

# Homelessness

**“Homelessness should be rare, brief, and one-time”**

**Donna Wyche – Manager**  
Mental Health and Homeless Issues  
Community and Family Services



# Presentation Overview

- Homelessness
- Addressing Homelessness
- System Funding/System Partners
- Orange County Service Array
- Service Access
- “Housing the First 100” Pilot
- Funding Request



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# Homelessness



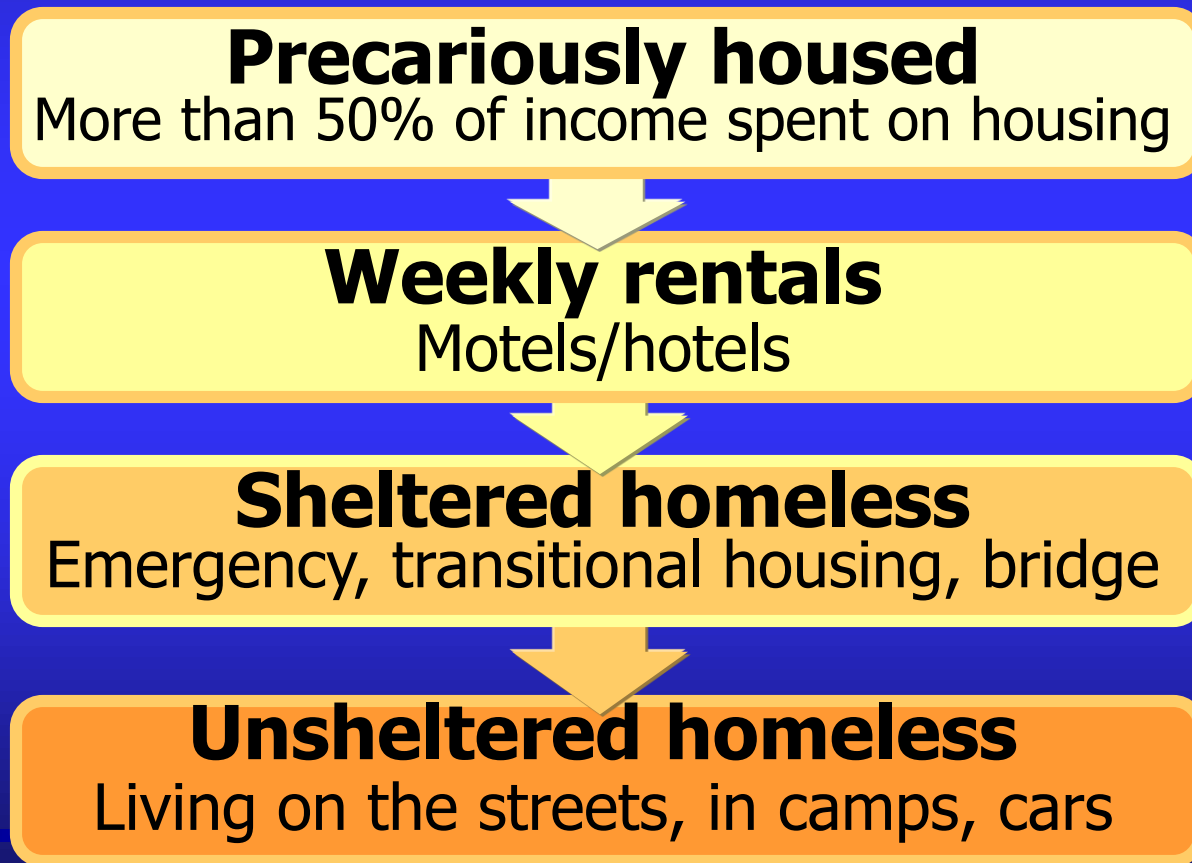
## What is homelessness?

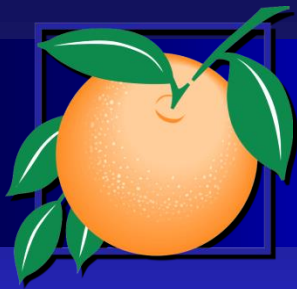
- An unaccompanied person with a disabling condition who has been homeless for a year or more, or has had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years (chronic)
- Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence
- Unaccompanied youth and families with children
- Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening circumstances



# Homelessness

## Stages of Homelessness





# Homelessness

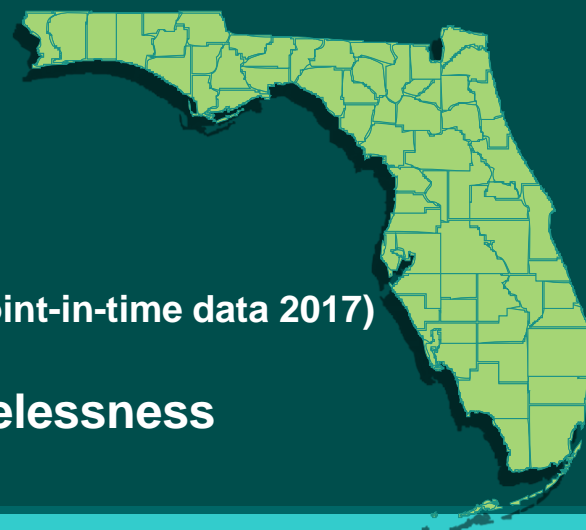
## Homelessness in Florida

Florida ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in number of homeless individuals

California - 134,278

New York - 89,503

**Florida** - **32,190** (point-in-time data 2017)

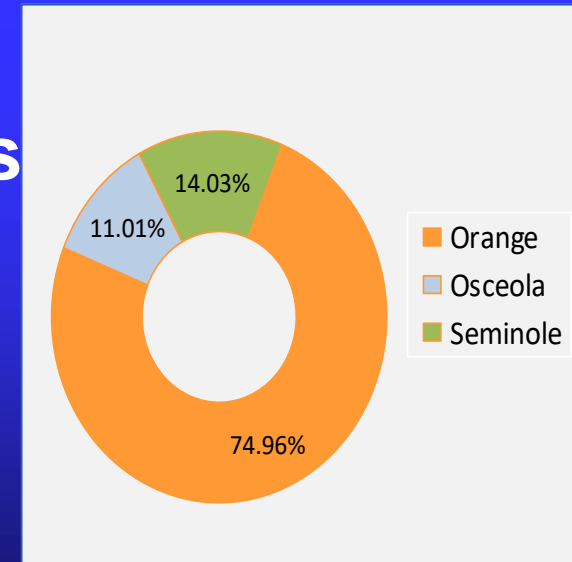


Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness



# Homelessness

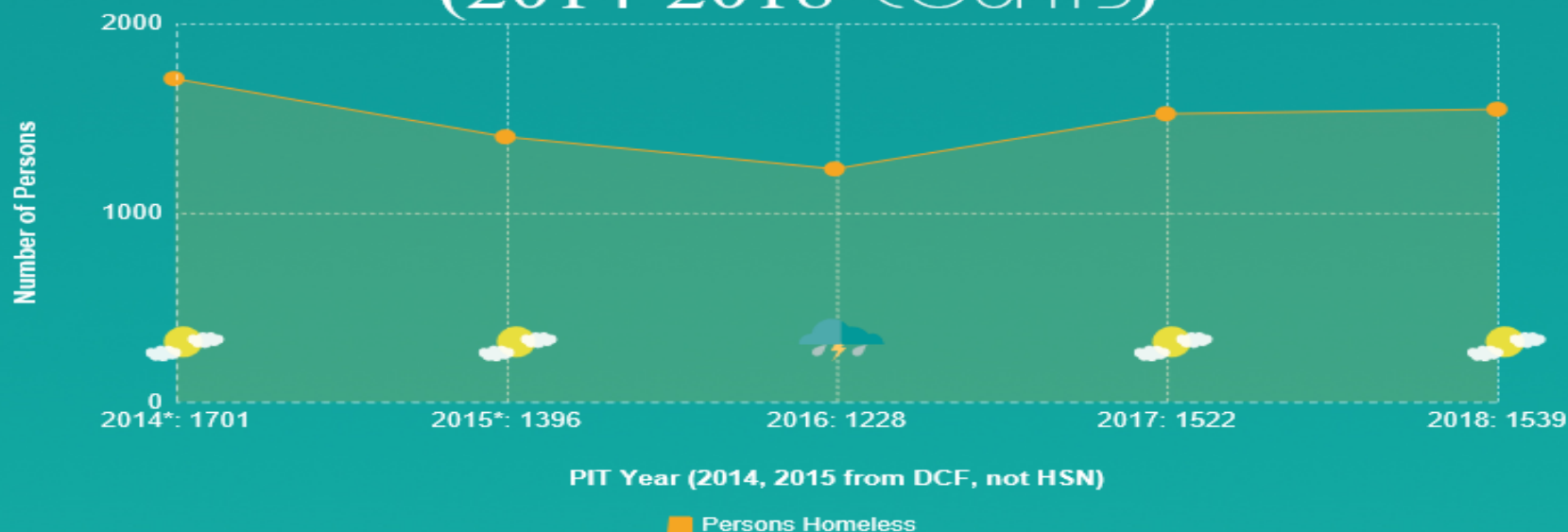
- The 2018 PIT Count recorded a population of 2,053 individuals across the three counties combined
- Orange County = 1,539 Individuals
- Osceola County = 226 Individuals
- Seminole County = 288 Individuals





# Homelessness

## THE BIG PICTURE: YEAR BY YEAR (2014-2018 COUNTS)



Some factors may skew the number of individuals reported in the Point in Time Count. A primary factor is weather on the night of the count. When there is substantial rain, as there was in 2016, there is a chance that street count (unsheltered persons) numbers are artificially lowered. Beyond weather, changes from one year to another and multi-year trends are shaped by both community efforts and changes in the local economy and housing costs.





# Homelessness

## Orange County Public Schools

**Under the McKinney-Vento Act, certain living situations are considered to be homeless:**

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, inadequate trailer, or similar accommodations
- Doubled up with friends or relatives

**Homeless students can also be those who are:**

- Abandoned in a hospital
- “Couch-surfing”
- Homeless unaccompanied youth

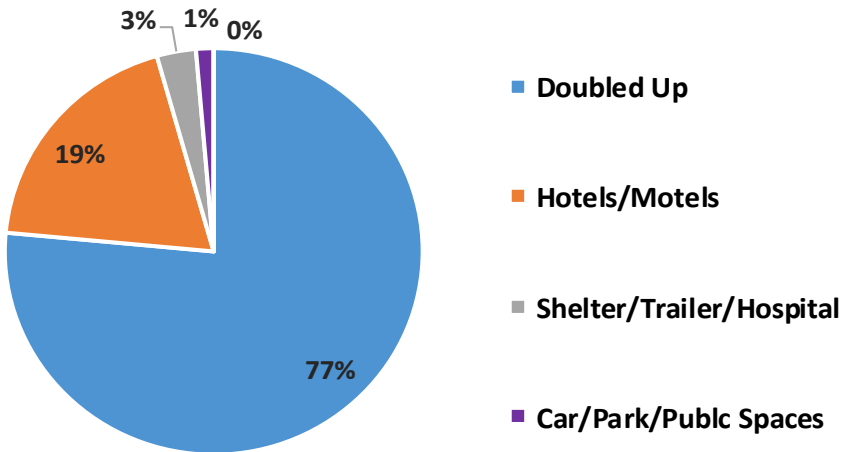


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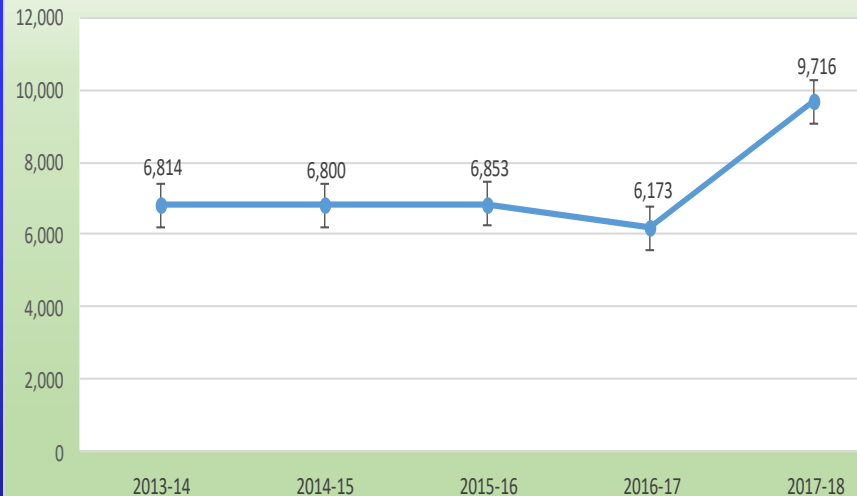


## Number of Homeless Children Attending Orange County Public Schools

Homeless Living Situations 2017-2018



Homeless Trend Data





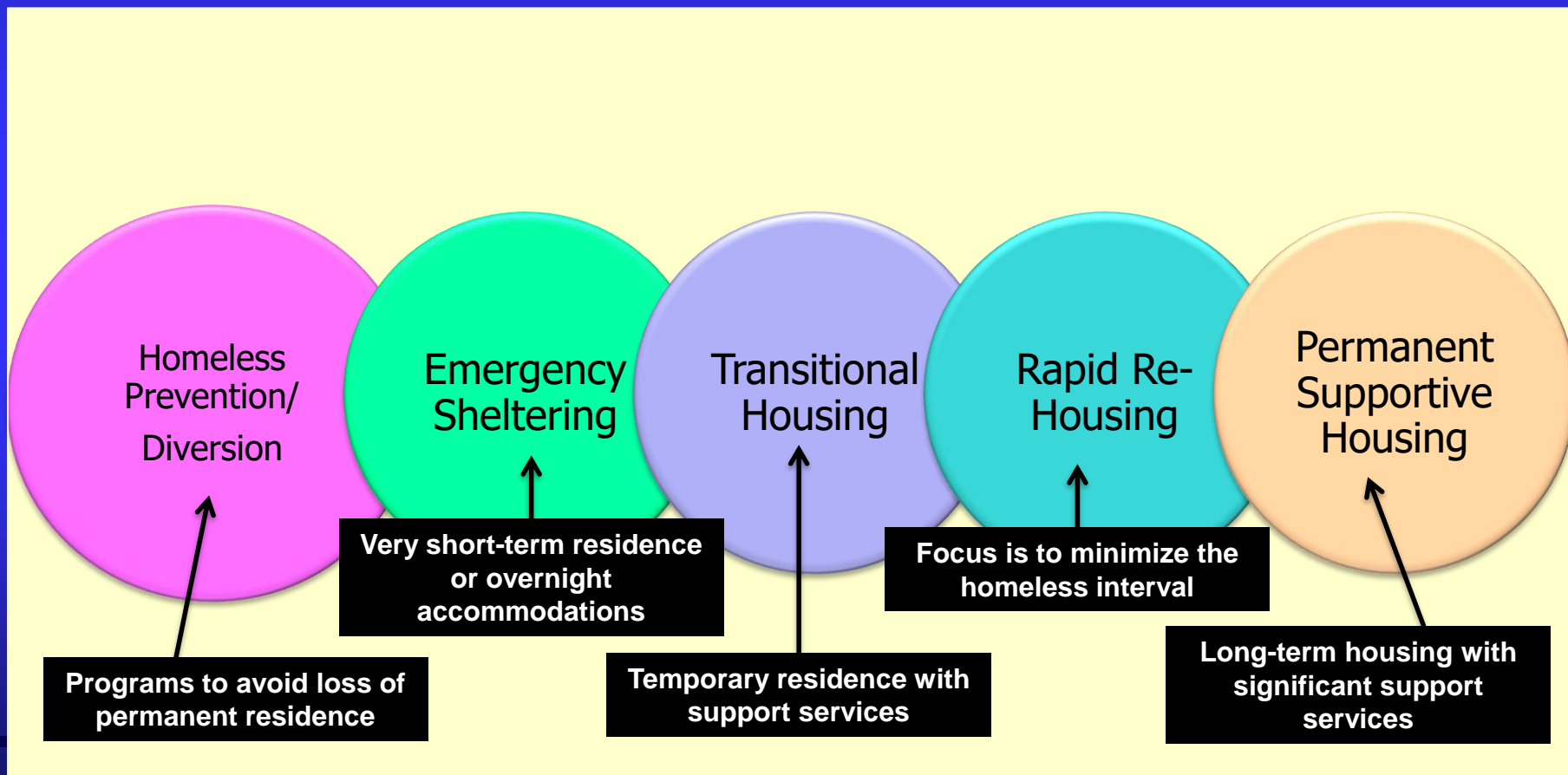
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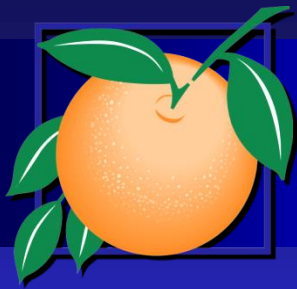
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# Addressing Homelessness

## Methods to Address the Issue





# Addressing Homelessness

## Orange County Priorities

Orange County  
Families

Chronically  
Homeless

Homeless  
Prevention/  
Diversion

Transitional  
Housing  
(TH)

Rapid Re-  
Housing  
(RRH)

Permanent  
Supportive  
Housing  
(PSH)

- Diversion Pilot - Coalition (2018)

- CRC Phase II - ANCHOR (25 units) (2008)
- Bridge Housing (9 apts.) - Coalition (2018)

- RRH - Homeless Services Network (HSN) (2016)

- Project Restore (40 units) - Maxwell Terrace (2015)
- PSH supportive services - Homeless Services Network (2017)



# Addressing Homelessness

## Best Practice Methods Utilized

### Typical "Housing Readiness"



### Housing First



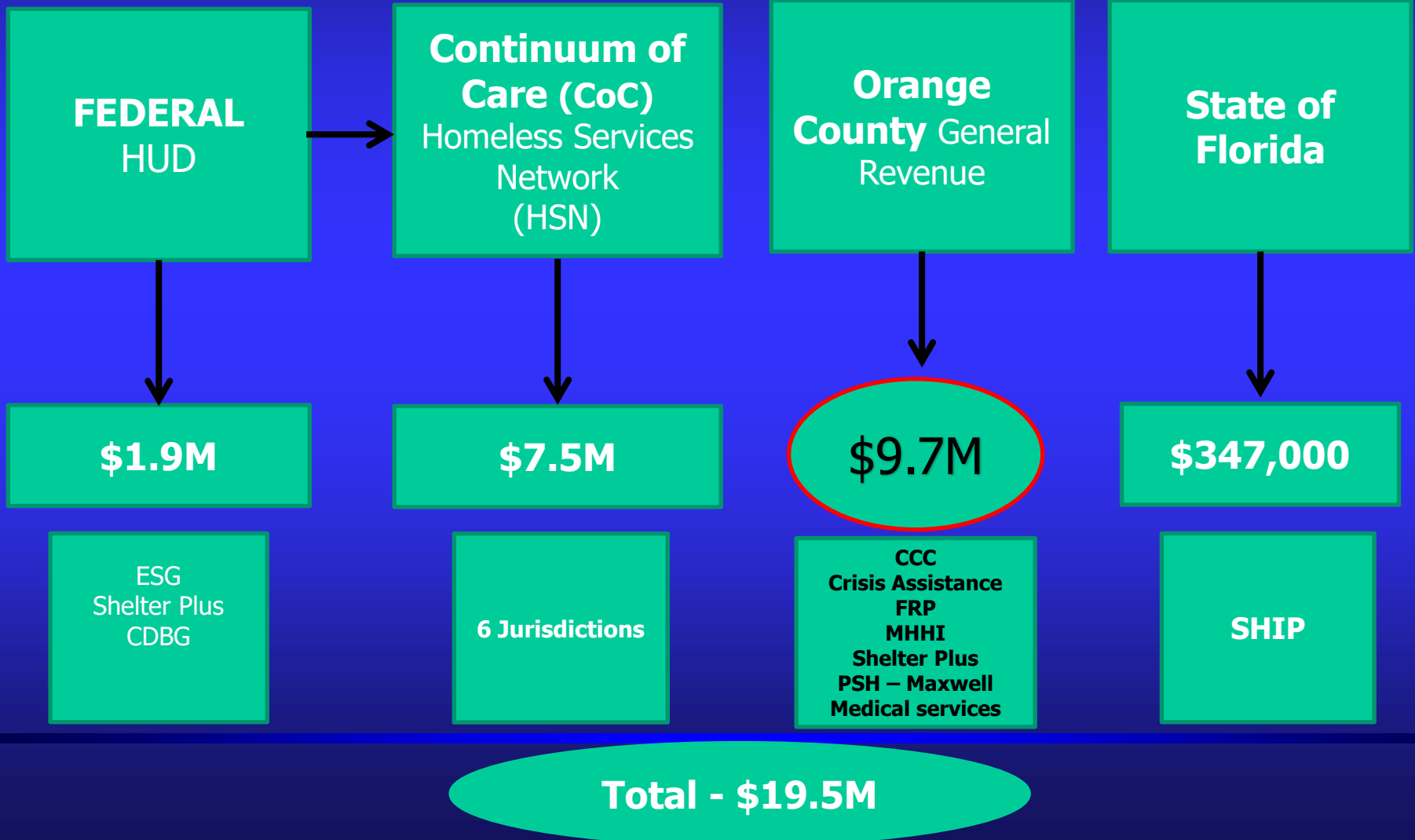


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# System Funding/System Partners (FY 18-19)

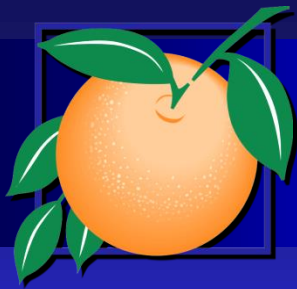






## **System Funding/System Partners**

- **Homeless Services Network (HSN)**
- **Central Florida Continuum of Care (CoC)**
- **Central Florida Commission on Homelessness (CFCH)**



# **System Funding/System Partners**

## **Homeless Services Network (HSN)**

- **Lead agency for the HUD Continuum of Care FL-507 for the area including Osceola, Seminole and Orange Counties, including the Cities of Orlando, Kissimmee, and Sanford**
- **Funds programs that provide permanent housing, rapid rehousing and supportive services for the homeless in our continuum/region**
- **Manage homeless management information system (HMIS)**
- **Establish, develop, and support best practices and policies for homeless-related programs**



# **System Funding/System Partners**

## **Central Florida Continuum of Care (CoC)**

- The CoC is a collaborative of homeless stakeholders from across Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties
- Engagement, communications, and messaging with stakeholders
- Coordinate providers of homeless services (shelters, outreach)
- Coordinate providers of services that intersect with homelessness (behavioral health, poverty reduction)
- Operational coordination of jurisdictions around collaboration and investment



# **System Funding/System Partners**

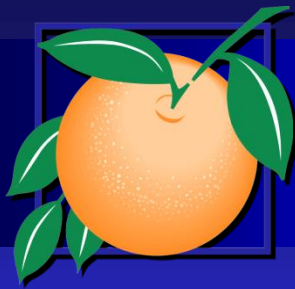
## **Central Florida Commission on Homelessness (CFCH)**

- Support the work of stakeholders within the System of Care
- Community engagement
- Legislative advocacy at the local, state and federal levels regarding homelessness and funding
- Leadership and community resource development through board structure
- Strategic coordination for collaboration and investment



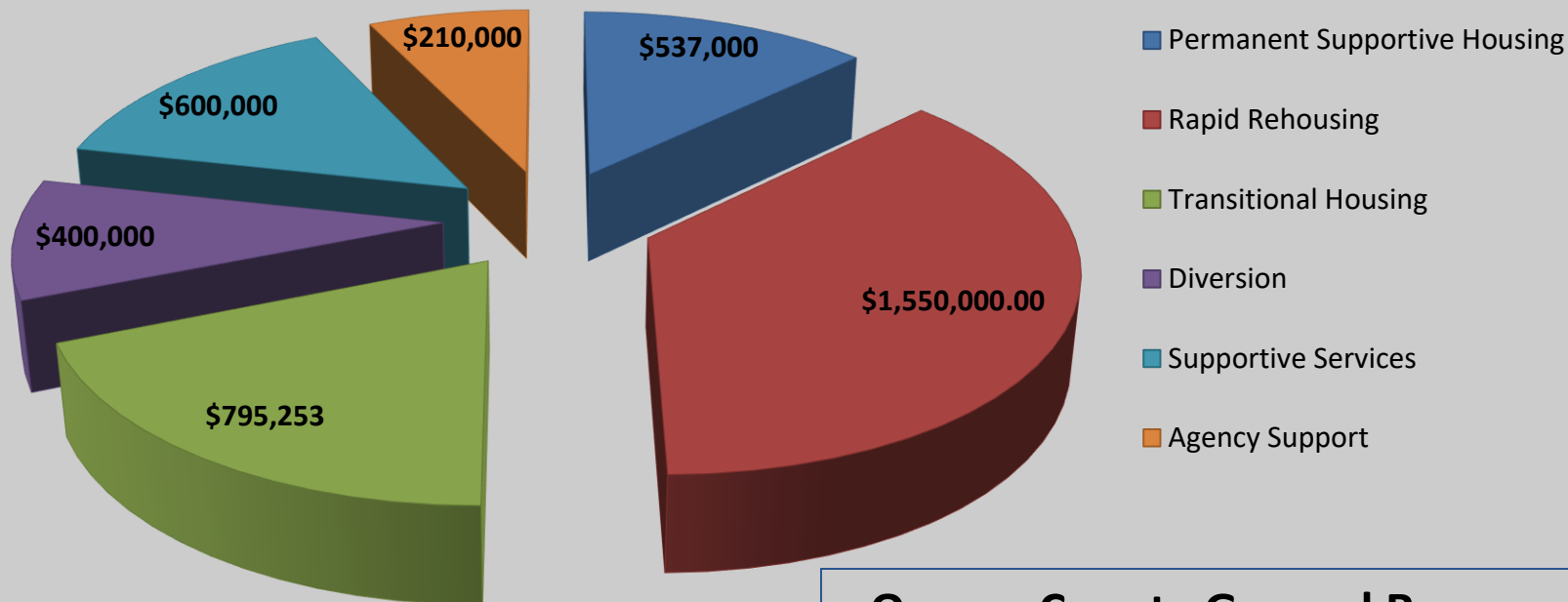
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# Orange County Service Array

## Mental Health and Homeless Issues Division



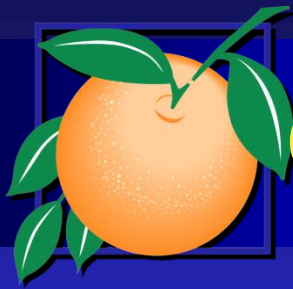
Orange County General Revenue -  
**\$4,092,253**



# **Orange County Service Array**

## **Diversion Services (Coalition for the Homeless)**

- **Screen individuals and families presenting for shelter; mediation to divert from shelter**
- **Builds capacity in shelter for the most vulnerable**



# Orange County Service Array

## Drop-In Day Services

- Services initiated in 2013
- Services are provided by faith-based volunteers, with community coordinated referrals from and to local providers
- Served 3,053 unduplicated homeless individuals with 143,419 services
- Services includes entitlement services, mental health, legal assistance, clothing, showers, laundry facilities, and medical services
- Shepherd's Hope has provided medical services to over 3,000 patients at the site, mainly serving the east-side uninsured population







# **Orange County Service Array**

## **Transitional Housing (CRC Phase II)**

**ANCHOR - \$720K started in 2008 – 25 bed residential program with on site substance abuse and mental health services**

- Located at Maxwell Terrace**
- 947 served since inception**
- 51% transition to permanent housing**



# Orange County Service Array

## Rapid Re-Housing

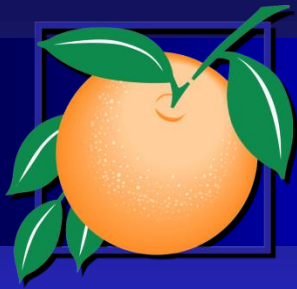
- \$1.5M contract initiated in Nov 2015
- For families with minor children or unaccompanied youth (18-24) who have been literally homeless at least one night
- Short term rental assistance and supportive services/ progressive engagement
- Evidence based intervention on the path to permanent housing.
  - Family focused



# **Orange County Service Array**

## **Bridge Housing**

- **Bridge Housing services provided at the Coalition for the Homeless**
- **9 on site apartments for families that have been approved for Rapid Re-housing in Orange County**
- **Moves families from shelter to bridge housing allowing increased capacity at shelter**



# **Orange County Service Array**

## **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**

- **Maxwell Terrace – \$522K started in 2015, 40 PSH units with on site supportive services.**
- **PSH Supportive Services - \$500K started in 2017**
- **For individuals and families who have a disabling condition AND have been literally homeless**
- **Long term (permanent) rental assistance and supportive services**



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# Service Access

## Perfect Storm

- **Low wages**
  - \$8.25 minimum wage in Florida.
  - **230,344 (1 out of 3)**: number of households considered to be cost-burdened in the Orlando, Sanford, Kissimmee Metropolitan Area.
- **Poverty Rate**
  - 16% (Central Florida's Roadmap Home: Strategic Actions to Impact Homelessness, 2018)
- **Lack of affordable/low income housing**
  - 18 units per 100 available are low income
  - Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA Fair Market Two Bedroom Rent \$1,096
  - Annual Income needed to afford a one-bedroom apartment FMR \$17.28 hourly, to afford a 2-bedroom FMR \$21.08 hourly (National Low Income Housing Coalition- Out of Reach 2018 Report)



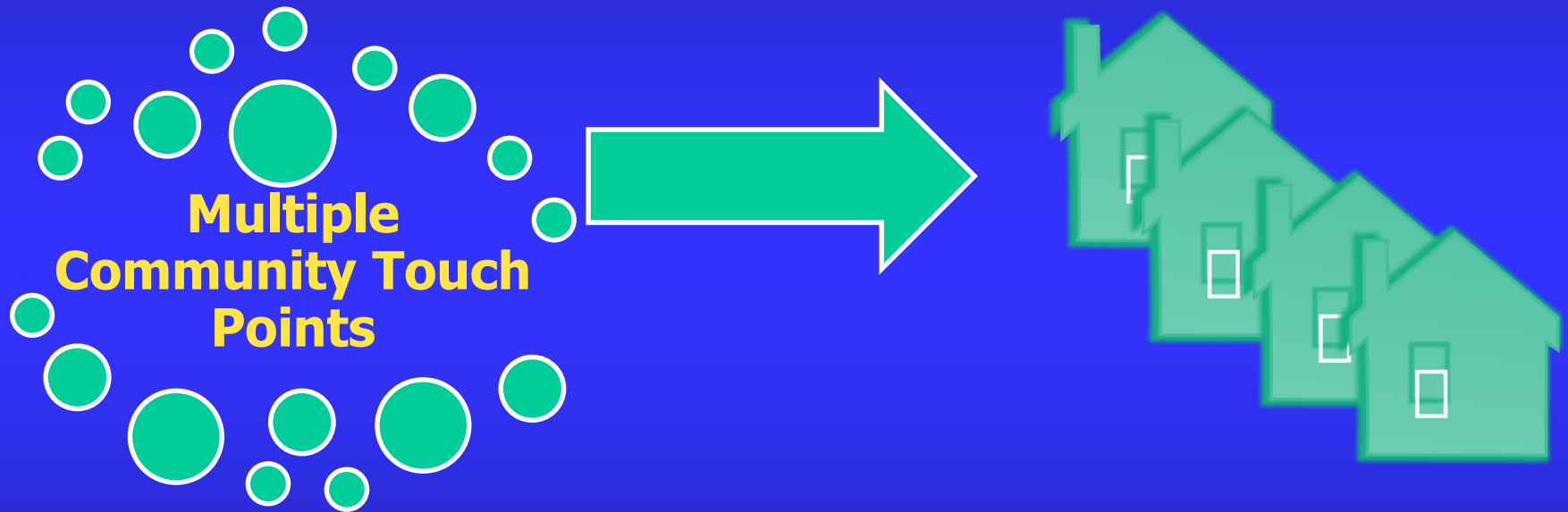
# Service Access

- **Coordinated Entry System (CES)**
  - System-driven approach that coordinates housing program services for clients experiencing homelessness
  - Client-centered process that streamlines access to supportive services for clients in need
  - Ensures the most vulnerable homeless people in our community are served



# Service Access

## Coordinated Entry System



ASSESS



NAVIGATE



Connect to  
**HOUSING &  
SUPPORTS**





# **Service Access**

- **Clients can be assessed for services by:**
  - **Calling 2-1-1**
  - **Going to a Coordinated Entry HUB Site**
  - **Going to Coalition for the Homeless Intake Unit**
- **Clients should be referred for assessment if they are sleeping:**
  - **On the street**
  - **In an emergency shelter**
  - **In a hotel paid for by an agency**
  - **In any other “place not meant for human habitation”**
  - **Fleeing domestic violence**



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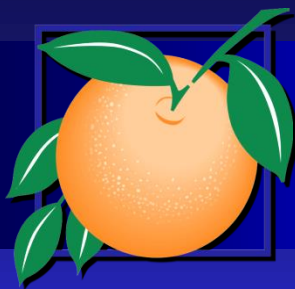


# “Housing the First 100” Pilot

In 2014, Florida Hospital funded \$6M for 3 years, this funding provided supportive services to the highest utilizers (chronically homeless) of emergency departments and infrastructure to build the system.

- Housing based on vulnerability
- 80% of the homeless in this pilot originated in Orange County
- 60% decrease in emergency department utilization
- 93% remain housed
- Reduction in criminal justice involvement

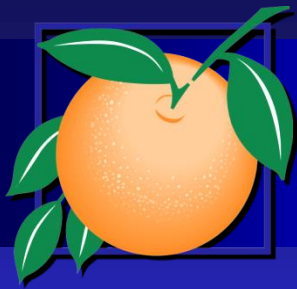




# “Housing the First 100” Pilot

## How the system works:





# **“Housing the First 100” Pilot**

- **Sources of housing vouchers include:**

  - HUD CoC – 203

  - City of Orlando – 45

  - Orlando CRA – 50

  - Orlando Housing Authority – 150



- **Currently 76 unassigned vouchers**
- **Requested funding from jurisdictions for sustained supportive services and infrastructure**
- **\$1.8M requested from Orange County Government**
- **Advent Health has dedicated \$100K with possible match of up to \$400K**



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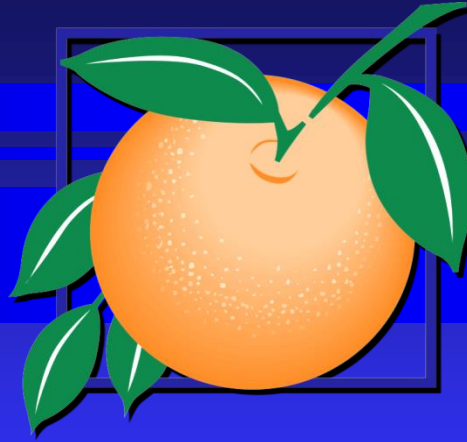
# Funding Request

- **Request of \$1.8M will sustain supportive services:**

- Case management
- Peer support
- Nursing
- Transportation
- Rental assistance (agency)
- Utility payments
- Housing locators
- Flex funding



Will sustain services and supports for the Orange County chronically homeless individuals currently in and awaiting housing.



# **Orange County Mental Health and Homeless Issues**

**Donna Wyche – Manager**  
Mental Health and Homeless Issues  
Community and Family Services