

Six months of making a difference: Multnomah County helps hundreds move into housing, access shelter

February 2022 update

How Multnomah County is using Supportive Housing Services funding to address chronic homelessness right now

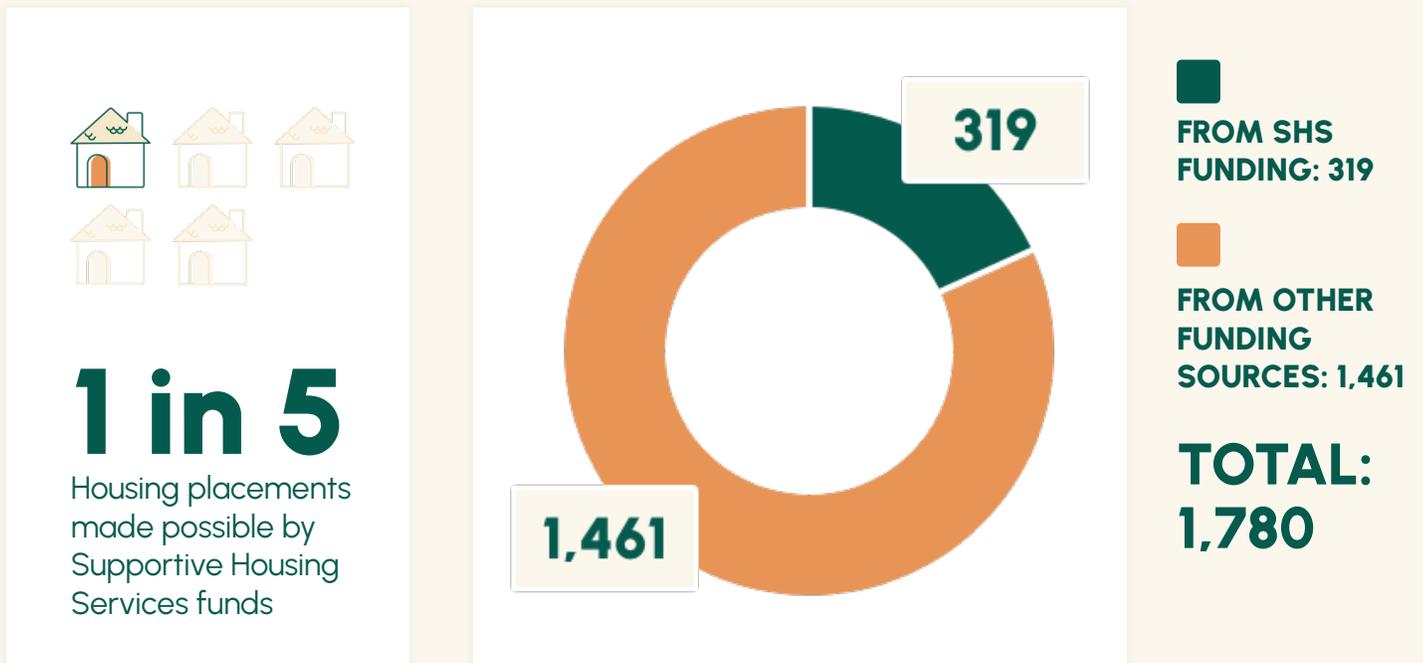
Six months after funding became available, Multnomah County and the Joint Office of Homeless Services are delivering on the promise of Metro's Supportive Housing Services Measure.

Putting this year's \$52 million allocation to immediate use, the Joint Office has moved hundreds of people into permanent homes, added new shelter options, and expanded street outreach, community cleanup and behavioral health services. In all, nearly two-dozen programs have launched or expanded.

Metro has required each county receiving funds to present detailed quarterly reports of their progress. Here's a guide to Multnomah County's work from July 1 to December 31, 2021.

Read more, including current and past reports, at multco.us/joint-office-homeless-services

Permanent and supportive housing: surge of support helps hundreds



Ending Homelessness With Affordable Housing

Between July 1 and December 31, 2021, the Joint Office helped 1,780 people leave the streets or shelters for homes of their own. Most of this progress came in recent weeks, as the Joint Office moves from ramp-up to results. Those gains rely on people moving into both market-rate apartments AND new affordable developments. Both approaches are essential. Housing is just as immediate and urgent as other strategies that help our neighbors on the streets.

Safety off the streets: shelters shift from 'planned' to 'open'

Two new shelter programs serving at least 85 more people each night opened their doors thanks to Supportive Housing Services funds.

- The Arbor Lodge Shelter is a first-of-its-kind hybrid shelter, offering 58 beds inside a converted retail store, with 12 sleeping pods in the parking lot.
- Beacon Village PDX in Montavilla has 10 sleeping pods that serve up to 15 people a night.

Supportive Housing Services funds helped the County partner with Project Turnkey to purchase a 43-room motel that was under lease for use as a shelter. And the Joint Office is supporting a separate motel program in partnership with Multnomah County's Health Department, focused on people with behavioral health challenges.

Hygiene services, community cleanup work and job training

Supportive Housing Services funds are also directly addressing urgent livability issues, with a focus on empowering people experiencing homelessness. New outreach and job-training programs are providing job opportunities as well as services like showers and trash pickup. This cleanup work isn't connected to camp removals – it helps clean the spaces where people are.



76,000 pounds of trash collected



3,400 showers provided through hygiene stations



34 cleanup projects launched



PARTNER SNAPSHOT:

Carol's story: A new home after four years in her vehicle

Northwest Pilot Project used SHS funds to help a woman named Carol find an apartment after four years of living in her car, which was so stuffed with her belongings she couldn't stretch out to sleep.

Carol had been referred by a hospital social worker and was "out of ideas." Between her limited Social Security checks, ongoing debts and a past eviction, she couldn't find a landlord who would rent to her. Northwest Pilot Project used SHS funds to change that, providing Carol with ongoing support services along with a stable source of rent assistance.

