



CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA HEALTHY HOUSING INITIATIVE

Health, Housing and Homelessness

YEAR FOUR REPORT



Catholic
Charities
USA®

Working to Reduce Poverty in America

Key Terms

Chronic Homelessness: Chronic homelessness is the state of experiencing homelessness for at least one year – or repeatedly – while struggling with a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder or physical disability. (National Alliance to End Homelessness)

Permanent Supportive Housing: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is an intervention that combines affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of chronically homeless people. The services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect people with community-based health care, treatment and employment services. (National Alliance to End Homelessness)

Point-in-Time Count: A point-in-time count is an unduplicated count on a single night of the people in a community who are experiencing homelessness. This count includes both sheltered and unsheltered populations. (National Alliance to End Homelessness)

Scattered-Site Housing: Scattered Site Permanent Supportive Housing places individuals experiencing homelessness in private market units scattered throughout a community. (United to End Homelessness)

Turnkey Property: A turnkey property is a unit that can be immediately occupied with minor upgrades.





A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

As we wrap up the fourth year of the Catholic Charities USA Healthy Housing Initiative (HHI), we are more aware than we have ever been of the critical need for housing for all of our vulnerable sisters and brothers, especially those who are chronically homeless. A nationwide lack of affordable housing affects individuals and families from many income brackets, and none more so than those who struggle with the added burdens of physical or behavioral health challenges or substance use disorders that often render them chronically unsheltered.

The agencies taking part in the HHI work in collaboration with Catholic hospitals and healthcare partners to provide access to social services, primary medical care and behavioral health services while also housing these often fragile and always vulnerable clients.

When the HHI was launched in 2020, our team set ambitious – but, we felt, achievable – goals for the five participating Catholic Charities agencies. We wanted to reduce chronic homelessness in the pilot cities by 20%, reduce the frequency with which homeless individuals used emergency rooms and were readmitted to hospitals by 25% and connect 35% of newly housed clients to primary care and behavioral health services.

Heading into the fifth year of the Healthy Housing Initiative, the participating Catholic Charities agencies – located in Detroit, Las Vegas, Portland (Ore.), St. Louis and Spokane – have now housed 564 formerly chronically homeless individuals, or 80% of our goal. Those are real lives impacted, for the better, by the care and concern they have received from Catholic Charities staff and healthcare professionals across the country.

This work would not be possible without the support – financial and spiritual – of people like you. Your faith in the importance of the Healthy Housing Initiative and its mission to bring the love and compassion of Christ to those who so easily become lost, least and overlooked is key to its success, and for that you have our gratitude.

With deep gratitude,

Kerry Alys Robinson

Kerry Alys Robinson
President & CEO

Catholic Charities USA Healthy Housing Initiative

The Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) Healthy Housing Initiative is a person-centered, comprehensive approach to address chronic homelessness through permanent supportive housing (PSH) and social services, in collaboration with Catholic health care. The Healthy Housing Initiative is a five-year pilot (January 2020 to December 2024) with a target of housing 698 people by January 1, 2025. The five-year housing target goals listed herein for each city represent 20% of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2019 point-in-time count numbers for each pilot community. Note that each of the five pilot agencies was already engaged in some work with the unhoused in their communities, for varying durations and under a variety of state and local conditions.

The five Catholic Charities agencies in the Healthy Housing Initiative and their Catholic healthcare partners:

1. Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan and Ascension Healthcare
2. Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada and CommonSpirit Health
3. Catholic Charities of Oregon and Providence Health Systems
4. Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington and Providence St. Joseph Healthcare
5. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Saint Louis and Mercy Healthcare/SSM Health

Our 5-Year Goals within the Five Pilot Cities:



REDUCE

chronic homelessness by **20%**.



DECREASE

emergency room/hospital utilization of those housed by at least 25%.



CONNECT

35% of newly housed persons to primary care and behavioral health services.



The HHI team at CCUSA continues to be inspired by the hard work, grit and compassion of staff across the five agencies.



Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (Detroit)

Diocesan Director: Paul Propson

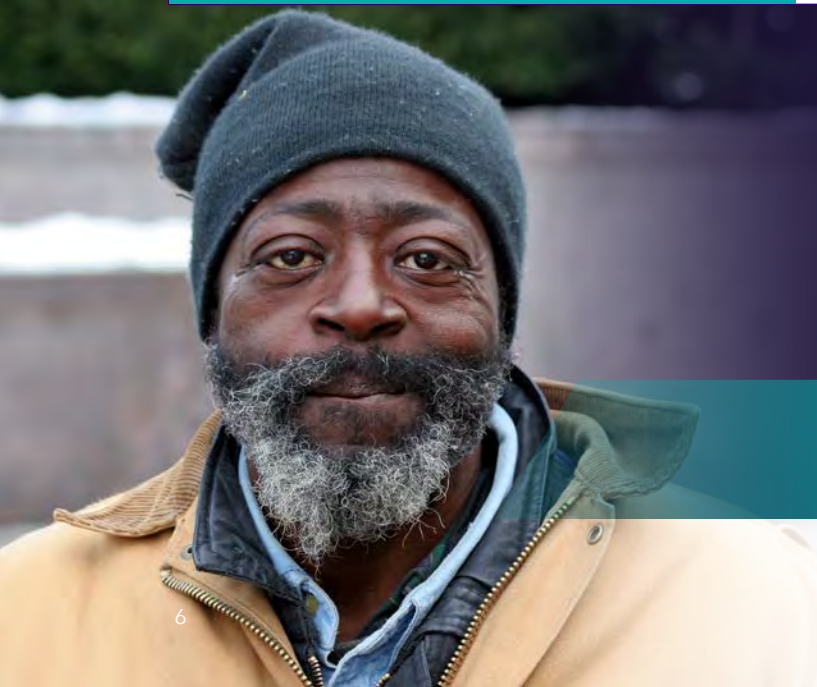
Bishop: The Most Reverend Allen Vigneron

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Ascension Healthcare

- Number of chronically homeless persons housed to date: 17
- Number of other homeless persons housed to date: 25
- Total number of homeless persons housed to date: 42
- Number of housing units authorized or under construction: 46, of which 25 are designated for permanent supportive housing (PSH)

FIVE-YEAR HOUSING GOAL:

56 chronically homeless persons housed



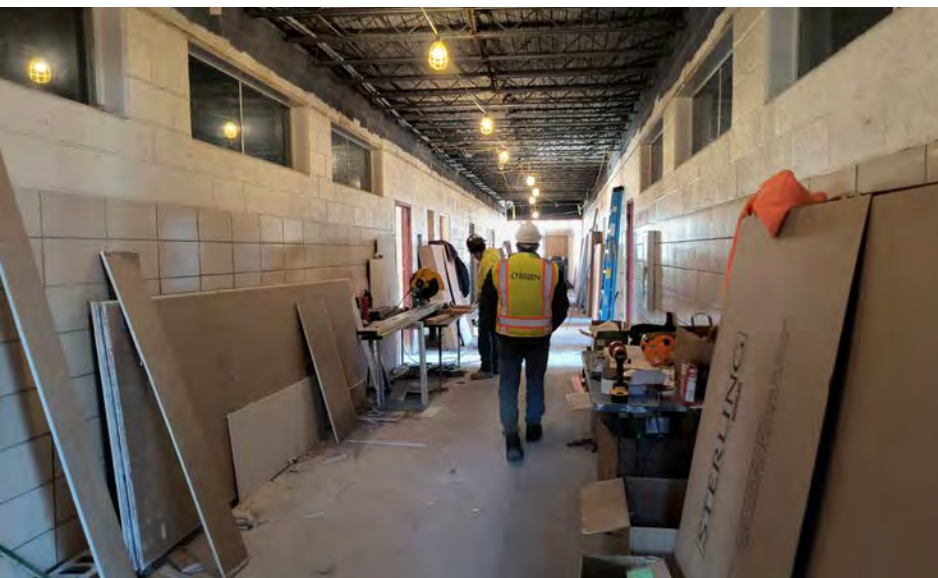
Year Four Highlights

- Construction and renovations have begun on the Residences at St. Matthew project to convert the school into 21 income-restricted and 25 permanent supportive housing units. Programming will be provided in collaboration with Ascension Healthcare.
- The support of the Gerstner Helping Hands Grant allowed Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) to provide financial aid to 42 households experiencing homelessness.
- CCSEM provided over 10,000 food pantry visits in 2023 at two Catholic Charities Detroit sites.
- St. Leo's Soup Kitchen, which operates out of CCSEM's Center for the Works of Mercy, began serving hot meals in early 2023 and has grown to serve over 100 meals daily.

Year Four Reflection by the CCSEM Team

The words of Jesus proclaimed in Matthew 25:35-37 continue to inspire the work of CCSEM in the city of Detroit.

CCSEM's Center for the Works of Mercy provides a space for those experiencing poverty and in need of help. The process of helping someone obtain healthy, secure and affordable housing starts with understanding the needs and barriers that are standing in their way. Our staff works diligently to assist individuals in accessing the services and resources they need to succeed in securing a place of their own and improving their well-being. The support is tangible in the form of food, clothing and hygiene supplies; help completing applications and applying for benefits and financial aid for housing; and help in accessing other resources. There are also the intangible benefits of a warm smile, encouraging words and the provision of hope. Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."



A shuttered elementary school is being converted into the Residences at St. Matthew, a health- and service-enriched, permanent supportive and affordable family housing project that will open in 2025.



Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)

Diocesan Director: Deacon Tom Roberts

Bishop: The Most Reverend George Leo Thomas

Catholic Healthcare Partner: CommonSpirit Health

- Number of chronically homeless persons housed to date: 53
- Number of other homeless persons housed to date: 339
- Total number of homeless persons housed to date: 392
- Number of housing units authorized or under construction: 5 vacant units

FIVE-YEAR HOUSING GOAL:

124 chronically homeless persons housed



Year Four Highlights

- Client and case management: Dignity Health has contributed transportation services and reassured us of its commitment to support our case management program at St. Vincent Apartments.
- Touro Mobile Medical Health Clinic: The mobile clinic provides secure, convenient preventative treatment that may not otherwise be available or accessible to clients and residents.
- Nevada Behavioral Health: NBH offers mental and behavioral health services and weekly topical education to clients and tenants. Free transportation to NBH's site is available for individual sessions.
- Vaccination clinic: Touro University was first invited to St. Vincent Apartments during the pandemic to administer immunizations and offer preventive treatment to clients/tenants with financial, transportation or mobility issues. In addition, our case manager went door-to-door to inform clients/tenants of upcoming events and immunization clinics.
- Chamberlain University College of Nursing: On Fridays, Chamberlain student nurses visit Catholic Charities to educate clients and tenants on proper hygiene, the dangers of alcohol and drug use, diabetes, high blood pressure, mental health and other topics. The nursing students also conduct Q&A sessions.



Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada is collaborating with Chamberlain University College of Nursing to educate clients on healthy habits.

Year Four Reflection by the CCSN Team

The implementation of case management at the St. Vincent Apartments has enabled us to offer essential wraparound services to our residents, who might not otherwise seek assistance. We have assisted approximately 115 people, many of whom have previously experienced homelessness for an extended time. They have transitioned from hopelessness to a place where hope is a genuine and palpable reality. After spending time in emergency shelters, encampments, on the streets and other places not meant for human habitation, many of our current residents now call St. Vincent home.

Our Residential Services Case Management Team oversees up to 120 active cases, ensuring clients remain secure, self-sufficient and hopeful. Case managers actively assist with needs and appointments such as medical, mental and dental health; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicare/Medicaid applications/renewals; Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits; Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV); transportation, clothing and food and nutrition; and crucial life skills so clients can maintain stable, healthy lives.

Success Story

The client approached the case management team and requested a walker due to scoliosis in his back. The client met with our case manager to complete the necessary paperwork and received a brand-new walker, provided by St. Vincent Apartments Case Management, on the same day.



Medical professionals from Touro University visit CCSN's residents of St. Vincent Apartments.





Catholic Charities of Oregon (Portland)

Diocesan Director: Natalie Wood

Bishop: The Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Providence Health Systems

- Number of chronically homeless persons housed to date: 56
- Number of other homeless persons housed to date: 89
- Total number of homeless persons housed to date: 145
- Number of housing units authorized or under construction: 295

FIVE-YEAR HOUSING GOAL: **420** chronically homeless persons housed



Year Four Highlights

- We continued to make progress in the development of more affordable housing units and are mid-construction on two properties scheduled to be completed in summer 2024. Francis + Clare Place is a 61-unit, four-story permanent supportive housing (PSH) project in the Buckman Neighborhood in SE Portland. The land for this project was purchased by Catholic Charities of Oregon (CCO) from St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. The project will include 54 studio units and seven one-bedroom units. The second property, The Beacon at Glisan Landing, is a 41-unit, four-story PSH project in the Montavilla Neighborhood in Portland. The land was originally owned by regional government and was awarded to CCO through a bid process. The project will include 41 studio units.
- Supportive services for both projects will be provided by CCO in partnership with Cascadia Healthcare and the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest. The 24/7 on-site services will include case management; peer support; linkage to health care, mental health services and addiction treatment; and a food pantry.
- Good Shepherd Village is a 143-unit project in Happy Valley, a Portland suburb, consisting of one four-story building with 107 units and two three-story buildings with 18 units each. The land was donated to CCO by the John Brockamp family. The apartments range in size from studios to three-bedroom units. Of the total, 85 units are affordable up to 60% AMI (annual median income) and 58 units are PSH. CCO provides 24/5 on-site services including case management, resident services, health outreach and a food pantry. As of December 2023, 23 units were filled, including five residents who will occupy PSH units. This brought total occupancy to 45 (31% of all units).
- CCO continued to conduct on-site health fairs with Providence Health Systems, increasing health access for families, seniors and people with disabilities.



Staff from Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Charities of Oregon tour Good Shepherd Village.

Year-Four Reflection by the CCO Team

CCO continues to identify opportunities to serve the most vulnerable populations in the state with our healthcare partner, Providence Health & Services Oregon. Our experiences this year included:

- Ruth, 79 and living on Social Security, rolled up her sleeve for vaccinations during a health fair at Catholic Charities' Sacred Heart Village in Portland. "I wouldn't have made it to the doctor to do this," she admits, giving a smile and a thumbs-up.
- At Kateri Park, a concerned Afghan refugee mother brought her preschool son to a team of Providence Health nurses who made him giggle with funny faces, examined him and referred him to a physician.
- A food pantry at McCoy Village brought fruits and vegetables to dozens of families of color who otherwise could not afford fresh food.

In year five, we look forward to partnering with Providence on a development in Newberg, Oregon, that will include eight recuperative care (respite) units. We are encouraged by the work already done and look forward to another year of serving those in need with innovative ways to improve health and human thriving.



Healthcare professionals from Providence St. Joseph provide vaccinations at a health fair sponsored by Catholic Charities of Oregon.





Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington (Spokane)

Diocesan Director: Robert McCann

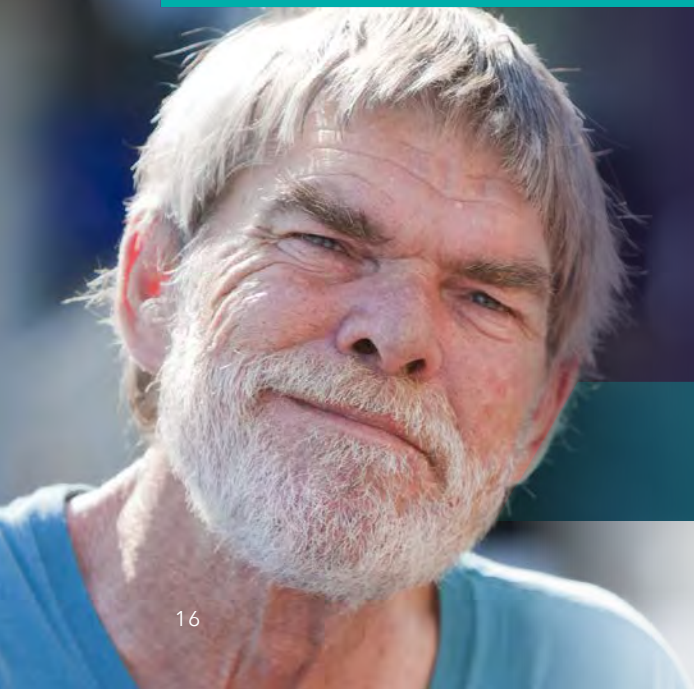
Bishop: The Most Reverend Thomas Daly

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Providence St. Joseph Healthcare

- Number of chronically homeless persons housed to date: 385
- Number of other homeless persons housed to date: 737
- Total number of homeless persons housed to date: 1,122
- Number of housing units authorized or under construction: 589 for 2024

FIVE-YEAR HOUSING GOAL:

51 chronically homeless persons housed



Year Four Highlights

- In 2023, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington (CCEW) opened two new buildings for supportive housing for individuals and families. In the spring, we opened Bishop Skylstad Commons, in Pasco, Washington, with 60 units of housing for homeless individuals. In Spokane, in partnership with a local behavioral health provider, we opened Mother Teresa Haven, with 48 units for families exiting homelessness or housing instability and 24 units for individuals.
- In 2023, we expanded our Stable Placements Program by adding a second case manager. This program works with clients in the Long Length of Stay (LLOS) wing of Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, assisting clients as they exit the hospital and helping to ensure they have the necessary support to avoid another stay. To date, over 95% of clients have successfully remained out of the LLOS wing. We are working to expand this service to Holy Family Hospital in 2024.
- In 2023, we housed a total of 285 new residents (heads of household and children).

Year Four Reflection by the CCEW Team

Catholic Charities Eastern Washington works to affirm the dignity of all people by developing and managing affordable, supportive housing communities. This was a very positive and productive year for our work with the Healthy Housing Initiative in service of that overarching goal.

In addition to the development and management of the Bishop Skylstad Commons and Mother Teresa Haven properties, our service staff works to provide comprehensive and varied case management approaches to assist residents in achieving stability, economic mobility and self-sufficiency. This includes peer support, healthcare coordination, behavior health and substance use disorder (SUD) services.

As we reflect on year four of this initiative, we are in awe of the success and resiliency of our clients. And as we move into year five, we are dedicated to continued improvement in physical and mental health outcomes for the most vulnerable in our community.



A community space at Bishop Skylstad Commons in Pasco, Washington.



Catholic Charities of St. Louis

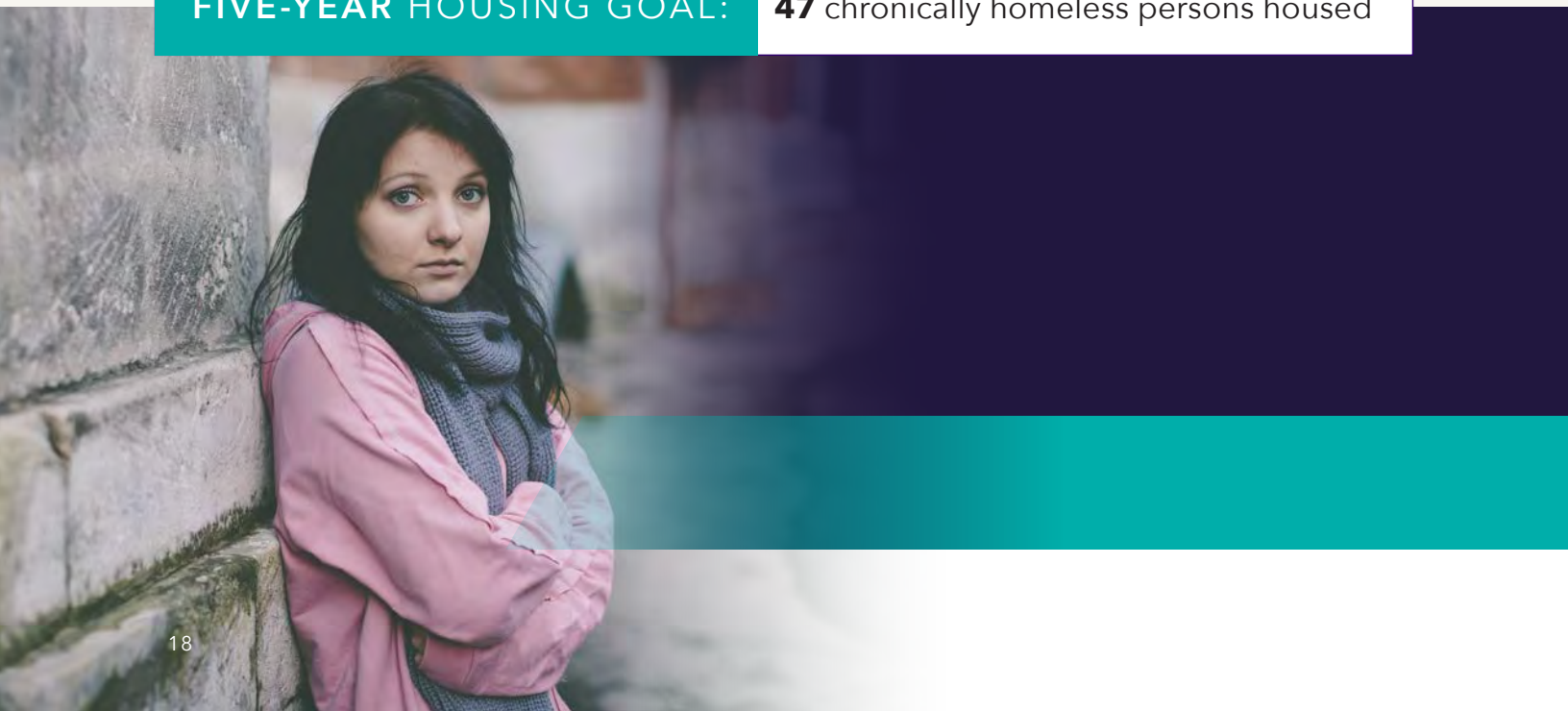
Diocesan Director: Jared Bryson

Bishop: The Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski

Catholic Healthcare Partner: Mercy Healthcare/SSM Health

- Number of chronically homeless persons housed to date: 53
- Number of other homeless persons housed to date: 33
- Total number of homeless persons housed to date: 86
- Number of housing units authorized or under construction: 79

FIVE-YEAR HOUSING GOAL: **47** chronically homeless persons housed



Year Four Highlights

- The Hospital to Healthy Housing grant concluded with great outcomes showing reductions in emergency department (ED) usage, post-housing and post-hospital intervention. The total number of homeless individuals served in coordination services was 492, with 30 served in housing. Of that 30, 25 moved to permanent housing.
- Hospital to Healthy Housing 2.0 (H2H 2.0) continues with 17 housing units for super utilizers who are unhoused. To date, 44 are enrolled with services. Overall, we have seen a 72% decrease in utilization and \$112,000 in cost savings to the hospital.
- Our partnership with Nurse Disrupted began with outcomes showing reduction in ED usage.
- Our partnership with SSM/SLUH (SSM Health/Saint Louis University Hospital) continues to be strong, and St. Patrick Center (SPC) and SLUH have received additional funding for another year.
- Catholic Charities St. Louis (CCSTL) and Mercy began talks focusing on developing respite beds.

Year Four Reflection by the CCSTL Team

St. Patrick Center, a ministry of Catholic Charities St. Louis, the Hospital to Healthy Housing Program and the Healthy Housing Initiative, is providing hope and housing services to community members experiencing homelessness. Our focus is on providing critical services to individuals who often are forgotten about and have no place to go but the hospital in order to receive social services. We provide access to immediate housing, wraparound services and connections to primary care, psychiatry and other resources needed to maintain housing. We are lucky to have great programs to link to at St. Patrick Center and around the community.

Our hospital program addresses homelessness in several different settings. We have staff in the emergency department working with unhoused and housing insecure individuals to connect them to housing, shelter and resources. Many of those we see will end up receiving services at St. Patrick Center, either in our hospital or other programs. Most importantly, we are providing safe, dignified housing with critical, lifesaving services to our most vulnerable community members.

Year Four Reflection by CCUSA's HHI Team

The HHI team at CCUSA continues to be inspired by the hard work, grit and compassion of staff across the five agencies. Since the Healthy Housing Initiative began on January 1, 2020, participating agencies have housed 564 chronically homeless individuals. Each agency has been able to creatively navigate complex local dynamics and politics to create housing for one of America's most vulnerable populations. As a highlight, in year four, we welcomed Delaware State University as the evaluators for the initiative.

In year five, we'll be emphasizing collecting data pertaining to client health outcomes, along with emergency room and hospital utilization. As we have learned from Catholic Charities agencies in Eastern Washington, Oregon, Southeast Michigan, Southern Nevada and St. Louis over the past four years: Hard work pays off!



At a Healthy Housing Initiative Convening in Cleveland, CCUSA hosted staff from all five Catholic Charities agencies as well as evaluators from Delaware State University.

Highlights: CCUSA Webinars and Events from Year Four

Agency Health Partner Convening, February 2023

This virtual convening explored the intricacies of the partnerships between the HHI pilot agencies and their local Catholic health partners, and how best practices could be understood and implemented across not only the HHI pilot agencies but other Catholic Charities agencies, as well. Key staff members of the pilot agencies and local Catholic hospitals/health systems made joint presentations on their unique relationships and partnerships.

Key takeaways:

- Benefits of Catholic Charities agencies and Catholic health partners in providing coordinated case management, care coordination and/or other supportive services for common clients.
- Opportunities for Catholic Charities agencies and their Catholic health partners to work together on system changes and Medicaid transformation.
- Importance of identifying and developing well-defined success factors to maximize client benefits.

HHI Progress and Updates, August 2023 (webinar)

This webinar provided an overview of HHI through its first four years and shared lessons learned, including best practices and adaptations to local conditions. Staff from CCUSA took turns presenting. Key takeaways included how affordable housing has been created in the Healthy Housing Initiative.

Access and creation of affordable housing can happen through:

- Development and construction of affordable housing projects;
- Purchase and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing properties; and
- Recruitment of and collaboration with smaller landlords and other housing owners to expand housing options for Catholic Charities' clients.

Appendix

HHI Convening in Cleveland, October 2023

The first half of the day focused on data collection with our newly selected evaluation team from Delaware State University. The second half of the day was focused on best practices, Medicaid, hospital partners, sustainable funding and challenges around staff recruitment/retention strategies.

Developing Partnerships and Collaborations with Catholic Health Systems and Hospitals, December 2023 (webinar)

Staff from CCUSA, Catholic Charities St. Louis and Catholic Charities of Oregon (Portland), as well as a representative from the Catholic Health Association (CHA), served as panelists on a webinar for the CCUSA network. CHA shared how Catholic Charities agencies can use community benefit requirements and obligations to leverage stronger and more productive relationships with Catholic health systems and hospitals across a spectrum of activities and services. Staff from Oregon and St. Louis provided specific examples of collaborations in action.

Key takeaways:

- Social service providers need to collaborate and align efforts with local Catholic hospitals to access community benefit dollars and impact the social determinants of health.
- The definition of surplus church property should be broadened to include land and property from Catholic health systems.
- Catholic Charities agencies can collaborate with local healthcare providers to receive access to clients' electronic health records (EHRs).



Working to Reduce Poverty in America

The mission of Catholic Charities USA is to provide service to people, families and communities in need, to advocate for justice in social structures and to call the entire church and other people of good will to do the same.