



City Council Update Savannah-Chatham County Interagency Council on Homelessness

AUGUST 24, 2023

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

The Three Commitments the Savannah City Council Made Last Year:

1. Support the creation of the Savannah-Chatham County Interagency Council on Homelessness/Continuum of Care (ICH/CoC).
2. Provide professional staff support to the ICH/CoC
3. Address “Gaps” in the Local Service Delivery System

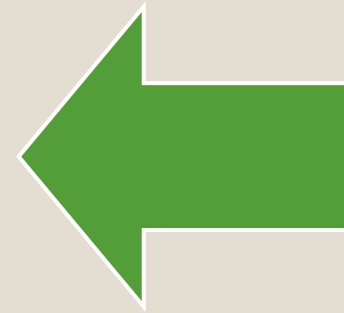
1. Creation of the Savannah-Chatham County ICH/CoC

Transition to the ICH Model

- Creation of new Governance Charter
- Built upon the original 13-15 Community Seats composed of local organizations, individual community members, representatives of projects serving the homeless
- Added 10 additional seats representing Executive level Managers/Directors of key Governmental Agencies with responsibility for managing critical public policies and services.

Governmental Groups:

- City of Savannah
- Chatham Co. Gov
- Gateway Community Service Board
- Housing Authority of Savannah
- Dept. of Family and Children's Services
- Chatham County Sheriff's Office



Work is Underway!

Standing & Ad Hoc Committees meet regularly to support and guide the ICH/CoC's work



Monthly ICH/CoC Executive Committee Meetings



Bi-Monthly Full ICH/CoC Board Meetings



Quarterly Full ICH/CoC General Membership Meetings

1. Creation of the Savannah-Chatham County ICH/CoC (cont.)

Standing Committees guide the work of the ICH/CoC

CoC Membership Committee

Builds and maintains CoC Membership

Strategic Planning Committee

Coordinates system-wide strategic planning

Racial Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Committee

Ensures that racial equity, diversity, and inclusion is taken into all aspects of the CoC.

Ranking & Rating Committee

Assists with CoC application process to increase funding & new service development.

HMIS & Data Committee

Assists with training and planning related to the HMIS system

Coordinated Entry Committee

Ensures access to services is available to all who need assistance

1. Creation of the Savannah-Chatham County ICH/CoC (cont.)

Ad Hoc Committees to Address Emerging Needs...

Extreme Weather Response Committee

- ▶ Plan for life threatening weather.
- ▶ Collaborate with member agencies to ensure the safety of unhoused community members.
- ▶ Educate the community on how to help during these situations.
- ▶ Coordinate the distribution of essential supplies.

Encampment Response Committee

- ▶ Create unified guidance on how to safely address encampments.
- ▶ Work with different government agencies to provide critical support.
- ▶ Coordinate with service providers to aid those living in encampments.
- ▶ Clean and secure areas to prevent encampments from reforming.

2. Provide professional support to the ICH/CoC

Executive Director role filled December 5, 2023

- ▶ Ensures homelessness coordination, convening and system partnerships receive the daily attention required to address needs and implement solutions to homelessness.
- ▶ Provides support to the ICH/CoC Board and its necessary daily operations.
- ▶ Assist City of Savannah and other ICH Members with priorities around homelessness, working with City Departments, County Departments, and other partners.

3. Addressing Gaps in Services

Street Outreach

- Expanded services to those currently staying on the streets by the Homeless Outreach Team from the Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless.
- Funding supported purchase of additional outreach van, increasing outreach and contacts with unsheltered individuals in more areas of the community.

Daytime Shelter & Support Services

- Funded Union Mission's new Day Center, offering support services and providing an alternative to those without shelter during the day.
- 362 unduplicated individuals were served onsite since January 2023; an average of 59 people daily. A total of 65 individuals using the Day Center have successfully moved to some type of housing this year.

Happening Now!

- Two \$10,000 Day Center mini-grants were awarded to expand services to areas outside of the downtown area.
- Grants were awarded in Summer 2023 to Come As You Are Deliverance International Ministries and Park Place Outreach. Outcomes will be available in coming months.

What's ahead for the ICH/CoC:

A Community-Wide Plan for Addressing Homelessness & Creating More Housing Options



Develop a five-year plan to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.



Will serve as a vital roadmap for our community to utilize in setting direction, forging partnerships, and allocating resources.



Will build consensus and community buy-in among service providers, various government agencies, and other key stakeholders.

Begins Fall 2023, with a 6-month completion timeline