

# WASHTENAW COUNTY 2019 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT COMMUNITY DEBRIEFING

WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MAY 20, 2019



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Collaborative solutions for a promising future*



# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

MORGHAN WILLIAMS BOYDSTON

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OCED)



# AGENDA

- 
- Pit Count 101
  - 2019 Data & Statistics
  - Street Outreach
  - Homelessness & Race Equity Focus Groups
  - Built for Zero Updates
  - Panel Discussion



# PIT COUNT 101

AMANDA CARLISLE

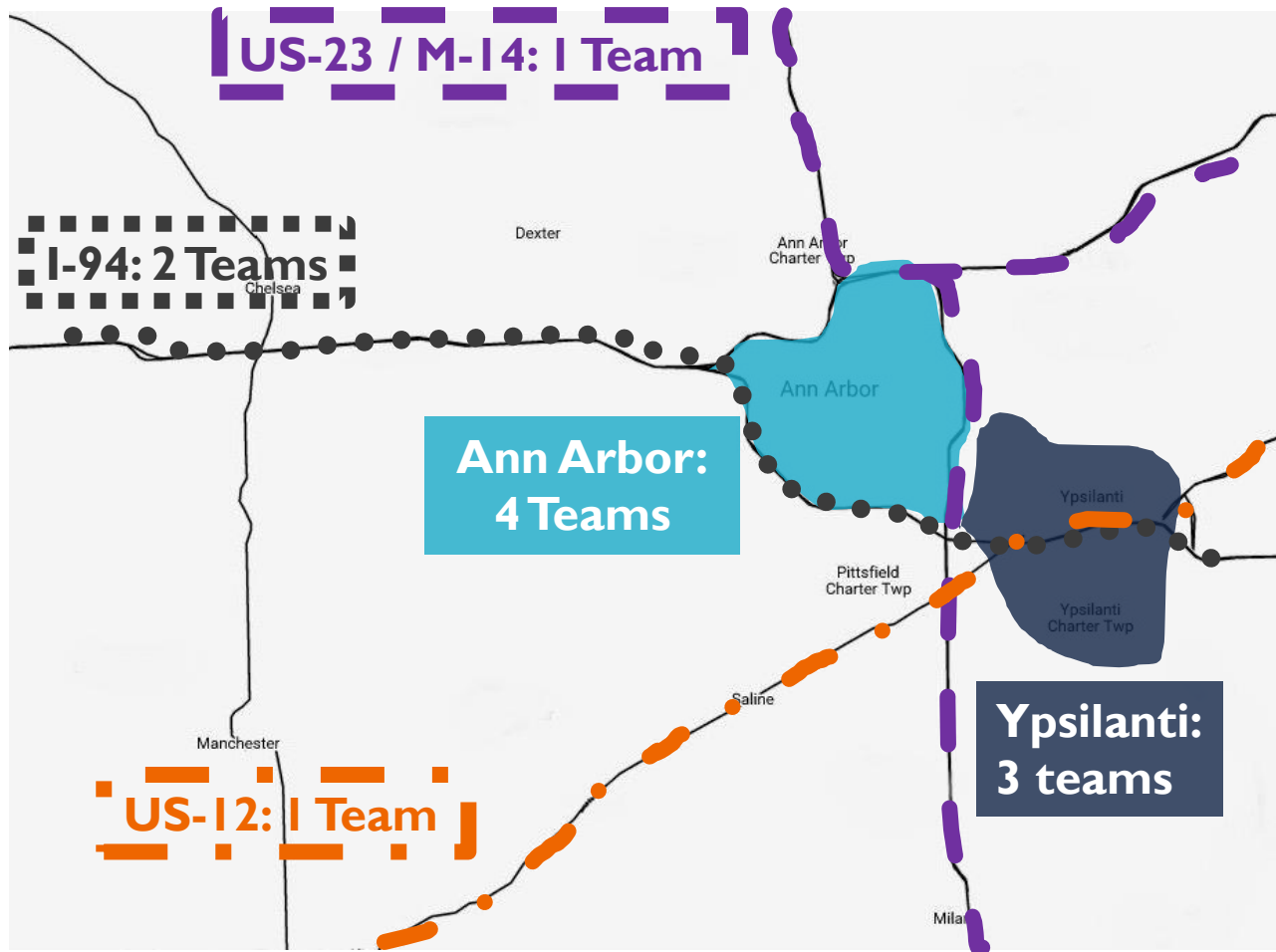
WASHTENAW HOUSING ALLIANCE (WHA)



## WHAT IS THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT?

- A federally mandated count of all sheltered AND unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness on a single day in January
- Volunteers and staff canvass the streets and congregate settings, such as meal programs, to survey and count every person experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County
- During the count, we collect demographic information from survey respondents, including, but not limited to:
  - Date of Birth
  - Gender
  - Race
  - Ethnicity
  - Housing Status
  - Disability Status
  - Veteran Status
  - Chronicity

# TEAMS & MAP



- We had over **25** volunteers and staff canvass between 10 p.m. & 2 a.m. for the unsheltered count
- The county was divided among 11 teams. Teams travelling along highways also canvassed communities they passed through
- We are very grateful to all of our volunteers! We could not do this without you!

# WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE PIT COUNT?

## Sheltered

Persons who are living in a supervised, publicly- or privately-owned shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements:

Shelter

Transitional Housing

Hotel or Motel paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government funders

## Unsheltered

Persons with a primary nighttime residence that is a place not designated for human habitation:

Car

Park

Abandoned Building

Bus or Train Station

Airport

Camp ground or site

# WHO IS EXCLUDED FROM THE PIT COUNT?

- Persons residing in a **hotel or motel they paid for themselves**
- Persons **staying with friends or families**
- Persons **admitted to the hospital** (staying in a hospital, not including the emergency room)
- Persons who did not explicitly meet the definitions on the previous slide







# 2019 DATA & STATISTICS

CRYSTAL BALOGH & LINDSEY CRANDLE

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OCED)



# PIT COUNT DATA



- PIT Count data comes from two sources:
  1. Data for persons in shelter comes from HMIS, our local Homeless Management Information System
  2. Data for persons who are unsheltered comes from surveys conducted by volunteers
- In both cases, all data is self-reported
- The count is conducted once per year, so it is better understood as a snapshot than as a full census.

## TOTAL PERSONS

Sheltered

**261 People**

were in emergency shelter or  
transitional housing

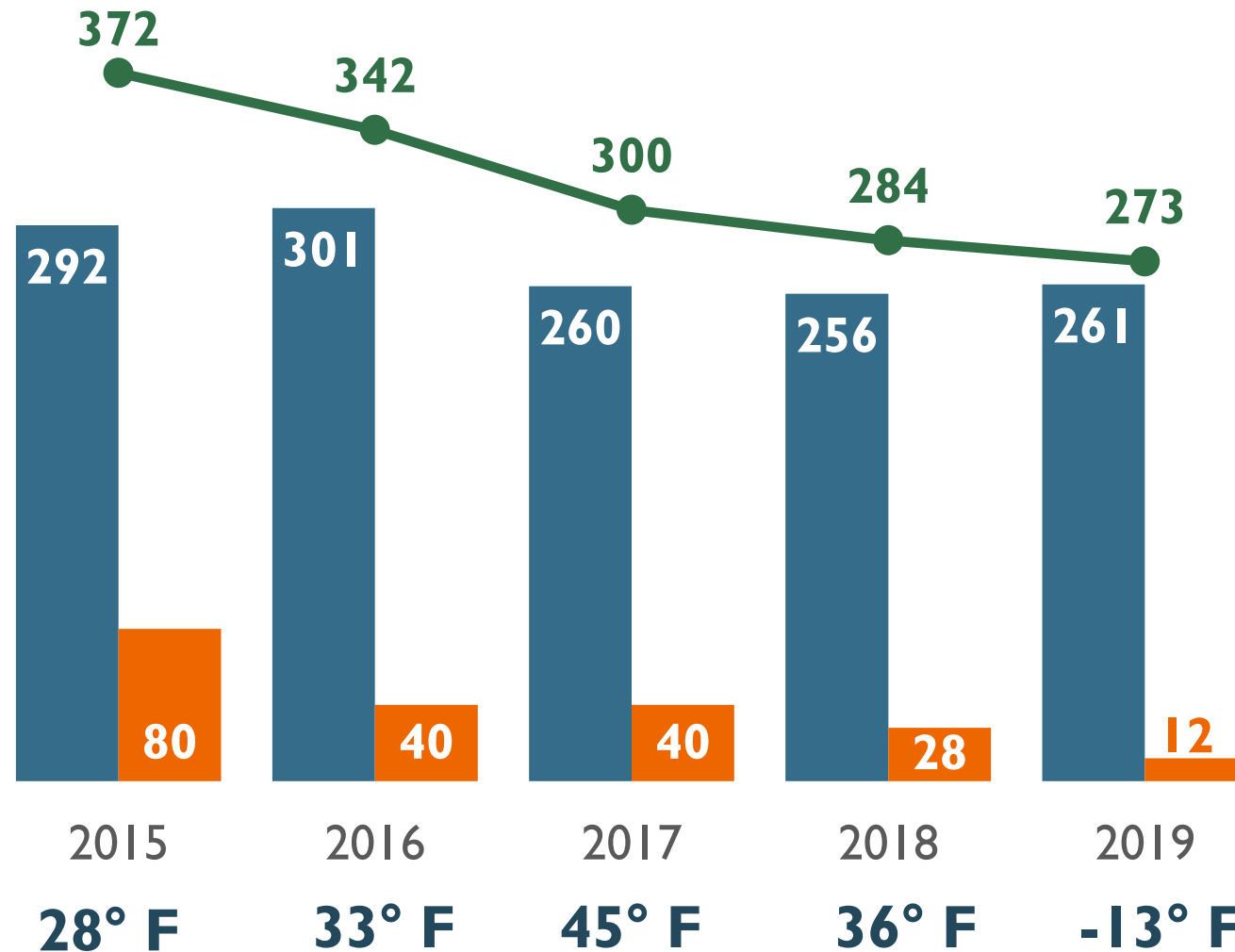
Unsheltered

**12 People**

were on the streets or in  
places not meant for human  
habitation

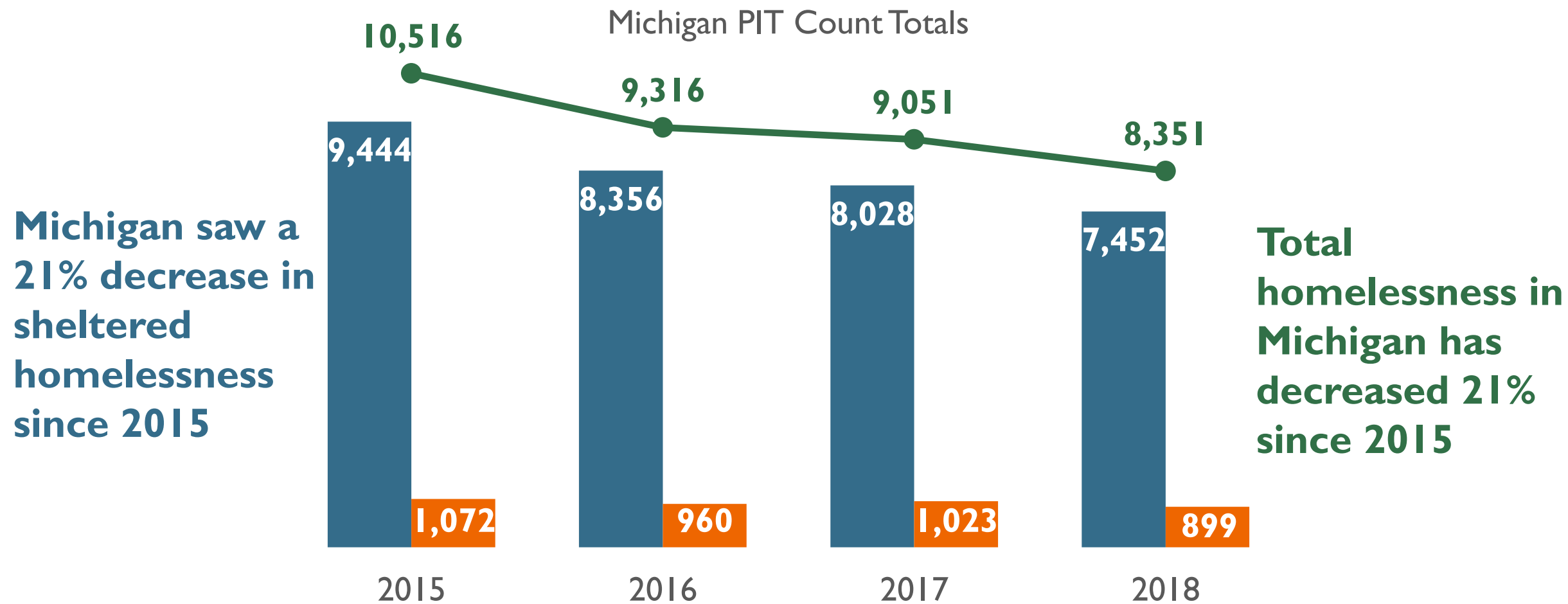
# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: WASHTENAW COUNTY

95% of people we counted are in shelter



Total Homelessness has declined by almost 27% since 2015

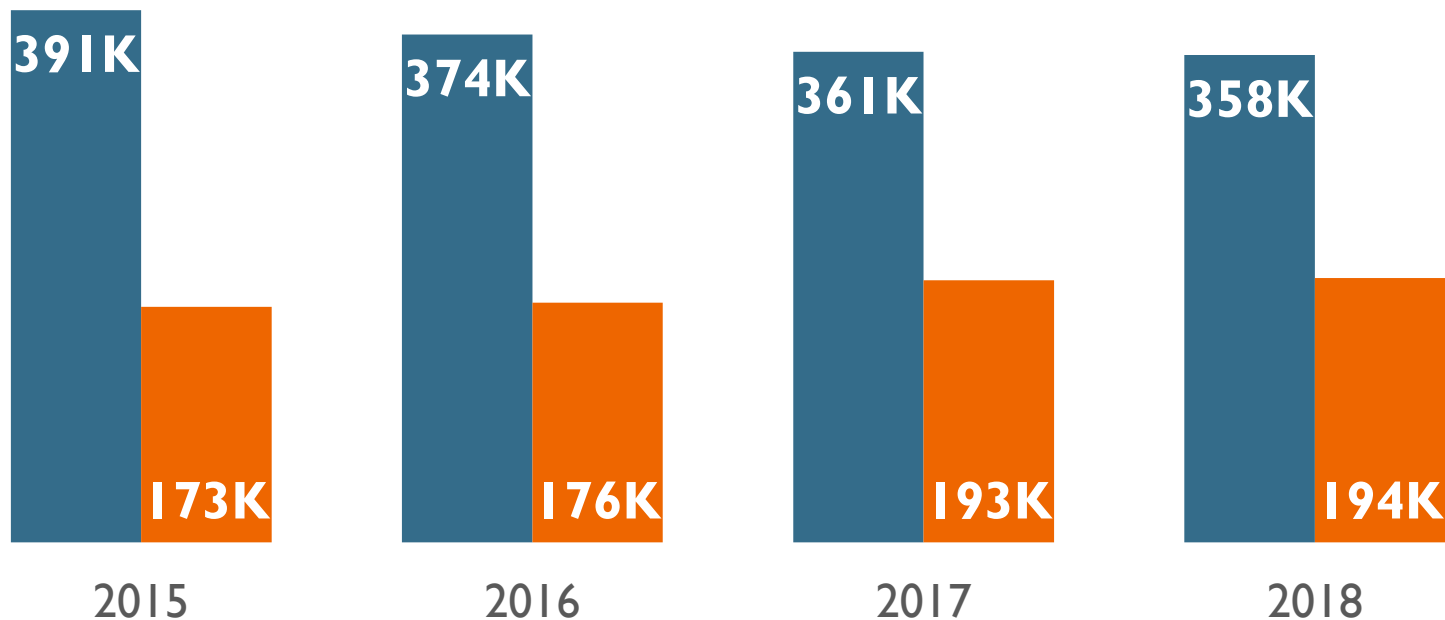
# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: STATE OF MICHIGAN



# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: UNITED STATES



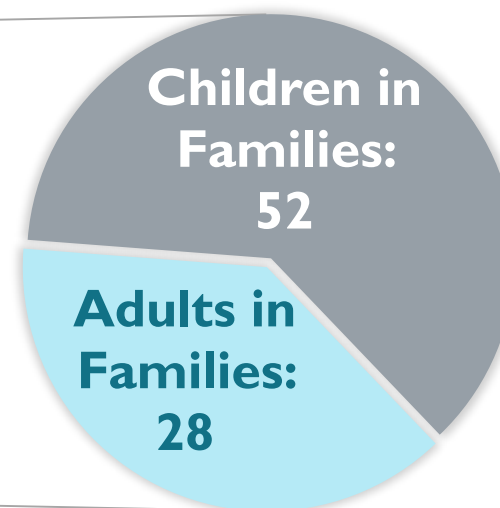
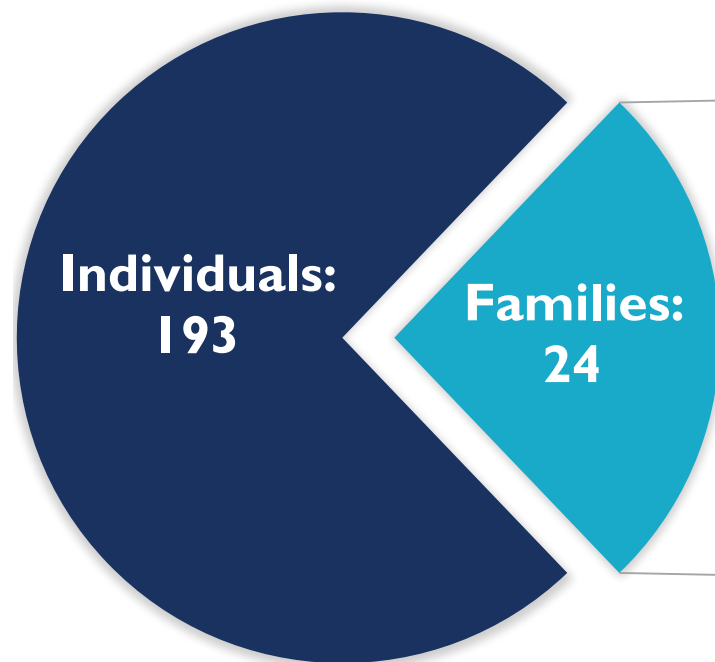
**Sheltered homelessness fell by 8% nationwide since 2015**



**Total homelessness in the U.S. has decreased 2% since 2015**

# HOUSEHOLD TYPES

70% of persons experiencing homelessness are individuals not in a family

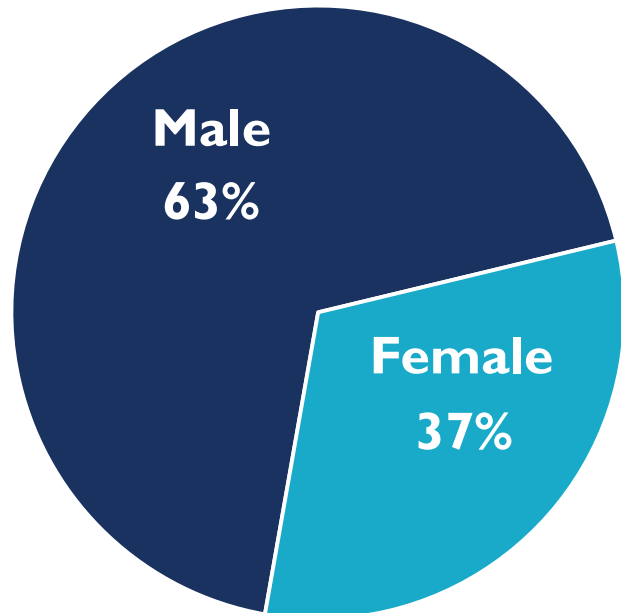


24 family households were counted with an average family size of 3.3

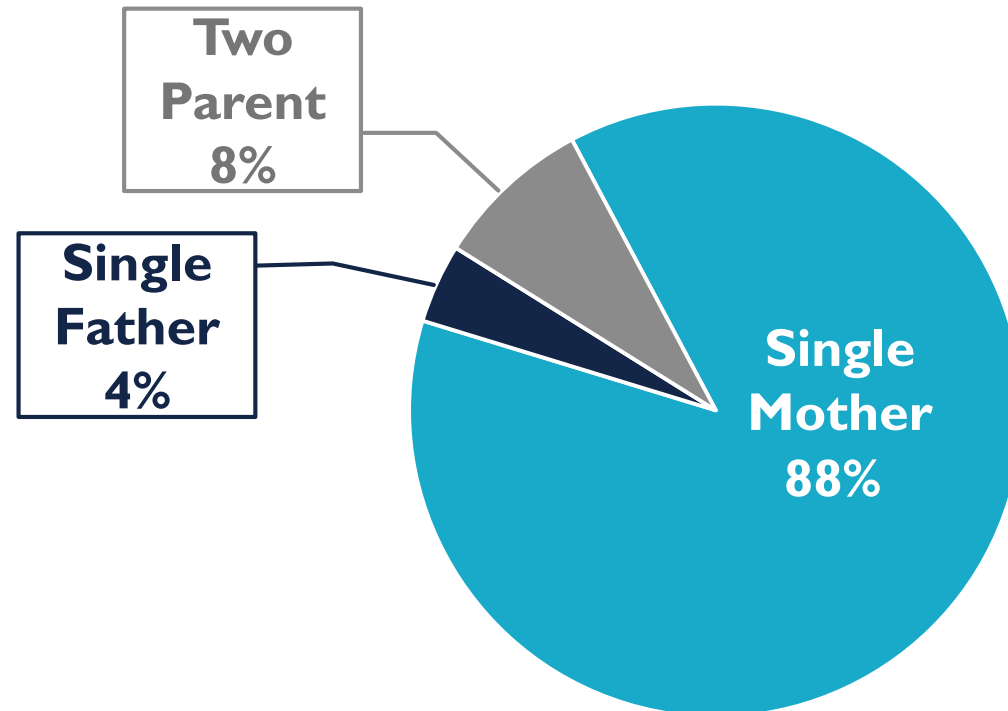
**No unsheltered families were found in 2019!**

# DEMOGRAPHICS: GENDER

ALL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESS



FAMILY HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD





# DEMOGRAPHICS: AGE

**Children  
under 18**

**Adults 25-54**

**Seniors  
65+**

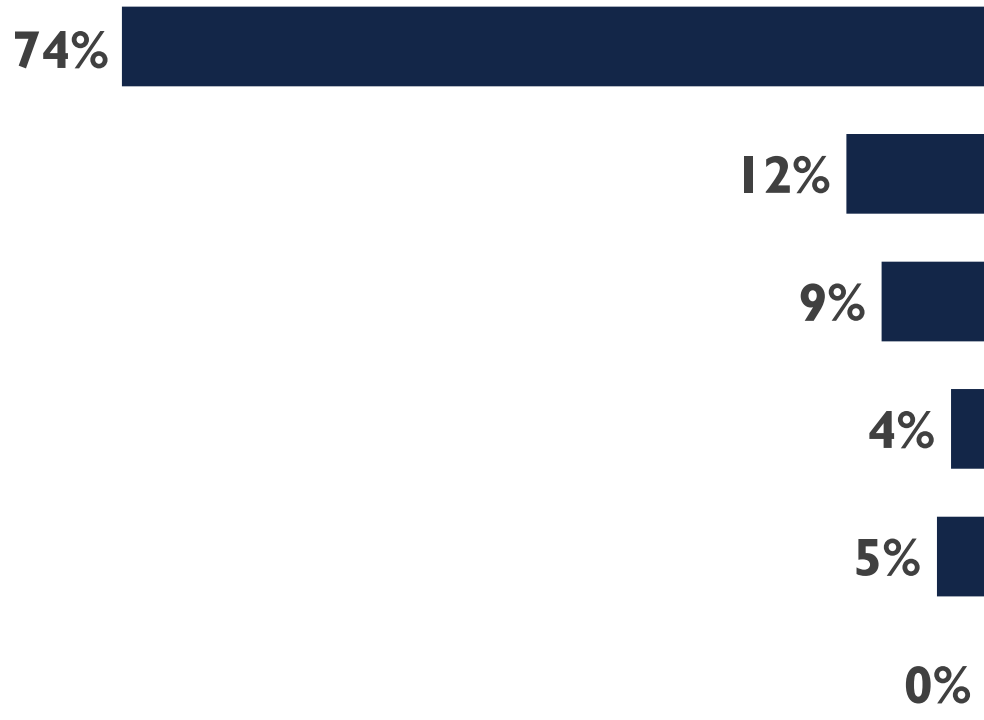


**Young  
Adults  
18-24**

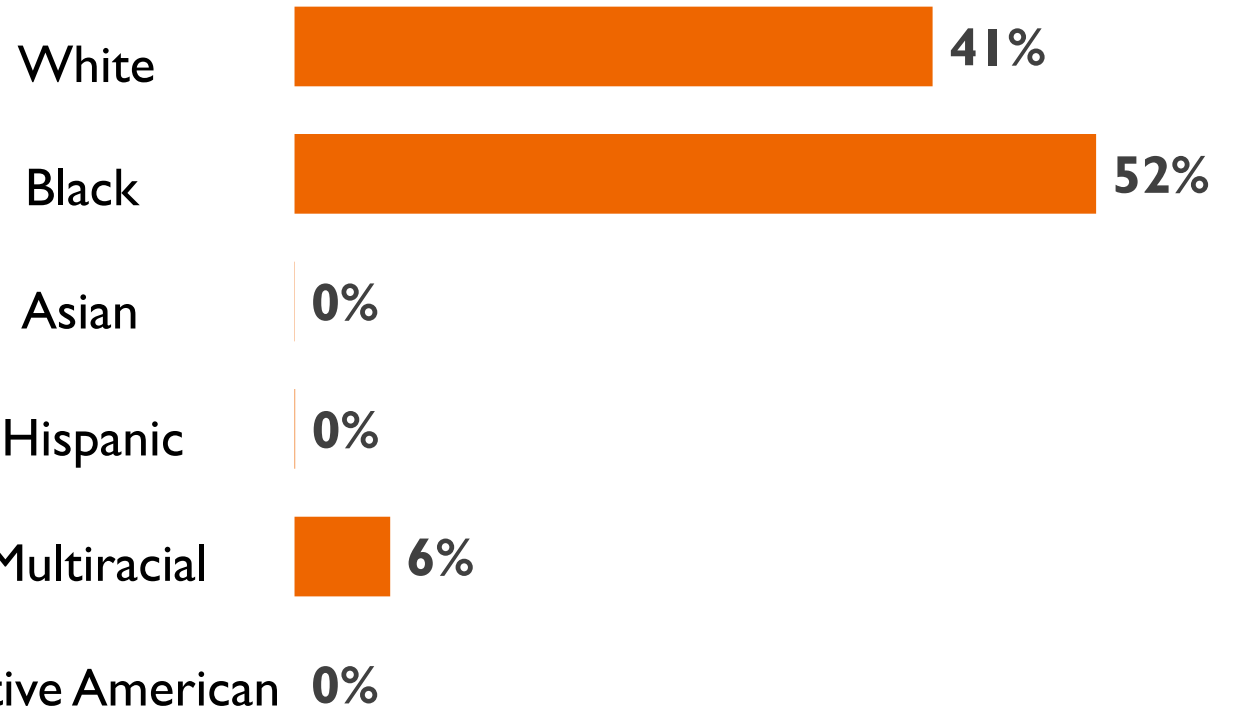
**Older  
Adults  
55-64**

# DEMOGRAPHICS: RACE

## TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION

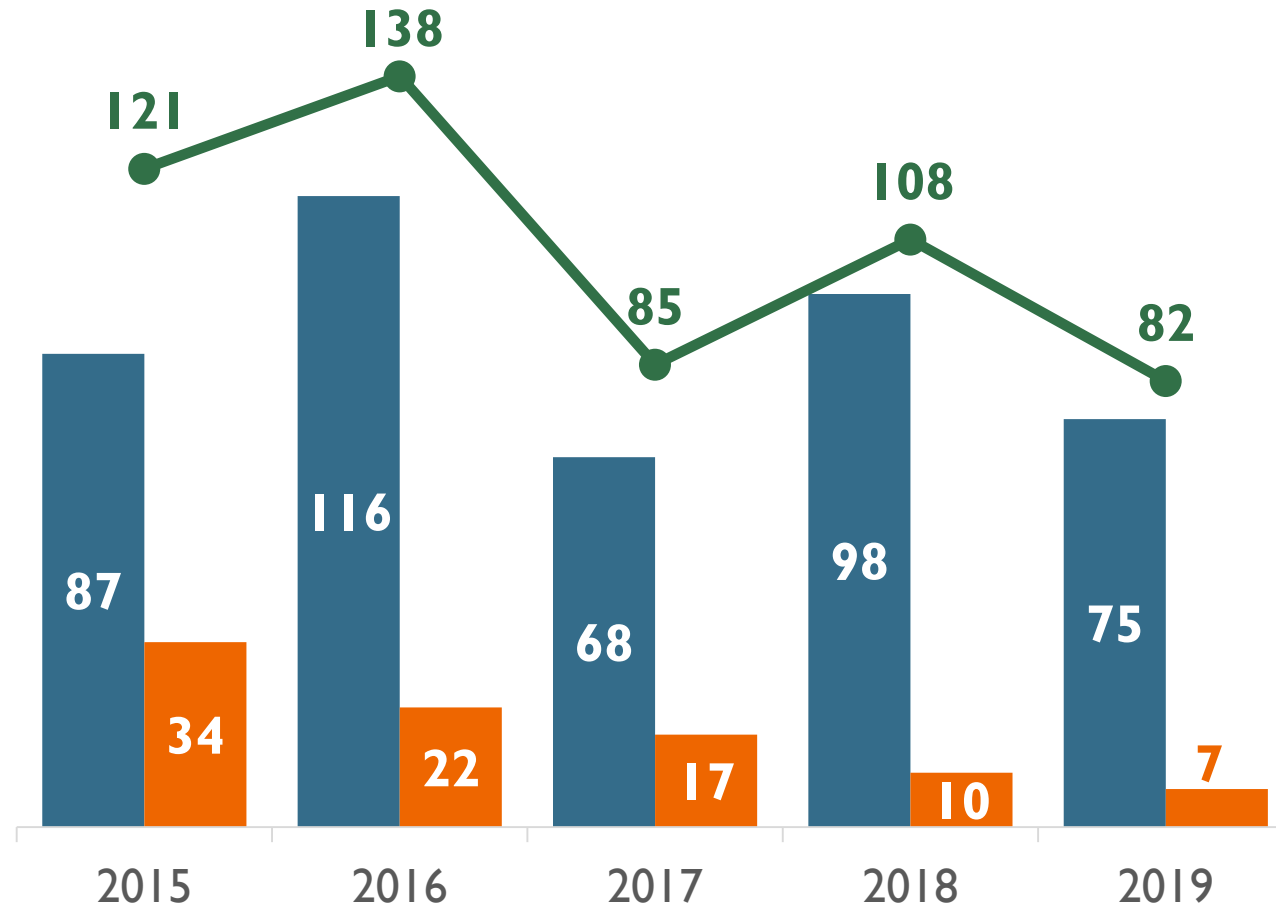


## PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



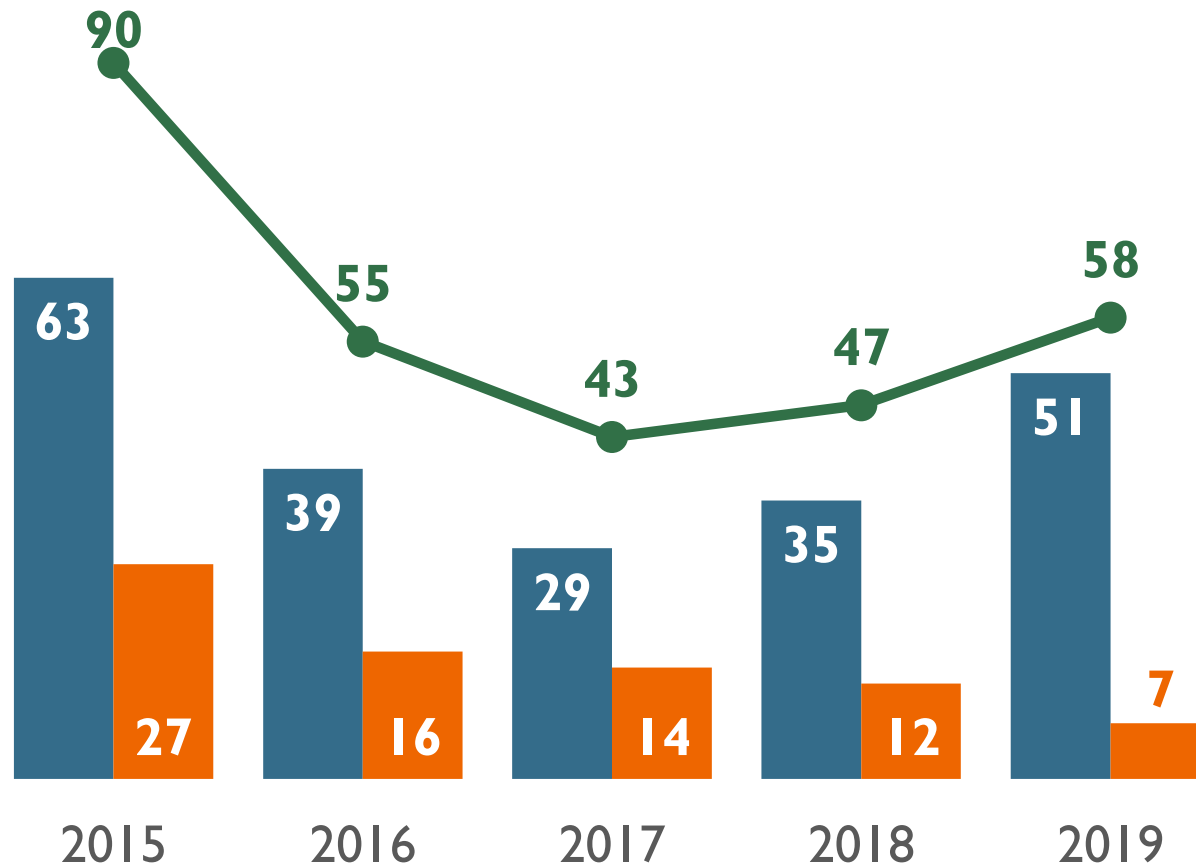
# MENTAL HEALTH

In 2019, 91% of those reporting mental illness were sheltered, up from 72% in 2015



There is a lot of variation in the number of people self-reporting mental illness

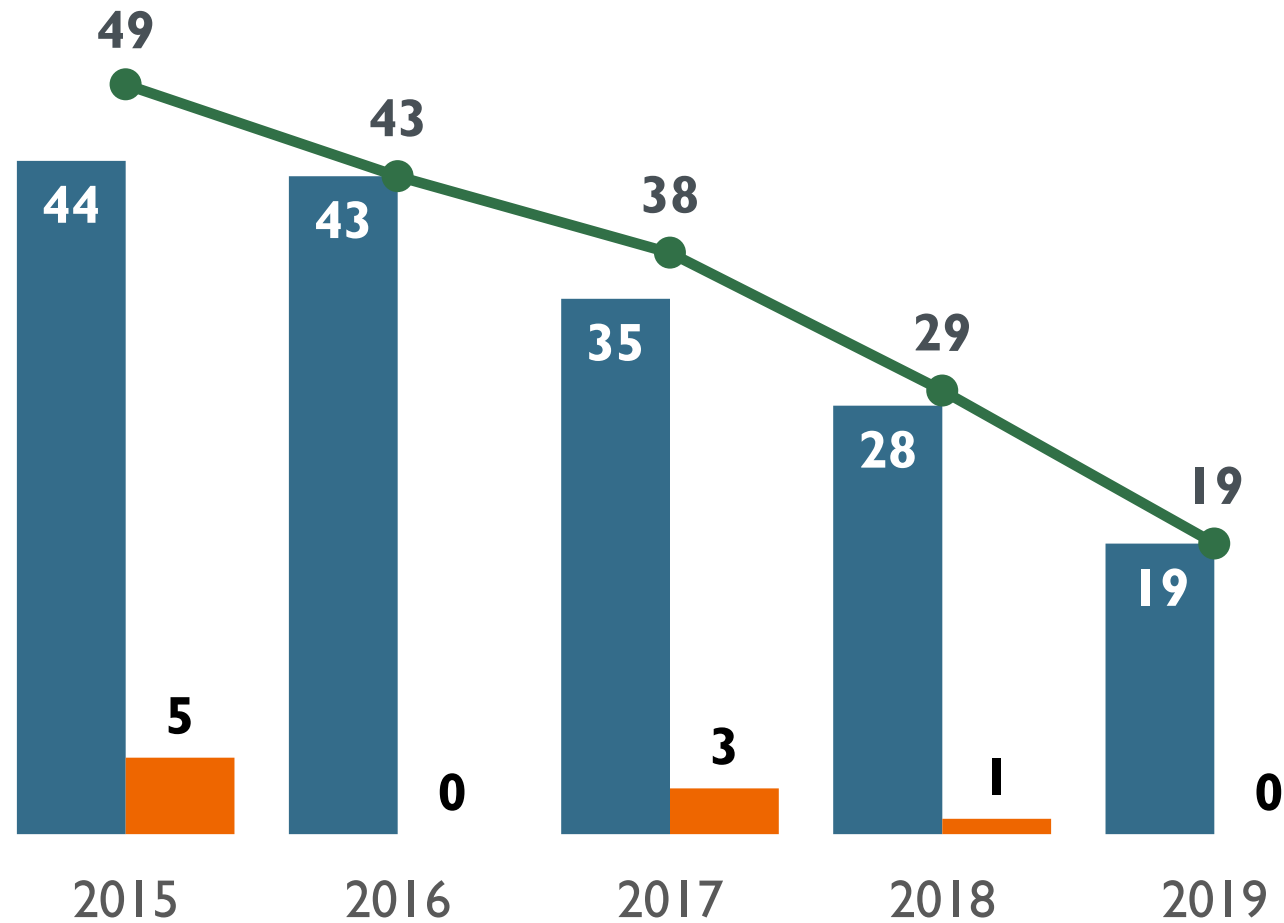
# CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



**Total chronic homelessness has fallen by 36% since 2015**

# VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

**Veteran homelessness is falling faster than total homelessness**



**Total Veteran homelessness has dropped by 61% since 2015**

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# STREET OUTREACH

JOHN STACY

PROJECT OUTREACH TEAM (PORT/PATH)



# PORT ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Discovery and assessment:
  - Locate individuals in the community experiencing homelessness.
  - Provide assessments of category of homelessness and documentation/verification
  - Assess for a Severe Mental Illness and and SMI/Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorder
  - Assess for possible income and entitlement challenges.
- Link and connect:
  - Provide connections to community resources, and make referrals as appropriate
  - Assist individuals with completing documentation
  - SOAR process when able/appropriate
  - Connect with shelter, and other CoC members with warm hand-offs when able



# PORT ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Resource Provision:
  - Assist individuals with gear and set-up if appropriate
  - Connect individuals with monies for a variety of purposes:
    - Security Deposits
    - Move-in Costs
    - Hotel Stays (with screening and determination)
  - Transportation:
    - Bus passes
    - Linking to appointments (medical, housing, legal)







# HOMELESSNESS & RACE EQUITY FOCUS GROUPS

MORGHAN WILLIAMS BOYDSTON

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OCED)






# BUILT FOR ZERO UPDATE

AMANDA CARLISLE

WASHTENAW HOUSING ALLIANCE (WHA)



- 
- Talk about current Vet goal of 7/15
  - Talk about what it means to reach functional zero
  - USICH Benchmarks

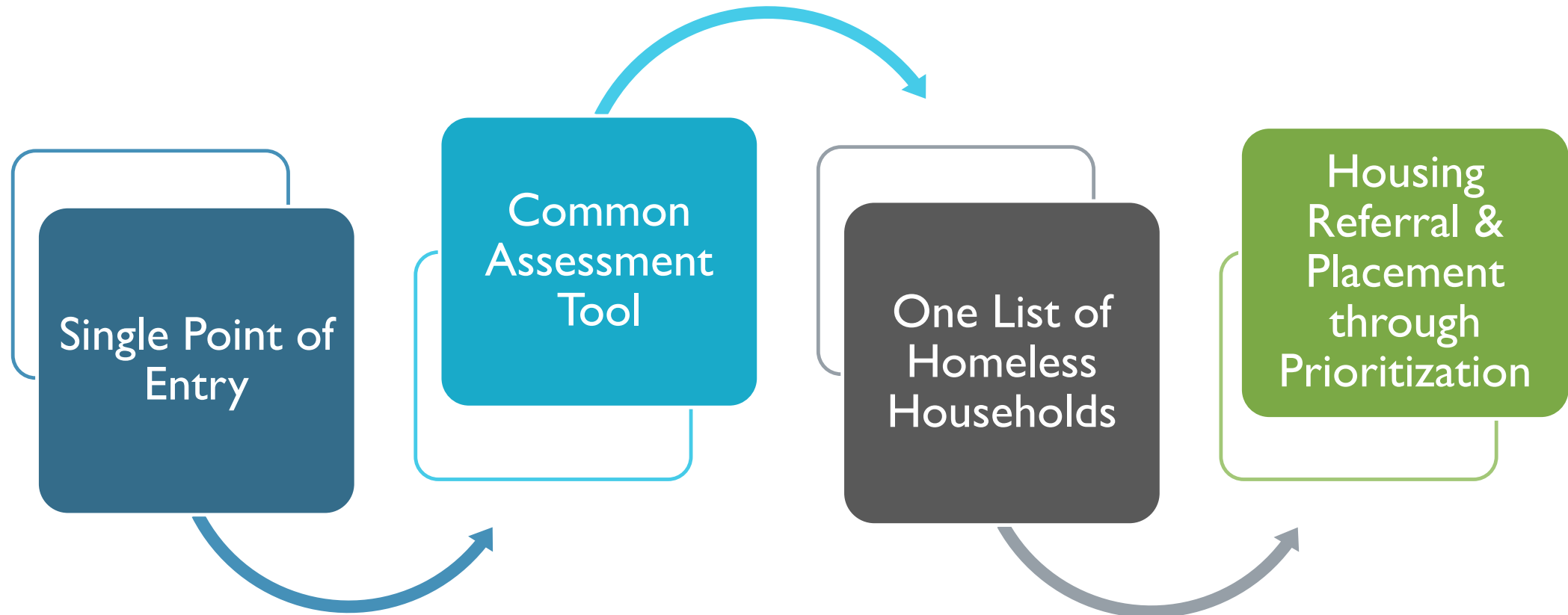
# WHAT IS BUILT FOR ZERO?

- Rigorous **national change effort** designed to help a committed group of U.S. & International communities end veteran and chronic homelessness
  - Adopt proven best practices
  - Deploy existing resources more efficiently
  - Use real-time data to improve performance
- **Led by Community Solutions**, with assistance from federal partners:
  - U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
  - U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA)
  - U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
- **Benefits to participating communities:**
  - Coaches and technical assistance resources
  - Direct access to HUD, VA, and other top national officials



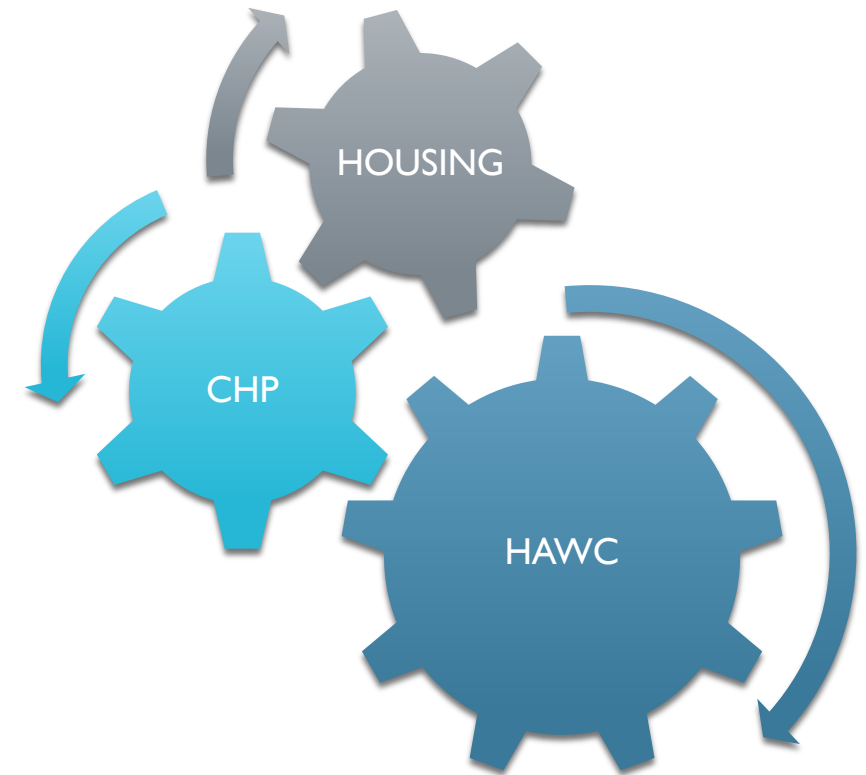
**COMMUNITY  
SOLUTIONS**

# KEY COMPONENTS OF BUILT FOR ZERO



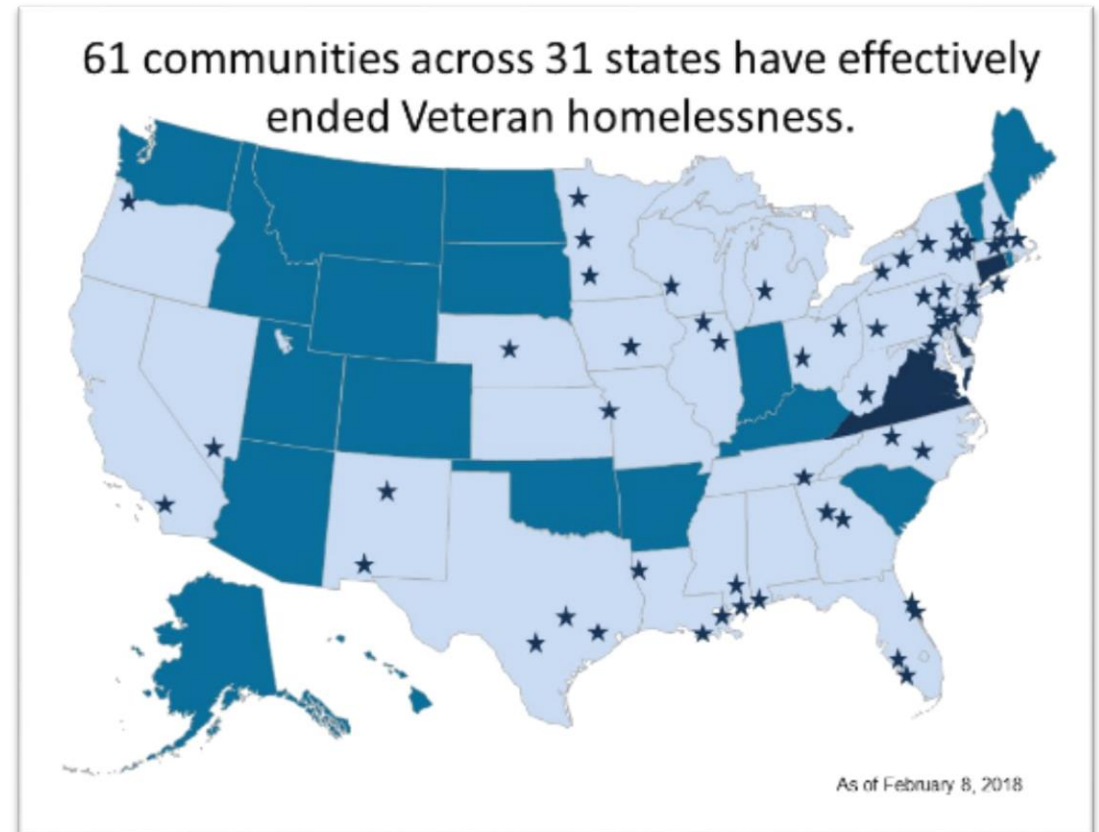
# WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED AND ACCOMPLISHED

- Focus on **systems transformation**
- Incorporation of a **real-time data** on who is experiencing homelessness in our community (by-name)
- Total Veterans & Chronically Homeless housed nationwide: **83,000+**
  - Veterans & Chronically Homeless Individuals Housed in Washtenaw County since 2015: **719**
- Systematic approach to **prioritizing permanent housing resources**
- **Continuous process improvement** → optimal system performance
  - Using data for systems improvement
- **Breaking Down System siloes** (increased collaboration with stakeholders & service providers)



## UP NEXT IN BUILT FOR ZERO

- Continue the **sense of urgency to identify and house people** as quickly as possible
  - Streamline access and assistance
  - Continue to prioritize scarce permanent housing resources
  - Adapt to changing environment
- **Finalize and submit veterans homeless data** to U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
- **Continue progress being made** on chronic homelessness and family homelessness
- **Leveraging the success of the initiative for youth** experiencing homelessness
- Focus on **Diversion**



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# PANEL DISCUSSION

MODERATED BY MORGHAN WILLIAMS BOYDSTON  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Marla Conkin**

Salvation Army

**Barbara Niess-May**

SafeHouse Center

**Krista Girty**

Ozone House

**Placeholder for Potential Individual**





# RECOGNITION & THANKS

MORGHAN WILLIAMS BOYDSTON

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



# THANK YOU

2018 PIT Count Planning Committee.

25+ outreach staff, case managers, board members,  
citizens, advocates, and community partners for all  
their hard work!

**Questions?**

Contact Morghan Williams Boydston, Human Services Manager  
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[williamsm@washtenaw.org](mailto:williamsm@washtenaw.org)