



Virginia's Homeless Programs 2022-2023 Program Year

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



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This report serves to report overall conditions and progress made related to the administration of the State’s homeless programs in compliance with HB 6001, Budget Item 114 B of the 2023 Special Session I Virginia Acts of Assembly, Chapter 1. B. The department shall report to the Chairs of the Senate Finance and Appropriations, 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. 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) 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 resources with the goal of obtaining permanent housing as quickly as possible.

During FY23, DHCD continued working with and providing resources to Continua of Care (CoCs) to address needs related to COVID-19 as well as re-establishing normal protocols for post-COVID-19. DHCD continued to manage federal COVID relief funds and it is expected these funds will be spent by the end of FY24. With these additional resources, more people have been able to access the Crisis Homeless Response System; however, these funds have been spent in many communities and the need continues to increase. Virginia saw a 4% increase in overall number of people experiencing homelessness in the Point-in-Time count (based on preliminary reporting) between 2022-2023¹.

Based on evidence from the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, access to affordable housing is the most significant reason for homelessness. The reason for homelessness becomes a supply and demand issue in the national housing market that is also evident in Virginia.

Across the commonwealth, 254,821 (24%) renter households are extremely low income (ELI), meaning they have incomes under \$30,280 for a household of four. This represents a shortage of 174,187 rental units affordable and available for extremely low-income renters. Seventy-eight percent of all ELI renters were cost-burdened, and of these ELI renters, 38% were in the labor force, 27% were seniors, 18% had disabilities, 5% were enrolled in school full-time, and 3% were single caregivers².

DHCD administers the Commonwealth of Virginia's homeless assistance resources. These resources include approximately \$17 million annually in state and federal funding as well as the State Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant and the remainder of the COVID Relief Funds.

In the spring of 2022, DHCD held a competitive application process for the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP). The grant application 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). To apply and receive these funds, communities were required to complete a community-based application that demonstrated an effective crisis response system designed to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. These applications were scored according to need, outcomes, approach/use of best practices, local coordination, and capacity.

¹ Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will not release the official Point-in-Time count until later in 2023 or early 2024.

² <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/virginia>

What the Data Shows

DHCD's strategies continue to show measured success. Currently, the rate of homelessness per 10,000 on average in Virginia is 7.5 and remains the fourth lowest per capita of all 50 states and territories. This is compared with a national average rate of 18 per 10,000 (State of Homelessness, National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2023). Not taking total population into account, Virginia has the following rankings³:

Category	Ranking
Homeless Population	23 rd
Homeless Households	19 th
Chronically Homeless Population	25 th
Youth (18-25)	26 th

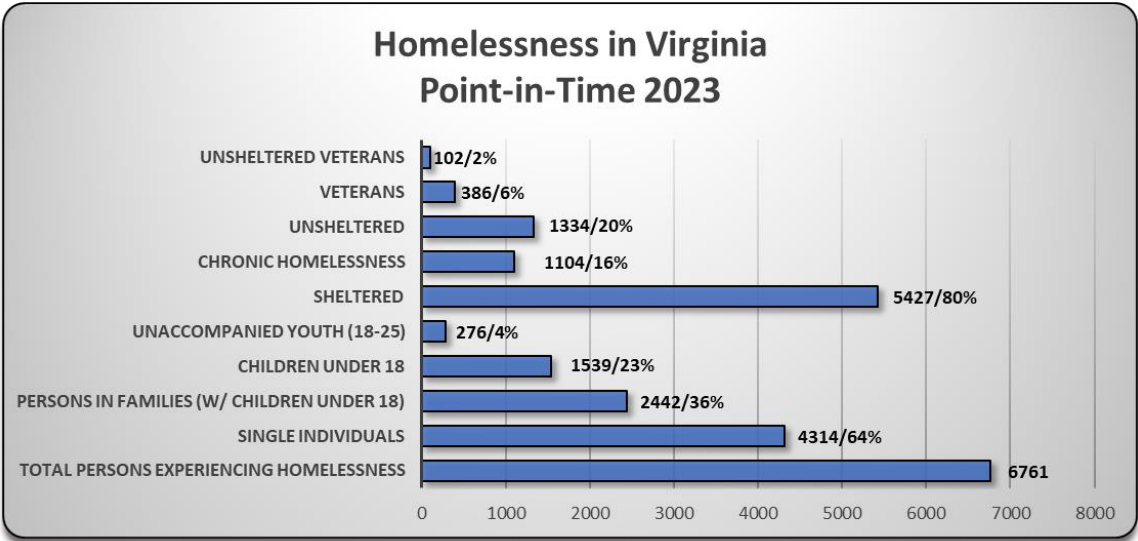
Each year during the last ten days in January, Virginia participates in a national point-in-time (PIT) count to identify the number of individuals who are sheltered and unsheltered. Sheltered persons are individuals (including children and unaccompanied youth) sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional 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.

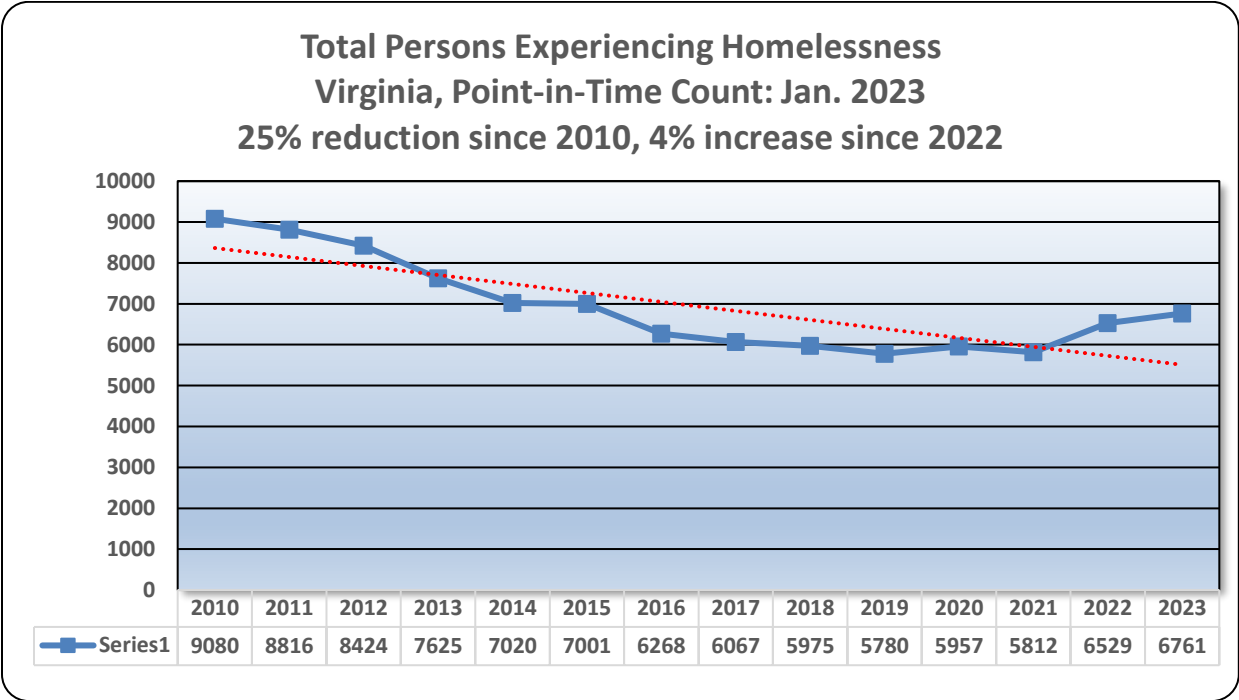
Historically, policymakers and practitioners at every level of government have focused special attention on vulnerable populations. For example, decision-makers are often concerned about children and young people due to their developmental needs and the potential life-long consequences of hardships in early in life. People in families with children make up 36% of the homeless population. Unaccompanied youth (18-25) account for four percent of the larger group.

Below are populations that comprise the total PIT Count for 2023.

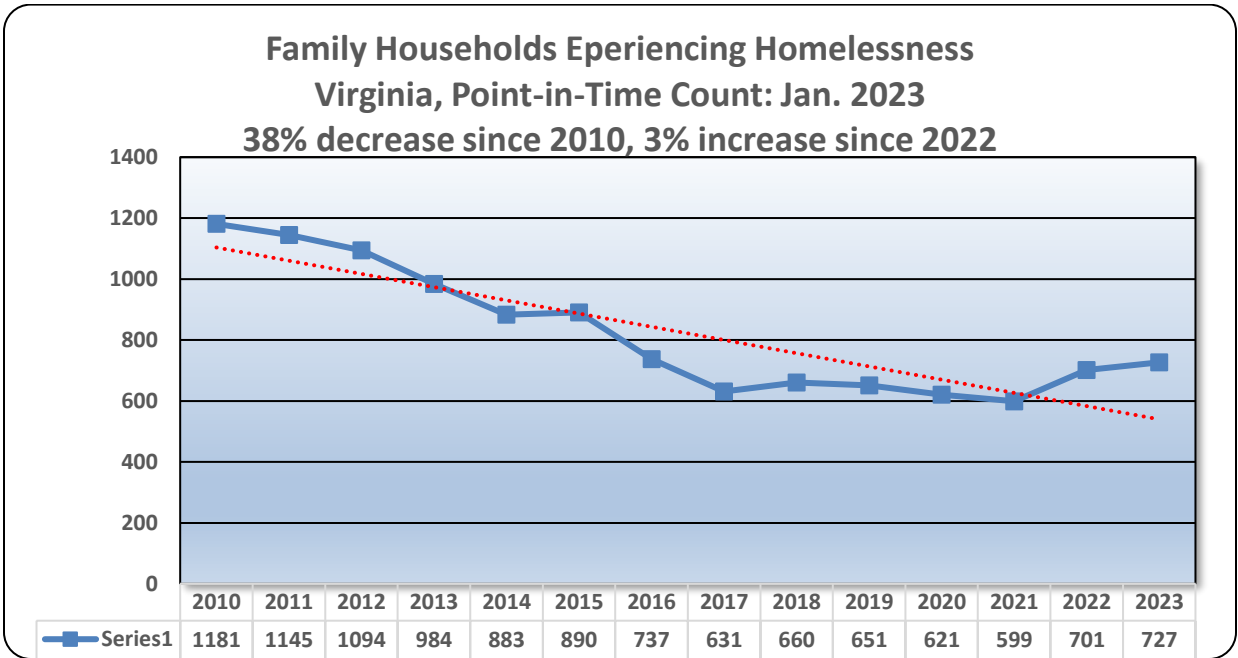
³ <https://wisevoter.com/state-rankings/homeless-population-by-state/#virginia>



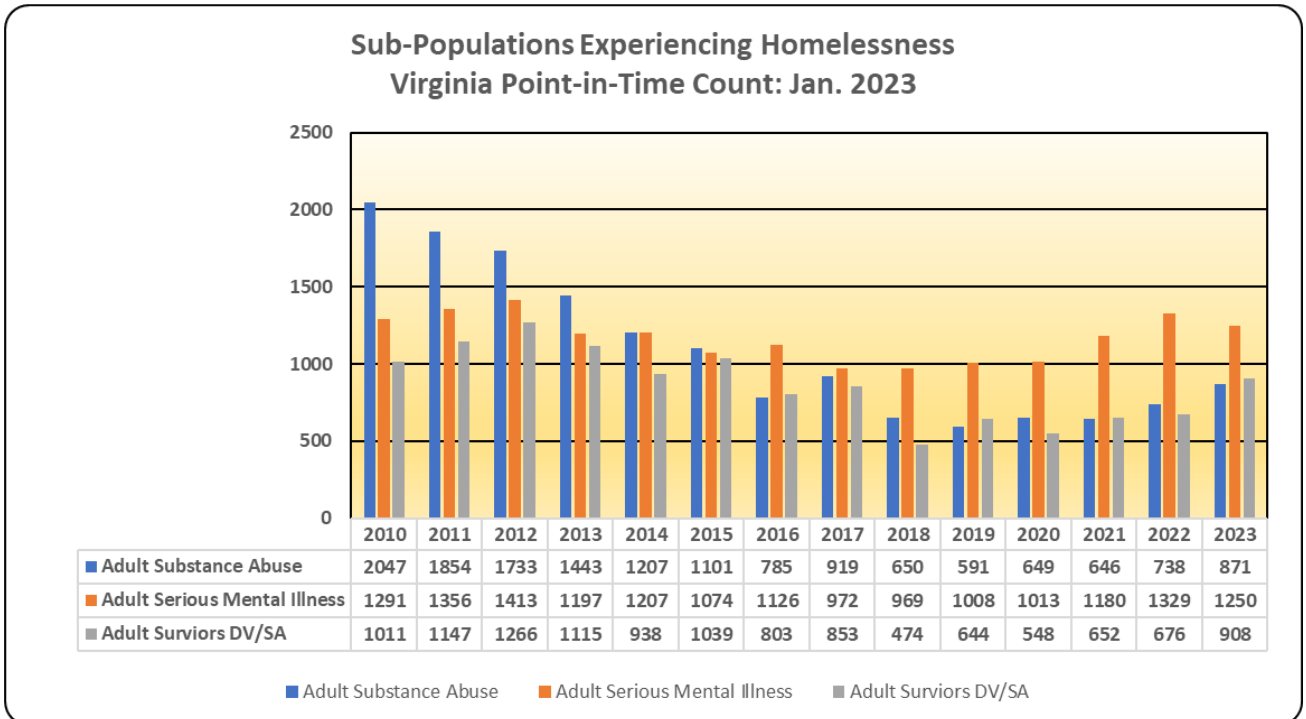
Point-in-Time data is also used to analyze trends over time.



PIT data for 2023, shows a four percent increase since 2022, and since 2010, there has been a 25 percent decrease.



The year 2023 also saw a small increase in families experiencing homelessness (3%). However, since 2010, there has been a 38 percent decrease in households with children experiencing homelessness.



Sub-population data is only captured on the adult population in the PIT count annually. In the 2023 PIT count, there were 5,222 adults. Of these 17% were survivors of domestic violence, 16.6% had a substance use disorder, and 24% has a serious mental illness. Individuals may fall into multiple subpopulations.

System Performance Measures

DHCD supports homeless services being a coordinated system as opposed to operating independently. To facilitate this perspective, DHCD uses the HUD required reports that measure performance as a coordinated system. Below are the aggregated outcomes for federal fiscal year 2022⁴. These outcomes include all projects whether funded by DHCD or not. Additionally, Victim Service Providers are not included due to data constraints authorized under Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA).

1. The average length of time a person stays in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven in Virginia is 107 days in comparison to the national average of 158 days.

The average length of time a person remains homeless (entry into homeless services system to permanent housing move in date) in Virginia is 413 days.

2. Returns to Homelessness (after 2 years) – Virginia has an average 13.6% returns to homelessness after a two-year period compared to the national average of 16.5% over the same two-year period.
3. Annual Homeless Count - There were 18,345 individuals who entered the homeless services system in Virginia this is 1.6% of the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness nation-wide.
4. First Time Homeless - There were 14,791 individuals were experiencing homelessness for the first-time, which is a 7% increase from the previous year. Of all individuals who entered the homeless services system, 80% were experiencing homelessness for the first time.
5. Percent of individuals who exited the homeless services system and increased their total income (earned income and/or benefit income) is an average of 34% compared to a national average of 32%.
6. Exits to Permanent Housing – Of all the individuals who exited the homeless services system, an average 48% exited to a permanent housing solution. This is a 9.6% increase from the previous year. The national average of successful exits to permanent housing is 34%.

Homeless Data Integration Project (HDIP)

⁴ October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022

The work of the development and implementation of the HDIP continued during FY23. The HDIP advisory committee met regularly and provided feedback for the operating manual and workflows. The completion of this work allows for the full implementation in FY24.

DHCD has benefitted from the HDIP during FY23 in the following ways:

- A focus on the Balance of State CoC data to include inflow, outflow, project performance, and outcomes of differing demographics. Additionally, the Balance of State CoC continues to work with the HDIP vendor to create a model for the evaluation of Coordinated Entry.
- Data from eight of 16 CoCs was reviewed in order to assess needs for targeted HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars
- DHCD's Office of Homeless and Special Needs Housing created a more equitable performance evaluation process to make informed funding decisions, which was specifically impactful for rural communities.
- Upon request, DHCD was able to provide intersectional data to DBHDS to assist with planning for the Permanent Supportive Housing need assessment.

Homeless Programs

DHCD administered approximately \$25 million for homeless assistance programs during FY23. This includes approximately \$21 million in state general funds, with \$8 million from the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, that leveraged approximately \$4 million in federal funds to address the issues and needs of those experiencing homelessness in Virginia.

DHCD received \$3.0 million in federal funding from HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and \$1.3 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 continued to manage funding for the state's homeless crisis response system through federal COVID relief funds. These funds were allocated in FY20 and FY21; however, the grant end dates range from September of 2022 to June of 2024. While many of the non-congregate COVID related shelters closed during the calendar year 2022, a few communities have continued the use of federal funds for increased capacity of non-congregate shelters. The additional COVID relief funds have been used to increase rapid re-housing and provide homelessness prevention services.

Administered Homeless Programs 2022-2023 Program Year Allocation			
Programs	Sources	Allocation to DHCD	Grant End Date
HSNH - Virginia Homeless Solutions Program	Federal - HUD and State - General Funds	\$16,099,844 (total)	06/30/23
General Homeless Services Funds	State	\$9,001,820	
- General Homeless Prevention Funds	State	\$4,050,000	
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	Federal	\$3,048,024	
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)	Federal	\$1,375,054	06/12/2023
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)- CV	Federal	\$178,219	06/12/2023
Housing Trust Fund –Homeless Reduction Grant	State	\$8,264,804	1/31/2023
CHERP (ESG-CV)	Federal	\$31,465,325	9/30/2023
CHERP (ESG-CV second allocation)	Federal	\$1,167,633	06/30/2024
CHERP- (CDBG) Non-Congregate Shelter	Federal	\$17,830,380	12/31/2022

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program

The Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) is approximately \$16 million, comprised of a combination of state and federal funding for emergency shelter operations, rapid re-housing and housing stabilization, homeless prevention, coordinated assessment/entry, outreach services, community planning costs, and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) costs and administration. VHSP funds require a 25 percent match. The following table provides the awards to each VHSP in 2022-2023.

VHSP Service Providers		
Service Providers	Location	Awards
Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission	Accomack	\$37,750
ACTS – Action In Community Through Service	Prince William	\$248,692
AIDS Response Effort, Inc.	Winchester	\$180,487
ARCH Roanoke	Gate City	\$58,700
Arlington County Government	Arlington	\$46,539
PathForward	Arlington	\$122,546
Bay Aging	Urbana	\$156,163

Bridges to Independence	Arlington	\$145,651
CARITAS	Richmond	\$231,000
Carpenter's Shelter	Alexandria	\$538,981
Choices, Council on Domestic Violence for Page Co., Inc.	Luray	\$70,776
City of Alexandria, a municipal corporation of Virginia	Alexandria	\$452,202
City of Charlottesville	Charlottesville	\$539,369
City of Hampton	Hampton	\$1,060,922
City of Roanoke	Roanoke	\$110,408
City of Portsmouth	Portsmouth	\$5,000
Clinch Valley Community Action, Inc.	Tazewell	\$30,785
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	Norfolk	\$36,587
Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CACH)	Petersburg	\$40,273
Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith)	Reston	\$226,613
Council of Community Services	Roanoke	\$363,490
County of Loudoun	Loudoun	\$272,269
Culpeper Community Development Corp.	Culpeper	\$50,892
Doorways for Women and Families	Arlington	\$219,052
Eastern Shore of Virginia Housing Alliance	Accomack	\$133,000
Empowerhouse (formerly RCDV)	Fredericksburg	\$164,217
ESCADV	Accomack	\$46,802
Family Crisis Support Services, Inc.	Norton	\$322,083
Family Resource Center, Inc.	Wytheville	\$89,655
First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence	Harrisonburg	\$40,272
ForKids, Inc.	Portsmouth	\$54,804
ForKids, Inc.	Norfolk	\$714,584
George Washington Regional Commission	Fredericksburg	\$71,002
Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team	Gloucester	\$95,917
Hanover Safe Place	Hanover	\$143,852
Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority	Harrisonburg	\$59,391
Help and Emergency Response, Inc.	Portsmouth	\$223,468
Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence, Inc.	Wytheville	\$320,164
HomeAgain	Richmond	\$232,790
Homeward	Richmond	\$299,938
Housing Families First	Richmond	\$211,537
Interfaith Outreach Association	Lynchburg	\$85,490
Judeo-Christian Outreach Center	Virginia Beach	\$121,406
LGBT Life Center	Norfolk	\$239,543
LGBT Life Center	Virginia Beach	\$73,126
Mercy House, Inc.	Harrisonburg	\$388,963
Micah Ecumenical Ministries	Fredericksburg	\$335,554

Miriam's House	Lynchburg	\$132,794
New Hope Housing, Inc.	Arlington	\$209,900
New Hope Housing, Inc.	Fairfax	\$226,830
New River Community Action, Inc.	Radford	\$287,512
New River Family Shelter	Christiansburg	\$43,813
Norfolk Community Services Board	Norfolk	\$27,500
Northern Virginia Family Service	Prince William	\$259,752
Northern Virginia Family Service	Fairfax	\$178,313
People Incorporated of Virginia	Abingdon	\$201,944
People Incorporated of Virginia	Culpeper	\$258,455
Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, Inc.	Portsmouth	\$77,831
Project Horizon	Lexington	\$28,000
PWC DSS Homeless Services	Prince William	\$257,741
Roads to Recovery	Lynchburg	\$103,161
Rappahannock Refuge, Inc. dba Hope House	Fredericksburg	\$433,317
Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services	Culpeper	\$25,520
Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission	Culpeper	\$84,977
Samaritan House, Inc.	Virginia Beach	\$198,726
Shelter House, Inc.	Fairfax	\$191,982
Shelter House, Inc.	Loudoun	\$100,367
Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter	Shenandoah	\$188,557
Southside Survivor Response Center, Inc.	Martinsville	\$44,070
St. Joseph's Villa	Richmond	\$300,000
St. Joseph's Villa	Petersburg	\$129,104
StandUp For Kids, Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	\$54,986
STEP, Inc.	Rocky Mount	\$186,222
STEPS, Inc.	Farmville	\$125,016
StreetLight Community Outreach Ministries	Woodbridge	\$54,045
The Daily Planet	Richmond	\$32,712
The Improvement Association	Emporia	\$56,324
The Laurel Center	Winchester	\$68,017
The Planning Council	Norfolk	\$113,651
The Salvation Army of Central VA	Richmond	\$65,000
Total Action Against Poverty	Roanoke	\$42,250
Tri-County Community Action Agency	South Boston	\$101,844
Valley Community Services Board	Staunton	\$61,142
Valley Mission, Inc.	Staunton	\$52,500
Virginia Supportive Housing	Norfolk	\$57,200
Volunteers Of America Chesapeake	Loudoun	\$100,367
Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley	Radford	\$166,144
YWCA Central Virginia	Lynchburg	\$25,750
YWCA Richmond	Richmond	\$93,900

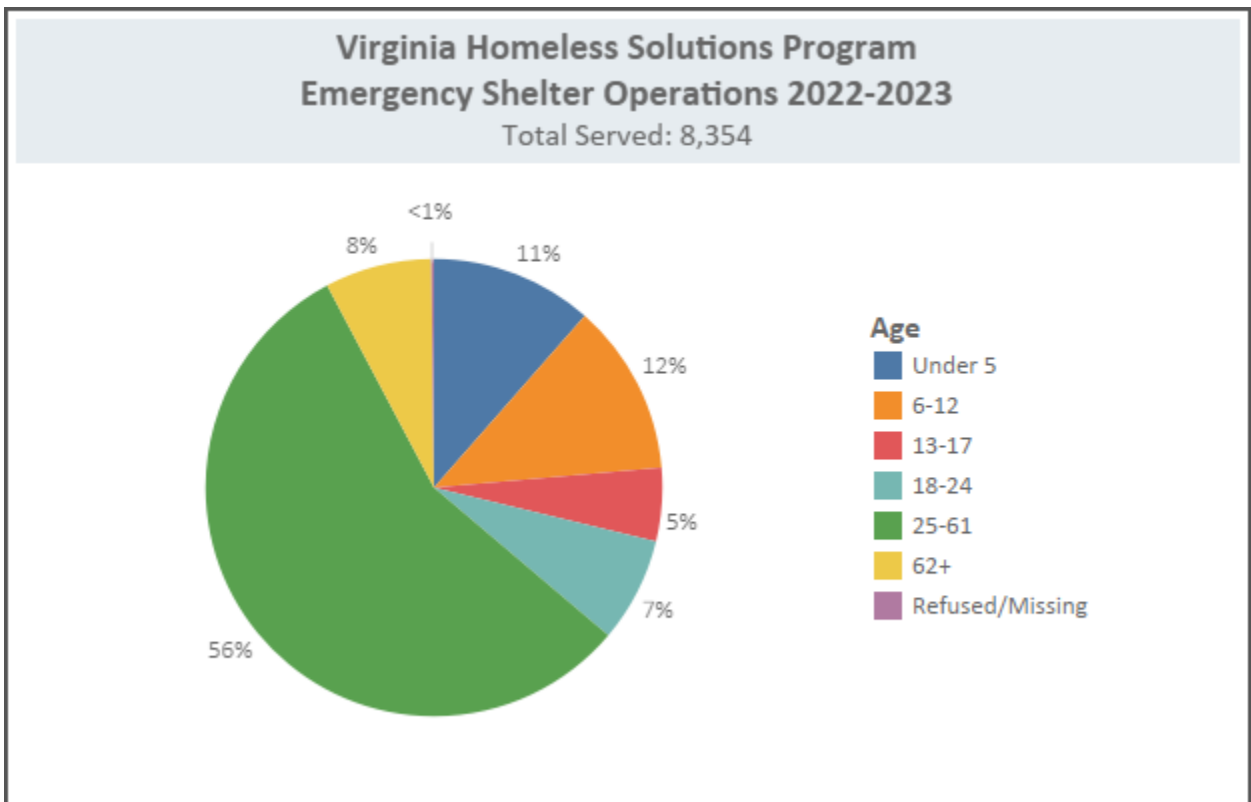
YWCA South Hampton Roads	Norfolk	\$268,620
Total (excludes administrative funds)		\$15,423,561

Emergency Shelter

Funding for emergency shelters totaled approximately \$2.97 million through the VHSP competitive application process.

During the 2022-23 program year, emergency shelter providers receiving VHSP served 5,526 households (8,354 persons) through emergency and seasonal shelters. Of the 5,526 households, twenty-three percent (23%) or 1,225 were households with children and seventy-four (78%) or 4,301 were households with only adults.

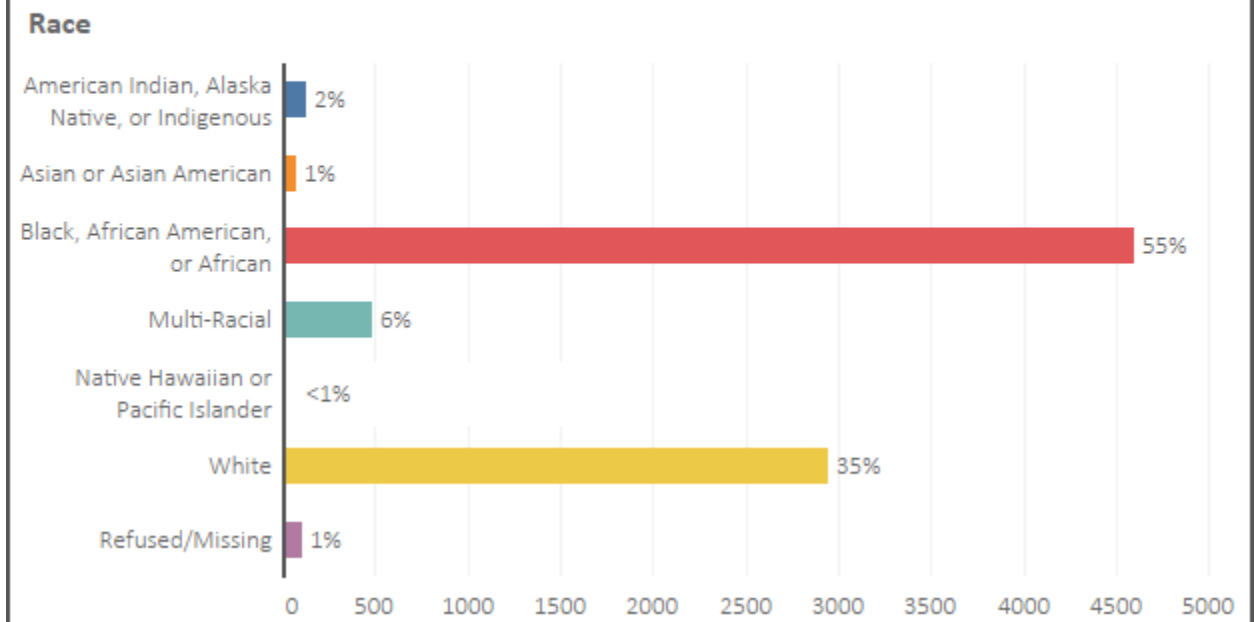
The table and charts below provide additional details on the populations served by emergency shelters.



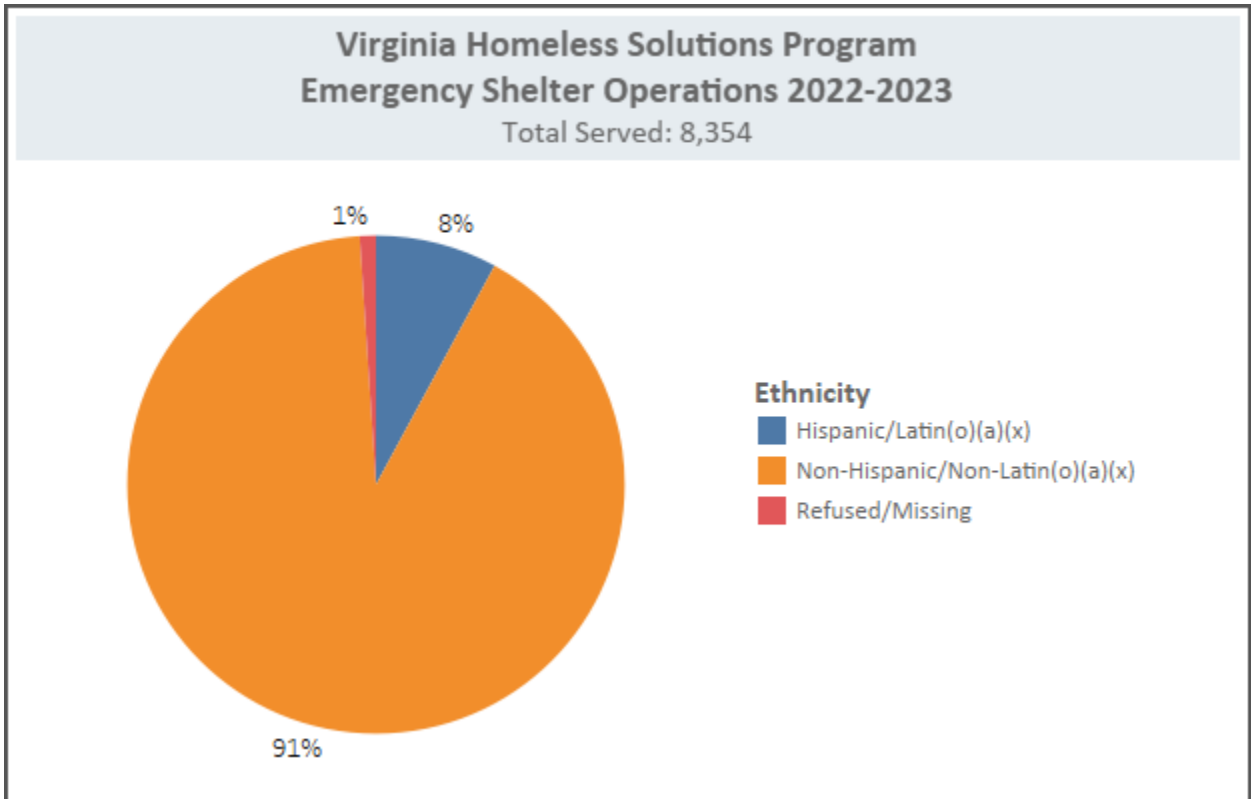
Twenty-eight (28%) of persons in emergency shelter were children under the age of 18 and eight (8%) of those served were 62 or older.

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Emergency Shelter Operations 2022-2023

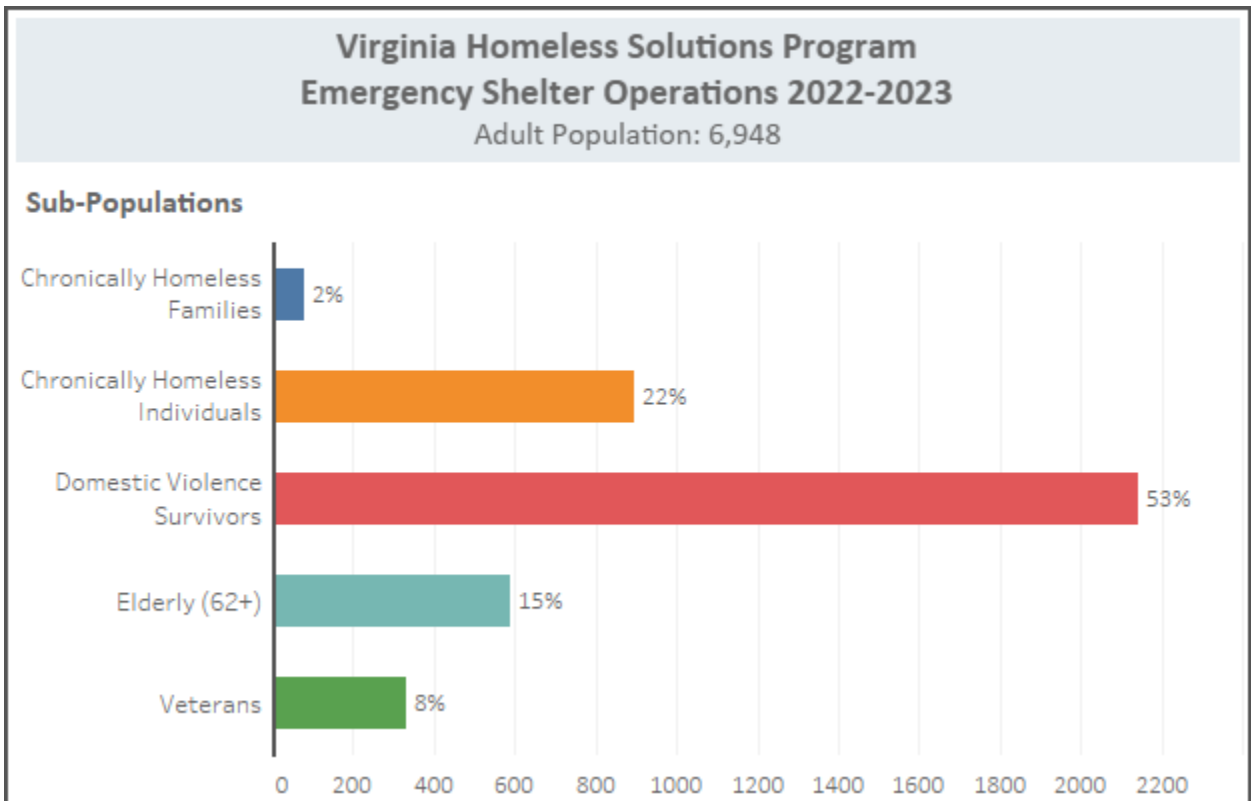
Total Served: 8,354



Data for the racial demographics of those in emergency shelters indicates the highest populations are Black, African American or African at 55% and White at 35%.

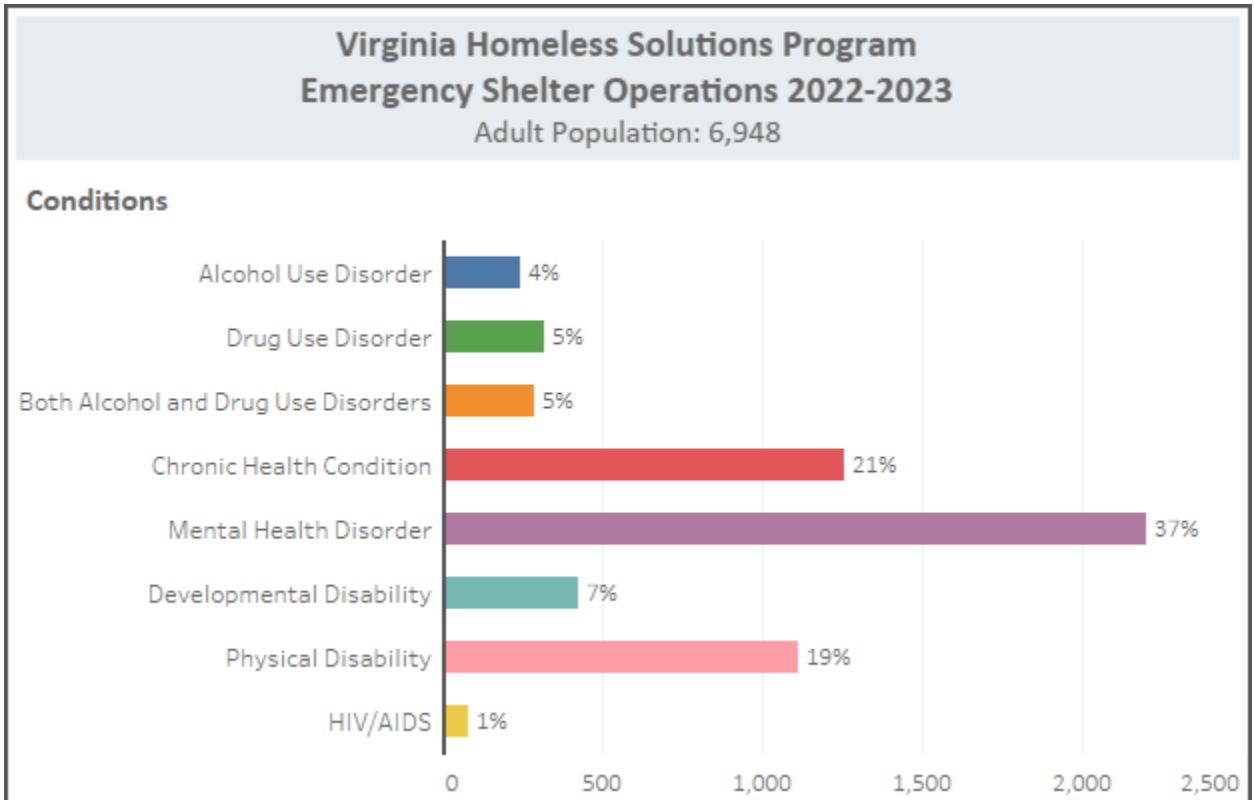


The ethnic make-up of those in emergency shelter stood at eight percent (8%) Hispanic or Latino/a/X.



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

Fifty-three percent (53%) of adults are victims of domestic violence. Of the households without children who were served in emergency shelter, sixteen percent (22%) were chronically homeless. And of the total individuals in households' w/children, two percent (2%) are chronically homeless (family chronic homelessness includes adults and children). Six percent (6%) of adult individuals receiving VHSP-funded shelter services report veteran status.



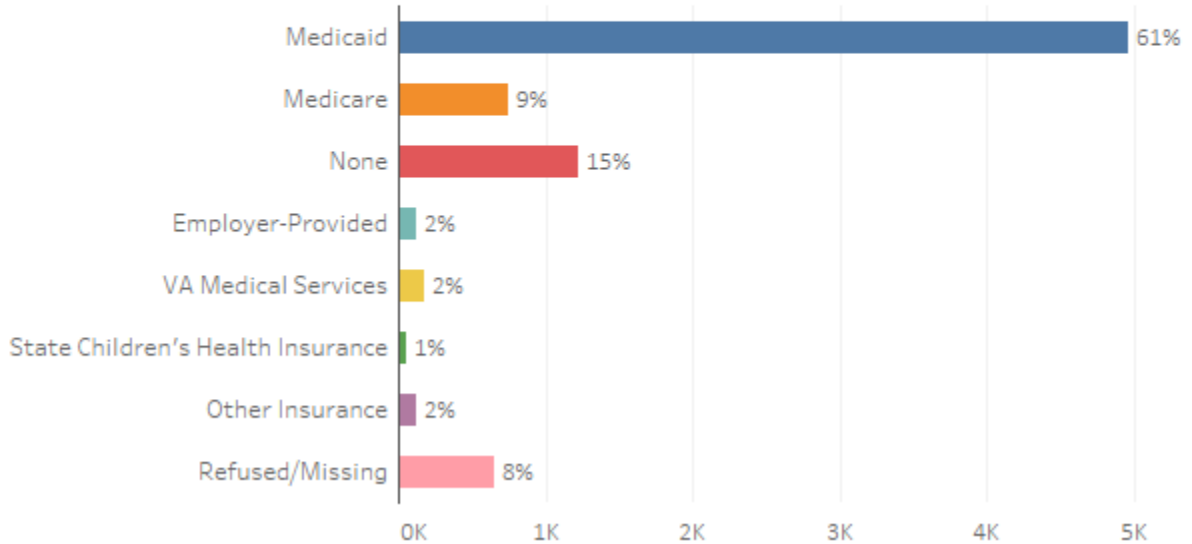
*Note conditions only include adults. An adult may be in one or more categories.

Significant challenges and barriers to housing include serious mental illness (37%), chronic substance abuse (alcohol 4%, drug abuse 5%, and both alcohol and drug 5%), and other chronic health conditions (21%), 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 Program Emergency Shelter Operations 2022-2023

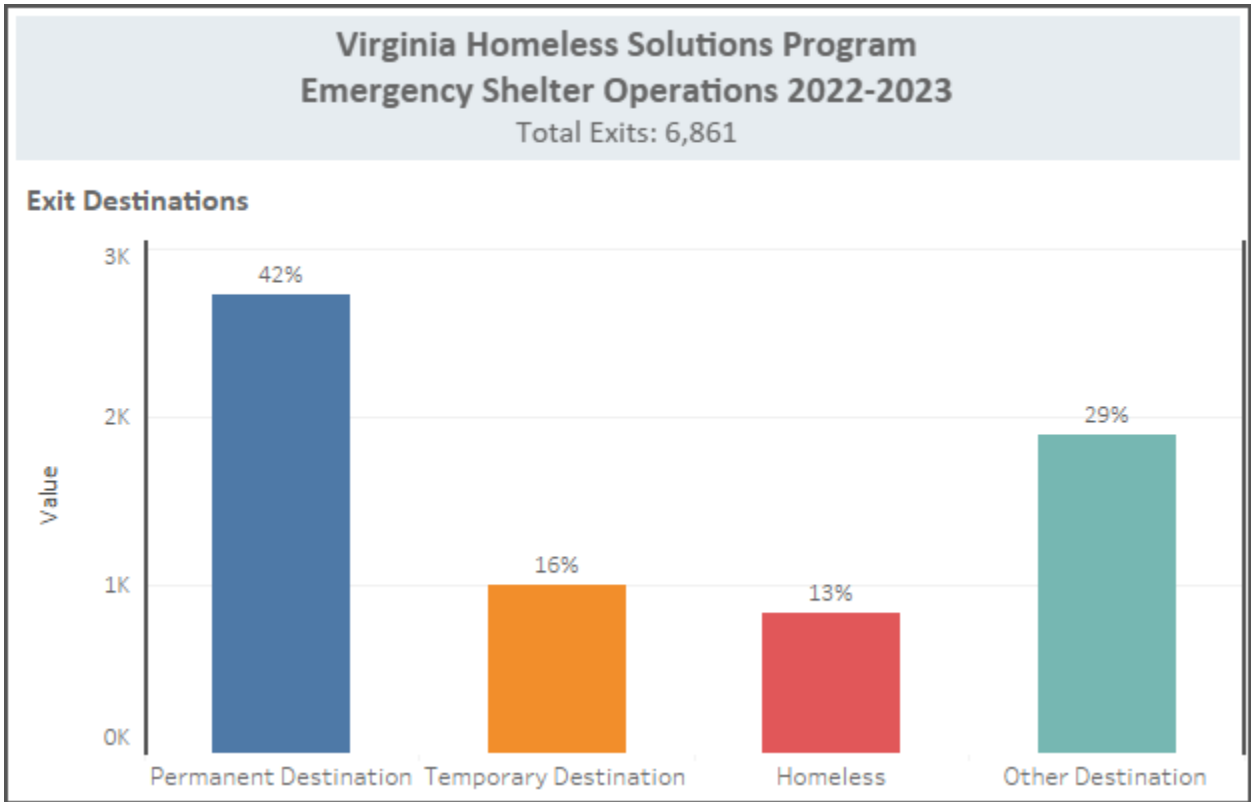
Total Served: 8,354

Health Insurance



*Note insurance includes adults and children. A person may be enrolled in more than one type.

As DHCD increases collaboration with other systems of care and most specifically, health care institutions, managed care organization, and other mainstream resources, data collection related to insurance has been important. Over the last fiscal year, fifteen percent (15%) had no insurance while the majority, sixty-one percent (61%), had Medicaid.



Of households that exited shelter, forty-two percent (42%) exited to a permanent destination (market rate rental, Section 8, supportive housing, permanent placement with family and friends). Sixteen percent (16%) exited to a temporary destination (hotel or to temporary housing provided by family/friends or prison/jail, hospital, or foster care). Thirteen percent (13%) exited to another homeless location, and twenty-nine percent (29%) exited to an unknown destination.

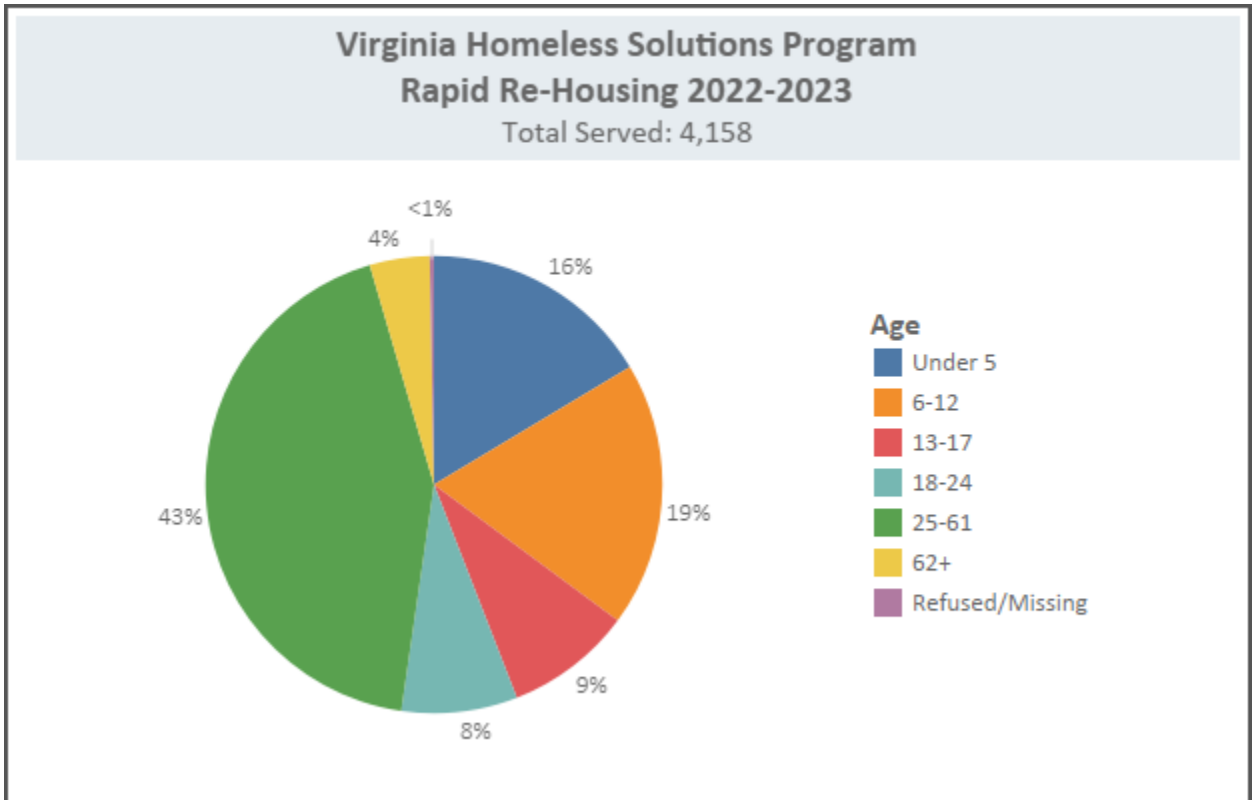
Rapid Re-housing

Funding for rapid re-housing totaled approximately \$6.3 million through the VHSP application process. 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 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 voluntary services, eighty-three percent (83%) of households exit to permanent housing including forty-five percent (45%) without any on-going subsidy.

The length of time it takes to place households into permanent housing can vary depending on the barriers and needs of any household. During FY22-23, the greatest percentage of households obtained permanent housing within seven days (30%),

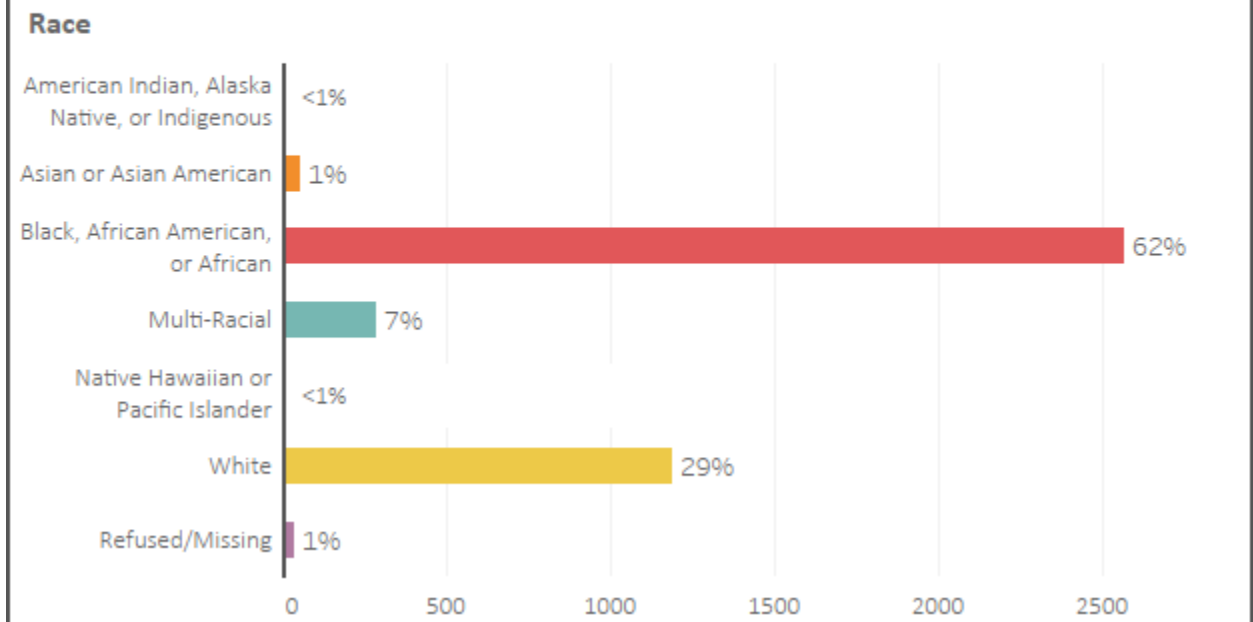
followed by 61- 180 days at 28% and 31-60 days at 18%, while the remaining were between 8-30 days (13%) and over 180 days (11%).



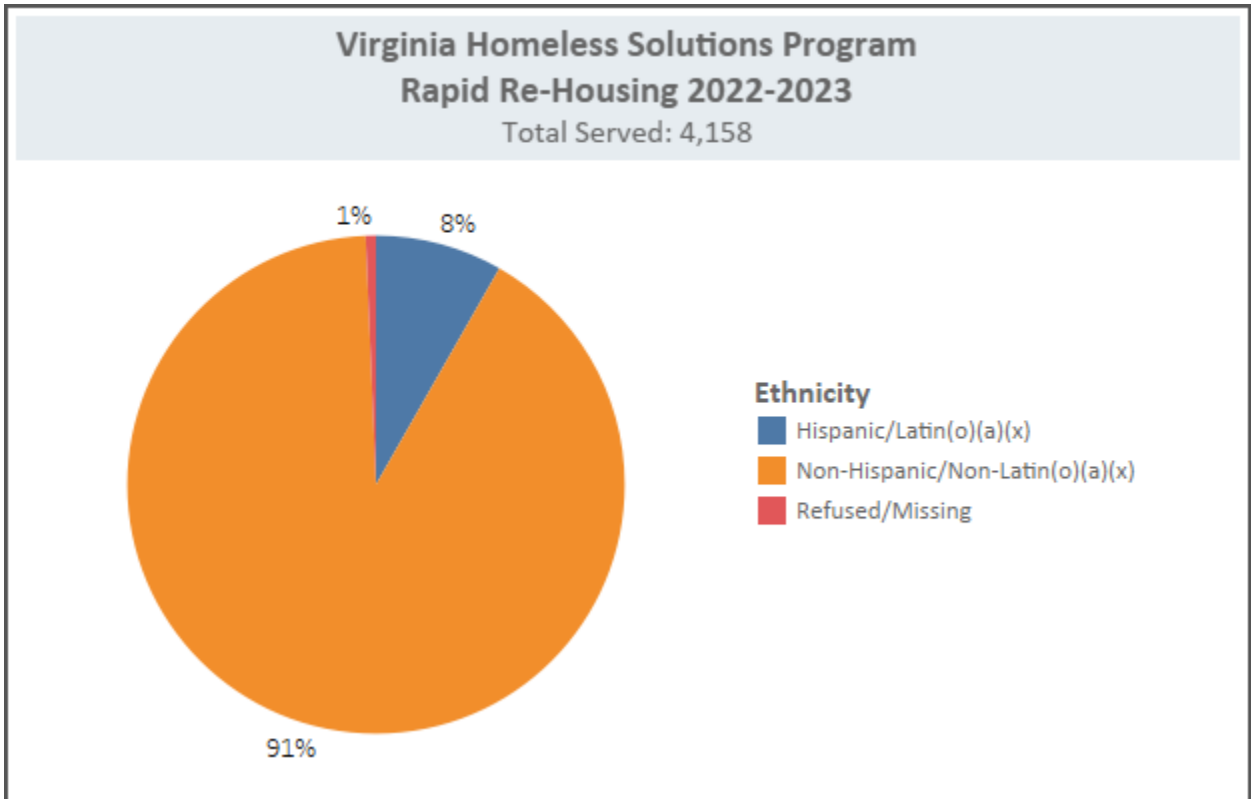
Forty-four percent (44%) of those who were rapidly re-housed were children under the age of 18.

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Rapid Re-Housing 2022-2023

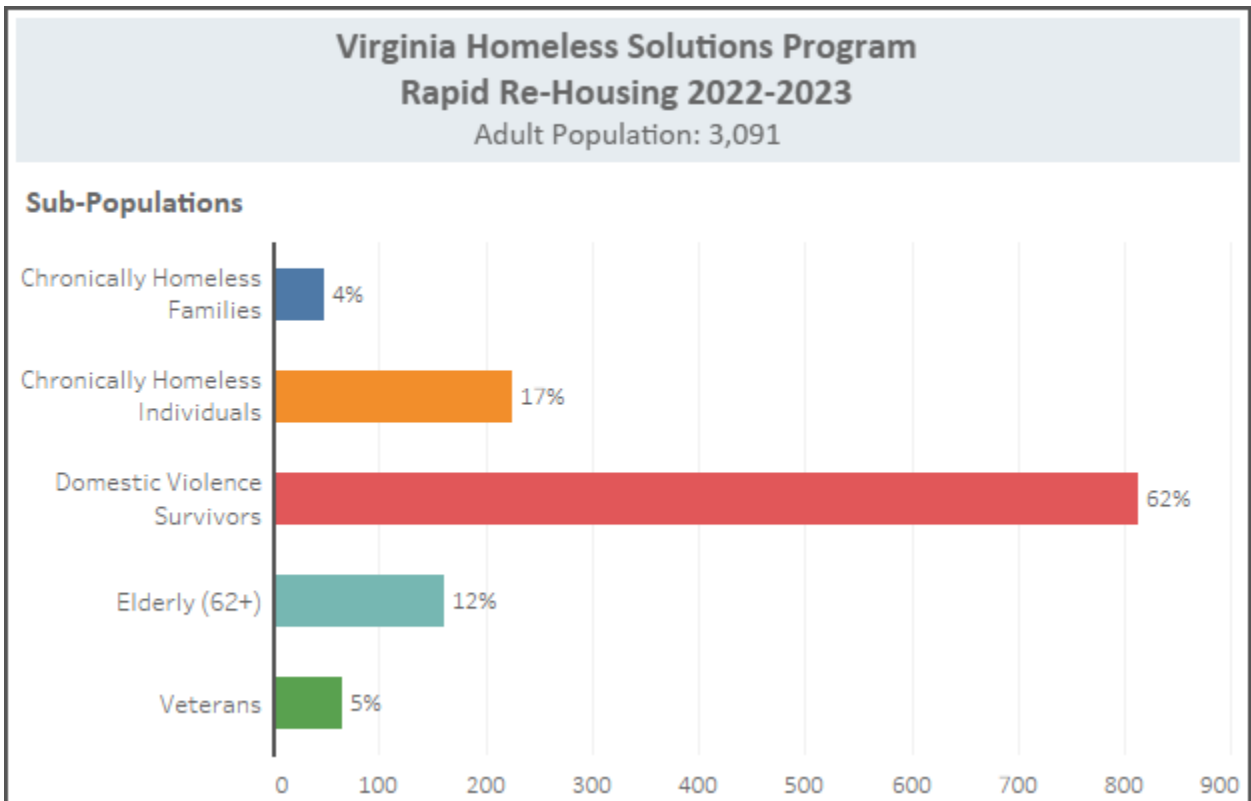
Total Served: 4,158



The racial representation for those in rapid-rehousing indicates that Black, African American, or African constitutes 62% and White as 29%, or 91% of the total population.

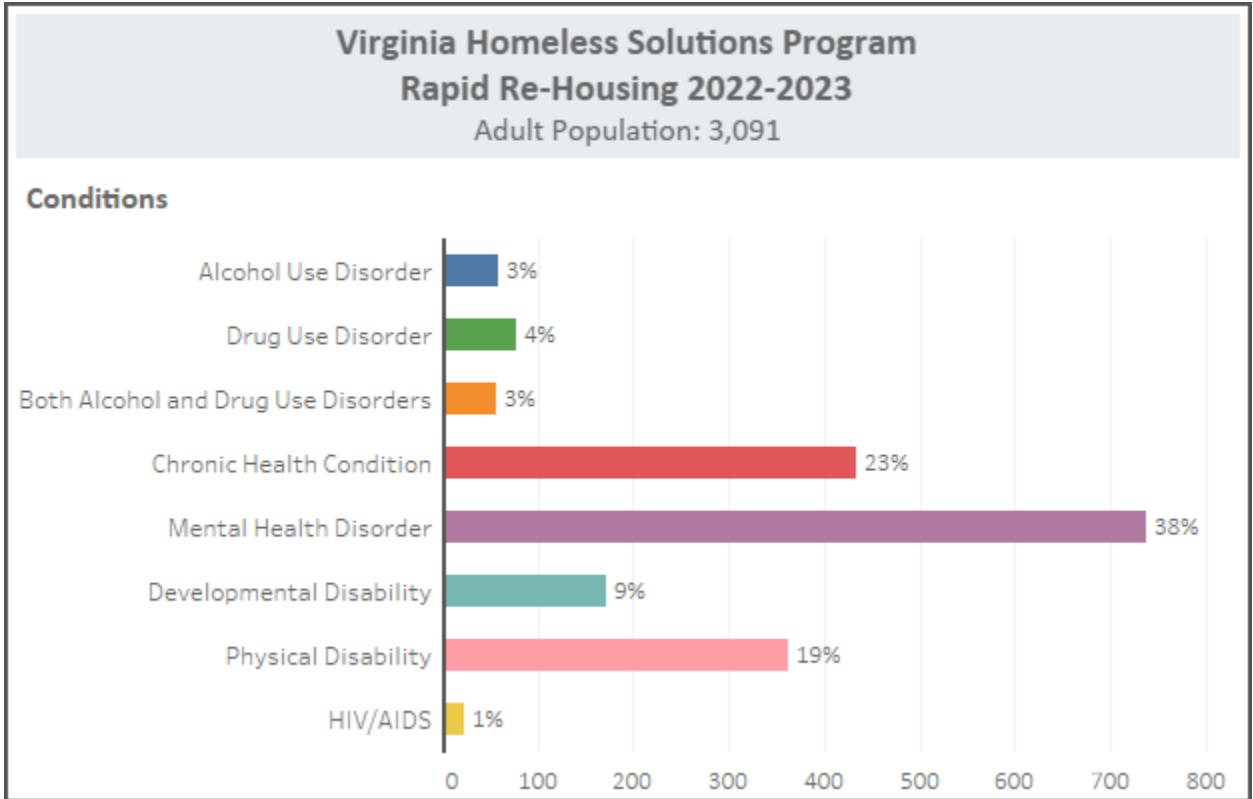


The ethnic make-up of those in rapid re-housing programs stood at eight percent (8%) Hispanic or Latino/a/X.



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

Sixty-two percent (62%) of adults are survivors of domestic violence. Of the households without children who were served in rapid re-housing, seventeen percent (17%) were chronically homeless. Of the total individuals in households' w/children, four percent (4%) are chronically homeless (family chronic homelessness includes adults and children). Five percent (5%) of adult individuals receiving VHSP-funded shelter services report veteran status.



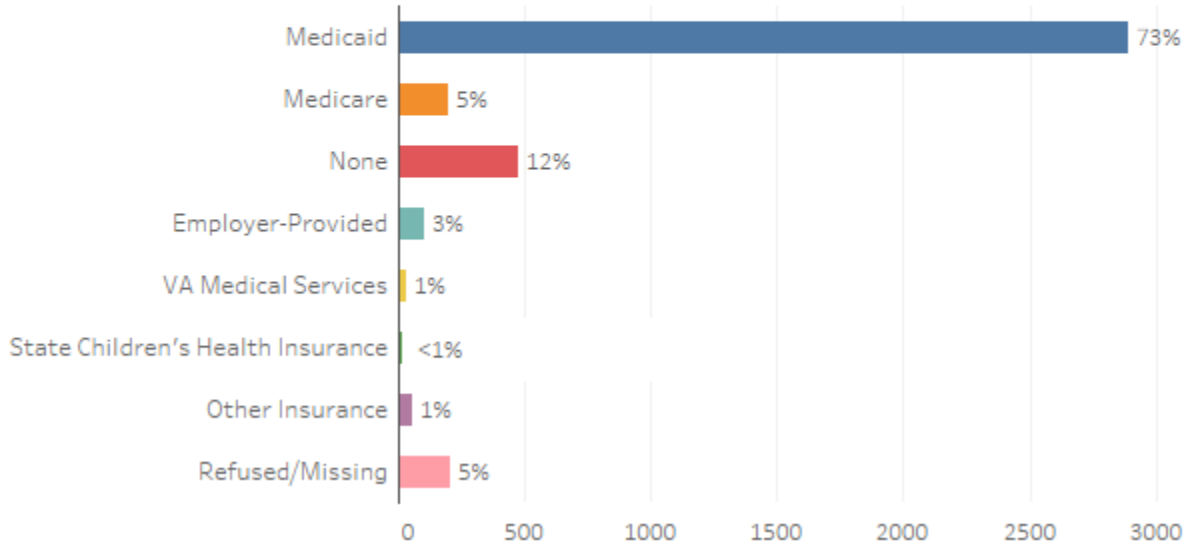
*Note conditions only include adults. An adult may be in one or more categories.

Significant challenges and barriers to housing include serious mental illness (38%), chronic substance abuse (alcohol 3%, drug abuse 5%, and both alcohol and drug 3%), and other chronic health conditions (23%), 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 Program Rapid Re-Housing 2022-2023

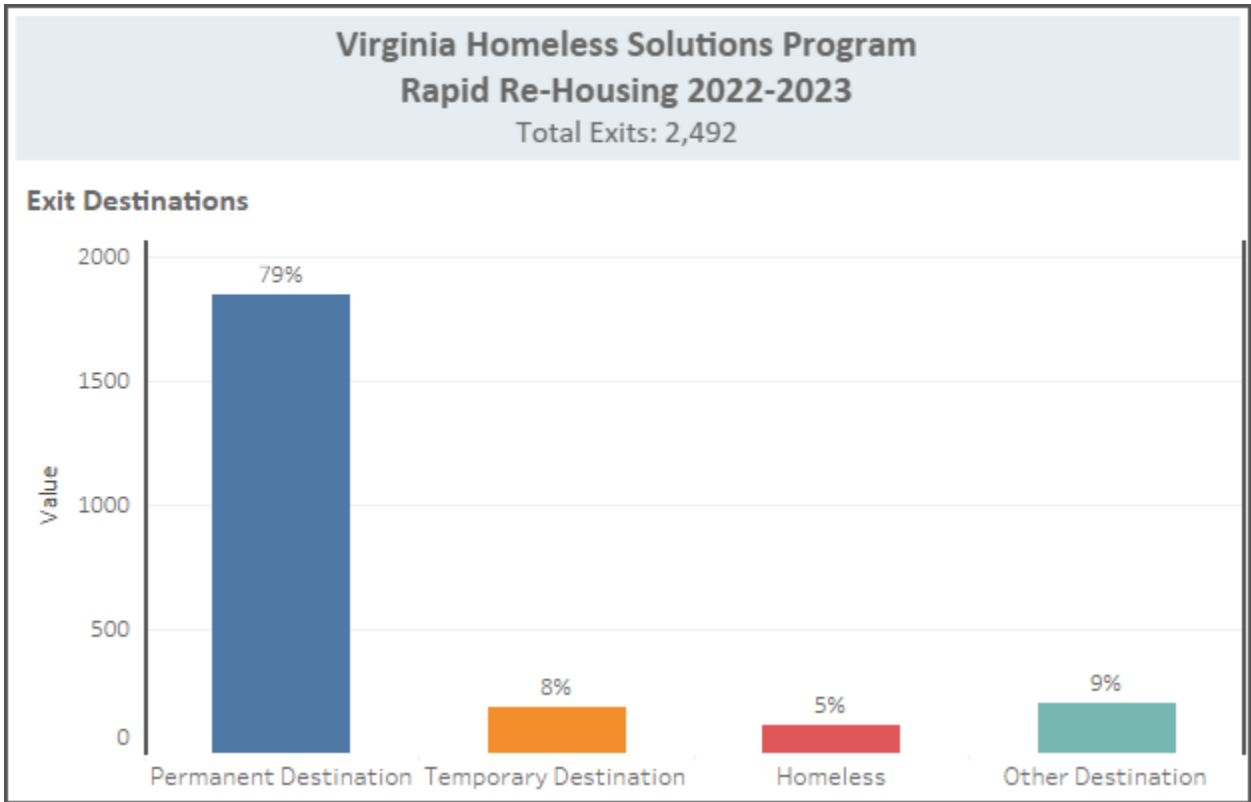
Total Served: 4,158

Health Insurance



*Note insurance includes adults and children. A person may be enrolled in more than one type.

Over the last fiscal year, twelve percent (12%) had no insurance while the majority, seventy-three percent (73%) had Medicaid.



Of households who exited rapid re-housing, seventy-nine percent (79%) exited to a permanent destination (market rate rental, Section 8, supportive housing, permanent placement with family and friends). Eight (8%) exited to a temporary destination (hotel or to temporary housing provided by family/friends or prison/jail or hospital). Five percent (5%) exited to a homeless destination (other shelter or place not meant for human habitation) and nine percent (9%) exited to an unknown destination.

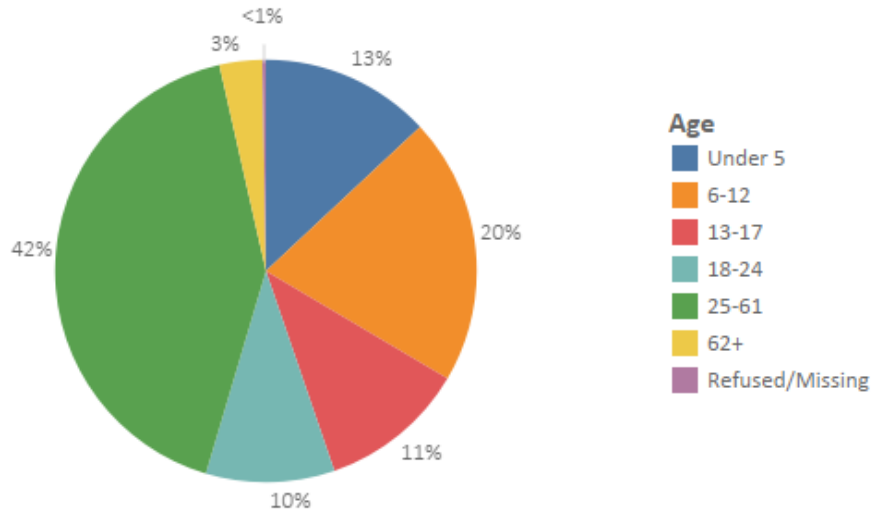
Homeless Prevention

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 22-23 program year, prevention funding provided assistance to 2,293 individuals (996 households) including 493 households with children under the age of 18.

**Virginia Homeless Solutions Program
Prevention 2022-2023**

Total Served: 2,293

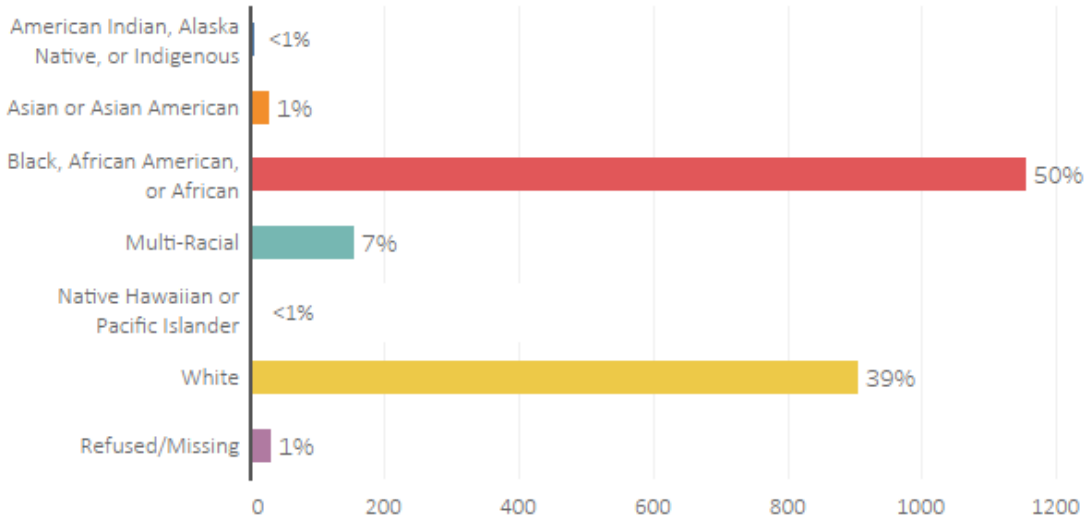


Forty-four percent (44%) of the individuals who received homeless prevention services were under the age of 18.

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Prevention 2022-2023

Total Served: 2,293

Race

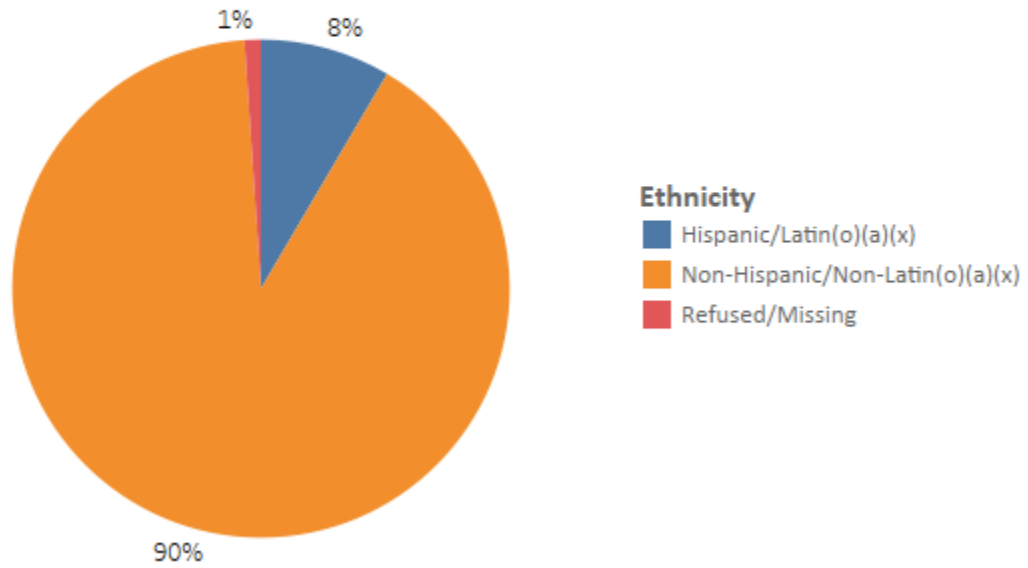


The racial representation for those in homeless prevention stood at fifty percent (50%) Black or African American, or African; thirty-nine percent (39%) White; seven percent (7%) Multi-racial; and approximately one percent (1%) American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; and Asian.

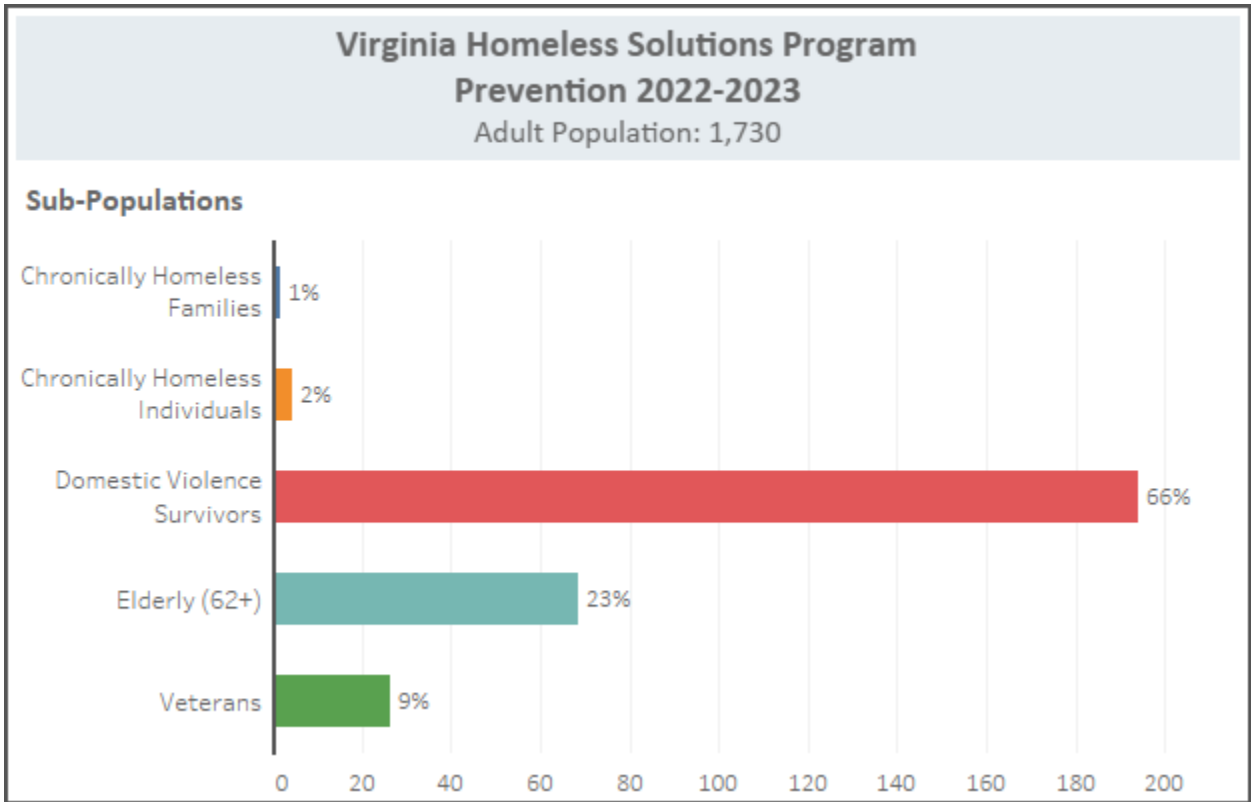
Virginia Homeless Solutions Program

Prevention 2022-2023

Total Served: 2,293

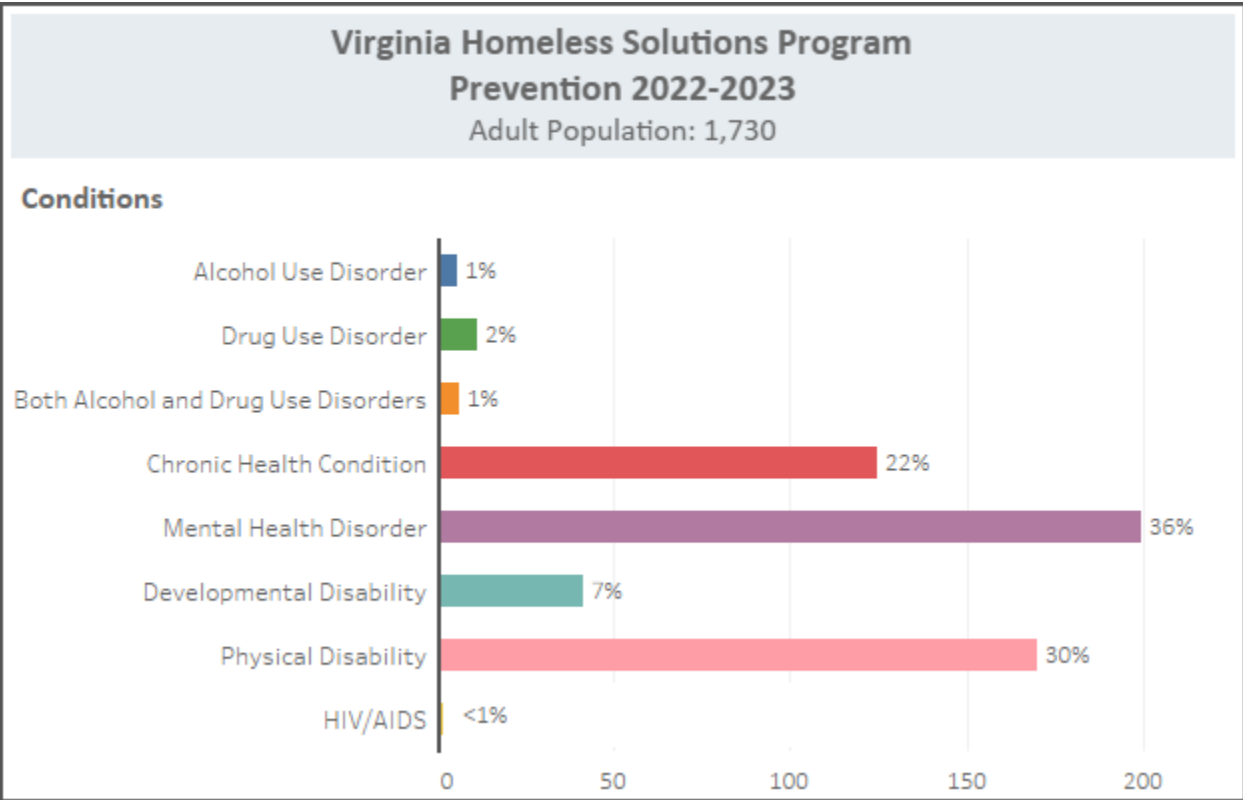


The ethnic make-up of those in Homeless Prevention programs stood at eight percent (8%) Hispanic or Latino/a/X.



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

Sixty-six percent (66%) of adults are survivors of domestic violence. Of the households without children who were served in homeless prevention, two percent (2%) were chronically homeless. Of the total individuals in households' w/children, one percent (1%) are chronically homeless (family chronic homelessness includes adults and children). Nine percent (9%) of adult individuals receiving VHSP-funded shelter services report veteran status.



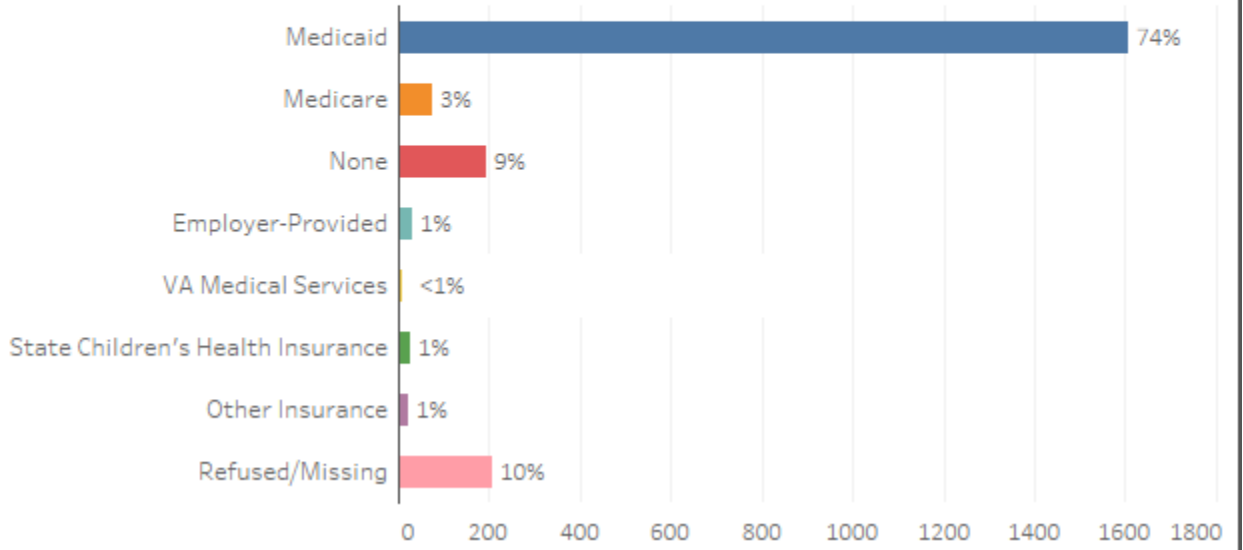
*Note conditions only include adults. An adult may be in one or more categories.

Significant challenges and barriers to housing include serious mental illness (36%), chronic substance abuse (alcohol 1%, drug abuse 2%, and both alcohol and drug (1%), and other chronic health conditions (22%), 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 Program Prevention 2022-2023

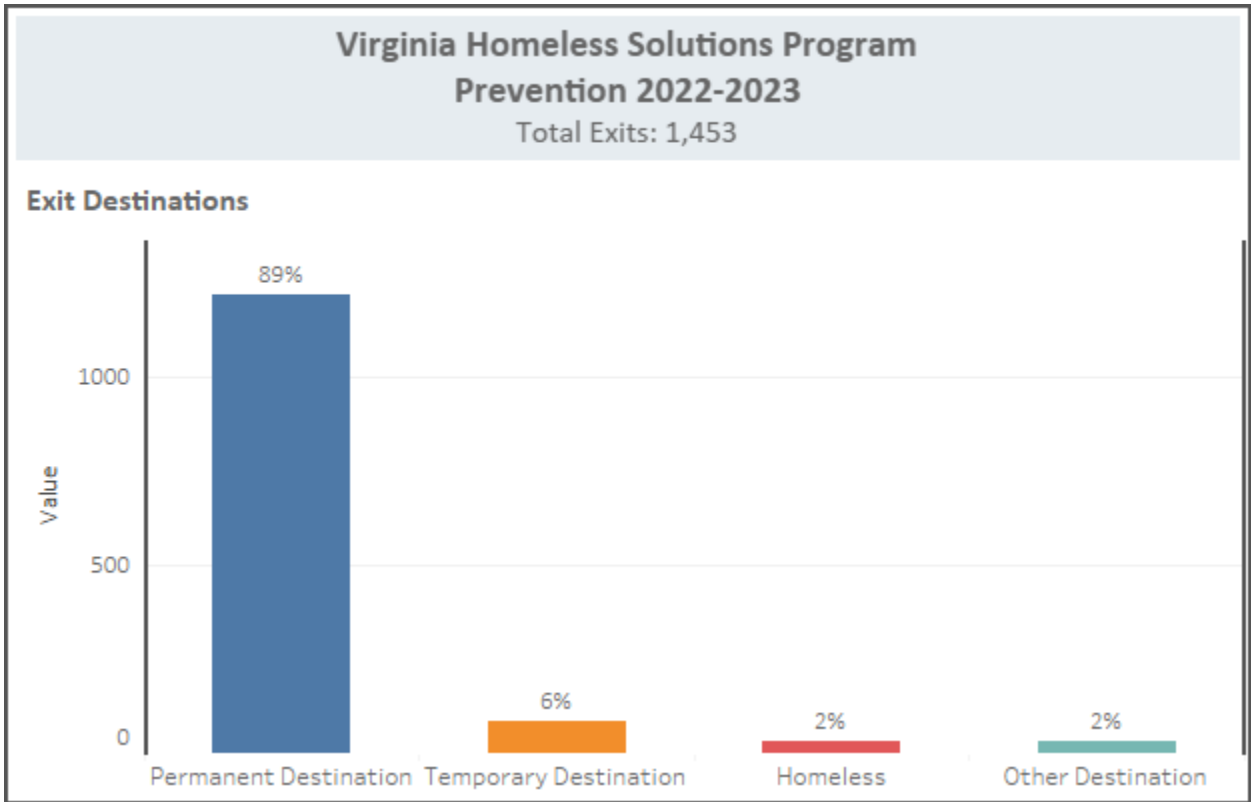
Total Served: 2,293

Health Insurance



*Note insurance includes adults and children. A person may be enrolled in more than one type.

Over the last fiscal year, nine percent (9%) had no insurance while the majority, seventy-four percent (74%), had Medicaid.



Of households who exited homeless prevention, eighty-nine percent (89%) exited to a permanent destination (market rate rental, Section 8, supportive housing, or permanent placement with family and friends). Six percent (6%) exited to a temporary destination (hotel or to temporary housing provided by family/friends, prison/jail, or hospital). Two percent (2%) exited to a homeless destination (shelter or place not meant for human habitation) and two percent (2%) exited to an unknown destination.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)

HOPWA funds are available to meet needed housing assistance for moderate- to low-income individuals with HIV/AIDS outside of Virginia’s 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.

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 \$1,375,054 in HOPWA funds through eight project sponsors across the Commonwealth of Virginia. The project sponsors served a

total of 329 unduplicated households with housing assistance. The services they received included:

- Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU) - 236 households
- Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) - 98 households
- Supportive services – 223 households

An additional 175 family members, of whom 8 also had HIV/AIDS, benefited from HOPWA housing assistance.

Of those eligible households that received HOPWA assistance, 78 percent had extremely low incomes (0-30% AMI), 12 percent had very low incomes (31-50% AMI), and 10 percent had low incomes (51-80% AMI).

HOPWA Project Sponsors 2022-2023				
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
City of Charlottesville	Roanoke	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services, Permanent Housing Placement	Case management	\$288,172
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	Norton	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services	Case management	\$128,144
Council of Community Services	Roanoke, Covington, Salem, Clifton Forge, Vinton	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services, Permanent Housing Placement	Case management	\$265,000
Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services	Fredericksburg	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services, Permanent Housing Placement	Case management/ Transportation	\$140,000

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	\$122,200.20
Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc.	Lynchburg	Short term rent. Tenant based rental assistance, support services	Case management, Transportation, Food/Foodbank, Support Group	\$83,199
Pittsylvania Community Action Inc	Pittsylvania	Tenant based rental assistance, Short term rent, Support services, Permanent Housing Placement	Case management	\$115,000
Total *Total does not include admin allocated to DHCD				\$1,233,802.20

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,
- 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.

Fifty-one applications were submitted by 29 organizations under this year's Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant competitive cycle, with requests of over \$9.3 million in funding. The applications were reviewed, evaluated, and scored according to the requirements of the program. Upon completion of the review process, proposals were

ranked, whereby award offers are recommended to the highest-ranking proposals based on funding availability.

Housing Trust Fund – Homeless Reduction Grant contracts follow the calendar year from January 1 – December 31. Final FY 2023 service numbers will be reported in next year’s report.

Awards follow:

RRH – Rapid Re-Housing

PSH – Permanent Supportive Housing

UIP – Underserved Populations Innovation Project (innovative projects for specific groups experiencing homelessness who have been historically underserved including older adults and youth)

FY 2022 is the last complete year of implementation. During FY 2022, 46 projects utilized \$8.3 million to serve the following households:

- 14 RRH Projects served 788 households
- 14 UPI Projects served 393 households
- 18 PSH Projects served 705 households

1,886 households experiencing homelessness were served in FY 2022.

Housing Trust Fund 2022-2023				
Organization	Project Name	Project/Activity	Award	Communities Served
Arlington Street People Assistance Network, Inc.	The A-SPAN Supportive Housing Project	PSH	\$ 175,000	County of Arlington
Bridges to Independence	Bridges To Independence-RRH-22	RRH	\$ 625,630	County of Arlington
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	CCC Youth Street Outreach 2022	UIP	\$ 177,000	City of Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, City of Emporia, Greensville, City of Hopewell, City of Petersburg, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex
Cornerstones	Cornerstones HTF FY22 RR	RRH	\$ 200,000	Fairfax (City and County), City of Falls Church
Council of Community Services	CCS Innovation 2022	UIP	\$ 50,000	Alleghany, Botetourt, City of Covington, Craig, Roanoke (City

				and County), and the City of Salem
Council of Community Services	CCS RRH 2022	RRH	\$ 150,000	Alleghany, Botetourt, City of Covington, Craig, Roanoke (City and County), and the City of Salem
County of Loudoun	County of Loudoun DFS PSH2 2021-2022	PSH	\$ 201,777	County of Loudoun
Doorways for Women and Families Homes	2022 Doorways Housing Trust Fund	RRH	\$ 76,642	County of Arlington
Equality Virginia	EV, Underserved Populations Innovation Project, 2022	UPIP	\$ 132,145	Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and the City of Richmond
Family Crisis Support Services, Inc.	FCSS HTF-HRG	PSH	\$ 173,266	Cities of Norton, Counties of Dickenson, Lee, Scott, and Wise
Family Crisis Support Services, Inc.	HTF Youth Innovation Project	UPIP	\$ 267,640	Cities of Norton, Counties of Dickenson, Lee, Scott, and Wise
ForKids, inc.	ForKids RRH for Parenting Youth 2022	UPIP	\$ 80,000	Cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, and Suffolk, Counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton
HomeAgain	HomeAgain - PSH - 2022	PSH	\$ 23,363	Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and the City of Richmond
HomeAgain	HomeAgain - RRH - 2022	RRH	\$ 59,672	Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and the City of Richmond
Homeward	Homeward, GRCoC Homeless Older Adults Coalition, 2022	UPIP	\$ 212,200	Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent,

				Powhatan, and the City of Richmond
LGBT Life Center	LGBT Life Center RRH- Homeless Older Adults 2022	UIP	\$ 467,706	City of Chesapeake, City of Franklin, Isle of Wight, City of Norfolk, Southampton, and City of Suffolk
LGBT Life Center	LGBT Life Center Youth HOME 2022	UIP	\$ 398,614	City of Chesapeake, City of Franklin, Isle of Wight, City of Norfolk, Southampton, and City of Suffolk
Mercy House, Inc.	Mercy House Rapid Re-housing	RRH	\$ 100,000	City of Harrisonburg, City of Winchester, Rockingham, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, Warren
Micah Ecumenical Ministries	FY22 FrCoC Partnerships for Health Innovation Project (Micah)	UIP	\$ 154,500	City of Fredericksburg, Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford
Micah Ecumenical Ministries	FY22 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	\$ 118,450	City of Fredericksburg, Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford
Miriam's House	Miriam's House, Central Virginia Supportive Housing, 2022	PSH	\$ 61,800	Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford (City and County), Campbell, and City of Lynchburg
Miriam's House	Miriam's House, Community First, 2022	RRH	\$ 150,000	Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford (City and County), Campbell, and City of Lynchburg
New Hope Housing, Inc.	Alexandria City PSH 2022	PSH	\$ 69,000	City of Alexandria

New Hope Housing, Inc.	Arlington PSH Projects 2022	PSH	\$ 103,000	County of Arlington
New Hope Housing, Inc.	Fairfax PSH Projects 2022	PSH	\$ 75,000	Fairfax (City and County), City of Falls Church
New River Community Action, Inc.	NRCA HTF RRH FY2022	RRH	\$ 107,850	Giles, Floyd, Montgomery (including Blacksburg and Christiansburg), Pulaski, and City of Radford
Northern Virginia Family Service	NVFS Prince William Area Rapid Re-Housing Program	RRH	\$ 100,000	City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, and Prince William
People Incorporated of Virginia	People Inc. Cumberland Plateau - HTF PSH 2022	PSH	\$ 83,639	Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell, Washington, and City of Bristol
People Incorporated of Virginia	People Inc. HTF - HRG Foothills Housing Network PSH 2022	PSH	\$ 90,808	Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell, Washington, and City of Bristol
The Planning Council	The Planning Council Homeless Elders Innovation Planning Project 2022	UPIP	\$ 109,638	City of Chesapeake, City of Franklin, Isle of Wight, City of Norfolk, Southampton, and City of Suffolk
Samaritan House	SHI Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant 2022	RRH	\$ 100,000	City of Virginia Beach
Shelter House	Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant 2022	RRH	\$ 400,000	Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, County of Fairfax
St. Joseph's Villa	Flagler Youth RRH & Outreach - HRC	UPIP	\$ 341,549	City of Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, City of Emporia, Greensville, City of Hopewell, City of Petersburg, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex
St. Joseph's Villa	SJV RRH HRC	RRH	\$ 135,000	City of Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, City of Emporia,

				Greensville, City of Hopewell, City of Petersburg, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex
St. Joseph's Villa	SJV PSH Richmond	PSH	\$ 97,983	City of Richmond, Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, and Powhatan
Valley Community Services Board	RRH Youth	UPIP	\$220,387	Cities of Buena Vista, Lexington, Staunton, and Waynesboro, Counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, and Rockbridge, Townes of Craigsville and Monterey
Virginia Commonwealth University	Shared Housing Program for LGBTQ+ youth, pregnant and parenting youth and youth at the intersection	UPIP	\$ 838,014	City of Richmond, Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, and Powhatan
Virginia Supportive Housing	FY22 VSH GRCoC PSH Services	PSH	\$ 300,000	City of Richmond
Virginia Supportive Housing	FY22 VSH Cloverleaf and Crescent Square - Virginia Beach	PSH	\$ 110,000	City of Virginia Beach
Virginia Supportive Housing	FY22 VSH Gosnold and Church Street - Norfolk	PSH	\$ 105,000	City of Norfolk
Virginia Supportive Housing	FY22 VSH South Bay Apartments - Portsmouth	PSH	\$ 60,000	City of Portsmouth
Virginia Supportive Housing	FY22 VSH GVPHC PSH Pilot	PSH	\$ 65,000	City of Hampton, James City, City of Newport News, City of Poquoson, City of Williamsburg, York

Williamsburg House of Mercy	Colonial Area Supportive Housing	PSH	\$ 71,749	City of Williamsburg, Counties of James City and York
Williamsburg House of Mercy	Older Adults Returning to Stability (OARS)	UIP	\$ 149,510	City of Williamsburg, Counties of James City and York
YWCA South Hampton Roads	YWCA - HTF RRH - FY22	RRH	\$ 96,202	City of Chesapeake, City of Franklin, Isle of Wight, City of Norfolk, Southampton, and City of Suffolk
TOTAL:				\$8,264,804

Underserved Population Invocation Pilot projects (UIP)

Agencies across the Commonwealth have piloted projects that focus on populations that are often underserved ranging from youth 18-24, older adults, LGBTQ+, those with substance use or who are in recovery, and those with complex medical needs. As a result, many projects have created new models of service delivery with the experience of those being served. A few highlights include establishing a Supportive Housing Collaborative, partnering with managed care organizations, increasing shared housing options, improving coordinated entry and assessment methods, providing critical supplies (food, clothing, diapers, and toiletries), and the implementation of Positive Youth Development and Healing Centered Engagement approaches.

While focusing on these underserved populations there were a number of barriers to their service that were identified. Specific to parenting youth (18-24), were lack of childcare, lack of shelter space, and difficulty in getting connected to mainstream services. There were also barriers related to the complexity of serving older adults specifically the lack of cross-system referrals when healthcare providers identify lack of housing as the most significant health-related social needs.

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 CHERP is to help households maintain or obtain permanent housing and receive the housing-focused supportive services necessary to retain permanent housing. Additionally, COVID funds were used to revamp services to the post COVID era.

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 is 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.

Early funds, CHERP -CDBG, for congregate shelter were expended during the FY22 fiscal year. During FY22, HUD reallocated funds and Virginia received a second tranche of ESG CV funding these funds were allocated to the following CoCs and Balance of State Local Planning Groups (LPG).

CHERP ESG-CV Second Allocation		
Organization	CoC/LPG	Allocation
Portsmouth Volunteer for the Homeless	Portsmouth CoC	\$45,000
Southside Survivor Response Center	West Piedmont LPG	\$20,000
New River Family Shelter	New River Valley LPG	\$45,000
CHASS	Foothills Housing Network LPG	\$250,000
Volunteers of America	Loudoun CoC	\$35,000
Family Crisis Support Services	LENOWISCO LPG	\$31,500
Charlottesville	Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homelessness	\$14,419
Loudoun	Loudoun CoC	\$65,000
Shelter House	Loudoun CoC	\$114,709.48
STEPS	Heartland LPG	\$100,000
Empowerhouse	Fredericksburg CoC	\$100,000
Rappahannock Refuge dba Hope House	Fredericksburg CoC	\$110,000
GUEST	Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula LPG	\$120,000

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 homeless in the Commonwealth of Virginia has achieved significant results:

- ✓ Overall homelessness decreased by 25 percent
- ✓ Family homelessness decreased by 38 percent
- ✓ Veteran homelessness decreased by 59 percent (since 2011)
- ✓ Youth homelessness decreased by 49 percent (since 2013)
- ✓ Chronic homelessness decreased by 33 percent

With continued state leadership, innovation, funding, and increased affordable housing, ending homelessness is possible in Virginia.