




Washtenaw CoC 2023 Winter Shelter Task Force Update

*WHA State of Homelessness & Affordable Housing Event
November 16, 2023*



Polar Vortex during the 2013-2014 Winter led to changes in winter shelter programming here in Washtenaw County in 2014-2015

**Addition of day-time shelter
Delonis & additional site**

**Addition of off-site overnight
Warming Center**

**Additional funding for
emergency hotel / motel stays**

2022-2023 Winter Response transformed again, to include additional sites and programs



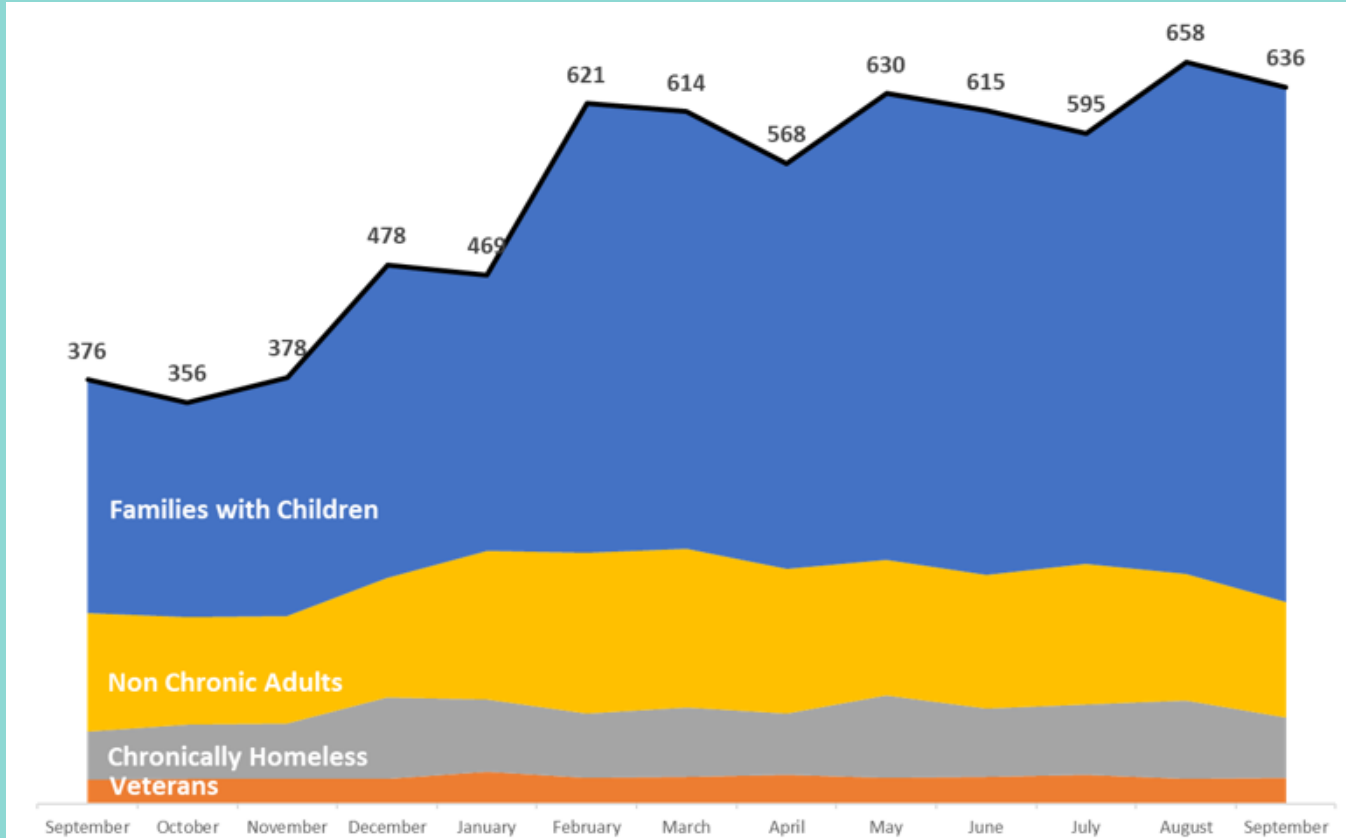
Off-site Overnight Shelters in Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti

Expansion of Daytime Shelter Sites in Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti

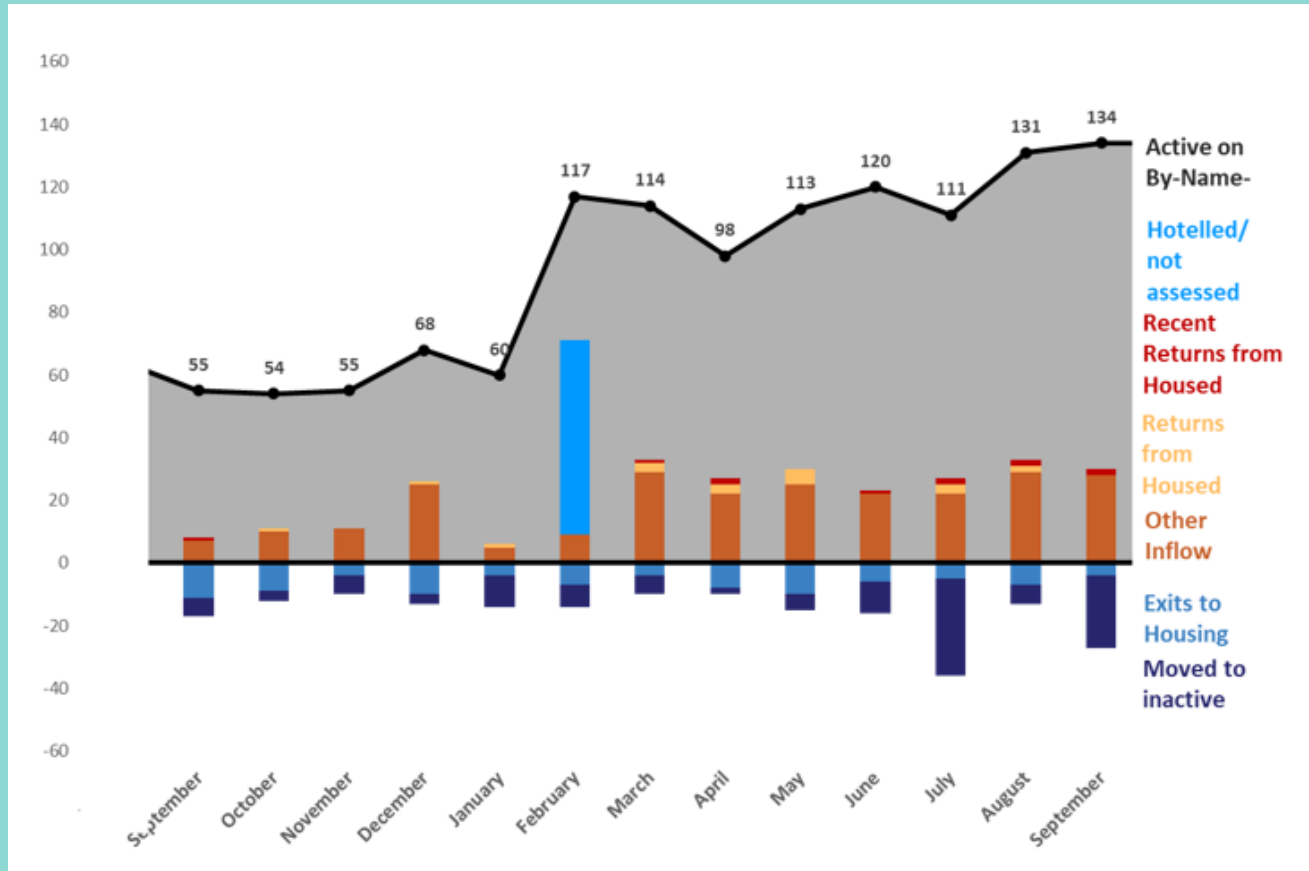
Funding for hotel/motels for families experiencing homelessness

Funding for shelter diversion stipends

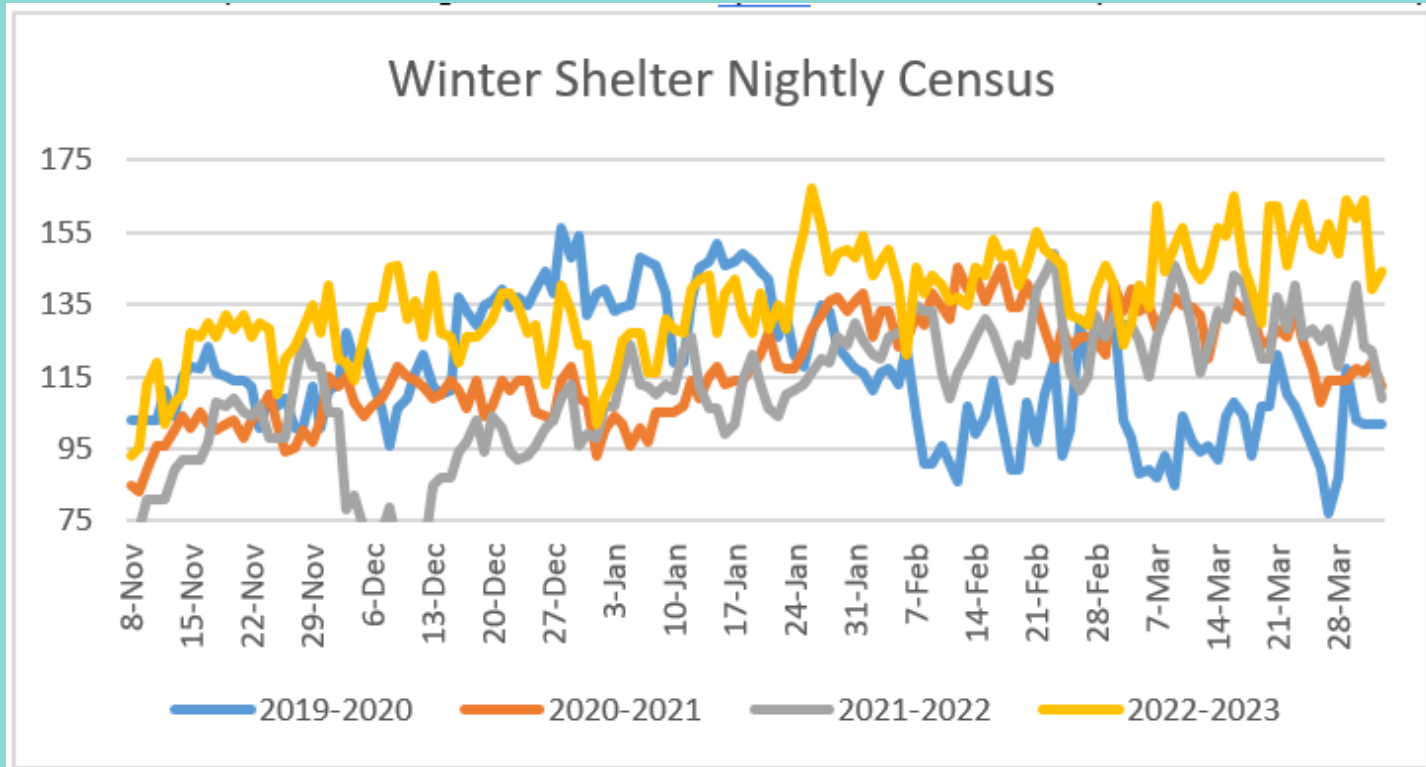
All Households - Sept 2022-Sept 2023



Family Households - Sept 2022-Sept 2023



Single Adult Households Winter Shelter Census 2019-2023 Comparison





Lessons Learned from 2022-2023 Winter

Increase Acuity of Clients

- **Increased mental health** and substance use challenges
- **Increased % of older adults & those reporting a disability**

Shelter Diversion Less Costly than Hoteling

- **58% of families** who received stipends never returned to homelessness
- Need for **case management** coupled with assistance

Increased Staffing Needs

- Daytime
- Overnight
- Weekends



Other Michigan communities surveyed are grappling with similar winter sheltering issues

Task Force Interviewed:

- Kent County
- Detroit
- Oakland County
- Out-Wayne County

WINTER SHELTER TASK FORCE

• Kent County

- Talked with Adrienne Goodstal, Chief Engagement Officer at Mel Trotter Shelter (single adult shelter)
- Witnessed a substantial increase in winter shelter needs: used to be around 500, now estimating over 600-650 each night
- Coordinating a special summer PIT count to better estimate potential winter needs
- Needs additional funding support to meet increased demand

• Detroit

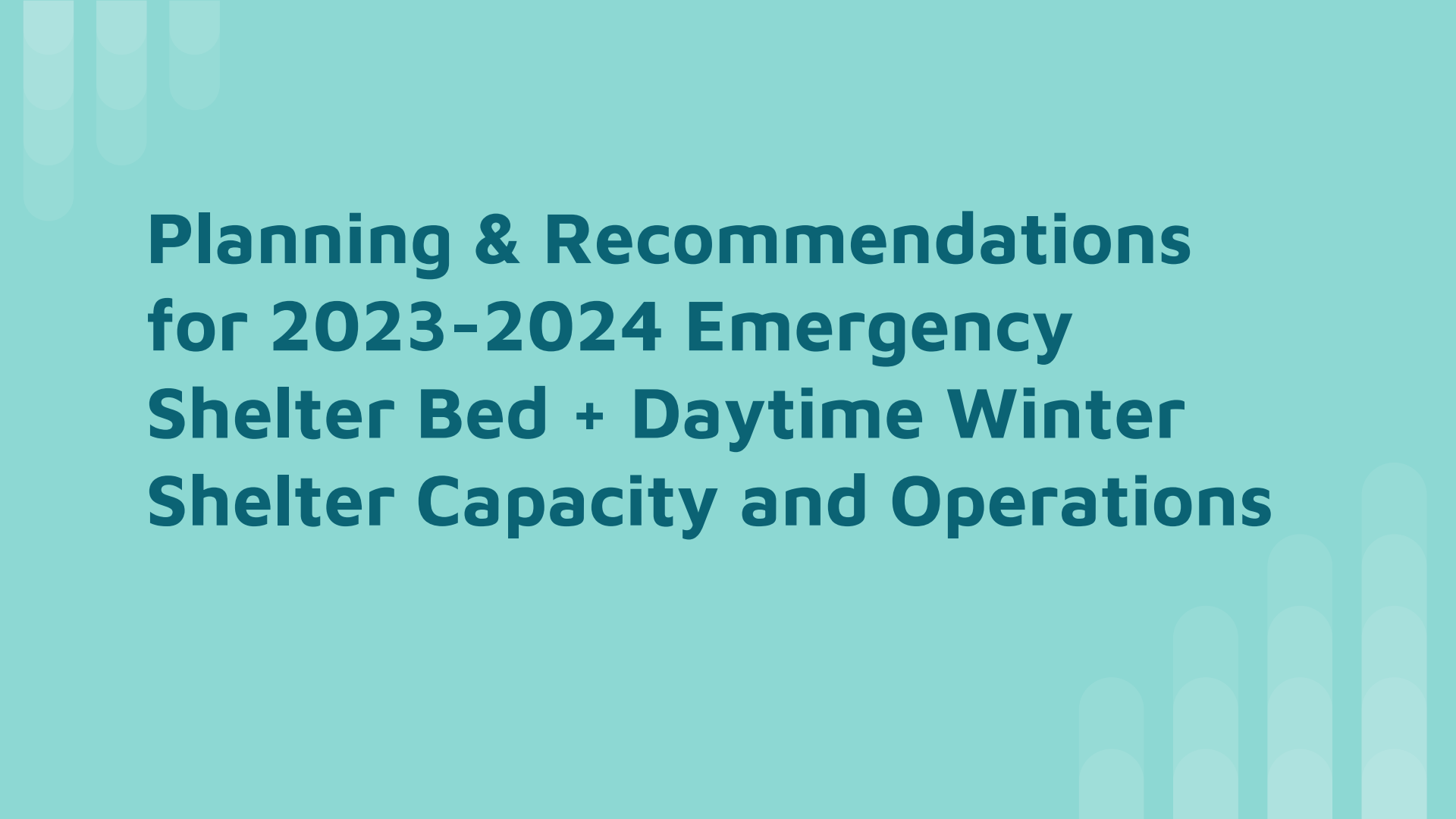
- Spoke with Terra Linzer from the City
- Shelters overcapacity in summer, expecting winter capacity challenges
- Adding 3 winter shelters (2 for families, 1 for single males) but may still need to turn away due to high demand
- Created overflow process for those turned away
- Limited additional funding expected, exploring alternate funding sources
- Shelter length of stay increasing rapidly
- Targeted use of HCVs and RRH for long stayers

• Oakland


- Talked with Leah McCall, Director of Alliance for Housing Oakland County
- Insufficient beds for winter sheltering for everyone
- Bed capacity: 75 single adult beds year-round, 54 family beds, 35-40 additional winter beds, 52 DV beds
- HOPE and Lighthouse (primary single adult and family providers respectively) have applied for MSHDA and Oakland County funds for additional non-congregate sheltering, no timeline on when that will be implemented though

• Out-Wayne


- Winter capacity is only 60 beds (30 new year round beds and 30 additional beds during the coldest 2 or 3 months of winter)
- Waiting list for shelter up to 400 people at a time (10 to 20 referrals for shelter per week)
- Limited engagement from local government to support efforts is primary barrier they noted



Planning & Recommendations for 2023-2024 Emergency Shelter Bed + Daytime Winter Shelter Capacity and Operations



Considerations for families experiencing homelessness during 2023- 2024 winter



Need for
increased
eviction
prevention
resources

Need for
shelter
diversion +
stipends

Planning for
overnight
overflow site
for families

Need for
short-term
hotel stays
funding



Needs as of November



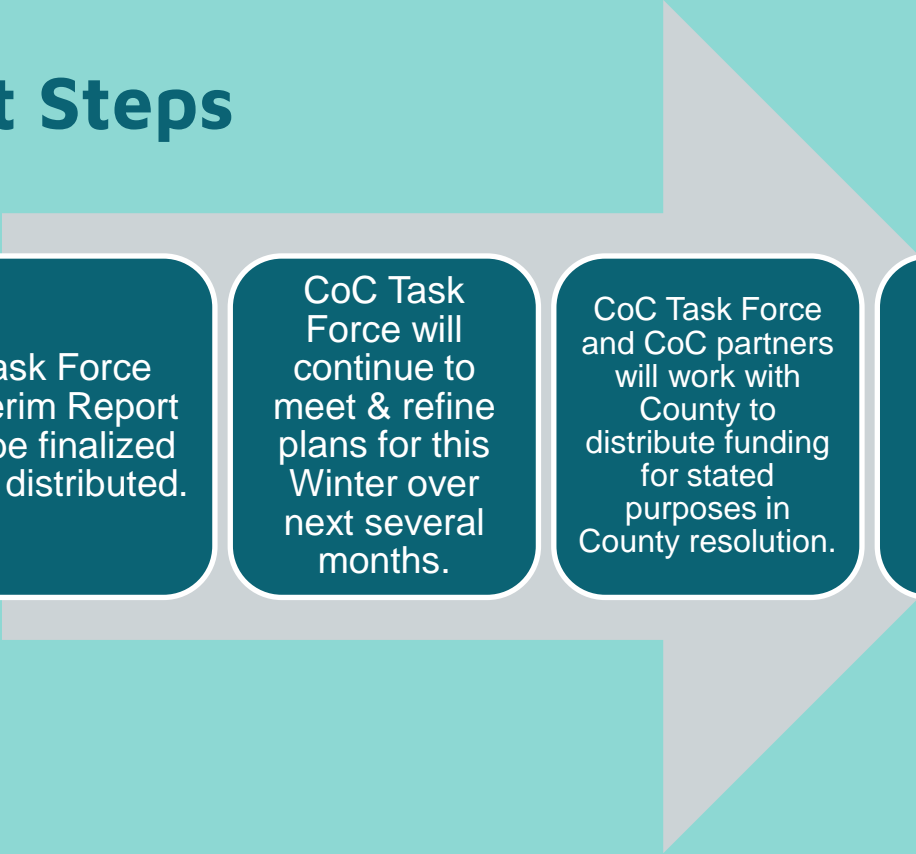


Task Force's Funding Recommendations totaled \$1.11M for Winter Response

- \$600K for **Eviction Prevention**
- \$50K for **Shelter Diversion**
- \$60K for **Shelter Diversion Stipends**
- \$150K for **Short-term Hotel Stays**
- \$250K for **Daytime & Overnight Shelter Staffing and Site Support**



Next Steps



Task Force
Interim Report
to be finalized
and distributed.

CoC Task
Force will
continue to
meet & refine
plans for this
Winter over
next several
months.

CoC Task Force
and CoC partners
will work with
County to
distribute funding
for stated
purposes in
County resolution.

Continue to
meet needs
through
outreach &
engagement
with
community