

People Count, 2026 Point-In-Time Report

Northeast Florida | Baker, Clay, Duval and Nassau counties

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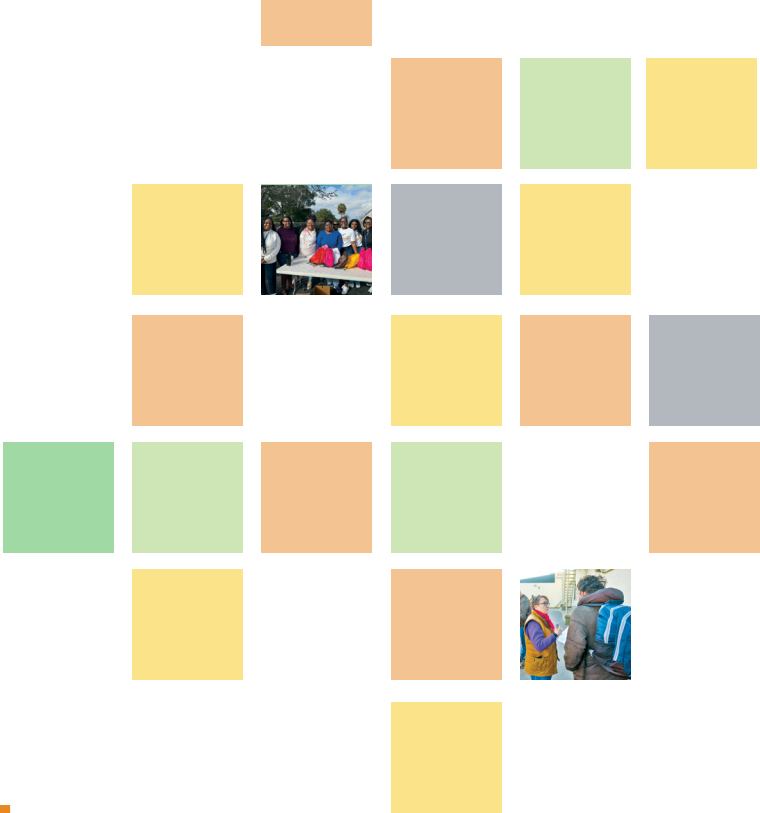




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LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Community Partners, Supporters, and Friends,

Each January, our community comes together for the Point-In-Time Count—a coordinated effort to better understand homelessness across Northeast Florida. While the Count provides an important snapshot in time, it also reflects something far deeper: the lived experiences of our unhoused neighbors navigating uncertainty.

Guided by innovation and compassion, our Outreach team deployed Street Lens, a tool that helps record locations of homelessness. At the same time, Northeast Florida experienced unusually cold temperatures, prompting community partners to open multiple cold night shelters to protect vulnerable neighbors from dangerous weather conditions.

Together, more than 90 dedicated volunteers, service providers, faith leaders, outreach teams, and community partners came together across Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties. They canvassed neighborhoods, supported emergency and cold night shelters, distributed resources, and most importantly, connected with people—offering compassion, dignity, and hope in moments that matter deeply.

Data is essential. It helps guide decisions, strengthen our system of care, and identify gaps where support is needed most. Yet numbers alone can never fully capture the humanity, resilience, and complexity of the people behind them.

As we did last year, this report also includes information from our By-Name Lists (BNL), which reflects the individuals and families currently known within our local system of care. These lists allow us to better compare trends between 2025 and 2026. More importantly, they remind us that homelessness is not about statistics alone, it is about people, relationships, and the collective responsibility we share as a community.

Homelessness is solvable when communities work together. Real progress happens when service providers, healthcare systems, funders, faith communities, government leaders, businesses, volunteers, and neighbors unite around the shared belief that everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

Thank you for continuing to stand alongside us in this work. Your compassion, partnership, and commitment help move our community closer to a future where healing, hope, and dignity remain at the center of all we do.

With gratitude,



Dawn Gilman
Chief Executive Officer
Changing Homelessness

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – 2026 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

In the final week of January, Changing Homelessness, in collaboration with community stakeholders and volunteers, conducted the 2026 Point-In-Time Count (Count)—an important snapshot of the people experiencing homelessness in our region.

Each year, this count is shaped by several distinguishable variables: the weather, the number of volunteers, and most importantly, our relationships with our unhoused neighbors. These factors can significantly affect the visibility of homelessness on any given day and are fundamental to considering increases and decreases in the number of people counted.

No matter the year, the ***weather is a Count factor***. On the evening of January 28th and the morning of January 29th, a cold snap pushed 100s of people into community cold night shelters.

Volunteer participation also influences the data. Numbers are relative especially when you consider the coverage area of the Northeast Florida Continuum of Care, which is 2,600 square miles across Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties. This year, more than 90 staff members, partners, and volunteers mobilized over the evening of January 28th and morning of the 29th—to survey shelters and known locations, connecting with individuals experiencing homelessness.

Relationships with our neighbors are paramount to knowing who and where they are, either in shelter or not. This year, we implemented a new tool – Street Lens prior to the count to locate and record our neighbor’s location throughout our community of care. This allowed us to identify and survey our neighbors more strategically.

Like 2025, we have included the totals from our ***By-Name-Lists***, which represents real-time, real-people reports that are updated regularly. While the Count provides a moment-in-time view, the BNL contains the names of all the people who are unhoused and known by name to our community. Ultimately, these numbers represent real people—our neighbors.

Most importantly, one person without a home is one too many.

METHODOLOGY

Approach

On the night of January 28th and the morning of January 29th, the Northeast Florida Continuum of Care, conducted the sheltered and unsheltered counts across Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties. In preparation for the unusually cold weather, local partners opened Cold-night Shelters throughout the community.

Sheltered: We based the sheltered count on the data in the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS). The data included Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Safe Haven projects. Non-HMIS providers submitted standardized forms to ensure complete coverage. As the HMIS Lead, Changing Homelessness deduplicated the data before analysis.

Unsheltered: This year we used a multi-faceted census tract survey approach. The Outreach team used Street Lens to identify locations. Survey teams utilized the Simtech Counting Us mobile app to survey known locations in Duval County. For the more rural and geographically diverse counties - Baker, Clay and Nassau, we used a stratified random sampling methodology, which considered the likelihood of unsheltered activity, surveying 30-40% of the census tracts.

Participants: More than 90 individuals—including volunteers, case managers, outreach workers, and agency staff—participated in the 2026 count. Many represented local homeless service providers and brought critical experience and insight into the effort.

Data Quality and Submission

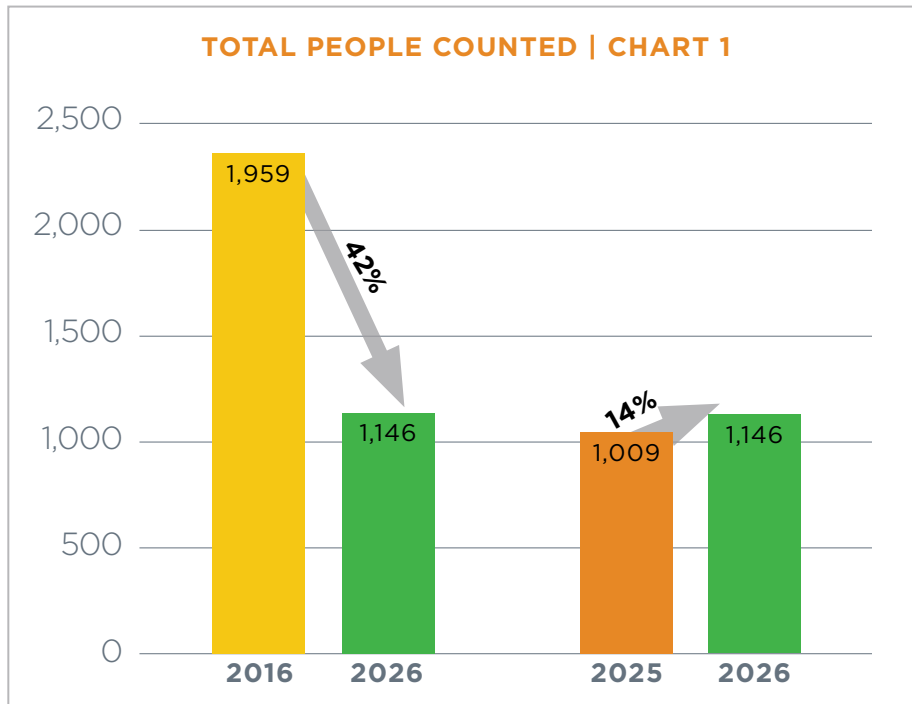
To ensure data quality, volunteers completed training on the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards, trauma-informed engagement, confidentiality, safety and the use of the Counting Us mobile app. During the count, the Command center monitored survey submissions in real time to prevent deduplication, with GPS timestamps used to validate entries. After the count, the data team merged, deduplicated, and weighted the sheltered and unsheltered datasets as appropriate. Once finalized, the data team submitted the requisite reporting to HUD.

Sheltered and Unsheltered: Total Neighbors Counted

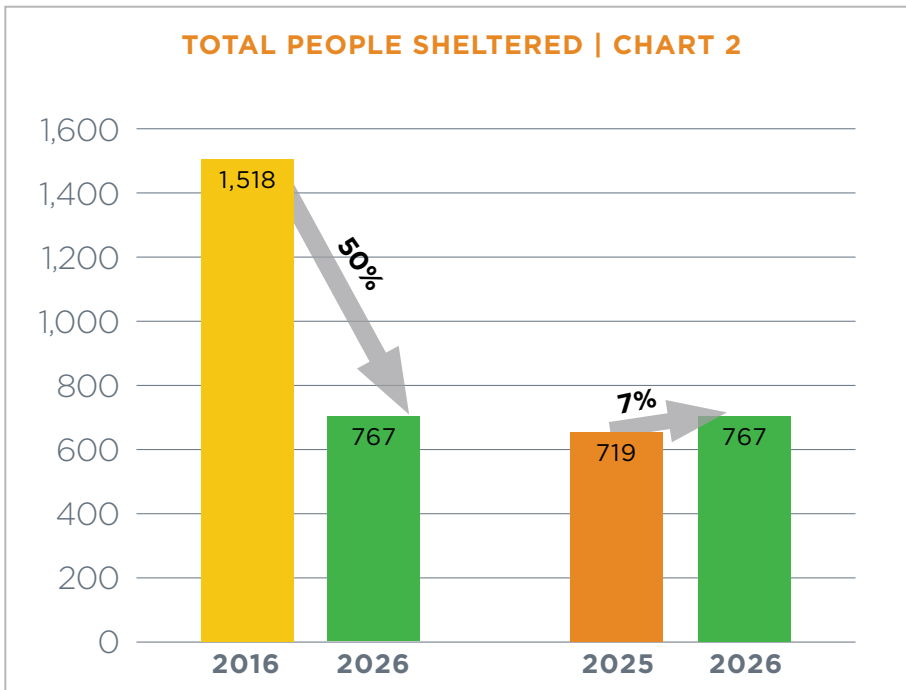
Each year a local group of Point-In-Time experts meet to review and plan for the count. These experts evaluate various community factors to ensure they have designed a responsive count methodology. To view the previous count reports, please visit our [website](#).

The 2026 count report will compare the 10-year trend line, 2016 to 2026, and the year-over-year trend of 2025 to 2026.

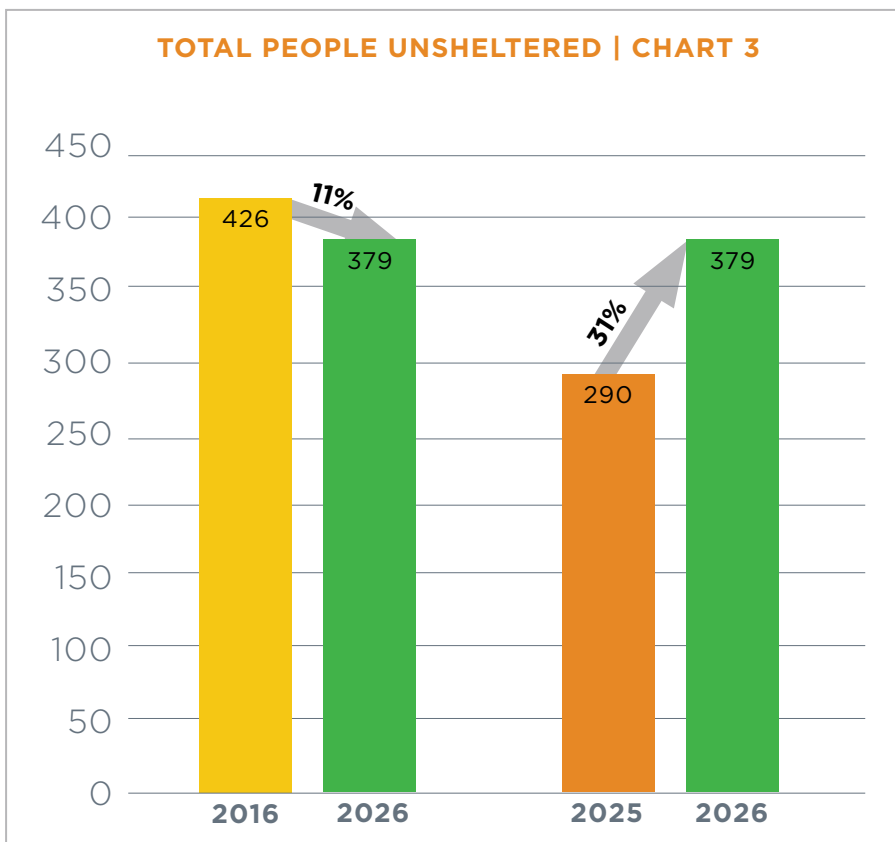
In 2026, the total number of neighbors experiencing homelessness in Northeast Florida **decreased by 42% from 2016 to 2026** and **increased by 14% from 2025 to 2026**.



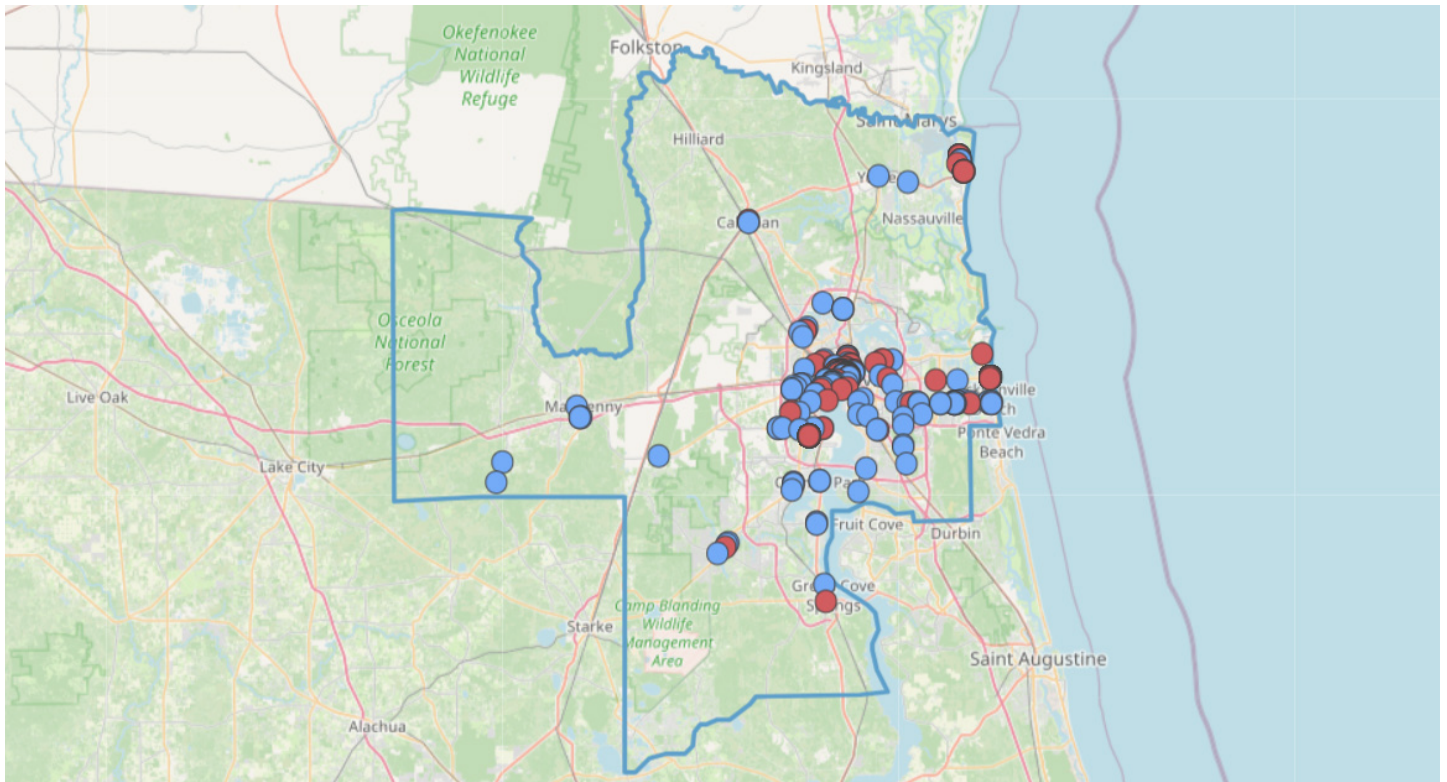
The total number of neighbors residing in a shelter **decreased by 50% from 2016 to 2026** and **increased by 7% from 2025 to 2026**.



The total number of neighbors living unsheltered **decreased by 11% from 2016 to 2026** and **increased by 31% from 2025 to 2026**.



Sheltered and Unsheltered | Baker, Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties

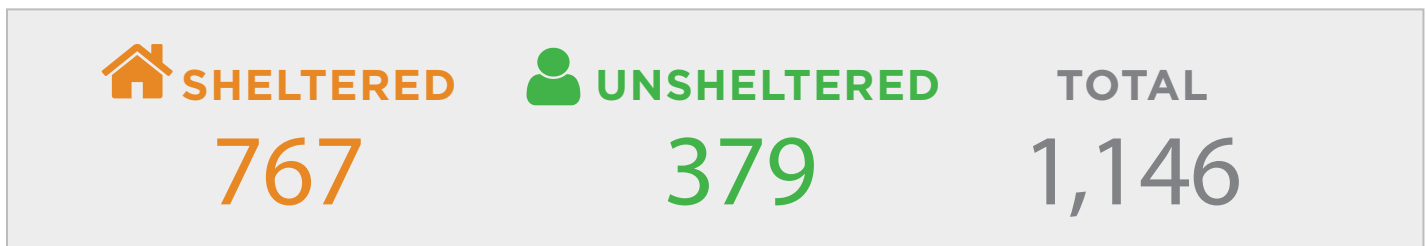


What does it mean to be sheltered? If someone is sheltered, they are residing in an emergency shelter or transitional housing temporarily.

If someone is unsheltered, they are residing in a place not meant for human habitation, such as parks, sidewalks, cars, or abandoned buildings.

Figure 1 shows **67% of the people experiencing homelessness** during the count had some type of shelter as compared to those who were unsheltered.

FIGURE 1: 2026 TOTALS



Working in teams across Baker, Clay, Duval and Nassau counties, **more than 90 staff and volunteers collected** data from people experiencing homelessness for the 2026 count.

FIGURE 2: 2025 AND 2026 PIT COUNT COMPARISON

PERSONS	2025	2026	DIFFERENCE
Sheltered	719	767	48
Unsheltered	290	379	89
TOTALS	1,009	1146	137

While the count identified 1,146 neighbors on a given day, **the 2026 Northeast Florida By-Name-List (BNL) has 2007 individuals and 1201 Households, which represents a 19% decrease in the number of people on the BNL.** These are neighbors we know by name.

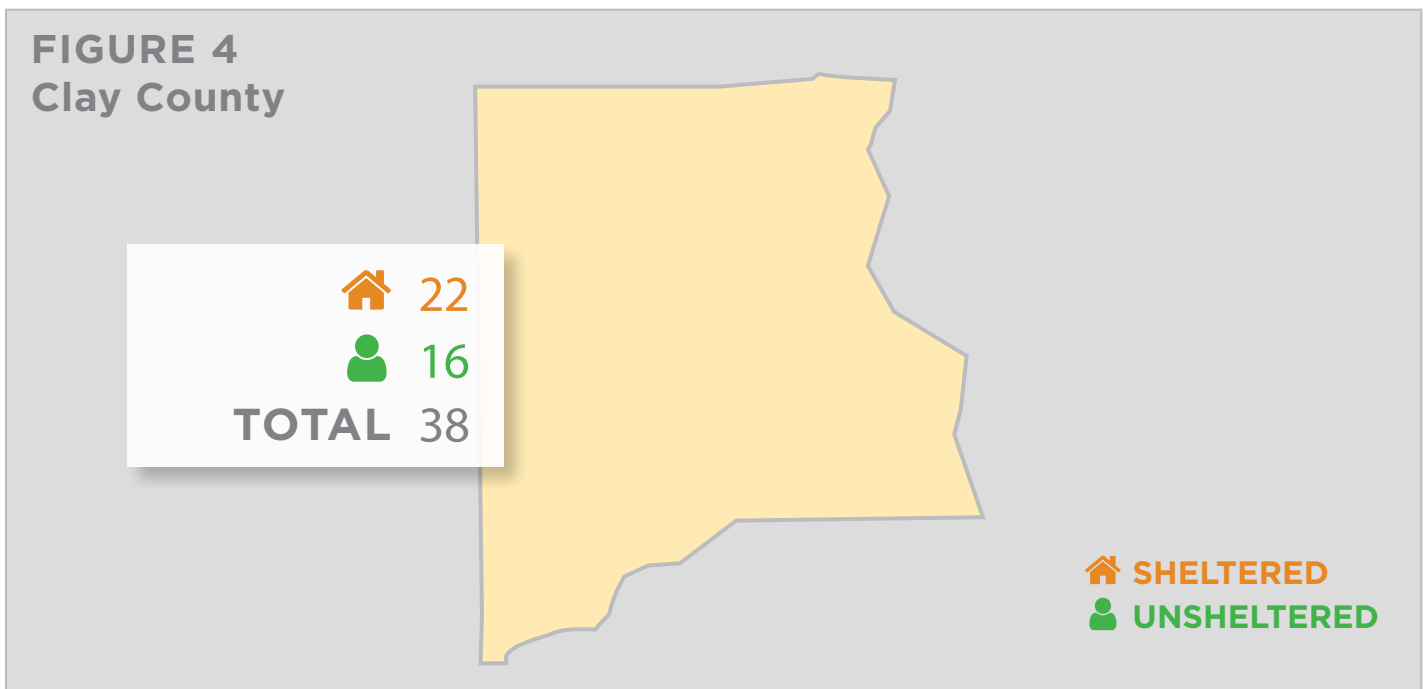
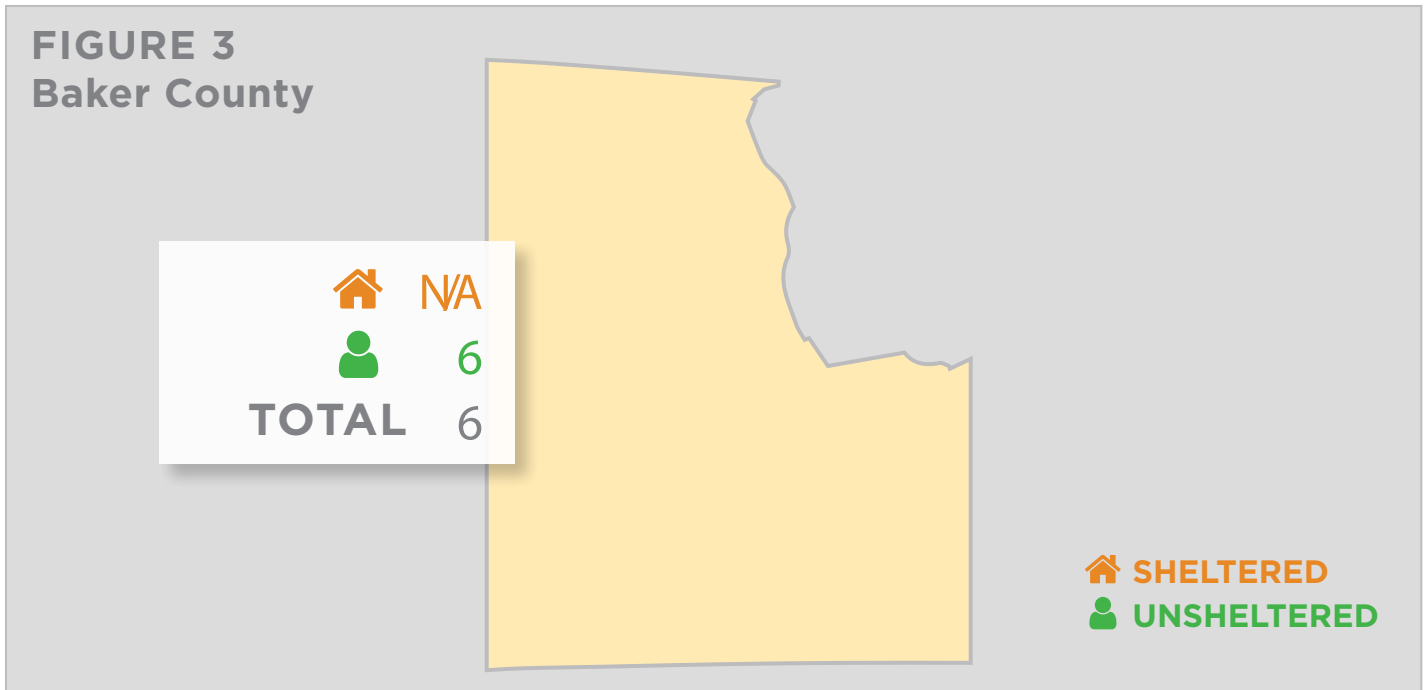
FIGURE 2A: 2025 AND 2026 COMPARISON

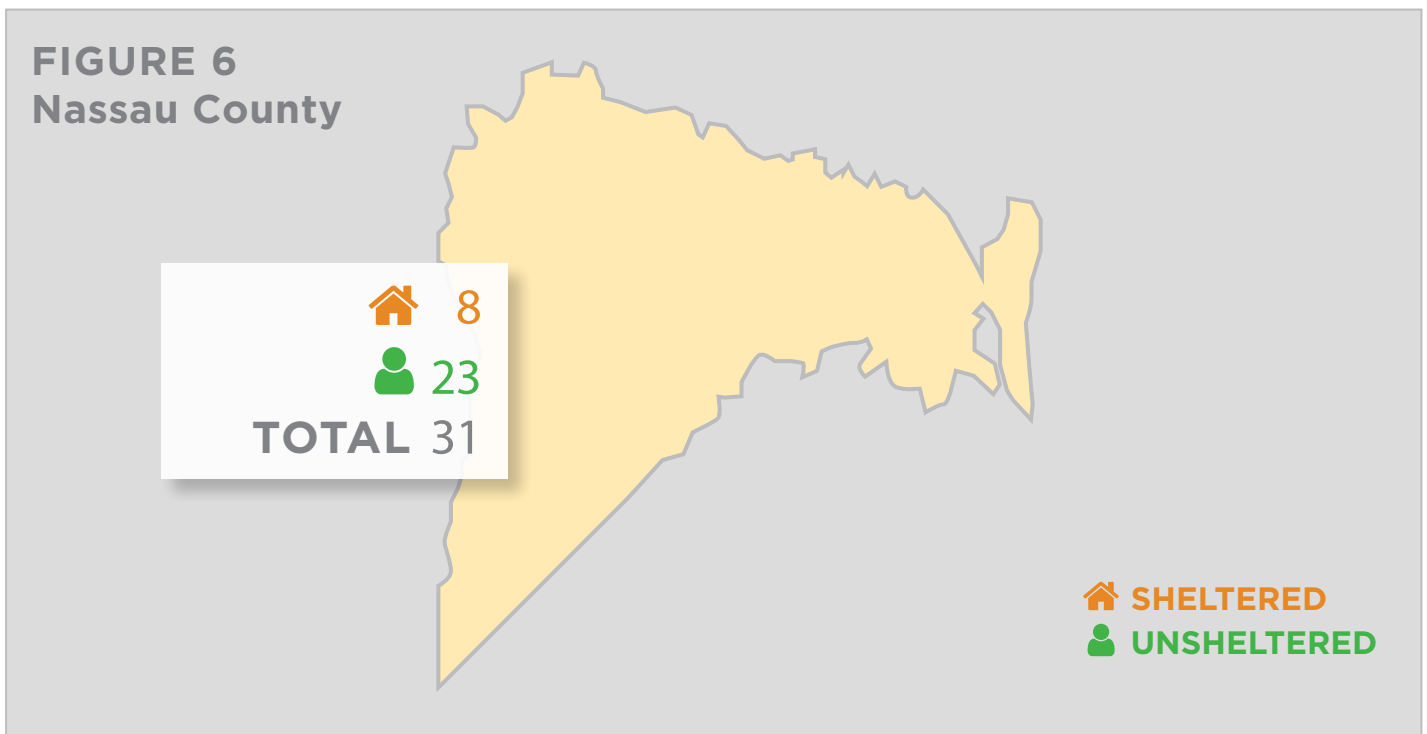
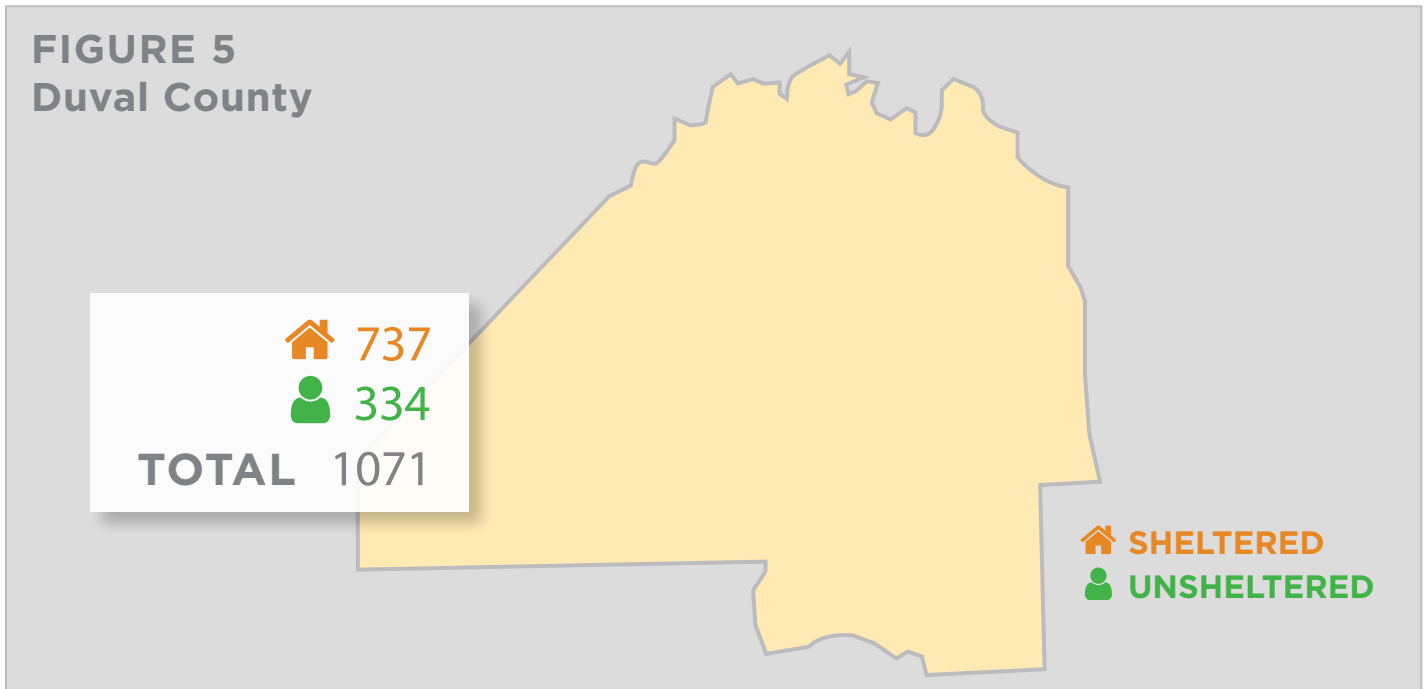
PERSONS	2025	2026	DIFFERENCE
BNY List Individuals	2475	2007	468
BNY List Households	1507	1201	306

Figure 2 compares the sheltered and unsheltered totals for 2025 and 2026 documenting the increases for both categories, with a total increase of 137 people experiencing homelessness. **Figure 2a** shows the BNL List totals for 2025 and 2026 by individuals and Households.



Total Sheltered and Unsheltered by County





Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6 show the number of people that were sheltered and unsheltered as documented in each county within the Northeast Florida Continuum of Care.

SUBPOPULATIONS:

Changing Homelessness reports on our neighbors experiencing homelessness and the various subpopulations:

- Chronic Homelessness ~ our most vulnerable neighbor with a documented disability that has been continuously unhoused for one year or more, or 4+ times within 3-years, totaling 12 months
- Families with children ~ our adult neighbors with one or more children
- Veterans ~ our neighbor with a verified Veterans Administration status
- Youth/Young Adults ~ unaccompanied neighbors 18-24 years old
- Over 55+ ~ our neighbor that is 55-years and older

NEIGHBORS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

During the 2026 PIT count, we identified **92 people** who met the definition of chronic homelessness.

Chronic	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	325	319	327	301	185	*	**88	62	121	140	92

From 2025 to 2026, the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness decreased by 34%. The impact of chronic homelessness is far-reaching and wide-ranging. It can lead to prolonged physical and mental health conditions, including a heightened likelihood of dying on the streets.

FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

During the 2026 PIT count, we identified **68 family households and a total of 198 people**.

Families	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Households	164	135	126	90	185	77	91	90	73	67	68
People	493	425	384	289	370	247	292	276	239	188	198

From 2025 to 2026, the number of Families experiencing homelessness **increased by 1.5%**. In Northeast Florida, Families represent 17% of the total number of persons unhoused, and **7% as the total number of households**. When discussing the reasons for homelessness with our families, they have shared with us that they are struggling to make ends meet in an ever-changing economy. Topping the list are housing costs, medical care and childcare expenses. For our precariously housed and unhoused neighbors, the rising cost of living makes it even harder to cope with unexpected expenses—especially without strong support systems in place.



VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

During the 2026 PIT Count, we identified **109 Veterans**.

Veterans	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	130	125	121	118	181	160	70	102	135	70	109

From 2025 to 2026, the number of Veterans identified during the count increased by 58%. However, the By-Name-List (BNL), maintained by the Veterans Program team is a more accurate number of Veterans experiencing homelessness maintained by the Veterans Program team has decreased by 55% over the past year. The Veterans BNL is a real-time record of every Veteran that has connected with the Northeast Florida team. *It is important to note ~ our community has a robust Supportive Services for Veterans (SSVF) program, dedicated funding and committed partners, which continues to have a positive impact and reflects a best-practice, system of care model.*

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

During the 2026 PIT count, we identified **91 youth/young adults**.

Youth/ Young Adults	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	109	106	132	109	118	42	64	116	134	90	91

Young adults, 18 to 24 years old experiencing homelessness comprised 8% of the total count and increased by 1% from 2025 to 2026. Young adults experiencing homelessness often lack a support system. As a result, they may be more vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and addiction.



OLDER ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 55-YEARS-OLD+

During the 2026 PIT count, we identified **339 older adults**.

Older Adults, 55-years-old+	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
								286	336	243	339

**2021, the first year utilizing a new count methodology and application resulted in invalid data.*

***2022, our community conducted a "sheltered only" count.*

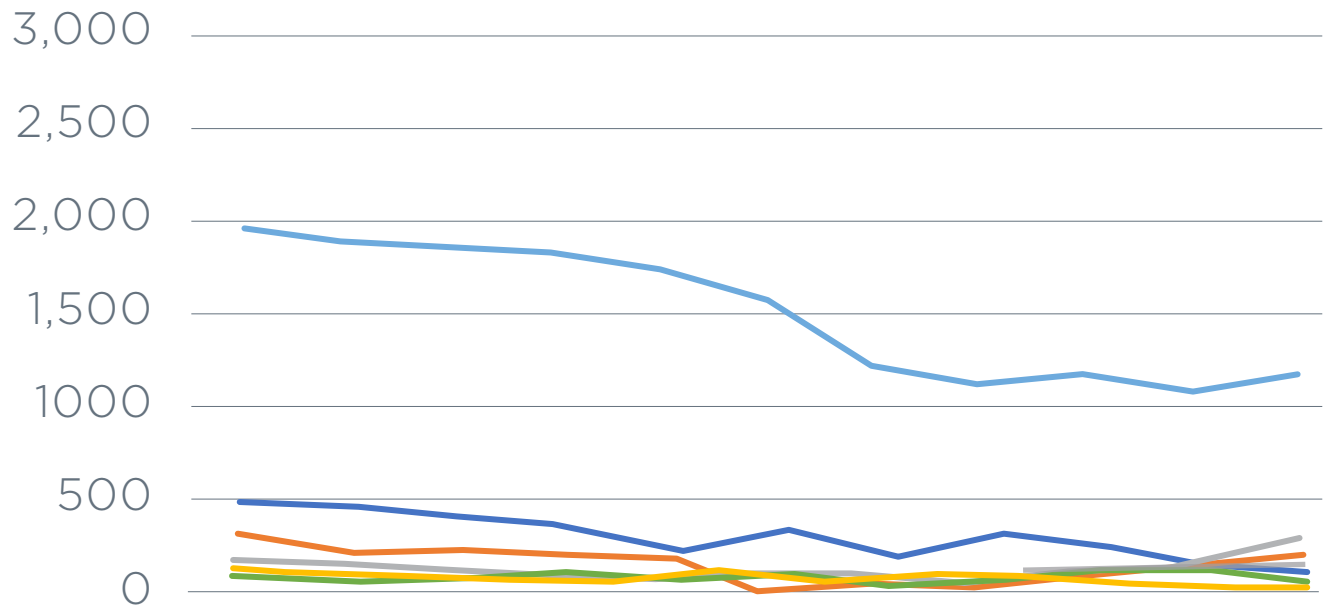
****2021 to 2023, our community utilized various count methodologies, which included no volunteers for several years likely impacting the totals.*

While older adults are a growing population experiencing homelessness in Northeast Florida with 30% of the total count and a 40% increase from 2025 to 2026. This group of individuals are at an increased risk for a range of health and social outcomes, including poor physical and mental health, exposure to violence and exploitation, and lack of adequate social support.



APPENDIX A: Ten Year Trends

YEAR-OVER-YEAR POINT-IN-TIME TOTALS



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total	1,959	1,869	1,794	1,654	1,542	1,222	1,049	1,247	1,345	1,009	1,146
Chronic	325	319	327	301	185	-	88	62	121	140	92
Veterans	130	125	121	118	181	160	70	102	135	70	109
Families (HH)	164	135	126	90	185	77	91	90	73	67	68
Families (People)	493	425	384	289	370	247	292	276	239	188	198
Youth	109	106	132	109	118	42	64	116	134	90	91
Older Adults, 55+								286	336	243	339

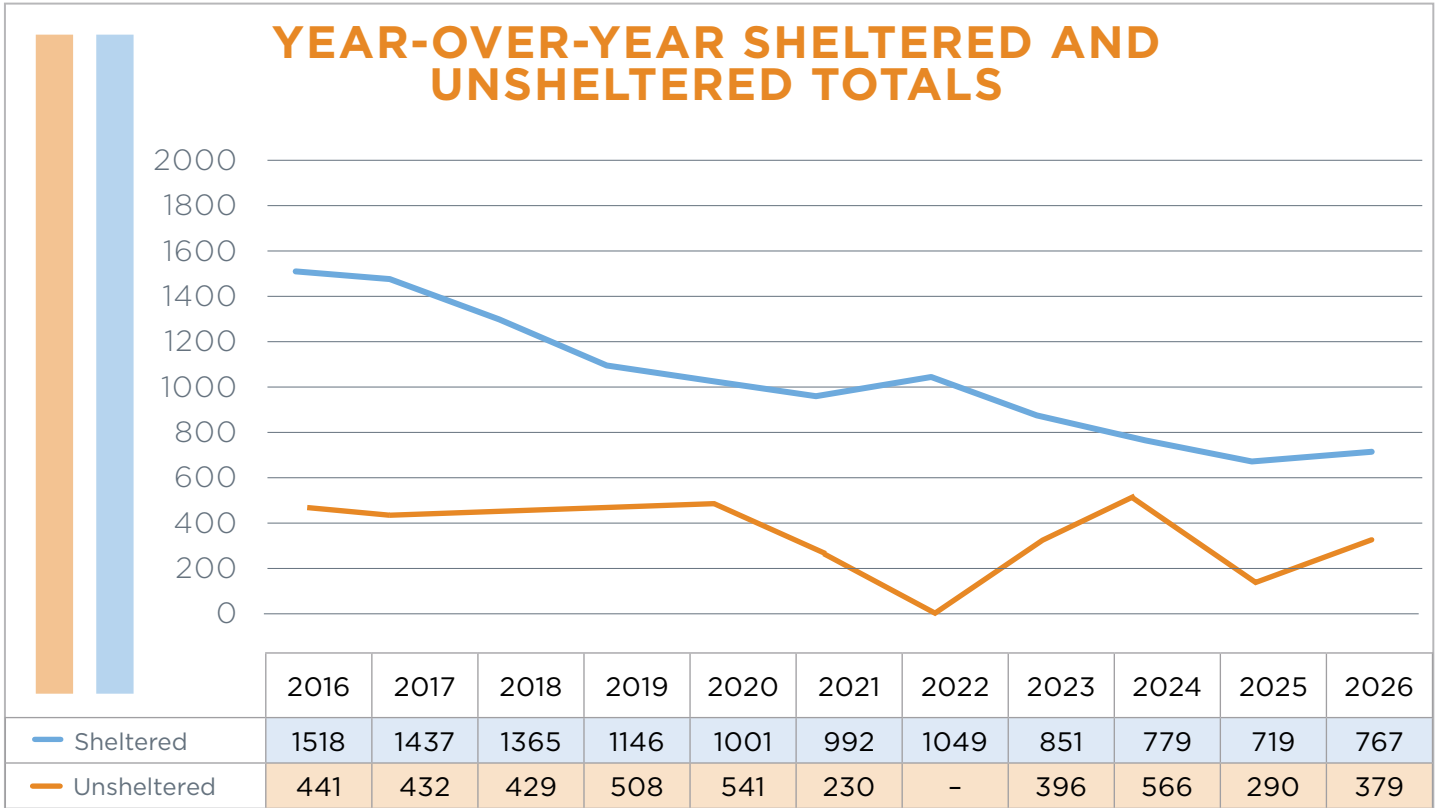
2021 - COVID count, no volunteers and revised count methodology

2022 - "Sheltered only" count

2023 - First count reporting older adults 55+



APPENDIX A: Ten Year Trends (Continued)



2021 - COVID count, no volunteers and revised count methodology

2022 - "Sheltered only" count

APPENDIX B: Governance and Membership

Northeast Florida Continuum of Care Governance Board

CHANGING HOMELESSNESS APPRECIATES THE GUIDANCE OF THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA CONTINUUM OF CARE GOVERNANCE BOARD:

- Rev. Dr. Carlton Jones, Renaissance Design Build Group
- Dr. Jametoria Burton, FSCJ
- David Clark, Downtown Ecumenical Services
- Tom Daly, Klotz Group
- Emma Stewart, Florida Blue
- Nancy Eisele, LSF Health Systems
- Damon Green, Impact Church
- Sara Mitchell, United Community Outreach Ministry
- Bill Rodgers, Veterans Administration
- Joe Wolf, Consultant
- Dr. Pedro Irvin Cohen, LISC

Changing Homelessness Board of Directors

CHANGING HOMELESSNESS ACKNOWLEDGES THE LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Chair - Melissa Lockhart, Business Valuation Inc
- Vice Chair - Stephen Jones, VyStar
- Secretary - Patrick Douglas, Douglas and Douglas Law
- Treasurer - Chris Grippa, Telescope Health
- Dr. Kia Mitchell, MD, Families First Medical Group
- Hon. Sam Newby, Jacksonville City Council (retired)
- Jennifer Krechowski, University of North Florida
- Thomas Novelli, One Call
- William Adams, City of Jacksonville



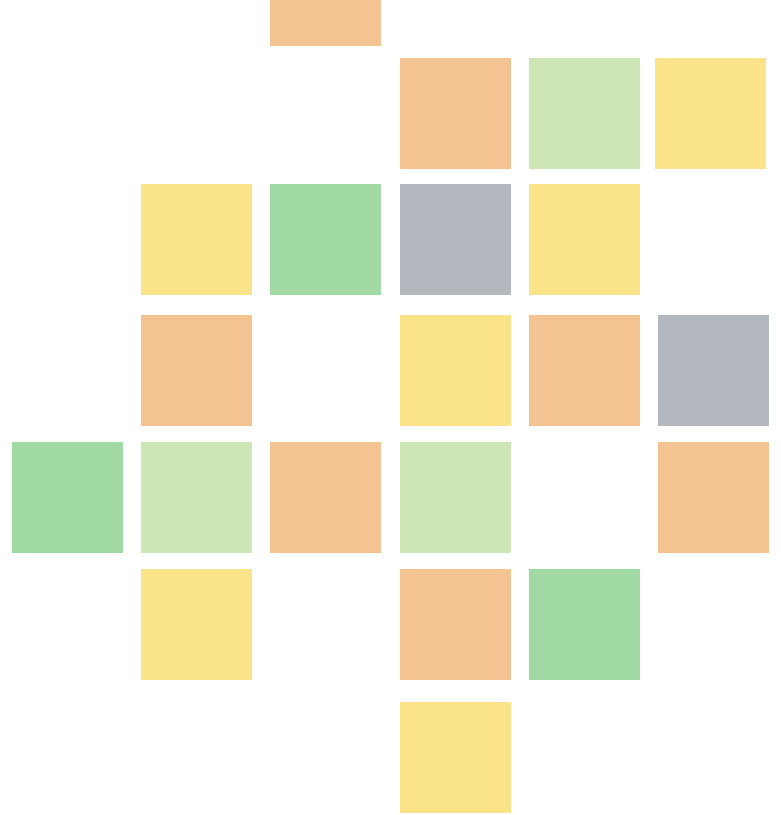
APPENDIX B: Governance and Membership Continued

Northeast Florida Continuum of Care Member Agencies

CHANGING HOMELESSNESS IS GRATEFUL FOR THE HOPE AND COURAGE OF ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO REDUCING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS:

- Ability Housing
- Baptist Health, Jacksonville
- Barnabas House
- BEAM
- Catholic Charities
- City of Jacksonville, Veterans Services
- City Rescue Mission
- Clara White Mission
- Coalition for the Homeless of Nassau
- Crossroads Health and Wellness Clinic
- Daniel Memorial
- Downtown Ecumenical Services Council
- Downtown Vision
- Dreamweek, Inc.
- Duval County Public Schools
- Family Promise of Jacksonville
- Family Support Services
- Five S.T.A.R. Veterans Center Inc.
- Gateway Community Services
- Hubbard House
- Jacksonville Housing Authority
- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
- JASMYN, Inc.
- Jewish Family and Community Services
- Liberty Center
- LISC
- LSF Health Systems
- Lutheran Social Services
- Mental Health Resource Center
- Mercy Network
- Micah's Place
- Mission House
- Presbyterian Social Ministries
- Quality Life Center of Jacksonville
- Quigley House
- Salvation Army
- Sulzbacher Center
- Trinity Rescue Mission
- UF Health - Jacksonville
- United Way of NEFL
- Volunteers of America
- WeCareJax
- Youth Crisis Center

Reoccurring Funders



Continuing Technical Assistance



COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS



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Jacksonville, Florida 32202
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Email: info@changinghomelessness.org

