



Prince William County and the  
Cities of Manassas & Manassas Park



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## PRINCE WILLIAM CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) TIMELINE

**2006**

The CoC was operating prior to 2006, led by a group of nonprofits serving the homeless population.

**2010**

10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, 2010 to 2020.

**2015**

Board of County Supervisors adopts a plan to reduce homelessness as part of the County's Strategic Plan.

**2016**

The CoC, as we know it today, begins operating in June with an established Governance Committee, adopted by-laws and CoC committees.

Marbut Report is completed in July, providing a number of recommendations, including restructuring the CoC.

Homegrown Survey Report is completed showing that most of the clients served in PWC grew up and/or live in the community.

**2017**

The CoC adopts an HMIS Governance Charter.

**2018**

The Prince William County Department of Social Services establishes the Homeless Services Division in January.

The Coordinated Entry System (CES) goes live in March with a unified hotline number to prevent homelessness when possible.

**2019**

The CoC establishes program measures for emergency shelter, rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing programs.

**2020**

The CoC establishes a Financial Report to track federal and state grant funding.

Ferlazzo overnight shelter becomes "year-round" shelter.

COVID (CHERP) funding increases inventory and services.

**2021**

Supportive Shelter begins operations.

**2022**

Partnership with APS/CPS for hotel/motel shelter increases shelter inventory.

**2023**

Domestic Violence bonus project (RRH) launches.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary .....	1
Who We Are .....	2
Who We Serve .....	3
Our Commitment to Service .....	6
Achievements & Successes.....	8
Success Stories.....	9
How to Help.....	10
Meet Our Members .....	11

“

*This program has given me a better start to life,  
and I will do my diligent part to achieve my goal  
by using this program to my best abilities.*

-CoC client

”

July 1, 2024

Dear Prince William Area Residents,

This report provides data about people experiencing homelessness (adults and children) in the three jurisdictions comprising the Prince William Area (PWA), based on available data sources. The literally homeless<sup>1</sup> population increased by six percent from 2023 to 2024. The number of people in sheltered situations increased by one percent and the number of people experiencing homelessness increased by 22 percent.

A key to addressing people experiencing a housing crisis is to have a response system that does two things well:

- (1) prevent homelessness, when possible, to keep people in their current housing and
- (2) reduce the amount of time one is homeless by connecting people to permanent housing options and other stabilizing services.

The housing costs in the Northern Virginia area have substantially increased which has made it harder to find safe, affordable housing for the households served. By increasing opportunities for job training and employment, we can improve clients' income, which can assist them towards self-sufficiency. Additionally, where there are prospects to keep people in housing, the prevention system must make every effort to sustain households in their existing housing.

To continue the process of minimizing homelessness, the PWA Continuum of Care (CoC) advocates for strengthening the current system by:

- Expanding housing options via affordable housing programs and ongoing rental subsidies;
- Increasing funding to address the prevention of people becoming homeless;
- Expanding existing employment and training opportunities that forge organizational collaboration and combine those services with housing solutions; and
- Expanding supportive services to households that need help to retain current housing

The CoC demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic that with additional resources, addressing immediate needs and ending a person's housing crisis is possible. The PWA CoC will continue to identify financial resources at the federal, state and local levels to continue to reduce homelessness in the Prince William Area.

Thank you for your support,



Elijah Johnson  
Prince William County Deputy County Executive  
Chair, PWA CoC Governance Committee

.....  
1. Literally Homeless: Persons sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional housing or places not meant for human habitation.

## Our Mission Statement

To promote a community-wide commitment to preventing and ending homelessness in the Prince William Area.

## Who Is Involved

It is a public-private partnership that includes non-profit organizations, faith organizations, residents, businesses and the local governments from Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.


## Our Service Area

The CoC serves Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.




## What is a Continuum of Care?

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximize self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness. HUD identifies the four necessary parts of a continuum as:




**PART I: OUTREACH, INTAKE & ASSESSMENT**

Identifies service and housing needs and provides a link to the appropriate level of both.



**PART II: EMERGENCY SHELTER**

Provides an immediate and safe alternative to sleeping on the streets, especially for homeless families with children.



**PART III: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING WITH SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

Allows for the development of skills that will be needed once one is permanently housed.



**PART IV: PERMANENT & PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Provides individuals and families with an affordable place to live with services, if needed.

## What is Homelessness?

Homelessness is defined in several ways and has many, often inter-linked, root causes. Homelessness does not discriminate and can be experienced by anyone regardless of their age, gender, race, lifestyle or background.

Most of the CoC's programs prioritize services for persons that are literally homeless, which includes those living in emergency shelter and places not meant for habitation, such as their vehicle or anywhere outside.

## What Does Homelessness Look Like in the Prince William Area?

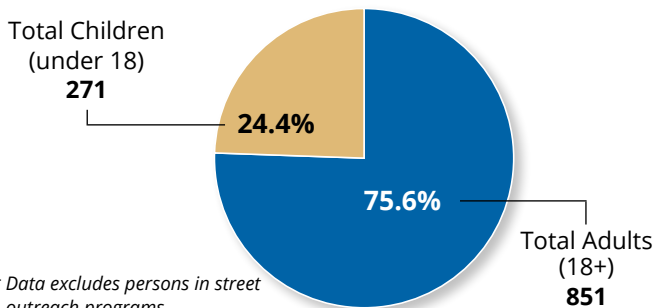
This section will provide information on all people served in emergency shelter, permanent housing and transitional housing programs for the federal fiscal year (FFY23), 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2023<sup>1</sup>.

## Unsheltered Homelessness

This section provides information gained during the annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (i.e., persons living in places not meant for human habitation).

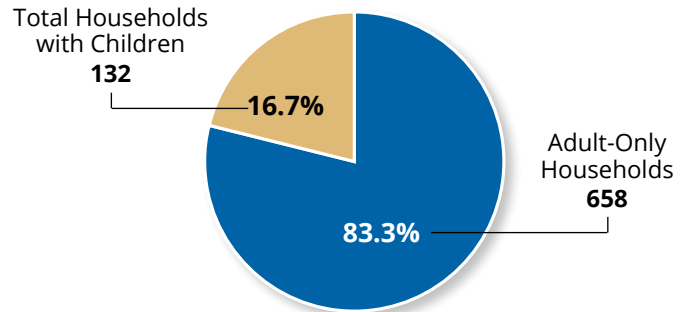
### Persons and Households Served

#### Total Persons Served - 1,122\*

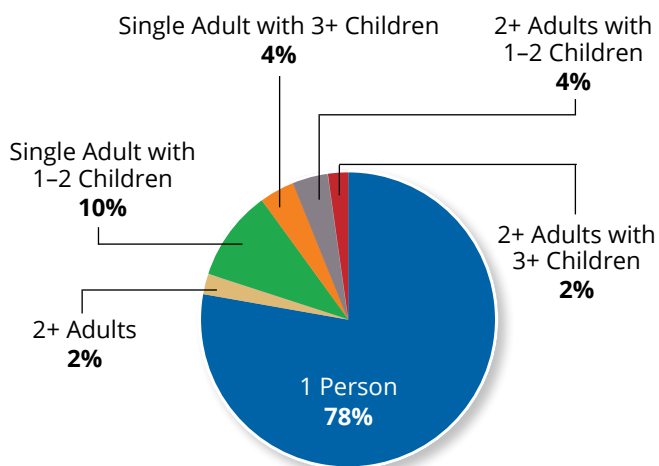


\* Data excludes persons in street outreach programs.

#### Total Households Served - 790



### Household Composition

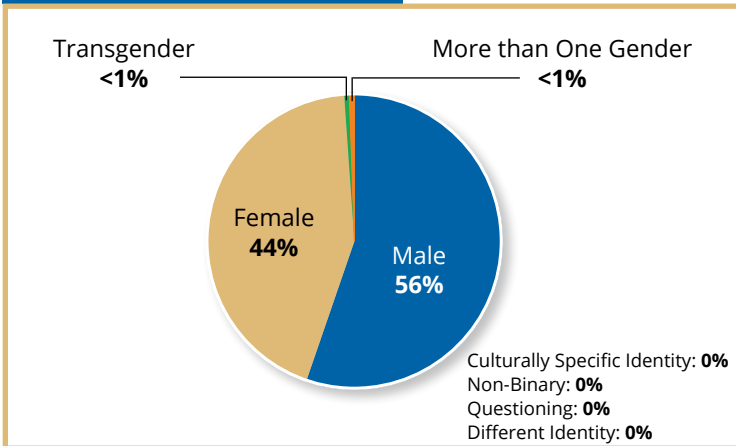


### Race & Ethnicity of Adults

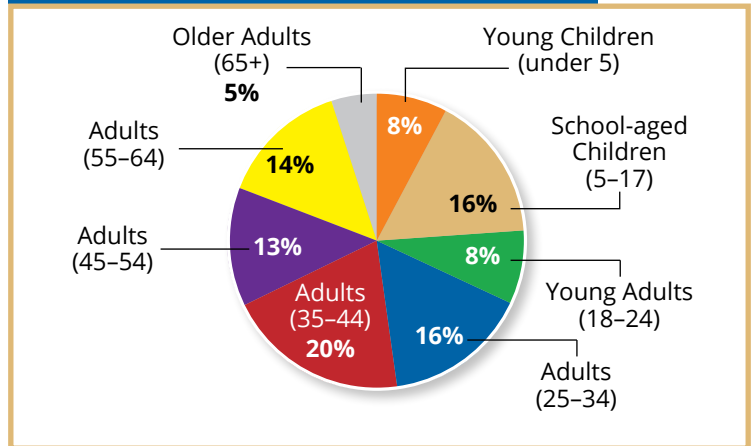
Black, African American, or African:	56%
White	24%
White & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	10%
Multi-Racial (not Hispanic/Latina/e/o)	6%
Black, African American, or African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	2%
Asian or Asian American	1%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	<1%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	<1%
Asian or Asian American & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	<1%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	<1%
Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	<1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	<1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<1%
Middle Eastern or North African	0%
Middle Eastern or North African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o:	0%

1. Data Sources: PWC CoC Homeless Management Information System and the HUD System Performance Measures report during the 10/1/2022 - 9/30/2023 report period

### Gender of Adults



### Age of All Persons (Adults & Children)

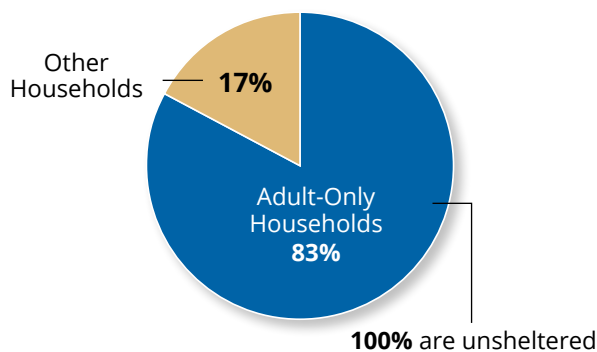


### Priority Populations within Overall Homeless Population

Additional homeless populations that are overrepresented in the COC's overall homeless population when compared to national and/or local averages.

### Priority Populations

#### Household Types



#### Priority Population Breakdown

(based on all adults and/or persons served in all household types)

**42%** of people served live with one or more disabling conditions significantly impacting day-to-day life.

**6%** of people served are Transitional Age Youth (18-24).

**16%** of adults served are domestic violence survivors with **24%** of those fleeing a recent experience.

**5%** of adults served are veterans.

*My case manager is available to me for all my concerns and uplifts me and tells me I can do this.*

-CoC client

## Annual Point-In-Time Count

This section provides information gained during the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count of people experiencing homelessness in sheltered (i.e., emergency shelter and transitional housing) and unsheltered situations.

### Unsheltered Homeless Counts 2020–2024



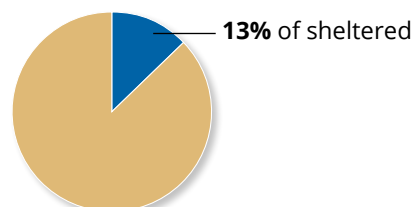
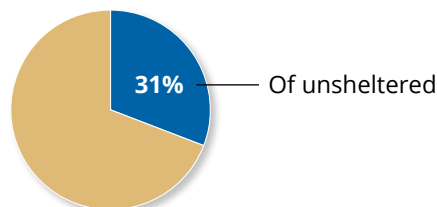
### Highlights 2024 Unsheltered PIT Count

**Adult-Only Households:** Represent 100% of our unsheltered population and 83% of all households served.

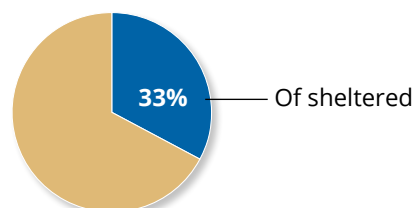
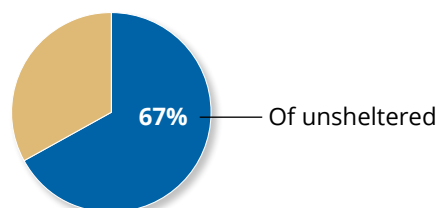
Unsheltered adults are more likely to be chronically homeless, i.e. they are disabled and have a long-term history of literal homelessness.

### Unsheltered Population Compared to Sheltered Population

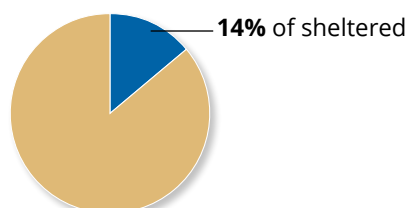
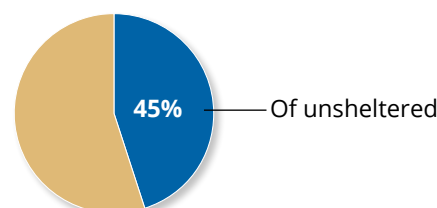
**Chronically Homeless:** Adults who are disabled and have a long-term history of literal homelessness



**Co-Occurring Disorders:** Adults with disabling conditions and report living with “co-occurring” disorders, i.e. they struggle with mental illness and substance use.



**Release from Institutional Setting:** Adults who report their current episode of homelessness is due to a release from an institutional setting.










## Homeless Response System

Our Homeless Response System, also known as a “Crisis Response System,” aims to make homelessness a rare, brief and non-recurring occurrence. We assist individuals by swiftly and efficiently connecting them to housing and the necessary services.

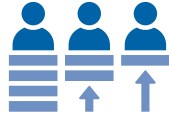
### Our Service Approach

A successful [Homeless Response System](#) encompasses various programs offered within our organization, reflecting the following essential elements in the CoC:

	<h4>Outreach</h4> <p>Meeting the immediate needs of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.</p>
	<h4>Coordinated Entry</h4> <p>A streamlined process that promptly identifies, assesses, refers and connects those in a housing crisis with appropriate services.</p>
	<h4>Diversion &amp; Prevention</h4> <p>Initiatives to support at-risk individuals in retaining their current housing or finding new stable housing.</p>
	<h4>Emergency Shelter &amp; Interim Housing</h4> <p>Providing low-barrier temporary living arrangements for people experiencing homelessness.</p>
	<h4>Permanent Housing</h4> <p>Long-term housing solutions combined with ongoing support services for individuals with chronic homelessness and multiple barriers.</p>

## Advancing Universal Equity

The PWA CoC is dedicated to promoting equity in providing homeless and housing assistance services, particularly for individuals who may encounter additional barriers due to race, ethnicity, LGBTQIA+ status, age, religion, disabling conditions and/or immigrant status.



### Racial Equity Research

Ongoing research reveals non-white households receiving services in the PWA experience homelessness at higher rates, and for longer lengths of time, than white households.



### Partnering with Persons with Lived Experience

Including individuals with lived experience of homelessness fosters a sense of empowerment and ownership over the homeless response system which leads to person-centered policies and interventions that create sustainable solutions.



### Listening Sessions & Satisfaction Surveys

Opportunities provided to program participants to share their experiences, challenges and suggestions for improvement as someone who has navigated the homeless response system.

## Transforming Lives, Building Strong Communities: Our Impact

By implementing these key elements in our Homeless Response System, we have successfully transformed lives and built stronger, more resilient communities. Our dedication to prompt housing connections, comprehensive support services, and a holistic approach empowers individuals to overcome homelessness and thrive.

Together, let's continue making homelessness a rare, brief and non-recurring event.



*The most helpful and beneficial aspect I have received for my family is having a safe and secure place where I can begin to regroup and become independent once again.*

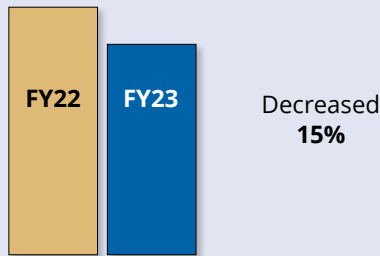
-CoC client



## ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESSES

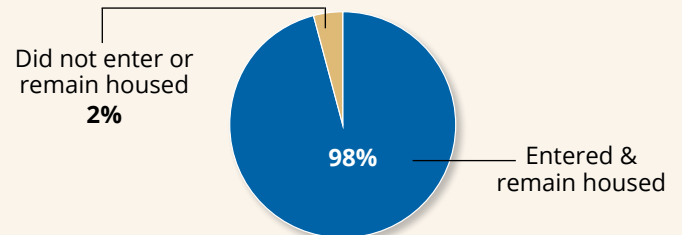
### Length of Time Homelessness

The average length of time people spend homeless.



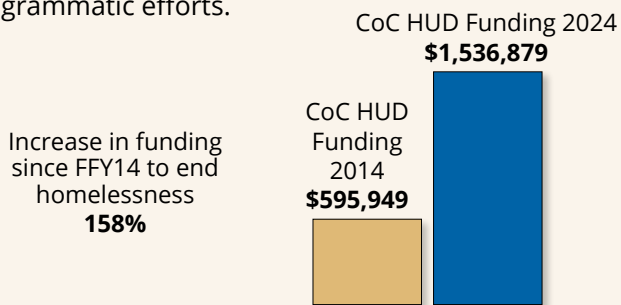
### Permanent Housing Retention

The percentage people served in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects that exited to a positive destination or remained in the PSH project.



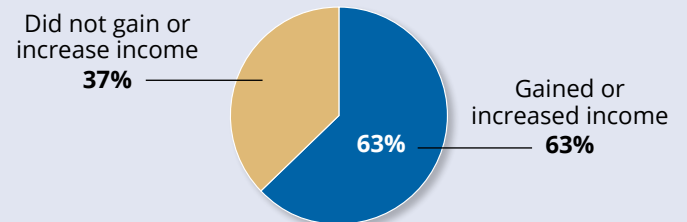
### Increased Revenue to Address Homelessness

The increased state funding is attributed to high performance outcomes as a result of the CoC's programmatic efforts.



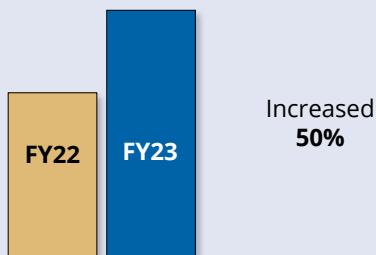
### Adult Income Exit

The percentage of adults that gained or increased any type of income at the point of exit meaning the client has been in the project at least one year.



### Positive Exits from Street Outreach Projects

Exits from street outreach projects for positive destinations.



### Street Outreach/In-reach

#### Expanded Services

The PWA CoC has expanded services in the Sudley corridor with two persons hired to provide street outreach services and connect persons to Community Services regarding mental health and substance used disorder treatment.

#### Encampment Identification

Additionally, the CoC is focusing on identifying encampments and other locations where unsheltered persons are sleeping year round. By fostering a strong relationship with the PWC Police Department the CoC can better understand where persons are staying.

### Increase Participation from Persons With Lived Experience (PLE)

#### PLE Feedback

Over the past year, the CoC made great strides to ensure that persons who have experienced a housing crisis provide the CoC with feedback about their experiences.

#### PLE Representation

Additionally, the CoC has also ensured that PLE are represented on the CoC Committees, offering their valuable insight about the strategies and processes the homeless system has implemented to prevent and end homelessness.

### Coordinated Entry

#### Referral Process

Referrals are being made so that PWA constituents can access services that include eviction prevention services, emergency shelters and street outreach.

Through the CES referral process, we aim to streamline access to housing resources, reduce homelessness and empower individuals and families to achieve long-term housing stability.

When John Smith entered the shelter, he had been homeless off and on due to difficulty maintaining employment and housing because of admitted addiction (alcohol abuse). John attributed some of his challenges with alcohol to having an expired green card. His initial savings were stolen before he could pay the \$700 fee to renew his card. John was under a great deal of stress and constantly worrying about navigating his homeless situation without a green card.

During John's stay at the Ferlazzo Emergency Shelter, he obtained and maintained employment and with the assistance of shelter funding, he successfully renewed his green card. He also began regularly attending Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment (MH/SA) weekly groups with his Community Services caseworker and AA meetings.

John successfully obtained housing through the Rapid Re-Housing Program. He continues to attend his MH/SA/AA meetings, has diligently saved as much as possible while receiving temporary financial assistance, and has remained sober.

Jane and her children entered the Action in Community Through Service (ACTS) Domestic Violence (DV) Program seeking a safe space for her family. At the time, Jane was working as a local delivery person for a renowned national company, but she was anxious and uncertain about their future after the DV incident.

Fortunately, Jane and her children were provided with housing in a lower-level unit, which they felt secure in, and had access to a yard and their own kitchen. This allowed Jane to freely prepare her ethnic foods, creating a sense of comfort for her and her children. Determined to achieve self-sustainability, Jane actively participated in Case Management meetings, sharing, and receiving guidance from her Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Case Manager.

Gradually, Jane's confidence and determination grew stronger. She took steps to apply for SNAP benefits and Medicaid and petitioned for child support through the courts. With the assistance of the ACTS Sentara Program, Jane furnished her unit and received financial aid for childcare. To further enhance her prospects, Jane enrolled in ESL courses to improve her English language skills, empowering her to strive for even more.

Building on her progress, Jane increased her work hours and enrolled in a Phlebotomy course at a local college. Despite the demands of her job, she prepared for her Phlebotomy exam while simultaneously joining a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course. Currently, Jane works as a delivery person on weekends for a national company and as a CNA during the day.

With her sights set on a better future, Jane started saving for a security deposit to move into a larger, private space closer to her workplace. In August, she successfully enrolled in a Nursing Assistant program, taking steps toward her career goals. When leaving the RRH Program, Jane expressed deep gratitude to her Case Manager at ACTS, emphasizing how the belief, encouragement, and resources provided by the organization had enabled her to trust that each day would bring improvement. Throughout her journey, Jane maintained a positive outlook, embracing all the resources and support given to her as she worked with her RRH Case Manager on her success story.



### Become a CoC Member

The PWA CoC promotes community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. The goal of the PWA CoC is to quickly re-house homeless households to minimize trauma and dislocation. PWA CoC promotes access to effective utilization of mainstream programs and optimizes self-sufficiency among households experiencing homelessness. All are welcome whether one has been served by a CoC homeless services provider, is someone with skills matching committee goals or is a concerned community member. Membership applications can be downloaded by visiting About the Continuum of Care at [pwcva.gov/about-coc](http://pwcva.gov/about-coc).

### Landlord Engagement

Engaging landlords is crucial for addressing homelessness effectively. Landlords are welcome to join the CoC to transform lives and build stronger communities. For more information, visit Housing Landlord Network at [pwcva.gov/departments/social-services/landlord-network](http://pwcva.gov/departments/social-services/landlord-network).

### Coordinated Entry System (CES) Hotline

Anyone in the community that is homeless or at risk of homelessness can connect with the Coordinated Entry System to be linked with local services and resources that may be able to assist them. They can contact them by phone at 703-792-3366 or by email at [DSSCE@pwcgov.org](mailto:DSSCE@pwcgov.org).

### Help Us In Identifying Encampments and Persons Living on the Streets

Please contact the CES to help identify homeless encampments, persons living under bridges and other places not meant for living and sleeping. Call 703-792-3366, email [DSSCE@pwcgov.org](mailto:DSSCE@pwcgov.org) or scan the QR code.



## MEET OUR MEMBERS

Action in Community Through Service (ACTS)	Operation Renewed Hope Foundation (ORHF)
Catholic Charities St. Margaret of Cortona	Pathway Homes, Inc.
CFH, Inc.	People, Inc.
Cooperative Council of Ministries (CCOM)	Prince William Community Services Board
Easterseals Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program	Prince William County Criminal Justice Services
Elect Ladies Transition Home	Prince William County Department of Social Services
Feeding Friends-Gainesville United Methodist Church	Prince William County Office of Executive Management
First Home Alliance	Prince William County Office of Housing and Community Development
Friendship Place	Prince William County Public Schools – McKinney Vento Office
Gospel Believers Church	Prince William Health District
Good Shepherd Housing Foundation	Saved Hands Foundation
Helping Neighbors-in-Need Outreach Center	Serving Our Neighbors
HireGround	Streetlight Community Outreach Ministries
Homebuddies, Inc.	The Church - God's Assembly
Independence Empowerment Center	The Litaker Foundation
Manassas Church of Brethren	Human Services Alliance of Greater Prince William
Manassas Department of Social Services	Virginia Cooperative Extension
Manassas Park Department of Social Services	Virginia Department of Veteran Services
New Creatures-in-Christ Ministries, Inc.	Virginia Employment Commission
Northern Virginia Family Service	Volunteers of America Chesapeake (VOAC)
NOVA Bulls Organization	UVA Community Health

“

*There is constant communication between me and my case worker that includes consistent check-ins and feedback on how to improve. I don't know where to begin, all I have to say is I'm grateful.*

-CoC client

”

“

*The most helpful and beneficial aspect I have received for my family  
Is having a safe and secure place where I can begin to regroup  
and become independent once again.*

-CoC client

”



homelesservices@pwcgov.org

[pwcva.gov/pwa-coc](http://pwcva.gov/pwa-coc)