



### **Community Engagement**

- The Heartland HOUSED team and Lived Experience Advisory Board had the opportunity to partner in two great community events in August and September. The Third Annual Celebration in the Park on August 2nd provided a great opportunity to engage community members and partners in a fun environment. Ricky Reese shared his story and provided encouragement to folks gathered for the event.



- A Community Health Fair held at Washington Street Mission on September 12th provided an opportunity for people to connect with many different service providers, healthcare providers, and get health screenings.
- The 2024 Peaceful Partners Illinois Domestic Violence Conference was held on September 13th, Josh Sabo was a panelist at the conference to talk about the intersection of Continuum of Care work with partners providing services to survivors of domestic violence.
- Heartland HOUSED worked with the Heartland Continuum of Care, Lived Experience Advisory Board, and community stakeholders around responses to the proposed City of Springfield Camping Ban ordinance. The HCoC board released a statement declaring the “ordinance to be counterproductive to our collective efforts to effectively address homelessness, as outlined in the 2022-2028 Springfield and Sangamon County Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness.” Josh did several interviews on the topic, this one for WMAY’s Talk of the Town was the most extensive exploration of current work around addressing homelessness.

## **HUD Continuum of Care NOFO, Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, and CoCBuils Funding Competitions**

Each year CoCs compete for new funding through the CoC NOFO competition. There are two parts of the competition (1) local organizations' projects are rated and ranked to determine which are recommended for funding (2) our CoC completes an extensive application that is scored by HUD to determine if new project funding is awarded to our community. This year, the HCoC is eligible to apply for \$54,493 for new CoC Bonus projects and \$129,134 in Domestic Violence Bonus Projects. This process began in August and will be completed in October.

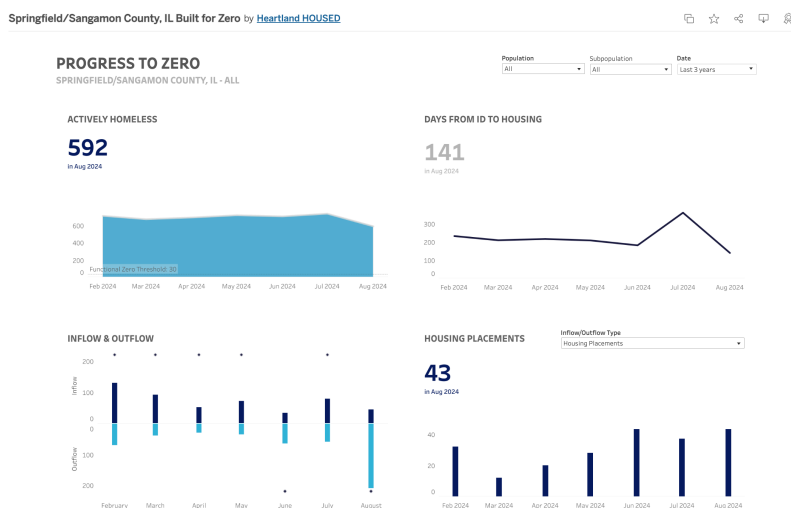
HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program provides communities an opportunity to apply for funding to develop a community plan for addressing the unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness. If our community is selected the YHDP grant would also provide organizations with an opportunity to apply for funding for projects to serve youth experiencing homeless. This is the first time our community has applied for YHDP funding.

HUD CoCBuils is a unique, one-time funding opportunity that provides funding for development of units and supportive services. The local competition began in September with the final application due in November.

Heartland HOUSED serves as the lead agency and guides these competitions and application processes. The Heartland Continuum of Care Board appoints a Rating and Ranking Committee to score projects and approves projects to move forward for each funding opportunity. Heartland HOUSED staff is responsible for grant applications, meeting project deadlines, and working throughout the year to maximize scoring potential for these opportunities.

## **Built for Zero Community Dashboard**

Heartland HOUSED began working with Community Solutions and their Built for Zero technical assistance in October of 2023. With the clear and measurable goal of reaching functional zero in place, our community is now developing the ability to reliably track homelessness on a person-specific basis



each month. Community Solutions' support has helped Heartland HOUSED and HCoC organizations make significant progress toward developing a By-Names-List of all people experiencing homelessness in Sangamon County. In August, we launched a data dashboard that will help the community track progress in real time as the dashboard gets updated each month to show inflow, exits and the amount of time it takes from connecting with a household to helping them exit homelessness.

Josh wrote about this process and the data dashboard in this article for Illinois Times, "Solving homelessness requires specific, real-time data."

### **System Improvement Efforts**

- Heartland HOUSED began a Fifty Day Challenge on Veteran Homelessness that will conclude after Veteran's Day. The challenge will pull together community partners serving veterans to conduct a needs analysis, map resources, and set a target goal for reaching functional zero for veterans experiencing homelessness.
- Welcome Home Baskets are a new initiative that launched in September to create an easy way for community groups, faith communities and other partners to support households exiting homelessness in Sangamon County. Groups will pull together a basket full of helpful items for people moving into housing and case managers of HCoC organizations will pick up the baskets as part of the move-in process.



## THE WELCOME HOME BASKET INITIATIVE



On average, between 20 to 30 households are assisted into housing each month. Some households are moving into their new homes without some of the essential items needed to manage a home.

**You can help meet the material needs of folks recently housed!**

**Heartland HOUSED will provide the laundry basket you can fill them and community case workers will use them to welcome our neighbors to their new home!**

### WHAT ITEMS ARE NEEDED?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• POTS AND PAN SET</li><li>• DISHES (2 PLATES, 2 BOWLS)</li><li>• CUPS (2 COFFEE CUPS, 2 CUPS)</li><li>• SILVERWARE / KNIFE SET</li><li>• COOKING UTENSILS</li><li>• CAN OPENER</li><li>• OVEN MITTS</li><li>• DISH TOWELS</li><li>• CLEANING CHEMICALS</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• STORAGE CONTAINERS FOR FOOD</li><li>• COMFORTER, SHEETS, PILLOW (TWIN)</li><li>• HYGIENE - HAND SOAP, SHOWER GEL</li><li>• TOWELS</li><li>• TOILET PAPER</li><li>• WASH CLOTHS</li><li>• SHOWER CURTAIN &amp; PLASTIC LINER</li><li>• DUST PAN &amp; HAND SWEEP / BROOM</li></ul>
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\*\*\* PLEASE ONLY INCLUDE ITEMS THAT ARE IN GOOD CONDITION

**Contact us at 217-801-9033 and [staff@heartlandhoused.org](mailto:staff@heartlandhoused.org)**

### **Outreach Expansion**

- In September, Heartland HOUSED received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln to pilot a part-time Street Outreach effort.
- Heartland HOUSED is working with Fifth Street Renaissance who received Community Outreach and Recovery Supports (CORS) through the Illinois Opioid Settlements Initiative on a project that would create an Outreach Coordinator position on Heartland HOUSED's staff team to further expand community outreach coordination and reporting.

### **Projects and Ongoing Efforts**

- Heartland HOUSED Audit moving forward with Eck, Schafer, and Punke.
- We have expanded the System Support Specialist position to include more responsibilities around grant management and reporting work and renamed the position System Support Administrator. Interviews for the new position are anticipated to take place in October.
- The Housing Helpline is being added to United Way's 211 System and will officially launch on October 1.
- Medical Respite work is continuing around develop a community level policy for Medical Respite programs.
- The City of Springfield's HOME-ARP funding is a crucial opportunity to grow and expand housing opportunities over the next 6 months. The application has been released and organizations have begun working with the Office of Planning and Economic Development on the application process.