ENDING HOMELESSNESS REGIONALLY

Update and Recommendations

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COG Board of Directors
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Regional Compact to End Homelessness

- ## Adopted unanimously on January 13, 2021
  - Effort led by the COG Human Services Policy Committee during 2020 & informed by the COG Homeless Services Committee

- ## Five Action Items
  1. Data Sharing
  2. Regular Reporting
  3. Regional By-name Tracking and Case Coordination
  4. Residency Requirements
  5. Racial Equity

Deepening Regional Collaboration: Building the Infrastructure

Action Items 1 and 2: Data Sharing and Regular Reporting

Regional Data Metrics Working Group

- Comprised of **HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) administrators & data leads**
- Creating a **Regional Dashboard** on the COG website
- Will inform key elements of a **Data Sharing Agreement**
  - Expansion of the existing agreement (District of Columbia, Prince George's County, MD and Montgomery County, MD) pending Virginia's statewide Homeless Data Integration Project (HDIP) implementation in northern VA

Why Does Data Sharing Matter?

Reliable, Quality Data is Foundational

- Ability to share client information improves care coordination & outcomes

- More efficient placements in permanent housing through quality By-Name Lists and data sharing

- People who are not on any jurisdiction's priority housing list may "fall through the cracks" without better data tracking and sharing as they move around seasonally

Deepening Regional Collaboration: Building the Infrastructure

Action Item 3: Regional By-name Tracking & Case Coordination

Regional Case Coordination Learning Collaborative

- Comprised of Coordinated Entry Managers: "Air traffic controllers" for the Continuum of Care
- Focus on prioritization practices, assessments, and sharing approaches to care coordination

Data Sharing Success

Veteran Data Sharing & Regional By-name Tracking & Case Coordination

- Monthly data matching of By-Name List (DC/Montgomery/Prince George's County)

- One veteran was on two jurisdictions' list for housing. Data sharing allowed each county to:

  1. Locate the veteran

  2. Place the veteran in housing in the jurisdiction of their choice

Deepening Regional Collaboration: Expanding Understanding

Action Item 4: Residency Requirements

- A truly regional system would allow for greater client choice and better meet the need

- Change requires coordinated action across and within jurisdictions

Taking Action on Racial Inequities

Action Item 5: Regional Racial Equity Systems Analysis Timeline & Methodology

June 2021: *Kickoff* | **January 2022** | **Sept 2022 – Feb 2023**

Phase 1:
Data Analysis (Qualitative & Quantitative)

Phase 2:
Action Planning

Phase 3: Synthesis & Development of Recommendations

What Have We Learned So Far?

Analysis

System Improvements

EQUITY

Funding

Culture Shift

Addressing Root Causes

Housing and Land Use Interventions

- Just cause eviction
- Ban the Box legislation / criminal background
- Zoning reform for equity
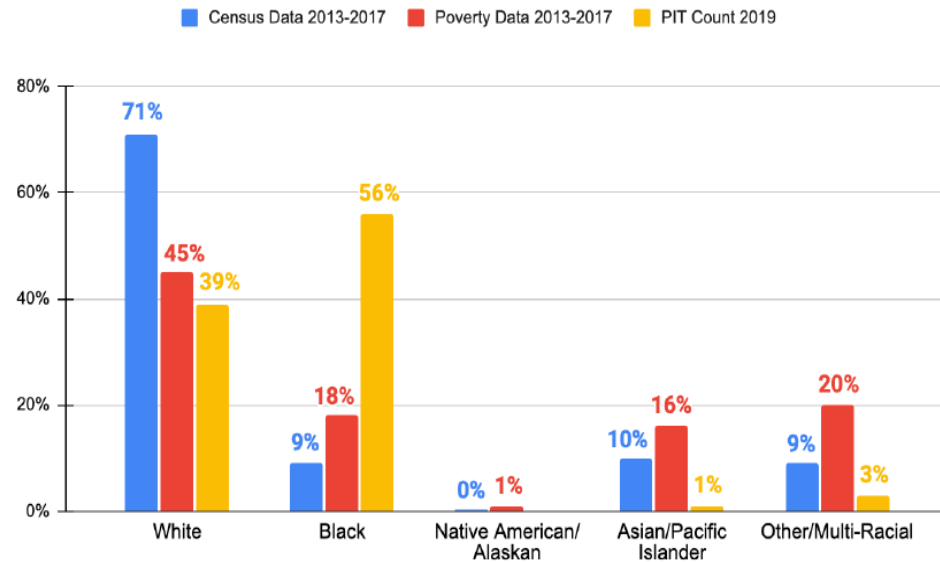- Deeper income targeting in housing developments

Fair Housing Enforcement, Education, and Outreach

- Regional fair housing plan implementation

Funding Strategies

- Alignment of sources to support capacity to address disparities in our systems of care

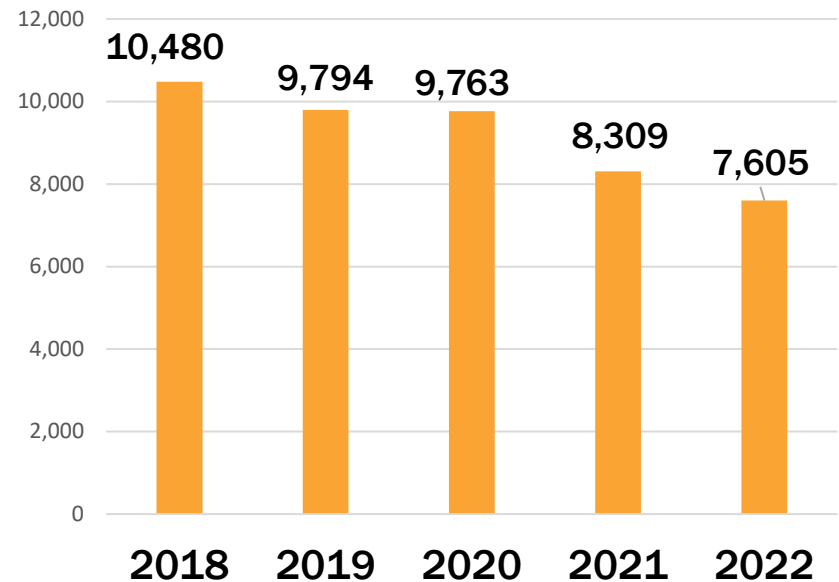**Table 1 - Census, Poverty and PIT Count Rates by Race**

Legend: ■ Census Data 2013-2017 ■ Poverty Data 2013-2017 ■ PIT Count 2019

Race	Census Data 2013-2017	Poverty Data 2013-2017	PIT Count 2019
White	71%	45%	39%
Black	9%	18%	56%
Native American/Alaskan	0%	1%	
Asian/Pacific Islander	10%	16%	1%
Other/Multi-Racial	9%	20%	3%

Source: Arlington County analysis for COG regional racial equity collaboration

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Key Takeaways in Ending Homelessness

- **Significant reductions** in people experiencing homelessness

- **Unprecedented investments** in housing and homelessness prevention contributed to declines

- **Ending the experience of homelessness is possible** with adequate investment and strategic cross-jurisdictional collaboration

Region's Literally Homeless at January Point-in-Time Count
Source: COG 2022

Year	Count
2018	10,480
2019	9,794
2020	9,763
2021	8,309
2022	7,605

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Opportunities for Legislative Action

Larger Resource Need / Longer-term Impact

- **Sustained and increased regional investments in permanent housing.**
  - Consider incentives, support, and outreach to landlords with quality units

- **Sustained and increased regional investments in adequate shelter facilities.** Resources are necessary to allow people to freely choose where best to meet their needs and be close to family, friends, and work opportunities.

Lower Cost / Shorter-term Impact

- **Support and encourage sharing data within and across the region's CoCs** to strengthen local programs and improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.
  - Support **increasing data analysis staff capacity**

- Funding for **regional staff capacity** to coordinate and support local actions

- Opportunity to fund support of the **development and analysis of an assessment protocol enhancement** to replace the tool no longer being supported by HUD.

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