



Fort Wayne's Community Plan
to Prevent and End Homelessness



STRATEGIC PLAN
Vision Statement

To prevent and eradicate
homelessness in Fort Wayne.

STRATEGIC PLAN
Mission Statement

To prevent homelessness by
connecting residents to supportive
services and swiftly and equitably house
everyone experiencing homelessness.



EveryoneHomeFW.org

info@**Everyone**HomeFW.org

For program updates, volunteer
opportunities, and more information,
please scan to join our mailing list!



Strategic Plan Goals

1

Increase Safe & Affordable Housing for All Fort Wayne Residents

Fort Wayne has a severe shortage of affordable housing. Affordable housing is the most effective solution for ending homelessness by allowing families to focus on maintaining their wellbeing.

2

Expand Access to Homeless Emergency Response Services

Within Fort Wayne, there are populations at risk of or experiencing homelessness who require special attention. By understanding their unique needs and directing services that allow professionals to tailor their care, the community can ensure that the system is accessible to the most vulnerable.

3

Partner Across Fort Wayne to Build Collective Solutions

No one agency alone can end homelessness. Improving collaboration, coordination, and leveraging investments across the many systems can help the community more effectively address homelessness.

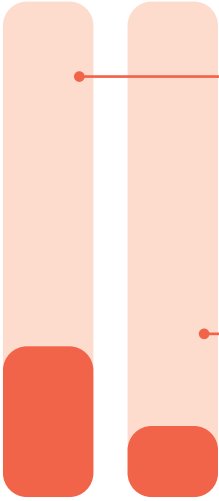
4

Prevent Homelessness Before It Begins

Many families are just one paycheck or financial crisis away from losing their housing. Often it only requires a small intervention to prevent families from becoming homeless. Supporting families through financial resources is the most cost effective way to prevent homelessness.

FORT WAYNE

By the Numbers



35% OF FORT WAYNE'S
Homeless Population
are African American

HOWEVER

African Americans
ACCOUNT FOR ONLY **15%** OF THE
General Population

LESS
THAN

8%

OF AVAILABLE
Rental Housing
is Affordable

to households at
risk of homelessness



IN
2021,
ONLY **31** UNITS OF

**Permanent
Supportive Housing (PSH)**

WERE AVAILABLE IN ALL OF ALLEN COUNTY

The goal of PSH is to provide housing
to individuals with intensive needs
(those who require long-term care)

61%

OF INDIVIDUALS

receiving homelessness assistance are

Part of a Family

The majority are female-head of households.



Fort Wayne Community School

Students

WERE FACING

Homelessness

2021/2022 Academic Year



44%

OF RENTERS



30%

OF THEIR INCOME

Towards Housing

Spending more than 30% on housing means you are "rent burdened" and often have to make difficult spending choices, particularly with current inflation

40% OF ALL INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY

Homeless System of Care

WERE

Children

According to Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data, between August 2018 and July 2021 in the City of Fort Wayne.



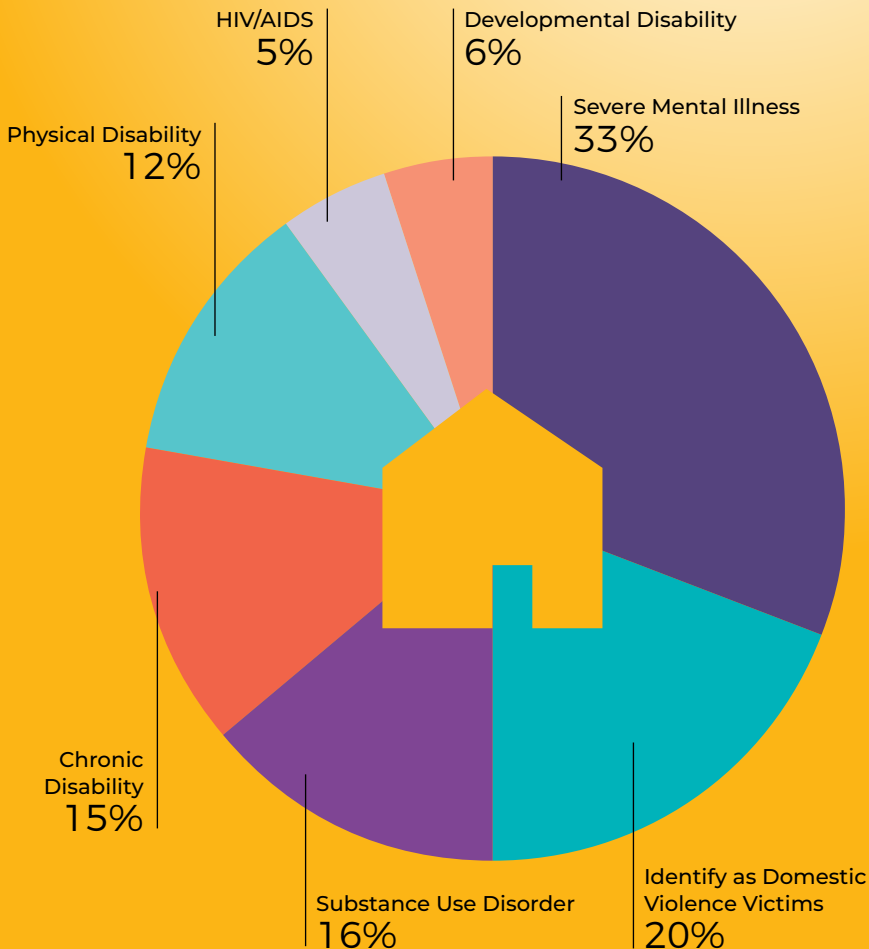
Snapshot

Homelessness in Fort Wayne 2018-2021

during this 3-year period

1,022* INDIVIDUALS WERE
Literally Homeless

Homeless by Special Population**



*Total Homeless Population: HMIS: 2018-2021. not every agency uses HMIS, so this number is higher due to underreporting.

** Many homeless fall under more than one Special Population category.

Causes of Homelessness

Despite effective programs and dedicated providers working to address homelessness, there are still hundreds of City residents each year who experience a crisis that results in loss of housing. And once housing is lost, it is increasingly difficult for an individual or family to get back on track.



Income and Wages

Most households become homeless because **they simply do not make enough money** to pay for housing.

Housing Costs

If housing cost is a significant part of a family's income, **missing a payment likely means they will be unable to catch back up**, ultimately leading to housing loss.



Safe and Affordable Housing

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, **the State of Indiana faces a shortage of 135,033 rental homes that are affordable and available** for extremely low-income renters.

Special Populations at Greater Risk of Homelessness

Vulnerable communities such as families with children, people of color, transition-age youth, veterans, formerly incarcerated, and persons with serious mental illness **are more prone to experiencing homelessness** due to limited services, social stigma and financial resources.



Systemic Inequities in Housing, Income, Education, and Services

Black or African Americans are disproportionately represented in the homeless population due to disparities caused by centuries of discrimination in housing, criminal justice, child welfare and education.

Current System of Care



Temporary Housing

(includes Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing)

Projects in Fort Wayne target a variety of populations and offer emergency shelter and transitional housing for men, women, veterans, women with children, and families. A seasonal winter contingency project offers overnight warming shelters to women through various community locations. Currently very limited services and no shelter/day-center or long-term housing exist for youth.



Emergency Shelter

Emergency Shelter is a facility that offers overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness in general or for specific populations of the homeless community.



Transitional Housing

Transitional housing provides temporary housing accommodations and supportive services to people without permanent housing options.



Permanent Housing

(includes Permanent Supportive and Rapid Rehousing Housing)

Permanent Supportive Housing provides homes and services for people in need of long-term support.



Rapid Rehousing Housing

The Rapid Rehousing program provides subsidized permanent housing with supportive services for up to 24 months, with the hope that individuals and families in the program will be able to stabilize enough to be able to stay in their homes at the end of the time period when the subsidy has ended.

Current System of Care

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Homeless-specific services

Supportive services are an essential part of any homeless system of care. They include case management, life skills training, job placement and employment opportunities, mental health and substance use treatment services.

Prevention Services

Effective homelessness prevention requires proactive identification, engagement, and investment in communities most at risk of entering the homeless system of care.

Mainstream services including health, mental health, and employment services

Those experiencing homelessness in the City of Fort Wayne are connected to various mainstream services and benefits available to support their health, mental health, economic, and employment related needs via City and County departments and with the assistance of a network of service providers.

STRENGTHS OF FORT WAYNE'S HOMELESS SYSTEM OF CARE

There are many strengths in the City of Fort Wayne's homeless system of care:

An engaged, collaborative group of stakeholders

An active local Planning Council made up of housing and shelter providers

A strong network of providers who offer emergency shelter and transitional housing, permanent supportive housing opportunities, rapid rehousing, and other support services

Challenges and Needs

Despite the strong collaboration, there are gaps in the system that prevent the community from responding as effectively and meaningfully as they could to end homelessness.

- ○ **Expand** deeply affordable and accessibly permanent housing
- ○ **Build** relationships with the private market to increase the availability of housing stock for households experiencing homelessness or housing stability
- ○ **Establish** low-barrier, housing-focused shelters that individuals and families can access without pre-conditions
- ○ **Offer** dedicated temporary housing and day services for youth (including unaccompanied minors) and individuals
- ○ **Increase** supportive services, including on-site case management and wrap-around services including mental health, substance abuse treatment, and outreach services
- ○ **Provide** adequate transportation to shelters, services, and employment for residents
- ○ **Improve** coordination and communication to Prevent Homelessness



Homelessness is a complex issue that cannot be solved without collective action from all members of our community and the

SUPPORT OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU.



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