

CHICAGO'S PLAN 2.0



SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

WINTER 2015



INTRODUCTION

Plan 2.0: A Home for Everyone was launched in 2012 with input from more than 500 stakeholders with an interest in preventing and ending homelessness. Plan 2.0 is a broad-ranging, seven-year action plan that focuses on homeless prevention, a Housing First and wraparound services model, and identifying new strategies to improve access and opportunity for those most in need. It is divided into seven strategic priorities that represent best practices on preventing and ending homelessness gathered from across the country. Plan 2.0's strategic priorities are:

THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM	1
Create an effective crisis response system that prevents homelessness whenever possible and rapidly returns people who experience homelessness to stable housing.	
ACCESS TO STABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING	2
Create and maintain stable and affordable housing for households who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.	
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS	3
Create a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate menu of services for youth who experience homelessness in order to prevent homeless youth from becoming the next generation of homeless adults.	
EMPLOYMENT	4
Increase meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.	
ADVOCACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	5
Engage all of Chicago in a robust plan that creates a path to securing a home for everyone in our community.	
CROSS-SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	6
Work across public and private systems of care to ensure ending homelessness is a shared priority.	
CAPACITY BUILDING	7
Ensure a strong homeless assistance system capable of implementing Plan 2.0 goals and HEARTH Act performance standards.	

Since 2012, we have weathered sequestration, a \$2.3 million reduction in federal funding, continued threats to state funding, and decreased private investment. However, new service and planning initiatives have taken root with a ten percent increase in City funding for homeless services and through innovative partnerships with other systems.

As we measure progress towards Plan 2.0's strategic priorities, we are aware of the need for more stakeholders and partners to help us take additional steps forward. We invite you to consider how you can join us in this collaborative effort to reach our city's goal of ending homelessness.

2015 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

Introduction

The City of Chicago’s Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) conducted a point-in-time count of homeless persons in shelters and on the streets on January 22nd, 2015. Local governmental entities, local policy and advocacy groups, service providers, other essential partners, and more than 400 volunteers and staff participated.

Survey results continue to confirm long-standing disparities among Chicago’s homeless population. It remains overwhelmingly African American and outpaced the city in its proportion of children and veterans. Mental illness, substance use, unemployment, domestic violence, former incarceration, and other challenges continue to be prevalent and pose challenges to obtaining and maintaining stable housing. Read the complete [2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count & Survey Report here*](#).

Results

The number of homeless persons identified in the 2015 street and shelter count was 6,786.

Fewer homeless persons were sheltered in 2015 than 2014 (70%) and more were unsheltered (30%).

We also saw an increase in the proportion of unsheltered males, and a decrease in the proportion of females.

Gender, age, race and ethnicity breakdowns remained fairly consistent with previous years.

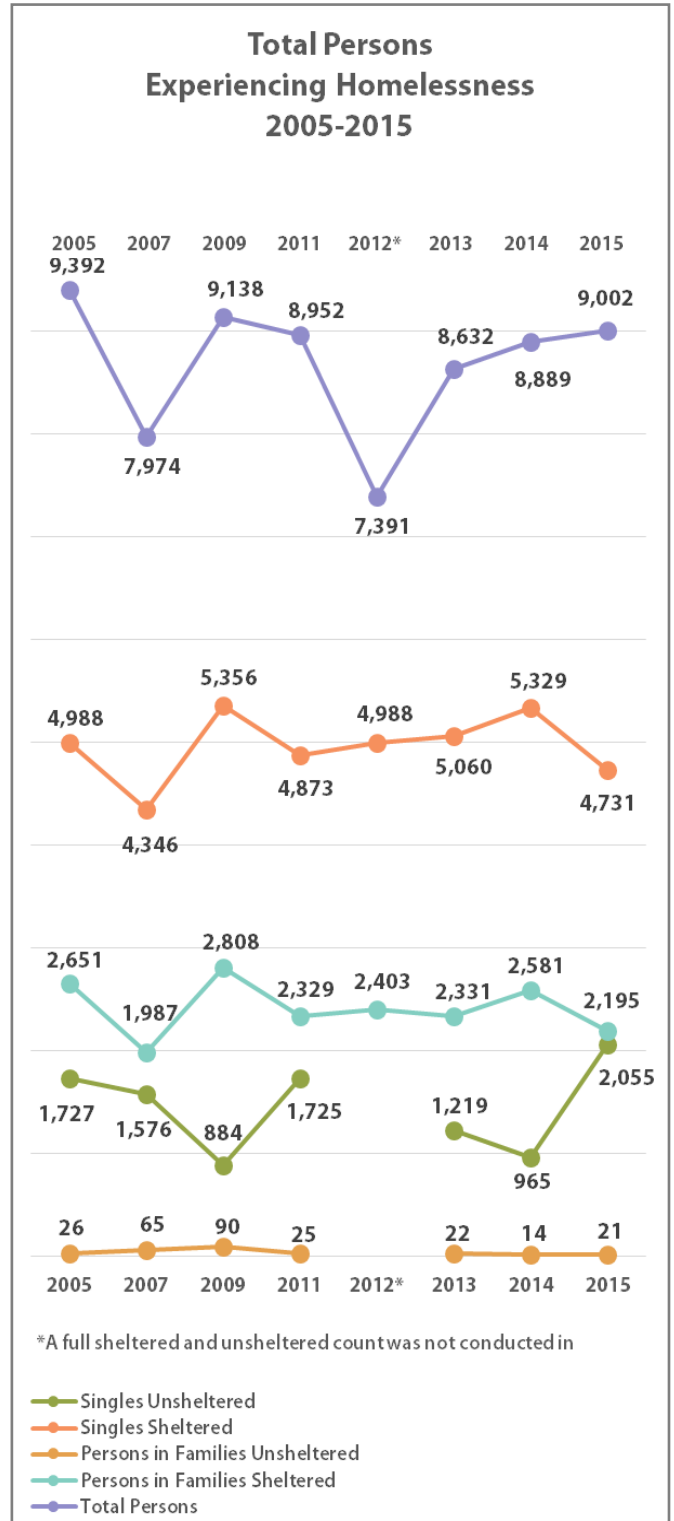


Figure 1 - Source: 2005 - 2015 PIT Counts/Surveys

Households Experiencing Homelessness

- 2015 saw the lowest number of families in shelters since 2007, a 15% decrease since 2014.
- 2,536 singles were staying in shelters, an 8% decrease from 2014.
- 2,032 singles were unsheltered without a family member, more than double from 2014.
- There were 1,422 youth under the age of 18.

Subpopulation Demographics

- 8% of sheltered and 33% of the unsheltered population were experiencing chronic homelessness.
- 15% of Chicago's homeless population are veterans.
- 29% of homeless individuals reported a current or past substance use barrier.
- 20% of sheltered households reported a mental health barrier.
- 25% of unsheltered households reported a mental health barrier, an increase from 2014.
- 4% of sheltered and 3% of unsheltered individuals reported living with HIV/AIDS.
- Over 25% reported being a survivor of domestic violence.
- 56% of males and 29% of females reported having spent time in jail or prison.
- 19% of sheltered and 11% of the unsheltered persons report being employed.
- With the exception of unemployment benefits, rates of access to services and benefits increased.

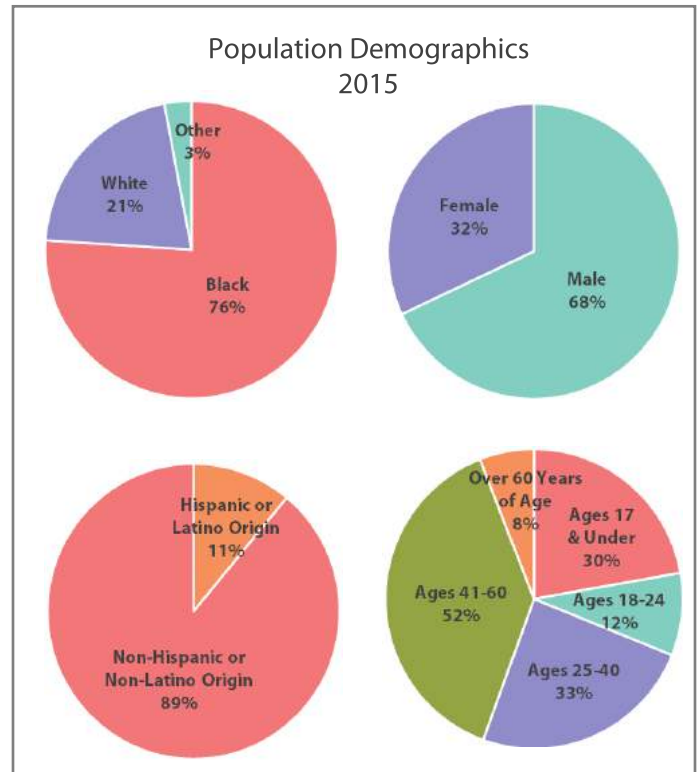


Figure 2 - Source: 2005 - 2015 PIT Counts/Surveys

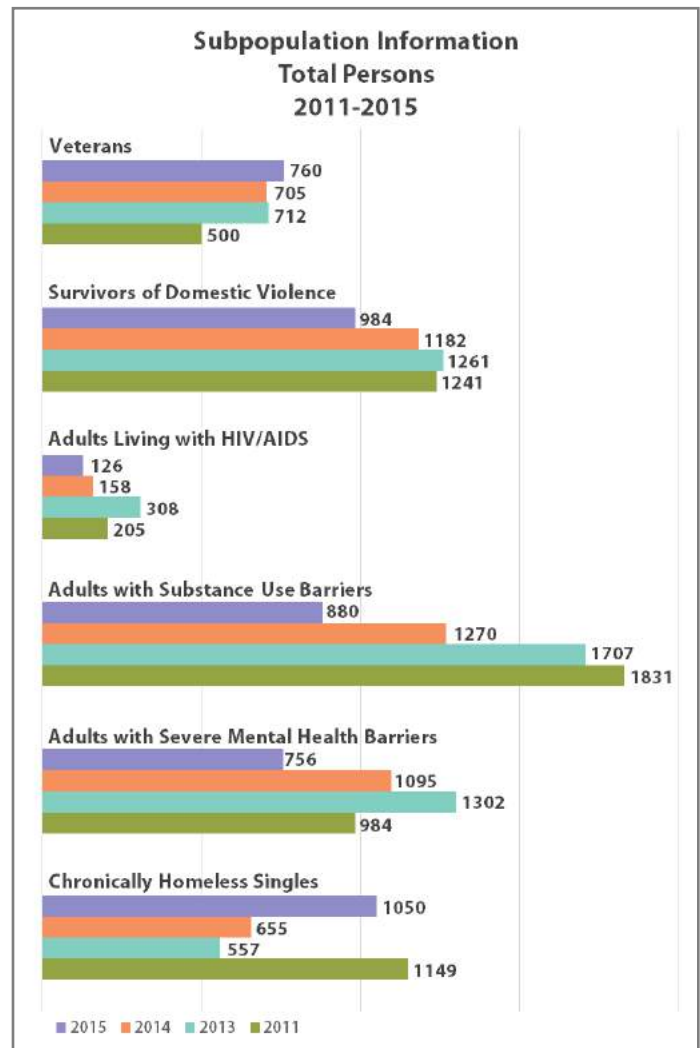


Figure 3 - Source: 2005 - 2015 PIT Counts/Surveys

THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

GOAL

Create an effective crisis response system that prevents homelessness whenever possible and rapidly returns people who experience homelessness to stable housing.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Create a coordinated access system for prevention, emergency shelter, and interim housing.
- ▶ Double the prevention and diversion resources for families and singles to \$4.4 million by 2019 to reduce the number of new households experiencing homelessness.

- In April 2015, the Chicago Continuum of Care Interim Board of Directors endorsed a framework for implementing a coordinated access system. The framework and recommendations were developed over a two-year period by the Coordinated Access Steering Committee (CASC), with extensive community feedback throughout the process. The new system will include the following components:

- In-person, phone and street outreach access points
- HMIS as the shared data platform
- Common assessment tool
- Diversion and crisis paths
- Range of permanent housing options

CASC will now finalize an implementation plan to move the plan from concept to full implementation.

- In a groundbreaking new study, the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities at the University of Notre Dame partnered with the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Homelessness Prevention Call Center, and All Chicago to determine whether one-time financial assistance is effective at preventing homelessness. The integration of data between the Homelessness Prevention Call Center and HMIS, combined with the way our system screens callers, provided a perfect research sample that does not exist anywhere else in the nation. Callers were tracked to determine if or when they entered a shelter and if they had previously received financial assistance to prevent homelessness. Results showed that:
 - Those calling when funds were available were 65% less likely to enter a shelter within 6 months
 - Callers with especially low incomes (less than \$750 per month) calling when funds were available were 80 % less likely to enter a shelter within 6 months

Read more details on the study [here](#)*.

*<https://leo.nd.edu/research-initiatives/homeless-prevention/>

ACCESS TO STABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

GOAL

Create and maintain stable and affordable housing for households who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Increase the number of rapid re-housing units from 737 to 2,768 to meet projected need.
- ▶ Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units from 6,842 to 8,814.
- ▶ Harness funding from all levels of government to expand affordable housing options for extremely low-income (15% or below of area median income) households to 3,515 units.

- Since 2012, Chicago has seen an overall increase in the number of permanent housing and transitional housing units. There has been an overall decrease in the number of emergency shelter beds.

- Over the last year, there has been a decrease in the number of permanent housing and emergency shelter units. The number of transitional housing beds has remained steady.

- 47% of the total housing options goal has been achieved (32% of the family unit and 52% of the individual unit goals)

- 73% of the permanent supportive housing units goal has been achieved (55% of the family unit and 78% of the individual unit goals)

- 12% of the rapid re-housing unit goal has been achieved (21% of the family unit and 6% of the individual unit goals)

- Chicago has made some progress in meeting the housing objectives. However, significant increases in units and a coordinated development plan to reach these goals are needed.

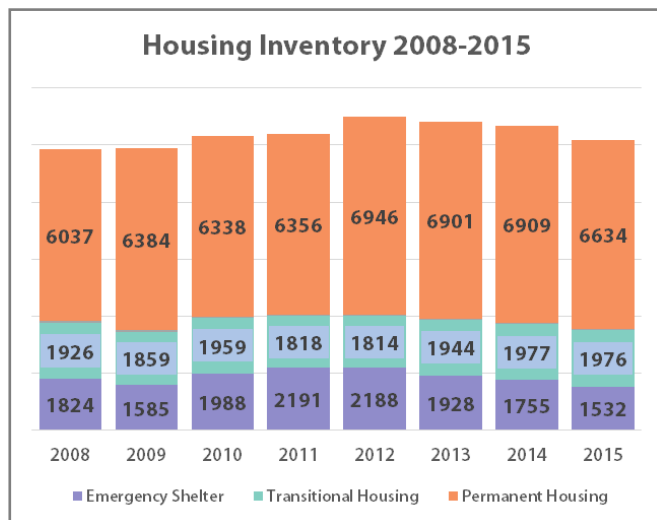


Figure 4 - Source: 2005 - 2015 Housing Inventory Chart

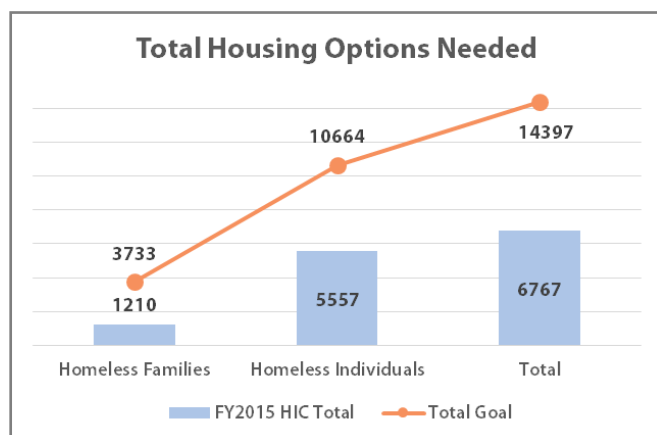


Figure 5 - Source: 2005 - 2015 Housing Inventory Chart

ACCESS TO STABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Projected Housing Need:	2013 Need	2015 Need	Percentage Change
Permanent Supportive Housing			
Family Units	869	808	7%
Individual Units	570	1,576	176%*
Total Units	1,439	2,384	65%
Rapid Re-Housing			
Family Units	509	704	38%
Individual Units	1,380	1,110	-19%
Total Units	1,889	1,814	-3%
Affordable Housing			
Family Units	1,064	1,011	-4%
Individual Units	2,373	2,421	2%
Total Units	3,437	3,432	-0.1%

*2012 need was 1,113

Figure 6 - Sources: 2005 - 2015 Housing Inventory Chart, 2005-2015 PIT Counts/Surveys

Strategies that have contributed to the housing outcomes over the last year include:

- The Chicago Housing Authority has invested in 800 units for households experiencing homelessness. 350 units will be available through a Sponsor Based Voucher program, with 50 units for homeless youth, 50 units for homeless families, and 250 units for homeless households that are also on CHA waiting lists. 450 units will be available over three years for homeless Veterans to be paired with services offered through Supportive Services for Veteran Families programs.
- In response to unmet need for permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing for Veterans, DFSS worked with delegate agencies to create 60 additional units for Veterans through over-leasing of Shelter Plus Care contracts, and prioritized more than \$1 million in Emergency Solutions Grant funding for Veterans rapid-rehousing.
- The University of Illinois Health Systems and 28 supportive housing providers, led by the Center for Housing and Health, launched a Better Health Through Housing pilot in October 2015. With a \$250,000 investment from U of I, partners provide outreach, location, and long-term supportive housing services for at least 25 participants identified as homeless and high users of hospitals, emergency rooms, and nursing homes.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

GOAL

Create a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate menu of services for youth who experience homelessness in order to prevent homeless youth from becoming the next generation of homeless adults.

KEY OBJECTIVE

► Triple the capacity of the youth housing system by 2019 from 266 to 800 beds.

- The Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, with pro-bono legal partners, released the Illinois Legal Issues and Options Handbook for youth experiencing housing instability. The handbook provides critical tools on legal issues that negatively impact housing stability for young people. Topics include foster care, housing, education and employment, LBGTO, and many more. The handbook can be found online at www.homelesseyouth.org/illinois
- With founding support from the Knight Family Foundation, Pierce Family Foundation, and the Polk Bros. Foundation, the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative (CYSI) released a [needs assessment](#)* in May 2015. Based on a comprehensive, youth-driven research process, a recommendation was made for the implementation of several different, concurrently operating storage strategies across all regions of Chicago to help young people with a spectrum of storage needs that may change over time. Solutions include:
 - Secure storage units at overnight youth shelters, drop-in centers, and schools;
 - Daily/overnight storage access with phone charging capabilities
 - Virtual/cloud based storage

CYSI's first storage program partner, Ujima (a program of Unity Parenting & Counseling) will launch a 65-unit storage program in December 2015, serving 150 unique young people in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood within its first year of operation.

- In 2015, the Point-In-Time count included a supplemental youth count, with extended hours and locations. 157 youth were surveyed.
 - 81% were between the ages of 18-24
 - 55% were male, 35% were female, and 8% were transgender
 - 69% were African American, 23% were Hispanic/Latino
 - 50% planned to stay in emergency/transitional shelter, 20% planned to stay with family/friends, 12% were in permanent housing, and 19% planned to stay in places not meant for human habitation such as the CTA or 24-hour restaurants.
 - 28% were domestic violence survivors
 - 35% had spent time in foster care

*<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/CYSI-Report-Digital-05-15-15.pdf>

EMPLOYMENT

GOAL

Increase meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.

KEY OBJECTIVE

► Increase the number of households employed at exit.

- As illustrated in the chart below, Chicago saw a 3.7% increase in the number of adults exiting homeless services projects with an increase in non-employment income and a 5.6% increase in employment income.

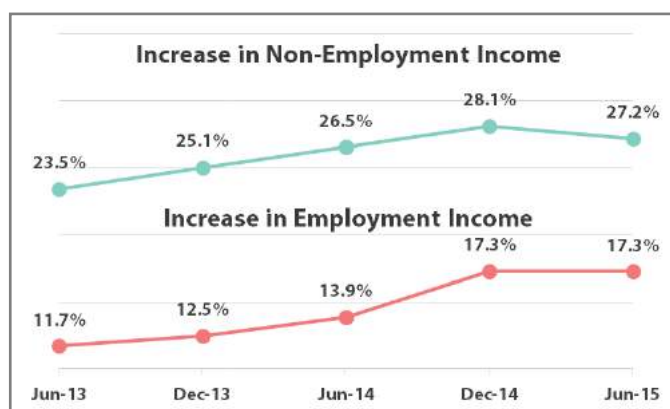


Figure 7 - Source: Q3 2015 Data Dashboard

Strategies that have contributed to these outcomes over the last year include but are not limited to:

- The Employment Task Force successfully secured a grant from the National Center on Employment and Homelessness for the Destination: Jobs project. The Chicago Jobs Council serves as the "team lead."

Destination: Jobs will support the development and implementation of a universal employment assessment that will connect individuals to the right set of employment services and provide the highest likelihood of success, with the overall goal of doubling the employment success rate over the next three years.

- The Plan 2.0 Employment Task Force will develop policies to improve access to employment opportunities, including planning for the implementation of the newly approved [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#).
- Programs began to implement the revised [CoC Program Models Chart](#), which includes new earned and unearned income program and performance outcomes

ADVOCACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

GOAL

Create an effective crisis response system that prevents homelessness whenever possible and rapidly returns people who experience homelessness to stable housing.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Advocate for additional resources to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ Increase civic participation and commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.
- The Youth Permanent Housing Workgroup advocated successfully with the CHA to set-aside 50 of the agencies new sponsor-based units for homeless youth 18-24 and to allow the youth providers to pull from their own waitlists to fill the units.
- On September 10, Housing Action Illinois, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, CSH, and the Supportive Housing Providers Association released a survey of state-funded homeless service providers, which found that the state budget impasse has forced, or will soon force, almost all of these nonprofit agencies (90%) to deny assistance to people at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. Read the full report [here](#)*

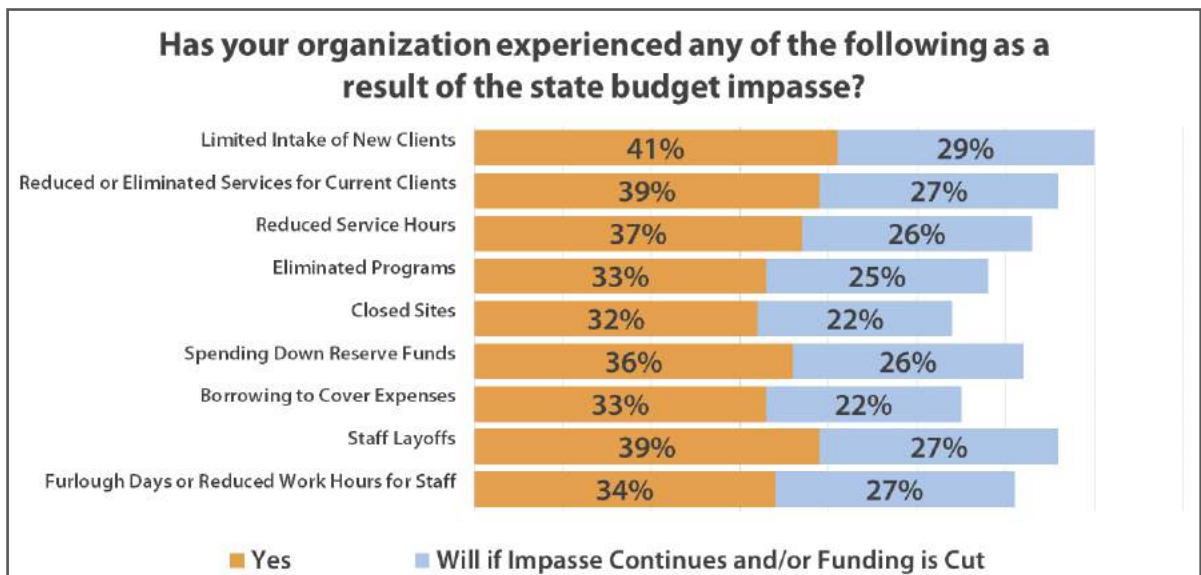


Figure 8 - Source: 2015 State Budget Impasse Survey

This advocacy effort was a huge mobilization success with more than 100 homeless service providers responding to the survey. Because of the timeliness and magnitude of this issue, the report garnered significant press coverage from TV, radio, and print.

*<http://housingactionil.org/2015/09/10/6522/>

CROSS-SYSTEMS INTEGRATION

GOAL

Work across public and private systems of care to ensure ending homelessness is a shared priority.

KEY OBJECTIVE

- ▶ Foster sustained, high-level coordination among government agencies on the issue of ending homelessness.
- ▶ Ensure rapid assessment and connection to mainstream resources for all households experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- The Ending Veterans Homelessness Initiative (EVHI) is a joint initiative by the City of Chicago, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA); All Chicago, CSH, and more than 25 nonprofit partners to work to end veterans homelessness in Chicago. This year, the partners created a by-name registry of all homeless Veterans in Chicago by merging data from HMIS and Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and creating a system to assess Veterans as they are identified. A common Veteran assessment prioritizes Veterans for housing matches to the appropriate housing resource. To date, the EVHI has helped us house nearly 1,500 Veterans and to make significant progress in building a coordinated access system that is equipped to ensure that episodes of homelessness are rare, brief, and non-recurring.
- Through HUD's Housing and Health (H2) technical assistance initiative, a planning meeting was held in July 2015. Out of that meeting, Chicago and Cook County leaders developed a Chicago/Cook County Housing and Health Action for implementation in 2016. The plan has three strategic priorities: 1) Integrate homeless and healthcare databases; 2) Improve health outcomes and coordination between homeless services and Medicaid managed care; and 3) increase supportive housing capacity. The plan will be guided by a governing council including public and private funders, health and housing providers, managed care entities, and system level organizations.
- Everywhere Wireless is partnering with ReVive Center for Housing and Healing to bridge the digital divide for 126 permanent supportive and affordable housing apartments by delivering high speed internet service at no cost.

CAPACITY BUILDING

GOAL

Ensure a strong homeless assistance system capable of implementing Plan 2.0 goals and HEARTH Act performance standards

KEY OBJECTIVE

- ▶ Increase Chicago's outcome achievements in relation to Plan 2.0 and HEARTH Act performance measures.
- The Center for Housing and Health and All Chicago developed an outreach database, which rolled out on September 29th and is being utilized throughout the City of Chicago and suburbs. The database was created in HMIS as a way for outreach teams to track the location and contact information of participants, with the goal of reducing duplication of services, increasing communication between agencies and connecting participants to housing providers quickly.
- Since January 2015, All Chicago's Learning Center has provided more than 130 technical assistance trainings. Topics included HMIS new user and refresher training, Roberts Rules of Order, All Chicago 101, HMIS and Performance, Self-Care, Defining and Recording Chronic Homelessness, and a SOAR Provider Introduction, among others. In total more than 2,200 attendees have taken advantage of these workshops that are designed to build the capacity of the entire CoC.
- The Center for Housing and Health has been conducting Affordable Care Act (ACA) technical assistance focused on Medicaid enrollment, maintaining health care benefits, Medicaid Managed Care education and enrollment, all of which help to increase access to health care services for participants. The trainings offer an overview of health care changes while also providing case managers with specific, concrete steps to assist households as they access services through this new system of health care.
- The Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative Leadership Team (All Chicago, CHA, CSH, DFSS, HUD, and Jesse Brown VA Medical Center) have conducted more than 20 Veteran-specific trainings on HMIS and accessing resources, with more than 300 attendees.