Virginia's Homeless Programs
2013-14 Program Year

A Report to the
House Appropriations
and
Senate Finance Committees

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Executive Summary

Overall homelessness in the Commonwealth has declined 22.6 percent from 2010 to 2014 with more than a 25 percent decrease in family homelessness in the same period. However, homelessness continues to directly affect thousands of Virginians annually. According to the annual 2014 point-in-time count[1] conducted by localities statewide, at least 7,020 individuals were homeless during a 24-hour snapshot in January 2014. Four to five times that number (28,080 - 35,100 individuals annually) may actually experience homelessness at some point during the year, according to national homeless studies. Many of these persons have special needs based on situations ranging from physical or mental disabilities to chronic substance abuse. Of the total homeless population, many are also victims of other circumstances such as job loss or domestic violence.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) directly addresses the problems associated with homelessness by administering several core programs that provide financial support to local governments and nonprofit providers of housing and supportive services to the homeless. During the 2013-14 program year DHCD administered the following:

- **Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP)**
  - A $300,000 block grant to provide child care for homeless children
  - 122 children received child care through the program

- **Child Services Coordination Grant (CSCG)**
  - $330,453 in state general funds to coordinate health, mental health, and educational services for children in homeless services programs
  - 11 nonprofit organizations received funding to train and compensate child services coordination staff

- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**
  - $2,391,982 in federal funds through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - ESG served approximately 5,982 individuals through its assistance services
  - Funding served 3,333 individuals in shelters, 1,474 in rapid re-housing, and provided financial assistance to avert homelessness for an additional 1,175 program participants

- **Homeless Solutions Grant (HSG)**
  - $7,301,820 in state general funds to the Homeless Solutions Grant (HSG), which includes $500,000 allocated for activities specific to rapid re-housing

1 Point-in-Time 2014 preliminary report

- HSG served 14,830 persons through shelter and 4,862 through rapid re-housing

- **Homeless Prevention Program (HPP)**
  - $4,650,000 million in state general funds
  - 4,871 individuals (1,823 households) received financial assistance to prevent homelessness

- **Housing Opportunities to Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)**
  - $696,043 in federal funds through HUD
  - Funding was distributed through seven project sponsors across the state to serve 253 individuals (253 households) with HIV/AIDS through housing subsidy assistance
  - 424 households received supportive services, including case management, transportation, and food assistance

This report serves as a means to report overall conditions and progress made related to the administration of the State's homelessness programs in compliance with Budget Item 103 C of Virginia Acts of Assembly, 2014 Special Session 1, Chapter 2.

> The Department shall report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance, the House Appropriations Committees, and the Director, Department of Planning and Budget by November 4 of each year on the state's homeless programs, including, but not limited to, the number of (i) emergency shelter beds, (ii) transitional housing units, (iii) single room occupancy dwellings, and (iv) homeless intervention programs supported by state funding on a locality and statewide basis. The report shall also include the number of Virginians served by these programs, the costs of the programs, and the financial and in-kind support provided by localities and nonprofit groups in these programs. In preparing the report, the Department shall consult with localities and community-based groups.

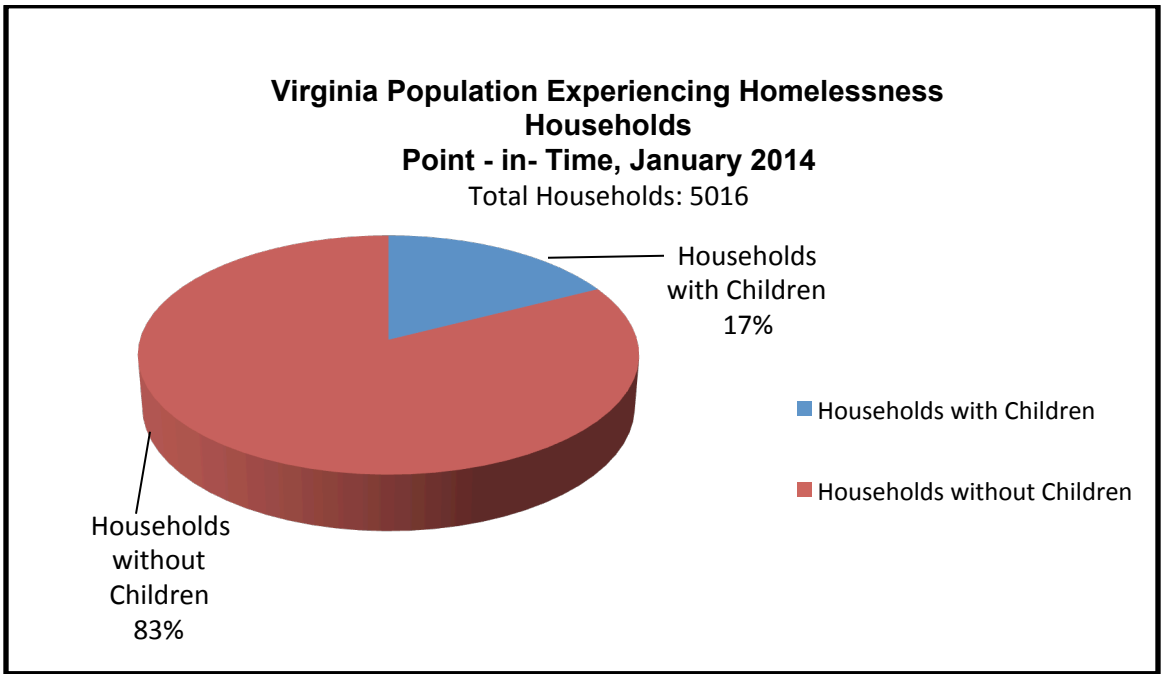
Conditions

Every year each continuum of care across the state participates in an annual point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness. Sheltered persons are any individuals (including children and unaccompanied youth) sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or using a hotel/motel voucher. Unsheltered individuals are (including children and unaccompanied youth) sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, or on the street.

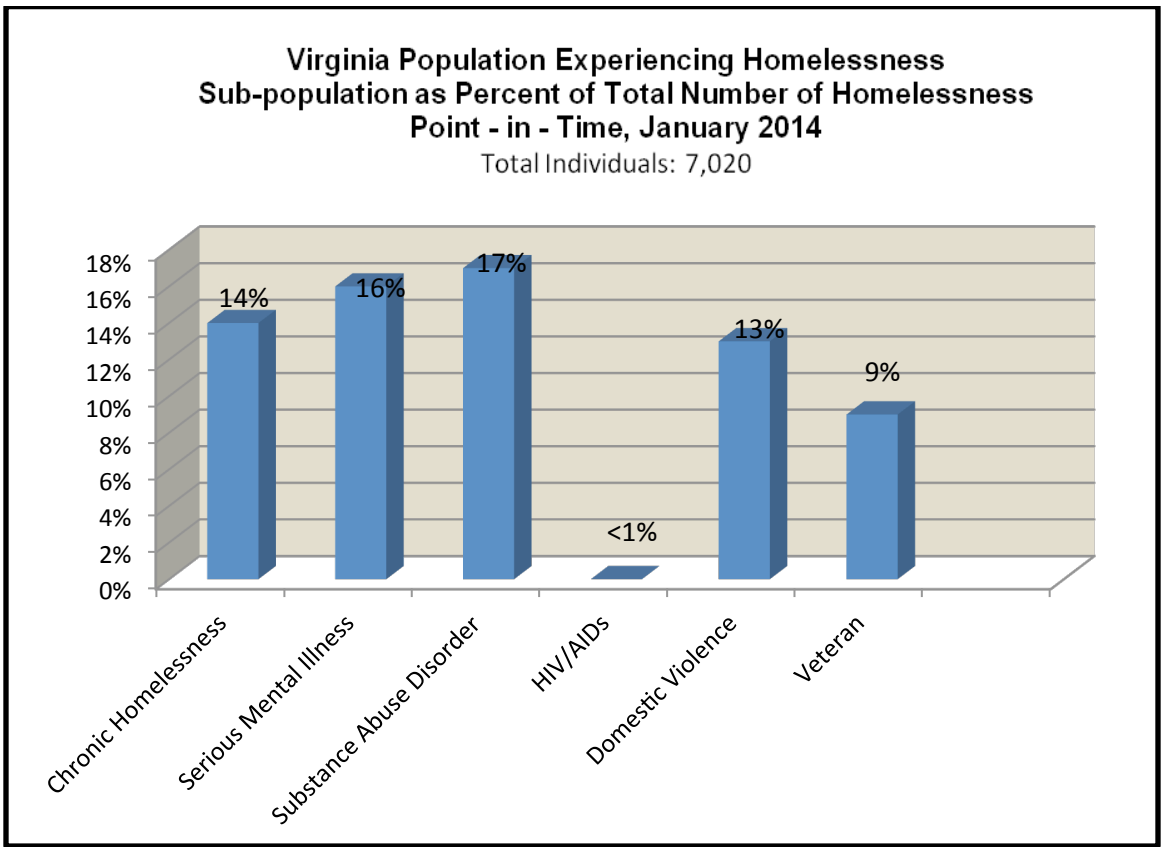
The January 2014 point-in-time count identified 7,020 individuals (5,016 households) as experiencing homelessness. About 60 percent of these individuals were in emergency shelters, 38 percent were in transitional shelter programs, less than one percent was in Safe Haven shelters, and 9.8 percent were unsheltered at the time of the count.

The number of individuals experiencing homelessness over an entire year is typically four to five times the point-in-time count total. In this case, an estimated 28,080 to 35,100 individuals in Virginia experienced homelessness at some point throughout the year.

Seventeen percent of households experiencing homelessness during the point-in-time count included households with dependent children.



Based on data reported from the 2014 point-in-time count, 14 percent (965) individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness. This is based on the HUD definition of chronic homelessness as "an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years." Notably, nine percent of the homeless population in Virginia are reportedly veterans, and 17 percent are victims of domestic violence. In addition, 16 percent were severely mentally ill and 17 percent were reported as experiencing chronic substance abuse.



Virginia's Homeless Plan

In April 2010, Governor Bob McDonnell signed Executive Order 10 for a Housing Policy Framework that called for a focus on addressing the needs of homeless Virginians, and housing and services for those with very low incomes. As part of this effort, the Governor laid out the following task: to develop a plan to leverage state resources more effectively; maximize the effectiveness of State services and resources for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and realize efficiencies through enhanced coordination and shared resources among State agencies. The report can be found at: http://www.virginiahousingpolicy.com/pdf/Homeless%20Outcomes%20Advisory.pdf

The resulting work identified five primary goals to meet the challenge of reducing homelessness by 15 percent by 2013. This goal was surpassed – overall, homelessness decreased by 16 percent from 2010 to 2013. The McAuliffe administration continued to support the work of the Homeless Coordinating Council and its on-going efforts. The 2014 point-in-time count showed another decrease of 7.9 percent making a 22.6 percent total decrease in overall homelessness since 2010.

The following lists the goals and current progress towards their achievement.

Goal One: Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units

- In the fall of 2012,DHCD and Virginia Housing Development Authority implemented the Virginia Housing Trust Fund plan that was created by Budget Bill 108, Section G. Eighty percent of the moneys from the Fund may be used to provide flexible financing for low-interest loans through eligible organizations (Loan Pool) and up to 20 percent of the moneys from the Fund will provide grants to target efforts to reduce homelessness (Homeless Reduction Grant Pool).

- Through the Housing Trust Fund competitive application process, three of the ten homeless reductions grantees are for pre-development activities for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and five of the eight loan pool projects are in final negotiations for PSH.

- VHDA is currently funding developments in the non-competitive pool within the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program to include projects that serve the chronically homeless.

- DHCD awarded three permanent supportive housing grants totaling $1M that will create 19 housing units for chronically homeless and disabled persons.

- Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) is partnering with the VA Medical Centers to identify how to streamline access to HUD VASH vouchers for the veterans experiencing chronic homelessness who have been identified as the most vulnerable. VCEH continues to work to increase access to this resource.

- VCEH and Department of Veteran Services (DVS) participated in a national boot camp in Philadelphia with the Hampton VA Medical Center and Norfolk stakeholders. As a result, the Norfolk Team, including the Housing Authority, set a “100 Day” goal to increase housing access for veterans.

- DBHDS and VHDA held a training to present various models of permanent supportive housing to Community Service Boards, indicating potential collaborations with developers. DBHDS also provided online case management training to CSBs that includes housing stability and landlord-tenant problem resolution components.

- VCEH has and will continue to work with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to provide technical assistance to communities regarding the development of Permanent Supportive Housing.

- DBHDS received $750,000 to create a “Discharge Assistance Program” to address a waiting list of over 150 individuals who have been clinically determined to be ready for discharge but continue to reside in state mental health facilities.

Goal Two: Increase flexibility of funding to prevent homelessness and support rapid re-housing

- Using a competitive grant application process, DHCD created an incentivized system of providers in each continuum of care to develop rapid re-housing services.

- Funding for rapid re-housing has increased to $4.6M (to include a $500,000 appropriation specific to rapid re-housing) through a competitive application process.

- With increased state funding combined with federal ESG funds, number of organizations providing rapid re-housing increased from 25 to 84 between 2013 and 2014.

- While considering continuum of care (CoC) need, DHCD is linking state funding and future contracts to organization performance outcomes related to housing and prevention of homelessness. Unexpended funds are reallocated to high performers.

- DHCD continued the collaboration with the Freddie Mac Foundation, the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness to create uniform performance measures statewide in an effort to improve funding coordination among DHCD, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Veteran’s Services, and other state agencies.

- DHCD awarded ESG and HOPWA FY2014 funds in non-entitlement areas through a CoC-based application process.

- As a part of the Reducing Family Homelessness in Virginia initiative (the collaborative effort between the Freddie Mac Foundation, VCEH, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and the Commonwealth) five pilot projects (Fairfax, Harrisonburg, Norfolk, Richmond, and VA Beach) were implemented for higher barrier families.

- The Rapid Re-Housing Challenge launched on October 17, 2013 and ended January 24, 2014 and resulted in 545 families being housed statewide. A celebration was held on February 11.

Goal Three: Increase statewide data collection and system coordination

- The 2014 point-in-time (PIT) count and homeless services housing inventory data was collected and aggregated from all continua of care across the state.

- A vendor was selected to outline options and make recommendations on the feasibility of a statewide HMIS and a data collection and system coordination project.

- The Homeless Outcomes Coordinating Council endorsed the statewide homeless assistance performance measures.

- The Homeless Outcomes Coordinating Council has continued to meet on a regular basis as have the four committees established to ensure implementation of the specific goals. Its Supportive Services and Funding Committee will identify best practices to address employment for those experiencing homelessness.

- Focus has been given to identifying what type of data state agencies are currently collecting regarding housing stability and then analyzing where data overlaps and where there are gaps or opportunities.

Goal Four: Increase access to substance abuse and mental health treatment

- DHCD and DBHDS held a training that presented to Community Services Boards (CSBs) various models of permanent supportive housing (PSH) and potential collaborations with developers.

- The Healing Place (THP) in Richmond is providing technical assistance to organizations in Norfolk and Lynchburg for the development of two new facilities that address homelessness, substance abuse, jail diversion, and prisoner re-entry; THP of Hampton Roads has applied for nonprofit status has hired its first executive director, and launched its website: www.thehealingplacehr.org while THP of Lynchburg continues to develop its regional board and has become incorporated.

- DBHDS provides training on Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) and Jail Diversion Model Programs in Virginia to leverage resources and improve outcomes for individuals with mental illness involved in the Criminal Justice System.

- The General Assembly added $900,000 to the FY 2014 budget to expand capacity for therapeutic assessment drop-off centers to provide an alternative to incarceration for people with serious mental illness. Funding

priority has been given to programs that have implemented CIT and have undergone planning to implement drop-off centers.

- DBHDS held the final Cross-Systems Mapping seminars covering 98 of Virginia's 134 localities, and approximately 1,400 community stakeholders participated in the workshops. The goal of these workshops is to improve linkages between regional and local Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health system to reduce criminal just involvement.

- DBHDS held a conference in September 2013, "Cross System Collaborating between Legal and Mental Health Partners."

- DBHDS released an additional case management training module that included guidance on monitoring, reporting, and follow-up to help ensure quality housing conditions and appropriate residential services.

Goal Five: Implement statewide pre-discharge policies for the foster care system, hospitals, mental health facilities and correctional facilities

- DSS has incorporated specific services, including housing options, to be included in the pre-discharge plan for youth being released from the foster care system.

- Legislation passed during the 2013 GA Session allows youth being released from DJJ to opt into foster care if they were in the custody of DSS prior to commitment.

- DBHDS is currently documenting the number of patients who are discharged into shelters.

- Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC) updated and issued Procedure 820.2 Reentry Planning which details the process for prison and community corrections staff to follow in release planning and home plan confirmation.

- VDOC updated the electronic offender management system to assist in identifying inmates with prior military service in regional and local jails. In addition, the DOC Community Release Unit manually documents cases in which inmates are released without a home plan and the reasons for those releases.

- The Interagency Partnership to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness was established as an additional committee of the Homeless Coordinating Council and is in the process of finalizing a proposed strategic planning process which will outline work to be complete in the next three and a half years.

Homeless Programs

DHCD administers approximately $15.7 annually for homeless services programs. This includes approximately $12.3 million in state general funds that leverage approximately $3 million in federal funds to address the critical needs of homelessness in Virginia.

Federal resources include $300,000 from Health and Human Services (HHS), which is allocated to DHCD through the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) for a childcare services program serving children in homeless services programs within the Commonwealth. In addition to the federal funding allocated to the Department through DSS, DHCD also received federal funding directly from HUD through the federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program. The federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program is leveraged along with the Homeless Solutions Grant to support homeless services across the Commonwealth. The HOPWA program prevents homelessness among low-income individuals with HIV/AIDS and their families.

DHCD-Administered Homeless Programs 2013-2014 Program Year		
Program	**Source**	**2013-2014 Allocation**
Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP)	Federal –HHS (DSS)	**$300,000**
Child Care Services Coordinator Grant (CSCG)	State	**$330,453**
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	Federal -HUD	**$2,391,982**
Homeless Solutions Grant (HSG) *includes $500,000 in Rapid Re-housing funds	State	**$7,301,820**
Homeless Prevention Program (HPP)	State	**$4,650,000**
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Federal -HUD	**$696,043**

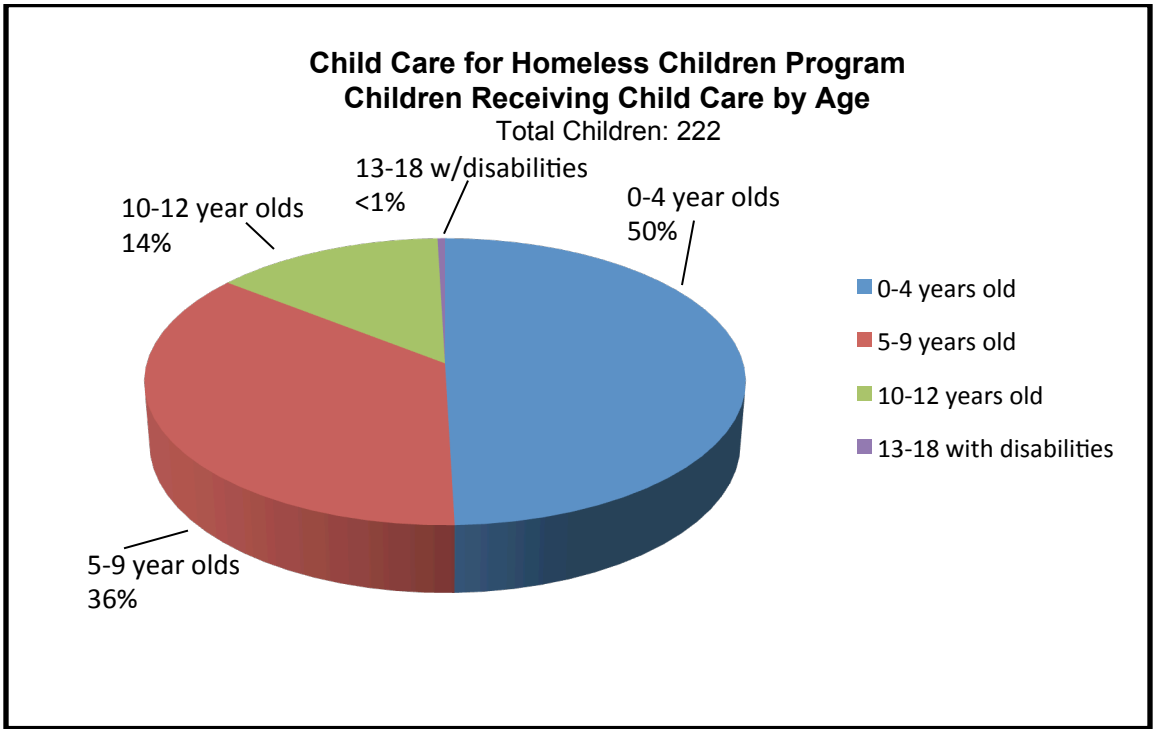
Child Care for Homeless Children Program

The Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP) receives funding through the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, which the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) administers. DHCD has an interagency agreement with DSS to provide for the payment of child care services for children in DHCD funded homeless services programs. Homeless families may receive assistance for the cost of child care while working or participating in an educational or job training program.

In the 2013-14 program year, DHCD awarded $241,687 from its block grant to support the Child Care for Homeless Children Program. As a result, 222 children

(representing 134 households) received childcare during the year allowing parents to work toward developing economic self-sufficiency.

Half of the children receiving childcare were four years old or younger.



Child Care for Homeless Children Program 2013-14		
Service Provider	**Location**	**Funding**
ForKids, Inc.	Norfolk	10,426
Family Promise of Greater Roanoke	Roanoke	1,665
Help and Emergency Response	Portsmouth	6,267
Hilliard House	Richmond	32,427
HomeAgain (formerly Emergency Shelter, Inc.)	Richmond	31,379
Mercy House, Inc.	Harrisonburg	2,345
Northern Virginia Family Service	Fairfax	19,902
Samaritan House, Inc.	Virginia Beach	63,037
Transitional Housing Barn, Inc.	Prince William	51,250
YWCA of South Hampton Roads	Norfolk	22,985
TOTAL		**$241,687**

Child Services Coordination Grant

The Child Services Coordination Grant (CSCG) program provides support to ensure that children in homeless services programs are effectively connected to appropriate educational, health, mental health and other necessary community services. The CSCG program addresses the needs of homeless children in homeless services programs by:

- Ensuring that professional child service resources are available to homeless families with children through linkages to the community.
- Improving service delivery to homeless children through increased information-sharing, collaborative planning, assessment, and referral to existing resources.

Nonprofits and local governments providing homeless services were eligible applicants for CSCG funds. This funding was directed to the following activities:

- Salary support for in-house child services coordination staff
- Expenses for support services delivered by community providers
- Grant administration

Child services coordination staff in the state of Virginia deliver referrals to external community service providers, complete regular home visits to coordinate family services, communicate effectively with school systems, and work with community service boards to place children in appropriate mental health services. Funds were also directed toward staff training, costs associated with transporting recipients to referral services, grant administration and oversight.

Awards were made based on a competitive application process. The 2013-14 funding included appropriation disbursement of $300,000 in state general funds.

Child Services Coordination Grant
2013-14

Service Provider	Location	Funding
Crisis Assistance Response Emergency Shelter, Inc.	Petersburg	11,821
Council of Community Services	Roanoke	28,753
Family Crisis Support Services, Inc.	Norton	15,500
Help and Emergency Response	Portsmouth	25,532
Homeward	Richmond	22,603
Mercy House, Inc.	Harrisonburg	49,248
Northern Virginia Family Service	Prince William	107,847

People Incorporated of Southwest Virginia	Abingdon	8,825
Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission	Culpeper	30,000
STEP, Inc.	Rocky Mount	13,000
Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter, Inc.	Fredericksburg	25,000
TOTAL **Additional $38,130 was carried forward from FY13*		***$338,130**

Homeless Solutions Grant (HSG) , Rapid Re-housing, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

The Homeless Solutions Grant (HSG) is a $7,301,820 state general fund allocation for shelter operations, rapid re-housing assistance, and housing stabilization support activities. This includes $500,000 in funding reserved by the Virginia General Assembly for activities related to rapid re-housing. The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) supplemented state funds and was directed to shelter operations, rapid re-housing, and homeless prevention activities.

The Homeless Solutions Grant (HSG) program assisted families and individuals experiencing homelessness by providing state funding to emergency shelters, rapid re-housing programs and housing stabilization services. It replaced the State Shelter Grant (SSG) program and requires all grantees to provide a match with local or private funds. Grant funds related to shelter operations can be used for operating costs such as salary support, administration, Homeless Management Information Services (HMIS), maintenance, rent, utilities, insurance, supplies, and furnishings. Grant funds related to rapid re-housing and housing stabilization may be used for household rental assistance, housing search activities, supportive services, credit repair and background checks, financial assistance (utilities, deposits, application fees, and moving costs), and service location costs.

HSG funds may also be used to support the delivery of housing-focused case management while households are in shelter as well as once they have been rapidly re-housed.

Many grantees receive both HSG and ESG funding. However, grantees in the federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) FFY 2013-14 entitlement cities of Norfolk, Richmond, and Virginia Beach, and the entitlement counties of Fairfax, and Prince William are not eligible for state-administered ESG funding. These jurisdictions receive direct allocations of ESG funds from Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The ESG allocation, minus 7.5 percent for state/local government administrative costs, was allocated to sub-grantees (non-profit organizations and units of local governments) in ESG non-entitlement localities. Sub-grantees were selected for

the July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014 program year based on a competitive application process.

Shelter providers receiving HSG served 15,217 persons (10,166 households) through emergency and seasonal shelters during 2013-14 program year. Rapid re-housing services were provided to 4,862 individuals (2,021 households). The table and charts to follow provide additional details on the count and percentage distribution served by the primary types of shelters.

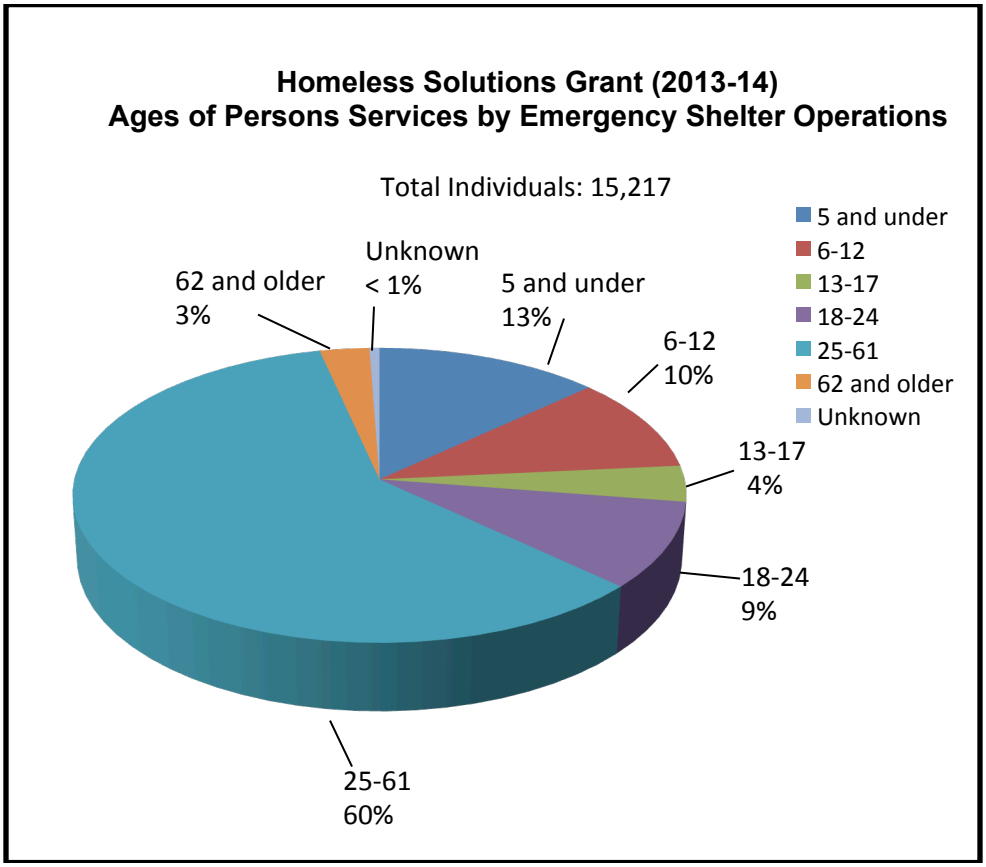
HOMELESS SOLUTIONS GRANT (HSG) FUNDING 2013-14		
Service Provider	**Location**	**Funding**
Action in Community Through Service of Prince William, Inc.	Prince William	$150,000
Aids Services Group	Charlottesville	$78,214
Alexandria, City of Department of Human Services	Alexandria	$149,316
Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.	Arlington	$186,769
Avalon: A Center for Women and Children	Williamsburg	$106,568
CARES, Inc.	Petersburg	$34,953
CARITAS	Richmond	$150,000
Carpenter's Shelter	Alexandria	$150,000
Catholic Charities of the Dioceses of Arlington	Alexandria	$75,000
Choices, Council on Domestic Violence for Page County	Luray	$78,957
Citizens Against Family Violence, Inc.	Martinsville	$40,810
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	Richmond	$182,581
Council of Community Services	Roanoke	$131,456
Culpeper Community Development Corporation	Culpeper	$40,000
The Daily Planet	Richmond	$40,000
Doorways	Arlington	$138,324
Family Crisis Support Services, Inc.	Norton	$108,868
Family Resource Center	Wytheville	$47,953
Fauquier Co.	Fauquier	166,506

First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence, Inc.	Harrisonburg	$31,415
ForKids, Inc.	Norfolk	$424,112
Good Shepherd Alliance, Inc.	Loudoun	$20,239
Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board	Newport News	$44,000
Hanover Safe Place (Hanover Domestic Violence Task Force)	Hanover	$59,375
The Haven Shelter and Services, Inc.	Warsaw	$20,000
The Healing Place	Richmond	$150,000
Help and Emergency Response	Portsmouth	$77,420
Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence, Inc.	Wytheville	$68,846
Hilliard House	Richmond	$122,361
HomeAgain (formerly Emergency Shelter, Inc.)	Richmond	$170,631
Homestretch, Inc.	Fairfax	$84,469
Laurel Center, Inc.	Gloucester	$44,595
LINK of Hampton Roads, Inc.	Newport News	$176,581
Loudoun County Department of Family Services	Leesburg	$100,000
The Laurel Center	Winchester	$48,721
Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc.	Lynchburg	$135,253
Menchville House Ministries, Inc.	Newport News	$68,335
Mercy House, Inc.	Harrisonburg	$174,759
Micah Ecumenical Ministries, Inc.	Fredericksburg	$127,891
New Hope Housing, Inc.	Alexandria	$136,068
New River Family Shelter	Christiansburg	$65,000
Northern Virginia Family Service	Prince William	$166,506
People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry	Charlottesville	$94,000
People Incorporated of Virginia	Abingdon	$150,000
Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition, Inc.	Portsmouth	$68,424
Prince William County DSS Homeless Services	Prince William	$26,400
Project Horizon, Inc.	Lexington	$29,476

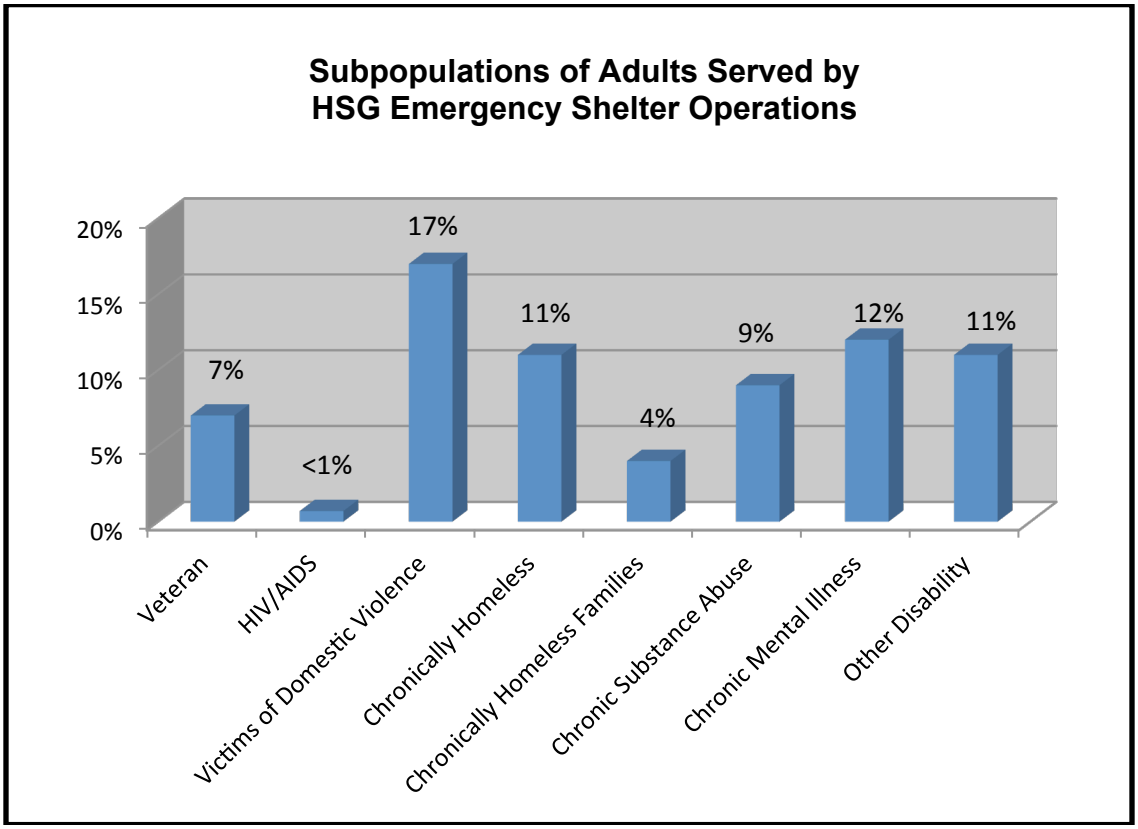
Empowerhouse (Formerly - Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence)	Fredericksburg	$162,379
Rappahannock Refuge, Inc./Hope House	Fredericksburg	$105,987
Response, Inc.	Shenandoah	$42,600
Cornerstones (Formerly - Reston Interfaith, Inc.)	Fairfax	$223,386
Roanoke, City of	Roanoke	$144,347
Family Promise of Greater Roanoke	Salem	$25,000
Roanoke Valley Student Trouble Center, Inc. (d/b/a Trust House)	Roanoke	$25,000
St. Joseph's Villa	Richmond/Petersburg	132,153
Salvation Army of Central Virginia	Richmond	$100,636
Salvation Army of Roanoke	Roanoke	$150,000
Salvation Army Tri Cities Service Center	Petersburg	$103,424
Samaritan House, Inc.	Virginia Beach	$159,903
Shelter House, Inc.	Fairfax	$171,457
Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter	Shenandoah	$50,000
STEP, Inc.	Rocky Mount	$66,458
Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter, Inc.	Fredericksburg	$84,062
Transitional Housing Barn, Inc	Prince William	$150,000
Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center	Prince William	$145,574
Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley	Radford	$120,000
YWCA of South Hampton Roads	Norfolk	$114,765
TOTAL		**$7,173,091**

Numbers Served

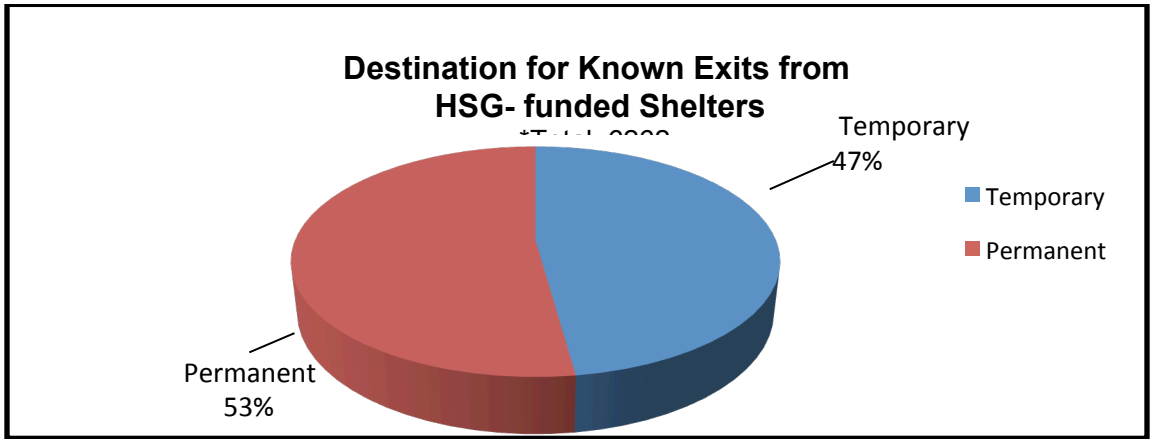
In 2013-14, HSG shelter providers served 15,217 individuals (10,166 households). Twenty-three percent (3,574 individuals) of all individuals served were under the age of 12.

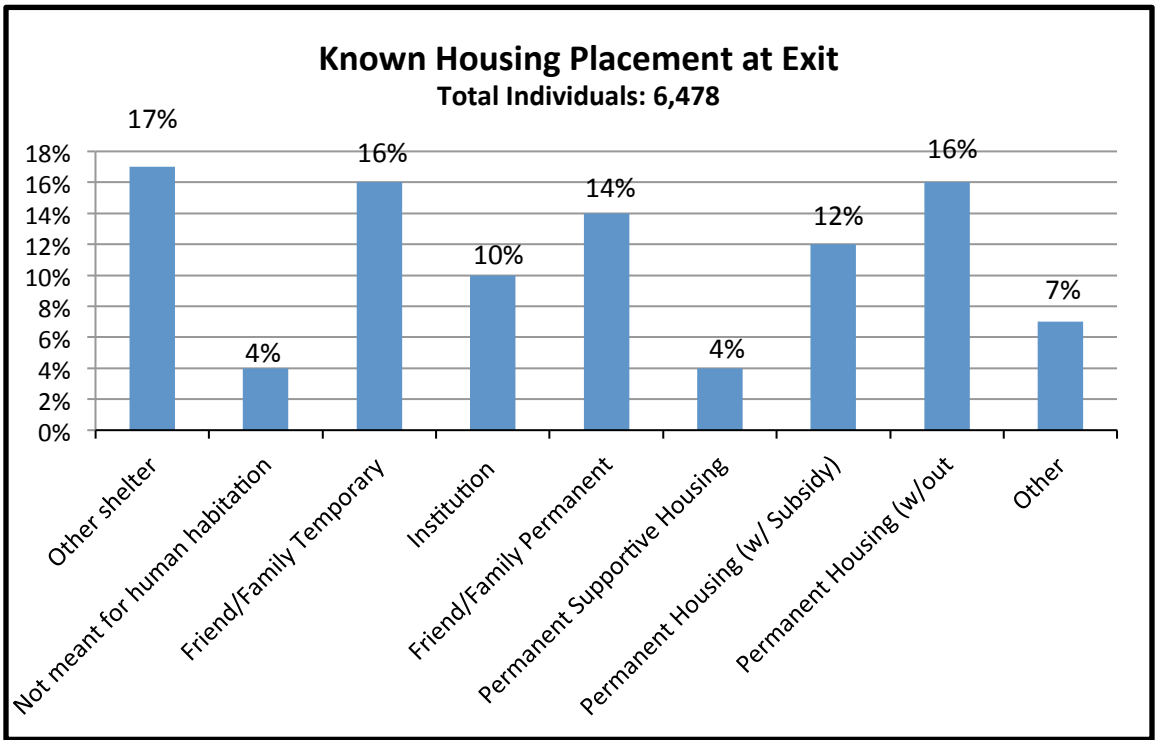


Seven percent of individuals receiving HSG-funded shelter services report veteran status. Seventeen percent are victims of domestic violence. Other significant challenges and barriers to housing include severe mental illness, chronic substance abuse, and disabilities.



Of households that exited shelter, 52 percent exited to a permanent destination (market rate rental, Section 8, supportive housing, permanent placement with family and friends). The remaining 48 percent exited to a temporary destination (other shelter, institution, or to housing provided by family/friends).

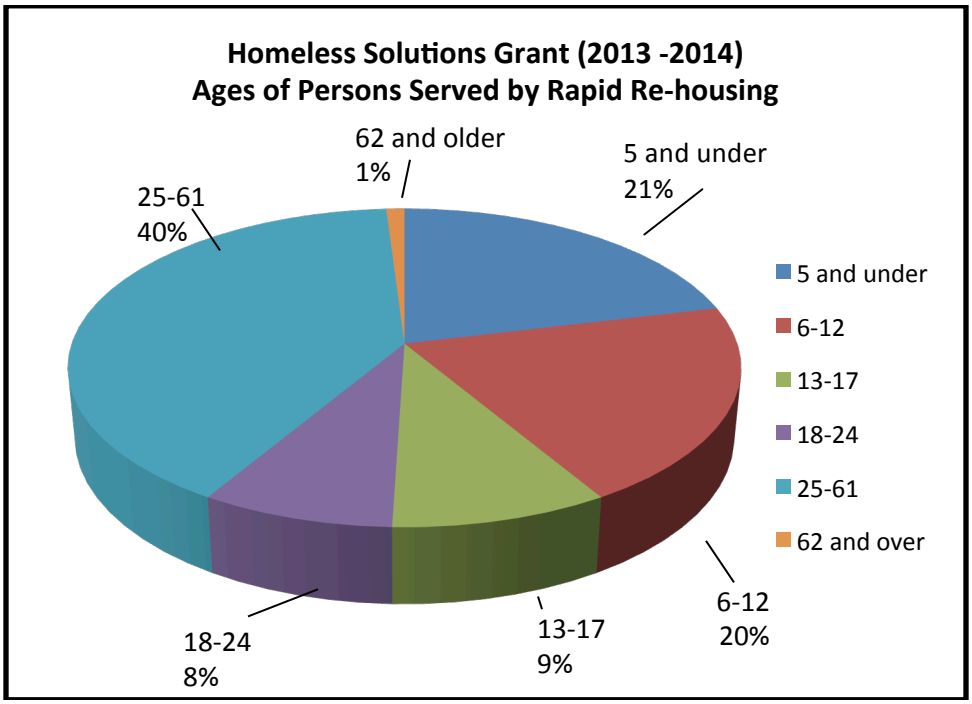




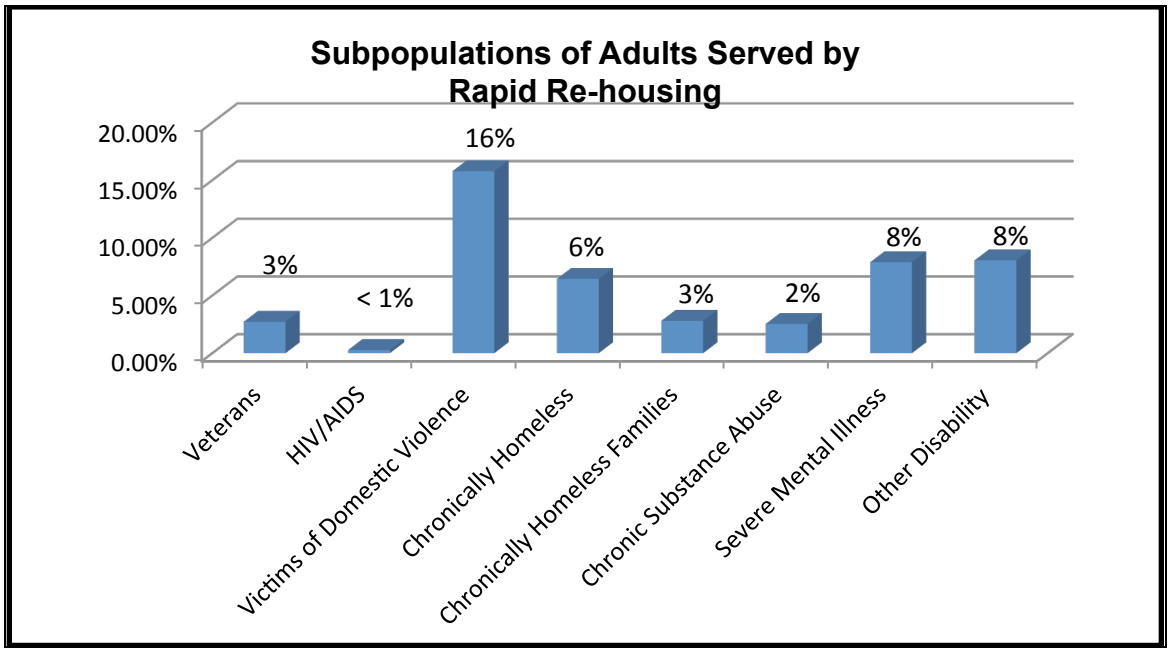
Funding for rapid re-housing increased to $4.6M through the competitive application process that included an additional $500,000 budget allocation from the General Assembly. A collaborative effort with the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness, the commonwealth and the Freddie Mac Foundation supported capacity building activities to ensure an effective transition to this best practice model. Further, the number of organizations providing rapid re-housing increased from 25 in 2011-12 to 64 in 2013-2014. Additionally, the number of Permanent Supportive Housing beds increased from 2,902 in 2011-12 to 3,293 in 2012-2013 and in 2013-14, 10 new projects were funded with the Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant pool.

ESG-funded rapid re-housing services were provided to 1,474 individuals (566 households); HSG rapid re-housing funds served 4,862 individuals (2,021 households). Five hundred and twenty-eight individuals received assistance from both ESG and HSG rapid re-housing projects.

Forty-one percent of persons served were ages 12 or under.



Sixteen percent of adults served by rapid re-housing programs are victims of domestic violence. Eight percent are affected by disability and/or serious mental health challenges.



Homeless Prevention Program (HPP)

The purpose of the HPP program is to prevent homelessness by providing short-term rental, mortgage, and/or deposit assistance, housing counseling, and financial management skills to low income individuals and families who are experiencing a housing crisis.

Through this program, $4,570,573 in State general funds was distributed by DHCD to 26 grantees (local governments or non-profits) to ensure that HPP assistance and services are available to citizens in every jurisdiction in Virginia. During the 2013-14 program year, the HPP program provided financial assistance to 4,871 individuals (1,823 households).

Homeless Prevention Program 2013-14		
Service Provider	**Location**	**Funding**
Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority	Accomack	$94,746
Appalachian Community Action & Development Agency Inc.	Gate City	$132,133
Alexandria, City of Department of Human Services	Alexandria	$250,000
Arlington County Government	Arlington	$201,706
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	Richmond	$259,503
Hampton Department of Social Services	Hampton	$250,000
Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence, Inc.	Wytheville	$160,162
The Improvement Association	Emporia	$121,018
Loudoun County Department of Family Services	Loudoun	$247,356
Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc.	Lynchburg	$110,625
Mercy House	Harrisonburg	$143,277
New River Community Action, Inc.	Radford	$189,007
Northern Virginia Family Service-Fairfax	Fairfax	$201,705
Northern Virginia Family Service- Prince William County	Prince William County	$291,236
People Incorporated of Southwest Virginia	Abingdon	$111,498
The Planning Council	Norfolk	$370,363
Quin Rivers, Inc.	Fredericksburg	$236,678
Quin Rivers, Inc.- Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula	New Kent	$220,183
Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission	Culpeper	$154,101
Salvation Army of Charlottesville	Charlottesville	$103,983

Salvation Army of Winchester	Winchester	$97,842
STEP, Inc.	Rocky Mount	$106,757
STEPS, Inc.	Martinsville	$83,750
Total Action Against Poverty	Roanoke	$224,579
Tri-County Community Action Agency	South Boston	$119,178
Waynesboro RHA	Waynesboro	$89,186
TOTAL		**$4,570,573**

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)

In 2013-2014, DHCD administered a federal allocation of $696,043 in HOPWA funds through seven project sponsors across the state of Virginia. The project sponsors served a total of 368 individuals (217 households). The serviced they received included:

- Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU);
- Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA);
- Housing Placement Services; and
- Supportive Services

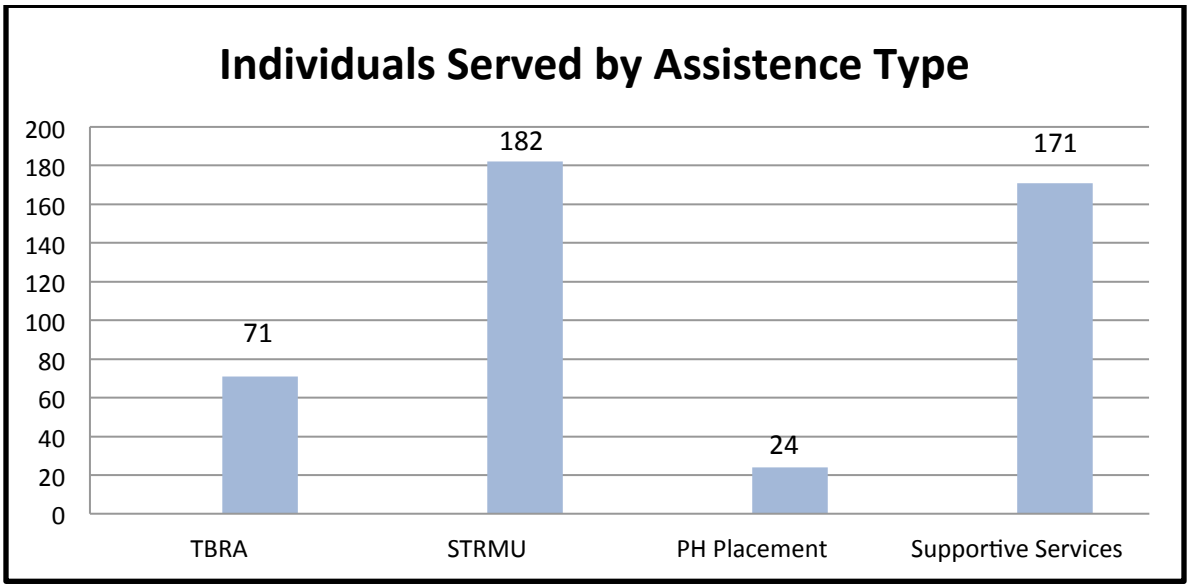
Significantly limited funds are available to meet all the needed housing assistance for moderate to low income individuals with HIV/AIDS in Virginia's non-eligible metropolitan statistical areas. As a result, the funds through this program were focused on direct housing assistance as needed and supportive services as a last resort only for the individuals receiving housing assistance through the HOPWA program. Project Sponsors are strongly encouraged to partner with other service providers (both public and private) to coordinate client services and fully leverage available resources in their particular service areas. At least 65 percent of the total HOPWA grant to any one grantee must be expended on direct housing assistance and no more than 35% can be expended on supportive services.

DHCD awards HOPWA funds to eligible project sponsors (that operate outside the state's EMSAs) following a competitive application process. Currently, the state HOPWA programs encompass 31,749 square miles.

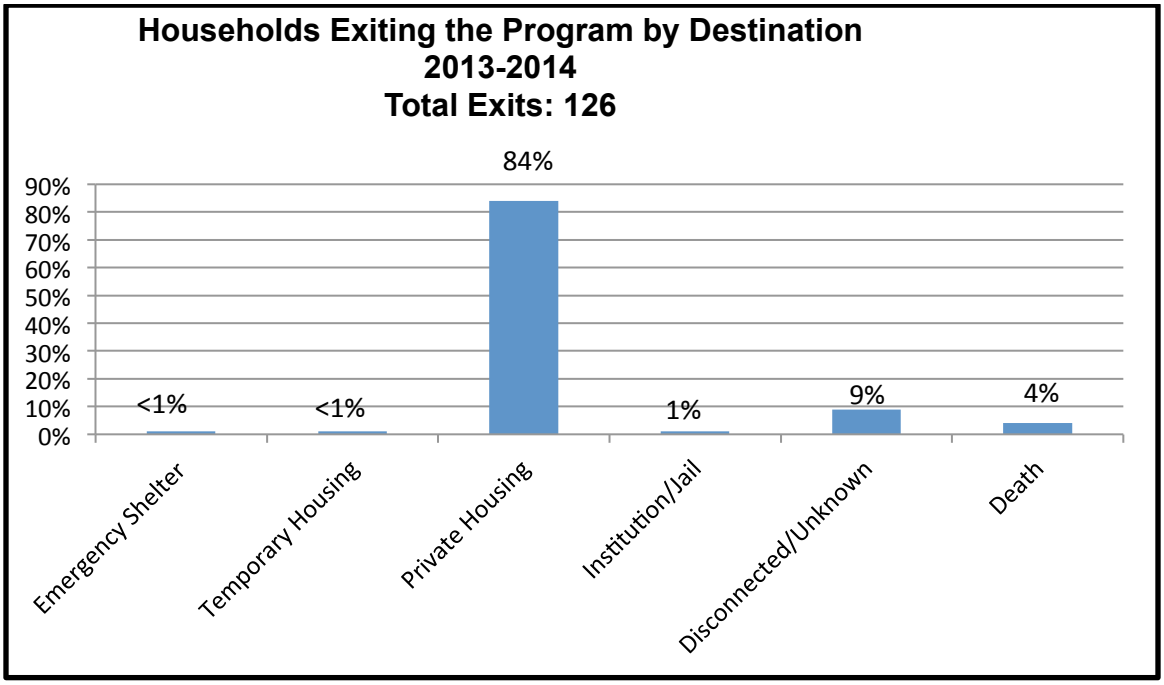
HOPWA Project Sponsors 2013-2014				
Subgrantee (Project Sponsor)	**Service Area(s)**	**Housing Activities**	**Supportive Services**	**Funded Amount**
Council of Community Services	Counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, Craig, Alleghany, Montgomery, Pulaski, Giles and Floyd and Cities of Roanoke, Salem, Covington and Radford.	• Tenant-based rental assistance • Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments	• Case Management	$134,073
Lynchburg Community Action Group, inc.	Counties of Appomattox, Amherst, Bedford, Prince Edward, Charlotte, and Campbell and Cities of Lynchburg and Bedford	• Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Tenant-based rental assistance • Permanent housing placement	• Case management • Transportation • Food/food bank • Support Group	$51,369
AIDS Response Effort, Inc.	Counties of Shenandoah, Page and Frederick and City of Winchester	• Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Tenant-based rental assistance	• Case management • Food/food bank	$76,478
AIDS/HIV Services Group	Counties of Albemarle, Greene, Nelson and Fluvanna and the City of Charlottesville	• Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Tenant-based rental assistance	• Case management	$113,524
Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services	Counties of King George, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock, Westmoreland, and Culpeper	• Tenant-based rental assistance • Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Permanent housing placement	• Case management • Transportation	$86,230
Valley AIDS Network	Counties of Rockingham, Bath, Rockbridge, Augusta, Highland, Page and Shenandoah and the Cities of Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Harrisonburg	• Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Tenant-based rental assistance • Permanent housing placement	• Case management	$65,299
Pittsylvania Community Action Inc.	Pittsylvania, Danville	• Tenant-based rental assistance • Short-term rent, utility and mortgage payments • Permanent housing placement	• Case Management	$101,134

At year-end HOPWA housing activities projects served 368 individuals (217households) with HIV/AIDS and an additional 154 family members. Seventy-one households served were assisted with tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) and 182 households were provided short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU).

Project sponsors provided supportive services including case management, support groups, food assistance, and transportation. One hundred and seventy-one households received these services.



A total of 126 households that were beneficiaries of housing activities exited the state HOPWA program during the program year. Eighty-four percent of the households exited the program to stable/permanent housing.



Conclusion

During the 2013-2014 program year DHCD administered approximately $15.7 million (amount does not include carryover funds from previous years) for homeless services through grants and allocations to nonprofits and units of local government across the state of Virginia. This included over $12.3 million in state general funds that leveraged an additional three million in federal funds to address the critical needs of homelessness in the Commonwealth.

Funds were utilized in the administration and leveraging of the state's core homeless service programs:

- Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP)
- Child Services Coordination Grant (CSCG)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- Homeless Solutions Grant (HSG)
- Homeless Prevention Program (HPP)
- Housing Opportunities for Person with AIDS (HOPWA)

Additionally, of the $8M allocated to the Housing Trust Fund, $5.9M went toward reducing homelessness. Awards included approximately $5.0M from the competitive loan pool and approximately $1M from the homeless reduction grant pool. These Housing Trust Fund grantees used funds to address permanent supportive housing needs and to increase rapid re-housing.

The Homeless Outcomes Coordinating Council continued to meet on a quarterly basis and received formal progress reports from committees assigned to address each of the Plan's goals/strategies. A new committee was created in 2013 to address ending youth homelessness with an initial focus on youth aging out of foster care, which is a population that has a high risk of becoming homeless.

Since 2010, the increased focus and funding on ending homeless in the Commonwealth of Virginia has achieved significant results:

- ✓ Overall homelessness decreased by 22%
- ✓ Family homelessness decreased by 25%
- ✓ Veterans homelessness decreased by 30%
- ✓ Chronic homelessness decreased by 36%

With continued state leadership, willingness, innovation, and funding, ending homelessness is possible in Virginia. Other philanthropic, national, community, and private sector partners are in place and the work of the Homeless Outcomes Coordinating Council is poised to advance the goals and strategies of the Plan, *Homeless Outcomes Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations*, putting urgency and attention on the highest priority – continuing to reduce the number of Virginia citizens who live without a home.