



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Working Together to Build Strong Communities

OZARKS ALLIANCE TO *End* HOMELESSNESS

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2025

SPRINGFIELD/GREENE, CHRISTIAN, AND WEBSTER
COUNTIES CONTINUUM OF CARE

[CPOZARKS.ORG/ENDHOMELESSNESS](https://cpozarks.org/endhomelessness)

RELEASED APRIL 2026

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Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness Overview

OUR *Community's* CONTINUUM OF CARE



The Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness (OAEH) is the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) designated Continuum of Care for Springfield/Greene, Christian, and Webster Counties. Community Partnership of the Ozarks is proud to coordinate this dynamic initiative, which has grown from the first two partners (The Kitchen, Inc. and the City of Springfield) to over 30 partners today that represent people with lived experience, non-profits, local government, advocacy groups, and others. Through innovation and collaboration with partner agencies, OAEH implements a community-wide approach to ensure episodes of homelessness are rare, brief, and non-recurring.

We’d like to give a special thank you to the 2025 OAEH Executive Board members, who represent different systems of care and are true community champions for those experiencing homelessness.

Missey Hayward, Chair, Springfield Mayor Appointed, Guaranty Bank
Meleah Spencer, Vice-Chair, The Kitchen, Inc.

Jody Austin, Immediate Past Chair, Springfield Mayor Appointed, Springfield-Greene Co. Health
Department

Bandi Kolbe, Christian County Representative

Alyssa Spradlin, Webster County Representative, Brentwood Christian Church

Wyatt Jenkins, Greene County Representative, Forvis Mazars

Bob Atchley, Lead Agency Representative, City of Springfield

Bobby Mitchell, Systems & Services Chair, Victory Mission

Katie Anderson, Housing Authority of Springfield

James Webb, Lived Experience, Victory Mission

Tammy Shipp, At Large, Burrell Behavioral Health

Steve Sharp, At Large, Springfield Fire Department

Dr. Tim Knapp, At Large, Community Representative

Katrin Herd, At Large, Gathering Friends

Brock Hughes, At Large, Mercy

Message from Our Board Chair

Missey Hayward

Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) has a mission to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods & communities through collaboration, programming, and resource development. The Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness (OAEH) is an initiative facilitated by CPO to coordinate housing and services funding for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Chair of the OAEH Executive Board. I would like to highlight a few impacts of the OAEH from the past fiscal year.

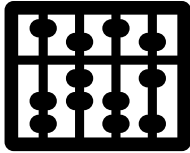
In 2025 the Homeless Youth Task Force surveyed youth who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk between the ages of 13 and 24 to identify gaps in community services and then created recommendations to target those gaps. In January the Every One Counts Committee facilitated the annual Point-in-Time Count, which provides a snapshot of the number and demographics of people experiencing homelessness on a specific night. The OAEH distributed over \$1.3 million in HUD federal grant funding to local homeless service programs. The O'Reilly Center for Hope, a hub focusing on improving the lives of those in our community, served 4,475 unique guests and referred 503 families to shelter or housing programs.

The Executive Board oversees the OAEH, and we continue to make improvements in our processes and procedures to ensure compliance with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, foster a collaborative approach, and identify areas of focus. I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of the Executive Board: Thank You for all you do to help improve the lives of those in our community.

Note: This report details the activities and achievements of the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness during the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's fiscal year 2025, which began on October 1, 2024, and ended September 30, 2025.

Who is Experiencing Homelessness in our Community?

Point-in-Time Count



Every year, communities across the U.S. document the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night. This provides a snapshot of who we serve.

On one night in January 2025:



588 Individuals were experiencing homelessness



240 Individuals were **chronically homeless**



41 Families were experiencing homelessness



87 Children were experiencing homelessness



39 Veterans were experiencing homelessness



19 Youth (aged 18 -24) were experiencing homelessness

17% of those counted were **unsheltered**

Among those who were experiencing unsheltered homelessness during the Point-in-Time Count:

- **19%** were adults aged 55 and over
- **8%** were American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
- **47%** reported having a mental health disorder
- **15%** reported they were actively fleeing domestic violence

2025 High Risk and Homeless Youth Survey

The 2025 High-Risk and Homeless Youth (HRHY) Survey provides critical insight into the experiences and needs of youth ages 13–24 in the Springfield region who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Conducted by the Homeless Youth Task Force in partnership with the Continuum of Care, this is the 11th assessment since 2007. The 2025 survey includes responses from 72 youth, primarily collected through service providers, offering a service-connected snapshot of youth experiences.

Respondents were predominantly local, with nearly 85% from Springfield or Greene County. The majority identified as White (67%), though racial and gender diversity has increased over time.

Youth demographics highlight significant vulnerability:

- ~70% reported a developmental, learning, mental health, or behavioral disability
- ~69% had experience in foster care or state systems
- ~28% were employed (mostly part-time)
- 97% were enrolled in or had completed some level of education

Youth homelessness remains prevalent and often cyclical:

- 55% experienced homelessness at least once in their lifetime
- 35% were currently homeless or couch surfing at the time of the survey
- 26% reported being in an unsafe living situation
- 33% had been homeless on their own, typically beginning between ages 15–17
- 79% of those homeless on their own slept in places not meant for habitation

Additionally, 43% reported not knowing where they would get food that day, underscoring ongoing basic needs insecurity.

Consistent with prior years, youth homelessness is strongly linked to trauma and instability:

- 84% experienced or witnessed significant trauma
- 61% reported parental substance use
- 57% experienced abuse from someone they lived with

Primary homeless drivers include abuse, unsafe living environments, and family conflict. Secondary barriers to exiting homelessness include lack of income, rental history, and employment opportunities.

Youth and providers identified major service gaps, particularly in housing:

- 72% identified a need for more short-term/crisis shelter
- 77% identified a need for more long-term housing
- 79% identified a need for transitional housing for parenting youth

Additional needs include mental health services, transportation, employment support, financial literacy, and more coordinated case management. While many services exist, access barriers, limited capacity, and system fragmentation remain significant challenges.

More information is available at www.cpozarks.org/endhomelessness

How is our Community Addressing Homelessness?

Services and Partners

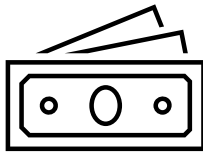
Housing Programs



Individuals experiencing homelessness in Springfield/Greene, Christian, and Webster counties are served by several housing programs provided by OAEH member agencies. These housing programs are each designed to serve specific sub-populations of those experiencing homelessness in our region. Below is a brief description of some of the services available.

Emergency Shelter	23 Programs	Emergency Shelters provide short-term shelter (up to 90 days) for those who are homeless as they prepare to move into more stable housing. These numbers include programs for victims of domestic violence, Crisis Cold Weather Shelters, and programs that serve children.
Transitional Housing	2 Programs	Transitional Housing programs serve individuals and families for up to 24 months and include supportive services that enable participants to live more independently. The goal of Transitional Housing is to help households transition to permanent, affordable housing.
Rapid Re-housing	12 Programs	Rapid Re-housing programs rapidly connect families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing to reduce the length of time they are homeless. Programs may include the use of time-limited financial assistance, case management, and targeted supportive services.
Permanent Supportive Housing	4 Programs	Permanent supportive housing combines housing assistance with voluntary supportive services to address the needs of those who are homeless. The services are designed to address barriers to housing, as well as connect people with community-based health care, treatment, and employment services.

Grant Funding



Our community relies on funding from several federal, state, and local grants to sustain homeless services throughout the OAEH service area. In FY 2025, the OAEH distributed over \$1.5 million in HUD federal grant funding to local homeless service programs. The following shows how the HUD CoC grant breaks down by recipient agency, population served, and type of program.

Chart 1

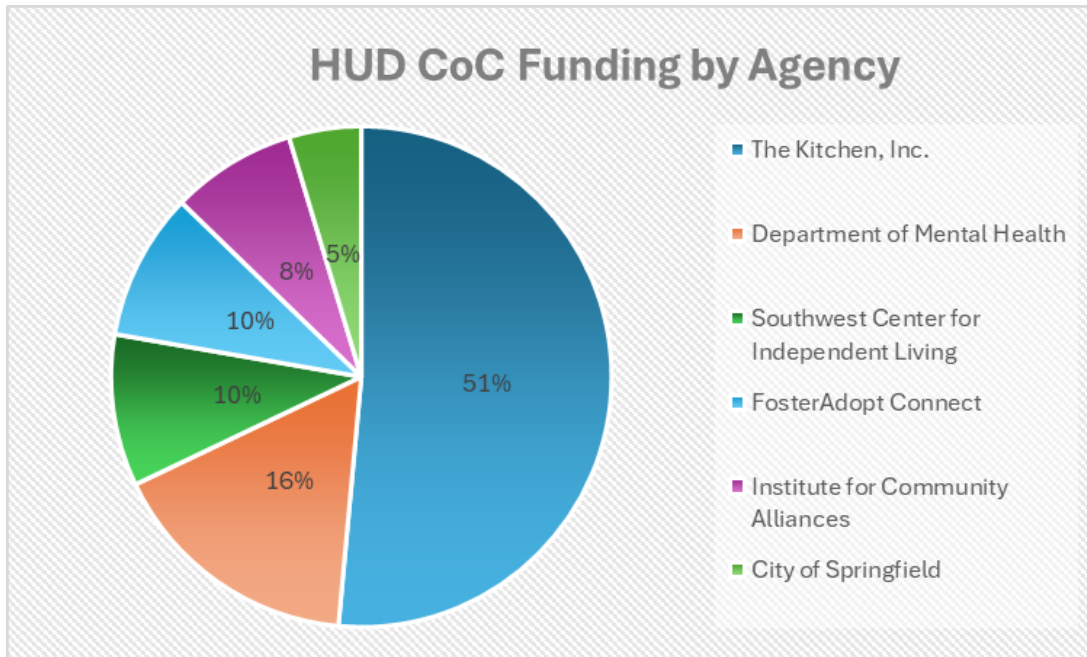


Table 1

Agency	Funding Amount
The Kitchen, Inc.	\$785,834
Department of Mental Health	\$251,311
Southwest Center for Independent Living	\$149,598
FosterAdopt Connect	\$145,436
Institute for Community Alliances	\$123,416
City of Springfield	\$71,273
Total	\$1,526,868

Chart 2

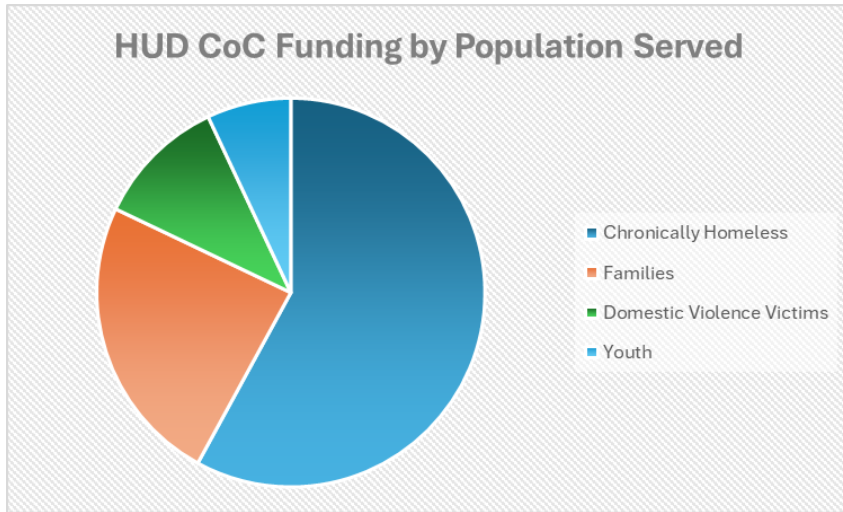


Table 2

Population	Funding Amount
Chronically Homeless	\$772,179
Families	\$321,197
Domestic Violence Survivors	\$145,436
Youth	\$93,367
Total	\$1,332,19

Chart 3

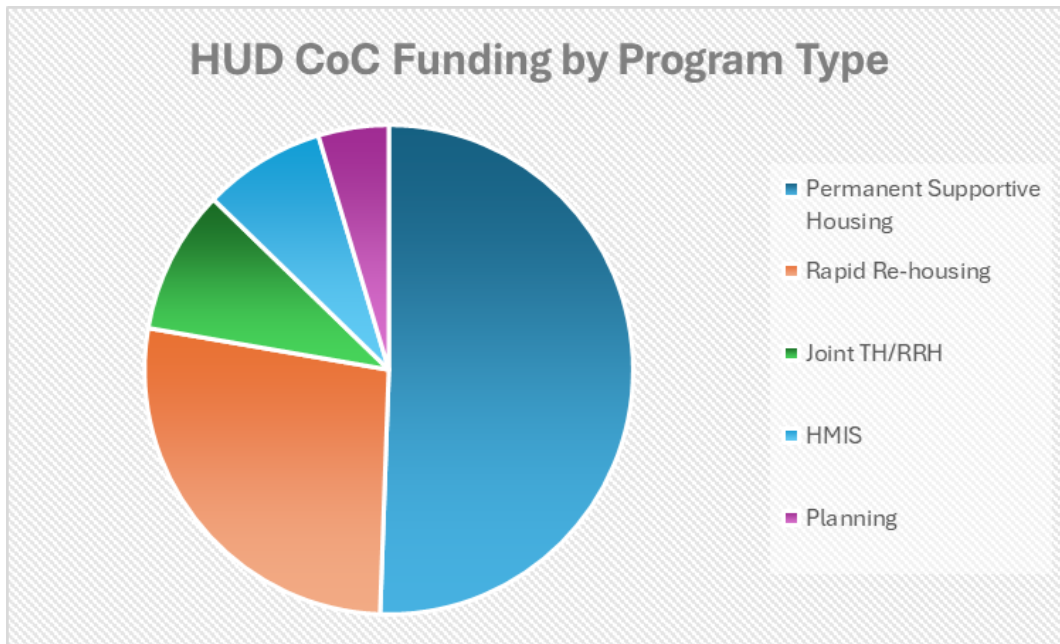
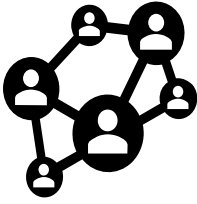


Table 3

Program Type	Funding Amount
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$772,179
Rapid Re-housing	\$414,564
Joint TH/RRH	\$145,436
HMIS	\$123,416
Planning	\$71,273
Total	\$1,526,868

The O'Reilly Center for Hope

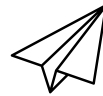


The O'Reilly Center for Hope brings together multiple partner agencies in support of affordable housing and financial stability. Accessing services is frequently difficult for those living in poverty or experiencing homelessness, but a single site reduces transportation and other access barriers. The O'Reilly Center for Hope is a community hub focusing on improving the lives of individuals, families with children, and Veterans who need help becoming housed and self-sufficient.

In FY 2025:



4,475 unique monthly guests were served



503 households referred to shelter or housing programs

One Door

When facing a housing crisis, understanding and navigating the systems of services can be confusing and overwhelming. One Door assists in maneuvering through those crucial systems by providing a central point of entry for coordinated intake, assessment, prioritization, and referrals for housing services.

Critical Care Services:

- Computer, Internet, and phone access
- Hygiene and first aid supplies
- Laundry & shower services
- Mail services
- Resource navigation services

Additional Partners and Services:

Burrell Behavioral Health
Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri
CPO: Financial Stability, Community & Neighborhood Development Programming
Dept. of Social Services: Family Support Division
Habitat for Humanity
Legal Services of Southern Missouri
Missouri Job Center

MSU Care
Nursing
OACAC
Springfield Community Land Trust
Springfield-Greene County Health Department
Springfield Public Schools
Veterinary Services
WIC

System Performance Measures



HUD uses a set of defined measures to determine our community’s progress in meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness – not only in obtaining housing, but in supporting them in maintaining it. Our progress on these measures impacts federal funding allocations.

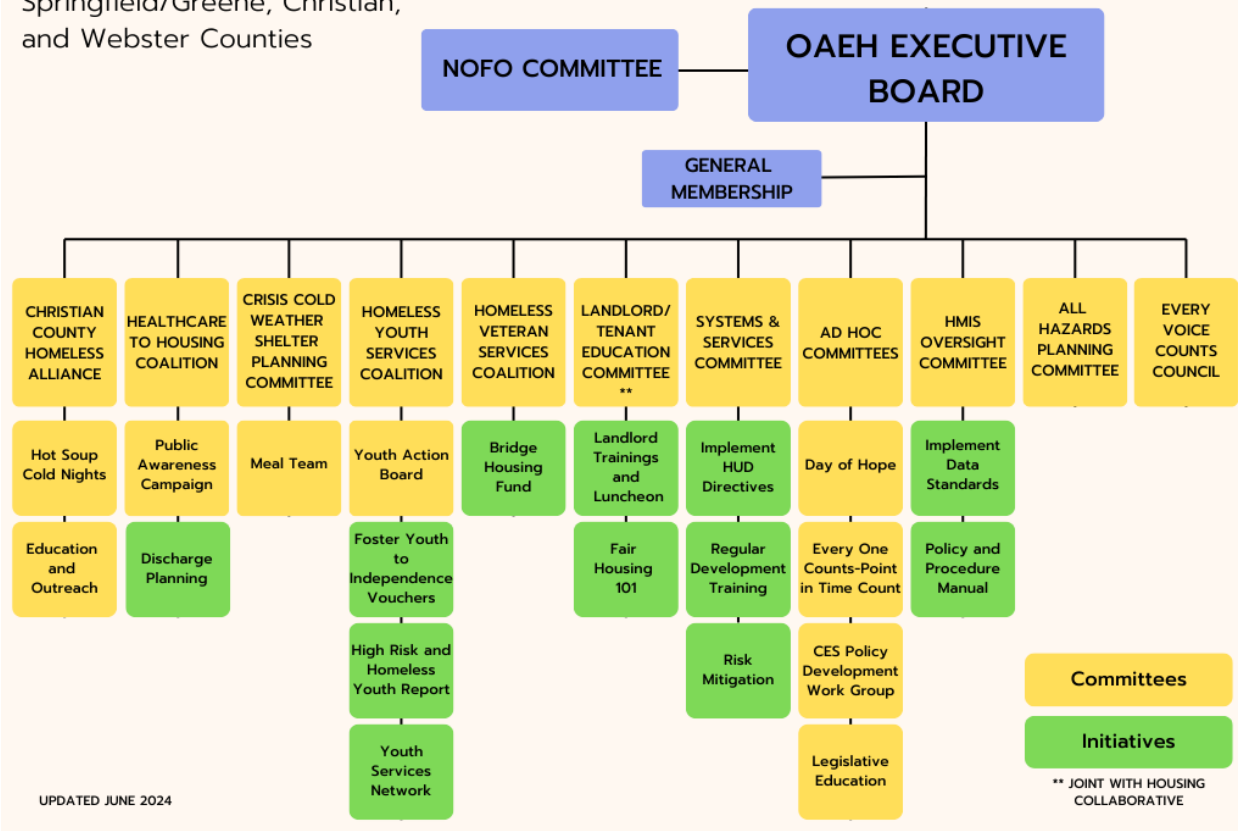


Measure		Outcome
Length of time people remain homeless	✓	Over the last reporting year, the average number of days people experienced homelessness before getting housed <i>decreased</i> from 61 days in FY 2024 to 49 days in FY 2025. (Measure 1, Metric 1.1).
Extent that people who were permanently housed return to homelessness	✓	Over the last reporting year, 8% of households that exited to permanent housing situations returned to homelessness within 2 years, which is a <i>decrease</i> from FY 2024 at 9% (Measure 2).
Number of people experiencing homelessness	⌚	Our annual sheltered count shows that over the last reporting year, the number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness over the entire year has <i>increased</i> from 1,071 individuals to 1,337 individuals. (Measure 3).
Employment Income and Growth	✓	Over the last reporting year, 27% of adults who left a housing program increased their total income. This is an <i>increase</i> from FY 2024, when 20% of adults increased income (Measure 4, Metric 4.3).
Number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time	⌚	Over the last reporting year, the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time <i>increased</i> to 1,394. This is 331 people more than FY 2024 (Measure 5).
Successful placement in or retention of Permanent Housing	✓	Successful exits/retention from permanent supportive housing programs has <i>increased</i> over the last reporting year from 89% to 90%. (Measure 7, Metric 7b.2)

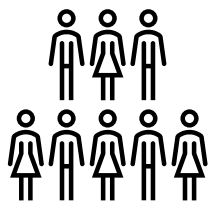
Committees and Initiatives

OZARKS ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

Springfield/Greene, Christian,
and Webster Counties



Committee Descriptions and Outcomes



The OAEH includes several committees that coordinate efforts across organizations to address certain components of the homeless service system and specific challenges.

OAEH Executive Board

The Executive Board oversees the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness. They set policy and priority for the OAEH and ensure the OAEH is in compliance with HUD. They ensure all federal mandates are met and work to address community issues through a collaborative approach.

Systems & Services Committee

The Systems & Services Committee offers support and networking opportunities for federally and non-federally funded agencies in our community. This group often discusses successes and challenges, emerging issues facing those experiencing homelessness, collective training needs for staff, and gaps in services, as well as topics related to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding implementation and requirements.

Christian County Homeless Alliance

The Christian County Homeless Alliance is dedicated to improving the system of care in Christian County through collaboration with government, faith-based and nonprofit service providers, city government, and local businesses.

Crisis Cold Weather Shelter Planning Committee

The Crisis Cold Weather Shelter (CCWS) Planning Committee coordinates the CCWS program. Every winter overnight Crisis Cold Weather Shelters open in our community to provide additional emergency shelter beds on nights when the temperature drops below freezing.

Every Voice Counts Council

The Every Voice Counts Council is the Lived Experience Council of the OAEH. Sponsored by OAEH partners, this Council consists entirely of people with direct lived experience of homelessness. The scope of the EVC Council is designed to ensure people with lived experience of the harms associated with homelessness have an opportunity to provide direction and expert advice regarding OAEH activities, programs, and strategic development.

Healthcare to Housing Coalition

The Healthcare to Housing Coalition discusses and acts on issues related to access to healthcare and discharge planning. This is the OAEH's newest committee.

Homeless Veteran Services Coalition

The Homeless Veteran Services Coalition was formed to ensure homeless and unstably housed individuals who have served in the military receive aid. The Homeless Veteran Services Coalition is composed of representatives from homeless service agencies throughout the Springfield community, including those who work in Veteran-specific agencies, and individuals who identify as Veterans.

Homeless Youth Services Coalition

The Homeless Youth Services Coalition was formed to ensure the needs of unstably housed youth in Springfield/Greene, Christian, and Webster counties are taken into account and addressed. HUD defines youth as anyone from ages 13 to 24, and while unstable housing is a difficult situation to deal with at any age, the Homeless Youth Services Coalition aims to aid those who are vulnerable to homelessness during their most formative years. The Homeless Youth Services Coalition is composed of representatives from homeless services agencies throughout the OAEH geographical area who work primarily with youth and know their needs firsthand.

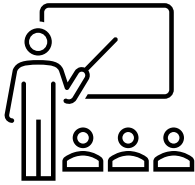
Landlord/Tenant Education Subcommittee

The Landlord/Tenant Education Subcommittee is a joint committee with CPO's Housing Collaborative. Its mission is to educate both landlords and tenants on key challenges within our community related to rental housing, create community conversations to bridge the gap between landlords and tenants, and connect landlords and tenants to available resources.

Ad Hoc Committees

- Day of Hope Committee (plans monthly medically directed service events)
- Every One Counts Committee (facilitates the annual Point-in-Time Count)
- CES Policy Development Work Group
- Legislative Education Committee
- All Hazards Planning Committee

Education and Engagement



One important function of the OAEH is educating and engaging individuals, service providers, and the community at large on topics about homelessness and housing. In FY2025, the OAEH hosted 6 trainings for members of the OAEH and hosted several community education events at the O'Reilly Center for Hope.

General Membership Trainings

Each year, the OAEH provides training for all members of the OAEH. Training topics for FY2025 included:

- Mainstream Benefits
- SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Substance Abuse/Recovery
- Employment Assistance
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

O'Reilly Center for Hope Training Center

The O'Reilly Center for Hope includes a training center, which provides free community education and training on-site through partner agencies, and enables the OAEH to offer regular classes and workshops such as:

- Basic Budgeting and Financial Literacy
- Employment and Workforce Development Skills
- Eviction Mitigation and Foreclosure Prevention
- Fair Housing Laws and Landlord/Tenant Education
- Homebuyer Education and Financial Coaching
- Nutrition and Healthy Cooking
- Parent Cafes

OAEH Strategic Plan

Strategic Planning Process

Throughout FY2025, the OAEH worked towards the creation of a strategic plan to guide actions taken from 2026 to 2030. The purpose of the OAEH Strategic Plan for 2026–2030 is to provide a comprehensive, data-informed roadmap to strengthen the region’s response to homelessness across Springfield/Greene, Christian, and Webster counties. As the HUD designated Continuum of Care (CoC) for the region, OAEH brings together cross-sector partners—including people with lived experience, service providers, local governments, healthcare, housing, and advocacy organizations—to ensure homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

The 2026–2030 Strategic Plan was developed through a robust planning process that included analysis of system performance data, review of past strategic plans and annual reports, examination of Coordinated Entry and Active Prioritization List data, environmental and funding scans, and extensive community engagement. Feedback from service providers, community members, and people with lived experience highlighted urgent needs for more affordable housing, stronger supportive services, improved access to healthcare and transportation, and increased education and empathy across the community.

Community Input Survey

As part of the strategic planning process, the OAEH and the OAEH Strategic Planning Committee worked towards the creation and implementation of a Community Input Survey. This survey was designed to complement the work of the committees, as the data compiled from questions pertaining to community needs and solutions would be used to ensure OAEH committees and coalitions are developing appropriate goals. Furthermore, the survey featured questions designed to gauge community perceptions and beliefs about the homeless services system and related issues such as healthcare, mental healthcare, transportation, and employment.

One of the most prominent takeaways from the survey is how respondents regularly expressed opinions that current assistance systems are insufficient and unable to meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness. Respondents also spoke regularly to the need for more empathetic and humanizing treatment of those in housing crises, more affordable housing options, and increased education on issues related to homelessness.

Systems Map

A systems map was created as a visual representation of the various elements, themes, and relationships that constitute the OAEH to explain how elements of the homeless service system influence one another. Broadly, there are 8 themes that make up our homeless service system: The Deep Structure of the OAEH, Federal Government Requirements, Homeless System, Housing,

Local Government and Programming, Community Engagement and Awareness, Local Support, and System Performance Measures. Each of these themes is made up of elements that depict a component of the system. The goal of organizing our systems map in this way is to create a holistic picture beyond our homeless service system which can show the strengths and weaknesses in our system and better understand the potential ripple effects unexpected changes can have on our system.

To learn more about the OAEH Strategic Plan, visit CPO's website: [Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness](#).

Glossary

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR): HUD report to the U.S. Congress that provides nationwide estimates of homelessness, including demographics, service use patterns, and capacity to house people. Report is based on data the OAEH submits to HUD from the Coordinated Entry System, Point-in-Time Count, and Housing Inventory Counts.

Case Conferencing: Monthly meetings with housing providers and supportive services partners to discuss cases, determine resources, and refer people to housing programs from the Prioritization List.

Chronic Homelessness: Specific definition of homelessness based on length of time someone has experienced homelessness (over one year or repeatedly) and a disabling condition (mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability).

Continuum of Care (CoC): Federally mandated local planning body tasked by HUD with oversight of federal funding for homeless services and system level coordination of a community's response to homelessness. Locally, DBA as Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness.

Coordinated Entry System (CES): Federally mandated process to manage referrals to housing programs across a community; facilitated by Community Partnership's One Door program. This process ensures everyone needing assistance has equal access to housing resources.

Crisis Cold Weather Shelter (CCWS): Supplemental overnight emergency shelter system operating during the winter season (November through March).

Diversions: Intervention to immediately address needs to prevent a household from accessing the emergency shelter system.

EHV: COVID-era long-term tenant based rental assistance allocated to Public Housing Authorities through the American Rescue Plan Act; requires an MOU with the CoC.

Emergency Shelter: Facility whose primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter (generally 90 days or less).

FYI: Long-term tenant based rental assistance to at-risk young adults aging out of foster care. Funding is administered through Public Housing Authorities and requires an MOU with the CoC.

Homeless: Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (e.g., living in emergency shelter or somewhere not meant for human habitation).

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS): A local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to households experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Each Continuum of Care (CoC) is responsible for selecting

an HMIS software solution that complies with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards.

Housing First: National best practice philosophy of offering housing assistance that prioritizes meeting basic needs (housing, food) before addressing other needs (employment, budgeting, etc.) Also emphasizes client choice in determining housing assistance.

Housing Inventory Count (HIC): Single night inventory of beds in a CoC dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness; documented on a single night in January.

HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development): Cabinet department that administers programs that provide housing and community development assistance while working to ensure everyone has fair and equal opportunities for housing. Federal oversight of the CoC program.

HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH): Joint housing program through HUD and the VA that serves Veterans. It pairs rental assistance vouchers administered by Public Housing Authorities with supportive services and case management through the VA; takes referrals from the Coordinated Entry System.

Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness (OAEH): Local Continuum of Care, aka “The Alliance.”

Point-in-Time Count (PIT): Federally mandated initiative and report that counts and collects demographic information on people experiencing homelessness (sheltered and unsheltered) on a single night at the end of January.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): Type of housing assistance that pairs long-term rental payments with case management and services to serve the most vulnerable people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Prioritization List: Local list of households who reported experiencing homelessness in the last 90 days; used to make referrals to housing programs based on highest need.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH): Type of housing assistance that provides short or medium-term (up to two years) rental payments and services.

Sheltered: Individuals staying in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery): Initiative designed to improve access to SSI and SSDI for people who are experiencing homelessness and have a disabling condition, specifically individuals with mental illness.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI): Provides benefits to blind or disabled individuals who are “insured” based on contributions paid into the Social Security Trust Fund.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Provides benefits to low-income people who are disabled, blind, or elderly.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF): Federal grant administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs to prevent and end Veteran homelessness by providing housing assistance and supportive services to very low-income Veteran families. Locally, awarded to The Kitchen, Inc. and operates as their *Home at Last* program. Takes referrals from the Coordinated Entry System.

Unsheltered: Individuals staying on the streets, in an encampment, in their car, or other place not intended as housing.

VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index- Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool): Component of the Coordinated Entry System assessment process; used to identify barriers to housing and to prioritize supportive housing assistance.