

Ending Homelessness in Metropolitan Kansas City

National Association of Regional Councils

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Mid-America Regional Council

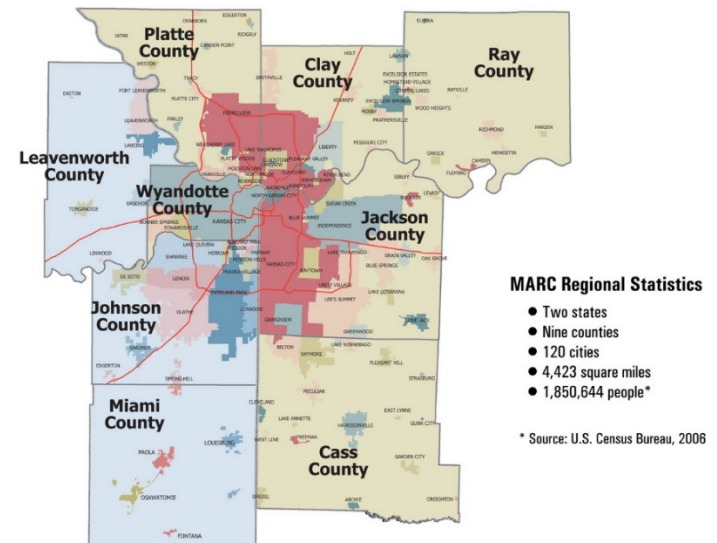


Complexity

Two states

Nine counties

Five Continuum of Care organizations (includes 2 balance of state)



Homeless in Metro Kansas City

Point-in-Time Count 2016

	Jackson County, MO	Johnson County, Kansas	Wyandotte County, Kansas
Number of Households	1,132	70	181
Number of Persons	1,452	153	254
Number of Children	329	74	Not counted
Number of Youth 18 – 24 years	112	13	7

Metro KC Homeless Special Populations

- Chronic Homeless - 354
- Youth 18 to 24 years – 109 (agencies report as many as 2,000 on any given night)
- Homeless Veterans - 198
- Adults with a Series Mental Illness - 566
- Victims of Domestic Violence - 613
- Adults with a Substance Abuse Disorder – 701
- Persons with HIV/AIDS – 19
- Children in Families – Area school districts report over 9,000

MARC's Evolving Role



- Homelessness Task Force of Greater Kansas City (2012)
 - *Raised private resources*
 - *Convened stakeholders*
 - *Developed action plan*
 - *Defined a “Unified System” and began work toward building it*

Building a Unified Homeless and Housing System in 2014

The Homelessness Task Force (HTF) is a regional coalition of community partners with an interest or concern about those who are served by or who serve in the homelessness system.

In 2014, the Kansas City region will work towards building a more unified system.

The expected outcomes include: community agreement and commitment to common principles, strategies, protocols, metrics and training; coordinated system entry and assessment tools; and a shared data information system.

Management Information System:
Web-based "cloud" technology will be necessary to effectively implement and monitor the metrics of a unified system at individual, agency, county and regional levels.

Rapid Re-Housing moves homeless persons into scattered site housing within the community before providing any services. It assists people with mid-range needs and is temporary.

Transitional housing provides programs and services to all levels of need, along with temporary housing in scattered site housing or congregate living. Upon completing programming, participants are assisted into permanent housing.

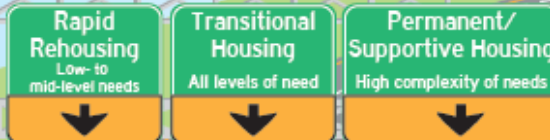
Permanent Supportive Housing houses high- to severe-need persons in scattered site or congregate living before providing services. It is partnered with intensive case management or assertive community treatment.

KCMetroHousing.org

Services Ahead



HOUSING OPTIONS



Services as determined by the common assessment tool are still available for these at-risk individuals and families, even if they were diverted from the housing system.



A **common assessment tool** standardizes service prioritization, which allows for the most efficient use of resources and improves consumer access to support. Coordinated access makes the system easier to navigate by leveraging the strengths of individual service providers.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS
YOUTH
VETERANS
FAMILIES
CHRONIC HOMELESS



Housing Triage helps the community "yield" to more vulnerable individuals by focusing limited resources on the most appropriate people or families using a standardized assessment tool and set protocols. This tool assesses level of acuity (or vulnerability) and prioritizes the most effective housing option.

Diversion is a standardized strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking housing support by helping them stabilize their current situation or identify immediate alternate housing arrangements. If necessary, they are connected to services and financial assistance.



- Street Outreach
- Schools
- At-Risk Families
- Foster Care
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Prisons/Jail

Coordinated Entry Point



marc.org/community/htf



Progress on Elements of a Unified System

- Diversion protocol and Coordinated intake and assessment
 - *Piloted a coordinated intake process with United Way*
 - *Identified a common assessment tool*
- Housing Locator Service/Common Rental Housing Application
- Working toward an improved HMIS System
- Special campaigns – 100,000 Homes; Veteran’s Homeless
- Increasing the supply of affordable housing
(www.kcmetrohousing.org and landlord engagement)
- Convening role around establishing a Crisis Center and training



Staff Support for A Continuum of Care Organization

- **Staff support** to the CoC Board – meeting support; management of grants
- Support response by agencies serving the county to the HUD funding announcement, including technical assistance to applicants and staff support to review committee charged with **reviewing and assigning priorities for funding**
- Staff support for **general membership meetings** and representing the Continuum in the community
- **Monitoring** HUD-funded agencies in the community to use the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS)

HMIS Lead Agency

- HMIS system – record services delivered and identify gaps
- Role of the HMIS Lead Agency – ensure agencies use the system and the system meets community needs
- Worked with CoCs to form Governing Board, adopted bylaws, working on policies
- Review of HMIS System to identify deficiencies
- Working toward a RFP to consider changes to current system
- Training/technical support for agencies
- Developing and using reports to meet HUD requirements and to understand level of services delivered and unmet needs

Challenges

- Limited funding to meet need for housing and supportive services, particularly mental health
- Housing authorities and other publicly supported housing don't view homeless as priorities
- Almost no resources for unaccompanied youth
- HUD processes encourage competition rather than collaboration or ability to change programs to better meet needs

For more information

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