

Waypoint's Focus: *Housing Solutions*

Waypoint is Leading the Way to Address Homelessness and Housing Instability:

Our strategic goal is to meet the ever-changing needs of the community and ensure programs operate using best practice and efficient approaches. Over the past five years, we have seen tremendous growth within our Housing Services and the number of individuals served increased, serving over 10,000 more individuals.



Housing First Interventions Are Best Practice

Studies released by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) highlight the importance of "Housing First" approaches. There is growing evidence that it is an effective solution to addressing homelessness and households are more likely to remain stably housed. **Per the NAEH website, a Housing First Program could save up to \$23,000 per consumer per year in comparison with a shelter program.**

- Housing First is an approach that prioritizes providing housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus **ending their homelessness, and serving as a platform which they can pursue goals and improve quality of life.** This is guided by the belief that individuals need basic necessities (food and a place to live) before addressing employment, substance abuse, mental health, and budgeting. (National Alliance to End Homelessness)
- Individuals that are supported through a Rapid Re-Housing Program, a Housing First approach which provides limited rental and deposit assistance, **experience homelessness for shorter periods of time** than those assisted with shelter or transitional housing. Rapid Re-Housing is also less expensive compared to other homeless interventions, such as shelter or transitional housing. (National Alliance to End Homelessness)
- Evidence from several rigorous studies indicates that Housing First programs **increase housing stability and decrease rates of homelessness.** (HUD)

WAYPOINT

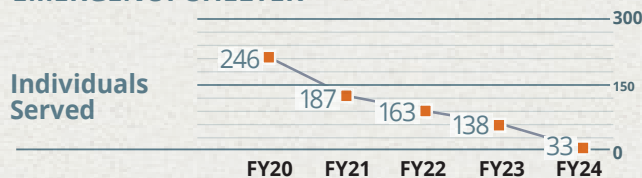
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Waypoint's Housing Services Numbers: 5 Year Trends

Emergency Shelter

We know keeping people out of emergency shelter or focusing efforts on getting people directly into housing is **more cost-effective, and positively impacts quality of life and community functioning**. Our data reflects, emergency shelter numbers for women and families with children have decreased. This is largely attributed to efforts to divert, when possible, to housing solutions that exist outside of emergency shelter, supporting people to maintain and build natural support networks. Those served by our shelter program only make up .01% of the work we do to address housing instability.

EMERGENCY SHELTER



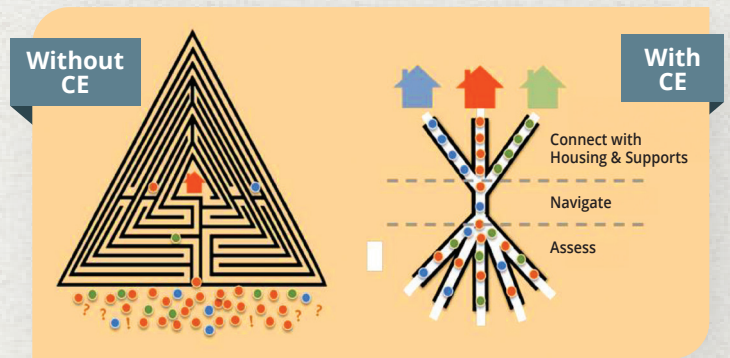
*emergency shelter operations ceased 12/31/2023

Coordinated Entry: Impacts the Whole Community

(see figure a. top right of page)

Coordinated Entry (CE) is imperative to the community's entire housing system and removes the burden of navigating the housing services system. This system ensures all people experiencing a housing instability are quickly identified, assessed and connected to the most appropriate housing intervention.

Over 20 local agencies are supported through this collaborative approach of the CE system. Waypoint staff complete intakes, make strategic referrals, and provide effective diversion strategies so the supported agencies can focus on delivering the most effective services without the administrative burden of the intake process.

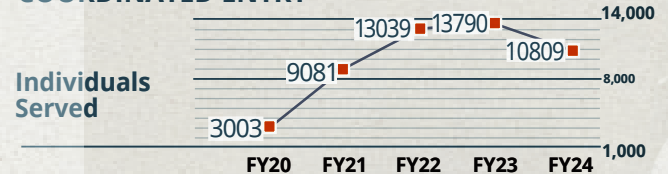


(figure a.)

Community Agencies Supported through Coordinated Entry

Abbe	Hospital Social Workers (shelter navigation/safety planning)
Access to Independence	Iowa Legal Aid
ASAC	Larry Nelson Center
Catherine McAuley Center	Linn County General Assistance
Catholic Charities	Local law enforcement (shelter navigation/safety planning)
Catholic Worker House	Marion Cares
Family Promise	Metro Catholic Outreach
Four Oaks	Veteran's Affairs
Friends of the Family	Willis Dady
HACAP	
Helping Hands	
Hinzman Center	

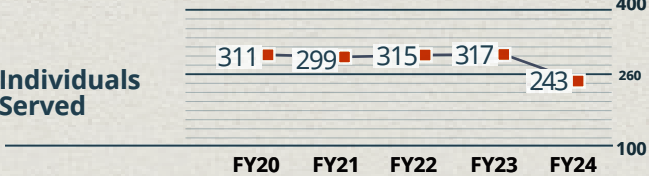
COORDINATED ENTRY



Rapid Re-Housing

Rapid Re-Housing focuses on securing permanent housing as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The program focuses on housing identification, rent assistance, and case management. Financial assistance can be used to cover the cost of security deposits and limited rental assistance. Case management focuses on connecting households to other resources and services in the community to address any issues or barriers that may prevent them from maintaining their stable housing.

RAPID RE-HOUSING



Homeless Diversion/Eviction Prevention

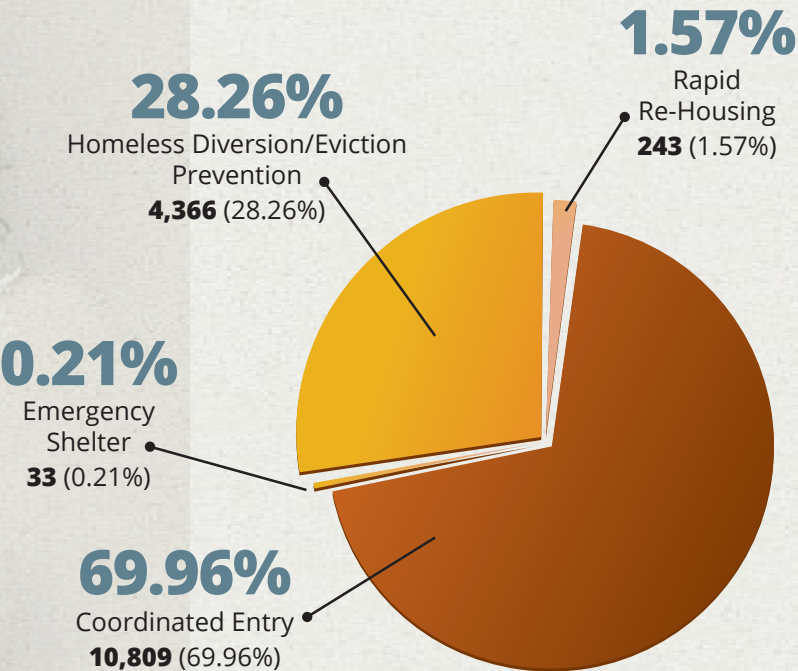
Eviction Prevention supports households that are in the initial stages of experiencing a housing crisis. Homeless Diversion efforts focus on those who are at risk of homelessness but are not yet experiencing literal homelessness.

HOMELESS DIVERSION/EVICTION PREVENTION



Tenant Academy

The Tenant Academy is a free, nine-hour course focusing on communication, conflict resolution, money management, move-in/move-out process, and taking care of a home. Upon completion of the course, participants receive certification to present to landlords to show their reliability and knowledge on the rental process.



We Are on the Right Track *to End Homelessness*



National Alliance to End Homelessness: *Linn County Iowa Assessment*

National Alliance to End Homelessness came to Cedar Rapids to assess our homeless system, individuals experiencing a housing crisis, homeless and housing providers, and local data. **Results indicate that to have an effective homeless response system, our community needs to have the following goals:**

- 1** **House people** as quickly as possible
- 2** Divert people from **imminent homelessness** whenever possible

How You Can Help

- Make a monetary donation to support Waypoint's Housing Services
- Raise awareness by following us on social media and sharing our posts
- Become a volunteer
- Participate in Waypoint events

Strategic goals include:

- Align all activities/interventions of your community's system around the common goal of housing people quickly and stabilizing them
- Fund effective activities/interventions that reach this goal: Diversion, Coordinated Entry, Data Reporting and Analysis
- Develop strategic resource collaboration and coordination across all homeless, housing, and human service providers to improve outcomes and fill gaps using a regional planning body

"Experiencing homelessness is just one chapter in someone's life, not the whole book."



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