



HEARTLAND
HOUSED

February/March 2024
Heartland HOUSED Update

Late January/February

+ We were invited to begin writing regular columns for the Illinois Times. You can view the [first one here](#).

+ Heartland HOUSED received 501(c)3 status.

+ Shymeka Kerr joined our team as the Heartland HOUSING Helpline Specialist!

+ Results Received from HUD CoC Competition:

Over the past decade, the Springfield and Sangamon County community has received the lowest amount of U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to address homelessness among Continuums of Care in the State of Illinois. HUD utilizes an annual Continuum of Care competition and application process to determine the amount of funding Continuums receive. "HUD's Continuum of Care program is the backbone federal program supporting community homelessness response systems across the country, providing grants to nonprofit providers, States, Indian Tribes, and local governments for permanent and short-term housing assistance, supportive services, planning, data, and other costs." Communities that score well in the competition have the opportunity to earn new project funding while lower scoring communities risk losing funding for projects.

HUD funding for Springfield and Sangamon County reached the peak of \$656,274 in 2012 before declining to \$402,128 in 2019.

- Our score from the latest HUD funding competition was 3.5 points behind the highest scoring Continuum in the country and 30.5 points ahead of the median score

- Our HUD funding increased by \$80,477 this year. It was the highest percentage increase of any Continuum in Illinois. This brings our funding to \$538,136 an over 33% increase from where we were in 2019.



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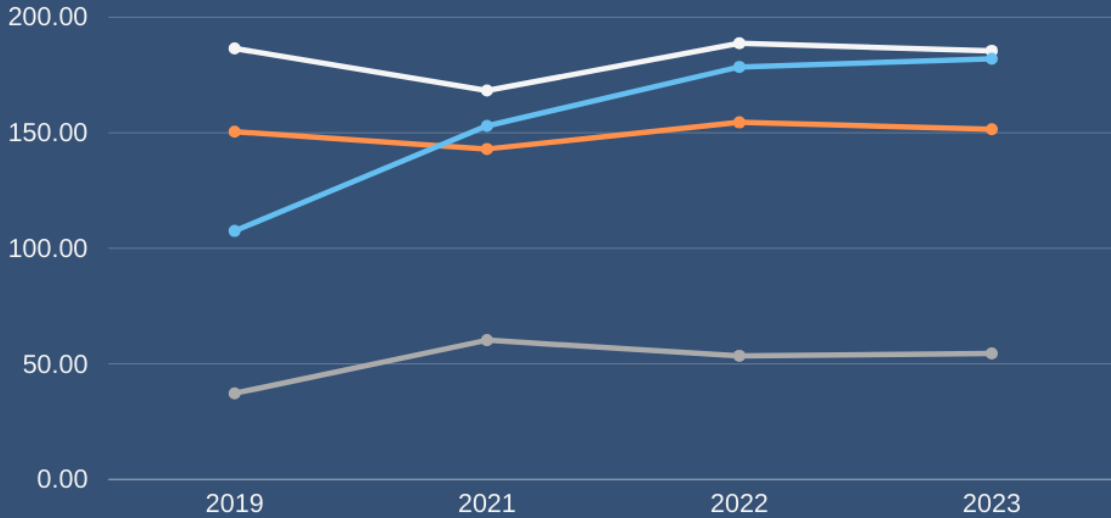
Arts & Culture » Community & Lifestyle

January 30, 2024

Organizations work to reach "functional zero" homelessness by 2028

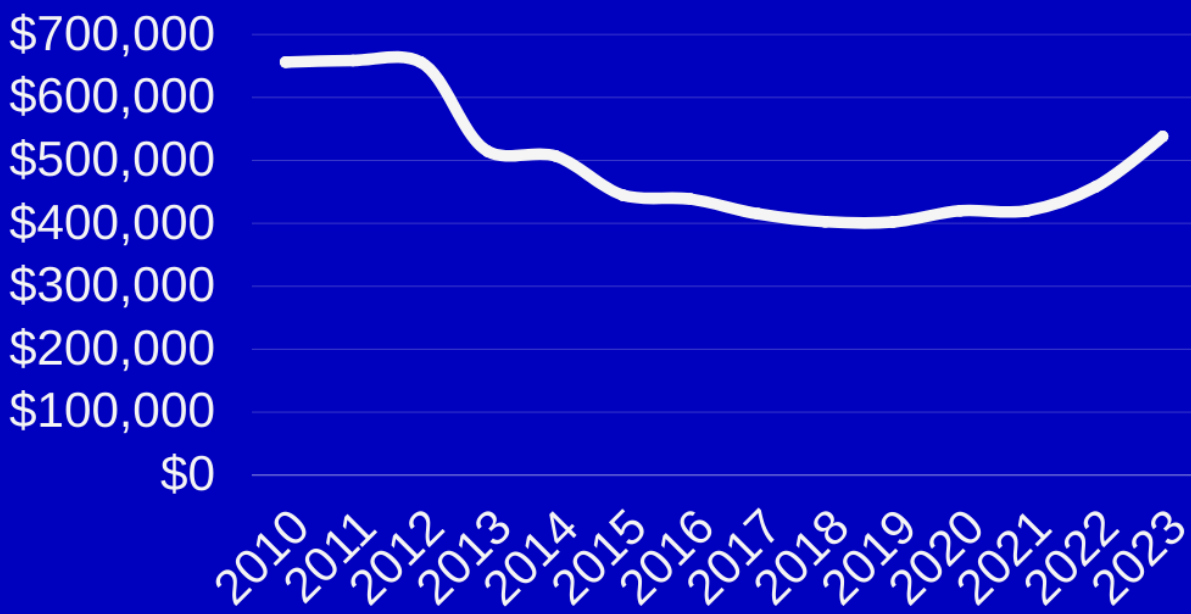
By Josh Sabo

CONTINUUM OF CARE COMPETITION SCORES



Highest Score for any COC
 Median Score for any COC
Heartland Continuum of Care Score
 Lowest Score for any COC

HEARTLAND COC HUD FUNDING



+ Hosted the first of 4 Supportive Housing Learning Labs with the Corporation of Supportive Housing with the goal of better equipping local case managers and housing organizations. We had over 25 attendees. Our second event was held in March with similar attendance.



+ In February, Heartland Continuum of Care partners began a 100 Day Challenge with technical support from RE!NSTITUTE with the aim of better understanding and addressing the challenges connected to unsheltered homelessness in our community. While there are many complex factors that contribute to people in our community living without shelter, we know that strategies to effectively connect people who are unsheltered to resources require consistent, coordinated outreach, relationship building and trust, and strong collaboration across partners.

On February 6th and 7th, twelve people from Heartland HOUSED, Helping Hands, Washington Street Mission, Memorial Behavioral Health, SIU, volunteer outreach efforts, and local leaders with lived experience attended a two-day summit in Joliet along with cohorts from Rockford, Suburban Cook County, and Will County to plan and

set goals for the challenge. For the 100 Days from February into May, community partners are working to build on previous community efforts to develop a by-names-list of all people experiencing homelessness in Springfield and Sangamon County and creating new tools to be implemented locally to improve data collection and success of referrals. These efforts will help to build on community initiatives like Springfield Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team, the Springfield Empower Equip and Deflect program, and other existing outreach efforts in the community.



- + Madeline Boner was offered a new position in the community, she gave us notice with March 1st being her final day with Heartland HOUSED.
- + We applied for \$347,500 from HUD in Youth Homelessness System Improvement grant funding. The goal is plan around the challenge of youth homelessness, conduct a youth specific count, create community training, and conduct a full youth homeless needs assessment if awarded. The grant request also included funding for a staff position at Heartland HOUSED, the Youth Homelessness System Coordinator.
- + We conducted our annual Point-in-Time Count on February 26th. [WAND ran a story on it here.](#)
- + Work continues on Quality Data technical assistance with Built for Zero/Community Solutions. Data Dashboards are being troubleshot now with anticipated April launch at this point.



FEATURED
Volunteers complete point-in-time count to gauge homelessness in Sangamon Co.
Carlee Bronkema Feb 27, 2024 Updated Feb 27, 2024

