

# Monthly Report: August 2021

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*This report contains two sections. Section A will contain new information while Section B will focus on updates of standing sections that you will see repeated in the monthly reports. This way, you will continue to find consistent messaging throughout this report without having to go back to older reports. This report is based on available data from May 2021.*

## **Section A:**

### **Landlord Engagement**

One of the biggest needs right now is to recruit landlords who are accepting subsidies and are willing to lower barriers for people transitioning out of homelessness. Please review the talking points below about the new Low Barrier Housing Collective, which will officially launch on August 25.

### **Low Barrier Housing Collective Talking Points**

#### **Who We Are**

The Low Barrier Housing Collective is a collaboration between support service providers, landlords, and community members in Nashville dedicated to ending homelessness.

#### **What We Do**

The Collective connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to private market units that offer flexible screening criteria in exchange for benefits designed to mitigate risk for the property owner.

#### **The Crisis**

Many experiencing homelessness face barriers when trying to access permanent housing. Common barriers include: previous evictions, low income, and criminal history. These barriers restrict the already small pool of available affordable rental options in Nashville and limit the use of housing subsidies.

#### **The Solution**

Landlords and property owners can help lower these existing barriers through modified tenant screening criteria and significantly increase the stock of available options for people coming out of homelessness.

#### **Membership Benefits**

- Access to the Landlord Guarantee Fund which provides reimbursement directly to the landlord in case of excessive damages or lost rent.
- Housing stability support from local nonprofit service providers
- Mediation support through a dedicated landlord hotline
- Landlords gain access to a large, housing-ready applicant pool which can increase occupancy rates through filling traditionally high-turnover units.
- Monthly check-ins from LBHC staff

#### **How to Join**

Interested landlords can fill out the interest form from our website here:

<https://www.lowbarrierhousingcollective.org/join-the-collective>.

After receiving the form, an LBHC staff member will give the landlord a personalized orientation where they will determine their screening criteria. After the orientation, the property information will then be passed to service providers who assist qualified clients in applying.

## **Mobile Housing Navigation Center**

The Mayor's Office allocated and Metro Council approved \$850,000 for two years for the Mobile Housing Navigation Centers in Davidson County. This is a new and innovative program MHID created in partnership with Community Care Fellowship (CCF). CCF will run the program with partner organizations for two years.

A Mobile Housing Navigation Center takes a group of 15-20 people immediately off the streets to an interim location where they are sheltered while working intensely with service providers on obtaining permanent housing. The Mobile Housing Navigation Center pilot program utilizes church spaces for about 90-180 days until the program will move to another church. The goal is to assist people with housing within an average of 90 days, speeding up the housing process.

People access the Mobile Housing Navigation Center by referral through the Coordinated Entry process. The only requirement is for people to work toward housing. In addition, people will be selected within the geographic area of a Mobile Housing Navigation Center, which is one of the reasons that the location will be moving regularly to reach different parts of Davidson County. The areas of the location of a Mobile Housing Navigation Center is determined by health need and a lack of services in the area, as well as the ability to find a church/faith facility with space that is available 24/7.

The Mobile Housing Navigation Center rotates between church locations to ensure that we do not establish an ongoing shelter operation in one particular location of Davidson County. Rather, the goal is to serve people where they are. The pilot program will operate 2 -3 locations in different geographic areas and serve people who avoid the current shelter system in Nashville. This program is filling a gap with a focus on the most vulnerable people who agree to work intensely on housing and services.

Bloomberg Associates reached out to MHID to present at a global cities call about the Mobile Housing Navigation Center concept. MHID together with CCF first developed and tested the model in Nashville in spring 2020 as a response to COVID-19 with funding from The Frist Foundation.

## **Personal Stories**

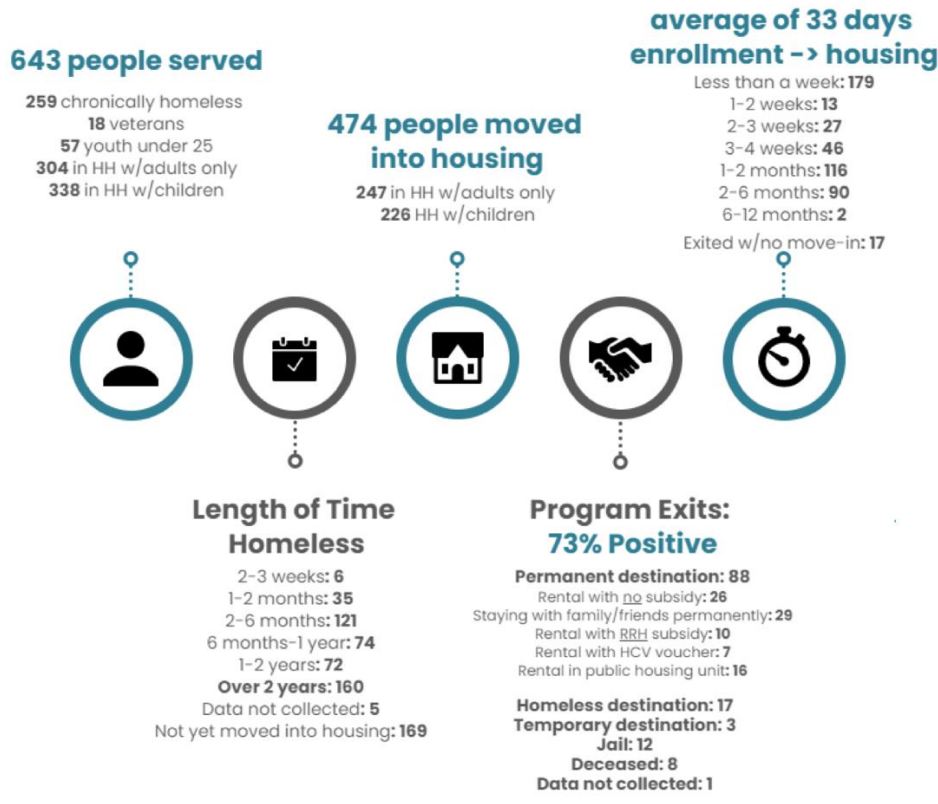
*Submitted by Joseph Parker, MHID:*

A gentleman living in a tent off Charlotte Pike has been experiencing homelessness for five years. He became homeless after losing a factory job due to his failing health. After being unable to pay his rent, he ended up on the streets. While he receives social security, he pays almost half of this income toward a payday loan debt. With the money that he has left he pays for his monthly phone bill and food. He actively is working toward housing with a nonprofit agency and even has a pending housing application but is worried about a past DUI on his record that he fears may prevent him from obtaining housing. He keeps working toward his housing goals and hopes he will soon be off the streets.

## **Housing Goals**

Nashville community providers have succeeded their goal to house 400 people by the end of December 2021 with CARES Act dollars. Nashville received \$10 million in federal dollars as part of the Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID funding. These funds were granted out to local nonprofits and a majority was allocated for Rapid ReHousing programs.

As of August 16, 474 people had moved into housing. Please see the data below (wherever totals seem to be off, the reason is that more than one organization reported on the same person being housed. In other words, the overall totals are correct after de-duplication).



**Overall Housing Report:**

The following chart shows the overall housing effort in our community since October 1 when the Rapid ReHousing programs funded through the CARES Act dollars started.

**1,691 people** have been permanently housed since October 1, 2020.  
**450 (27%)** were housed by **ESG-CV Rapid Rehousing** grants.



*Data Source:* Nashville-Davidson County HMIS data, including unduplicated exits to permanent destinations from Emergency Shelter, Street Outreach, and Transitional Housing programs; permanent housing move-ins in Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Housing programs; and exits to permanent housing from Coordinated Entry (CE) and Domestic Violence Coordinated Entry (DV CE).

\*This data does not include information from the Nashville Rescue Mission.  
 \*\*DV CE data only includes the heads of household's information, and may under-represent the number of people fleeing domestic violence who were housed.



## **Section B:**

### **Online Information**

The Metro Homeless Impact Division (MHID) has created a Website with information pertaining to the Continuum of Care: <https://mhidnashville.weebly.com/>. This page contains information about the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Coordinated Entry (CE).

### **Housing Plan**

We keep receiving requests for having plans in place. Please ensure that you are familiar with the housing plan overview that is being implemented and that our community is working towards, so that you can answer questions. We have included information again below:

#### **Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care: Housing Plan Overview**

The following community efforts, which are currently underway, are supported by Metro government. We believe we need to allow for these housing-focused efforts to gain traction and evaluate their efficacy over the long-term. To do so, we encourage community partners to participate in the Homeless Management Information System and adopt a person-centered and housing-focused approach.

- Street 2 Home: Coordinated Street Outreach:
  - Coordinate among the 45-50 full time outreach workers in our community to ensure street outreach is provided across Davidson County to meet people where they are
  - Set standards for street outreach to ensure people experiencing homelessness (PEH) can expect aligned services (this effort is driven by street outreach provider agencies)
  - Increase efficiency in services and measuring outcomes by utilizing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in street outreach
  - Establish a Mobile Housing Navigation pilot
  
- Landlord Engagement Coordination:
  - Bring together a dozen nonprofit organizations that have a position designated to search for landlords, improve and implement a landlord engagement plan, and coordinate landlord outreach efforts
  - Establish a Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund to include:
    - A rent bridge that pays for up to two months in rent (capped at \$2,000) to ensure landlords hold units that were vacated
    - Pay for up to \$1,000 in damages on top of security deposits
    - Provide a landlord phone line to work with landlords to mitigate on issues that may arise and avoid evictions
    - Work on a sign-up bonus for the up to 500 housing vouchers that will be available between May 2021 and May 2022
  - Work with faith leaders to reach out to more landlord
  
- Housing Initiative Supports:
  - Hold regular Housing Workgroup meetings with provider agencies that implement Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs

- Ensure trainings of best-practice models are provided and create a space for agencies to ask questions
- Resource Development:
  - Work to utilize the 500 housing subsidies (see landlord engagement above)
  - Work within the health sector to identify opportunities for ongoing support services for the up to 500 housing vouchers over the next year:
    - 100 vouchers are at MDHA through the CARES Act dollars (in the process of distributing those)
    - 198 emergency housing vouchers (EHVs) made available through the American Rescue Plan (ARP)
    - Up to 216 Section 8 set aside vouchers through a partnership between MDHA and the Metro Homeless Impact Division (up to 18 per month), which will be ongoing
    - VASH vouchers for veterans
    - Shelter Plus Care vouchers
  - Work with the healthcare community to identify ongoing support services to go along with the 500 housing voucher subsidies (if not already available)
  - Metro's Permanent Supportive Housing project (81 units)

## **HMIS Report**

HMIS information is available online at <https://mhidnashville.weebly.com/>.

The Homeless Impact Division's HMIS Team created a separate HMIS report. We believe it is imperative that the Homelessness Planning Council understands what data our community is collecting, what data HMIS is capable of collecting, and where we are in the data collection process. Please review the separate report. By doing so, you will familiarize yourself with the current state of the data quality and data completeness of HMIS.

The quality of data depends on improving the following:

1. Have an adequately staffed HMIS Lead Team of 4 FTE, which will be achieved during FY22/23 thanks to the support of the Mayor's Office and Metro Council.
2. Continue to train HMIS end users. HMIS is the community's database and its correct implementation and application is the responsibility of the entire Continuum of Care. The HMIS Lead Agency assists the community in that process.
3. Continue our partnership with Nashville Rescue Mission to include their emergency shelter data in HMIS. The Homeless Impact Division is ready to receive that data. Without this data, the Nashville-Davidson County CoC HMIS data for individuals and families will not be able reflect the realities in our community.

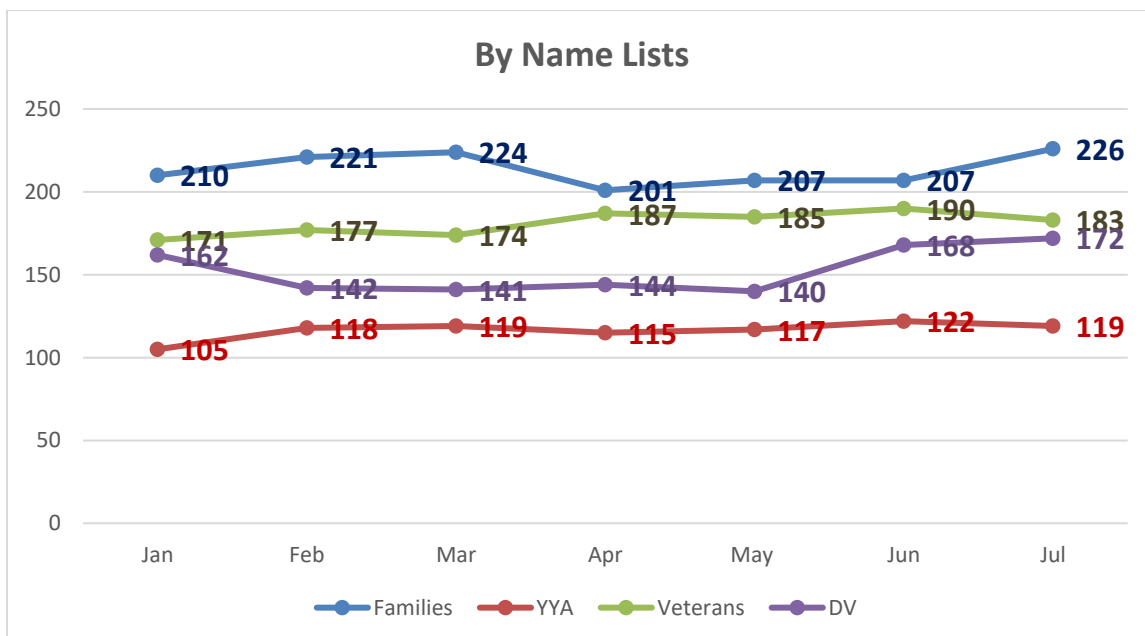
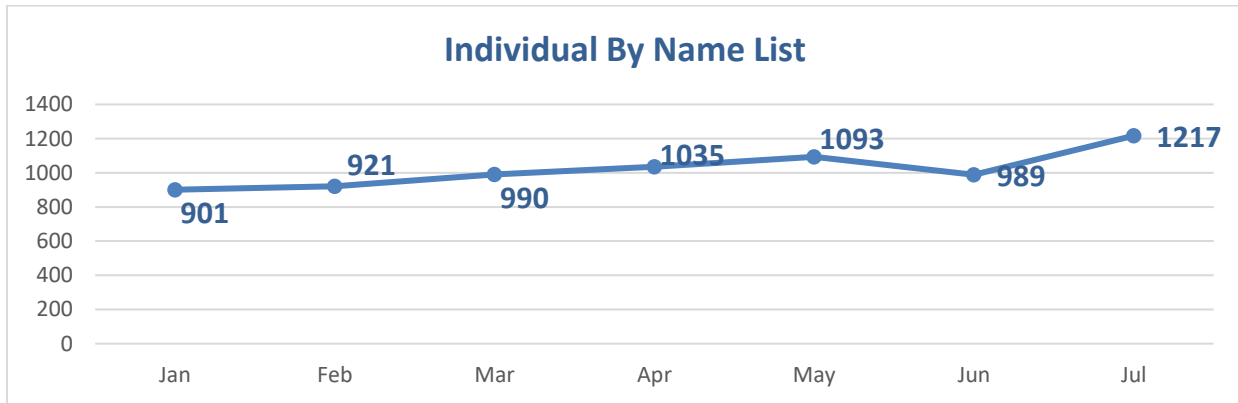
Under the guidance of our stellar HMIS team our community has been able to significantly improve the functionality of HMIS. With this year's ability to safely share data among participating partners, Nashville is on the right track, but not quite there yet when it comes to producing an unduplicated annualized number of people experiencing homelessness. We continue to focus on our work with shelter and outreach providers.

**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).

We are presenting the Individual By Name List (BNL) separately. The increase in the BNL does not demonstrate an increase in homelessness. Rather, it shows the increase in data collection. Data is entered by participating nonprofit organizations. It is extremely important that agencies serving people participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

When utilized correctly, HMIS is our community’s tool to increase efficiency in services, linking people experiencing homelessness to the right intervention and housing quicker. In addition, HMIS provides accountability and allows our community to determine what works, where gaps in services are, and where future investments should occur.



The following BNLs provide more detailed information of the different populations: Youth and Young Adults (YYA), Individuals, Veterans, Families, and Domestic Violence (DV)/Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
<b>How many YYA are on the BNL at the end of the month?</b>	105	118	119	115	117	122	119
<b>How many YYA were housed?</b>	28	14	15	20	5	9	10
<b>What was the average length of time from identification to housing?</b>	146 days	86 days	124 days	112 days	120 days	112 days	183 days
<b>How many new YYA were added to the BNL?</b>	25	21	19	22	6	17	11
<b>How many previously housed YYA were added to the BNL?</b>	0	3	3	2	0	1	1
<b>How many previously inactive YYA were added to the BNL?</b>	5	5	4	3	2	3	0
<b>What was the total BNL inflow?</b>	30	29	26	27	8	21	12

**Individual BNL**

<b>How many individuals on the BNL at the end of the month?</b>	901	921	990	1035	1093	989	1217
<b>How many individuals were housed?</b>	145	45	54	44	57	37	58
<b>What was the average length of time from identification to housing?</b>	218 days	136 days	174 days	154 days	203 days	180 days	192 days
<b>What was the total BNL inflow?</b>	204	151	166	191	154	191	168

**Veterans BNL**

How many Veterans are on the BNL at the end of the month?  
 How many Veterans were housed?  
 What was the average length of time from identification to housing?  
 How many Veterans met the chronic definition?  
 How many have experienced long-term homelessness?  
 How many Veterans were exited from HMIS due to inactivity, housing, or death?  
 What was the total BNL inflow?

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		
171	177	174	187	185	190	183	
24	19	14	14	21	14	20	
298 days	251 days	260 days	177 days	203 days	245 days	244 days	
46	50	49	60	58	60	60	
38	35	35	34	30	37	37	
13	18	11	13	7	12	8	
31	30	16	43	25	34	27	

**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?

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
210	221	224	201	207	207	226	
28	25	18	33	14	31	21	
119 days	129 days	171 days	158 days	125 days	146 days	154 days	
36	35	32	28	23	35	47	
2	2	5	1	2	1	5	



How many previously inactive families were added to the BNL?	2	3	6	2	6	6	8
What was the total family BNL inflow?	40	40	43	31	31	42	60
<b>DV BNL</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>
How many DV/IPV Survivor households are on the BNL at the end of the month?	162	142	141	144	140	168	172
How many DV/IPV survivor households were housed?	29	21	19	13	15	19	18
What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	122 days	167 days	184 days	215 days	182 days	160 days	199 days
How many DV/IPV survivors met the chronic definition?	30	32	26	29	29	27	36
How many DV/IPV survivors on the DV-CE BNL are active on the High-Risk Intervention Panel (HRIP)?	14	12	22	26	25	28	26
How many DV/IPV survivors were exited from HMIS due to inactivity, housing, or death?	12	16	9	8	13	7	4
What was the total # of assessments completed?	28	25	24	24	28	52	46
What was the total BNL inflow?	27	24	24	24	28	52	46

*This concludes our monthly report. 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](mailto: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](http://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.

**Coordinated Entry (CE)** – A system-wide approach that serves to assess all persons experiencing a housing crisis to help identify, prioritize, and connect them with the appropriate housing and support service resources as quickly as possible.

**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.

**Emergency Solutions Grants – COVID (ESG-CV)** - 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](http://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 can 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. Approximately 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](mailto:deon.trotter@nashville.gov).**

**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. 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.

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