

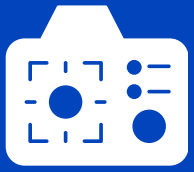


Mid-Willamette Valley
COMMUNITY ACTION
Compassion in Motion

SALEM NAVIGATION CENTER

A LOOK AT THE FIRST YEAR
JUNE 2023 - MAY 2024





SNAPSHOT



157

GUESTS SERVED



56%

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS



4

YEARS AVG. LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS



75

LOW-BARRIER BEDS



15,716

BED NIGHTS



4

MONTH AVG. LENGTH OF STAY

**52%
PERMANENTLY
HOUSED***

*Of the 103 people who exited the Navigation Center in the first 12 months



SUMMARY

The Salem Navigation Center, administered by the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA), is a pioneering effort to address homelessness. This center, a collaborative endeavor with the city of Salem, operates around the clock, offering 24/7 support and services to individuals. With 75 low-barrier shelter beds, the center ensures accessibility for those experiencing homelessness, including those who may have previously been excluded from traditional shelters due to pets, partners, or substance use.

Guests at the Navigation Center have a safe place to sleep and access to a comprehensive range of essential services to improve their overall quality of life. The center provides three nutritious meals daily, addressing food insecurity. Additionally, the facility includes showers, laundry services, and hygiene supplies, ensuring that those served can maintain personal cleanliness and dignity.

A cornerstone of the center's approach is its integration of intensive case management and onsite behavioral health services. Case managers work closely with guests to develop personalized plans that address their needs and goals. They also aid participants with attaining permanent housing, food stamps, health insurance, and other mainstream benefits. Furthermore, case managers help participants navigate medical, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and recovery services.

The onsite behavioral health services are crucial in supporting guests' mental well-being. Trained professionals with JD Health and Wellness provide counseling and therapeutic interventions on-site, helping individuals manage and overcome various psychological challenges. This holistic approach not only aids in immediate crisis intervention but also lays the groundwork for long-term stability and recovery.



VULNERABILITIES

AVERAGE VI-SPDAT SCORE - 8 OUT OF 16+

The Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) is the tool used by the Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinated Entry System* to assess, prioritize, and refer homeless individuals to housing opportunities. This assessment gathers information on an individual's housing and homelessness history, exposure to risks, social connections, daily activities, and current health status. The VI-SPDAT score range is 1 to 16+ and is reflective of an individual's risks and vulnerabilities, with a higher score indicating a need for immediate intervention.

An average VI-SPDAT score of 8 for Navigation Center participants facilitates swift transition to permanent housing when paired with medium term housing assistance. Matching the appropriate level of assistance to individual needs is crucial for optimizing long-term housing stability.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS - 4 YEARS

The average length of time a person was experiencing homelessness before entry into the Navigation Center was four years.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS - 90 INDIVIDUALS (57%)

Chronic homelessness is defined as an individual with a disability who lives in a place not meant for human habitation or in an emergency shelter and has been homeless for at least 12 consecutive months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years. It also includes individuals who have been in an institutional care facility for fewer than 90 days and met the criteria of chronic homelessness before entering the facility.

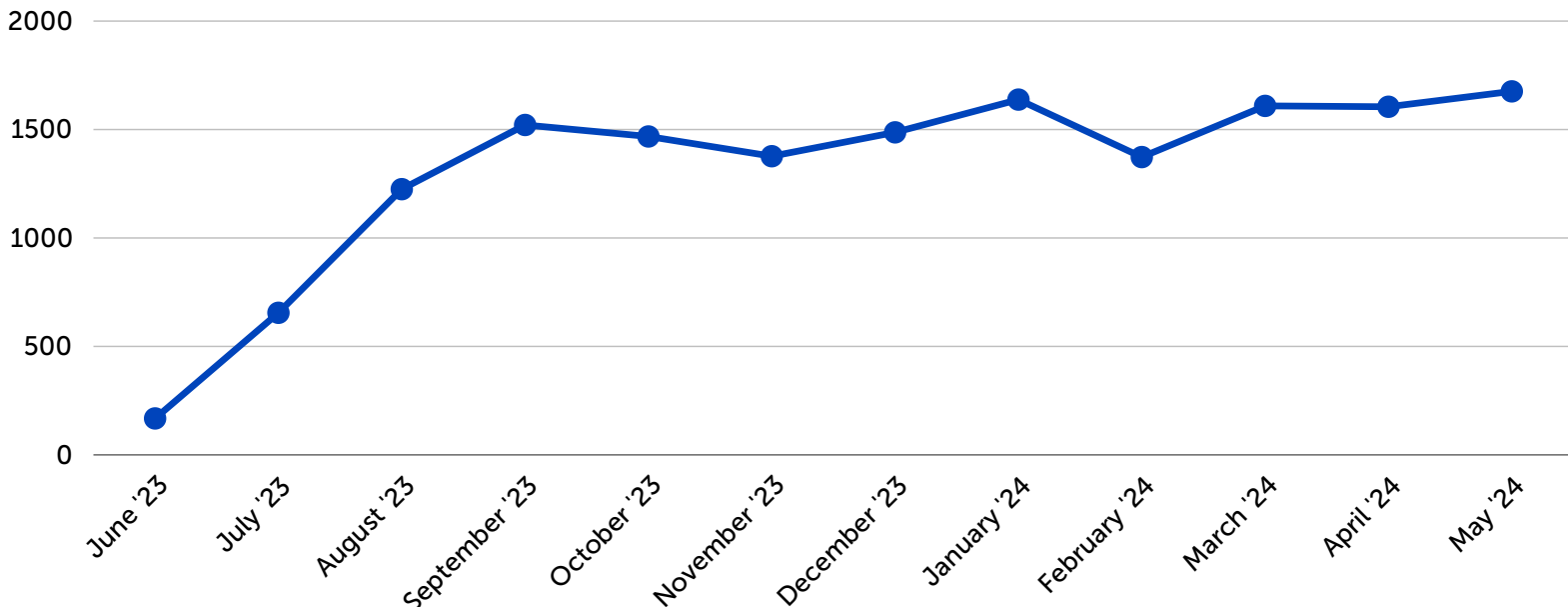
Continuum of Care - A regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance (MWVHA) is the Marion and Polk Regional Continuum of Care.

Coordinated Entry System - The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines coordinated entry as an approach to coordination and management of a crisis response system's resources that allows users to make consistent decisions from available information to efficiently and effectively connect people to interventions that will rapidly end their homelessness.



SHELTER BED NIGHTS

In its first year, the Navigation Center provided more than 15,716 shelter bed nights* to 157 unique individuals.

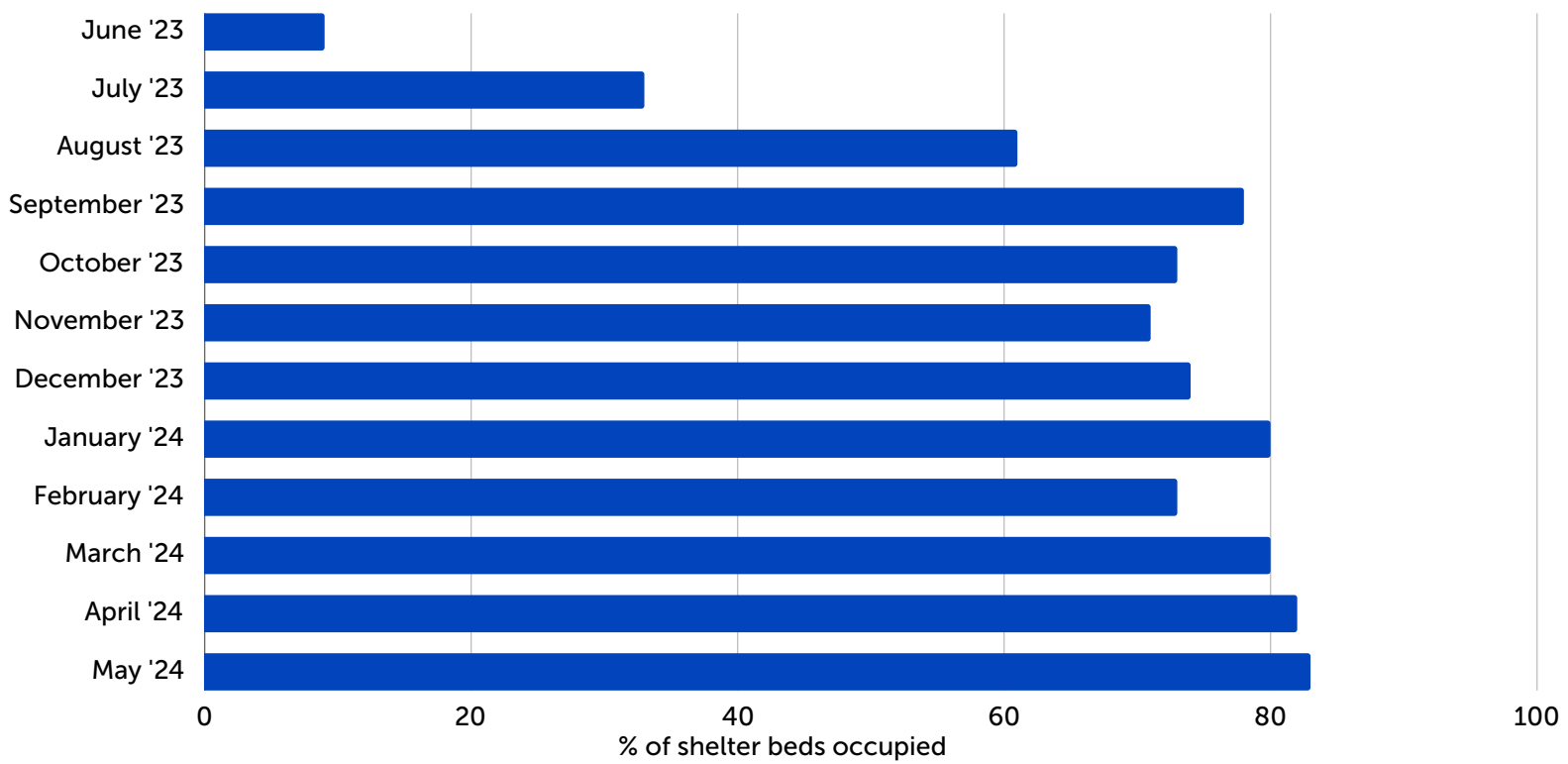


*Shelter Bed Night - Defined as one person per bed per night



OCCUPANCY RATE

The monthly occupancy rate for the Navigation Center in its first year averaged 66%. Enrollment into the center was done via a phased approach, allowing a greater staff-to-occupant ratio as guests entered. This phased approach drove the center's 52% permanent housing attainment rate for those who exited the program. The second factor affecting the average occupancy, especially in the later months, is the newly implemented Diversion Bed Program. Through this arrangement, a specific number of beds within the center are reserved for law enforcement entities to make direct referrals for shelter bed placement.



DIVERSION BED PROGRAM

Launched in April 2024, the Diversion Shelter Bed Program is a new initiative supporting our unsheltered Guests. Through a digital system, Salem Police officers are able to directly refer an unsheltered individual into the Navigation Center as a temporary shelter placement. During their short stay at the Navigation Center, Homeless Services Team (HST) officers and case managers work collaboratively to help individuals remove barriers and identify long-term shelter and permanent housing opportunities.

In the first two months of the program, the navigation center received a total of five referrals. As this program continues, we'll see an increase in referrals which will result in a larger occupancy rate for year two.



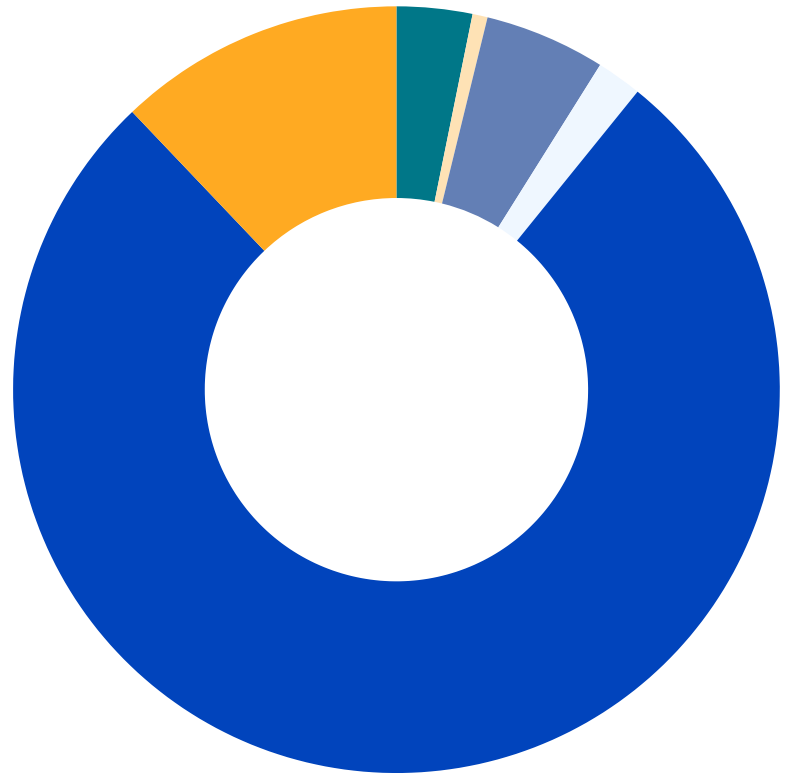


GUESTS SERVED

BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Of the 157 individuals served in the first year, 8 identified as Black, African American, or African, 5 as American Indian Alaska Native, or Indigenous, 3 as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 1 as Asian or Asian American, 19 bi- or multiracial, and 121 White (Hispanic and non-Hispanic).

MWVCAA is committed to serving individuals from all backgrounds by prioritizing marginalized and underserved populations for placement into shelter and housing programs. To ensure individuals are successful in these programs, MWVCAA employs a diverse staff reflective of our community and invests in language skills testing and training to ensure bi- and multi-lingual staff are present to serve guests in their native and primary language.



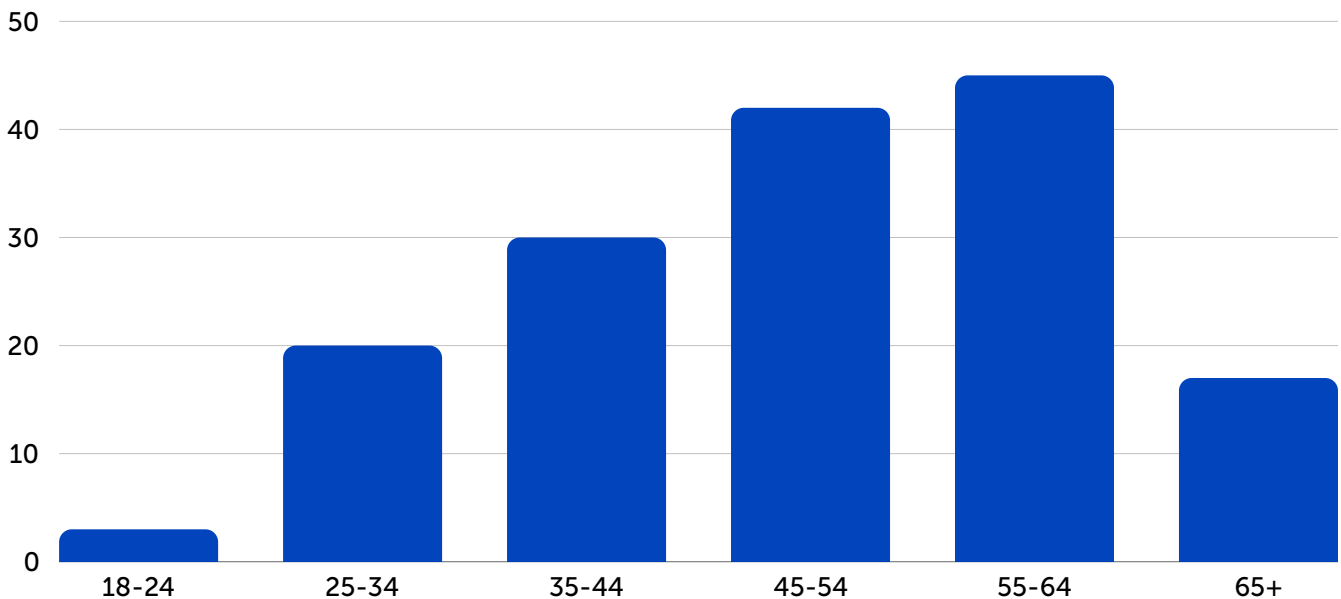
- White (Hispanic and non-Hispanic | 77.07% | 121 Individuals)
- Biracial/Multiracial | 12.10% | 19 Individuals
- American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous | 3.18% | 5 Individuals
- Asian or Asian American | 0.64% | 1 Individual
- Black, African American, or African | 5.10% | 8 Individuals
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 1.91% | 3 Individuals



GUESTS SERVED

BY AGE

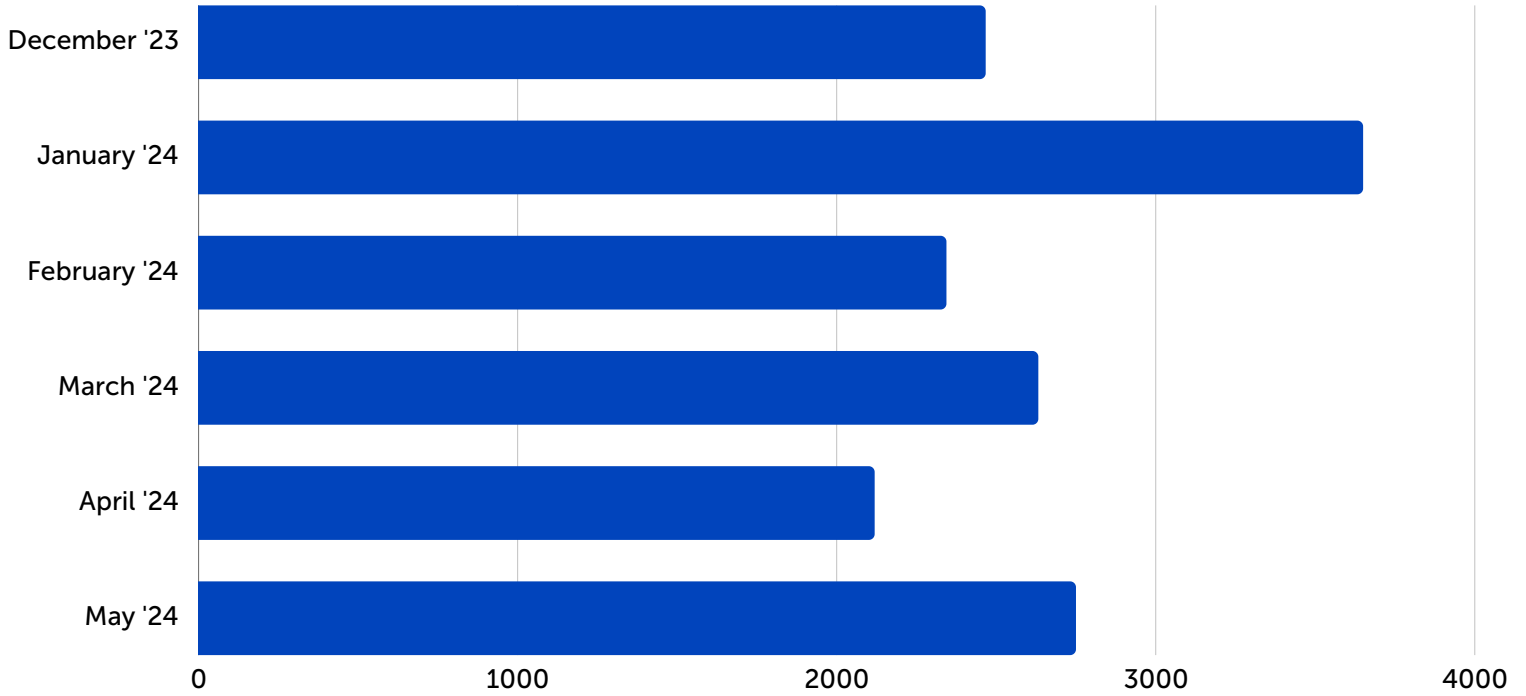
The population served at the Navigation Center is quite diverse in terms of age, with the majority (74 out of 157) individuals presenting in the 35-54 age range.





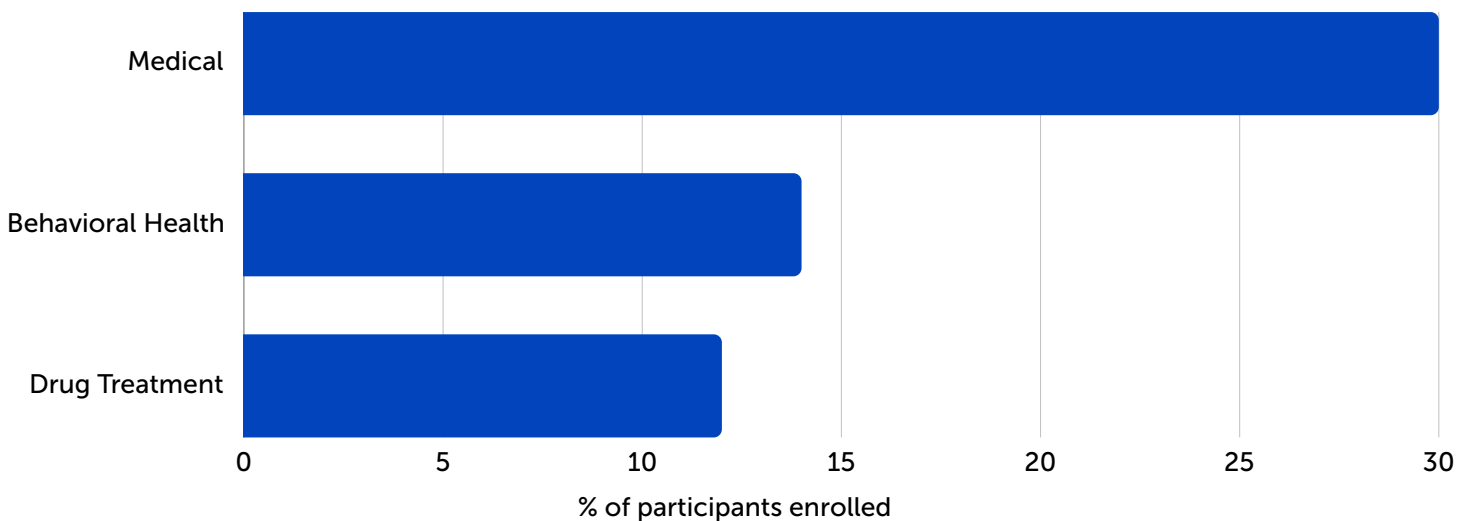
MEALS PROVIDED

Throughout the year, the Navigation Center provides three nourishing meals daily for guests. A collaborative partnership with Marion-Polk FoodShare (MPFS) and generous community donations have been instrumental in making food service possible. Meal tracking began in December 2023, when the partnership with MPFS was finalized. Since then, the Navigation Center has served 15,962 meals, averaging approximately 2,660 meals per month.



CASE MANAGEMENT

The Navigation Center provides comprehensive case management for guests to help them secure permanent housing, set personal goals, and navigate resources. Case managers assist participants in identifying immediate needs, personal growth goals, and developing self-sufficiency. 14% of participants received behavioral health referrals, with most receiving on-site services. Case managers ensure that those not receiving on-site services are referred to trusted providers in the community. 30% of participants receiving case management have identified healthcare as a primary concern, and case managers actively help them locate primary care options. 12% of participants have enrolled in treatment programs for substance use disorder.





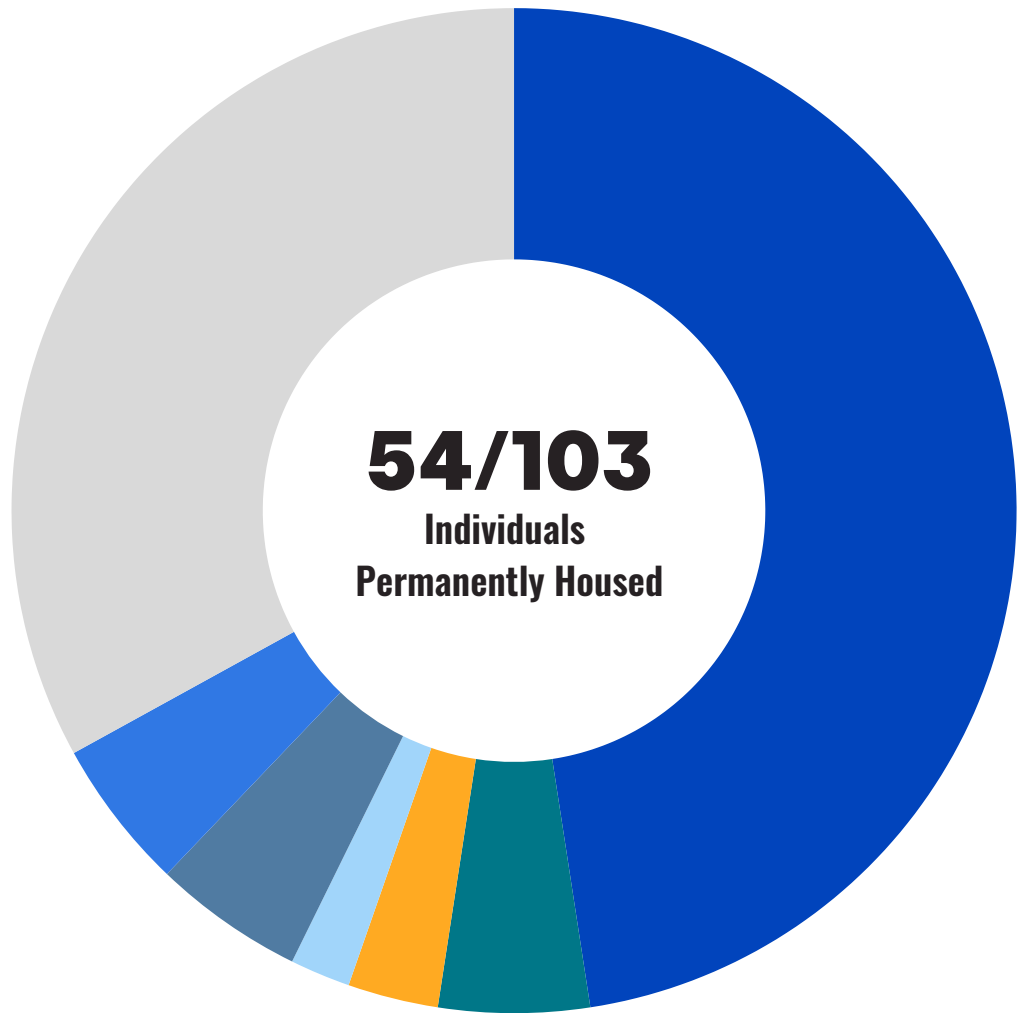
OUTCOMES

Over the past year, 52% of the 103 individuals who exited the Navigation Center successfully moved into permanent housing. Additionally, 4.9% transitioned to the ARCHES Inn, 1.9% relocated to the ARCHES Lodge, and 2% transferred to other shelter sites administered by community partner organizations. Another 4.9% chose to stay with friends or family, and 33.3% of those who left the center did not specify their destination. The average length of stay at the Navigation Center for participants before moving into permanent housing was 4 months.

In January of 2023, Governor Tina Kotek signed Emergency Order 23-02, declaring a state of emergency to address homelessness in Oregon. The Executive Order led to the repurposing of \$40 million in funds by Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to expand low-barrier shelter bed capacity and permanent housing opportunities in five Continuum of Care regions, including Marion and Polk Counties. These initial decisions opened the door for the Legislature to support additional commitments for even more housing and sheltering capacity across Oregon

Through this Emergency Order, MWVCAA was awarded funding to provide Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) services for individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. As people were prioritized for entry into the RRH program, they were also provided a shelter opportunity at the Navigation Center. Case managers and housing navigators from both programs assisted participants with gathering important documents, applying for available units in their neighborhood of choice, navigating interactions with landlords, and conducting habitability assessments of the housing units to ensure they meet state and federal standards.

Individuals who attain permanent housing through the RRH program are provided up to 24 months of rental and utility assistance, which is paid directly to the landlord and utility vendors on the participant's behalf. Participants also receive intensive case management while in the RRH program. Case managers assist households with identifying income generation pathways, navigating medical and mental health services, and enrolling in institutions of higher education or vocational training. These services are designed to help individuals achieve self-sufficiency within 24 months and retain permanent housing beyond the program length.



- MWVCAA Rapid Re-Housing Program | 47.57% | 49 Individuals
- ARCHES Inn | 4.86% | 5 Individuals
- ARCHES Lodge | 2.91% | 3 Individuals
- Rental without Subsidy | 4.86% | 5 Individuals
- Destination Unknown | 33.00% | 34 Individuals
- Living with Friends and Family | 4.86% | 5 Individuals
- Other Community Shelter Program | 1.94% | 2 Individuals



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, partnership is our guiding principle. We're proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with more than 300 non-profits, local governments, interest groups, and businesses to address systemic challenges and emerging needs in our community.

Please join us in thanking some of our partners and donors:

- City of Salem
- Marion County
- Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance
- JD Health and Wellness
- Marion and Polk Food Share
- Willamette Egg Farms
- Daves Killer Bread



A special thank you to our team of anti-poverty professionals and volunteers whose unwavering dedication and commitment make this work possible. Your tireless efforts and passion for ending homelessness are the driving force behind our success.



ABOUT MWVCAA

Founded in 1967, MWVCAA is a leading anti-poverty organization serving Oregon's Marion and Polk Counties. For over half a century, we have been grounded in our mission of empowering people to change their lives and exit poverty by providing vital services and community leadership. We use innovative and research-based practices to design programs that highlight our vision that all people are respected for their infinite worth and are supported to envision and reach a positive future. Our agency has developed a layered anti-poverty framework, based on a progressive theory of change, and supported by wrap-around resources across all types of basic needs. Supporting eight core programs, and over 50 sub-programs, across three divisions: Early Learning and Childcare, Energy and Weatherization, and Housing and Homeless Services.



FUEL THE MISSION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN FUELING OUR MISSION AND PUTTING COMPASSION IN MOTION!

SCAN ME



Your generous donation helps us extend our reach and impact more lives. Together, we can create a world where all people are respected for their invite worth and supported to envision and reach a positive future. Every gift, no matter the size, will have a profound impact on our community. Scan the QR code and donate today.

Don't forget to check out our website below to learn more about our amazing work.



PHOTO GALARY



COMMUNITY

