

Executive Summary



The South Carolina Interagency Council on Homelessness is a statewide network of advocates, service providers and funders committed to ending homelessness.

Homelessness and housing instability continue to be pervasive in South Carolina. While there are numerous agencies working across the state to provide critical housing and supportive services to vulnerable populations, thousands of individuals and families continue to experience, or are at risk of, homelessness. Over the past year as this report was being prepared, the COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated our state's housing crisis. The economic impact of the pandemic has led to increased job losses, threats of evictions due to lack of income to cover housing costs, including basic utilities, and evictions. The result has been

increased homelessness and housing instability. Those individuals impacted are also especially vulnerable to COVID-19. They often fall into high risk groups as determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, such as people with pre-existing health conditions, and also due to their congregate or crowded living arrangements in shelters or doubled-up with family or friends.

This report is intended to provide a broad overview of the extent of homelessness and housing instability in South Carolina. The information presented was compiled from these sources: Homeless Management Information Systems from all four HUD Continuums of Care (CoCs) in the state; 2020 Point-in-Time Homeless Count from each CoC; SC Department of Education; SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA); and United Way Association of SC 211 Services. The SC Primary Health Care Association also provided program data on two federally funded Health Care for the Homeless programs.

This report also includes overviews of statewide programs that are currently providing housing and services to individuals and families who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. These include the SC Department of Mental Health Community Housing Rental Assistance program; Housing and Homeless Courts; SC Department of Social Services Chafee and Education



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Training Voucher (ETV) program; and SC Housing. The report concludes with briefs submitted by each of the four CoCs that highlight their individual priority areas and successful approaches to serving specialized populations in their regions.

The graphic below summarizes the key data included in this 2020 South Carolina State of Homelessness report. The South Carolina Interagency Council on Homelessness (SCICH) believes homelessness is unacceptable and solvable. SCICH is committed to working collaboratively across sectors to compile and share the most current data and best practices with community leaders, advocates, and policy makers. This information can and should be used to drive policy and program decisions. Together, homelessness in South Carolina can be solved.

