

Atlanta Continuum of Care Meeting
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2026
In-Person Meeting

❖ **Downtown Rising Update – Annie Hyrila**

- Downtown Rising phase 1 is complete.
 - 500 rapid housing units secured and delivered.
 - 255 housed through rapid housing initiative.
 - 463 unsheltered households rehoused from downtown.
 - 19 dedicated outreach workers deployed across downtown.
 - Development and beginning implementation for Project HEAL and accelerated shelter exit pilot.
- Phase 2 will start now and run through May 2027.
 - Expansion of direct-to-housing encampment response.
 - Development of navigation center/safe haven beds.
 - Creation of accelerated shelter exit pathways.
 - Front door rapid resolution.
 - Expansion of shelter for 24/7 access.

❖ **FIFA/World Cup Recap – Jasmine Benton**

- During the World Cup, outreach teams maintained a consistent and coordinated outreach presence throughout the downtown area. They engaged individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness using a housing-focused, person-centered approach and connected individuals to shelter, coordinated entry, and problem-solving resources
- There were 479 successful engagements. Primary needs were food and water. Teams were dispatched 41 times through requests received from community partners, public safety, businesses, and stakeholders requesting outreach engagement during the FIFA activation days.
- There were 68 CoC shelter placements and 118 placements at the extended cooling center (this number does not include walk-ins).
- Outreach teams will continue engaging individuals through phase 2 and will be looking at the next targeted area.
- The CoC Outreach workgroup will be relaunching.

❖ **HUD NOFO Update – Cathryn Vassell**

- Overview & Funding
 - HUD released the FY 2026 Continuum of Care Competition and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Grants NOFO on June 1, 2026.
 - National funding: \$4.040 billion available nationally, including \$104 million in DV Bonus funds (\$52 million each from FY25 and FY26).
 - Local estimate (GA-500 Atlanta CoC): Estimated annual renewal demand (ARD) of \$13.86M, with Tier 1 at \$8.31M, Tier 2 at \$9.42M, CoC Bonus of \$1.66M, and DV Bonus of \$2.22M — figures based on FY26 NOFO percentages applied to FY25 ARD/Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) and may rise with renewal increases.
- What's New in 2026
 - Smaller Tier 1: Tier 1 drops to 60% of ARD (FY26) versus 90% in FY24 — shifting more projects into the higher-risk Tier 2.

- New-project priority: A \$1.3 billion Tier 2 set-aside prioritizes new Transitional Housing (TH) and Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects; renewal projects in Tier 2 are now at high risk of not being funded regardless of rank.
- Families with children: At least \$430 million reserved for permanent housing for families with children, starting in Tier 1.
- Eligibility changes: Joint TH/RRH projects are only eligible as renewals, not new projects. Nearly all projects (including YHDP renewals and DV Bonus) must be scored and ranked on the CoC priority list with no special protections, increasing competition.
- Redefined self-sufficiency: Now means "the ability to meet basic needs... without public or private assistance," a narrower standard than the prior permanent-housing definition.
- Scoring & Risk Changes
 - HUD may now use public sources (news reports, applicant websites), and a risk review alone can trigger an adverse funding decision — a change from prior policy.
 - Points for housing and healthcare leveraging eliminated for new projects.
 - Substance abuse/mental health treatment, service participation requirements, civil commitment, and public safety now embedded in project quality thresholds and CoC scoring.
 - Higher project thresholds: e.g., new TH must provide 20 hours/week of services; new street outreach must show strong law-enforcement partnerships.
- HUD Selection Order
 - Funds are awarded sequentially: CoC Planning → Tier 1 projects → Tier 2 DV Bonus → Tier 2 PSH/RRH for families → new TH/SSO (\$1.3B set-aside) → other new projects → renewal projects last.
 - Tier 1 (60% of ARD) is considered "safe" from cuts; Tier 2 projects are selected via HUD's process and Tier 2 score, with Tier 2 renewals at the highest risk of going unfunded.
 - Threshold review: HUD and the CoC each screen for eligibility, quality, and (for renewals) renewal thresholds; projects failing HUD's review are removed from the listing.
- Local Competition Timeline (key dates)
 - June 15: Local competition opened; July 13: project applications due to the CoC.
 - July 14–24: Rank & Review scoring; July 21: committee approves recommended priority list.
 - July 30–Aug 5: Governing Council vote; by Aug 11: applicants notified of inclusion/rejection.
 - Aug 17: scoring appeals due; Aug 18: priority-list applications due in e-snaps; Aug 20: final e-snaps revisions due.
 - By Aug 25: public posting; Aug 26 (8:00pm EST): CoC Application and Priority List submitted to HUD.
- Bottom Line
 - Competition is tougher in FY26: a smaller Tier 1 and the new-project set-aside push renewals into real jeopardy — Tier 2 renewals should be treated as at-risk in planning.
 - New projects are favored (TH/SSO).
 - Reputation and compliance matter more: the expanded risk review means public-facing information can now sink an application on its own.

❖ Presentations

- **Ascensa Health – LaTonya Bell (Admissions Coordinator)**
 - Ascensa Health is a substance abuse facility providing integrated care that supports addiction. They tailor programming to every individual's need. A staff of nurses provides oversight of clients. They have 24 beds in detox and programs ranging from 7 to 20 days. Participants go to

groups daily, and staff monitor their withdrawal symptoms. They are rolling out a new 5-day ambulatory detox program where clients get to go home and are monitored to make sure they're stable enough. Employment services are offered for a month and a half, and family services are offered for at least a month.

- **First Step Staffing – Troi Adams**

- First Step Staffing is a staffing agency in 8 cities with headquarters in Atlanta. They provide immediate services when clients come in (hygiene kits, clothes, food, transportation, etc.). There's also a long-term program that connects them to partners for training as well as housing stability services.
- For referrals, [submit an application online](#) and then call the office for information on orientation.

- **Quest Community Development – Melissa Tyson**

- Quest provides transitional housing, supportive services, and permanent supportive housing. They service 15 beds at a time for men in recovery in transitional housing, and they are working on expanding to a women's program.
- A peer specialist and three house managers live on site 24/7. A program nurse is on contract three times a week.

- **CaringWorks – Dominic Johnson**

- CaringWorks operates Hope House, a residential treatment house. The building was designed with a quadrangle in the middle to socialize and have solitude while being in a safe space. It is a 70-bed facility that is staffed 24/7. Eligibility is literal homelessness with substance use disorder diagnosis. They will help clients get connected to employment specialists and will help with individual and family therapy, treatment plans, medication management, and mental health.

- ❖ **Speed Networking**

- CoC members participated in group speed networking to learn more about Ascensa, First Step Staffing, and Quest Community Development.

Atlanta Rising Update

PARTNERS FOR
HOME

ATLANTA RISING

PHASE 1- COMPLETE

500 Rapid Housing Units Secured and Delivered

255 housed through Rapid Housing Initiative.

463 unsheltered Households Rehoused from Downtown Atlanta

19 Dedicated outreach workers deployed across Downtown

Development and beginning implementation for Project HEAL and Accelerated Shelter Exit Pilot.

PHASE 2- Now- May 2027

May 2026-August 2026

Direct to Housing Encampment Response Expansion

150 households placed directly into housing from encampments

September 2026-Forever

Navigation Center/Safe Haven Beds

50 Stabilization beds to serve 100-200 complex cases annually

April 2026-May 2027

Accelerated Shelter Exit Pathways

100 short-term beds at existing and pallet shelters resolving 600 cases of long-term homelessness

June 2026-May 2027

Front Door Rapid Resolution

1000 households assisted to rapidly exit shelter through one time diversion

June 2026- Forever

Shelter Expansion- 24/7 Shelter access

Develop and Implement 24/7 shelter access and expansion

Housing Exits to Goal

Progress as of 7/13/2026

Phase 2 adds 20 new exits week over week, reaching 81 total. Overall progress now at 25% of the cumulative 2,150 goal.



544

Total Exits (Housed / In Progress)

517 Move Ins 27 Pending

1,606

Exits Remaining

2,150

Cumulative Exit Goal

↑ **Diversion leads Phase 2 at 35 exits. RRH pipeline shows 27 pending, the highest across all programs.**
Phase 1 overage of 63 exits continues to provide a cushion toward the cumulative 2,150 target. 1,669 Phase 2 exits remain by May 2027.

PHASE 1 Goal: 400

GOAL

463

116%

Exceeded Goal by 63

Program	Housed/IP	Detail
Rapid Rehousing	314	314 MI 0 P
Permanent Supportive Housing	109	109 MI 0 P
Diversion	40	40 MI 0 P

PHASE 2 Goal: 1,750 | Target: May 2027

81

4.6%

54 MI | 27 Pending | 1,669 remaining

Program	Housed/IP	Detail
Rapid Rehousing	40	13 MI 27 P
Permanent Supportive Housing	6	6 MI 0 P
Diversion	35	35 MI 0 P

#PartnersforHOME

#EndATLHomelessness

DOWNTOWN RISING

FIFA OUTREACH RESPONSE
CoC Update – Preliminary Report





Our Role during FIFA

- Maintain a consistent and coordinated outreach presence throughout the downtown area
- Engage individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness using a housing-focused, person-centered approach
- Connect individuals to shelter, coordinated entry, and problem-solving resources
- Support a unified, cross-system response during FIFA operations

Our Commitment

Atlanta is committed to ending homelessness.

Downtown Rising, a key initiative under the broader Atlanta Rising campaign, reflects that commitment and has helped position Atlanta for the global stage, both now and in the years ahead.

Phase II builds on this work by strengthening targeted outreach across priority areas, with a focus on reducing unsheltered street sleeping and connecting individuals to clear, supportive pathways off the streets.

JUNE 11 12 pm - 6 pm MEX v RSA	JUNE 12 2 pm - 12 am CAN v BIH USA v PAR	JUNE 13 1 pm - 11 pm QAT v SUI BRA v MAR HAI v SCO	JUNE 14 11 am - 9 pm GER v CUW NED v JPN CIV v ECU	JUNE 15 10 am - 8 pm ESP v CPV BEL v EGV KSA v URU	JUNE 17 12 pm - 10 pm POR v COD ENG v CRO GHA v PAN	JUNE 18 11 am - 11 pm CZE v RSA SUI v BIH CAN v QAT MEX v KOR
JUNE 19 1:30 pm - 11:30 pm USA v AUS SCO v MAR BRA v HAI	JUNE 20 12 pm - 10 pm NED v SWE GER v CIV ECU v CUW	JUNE 21 10 am - 8 pm ESP v KSA BEL v IRN URU v CPV	JUNE 24 1 pm - 11 pm SUI v CAN BIH v QAT MAR v HAI BRA v SCO CZE v MEX RSA v KOR	JUNE 26 1 pm - 11 pm NOR v FRA SEN v IRN CPV v KSA URU v ESP	JUNE 27 2 pm - 12 am PAN v ENG CRO v GHA COL v POR COD v UZB JOR v ARG ALG v AUT	
JULY 1 11 am - 11 pm ROUND OF 32 v TBD v TBD v TBD	JULY 7 10 am - 8 pm ROUND OF 16 v TBD v TBD	JULY 11 3 pm - 12 am QUARTER FINAL v TBD v TBD	JULY 14 1 pm - 7 pm SEMI FINAL v TBD	JULY 15 11 am - 9 pm SEMI FINAL v TBD		ATLANTA MATCH

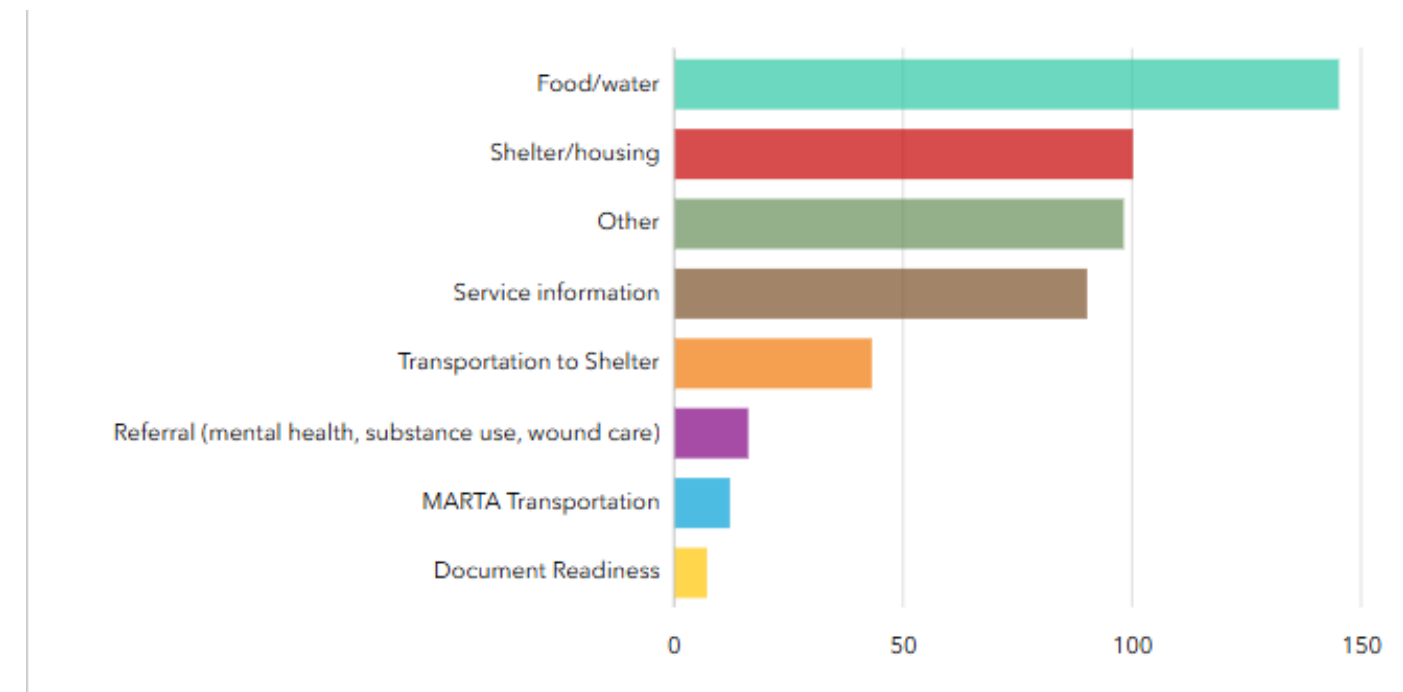
Our team!



Outreach Engagements

479
Engagements
Duplicated

Services Provided



41

Dispatch Request

Requests received from community partners, public safety, businesses, and stakeholders requesting outreach engagement during the FIFA activation days.

Shelter Placements

CoC Shelter Placement

Individuals successfully connected to shelter partners.

- My Sisters House
- The Shephards Inn
- The Evolution Center
- The Salvation Army
- Covenant House
- Zaban Paradies

68

Unduplicated



The Oasis - Extended Cooling Center

Unsheltered individuals literally sleeping in the downtown area who accepted placement at the extended cooling center.

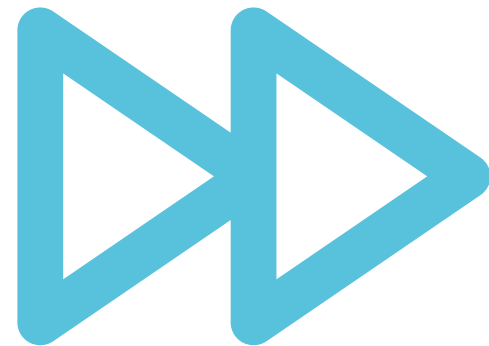
118

Unduplicated

Next Steps

#PartnersforHOME

#EndATLHomelessness



Maintain proactive, targeted outreach to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness within the City of Atlanta.

Relaunch the CoC Outreach Workgroup

Atlanta Rising, continues!

What is New in 2026

- ❑ Tier 1 amount is less than the FY 2024 competition (FY26 = 60% Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) vs FY24 = 90% ARD)
- ❑ **Priority for New TH and SSO Projects.** Set-aside of \$1.3 billion for new projects in Tier 2. There are no limits or caps on any eligible project component types (new or renewal). However, HUD will prioritize applications for new projects, specifically new TH and SSO projects. As a result, renewal projects in Tier 2, regardless of rank or component type, are at high risk of not being selected for award.
- ❑ **Set-Aside for Families with Children.** HUD will award at least \$430 million in permanent housing for families with children starting with projects ranked in Tier 1.
- ❑ Joint TH/RRH projects are no longer eligible as a New Project, only renewal
- ❑ All projects except for CoC Planning must be included on the CoC priority list, including YHDP renewals and DV Bonus. These projects must be scored and ranked in the priority list with no special protections, increasing competition.
- ❑ In this NOFO HUD is defining self-sufficiency to mean “the ability to meet basic needs, including a place to live, without public or private assistance.” The previous definition included exiting to permanent housing with or without subsidy.

What's New in 2026 Continued

❑ Expanded Risk Review Factors

- ❑ HUD has expanded what can be considered in its risk review of applicants to include information from public sources like news reports and applicant websites. The results of the risk review alone is now a determination for adverse funding decisions. Previously the results of the risk review alone would not trigger an adverse funding decision.

❑ Removal of points associated with housing and healthcare leveraging for new projects.

❑ New National priorities include substance abuse and mental health treatment, service participation requirements, civil commitment, and public safety. These are reflected in the new project quality thresholds and overall CoC Application scoring.

❑ New project quality thresholds reshape project requirements. (e.g., New transitional housing must provide 20 hours/week of services and new street outreach must demonstrate strong law-enforcement partnerships).

2026 HUD CoC Annual NOFO

The Department of Housing & Urban Development released the FY 2026 Continuum of Care Competition Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Grants NOFO on June 1, 2026.

- \$4.040 billion is available nationally
 - \$104 million in DV Bonus funds (\$52 million from FY25 and FY26 each)

Funding estimations using the FY 2026 NOFO percentages based on the FY 2025 ARD and PPRN:

CoC Number and Name	Estimated ARD	Tier 1	Tier 2	CoC Bonus	DV Bonus
GA-500 Atlanta CoC	\$13,856,689	\$8,314,013	\$9,420,280	\$1,661,830	\$2,215,774

*CoC ARD and Bonus amounts may be higher due to FY25 renewal increases.

HUD Selection Process

Although CoCs review and rank projects locally based on need and priority, HUD establishes a selection process for how projects will be picked for award until all available funds have been expended.

1. CoC Planning
2. Tier 1 projects
3. If \$104 million in DV Bonus projects are not awarded in Tier 1, then Tier 2 DV Bonus projects will be selected up to the set-aside amount.
4. If \$430 million in PSH and RRH projects for families with children have not been awarded, then Tier 2 PSH and RRH projects for families with children will be selected up to the set-aside amount.
5. New TH and SSO projects ranked in Tier 2 up to the \$1.3 billion set-aside amount.
6. If the \$1.3 billion set-aside has not been awarded, then other types of new projects ranked in Tier 2 will be selected until the set-aside has been reached.
7. If any funds are remaining, renewal projects ranked in Tier 2 will be selected until all remaining available funds have been awarded. **Renewal projects in Tier 2, regardless of rank or project type are at the highest risk of not being funded.**

Competition Selection Process

HUD requires CoCs to rank project applications in two tiers. Prior to the ranking process, the CoC will score all projects based on performance (renewals), organizational capacity, project design, NOFO priorities, and local CoC priorities:

Threshold Review:

- HUD will conduct a project eligibility, project quality, and for renewals a project renewal threshold review on each grant submitted by the CoC.
- The CoC will conduct its own threshold review to ensure projects meet all HUD and local CoC requirements.
- If a project does not meet HUD's threshold review, it will not be funded, and HUD will remove it from the project listing.

Tier 1 Projects:

Tier 1 is set at 60% of the ARD. HUD typically has enough funding to award all Tier 1 projects in communities across the Country. Tier 1 projects are considered "safe" from funding cuts.

Tier 2 Projects:

- Projects in Tier 2 are considered at higher risk of not being funded.
- Tier 2 projects will be selected based on HUD's selection process detailed in the NOFO and HUD's Tier 2 score

2026 Local Competition Timeline

DATE	ACTIVITY
June 1, 2026	NOFO Published by HUD
June 15, 2026	Local Competition Opened – New and Renewal project applications for FY 2026 CoC Local Competition released
June 16, 2026 1:00PM – 2:30PM	NOFO Overview and Local Application Webinar
July 13, 2026	DUE DATE - New and renewal project applications due to the CoC (Closing the local application competition)
July 14, 2026 - July 24, 2026	Rank and Review Committee project application review and scoring
July 21, 2026	Rank and Review meeting to approve recommended priority list
July 30, 2026 – August 5, 2026	CoC Governing Council vote to approve the recommended project priority list
No later than August 11, 2026	Applicants notified of project inclusion or rejection
August 17, 2026	DUE DATE - Deadline for project scoring appeals
August 18, 2026	DUE DATE – Project applications included on the priority list are due in e-snaps
August 20, 2026	DUE DATE - Revisions to e-snaps project applications due (Final submission)
No later than August 25, 2026	Public posting of the CoC Application and Priority List
August 26, 2026 by 8:00pm EST	Submission of CoC Application and Priority List to HUD

Important Resources

- [NOFO Questions: CoCNOFO@hud.gov](mailto:CoCNOFO@hud.gov)
- [e-snaps Questions: e-snaps@hud.gov](mailto:e-snaps@hud.gov)
- [PFH Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Website](#)
- [24 CFR Part 578 - CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM](#)
- [HUD Exchange: CoC Program](#)
- [e-snaps Portal](#)
- [FY 2026 CoC NOFO](#)
- [HUD CoC Program Competition Page](#)
 - 2026 Renewal Projects e-snaps Navigational Guide (Coming Soon)
 - 2026 Renewal Project Detailed Instructions (Coming Soon)
 - 2026 New Project e-snaps Navigations Guide (Coming Soon)
 - 2026 New Project Detailed Instructions (Coming Soon)
- For Reference: [2025 Project Applicant Profile e-Snaps Navigational Guide](#)





**Forward Together In
Community Development**

#QuestForward





Melissa Tyson
MA, LPC, CADC-II
Program Director



Tamekia Shumpert
Lead Case Manager - PSH



Vincent Gray
Case Manager - PSH



Tiajila Clemons
Lead Certified Peer Specialist -
TH



Lakesha Simon
Case Manager - PSH



Charles Rice
House Manager - TH



Primrose Wahome LPN
Program Nurse



Johnathan Lockett
House Manager - TH

Quest
C A R E S

#QuestForRecovery

The Leonard House is a no-cost, six-month Transitional Housing (TH) Program serving men who have a substance use diagnosis or are currently in recovery.

The Leonard House Team fosters an atmosphere of stability — a place where residents feel safe, supported, and deeply connected.



How Long has The Leonard House been in Operation?

- Quest CDC has operated the Leonard House Transitional Housing Program for more than 20 years.
- Transitional Housing was Quest CDC's first housing program and established the foundation for our housing continuum.
- Our experience operating TH has supported the successful expansion into Permanent Supportive Housing and other housing initiatives.



TH

Transitional Housing

Transitional Housing (TH) is a six month – 1 year housing and supportive services program for chronically homeless men ONLY; ages 18 and over.

We are NOT a substance abuse treatment program. If residents relapse or need substance abuse treatment, we will require them to attend a partnering agency's IOP program (free of charge).



Tiajila Clemons CPS-AD, CHW

Lead Certified Peer Specialist - Transitional Housing



TH

Stats for June 2024-June 2025

Total Clients Served -33

Active Participants- 24

Successful Discharges- 26

Detox/Inpatient Treatment- 4

Unsuccessful- 2

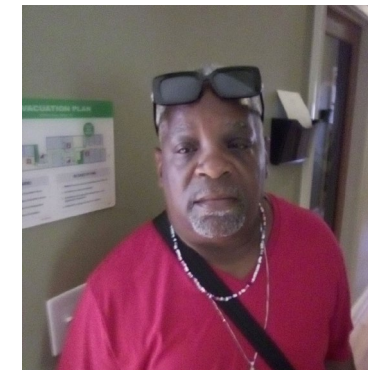
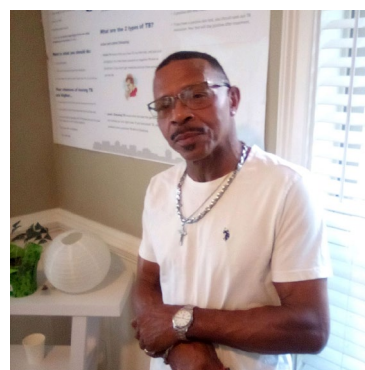
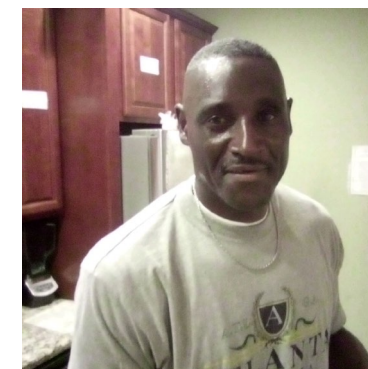
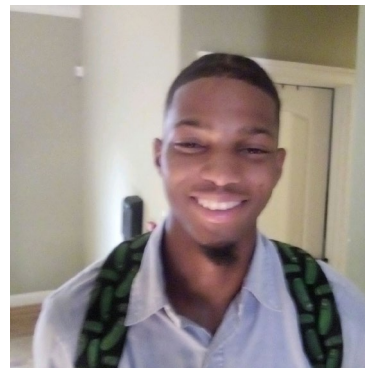
AWOL- 1

Jail- 2





Quest is one of the largest direct providers of transitional and permanent supportive housing for Fulton County residents. Quest's core supportive services are case management and community resources linkage.





A Transitional Housing Success Story

Quest has helped me tremendously these last six months. I have been allowed to sit back and gather my thoughts. They taught me a new meaning of values. They also welcomed me in as a stranger without even knowing me - giving me the opportunity to help myself by putting a roof over my head and a house of cleanliness.

Being around people who want to do good helps me be a better person. The choices that I make are now my own choices. Therefore, I thank Quest for all they have provided for me.

I have been able to keep employment and save money so that later this month I will have the opportunity to move into my own apartment. I thank Quest for allowing me to be here and become the best person I can be.

Tracey Orr



Key Best Practices

- Establish clear program expectations at enrollment.
- Develop individualized service plans with measurable goals.
- Maintain consistent case management contact and participant accountability.
- Begin permanent housing planning upon program entry.
- Build strong partnerships with behavioral health, employment, and community providers.
- Promote life skills, financial literacy, employment readiness, and independent living.



Engagement With Community Partners





Greatest Challenges

- Limited affordable permanent housing options.
- Funding constraints and increasing participant needs.
- Behavioral health and substance use challenges.
- Participant engagement and retention.
- Staff recruitment and retention.
- Transportation and employment barriers.



Keys to Successfully Implementing a Transitional Housing Program

- Build strong community partnerships before launching.
- Invest in experienced case management staff.
- Establish clear policies and participant expectations.
- Prepare participants for permanent housing from day one.
- Use data to drive program improvement.
- Balance compassion with accountability.



*****Critical Reminder*****



Success is achieved through structured support, participant accountability, and strong partnerships.





Consistently voted **#1** in quality among Atlanta's homeless service providers



Quest's supportive services are accredited by CARF (Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities). CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services.