

NEVADA HOMELESS ALLIANCE

**2023 NEVADA STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ON ENDING
HOMELESSNESS**

POLICY | PRACTICE | PARTNERSHIP

August 15-16, 2023

University of Nevada, Reno

Anthem[®]





NEVADA HOMELESS ALLIANCE

About Us

The Nevada Homeless Alliance was established in 1992. Since its establishment, the Nevada Homeless Alliance has convened community partners in the planning and execution of 30 Homeless Standdowns and Project Homeless Connects. Over the last five years alone, these events have assisted more than 15,000 individuals experiencing homelessness access vital resources and services.

We bring people together to advance solutions to homelessness. We do this by partnering closely with federal, state, and local government, business, philanthropic, civic, faith-based organizations, and people who are currently experiencing homelessness and those who have in the past.

www.nevadahomelessalliance.com



Vision & Mission



Vision

Our vision is that with increased collaboration and communication, as well as additional access to services, we will end homelessness.



Mission

Our mission is to advance collaborative strategies to end homelessness in Nevada through advocacy, public awareness, education, and coordination of services.

United States Senate

August 15, 2023

Dear Friends:

I want to welcome you to the 2023 second annual Nevada Statewide Conference on Ending Homelessness. Hosted by the Nevada Homeless Alliance, this is the first time this conference is being held in Northern Nevada. Over the next two days, you will come together to share ideas, network, and collaborate on how to best tackle this important issue across our state.

Nevada continues to experience some of the highest rates of homelessness in the country. That's why I support policies at the federal level that will help address the root causes of homelessness and assist people in our state obtain the services and support they need. All Nevadans deserve to have access to a safe and affordable place to call home. I will continue working with my colleagues in Congress to help those struggling to find stable housing and protect our most vulnerable community members.

I want to extend a special thank you to Nevada Homeless Alliance Executive Director Dr. Catrina Grigsby-Thedford and her team for their dedicated efforts that helped make this conference happen for the second year in a row. Additionally, I would like to recognize the Rural Nevada, Northern Nevada, and Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Boards for working closely with the Nevada Homeless Alliance to provide direct services, evaluate policies, and engage people with lived experience to work towards finding a solution to the current housing crisis.

I wish you all a memorable conference and applaud your commitment to our state.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacky Rosen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senator for Nevada

Meet Our Team

Board Members



Sandra Shulman
President



Robert Reynolds
Vice President



Pastor Henry Sneed
Secretary



Senator David Parks
Treasurer



Travis Bleazard
Board Member

Meet Our Team

Leadership Team



Catrina Thedford
Executive
Director



Corina Marquez
Operations
Assistant



Kevin Whalen
Community
Engagement

Resource Specialists



**Josephine
Rodriguez**



**Donald
Gripper**



**Donica
Martinez**



**Julianna
Pozo**

CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023
9am-5pm

9:00am- 9:45am	Registration, Continental Breakfast, Networking	
10:00am-10:30am	Conference Welcome	Shalimar Cabrera Dr. Catrina Grigsby-Thedford UNR Provost Jeff Thompson
10:30am-11:15am	Beyond the DEI Acronym	Alissa Parish and Ashley Barker-Tolman HUD TA
11:20am-12:05pm	Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing Strategic Plan	Representatives from the NVICHH-Technical Assistance Subcommittee
12:15-1:00pm	Lunch * Speaker Dr. Richard Cho, HUD (12:45pm)	
1:15pm-2:00pm	Elevating the Voices of People with Lived Experience	Southern Nevada Lived X Consultants
2:05pm-2:15pm	Break	
2:15pm-3:30pm	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why Youth Homelessness Matters• Our Place: Crisis Prevention through Crisis Intervention• Housing as Healthcare: Innovations in Healthcare/Housing Partnerships• SSVF Shallow Subsidy: Long-Term Rental Assistance for Military Veterans and Families	
3:30pm-3:45pm	Break	
3:45pm-5:00pm	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Realizing Equity through Data and Action• Supportive Housing in Nevada: Where we've been and where we're going• From Idea to Impact: Navigating Nevada's Policy Processes for Homelessness Advocacy• Medical Care for Special Populations within People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH)	
5:00pm	Day 1 Closing Remarks	Shalimar Cabrera
5:10pm-7:00pm	Networking and Bar Service	

CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023
7am-12pm

7:00am-8:00am

Continental Breakfast, Networking

8:00am-9:15am

Kick off to Day 2!!
Conference Announcements

Shalimar Cabrera

Interactive Activity: Instilling Hope thru Case Making

9:15am- 9:30am

Break

9:30am-10:15am

Breakout Sessions

- Overview and Challenges of the Rural NV CoC
- Current Trends in Drugs of Abuse
- Clark County: Housing Crisis Stabilization and Navigation
- ACLU Policy Presentation

10:15am-10:30am

Break

10:30am-11:15am

Breakout Sessions

- Lived X Secret Shopper Experience
- Painting a Clear Picture: The 5 C's of Effective Communication.
- Person Centered Approaches
- We Live in a Child Care Desert: Changing the child care landscape in Nevada.

11:30am-12:00pm

Closing remarks

Shalimar Cabrera

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023

10:30AM-11:15AM

Beyond the DEI Acronym

BALLROOM

This plenary will discuss why we lead with race when we talk about incorporating equity into our work. We will discuss Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in practice and ways in which we go beyond naming the acronym. We will round out the discussion by talking about ways attendees can begin to operationalize incorporating equity into their lives and work by thinking about the different ways racism and inequity show up – internally, interpersonally, institutionally, and structurally.

Presenters:

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Technical Assistance (TA) Providers

Alissa Parrish

Ashley Barker-Tolman

11:20AM-12:05PM

Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing Strategic Plan

BALLROOM

Representatives from the State Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing (ICHH) will present on the structure, purpose of the ICHH; engage the audience in the strategic plan and the development of the action plan; provide information and how to enhance future partnerships between community partners and the ICHH; and receive feedback from the audience on the most pressing issues related to homelessness in the various communities across Nevada.

Presenters:

Michele Fuller-Hallauer

Dr. Pamela Juniel

Brooke Page

12:45PM

Dr. Richard Cho

BALLROOM

Richard Cho serves as Senior Advisor for Housing and Services to HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge. He will be discussing the efforts HUD is doing on a federal level to address the growing homeless crisis in the United States.

1:15PM-2:00PM

Elevating the Voices of People with Lived Experience

BALLROOM

The Southern Nevada Lived X Consultants will educate the audience on the power of elevating the voice of People with Lived Experience to initiate policy change for realistic, positive outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness and the community as a whole. The Lived X Consultants will share why they came together, who they are, and what their mission is as well as how they are elevating their expertise in homelessness to positively impact and create systemic change. The Lived X Consultants will share with you some of their experiences and their vision of addressing the devastating state of homelessness that communities around the nation are experiencing today!

Presenters: Southern Nevada Lived X Consultants

Martin Castro

Amy Jones

Donica Martinez

Davion Taylor

Health Plan of Nevada

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Nevada Statewide Conference on Ending Homelessness

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023

2:15PM-3:30PM

Why Youth Homelessness Matters

THEATER/ROOM 309

In this session, Why Youth Homelessness Matters, representatives from youth homelessness organizations in both Southern and Northern Nevada will discuss the youth homelessness crisis throughout our state, the unique nature of homelessness for youth, intersectional issues and systems, and how we're coming together across Nevada to combat youth homelessness from all angles.

Presenters:

Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY)

Arash Ghafouri (CEO), Melissa Jacobowitz (Chief of Development & Strategy),

Lanette Rivera (Government Affairs & Policy Manager)

Eddy House

Trevor Macaluso (CEO), Ryan Sexton (Chief Program Officer), Amanda Wisehart, Kelsey Wallace

OUR Place: Crisis Prevention Through Crisis Intervention

ROOM 403

The OUR Place Coordinator, paired with the OUR Place mental health therapist and a former OUR Place mental health therapist & current MOST team worker will show how the OUR Place model creates a safe and stable environment for guests by providing on-site mental health supports to help prevent the need for external supports (law enforcement, MOST, jail) to intervene or respond to the campus during a mental health crisis

Presenters:

Kimberly Schweickert

Justine Hernandez

Hilary Peterson



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023
2:15PM-3:30PM**

Housing as Healthcare: Innovations in Healthcare/Housing Partnerships

ROOM 402

This session will discuss the links between housing stability and health outcomes, and share information on innovations in providing housing as healthcare in NV.

Presenters

Emily Paulsen, Housing Program Manager, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Christopher Stadter, Supervisory Social Worker HCHV, Veteran Affairs

Austin Pollard, NV Housing Program Manager, Housing & Health, United Healthcare

**Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Shallow Subsidy:
Long-Term Rental Assistance
for Military Veterans and Families**

ROOM 422

The COVID-19 pandemic, aside from all its other life-changing impacts, has shown the social service field over the past few years exactly where it is undeserving our homeless and low-income populations. Many of us did not originally think the health and financial effects of the pandemic would last on for months, let alone years, and it is important for social services to adapt their programs to account for the long-term supportive needs of our communities instead of its majority short-term supports. U.S.VETS - Las Vegas is honored to be a part of this adaption for homeless and low-income military veterans and families. The SSVF Shallow Subsidy is long-term rental assistance and case management service for military veterans and their families. U.S.VETS believes our model has the ability to adapt to any current short-term housing supportive service program, and to any population in need of long-term housing support. There will be opportunities for Q&A at the end of the presentation, a print out of the finer points of our model to aid other housing providers in their own journey to adapting to long-term housing support, and a brief testimony highlighting a staff member's professional and lived experience with housing supports.

Presenters: Brittany Srp and Michael Goldberg, US VETS Las Vegas



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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023

3:45PM-5:00PM

Realizing Equity through Data and Action

THEATER/ROOM 309

This session will be a hands-on discussion about the Annual Performance Report (APR) and Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), standard reports available to any project entering data in HMIS. We will discuss what the APR and CAPER are, how to run the reports in HMIS, and what the reports tell you about your project performance. Additionally, we will talk about Stella P(erformance), a CoC-level visualization that provides information about key performance metrics – length of time experiencing homelessness, exits to permanent destinations, and returns to homelessness. Attendees will be able to walk through their specific CoC's data and understand how to interpret Stella P and use the data from it to inform their work. We will finish the discussion by circling back to the discussion about internal, interpersonal, institutional, and structural racism and inequity from the plenary and support attendees in walking away with actionable steps they can implement to do things differently.

Presenters:

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Technical Assistance (TA) Providers

Alissa Parrish

Ashley Barker-Tolman

From Idea to Impact: Navigating Nevada's Policy Processes for Homelessness Advocacy

Room 403

Join us in this engaging workshop, where we'll delve into the intricacies of the policy process – particularly through the lens of housing and homelessness in Nevada. In examining the events of 82nd legislative session and learning to view policy processes through the Advocacy Coalition Framework, participants will gain valuable insights into navigating the policy landscape, from formulating impactful ideas to effectively advocating for change. We'll explore successful strategies to bring forth legislation, empowering attendees to influence policy decisions that have a lasting impact on homelessness in Nevada. Whether you're a seasoned advocate or a newcomer to policy work, this session offers an essential understanding of the state's policy process and an entryway into Nevada's legislative process.

Presenters:

Amanda Vaskov, Government Affairs & Policy Manager, Nevada Housing Coalition

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023

3:45PM-5:00PM

Medical Care for Special Populations within People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH)

Room 402

The People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) population is very diverse, and it's vital that we, as medical professionals, provide the best possible care by recognizing the intersectionality of this varied population. There are many population-specific medical concerns that each subsection will need addressed. Each population has different medical conditions, vaccination and testing considerations, and different resources available within the community. Those who frequently work with PEH populations, both medical and non-medical, should be aware of these specific concerns to provide the most effective integrated care for these very underserved clients. Specific conditions within PEH populations who warrant tailored medical care include women, LGBTQ+, youth/transitional youth, seniors, immigrants, and people with substance use disorder (SUD) and serious medical illness (SMI). We will review specific medical recommendations for each of these populations.

Presenters:

*Dr. Rebecca Edgeworth, Assistant Professor, Associate Medical Director, Touro University Nevada
Mayra Gonzalez, Community Outreach Coordinator, Touro University Nevada*

Supportive Housing in Nevada: Where we've been and where we're going

Room 422

With the passing of AB310 and ongoing dedication to supportive housing development by public funders, this session will engage a panel of service providers on the evolution of their work advancing supportive housing in Nevada, their goals and barriers experienced. Let's discuss the future of this evidence-based intervention in Nevada and explore where we can go with coordinated funding resources for capital, operating and services and the outcomes we can achieve together with an eye towards evaluation. Attendees will learn the evolution of local nonprofit community organizations as it relates to becoming supportive housing providers and will learn more about the potential of AB310, the Nevada Supportive Housing Development Fund. Attendees will provide input on capacity-building needs for the state to advance supportive housing development

Coordinator: Juawana Grant, NHC

Moderator: Brooke Page, CSH

Panelists: Fuilala Riley, HELP of Southern Nevada

Roxanne DeCarlo, Empowerment Center

Benjamin Castro, RISE

Cristy Costa, Northern Nevada Community Housing

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023
8AM-9:15AM

Instilling Hope thru Case Making
BALLROOM

Drawn from lessons in Strategic CaseMaking by The Case Made, this interactive activity will give us a chance to work with one another. We'll create case statements and conversation starters about the future of the community that we are all seeking. Learn this strategy that can instill hope with stakeholders as we advocate for transformational change. You'll be able to take some joy from the process, and leave with a tool you can adapt to your own organization.

Presenter:
Shalimar Cabrera

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:30AM-10:15AM

Clark County: Housing Crisis Stabilization and Navigation
Theater/Room 309

Clark County has implemented a non-congregate emergency housing and navigation center to connect homeless adults without children to housing, income, public benefits, and either physical or mental health services to help this population reach a goal of self-sufficiency. Clark County recognizes individuals as experts of their own lives and of their lived experience of homelessness and Clark County understands that individuals know what will work for them in reaching change and recognize them as the central change agents; therefore, this program adopts a facilitative and supportive approach. In all aspects of the program, we respect and trust individuals' self-knowledge, agency, and autonomy, while guiding and supporting each individual in their chosen goals. Housing crisis stabilization and navigation services, through housing problem solving practice, are able address barriers upon immediate contact and provide a variety of services at one location versus referring individuals to alternative locations. Through private and public agency partnership, challenges to addressing barriers and obtaining transitional housing-rapid rehousing are addressed.

Presenters:
Brenda Barnes

Andrew Combado, Management Analyst II, Clark County Department of Family Services



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TO BUY
SOME SWAG!**

Overview and Challenges of the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care (CoC)

Room 402

Rural Nevada Continuum of Care: Overview of the RNCOC and Challenges faced in providing homeless services in Rural Nevada: The session will provide an overview of the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care which provides access to homeless services, including coordinated entry across 15 jurisdictions over 96,000 square miles in rural Nevada. The presenters will provide how challenges are being met, future planning for coordination of the CoC, and provide for questions and answers for the attendees.

Presenters:

Jackee Stewart, Office Supervisor, Churchill County

Karyn Smith, Human Services Director and Public Guardian, Nye County

Shannon Ernst, Director and Public Guardian, Churchill County

Current Trends in Drugs of Abuse

Room 422

Are you prepared for the societal changes coming with legalization of hallucinogens? Where are we with the opioid epidemic? And what's this new drug that's so dangerous that the DEA has issued a rare public alert? What do we need to consider when we look at drug and alcohol abuse in the homeless population? Come hear about the current trends in drugs of abuse including alcohol, marijuana, opioids and hallucinogens.

Presenter:

Kelly Swan, CEO- RENEW Therapeutic Enhancement Services

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:30AM-11:15AM

Lived X- Secret Shopper Experience

Theater/Room 309

The Southern Nevada Lived X Consultants will go into detail about their Secret Shopper project. They will explain why the Secret Shopper project was a necessary tool to assess Coordinated Entry sites throughout the local Continuum of Care. They will present their methodology, the process, and the outcome that measured the effectiveness of service provisions within the Coordinated Entry sites. The Lived X Consultants elevated recommendations and next steps to implementing a more person-centered, equitable, and trauma-informed experience for people accessing Coordinated Entry as well as the homeless response system. There will be Q&A and audience participation.

Presenters: Southern Nevada Lived X Consultants

Martin Castro

Amy Jones

Donica Martinez

Davion Taylor

Painting a Clear Picture - The 5 C's of Communication

Room 403

"Painting a Clear Picture - The 5 C's of Communication" is a dynamic training based on insights from Brené Brown's work. This interactive session explores effective communication strategies using the 5 C's - Color, Context, Connective Tissue, Cost, and Consequence. Participants engage in interactive assignments to practice these concepts, and therefore reinforce impactful communication. Clear communication is emphasized as an act of kindness, fostering better understanding and alignment in teams. Participants leave with practical tools to enhance communication effectiveness and build stronger connections in the workplace.

Presenter:

Michelle Johnston, Director of Behavioral Health for U.S.VETS - Las Vegas

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:30AM-11:15AM

We Live in a Child Care Desert: Changing the child care landscape in

Nevada

Room 402

Lack of access to affordable, quality child care disrupts the workforce which causes loss of wages, loss of jobs, and ultimately impacts the security of housing. Families in Nevada spend between 27-38% of their income on child care. In-home child care not only offers a safe environment for children whose parents need to work but allows the in-home child care Provider a place to live and maintain a steady income. This presentation will explore some of the barriers to opening an in-home child care and what we can do as organizations to break down those barriers.

Presenters:

Mary Regan, Las Vegas Urban League-Early Childhood Connection, Child Care and Resource Manager

Melissa Aschenbach, Wonderschool, Program Manager-New Supply

Person-Centered Approaches

ROOM 422

In this session, you will experience an Interactive adventure into person-centered services and harm reduction. An opportunity to engage in a safe space and discuss concerns and frequently asked questions when it comes to person-centered modalities.

Presenters:

Krystal Ellison, Independent Contractor

Kelly Swan, CEO- RENEW Therapeutic Enhancement Service

4:15PM-5:00PM CLOSING SPEAKER

Closing Remarks

BALLROOM

Close out our 2023 Nevada Statewide Conference on Ending Homelessness with remarks by our MC Shalimar Cabrera.

*Presenters:
Shalimar Carera*



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PLANNING COMMITTEE BIOS



Shalimar Cabrera/Conference Emcee

Shalimar Cabrera, U.S.VETS – Las Vegas Executive Director, has been committed to ending homelessness among military veterans for over 20 years. She is known for her transformational leadership and culture coaching, and expertise in galvanizing people in fundraising and event organizing. Shalimar's values are leadership and impact, and she lives into them by creating lasting community change, and inspiring people to reach their full potential.



Catrina Grigsby-Thedford

Catrina is a person with lived experience with homelessness. Catrina is passionate about ending homelessness and is dedicated to collaborating with community partners who are working towards similar goals. She has 13 years of professional experience working with those experiencing homelessness. Catrina is a licensed social worker and certified drug and alcohol counselor supervisor. She obtained her Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Public Administration, and Doctorate in Public Policy from UNLV.



Adrienne Babbitt

Adrienne Babbitt started with HUD as the Nevada Field Office Director in September of 2021. Previously working in Las Vegas since 2014 overseeing a transitional housing program providing service-delivery and residential assistance to veterans enduring homelessness, Babbitt is an active member of the Las Vegas community and recognized by her peers for her leadership and advocacy for Housing First practices and veteran services. She began her career working with homeless and at-risk families in 2010 as a supportive housing case manager in Upstate New York. Babbitt is a veteran of the United States Army and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and a Master of Arts degree in Forensic Psychology from Argosy University.



Jeff Church

Jeff Church is a retired police sergeant that founded and ran his department's homeless program. He then was board president of Reno's first 24-7-365 homeless resource center in the historic Bethel AME Church at 220 Bell St in Reno. He is also a retired officer in the US Air Force (Reserve), VFW Life Member, and now an elected school Trustee in Washoe County, Nevada.

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIOS



Juawana Grant

Juawana Grant serves as the Director of Education and Outreach at the Nevada Housing Coalition working on a statewide capacity building project to promote and advance affordable housing across Nevada. Juawana recently returned to her hometown of Las Vegas after ten years in the Pacific Northwest working in supportive housing, harm reduction and diversion programs. She has significant experience providing direct services to chronically unhoused individuals from the streets to transitional, supportive, and independent housing. This path has fostered an impassioned commitment to the affordable housing movement, and Housing First models in particular. She believes in fostering a culture of support, resource sharing and collaboration among organizations and is excited by the opportunity to do just that in her role at NHC.



Dana Searcy

Dana Searcy is the Division Director for Washoe County Housing and Homeless Services. She began her career with the County in 2017 after serving the community in the non-profit sector for more than 10 years. Dana managed the Washoe County Strategic Plan and worked on various community projects as a Special Projects Manager prior to being asked to support the transition of Washoe County into the lead role for Regional Homeless Services. These past two years have included the transition of the Continuum of Care and Nevada Cares Campus from the City of Reno to Washoe County, the hiring and development of the 44 staff in the division, and the expansion of the Cares Campus through a \$80 million construction project. Dana's education includes a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Dana has also received her Certified Public Manager (CPM) certification through the State of Nevada. Dana is a native Nevadan and proud to live and serve locally with her husband and family.



Brooke Page

Brooke Page is a strategic thinker and advocate who has worked for over 20 years in human service administration. Her experience includes managing nonprofit organizations and government programs at the state and local levels. Currently, Brooke serves as the Director of the southwest region at CSH, where she leads efforts to provide practical support and assistance to increase quality supportive housing. She focuses on improving systems and resources to create housing options for individuals and families facing difficult challenges with accessing and maintaining housing. Her work supports CSH's operations and promotes better policies and practices in various care sectors. Brooke is passionate about creating new opportunities for supportive housing and aims to ensure that people with complex barriers can find long-term housing solutions that meets their unique needs.

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIOS

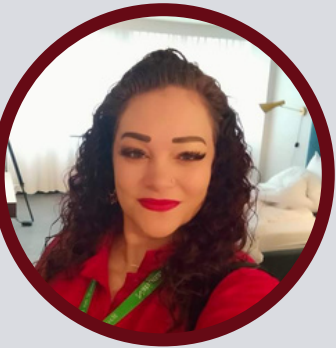


Trevor Macaluso, Chief Executive Officer



Trevor Macaluso is a native Nevadan who was born and raised in Reno/Sparks. He graduated from the University of Nevada with a B.A. in Economics, Political Science, and International Affairs. Trevor spent over a decade working in development and nonprofit organizations throughout the state. Most recently, serving as the Outreach Director at The Crossing in Las Vegas. He has also served as a Major Gift Officer at Opportunity Village and was a consultant for October, Inc., a nationally recognized full-service fundraising firm. Having relocated to his hometown with his wife and three kids, they are all excited to be enjoying the activities our community has to offer. Trevor has been the Chief Executive Officer of Eddy House since August 2021. Eddy House is the only nonprofit agency in Northern Nevada that serves any homeless and at-risk youth aged 18-24. Eddy House provides 24/7/365 emergency and overnight shelter, transitional living, and wrap-around recovery-focused supportive services and programs. The mission of Eddy House is to create a safe environment for homeless and at-risk youth to develop the life and job skills that will enable them to attain and sustain successful independent lives. Trevor has served on the board of Refuge for Women, the Nevada Alumni Council, and the UNR Southern Alumni Chapter. In his off time, he enjoys hiking, camping, local coffee shops, and a good book.

Donica Martinez



Donica Martinez (She/Her/Hers), Resource Specialist//PLE Coordinator for Nevada Homeless Alliance. She is also a Lived X Consultant. Donica was born in Pomona, CA. She has been a resident of Nevada for 21 yrs. She recently experienced Homelessness for 7 of those years. A year and a half ago, she changed her life and came out of homelessness through the help of The Shine A Light Foundation, here she now volunteers several days a week. She has become a Lead for their volunteer outreach teams, she coordinates care pack building every week, and chairs a weekly meeting for Shine A Light scholarship recipients. A year ago, she started out as an Independent Contractor with Nevada Homeless Alliance, working as a Peer Vaccine Ambassador and a PLE (Person with Lived Experience). Being a Person with Lived Experience, it is her passion to elevate the Voices of those that have experienced and are experiencing Homelessness in all its forms and strive every day to help those in need and provide the best services that she possibly can.

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIOS



Amy Jones

Amy Jones moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 2013 and is originally from Chicago, Illinois. She has over 20 years of experience working in the nonprofit world. In addition, she has served in a leadership capacity for 12 years, helping to develop and implement numerous programs which provided housing and services to hundreds of individuals and families and has raised over \$15 million in funding to support foster care and homeless services. By day, she serves as the Director of Housing & Homeless Services at Southern Nevada CHIPs and by night she is a Lived-X Consultant. During her journey in leadership, she managed to increase agency growth by increasing the number of people served, increasing staff, and increasing revenue. Her lived experience growing up contributed to what drives her to take on challenges no one else wants. As a Lived-X Consultant, she is committed to centering the voice of people who are experiencing homelessness because the only way to implement change is to hold the Southern Nevada's Homeless Response System accountable for action. She has both passion and creative vision for taking a concept or idea and developing it through execution by collaborating with stakeholders, utilizing resources, and applying creative problem solving and strategic planning. She says her personal philosophy is, "if you have the ability to create change and take action, you have the responsibility to drive change and take action." When not at work, she likes to spend time with family, travel, and do home improvement projects.



Emily Paulsen

Emily Paulsen is the Housing Program Manager for Anthem Nevada Medicaid, where she is responsible for overseeing the health plans statewide strategy to provide housing supports for members experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Prior to joining Anthem, Emily served as the Executive Director of the Nevada Homeless Alliance where she led the organization's growth and development of programs focused on policy advocacy, training, outreach, and community-wide capacity building. Emily has also worked as a street outreach worker, case manager, and led the development and management of Permanent Supportive Housing programs for chronically homeless Veterans. This work set the foundation for her passion to end homelessness, and create systems change in the homeless service sector. Emily earned her Master's in Social Work Degree from University of NV, Las Vegas and her Bachelors in Social Work Degree from San Jose State University. Emily is an active Board member for the Nevada Housing Coalition and the Southern NV Homelessness Continuum of Care Board. Her leadership has earned her recognitions such as the "Community Advocate Award" from ACLU of NV, and as a "40 under 40" community trailblazer by the Las Vegas Sun.

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIOS



Arash Ghafoori, Chief Executive Officer

Arash Ghafoori (he, him, his) is the CEO of the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY), Southern Nevada’s most comprehensive service provider for homeless youth. Leveraging his diverse background in policy, academia, and the start-up and corporate worlds, Arash has transformed NPHY into a community leader on issues affecting Southern Nevada’s homeless youth. Arash is a passionate advocate for disadvantaged populations and is an active leader in the national and local movements to end youth homelessness, serving on the Board of Directors of the National Network for Youth, the Advisory Board of National Safe Place, and the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board. A firm believer in leveraging the intersections between the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to create visionary solutions for social problems, Arash speaks locally and nationally on best practices in serving homeless youth and how to incorporate sound business practices into non-profit management.

Arash holds a multidisciplinary B.A. in International Relations and Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an M.A. in Economics from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He was honored in 2014 as a “40 Under 40” business trailblazer by Vegas Inc. and received the 2016 Executive Leadership Award from National Safe Place, the 2017 Sustainable Leadership Award from Impact NV, and the 2019 HOME Award for outstanding individual member of the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care.

OTHER PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chaqula Kallo

Alexis Hill, Washoe County Commissioner

Maurice Cloutier, City of Las Vegas, Community Resources Manager, Homeless Initiatives

Speaker/Presenter Bios

Melissa Aschenbach

Melissa Aschenbach has twenty years of experience in the field of education. She holds a bachelor's degree in special education and a Master's degree in Reading & Literacy. While the majority of her experience in education was as a Special Educator (preK-age 21), three of those years were solely as a job coach/mentor. Last November, Melissa joined Wonderschool, an EdTech company, as a program manager for Nevada and has an office at the Nevada Strong Start Child Care Services Center partnering with various agencies in the efforts to improve the current childcare landscape. In her free time, Melissa enjoys all outdoors activities, volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club, and is part of the Reno Women for Good organization, helping women in Reno build connections while doing good for the greater community.

Ashley Barker-Tolman

Ashley Barker Tolman is a private consultant and HUD technical assistance provider-based part time in Salt Lake City, UT and part time in Seattle, WA. She has 12 years' experience supporting and leading homelessness response systems. Ashley's technical assistance portfolio includes COVID-19 response, community coordination, CoC governance, strategic planning, support for rural communities, and system-level improvement and implementation. Prior to providing consultation and technical assistance, Ashley worked for the State of Utah as a CoC lead, special projects manager, collaborative applicant, government administrator and evaluator. Ashley's work is influenced by her background and experience in cross-cultural communications, international development, and qualitative research as well as a firm commitment to equity and person-centered systems.

Martin Castro

Martin was born in Long Beach, California, and relocated to Las Vegas in 1997. He graduated from Western High School and attended a couple of years at the University of Las Vegas, Nevada. Even though he had a loving family, and a bright future ahead of him, there was always an underlying need to be rebellious. At a young age, he found himself drowning his feelings and existence with substance use. Progressing physical and mental issues led to 3 years of unsheltered homelessness until the faithful day of May 10, 2022. Through word of mouth, he learned of a place to shower in the Hope Corridor, however, due to fate and a higher power he detoured to Trak-B where his recovery journey began. He is an active member in both the Recovery scene and the Homeless Response system as an employee of Chicanos Por La Causa as a Street Outreach worker for the City of North Las Vegas HOME Team.

Dr. Richard Cho

Richard Cho serves as Senior Advisor for Housing and Services to HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge. In this role, he advises the Secretary and helps set HUD's policy strategy for solving homelessness, coordinating health with housing, and meeting the housing needs of people with disabilities, older adults, and people involved in the criminal justice system. Richard brings to this role two decades of experience at the community, state, and federal levels building collaboration between the housing, health care, social services, and criminal justice sectors to address the housing and services needs of vulnerable Americans. He served as Deputy Director at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness during the Obama Administration and has held positions at the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. He has a Ph.D. in Public Administration from New York University, a Master in City Planning degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago.

Speaker/Presenter Bios

Cristy Costa

Cristy Costa is a native Nevadan; born and raised in the Reno and Sparks areas. In 2016, Cristy began her journey with Northern Nevada Community Housing, growing into the Human Services Director, backed with a bachelor's degree in social work from University of Nevada, Reno, as well as licensure from the state of Nevada. For just over seven years, Cristy has encompassed the mission of NNCH – developing and managing quality affordable housing for those most in need. Cristy continues to collaborate with residents experiencing hardship or conflict that could otherwise prevent them from staying housed. Through a growing network of community relationships and resources, she works with residents to resolve conflicts and strives to meet NNCH's goal of stemming homelessness in Northern Nevada. Cristy heads NNCH's foodbank network that serves six of our communities and oversees resident workshops for financial literacy at our two communities that specifically serve the chronically homeless.

Dr. Rebecca Edgeworth

Dr. Rebecca Edgeworth is an internal medicine physician who went to medical school at the University of South Florida School of Medicine and did her training in Las Vegas through the University of Nevada. She has worked exclusively in primary care of underserved and vulnerable populations as a volunteer, a medical director of a free clinic, and various other medical events in the Las Vegas valley. Dr. Edgeworth has worked as clinical adjunct faculty with Touro University Nevada since 2012, and full-time as Assistant Professor since 2019. She leads the community outreach program for the Physician Assistant Studies department of the College of Health and Human Services. As such, Dr. Edgeworth teaches our next generation of medical professionals the skills and compassion needed to provide excellent care to those populations who need the most help and have the least access to medical care including uninsured, immigrants, homeless, and domestic violence victims.

Shannon Ernst

Shannon is a fourth-generation resident of Churchill County and has served the local community for more than 20 years in ever-growing responsibilities. Shannon's goal is to evaluate social needs in the community and develop strategies to support and maintain safe, healthy, and independent living for all residents. In 2002, when Churchill County Social Services received the first local government Housing and Urban Development supportive housing grant to develop and implement local homeless services programming. Shannon jumped in and developed and implemented the first rural transitional housing program with intensive case management to reduce homelessness in the community. By 2005, Shannon was appointed as director of the Churchill County Social Services Department and in 2009 she was appointed as County Public Guardian. In 2020, Shannon led the COVID response with county leadership through an emergency declaration creating a rural public health department. Through Churchill County's achievements in response to the pandemic, the State of Nevada approved the Central Nevada Health District on July 1, 2023, the first rural multi-jurisdictional health district in Nevada. Shannon resides in Fallon with her greatest supporter, Mike. She has three children: daughter Jordan who lives in Fallon, Logan who resides in Carson City, and Brittany living in South Lake Tahoe

Mayra Gonzalez

Mayra was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. She's a first-generation Nevadan. Mayra became a certified Community Health Worker in 2018 through the College of Southern Nevada. At Touro University Nevada, her role is to secure and coordinate clinical experiences for the Physician Assistant students to become better practitioners by exposing them to different populations through their Mobile Health Clinic. Mayra is an avid volunteer, committed to making her hometown a better place.

Speaker/Presenter Bios

Justine Hernandez

Justine Hernandez is a licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) in Reno, NV. She currently works as a clinician for the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST) with the Reno Police Department. Prior to working alongside law enforcement for community mental health emergencies, Justine worked as a clinician at the women and family homeless shelter, child protective services, and with children who have experienced trauma. Justine has been trained in perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and has a passion for supporting birthing parents, young children, and increasing attachment within the parent/child relationship. Justine has experience working as a victim advocate for domestic violence and sexual violence survivors and provides training to law enforcement and community partners on trauma informed response to intimate partner violence. Justine has been an instructor at the University of Nevada, Reno where she teaches an introductory level course on substance use and addiction treatment services.

Alejandra "Ally" Holmes

Alejandra "Ally" Holmes was raised in Tulare, California. Her mom was an Immigrant from El Salvador. Growing up, their housing instability never relented, every single month her family feared losing their housing. They would walk into fancy offices, begging the property manager to give them more time. A big custom in her home was to walk across the street to The Salvation Army where her family was blessed with free food. There, they also volunteered their time to give out food boxes and rang bells every winter. Because of her Lived experience, the only thing that made sense for Ally was to work in non-profit, helping others. Ally has now been working for non-profits for over 13 years. Today, she's a Housing Case Manager at The Just One Project in Vegas where she gets to walk alongside others as they are housed and reach housing stability. She is also a Lived-X Consultant, where she can be a part of a beautiful group of Lived Experienced people who, like her, have a passion for change and get to see it happen! Ally is married to an amazing man named David and is excited to continue helping others.

Michelle Johnston

Michelle Johnston is Director of Behavioral Health for U.S.VETS – Las Vegas. She has been with the organization since 2013, equipped with an extensive background in non-profit management and clinical services. Michelle oversees multiple housing programs and a clinical treatment team which includes service-delivery and residential assistance to veterans experiencing homelessness. Michelle's innovative ideas and interactive training sessions made her a sought-after speaker and instructor, including being a top instructor for Mental Health First Aid in 2022.

Donica Martinez

Donica Martinez (She/Her/Hers) is a Nevada Homeless Alliance Resource Specialist/PLE Coordinator, and she is a Southern Nevada Lived X Consultant. She has been a resident of Nevada for 21 yrs. She recently experienced Homelessness for 7 of those yrs. A year and half ago she changed her life, came out of homelessness through the help of The Shine A Light foundation. In which she now volunteers several days out of the weeks with. She has become a Lead for their volunteer outreach teams, coordinates care pack building every week and chairs a weekly meeting for Shine A Light scholarship recipients. A year ago, she started out as an Independent Contactor with Nevada Homeless Alliance working as a Peer Vaccine Ambassador and a PLE (Person with Lived Experience). Being a Person with Lived Experience, it is her passion to elevate the Voices of those that have experienced and are experiencing Homelessness in all its forms and strives every day to help those in need and provide the best services that she possibly can.

Speaker/Presenter Bios

Alissa Parrish

Alissa Parrish has more than 13 years of experience in the homelessness field as a direct service provider, HMIS Lead, and HUD TA provider. In her role at ICF, Ms. Parrish works with communities to provide technical assistance, often with a focus on HMIS and how it can be leveraged to support the entire homeless response system and the people the system serves. Ms. Parrish specializes in HMIS governance including privacy and security, policies and procedures, data quality management programs, and system monitoring and modeling; improving the quality of data in HMIS and analyzing data centered in racial equity that addresses inequities in the homeless response system; and supporting data-informed decisions through comprehensive system mapping and data literacy. Additionally, Ms. Parrish supports several of HUD's initiatives in a project management/coordination role including the National Homeless Data Analysis Project (supporting HUD's HMIS Data Lab and HMIS Data Standards processes), Community Workshops (supporting HUD's peer-to-peer learning model), Data Workgroup (supporting HUD's HMIS data efforts), and Regional Teams (supporting HUD's nationwide regional TA structure).

Hilary Peterson

Hilary Peterson is a licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) in Reno, NV. She currently works as a clinician for Washoe County Human Services Agency at Our Place. Prior to her time at Our Place Hilary has over 10 years of experience working in the mental health field. After finishing her career as an elite ski racer she completed her internship in sports psychology at the Sports Science Institute of South Africa. Hilary worked with at-risk youth and youth who have experienced trauma in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Hilary is passionate about working with historically underserved populations. She currently is contracted through the Nevada Partnership for Learning to provide LGBTQ+ trainings statewide and provides a weekly support group for trans teens at Our Center.

Mary Regan

Mary Regan has over twenty years of experience in the field of education. She holds a Bachelor degree in Education and Master degree in Educational Leadership. She has held a variety of positions in private, public, non-profit, & for-profit settings. She has served on the state and local AEYC boards in Nevada. She has attended and presented at several education conferences local, regionally, and nationally.

Fuilala Riley

Fuilala Riley, CEO for HELP of Southern Nevada (HELP) joined the agency in 2003, HELP is the largest Housing-First, Harm-Reduction service provider in Clark County, operating 1,000 beds in scattered sites. Throughout her 20-year tenure at HELP, she has launched new impactful programming and expanded existing programs with a dedicated group of mission focused co-workers. Ms. Riley was an integral team member during the acquisition/merger of two non-profits into HELP in 2008 and 2009 and most recently the acquisition of two additional organizations in 2018 and 2019. She oversaw the new construction and financing of the new 37,000 square foot, 150 bed Shannon West Homeless Youth Center, located on HELP's East Flamingo campus. As well as being a proud UNLV Hotel College and Metro Chamber of Commerce Leadership Las Vegas Alumna, Ms. Riley serves on the Local Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, Homeless Policy Council and, was appointed to represent Clark County on the AB73 Homeless Working Group and for the past two years has chaired the Southern Nevada CEO Exchange, a membership group of 12 of the largest non-profit organizations focused on strengthening the community safety through advocacy, partnership and collaboration. She is also a 2018 Jameson fellow and 2023 Wynn Non-Profit Executive Fellow.

Speaker/Presenter Bios

Kimberly Schweickert

Kim began her career at Washoe County in 2001 at the District Attorney's office, running the Child Abuse Response and Evaluations (CARES) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) programs. In 2007 Kim moved over to Human Services and supervised various programs to include the medical unit, domestic violence advocates, human services support specialists, the visitation and transportation programs, and the case workers at the homeless family shelter. Currently, Kim is the Coordinator over OUR Place, a campus serving individual women and families experiencing homelessness. Kim served as the project lead during construction and design of the campus, developed the policies and procedures and supervises all County staff on the campus. Kim also supervises the Victim Advocate program within Human Services & serves as the Co-Chair of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, a position she has held for 9 years.

Krystal Ellison-Smith

Krystal is a social work student and independent consultant on rapid rehousing and person-centered services. She brings 8 years of professional experience and a lifetime of lived experience to the table to enhance the lives of individuals living with addiction and mental health.

Karyn Smith

Karyn Smith is the Human Services Director for Nye County Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Public Guardian. She has been employed with Nye County Health and Human Services for more than 26 years, starting out as a part-time Eligibility Worker. She has been a resident of Pahrump for approximately 33 years, but was raised in Simi Valley, California. Karyn made the move to Pahrump in 1990 wanting to raise her three children, now 34, 32 and 28 years-old, in a small community environment without the hustle and bustle of urban areas like Southern California and Las Vegas. Karyn has volunteered many hours of service to local youth activity groups, such as Girl Scouts of America and American Youth Soccer Association (AYSO) and continues to serve as Treasurer for AYSO Regional Board. She enjoys her free time exploring Nevada's desert and mountain areas with her husband and family, weekly family dinners and weekends with her six grandchildren, ages 1 through 8. 26 plus years working with HHS has grown Karyn's passion to be a true public servant to the community. She participates in numerous groups and webinars, was the Secretary for the Nevada Association of County Human Services Administrators, which she is now the Vice-Chair and is also the Co-Chair for the Nevada Community Action Association. She received a Certificate of Professional Development in the Certified Public Official Program and a Master Certificate from the Professional Development Academy.

Jackee Stewart

Jackee Stewart, Office Supervisor at Churchill County Social Services. I was born and raised in Fallon (Churchill County), funny enough our now County complex was the hospital I was born in. Jackee loves working in the community that she grew-up in and seeing all the wonderful things Fallon offers our community members. Jackee started working for Churchill County Social Services in June of 2013 as the Office Specialist, with the primary responsibility of client intake. In October 2017 Jackee was promoted to the Homeless Housing Caseworker where she started working directly with our friend's experiencing homelessness. Working with our homeless population is something Jackee will forever hold dear to her as she has met some amazing people. Jackee's favorite part of being the Housing Caseworker was, and will always be, getting to watch the program participants go from a place of just surviving to a place of truly thriving. Jackee feels lucky enough to be the person to remind them that it was their hard work and strength that got them to where they are now. In March of 2020 Jackee was promoted to Office Supervisor. It was a difficult transition for her as she was no longer able to work directly with clients, but she does get to oversee programs that benefit our community, programs that she is proud of and believes in. Jackee serves as the Co-Chair of the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care, lead for the Churchill County Resource Partnership and continue to work to increase access for services for the homeless population, not just in Churchill, but statewide.

Speaker/Presenter Bios

Brittany Srp

Brittany Srp is an experienced case manager with U.S.VETS - Las Vegas who specializes in long-term housing support for veterans and families experiencing homelessness. Her philosophy of person-centered case management is rooted in self-empowerment and advocacy to assist her clients in transforming any challenge into an opportunity for personal growth. She has helped over 300 veterans since being a part of U.S.VETS, and is currently striving to further deepen her understanding of advocacy by applying for law school. Outside of work, Brittany enjoys fishing, kayaking, and cooking while empowering herself not to order take out instead.

Kelly Swan

Kelly Swan is a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, a Certified Youth and Mental Health First Aid Instructor, and a mindfulness and mediation instructor. and a national trainer with expertise which includes addictive disorders, cultural competencies and inclusion, mental health and wellness, suicide prevention, and curriculum development. Ms. Swan is committed to assisting community partners in identifying and implementing effective educational solutions to behavioral health and social issues, including the pervasiveness of homelessness. Kelly is an active member of numerous community groups and a strong community advocate committed to increasing the standards of care.

Davion Taylor

Davion Taylor was born August 20th, 2002, in Riverside California. He moved to Las Vegas in 2013, after the sudden death of this grandmother. Davion grew up with a loving, compassionate family, but struggled with behavioral issues. He was in and out of rehabilitation centers and ended up going to a behavioral boarding school for 11 months at 15 years old. He continued his behavior and ended up moving out of the house at 18 years old and went to a Homeless Youth Center. Davion was exposed to new things and ended up struggling with addiction. One day, he decided he didn't want to live his life like that anymore and decided he was willing to do anything to change. He went to treatment and was sponsored by the Shine A Light Foundation and the Darren Waller Foundation, which got him through 3 months of treatment and 3 months in a sober living. He now gives back by working alongside the Lived X Consultants sharing his experience to hopefully make the homeless system better and working as a Behavioral Health Tech at Vogue Recovery Center.

Amanda Vaskov

Amanda Vaskov serves as the Government Affairs & Policy Manager for the Nevada Housing Coalition. In this role, Amanda leads with the guidance of the Executive Director in the creation of policy, advocacy strategy, and tactics for the NHC's regulatory and legislative initiatives. She first became involved in legislative politics as the Director of Government Affairs for the Associated Students of the University of Nevada. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science and international affairs from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Benjamin Castro

Benjamin Castro is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality established in 2011 and has been an active volunteer providing direct services in the Northern Nevada community since 2007. As a natural collaborator, he communicates between all stakeholders to create partnerships between diverse organizations and individuals to identify and work towards a common purpose. Ben strongly believes that the health of any community can be determined by the welfare of its most vulnerable members and that any tragedy that affects one neighbor affects the community at large. He prefers to focus his efforts on addressing systemic failures to better understand how enhanced infrastructure can create a more fair and equitable future. He has fifteen years of human resources experience and a Bachelor's in Finance and Economics from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Speaker/Presenter Bios

Brenda Barnes

Brenda has served Clark County within the Juvenile Justice and Family Services departments for the last 20 years and has had the opportunity to support the implementation and ongoing improvement practices of both. She has in-depth experience designing child welfare programs and initiating processes to include data collection and tracking for program development, implementation, and improvements. Brenda is also the grant writer for the Department of Family Services tasked with discovering gaps in services and funding to improve current processes and better serve the families in Southern Nevada. Over the past six years, she has enjoyed and continues to enjoy working collaboratively with homeless and housing service providers to develop and implement housing assistance programs. Through cross-sector government relationships, she has worked to transition vacant hotels into non-congregate shelters for families while keeping children safely with their caregivers and avoiding trauma experienced by entering foster care. This program created a safe and private space for families, serving as a short-term solution to connect them to resources and services. More recently, Brenda was part of a team opening the first Housing Crisis Stabilization Navigation Center serving as a short-term non-congregate shelter to engage homeless individuals with addressing barriers to their own self-sufficiency and stabilization. She continues to look forward to being part of the continuous quality improvement and enhanced practices that protect children from abuse and neglect and keep families in our community together through diversion, preservation, and reunification while seeking out safe and stable housing initiatives for all.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, MSW, LMSW, is the owner and chief strategist of Winged Wolf Innovations. She most recently left a 21-year career as a Manager for Clark County Social Service, where her leadership responsibilities included continued collaboration, coordination, resource, and development efforts within the homeless service and behavioral health continua of care while spearheading system change in Southern Nevada. Michele has over 18 years' of experience as a CoC Coordinator and Nevada Statewide HMIS Lead. With over 35 years in social work, Michele brings invaluable analytical and practical insights to the homeless services field

Austin Pollard

Austin is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and holds a Bachelors and Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Nevada, Reno. After surviving his own experience with homelessness, substance use, and mental illness. He set out to use those experiences to help others.

Dr. Pamela M. Juniel

Dr. Pamela M. Juniel is a Native Las Vegan who has worked extensively in education for over 25 years. As a former foster child who has also experienced homelessness in Nevada, she currently serves as the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator within the Nevada Department of Education. Dr. Juniel's current initiatives include the development of a state-wide app to serve children and youth experiencing homelessness. She is also leading a team to expand services centering the needs of rural, remote, and Tribal areas in Nevada. Before joining Nevada Department of Education, she used her extensive experience in special education serving in Clark County and Washoe School Districts over the course of her career. Dr. Juniel has also worked as a professor in Nevada and Washington States, expanding her areas of expertise beyond behavior management, Mild to Moderate Learning Disabilities, Autism, teacher preparation/professional development, information literacy/access to curriculum, and instructional strategies for students with exceptionalities. Dr. Juniel has expanded this work to creating conferences connected with family and student advocacy and Equity & Diversity. When the time permits, Dr. Juniel enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends, amusement parks, movies, music and being a change agent for social justice issues relating to marginalized and underrepresented groups and individuals.

State of Nevada Housing Needs

Across Nevada, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.

KEY
FACTS

101,413
OR
21%

Renter households that are extremely low income

-83,994

Shortage of rental homes affordable and available for extremely low income renters

\$26,500

Maximum income for 4-person extremely low income household (state level)

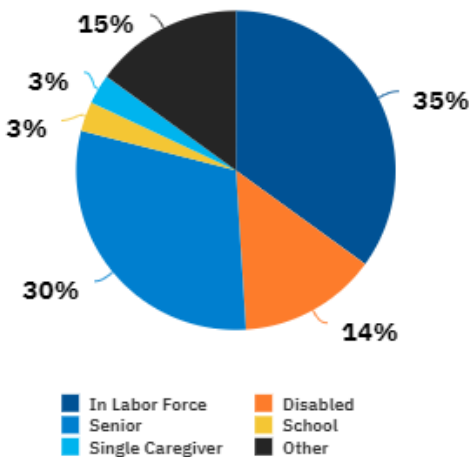
\$58,212

Annual household income needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at HUD's Fair Market Rent.

86%

Percent of extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden

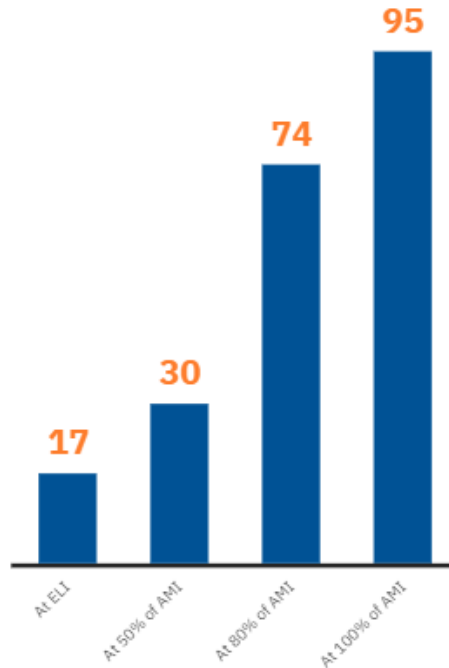
EXTREMELY LOW INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



Note: Mutually exclusive categories applied in the following order: senior, disabled, in labor force, enrolled in school, single adult caregiver of a child under 7 or a person with a disability, and other. Thirteen percent of extremely low-income renter households include a single adult caregiver, 49% of whom usually work at least 20 hours per week. Ten percent of extremely low-income renter householders are enrolled in school, 47% of whom usually work at least 20 hours per week. Source: 2021 ACS PUMS

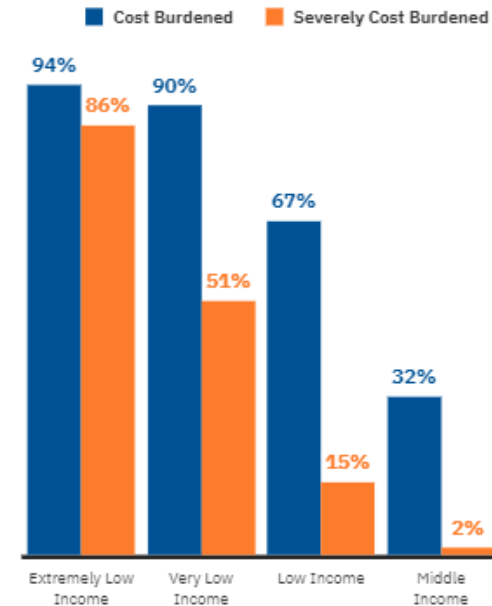
Source: 2021 ACS PUMS

AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOMES PER 100 RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2021 ACS PUMS

HOUSING COST BURDEN BY INCOME GROUP



Note: Renter households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs and utilities are cost burdened; those spending more than half of their income are severely cost burdened.

Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2021 ACS PUMS

Data Source : The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)
For more information, visit <https://nlihc.org>

More information from NLIHC
Out of Reach 2023: The High Cost of Housing: <https://nlihc.org/oor>

Homelessness in Southern Nevada

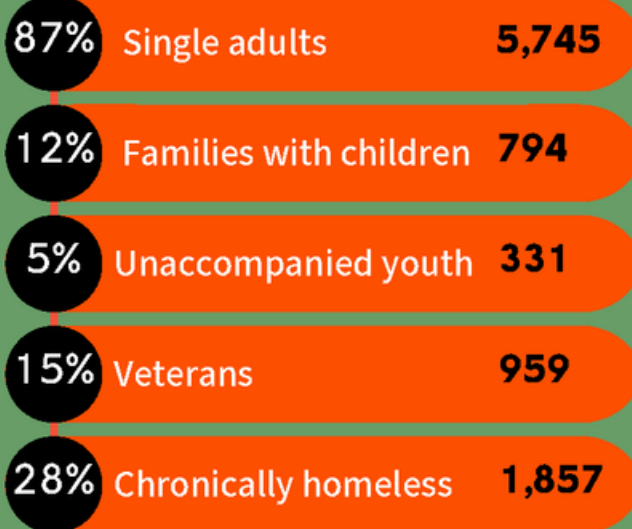
2023 Homeless Point-In-Time Count & Survey

Every year during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2023 Southern Nevada Point-In-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 25, 2023.



Subpopulations



Substance abuse

1,614



Domestic violence

637



Mental health

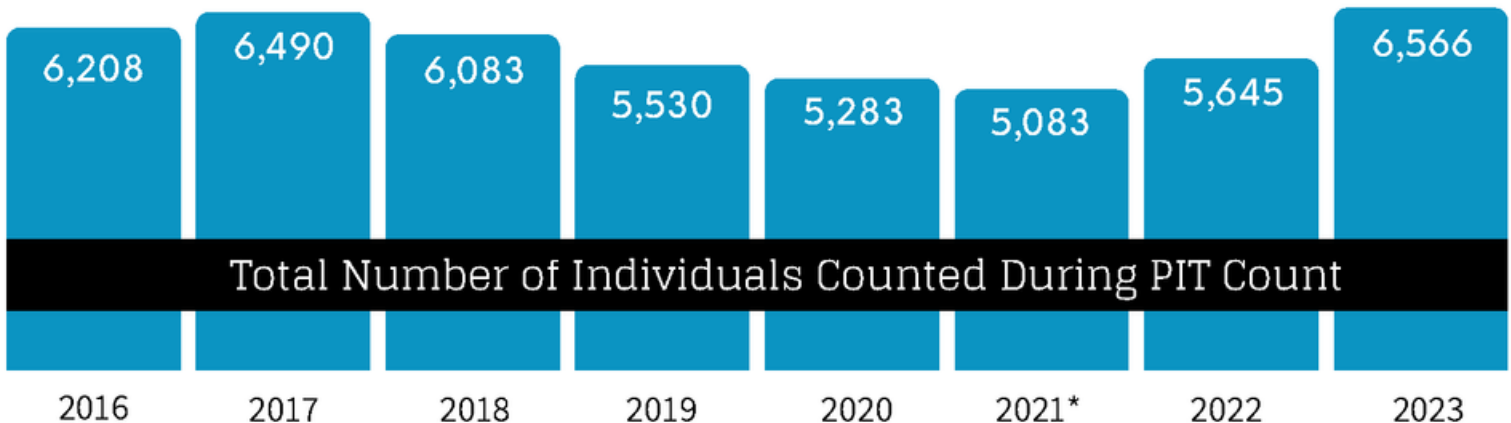
1,887



HIV/AIDS

87

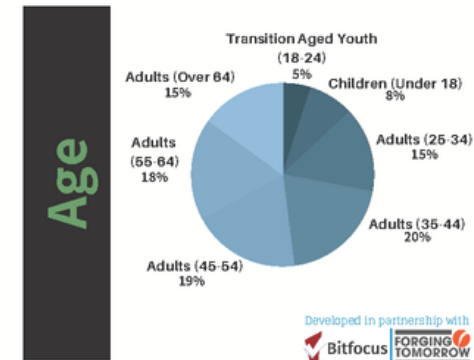
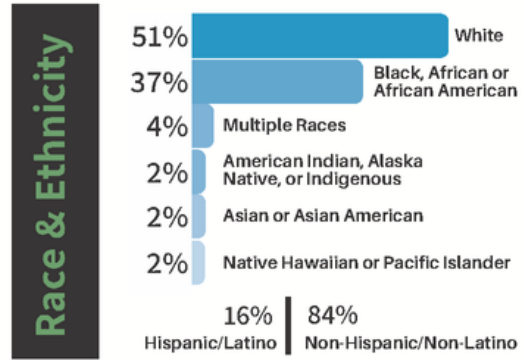
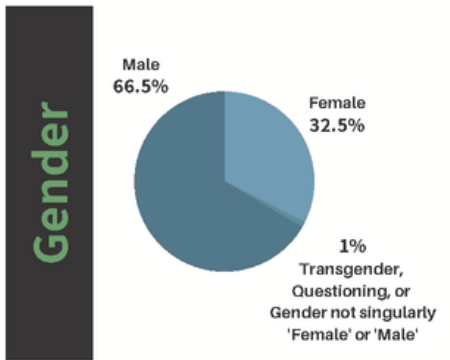
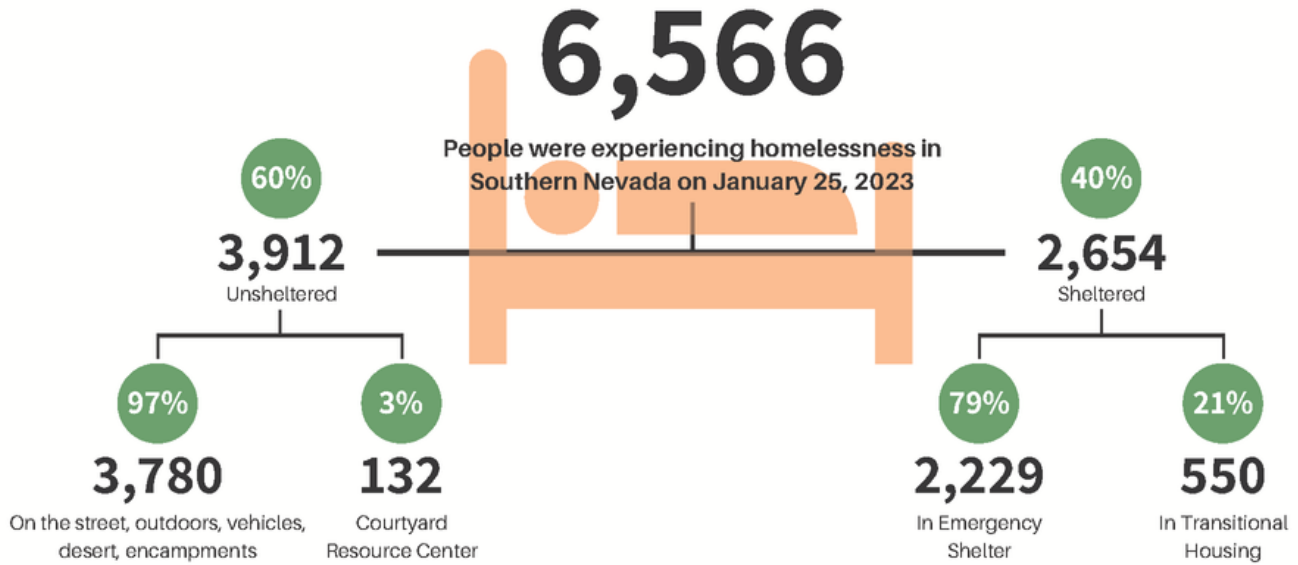
*These groups are not mutually exclusive



*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 count required a change in methodology and a random sample of the County was canvassed by teams of service providers and outreach workers. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has strongly recommended to view the 2021 Point-In-Time Count as a stand-alone data set. The findings should not be compared to prior or future PIT count numbers.

2023 Southern Nevada Point-In-Time Count

The 2023 Southern Nevada Point-In-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 25, 2023.



Developed in partnership with Bitfocus FORGING TOMORROW

Visit Help Hope Home to learn more about the state of homelessness in Southern Nevada

<https://helphopehome.org/>

THE NORTHERN NEVADA CONTINUUM OF CARE



THE NORTHERN NEVADA 2023 POINT IN TIME COUNT WAS CONDUCTED ON JANUARY 26, 2023. BELOW PLEASE FIND THE DATA FOR THIS YEAR:

RESULTS

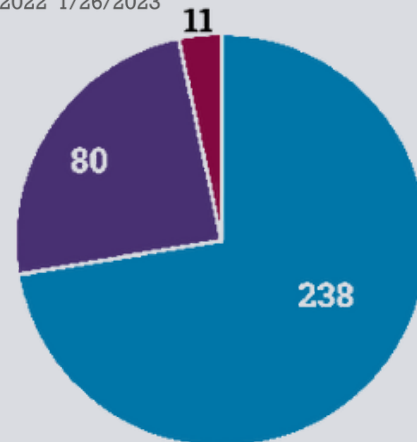
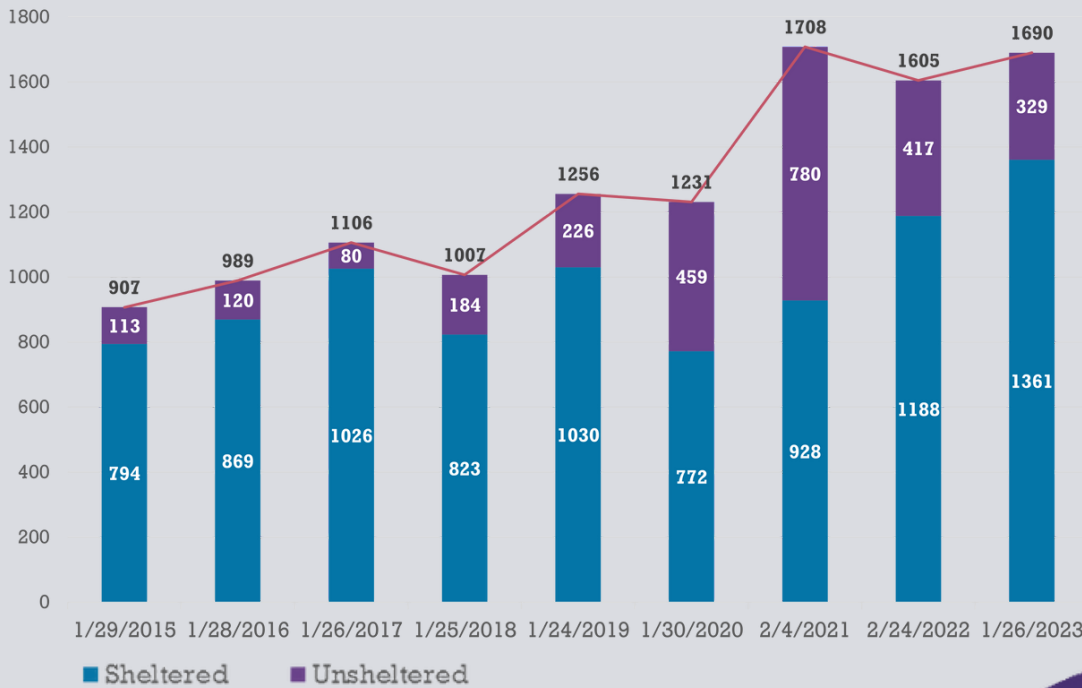
1,605 TOTAL PERSON COUNTED

INCREASE OF 85 TOTAL INDIVIDUALS COMPARED TO 2022 PIT COUNT

DECREASE OF 88 INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNSHELTERED POPULATION

INCREASE OF 173 INDIVIDUALS IN SHELTERS AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

GENDER BREAKDOWN OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (FROM THOSE WHO PROVIDED A RESPONSE)



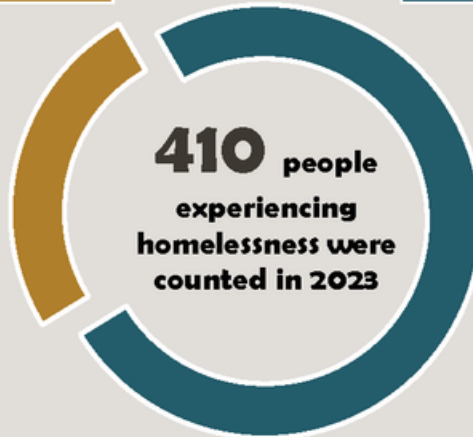
MORE INFO CAN BE FOUND AT:
WASHOECOUNTY.GOV/HOMELESS/COC/PIT/INDEX.PHP



Homelessness in Rural Nevada 2023 Point-in-Time Count

Each year, the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care (RNCoC) conducts the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count to better understand and address homelessness in Nevada's fifteen rural counties. The 2023 Count took place on January 26th.

Sheltered Count Details



Unsheltered Count Details



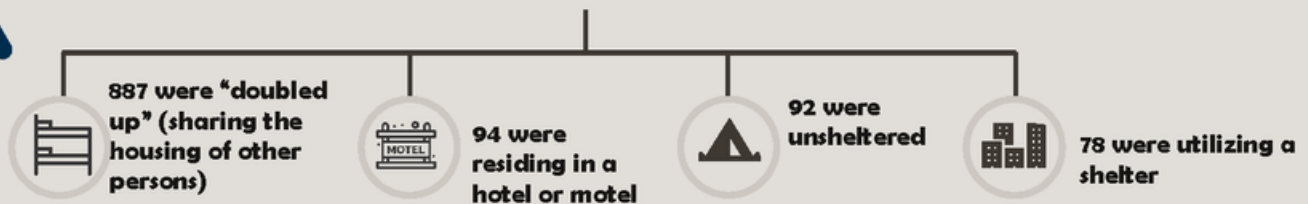
In addition to the HUD-mandated counts described above, in most years the RNCoC elects to conduct three additional components to facilitate a more robust understanding of homelessness in Nevada. These components include the Motel Count, In-Depth Interviews, and the School Count. Data on the former two optional components are not provided here, as not all counties elected to conduct those counts in 2023.

School Count

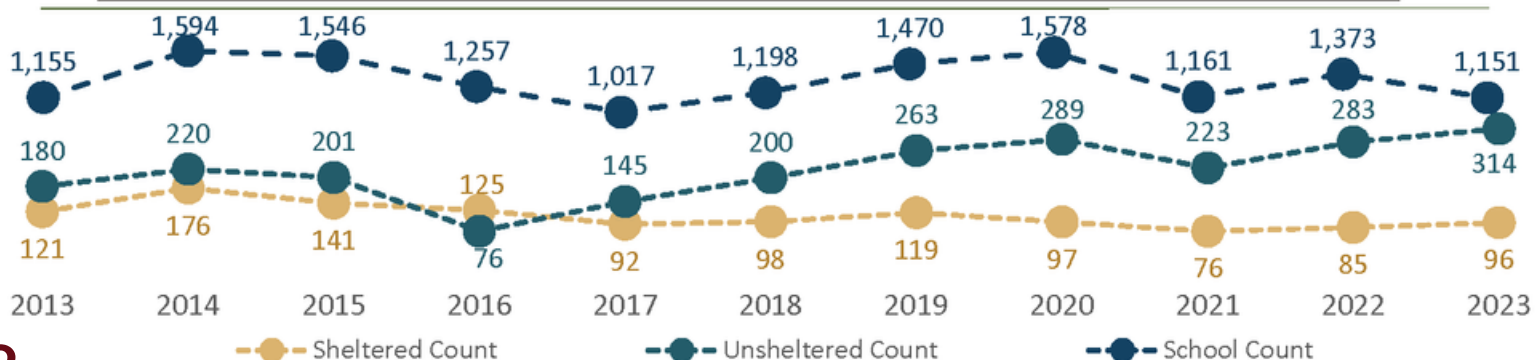
The School Count captures the number of children experiencing housing instability as well as the type of instability experienced. All of the RNCoC's fifteen counties reported on the number of children experiencing housing instability.



1,151 children were experiencing housing instability or homelessness

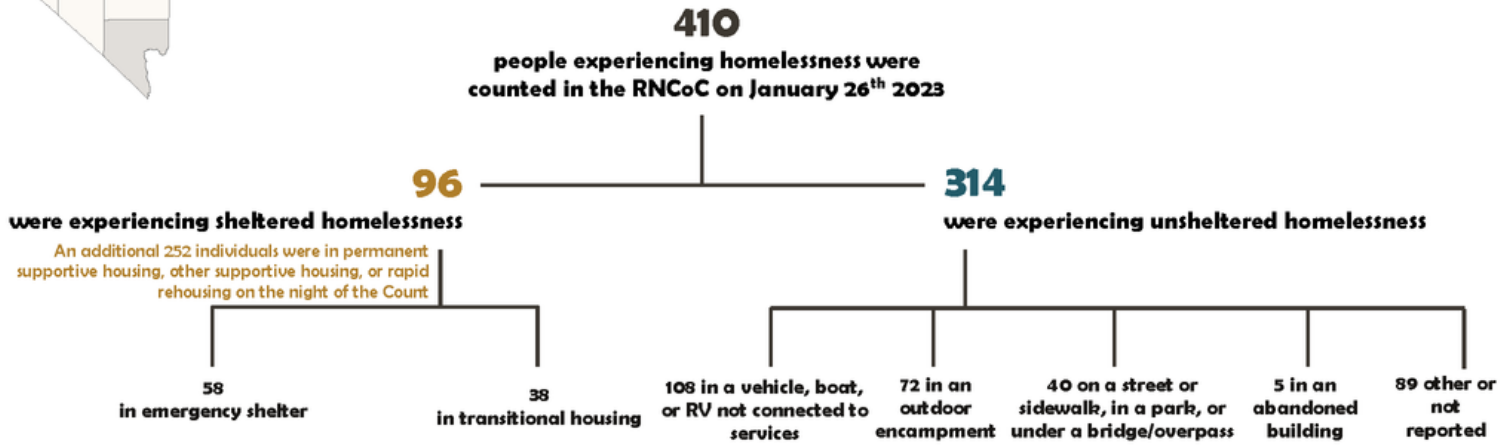


10 Year Comparison





Homelessness in Rural Nevada 2023 Point-in-Time Count

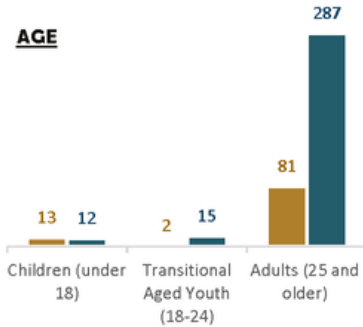


Demographic Details

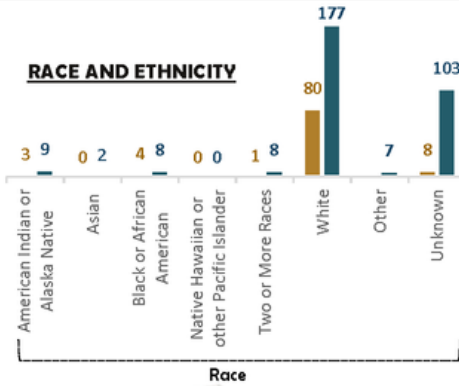
Includes only those individuals counted in the Sheltered (ES and TH only) or Unsheltered Count, not the School Count



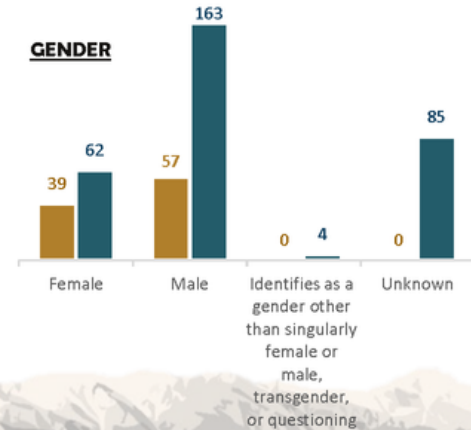
AGE



RACE AND ETHNICITY



GENDER



The complete 2023 RNCoc Point-in-Time Report is available upon request by emailing: mcoconevada@gmail.com

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Thank You!

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