



SPRINGFIELD/CLARK COUNTY
HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE
STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS
NOVEMBER 2023

HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE PURPOSE

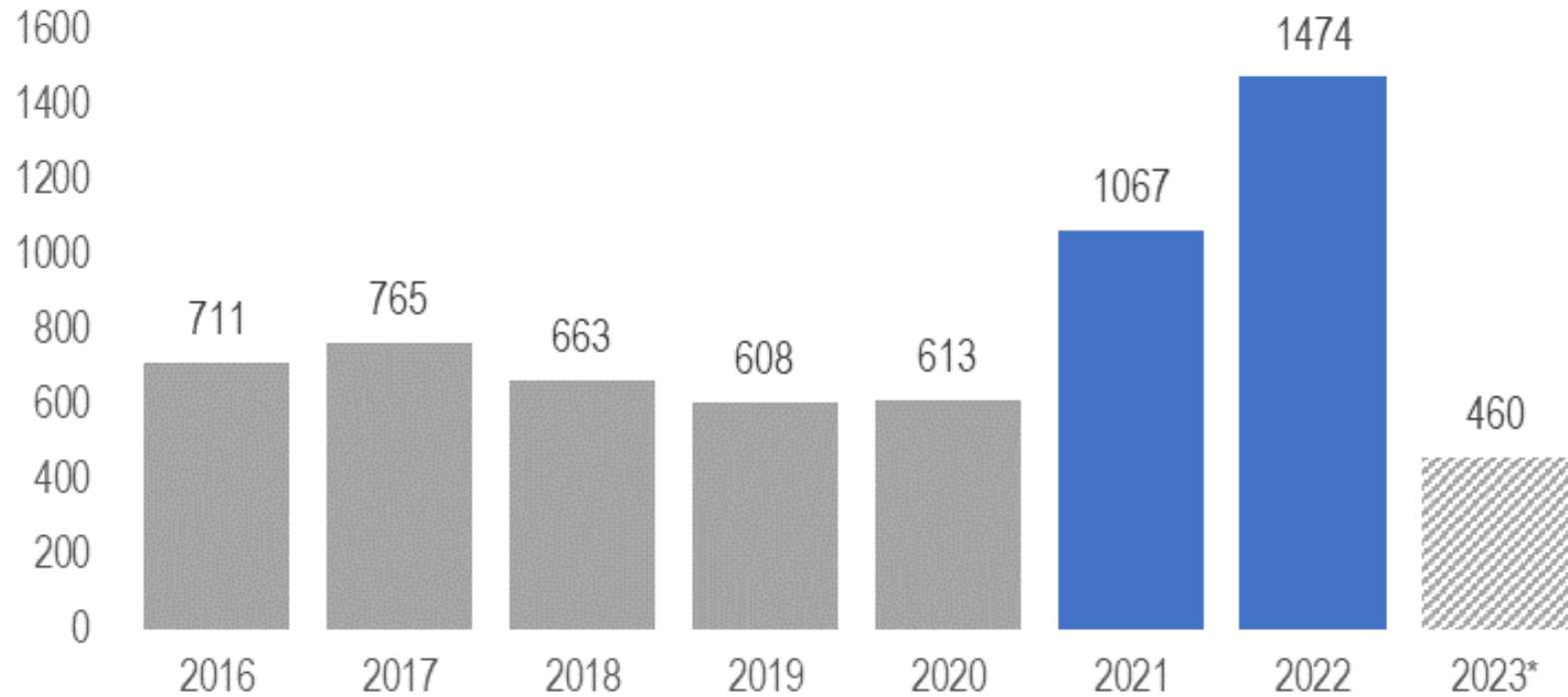
The visible crisis of homelessness during the pandemic resulted in a coming together of stakeholders comprised of housing providers, service providers, government, philanthropic, and faith-based community organizations to form the Springfield/Clark County Homelessness Task Force.

The task force was charged with assessing local capacity and producing a set of strategic goals to strengthen our community's response to homelessness.

Homelessness Trends

The number of persons served in Emergency Shelters in Clark County drastically increased in 2021 and 2022.

*Data as of 10/16/2023

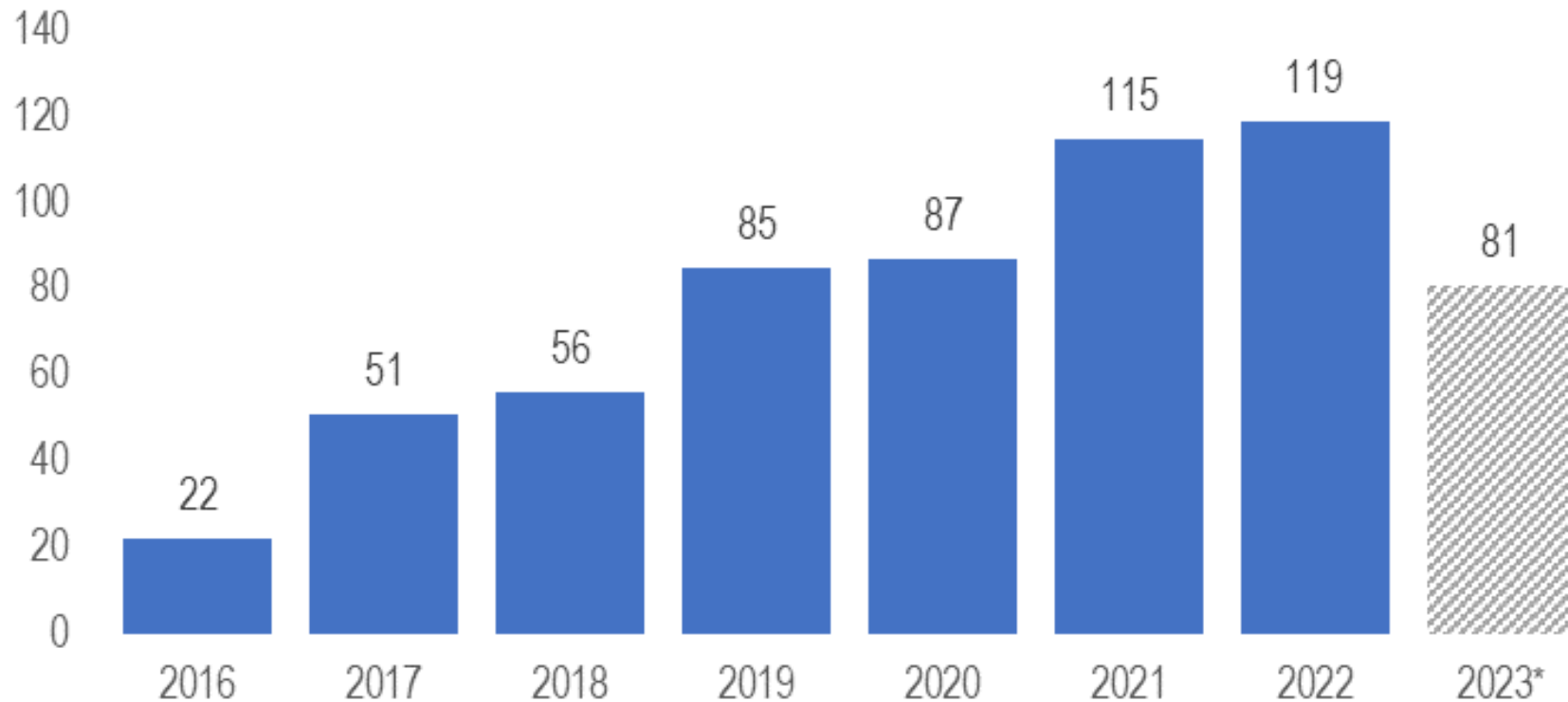


* Source: HMIS data

Homelessness Trends

The number of chronically homeless people in Clark County is increasing over time.

*Data as of 10/16/2023

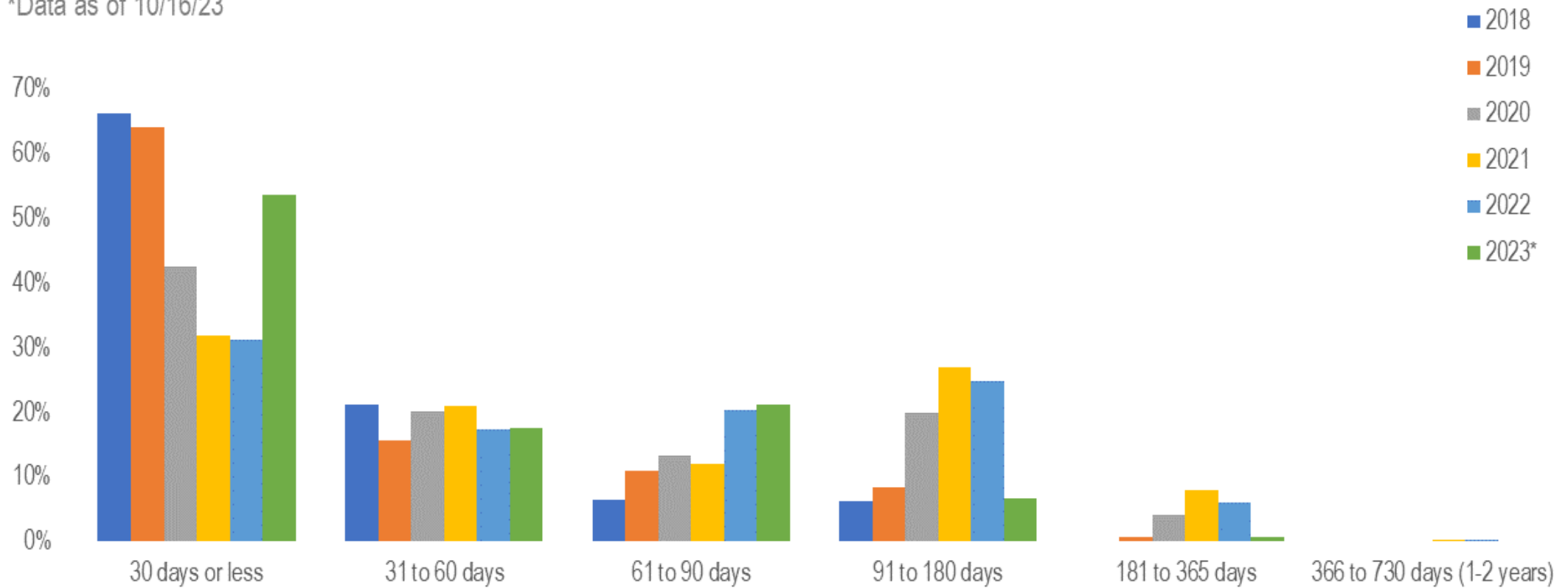


* Source: HMIS data

Homelessness Trends

Length of Participation in Emergency Shelter

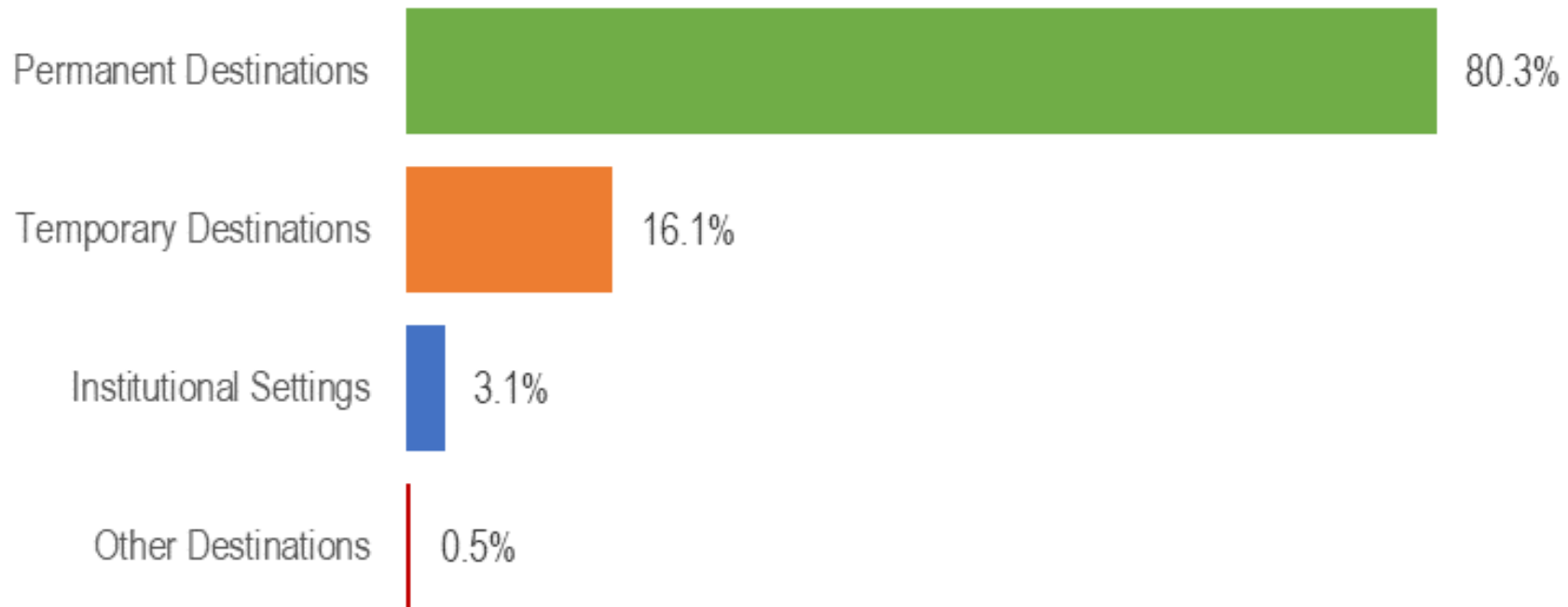
*Data as of 10/16/23



* Source: HMIS data

Homelessness Trends

On average, most Emergency Shelter clients moved to permanent destinations upon exit.
2018-2022

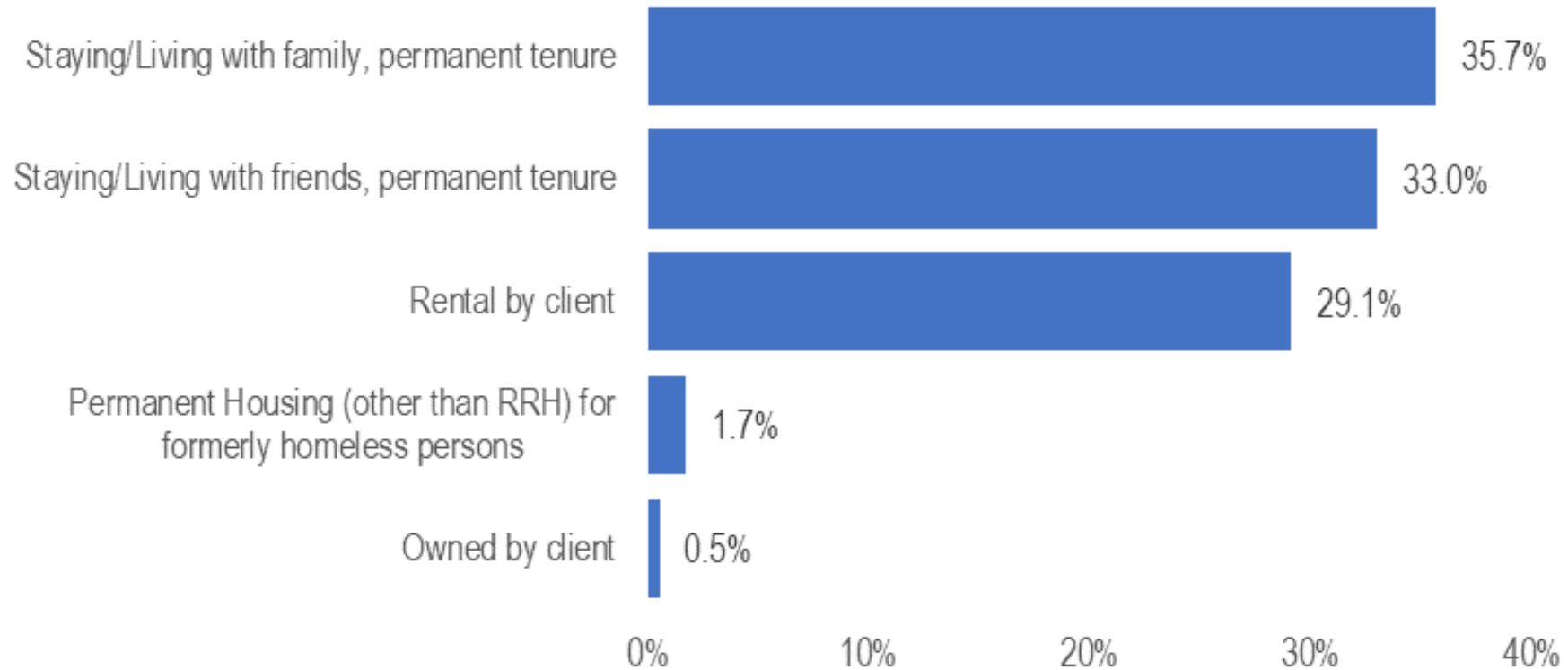


* Source: HMIS data

Homelessness Trends

Of those who moved to permanent destinations upon exit, the majority moved in with family and friends on average.

Only 1.7% moved into permanent housing. Averages from 2018-2022

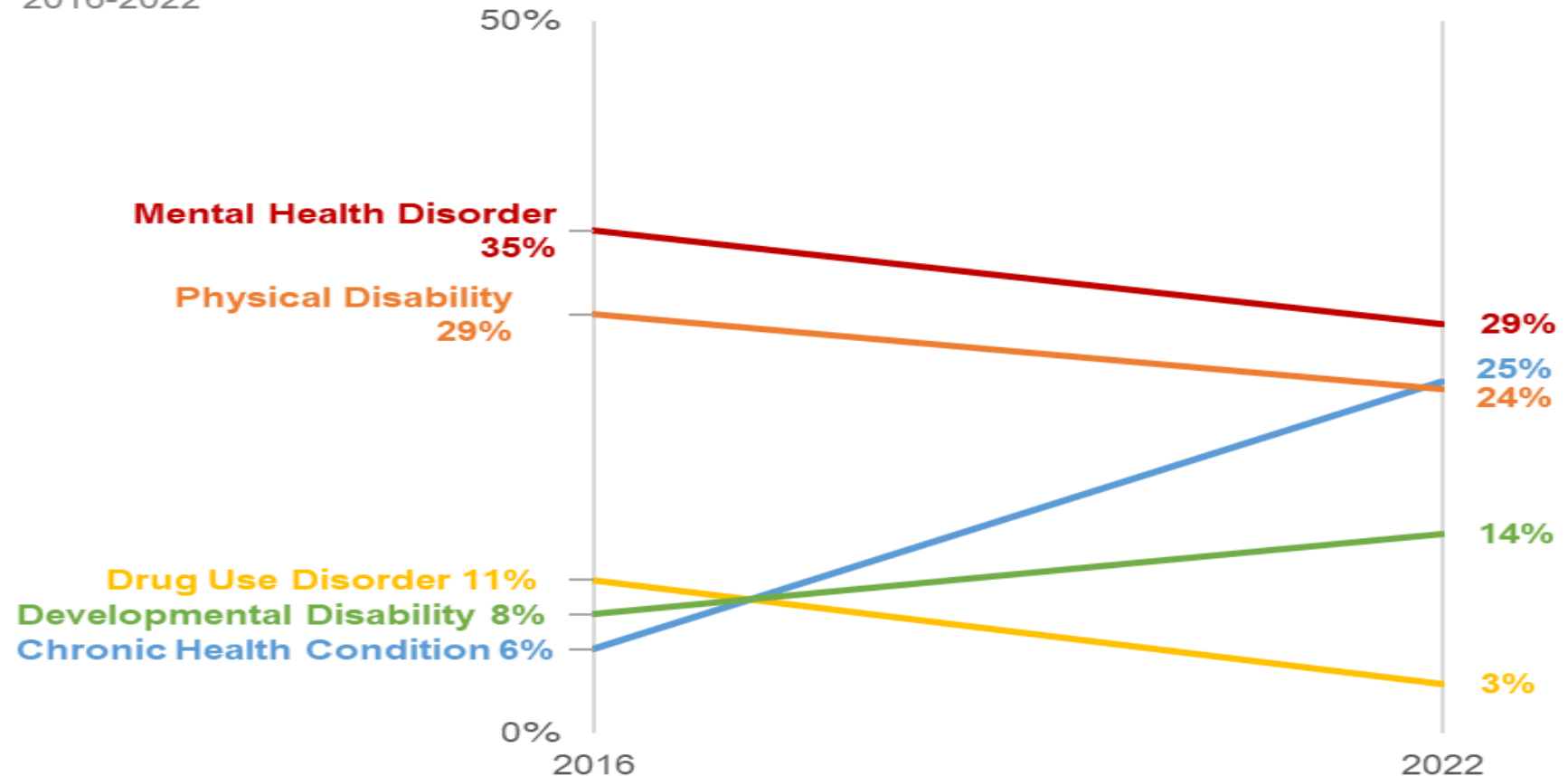


* Source: HMIS data

Homelessness Trends

Chronic Health Conditions rose to top three conditions among persons served in Emergency Shelter in Clark County in 2022.

2016-2022

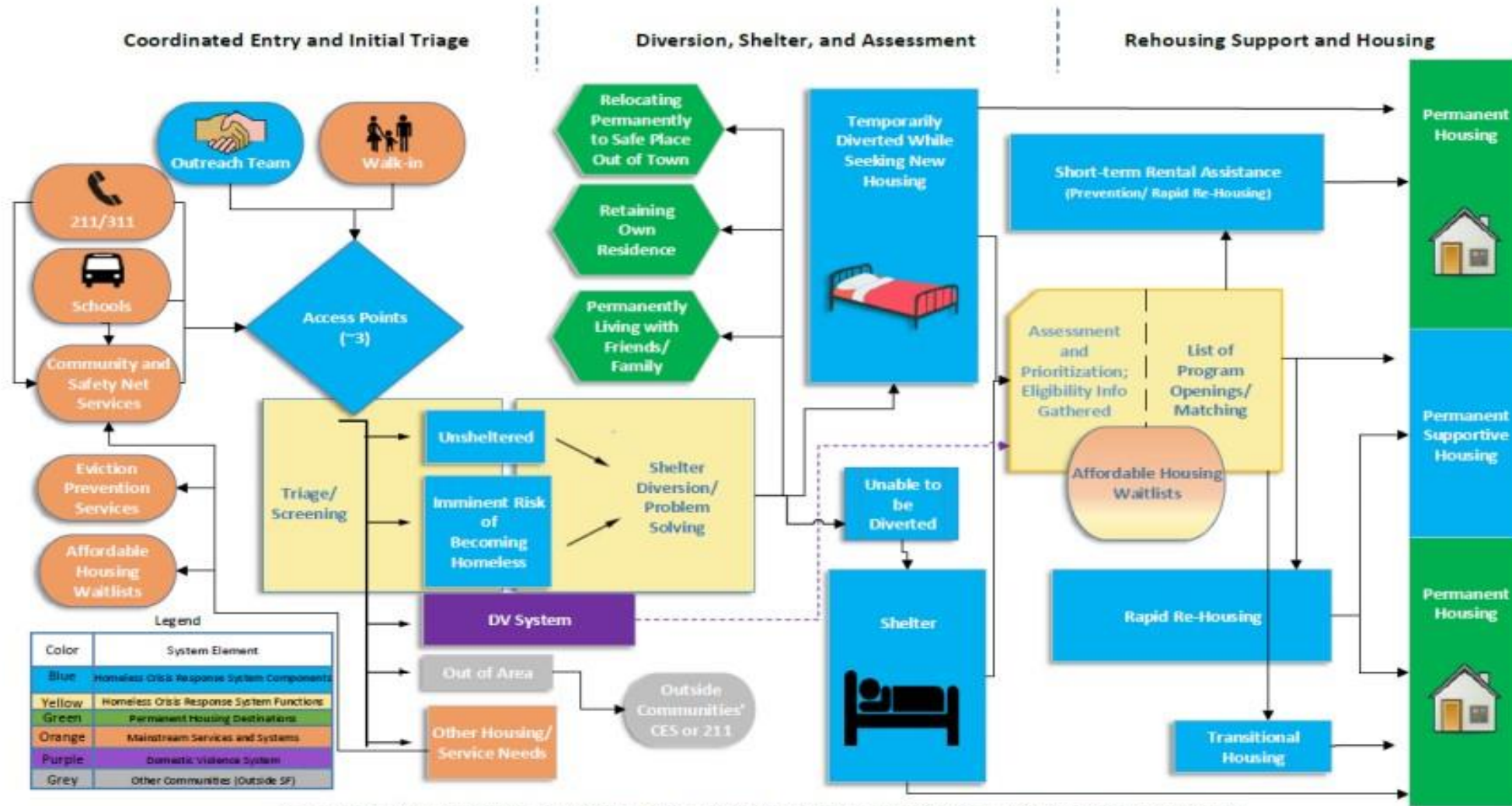


* Source: HMIS data

Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care

- **A collaborative effort between service agencies and housing providers is required.**
- **This effort, or Continuum of Care, is defined by HUD and is a primary source of funding for cooperating agencies.**
- **A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a geographically based group of representatives from organizations that provide services to people experiencing homelessness.**
- **Locally, Clark County participates in BoSCoC Region 15, which includes housing providers, shelter providers, service providers, and governmental representation in Clark and Greene counties.**
- **Sheltered Inc. co-chairs Region 15.**

System Map



SWOT ANALYSIS

The Homelessness Task Force (HTF) conducted a SWOT analysis with members to determine the top priorities:

- Affordable Housing Inventory
- Coordinated Entry/Collaboration
- SMHA Community Involvement and Capacity
- Data collection
- Landlord Participation

Coordinated Entry

Coordinated entry is a process developed to ensure all people experiencing a housing crisis are connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs. Those experiencing homelessness often have challenging circumstances which may include mental and physical health, alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, and employment among other things.

Objective One: Increase Coordinated Entry Capacity

STRATEGY STRATEGY

1) Identify funding for a full-time position dedicated to the functions of coordinated entry which include intake, referral, and data collection.

2) Hire Coordinated Entry Position.

3) Add second Access Point for Coordinated Entry.

4) Hire consultant to design, implement, and evaluate Coordinated Entry (CE) systems to develop a standardized pathway to permanent housing, create accountable governance structures, develop effective strategic plans, and monitor their implementation by concrete performance measures.

5) Utilize COHHIO for technical assistance training.

Housing Cost Burden

- **Based on income, Very Low-Income households need 3,432 affordable rental units to avoid housing cost burden. With an inventory of 1,909 affordable units, there is a gap of 1,523 affordable rental units. (Housing Inventory and Gaps Analysis)**
- **Affordable Homeownership: : According to the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (The State of Poverty in Ohio and US Census) 17.7% or 3,201 homeowners in Clark County were cost burdened.**
- **23% of Clark County owners and renters are cost burdened. (Greater Ohio Policy Center)**

Affordable Rental Housing

Objective Two: Increase Affordable Rental Housing (for households earning less than 80% of annual median income) Inventory by at Least 40-60 Units Annually.

STRATEGY

- 1) Create (and update) inventory map of suitable sites for multi-unit housing projects.
- 2) Continue to increase staff capacity by participating in low-income housing tax credit and bond financing training.
- 3) Identify developer/s to submit at least one LIHTC or Bond multi-family annually in the annual OHFA grant competition.
- 4) Set aside grant dollars to fund at least one multi-family affordable rental project.
- 5) Obtain written certification of neighborhood support prior to bringing zoning or multifamily projects before City/County Commissions. *(Note that the City of Springfield has implemented a requirement of two neighborhood meetings hosted by the developer prior to beginning the zoning certification process.)
- 6) SMHA to move forward with portfolio analysis for RAD conversion planning.
- 7) SMHA to continue outreach to distribute Housing Choice Vouchers.

Affordable Homeownership

Objective Three: Increase Inventory of Affordable (for homeowners earning no more than 120% annual median income) Homeownership Units

STRATEGY

- 1) Utilize bank financing for the appraised value of development costs to increase the number of homeowner units built.
- 2) Research affordable housing alternatives (i.e., manufactured/modular) to lessen housing construction cost.
- 3) Increase collaboration among housing resources including: OIC, NHP, Habitat for Humanity, 1159, SCCTC, faith-based organizations, etc.
- 4) Establish target area for housing rehabilitation and new construction to maximize collaboration (Strategy 8 above) and neighborhood impact.
- 5) When market conditions are favorable, negotiate 5-10% affordable housing set asides with for profit developers in exchange for extended tax abatements, zoning variances, down payment assistance, etc.

Emergency Shelter

There are 207 beds/47 units in inventory and a current gap of 80 beds/35 units. (Housing Inventory and Gaps analysis report)

Objective Four: Develop Permanent Emergency Shelter Campus with Supportive Services

STRATEGY

- 1) Issue RFP for consultant to evaluate Villager or alternate site for emergency shelter campus (site suitability, special populations, funding, service providers etc.).
- 2) Issue RFP for emergency shelter campus development partner.
- 3) Develop partnerships/MOUs with health care and service providers for onsite provision of services.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

There is a current gap of 206 beds for PSH. (Housing Inventory and Gaps Analysis)

Objective Five: Develop Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Campus

STRATEGY

- 1) Identify suitable PSH site that can score competitively with funders.
- 2) Finalize need and identify available funding for special populations (i.e., ex-offenders).
- 3) Determine unit type and set asides (individuals, families, and special populations).
- 4) Issue RFP/s for PSH site development planning.

Special Populations

There are subgroups or ‘special populations’ of individuals with circumstances or disabilities that will require affordable housing, emergency shelter, or permanent supportive housing. We need to collect additional data on the ‘populations’ below to quantify housing needs:

- **Veterans**
- **Ex-Offender**
- **Substance Abuse**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Youth**
- **Respite Housing**
- **Quarantine Housing**
- **Haitians**

Landlords

The lack of available rental inventory has created a high demand allowing landlords to command increasingly high rents. There is little incentive to work with programs that have caps on rents for their clients.

Objective Six: Increase the number of landlords participating in subsidized housing programs.

STRATEGY

Develop a roster of landlords for outreach using Rental Registry Program, SMHA, OIC , Rental Assistance Programs, and Shelter Providers.

Conduct bi-annual collaborative outreach effort to recruit landlords for participation in housing programs.

DATA

To adequately address housing and service needs we must develop methodologies and collect data from schools, service providers, shelter providers, **US census, HUD, faith-based institutions, SMHA, VA, etc.**

Objective 7: Obtain accurate data for homeless counts, housing inventory and gaps, trends in eviction and foreclosure, and special populations

STRATEGY

- 1) Develop research relationship (i.e., COHHIO, Corporation for Supportive Housing, colleges, and universities) to develop a methodology for data collection.
- 2) Identify responsible party for annual data collections and updates.

Additional Resources

Resources: State and federal grant sources for housing development are limited. Local funders will play an important role in addressing homelessness in planning and administrative capacity.

Objective Eight: Leverage Additional Resources for Administration and Planning.

STRATEGY

- 1) Compile a list of local funders (i.e., United Way, Springfield Foundation, Turner Foundation, Community Health Foundation, Della Selsor Trust, Crabill Foundation, Nehemiah Foundation, etc.).
- 2) Develop a budget and present a request to fund planning, Coordinated Entry study, data collection, coordinated entry staff position, etc.