



# City of Florence Work Session

Florence City Council  
December 7, 2023





**CITY OF**  
**FLORENCE**





# Florence Housing & Resource Team (FHRT) Presentation

City Council Work Session | December 7, 2023



# Florence Homelessness Resource Teams







## What:

A collaborative group of community providers and specialist to provide comprehensive wrap-around and case conferencing services to identified unhoused community members to help them overcome barriers to secure stable housing.







Who:  
Our Unhoused  
and Vulnerable  
Neighbors







Why:  
Impacts on  
community's  
health

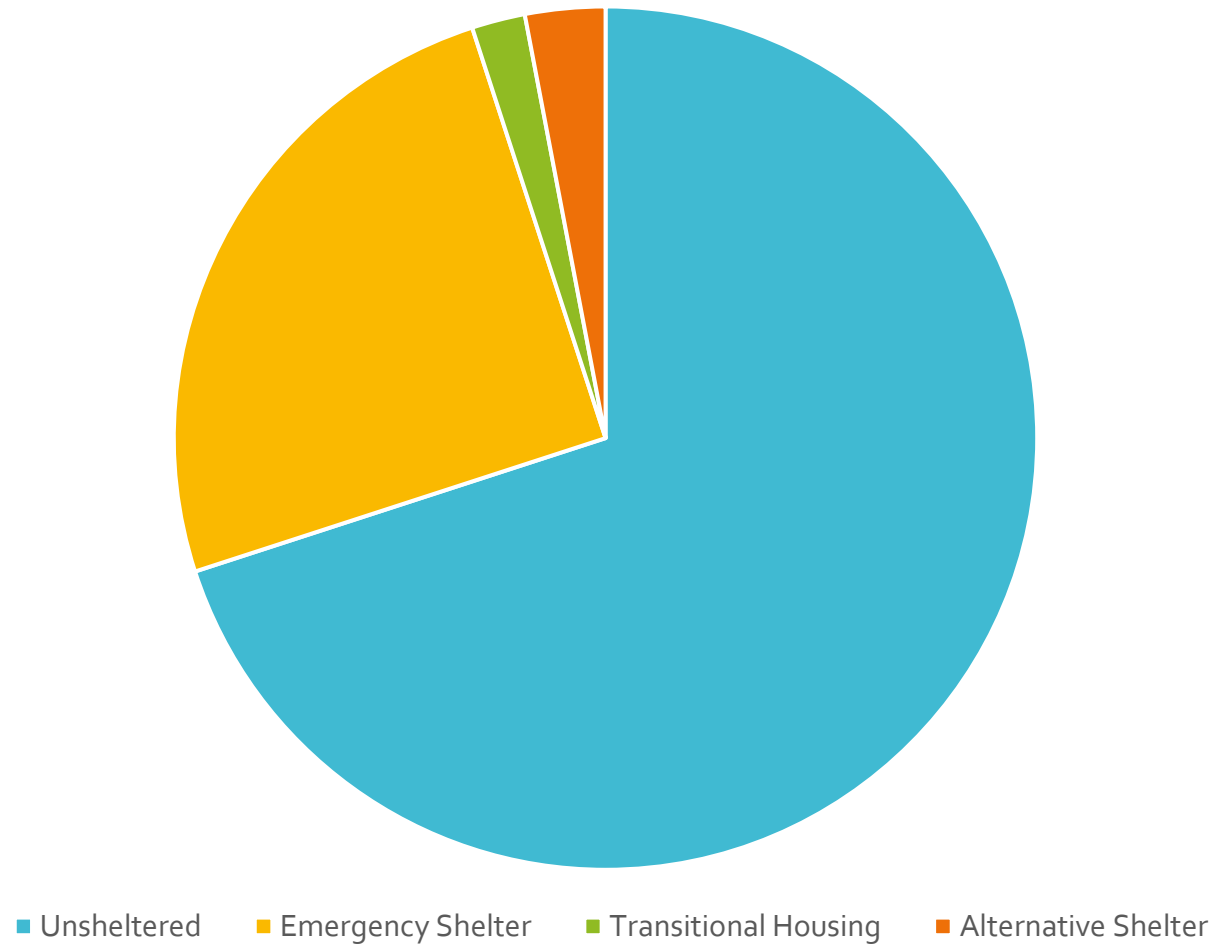


# Who Are Unhoused

Lane County has some of the highest rates of unhoused individuals per capita in the nation.

Source: Lane County Human Services Commission

4,657 Documented Homeless Individuals In Lane County  
October 2023



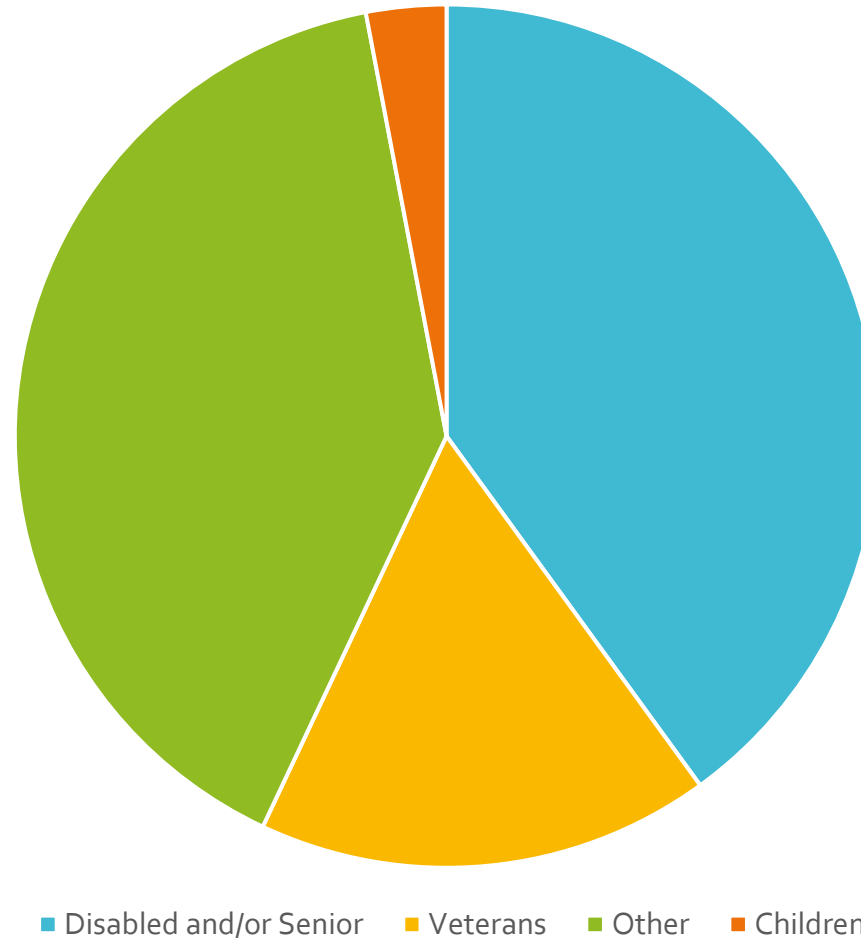


# Who Are Unhoused

200 to 250 unhoused individuals reside in Florence year round.

Source: Oregon Homelessness Information Management System

## 611 Documented Homeless Individuals In Received Services From Florence Area Providers in 2022

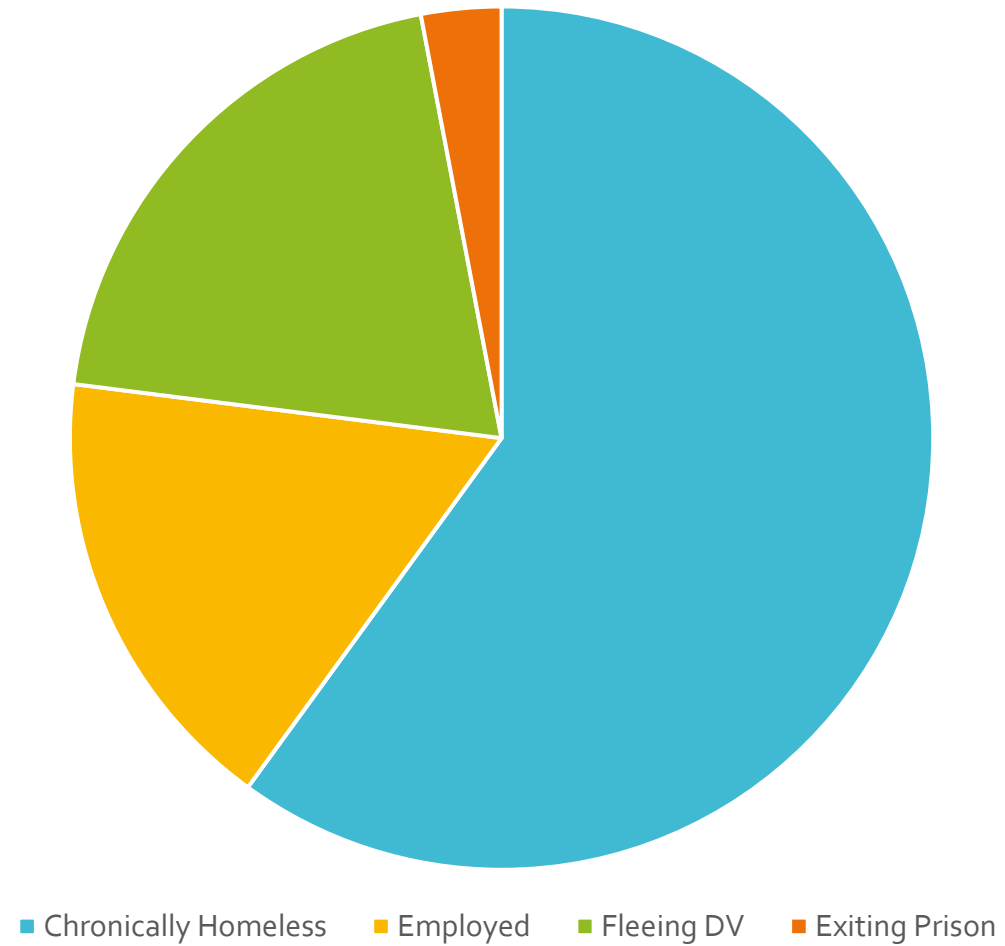


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# Housing versus Income

During the past 5 years, average rent in Florence has increased more than 70% while area median income has increased less than 15%. Each year the homeless rate in Lane County has increased between 9% and 11%.

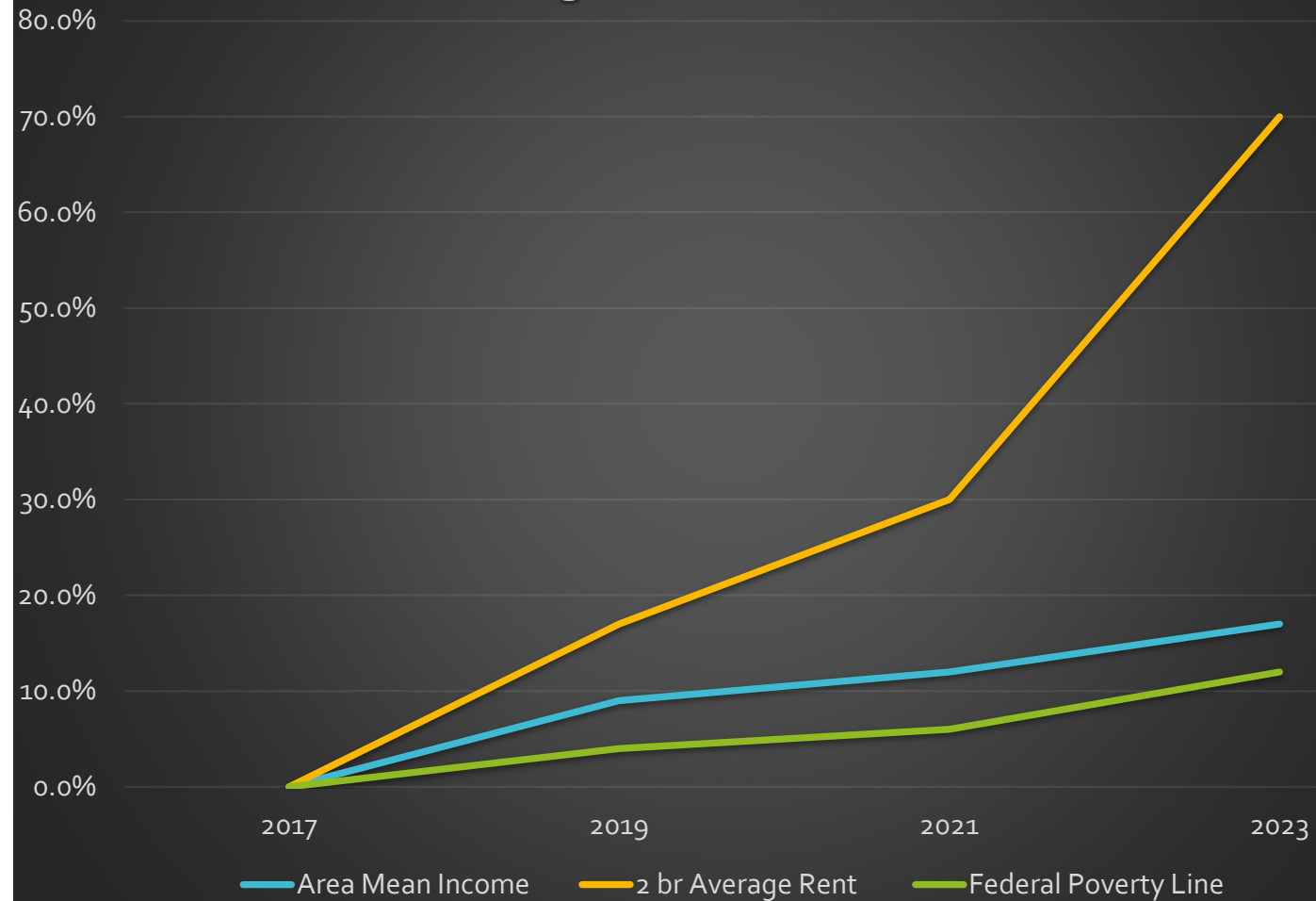
83% of renters that are at 60% or below AMI pay 50% or more of their monthly income toward rent.

53% of the total population of Lane County is rent burdened.

44% of the state's population is at or below the federal poverty line.

Source: Lane County, State of Oregon, Siuslaw Outreach Services, ECONNW, Census America

## 2 Person Area Median Income versus 2bdrm Average Rent In Florence



# Other Risk Factors

There are a multitude of issues that contribute to the homelessness epidemic.

Source: US Census. KGWTV, Siuslaw Outreach Services,

- Number of unhoused individuals in Lane County have increase 72% in the past five years
- Subsidized housing waitlists average two years
- Federal government has focused housing efforts on families over seniors or disabled on fixed incomes
- Cost of housing (average two bedroom rent is currently \$1480 per mo. Average move-in costs is \$3700)
- Lack of living wage jobs (Florence is heavily dependent upon service industry workers making minimum wage)
- Oregon has the highest rate of person with diagnosed mental illness or addiction in the nation
- Oregon has the highest rate in the nation of chronically unhoused individuals
- Seniors are the fastest growing demographic group entering homelessness in Oregon. The number of seniors entering homelessness grew 27% in the last two years in Oregon
- Chronically unhoused individuals are ten times more at risk of developing severe mental illness



# Other Risk Factors

There are a multitude of issues that contribute to the homelessness epidemic.

Source: US Census. KGWTV, Siuslaw Outreach Services, Food Share

- 15% of the local population are at or below the federal poverty line.
- Many cannot obtain employment because employers require a physical address.
- Increased potency and availability of illegal drugs
- Lack of mental health services have forced some to seek self-medication through illegal means and access unhealthy alternatives.
- Social service organizations are stretched to their maximum capabilities. Many organizations have reported an increase of 60 to 100% increase in numbers of requests for help.

# Impact on Resources

The challenge of getting off  
governmental assistance

- Lane County governments and non-profits spent \$55 million on services to manage the homelessness problem in 2022.
- Siuslaw Outreach Services spends on average \$350,000 to \$400,000 in rent assistance and \$145,000 to \$175,000 annually in utility bill assistance to keep low-income families housed each year.
- Siuslaw Outreach Services spends on average \$85,000 on basic need vouchers for unhoused individuals each year.
- Volunteerism in social service organizations are down 80%.





Florence Homelessness Resource Team

# How The Team Works





Florence Homelessness  
Resource Team

### **Member Agencies and Groups**

- Siuslaw Outreach Services
- Safe Shelter For Siuslaw Students
- Florence First Step
- Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter
- Western Lane Crisis Response
- City of Florence (FPD)
- Easterseals- Veterans
- Lane County Rural Outreach Team
- SNAP Outreach
- PeaceHealth
- Oregon Integrated Health Services

### **Non-Member Support Team**

- Helping Hands Coalition
- Food Share
- Boys & Girls Club
- Looking Glass
- Florence United Methodist Church Free Lunch
- Siuslaw Vision
- Emergence





Florence Homelessness  
Resource Team

## The Team's Goals and Purpose

- To provide comprehensive wrap-around services in a case-conferencing model to identified unhoused community members to help them overcome barriers to secure stable housing.
- To educate Florence and surrounding communities about the issues, challenges and possible solutions regarding homelessness.
- The group will also serve as a resource for city leaders in developing community wide strategies to address housing barriers and housing insecurities.
- Coordinate and support partners in their efforts to address homelessness.



Florence Homelessness  
Resource Team

## The Team's Structure

- **Team Chair** – The Chair will lead the overall effort of the at-large team, establish meeting agendas, lead monthly meetings, check in with team leaders to monitor their group's progress and serve as advocate for the team's efforts in the community.
- **Team Vice-Chair** - The Vice-Chair serves in the absence of the Chair and supports the Chair in leading specific projects as assigned.
- **Team Secretary** - The Secretary records and documents team meetings, individualized case plans, collects data for the group as needed.
- **Team Captain** – The Captain is the individual member of the Florence Homelessness Resource Team who leads and coordinates an individualized plan for a client that has been referred to the Team. The team captain will present progress reports to the Florence Homelessness Resource At-Large Team, monthly.





Florence Homelessness  
Resource Team

## The Client Referrals & Case Conferencing Structure

A member of the At-Large Team or community partner may submit an application for case-conferencing services provided by the team on behalf of an unhoused individual or family that meets all of following the minimum criteria:

- Demonstrate some form of residence in the Florence area for six consecutive months.
- Currently unhoused.
- Demonstrate an ability, opportunity or desire to secure some means of steady income.
- Demonstrate a desire and willingness to complete tasks that may be identified in a self-sufficiency plan.
- Pose no threat or potential threat of harm to any member of the At-Large Team.

Applications may be denied or service discontinued based upon:

- Failure to meet the minimum requirements listed above.
- Threats of harm or actions of harm to any member agency or organization.
- Insufficient information.
- Case capacity exceeded.



Florence Homelessness  
Resource Team

## The Client Referrals & Case Conferencing Structure

### Case Conferencing and Service Plans

A team will be assigned based on the needs presented in an approved application. Members of the assigned team will agree to engage in respectful, positive, productive dialogue with applicants and team members and contribute to the development of service plans. Members also agree to fulfil their designated responsibility as laid out in service plan. Members agree to update Team Captain of any success or challenges as they present themselves in a timely manner. Case Conferencing meetings will occur as needed or as directed by the Team Captain. All service plans will indicate the following:

- List the areas of need
- Goal statements for each area of need
- The action steps for each goal statement including who is responsible for each step and dates to be completed.
- Signature of the applicant as well as signature or initials of all team members involved.

*Why is this unique?*



## Siuslaw Outreach Services

1576 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street / PO Box 19000 Florence, Oregon 97439 (541) 997-2816

[www.florencesos.org](http://www.florencesos.org)

Visit us on Facebook: "Siuslaw Outreach Services Inc."

### Hours of Operation

*Non-appointment drop-in: Mon-Thurs 10am to 3:30pm*

*Appointments Only: Mon-Thurs 9am to 10am, 4pm to 5pm, Fridays 9am to 4pm*

*24/7 On-call Response for domestic and sexual violence support, call 541-997-4444*

### **WHAT WE DO...**

#### **SPECIAL VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking)**

- 24/7 on call response
- Confidential services and advocacy
- Legal Aid
- Safety planning
- Protective orders
- Support Group meetings
- Safe House Program
- Emergency Shelter

#### **CRISIS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Services for struggling low-income individuals and families, and those experiencing homelessness)**

- Financial aid for rent and utilities (includes specific programs for singles, families, elderly, veterans, ect.)
- Prescription vouchers
- Transportation vouchers
- Clothing and food
- Emergency motel vouchers for families and disabled seniors
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Cold weather gear and camping supplies
- Hygiene Travel Bags (toothbrush, floss, washcloth, soap, shampoo, shaving cream, razor)
- Basic Need Vouchers for: Shower, Laundry, Prescription, Transportation, Food
- Financial Aid toward replacing or renewing ID.
- Transportation to shelters
- Pet Food for service animals
- Short-term Emergency Motels Stays for families and disabled individuals in extreme weather conditions
- Case Management and Self-sufficiency Planning

#### **OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAM (Free classes and programs for clients, schools and community groups)**

- Personal financial management education
- Employment education
- Tenant rights education
- Weatherization referrals
- Special programs and referrals for veterans
- School outreach and education programs
- State Penitentiary Outreach & Education Program
- Referral Services

**\*\*2,008 unduplicated individuals served in 2022\*\***

For specific eligibility requirements for the various programs, please call our office at 541-997-2816 or stop by during our drop in hours. Funding for programs provided by Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon Department of Human Services, Lane County Human Services Commission, various private foundations and the generosity of community members.