

KY HEARTH

Kentucky's Housing and Emergency Assistance Reaching The Homeless (KY HEARTH) Program is federal assistance that helps prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. KHC administers this funding throughout the state with the exception of Lexington/Fayette County, Louisville/Jefferson County, and Covington. The purpose of KY HEARTH is to help program participants quickly obtain and/or

sustain stable housing. It is not intended to provide long-term support.

Financial assistance to eligible participants includes short- and medium-term rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits and payments, moving costs, and motel/hotel vouchers. KY HEARTH helps individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless and need temporary rent or utility assistance to prevent homelessness, or are currently homeless and either staying

in emergency or transitional shelter, doubled-up with family or friends, or on the street and need temporary assistance to obtain and keep housing.

For more information on KY HEARTH, contact Anne Colly Rose toll-free in Kentucky at (800) 633-8896 or (502) 564-7630, extension 259; TTY 711; or e-mail arose@kyhousing.org.

Recovery Kentucky

Recovery Kentucky is a joint effort by the Department for Local Government, the Department of Corrections, and KHC that is creating ten housing recovery centers across the state to help Kentuckians recover from substance abuse.

Without a stable place to live and a support system to help them address their underlying problems, most homeless people who also suffer from substance abuse and addiction bounce around between shelters, public hospitals, psychiatric institutions, and detoxification centers. It is estimated that the Recovery Kentucky initiative will save Kentuckians millions in tax dollars that would have been spent on emergency room visits and jail costs.

Each center uses a recovery program model that includes peer support, daily living skills training, job responsibilities, and challenges to practice sober living. This type of supportive housing and recovery program is proven to help people who face the most complex challenges to live more stable, productive lives. It has been demonstrated successfully by both the Hope Center in Lexington and The Healing Place in Louisville and was named "A Model That Works" by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information on Recovery Kentucky, contact Mike Townsend toll-free in Kentucky at (800) 633-8896 or (502) 564-7630, extension 715; TTY 711; or e-mail mtownsend@kyhousing.org.

Safe Havens

The Safe Havens initiative was developed to provide temporary housing assistance to households who are currently seeking to leave a shelter or who are otherwise in a homeless situation.

Safe Havens is composed of two programs – Safe Place, which serves those with serious and persistent mental illness, and Safe Start, which serves homeless families with children, as well as survivors of domestic violence. The programs provide temporary assistance until the household can be transferred to another permanent housing program. With both programs, KHC provides a housing voucher to bring them more stability and help them gain control of their lives.

In addition to housing, Safe Havens has a strong self-sufficiency component. Households work with case managers to develop individual goal plans to help them toward self-sufficiency on a case-by-case basis. KHC is working with the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association and the Center for Women and Families to offer Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). IDAs allow participants to contribute earned income into escrow accounts, which KHC matches, to be used to help them achieve self-sufficiency. Education incentives are also available to participants who want to pursue an education, so long as they are full-time students and maintain a grade point average of 2.0.

For more information on the Safe Havens programs, contact Keli Reynolds toll-free in Kentucky at (800) 633-8896 or (502) 564-7630, extension 376; TTY 711; or e-mail kreynolds@kyhousing.org.

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For more about Kentucky's initiatives to end homelessness in partnership with KHC, visit the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness Web site www.kyhomeless.org.



On any given day, thousands of men, women, and children are homeless in Kentucky.

The Need

One of the most basic human needs is shelter. Throughout history, people have built homes that offer protection from the elements, a safe place to eat and sleep, and a central location for friends and family to gather.

Every year Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), in cooperation with the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness (KICH), the Coalition for the Homeless in Louisville, and the Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative in Lexington, conducts a statewide Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless.

During the 2009 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless, several thousand persons were identified as being without a home. However, two days prior to the scheduled 2009 Point-In-Time Count on January 29, Governor Steve Beshear declared an emergency due to a powerful winter storm that left almost 800,000 households and businesses without power. As a result, the count had to be modified and partially rescheduled. Although the data collected still provides important information, there is no doubt the weather altered the outcome of the count.

People are considered homeless if they do not have access to safe, affordable, and permanent places to live. Kentucky's homeless population includes chronically homeless individuals, meaning they remain homeless for extended periods of time – often months or years – due to chemical dependency and/or other special needs.

People become homeless for a variety of reasons. Health problems, family conflicts, limited life choices, and the lack of a support system are frequent causes of homelessness. Economic factors, such as the loss of employment, medical

bills, economic catastrophic event, or the lack of affordable housing, are playing an increasing role as well.

Precariously Housed

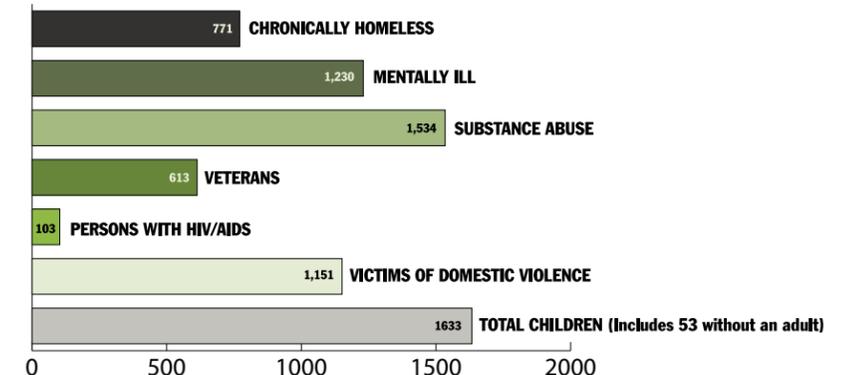
Many individuals and families experiencing homelessness, especially in rural Kentucky, can be difficult to identify and, therefore, to assist. In urban areas, where the homeless population is more concentrated and many service providers are located, the homeless can easily be found. In rural areas, which include much of Kentucky, the homeless are almost invisible. These individuals and families are considered "precariously housed," meaning their housing is not secure.

There are three forms of precariously housed: (1) staying doubled- or tripled-up with family or friends instead of their own residence; (2) staying in substandard housing, meaning it lacks running water, heat, or electricity; or (3) living in their own residence or an institution but going to be evicted or released within seven days with no subsequent housing. Because precariously housed individuals and families are not living on the streets or in more visible places, local residents may not understand that there are homeless and near-homeless persons in their community.

The precariously housed traditionally have not been eligible for assistance because they did not meet the definition of homelessness used by federal housing programs. However, through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the precariously housed can receive assistance to prevent homelessness with funds from Kentucky's Housing and Emergency Assistance Reaching The Homeless Program (see KHC Homeless Programs in this brochure).

SUBPOPULATIONS OF HOMELESS RESPONDENTS IN KENTUCKY 2009

In Kentucky, a number of factors contribute to homelessness as noted in this chart.



ACCORDING TO THE 2009 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF KENTUCKY'S HOMELESS, 27 PERCENT WERE CHILDREN.



The Effects of Homelessness

The effects of homelessness are extensive and severe. For the individual, homelessness means more than just a loss of self-esteem; they face dramatically higher rates of infectious disease, mental health problems, physical disorders, disabilities, and premature death. They also face heightened risks of becoming incarcerated or institutionalized.

Homelessness has a dramatic impact on the community as well. Homelessness takes a tremendous toll on family stability by hindering the ability to find and maintain jobs, hampering the learning process of children who are hungry and disoriented, and causing health problems due to stress and exposure to the elements. According to the 2009 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless, 27 percent were children.

Because they lack other resources, homeless persons tend to use a variety of public systems in inefficient and costly ways. The true cost of homelessness is passed to the community through higher demands on law enforcement, corrections, health care, welfare, education, and other systems. Studies have shown that providing adequate housing and access to services is much more cost effective than leaving the homeless to fend for themselves. The results of a two-year study conducted by the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville showed that it cost nearly \$89 million over a two-year period to shelter and care for just over 7,000 single homeless adults. The study also showed that providing permanent housing to these individuals over the two-year period would have saved \$6.4 million. This study, and others like it, demonstrates that providing permanent, supportive housing is the best and most cost-effective solution to homelessness.

Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness

The Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness (KICH) was initially established after representatives from Kentucky participated in a Homeless Policy Academy in 2002, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Kentucky was one of eight states invited to participate in the first of these intensive policy-building forums, designed to develop action plans for improving access to mainstream services for people experiencing homelessness.

The KICH mission is to coordinate and influence policy across Kentucky to end homelessness.

KICH is composed of representation from state government, nonprofit, and advocacy agencies to collaborate and perform related functions and duties, including the following:

- Serve as the single statewide homelessness planning and policy development resource for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- Review, recommend changes, and update Kentucky's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness (initially developed in 2005).
- Monitor and oversee implementation of Kentucky's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness to ensure that accountability and results are consistent with the plan.
- Serve as a state clearinghouse for information on services and housing options for the homeless.
- Conduct other activities as appropriate.

Regional Strategies

In 2007, under the leadership of KICH, homeless, and housing service providers throughout the state came together to kick off a year-long planning process intended to develop local strategies for implementing Kentucky's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Each region focused its energies on the five central issue areas that have been defined as "core concerns" in the plan, which are housing, services, prevention, data development, and building public support and political will. While six regional plans identify dozens of specific strategic recommendations to address local priorities, the following key themes and objectives are apparent across regional boundaries.

- Increase access to safe and affordable housing units for homeless families, individuals, and youth.
- Increase funding for and access to comprehensive supportive services that help assure housing stability and encourage self-sufficiency.
- Increase funding for prevention services to reduce the numbers of persons falling into homelessness.
- Increase scope and quality of data collection through the statewide Homeless Management Information System to document both evolving progress and continuing need.
- Develop and carry out a coordinated statewide public education and outreach campaign that establishes the foundation for building public support.

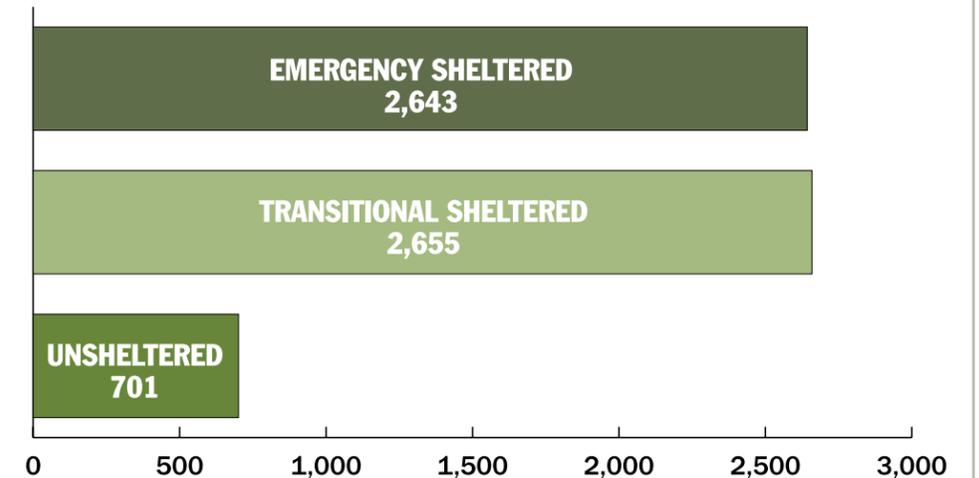
For more information on KICH, contact Melissa Benton toll-free in Kentucky at (800) 633-8896 or (502) 564-7630, extension 421; TTY 711; or e-mail mbenton@kyhousing.org.

SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN KENTUCKY 2009

Emergency shelter provides temporary housing for people who do not have a place to stay.

Transitional housing facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. It is time-limited, typically allowing residents to stay up to 24 months.

Unsheltered homeless are persons sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation — cars, parks, tents, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, etc.



KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION'S HOMELESS PROGRAMS

CoC, KY HEARTH, Recovery Kentucky, and Safe Havens

Continuum of Care

KHC administers the state's Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless funding for areas outside of Lexington and Louisville. Continuum of Care is a term that refers to the comprehensive approach of addressing homelessness by providing a continuum of housing programs and services.

These services include outreach, intake and assessment; emergency shelter services; transitional housing services; and permanent supportive housing for people with disabilities.

KHC is responsible for leading the Commonwealth's efforts to develop an effective CoC program to meet Kentucky's homeless needs. KHC applies for funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on behalf of other agencies and nonprofits. KHC also provides technical assistance and, in some cases, contributes matching funds.

For more information, contact Rosemary Luckett toll-free in Kentucky at (800) 633-8896 or (502) 564-7630, extension 317; TTY 711; or e-mail rluckett@kyhousing.org.

CoC Programs include:

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

Provides funds for the development of supportive housing and supportive services, including innovative approaches to assist homeless persons in the transition from homelessness. The program also promotes the provision of supportive housing to homeless persons to enable them to live as independently as possible.

SECTION 8 FOR SINGLE-ROOM OCCUPANCY

Provides rental assistance to homeless individuals in rehabilitated single-room occupancy housing.

EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

Provides funds to increase the supply of and access to safe and sanitary emergency shelter, as well as supportive services.

SHELTER PLUS CARE

Provides rental assistance for homeless persons with disabilities and their families who need housing, as well as access to supportive services, to live as independently as possible.

SAMARITAN HOUSING PROGRAM

Provides rental assistance to chronically homeless individuals (unaccompanied adults who have a disability and have been homeless for 12 consecutive months or have had 4 episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years).