



CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA HEALTHY HOUSING INITIATIVE:

WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY!



YEAR TWO REPORT



Catholic
Charities
USA®

Working to Reduce Poverty in America

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our member agencies and CCUSA, I am happy to share with you the Healthy Housing Initiative (HHI) year two annual report!

This important initiative on which we have embarked embodies the mission of Catholic Charities, touching the lives of the most vulnerable. The Gospel guides the work of Catholic Charities as a whole and, in a unique way, is expressed through the HHI. The people served through this project are those whom society has forgotten, persons who are chronically homeless. Our initiative harnesses the resources of Catholic Charities agencies, Catholic health systems and local communities to provide wraparound services to society's most vulnerable.

When we designed this initiative, we set ambitious goals, and here we are, two years later – despite a global pandemic and numerous other adversities, we have reached significant milestones. For instance, 231 women, men and children – approximately 25% of our overall goal – have been housed and served utilizing the “housing first” approach. The five pilot agencies within this project provide each person not only with quality housing and healing services, but consistently recognize their dignity and worth.

This number is significant, but just so we do not lose sight of the impact on each individual, please consider Nathan, a gentleman who had lived on the streets for 12 years, suffered from PTSD and diabetes, and had been alienated from friends and family. This year, he moved into a Catholic Charities housing unit and connected to primary care and behavioral health services. He now has a steady healthcare provider, and all health indicators have moved in a positive direction. He has also connected with his new neighbors and feels like an active part of a community after years of social isolation.

In many ways, we have just begun this journey. We have so many more goals to accomplish. As you reflect on the content of this report, you will discover the details of successes already attained within these first two years of our five-year pilot program.

We remain grateful for the support, prayers and companionship of all those who are united with us in this effort.

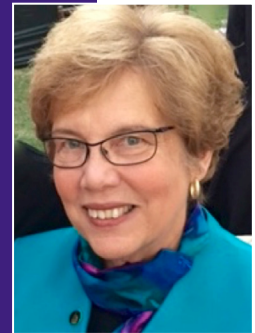
May God continue to hold you in His loving hands.

Sincerely,



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.

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 Saint Joseph Healthcare

4. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Saint Louis and Mercy Healthcare/SSM Healthcare

5. Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington and Providence Saint Joseph Healthcare



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OUR 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



JASON'S STORY: PUTTING A FACE TO THE ISSUE

Jason's childhood consisted of a seemingly endless string of foster and group homes. After he ran away at age 11, the police found that his parents were physically and sexually abusing him. The chronic trauma and instability of his youth laid a weak foundation for a healthy adulthood. His life as an adult has been riddled with depression, anxiety and attempts to self-medicate with alcohol and drugs, leading to a significant substance use disorder. These factors have made it nearly impossible for Jason to focus on training or education, thus rendering him unemployable. His negative experiences with the child welfare system have left him distrustful and reluctant to seek any sort of social benefit. Jason has been living on the streets and in nightly shelters for more than eight years. His only medical support has come from regular visits to the nearest emergency room. He turned 51 last week.

Jason's story may seem hopeless, but CCUSA's Healthy Housing Initiative (HHI) sees him not for his struggles, but for his strength. Only an extremely resilient man could have survived his journey. Six months ago, Jason took up residence at one of the newly developed HHI housing units and has remained stably housed. His newly gained stability has allowed him to engage with medical and behavioral health providers, leading to a reduction in his blood pressure and alcohol use.

DEFINING THE PROBLEM

Jason's story mirrors those of many clients, who are referred to by the government and social service community as chronically homeless, a subset of the larger homeless population. Chronically homeless persons like Jason fit certain criteria as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): a person with a disability who has been continuously homeless for a full year or for four episodes in the past three years that equal 12 months. On any given night, more than 83,000 Americans with debilitating health conditions and a long history of homelessness – years or even decades – can be found sleeping on streets, in shelters or in other places not meant for human habitation. These men and women commonly have a combination of mental health problems, substance use disorders and medical conditions that worsen over time and too often lead to an early death.

Without connections to the right types of housing options and services, they cycle in and out of hospital emergency rooms and inpatient beds, detox programs, jails, prisons and psychiatric institutions – all at high public expense. Some studies have found that each individual experiencing chronic homelessness costs taxpayers as much as \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year.

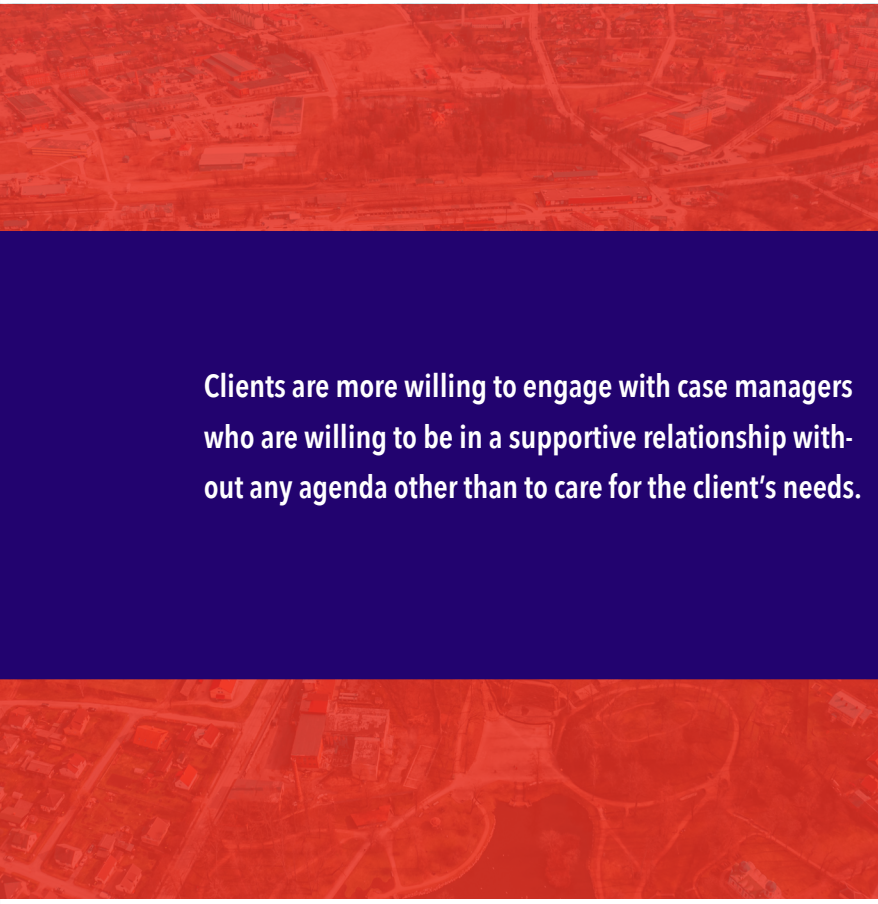
Those considered chronically homeless make up roughly 15% of the overall homeless population in the United States. This group consumes around 75% of the costs of care for persons experiencing homelessness. Agencies in the Catholic Charities network have found that length of time on the street is not the defining feature of this population; they are each unique individuals – some with families – who have particular goals, needs and aspirations.

ON THE WAY TO ACHIEVING OUR GOALS

This awareness of the dignity of every human person and the unique challenges faced by the chronically homeless, like Jason, has led Catholic Charities USA to develop a bold initiative to reduce the number of persons who experience chronic homelessness by 20% over a five-year period in five cities (Detroit, Mich.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Portland Ore.; Saint Louis, Mo.; Spokane, Wash.). The initiative began two years ago. With three years left to develop housing units, cultivate partnerships with healthcare systems, train case managers and engage with clients, significant progress has been made, and we have already made a dent in the housing goal. The target is to house 698 persons by January 1, 2025. To date, the initiative has housed 231 persons.

The numbers achieved so far tell the story of agencies primed to provide social services. On one level, the organizations participate in their communities' coalitions of service providers engaged in policy-making around homeless services. On another level, the staff of these agencies have the trust and relationships built with persons who are chronically homeless.





Clients are more willing to engage with case managers who are willing to be in a supportive relationship without any agenda other than to care for the client's needs.



For those clients housed in the Healthy Housing Initiative, the goal is to reduce emergency room and hospital utilization by 25% and connect 35% of newly housed clients to primary care and behavioral health services. A significant factor in the CCUSA initiative is the inclusion of health and behavioral health components as an integrated part of the service plan for each individual housed. Research shows that merely placing a person in a housing unit does not yield positive outcomes for that person. The evidence indicates that it takes intensive support services from qualified case managers engaged with the clients and connecting them to necessary services to increase and maintain wellness indicators. This integrated aspect of the project engages Catholic Health Association (CHA) member systems. Medical support, data exchange, on-site behavioral health services and emergency assistance are some of the ingredients that the local CHA member systems will provide in conjunction with the social support provided by CCUSA member agencies.

HOUSING FIRST

The agencies have fully embraced a housing-first and low-barrier response across the system. Jason, as with the other residents, was assisted in moving into permanent housing without barriers to entry. Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness who receive services through HHI programs are not denied assistance based on minimum income requirements, lack of criminal justice system involvement or other conditional requirements. Individuals are also connected to SSI/SSDI benefits, health and behavioral health care, social supports, employment opportunities and workforce programs, and other supportive services that promote health and long-term housing stability.

GRATITUDE

Approximately two years ago, the Healthy Housing Initiative was launched with lofty goals of significantly reducing the numbers of persons stuck in chronic homelessness, reducing emergency room usage by this population and ensuring their connection with healthcare providers. Happily, we can note that two years into the project, we are on the way to making our communities stronger. There is much work yet to be done over the next three years and beyond, but it is great to see the impact made when a concerted effort is put forth.

After being housed, engaged with care management, connected with a behavioral health specialist and finding a community with other newly housed neighbors, Jason stated, "I have found a place where I can leave my shame behind."

That sums it all up. We can count numbers and calculate costs, but the truest measure of success is the renewal of the human spirit. This is what we have seen with Jason and so many others who are engaged with the Catholic Charities USA Healthy Housing Initiative.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN (DETROIT)

Diocesan Director: Paul Propson

Archbishop: Allen Vigneron

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Ascension Healthcare



HHI Clients: 8

2025 Housing Goal: 56

Year Two Highlights:

- CCSEM opened Center for the Works of Center in January 2021 with 16 programs, five community partners on-site and services for those who are poor, homeless and vulnerable in Detroit.
- CCSEM served more than 2,000 clients in the first year of the Center for the Works of Mercy (Jan. 2021 to Dec. 2021), not including those served by community partners.
- CCSEM became a part of the Wayne County Continuum of Care (CoC) and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- CCSEM partnered with Ascension Healthcare to provide health and behavioral health services for future permanent supportive housing (PSH) residents.
- CCSEM developed a clinical operations plan and business development plan with Ascension Healthcare.
- Ascension shared its A.B.I.D.E. (Appreciation-Belongingness-Inclusivity-Diversity-Equity) program and tools to help CCSEM's Healthy Housing Initiative uncover and eliminate policies and procedures that perpetuate disparities and inequities, including systemic racism.

Year Two Reflection by CCSEM Team:

As we work on the Healthy Housing Initiative in the City of Detroit, we continue to grow our partnerships and outreach at the Center for the Works of Mercy. We plan to target working more with housing services and building up services that can be duplicated in the Healthy Housing Initiative. Currently, we are working with Noah Project in Detroit one day a week, serving only clients who are street homeless. This has expanded our knowledge of the housing network, CoC, HMIS and working directly with chronically homeless clients. With the addition this year of our digital case management program, Penelope, we hope to track clients, follow up more often and collect more accurate data around emergency room visits.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN NEVADA (LAS VEGAS)

Diocesan Director: Deacon Tom Roberts

Archbishop: George Leo Thomas

Catholic Healthcare Partner: CommonSpirit Health

HHI Clients: 20

2025 Housing Goal: 124

Year Two Highlights:

- Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN) assisted 20 individuals who were experiencing chronic homelessness through the Healthy Housing Initiative (HHI). They received affordable housing, case management and healthcare services at St. Vincent Apartments.
- CCSN received a grant from CommonSpirit Health for case management services at St. Vincent. Through this opportunity, we have been able to implement client-centered and trauma-informed case management for our St. Vincent residents. This grant has also helped us to implement our HHI program.
- CCSN was the recipient of a generous \$150,000 donation from UnitedHealthcare for the HHI program.
- In partnership with Clark County, CCSN launched the Housing Navigation Center (HNC) for individuals experiencing homelessness. The HNC provides client-centered and trauma-informed case management and coordination.
- CCSN has been coordinating with the state of Nevada, Clark County and the city of Las Vegas to locate and develop a site to implement a permanent supportive housing (PSH) program.

Year Two Reflection by CCSN Team:

Over the past two fiscal years, the social services division at CCSN has grown exponentially. CCSN's residential services case management program has expanded to include our Emergency Night Shelter for Men, which provides up to 400 beds nightly for men who are experiencing homelessness. At the shelter, our residential services case management program provides a housing first and low-barrier emergency shelter model. Our team actively engages in diversion and rapid exit from emergency shelter and homelessness, both in the shelter and in our Housing Navigation Center.

CCSN also added case management at St. Vincent during the past two years. This has given us the ability to provide crucial wraparound services in order to keep our residents happy, healthy and housed. Since 2020, we have moved 25 clients into St. Vincent. Of those 25 clients, 20 of them were experiencing chronic homelessness. Our residential services case manager has been able to actively engage with all 20 of the previously chronically homeless residents in order to build relationships and rapport.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF OREGON (PORTLAND)

Diocesan Director: Deacon Richard Birkel

Archbishop: Alexander K. Sample

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Providence St. Joseph Healthcare



HHI Clients: 16

2025 Housing Goal: 420

Year Two Highlights:

- 172 permanent supportive housing (PSH) units in development (35 under construction, plus 137 in design development with committed funding).
- 230+ residents (122 units) now benefiting from on-site health fairs by Providence Health & Services (blood pressure and blood sugar checks, well care checks, navigation support, etc.). Expanded the previously developed on-site nursing student support program from other providers at other properties.
- 382 total affordable housing units in development (includes PSH units; 137 under construction, plus 245 in design development with committed funding). Additional 190+ units pending funding decisions and/or preparing for release of funding applications.
- 20 new tiny-home village units in development (pending county contract approval) to provide transitional housing for chronically homeless individuals and dedicated case management to assist with placement and prepare individuals for success in PSH.
- Over \$4 million raised in a capital campaign to rapidly advance The Annex project into construction and toward an anticipated summer 2022 completion. When complete, The Annex will provide urgent housing for 27 households that are experiencing or are at imminent risk of homelessness.
- Catholic Charities of Oregon continues to take affirmative steps to uncover and address any racial disparities in their projects and homeless service programs.

Year Two Reflection by CCO Team:

Catholic Charities of Oregon continues to aggressively pursue and advance new developments and service programming to meet the goals of the Healthy Housing Initiative. These developments include more than 130 affordable housing units under construction (inclusive of 35 PSH units) in Portland at The Annex, an innovative, privately funded property adjacent to Catholic Charities' headquarters, and at Cathedral Village Apartments. Another 245 units (including 137 PSH units) have committed funding and are expected to be under construction in the next 12 to 18 months, with additional developments pending funding decisions or awaiting state funding applications.

In addition to new development, new health fairs are being hosted by Providence Health & Services on-site at existing Catholic Charities properties, supporting more than 230 residents living in the two properties' 122 units. In addition, on-site support from University of Portland and Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) nursing students has been expanded to offer similar one-on-one support to residents at several other Catholic Charities properties.

Catholic Charities is exploring additional innovative solutions to Portland's homelessness crisis, including a new 20-unit tiny-home village at The National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother (commonly referred to as The Grotto), mirrored after the highly-successful Kenton Women's Village. The Cathedral Village Apartments (under construction, below) demonstrate the repurposing of church property to help meet the mission.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF EASTERN WASHINGTON (SPOKANE)

Diocesan Director: Robert McCann

Bishop: Thomas Daly

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Providence St. Joseph Healthcare



HHI Clients: 171

2025 Housing Goal: 51

Year Two Highlights:

- 171 chronically homeless individuals in the Healthy Housing Initiative (HHI) receiving housing, case management and healthcare services.
- Opening of Gonzaga Family Haven (74 PSH or permanent supportive housing units). CCEW began construction of Gonzaga Family Haven in 2021. Supply chain issues slowed the opening of the program, but we were still able to fill two of the three buildings that make up the apartment complex; the third should be completed in spring of 2022. This project has had a great deal of community partner support, including from Gonzaga Prep, Gonzaga University and the neighborhood center for NE Spokane.
- Started construction of Mother Teresa Haven (72 PSH units). CCEW was awarded a grant to assist with the cost of case management and behavioral health services for this building.
- CCEW is working towards starting the construction of Pasco Haven, which is expected to open with 60 PSH units at the end of 2022.
- Recently awarded grants from Providence to increase behavioral health services in PSH units. This grant will assist with at-the-door availability for behavioral health assistance.

Year Two Reflection by CCEW Team:

This year we have seen a great deal of expansion of our services for clients. This expansion is primarily through services that assist overall stabilization for our clients, such as employment, behavioral health and healthcare services. Additionally, we have been able to develop Gonzaga Family Haven which, even with supply chain delays, has opened for more than 20 families. Additionally, plans for Pasco Haven and Mother Teresa Haven have moved forward.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ST. LOUIS

Diocesan Director: Theresa Ruzicka

Archbishop: Mitchell T. Rozanski

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Mercy Healthcare/SSM Healthcare



HHI Clients: 16

2025 Housing Goal: 47 clients

Year Two Highlights:

- 16 chronically homeless individuals in Healthy Housing Initiative (HHI) receiving housing, case management and healthcare services.
- Saint Patrick Center (CCSTL) continued to place individuals in permanent supportive housing (PSH) units even as it works to develop its own PSH project.
- CCSTL engaged with Community Solutions on eradicating chronic homelessness.
- CCSTL began contract with United Healthcare to work with housing-unstable individuals and families.
- CCSTL procured an \$887,000 federal earmark for a housing project, some units of which could possibly be for HHI.
- CCSTL received continued funding from SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital for a homeless coordinator.

Year Two Reflection by CCSTL Team:

HHI within the St. Louis area, in partnership with Catholic Charities and Catholic hospitals in our community, has been looking at ongoing needs of the unhoused who use the emergency room (ER) for basic needs. This past year, St. Louis served 16 chronically homeless individuals by providing ongoing supports, permanent housing, behavioral health, immediate needs and basic resources. By doing so, we have seen a dramatic decrease in ER utilization from some of our neighbors most in need. For example, one of our clients had 67 ER visits in six months prior to housing; one year later, they had nine. Another client had 90 ER visits in six months prior to housing; six months later, they had 28. Not only does this greatly impact our community resources, but it shows how lives are improving and needs are being met.

Since working this past year with our hospital partners in the community and providing housing coordination, we have served 326 clients. All services have been focused on housing coordination and getting basic needs met.

We have been working to promote racial equity across our Catholic Charities Federation. Each of our agencies is making efforts related to building client, staff and board awareness, understanding and actions. We are sharing, learning and supporting each other to strengthen our organization and the broader community. Specifically related to HHI, St. Patrick Center's Equity Committee is working to address racial disparities in the population experiencing homelessness. As we gain more focus and collect related data, we will be able to see where there are gaps and issues we should address.



YEAR TWO REFLECTION BY CCUSA TEAM:

Year two brought its challenges, but the Healthy Housing Initiative continues to forge ahead with the amazing work of the pilot cities. The creativity and innovation of the local agencies in HHI have been inspiring to our staff at CCUSA. Each HHI agency has its own unique and robust relationship with a Catholic healthcare provider. CCUSA staff continues to provide technical assistance to agencies. The overall number of HHI clients served is 231 and counting! We look forward to the adventures year three will bring!

The HHI Team:

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The mission of Catholic Charities is to provide service to people in need, to advocate for justice in social structures, and to call the entire church and other people of goodwill to do the same.