



**Interagency Council on Homelessness  
2021 Performance Oversight Hearing  
Responses to Questions from the Committee on Human Services**

- 1. Please provide a current organizational chart for the ICH.**
  - a. Please identify the number of full time equivalents (FTEs) at each organizational level and the employee responsible for the management of each program and activity.**

<b>Position: Executive Director</b> (Kristy Greenwalt) FTE: 1
<b>Position: Policy Advisor</b> (Lindsay Curtin) FTE: 1 Focus: Single Adults (including chronically homeless individuals and veterans)
<b>Position: Policy Advisor</b> (Kimberly Waller) FTE: 1 Focus: Unaccompanied Youth and Families

- b. If applicable, please provide a narrative explanation of any organizational changes made during FY20 and FY21 to date.**

At the beginning of FY20, the District was awarded \$4.28 million for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The grant funds are administered through The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP), which serves as DC’s Collaborative Applicant, the entity responsible for preparing the community’s application for HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding and ensuring the jurisdiction meets all CoC program requirements. In early FY21, using YHDP planning funds, TCP hired two youth fellows with lived experience of homelessness to support the implementation of the YHDP grant. One of those fellows works with the ICH. The position is funded through October 2021.

Additionally, in 2020, the ICH added two new consultants focused on special projects, including leading a new ICH Racial Equity and Inclusion Work Group, growing and strengthening the ICH’s framework for obtaining consumer input/feedback on policy and programming, supporting the planning of a streamlined intake system for single adults experiencing homelessness, and advancing regional collaboration through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government’s Homeless Services Subcommittee. One of these positions is funded by The Greater Washington Community Foundation and the other position is funded by TCP. Both of these positions are funded until spring 2021. The ICH will also be onboarding a new macro-social work intern from Howard University in spring 2021.

**2. What are the ICH priorities for FY21? How have such priorities shifted from previous fiscal years?**

With the support of the ICH staff, the ICH Standing Committees typically review progress made on priorities at the end of each calendar year, establish any new objectives, and then update work plans for the year ahead for delivery, review, and approval by the Executive Committee. The work plans help ensure stakeholders have a voice in establishing ICH priorities as well as ensuring partners are aligned and clear on objectives for the year.

During January and February 2020 (as development of *Homeward DC 2.0* was nearing completion ), ICH stakeholders identified new priorities for all ICH Committees for the remainder of FY20 and all of FY21. It is important to note that systems change is a long-term process, which is why the majority of strategies we are working on are multi-year efforts. We may complete one phase of the work in a given year, but rarely is a strategy considered complete. Current priorities include continuing to build on progress in the family system to increase economic security and mobility of families exiting the shelter system and applying lessons learned from the family system as we shift more of our emphasis to the single adult system. There is a lot of work needed in the single adult system including shelter reform, streamlined intake, improved prevention, diversion services, and shifting Permanent Supportive Housing programs to Medicaid billing, just to name a few. These are complex system changes that will take time to address. To review current work plans and priorities, you can visit the ICH website at [https://ich.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ich/event\\_content/attachments/Governance%20Committee%20Priorities\\_2020-05-12.pdf](https://ich.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ich/event_content/attachments/Governance%20Committee%20Priorities_2020-05-12.pdf).

During the first half of 2020, as a result of the ongoing public health crisis, ICH staff shifted focus from strategic planning and systems change to supporting the Department of Human Services (DHS) on operational needs as a result of COVID-19. While systems change continued, the public health crisis did put some projects and strategies temporarily on hold. For instance, while the aforementioned ICH Standing Committee work plans were finalized by each committee by February 2020, the ICH Executive Committee did not formally adopt the plans until May 2020 to allow ICH stakeholders time to understand the impact of the emergency on the work plans while shifting the logistics of ICH decision-making to online/virtual. Beginning in summer 2020, the ICH returned focus to strategic planning and moving *Homeward DC 2.0* forward.

**3. To accomplish the vision of *Homeward DC* and *Solid Foundations DC: Comprehensive Plan to End Youth Homelessness*, a number of District agencies are involved in specific ways. Please outline each agency's role in accomplishing the goals of the plan.**

The *Homeward DC* and *Solid Foundations DC* plans both include over 40 strategies across numerous key objectives. Solving homelessness in our community is not the sole responsibility of one government agency or even the government sector alone. Each strategy identified

typically requires the support and collaboration of multiple partners. The challenges of making a system work effectively arise from programs and services, often operated by different departments, that need to be better aligned and coordinated. For example, different programs may use different or conflicting definitions (often driven by Federal funding sources), have different or conflicting eligibility or documentation requirements, or present unintended barriers for clients, where mitigation actually involves help from another agency (e.g., completion of an application for a housing choice voucher requires identification, which many individuals experiencing homelessness do not have and therefore requires the assistance of the Department of Health and the Department of Motor Vehicles). Therefore, the work of the ICH, and the strategies in the plan, often lie at the intersection of agencies and involve multiple partners.

Both *Homeward DC* and *Solid Foundations DC* outline the key agency partners who play a crucial role in implementing the different strategies and objectives identified in the plans. The soon-to-be-released *Homeward DC 2.0* plan will as well. For a complete list of the strategies and relevant government partners, see Chapter 5 of [Homeward DC](#) and Chapter 4 of [Solid Foundations DC](#).

**4. Please describe ICH’s progress toward the FY21 priorities outlined in last year’s oversight response, including progress made toward implementation outlined in *Homeward DC*, including *Homeward DC 2.0*.**

In September 2019, the ICH published a comprehensive progress report, [Looking Back to Move Forward: Progress and Lessons Learned During the First Four Years of Homeward DC](#). The report details progress on priorities, system-level performance, and key lessons learned. ICH staff have begun collecting essential performance and system data to inform the next progress report (anticipated release of summer 2021). In January, the Strategic Planning Committee began this process by reviewing [system-level performance data](#) for FY20. This report will share updated information about progress on priorities, system-level performance, and key lessons learned, with additional information on the impact of the public health crisis on the homeless services system.

**5. For FY21, the Council funded the fourth year of *Solid Foundations DC: Comprehensive Plan to End Youth Homelessness*. Please outline the implementation benchmarks that have been achieved for the following periods:**

- a. FY20;
- b. FY21 to date; and
- c. Any plans outlined for the balance of FY21.

Since the launch of *Solid Foundations DC*, the landscape in the District around homeless services for unaccompanied youth looks dramatically different. Building on the work of prior years, resources allocated in the FY20 and FY21 budgets allowed us to create additional shelter beds needed to ensure a more immediate connection for youth seeking a safe place to sleep, expand transitional housing and extended transitional housing capacity for young adults experiencing homelessness, and increase housing options for LGBTQ+ identifying young adults.

In addition to the programs funded with local youth homelessness dollars, the District recently released two solicitations through the YHDP to help supplement resources on the local level. As previously discussed, the District applied for and received an additional \$4.28 million to support implementation of *Solid Foundations DC*. Planning for the use of these new funds has been a key priority over the last year and will continue to be a major focus of the youth system over the coming year.

In early 2020, the ICH Youth Committee identified priority strategies for the remainder of FY20 and the entirety of FY21. To review ICH Youth Committee priorities, you can visit the ICH website at [https://ich.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ich/event\\_content/attachments/Governance%20Committee%20Priorities\\_2020-05-12.pdf](https://ich.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ich/event_content/attachments/Governance%20Committee%20Priorities_2020-05-12.pdf). The ICH Youth Committee has successfully moved numerous priority projects over the past year. The following examples outline some of the key accomplishments achieved:

- In June 2020, the ICH, TCP, and the DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) finalized a data sharing agreement to conduct a one-time historical/retrospective data match of youth in the homeless services system with those who had previously been under CFSA jurisdiction. The agreement also establishes an on-going bi-directional data sharing agreement to better understand the needs of youth at the intersection of these two systems to better target and allocate resources. TCP, ICH, and CFSA are currently analyzing the historical data. Results will be shared with the ICH Youth Committee in summer 2021.
- In October 2020, HUD approved the youth system's YHDP [\*Coordinated Community Plan\*](#), a key threshold to achieve in order to gain access to the \$4.28 million funding. With *Solid Foundations DC* at (approximately) its halfway point of implementation, the District's *Coordinated Community Plan* serves as a progress update to the plan – building on successes and lessons learned from the first few years of implementation, identifying funding and resource gaps, and charting a path forward for the remaining years of *Solid Foundations DC*.
- In January 2021, the ICH, DHS, and TCP, in coordination with the District's YHDP Technical Assistance provider, launched a Youth Rapid Rehousing System Planning and Policy Development project, where youth with lived experience of homelessness Youth RRH providers, TCP, DHS, and ICH work together to identify best practices and areas to improve and align services for current Youth RRH providers and to support new Youth RRH programs that come online.

**6. Please state and describe all (if any) priorities of *Solid Foundations DC: Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness* that were met in 2020 and 2021 to date.**

Please see response to Question 5 for information on priorities achieved in 2019 and FY20 to date.

**7. From September 18, to September 26, 2020, the ICH completed its annual Youth Count. It has been three years since the count methodology was changed in 2018. What if any adjustments in the *Solid Foundations* priorities need to be made on the most recent data?**

The ICH works closely with TCP and DHS on the annual Homeless Youth Census (HYC) to ensure we are collecting the data needed to implement *Solid Foundations DC*. As a result of the public health emergency, this year’s HYC looked different than prior years. The HYC questionnaire was shifted to an App-based survey, similar to the one used for the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count. This change had been planned pre-COVID-19. However, in order to support safety and social distancing during the emergency, the questionnaire was self-administered, meaning youth filled out the questions on the App themselves. This is a significant change from our previous methodology where surveyors asked youth the questions in person. Youth drop-in centers, shelters, and other providers supported access to technology when necessary and paper surveys were available in the event that technology could not be accessed or was not working correctly.

The results of the 2020 HYC are still being analyzed, including implications and lessons learned from using this methodology, and will be presented to the ICH Youth Committee meeting in March 2021. Because of the change in methodology, it is important to note that the 2020 HYC results will require a caveat explaining the challenges faced conducting a survey of this magnitude during a public health crisis and provide cautionary guidance regarding the interpretations of the results, which may not be comparable to prior or future years. Results from the last years are summarized below.

<b>Homeless Youth Census 2019 – 2018 Changes</b>			
	<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>Total 2018</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
<b>All Persons</b>			
<b>All Persons</b>	<b>1306</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>
<b>Household Composition</b>			
<b>Singles</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>-5.1%</b>
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	689	712	-3.2%

<i>Unaccompanied Minors (Under 18)</i>	53	70	-24.3%
<b>Family Heads of Household</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	556	534	4.1%
<i>Minors (Under 18)</i>	8	12	-33.3%

As discussed last year, despite some fluctuations to the overall total, the trends within the data (e.g., characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness, key causes) have remained largely consistent. We will need to closely track trends resulting from the public health emergency and its impact on youth experiencing homelessness. These trends may impact future priorities in the youth system but for now, we will continue efforts to scale programming, align policy across the system, ensure more effective transitions between programs (and systems), and enhance needed supports – especially around education, employment, and health.

**8. Please describe how the ICH is partnering with youth-serving government agencies (DYRS, MPD, CFSA, etc.) to prevent youth homelessness.**

As discussed throughout Solid Foundations DC, youth who are involved in other systems, like the criminal legal system, the juvenile legal system, or the child welfare system, are at a greater risk of experiencing homelessness.

Accordingly, the ICH has designated nine seats for government partner participation on the ICH Youth Committee, including: DHS, DBH, CFSA, DYRS, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs (MOLGBTQ), and our Federal Collaborative Applicant (TCP). These partner agencies play a critical role in expanding homelessness prevention efforts, assisting with outreach to and identification of youth experiencing homelessness, and providing resources to ensure youth have access to education, employment, and permanent connections.

**9. How is the District serving LGBTQ or undocumented youth experiencing homelessness, and how is the ICH working with other jurisdictions to encourage similar programs throughout the region?**

As discussed in previous responses, a core component of Solid Foundations DC has been the institution of an annual youth census – similar in function to our annual Point in Time (PIT) count, but administered differently to better account for the way in which youth homelessness

manifests. The data gathered through the census improves our understanding of the magnitude and needs of all vulnerable youth in the District, including LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness as well as undocumented youth.

This data helps guide resource allocation and better target interventions to youth in our community. For example, the District has added dedicated programming for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness, though our overarching objective is to ensure that all providers are culturally competent and able to serve the needs of any and all youth in need of assistance.

Additionally, there are a variety of ways the District's homeless services system works to serve undocumented individuals more effectively. Many providers in the District's CoC have bilingual staff and all are trained on the language access line. Homeless services providers are offered access to a variety of trainings, including cultural competency, trauma-informed care, and other topics that train staff on how to ensure all individuals feel safe and welcome.

With regard to regional efforts, the ICH has been working in partnership with staff from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) to share information and identify opportunities for collaboration with our regional partners. Additional information regarding regional collaboration are discussed under Question 17 below.

**10. Please share the ICH observations regarding homelessness among youth headed households and what interventions are being offered to address this need.**

Pregnancy and parenthood are common occurrences among young people experiencing homelessness. Parenting youth under the age of 25 constitute approximately one-quarter of the households in the District's family system, and the 2019 Homeless Youth Census identified 564 youth heads of household experiencing homelessness in the District. It is important that the family system be designed and positioned to quickly respond to the needs of young mothers and fathers. Many young parents have little or no experience living independently, and they may also be struggling with being a first-time parent. Young parents experiencing homelessness may have also experienced family conflict related to the pregnancy, leading to a breakdown in support networks.

For all these reasons, successfully stabilizing young families is not just about providing re-housing assistance, but basic life skills, parenting support, and connections to (or development of) support networks as well. Given the unique needs of youth headed households, Homeward DC 2.0 includes specific strategies designed to ensure youth-headed families are connected to developmentally-appropriate resources that are tailored for their unique needs. To jumpstart implementation of these strategies, the ICH launched a Youth Head of Household (YHOH) Special Project Team in December 2020 to begin researching and identifying best practices for this population.

**11. Please provide observations on the issue of youth aging out of care (both youth shelter and CFSA placements) and soon after experiencing homelessness.**

- a. **Are you aware of any trends that this issue is improving or getting worse?**
- b. **What steps are being taken to ensure youth aging out of care do not enter the homeless services continuum of care?**

We know from national and local data that youth aging out of foster care are at an increased risk of experiencing homelessness and housing instability. The 2019 HYC found that, of the youth counted, about 30% had a lifetime experience with child welfare, and of those who had a lifetime experience with that system, well over 60% of youth who exited child welfare experienced housing problems immediately after exit.

DC's youth homelessness system has developed close partnerships with the District's child welfare agency to ensure adequate transition planning for those exiting foster care. CFSA's written policy for Older Youth Services clarifies that transition planning for youth begins at age 14 when regular planning meetings are held every six months until the age of 20. At age 20, transition planning is increased to every 90 days and once a month for the last 3 months.

CFSA also supports numerous housing programs specifically focused on youth who have aged out of the foster care system – two programs for pregnant and parenting youth aging out of care and one transitional housing program for youth aging out of care who require supportive services to stabilize them in a community environment. CFSA also funds the Rapid Housing Assistance Program (RHAP) to provide short term rental assistance to allow youth transitioning from foster care (or former foster youth) to establish a stable place to live after exit. These resources are crucial to ensuring young adults exiting CFSA who may need support beyond age 21 have housing resources that ensure they do not enter the homeless services system, where they may not be able to immediately access housing due to resource scarcity.

Lastly, as previously discussed under Question 5, the District recently finalized a data sharing agreement between CFSA, TCP, and ICH to conduct a historical data analysis to better understand the numbers of youth who have prior CFSA involvement and who also access the youth homeless services system. The agreement also initiates an ongoing bi-directional data sharing process to better plan for youth who will exit care with unstable housing as well as ensure CFSA is knowledgeable of all young people who are no longer in their jurisdiction but who experience homelessness.

**12. Please provide an update on how the ICH facilitates the partnership between the D.C. Housing Authority and the Department of Human Services with respect to administering housing subsidies for Permanent Supportive Housing and Targeted Affordable Housing:**

DHS and the D.C. Housing Authority (DCHA) have seats on a number of committees working on implementation of different pieces of the Homeward DC plan, including the Strategic Planning, Housing Solutions, and Executive Committees. These committees each have a multitude of responsibilities that require a close partnership between DHS and DCHA. Internally, DHS and DCHA have been working together on improving the administration of housing subsidies associated with our Permanent Supportive Housing and Targeted Affordable Housing programs.

- a. **How many pre-inspections of units were conducted in FY20 and FY21 to date?**
  - As an operational issue (vs a strategic planning/policy issue), the ICH does not have access to data on this topic; DHS or DCHA may be able to provide more information.
- b. **What is the average approval timeline for administering subsidies for Permanent Supportive Housing and Targeted Affordable Housing?**
  - As an operational issue (vs a strategic planning/policy issue), the ICH does not have access to data on this topic; DHS and DCHA track approval timelines for administering Permanent Supportive Housing and Targeted Affordable Housing and that data is maintained by each of those agencies independently.

**13. Please describe the work ICH is doing to improve landlord engagement. Please provide data including, but not limited to, the following:**

A number of steps have been taken over the past few years to bolster landlord engagement in CoC programs. The ICH received philanthropic funding in FY18 to hire a consultant to assist with the development of a systemwide framework/strategy for landlord engagement and recruitment. The consultant resources were exhausted in December 2018, and project management and implementation of the initiative shifted to TCP and DHS.

As discussed in previous years, the Landlord Partnership Fund was launched in early FY18 to incentivize landlords to relax their screening criteria and accept clients exiting homelessness. The Landlord Partnership Fund was developed in partnership with the Downtown DC Business Improvement District and the Coalition for Non-Profit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED) and is being administered by CNHED.

In addition to the launch of the Fund, the interagency team identified a number of other priorities as part of our framework, including development of a common landlord leasing package, development of a centralized housing navigator team, development of a Central Unit Repository (CUR), and creation of a landlord advisory group to provide input/feedback on the homeless service system's programming and services.

In 2020, the standard leasing package was launched, as was the creation of the landlord advisory group. Work on the CUR and centralized housing navigator team was delayed because of the public health emergency. DHS would have more insight on these issues.

- a. **Number of Landlords Engaged**
- b. **Number of units committed by landlords engaged;**
- c. **Average size of engaged units;**
- d. **Average rental cost of units; and**

**e. Number of units for which a lease has been signed by a tenant in FY20 and FY21 to date.**

The above are data points we will be able to capture specifically for clients served through the homeless services system once DHS has developed the CUR. In the meantime, DHCA would be the best source of this information for the District's broader voucher portfolio.

**14. Please describe ICH's role and any progress toward reducing barriers to housing such as reliance on credit checks, criminal history checks, furnishing and rental histories.**

There are a number of barriers – some administrative, some market-driven, and others related to racism and discrimination – that are experienced by individuals moving into housing. Finding ways to reduce barriers and expedite the housing search and lease up process is a critical and ongoing piece of our work.

Building on work discussed in previous years (including efforts to improve access to identification documents, streamline housing application paperwork requirements, and secure philanthropic flexible funding for providers to support one-time needs like out-of-state birth certificates), additional measures were taken in 2020 in light of the public health emergency. For example, due to the closure of many in-person service centers due to COVID, the ICH worked with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and DHS to develop a virtual process for case managers to assist residents experiencing homelessness to obtain an ID. The ICH also collaborated with the Department of Health (DC Health), creating a similar virtual process for individuals experiencing homelessness who needed birth certificates to expedite their housing process. ICH and DHS also provided training to housing providers on alternate documentation that could be used to satisfy DCHA application requirements in instances clients could not gain access to certain forms of identification.

**15. How many DC residents are at risk of entering the homeless services continuum once the current eviction moratorium is lifted?**

- a. What is the basis for this number?**
- b. What strategies do you support for counteracting the potential eviction crisis?**

While there has long existed a significant, unmet need for rental assistance for low-income households to ameliorate rent burden, address overcrowding, and prevent inflow into the homeless service systems, the economic impacts of the public health emergency have surely exacerbated the situation. Using data from the Census Household Pulse Survey, approximately 40,000 District households with a recent loss of income have rental arrears, and approximately 30,000 households in this group have incomes below \$75,000.

Because the funding we are working with is one-time funding, the most important strategy is the provision of emergency assistance to cover rental and utility arrears – and forward rent, until the economy has more fully recovered and people are able to obtain employment again – to prevent eviction and increased inflow into the homeless services system. While many

households have lost income over the past year, it will be critically important that we identify strategies to reach households at greatest risk of eviction and homelessness – including those with little or no assets or savings, weaker support networks, and weaker labor force attachment. These are generally households that struggled prior to the pandemic, have the fewest options to pay down accumulating debt, and may struggle the most to regain employment, even as the larger economy begins to recover.

**16. The federal government is said to be providing the District with approximately \$200 million for rental assistance. Based on your current understanding of the federal rules around its use as well as your knowledge of where the greatest need is, please explain how these funds would be best targeted?**

\$200M is a significant amount of funding and will go a long way to meeting the needs of the households in the District impacted by the pandemic and at risk of eviction. Relative to discussions in the summer and fall of 2020, the question now is less about how to best target limited resources and more about how we design our programming and administer funds to get resources out quickly while simultaneously acknowledging and planning for the unique needs of our most vulnerable households.

The Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program guidance issued by the Trump Administration is quite restrictive in many ways (documentation and reporting requirements, timeline for expenditure, etc.). While we anticipate that the Biden Administration will be providing updated guidance, there are currently a number of uncertainties.

One major area of concern for the ICH is that many of the households at greatest risk of experiencing homelessness have already been pushed out of traditional housing arrangements, and the pandemic has surely increased the number of households in informal arrangements. For example, according to our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data and our [2019 PIT Plus Survey](#), the majority of single adults entering the District’s homeless services system do not enter directly from a rental housing situation. Most attempt a variety of arrangements (e.g., staying with friends/family, short-term rentals, hotels) before eventually running out of options and seeking shelter. According to the 2018 PIT Plus Survey, only 18% of respondents indicated an eviction led to their current episode of homelessness.

Corroborating this point, cities that have had fewer renter protections in place during the pandemic provide strong evidence of the need to pay attention to these informal housing arrangements. For example, Seattle has seen an increase in evictions for “unauthorized occupants” as households double-up in order to make rent (i.e., renting out a bedroom). Likewise, San Jose reports that it has distributed 40% of its rental relief to households without a traditional lease agreement.<sup>1</sup> If our local rental assistance program is designed only to get

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<sup>1</sup> The New York Times. “Pandemic’s Toll on Housing: Falling Behind, Doubling Up.” February 6, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/06/business/economy/housing-insecurity.html?referringSource=articleShare>

assistance to registered landlords on behalf of households with standard lease agreements and clear documentation of arrears, we may miss many of our most vulnerable households.

**17. How will the work that the ICH is doing at the Metro Washington Regional Council of Governments impact the District's ability to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring?**

It is still unclear. In the fall of 2020, the members of the MWCOG Human Services Committee began work to identify a number of action items to support improved coordination of homeless services in the region. A [resolution](#) outlining these items was adopted by the committee in January.

The District has a keen interest in improving regional collaboration. According to the District's HMIS and PIT data, the District – the only jurisdiction in the region with a right to shelter law – sees significant inflow into its shelter system from surrounding jurisdictions (particularly within the subsystem serving single adults). According to a [2018 Inflow Analysis](#), approximately one quarter of individuals entering the District's shelter were coming from MD, VA, or another state. Among individuals experiencing first-time homelessness, the percentage is even higher (approximately 45%). A similar finding was revealed during a special supplemental survey conducted as part of our 2019 Point in Time Count (i.e., [the PIT Plus](#)). The challenge for the District – and even more so for the individuals entering our shelter system – is that the District does not have adequate housing resources to serve the volume of people flowing into our system each year. Further, the bulk of investments in our homeless services system are local dollars (vs federal) – and the local dollars cannot be used to rehouse individuals outside of the District, even when someone may want to return to their home jurisdiction to be closer to support networks or to access more affordable housing options.

The COG's Homeless Services Subcommittee, responsible for advancing the projects outlined in the resolution, formed work groups in December to jumpstart the work. The District has offered staff time to support this work, but to date, we are having difficulty getting sustained participation from other jurisdictions. To incentivize greater participation, the ICH has been talking to the [Partnership to End Homelessness](#) board about the possibility of funding a specific pilot project. We will be happy to provide updates as more information is available.