Update: Houston’s Homeless Response System

Marc Eichenbaum
Special Assistant to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives
2022 Count & Survey
### Greater Houston Area (Harris, Ft. Bend & Montgomery Co.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4,053</td>
<td>4,418</td>
<td>8,471</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2,318</td>
<td>1,656</td>
<td>3,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>1,721</td>
<td>1,502</td>
<td>3,223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 62% - Overall Reduction since 2011.
- 19% - Overall Reduction during Pandemic
  - Street/Unsheltered: -9%
- 2002 - 53% Sheltered + 47% Unsheltered
- 95% - Unsheltered Pop. In Harris Co.
• Only 1 unaccompanied, unsheltered child
• All Children (under 18) sheltered are w/ household unit.
• 98% of unsheltered population is 25 or older
• 30% of unsheltered population is 55 or older.
Of all those counted:

• 20% were experiencing chronic homeless
• 10% were Veterans
• 15% DV Victims

Of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness:

• 27% homeless due to a natural disaster or the Pandemic
  • 14% were homeless due to a natural disaster
    ▪ of which 90% due to Hurricane Harvey
  • 13% were homeless due to economic impact of COVID-19
    ▪ of which 30% of these were homeless for the first time
### Hurricane Harvey Data
(landfall - 8/2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Long Term, Residual Impacts of Crises
62% reduction in homelessness since 2011

- Overall Homelessness: 62%
- Chronic Homelessness: 69%
- Family Homelessness: 82%
- Veteran Homelessness: 84%

- 25,500+ Individuals Permanently Housed since 20011
- 8,500+ Clients Currently Housed
30% Reduction in Homelessness since Mayor Turner Took Office (2015 VS. 2022)

- Overall Homelessness: 30%
- Unsheltered Homelessness: 23%
- Family Homelessness: 51%
- Veteran Homelessness: 53%
- Youth Homelessness: 61%

- 19,000+ Individuals Permanently Housed since 2016
- 22,600+ Clients Housed since 2016
Community COVID-19
Homeless Housing Program (CCHHP)
Initial 2 Yr. Goal - House 5,000 Individuals
- Housed 8,000+ individuals in first 18 months.
- New Goal - House 7,000 additional individuals by 2024.
- Leading the nation in permanently housing the homeless during COVID

$165 Million ($65M + 100M)
- 90% Federal Funds (primarily COVID related)
- Funded by the City, County & State
- Outreach/Housing Navigation, Rent, Supportive Services, etc.

Joint Project – City + County
- Coalition for the Homeless – planning & management
- Local homeless agencies – housing and case management

Housing as an Infectious Disease Control Response
Three Components

PSH
Provide long-term rental assistance & supportive services to individuals primarily living on the streets and/or in encampments.

Rapid Rehousing
Provide short-term rental support (up to 1-year) & case management for households currently and/or newly homeless.

Diversion
Homeless prevention services to maintain or regain housing (optional: up to 3-months rent assistance) to prevent people facing housing instability from entering the homeless system.
COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

PSH Placements

- Total Housing Placements
- Pace Without CCHHP Funding

Graph showing the increase in PSH placements from Oct-20 to Sep-22. The graph indicates a steady increase in placements, with the peak at 1,587 placements in Jun-22.
COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

RRH Placements

Total Housing Placements
Pace Without CCHHP Funding

Oct-20: 0
Nov-20: 0
Dec-20: 0
Jan-21: 0
Feb-21: 0
Mar-21: 0
Apr-21: 0
May-21: 0
Jun-21: 0
Jul-21: 0
Aug-21: 0
Sep-21: 0
Oct-21: 0
Nov-21: 0
Dec-21: 0
Jan-22: 0
Feb-22: 0
Mar-22: 0
Apr-22: 0
May-22: 0
Jun-22: 0
Jul-22: 0
Aug-22: 0
Sep-22: 0

3,678
COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Diversion Placements

Total Housing Placements

COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Total Monthly Housing Placements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>PSH</th>
<th>RRH</th>
<th>Diversion</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct-20</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov-20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec-20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>132</td>
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<td>Jan-21</td>
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<td>Feb-21</td>
<td>265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar-21</td>
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<td>Apr-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>May-21</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>220</td>
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<td>Jun-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr-22</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>221</td>
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<tr>
<td>May-22</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>221</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun-22</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

Total Monthly Housing Placements

- PSH
- RRH
- Diversion
COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Monthly Housing Placements

CCHHP Starts

- Sep-20
- Oct-20
- Nov-20
- Dec-20
- Jan-21
- Feb-21
- Mar-21
- Apr-21
- May-21
- Jun-21
- Jul-21
- Aug-21
- Sep-21
- Oct-21
- Nov-21
- Dec-21
- Jan-22
- Feb-22
- Mar-22
- Apr-22
- May-22
- Jun-22
Impact: COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

**Individuals Housed**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2225</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>6058</td>
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</table>

**Individuals Permanently Housed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2225</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>3496</td>
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COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Race Data by Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Black/AA</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSH</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRH</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversion</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City Pop.</td>
<td>Homeless Pop.</td>
<td>CHHP Served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black / African American</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic / Latino</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White / Anglo</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Phase 2

$100 Million
- 3-year Program (funds must be spent by September 2023)
- Funded by: City, County & State
- Federal (COVID) Funding

Housing Vouchers
- 1,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers
- 400 Emergency Housing Vouchers from the State (pending request)
- Must be utilized by September 2024
- Vouchers are good through 2030

Goals
- House an Additional 7,000 Individuals
- Reduce Overall Homeless Population by ½ ... again
- Decommission all Medium and Large Encampments
- Reduce Unsheltered Homeless Population to approx. 1000 individuals

Next Step - COVID Homeless Housing Program
Encampment Decommissioning through Housing
COVID funds help speed housing effort for homeless

By R.A. Schuetz
Staff Writer

At the southern corner of downtown, underneath the tangle of freeways where I-45 meets I-69, Monday night was filled with quiet anticipation. Housing was coming.

In the encampment called home by roughly three dozen, Steven Dennis couldn’t sleep. Regina Tut talked of her excitement. A man named Angel wondered if he could finally start anew.

And as the morning broke, balmy and clear, there they were: Staff from a collection of groups working to serve the homeless were raising a white canopy a few yards from the double row of tents sheltered beneath I-45. Housing navigators and case managers setting up at tables and folding chairs underneath. A van from Metro that would drive people to a converted hotel, where they’d live until connected with permanent housing, pulling up at the side of the block.

Since more than $65 million in COVID-related funding has poured into Houston and Harris County’s coffers, they have worked in tandem with a number of partners to ramp up the housing units available to move people out of homelessness. As they’ve done so, they’ve picked up the pace at which homeless encampments are being “decommissioned” — the group’s term for offering the residents of a camp permanent housing, then clearing the site, usually with forcing, to prevent the camp from reforming.

The process provides a way out of chronic homelessness to the many who choose housing and the services that go with it, a dislocation to the smaller group who do not.

The ultimate success of Houston’s encampment strategy could have ripple effects across the country. Cities including Austin and Dallas are seeking to emulate Houston’s program, said Marc Eichenbaum, special assistant to the mayor for homeless initiatives others, including Denver and Spokane, Wash., are watching closely.

Homeless continues on A8
### Decommissioned Encampments & Results (as of 4/15/22)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of Encampments</th>
<th>Number of Inhabitants</th>
<th>Refused</th>
<th>Self-Resolved</th>
<th>Housed by System</th>
<th>Total Housed (Self + System)</th>
<th>Wellness Cntr - &quot;Bonus&quot; Clients</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45 N / Crosstimbers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 Fannin</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triangle</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Allen Parkway / 45N</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hollister/Tidwell</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>i10 W / Silber</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>59 SW / F.V. + Westpark</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>US90 / S Post Oak</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Louisiana / Pierce (Fed Building)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>i10 W - San Felipe / Blalock</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>290 corridor - part 1</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>290 corridor - part 2</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>610-Heights</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton / &quot;Hilltop&quot;</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>45 South part 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 South part 2</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>57</strong></td>
<td><strong>343</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
<td><strong>267</strong></td>
<td><strong>307</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Encampments Decommissioned**  
57

**Individuals Engaged**  
343

**Individuals Housed**  
307 (90%)

**Indiv. Housed by System**  
267 (78%)

*in permanent housing or at Temp. Nav. Center awaiting permanent housing placement.
Decommissioned Encampments

Encampments Decommissioned through Housing

- 2018: 1
- 2019: 0
- 2020: 1
- 2021: 33
- 2022: 24
Phase 1 – Street level tents/structures at major intersections and highways.

Key:
- Green = Decommissioned through housing and/or no encampments.
- Teal = Decommissioning almost complete
- Purple = Planned decommission w/n a month
- Red = Substantial structures.
Role of the Housing Navigation Center

Note: To house all inhabitants and decommission an encampment in 3 to 5 days, requires 4-8 weeks of (mainly offsite) prep work.
Housing Unit Crisis
Three Keys of Homeless Housing

- Rental Assistance
- Supportive Services
- Housing Units
1- Bedroom Shortage Crises

- $100 M to house 7,000 New Clients
- Re-house 400 Current Clients
1-Bedroom Shortage – Impact on Individuals Housed
(Permanent Housing: PSH + RRH)
Solutions Explored

- Enhanced Landlord Engagement Team
- Apartment Incentives
- Apartment Locator/Broker Incentive Program
- Utility Payee Program
- Parent Leasing Pilot
- Co-Housing Clients in Shared Units
- Supp. Property Damage Insurance Pool
- Mayor’s Office – Landlord Intervention
- “Rapid Development” Supportive Housing and/or non-traditional Acquisition/Conversion
Traditional Solution – Cap. Development

New Hope Housing - Sakowitz

The Women’s Home - Jane Cizik Garden Place

New Hope Housing’s Rittenhouse

Travis Street Plaza Apartments
Traditional Solution – Open Market
## Acquisition and Construction Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New Multifamily Development</th>
<th>Existing Multifamily Acquisition</th>
<th>Motel Acquisition Conversion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost / unit</strong></td>
<td>$150-180k / unit</td>
<td>$100-200k / unit</td>
<td>$40-80k / unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time to become Operational</strong></td>
<td>2-3 Years</td>
<td>6 - 24 months</td>
<td>3-8 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marc Eichenbaum
Special Assistant to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives
Marc.Eichenbaum@houstontx.gov