



### **Springfield/Sangamon County Becomes 11th US Community to reach Quality By-Name Data for All Single Adults, Veteran, and Chronically Homeless Populations.**

Heartland HOUSED and Heartland CoC partners achieved a perfect score on the Community Solutions Built for Zero All Singles Scorecard, and as a result have **achieved quality by-name data** for the All Single Adults, Veteran, and Chronically homeless populations. Community Solutions works with over 156 communities across the country, and Heartland CoC joins over 80 peer communities to achieve a quality data milestone. Beyond this, **Heartland represents only the 11th US community to reach this achievement for all single adults in their system.** This is a significant accomplishment indicating that the HCoC knows at least 90% of the households experiencing homelessness in the community by name, and can begin to confidently measure progress towards ending homelessness.

### **100 Day Veteran Homelessness Challenge Ends with 18 Veterans Housed**

The 100-Day Veteran Challenge united HCoC agencies, veteran organizations, and community partners—including the Salvation Army, Washington Street Mission, Helping Hands, Fifth Street Renaissance, Veterans Assistance Commission, and the Department of Veterans Affairs—in a coordinated effort to house 20 veterans in 100 days. Together, these organizations worked across three focused work streams: strengthening the veteran By-Name List (BNL) and case conferencing process, enhancing landlord engagement efforts, and expanding community education and training to ensure meaningful progress in ending veteran homelessness.



These focused efforts helped strengthen communication, streamline how veterans move through the system, and better connect local resources, **ultimately leading to 18 veterans being housed.** Beyond those immediate results, the challenge created a solid foundation for ongoing progress and showed just how important collaboration and shared responsibility are in this work. The energy and insights gained over these 100 days will continue to shape and support efforts to improve housing stability for veterans across our community

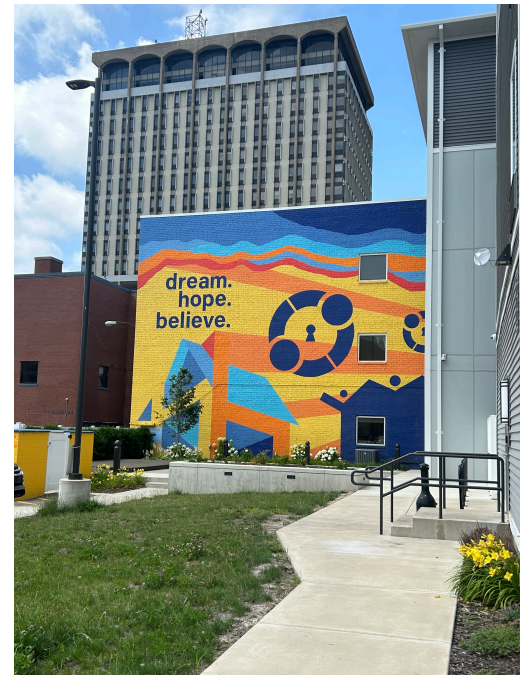
### **Heartland HOUSED Wins CoC Recognition of Service Award at Home Illinois Summit**

The State of Illinois' Office to Prevent and End Homelessness recognized Heartland HOUSED and the Heartland Continuum of Care for local progress made to more effectively address homelessness with the Continuum of Care Recognition of Service Award. We are honored by this recognition and grateful for all the partners who have made this progress possible. Without the funding that the City of Springfield, Sangamon County, and Capital Township have provided to launch and strengthen Heartland HOUSED efforts and the willingness of local non-profits to grow and expand the progress made in our community would not be possible.



### **Supportive Housing Partners Field Trip to Peoria**

Case Managers and Directors from HCoC Supportive Housing Programs spent a day with Phoenix Community Development in Peoria, IL to learn about how their programs work and talk through some of the challenges associated with Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs. These networking and learning opportunities are an important part of efforts to continuously improve programs in Sangamon County.



### **HCoC YOU COUNT! Youth Homelessness Count Analysis Released**

YOU COUNT! results reveal that a significant number of youth and young adults are experiencing housing instability, with notable representation from populations facing compounded challenges such as involvement in foster care, justice systems, and LGBTQ+ identity. The majority of respondents identified as Black or multiracial, underscoring the racial disparities in youth homelessness. Most youth were either couch surfing, staying in shelters, or sleeping in places not meant for human habitation. Key barriers to stable housing included lack of income, mental health challenges, and limited support networks. The data highlights the urgent need for targeted, trauma-informed interventions and culturally responsive housing and support services for youth in crisis across the county.

### **HOME-ARP and Emergency Solutions Grant Allocations**

Heartland HOUSED supported organizations seeking funding through the City of Springfield's HOME-ARP program. With this funding, Helping Hands and Fifth Street Renaissance will be able to support 60 additional people in supportive housing over the next two years. The HCoC allocated ESG funding to Helping Hands for Rapid Rehousing and Contact Ministries for Emergency Shelter Case Management.

### **Projects and Ongoing Efforts**

- Heartland HOUSED continues to work to expand community outreach through a variety of avenues. You can read more about those efforts in our May Illinois Times column. New part-time Street Outreach staff will be hired in July while we continue to pursue grant funding for additional full-time Street Outreach staff.
- 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, and support prevention and initiatives to address system gaps.
- The social service landscape is in constant motion, current federal transitions are anticipated to have a significant impact on HUD's Continuum of Care program in addition to SNAP and Medicaid resources relied upon by many to avoid housing crisis. Heartland HOUSED is working to understand how these shifts will impact our community and the organizations that serve those facing housing challenges so that we can proactively work and contingency plan with the ultimate goal of continuing to advance efforts to make homelessness rare and brief in Springfield and Sangamon County.
- Heartland HOUSED staff participated in a convening of SOAR communities from around the state to discuss how to best strengthen pathways for people to access benefits they are eligible for. Staff will continue to partner with communities to learn best practices and how to better support efforts within HCoC organizations.