

CT Balance of State  
(CT BOS)  
Continuum of Care  
(CoC)  
Semi-annual Meeting

May 15, 2026





# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Guidelines for BOS Meetings
- Adopt April SC Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- CLIP Updates
- HUD Updates & CoC Competition Discussion
- Wellness Break
- System Performance Measures
- CT BOS Strategic Planning Updates & Discussion
- Break Out Groups
- National Association of CoC Leaders
- Data Strategy Board Updates
- Partner Announcements & Other Business
- Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

# Welcome new CT BOS Steering Committee Members

---

## New seats on CT BOS Steering Committee

- Law Enforcement
  - Brian Wright, Chief of Police, New London
  - Jasmine Sanders, Sergeant, New Haven Police Department
- Elected Officials
  - Mayor Arulampalam, Hartford
  - State Reps Nick Menapce & Laurie Sweet
- Business Community
  - Russ Cormier, Nutmeg Consulting
- Educational Sector
  - Michele Anderson, EdAdvance Early Childhood



New CAN Rep: Augustin Lopez, Mental Health CT, Western CAN

# CT BOS Group Agreements for Meetings

---

Developed by Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP)

- Be present and listen actively
- Choose courage over comfort
- Participate to the fullest of your ability
- Take space, make space
- Assume good intent, but also acknowledge impact
- Challenge ideas, not people
- Use "I" statements
- Recognize emotional tax, extra labor, and burden that Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Latino/a/x, LGBTQ+, persons with Behavioral Health issues, DV survivors, Veterans and people with lived expertise/experience of homelessness face in some conversations
- Honor the Conflicts of Interest Policy



# Approve April Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

---



Draft April 2026 BOS Steering Committee Minutes

# Announcements



# Reminder: Post Steering Committee Debrief

---

- Anyone who has questions or comments about Steering Committee business can stay on at the end of the monthly zoom meeting.
- As always, questions/comments can also be sent [CTBOSCoC@gmail.com](mailto:CTBOSCoC@gmail.com) or call a team member any time!





# Use of HMIS Verification of Homelessness (VoH)

---

## **VoH can be done in HMIS in most cases!**

Enrollment, Current Living Situation, bed night, and manually entered data complete the verification process without a paper form.

For more info, check out [CT BOS Eligibility Documentation Training Slides](#) and [Recording](#)

HMIS VoH Nutmeg Training:

- [Training Slides](#)
- [Homeless Verification Documentation Guidance](#)
- [Recording](#)



Updated Reporting  
of Program Vacancy  
and CAN Referral  
Documentation  
Form

# Annual Training Institute (ATI)

---

**Wednesday, May 20th**  
**8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

The Connecticut Convention Center  
100 Columbus Boulevard  
Hartford, CT 06103



[Register Today](#)

*For Updates Visit [CCEH.ORG/ATI2026](https://CCEH.ORG/ATI2026)*



Missing out on  
BOS e-mails?

SIGN-UP HERE:

[LINK TO SIGN UP FOR  
BOS E-MAILS](#)



---

# Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP)

# Legislative Advocacy



- Attending CT CAN Legislative Agenda launch
- Testifying on bills on decriminalization, encampment clearance, and funding

## Other current work:

- Yale Undergraduate Prison Project (YUPP)
- CT CAN End Homelessness Committee meetings



# Call for Youth Applications

- Recruiting for one youth applicant (18-24) to join the cohort!
- CLIP members are individuals with lived experience of homelessness who help shape Connecticut's homelessness response system
- Also serve and vote as **Balance of State (BoS)** Steering Committee members
- CLIP Application Link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SHKTPZP>



# HUD Updates & CoC Competition Discussion

# FY2025 CoC Quarter 2 Grant Awards Announced

---

- Grants expiring 4/1-6/30/26 awarded
- Q1 awards previously announced
- 64% of CT BOS FY2025 funding now awarded
- See [Continuum of Care Program](#) page for award details
- Non-competitive Q3 & Q4 awards likely (expiring 7/1-12/31/26)
  - Must renew if FY2025 CoC Competition does not conclude and awards announced by 7/1/26





# What can I do to prepare for the HUD NOFO?

- Have at least two e-snaps users
  - Users are inactive after 3-months without logging in
  - Contact [e-snaps@hud.gov](mailto:e-snaps@hud.gov) requesting password reset
- Update Applicant Profile in e-snaps (only for grantees). [How to update Applicant Profile](#)
  - Indirect cost form added to applicant profile
    - ✓ Indicate whether or not applying an indirect cost rate
    - ✓ If yes - use the 15% de minimis rate or a negotiated rate (NICRA).
    - ✓ If using a NICRA - complete the associated chart.
- Guidance on transitioning from permanent housing to transitional housing: [PH to TH Transition](#)

# 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) CoC Competition

---

- Announced that the NOFO will be released by 6/1/26 & awards by 12/1/26
- Increase investment in “treating underlying causes of homelessness”:
  - Transitional Housing, Supportive Services, including street outreach addiction treatment, job training, childcare
- Address encampments and public drug use – protect public safety
- Reform programs:
  - ✓ “Failure” of harm reduction & Housing First
  - ✓ Optimize self-sufficiency
- Encourage participation and partnerships:
  - ✓ Law enforcement & Faith based organizations
  - ✓ Behavioral health treatment & apprenticeship programs



# Overview - Revised 2025 NOFO (Issued 12/19/2025)

---



Permanent Housing (PH) renewals capped at 30% of Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)

- PH includes PSH, RRH and Joint TH RRH
- Revised NOFO applies PH cap to renewals only (**not new projects**)
- Steering Committee decided already: retain as many PSH units as possible
- NOFO revision doesn't change total amount CoC can retain in PH renewals.
- But it makes funds available for new PH projects

# Revised 2025 NOFO (2) – TBD if HUD stays this course

---

Significant change in the competition:

- ✓ Two application tracks:
  1. Track 1 (*Normal Track*)
    - \$2.66B nationally = approx. 2/3 of total
    - All project applications except new PH
  2. Track 2 (*Extended Track*)
    - \$1.26B nationally = approx. 1/3 of total
    - New PH applications only – can only serve households with a disability (no restrictions on disability type)
  
- ✓ Tracks ranked separately



# Carry forward 2025 NOFO decisions for 2026?

---

- HUD has indicated 2026 NOFO will be identical to 2025 NOFO.
  - ✓ Per Congress: – Tier 1 not less than 60% ARD
- Steering Committee approved the following decisions for the 2025 NOFO:
- [PH Retention Guiding Principles](#) & [CoC Track Decisions Guiding Principles](#) & [New Project Priorities](#)
- Carry these forward for the 2026 NOFO?
  - ✓ Adjust as necessary based on NOFO changes
  - ✓ If a set-aside for new PH remains – don't apply for other (non PH) types of new projects
  - ✓ If PH applications make sense, State applies for PSH/RRH - RFP after award
- Discuss today and vote electronically



# HUD Equal Access to Housing Proposed Rule

---

## Proposed Changes:

- Removes references to “gender identity” and replaces with “sex” based on biological sex
- “Sex” defined as a biological classification at birth (male or female),
- Single-sex facilities (including shelter) allowed to determine access based on sex
- Applies across HUD programs, including CoC and ESG.
- The rule is not yet final.
- Public comment open through 6/29/26.
- Current HUD rules remain in effect until a final rule is issued.





# Wellness Interlude



Breathe with Jackie!

---

# Breathwork to Reduce Stress & Anxiety

- **4-7-8 Breathing (Nervous System Reset)**: Developed by Dr. Andrew Weil, this method acts as a natural tranquilizer.

1. Exhale completely through your mouth.
2. Close your mouth and inhale quietly through your nose for a count of **four**.
3. Hold your breath for a count of **seven**.
4. Exhale completely through your mouth, making a "whoosh" sound, for a count of **eight**.
5. Repeat 3-4 times, up to twice a day.

- **Box Breathing (4-4-4-4 Method)**: Used to calm panic and improve focus.

1. Inhale for **four** seconds.
2. Hold your breath for **four** seconds.
3. Exhale for **four** seconds.
4. Hold the exhale for **four** seconds.

- **Cyclic Sighing (Fast-Acting Stress Relief)**:

1. Inhale once through the nose, then take a second shorter, deeper breath to fully expand the lungs.
2. Exhale slowly through the mouth until all air is gone.
3. Repeat for 5 minutes.

- **Diaphragmatic (Belly) Breathing**:

1. Place one hand on your chest and the other on your belly.
2. Inhale deeply through your nose, ensuring your belly expands more than your chest.
3. Exhale slowly through pursed lips.

- **Equal Breathing (Sama Vritti)**:

1. Inhale through the nose for 4 seconds.
2. Exhale through the nose for 4 seconds.
3. Focus on maintaining an equal, calming rhythm

Note: If you're not used to doing breath work, you might feel a little dizzy or light headed with some of the techniques. If that happens, breath normally until the sensation passes. Practicing deep breathing regularly can mitigate that sensation.

Deep Breathing not for you? There's another technique to help your body relax you could try: Muscle relaxation! This technique involves tensing up your muscles, holding for a few seconds, and then relaxing. Work by groups of muscles starting with your arms and hands, working through your torso and back, and then your legs and feet.





**Advancing  
Connecticut  
Together**

# HUD System Performance Measures for CT Balance of State

# Total HMIS Counts

The visual below provides the total number of unduplicated clients in HMIS each Federal Fiscal Year.

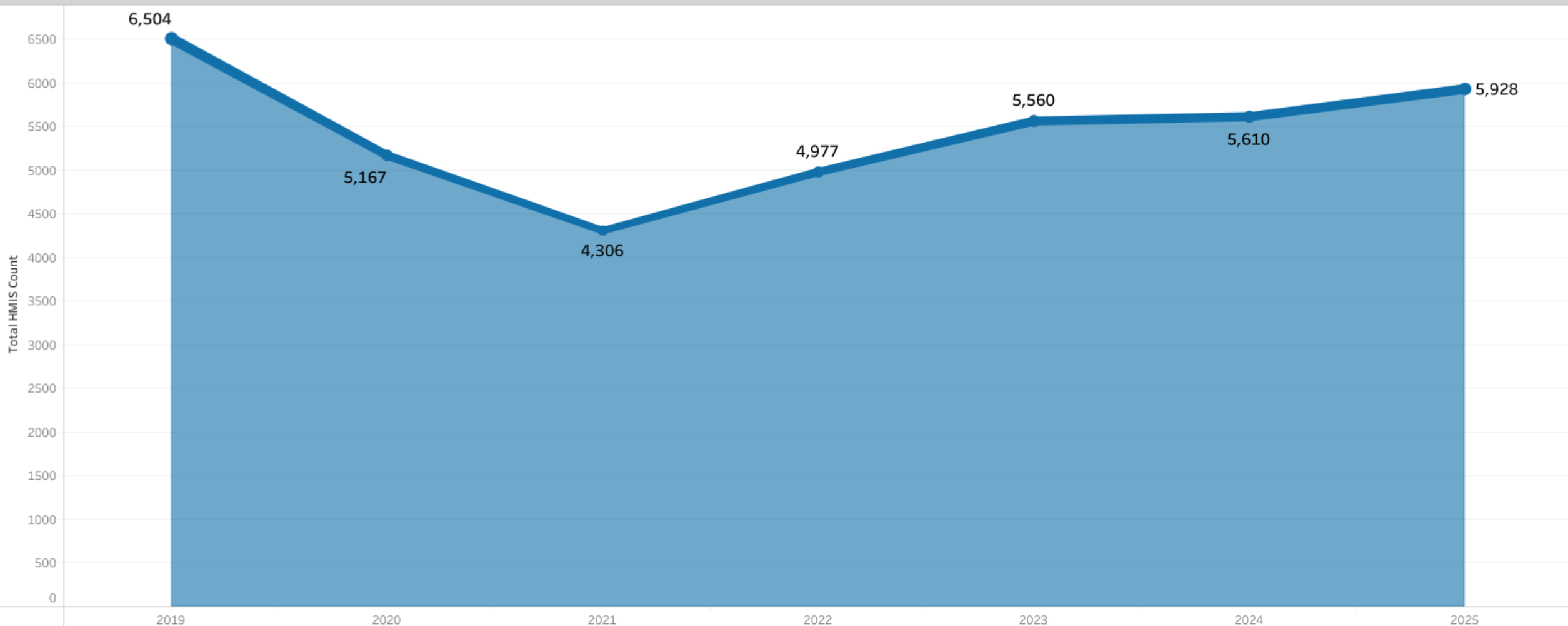
Total HMIS Records 2025

5,928

Percent Change from Last Year

5.67%

## Total HMIS Count CT-505



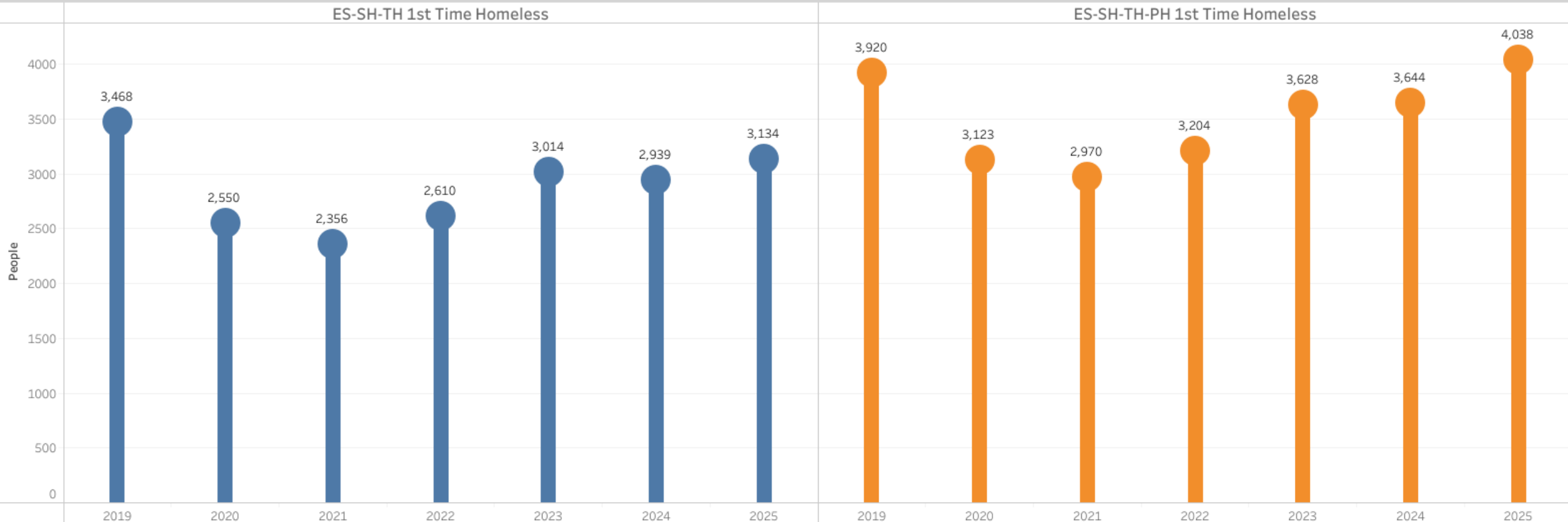
# First Time Homeless Trend

The charts below highlight the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time. The first chart only includes Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects. The second chart includes Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing (PSH/RRH) projects.

## 2025 Final Submission Numbers for First Time Homeless

ES-SH-TH 1st Time Homeless	ES-SH-TH-PH 1st Time Homeless
<b>3,134</b>	<b>4,038</b>
Percent Change from 2024	Percent Change from 2024
<b>6.63%</b>	<b>10.81%</b>

## First Time Homeless CT-505



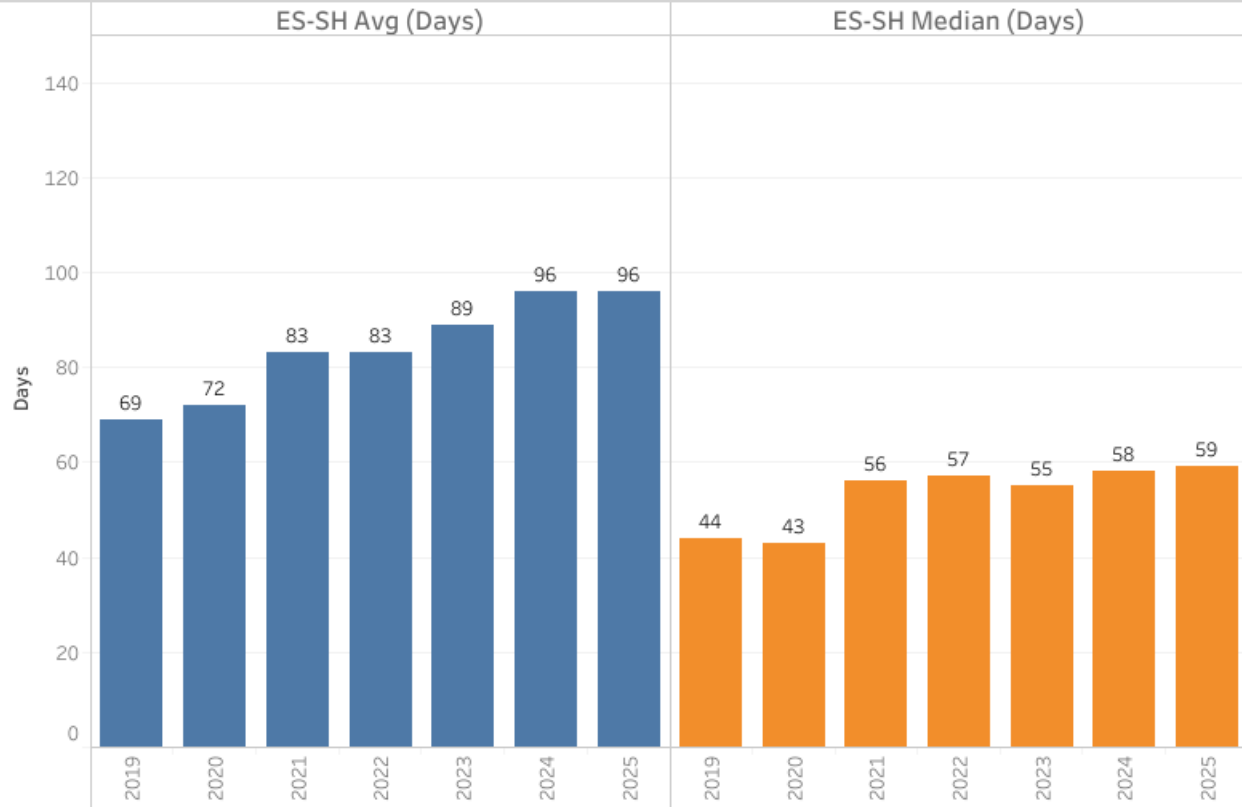
# Lengths of Stay

The charts below provide the Average and Median number of days people stay in temporary housing projects. The two charts on the left reflect average and median for Emergency Shelter and Safe Haven projects. The two charts on the right include Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects.

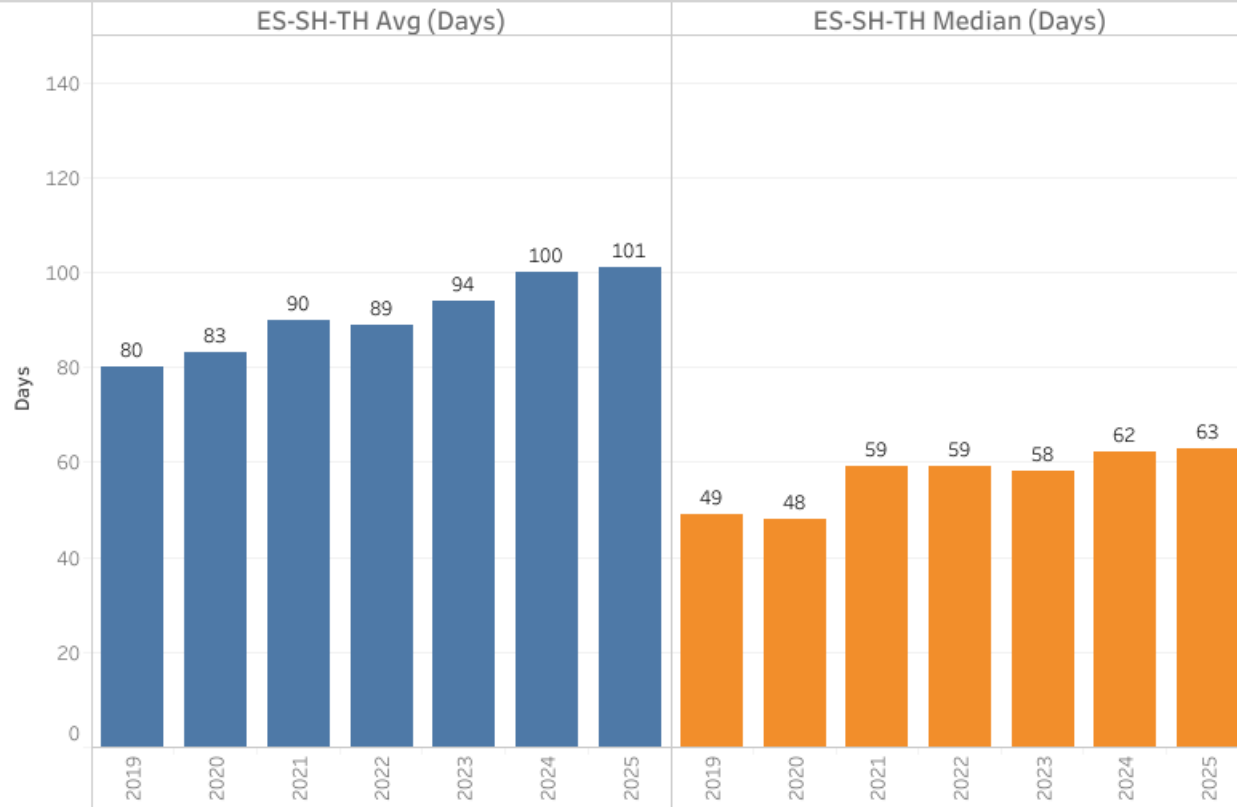
## 2025 Final Submission for Lengths of Stay

ES-SH Avg (Days)	ES-SH Median (Days)	ES-SH-TH Avg (Days)	ES-SH-TH Median (Days)
<b>96</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>63</b>
Change From 2024	Change From 2024	Change From 2024	Change From 2024
<b>0.00%</b>	<b>1.72%</b>	<b>1.00%</b>	<b>1.61%</b>

ES SH LOS CT-505



ES TH SH LOS CT-505



# Income Increases

The charts below provide details on the percentage of clients who increased income across three categories: Earned Income, Non-employment Income, and Total Income. The charts on the left reflect income increases for Stayers in projects, while the charts on the right reflect income increase for Leavers in projects.

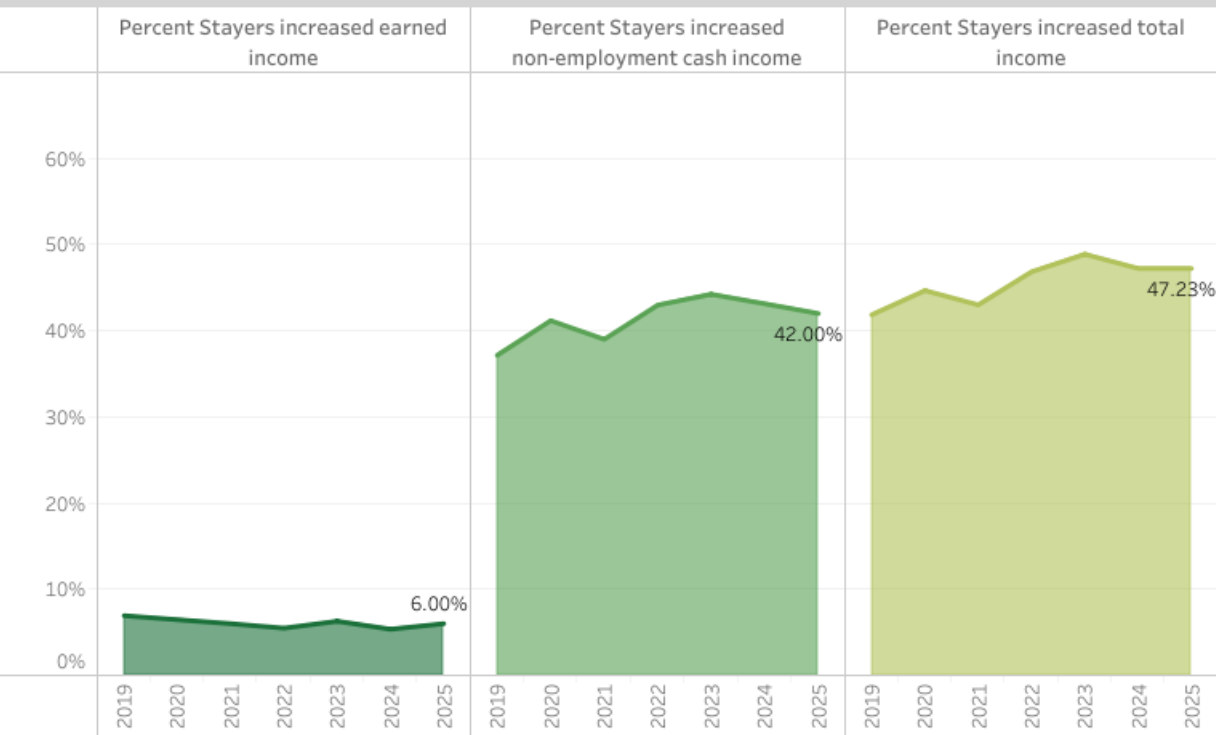
### 2025 Final Submission Numbers for **Stayer** Income

Percent Stayers increased earned income	Percent Stayers increased non-employment cash income	Percent Stayers increased total income
<b>6.00%</b>	<b>42.00%</b>	<b>47.23%</b>
Percentage Point Change From 2024	Percentage Point Change From 2024	Percentage Point Change From 2024
<b>0.65%</b>	<b>-1.13%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

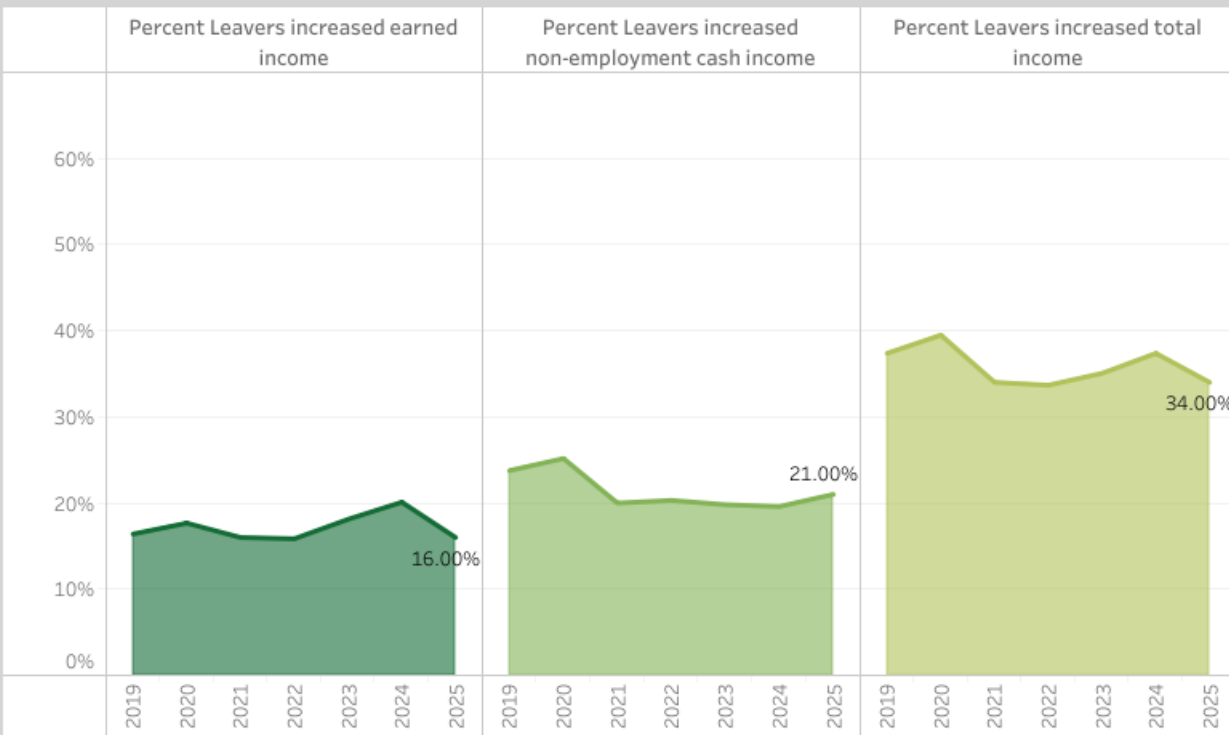
### 2025 Final Submission Numbers for **Leaver** Income

Percent Leavers increased earned income	Percent Leavers increased non-employment cash income	Percent Leavers increased total income
<b>16.00%</b>	<b>21.00%</b>	<b>34.00%</b>
Percentage Point Change From 2024	Percentage Point Change From 2024	Percentage Point Change From 2024
<b>-4.10%</b>	<b>1.40%</b>	<b>-3.37%</b>

### Income Increases-Stayers CT-505



### Income Increases-Leavers CT-505



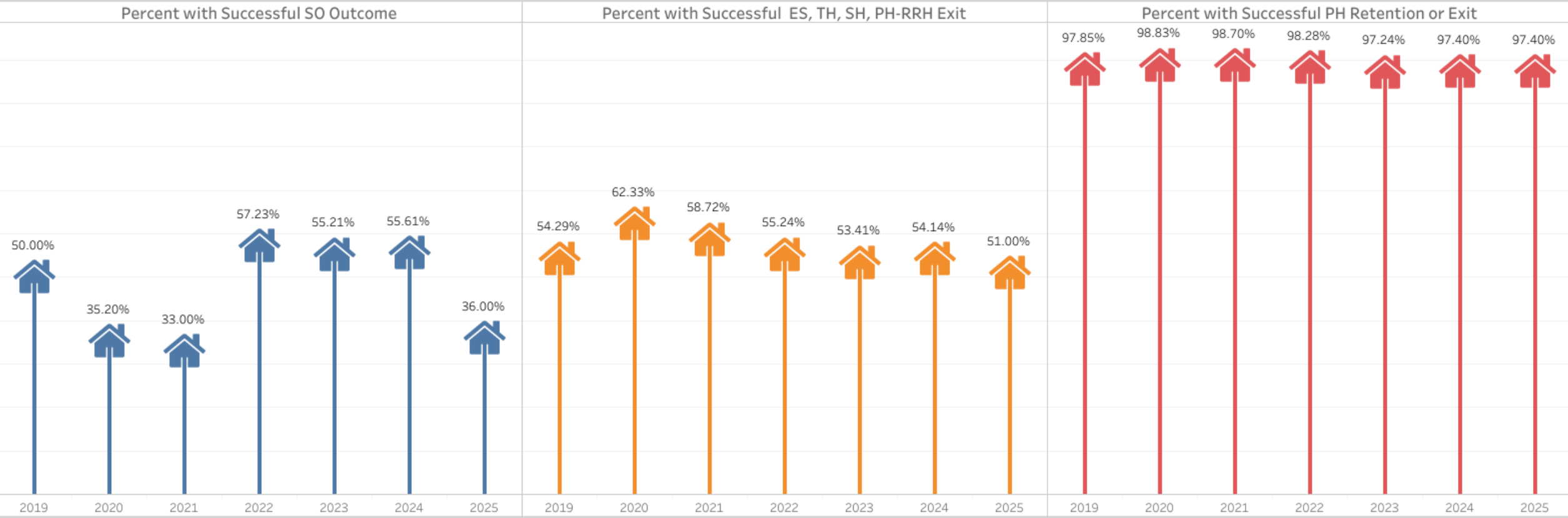
# Successful Exits from System

The charts below highlight the percentage of clients with successful housing exits or retention. The chart on the left reflects successful exits from Street Outreach projects. The center chart reflects successful exits from Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, and Rapid Rehousing projects. The chart on the right reflects people retaining or exiting Permanent Housing to other permanent housing.

## 2025 Final Submission Successful Exits

Percent with Successful SO Outcome	Percent with Successful ES, TH, SH, PH-RRH Exit	Percent with Successful PH Retention or Exit
<b>36.00%</b>	<b>51.00%</b>	<b>97.40%</b>
Successful Exit Difference from 2024	Successful Exit Difference from 2024	Successful Exit Difference from 2024
<b>-19.61%</b>	<b>-3.14%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

## Successful Exits CT-505



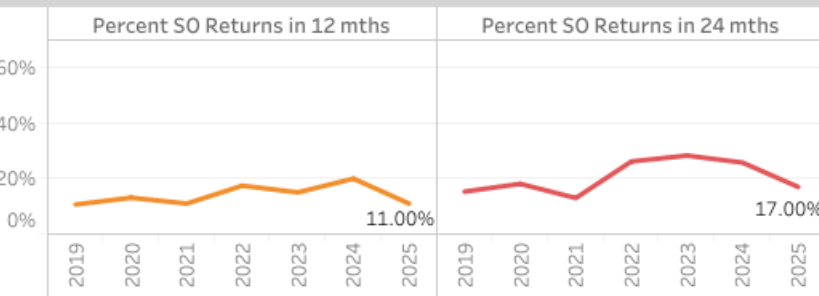
# Returns to Homelessness

The charts below provide the percentages of people returning to homelessness. The charts include both 12 month and 24 month return percentages. Each chart reflects a different project type, except for the last chart which provides the returns to homelessness for all project types. Please note: Some results may be skewed due to a small number of leavers in the 2 year lookback period.

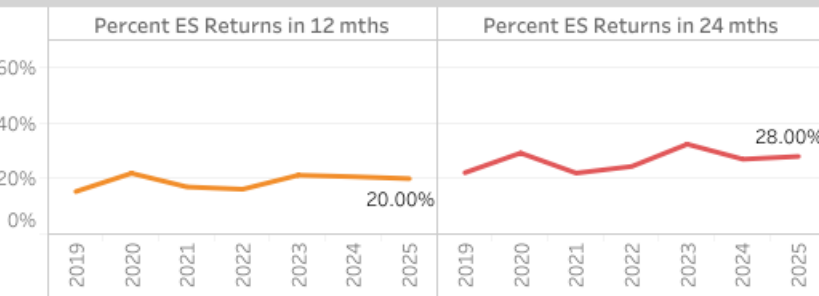
## 2025 Final Submission Numbers for 2 Year Returns

Percent SO Returns in 24 mths	Percent ES Returns in 24 mths	Percent TH Returns in 24 mths	Percent SH Returns in 24 mths	Percent PH Returns in 24 mths	Percent ALL Returns in 24 mths
<b>17%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>21%</b>
Difference from 2024	Difference from 2024	Difference from 2024	Difference from 2024	Difference from 2024	Difference from 2024
<b>-9%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>

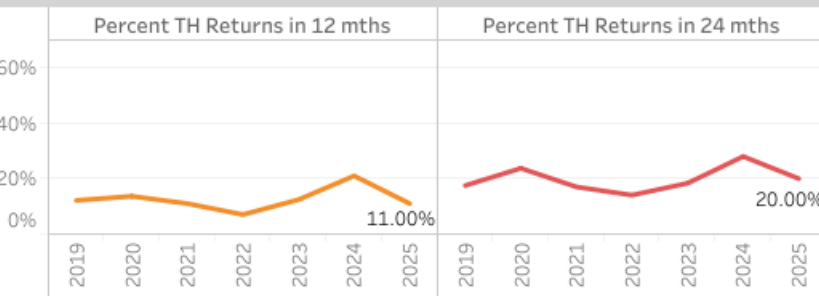
### Street Outreach Returns CT-505



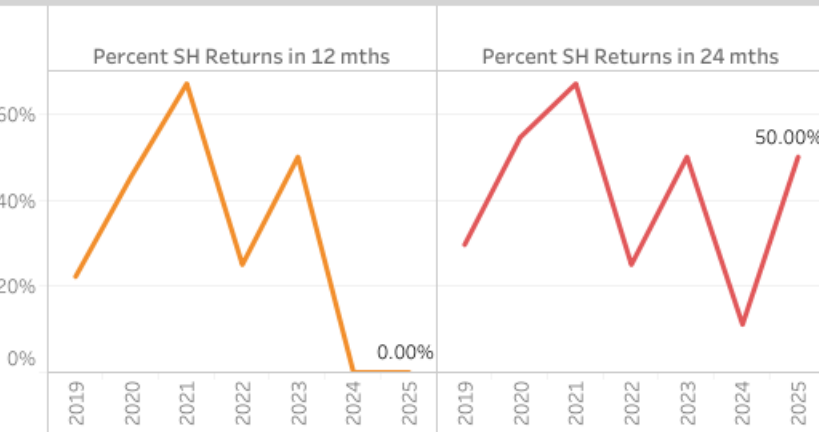
### Emergency Shelter Returns CT-505



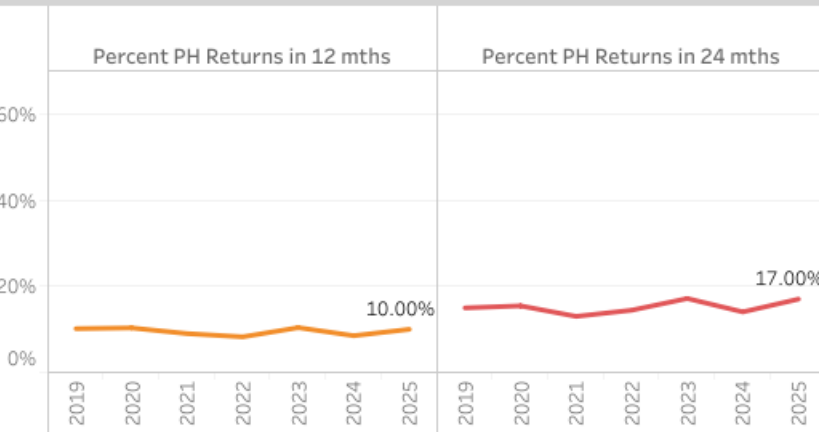
### Transitional Housing Returns CT-505



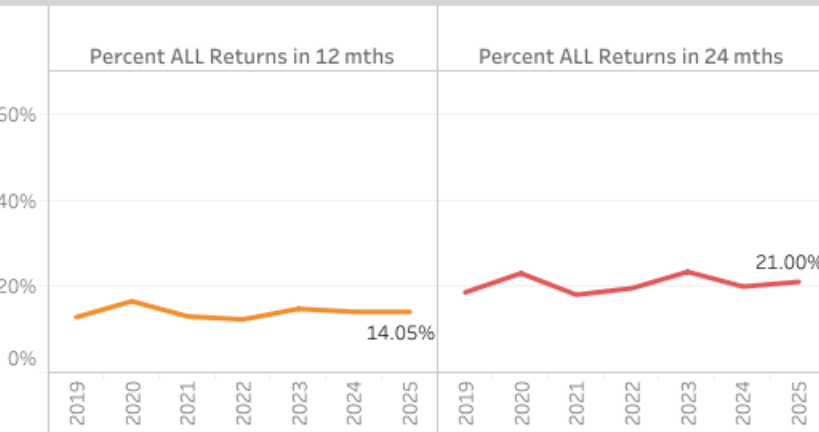
### Safe Haven Returns CT-505



### Permanent Housing Returns CT-505



### All Returns CT-505



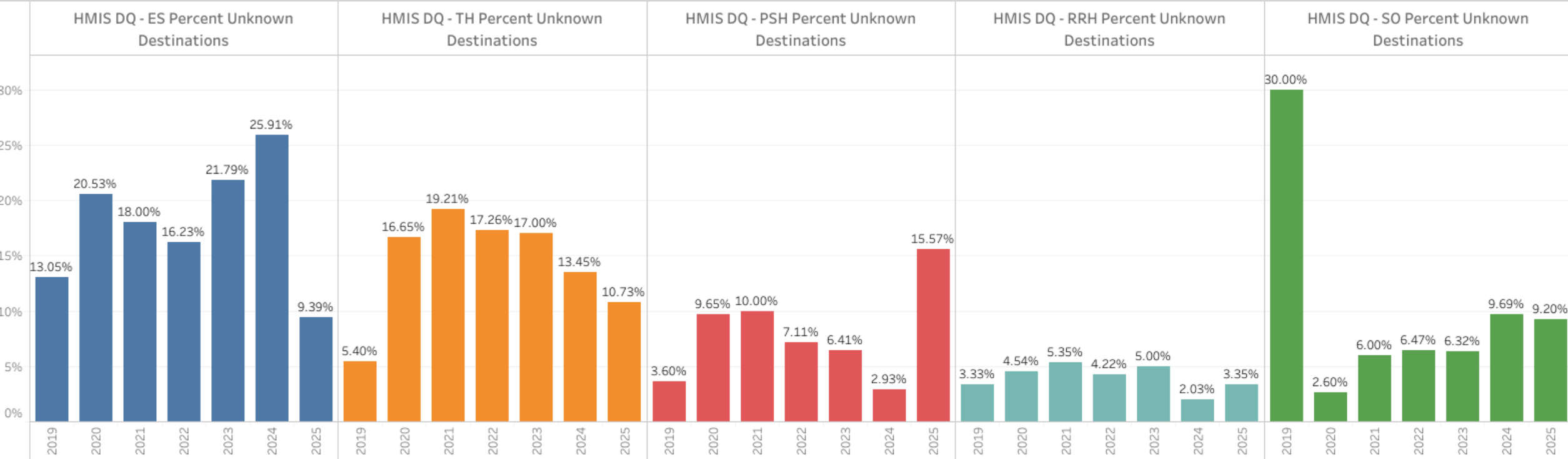
# Data Quality-Exits

The charts below highlight data quality for the Exit Destination field. Each chart reflects different project types: Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, and Street Outreach

## 2025 Final Submission Numbers for Unknown Exit Data Quality

HMIS DQ - ES Percent Unknown Destinations	HMIS DQ - TH Percent Unknown Destinations	HMIS DQ - PSH Percent Unknown Destinations	HMIS DQ - RRH Percent Unknown Destinations	HMIS DQ - SO Percent Unknown Destinations
<b>9.39%</b>	<b>10.73%</b>	<b>15.57%</b>	<b>3.35%</b>	<b>9.20%</b>
Change in Unknown Exits from 2024	Change in Unknown Exits from 2024	Change in Unknown Exits from 2024	Change in Unknown Exits from 2024	Change in Unknown Exits from 2024
<b>-16.52%</b>	<b>-2.72%</b>	<b>12.64%</b>	<b>1.32%</b>	<b>-0.49%</b>

## Data Quality-Unknown Exits CT-505





# STRATEGIC PLAN

## CT BOS Strategic Plan Status Update



## Federal Policy Shifts

---

Unplanned and in progress:

- Strategic adjustments to address federal changes:
  - Service Participation Requirements - Engagement Principles
  - Cap on PH
  - TH Conversion
  - Planning for Tracks

# CT BOS Strategic Plan Status Update (1)

---

May 2024 Semi-Annual mtg, BOS stakeholders provided input on strategic priorities

## **Expand leadership & input opportunities & Strengthen Governance and Coordination**

### ***Actions Taken:***

- Expanded and re-bid CLIP
- Additional support & opportunities for Community Reps
- Collected client feedback on Coordinated Entry
- Proactively recruited new people to serve on CLIP, the CT BOS Steering Committee and in CT BOS Chair roles



# CT BOS Strategic Plan Status Update (2)

---

## **Expand leadership & input opportunities & Strengthen Governance and Coordination**



### ***Actions taken:***

- Strengthening coordination between CT BOS and Opening Doors Fairfield County(ODFC) via leadership meetings
- Conducting Semi-annual meeting in person annually
- PLEH included in BOS sub-committees (e.g., Scoring and Grievance)
- Initiated use of work groups that include providers and PLEH

# CT BOS Strategic Plan Status Update (3)



## **Expand leadership & input opportunities & Strengthen Governance and Coordination**

### ***Actions taken:***

- Maintaining a Steering Committee directory on the CT BOS website
- Distributing minutes two weeks in advance of Steering Committee meeting
- Conducted an analysis of CoC funding allocations by CAN and implementing recommendations for adjustments
- Sharing details on Planning Grant spending with Steering Committee

# CT BOS Strategic Plan Status Update (4)



## Expand leadership & input opportunities & Strengthen Governance and Coordination

### *Efforts in Progress*

- Gather information on other leadership opportunities for People with lived experience of homelessness (PLEH).
- Exploring how to support and provide stipends to PLEH to serve on other bodies such as Data Strategy Board

# CT BOS Strategic Plan Status Update (5)

---



## **Model Improvements**

### ***Actions Taken***

- Assessed opportunities to increase access to Low-income Housing Tax Credit units for people experiencing homelessness
- Conducted a statewide evaluation of CANs
- Initiated CAN monitoring through new partner collaboration (DOH, DMHAS, ACT, CCEH, HI, Nutmeg, S4C)
- Completed feasibility analysis of CoC Rental Assistance centralization

# CT BOS Strategic Plan Status Update (6)

---

## Model Improvements

### *Efforts in Progress*

- Convene work group with Department of Labor, providers, and PLEH to identify opportunities to improve employment outcomes
- Identifying resources and best practices to strengthen long-term services and supports for high acuity PSH tenants



# CT BOS Strategic Plan Status Update (7)

---

## Training Improvements

### *Actions Taken:*

- Housing and Homeless Training Academy launched
  - Multi-agency effort to reduce duplication & enhance offerings
  - Provides trainings on a range of topics
  - Trainings easy to access for all



# CT BOS Strategic Plan Status Update (8)

---

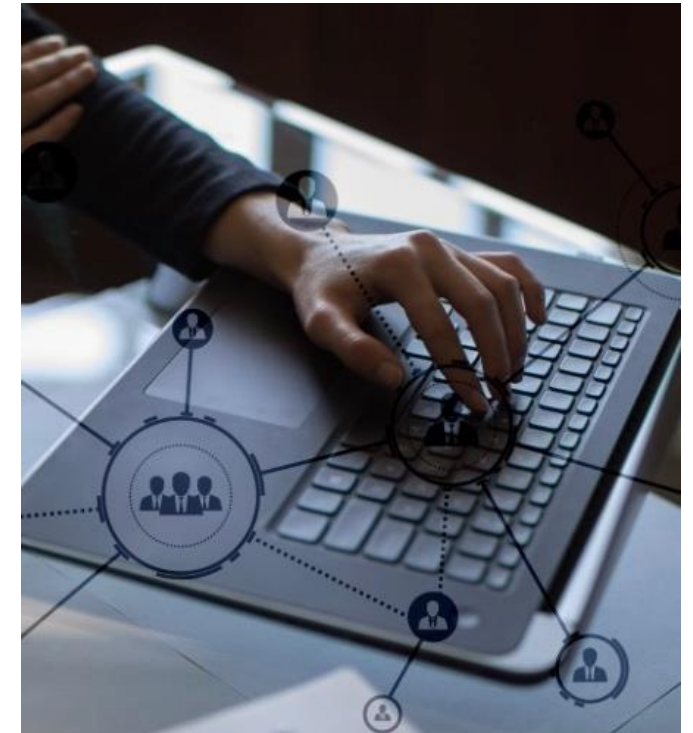
## HMIS Improvements

### *Actions Taken:*

- Data Strategy Board (DSB) created to:
  - Ensure ongoing strategic leadership
  - Meet the needs of providers and consumers
  - Enhance data tools
  - HMIS re-bid – ACT awarded HMIS Lead, HMIS vendor RFP released

### *Efforts in Progress*

- Continue exploration of portal that enables participant access to their data





# CT BOS Strategic Plan Status Update (9)

---

## **Strengthen Monitoring & Adherence to CoC Requirements**

### ***Actions taken:***

- Updated CoC compliance webinar series
- Identified ways to reduce documentation burdens for providers
  - HMIS Verification of Homelessness released
- Limiting monitoring to significant recapture & quality risks
- Launched new monitoring collaboration (DOH, DMHAS, ACT, CCEH, HI, Nutmeg, S4C):
  - Minimizes duplication of effort and burden on providers
  - Strengthens coordination and technical assistance to enhance impact

# Discussions

---



- Introduce yourself, your role, and how long you have been attending Steering Committee meetings
- What are other topics that you are interested in having BOS address?
- What resources or tools are needed?
- Please record and share suggestions in the chat or by email: [ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com)

# National Association of CoC Leaders

---

Organization provides CoC leaders with:

- Coordinated voice on federal policy
- Structured peer learning
- Professional development
- Dedicated professional home
- Seat at the national table

## Membership

- Dues are \$12,500 annually
- Dues are not an eligible cost under HUD CoC or CT state funding

## Discussion of interest in CT BOS joining

If so, need to find resources for dues





# Data Strategy Board Updates- May 2026

- RFP for HMIS software vendor
  - Reviewed proposals (5) and conducted software demos
  - Recommendations will be made at the end of the month including budgetary implications
- KPI subcommittee
  - Will be presenting at the ATI next week (in addition to a short session on HMIS reporting)
- Updated policies on:
  - Unauthorized disclosure of PII
  - Data sharing requests including PII
- Reminder of vacant DSB slots: 1 homeless service provider, 1 ODFC or CAN backbone org
  - You can apply here:  
<https://forms.gle/9EuxMHZ2eo5sNkwA7>
  - Last day to apply is 5/31/26



# Partner Announcements

# Other Business?

---



# Upcoming CT BOS SC Meetings



Meetings are from 11:00-12:30 unless otherwise noted

- June 12, 2026
- July 17, 2026
- Aug 21, 2026
- Sept 18, 2026
- Oct 16, 2026
- Nov 20, 2026
- Dec 18, 2026

## Zoom Info for all SC meetings:

- [Meeting link](#)
- Meeting ID: 956 4487 8479
- Password: 414595
- Call-in number: 646-876-9923

# CT BOS Team (Housing Innovations)

---



CT BOS CoC

[ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com)

Suzanne Wagner

[swagner@housinginnovations.us](mailto:swagner@housinginnovations.us)

Lauren Pareti

[lpareti@housinginnovations.us](mailto:lpareti@housinginnovations.us)

Sara Zuiderveen

[saraz@housinginnovations.us](mailto:saraz@housinginnovations.us)

Shannon Quinn-Sheeran

[shannon@housinginnovations.us](mailto:shannon@housinginnovations.us)

Myles Wensek

[mylesw@housinginnovations.us](mailto:mylesw@housinginnovations.us)

Liz Isaacs

[lisaacs@housinginnovations.us](mailto:lisaacs@housinginnovations.us)



No themes, no red carpet—just showing up and doing the work

---

Thank you for what you do!

