



Why Heartland HOUSED?

A key initial step in implementing the Springfield and Sangamon County 2022–2028 Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness was the development of a new backbone agency to serve as the “operating system” for coordinating efforts, improving data, developing new initiatives and increasing funding to meet the plan’s goals. Heartland HOUSED was created to serve this role, with commitments from the city of Springfield, Sangamon County and Capital Township to provide funding to hire staff who would “coordinate the system of care community-wide and ensure support for implementation of plan strategies.”

2020 Staff	2025 Staff
HMIS Administrator	HMIS Administrator
HCoC Coordinator	Executive Director
	Housing Navigator
	System Coordinator
	Housing Problem Solving Specialist
	System Administrator
	Street Outreach Coordinator

The Heartland HOUSED team works to support Continuum agencies, develop policies, provide training, implement strategy, and work to increase available resources to support people as they pursue stable housing.

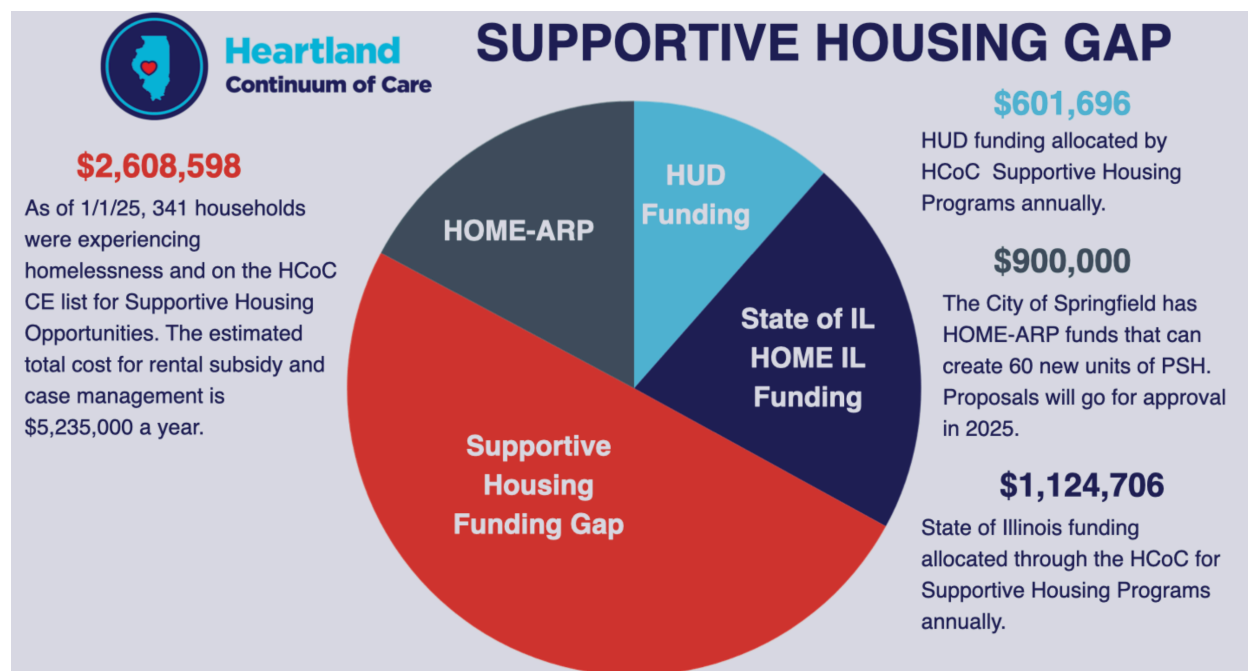
Key Notes:

- Between 2022 and 2025, Springfield and Sangamon County have seen a **248% increase in funding from state and federal sources** for supportive housing and homelessness prevention. Funding has grown from **\$647,667 in 2022 to \$2,488,439 in 2025**.
- Supportive housing opportunities have **increased by 227% since 2019**. In 2019, only **94** people were served in supportive housing opportunities and in 2024 that number increased to **308**.
- The winter of 2024-2025 marked the first winter the City of Springfield did not have to establish a winter overflow shelter due to increased capacity at Helping Hands.

- The **Heartland Housing Helpline** was established to create an easier path to rental and utility assistance support and make direct referrals to Homelessness Prevention and other rental assistance funds.
- **Street outreach efforts have increased** with additional full-time staff and the creation of the Heartland Connect mobile app. Two part-time staff will be joining the effort this month.
- In May of 2025, Heartland HOUSED and the Heartland Continuum of Care were certified as **achieving quality data status by Community Solutions' Built for Zero initiative** for the all single adults, veteran and chronically homeless populations. Community Solutions works with more than 156 communities across the country, and **Heartland represents only the 11th U.S. community to reach this achievement for all single adults in their system.**
- In addition to the City's support, **Sangamon County contributes \$250,000 and Capital Township contributes \$125,000** to ensure our community maintains a strong system and foundation to make progress in addressing homelessness through the work of Heartland HOUSED.

Key Challenges:

- As seen around the country and projected in the Strategy Plan, the need for support and stable housing continues to increase. In **2019, 1245** were served within our system of care, in **2024** that number was up to **1698**.
- This increase is also seen in Point in Time Counts, the one night count in **2019** was **284** and that number has increased to **375** in **2025**.
- An IHDA report has demonstrated a **40% increase in rental costs** in Sangamon County **between 2020 and 2024**.
- The need for supportive housing in Springfield & Sangamon County continues to outpace resources.



What's Next?

- Ongoing improvements to Data driven decision making and intentional strategic investments to achieve downward shifts in the number of people actively experiencing homelessness. Our Built for Zero data dashboard available at www.heartlandhoused.org will be a key part of this work.

PROGRESS TO ZERO

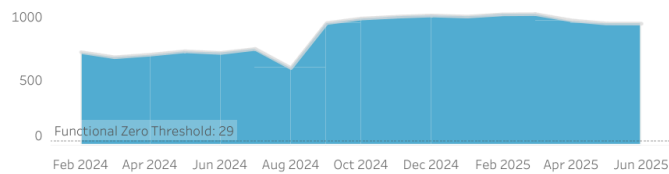
SPRINGFIELD/SANGAMON COUNTY, IL - ALL

Population: All Subpopulation: All Date: Last 3 years

ACTIVELY HOMELESS

934

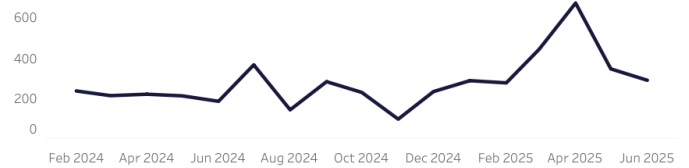
in Jun 2025



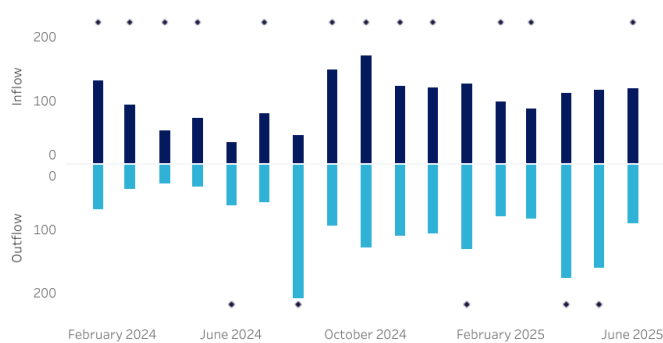
DAYS FROM ID TO HOUSING

287

in Jun 2025



INFLOW & OUTFLOW

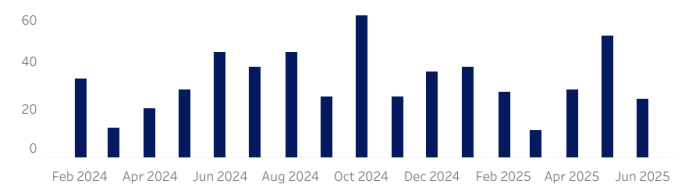


HOUSING PLACEMENTS

Inflow/Outflow Type: Housing Placements

24

in Jun 2025



- Efforts are ongoing to establish the **Heartland Flexible Housing Pool** and **Housing Problem Solving Flexible Fund**. These efforts will create additional supportive housing opportunities, provide security for housing partners (Heartland Flexible Housing Pool), and support prevention and initiatives to address system gaps (Housing Problem Solving Flexible Fund). We anticipate launching these efforts before winter this year and have raised \$341,375 to support these efforts so far including a \$50,000 investment in the Heartland Flexible Housing Pool by Sangamon County.

