

DALLAS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOUSING WORK GROUP

Dallas County Administration – 500 Elm Street, Customer Excellence Training Room 7.Y17, 7th Floor, Dallas Texas

January 28, 2026, 10:00-11:30am

The Dallas County BH Housing Work Group, with diverse representation, will formulate recommendations on the creation of housing and housing related support services designed to safely divert members of special populations in crisis away from frequent utilization of expensive and sometimes unnecessary inpatient stays, emergency department visits and incarceration.

Success will be measured in placement of consumers in housing and the decreased utilization of higher levels of care (hospitals and emergency care visits) and reduced incarceration in the Dallas County Jail. The Dallas County BH Housing Work Group is committed to a data driven decision-making process with a focus on data supported outcomes.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Reports

a. Governance – Commissioner Theresa Daniel

- Approval of December 3, 2025, minutes
- Homeless Advisory Committee Meeting
- Federal & State legislative environment

b. Resources – services, programs, people, funds

- Shelter Discussions
- NTBHA
- Housing Navigator / Homeless Jail Dashboard/St Jude Center
- Housing Authority Report- DHA/DCHA
- Metrocare Services
- AIDS Services of Dallas (ASD)

c. Projects and Industry Updates

- Housing Forward updates
- Pretrial Diversion and MH screening
- Dallas Connector
- Homeward Bound, Crisis Residential & Respite Services, Deflection Center
- Youth Housing
- Family Housing

3. Next Meeting February 25, 2026

**Dallas County Administration, 500 Elm Street, 7th Floor, Dallas Texas 75202
December 3, 2025 Minutes**

Mission Statement: The Dallas County Behavioral Health Housing Work Group (DCBHWG), with diverse representation, will formulate recommendations on the creation of housing and housing related support services designed to safely divert members of special populations in crisis away from frequent utilization of expensive and sometimes unnecessary inpatient stays, emergency department visits and incarceration.

Success will be measured in placement of consumers in housing and the decreased utilization of higher levels of care (hospitals and emergency care visits) and reduced incarceration in the Dallas County Jail. The DCBHWG is committed to a data driven decision-making process with a focus on data supported outcomes.

ATTENDEES: Commissioner Theresa Daniel, Dallas County; Latoya Jenkins, Dallas County; Tzegabrhan Kidane, Dallas County; Laura Edmonds, DCCJ; Quincy Hogan, Metrocare; Doug Denton, Homeward Bound; Eric McCarty, NTBHA; Janie Metzinger, NTBHA; Valerie Palmer, Austin Street; John Hill, Housing Forward; Wendy Hardeman, Mesquite Sharing Life

Dr. Daniel opened the meeting by having the members at the table introduce themselves.

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner and the committee approved the minutes from the October 22nd meeting.

RESOURCES

Federal/State Legislative Update: Janie Metzinger, NTBHA

Janie Metzinger reported that the state legislature has still not submitted the interim charges yet. They are typically done in the fall to be heard at the interim hearings in the spring, so they are still waiting. Doug Denton questioned if the federal government has said anything regarding HUD shifting funding away from permanent supportive housing and adding money toward treatment, transitional housing and workforce programs. He stated that about 20 states have filed suit against that administrative order as it is a violation against a congressional mandate. John Hill stated that since the No Funding Opportunity Order has been issued, they have a much shorter window of opportunity to submit projects. Applications are now due on December 11th. He stated that Housing Forward has met with their providers to come up with a unified strategy to address the order and the changes. The Trump Administration wants to put treatment and temporary housing as the focus and that means 70% of permanent housing solutions will be shifted towards temporary solutions and only 30% will be available for permanent supportive housing. Housing Forward is currently focusing their efforts on this new vision to try to remain one of the more competitive COC's in the country. They are trying to mitigate the risk for about 500 tenants that will be impacted. So regardless of what happens with the suit or the administration, Housing Forward will come up with a strategy to maintain. Since 2021, as a system, Housing Forward has transitioned 21,000 people out of homelessness with permanent supportive housing being a major part of that. They are trying to avoid those who can't afford their rent being back out on the streets, so they are having to make their private and public funding stretch further. They are also looking internally at prioritization of apartment placements and the timelines they use that will allow them to gradually release people that have provided their own plan of support for their living situation. They want to continuously make sure they have beds available for those being released from jail or treatment. John stated that he is confident in their system, and he believes that next year they will receive their funding of \$28 million dollars; \$20 million from public sources, and \$8 million from private sources. He also believes they will continue to receive the federal funding they have received in the past.

SHELTER DISCUSSIONS

There was some discussion about the emergency shelter being available during this time due to the weather. Because the weather has not reached the temperature that is mandated, the emergency shelters have not been opened. Because the emergency shelters are full, there are waitlists and the people that are on those lists, are currently waiting on the streets. John Hill stated that those invested in the cause are great at doing something in an emergency situation but are a little more hesitant to be more proactive about a solution and give more funding on the front end of the issue. He referenced the World Cup coming into the area and how there is a focus to really look at the work being done in the homelessness and housing space, but it takes those types of occurrences to highlight the issue. With FIFA coming, it has sparked conversations

and has those involved looking into a six-month plan. Eric McCarty echoed that if we could allocate more resources from the beginning and not have to rely on an event like the World Cup, that the system would be better off.

Wendy Hardeman chimed in and stated that in Mesquite, they only have access to Star Transit and it will not go into Dallas unless a person has medical appointments. She also states the City of Mesquite is not interested in any type of “legal encampment area” and people are just camping out wherever they can. She says their funding is going to cleaning up encampments versus finding another solution for those experiencing homelessness. Sharing Life does have and offers emergency shelter and services, but not everyone wants to use those available services.

John Hill stated that the affordability crisis we are experiencing is contributing to the 700 new people in our region becoming homeless. Valerie Palmer stated that the work Austin Street is doing with Housing Forward to go from shelter to home instead of going from street to home is now becoming the focus. She states she meets twice a week with Housing Forward to focus on their longest tenants getting housed to free up more shelter beds. They want the narrative to be that shelter will get you housed. Eric McCarty stated that he has had success with clients coming from shelter to home and by using their Tenant Based Rental Assistance they were able to assist the clients in paying their rent for up to 24 months.

POSSIBLE HOUSING LEGISLATION

Commissioner Daniel asked if there was something legislatively that could be done with the upcoming session about to start. Janie Metzinger suggested to look at an existing program that someone else has done and expand or improve upon it. She stated that you want to look at proven programs that have data and proof that it works to develop a pilot program with a long term strategy that the state will adopt. John Hill stated that he visited with TX Sen. Parker about his mental health bill and he and other state Republicans are interested in having more mental health beds and are interested in having at least 2 Deflection Centers in the area. Mr. Hill also reported that he, along with Sen. Parker, attended the Republican Summit on Homelessness and the Cicero Institute. This organization is driving more homeless policy and ideas. John suggested to these entities that may consider investing more heavily in expansion of services of the existing providers, but he stated that they are more geared towards building new campuses and put more funding into shelter. Mr. Hill stated that he tried to convey the point to the fiscally conservative that those things are more expensive and they don't come online for years, which puts the current homeless situation even more behind. He also suggests that the state allocates funding the way the city and county does.

PROJECTS AND INDUSTRY UPDATES

Homeward Bound: Doug Denton, Homeward Bound

Doug Denton stated that the Deflection Center has all 16 beds filled. In October, they had the highest number of law enforcement drop offs at 44. They had 40 rapid responders responding to community calls. They are also working with their shelter partners to navigate the wait list and other listings such as the sober housing facilities. They are continuing to work with all partners involved.

Pre-Trial Diversion and Mental Health Screenings: Laura Edmonds, Dallas County Criminal Justice

Laura Edmonds reported that the numbers are pretty consistent month to month. If there are increases, it is normally due to the book-ins increasing, so there is some slight fluctuation with the jail population there but not a significant change with the numbers

Commissioner Daniel encouraged everyone to look through the entire packet and make notes of the changes within them. She also encouraged everyone to take note of the Mission, Vision, and Values of Dallas County and how we strive to make those things happen for the citizens of Dallas County. She also thanked everyone and wished them a happy holiday season.

Next Meeting: January 28th, 2026



FUSE Data

FUSE DATA FY 2025-2026
12 MONTH



Category Item	May 25	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2026	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Total Clients Screened for FUSE	106	116	200	131	121	144	96	102					
Referral Source													
Jail FUSE Navigator Screening	2	1	30	4	1	0	30	12					
Pretrial Referral	12	27	30	18	22	40	15	12					
Defense Attorney Referral	4	3	5	4	4	12	4	1					
Shelter/Parkland Hospital Street FUSE Navigator Referral	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	1					
NTBHA Living Room Referral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Dallas Deflection Center	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1					
Probation/CSCD	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1					
Other Referral Source (Adapt. Community Partners, etc.)	80	85	135	105	94	89	46	74					
Interview Outcomes													
Client Refused to be interviewed or Participate	0	3	9	1	0	2	4	1					
Client reported not being Unsheltered	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1					
Unavailable to Interview	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0					
Pending Interview	38	0	0	6	12	1	21	1					
Other Outcome Categories (*See Below)	56	85	173	105	101	116	59	91					
Total Released from Jail to FUSE	12	27	17	19	7	25	12	8					
Shelter Connection Rate													
Austin Street Center	6	9	6	5	2	6	4	3					
The Bridge	5	14	10	13	5	15	6	4					
Salvation Army	1	1	1	1	0	4	2	1					
Other Local Shelter, Boarding Homes, & Shelter Ref's	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	1					
No Response	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Left Before Entering Program/Did Not Connect	10	12	12	7	3	10	3	4					
Housed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Housing Priority List, Info sent to Housing Forward, or Reunited w/Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					

*Other Categories: Released to Another Program or Agency, Boarding Home Placement, Referral Banned from Shelter, Client didn't qualify for FUSE, Immigration Hold, Released (i.e. Posted Bond), Referred by Shelters/Street Outreach, FUSE bond denied, Waiting on info, Sex Offender, Not in AIS, Waiting on Bond to Post, and Pending attorney response & etc.

St. Jude Project

2920 Forest Ln, Dallas, TX 75234 | 104 Units | Dallas County has 13 allocated beds | Housing is for Seniors +55 years old

- Working to fill one vacancy and will keep everyone posted once it has been occupied.

Housing Services for Homeless Criminal Justice-Involved Clients (HSH-CJC) Grant

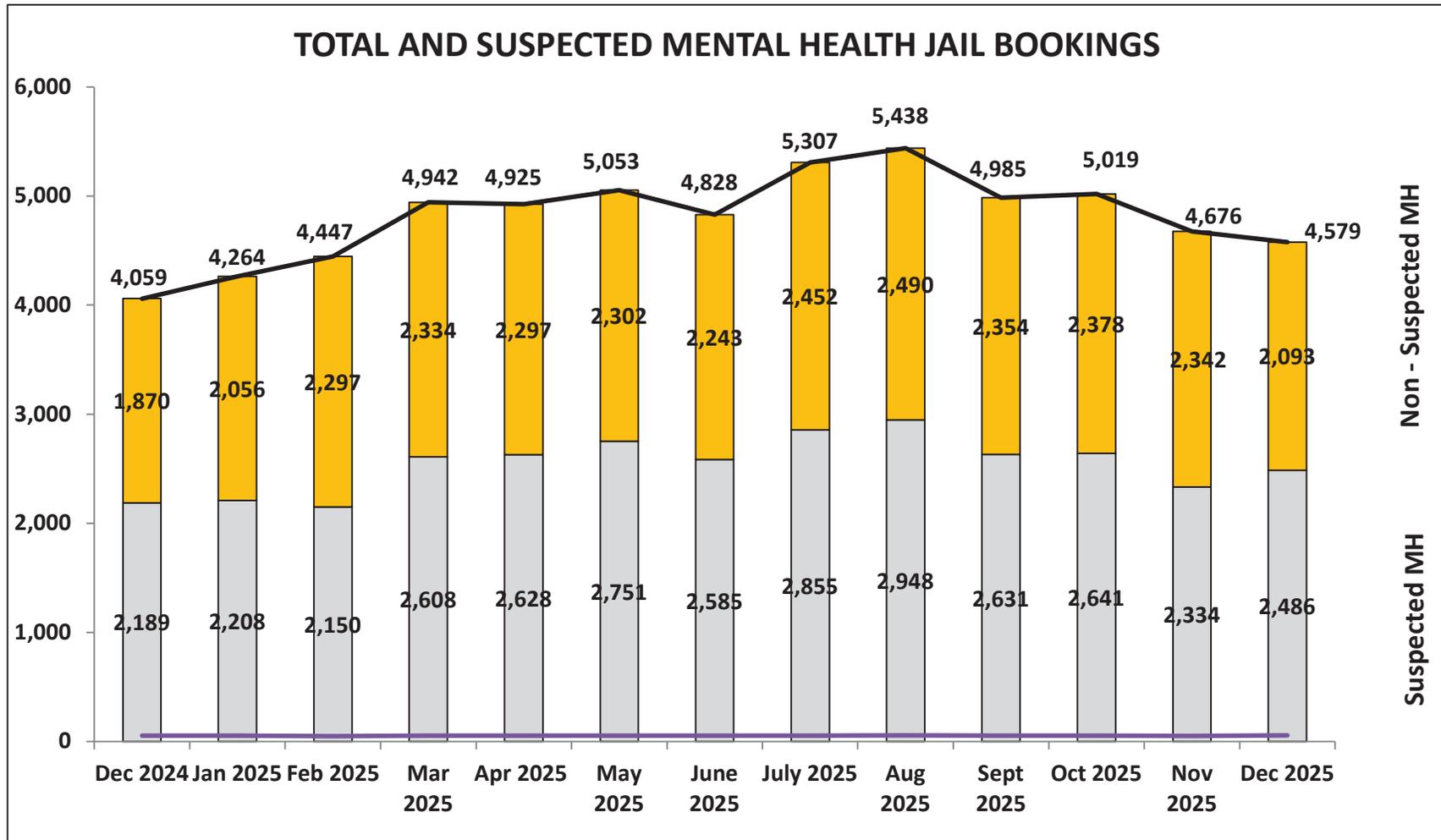
- Working to complete the vendor selection process with the Dallas County Procurement Office.

**Dallas Connector Project (DCP) Dallas County Client Utilization
(Transport to the NTBHA LR from the Jail and or the LR to the FUSE Shelters)**

The NTBHA Livingroom (LR) Staff conducted jail releases for individuals going to the Livingroom and Austin Street's report should contain the December 2025 jail data.

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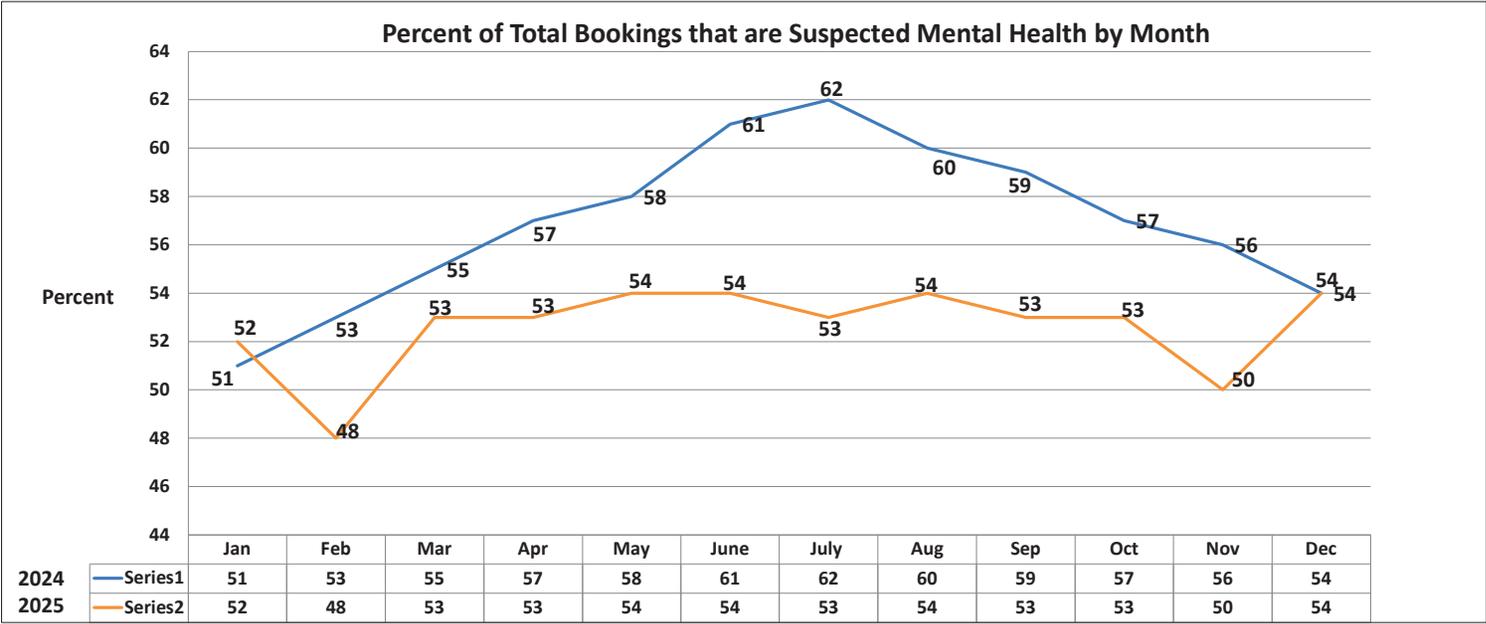
DEC 2025 Homeless Report Snapshot



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Month-to-Month Category Total Differences

Months	Total Monthly Bookins	Total Suspected MH Bookins
Nov 2025 to Dec 2025	4676 to 4579 - Decrease 97	2334 to 2486 - Increase 152



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Homeless Breakdown and Avg LOS - Nov 2025 to Dec 2025

Month/Yr	Category	Total Bookings	Percent
Nov 2025	Suspected MH	2,334	50%
	Homeless	623	13%
	Homeless w/Suspected MH flag	431	69%

Month/Yr	Category	Total Bookings	Percent
Dec 2025	Suspected MH	2,486	54%
	Homeless	682	15%
	Homeless w/Suspected MH flag	518	76%

Month/Yr	Avg LOS Total Bookings [days]	Avg LOS Homeless Bookings [days]
Nov 2025	7	9
Dec 2025	7	10

Monthly Unsheltered Expense

- Count of Dec 2025 Unsheltered Bookins = **682 (682 of 4579 = 15% of total Dec Bookins)**
- ALOS for all Dec unsheltered **682** bookins as of 1/12/26 = **17 (17*\$95.58(Daily Jail Bed rate) = \$1624.86 per Individual)**
- As of 1/12/2026, Total number of Unsheltered Releases = **366**
- Average Length of Stay (ALOS) for the **366** releases = **7 (7*\$95.58 (Daily Jail Bed rate) = \$669.06 per Individual)**

Below are the top 6 offense categories and Arresting agencies for the **682** Unsheltered

Offenses	Count of BookinNo	LEA	Count of BookinNo
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	138	DALLAS POLICE	337
POSS CS PG 1/1-B <1G	87	DART Police	110
Holds	48	Dallas County Sheriff	67
POSS CS PG 1/1-B >=1G<4G	22	Irving Police	42
UNAUTH USE OF VEHICLE	18	Garland Police	22
THEFT PROP >=\$100<\$750	16	Richardson Police	21

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Homeless Primary Offense Categories - Nov 2025 to Dec 2025

Offense Categories	Nov 2025 total	Nov 2025 %	Dec 2025 total	Dec 2025 %	MTD
Arson	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	
Assaultive	51	8.2%	47	6.9%	
Burglary	21	3.4%	20	2.9%	
Criminal Mischief	9	1.4%	12	1.8%	
Criminal Trespass	140	22.5%	139	20.4%	
Drug/Alcohol	182	29.2%	174	25.5%	
Evading	19	3.0%	28	4.1%	
False Info/Fail to Identify	34	5.5%	28	4.1%	
Fraud	4	0.6%	7	1.0%	
HOLDS	53	8.5%	66	9.7%	13 Increased
Murder	0	0.0%	3	0.4%	
Other	55	8.8%	58	8.5%	
Prostitution	3	0.5%	2	0.3%	
Resist	7	1.1%	10	1.5%	
Robbery	9	1.4%	16	2.3%	
Sexual Offense	6	1.0%	7	1.0%	
Theft	25	4.0%	46	6.7%	21 Increased
UUMV	5	0.8%	18	2.6%	13 Increased
TOTAL	623	100.0%	682	100.0%	

HOLDS: Citation/Tickets, Insufficient Bonds/Insufficient Bond Warrants, External Holds (Transfer to another county), and Parole Violations

Other: Offense categories with one or two charge occurrences of monthly bookin totals (i.e. Terrorist Threats, Child Endangerment, Stalking, etc.)

UUMV: Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (i.e. Joyriding)

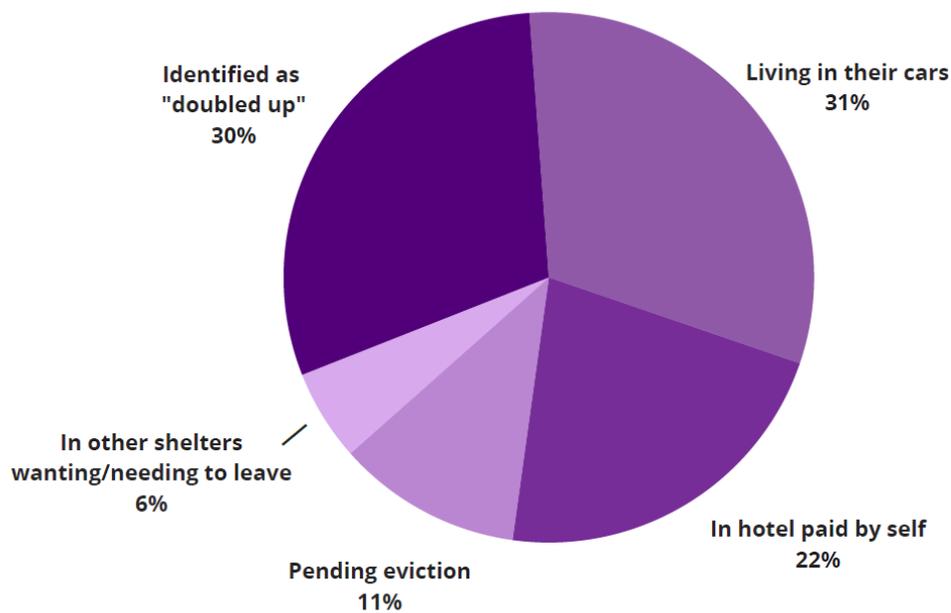
Month-to-Month Category Total Differences
 MTD by +/- 10 bookins

January 2026 Update



January – December Program Numbers	
# of eligible triages completed	3,934
# of families identified as HUD definition of homelessness	2,761
# of families diverted from shelter	1,930
# of families who required shelter	621
# of families served in FG shelter or overflow hotels	462 (74% of families who needed shelter)
# of families served in supportive housing	156
# of households served across all programs (unduplicated)	2,128

Triage Chart: Pre-Screening Results (n = 3,934)



About Our Families in 2025:

- 79% of families served were Black or African American.
- 62% of families were headed by a single female head of household.
- Approximately 55% of those served were children under the age of 18.
- 21% of households had someone in the household with a disability.
- 11% of households had a prior history of domestic violence (underreported).
- Only 2% could be classified as chronically homeless (homeless for longer than 1 year + disability present).

HUD Benchmarks for 2025:

- 75% of families exited from shelter to positive housing (benchmark = 65%).
- 95% of families served in supportive housing remained stably housed (benchmark = 77%).
- 40% of families increased their income during their supportive housing stay (benchmark = 20%).