



**UNITY**  
OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS

# Homeless Housing and Services in New Orleans

January 11, 2018

# 25 Years of Housing the Most Vulnerable People of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish

UNITY of Greater New Orleans is a collaborative of 60 agencies. Our mission is to coordinate community initiatives to prevent, reduce and end homelessness.

Since our founding in 1992, our coalition has permanently housed over 55,000 vulnerable people, thereby ending or preventing their homelessness.

# The UNITY Collaborative

Area Health Education Center Southeast LA  
Armstrong Family Services  
Baptist Friendship House  
Belle Reve  
Boys Town Louisiana  
Bridge House  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans  
City of Kenner  
City of New Orleans Healthcare for the Homeless  
City of New Orleans Office of Community Dev.  
Concerned Citizens for a Better Algiers/Home Again  
Covenant House  
Depaul USA  
Easter Seals Louisiana, Inc.  
Ekhaya Youth Project  
Exodus House  
First Evangelist  
Goodwill Industries of Southeast Louisiana  
Grace At The Green Light  
Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services  
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance  
Harry Thompson Center  
Hope Center  
Hope House  
Hotel Hope  
Jefferson Parish Community Development  
Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority  
Jerusalem Economic Development Corporation  
Kingsley House  
Loyola Law Clinic  
Metro Centers for Community Advocacy

Metropolitan Human Services District  
NAMI New Orleans  
New Orleans Baptist Ministries, Inc.  
New Orleans Council on Aging  
New Orleans Family Justice Alliance  
New Orleans Public Schools—Homeless Education  
New Orleans Regional AIDS Planning Council  
New Orleans Women's Shelter  
Crescent Care/NO/AIDS Taskforce  
Odyssey House  
Ozanam Inn  
The Policy and Research Group  
Pro-Bono Project  
Project Lazarus  
Providence Community Housing  
Resources for Human Development  
Responsibility House  
Salvation Army  
Shared Housing of New Orleans  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services  
START Corporation  
St. Bernard Enrichment  
Total Community Action, Inc.  
Travelers Aid Society of GNO  
Tulane Drop In Center  
Tulane Law Clinic  
United Ministries  
VIA LINK  
Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans  
Yes I Can, Exceeding Life Challenges, Inc.

# INNOVATIVE COLLABORATIVE MODEL



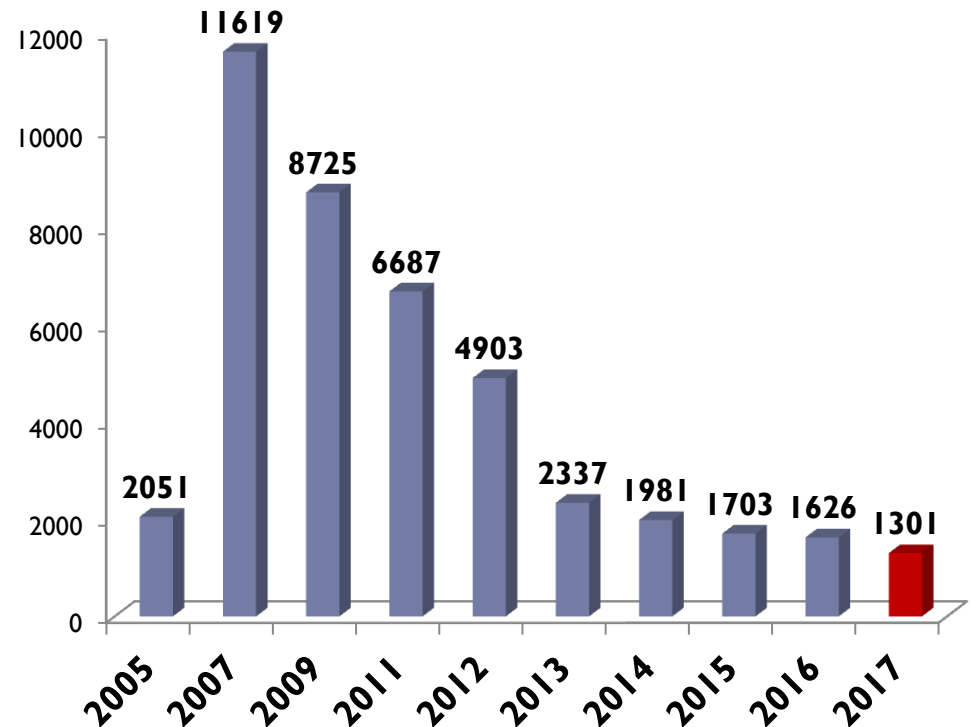
UNITY is recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, City of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish Government, and City of Kenner as the lead agency responsible for applying for competitive federal grants (HUD Continuum of Care grants) for homeless housing and services for the entire community.

- We distribute grants to our member agencies
- We oversee their work to end homelessness
- We manage the community's HUD mandated Coordinated Entry System, which prioritizes clients for available housing slots based on HUD criteria.

# 89 PERCENT REDUCTION IN HOMELESSNESS

Since 2007, the UNITY collaborative has reduced homelessness by 89 percent, driving down homelessness each year through the provision of affordable housing and effective services targeted to those who need them the most.

Annual Counts of Homeless People in  
Orleans and Jefferson Parish



# Primary Ways We've Reduced Homelessness

**Permanent Supportive Housing** (ongoing rent subsidy with case manager visiting client in home as often as needed): This is the evidence-based practice for ending homelessness of those who are chronically homeless (defined as people with mental and/or physical disabilities who have lived on streets or shelter for over a year)

**Rapid Re-Housing** (short-term rent subsidy with case manager visiting client in home): This is proven effective at ending the homelessness of families with children and of single adults.

**Other Permanent Housing Resources** (includes senior housing, other affordable housing, reuniting homeless people with family, assisting clients to increase their income with which to support housing)

# ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

In partnership with Mayor Landrieu and the local Veterans Administration, the UNITY collaborative helped to lead a campaign that made New Orleans, by Jan. 2, 2015, the first city in the nation to achieve a “functional zero” in veteran homelessness.

Our community found apartments for all the veterans living on the street or in shelter who would accept housing.

Since January 2015 we have maintained a Rapid Response System that permanently houses newly homeless veterans found on the street or shelter within an average of 30 days.



City Council Transition



# REDUCING THE TIME CHILDREN SPEND HOMELESS

In May 2017, we achieved a similar feat for homeless children, by using “Rapid Re-Housing” programs to reduce the average length of time that children spend homeless in shelters or on the streets from 117 days to only 39 days.

We are the first city in the nation known to have met a proposed new federal benchmark of reducing the length of time that children spend homeless to 45 days or less.





# Current Challenge: Ending Chronic Homelessness of People with Disabilities

Chronic homelessness is defined as people with mental and/or physical disabilities living on the streets or shelters for over a year.

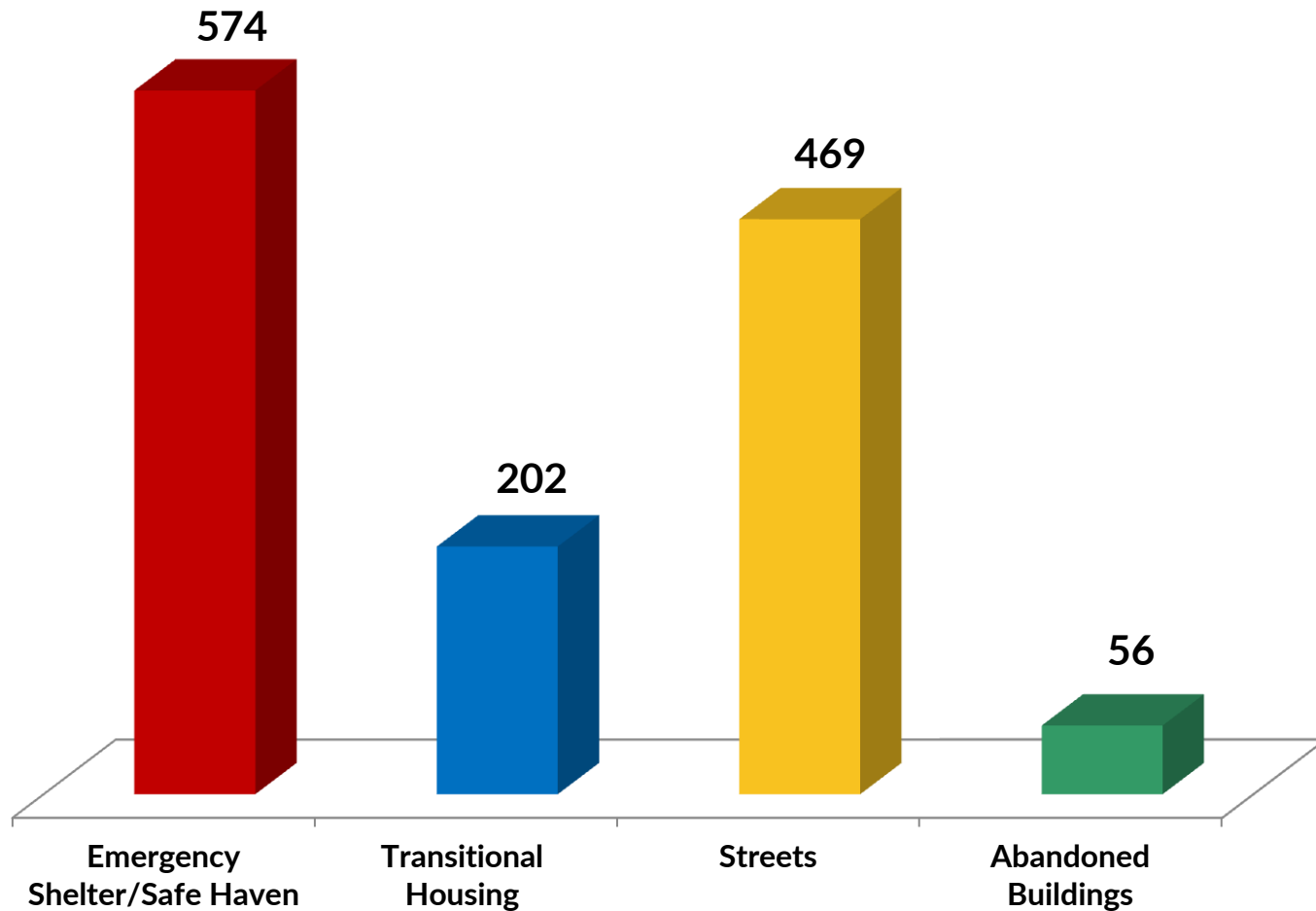
By providing housing and services, from 2009 to 2017 our community has reduced chronic homelessness by 91%.

But the January 2017 Point in Time survey found 404 chronically homeless people still need to be housed.

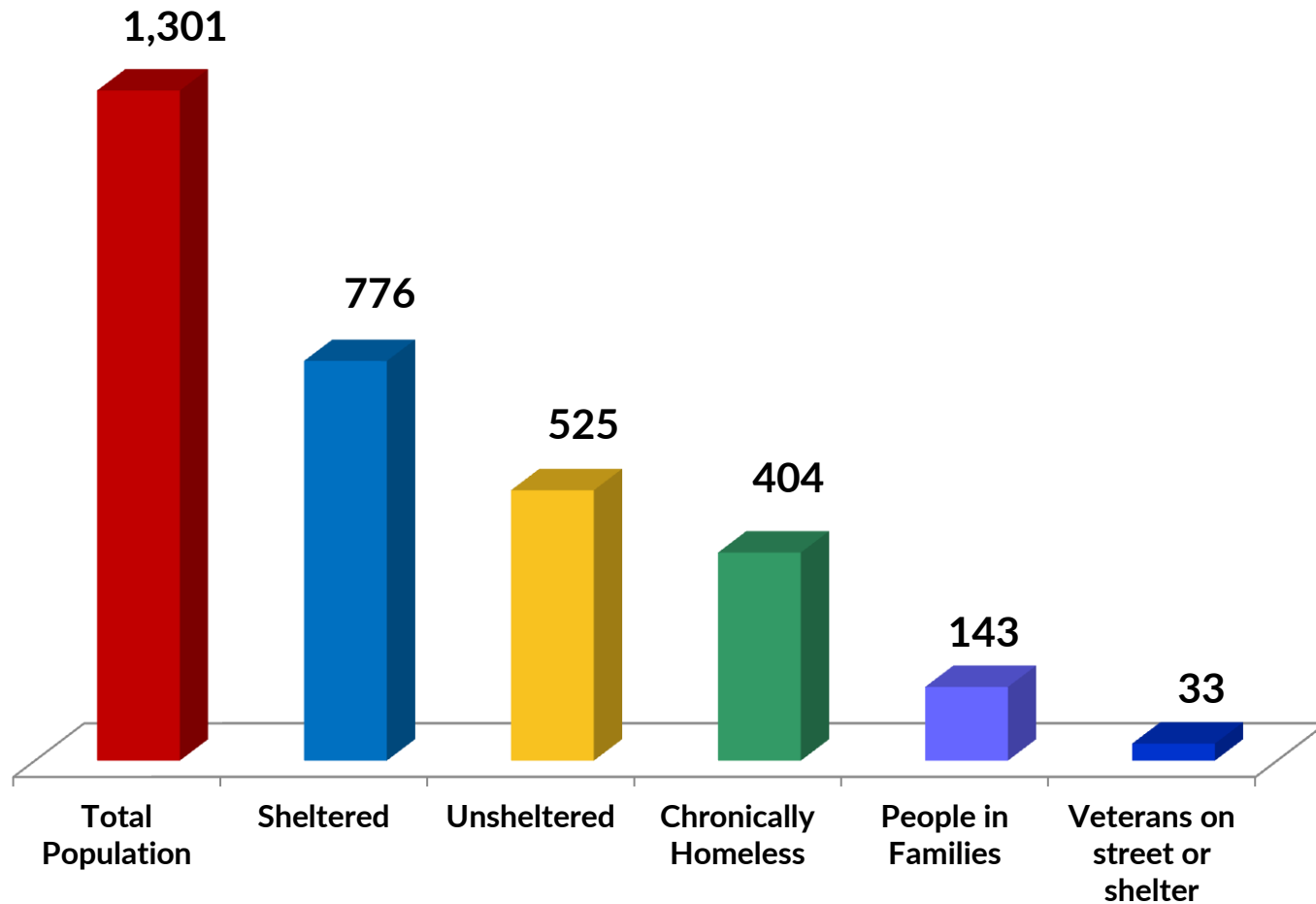
Our current goal is to house all chronically homeless people who will accept housing by December 2018.



# Where do the homeless sleep?

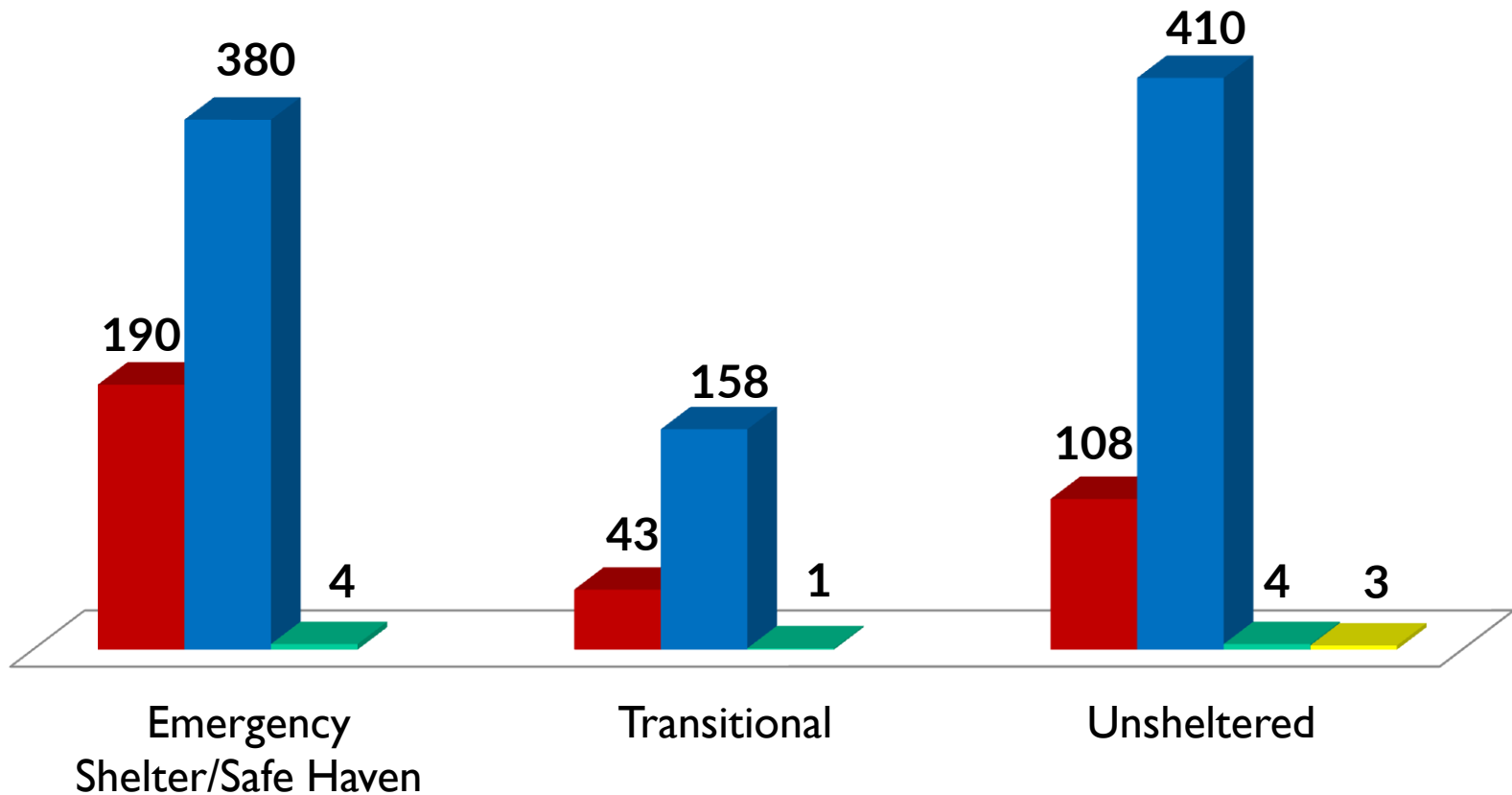


# Demographics of Homeless Population

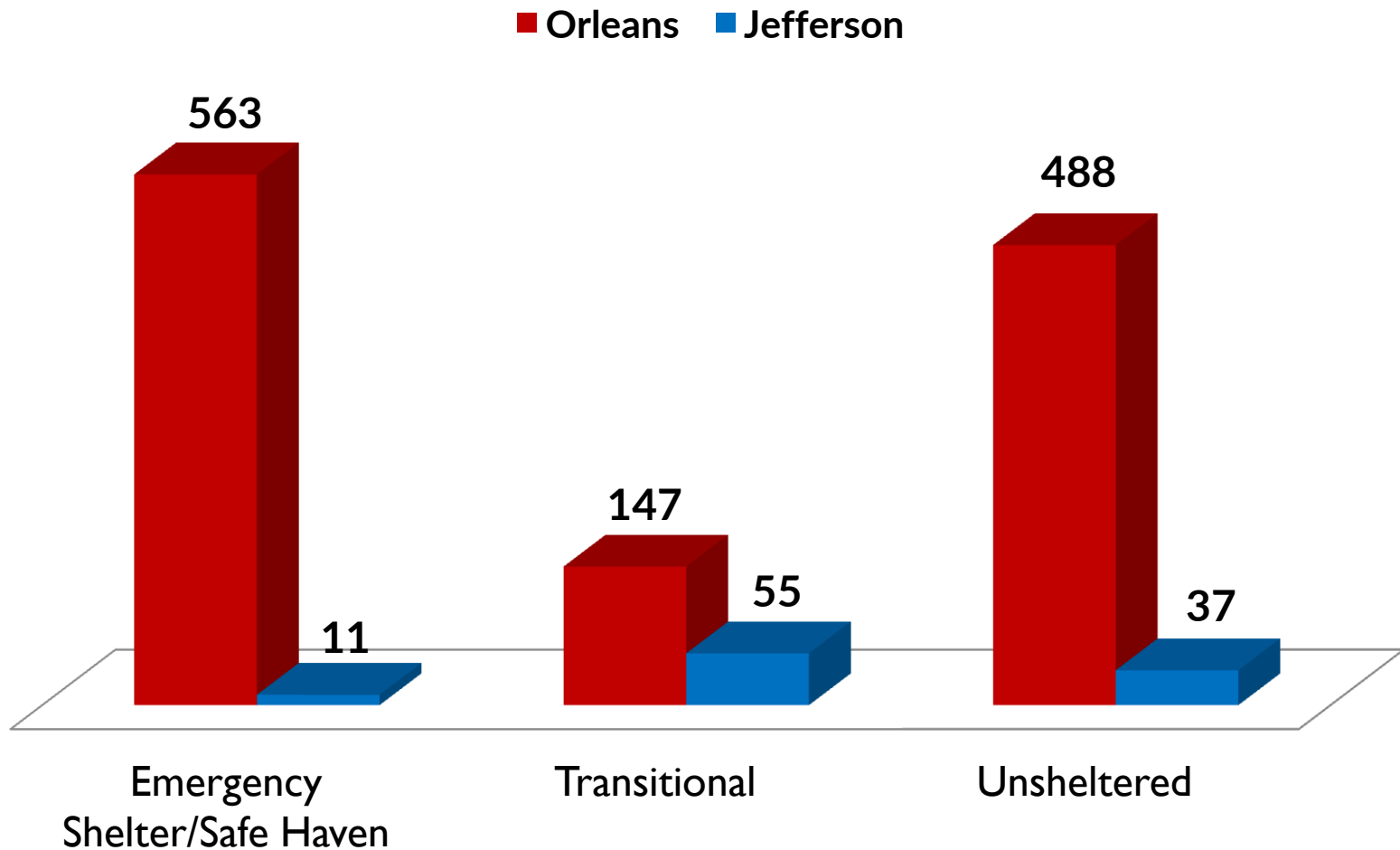


# Homeless Population by Gender

■ Female ■ Male ■ Transgender ■ Don't identify as male, female or transgender



# Population by Parish



# What funding is available to address homelessness in New Orleans?



UNITY Continuum of Care funds (HUD)



State Permanent Supportive Housing Program (HUD and Medicaid)



City and State Emergency Solutions Grants (HUD)



City tax funds (primarily for new low-barrier shelter)



DDD & Convention Center (primarily for new low-barrier shelter and outreach)



Private resources (includes United Way, foundations, corporations, faith congregations, individual donors)



# Housing and Services Available to the Homeless in Our Community

## Housing Crisis

Street Outreach

Day Shelter

Emergency Shelter

## Short-Term Housing

Transitional Housing

## Permanent Housing

Rapid Rehousing

Permanent Supportive Housing

Services: Substance abuse treatment, legal services, referrals to mainstream resources

# Housing Crisis

## Street Outreach

UNITY Welcome Home

504-899-4589 x 117

[bgaines@unitygno.org](mailto:bgaines@unitygno.org)

[dphoenix@unitygno.org](mailto:dphoenix@unitygno.org)

[apatterson@unitygno.org](mailto:apatterson@unitygno.org)

NOPD Homeless Collaborative

504-940-7325

Volunteers of America

504-482-2130

Covenant House

504-584-1111

Tulane Drop-In Center

504-827-1071

## Day Shelter

Travelers Aid Society

1530 Gravier @ the  
CRRC

504-412-3700

X1-53952

Harry Tompson Center

1803 Gravier Street  
504-273-5547

Tulane Drop-In Center

1461 N. Claiborne  
Avenue

504-827-1071

## Emergency Shelter

Ozanam Inn

504-853-1184

Salvation Army

504-899-4569

New Orleans Mission

504-523-2116

Covenant House

504-584-1111

Hagar's House

504-210-5064

New Orleans Women's &

Children Shelter

intake through UNITY  
Coordinated Entry System

# Temporary Housing

## **Salvation Army Transitional Housing for Families**

*Access by referral from the UNITY Coordinated Entry System*

## **New Orleans Women's and Children's Shelter Transitional Housing for Families**

*Access by referral from the UNITY Coordinated Entry System*

## **Transitional Housing for Veterans**

*Access by referral from the VA*

# Permanent Housing

## **Rapid Rehousing Short Term Rental Assistance**

*Eligibility Requirements: Must be literally homeless living on the streets or in an emergency shelter.*

### **Families with Children:**

Contact UNITY Coordinated Entry System

### **Young adults under age 25:**

Contact Coordinated Entry System through Tulane Drop-In Center (504-827-1071) or Covenant House (504-584-1111)

### **Veterans:**

Coordinated Entry System through SSVF Programs at Hope Center (504-363-4034), Start Corp. (504-558-9595), Volunteers America (504-539-3010)

### **Individuals:**

Contact UNITY Coordinated Entry System

# Permanent Housing

## **CoC Funded PSH**

Must have a disability and be living on the street or in emergency shelter. Nearly every slot is required to be used by a chronically homeless person.

*Referral from UNITY Coordinated Entry System .*

## **VA Supportive Housing (VASH):**

*Referral from VA*

## **Louisiana PSH Program:**

*Requires household to be low income and at least one household member has a disability. Homelessness not required.*

Call DHH 504-568-2774 or 1-844-698-9075

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/OAAS/PSH/PSH-Application.pdf>

# Coordinated Entry: How to access housing in the UNITY network

## **1) Permanent Supportive Housing for homeless people with disabilities currently living on the streets or emergency shelter**

- contact [help@unitygno.org](mailto:help@unitygno.org)
- or UNITY Director of Coordinated Entry Brandi Gaines-Girard at 504-899-4589 ext. 105
- or the CRRC at 1530 Gravier Street, 504-412-3700 ext 13952, 7:30am-3pm.



# Coordinated Entry: How to access housing in the UNITY network

**2) Rapid Re-Housing rent assistance for families (is automatically offered to families staying in homeless shelter or transitional housing throughout the city)**

**3) Emergency shelter or transitional housing for families**

- contact [help@unitygno.org](mailto:help@unitygno.org)
- or UNITY Family Coordinated Entry staff at 504-899-4589 ext. 114 for assessment for entry into shelter or
- or Salvation Army at 4526 S. Claiborne Avenue, 504-899-4569

# Coordinated Entry: How to access housing in the UNITY network

## **4) Rapid Re-housing rent assistance for youth under age 25**

- contact Covenant House at 611 N Rampart Street, 504-584-1111 or
- Drop-In Center at 1461 N Claiborne Avenue, 504-827-1071

## **5) General homeless services, assessments and referrals**

- Community Resource and Referral Center at 1530 Gravier Street , 504-412-3700 ext 13952, 7:30am-3pm and
- Harry Thompson Center at 1803 Gravier Street, 504-273-5547

**Martha J. Kegel**  
Executive Director  
UNITY of Greater New Orleans  
mkegel@unitygno.org  
(504) 821-4496 x 109  
(504) 952-3348 (cell)

[www.unitygno.org](http://www.unitygno.org)



Martha J. Kegel is an attorney, graduate of Stanford Law School, and recipient of the 2002 Career Public Interest Award from the Louisiana State Bar Association. Since 2003, she has served as Executive Director of UNITY of Greater New Orleans.

