



State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless

Annual Report , Fiscal Year 2013



2014 COMMISSION MEMBERS STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR THE HOMELESS

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The resources and activities of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission are administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Housing Finance Authority

Gretchen Corbin

Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs
Executive Director, Georgia Housing and Finance Authority

State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329
www.dca.ga.gov

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State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless

We strive to end homelessness for individuals and families in Georgia. Since 1988, the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission has leveraged funding from the Georgia General Assembly with other public resources to accomplish its mission within three broad categories:

- **Funding:** We use state funds to leverage federal funding resources that provide housing and essential services to Georgia's homeless citizens.
- **Partnerships:** We support community driven housing initiatives that promote self-sufficiency and permanent housing stability.
- **Technical Assistance:** We make expertise available to Georgia's network of community housing providers working to reduce homelessness.

Homelessness in Georgia

During the last week of January 2013, 16,946 people in Georgia were identified as homeless at a single Point-in-Time (a one-night snapshot). Of the total homeless persons counted, an estimated 2,984 resided in rural counties.*

Georgia's homeless population is not static. Some people who were homeless in January will find housing. Other people, who had housing on the count night, may face homelessness in the future. These numbers reflect a 13.9% decrease from the 2011 Point-in-Time count, but are still very high, especially for Georgia's children and veterans.

Our programs are designed to help Georgia citizens and their dependents achieve or return to self-sufficiency and to a stable living environment. The Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless and its network of providers offer stability and safe, decent, affordable options for Georgians who are not able to live independently.

*Since 2008, DCA has partnered with the Department of Mathematics & Statistics at Kennesaw State University (KSU) to create a statistical model that estimates homelessness rates in rural counties, where literal homeless counts are prohibitively difficult. Due to the difficulties inherent in counting the homeless in any single community, much less a large state, providing a single, definitive, and indisputable number of persons who are homeless in Georgia is impossible. However, KSU's cutting-edge statistical model makes Georgia's count among the most accurate in the nation.

53,553 people
*experienced homelessness
in Georgia at some time
during 2013.**

* Estimate based on survey
conducted Jan. 2013.

***One in three homeless persons
who sought shelter in Georgia is a
child. One in eleven homeless adults
seeking shelter in our state is a
veteran.****

*Based on data collected by shelters funded by HTF



State Housing Trust Fund Accomplishments

HTF helped

544 people in 223 households, with \$474,138 in HTF and federal resources, averaging \$872 per person served

Georgia's nine "Continua of Care" address the variety of circumstances that contribute to individual and family homelessness and help Georgians procure or maintain stable living conditions contributing to a healthy, productive lifestyle.

Homelessness prevention

Research shows that the best way to end homelessness is to break the cycle before it begins. For many low-income Georgians, homelessness can begin with a relatively inexpensive financial emergency that spirals out of control, resulting in loss of a stable housing situation. Prevention efforts include funds for utility bills, past due rents, moving costs (including security deposits), rental assistance, and case management services.

854 people from 785 households

Street outreach

Street outreach locates and provides services to unsheltered individuals and families or those living in places not meant for human habitation, such as streets, parks, and abandoned buildings.

15,493 people, including 4,680 children and 954 veterans, who slept in 2,004 beds provided by 74 programs

Emergency Shelters

These programs used \$1,384,430 in HTF and federal funds to help emergency shelters provide immediate housing for Georgians who have become homeless.

1,879 people in 770 households, with \$2.9 million in HTF and federal resources, averaging \$1,543 per person served

Rapid Re-housing

The less time a family spends in a shelter, the better its chance at a return to a stable living environment. These HTF-funded programs provide funding for utility bills, past due rents, moving costs, security deposits, rental assistance and case management services.





Transitional Housing

HTF provides housing and the necessary supportive services (job training, budget management, child care, etc.) to help homeless citizens regain independent living within 24 months.

Supportive Services

Supportive services address the underlying issues that contribute to homelessness for families and individuals. Helping citizens mitigate and remove barriers to housing stability reduces the likelihood that they will face homelessness again in the future. Services include case management, childcare, employment training, financial counseling, legal aid, mental health, counseling, healthcare and substance abuse therapy.

Project Homeless Connect

These one-day, one-stop events connected our homeless neighbors with services in their areas.

Shelter Plus Care (S+C)

Many individuals face chronic homelessness due to serious mental illness, chronic addiction issues, or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases. Shelter Plus Care provides permanent housing and on-going support services for homeless persons with these kinds of disabilities and their families. The HTF funds supportive services that match federally funded projects that provide 1,669 dwelling units.

HTF helped

2,796 people, including 1,248 children and 142 veterans, who slept in 1,536 beds funded through 51 grants

13,655 people from 11,340 households, funded through 21 grants to supportive services

11 events around the state

2,191 people or heads of families with disabilities attain stable housing

The Shelter Plus Care Program has allowed me to gain responsibility and independence...I now have a vehicle, a job, my own place with the help of Supportive Living, a bank account and [am] three months away from having my degree...I have faced some obstacles in and out of my recovery, but I have learned the necessary coping skills.

Today, I am clean and sober over two years...I am doing an internship and my worksite is a rehabilitation facility for women and children. I want to give back to the community and help other alcoholics and addicts achieve sobriety the way so many people and organizations have helped me.

- Litesha, Waycross

HTF helped

35 tenants with disabilities and at, or below, 50 percent of the area median income reside in a safe, stable environment

Permanent Supportive Housing Program

The Permanent Supportive Housing Program combines federal and HTF funding to develop affordable rental housing and accompanying supportive services for eligible tenants with a disability.

Re-Entry Partnership Housing Program (RPH):

This partnership of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, Department of Corrections, and HTF provides housing options to those who have remained in prison after their authorized release date, due solely to a lack of residential options. It provides short term financial assistance to stabilize an eligible parolee's re-entry process from prison into society, and enhances his or her ability to remain crime-free.

393 people receive housing placement, meals and the opportunity to reintegrate with society, through \$639,753 in funding to assisting agencies, for an average cost of \$1,628 per person and saving Georgia taxpayers more than \$2.6 million.



Collaboration & Training

The HTF Commission engages in multi-organizational state and local partnerships focused on addressing issues relating to homelessness, and ultimately on eliminating homelessness altogether. Among these efforts are the State Homeless Interagency Coordination Council and a collaboration with the Metropolitan Atlanta Regional Homeless Commission. The HTF is among other state entities that use the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to track services for homeless and at-risk Georgians. During FY13, the HMIS tracked the progress of 223,109 individuals.

Finances

2013 State Housing Trust Fund Expenditures

| Program Name | State Funds | Federal Funds |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)* | \$1,296,576 | \$3,207,140 |
| KSU BoS Continuum of Care Survey | \$24,984 | |
| Shelter Plus Care | \$1,185,974 | \$9,674,494 |
| Re-entry Partnership Housing | \$597,900 | |
| Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) | \$175,849 | \$704,008 |
| Administration | \$296,149 | \$842,080 |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | \$200,000 | \$6,815,426 |
| Total | \$3,777,432 | 14,427,722 |

*ESG activities include shelter, transitional housing, homeless prevention, supportive services, and Homeless Connect grants.

For a copy of the Audit Report, please contact the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, at 404.679.4940 or at homelessprograms@dca.ga.gov.



*Jerusalem House provides a number of Atlanta residences for people with HIV/AIDS through the Shelter Plus Care program.
Photo Credit: Jerusalem House*



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