



Virginia's Homeless Programs 2020-2021 Program Year

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



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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....3

WHAT THE DATA SHOWS.....4

HOMELESS DATA INTEGRATION PROJECT.....7

HOMELESS PROGRAMS.....8

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program.....9

Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS.....20

Virginia Housing Trust Fund.....22

PILOT PROJECTS TO STABLY HOUSE YOUTH.....27

COVID-RELATED FUNDING.....29

CONCLUSIONS.....31

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 1800, Budget Item 113 B of Virginia Acts of Assembly, 2021 Special Session I.

B. 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

Virginia is a recognized national leader in ending homelessness. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) plays an integral role in Virginia's response to homelessness. DHCD continues to be a crucial resource to communities across the commonwealth allowing persons who are homeless to access non congregate shelter, quarantine when necessary, obtain personal protective equipment, gain information on COVID vaccines, and obtain and maintain permanent housing during the COVID pandemic. This past year has been unprecedented in the resources, challenges, growth, and changes DHCD and homeless service providers have faced to meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents in Virginia. It has been established without doubt – Housing is Healthcare, and to that end, DHCD is a leader among state agencies to ensure our system is aligned and coordinated to make the solution fit the crisis.

The Homeless and Special Needs Housing Unit (HSNH) established an internal plan for supporting its community partners with the overarching goal of “Functionally Ending Homelessness in Virginia.” Functionally ending homelessness means that every community will have a comprehensive response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it cannot be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and one-time experience (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2018).

The intent of the internal document is to outline support and technical assistance HSNH will deliver to its community partners and the short, medium, and long-term activities necessary to achieve these outcomes in Virginia's effort of functionally ending homelessness.

- Goal 1: Improve HSNH program administration activities to include increased oversight of grantees, build better relationship with grantees and communities, and meet the technical assistance needs of grantees and communities to provide a greater service to our providers.
- Goal 2: Help communities and providers access new funding sources and engage new partners to assist in their efforts to functionally end homelessness.
- Goal 3: Address the affordable housing gap especially for residents who are homeless by informing, partnering, and engaging with the Affordable and Special Needs Housing (ASNH) unit and Community Development colleagues.

DHCD administers the Commonwealth of Virginia's homeless assistance resources. These resources include approximately \$17 million annually in state and federal funding. Additionally during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, DHCD managed unprecedented state Housing Trust Fund resources and federal COVID-related funding totaling over \$60 million.

In the spring of 2020, DHCD released the bi-annual competitive Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) grant application that combined state and federal funding sources (HUD's 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 demonstrate an effective crisis response system designed to make homelessness, rare, brief, and non-recurring. These funds were renewed in the spring of 2021.

What the Data Shows

DHCD's strategies continue to show measured success. Currently, the rate of homelessness per 10,000 people on average in Virginia is 6.8, and remains the fourth lowest in the nation (Statista, 2021). This is compared with a national average of 18.

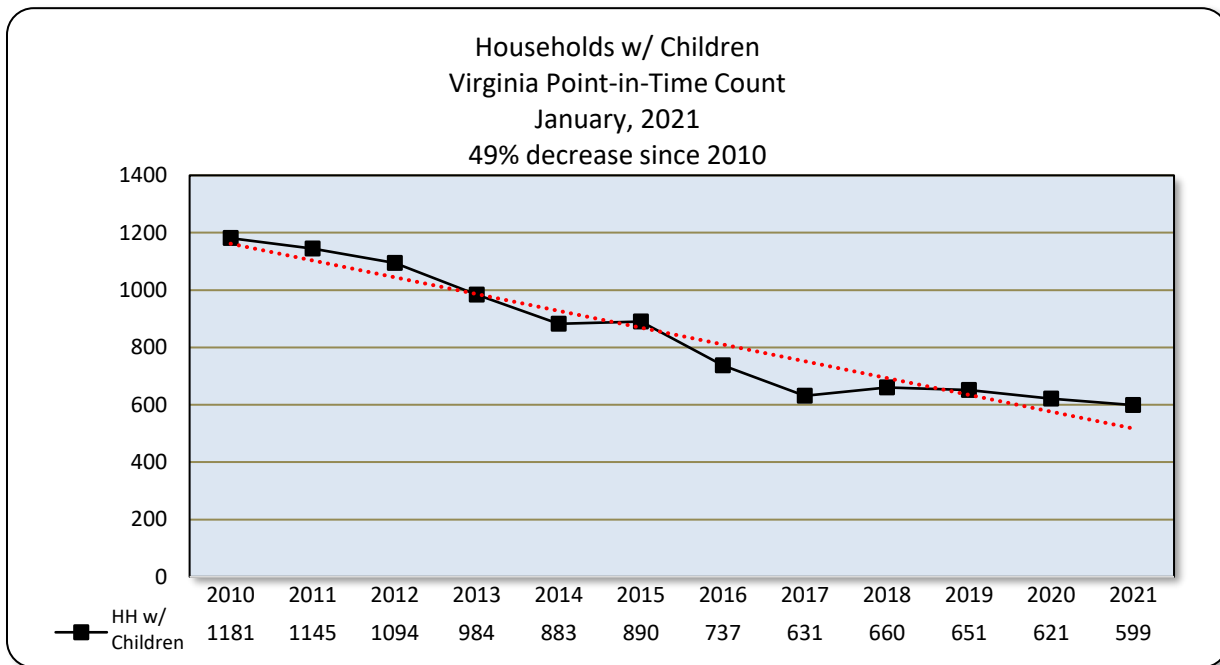
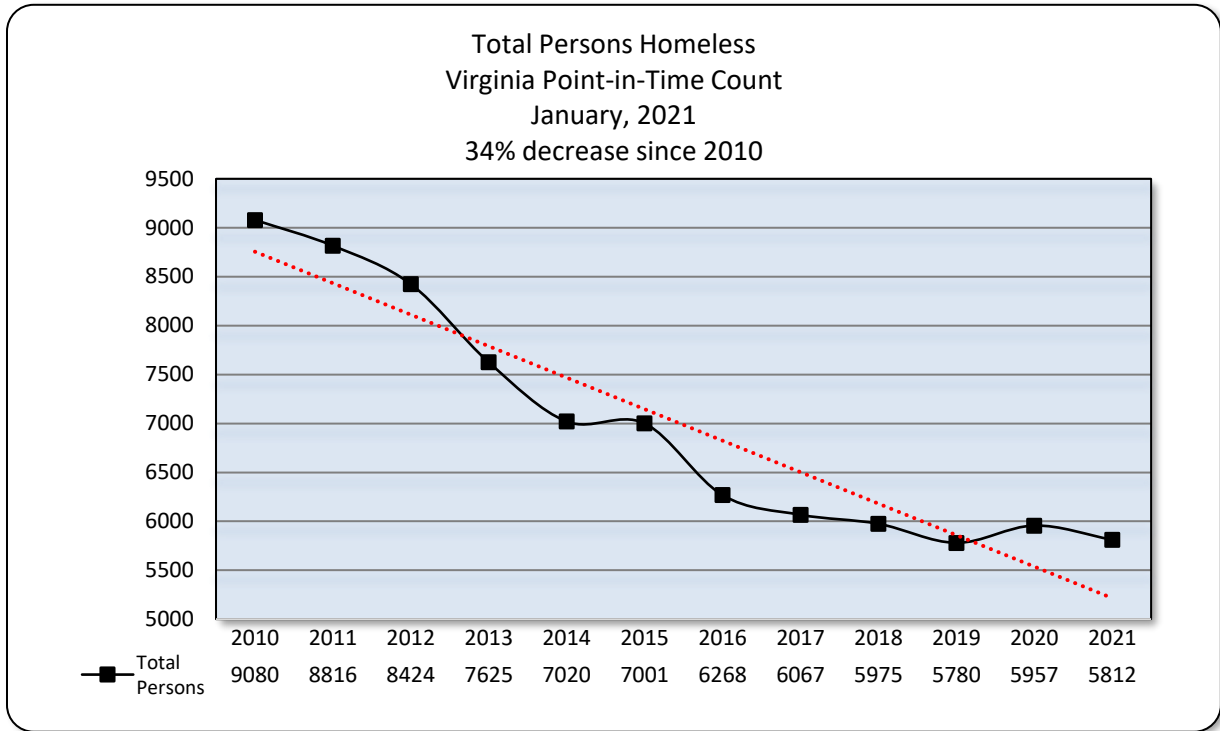
Each year during the last ten days in January, Virginia participates in a national point-in-time (PIT) count to identify the number of individuals who are sheltered and unsheltered. Sheltered persons are individuals (including children and unaccompanied youth) sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or using a hotel/motel voucher paid for by an organization. Unsheltered individuals (including children and unaccompanied youth) are sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, or on the street.

This count provides a 24-hour snapshot of people who are experiencing homelessness in Virginia. DHCD collects, aggregates, and analyzes state-level PIT data to inform grant-making decisions, best practices, and trends across the commonwealth.

**The 2021 numbers reported here are preliminary, as HUD has not released the official PIT numbers upon the writing of this report. Additionally, the 2021 PIT was conducted during the COVID -19 pandemic and HUD allowed for multiple exemptions. CoCs (continuum of care) in Virginia made direct requests to HUD for exemptions and the following occurred that impacted 2021 PIT reports: Two CoCs did not report any unsheltered numbers and the unsheltered counts of two CoCs did not include demographic or sub-population information.*

The 2021 PIT data showed a two percent decrease since 2020 in the number of persons who are experiencing homelessness and since 2010, there has been a 34 percent decrease. Also since 2010, there has been a 49 percent decrease in households with children and a 20 percent decrease in chronic homelessness identified during the point-in-time count. However, between 2020 and 2021, Virginia saw a 36% (from 778 to 1057) increase in individuals who are chronically homeless, and a 274% (from 38 to 142) increase families (total persons in household) who are chronically homeless. It is believed that due to a seven percent increase of persons in emergency shelter and the increased attention to health conditions due to COVID-19, previously unknown disabilities were reported thus increasing the number of persons who were identified as chronically homeless. This increase may be an anomaly with the way PIT counts were conducted in 2021, additional investigation along with comparison to the 2022 PIT will be conducted.

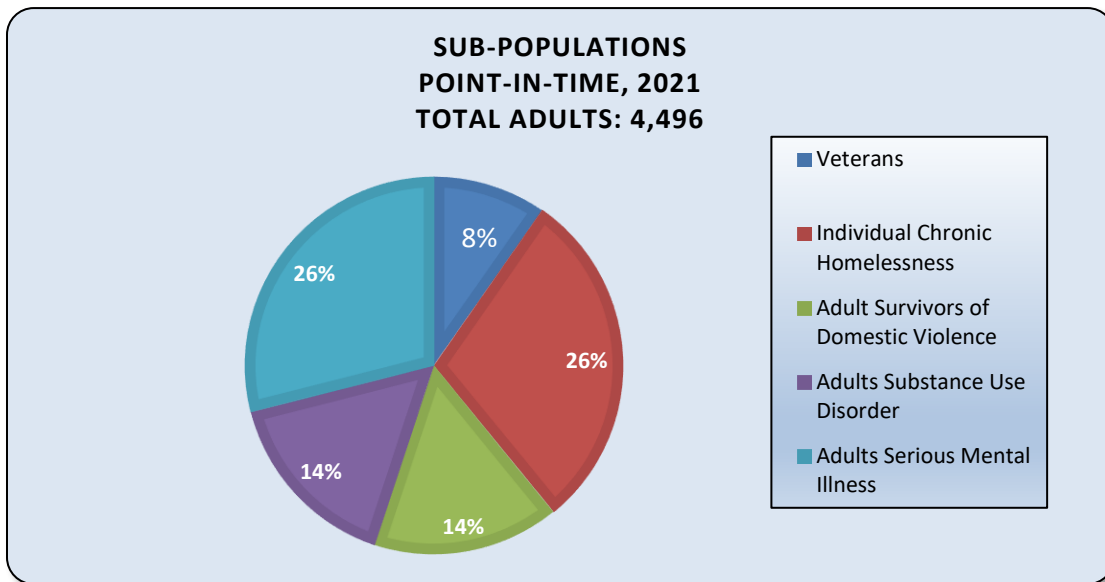
In addition, since 2011, there has been a 63 percent decrease in veteran homelessness. This requires additional comparison to 2022 due to a decrease of 13% between 2020 and 2021, possibly due to the limits of the unsheltered count in 2021.



The January 2021, point-in-time count identified 5,812 individuals (4,191 households) as experiencing homelessness (1). Approximately, 82 percent of these individuals were in emergency shelters, nine percent were in transitional housing programs, one percent were in safe haven shelters, and eight percent were unsheltered at the time of the count. Approximately 14 percent of households experiencing homelessness identified during the point-in-time count included households with dependent children.

Sub-population data is only captured on the adult population in the PIT count annually. In the 2021 PIT count, there were 4,496 adults. Of these adults, 26% were chronically homeless (2), six percent were veterans, 14% were survivors of domestic violence, 14% had a substance use disorder, and 26% has a serious mental illness.

Individuals may fall into multiple subpopulations. For example, an individual may be a veteran who also experiences serious mental illness.



(1) 2021 PIT count numbers are preliminary- *The 2021 numbers reported here are preliminary, as HUD has not released the official PIT numbers upon the writing of this report. Additionally, the 2021 PIT was conducted during the COVID -19 pandemic and HUD allowed for multiple exemptions. CoCs in Virginia made direct requests to HUD for exemptions and the following occurred that impacted 2021 PIT reports: Two CoCs did not report any unsheltered numbers and the unsheltered counts of two CoCs did not include demographic or sub-population information.*

(2) HUD definition of 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.*

System Performance Measures

DHCD promotes the importance of homeless services being a coordinated system as opposed to homeless assistance programs that operate independently. To facilitate this perspective HUD and DHCD now require communities to measure performance as a coordinated system. Below are the aggregated outcomes for Virginia from October, 2019 through October, 2020. These outcomes include projects not funded by DHCD.

1. Length of Time Homeless (from point of entry to move-in date) – The average number of days a household stays homeless in Virginia is 233 days. This is an increase of one-hundred and forty-eight percent increase from the previous year.
2. Returns to Homelessness (after 2 years) – Of the 10,270 persons who exited homelessness to permanent housing, 2,187 (21%) returned to homelessness over a two-year period.
3. Annual Homeless Count - There were 17,493 individuals who entered into the homeless services system. This is an eight percent decrease from the previous year.
4. First Time Homeless -There were 13,019 individuals were experiencing homelessness for the first-time, which is a ten percent decrease from the previous year. Of all individuals who entered into the homeless services system, 70 percent were experiencing homelessness for the first time.
5. Exits to Permanent Housing – Of all the individuals who exited the homeless services system, 48 percent exited to a permanent housing solution. This is a eight percent increase from the previous year.

Homeless Data Integration Project (HDIP)

The work of the development and implementation of the HDIP continued during 2020-2021. The Homeless Data Project Manager was assigned to multiple inter-agency committees addressing housing and health. Having a tool to integrate Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data is key to data driven decisions and matching/integrating multi-system data to address system coordination and most importantly, equity and justice.

March of 2021 saw the hire of a homeless data integration specialist to help support the HDIP. Advisory Council meetings continued to be held, and the Steering Committee voted in officers to fulfill roles within the committee. DHCD's Homeless Data Project Manager and the data specialist continued to work closely with Green River, a consultant hired by DHCD to assist with HDIP, on the beginning stages of test implementation for the HDIP. User roles within the database were codified and procedures were drafted for system use.

Drafts of key documents for the HDIP such as data sharing agreements, user agreements, and participation agreements have been developed and will be finalized in the near future. A draft of a policies and procedures document is in progress and will be approved upon completion by all the necessary parties.

Question and Answer sessions were held virtually for every Continuum of Care (CoC) and Local Planning Group (LPG) in the state to ensure that everyone who may see use of this system in the future would know what they were buying into. The general response was positive, and the turnout for the sessions was representative of the sizes of CoCs and LPGs being addressed. The feedback garnered from those meetings was presented to Green River and to the Advisory Council for the purpose of planning next steps.

Homeless Programs

DHCD administers approximately \$17 million annually for homeless assistance programs. This includes approximately \$13 million in state general funds that leverage approximately \$4 million in federal funds to address the issues and needs of those experiencing homelessness in Virginia.

DHCD received \$3 million in federal funding from HUD’s Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and approximately \$1 million in Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program. The federal ESG program is leveraged along with the State General Funds to support the homeless services system 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 has received unprecedented funding for the state’s homeless crisis response system through a combination of state and federal COVID relief funds. These funds were to be used first, to ensure all individuals and households experiencing homelessness have access to safe, 24/7, emergency shelter (congregate and non-congregate), and second, to assist households maintain or obtain permanent housing and receive the housing-focused supportive services necessary to retain permanent housing.

Administered Homeless Programs 2020-2021 Program Year Allocation			
Programs	Sources	Allocation to DHCD	Grant End Date
HSNH- Virginia Homeless Solutions Program	Federal- HUD and State-General Funds	\$16,060,733	06//2021
- <i>General Homeless Services Funds</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>\$9,001,820.00</i>	
- <i>General Homeless Prevention Funds</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>\$4,050,000.00</i>	
- <i>Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)</i>	<i>Federal</i>	<i>\$3,008,913.00</i>	
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)	Federal	\$1,087,223	06/2021
Housing Trust Fund –Homeless Reduction Grant	State	\$8,300,000	12/2021
CHERP (ESG-CV)	Federal	\$30,977,115.00	09/2022

CHERP- Non-Congregate Shelter	State	\$8,800,000.00	12/2021
CHERP- (CDBG) Non-Congregate Shelter	Federal	\$20,000,000.00	3/2022
Total	Federal/State	\$81,642,114.00	

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program

The Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) is approximately \$16 million, comprised of 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.

VHSP Service Providers		
Service Providers	Location	Award
Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission	Accomack	\$28,744.00
ACTS - Action In Community Through Service	Prince William	\$244,046.79
AIDS Response Effort, Inc.	Winchester	\$180,487.00
ARCH Roanoke	Gate City	\$57,611.00
Arlington County Government	Arlington	\$66,328.52
Arlington Street Peoples Assistance Network, Inc	Arlington	\$186,971.08
Bay Aging	Urbana	\$108,497.00
Bridges to Independence	Arlington	\$68,807.00
CARITAS	Richmond	\$244,586.55
Carpenter's Shelter	Alexandria	\$543,779.00
Choices, Council on Domestic Violence for Page Co., Inc.	Luray	\$67,477.00
City of Alexandria, a municipal corporation of Virginia	Alexandria	\$416,901.37
City of Charlottesville	Charlottesville	\$539,333.00
City of Hampton	Hampton	\$1,060,591.00
City of Roanoke	Roanoke	\$65,376.18
Clinch Valley Community Action, Inc.	Tazewell	\$28,838.00
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	Norfolk	\$36,587.00
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	Petersburg	\$38,973.00
Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith)	Reston	\$191,106.37
Council of Community Services	Roanoke	\$391,638.00
County of Loudoun	Loudoun	\$259,792.00

Culpeper Community Development Corp.	Culpeper	\$52,861.00
Doorways for Women and Families	Arlington	\$225,837.60
Eastern Shore of Virginia Housing Alliance	Accomack	\$154,035.00
Empowerhouse (formerly RCDV)	Fredericksburg	\$169,467.00
ESCADV	Accomack	\$34,831.00
Family Crisis Support Services, Inc.	Norton	\$356,083.00
Family Resource Center, Inc.	Wytheville	\$80,135.00
First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence	Harrisonburg	\$40,272.00
ForKids, Inc	Portsmouth	\$21,600.00
ForKids, Inc	Norfolk	\$717,792.00
George Washington Regional Commission	Fredericksburg	\$59,500.00
Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team	Gloucester	\$37,000.00
Hanover Safe Place	Hanover	\$143,852.00
Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority	Harrisonburg	\$59,391.00
Help and Emergency Response, Inc.	Portsmouth	\$197,196.00
Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence, Inc.	Wytheville	\$335,984.00
HomeAgain	Richmond	\$198,975.21
Homeward	Richmond	\$299,938.00
Housing Families First	Richmond	\$227,765.14
Judeo-Christian Outreach Center	Virginia Beach	\$131,406.00
LGBT Life Center	Norfolk	\$153,279.00
LGBT Life Center	Virginia Beach	\$69,126.00
Lynchburg Community Action Group	Lynchburg	\$189,534.00
Mercy House, Inc.	Harrisonburg	\$396,175.00
Micah Ecumenical Ministries	Fredericksburg	\$340,804.00
Miriam's House	Lynchburg	\$131,507.00
New Hope Housing, Inc.	Arlington	\$187,169.00
New Hope Housing, Inc.	Fairfax	\$226,830.00
New River Community Action, Inc.	Radford	\$252,474.00
New River Family Shelter	Christiansburg	\$43,813.00
Northern Virginia Family Service	Prince William	\$334,493.07
Northern Virginia Family Service	Fairfax	\$89,037.10
Operation Renewed Hope Foundation	Prince William	\$48,781.17
People Incorporated of Virginia	Abingdon	\$260,081.00
People Incorporated of Virginia	Culpeper	\$277,483.00

Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, Inc.	Portsmouth	\$34,211.00
Project Horizon	Lexington	\$29,759.00
PWC DSS Homeless Services	Prince William	\$63,554.00
Quin Rivers, Inc. dba Thrive Virginia	New Kent	\$77,866.00
Rappahannock Refuge, Inc. dba Hope House	Fredericksburg	\$479,088.00
Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission	Culpeper	\$84,500.00
Samaritan House, Inc.	Virginia Beach	\$198,726.00
Shelter House, Inc.	Fairfax	\$191,982.00
Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter	Shenandoah	\$191,856.00
Southside Survivor Response Center, Inc.	Martinsville	\$35,000.00
St. Joseph's Villa	Richmond	\$300,000.00
St. Joseph's Villa	Petersburg	\$120,000.00
StandUp For Kids, Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	\$44,986.00
STEP, Inc.	Rocky Mount	\$195,292.00
STEPS, Inc.	Farmville	\$125,016.00
STOP Inc.	Norfolk	\$148,275.92
STOP Inc.	Portsmouth	\$80,108.00
StreetLight Community Outreach Ministries	Woodbridge	\$54,045.00
The Daily Planet	Richmond	\$32,712.00
The Improvement Association	Emporia	\$56,324.00
The Laurel Center	Winchester	\$68,017.00
The Planning Council	Norfolk	\$178,026.00
The Salvation Army of Central VA	Richmond	\$65,000.00
Tri-County Community Action Agency	South Boston	\$76,490.00
Valley Community Services Board	Staunton	\$59,461.00
Valley Mission, Inc.	Staunton	\$52,422.00
Virginia Supportive Housing	Norfolk	\$56,160.00
Volunteers Of America Chesapeake	Loudoun	\$171,751.00
Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley	Radford	\$166,144.00
YWCA Central Virginia	Lynchburg	\$25,750.00
YWCA Richmond	Richmond	\$103,900.00
YWCA South Hampton Roads	Norfolk	\$131,104.00
Total *Total does not include admin allocated to DHCD		\$15,068,504.07

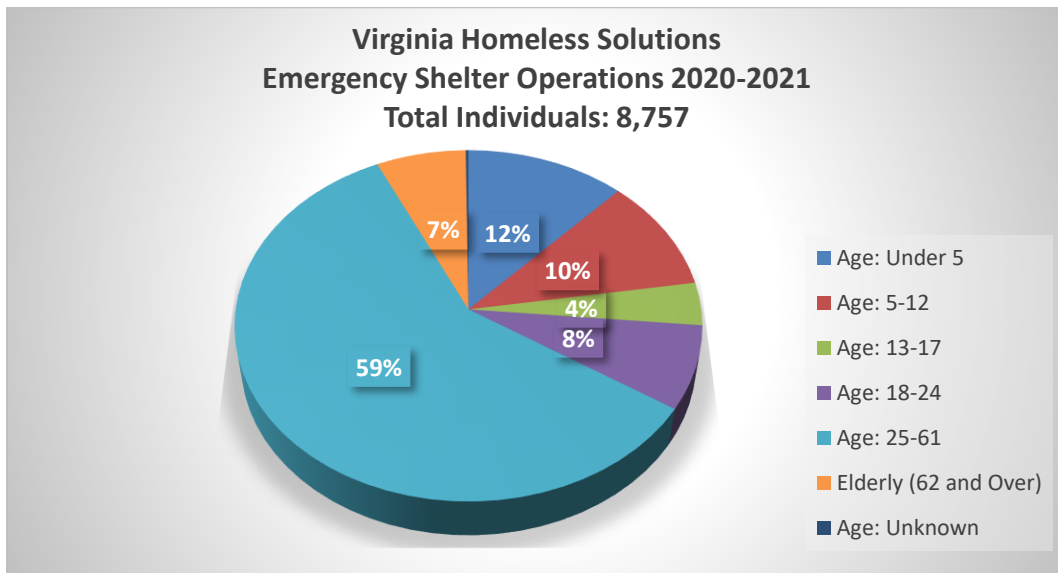
Emergency Shelter

Funding for emergency shelter totaled \$2.5 million through the VHSP renewal application process.

During 2020-21 program year, emergency shelter providers receiving VHSP served 8,757 persons (6,165, households) through emergency and seasonal shelters. Of the 6,165 households, nineteen percent (19%) or 1,195 were households with children and eighty-one percent (81%) or 4,970 were households with only adults.

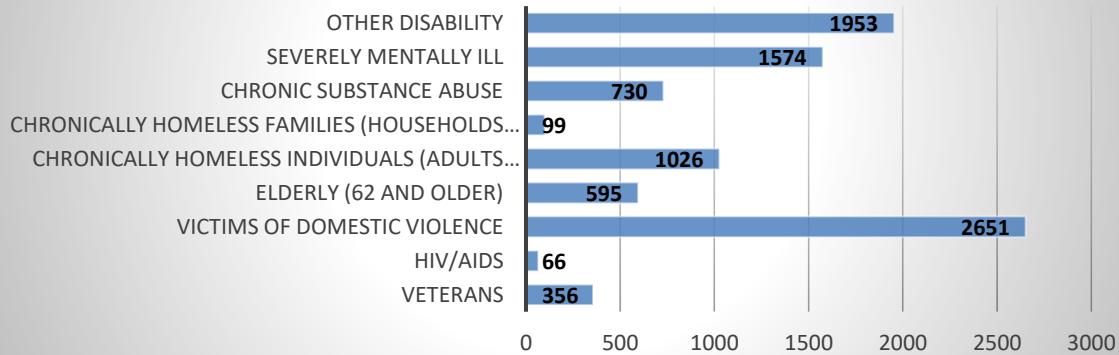
The table and charts below provide additional details on the populations served by emergency shelters.

Twenty-six percent (26%) of persons in emergency shelter were children under the age of 18.



Four percent (4%) of adult individuals receiving VHSP-funded shelter services report veteran status. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of adults are victims of domestic violence. Other significant challenges and barriers to housing include serious mental illness (17%), chronic substance abuse (8%), and other disabilities (22%), which are self-reported unless used as a documented disability for permanent supportive housing or other permanent housing that requires disability documentation. Of the households without children who were served in emergency shelter, eleven percent (11%) were chronically homeless. Of the total individuals in households with children, one percent (1%) are chronically homeless (family chronic homelessness includes adults and children).

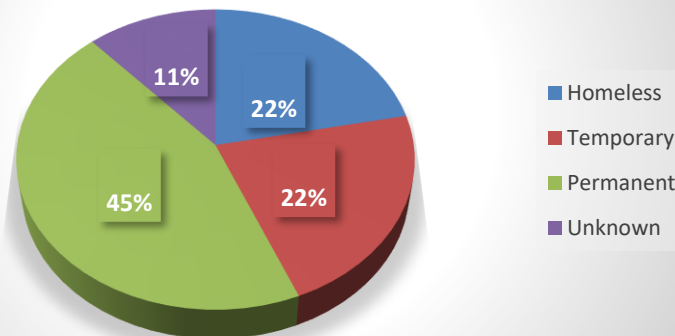
**Virginia Homeless Solutions
Emergency Shelter Operations 2020-2021
Sub-populations**



**Note sub-populations only include adults (except chronically homeless families) and are not unduplicated. An adult may be in one or more categories.*

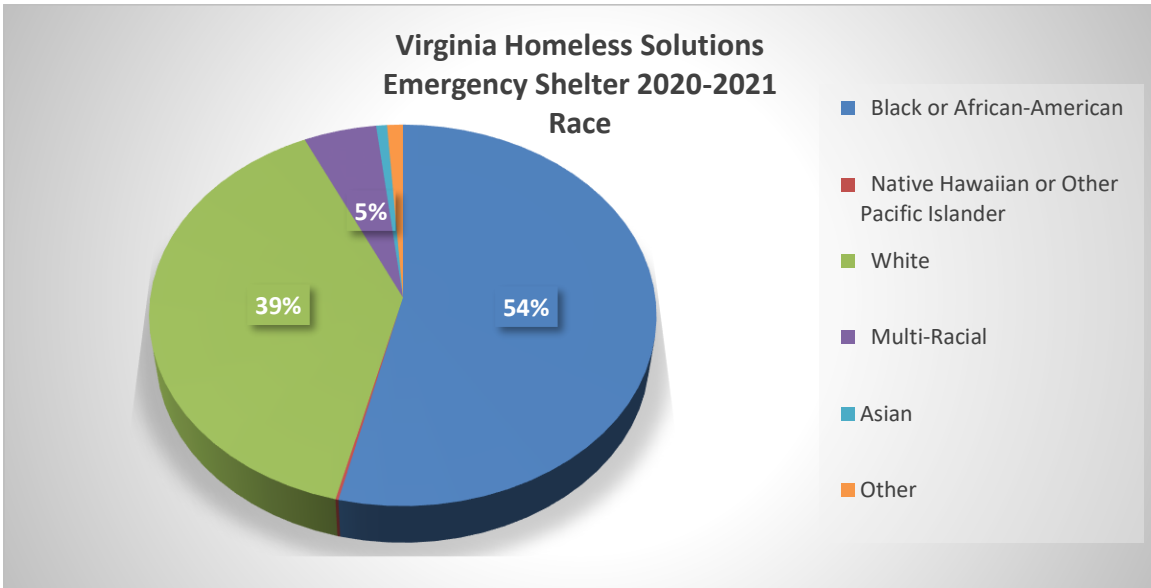
Of households that exited shelter, forty-five percent (45%) exited to a permanent destination (market rate rental, Section 8, supportive housing, permanent placement with family and friends). Twenty-two percent (22%) exited to a temporary destination (jail/prison, institution, or to temporary housing provided by family/friends). Twenty-two percent (22%) exited to another homeless location, and eleven percent (11%) exited to an unknown destination.

**Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (2020-2021)
Type of Exit Destination from Emergency Shelter
Total Household Exits: 4,442**

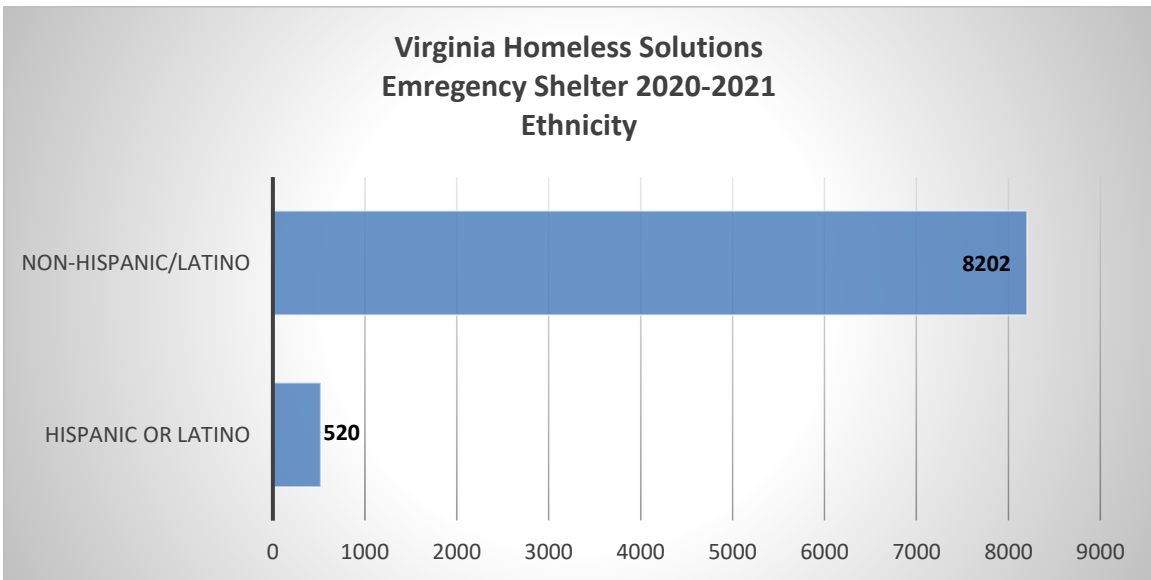


The racial division for those in emergency shelter stood at fifty-four percent (54%) Black or African American, zero percent (0%)* Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, thirty-nine percent (39%) White, five percent (5%) Multi-racial, one percent (1%) Asian, and one percent (1%) Other.

**Note: 0% does not reflect that there are no people in this category and is only indicative of a not statistically significant number when compared with the whole.*



The Ethnic make-up of those in emergency shelter stood at eighteen percent (18%) Hispanic or Latino/a/x.



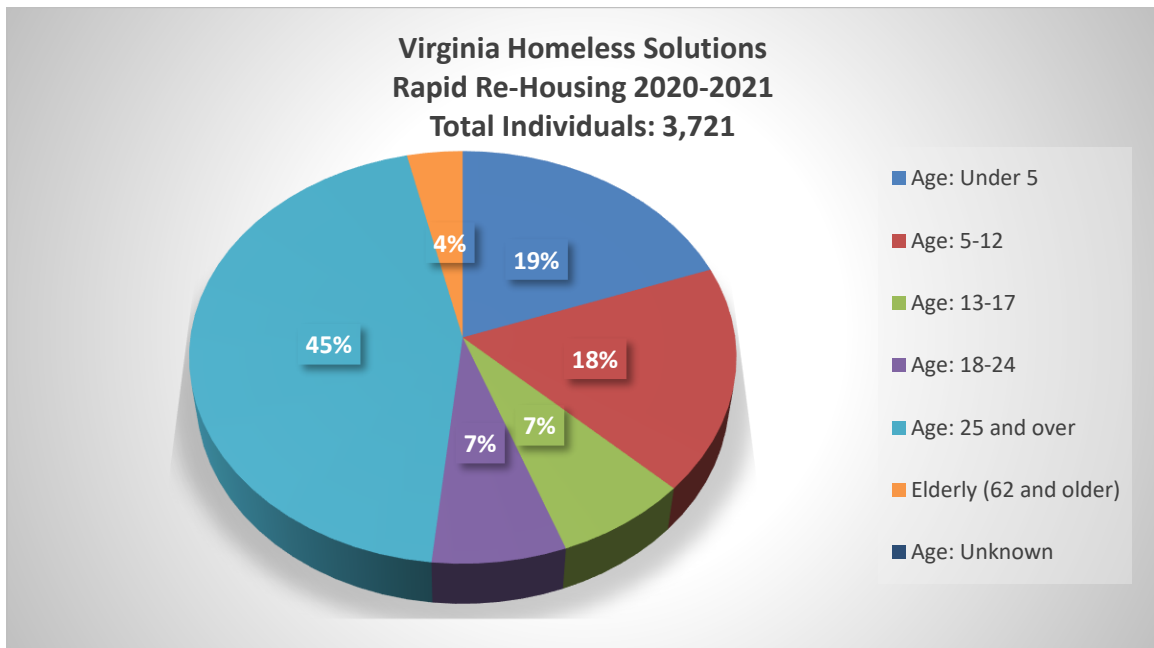
Rapid Re-housing

Funding for rapid re-housing totaled \$6.8 million through the VHSP application process. Rapid re-housing continues to be a solution to homelessness designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing funding is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household.

DHCD continues to promote rapid re-housing as an effective means to ending homelessness. By providing resources for the core components of rapid re-housing, such as housing identification, move-in and rent assistance up to 24 months, and stabilization case management and services, eighty-two percent (82%) of households exit to permanent housing including seventy-four percent (74%) without any on-going subsidy.

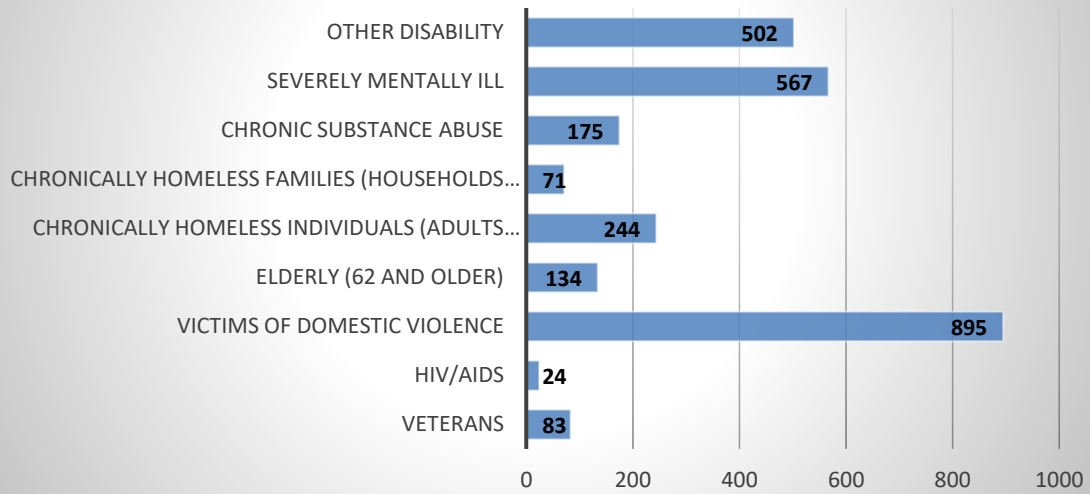
Fifty-seven percent (57%) of households during fiscal year 2020-21 received up to three months of financial assistance. Another twenty-seven percent (27%) received between four and nine months of financial assistance and fifteen percent (15%) needed and received more than ten months of financial assistance. Six percent (6%) only needed and received case management. Case management is an integral part of rapid re-housing. All households receive case management at least monthly and may continue to receive case management after financial assistance is no longer necessary. Forty-five percent (45%) received case management up to 3 months while, eleven percent (11%) needed and received case management for longer than one-year.

Forty-four percent (44%) of those who were rapidly re-housed were children under the age of 18.



Thirty-three percent (33%) of adults served by rapid re-housing programs are victims of domestic violence. Twenty-one percent (21%) are affected by serious mental illness, six percent (6%) by chronic substance abuse, and nineteen percent (19%) by other disabilities, which are self-reported unless used as a documented disability for permanent supportive housing or other permanent housing that requires disability documentation.

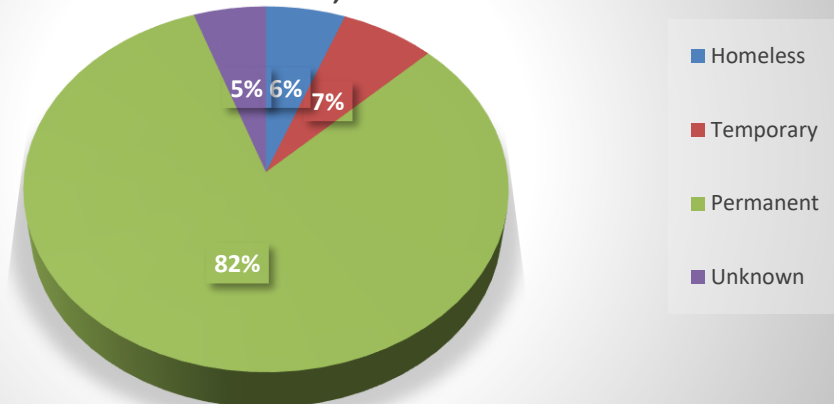
**Virginia Homeless Solutions
Rapid Re-housing 2020-2021
Sub-populations**



**Note sub-populations only include adults (except chronically homeless families) An adult may be counted in one or more categories.*

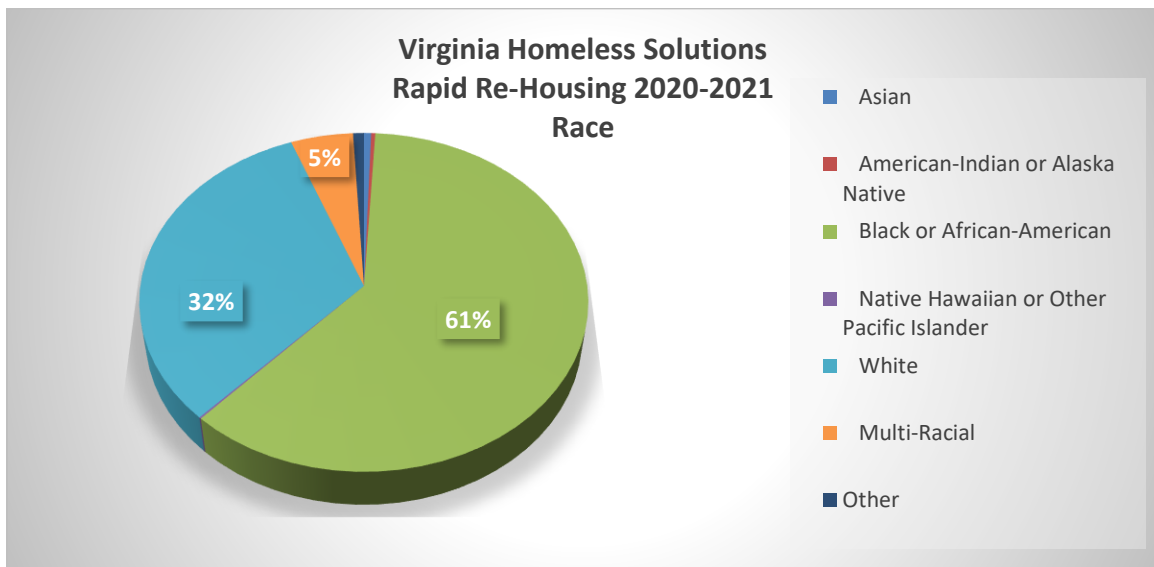
Of households who exited rapid re-housing, eighty-two percent (82%) exited to a permanent destination (market rate rental, Section 8, supportive housing, permanent placement with family and friends). Seven percent (7%) exited to a temporary destination ((jail/prison, institution, or to temporary housing provided by family/friends). Six percent (6%) exited to a homeless destination (other shelter or place not meant for human habitation) and five percent (5%) exited to an unknown destination.

**Virginia Homeless Solutions
Type of Exit Destination from Rapid Re-Housing
Total Exits: 1,172**

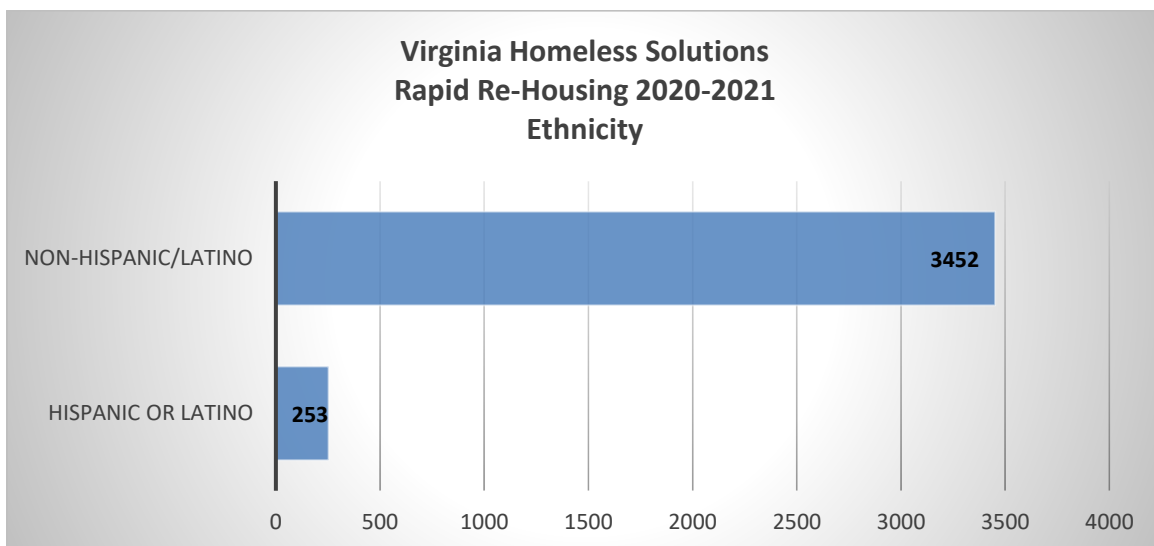


The racial division for those in rapid-rehousing stood at sixty-one percent (61%) Black or African American, zero percent (0%)* Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, thirty-two percent (32%) White, five percent (5%) Multi-racial, one percent (1%) Asian, and one percent (1%) Other.

**Note: 0% does not reflect that there are no people in this category and is only indicative of a not statistically significant number when compared with the whole.*



The Ethnic make-up of those in rapid re-housing programs stood at fifteen percent (15%) Hispanic or Latino/a/X.



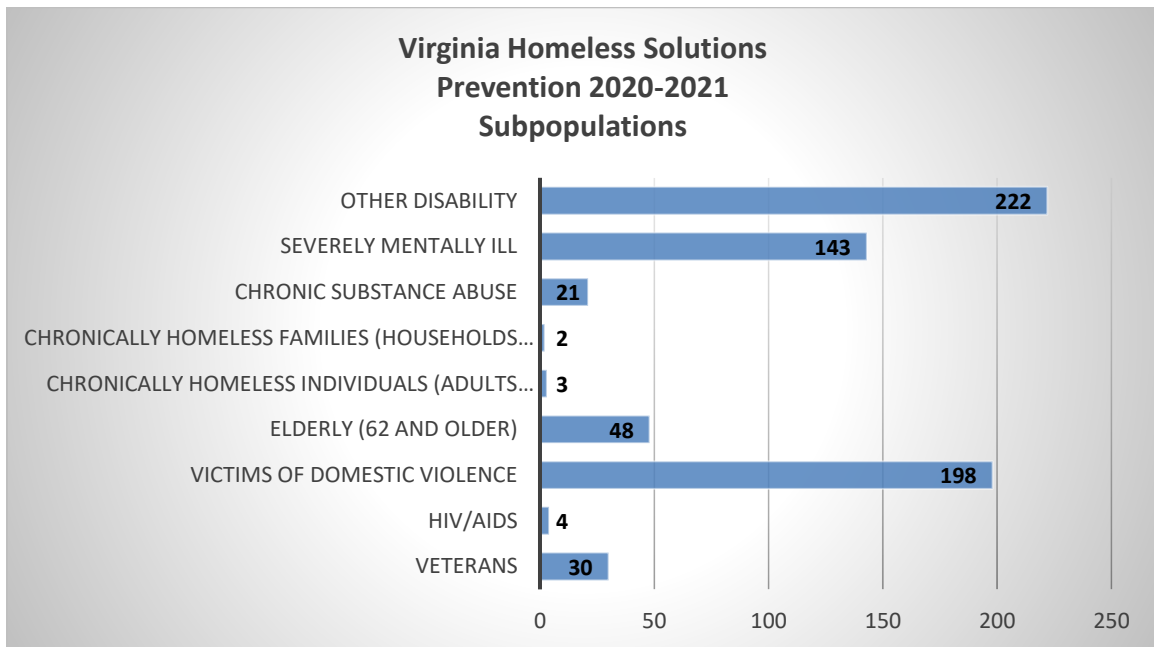
Homeless Prevention

The purpose of VHSP’s prevention funding is to prevent homelessness by targeting resources to those households who will imminently (within 14 days) lose their primary

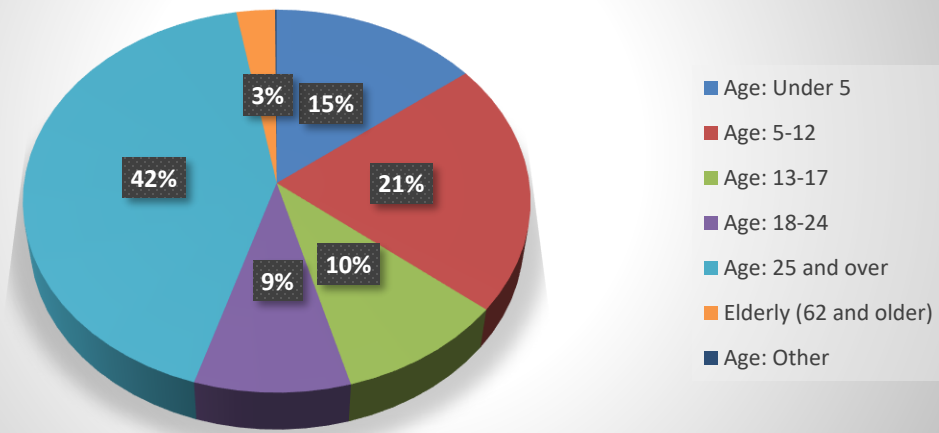
nighttime residence and have incomes below 30 percent area median income. Eligible homeless prevention activities include rent and housing stabilization financial assistance, housing search and placement, stabilization case management and services, and mediation.

Through VHSP, \$4 million in state funds were distributed across the commonwealth for homeless prevention activities. During the 2020-21 program year, prevention funding provided assistance to 1781 individuals (747 households). Five hundred and eighty-nine exited prevention services and of those, over 95.7% were prevented from homelessness.

Forty-six percent (46%) of those who received homeless prevention services were children under the age of 18. Twenty-one percent (21%) had a serious mental illness and five percent (5%) were veterans.



**Virginia Homeless Solutions Program
Prevention 2020-2021
Total Individuals: 1,781**

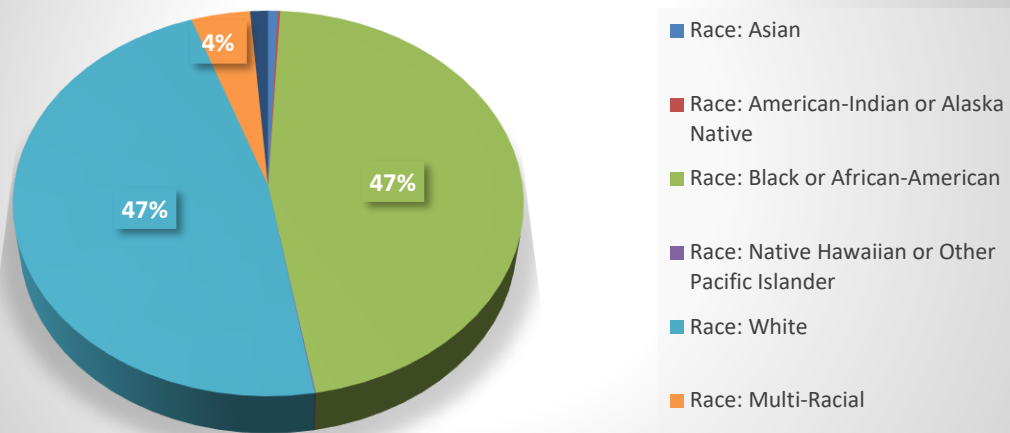


**Note sub-populations only include adults (except chronically homeless families). An adult may be counted in one or more categories.*

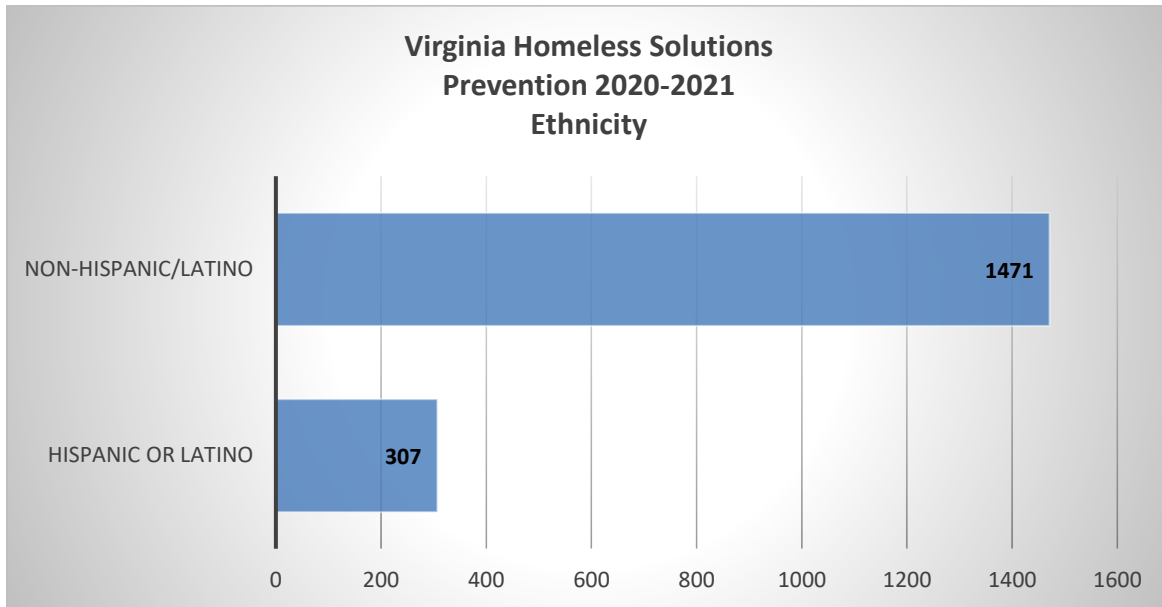
The racial division for those who received homeless prevention services stood at forty-seven percent (47%) Black or African American, zero percent (0%)* Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, forty-seven percent (47%) White, four percent (4%) Multi-racial, one percent (1%) Asian, and one percent (1%) Other.

**Note: 0% does not reflect that there are no people in this category and is only indicative of a not statistically significant number when compared with the whole.*

**Virginia Homeless Solutions
Prevention 2020-2021
Race**



The Ethnic make-up of those who received homeless prevention services stood at six percent (6%) Hispanic or Latino/a/X.



Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)

HOPWA funds are available to support housing assistance for moderate to low income individuals with HIV/AIDS in Virginia’s non-entitlement metropolitan statistical areas (EMSAs). The funds through this program were focused on direct housing assistance and include supportive services for the individuals receiving housing assistance through the HOPWA program.

HOPWA Project Sponsors 2020-2021				
Sub-grantee (Project Sponsor)	Service Area(s)	Housing Activities	Support Services	Funded Amount
AIDS Response Effort, Inc.	Page, Shenandoah, Winchester	Short term rent. Tenant based rental assistance	Case management/ Food bank	\$92,087.00
City of Charlottesville	Roanoke	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services, Permanent Housing Placement	Case management	\$288,172.00
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	Norton	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services	Case management	\$128,144.00

Council of Community Services	Roanoke, Covington, Salem, Clifton Forge, Vinton	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services, Permanent Housing Placement	Case management	\$200,000.00
Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services	Fredericksburg	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services, Permanent Housing Placement	Case management/ Transportation	\$134,157.00
Harrisonburg Community Health Center Care Management	Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Buena Vista, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services, Permanent Housing Placement, Housing information Services	Case management	\$72,972.00
Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc.	Lynchburg	Short term rent. Tenant based rental assistance, support services	Case management, Transportation, Food/Foodbank, Support Group	\$83,199.00
Pittsylvania Community Action Inc.	Pittsylvania	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services, Permanent Housing Placement	Case management	\$115,000.00
Total *Total does not include admin allocated to DHCD				\$1,113,731.00

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

DHCD administered a federal allocation of \$1,113,731 in HOPWA funds through eight project sponsors across the Commonwealth of Virginia. The project sponsors served a total of 191 unduplicated households with housing assistance. The services they received included:

- Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU) - 98 households
- Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) - 85 households
- Supportive services - 191 households

An additional 120 family members, of whom nine, also had HIV/AIDS benefited from HOPWA housing assistance.

Of those eligible households that received HOPWA assistance, 87 percent had extremely low incomes (0-30% AMI), 18 percent had very low incomes (31-50% AMI), and six percent had low incomes (51-80% AMI).

Housing Trust Fund - Homeless Reduction Grant

At least 80 percent of the funds allocated to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund must be used to provide loans that reduce the costs of affordable rental housing and homeownership. Up to 20 percent may be used for grants to reduce homelessness. Eligible activities of the Homeless Reduction Grant (HRG) include rapid re-housing, rental assistance and support services for permanent supportive housing for persons experiencing chronic homelessness, innovative and pilot projects focusing on addressing the permanent housing needs of older adults and youth experiencing homelessness, and pre-development of permanent supportive housing projects for individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness.

Thirty-eight applications were submitted by 23 organizations under FY21 Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant competitive cycle and awards totaling over \$6.4 million were funded. The applications were reviewed, evaluated, ranked and scored according to the requirements of the program.

Awards follow:

RRH – Rapid Re-Housing

PSH – Permanent Supportive Housing

INN – Innovative projects for specific groups experiencing homelessness who have been historically underserved (Older Adults or Youth)

Pre-dev – Pre-development of Permanent Supportive Housing

Organization	Project Name	Project/ Activity	Award	Communities Served
Arlington Street People Assistance Network, Inc.	The A-SPAN Supportive Housing Project	PSH	\$ 125,000	County of Arlington
Bay Aging	Bay Aging Older Adults	INN	\$ 300,000	Counties of Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King

	Innovation Pilot Project			William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland
Bridges to Independence	Bridges to Independence-HTF-21	RRH	\$ 619,030	County of Arlington
Carpenter's Shelter	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Project	PSH	\$ 124,330	City of Alexandria
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	CCC Youth Street Outreach 2021	INN	\$ 100,000	City of Richmond
Cornerstones	Cornerstone's HTF FY21 RR and Innovation	RRH	\$ 100,000	County of Fairfax
Council of Community Services	Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant 2021	RRH	\$ 140,000	Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, and Roanoke. Cities of Covington, Roanoke, and Salem, Towns of Clifton Forge, Fincastle, and Vinton
Doorways for Women and Families Homes	Doorways Housing Trust Fund 2021	RRH	\$ 63,000	County of Arlington
Family Crisis Support Services, Inc.	FCSS HTF-HRG	RRH	\$ 179,623	Cities of Norton and Fate, Counties of Dickenson, Lee, Scott, and Wise, Towns of Appalachia, Big Stone Gap, Clintwood, Duffield, Jonesville, Nicklesville, Pennington Gap, Pound, St. Charles,

				St. Paul, Weber City, and Wise
ForKids, inc.	ForKids Rapid Rehousing for Parent Youth and Young Adults 2021	RRH	\$ 171,207	Cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, and Suffolk, Counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton
HomeAgain	HomeAgain Single and Seniors Rapid Rehousing	RRH	\$ 260,000	City of Richmond
Homeward	GRCoC Homeless Older Adults Coalition	INN	\$ 253,750	City of Richmond, Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, and Powhatan, Town of Ashland.
LGBT Life Center	LGBT Life Center- YOUTH Home SVHC 2021	RRH	\$ 191,145	Cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Suffolk
Mercy House, Inc.	Mercy House HTF	RRH	\$ 200,000	Cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro, Counties of Augusta and Rockingham
Micah Ecumenical Ministries	FY21 FrCoC Permanent Supportive Housing Program (Micah)	PSH	\$ 380,070	City of Fredericksburg, Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford
Micah Ecumenical Ministries	FY21 FrCOC Rapid Re-Housing Program (Micah)	RRH	\$ 92,700	City of Fredericksburg, Counties of Caroline, King George,

				Spotsylvania, and Stafford
Miriam's House	Community First	RRH	\$ 150,000	Cities of Bedford and Lynchburg, Counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell, Towns of AltaVista, Amherst, Appomattox and Brookneal
New Hope Housing, Inc.	NHH Alexandria City PSH 2021	PSH	\$ 61,800	City of Alexandria
New Hope Housing, Inc.	NHH Arlington SP PSH 2021	PSH	\$ 100,000	County of Arlington
New Hope Housing, Inc.	NHH Fairfax PSH 2021	PSH	\$ 60,000	Counties of Arlington and Fairfax
Northern Virginia Family Service	NVFS Prince William Area Rapid Re-Housing and Stabilization Services	RRH	\$ 80,000	Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, County of Prince William, Towns of Dumfries, Haymarket, Occoquan, and Quantico
People Incorporated of Virginia	HTF- Bristol PSH	PSH	\$ 38,149	City of Bristol
The Planning Council	The Planning Council SVHC Innovative Planning Project for Homeless Older Adults 2021	INN	\$ 717,836	Cities of Norfolk and Suffolk, Counties of Isle of Wight, Southampton and Chesapeake
Samaritan House	SHI Housing Trust Fund Homeless	RRH	\$ 263,500	City of Virginia Beach

	Reduction Grant 2021			
Shelter House	Shelter House Rapid Rehousing Project 2021	RRH	\$ 300,000	Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, County of Fairfax
St. Joseph's Villa	CACH Youth Project	INN	\$ 253,122	Cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, and Petersburg
St. Joseph's Villa	Flagler PSH	PSH	\$ 97,983	City of Richmond, Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, and Powhatan, Town of Ashland
St. Joseph's Villa	Continuation of the Petersburg High School Housing Stability Pilot Program	INN	\$ 100,000	City of Petersburg
Thomas Jefferson Coalition for the Homeless/Piedmont Housing Alliance	TJACH PSH pre- development	Pre-dev	\$ 100,000	City of Charlottesville
Valley Community Services Board	Valley CSB Unaccompanied Homeless Youth 2021	INN	\$147,537	Cities of Buena Vista, Lexington, Staunton, and Waynesboro, Counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, and Rockbridge, Townes of Craigsville and Monterey
Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation	Cedar Grove Community Resource Specialist	PSH	\$ 25,540	City of Virginia Beach
Virginia Commonwealth University	VCU SSW – Building Shared Housing Model	INN	\$ 69,666	City of Richmond

	for LGBTQ/Parentin g Youth 2021- 2022			
Virginia Supportive Housing	2021 Cloverleaf and Crescent Square- Virginia Beach	PSH	\$ 100,000	City of Virginia Beach
Virginia Supportive Housing	2021 Gosnold and Church Street Station- Norfolk	PSH	\$ 100,000	City of Norfolk
Virginia Supportive Housing	2021 Premier Circle PSH Pre- development	Pre-dev	\$ 100,000	City of Charlottesville
Virginia Supportive Housing	2021 South Bay Apartments – Portsmouth	PSH	\$ 55,000	City of Portsmouth
Williamsburg House of Mercy	OARS (Older Adults Returning to Stability)	INN	\$ 107,795	City of Williamsburg, Counties of James City and York
YWCA South Hampton Roads	YWCA-SHR Rapid Re-housing Expansion 2021	RRH	\$ 96,202	Cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Suffolk
*Total does not include admin allocated to DHCD			TOTAL:	\$6,423,985

Housing Trust Fund - Pilot Projects to Stably House Youth

Petersburg Youth and 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 Challenged School Initiative. This project began by targeting students experiencing homelessness (and their families) who are enrolled in Petersburg City High School and who are chronically absent from school. Due to COVID-19 the pilot project has adjusted to include Vernon Johns Middle School along with Petersburg High School and Blandford Academy. The pilot project connects youth and their families to permanent housing with the goal of increasing school attendance, improving student performance and chances of graduation once they achieve housing stability.

During the 2020-2021 grant year, 69 individuals (17 households) were served and 41 (10 households) exited the program to permanent housing. To date the Petersburg Pilot Project has assisted 163 individuals in 44 households of which 118 individuals (34 households) have secured permanent housing.

The Petersburg Pilot Project has connected several households with permanent housing and much needed stabilization supports. One household in particular entered the pilot program with her partner and six children. The individual experienced homelessness for over a year prior to receiving assistance through the pilot project and securing part-time employment. Through the Petersburg Pilot Project, the household and her family were able to secure temporary housing and ultimately secured permanent housing.

Moving From Foster Care to Adulthood

In 2016, the Virginia General Assembly established the Fostering Futures program to provide extended foster care supports for up to three years for those aging out of foster care. While transitioning to adulthood, in addition to other supports, participants in the Fostering Futures program receive \$720/month to cover basic living expenses. Program participants may choose to remain in the foster family home or live independently while working on school/employment goals. In 2019, DHCD established Moving from Foster Care to Adulthood Rental Assistance Pilot to provide up to three years of tenant based rental assistance (TBRA) to Fostering Futures program participants. This pilot was implemented in two high cost markets (City of Richmond and City of Charlottesville/Albemarle County) to help stabilize housing options for participants during this critical transition period.

In Charlottesville, the Department of Social Services and The Haven partnered to administer the Moving from Foster Care to Adulthood pilot. The Charlottesville project has served 11 individuals to date. One youth recently achieved a positive outcome in the Pilot Project as she had previously held a Fostering Futures stipend for a year at her initial housing location. However due to difficulties in the living situation, the client spent a vast majority of her time at her mother's home where their relationship suffered. The Moving from Foster Care to Adulthood Pilot Project was able to assist the client in locating and securing permanent housing where the client feels safe.

In Richmond, St. Joseph's Villa partners with the Department of Social Services to administer the Moving from Foster Care to Adulthood Pilot Project. To date the project has served 12 individuals (11 households). One client has successfully obtained permanent housing through the pilot project and has since been able to pursue higher education. The project participant entered the Moving from Foster Care to Adulthood Pilot Project just weeks before their 21st birthday in December 2020. Program staff were able to quickly locate the project participant permanent housing within two days. After being housed the project participant was accepted into a four-year university where he is pursuing a degree in engineering. He plans to renew his lease as he has secured an exciting job opportunity that will provide increased financial independence. The Moving from Foster Care to Adulthood Pilot Project provided the project participant with the gift of peace of mind through a stable home where he no longer had to worry about where he would be sleeping each night, but rather has time to focus on his future.

COVID-Related Funding

The Homeless and Special Needs Housing unit administered the COVID Homelessness Emergency Response Program (CHERP) to first, ensure all individuals and households experiencing homelessness have access to safe, 24-7, emergency shelter during this health pandemic. The second goal of the COVID Homelessness Emergency Response Program helps households maintain or obtain permanent housing and receive the housing-focused supportive services necessary to retain permanent housing.

DHCD supported CoC/LPG strategies and homeless service programs aligning with state and federal goals to ensure communities and individual service providers meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding sources supporting CHERP include State COVID-Relief funding and the Emergency Solutions Grant stimulus funding (ESG-CV), authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This federal funding was used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or receiving homeless assistance. The funds also supported additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. No matching funds were required.

CoC	Localities	COVID-Related Funding
Greater Richmond	Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and the City of Richmond	\$8,687,632
Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition	City of Chesapeake, City of Franklin, Isle of Wight, City of Norfolk, Southampton, and the City of Suffolk	\$4,970,220
Blue Ridge	Alleghany, Botetourt, City of Covington, Craig, Roanoke (City and County), and the City of Salem	\$679,017
Virginia Beach	City of VA Beach	\$2,676,459
Fredericksburg Regional	Caroline, City of Fredericksburg, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford	\$3,058,806
Central Virginia	Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford (City and County), Campbell, and City of Lynchburg	\$534,048

Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless	Albemarle, City of Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson	\$1,931,253
Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Coalition	City of Hampton, James City, City of Newport News, City of Poquoson, City of Williamsburg, York	\$2,798,746
Portsmouth	City of Portsmouth	\$980,384
Western Virginia	City of Harrisonburg, City of Winchester, Rockingham, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren	\$2,383,621
Arlington	City of Arlington	\$2,492,907
Fairfax	Fairfax (City and County), City of Falls Church	\$5,946,542
Loudoun	Loudoun County	\$861,387
Alexandria	City of Alexandria	\$1,912,906
Prince William	Prince William County	\$3,574,959
Balance of State (BoS) – Local Planning Groups		
LENOWISCO	Lee, Scott, Wise, City of Norton	\$573,831
Cumberland Plateau	Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell, Washington, and City of Bristol	\$1,516,084
Hope Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness	Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, Wythe, and City of Galax	\$951,890
New River Valley Housing Partnership	Giles, Floyd, Montgomery (including Christiansburg and Blacksburg), Pulaski, and City of Radford	\$378,770
Foothills Housing Network	Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock	\$2,782,604
Valley Homeless Connection	Augusta, Highland, Bath, Rockbridge, cities of Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington, Buena Vista	\$2,961,899

West Piedmont Better Housing Coalition	City of Danville, Franklin, Henry, Martinsville, Patrick, and Pittsylvania	\$303,797
Southside	Brunswick, Charlotte, Halifax, and Mecklenburg	\$263,253
Heartland	Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward	\$788,231
Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula Housing Partnership	Lancaster, Westmoreland, Northumberland, Richmond County, Essex, Gloucester, Mathews, Middlesex, King and Queen, King William	\$1,082,948
Crater Area Coalition on Homelessness	City of Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, City of Emporia, Greenville, City of Hopewell, City of Petersburg, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex	\$689,928
Community Partners of the Eastern Shore	Accomack and Northampton	\$43,017
*Total does not include admin allocated to DHCD		\$42,030,518

Much of the early COVID-relief funds were used for non-congregate sheltering. Due to differing grant cycles, all funds have not been spent or reported on at this time. Based on a final reporting of early funding, 4,573 households (6,367 individuals) received non-congregate shelter. Of these 13% (603) households were sheltered directly from a place not meant for human habitation via street outreach.

Early funds were also used in congregate shelters to implement COVID-19 safety protocols in order to maintain or expand the congregate shelter. Funds were used for meals, cleaning supplies, PPE, no-touch sanitizer and soap dispensers, opening seasonal shelters, de-density of shelters, testing kits and testing cost, thermometers, essential staff salaries, portable barriers, person storage bins, hospital grade cleaning services, and transportation.

Conclusion

DHCD's Homeless and Special Needs Housing unit continues to work to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. To that end, the unit administers state- and federally-funded homeless service programs to address housing and stabilization services for individuals and families at-risk of or experiencing homelessness in the commonwealth. To administer these funds, partnerships are maintained with communities and an array of service providers including nonprofits, units of local government, and housing

authorities. It is paramount for ensuring comprehensive homeless services are provided effectively and efficiently in accordance with best-practice models to maximize limited resources.

These efforts have been successful. Since 2010, the increased focus on ending homelessness in the Commonwealth of Virginia has achieved significant results:

- ✓ Overall homelessness decreased by 36 percent
- ✓ Family homelessness decreased by 49 percent
- ✓ Veteran homelessness decreased by 63 percent (since 2011)
- ✓ Youth homelessness decreased by 62 percent (since 2013)
- ✓ Chronic homelessness decreased by 20 percent

With continued state leadership, willingness, innovation, and funding, ending homelessness is possible in Virginia. DHCD and its partners across the commonwealth stepped up when COVID-19 impacted businesses and residents around the state. Due to the existing relationships and homeless crisis response system structure around the state, DHCD was able to get additional funding out quickly and a means to communicate health and safety measures needed to increase the safety of the residents who did not have a place to stay which was required by the “Stay and Home” or “Stay Safer at Home” orders issued by Governor Northam.

Moving into FY22, DHCD will work with the Governor’s Coordinating Council on Homelessness and Housing Vulnerable Populations to create a blueprint to end homelessness and looks forward to working with its partners to implement the strategies while unprecedented funding is available to truly make a difference in the lives of Virginia’s residents who are experiencing homelessness.