

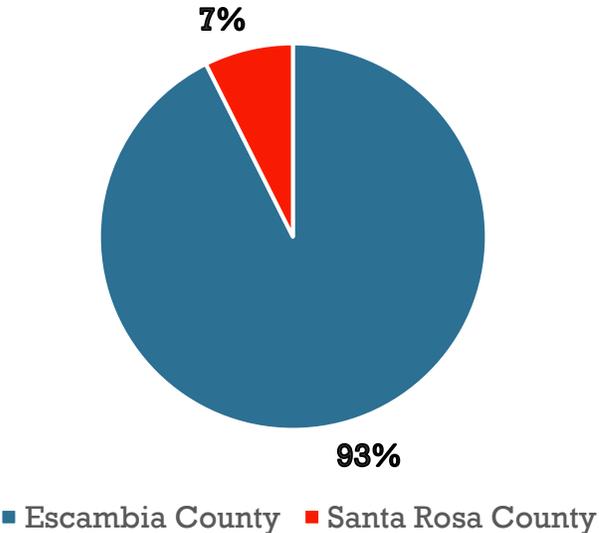
# Escambia & Santa Rosa County Homelessness Taskforce Survey

September 2022

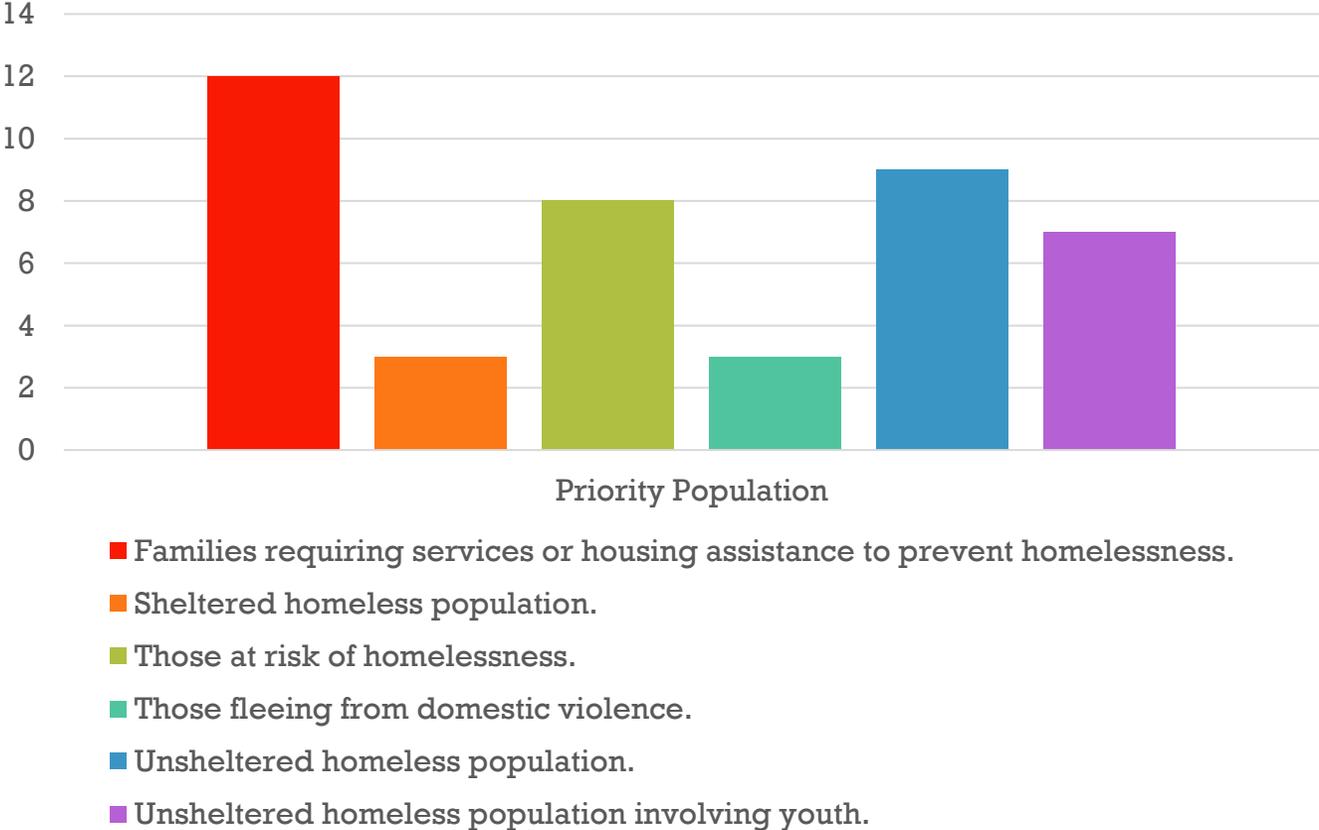
# Community Homelessness

## September 2022 Homelessness Taskforce Survey Results

27 Homelessness Taskforce Responders



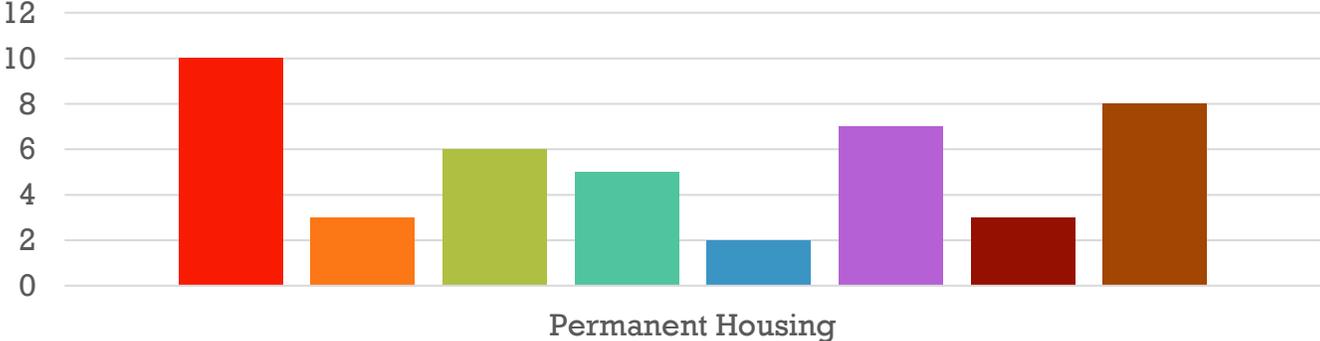
Priority Target Populations



# Community Homelessness

## September 2022 Homelessness Taskforce Survey Results

### Target Populations in Need of Additional Assistance to Secure Permanent Housing



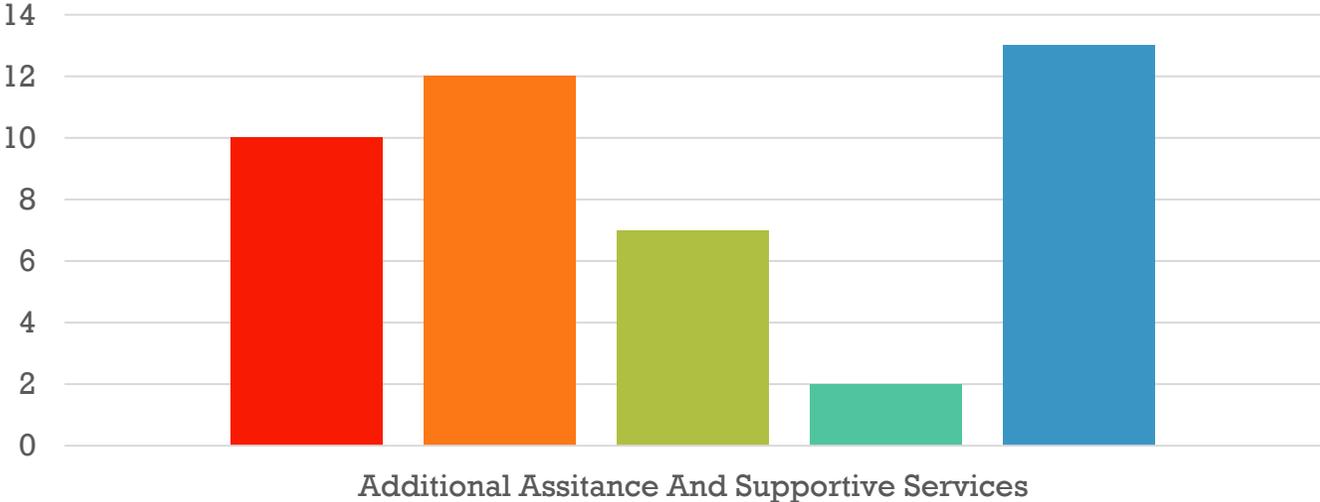
- Families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness.
- Sheltered homeless population.
- Those with Mental Health Issues
- Those at risk of homelessness.
- Those fleeing from domestic violence.
- Unsheltered homeless population.
- Those with Substance Abuse Issues.
- Unsheltered homeless population involving youth.



# Community Homelessness

## September 2022 Homelessness Taskforce Survey Results

### Populations in Need of Additional Assistance And Supportive Services



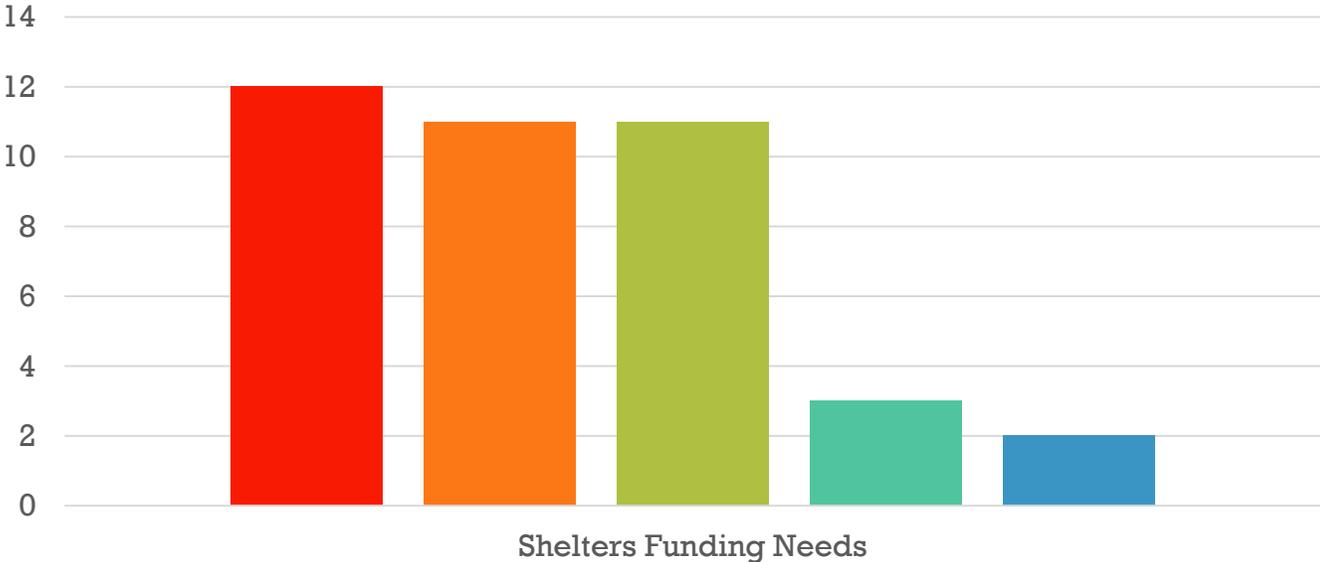
- Services for currently homeless, and in shelters.
- Services for those who are currently homeless but not in a shelter.
- Services for those at risk of homelessness.
- Services for individuals and households fleeing from domestic violence.
- Households who require services or housing assistance to avoid homelessness.



# Community Homelessness

## September 2022 Homelessness Taskforce Survey Results

### Shelter Facilities Greatest Need For Funding



- Costs for increasing existing shelter capacity and operations.
- Costs for development of new shelter facilities.
- Costs related to offering or increasing access to supportive services.
- Shelter operating costs.
- Administration and planning costs for shelter facilities.



# Community Homelessness

## September 2022 Homelessness Taskforce Survey Results

### Community Partners that Participated

- 90Works
- Escambia County School District
- Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care Systems, Suicide Prevention Program
- Sunshine Health
- Bright Bridge Ministry
- REAP
- United Way of WF
- Families Promise of Escambia County
- Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola, Inc.
- Escambia County Sheriff's Office
- South Santa Rosa Interfaith Ministries, Inc.
- Volunteers of America, FL
- Office of the Public Defender
- Community Health Northwest FL
- Legal Services of North Florida
- Ministry Village at Olive & Tender Hearts Caring Hands
- Children's Home Society of FL
- Catholic Charities of NW Florida
- Tel Staffing & HR
- Pensacola Habitat for Humanity
- Pensacola Caring Hearts
- Ecomfort, Inc.
- Waterfront Rescue Mission
- Faithworks Inter faith ministries network, Inc
- Multiple Facilities – Acute Nurse
- Escambia County Housing Finance Authority
- Ministry Village at Olive



# Community Homelessness

## September 2022 Homelessness Taskforce Survey Results

### Community Partners Comments

“Affordable housing is the biggest need in our community!”

“Please fund permanent rentals housing for low-income individuals.”

“It’s my belief that both Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties are in desperate need of affordable, standing housing. Many of our citizens live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. That income does not enable them to afford a suitable place to live at the current rental rates of \$1,000 and up. Most rentals that are about \$650 are sub-standard and located in unsafe neighborhoods.”

“We must build low barrier shelters that serve all population regardless of age, race, disability status, or gender identity. Low barrier is defined as a shelter that meets people where they are at only providing care and services at the request of the client expecting nothing in return. Data is clear concerning chronically unhoused population; programs are ineffective when they are directed by the facility and not client centered. Low barrier models of care follow a person-in-environment model allowing client self-determination. The only guiding rules in low barrier shelters are that drugs and alcohol are not allowed on the property (A harm reduction approach in relation to mind altering substances is followed), violence is never allowed, and respect to your fellow must be always shown. Finally, any shelter that does not have profession social workers on staff is at disadvantage and at risk to make mistakes with the vulnerable client base. All funded shelters should be mandatory participants in the HMIS thru the community COC.”



# Community Homelessness

## September 2022 Homelessness Taskforce Survey Results

### Community Partners Comments

“Escambia County needs a “low-barrier” shelter. The definition of “low-barrier” varies greatly depending on whom you ask; it essentially means that the requirements for entry are minimal. With a focus on “harm reduction,” low-barrier shelters encourage homeless individuals to seek resources by eliminating those obstacles to housing. Some of the most common barriers to the shelter are:

sobriety (on-site breathalyzers and drug screens);

strict curfews (without exception);

admission dependent on chapel or class attendance;

mandatory program participation;

background checks;

income requirements and verification;

criminal records;

credit checks; and

forced labor participation.

Also, develop and maintain a collective communication approach between agencies working on hotspot homeless locations, i.e., ECSO, Escambia Code Enforcement, Service providers, and Citizens. This collaborative communication approach will allow a more responsive approach to helping all citizens.

Additionally, Escambia County could benefit from funding a senior-level management position that oversees the homeless issues in Escambia County. This is a very complex problem and requires high level oversight.”



# Community Homelessness

## September 2022 Homelessness Taskforce Survey Results

### Community Partners Comments

“Would love a mobile healthcare unit to service homeless camps or areas of underserved population areas for those at risk of substance abuse, mental health issues, DV victims and basic healthcare needs for management of chronic medical needs and just basic hygiene and education on prevention.”

“I feel like Escambia has a lot of resources, but families do need additional assistance to prevent homelessness. I also know from experience that Santa Rosa does not have many resources at all. They need more resources and people to see the need.”

“Would like to see supports for families with children. When we see a family homeless or in a shelter or shared housing, it impacts the child's ability to succeed in school. If we can find ways to prevent homelessness or create short term solutions, this may help those with children and in return help our youth be engaged and successful in school.”

“There are not a lot of services for families on the far end of the county. No community centers, not a lot of affordable housing and no way to get to resources if they do not have a car or money for gas.”

“In the first few questions, all are important and critical needs representing different stages of the cycle of homelessness. I chose the option I did because we should all aim to stop the cycle before it starts. We cannot however ignore the other stages of the cycle.”



# Community Homelessness

September 2022 Homelessness Taskforce Survey Results

**Thank you for your participation!**

