



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

Tulsa Women's Commission

Regular Meeting | February 7, 2025 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 411

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Premadonna Braddick, Susan Crenshaw, Ashleigh Frohrip, Betsy Jackson, Charisa Jacobs, Deidra Kirtley, Janet Levit, Amy Mariska, Meg Myers Morgan, Kate Neary, Maria Carlota Palacios

Commissioners Absent: Mary Quinn Cooper, Dezeray Edwards, Laura Latta

I. Call to Order

- a. Vice Chair Neary called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Vice Chair Neary entertained a motion to approve the November 2024 meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Morgan made a motion, Commissioner Carlota Palacios seconded.
 - ii. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
 1. Commissioners Levit and Braddick were not yet present in the meeting.
- b. Motion carried, November 2024 meeting minutes approved.

III. Oath

- a. Lexi passed around a document for commissioners to sign the oath of office. All commissioners present signed.

IV. Affordable Housing Options for Women and Families

- a. **Presentation: Tulsa Homelessness and Housing Resources (Erin Velez, Chief of Staff and Amy Olsen, CoC Director at Housing Solutions Tulsa)**
 - i. Erin Velez began by sharing information about Housing Solutions/A Way Home for Tulsa and passing out data sheets (Appendix 1).
 - ii. The Point in Time count for 2025 was conducted recently, data will be available soon. Current data is from 2024.
 - iii. Lack of affordable housing is the biggest contributor to homelessness.
 1. Visible homeless is increasing, not as concentrated in downtown Tulsa as in the past.
 2. Sheltered homelessness is a larger portion: 62%



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

3. Substance use is a low number for contributing factor (about 20%), usually comes into play after someone becomes homeless. There are great resources in Tulsa to support folks with this challenge.
4. Lack of affordable housing and loss of benefits are top contributing factors for general population as well as for women.
- iv. 73% of people currently experiencing homelessness became homeless while living here in Tulsa.
- v. Most people are experiencing homelessness for the first time.
 1. Oklahoma is one of the only states to not have anti-retaliation laws protecting tenants. Organizations are working in the policy space to enhance renter protections and repair relationships between tenants and landlords to prevent eviction.
- vi. Tulsa needs 13,000 affordable housing units to meet housing need.
 1. Housing Forward is new nonprofit working to bring nonprofit & affordable housing developers.
 2. Average rent in Tulsa is \$1,000/month, but Tulsans earning minimum wage need to work 100 hours per week to afford that.
- vii. Current wait time from assessment to connection to a unit: 360 days
- viii. Amy Olsen reviewed some of the homeless data.
 1. 12,416 individuals have been assessed for housing assistance since Jan 2020.
 2. 21,000 individuals accessed services in 2024; 9,908 were women; 346 women secured housing in the last year.
- ix. The increase in homelessness is directly correlated to decrease in housing placements. COVID pandemic protections and additional resources are ending. Need advocacy for affordable housing in every neighborhood.
- x. Commission Discussion:
 1. Commissioner Mariska: Quality data. What was homelessness data in 2019? Curious to know change from 2019 to 2020.
 2. Commissioner Levit: Was HUD money turned off due to recent national executive orders?
 - a. Amy: Yes, for 48 hours.
 - b. Commissioner Levit: What would happen if that was lost permanently?
 - c. Erin: HUD money is used for emergency shelters, rapid rehousing and case management to stabilize individuals, and service chronically homeless individuals who may need supports for life to get and stay housed. Would lose



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

housing and staff who support those individuals if HUD funds are lost.

3. Commissioner Crenshaw: Lots of these issues are women's issues and children's issues that affect women.

b. Presentation: NACA and Lending Resources (Commissioner Charisa Jacobs)

- i. NACA is a mortgage program operating since the 1980s that provides affordable homeownership. Seeks to address racial inequities in homeownership and is also a great resource for women. Way to build wealth and stability.
- ii. Commissioner Jacobs shared her personal story with housing insecurity.
- iii. Character based lending (without consideration of credit score) supports participants afford the mortgage they want.
- iv. Addresses barriers such as limited savings, restrictive underwriting based on credit score, and unaffordable terms to get participants pre-approved for a mortgage.

V. Vice Chair Report

- a. YWCA Pinnacle Awards Update with guest Toneille Bent
 - i. Gratitude for commissioners who are helping to plan this year's Pinnacle Awards.
 - ii. The event is April 4th, and the theme is "tapestry."
- b. Vice Chair Neary highlighted two recent pieces of news related to childcare, and noted there are three Oklahoma House bills 1847, 1848, 1849, that address childcare.
 - i. Commissioner Morgan: Bill Knight referenced Tulsa Women's Commission's work in his Tulsa Regional Chamber inauguration speech.

VI. Old Business – no old business

VII. New Business – no new business

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Commissioner Crenshaw: Tulsa/Oklahoma has a law that elected officials have to be present to vote in spaces like City Council meetings, with no option for proxy voting or online ballot. This can affect elected officials on parental leave or with other caregiver responsibilities. Particularly impacts women in office or considering running. This commission could potentially have a voice in helping to change that.
- b. Commissioner Braddick: Human Trafficking Awareness Summit on February 15
- c. Lexi shared an opportunity for the commission to table at Atlas School's Women's Resource Fair. Will follow up over email to get volunteers.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Vice Chair Neary entertained a motion to adjourn.



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

- i. Commissioner Crenshaw made a motion, Commissioner Jackson seconded.
 - ii. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
- b. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1:04 pm.

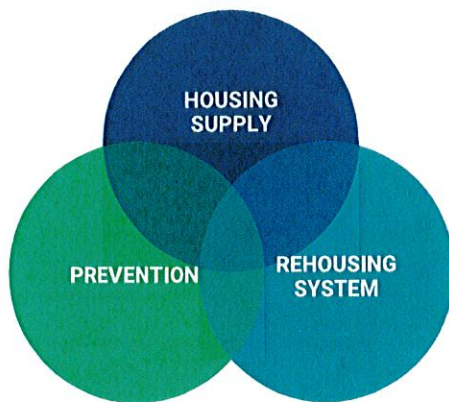
TULSA CITY/COUNTY

Homelessness in Tulsa



A Way Home for Tulsa

Reducing homelessness requires a balanced system of housing creation, prevention and rehousing. A Way Home for Tulsa (AWH4T) is a collective of Tulsa agencies that exists to plan and implement strategies in support of a balanced system of care. Since January 2020, Tulsa's system of care has assessed 12,416 for housing assistance and pending referral.



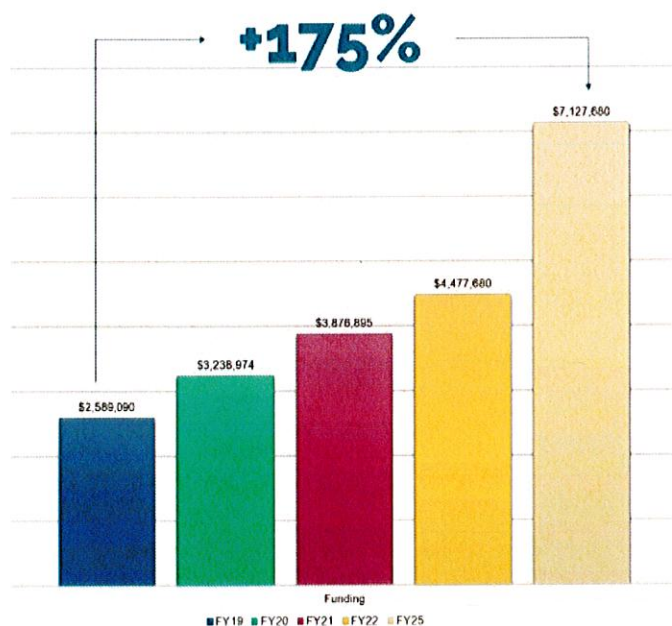
In the last year, AWH4T homeless prevention providers served 3,211 households, including 2% of all renting households in Tulsa City/County.

The lack of supply of affordable housing has led to increased prices, high rates of eviction, and increased inflows into homelessness.

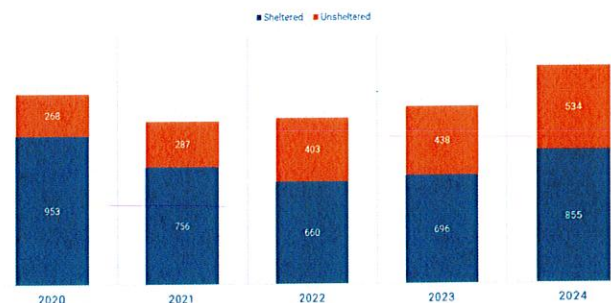
Since 2022, AWH4T has helped 2,480 people experiencing homelessness move back into permanent housing. Unfortunately, the inflow has increased, outpacing the rehousing rate.

Current Funding Overview

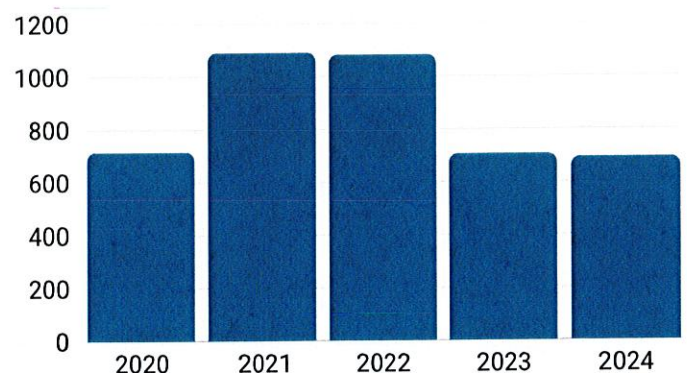
Our current annual award from HUD is **\$4,477,680**. With the addition of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program funding, we will have an annual award of **\$7,127,680 starting in 2025**.



Increase in Homelessness



Decrease in Housing Placements



TULSA CITY/COUNTY

2024 Point-in-Time Count Results



The Point in Time (PIT) Count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is a count of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on a single night in Tulsa County.

1,389

INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN TULSA

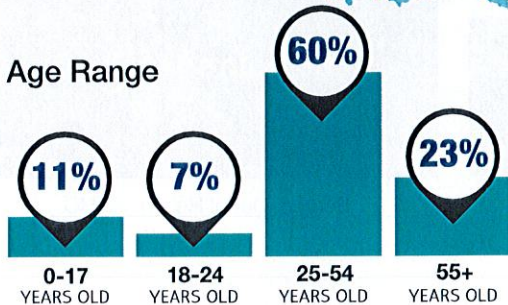
on the night of January 25, 2024

38%
Unsheltered



62%
Sheltered

81% of respondents first became homeless in Oklahoma, 73% first became homeless in Tulsa.



Foster Care

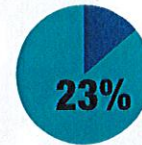
17% of respondents have been in the foster care system.

Disabling Conditions

46% of respondents have a disabling condition.

Domestic Violence

39% of respondents have a history of domestic violence.



Employment

23% were employed at the time of the survey.

Justice Involvement

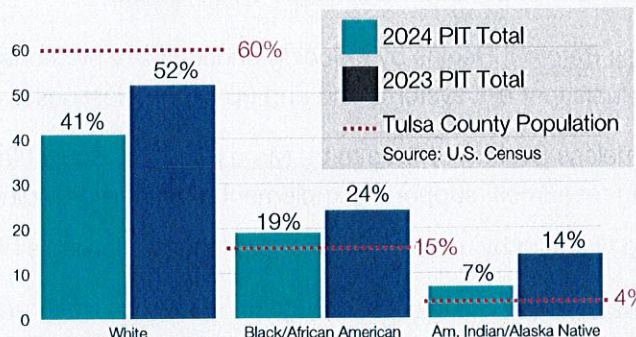
56% of respondents mentioned a personal history of incarceration.

Veterans

8% of respondents were veterans.

Race / Ethnicity

Homelessness continues to have a disproportionate impact on communities of color. This disparity not only reflects broader systemic inequalities but also emphasizes the importance of community action and advocacy. AWH4T agencies are working to address and mitigate the factors contributing to this pressing issue.



11%
Tribal Citizens

8%
Latina/e/o

Improving the quality of life for all people living in Tulsa by creating a community where homelessness - if it occurs - is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

5,441 Total number of people served in 2023.

Newly Homeless

In 2023, 2,816 of the 5,441 people within Emergency Shelters, Safe Havens, Transitional Housing, and Street Outreach were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

52%

Lack of Affordable Housing

Loss of Income/Benefits

Mental Health

Job Loss

Relationship Breakdown

Domestic Violence

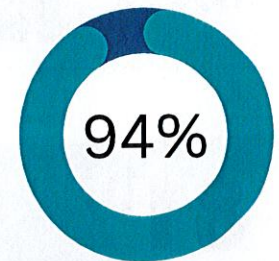
Causes of Homelessness

These are the top reasons respondents said contributed to their homelessness.

Affordable Housing

Finding and securing stable, suitable living arrangements for individuals or families experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless is more challenging when affordable housing and rental assistance isn't available in a community.

Tulsa's Housing Retention Rate is 94%, showing that prioritizing housing with supportive services is a highly successful strategy for ensuring long-term stability and preventing homelessness in our community.

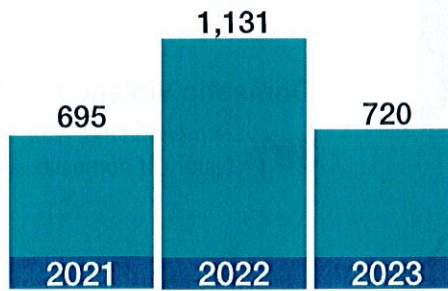


\$1,128
per month

to rent a 2-bedroom apartment in Tulsa County



Source: HUD FMR



Housing Placement

OK

\$18/hour

to afford a 2-bedroom rental home

or

99 hours/week

at minimum wage needed to afford a 2-bedroom rental home

Source: Out of Reach, NLIHC

A Way Home for Tulsa's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan Goals

- 1 Stop Homelessness Before It Begins by reducing unnecessary evictions and improving discharge policies and supports for individuals that exit systems and end up in homelessness.
- 2 Transform the Homeless System of Care to be More Effective, Equitable, and Person-Centered by understanding the need, allocating resources, supporting implementation, and providing services to reduce barriers to housing.
- 3 Increase Access to Housing by revising policies to prioritize affordable housing and connecting tenants to units.
- 4 Partner Across Tulsa to Build Solutions and Access Resources by increasing community, state, and federal support.