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Community Shelter Board Announces Results of Point-in-Time Count on Homelessness

Columbus, Franklin County – Community Shelter Board (CSB) today released the findings of the January 2024 point-in-time count, shedding light on the state of homelessness in the Columbus/Franklin County community. The count identified 2,380 people experiencing homelessness, marking a 1.8% increase from January 2023. This represents an all-time high in the number of people experiencing homelessness at a single point in time in Columbus and Franklin County.

Key trends from the count include a shift in sheltered vs. unsheltered homelessness, with CSB's strategy for addressing unsheltered homelessness resulting in progress. Notably, there was a 1% decrease in single adults living outside or in other inadequate spaces compared to 2023, coupled with a 4% increase in the number of single adults accessing shelter or transitional housing.

Additionally, the count revealed a significant 58% decrease in the number of unaccompanied youth under age 18 compared to 2023, indicating positive strides in addressing youth homelessness. Moreover, there was a 16% reduction in the overall number of individuals identified as victims of domestic violence compared to 2023, demonstrating progress in providing safe and supportive accommodations for individuals fleeing domestic violence situations.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge that the point-in-time count may not fully capture the true scope of homelessness. The displacement of families from Colonial Village in November 2023 on the heels of full housing relocation of Sawyer Tower residents in August 2023 serves as a reminder of this reality. CSB is actively involved in ensuring the 400 affected households have continued access to safe, temporary accommodations in hotels.

In response to these findings and challenges, CSB is calling for strategic actions to address homelessness in our community. These include creating family non-congregate shelter capacity, investing in permanent supportive housing, enhancing prevention and diversion efforts, and scaling effective programs like rapid rehousing.

"Every member of our community deserves a place to call home," said Shannon TL Isom, President and CEO for CSB. "While we have made strides in addressing homelessness, there is still much work to be done. By working together and prioritizing strategic actions, we can create a community where everyone has access to safe and stable housing."

For more information on the January 2024 point-in-time count and CSB's response efforts, visit <https://bit.ly/3QpKI7J>.

The annual point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County was held on January 25, 2024. CSB worked in collaboration with the Continuum of Care, a 41-member planning body that carries out a commitment to ending homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. More than 200 volunteers mobilized to support this effort.

MORE ABOUT THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a planning body made up of representatives of relevant organizations within a geographic area to carry out a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness. In Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, the Continuum of Care provides stewardship for all strategies developed under the community plan to address homelessness. The Continuum of Care:

- provides funding for the capital, services, and operations of housing in Columbus and Franklin County;
- coordinates activities for the community plan to address homelessness;
- promotes collaboration to achieve goals and strategies; and
- secures resources for programs and projects.

The Continuum of Care is designed to involve all the players required to further local efforts to end homelessness. The purpose for including stakeholder representation from a wide range of organizations within a geographic area is to ensure that all community stakeholders participate in developing and implementing a range of housing and services.

<https://www.columbusfranklincountycoc.org/>

MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD

CSB leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio. As the system leader for the prevention and response to homelessness in central Ohio, CSB collaborates with service provider organizations in Franklin County, creating a responsive network to ensure an effective and readied use of community resources for people experiencing homelessness. Over the past 10 years, CSB's system of care has housed more than 35,000 men, women, and children facing homelessness.

Community Shelter Board is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the State of Ohio, United Way of Central Ohio, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, The Columbus Foundation, and many other public and private investors. www.csb.org.