



Virginia's Homeless Programs 2016-17 Program Year

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



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This report serves as a means to report overall conditions and progress made related to the administration of the State’s homeless programs in compliance with HB 1500, Budget Item 108 B of Virginia Acts of Assembly, 2017 Chapter 836.

The department shall report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance, the House Appropriations Committees, and the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, by November 4 of each year on the state’s homeless programs, including, but not limited to, the number of (i) emergency shelter beds, (ii) transitional housing units, (iii) single room occupancy dwellings, (iv) homeless intervention programs, (v) homeless prevention programs, and (vi) the number of homeless individuals supported by the permanent housing state funding on a locality and statewide basis and the accomplishments achieved by the additional state funding provided to the program in the first year. The report shall also include the number of Virginians served by these programs, the costs of the programs, and the financial and in-kind support provided by localities and nonprofit groups in these programs. In preparing the report, the department shall consult with localities and community-based groups.

Executive Summary

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) administers the Commonwealth of Virginia's homeless assistance resources (state and federal). These resources include approximately \$15.5 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 who return to homelessness

In the spring of 2016, 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 that provide assistance to each community's homeless crisis response system.

Virginia continues to make 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. The DHCD collects, aggregates, and analyzes state level PIT data to inform grant making, best practices, and trends across the commonwealth.

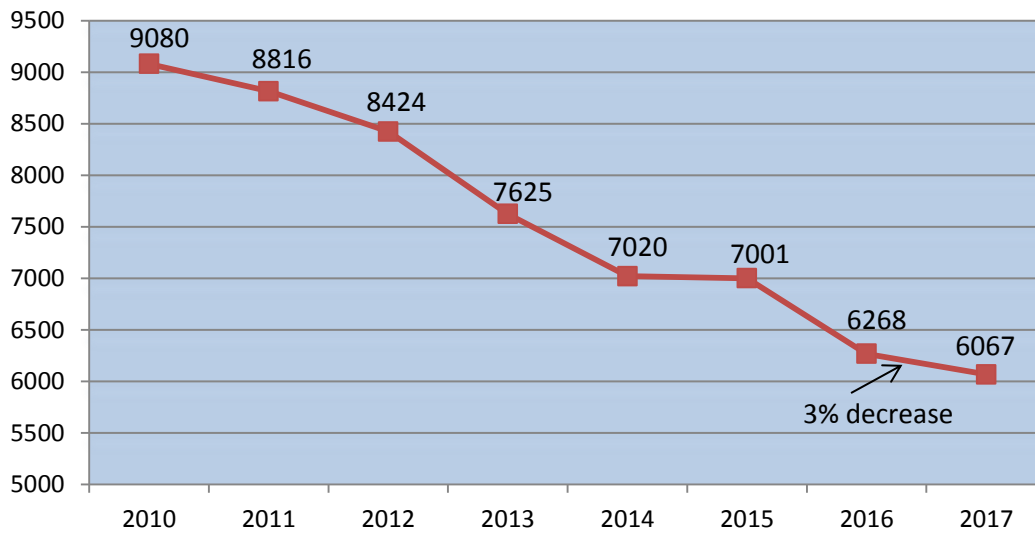
The 2017 PIT count ⁽¹⁾ on January 25, identified 6,067 persons (adults and children) who were homeless. Since 2010, there has been a 33 percent decrease in the number of homeless persons, a 46.5 percent decrease in households with children, and a 42.7 percent decrease in chronic homeless identified during the PIT count. In addition, since 2011, there has been a 48.6 percent decrease in veteran homelessness with a 42 percent decrease in unsheltered veterans.

(1) 2017 PIT count numbers are preliminary

Total Homeless Persons

Virginia January 2017 Point-in-Time - PRELIMINARY

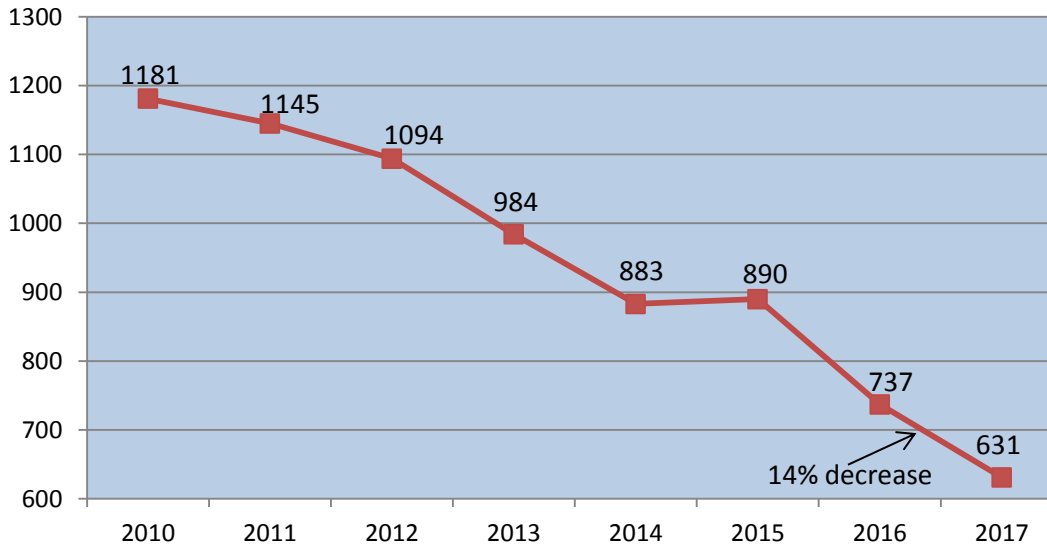
33% decrease from 2010 to 2017

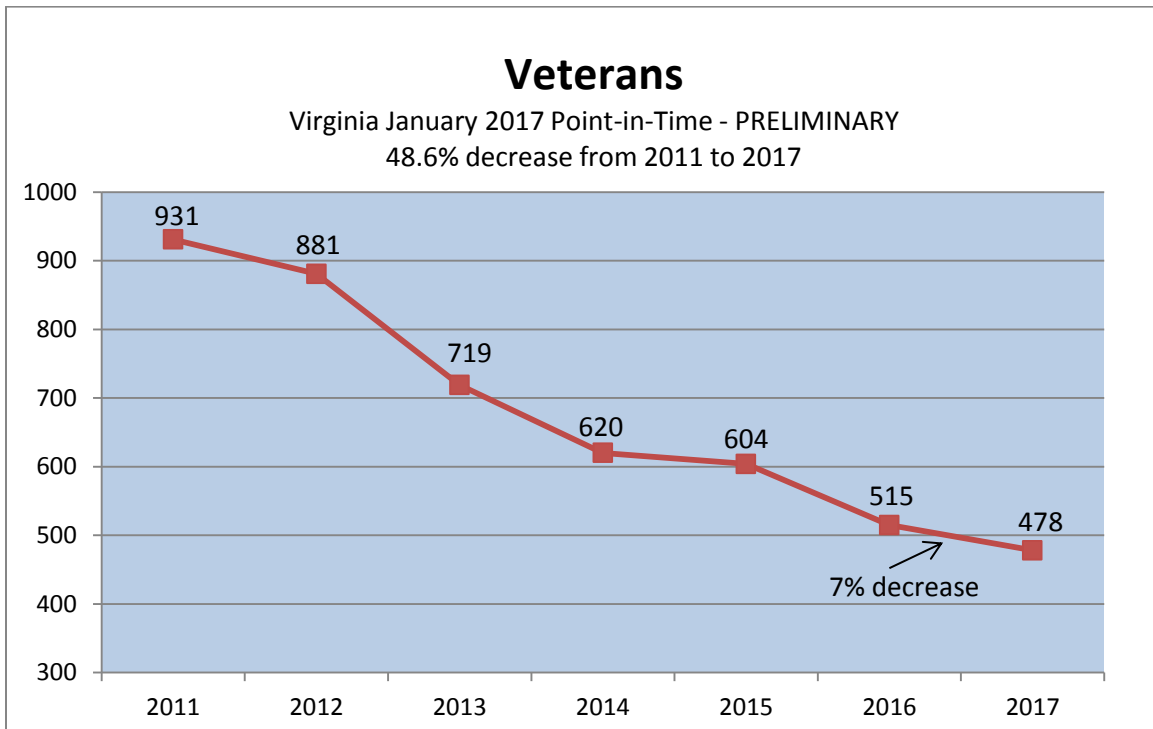


Households with Adults and Children

Virginia January 2017 Point-in-Time - PRELIMINARY

46.5% decrease from 2010 to 2017





DHCD directly addresses the problems associated with homelessness by administering several funding sources. During the 2016-17 program year, DHCD administered the following:

- **Virginia Housing Solutions Program (VHSP)**
 - A \$14.8 million grant comprised of State General Funds and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solution Grant funds
 - Eligible activities include homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, emergency shelter, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), coordinated access/entry, and Continuum of Care (CoC) planning
- **Housing Opportunities to Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)**
 - \$723,225 in federal funds through HUD funding was distributed through seven project sponsors across the state to serve 210 unduplicated households with HIV/AIDS through housing subsidy assistance
 - 148 households received supportive services, including case management, transportation, and food assistance

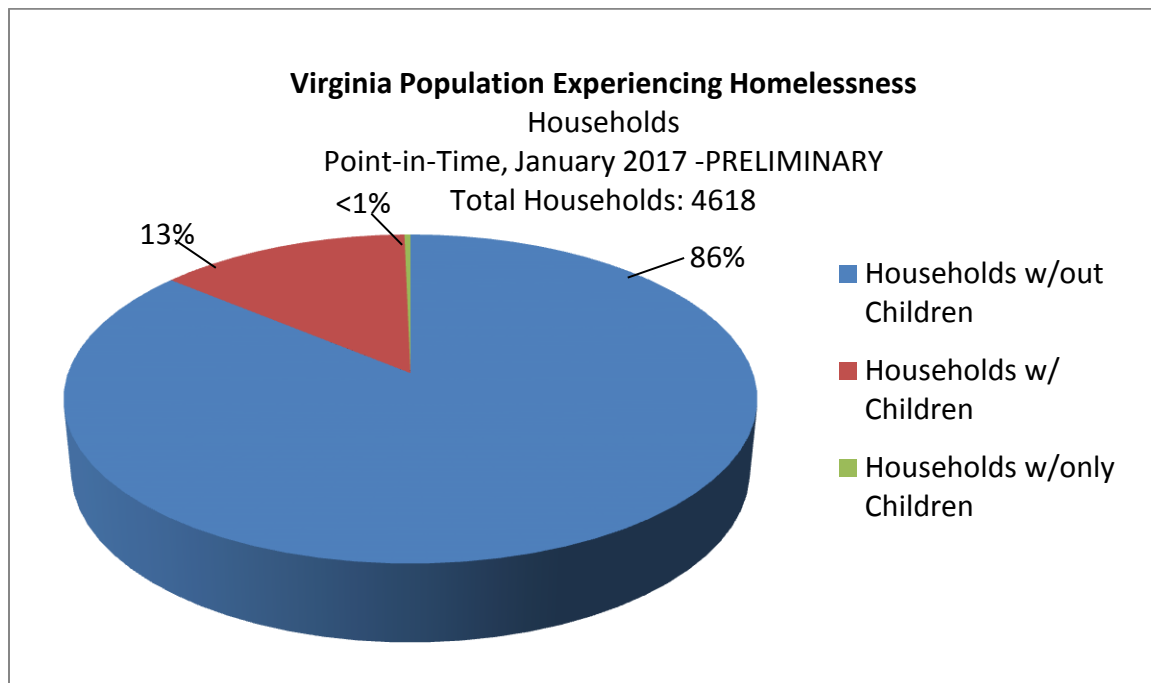
Conditions

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 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 2017 point-in-time count identified 6,067 individuals (4,618 households) as experiencing homelessness (2). Approximately, 63 percent of these individuals were in emergency shelters, 19 percent were in transitional shelter programs, one percent were in safe haven shelters, and 17 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 27,000 individuals in Virginia experienced homelessness at some point throughout the year.

Approximately 13 percent of households experiencing homelessness during the point-in-time count included households with dependent children.

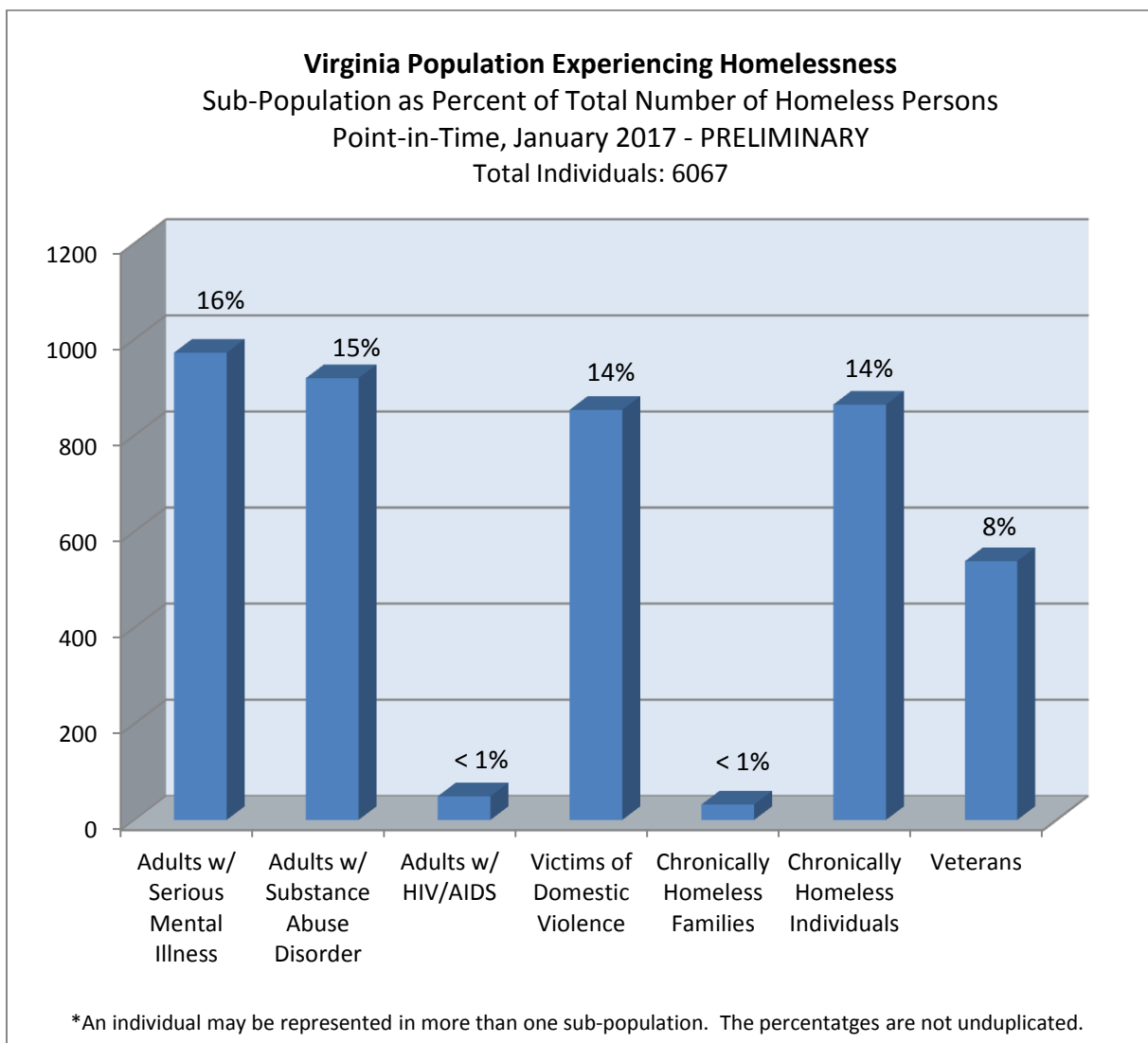


Based on data reported from the 2017 point-in-time count, 14 percent (864) of individuals were chronically homeless. This is based on the HUD definition of

(2) 2017 PIT count numbers are preliminary

chronic homelessness published in December 2015 as, “a homeless individual with a disabling condition or family where the head of household has a disabling condition and who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness that equal a year’s time in the past three years.”

Notably, eight percent of the homeless population in Virginia were reportedly veterans, and 14 percent were victims of domestic violence. In addition, 16 percent were seriously mentally ill and 15 percent were reported as experiencing chronic substance abuse. Individuals may fall into multiple subpopulations. For example, an individual may be a veteran who also experiences serious mental illness.



DHCD has provided technical assistance and guidance to CoCs throughout Virginia to help establish a systemic approach to ending homelessness. Through these efforts, Virginia’s CoCs have developed coordinated intake/entry, stronger

partnerships with veteran specific organizations, new connections with healthcare and criminal justice systems, and housing first policies and procedures. This systemic approach to the homeless crisis response system has led to a 33 percent decrease in homelessness since 2010.

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. 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. This Executive Order launched DHCD's targeted and coordinated efforts to reduce homeless in Virginia.

The resulting work identified five primary strategies to meet the challenge of reducing homelessness by 15 percent by 2014. This goal was surpassed – overall, homelessness decreased by 16 percent from 2010 to 2014. And the work continues.

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 (GCCH) to 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.

Efforts of the GCCH performance and impact committee focus on exploring solutions to the lack of at statewide homeless data. Availability of such data is the first step in analyzing the intersection of homelessness in other services systems.

In November 2015, Virginia became the first state to functionally end veteran homelessness by creating a system that meets the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness criteria and ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience. The Ending Veteran Homelessness Committee continues coordination efforts to

ensure systems remain in place to quickly re-house and connect veterans to stabilization services.

Governor McAuliffe established the GCCH's goal of reducing chronic homelessness by 40 percent by 2018. It should be noted that unlike the campaign to end veterans' homelessness, there has not been an increase in federal or state funds to reduce or end chronic homelessness. To address chronic homelessness, the Solutions Committee is addressing the intersection of healthcare and housing; and criminal justice and homelessness.

The following actions have been taken to address these intersections:

- Virginia's H2 Plan- To improve client lives, health outcomes, and housing stability by transforming and integrating housing and healthcare delivery systems.
- 2017 Healthcare and Housing Summit
- National Innovation and Accelerator Program participation- a collaborative TA project with DMAS, DHCD, VHDA, and DBHDS that works to improve care for Medicaid beneficiaries with complex care needs and high costs.
- 2016 Criminal Justice System and Homelessness Summit
- Support of the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice and the OAG Re-entry efforts
- Identified need to share data between homelessness and criminal justice systems

The GCCH also continues to work towards establishing goals and metrics on reducing overall homelessness, and family and youth homelessness by 2018. Efforts of the Interagency Partnership to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness (IPPEYH) include:

- Challenged Schools Housing Trust Fund Pilot Project with Petersburg City Schools
- Youth targeted tenant rights handbook
- Youth social media engagement
- Single Points of Contact for homeless students (public and community colleges)
- Collaboration with Gear Up – focused on homeless youths' transition to college

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 15.5 million annually for homeless assistance programs. This includes approximately \$12.2 million in state general funds that leverage approximately \$3.3 million in federal funds to address the issues and needs of those experiencing homelessness in Virginia.

DHCD received \$2.5 million in federal funding from HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and approximately \$720,000 in 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 2016-2017 Program Year Allocation		
Program	Source	2016-2017 Allocation
Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP)	Federal- HUD and State-General Funds	14,751,987
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Homeless Service Funds 	State	\$12,202,784
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) 	Federal -HUD	\$2,549,203
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Federal -HUD	\$723,225

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program

The Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) is approximately \$14.8 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. VHSP funds require a 25 percent match of local government or private funds.

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) 2016-2017		
Service Provider	Location	Award
Accomack – Northampton PDC	Accomack	\$27,109.00
Action in Community Through Service of Prince William, Inc.	Prince William	\$114,988.00
AIDS Response Effort	Winchester	\$118,468.00
Appalachian Community Action	Gate City	\$103,112.00
ARCH Roanoke (formerly Trust Housing)	Roanoke	\$52,951.00
Arlington County, VA	Arlington	\$153,382.00
Arlington Street People's Assistance Network, Inc.	Arlington	\$191,722.36
Bridges to Independence	Arlington	\$130,841.00

CANDII, Inc (dba ACCESS AIDS Care/LGBT Center of Hampton Roads)	Hampton Roads	\$189,101.00
CARITAS	Richmond	\$153,450.00
Carpenter's Shelter	Alexandria	\$307,583.00
Choices, Council on Domestic Violence for Page County	Luray	\$62,152.00
City of Alexandria	Alexandria	\$494,263.48
City of Charlottesville	Charlottesville	\$477,151.00
City of Roanoke	Roanoke	\$93,647.00
Clinch Valley Community Action	Tazewell	\$40,677.00
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	Richmond	\$239,770.58
Council of Community Services	Roanoke	\$373,894.00
Cornerstones	Reston	\$222,606.00
Culpeper Community Development Corporation	Culpeper	\$52,859.00
Doorways	Arlington	\$213,910.64
Eastern Shore of Virginia Housing Alliance	Accomack	\$184,572.00
Empowerhouse	Fredericksburg	\$164,217.00
ESCADV, Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Accomack	\$34,376.00
Family Crisis Support Services, Inc	Norton	\$151,460.00
Family Resource Center	Wytheville	\$80,135.00
First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence, Inc.	Harrisonburg	\$41,047.00
ForKids, Inc.	Norfolk	\$540,474.00
George Washington Regional Commission	Fredericksburg	\$25,000.00
Hampton Department of Human Services	Hampton	\$1,039,438.00
Hanover Safe Place (Hanover Domestic Violence Task Force)	Hanover	\$188,706.00
Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority	Harrisonburg	\$53,004.00
Help and Emergency Response	Portsmouth	\$149,313.00
Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence, Inc.	Wytheville	\$335,503.00
Housing Families First	Richmond	\$195,000.00

HomeAgain	Richmond	\$241,229.00
Homeward	Richmond	\$46,297.00
Inmed Partnerships for Children	Sterling	\$68,506.00
Judeo Christian Outreach Center	VA Beach	\$111,000.00
Loudoun County Department of Family Services	Leesburg	\$177,742.08
Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc.	Lynchburg	\$241,009.00
Mercy House, Inc.	Harrisonburg	\$363,774.00
Micah Ecumenical Ministries, Inc.	Fredericksburg	\$320,006.00
Miriam's House	Lynchburg	\$67,360.00
New Hope Housing, Inc.	Alexandria	\$161,591.00
New Hope Housing, Inc	Fairfax	\$222,819.00
New River Community Action, Inc	Radford	\$284,103.00
New River Family Shelter	Christiansburg	\$43,293.00
Northern Virginia Family Service	Fairfax	\$178,578.00
Northern Virginia Family Service	Prince William	\$360,337.48
Northern Virginia Family Service	Fredericksburg	\$200,114.00
Operation Renewed Hope Foundation	Prince William	\$90,988.00
People Incorporated of Virginia	Abingdon	\$237,183.00
People Incorporated of Virginia	Culpeper	\$275,078.00
Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition, Inc.	Portsmouth	\$160,707.00
Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless	Portsmouth	\$49,638.00
Prince William County	Prince William	\$144,525.00
Project Horizon, Inc.	Lexington	\$64,175.00
Quin Rivers	New Kent	\$144,516.32
Rappahannock Refuge, Inc./Hope House	Fredericksburg	\$123,944.00
Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission	Culpeper	\$84,433.00
Response, Inc.	Shenandoah	\$26,168.00
Salvation Army - Tri Cities Service Center	Petersburg	\$36,871.00
Salvation Army of Central Virginia	Richmond	\$46,500.00
Samaritan House, Inc.	Virginia Beach	\$151,291.00

Shelter House, Inc.	Fairfax	\$193,788.00
Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter	Shenandoah	\$163,762.00
Southside Survivor Response Center, Inc	Martinsville	\$32,932.00
St. Joseph's Villa (CACH)	Petersburg	\$125,677.00
St. Joseph's Villa (Flagler)	Richmond	\$300,000.00
STEP, Inc.	Rocky Mount	\$192,749.00
STEPS, Inc.	Farmville	\$130,453.00
The Daily Planet	Richmond	\$37,200.00
The Haven Shelter and Services, Inc.	Warsaw	\$29,331.00
The Healing Place	Richmond	\$130,200.00
The Improvement Association	Emporia	\$57,592.00
The Laurel Center	Winchester	\$56,810.00
The Planning Council, Inc.	Norfolk	\$480,949.00
The Planning Council, Inc. (BEACH)	VA Beach	\$85,000.00
Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter, Inc.	Fredericksburg	\$161,673.00
Transitional Housing Barn, Inc	Prince William	\$98,988.00
Tri-County Community Action	South Boston	\$121,593.00
Volunteers of America Chesapeake	Arlington	\$41,942.00
Volunteers of America Chesapeake	Loudoun	\$270,232.00
Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley	Radford	\$164,174.00
YWCA of Central VA	Lynchburg	\$25,749.00
YWCA of Richmond	Richmond	\$62,400.00
YWCA of South Hampton Roads	Norfolk	\$113,300.00
TOTAL <i>Includes re-allocations from FY16</i>		\$14,796,152.94

Emergency Shelter

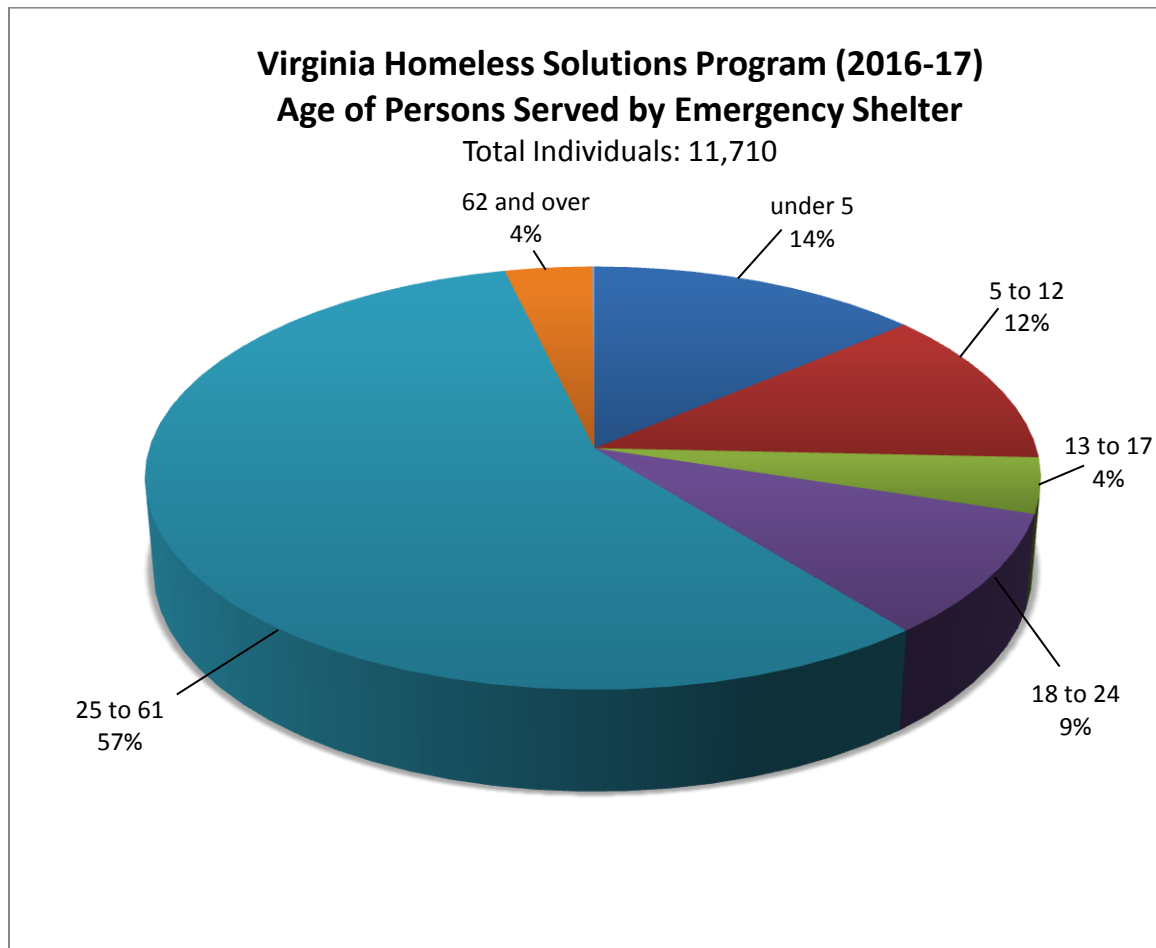
Funding for emergency shelter totaled \$2.4 million through the VHSP competitive application process.

Emergency shelter providers receiving VHSP served 11,710 persons (7,849 households) through emergency and seasonal shelters during 2016-17 program

year. Of the 7,849 households, 22 percent or 1,774 were households with children and 78 percent or 6,075 were households with only adults.

The table and charts below provide additional details on the population served by emergency shelters.

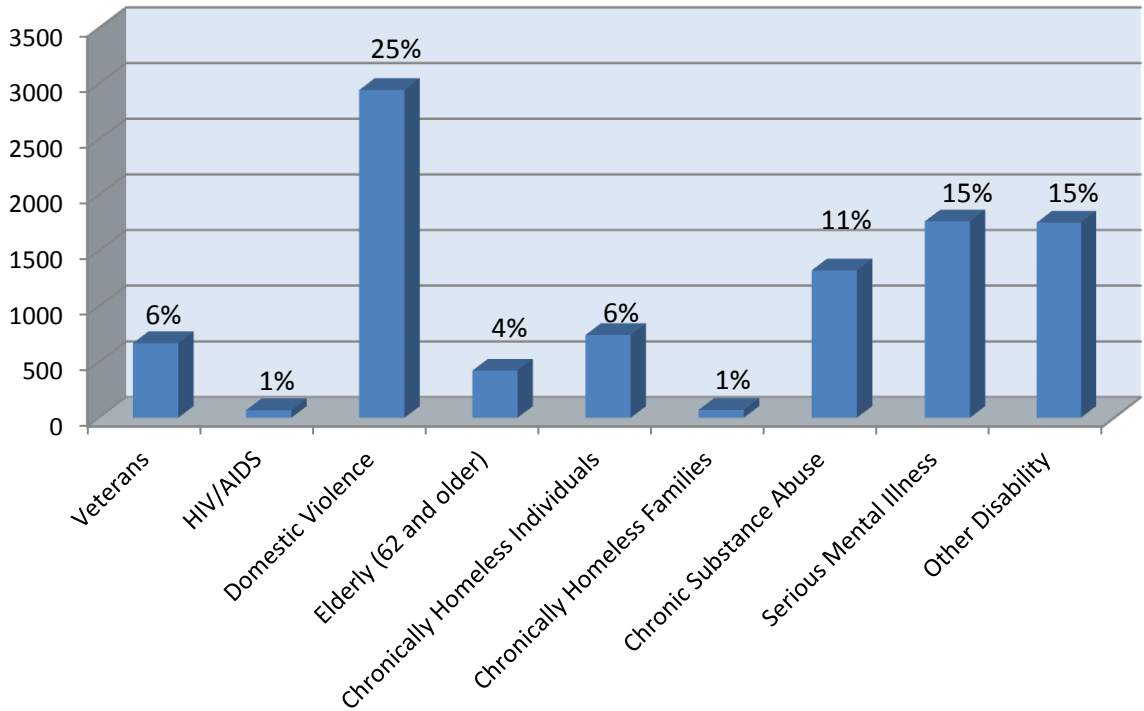
Thirty percent (3,504) of persons in emergency shelter were children under the age of 18.



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

Virginia Housing Solutions Program (2016-17) Subpopulations Serviced by Emergency Shelter

Total Individuals: 11,710



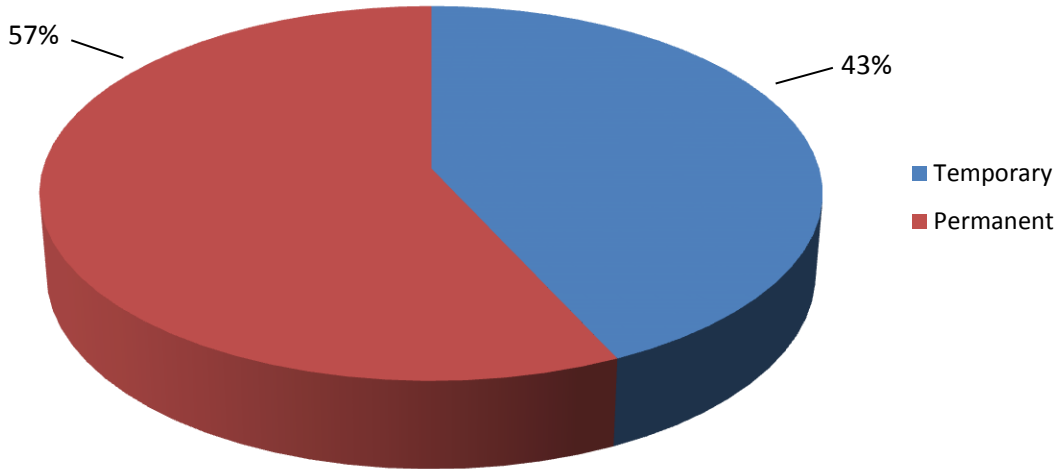
*An individual may be presented in more than one category. The percentages are not unduplicated

Of households that exited shelter to a known location, 57 percent exited to a permanent destination (market rate rental, Section 8, supportive housing, permanent placement with family and friends). The remaining 43 percent exited to a temporary destination (other shelter or place not meant for human habitation, institution, or to temporary housing provided by family/friends).

Destination for Known Household Exits from VHSP-Funded Shelters (2016-17)

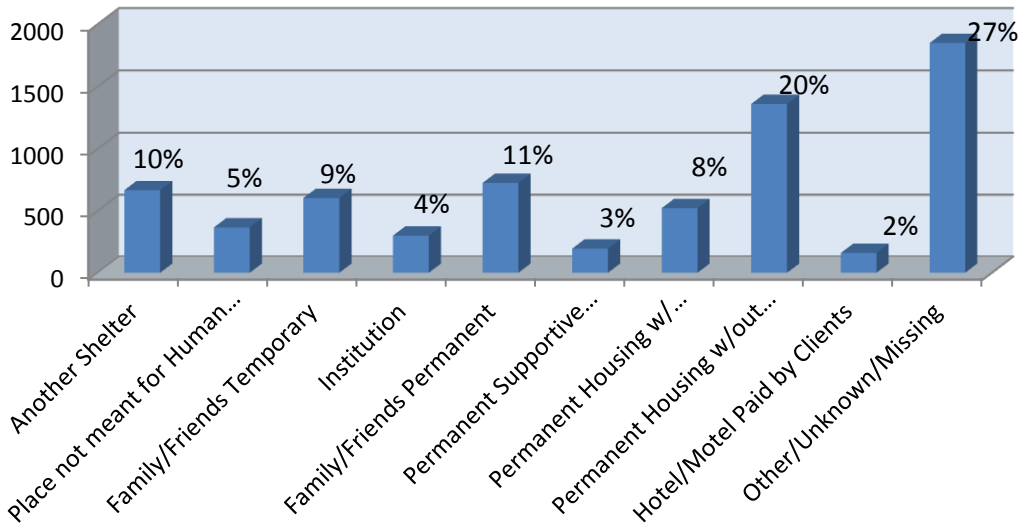
Does not include other, missing, or unknown destinations

Total Known Household Exits - 4,866



All Household VHSP Emergency Shelter Destinations at Exit (2016-17)

Total Household Exits: 6,753



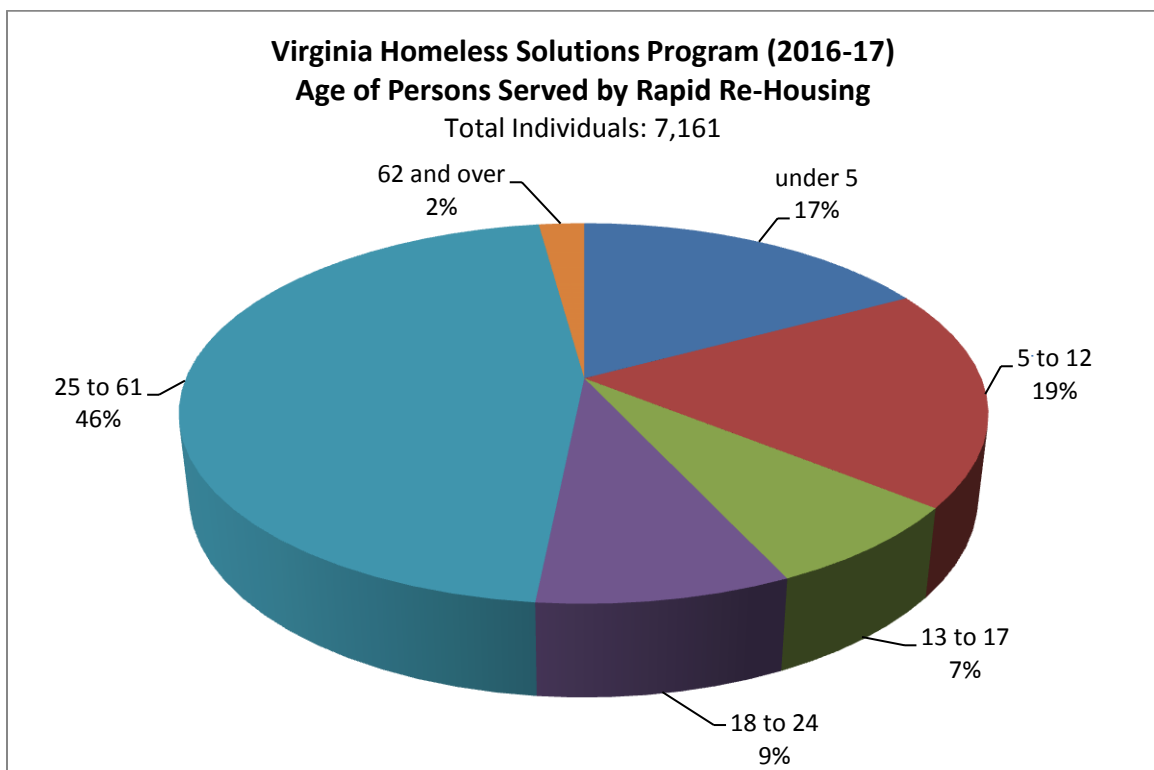
Rapid Re-housing

Funding for rapid re-housing totaled \$6.8 million through the VHSP competitive application process. Rapid re-housing continues to be a best practice model for ending homelessness. Rapid re-housing is a solution to homelessness designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness and return to

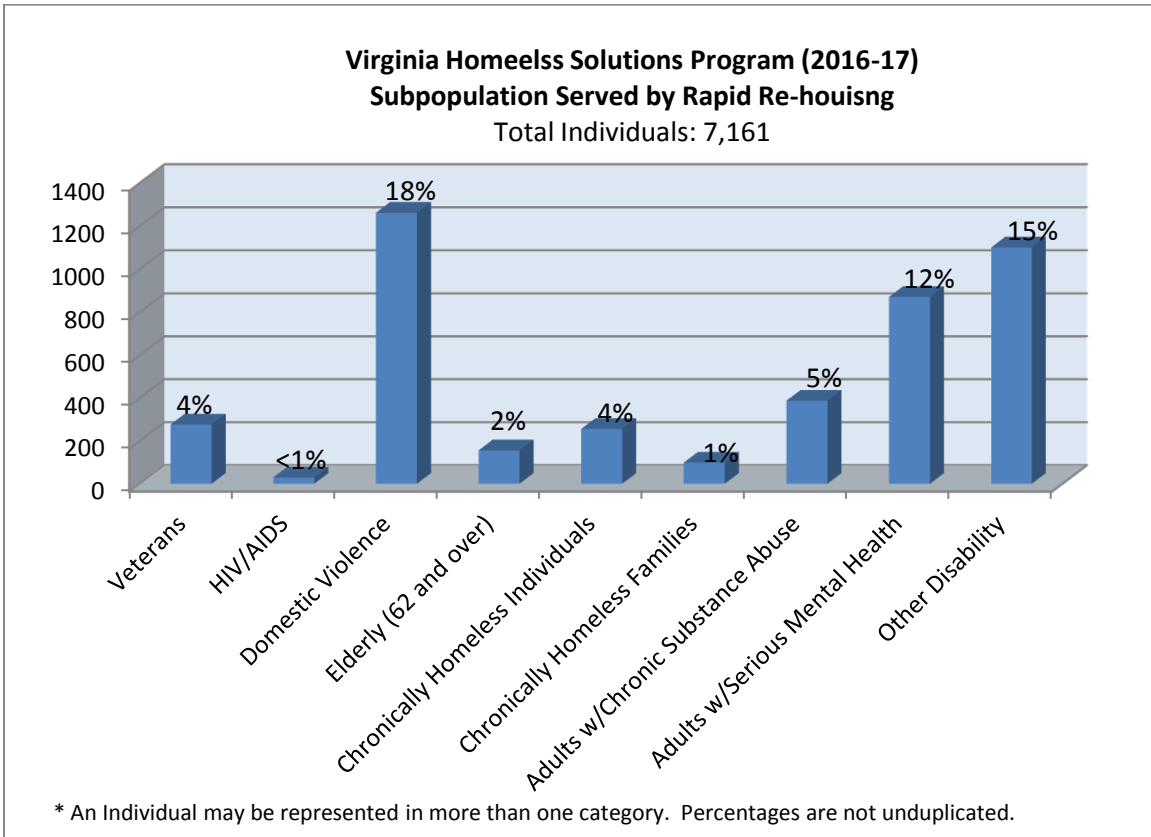
permanent housing. It is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are typically tailored to the unique needs of the household (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2016).

DHCD continues to promote rapid re-housing as an effective means to ending homelessness. By providing the core components of rapid re-housing: housing identification, rent and move-in assistance, and stabilization case management and services, 80 percent of households exit to permanent housing including 59 percent without any on-going subsidy.

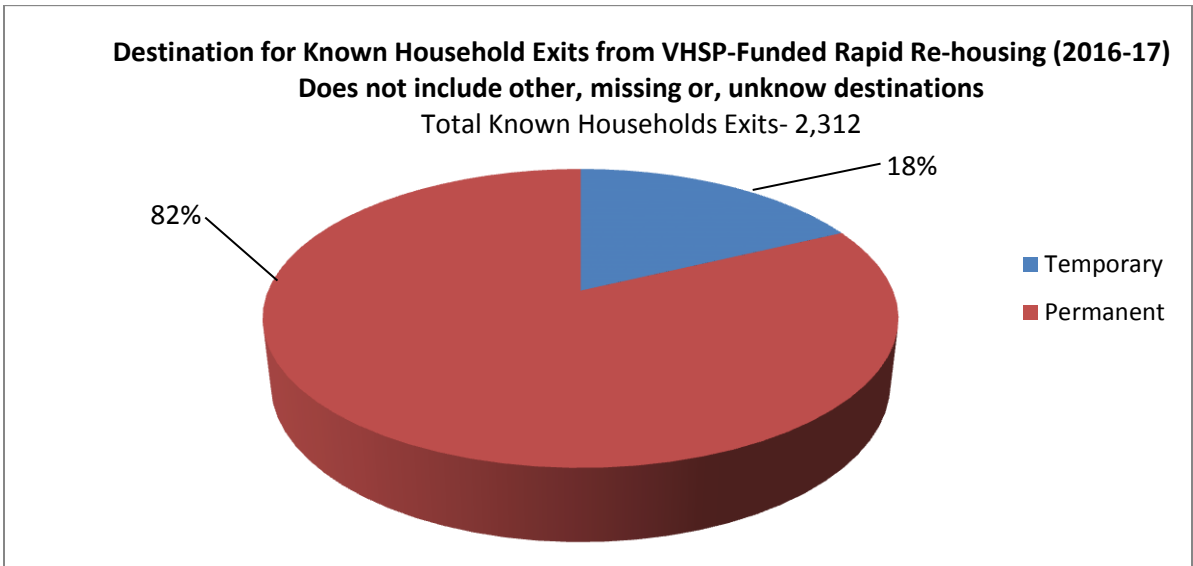
Forty-three percent of those who were rapidly re-housed were children under the age of 17.

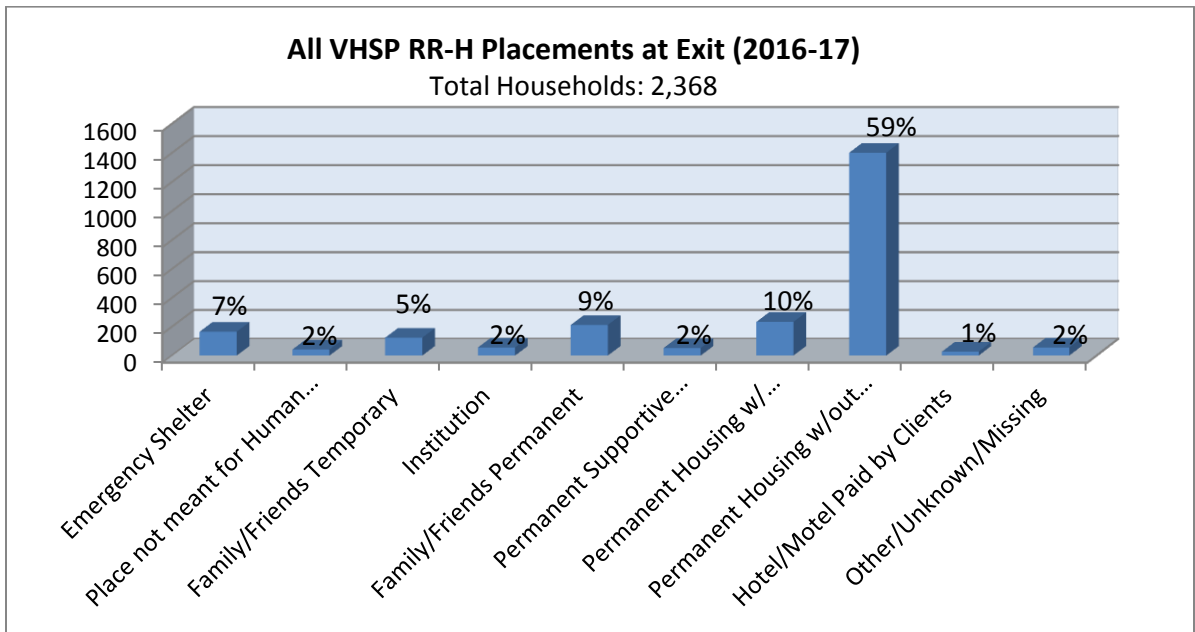


Eighteen percent of adults served by rapid re-housing programs are victims of domestic violence. Twelve percent are affected by serious mental illness, five percent by chronic substance abuse, and 15 percent by other disabilities.



Of households who exited rapid re-housing to a known location, 82 percent exited to a permanent destination (market rate rental, Section 8, supportive housing, permanent placement with family and friends). The remaining 18 percent exited to a temporary destination (other shelter or place not meant for human habitation, institution, or to temporary housing provided by family/friends).





Homeless Prevention

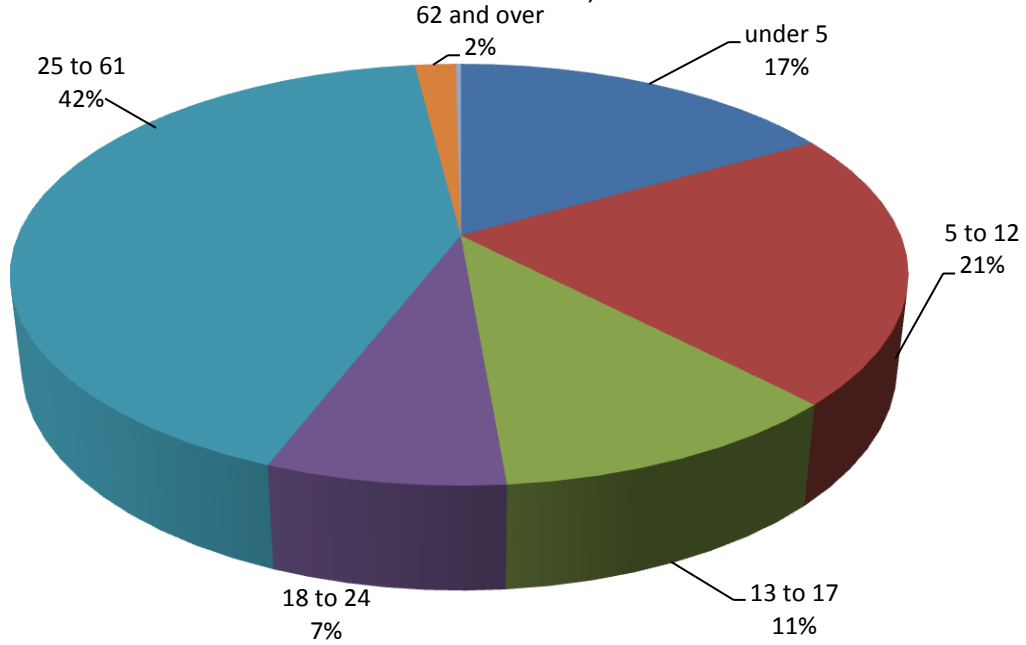
The purpose of VHSP's prevention funding is to prevent homelessness by targeting resources to those households who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence and have incomes below 30 percent area median income. Eligible homeless prevention activities include rent and housing stabilization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

Through VHSP, \$4 million in state funds were distributed across the Commonwealth for homeless prevention activities. During the 2016-17 program year, prevention funding provided assistance to 5,234 individuals (2,076 households).

Forty-nine percent of those who received homeless prevention services were children under the age of 17. Of the 2,076 households that received services, 1,151 (55 percent) were households with at least one child.

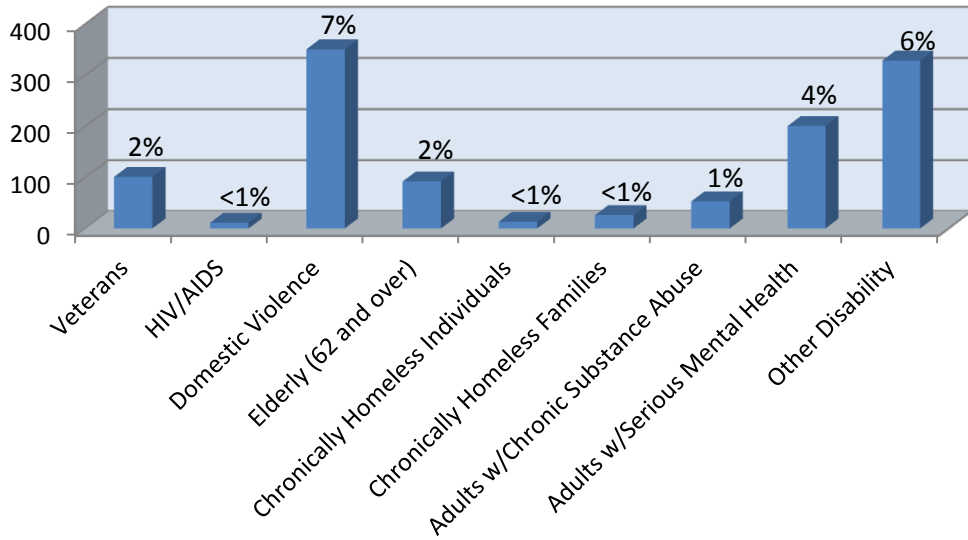
Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (2016-17)
Age of Persons Served by Prevention

Total Individuals: 5,234



Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (2016-17)
Subpopulation of Adults Served by Homeless Prevention

Total Individuals: 5,324



Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)

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 2016-2017				
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 	\$135,807
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 	\$61,860
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 	\$84,213
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 	\$186,940
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 	\$99,320

HOPWA Project Sponsors 2016-2017

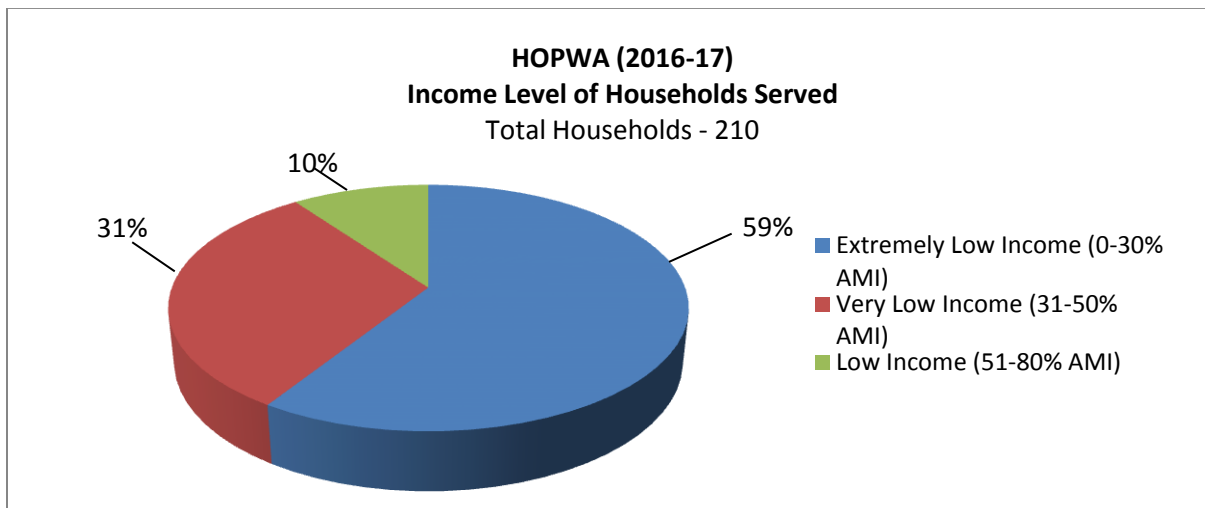
Subgrantee (Project Sponsor)	Service Area(s)	Housing Activities	Supportive Services	Funded Amount
Valley AIDS Network	Counties of Rockingham, Bath, Rockbridge, Augusta, Highland, Page and Shenandoah and the Cities of Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Harrisonburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments Tenant-based rental assistance Permanent housing placement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case management 	\$58,222
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 	\$96,863

In 2016-2017, DHCD administered a federal allocation of \$743,273 in HOPWA funds through seven project sponsors across the state of Virginia. The project sponsors served a total of 210 unduplicated households with housing assistance. The services they received included:

- Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU) - 156 households
- Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) - 80 households
- Supportive services - 148 households

An additional 141 family members of whom 7 also had HIV/AIDS benefited from HOPWA housing assistance.

Of those eligible households that received HOPWA assistance, 59 percent had extremely low incomes (0-30% AMI), 31 percent had very low incomes (31-50% AMI), and 10 percent had low incomes (51-80% AMI).



Of those who exited the HOPWA program, 100 percent exited to permanent housing.

Housing Trust Fund - Homeless Reduction Grant

In addition to VHSP funding, DHCD also administered approximately \$1 million for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Homeless Reduction Grants program. The program achieves the goal of reducing homelessness by providing assistance in the form of grants to projects that address service gaps and support state housing policy. Eligible project types include:

- Rapid Re-housing programs
- Permanent Supportive Housing (housing stabilization services)
- Predevelopment (permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless)

Grant funds were awarded to the following agencies for FY17.

Housing Trust Fund – Homeless Reduction Grant Pool			
Organization	Project Type	Award	Service Locality
3 E Restoration	Rapid Re-housing	\$100,000	Hampton, James City, Newport News Poquoson, Williamsburg, York
ACTS	Rapid Re-housing	\$100,000	Prince William County
ASPAN	Support Services for PSH	\$25,000	Arlington
Cornerstones	Rapid Re-housing	\$100,000	Fairfax
HomeAgain	Rapid Re-housing	\$100,000	Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and the City of Richmond
Loisann’s Hope House	Rapid Re-housing	\$100,000	Caroline, City of Fredericksburg, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford
Mercy House	Rapid Re-housing	\$80,000	City of Harrisonburg, City of Winchester, Rockingham, Clarke, Frederick,

			Page, Shenandoah, Warren
Miriam's House	Rapid Re-housing	\$100,000	Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford (City and County), Campbell, and City of Lynchburg
New Hope Housing	Support Services for PSH	\$55,000	Alexandria
Region 10 CSB	Support Services for PSH	\$96,000	Albemarle, City of Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson
Samaritan House	Rapid Re-housing	\$100,000	VA Beach
The Planning Council	Rapid Re-housing	\$100,000	City of Chesapeake, City of Franklin, Isle of Wight, City of Norfolk, Southampton, and the City of Suffolk
Total		\$1,056,000*	

*Total includes unexpended funds from 2015-2016 year; total does not include Family Housing Stabilization Funds

HTF Rapid Re-housing

The Virginia Housing Trust Fund is able to fill gaps in communities where rapid re-housing dollars are not adequate to meet the needs of individuals and families. Rapid re-housing is the primary solution for households experiencing homelessness who are not able to self-resolve through their own support systems. As a cost effective and client focused approach, rapid re-housing effectively ends homelessness for individuals and families at a quicker rate than either traditional emergency shelters or transitional housing.

HTF Permanent Supportive Housing

While most permanent supportive housing (PSH) units have a long-term subsidy attached through HUD or the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the supportive services funding is often limited. Virginia Housing Trust Fund is a means to enhance supportive services for those

households with the greatest vulnerabilities and those who have been chronically homeless.

HTF Pilot Project (Family Housing Stabilization)

DHCD has partnered with the City of Petersburg, Petersburg City Public Schools, and St. Joseph's Villa to implement a pilot project as part of the Governor's Challenged School initiative. This project is targeting homeless students (and their families) who are at least 17 years old and who are chronically absent from school. The goal of the program is to stabilize housing to enable regular school attendance. Housing Stabilization includes case management, resource referral, landlord mediation, short-term rental and utility assistance, and host home support (including financial). This project was in the development stages during 2016-17.

Conclusion

During the 2016-2017 program year DHCD administered approximately \$15.4 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 \$12.2 million in state general funds that leveraged an additional \$3.2 million in federal funds to address the critical needs of those experiencing homelessness in the Commonwealth.

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

- 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)
- Virginia Housing Trust Fund - Homeless Reduction Grant

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 31 percent
- ✓ Family homelessness decreased by 37.6 percent
- ✓ Veterans homelessness decreased by 44.6 percent (since 2011)
- ✓ Chronic homelessness decreased by 51 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.