



May 26, 2022

Dear Town Elected Officials, Managers, and Other Stakeholders,

We have long felt the effects of the significant gaps in our homeless service system, and have seen the number of people experiencing homelessness continue to rise. There were 358 people experiencing sheltered homelessness and 218 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness between October 2020 and September 2021.

The average length of time homeless in Orange County is now 384 days and continuing to grow.

As we have seen a significant increase in the demand for safety net and emergency response programming, we continue to see black and brown community members bearing the brunt of the system gaps.

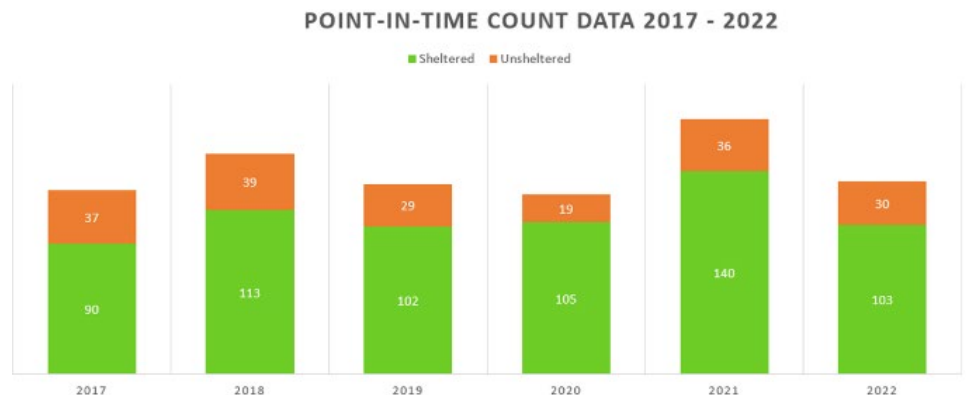
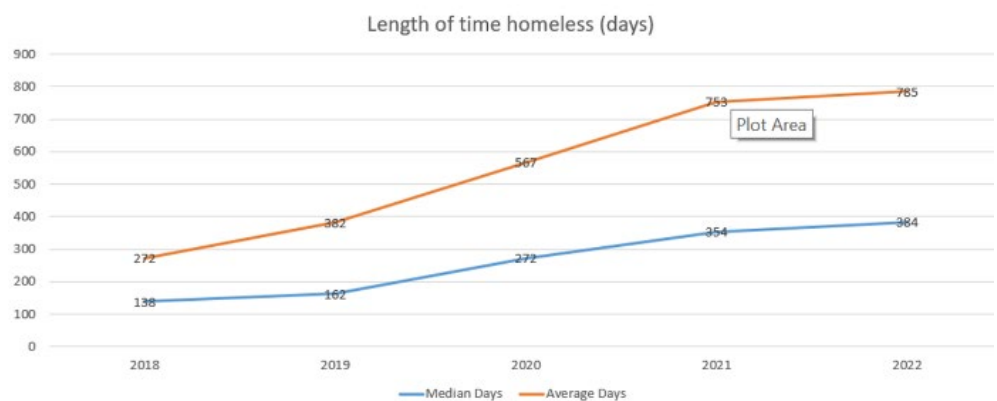
The Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH) is requesting funding to expand programs and services. Orange County has committed to funding the County portion for Rapid Re-housing, Street Outreach, Harm Reductions, and Deflection (SOHRAD), and Housing Stability & Locator. These critical programs bring positive impacts to each of the three towns and their residents and work in tandem with other programs towards our goal: making homelessness rare, brief, and one time.

We are seeking shared funding this year while we revise the MOU and re-assess the needs of people experiencing homelessness and the impact of existing interventions this coming year. We ask the Towns to consider funding these expansion requests:

- [Rapid Re-housing](#) provides services and housing assistance, including 48 households and securing permanent housing for 29 households from October 2020 through March 2022

300 West Tryon Street  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Phone: 919-245-2496  
[www.ocpehnc.com](http://www.ocpehnc.com)



- [Street Outreach, Harm Reductions, and Deflection \(SOHRAD\)](#) connects people living unsheltered with housing and services, including assisting 81 people secure permanent housing and deflecting over 100 individuals from law enforcement involvement from October 2020 through March 2022
- Housing Stability & Locator helps people maintain housing or get back into housing quickly
- You can find full program details and budgets in the [OCPEH Homeless System Gaps Analysis](#)

ORANGE COUNTY PARTNERSHIP TO END HOMELESSNESS FY23 BUDGET

Percentage Split				CHAPEL HILL		ORANGE COUNTY		CARRBORO		HILLSBOROUGH	
Description	Staff		Total Request	41%		39%		15%		5%	
				PORTION	RECOMMENDED	PORTION	RECOMMENDED	PORTION	RECOMMENDED	PORTION	RECOMMENDED
TOTAL OCPEH CONTINUATION BUDGET			\$ 242,891	\$ 99,585	\$ 99,585	\$ 94,727	\$ 94,727	\$ 36,434	\$ 36,434	\$ 12,145	\$ 12,145
County Recommended Expansion/ARPA Funding											
Rapid Re-housing (partial)	Rapid Re-housing provides financial assistance and case management services to people experiencing homelessness to help them obtain and maintain housing.	1 FTE: 1 continuing	\$ 263,937	\$ 108,214		\$ 102,935	\$ 102,935	\$ 39,591		\$ 13,197	
SOHRAD	The Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection (SOHRAD) program serves people living unsheltered, connecting them with services and housing.	4 FTE: 1 FTE Clinical Coordinator; 3 FTE Peer Support Navigators	\$ 307,493	\$ 126,072		\$ 119,922	\$ 119,922	\$ 46,124		\$ 15,375	
Housing Stability & Locator	The Housing Stability Coordinator helps people who are at risk of homelessness maintain their housing, or find new housing. The new Housing Locator position would be available to help people who need extra support with housing search. Currently people are searching for units for over three months, even with financial assistance in hand. These positions prevent homelessness and in cases where they cannot do this, they decrease the amount of time people experience homelessness.	1.5 FTE: 1 Homelessness Prevention/Housing Stability Coordinator, .5 Housing Locator	\$ 94,603	\$ 38,787		\$ 36,895	\$ 36,895	\$ 14,190		\$ 4,730	
EXPANSION REQUEST			\$ 666,033	\$ 273,073	\$ -	\$ 259,752	\$ 259,752	\$ 99,905	\$ -	\$ 33,302	\$ -
TOTAL COMPLETE BUDGET			\$ 908,924	\$ 372,658	\$ 99,585	\$ 354,479	\$ 354,479	\$ 136,339	\$ 36,434	\$ 45,447	\$ 12,145

We understand there is confusion and missed timing/communication about the funding request for Fiscal Year 22-23. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the County used ARPA funding to pay for three SOHRAD positions and Chapel Hill paid for a fourth based upon the recommendation of the Chapel Hill Re-Imaging Public Safety Taskforce. For FY22-23, the respectful request is for these positions and expansion positions to be shared based on our partnership percentages. As Partnership Chair, Commissioner Bedford apologizes for the miscommunication and acknowledges that going forward this collaborative work with budget discussions needs to begin months earlier for all the partners to be deeply involved and to consider their funding capacity. We hope you all will nevertheless contribute what is feasible for FY22-23 to meet these critical needs.

Thank you for considering this request to improve life for some of the people struggling the most in our community.

Best regards,

OCPEH Executive Team

Jamezetta Bedford, Orange County Commissioner & Chair, Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness Leadership Team

Barbara Foushee, Carrboro Town Councilmember & Vice Chair, Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness Leadership Team

Jessica Anderson, Chapel Hill Town Councilmember

Kathleen Ferguson, Hillsborough Commissioner