

Monthly Report: October 2020

Emergency Solutions Grant & Housing Search

Nashville has received a total of \$10 million in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding as part of its CARES dollars to address COVID-19 (ESG-CV grants). These funds are designated to respond to homelessness. They are one-time funds and are exponentially higher than the usual annual ESG allocations, which was \$450,000 for 2020. In addition to the \$10 million, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided Nashville with free technical assistance and has assigned Heather Dillashaw of ICF (icf.com) as our local consultant to use the COVID-19 allocations to improve our Housing Crisis Resolution System.

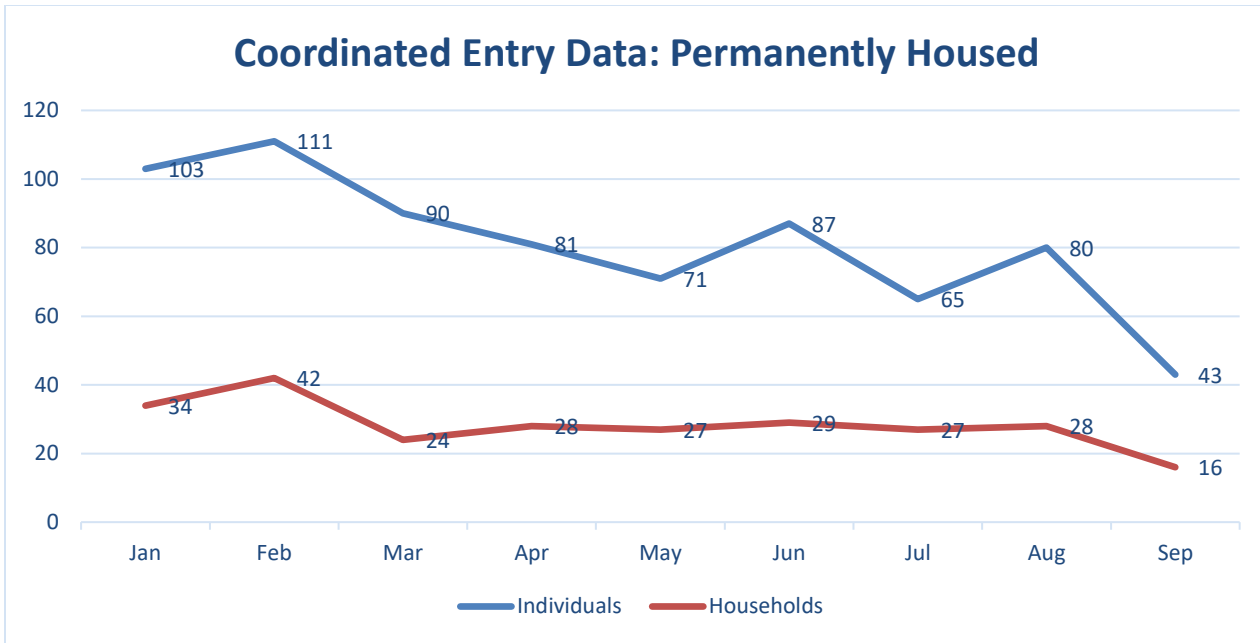
The goal is to house 400+ families with Rapid Re-Housing funds. Nonprofit partners have applied for the ESG-CV grants, which are managed locally by MDHA. The grants will pay up to one year in rent assistance to individuals and some families. Rapid Re-Housing is a program that also pays for support services once people obtained housing. The goal is to increase income for people, so they are able to maintain their housing long-term. In addition, Metro, MDHA, and ICF are working with community partners to develop a process that will link people with ongoing rent subsidies whenever possible.

Nearly a dozen partner agencies are also coordinating their housing searches to ensure our community has housing available for people. As part of that process, our community is focusing on utilizing motels as efficiency housing. Landlords, including motels, must be willing to enter one-year leases with options for renewal. Any landlord or motel/hotel owners willing to receive more information can contact Deon Trotter at deon.trotter@nashville.gov.

Housing Placement Rate

Per data entered into the Coordinated Entry (CE) process through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), 43 individuals or 16 households obtained permanent housing in the month of September.

The total housing placement numbers in CE from January through September 2020, are 731 individuals making up 255 households. Thus, the monthly permanent housing placement rate per CE data so far averages 81 individuals or 28 households in 2020.



Please see the chart below for detailed information of how people exited the homelessness system in 2020. A majority (2,352) are listed as “inactive.” People are placed on the inactive list when provider agencies have not made updates in HMIS and not been able to touch base with these individuals during the past 90 days. All numbers listed below represent cumulative exits from the Coordinated Entry process, which is captured in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database.

2020

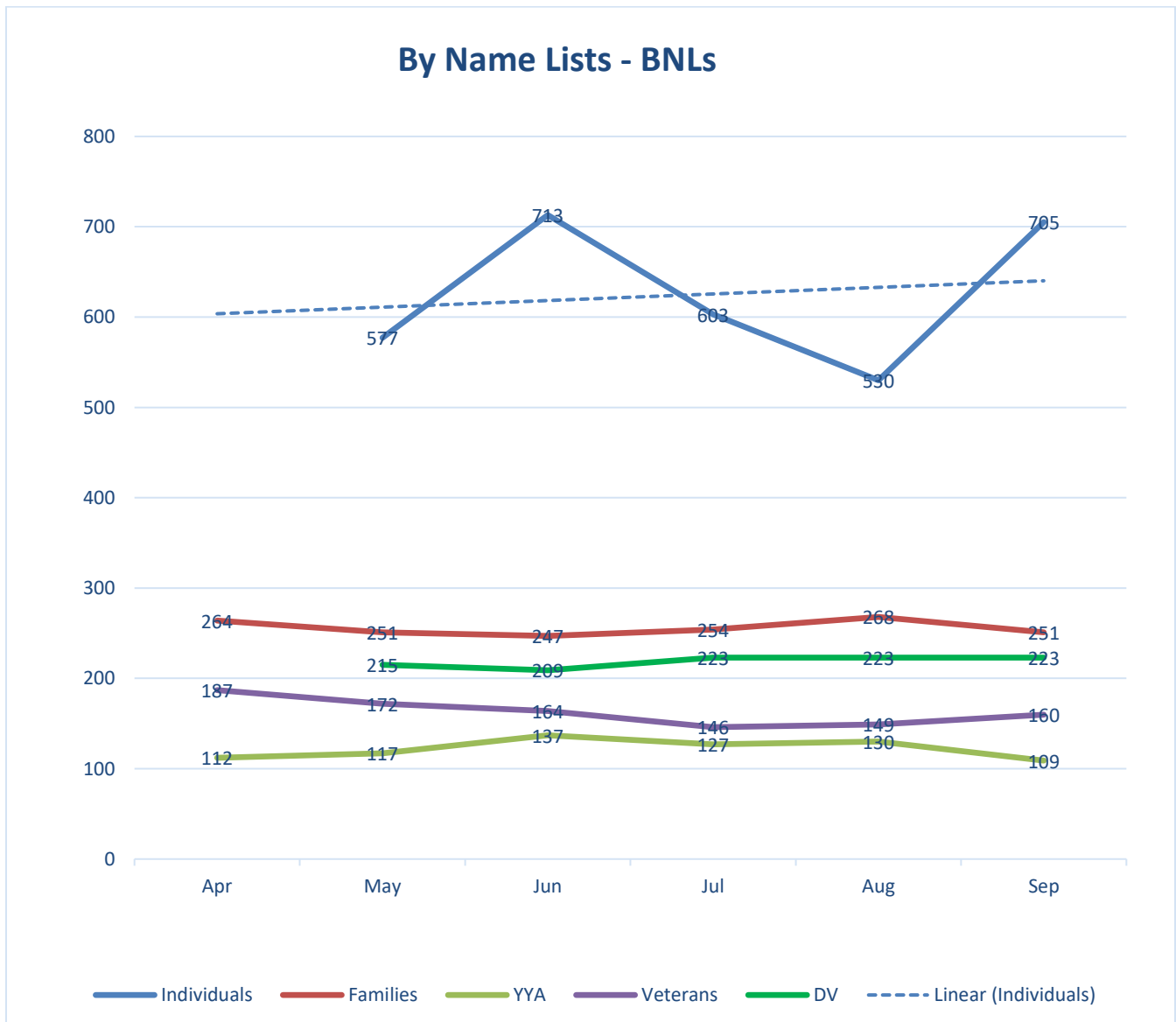
CE Exit: Inactive	2352
CE Exit: Permanently Housed	731
Long-term care facility or nursing home (HUD)	1
No exit interview completed (HUD)	12
Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	11
Rental by client in a public housing unit (HUD)	50
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	219
Rental by client, with HCV voucher (tenant or project based) (HUD)	13
Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	85
Rental by client, with RRH or equivalent subsidy (HUD)	201
Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy (HUD)	34
Staying or living with family, permanent tenure (HUD)	77
Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure (HUD)	19
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	9
Grand Total	3083

By the end of August, 211 members at 33 participating HMIS agencies in our community have had an active HMIS license. Our HMIS team at the Metro Homeless Impact Division (HMIS) is in the process of onboarding several new agencies to participate in HMIS*.

**With so many new HMIS users, MHID is working on a payment plan for HMIS licenses. In the past, Metro has paid for HMIS licenses. Through the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) process, MHID announced that we are reaching out budget limit to pay for license costs and agencies should include potential HMIS license costs in their applications.*

By Name Lists

While the Homeless Impact Division is keeping track of four By Name Lists (BNLs) for Veterans, Youth and Young Adults, Families with minor children, and Individuals, we are currently most confident in the quality of the BNLs for Veterans and the Youth and Young Adults. The Homeless Impact Division team is working with Domestic Violence (DV) providers on their BNL. We will keep including them in this report (thank you to the Mary Parrish Center for providing that data).



The following BNLs provide more detailed information of the different populations.

Veterans:

Veterans BNL

	April	May	June	July	August	September
How many Veterans are on the BNL at the end of the month?	187	172	164	146	149	160
How many Veterans were housed?	15	18	11	22	9	6
What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	238 days	175 days	178 days	247 days	149 days	225 days
How many Veterans met the chronic definition?	40	45	42	47	37	30
How many have experienced long-term homelessness?	22	22	22	22	21	18
How many Veterans were exited from HMIS due to inactivity, housing or death?	36	26	23	35	7	12
What was the total BNL inflow?	36	10	11	16	20	30

Youth and Young Adults:

YYA BNL

	April	May	June	July	August	September
How many YYA are on the BNL at the end of the month?	112	117	137	127	130	109
How many YYA were housed?	9	10	4	11	9	19
What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	152 days	75 days	98 days	104 days	144 days	124 days

How many new YYA were added to the BNL?
 How many previously housed YYA were added to the BNL?
 How many previously inactive YYA were added to the BNL?
 What was the total BNL inflow?

18	18	18	18	18	14
1	1	1	0	1	1
10	1	5	3	3	7
29	19	24	21	22	22

Domestic Violence (DV)/Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):

DV-CE BNL

How many DV/IPV Survivor households are on the BNL at the end of the month?
 How many DV/IPV survivor households were housed?
 What was the average length of time from identification to housing?
 How many DV/IPV survivors on the DV-CE BNL met the chronic definition?
 How many DV/IPV survivors on the DV-CE BNL are active on the High Risk Intervention Panel (HRIP)?
 How many DV/IPV survivors were exited due to inactivity, no longer meeting the Category 4 definition, or death?
 What was the total # of assessments completed?
 What was the total BNL inflow?

	April	May	June	July	August	September
How many DV/IPV Survivor households are on the BNL at the end of the month?	-	215	209	223	223	223
How many DV/IPV survivor households were housed?	14	11	7	13	20	10
What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	85 Days	136 Days	98 Days	156 Days	127 Days	160 Days
How many DV/IPV survivors on the DV-CE BNL met the chronic definition?	-	-	29	33	33	35
How many DV/IPV survivors on the DV-CE BNL are active on the High Risk Intervention Panel (HRIP)?	-	-	-	24	21	21
How many DV/IPV survivors were exited due to inactivity, no longer meeting the Category 4 definition, or death?	4	14	11	22	12	15
What was the total # of assessments completed?	27	37	35	47	37	43
What was the total BNL inflow?	26	35	35	46	35	42

By the end of September, there were 251 families on the Family BNL, and 705 individuals were on the Individual BNL. Last month, we called on our community partners to enter more people into HMIS. In addition, Nashville Rescue Mission has agreed to work with the Homeless Impact Division to share shelter data entries. We are working out a process to transfer that information into HMIS and expect another increase in the individual BNL once we are able to do so.

Family BNL

How many families are on the BNL at the end of the month?
 How many families were housed?
 What was the average length of time from identification to housing?
 How many new families were added to the BNL?
 How many previously housed families were added to the BNL?
 How many previously inactive families were added to the BNL?
 What was the total family BNL inflow?

	April	May	June	July	August	September
How many families are on the BNL at the end of the month?	264	251	247	254	268	251
How many families were housed?	21	15	36	30	16	43
What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	148	185	193	164	243 days	213 days
How many new families were added to the BNL?	22	24	29	49	38	52
How many previously housed families were added to the BNL?	1	3	4	3	2	4
How many previously inactive families were added to the BNL?	10	4	6	5	9	10
What was the total family BNL inflow?	33	31	39	57	49	66

Individual BNL

How many individuals on the BNL at the end of the month?
 How many individuals were housed?
 What was the average length of time from identification to housing?
 What was the total BNL inflow?

How many individuals on the BNL at the end of the month?		577	713	603	530	705
How many individuals were housed?	8	25	14	22	13	19
What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	421 days	142 days	213 days	214 days	215 days	253 days
What was the total BNL inflow?	44	39	232 (100 are imports from DV, 88 of whom entered CE before June but added to the Individual BNL in June)	49	86	241

Move-in Cost Assistance

The Metro Homeless Impact Division (MHID) assists with move-in costs including security and utility deposits, first month rent, and some arrears. The sources for these move-in costs are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars through a partnership with the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA), Metro dollars out of the General Fund, and a *How's Nashville* community donation fund managed by MHID.

Only trained housing navigators can apply for move-in costs on behalf of their clients. MHID provides monthly housing navigator trainings to partner agencies that have full-time staff who provide outreach, case management or other social service assistance. Payments are made directly to landlords and utility companies.

In September 2020, a total of 37 clients** received move-in cost assistance (up from 28 clients in August). The total monthly move-in assistance was \$29,809.91. The average assistance came to \$805.70 per household.

***When comparing these numbers to the permanent housing numbers, you will find a discrepancy. This means that only 16 households were listed as moving to permanent housing based on the data available through the Coordinated Entry (CE) process. This indicates that many providers still do not enter data consistently into CE.*

We need to increase the outreach and search for new landlords. Landlords we are looking for are willing enter one-year lease agreements at the area's Fair Market Rents (FMR) or below. The FMRs for Nashville-Davidson County for Fiscal Year 2021 (which started on October 1) are as follows:

Final FY 2021 & Final FY2020 FMRs By Unit Bedrooms					
Year	Efficiency	1-Bedroom	2-Bedroom	3-Bedroom	4-Bedroom
FY2021 FMR	\$998	\$1,031	\$1,197	\$1,539	\$1,930

Encampment/Outdoor Homelessness

The Metro Homeless Impact Division (MHID) identified three areas in Nashville-Davidson County that are getting a tremendous amount of complaints from neighborhoods:

- The Jefferson Street Bridge encampment, along 2nd Avenue North;
- The Brookmeade Greenway encampment, off Charlotte Pike by Lowe's in West Nashville; and
- Downtown Nashville.

The director of MHID, Judith Tackett, continues to participate in virtual and in-person neighborhood meetings and/or community meetings to outline that our city is focusing on housing 400+ people with the additional \$10 million in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG).

The main need is to identify landlords willing to enter into one-year leases. Any hotels/motels can participate in the permanent housing effort if they meet the following criteria:

- Enter a lease agreement for one-year;
- Possibly renew the lease agreement after the one year has passed for ongoing rental opportunity;
- Offer a bathroom, fridge, and microwave in the room.

The lease will be entered with the renter while the nonprofit will outline clearly what portion of the rent they will subsidize and pay directly to the landlord from the ESG Rapid Re-Housing funds. People will be eligible for one-year of rent subsidies from a nonprofit, but the goal is to step down the process to ensure that each household can continue their rent long-term. To do so, Rapid Re-Housing dollars also pay for case management to link people with income and other needed services to be able to maintain housing long-term.

Landlords and/or motel owners willing to serve as landlords, please contact our Housing Coordinator Deon Trotter at deon.trotter@nashville.gov for more information.

Equity and Diversity

The Nashville-Davidson County Point In Time Count shows clear racial disparity by identifying that 45% of people counted as being homeless on January 23, 2020, identified as Black or African American which compares to 28% of Nashville’s overall population.

The Homelessness Planning Council (HPC) Strategic Community Plan includes a race equity focus in the work of the Continuum of Care to “create an environment where one’s race identify has no influence how one fares in society. Consequently, the HPC established the Diversity and Equity Committee. Their work has already been noticed, and the Nashville Continuum of Care (CoC) is one of eight communities that have been invited to participate in the first “Equity Demo” by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The following language is copied from the invitation email that we received in September:

For years, communities have been frustrated by assessment tools, prioritization processes, and general practices within coordinated entry systems that do not provide what they need to equitably assess the housing and services needs of their clients nor prioritize clients for appropriate housing in an equitable way. HUD is supporting an eight (8) community “Equity Demo” with a cohort of CoCs that will work together to design more equitable assessment and prioritization processes. We’re excited to invite you, the Nashville CoC, to join this cohort of communities in the very first Equity Demo.

We understand the incredible amount of work you’re doing to respond to COVID-19; we also know the stark racial inequities associated with COVID-19 and its impact on communities of color. You’re likely thinking about how to do more equitable work – you’re being invited to join the first cohort because you’ve either expressed interest or are known for doing racial equity work and may appreciate the cohort model this Demo is offering. The goal of this Equity Demo is to design and adopt a system-wide

equitable assessment and prioritization process that helps to increase racially equitable housing stability outcomes.

The Equity Demo will meet communities where they are and be complementary to local efforts and existing HUD TA.

Personal Stories

The Metro Homeless Impact Division (MHID) responds to complaints about encampments in Davidson County. Those complaints come to us in different ways including through other departments, through the HUB (Metro's 3-1-1 call-in number), through Metro Council members, or directly from neighbors.

Since January 2020, we have received a total of 351 requests to follow up on encampments and people living outdoors. In September 2020, MHID followed up on 43 requests compared to 23 in September 2019. This quarter from July through September, MHID responded to 119 requests (compared to 67 from July-September of 2019).

MHID has currently two outreach specialists who also help with staffing the Metro shelter at the Fairgrounds part-time. We are considering re-arranging the job descriptions because the current response focus does not allow for time to actually serve people effectively. Please stay tuned for updates.

It is important that we look beyond the numbers and data and do not forget that each person has a story to tell. Here is one such encounter from September:

A woman living in the North Nashville area has been homeless for over 10 years. She stated she was originally from Franklin, TN, and moved to Nashville for a job opportunity. After being laid off, she was no longer able to pay rent and her bout with homelessness began. Recently, she was diagnosed with cancer and after treatment, is now in remission. During treatment, she was approved for Social Security (SS) and now receives a monthly SS check. Her father, at 89, still lives in Franklin, and she stated she wants to go back home and assist him now that she has been approved for SS. She needs assistance in transporting her clothes and supplies to her father's home plus a stove because his is currently not working. A concerned citizen in the neighborhood has offered to pay for a stove as well as transportation to Franklin. Our MHID outreach specialist was able to provide her with needed supplies and updated her information in HMIS. He will continue to engage with her until she moves to ensure she has the supports she needs for that move.

Cold Weather Plan

Metro has started coordinating a Cold Weather Community Response Plan in 2013. Each year, community providers including Room In The Inn, Nashville Rescue Mission, Launch Pad, Open Table Nashville, and Metro departments have come together to develop a communitywide plan that outlines the processes to access available shelter beds during extremely cold weather.

It is important to understand that the Metro portion of this plan is focused on filling gaps within the existing shelter system. The Continuum of Care has for years had an Extreme Weather Committee. Realizing that the main focus of the Continuum of Care is on systems-building that focuses on immediate access to shelter year-round, that committee is now called the Shelter Committee and has expanded its focus.

Metro Social Services was tasked to submit the Metro-portion of the Cold Weather Community Response Plan to the Metro Council by August 31. Metro continues to offer an overflow shelter this winter season starting on November 1, 2020. The Metro Cold Weather Overflow Shelter opens overnight when temperatures reach 28 degrees Fahrenheit*** or below. This year, 250-300 winter shelter beds will be made accessible to people from 7 pm to 7 am each time temperatures reach 28 degrees Fahrenheit or below. The location will be at the Fairgrounds in a separate building that is adjacent to the existing Social Distancing and the COVID+/Isolation shelters. All three shelter operations that are run by Metro at the Fairgrounds are in separate buildings to limit anyone's potential exposure to COVID.

For detailed information, please visit www.coldweathernashville.com.

****This temperature was determined by community providers and was increased from 25 degrees Fahrenheit a few years ago. The main argument to settle at 28 degrees Fahrenheit was that outreach workers and canvassers determined that this seems to be the threshold temperature most people who are offered a ride to shelters are taking volunteers up on that offer.*

This report includes some highlights from September 2020. If you would like additional information and/or have questions regarding building an effective Housing Crisis Resolution System to address homelessness in Nashville-Davidson County, please email Judith Tackett, the director of the Homeless Impact Division, at judith.tackett@nashville.gov

Glossary

By Name List (BNL) - A real-time up, up-to-date list of all people experiencing homelessness, which can be filtered by categories and shared across agencies. In essence, this provides a regular census of how many people have been identified as experiencing homelessness in Nashville. Our community is working on these lists constantly. We do not feel we have the capacity quite yet to produce quality lists for all populations.

Collaborative Applicant - The organization that is designated by the CoC to collect and submit the CoC Registration, CoC Consolidated Application, and apply for CoC planning funds on behalf of the CoC during the CoC Program Competition. More information is available at hudexchange.info.

Continuum of Care (CoC) - A regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for individuals, families, and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. A CoC creates a collaborative community effort that provides a strategic systems approach that focuses on connecting people to housing and services to end their homelessness.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) - A program to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. ESG provides grants by formula to states, metropolitan cities, urban counties, and U.S. Territories to support homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Rapid Re-Housing.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) - a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to individuals and families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. It is used as a tool to evaluate people's needs and assist them more effectively, avoiding duplication of services. To make HMIS functional and effective, our community recently took the first steps to allow agencies to share data within HMIS.

Homelessness Planning Council – a 25-member board that serves as the Continuum of Care's governance board. It was created in July 2018 to unify our community's efforts to build an effective Housing Crisis Resolution System (HCRS). The board's official name is the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care Homelessness Planning Council and it is anchored within Metro government through BL2018-1199. Members consist of 8 mayoral appointees, 3 Council members appointed by the Vice Mayor, and 14 board members elected by the Continuum of Care general membership.

Housing Crisis Resolution System (HCRS) – A community system that includes all types of programs from prevention/diversion, emergency and temporary interventions to permanent housing solutions. As a whole, an effective Housing Crisis Resolution System focuses on identifying people in a housing crisis as early as possible and connects them with housing and needed supports as quickly as possible. In Davidson County, the current goal is to house people in an average of 90 days or less.

Point In Time (PIT) Count – A one-night count conducted within the last 10 days of January of people meeting the Literal Homelessness definition. The PIT Count should be used as part of a data set including data from HMIS, the local school system, and other data sources to provide a full picture of homelessness in a community.

Rapid Re-Housing - provides short-term rental assistance and services. The goals are to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and stay housed. It is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are typically tailored to the needs of the person.

VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) – is a triage tool in form of a self-reported survey to determine risk and prioritization when providing assistance to homeless and at-risk of homeless individuals, families, and youth. It allows to determine the appropriate housing intervention based on vulnerability determinants.

