



# Homelessness Solutions Response Update

February 21, 2023

ID23-246

A vibrant mural on a wall depicting a blue parrot with its wings spread, surrounded by large yellow and pink flowers. The mural is set against a background of green foliage. A diagonal stripe with blue, white, and red colors runs across the top right corner of the image.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

# AGENDA

On January 10, 2022, CM Davis made a two-minute pitch request and received support for a: *work session to get an update on homelessness efforts after opening the new shelter, with a focus on safety and the downtown area.*

- Strategic Plan Focus: Strengthen Community & Quality of Life
- Overview of Current Environment: Housing Crisis Response System
- Opportunities For Enhancement with a Focus on Downtown
- Next Steps

# STRATEGIC PLAN KEY FOCUS AREA

Strengthen Community & Quality of Life

- Develop the Loop 288 “Denton Community Shelter” as a 24/7 Center
- Continue to Strengthen Homelessness Initiatives and the **Housing Crisis Response System**, a collaborative continuum of care model working to **make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring**.

## COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE HOUSING CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

OUTREACH

DIVERSION/  
PREVENTION

TEMPORARY  
SHELTER

COORDINATED  
ENTRY

PERMANENT  
HOUSING



## HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Program Goal: Establish Relationships and Connect to Services

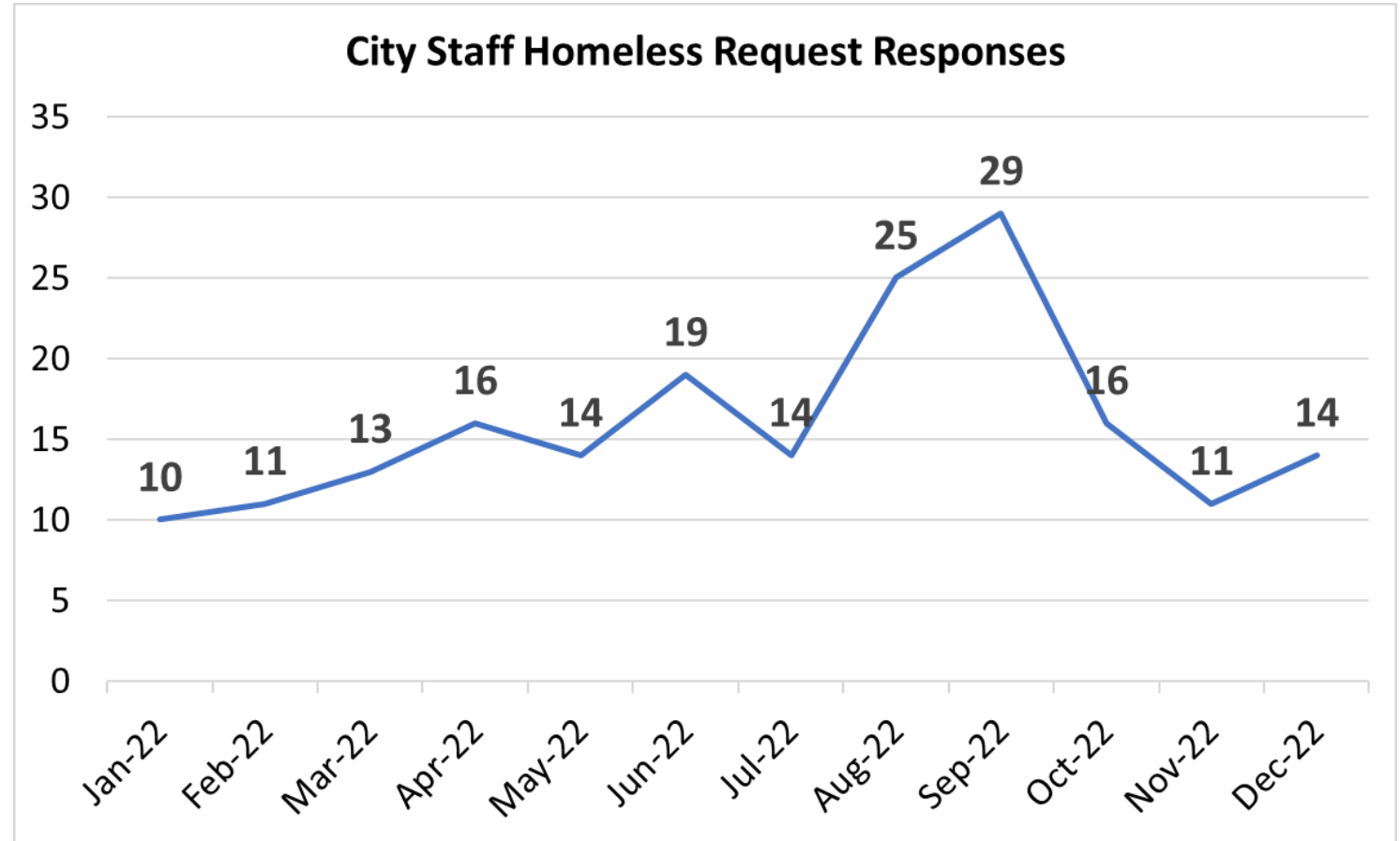
- Two HOT Officers
  - 10-15 encampment visits per week
- Stability Case Worker
  - 83 clients enrolled in services
  - 262 services provided
- Paramedic
  - 820 site visits
  - 170 calls for service diverted
  - 108 patients seen
- SPOTLIGHT: ID Program



# ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE

Program Goal: Monitor and respond to encampments

- The City created an internal team focused on response in 2018.
- Prioritizes **health and safety**.
- Types of requests
  - Encampments
  - Trash and debris
  - Shopping carts
  - People staying under overpasses



# BARRIERS FUND

Program Goal: Diversion from shelter and other higher cost services

**The City provides \$80,000 a year for the Barriers Fund to help Denton households overcome barriers to getting and staying housed.**

## HOMELESSNESS BARRIERS FUND IMPACT



Updated  
12.15.22



**430 HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED**



**AVERAGE REQUEST COST: \$491.12**



## HAVE HEART GIVE SMART

Help your unhoused neighbors.



**DONATE**

The **Homelessness Barriers Fund** was created to help people overcome barriers to getting and staying housed.

**14 nonprofit organizations** in Denton County utilize the fund to support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

**100% of donations to the Homelessness Barriers Fund assist people in crisis.**



# DENTON COMMUNITY SHELTER

Program Goal: Emergency Shelter and Food; Connection to housing and supportive services

Loop 288 Facility opened December 12, 2022

- Open 24/7
- **118** emergency & **32** transitional shelter beds
- Offers food, shelter, laundry, showers, and other supportive services to all guests



The addition of the Community Shelter has increased emergency shelter capacity in Denton from **92** to **150 guests**. On average the facility serves **142 guests per night**.

# COORDINATED ENTRY AND DATA

Program Goal: Ensure data sharing, uniform assessment of housing need.

## HOMELESSNESS DATA IN DENTON COUNTY

### HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD

We have included definitions and explanations of data throughout this dashboard. You can scroll through and hover over charts for more information. Look for the orange text for more helpful tips. Hover over the blue circles with question marks for important information (click proceed to access).

### Total Number of Households Experiencing Literal Homelessness

Date ▾	? Actively Homeless	Veterans	? Chronically Homeless	Fleeing Domestic Violence
Dec 31, 2022	394	31	162	13
Nov 30, 2022	421	32	165	18
Oct 31, 2022	444	34	185	2

Scroll through the box above to view data for previous months.

The above data reflects the total number of households experiencing **literal homelessness** in Denton County and makes up the Denton County Housing Priority List. The **Housing Priority List (HPL)** is a list of all households experiencing homelessness in Denton County that have completed a **Coordinated Entry (CE)** housing assessment. CE is the system and process that ensures people experiencing homelessness are quickly identified, assessed and referred to housing assistance and supportive services that promote housing stability. Denton County service providers use the HPL to quickly identify and prioritize households experiencing homelessness for limited housing assistance resources based on their level of need and special population status.

- The City provides \$15,000 annually for HMIS licenses.
- Backbone support funding:
  - Ensures HMIS **data quality** through support and training
  - Maintains **Data Dashboard** for accountability
  - Maintain **Housing Priority List**



# RENT ASSISTANCE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Program Goal: Prevent and end homeless through housing assistance and affordability

## HOME-ARP

- The City has allocated **\$1.7M** in Emergency American Rescue Plan - HOME funding for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) prioritizing People Experiencing Homelessness.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS

- [Denton Affordable Housing Toolkit](#)
- [Home Buyer Assistance Program](#)
- [Home Repair Programs](#)
- [Rental Assistance Grants](#)
- [Development Fee Grant](#)
- [Grants to Nonprofit Developers](#)
- [Housing Tax Credit Application Support](#)

*Affordable Housing Strategies are also prioritized in HUD Consolidated Plan, Denton Plan 2040, and Economic Develop Strategic Plan.*

# HOMELESS RESPONSE FUNDING

Programs within the HCRS are funded through City's General Fund, CDBG, & COVID Emergency Funds

OUTREACH	\$832,647
DIVERSION/ PREVENTION	\$427,821
TEMPORARY SHELTER	\$2,704,000
COORDINATED ENTRY	\$95,000
PERMANENT HOUSING	\$1,938,622
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,998,090</u></b>

## FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

- \$4,165,443 Federal Emergency Funding expiring in 2024
- \$704,197 funds City staffing and operations for Outreach

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCEMENT

DEPARTMENT	CURRENT CHALLENGES	ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES
<b>DPD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2 HOT Officers serving the entire City</li> <li>▪ Need for increased capacity to support Mental Health call response</li> <li>▪ Stability Case Worker client currently over capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ +2 HOT Officers will increase PD homeless outreach capacity and support public safety</li> <li>▪ New patrol <a href="#">CIRT officers</a> completing training will support Mental Health response</li> <li>▪ Add another <a href="#">Stability Case Worker</a></li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase in unsheltered homelessness has resulted in higher volume and complexity of homeless response needed from City.</li> <li>▪ Percent of time spent on response limits strategic focus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">+2FTE for internal homeless outreach and encampment response</a> to improve response time and manage growth.</li> <li>▪ CS has added 1 FTE, Analyst improving CS strategic response and creating opportunity for the City to establish new goals and strengthen program effectiveness.</li> </ul>

# NEXT STEPS

**GOAL: Identify solutions for a cleaner, safer, happier Downtown Denton.**

- February 2023 – Homeless Response Solutions & Transitional Housing
- March 2023 – Downtown Ambassador Program
- April 2023 – Aggressive Panhandling

**Future:** Supplemental requests in upcoming budget process to increase staff capacity and strengthen programs.