

Newsletter

Preventing Homelessness: A Path Forward

Issue No. 5 | October 2024



Written by: **Director April Calvin** and **Demetris Chaney**

Content Editor: **Megan Vickers**

Design Editor: **Candace Martinez**

From the Desk of April Calvin

Be encouraged. Each morning, I center myself with two guiding principles: 1. No one should live without a home. 2. Homelessness is solvable.

In a rapidly growing city like ours, effectively reducing and ultimately ending homelessness requires three critical components: attainable housing, comprehensive supportive services, and unified community efforts. However, with a current ratio of 1:3—where for every one person housed each month, three more fall into homelessness—our focus must shift toward robust prevention and diversion strategies.

Last month, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released a groundbreaking document, "Ending Homelessness Before It Starts: A Federal Homelessness Prevention Framework." This framework is an important milestone in the fight to reduce and end homelessness, offering critical guidance that we at the Metro Office of Homeless Services (OHS) will use to strengthen our coordinated entry process. By deepening our collaboration with agencies and leveraging funding that promotes housing stability, we can help more individuals and families avoid homelessness altogether.

Understanding that more resources are crucial to these efforts, OHS has demonstrated our commitment by securing additional funding.

This year, we simultaneously applied for three Federal grants in the third quarter while also building partner-ships with three Tennessee state departments. Our approach combines proven best practices with innovative strategies to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Our comprehensive funding package represents Metro Government's strong response to the challenges faced by both housed and unhoused neighbors. This budget supports essential data collection, resource management, and asset management for the community, while funding over 15 local agencies within our Housing Crisis Resolution System.

OHS's funding portfolio is diverse and far-reaching, addressing everything from family initiatives and medical respite care to day sheltering, community case management, and nutrition services. We also focus on access to disability income, addiction recovery beds, encampment support, decompressing our emergency shelter system, and providing housing solutions through landlord engagement.

As we begin planning for FY 25, securing funding for prevention and diversion efforts will be critical to our continued success.

-April Calvin

Big Wins In September: Nashville's Progress Towards Ending Homelessness

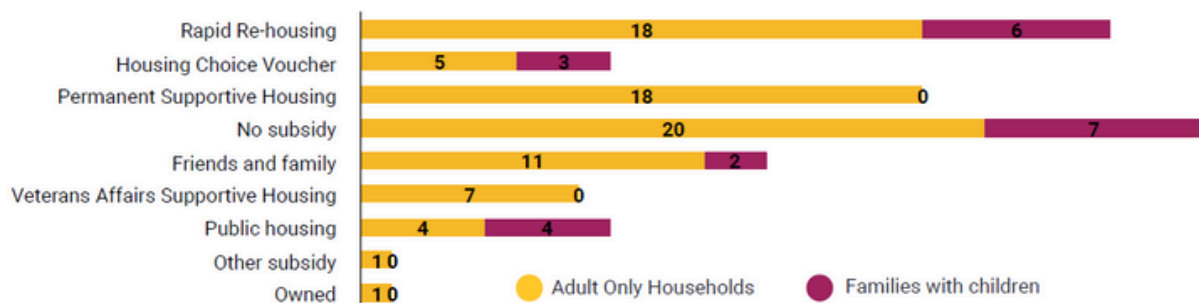
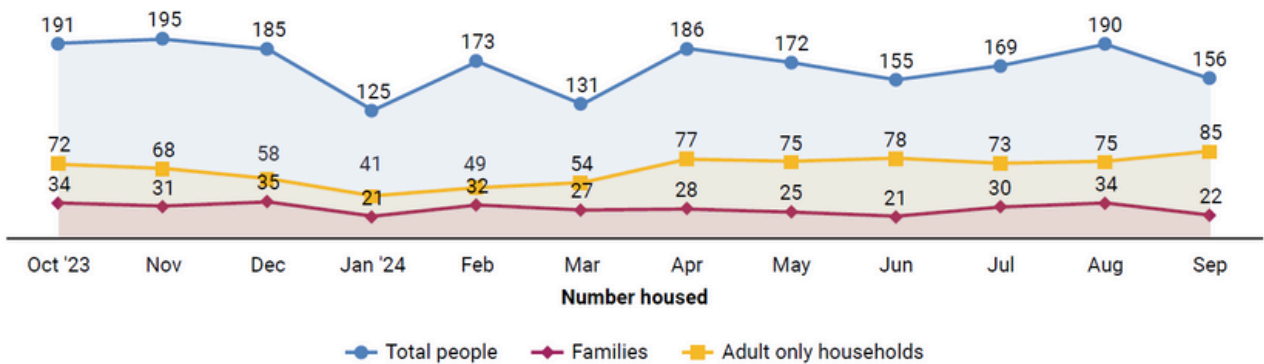
September was a remarkable month for housing in Nashville! Thanks to the tireless efforts of our community partners, 156 individuals from 107 households were housed. This includes 22 family households and 85 adult-only households.

27 households secured housing with no subsidy, 24 households were placed through rapid re-housing, and 18 households found stability through Permanent Supportive Housing. A special shout-out to the top agencies leading the charge in September:

- Operation Stand Down – 24 households housed
- Oasis Center – 10 households housed
- The Salvation Army – 10 households housed
- Catholic Charities – 8 households housed
- Room In The Inn – 7 households housed

This progress is a testament to our community's unwavering commitment to ending homelessness through innovation, collaboration, and compassion. While we celebrate these achievements, we recognize that our work is far from over. Together, we will continue to make a difference!

For a complete report on Nashville's Homelessness Data for the month of September, [\[click here\]](#). To learn more about how you can support our efforts, [\[click here\]](#).



OHS to Operate the Metro Emergency Overflow Shelter

Office of Homeless Services prepares to operate the Cold Weather Shelter this fall and winter season. In 2023, an average of 213 people were served for 40 nights in the cold weather shelter. The shelter is opened when the temperatures are below 32 degrees for 3 consecutive hours.



Cold Weather Shelter, 3230 Brick Church Pike
Image by Channel 5.

For more information on the Cold Weather Shelter [click here](#).

Text alert opportunities are available.



We Go Central, 400 Dr MLK Jr Blvd.
Image by Channel 5.

On nights when the Metro Emergency Overflow Shelter is open, We Go will provide rides to passengers without the ability to pay bus fare from We Go Central on Route 23B Dickerson Pike to 3230 Brick Church Pike. This service will be offered from 7 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

Quick Ticket passes will be distributed the following morning by OHS to all guests who stayed overnight at the Shelter to assist with travel to other safe locations.

No Burn Season in Nashville: What It Means to Those Living Outside This Winter

As winter approaches and temperatures drop, many rely on wood-burning fires to keep warm. However, the no-burn season is implemented to protect air quality. Those without access to shelter often use small fires or burn materials to stay warm, which conflicts with no-burn regulations.

- **Risks:** They face fines or legal penalties.
- **Health implications:** Freezing temperatures can lead to hypothermia and other health crises.
- **Solutions:** Seek shelter at Nashville Rescue Mission, Room In The Inn, The Salvation Army or Cold Weather Shelter, Metro's Emergency Overflow Shelter.



September Support: A Community Resource Fair For Our Most Vulnerable Nashville Neighbors

Building collaboration and service delivery with other agencies and departments is a primary focus of the Office of Homeless Services' mission. Thank you to MNP (Madison and East Precinct), Shower Up, STARS, Meharry Medical College, and Clean life for participating in our Madison Resource Fair. The service your teams provided to some of our most vulnerable neighbors made a difference.



[Click here](#) and join our next Resource Fair!

"We are stronger together." - April Calvin



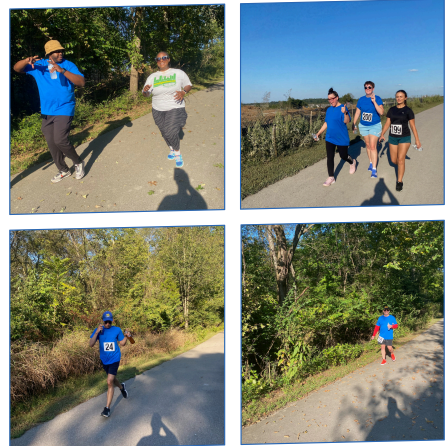
Service Provider Networking Event Brings Food, Fun, and Collaboration



Watch Highlights [Here!](#)

We Came, We Ran, We Walked... and Nobody Got Lost!

Thank you to the community, staff, and our amazing metro departments for supporting and promoting our Inaugural 5K Run to benefit United Way! Whether you were making wrong turns on the course or roasting marshmallows while still sweating, we all had a blast for a great cause. Thanks to your efforts (and maybe a little extra cardio), we raised over \$850!



See you next year—better maps and **MORE** marshmallows guaranteed!



[See Highlight Video Here!](#)