

# Downtown Rising KPIs



1. **House 400 unsheltered individuals by the end of 2025 and eliminate unsheltered homeless by World Cup (2026)**

Measurement: # housed from unsheltered and # of unsheltered in downtown



2. Decrease encampments in Downtown

Measurement: # of encampments downtown



3. Increase Utilization of Existing Resources

Measurement: Housing Inventory Count



3. Increase in Downtown Infrastructure (Also for tactic 3.1)

Measurement: Number and type of additional infrastructure secured (restrooms, storage, communication platform)



4. Reduction of street feedings

Measurement: Number street feedings



# Downtown Rising KPIs

5. Improved public sentiments on Downtown's safety and cleanliness (also 6.2)

• *Measurement: Survey responses*

6. Total crisis population metric reduced by 85% and by World Cup

• *Measurement: # housed, # linked to recovery and inpatient stabilization*

7. Improved provider sentiments on system collaboration and alignment

• *Measurement: Focus groups – mid level managers/direct service; PLE's, housed clients*

8. Coordinated Communications Plan

• *Measurement: Plan developed*

9. Improved sentiments on system collaboration and alignment

• *Measurement: # Meetings held and attendance, survey of group*

10. *Dedicated Revenue*

• *Measurement: Sustainable funding secured*



# Questions?

Cathryn Vassell

Partners for HOME

[cvassell@partnersforhome.org](mailto:cvassell@partnersforhome.org)

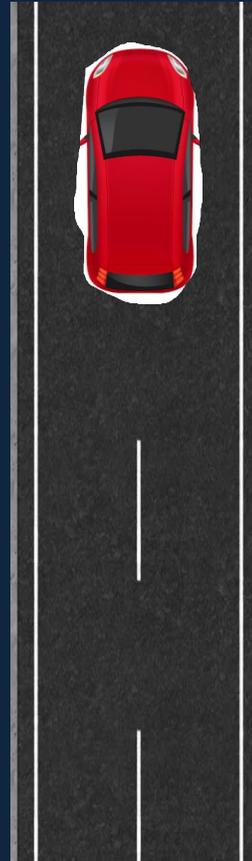
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# Family TANF Rapid Rehousing

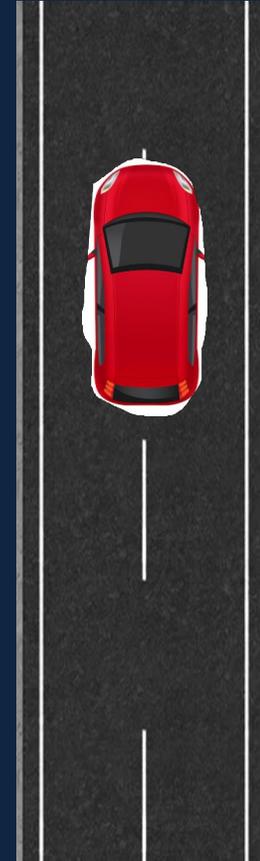
- TANF & Bezos funding will serve 100 families.
- Service & Housing Provider – Hope Atlanta
- TANF funding provides 4-months of rental assistance for 100-families through 9/30/2025
- Bezos funding provides additional rental assistance based on individual household's need and client assistance like security and utility deposit until 01/30/2026
- Follow up case management for one year.
- Wrap around services, linkage to providers.



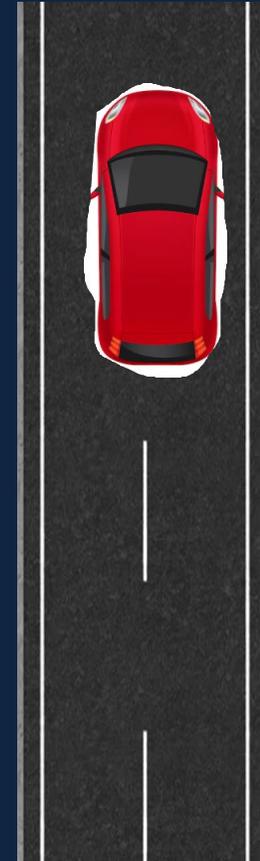
TANF APPROVED



ENROLLED



HOUSED



# Family TANF Rapid Rehousing

- Current Housing track – (4 TANF), (2 Bezos) (2 Bezos pending)
- 8 TANF Approved (Dual enrollment)  
- 22 individuals including children
- 14 Non- TANF – 39 individuals including children
- Challenges :  
TANF Approval rate/ Letters

## TANF-BEZOS Highlights

- ❖ THE LOPEZ FAMILY : CLIENT MAINTAINING HOUSING STABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT. LANDLORD STATES CLIENT IS A GREAT TENANT WHO COMMUNICATES AND IS VERY HARD WORKER. **Bezos**
- ❖ THE MASON FAMILY : CLIENT WORKING HARD TO MAINTAIN HOUSING, LANDLORD STATES THAT SHE IS FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND IS ADAMANT ABOUT PAYING HER RENT TIMELY. **Bezos**
- ❖ THE WARD FAMILY : FAMILY IS THRIVING, BOTH PARENTS WORKING AND MAINTAIN HOUSING AND UTILITY STABILITY. **Bezos**
- ❖ THE DUNMORE FAMILY : FAMILY IS STABLE, ALL NEEDS ARE CURRENTLY BEING MET. **TANF**
- ❖ THE HOLYFIELD FAMILY : MOTHER AND BABY ARE THRIVING, MOM IS WORKING FULL TIME AND PART-TIME JOB TO MEET ALL HOUSING, CHILDCARE, AND FOOD NEEDS. **TANF**



# Client Recruitment

- QR code is a additional recruitment tool of the Rapid team to identify TANF eligible families.
- Link TANF Approved clients to Coordinated Entry / Gateway

**ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR TANF?**

**Do you need help with housing?**

HOPE Atlanta may be able to provide assistance. Scan the QR code to submit your request.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

- TANF Approved/ Approval Letter
- TANF Eligible
- State ID/DL
- Birth Certificates (Household)
- Social Security Cards (Household)
- Proof of Income (If any)
- Homeless/Homeless Verification Letter

 **HOPE**  
ATLANTA

Hope Atlanta seeks to prevent and end homelessness by empowering clients to achieve stability and self-sufficiency.



# Georgia's TANF Eligibility Requirements



## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

*City of Atlanta*

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Have child(ren) in household under 18 years of age.
- Apply for and accept other benefits (e.g. unemployment, supplemental security income, and/or child support).
- Be a U.S. citizen or a lawful resident alien.
- Child(ren) must be deprived due to:
  - absence of one parent from home
  - physical or mental incapacity of at least one parent
  - death of a parent
- All members in households must have a social security number.
- All children ages 6 to 17 must attend school and have satisfactory attendance.
- Children must be immunized.
- Families must meet income threshold.
- Paternity of child(ren) must established.
- Adults in household are required to work at least 30 hours per week.

For additional information on eligibility requirements, visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yhrswpfe>.

### HOW TO APPLY

- There are three ways a family can apply for TANF:
- Download application from the Georgia Department of Human Services DFCS Division at <https://tinyurl.com/3zrubhxy>.
  - Complete an online application at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p98xud9>.
  - Call the customer center at 877-423-4746.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Jasmine Cunningham, Senior Project Manager  
[jcunningham@partnersforhome.org](mailto:jcunningham@partnersforhome.org)





# *Project Community Connection*

## Child Welfare Rapid Rehousing Project

“Reducing family involvement with the child welfare system through housing supports”





**PCCI**  
Project Community  
Connections Inc.



**Jimiyu Evans**  
Co-CEO, PCCI



**Ke'Asia Conley**  
Project Manager, PCCI



# Georgia Department of Human Services

## Georgia Division of Family and Children Services



**Tripp Jones**  
State Safety Manager



**Marla Jones**  
Family Preservation Specialist



# *Why is this Important*



- 
- Providing solutions that address the root problem further upstream.
  - Reduction of childhood trauma.
  - To keep families together.
  - Increased housing stability.
  - Creates an opportunity for families to Thrive.
- 



# *Establishing a Foundation for Success* ●●●●●

In 2013, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA), in recognition of the integral role TANF can play in family stability, released Information Memorandum (TANF -ACF-IM-2013-01) "Use of TANF Funds to Serve Homeless Families and Families at Risk of Experiencing Homelessness."

The TANF RRH model is the result of regional TANF collaboration. In early 2017, HHS' ACF Region 4 and Georgia's Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) leadership sought new ways to reduce the number of families involved in the child welfare system after data indicated a major reason for child welfare involvement was housing instability.

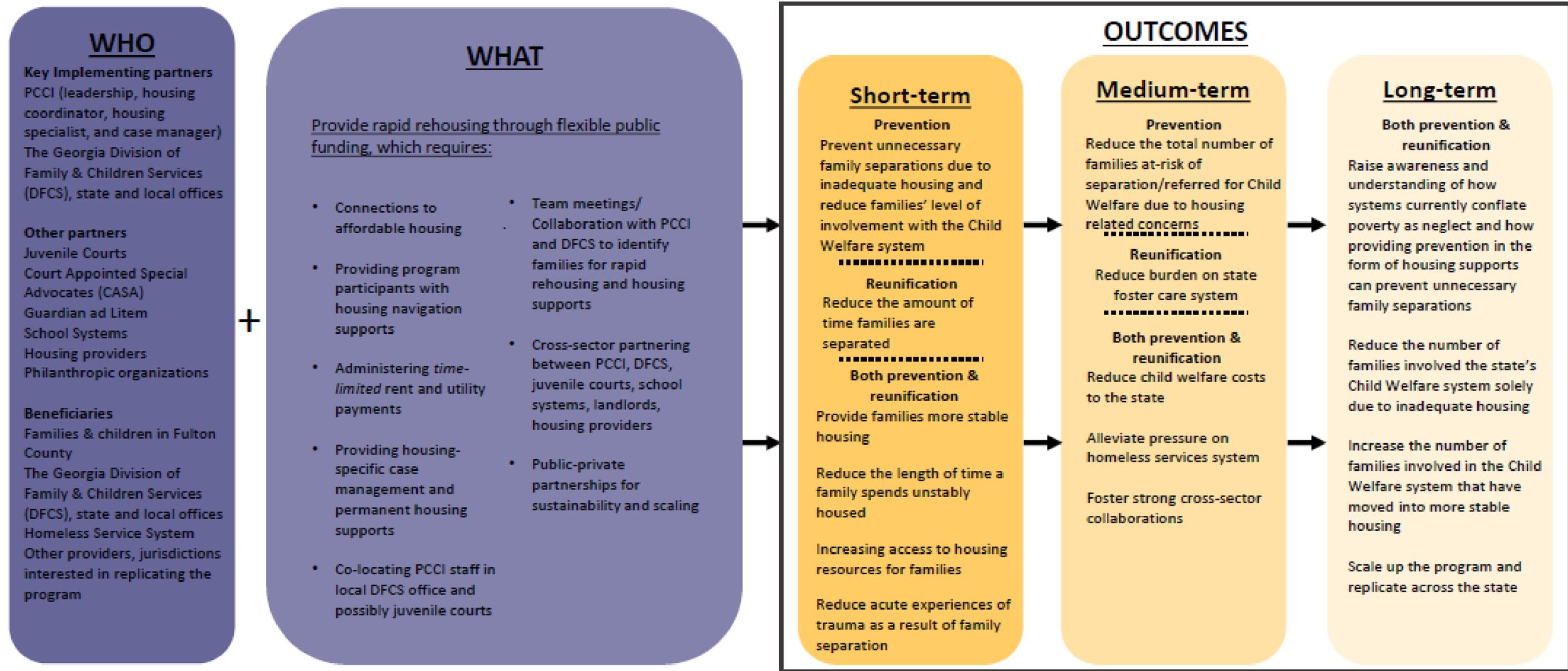


**GOAL: Reducing the number of families involved in Georgia's Child Welfare system through the provision of housing supports both as a prevention and reunification strategy.**



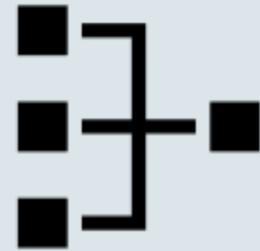
Project Community Connections, INC.

**Context:** Geography of housing, housing inventory, cost of housing, child safety



# *Evaluation Design*

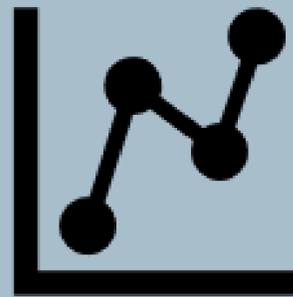
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**Logic model  
development**



**Interviews and focus  
groups**



**Administrative data  
analysis**



**Data mapping**

# Keeping Families Together Through Housing Stability



**124 CHILDREN**  
HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED  
WITH HOUSING STABILITY  
AS A RESULT OF PCCI'S  
COLLABORATIVE WORK  
WITH THE DIVISION OF  
FAMILY AND CHILDREN  
SERVICES

**29 CHILDREN**  
HAVE BEEN REUNIFIED  
WITH THEIR FAMILY





*THANK YOU*

