



## **Summit County Continuum of Care (SCCoC)**

*a collaboration of agencies working together for the homeless*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Annual Report Reveals Growing Housing Instability and Homelessness Across Summit County**

Akron, Ohio — June 1, 2026— The Summit County Continuum of Care (SCCoC) in collaboration with the United Way of Summit and Medina County has released its 2026 Homelessness System Report, offering a clear look at both the progress made and the challenges ahead in ensuring stable housing for all Summit County residents.

While national trends may suggest improvement, the report shows that locally, demand for housing and services continues to exceed available resources, reflecting broader shifts in housing affordability and availability.

In 2025, the system operated at full capacity, with demand for housing more than three times the number of available placements.

At any given time, more than 200 individuals were waiting for housing opportunities, while call volumes remained consistently high, demonstrating the ongoing need for support across the community.

Christopher J. Richardson, Executive Director of the Summit County Continuum of Care, emphasized that the trends reflect broader housing dynamics:

“While national data may point to a decline, what we are seeing in Summit County reflects an entirely different local reality. The increased demand we’re experiencing is not a simple trend, it’s tied to a combination of complex factors, including housing costs, limited inventory, and incomes that are not keeping pace.”

“Our system is working vigorously connecting people to housing as quickly as possible. At the same time, we are seeing more individuals and families seeking assistance that exceeds current shelter capacity and available affordable housing options.”

“This presents an opportunity for our community to come together, strengthen local investment, and continue building a system that meets today’s needs while preparing for the future.”

The report highlights that the homelessness response system remains coordinated, effective, and focused on outcomes, with nearly 1,500 housing opportunities supporting households across the county.

Providers continue to:

- Connect households to permanent housing
- Prioritize the most vulnerable residents
- Improve access through coordinated entry and partnerships

The data reinforces a key takeaway: the system is strong, but housing availability, particularly affordable housing, remains the limiting factor.

The findings point to an important next step: aligning community resources with growing housing needs.

Continued progress will depend on:

- Expanding affordable and supportive housing options
- Strengthening local and regional investment
- Supporting prevention efforts that help households remain stably housed

With potential changes in federal funding on the horizon, local collaboration will be increasingly important to maintaining momentum and stability across the system.

***About the Summit County Continuum of Care***

The Summit County Continuum of Care is a 501(c)(3) which leads a coordinated, community-wide response to homelessness, working with more than 60 partner organizations to ensure homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. For more information about local homelessness efforts and how you can make a positive impact, contact the SCCoC at 234-312-0833 or [communityengagement@summitcoc.org](mailto:communityengagement@summitcoc.org).

Summit County Continuum of Care Media Contact  
Christopher J. Richardson, Executive Director  
[crichardson@summitcoc.org](mailto:crichardson@summitcoc.org)  
[www.summitcoc.org](http://www.summitcoc.org)