Council on Homelessness
2013 Report

Contents

Exhibits

Florida's Council on Homelessness

Rick Scott
Governor

David E. Wilkins
Secretary

Shannon Nazworth
Chairperson

June 30, 2013

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor
PL05 The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

On behalf of the members of the Council on Homelessness, it is my honor to submit the 2013 Council on Homelessness Report for your consideration.

In accordance with state law, the Council has prepared recommendations for reducing homelessness in our state. This year the Council limited its recommendations to four core actions identified as necessary to reduce the number of persons experiencing homelessness in Florida.

The report also summarizes the extent of homelessness in our state and provides information concerning Floridians who are without a place to live.

Homelessness continues to be a growing concern in Florida. According to *2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, Volume I*, issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, since 2007 Florida has had the largest increase in the rate of homelessness. 7,107 more Floridians experienced homelessness in 2012 than had experienced homelessness in 2007; a 14.8% increase. Nationally, during the same period, homelessness decreased 5.7%.

Florida continues to have the third largest homeless population in the country; 8.7% of the nation's homeless live in Florida. It also has the third highest rate of unsheltered homeless persons (64.1%)

The Council has worked diligently to identify the causes of homelessness in Florida and develop targeted strategies that can demonstrably reduce the number of persons without a place to live. We hope you will take these recommendations into consideration as you work to improve the quality of life for all Floridians.

The Council is committed to addressing the housing and services needs of our vulnerable neighbors. If you have questions on the report, I can be reached at (904) 359-9650.

Sincerely,

Shannon Nazworth
Chairperson

Cc: David E. Wilkins, Secretary; Dept. of Children and Families

Executive Summary

Implementing what is now a national best practice, in 2001 Florida created an inter-agency Council on Homelessness; the purpose of which is to develop recommendations for state leadership on how to reduce homelessness throughout the state.

In accordance with section 420.622(9), Florida Statutes, the Council on Homelessness submits its annual report to the Governor and Florida Legislature summarizing recommended actions to reduce homelessness, plus data concerning those persons currently experiencing homelessness in Florida.

On one day and one night in January 2013, local communities counted 45,364 persons who were living on the street, or in an emergency shelter. This data covers 54 counties and all 28 reporting homeless continuum of care planning areas. Thirteen (13) counties did not conduct a count of the unsheltered homeless due to the lack of resources to do the count.

Nationally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports homelessness amongst families with children as the fastest growing homeless population. This is also true for Florida. For school year 2011-2012, Florida's public schools identified 63,685 students as homeless. This includes families that have lost their housing and are staying with family and friends.

The Council on Homelessness submits its recommendations for state action to reduce the number of Floridians who are without a home.   These inter-related recommendations focus on: meeting the housing needs of households with Extremely Low Incomes, especially those with a disability or other special need; continuing support of community agencies which lead the homeless continuum of care planning process; providing flexible funding to support local initiatives to help persons exit homelessness; and prioritizing a state pilot to conduct a cost benefit analysis of providing affordable housing linked with support services for high utilizers of crisis services.

Section 1
Recommendations to Reduce Homelessness

The Council on Homelessness submits four recommendations of critical actions the state can undertake to enable communities across Florida to reduce the number of persons experiencing homelessness.

Recommendation One
Create Housing for Extremely Low Incomes, especially households with Special Needs as defined by Florida Administrative Rule, 67-48.002.

Appropriate resources to Florida Housing Finance Corporation to produce housing for households with Extremely Low Income, homeless households and persons with special needs.

Rationale:
There are approximately 450,000 Extremely Low Income (ELI) renter households in Florida. These are households with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income (AMI) for their communities. This equates to a family of four in Orlando earning $17,550 or less per year; or an elderly couple in the Panhandle with an annual income of $11,550. A large majority (75%) of ELI households are cost burdened, spending 40 percent or more of their income on housing. Between 2005 and 2011, the number of cost-burdened ELI renter households increased 24 percent, from 256,357 in 2005 to 317,990 in 2011.

Across the state, the need for housing affordable to ELI households far exceeds the supply. A 2013 analysis conducted by the University of Florida's Shimberg Center on Housing Studies for Florida Housing Finance Corporation found that in all regions of the state, except the Northwest and Northeast non-metropolitan counties, the need is twice the supply. For every 100 ELI renter households there are 50 or fewer affordable and available units. Statewide the average is 31 affordable and available rental units for every 100 ELI renter households.

Based upon the 2013 HUD Point in Time Count statewide data and 2011-2012 Florida Department of Education counts of homeless students, the Shimberg Center on Housing Studies reports there are 42,476 homeless individuals and 31,148 homeless families with children in Florida. The Shimberg Center on Housing Studies reports that these statistics undercount the real number of homeless individuals and families. They do not include 6,798 unaccompanied homeless youth working to stay in school and 24,815 families with children in school who live in unstable housing such as motels and doubled up with friends, neighbors or relatives.

In addition to the cost burden necessary for ELI households to access permanent housing, these individuals and families frequently have other issues that adversely impact their ability to access and/or retain permanent housing. These issues can include a disabling condition, escaping a domestic violence situation, suddenly becoming unemployed or underemployed or losing their home to foreclosure. Many of these issues create barriers to passing landlord screenings.

Sustain Ongoing Funding for Local Homeless Coalitions

Continue recurring funding for local homeless coalitions and lead agencies sufficient to ensure capacity to secure essential federal resources targeted to reducing homelessness.

Rationale:
Continued state financial assistance is essential to helping community partners carry out federally required planning, data collection, program coordination and grant writing necessary to successfully compete for significant grant funding to house persons experiencing homelessness.

Each year the federal government appropriates resources to community agencies to reduce homelessness. These community organizations have secured more than $300 million in federal, local and private financing for community services and housing in Florida. In 2012, they brought nearly $80 million in federal grants to Florida.

Based on a sample of small and medium sized homeless planning areas, the community partners have identified the workload and costs incurred to carry out these prerequisite actions for eligibility to apply for federal homeless housing grants.

Table 1 Workload and Cost for Federal Prerequisite Activities		
Federal Requirement	Staffing Needed	Cost to Carry Out Action
Annual point in time count of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless	1.0 FTE	$18,300
Homeless continuum of care planning – year round	0.75 FTE	$31,450
Preparation of federal continuum of care application for funds	0.8 FTE	$23,210
Coordinated Assessment System for intake, need assessment, and referral	0.5 FTE	$14,920
Homeless Management Information System for data collection on all persons served	0.75 FTE	$38,780
Local coordination across all service providers	1.67 FTE	$67,370
TOTAL:	5.47 FTE	$126,660
Source: 2013 Survey of Agencies leading local continuum of care planning, Office on Homelessness, Department of Children and Families. April 2013		
Planning Areas Responding: Suncoast Partnership, Lee County, St. Johns, Monroe County, Marion County, Suwannee Valley, Pinellas County, Charlotte County, Okaloosa Walton CoC		

Support State Funding for Community Efforts to Reduce Homelessness

Provide a flexible source of state financial aid to local homeless coalitions and lead agencies to fund priority services and housing for the homeless.

Rationale:
Communities need resources to reduce and eliminate homelessness. Each community has differing needs and priorities. The communities should be provided flexible state support, which they can utilize to best meet their identified priorities.

Such funding can be an essential source of cash match for federal and private grants. The funding should be flexible so as to address a broad array of needs including housing, education, job training and placement, health services, childcare and other support services. Use of the aid should be consistent with the community's homeless service plan.

A flexible funding source can enable communities to pilot best practices, and new service delivery models that might otherwise not be possible. Future state funding can also fill gaps in local service budgets, should federal grant in aid dollars be cut in coming budget plans.

Recommendation Four
Prioritize a State Pilot to Provide Florida-specific Data

Prioritize a state pilot to conduct a cost benefit analysis of providing affordable housing linked with support services for high utilizers of crisis services.

Rationale:
Persons experiencing homelessness interact with multiple organizations and systems providing or responsible for public healthcare, emergency services, basic needs; as well as law enforcement, the courts and correctional facilities. Studies in other states have documented significant fiscal and social benefits associated with aligning appropriate and adequate resources and programs to efficiently link affordable housing with support services for homeless persons or families with the greatest need that facilitates and supports stable and productive lives in their communities.

Florida does not have reliable data concerning the cost benefits across its multiple systems. A pilot project to assess the inter-connected cross-agency savings associated with targeting aligned public and private resources to high-utilizers of crisis services will enable Florida to develop strategies and policies, which will result in the best results for the persons served while providing the most cost-effective utilization of public resources

Point in Time Counts – 2013

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that the homeless continuums of care conduct an annual count of the homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelters, transitional housing and safe havens on a single night during the last ten days of January. Further, HUD requires that the continuums of care also must conduct a count of the unsheltered homeless population every other year, required on odd numbered years. For 2013, the state's 28 homeless continuums of care carried out both the sheltered and unsheltered counts required.

The goal is to produce an unduplicated count, or statistically reliable estimate of the homeless in the community.

Who is counted as Homeless?

The intent is to identify those men, women and children who meet HUD's definition of a homeless person.   This is limited to:

(1) Those living in a publicly or privately operated shelter providing temporary living arrangements;

(2) Those persons whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not intended to be used as an accommodation for human beings, such as:
a car, park, abandoned building or camping ground;

(3) A person who is exiting from an institution, where he or she lived for 90 days or less, and who was otherwise homeless immediately prior to entering that institution;

(4) A person who is fleeing from a domestic violence situation;

(5) A person who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days, where no subsequent dwelling has been found and the individual lacks the resources to obtain permanent housing.

Who is not counted as homeless?

- Persons residing in permanent supportive housing programs, such as rental assistance vouchers;

- Persons living in emergency shelters and temporary housing that is not dedicated to serving the homeless, such as alcohol detox centers;

- Individuals and families temporarily staying with family or or friends due to the loss of their own housing or economic reasons (doubled up or sofa surfing).

- Persons living in permanent housing with assistance from a government program.

The count is undertaken on a single day, and night. The federally approved methods include a report of all homeless persons counted, or a statistically valid sampling to arrive at the unduplicated estimate of the homeless. The unsheltered count methods typically are either street counts, street counts with interviews, or screening and interviewing persons at supportive service agencies, such as soup kitchens where the homeless seek help.

Conducting these point in time counts is challenging, and requires many volunteers. The continuums of care continue to make remarkable success in compiling those one-day counts. Even so, the results can be influenced by many factors, some of which are outside the control of the local continuum. As a result, year-to-year comparisons at the community level can be misleading, especially if the observed trends are due to differing strategies used to undertake the count.

2013 One Day and Night Count Results

To fulfill the federal mandate and instructions, the state's 28 local continuum of care planning areas conducted a one-day and one night count of the homeless persons in their planning area.

For the 28 continuum of care planning areas reporting, the total number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in 2013 was 45,364. The 2012 number of homeless persons was 54,972 for these 28 planning areas. The 2013 count reflects a decrease of 9,608 persons, a drop of 17.5% statewide.

The number of homeless persons by county reflects differing trends. For 19 of the counties, the homeless population increased from 2012, while 26 counties reported fewer homeless in 2013. Thirteen rural county areas did not have point in time count conducted in 2013.

In reporting their count results, the lead agencies identified a number of factors that impacted the totals, both up and down.

Factors Cited as Contributing to a Decreased Number of Homeless

- Successful programs implemented in the county over past two years;

- Stricter enforcement of trespass ordinances made the street homeless less visible, and harder to find and count;

- Changes in the method used for the count contributed to a lower count, and more reliable count numbers;

- Adjusting count results to ensure that only those who are literally homeless are reported, resulting in decreases particularly by eliminating school age children and other homeless who are in jail.

- Fewer emergency shelters that serve and target the homeless were identified in 2013 than prior years;

- The lack of service providers in rural counties made it harder to identify the homeless, and where to find them during the count;

- Change in federal count instructions that limited shelter counts to only those facilities identified in the planning area's homeless housing inventory;

- Large emergency shelter provider in area did not report their homeless service data for night of the count;

- The continuum of care had fewer dollars, and volunteers available to carry out their street count;

- 2013 count was not able to get out into the woods, compared to the past street count;

- More permanent supportive housing beds available in 2013 to serve the homeless, whereby those housed are no longer counted as homeless;

- Good, warm and dry weather on day of count kept the street homeless out of cold night shelters, and made them harder to find.

Factors Cited as Contributing to Increased Count

- Better planning for the street count to identify encampments, and recruitment of more volunteers;

- Large increase in homeless families found;

- More transient homeless were found during the count as result of having homeless persons help do the street count;

- Shelter count up due to more beds available that serve homeless veterans;

- Better count system used in 2013, including more homeless persons involved in the street count effort.

Efforts to improve data quality, including developing consistent and better methodologies for conducting the point in time counts of the homeless, are needed, and are being called for by national homeless advocacy groups. Until those changes are made, the early caution is repeated – year-to-year comparisons at the community level can be misleading. Too many variables can cause widely different results.

Table 2.1
Homeless People by County

County	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 Count
Alachua	952	1,381	1,596	879	1,034	1,034	1,745
Baker	0	0	N/C	12	2	N/C	N/C
Bay	312	312	352	317	378	287	284
Bradford	67	67	78	5	39	36	50
Brevard	1,287	1,899	1,207	1,221	1,889	1,907	1,567
Broward	5,218	5,218	4,154	4,154	3,801	3,801	2,820
Calhoun	0	N/C	N/C	N/C	1	1	1
Charlotte	730	730	541	598	716	828	573
Citrus	856	293	297	405	502	507	243
Clay	103	25	N/C	7	113	244	35
Collier	414	321	329	401	390	390	375
Columbia	364	362	554	554	462	458	491
DeSoto	659	639	319	761	15	176	330
Dixie	0	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Duval	2,613	2,681	3,244	3,910	4,284	2,533	2,594
Escambia	1,247	791	713	713	549	572	830
Flagler	207	38	39	79	98	128	154
Franklin	39	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Gadsden	177	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Gilchrist	0	N/C	N/C	1	6	32	0
Glades	61	172	220	220	N/C	N/C	N/C
Gulf	0	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Hamilton	83	81	123	343	103	103	107
Hardee	679	835	1,410	1,410	104	17	61
Hendry	426	422	727	727	16	N/C	N/C
Hernando	241	196	185	136	148	209	147
Highlands	519	912	1,782	1,782	105	55	215
Hillsborough	9,532	9,532	7,473	7,473	7,336	7,336	1,909
Holmes	0	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	2
Indian River	572	462	662	648	606	774	837
Jackson	3	3	N/C	11	34	34	14
Jefferson	56	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Lafayette	46	44	69	69	57	58	63
Lake	878	518	491	796	1,008	1,019	282
Lee	2,382	899	931	1,041	1,054	969	848
Leon	430	430	437	437	683	783	1,072
Levy	99	99	115	15	0	98	13
Liberty	30	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C

County	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 Count
Madison	73	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Manatee	487	472	558	528	528	612	820
Marion	458	458	678	356	941	1,032	530
Martin	521	507	211	517	306	314	486
Miami-Dade	4,392	4,574	4,333	3,832	3,777	3,817	3,734
Monroe	1,121	1,121	1,040	1,040	926	904	658
Nassau	71	111	N/C	61	165	84	138
Okaloosa	2,110	1,752	2,361	1,842	2,145	1,962	1,108
Okeechobee	316	112	383	383	32	190	78
Orange	1,473	1,962	1,279	1,494	2,872	2,281	2,937
Osceola	514	573	374	443	833	722	599
Palm Beach	1,766	1,766	2,147	2,147	2,148	2,148	1,543
Pasco	2,260	4,074	4,527	4,527	4,442	4,502	3,305
Pinellas	4,680	4,680	4,163	3,948	3,890	3,971	3,913
Polk	817	973	820	820	1,095	1,100	404
Putnam	789	789	911	288	141	164	89
St. Johns	1,238	1,238	1,237	1,237	1,386	1,391	1,437
St. Lucie	641	964	788	995	771	636	915
Santa Rosa	1,192	237	317	317	72	70	151
Sarasota	388	662	787	787	787	890	1,234
Seminole	568	561	368	397	810	658	842
Sumter	44	97	52	48	57	77	37
Suwannee	222	220	343	123	280	284	318
Taylor	75	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	14	6
Union	0	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Volusia	2,483	1,763	1,874	2,076	2,215	2,276	1,967
Wakulla	112	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Walton	69	N/C	85	420	619	484	453
Washington	6	6	3	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
	60,168	59,034	57,687	57,751	56,771	54,972	45,364

N/C = No Count conducted.

"Homeless people" means those living on the street, or staying in emergency housing.

The count covers those identified during one, 24-hour period of time.

Source: "Lead Agency Survey of 2013 Point in Time Count," April 2012, Department of Children
and Families, Office on Homelessness

Homeless Population Characteristics

The 28 local continuum of care planning agencies have reported the following information on the make-up of the homeless population. They captured this information from direct interviews, or from agency data on homeless persons served as entered into the homeless management information system [HMIS]. The 2013 data is compared to 2011 data, as the last complete sheltered and unsheltered count conducted by all 28 continuums.

Gender

Men made up the majority of the homeless persons. Of the 37,579 persons surveyed, 25,261 were men (67%). This data for 2013 remains consistent with past year's results.

Gender

Year	Men	Women
2011	66%	34%
2013	67%	33%

Age

The breakdown of the age of the 2013 homeless population, by age range, was reported.

Age Ranges	Number of Persons	% of Total
Under 18	6,658	17.8%
18 - 24	3,087	8.2%
24 - 60	25,616	68.3%
Over 60	2,131	5.7%
	37,492	

These results are consistent with the focus of the count — those persons living in shelters or staying on the streets. Families with children are more likely to be sharing the housing of others, and are not allowed to be included in the federal counts, due to this living arrangement.

Age Ranges

Year	Under 18	18 – 60	Over 60
2011	18.3%	76.4%	5.3%
2013	17.8%	76.5%	5.7%

Ethnicity

In 2013, 3,910 homeless persons out of 32,254 responding, indicated that they were either Hispanic or Latino. At 12.1% of the homeless population, this is up slightly from the 2011 level of 11.2% of the homeless.

Race

The reported race of the homeless population continues to reflect an over-representation of Black/African Americans, with over 36% of the homeless.

	2013 Number	2013 Percentage	2011 Percentage
Population Category			
American Indian/Alaska	498	1.5%	1.2%
Asian	116	0.4%	0.3%
Black/African American	11,817	36.5%	39.4%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	146	0.4%	0.4%
White	19,878	61.2%	58.7%
TOTAL	32,455		

Household Type

The great majority, 77.2%, of the unsheltered and sheltered homeless population are single adults or households without children. For 2013, the breakdown of the homeless by household type was reported.

Household Type	Number Persons	% Total
At lease One Adult, One Child	5,109	17.9%
[only 1 child]	(1,403)	
[multiple children]	(2,161)	
No Children in Household	21,969	77.2%
Household -Only Children	1,389	4.9%
TOTAL	28,467	

Military Veterans

Of the homeless persons responding to the question on active duty in the U.S. military, 16.1% indicated that they were veterans. This is up from the 2011 level of 13.3%. Give the increased focus of resources, like the HUD/VASH rent vouchers targeted to the homeless veterans, the increase in the percentage of the homeless who are veterans needs further research and assessment.

Military Veterans

Served /Active Duty	2013 Numbers	2013 Percentage	2011 Numbers	2011 Percentage
YES	4,915	16.1%	5,696	13.3%
NO	25,616	83.9%	37,090	86.7%
TOTAL	30,531		42,786	

Disabling Conditions

The percentage of the persons who are homeless who report having a disabling condition was 51.3% in 2013, up from 44% in 2011. The breakdown for 2013 was 14,320 persons reporting a disabling condition, out of a total of respondents of 27,905.

The breakdown by type of disability reported indicates the greatest issues being substance abuse and mental illness. The respondents may report more than one disabling condition.

Disabling Condition	2013 Number	2013 Percentage	2011 Percentage
Physical	4,007	28.0%	31.4%
Substance Abuse	7,040	49.2%	32.8%
Mental Illness	5,754	40.2%	30.7%
HIV/AIDS	716	5.0%	1.7%
Developmental	567	4.0%	3.4%
TOTAL with Disabling Condition	14,320		

Foster Care History

In asking whether the homeless individual had been in foster care, 2,489 persons out of the 29,376 responding to the question indicated that they had been in foster care.

	2013	2011
Foster Care History	8.5%	8.0%

Causes and Length of Time Homeless

The survey and data collected upon entry to shelters seeks to identify the major causes contributing to a person becoming homeless, how long they have been homeless as of the day of the count, whether the person has had previous episodes of being homeless, and how long the person has lived in the community before becoming homeless. The 2013 survey results follow.

Cause of Becoming Homeless

Cause	2013 Number	2013 %	2011 %
Employment/Financial	13,310	49.0%	48.7%
Medical/Disability	4,043	14.9%	18.2%
Housing/Forced to Relocate	3,820	14.1%	19.7%
Family Problems	3,197	11.7%	11.5%
Recent Immigration	159	0.6%	0.6%
Natural Disaster	377	1.4%	1.3%
No Response	2,260	8.3%	—
TOTAL	27,166		

Number of Times Homeless

Times Homeless	2013 Number	2013 %	2011 %
No Prior/First Time	8,293	27.3%	52.99%
One Prior Episode	7,674	25.3%	
Two or Three Prior Episodes	6,905	22.8%	47.01%
Four or More Prior Episodes	6,035	19.9%	
No Response	1,446	4.7%	—
TOTAL	30,353		

Length of Time of Current Homeless Episode

Length of Time	2013 Number	2013 %	2011%
Less than Week	2,270	8.1%	
1 to 4 Weeks	3,422	12.3%	41.99%
1 to 3 Months	4,896	17.6%	
3 to 12 Months	6,062	21.8%	23.18%
More than Year	9,595	34.4%	34.83%
Not Reported	1,627	5.8%	
TOTAL:	27,872		

Length of Time Living in Community Prior to Becoming Homeless

Length of Time	2013 Number	2013 %	2011%
Less than week	1,264	4.52	6.11%
1 to 4 weeks	1,323	4.73	
1 to 3 months	2,862	10.23	7.30%
3 to 12 months	4,400	15.73	15.41%
More than Year	16,419	58.71	71.18%
Not Reported	1,696	6.01	—
TOTAL	27,964		

Data for the characteristics of the homeless population was tabulated from 27 of the 28 local homeless continuum of care planning areas. [Source: Lead Agencies Survey of 2013 Point-in-Time Count, April 2013, Department of Children and Families]

Broader Definition of Homeless Person

The school districts in our state capture and report to the Florida Department of Education, the number of students identified as homeless during the school year. By Federal law, the public schools use the expanded definition of homeless individuals to include those children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those who are:

1. Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;

2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, and camping grounds, due to lack of adequate alternative housing;

3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;

4. Abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care placement;

5. Living in a public or private place not designed for or used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings to live;

6. Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations; substandard housing or similar setting; and

7. Migratory children living in any of the above circumstances.

During the 2011-2012 school year, the Florida school districts identified 63,685 children and youth who were homeless. This is a 12% increase from 2010-2011. Of those identified, 6,798 (11%) were "unaccompanied youth." An "unaccompanied youth" is defined as one who is not in physical custody of a parent or guardian. The majority, 47,191 (74%) were reported as homeless and temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of their housing or economic hardship; the same percent as reported from the previous school year.

Homeless Students Reported in Florida Public Schools

School Year	Homeless Students	Change
2007 - 2008	34,375	+11%
2008 - 2009	41,286	+20%
2009 - 2010	49,112	+19%
2010 - 2011	56,680	+15%
2011 - 2012	63,685	+12%

Source: *2011 – 2012 Survey 5 Student Demographic Format and Federal State Indicator Format. Florida Department of Education, Automated Student Database System.*

Homeless Students by Florida County

DISTRICT NAME	2011-2012 HOMELESS	2010-2011 HOMELESS	2009-2010 HOMELESS	2008-2009 HOMELESS	2007-2008 HOMELESS
ALACHUA	632	594	446	707	616
BAKER	304	249	191	153	72
BAY	1,477	1,175	641	700	685
BRADFORD	215	154	122	<11	<11
BREVARD	1,350	1,165	965	478	205
BROWARD	2,158	2,101	2953	1,807	1,596
CALHOUN	84	58	47	12	<11
CHARLOTTE	488	495	441	376	366
CITRUS	328	323	371	483	469
CLAY	862	741	824	816	695
COLLIER	1,281	1,407	1360	814	612
COLUMBIA	567	403	380	423	89
DADE	5,773	4,406	4268	2,581	2,382
DESOTO	278	225	223	193	257
DIXIE	31	48	60	12	15
DUVAL	1,422	1,169	947	2,144	1,931
ESCAMBIA	1,423	1,091	1237	1,036	878
FLAGLER	367	322	246	166	71

DISTRICT NAME	2011-2012 HOMELESS	2010-2011 HOMELESS	2009-2010 HOMELESS	2008-2009 HOMELESS	2007-2008 HOMELESS
FRANKLIN	205	160	126	140	110
GADSDEN	556	533	713	689	725
GILCHRIST	17	20	27	<11	<11
GLADES	26	34	18	<11	<11
GULF	<11	<11	<11	<11	<11
HAMILTON	343	326	342	251	236
HARDEE	183	188	146	49	71
HENDRY	200	156	139	74	95
HERNANDO	645	497	242	207	156
HIGHLANDS	429	92	61	37	64
HILLSBOROUGH	3,559	3,659	3124	2,054	2,073
HOLMES	90	62	24	<11	<11
INDIAN RIVER	273	311	347	349	209
JACKSON	177	158	119	182	139
JEFFERSON	<11	<11	<11	<11	<11
LAFAYETTE	195	196	141	105	89
LAKE	3,541	2,992	2162	778	324
LAKE WALES CHARTER	136	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LEE	1,392	1,282	1143	1,030	839
LEON	650	762	523	329	309
LEVY	128	182	263	114	88
LIBERTY	41	21	22	23	16
MADISON	103	74	57	89	43
MANATEE	1,641	1,788	1684	1,770	1,574
MARION	2,223	1,911	1691	1,675	1,060
MARTIN	115	80	68	48	42
MONROE	343	328	298	317	243
NASSAU	210	230	145	54	105
OKALOOSA	573	404	482	335	451
OKEECHOBEE	396	318	203	130	60
ORANGE	4,844	3,887	1324	2,467	1,811
OSCEOLA	2,825	1,923	1364	1,251	1,213
PALM BEACH	1,636	1,443	1960	1,339	801
PASCO	1,997	2,230	2093	1,815	1,599
PINELLAS	3,085	2,915	2462	1,870	962
POLK	2,304	2,446	2219	2,024	1,662
PUTNAM	885	736	720	623	525
ST. JOHNS	584	493	344	149	86
ST. LUCIE	324	348	222	72	27
SANTA ROSA	1,651	1,467	1328	943	996
SARASOTA	877	1,229	872	1,006	1,068
SEMINOLE	1,865	1,697	1322	1,008	632
SUMTER	155	48	124	105	47

DISTRICT NAME	2011-2012 HOMELESS	2010-2011 HOMELESS	2009-2010 HOMELESS	2008-2009 HOMELESS	2007-2008 HOMELESS
SUWANNEE	346	315	322	387	257
TAYLOR	96	89	73	101	75
UNION	157	148	121	51	52
VOLUSIA	2,228	2,016	1889	1,973	1,977
WAKULLA	99	56	108	283	173
WALTON	175	114	40	36	316
WASHINGTON	79	168	165	22	0
SCHOOL FOR DEAF/BLIND	<11	0	0	0	0
FL VIRTUAL SCHOOL	<11	0	0	0	0
FAU - LAB SCHOOL	<11	<11	0	0	0
FSU - LAB SCHOOL	<11	<11	0	0	0
FAMU - LAB SCHOOL	11	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	63,685	56,658	49,104	41,255	34,339

N/A: Not Applicable

Source: Survey 5 Student Demographic Format and Federal State Indicator Format, Florida
        Department of Education, Automated Student Database System

Continuum of Care Planning

What is a homeless continuum of care plan?

The local homeless assistance continuum of care plan is intended to be a framework for a comprehensive and seamless array of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and services to address the various needs of homeless persons, as well as those at risk of becoming homeless. [Section 420.624, Florida Statutes]

This locally driven plan reflects the community's vision for solutions to its specific homeless needs. This planning is required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to be eligible to apply for and compete for federal grants to develop and operate housing for the homeless.

The continuum of care plan outlines the strategies and actions planned at the community level to accomplish the federal goal for reducing and ending homelessness. Each continuum of care plan serves a specific geographical area, and the local planning effort shall identify an agency to lead this planning. These lead agencies are local homeless coalitions, units of local government or other private nonprofit entities.
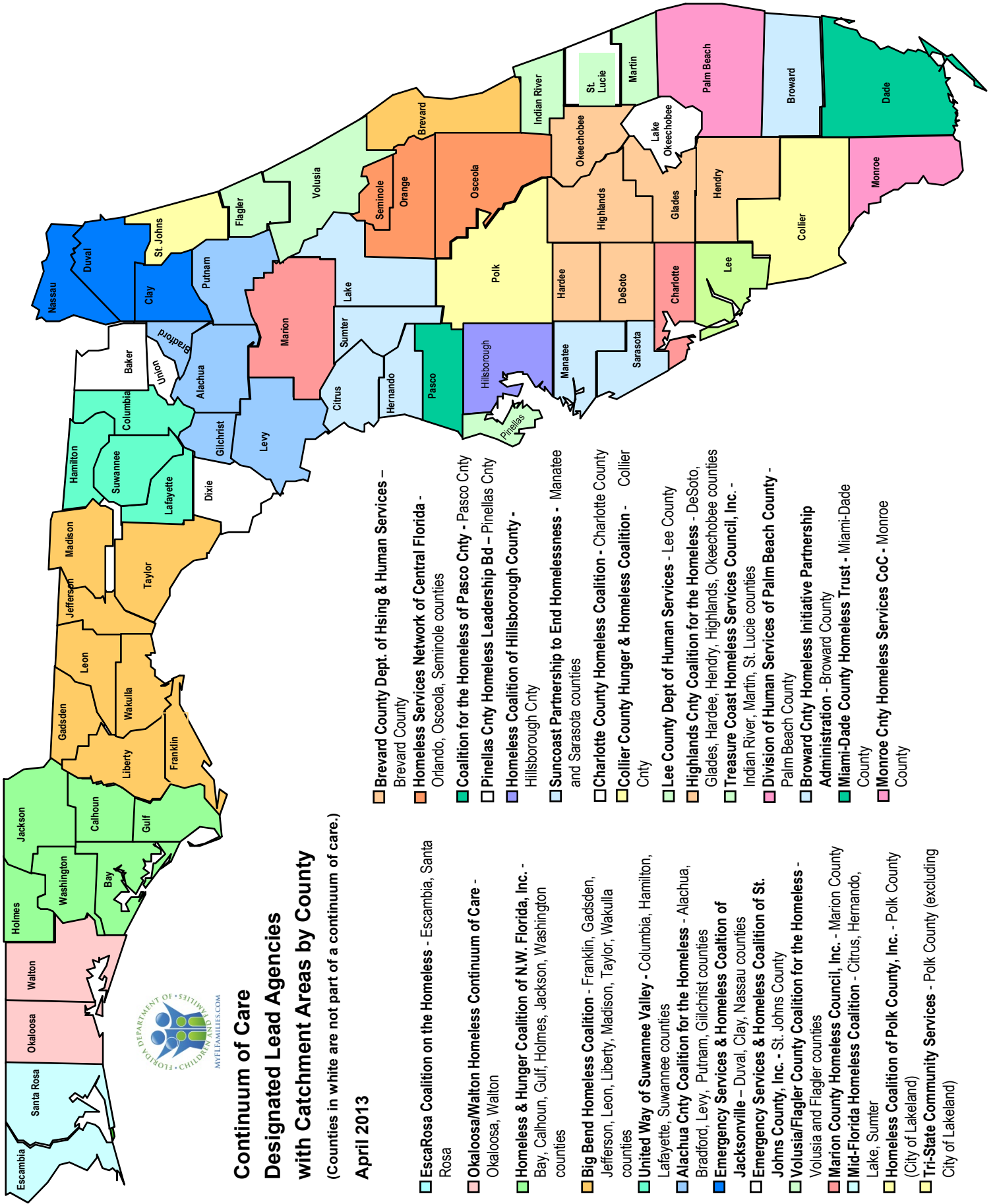
Florida' Planning Effort

In 2013, there are 28 local continuum of care planning areas covering 64 of the 67 counties. The present planning areas are depicted on the attached map, which also identifies the agency leading the homeless plan. The three counties, which have elected not to be part of planning, are Baker, Union and Dixie.

Return on the Planning Investment

The state's continuum of care areas have become very successful in competing for and receiving housing grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to create transitional and permanent housing for the homeless. In the most recent grant cycle, (FY2012), the 28 continuums have received grant awards totaling $78,554,056. This helps to fund over 350 local projects in Florida. The growth in grant funding being secured to help serve Florida's homeless is reflected in the following table of awards.

Year	Continuum of Care Total Awards
2001	$48,692,766
2002	$41,239,338
2003	$51,396,280
2004	$59,060,266
2005	$58,053,746
2006	$56,269,722
2007	$62,693,380
2008	$67,181,336
2009	$73,836,367
2010	$77,739,489
2011	$78,767,112
2012	$78,554,056

Continuum of Care
Designated Lead Agencies
with Catchment Areas by County

(Counties in white are not part of a continuum of care.)

April 2013

- **EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless** - Escambia, Santa Rosa
- **Okaloosa/Walton Homeless Continuum of Care** - Okaloosa, Walton
- **Homeless & Hunger Coalition of N.W. Florida, Inc.** - Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington counties
- **Big Bend Homeless Coalition** - Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla counties
- **United Way of Suwannee Valley** - Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee counties
- **Alachua Cnty Coalition for the Homeless** - Alachua, Bradford, Levy, Putnam, Gilchrist counties
- **Emergency Services & Homeless Coaltion of Jacksonville** – Duval, Clay, Nassau counties
- **Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County, Inc.** - St. Johns County
- **Volusia/Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless** - Volusia and Flagler counties
- **Marion County Homeless Council, Inc.** - Marion County
- **Mid-Florida Homeless Coalition** - Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Sumter
- **Homeless Coalition of Polk County, Inc.** - Polk County (City of Lakeland)
- **Tri-State Community Services** - Polk County (excluding City of Lakeland)

- **Brevard County Dept. of Hsing & Human Services** – Brevard County
- **Homeless Services Network of Central Florida** - Orlando, Osceola, Seminole counties
- **Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco Cnty** - Pasco Cnty
- **Pinellas Cnty Homeless Leadership Bd** – Pinellas Cnty
- **Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County** - Hillsborough Cnty
- **Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness** - Manatee and Sarasota counties
- **Charlotte County Homeless Coalition** - Charlotte County
- **Collier County Hunger & Homeless Coalition** - Collier Cnty
- **Lee County Dept of Human Services** - Lee County
- **Highlands Cnty Coalition for the Homeless** - DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee counties
- **Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, Inc.** - Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie counties
- **Division of Human Services of Palm Beach County** - Palm Beach County
- **Broward Cnty Homeless Initiative Partnership Administration** - Broward County
- **Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust** - Miami-Dade County
- **Monroe Cnty Homeless Services CoC** - Monroe County

17

The total awards for 2012 only cover grant renewals. Awards for new homeless projects submitted for funding had not been announced in time for this report. A breakdown of the grants by each of the planning areas 2011 and 2012 is attached.

The result of grants has been the growth in housing options to enable the homeless to get off the street, and to get back into permanent housing. This growth is reflected in the chart below comparing the number of beds available in 2001, to the supply in 2012.

Beds Available for the Homeless				
Year	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Permanent Housing	Total Beds
2001	7,967	10,589	3,683	22,239
2012	10,168	13,958	14,558	38,684

The major growth in the permanent housing bed supply reflects the shift in best practices away from sheltering, to rapid re-housing of the homeless into permanent housing. This model is called "Housing First," and has demonstrated cost effective outcomes in ending a person's episode of homelessness.

HUD Continuum of Care Awards
By Florida Planning Areas
2011 and 2012

Continuum of Care	2012 Award	2011 Award
Suncoast	722,807	689,844
Hillsborough	5,188,111	5,252,836
Pinellas	3,555,027	4,199,590
Polk	388,551	195,138
Lakeland	1,266,347	1,147,842
Volusia/Flagler	1,341,868	1,381,650
Okaloosa/Walton	61,853	621,146
Big Bend	1,204,042	1,199,272
Central FL	5,885,637	5,699,557
North Central	637,364	900,916
Treasure Coast	1,279,080	1,489,624
Jacksonville	4,588,269	4,593,530
Esca Rosa	987,587	1,126,176
St. Johns'	208,264	208,264
Brevard	871,759	860,271
Miami Dade	31,389,776	29,438,528
Broward	9,318,247	9,555,151
Lee	2,164,377	2,230,767
Monroe	521,973	502,634
Palm Beach	5,098,759	4,931,779
Collier	315,368	330,761
Marion	243,341	250,430

Continuum of Care	2012 Award	2011 Award
Pasco	287,860	1,014,276
Charlotte	231,246	220,643
Northwest	44,470	45,222
Mid-Florida	390,205	270,863
Suwannee Valley	160,334	208,868
Highlands	201,534	201,543
TOTAL	$78,554,056	$78,767,112

Note: The 2012 awards only reflect the grants announced for renewal awards as of May 2, 2013.
Additional awards for new project applications have not yet been announced.

Council Participants
2012-2013

Represented by:

Department of Children and Families   Kriss Vallese

Department of Economic Opportunity   Sean Lewis

Department of Health   Duane Ashe

Department of Corrections   William Carr
Chris Southerland

Department of Veterans' Affairs   Alene Tarter

Workforce Florida, Inc.   Chris Hart

Florida Department of Education   Lorraine Allen

Agency for Health Care Administration   Molly McKinstry

Florida Housing Finance Corporation   Bill Aldinger

Florida Coalition for the Homeless   Rayme Nuckles
Angela Hogan

Florida Supportive Housing Coalition   Shannon Nazworth

Florida League of Cities   Alana Brenner
Rick Butler

Florida Association of Counties   Claudia Tuck

Governor's Appointees   Steve Smith
Vicki Sokolik
Ardian Zika
Cherron Newby
Arthur Rosenberg
Jeffrey McAdams
Joanell Greubel
Teri Saunders

Ex Officio   Lindsey Berling-Cannon
Tom Bilodeau