



MAKING PROGRESS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA HEALTHY HOUSING INITIATIVE

YEAR THREE REPORT



Catholic
Charities
USA®

Working to Reduce Poverty in America

Key Terms

Chronic Homelessness: Chronic homelessness is the state of experiencing homelessness for at least one year – or repeatedly – while struggling with a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder or physical disability (National Alliance to End Homelessness).

Permanent Supportive Housing: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is an intervention that combines affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of chronically homeless people. The services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect people with community-based health care, treatment and employment services (National Alliance to End Homelessness).

Point-in-Time Count: A point-in-time count is an unduplicated count on a single night of the people in a community who are experiencing homelessness. This count includes both sheltered and unsheltered populations (National Alliance to End Homelessness).

Scattered-Site Housing: Scattered Site Permanent Supportive Housing places individuals experiencing homelessness in private market units scattered throughout a community (United to End Homelessness).

Dear Friends,

This past year has been another in which the Catholic Charities network has tirelessly served one of America's most vulnerable populations: individuals who are chronically homeless. In that spirit, I am pleased to share with you the progress of our Healthy Housing Initiative (HHI) as it completes its third year of a five-year pilot.

Our initiative strives to house those struggling with economic, physical and behavioral health conditions that place them at extreme risk. The HHI connects individuals and families to housing, social services, primary medical care and behavioral health services, allowing chronically homeless individuals to receive the support necessary to live with dignity and respect.

Pope Francis urges us to engage our sisters and brothers who live along the margins of society. Encountering those living without a home is to meet people who are most vulnerable. Through the work of the HHI, we have the unique opportunity to make a significant impact on stabilizing these families and individuals. This is sacred work.

As you may recall, at the inception of this initiative, we established goals that included reducing chronic homelessness in the pilot cities by 20%, reducing ER usage and hospital readmission rates by 25% and connecting 35% of newly housed individuals to primary care and behavioral health services. To date, despite the pandemic and other challenges along the way, we have housed 500 chronically homeless individuals, but there remains much work to do.

Please know that we are most grateful for the many ways you continue to support this important work. It is central to our mission to bringing compassion, dignity and health to our most vulnerable brothers and sisters in America.

Gratefully,



Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD
President & CEO, Catholic Charities USA



The Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) Healthy Housing Initiative is a person-centered, comprehensive approach to address chronic homelessness through permanent supportive housing (PSH) and social services, in collaboration with Catholic health care. The Healthy Housing Initiative is a five-year pilot (January 2020 to December 2024) with a target of housing 698 people by January 1, 2025. The five-year housing target goals listed herein for each city represent 20% of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2019 point-in-time count numbers for each pilot community. Note that each of the five pilot agencies was already engaged in some work with the unhoused in their communities, for varying durations and under a variety of state and local conditions.

The five Catholic Charities agencies in the Healthy Housing Initiative and their Catholic healthcare partners:

1. Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan and Ascension Healthcare
2. Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada and CommonSpirit Health
3. Catholic Charities of Oregon and Providence St. Joseph Healthcare
4. Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington and Providence St. Joseph Healthcare
5. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Saint Louis and Mercy Healthcare/ Saint Louis University Hospital

Our 5-Year Goals within the Five Pilot Cities:



REDUCE

chronic homelessness by **20%**.



DECREASE

emergency room/hospital utilization of those housed by at least **25%**.



CONNECT

35% of newly housed persons to primary care and behavioral health services.



Best Practices

Over the past three years, agencies in the five pilot cities have developed best practices for continued work in this sphere, which are compiled below. These practices serve to propel client success and wellbeing. You will find examples of these best practices as you read through each agency's highlights in the pages that follow.

1. Landlord Recruitment

- Identify and maintain an inventory of privately owned properties to house formerly homeless individuals.
- Establish a damage repair fund and consider master leases as incentives for landlords and other private property owners to rent to clients.

2. Collaborate with Local Care Providers

- Cultivate relationships with local Continuum of Care planning bodies, housing authorities and local governments for access to resources, information and shared advocacy.
- Coordinate interdepartmentally within Catholic Charities agencies and/or diocesan departments for wraparound services.

3. Collaborate with Catholic Health Systems

- Collaborate with local health systems to improve continuity of care for individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
- Educate health systems on the value of funding case management positions for those experiencing homelessness.
- Inform local hospitals of the ways community-benefit dollars can impact unhoused individuals.
- Co-locate behavioral and physical health services into Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) where feasible.

4. Collaborate with Parishes/Dioceses to Develop Affordable Housing Projects

- Engage with local parishes to cultivate housing project development support from the pastor, parishioners and neighbors; to overcome Not in My Back Yard (NIMBY) resistance; and identify stakeholders to advance the approval process.
- Create a housing development strategy that targets and supports the conversion and adaptive re-use of underutilized church property.

5. Pursue and Advocate for Funding, Resources and Policies

- Work with local and state-level congressional delegations to secure federal earmarks.
- Engage volunteer programs and community service agencies (e.g., AmeriCorps) to enhance service delivery.

6. Scattered-Site Efforts for Housing

- Acquire turnkey properties for housing and provide wraparound services.
- Work with community-based organizations and the Continuum of Care (CoC) to secure permanent housing for homeless individuals.



Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (DETROIT)

Diocesan Director: Paul Propson

Bishop: The Most Reverend Allen Vigneron

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Ascension Healthcare

- Number of chronically homeless persons housed to date: 11
- Number of other homeless persons housed to date: 6
- Total number of homeless persons housed to date: 17
- Number of housing units authorized or under construction: 46



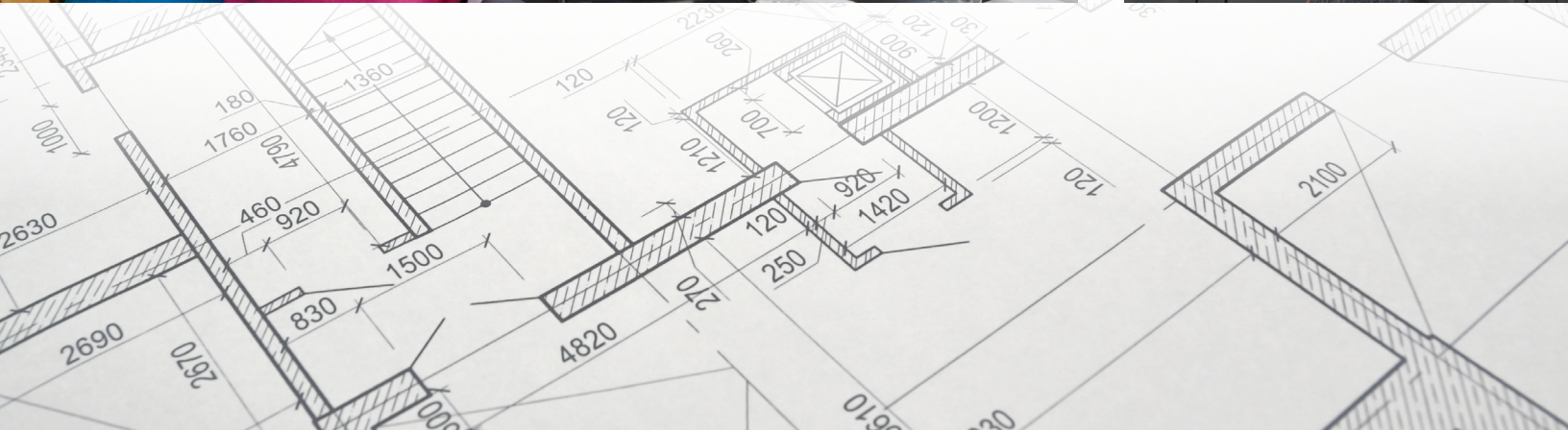
Five-Year Housing Goal: 56 chronically homeless persons housed

Year Three Highlights

- ER visits in the last six months have fallen by 57% for HHI clients being housed with regular case management follow-ups.
- In collaboration with Ascension Healthcare, we are improving data collection processes, particularly those related to emergency room utilization.
- Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) is in the final stages of approval for a three-year, \$2.1 million Rapid Re-Housing grant with the local Continuum of Care, HAND, to assist in housing 40 individuals per year for a total of 120 in the next three years.
- Staff, in partnership with CCUSA, has created a fund to help those in need of housing with first month's rent and security deposit.
- The Center for the Works of Mercy has continued to grow, with more than 3,000 client appointments in 2022. Site has added commercial kitchen space and partnered with St. Leo's Soup Kitchen to add hot meals four days per week.
- In spring 2023, CCSEM, in partnership with St. Matthew Parish, will close on the property for our housing project, The Residences at St. Matthew, which will include 46 housing units and a community center. It is projected to open in 2024.
- In collaboration with our healthcare partner, we are continuing the planning process for programming at the Residences at St. Matthew, to include on-site health care.

Year Three Reflection by CCSEM Team

Catholic Charities of Southeastern Michigan continues to make progress in the Healthy Housing Initiative. We are working with our healthcare partner, Ascension Health, to improve healthcare access and health outcomes for those who are vulnerable and homeless in Detroit. Currently, we are working with Ascension to identify chronic emergency room users in order to provide them with case management services. We continue to diligently plan for the future of programming at The Residences at St. Matthew, which will include wellness groups and behavioral health and healthcare services provided in collaboration with Ascension. We hope to close this spring on the property!



Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada

(LAS VEGAS)

Diocesan Director: Deacon Tom Roberts

Bishop: The Most Reverend George Leo Thomas

Catholic Healthcare Partner: CommonSpirit Health

- Number of chronically homeless persons housed to date: 53
- Number of other homeless persons housed to date: 241
- Total number of homeless persons housed to date: 294



Five-Year Housing Goal: 124 chronically homeless persons housed

Year Three Highlights

- Dignity Health renewed its commitment of support for the case management program at our St. Vincent Apartments (St. Vincent), with additional funding this year for transportation services for tenants. Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN) has additional partnerships with the city of Las Vegas and UnitedHealthcare, both of which also promote healthy housing in our community.
- CCSN created a partnership with Touro Mobile Medical Clinic to provide easy, safe and accessible preventative care to CCSN clients and tenants.
- CCSN created a partnership with Nevada Behavioral Health (NBH) to offer education and mental/behavioral health services on property. NBH services are designed to meet immediate mental health needs of each client and tenant who chooses to participate, with the option of free transportation to NBH location for private sessions.
- During the most critical phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Southern Nevada Health District was invited to our campus to deliver vaccinations as a form of preventative care. Door-to-door outreach by CCSN's on-site residential services case manager informed clients about the event, make plans to attend and receive vaccinations, and learn about upcoming clinics. This enabled them to receive the full course of vaccine treatments, as well as annual flu shots.
- Chamberlain University nurses visit CCSN every Friday to educate clients and tenants on a multitude of different topics, such as alcohol or illicit drug use and mental health.

Year Three Reflection by CCSN Team

The addition of case management at St. Vincent, funded by a Dignity Health grant, has allowed us to provide crucial wraparound services for our residents who may not normally ask for help. Through relationship and rapport-building, our residents are able to obtain stability and sustain healthy, stable housing.

Over the course of the project, we have housed 53 clients who were experiencing chronic homelessness. They have come from varying levels of hopelessness into a place where hope is a real and tangible possibility. Many of our current residents have found a home at St. Vincent after having lived on the streets and in encampments, emergency shelters or other locations not fit for human habitation. The number one goal of CCSN's Residential Services Department is to provide help and hope through our case management programs and to provide avenues to stability by assessing our clients' and residents' mental, medical, dental and housing needs.

Our case management team is facilitating the HHI project by actively engaging with St. Vincent residents to build relationships and rapport. They assist our clients and residents with SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) applications/renewals and Medicare/Medicaid renewal applications. In addition, they assist clients and residents with transportation needs, such as Americans with Disabilities Act-friendly services and local bus lines, so our clients and residents can maintain stable and healthy lives. Case managers assist clients in making appointments/obtaining services for medical and mental health, Social Security (SSI/SSDI) benefits, Department of Motor Vehicles services, acquisition of clothing and food stability. We offer our clients and residents crucial life skills education at St. Vincent and weekly meetings with mental health professionals.





Catholic Charities of Oregon

(PORTLAND)

Diocesan Director: Natalie Wood

Bishop: The Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Providence St. Joseph Healthcare

- Number of chronically homeless persons housed to date: 37
- Number of other homeless persons housed to date: 68
- Total number of homeless persons housed to date: 105
- Number of housing units authorized or under construction: 295



Five-Year Housing Goal: 420 chronically homeless persons housed

Year Three Highlights

- Cathedral Village Apartments opened in September 2022. It includes eight PSH (Permanent Supportive Housing) units for chronically homeless families referred through coordinated access. The remaining 102 units include 66 at 30% AMI (area median income) and 36 at 60% AMI. Of the households we have enrolled in resident services, a higher-than-expected number are transitioning from homelessness and will probably be eligible for PSH. By the end of 2022, four households were chronically homeless prior to move-in and another 16 households (individuals and families) were homeless prior to move-in.
- Chiles House opened in August 2022 with 27 units serving families and individuals who are either homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Many also have a disabling condition.
- Catholic Charities of Oregon began conducting quarterly health fairs with Providence Health Systems. Internal medicine residents visit the sites and provide health education and medical consultation.

Year Three Reflection by CC Oregon Team

Year three of the Healthy Housing Initiative has continued to be a great opportunity for Catholic Charities to serve the most vulnerable populations in the state of Oregon. We have continued to identify opportunities with our healthcare partner, Providence St. Joseph Healthcare. Additionally, we have started/continued the process of developing four new affordable housing developments within our service territory.

Looking to the future, we have an exciting opportunity with the development of Francis and Clare. This building will be a 61-unit, PSH affordable housing development located next to St. Francis church, as well as St. Francis Park (one of our existing assets). Additionally, we are currently working to close a deal with our developer, Related Northwest, to continue the predevelopment for a 41-unit PSH affordable housing building in Portland. To expand on our innovative efforts to serve those in need, we have begun construction on the first affordable housing development in Clackamas County (143 units). Lastly, we are excited to partner with Providence on a development in Newburg, Oregon (40-60 units), where individuals who have recently been hospitalized will be able to stay in a nearby development with a respite bed.

We are very proud of the year three accomplishments of our housing department, services team and the Providence team. We look forward to continuing to serve those in need and to maximizing the opportunities created from our relationship with our Catholic health partner.





Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington

(SPOKANE)

Diocesan Director: Robert McCann

Bishop: The Most Reverend Thomas Daly

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Providence St. Joseph Healthcare

- Number of chronically homeless persons housed to date: 361
- Number of other homeless persons housed to date: 379
- Total number of homeless persons housed to date: 740
- Number of housing units authorized or under construction: 521



Five-Year Housing Goal: 51 chronically homeless persons housed

Year Three Highlights

- The HHI has served 361 formerly chronically homeless persons. All are receiving services through our Integrated Case Management model, a collaborative care system that links case managers, peers, healthcare coordinators, behavioral health service providers and employment specialists for a team approach to helping clients not just stabilize but make real progress toward thriving.
- The program was awarded \$2.2 million in new grant funding to expand healthy housing services and improve safety for clients housed in both new and existing units.
- Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington (CCEW) is nearing completion on the construction of Bishop Skylstad Commons in Pasco, Washington, which will house 60 PSH residents, and Mother Teresa Haven in Spokane, which will house 72 PSH families.

- We have leveraged grant funding to expand partnerships with local providers to enhance care for clients in temporary and permanent housing, including:
 - New contracted ADL (Activities of Daily Living support) services for clients utilizing medical respite in shelter.
 - Expanded behavioral health navigation for clients in shelter.
 - Additional weekly presence from Spokane’s street medicine team as well as weekly recovery group and addiction education session offerings at Catalyst, our new Emergency Supportive Housing program supporting people exiting a large encampment. Catalyst began enrolling clients in late 2022.

Year Three Reflection by CCEW Team

This past year, we continued to create new partnerships and housing opportunities for our community, along with innovating our service delivery models to meet the complex needs of residents. Gonzaga Family Haven, our new 72-unit family supportive housing community, completed its original lease-up process in 2022. The project has had a great deal of success working with Gonzaga University, Gonzaga Preparatory School, Community Colleges of Spokane and other neighborhood partners to provide services for families at the property, including childcare. Mother Teresa Haven (72 PSH units) and Bishop Skylstad Commons (59 units) have moved forward and are set to open in 2023.





Catholic Charities of St. Louis

Diocesan Director: Jared Bryson

Bishop: The Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Mercy Healthcare/SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital (SSM/SLUH)

- Number of chronically homeless persons housed to date: 38
- Number of other homeless persons housed to date: 33
- Total number of homeless persons housed to date: 71
- Number of housing units authorized or under construction: 42



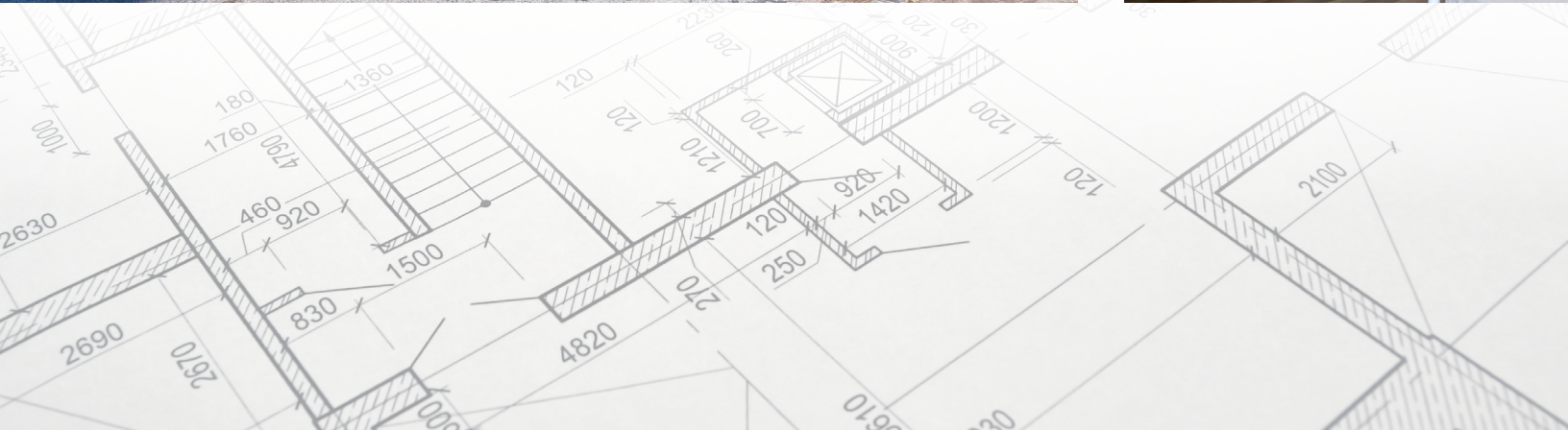
Five-Year Housing Goal: 47 chronically homeless persons housed

Year Three Highlights

- In September 2022, we were awarded \$800,000 in federal funds for permanent housing supports for the chronically homeless.
- Hospital to Healthy Housing was highlighted and recognized at the What's Right with the Region Awards presented by FOCUS St. Louis.
- We were awarded a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program grant serving chronically homeless persons who are high-and super-utilizers of the emergency room.
- Our partnership with BJC Healthcare remains strong, with an additional year of funding through the BJC Foundation and SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). We continue to discuss future funding and sustainability.
- Partnership with SSM/SLUH continues to go strong, with Catholic Charities St. Patrick Center receiving additional funding for homeless navigation services.

Year Three Reflection by CCSTL Team

Since the beginning of the Healthy Housing Initiative, Catholic Charities of St. Louis has housed 38 chronically homeless individuals and provided ongoing support, including behavioral health services, to meet immediate and basic needs. By doing so, we have seen a dramatic decrease in emergency room utilization by some of our neighbors most in need. Since working with our hospital partners in the community and providing housing coordination, we have served a total of 449 patients/clients in the past year, including HHI clients. Of those we served, 266 had improved access to our homeless services system. All services have been focused on housing coordination and meeting basic needs.



Year Three Reflection by CCUSA's HHI Team:

Year three of the Healthy Housing Initiative has been a year of growth and lessons learned. Since January 1, 2020, we have housed 500 chronically homeless individuals across our five Catholic Charities agencies. These agencies have worked tirelessly to find creative ways to house the chronically homeless, using a variety of approaches, including construction of new permanent supportive housing, master lease of scattered site units and the renovation of turnkey properties. The case managers on the front lines with clients have put an emphasis on collecting data around emergency room visits and hospitalizations and forging client connections to primary and behavioral health care. The robust relationships each agency has developed and enhanced with their local Catholic health providers continue to augment health services for the chronically homeless population. We look forward to continued success in year four and thank our pilot agencies and Catholic health partners for their unwavering support of the Healthy Housing Initiative!

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