



SALT LAKE COUNTY HOMELESS RESOURCE SYSTEM

January 2025

This report identifies successful strategies and resource gaps in Salt Lake County's homeless resource system and recommends:

More deeply affordable housing

Increased shelter capacity

Better access to integrated physical and behavioral healthcare

Our Goal

Improving housing stability and maintaining human dignity for the people we serve.

In 2024, homeless resource centers sheltered approximately 1,800 individuals per night.

61% of individuals were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Shared Values

Safety - People, businesses and communities need places to thrive.

Human Centered - The right mix of services to meet each person's needs.

Results Oriented - Our system creates positive steps towards self sufficiency.

No Wrong Door - Maximize accessibility and make the most of reliable resources.

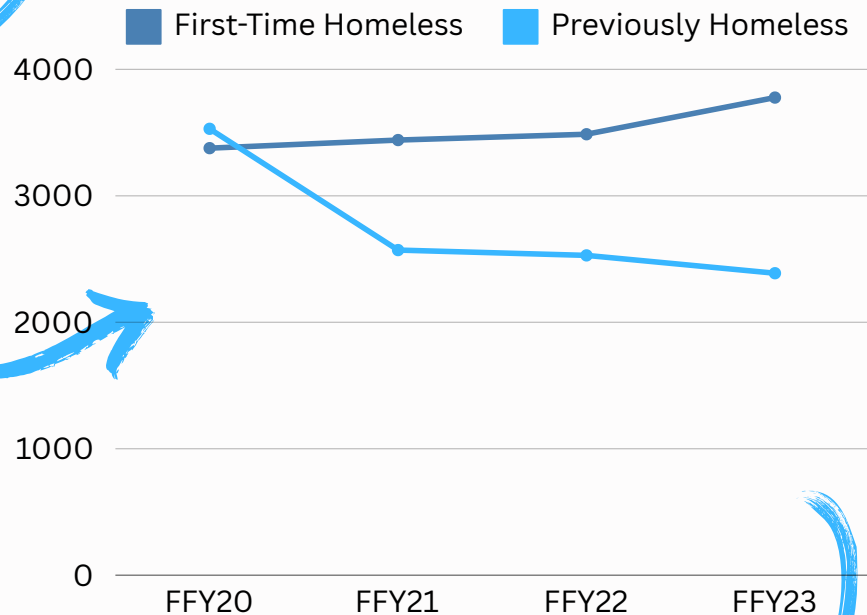
Evidence Based - Utilize empirical data to shape responses to community needs.

What is working?



Good news—the system is moving people **out of homelessness**.

Fewer people are **returning to homelessness** after connecting with services.



1,115 people diverted from shelters to alternative housing in the last 18 months

Homeless resource centers operate at 98% capacity.

Over 70% of people stay for fewer than 90 days and do not return to homelessness.

Bad news—more people are becoming **homeless for the first time**.

Investing in **prevention** and **diversion** will **keep people in their homes**.

Our Shelters

Our facilities provide onsite, targeted services for vulnerable populations and help individuals and families find stable homes and connect to resources they need.

This system provides shelter and services for:

Adult Individuals

900 nightly
7,000 annually

Youth (ages 15-22)

30 nightly
400 annually

Families

582 individuals nightly
653 households annually
(960 adults + 1,100 children)

Winter Flex

This year, the system identified the **need for 1,000 additional beds** during our coldest months, yet turn-aways still occur.

Safety & Security

Homeless resource centers have **24/7 security**, **coordinate** closely with **law enforcement**, and spend **\$2.3M annually** to ensure a safe environment for vulnerable clients and the surrounding community.

What comes next?



We have proven strategies to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Now is the time to invest in our system to scale-up solutions.

Right now, we need to...

*Add at least 1,200 more year-round **shelter beds**:*

- Fund Governor Cox's \$18.8M budget request
- Prioritize non-congregate settings within a new transformational campus
- Utilize separate spaces for individuals with various levels of mental health challenges

*Expand **mental health options** for individuals with **high acuity needs**:*

- Add 16 residential units for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder
- Expand other treatment and residential options

*Invest in **community-based support**:*

- Direct-to-Housing program
- Increased integrative case management
- Street-level outreach and services

Homeless resource centers turned people away over 10,500 times in the last 18 months.

The waitlist for residential mental health treatment is six months long because the lack of stable housing options forces patients to stay longer than is medically necessary

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams currently serve up to 500 individuals with high acuity behavioral health needs.

75% of extremely low income Utahns spend more than half their monthly income on rent.

In 2024, Fourth Street Clinic was not able to see 30% of medical patients and 10% of behavioral health patients due to high daily demand.

22% of individuals released from jail say that they have no home to go to.

In the long run...

Access to **safe, affordable housing** will **enhance prevention** and **increase successful exits** from homelessness.

Expanding **Medicaid funding and support** will improve **physical and behavioral health treatment** countywide.

Focusing on homelessness **prevention** and **diversion** will **reduce justice involvement, eliminate barriers** and **improve outcomes**.



Our Partners

Thanks to the following partners who contributed data and expertise to this report:

Catholic Community Services

First Step House

Fourth Street Clinic

Salt Lake City

Salt Lake County

Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness

Shelter The Homeless

State of Utah HMIS Dashboard

The Road Home

Utah Community Action

Volunteers of America, Utah

Together—with evidence based practices and a results oriented approach—we can make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.



Scan for more information!

