Homeless Housing and Services in New Orleans

January 11, 2018
UNITY of Greater New Orleans is a collaborative of 60 agencies. Our mission is to coordinate community initiatives to prevent, reduce and end homelessness.

Since our founding in 1992, our coalition has permanently housed over 55,000 vulnerable people, thereby ending or preventing their homelessness.

25 Years of Housing the Most Vulnerable People of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish
Area Health Education Center Southeast LA
Armstrong Family Services
Baptist Friendship House
Belle Reve
Boys Town Louisiana
Bridge House
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
City of Kenner
City of New Orleans Healthcare for the Homeless
City of New Orleans Office of Community Dev.
Concerned Citizens for a Better Algiers/Home Again
Covenant House
Depaul USA
Easter Seals Louisiana, Inc.
Ekhaya Youth Project
Exodus House
First Evangelist
Goodwill Industries of Southeast Louisiana
Grace At The Green Light
Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
Harry Tompsoon Center
Hope Center
Hope House
Hotel Hope
Jefferson Parish Community Development
Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority
Jerusalem Economic Development Corporation
Kingsley House
Loyola Law Clinic
Metro Centers for Community Advocacy

Metropolitan Human Services District
NAMI New Orleans
New Orleans Baptist Ministries, Inc.
New Orleans Council on Aging
New Orleans Family Justice Alliance
New Orleans Public Schools—Homeless Education
New Orleans Regional AIDS Planning Council
New Orleans Women’s Shelter
Crescent Care/NO/AIDS Taskforce
Odyssey House
Ozanam Inn
The Policy and Research Group
Pro-Bono Project
Project Lazarus
Providence Community Housing
Resources for Human Development
Responsibility House
Salvation Army
Shared Housing of New Orleans
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
START Corporation
St. Bernard Enrichment
Total Community Action, Inc.
Travelers Aid Society of GNO
Tulane Drop In Center
Tulane Law Clinic
United Ministries
VIA LINK
Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans
Yes I Can, Exceeding Life Challenges, Inc.
UNITY is recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, City of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish Government, and City of Kenner as the lead agency responsible for applying for competitive federal grants (HUD Continuum of Care grants) for homeless housing and services for the entire community.

- We distribute grants to our member agencies
- We oversee their work to end homelessness
- We manage the community’s HUD mandated Coordinated Entry System, which prioritizes clients for available housing slots based on HUD criteria.
89 PERCENT REDUCTION IN HOMELESSNESS

Since 2007, the UNITY collaborative has reduced homelessness by 89 percent, driving down homelessness each year through the provision of affordable housing and effective services targeted to those who need them the most.

Annual Counts of Homeless People in Orleans and Jefferson Parish

City Council Transition
Primary Ways We’ve Reduced Homelessness

**Permanent Supportive Housing** (ongoing rent subsidy with case manager visiting client in home as often as needed): This is the evidence-based practice for ending homelessness of those who are chronically homeless (defined as people with mental and/or physical disabilities who have lived on streets or shelter for over a year)

**Rapid Re-Housing** (short-term rent subsidy with case manager visiting client in home): This is proven effective at ending the homelessness of families with children and of single adults.

**Other Permanent Housing Resources** (includes senior housing, other affordable housing, reuniting homeless people with family, assisting clients to increase their income with which to support housing)
In partnership with Mayor Landrieu and the local Veterans Administration, the UNITY collaborative helped to lead a campaign that made New Orleans, by Jan. 2, 2015, the first city in the nation to achieve a “functional zero” in veteran homelessness.

Our community found apartments for all the veterans living on the street or in shelter who would accept housing.

Since January 2015 we have maintained a Rapid Response System that permanently houses newly homeless veterans found on the street or shelter within an average of 30 days.
In May 2017, we achieved a similar feat for homeless children, by using “Rapid Re-Housing” programs to reduce the average length of time that children spend homeless in shelters or on the streets from 117 days to only 39 days.

We are the first city in the nation known to have met a proposed new federal benchmark of reducing the length of time that children spend homeless to 45 days or less.
Current Challenge: Ending Chronic Homelessness of People with Disabilities

Chronic homelessness is defined as people with mental and/or physical disabilities living on the streets or shelters for over a year.

By providing housing and services, from 2009 to 2017 our community has reduced chronic homelessness by 91%.

But the January 2017 Point in Time survey found 404 chronically homeless people still need to be housed.

Our current goal is to house all chronically homeless people who will accept housing by December 2018.
Where do the homeless sleep?

- Emergency Shelter/Safe Haven: 574
- Transitional Housing: 202
- Streets: 469
- Abandoned Buildings: 56
Demographics of Homeless Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>1,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronically Homeless</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People in Families</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans on street or shelter</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Homeless Population by Gender

City Council Transition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Transgender</th>
<th>Don't identify as male, female or transgender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter/Safe Haven</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population by Parish

- Emergency Shelter/Safe Haven:
  - Orleans: 563
  - Jefferson: 11

- Transitional:
  - Orleans: 147
  - Jefferson: 55

- Unsheltered:
  - Orleans: 488
  - Jefferson: 37
What funding is available to address homelessness in New Orleans?

- UNITY Continuum of Care funds (HUD)
- State Permanent Supportive Housing Program (HUD and Medicaid)
- City and State Emergency Solutions Grants (HUD)
- City tax funds (primarily for new low-barrier shelter)
- DDD & Convention Center (primarily for new low-barrier shelter and outreach)
- Private resources (includes United Way, foundations, corporations, faith congregations, individual donors)
Housing and Services Available to the Homeless in Our Community

**Housing Crisis**
- Street Outreach
- Day Shelter
- Emergency Shelter

**Short-Term Housing**
- Transitional Housing

**Permanent Housing**
- Rapid Rehousing
- Permanent Supportive Housing

Services: Substance abuse treatment, legal services, referrals to mainstream resources
Housing Crisis

**Street Outreach**
UNITY Welcome Home  
504-899-4589 x 117  
bgaines@unitygno.org  
dphoenix@unitygno.org  
apatterson@unitygno.org

NOPD Homeless Collaborative  
504-940-7325

Volunteers of America  
504-482-2130

Covenant House  
504-584-1111

Tulane Drop-In Center  
504-827-1071

--

**Day Shelter**
Travelers Aid Society  
1530 Gravier @ the CRRC  
504-412-3700  
X1-53952

Harry Tompson Center  
1803 Gravier Street  
504-273-5547

Tulane Drop-In Center  
1461 N. Claiborne Avenue  
504-827-1071

--

**Emergency Shelter**
Ozanam Inn  
504-853-1184

Salvation Army  
504-899-4569

New Orleans Mission  
504-523-2116

Covenant House  
504-584-1111

Hagar’s House  
504-210-5064

New Orleans Women’s & Children Shelter  
intake through UNITY Coordinated Entry System
Temporary Housing

Salvation Army Transitional Housing for Families
Access by referral from the UNITY Coordinated Entry System

New Orleans Women’s and Children’s Shelter Transitional Housing for Families
Access by referral from the UNITY Coordinated Entry System

Transitional Housing for Veterans
Access by referral from the VA
Permanent Housing

Rapid Rehousing Short Term Rental Assistance

*Eligibility Requirements: Must be literally homeless living on the streets or in an emergency shelter.*

**Families with Children:**
Contact UNITY Coordinated Entry System

**Young adults under age 25:**
Contact Coordinated Entry System through Tulane Drop-In Center (504-827-1071) or Covenant House (504-584-1111)

**Veterans:**
Coordinated Entry System through SSVF Programs at Hope Center (504-363-4034), Start Corp. (504-558-9595), Volunteers America (504-539-3010)

**Individuals:**
Contact UNITY Coordinated Entry System
Permanent Housing

CoC Funded PSH
Must have a disability and be living on the street or in emergency shelter. Nearly every slot is required to be used by a chronically homeless person.

Referral from UNITY Coordinated Entry System.

VA Supportive Housing (VASH):
Referral from VA

Louisiana PSH Program:
Requires household to be low income and at least one household member has a disability. Homelessness not required.

Call DHH 504-568-2774 or 1-844-698-9075
Coordinated Entry: How to access housing in the UNITY network

1) Permanent Supportive Housing for homeless people with disabilities currently living on the streets or emergency shelter

- contact help@unitygno.org
- or UNITY Director of Coordinated Entry Brandi Gaines-Girard at 504-899-4589 ext. 105
- or the CRRC at 1530 Gravier Street, 504-412-3700 ext 13952, 7:30am-3pm.
Coordinated Entry: How to access housing in the UNITY network

2) Rapid Re-Housing rent assistance for families (is automatically offered to families staying in homeless shelter or transitional housing throughout the city)

3) Emergency shelter or transitional housing for families
   - contact help@unitygno.org
   - or UNITY Family Coordinated Entry staff at 504-899-4589 ext. 114 for assessment for entry into shelter or
   - or Salvation Army at 4526 S. Claiborne Avenue, 504-899-4569
Coordinated Entry: How to access housing in the UNITY network

4) Rapid Re-housing rent assistance for youth under age 25
   • contact Covenant House at 611 N Rampart Street, 504-584-1111 or
   • Drop-In Center at 1461 N Claiborne Avenue, 504-827-1071

5) General homeless services, assessments and referrals
   • Community Resource and Referral Center at 1530 Gravier Street, 504-412-3700 ext 13952, 7:30am-3pm and
   • Harry Tompson Center at 1803 Gravier Street, 504-273-5547
Martha J. Kegel
Executive Director
UNITY of Greater New Orleans
mkegel@unitygno.org
(504) 821-4496 x 109
(504) 952-3348 (cell)

www.unitygno.org

Martha J. Kegel is an attorney, graduate of Stanford Law School, and recipient of the 2002 Career Public Interest Award from the Louisiana State Bar Association. Since 2003, she has served as Executive Director of UNITY of Greater New Orleans.