

No family should be homeless.

Cincinnati we need your help.





Cincinnati Family Homelessness

Presentation to Cincinnati City Council
Committee on Equitable Growth and Housing

February 11, 2025



Family Housing Partnership (FHP)

- Founded in 2007, four agencies serve as the region's largest service network for homeless families in Hamilton County.
- Our coordinated approach addresses a wide range of families' urgent needs and seeks to prevent repeat episodes of homelessness.

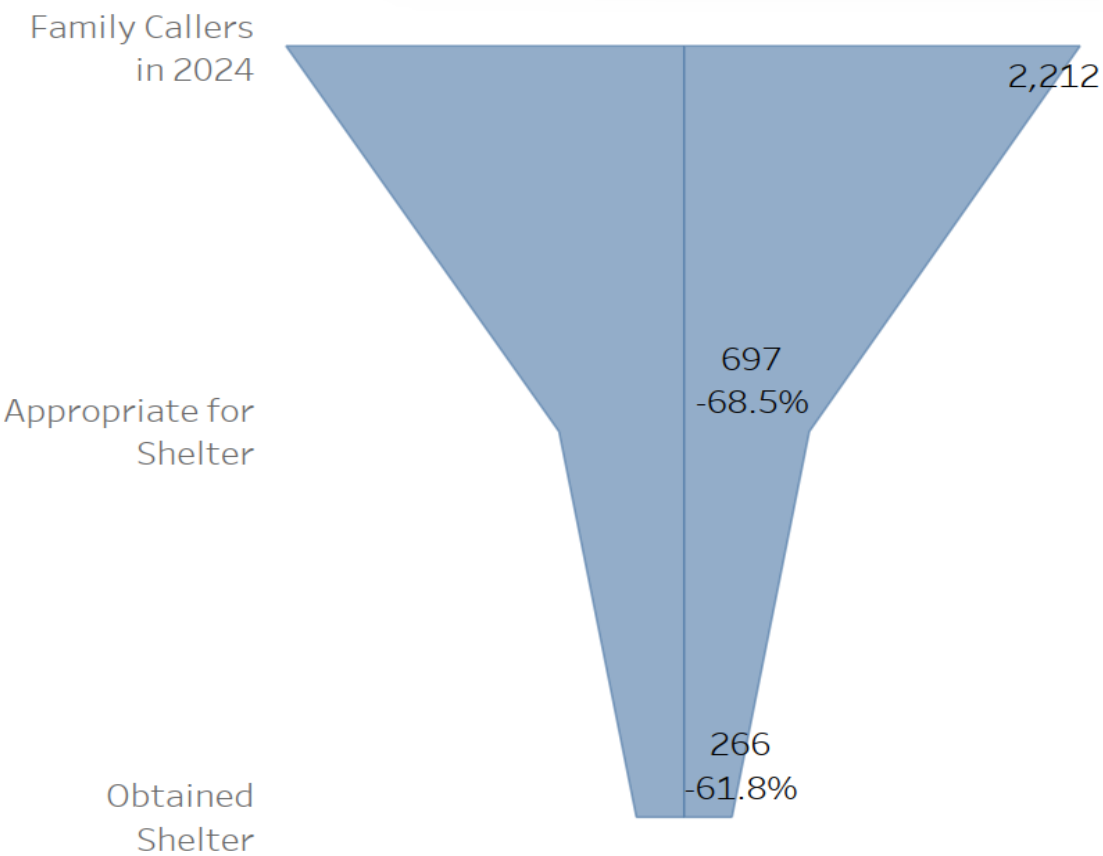
Wraparound Partners:

- St Vincent de Paul
- Lighthouse Youth Services
- Freestore Foodbank
- Cincinnati Public Schools (Project Connect)
- GCB
- Duke Energy/Community Action Agency "PIP"



Demand Creates Never Ending Waiting List

13% of All Families Who Called the Central Access Point (CAP)
(381-SAFE) for Help, Got Help in 2024



SHELTER

Only 38.2% of families in need of shelter received emergency shelter

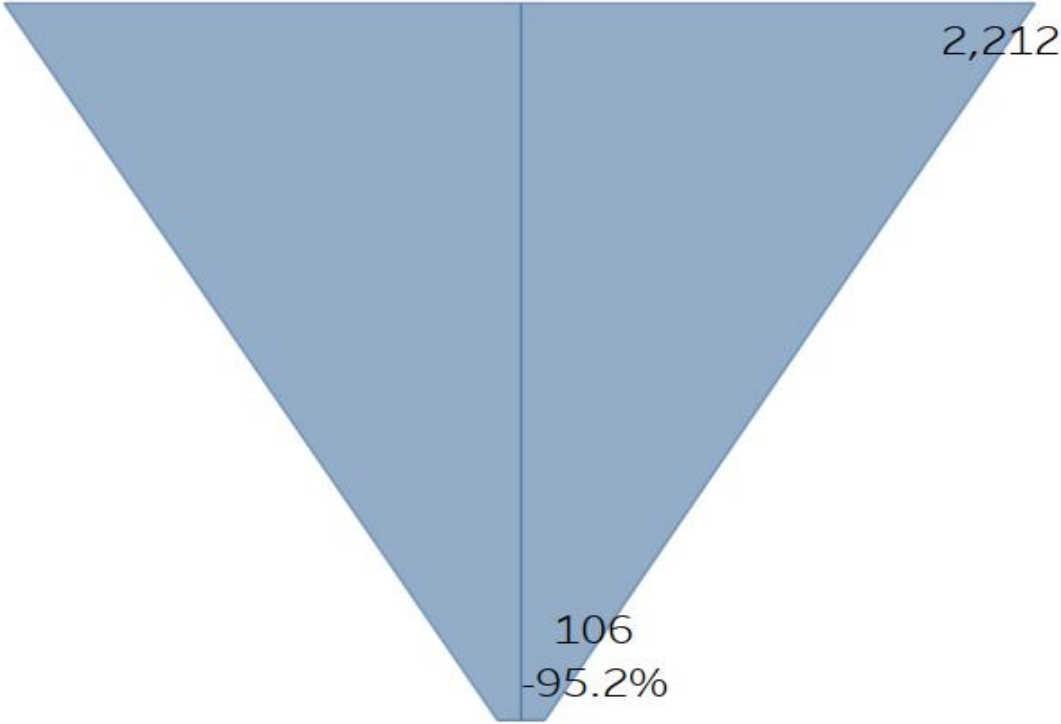


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Family Callers
in 2024



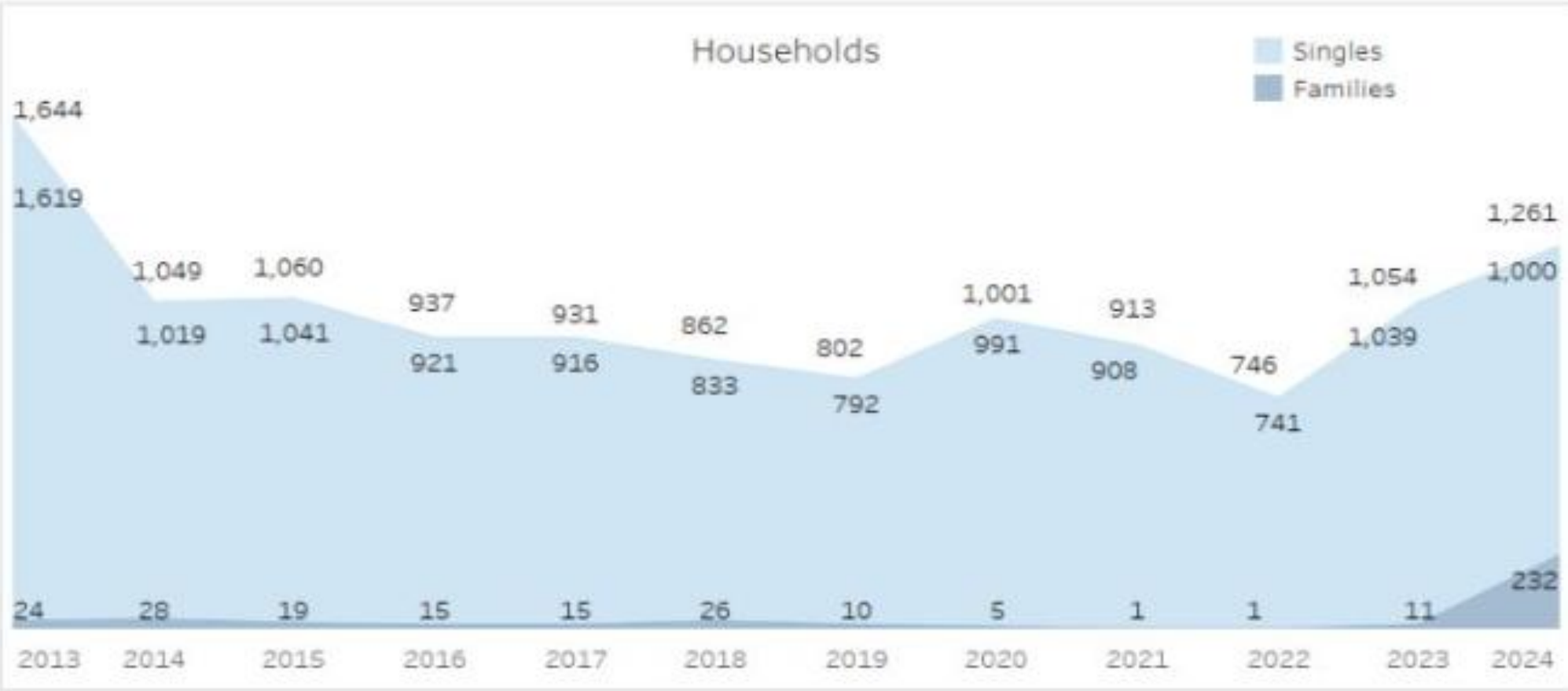
DIVERSION

Only 4.8% of families received Shelter Diversion services



Family Street Outreach

New in 2024 - Unprecedented numbers of Unsheltered Children & Families



Life-Changing Holistic Services

We work side-by-side with families to support them finding a job and stable housing. We also connect families to medical and mental healthcare and assist with getting kids back in school or into childcare. Short-term financial assistance is offered.



SHELTER

449
Families



1571
Individuals



1024
Children



69,767
Bed Nights



DIVERSION

351

1231

807

NA



Children Bear the Brunt of Homelessness



Family homelessness has a significant and life-changing impact on children if not effectively addressed. Children bear the brunt of homelessness, as homeless children are:

- Sick and hungry twice as often
- Change schools seven to eight times per year
- Twice as likely to repeat a grade
- One-to-two years behind in school
- Diagnosed with twice the average rate of learning disabilities
- By the time homeless children are eight years old, one in three has a major mental health disorder.

Bassuk, Ellen L., MD and Steven M. Friedman, PhD. "Facts on Trauma and Homeless Children." *National Child Traumatic Stress Network Homelessness and Extreme Poverty Working Group*, 2005.

We must do more to break the cycle of generational homelessness in families.



Our Holistic Services Work

- Each FHP agency provides a full continuum of services: prevention, emergency shelter, re-housing after shelter, and aftercare
- Our unique children's services include trauma groups, afterschool tutoring, summer field trips & academic camps, as well as parent-child play education along with the school enrollment and daycare placement services
- We raise more than \$250,000+ per year for one-time financial assistance and deliver very good outcomes:



85%+ Permanently housed



50%+ Maintain/Increase Income



85-90%+ Stay Housed

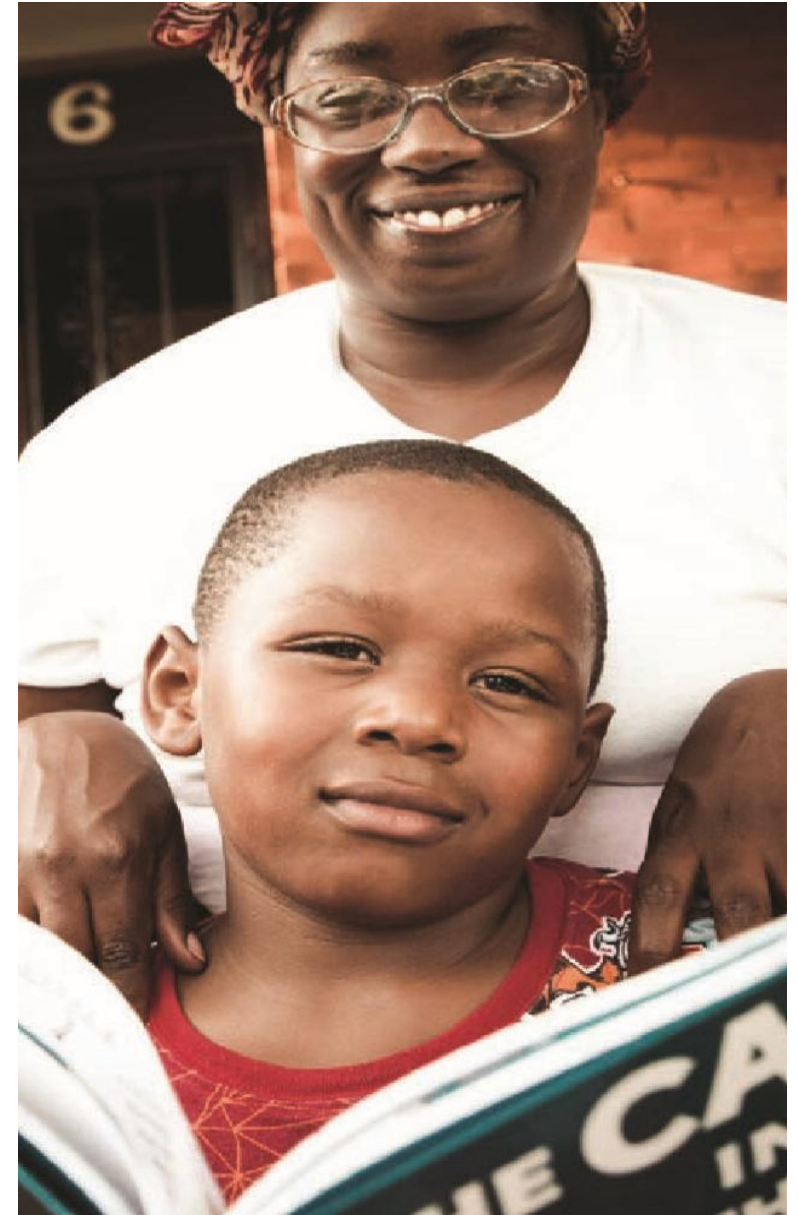


Families Have Deeper and More Barriers to Staying Housed

- Barriers to ability to work full-time or two jobs in order to afford housing
 - Loss of significant daycare capacity during COVID
 - High prevalence (40%) of children and adults with ability or health challenges (developmental, learning, mental health/trauma, chronic health conditions)
 - 50% of families require longer term rental assistance

Availability of Entry Housing Impacting Capacity

- Rents & the rental market since 2021 have exacerbated housing instability and length of time homeless
 - Multibedroom rental units at 30-50% AMI are SCARCE
 - Loss of longer-term rental assistance through CMHA vouchers has been devastating, expecting to impact more than 150 families exiting shelter & shelter diversion
 - Length of stay in shelter went from 45 to 60 days, limiting how many families can be served over the year



Barriers to Engaging Families Earlier

- Families think the financial issue is short term or one time versus the beginning of a snowball; so no early ask for assistance
- Families are unaware that help is available that will keep them in the home; *and for many there is not enough financial assistance available*
- Families often involved in other systems and are “weary” of help - school, mental health, disabilities/health care, public assistance
 - Other systems also unaware of where to send individuals





eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Greater Cincinnati



Thank You!

 STRATEGIES TO
END HOMELESSNESS

