

Monthly Report: September 2020

Emergency Solutions Grant

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.

The Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA) is receiving and managing the grants. The first allocations totaling just under \$1.5 million were awarded to 14 nonprofit organizations. During the first round of applications, agencies will receive funding for prevention, street outreach, and Rapid Re-Housing programs.

The deadline to submit applications for the remaining grant dollars is on Friday, September 18. The current Request for Applications (RFA) will focus on street outreach and Rapid Re-Housing services.

Housing Surge

In order to support the efforts to house approximately 400 individuals and families with the Emergency Solutions Grant funds, the community will work together to increase the available housing inventory through a housing surge. Under the leadership of the Mayor's Office, our community is currently looking for funding that would allow the Atlanta based nonprofit Open Doors branch out into Nashville.

Open Doors has created a centralized landlord engagement and recruitment model that will pair well with the great efforts already in the works in Nashville through countless efforts as well as our Coordinated Entry Program. Local nonprofits encouraged the opportunity to bring Open Doors to Nashville to collaborate with them.

Housing Placement Rate

Per data entered into the Coordinated Entry (CE) process through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), 55 individuals or 17 households obtained permanent housing in the month of August.

The total housing placement numbers in CE from January through August 2020, are 649 individuals making up 224 households. Thus, the monthly permanent housing placement rate per CE data so far averages 81 individuals or 28 households in 2020.

Total # of People

2020	2839
CE Exit: Inactive	2190
CE Exit: Permanently Housed	649
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher (HUD)	3
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)	49
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	200
Rental by client, with HCV voucher (tenant or project based) (HUD)	12
Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	70
Rental by client, with RRH or equivalent subsidy (HUD)	156
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)	15
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	9

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 is in the process of onboarding several new agencies to participate in HMIS.

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).

Veterans:

Veterans BNL

	April	May	June	July	August
How many Veterans are on the BNL at the end of the month?	187	172	164	146	149
How many Veterans were housed?	15	18	11	22	9

What was the average length of time from identification to housing?

238 days	175 days	178 days	247 days	149 days
40	45	42	47	37
22	22	22	22	21
36	26	23	35	7
36	10	11	16	20

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?

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	July	August
112	117	137	127	130	
9	10	4	11	9	
152 days	75 days	98 days	104 days	144 days	
18	18	18	18	18	
1	1	1	0	1	
10	1	5	3	3	
29	19	24	21	22	

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

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?

	April	May	June	July	August
n/a	215	209	223	223	
35	31	21	11	17	

What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	75 days	129 days	94 days	138 days	155 days
How many DV/IPV survivors met the chronic definition?	0 new entries total in BNL unavailable	4 new entries total in BNL unavailable	29	33	33
How many DV/IPV survivors on the DV-CE BNL are active on the High-Risk Intervention Panel (HRIP)?	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	21
How many DV/IPV survivors were exited from HMIS due to inactivity, no longer meeting the Category 4 definition, or death?	3	14	11	21	10
What was the total # of assessments completed?	n/a	n/a	35	47	37
What was the total BNL inflow?	27	31	35	46	34

By the end of August, there were 268 families on the Family BNL, and 530 individuals were 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 August 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 into to HMIS.

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, 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 August 2020, a total of 28 clients received move-in cost assistance for a total of \$22,960.18. That’s an average assistance of \$820 per household.

Since January 2020, MHID paid move-in costs to 85 property managements. Of those, 22 were new properties.

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 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021 (which starts on October 1) is 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
FY2020 FMR	\$898	\$957	\$1,136	\$1,484	\$1,822

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.

Equity and Diversity

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. Therefore, the HPC established the Diversity and Equity Committee, which in

August drafted a letter to the Mayor and Bill Purcell, who serves as the Board Chair of MDHA. The letter, which received approval from the HPC, strongly encouraged the Mayor's Office and MDHA to use an equity lens in expending the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, specifically the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) dollars. The letter focused on four main components:

1. Getting people into housing.
2. Addressing the highest needs first.
3. Advancing racial justice and equity.
4. Analyze data on housing placements.

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.

Next month the committee intends to shift their focus to develop a statement of guidance for the HPC and Continuum of Care (CoC) and further consider what types and levels of accountability need to be in place to ensure that our CoC community is providing equitable service and housing.

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 308 calls that our team of two outreach specialists has followed up on. In August 2020, MHID received 42 requests compared to 24 in August 2019. The 42 requests for August are an increase over July, where 24 community requests related to homelessness were made.

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 August:

A man panhandling in the Antioch area has been experiencing homelessness for over a year. He currently works with Mental Health Cooperative on a housing plan but has difficulty making his appointments to access mental health services. He said after his divorce he really had nowhere to go and turned to the streets. Our outreach specialist asked him about going to Nashville Rescue Mission, an offer he refused citing safety concerns. He currently lives in a tent a block from the intersection where he panhandles. He asked for bus passes to help him get to his upcoming appointment at the Mental Health Cooperative. He really likes his case worker there but is concerned his case will be marked inactive if he continues to miss appointments. The MHID outreach specialist made sure his information was in the community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and attempted to reach his case manager at Mental Health Cooperative regarding an update on his housing

plan and 1-year bus pass qualification*. In addition, the outreach specialist continues to provide essential supplies such as socks and water when needed. He is now awaiting a decision from Burning Tree Apartments regarding approval for an upcoming housing unit.

*The annual bus pass program is a partnership between the Metro Homeless Impact Division and WeGo Public Transit. WeGo provides up to 500 annual bus passes to people who experience or are at risk of chronic homelessness. The utilization rate of that program depends on housing navigators and clients agreeing to actively work with people on housing and enter regular updates of that progress in HMIS.

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, Oasis Center, Open Table Nashville, and Metro departments have come together to develop a communitywide plan that outlines 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 from November 1, 2020 to spring that opens 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 adjacent to the existing Social Distancing and the separate COVID+/PUI shelters. We are now in the process of finalizing the overall Community Response Plan.

This report includes some highlights from August 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.