



# 2022 HOMELESSNESS

## NEW BEDFORD | MASSACHUSETTS

The City of New Bedford coordinates a comprehensive response to homelessness through its Continuum of Care, the Homeless Service Provider Network (HSPN). The City's Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) provides both Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Continuum of Care (CoC) funding to agencies that serve those experiencing, or threatened with, homelessness. The OHCD awards Emergency Solution Grant as part of the Annual Action Plan (AAP) process for shelter operations, homeless prevention and rapid rehousing. OHCD also awards HUD CoC funding for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Supportive Services Only (SSO) funds through a competitive CoC competition each year. These federal funding sources come through OHCD and are administered through shelters, supportive housing, and shelter operations

### Facilities Targeted to People Experiencing Homelessness



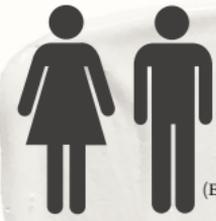
The utilization rate for Emergency Shelters in 2021 were 94%, Transitional Housing was at 68% and Permanent Housing was at 100% (420 of 420 beds occupied).

Shelter/Housing	2020 Beds	2021 Beds
Emergency Shelter (Individual and Family)	298	284
Transitional Housing	97	91
Permanent Supportive Housing	501	420

### Unaccompanied Youth

HUD defines those individuals who are alone, between the ages of 18-24 and residing in places not meant for human habitation such as parks, cars and doorways, as being "unaccompanied youth."

Although unaccompanied youth may stay in an individual emergency shelter, New Bedford also has a shelter with 8 beds specifically geared to serving this population, only.



### Unsheltered People Counted



### Sheltered People Counted (Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing)



### Of those counted...

- The total 2021 Point In Time (PIT) Count of 372 was about 7% less than the previous year's count and less than the average count over the prior decade.
- The numbers of people living in adult-only households and families has been fairly even in the past couple years.
- Chronic homelessness statistics reveal that the most vulnerable are getting into housing rather than staying on the streets.
- Almost three quarters of those counted in the 2021 PIT had lived in New Bedford for over 3 years.
- Those self-identifying as having a serious mental illness and/or substance abuse represents the most prevalent subpopulation attributes for all those experiencing homelessness.



### Youth Homelessness

The HSPN works closely with the New Bedford Public Schools (NBPS) in understanding the extent of youth considered homeless under the US Dept of Education's McKinney Vento definition.

In January of 2022, the NBPS reported 1298 students had been served halfway through the school year.

### Ensuring Stability in Housing

#### HOUSING FIRST

This model is used by all New Bedford projects to ensure the most rapid movement to appropriate permanent housing with services it needed to ensure stability.

#### RRH/HP

Rapid ReHousing funding is available to serve as a bridge between emergency and permanent housing. Homeless Prevention is available to keep people stably housed.

#### DIVERSION

The strategy that prevents homelessness for those seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements. It is the initial step to ensure stability.

#### CES

The Coordinated Entry System (CES) ensures all persons experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly assessed, referred and connected to housing and assistance.

### Strategic Planning

The New Bedford CoC carefully and intentionally develops ongoing and long-range strategic plans, action steps and resource driven publications to ensure that the steps it takes and materials it publishes moves the continuum closer to ending homelessness. These strategies are manifested in multiple formats for varying purposes and include:

- Community Priorities developed annually
- StreetSheets published annually
- System Performance Targeted Improvements
- HSPN Adopted Strategies 2021
- Written Standards
- Operational Standards with Performance Measures
- HMIS Governance and Operational Standards
- Coordinated Entry Standards
- Resource Snapshots targeting specific topic areas
- Strategic Plan 2017-2019
- Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness 2005

