

Hope and Home Task Force

CURRENT HOMELESS RESPONSE EFFORTS

Blue Ridge Continuum of Care (CoC)



- City of Roanoke is the **CoC Lead Entity** for the Blue Ridge CoC
- **CoC service area include 7 localities:** cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem. Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig and Roanoke
- **Role of the Continuum of Care:** convene partners to develop and operate coordinated homeless response system, strategic planning, coordinate funding applications, oversight of CoC activities, partnership development
- **Membership** is comprised of leadership at service provider organizations and other community stakeholders

Blue Ridge CoC Governing Board



- **Governing Board of the CoC**
- Meets at the **Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission**
- **Role of the Board:** primary decision-making group and oversight board of the CoC, sets policy priorities, advocates for funding and policy solutions, conducts bi-annual Point-in-Time Count
- **Membership:** 21 total seats: permanent seats reserved for localities (7), funded agencies (4) and the Regional Commission (1). Remaining seats (9) are elected by the CoC General Membership. One seat reserved for an individual with lived experience.



Blue Ridge Continuum of Care



Coordinated Services

- **Targeted Homelessness Prevention:** Council of Community Services, Total Action for Progress (TAP) Coordinated through Central Intake
- **Street Outreach:** City of Roanoke Homeless Assistance Team (HAT), The Least of These Ministries (TLOT), Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Salem VA Medical Center, Rescue Mission Fralin Clinic, Downtown Ambassadors, STAR Partnership
- **Emergency Shelter:** Rescue Mission, Family Promise of Greater Roanoke, Salvation Army Turning Point, TAP Domestic Violence Services, SafeHome Systems (Covington)
- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH):** Council of Community Services, TAP SSVF
- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** Commonwealth Catholic Charities, Salem VAMC, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare
- **Day Services:** Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM), The Least of These Ministries (TLOT)

Blue Ridge Continuum of Care



Coordinated Response

- **Coordinated Entry System:** use of common assessment tool, by-name list case conferencing committees (Veteran, Chronic, Family, Youth, Unsheltered), targeted homelessness prevention services through Central Intake, system-level policies for service standards and prioritization
- **Data Collection and Performance Monitoring:** use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), regular evaluation of system performance (bi-annual PIT, quarterly performance reports, project ranking, data “deep dives”)
- **Street Outreach:** utilize multi-disciplinary approach to serve unsheltered individuals (mental health skill-builders, healthcare, HUD-funded outreach, PATH, VA). Expanded HAT staffing to increase capacity.
- **Homeless Preference and Emergency Housing Vouchers:** referrals incorporated into Coordinated Entry System, prioritization policies set by CoC partners

Point-in-Time Count Data



389 total individuals counted on single night - January 22, 2025

- **80.1% increase in overall homelessness (216 in 2022)**
- **Recent indications of stabilization** (3% decrease in Winter 2025, no change in Summer 2025)
- 44.4% increase in **Veteran homelessness** (26 in 2025; 19 in Summer 2025)
- 12.8% increase in **chronic homelessness** (106 in 2025)
- 39% decrease in **family homelessness** (66 in 2025)
- **467% increase in unsheltered homelessness since 2019 (15 in 2019, 70 in 2025)**



Homeless Assistance Team (HAT)



- Assist with obtaining identification documents needed for employment and housing
- Connection to employment resources, mental health and substance use services, medical resources
- Coordinated housing referrals
- Purchase of employer-required clothing/shoes
- Weekly bus passes for newly employed
- Security deposit assistance
- Re-unification services
- Assistance with obtaining mainstream benefits (SNAP, Medicaid, etc.)
- Transports to DMV and Health Department
- Additional staff hired to increase capacity

Homeless Assistance Team (HAT)

Program Outputs – Calendar Year 2024

- 1,014 new/re-enrollment intakes completed
- 5,725 case management contacts with 1,253 unduplicated clients
- 251 individuals transported and assisted with obtaining birth certificates
- 279 individuals transported and assisted with obtaining picture IDs
- 97 individuals referred to RRHA for housing vouchers (EHV, HCV and Mainstream)
- 75 individuals with vouchers housed
- 24 individuals housed through re-unification assistance 341 individuals housed with all re-RRH, PSH and family reunification)
 - 98 housed in all of CY 2021
- 37% exited to permanent housing destinations
- HAT Case Manager certified as Notary Public
- HAT Case Manager certified as Housing Quality Standards (HQS) Inspector



Additional City of Roanoke Efforts



“Whole of Government” Response to Homelessness

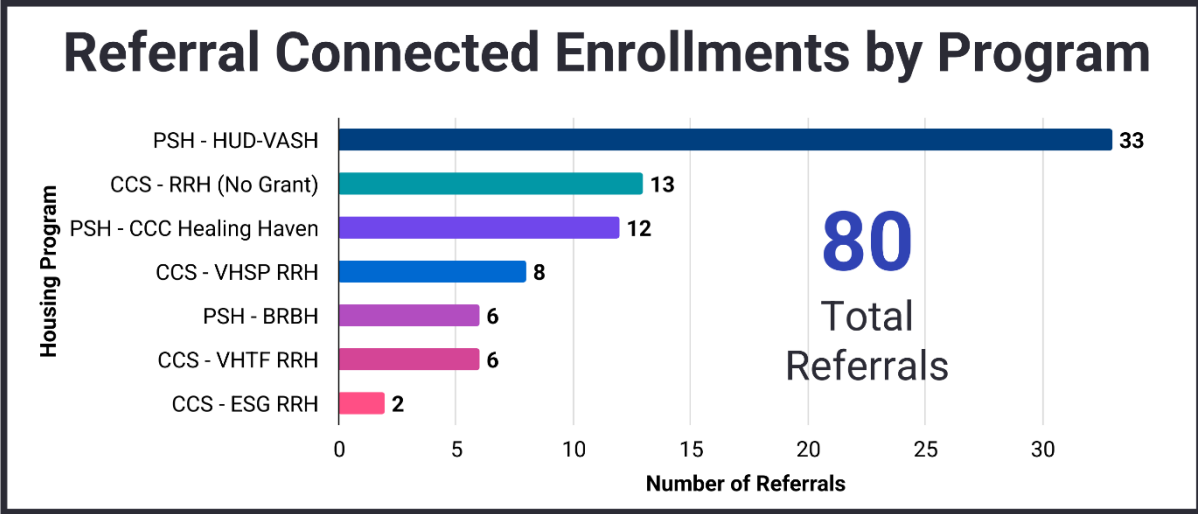
- Inter-departmental encampment response & STAR
- Zoning reform
- HOME-ARP/ARPA Funding: rental housing development, move-in assistance, increased outreach capacity, Permanent Supportive Housing transition
- Empowerment Fair



Challenges — Resource Availability

766

Clients Currently
on the CQ
(763 Households)



**RAPID
REHOUSING**

57

Average Number of Days from
Referral/Program Enrollment
to Housing Move-In

**PERMANENT
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

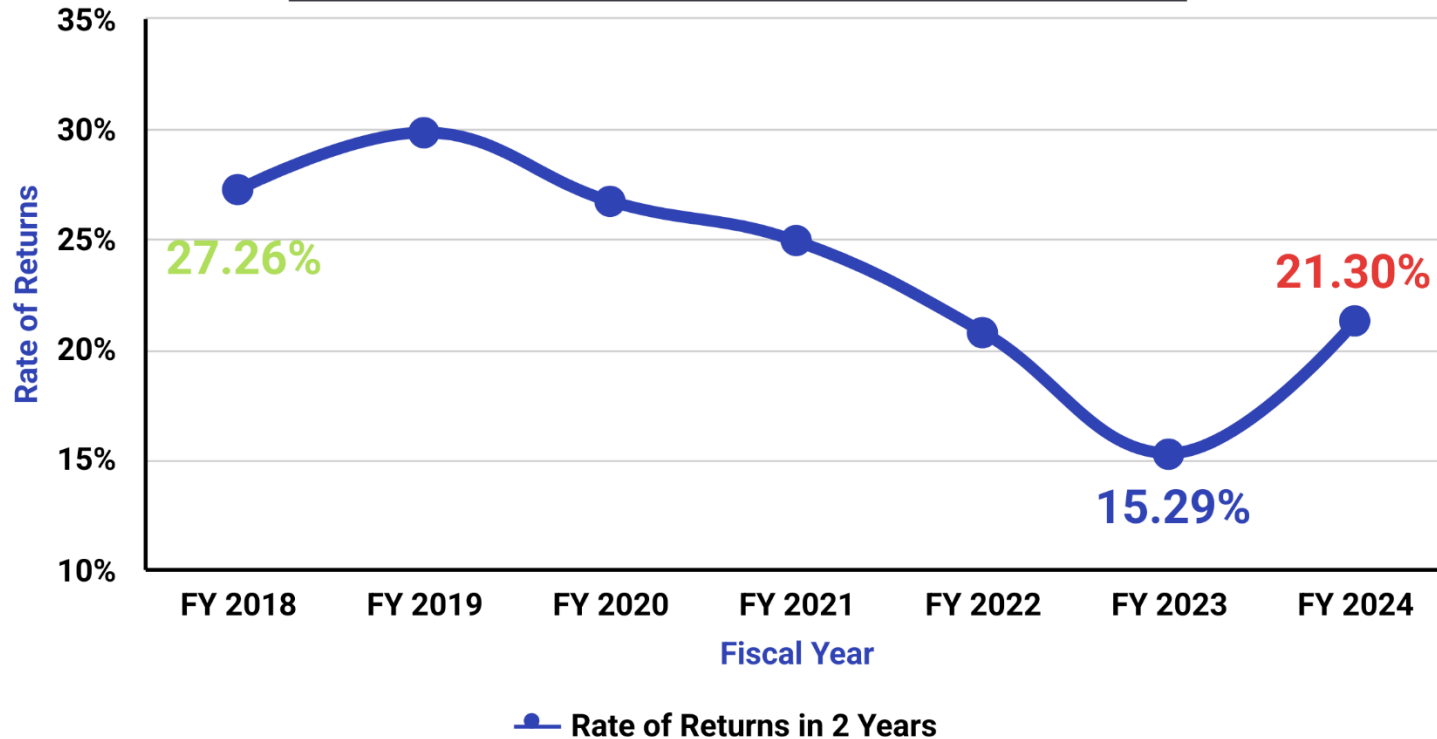
77

Average Number of Days from
Referral/Program Enrollment
to Housing Move-In



Challenges – Resource Availability

SPM 2: PERCENTAGE OF RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS IN 2 YEARS



Challenges – Housing Affordability



- **Lack of affordable housing is the primary driver of homelessness.** Affordability is compounded with inflation, increasing costs of other basic needs
- **Need for affordable units:** 3,500 in the City; 5,000 in the region (2020 RVARC Housing Study)
- **The US Government Accountability Office has estimated that for every \$100 increase in median rent, homelessness increases by 9%**

FY 2019 FMR – Roanoke City: 1 bedroom unit \$646 (\$613 in 2013)

FY 2026 FMR – Roanoke City: 1 bedroom unit \$1,053 (+\$407)

Questions or Comments?



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