

Monthly Report: July 2020

Housing Placement Rate

Per data entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), 69 individuals or 23 households obtained permanent housing in the month of June.

The total housing placement numbers from January to June 2020, are 469 individuals making up 160 households. Thus, the monthly permanent housing placement rate so far averages 78 individuals or 26 households in 2020.

Total Number of People:

Relationship to Head of Household	(All)
Row Labels	#
2020	2336
CE Exit: Inactive	1867
CE Exit: Permanently Housed	469
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher (HUD)	2
No exit interview completed (HUD)	8
Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	11
Rental by client in a public housing unit (HUD)	31
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	139
Rental by client, with HCV voucher (tenant or project based) (HUD)	11
Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	54
Rental by client, with RRH or equivalent subsidy (HUD)	121
Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy (HUD)	18
Staying or living with family, permanent tenure (HUD)	51
Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure (HUD)	12
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	11
Grand Total	2336

Currently, 206 members at 30 participating HMIS agencies in our community have an active HMIS license.

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.

Veterans:

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
	187	172	164
	15	18	42
	238 days	175 days	178 days
	40	45	42
	22	22	22
	36	26	23
	36	10	11

Youth and Young Adults:

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
	112	117	137
	9	10	4
	152 days	75 days	98 days
	18	18	18
	1	1	1
	10	1	5
	29	19	24

In June, there were 247 families on the Family BNL, and 713 individuals are on the Individual BNL. However, we know based on the Point In Time Count from January, from the winter shelter data census, and an educated estimate we took in March of how many people stay outdoors that we are missing hundreds of people in HMIS. The biggest gap we see is around individuals. We have reached out to Nashville Rescue Mission leadership to start discussion on developing a plan about how to get their data submitted to HMIS.

Encampment/Outdoor Homelessness

MHID has worked with our community partners and together we have identified just under 75 specific encampments that may need food box assistance. That encompasses between 450-530 people (discrepancies among this population happen because of the constant movement of people). An additional 15 encampments were identified but it was unclear how many people currently reside at those locations. They generally were smaller encampments.

Overall about six locations have 20 or more people (this includes Green Street, an encampment that is sanctioned on private, Church property). At least 40 encampments have 5 or fewer people. Encampment sizes range from 1 to close to 100.

We suspect many encampment locations are not shared by provider agencies. Therefore, our estimates based on past anecdotal reports as well as reports from Metro Police are that Nashville has 100-150 encampments at any given time.

Complaints about encampments are increasing dramatically and the nature of the calls indicate an increase in mental health issues. MHID has hosted several encampment calls with outreach groups. The purpose of these calls is to keep stakeholders informed about each others' work, which then allows for a more coordinated approach. One such call was focused on coordinating an increased mental health outreach effort. The Mental Health Cooperative has put three mental health outreach teams together to address increased mental health issues in the largest encampments. The Salvation Army is asking for outreach provider input to evaluate the need for cooling measures for people living outdoors during this summer. We still have many locations including public buildings that due to COVID-19 are not as accessible as in past years due to social distancing. Neighborhood Health is developing a transportation program to assist people in encampments obtain medication, get to testing sites, and other important medical transportation needs.

Continuum of Care Committee Feature: Racial Equity

Equity and Diversity Committee:

Due to COVID-19, the Continuum of Care (CoC) has suspended its committee meetings. In June select committee have started to meet virtually to continue their work. Prior to COVID-19, the CoC's Homelessness Planning Council created a Diversity and Equity Committee, which met for the first time in June. This committee is chaired by Bobby Watts, executive director of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and the initial meeting was dedicated to organizing, discussing a variety of terms, and focusing on potential opportunities for the committee to impact CoC work.

Data Committee:

The Data Committee evaluated the 2020 Point In Time Count in June, and found that 45% of the people counted on one night in January identified as black or African American, which compares to 28% of Nashville's overall population.

HUD Technical Assistance

Nashville has received a total of \$10 million in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding as part of its CARES dollars to address COVID-19. These funds are designated to addressing 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.

Heather Dillashaw has put together a leadership team with representatives from the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA), the Mayor's Office, Metro Social Services including the Homeless Impact Division, the Homelessness Planning Council, and the CoC's Consumer Advisory Board. She is currently engaging community stakeholders in focus groups.

Personal Stories

The Metro Homeless Impact Division 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 232 calls that our team of two outreach specialists has followed up on. Since March, we have been down to a total of two outreach days from one outreach specialist because our team has been working alongside Metro Social Services to help staff the Metro shelter at the Fairgrounds. Last calendar year we received a total of 129 encampment requests.

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

The Metro Homeless Impact Division received a call about a young lady who currently lives in her car and needs assistance with housing. She stated that she has been in her car for six months after being evicted for not paying rent. She lost her job due to the company shutting down and has been unsuccessful in gaining employment. She would like to do clerical work and has eight years of experience. Her ex-husband has custody of the children, and she needs housing to gain custody. The outreach specialist referred her to services including the main office at Metro Social Services, but she has not contacted MSS yet. Another referral he made was to Goodwill's employment program. The outreach specialist continues to follow up with her and encourage her to reach out to these referrals while also providing needed items such as socks, t-shirts and water. As he is engaging with her, he brings up the process of looking for housing that will help with her state of health and mental health that are affected by her staying in her car.

Community Coordination

The Homeless Impact Division continues to work with the CoC to improve our coordinated entry process. As part of that, we partnered as advisors with Community Care Fellowship to test a referral process in offering 16 people who lived in encampments motel rooms. The people were selected based on their vulnerability and their underlying health issues that made them high risk for complications if they contracted COVID-19. The pilot program was funded by The Frist Foundation and a partnership with Bloomberg Associates assists with the evaluation of the program. We are facilitating a call among nonprofits to exchange ideas and experiences around their motel voucher approaches. Some still utilize them as shelter alternatives.

Increased coordination is needed around outdoor homelessness with concrete goals. At present, people have really nowhere to go. The Homeless Impact Division has facilitated multiple community calls, including a state brainstorming session with other Continua of Care to exchange ideas and information of how to improve outreach coordination efforts for people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

High priority areas for July

Work with the HUD TA, MDHA, Mayor's Office, and Homelessness Planning Council on a strategy called the Housing Surge Model for the second allocation of ESG dollars in the amount of \$8.5 million. This strategy is focused on improving our Housing Crisis Resolution System, is in alignment with the community's strategic plan, and includes a strong focus on sustainable efforts after the HUD COVID funds run out.

Metro is updating its Cold Weather plan to adjust it to the COVID-19 reality. The goal is for Metro to have a final draft by the end of July and present it to the community. MHID will then start facilitation of an updated Cold Weather Community Response Plan.

Continued efforts on encampment approaches. The complaints from communities about street/encampment homelessness are increasing. Mental health is a huge concern.

Increased focus on adding partner organizations to HMIS and urging providers to enter people into the coordinated entry process (which uses HMIS as its database).

Update of the CoC's Governance Charter, which has to be submitted to HUD by August 31, 2020.

This report includes some highlights from June 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