



2015-2016

Polk County Continuum of Care

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Dear Member,

As we reflect upon our first year with an Executive Director of the Polk County Continuum of Care, we are proud of all we have accomplished and the progress we have made on behalf of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Polk County, but there is still work to do.

It has been an honor to work with our community partners in forging a path towards ending homelessness in Polk County. Across the continuum, we have made substantial, tangible progress in 2016.

This past year we were able to increase the overall Continuum of Care grant amount by 7% which funded projects at 7 community agencies. The overall homeless population was reduced by 4.5% in Polk County and we have set an aggressive goal of reducing this by 15% in the coming year. Additionally, our efforts to identify and set forth a housing plan for each veteran in Des Moines were accomplished.

The effectiveness of the organization would not be possible without the efforts of our board. Their hard work and dedication have been immensely important in our efforts. Thank you all for your hard work throughout the last year.

Sincerely,

Mark Phillips
Executive Director

Libby Nelson, VP and G.C. at Kemin Ind.
Chair of the Board

Board Members

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Dr. Yogesh Shah
Doug Stodgel
Major Steve Waymire
Susan E. Wright

Our Vision

Everyone in Polk County will have a safe place to call home.

Our Mission

Our mission is to end homelessness in Polk County by marshalling community resources and facilitating and managing effective partnerships focused on providing services, supports, and solutions to create a safe home for everyone.

Our Values

Collaboration.

We will cultivate relationships and effective partnerships to identify and allocate diverse resources for our homeless community.

Impact.

We will strengthen and support our homeless delivery systems with a focus on transforming the lives of our most vulnerable populations.

Empowerment.

We will empower our community to function at the highest levels of service to develop safe places to call home.



Homelessness by the numbers in Polk County

Thank you to our operational partners!

Polk County Board of Supervisors

City of Des Moines

Polk County Housing Trust Fund

Polk County Health Services

Point In Time Count

Each year HUD mandates every Continuum of Care complete a "Point in Time" count that requires efforts from numerous agencies, individuals and organizations in the community. During the Point In Time, volunteers count for every person (s) in Polk County experiencing homelessness whether living in transitional housing, emergency shelter or is unsheltered.

793

Total counted during January Annual Point in Time

Quick Facts

Homelessness down 4.5% since FY 2015

Chronic* Homelessness down 40.6% since FY 2015

Veteran Homelessness down 11% since FY 2015

72% of participants entered the homeless system for the first time

37% of shelter participants exited to permanent housing

***Chronic definition:** Homelessness has been continuous for one year plus or has occurred 4 or more times in the past 3 years, and the person or family member has a disability of long duration.

3,493

Total Number Served by Homeless Service Providers in Polk County

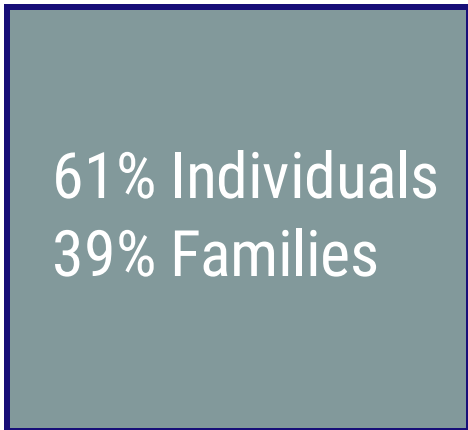




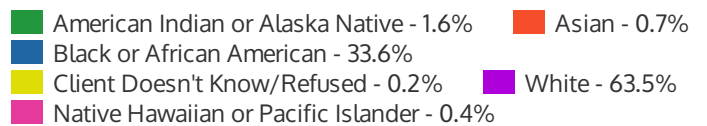
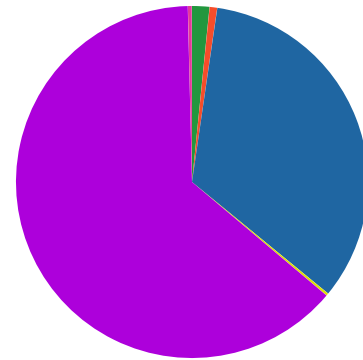
Whom the Continuum has served

A snapshot of the homelessness statistics in our community provided by Institute For Community Alliances.

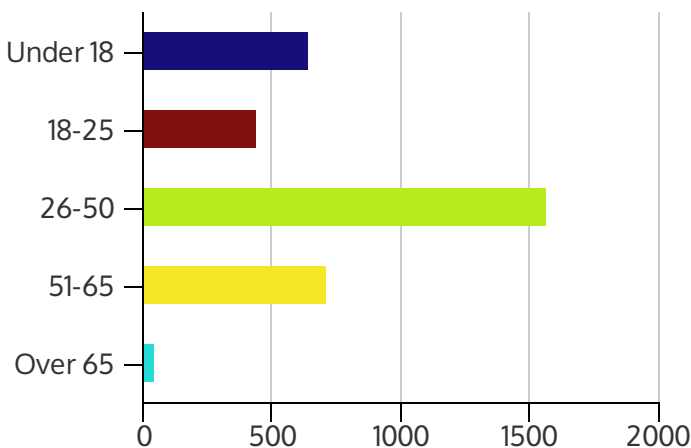
Family Composition



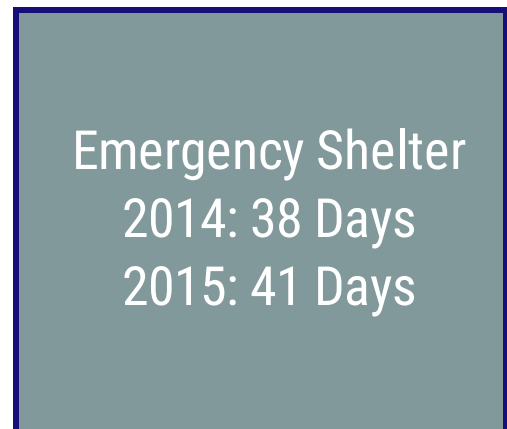
Racial Demographics



Age Demographics



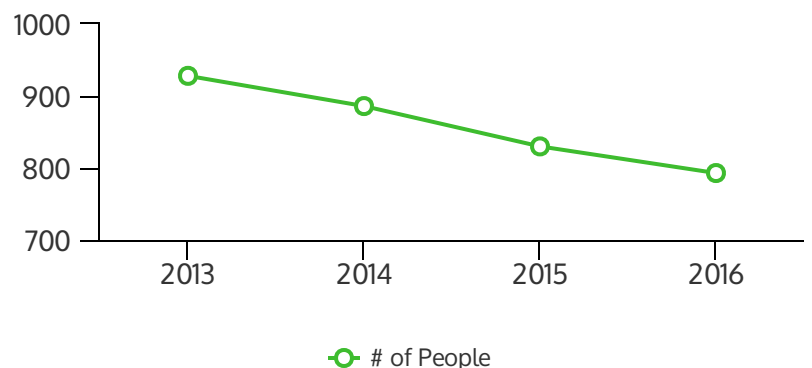
Average Length of Stay



Chronic Homelessness



Point In Time



Progress across the Continuum of Care

FY 2016 Continuum of Care



Increase in HUD funding by 7%, creating 40 new Permanent Supportive Housing beds



Completed 501(c)(3) filing and solidified organizational structure



Organized a "Homeless Connect" event, serving over 200 individuals experiencing homelessness

Centralized Intake: is a single point of referral for anyone experiencing homelessness in Polk County.



Since its inception in January 2015, over 3,000 intakes have been completed



Finalized policies and procedures with Primary Health Care, service agency for Centralized Intake



Evaluated Centralized Intake and continued to establish benchmarks

Veterans Mayor's Challenge



Achieved "functional zero" benchmarks in March 2016



Developed a service plan for each veteran experiencing homelessness



Average length of homelessness dropped below 90 days for veterans

Goals for 2017



Reduce homeless population by 15% or 85 people during FY 2017



Community-wide reduction in length of stay in emergency shelters by 10%



Finalize and adopt the Continuum's first strategic plan



Polk County Continuum of Care Board
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For more information on the Polk County Continuum of Care,

Contact us at:

Website: www.polkcococ.org

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Twitter: @PCCOCB

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Cover photo by Loren Ekart, www.lorenpaul.com
Thank you to Patrick Schacherer for all of his efforts developing this report