



Older Adults and the HSC

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Older Population Data

▶ Nationally

- ▶ Fastest growing group of homeless (55+)
 - ▶ Jeff Olivet, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. "Seniors over the age of 55 are likely the fastest-growing group of people experiencing homelessness ... and for many of them, it is first-time homelessness."
- ▶ 23% of America's homeless population up from 16% in 2007
- ▶ Nearly 1 in 5 people in the U.S. without a permanent place to live are 55+
- ▶ By 2034 those 65 and older will out number children nationally according to Census.

▶ Locally

- ▶ 2022
 - ▶ 467 individuals were 55+ in Emergency Shelter (19%)
 - ▶ 207 of those on a fixed income (SSI/SSDI)
- ▶ 2023 (First 6 months)
 - ▶ 313 individuals were 55+ in Emergency Shelter (19%)
 - ▶ 141 of those on a fixed income (SSI/SSDI)



What are challenges are you seeing within our system for this population?

- ▶ Transportation-work, medical, food, household needs, bus system isn't working well for this population
- ▶ Food insecurity
- ▶ Are there other housing interventions besides RRH for this population.
- ▶ AODA and aging/housing services
- ▶ MCO care coordination
- ▶ Property managers are playing case managers for elder population. Could we put support services in these communities
- ▶ Having a sense a purpose.
- ▶ High/Complex Medical Needs- Falls and don't want to seek medical attention. Refusal to go into shelter.
- ▶ Difficulty with ADLs
- ▶ Memory
- ▶ Equipment or medication needs?
- ▶ Training specific to this population; Including what resources are available and how to access
- ▶ Staffing needs
- ▶ Hard time re-entering job market
- ▶ Housing Navigation- Senior housing assisted living, housing shortage.
- ▶ Rehab facilities, assisted living, screening barriers are preventing people from living there.
- ▶ Need equipment- walkers,
- ▶ Life alert
- ▶ Could we have CNA within shelter system?
- ▶ First aid specialist within shelters
- ▶ Social anxiety after COVID- to meet due to health condition
- ▶ Discharged from hospital with having supports.
- ▶ Supports to connect people to SSI/SSDI, annual reviews, how to help people stay on Benefits. Overpayments. Understanding benefits.



What is working well? What do we need more of?

- ▶ Streamline referrals from diversion, outreach, shelter.
- ▶ First level beds with handicapped accessible bathroom. (Designated wing).
- ▶ Education about identity theft
- ▶ Computers to fill out application and attend eviction (Technology access)
- ▶ PSH- ADRC be on the call with them, NewBridge, Someone to talk to HSC from ADRC.

What are potential solutions? What items should be shared with those working with ADRC, other providers, elected officials?

- ▶ Specific shelters needed for this population?
- ▶ Prevention funding (medication assistance, Meals on Wheels)
- ▶ ADRC come to HSC to educate.
- ▶ On-site support at 55+ housing properties.
- ▶ Reentry senior housing. assisted living and transitional living in accessible sites.
- ▶ MCO- teaming up with social worker, challenges are client not keeping appointment.
- ▶ Have someone with lived experience 55+ talk about their perspective on challenges.
- ▶ Giving residents the opportunity to talk to management (town halls) and have resources come to provide information.
- ▶ LEC- more funding to provide engagement to this population and partner with agencies. Peer support.
- ▶ Peer led support group for individuals who have hoarding disorder and support services.m
- ▶ First aid specialist in shelters, or CNA