

Data Bridge! How to Connect School PEIMS Data to the HUD Point in Time

Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness
Thursday, September 27th



The Way Home

Presented by Regional Project Management Team

Amber Paaso, Fort Bend Project Manager

Nancy Heinzl, Montgomery County Project Manager

Gary Grier, Senior Project Manager

The Coalition for the Homeless



Workshop Goals

1. Provide brief overview of *The Way Home System*-who we are & what we do;
2. Illustrate how school PEIMS and HUD PIT homeless data intersect;
3. Discuss how to achieve a better understanding of system data;
4. Demonstrate how CoC staff and McKinney Vento Liaisons may work together; and
5. Explain the impact of homeless data.



Introduction of Our Regional Team



Gary Grier, Senior Project Manager

Nancy Heinz, Montgomery County Project Manager

Amber Paaso, Fort Bend Project Manager



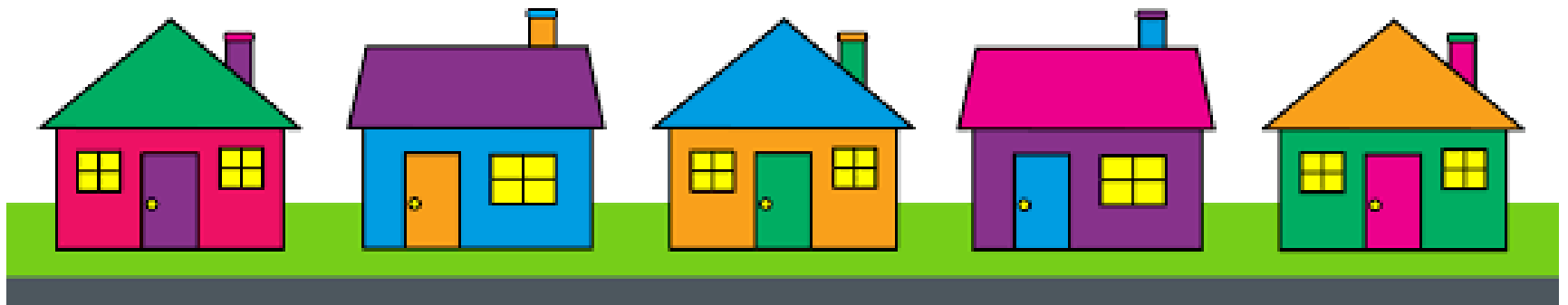
Part I-Overview



Is Leading

The Way Home

Through System Change



Part I-Overview

The Way Home

The Way Home is the collaborative model to prevent and end homelessness in and Houston/Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery Counties

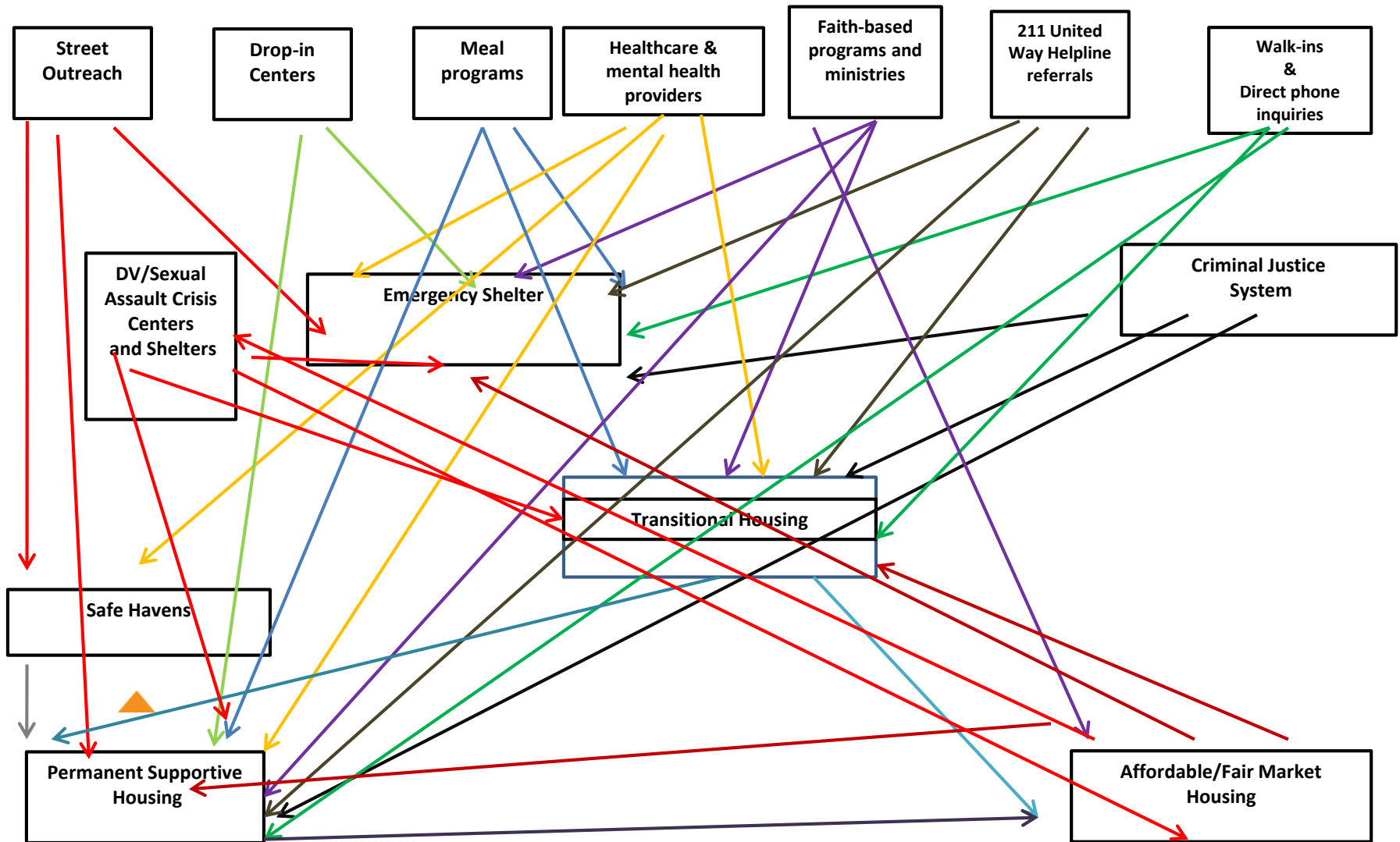


Shifting the Focus

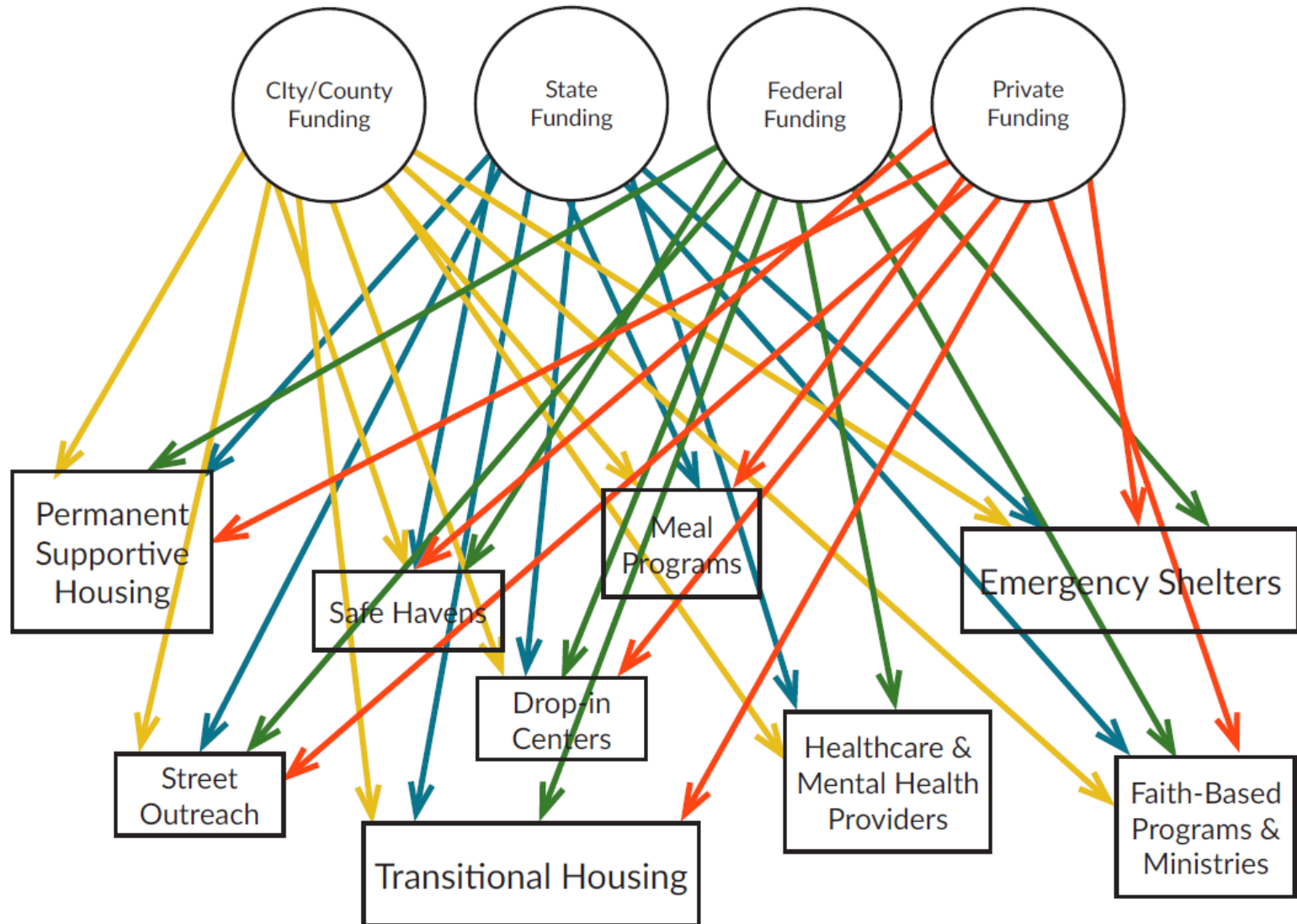


**Shifting from Agency Centered Housing to
Systems & Client Centered Housing**

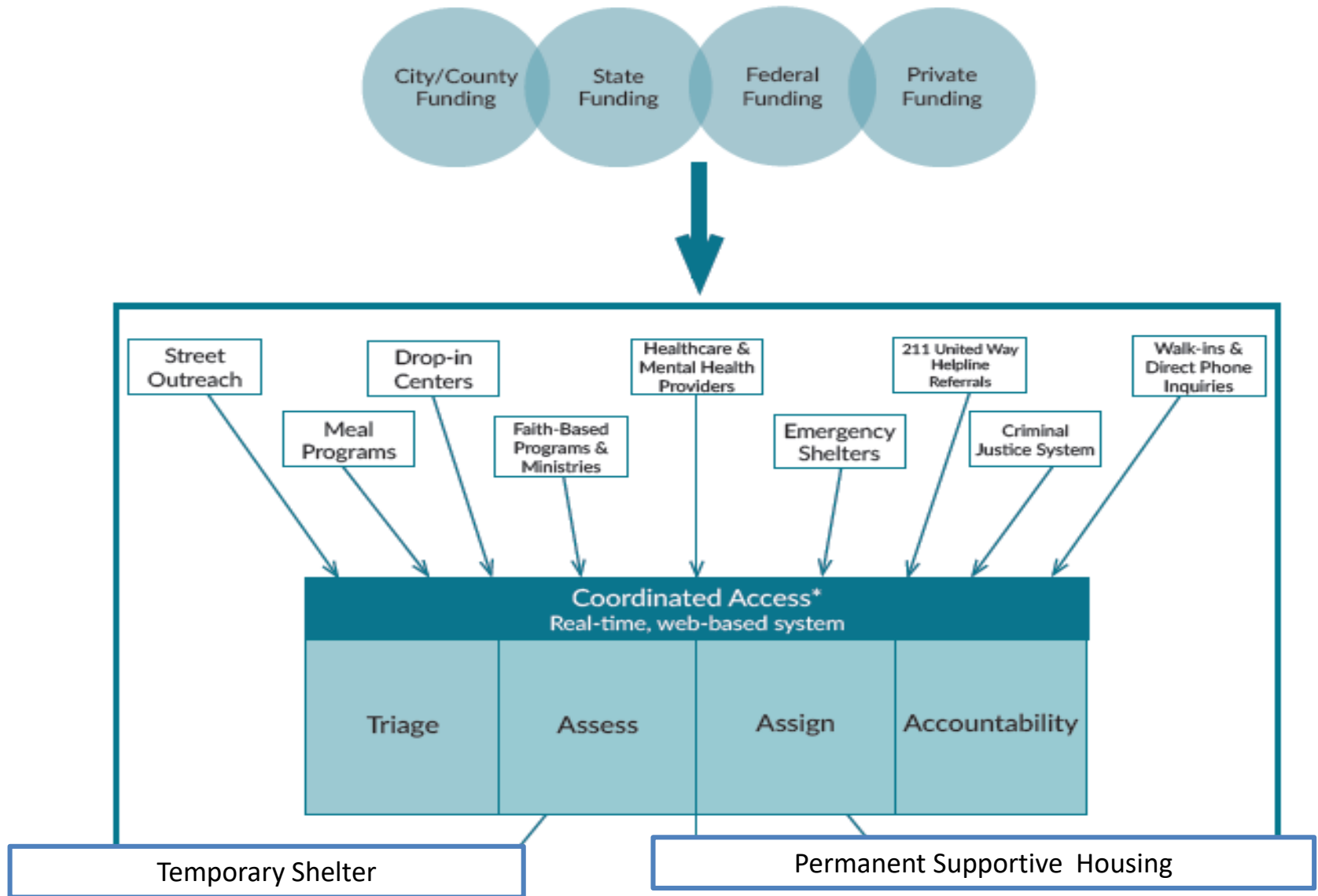
Services Coordination Prior to 2012



Funding Streams Prior to 2012



System Coordination Today



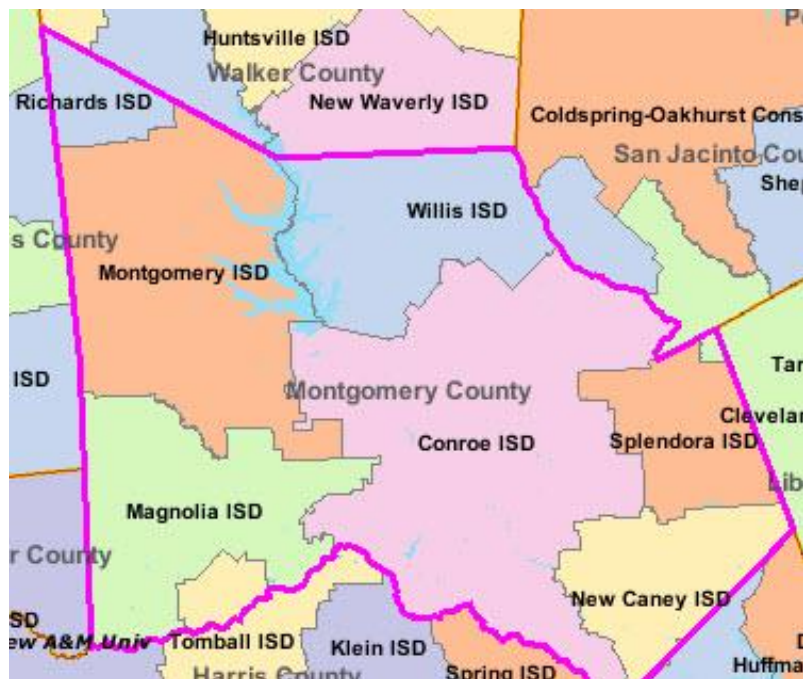
Impact: 14,500 People Housed Since January 2012



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The Way Home
Changing the Path for Houston's Homeless

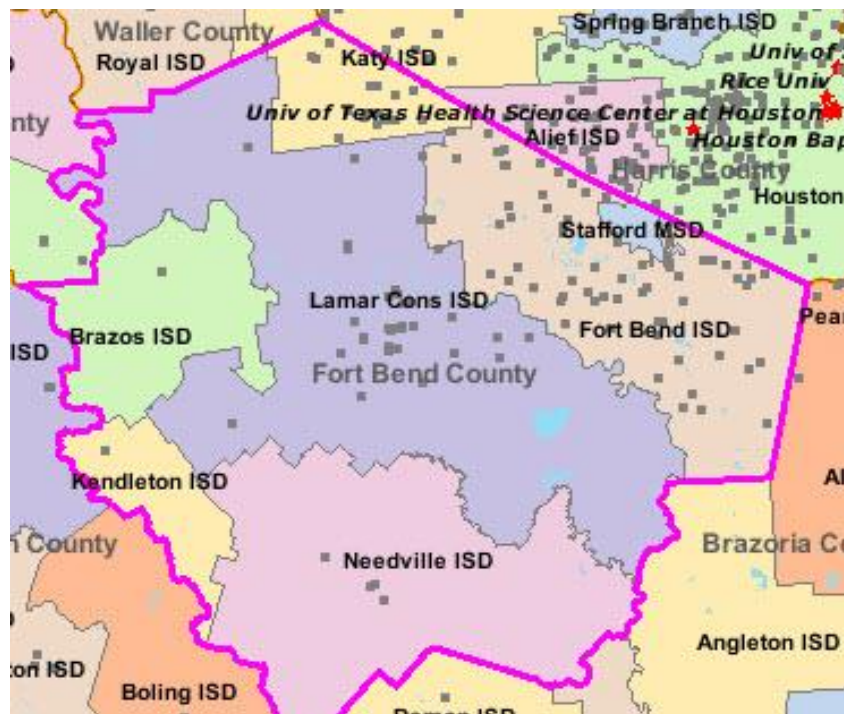
Part 2-Understanding System Data



**MONTGOMERY
COUNTY**

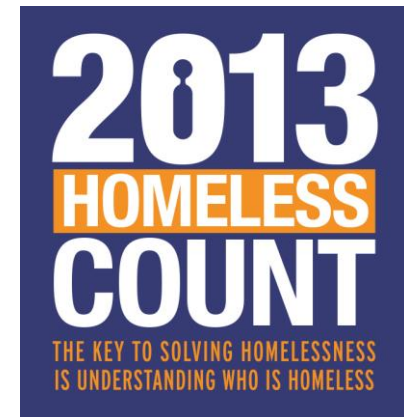


FORT BEND COUNTY



2013 Youth Count!

- In 2013, Houston was 1 of 9 U.S. cities that participated very first youth count.
- The Coalition conducted the annual PIT count on January 29;
- In addition, researchers at the University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health developed a youth-specific survey that was administered over a 3-day period
- Learned importance of collaboration with homeless providers, government agencies, and educators.



https://www.urban.org/research/publication/youth-count-process-study/view/full_report



2014 Youth Count 2.0!



YouthCount 2.0! was designed as a study to learn more about how to find, count, and survey homeless youth and the specific situations and behaviors of youth that could assist with service planning.

Youth were included in the count if they met either of the following criteria:

- ✓ Currently homeless - living in an emergency shelters, transitional housing, hotels/motel, cars, abandoned buildings , on the street, or in a space not designed for human habitation
- ✓ Unstably housed - staying temporarily with friends, family or acquaintances and do not know where they will stay a month from now.

LGBTQ Homeless Youth

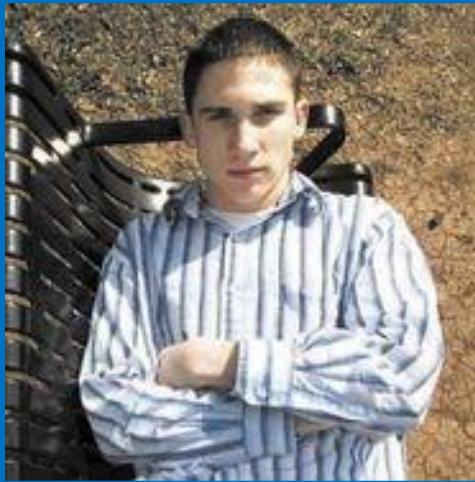


Collaboration coordinated by **the Montrose Center/Hatch Youth**, led by **Coalition for the Homeless Houston/Harris County** and guided by **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**—represents more than 60 Houston/Harris County youth agencies and service providers.

NEST is a city-wide effort to prevent and end homelessness among adolescents and young adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) by 2020.



Defining Homelessness-HUD



Homeless in Suburbia

Michael Lyddon slept on this bench at night because he had nowhere else to go. According to elected officials in Fort Bend, though, he doesn't exist

<https://www.houstonpress.com/news/homeless-in-suburbia-6544133>

Sheltered Homelessness:

A person or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, meaning they are living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements.

Unsheltered Homelessness:

A person or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, meaning they are living in a place not meant for human habitation.

Youth Homelessness in Texas Recommendations

ALIGN SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS WITH PIT COUNT CRITERIA

- SRQ's provide the most comprehensive method for collecting data on homeless youth under age 19. PEIMS identifies 4 categories:
 1. Student lives temporarily **doubled-up** (sharing residence with a family or individual) at any time during current school year
 2. Student lives in **motel or hotel** at any time during current school year
↳ *If paid by agency or church, considered shelter under HUD*
 3. Student lives in a **shelter**, transitional housing at any time during current school year.
 4. Student is **unsheltered** (i.e, lives on the street, lives in cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailers [including FEMA trailers], or abandoned buildings) at any time during current school year ➡ *Data need for PIT Count*



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<https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/housing-center/docs/YCT-docs/YouthHomelessnessTexas-Report.pdf>



Part 3-Bridging the Data by Working Together



The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are unsheltered, sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night.



Let's Make Sure Everyone Counts!

Established Homeless Liaison Committee

- **Purpose:** Collaboration with school districts' homeless liaisons to support identification of homeless families and youth for the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) consistent with the data collection methodology.
- **Goal:** Identification of literally homeless youth and families. *Literally homeless* refers to those living on the streets, in vehicles or any location not meant for human habitation.
- **Proposed Methodology:** Smart phone app survey customized for school districts to collect demographics and living situation of those contacted. Survey can be completed over the phone or in person.



Participating ISD's



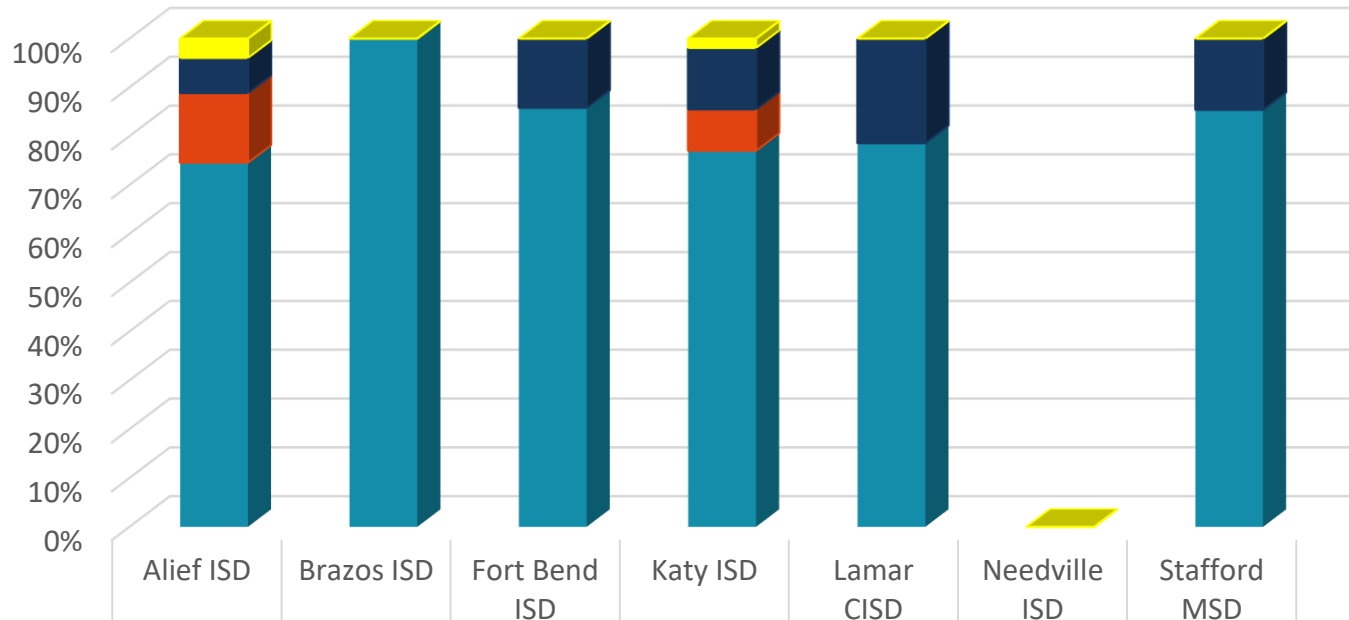
Committee Recommendations

- Collection of de-identifying data only for PIT
- Need to pre-identify literally homeless students to contact during PIT count
- Homeless Liaisons utilize all 3 days for data collection
- Need for support from teachers, counselors and administration
- CFTH to provide support and easy access to training and technical support
- Surveys collected via computer or mobile app-customization needed while upholding proven methodology



Youth Homelessness in Fort Bend County

Fort Bend ISD's PEIMS Data



Fit HUD
definition

Unsheltered	42	0	0	61	0	0	0
Hotel/Motel	77	0	180	408	114	0	15
Sheltered	152	0	0	274	0	0	0
Doubled-up	797	24	1091	2496	419	0	88

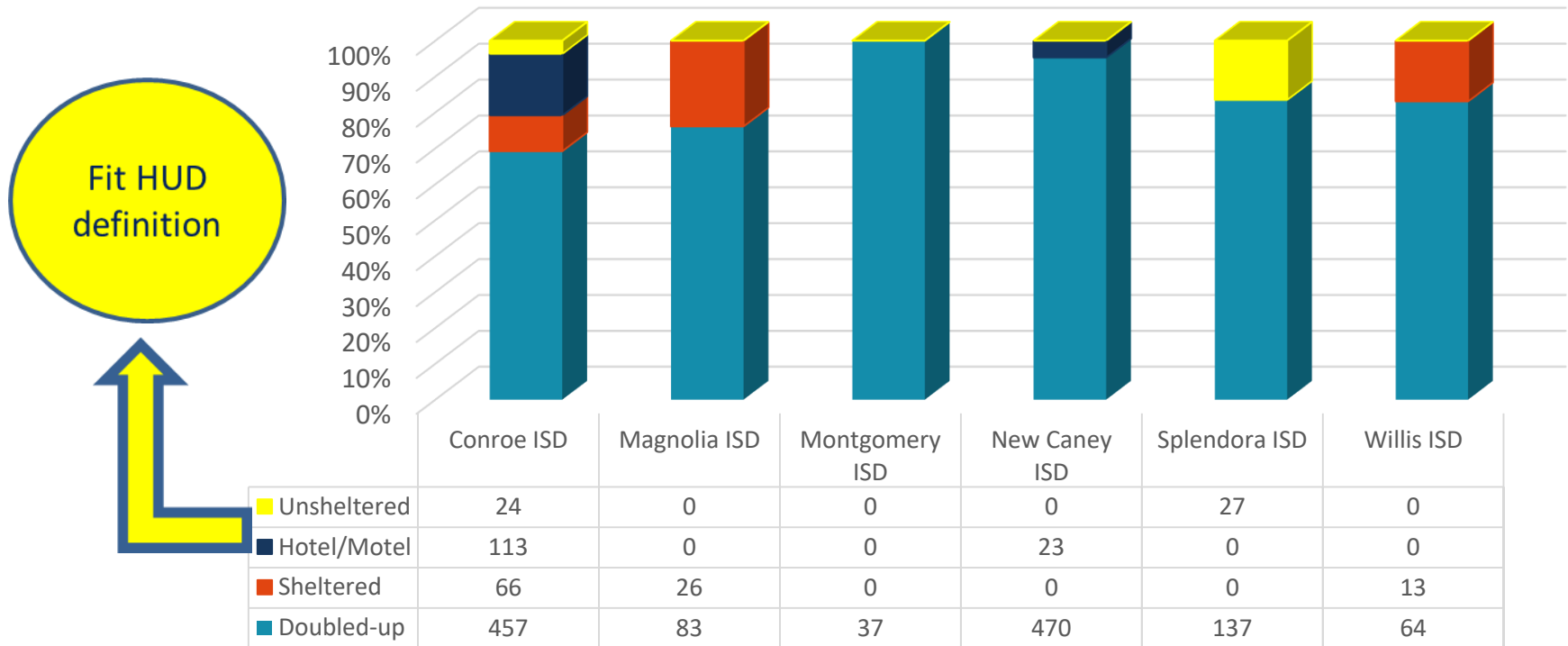


Changing the Path for Houston's Homeless

<https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/housing-center/docs/YCT-docs/YouthHomelessnessTexas-Report.pdf>

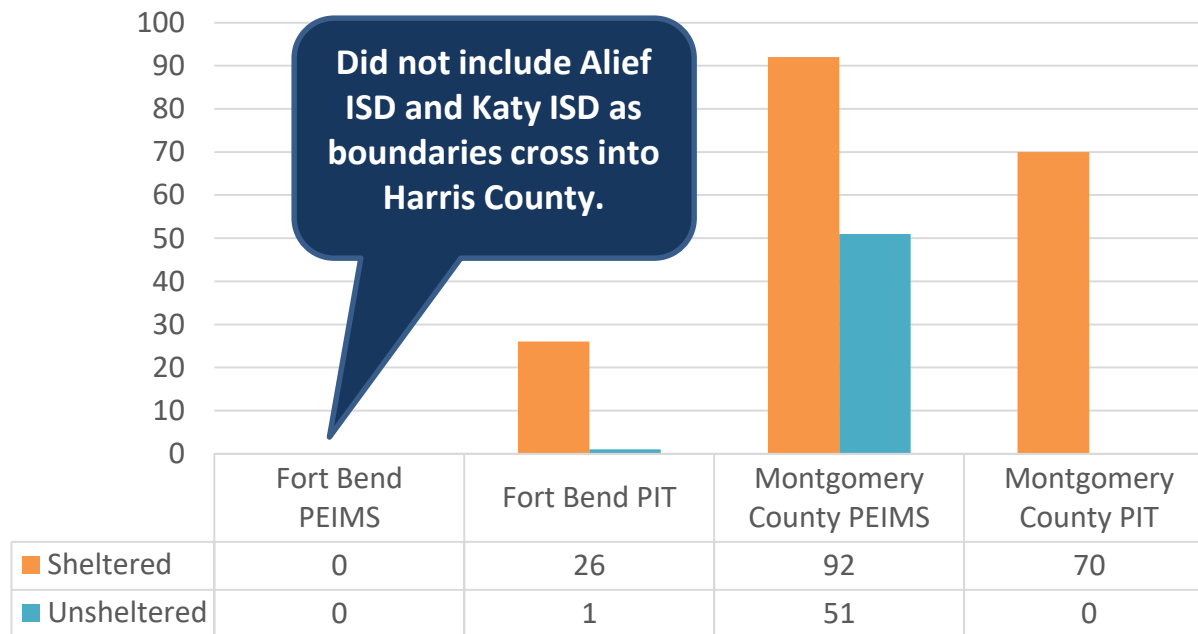
Youth Homelessness in Montgomery County

ISD's PEIMS Data



Bridging the Data with PIT

Comparison of Literal Homeless Youth Under 18
in Fort Bend & Montgomery Counties



THN Balance of State Districts

“We encourage the leads to partner with school district homeless liaisons for planning and execution of the PIT count. The hope is that the homeless liaison can provide critical insight as to where homeless families and/or youth are most likely to be found. The role the homeless liaison can play during the PIT count is being the nexus between the PIT lead and the school district; making sure that the lead is aware of the particular needs of school age children and their families, helping to get buy-in within the district to participate in the PIT count, and to make sure that homeless age youth and their families are being surveyed on the day of the PIT count.”



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Texas Homeless Network

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Recommendations Moving Forward

- Begin communication early
- Review shared goals and how to attain
- Formalize relationship with written MOU
- Design and adopt Best Practices for data-sharing
- Encourage training and use of HMIS by schools
- Enhance role of CFTH to link students and families to housing and resources
- Project Managers offer on site assessments for literally homeless youth



Sample MOU—CFTH Agrees to...

1. Serve as the CoC Lead Agency responsible for the coordination and oversight of the CoC planning efforts resources to maximize impact of services for homeless youth.
2. Coordinate and leverage the Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) as a data collection and coordinated intake tool to track the characteristics and services needs of the homeless and at-risk youth to be served within the funded programs.
3. Coordinate and implement Coordinated Access homeless assessments for literally homeless youth as identified by regional education agencies and school districts.
4. Provide annual technical assistance and training to school district homeless liaisons and educators to identify literally homeless youth in support of the regional Point-In-Time Homeless Count and Survey.
5. Assign CoC representative as lead agency liaison to provide support, trainings and participate in meetings and conferences as requested by school district.



Sample MOU—ISD Agrees to...

1. Support CoC Lead Agency in connecting homeless and at-risk youth and families within school district to facilitate client access to housing and supportive services.
2. Share public PIEMS data collected by school district regarding homeless and at-risk youth within guidelines set by state and federal confidentiality requirements.
3. Support the annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey by surveying of literally homeless youth as defined by HUD during the final 10 days in January by:
 - A. Assigning school district homeless liaisons to attend homeless count planning workgroups and trainings;
 - B. Providing support and assistance to homeless liaisons and district staff during the annual count as needed; and
 - C. Collecting and sharing de-identified anonymous and consensual demographics and survey information in the CoC Point-in-time count and survey.



Part 5-Numbers Count: Impact of Homeless Data

2018

HOMELESS

**COUNT &
SURVEY**

The key to solving homelessness is understanding who is homeless



New Technology Introduced in 2018 – Counting Us App

Getting Started with the Point in Time App



Step 1: Download the Counting Us mobile app from [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#).
Search for the term “Counting Us” or use the QR code to the right to find the app.



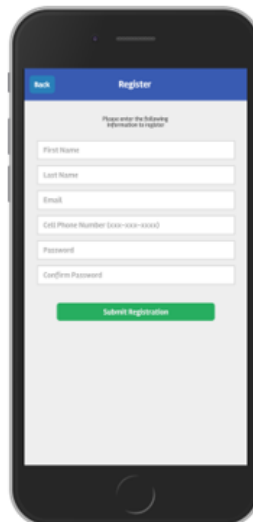
Step 2: Tap Register

This will bring you to the registration form



Step 3: Register

Enter your info and tap “Submit Registration”



Step 4: Enter your info

Tap “Log In” & then tap “Choose Count”



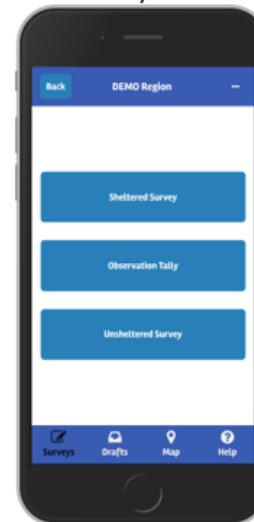
Step 5: Join a Count

Enter the Setup Key of **Houston 18** and tap “Join Count”

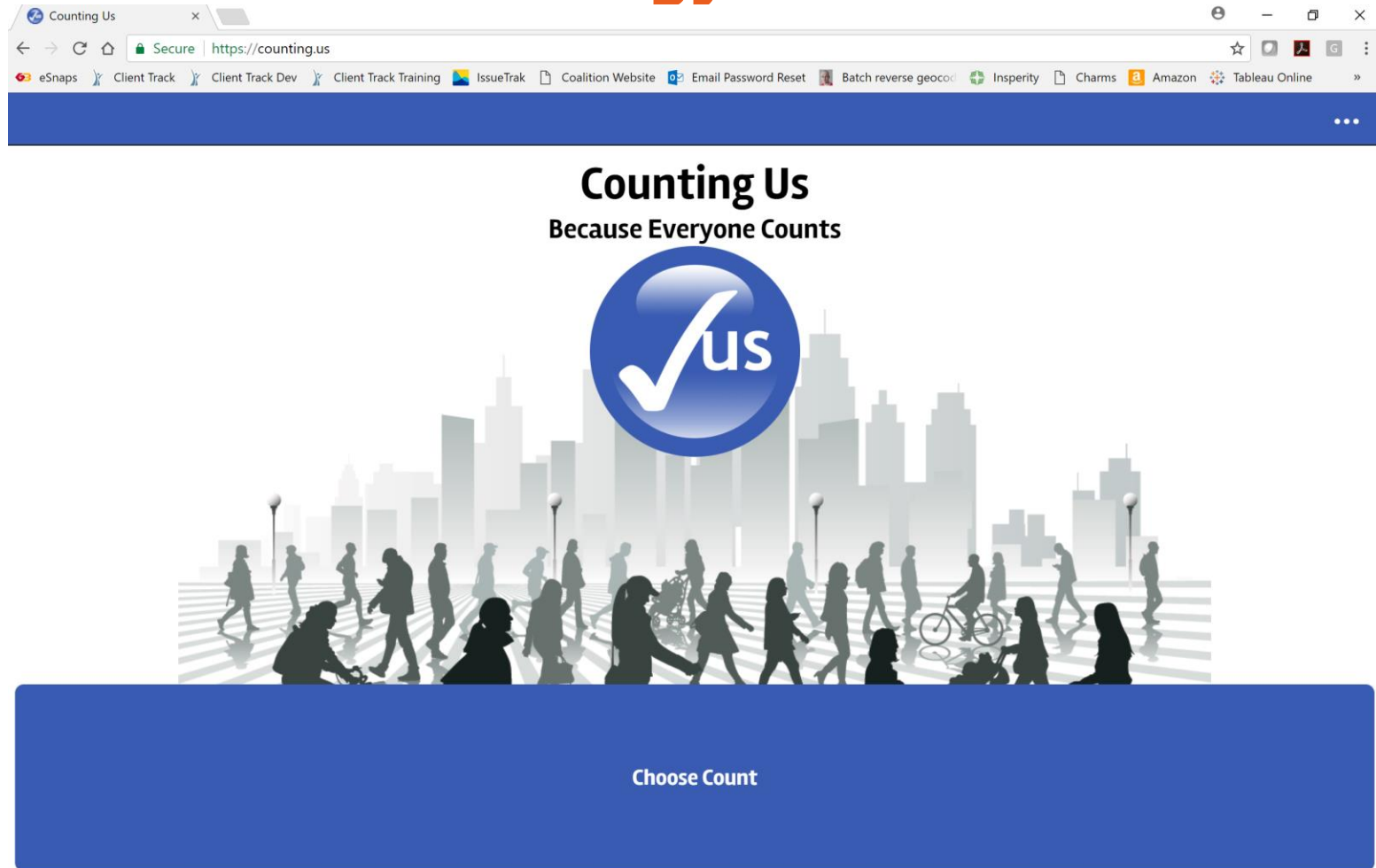


Step 6: Select the applicable survey

Surveys available are based on your count



2018 – New Technology

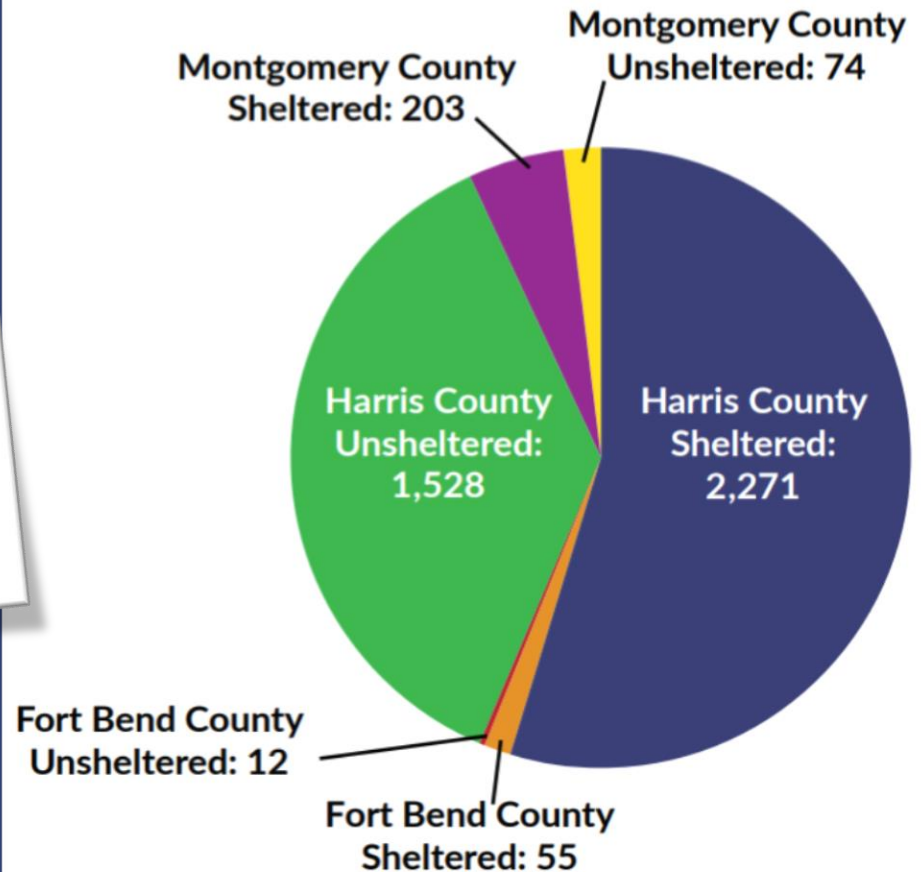


2018 Homeless Count Results



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Total: 4,143

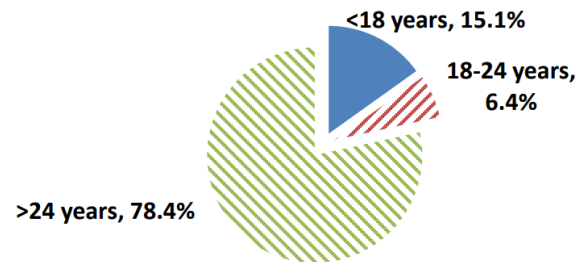


2018 Youth and Young Adults

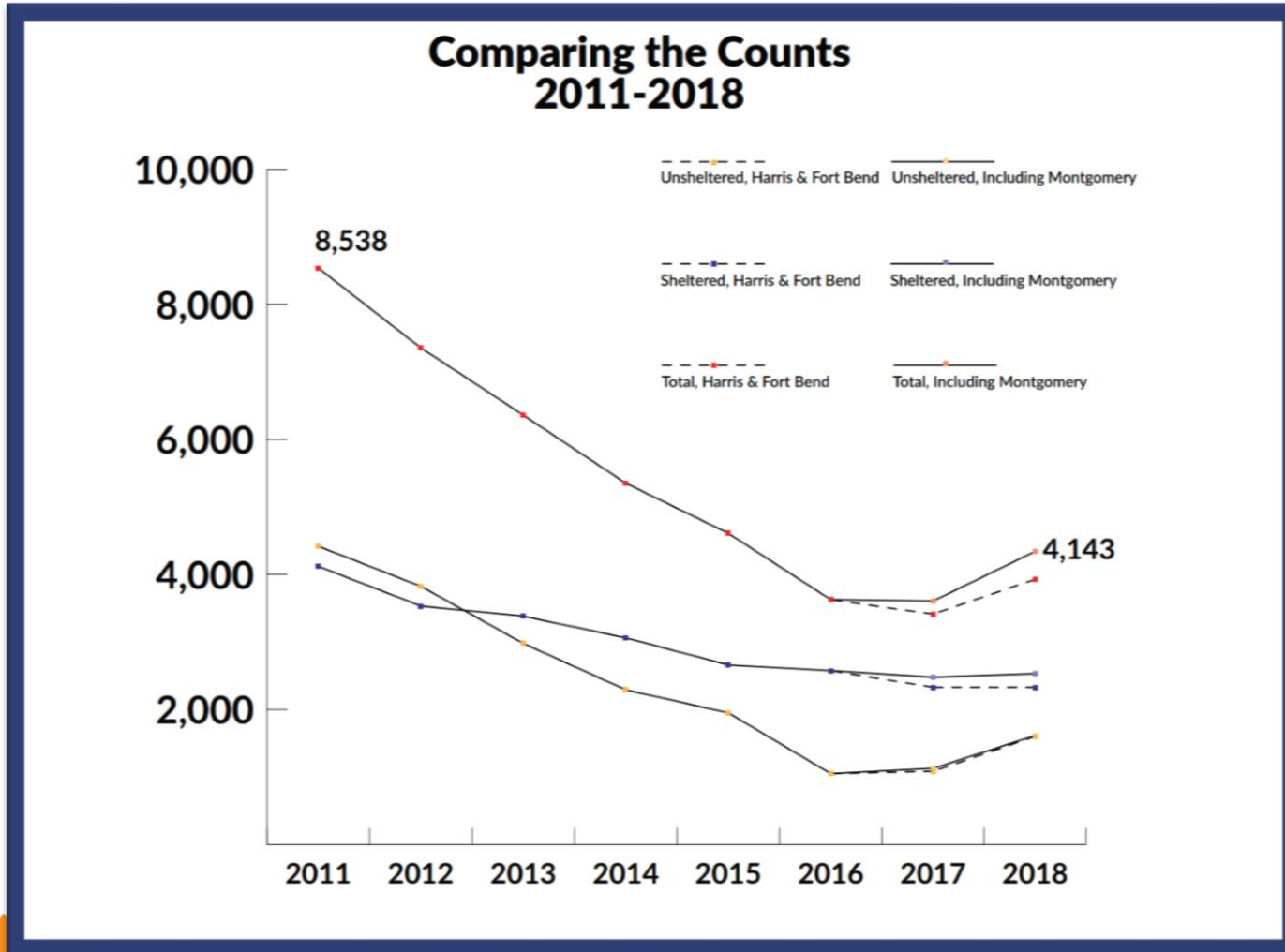
	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of unaccompanied youth households	72	31	0	70	173
Total number of unaccompanied youth	96	36	0	70	202
Number of unaccompanied children (under age 18)	2	0	0	0	2
Number of unaccompanied young adults (age 18 to 24)	94	36	0	70	200



Age Distribution of Total Population Experiencing Homelessness



2018 Homeless Count Results



2018 Notable Developments

Hurricane Harvey:

In August 2017 Hurricane Harvey hit Southeast Texas bringing with it historic flooding and unprecedented impacts on affordable housing. The Houston Housing Authority reported damage to nearly 5,800 affordable housing units in its inventory. Nearly 18% of unsheltered individuals at the time of the Homeless Count & Survey reported that they became homeless due to Hurricane Harvey, whether it was their first time homeless or not.

Montgomery County:

In 2016, Montgomery County was added to The Way Home Continuum of Care, and it was included last year in the 2017 Homeless Count & Survey. However, data from Montgomery County was not included in trends and comparisons last year. This and future Homeless Count Fact Sheets will compare the current year data, including Montgomery County, with 2011 data that did not include Montgomery County.

The annual Homeless Count was organized and led by the Coalition for the Homeless in consultation with the University of Texas School of Public Health and the City of Houston Health and Human Services Department. For a full executive summary, visit: www.homelesshouston.org



Brainstorming Session



Steps Forward



Would you like to
volunteer for the 2019
Homeless Point in Time Count?





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The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County leads in the development, advocacy, and coordination of community strategies to prevent and end homelessness.

The Way Home



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