

# 2017 HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS



Lead Agency for Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care

FL-505

Prepared for Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care

Based on data collected and evaluated by Homelessness & Housing Alliance

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## PURPOSE

The Purpose of this Housing Needs Assessment and Analysis is to provide a reliable estimate of the need for housing for the most vulnerable in Okaloosa and Walton Counties, Florida.

This document has been prepared by the Homelessness & Housing Alliance for the Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care, which is the regional planning body for eliminating homelessness, to align and allocate resources in the most effective way possible.

The assessment relies on the collection and analysis of available data provided by Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care's Homeless Management Information System, Annual Point in Time Count and Housing Inventory Count, and data extrapolated from the One Way Home Supportive Housing Registry.

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an analysis of the current system of care for the homeless population in Okaloosa and Walton Counties. The scope of this work included gathering prevalence data, identifying funding sources, outlining the current system of care, identifying gaps and barriers, and presenting recommendations.

Specifically, this report: 1) provides a description of the current continuum of care delivery system for homeless persons; 2) presents the results of a needs assessment to identify gaps and barriers; 3) examines data, policies, procedures and practices used by homeless shelters, transitional, supportive housing organizations, Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) and Low Income Public Housing programs of the housing authority, Board of Education, 4) investigates 'best practices' nationally; and 5) synthesizes information learned across points 1 through 4 with the goal of developing a plan of action to guide both current (i.e., expenditure of HHA's \$1.1 million in homeless funds) as well as future investments (i.e., seeking external funding) towards ending homelessness.

## RELEVANT BACKGROUND

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 is the federally mandated legislation that governs Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to states and communities. The HEARTH Act amended and reauthorized the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act with substantial changes, including new definition of homelessness, an emphasis on prevention services, an increase in emphasis on performance, and a focus on coordinated access and assessment. The goals of the HEARTH Act include:

- No one (single adult or family) is homeless longer than 30 days
- Reduce new episodes of homelessness
- Reduce return entries into homelessness

OPENING DOORS is the strategic plan that accompanies the HEARTH Act that guides the work of federal agencies as it relates to preventing and ending homelessness. HUD, through its Continuum of Care programs, places priorities on certain activities at the state and communities level, to restructure their crisis response system to embrace coordinated access and rapidly house homeless persons. States and communities around the country have been responding to these changes adopting the Opening Doors framework and developing continuums of care (COC) that reflect a focus on housing first. Homelessness & Housing Alliance is the lead agency for the Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care.

Performance criteria against which states and communities are judged and obtain funding for include:

- Number of people who become homeless
- Length of time homeless
- Returns to homelessness
- Jobs and income
- Thoroughness in reaching homeless population

In order to meet these new goals, objectives and outcomes driven by the federal requirements, system transformation has been underway in Okaloosa and Walton

Counties. The system of organizations providing services to the homeless must now shift their thinking from providing emergency shelter and support, to providing housing and connecting people served to longer term support including job readiness and financial stability. Homeless shelters whose mission was to provide shelter, food and case management, are now in the position of finding ways to get their clients into housing as quickly as possible, in order to align with the federal funding mandate.

In this report data is presented that includes information specific to the CoC region.

### Okaloosa and Walton Counties, Florida



Okaloosa and Walton Counties continue to experience a shortage of affordable and available housing units for vulnerable populations with an extremely low income.

## HOUSING TYPES

- *Emergency Shelter is any facility whose primary purpose is to provide temporary or transitional lodging for a period of 90 days or less.”*
- *Transitional Housing provides temporary residence of up to 24 months for people experiencing homelessness combined with wrap-around services to help develop stability.*
- *Safe Haven is a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.*
- *Rapid Re-Housing prioritizes moving a family or individual experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible, ideally within 30 days of becoming homeless. It has 3 core components: housing identification, rent and move-in assistance (financial), and case management and services.*
- *Permanent Supportive Housing prioritizes chronically homeless households with a severe disability, and moves them either directly from the street or emergency shelter into housing. This housing must have minimal to no barriers to entry. This program Permanent Supportive Housing is a program design that couples long-term subsidized housing, either tenant- or project-based, with flexible, voluntary supportive services. It is designed to provide the highest level of care to individuals and families so that they remain stably housed and build the necessary skills to live as independently as possible. Permanent Supportive Housing primarily benefits extremely low-income, chronically homeless individuals and families who have multiple barriers to housing stability. This includes people with significant behavioral health disabilities, addiction and/or dual diagnosis. In general, it would be safe to say that the targeted populations would be unable to live safely and stably without supported housing.*

## NATIONAL NUMBERS

By the numbers:

- In January 2016, **549,928 people** were homeless on a given night in the United States.
- Of that number, 194,716 **were people in families**
- **355,212 were individuals.**
- On that same night, there were **35,686 unaccompanied homeless youth**, roughly seven percent of the total homeless population.
- **77,486** (or one in five) were considered "[chronically homeless](#)" individuals.
- On that same night, **39,471 Veterans** were homeless.

Since 2007, homelessness has dropped by 15 percent (97,330 people) and between 2015 and 2016 declined by three percent (or 14,780).

These numbers come from [Point-in-Time Counts](#), which are conducted, community by community, on a single night in January every other year. The [Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) requires communities to submit this data every other year in order to qualify for federal homeless assistance funds. Many communities conduct counts more regularly.

The most recent data from HUD can be found in the agency's [2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress](#)

## FLORIDA NUMBERS



## 2016 ANNUAL HOUSING ASSESSMENT REPORT

### Data Summary All Persons

Note: This page is designed to help communities review their AHAR data prior to submitting their report categories to the AHAR research team. Please verify that the information in this data summary is accurate and complete.

Reporting Year: 10/1/2015 - 9/30/2016

Site: Okaloosa/Walton

Rectangular Snip

### Bed Coverage Rates

	ESFAM	ESIND	THFAM	THIND	PSHFAM	PSHIND
<i>Bed Coverage Rates- 1 year</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A

### Unduplicated Counts

Number of Persons	ESFAM	ESIND	THFAM	THIND	PSHFAM	PSHIND
<b>1 year count (October 1-September 30)</b>	192	N/A	126	N/A	51	N/A
<b>On an average night</b>	23	N/A	70	N/A	31	N/A
<b>Point-in-Time Counts</b>						
<i>October 28, 2015</i>	22	N/A	70	N/A	42	N/A
<i>January 27, 2016</i>	19	N/A	65	N/A	42	N/A
<i>April 27, 2016</i>	26	N/A	76	N/A	42	N/A
<i>July 27, 2016</i>	22	N/A	75	N/A	0	N/A

Number of Families	ESFAM	THFAM	PSHFAM
<b>1 year count (October 1-September 30)</b>	59	36	25
<b>Point-in-Time Counts</b>			
<i>October 28, 2015</i>	6	24	15
<i>January 27, 2016</i>	7	26	15
<i>April 27, 2016</i>	10	27	15
<i>July 27, 2016</i>	8	27	0

### Average Household Size

Persons per Household	ESFAM	THFAM	PSHFAM
<b>On an average night</b>	3.30	3.50	2.00
<i>October 28, 2015</i>	3.70	2.90	2.80
<i>January 27, 2016</i>	2.70	2.50	2.80
<i>April 27, 2016</i>	2.60	2.80	2.80
<i>July 27, 2016</i>	2.80	2.80	N/A

### Bed Utilization Rates

Percent Beds Utilized	ESFAM	ESIND	THFAM	THIND	PSHFAM	PSHIND
<b>On an average night</b>	70%	N/A	95%	N/A	98%	N/A
<i>October 28, 2015</i>	67%	N/A	95%	N/A	100%	N/A
<i>January 27, 2016</i>	58%	N/A	88%	N/A	100%	N/A
<i>April 27, 2016</i>	79%	N/A	103%	N/A	100%	N/A
<i>July 27, 2016</i>	67%	N/A	101%	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Length of Stay

Percent of Beds Utilized	ESFAM	ESIND	THFAM	THIND	PSHFAM	PSHIND
<i>Annual Turnover (average # of persons served per bed) in year</i>	5.82	N/A	1.70	N/A	1.62	N/A

### Missing Data Rates

Variable	ESFAM	ESIND	THFAM	THIND	PSHFAM	PSHIND
<i>Gender</i>	0%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Age</i>	0%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Ethnicity</i>	0%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Race</i>	0%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Living Arrangement the Night Before Program Entry</i>	0%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Disability Status</i>	2%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Veteran Status</i>	0%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Household Size</i>	0%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Household Type</i>	0%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Length of Stay</i>	2%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Number of nights - Adults</i>	0%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Number of nights - Children</i>	0%	N/A	0%	N/A	0%	N/A
<i>Destination at Exit</i>					0%	N/A

**\*\*Data in this category did not meet minimum participation criteria for participation in HUD's Annual Homeless Assessment Report.**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs  
451 Seventh Street, SW Room 7262 Washington, DC 20410

Developed under contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Each Continuum of Care is required to count the number of people experiencing homelessness and the number of units they have available to meet that need. While there continue to be significant problems with quantifying the number of people who are homeless, the measures relied upon by HUD, Congress and providers are the Point in Time count and the Housing Inventory Count, which are described in greater detail below:

## THE POINT IN TIME COUNT (PIT)

The PIT is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night during the last 10 days in January. Continuums of Care count and report to the state and HUD the number of people who are unsheltered, in emergency shelters, transitional housing and Safe Havens on that night.

The PIT DOES NOT include the number of people in Permanent Supported Housing or Rapid Re-Housing.

The PIT is considered to be the best source of data about the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness and street homelessness, the primary target populations for Permanent Supportive Housing. Yet it is considered by homeless family advocates and providers to fall short of accurately capturing family homelessness since families are less likely to end up on the street. It is also considered to have significant limitations in counting youth who are skilled at hiding and are underserved by the homeless system.

The PIT is used as the basis for funding and even with all its limitations is generally considered to be the most reliable count. It is relevant for the purposes of this assessment which focuses on the need for Permanent Supportive Housing. But given its limitation, it should be considered an undercount of true need.

# Methodology for FL-505 - Fort Walton Beach/Okaloosa, Walton Counties CoC

## Sheltered Population Total

1. What data source(s) was used to produce the total number of people included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count? Please indicate the percentage of the PIT count derived from each of the sources. (If a source was not used, please enter zero).

HMIS Data	0%
Provider-level surveys	100%
Client-level surveys	0%
Observation	0%
Other	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

2. Was the CoC able to collect information about the number of people being sheltered on the night of the count from all emergency shelters, Safe Havens, and transitional housing projects listed on the HIC or only some? listed on your HIC or only some?

- Complete census count

3. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the count of the total number of people included in the sheltered population?

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)
- Other: HMIS Database De-Duplication within reporting software.

## Unsheltered Population

The methodology used for the unsheltered PIT Count was a canvassing of all areas of the CoC and a complete census of people encountered during the count. Known locations and outreach events were used to complete surveys as well.

## 2017 POINT IN TIME COUNT TOTALS

Households with at least one Adult & one Child | Households with only Children | Households without Children | Totals

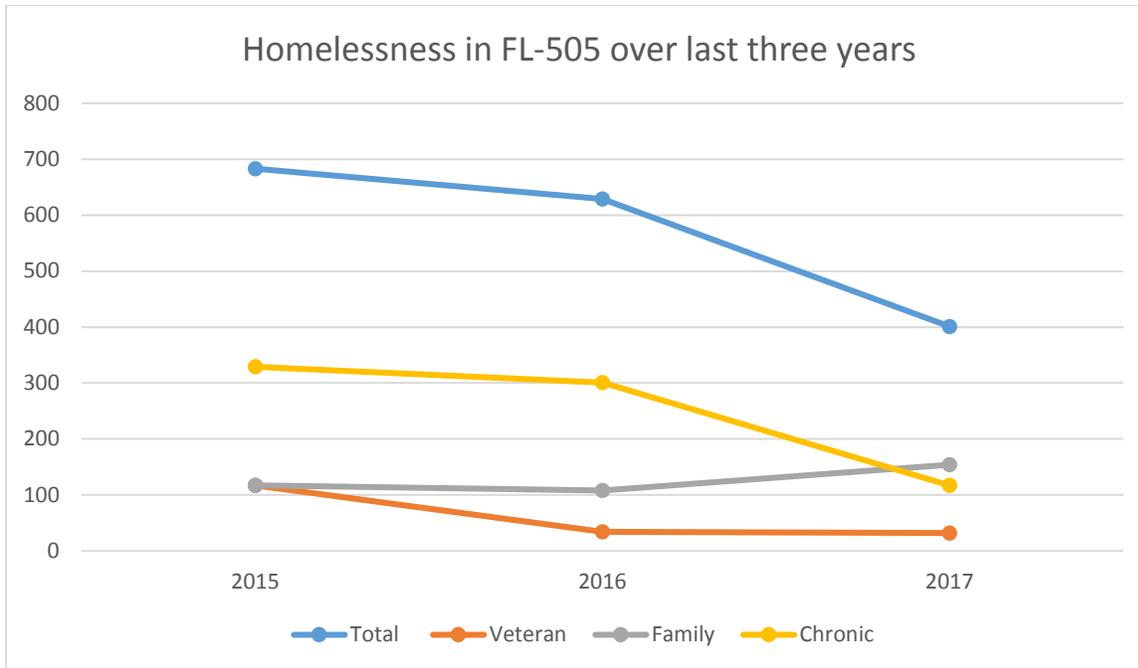
Total Households and Persons	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven <sup>a</sup>		
Total Number Of Households	28	20	0	212	260
Total Number of Persons	68	62	0	271	401
Number of Children (under age 18)	36	24	0	19	79
Number of Persons (18 to 24)	11	2	0	17	30
Number of Persons (over age 24)	21	36	0	235	292

Gender	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven <sup>a</sup>		
Female	47	31	0	127	205
Male	21	31	0	143	195
Transgender	0	0	0	1	1
Don't identify as male, female, or transgender	0	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven <sup>a</sup>		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	49	48	0	246	343
Hispanic/Latino	19	14	0	25	58

Race	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
White	53	51	0	209	313
Black or African-American	15	11	0	44	70
Asian	0	0	0	5	5
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	2	2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	4	4
Multiple Races	0	0	0	7	7

Chronically Homeless	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven <sup>a</sup>		
Total number of persons	6		0	106	112



- In 2015 a total of 683 persons were identified as homeless during the Annual Point in Time Count
- In 2016 a total of 629 persons were identified as homeless during the Annual Point in Time Count
- In 2017 a total of 401 persons were identified as homeless during the Annual Point in Time Count



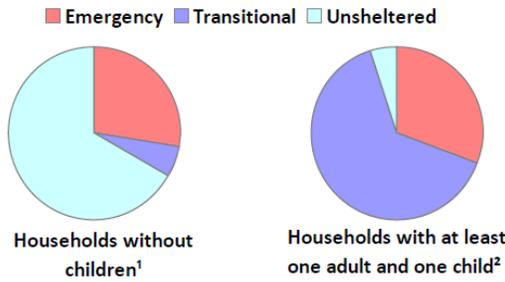
*Important Notes About This Data:* This report is based on information provided to HUD by Continuums of Care (CoCs) in the fiscal year 2016 application for CoC Homeless Assistance Programs. HUD has conducted a limited data quality review but has not independently verified all of the information submitted by each CoC. The reader is therefore cautioned that since compliance with these standards may vary, the reliability and consistency of the Housing Inventory and Homeless Count data may also vary among CoCs. Additionally, a shift in the methodology a CoC uses to count the homeless may cause a change in homeless counts between reporting periods. For inquiries about data reported by a specific Continuum of Care, please contact that jurisdiction directly. CoC contact information can be found on the HUD Exchange website ([https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/?granteesaction=main\\_searchresultsprogramid=3](https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/?granteesaction=main_searchresultsprogramid=3)).

**CoC Name:** Fort Walton Beach/Okaloosa, Walton Counties CoC

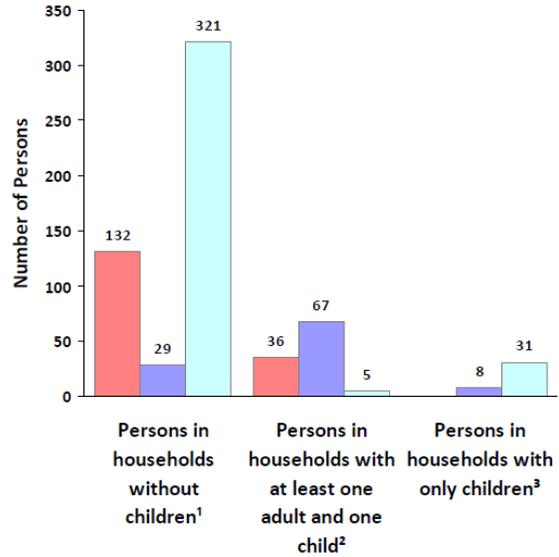
**CoC Number:** FL-505

**2016 Point in Time Count Summarized by Household Type**

Proportion of Households Served by Program Type



Emergency Transitional\* Unsheltered

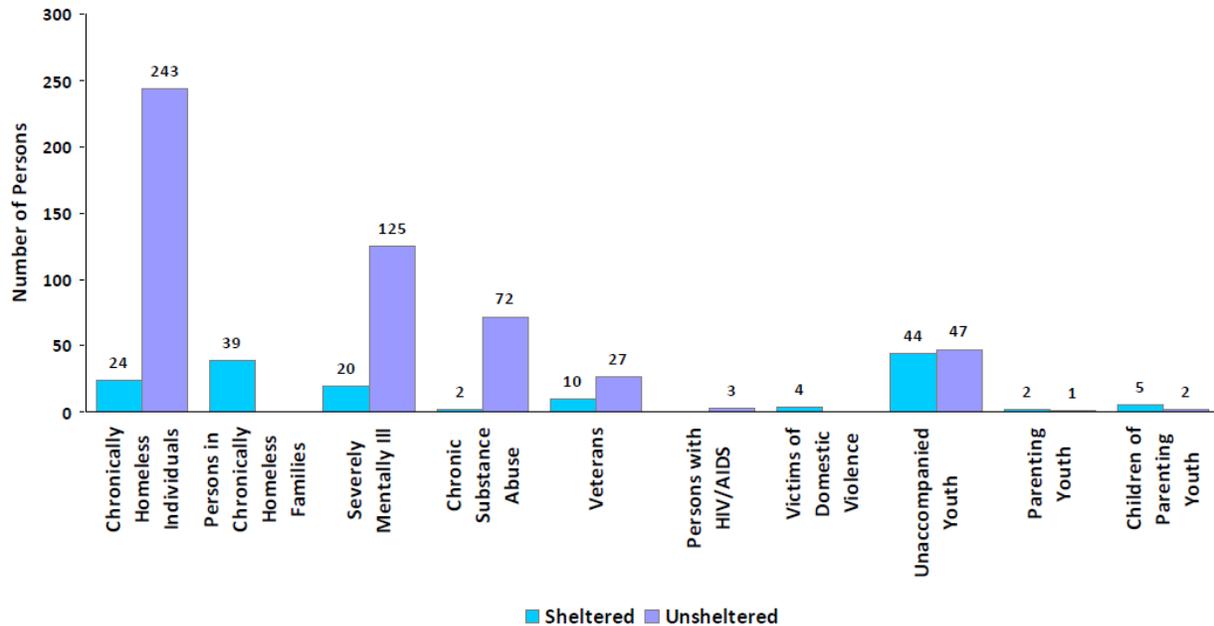


\* Safe Haven programs are included in the Transitional Housing category.

<sup>1</sup>This category includes single adults, adult couples with no children, and groups of adults. <sup>2</sup>This category includes households with one adult and at least one child under age 18.

<sup>3</sup>This category includes persons under age 18, including children in one-child households, adolescent parents and their children, adolescent siblings, or other household configurations composed only of children.

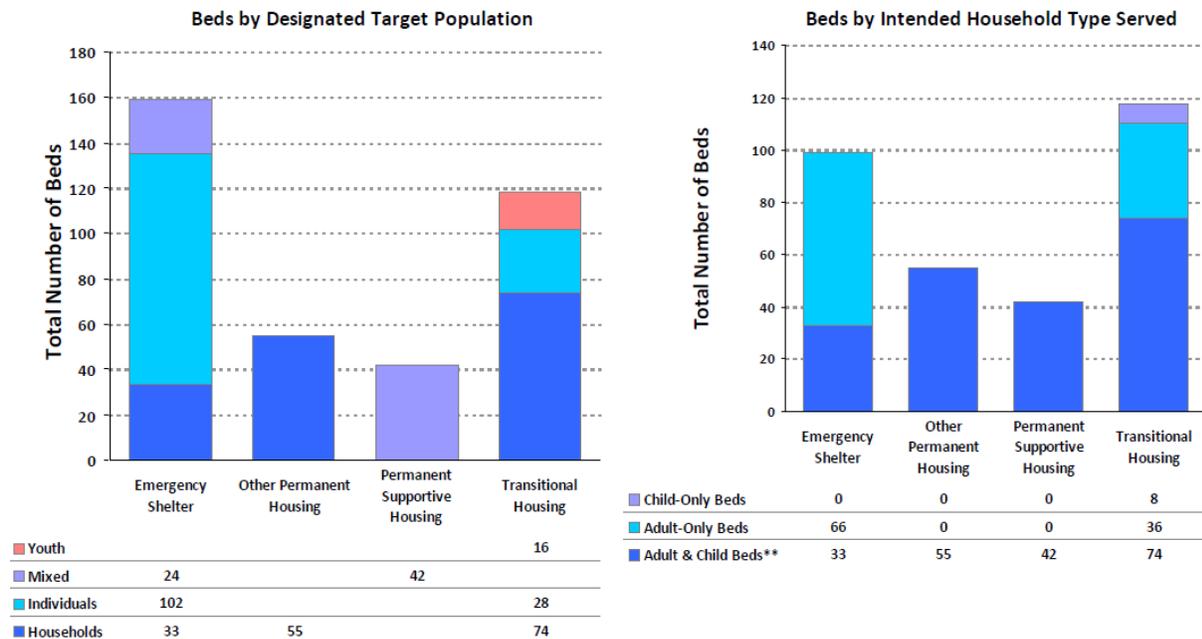
**2016 Point in Time Count Summarized by Sub-Population**



## HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT

The HIC tallies the number of beds and units provided on the night designated for the count by program type, and includes beds dedicated to serve people who are homeless as well as those living in Permanent Supportive Housing. New for this year (2016), the report also includes data on beds dedicated to serve specific subpopulations. It provides a snapshot of all the beds and units provided by program type in a CoC including those in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing during the last 10 days of January. The HIC provides the most comprehensive count of units and beds by CoC available, yet there may be inconsistent or absent information about actual availability and turnover rates.

### 2016 Housing Inventory Summarized by Target Population and Bed Type



\* Mixed beds may serve any target population

\*\*Adult & Child and Adult & Child Beds refer to beds for households with one adult and at least one child under age 18

## HIC Total Summary for FL-505 - Fort Walton Beach/Okaloosa, Walton Counties CoC

### Total Year-Round Beds - Household without Children

1. Current Year-Round Beds for Households without Children	32
1A. Current Year Round ES Beds for Households without Children	24
1B. Current Year Round TH Beds for Households without Children	0
1C. Current Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households without Children	0
1D. Current Year Round RRH Beds for Households without Children	8
1E. Current Year Round PSH Beds for Households without Children	0
2. New Year-Round Beds for Households without Children	54
2A. New Year Round ES Beds for Households without Children	10
2B. New Year Round TH Beds for Households without Children	0
2C. New Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households without Children	0
D. New Year Round RRH Beds for Households without Children	7
2E. New Year Round PSH Beds for Households without Children	37
3. Total Year-Round Beds for Households without Children	86
3A. Number of DV Year-Round Beds for Households without Children	24
3B. Subtotal, non-DV Year-Round Beds for Households without Children	62
4. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households without Children	62
4A. Total Year Round ES HMIS Beds for Households without Children	10
4B. Total Year Round TH HMIS Beds for Households without Children	0
4C. Total Year Round Safe Haven HMIS Beds for Households without Children	0
4D. Total Year Round RRH HMIS Beds for Households without Children	15
4E. Total Year Round PSH HMIS Beds for Households without Children	37
5. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households without Children	62
6. HMIS Bed Coverage: Beds for Households without Children	100.00 %

2017 Housing Inventory Count

### **Total Year-Round Beds - Households with Children**

1. Current Year Round Beds for Households with Children	300
1A. Current Year Round ES Beds for Households with Children	26
1B. Current Year Round TH Beds for Households with Children	74
1C. Current Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households with Children	0
1D. Current Year Round RRH Beds for Households with Children	21
1E. Current Year Round PSH Beds for Households with Children	179
2. New Year Round Beds for Households with Children	6
2A. New Year Round ES Beds for Households with Children	0
2B. New Year Round TH Beds for Households with Children	0
2C. New Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households with Children	0
2D. New Year Round RRH Beds for Households with Children	6
2E. New Year Round PSH Beds for Households with Children	0
3. Total Year Round Beds for Households with Children	306
3A. Number of DV Year-Round Beds for Households with Children	0
3B. Subtotal, non-DV Year-Round Beds for Households with Children	306
4. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households with Children	127
4A. Total Year Round ES HMIS Beds for Households with Children	26
4B. Total Year Round TH HMIS Beds for Households with Children	74
4C. Total Year Round Safe Haven HMIS Beds for Households with Children	0
4D. Total Year Round RRH HMIS Beds for Households with Children	27
4E. Total Year Round PSH HMIS Beds for Households with Children	0
5. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households with Children	127
6. HMIS Bed Coverage: Beds for Households with Children	41.50 %

### 2017 Housing Inventory Count

### Total Year-Round Beds - Households with only Children

1. Current Year Round Beds for Households with only Children	0
1A. Current Year Round ES Beds for Households with only Children	0
1B. Current Year Round TH Beds for Households with only Children	0
1C. Current Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households with only Children	0
1D. Current Year Round RRH Beds for Households with only Children	0
1E. Current Year Round PSH Beds for Households with only Children	0
2. New Year Round Beds for Households with only Children	0
2A. New Year Round ES Beds for Households with only Children	0
2B. New Year Round TH Beds for Households with only Children	0
2C. New Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households with only Children	0
2D. New Year Round RRH Beds for Households with only Children	0
2E. New Year Round PSH Beds for Households with only Children	0
3. Total Year Round Beds for Households with only Children	0
3A. Number of DV Year-Round Beds for Households with only Children	0
3B. Subtotal, non-DV Year-Round Beds for Households with only Children	0
4. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	0
4A. Total Year Round ES HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	0
4B. Total Year Round TH HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	0
4C. Total Year Round Safe Haven HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	0
4D. Total Year Round RRH HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	0
4E. Total Year Round PSH HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	0
5. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	0
6. HMIS Bed Coverage: Beds for Households with only Children	n/a

2017 Housing Inventory Count

## IDENTIFYING AND PRIORITIZING

The people experiencing homelessness for whom Permanent Supportive Housing is considered most appropriate and effective include Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families, Unaccompanied Youth, Homeless Veterans, and Homeless Individuals Living with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Substance Abuse Disorders (SUD), or HIV/AIDS (or both or all). These groupings of people are described below.

### CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

According to HUD, chronic homelessness is defined as “individuals with a disability who have experienced homelessness continuously for one-year or more or who have experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.

### CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES

Family includes, but is not limited to, any group of persons presenting for assistance together with or without children, regardless of marital status, actual or