

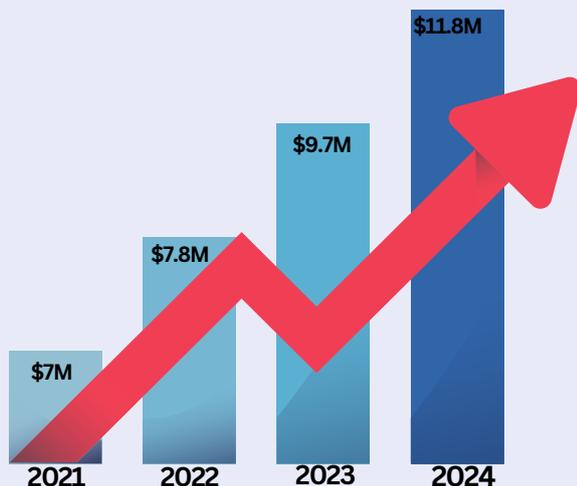
Newsletter

Office of Homeless Services

• FEBRUARY 6, 2025 • ISSUE 9 • Written by: April Calvin, Director

National Changes Have Harmful Local Implications

The federal government, as the largest funder of homeless efforts across the nation, significantly boosted Nashville's local funding award. In January, we celebrated a major victory: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the city a substantial \$11.8 million through the FY 2024 Continuum of Care (CoC) competitive program. This marked a promising \$2.1 million increase from the previous year, a clear sign of progress.



After reviewing other community awards, we noticed a theme of increased awards based on tier lines vs. new applicants and bonus funds. HUD generally shares the scores of each community application in the months following the announcement of the award, allowing insight into funding decisions. While Nashville secured the most significant HUD funding award in the city's history, recent federal changes left the nation concerned about if or how they can access the award. Our office is closely monitoring the changes and seeking guidance from Metro Legal, HUD Technical Advisors, and National Consultants, but much like with the initial strand of COVID-19, guidance is slow and changes swiftly.

These funds are crucial for expanding housing programs, enhancing support services, and strengthening partnerships to transition more individuals and families from homelessness to permanent housing. The federal funding, though initially paused, is now accessible again. It is imperative that funded agencies respond swiftly to secure contracts, agreements, and drawdowns for current funding and this new award.

As the new Secretary of HUD is sworn in, we will continue to monitor the federal funding plan and share guidance with our community partners. Responsive coordination and collaboration will be garnered from our Homelessness Planning Council Retreat this Friday, next week's Homelessness Planning Council Meeting, and we are scheduling a focus group aligning CoC funded agencies.

During these uncertain times it may be difficult to celebrate our upward funding trend, but this reflects years of progress and advocacy, reinforcing our city's mission to create lasting solutions.

-April Calvin

Overflow Shelter Provides Life-Saving Refuge for Hundreds

Over the course of 34 days, Nashville's Cold Weather overflow Shelter provided critical refuge for those in need, with an average nightly attendance of 250 individuals.



The highest recorded attendance occurred on January 21, 2025, when 396 individuals sought shelter as temperatures dropped into the single digits. The shelter operates under strict weather-based criteria, opening when temperatures fall to 32°F or below for at least three consecutive hours and extending hours when temperatures remain below 32°F for 24 hours or more.

For a detailed breakdown of nightly attendance, visit our website to view the [\[Detailed Shelter Daily Report\]](#).



Hospitality Hub of Memphis to Operate Rodeway Inn

Bringing Proven Solutions to Nashville's Homelessness Response

• FEBRUARY 6, 2025 • ISSUE 9 • Written by: Demetris Chaney Perkins

Selected through a competitive process, the Hospitality Hub of Memphis has been awarded the contract to operate the facility, bringing its proven expertise in outreach, housing, and encampment resolution to our city.

For years, the Hospitality Hub has been a leader in innovative solutions to homelessness, offering direct services and comprehensive case management to help individuals transition from the streets into permanent housing. With a deep understanding of the complexities of homelessness, the organization specializes in providing not only shelter but also the wraparound support necessary to ensure long-term stability.

Kelcey Johnson, Executive Director of Hospitality Hub, shared his enthusiasm about the expansion to Nashville:

"It is with great enthusiasm that the Hospitality Hub team is preparing to come to our sister city, Nashville, and attempt to replicate the successes that we've experienced here in Memphis combatting homelessness and especially doing the delicate work that is required to disband outdoor encampments—replacing tents and tarps with permanent housing. We are thankful to the Mayor and those on the Metropolitan Council who have given us their votes of confidence and are trusting us to serve their most vulnerable citizens with dignity and compassion."

The Office of Homeless Services is excited to welcome the Hospitality Hub to Nashville and looks forward to partnering with them in the shared goal of ending homelessness. Through collaboration, innovation, and unwavering commitment, we will continue working toward a future where every individual has a place to call home.



Image of Hospitality Hub, Memphis, TN

Media Highlights: Homelessness In Nashville

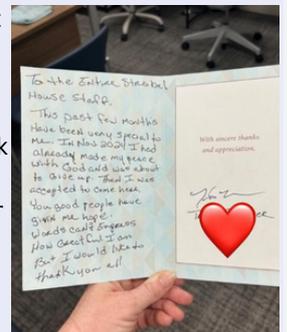


Kori Johnson, News Channel 2
[View Full Interview](#)

Kori Johnson interviews Director April Calvin on the Point-In-Time Count and its significance in addressing homelessness in Nashville. ***"Those are numbers that are used in our annual application. Those are numbers that we look at to make even local decisions on some of the need," said Calvin. "But it is just that — one point in time. It's a snapshot. What we know is this is a very dire situation that takes a lot more data collection in order to be able to move forward," said April Calvin.***

A Home: The Heart of Strobel House

This month, our team received a heartfelt card from someone recently housed, expressing deep gratitude for the staff who gave him hope. His words are a powerful reminder of why we do this work—to ensure that no one is forgotten, and that every person has the opportunity for stability and dignity. We are honored to witness the transformative impact of housing and the unwavering resilience of those we serve.



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