

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Livingston County Homeless Continuum of Care Shelter Update

Local Efforts to Shelter Those Experiencing Homelessness

Livingston County – The Livingston County Homeless Continuum of Care (HCC) works to provide rent, shelter, and utility support to the community year-round. From October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022, the HCC has spent over \$725,000 on these initiatives. Total funds spent, and households supported through the HCC partner agencies (OLHSA, The Salvation Army, Love, Inc., and St. Vincent de Paul):

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022	# Households (duplicated)	Assistance
Shelter	301	\$274,596.74
Rent	354	\$206,194.54
Utilities	845	\$244,619.23

Additionally, the COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) funds that supported Livingston County households facing eviction spent \$5,430,046 and helped 590 households maintain housing from March 15, 2021 – September 30, 2022.

In terms of sheltering those who are literally homeless, the HCC utilizes hotel vouchers. These vouchers are utilized all year long. They are used for individuals, couples, and families. To access a hotel voucher, there is a flow chart of resources. The HCC process is to follow the flow chart, and then reach out to The Salvation Army or St. Vincent de Paul for hotel vouchers if the need is not met by any other agency.

The up-to-date shelter resource (flow chart) can be found online:

<https://www.livgov.com/hscb/Documents/If%20you%20are%20experiencing%20homelessness.pdf>

The document is located in the Resource Box on the Human Services Collaborative Body’s website:

<https://www.livgov.com/hscb>.

Other HCC Support Strategies:

- The HCC is working on a one-page shelter resource document that includes **warming shelter information** and **homeless support group information**
- OLHSA, The Salvation Army and Recovery Advocates in Livingston (RAIL) are working to **expand case management onsite** at the local hotel shelter
- The HCC is considering formalizing relationships with out of county shelters
- The HCC is working to bring in training on **Housing Problem Solving** (diversion or prevention from entering emergency shelter)
- The **Homeless Awareness Month committee is raising funds for a Barrier Buster** account to help with Housing Problem Solving. Link to the fundraiser: <https://keephopealive.tenmerch.com/>

Homelessness and housing are complicated problems for every community, and locally, the HCC lacks a robust adult / family shelter resource and obtainable housing at present. The HCC is very excited to have our partner, Community Catalyst's newest project, [Bethel Suites](#) open in the spring. This site will provide 14 affordable, transitional housing options for short term stays and space for onsite case management.

If you want to help shelter those experiencing homelessness this winter, please consider supporting [The Salvation Army](#) who is working on raising more hotel shelter funds. \$1,000 would help three households shelter for a week. Please reach out to The Salvation Army directly to offer support.

Locally, the Human Services Collaborative Body has informational resources available: The [Housing in Livingston County Fact Sheet](#), the [Runaway and Homeless Youth in Livingston County Fact Sheet](#) and the [Financial Stability Fact Sheet](#). **These fact sheets attempt to help our community understand important issues that impact our county.** These Fact Sheets as well as others are located on the Human Services Collaborative Body's website and can be found here: <https://www.livgov.com/hscb/Pages/assessmentandevaluation.aspx>

To obtain more information, contact Amy Johnston at 810.772.4827 or at ajohnston@cmhliv.org.

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