

2019 City of Harrisonburg Point in Time Count

May 14, 2019

Michael Wong, Executive Director

Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority





Homeless Definitions

Homelessness status

- People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided. The only significant change from existing practice is that people will be considered homeless if they are exiting an institution where they resided for up to 90 days (it was previously 30 days), and were in shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately prior to entering that institution.
- People who are losing their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel or hotel or a doubled up situation, within 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing. HUD had previously allowed people who were being displaced within 7 days to be considered homeless. The proposed regulation also describes specific documentation requirements for this category.
- Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state. This is a new category of homelessness, and it applies to families with children or unaccompanied youth who have not had a lease or ownership interest in a housing unit in the last 60 or more days, have had two or more moves in the last 60 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment.
- People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, have no other residence, and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing. This category is similar to the current practice regarding people who are fleeing domestic violence.

Youth Homelessness status:

- Categories of homeless include experiences of those who:
 - Are trading sex for housing
 - Are staying with friends, but cannot stay there for longer than 14 days
 - Are being trafficked
 - Left home because of physical, emotional, or financial abuse or threats of abuse and have no safe, alternative housing
- **Chronically Homelessness Status.** ... (HUD defines “homeless” as “ person must have a disability and have been living in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or a safe haven for the last 12 months continuously *or* on at least four occasions in the last three years **where those occasions cumulatively total at least 12 months**”



Harrisonburg Homeless Service Delivery Service

Shelter, Housing, and Support Services for Homeless Individuals and Families

Services
For
Individuals

**Outreach
(First Contact)**

Strength-in-Peers

Emergency Shelter

First Step– DV Shelter
Open Doors
Salvation Army – Harrisonburg

**Permanent
Supportive Housing**

Commerce Village

Services
For
All

Support Services

Supportive services assist homeless persons to transition from the street or shelter to permanent housing. Supportive services may include:

Case Management	Employment Services	Legal Assistance	Prescription Assistance
Child Care Services	Food/Soup Kitchens	Mental Health Counseling	Rental Assistance
Counseling/Advocacy	Healthcare	Peer Counseling	Substance Abuse Counseling
Education	Housing Services	Personal Assistance Services	Transportation

Services
For
Families

**Prevention and
Rapid-Rehousing**

First Step – DV Shelter
Mercy House

Emergency Shelter

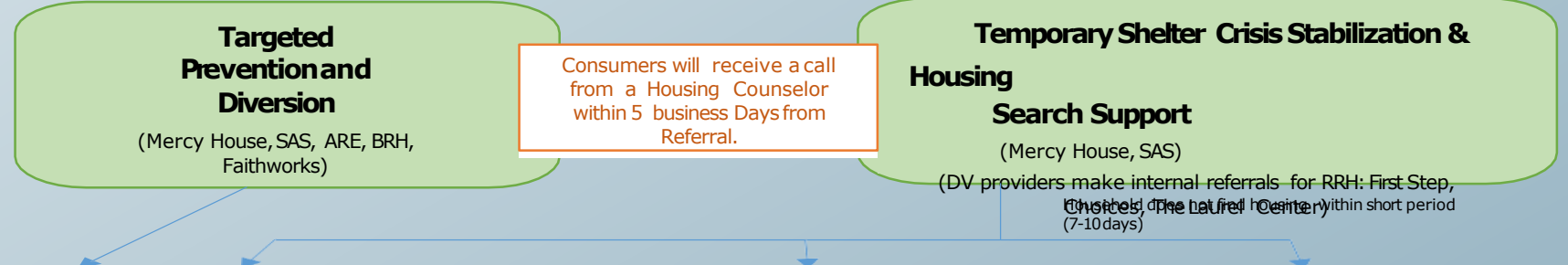
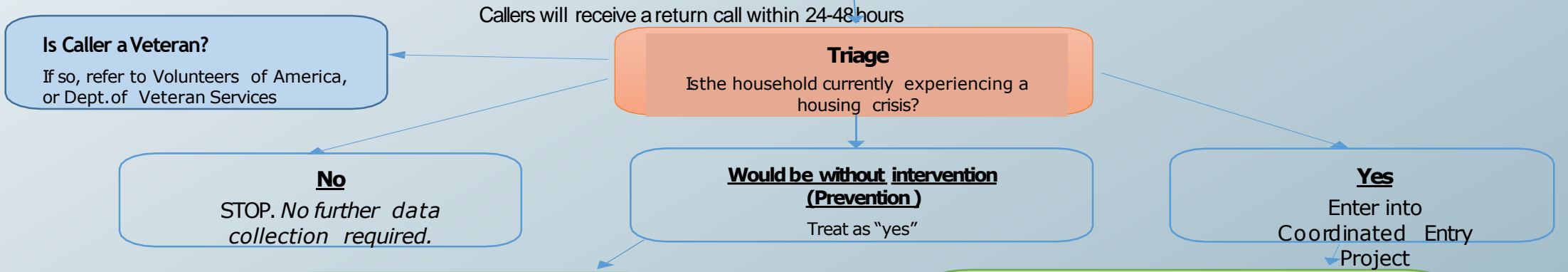
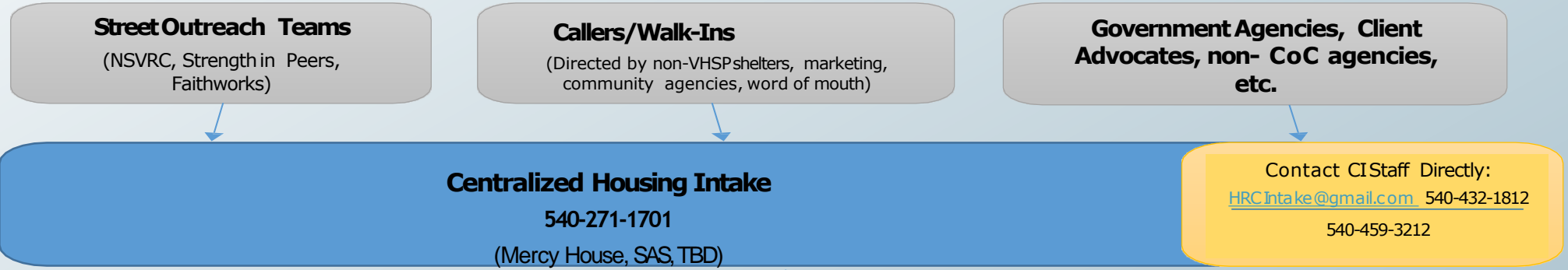
First Step – DV Shelter
Mercy House
Salvation Army – Harrisonburg

Transitional Housing

Bridge of Hope



Coordinated Entry Flow Chart



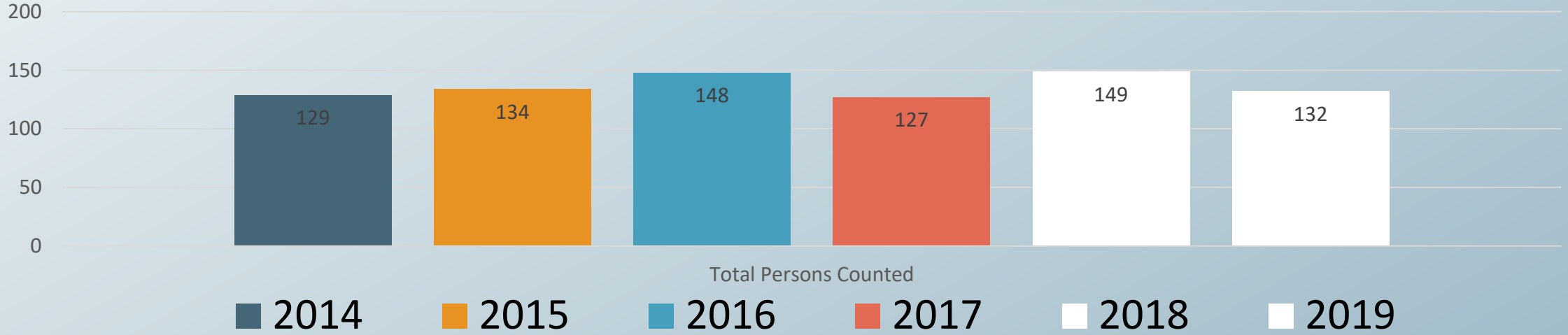
Household retains housing or gains new housing, bypassing shelter stay

Household for whom RRH & TH is unsuccessful, high needs

Households with Highest needs



Point in Time (Census of Homeless) in Harrisonburg 2014-2019



Adults in Shelters	98	101	109	99	111	95
Children in Shelters	26	30	37	27	33	28
Unsheltered Adults	5	3	2	1	5	9





Point in Time 2019 Homeless Populations

Harrisonburg (104 adults):

Fleeing Domestic Violence

8%



Serious Mental Disorder

10%

Unaccompanied Youth 18-24

9%



Veterans

8%

Chronically Homeless Persons

2014
2015
2016

14%

Addiction Issues

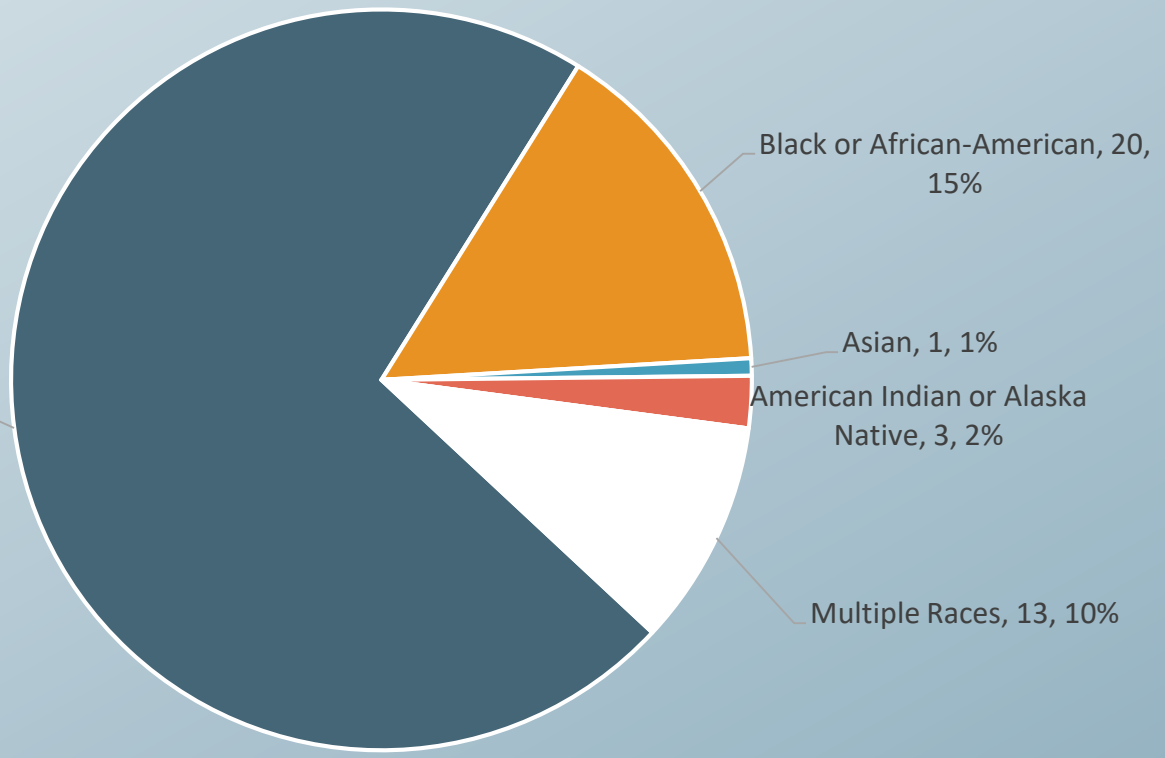
7%



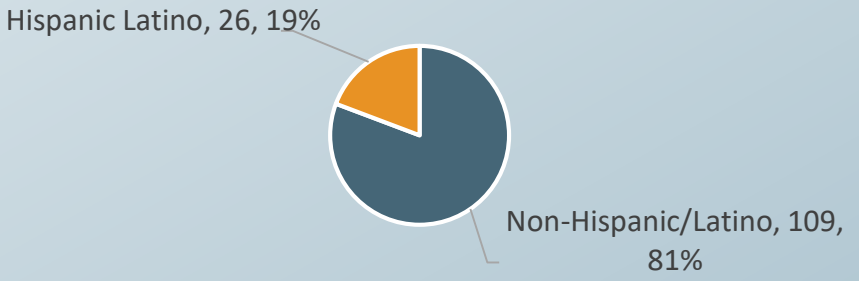


Racial Demographics of Harrisonburg Rockingham Point in Time 2019 (132 persons)

Race



Ethnicity



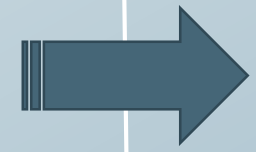


**2019
Decrease in
Harrisonburg
Available
January
Shelter Beds**

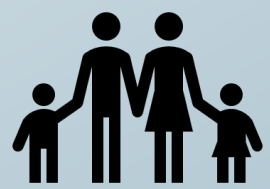
2018

2019

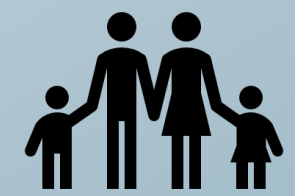
184 Beds



144 Beds



98



70



86

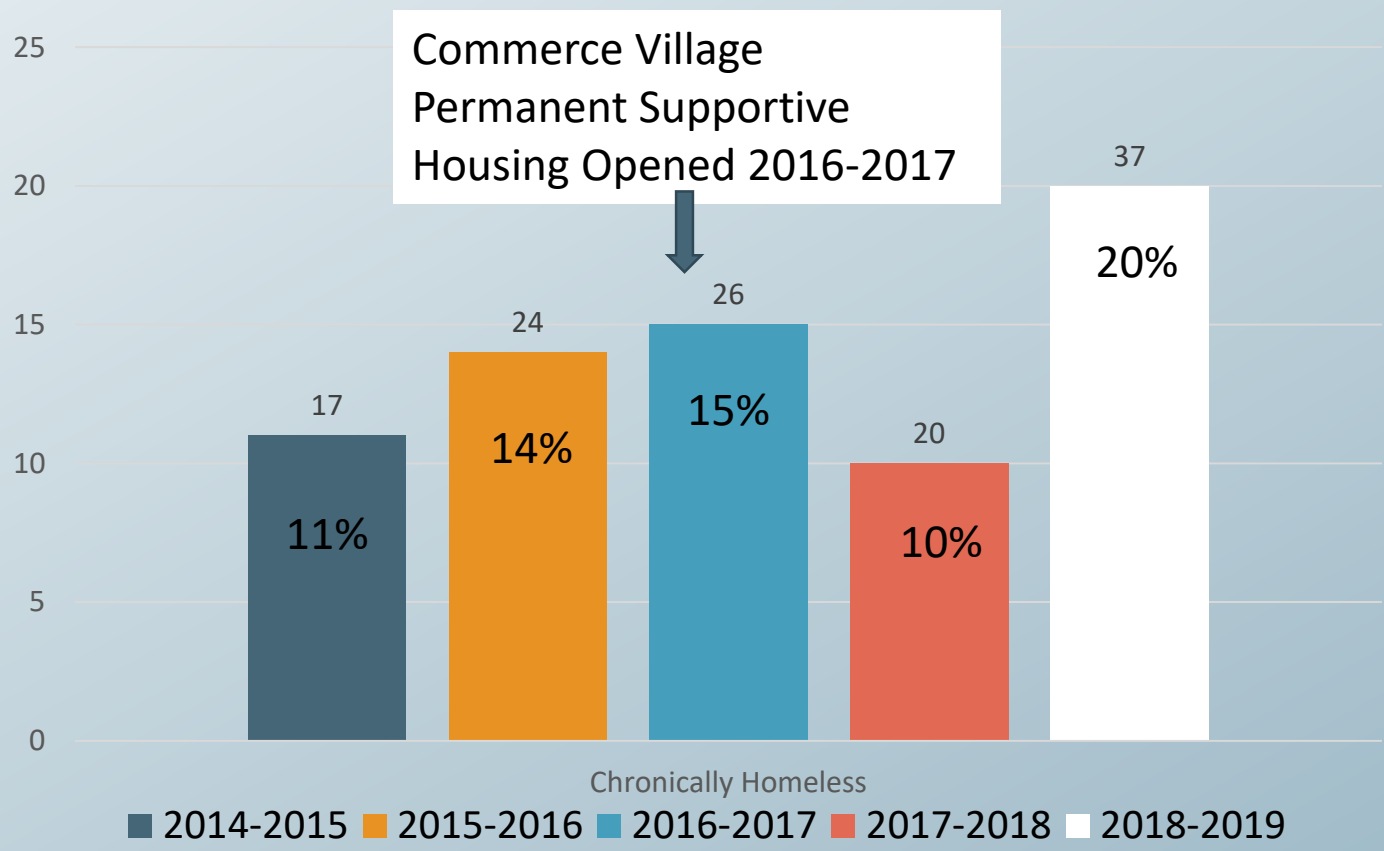


74



Chronically Homelessness Served Harrisonburg Shelter Data (Seasonal Trends)

Chronically homeless is defined as having a disability, plus either one year continuously homeless OR four episodes of homelessness in three years of one year duration or longer. – HUD Definition



Where Are The Chronically Homeless From? 2019 Season

Harrisonburg/ Rockingham (24) 65%
Virginia (11) 30%
Other State (2) 5%

16 aged-in to homelessness since 2017



The Hidden Cost of Chronic Homelessness

A chronically homeless person costs the tax payer an average of **\$35,578** per year. Costs on average are reduced by 49.5% when they are placed in supportive housing. Supportive housing costs on average **\$12,800**, making the net savings roughly **\$4,800** per year.*

We surveyed 75 homeless persons in Harrisonburg in January 2019. Within the last year, they self-reported 75 total days admitted to our local hospitals. Estimated cost of admissions \$298,602.**

*Source: <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/ending-chronic-homelessness-saves-taxpayers-money/>

** Source: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/average-cost-per-inpatient-day-across-50-states.html>





Why Invest?

- Recognition that the continued need will grow
 - Impact to Police, Fire/Rescue and Health Care
 - Use of the jail as a shelter
 - Increase housing costs
 - Competition for affordable housing-limited supply
 - Large ALICE Population
 - Service orientated economy
 - Friendly City- We Care
- Current System has achieved a level of success
 - Without a increase in investment, unrealistic to anticipate any additional impact in reducing the number of individuals experiencing homelessness, the length of homelessness and recidivism-return to homelessness





Communities in Virginia

- **Arlington County:**
- **o County has a housing division, which distributes the HCV, provides housing grants to help those over 65 afford housing, provides housing resources, etc. <https://housing.arlingtonva.us/>**
- **o County's Department of Human Services (DHS) has a whole tab dedicated to homelessness, which includes: information on contacting the Clinical Coordinated Program operated by DHS Community Assistance Bureau (clients work with social worker through city to address housing & other issues), information on shelters & how/where to access RRH, information CoC (County has two CoC staff and serves as the lead agency). <https://publicassistance.arlingtonva.us/homelessness/>**
- **§ CoC Governance provides information on staff and notes Arlington County is the lead agency: <https://publicassistance.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2014/04/FY18-Arlington-CoC-HMIS-Governance.pdf>**

Virginia Beach:

- **o 2016 Article about the city's support of 3 affordable housing projects in the community. In all three projects, the city provided financial support in some capacity. https://pilotonline.com/news/local/article_99dd17b0-cafe-51c9-8a7d-8596dea51a8e.html**
- **o VA Beach also supports affordable housing through City Zoning Ordinances. In 2007, they established a workforce housing overlay district that helps protect workforce housing. <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/housing-neighborhood-preservation/workforce-housing/Pages/default.aspx>**
- **o VA Beach has a Department of Housing & Neighborhood Preservation where citizens can find information on homelessness/shelters, housing resources (including affordable rental housing), HCV/Section 8, etc. The City serves as the HUD rep/recipient. <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/housing-neighborhood-preservation/Pages/default.aspx>.**
- **o City is part of the CoC and are the lead financial agency: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/housing-neighborhood-preservation/dhnp-business/Pages/Continuum-of-Care.aspx>**





Communities in Virginia

Norfolk:

- **o The City government has an Office to End Homelessness:**
<https://www.norfolk.gov/homelessness>

- **▪ Richmond**

- **o Richmond's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (originally started in 2004, reinstated in 2015) that is made up of a combination of funds from the City of Richmond, as well as public and private entities.** <http://www.yesrichmondva.com/neighborhood-revitalization/Affordable-Housing-Trust-Fund>.

- **o City of Richmond (under the department of social services) has a homelessness outreach program, housing code enforcement & counseling program, and information cold weather overflow shelters:** <http://www.richmondgov.com/SocialServices/Homeless.aspx>

- **▪ Roanoke:**

- **o The City of Roanoke's Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness (BRICH), under the Department of Human Services, serves as the lead entity for the Blue Ridge CoC. This city department has dedicated full-time staff to address homeless through BRICH (CoC) and a Homeless Assistance Team.** <https://www.roanokeva.gov/292/HumanSocial-Services>

- **▪ Charlottesville:**

- **o The article states that City "budgeted \$5.4 million for the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund and housing support programs in fiscal year 2019." That included "\$3.4 million in the city's Affordable Housing Fund and \$500,000 for the redevelopment of public housing."**

https://www.dailyprogress.com/realestate/articles/will-more-money-for-affordable-housing-counteract-trends-in-charlottesville/article_a330ca3e-87a2-11e8-9f67-ebca068a15f3.html

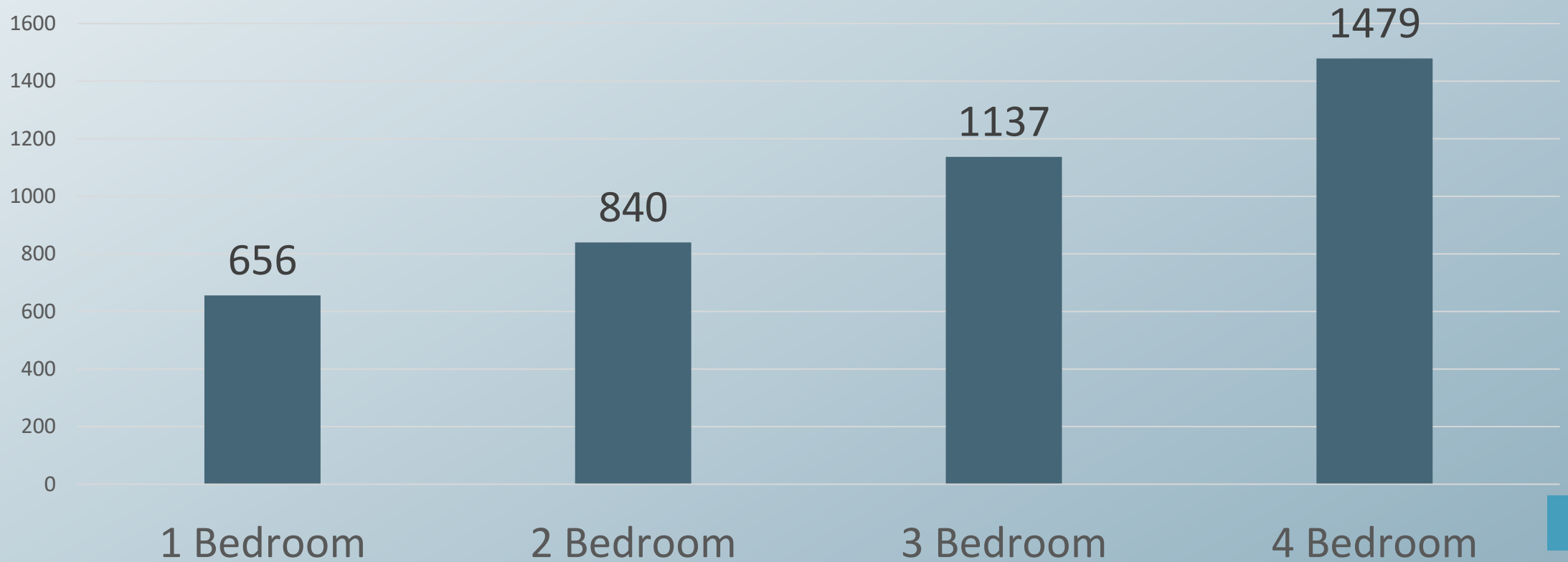
- **o The City devotes a whole page to Housing and Grants on website, with information on the Affordable Housing Fund, Housing Data and Reports, and Affordable Housing Reports.**
<http://www.charlottesville.org/departments-and-services/departments-h-z/neighborhood-development-services/housing-grants>





Housing Need

2018 Fair Market Rents

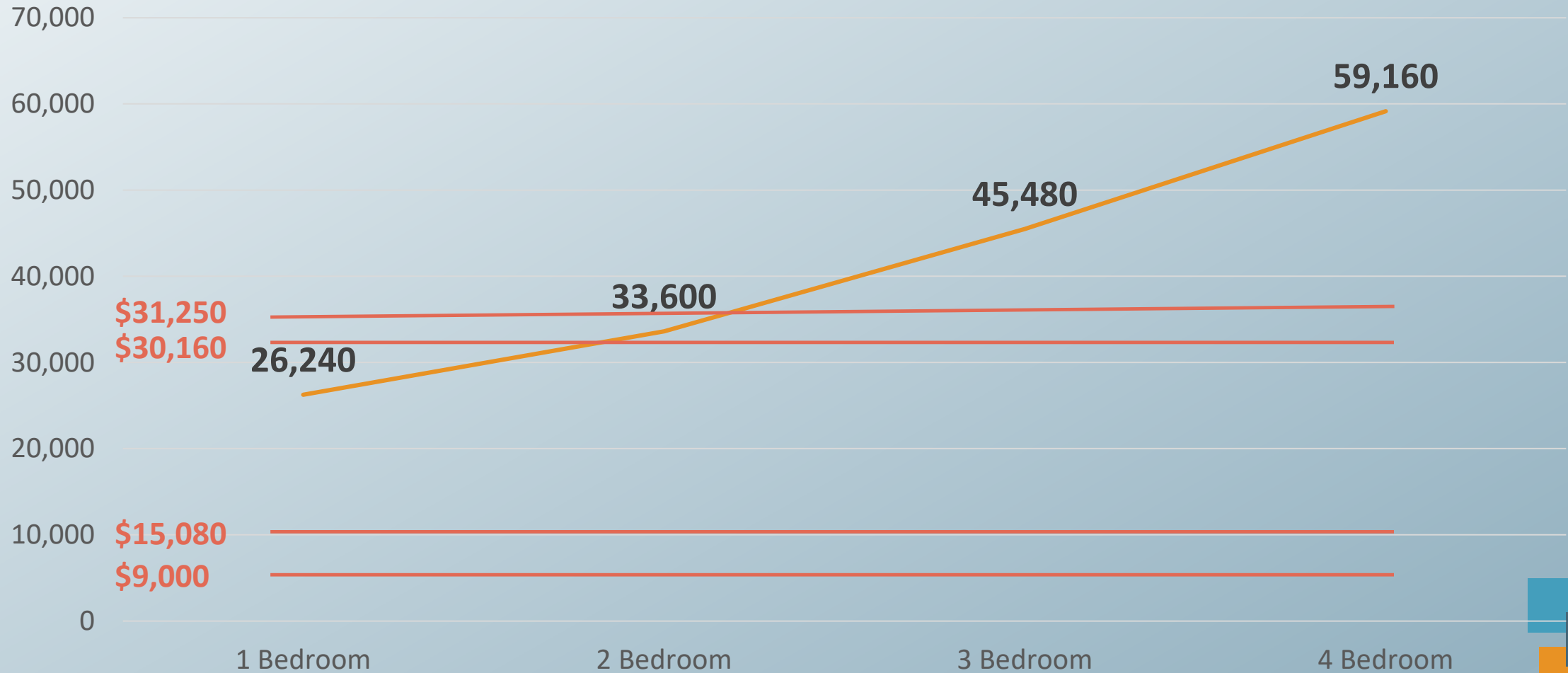


At what income are these rents affordable?





Need, cont.





Priority Needs

- Development of a Housing Plan
 - Define community goals and objectives addressing a continuum of housing needs
- Increase availability of Permanent Supportive Housing
- Initiate Built for Zero- By Name List targeting the most vulnerable
 - Expand Street Outreach
 - Expand Community Resource Center
 - Establish Centralized Intake process for “By Name List”
 - Assessment
 - Prioritization
 - Case Conferencing





Increase Permanent Supportive Housing

- Reconsideration of the East Gay Street Project
 - Three units targeting veterans, individuals transferring from institutions, and individuals experiencing chronic homelessness
 - MOU's with HRCSB, HRDSS, and VAIL to provide supportive services
 - Housing Trust Fund application to fund
 - No other land to develop
- Land to build 30 additional units of permanent supportive housing



EAST GAY STREET HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA





Expand Street Outreach and Community Resource Center

- Request \$25,000 in funding to support the street outreach efforts to homeless veterans, individuals that are unsheltered and chronically homeless
 - Development of relationships/trust-care packages
 - HMIS
 - Assessment-VI-SPDAT
 - Participate in by name list case conferencing
- Request \$25,000 in funding to support walk in center that provides information, referral, and light case management
 - HMIS
 - Referral and light case management
 - Assessment-VI-SPDAT
 - Participate in by name list case conferencing





Expand Centralized Intake

- Request \$25,000 to support Centralized Intake Process
 - Built for Zero-By Name List Initiative
 - coordinator position to lead the new “By Name List” processes
 - Supports CI providers through development or training and implementation of policies and procedures
 - Alignment with new HUD procedures and guidelines





Thank You

“When you talk about creating homelessness services and programs, you often hear the response: ‘But if you build it, they will come.’ But when you look at the statistics on homelessness, you understand that homelessness is already here. Leaving this issue unaddressed isn’t aligned with our values - it’s not who we are as a community.”

~ Mayor Kai Degner, City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

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