

**Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)
Governing Board Meeting**
February 12, 2020 10:30 a.m.
Lee County Human and Veteran Services
2440 Thompson St., Fort Myers, FL 33901

Members Present: Janet Bartos, Lee County Homeless Coalition
Mandy Cary, Saint Vincent DePaul Cares
Christine Lincoln, Community Cooperative
Jacquelyn Kelley Coalition Board
Jesus Martinez, House of Ride Nature
Richard McDaniel, JFSC of the Suncoast, Inc.
Fred Richards, Goodwill Industries SWFL
Lue Richardson, Veteran Affairs
Sharon Rozier, City of Ft. Myers Community Development
Heidi Shoriak, Lee Health
Mandy Carey, St. Vincent DePaul
David Brown, Family Initiative

Staff Present: Tim Gillmore, Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Denise Bell, Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Kim Hustad, Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Roger Mercado, Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Jeannie Sutton, Lee County Human and Veteran Services

Others Present: Terry Streets, The Salvation Army
Sheila Dorsey, JFCS
Libertad Castro, St. Vincent DePaul
Justin Crul, St. Vincent DePaul
Jana Balicki, St. Vincent DePaul
Isaac Dozier, Housing Authority City of Ft. Myers

I. Call to Order

- a. Ms. Christine Lincoln called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Introductions made.
- b. Members Absent with and Without Excuse
Myra Fiory is absent with an excuse.

Public Comment – None

II. Approval of October 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes*

Ms. Sharon Rozier requested a motion to approve the minutes from October 3, 2019.

ACTION:

Ms. Janet Bartos made a motion to approve the October 3, 2019 minutes and Mr. David Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. RRH Policy Direction – Evictions and Number of Times Assisted

Ms. Kim Hustad mentioned they are working on internal policies and procedures, and asked the Board for input regarding client program eligibility. Specifically, if someone is evicted from the Rapid Rehousing Program, would they be eligible again and how many times someone should be eligible for Rapid Rehousing, TBRA or any of the rental subsidy programs. She suggested that all the programs have the same policy.

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Representatives from St. Vincent DePaul provided the thresholds to SSVF. It was indicated clients can receive 9 months of financial assistance, up to a year of case management and during that time if they are evicted, the agency can work with them to get them rehoused. Once discharged from SSVF, after 2 years they can be part of the SSVF program.

There are other programs triage rapid rehousing and the regular Salvation Army rapid rehousing. The Salvation Army previously had a once in a lifetime restriction, but changed to a case-by-case basis. The current clients this agency has only guarantees the first initial assistance.

Ms. Bartos suggested providing a second chance. Ms. Sutton said they have discussed whether a maximum amount of assistance should be a CoC-wide or per agency policy. She mentioned the Human Services, policy that clients could go through Intake 3 times in a lifetime. Discussion took place on the recidivism of the programs.

Ms. Sutton mentioned they go between Salvation Army and Human and Veteran Services. A suggestion was made to develop more robust case management. Non-profit agencies have a high turnover for case management. Ms. Hustad stated they have stepped up their case management policies. Discussion took place about life skills training.

IV. CoC System Performance

Mr. Mercado mentioned the Human Service Council meeting, which took place in December 2019. There were several individuals from the community in attendance to voice their concerns about addressing homelessness. The chair of the council suggested having a community forum to hear the needs and provide suggestions on how to address homelessness. As a result of that meeting, an article was published by the News-Press.

Mr. Mercado also discussed the presentation of the Human Services Gaps analysis to the Board of County Commissioners during their February 18, 2020 Workshop. This report is available on the Human Services website: <https://www.leegov.com/dhs/Documents/Planning/Human%20Services%20Gap%20Analysis%20DRAFT%202-11-20.pdf>. Additional Human Service needs and potential Board recommendations will be discussed at the Commissioner's Strategic Planning Retreat on Monday, February 24, 2020.

The Partnering for Results Program went before the BoCC and an additional \$300,000 plus was made available to support funding for all applicants during the 2019-2020 funding process, for a total of 4.5 million. The next Human Services Council is next Tuesday, February 18, 2020 the chair will present a report and to bring some of the providers to future meetings to discuss some solutions.

V. CoC Strategic Plan Updates

Ms. Sutton provided information about the state of the CoC. See attached presentation.

Matt Vissagio suggested that information about the CoC and funded agencies be shared via video clips and a positive marketing campaign. The Board agreed this was an excellent idea and many members stated they would contact Matt after the meeting to arrange.

Ms. Hustad stated a partnership with Lee County Animal Services and Lee County Human and Veteran Services for homeless individuals to access emergency shelter. Mr. Mercado mentioned this

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program is not available for clients to access directly. If an agency is working with a client in need of shelter, but unable to access due to their pet, they MUST contact Matthew Wallace or Nicole Florit with Human and Veteran Services.

Ms. Sutton has been working with IT to get to develop a reporting platform for strategic plan accomplishments, but this has not been developed yet. For now, agencies should report in the writable PDF format. She would like the agencies to plug in their accomplishments for the past 3 quarters prior to April 8, 2020.

VI. CoC Training Dates

Ms. Sutton mentioned they contracted with Florida Housing Coalition and will provide 5 training sessions. There will be training for best practices for Domestic Violence, Equal Access Rule and Connecting Program Participants with education and Job Opportunities, Diversion, and 1 full day of training on case management for persons experiencing homelessness. You must R.S.V.P. and it will be held at the downtown Library. See attached flyer.

Questions were asked if individuals from other agencies could become a member of the CoC. Ms. Sutton stated a maximum of 25 members could be on the board and additional members are encouraged. Interested individuals need to submit an application. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting even if they do not want to be a board member.

A suggestion was made to have a subcommittee for jobs, education and employment. Ms. Bartos suggested the resource committee would be the best fit for this. Suggestions were made to include Florida Rural Legal Services and/or the State Attorney's office.

VII. Coordinated Entry and Data Committee Updates

Tim Gillmore provided an update regarding Coordinated entry, and thanked United Way for the collection of data. Based on the trend, there will be approximately 3,000 homeless people in the community who will experience homelessness. He thanks United Way for the collection of the data. After 19 years of having HMIS, agencies can now share notes in a secure environment. He continues to work with agencies as there is a challenge with flow through the system and the number of referrals is large. Currently there are 112 households on the housed list, and it is working. He has been involved with Community of Practice, which is a group of people working on coordinated entry. Tim and Juan have also been heavily involved with the server migration. Tim reminded everyone that there here is a new web link for CSN.

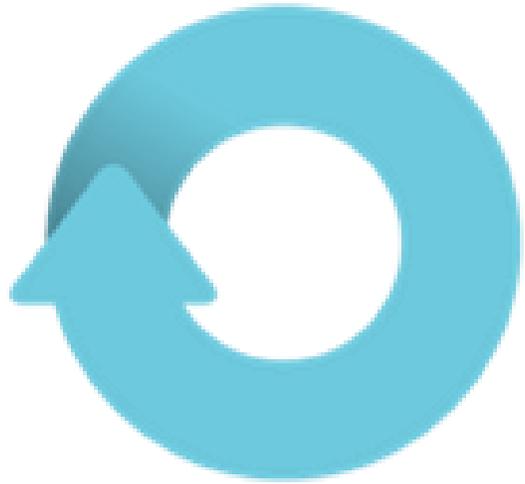
Mr. Martinez inquired discussed foster care. Tim Gillmore mentioned 14% of the clients have been in foster care at one point in their life.

Mr. Mercado mentioned an intern was brought on board to assist Tim with calling agencies, and follow up and data received. He also stated that new staff, Victoria, is working with the Secure Paths Program. She is collaborating with faith based organizations to allow clients to stay overnight on their property. They also built into the budget memberships to gyms for access for showering, air conditioning, etc. They are reaching out to other faith-based organizations to come on board with the program. Lee County Sheriff's Office will patrol the area for security measures.

VIII. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned.

**Draft Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)
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Next Meeting: April 8, 2020
Meeting minutes and agenda are posted on our website:
<https://www.leegov.com/dhs/funding/coc>



Lee County
Continuum of Care

State of the CoC

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

Contents

- 🔄 Review of Initiatives to Address Homelessness
- 🔄 Funding Trends
- 🔄 Point in Time and Housing Inventory Count Trends
- 🔄 Coordinated Entry Performance
- 🔄 System Performance Measures
- 🔄 Special Project and Sub-Populations
- 🔄 Current Year Trends

Federal Initiatives to Address Homelessness

2003 - Initiative started by Former President George W. Bush

- Formulation of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
 - Originally focused on Chronic Homelessness
 - Communities across the U.S. formulated 10-Year Plans
-

2009 - Amendment to the McKinney-Vento Act was made through The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition (HEARTH) Act of 2009

- Combined several funding sources under the umbrella of Continuum of Care
- Resulted in the issuance of the CoC Program Interim Rule and the formulation of local Continuums of Care

2015/2016 – New Plan Released by USICH & HUD Began a CoC Re-Imagining Initiative

- CoC funding competition began shifted to a performance based process
- USICH released *Opening Doors* the first Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

2018 – USICH Redesigned Strategic Plan, and republished as *Home, Together*

Lee County Initiatives to Address Homelessness

2007 –Development of 10 Year Plan Commissioned by Human Services Council

- Request for Proposals published in June, and consultant selected in September
- Planning team established in December
- Presentations and focus groups conducted County-wide

2009 – 10 Year Plan Adopted

2009-2018 – Sub-Committees met to discuss accomplishments, and accomplishments were reported in 10 Year Plan Database.

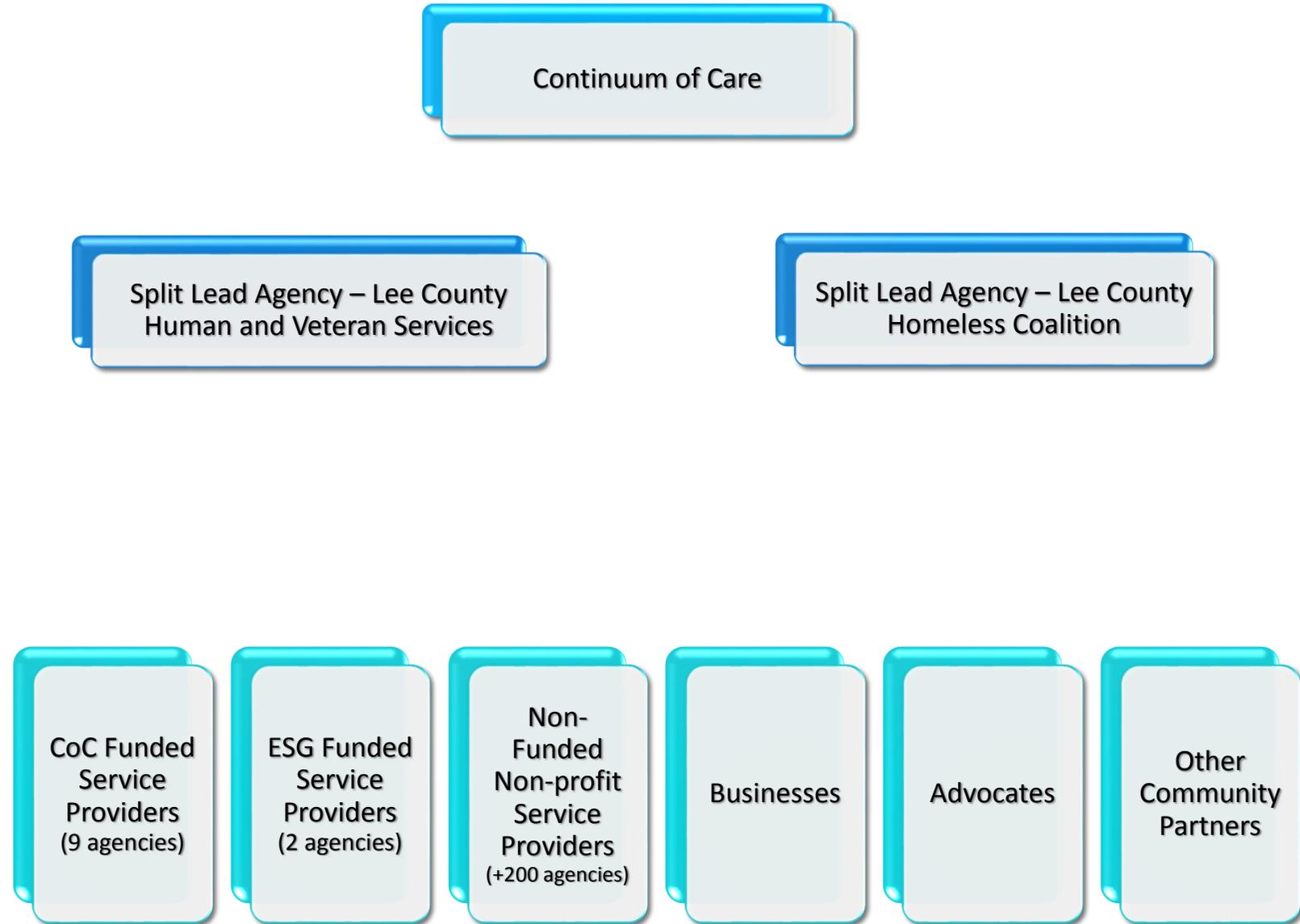
2016-2018 – Lee County Continuum of Care Governing Board worked on new CoC Strategic Plan

- Overview of 10 Year Plan Accomplishments presented to Human Services Council October 18, 2016
- Public Strategic Planning meetings held to discuss accomplishments and identify unmet goals
- New plan formulated around the frame work of USICH's *Home, Together* plan
- Plan published for public comment and discussed at Community Conversations held County-Wide
- CoC Strategic Plan adopted April 2019.

Continuum of Care Structure

What is a Continuum of Care?

Representatives from relevant organizations within a geographic area shall establish a Continuum of Care for the geographic area to carry out the duties of this 24 CFR 578. Relevant organizations include nonprofit homeless assistance providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, and organizations that serve veterans and homeless and formerly homeless individuals.



Lee County Geographic Area – 1,212 square miles
Lee County Population in 2018 – 754,610

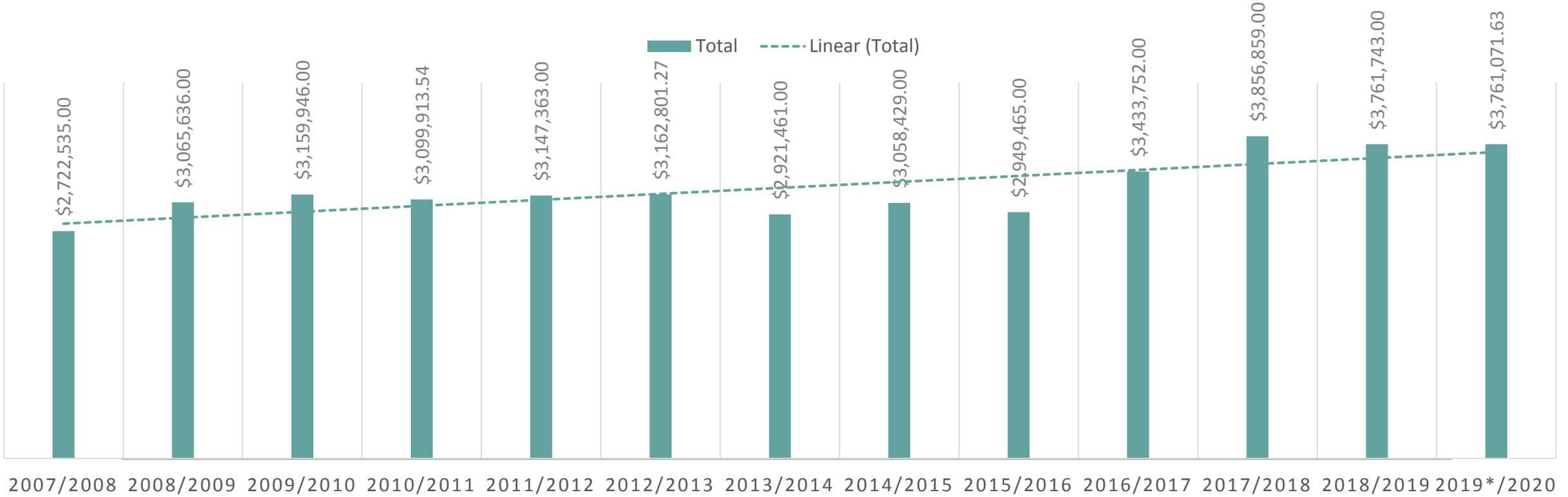
Southwest Florida Connect (Coordinated Entry) Performance

(Start Date: September 3, 2019)

- Approximately 1500 calls received
 - 778 Clients have completed assessments with United Way 211
 - 138 Individuals referred to Bob Janes Triage Center
 - 35 Families Referred to Salvation Army Family Shelter
 - 217 Individuals Referred to CoC Housing or Homelessness Prevention Programs
 - 95 Clients Exited to Transitional or Permanent Housing

Veteran	Mental Health Condition	Substance Abuse	DV	Households with Children	Households who were Employed at the Time of Assessment
34	327	147	165	243	173
6%	57%	25%	29%	42%	30%
				Total Number of Children (under age 18)	
				520	

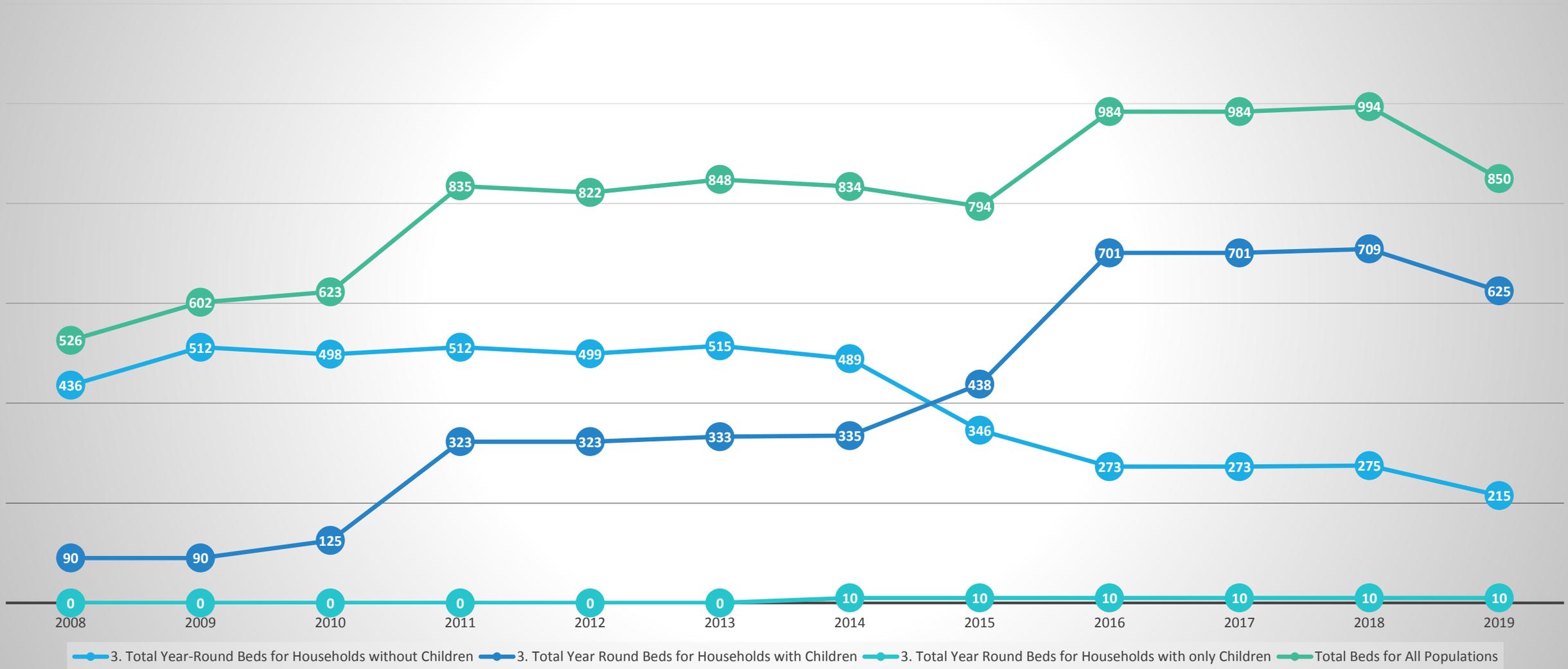
LEE COUNTY HUMAN AND VETERAN SERVICES FUNDING TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS



Continuum of Care Funding - HUD	Federal Emergency Solutions Grant	State Challenge Grant	State Emergency Solutions Grant	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families - Prevention	State Staffing Grant	HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance	County General Funds - HVS - Homeless Prevention	County General Funds - HVS - Homeless	County General Funds - 10 Year Plan
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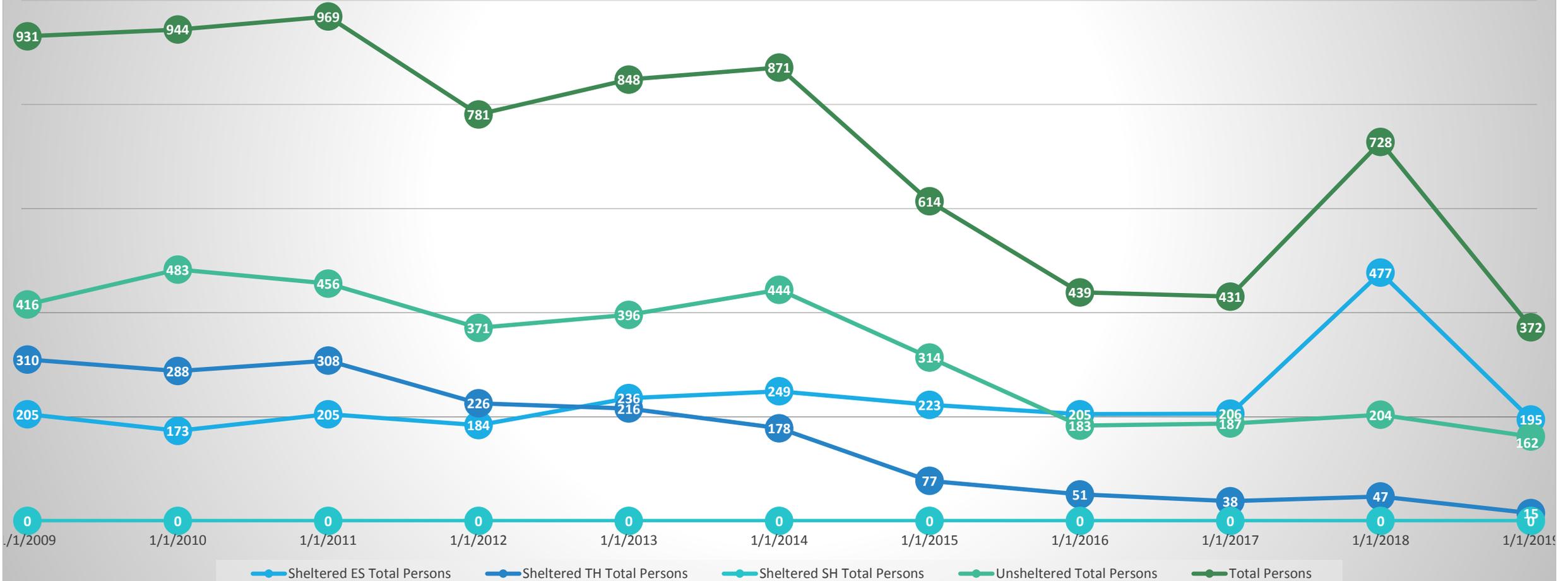
38% increase in funding since 2007/2008 (more than \$1 million)

Housing Inventory Count (HIC) Progression



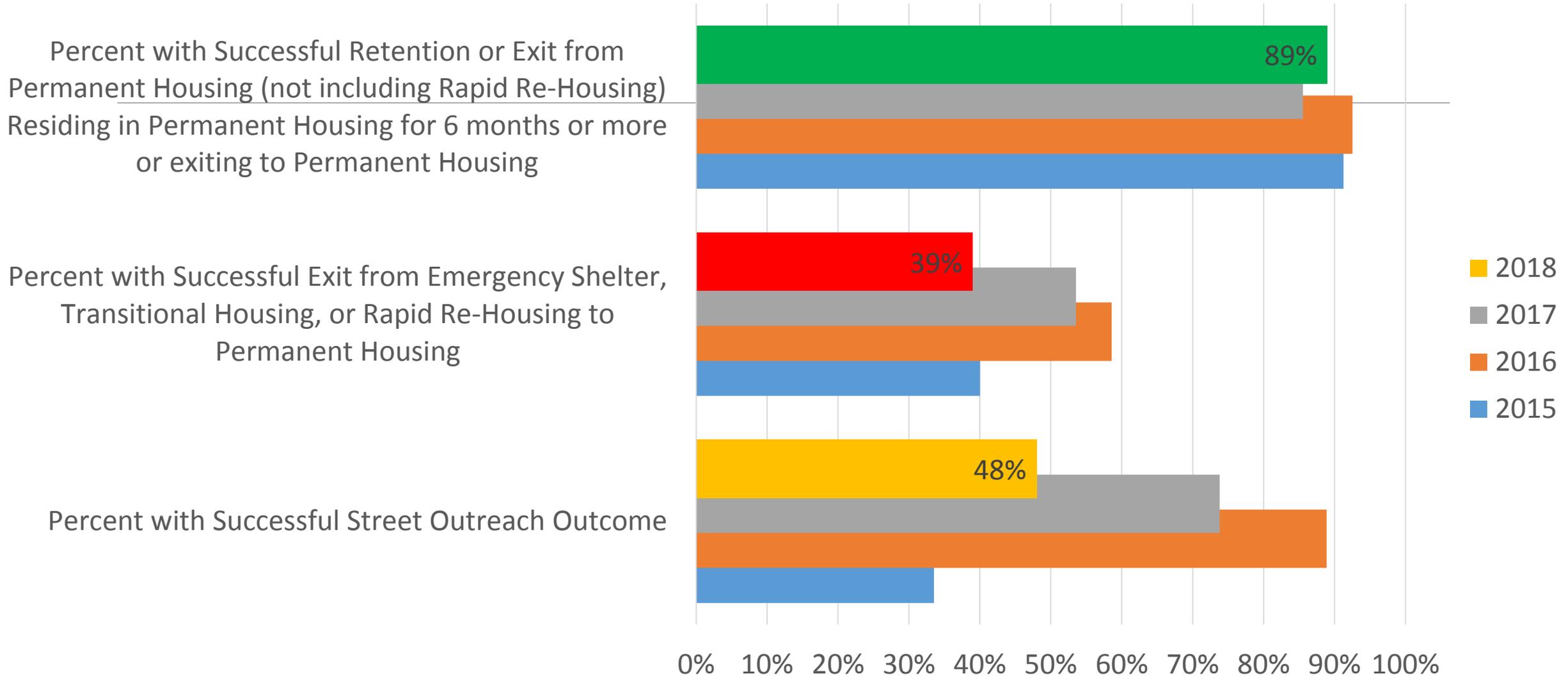
61.6% increase in overall housing inventory since 2008

Point in Time (PIT) Count Progression

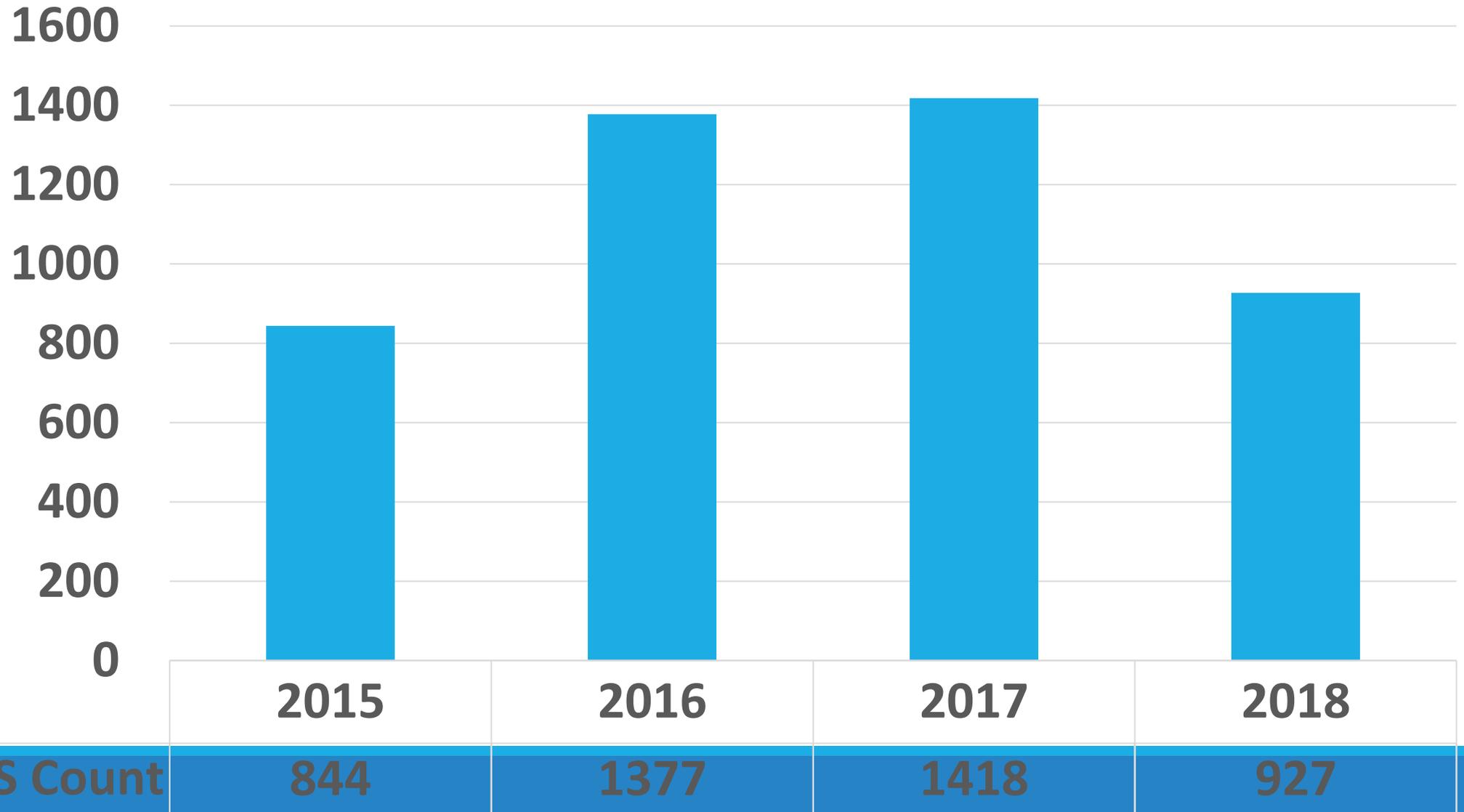


60% decrease in the number of persons experiencing homelessness on a single night

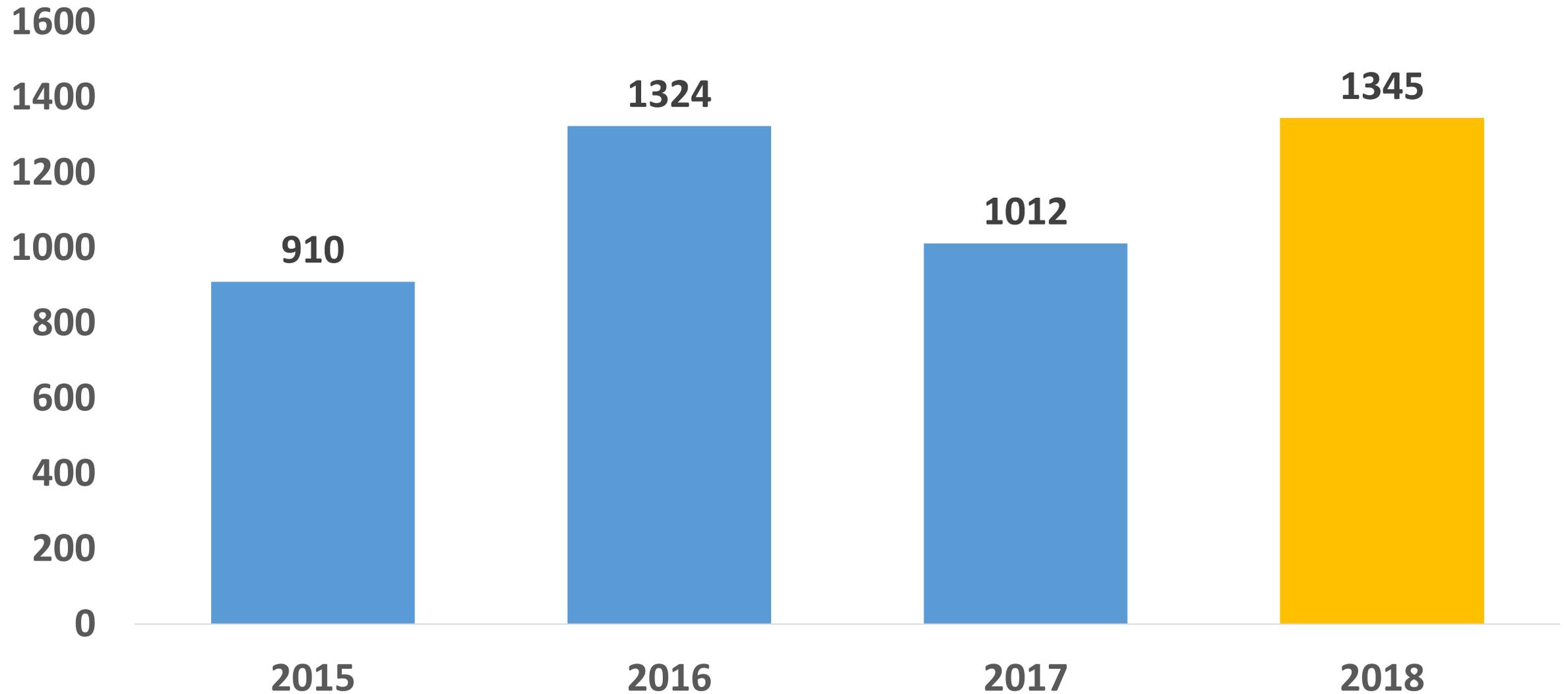
Successful Housing Exits



Total Count of Persons Entering the System as Homeless

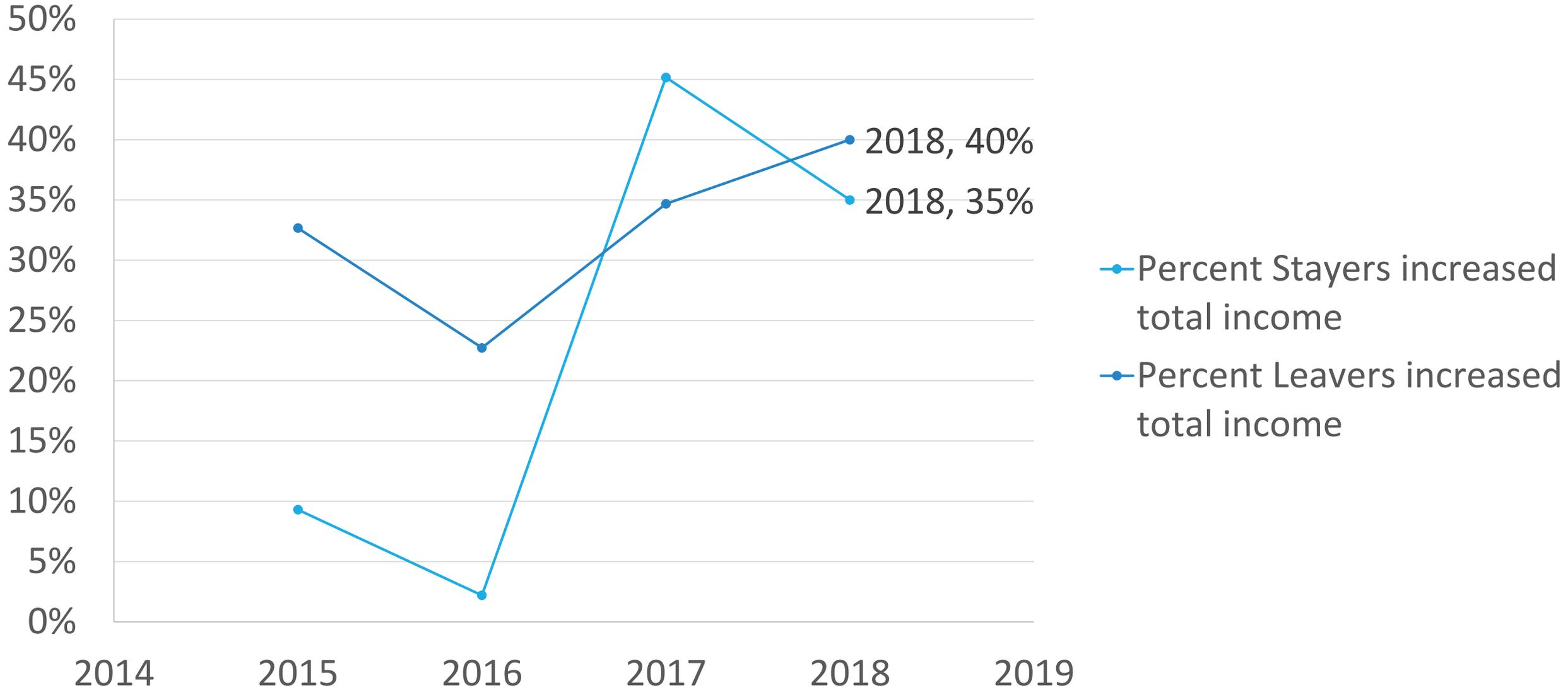


Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness for the First Time*

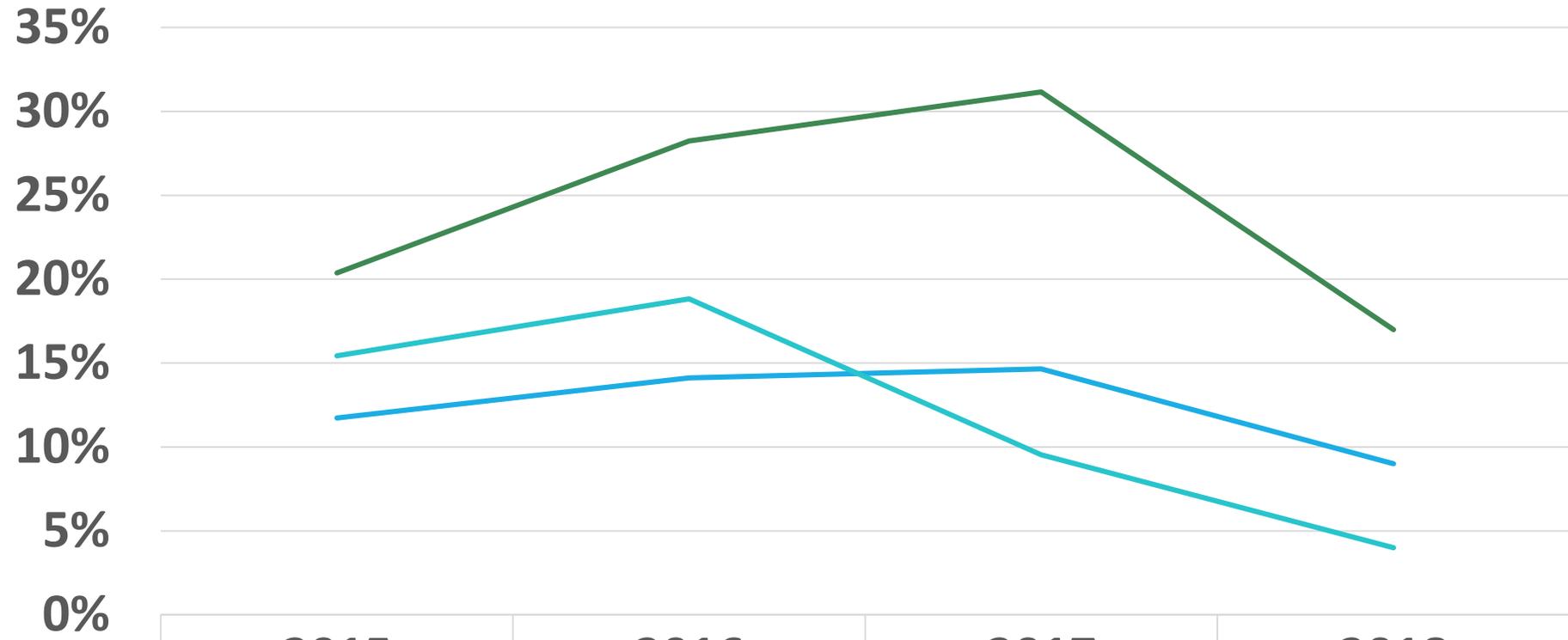


* Potential Data Quality Error – Persons who identified as having been homeless one time, but who were not necessarily homeless at the time of program entry may have been included in this count.

Number of Persons who Increased Income



Returns to Homelessness



— Percent Returns in 6 months

— Percent Returns in 12 months

— Percent of Returns in 2 Years

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Percent Returns in 6 months	12%	14%	15%	9%
Percent Returns in 12 months	15%	19%	10%	4%
Percent of Returns in 2 Years	20%	28%	31%	17%

Special Population: Students

**1,033 Lee County
school students
identified as
homeless as of
January 31, 2020**

- 🌀 Doubled-up: 705
- 🌀 Residing in a shelter facility: 90
- 🌀 Living in cars, campgrounds, etc.: 42
- 🌀 Living in motels/hotels: 196

An estimated 42% of households who enter the coordinated entry system are households with children.

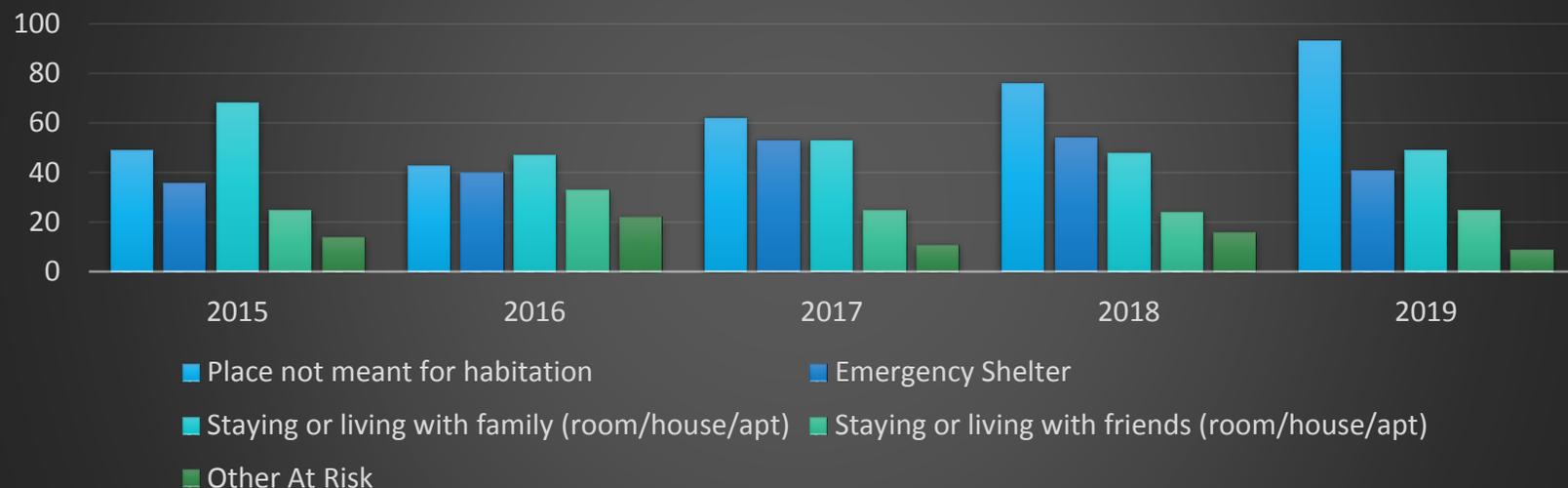
Special Population: Senior Females

AGE RANGE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
55-59	88	92	89	90	110
60-64	48	42	53	60	58
65-69	29	22	34	32	24
70-74	11	10	13	21	10
75-79	8	11	9	9	4
80+	8	8	6	6	11

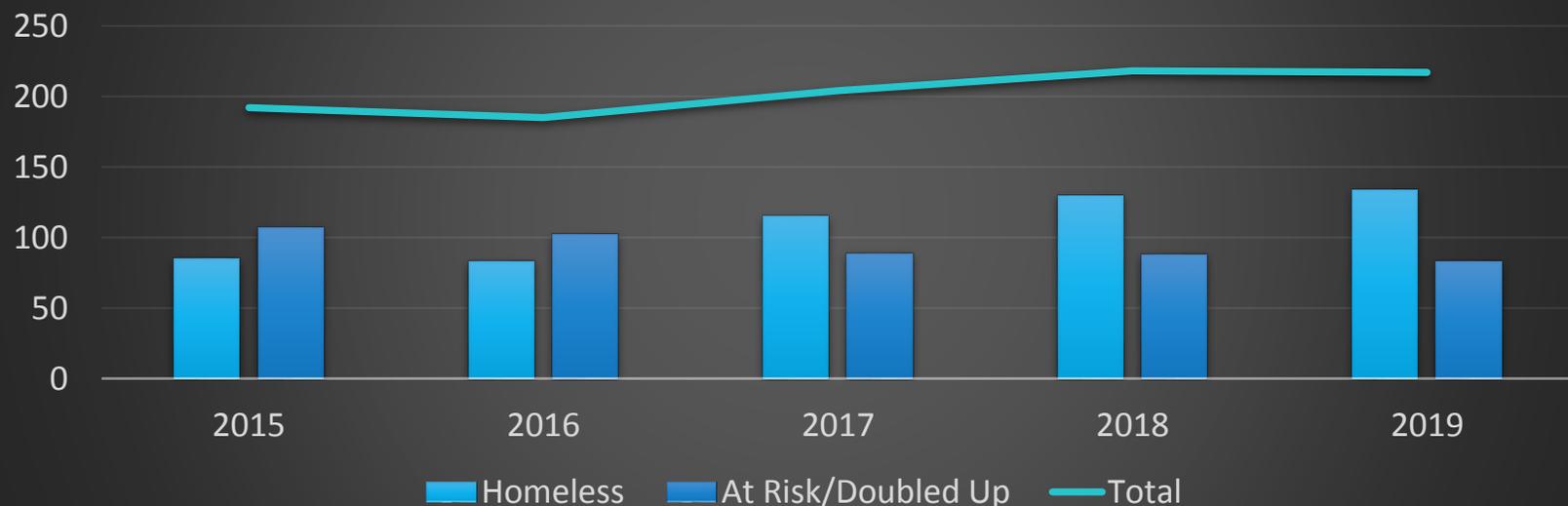
RACE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
White	138	140	154	168	171
Black or African-American	52	40	48	48	43
Multi-Racial	0	1	1	0	1
Other	2	4	1	2	2

ETHNICITY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Hispanic or Latino	37	35	38	35	32
Non-Hispanic or Latino	155	150	166	183	185

HOUSING TYPE AT ENTRY



HOUSING STATUS



Project Trends: Rapid Re-Housing

**Total Number of Persons
Rapidly Re-housed** 2445

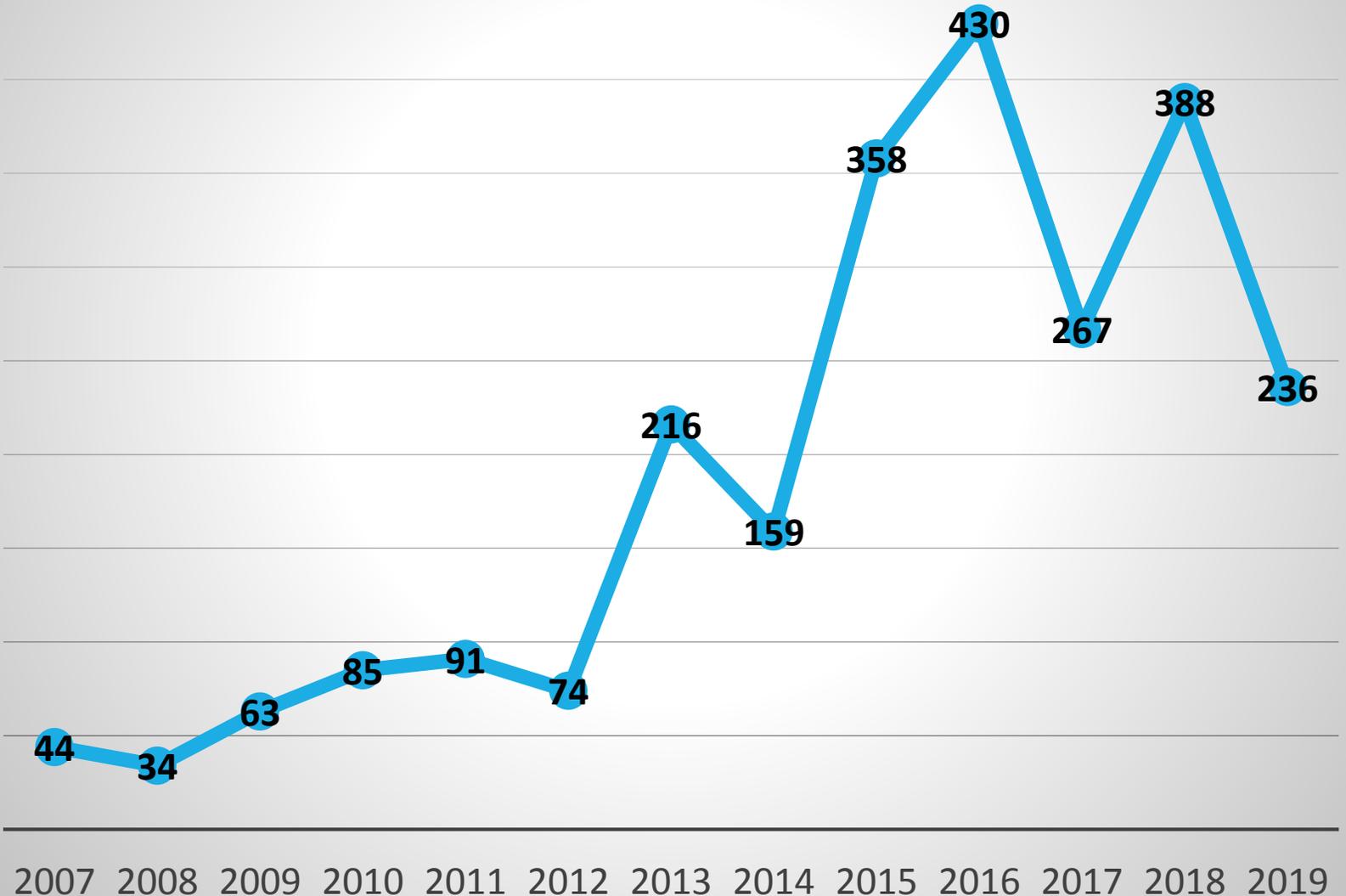
Households with Children 469

**Persons with Mental
Health Issues** 428

**Persons with Substance
Abuse Issues** 232

January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2019

Total Number of Persons Rapidly Re-housed



Current Year Trends

Estimated total number of households who will be homeless in 2020: ~1850

	July	August	September	October	November
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in the CoC	225	196	268	315	266
Total Households Experiencing Homelessness in the CoC	214	188	218	238	191
Unduplicated Individuals Served in the CoC	1967	1578	1137	1176	1063
Individuals Becoming Homeless for the First Time in the CoC	27	98	117	140	102
Individuals Returning to the Homeless System in the CoC	36	5	37	53	40
Total Exits to Permanent Housing in the CoC	97	63	42	65	84



The Lee County Continuum of Care and
Lee County Homeless Coalition are pleased to welcome the
Florida Housing Coalition
to administer the following trainings:

Best Practices for Serving Domestic Violence Survivors

April 9, 2020 from 9:00am to 12:00pm

**Best Practices for Addressing Discrimination
under the Equal Access Rule**

April 9, 2020 1:00 pm to 4:30pm

**Best Practices for Connecting Program
Participants with Education and Job Opportunities**

April 23, 2020 from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Implementing Diversion Practices

April 23, 2020 1:00 pm to 4:30pm

**Case Management for Households
Experiencing Homelessness**

May 14, 2020 9:00 am to 4:30pm

**All trainings will be held in the Fort Myers Regional Library
Conference Rooms, 1651 Lee St. Fort Myers FL, 33901**

Training is open to all homeless service providers and other interested stakeholders.

All CoC member agencies should attend.

**Seating is limited, RSVP to Lee County Human and Veteran Services
coc@leegov.com**