

Post-Election Discussion: Navigating Homelessness Policy and FY25 Appropriations

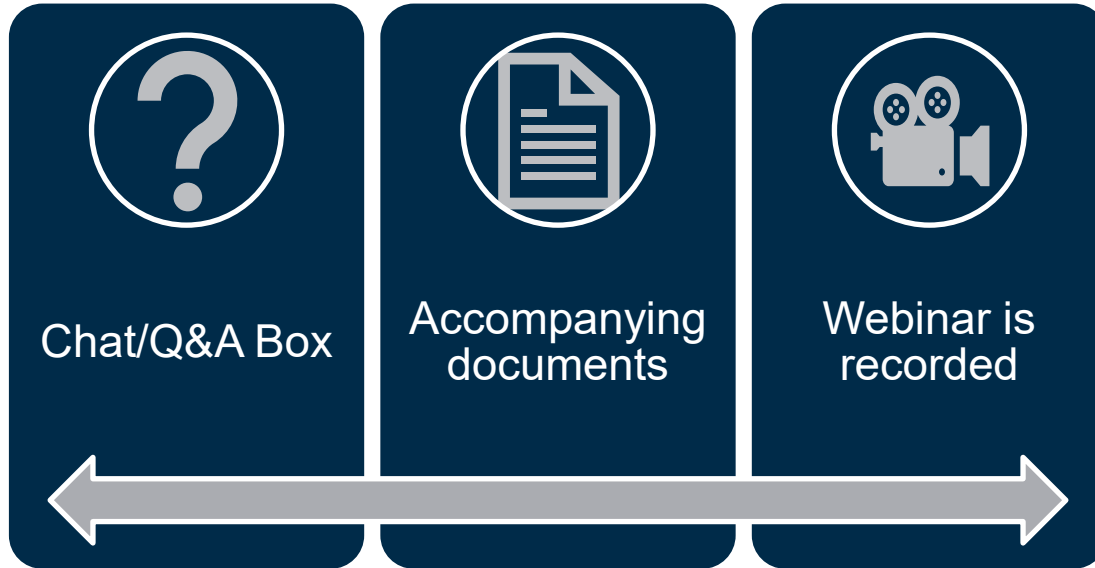
REGISTER TODAY

Wednesday, November 20, 2024
3:00 – 4:00 P.M. ET

Speakers

- **Marcy Thompson**, Vice President of Programs & Policy, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- **Steve Berg**, Chief Policy Officer, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- **Kimberly M. Speights**, Executive Director, The Community Kitchens of Birmingham
- **Foluke Akanni**, Housing Action Illinois, Housing Policy Organizer
- **Laura E. Thielen**, Executive Director, Partners In Care, O'ahu Continuum of Care
- **Ann Oliva**, Chief Executive Officer, National Alliance of End Homelessness

Housekeeping



National Alliance to End Homelessness Statements for Participation

The Alliance works to ensure that diverse voices are welcomed and included as facilitators, attendees, and guests in all forums.

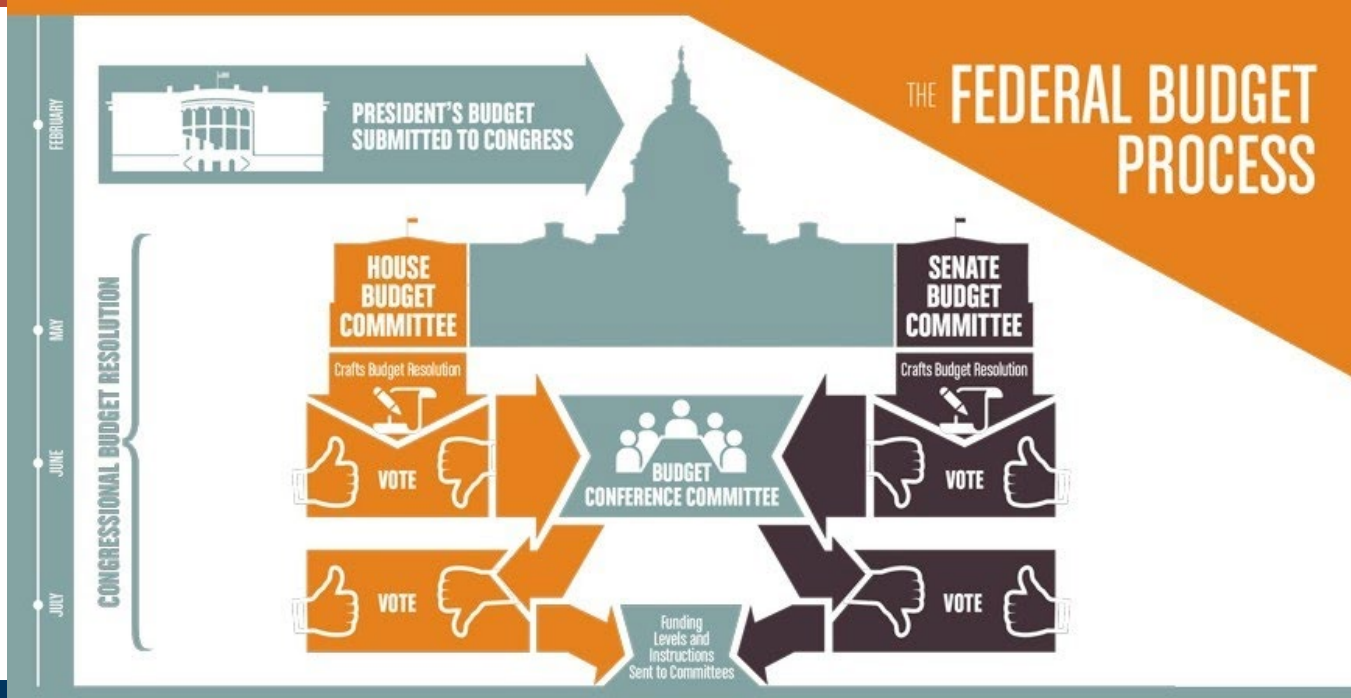
The organization has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination or abusive behavior. The Alliance is committed to ensuring that all its events are safe and respectful for all participants.

Participants acknowledge that any form of discrimination, violence, or abusive behavior may result in removal from all forums depending on the situation.

If any discrimination is witnessed or experienced during the webinar, or if you feel unsafe, please notify any member of the Alliance staff.

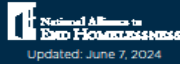
The National Alliance to End Homelessness strives to create a diverse, inclusive, accepting, and safe space for everyone.

Appropriations Legislation: Why It Matters



FY 2025 APPROPRIATIONS

HUD'S HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS: ENSURING FUNDING MEETS THE NEEDS OF AMERICA'S CURRENT HOMELESSNESS CRISIS



	Alliance Recommendation	Administration	House THUD	Senate THUD	Actual
FY 2025	\$4.75 billion	\$4.06 billion	TBD	TBD	TBD

SUMMARY

The principal source of targeted federal funding to fight homelessness is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s **Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG)** account, which funds the **Continuum of Care (CoC)** program and the **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)** program. This account, currently funded at \$4.05 billion, supports a nationwide network of state, local, charitable, and faith-based homeless assistance providers — including those who serve youth and survivors of domestic violence — who make sure that people who become homeless will be identified, kept safe, and quickly returned to housing.

The Alliance has urged the Administration and Congressional lawmakers to provide the HAG program with a **\$700 million** increase to **\$4.75 billion** in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 to:

- cover the increased cost of program renewals;
- allow for cost-of-living adjustments for frontline staff; and
- bolster the crisis response system to better address the rise in unsheltered homelessness.

BACKGROUND

HUD awards HAG funds to communities that administer evidence-based programs that provide housing and services at the local level. Specifically, the formula ESG program and the competitive CoC program fund the foundations of homelessness response systems in communities across the nation including urban, suburban, small towns, and rural areas.

RECOMMENDATION

The Alliance urges lawmakers to encourage their colleagues on the the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, particularly the T-HUD Subcommittees, to provide **\$4.75 billion** for HAG because:

1. Homelessness for the most vulnerable Americans—including older adults and those experiencing chronic homelessness—is getting worse as more people become homeless each year. Increased HAG funding could ensure **many more vulnerable households receive the housing assistance and supportive services** they need to obtain and maintain housing. Just as important as rental assistance is the workforce that provides the services which is threatened by low pay and high caseloads. This increase would also provide the ESG program with significant new resources to address **unsheltered homelessness and the prevention of homelessness**.
2. **Homelessness is increasing at higher rates as the affordable housing crisis worsens.** According to the 2024 GAP report (published by the National Low Income Housing Coalition), the United States has a shortage of 7.3 million rental housing units. HUD's HAG funding serves as the first line of defense to address the immediate crisis of homelessness.

<https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/August2024>

[NAEH-HAG.pdf](#)



Steve Berg
Chief Policy Officer
National Alliance to End
Homelessness



Opportunities to Advocate with Congress

- **Schedule Virtual and/or In-Person Meetings**
- **Email and Letter Writing Campaigns**
- **Phone Calls**
- **Plan Local and Regional Town Halls (when members are back home)**
- **Sign up for NAEH Action Alerts:**
 - <https://endhomelessness.org/actions/sign-alliance-advocacy-alerts/>

Guest Speaker

Kimberly M. Speights

Executive Director

The Community Kitchens of Birmingham



COMMUNITY KITCHENS

Birmingham

***Southside: 1024 12th Street South
Woodlawn: 5712 1st Avenue North
205.251.3569
www.thecommunitykitchens.org***



***Working to close the gap in access to food, healthcare,
mental health services, and addiction recovery services
for the unhoused, underserved, and under-represented in
Jefferson County.***

What is food and nutrition insecurity?

The CDC (2022), defines food and nutrition insecurity as persons unable to access or afford enough food or enough nutritious food for their overall health and well-being.

What causes food and nutrition insecurity?

Most food and nutrition insecurity problems are related to social determinants of health such as:

- ✓ Low income or unemployment
- ✓ Lack of access to nutritious foods
- ✓ Lack of affordable housing
- ✓ Lack of access to healthcare

In 2021, the CDC estimated 33.8 million people in the United States were food insecure, meaning they did not have consistent, dependable access to sufficient quality or quantity of food. Food insecurity affects health outcomes, increasing the risk of hypertension and other chronic health conditions.



Homeless & Hungry

Homelessness continues to challenge service providers in the US where nearly 600,000 individuals are without their own place to stay on any given night (NAEH, 2018).

With significant barriers preventing access to healthy, socially acceptable food, homeless persons remain at risk for experiencing long-term food insecurity.

According to the Alabama Department of Public Health (2024), Alabama is the 5th poorest state in the nation, with 17% of adults and 23% of children (1 out of 4) facing food insecurity, or lack of regular access to enough nutritious food for an active, healthy life.

A reported **3,752 people** were experiencing homelessness in Alabama in January 2022, and an estimated 42.1% of them were unsheltered.

The total food insecure population in Jefferson County, Alabama is 102,050

Of the state's homeless population, **1,153** were counted in the Birmingham area.

According to OneRoof's 2023 Point In Time Homeless Count:

- 518 were Black, African American
- 295 were White
- 17 Multiracial (not Hispanic/Latino)
- 14 were American Indian, Alaska Native
- 2 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 1 Asian or Asian American
- 579 Men
- 256 Women
- 11 Transgender
- 1 Non-Binary



How is food insecurity related to poverty and the nutrition safety net?

Data from the USDA indicate that most people living in poverty are food secure, and the majority of people facing hunger live above the federal poverty line (\$31,200 for a family of four as of January 2024).

Regardless of whether a person officially lives in poverty or resides in a food-insecure home, the reality is that many people need food assistance. Income eligibility thresholds for the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the nation's largest food assistance program, and the first line of defense against hunger**, range from 130% to 200% of the federal poverty line (\$40,560 to \$62,400 for a family of four as of January 2024). As a result, many people who are food insecure have incomes or assets that are too high to qualify for these critical benefits. National data from the USDA indicates that approximately 50% of people facing hunger have incomes that are above the federal gross income limit for SNAP (130% of the federal poverty line) and thus may be ineligible for the program.

The quantity of households that experience food insecurity and do not qualify for SNAP further underscores the importance of charitable food assistance.

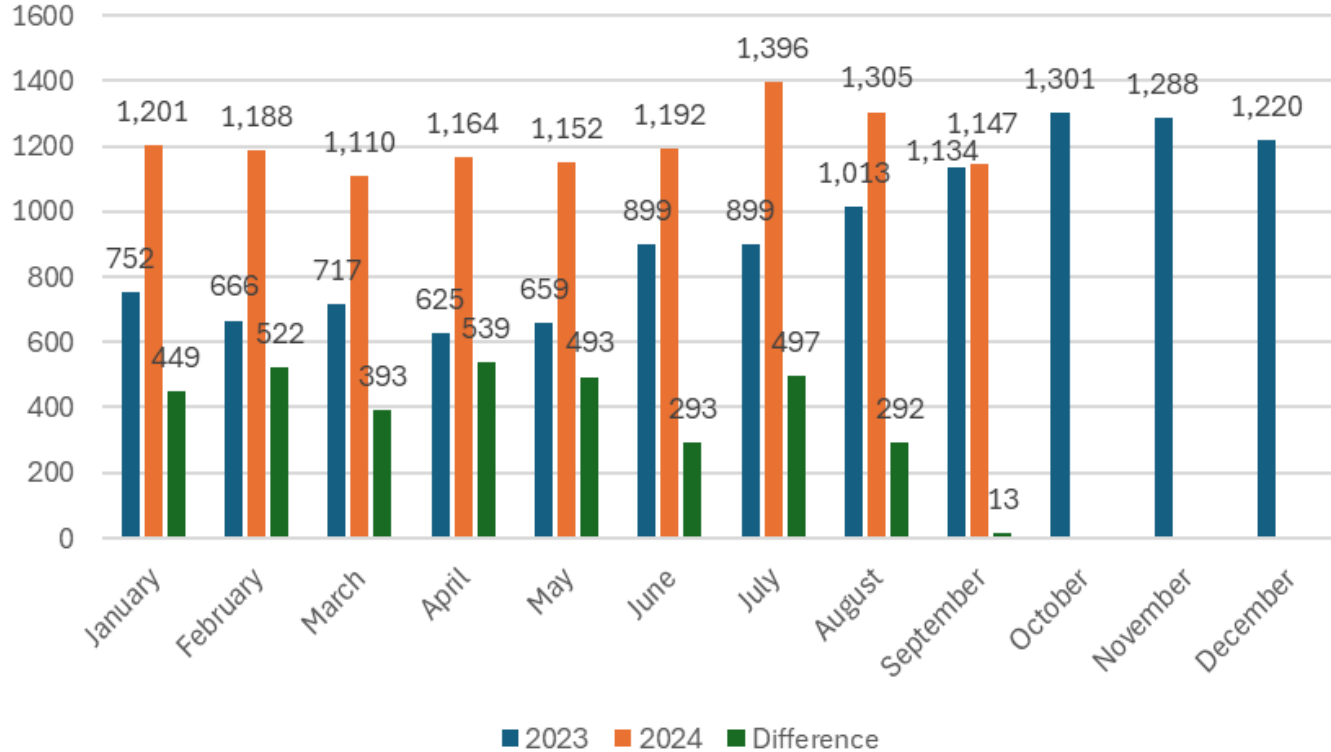


The Fiscal Year 2025 Transportation, Housing, & Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations Act provides \$98,737 billion in total discretionary funding.

- \$4.32 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants
- \$100 million of this is allocated for new permanent supportive housing and \$30 million for one-time capacity building grants and direct technical assistance to communities that are leveraging other funds, like Medicaid to connect individuals experiencing homelessness to housing-related services and behavioral healthcare.
- \$4.6 billion for local community development and affordable housing needs through the Community Development Block Grant formula program and Economic Development Initiatives.
- \$1.425 billion for HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the primary federal tool for state and local governments to produce affordable rental and owner-occupied housing. This funding will allow for construction of more than 8,4.. New affordable homebuyer and rental units.
- This bill proposed at the federal level, aims to reduce homelessness, make homes more affordable, maintain existing rental assistance, connect people to both housing and health care, and rehabilitate distressed properties to preserve the existing affordable housing stock.



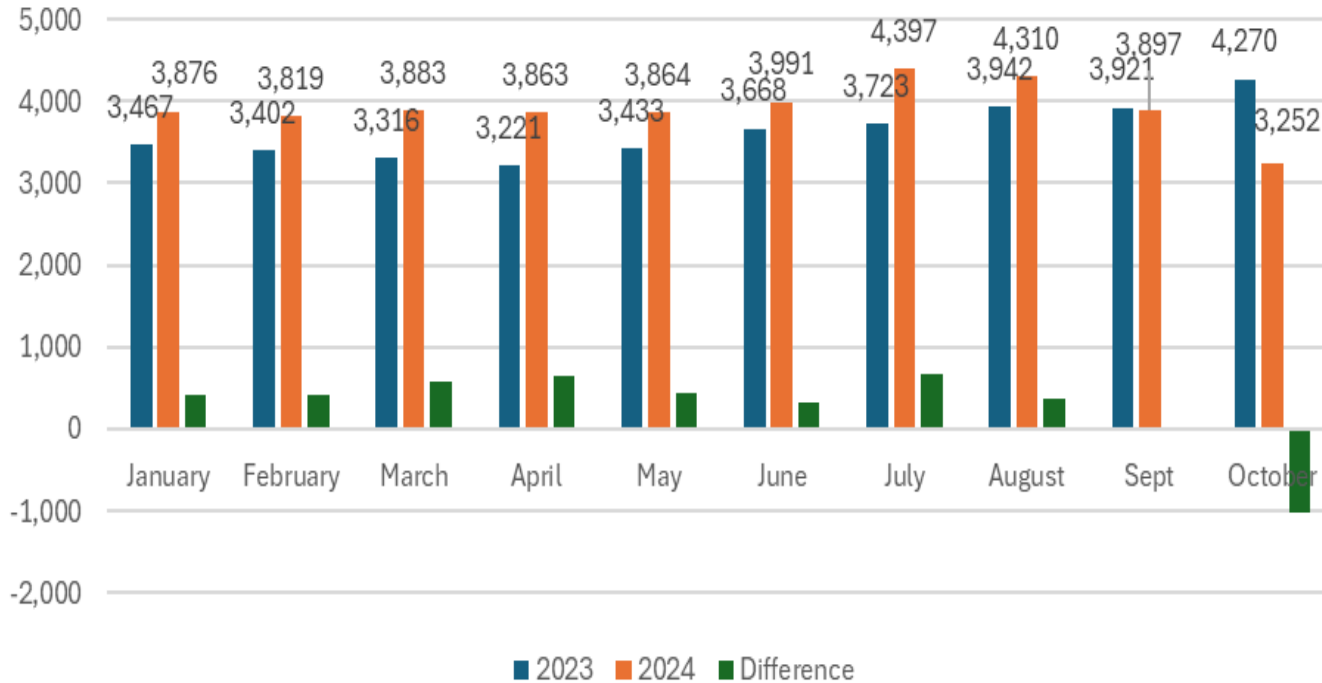
CK Breakfast Data



Effective October 1, 2024, due to an increase in rent and restricted serving hours at our Woodlawn location, we are no longer able to serve breakfast.



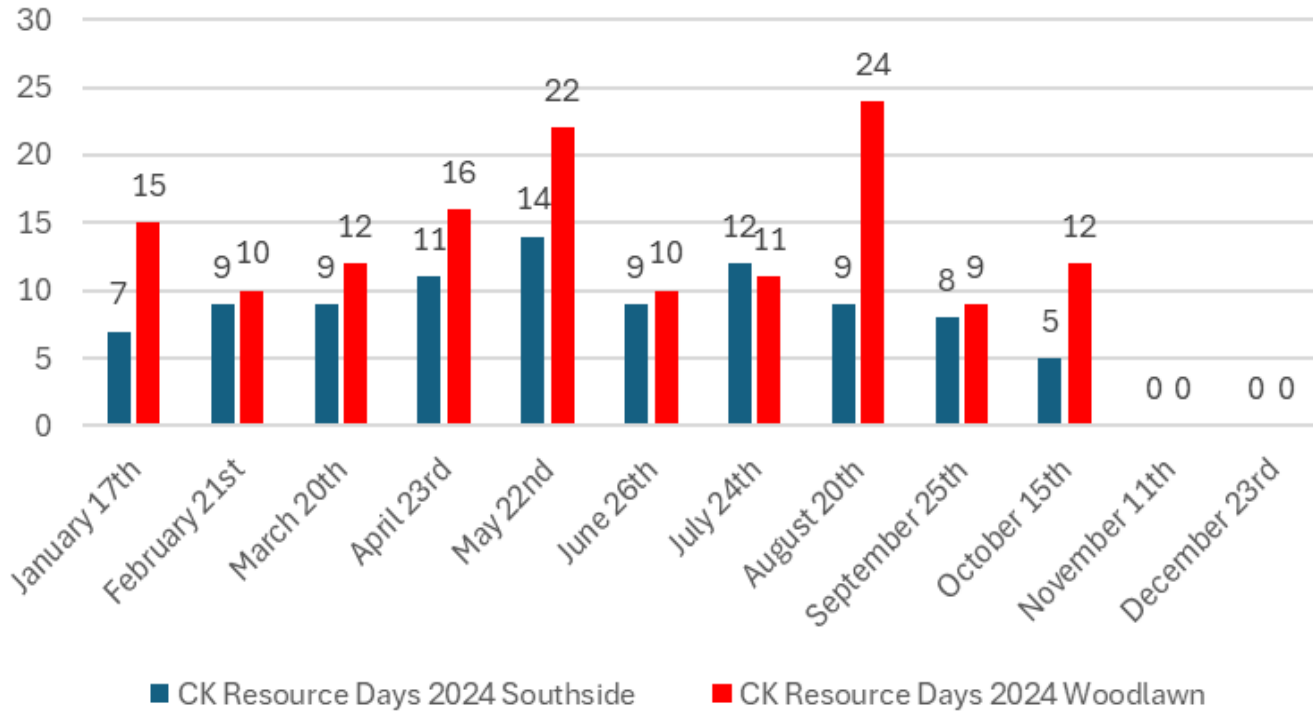
CK Serving Data



Working to close the gap in access to food, healthcare, mental health services, and addiction recovery services for the unhoused, underserved, and under-represented in Birmingham.



CK Resource Days 2024



****November 11th - CK 44th Birthday Bash**

****December 23rd - Holiday Party for Guest**



Community Kitchens Resource Partners



Guest Speaker

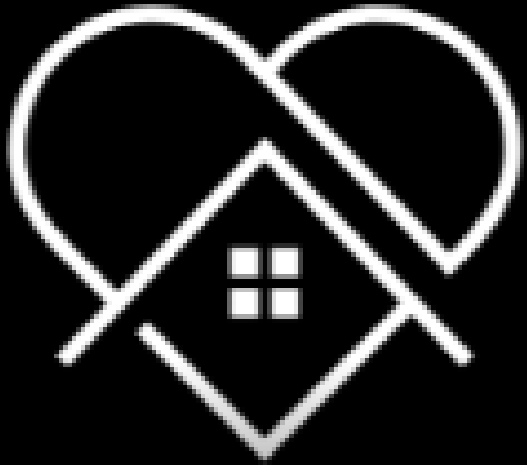
Foluke Akanni
Housing Action Illinois
Housing Policy Organizer

Guest Speaker

Laura E. Thielen

Executive Director

Partners In Care, O'ahu Continuum of Care



PARTNERS
IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care



Know and Understand the rules/laws regarding lobbying at the local and federal level.

HUD:

Prohibition Against Lobbying Activities. Applicants are subject to the provisions of Section 319 of Public Law 101-121, 31 U.S.C. 1352, (the Byrd Amendment), and 24 CFR part 87, which prohibit recipients of federal awards from using appropriated funds for lobbying the executive or legislative branches of the Federal government in connection with a Federal award. All applicants must submit with their application the signed

State of Hawaii:

§97-2 Registration of lobbyists, requirements. (a) Every lobbyist shall file a registration form with the state ethics commission within five days of becoming a lobbyist.

§97-2.2 Mandatory lobbyist training. (a) Before registering pursuant to section 97-2, each lobbyist shall complete the lobbyist training course administered by the state ethics commission.

GET TO KNOW YOUR POLICY MAKERS BEFORE SESSIONS START



**Senator
Brian Schatz**



**Representative
Ed Case**



**Representative
Jill Tokuda**



**Senator
Mazie Hirono**



GET TO KNOW YOUR POLICY MAKERS BEFORE SESSIONS START



**Governor
Josh
Green**



**Nadine K.
Nakamura**
Speaker of the House

House Committee on Health & Homelessness



**Della Au Belatti; Jenna
Takenouchi**

House Committee on Finance



Kyle Yamashita; Lisa Kitagawa



GET TO KNOW YOUR POLICY MAKERS BEFORE SESSIONS START



Mayor Rick
Blangiardi



District IV

Chair
Tommy Waters



District II
Matt Weyer

Housing,
Sustainability
and Health



District VII

Floor Leader
Radiant Cordero

Budget

MAIN FINDINGS

4,494

people experiencing homelessness
on O'ahu on the night of January 22, 2024



62%

Unsheltered

2,766 individuals were staying on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation



38%

Sheltered

1,728 individuals were staying in Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing or Vet Safe Haven

Change from 2023 - 2024

+12%

Total PIT Count

+17%

Unsheltered Count

+4%

Sheltered Count

**Strategic Use
of Data
You're the
EXPERT!**

From 2017 to 2022, the Point in Time Count showed a 26% decrease. However, all populations have seen increases since 2022. Examining the sheltered versus unsheltered populations, the sheltered count has **decreased** by 50% since 2010, and the unsheltered has **increased** by 62%, accounting for the bulk of the increase in the Point in Time count population

O'AHU HMIS INFLOW - OUTFLOW

While the PIT Count analyzes homelessness on one night of the year, the HMIS Inflow-Outflow section examines enrollment and exit data taken from the O'ahu CoC Homeless Management Information System, to identify trends in system engagement between February 2023 and January 2024. Not all individuals in HMIS are currently experiencing homelessness, some are housed. A client may be enrolled in multiple programs at one time and may have been enrolled in the same project type multiple times in one year.

12,441

(12,855 in 2023)

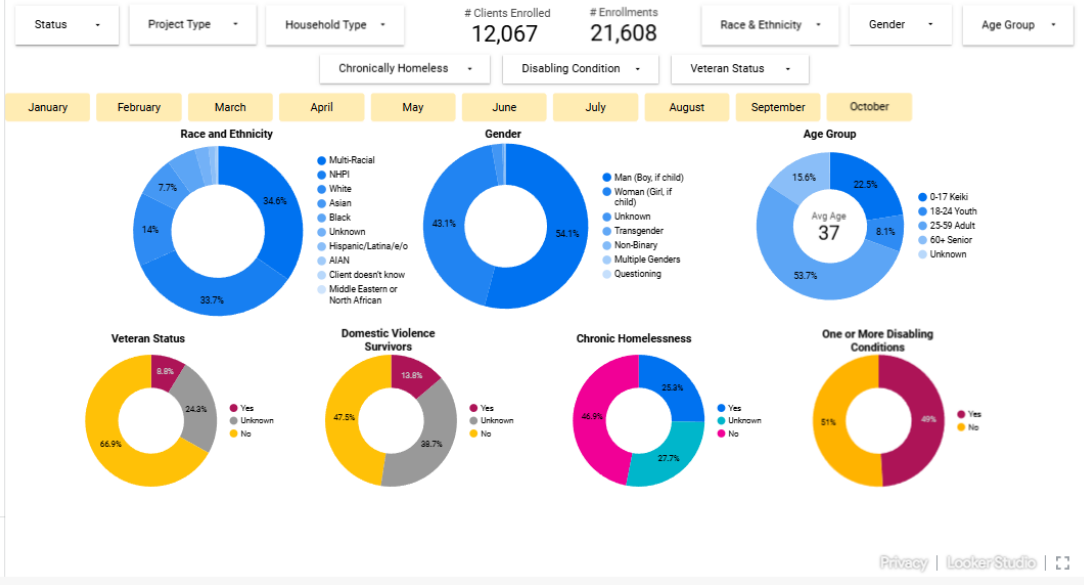
people engaging in services between February 2023 - January 2024



2024 HMIS Inflow & Outflow

Data last updated
November 11, 2024

This dashboard examines enrollment and exit data taken from the O'ahu Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to identify trends in system engagement throughout the year. Not all individuals in HMIS are currently experiencing homelessness, some are housed. When measuring the success of a system in ending homelessness, we examine whether homelessness in that community is rare, brief, and non-recurring. We can see this goal met when the number of exits to housing exceeds the number of people experiencing homelessness in a given month, when the length of time from the start of a homeless episode to housing is less than 45 days, and when no more than 5% of positive exits result in a return to the homeless system within two years.
To see national trends, you can find the [NAEH State of Homelessness 2023 Report](#) and the [National System Performance Measures 2022](#).



2024-2028 Strategic Plan for O'ahu

1. More and better street outreach

2. Better services for people living with Serious Mental Illness

3. Increase truly low-income housing options

4. Increase case management services and clinical support services to help people stay housed

5. Enhanced mental health services for people currently experiencing homelessness

6. Improving wages for non-profit direct service staff

7. Safe outdoor spaces for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, with hygiene facilities

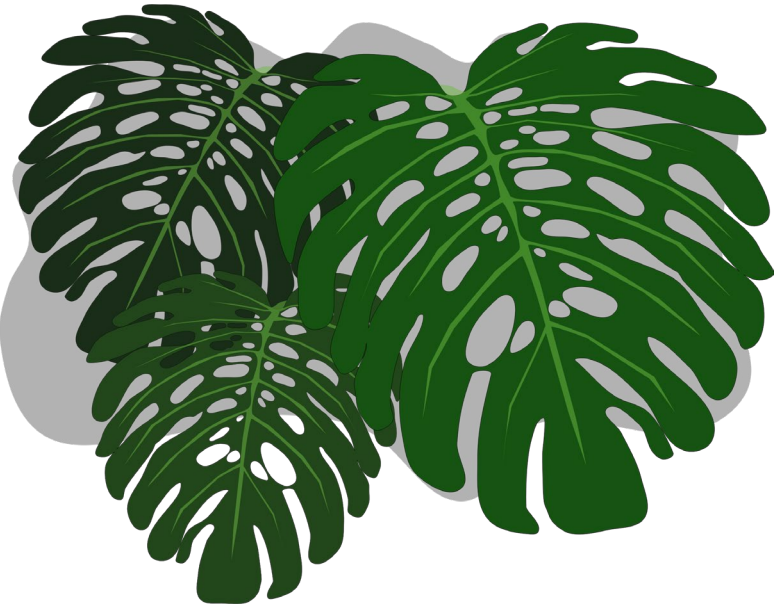
8. Meeting the needs of Native Hawaiians

9. Improving funding

10. Housing for households with complex medical needs

•Get Ready For Next Session!

- Review Successes and Missed Opportunities
- Check in with Policy Makers outside of session
- Create strategy for next session



Ann Oliva
Chief Executive Officer
National Alliance to End
Homelessness



Have Questions Regarding Advocacy?

Samantha Wood, Senior Field Organizer

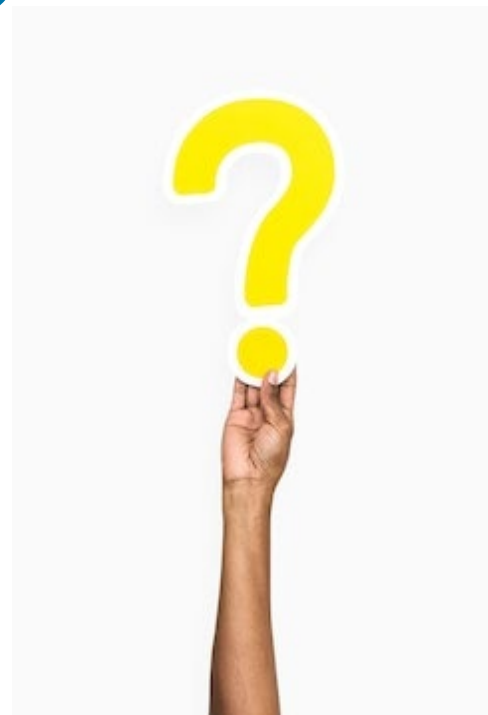
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John Threlkeld, Senior Congressional Affairs Manager

jthrelkeld@naeh.org

Sign Up for Action Alerts:

<https://endhomelessness.org/help-end-homelessness/take-action/>



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
BEING HERE TODAY!!!