About the GVPHC

The Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium (GVPHC) is a coalition of public and private organizations that maintains a current and viable process to end homelessness and provide services and resources to the most vulnerable households and individuals across the following six (6) jurisdictions: the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, and Williamsburg, and the counties of James City and York.

The GVPHC serves as the region’s Continuum of Care (CoC) organization, and is responsible for coordination and management of federal and state funding for homeless services.

The CoC has adopted the vision that homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring. This report focuses on the CoC’s efforts to make this vision a reality for the residents of the Greater Virginia Peninsula. The report period is Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Much of the data provided in this report is sourced from the Hampton Roads Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
The Hampton Roads HMIS serves as the primary source of data for the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), which is compiled nationally by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and provided to Congress. HMIS also provides data for the annual Point in Time Count required by HUD. Locally, HMIS data helps identify gaps in services and better understand the needs of the service population.

2014 Data Standards

In October of 2014, HUD released a new set of data standards. The Planning Council provided training for and conducted audits of 19 HMIS participating agencies. The audits evaluated both data quality—with a special emphasis on the new 2014 HMIS data standards—and technical standards for security and confidentiality of client information.

Expansion of the HMIS

In the Fall of 2014, the Southside and the Peninsula merged their HMIS databases; in July 2015, Virginia Beach also merged its HMIS, creating the Hampton Roads HMIS. An additional merger with Portsmouth is expected to be completed Fall/Winter 2015. This regional HMIS was made possible with support from the following organizations:

- Beazley Foundation
- Portsmouth General Hospital Foundation
- Peninsula Community Foundation
- Virginia Housing Development Authority
Professional Development

The following trainings were made available to all partners of the GVPHC:

- Treating Trauma in an Informed Way
- Affordable Care Act Training
- Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)
- Excellence in Housing-based Case Management
- Boundaries and Confidentiality
- Burnout
- Environmental Review

Phrase of the Month:

- 30% Average Median Income (AMI)
- Depression
- VI-SPDAT
- Outreach
- Eviction Notice
- Point in Time Count
- Rent Reasonableness
- Housing Crisis Hotline
- GVPHC Leadership Expectations

Program Spotlights:

- 3E Restoration
- The Healing Place of Hampton Roads
- Winter Shelters
- HELP Jobs for Life Program
GVPHC Milestones: July 2014 - June 2015

July: Established representative leadership on $880,200 state Grant

August: HMIS merger, 140 users. Homelessness Services Will be Non-Recurring

September: GVPHC Housing Crisis Hotline launched; 4217 Peninsula Callers through June

October: $1.9m federal Landlord Partnership Ending Homelessness Workshop

November: Winter Shelter Season begins: 665 individuals served; Emergency Shelter Beds available

January: 520 persons experiencing homelessness Point in Time Count

February: 135 Veterans housed in 1st 100 Days Challenge to End Homelessness

May: Adopted Coordinated assessment tool

June: 235 Veterans housed in total through Mayors Challenge to End Homelessness
33% of people being served by the GVPHC claimed Newport News as their city of origin, followed by 21% in Hampton, 20% in Williamsburg, and 18% in James City County. 

Source: Hampton Roads HMIS
The Point in Time Count is an annual unduplicated count of persons who are experiencing homelessness, whether sheltered or unsheltered, during a specific 24 hour period. It does not demonstrate the total need for the community, but does show how the need compares to previous years and the level of representation within each subpopulation in the count.

These charts show the five year trend across the region. While the totals are decreasing overall, the number of unsheltered persons and persons identified in subpopulations are fluctuating.

The total number of people counted can be attributed in part to improved systems approaches implemented by the CoC—i.e., service coordination, appropriate referrals, and diversion via the Housing Crisis Hotline.

Observation forms were used for the first time in 2015 to count unsheltered persons who could not or would not be interviewed. Additionally, some of the subpopulation fluctuation can be ascribed to the changes in methodology in 2015 (updated survey questions, new HMIS data standards, etc.).
Federal & State Goals

*Opening Doors and the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program*
Federal & State Funding Awards

In 2014, the GVPHC was awarded $1,915,780 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and $999,460 from the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP).

Funds were allocated to the following program types: Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-housing, Transitional Housing, HMIS, Safe Haven, CoC Planning, Prevention, Shelter Operations, and Administration. Compared to FY 2013, the CoC has increased Rapid Rehousing funds by $116,924, for a total investment of $487,830.

Note: The bars in the graph above do not include non-housing related activities (HMIS, CoC Planning, Administration, etc.); however, these funded activities are included in the Fiscal Year Award Totals and account for a small percentage of the award.
Federal Strategic Plan: Opening Doors

The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, *Opening Doors*, is a national initiative that calls upon the federal government to work collaboratively with the private sector, non-profits, and state and local governments to engage cost effective, thorough solutions to end homelessness. The GVPHC has aimed to align its goals with those of the Federal Strategic Plan, which include:

1. Prevent and end homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015;
2. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by 2017;
3. Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 2020; and,
4. Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.
Goal 1: Prevent & End Veteran Homelessness

The GVPHC is actively participating in a regional effort to end Veteran homelessness. The effort took shape through the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, and was kicked off with a boot camp in September 2014 sponsored by the Governor’s Homeless Coordinating Council, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness. Ending Veteran homelessness means reaching the point where there are no Veterans sleeping on our streets and every Veteran has a path to permanent housing.

Increased Resources

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program was awarded 84 additional vouchers for the Hampton Roads region in FY 2014, including 49 set aside for the Peninsula.
- The Supportive Services for Veterans (SSVF) program administered by the Newport News Office of Human Affairs received $261,295 in federal funding for prevention and rapid re-housing in FY 2104. They served 97 Veteran households.
- Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation (VBCDC) recently expanded services to include the Peninsula.
Goal 2: End Chronic Homelessness

Housing First

Housing First is a nationally accepted best practice for quickly housing persons and families experiencing homelessness; it recognizes the challenges inherent to living on the street or in shelter. Housing First is a cost effective model for reducing both the length of time homeless and future dependence on the service system for many individuals and families. Housing First has been adopted by the GVPHC, and is an important piece in the strategy for ending homelessness.

Capacity

- The GVPHC reported 60 designated Chronic Homeless Beds in the Housing Inventory and prioritizes 88% of the Permanent Supportive Housing bed turnover
- The GVPHC provides 240 Permanent Housing Beds, not including the HUD-VASH program
- ACCESS AIDS Care administers the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program. They provided permanent housing for 70 singles and families

On Her Own

Life was not easy for a 28 year old female experiencing homelessness on the Peninsula. This young woman had exited from the foster care system, and had two of her own children permanently removed from her care. She faced many challenges and had difficulty maintaining relationships.

Homeless for over a year, she presented at a local shelter pregnant, with nowhere else to turn. Local outreach workers rapidly rehoused her that same day.

A team was put together to provide wrap around services for this young woman and her child, including applying for mainstream resources and acquiring documentation of her disability. The mother is engaging with workers for the first time in her case history: she, her son, and her newborn are now in permanent supportive housing.

Since 2013, the number of chronically homeless individuals identified during the GVPHC Point in Time Count decreased by 58%
Goal 3: Prevent & End Homelessness for Families, Youth, & Children

The GVPHC reported a **22% decrease** in families identified as homeless during the Point in Time (PIT) Count since 2011; one unsheltered family was identified in the 2015 PIT Count.

**Capacity**
- 70% of Rapid Re-housing beds are available for families, for a total of **92 family Rapid Re-housing beds** reported in the GVPHC Housing Inventory
- **96 Transitional Housing Beds** for families were reported in the GVPHC Housing Inventory; 72% of the CoC’s Transitional Housing Beds are family beds

**Project HOPE-Virginia**
Project HOPE-Virginia, administered by The College of William and Mary for the Virginia Department of Education, focuses on the education of homeless children and youth. **Local liaisons** are available at each school system to ensure the federal requirements are carried out efficiently and effectively.

She Needed Another Chance...
A 25 year old pregnant female found herself facing many difficulties. With a history of surviving domestic violence, substance abuse, being on probation, and several mental health issues, this young woman had grown up with little supervision in a rough environment. She left home at 16 and lived with various friends with no stability.

The expectant mother was accepted into the transitional housing program at Transitions Family Violence Services. She obtained employment, paid her probation fines, and attended Partners in Recovery groups.

She was then referred to permanent housing, and has **maintained stability for over a year**. She has **increased her income and independence by getting her driver’s license reinstated and obtaining her own transportation**.

This young mom is **on the road to success** thanks to the services available, the system in place through the CoC, and her own hard work and determination.

476 persons in families exited to permanent housing in FY 2014
Goal 4: Set a Path to Ending All Types of Homelessness

Housing Crisis Hotline
The region’s Housing Crisis Hotline is operated by ForKids, inc. Starting September 2014, the Hotline expanded to include providers on the Peninsula, with 29% of all calls originating from the Peninsula. Thanks to Ferguson and the Peninsula Community Foundation for their support.

Coordinated Assessment: VI-(F)-SPDAT
In May 2015, the GVPHC voted to designate the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) as the pre-screening tool for identification of permanent housing placement for homeless singles, and the VI-F-SPDAT for families, across the CoC. The tool is used by all outreach and emergency shelter providers, and agencies making housing placement referrals. The information gathered helps determine which housing intervention households should receive and prioritize the sequence of clients receiving those interventions.

SCAAN
The Service Coordination and Assessment Network (SCAAN) meets bi-weekly both on the Upper and Lower Peninsula; the committees work to efficiently and effectively leverage community resources to assist individuals and families transition out of emergency housing into transitional or permanent housing and to address barriers to self-sufficiency.

Daily Vacancy Reports
The Planning Council compiles a list of vacancies reported by area housing providers, including Emergency Shelter; Transitional, Rapid Re-housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing providers; and, Prevention programs. The reports are shared with the providers who contribute, as well as the Housing Crisis Hotline and the CoC service coordination committees. The purpose of the report is to provide transparency on how the homeless services delivery system is working and to facilitate the rapid movement of clients into appropriate housing.

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)
This ad-hoc committee focuses on helping people within the service population navigate and streamline the process for applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).
A Path to End Homelessness...

Homeless System Flow Chart

Outreach

Regional Housing Crisis Hotline

Winter Shelters
(165 Seasonal Beds)
- A Night’s Welcome
- PORT
- Community of Faith Mission

Points of Entry

Diversion

Prevention

Hampton Dept. of Social Services
Newport News Dept. of Human Services
James City County Office of Housing
Office of Human Affairs

Emergency Shelters
(256 Year Round Beds)
- Avalon Center
- Hampton Department of Human Services
  (Hotel/Motel)
- H.E.L.P.
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- Hampton Newport News Community Services Board
- Menchville House
- LINK Veterans Program
- Peninsula Rescue Mission
- St. Bede Catholic Church
- The Salvation Army – Peninsula
- The Salvation Army – Williamsburg
- Transitions FVS
- Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
- Newport News Housing Broker Team
  (Hotel/Motel)

SCAAN

Transitional Housing
(133 Year Round Beds)
- Avalon
- Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- H.E.L.P.
- Malachi House
- The Salvation Army - Williamsburg
- Transitions FVS
- United Way of Greater Williamsburg

Rapid Re-Housing

Service Coordination and Assessment Network (SCAAN) – Upper & Lower Peninsula
Newport News Housing Broker Team
Newport News Office of Human Affairs
SSVF
Transitions HOME DV

Permanent Supportive Housing
(262 Year Round Beds + 696 Regional HUD-VASH Vouchers)
- ACCESS AIDS Care (CHAP)
- Community Housing Partners
- Veterans Medical Center - HUD-VASH*
- Hampton Newport News Community Services Board
- LINK of Hampton Roads
Newport News Redevelopment & Housing Authority

*HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program combines the use of Housing Choice Vouchers administered by the local Redevelopment and Housing Authorities to provide rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Prepared By: The Planning Council

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 2015 VIR-S05 Housing Inventory Count (HIC), May 2015
Both HUD and the Virginia Housing Solutions Program (VHSP) support the vision adopted by the GVPHC: that homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring. This vision was adopted following the system design clinic held in June 2014. The progress made is captured by the Vision Update, posted to the left.

The Vision Update illustrates the data available from the Hampton Roads HMIS for the report period of July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015, Fiscal Year (FY) 2014.
Permanent Housing Placements

Source: Hampton Roads HMIS

Note: Rapid Re-housing programs were new in FY 2014 and did not have a complete year to provide services. Domestic Violence Shelters not included.
What’s Next...

Moving forward, the GVPHC will work to:

• Continue improving the service system
• House the most vulnerable
• End homelessness for veterans and chronically homeless individuals and families
• Help all families and individuals achieve permanent housing and stability
• Increase permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and affordable housing capacity

Together, the GVPHC believes it can make homelessness **rare, brief, and non-recurring**.

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Partners

ACCESS AIDS Care
Avalon
H.E.L.P.
Hampton Dept. of Human Services
City of Hampton
Hampton-Newport News Community Service Board
Housing Development Corp. of Hampton Roads
James City County
James City County Housing Authority
LINK of Hampton Roads
Malachi House
Menchville House
Natasha House
New Vision Outreach Ministry
Newport News Redevelopment & Housing Authority
City of Newport News

Office of Human Affairs—Newport News
Peninsula Institute for Community Health
Salvation Army—Peninsula
Salvation Army—Williamsburg
The Planning Council
City of Poquoson
Transitions Family Violence Services
United Way of Greater Williamsburg
United Way of the Virginia Peninsula
Va. Employment Commission
Virginia Veteran & Family Support
City of Williamsburg
County of York
York County Division of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization
York-Poquoson Dept. of Social Services
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