



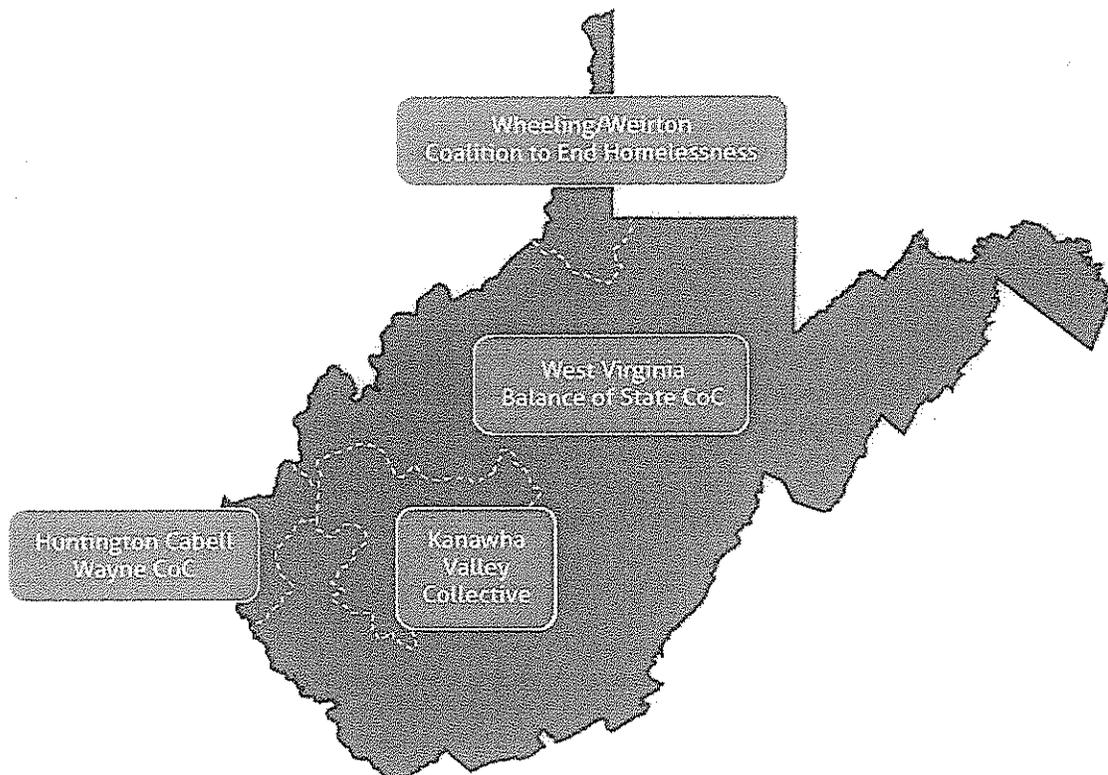
West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness

www.wvceh.org

What do we need?

Visibility from the Legislature so their voice can help us end homelessness in West Virginia. Support from Legislature for initiatives and legislation that promote smart, cost-effective, evidence-proven solutions to end homelessness.

Homelessness Continuums of Care in West Virginia

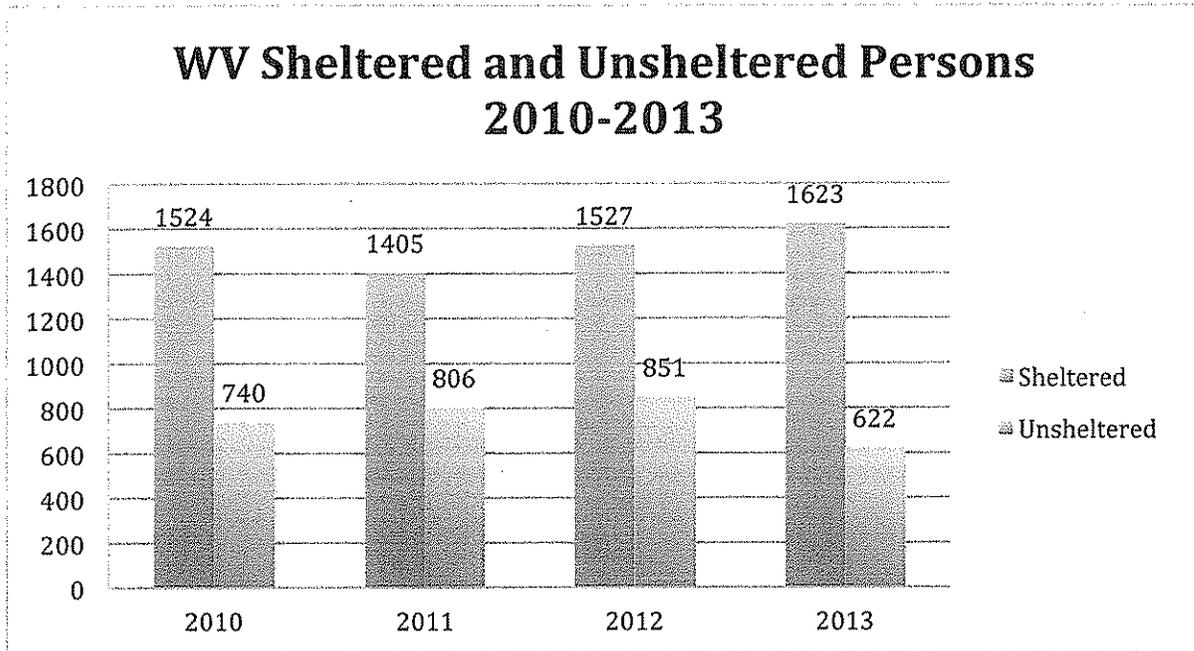


Why do we need the Legislature's voice and support?

We are at a turning point in the way we do business. The Legislature's voice can lend clarity, authority and legitimacy to the collaborative work that must occur statewide and locally to:

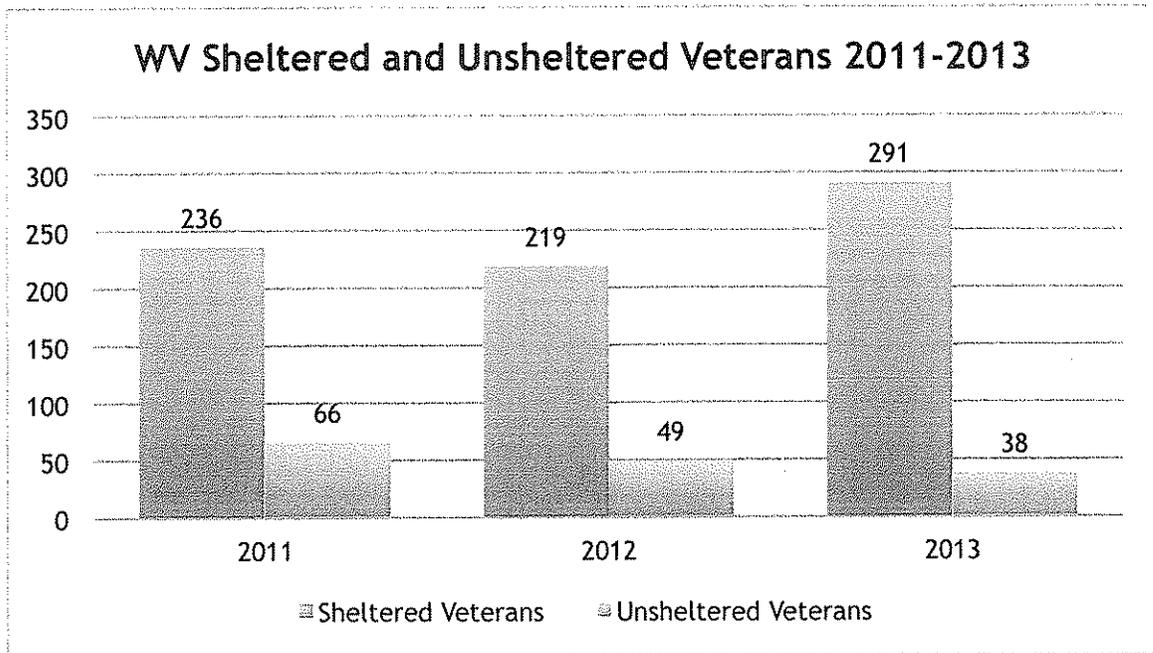
1. Enumerate the current cost that we all bear because of homelessness.
2. Identify the breadth of the problem in West Virginia.
3. Encourage collaboration and cooperation so we can make the best use of the resources we currently have available.
4. Realize some tangible successes through this collaboration so we can be in a much stronger position to access additional resources once we are successful.

5. Reframe the problem as one that has tangible solutions. Homelessness can be eliminated, as we know it, community by community.

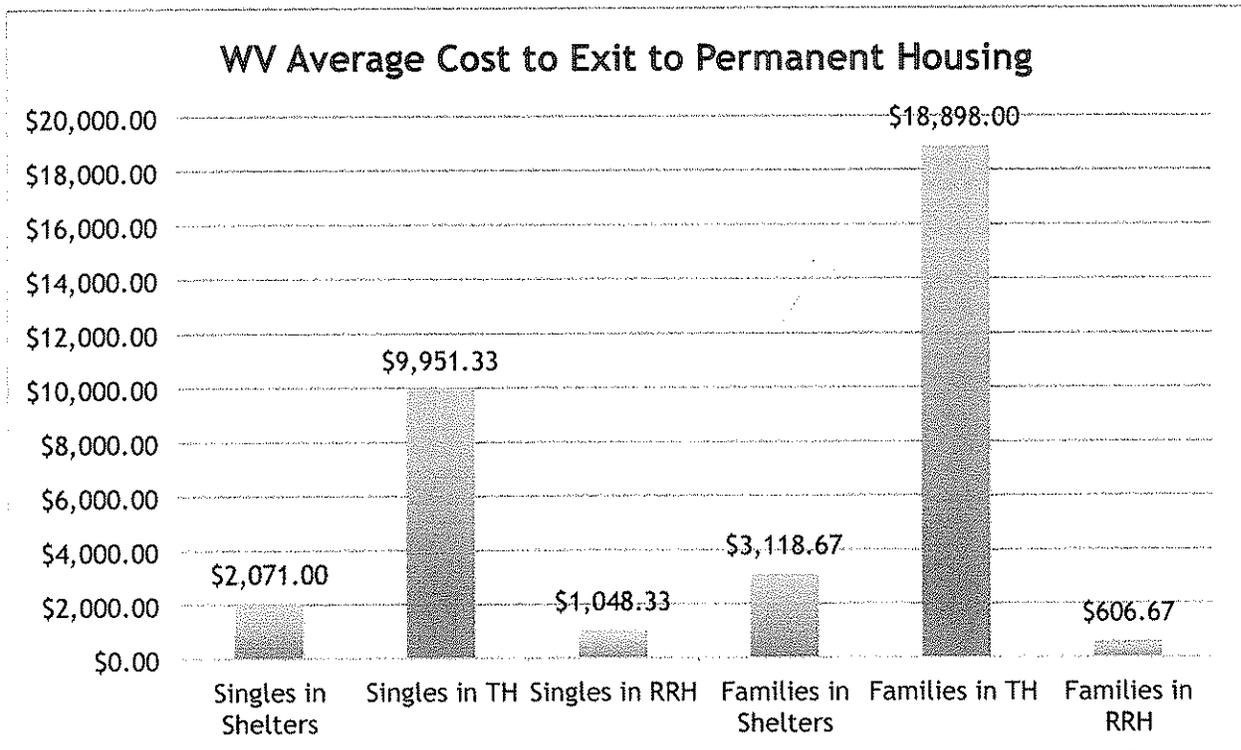


Who is the audience and what are the themes for the Legislature's collective voice?

1. All West Virginians- Brings realization to the fact that a problem exists and that it can be solved community by community.
 - On any given night in WV, there are 2,245 people without a place to call home.
2. Agencies and persons providing housing and services- We often run into issues of bureaucracy, silos, territory, and concerns over funding. This is OUR problem that requires OUR solutions, as a state, as a community, and these solutions lay in better business practices.
 - There are 9 distinct federally funded homeless assistance arms in WV, providing no less than 17 streams of state and federal funding. WV has over 116 distinct programs using the Homeless Management Information System database.
3. The Homeless Population- They need hope. Hearing that the problem is recognized and that solutions are in the works particularly from the State Legislature can help to reinforce that hope.
 - 18% of the homeless population in WV is Veterans, and Veteran homelessness in WV is actually increasing (8.2% since 2011), even though nationally Veteran homelessness has decreased by 17% since 2009.
 - 340 children on any night are sleeping in shelters
 - 38% of those experiencing homelessness are also using substances, 28% are suffering from mental illness, and 17% are chronically homeless (on the streets for several years and have a disability).



4. Politicians and State Agencies in West Virginia-Many of the solutions to homelessness lay in statewide policy changes. Attacking the problem at its source, and delivering better, more efficient housing and services, will take political will.
- For example, in WV, HOME dollars are not being used for Tenant Based Rental Assistance and TANF dollars are not being used for Rapid Re-Housing or Homeless Prevention. Both are proven, cost effective ways, to ending homelessness.



*Charleston CoC Data was not available.

How can the State Legislature’s support accomplish this?

1. Encourage collaboration among state agencies, non-profits and communities to take ownership of, and end homelessness not just manage it.
2. Demand that we, as a business, stop doing what isn’t working, and start doing more of what is working.
3. Work to provide increased funding to end homelessness.
4. Raise awareness through floor debate and other means.
5. Attend local events in West Virginia to raise awareness.

WV Costs to Exit to Permanent Housing Versus Investment						
	Singles in Shelters	Singles in TH	Singles in RRH	Families in Shelters	Families in TH	Families in RRH
Cost Per Exit to PH	\$2,071.00	\$9,951.33	\$1,048.33	\$3,118.67	\$18,898.00	\$606.67
Current Investment	\$931,840.00	\$787,397.00	\$230,554.00	\$798,726.00	\$676,287.00	\$282,104.00

What we can offer to to Legislature, the staff, and Governor.

1. Serve as the “go to” agency for issues of homelessness, affordable housing, poverty, and data from the statewide database on homelessness.
2. Assist with referrals for constituents experiencing homelessness.
3. An “on the ground” perspective regarding the use of federal funds to end homelessness in West Virginia, the effectiveness thereof, and the need for additional resources.
4. Communicate the most successful, cost-effective, and common sense strategies for ending homelessness like Coordinated Assessment and Rapid Re-Housing.
5. A platform and a vehicle to end chronic, veteran, and family homelessness in West Virginia.
6. Information on the most critical Federal Initiatives that can affect the ability to end homelessness in West Virginia.

Abbreviations

CoC- Continuum of Care. A formal, HUD-mandated collection of persons and agencies with the responsibility of creating a system of housing and care for homeless individuals and families.

PH- Permanent Housing.

RRH- Rapid Re-Housing. Programs whom by-pass Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing to put homeless and at-risk persons into Permanent Rental Housing in the community.

Shelter- Emergency Shelters for homeless individuals and families usually 30 days-6 months.

TH- Transitional Housing for Individuals and Families usually 6-24 months.

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