

Prince William Area- Virginia

The Prince William Area (PWA) Continuum of Care (CoC) is comprised of nonprofit, faith-based and government agencies (Prince William County and cities of Manassas and Manassas Park). The CoC has a total of three (3) emergency shelter facilities that serve singles and families, a Domestic Violence shelter (singles/families) and an Overnight Shelter that serves single adults only. Hypothermia shelters are opened as needed by volunteer faith-based organizations. The CoC has a total 286 beds of emergency shelter and transitional housing which is broken down as follows:

- 81 emergency shelter beds (dedicated to singles);
- 108 emergency shelter beds(dedicated to families);
- 1 domestic violence shelter beds (dedicated to singles);
- 18 domestic violence shelter beds (dedicated to families);
- 6 transitional housing beds (dedicated to singles); and
- 72 transitional housing beds (dedicated to families).

Four (4) programs within the CoC receives funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to provide permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing services. Additionally, the CoC receives HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant that supports emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid re-housing services. Lastly, the CoC receives rapid re-housing and prevention funding through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). PWA's local governments also provides funding to support local shelter operations, transitional housing services, permanent supportive housing, and rapid re-housing initiatives. The Prince William County Department of Social Services operates the PWA Coordinated Entry System (CES) with local tax support. All services specific to prevention, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing and permanent housing programs are planned through the CES System.

PIT count results

On January 23, 2019, the CoC conducted the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. The PIT Count is comprised of sheltered homeless individuals and families, as well as, unsheltered homeless individuals. The 2019 PIT counted 277 homeless persons in the Prince William Area which is summarized as follows:

- **Emergency & Domestic Violence Shelter:** 169 persons (75 individuals and 94 persons in family). This represents a 4% decrease of shelter bed utilization from the 2017 PIT Count (176 persons counted).
- **Transitional Housing:** A total of 71 persons (four (5) individuals and 66 persons in family) were counted, representing a 16% decrease in the utilization of transitional housing services from the 2018 PIT (85 persons counted).
- **Unsheltered homeless:** The count totaled 37 persons which represents a decrease of 67% from the 2018 PIT count (113 persons counted).

Coordinated Entry System

The Prince William County Department of Social Services/Homeless Services Division operates Coordinated Entry System which is based on best practices for housing assistance and follows a single point of entry call center concept. Households seeking assistance in the PWA now contact a central number to gain access to services specific to prevention and homeless services. Since operations began in March of 2018, CES has taken over 9,000 calls from callers seeking assistance for homeless prevention, emergency shelter and other assistance.

Permanent Supportive Housing

The PWA CoC has five (5) permanent supportive housing programs: three (3) are funded by HUD, one is funded by the Prince William County Government, and one is privately funded. The permanent supportive housing programs are scattered site housing coupled with housing focused case management. These programs provide individuals the opportunity to remain integrated within the community while achieving individual goals and developing life skills. The CoC recognized the need to provide housing for the medically fragile (homeless individuals with chronic health conditions). The CoC has one privately funded medically fragile permanent supportive housing project with (5) beds dedicated to serving the medically fragile homeless population. Permanent supportive housing programs provide housing for individuals or families that have a history of homelessness with a disabling condition, which may create barriers to sustaining housing. With a total of 24 persons identified as chronically homeless in the 2019 PIT, there is still a great need for permanent supportive housing in the PWA.

Rapid Re-Housing

The CoC has incorporated a Housing First model within all programs. The CoC Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) do not have participation requirements or pre-conditions to entry, such as sobriety or minimum income threshold, and prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing. The CoC has established the following priority populations for all Rapid Re-housing programs: Families with children with greatest service need, Transitioned Aged Youth (TAY) ages 18-24, Veterans (regardless of discharge status), Aging households with a disability and Households without income. The CoC's RRH programs provide rental assistance, rental arrears, security deposits, utility deposits and housing focused case management. The COC's rapid re-housing providers worked in collaboration to permanently house 476 persons in FY18.

Permanent Housing

An affordable housing inventory remains limited and a needed resource within PWA. The CoC covers 360 square miles which includes the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. Prince William County (PWC) is considered one of the 25 wealthiest counties in America. The median income in PWC is \$93,744, making it the twelfth wealthiest county in the United States. Despite the DC/Maryland/Virginia area having professional careers, many of the households served by the CoC will secure low wage paying jobs. The households are employed mainly by the service industry which does not allow households to earn a livable wage to afford housing. This makes it

difficult for low-income households to reside and maintain housing in the PWA. Rents in the Northern Virginia area continue to be high. In PWC, housing is in high demand with rental rates that are not affordable to low-income households. For a single person, the monthly rent is \$1,170/month which makes it difficult for anyone on a fixed incomes of SSI or benefit income. For large households, the monthly rent for a three-bedroom unit is \$1,755/month and a four-bedroom unit is \$2,119/month. In addition to the rent, households pay gas and/or electric as an expense. Since the PWA does not have an established subsidy program outside of the Housing Choice Voucher-HCV (currently closed), a household's ability to maintain housing can become exceptionally difficult.

The CoC recognizes the need to have resource to assist household obtain and maintain housing. The CoC has funded two housing locator positions to establish relationships with area landlords and to develop a housing inventory list for households experiencing homelessness. The PWA receives Emergency Food and Shelter Grant funding from the Department of Homeland Security. The PWA Emergency Food and Shelter Program –Local Board dedicated a total of \$31,429 of Phase 35 - Emergency Food and Shelter Program Grant for rental and mortgage assistance to support homeless prevention services within the Prince William Area. The CoC also partners with local nonprofit organizations to offer limited one-time assistance to households at risk of homelessness through private resources.

Veterans

To better service veterans, CoC agencies work closely with community partners such as the Veterans Administration and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) providers. CoC partners actively make appropriate referrals for veterans in need of mental health, substance abuse, medical, benefits, housing, and stabilization services. The CoC worked closely with the Virginia Department of Veteran Services and the Prince William County Office of Housing and Community Development to obtain four additional VASH vouchers for FY18. The CoC also works closely with the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) to house homeless veterans and their families. A total of 93 formally homeless person in veterans households were permanently housed through the VASH and SSVF programs during the FY19 PIT- Housing Inventory Count (HIC). In addition to VASH and SSVF funds, the CoC has funding through the DHCD's Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Grant to specifically re-house veterans and their families. At total of 12 formally homeless persons in veteran households were permanently housed through the VHSP grant during the FY 19 PIT-HIC.

Outreach Efforts

During the 2019 PIT, the CoC coordinated outreach teams to canvas the homeless campsites located in the eastern and western end of the PWA. The count was conducted over multiple days to identify unsheltered homeless. The CoC worked in collaboration with local law enforcement and outreach organizations to actively map unsheltered campsites. The campsite maps are updated annually prior to the PIT Survey to ensure that outreach teams engage all active campsites. Outreach efforts include luncheon and dinner events at area churches and restaurants to encourage participation of unsheltered homeless. The DSS, the CoC, and faith-based organizations support a

year-round daytime Drop-In Center program for homeless individuals. The Drop-In Center program offers showers, meals, life skills classes, wellness groups, peer substance abuse groups, mental health services and referrals to shelter and housing services.

Prince William Area Bed Inventory

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY'S YEAR-ROUND AND WINTER BED INVENTORY - 2019				
	Beds for Individuals	Beds/Units for Persons in Families	All Year-Round Beds	Winter Beds
Emergency Shelter Beds	81	108	189	0
Domestic Violence Shelter Beds	1	18	19	0
Transitional Housing Beds	6	72	78	0

Point-In-Time Trends

<u>Category</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	Change in Persons 2018-2019	Percentage Change 2018-2019
Total Number Counted	400	400	374	277	-97	-26%
Total Number Singles	187	197	190	117	-73	-38%
Total Number of Person in Households with Children Only	0	0	2	0	+2	-100%
Total Number of Persons in Families	213	203	182	160	-22	-12%
Total Number Families	24	53	54	46	-8	-15%
Total Adults in Families	78	72	70	59	-11	-16%
Total Children in Families	135	131	112	101	-11	-10%

Sup-populations

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change in Persons 2018-2019	Percentage Change 2018-2019
Chronically Homeless	52	76	42	24	-18	-43%
Chronic Substance Abusers (CSA)	29	31	23	11	-12	-52%
Severe Mental Illness (SMI)	24	26	36	26	-10	-28%
Co –Occurring Disorder	15	17	10	12	+2	20%
Chronic Health Problems	24	36	39	19	-20	-51%
Living with HIV/AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Physical Disability	19	19	31	16	-15	-48%
Domestic Violence Victims*	9	8	18	33	+15	83%
Limited English	24	15	29	22	-7	-24%
Veterans	31	22	36	10	-26	-72%

Subpopulations by Household

Category	Singles	Families	TOTAL
Chronically Homeless	19	5	24
Chronic Substance Abusers (CSA)	11	0	11
Severe Mental Illness (SMI)	22	4	26
Co –Occurring Disorder	10	2	12
Chronic Health Problems	17	2	19
Living with HIV/AIDS	0	0	0
Physical Disability	15	1	16
Domestic Violence Victims*	14	19	33
Limited English	16	6	22
Veterans	8	2	10