

**Atlanta Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2022
Zoom Meeting
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

❖ **Welcome and Introductions, Melissa Austin**

❖ **Lead Agency Updates**

○ **PIT/HIC Submission Update, Abby Burgess**

- PIT and HIC chart submissions are due annually to HUD. The Atlanta CoC currently has 41% of expected submissions. Please submit your data as soon as possible so that it can be verified. The results of this report determine funding opportunities. If an agency does not have an agency administrator or recently switched administrators, they are encouraged to reach out to the [HMIS team](#) to update the point-of-contact information.
- HMIS PIT Data and Inventory will be pulled on March 18; do not miss your opportunity to accurately report your client enrollments and program utilization.

○ **Performance and Dashboard Updates, Abby Burgess**

- The data dashboard can be found on the [Partners for HOME website](#). The dashboard monitors progress on a quarterly basis with trend data going back to January of 2020. Benchmarks in three of four core areas of performance are not being met by the Atlanta CoC.
- Partners for HOME will be creating a performance committee soon. Please reach out to [Melissa Austin](#) if you would like to join.

○ **Rapid Rehousing to Permanent Supportive Housing, Annie Hyrila**

- Annie Hyrila provided a housing surge update with data surrounding rapid rehousing and exits to permanent housing. Please see slides for details.
- More units came online at the beginning of the year, but barriers still pose issues. Some of these barriers include lack of affordable units that accept vouchers, client navigation of the voucher system, speed of voucher port process, and changes in property management and ownership of buildings.

○ **System Navigation, Jasmine Cunningham**

- The system navigation program model was implemented to address the need to move highly vulnerable, chronic clients through the system more quickly. Essential program elements include navigators assisting clients with documents, ensuring all data is entered accurately, and assisting clients in unit location and lease-up process.
- System navigation case conferences and follow-ups with chronically homeless clients are occurring on a weekly basis. 80% of current participants are being actively contacted by case managers.
- Partners for HOME has partnered with Crossroads and Central Outreach and Advocacy Center to reach a goal of 100% document readiness for chronically homeless individuals by the end of May 2022.
- A chronic by-name list has been created and is updated weekly in real-time. It is an ongoing monitoring of all active chronically homeless clients. Currently, 252 of 441 chronic households are in system navigation.

○ **Coordinated Entry, Jamie Kimbrough**

- The Coordinated Entry Refinement Committee is a group of homeless service providers and stakeholders who meet once a month to identify and address refinements needed in the coordinated entry system.

- The goals for 2021 – 2022 include: expanding housing navigation services, coordinating outreach efforts to build by-name lists, creating housing assessor and navigator training curriculums, increasing shelter beds in coordinated entry, developing a phased assessment approach and community assessment tool, and building a dashboard to show progress toward key metrics. A coordinated entry dashboard will be going live in the next couple of months and will provide data related to metrics identified by the committee.
- **Diversion, Kim Natarajan**
 - Diversion is still developing as a core component to the homeless response system. So far, 349 households have been diverted. The goal of the next phase is to divert 1100 households in 2022.
 - A diversion workgroup will be established in the coming weeks. Please contact [Kim Natarajan](#) if you are interested in joining.
- **YHDP Update, Kim Natarajan**
 - Partners for HOME is currently in phase one of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP). The Youth Action Board (YAB) is helping to create the coordinated community plan that will be submitted to HUD. Once the plan is created, RFPs will be released, and applications will be scored. Projects will kick off in October 2022 at the earliest. A tentative project list includes housing interventions (joint transitional housing-rapid rehousing for youth) and supportive services (youth diversion, outreach/navigation, and a seamless youth services network).
- **Upcoming Trainings, Jasmine Rockwell Heard**
 - Partners for HOME has partnered with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to offer trainings on a variety of topics. These sessions kicked off in December 2021, and will continue through 2022. The current trainings focus on racial equity, inclusion, and competency. The course schedule can be viewed [here](#).
- **Client Advisory Council Update, Abby Bracewell**
 - The Client Advisory Council is comprised of adults with lived homeless experience. The Council is recruiting new members who can commit to meet once a month. The nomination form can be found on the [Partners for HOME website](#). The Council is working on improving the customer service system throughout the Atlanta CoC. The subcommittee is meeting with the data and performance team at Partners for HOME to discuss the methodology for collecting information from individuals accessing services at agencies across the city.

❖ **Round Robin**

- STRIVE Atlanta is a workforce development agency that offers free trainings, certifications, and connections to employment. Contact [Keren Cadet](#) for more information.
- Senate Bill 535 has been edited. The bill in its most recent form and the bill's sponsors can be found on the [Georgia General Assembly website](#). Partners for HOME strongly urges CoC members to contact members of Senate Oversight Committee and urge them to vote against SB 535. More information on the bill and contact information for committee members can be found on the [Partners for HOME website](#).
- Father's Incorporated helps dads with employment and legitimation. They offer trainings and cohorts. [Learn more at their website](#).
- The CoC discussed mask policies in light of new CDC guidance. Many agencies are still requiring masks and vaccination, but some have relaxed mask policies in office settings.

Housing Surge Update

Rapid Rehousing and Exits to Permanent Housing

Lift Update: Bridged to PSH



Emergency Housing Vouchers

Chronic, highly vulnerable, youth
202 allotted
182 issued



Georgia Housing Voucher

Chronic with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness
121 identified
Step up on second & Grady Dedicated personnel



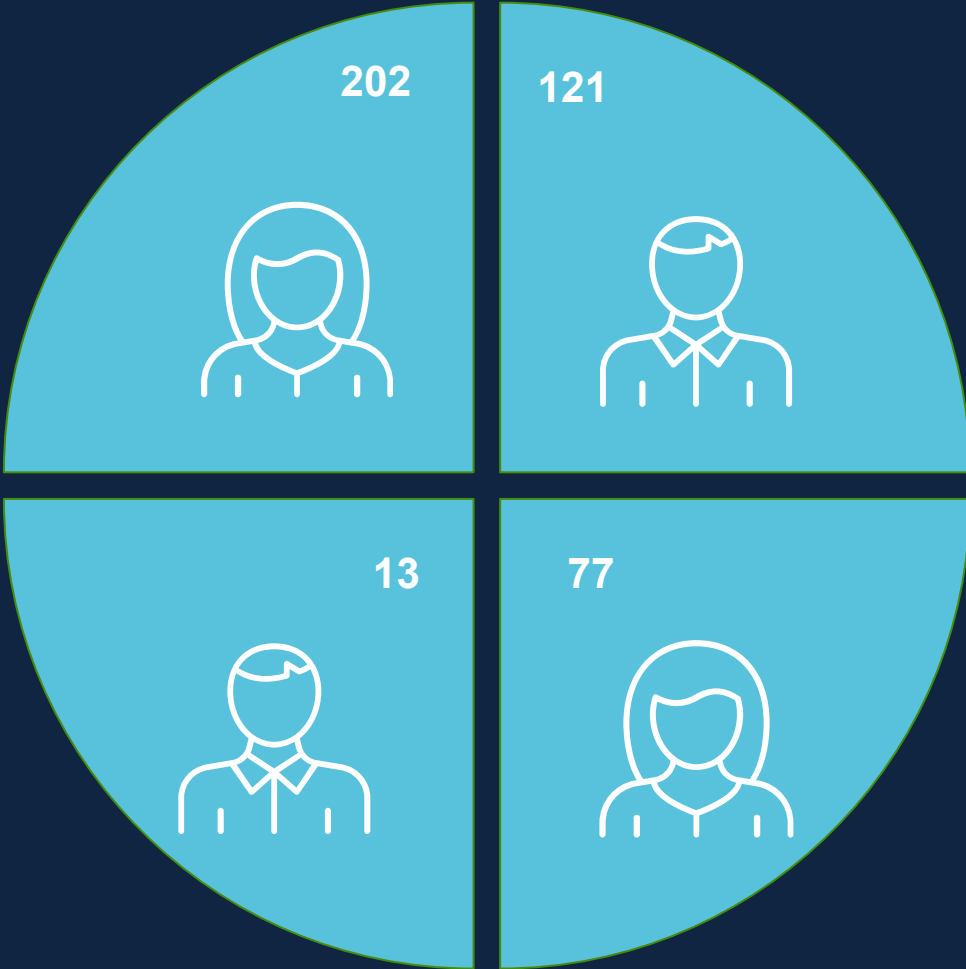
PSH Inventory

Coordinated Entry Prioritization
77 Identified

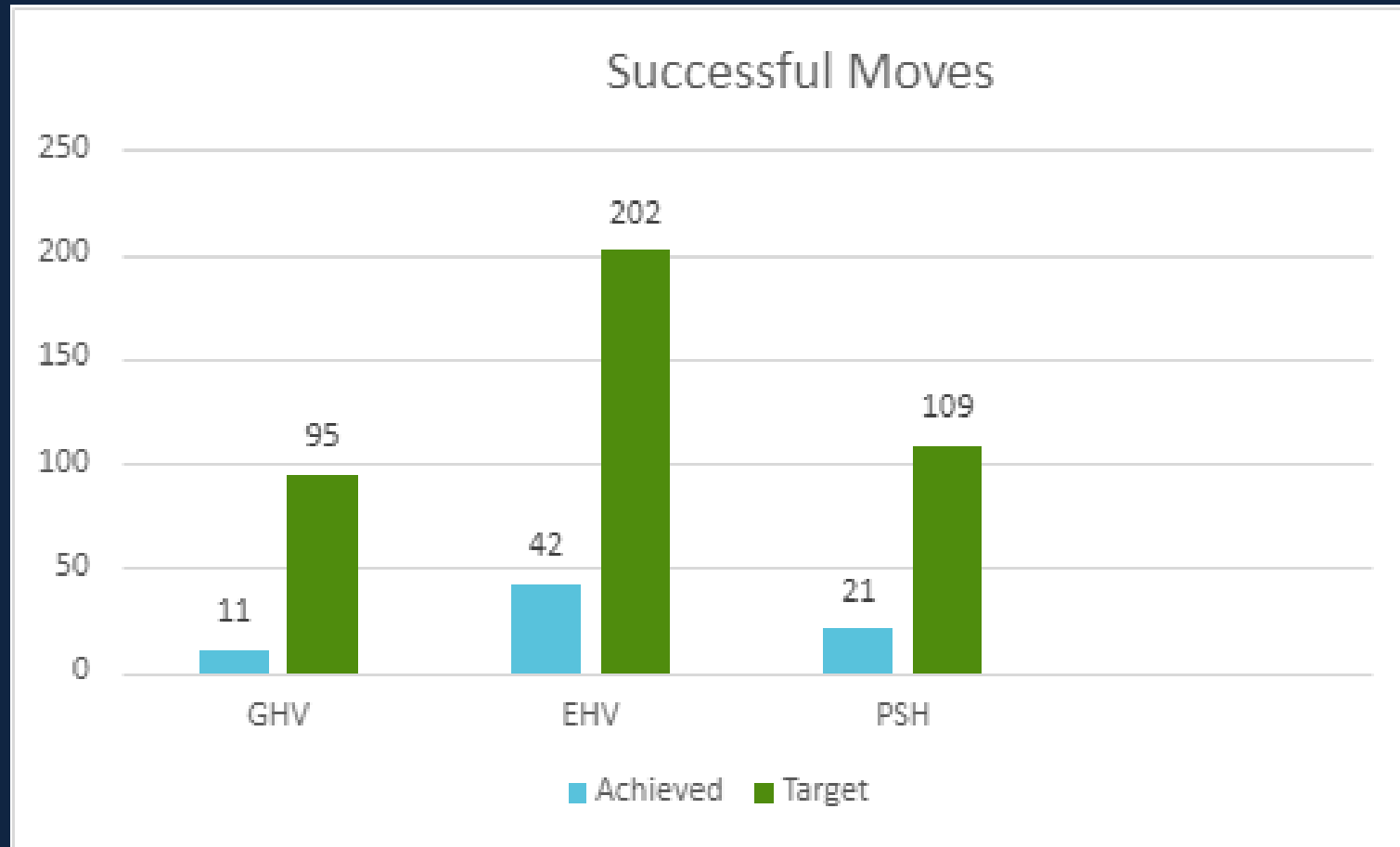


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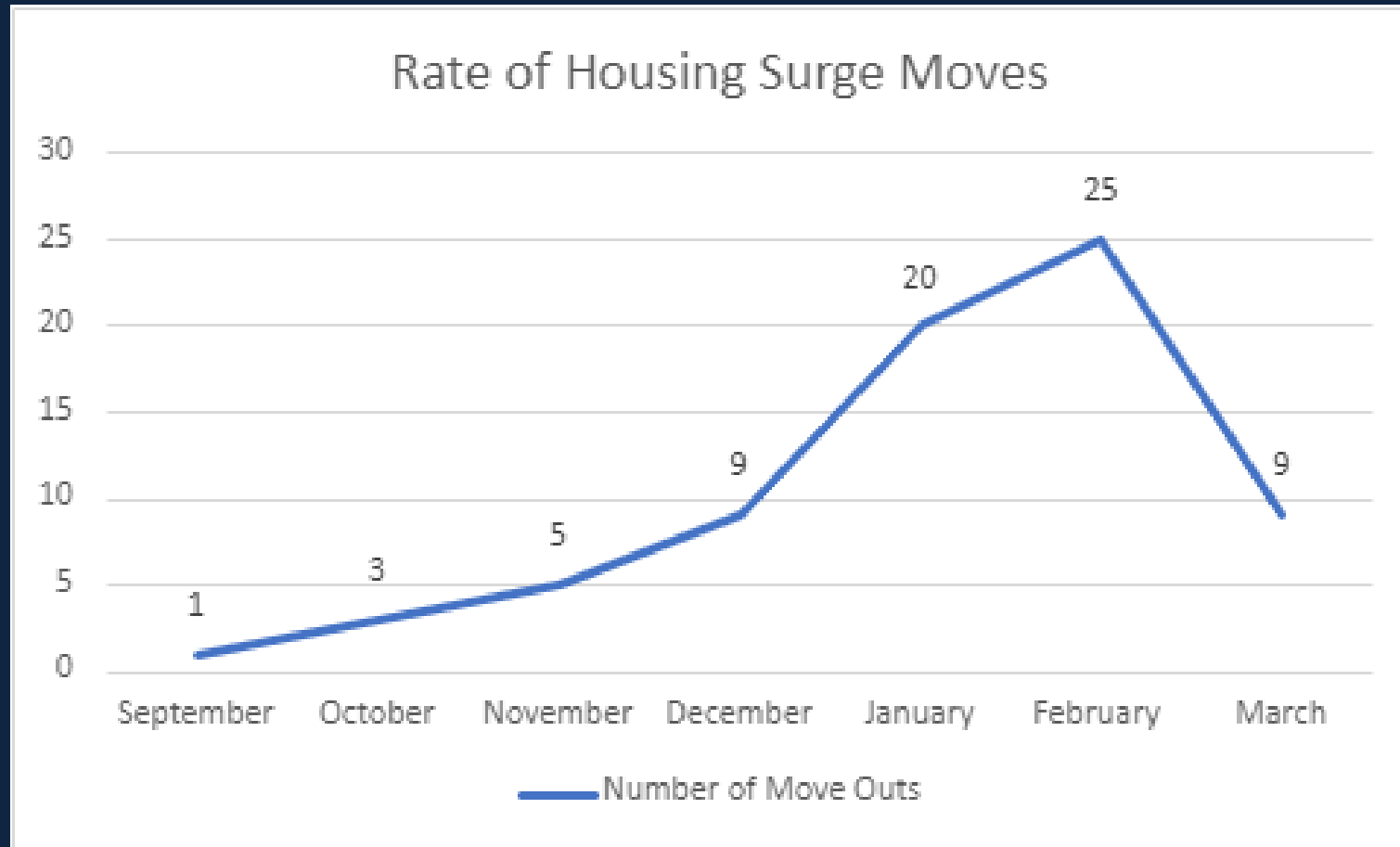
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Moves Per Solution



Rate of Housing Surge Moves to Permanent Housing



Barriers

- Lack of affordable units in city of Atlanta to place vouchers
- Client navigation of voucher systems
- Speed of voucher port process
- Changes in property management and ownership of buildings



System Navigation Program Model



Atlanta CoC System Navigation Model

DRAFT

System Navigators assist the most vulnerable individuals that are matched from the Coordinated Entry Housing Queue to Permanent Supportive Housing through the housing process. System Navigators meet weekly to discuss the progress of those that are being navigated into housing.

Program Description	Essential Program Elements	Time Frame	Population	Desired/Expected Outcomes
Housing Navigation services support participant(s) that are at the top of the housing queue, to navigation the process from homelessness to Permanent Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist participants that are homeless in gathering all documents necessary in order to enter housing Ensure all data is entered accurately into HMIS Coordinate with other service providers to meet participant(s) needs Assist participant(s) in unit location and lease-up process to achieve move-in Attempt to contact participants weekly via: phone, email, face to face, ClientTrack flag, and reaching out to community partners 	Unlimited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants assigned by the CoC/Navigation Work Group Anyone on the non-assessed priority list Chronic homeless individuals Individuals that score 12 and higher on the VI-SPDAT Longest length of time on the housing queue 	<p>Outcome: To provide Permanent Housing.</p> <p>Indicator Thresholds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of all participants enrolled in System Navigation will be document ready for housing within 45 days. 75 % of all participants who receive a referral through System Navigation will enter permanent housing 65% of participant's will be contacted weekly for follow-ups



Strategic Goal:

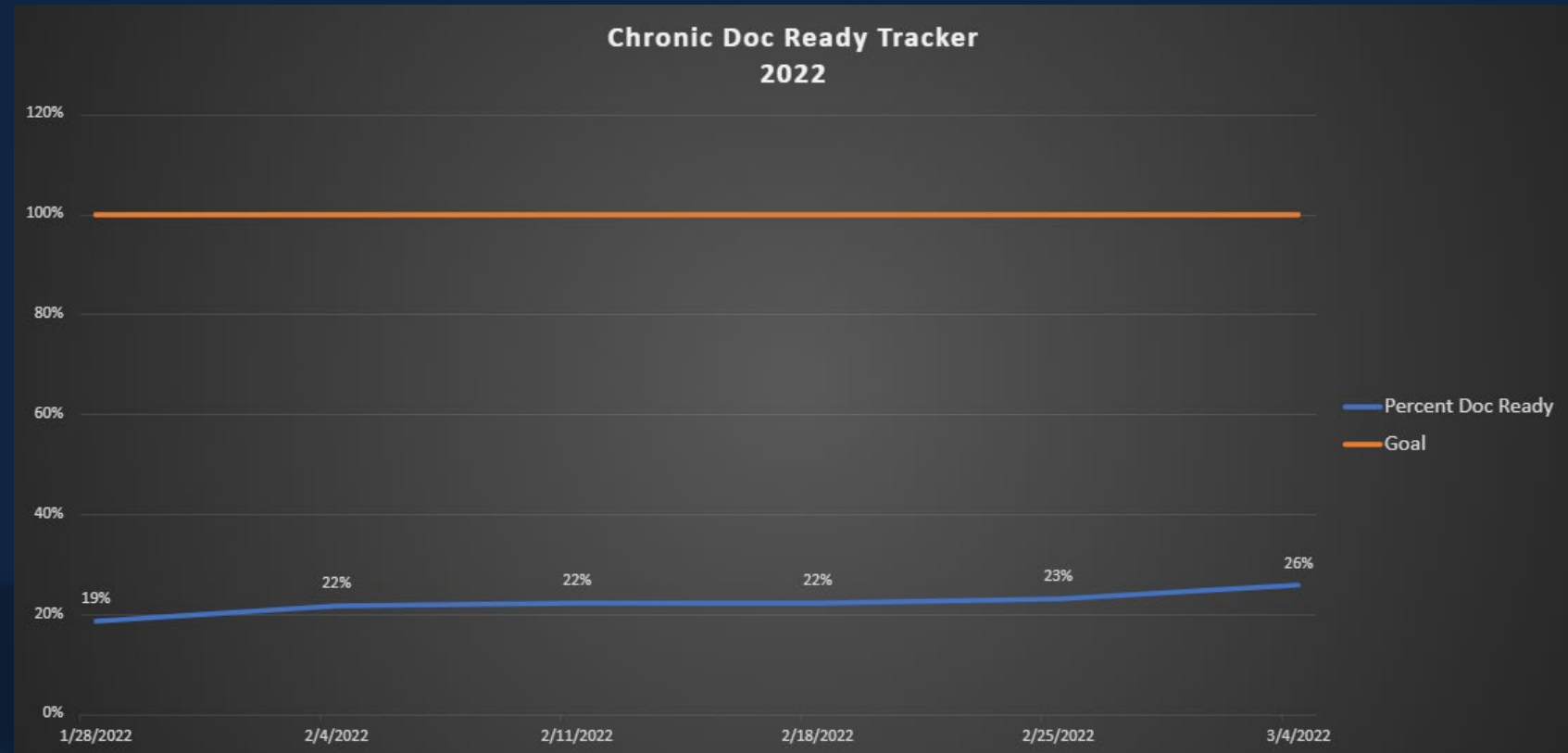
End Chronic Homelessness by End of 2022

Current Initiatives	Current Progress
Document Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Document Fairs (Crossroads & Central Outreach & Advocacy Center)• Partnership with Social Security Administration• Document Ready Tracker<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% All Chronics Document Ready by end of May 2022
On-going Case Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly System Navigation Case Conference• Weekly Follow-ups with chronically homeless clients<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80% of current participants are being actively contacted by case managers for follow-ups.
Chronic By-Name List	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated weekly in real-time• On-going monitoring of all active chronically homeless clients<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 441 active chronic households• 252 active chronic households in system navigation



Document Ready Tracker

- Goal – 100% of all chronically homeless clients document ready by end of May 2022
- Document Ready
 - ID
 - Birth Certificate
 - Social Security Card
 - HUD McKinney
- Progress as of 3/4/2022
 - 26% Document Ready



CE Refinement Committee

Group of homeless service providers and stakeholders.

Meets 1x/month to identify and address refinements needed in the Coordinated Entry System.

Includes shelter, PSH provider, outreach, hospital, and City of Atlanta staff.

2021-2022

- Expanding housing navigation services
- Coordinating outreach efforts to build By Name Lists
- Housing Assessor and Navigator training curriculums
- Increasing shelter beds in Coordinated Entry
- Developing a phased assessment approach and community assessment tool
- Building a dashboard to show progress toward key metrics to end chronic & youth homelessness and maintain an end to veteran homelessness.



CE Dashboard

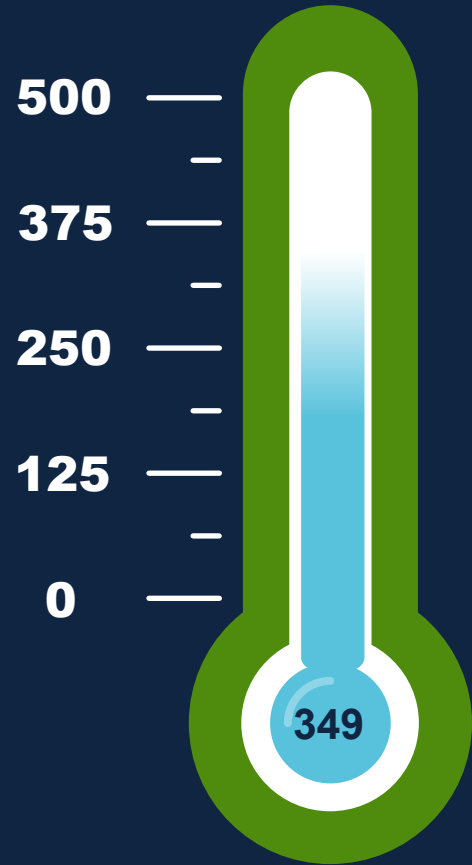
[Coordinated Entry Dashboard](#)



Diversions

Progress Update

Diversions Summary



Diversions Summary (2/28/2022)	Count
Total Referrals in HMIS	1127
Currently Enrolled Households	118
Total Successful Diversions/Rapid Exits	349
Total Unsuccessful Diversions/Rapid Exits	136

Note: Total Referrals in HMIS have been deduplicated by household.



Diversion Blitz

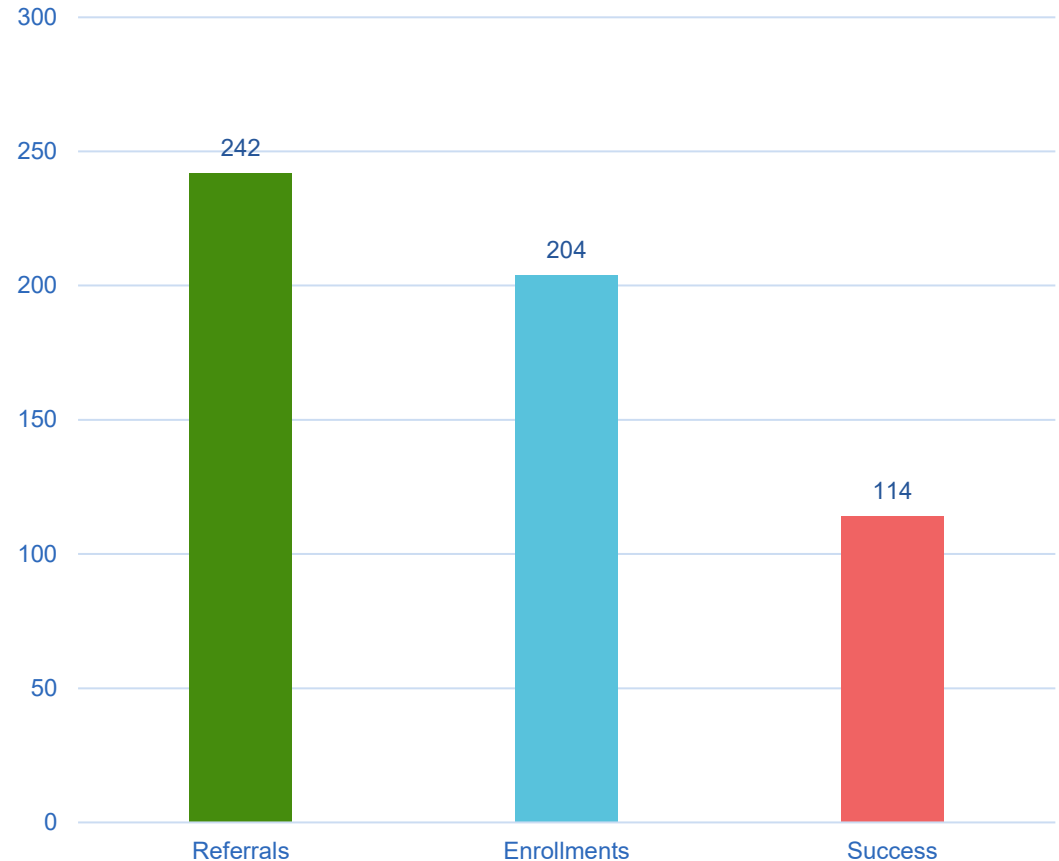
Goal: Successfully Exit 215 Diversion clients in December 2021 alone

Achieved: **53%** of goal

What does this mean?

- We need a higher volume of referrals to reach our success goals – initial **47%** success rate
- We need a policy to connect attempted diversions to alternate resources as appropriate

December 31, 2021



Diversion Phase 3

Goal: 1,100 Households Diverted in 2022



Diversion Next Steps

To join the Diversion workgroup, contact:
knatarajan@partnersforhome.org

Diversion Workgroup

- Community Stakeholders
- Best Practices
- Policy

Diversion Messaging

- Increased Referrals and Quality of referrals
- Focus on Literally Homeless Candidates



Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Progress Update

YHDP Project Phases

In September 2021, Atlanta was one of 33 communities awarded HUD funding for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Programs around the country

\$2,250,000 will be available for 2-year projects beginning in October 2022.
Ongoing annual renewals



Coordinated Community Plan

Youth-Led Vision: A Living System for Homeless Response

"In 2022,

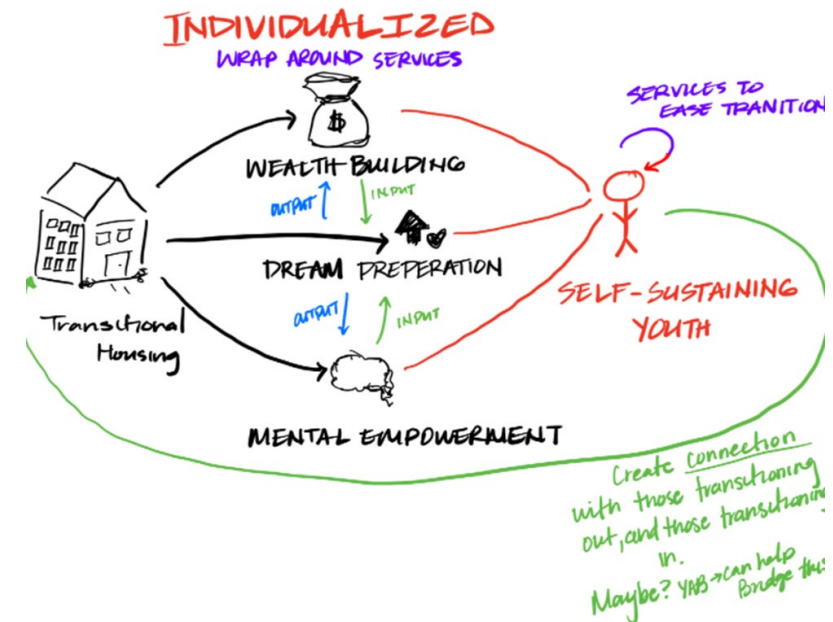
*We Are in Need of a Living System That Doesn't
Just Tackle Youth Homelessness, But Tackles
Youth Self-Sustainability . . .*

*Recognizes the Structural Violence That Leads to
Individual Experiences of Youth Homelessness and
Broader Disparities in Youth Homelessness;*

*Actively Fights to Build Social and Health Equity
for the Youth We Serve;*

*And Continuously Advocates for the Systemic
Change Needed in Our Community to Dismantle
Structural Violence and End Youth Homelessness"*

-YAB 2022



Data Driven Approach

Both Qualitative and Quantitative data are included in the plan

Data Highlights

- Atlanta Profile
 - **Racial Inequity** of homelessness and income levels
 - Lack of **affordable housing** compared to typical incomes
 - **Transportation** barriers limit access to jobs and affordable housing
- Homeless Youth Profile
 - **Voices of Lived Experience**
 - **Subpopulations** also have unique needs such as: LGBTQ, Trafficking, Parenting, etc
 - **Institutional exits** as risk factor such as: Foster care or Juvenile Justice System
- Current Homeless Response System Capacity
 - System capacity does not meet volume of need



YHDP Projects List (Tentative)

Projects will address System Gaps, improve System Speed, Capacity, and User Experience

Housing Interventions

- Joint TH/RRH for Youth

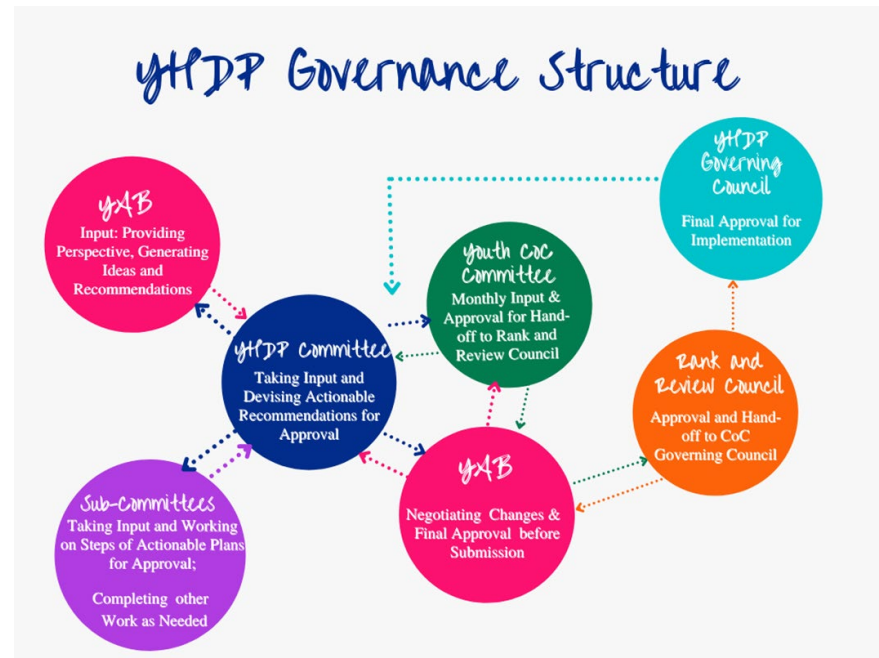
Supportive Services

- Youth Diversion
- Youth Outreach/Navigation
- Seamless Youth Services Network



Youth Next Steps

Questions? Contact:
knatarajan@partnersforhome.org



Key stakeholders Signatures

- The Continuum of Care
- Youth Action Board
- Public Child Welfare Agency
- Local Government Agency
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Providers

Approval of Final Coordinated Community Plan

Release of RFP for new Youth Projects



_____ offers the following
substitute to SB 535:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 16 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 public property, so as to designate camping in a public place without authorization as a
3 misdemeanor; to provide for evidence that establishes a person's intention to camp; to
4 provide for requirements for sufficiency of consent by an officer or agency; to provide for
5 steps a law enforcement officer must take before or upon citation for unauthorized camping;
6 to provide for steps a law enforcement officer must take if a person is to be arrested or
7 detained solely for an offense under this article; to provide for the submission of a plan
8 requesting approval for individuals to camp in a public place by a political subdivision to the
9 Department of Community Affairs; to provide that state agencies and political subdivisions
10 may pass compatible regulations; to provide that the Attorney General may bring an action
11 for injunction for violation of this article by a state agency or political subdivision; to provide
12 that a local entity shall not receive state grant funds for the state fiscal year following the
13 violation; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to provide for an
14 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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SECTION 1.

Chapter 16 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public property, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

"ARTICLE 8

50-16-190.

(a) As used in this article, the term:

(1) 'Camp' means to reside temporarily in a place, with shelter.

(2) 'Department' means the Department of Community Affairs.

(3) 'Local entity' means:

(A) The governing body of a municipality or county;

(B) An officer or employee of or a division, department, or other body that is part of a municipality or county, including a sheriff, municipal police department, municipal attorney, or county attorney; and

(C) A district attorney or criminal district attorney.

(4) 'Policy' includes a formal, written rule, ordinance, order, or policy and an informal, unwritten policy.

(5) 'Public camping ban' means a law, rule, ordinance, order, or other regulation that prohibits camping in a public place.

(6) 'Shelter' includes a tent, tarpaulin, lean-to, sleeping bag, bedroll, blankets, or any form of temporary, semipermanent, or permanent shelter, other than clothing or any handheld device, designed to protect a person from weather conditions that threaten personal health and safety.

38 50-16-191.

39 (a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly camps in a
40 public place without the effective consent of the officer or agency having the legal duty or
41 authority to manage the public place.

42 (b) The actor's intent or knowledge may be established through evidence of activities
43 associated with sustaining a living accommodation that are conducted in a public place,
44 including:

45 (1) Cooking;

46 (2) Making a fire;

47 (3) Storing personal belongings for an extended period;

48 (4) Digging; or

49 (5) Sleeping.

50 (c) Consent given by an officer or agency of a political subdivision is not effective for
51 purposes of subsection (a) of this Code section, unless given to authorize the person to
52 camp for:

53 (1) Recreational purposes, whether at a campground, recreation area, state park, or a
54 similar public recreation area; or

55 (2) Purposes of sheltering homeless individuals, if the property on which the camping
56 occurs is subject to a plan approved under Code Section 50-16-193, and the camping
57 occurs in a manner that complies with the plan.

58 (d) An offense under this Code section is a misdemeanor.

59 (e) This Code section shall not preempt an ordinance, order, rule, or other regulation
60 adopted by a state agency or political subdivision relating to prohibiting camping in a
61 public place or affect the authority of a state agency or political subdivision to adopt or
62 enforce an ordinance, order, rule, or other regulation relating to prohibiting camping in a
63 public place if the ordinance, order, rule, or other regulation:

- 64 (1) Is compatible with and equal to or more stringent than the offense prescribed by this
65 Code section; or
- 66 (2) Relates to an issue not specifically addressed by this Code section.
- 67 (f) Except as provided by subsection (g) of this Code section, before or at the time a law
68 enforcement officer issues a citation to a person for an offense under this Code section, the
69 law enforcement officer must make a reasonable effort to:
- 70 (1) Advise the person of an alternative place at which the person may lawfully camp; and
71 (2) Contact, if reasonable and appropriate, an appropriate official of the political
72 subdivision in which the public place is located, or an appropriate nonprofit organization
73 operating within that political subdivision, and request the official or organization to
74 provide the person with:
- 75 (A) Information regarding the prevention of human trafficking; or
76 (B) Any other services that would reduce the likelihood of the person suspected of
77 committing the offense continuing to camp in the public place.
- 78 (g) Subsection (f) of this Code section shall not apply if the law enforcement officer
79 determines there is an imminent threat to the health or safety of any person to the extent
80 that compliance with that subsection is impracticable.
- 81 (h) If the person is arrested or detained solely for an offense under this Code section, a law
82 enforcement officer enforcing this Code section shall ensure that all of the person's
83 personal property not designated as contraband under other law is preserved by:
- 84 (1) Permitting the person to remove all the property from the public place at the time of
85 the person's departure; or
- 86 (2) Taking custody of the property and allowing the person to retrieve the property after
87 the person is released from custody.
- 88 (i) A fee shall not be charged for the storage or release of property under paragraph (2) of
89 subsection (h) of this Code section.

90 50-16-192.

91 (a) A political subdivision shall not designate a property to be used by homeless
92 individuals to camp unless the department approves a plan described by Code Section
93 50-16-193.

94 (b) Not later than the thirtieth day after the date the department receives a plan submitted
95 by a political subdivision under this article, the department shall make a final determination
96 regarding approval of the plan.

97 (c) The department shall not approve a plan described by Code Section 50-16-193 if the
98 department determines that a property proposed under the plan is a public park.

99 50-16-193.

100 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'proposed new campers' means homeless
101 individuals the applicant intends to allow to camp at the property.

102 (b) A plan submitted for approval under this article shall describe each of the following
103 with respect to a proposed property:

104 (1) The availability of local health care for proposed new campers, including access to
105 Medicaid services and mental health services;

106 (2) The availability of indigent services for proposed new campers;

107 (3) The availability of reasonably affordable public transportation for proposed new
108 campers;

109 (4) Local law enforcement resources in the area; and

110 (5) The steps the applicant has taken to coordinate with the local mental health authority
111 to provide for any proposed new campers.

112 (c) An applicant shall respond to reasonable requests for additional information made by
113 the department regarding the proposed property or plan.

114 50-16-194.

115 (a) A local entity shall not adopt or enforce a policy under which the entity prohibits or
116 discourages the enforcement of any public camping ban.

117 (b) In compliance with subsection (a) of this Code section, a local entity shall not prohibit
118 or discourage a law enforcement officer or prosecuting attorney who is employed by or
119 otherwise under the direction or control of the entity from enforcing a public camping ban.

120 (c) This Code section shall not prohibit a policy that encourages diversion or a provision
121 of services in lieu of citation or arrest.

122 50-16-195.

123 (a) The Attorney General may bring an action in a district court in Fulton County or in a
124 county in which the principal office of the entity is located to enjoin a violation of Code
125 Section 50-16-194.

126 (b) The Attorney General may recover reasonable expenses incurred in obtaining relief
127 under this Code section, including court costs, reasonable attorney's fees, investigative
128 costs, witness fees, and deposition costs.

129 50-16-196.

130 (a) A local entity shall not receive state grant funds, and state grant funds for the local
131 entity shall be denied, for the state fiscal year following the year in which a final judicial
132 determination in an action brought under Code Section 50-16-193 is made that the entity
133 has intentionally violated Code Section 50-16-194.

134 (b) The comptroller shall adopt rules to implement this Code section uniformly among the
135 state agencies from which state grant funds are distributed to a municipality or county.

136 (c) A local entity that has not violated Code Section 50-16-194 shall not be denied state
137 grant funds, regardless of whether the entity is a part of another entity that is in violation
138 of that Code section.

139 50-16-197.

140 (a) A political subdivision that designated a property to be used by homeless individuals
141 to camp before the effective date of this article may apply on or after that date for approval
142 of a plan under Code Section 50-16-193.

143 (b) Subsection (c) of Code Section 50-16-192 applies to a public park regardless of the
144 date that the public park was first designated by a political subdivision to be used by
145 homeless individuals to camp."

146 **SECTION 2.**

147 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2023.

148 **SECTION 3.**

149 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.