



Leadership Council Meeting
August 13, 2024 | 1:30 p.m.
Boston Avenue Church/ Zoom

Meeting Agenda

1. Leadership Council Meeting Introduction

- Welcome & Call to Order, Ginny Hensley
- Roll Call, Erin Velez

2. Meeting Topics

- Downtown Outreach Collaboration, Josh Sanders

3. Lead Agency Updates

- Data Report, Olivia Denton Koopman
- NOFO Update, Erin Velez/Mark Smith

4. Discussion & Approval of:

- Approval of July 2024 Minutes*
- Partner Application Approvals*
 - Action Steps Counseling
- Task Group Authorization to Approve NOFO Process & Tools*
 - Standard Operating Procedures
 - Scoring Tool, New Applications
 - Scoring Tool, Renewal Applications
 - RFP, New Applications
 - RFP, Renewal Applications
 - Equity Checklist

5. Meeting Wrap-Up

- Public Comments
- Next Meeting– September 10, 2024, 1:30-3:00 PM
- Adjourn

**Items to be voted on by Leadership Council*



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LC Attendance

	Name	Representing	Category	Term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ginny Hensley, Chair	Tulsa Housing Authority	Fixed Position, Appointed	03/2024 - 02/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travis Hulse	City of Tulsa	Fixed Position, Appointed	08/2022 - 07/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Rea	Tulsa County	Fixed Position, Appointed	09/2022 - 11/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noe Rodriguez	Tulsa Day Center	Provider Representative, Elected	02/2024-01/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	Claudia Brierre	INCOG	Fixed Position, Appointed	03/2024 - 02/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhonda Clemons	Cherokee Nation	Tribal Representative, Appointed	05/2023 - 04/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>		Muscogee Creek Nation	Tribal Representative, Appointed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Grounds	City Lights Foundation	Provider Representative, Elected	010/2023 - 09/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beth Svetlic	Youth Services of Tulsa	Provider Representative, Elected	04/2023 – 3/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lacreshia Jackson	Participant Advisory Group	Consumer Representative, Elected	1/2024-12/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cari Monday	Youth Advisory Board	Consumer Representative, Elected	1/2024-12/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lauren Sherry	QuikTrip Corporation	Business/Commerce Representative, Invited	04/2023 - 03/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Hall	Burnstein Family Foundation	Funder Representative, Invited	04/2023 - 03/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jesse Guardiola	Tulsa Area United Way	At-Large Representative, Invited	10/2023 - 09/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>			At-Large Representative, Invited	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Horten	JusticeLink	At-Large Representative, Invited	10/2023 - 09/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard Alexander	Tulsa Police Department	At-Large Representative, Invited	05/2024 - 04/2026



Leadership Council Meeting
July 9, 2024 | 1:30 p.m.
Boston Avenue Church/ Zoom

Meeting Minutes

- Leadership Council Meeting Introduction
 - Ginny Hensley called the meeting to order.
 - Attendance is recorded after minutes.
- Discussion & Approval of:
 - Approval of June 2024 Minutes*
 - Ginny Hensley called for a motion to approve the June minutes. Richard Alexander moved to approve. James Rea seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - Partner Application Approvals*
 - One Hope – Ginny Hensley called for a motion to approve this agency as a Coalition Partner. Noe Rodriguez moved to approve. Cari Monday seconded the motion. Elizabeth Hall recused herself from the vote. Motion passed.
 - Soberlife Recovery, Inc. – Ginny Hensley called for a motion to approve this agency as a Coalition Partner. Claudia Brierre moved to approve. James Rea seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - Washington Brown Foundation – Ginny Hensley called for a motion to approve this agency as a Coalition Partner. Cari Monday moved to approve. James Rea seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - Aetna – Ginny Hensley called for a motion to approve this agency as a Coalition Partner. Sarah Grounds moved to approve. Richard Alexander seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - CREOKS – Ginny Hensley called for a motion to approve this agency as a Service Provider Partner. Cari Monday moved to approve. Noe Rodriguez seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Lead Agency Updates
 - NOFO Update, Rhene Ritter
 - We are waiting for HUD to send the GIW (Great Inventory Worksheet) to verify system data accuracy. The completed worksheet is sent back to the local field office in Oklahoma City on 7/11/2024.
 - As soon as HUD releases the NOFO, Housing Solutions will notify grantees and potential new applicants.



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July 9, 2024 | 1:30 p.m.
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- We will have a preliminary meeting, review all documents related to the NOFO, meet with current grantees and interested new applicants, discuss project types, and address questions.
- Change the Way You Give, Erin Velez
 - This is a partnership between the city of Tulsa and A Way Home for Tulsa.
 - CTWYG fund allows direct donations.
 - The purpose of this collaboration is to assist clients through local agencies.
 - Funding cannot overlap with other agency streams.
 - Agencies can request up to \$1000 twice a year.
 - The application process will be posted online and communicated to partner agencies soon.
- Data Report, Olivia Denton Koopman
 - The end of the HUD fiscal year is September 30th.
 - On October 1st, 2024, we will begin running reports for our annual reports.
 - Opportunity areas for data quality include missing Social Security numbers and income. We need to track income not only at entries but also at interims and exits.
 - Case management teams are working on increasing access to SSI SSDI applications and non-cash mainstream benefit increases.
 - Strengths: Data entry timeliness is excellent, with almost every data entry point collected on the same day (Zero-day entry).
 - Housing placements need improvement, and we still have a higher inflow than outflow
 - Veteran status reporting has improved.
 - A significant decrease in the time from homelessness to permanent housing is a positive trend.
 - Efforts are ongoing to match the right resources with clients through the coordinated entry system task force and advisory boards.
 - A 1% decrease in overrepresentation of Black Indigenous persons of color is a step in the right direction.
- Meeting Topics
 - SCOTUS – Grants Pass Ruling, Mark Smith
 - Discussed the recent Supreme Court ruling on Grants Pass and its potential impact



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- Three individuals experiencing homelessness challenged the law, which made it to the Supreme Court
- The Supreme Court looked at the precedent set by the 9th Circuit Court of Boise V Martin, which established that cities cannot enforce camping bans without offering a reasonable alternative, such as shelter
- Unfortunately, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Grants Pass, allowing the camping ban to stand
- The Supreme Court found that homelessness is not a protected class
- The case has been sent back to lower courts for further details
- The ruling does not affect Oklahoma's current laws
- The concern is that other states may use legal penalties to address homelessness
- Residential Care Center Update, Blake Ewing
 - An RFP outlined the need for a non-congregate facility
 - City Lights hotel experience during COVID informed the discussion
 - Sarah emphasized the value of individual rooms with private bathrooms.
 - The goal is dignified, meaningful care for those in need
 - Criteria included a single-story preference for ease of management so there has been extensive citywide search for suitable sites
 - District 1 was initially considered but faced controversy
 - Transportation logistics were addressed
 - The building owner already secured funds for upgrades
 - The city seeks support for the facility in community conversations.
 - Tulsa Transit microbus will provide transportation for neighbors and case managers
 - The facility is referral-only to minimize neighborhood impact
 - The site will have 24-hour security and aims to build a well-rounded ecosystem of support
 - The goal is a 120-day length of stay
 - Law enforcement's role is not to fill the shelter but to refer individuals who need respite care
 - Visual disparities and equitable access are being considered in the planning process.
- Meeting Wrap-Up
 - Public Comments



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- Tawana Johnson, PVTO coordinator for Tulsa Public Schools, seeks bus stop signage for transitional living programs.
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- Adjourn

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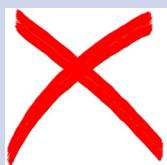
Attendance

	Name	Representing	Category	Term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ginny Hensley, Chair	Tulsa Housing Authority	Fixed Position, Appointed	03/2024 - 02/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayor Bynum	City of Tulsa	Fixed Position, Appointed	09/2022 - 08/2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	James Rea	Tulsa County	Fixed Position, Appointed	09/2022 - 11/2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Noe Rodriguez	Tulsa Day Center	Provider Representative, Elected	02/2024-01/2026
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Data Quality: How are we doing?



HUD Fiscal Year = October 1st, 2023 – September 30th, 2024



Opportunity Areas

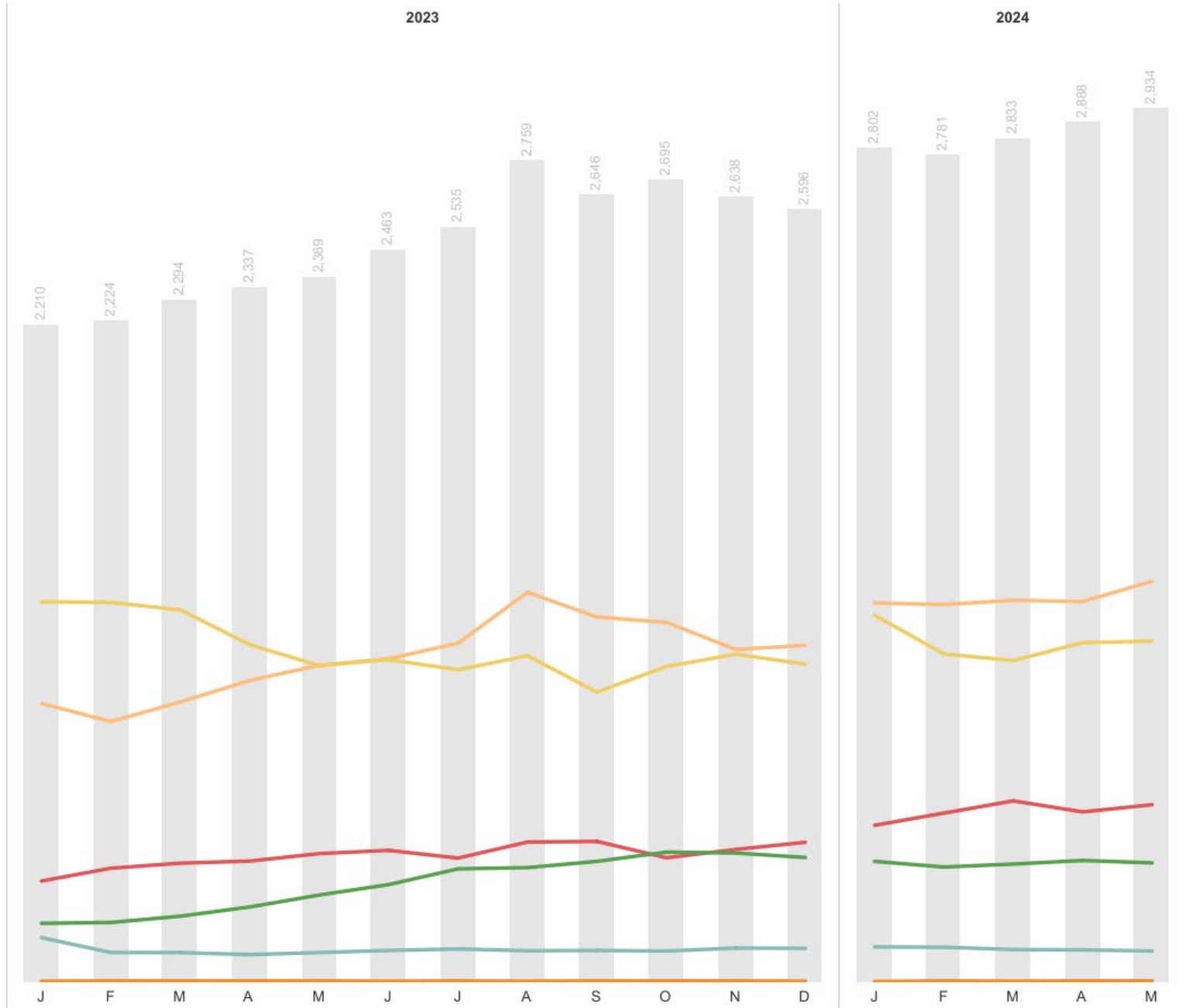
Missing SSNs
Income



Strengths

Data entry timeliness
Veteran Status
Other personally identifiable information

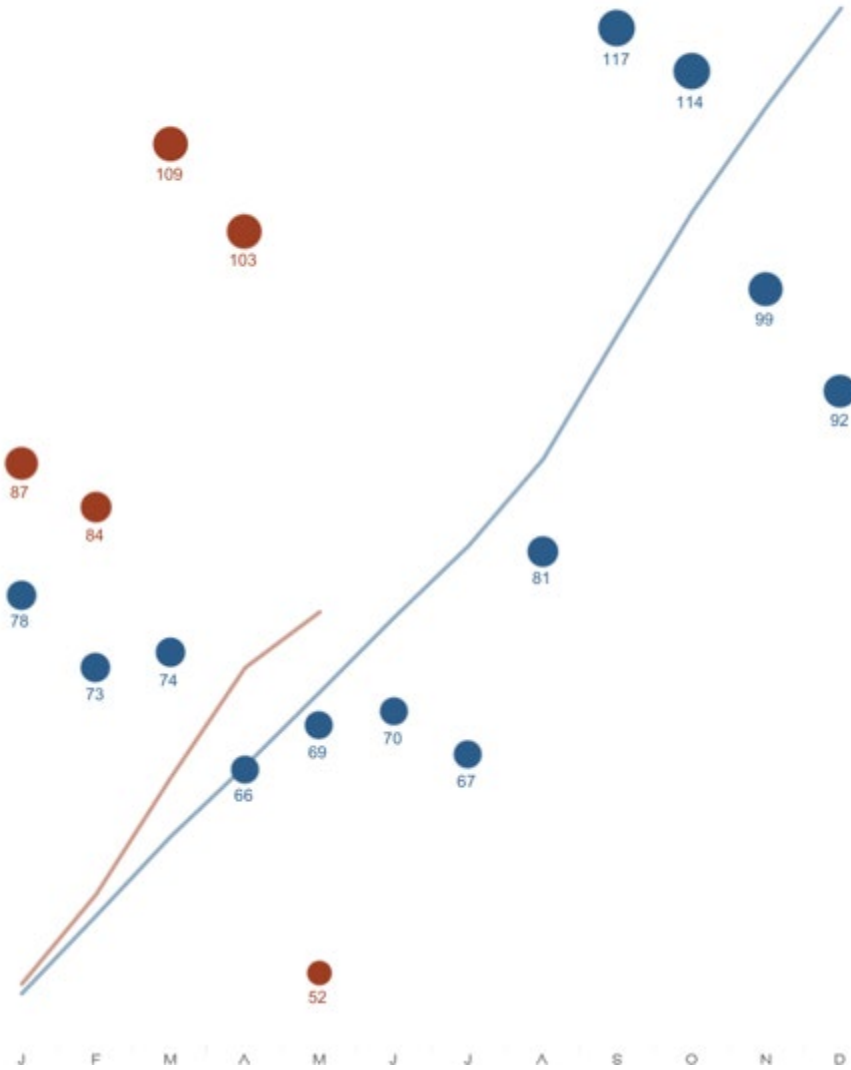
Unique individuals served over time



- Safe Haven
- Transitional Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Day Shelter

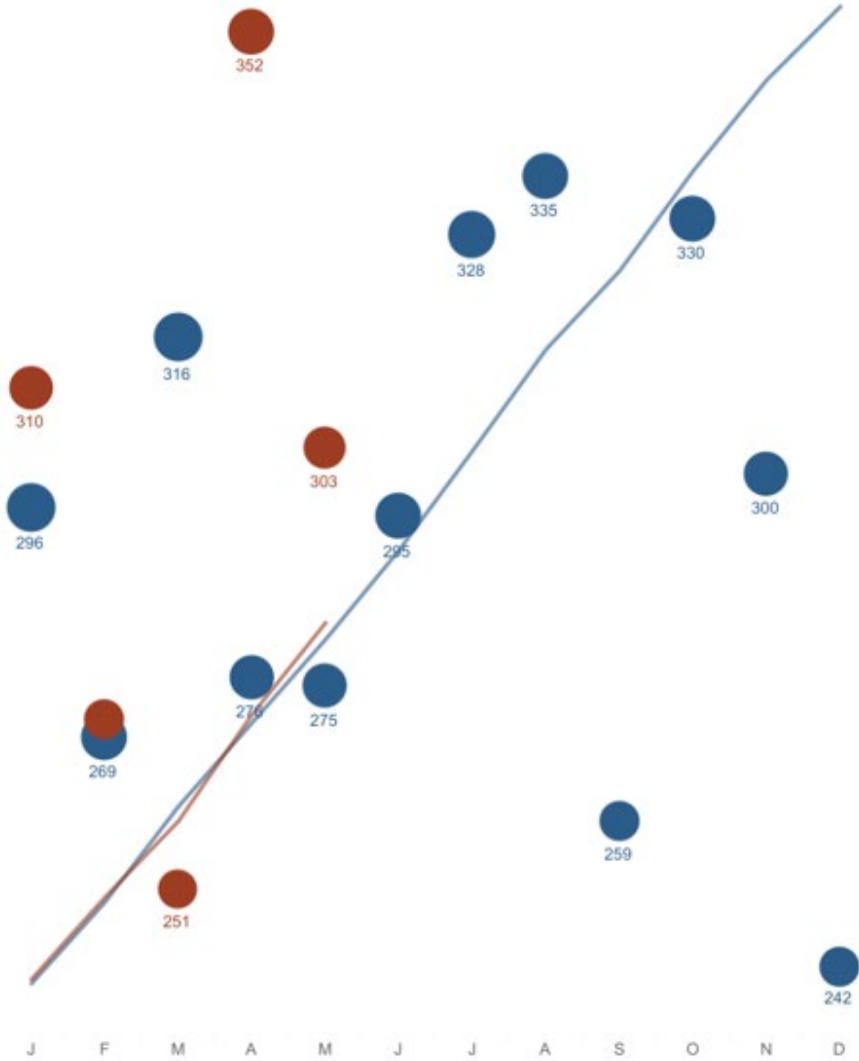
52 individuals were housed

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 - Friday, May 31, 2024



303 individuals were new to our continuum

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 - Friday, May 31, 2024



Before entering AWH4T, individuals experienced 3.0 month(s) of first-time homelessness

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 - Friday, May 31, 2024

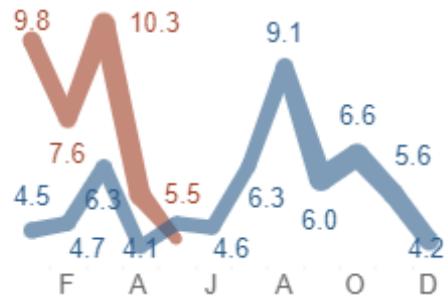


2023
2.5 months

2024
2.6 months

Before securing permanent housing, individuals experienced 4.3 month(s) of homelessness

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 - Friday, May 31, 2024

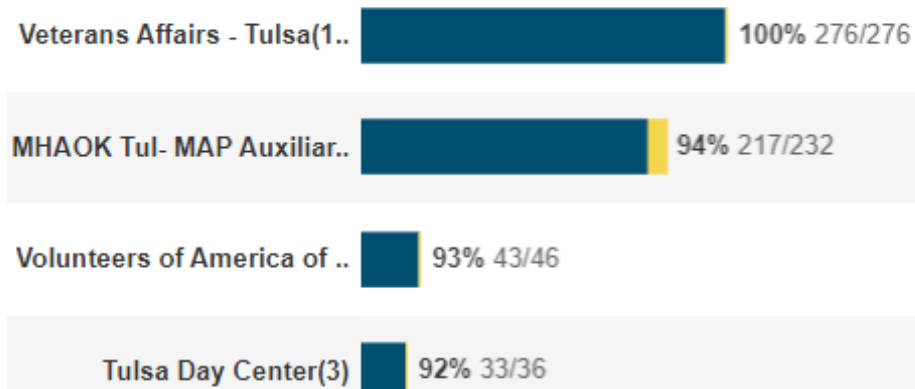


2023
5.2 months

2024
6.4 months

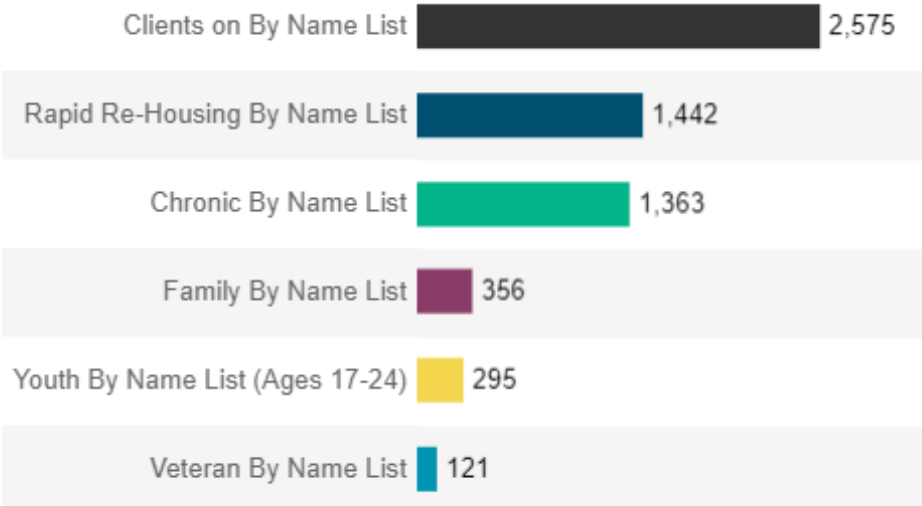
Tulsa's 590 Permanent Supportive Housing units were 95% Occupied

on Friday, May 31, 2024



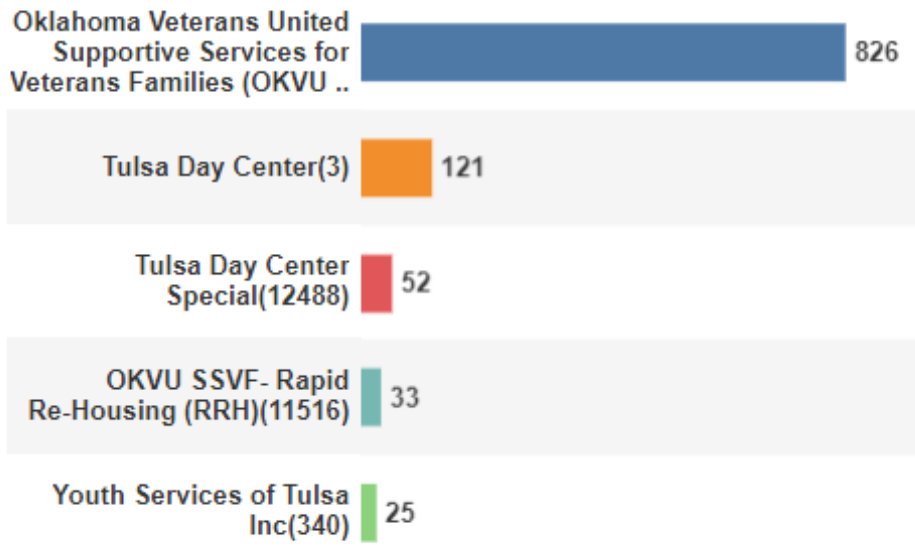
2,575 Clients on the By Name List

hover for definitions



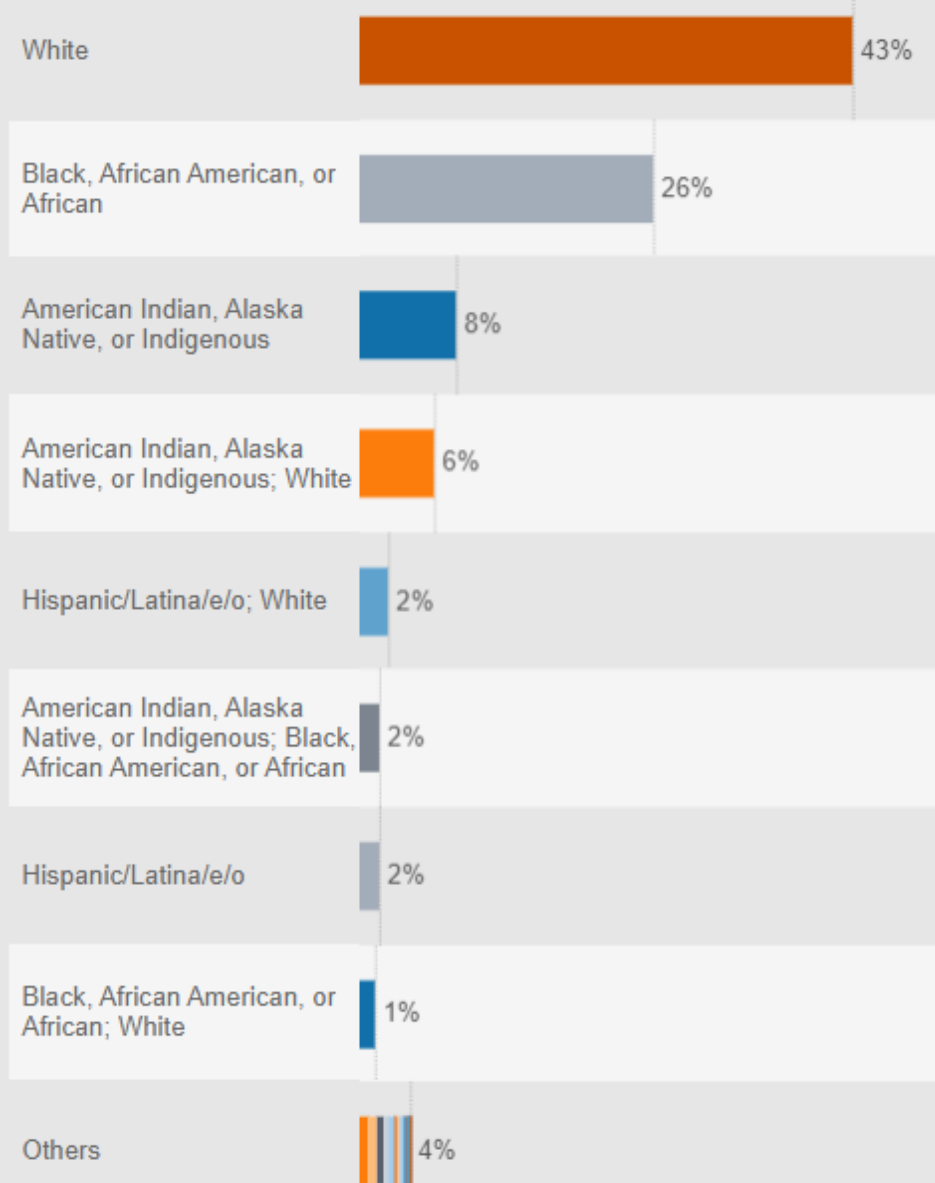
Rapid Re-Housing served 1,054 clients

between Wednesday, May 1, 2024 and Friday, May 31, 2024



Demographic Lens

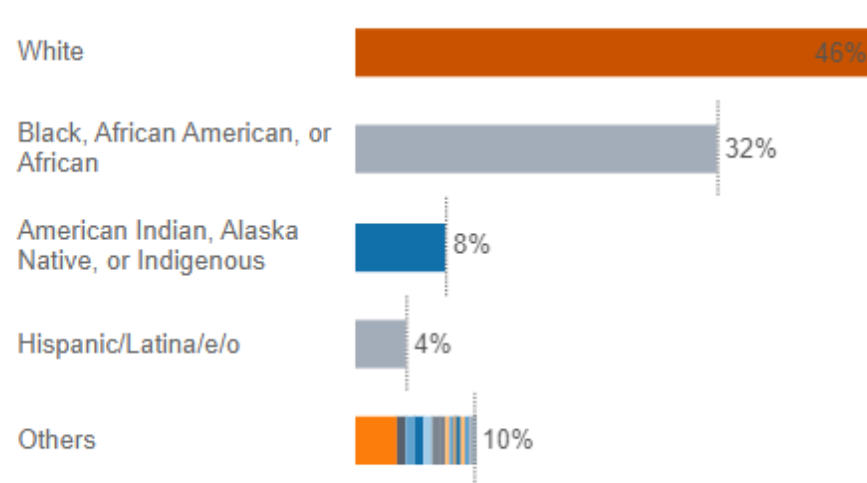
Race & Ethnicity



First-Time Homelessness and Race & Ethnicity

10% among the homelessness services population

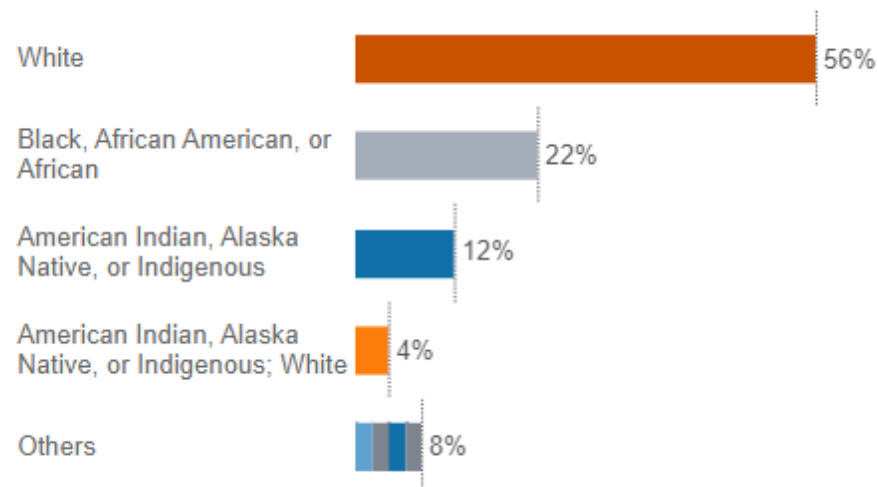
Wednesday, May 1, 2024 - Friday, May 31, 2024



Housing Placements and Race & Ethnicity

2% among the homelessness services population

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 - Friday, May 31, 2024



AWH4T PARTNER APPLICATION

AGENCY INFORMATION

Organization: ActionSteps Counseling, Inc.

Website: www.actionstepscounseling.org

Address: 6016 S 66th E Ave., Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74145

Primary Contact: Laura Mills, Business Manager, office@actionstepstulsa.com

Executive Director: Lawrence Gilbert, lgilbert@actionstepstulsa.com

Are you a 501c3 organization?

Yes

Describe your organization's experience with federal funding:

Currently, we do not have any federal funding. Most of our funding comes through the state but we have recently applied for a federal grant.

Mission:

ActionSteps Counseling, through the Arise Diversion Program, treats high-risk adult males in the criminal justice system who are dependent on or abusing alcohol or drugs.

Primary Activities:

The Arise Diversion Program provides an alternative to mass incarceration by offering treatment to non-violent convicted felons. Individuals are taught life skills and self-reliance to prevent homelessness, unemployment, and recidivism, ultimately increasing public safety. "

APPLICATION

Partner Type

Service Provider Partner

What is your goal for becoming an AWH4T partner?

Our desire in becoming a partner with AWH4T is to be able to collaborate with others to provide wraparound services for those involved with the criminal justice system. Most of the people entering our program are homeless and we have seen first-hand that providing a safe living situation is the first step in recovery and stability. Working together as a team and being able to support what the Tulsa community is doing for those experiencing homelessness is exciting for us!

Describe how your agency's activities and mission align with the goals of the A Way Home for Tulsa Strategic Plan:

ActionSteps Inc.'s mission complements AWH4 T's strategic plan in several ways.

- Our process fulfill Goal 1.B of the strategic plan to improve discharge policies and supports to reduce the number of individuals that exit institutions and systems of care and end up homeless. Indeed, we have established a process allowing our clients to get into sober-living housing the day they exit. Since June 1st, 2022, we served 123 new clients and 108 (or 87.8%) of them were either homeless or did not have housing conditions conducive to the treatment after incarceration (relatives/friends using drugs or alcohol). We have been able to do so thanks to our partnership with sober-living houses in Tulsa, helping us to meet primary needs for better therapeutic outcomes. Our agency also directly works on discharge from jail as our Executive Director goes once a week to meet with potential candidates for admission in the Arise Diversion Program.
- Also, our mission matches the strategy of Goal 2. Our knowledgeable staff is eager to share experiences and insights on several subjects, such as mental health and substance abuse or the benefits of treatment, and provide trauma-informed care to educate other partner agencies. To meet the client's medical needs, the agency signs them up for Medicaid expansion and works closely with a local doctor.
- Our approach to intensive case management allows our clients to find employment in the first weeks after their incarceration, as we share with them a list of 70+ local "Felony-Friendly" companies. This process leads to clients' financial stability and better housing stabilization. Our staff would be honored to share our successes, failures, and desires to learn from other partners to improve the quality of its services.

Has anyone from your organization been attending the A Way Home for Tulsa Leadership Council meetings regularly?

Yes

How has attending these meetings informed or influenced your work?

We have been better informed about what programs are currently available in the Tulsa area.
Service Provider Partner

Detail the direct homeless services your agency provides:

We help to find safe housing that supports recovery for those entering the Arise program. Our services include communicating with safe housing for placement, organize transportation to housing, continued communication with both program participants and housing staff.

How do your services align with the Housing First model?

We strongly believe that those experiencing cooccurring disorders of substance use and mental health will only be able to successfully receive treatment if their "responsivity needs" are addressed first. These needs include housing, food, and healthcare. Because of this our first priority is to work on addressing these needs. Safe and steady housing is vitally important to helping those within our program.

Detail any training or professional development plans you use or need to ensure your staff are prepared to deliver services in line with these standards:

All of our staff are licensed counselors who have been trained in case management.

How will your agency implement and adhere to the AWH4T System Service Standards in your service delivery? Please provide specific examples:

ActionSteps Counseling, ASC, addresses systemic inequities and increases access to crucial services and opportunities for historically underserved and marginalized communities, particularly those adversely affected by inequality, crime, violence, and victimization. The focus of the program is on adult males with felony charges linked to alcohol/substance use and who have mental health disorders. These individuals face a complex array of challenges such as homelessness, unemployment, lack of identification, childhood trauma, cooccurring mental health issues, inadequate education/workforce development, and lack of transportation. Key aspects of addressing these inequities include:

- Referral and Comprehensive Assessment: Adult males, identified through legal channels and deemed ineligible for other diversion programs due to the nature of their charges (violence-related or not), undergo an intensive pre-release case management process. This includes screening and assessment for program eligibility, specific needs and barriers by licensed professional counselors and licensed alcohol and drug counselors.
- Justice System Integration: The program enhances the justice response by recommending diversionary treatment-focused solutions to judges instead of incarceration, based on individual assessments. This collaborative approach also involves educating attorneys and public defenders on the medical model of addiction, providing a scientific basis for treatment over punishment and facilitating broader understanding and support within the judicial process.
- Immediate Engagement: Through the Arise program all participants receive the needed assistance to overcome barriers, especially those faced by this marginalized group. This ensures immediate engagement and program completion which decreases the risk of recidivism.
- Cultural Diversity and Inclusion: By explicitly targeting the disproportionate impact of incarceration on young black males and other marginalized groups in Oklahoma, the program is uniquely positioned to offer culturally sensitive treatment options and support successful recovery across diverse populations.
- Community Participation and Feedback: Throughout the design and implementation of the project, the input and participation of the communities served play a crucial role in ensuring the services provided are responsive and tailored to their specific needs and situations. This participatory approach fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment among participants and contributes to sustainable outcomes.

Strategically integrating these elements, the project addresses the immediate challenges and barriers related to substance use and criminal justice involvement and builds a foundation for sustained recovery, reentry, and decreased recidivism. Through focused efforts to engage underserved communities, provide immediate and comprehensive support, and foster collaboration across the legal and healthcare sectors, ASC stands as a promising model for incorporating inclusivity and equity into rehabilitation and recovery initiatives.