

2026



Summit County
Continuum of Care

Summit County Continuum of Care 2026 Annual Report

Building a System Where Homelessness is Rare, Brief, and Non-Recurring

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Community Partners,

The work of the Summit County Continuum of Care is more than system coordination; it is a commitment to human dignity, stability, and the belief that every person deserves a safe place to call home. As it is written, "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done." — Proverbs 19:17. This truth reflects the spirit of our work and the shared responsibility we carry as a community.

This past year has made one thing clear: the future of our homeless crisis response system cannot rely on federal funding alone. As we face increasing uncertainty and potential reductions in federal resources, our community must be prepared to respond with urgency, partnership, and local investment.

Ending homelessness is not achieved through one program, one partner, or one policy. It is achieved when communities choose to work differently and faith based and grassroots public, private, and philanthropic partners come together to build a system that is resilient, responsive, and sustainable.

Our work is grounded in the understanding that homelessness is not simply a condition experienced by individuals, but a reflection of systems that must continuously evolve. We are committed to strengthening those systems, improving performance, deepening collaboration, and advancing strategies that move people quickly and safely from crisis to stability. We strive not simply to manage homelessness, but to reduce it measurably, intentionally, and sustainably.

But we cannot do this work alone.

Each year, our system serves thousands of individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their housing. The resources that support this work are increasingly constrained, even as the need continues to grow. Without new and diversified investment, we risk losing ground, affecting not only those experiencing homelessness, but the health, safety, and economic stability of our entire community.

This is a pivotal moment.

Private sector and philanthropic partners have a critical role to play in shaping what comes next. Strategic investment can stabilize programs, fill critical gaps, and allow us to innovate in ways that public funding alone cannot support. More importantly, it allows us to build a system that is not only reactive but also proactive,

preventing homelessness before it begins.

Behind every data point is a person a parent seeking safety for their children, a young person searching for direction, a neighbor who wants nothing more than a stable place to sleep tonight. Our responsibility is not only to respond to these moments of crisis, but to build pathways that prevent them.

We are proud of the progress we have made. We are equally clear-eyed about the challenges ahead.

The path forward will require courage to invest locally, to collaborate more deeply, and to act with urgency. It will require all of us.

Together, we can build a system that is stronger, more resilient, and better equipped to ensure that homelessness in Summit County is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

We invite you to be part of what comes next.

With gratitude and determination,



Christopher J. Richardson,
M.Ed., LPC, LICDC-CS
Executive Director
Summit County Continuum of Care

ABOUT THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

The Summit County Continuum of Care (SCCoC) serves as the lead coordinating body for the local homelessness response system, aligning more than 70 partner organizations around a shared goal: to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

SCCoC oversees a system that integrates housing programs, coordinated entry, and data-driven decision-making to ensure resources are directed efficiently and equitably.



Pictured from left to right: Tamala Skipper, Chris Brewer, Mathew Seifert, Mark Greer, Rebecca Reeder, Georgeann Mirgliotta, Brian Rink, Holy Cundiff, Latoya Harris, Constance Bozeman, Clyde Elkins
Not pictured: George DeBord, Colleen Cicero

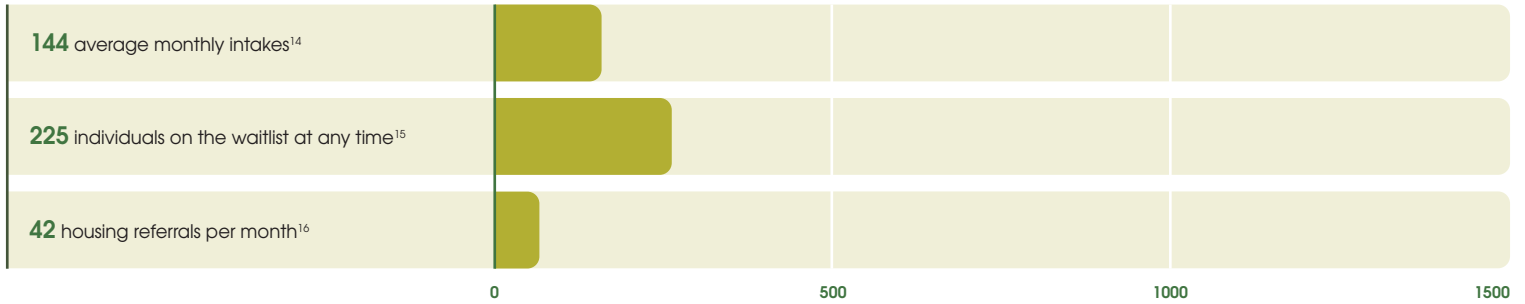
The State of Homelessness in Summit County

In 2025, the system included **1,494** housing opportunities, consisting of:

693 Permanent Supportive Housing beds **365** Emergency Shelter beds **278** Rapid Re-Housing beds **140** Transitional Housing beds **18** Safe Haven beds

System Pressure & Demand

System flow data illustrates a clear imbalance between demand and available housing:



At the same time:



This means the system is consistently receiving **more than three times the demand than it can resolve through housing placements.**

OUR SYSTEM RESPONSE

SCCoC coordinates a structured response that includes:

- Coordinated Entry for system-wide access
- Rapid Re-Housing for short-term stabilization
- Permanent Supportive Housing for long-term needs
- Youth-focused strategies through YHDP and related initiatives
- Survivor-centered housing pathways for domestic violence

The system is functioning as designed but is constrained by limited housing inventory.

SYSTEM IMPACT

Even under pressure, the system continues to produce results:

- Households are consistently connected to permanent housing
- The most vulnerable individuals are prioritized
- Survivors of domestic violence represent a significant number of people served through the system with shelter and further housing supports
- System coordination has improved efficiency and access
- **The Coordinated Entry (CE) Workflow for OH-506** (Summit County Continuum of Care) ensures that individuals and families experiencing homelessness are connected to the right resources quickly and fairly. Beginning with a centralized 211 assessment, households are guided through diversion, shelter access, and housing pathways based on their needs and eligibility. The system includes targeted pathways for priority populations such as youth, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, and those experiencing chronic homelessness using By-Name Lists to prioritize those with the highest needs. This coordinated approach improves efficiency, promotes equity, and ensures consistent, transparent access to housing resources across the community.

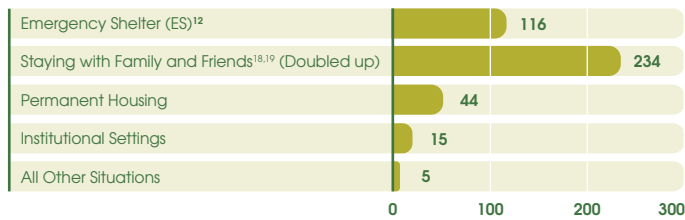
The data reflects a system that is working but operating at capacity.

Youth homelessness remains a critical challenge in Summit County, requiring targeted, developmentally appropriate responses. Young people experiencing homelessness often face barriers such as family disconnection, limited income, and disrupted education making coordinated, youth-centered support essential.

In 2025, the Summit County Continuum of Care strengthened its youth response system through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)²⁰ and Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) efforts. These initiatives have expanded our ability to identify, engage, and support youth

Prior Living Situation

Total²: 414



while advancing more equitable and responsive system practices.

A key component of this work is the Youth Peer Navigator, who provides individualized support including coordinated entry navigation, housing assistance, and service connection. This role ensures youth are not navigating systems alone and helps remove barriers to housing stability.

We also expanded Host Homes and Kinship placements, offering safe, community-based alternatives to traditional shelter. At the same time, the Youth Advisory Board continues to shape system design, ensuring youth voices guide decision-making.

While progress is evident, demand for youth housing continues to exceed supply. Sustained investment and innovation are essential to ensure youth homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring and that every young person can thrive.

Youth By Age Group¹⁷



57%^{18,19} of youth served were couch surfing at program entry compared to 28% of overall homeless population

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS: A HIDDEN CRISIS

Domestic violence remains one of the leading causes of homelessness in Summit County, particularly for women, children, and youth. For many survivors, fleeing abuse means choosing between safety and housing stability making a coordinated, survivor-centered response essential.

In 2025, 909 survivors of domestic violence found safety through our programs, including:



These numbers reflect both the scale of need and the critical importance of maintaining and expanding housing resources through the local homelessness response system. This represents

a significant portion of overall system demand and underscores the urgent need for specialized, confidential housing responses. On a single night during the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, hundreds of individuals in Summit County were experiencing homelessness, with survivors representing a critical, yet often underreported segment. Many remain hidden, staying temporarily with others or avoiding shelter systems out of fear for their safety.

The Summit County Continuum of Care continues to strengthen partnerships with domestic violence providers, implementing coordinated entry processes that prioritize safety, confidentiality, and trauma-informed care. Survivors are connected to rapid re-housing, supportive services, and safe housing options through strong collaboration across systems.

Despite progress, gaps remain. Demand for safe, affordable housing and specialized services continues to exceed available resources. Addressing domestic violence as a driver of homelessness requires sustained investment, cross-system coordination, and a shared commitment to ensuring safety never comes at the cost of housing stability.

Lived Experience Leadership

The Summit County Continuum of Care recognizes that the most effective homelessness response systems are shaped by the voices of those who have experienced them firsthand.

The Lived Experience Committee (LEC) is a core component of the SCCoC system design and decision-making structure. Comprised of individuals with direct experience of homelessness, the LEC provides critical insight into how policies, programs, and processes function in practice not just in theory.

In 2025, the LEC continued to meet regularly, offering input on:

- System design and coordinated entry processes
- Program accessibility and barriers to housing
- Strategic planning priorities
- Community engagement and outreach efforts

This feedback has directly informed improvements across the system, ensuring that services are more responsive, equitable, and grounded in real-world experience.

Participation in the LEC is compensated in alignment with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements, reflecting a commitment to valuing lived expertise as essential not optional to effective system planning.

Beyond formal input, the LEC strengthens the system in ways that cannot be measured by data alone. It ensures that decision-making remains connected to the realities faced by individuals and families navigating homelessness, and it reinforces accountability to the people the system is designed to serve.

As SCCoC continues to advance its Strategic Plan, the role of lived experience leadership will remain central to building a system that is not only efficient but just, responsive, and effective.

“The system works best when the people it serves help design it.”

Quality Assurance, System Performance, and Data Integrity

A high-performing homelessness response system depends on strong data, consistent monitoring, and a commitment to accountability. In 2025, the Summit County Continuum of Care strengthened its quality assurance (QA) and compliance infrastructure to ensure that system performance is measurable, transparent, and aligned with federal and local expectations.

Key system performance measures including length of time homeless, returns to homelessness, and successful housing placements are regularly monitored to evaluate effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. Monthly HMIS data quality reports (DQRs) were fully restored, and new tracking tools were implemented to improve accuracy, completeness, and timeliness across all participating agencies ensuring decisions are grounded in reliable, real-time data.

The data also provides a clear system insight: demand continues to exceed capacity. Intake consistently outpaces housing placements, and waitlists continue to grow across the system. This reinforces a critical reality the challenge is not system design, but insufficient housing resources to meet the level of need in our community.

Compliance efforts were further strengthened through enhanced monitoring, documentation standards, and internal controls. In 2025, the CoC successfully completed all required submissions for a federal Planning Grant audit, demonstrating strong fiscal and programmatic oversight.

Together, these efforts reflect a system built on integrity, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Challenges & What's at Risk

The system faces increasing uncertainty due to potential federal funding reductions.

Local implications include:

- Up to **\$4.8M–\$5M in potential funding loss**
- Risk to **693 permanent housing beds**
- Reduced capacity across providers

Without new investment, system strain will intensify.

FINANCIAL REALITY

SCCoC manages a system of nearly **1,500 housing opportunities**, serving hundreds of households each month.

However, current funding levels are not sufficient to meet growing demand.

CALL TO ACTION

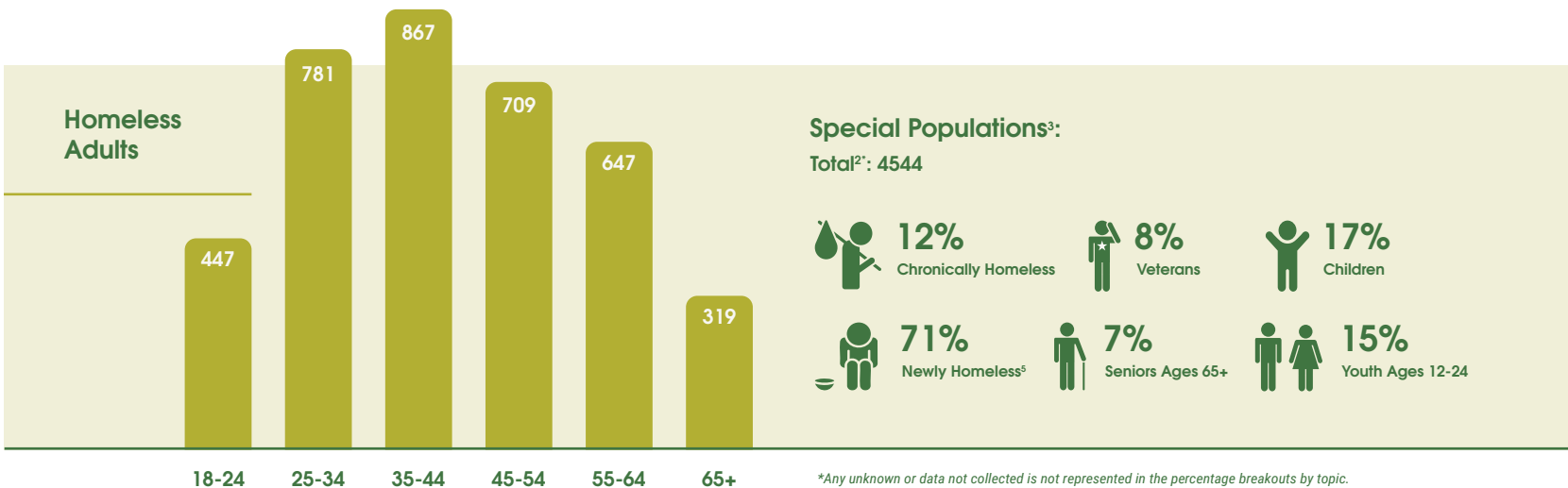
The data is clear:

The system is working

Demand is increasing

Housing is the limiting factor

Homelessness in Summit County is not the result of system failure. It is the result of a system that does not yet have the resources required to meet the need. Ending homelessness in Summit County requires more than coordination: it requires investment. We invite public, private, and philanthropic partners to join us in expanding housing, strengthening services, and ensuring that every neighbor has a safe place to call home.



Footnotes begin on page 6.

Source: CY 2025 APR Annual Report HMIS Group, CY 2025 SPM Report Annual Report HMIS Group

2025

Profile of Homelessness in Summit County¹

Key Indicators

852

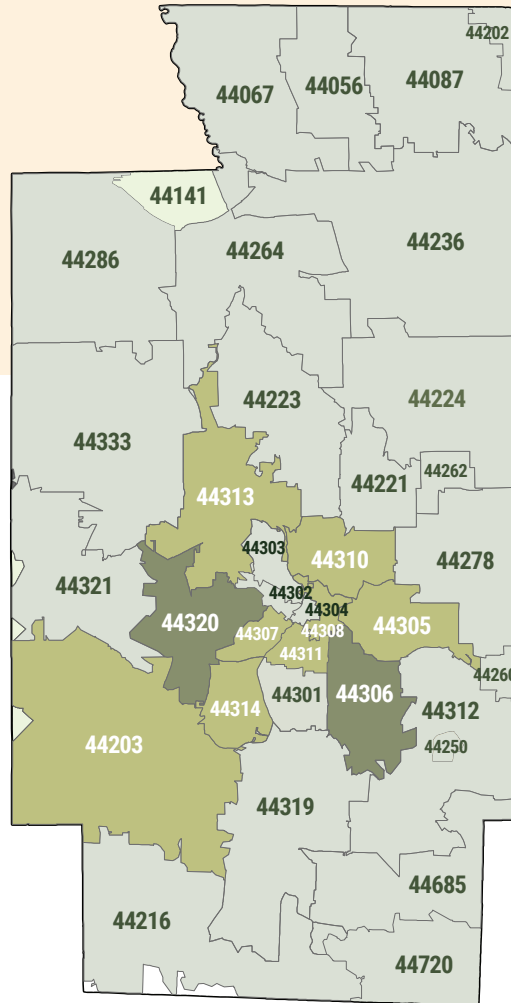
persons assisted by the SCCoC exited to a permanent housing destination in 2025²

94%

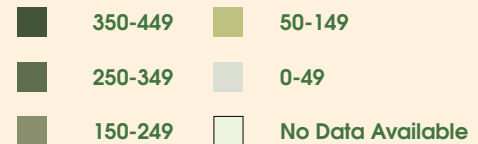
of people who exited homelessness to permanent housing in 2023⁶ remained housed for at least six months

83%

of people who exited homelessness to permanent housing in 2023⁶ remained housed for at least two years

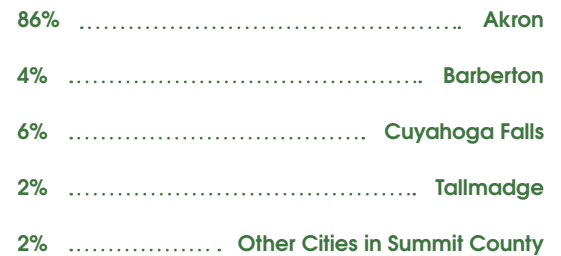


Summit County Homeless By Zip Code* Total²: 1,820



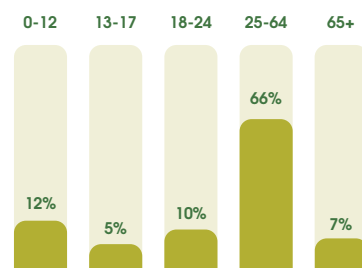
*Any unknown or data not collected is not represented in the percentage breakdowns by topic.

Last Permanent Address* Total²: 10,475



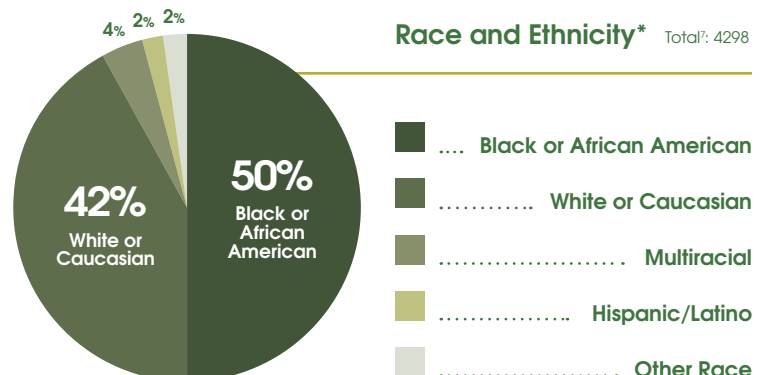
*Any unknown or data not collected is not represented in the percentage breakdowns by topic.

Age* Total Persons with Data²: 4,544



*Any unknown or data not collected is not represented in the percentage breakdowns by topic.

Race and Ethnicity* Total²: 4,298



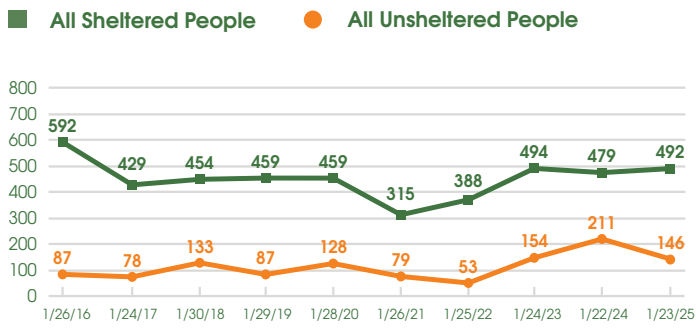
*Any unknown or data not collected is not represented in the percentage breakdowns by topic.

Source: CY 2025 APR Annual Report HMIS Group
 Source: HMIS ReportWriter 2025 Zipcodes Served
 Source: CY 2025 APR Annual Report HMIS Group, CY 2025 SPM Report Annual Report HMIS Group
 Source: HMIS ReportWriter 2025 Zipcodes Served Duplicated

1 This report was created based on data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) of Summit County on individuals who were homeless at some point during 2025, were previously homeless and continued to be served by a SCCoC program in 2025, or were at risk of homelessness and accessed homelessness prevention services in 2025. As a result of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, providers whose core mission is to serve victims of domestic violence are prohibited from entering client-level data in HMIS. Therefore, data from Hope and Healing Battered Women's Shelter & Harmony House's DV programs are represented separately in the chart titled "Assistance Provided for Domestic Violence Victims."
 2 All totals and percentages of individuals represent all data collected, omitting individuals who did not have the data in HMIS.
 3 The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has identified special populations for focused attention. When applicable, individuals are represented in more than one category.
 4 Chronically homeless describes a person with a disability who has one year of continuous homelessness (living in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation) or four episodes of homelessness over three years that total 12 months of homelessness.
 5 Newly homeless is defined as someone who did not access Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Permanent Housing resources within 24 months before their entry during the reporting year.
 6 System Performance Measures report is an annual summary and year-to-year comparison of system-wide counts, averages, and medians related to seven areas of performance of homelessness response.
 7 HUD Data Standards in 2023 included changes to the options for race and ethnicity and the ability to select multiple races and ethnicities for each individual entered in HMIS.

Sheltered and Unsheltered Point-In-Time Count (2016-2025)⁸

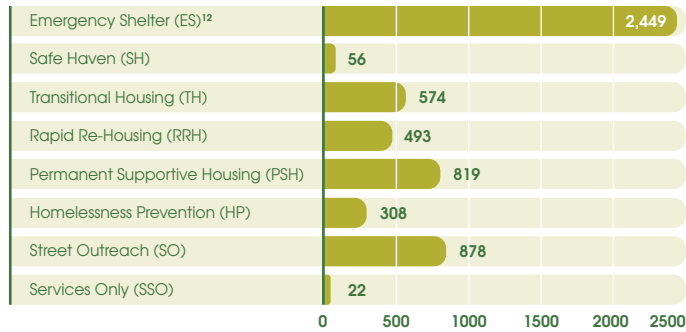
Point-In-Time



638 homeless people on 1/23/2025  **6%** decrease compared to 2016 PIT count

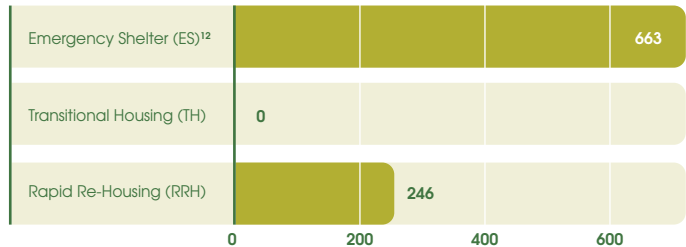
Assistance Provided¹

Total²: 4,544



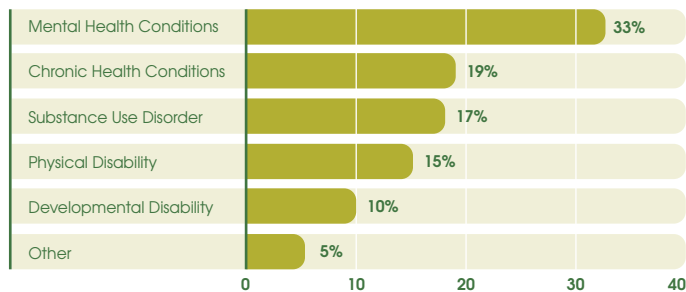
Assistance Provided for Domestic Violence Victims^{9,10}

Total²: 909



Health Conditions⁹

Total²: 4,197



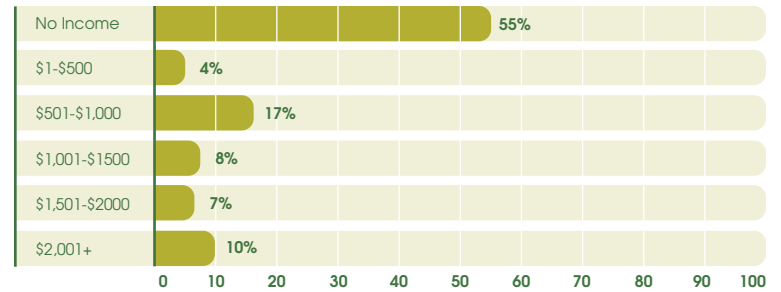
Total Beds By Housing Type¹¹

* includes Emergency Weather Shelter beds
**Does not include Non-HMIS Beds (161)

Housing Type	Beds Dedicated for Domestic Violence Victims	All Other Beds	Total Beds
Emergency Shelter (ES) ¹²	119	246	365
Safe Haven (SH)	—	18	18
Transitional Housing (TH)	2	138	140
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	133	145	278
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) ^{**}	—	693	693
Total Beds⁹	254	1,240	1,494

Monthly Income at Entry^{*}

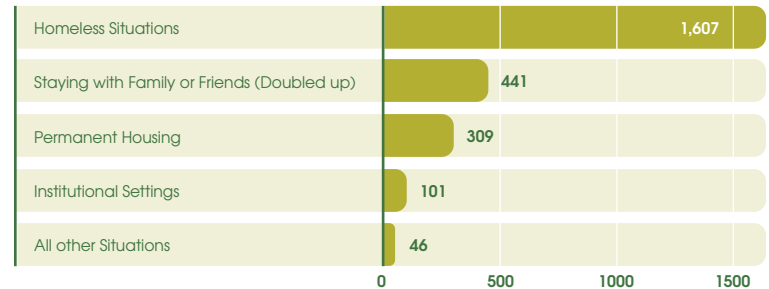
Total²: 2,472



*Monthly income information is collected for adults at program entry.

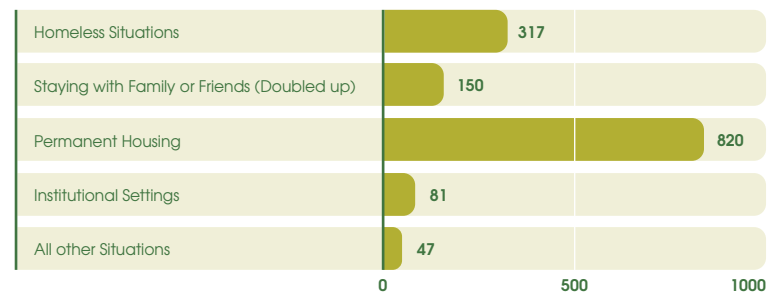
Prior Living Situation

Total²: 2,504



Exit Destinations

Total²: 1,415



⁸ The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

⁹ When applicable, individuals are represented in more than one category.

¹⁰ Data in this chart was provided by Hope and Healing Battered Women's Shelter on individuals served in Summit County.

¹¹ The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is an annual point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a CoC that provide beds and units dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness (and, for permanent housing projects, where homelessness occurs at entry, per the HUD homeless definition).

¹² Emergency Shelter bed count include temporary beds available during the count for cold weather

¹³ HUD defines youth as persons who are between 12 and 24 years old.

¹⁴ Intakes are completed when individuals call in and screen as category 1, 2 or 4 homelessness.

¹⁵ Individuals are added to a waitlist after an intake. Waitlists are for CoC shelters and transitional housing.

¹⁶ Referrals are made from Central Intake to Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, Rapid re-housing, or Permanent Supportive Housing when openings appear.

¹⁷ HUD defines youth as persons who are between 12 and 24 years old.

¹⁸ Homeless youth are most likely to be staying with family or friends, which is often referred to as couch surfing as they frequently move from place to place

¹⁹ Individuals who are couch surfing do not meet the federal definition of Category 1 Homeless and are not eligible for many SCCoC funded programs, since they are considered category 2.

²⁰ Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) programs can serve Category 2 & Category 4 homelessness.

Source: CY 2025 APR Annual Report HMIS Group, CY 2025 Program Type Grouped APRs

Source: CY 2025 APR Annual Report HMIS Group

Source: Hope and Healing 2025 Annual numbers by program Type

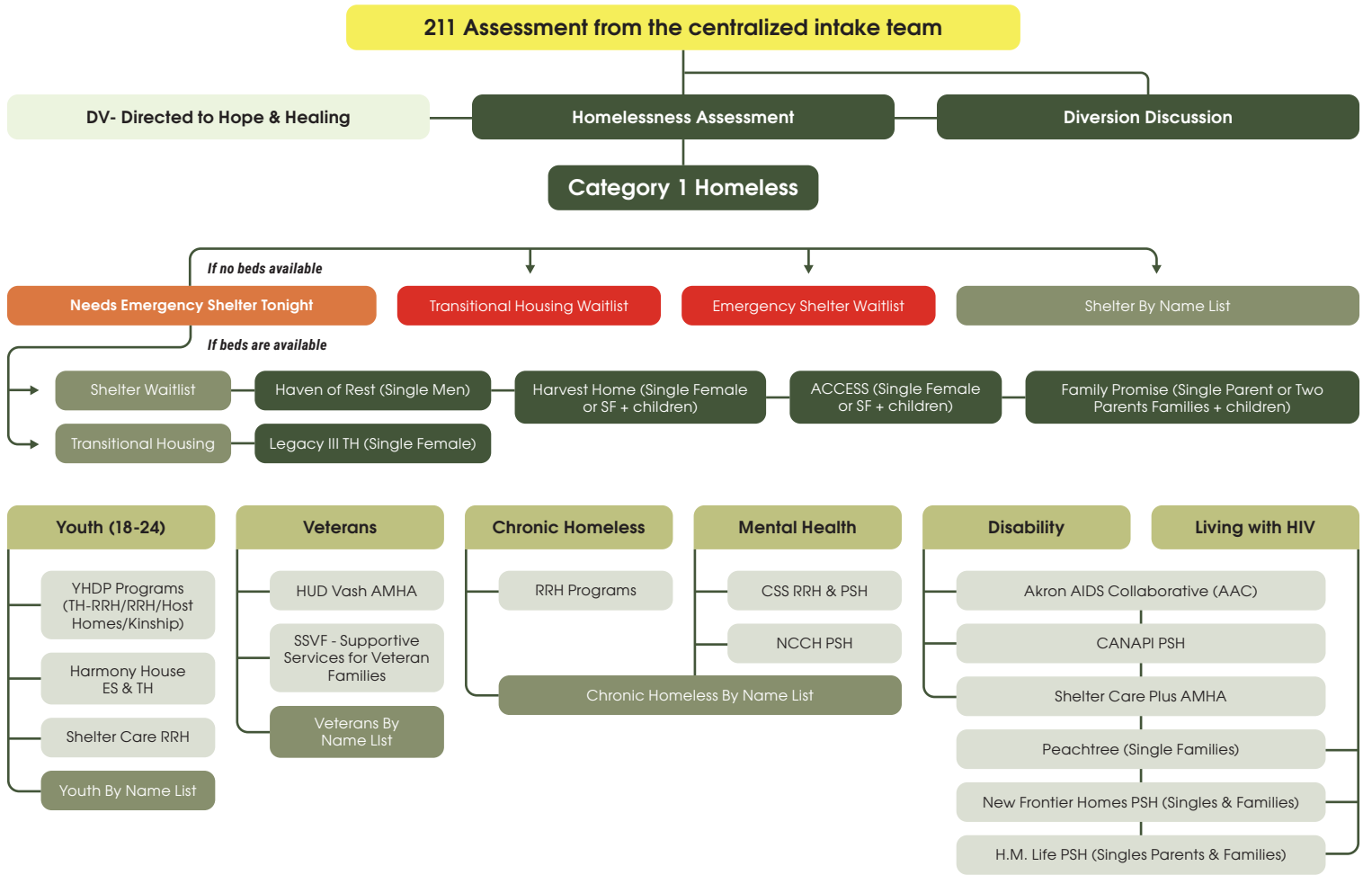
Source: HDX 2.0 2025 HIC

Source: HDX1.0 PIT 2013 to 2023, HDX 2.0 2024 to 2025 PIT,

OH-506 CE Workflow

Color Key

- Starting Point
- Specialized Populations
- Waitlist
- Domestic Violence
- Housing Programs



ABOUT THE SUMMIT COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE



Since 1997, the Summit County Continuum of Care (SCCoC) has led a coordinated, community-wide effort to end homelessness. As the convener of Summit County's Homelessness Crisis Response System, SCCoC brings together partners and resources to ensure individuals and families experiencing homelessness can quickly access housing and the support they need to regain stability.

Today, SCCoC works alongside more than 60 organizations across Summit County, united by a shared goal: making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Through a range of federally and state-funded programs including permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and other targeted solutions SCCoC helps manage a multi-million-dollar annual investment in housing stability for our community.

These efforts prioritize those facing the greatest challenges, including youth, individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, and people living with severe mental illness or substance use disorders ensuring support reaches those who need it most.

SCCoC continues to grow its network by welcoming collaboration with community members, faith-based organizations, and local partners who share a commitment to ending homelessness. Together, we are increasing resources, advancing innovative solutions, raising awareness, and breaking down stigma building a stronger, more responsive system for everyone in Summit County.

Summit County Continuum of Care Partner Agencies

ACCESS, Inc.	Community Legal Aid	Resource Center	Students With a Goal (S.W.A.G.)
Akron AIDS Collaborative	Community Support Services	Hope Farm	Summit County
Akron Children's Hospital	Dreams Academy	Humility of Mary Housing	Summit County ADM Board
Akron Fire Department	Fair Housing Contact Service	I PROMISE School	Summit County Children Services
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority	Acess Family Services	JoAnna House II	Summit County Job and Family Services
Akron NAACP	Family Promise	Legacy III	Summit County Juvenile Court
Akron Police Department	Forever R Children	Love Akron	Summit County Public Health
Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.	Fostering Independence, Inc.	North Coast Community Homes	Summit DD
Akron Urban League	Freedom BLOC	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	Tarry House
Asia Inc.	Friends in Tents	Peter Maurin Center	The Homeless Charity
CANAPI	GAR Foundation	Portage Path Behavioral Health	Towpath Trail High School
Carve Your Own Path	Goodwill Industries	Project RISE	Truly Reaching You
City of Akron	Grace House	Salvation Army - Summit County	United Way of Summit & Medina
City of Barberton	Guys & Gals Community Partnership, Inc.	Shelter Care	University of Akron
City of Cuyahoga Falls	Harmony House	Snow Angels	Veterans Administration
Coleman Health Services	Haven of Rest	South Street Ministries	Victim Assistance Program
Common Threads	Hope & Healing Survivor	Stark State College	
Community Health Center			