Balance of State Continuum of Care Regional Meetings

December 16, 2019, Chattahoochee Technical College, Canton, GA (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)

December 18, 2019, City Hall Annex, Valdosta, GA (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

December 19, 2018 Houston County Health Pavilion, Warner Robins, GA (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

December 16, 18 & 19, 2019

Presented by DCA as Collaborative Applicant

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Balance of State CoC Updates
- Balance of State CoC Coordinated Entry System Requirements
- Federal Reporting
- 2019 Point-in-Time Homeless Count Results
- Membership Input
- Next Steps
- Adjourn

Balance of State CoC Updates

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HUD Continuum of Care

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is established by representatives of relevant organizations within a geographic area to carry out the responsibilities set forth in the CoC Program interim rule.

Georgia Balance of State CoC has152 counties.

HUD Continuum of Care Program

The CoC Program is designed to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness and to provide the services needed to help them move into permanent housing, with the goal of long-term stability.

- To develop a **long-term strategic plan and manage a year-round planning effort** that addresses
  - the needs of homeless individuals and households;
  - the availability and accessibility of existing housing and services; and
  - the opportunities for linkages with mainstream housing and services resources.
- To prepare an **application** for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento) competitive grants.

Continuum of Care Purpose

The HEARTH ACT mandates a clear structure for the Continuum of Care (CoC).

Prior to this, the CoC program was simply a competition. Now it is codified into law, and requires the following:

- The CoC must have an independent Board of Directors that is representative of the community and is inclusive to all stakeholders.
- It must implement a Governance Charter, that outlines the governance structures in a transparent way.
- It is now responsible for setting and meeting goals to prevent and end homelessness. It must formally collaborate with ESG Entitlements, and monitor and measure performance on both a program and system level.

Collaborative Applicant (DCA) Responsibilities

- Provide oversight for the Continuum in order to meet HUD's rule for Continua of Care and to assure that requirements are met for the annual HUD Continuum of Care funding competition.
- Maintain Continuum membership lists, conduct membership recruitment campaigns targeted to stakeholders publish agendas for membership meetings, and assist the Board in conducting meetings of full membership not less than twice annually.
- Consult with both ESG Entitlements and HUD Consolidated Planning jurisdictions.
- Implement and coordinate the biennial unsheltered point in time count and the annual shelter survey.

Collaborative Applicant (DCA) Responsibilities (contd.)

- DCA provides staff for the Continuum's planning and implementation of:
  - United States Interagency Council on Homelessness's plan to end homelessness, titled "Home, Together."
  - Coordinated assessment system that assesses the eligibility and needs of each household seeking homeless assistance, and provides services and/or referrals to homeless households that best fit their individual circumstances in regaining independence within the community in the shortest possible time.
  - Housing and service system within its geographic area that meets the needs of homeless households, that encompass outreach, shelter, housing, and prevention strategies.
  - Written standards that establish a minimum set of expectations in terms of the quality expected of projects, their priorities and the implementation of strategy.

Membership Participation

Membership

- Formalized process
- Agency representation and individuals
- Voting – Designated voting member (agencies only)
- Agencies contact CoC when designated member leaves (replace member contact for agency)
- Participation – Code of Conduct Policy approved May 15th
  - Attend not less than one meeting (membership, Board, Committee, or Subcommittee) per year
  - Agencies can substitute staff for meeting participation
  - Inactive or non-voting members to be reviewed
- Conflict of Interest approved May 15th

Membership Participation

- Work of the BoS CoC accomplished through a comprehensive process that includes full membership, regional, board and committee meetings. Full membership votes shall be taken as follows (on-line voting for members):
  - An initial vote for ratification of the Charter;
  - Periodic votes to elect "at large" members of the Board; and
  - Review and/or update the Charter's process for Board selection not less than once every five (5) years [578.7(3)].
- Participation Scoring (CoC & ESG)
- ESG Priorities Input

BoS Coordinated Entry System Requirements

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

December 16, 18 & 19, 2019

Rebecca Hickom & Isaac Davis, Coordinated Entry System Coordinators

Overall Goals of Coordinated Entry

- To ***match*** households with the most appropriate housing and service intervention and increase ***housing stability*** by targeting the appropriate housing intervention to the corresponding needs of the household
- To ***prioritize*** limited resources based on level of need and vulnerability
- To ***prevent*** households from becoming homeless by supporting them to resolve their housing crisis
- Reduce ***the length of homelessness*** by moving people quickly into the appropriate housing

CES in the BoS

- Current Coordinated Entry Regions
  - Anchor Communities: Bartow, Bibb, Burke+, Colquitt, Douglas, Glynn, Hall+ and Liberty Counties
- Working with other anchor communities to increase number of regions (Clayton, Dougherty, Gwinnett, Houston, Lowndes, Troup)
- Implementation sites will expand to cover multiple counties as possible
- All implementations use HMIS to record assessments, manage prioritization list, track referrals, system data
- Agencies outside of implementation communities assess and prioritize on an agency level

Participation in CE

- How does my project participate in coordinated entry?
  - Inside CE Regions
  - Outside CE Regions

Participation in CE

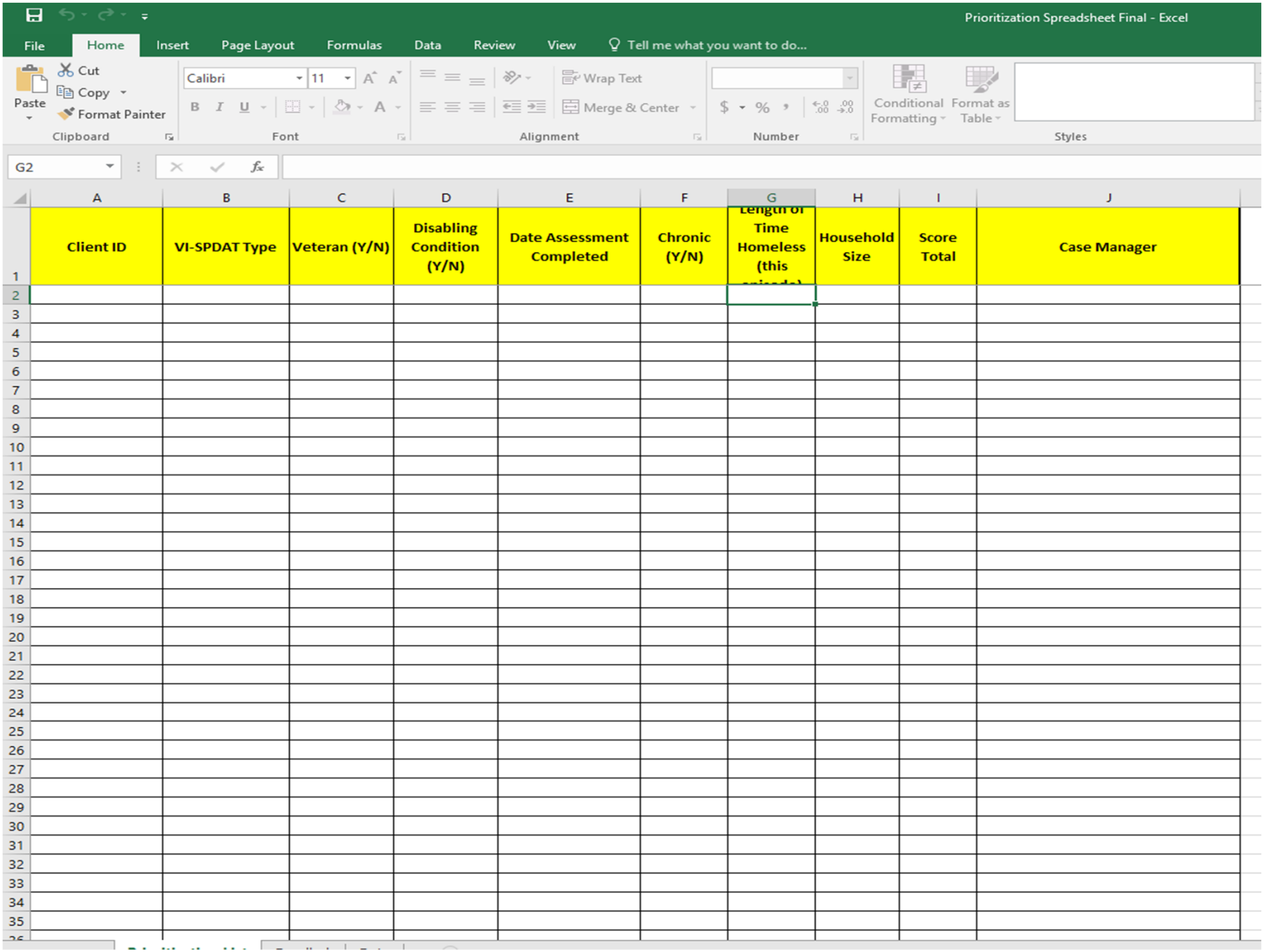
If your agency is located in a CE Region (Bartow, Bibb, Burke+, Colquitt, Douglas, Glynn, Gwinnett, Hall+ or Liberty counties), you must:

- Diversion (Screening Tool)
- Report program vacancies to lead agency
- Fill all permanent housing (RRH & PSH) vacancies through CE
- Follow CE Written Standards
  - HMIS Workflow- Referral acknowledgement and status updates
- Attend CE Planning Meetings/Case Conferencing
- NO MORE SIDE DOORS

Participation in CE

If your agency is NOT located in an implementation community, you must:

- Diversion (Screening Tool)
- Assess households experiencing literal homelessness using VI-SPDAT, should NOT be assessed prior to entrance into emergency shelter/hotel motel
- Input household into HMIS, input VI-SPDAT results in HMIS
  - Be careful not to enroll into project until you're ready
- Prioritize permanent housing project vacancies using the Prioritization Spreadsheet/Prioritization Standards
- Meaningful referrals when necessary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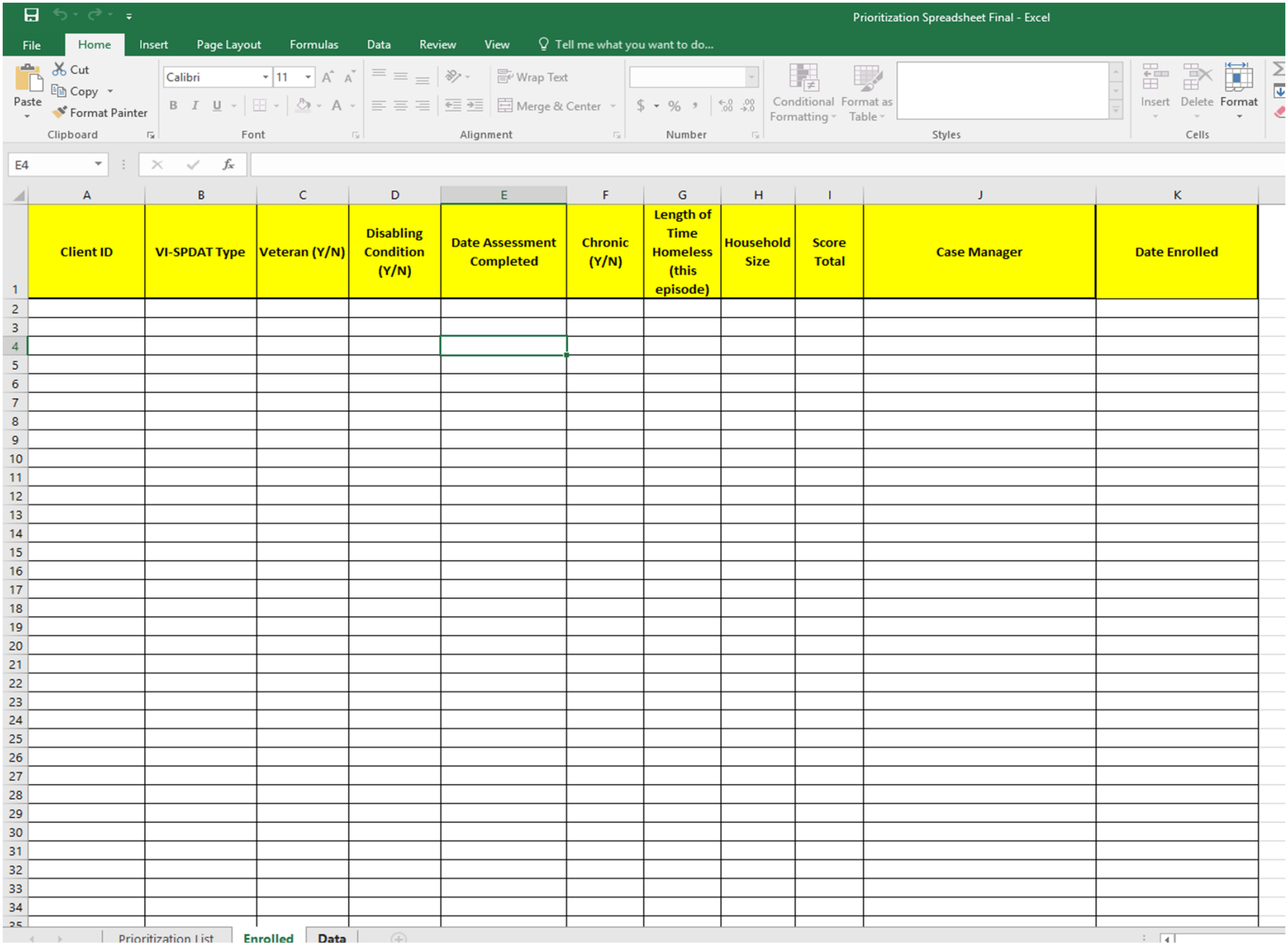
Client ID
VI-SPDAT Type
Veteran (Y/N)
Disabling Condition (Y/N)
Date Assessment Completed
Chronic (Y/N)
Length of Time Homeless (this
Household Size
Score Total
Case Manager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Client ID
VI-SPDAT Type
Veteran (Y/N)
Disabling Condition (Y/N)
Date Assessment Completed
Chronic (Y/N)
Length of Time Homeless (this episode)
Household Size
Score Total
Case Manager
Date Enrolled
Prioritization List
Enrolled
Data

Governance and Tools

- BoS CoC CES Written Standards
- Prevention and Diversion Screening Tool
- Coordinated Entry Intake Form
- VI-SPDAT (Family, Single and TAY)
- Prioritization Spreadsheet
- Trainings

Located on CE webpage at:

https://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/balance

AmeriCorps VISTA and CE

- Focused on capacity building
- 1 VISTA Leader and 18 VISTA members throughout the BoS
- Recruiting in multiple counties
- Benefits

Questions

Contact

Isaac Davis

Coordinated Entry System Coordinator

Isaac.Davis@dca.ga.gov

404-370-2985 /1-844-249-8367

Rebecca Hickom

Coordinated Entry System Coordinator

Rebecca.Hickom@dca.ga.gov

470-423-1432

Federal Reporting

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

December 16, 18 & 19, 2019

Tina Moore, CoC Program Coordinator

Longitudinal Systems Analysis

Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)

- Critical aspect of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a focus on viewing the local homeless system response as a coordinated system of homeless assistance options as opposed to homeless assistance programs and funding sources that operate independently in a community
- HMIS Data is reported to HUD on an annual basis through the Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA)
  - LSA data is used by HUD to prepare the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), which Congress uses to determine future funding levels
  - LSA data shows community-level information on people and households served over the course of a year
  - Data Quality determines whether or not HUD will accept CoC data as useable

2018-19 LSA Insights

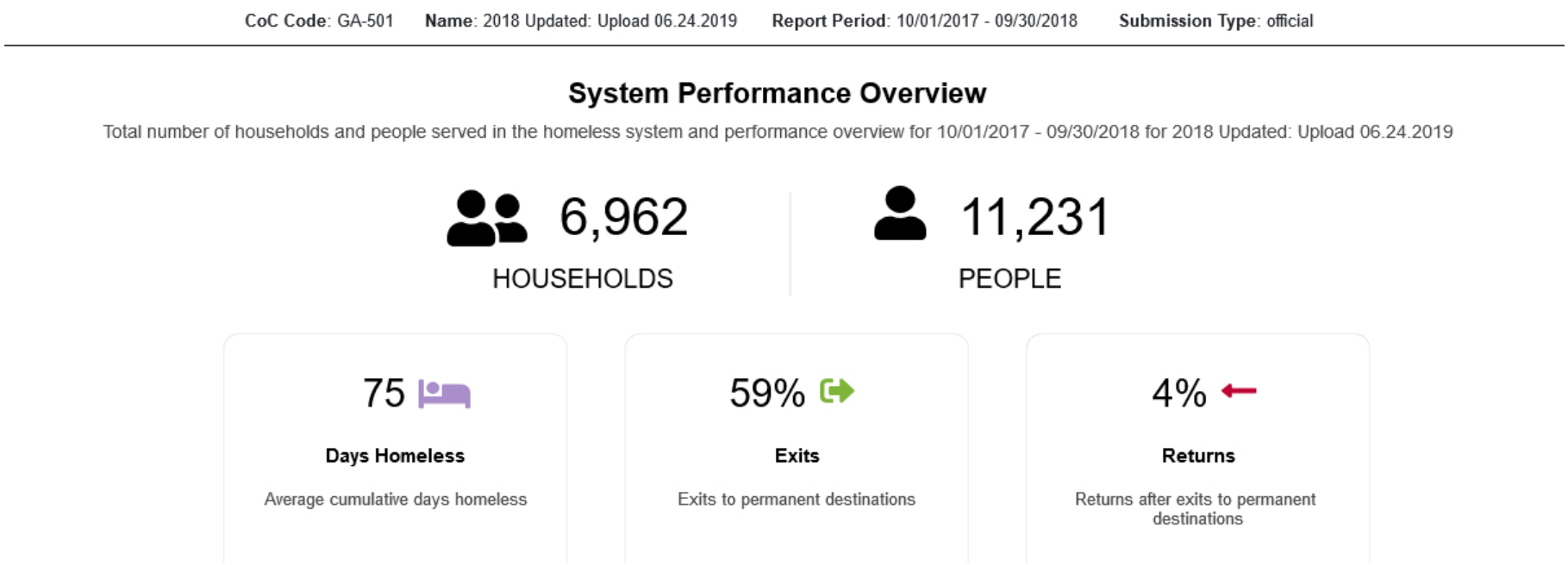
- Transitional Housing – long stayers
- Emergency Shelter – unknown destinations
- Adult Only households aged 55+ - longest time homeless
- Adult Only Black Males – greater than general population

Stella Performance Strategy & Analysis

Stella

- Designed to help CoCs:
  - Understand how households progress through the homeless services system
  - Model an optimized system that fully addresses homelessness
- Provides visualizations of CoC data that:
  - Illustrate pathways through the system
  - Highlight outcome disparities
  - Allow for various types of system analysis based on demographics and household type

Stella (cont'd.)



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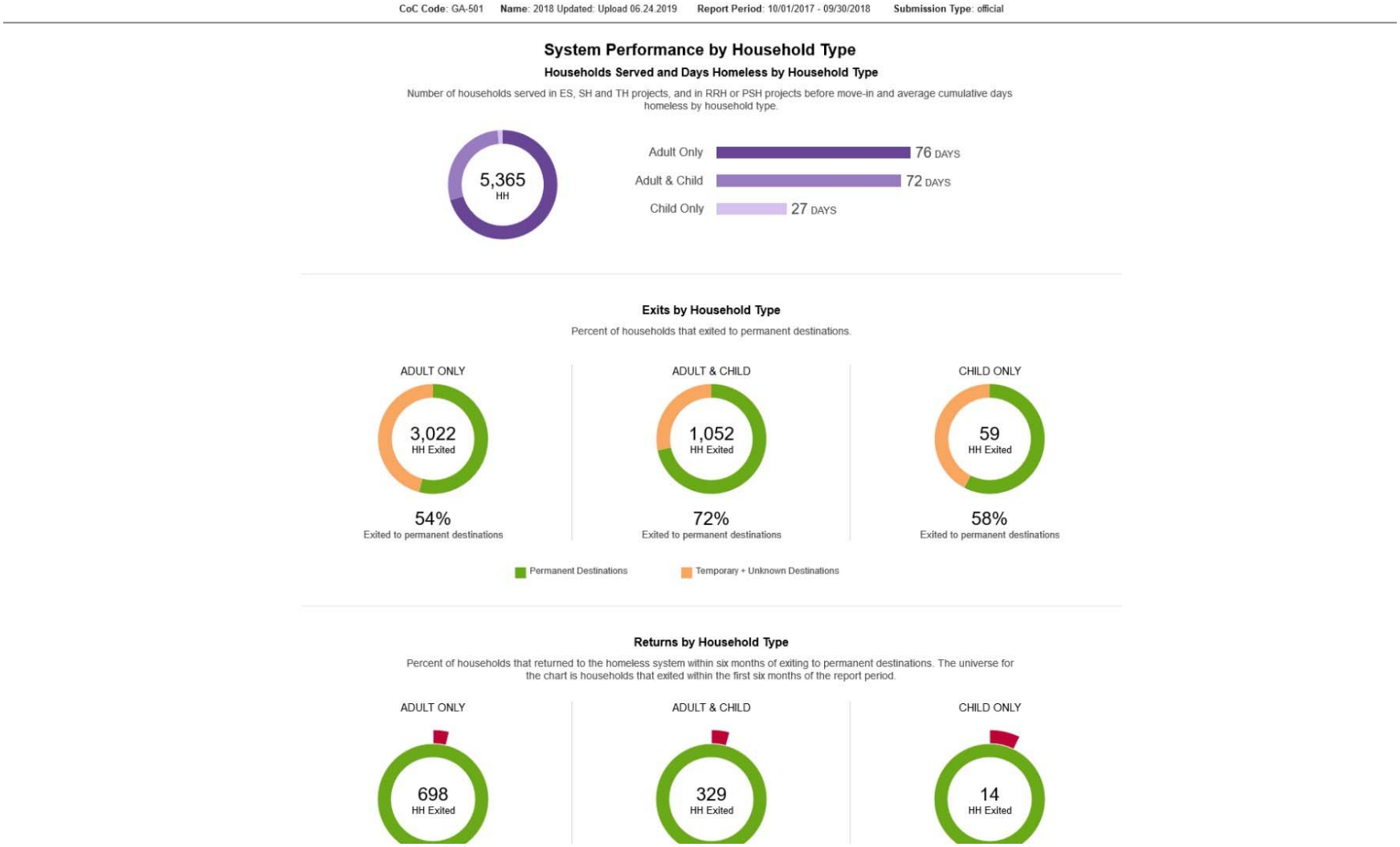


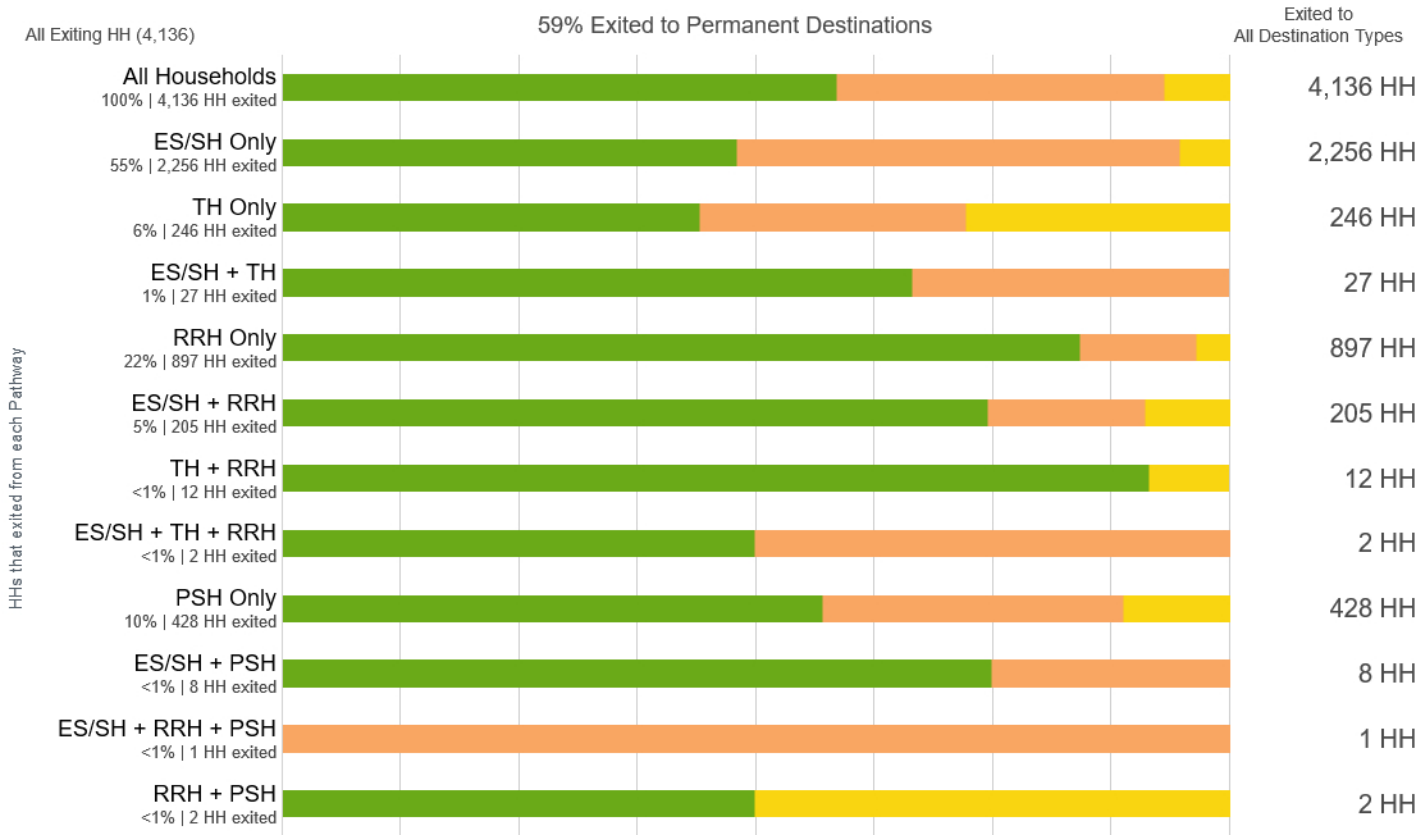
Stella (cont'd.)

CoC Code: GA-501 **Name**: 2018 Updated: Upload 06.24.2019 **Report Period**: 10/01/2017 - 09/30/2018 **Submission Type**: official

Exits by Pathway

Percent and number of households that used each pathway, and percent and number of households in each pathway group that exited to permanent, temporary and unknown destinations.

All Households | **All Destination Types**



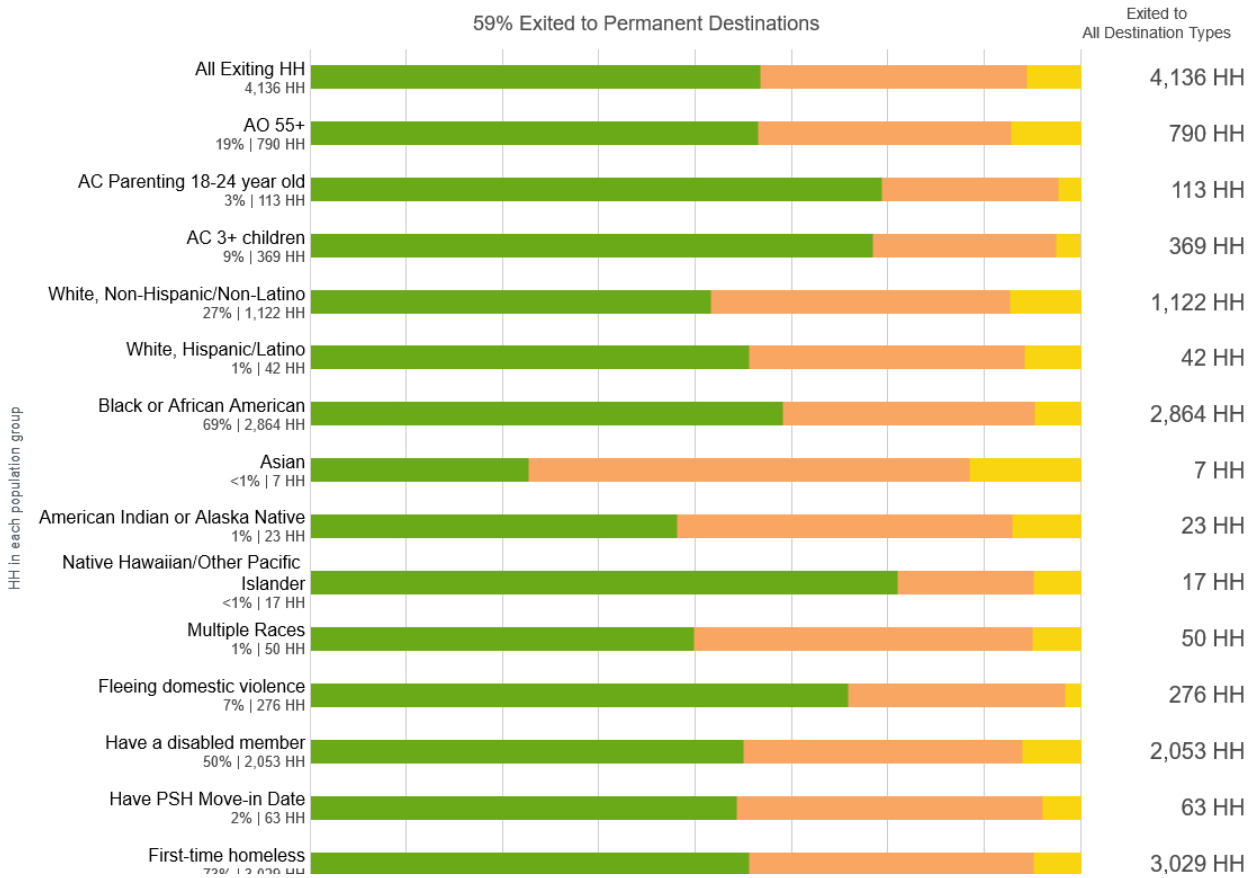
Stella (cont'd.)

CoC Code: GA-501 **Name**: 2018 Updated: Upload 06.24.2019 **Report Period**: 10/01/2017 - 09/30/2018 **Submission Type**: official

Exits by Population Group

Percent and number of households in each population group, and percent and number of households in each population group that exited to permanent, temporary and unknown destinations.

All Households | **All Destination Types**



Stella (cont'd.)

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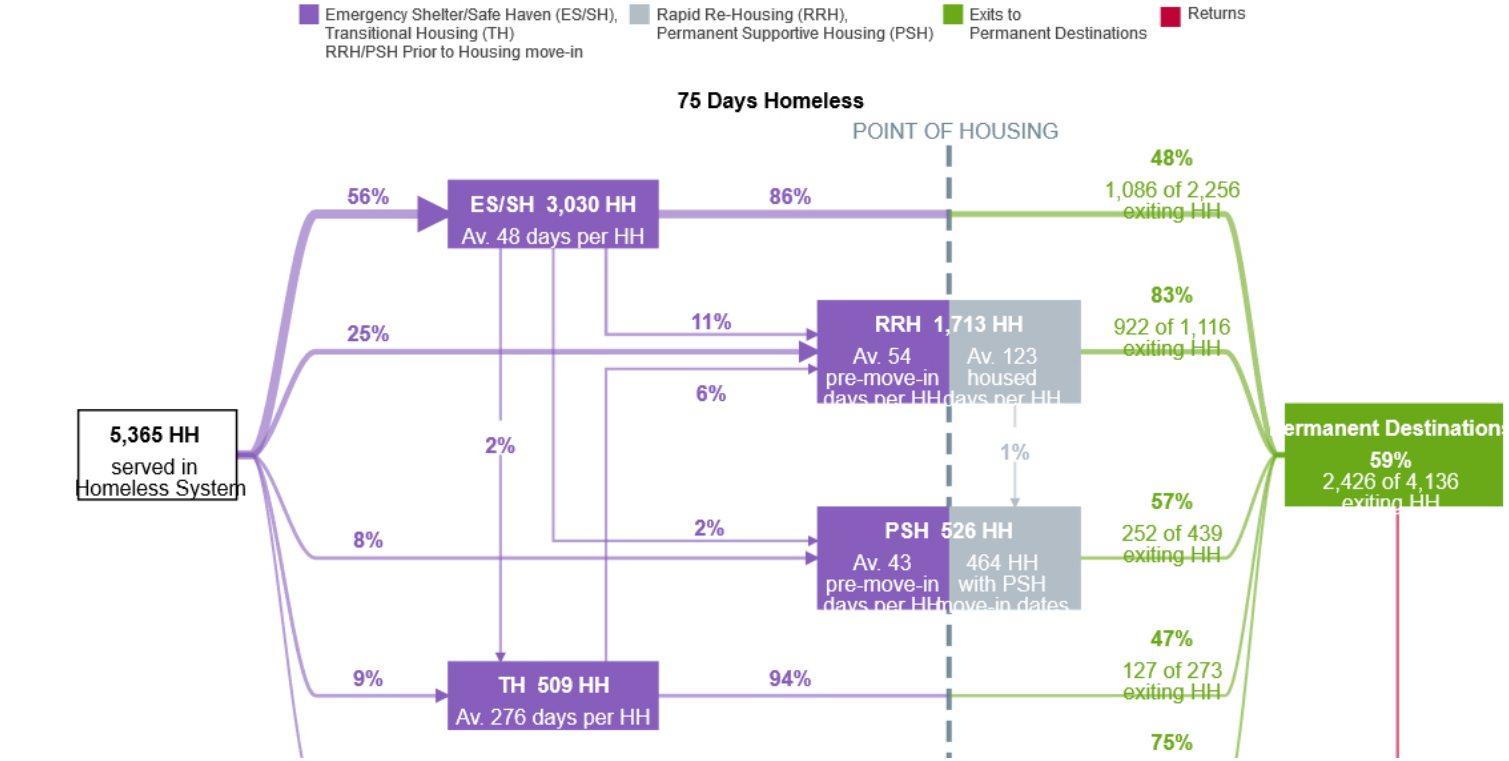
System Performance Map

Households use different combinations of project types during the time they are served in the homeless system. These project type combinations are referred to as pathways. Each pathway has different average cumulative days homeless, exits to permanent housing and returns to the homeless system. The system map shows performance for the main project types in the homeless system and can be filtered to show performance for the main pathways.

All Households | **All Pathways**



BoS System Performance Data

System Level Performance Measures

- Measurement of System Performance for Each Continuum
  1. Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless
  2. Extent Persons who Exit Homelessness Return to Homelessness
  3. Number of Homeless People
  4. Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in CoC Program-funded Projects
  5. Number of Persons who Become Homeless for the First Time
  6. Successful Housing Placement (from Street Outreach or in Permanent Housing)

System Performance Data

Performance Measure	2016	2017	2018	Change
1-Length of Time Homeless (Ave. Bed Nights)				
Shelter	94	72	45	-27
Shelter & Transitional	137	125	88	-37
2-Returns to Homelessness (PH Exits)	702	450	312	-138
3-Number Homeless	5,575*	3,716	4183 (2019 PIT)	-1,859 & +467
4-Employment & Income Growth				
Stayers	105	319	333	+14
Leavers	240	221	215	-6

System Performance Data (cont'd.)

Performance Measure	2016	2017	2018	Change
5-Number First-time Homeless	7,465	6,543	8472	+1929
7-Placement from Outreach and in PH				
7a-Outreach Exits to Temporary or PH	77%	56%	60%	+4%
7b1-Program Exits to PH	47%	57%	63%	+6%
7b2-PH Exit or Retention of PH	93%	92%	93%	+1%

System Level Performance Measures

- Core Outcome of Ending Homelessness - each community's progress will be measured by counting the NUMBER of people experiencing homelessness…both at a point in time and over the course of a year
- Other Measures - help communities understand how well they are doing the things necessary to REDUCE the number of people who become homeless and help those who DO become homeless return to stable housing

System Level Performance Measures (contd.)

- How measures are used?
  - Data is used as part of the selection criteria to award projects under NOFAs
  - Data is used to evaluate how CoCs are IMPROVING from year to year
- What measures do?
  - Measures give us tools to evaluate and improve CoC's performance
  - Measures can reveal how well our homeless assistance programs are functioning as a whole and where improvements are necessary
- Big Picture Importance?
  - Projects evaluated on degree they improve system performance
  - CoC determinations on types of projects needed to address homelessness

2019 Georgia Balance of State Point in Time Homeless Count Report

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

December 16, 18 & 19, 2019

Mike Thomas, CoC Planning Manager

2019 Point in Time Homeless Count

- The Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Count was for the night of January 28, 2019
- The street count was followed by a seven day service-based count
- The unsheltered count was administered by 26 local coordinators
- The unsheltered portion of the count was performed exclusively using the Counting Us mobile app to collect surveys
- Simtech Solutions provided a predictive model to estimate unsheltered homelessness in uncovered counties
- The sheltered count was administered by DCA staff

Unsheltered Count

Background and Methodology

- First used in 2008
- Continued use in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017
  - Physical count
  - Regression model
  - Predictive variables
  - Clusters (modified use in 2019)
  - Count Coordinator Confidence
- Partnerships:
  - Simtech Solutions
  - Communities and homeless service providers statewide

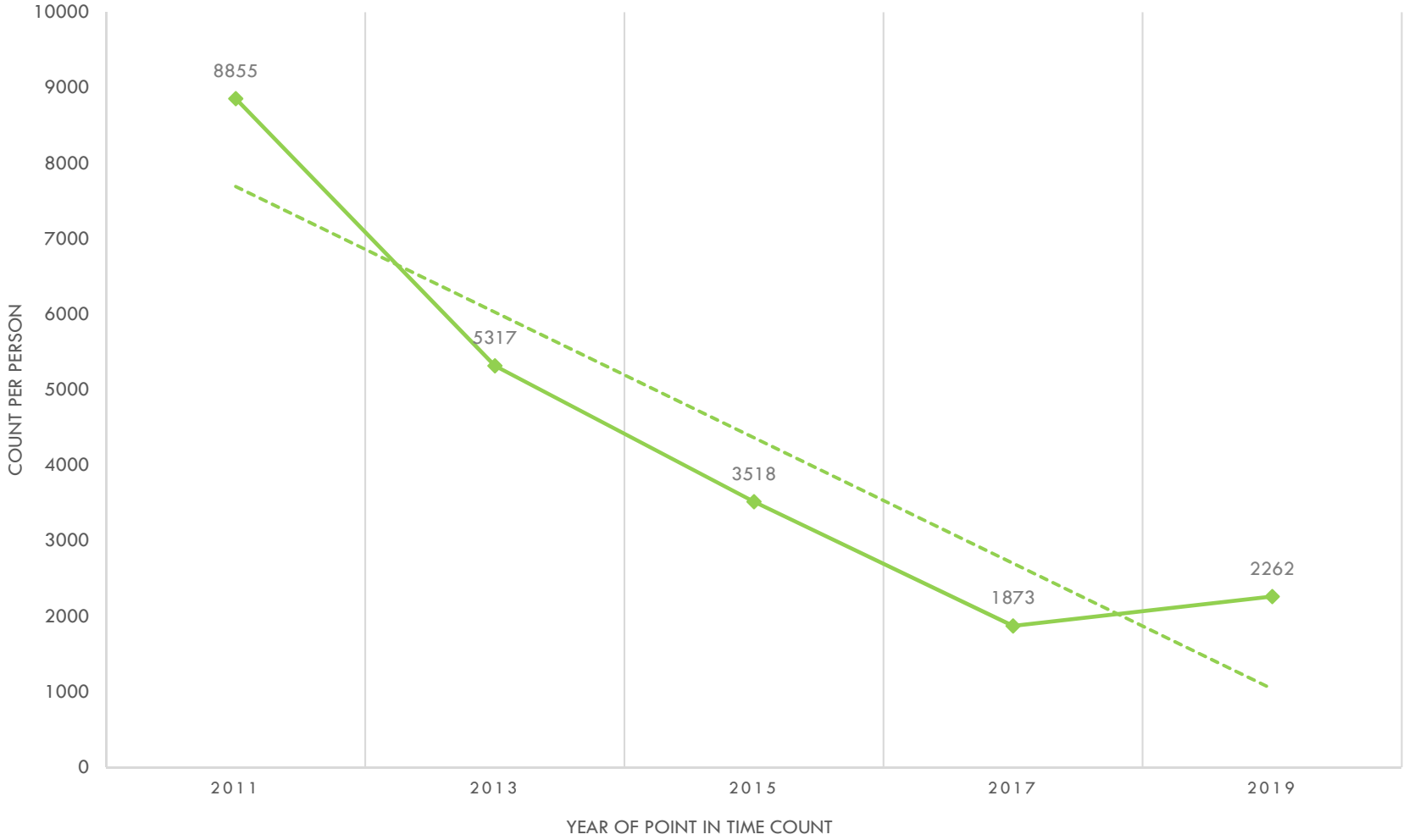
2019 Point in Time Count Partners

- Krystal Mason, 90 Works
- Evan Mills, Advantage Behavioral Health
- Mary Collins, Carrolton Housing Authority
- Jim Lindenmayer, Cherokee Homeless Veteran Program
- Kristin Bryant, City of Hinesville
- Vanassa Flucas, City of Valdosta
- Sharon Edwards, Community Outreach Training Center
- Tracey Johnson, CSB of Middle Georgia
- Cali Hollis, CSB of Middle Georgia
- Jennifer Shearin, Dalton Whitfield Community Development Corporation
- Tiffany Stewart-Stanley, Douglas County Board of Commissioners
- James Hamm, End Time Gospel Assembly
- Carol Prince-Bressinger, Family Connection
- Bill Searcy, Fellowship of Christians United in Service
- Katie Hagin, Gateway Behavioral Health
- Jessica Mitcham, Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter
- Matthew Elder, HomeFirst Gwinnett
- Debbie Anglin, Hearts to Nourish Hope
- Diane Yarbrough, Henty County Homeless Initiative
- Brandon Miller, Houston Homeless Coalition
- David Blackwell, Dougherty Homeless Coalition
- Naomi Ladson, Salvation Army Macon-Bibb
- Michael Fisher, Ninth District Opportunity
- Randy Weldon, Southwest Georgia Community Action Council
- Devon Smyth, William S. Davies Shelters
- Mackenzie Harkins, private volunteer

2019 Point in Time Homeless Count

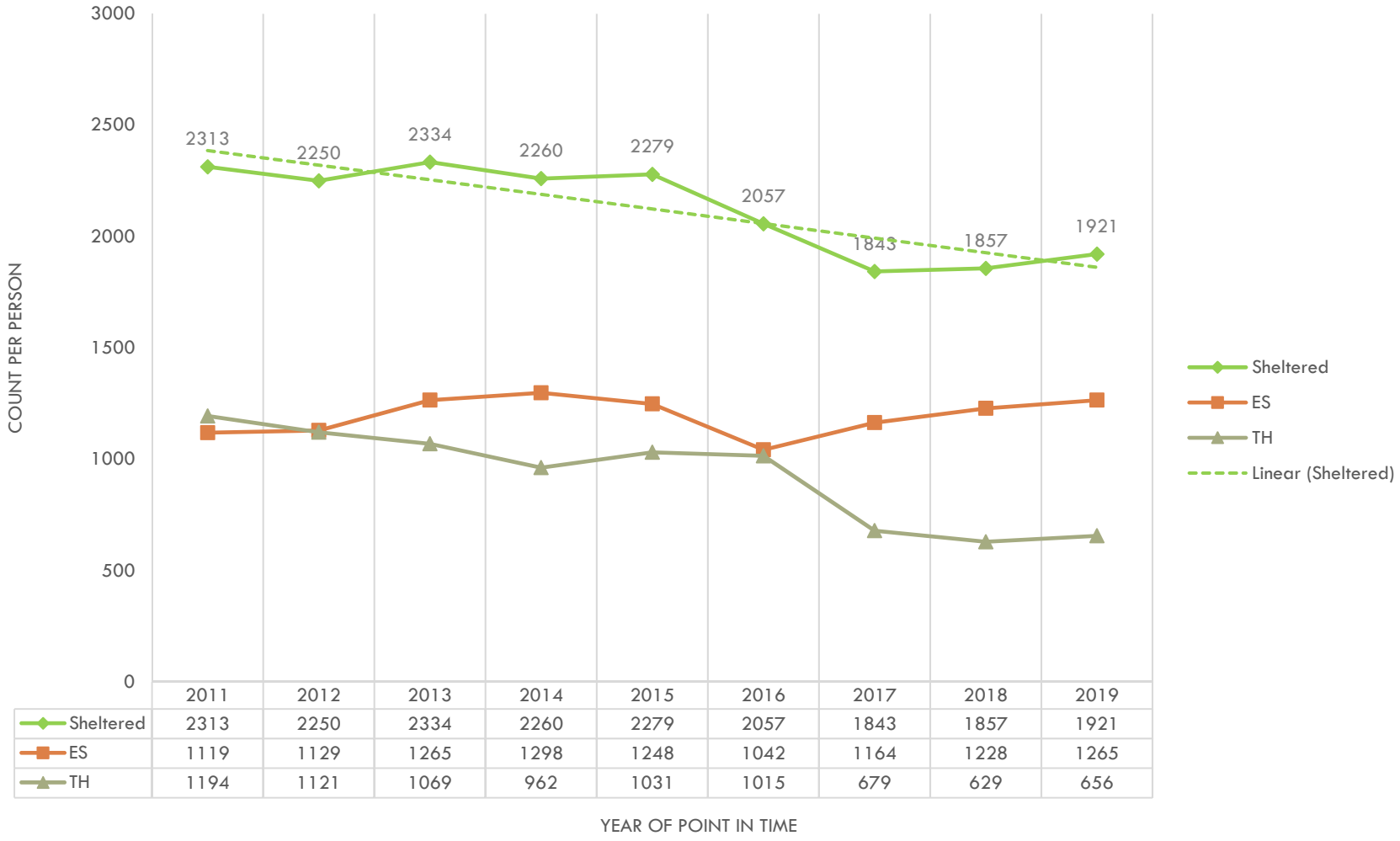
Atkinson	Coweta	Hall	Stephens
Baker	Dougherty	Harris	Thomas
Bartow	Douglas	Henry	Towns
Bibb	Early	Houston	Troup
Burke	Echols	Jones	Union
Camden	Floyd	Laurens	White
Carroll	Glynn	Liberty	Whitfield
Cherokee	Greene	Lowndes	Worth
Clayton	Gwinnett	Madison	
Colquitt	Habersham	Rockdale	

2011 – 2019 BoS Unsheltered PIT Counts



Sheltered Count

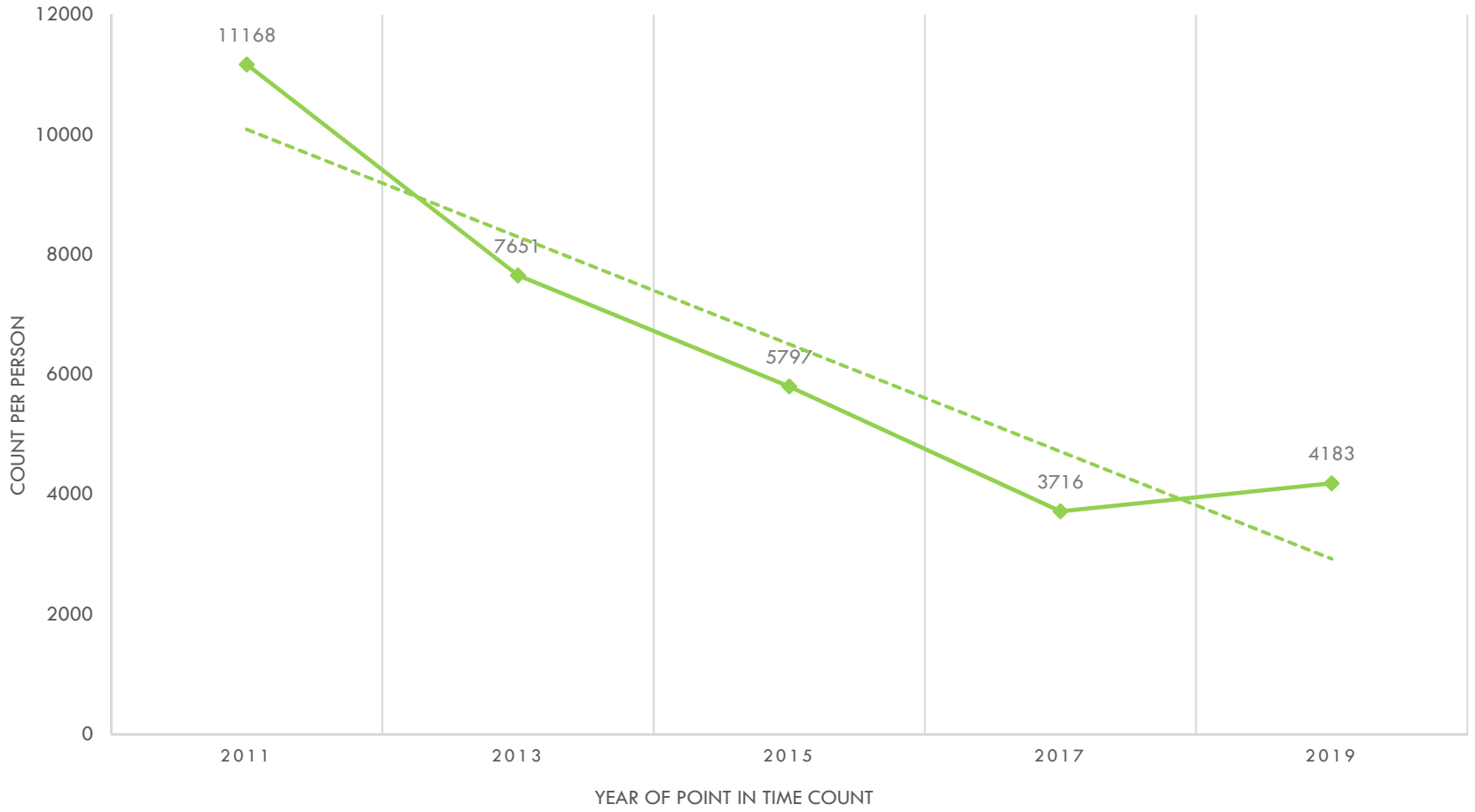
2011 – 2019 BoS Sheltered PIT Counts



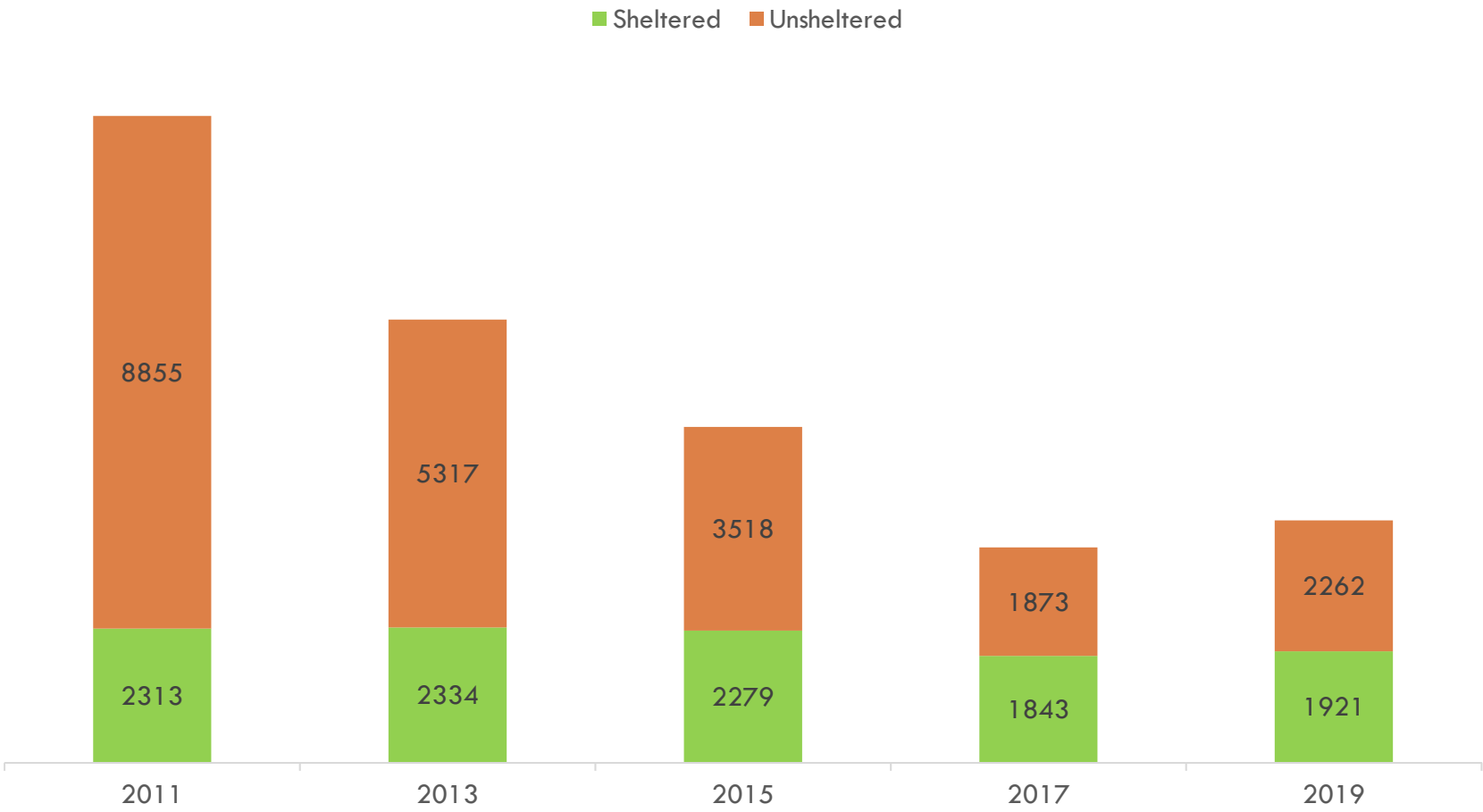
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sheltered	2313	2250	2334	2260	2279	2057	1843	1857	1921
ES	1119	1129	1265	1298	1248	1042	1164	1228	1265
TH	1194	1121	1069	962	1031	1015	679	629	656

Overall Homeless Count

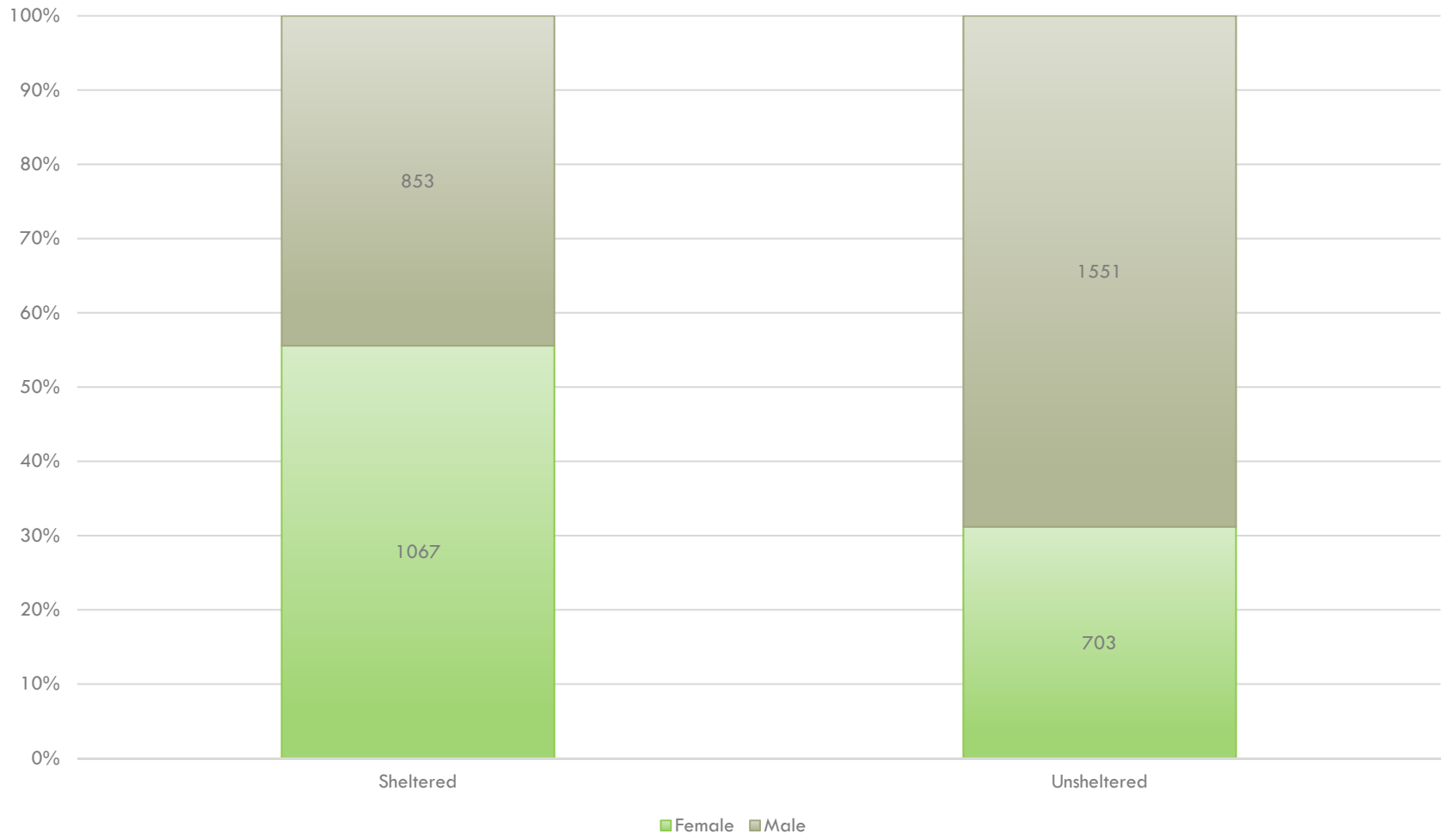
Homeless Count Trend 2011 - 2019



Sheltered vs. Unsheltered Proportions

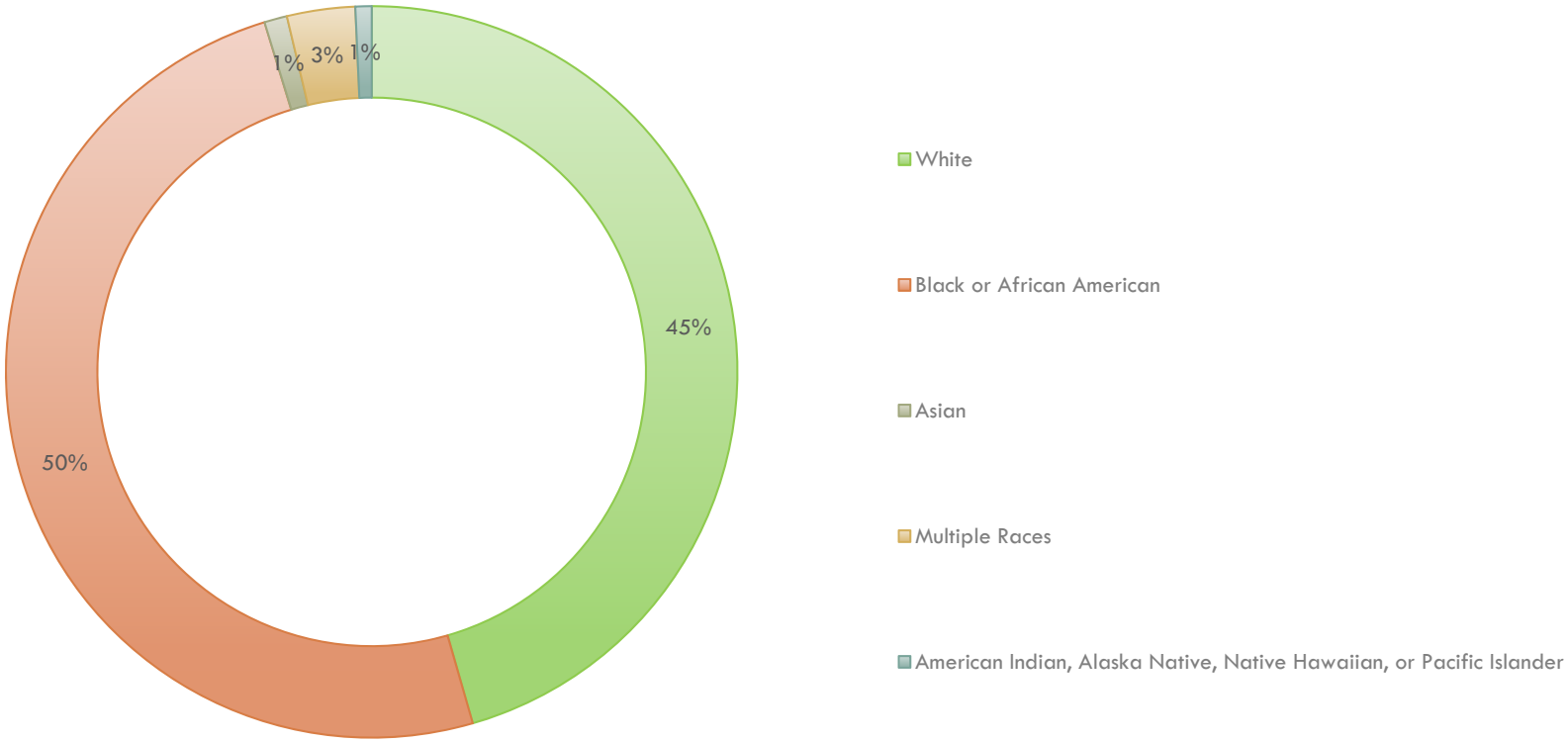


Homeless Status by Gender

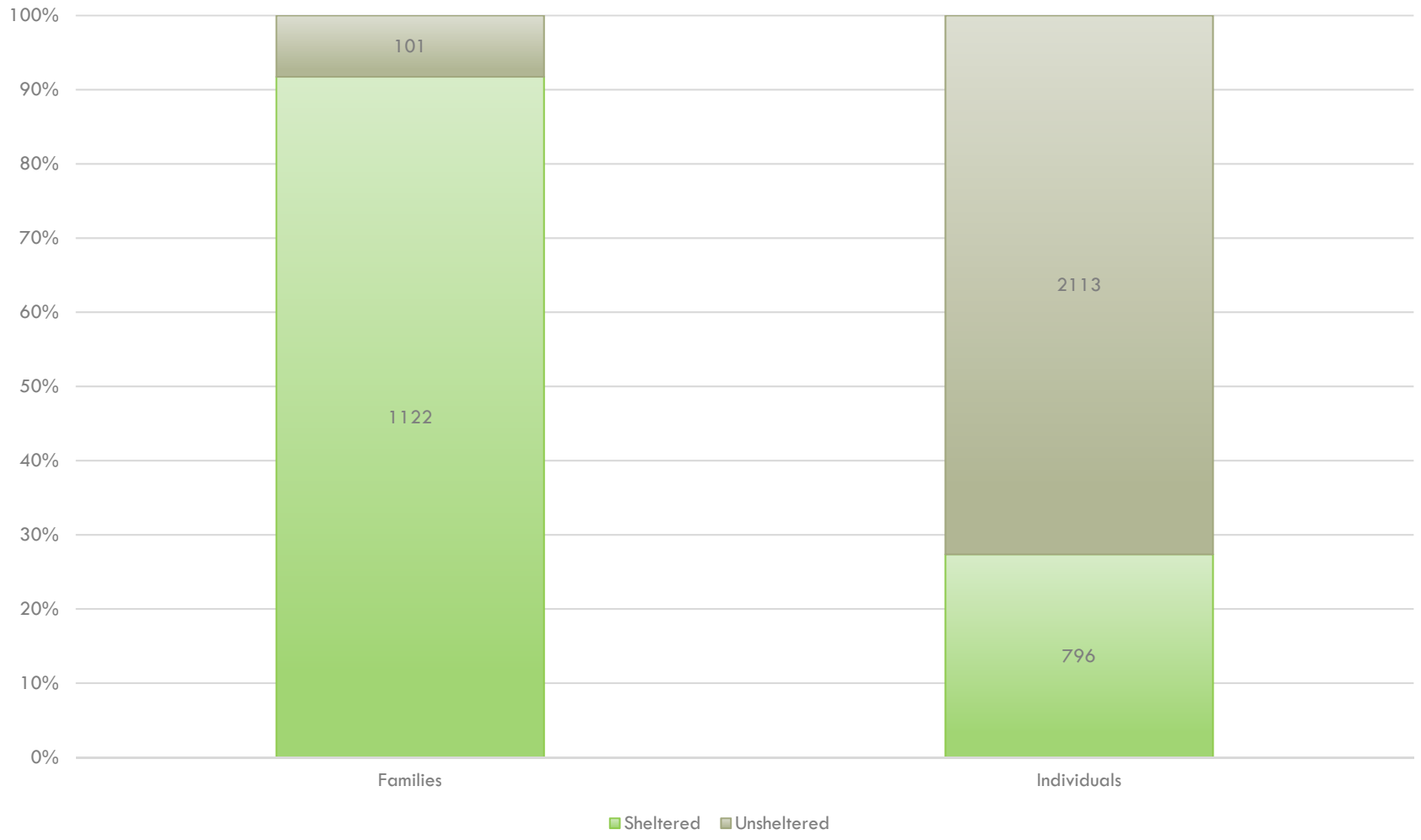


Homeless Status by Race

CHART 5. BALANCE OF STATE COC PIT HOMELESS STATUS BY RACE

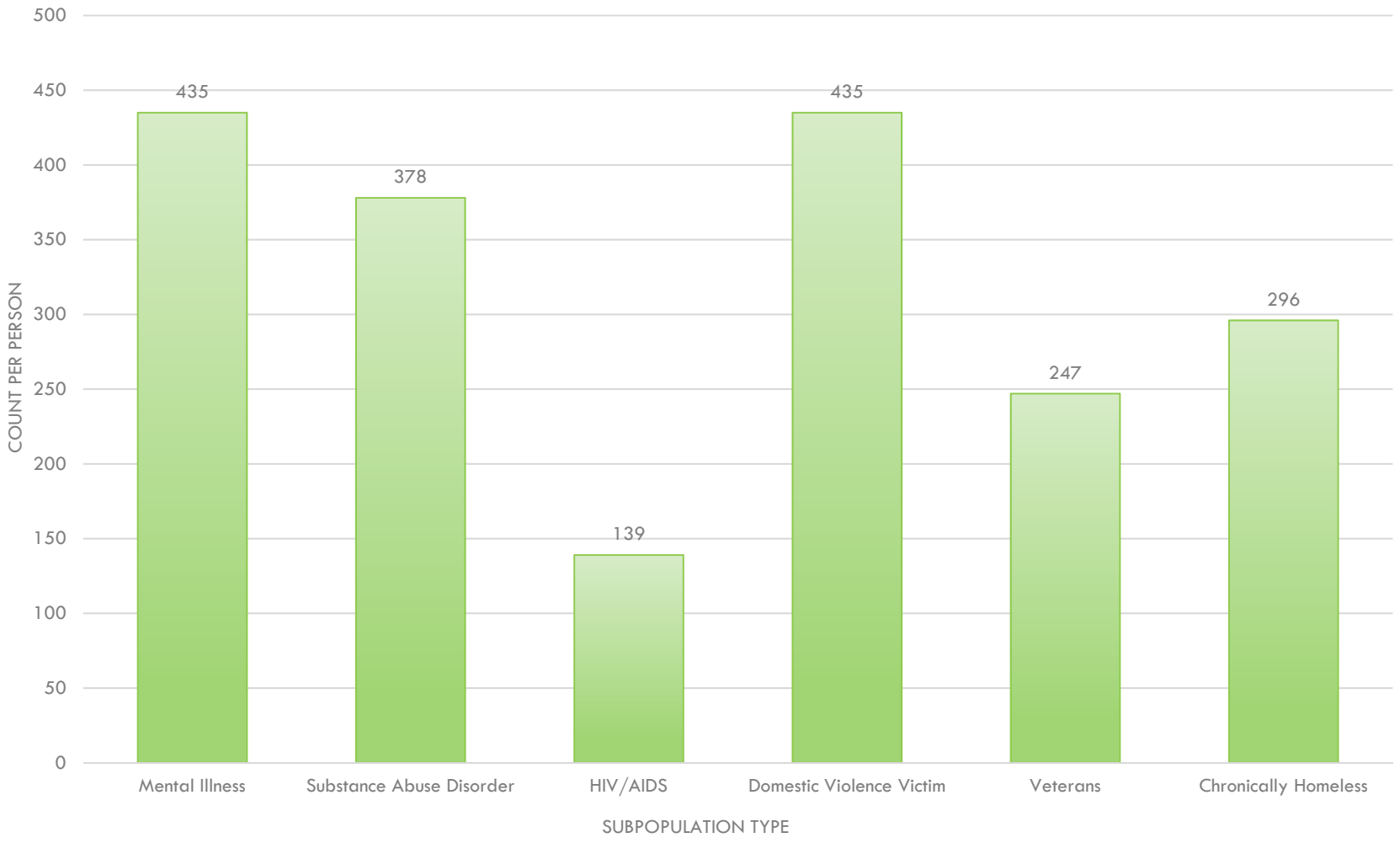


Homeless Status by Household Type

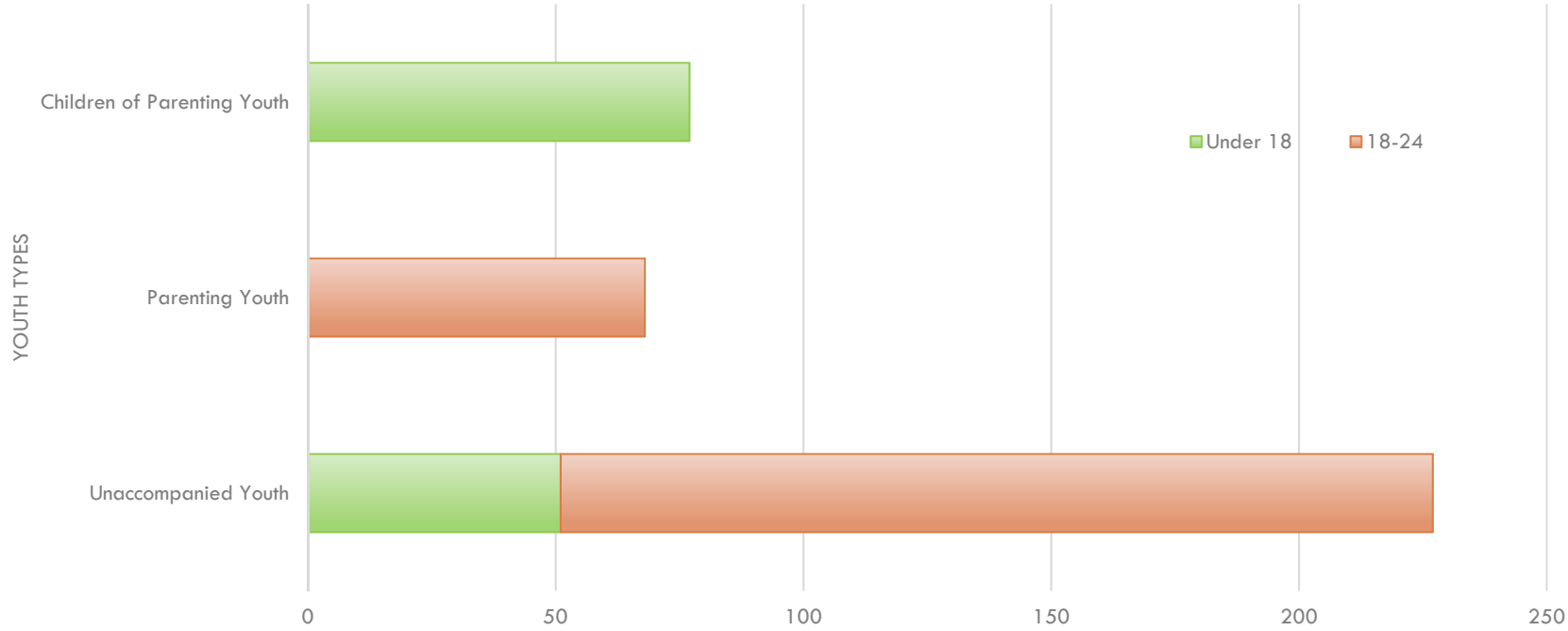


Special Populations

Homeless Status by Subpopulation



Youth Subpopulations



	Unaccompanied Youth	Parenting Youth	Children of Parenting Youth
Under 18	51	0	77
18-24	176	68	0

Why the increase?

- Adjustments to methodology
- Higher quality physical unsheltered counts
- Updated predictive model
- Reflection of overall national trend

These factors are based on anecdotal observation, and are not verified by research-quality analysis.

Membership Input

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

December 16, 18 & 19, 2019

April Woods, CoC Program Coordinator

Homelessness Outreach in Your Community

- Outreach (street outreach) is defined as reaching out to unsheltered persons staying on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation.
- Who is doing outreach in your community?
- What area is covered by outreach in your community?
  - City?
  - County?
  - Multi-county?
- If not, would your community benefit from outreach?
- Is there an agency in your community who could handle regional outreach?

Regional Structure of Coordinated Entry

- Does your agency/community work with surrounding communities?
- Is local comprehensive planning currently being conducted?
  - If yes, what entity?
- Do you have strategic conversations about funding in your community?

Next Steps and Resources

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

December 16, 18 & 19, 2019

Tina Moore – CoC Program Coordinator

Next Steps

- System Performance Data Cleanup
- 2020 Annual Sheltered Count
- CES Input (third-party survey)
- BoS CoC Applicant Debriefing (dates TBD)
  - For Ranked Applicants are there any topic requests?
- DCA Housing Symposium – February 2020 Savannah
- Other Projects & Training
  - CoC Grant Management Training (TBD)
  - Data Quality and Performance Evaluation Plan
- Please make sure you signed in (notices sent by email).
- Individuals wanting to be added to membership list please email Tina Moore at tina.moore@dca.ga.gov

Thank you so much for your participation!

- Questions?
  - Mike Thomas, CoC Program Manager
    (404) 679-0571 / Michael.Thomas@dca.ga.gov
  - Tina Moore, CoC Program Coordinator
    (404) 327-6870 / tina.moore@dca.ga.gov
  - April Woods, CoC Program Coordinator
    (404) 679-0651 / April.Woods@dca.ga.gov
  - Rebecca Hickom, Coordinated Entry System Coordinator
    (470) 423-1432 / rebecca.hickom@dca.ga.gov
  - Isaac Davis, Coordinated Entry System Coordinator
    (404) 370-2985 / isaac.davis@dca.ga.gov
  - Chandra McGhee, HMIS Data Analyst
    (404) 649-0655 / chandra.mcghee@dca.ga.gov
  - Ambra Houser, Data Analyst
    (404) 679-3102 / ambra.noble@dca.ga.gov
  - Rhonda Taylor, HMIS Data Analyst
    (404) 679-0634 / Rhonda.Taylor@dca.ga.gov

Resources

- The Governance Charter (and other policies)– https://www.dca.ga.gov/housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/policies
- DCA's Continuum webpage - https://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care
- HUD's Continuum of Care Interim Rule https://www.hudexchange.info/coc/coc-program-law-regulations-and-notices/#regulations
- HUD's Continuum of Care webpage – https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/

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