



# Home for Good:

## A briefing on the state of homelessness in Muscogee County

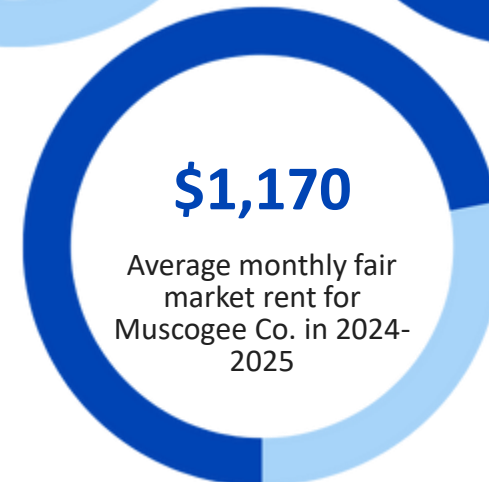
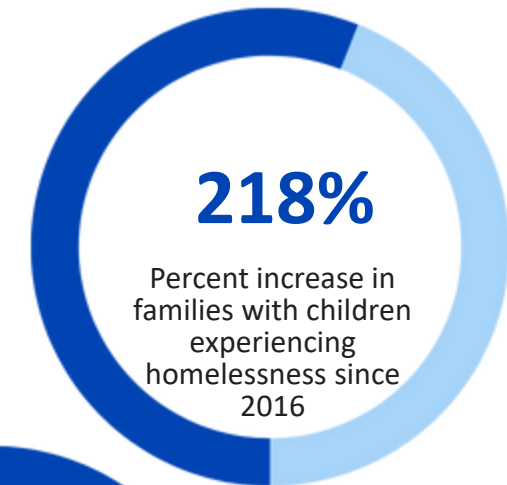
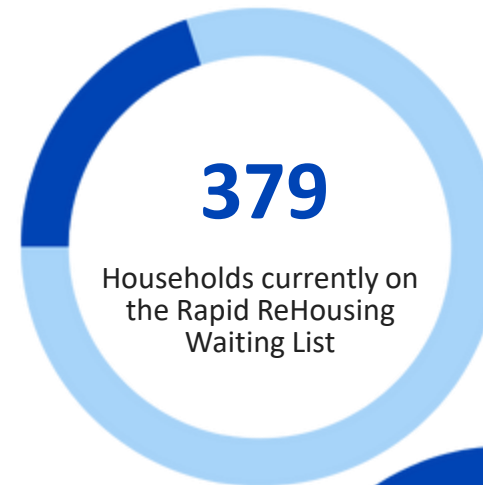


# Home for Good is the Continuum of Care

United Way/Home For Good was charged with implementing the 2010 City of Columbus' 10-year Plan to End Homelessness in 2012 and has been the Continuum of Care lead for Muscogee County since July 2015.

As CoC Lead, our mandate is to oversee the community partners in carrying out the functions of the COC. These include Performance and Outcomes, CoC Application, Mainstream and Outreach, HMIS / Data, Landlord Engagement, Coordinated Entry (CES), Point in Time Committee, Lived Experience Advisory

The Continuum of Care lead is HUD designated to manage the integrated community system of partners that serve those affected by homelessness.



# CoC Partners Include:

Community Members (citizens)  
Emergency Shelters  
Housing Programs  
Government Officials  
Education and Job Training Agencies  
Medical Providers  
Substance Abuse/Mental Health  
Providers  
Crisis Centers/DV  
Veteran Service Providers  
Food Security Providers  
Landlords  
Lived Experience Individuals



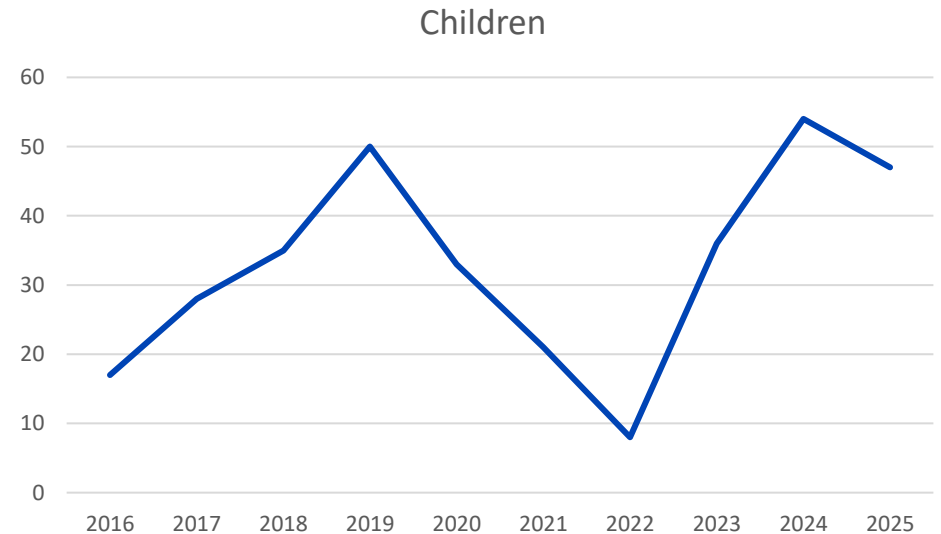
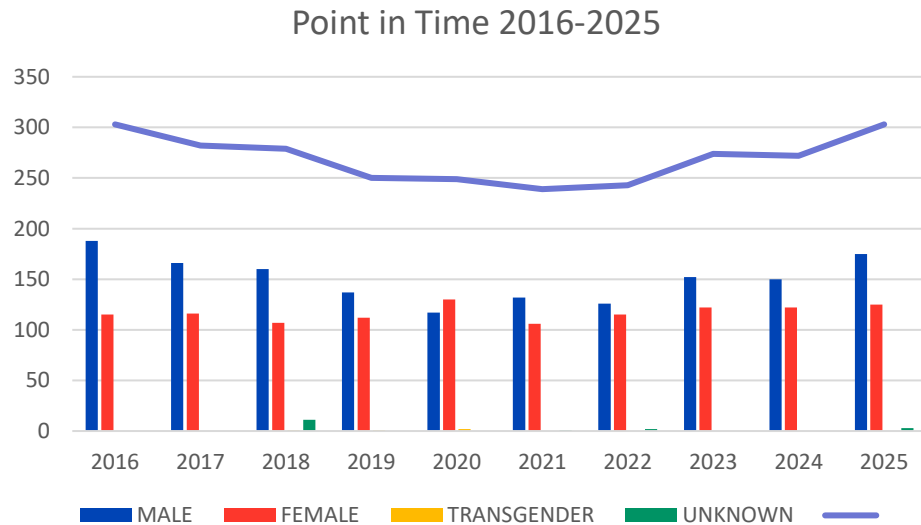
**These partnerships work to fill the gaps in resources and services for those affected by homelessness with Home For Good coordination**

Over the years Home for Good has been a provider of services including

- Rapid ReHousing,
- Homelessness Prevention,
- Hotel/Motel Vouchers
- Case Management
- Outreach

# Point in Time Homelessness Data 2016-2025

Post pandemic the overall homeless numbers have steadily risen while rental rates have increased 43% since 2022.



# Community Challenges

- The visibility of homelessness, particularly single men, overshadows the real issue of families and children affected by homelessness
- Lack of temporary shelter, especially for families
- Lack of coordination between law enforcement and social services for effective outreach
- Uncertain funding sources
- Depletion of affordable housing
- Lack of economic mobility, especially for those working multiple part time jobs to “just get by”
- Ordinances that are enforceable and ensure accountability rather than punishment
- Lack of a strategic plan to address systemic, root causes of homelessness while also addressing safety and law enforcement



**Homelessness has severe and far-reaching effects on children, impacting their physical health, emotional well-being, and academic achievement that can be long-lasting and potentially perpetuate a cycle of poverty and disadvantage.**

# A new approach is necessary to drive change.

Home for Good requests the City Council to create a Mayor's Commission on Homelessness.

This commission, with oversight from Home for Good and the United Way, will undergo due diligence over 12 months to develop an actionable strategic plan to address our community's homelessness challenges. Reports to council will be made at the 6-month mark and as needed.

This commission will have 5-7 members with specific areas of expertise that represent the necessary organizations and agencies that must collaborate to implement the plan. Committees will be formed for inclusive input and effectiveness.

## Recommended Commission Members:

Social Service Provider  
City Manager's Office  
Faith Based Leaders  
State funding providers  
Health providers  
EMS  
Law Enforcement



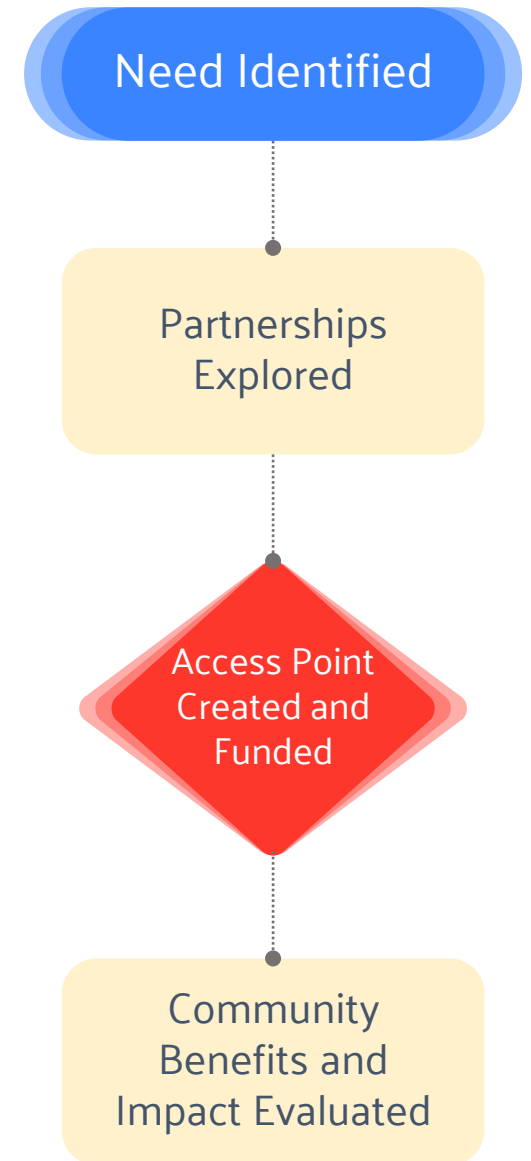
# Homelessness Outreach - A new partnership and approach

As of September 1, 2025, Home for Good will assign PATH Outreach to Valley Healthcare focusing on those with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless.

This partnership will allow for more targeted services to those who lack capacity to make decisions in their own best interest and provide more effective general outreach.

However, this does not mean that Home For Good and Valley Healthcare can be the catch-all for outreach.

The agencies will create a process flow chart to share with partners that will provide guidance on who to call for specific outreach situations.



# OUR SHARED OPPORTUNITY

The United Way and Home for Good remain dedicated to addressing homelessness and creating a community of opportunity for all. We value our role in identifying needs and bringing together partners to work collaboratively and strategically. However, Home for Good has become the city's first responder to all things at all times inhibiting the ability to act as a strategic implementer and evaluator of success.

## This is not sustainable.

We are at an inflection point and believe in this community's ability to work together to solve this important issue.







**UNITED WAY**  
Chattahoochee Valley

