



Haas Center

UNIVERSITY *of* WEST FLORIDA

# *Assessment of Homelessness in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties*

**Haas Center**

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# Agenda

1. Research Purpose
  2. Methodology
  3. Cost Analysis
  4. Recommendations
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# Research Purpose

1. Estimate the cost of services received by homeless individuals in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties
2. Assess current state of homelessness delivery system and make recommendations for moving forward



- January 2018 - May 2018
- 30+ Opening Doors partners
  - *Non-profits, hospitals, police departments, jails, other gov't agencies*
  - *Number of individuals served and cost of services provided*
- Supplemental Data
  - *Medical Expenditure Panel Survey*
  - *IRS 990s*
  - *Jail View Database (Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties)*



# How many homeless?

- 2018 PIT Count: 632
- Estimated to be 2.5 to 10.2 times higher
  - (1,580 – 6,446 homeless individuals)
- **Midpoint: 3,539 individuals**



# Cost Analysis - Healthcare

## Estimated Annual Healthcare Costs Attributable to Homeless Individuals

Homeless Estimate	
	3,539 people
Hospitals ( <i>MEPS survey</i> )	\$6,207,406
Lakeview Center	\$1,790,391
Community Health NWFL ( <i>Formerly ECC</i> )	\$3,487,022
Not-for-profit health clinics	\$323,435
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,808,254</b>



# Cost Analysis - Public Safety

## Estimated Annual Public Safety and Legal Services Costs Attributable to Homeless Individuals

<b>Homeless Estimate</b>	3,539 people
<b>Escambia County Jail</b>	\$866,133
<b>Santa Rosa Jail</b>	\$632,440
<b>Police</b>	\$28,263
<b>Legal</b>	\$73,655
<b>Total</b>	\$1,600,491



# Cost Analysis

## Estimated Annual Costs Attributable to the Homeless in Escambia and Santa Rosa

Estimated Number of Homeless	3,539 people
Healthcare	\$11,808,254
Public Safety	\$1,600,491
Shelter and Outreach	\$13,047,982
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,456,727</b>
Per person	\$7,476*

Source: Haas Center calculations



- Chronic population
- Availability of data



# Recommendations

- Executive task force
  - *Purpose: Ensure buy-in from local stakeholders*
- Project champion
  - *Purpose: Without a single individual empowered to “keep the trains moving on time,” organizations lose focus, move on to other issues at hand, and momentum is lost.*
- Identify a common mission
  - *Purpose: All stakeholders work towards accomplishing a single goal.*



# Recommendations

- Agree to a common definition of “homeless”
  - *Purpose: Streamlines measurement across organizations and helps to quantify the scope of need.*
- Identify and implement mechanisms for coordinated, reliable data collection
  - *Purpose: Reliable data equips stakeholders with facts needed to inform their decision making processes and procedures.*
- Develop and implement a communication plan
  - *Purpose: Ensure each audience is receiving the correct message.*
    - *Ex. Audiences: Service agencies, local community, government officials, homeless in need of services, etc.*



# Recommendations

- Conduct a needs assessment and resource gap analysis to better understand the scope of homelessness in Santa Rosa County
  - *Purpose: SR faces different challenges than Escambia despite the two being lumped together.*
- Continuously Evaluate and Refine Processes
  - *Purpose: Collaborative efforts are difficult and require diligence. Change will not happen overnight. Identify what works and what doesn't; make adjustments; move forward.*



# ***Questions??***

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