

CONTACT:

Karen Falla, Public Information Specialist

PIO_DCHHS@dallascounty.org

Dr. Philip Huang, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DCHHS Releases Study on the Cost of Homelessness in Dallas & Collin Counties

Dallas (November 4, 2024) – A new report by Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) reveals the significant economic burden homelessness places on Dallas and Collin counties. The study estimates the total cost associated with homelessness in 2023 to be \$198,098,161.

“This report sheds light on the true cost of homelessness, which extends far beyond the immediate needs of those experiencing it,” said Dr. Philip Huang, Director of DCHHS. “These costs impact taxpayers, healthcare systems, and our entire community.”

Key Findings:

- Based on the Housing Forward 2023 Point-in-Time count that identified 4,410 individuals experiencing homelessness in Dallas and Collin Counties, the total estimated annual costs were \$198,098,161 (\$44,920 per capita)
- The largest cost component is hospitalization, accounting for approximately \$49,383,753, or 45% of the estimated annual total cost.

Other significant cost components include:

- Medical treatment: \$60,406,945
- Mental health services: \$17,257,247
- Emergency room visits: \$16,493,400
- Incarceration: \$21,342,106
- Emergency sheltering: \$33,214,708

The report also notes that if the \$70 million Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing Initiative to house 2,700 homeless individuals can save even a fraction of the costs associated with homelessness (2700 x \$44,920 per capita = \$121,284,000), there is tremendous opportunity for significant cost savings, without even considering the additional positive economic benefits of increased employment and tax revenues, police calls that do not result in incarceration, decreased clean-up

and management of encampments, or reduced staff time needed for outreach, engagement, and relocation.

For a complete copy of the report, please visit:

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/data-reports/reports.php>

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