



House Bill 1365 Public Camping Bill **Community Response Plan**



OBJECTIVES

1. Provide an overview of HB 1365 and the obligation it places on local government
2. Share information on Palm Beach County's approach
3. Interactive discussion on what other counties are doing

ABOUT HB 1365 (PUBLIC CAMPING BILL)

- HB 1365 prohibits a county or municipality from **authorizing** or otherwise **allowing** any person to **regularly** engage in public camping or sleeping on any public property including public buildings or grounds and public right-of-ways.
- Public camping or sleeping is defined as residing or lodging **overnight** in a temporary outdoor habitation
- It does **not** include camping for recreational purposes where permitted or sleeping in a motor vehicle that is licensed, insured and lawfully located



DESIGNATED SITES FOR PUBLIC CAMPING & SLEEPING

HB 1365 further authorizes, **but does NOT require**, a county to designate a property to be used for public camping or sleeping



HOUSE BILL 1365

COUNTY DESIGNATION FOR PUBLIC CAMPING:

- Counties **m a y** designate a property for public camping/sleeping for one year under specific conditions.
- Certification by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is required.

CONDITIONS FOR CERTIFICATION INCLUDE:

- Insufficient homeless shelter beds.
- Non-contiguity to residential property.
- No adverse effects on property value, safety, or children's safety.
- Established minimum standards for safety and sanitation.
- Coordination with local behavioral health services.
- Prohibition of illegal substance and alcohol use on-site.

HOUSE BILL 1365

CIVIL CAUSES OF ACTION:

- Allows residents, business owners, or the Attorney General to sue counties/municipalities for violations.
- Civil actions require prior written notice to the governing body.
- Injunction applicants may be entitled to attorney's fees and court costs if successful.
- Effective date: October 1, 2024; civil injunction actions cannot be filed before January 1, 2025.

HOUSE BILL 1365: WHAT IT DOES NOT DO

- HB 1365 law does not criminalize homelessness
- Does not address daytime sleeping in public places or panhandling
- Does not prohibit people from living in their cars that are properly registered and insured
- Does not address private property
- Finally, the law does not require a county to have a shelter bed for every individual who is unsheltered.



FLORIDA COUNTIES AND CITIES

Beginning October 1, 2024 - Counties and cities may **NOT** authorize or allow any person to regularly engage in public sleeping or camping on **ANY** county or municipal public property.

Beginning January 1, 2025 - FLAttorney General, a resident, or the owner of a business located in the county can bring civil cause of action against the local government.

PALM BEACH COUNTY ORDINANCES



SECTION 18 - 2 OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE:

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person at any time to occupy, lodge, or sleep in the open on private property, in vacant lots, in or under any bridge or structure, in any railroad car, without owning the same or without permission of the owner or person entitled to possession of same
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to occupy, lodge, or sleep upon any public beach between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., without owning the same or without permission of the owner or person entitled to possession of same.

PALM BEACH COUNTY ORDINANCES

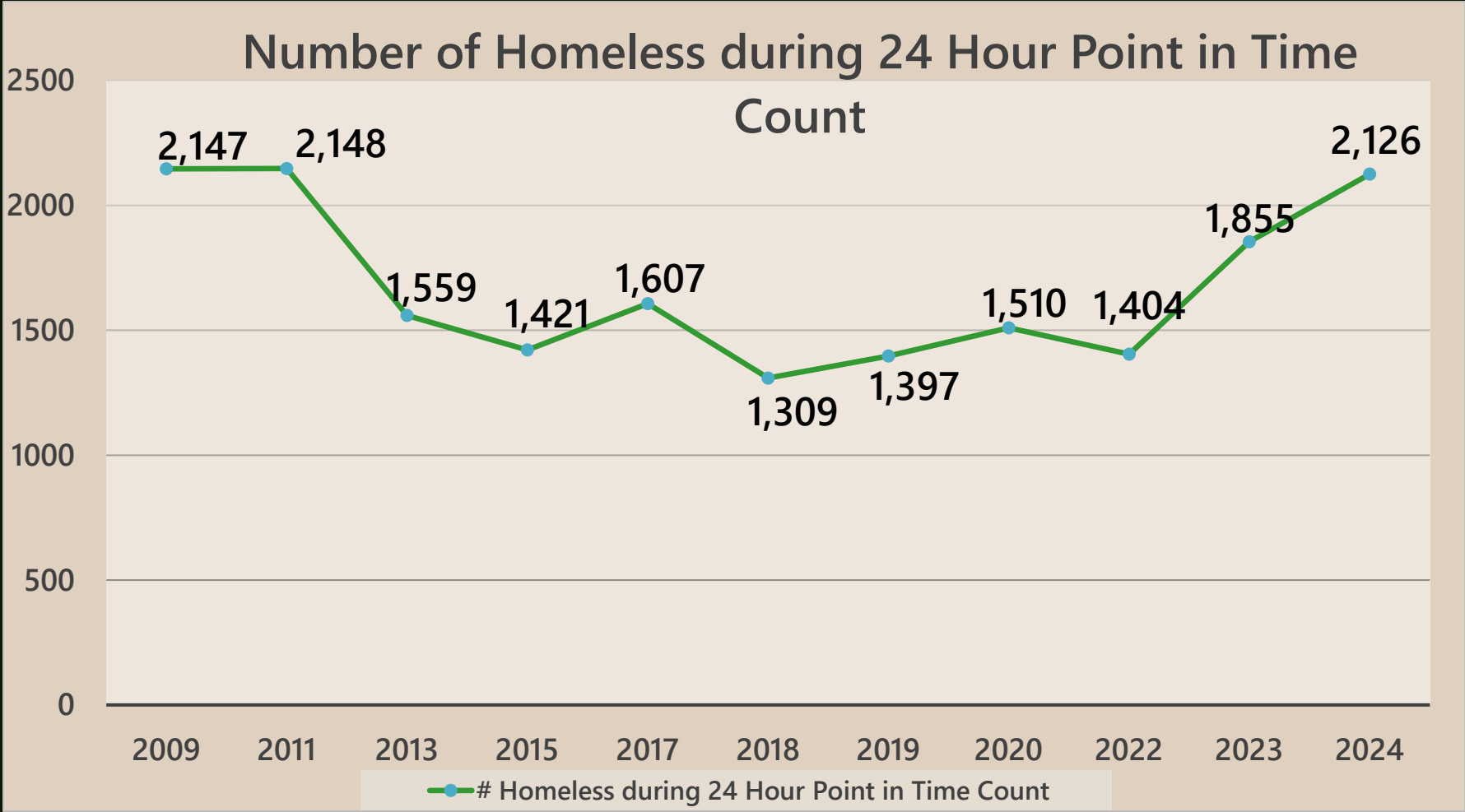


SECTION 21- 30 APPLYING TO COUNTY PARKS PROVIDES:

No person shall camp or erect or maintain a tent, shelter or camp within any park property except in areas designated by the Director for said purpose. The department may establish rules and regulations for designated camping areas within park property. Rates for said use shall be established by the Director. Camping units are to be of commercial manufacture and be of flame retardant material. House trailers are prohibited.

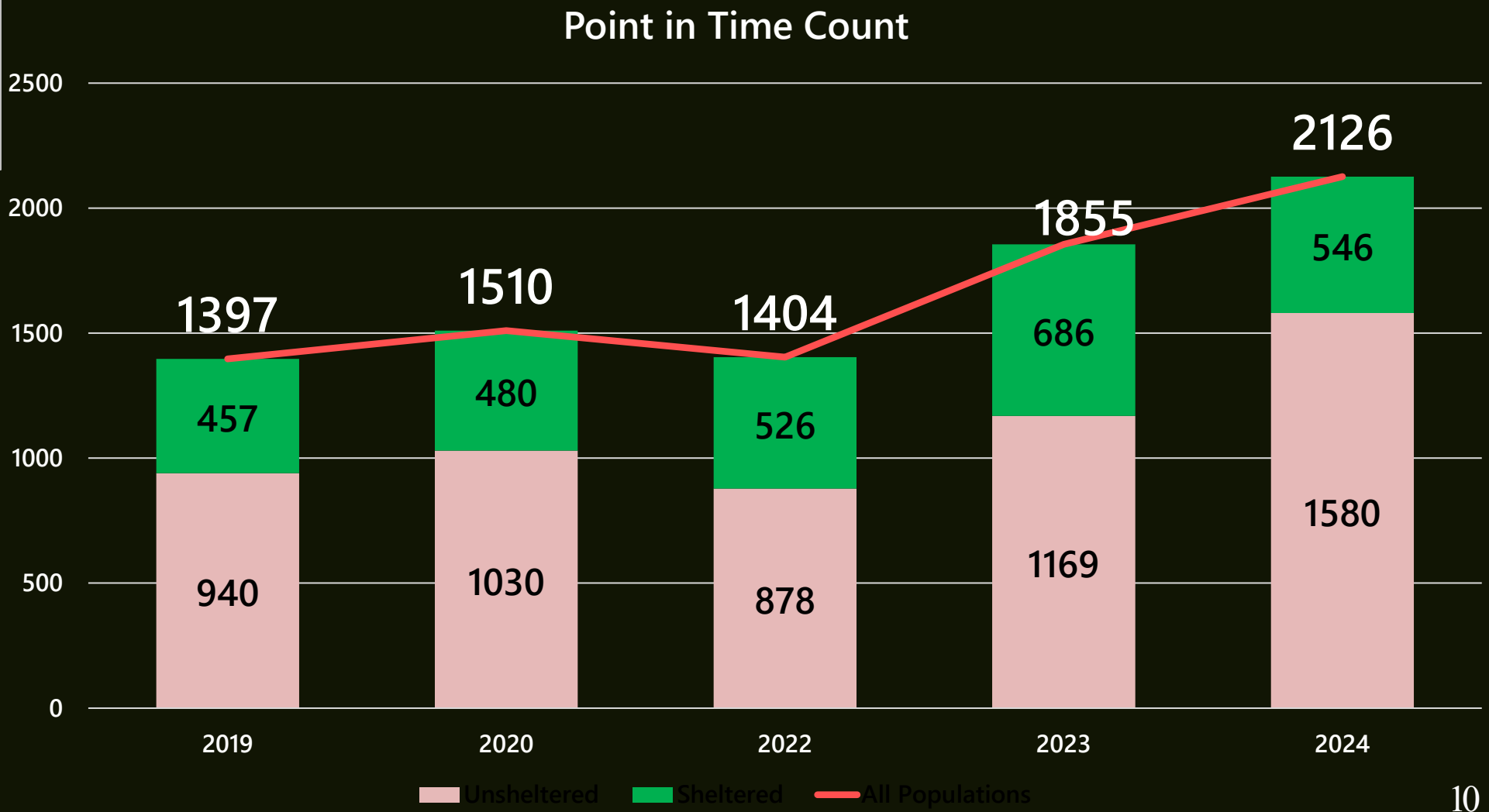
SECTION 11- 273 APPLYING TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT REQUIRES WRITTEN PERMITS FOR CAMPING OR AFTER HOURS AND NIGHT- TIME USE OF NATURAL AREAS.

HOMELESSNESS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

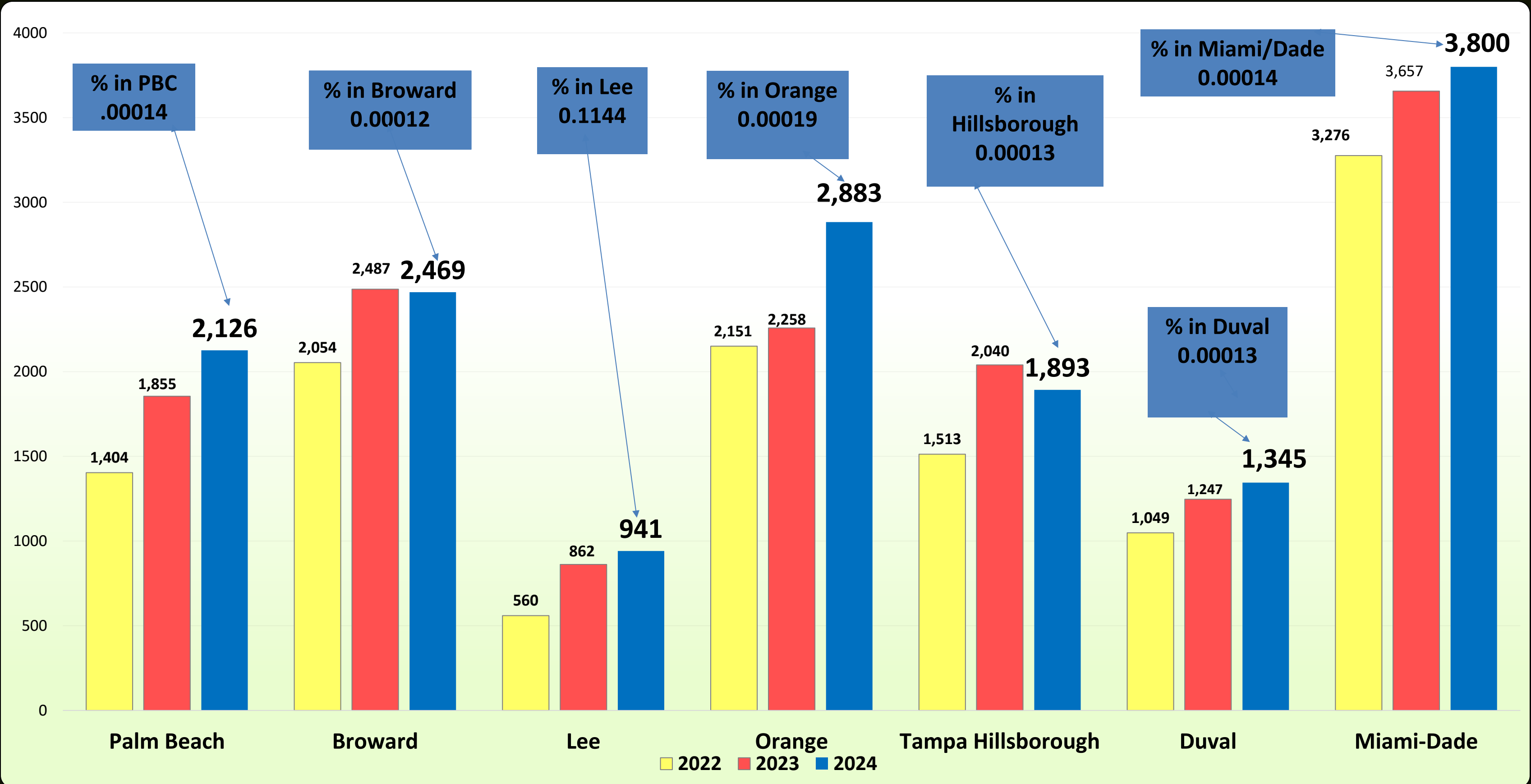


2126 individuals identified during the 2024 Point in Time (PIT) County. This represents a 14.6% increase from the 2023 PIT count.

There was an overall Increase in homelessness for Seniors, Youth ages 18-24, Chronically Unhoused populations and unsheltered families.



TOTALPERCENTAGEOF UNHOUSED BY COUNTY POPULATION AND TOTALHOMELESS POINT IN TIME COUNT BY COUNTY



How Housing Costs Drive Levels of Homelessness

Data from metro areas highlights strong connection

ARTICLE | August 22, 2023 | By: Alex Horowitz, Chase Hatchett & Adam Staveski | Read time: 4 min

Projects: [Housing Policy](#)

“A large body of academic research has consistently found that homelessness in an area is driven by housing costs, whether expressed in terms of rents, rent - to - income ratios, price - to - income ratios, or home prices. Further, *changes in rents precipitate changes in rates of homelessness: homelessness increases when rents rise by amounts that low - income households cannot afford.* Similarly, interventions to address housing costs by providing housing directly or through subsidies have been effective in reducing homelessness. That makes sense if housing costs are the main driver of homelessness, but not if other reasons are to blame. Studies show that other factors have a much smaller impact on homelessness.”

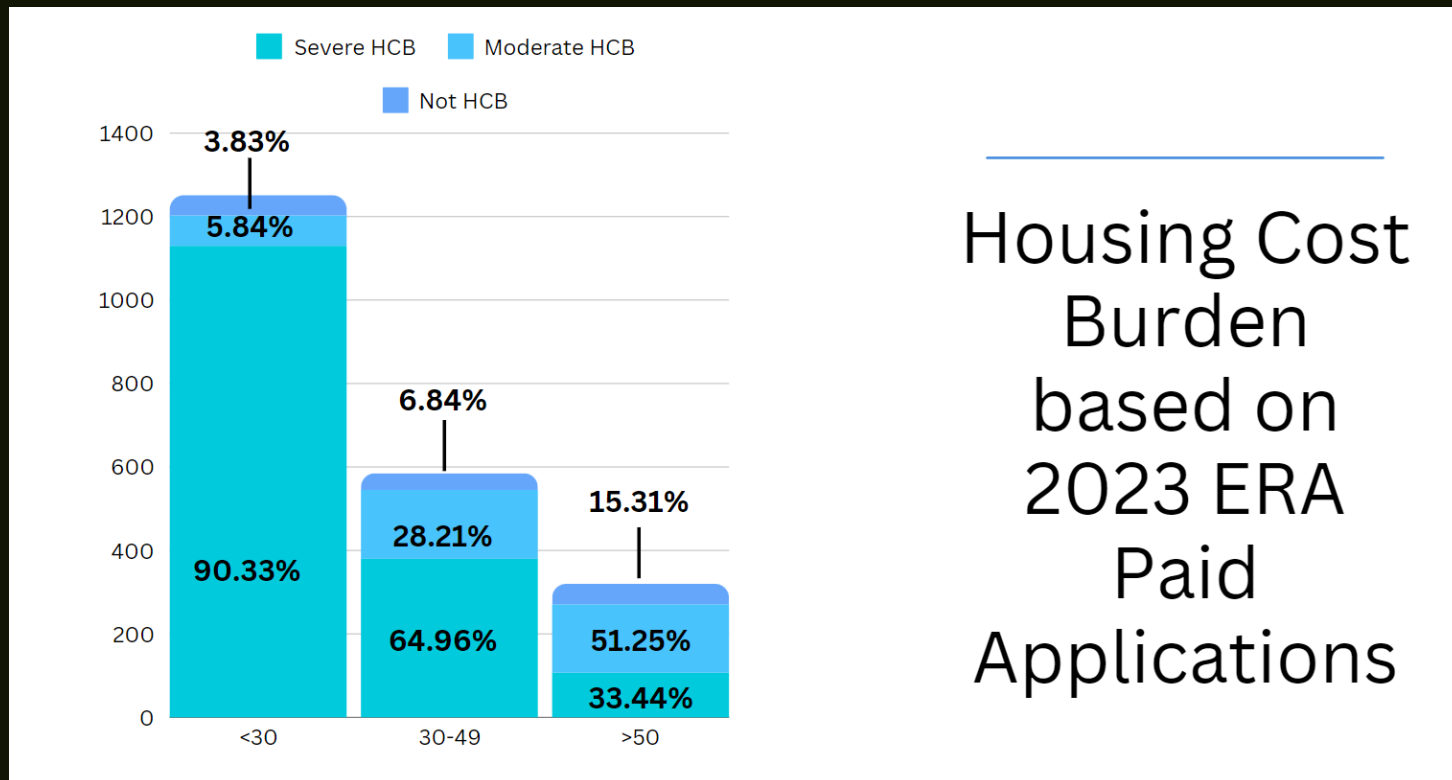
Much of the research looks at the variation in homelessness among geographies and *finds that housing costs explain far more of the difference in rates of homelessness than variables such as substance use disorder, mental health, weather, the strength of the social safety net, poverty, or economic conditions.* Some vulnerabilities strongly influence which people are susceptible to homelessness, but *research has repeatedly concluded that these factors play only a minor role in driving rates of homelessness compared with the role of housing costs.*

From : How Housing Costs Drive Levels of Homelessness | The Pew Charitable Trusts

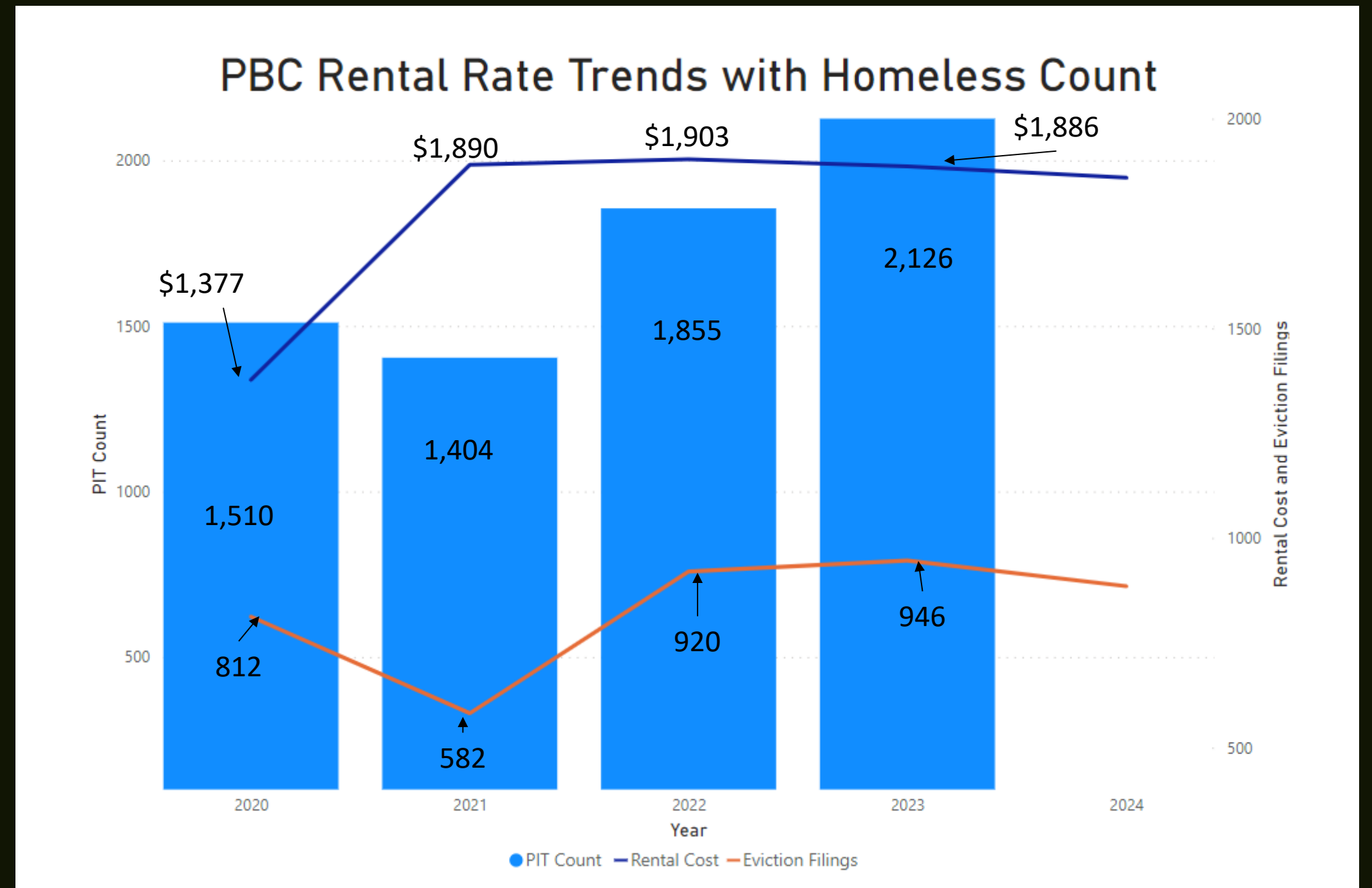
<https://pew.org/3E02lFX>

PBC Rental Rate Trends compared with Homeless Count and Eviction Filings

2023 PBC Housing Cost Burden



In 2023 over 90% of Families earning <30% AMI based on paid Rental Assistance Application have been experiencing ‘Severe Housing Cost Burden’. Therefore their housing expenses have exceeded 30% of their income.



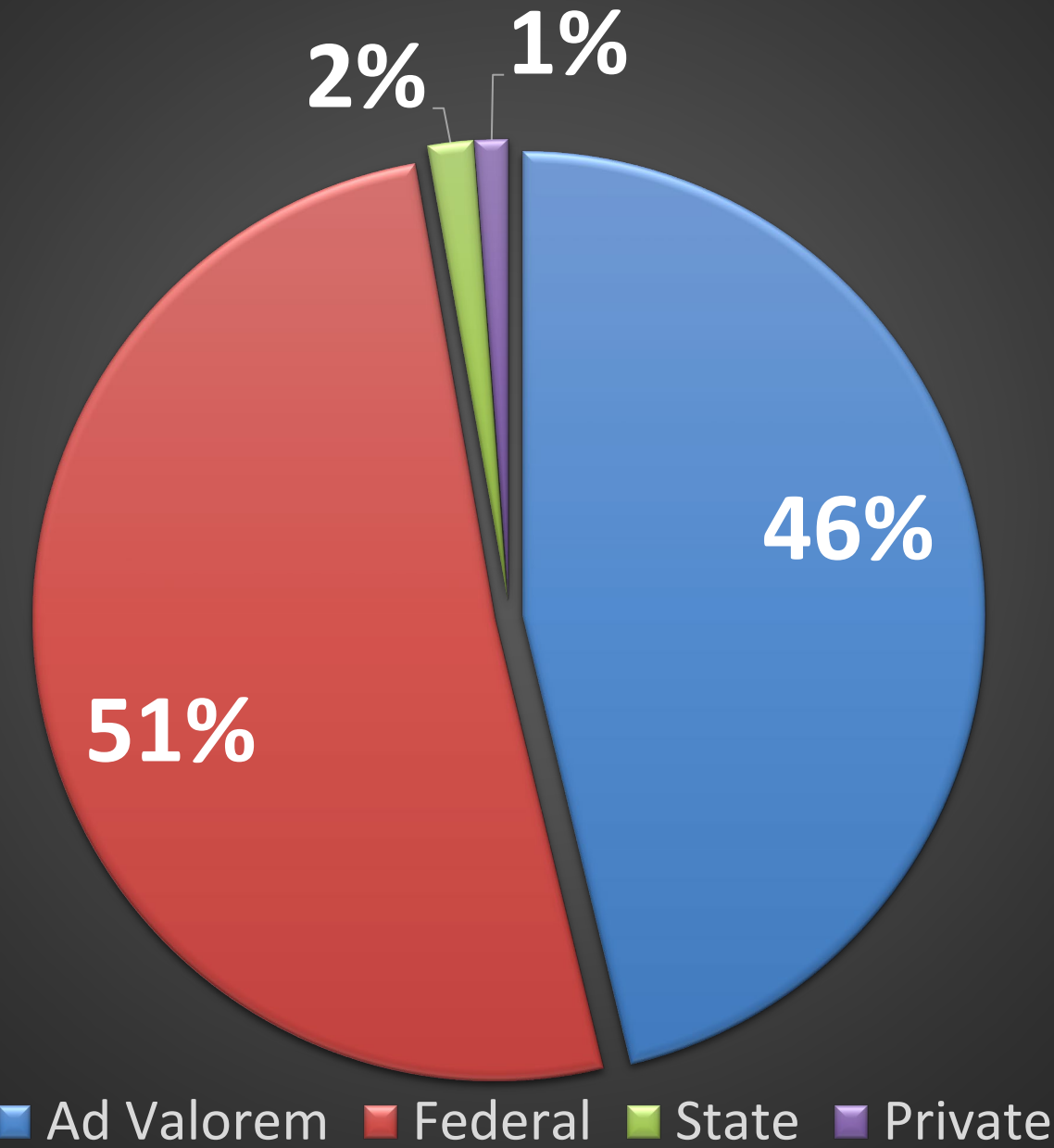
Over the last 4 years, rental rates and homeless counts have increased simultaneously. As rental rates increased 33% from 2020 to 2024, so has the homeless count at 40%. Though, the number of eviction filings have varied year to year; there is an average of 635 eviction filing in past 4 years.

HOW THE HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE WORKS



CONTINUUM OF CARE FUNDING FOR HOMELESS AND HOMELESS PREVENTION

Percentage by Funding Source



1	Program	FY24 Budget	FY23 Expended	Funding Source
2	Homeless Resource Center	5,698,720	5,053,977	Ad Valorem
3	Homeless Resource Center	624,765	624,765	HUD Community Development Block Grant
4	Family Shelter	100,000	98,721	HUD Community Development Block Grant
5	Family Shelter	463,951	391,688	Ad Valorem
6	HRC 2/Annex	4,643,896	4,395,745	Ad Valorem
7	Glades Non Congregate Shelter	1,770,521	1,564,406	Ad Valorem
8	Glades Shelter Intake Facility	1,127,754	785,109	Ad Valorem
9	HS Administration	5,793,996	5,129,917	Ad Valorem
10	HMIS	172,820	164,250	HUD/User Fees
11	Homeless Services	870,880	489,711	Ad Valorem
12	FPL Care to Share	652,980	7,388	FP&L
13	Unified Homeless Grant	917,593	278,231	State of Florida Dept. Children & Families
14	Financial Assistance	3,230,769	2,046,227	Ad Valorem
15	HUD Continuum of Care (CoC)	247,270	236,845	HUD
16	HUD Continuum of Care (CoC)	61,818	59,211	ad valorem
17	HUD HMIS expansion	281,530	281,530	HUD
18	HUD-Pathways to Independence*	482,117	0	HUD
19	Community Action Program (CAP)**	13,968,795	10,432,388	State of Florida Dept. of Commerce
20	Community Action Program	702,500	422,182	Ad Valorem
21	Financially Assisted Agencies	1,945,988	1,835,410	Ad Valorem
22	Emergency Rental Assistance (ERAP)***	13,142,874	25,904,483	US Department of Treasury
23	Total Funding	56,901,537	60,202,184	

Funding Source	Amount
Ad Valorem	26,310,793
Federal	29,020,171
State	917,593
Private**	652,980

**Funding does not include private funding from the Homeless Coalition or other Nonprofit Organizations

PBC COC By The Numbers (2022 - 2023)



Calls to
Contact Center

230,669



Housing Stability
Programs

26,732



Eviction
Prevention

1313



Served In
Shelter

2200



PBC COC

By The Numbers
(2022-2023)



Served In Rapid
Rehousing Program

225



RRH Program
Success Rate

65%



Homeless
Outreach Team
Engagements

715



New Landlords
Registered

90

Community Response to HB 1365 Public Camping Legislation



5 FOCUS AREAS

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

INCREASE ADVOCACY AND HOMELESS PREVENTION SUPPORTS

- Enhance Rapid Response Eviction Assistance Program (RREAP) partnership with Legal Aid Society and Florida Rural Legal Services
- Enhance criteria for rental and eviction prevention assistance to focus on residents with greatest need
- Work with Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) and Legislative Affairs to operationalize policy recommendations for eviction prevention and homeless funding
- Develop strategies to help address housing units that are losing affordability due to the 30 year timeframe expiration



PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

DEVELOP A ROBUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT HB 1365

- Use television, social media, radio, outreach events, and other measures to increase awareness about what this legislation does and what it does not do
- Develop a website that all stakeholders can reference to obtain any information needed regarding on HB 1365



PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO PROACTIVELY EDUCATE STAKEHOLDERS

- Work with Public Affairs to develop a public campaign using Television, social media, radio, marketing materials and other means to educate county employees and the public on the response to HB 1365
- Develop a Fact Sheet being developed for distribution to unsheltered residents to advise them of available resources
- Place new signage in public locations where unhoused individuals congregate to advise prohibition of overnight sleeping and where services can be obtained and how the homeless system works
- Train staff that frequently encounter unhoused residents (Code Compliance Officers, Park Rangers, Security Guards, Library Personnel etc.) and provide cards that can be given to residents with information on where resources can be found



HISTORY OF COUNTY INVESTMENTS

- **1996** – First Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Supportive Housing Grant which allowed for the establishment of a Continuum of Care. The Palm Beach County Division of Human Services serves as the lead entity.
- **2007** - The Board of County Commissioners established the Homeless Advisory Board (HAB).
- **2008** - “Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness” was adopted. The goal of the plan was to create a local homeless response system. The plan identified the need for a centralized homeless resource center.
- **2012** - The Senator Phillip D. Lewis Homeless Resource Center was officially opened after many years of planning.
- **2015** – Human Services adopted the Housing First Model and became the lead agency for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- **2016** – Human Services adopted the rapid rehousing model and discontinued use of high barrier halfway houses as emergency shelter



HISTORY OF COUNTY INVESTMENTS

- **2016**- Palm Beach County acquired the Program Reach facility resulting in 120 children and adults receiving emergency shelter
- **2017** – Coordinated Entry for homeless individuals and families implemented.
- **2017** – Palm Beach County awarded a 100 Day Challenge Grant for homeless youth and 121 homeless youth were served. The 100 day approach continued into 2018 and an additional 204 youth were placed in interim or permanent housing.
- **2018**– Recognizing the need to build on the successes and lessons learned during the implementation of the Ten Year Plan, the HAB developed a plan to continuum efforts to end the cycle of homelessness entitled “Leading the Way Home”. This plan focuses on six major areas – engaging primary and behavioral healthcare systems; expanding support services; increasing access to permanent supportive housing and other permanent housing options; expanding engagement and advocacy; aligning funding and investments; and enhancing the system of care.
- **2018** – The Board of County Commissioners established Housing and Homelessness as a Strategic Priority.



HISTORY OF COUNTY INVESTMENTS

- **2019** – County received a HUD demonstration grant of \$4.93 million for the Ending Youth Homelessness Initiative.
- **2020** - Launched the call center number 833-CSD-WILL to assist unsheltered residents or individuals seeking assistance with housing stability.
- **2020** – County relocated 175 unsheltered individuals residing in John Prince Park to the Lewis Center Annex as a temporary measure until completion of the Housing Resource Center.
- **2021** – Melissa’s Place at Lake Village was opened in Pahokee with 42 units for families.
- **2021**- Belle Glade Transitional Shelter and Intake Center opened.
- **2022**- Homeless Summit held with providers from faith-based leaders, unsheltered persons, lawmakers, community members and business leaders who identified priority needs of affordable housing, medical care, behavioral health care and higher paying employment.
- **2022**- Palm Beach County received a Congressional Award of \$1,000,000 for homeless respite beds to provide safe and clean shelter for the medically fragile to recover
- **2023**- Palm Beach County entered into a partnership with the City of WPB to provide 17 units of Rapid Rehousing to the homeless bed inventory



HISTORY OF COUNTY INVESTMENTS

- **2023** - Street Medicine program was approved as a pilot and a partnership was formed with the Riviera Beach Integrated Care to provide medical personnel on the street
- **2023** - The Health Care District and the HHA formed a partnership that put the Health Care District's health buses into service in homeless communities and shelters.
- **2023** - The Parks to Work program expanded and The Lord's Place started a Parks to Culinary program to provide employment skills and job opportunities to the unhoused population.
- **2024** - The county contracted with the Salvation Army to provide six medical respite beds for the unsheltered residents who do not need intensive recovery supports.
- **2024** - The county piloted the low acuity project for residents with low barriers who are unhoused.
- **2024** - The county expanded access to mental health inclusion at the shelters.
- **2024** – The 74 bed Housing Resource Center was opened in central county to serve additional unsheltered persons.
- **2024** – Recognizing the challenges of unsheltered residents, the Board of County Commissioners established Unsheltered Residents as a separate strategic priority.



INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT HOUSING

- Maximize utilization of Salvation Army beds
- Expand partnerships with hotels and unutilized conference centers
- Increase capacity at the Phillip D. Lewis Center
- Work with the West Palm Beach Housing Authority to operate the Prosperity Village Cottage Homes Project
- Expand partnerships with the Florida Association of Recovery Residences to place eligible unhoused individuals



INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT HOUSING

1. Explore the purchase of closed motels, apartment buildings or other locations for the development of Single Room Occupancy Units
2. Facilitate Quarterly SMART Landlord Recruitment Workshops with Realtors and Property Owners
3. Work with Faith based entities to identify available land that they can use to build affordable housing (i.e. Tiny Homes, Multifamily Units etc.)
4. Enhance collaboration with Housing Authorities and Habitat for Humanity
5. Strengthen referral rights for existing and newly developed affordable housing units in Palm Beach County
6. Explore partnerships with Assisted Living Facilities to expand placement capacity



INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT HOUSING

7. Explore the development of cottage homes on scattered sites utilizing preconstructed units



Prevent
Homelessness

Public
Awareness

Increase Housing

Enhance
Coordination

Leverage
Technology

INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT HOUSING

STRATEGIES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Encourage Room sharing
- Relocation to another area with support system
- Diversion to family and or friends locally
- Placement into Treatment facility
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Placement in Medical Respite
- Placement into Sober Homes
- Placement into Existing HHA Transitional or Permanent (i.e. Salvation Army, TLP, GGI etc) Housing
- Existing Affordable Housing Development
- Encourage set aside units from all Housing Authorities
- Encourage set aside units from Community Land Trust units
- Affordablehousing.com housing
- Host Quarterly Smart landlord event (include Air BnB Owners etc.)

Sent from my iPhone



ENHANCE COORDINATION WITH SYSTEM PARTNERS

- Work with *HHA's Unsheltered Legislation Task* Force to conduct ongoing outreach sessions with law enforcement, municipalities, faith based organizations, housing providers, community organizations and businesses to leverage resources for housing and support services
- Develop a **Top 10** list of ways the School District, Municipalities, Human Service Providers, Businesses and Funders can systematically engage with the homeless system to maximize impact
- Work with the Criminal Justice Commission and the local Criminal Justice System to begin a **Homeless Court and Mental Health Court** and mitigate the potential impact to the unhoused population and overall system of care



ENHANCE COORDINATION WITH SYSTEM PARTNERS

Streamline Effort to Ensure Unhoused Residents are DOCUMENT READY:

- Faith - Based Entities - (Mailing Address)
- Health Department of PBC - (Birth Certificate)
- Department Motor Vehicles - (Identification/Drivers License)
- Health Care District - (District Cares/Medicaid)
- Social Security Office - (Social Security Cards and Disability)
- PBC Food Bank - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAPs)
- PNC- (Bank Account)
- CareerSource PBC - (Resume, Job Placement, Temporary Cash Assistance for Needy Families (TANF))
- The Lord's Place and PBC Community Action Program - (Employment Skills Training)
- Clerk's Office - (Fines and Fees)
- State Attorney's Office - (Criminal records eligible for expungements)
- Legal Aid Society - (Immigration Legal Assistance)
- St. Ann Place - (Homeless Declaration)



ENHANCE COORDINATION WITH SYSTEM PARTNERS

- Continue the multidisciplinary case conferencing schedule to enhance efficiency
- Establish regional Day Centers and work with the Homeless Coalition to expand Project Homeless Connect and include food, Mobile Showers, Laundry and other necessities
- Enhance Mediation, Diversion and Travel Voucher program (with stipend) and remove restrictions
- Enhance partnership with 211 and Palm Tran Connection on transportation options for unhoused residents
- Expand the Parks to Work program to include Culinary to Work and develop construction and trades training program with a focus on apprenticeships and employment
- Strengthen the Low Acuity Housing Placement Initiative
- Work with Faith in Action to develop a Parking Lot Initiative

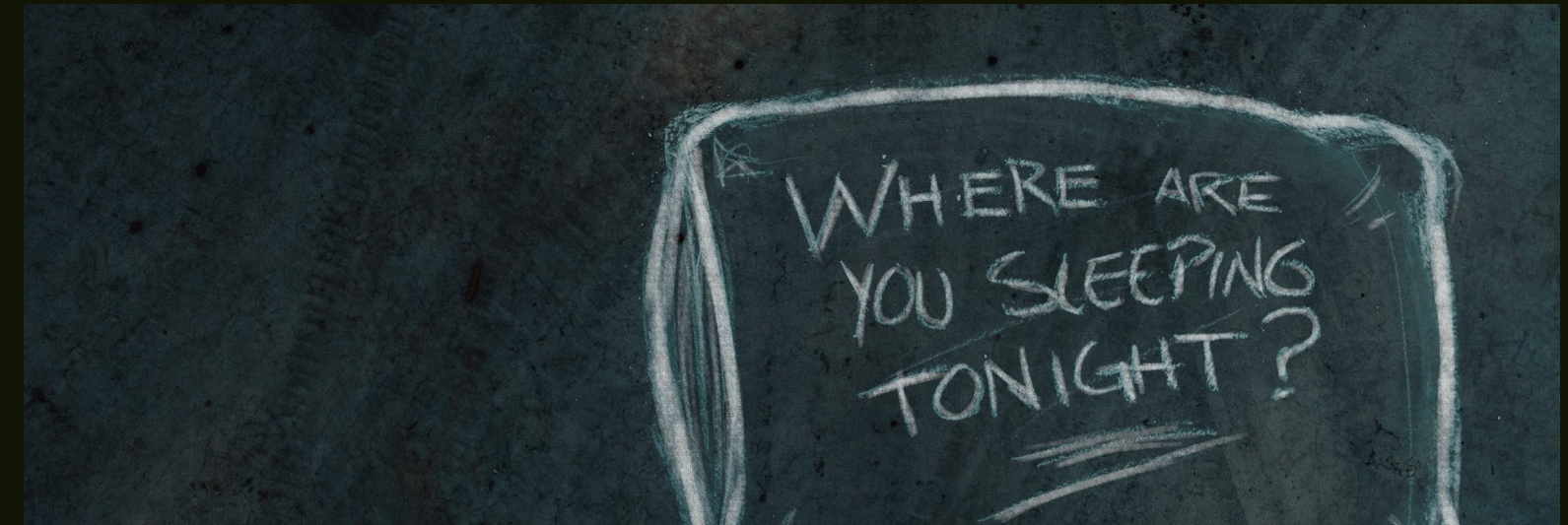


LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE ACCESS AND SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

- Enhance partnership with AffordableHousing.com to streamline processes and include shared housing (**room mate matching**) component
- Enhance Homeless Management Information System GIS capability
- Expand callcenter staffing to **24/7** and enhance callcenter operations (833) HHA- WILL and (833) CSD- WILL with **AI Chat Box feature**
- Develop a link with **PB Connect App** for public and user interface reporting feature
- Enhance and expand access the Resource and **Referral Portal**
- Integrate Permanent Supportive Housing and Emergency Shelter into the **Housing Dashboard**
- Continue working with PBC School District on **integrated homeless dashboard** and HMIS access to create efficiencies



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



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