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**SAVANNAH**  
savannahga.gov 

**FIVE YEAR HOMELESSNESS REVIEW**  
*Reducing Homelessness in the City of Savannah*

*City Council Workshop Presentation*  
*June 2026*



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# LEADING WITH GPS GOAL 2

## Community Development & Resiliency

### OBJECTIVE 1 -- Expand access to housing affordability and availability, address homelessness



**STRATEGY 1:** Implement programs and partner with organizations to build, retain, and improve affordable and workforce housing options for individuals and families.

**PROJECT 1:** Housing Savannah Action Plan Implementation

**STRATEGY 3:** Work with local partners to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring by developing an effective crisis response system, improve connections to permanent housing and services, and continually addressing public health and safety issues that are present in areas where homelessness persists.

**PROJECT 1:** Improvement of the Local Homelessness Crisis Response System with Expanded Access to Mental Health Services



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## INTENTIONAL INVESTMENTS KEY AREAS OF MOVEMENT

### INVESTMENTS

- **Federal Funding**
  - HUD Continuum of Care (CoC)
  - Emergency Services Grant (ESG)
  - HOME-ARP
  - CDBG/CDBG-CV
  - HOPWA
- **Local Capital Funding**
  - SPLOST VII
  - Savannah Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF)
- **Local Operating Funding**
  - City General Fund (community grants, off-cycle partnerships, program contracts)



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## KEY POLICY ACTIONS BY THE CITY OF SAVANNAH

### POLICY

- **Housing Savannah Action Plan** – Council Resolution 2021
- **Interagency Council on the Homeless (ICH) Creation Support** – Council Resolution, 2022
- **ICH Creation** – CoC Vote, 2022, City Manager voting member
- **ICH Regional Strategic Plan Adoption** – Council Resolution, 2025
- **Inclement Weather Policy** – City Manager Order, 2023
- **Urban Camping Ordinance** – Council Resolution, 2025
- **Encampment Management Policy** – City Manager Order, 2025
- **ICH Codified in State Law** — Georgia HB 797, 2025



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## KEY DIRECT SERVICE SUPPORT BY THE CITY OF SAVANNAH

### DIRECT PROGRAMMING

- **SPD HOPE Unit** — Outreach-first policing model launched July 2024; enforces Urban Camping Ordinance with chronic repeat offenders
- **SPD Behavioral Health Unit** — Crisis intervention and behavioral health response for individuals experiencing mental health and substance use challenges, expanded by council resolution February 2023
- **Streets to Stability** — City-funded street outreach and transportation expanded to \$273,715 annually; reaches a minimum of 1,500 people per year
- **Cooling & Warming Centers** — City-operated seasonal relief sites serving vulnerable residents, including people experiencing homelessness
- **Mini Day Center Grant** — Council resolution; 2023. Established grant funding supporting Come As You Are and Park Place Outreach day center operations
- **Homeless Outreach Team Grant** — Council resolution, 2022. Established grant funding for direct street outreach services
- **Union Mission Day Center Contract** — City General Fund contract supporting daytime services including showers, case management, and resource navigation
- **Expanding Permanent Housing Solutions** — City investment in 133 new units of affordable and supportive housing across five developments, 2022–2026

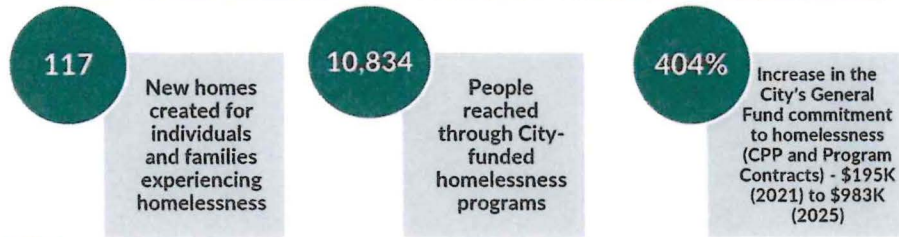
Since FY2022, Council has appropriated \$3.60M in General Fund dollars toward ending homelessness — growing from \$195K annually in 2021 to \$983K in 2025.



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## SAVANNAH'S HOMELESSNESS INVESTMENT September 2021 - April 2026

INVESTMENT CATEGORY	LEAD DEPARTMENT	TOTAL
Homelessness Housing Development	Housing Services	\$16.25M
Grants, Contracts & Federal Programs	Human Services	\$12.3M
<b>Total City Directed Investment</b>	<b>Collaborative</b>	<b>~\$28.5M</b>



### Housing Services Homelessness Housing Development 2021-2026

YEAR	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
2022	Savannah Gardens – Construction, 4 Dwellings	CDBG-CV	\$760K
2022	Dundee Cottages – Site Infrastructure	SPLOST VII	\$1.86M
2023	Savannah Gardens – Construction, 11 Dwellings	CDBG-CV	\$1.73M
2023	1826 Florance Street	SAHF	\$480K
2024	Savannah Gardens – Construction, 1 Dwelling	CDBG-CV	\$85K
2024	916 MLK Boulevard	SAHF	\$5.5M
2025	Dundee Cottages	HOME-ARP	\$3.1M
2025	Dundee Cottages	SAHF	\$1.86M
2025	1700 Drayton LIHTC	SAHF	\$870K
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$16.25M</b>



## Human Services: Homelessness Grants and Program Funding 2021-2026

FUNDING TYPE	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
HUD CoC (Permanent Supportive Housing)	\$747K	\$788K	\$801K	\$801K	\$935K	\$4.07M
City General Fund: CPP & Programs	\$195K	\$709K	\$867K	\$845K	\$983K	\$3.60M
ESG (Shelter + Prevention)	\$173K	\$172K	\$170K	\$169K	\$170K	\$854K
CDBG: Homelessness Services*	\$78K	\$78K	\$99K	\$99K	\$125K	\$479K
HOPWA/Housing for People with HIV/AIDS	\$921K	--	--	\$955K	--	\$1.88M
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2.11M</b>	<b>\$1.75M</b>	<b>\$1.94M</b>	<b>\$2.87M</b>	<b>\$2.21M</b>	<b>\$10.9M*</b>

\* Total reflects completed 2021-2025 funding cycles. The Slide 5 summary includes partial 2026 investments across all funding streams.



## KEY PROGRAMING INVESTMENTS Federal Funding - City Administered



### HMIS SYSTEM — ESG

CSAH — HMIS  
Subscription | \$19,000  
annually.



### EMERGENCY SHELTER — ESG FUNDED

Inner City Night Shelter |  
~\$34-35K annually  
Salvation Army | ~\$29-  
51K annually  
Union Mission — Men's  
shelter | ~\$8-14K annually  
Union Mission —  
Women's shelter | ~\$8-14K  
annually  
Park Place Outreach —  
Youth | ~\$6-11K annually  
Family Promise | ~\$10-  
11K annually



### HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION — ESG FUNDED

Family Promise —  
Prevention | ~\$12-103K  
annually  
Wesley Community  
Centers — Prevention |  
~\$39-53K annually  
(2024-2025)









### PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING | HUD CoC

CSAH — PSH | \$935,207  
Union Mission — PSH |  
\$1,168,039



## KEY PROGRAMING INVESTMENTS City-Funded & Administered

				
<b>HOMELESS SYSTEM COORDINATION — CPP</b>	<b>STREET OUTREACH &amp; TRANSPORTATION — CITY GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>DAY CENTERS — CITY GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>UTILITY ASSISTANCE — DUNDEE CAMPUS — CITY GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>EXTENDED INTAKE FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER PILOT — CITY GENERAL FUND</b>
CSAH — Continuum of Care Administration   \$200,000 annually.	CSAH — Streets to Stability   \$273,715 (FY2026, off-cycle RFP)	Union Mission — Day Center   City General Fund (annual) Come As You Are Ministries — Day Center   \$20,000 annually Park Place Outreach — Day Center   \$5,000 (2023–2024)	CSAH — Cove at Dundee / Dundee Cottages Utility Reimbursement   \$42,000 annually	Union Mission   \$97,678 (FY2026 pilot)



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## WHAT YOUR INVESTMENT BUILT New Homes for People Experiencing Homelessness

2022

56

2023

10


2024

21

2025

30

In 2026, 20 of the above units will open their doors including 916 MLK and 1826 Florence Street.

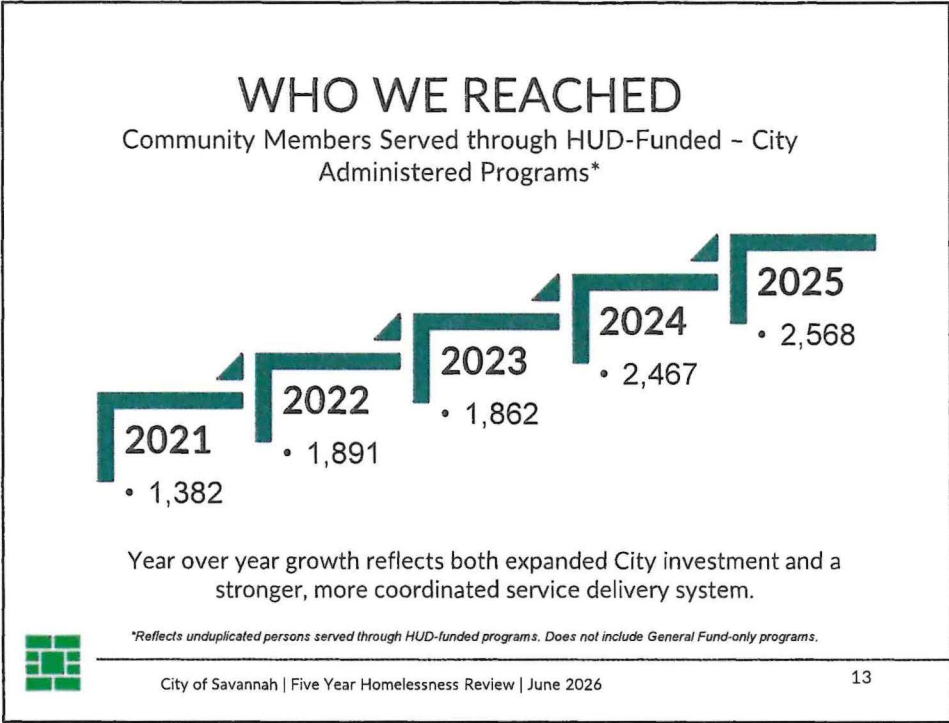


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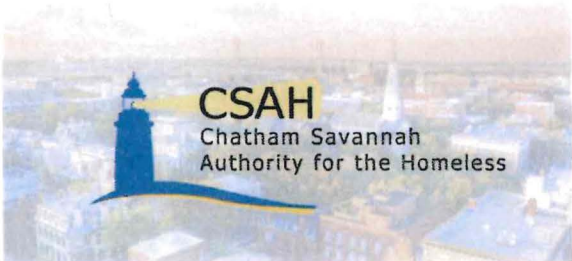
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**CSAH**  
Chatham Savannah  
Authority for the Homeless

**Where We Are Now**  
2026 Point-in-Time Count

**2026  
Point In  
Time  
Report**

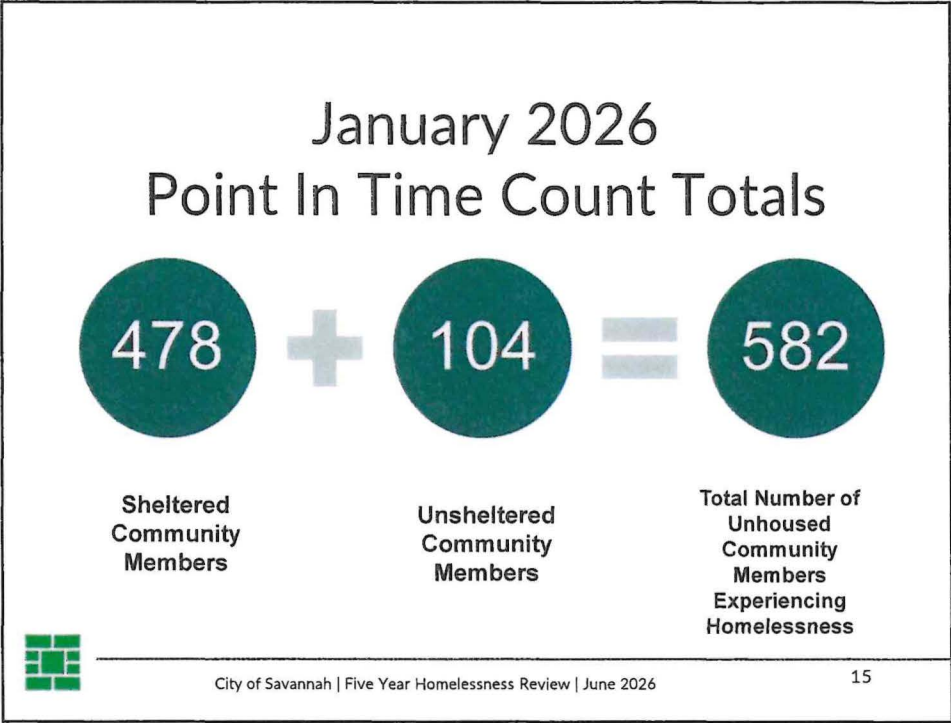




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## Movement Since 2023


METRIC	2023	2026	CHANGE
Unsheltered Individuals	271	104	↓ 62%
Chronically Homeless	112	46	↓ 59%
Active Encampments	87	15	↓ 83%

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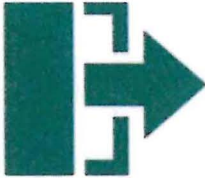
## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS




**6,010** individuals were served system wide in 2025



**2,619** individuals were served through CSAH's Streets to Stability Street Outreach Program



**1,765** individuals exited to permanent housing



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## Families and Hidden Homelessness


### 1,081 STUDENTS EXPERIENCED HOUSING INSTABILITY

67.4% are double-up living with friends/family

23% are living in Hotels/Motels

9.5% are residing in shelter or transitional housing

**For every 6 shelter beds available to individuals, there is only 1 available to family units**



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# Ongoing Challenges Identified

## Homeless For The First Time

76%

- Of individuals served in the past two years were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

## KEY FOCUS AREAS

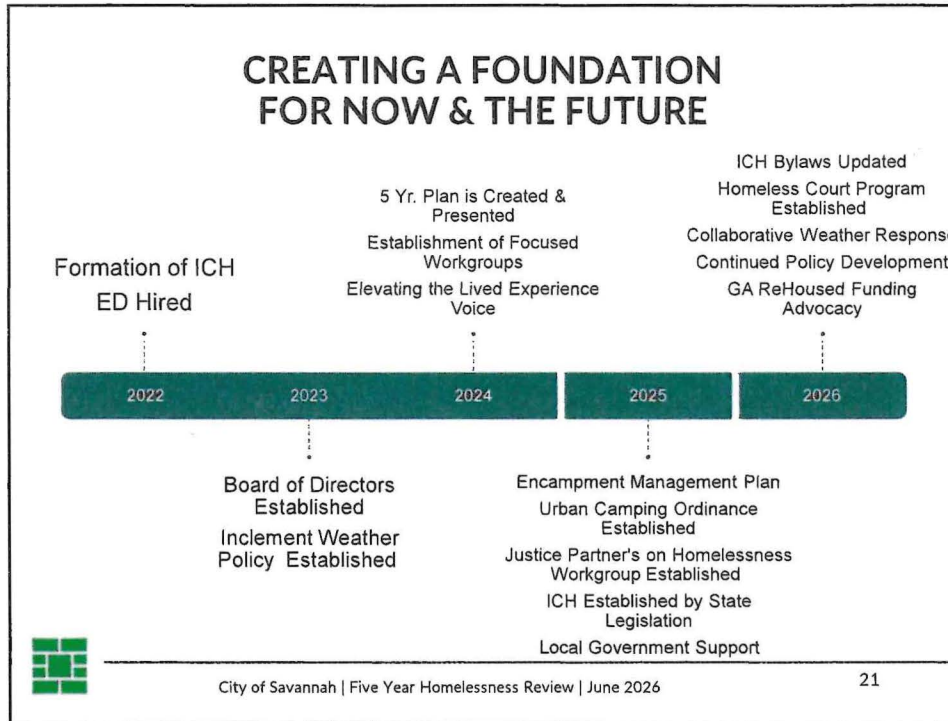
- Continue expanding affordable and accessible housing
- Expand permanent supportive housing/PSH
- Strengthen prevention and diversion
- Add shelter capacity with a focus on family sheltering
- Invest in coordinated services



THE ICH  
 INTERAGENCY COUNCIL  
 ON HOMELESSNESS  
 FOR CHATHAM-SAVANNAH

# REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN & POLICY UPDATE





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## ICH Members & Partners

#### Local Government Support

- City of Savannah
- Chatham County
- City of Thunderbolt
- Garden City
- Tybee Island- August 2026
- Savannah Chatham County Public School System
- Housing Authority of Savannah

#### Nonprofit Partners

- Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless
- Salvation Army Savannah Corps
- Family Promise of the Coastal Empire
- Inner City Night Shelter
- Union Mission
- Park Place
- Every Life Matters
- The Dive
- Come As You Are Deliverance Ministries
- The Living Vine
- Trinity Church- Square One
- American Red Cross
- Safe Shelter
- The Deep Center
- United Way of the Coastal Empire
- Devine Rest Inc
- Savannah Pride Center
- Georgia Legal Services

#### Community Organization Support

- Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Business Association
- Savannah Waterfront District
- Savannah Economic Development Authority
- Memorial Hospital
- St. Joseph Candler Hospital
- JC Lewis Health Care
- Gateway Behavioral Health

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## GOALS OF THE ICH FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

### AIMS TO ACHIEVE FUNCTIONAL ZERO HOMELESSNESS THAT IS RARE, BRIEF, AND NON-RECURRING

1. Establish an integrated system to prevent and end homelessness
2. Address the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness
3. Increase opportunities and access to affordable housing and low-barrier shelter
4. Develop and strengthen formal programs to prevent homelessness and ensure early intervention for at-risk residents
5. Expand workforce opportunities, transportation, and financial support
6. Support community-wide efforts to advance policies that prevent and end homelessness



## ICH Five-Year Strategic Plan

Creating effective programs and smart policies that work together to create pathways out of homelessness

### Program & Service Development

- Union Mission After Hours Intake
- CSAH Extended Outreach Hours
- Day Center becoming a Resource Center

### Policy Creation

- Encampment Management Policy
- Urban Camping Ordinance
- Best Practices for Banned Client Re-Entry




## Strategic Plan Expansion Engaging Neighbors & Educating Partners

Municipalities Supporting the Plan

- First Adopters: City of Savannah & Chatham County
- Additional Adopters: Garden City & Thunderbolt
- Forward Momentum: August 2026 City of Tybee Presentation

Community Partner Education

- Best Practices for Long Distance Bus Travel
- "Safe Discharge Planning" with hospitals and mental health care
- Evening ICH General Membership Meeting to allow more community member engagement



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## URBAN CAMPING UPDATE

<b>486</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>51</b>
The number of citations issued under the ordinance <i>(number includes duplicates)</i>	The number of arrests under the urban camping ordinance	The number of people arrested multiple times for urban camping <i>(They account for 45 arrests)</i>	The number of people arrested only <b>1 time</b> for urban camping

**Ordinance Facilitates Connecting People to Services**

- 19 of those arrested had no prior entry into the HMIS system
- 8 of those 19 have now started using services since being added to the HMIS system post-arrest



Note- the 19 people duplicate arrest and the 19 people not engaged in HMIS services at the time of their arrest are not all the same people. It's a coincidence that the numbers are the same. 2 individuals not engaged in services have been arrested twice

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Photos of the SAHF  
apartments at 916  
Martin Luther King Jr.

**QUESTIONS  
&  
COMMENTS**

