



Department Source: Public Health and Human Services

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 15, 2023

Re: Update on Homelessness

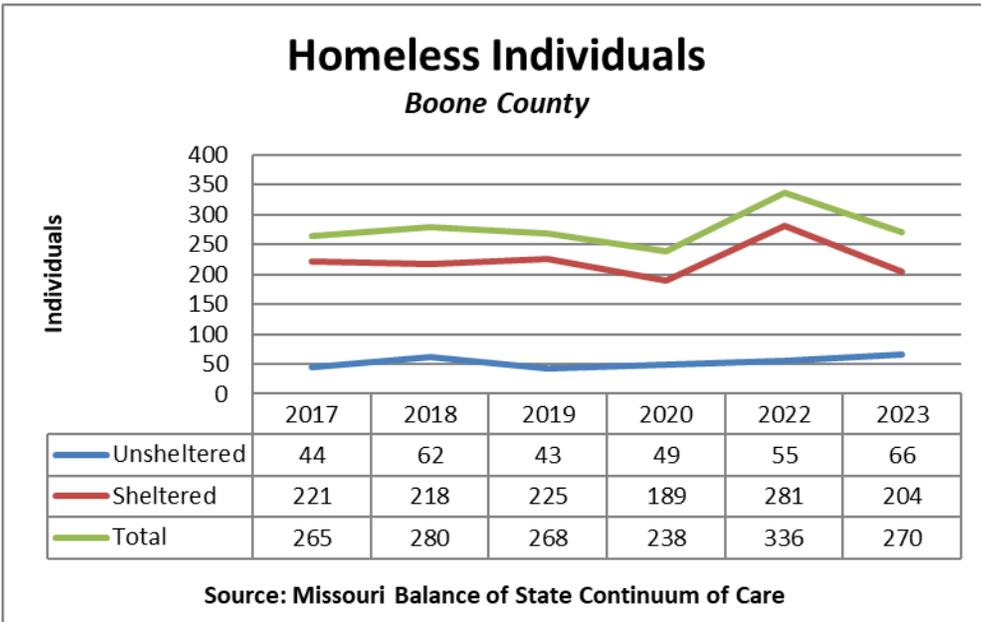
## Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on community and City of Columbia efforts and services to address the issue of homelessness since Council Report REP9-22 was submitted for the February 7, 2022 City Council meeting.

## Report

In 2016, the City of Columbia hosted a Homelessness Summit at which the community established a goal to achieve a functional zero level of homelessness, meaning that there is enough capacity to house and shelter all unhoused persons seeking housing and shelter.

The latest Point in Time Count (PITC) of persons experiencing homeless in Boone County conducted for the night of January 25/26, 2023 indicated a return to pre-pandemic levels of the total number of unhoused persons and an increase in the number of unsheltered individuals.





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Community emergency shelter/overnight warming center capacities and utilization rates the night of the 2023 PITC are as follows:

<b>2023 Point in Time Count Shelter Capacity &amp; Utilization</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Persons Served</b>	<b>Total Beds</b>	<b>Utilization Rate</b>
Flourish Home - Youth Emergency Shelter	6	6	100%
Love Columbia - ESG-CV Temp ES	4	4	100%
Love Columbia - EFSP ES [Non-HMIS]	4	4	100%
Phoenix Programs, Inc.-VA Columbia HCHV/EH ES	3	18	17%
Phoenix Programs - SSVF EHA ES Overflow (384+EHA) [Non-HMIS]	5	5	100%
RATI (Columbia Interfaith Resource Center) - Seasonal Emergency Shelter [Non-HMIS]	71	75	95%
Salvation Army Columbia-ESG Harbor House ES	33	40	83%
Salvation Army Columbia-Harbor House Overflow ES-Year Around	8	8	100%
St. Francis House	1	1	100%
True North Emergency Shelter	19	30	63%
Turning Point - Overnight Warming Center [Non-HMIS]	21	32	66%
Welcome Home, Inc.-ESG/HCHV STHP (Shelter and Temporary Housing Program) ES	29	36	81%
	<b>204</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>79%</b>

The current community shelter capacity is outlined in the table below:

<b>Spring/Summer/Fall 2023 Shelter Capacity</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Beds</b>
Flourish Home - Youth Emergency Shelter	6
Love Columbia - ESG-CV Temp ES	4
Love Columbia - EFSP ES [Non-HMIS]	4
Salvation Army Columbia-ESG Harbor House ES	61
Salvation Army Columbia-Harbor House Overflow ES-Year Around	25
St. Francis House	1
True North Emergency Shelter	30
Welcome Home, Inc. - ESG/HCHV STHP (Shelter and Temporary Housing Program) ES	36



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Welcome Home, Inc. - SSVF EHA ES Overflow (384+EHA) [Non-HMIS]	5
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**172**

Current capacity reflects the seasonal closures of the Turning Point Overnight Warming Center and Room at the Inn, as well as the return to full capacity for the Salvation Army Harbor House which has ceased COVID space restrictions.

The anticipated community shelter capacity for winter 2023/2024 is outlined in the table below:

<b>Anticipated Winter 2023/2024 Shelter Capacity</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Beds</b>
Flourish Home - Youth Emergency Shelter	6
Love Columbia - ESG-CV Temp ES	4
Love Columbia - EFSP ES [Non-HMIS]	4
RATI (Columbia Interfaith Resource Center) - Seasonal Emergency Shelter [Non-HMIS]	82
Salvation Army Columbia-ESG Harbor House ES	61
Salvation Army Columbia-Harbor House Overflow ES-Year Around	25
St. Francis House	1
True North Emergency Shelter	30
Turning Point - Overnight Warming Center [Non-HMIS]	32
Welcome Home, Inc. - ESG/HCHV STHP (Shelter and Temporary Housing Program) ES	36
Welcome Home, Inc. - SSVF EHA ES Overflow (384+EHA) [Non-HMIS]	5

**286**

While winter shelter capacity has increased significantly over the past 10 years to the point of nearly achieving a functional zero level of homelessness in the winter of 2022/2023, the community still lacks a substantial amount of shelter capacity from May through Thanksgiving weekend. However, with the anticipated increased capacity at Room at the Inn and the Salvation Army Harbor House and the operation of the overnight warming center at Turning Point, it appears our community has the potential to achieve a functional zero level of homelessness in the winter of 2023/2024.

This is not to say that all persons will be sheltered next winter. There are always those who choose not to seek shelter and those that face barriers to shelter like pet owners, couples, and persons with severe and chronic mental illness and co-occurring disorders. However these barriers are being considered as the community plans for long term solutions to end homelessness such as the Opportunity Campus.



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## Community Updates

- The Opportunity Campus partners are in the process of acquiring land for the project and have secured \$6 million in state funding. The partners have applied for both City of Columbia and Boone County ARPA funds for the project.
- The Columbia Housing Authority was awarded state and City of Columbia and Boone County ARPA funding for the Park Ave. redevelopment project, which will include dedicated affordable housing units to be allocated via the community's Coordinated Entry process.
- Room at the Inn is seeking funding to support year round operations.
- Turning point is seeking funding to increase hours of operation.
- CoMo Mobile Aid Collective incorporated and received 501(c)3 status and is seeking funding to sustain and increase services.
- Phoenix Programs ceased operations in April 2023. Burrell Behavioral Health acquired the Phoenix Programs' facilities and the Mo Dept. of Mental Health Substance Use treatment contract. Burrell opted not to acquire the Missouri Housing Trust Fund and HUD at Home grants for permanent supportive housing or the Emergency Solutions Grant for street outreach, so these funds and resources were lost to the community. The VA SSVF and HCHC grants were re-awarded to Welcome Home, so these funds and beds were retained in the community.
- Burrell Behavioral Health opened the Behavioral Health Crisis Center in Columbia, as required in the organization's Mo Dept. of Mental Health Community Mental Health Center contract.
- The grant from VU to fund a position at Flourish dedicated to leading the Boone County Coalition to End Homelessness and the community's coordinated entry process ends in the fall of 2023.

## City of Columbia Updates

Since the 2/7/22 Council report, the City of Columbia:

- Contracted for and received a plan for a community-based comprehensive homeless services center.
- Established a contract with Turning Point to operate an overnight warming center and raised temperature threshold to  $\leq 25$  degrees.
- Increased funding for Room at the Inn to expand the winter shelter season and to operate until noon on Sundays.
- Increased funding for Turning Point to expand operations to include Sunday afternoons.
- Added a 1.0 FTE Social Services Specialist position to staff the Community Support Docket and provide support for high utilizers of City public safety services.
- Purchased the Ashley St. Center facility. Facility was leased to Room at the Inn for winter 20223/2023 operations.



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- Contracted with AAAAChange, LLC for homeless street outreach and case management services.
- Appropriated \$600,000 in FY2023 for utility assistance.
- Issued ARPA RFPs to address affordable housing and homelessness.
- Since 2016, the City's investment in contracts for homeless services has increased from \$68,200.00 to \$482,095.31 in 2023. Current City of Columbia contracts for housing and homeless services and housing assistance are as follows:

<b>Housing and Homeless Services</b>				
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PROGRAM NAME</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1 AAAAChange, LLC	Homeless Street Outreach and Case Management	street outreach	\$16,662.50	\$25,000.00
		case management	\$8,337.50	
2 Columbia Interfaith Resource Center	Room at the Inn	overnight emergency shelter	\$134,956.61	\$134,956.61
3 Compass Health, Inc. dba Compass Health Network	Behavioral Health Programming	behavioral support services	\$34,961.52	\$34,961.52
4 True North of Columbia, Inc.	Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Services	domestic violence shelter	\$20,000.00	\$53,687.50
		domestic/sexual violence education	\$4,200.00	
		case management	\$14,000.00	
		crisis intervention	\$10,500.00	
		support groups	\$490.00	
		individual therapy- adult	\$4,497.50	
5 Voluntary Action Center	Housing Program	case management	\$38,930.10	\$50,000.10
		service coordination	\$11,070.00	
6 Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church	Turning Point	homeless drop-in center	\$117,489.58	\$183,489.58
		overnight warming center	\$66,000.00	
			<b>\$482,095.31</b>	<b>\$482,095.31</b>

## Next Steps

- Staff are in the process of obtaining pricing for renovations needed to the Ashley St. Center to continue to temporarily house Room at the Inn and to potentially include Turning Point and/or Loaves & Fishes. This includes bringing the kitchen up to code for full commercial use and adding showers, laundry capacity, and additional bathrooms.
- Public Health & Human Services has posted the Sr. Planner position approved by Council at its May 1, 2023. If the position is filled, it is anticipated that the position will assist with several homelessness related tasks including taking over leadership of the Boone County Coalition to End Homelessness and the community's coordinated entry process which are currently performed by the position at Flourish funded by a grant from VU, which end in the fall of 2023.
- The City of Columbia ARPA allocation process will continue with potential allocations to affordable housing and homeless services.



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- New Decision Items for funding to address homelessness as part of the City's strategic plan were submitted for FY2024 City budget consideration. These included funding to:
  - continue contracting for homeless street outreach/case management services
  - operate Room at the Inn year round
  - increase Turning Point's hours of operation

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Safe Neighborhoods, Secondary Impact: Resilient Economy, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Suggested Council Action

Accept the report.