

Monthly Report: December 2020

Emergency Solutions Grant & Housing Search

Over the past two months, four agency providers have been coordinating with us to develop a model that would utilize a motel as permanent housing option starting with the Rapid Re-Housing programs. The Homeless Impact Division is serving as the coordination entity and with assistance from our consultant, our community providers are finalizing the necessary documents to allow the motel owner to serve as a landlord. The goal is to house 85 people by January. We are working to house the first people in that motel this December. Please stay tuned for information once things are in place. (And be aware, this is a first of its kind model in Nashville. Again, the final documents are not in place yet, but we will keep you updated on the progress).

Additional housing searches continue. We need to identify a total of 400 permanent housing units and would like most of those to be with traditional landlords.

Background that we have included in most of the monthly reports:

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.

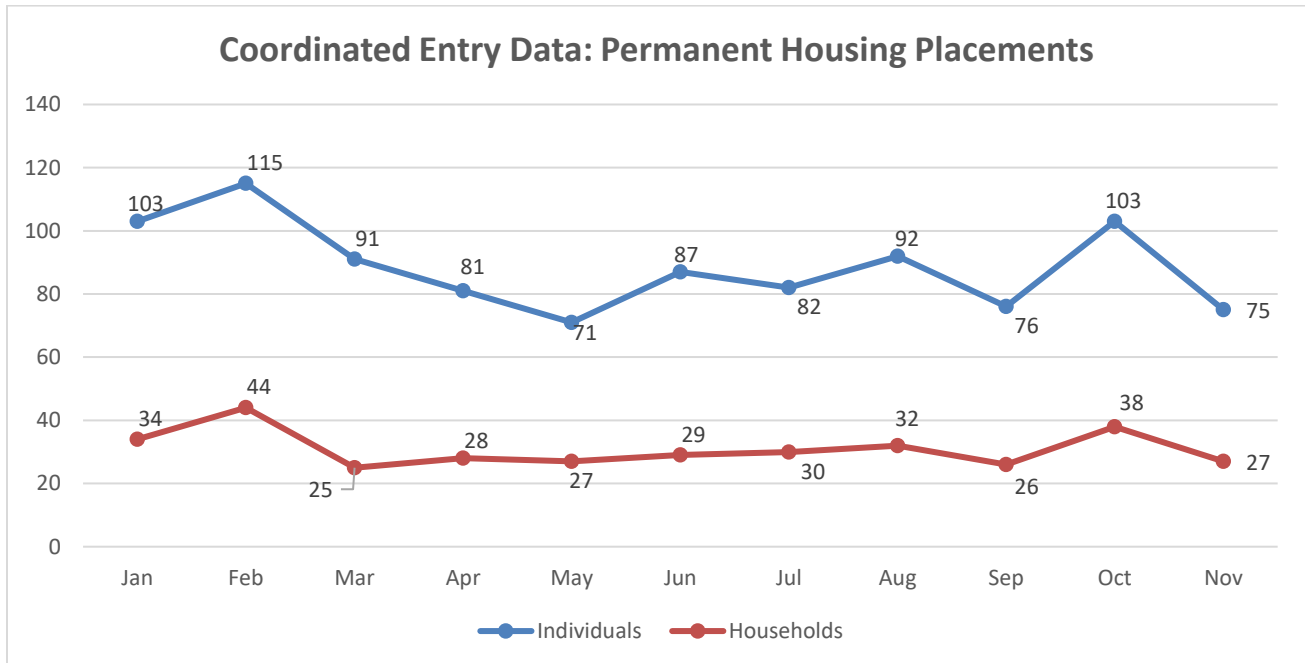
The goal is to house 400+ families with Rapid Re-Housing funds. Nonprofit partners have applied for the ESG-CV grants, which are managed locally by MDHA. The grants will pay up to one year in rent assistance to individuals and some families. Rapid Re-Housing is a program that also pays for support services once people obtained housing. The goal is to increase income for people, so they 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.**

Housing Placement Rate

Per data entered into the Coordinated Entry (CE) process through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), 178 individuals or 65 households obtained permanent housing in the months of October and November.

The total housing placement numbers in CE from January through November 2020, are 976 individuals making up 340 households. Thus, the monthly permanent housing placement rate per CE data so far averages 89 individuals or 31 households in 2020.



HMIS Report

Moving forward, the Homeless Impact Division’s HMIS Team is creating a separate HMIS report. We believe it is imperative that the Homelessness Planning Council understands what data we are 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.

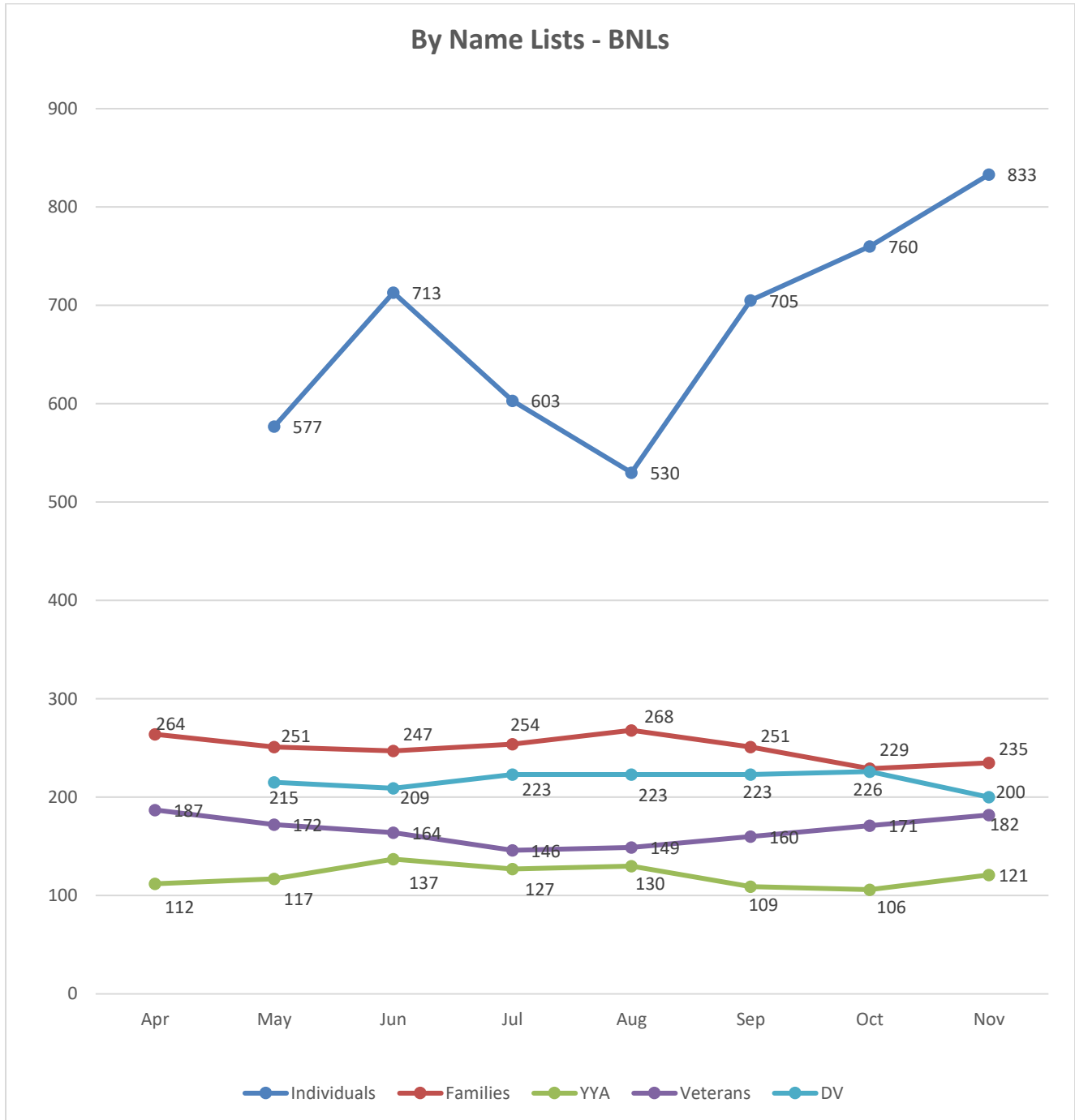
The quality of data depends on improving the following:

1. Having an adequately staffed HMIS Lead Team. At present, we have 2 FTE and a temporary worker. Continuums of Care of comparable size have 4-5 FTEs.
2. Continue to train HMIS end users. Our team is discovering a lot of data entry mistakes that need to be corrected ASAP to ensure we can provide accurate reports.
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.

We have a stellar HMIS team that has tremendously improved the functionality of HMIS in our community. With this year’s ability to safely share data among participating partners, our community is on the right track, but not quite there yet when it comes to producing an unduplicated.

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: Youth and Young Adults (YYA), Individuals, Veterans, Families, and Domestic Violence (DV)/Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

YYA BNL

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

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov
How many YYA are on the BNL at the end of the month?	112	117	137	127	130	109	106	121
How many YYA were housed?	9	10	4	11	9	19	11	9
What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	152 days	75 days	98 days	104 days	144 days	124 days	113 days	94 days
How many new YYA were added to the BNL?	18	18	18	18	18	14	20	16
How many previously housed YYA were added to the BNL?	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	2
How many previously inactive YYA were added to the BNL?	10	1	5	3	3	7	4	5
What was the total BNL inflow?	29	19	24	21	22	22	26	23

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?

How many individuals on the BNL at the end of the month?	577	713	603	530	705	760	833
How many individuals were housed?	8	25	14	22	13	19	48
What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	421 days	142 days	213 days	214 days	215 days	253 days	214 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	179	132
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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?

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov
How many Veterans are on the BNL at the end of the month?	187	172	164	146	149	160	171	182
How many Veterans were housed?	15	18	11	22	9	6	28	19
What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	238 days	175 days	178 days	247 days	149 days	225 days	166 days	228 days
How many Veterans met the chronic definition?	40	45	42	47	37	30	32	40
How many have experienced long-term homelessness?	22	22	22	22	21	18	18	22
How many Veterans were exited from HMIS due to inactivity, housing, or death?	36	26	23	35	7	12	40	26
What was the total BNL inflow?	36	10	11	16	20	30	45	36

April May June July August Sept Oct Nov

Family BNL

How many families are on the BNL at the end of the month?

264	251	247	254	268	251	229	235
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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?

21	15	36	30	16	43	34	30
148	185	193	164	243 days	213 days	105 days	97 days
22	24	29	49	38	52	42	27
1	3	4	3	2	4	1	0
10	4	6	5	9	10	6	6
33	31	39	57	49	66	69	33

DV 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 met the chronic definition?

How many DV/IPV survivors on the DV-CE BNL are active on the High-Risk Intervention Panel (HRIP)?

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov
data unavailable	215	209	223	223	223	223	226	200
35	31	21	13	22	13	13	13	15
75 days	129 days	109 days	156 Days	135 Days	168 Days	111 Days	148 Days	
0 new entries total in BNL unavailable	4 new entries total in BNL unavailable	8 new entries total in BNL: 29	33	33	35	40	34	
n/a	n/a	n/a	24	21	21	20	16	

How many DV/IPV survivors were exited from HMIS due to inactivity, housing, or death?

3	14	11	22	12	15	10	15
27	37	35	47	37	43	41	27
27	31	33	46	35	42	40	26

What was the total # of assessments completed?

What was the total BNL inflow?

Personal Stories

It is important that we look beyond the numbers and data and do not forget that each person has a story to tell. Here are two personal stories we wanted to share.

Mr. X needed housing and moved from Chicago to stay with his relatives in Nashville. However, their lease did not permit an additional person to stay at that apartment and Mr. X was asked to leave. He arrived at Nashville Rescue Mission earlier this year. Due to the COVID pandemic Mr. X moved from Nashville Rescue Mission to the Metro social distancing shelter at the Fairgrounds. Metro Social Services worked with him on his housing plan. He needed his birth certificate and social security card to be replaced, and Metro Social Services case manager drove him to the Social Security Office to ensure he was able to obtain the documents. While working on the housing plan, Mr. X was approved Fallbrook Apartments. His housing navigator at Metro Social Services will assist him with the move to his new apartment.

Mr. Z is from Nashville and became homeless when his mother died and her house where he had lived with her was sold. He worked two jobs and moved to a hotel for four months spending thousands of dollars on his lodgings. Due to arthritis in both knees, he had to quit his jobs. His health situation deteriorated to the point where he was admitted to Vanderbilt Hospital for several weeks, unable to walk from degenerative arthritis. His diagnosis led to his approval for Social Security benefits. After leaving Vanderbilt, he moved to Nashville Rescue Mission. Mr. Z currently stays at the Fairground Shelter and is working with a social worker on housing. He owes MDHA \$1,000 in back rent and works part-time to help pay off his debt. Mr. Z is awaiting a decision from an apartment in the Madison area and continues to have a positive outlook on life. He is thankful for Metro's assistance in helping him complete the housing applications and providing him with shelter during the pandemic.

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 from Nov. 1-March 31.

The Metro Cold Weather Overflow Shelter opens overnight when temperatures are predicted to 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 of Metro's cold weather overflow shelter is 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.

Based on input from the community providers, the Office of Emergency Management monitors the temperatures each day what temperatures are predicted as the low for the next night using the National Weather Service (for zip code 37203). Metro announces to providers the day prior to the opening of a shelter. Therefore, Metro opens a shelter based on temperature forecast from the day prior rather than actual temperature the day of the event.

Metro has opened a shelter on:

11/30: 54 people, 1 dog

12/1: 69 people, 3 dogs

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.*

In the Media

Bettering Nashville did a podcast interview with Judy to talk about the work of the Homeless Impact Division:

[Homeless Impact Division by Bettering Nashville • A podcast on Anchor](#)

This report includes some highlights from October and November 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. 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.