



What does the data say?

During the first quarter of each year, we analyze data from the previous year and compare to historic benchmarks to see what the data says about what is happening in Springfield/Sangamon County.

Need for Housing Support Continues to Grow



Our Strategic Plan projected 155 new people touching our system each year for housing support. Since 2019, the number of people touching HCoC services has increased by 40%.



In 2025, Heartland Continuum of Care partners served more people than ever before. **The number of people served has risen 40% since 2019.**

Many factors contribute to this including increases in cost of rent as evidenced by a 48% increase in Fair Market Rental Rates and improved data quality.

The data also shows that a record number of people supported in housing. **HCoC partners supported 409 people in exiting homelessness to stable housing.** This growth is largely due to the increase in state support for Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing Programs and the growth of Fifth Street Renaissance, Helping Hands, and MERCY Community's supportive housing programs.

System Improvement: Exits to Homelessness



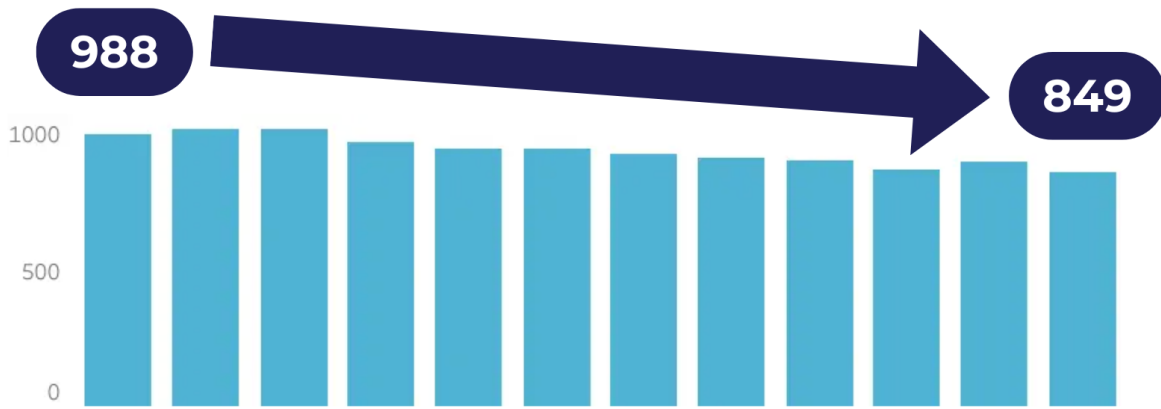
Sometimes it is hard to see the work that the Continuum Partners are accomplishing. The number of those exiting homelessness to stable housing has grown substantially in recent years.



From a system standpoint, the number of people actively experiencing homelessness as indicated in our by-name list data **decreased by 14% in 2025** and in **8 of 12 months we had higher outflow from homelessness than inflow into homelessness** which helped drive this reduction.

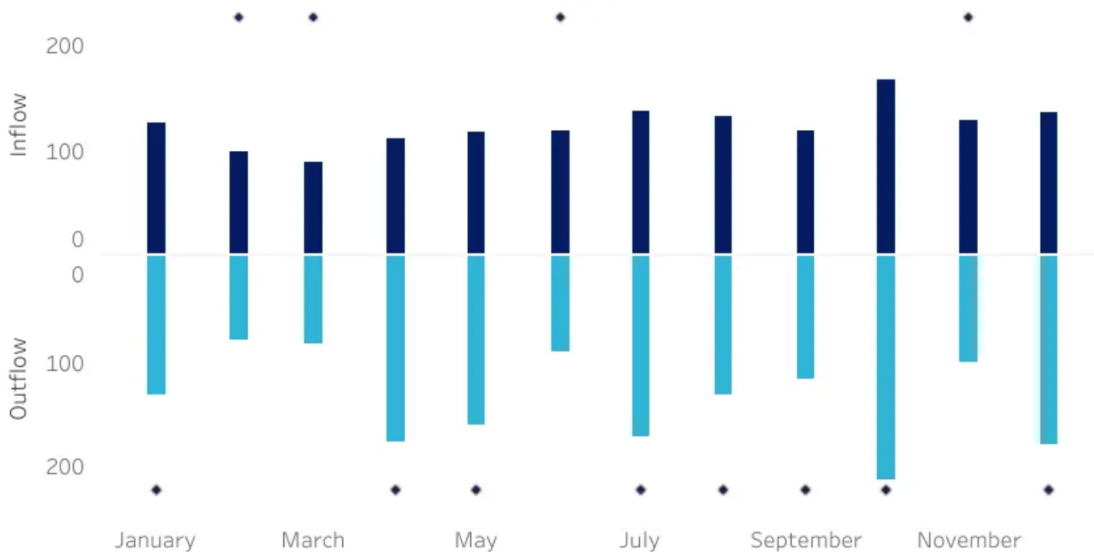
ACTIVELY HOMELESS

From January to December 2025, by-name data shows a 14% decrease in the # of people experiencing homelessness



8 of 12 months, more people exited our system of care than entered

INFLOW & OUTFLOW



New Heartland HOUSED Staff

Heartland HOUSED welcomed Chuck Price and Keegan Otwell to our team as Full-Time Street Outreach Specialists! These new positions were created in part through support from Sangamon County Department of Public Health to help educate and distribute Narcan in effort to reduce overdose deaths in Sangamon County. In Q1, **2068 Narcan Kits were distributed.**

2026 Point-in-Time Count

Partners and volunteers from throughout the community joined us for our annual Point-in-Time Count on January 21st. This effort involves counting all individuals who are in shelter, transitional housing, or who are unsheltered. Partners go out on the night of the count to interview individuals who are not utilizing shelter and work to connect them to any available resources.



100 Day Challenge on Homelessness Prevention

With support from the Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and RE! NSTITUTE, Heartland Continuum partners led by Shymeka Kerr began a 100 Day Challenge and set the goal of preventing 75 households from entering homelessness within the 100 day timeframe which will end in late June.

Mid-Plan Progress Report

Since our Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness was created, Heartland HOUSED and the Heartland Continuum of Care have worked to ensure the plan moves from words on a page to real, tangible change for our neighbors. To gauge our progress and learn how to be more effective, we invited Homebase, which helped design our strategic plan, to conduct a Mid-Plan Progress Report. You can read a [summary of the report here](#), [watch the presentation on the report given at the April HCoC Membership meeting here](#), and read an [Illinois Times write-up about the report here](#).

708 Mental Health Board

Heartland HOUSED and HCoC Partners provided education on the impact of unmet mental health needs. Josh wrote an [article for the Illinois Times highlighting the impact on the homeless response system](#). We believe the community's vote to fund a 708 board will have a tremendous impact

WAND Highlighted Our Welcome Home Baskets

When someone moves out of homelessness and into housing, they often spend everything they have just to get the keys. That can mean walking into an empty space with no pots, no bedding, no basic supplies to actually live there. Our Welcome Home Basket Initiative helps fill that gap. Each basket includes essentials like cookware, dishes, bedding, towels, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies—simple things that make a new space feel like home. Community donations make the baskets possible. [You can view the story here.](#) **37 baskets were distributed through community partners in Q1.**

Heartland HOUSED Outreach Truck

Generous donations through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln from the Jane and Paul Ford Family Fund and the Sommer Family Fund allowed us to purchase a vehicle to further expand our Street Outreach services.



HCoC Connect iOS Phone App

Our HCoC Connect App is now available on Apple and Android devices. WAND did a story demonstrating how to use the app that [you can view here.](#) [You can download the app here.](#)

Projects and Ongoing Efforts

- Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment and Action Steps: The HCoC Youth Homelessness Task Group is working on developing Action steps connected to our recently completed needs report.
- 100 Day Challenge on Homelessness Prevention: Continuing to work on progress toward our goal and identifying further improvements.
- Clutch Consulting Encampment Training: HCoC Street Outreach Task Group are receiving training and working to develop a plan for how to best incorporate successful strategies from other communities in Springfield.