



1750 17th Street - C1 Sarasota, FL 34234

May 4, 2022

News Release

Each year the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, Inc. (Suncoast Partnership) on behalf of the Sarasota/Manatee Continuum of Care (CoC) compiles the Annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count. This survey provides a snapshot of homelessness in Sarasota and Manatee Counties on a single night, January 24 to January 25 of 2022. While it is not possible to count every person experiencing homelessness, the methodology used in our communities includes gathering information from those who are in emergency shelters and transitional housing, engaging in outreach efforts in known areas where unsheltered homeless persons may gather, and a general canvassing in our communities to capture the best picture possible. The count allows us to look at trends over time by using consistent methodology. The PIT count is utilized to evaluate the impact of a community's implementation of best practices and the health of the Homeless Crisis Response System.

It is important to note that during the 2021 PIT count, the Department of Housing and Urban Development did not require an unsheltered count of individuals experiencing homelessness. For this reason, analysis and comparisons from 2021 to 2022 are not an accurate reflection of the increase/decrease in homelessness in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

Considering the anomaly in the 2021 count, it is best to compare trends in the overall count from 2020 to 2022 to get a full picture of the state of homelessness in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. The total number of those experiencing homelessness on the night of January 24th has increased by 9% since 2020. In 2022, the count of sheltered people experiencing homelessness in Sarasota and Manatee Counties is 624, a decrease of 15.7% from 2021 and a decrease of 8.4% from 2020. The count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness increased by 41.6% from 2020 to 2022 for our region.

This year we have seen an overall increase in homelessness across our continuum. We believe many factors associated with ongoing COVID-19 response and the current housing market must be considered when analyzing the 2022 PIT count. Due to the current housing market, Suncoast Partnership has been tracking an increase in those entering homelessness due to lease non-renewals or exorbitant increases in rental rates, jumping 50%, 75%, and even 100%. As in the previous year, our shelters worked diligently to comply with Centers for Disease Control social distancing guidelines and still maintain reduced capacity to accommodate the current guidance. Many individuals still choose to distance themselves from congregate shelters, and those that are newly entering homelessness do not utilize the shelter system until they have exhausted all other option. Many have been sleeping in vehicles, storage units, and other places not meant for habitation. The increase in our total number of those experiencing homelessness is not unexpected due to the housing market and the current cost of living in our area. Our community has seen a historic increase in both housing costs and in inflation. Inflation has recently been noted at 10.5% in the region, topping the national average of 8.5%. These factors are primary reasons for the increase in homelessness in our region.

Chris Johnson, CEO of the Suncoast Partnership talked about the results of the count.

“2022 has been a difficult year for many. It was difficult on our community, on our businesses, our families, and on our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. Not only does our area



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continue to be one in which affordable and attainable housing is difficult to secure, but recent housing costs have exponentially increased across the area. Sarasota and Manatee Counties have been ranked by the Apartment List as having the fastest-increasing rents in the nation, year-over-year - 48.4% for Sarasota County and 47.7% for Manatee County. We are seeing local rents increasing by 50-100% for some of our most vulnerable citizens. These drastic increases are not only impacting those who are low-income or extremely-low-income, but it has impacted our workforce: nurses, police officers, fire fighters, paramedics, teachers, hospitality workers, and others. Due to the wide-spread impact of housing costs coupled with inflation rates at a 40-year high, many in our community across all socioeconomic levels are now facing homelessness for the first time in their lives.

Even though this year has seen its difficulties, for the Sarasota/Manatee Continuum of Care, the current efforts have showed the resolve of our community and the intense dedication of our front-line service providers who have continued to operate throughout this unprecedented time. Our dedicated agencies continue to house those most vulnerable, even when facing overwhelming odds. Our philanthropic community and foundations have continued to offer funding as protective supports and rise to the challenge of meeting new and upcoming needs as they develop. Due to the commitment of our service providers and the generosity of our philanthropic agencies, people across our region are still able to access housing and end their homelessness.

The results of our 2022 PIT count were not unexpected. This perfect storm of inflation and housing costs has created an environment ripe for increasing homelessness within the Suncoast. It is a testament to our community, our service agencies, our philanthropic organizations, and our continuum that our increases in homelessness have not been more drastic. Continuing to see the way our community can pull together, offer what is needed, and support those who are most vulnerable among us, gives me hope for our future. We still face a draught of attainable housing, and this deficit continues to be the greatest driving factor of homelessness in our region. We have experienced an unprecedented influx of both federal and philanthropic funding that has allowed us to continue to house our highest acuity citizens, and we could house hundreds more if we had additional available and attainable housing within the region. The efficacy of our Coordinated Entry System and the commitment of our community partners in serving those of highest vulnerability has proven firm through this past year, and our community continues to operate a high-fidelity model, ensuring equity and access to anyone in need. This dedication and commitment, coupled with Housing First best practices, Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing interventions championed by our local service providers, along with the commitment from our counties, cities, and philanthropic partners continues to offer hope with opportunity to our neighbors experiencing homelessness in our community.”

During 2021, the Oneby1 Coordinated Entry System, in partnership with and through the commitment of the CoC partners, assisted 248 long term and high need people experiencing homelessness find permanent housing.



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The PIT results, along with other data and information, help inform the Sarasota and Manatee Continuum of Care as they plan to address the needs of those who are homeless and those at imminent risk of homelessness.

2022 Point in Time Summary

(Homeless Count by Federal Definition)

PIT Survey Year to Year Comparison							
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Rate of Change	
	Total Homeless Count					21 vs 22	18 vs 22
Total	1,192	1,135	1,044	526	1,138	116.3%	-4.5%
Sheltered (Emergency & Trans. Housing)	740	735	681	526	624	18.6%	-15.7%
Unsheltered	452	400	363	0	514	N/A	13.7%
Sub-populations							
Veteran	108	111	105	51	103	102%	-4.6%
Chronically Homeless	250	246	188	72	255	254.2%	2%
Youth	97	100	86	65	67	3.1%	-30.9%
Adults with Minor Children (Households)	76	68	70	56	59	5.4%	-22.4%
Geographic Identification							
Manatee County (including City of Bradenton)	545	532	466	185	594	221.1%	9.0%
City of Bradenton Only	340	322	342	132	361	173.5%	6.2%
Sarasota County (Including City of Sarasota)	647	603	578	341	544	59.5%	-15.9%
City of Sarasota Only	351	303	335	138	222	60.9%	-36.8%

The Suncoast Partnership has provided an interactive dashboard for the Point in Time data on our website. Please visit <https://www.suncoastpartnership.org/point-in-time>.