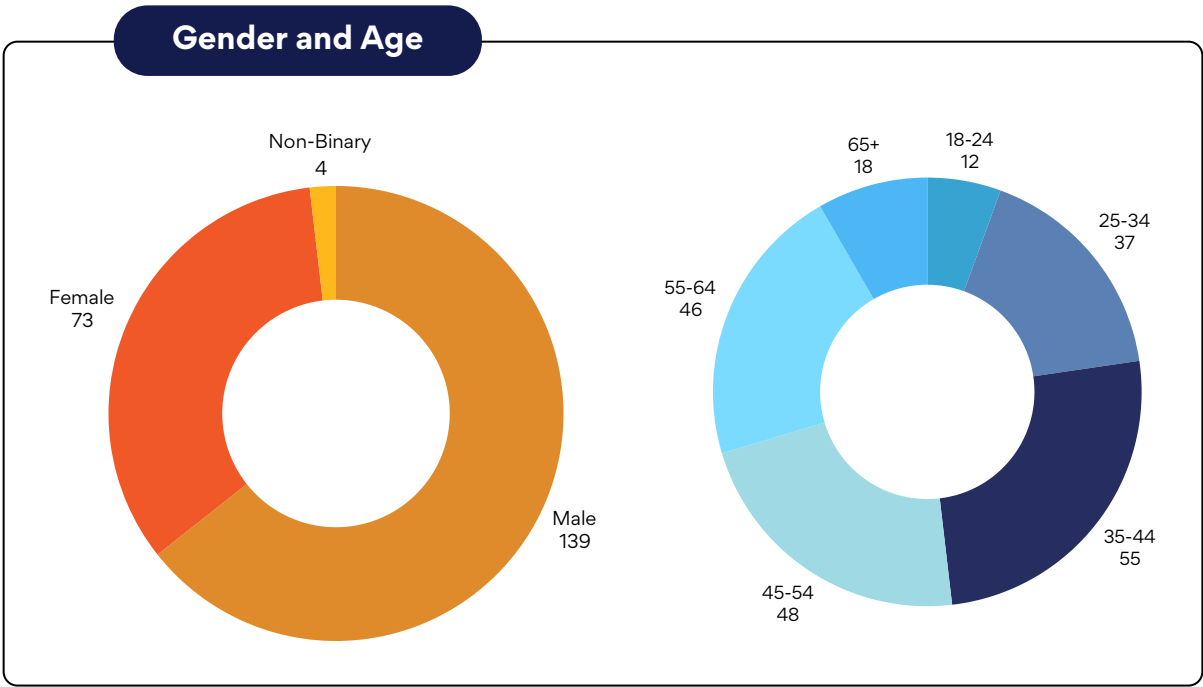
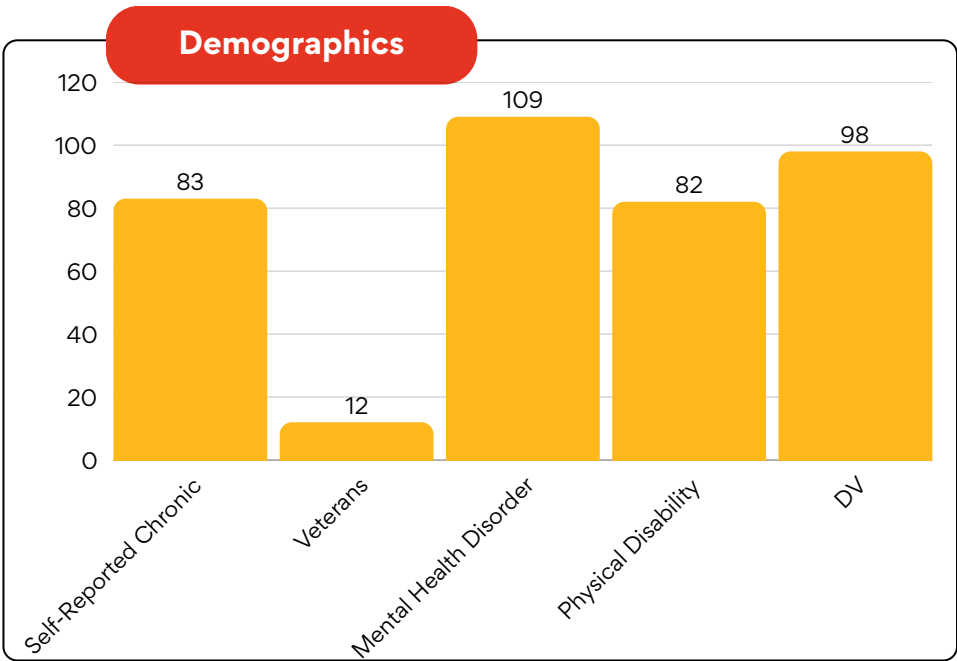
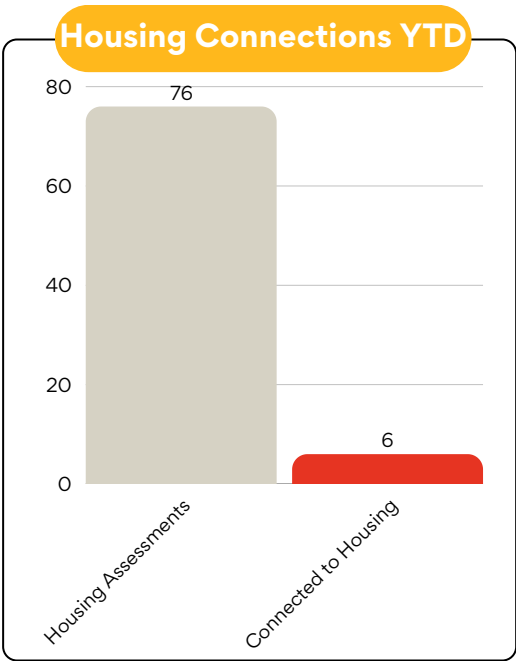
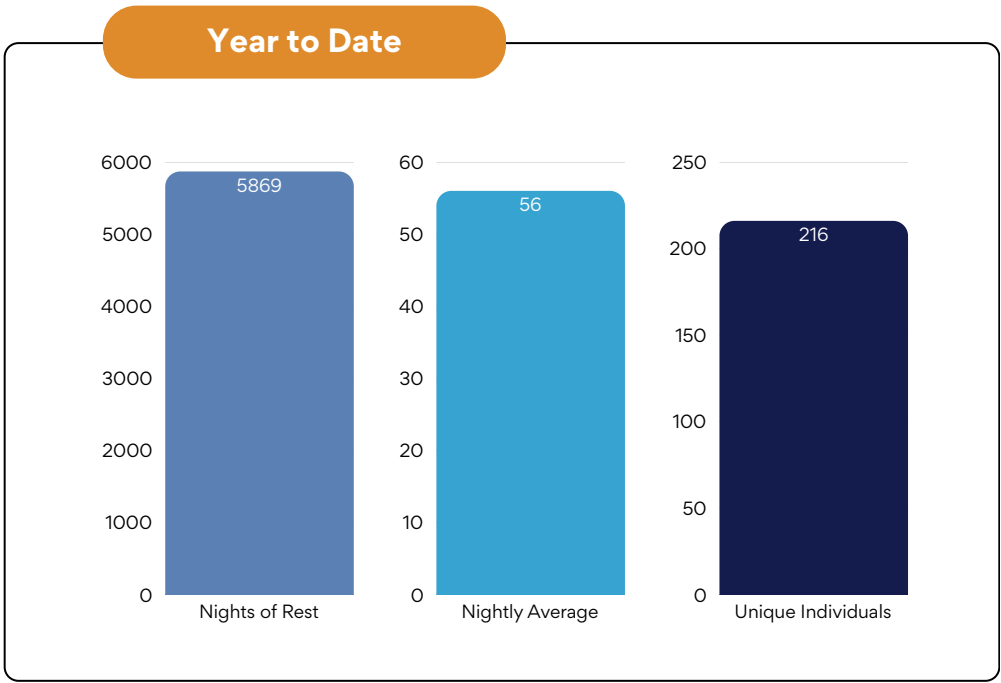


Norman Shelter Update



Trends

Veterans

In April, we increased our efforts to support veterans in accessing services. We identified key barriers they face and successfully housed two veterans using HUD-VASH vouchers, supported by SSVF funding. Looking ahead to May, five additional veterans have been connected to services and are on a path toward housing.

Extreme Weather and Shelter Capacity

We served 10 fewer unique individuals in the shelter this April compared to previous months. As we enter the rainy and tornado season, it would be beneficial to allow overflow accommodations on nights when extreme weather is forecasted. Despite our efforts, we continue to turn people away daily, with 51 individuals added to the waiting list in April alone. The demand for shelter remains high.

Shelter Utilization and Employment Focus

Since January 15, we have served 216 individuals. Of these, 149 are between the ages of 35 and 55—a working-age group that could benefit from targeted job opportunities and training programs. Many in this group may also be eligible for disability benefits. Exploring partnerships with local vocational programs and organizations like Goodwill could help improve housing outcomes. So far, our navigation team has referred 11 individuals to employment services.

Disability Benefits and Older Adults

We helped four individuals secure Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in April, bringing the total to 24. Currently, 20 guests are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and 16 more are being supported through the claims process. Many guests who qualify for SSI may also be eligible for senior housing, and our team recently assisted one individual in transitioning to a skilled nursing or retirement facility.

Documentation Assistance

A lack of documentation remains a common barrier. Our team referred 30 individuals to McFarlin to obtain state IDs, supported by vouchers provided through McFarlin and First Presbyterian Church of Norman. While we now have ID vouchers available at the shelter, we still need funding to help guests obtain birth certificates. With an ID in hand, we can also assist individuals in applying for Social Security cards without additional funding.

Summary

Over the past month, we helped four individuals secure housing, bringing our total to six housed without access to local Norman vouchers or funding sources. We have now begun the application process for these funding streams.

Among those housed, two veterans moved into housing through HUD-VASH and SSVF resources. One individual moved in with a roommate without a subsidy, and another transitioned into a skilled nursing retirement facility.

We are also advancing our work around disability claims. Our navigators are in the process of becoming SOAR certified, and with the help of a partner, 16 individuals have begun the process of filing for SSDI. We have established partnerships with local churches to help secure essential documents and are pursuing funding to expand our programming.

In terms of service delivery, our housing navigation team has made 95 referrals and provided 300 instances of advocacy support. Our HMIS system now allows us to track referrals and advocacy efforts by navigator, providing a clear picture of which service providers are receiving the most referrals in Norman. This data will help us strengthen key partnerships, identify trends, and focus our efforts on the programs demonstrating the strongest outcomes.