



Virginia's Homeless Programs 2014-15 Program Year

**A Report to the
House Appropriations
and
Senate Finance Committees**



**Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219**

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY3

CONDITIONS4

VIRGINIA’S HOMELESS PLAN6

HOMELESS PROGRAMS.....7

 CHILD CARE FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN PROGRAM..... 8

 VIRGINIA HOMELESS SOLUTIONS PROGRAM (VHSP).....10

 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA)20

CONCLUSION.....23

Executive Summary

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) administers the Commonwealth of Virginia's homeless assistance resources (state and federal) through the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP). These resources include approximately \$14.6 million in state and federal annual funding:

- To reduce the number of individuals/households who become homeless;
- To shorten the length of time an individual or household is homeless; and
- To reduce the number of individuals/households that return to homelessness

In the spring of 2014, DHCD released a competitive grant application that combined state and federal funding sources (HUD Emergency Solutions Grant and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV along with State General Funds for homeless assistance and homeless prevention). In order to apply and receive these funds, communities were required to submit community-based applications that outlined a local spending plan where specific activities and grantees were identified. DHCD continued to contract with individual organizations but these individual projects make up each community's homeless crisis response system.

With this new community-based approach to funding and other statewide training and best practice initiatives, Virginia has made substantial progress toward the aforementioned goals. Each year during the last ten days in January, Virginia participates in a national point-in-time (PIT) count to identify the number of homeless persons who are sheltered and unsheltered. This count provides a 24-hour snapshot of those who are homeless in Virginia. Since 2010, the Department of Housing and Community Development has been collecting, aggregating, and analyzing state level PIT data to inform grant making, best practices, and trends across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The 2015 PIT count ⁽¹⁾ on January 28, identified 7,001 persons (adults and children) who were homeless. Since 2010, there has been a 23 percent decrease in the number of homeless persons, a 22.6 percent decrease in households with children, and a 30 percent decrease in chronic homeless identified during the PIT count. In addition, since 2012 there has been a 31 percent decrease in veteran homelessness.

(1) 2015 PIT count numbers are preliminary

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) directly addresses the problems associated with homelessness by administering the Virginia Housing Solutions Program that is comprised of several core funding sources. During the 2014-15 program year DHCD administered the following:

- **Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP)**
 - A \$300,000 block grant to provide child care for homeless children
 - 154 children received child care through the program

- **Virginia Housing Solutions Program (VHSP)**
 - A \$13.7 million grant comprised of State General Funds and HUD Emergency Solution Grant funds
 - Eligible activities include homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, emergency shelter, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), coordinated access/intake, and Continuum of Care (CoC) planning

- **Housing Opportunities to Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)**
 - \$675,366 in federal funds through HUD
 - Funding was distributed through seven project sponsors across the state to serve 457 households with HIV/AIDS through housing subsidy assistance
 - 365 households received supportive services, including case management, transportation, and food assistance

This report serves as a means to report overall conditions and progress made related to the administration of the State's homelessness programs in compliance with HB 1400, Budget Item 103 C of Virginia Acts of Assembly, 2015 Session:

DHCD must report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance (SFC) and House Appropriations Committees (HAC) and the Director of DPB on the activities and accomplishments of homeless programs. Programs subject to the report include emergency shelter beds, transitional housing units, SRO units, HIP and other activities including the number of persons served, program costs and the provision of in-kind services.

Conditions

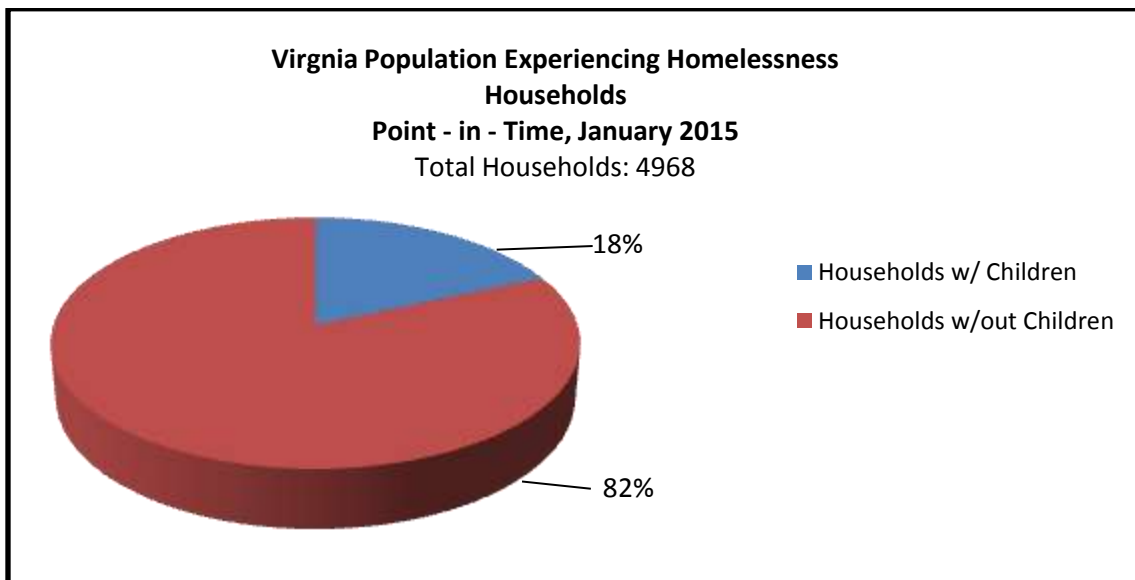
Every year each continuum of care across the state participates in an annual point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness. Sheltered persons are any individuals (including children and unaccompanied youth) sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or

using a hotel/motel voucher paid for by an organization. Unsheltered individuals are (including children and unaccompanied youth) sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, or on the street.

The January 2015 point-in-time count identified 7,001 individuals (5,024 households) as experiencing homelessness (2). About 66 percent of these individuals were in emergency shelters, 17 percent were in transitional shelter programs, one percent were in Safe Haven shelters, and 15 percent were unsheltered at the time of the count.

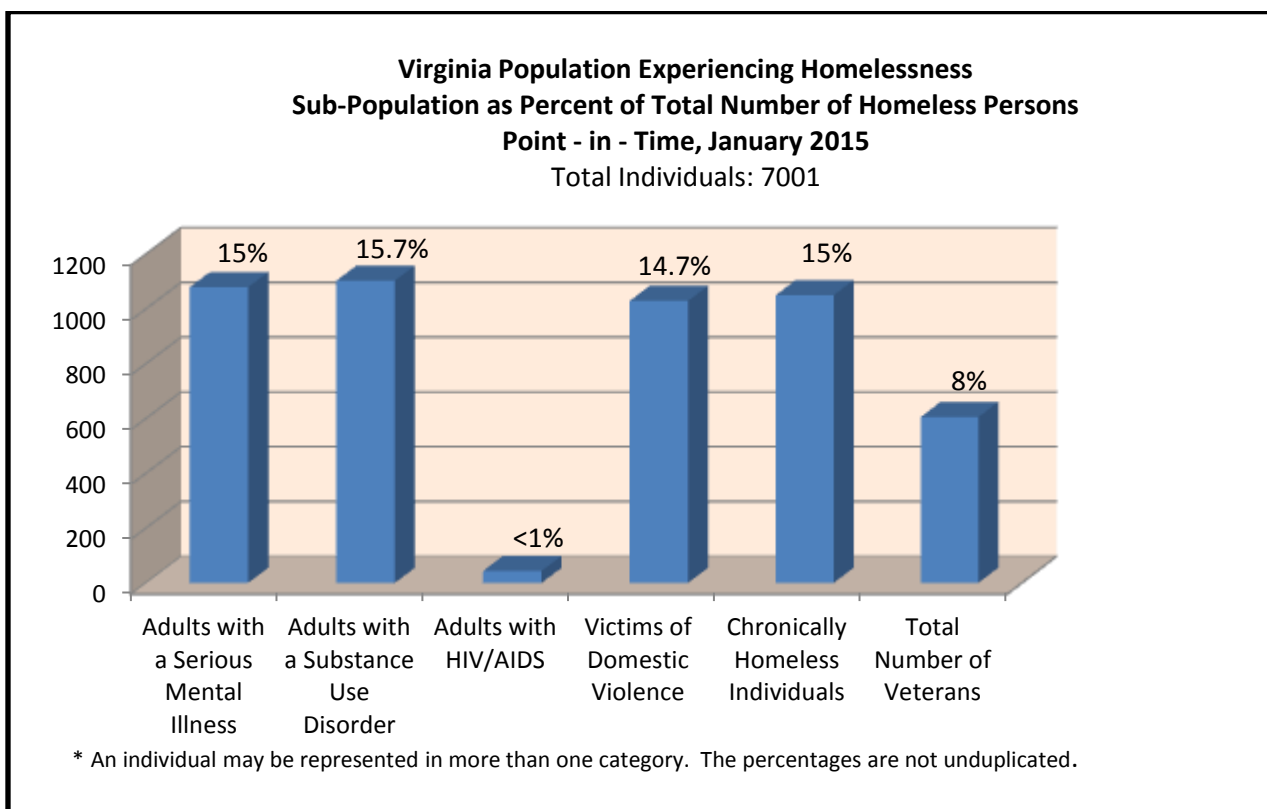
The number of individuals experiencing homelessness over an entire year is typically four to five times the point-in-time count total. In this case, an estimated 31,500 individuals in Virginia experienced homelessness at some point throughout the year.

Eighteen percent of households experiencing homelessness during the point-in-time count included households with dependent children.



Based on data reported from the 2015 point-in-time count, 15 percent (1,050) individuals were chronically homeless. This is based on the HUD definition of chronic homelessness as "an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years." Notably, eight percent of the homeless population in Virginia were reportedly veterans, and 14.7 percent were victims of domestic violence. In addition, 15 percent were severely mentally ill and 15.7 percent were reported as experiencing chronic substance abuse.

(2) 2015 PIT count numbers are preliminary



Virginia’s Homeless Plan

In April 2010, Governor Bob McDonnell signed Executive Order 10 for a Housing Policy Framework that called for a focus on addressing the needs of homeless Virginians, and housing and services for those with very low incomes. As part of this effort, the Governor laid out the following task: to develop a plan to leverage state resources more effectively; maximize the effectiveness of State services and resources for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and realize efficiencies through enhanced coordination and shared resources among State agencies.

The resulting work identified five primary goals to meet the challenge of reducing homelessness by 15 percent by 2013. This goal was surpassed – overall, homelessness decreased by 16 percent from 2010 to 2013.

The McAuliffe administration continued to support the work of the Governor’s Coordinating Council on Homelessness and its on-going efforts. In October 2014, Governor Terry McAuliffe issued Executive Order 32 which continues the Commonwealth’s focus on a housing policy agenda that includes specific strategies adopted by the Governor’s Coordinating Council on Homelessness to effectively address homelessness. Those strategies include:

1. Promote the use of rapid re-housing as an effective intervention for many experiencing homelessness;
2. Promote the expansion of permanent supportive housing units to address those experiencing chronic homelessness;
3. Prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness (strategic plan adopted);

4. End veteran homelessness statewide by achieving the criteria and benchmarks outlined by the US Interagency Council on Homelessness published on October 1, 2015;
5. Increase access to substance abuse and mental health treatment;
6. Assess and improve discharge policies and procedures for hospitals, mental health, and correctional facilities.

By December 31, 2015 the coordinating council will adopt specific goals and metrics on reducing the following by 2018: overall homelessness; and family and youth homelessness. The coordinating council continues to work towards developing a statewide data collection system to better track trends and outcomes in homelessness. It is expected that the coordinating council will endorse updated statewide Virginia performance measures that align with those developed by HUD at the December 2015 meeting.

The coordinating council is currently focused on several initiatives that reinforce or are in alignment with the strategies described above to include:

- Housing and Healthcare – implementing a statewide plan to stabilize housing by addressing healthcare needs;
- Summit on the intersection of criminal justice and the homeless system – the coordinating council, the Virginia Department of Corrections, and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness are planning a statewide summit that will be held in the spring of 2016 designed to achieve the following outcomes:
 - a) Introduce stakeholders to one another and educate each on the criminal justice system and the homeless assistance system;
 - b) Identify mainstream resources that can assist with stabilization housing for those involved in or previously involved in the criminal justice system;
 - c) Identify policies that create barriers to stable housing
 - d) Develop or strengthen relationships of those working within the criminal justice system and those working in the homeless assistance system.

The coordinating council will continue to work with the continua of care and local planning groups across the commonwealth to implement proven strategies and achieve the goal of reducing homelessness statewide.

Homeless Programs

DHCD administers approximately \$14 million annually for homeless assistance programs. This includes approximately \$11.4 million in state general funds that leverage approximately \$3 million in federal funds to address the issues and needs of those experiencing homelessness in Virginia.

Federal resources include \$300,000 from Health and Human Services (HHS), which is allocated to DHCD through the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) for a childcare services program serving children in homeless assistance programs within the commonwealth. In addition to the federal funding allocated to the Department through DSS, DHCD also received \$2.9 million in federal funding

from HUD’s Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program. The federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program is leveraged along with the State General Funds to support homeless assistance across the Commonwealth through the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP). The HOPWA program prevents homelessness among low-income individuals with HIV/AIDS and their families.

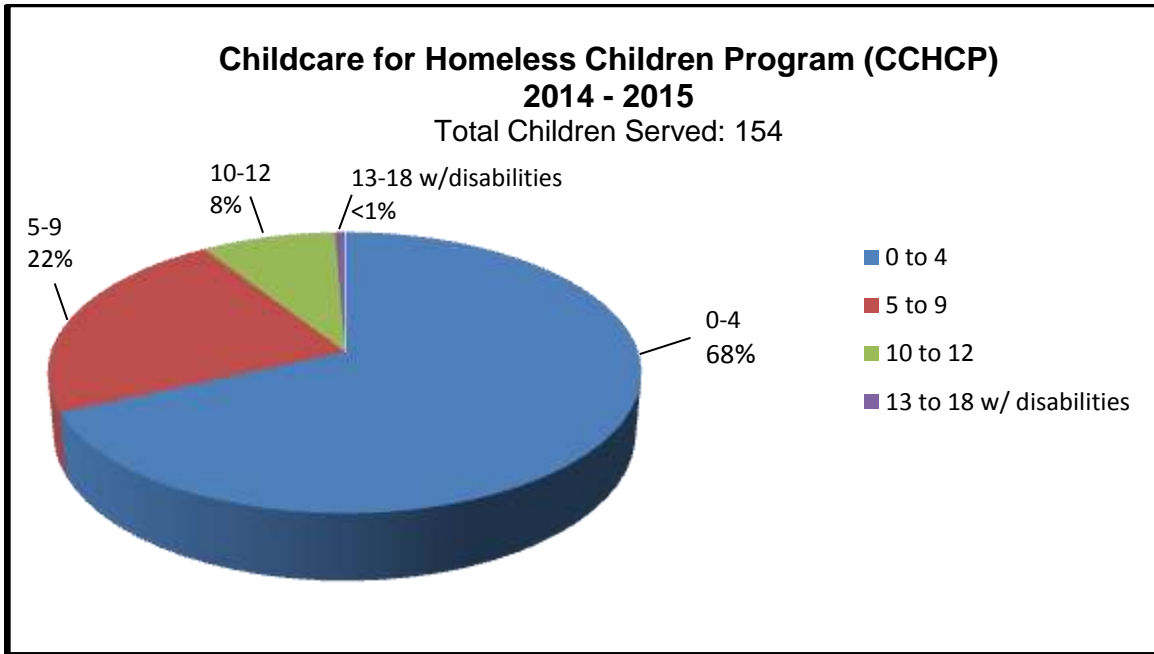
DHCD-Administered Homeless Programs 2014-2015 Program Year		
Program	Source	2014-2015 Allocation
Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP)	Federal –HHS (DSS)	\$300,000
Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP)	Federal- HUD and State-General Funds	13,978,597
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>General Homeless Service Funds</i> 	<i>State</i>	<i>\$11,451,820</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)</i> 	<i>Federal -HUD</i>	<i>\$2,526,777</i>
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Federal -HUD	\$729,037

Child Care for Homeless Children Program

The Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP) receives funding through the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, which the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) administers. DHCD has an interagency agreement with DSS to provide for the payment of childcare services for children in DHCD funded homeless assistance programs. Homeless families may receive assistance for the cost of child care while working or participating in an educational or job training program.

In the 2014-15 program year, DHCD awarded \$224,716 from its block grant to support the Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP). CCHCP can provide childcare funding for children up to age 12 and those who are 13 to 18 with a disabling condition. As a result, 154 children received childcare during the year allowing parents to work toward developing economic self-sufficiency.

Over half of the children receiving childcare were four years old or younger.



Child Care for Homeless Children Program 2014-15		
Service Provider	Location	Funding
ForKids, Inc.	Norfolk	\$29,993
Carpenter's Shelter	Alexandria	\$2,562
Help and Emergency Response	Portsmouth	\$6,765
Housing Families First	Richmond	\$45,050
HomeAgain (formerly Emergency Shelter, Inc.)	Richmond	\$33,699
Mercy House, Inc.	Harrisonburg	\$7,911
Northern Virginia Family Service	Fairfax	\$16,171
Samaritan House, Inc.	Virginia Beach	\$51,916
New Hope Housing, Inc	Fairfax	\$22,601
Portsmouth Area Resource Coalition, Inc.	Portsmouth	\$8,048
TOTAL		\$224,716

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program

The Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) is approximately \$14 million, a combination of state and federal funding for shelter operations, rapid re-housing

and housing stabilization, homeless prevention, coordinated assessment/entry, community planning costs, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) costs and administration.

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) 2014-2015		
Service Provider	Location	Funding
Accomack – Northampton PDC	Accomack	\$28,475
Action in Community Through Service of Prince William, Inc.	Prince William	\$175,851
Aids Services Group	Charlottesville	\$96,574
Appalachian Community Action	Gate City	\$98,198
Arlington County, VA	Arlington	\$91,507
Arlington Street People's Assistance Network, Inc.	Arlington	\$140,533
Bridges to Independence	Arlington	\$132,269
CARITAS	Richmond	\$158,675
Carpenter's Shelter	Alexandria	\$285,263
Central Virginia Housing Coalition	Fredericksburg	\$317,841
Choices, Council on Domestic Violence for Page County	Luray	\$67,200
Citizens Against Family Violence, Inc.	Martinsville	\$31,760
City of Alexandria	Alexandria	\$514,323
City of Charlottesville	Charlottesville	\$506,920
City of Roanoke	Roanoke	\$92,685
Clinch Valley Community Action	Tazewell	\$40,018
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	Richmond	\$280,442
Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CACH)	Petersburg	\$28,672
Council of Community Services	Roanoke	\$190,009
Cornerstones	Reston	\$191,810
Culpeper Community Development Corporation	Culpeper	\$51,880
Doorways	Arlington	\$201,387

Family Crisis Support Services, Inc.	Norton	\$108,868
Eastern Shore of Virginia Housing Alliance	Accomack	\$172,608
Empowerhouse	Fredericksburg	\$172,021
ESCADV, Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Accomack	\$36,675
Family Crisis Support Services, Inc	Norton	\$146,777
Family Resource Center	Wytheville	\$79,098
Fauquier Co.	Fauquier	\$307,646
First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence, Inc.	Harrisonburg	\$40,542
ForKids, Inc.	Norfolk	\$572,119
George Washington Regional Commission	Fredericksburg	\$25,000
Good Shepherd Alliance, Inc.	Loudoun	\$142,015
Hampton Department of Human Services	Hampton	\$886,329
Hanover Safe Place (Hanover Domestic Violence Task Force)	Hanover	\$153,693
Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority	Harrisonburg	\$24,473
Help and Emergency Response	Portsmouth	\$122,829
Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence, Inc.	Wytheville	\$307,755
Housing Families First	Richmond	\$154,484
HomeAgain (formerly Emergency Shelter, Inc.)	Richmond	\$240,340
Homestretch, Inc.	Fairfax	\$1,107
Homeward	Richmond	\$12,460
Judeo Christian Outreach Center	VA Beach	\$110,844
Loudoun County Department of Family Services	Leesburg	\$205,495
Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc.	Lynchburg	\$219,078
Mercy House, Inc.	Harrisonburg	\$394,124
Micah Ecumenical Ministries, Inc.	Fredericksburg	\$183,481
Miriam's House	Lynchburg	\$68,287
New Hope Housing, Inc.	Alexandria	\$148,920
New Hope Housing, Inc	Fairfax	\$191,810

New River Community Action, Inc	Radford	\$266,673
New River Family Shelter	Christiansburg	\$43,293
Northern Virginia Family Service	Fairfax	\$175,123
Northern Virginia Family Service	Prince William	\$367,976
People Incorporated of Virginia	Abingdon	\$226,443
Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition, Inc.	Portsmouth	\$109,419
Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless	Portsmouth	\$29,623
Prince William County	Prince William	\$160,344
Project Horizon, Inc.	Lexington	\$25,634
Quin Rivers	New Kent	\$177,634
Rappahannock Refuge, Inc./Hope House	Fredericksburg	\$96,329
Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission	Culpeper	\$31,123
Response, Inc.	Shenandoah	\$36,922
Roanoke Valley Student Trouble Center, Inc/ Trust House	Roanoke	\$45,000
Salvation Army - Tri Cities Service Center	Petersburg	\$36,967
Salvation Army of Central Virginia	Richmond	\$41,677
Samaritan House, Inc.	Virginia Beach	\$154,723
Shelter House, Inc.	Fairfax	\$191,810
Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter	Shenandoah	\$181,809
St. Joseph's Villa (CACH)	Petersburg	\$119,170
St. Joseph's Villa (Flagler)	Richmond	\$314,247
STEP, Inc.	Rocky Mount	\$199,230
STEPS, Inc.	Farmville	\$160,032
The Daily Planet	Richmond	\$36,268
The Haven Shelter and Services, Inc.	Warsaw	\$40,883
The Healing Place	Richmond	\$136,007
The Improvement Association	Emporia	\$68,350
The Laurel Center	Winchester	\$56,387
The Planning Council, Inc.	Norfolk	\$546,845
Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter, Inc.	Fredericksburg	\$136,123

Total Action Against Poverty	Roanoke	\$152,482
Transitional Housing Barn, Inc	Prince William	\$75,000
Tri-County Community Action	South Boston	\$117,860
Volunteers of America Chesapeake	Arlington	\$34,672
Volunteers of America Chesapeake	Loudoun	\$164,000
Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley	Radford	\$164,514
YWCA of Central VA	Lynchburg	\$25,749
YWCA of Richmond	Richmond	\$49,869
YWCA of South Hampton Roads	Norfolk	\$125,000
TOTAL		\$13,963,512

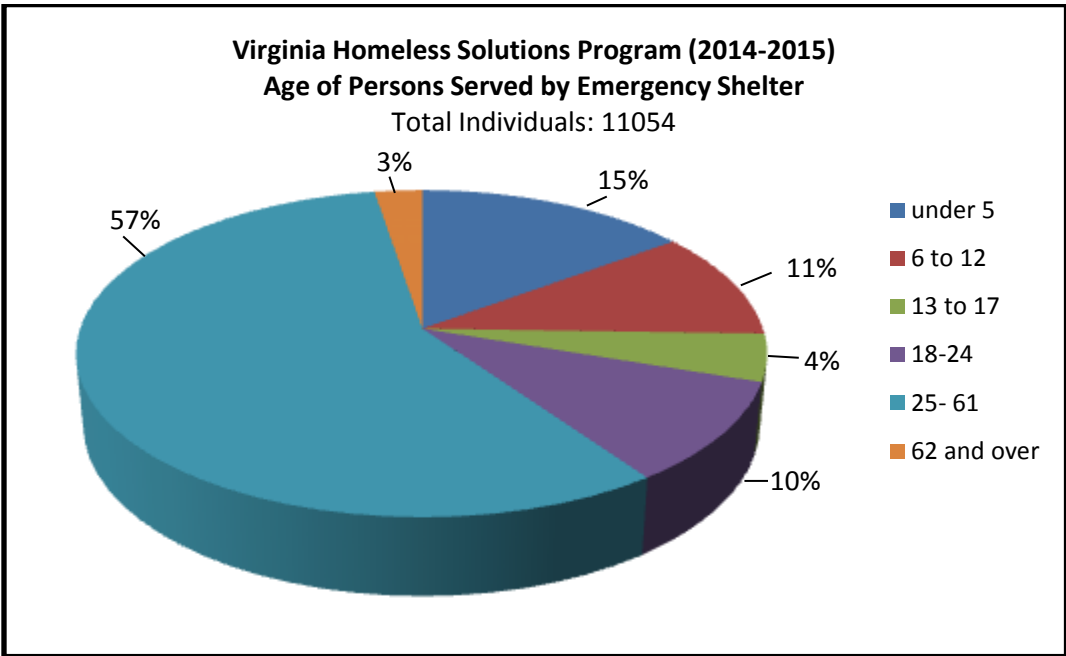
Emergency Shelter

Funding for Emergency Shelter totaled \$2.5 million through the VHSP competitive application process.

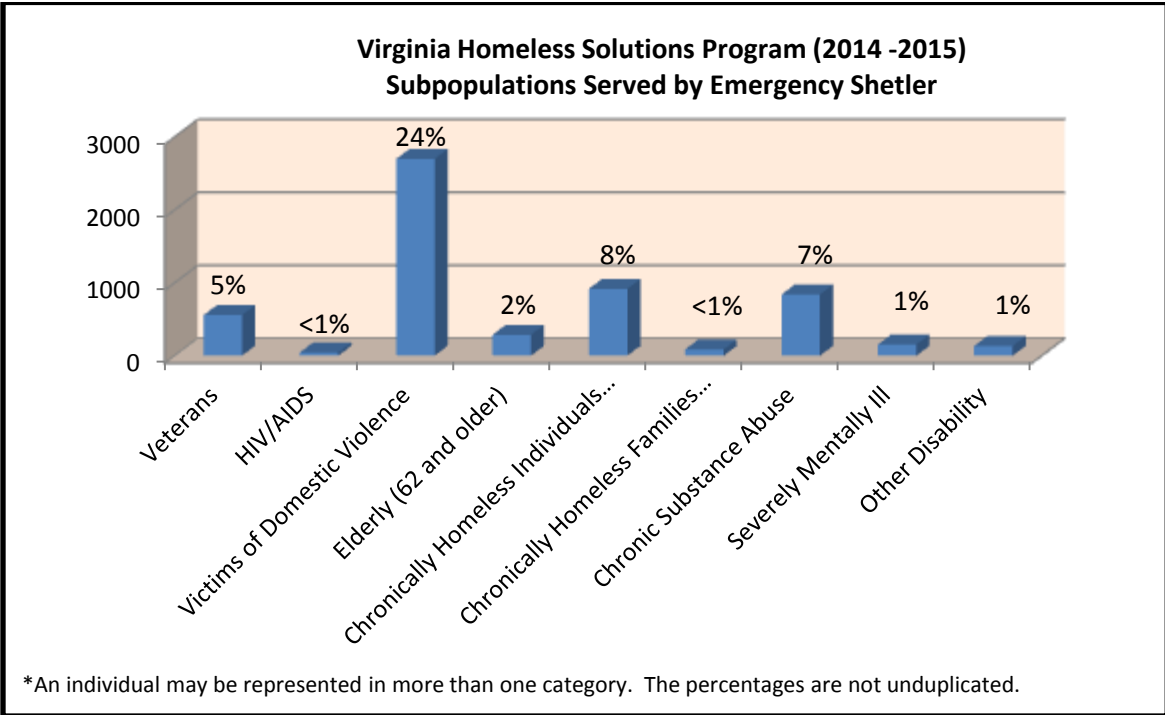
Shelter providers receiving VHSP served 11,054 persons (7,382 households) through emergency and seasonal shelters during 2014-15 program year. Of the 7,382 households, 24 percent or 1,761 were households with children and 76 percent or 5,621 were households with only adults.

The table and charts to follow provide additional details on the percentage distribution served by emergency shelters.

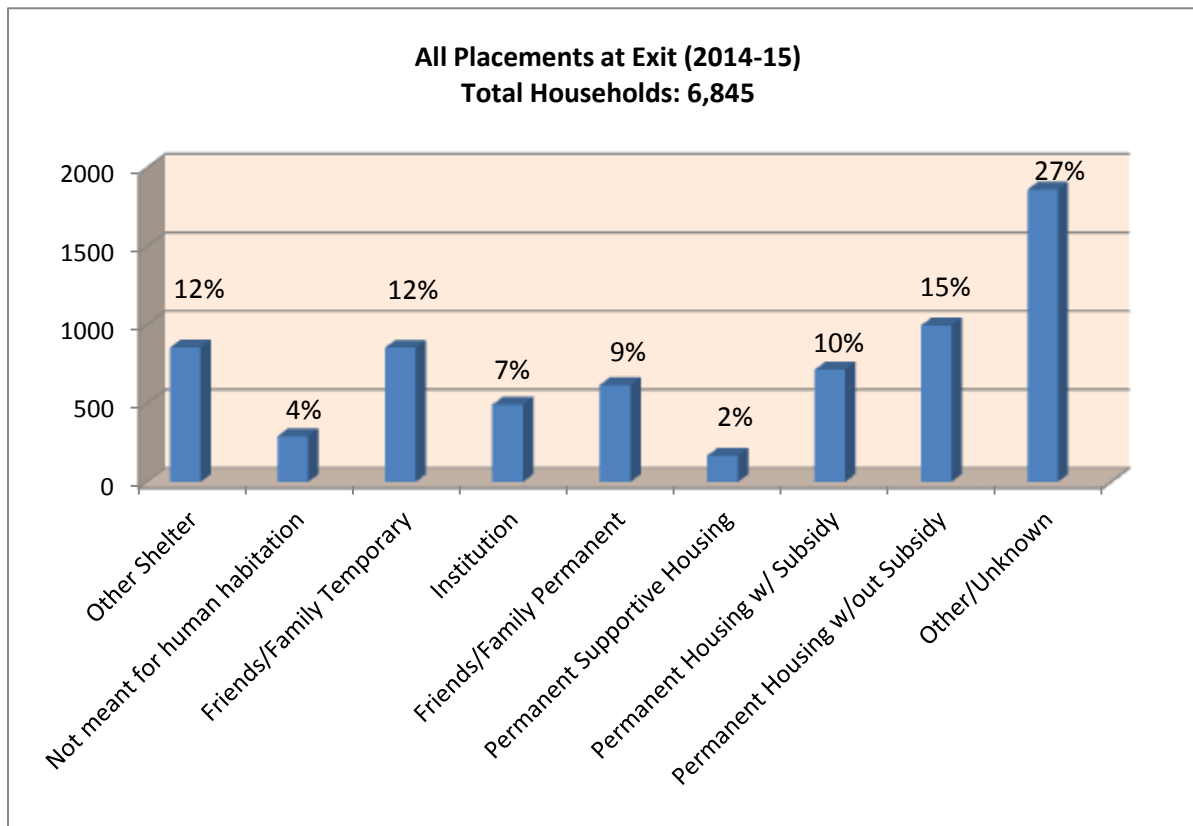
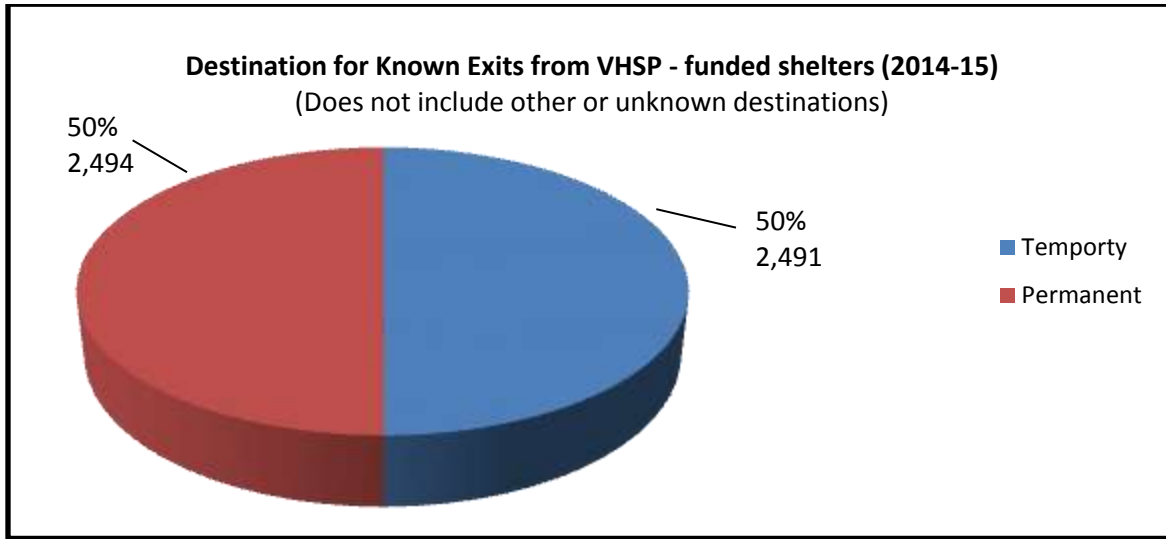
Thirty percent (3,341) of persons in emergency shelter were children under the age of 18.



Five percent of individuals receiving VHSP-funded shelter services report veteran status. Twenty-four percent are victims of domestic violence. Other significant challenges and barriers to housing include severe mental illness, chronic substance abuse, and disabilities.



Of households that exited shelter, 50 percent exited to a permanent destination (market rate rental, Section 8, supportive housing, permanent placement with family and friends). The remaining 50 percent exited to a temporary destination (other shelter or place not meant for human habitation, institution, or to temporary housing provided by family/friends).

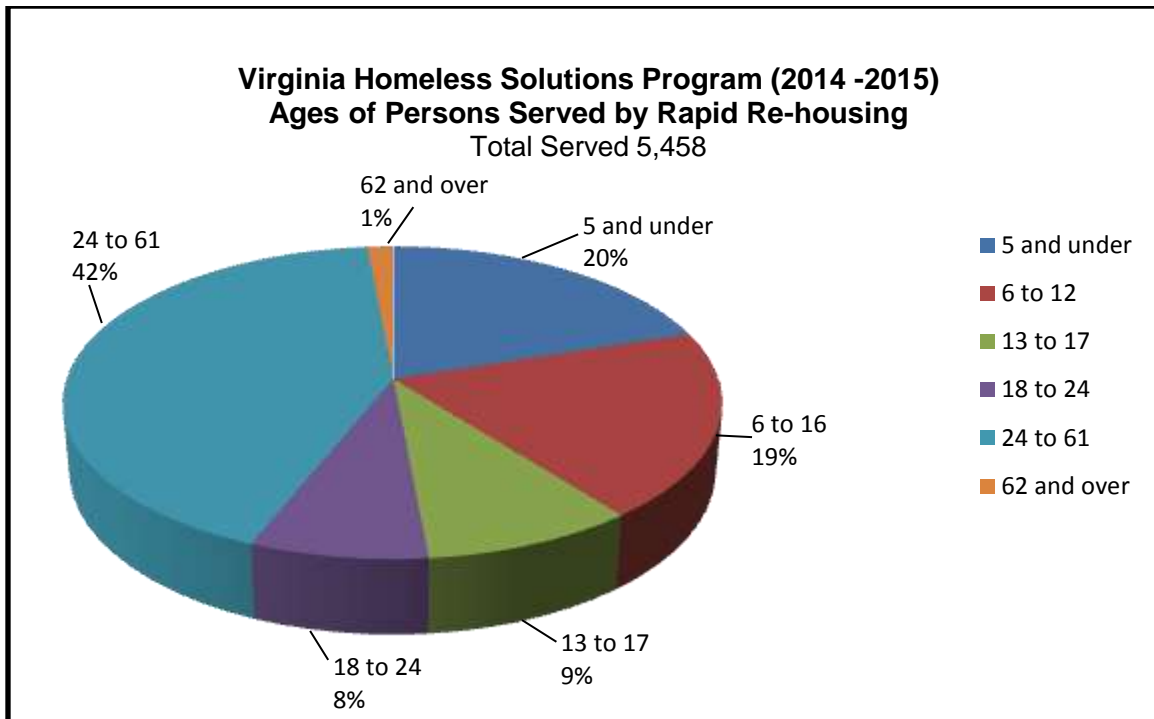


Rapid Re-housing

Funding for rapid re-housing totaled \$6.2 million through the VHSP competitive application process. Rapid Re-housing continues to be a best practice model for ending homelessness. Rapid re-housing uses a housing first approach that centers on providing persons experiencing homelessness with housing quickly and then providing services as needed. What differentiates a housing first approach from other strategies is that there is an immediate and primary focus on helping individuals and families quickly access and sustain permanent housing (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2006).

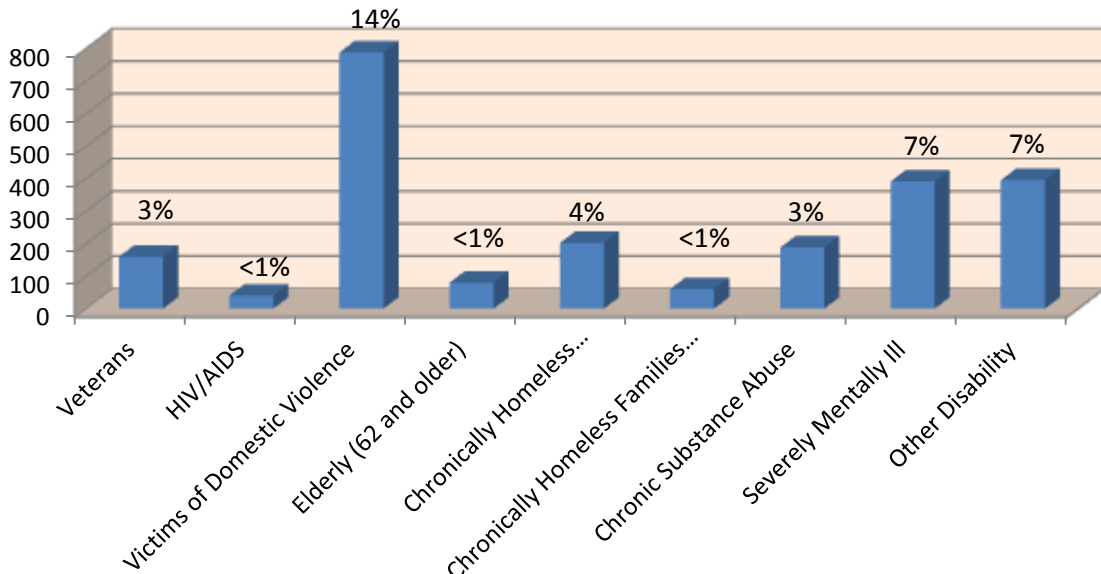
DHCD along with partners at the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness have been working to ensure rapid re-housing providers are using this best practice model to include the necessary core components: housing identification, rent and move-in assistance (financial), and stabilization case management and services.

Forty-eight percent of those who were rapidly re-housed were children under the age of 17.



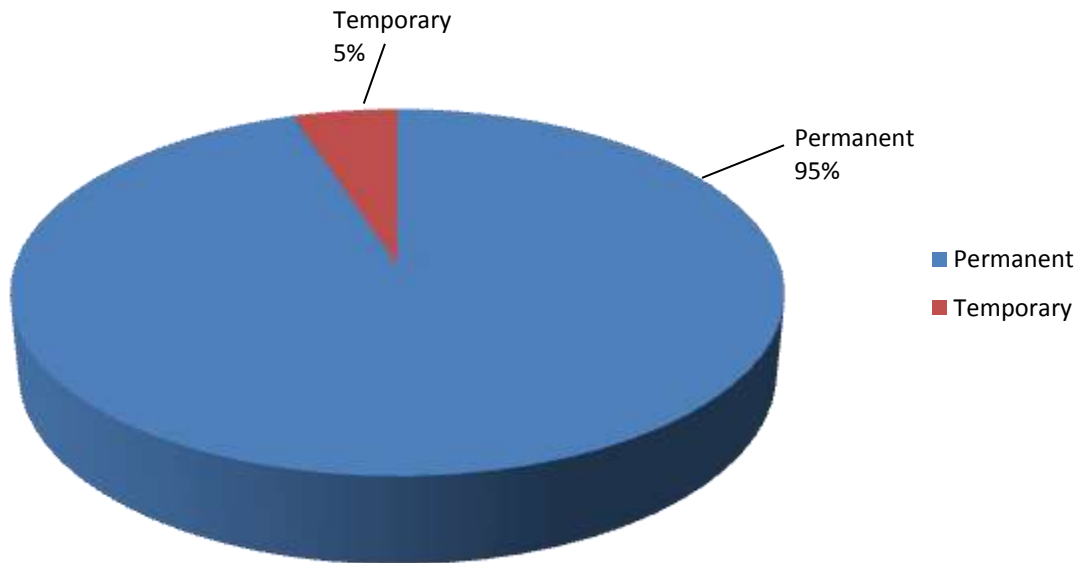
Fourteen percent of adults served by rapid re-housing programs are victims of domestic violence. Eight percent are affected by disability and/or serious mental health challenges.

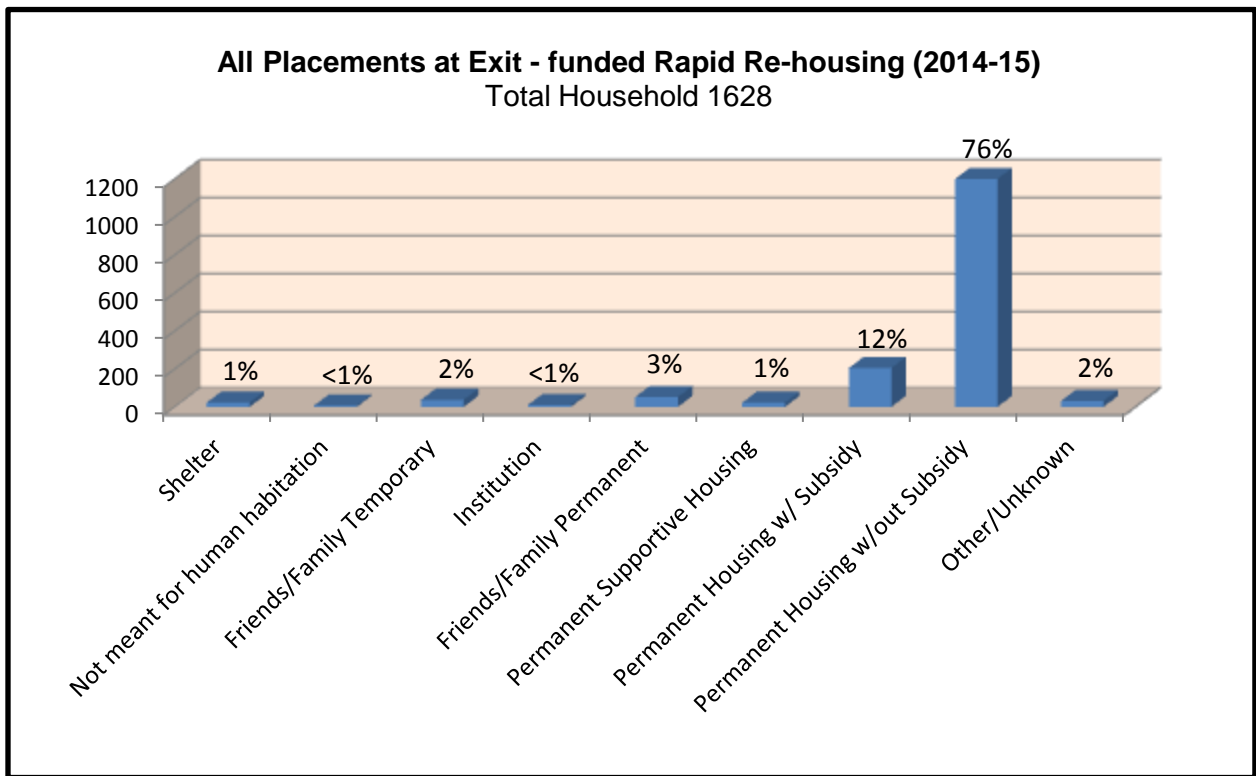
Subpopulations of Adults Served by Rapid Re-Housing Rapid Re-Housing (2014-15)



* An individual may be represented in more than one category. Percentages are not unduplicated.

Destinations for known Exits from VHSP - funded Rapid Re-housing (2014-15)



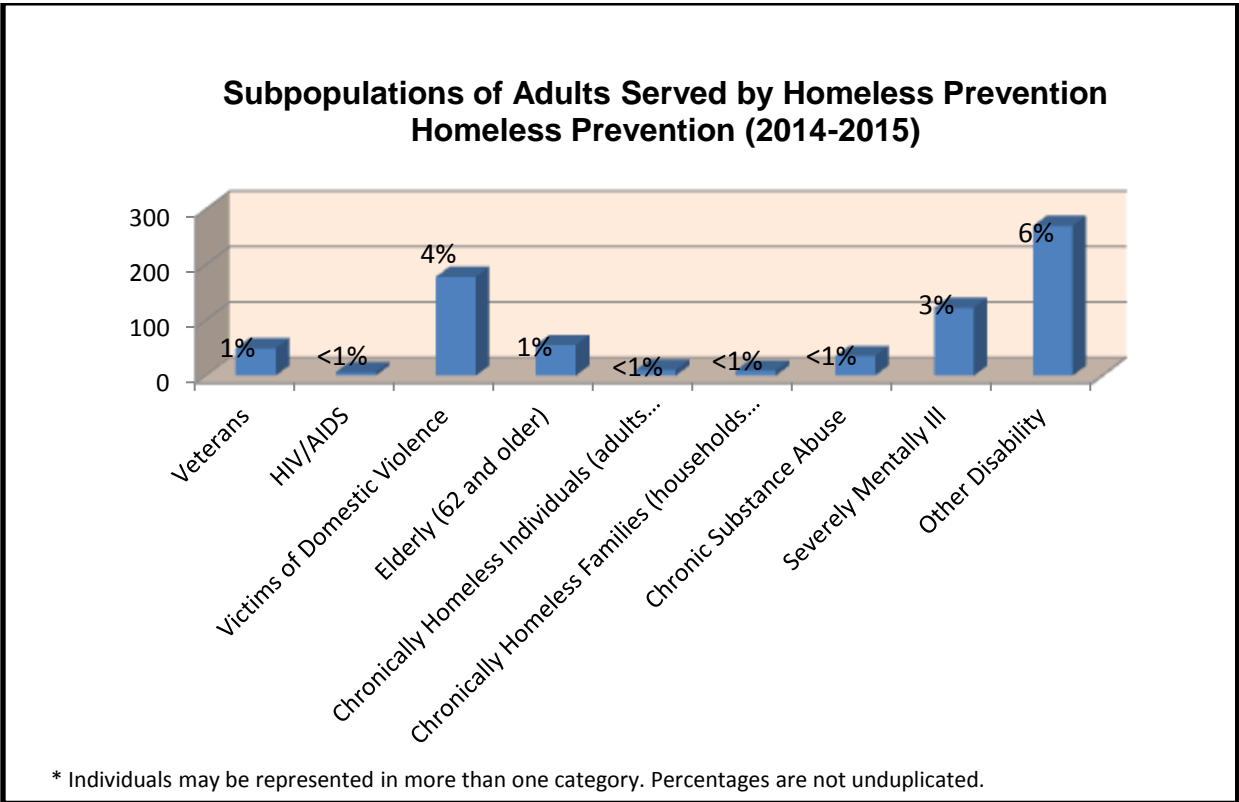
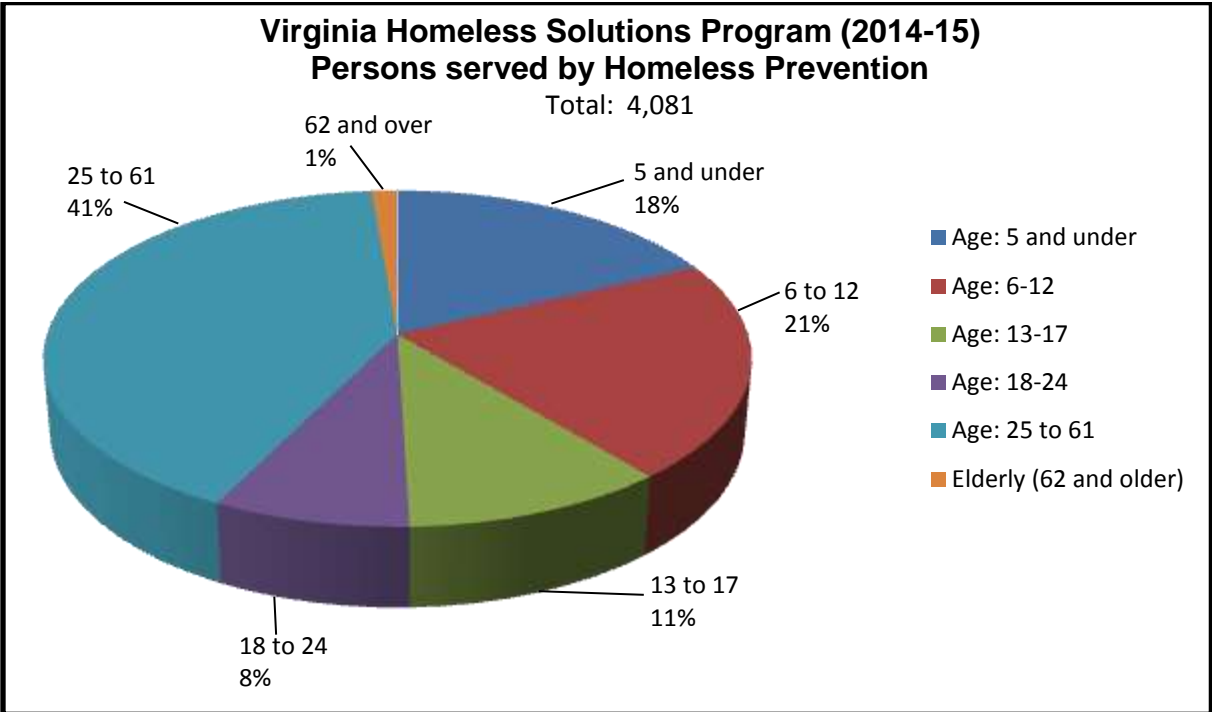


Homeless Prevention

The purpose of VHSP's prevention funding is to prevent homelessness by targeting resources to those households who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence and have incomes below 30 percent area median income. Eligible homeless prevention activities include rent and housing stabilization financial assistance, housing search and placement, stabilization case management and services, mediation, and credit repair.

Through VHSP, \$4.0 million in state funds were distributed across the commonwealth for prevention activities. During the 2014-15 program year, prevention funding provided assistance to 4,033 individuals (1,558 households).

Fifty percent of those who received homeless prevention services were children under the age of 17. Of the 1,558 households that received services, 975 (63 percent) were households with at least one child.



Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)

In 2014-2015, DHCD administered a federal allocation of \$729,037 in HOPWA funds through seven project sponsors across the state of Virginia. The project sponsors served a total of 538 eligible individuals (457 households). The serviced they received included:

- Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU);
- Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA);
- Housing placement services; and
- Supportive services

Significantly limited funds are available to meet all the needed housing assistance for moderate to low income individuals with HIV/AIDS in Virginia's non-eligible metropolitan statistical areas (EMSAs). As a result, the funds through this program were focused on direct housing assistance as needed and supportive services as a last resort only for the individuals receiving housing assistance through the HOPWA program. Project Sponsors are strongly encouraged to partner with other service providers (both public and private) to coordinate client services and fully leverage available resources in their particular service areas. At least 65 percent of the total HOPWA grant to any one grantee must be expended on direct housing assistance and no more than 35 percent can be expended on supportive services.

DHCD awards HOPWA funds to eligible project sponsors (that operate outside the state's EMSAs) following a competitive application process. Currently, the state HOPWA programs encompass 31,749 square miles.

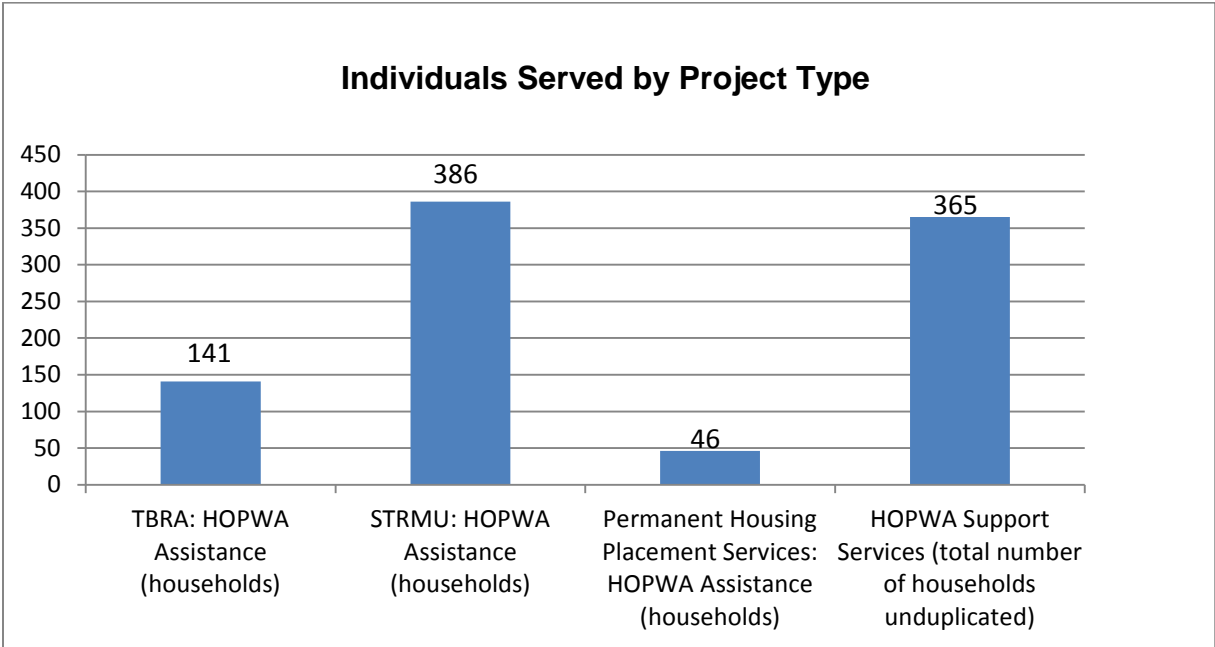
HOPWA Project Sponsors 2014-2015				
Subgrantee (Project Sponsor)	Service Area(s)	Housing Activities	Supportive Services	Funded Amount
Council of Community Services	Counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, Craig, Alleghany, Montgomery, Pulaski, Giles and Floyd and Cities of Roanoke, Salem, Covington and Radford.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant-based rental assistance • Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Management 	\$128,509
Lynchburg Community Action Group, inc.	Counties of Appomattox, Amherst, Bedford, Prince Edward, Charlotte, and Campbell and Cities of Lynchburg and Bedford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Tenant-based rental assistance • Permanent housing placement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management • Transportation • Food/food bank • Support Group 	\$51,369
AIDS Response Effort, Inc.	Counties of Shenandoah, Page and Frederick and City of Winchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Tenant-based rental assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management • Food/food bank 	\$67,150

HOPWA Project Sponsors 2014-2015

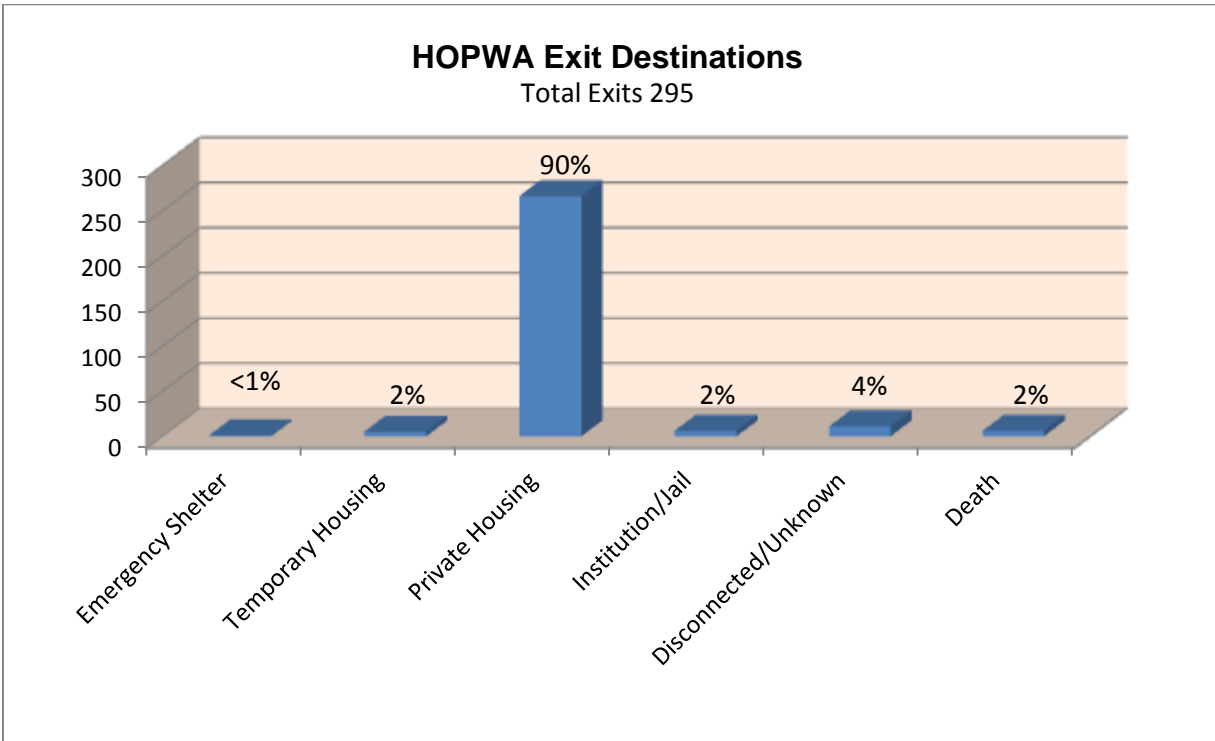
Subgrantee (Project Sponsor)	Service Area(s)	Housing Activities	Supportive Services	Funded Amount
City of Charlottesville	Counties of Albemarle, Greene, Nelson and Fluvanna and the City of Charlottesville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Tenant-based rental assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management 	\$181,000
Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services	Counties of King George, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock, Westmoreland, and Culpeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant-based rental assistance • Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Permanent housing placement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management • Transportation 	\$80,853
Valley AIDS Network	Counties of Rockingham, Bath, Rockbridge, Augusta, Highland, Page and Shenandoah and the Cities of Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Harrisonburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Tenant-based rental assistance • Permanent housing placement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management 	\$64,789
Pittsylvania Community Action Inc.	Pittsylvania, Danville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant-based rental assistance • Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Permanent housing placement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Management 	\$101,695

At year-end, HOPWA housing activities projects served 538 eligible individuals (457 households) with HIV/AIDS and an additional 358 family members of whom 25 also had HIV/AIDSs). One hundred and forty-one households served were assisted with tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) and 386 households were provided short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU).

Project sponsors provided supportive services including case management, support groups, food assistance, and transportation. Three hundred and sixty-five households received these services.



A total of 295 households that were beneficiaries of housing activities exited the state HOPWA program during the program year. Ninety percent of the households exited the program to stable/permanent housing.



Conclusion

During the 2014-2015 program year DHCD administered approximately \$14.9 million (amount does not include carryover funds from previous years) for homeless services through grants and allocations to nonprofits and units of local government across the state of Virginia. This included over \$11.4 million in state general funds that leveraged an additional three million in federal funds to address the critical needs of homelessness in the Commonwealth.

Funds were utilized in the administration and leveraging of the state's core homeless service programs:

- Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP)
- Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP)
 - Combination of federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and State General Funds for homeless assistance.
- Housing Opportunities for Person with AIDS (HOPWA)

For the 2014-2015 program year, \$1.5 million previously available for homeless assistance (\$500,000 state general funds specific to rapid re-housing and \$1 million from Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant) was not included in the final state budget.

The Governor's Coordinating Council on Homelessness continued to meet on a quarterly basis and received strategic plans, recommendations, and formal progress reports from committees assigned to implement strategies to effectively address homelessness. These committees included: the performance and impact committee, solutions committee, ending veteran homelessness committee, and interagency partnership to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Since 2010, the increased focus on ending homeless in the Commonwealth of Virginia has achieved significant results:

- ✓ Overall homelessness decreased by 23 percent
- ✓ Family homelessness decreased by 23 percent
- ✓ Veterans homelessness decreased by 31 percent
- ✓ Chronic homelessness decreased by 30 percent

With continued state leadership, willingness, innovation, and funding, ending homelessness is possible in Virginia. Other philanthropic, national, community, and private sector partners are in place and the Governor's Coordinating Council on Homelessness is poised to advance the goals and strategies to promote rapid re-housing; expand permanent supportive housing; prevent and end youth homelessness; end veteran homelessness; and improve discharge policies and procedure for hospitals, mental health, and correctional facilities. Together these efforts will ensure homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring.