

Housing and Homelessness in Virginia

Virginia Association of Local Human Services Officials

January 27, 2020



Partners for Better Communities

DHCD is committed to creating safe, affordable and prosperous communities to live, work and do business in Virginia.



DHCD Divisions:

- Building and Fire Regulations
- Community Development
- GO Virginia and Economic Development
- Housing
 - Production and Preservation
 - Homeless and Special Needs Housing

Executive Order 25

Establishes Governor Northam's affordable housing priorities to address Virginia's unmet housing needs

- Increase the supply of permanent supportive housing
- Reduce the rate of evictions across the Commonwealth
- Address the shortage of quality affordable housing

Housing Efforts in the Commonwealth

**Governor's
Coordinating
Council on
Homelessness
(Chronically
Homeless)**

**Housing &
Supportive
Services
(DOJ – I/DD)**

**Housing
the
Seriously
Mentally Ill**



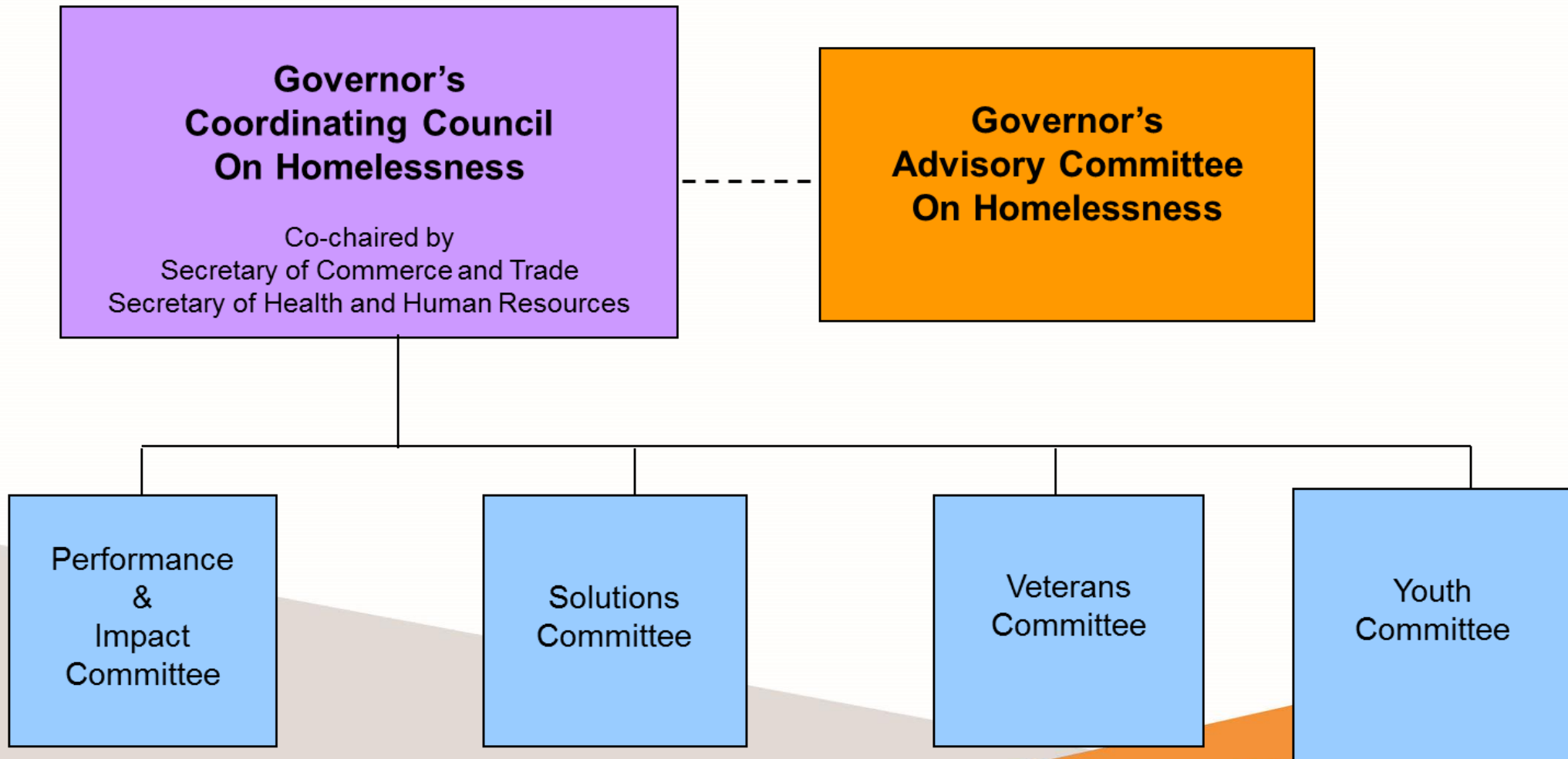
Permanent Supportive Housing

HOMELESSNESS

Goals:

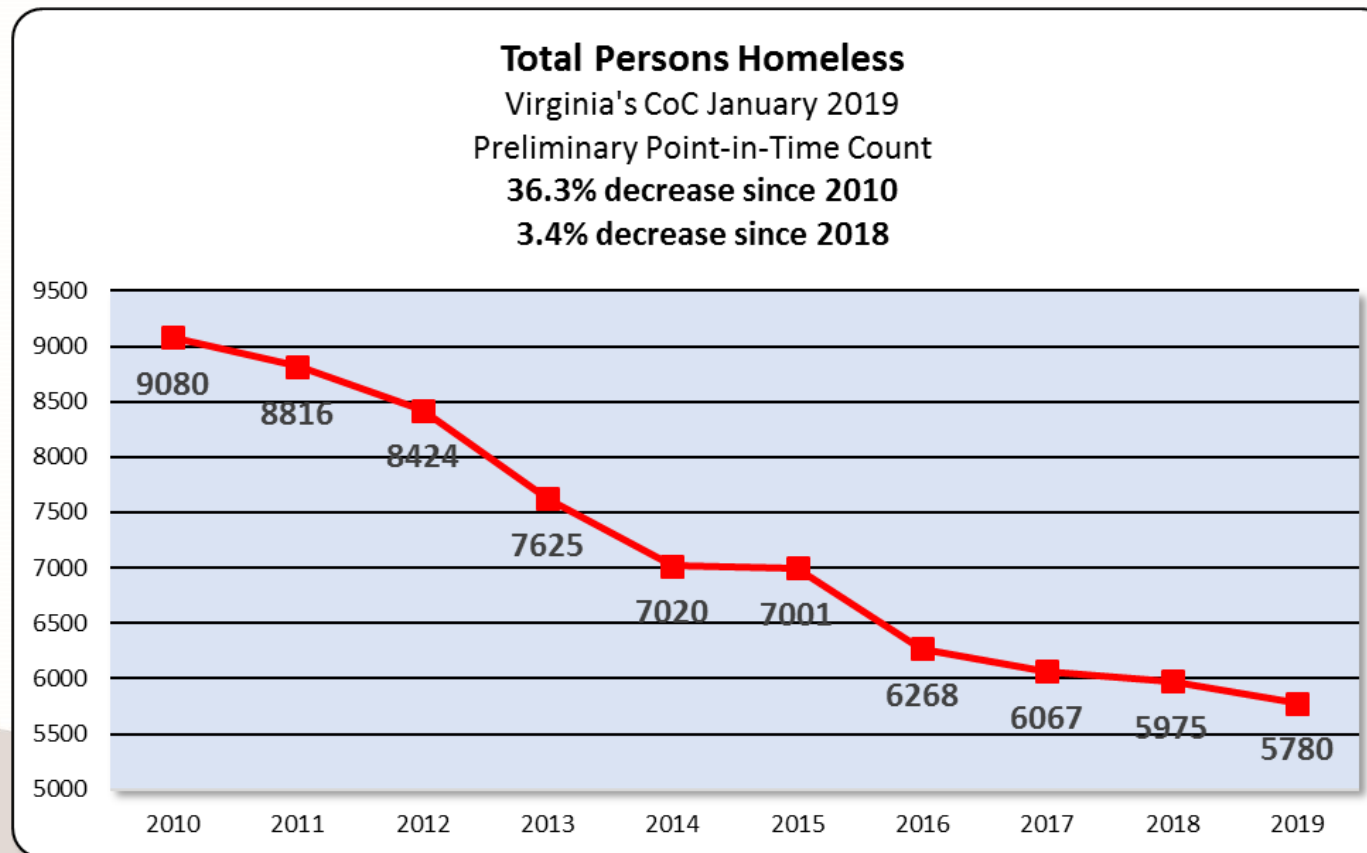
- To reduce the length of homelessness
- To reduce the number of new cases of homelessness
- To reduce the number of individuals returning to homelessness

Governor's Initiative on Homelessness

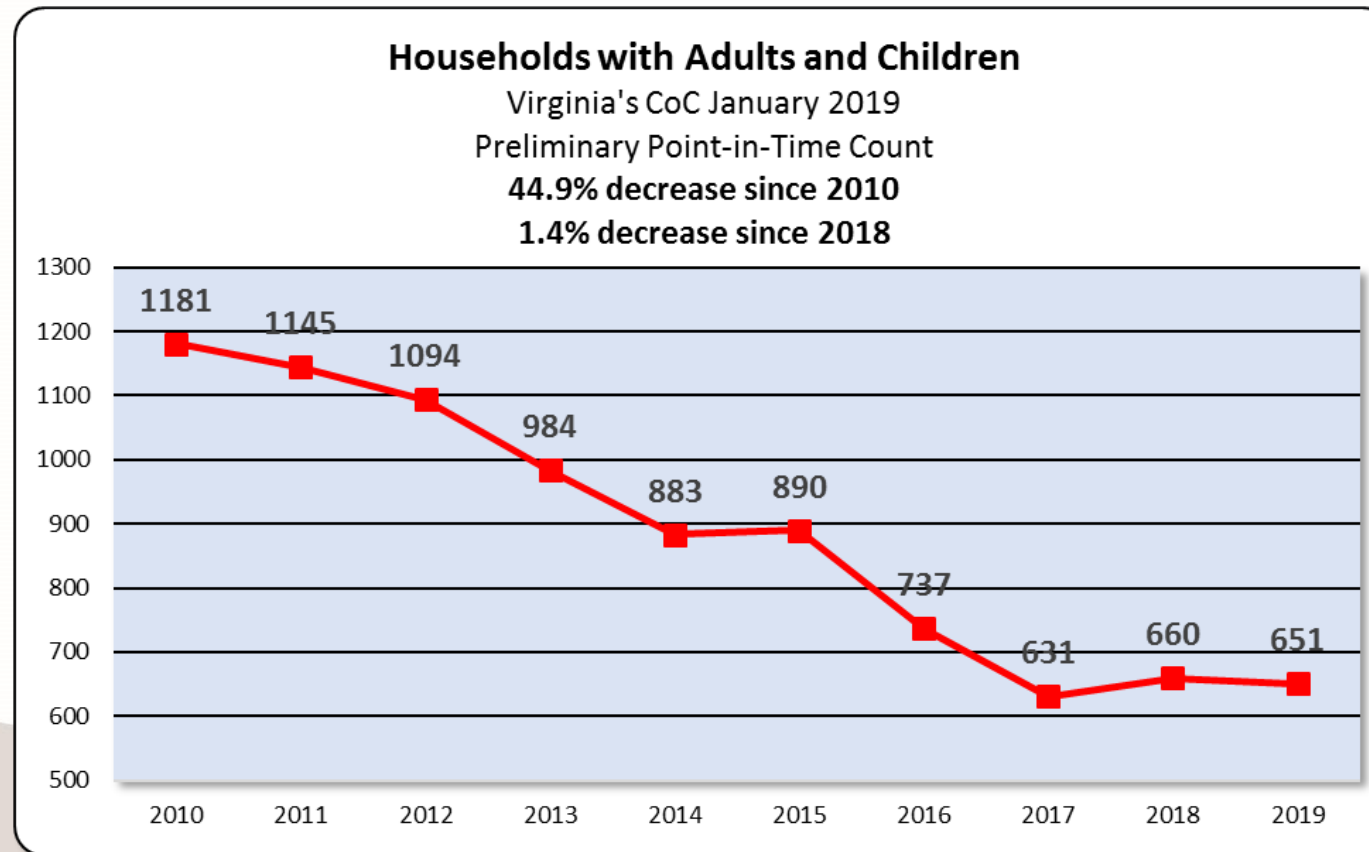


Virginia Homelessness Trends 2010-2019

Total Homeless Persons



Households with Adults and Children:



Statewide Data Merge

Purpose: To provide accurate, timely data on homelessness enabling policy makers to make informed policy and funding decisions

Special Populations

- Youth
- Serious Mental Illness
- Substance Use Disorders
- Older Adults
- Veterans

Homeless Services Funding Virginia 2019-2020

Funding Services	Type	Amount
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	Federal – HUD	\$2,885,391
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)	Federal – HUD	\$1,087,223
General Funds—Homeless Assistance	State	\$8,331,784
General Funds—Homeless Prevention	State	\$3,969,000
Virginia Housing Trust Fund: Homeless Reduction Grants	State	\$1,260,000
Total		\$17,533,398

AFFORDABLE AND SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING PROGRAM

- Fills financing gaps for the creation and preservation of affordable housing for low income Virginians, including those with special needs
- Priority to areas not receiving a direct federal HOME allocation through a local PJ or HOME Consortium
- A single application for four funding sources for **FY2019-20**:
 - HOME (\$9.9 million)
 - National Housing Trust Fund (\$4.43 million)
 - Virginia Housing Trust Fund (\$4.6 million)
 - Permanent Supportive Housing (\$500,000)

Virginia Housing Trust Fund

FY 2018-19 (last year)

- Increase from \$5.5 million to \$11 million
- Increase in Homeless Reduction Grants Pool which is up to 20% of HTF - \$1.4 million
- Increase allowed 16 additional Homeless Reduction Grants funded and 7 additional affordable housing construction projects

FY 2019-20 (current year)

- Increase from \$5.5 million to \$7 million

Virginia Housing Trust Fund – Governor's Introduced Budget

- Increases FY 2019-20 by \$7 million bringing the fund to \$14 million
- Increases FY 2020-21 by \$23 million bringing the fund to \$30 million
- Increases FY 2021-22 by \$33 million bringing the fund to \$40 million

Reducing Evictions in the Commonwealth

- Impact of legislation passed in 2019
- Assess current services; needs of cities with high eviction rates
- Data
- Best practices
 - Prevention and Diversion
- Further recommendations to complement efforts

Evictions – Governor’s Introduced Budget

Eviction Prevention and Diversion Pilot Program Biennial Budget

- \$6,000,000 – Financial assistance to tenants to offset back rent and any associated late fees; support to organizations administering the pilot program.
- \$600,000 – Supports two FTEs at DHCD responsible for: developing and managing the pilot program; carrying out the day-to-day activities of the program; coordinating meetings at the local and state levels; providing technical support of pilot sites; monitoring pilot sites; collecting and analyzing data; developing reports; etc.

Questions & Answers

Pamela Kestner, Deputy Director, Housing Division

Pamela.Kestner@dhcd.Virginia.gov