

SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA HOMELESS COALITION 2014 ANNUAL UPDATE

www.shrhomeless.org

The Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition (SVHC) consists of agencies and individuals working to address homelessness among six jurisdictions: Norfolk, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Franklin, Isle of Wight County and Southampton County. The SVHC includes representatives from each city and county working to address the four priorities set forth by the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.

6

JURISDICTIONS

1,700

SQUARE MILES

40+

PARTNER AGENCIES

FINISH THE JOB OF ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN 5 YEARS

The SVHC remains committed to making a considerable contribution to the nation's efforts to end chronic homelessness by 2016 with the expansion of the Housing First (HF) Program, continued development of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) programs, and strengthened collaboration with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program administrators. The 2014 Point in Time (PIT) Count identified 46 chronically homeless individuals, a 35% reduction in chronic homelessness when compared to the 2013 PIT Count.

35%

REDUCTION IN CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS
FROM 2013 TO 2014

To support the SVHC's progress in meeting the Federal goal, Virginia Supportive Housing was awarded funds under the Virginia Housing Trust Fund in the amount of \$750,000 for predevelopment and supportive services for the area's 5th SRO, Crescent Square Apartments, which will provide **42 new SRO units for homeless single adults in Norfolk and Virginia Beach**. The City of Norfolk also approved a new mixed-use development proposed by Luna Development and Virginia Supportive Housing that will provide **40 new beds for homeless adults**, as well as apartments rented at market-rates. This will be Norfolk's 2nd SRO and the region's 6th.

PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS IN 5 YEARS

In 2009, the Obama Administration committed to ending veteran homelessness in the U.S. by the end of 2015. Since 2010, there has been a 33 percent decrease in the number of homeless veterans nationally. The SVHC experienced a 30% decrease in veteran homelessness in the last 3 years.

In August 2013, the City of Norfolk formed the Housing our Heroes team inclusive of representatives from the Office to End Homelessness, Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Virginia Supportive Housing, The STOP Organization, the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, DAV Chapters, and area homeless service providers. The team was charged with the task of quickly housing homeless veteran households and is working on future veteran-specific housing development and wraparound service delivery, all in an effort to reach the goal of ending veteran homelessness by 2015. The team placed 78 veteran households in permanent housing during the first 100 days of the initiative.



78

VETERANS HOUSED IN 100 DAYS

ForKids, Inc., the STOP Organization of Hampton Roads, and the Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation, received the area's first Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grants, which provide homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services for veterans. Since launching in 2013, **223 veteran households have been assisted through SSVF**. The organizations were awarded renewal funds for FY 2014 to potentially serve 200+ veteran households.

Since the launch of Housing First (HF) in 2005, and the development of the area's first Single Room Occupancy (SRO) apartments, Gosnold Apartments in Norfolk in 2006, the SVHC has realized a

69% decrease in Chronic Homelessness.

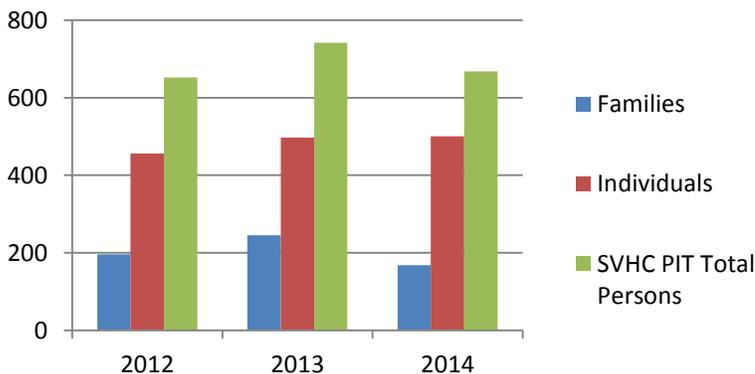
SET A PATH TO END ALL TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS

*In 2013, area Homeless Consortia agreed to the launch of the **Hampton Roads HMIS system**, which would merge Portsmouth, Virginia Beach and the Virginia Peninsula HMIS systems with the Norfolk system. Once complete, the merged system will afford opportunities for shared data and improved service delivery across Hampton Roads.*

The Chesapeake Area Shelter Team (CAST) ran a winter shelter program for the City of Chesapeake for 16 weeks, serving 130 individuals and offering veteran assistance, and employment, medical, and identification services. **20 clients were housed through the program.** The Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk (CAPS) also launched a new winter shelter, Suffolk Night Stay, a program for men, women and families in Western Tidewater for 6 weeks. The new program **served 22 individuals**, including one family.

The Housing Crisis Hotline continues to operate as the region's centralized intake and assessment for persons and families who are experiencing or are at imminent risk of homelessness. Using a triage approach, the Hotline determines shelter placements according to presented need and provides referrals to other community resources as needed. In FY 2013, the Hotline received **16,903 calls** from **8,459 unduplicated callers.** In 2014, the Housing Crisis Hotline began serving as the point of entry for all homeless services on the Greater Virginia Peninsula.

SVHC POINT IN TIME COUNTS



The 2014 Point In Time Count total numbers reflect a decrease among the homeless population in Hampton Roads, from 742 persons in 2013 to 668 persons in 2014. The decrease may be due to extreme weather conditions the night of the count. The number of individuals experiencing homeless has steadily increased over the past three years; however, family homelessness has decreased overall since 2012. In 2014, the SVHC sheltered all families experiencing homelessness; no families were on the street the night of the Count.

PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS FOR FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN IN 10 YEARS

From October 17, 2013 to January 24, 2014, four South Hampton Roads agencies participated in the Rapid-Re-Housing (RRH) Challenge, a state-wide initiative to place as many homeless families as possible in permanent housing in 100 days. RRH is a proven and cost-effective strategy that has been used by communities across the country to reduce homelessness. Together, ForKids, Our House Families, the H.E.R. Shelter, and the YWCA of South Hampton Roads housed 64 families during the 100 day Challenge.

64 FAMILIES HOUSED IN
100 DAYS



The SVHC increased Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) funding under the Virginia Housing Solutions Program (VHSP) in the amount of \$615,498 to support a reduction in the length of time that a household remains homeless. Additionally, the SVHC reallocated \$202,762 in HUD funds to launch a new RRH project for families, which will allow for extensive case management and direct assistance for families with higher barriers to housing.

\$818,260

AWARDED FOR RAPID RE-HOUSING IN 2014

The LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Center of Hampton Roads aims to provide a safe place for LGBT youth and improve the quality of life of LGBT individuals and their families through counseling, social and educational events, and support services. In FY2013, 503 hours of mental health counseling were provided to individuals at the LGBT Center.

503 HOURS OF COUNSELING

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