



MONROE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES

CONTINUUM-OF-CARE, INC.

305.998.4663 | P.O. Box 2410 | Key West, FL 33045

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT and POINT IN TIME & SURVEY

The key to **solving homelessness**
is understanding **who is homeless.**



Message from the Chairman



Who is the Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum of Care?

The Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care (MCHS CoC) is the lead agency for coordination and planning of homeless services in the Florida Keys. Based in Key West in Monroe County, the MCHS CoC's overarching mission is to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness by facilitating coordination of services in the continuum-of-care process throughout Monroe County.

How does the Continuum of Care work?

The Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care is at the center of a vast network of homeless care services providers within Monroe County. The MCHS CoC is designated as the Lead Agency by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State of Florida Department of Children and Families – Office on Homelessness. With this title, the

MCHS CoC organizes the collaboration of local agencies to address the needs of clients and provide essential supportive services. By assessing and coordinating interagency communication and services, unnecessary duplication of effort is avoided and gaps are closed. In this report, learn more about your local Continuum of Care, our Point in Time Count and success stories from our member agencies.

Affordable Housing for everyone! Get Involved!

It's not just housing for the homeless – housing is care – for everyone! We must as a community come together to provide affordable, safe, and secure housing for not only those who are currently homeless but also for those who are a paycheck away from being homeless; housing for our senior citizens; people living with disabilities; and low income households. Become part of the solution by working with MCHS CoC to develop strategies toward affordable permanent housing. We need business owners, faith-based organizations, city and county government officials, civic organizations, medical providers, and concerned citizens! We can become a united front in order to address housing as a critical concern for all our citizens. You can make a difference every day!

Should you be looking to participate in our mission but are unable to attend meetings, please do not hesitate to help the MCHS CoC through any available donations. As we provide services to many individuals and families, every good counts. Our shelters, food pantries, and other providers are always accepting donations that will go a long way towards helping the lives of homeless individuals. Basic essentials such as toiletries, food, and clothing are the items most needed, but any and every donation you can make counts.

We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of our coalition. We know that without the multitude of individuals and providers who tirelessly work towards one, resounding goal of ending homelessness in Monroe County, we would not be even half as successful in helping individuals and families as we are today. Each and every voice heard, donation gifted, and service rendered changes the life of a person in need. We look forward to another exciting and productive year here at the Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care.

E. Scott Pridgen, Chairman

Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care, Inc.

Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care Members and Service Providers

Advocate Program Inc.
 AIDS Help Inc.
 Anchors Away
 Area Health Education Center
 Career Sources South Florida
 Catholic Charities
 City of Key West
 Domestic Abuse Shelter
 Florida Keys Children Shelter
 Florida Keys Community College
 Florida Keys Outreach Coalition
 Guidance Care Center
 DOLPHINS
 Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program
 Helpline/211
 Independence Cay
 Keys Area Interdenominational Resources
 Key West Housing Authority
 Key West Police Department
 Long Walk Home
 Metropolitan Community Church
 Lower Keys Medical Center
 Key West Chamber of Commerce
 MARC House
 Monroe County Health Department
 Monroe County School District
 Monroe County Social Services
 Rural Health Network
 Salvation Army
 Samuel's House
 Southernmost Homeless Assistance League
 United Way of Monroe County
 VNA/Hospice
 Volunteers of America
 Wesley House Family Services
 Womankind

WE WANT YOU!

TO HELP END HOMELESSNESS IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME



MONROE COUNTY
HOMELESS SERVICES
CONTINUUM-OF-CARE, INC.

305.998.4663 | WWW.MONROEHOMELESSCOC.ORG



The mission of the Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care is to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness by facilitating the Continuum-of-Care process in Monroe County, Florida.

The Numbers

Methods Used to Collect Information

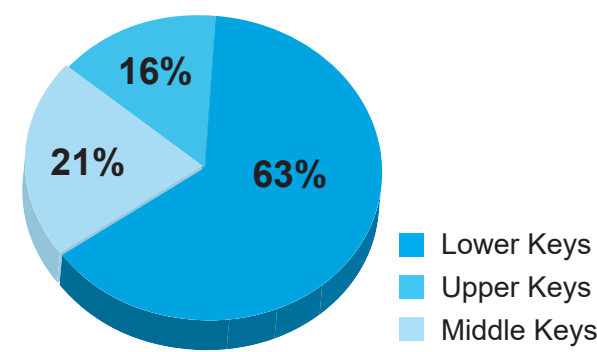
- MC-CoC recruited and trained 60 service providers, volunteers and outreach workers for the 2016 PIT count
- Social Service providers surveyed clients and those seeking services that day.
- Volunteers surveyed those living on derelict vessels.

Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Reported County-Wide by Year:

| 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1122 | 1121 | 1020 | 1040 | 926 | 926 | 658 | 680 | 615 | 575 |

On January 27th there were a total of **575 homeless persons** counted in Monroe County. **305 (53%) were in Shelters** which includes both Transitional Housing & Emergency Shelters and **270 (47%)were unsheltered** and living in a place not fit for human habitation.

Unsheltered Homeless by Region



| Age | Total Number Homeless Persons | Percentage |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Persons under 18 years | 56 | 9.7% |
| Persons 18 to 24 years | 28 | 4.9% |
| Persons age 24 - 60 | 412 | 71.7% |
| Elderly – over 60 years | 69 | 12.0% |
| Refused | 10 | 1.7% |
| TOTAL | 575 | 100.0% |

Sheltered Persons stayed at....

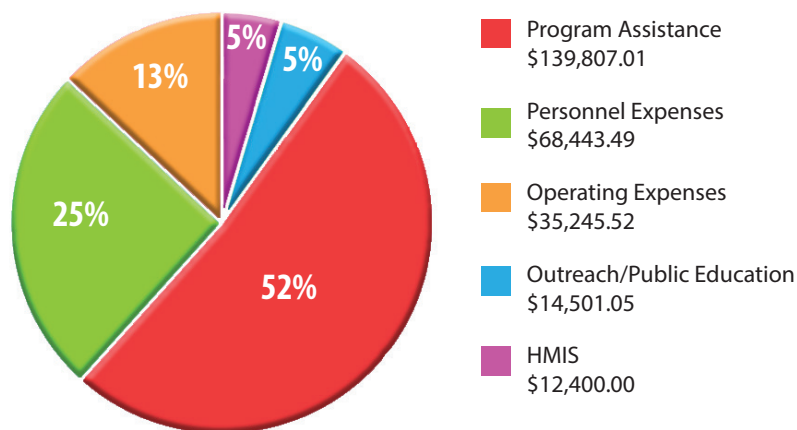
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.
- City of Key West Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter (KOTS)
- Domestic Abuse Shelter (DAS)
- Florida Keys Children’s Shelter, Inc
- Florida Keys Outreach Coalition (FKOC)
- Independence Cay
- Volunteers of America Florida
- Samuel’s House

| Gender | Total Number Homeless Persons | Percentage |
|--------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Male | 440 | 76.5% |
| Female | 135 | 23.5% |
| TOTAL | 575 | 100.0% |

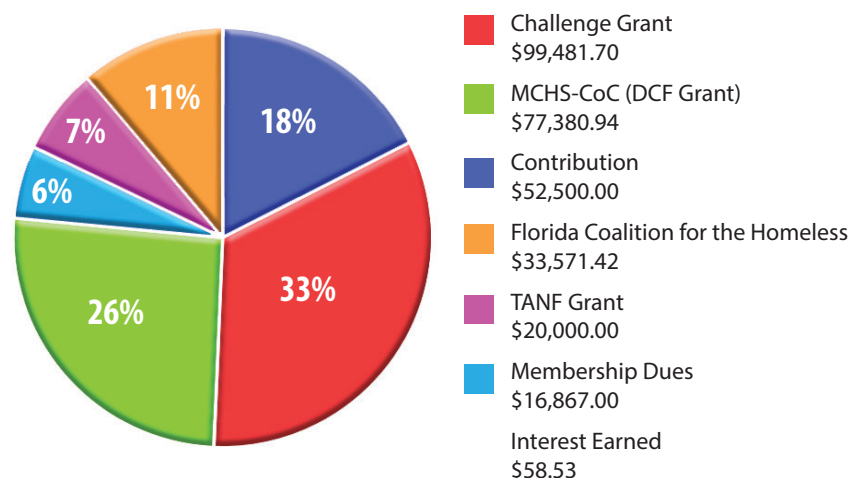
Let's Make Everyone Count.

Finance-Grants

Expenses FY 2015



Revenue FY 2015



The Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care efficiently applies for, monitors and manages multiple state and federal grants that have been awarded to them and their member providers. The awarded money is allocated, through many resources, towards services provided to the homeless population here in Monroe County.

In multiple circumstances, the MCHS CoC has competed for grants and received full award funding as a result of being ranked highly amongst other coalitions. The high quality of services provided by the MCHS CoC's members are all a result largely due to awarded funding of competitive grants. This funding allows the homeless population in our community to have access to the care they may need to live and maintain their health and be self-sufficient.

The awarded funding received for this fiscal year comes in multiple contracts which are allocated to many local member providers. The competitive state and federal grants that have been distributed to the MCHS CoC and their providers for 2015 are:

1. The Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), also known as the Emergency Solutions Grant, which provides funding to improve the number and quality of emergency shelters, to help operate these facilities, to provide essential social services to shelter residents, and to prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.

This year four local member providers received funding directly from the Department of Children and Families: Samuel's House, Florida Keys Outreach Coalition (FKOC), Catholic Charities, and the Florida Keys Children's Shelter (FKCS).

2. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Grant, which is designed to help families in need achieve self-sufficiency through programs arranged and operated with grant funds. These programs are created to accomplish one of the four purposes that are outlined by the Administration for Children and Families:

provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes; reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage; prevent and reduce the incident of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

This year, the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) awarded this grant to the Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of Care who then subcontracted to Catholic Charities the full awarded amount.

3. The CHALLENGE Grant awards monetary funding to CoCs so that they can provide for basic needs, outreach and homeless prevention services to their local homeless community.

This year, the Monroe County Homeless Services CoC was ranked #2 out of the many competing CoCs, and subcontracted to locally top ranked providers. The providers receiving funding from this grant are FKOC, Domestic Abuse Shelter (DAS), Catholic Charities, Samuel's House, and Keys Area Interdenominational Resources (KAIR).

4. The Coalition Support Grant is a state funded multi-year allocation that provides funds through June 2018. Through this grant, the MCHS CoC is able to support the administrative infrastructure of the coalition to better provide aid to the member providers as well as the homeless population.

5. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants were federally awarded to the MCHS CoC to support sustained operations and newly proposed projects.

This year, with the monetary funding from HUD grants, the CoC is able to help renew four influential projects that have been essential to their mission, as well as fund another new project with huge potential success. Providers included in this award: AIDS Help, Catholic Charities, MARC House, Samuels House and FKOC.

More homeless are being arrested and detained in jail at a high cost to tax payers.

Children

Florida Keys Children's Shelter

After running away from her Texas home to meet up with her boyfriend she met online, Mary found herself suddenly homeless at age 15. Her boyfriend still lived with his parents and they were very surprised to learn that he had promised their home as a place where she could live.

Realizing this was not a good decision and living on the streets would only make things worse, Mary found a temporary home with the Florida Keys Children's Shelter. FKCS counselors and staff worked with Mary and her mother in Texas to create a successful reunion. As teens often are, she was afraid that her mother would be too angry and hurt to let her return home. And, as parents know, her mother was relieved to know her daughter was safe and receiving counseling and shelter.

After joint counseling sessions over the phone, FKCS was able to fly mom to the Keys for the reunion. The two continued to work with our counselors and within a short time they happily returned home to Texas together.

Homeless Children

On January 27th, 2016 there were

264 homeless children
in Monroe County Public Schools.

44 were in campsites or shelters

10 living in motels

14 waiting for Foster Care placement

11 in a car, parks, or public places

185 were "doubled up"

(Doubled up is defined as "Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, or economic hardship.")

A Project Lighthouse Street Outreach Program Success Story:

A 21 year old street-based young woman was living with her much older boyfriend under a bridge when our outreach program met her. Initially she only accepted basic survival supplies and came to our drop-in center for an occasional shower, change of clothes, and some food. She was very guarded against giving us any information about her situation and goals.

She was able to get a retail job but waiting for her first paycheck, and then it being so small, led her to follow her boyfriend across the country. Less than one year later, they came back to Key West and were once again under the same bridge.

When she experienced a crisis and her boyfriend was arrested, she turned to Project Lighthouse right away. In getting to know her situation a bit better as she opened up more and more, we were able to offer much bigger help. Our case managers and outreach team helped her fill out police reports, deal with legal issues, enter emergency housing, get a phone and reliable transportation, begin individual counseling and reconnect with her self-esteem, and, after finding her feet, she decided to reunite with her family and our program helped to get her back home safe and sound with an aftercare plan in place.

At last contact she had found a job, was still living at her father's home and was looking forward to getting her driver's license soon.



It is believed that half of all homeless children are under school age.

Special Needs Housing for Individuals & Families



Providers of Transitional and/or Permanent Supportive Housing at Poinciana Plaza include:

- AIDS Help - Catholic Charities
- Florida Keys Outreach Coalition
- MARC House - Samuel's House
- Volunteers of America
- Wesley House Family Services

Assistance in Supportive Housing Programs is provided to help homeless persons meet three overall goals:

- (1) Achieve residential **stability**.
- (2) **Increase** their **skill levels** and/or **incomes**.
- (3) Obtain greater **self-determination**.

| Foster Care History Were you ever a foster care child? | Total Number Homeless Persons | Percentage |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|
| Yes | 39 | 6.7% |
| No | 536 | 93.2% |
| TOTAL | 575 | 100.0% |

| Military Veteran Served on active duty in the US military | Total Number Homeless Persons | Percentage |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 87 | 15.1% |
| Male | 85 | Not Applicable |
| Female | 2 | |
| No | 460 | 80.0% |
| Refused | 28 | 4.9% |
| TOTAL | 575 | 100.0% |

| Disabling Condition | Total Number Homeless Persons | Percentage |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Yes | 218 | 37.9% |
| No | 315 | 54.8% |
| Refused | 42 | 7.3% |
| TOTAL | 575 | 100.0% |

| Type of disabling condition | Total Number Homeless Persons |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Physical | 146 |
| Developmental | 18 |
| Mental Health | 238 |
| Drug or Alcohol Addiction | 186 |
| HIV/AIDS | 6 |

| PERMANENT HOUSING PROVIDERS | # of Persons Housed on 1/27/16 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| AIDS Help | 44 |
| Catholic Charities | 10 |
| Florida Keys Outreach Coalition | 44 |
| Key West Housing Authority | 10 |
| MARC House | 33 |
| Samuel's House | 37 |
| Westcare/The Heron | 16 |
| TOTAL | 194 |

Go to www.monroehomelesscoc.org for links to Special Needs Housing.

More Point-In-Time Info

| Race | Total Number Homeless Persons | Percentage |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| American Indian/ Alaska Native | 5 | 0.9% |
| Asian | 2 | 0.4% |
| Black/African American | 41 | 7.1% |
| White | 505 | 87.8% |
| Multiple Races | 8 | 1.4% |
| Refused | 14 | 2.4% |
| TOTAL | 575 | 100.0% |

Where do we go from here?

As a coalition that is highly invested in raising awareness and fighting against the struggle of homelessness in Monroe County, it is essential to frequently reassess where the MCHS CoC stands in terms of strength and weakness. By determining where the highest needs in the community are, we can make positive alterations that will benefit Monroe County’s homeless population.

Self-analysis, along with 3rd party independent auditing and monitoring, helps the MCHS CoC identify vulnerabilities and adapt them to continuously offer the best services possible to those in most need. Analyzing competencies and vulnerabilities requires tough questions, but those answers ultimately lead to the betterment of the coalition and, in turn, impact our community advancements.

Examining basic inquiries like ‘where are we at now?’, ‘what do we do well?’, ‘where can we make improvements?’ ‘how is funding from federal and state agencies changing?’, and ‘how must we change?’ sound simple ...but implementation requires strategies and timelines to adapt to the ever-changing environment of homelessness in Monroe County.

The ways are many. Varying cooperations promote a unified system of care that functions to serve as many in crisis as possible. Since the introduction of the MCHS CoC, we have continuously strengthened our Homeless Management Information System – HMIS, required by HUD -- to meet the highest quality standards. Though considerable time and dedication, our system is extremely close to full automation. This means that our Coordinated Assessment System – CAS, a process of intake and referrals previously done by-hand and confidentially shared with other agencies to connect individuals to the proper services -- will now be a one-click process, allowing MCHS CoC to spend more time providing services and less doing paperwork.

In conjunction with the HMIS system, the MCHS CoC has also expanded infrastructure to support increased fiscal and administrative duties and services provided. One main goal through this infrastructure advancement is to update our membership strategy for 2016/2017. This will encompass increasing membership numbers for the MCHS CoC from providers throughout the County, resulting in vastly-improved services for individuals in need.

We take great pride in our outreach services and the accolades and awards

| Ethnicity | Total Number Homeless Persons | Percentage |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Hispanic or Latino | 81 | 14.1% |
| Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino | 478 | 83.1% |
| Refused | 16 | 2.8% |
| TOTAL | 575 | 100.0% |

| Cause of Homelessness | Total Number Homeless Persons | Percentage |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Employment/financial reasons | 218 | 37.9% |
| Housing Issues - Forced to relocate from home | 105 | 18.3% |
| Medical/disability problems | 178 | 31.0% |
| Family problems | 54 | 9.4% |
| Natural/other disasters | 2 | 0.3% |
| Recent immigration | 15 | 2.6% |
| Refused | 3 | 0.5% |
| TOTAL | 575 | 100.0% |

they receive. They allow us to be a competitive entity when applying for grants and funding. One such success is our Point-In-Time (PIT) Report.

The PIT Report is an annual January census conducted throughout the Florida Keys surveying the homeless individuals. Over its many years, not only has the PIT Report become second-nature to administer, but the community-wide support through the entirety of the process is admirable. Even after all of the surveys have been collected, countless volunteers and member providers work tirelessly to ensure the data is accurate and meaningful to our community. Without this, we couldn’t cite the PIT Report as one of our best qualities.

Though the MCHS CoC has quickly become a vital asset to this community, we recognize there are areas that warrant greater attention. Through assessing where we stand, the CoC recognizes that the improvement in coordination of services between community members and local providers needs to shift higher on our priority list. We note a trend that more combined efforts towards services that are met have resulted in a much greater reach of aid to the individuals in dire need. An effective referral to a service that another member provider offers vastly better the health and well-being of that person served. Connecting those in need to as many services as we can reasonably provide increases the likelihood that one more homeless person finds shelter and permanent housing.

We welcome new ideas as we adapt to an ever-changing environment. As a member of the MCHS CoC, you can participate in growing our coalition to meet community need. New members and guests are encouraged to attend and participate in our monthly open board meetings. New concepts that can make our community happy, healthy, and housed excite us! Our board meetings are every second Thursday of the month at 10:00am at Wesley House Family Services in both Key West and Key Largo. Teleconferencing options are available. Your voice can...SHOULD...and MUST be heard.

For more Information, Visit our Website www.MonroeHomelessCoC.org

Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter, Operated By Southernmost Homeless Assistance League (SHAL) SHAL Outreach • SHAL Shelter Operations • SHAL Community Education www.shalkw.org



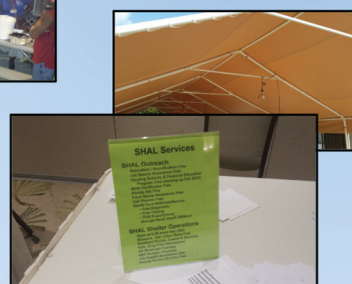
Because you can't become self-sufficient if you're **sick**
VNA Nurses every week • County Nurses Monthly •
Health Care Referrals/Service: *Free* Diagnostic,
Basic Testing, Prescriptions (*through Rural Health
Network*)

Because you can't become self-sufficient if you're **tired**
Open at 6:30 pm every day (365) • Safe, Quiet, Drug
Free Atmosphere • Hot Showers • 150+ Clean Beds •
Sanitized Sheets, Towels & Blankets • Vinyl Pillows



Because you can't become self-sufficient if you're **hungry**
Food Stamp Assistance • Free Breakfast program •
Church & group breakfast donations • *More coming*

Because you can't become self-sufficient if
you're **unemployed** or **have no income**
Job Search Assistance • *Free* Birth
Certificates & Florida IDs • Social
Security Assistance • Cell Phones



And you can better overcome
obstacles if you're **not** homeless
Housing Subsidy & Financial
Education Program (through
Monroe County) *New!*



And if it will work better
for you being in **another
community**
One-time Relocation /
Reunification



Save
The
Date!

Point in Time January 25, 2017

To Volunteer: Call 305-998-4663