

**COG Region Forward**

# **Regional Collaboration to End Homelessness**

Brianne K. Nadeau

# Regional collaboration is critical, and it starts with sharing data

- Point in Time coordination
- Human Services Committee panel on youth homelessness
- Human Services Committee Joint Roundtable – December 2018
- Data-sharing and matching between DC, Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties
- Survey of shelter capacity throughout the region – in progress

# Point in Time Count 2019: What *doesn't* it show?

## How Many People are Experiencing Homelessness in Our Region?

Literally Homeless By Jurisdiction, 2018 - 2019				
Jurisdiction	2018	2019	Change in Number of Persons 2018-2019	Percent Change 2018-2019
City of Alexandria, VA	226	198	-28	-12%
Arlington County, VA	221	215	-6	-3%
District of Columbia	6,904	6,521	-383	-6%
Fairfax County, VA	987	1,034	47	5%
Frederick County, MD	316	286	-30	-9%
Loudoun County, VA	134	169	35	26%
Montgomery County, MD	840	647	-193	-23%
Prince George's County, MD	478	447	-31	-6%
Prince William County, VA	374	277	-97	-26%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,480</b>	<b>9,794</b>	<b>-686</b>	<b>-7%</b>

NOTE: The literally homeless total above includes the unsheltered homeless.

Can we be the first region in the  
country to end homelessness?

# Homeward DC: Strategic Plan 2015-2020

**Vision:** Make homelessness in the District rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

**Objectives:**

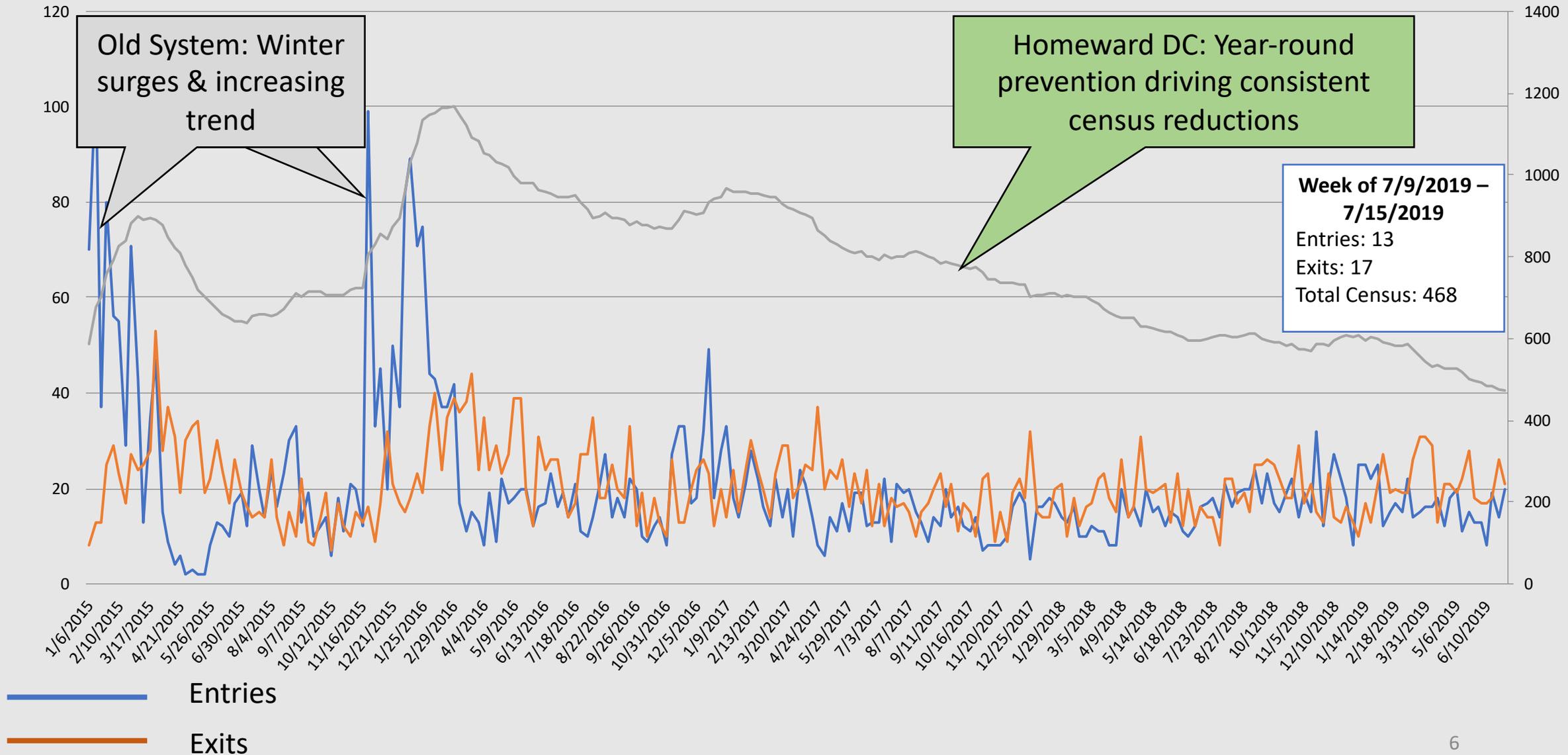
1. **Develop a more effective crisis response system**
2. Increase the supply of affordable and supportive housing
3. Remove barriers to affordable and supportive housing
4. Increase the economic security of households in our system
5. Increase prevention efforts to stabilize households before housing loss occurs

**Homeward DC was developed with input from people on all sides of the issue – and has broad community support.**

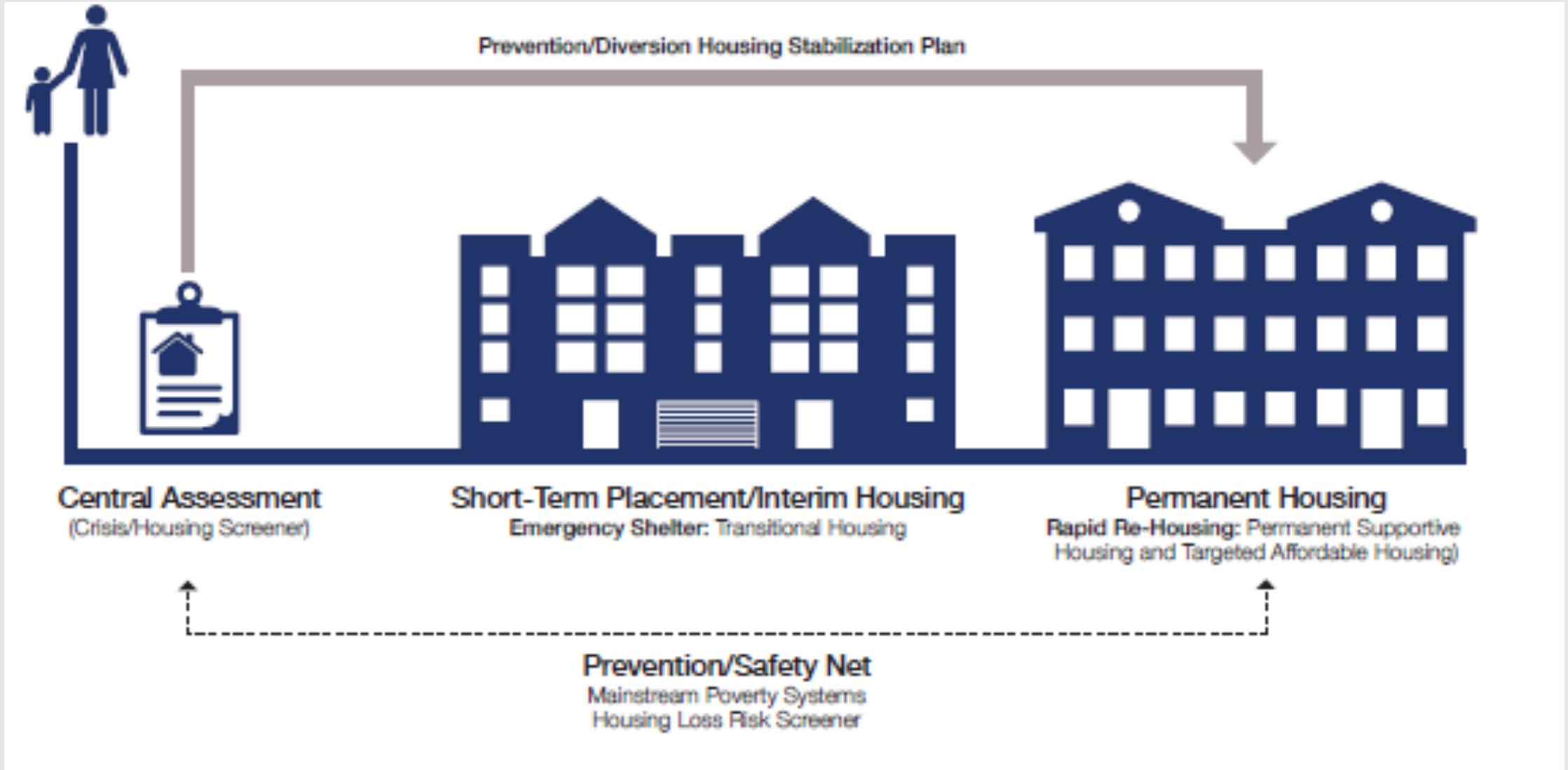


# This is System Reform

## Emergency Family Shelter Census (FY15 – Present)



# Making Homelessness Rare, Brief & Nonrecurring



# Homelessness Prevention Program:

More than 8,000 families diverted from shelter through intensive supports

## Key Questions

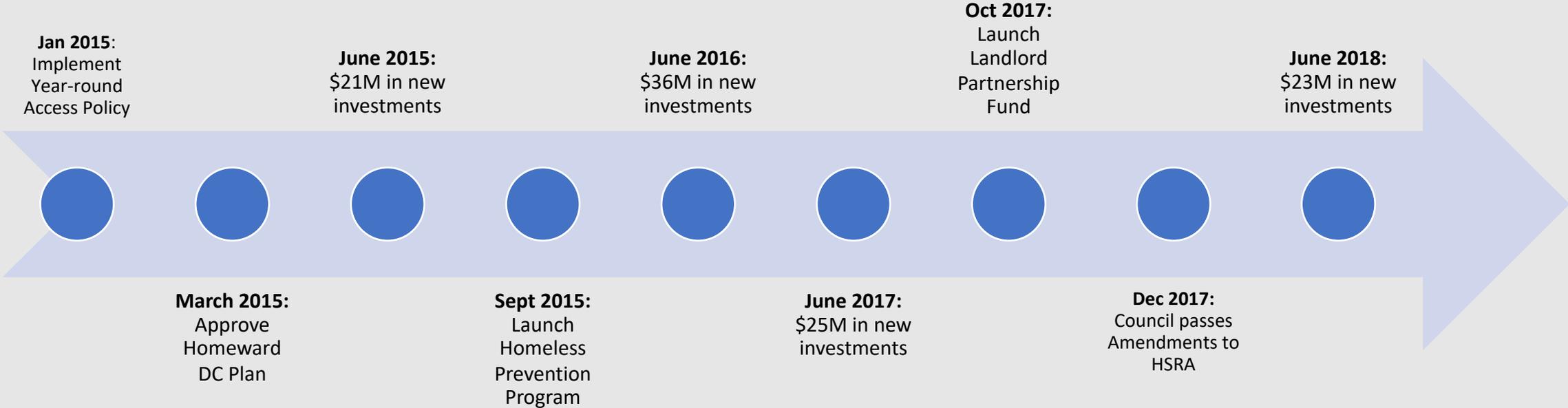
- What are the characteristics, and needs and circumstances in which families are entering shelter?
- age, housing history, network, health, safety
- number of visits to intake before entering shelter

## Menu of Options

- Diversion & Mediation
- Rental Assistance
- Financial Assistance
- Connection to TANF Vendors
- Clothing, food, utility assistance
- Connection to housing stabilization programs

# Every Strategy & Investment Tied Back to Plan

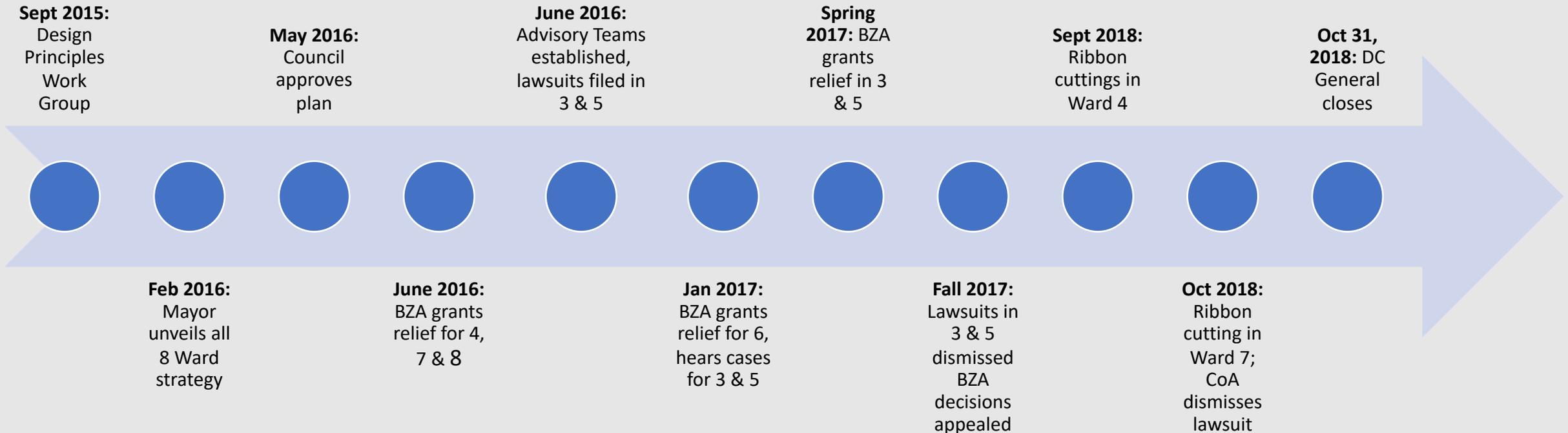
## Family System Transformation



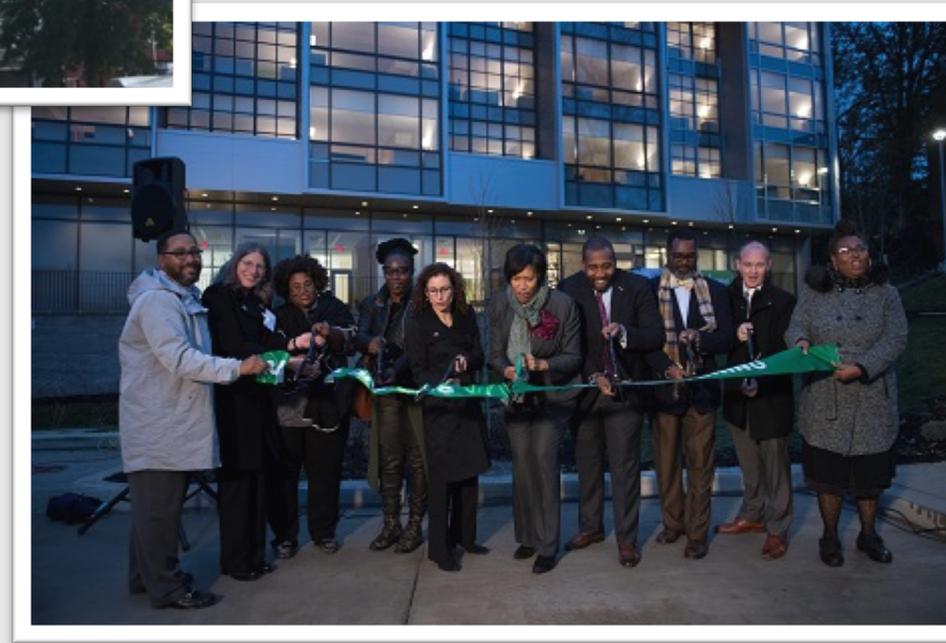
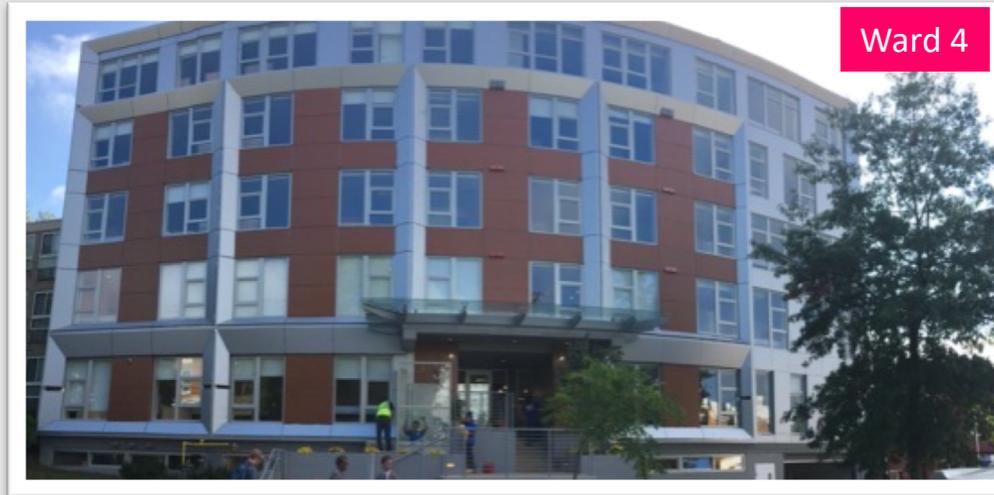
# Ensuring dignity and safety in our shelter system

- DC General was a former hospital that acted as the central shelter for the entire District of Columbia
- Conditions were unacceptable and it took collaborative political will to pass a solution that asked every ward in DC to host a replacement family shelter

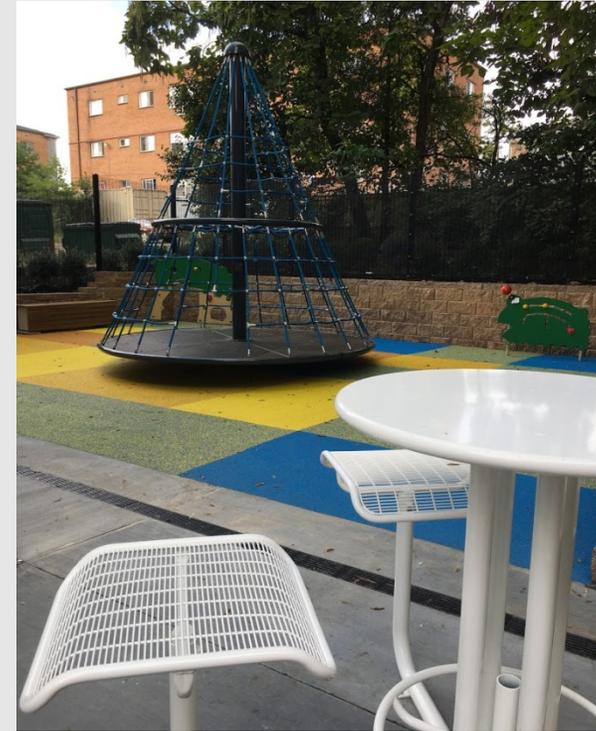
## DC General Closure



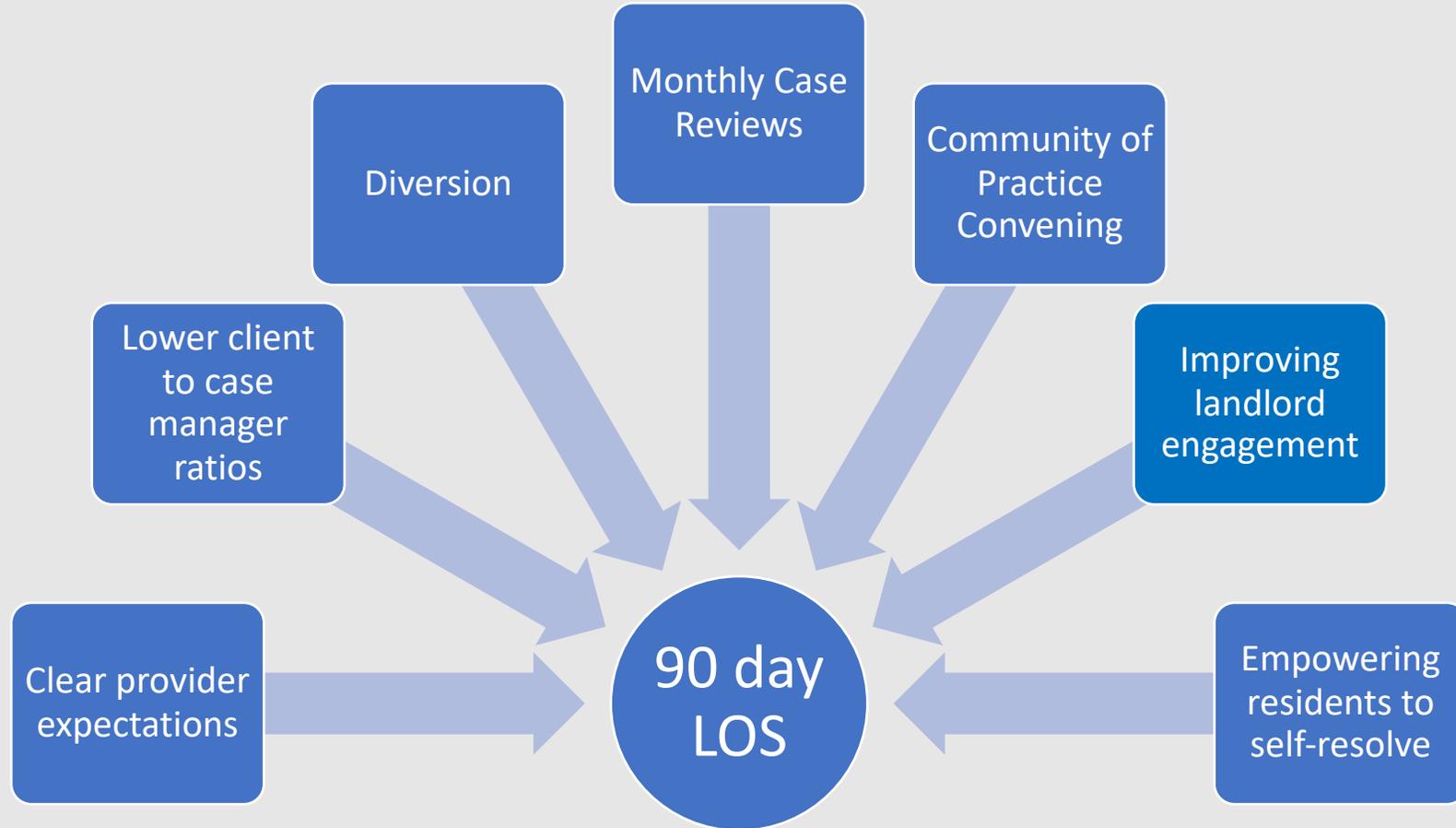
# Short-term family housing across DC



# Designing housing for the whole family



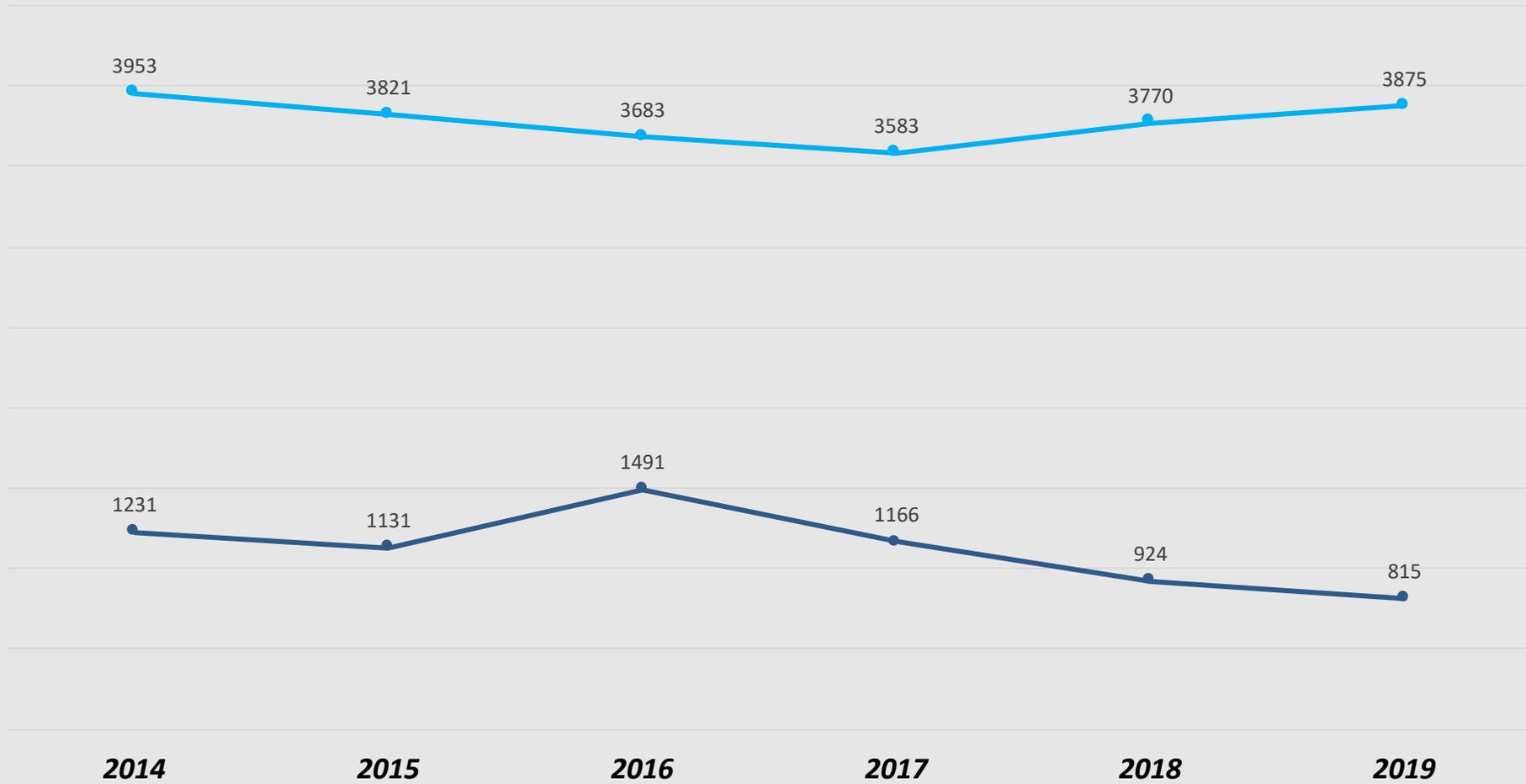
# New Service Model + Housing Focus



# *Solid Foundations* – DC plan to end youth homelessness

- Studying and defining youth homelessness (18-24)
- Measuring and tracking through PIT and HMIS
- Understanding causes and consequences
- Providing emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing, additional beds during hypothermia season
- Additional supports for LGBTQ youth

### PIT Count Totals For Single and Family Households, 2014 – 2019



- Single Individuals PIT Count
- Families PIT Count

# We can end homelessness in the region

- Ending homelessness is a political choice to invest in the resources that we know work for our residents
  - Year-round services, heavy focus on prevention and rapid rehousing
  - Low-barrier, high-quality, family-friendly shelter infrastructure
- Homelessness is a regional problem that needs regional collaboration
  - Our at-risk residents move frequently between jurisdictions

## **Follow Up Questions:**

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