

# Homeless Strategies Update

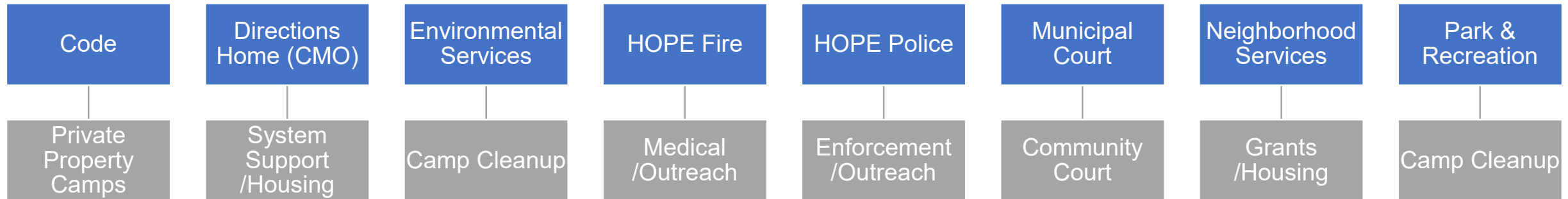
January 14, 2025 City Council Work Session

*Presented by*

Bethany Warner, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

Tara Perez, Directions Home Manager

# Homelessness Efforts Across Departments



# Agenda

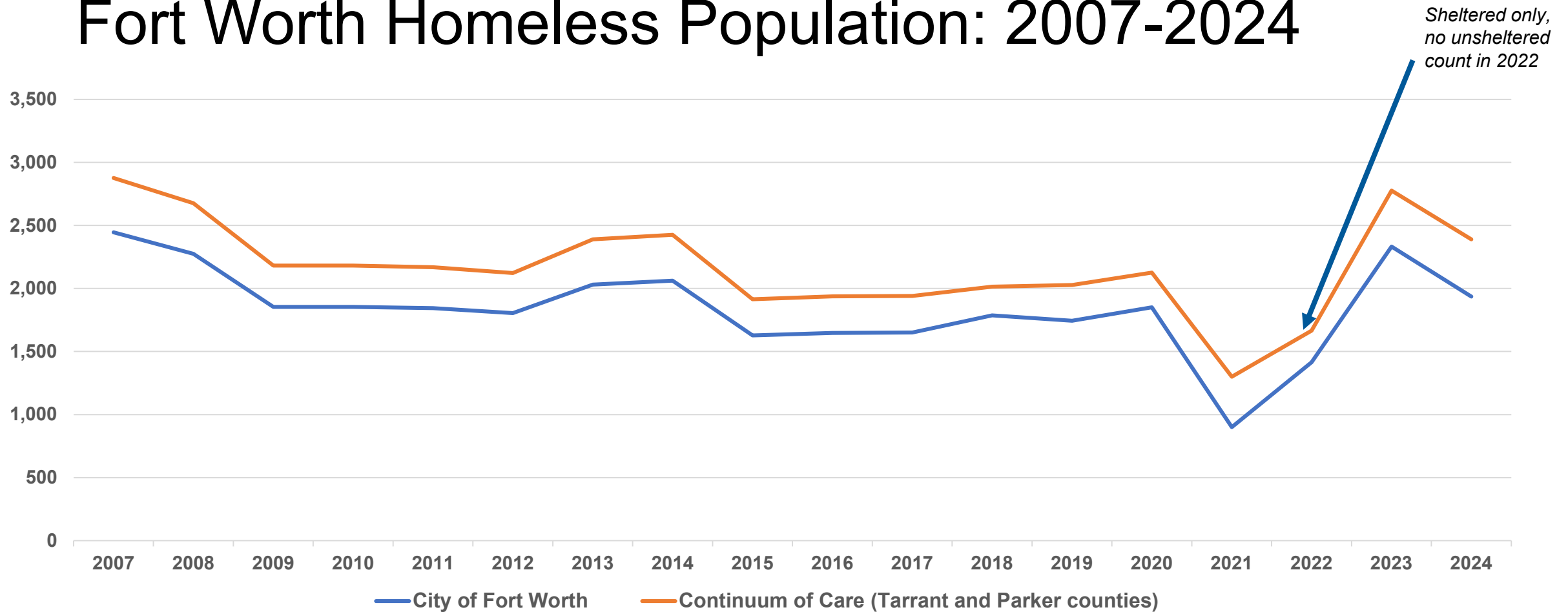
## Requested Information

- **2024 Homelessness Counts**
- Overview of City Efforts Related to Homeless System
- Camp Cleanup Cost Overview
- High ImpACT Pilot Program Update

## Homeless Strategies

- Stakeholder Input
- Next Steps, Strategies

# Fort Worth Homeless Population: 2007-2024



*Sheltered only,  
no unsheltered  
count in 2022*

Source for CoC count: 2007-2023 PIT Counts by CoC (Department of Housing and Urban Development), State of the Homeless Report 2024 (Tarrant County Homeless Coalition). City of Fort Worth numbers were estimated at 85% of the CoC numbers based on geographic breakdown for 2007 - 2017 and 2022. Actual City of Fort Worth numbers used for 2018 - 2021 and 2023 - 2024. 2022 is a sheltered only count.

# Point-in-Time Count, 2024 vs. 2023

12% decrease  
in homelessness overall

11% decrease in  
unsheltered homelessness

14% decrease in  
veteran homelessness

33% decrease in  
family homelessness

*Across Continuum of Care  
(includes Tarrant and  
Parker Counties)*

The homeless system received approximately 350 new housing slots that were allocated mostly for families. These new federal vouchers through Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs led to significant decrease in family homelessness.

# National Trends, 2024 vs. 2023

The 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress



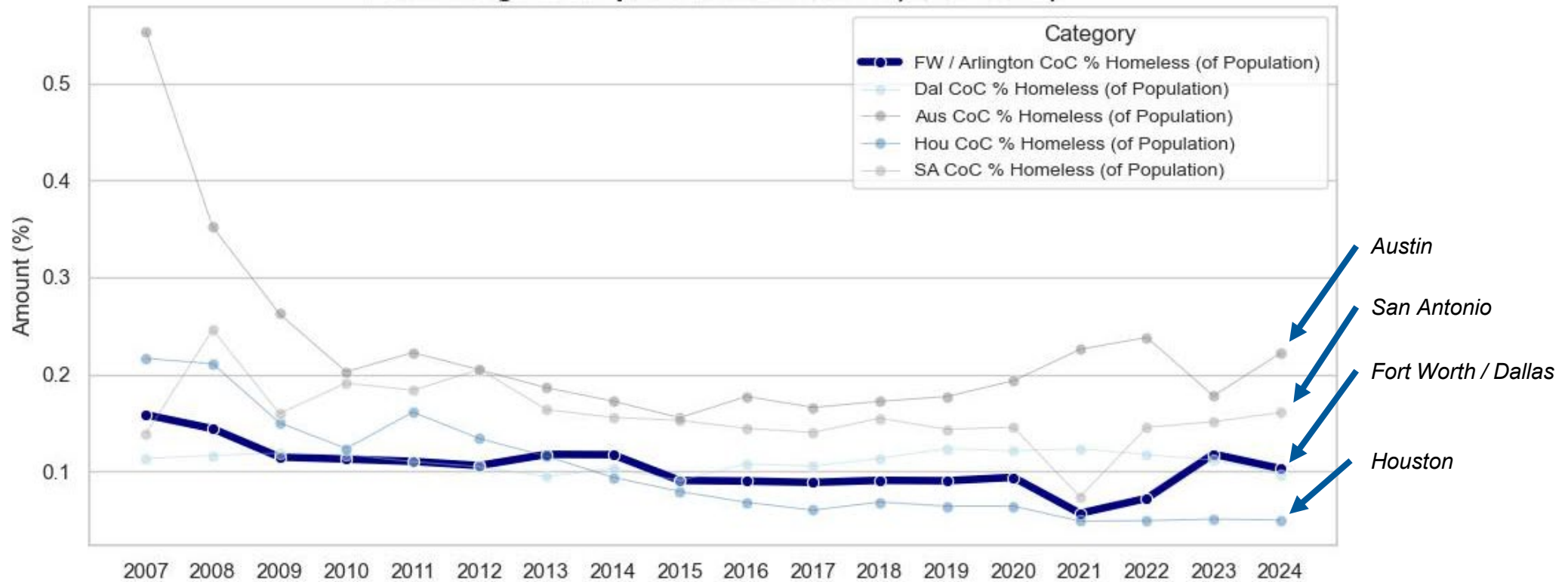
PART 1: POINT-IN-TIME ESTIMATES OF HOMELESSNESS  
DECEMBER 2024

## Change in the Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in U.S.

	2023-2024
All people	+18.1%
Sheltered	+25.4%
Unsheltered	+6.9%
Individuals	+9.6%
People in Families	+39.4%
Veterans	-7.6%

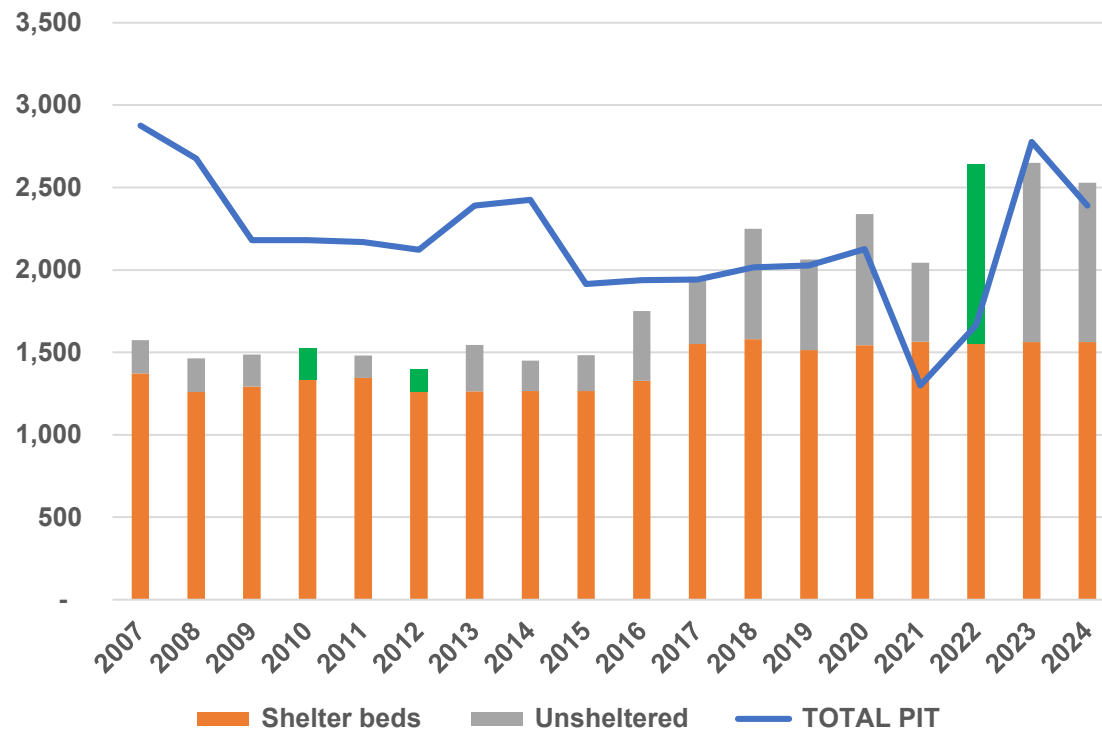
← Released December 2024

# Percentage of Population that is Homeless in Texas CoCs 2007 - 2024



Source: 2007-2024 PIT Counts by CoC (Department of Housing and Urban Development). Fort Worth / Arlington CoC is Tarrant and Parker Counties. Dallas CoC is Dallas and Collin Counties. Austin CoC is Travis County. Houston CoC is Harris, Ft. Bend, and Montgomery Counties. San Antonio CoC is Bexar County.

# Shelter Beds, Unsheltered Homeless, and Point-in-Time Count: 2007-2024



- Unsheltered homelessness has increased as shelter bed capacity has remained relatively stable for 17 years.

 Estimate

Source for CoC count: 2007-2023 PIT Counts by CoC (Department of Housing and Urban Development), State of the Homeless Report 2024 (Tarrant County Homeless Coalition). Source for emergency shelter bed count: 2007-2023 Housing Inventory County (Department of Housing and Urban Development). There was no unsheltered point in time count in 2010, 2012 or 2022 the green is estimated unsheltered number.



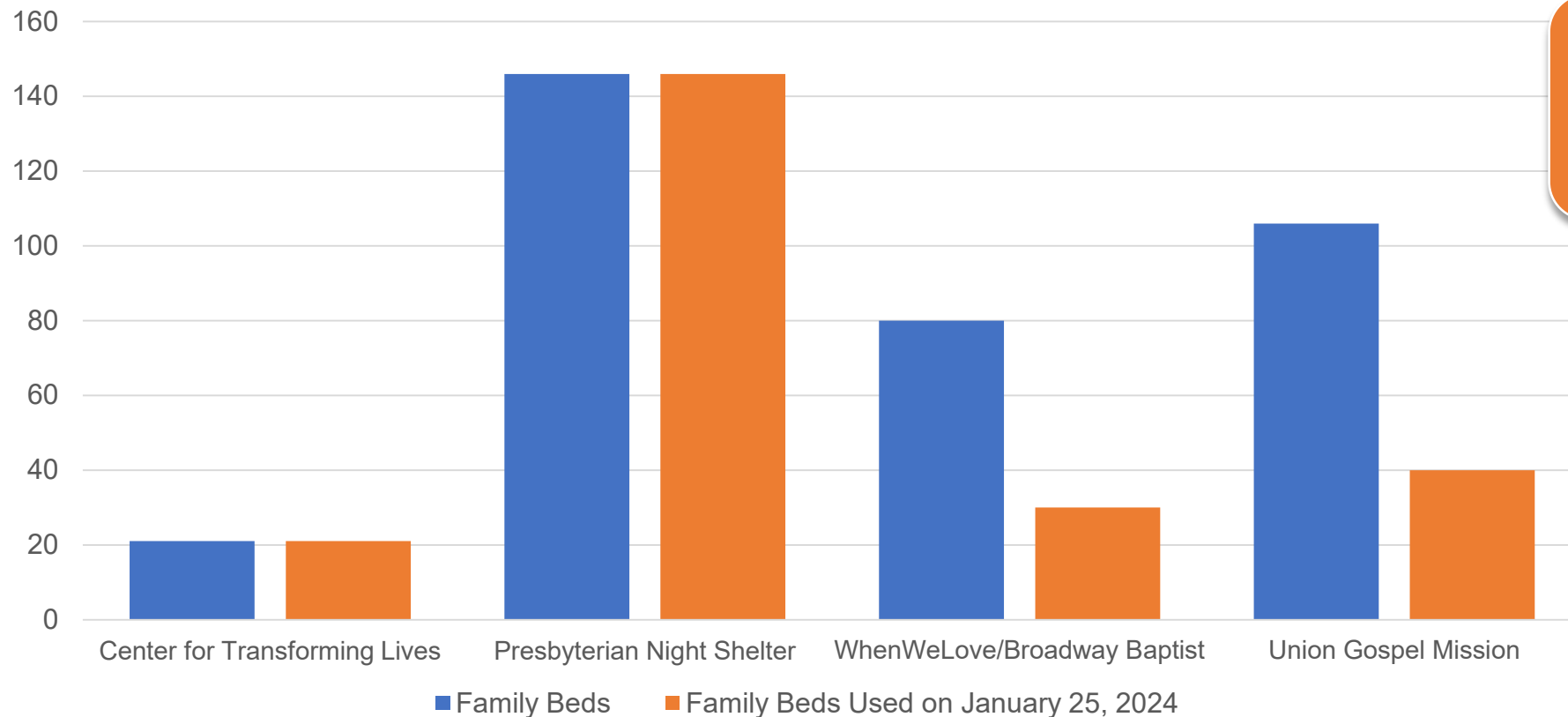
# General Population Shelters in Fort Worth as of January 25, 2024 PIT

Adult  
 Family



*Data was provided by Partnership Home based on agency submissions for the Point in Time Count and Housing Inventory Count on January 25, 2024. This list includes night by night and program beds available to general homeless population – does not include specialized program beds for domestic violence survivors or those with specific diagnoses or inclement weather beds.*

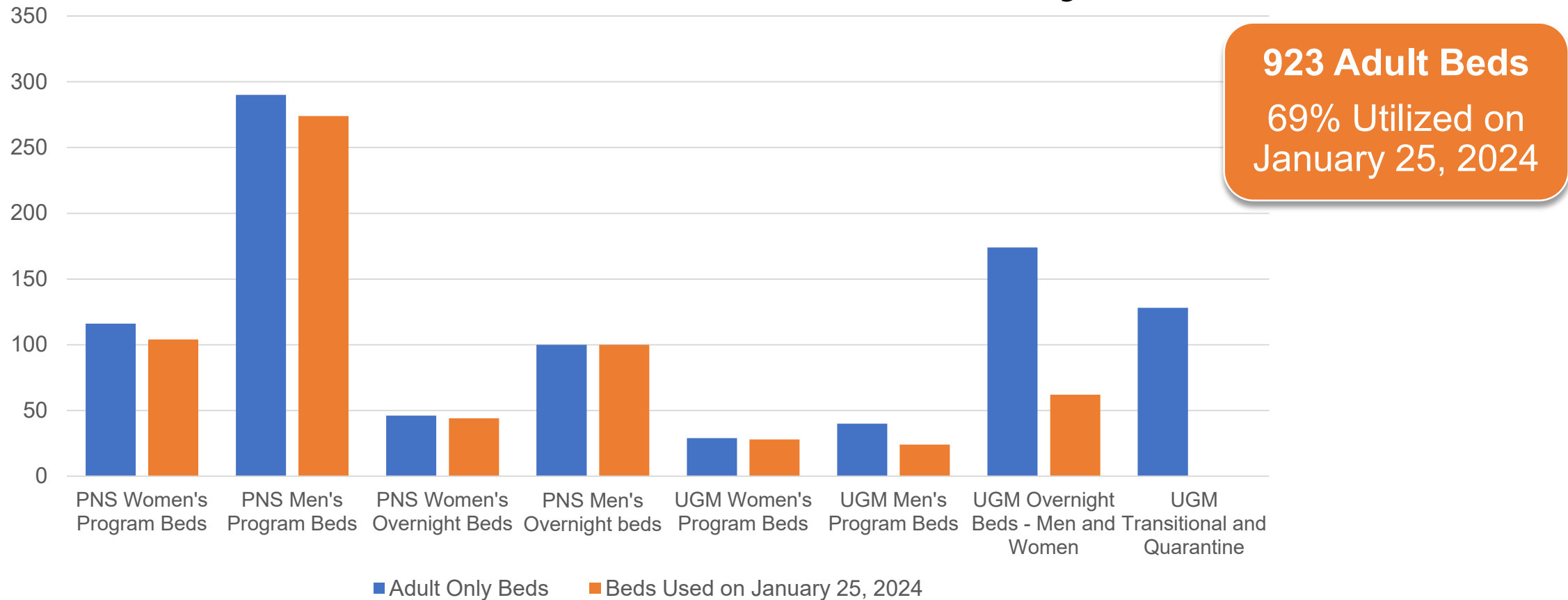
# Family Beds, Count on January 25, 2024



**353 Family Beds**  
 67% Utilized on  
 January 25, 2024

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# Adult Beds, Count on January 25, 2024



*Data was provided by Partnership Home based on agency submissions for the Point in Time Count and Housing Inventory Count on January 25, 2024. This list includes night by night and program beds available to general homeless population – does not include specialized program beds for domestic violence survivors or those with specific diagnoses or inclement weather beds.*

# Update on Shelter Utilization

- Dr. Charles M. Wolford II, Chief Executive Officer of Union Gospel Mission

# Agenda

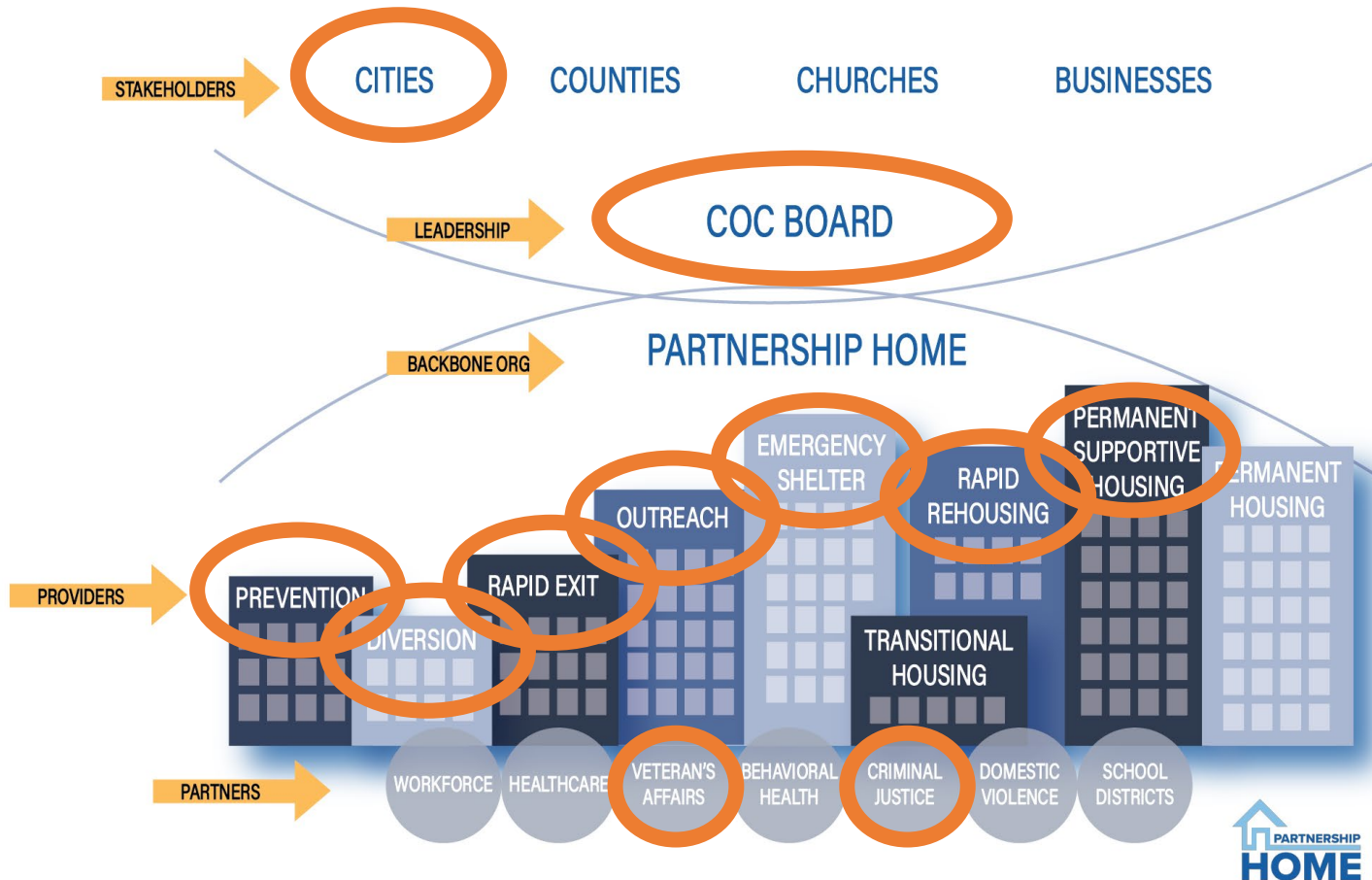
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# The City's Role in the Homeless System



Partnership Home leads, and the City has many vital roles in the system:

- Stakeholder
- Funder
- Leadership
  - Representation on Leadership Council and Membership Council
- Partner



# Non-City Sources of Funding for Homelessness in Fort Worth

## Federal Funding

- Continuum of Care, led by Partnership Home
- Tarrant County

## Project Based Vouchers (Federal Funding)

- Fort Worth Housing Solutions

## State Funding

- Various Organizations

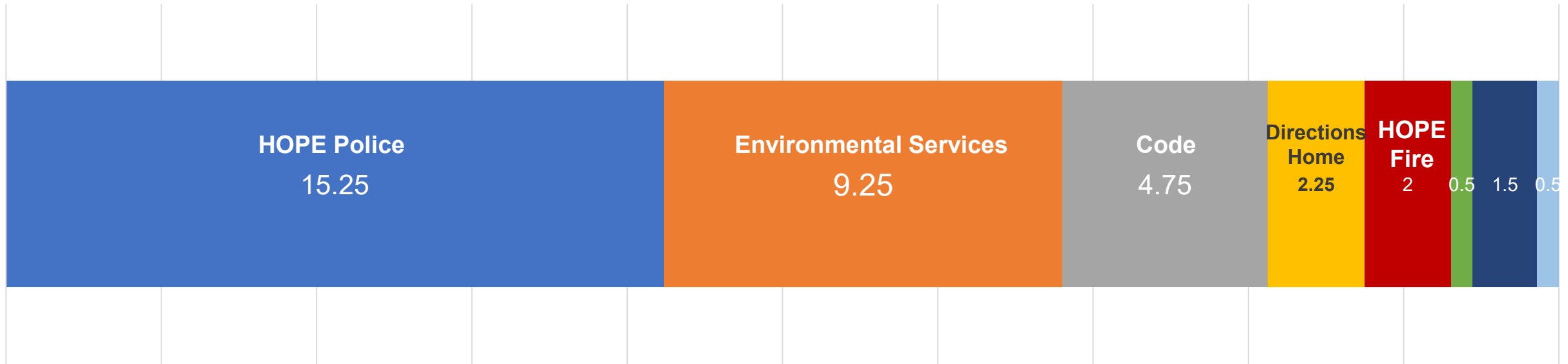
## Private Funding

- Various Philanthropic Organizations & Private Donors

## State and Federal Funding for programs for specific sub-groups

- Various Organizations
- Examples: victims of domestic violence, veterans, youth

# City Staff Dedicated to Homelessness



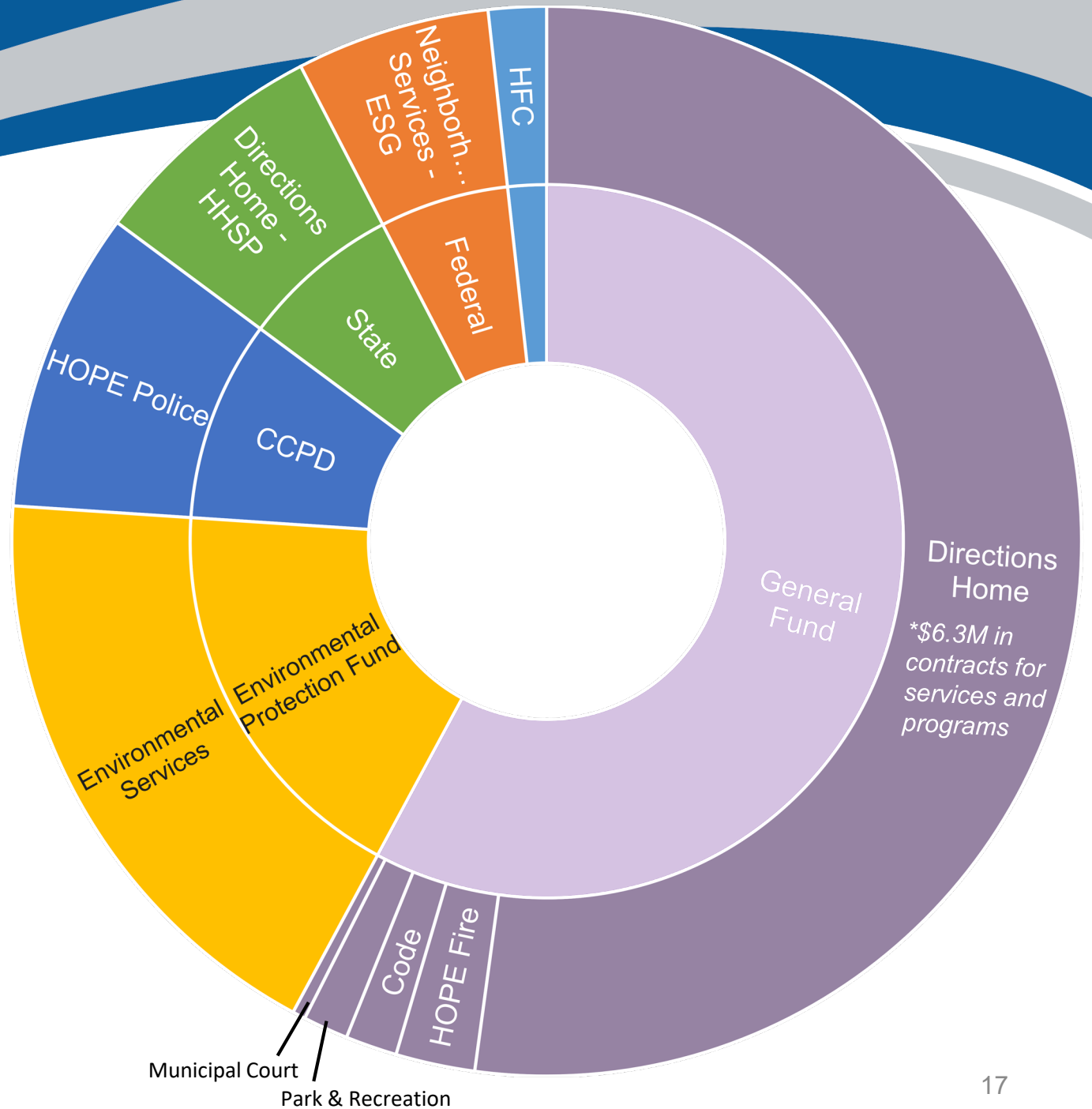
■ HOPE Police ■ Environmental Services ■ Code ■ Directions Home (CMO) ■ HOPE Fire ■ Park & Recreation ■ Neighborhood Services ■ Municipal Court

Total Staff: 36



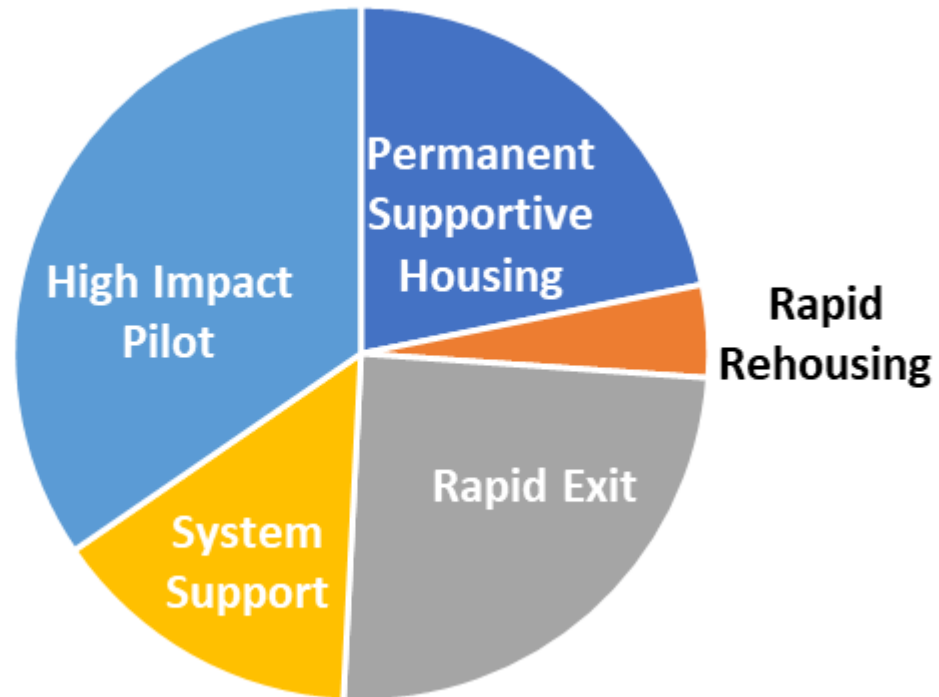
# City-Managed Funds Dedicated to Homelessness in FY24

TOTAL:  
\$10,431,068



Chart/total does not include capital projects.

# Directions Home General Funds



## FY25 Directions Home Contracted Budget

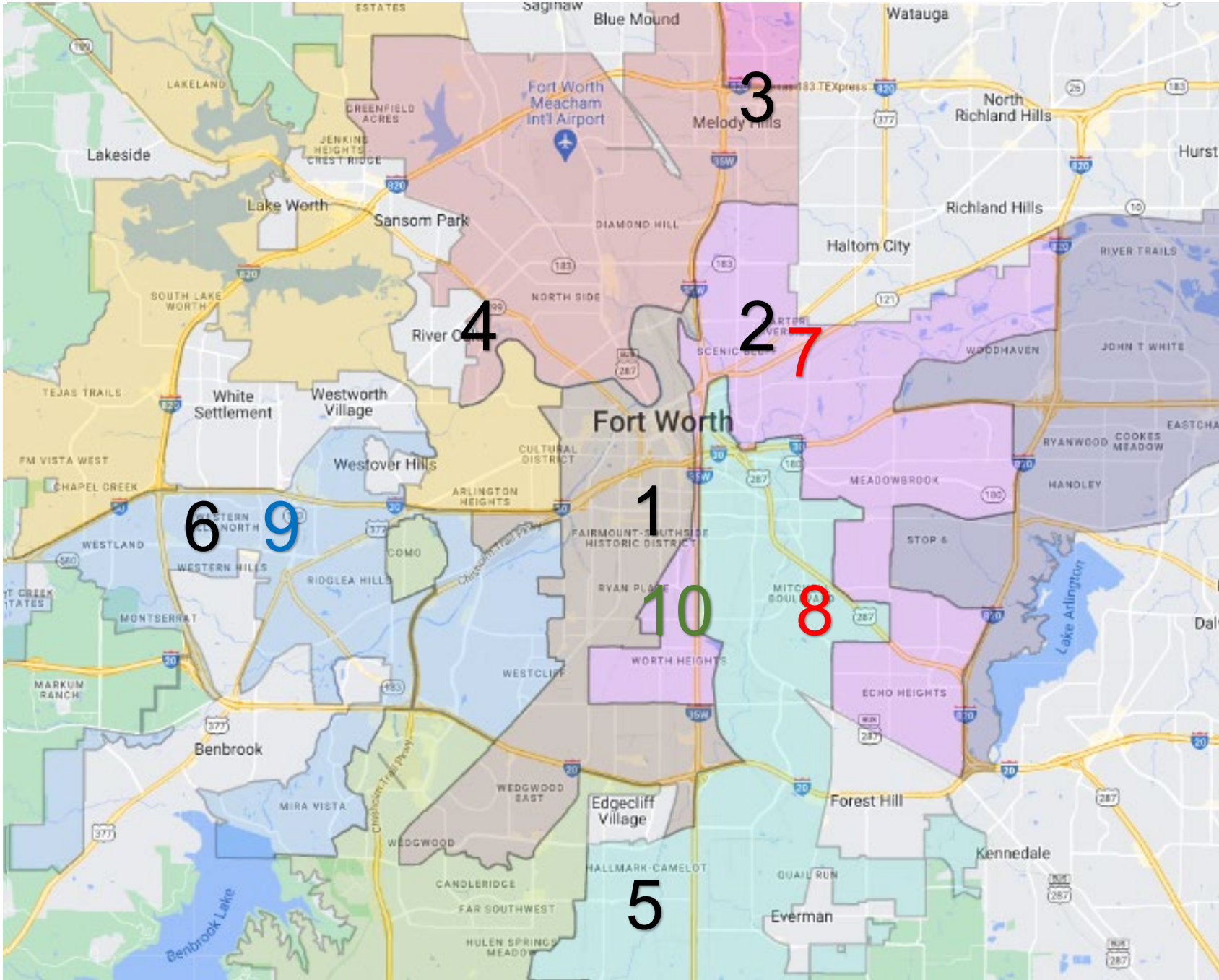
Permanent Supportive Housing		
Supportive Services	\$1,374,977.00	22%
Rapid Rehousing	\$270,542.00	4%
Rapid Exit	\$1,556,746.00	25%
System Support	\$921,159.00	15%
High Impact Pilot	\$2,178,304.00	34%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,301,728.00</b>	



# Fort Worth ARPA Homeless Housing Pipeline

2022 - present

Projects with City-allocated funding	CDBG	Fort Worth HFC	COFW HOME-ARPA	COFW HOME	COFW ARPA	Directions Home	Total COFW investment	Total / COFW cost per unit	Type of homeless housing	Homeless units
Journey Home/Crowley Road		\$1,350,000	\$4,928,000		\$421,999	\$1,262,801	\$7,962,800	\$142,185 / \$82,945	PSH	96
New Leaf/Camp Bowie		\$1,200,000	\$4,028,476				\$5,228,476	\$157,645 / \$108,926	PSH	48
OPG Clifton Riverside		\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000		\$2,000,000	\$284,636 / \$20,619	PSH set-aside	8 (of 97 total project units)
Columbia Renaissance Square Phase III				\$2,523,527	\$1,500,000		\$4,023,527	\$324,399 / \$40,235	PSH set-aside	25* (of 100 total project units) <small>*goal, not requirement</small>
Tobias Place		\$1,750,000			\$8,000,000		\$9,750,000	\$185,937 / \$33,854	Homeless families set-aside	53 (of 288 total project units)
Casa de los Suenos	\$1,500,000	\$500,000			\$578,000		\$2,578,000	\$271,766 / \$46,872	Homeless families	55
<b>CITY TOTAL</b>							\$31,542,804			177 PSH units 108 homeless family units



# PSH and Homeless Family Projects City-wide

## PSH Projects:

- 1) Samaritan House Single Room Occupancy (60)
- 2) Palm Tree (24)
- 3) Casa de Esperanza (119)
- 4) Quail Trail (48)
- 5) Journey Home Housing (96)
- 6) Camp Bowie West (48)

## Projects with PSH Set-Aside:

- 7) OPG Clifton Riverside (8)
- 8) Columbia Renaissance Heights (goal - 25)

## Homeless Family Projects:

- 9) Casa de los Suenos (55)

## Project with Homeless Family Set-Aside:

- 10) Tobias Place (53)

# Agenda

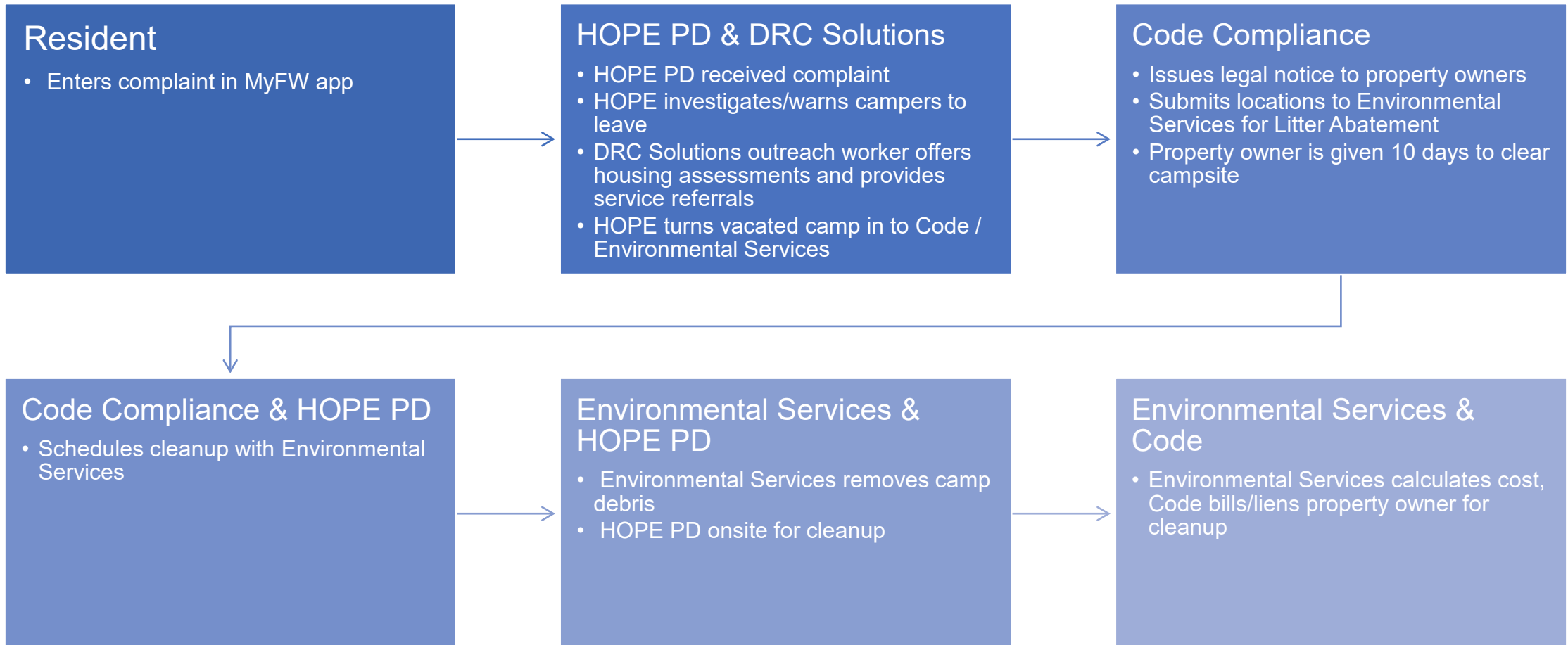
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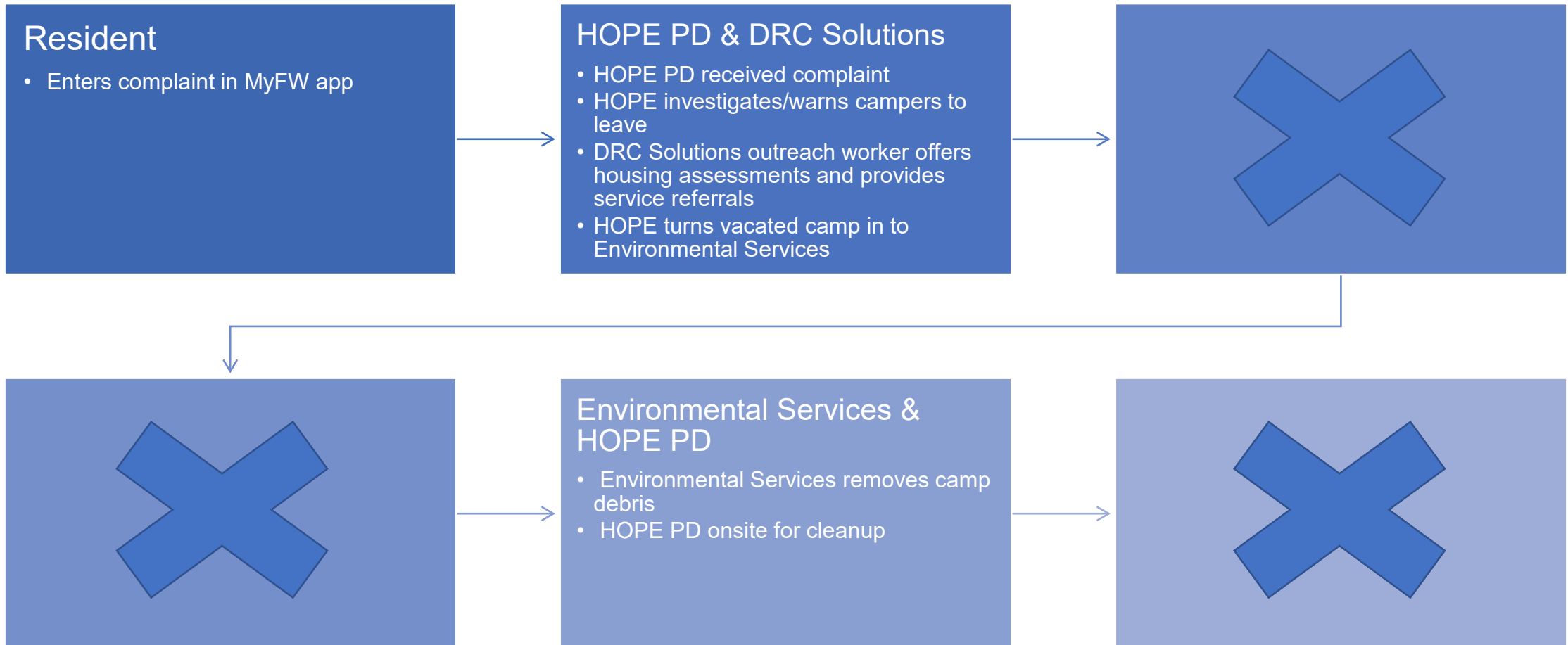
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# Camp Cleanup Process: Private Property



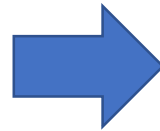
# Camp Cleanup Process: Public Property



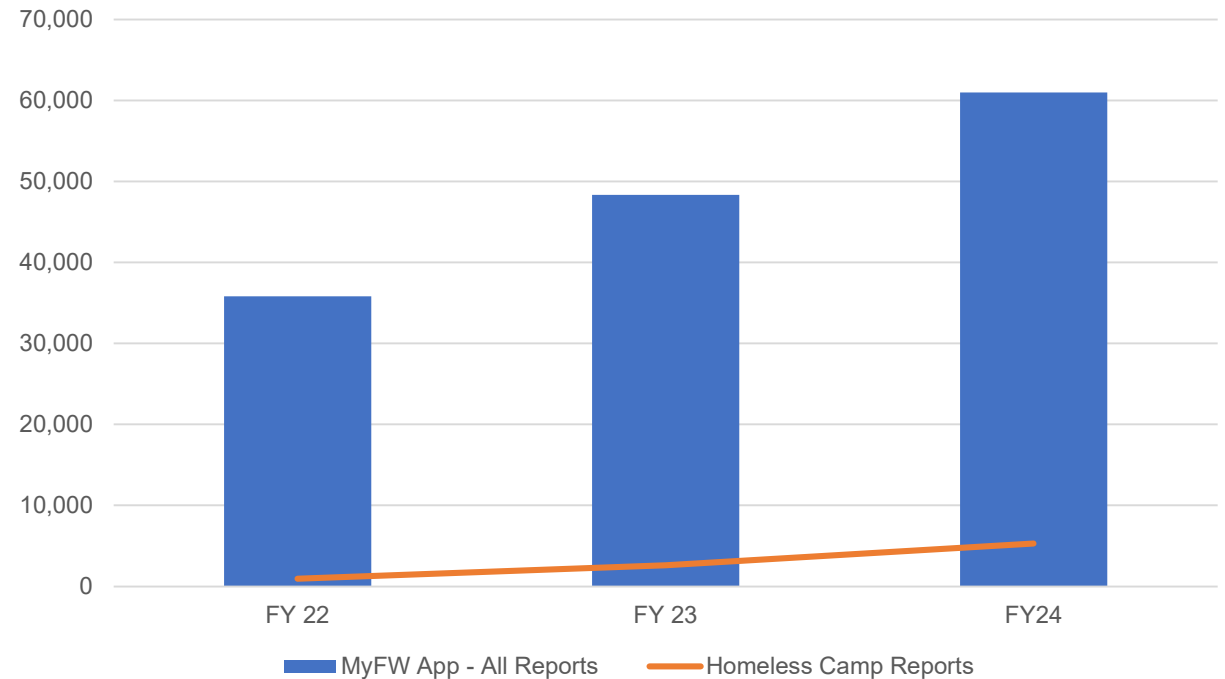
# MyFW App Camp Reporting

- Widespread adoption of MyFW App has contributed to increased reporting of camps for cleanup.

What percent of MyFW App requests are for camps?		
FY 22	FY 23	FY24
2.62%	5.38%	8.67%



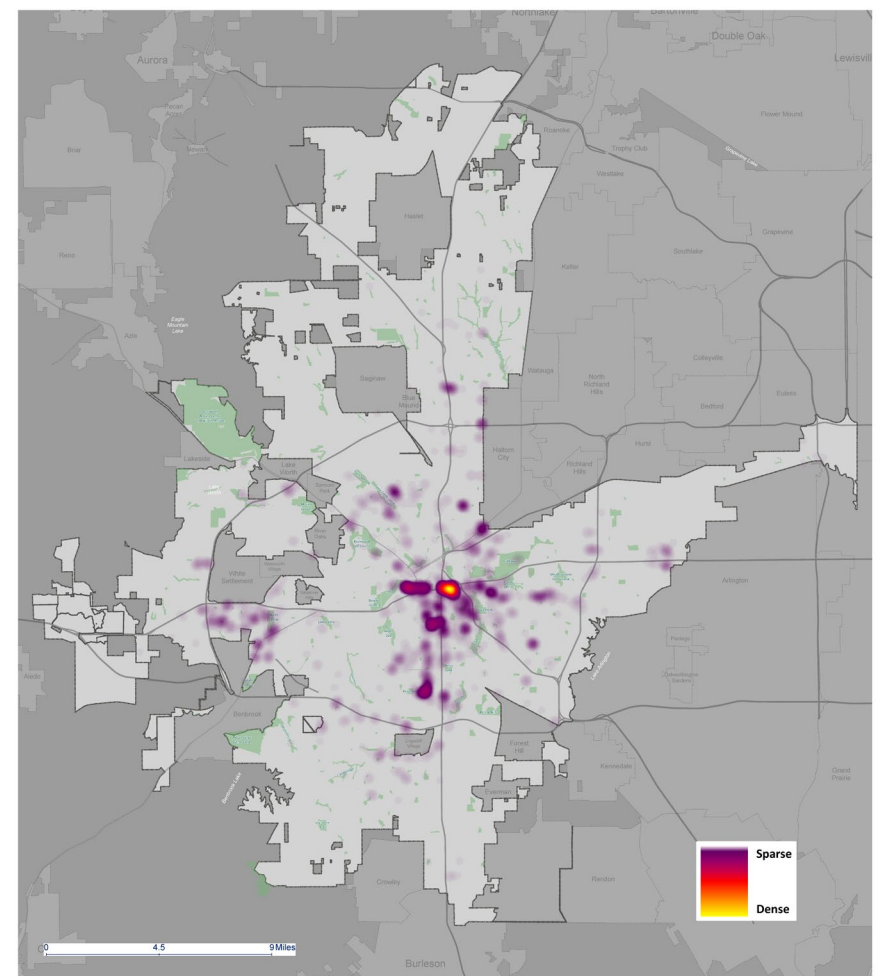
MyFW App Reports All Reports & Camp Reports  
FY22-24





# FY23 vs FY24 Camps

	<b>FY 23</b>	<b>FY 24</b>	<b>% increase</b>
Number of Camps Cleaned	742	1,363	83.7%
Tons of Waste Collected	1,211	1,963	59.9%

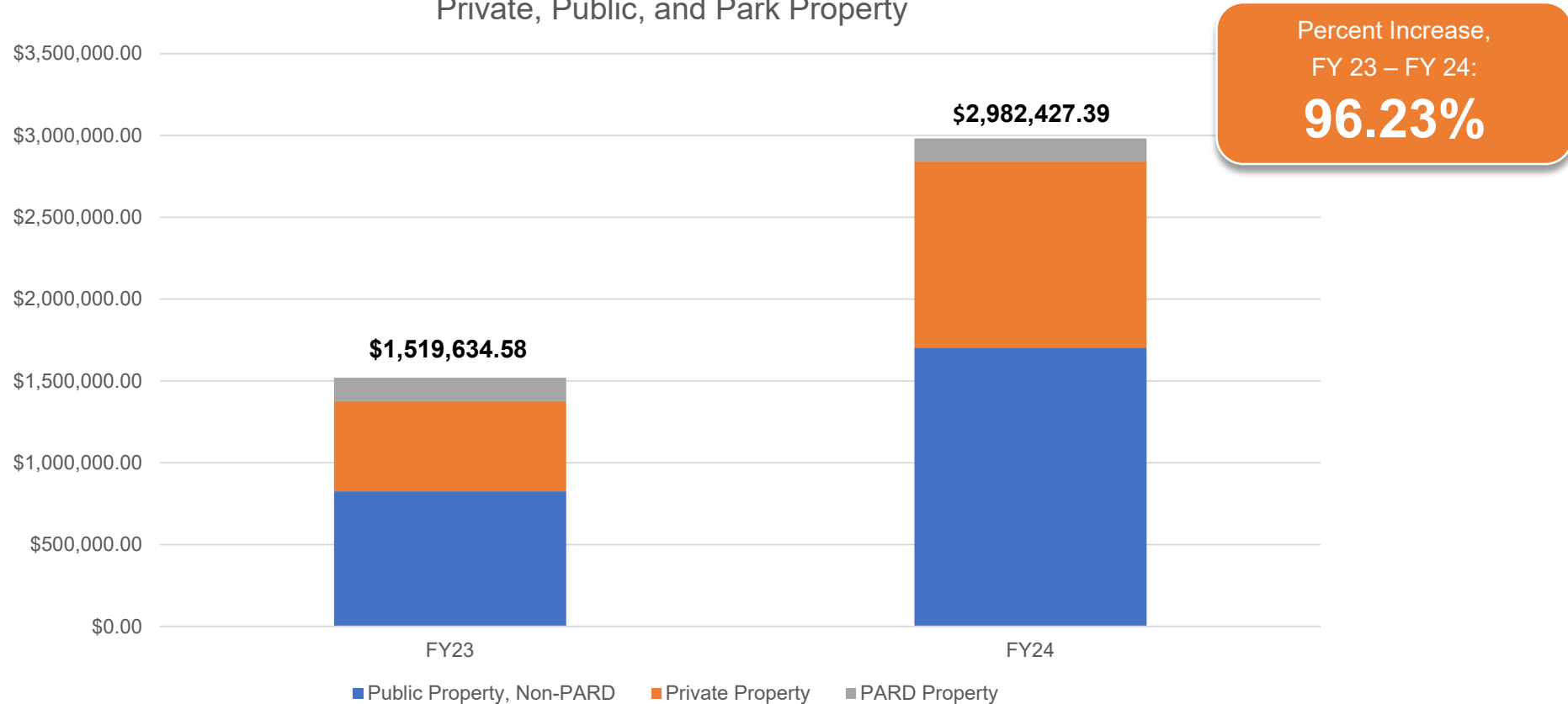


**City of Fort Worth - Environmental Services**  
**Illegal Camp Abatement FY2024**  
**1,363 Campsites Abated**



# Cost Breakdown of Camp Cleanups

Annual Cost of Camp Cleanups for Private, Public, and Park Property



*Private Property cleanups are estimated as 40% of total Non-PARD cleanups.*

# Private Property Cleanups

## § 11A-52 NUISANCE ABATEMENT ORDER.

(a) The director is hereby authorized to give notice to the owner of any property upon which a nuisance under this division exists to abate the nuisance.

(b) If the owner of the property does not comply with an abatement notice issued by the director within ten days after the date the notice is received, the director may:

- (1) Enter the property and do or cause to be done any work or improvements required to abate the nuisance; and
- (2) Pay for the work or improvements done and charge the expenses to the owner of the property.

## § 11A-54 ASSESSMENT OF EXPENSES; LIEN

(a) All expenses incurred by the city to abate a nuisance, including the cost of giving notice as required, shall initially be paid by the city and charged to the owner of the property.

# Average Estimated Cost for Small/Medium/Large Camp Cleanup

Small



~\$1,000

Medium



~\$2,500

Large



~\$6,000  
*\*per day if multi-day*



## Directed Efforts in E. Lancaster area

- HOPE PD and Environmental Services partnered to conduct additional enforcement and cleanup efforts in E. Lancaster corridor in December, beyond the regular weekly cleanups
- Simultaneously, Directions Home worked with Union Gospel Mission and Presbyterian Night Shelter for the shelters to collaboratively open at least 80 additional shelter beds
- Additional enforcement efforts continued into January to address the issue comprehensively and respond to displacement into neighboring communities

# Agenda

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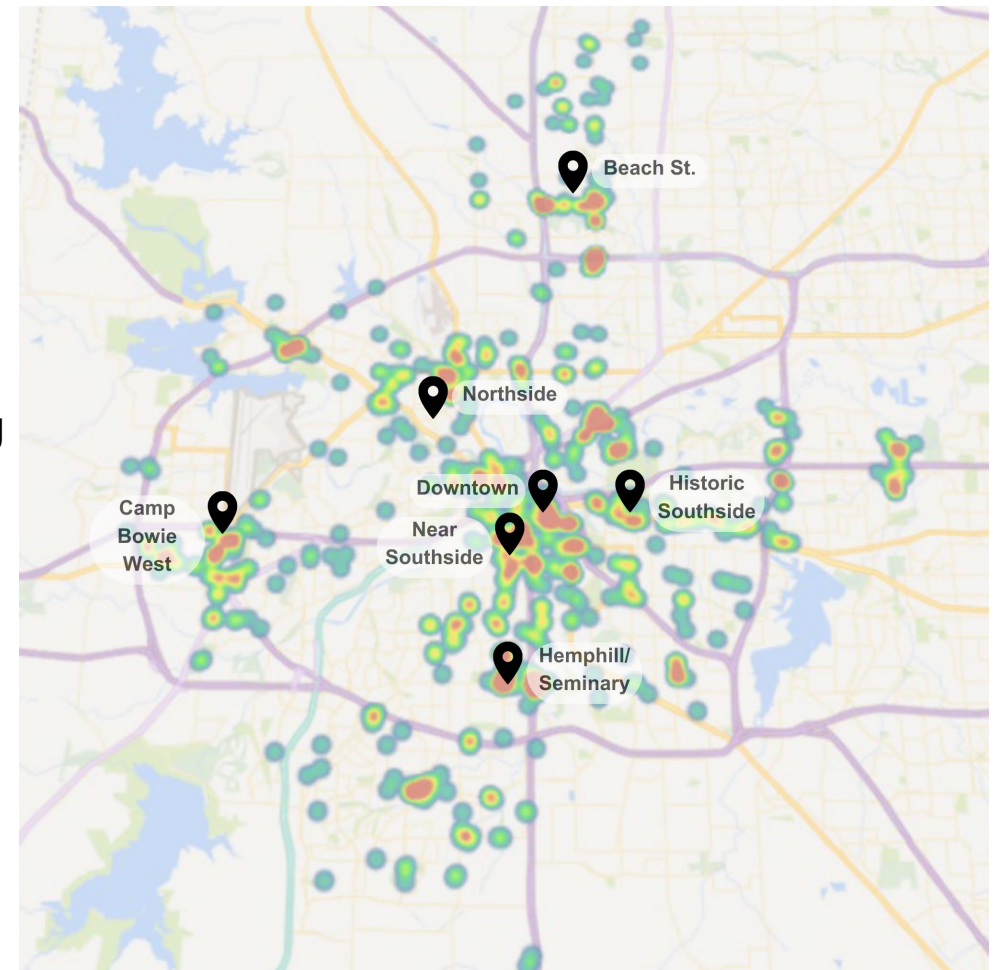
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# High ImpACT Pilot

- 17-month pilot, launched May 1
- Contract with MHMR of Tarrant County
- Goal
  - Reduce homelessness in 7 severely affected areas by adding targeted mental health and housing resources
- Target Areas
  - Camp Bowie West/Las Vegas Trail (CD 3)
  - Seminary/La Gran Plaza/Hemphill (CD 11)
  - Downtown (CD 9)
  - Near Southside (CD 9)
  - Historic Southside/Near Eastside (CD 8)
  - Northside/Stockyards (CD 2)
  - Beach Street intersections – from E. Lancaster to N. Tarrant Parkway (CD 4)



# High ImpACT Pilot Standards

- Client Referral Criteria
  - a) Must be unsheltered in target area
  - b) Experiencing long-term unsheltered homelessness and/or severe mental illness
- Objectives
  - Provide ACT Team services for 80 clients
  - Provide High ImpACT housing assistance to 40 clients through High ImpACT and 40 through other housing assistance programs
- Performance Measures
  - At least 70% of those offered housing enter housing within six months
  - After one year of entering housing, at least 70% are still housed



# High ImpACT Pilot: First 6 Months

May 1, 2024 – Oct. 1, 2024

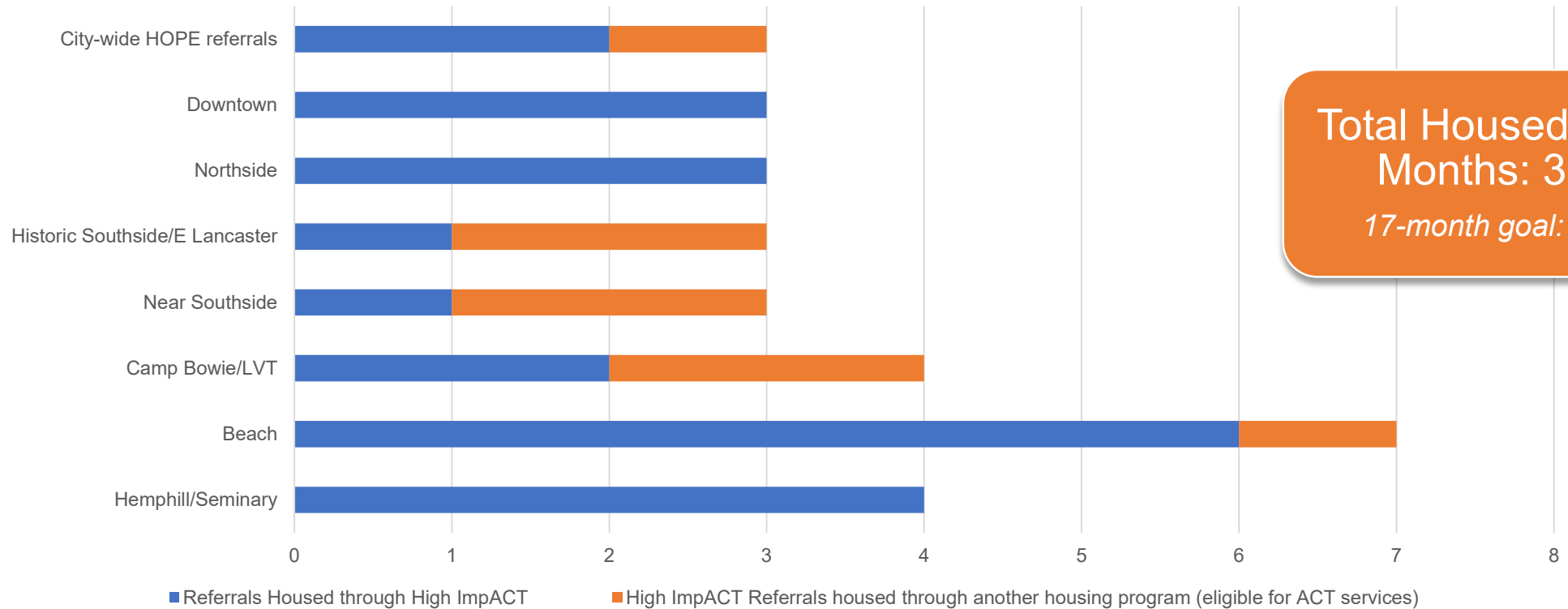


\*unfilled. Reassessing position makeup to fill positions and meet Pilot needs.

# High ImpACT Pilot: First 6 Months

May 1, 2024 – Oct. 1, 2024

Clients Housed in the First 6 Months



# High ImpACT Pilot: First 6 Months

May 1, 2024 – Oct. 1, 2024

The median housed High ImpACT Client has been homeless for 7.5 years and is 55 years old.

Over 90% of High ImpACT clients offered housing accepted housing within 6 months.

The median number of interactions to reach housing acceptance for a High ImpACT client is 1.

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# Stakeholder Input Process



Sept. 2024 – Dec. 2024

Dec. 2024 – Early 2025



Dec. 2024



Met with **276 stakeholders** in the last **4 months** through **61 meetings**

- City Councilmembers
- City Departments Leadership & Staff
- People with Lived Experience
- Homeless System Providers
- Community Partners:  
Neighborhoods, Churches, Businesses,  
Public Agencies

Identify  
themes



### Unsheltered Homelessness

- Council, Police, other city departments and community responses almost solely focused on **unsheltered homelessness** and its effects
- Not enough street outreach efforts connect services to growing unsheltered population
- Further expand mental health services to unsheltered population
- Support small businesses to mitigate impacts of unsheltered homelessness

### Camp Cleanups

- Camp cleanups are a necessity for public health, safety, and quality of life to residents, businesses, and homeless population
- Identify ways to reduce camp cleanups at repeat sites
- Improve communication across camp cleanup process for camp reporters

### Communication

- Communicate homeless system success stories
- Educate the public on alternatives to giving to panhandlers, and that most panhandlers are not homeless

### Other

- Collaboration is seen as major strength of Fort Worth's homelessness system
- Lack of certain resources as a hinderance to employment, housing
  - Outreach, transportation, mental healthcare, more intensive support for those in housing
- **Align City cross-departments funding and functions related to homelessness**

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Realign response to changing homeless system needs by  
**focusing on unsheltered homelessness.**

## Compassion & Enforcement

- Connect unsheltered individuals with services and programs that support quicker exits from homelessness
- Increase shelter flow to increase shelter availability to unsheltered individuals
- Address severe mental health issues of unsheltered individuals

- Enhance enforcement of camping ban to mitigate negative impacts of unsheltered homelessness on neighborhoods and business districts
- Pair stronger outreach with enforcement activities

## Strategies – Next Year's Funded Programs

Prioritize new RFP around **reducing and mitigating impacts of unsheltered homelessness** across all programs and services

# Proposed FY26 Changes

Category	Changed proposed	FY25	Proposed FY26
High Impact Pilot Program	Continue reviewing Pilot outcomes, program serves <b>unsheltered</b> currently	\$2,178,303	\$2,178,303
Rapid Rehousing Case Management	Redirect in unsheltered-focus programming	\$270,542	\$0
System Data	Redirect in unsheltered-focus programming	\$77,822	\$0
Mental health Services for PSH Clients	Redirect into High ImpACT	\$199,000	\$0
Case Management for PSH clients	No change in funding, <b>prioritize unsheltered</b>	\$1,175,977	\$1,175,977
Critical Document Services	No change in funding, <b>prioritize unsheltered</b>	\$150,000	\$150,000
Rapid Exit	No change in funding, <b>prioritize unsheltered</b>	\$1,556,746	\$1,556,746
Cold Weather Sheltering Operations	No change, program serves <b>unsheltered</b> currently	\$200,000	\$200,000
Direct Client Service Fund (DCSF)	Expand, add requirement to <b>prioritize unsheltered</b>	\$350,000	\$500,000
Outreach	Expand from 3 outreach workers to 6 outreach workers and 1 supervisor to <b>reach more unsheltered</b> alongside HOPE officers	\$150,000	\$540,702
		<b>\$6,301,728</b>	<b>\$6,301,728</b>

RFP

# Impacts

## Impact of Redirected Funds

- **Rapid Rehousing**
  - Serves approximately 90 clients per year with case management, no rental assistance
- **System Data**
  - Funds one data analyst, Partnership Home will seek alternate funding
- **Mental Health Services**
  - Services will continue under High Impact Pilot

## Impact of Increased Investment

- **Direct Client Service Fund (DCSF)**
  - Able to nimbly assist 1,200 households to access diversion/housing
    - Example: Bus ticket to another state for confirmed family reunification
- **Outreach**
  - Doubles number of unsheltered individuals reached with outreach services per month
    - Increase from 90 unsheltered seen per month to 180 seen per month
  - Increases outreach support alongside HOPE PD

# Panhandling / Street Charity Campaign

- Working cross-departmentally to build and execute multi-pronged communication and education campaign that includes:
  - Consistent Messaging & Regular Communications
    - Prepare a year-long drumbeat of social, stories, media to educate on issues and impact of panhandling and street charity
  - Consolidated Web Resource
    - Create central landing page for receiving/directing donations and informing on issues
  - Signage
    - Build off of existing efforts of business districts
    - Use complaint and citation data to select intersections for signage
    - 12-month pilot of signs, track impact in complaints/citations/web visits



# Additional Next Steps

Action Item	Departments, Organization, or Program Partnering with Directions Home	Timing
Align Homeless Strategies cross-departmental working group to work on homeless issues	Multiple Departments	Jan. 2025
Revise Directions Home contract makeup to prioritize unsheltered homelessness		RFP release Jan. – Feb. 2025
Increase number of contracted street outreach navigators	Police, Fire	RFP release Jan. – Feb. 2025
Support Fort Worth Chamber Homeless Task Force to support small business toolkit	Fort Worth Chamber, Partnership Home, Economic Development	Ongoing, toolkit to release in Jan. 2025
Create and initiate communications plan to regularly tell and promote success stories and panhandling / street charity education campaign	Communications, Police, Environmental Services, TPW	Began cross-departmental efforts in Dec. 2024

# Additional Next Steps, cont.

Action Item	Departments, Organization, or Program Partnering with Directions Home	Timing
Further expand mental health services to unsheltered population	MHMR (High ImpACT), Police, Fire	Contract renewal approved in Dec. by Council
Identify hot spot public property campsites, implement strategies to discourage camping (ex: brush clearing)	Environmental Services, Code, Park & Recreation, Police, TPW	Spring 2025
Review formula and timeline for private property campsite cleanups	FWLab, Environmental Services, Law, Code	Put forward recommendations early 2025
Rebuild user interface for camp cleanups on MyFW App to improve process communication	Communications, IT, Police, Environmental Services, Code	Ongoing, launch early 2025
Create City of Fort Worth Homeless Strategies Plan to focus on aligning and enhancing City actions in support of CoC Strategic Work Plan	Multiple Departments	Spring 2025

# Homeless Strategies



# Next Steps

- Early 2025
  - Continue to implement next steps, strategies
- January 23, 2025
  - Annual Point in Time Count
- January - February 2025
  - Release FY26 Request For Proposals
- October 2025
  - Revised programming makeup for Homeless Strategies (Directions Home) begins

# Thank you

