



SUMMARY

DEAR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS,

August 2013

Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) has always been proud of our evolving and emerging slate of programs to meet the housing needs of Kentuckians. During these times of financial challenge, we continue to explore new opportunities and ways to provide safe, quality, affordable housing.



Since January 2008, our homeless service partners have provided over 1 million services to at-risk or homeless persons. In spite of economic and other challenges, they have continued to be a reliable and effective resource to those in need. Because of their determination, we have seen a steady decline in the overall number of homeless persons in the Balance of State.

Throughout 2013, KHC will release mini reports on homeless children, veterans, domestic violence survivors, chronically homeless individuals and families, and a report on the impact disabilities have on homelessness. This series of reports reflects our progress toward ending homelessness in the Commonwealth.

Strengthening the capacity of public and private organizations by increasing knowledge about collaboration, homelessness, and successful interventions, leads to the prevention and ultimately the end of homelessness.

I would like to thank all our partners for their dedication of time, energy, resources, and expertise to meet the housing needs of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard L. McQuady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard L. McQuady
Executive Director

Methodology

Kentucky has three Continuum of Care (CoC) planning entities: Louisville/Jefferson County, Lexington/Fayette County, and Balance of State (BoS). KHC serves as the lead agency for the BoS CoC the 118 counties outside of Jefferson and Fayette Counties. The BoS is divided into six regions to better coordinate homeless service efforts.

As the lead agency for the BoS, KHC coordinates the point-in-time count of the homeless, also called the K-Count, with guidance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD expects a complete count every other year. However, KHC believes Kentuckians are best served by conducting this count yearly.

Unless otherwise noted, the data in this report are only for the BoS and are derived from these annual counts of the homeless between 2008 and 2013.

Below is a timeline of KHC's efforts to improve the process and the data integrity.

2007

Scannable paper surveys were used. An outside firm scanned forms and built the raw data.

2008

For the first time, the same survey instrument was used by all three Kentucky Continua of Care. Volunteers across the state conducted the count on January 24, 2008.

2009

To mitigate costs, enhance data integrity of the statewide count, and reduce turnaround time, KHC purchased a scanner to process all surveys onsite. KHC provided educational materials for volunteer trainings, hometown press release templates for agency use, a sample letter to engage local officials, and community volunteer fliers for recruiting purposes.

Two days before the count, a state of emergency was declared in Kentucky due to a powerful winter storm, which shut down much of the state. The count was modified with the BoS sheltered count occurring on Thursday, January 29, 2009, between 12 midnight and 11:59 p.m. The unsheltered count of the homeless took place on February 19, 2009, between 12 midnight and 11:59 p.m. While the data collected in 2009 is usable, it is possible weather and the date change for the count impacted the data.

2010

An online survey was introduced to streamline the process and enable real-time data collection. The 2010 Point-In-Time Count took place throughout the state on Thursday, January 28, from 12 midnight to 11:59 p.m., local time. KHC continued efforts in volunteer recruitment and community involvement.

2011

Online survey use was continued in 2011. The count took place Thursday, January 27, 2011.

2012

The Balance of State only counted sheltered individuals and families utilizing the Kentucky Homeless Management Information System (KYHMIS) and an online survey for non-KYHMIS participating agencies. This was a departure from past years where sheltered and unsheltered were counted.

2013

BoS CoC completed both a sheltered and unsheltered count following similar methodologies as used in the past. To avoid duplication and align with the Housing Inventory Chart, all information contained in the KYHMIS database and generated from the online survey database was verified with agencies. The same data was collected in both methods and all questions were presented in equal fashion. Training for both methods was recorded for consistency across the Commonwealth, including YouTube videos and online transcripts. In-person workshops were held in all six CoC regions in the BoS in January.

Surveys were administered to homeless persons by partner-paid staff and volunteers.

A total of 4,655 online surveys were submitted, along with 492 surveys completed within KYHMIS. After verification with agencies, 86 transitional housing surveys were approved, 562 emergency shelter surveys were approved, and 422 unsheltered surveys were approved for data analysis. All 492 surveys from KYHMIS were approved for analysis. Due to non-completion, duplication, or non-homeless status per HUD's definition and guidance, 3,093 surveys were removed. Two agencies completed a HUD Exhibit 1 chart but did not submit data for the detailed analysis. This is reflected in the detailed analysis where 48 households were removed from the whole.

Overall Progress

HUD's HEARTH Act Homeless Definition

(Changes highlighted below):

- 1) An individual or family who lacks fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:
 - a. A place not meant for human habitation including a car, park, abandoned building.
 - b. Living in a publicly or privately operated shelter or transitional housing, this includes a hotel/motel voucher paid for by government or charitable organizations.
 - c. Discharged from an institution where he/ she has been a resident for **90 days or less** and the person resided in a shelter or a place not meant for human habitation prior to entering that institution.
- 2) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence:
 - a. Within **14 days**.
 - b. No subsequent residence has been identified.
 - c. Household lacks the resources/support needed to obtain other permanent housing.
- 3) **Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age or families where everyone is under the age of 25 that qualifies as homeless under other federal statutes:**
 - a. **Have not had a lease, occupancy agreement, or ownership interest in permanent housing 60 days prior to application for homeless assistance.**
 - b. **Have moved two or more times in the prior 60 days.**
 - c. **Has one or more of the following: a disability as defined by HUD, history of childhood abuse, domestic violence, child with a disability, two or more barriers to employment.**
- 4) Any individual or family fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relates to violence:
 - a. No subsequent residence has been identified.
 - b. Household lacks the resources/support needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Homeless providers operated under the same homeless definition for many years until 2012 when changes were mandated by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act. The results have expanded the definition of homelessness. One would assume the number of those in a homeless state would increase; however, the BoS CoC continues to see a decrease in the overall homeless population even with this change.



Overall Progress



Household Definition:

A household is either a single person or a group of persons and includes:

- A household with children often referred to as a family.
- A household without children (singles or all adults).
- A household with only children (a single child or a family in which everyone is under the age of 18).

The number of homeless individuals and families counted in the BoS in 2013 was 2,392, almost half the number in 2008.

In 2013...

The total number of K-Count surveys collected increased to 4,655 (23.8 percent) from 3,547 in 2008.

Of the total number of surveyed households, 1,558 households met HUD's definition of homeless for a total of 2,349 persons.¹

1,792 people were sheltered (decrease of 28.5 percent since 2008). This includes people staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

600 people were unsheltered (decrease of 62.75 percent since 2008). This includes people counted on the streets, living in their cars, staying in abandoned buildings, and makeshift structures.

2013 BoS K-Count Results Comparison with 2008 (includes victim service providers) *Total Homeless by Household Type Sheltered and Unsheltered*

	Individuals (Households without Children)						Families (Households with at Least One Child Under 18 Years Old)						Total Homeless					
	2008	2009*	2010	2011	2012 [†]	2013	2008	2009*	2010	2011	2012 [†]	2013	2008	2009*	2010	2011	2012 [†]	2013
Sheltered	911	942	1,235	968	812	888	1,505	1,746	1,469	1,165	815	893	2,416	2,688	2,704	2,133	1,627	1,792
Unsheltered	802	337	592	528	0	413	809	149	150	173	0	183	1,611	486	742	701	0	600
Total	1,713	1,279	1,827	1,496	812	1,301	2,314	1,895	1,619	1,338	815	1,076	4,027	3,174	3,446	2,834	1,627	2,392

* In 2009, two days before the count, a state of emergency was declared in Kentucky due to a winter storm that shut down much of the state. The BoS modified the count because of the weather. While the data collected in 2009 is usable, it is possible that weather and a date change impacted the data.

[†] In 2012, HUD required a sheltered homeless count only. This meant only those staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs on the night of the K-Count were included in the total homeless persons reported to HUD. An unsheltered count was not conducted; therefore, 2012 and 2013 unsheltered or total homeless data are not comparable, which limits the ability to do full analysis.

¹ For the 2013 K-Count, two agencies did not submit surveys but did submit final numbers with the use of an Excel document.

Overall Progress



Chronically Homeless Definition:

An individual or family is living or residing in a place not meant for habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter. And:

- (1) Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for habitation, safe, or emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years.
- (2) Has an adult head of household with a disability.

The Balance of State has seen a rise in both sheltered and unsheltered chronic homelessness since 2009, which may be due, in part, to an expansion of the federal definition.

Of the total homeless population, chronically homeless persons accounted for 7.44 percent in 2008; however, they accounted for 14.88 percent in 2013.²

In 2009, 98 chronically homeless individuals reported being unsheltered at the time of the count. In 2013 the number rose to 212.

138 chronically homeless persons were sheltered in 2009, compared to the 144 sheltered persons in 2013.

Migration

91.32 percent of individuals reported becoming homeless in the Commonwealth; only 8.68 percent reported moving to the state after becoming homeless.³

23.16 percent of the homeless population reported coming from just four Kentucky counties: Kenton n=173, Warren n=145, Daviess n=114, and Perry n=112.

² In 2011, HUD mandated all Continua of Care start not only reporting individuals but also total number of person in families. It was around that same time that HUD expanded the chronically homeless definition to include families, which is likely why we see an increase in chronically homeless. Also, all unsheltered and non-participating KYHMIS agencies self-report chronic homelessness. This information is not verified.

³ n=2,349 - 43 persons of the total homeless were not included in this analysis as there were no surveys submitted to record a place of originating homeless.

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When asked how many times they had been homeless, the most common response for both sheltered and unsheltered persons in 2013 was this was the first time.⁴

In 2008, 18.54 percent (n=639) of the total homeless households reported being homeless for more than a year. In 2013, that number fell to 16.13 percent (n=379).

In 2013, 37 percent of those unsheltered reported this was their first homeless occurrence, with sheltered persons reporting slightly more with 41.8 percent first-time homeless.

Nationally, there has been an increase of sheltered domestic violence victims on any given night.⁵

The percentage of domestic violence households has increased from 31 percent of the total homeless population in 2009 to 35 percent in 2013.

In 2013, 21.64 percent of domestic violence households were living in a place not meant for habitation, compared to 13.08 percent in 2009.

There was an increase in the number of males reported as head of household. In 2009, 9.94 percent of the domestic violence population was represented by males. In 2013, that percentage increased to 21.07 percent.

In 2008, households with children accounted for 57 percent of the total homeless households. In 2013, 45 percent of the total homeless households reported being a household with children.

Nationally, households with children made up 37.8 percent of the entire homeless population in the 2012 homeless count.⁶

Unsheltered families accounted for 34.96 percent of the total family homeless population in 2008. In 2013, they accounted for 17 percent of the family homeless population, a decrease of 18 percentage points.

In 2013, children under the age of 18 accounted for 26.88 percent of the total homeless population in the BoS. In 2012, children made up 25.62 percent of the total national homeless population.⁷

In 2009, an average family in the BoS had 1 adult and 2.3 children. In 2013, the average number of children dropped slightly to 2.⁸

⁴ Only 641 out of 1,139 sheltered households responded to this question, and only 410 out of 422 unsheltered households responded to this survey question.

⁵ The National Network to End Domestic Violence reported an increase of 4,890 sheltered persons on any given night.

⁶ *The State of Homelessness in America 2013*, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Homelessness Research Institute, April 2013.

⁷ *The State of Homelessness in America 2013*, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Homelessness Research Institute, April 2013.

⁸ In 2013, for the first time, HUD required an age breakdown for multiple person households enabling the extraction of the exact number of children under the age of 18 in families. For 2013, there were 628 children in homeless families.

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Demographics, such as gender, race, ethnicity, and average age of the head of household have remained steady over the last five years in the BoS. Nationally, the average homeless person is a white male between the ages of 31-50.⁹

GENDER

In 2008, 52 percent of the heads of household were female in the BoS. In 2013, this number has decreased slightly to 46 percent. Men are assumed to be the predominately homeless gender, but in the 2012 Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) outcome evaluation, women were the dominate gender seeking services.

Unsheltered males greatly outnumbered unsheltered females in 2013 2:1. In contrast, females represented 51.7 percent of those sheltered.

In 2013, women represented 67 percent of those in transitional housing programs.

RACE

Race has changed slightly in the BoS showing more whites (81 percent) in 2013 compared to 2008 (75 percent). However, African American representation remained completely unchanged since 2008, at both times accounting for 14 percent of the total homeless population.

The percentage of African Americans in 2013 that were unsheltered was slightly higher than the total, at 15.6 percent.

ETHNICITY

In 2008, 2.7 percent of the homeless population identified as Hispanic or Latino. In 2013, 2.4 percent of the sheltered population identified themselves as Hispanic and only 1.7 percent of those unsheltered identified themselves as such.

In 2013, 23 out of 34 respondents that were identified as Hispanic were also listed as adult households only.

AGE

The average age for a head of household in 2013 was 42 for unsheltered and 39 for those sheltered. Overall, the average age for a head of household was 39.

The youngest reported age for a head of household was a 13-year-old living in a runaway youth shelter alone in 2013.

In 2013, the youngest age reported for an unsheltered head of household was 17.

⁹ National Alliance to End Homelessness, Frequently Asked Questions: What do the demographics of homelessness look like? <http://bit.ly/1cQegBO>.

Data Limitations

Readers are cautioned about comparisons from year-to-year. The methodology for calculating fair market rents, incomes, homeless, unsheltered, disabled, and precariously housed have changed over the years. Broad assumptions are made throughout this report with a focus on overall population trends. Please consult Kentucky Housing Corporation prior to making assumptions or generalization of data.

HUD expanded the definition of those considered to be homeless; however, in guidance for the 2013 K-Count, those in the new category three would not have been counted unless in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.¹⁰ KHC did not include this category in the homeless numbers for the report but does acknowledge that some families or individuals may have been removed from the overall homeless count due to not meeting the emergency shelter, transitional housing, or unsheltered requirements.

Social science studies rarely have control groups. Homelessness research is based primarily on those persons within the programs and is rarely comparative to those homeless with the exact circumstances. The data used in this report does not use control groups nor is it generalized to the general population. Performance outcomes are solely of those who participated in the program with no comparison to those who did not seek the resource. Information is typically self-reported for homeless studies. This limits the ability to use tests of statistical significance with homeless data. Overreaching connections by combining studies conducted by multiple agencies is difficult due to different vocabularies, sample populations geographically, different assumptions, and different measurements for success.

¹⁰ The HEARTH Act. Federal Register. Vol. 76, No. 233. Monday, December 5, 2001. Rules and Regulations. pg. 75595. Category (3) unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition; <http://bit.ly/1cQdZyO>.

Explanations for Decrease

The findings in this report can be related to policy changes at the federal and state level but also the increased stimulus funding available with the HPRP. Because of the HPRP, KHC disseminated funding to 47 nonprofit and local government partners statewide for a total of \$11,607,352 to assist homeless and precariously housed Kentuckians. A total of 21,473 clients were served over the three-year grant term. Providers delivered 213,620 services with an average cost of \$56.91 per service. Clients who participated in this program “look” different from those average households reporting for the 2013 K-Count. The average age for a head of household participating in HPRP was only 30-years-old, with no disabilities, female, single parent, white, with a program stay of less than 90 days.

The program was very successful in the Balance of State with 82.2 percent of households exiting to a positive permanent housing destination. As expected, the homeless-assistance component, which served those without housing, had a much lower rate at 61.2 percent. Low recidivism rates have been sustained since the close of the program.

As of April 1, 2013, 6 percent of those who participated in the homeless-assistance component had returned for further assistance, and only 2 percent of those participating in the prevention-assistance component had returned for additional assistance.¹¹ The returning clients had a shorter program stay for both components: 74 days homeless assistance and 45 days for prevention. The most common length of time between program discharge and accessing services again was two years for both components.

Due to the successful outcomes of the HPRP across the nation, part of this stimulus program was merged into the new Emergency Solutions Grant Program. The new Emergency Solutions Grant focuses on both homeless prevention and rapid re-housing.

As seen with the HPRP results, single mothers accessed the program the most. Scholar House, a program for single parents continuing their education, focuses on this population using on-site childcare and other supportive services to lead to self-sufficiency. As with the Recovery Kentucky Program, which helps individuals suffering from addiction, homelessness is not a requirement for Scholar House Program entry but homeless individuals receive priority.

¹¹ KYHMIS-participating program data only. If a client sought homeless assistance elsewhere, this is not recorded here. Those who may have sought further assistance from a victim service provider are also not recorded here.

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Overview

As much as 7.4 percent of the U.S. population will be homeless at some time in their lives, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In Kentucky in 2012, 12-14 persons were homeless for every 10,000. Nationally, the average is 20 per 10,000.¹²

It is positive to know actions taken by the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness (KICH), local partners throughout the state, and multiple state entities are working. The data reflects the efforts are lowering the number of persons and families living in a place not meant for habitation in the BoS.

However, we need to be cautious of complacency. There are still warning signs the BoS has more work to do. Partners across the Commonwealth do not stop at sheltering homeless persons. Many serve persons on the verge of homelessness with support and prevention services, such as good clothing, rent assistance, utility payments, moving assistance, case management, legal services, job placement, and credit repair.

In federal fiscal year 2012, BoS emergency shelters and transitional housing programs served 9,037 homeless persons, but they also served an additional 17,969 persons with supportive services. This gives communities a glance at the undercurrent of those on the verge of homelessness. KYHMIS data supports this trend as the number of new clients entered into KYHMIS has declined each year since 2008. However, the number of services over this period has increased to over a million services, suggesting a substantial at-risk population on the verge of homelessness.

Nationally, "In a single year (2011), the number of renter households rose by 1 million, representing the single largest one-year increase since the early

1980s."¹³ Kentucky reported a 1 percent increase in those living in rental property from 2010-2011 and an increase of 6 percent in those poor-renter households.¹⁴ Due to the increased demand in rental units, property owners have increased rent prices an average of 3.8 percent from 2011.¹⁵ For every 100 extremely low-income households, there are 30 affordable units available.¹⁶

Extremely low-income households have, on average, \$495 to spend on rent, while the national average fair market rent (FMR) rose to \$977 in 2013.¹⁷ In Kentucky, the FMR went from \$616 in 2011 to \$661 in 2012. This means many families live doubled- or tripled-up to sustain a place to live. The number of people in poor households living doubled-up increased by 10 percent in Kentucky from 2010-2011.¹⁸ These families do not qualify for homeless assistance per HUD's definition of homeless; however, 45 percent of homeless families lived doubled-up prior to entering a program.¹⁹ Between 2000 and 2010, the number of cost-burdened rural renters (paying over 30 percent of income) rose 10 percentage points.²⁰ In 2013, Kentucky ranked 49th on a list of most expensive states, reporting the wages required to afford a two-bedroom fair market rent (FMR) was \$12.71.²¹ A person working a minimum wage job must work 70 hours per week, 52 weeks a year to afford Kentucky's FMR.

In 2008, in the counties in which KHC administers the Section 8 program, there were an estimated 6,008 households on the waiting list for rental vouchers. In 2013, the number was over 7,000, and the waiting list has been closed for almost an entire year. The 2013 K-Count identified 2,653 households (8,508 persons) matching the definition for HUD's at-risk of homelessness. An annual study conducted by the Veterans Administration (VA), "Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education

¹² *The State of Homelessness in America 2013*. National Alliance to End Homelessness. Homelessness Research Institute. Published April 8, 2013. http://b3cdn.net/naeh/bb34a7e4cd84ee985c_3vm67cjh.pdf.

¹³ Joint Center for Housing Studies. (2012). *State of the nation's housing*. Cambridge, MA: Author. <http://bit.ly/KC6g8j>

¹⁴ *The State of Homelessness in America 2013*. A research report on Homelessness. April 2013. National Alliance to End Homelessness. Homelessness Research Institute.

¹⁵ Bravve, Elina, Bolton, Megan, and Crowley, Sheila. "Out of Reach 2013" National Low Income Housing Coalition. March 2013. www.nlihc.org.

¹⁶ Bravve, Elina, Bolton, Megan, and Crowley, Sheila. "Out of Reach 2013" National Low Income Housing Coalition. March 2013. www.nlihc.org.

¹⁷ Bravve, Elina, Bolton, Megan, and Crowley, Sheila. "Out of Reach 2013" National Low Income Housing Coalition. March 2013. www.nlihc.org.

¹⁸ *The State of Homelessness in America 2013*. A research report on homelessness. April 2013. National Alliance to End Homelessness. Homelessness Research Institute.

¹⁹ Volume I, 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report. Department of Housing and Urban Development. November 2012.

²⁰ Bravve, Elina, Bolton, Megan, and Crowley, Sheila. "Out of Reach 2013" National Low Income Housing Coalition. March 2013. www.nlihc.org.

²¹ Bravve, Elina, Bolton, Megan, and Crowley, Sheila. "Out of Reach 2013" National Low Income Housing Coalition. March 2013. www.nlihc.org.

²² Perl, Libby. "Veterans and Homelessness" Congressional Research Service. CRS Report for Congress. 7-5700 www.crs.gov. RL34024. February 4, 2013.

²³ Kuhn, John H., Nakashima, John. *The Seventeenth Annual Progress Report*. "Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Group (CHALENG) for Veterans Fiscal Year (FY) 2010". Services for Homeless Veterans Assessment and Coordination. July 5, 2011.

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and Networking Group (CHALENG) for Veterans," showed a change in why families and individuals become homeless. In fiscal year 2006, the highest prioritized unmet need was long-term housing.²² By 2010, both veterans and homeless providers did not rank long-term housing in the top needs. It was replaced with childcare, welfare payments, legal assistance, and family reconciliation assistance.²³

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and CoC Programs are the primary funding sources for homeless assistance in the Commonwealth. Other programs like Recovery Kentucky, Scholar House, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Chafee do not target homeless persons as a requirement of the program. However, these programs play a key role in supplementing services and permanent housing for those who may be homeless.

The ESG Program provides funding for shelter operations, homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing, transitional housing, street outreach, and essential services. The ESG Program representatives within KHC work with 44 partner agencies throughout the Commonwealth to administer the grant.

The BoS must identify and assist families and individuals who may be on the verge of homelessness. Prevention is key in mitigating a homeless occurrence and must start early. The lack of prevention funding and the need for additional utility assistance were identified in the updated 2009 plan. In both 2008 and 2009, KHC provided \$3.2 million in matching funds from the Housing Assistance Fund for ESG recipients to provide for essential service and prevention activities. In 2009, Kentucky received funding for the HPRP. The new ESG Program, which began 2012, retained some of the HPRP components, such as homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing, which provides utility assistance.

The CoC Program assists homeless persons by funding components of permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and supportive services. For fiscal year 2012, the CoC partnered with 61 agencies.

In 2005, [Kentucky's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness](#) presented a roadmap with broad goals for ending homelessness. KICH updated the plan in 2009 and refined the goals into specific

recommendations. As will be seen in the report series being released over the next six months, the BoS focused on the recommendations in 2005 and 2009 and reduced homelessness by nearly half. As we move forward, we need to remember from where we have come to accurately measure our success.

In alignment with the *Opening Doors* federal strategy to end homelessness, KICH's efforts to decrease homelessness recognizes the need to continue to provide and promote collaborative leadership at all levels of government and across sectors to inspire and energize the state commitment to preventing and ending homelessness. The BoS has made great strides in collaborative efforts over the years. For example, in 2005, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Governor's Office, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Education Cabinet, Department of Local Government, and Justice and Public Safety Cabinet reinforcing the coordination role of the Council on Homeless Policy. Through an executive order, this council formally evolved into KICH to offer expertise and to guide, lead, and advise regional and local CoC planning groups as needed.

The newly-developed BoS CoC External Advisory Group (formed in 2012) is comprised of local agencies from across the state with all types of funding, target populations, and levels of capacity. This group works closely with KHC and with KICH to establish policies for the entire CoC. The group provides a mechanism to help reach the goal and serves to disseminate information on homelessness. Strengthening the capacity of public and private organizations by increasing knowledge about collaboration, homelessness, and successful interventions leads to the prevention and ultimately the end of homelessness.

[The Rights of the Homeless in Kentucky](#) manual was produced in 2010 by CoC Region 4. CoC Region 2 produced [Rights of the Homeless in Kentucky – A Primer of Homeless Rights](#). Both will aid the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky in the process of developing a statewide manual of homeless rights. KICH also published the [Homeless Services Case Management Training Manual](#) in 2013.

The BoS strives to partner with all types of sectors, including businesses, faith-based organizations, funder advocacy groups, hospitals, governmental agencies, and nonprofits to increase the commitment

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to ending homelessness. In 2012, 79 different agencies from across the state participated in the CoC planning process both at the local community and state level. These planning groups meet bi-monthly to identify new gaps and solutions, locate successful interventions, and report on progress. In order to prescribe and recommend solutions that work for the gaps identified in regional CoCs, the BoS must rely heavily on the information provided to them from the KYHMIS. KHC provides intensive technical assistance to partners and has implemented a data quality plan to increase reported data quality.

To date, the KYHMIS has more than 200,000 unduplicated clients who have accessed services since 2008. Over the last five years, the CoC has set in place policies and procedures for data quality and content. The BoS expects to increase non-HUD participating partners with the new, coordinated assessment as a way to expand targeted services and resources. This will remove the duplication of services, reduce lengthy intake processes for all providers, and lead to communities maximizing their resources. The BoS is making progress toward fully implementing a coordinated assessment system utilizing one central, open process to assess the most urgent housing needs of homeless persons and move them to the most appropriate housing option.

Supportive Services

While finding affordable, quality housing is an essential component of the strategy for ending homelessness, the reality is many homeless persons need not only a home but also supportive services both onsite and off. BoS strives to combine these two efforts by emphasizing permanent supportive housing to prevent and end homelessness, especially chronic homelessness.

Chronically homeless persons reported twice the number of disabilities as those in the general homeless population in 2013. Regional CoC planning boards identified severely limited supportive housing with on-site services as a critical gap in their communities. Since 2009, permanent housing programs have seen a 38 percent increase in bed capacity. The national average shows an increase of 45.7 percent in permanent housing beds. In fiscal year 2011, BoS created 176 new permanent housing beds for the chronically homeless. In 2013, BoS added approximately 66 new permanent housing vouchers.

For clients with a disability, local Vocational Rehabilitation Centers focus on finding employment and working with employers to make special arrangements for new employees. Vocational Rehab has funding for services for clients ranging from educational supplements to purchasing special equipment for the new employee to complete the required work task. For those with disabilities, it is important to access this mainstream service for stable employment, but also close the gap of disjointed services.

We must provide affordable housing options for those persons and families experiencing, or those most at risk of, homelessness. The Safe Havens Program, started in 2006, provided temporary housing vouchers for families and individuals. In the first two years, Safe Havens awarded 2,000 vouchers helping individuals and families move into permanent housing with supportive case management. As a result, individuals and families were given an opportunity to become stable instead of finding themselves on the street. Safe Havens operated using federal funds. As these funds were reduced, KHC was not able to continue offering the program.

For the BoS to end homelessness, we must increase meaningful and sustainable employment options for persons experiencing, or most at risk of, homelessness. The 2012 CoC Interim Rule has a service focus on education, employment, and job training. There are also Workforce Investment Act Boards across the state. The [Homeless Services Case Management Training Manual](#) focuses on finding employment for the homeless by training case managers in techniques for résumé writing, goal setting, and relationship building with local employers. The manual educates case managers on Workforce Investment Boards, One Stops, and strategies for stable employment for all clients. For youth who have exited or are aging out of the foster care system, the Education Training Voucher is available for 18-23 year olds. This is federally funded through the Chafee Independence Program and assists with up to \$5,000 per year toward any expenses directly related to a post-secondary education or job-training program.

We must improve access to these mainstream programs and services to reduce an individual or family's financial vulnerability to homelessness. To sustain permanent housing and maximize

Discussion/Conclusion

independence, we must teach the skills for financial stability and independence with intense and extended financial education. In order to focus on reduction of a client's vulnerability to homelessness and returning to a domestic violence situation, Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA) established the Individual Development Account Program in 2008. This program matches a participant's savings (up to \$2,000) 2 to 1. Participants can graduate from the program with up to \$6,000 in a savings account. During the program, participants receive one-on-one credit coaching and financial education. KDVA has received federal grants from the U.S. Assets for Independence Program totaling \$713,000 with matching funds from KHC, Fifth Third Bank, and public/private resources and donations.

To prevent homelessness as the result of financial insecurity, Kentucky's Housing Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC) implemented a pilot project in 2012 training high school students on financial literacy. This will help prepare youth for independence and prevent homelessness. HPAC is expected to recommend expansion of this program statewide.

Reporting

The BoS currently utilizes the Annual Performance Report (APR) to monitor and analyze the projects for the ESG, CoC, Shelter Plus Care, and HOPWA in order to improve access to mainstream programs. The APR reports clients who exit the program with mainstream services such as: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Medicaid; Medicare; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;

Women, Infant, and Children; Workforce Investment Act; state health insurance; Veteran Health Care; Child Care Assistance; and cash income like child support and alimony. Homeless assistance providers supply transportation assistance to clients to attain mainstream benefits, employment training, job interviews, and daily employment 96 percent of the time. Homeless assistance providers have staff systematically follow up to ensure mainstream benefits are received 97 percent of the time.

Coordination of services in a statewide system must be a priority in order to eliminate barriers for moving homeless persons into permanent housing. Beginning the fall of 2013, participating KYHMIS providers will start using the new, open statewide homeless management information system to make referrals, collect information, provide case management, and share information across agency and CoC lines. This will help speed up the process of serving the client, as well as bring the community into a cohesive instrument of service. The goal for all homeless assistance providers, both federally funded and privately funded, is to rely on one central database to collect, store, and utilize client data for local planning efforts to find a comprehensive community solution.

Partners for the 2013 K-Count

- Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc.
- BAWAC Community Rehabilitation Center
- Bethany House Abuse Shelter
- Big Sandy Area Community Action Program
- Big Sandy Family Abuse Center
- Bluegrass Community Action Partnership
- Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program
- Boone County Fiscal Court
- Boone County Human Services
- Boone County Jail
- Boone County Library
- Boulware Mission
- Brenda D. Cowan Coalition for Kentucky, Inc.
- Brighton Center for Women
- Brighton Center, Inc.
- Carter County Jail
- Catholic Charities
- CenterPoint Recovery Center for Men
- Christian Appalachian Project
- Christian Shelter for the Homeless
- Christ's Hands
- City of Ashland
- City of Richmond
- Clark County Community Services
- Clark County Homeless Coalition
- Columbia Church of Christ Outreach
- Communicare, Inc.
- Community Action of Southern Kentucky
- Community Outreach
- Cumberland Hope Community Center for Women
- D.O.V.E.S of Gateway, Inc.
- Daniel Boone Community Action Agency, Inc.
- Emergency Christian Ministries
- Emergency Cold Shelter of Northern Kentucky
- Fairhaven Rescue Mission
- Family Life Abuse Center
- Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network)
- Franklin County Women's Shelter
- Gateway Homeless Coalition, Inc.
- Gentry House, Inc.
- George Privett Recovery Center for Men
- Good News Homes
- Green River Ministries Center
- Greenup County Homeless Education Program
- Harbor House Christian Center
- Harlan County Community Action
- Harlan County Jail
- Haven 4 Change, Inc.
- Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries
- Heartland CARES, Inc.
- Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky
- Homeless Christian Ministries
- Hope's Wings Domestic Violence Shelter
- Housing Authority of Woodford County
- Jesus Community Center
- Kentucky Communities Economic Opportunity Council Community Action Partnership, Inc.
- Kentucky Department for Community Based Services
- Kentucky Department of Education
- Kentucky Housing Corporation
- Kentucky River Community Care, Inc.
- Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc.

Partners for the 2013 K-Count

- Leslie, Knott, Letcher, and Perry Community Action Partnership Safe House
- Liberty Place for Women
- Lifeline Ministries
- Lighthouse Ministries
- Merryman House
- Morehead Inspiration Center for Men
- Northern Kentucky Area Development District
- Northern Kentucky Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans
- Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission
- Northkey Community Care
- Operation Care, Inc.
- Owensboro Area Shelter and Information Services
- Owensboro Regional Recovery Center for Men
- Paducah Cooperative Ministry
- Pennyroyal Regional Mental Health, Mental Retardation Board, Inc.
- People's Self-Help Housing, Inc.
- Potentials, Inc.
- Red Bird Mission, Inc.
- River City Mission
- Safe Harbor, Inc.
- Sanctuary, Inc.
- Scott County Hospitality House
- Shelter of Hope
- Simon House
- Springhaven, Inc.
- The Adanta Group
- The Center for Independent Living Options, Inc.
- The Center for Women and Families
- The Daniel Pitino Shelter
- The Healing Place of Campbellsville
- The Lighthouse - A Healing Place
- The Salvation Army Ashland, Kentucky
- The Salvation Army Bowling Green, Kentucky
- The Salvation Army Hopkinsville, Kentucky
- The Salvation Army Richmond, Kentucky
- The Shelter for Women and Children
- The Shepherd's Shelter, Inc.
- Transitions Grateful Life Center for Men
- Transitions, Inc.
- Trilogy Center for Women
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Veteran Affairs Outreach Somerset, KY Office
- Welcome House of Northern Kentucky
- WestCare Kentucky
- Women's Addiction Recovery Manor
- Women's Crisis Center
- Woodford County Jail

Please note that the K-Count involves a great number of volunteers across the state. While attempts have been made to include all agencies who coordinated volunteers, this list may not be exhaustive.

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