

Update: Houston's Homeless Response System

Marc Eichenbaum
Special Assistant to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives

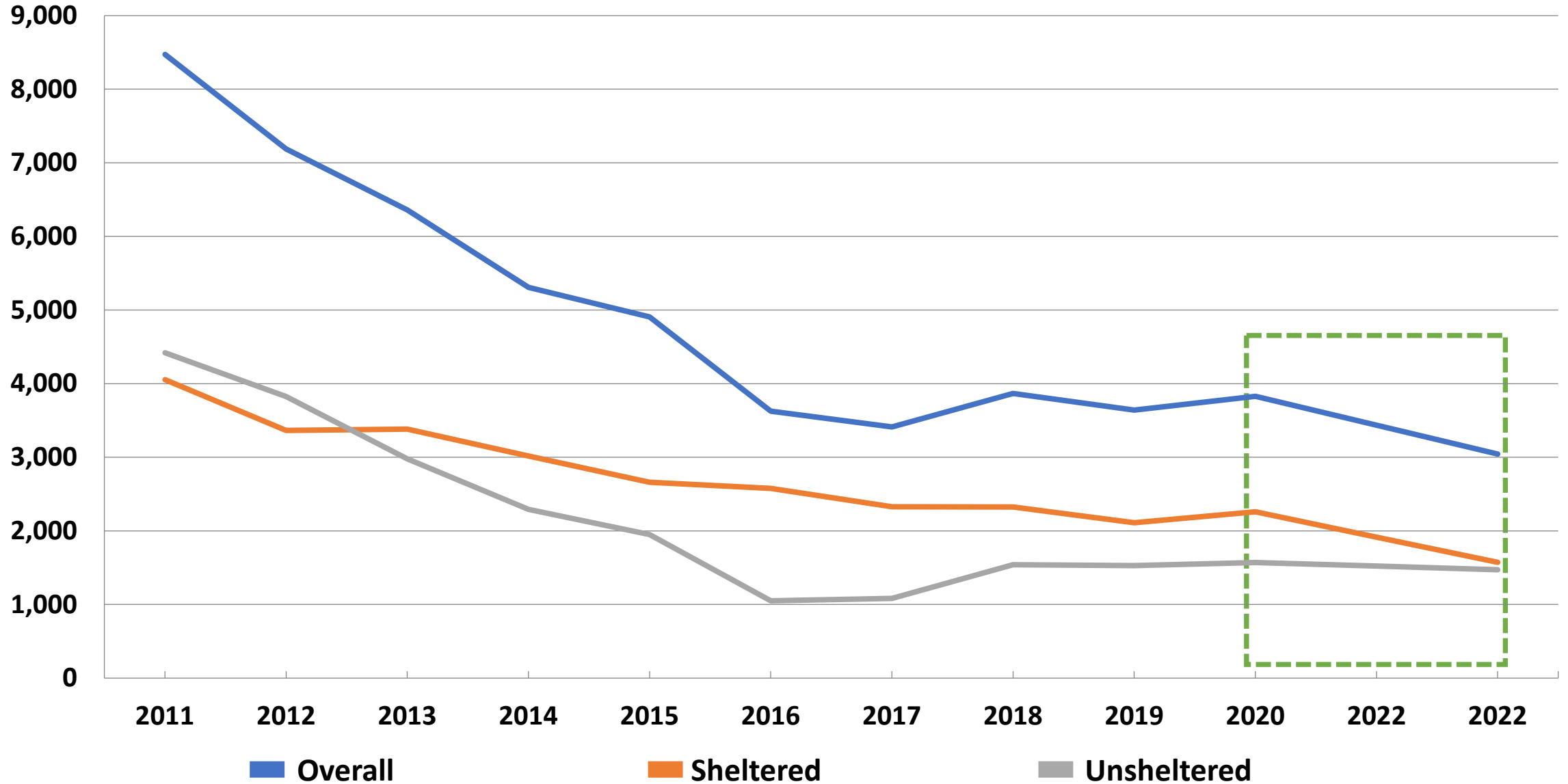


The Way Home

2022 Count & Survey

Population Trends/Changes

Homeless Population – (Harris & Ft. Bend Co.)



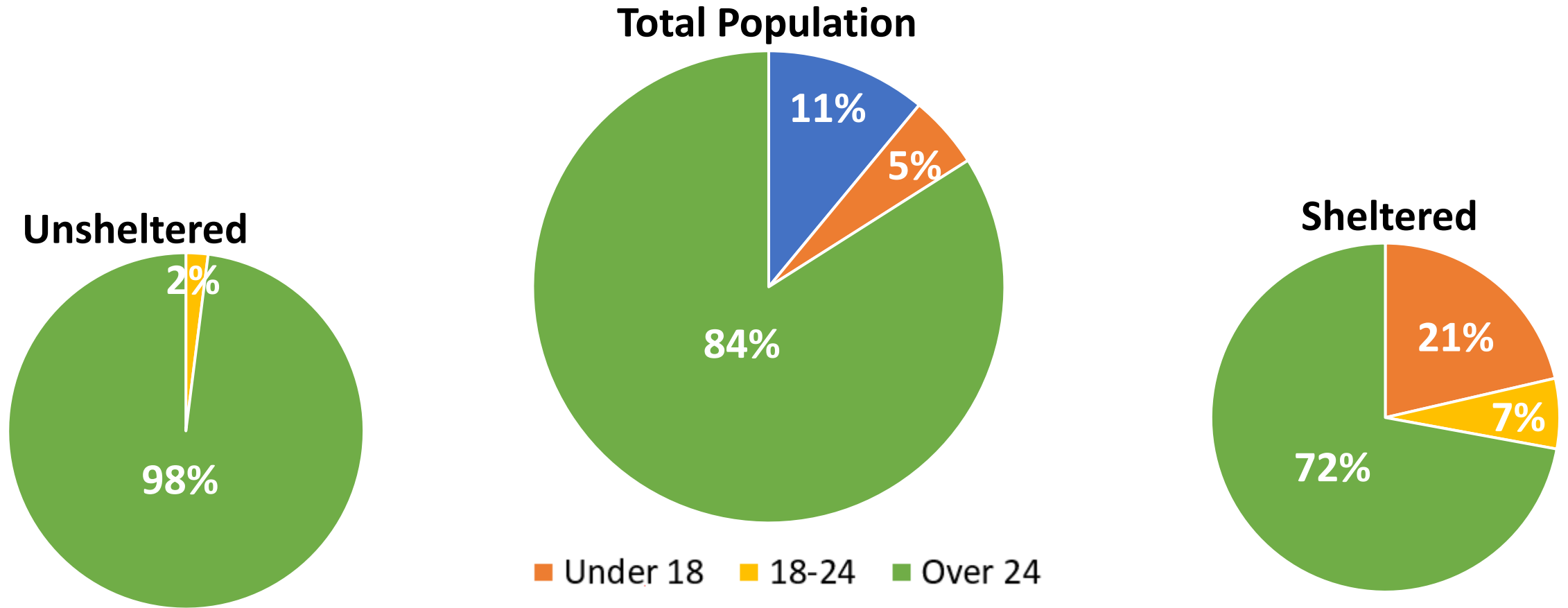
2022 Count

Greater Houston Area (Harris, Ft. Bend & Montgomery Co.)

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
2011	4,053	4,418	8,471
2020	2,318	1,656	3,974
2022	1,721	1,502	3,223

- 62% - Overall Reduction since 2011.
- 19% - Overall Reduction during Pandemic
 - **Street/Unsheltered: -9%**
- 2002 - 53% Sheltered + 47% Unsheltered
- 95% - Unsheltered Pop. In Harris Co.

Age Distribution



- Only 1 unaccompanied, unsheltered child
- All Children (under 18) sheltered are w/ household unit.
- 98% of unsheltered population is 25 or older
- 30% of unsheltered population is 55 or older.

2022 – Population Characteristics

Of all those counted:

- 20% were experiencing chronic homeless
- 10% were Veterans
- 15% DV Victims

Of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness:

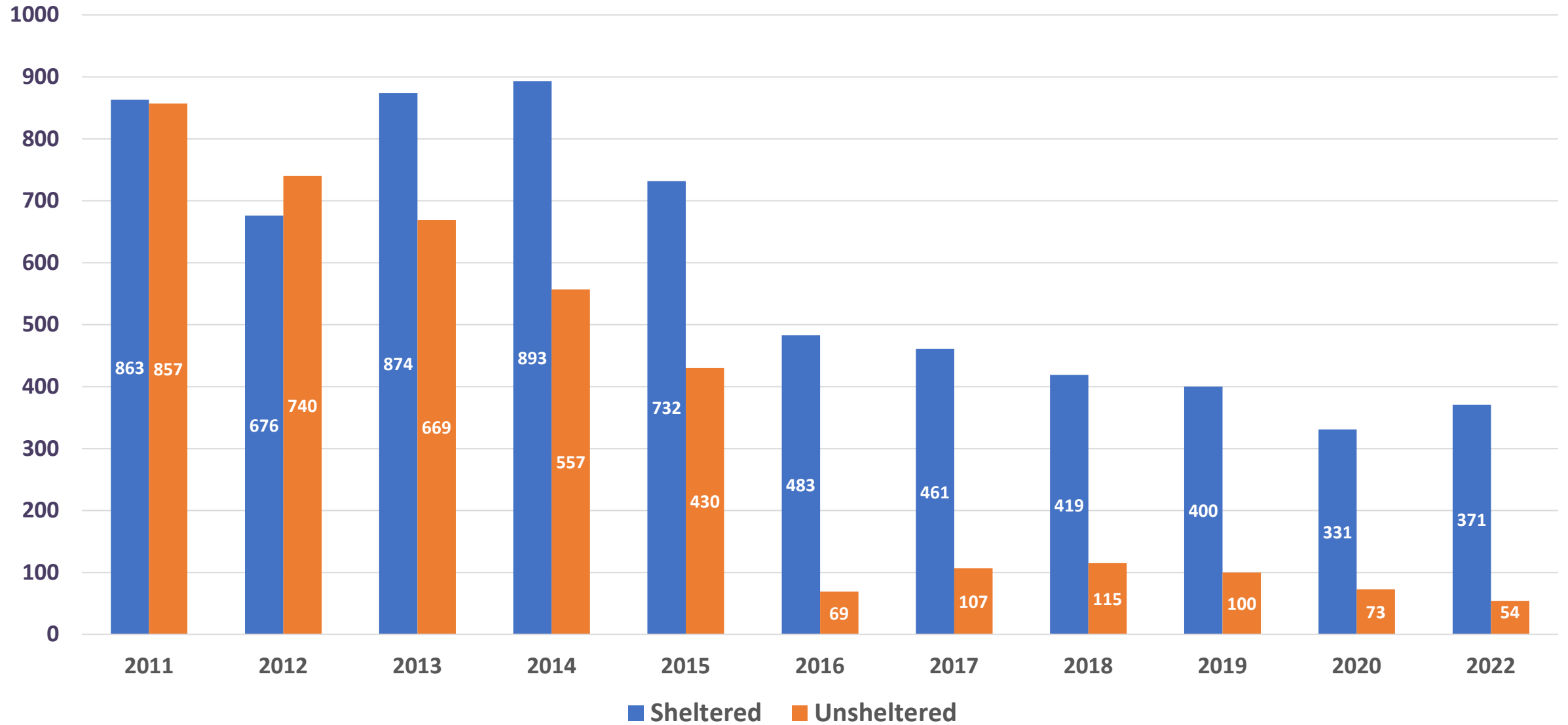
- 27% homeless due to a natural disaster or the Pandemic
 - 14% were homeless due to a natural disaster
 - of which 90% due to Hurricane Harvey
 - 13% were homeless due to economic impact of COVID-19
 - of which 30% of these were homeless for the first time

Hurricane Harvey Data (landfall - 8/2017)

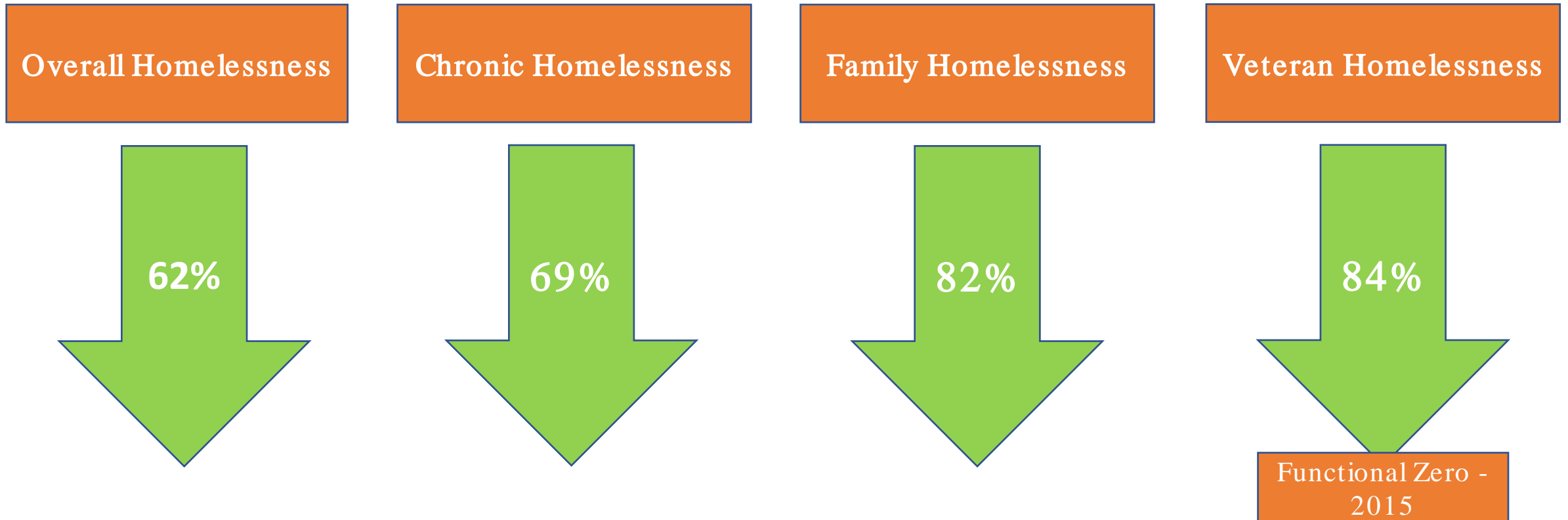
2018	2021	2022
19%	17%	13%

Long Term, Residual Impacts of Crises

Yearly Comparison – Survivors of Domestic Violence



62% reduction in homelessness since 2011



- 25,500+ Individuals Permanently Housed since 20011
- 8,500+ Clients Currently Housed

30% Reduction in Homelessness since Mayor Turner Took Office (2015 VS. 2022)

Overall Homelessness

Unsheltered Homelessness

Family Homelessness

Veteran Homelessness

Youth Homelessness

30%

23%

51%

53%

61%

- 19,000+ Individuals Permanently Housed since 2016
- 22,600+ Clients Housed since 2016

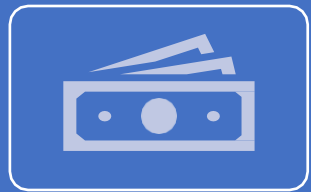
**Community COVID-19
Homeless Housing Program
(CCHHP)**

Overview



Initial 2 Yr. Goal - House 5,000 Individuals

- Housed 8,000+ individuals in first 18 months.
- New Goal- House 7,000 additional individuals by 2024.
- Leading the nation in permanently housing the homeless during COVID



\$165 Million (\$65M + 100M)

- 90% Federal Funds (primarily COVID related)
- Funded by the City, County & State
- Outreach/Housing Navigation, Rent, Supportive Services, etc.



Joint Project – City + County

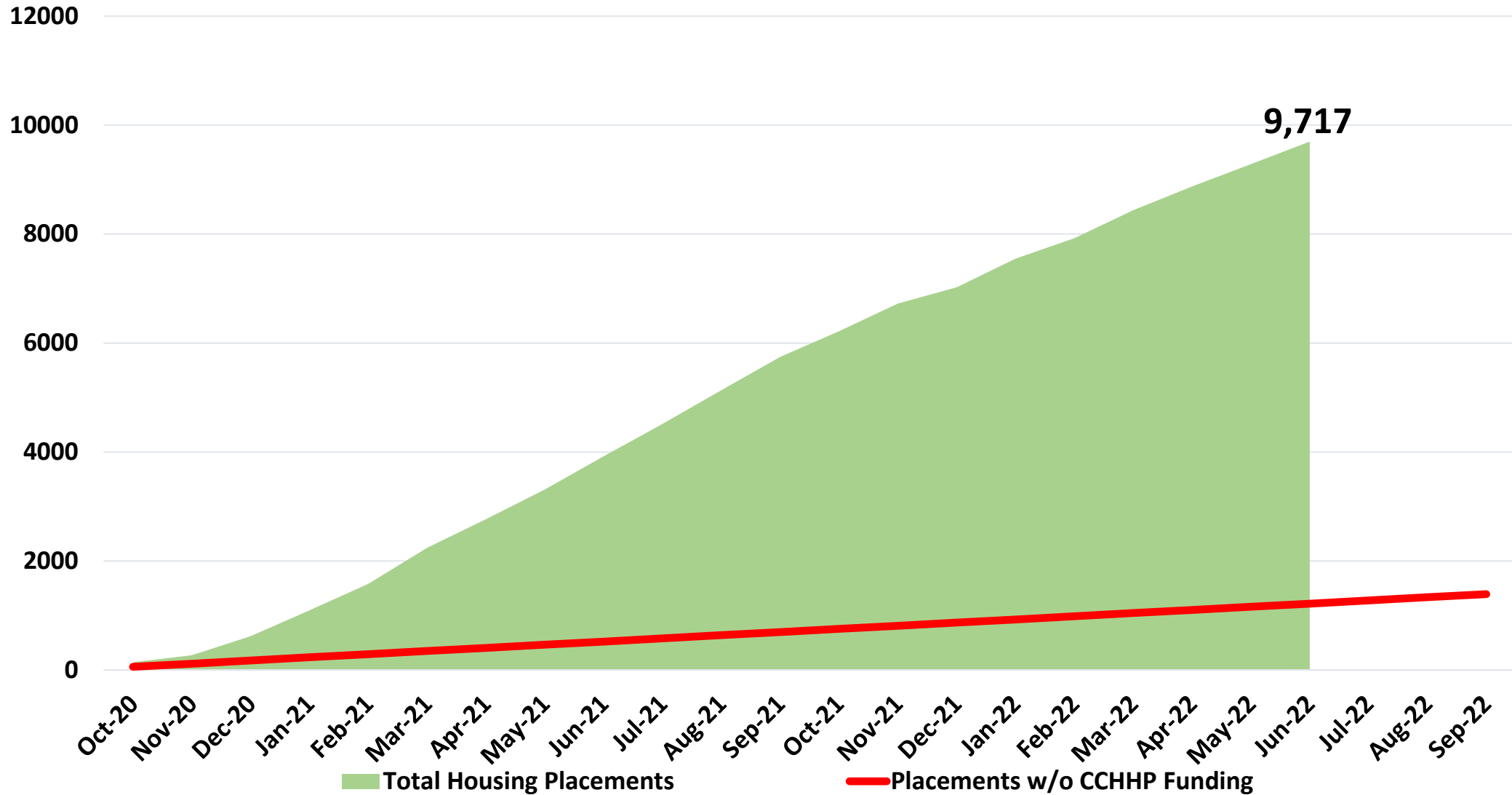
- Coalition for the Homeless – planning & management
- Local homeless agencies – housing and case management



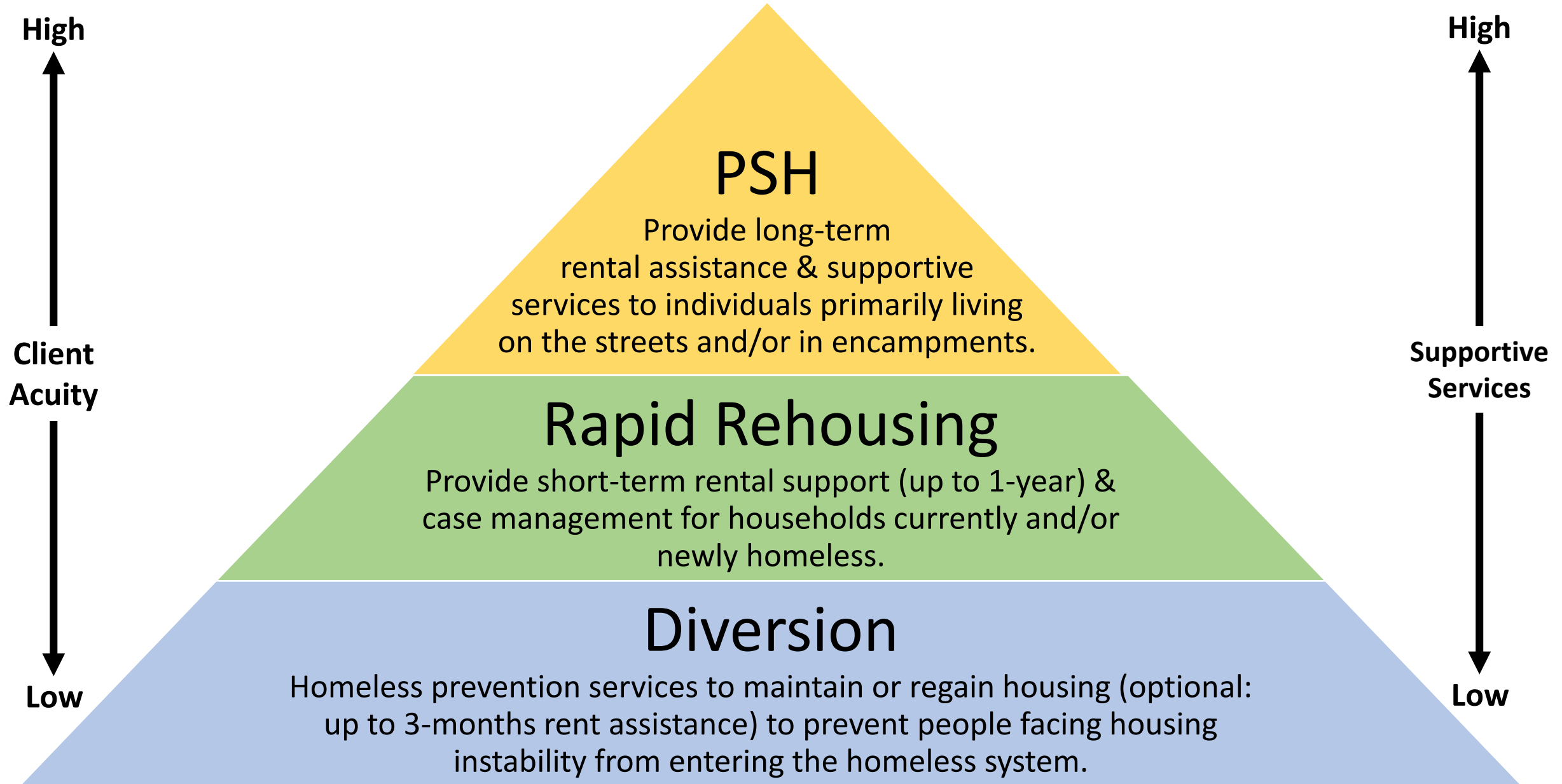
Housing as an Infectious Disease Control Response

COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Total Individuals Housed

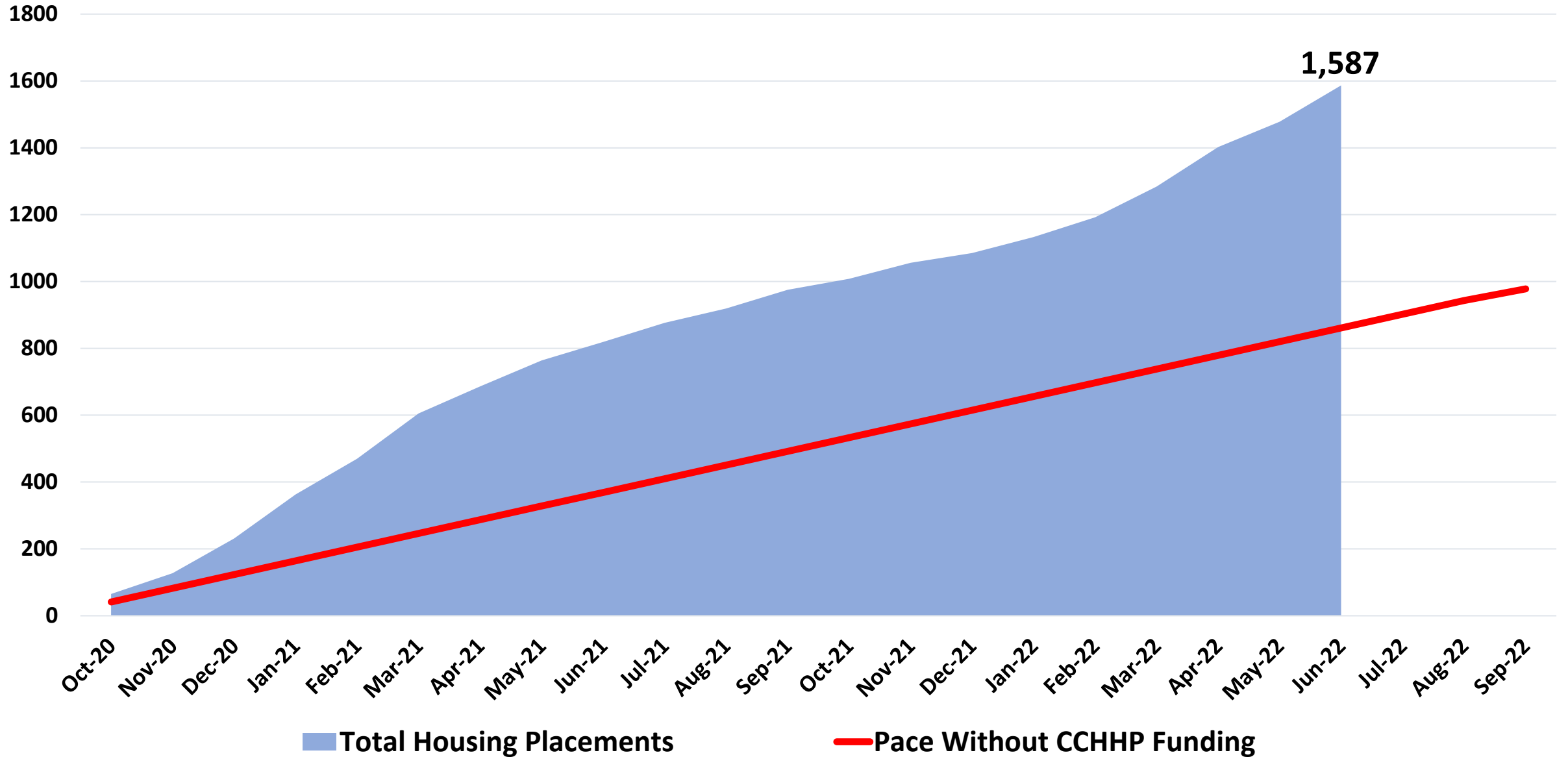


Three Components



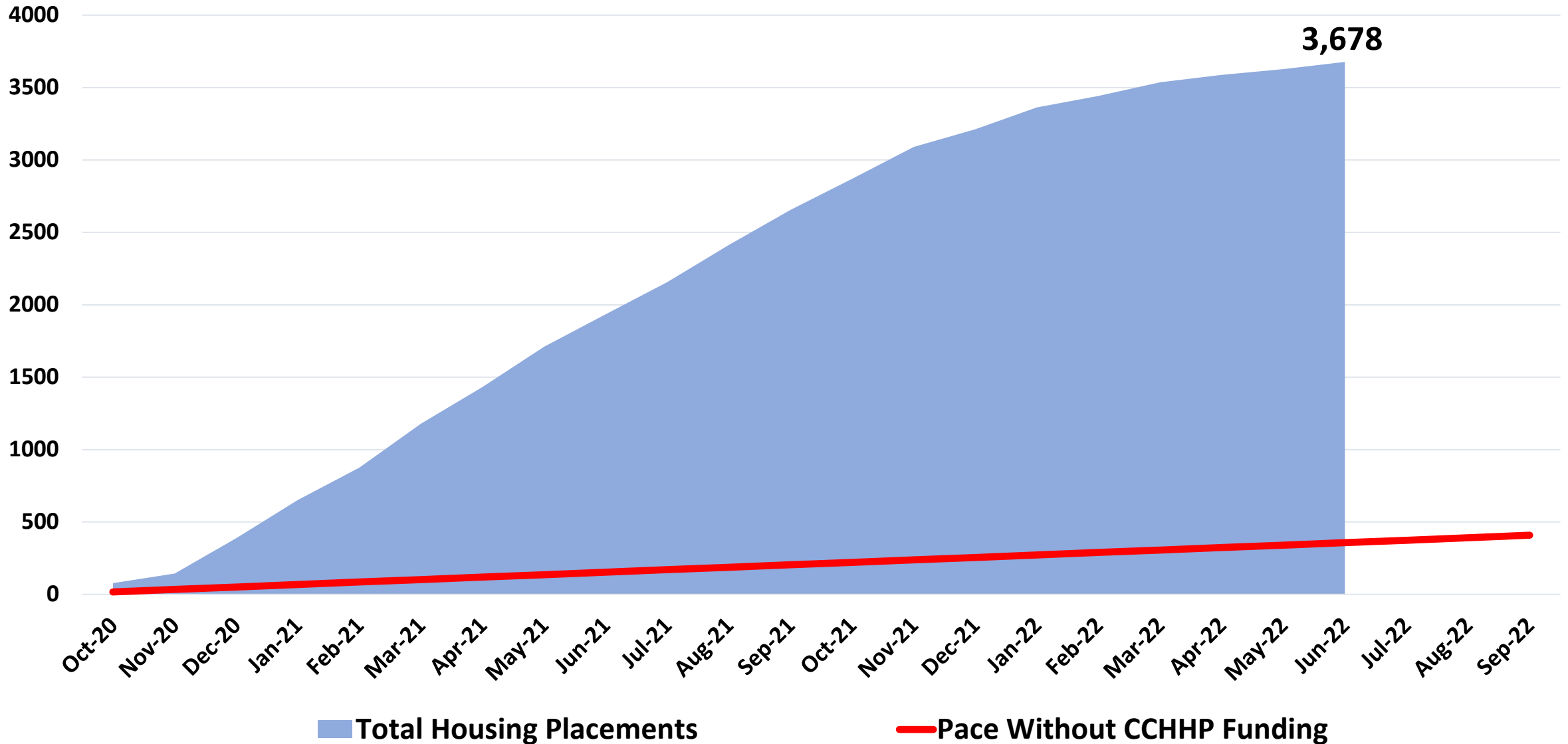
COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

PSH Placements



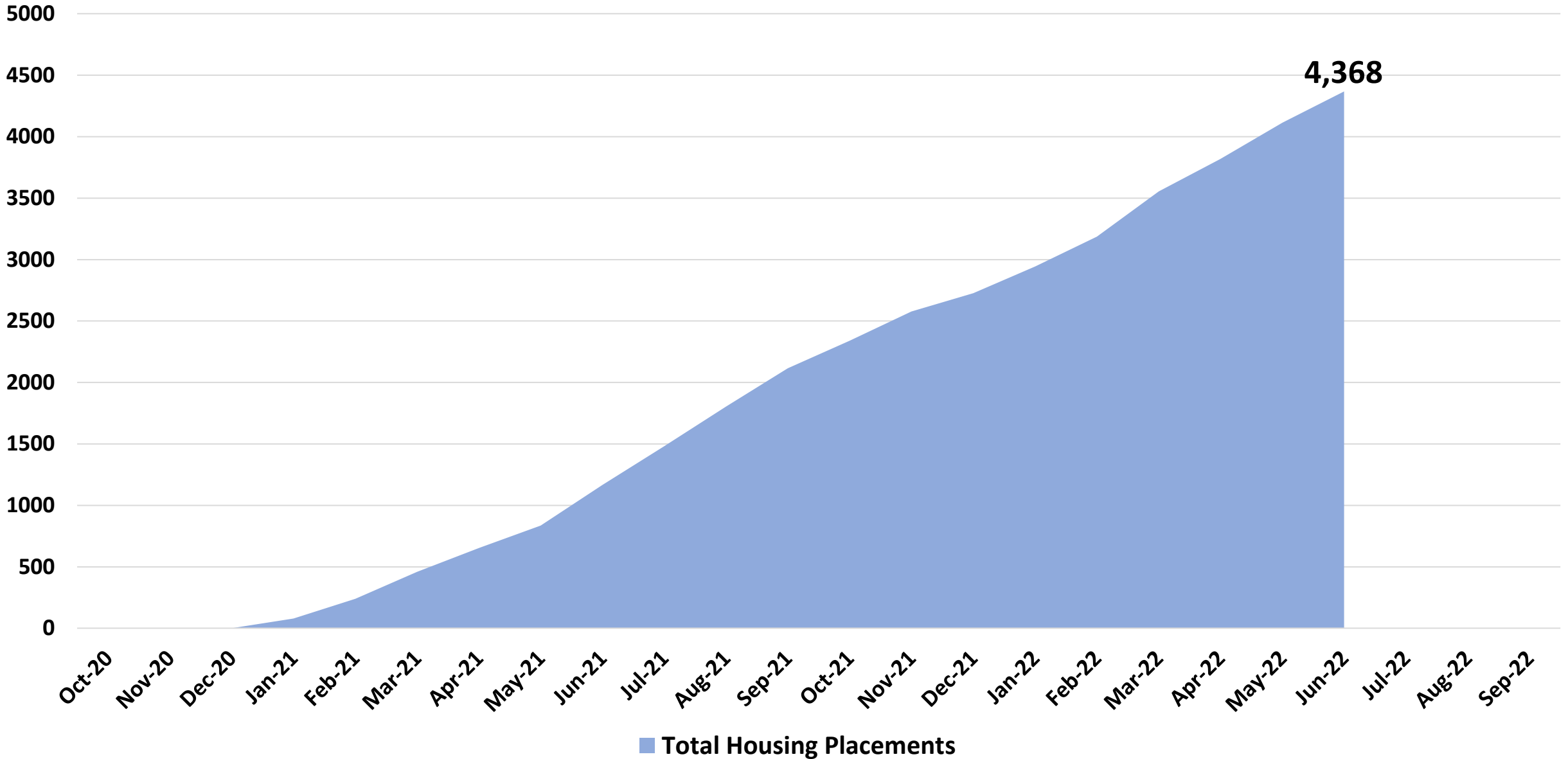
COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

RRH Placements



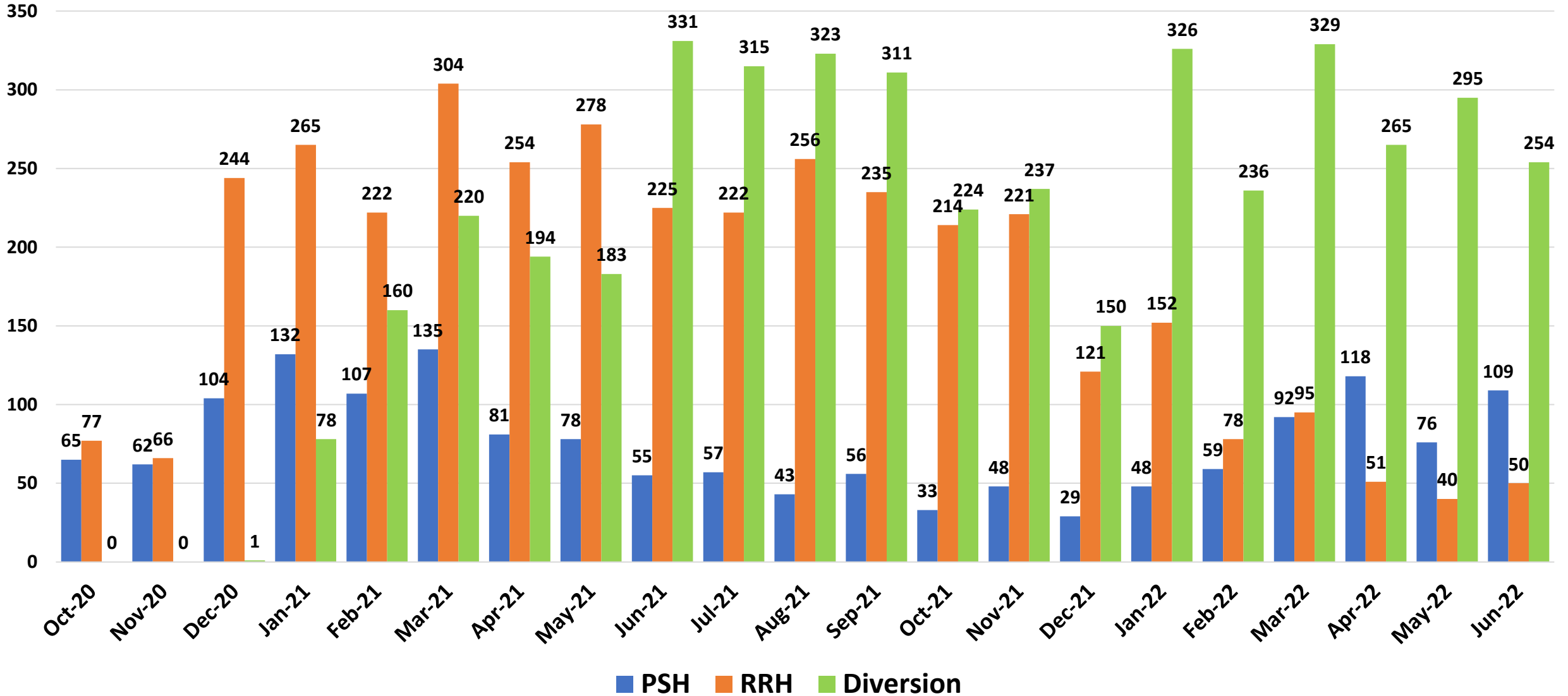
COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Diversion Placements



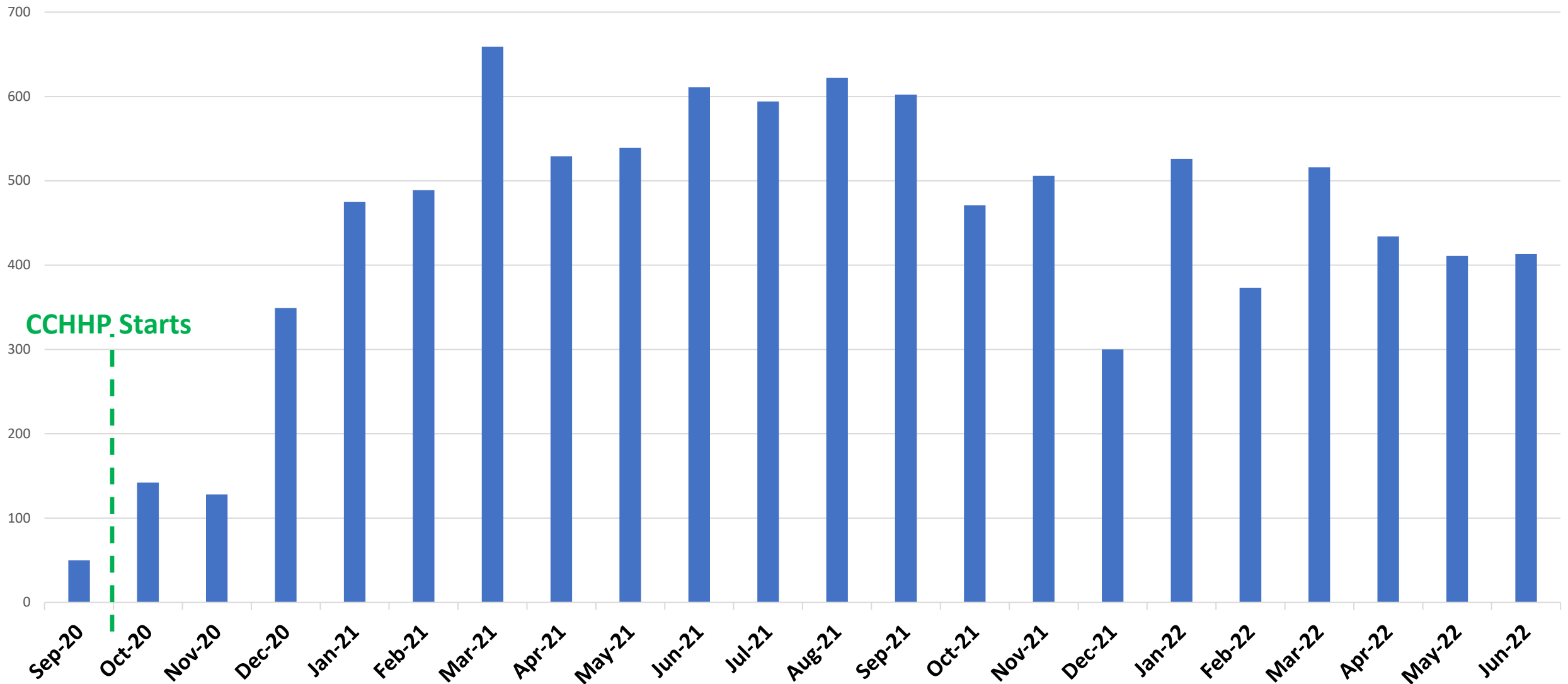
COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Total Monthly Housing Placements



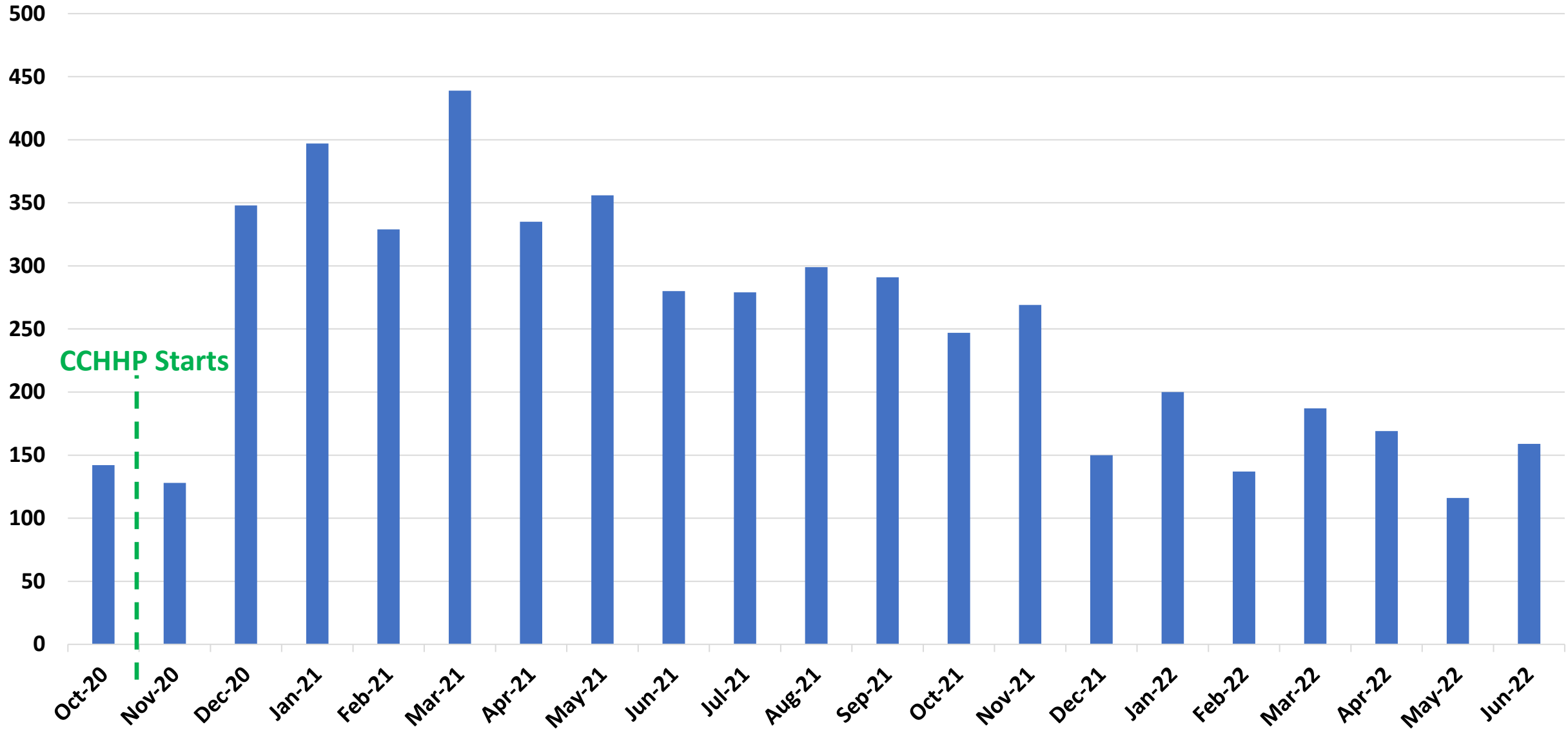
COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Monthly Housing Placements



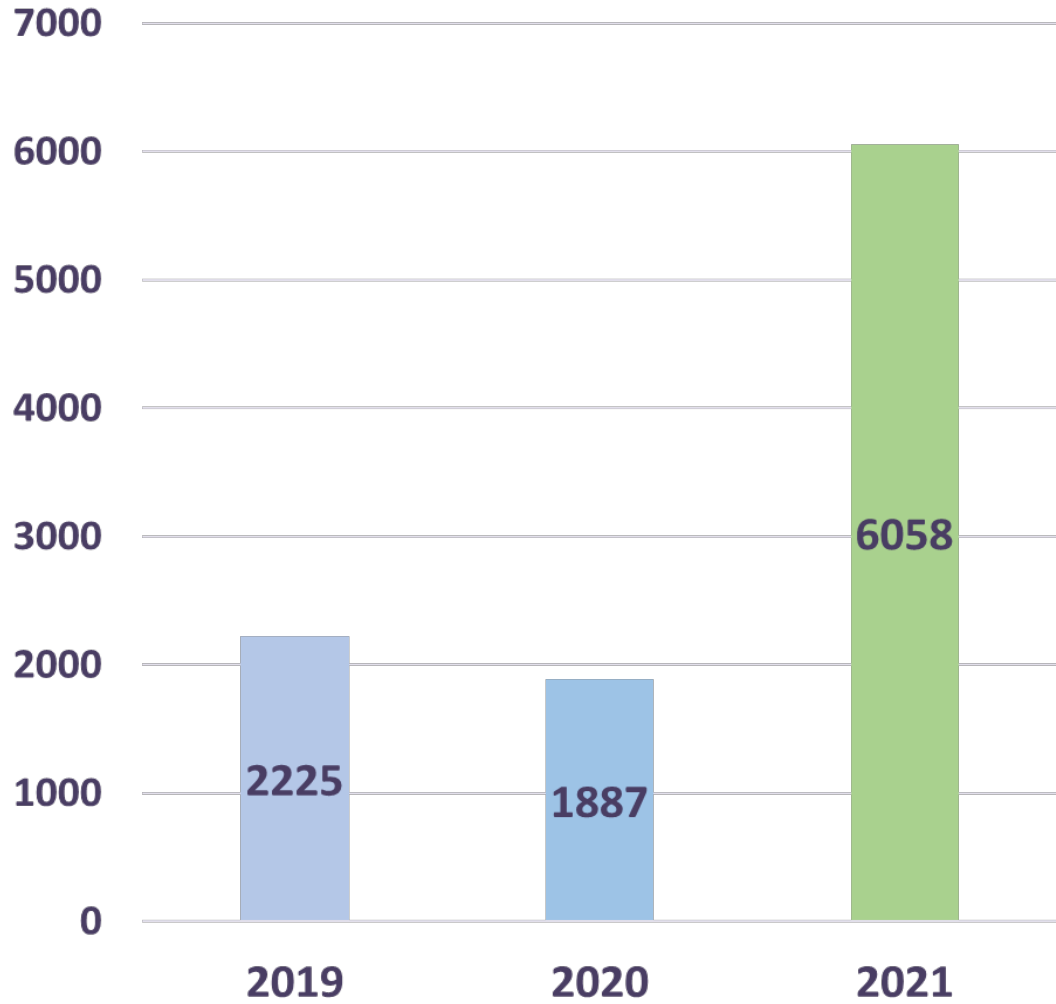
COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Monthly Housing Placements - Permanent Housing (PSH+RRH)



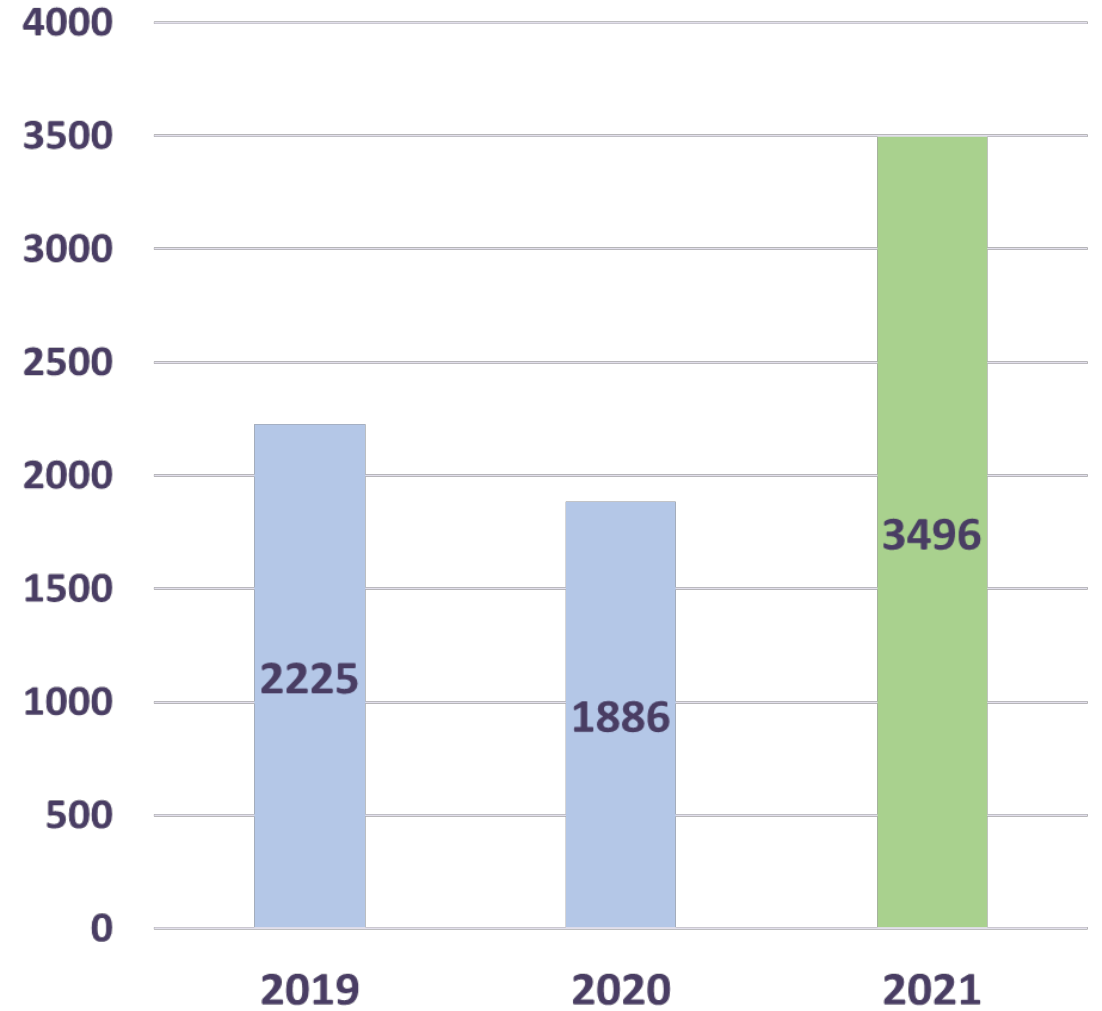
Impact: COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Individuals Housed



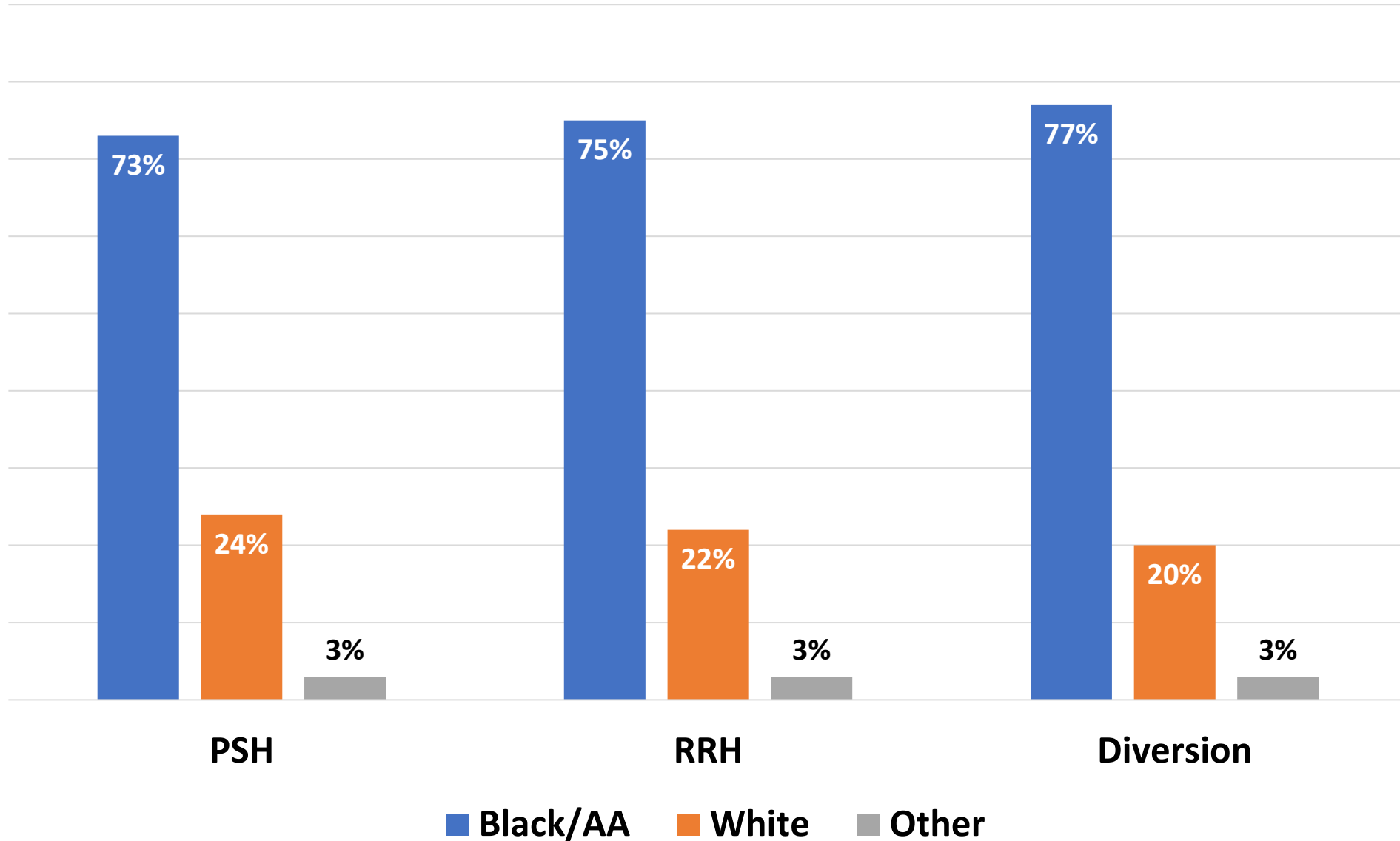
Individuals Permanently Housed

(PSH+RRH)



COVID-19 Homeless Housing Program

Race Data by Program

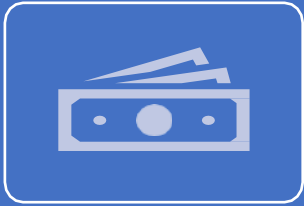


Racial Equity

	City Pop.	Homeless Pop.	CHHP Served
Black / African American	17%	55%	74%
Hispanic / Latino	38%	14%	12%
White / Anglo	35%	33%	12%
Other	10%	3%	2%

Next Step - COVID Homeless Housing Program

Phase 2



\$100 Million

- 3-year Program (funds must be spent by September 2023)
- Funded by: City, County & State
- Federal (COVID) Funding



Housing Vouchers

- 1,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers
- 400 Emergency Housing Vouchers from the State (pending request)
- Must be utilized by September 2024
- Vouchers are good through 2030



Goals

- House an Additional 7,000 Individuals
- Reduce Overall Homeless Population by ½ ... again
- Decommission all Medium and Large Encampments
- Reduce Unsheltered Homeless Population to approx. 1000 individuals

Encampment Decommissioning through Housing

COVID funds help speed housing effort for homeless

By R.A. Schuetz
STAFF WRITER

At the southern corner of downtown, underneath the tangle of freeways where I-45 meets I-69, Monday night was filled with quiet anticipation. Housing was coming.

In the encampment called home by roughly three dozen, Steven Dennis couldn't sleep. Regina Tut talked of her excitement. A man named Angel wondered if he could finally start anew.

And as the morning

broke, balmy and clear, there they were: Staff from a collection of groups working to serve the homeless were raising a white canopy a few yards from the double row of tents sheltered beneath I-45. Housing navigators and case managers setting up at tables and folding chairs underneath. A van from Metro that would drive people to a converted hotel, where they'd live until connected with permanent housing, pulling up at the side of the block.

Since more than \$65 million in COVID-related fund-



Marie D. De Jesús / Staff photographer

A man gathers his belongings from an encampment under I-45 before getting transported to new housing.

ing has poured into Houston and Harris County's coffers, they have worked in tandem with a number of partners to ramp up the housing units available to move people out of homelessness. As they've done so, they've picked up the pace at which homeless encampments are being "decommissioned" — the group's term for offering the residents of a camp permanent housing, then clearing the site, usually with fencing, to prevent the camp from reforming. The process provides a way out

of chronic homelessness to the many who choose housing and the services that go with it, a dislocation to the smaller group who do not.

The ultimate success of Houston's encampment strategy could have rippling effects across the country. Cities including Austin and Dallas are seeking to emulate Houston's program, said Marc Eichenbaum, special assistant to the mayor for homeless initiatives; others, including Denver and Spokane, Wash., are watching closely.

Homeless continues on A13

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Decommissioned Encampments & Results (as of 4/15/22)

Encampments Decommissioned

57

Individuals Engaged

343

Individuals Housed

307 (90%)

Indiv. Housed by System*

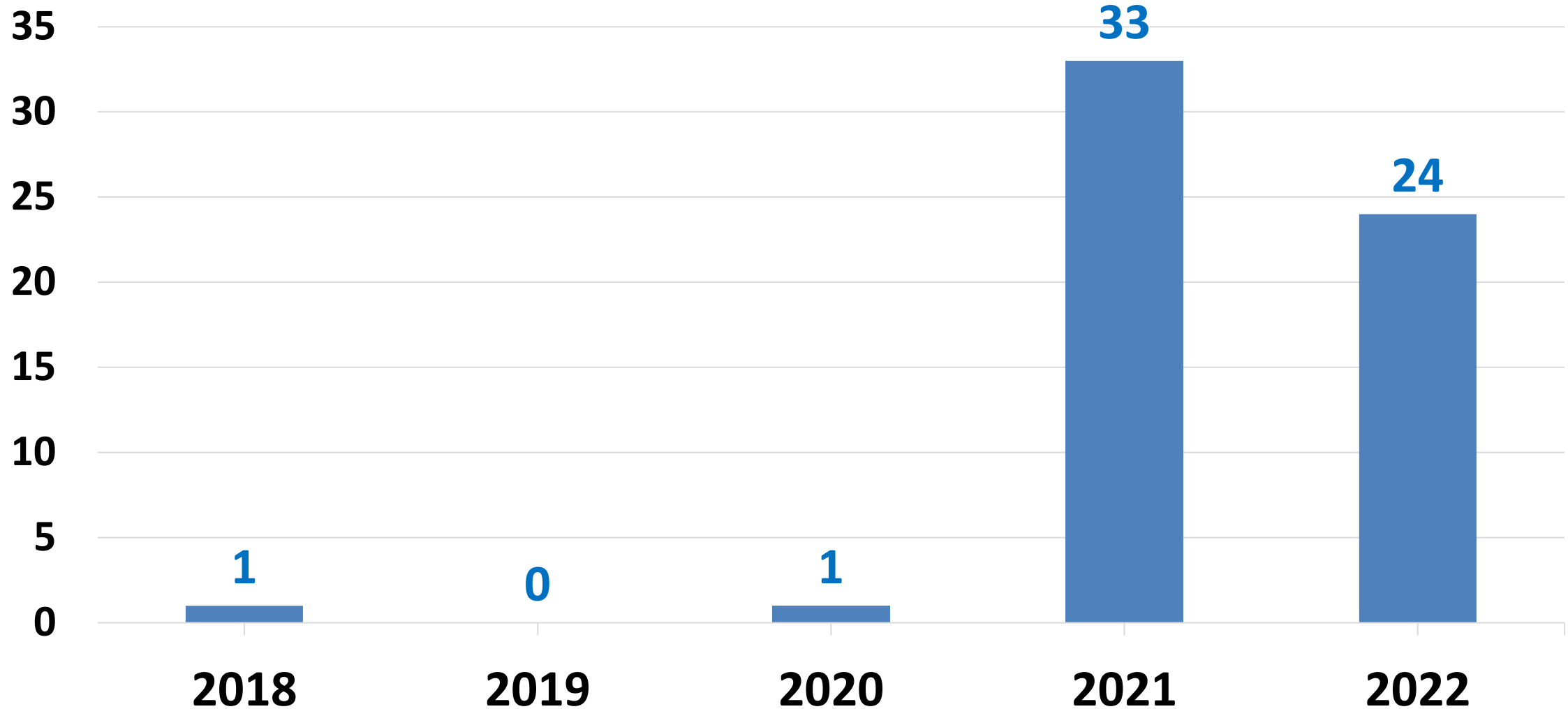
267 (78%)

*in permanent housing or at Temp. Nav. Center awaiting permanent housing placement.

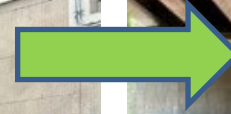
Location	Number of Encampments	Number of Inhabitants	Refused	Self-Resolved	Housed by System	Total Housed (Self + System)	Wellness Cntr - "Bonus" Clients
45 N / Crosstimbers	2	28	1	1	26	27	0
500 Fannin	1	11	1	0	10	10	0
Triangle	1	3	0	0	3	3	0
Allen Parkway / 45N	2	53	3	4	46	50	0
Hollister/Tidwell	1	10	0	2	8	10	0
i10 W / Silber	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
59 SW / F.V. + Westpark	2	11	7	0	4	4	0
US90 / S Post Oak	1	2	1	0	1	1	0
Louisiana / Pierce (Fed Building)	1	8	2	1	5	6	0
i10 W - San Felipe / Blalock	2	3	1	1	1	2	0
290 corridor - part 1	5	17	2	1	14	15	0
290 corridor - part 2	4	21	3	1	17	18	0
610-Heights	1	10	1	1	8	9	0
Hamilton / "Hilltop"	1	35	5	8	22	30	0
45 South part 1	3	22	0	3	19	22	3
45 South part 2	5	17	0	1	16	17	0
610 / Post Oak	1	2	0	2	0	2	0
45 North- Tidwell to Beltway 8	3	20	2	6	12	18	0
610 NW	4	11	2	0	9	9	1
610 W / Uptown	4	12	2	3	7	10	0
610 SW / Beechnut	1	3	0	0	3	3	0
i10 W / Houston Ave	1	2	0	1	1	2	0
i10 E - City	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
45 N Central	3	6	0	0	6	6	0
288 Central / Section H	2	1	0	0	1	1	0
610 E / Fulton	1	4	0	2	2	4	2
Spur / Richmond	2	13	0	0	13	13	1
Spur / West Alabama	1	14	0	2	12	14	1
Total	57	343	36	40	267	307	8

Decommissioned Encampments

Encampments Decommissioned through Housing



Encampment Decommissioning

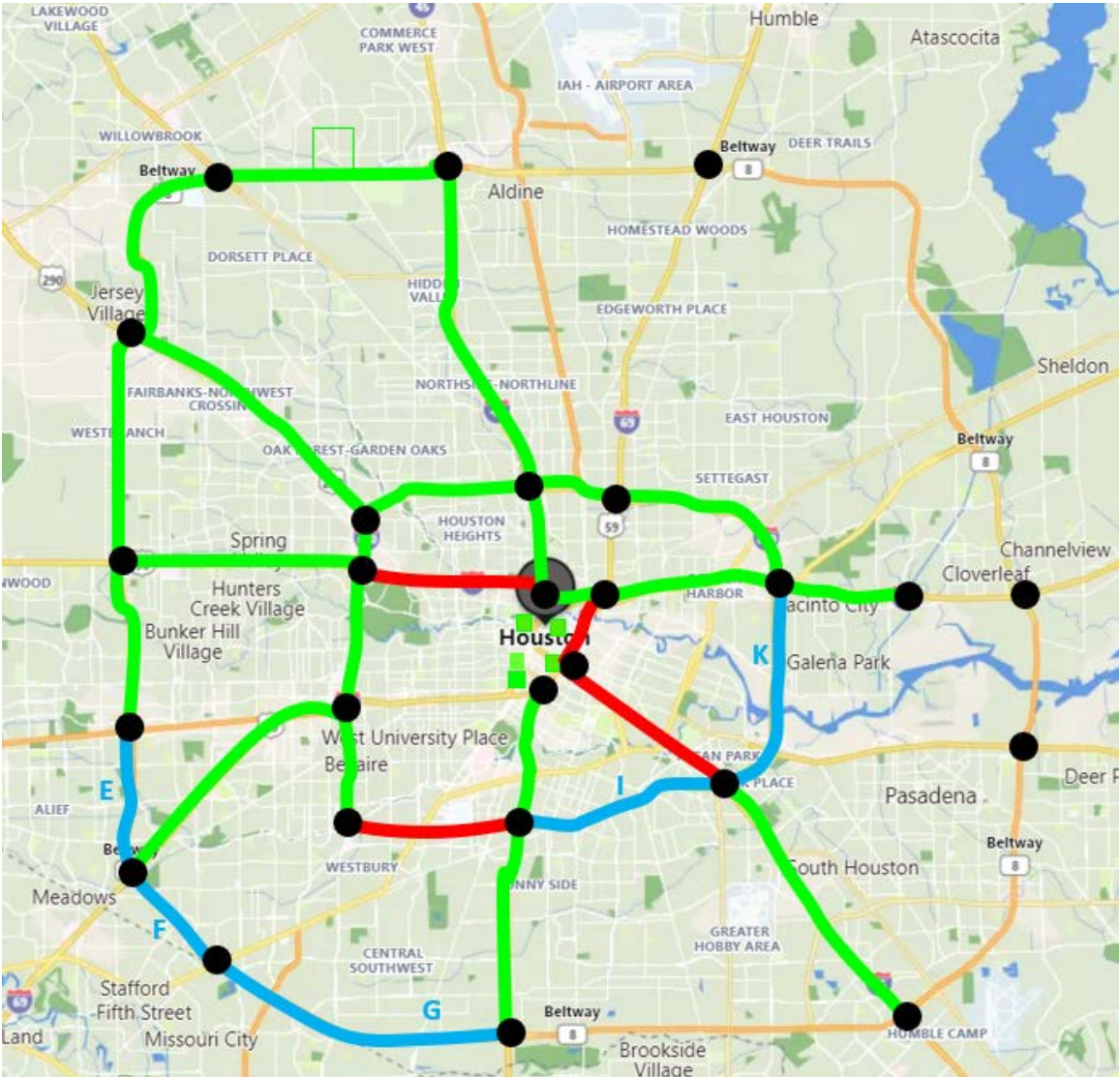


Encampment Decommissioning-Housing Strategy

Phase 1 – Street level tents/structures at major intersections and highways.

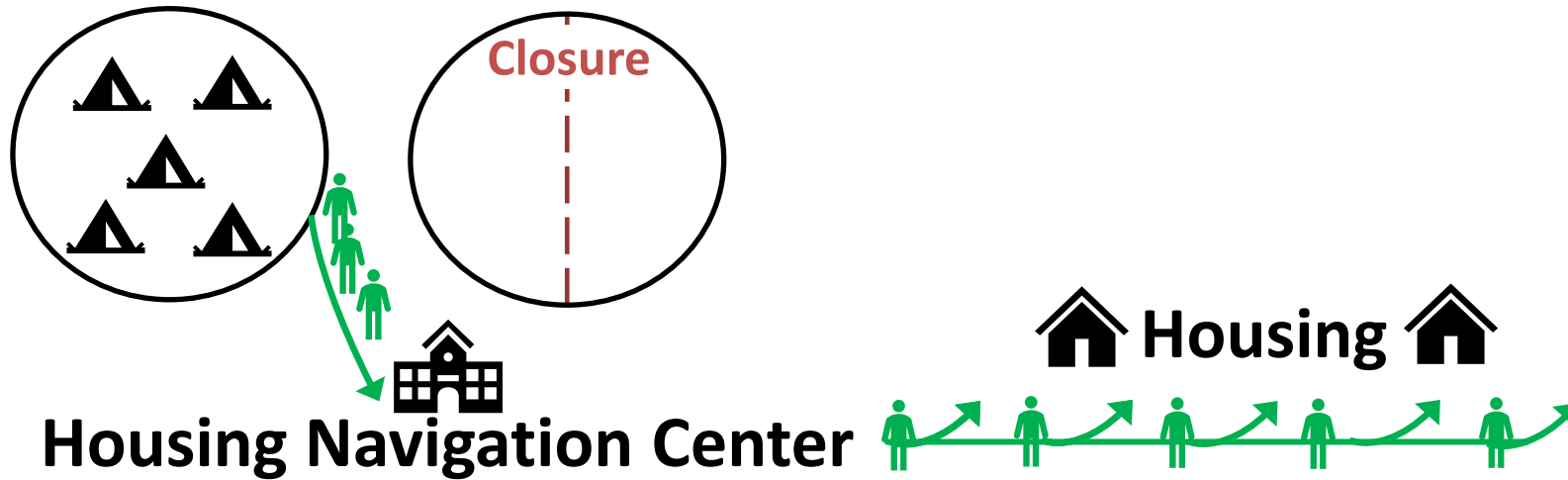
Key

- Green line = Decommissioned through housing and/or no encampments.
- Blue line = Decommissioning almost complete
- Purple line = Planned decommission w/n a month
- Red line = Substantial structures.



Role of the Housing Navigation Center

DAY 1 ————— DAY 3 ————— DAY 90



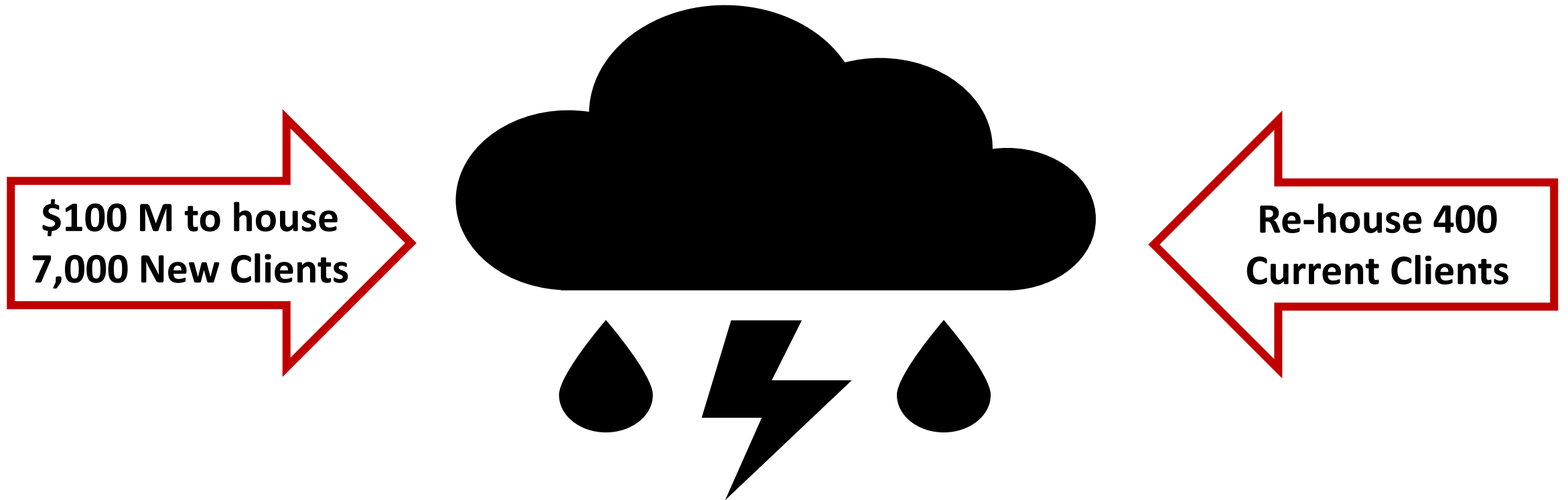
Note: To house all inhabitants and decommission an encampment in 3 to 5 days, requires 4-8 weeks of (mainly offsite) prep work.

Housing Unit Crisis

Three Keys of Homeless Housing

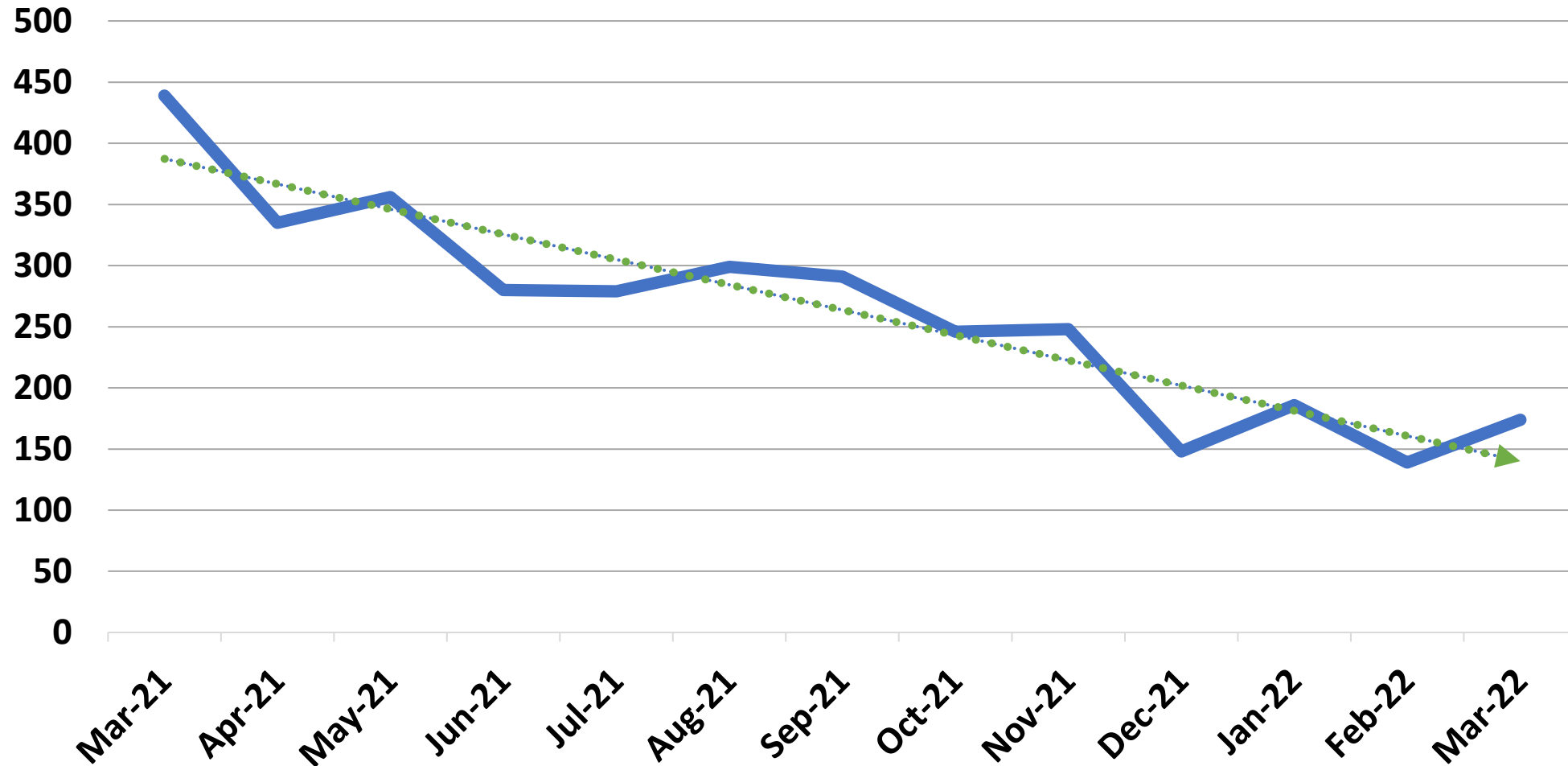


1- Bedroom Shortage Crises



Housing Units

1-Bedroom Shortage – Impact on Individuals Housed (Permanent Housing: PSH + RRH)



Solutions Explored

- Enhanced Landlord Engagement Team
- Apartment Incentives
- Apartment Locator/Broker Incentive Program
- Utility Payee Program
- Parent Leasing Pilot
- Co-Housing Clients in Shared Units
- Supp. Property Damage Insurance Pool
- Mayor's Office – Landlord Intervention
- “Rapid Development” Supportive Housing and/or non-traditional Acquisition/Conversion

Traditional Solution – Cap. Development



New Hope Housing - Sakowitz



The Women's Home - Jane Cizik Garden Place

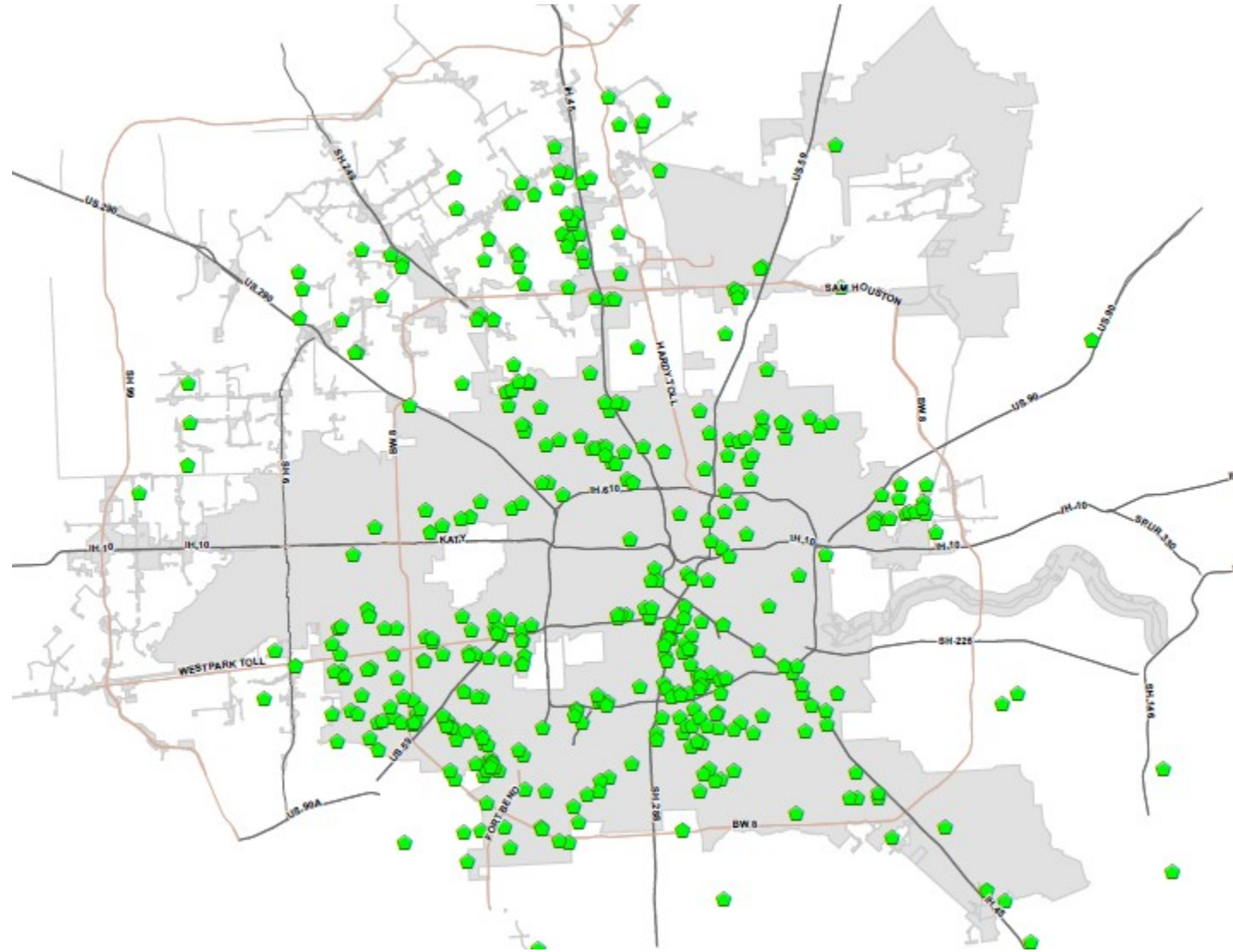


New Hope Housing's Rittenhouse



Travis Street Plaza Apartments

Traditional Solution – Open Market





Acquisition and Construction Comparison

	New Multifamily Development	Existing Multifamily Acquisition	Motel Acquisition Conversion
Cost / unit	\$150-180k / unit	\$100-200k / unit	\$40-80k / unit
Time to become Operational	2-3 Years	6 - 24 months	3-8 months

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The Way Home