



Do you know these common misconceptions about
the houseless?

www.houselessindeschutes.org



Do you know these

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE HOUSELESS?

www.houselessindeschutes.org

According to Kathy Skidmore, Executive Officer of Central Oregon Veterans Outreach, “It’s easy to draw conclusions about the houseless based on what we see. But houselessness is more complicated. As a casual observer, it’s impossible to see the whole picture—especially when so many houseless people are hidden. We’re also unlikely to see or understand the full impact of houselessness on those experiencing it.”

The volunteers, advocates, and outreach providers serving the houseless say they regularly encounter damaging misconceptions about our houseless neighbors.

These misconceptions hurt our community in two ways: they deny the very real problems contributing to houselessness, and they thwart our ability to come together and agree on a course of action.

Here are some of the common misconceptions about people experiencing houselessness:

“They’re not trying hard enough.” False.

Many houseless people are working. But they face barriers to get ahead.

Many houseless people are working. This work tends to be seasonal (such as for agricultural operations). Many houseless work for trade as a way to secure temporary housing.

But they face substantial barriers to more traditional employment. They may lack transportation. They may have lost their documentation. If they lack access to laundry and shower facilities—or are unable to afford professional clothes—they may not present well in an interview.

Many are also trying very hard to get back into stable housing. But cost is a huge barrier, given our area’s high rental rates and the prohibitive “first month, last month and deposit” requirement. Houseless people can also find it more difficult to provide basic information like a current address and references to landlords.

“They aren’t from here.” False.

The majority of our houseless neighbors have lived here for years.

The claim that our growing houseless population relocated here or that houseless people have been shipped here by other cities is not true, according to scores of volunteers and outreach providers serving the 900+ houseless people in our community. The 2021 Point-in-Time count confirmed, “most experiencing homelessness in Central Oregon have lived here for more than

three years.” Before becoming houseless, 84% of individuals said their last stable housing had been in Oregon.

“They’re not our responsibility.” False.

Houselessness is an unfortunate result of past and current public policies and has become a full-blown humanitarian crisis.

The roots of our current crisis stretch back to the 1980s, when funding for HUD and other social programs were gutted. “Houselessness used to increase during hard economic times,” explains Colleen Sinsky of FUSE. “Today it’s much different. Houselessness is on the rise even though the economy has been booming.”

“These are people. They are displaced and they are suffering. And there are hundreds of children involved.”

— Eliza Wilson

The current crisis reflects decades of indifference towards affordable housing and wage inequality. According to Sinsky, “The housing market in Deschutes County doesn’t reflect the needs and income levels of the people who live here.” Policymakers at the local, state, and national levels are still working to address our region’s escalating cost of housing and medical care. As a country, more needs to be done to address the decades-long trend of growing income inequality. Locally, “It comes down to political will, which is directly influenced by public support,” says Lynne McConnell. “The solution is within reach. We just have to provide the funding.”

There has been a noticeable shift in how our community—and other cities—are talking about houselessness. “These are people,” says Eliza Wilson of J BarJ Youth Services. “They are displaced and they are suffering. And let’s not forget: there are hundreds of children involved. This has definitely reached the scale of a humanitarian crisis.”

How tracking homelessness in real time 'by name'
can guide local action
SMARTCITIESDRIVE
by Ysabelle Kempe



How tracking homelessness in real time ‘by name’ can guide local action

SMARTCITIESDIVE

By Ysabelle Kempe

Federally mandated annual “point-in-time” counts paint a picture of homelessness in broad strokes. But some communities are collecting information to understand what happens in between.

Published May 3, 2024

Every year, the federal government requires communities nationwide to count the number of people experiencing homelessness. This “point-in-time” data paints a broad-stroked picture of whether homelessness in the U.S. is increasing or decreasing over the years.

But what is not captured in that information is all the progress — or lack thereof — that happens in between the annual counts. Some local homeless service providers are taking it upon themselves to fill in those gaps with “by-name data.” a comprehensive list of every person experiencing homelessness that is updated monthly, weekly or even daily.

“Using the data in this way makes things more actionable,” Adam Ruege, director for strategy and evaluation for the nonprofit Community Solutions’ Built for Zero team, said at a May 2 webinar held by New York University’s Housing Solutions Lab. More granular data allows local leaders to better understand what factors may be driving increases or decreases in homelessness, he said.

For example, one community that Ruege worked with was able to discern through the data that increases in homelessness were being driven by evictions in two zip codes, predominantly among Black men. That motivated the community to focus its efforts on preventing eviction rates in those specific areas, he said.

By-name lists include a file for each person with their name, homeless history, health and housing needs, according to Community Solutions. The information is collected and shared with each person’s consent. The federal Homeless Management Information System, which many communities use to monitor homelessness, can be configured to track this information, Ruege said.

But creating a by-name list requires all the agencies and service providers in a community to commit to sharing data in a single place, he said. “We know that’s challenging and that it can take a long time to bring people to the table,” Ruege said. “But we’ve seen that time and time again, it works, and people are willing to come to the table.”

A group that coordinates the homelessness response in the Chattanooga, Tennessee, region recently created a digital tool to let different groups within the community contribute to its by-name list, which lives in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The web-based, mobile-friendly tool allows for the assessment of individuals experiencing homelessness, explained Jodie Legg, data analyst for the Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition, at the Thursday event.

“We’re able to get that assessment tool into our schools, our hospitals, our health clinics, our libraries,” Legg said. “Our street outreach workers can use it. Our [Veterans Affairs] and domestic violence providers that were using different systems could now use the same tool.”

“Most of those places want to be able to help,” she continued. “This gives them a tangible way to help.”

The by-name data can also show providers where gaps in services exist. Three years ago, the Chattanooga coalition’s data showed a disproportionately small percentage of Latinos experiencing homelessness in the community, the coalition’s interim executive director, Mackenzie Kelly, said. But when the team looked into the issue further they discovered that it wasn’t that they weren’t experiencing homelessness, “it was that we were wildly underserving them, and they were not finding access to the system,” Kelly said.

“We started partnering with different organizations that were serving that population,” she said. “Now our data is showing much more representative numbers.”



2024 Oregon Housing Profile
www.NLIHC.org



2024 OREGON HOUSING PROFILE

Across Oregon, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.

SENATORS: Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley

KEY FACTS

138,104

OR

22%

Renter Households with extremely low incomes

-102,760

Shortage of rental homes affordable and available for extremely low income renters

\$30,560

Average income limit for 4-person extremely low-income households (state level)

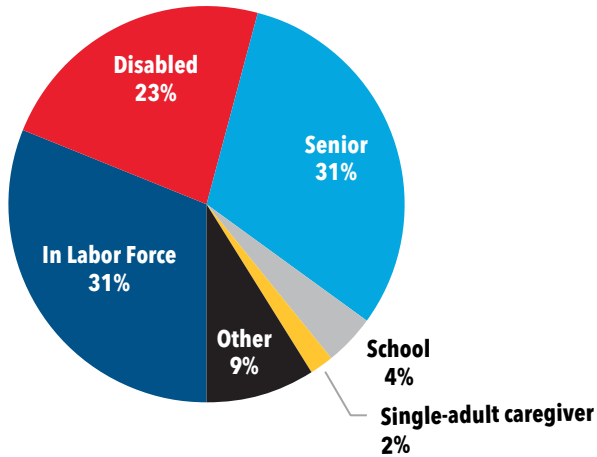
\$67,275

Annual household income needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at HUD's Fair Market Rent.

78%

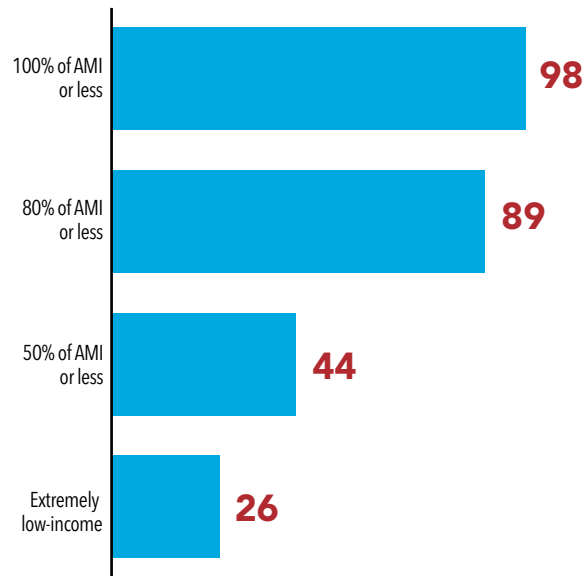
Percent of extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden

EXTREMELY LOW INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



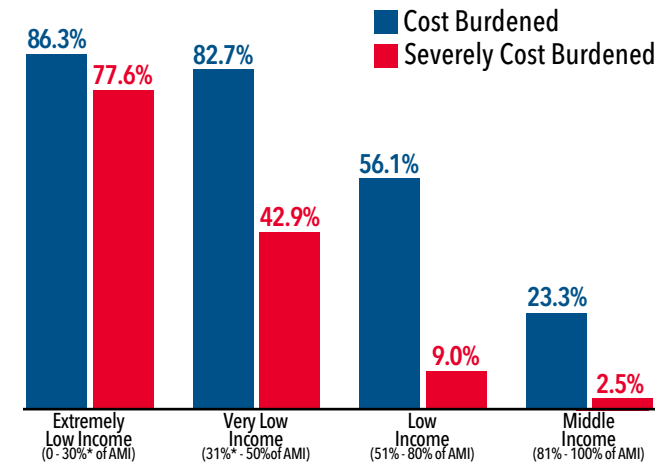
Note: Mutually exclusive categories applied in the following order: senior, disabled, in labor force, enrolled in school, single adult caregiver of a child under 7 or of a household member with a disability, and other. Nationally, 13% of extremely low-income renter households are single adult caregivers, 53% of whom usually work more than 20 hours per week. Source: 2022 ACS PUMS.

AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOMES PER 100 RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2022 ACS PUMS

HOUSING COST BURDEN BY INCOME GROUP



Note: Renter households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs and utilities are cost burdened; those spending more than half of their income are severely cost burdened. Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2022 ACS PUMS



Strategic Plan

City of Bend & Deschutes County Emergency Homelessness Task Force



OUR PLAN to address houselessness in Deschutes County

In the Spring of 2021, the City of Bend and Deschutes County convened the Emergency Homelessness Task Force (EHTF). At the table were local housing and houselessness experts and stakeholders. The outcome was the development of a draft Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Houselessness in Deschutes County (Plan). Over a series of public meetings and public work sessions, the [Emergency Houselessness Task Force](#) crafted a strategic plan to quickly address the crisis in the short term. In the long term, the plan aims to disrupt the status quo that feeds houselessness.

1. Coordinate our efforts and funding.

A collaborative houseless response office led by the County and City or Cities can help streamline the work of dozens of organizations serving our region's houseless population.

Members of the Emergency Houselessness Task Force identified the gaps in services, competing objectives, and duplication of efforts in our region's response to houselessness. This level of inefficiency is inescapable when dozens of nonprofits, volunteer organizations, and faith groups are all trying to tackle the same problem without strategic leadership. Government is better positioned to steer regional efforts, and local groups are aligned in their desire for city or cities and county government agencies to devise and execute a county-wide strategy.

Deschutes County and the Cities of Bend, La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters worked together to secure \$1 million in state funding ([HB 4123](#)) over two years to operationalize a coordinated office to strengthen its communities' houseless response.

The creation of a collaborative houseless response office is a key point of the Strategic Plan. The office would help streamline the efforts of dozens of local community partners and also collaborate with regional groups such as [Housing For All](#), [Central Oregon Health Council](#), and [Homeless Leadership Coalition](#).

The office would also coordinate funding by aligning state, county, and city resources. This level of funding coordination will also support the development of more affordable housing.

Elaine Knobbs-Seasholtz, Mosaic Medical's Director of Strategy and Development summed up: "We're stronger when we work together."

2. Enlist the community

How quickly we are able to solve homelessness depends on the broader community

Our community has created and supported many local nonprofits serving our houseless neighbors.

Bethlehem Inn was founded by the community to give individuals and families without housing a warm, safe place to sleep, nourishing meals, and case management services. "This life-saving and

life-changing work could not be done without the generosity of the community,” says Gwenn Wysling, Bethlehem Inn’s Executive Director.

Family Kitchen is another example of a nonprofit founded and supported by the community. Started in 1986 by six women from Trinity Episcopal Church, today Family Kitchen brings together 400 volunteers and more than 60 partners—from churches to businesses to nonprofits—to serve over 7,000 nutritious meals each month in Bend, Redmond, and Sisters. “At Family Kitchen, community involvement is everything,” says Donna Burklo, Family Kitchen’s program director. “When community members serve with us, negative assumptions about our diners are shattered and interest in solutions increases.”

What’s needed now is an even broader community response to meet this growing crisis. Businesses can offer up parking lots and unused buildings for temporary shelters, for example. Other proposed solutions, such as constructing managed villages like the Veterans Village, can move forward more quickly with community support. Cities are actively trying to address this crisis of houselessness, but some solutions are prompting push-back from neighbors who stand to be impacted. There is also a lot of fear, which is not always grounded in fact. Across Deschutes County, there is broad community consensus that something needs to be done, but our progress will be hindered as long as the public holds a “not in my backyard” mindset.

“We believe people should not have to live on the streets. And we support solutions that help people be safe, housed and stable.” — Katy Brooks, Bend Chamber

Local businesses are also grappling with the issue of houselessness. “Some of our businesses have been notably impacted,” says Katy Brooks, CEO for the Bend Chamber. “With 1,200 members, there are naturally a range of opinions on how to address this problem. But there is also solid consensus. We all agree that this is a human crisis in our community. We believe people should not have to live on the streets. And we support solutions that help people be safe, housed, and stable.”

It’s clear our community needs to work together, think outside the box, and generally be more open-minded.

This point of the Strategic Plan calls for enlisting school districts, faith-based organizations, neighborhood groups, landlords, local businesses, and other community partners. Says Bend City Manager Eric King, “It really is up to all of us to meet the moment and address houselessness together.”

3. Expand services.

We can prevent recurring houselessness by offering wrap-around support and services. And we can reduce chronic houselessness by providing permanent supportive housing for our most vulnerable people.

“Solving houselessness is not as simple as getting people into housing,” explains Colleen Thomas, Deschutes County’s Homeless Community Outreach Supervisor. “Homelessness impacts people in a multitude of ways, and **they need extended support in order to regain their stability and rebuild their lives.**”

Taking a holistic approach and “wrapping” people with services is the best way to ensure long-term success. There are dozens of organizations providing outreach services to our local houseless population. The [Mosaic Medical Mobile Clinic](#) provides health care support and monitors people with chronic health issues such as kidney disease, diabetes, and cancer. REACH guides people through the process of replacing lost or stolen IDs. Deschutes County provides individual therapy, group therapy, psychiatry, case management, and peer support. According to Thomas, someone experiencing houselessness might also need resumé coaching, parenting classes, respite care, treatment for addiction, or transportation.

The strategic plan proposes establishing an office led by the County and City or Cities to help coordinate services. **Better coordination will ensure people get the services they need with fewer disruptions.** Funding for long-term case management can prevent people from falling through the cracks.

“There are precious few housing options for people who are not capable of living independently.”
— Patty Wilson, NeighborImpact

Embracing a model of Permanent Supportive Housing can finally address the long-term housing needs of individuals with extreme disabilities or ongoing mental health issues. “There have been precious few housing options for people who are not capable of living independently,” explains Patty Wilson, Deputy Executive Director of NeighborImpact. “They’ve been left to struggle on their own, and many are homeless as a result.” As the name implies, Permanent Supportive Housing would provide these vulnerable members of our community with permanent housing and supportive services.

The strategic plan calls for project development and community investment in Permanent Supportive Housing.

4. Find space for the unsheltered.

With extreme weather threatening hundred of people, finding and building more shelters is a top priority. There is a call to the community to help find stop-gap solutions to keep houseless people safe during the winter. “Infrastructure takes time to build, but we have an urgent need now to shelter people from freezing temps, or people will die”, says Patty Wilson, NeighborImpact’s Deputy Executive Director. Local housing advocates have asked business owners, landowners, and faith organizations to offer up empty buildings and parking lots for temporary outdoor and warming shelters.

All too can agree that no one should be sleeping on sidewalks. And that criminalizing houselessness is expensive, prolongs houselessness, and is unconstitutional. Per federal [court rulings](#) (Martin v. Boise), a local government's ability to regulate sleeping in its public places is directly related to a community's ability to provide shelter for individuals who might otherwise need to use public places to sleep.

Increasing the number of shelters is an ongoing focus for [NeighborImpact](#), [Shepherd's House](#), [Bethlehem Inn](#), [St. Vincent De Paul](#), local government agencies, and other housing organizations and houseless service providers. [REACH](#) is seeking to expand safe parking areas for people living in their vehicles (such as the parking area pictured above).

5. Focus on affordable housing.

The housing supply is not matching demand generally and that is part of the reason rents are going up across the board and displacing people. We need more market-rate housing too. We need it all.

“Houselessness will continue to be a crisis in our community as long as we have a deficit of affordable housing,” says City of Bend Housing Director Lynne McConnell. “We need to ramp up our supply of affordable housing so that low and middle-income families can thrive here.”

There are several affordable housing projects already in the works. Deschutes County just approved \$7.8 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to support a number of affordable housing projects in Bend, Redmond, La Pine, Sunriver, and Sisters. These projects will generate more than 600 affordable housing units which could help house upwards of 1000 people.

The City of Bend is working to increase affordable housing supply as an ongoing strategy to address the symptoms of houselessness. The City partners with developers of affordable housing and make code changes and policies that impact the cost of housing. The City does not manage facilities or provide social services but does support nonprofit service providers with funding.

“Decisions we make today are going to affect our housing supply five years from now.” — Lynne McConnell, City of Bend

According to McConnell, “Decisions we make today are going to affect our housing supply five years from now.” McConnell is encouraged by the level of interest in affordable housing from local builders. “We just need to commit the funding and set the table for developments to take off.”

The Strategic Plan calls for local governments to project housing gaps through 2032, and work with partners to secure financing and funding to meet the forecasted need for affordable housing.

The plan also calls for dismantling harmful eviction policies that perpetuate houselessness and increasing rental assistance programs to ensure families aren't displaced.



**Two Years In, the County-Wide Homelessness
Office Plans to Evolve**
The Source Weekly - Bend
by Julianna LaFollette



Two Years In, the County-Wide Houselessness Office Plans to Evolve

The Coordinate Houseless Response Office looks ahead at increasing collaboration and state funding

by Julianna LaFollette, The Source Weekly - Bend

In June, regional leaders and service providers entered a large board room with a purpose, eager to discuss solutions addressing the large concentration of unsheltered populations living on forest land. Members of the county-wide effort to address houselessness, the Coordinated Houseless Response Office, along with local partners and state and federal agencies, swiftly made their way to their seats to get to work and collaboratively discuss the houseless population along China Hat Road.

Attendees introduced themselves and began discussing ways in which the region and state can tackle what many deem an unsafe public health crisis. Officials spoke about possible resources and funding, while houseless individuals, and neighbors of China Hat, were able to speak out about their experiences.

Addressing issues of this degree can be tough, as many regions struggle with addressing housing hurdles that are increasing the number of houseless individuals across the state.

Collaborative discussions and efforts, like this roundtable meeting, are one of the many purposes of the CHRO.

The idea for the coordinated office started in 2021, based on input from the community and local elected officials. The Oregon House voted on March 2, 2022 to pass [House Bill 4123](#), which established pilot programs in eight regions and awarded each \$1 million in state funding to go toward addressing houselessness.

"We need urgent action at every level of government to address the homelessness crisis, and our local communities are ready to step up," said Rep. Jason Kropf (D-Bend), chief sponsor of the measure in a [2022 press release](#). "By coordinating and working together, our communities can better leverage their resources and address the gaps in our current responses to homelessness."

The office's role is to coordinate and identify opportunities to leverage funds and resources for residents experiencing houselessness.

Central Oregon's local office includes only Deschutes County and the cities of Bend, La Pine, Redmond and Sisters, along with service providers and other stakeholders.

Today, nearly two years into the pilot program of this collaborative office, members are discussing how the office could evolve, which may involve a shift in how and where the office operates.

A shift in operations

In early June, representatives of the League of Oregon Cities and the state legislature discussed the future of state funding for housing efforts, suggesting a need for a "natural evolution," to better align with state goals to decrease houselessness.

In 2023, Governor Tina Kotek enacted [Executive Order 23-02](#), which provides funding for regions and their Continuums of Care. With this Executive Order, future funding from the governor or the legislature would likely be allocated to regional efforts that span more than one county, as the executive order was driven around the idea of regional coordination.

Given there is no clear path toward future funding for the offices created by HB 4123, local leaders are looking at expanding CHRO's effort to address the region, rather than just focusing on Deschutes County.

In looking at how to best respond to the effort on a more regional scale, CHRO members are discussing the idea of working with a fairly new regional effort, the Regional Housing Council.

The Regional Housing Council, consisting primarily of elected officials from across Central Oregon, aims to address housing and houselessness on a regional scale.

The idea started in 2018 as an identified gap for elected officials and housing authorities. "A space where we could be talking about housing from beginning to end, everything from homelessness all the way to home ownership," said Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Executive Director Tammy Baney.

COIC started the council as a pilot, which was paused for years due to the pandemic and the creation of the CHRO. The RHC started up last year and is still in its beginning stages.

The thought, with this evolution, is not necessarily to merge the CHRO and the RHC, but instead, to have them both working parallel and in collaboration. Baney noted that while the RHC focuses more broadly on housing as a whole, having CHRO work alongside RHC would align efforts, funding and advocacy.

"The hope is to use that table of voices to inform policy makers on what's going on in the region," she said.

City Councilor and CHRO Vice Chair Megan Perkins stated that they are not in danger of dissolving the CHRO.

The current deliberations involve expanding CHRO, to include the whole region, while developing it as working alongside or as part of the RHC.

As CHRO members continue to discuss and come up with decisions around this evolution, they plan to decide how this shift could affect the CHRO and how they would like to develop it. Some members, like Perkins, are hopeful about the potential shift, but worry that evolving to a more regional approach could cause them to slow down the progress they've made.

Since the CHRO began in 2022, it has put money toward a few efforts, while also putting attention to joint partnerships that can help move solutions forward. The office has adopted a strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness in the County and launched the China Hat pilot partnership, a multi-agency initiative to address unsheltered individuals on federal land. In terms of funds toward specific projects, the office is spending about \$47,000 on the creation of a data dashboard with information on houseless individuals. It's also putting \$150,000 toward a Request for Qualifications, which is looking to create or expand shelter beds, managed camps or safe parking.

"When we started this group, I really thought, 'we can't waste this money. We have to spend it where it's really needed,' so I'm really happy that we actually have funding that we can put behind some of these projects," said County Commissioner and CHRO Chair Patti Adair.

The pilot program has seen success in other counties as well. While not as large or dense as Deschutes County, Polk County Commissioner Jeremy Gordon spoke to the success of its region's coordinated office. Since July 2023, Gordon said the rural county has been able to remove 196 total individuals into permanent housing.

The office, which covers the rural part of Polk County, spent funding on outreach workers, who make contact with folks experiencing homelessness, as well as data collection and the addition of shelter beds.

"It's been a game changer for rural Polk County. There is so much need in rural areas as well. A little bit of seed money, it really inspires partners across sectors to engage and I've been so impressed with these partnerships," said Gordon.

Complexities of an evolution

According to Mickie Derting, strategic initiatives manager with the City of Bend who assists the CHRO, the evolution to a regional office would increase CHRO's impact, providing more funding opportunities while expanding access to collaborate with decision makers in the housing continuum.

Drawbacks of this shift, described by members of CHRO in past meetings, include a potential for more meetings, as well as an extensive onboarding process for elected officials in added counties and cities – a possible disruption to the CHRO's process.

Some CHRO members have brought up the very specific needs of Deschutes County, which looks different than other counties and cities in our region.

"I feel like we have our specific Deschutes County worries. The region is definitely much larger, but do we have the bulk of the homeless in the forest in Deschutes County? Yes," said Adair.

Councilor Perkins, who sees this merge as the only natural progression for the office if it wants to continue receiving state funding, resources and support, hopes the CHRO's efforts will remain unchanged, and that decision-making will remain somewhat autonomous from the RHC.

Redmond City Councilor Cat Zwicker, who is a member of both the CHRO and the RHC, said at a July meeting that she worried about starting over again, taking time to go over things the group has already discussed.

"The key thing is we don't want to lose steam, and that's something we all agree on right now. We have a lot of really great work that we're doing," said Perkins.

The CHRO went through some changes in May 2022, when its executive director Cheyenne Purrington [announced her resignation](#), due to what she described as public pressure and undefined roles and responsibilities.

Derting suggested that the office could start looking at staffing again once it knows the direction it's going. For now, members have stepped up as a team to carry out its strategic plan.

While the shift could potentially change the way CHRO operates, Perkins added that members are determined to continue the work they are doing. CHRO members planned to address what a merger between CHRO and RHC could look like at its Aug. 15 meeting. However, they ran out of time and were unable to address it. They plan to discuss the evolution and continue deliberations at the next meeting in September.

"This is an issue that we all have to tackle together. We come to these meetings oftentimes not agreeing on a whole lot except for the fact that we have to find solutions. I think the one thing that I would like to see going forward is to ensure that we are continuing to have elected officials at the forefront on this board. Without electeds, there can't be really any solutions, and we can't bring that information back to our respective regions and get work done," said Perkins.



5-Year Strategic Plan

Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO)





Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO) 5-Year Strategic Plan August 14th, 2023

Priority 1. Engage the Whole Community

Community Engagement

- Create a consistent program which educates, engages, and informs leaders, service providers, and the community at-large.
 - **Examples:** *Sponsoring community outreach and education events, communicating about the activities of the board, sharing opportunities for involvement and influence.*

Support Philanthropy

- Empower the community to support the work.
 - **Examples:** *Streamline volunteer process, create tools and trainings for organizations to enable volunteers to help more, etc.*

Priority 2. Initiate the Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO)

Advisory Group

- Activate an advisory body comprised of community members with subject-matter-expertise who can help advance the CHRO Strategic Plan.

Align with Continuum of Care

- Enhance and grow partnerships with providers, local and regional governments, and key stakeholders
- Assist providers, local governments, and the community in tracking investments and outcomes in the homeless response system.
 - **Examples:** *tracking data, performance metrics, and outcomes on major investments, sharing information from the Continuum with key stakeholders in the community, etc.*
- Through intergovernmental agreements, clearly define the roles and responsibilities between the cities and county for addressing homelessness among governmental entities.

Establish Funding to Support Ongoing Operations

- Identify and secure financial resources to keep the Office operational through the required 5-year period.



- **Examples:** *Federal, State, and Local grants.*

Priority 3: Expanding Services for People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness

Develop/Increase Funding Streams

- Assist with the creation of a Regional Sustainable Services Funding Plan.
 - **Examples:** *how to develop and sustain Permanent Supportive Housing, how to increase funding for prevention, how to increase funding for Rehousing, how to scale community behavioral health supports, etc.*

Support Service Providers

- Increase access to training related to Best Practices for service providers across the Continuum of Care
 - **Examples:** *Best Practices around pets/animals, domestic violence survivors, veterans, trauma informed care, etc.*
- Address Gaps in Administrative Capacity
 - **Examples:** *Creating a shared service model, sponsoring an Internship Program, assisting with Project Management and Program Development, document creation, etc.*

Expand Access to Services

- Advocacy around increased access to subsidized transportation
 - **Examples:** *Bans from public transit, connective services, emergency weather routes, etc.*
- Expand Coordinated Entry by Service Providers
- Address Racial and Equity Disparities with Strategic Investment
 - **Examples:** *Multilingual access to programs, forms, and services.*
- Streamline Resources/Services
 - **Examples:** *Facilitate Regional Partnerships, support prevention, and support rehousing*
- Partner with providers and the County to expand Supportive Services

Support Development of Authorized Camping Spaces

- Support participating communities in their efforts to create camping programs and connect them with subject matter experts and providers.



CITY OF BEND



- **Examples:** *Assistance with plans and programs, convening and connecting with appropriate providers, assist with Safe Parking program implementation, etc.*

Priority 4: Address the Crisis of Unsheltered Homelessness

Reduce Burdens of Unsheltered Homelessness

- Improve Services to Meet Individuals' Needs While Living Unsheltered
 - **Examples:** *Increased Access to Basic Needs, Hygiene, Safe Storage, Mail, etc.*

Emergency Weather Response

- Coordinate amongst Emergency Services, local governments, and providers to ensure community-members have access to shelters.
 - **Examples:** *weather-dependent shelter plan with pre-determined thresholds for each community, resources are available to meet the needs.*

Enhance Data

- Improve data quality and usability
 - **Examples:** *Supporting Point in Time Count, Leveraging Built for Zero and by name list, etc.*
- Transparency
 - **Examples:** *Sharing and communicating accomplishments, access to information, increasing understanding of data by hosting educational events, etc.*

Improve Access to all Types of Shelter

- Support shelter providers
 - **Examples:** *Advocate for reduced barriers for shelter development, assist local governments develop dedicated shelter funding, etc.*
- Increase awareness about shelter availability
 - **Examples:** *Facilitate shelter provider meetings to encourage communication, advocate for transportation access between shelters, facilitate partnership with 2-1-1 to disseminate information, etc.*

Priority 5. Improve Access to Affordable Housing



Support Affordable Housing Development

- Advocate for more funding at the Local, State, and Federal Level
- Advocate for increased 0-30% Area Median Income (AMI) housing options
- Prioritize Permanent Affordable Housing
 - **Examples:** *Advocating for Land-Trust Model, Public-Private Partnerships, etc.*
- Increase Voucher Access & Utilization
 - **Examples:** *Collaborate with Regional Housing Authority, research successes in other communities, advocacy for homeless prioritization, etc.*



2024 Point in Time Count (PIT) Homeless Leadership Coalition





POINT IN TIME COUNT (PIT)



PIT COUNT: GET INVOLVED & TRAINING RESOURCES

The Annual Point in Time (PIT) count is the count of sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

HUD requires that all Continuums of Care designees conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night, typically in late January.

We are also required to conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. We plan, coordinate, and oversee the local counts annually across Central Oregon.



2024 POINT IN TIME COUNT RESULTS

Key takeaways from our 2024 Point in Time count completed on January 23, 2024.

- 2024 Point in Time Count shows a **9% increase** in homelessness over last year
- 1,799 people experienced literal homelessness in Central Oregon on January 23rd, 2024
- 69% of people counted were unsheltered
- 66% of question respondents have lived in Central Oregon for 5 years or longer
- 68% of question respondents have been homeless for more than 12 months
- 10% of chronically homeless were age 65 or older

- 35% of chronically homeless were age 55 or older

- 18% of those surveyed were under the age of 25 (21% last year)

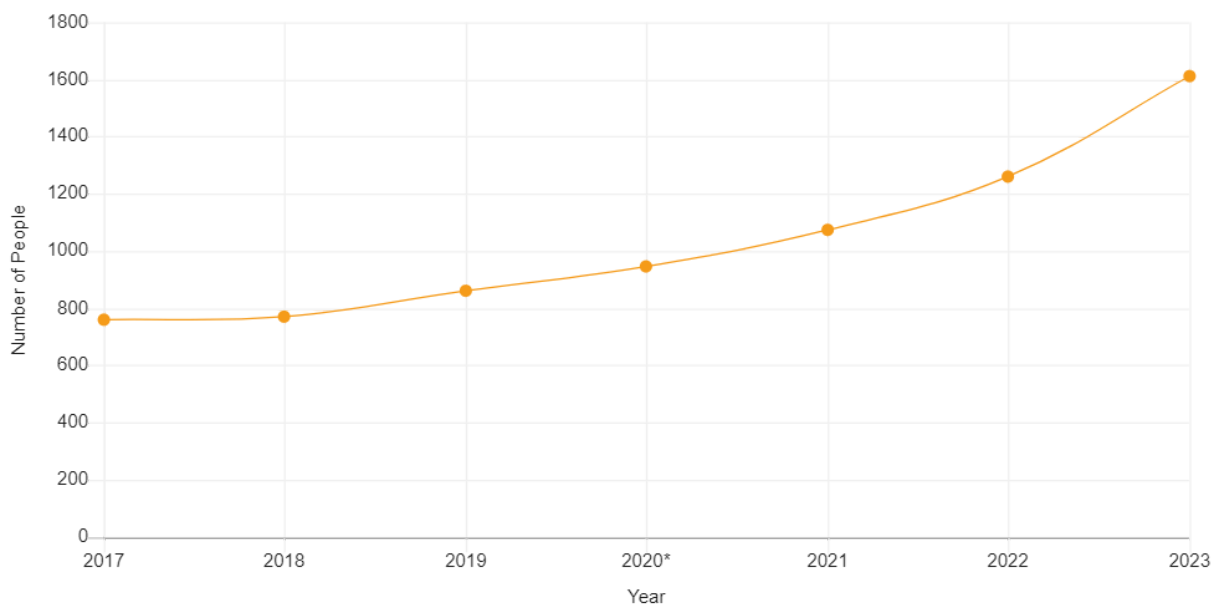
- 24% of those surveyed were POC, up 4 pct pts from 20% last year

[VIEW THE 2024 POWER POINT PRESENTATION](#)

Central Oregon Point In Time (PIT) Count Dashboard: 2007-2022

[View Tableau Dashboard in new window](#)

Number of Houseless People in Central Oregon



*The number of houseless people counted on a single night each January for Central Oregon's "Point in Time" count.
2020 sheltered count only

Prior Year PIT Data

2023

- [View the 2023 PIT Video Presentation](#)
- [View the 2023 PIT Slide Presentation](#)

Key takeaways from our 2023 Point in Time count completed on January 24, 2023.

- 2023 Point in Time Count shows a **28% increase** in homelessness over last year
- 1,647 people experienced literal homelessness in Central Oregon on January 24th, 2023
- 72% of people counted were unsheltered
- 79% of those counted have lived in Central Oregon for 3 years or longer
- More than 80% of those counted have been homeless for more than 12 months
- 46% of all people living unsheltered and chronically homeless were over the age of 50
- The total number of youth experiencing homelessness continues to climb
- Central Oregon continues to see that people of color experience homelessness at a greater rate than white peers*



2022
2021
2020



I WANT TO HELP WITH THE ANNUAL POINT IN TIME COUNT



ATTEND A TRAINING



We are leading a community centered, collaborative response to end homelessness in Central Oregon.

Join our email list to receive the latest news, program updates and ways to get involved.

HLC NEWSLETTER

HLC NEWS

- > HUD Announces Notice of Funding Availability for CoC programs
- > Extreme Weather Shelters – Heat and Smoke
- > 1115 Demonstration Waiver Presentation

- > Home
- > Homelessness
- > What We Do
- > Who We Are
- > News & Events
- > HLC Resources
- > Join HLC
- > Contact Us

