



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE
*HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM COUNTYWIDE TAX
MEASURE PROPOSAL*

MAY 2026

BOLD VISION: NO ONE SLEEPS OUTSIDE

Since 2021, Dallas and Collin counties have embarked on a mission to ensure no **adult, family, veteran, or young** person is forced to sleep outside.

What does this look like?

- Permanently scale the system to respond to every household each year
- Resolve homelessness for every household becoming homeless within an average of 65 days
- Prevent sleeping outside

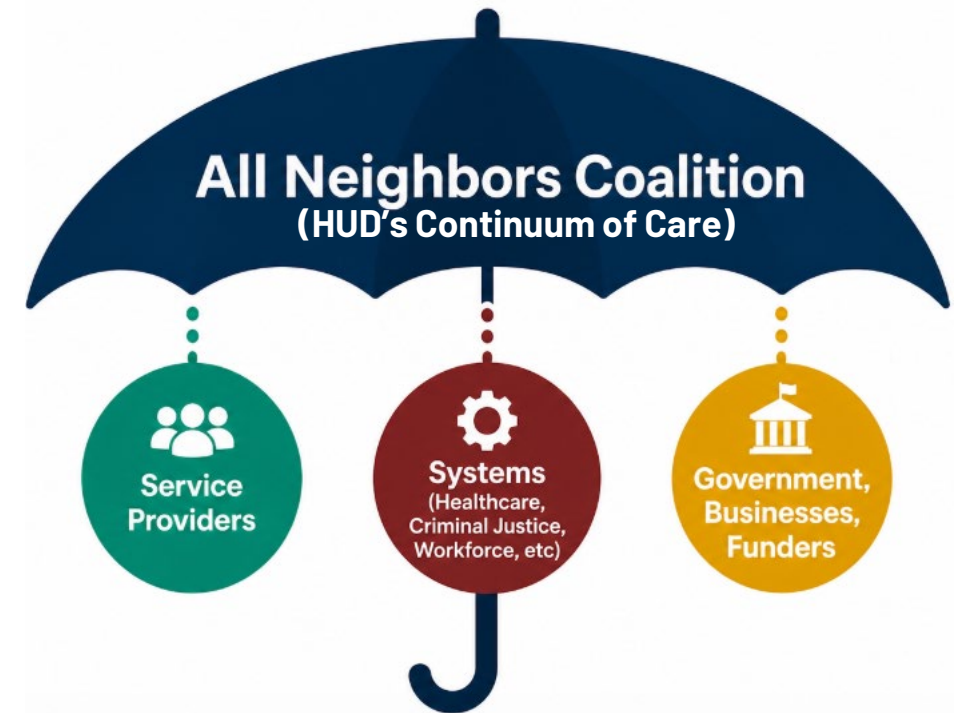


ALL NEIGHBORS COALITION HAS BUILT A HOMELESS RESPONSE DESIGNED FOR RESULTS

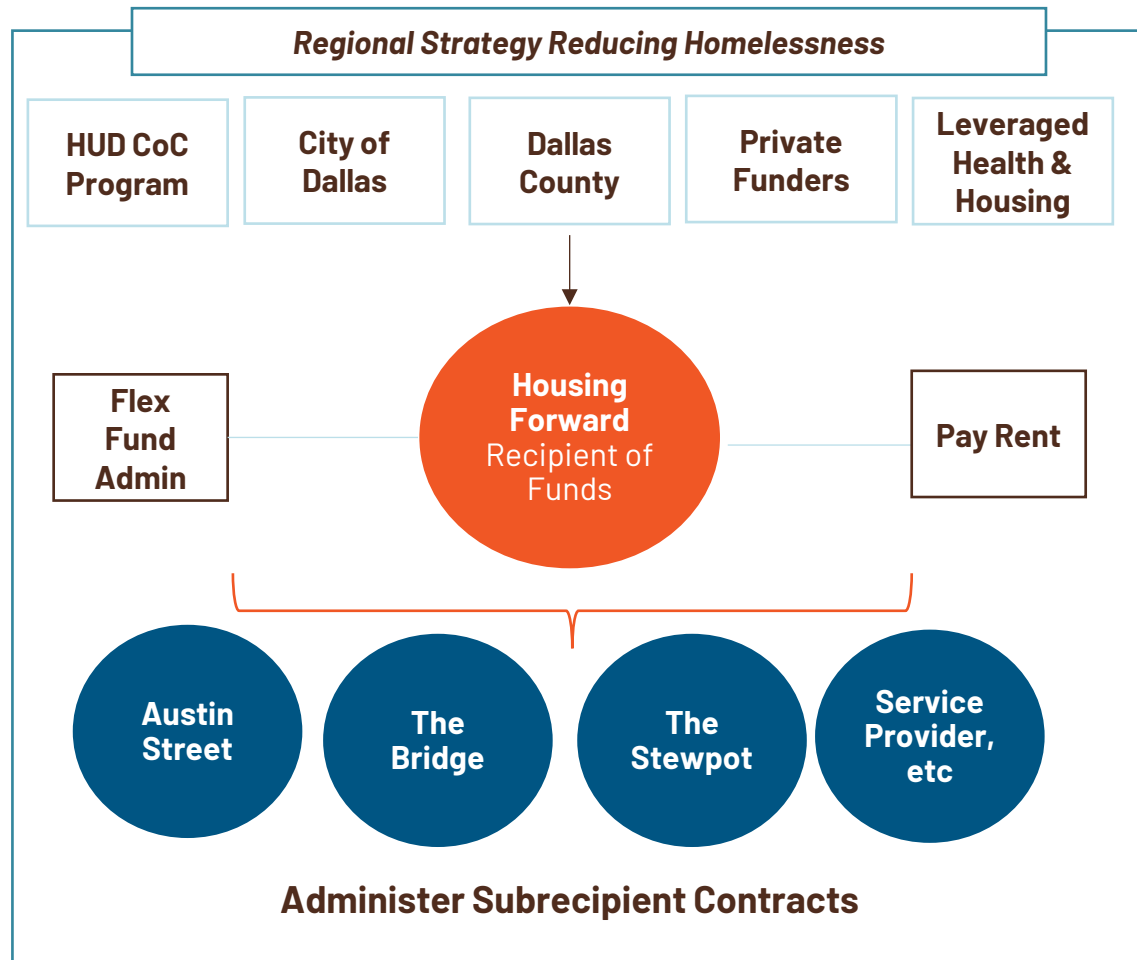
Housing Forward is the federally designated lead agency for the 150+ member All Neighbors Coalition working collaboratively to solve homelessness in Dallas and Collin counties.

Maximizing Efficiency and Impact:

- **Unified Strategy:** Organized partners around a single playbook, leveraging collective strengths and resources
- **Backbone Support:** Scaled the lead agency's leadership, financial, and administrative capacity
- **High Impact System Design:** Standardized and expanded exit pathways across the system
- **Cross System Partnerships:** Integrated mental health, healthcare, criminal justice, and homeless responses



HOUSING FORWARD IS LEADING A REGIONAL AUTHORITY- ALIGNING STRATEGY, FUNDING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Fiscal Agent - Roles & Responsibilities

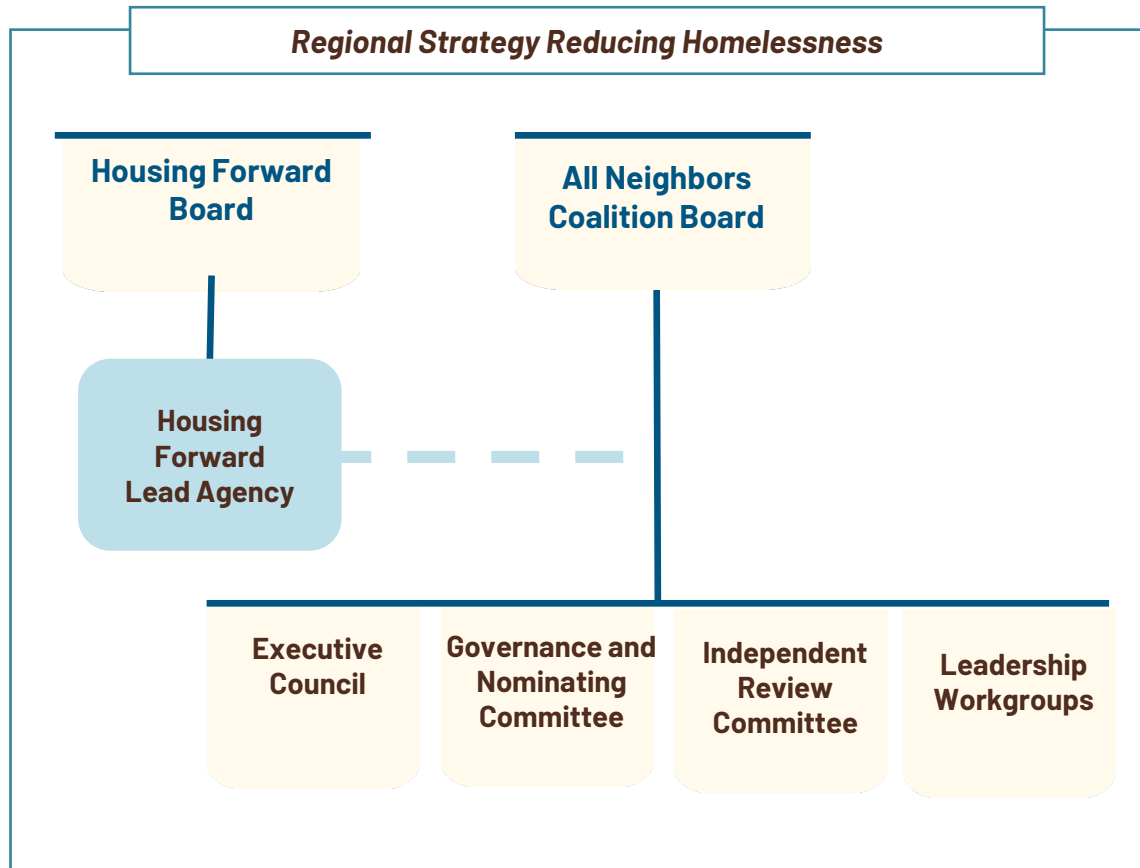
- ✓ Ensure alignment with unified strategy
- ✓ Braid and leverage multiple funding sources
- ✓ Centralized grant and rent administration
- ✓ Monitor fiscal and program compliance
- ✓ Coordinate and oversee service delivery
- ✓ Performance management

Community Benefits:

- ✓ Expand available funding
- ✓ Fulfill federal match obligations
- ✓ Shift and target funds for highest impact
- ✓ Reduce duplication of services and effort

→ **Shared accountability for results**

HOUSING FORWARD IS LEADING A REGIONAL AUTHORITY- ALIGNING STRATEGY, FUNDING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Governance - Roles & Responsibilities

- ✓ Convene community-wide leadership to establish strategic trajectory on homelessness
- ✓ Ensure representation across systems
- ✓ Allocate funding in alignment with annual priorities
- ✓ Set system standards, policies, and procedures

Community Benefits:

- ✓ Ensure resources are aligned with unified strategy
 - ✓ Continuously adapt to meet evolving regional needs
 - ✓ Independent oversight, protect system priorities
- **Shared accountability for results**

RESULT: EXPANDING SYSTEM CAPACITY TO MEET GROWING, URGENT NEED

23,036

Permanent exits from homelessness since 2021

93%

Did not return to homelessness after assistance ended

510

Active landlord partners across our portfolio

\$50M

Stewarded federal funds in 2026, up from \$19M in 2021



Photo by KERA

RESULT: HARNESSING SYSTEM CAPACITY TO BETTER MANAGE PUBLIC SPACES, BEGINNING DOWNTOWN



89.2%

Reduction in Daily Street Counts reported from DDI's field team as of April 2026 (34 individuals counted)

20%

Reduction in Violent Crime Downtown YTD 2026

Zero

Downtown encampments, all permanently resolved

THIS HAS CHANGED THE TRAJECTORY OF HOMELESSNESS LOCALLY, EVEN AS NATIONAL RATES HAVE RISEN

THE DALLAS EXCEPTION

23%

Decrease in overall homelessness, despite 88% increase in demand for services since 2021

NATIONAL PICTURE

17%

Increase in homelessness since 2020, highest count on record in 2024



WHAT'S NEXT: SCALING OUR RESPONSE TO ENSURE NO ADULT, FAMILY, OR YOUNG PERSON IS FORCED TO SLEEP OUTSIDE

FUEL THE STRATEGY THAT'S PROVEN TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS

Pillar 1: Coordinated Street Response

Outreach, mental health, & first responder teams target areas to resolve encampments and prevent street sleeping, supporting permanent pathways off the street.

Pillar 2: Central Drop Off and Real Time Bed Matching (avoiding Jail and Streets)

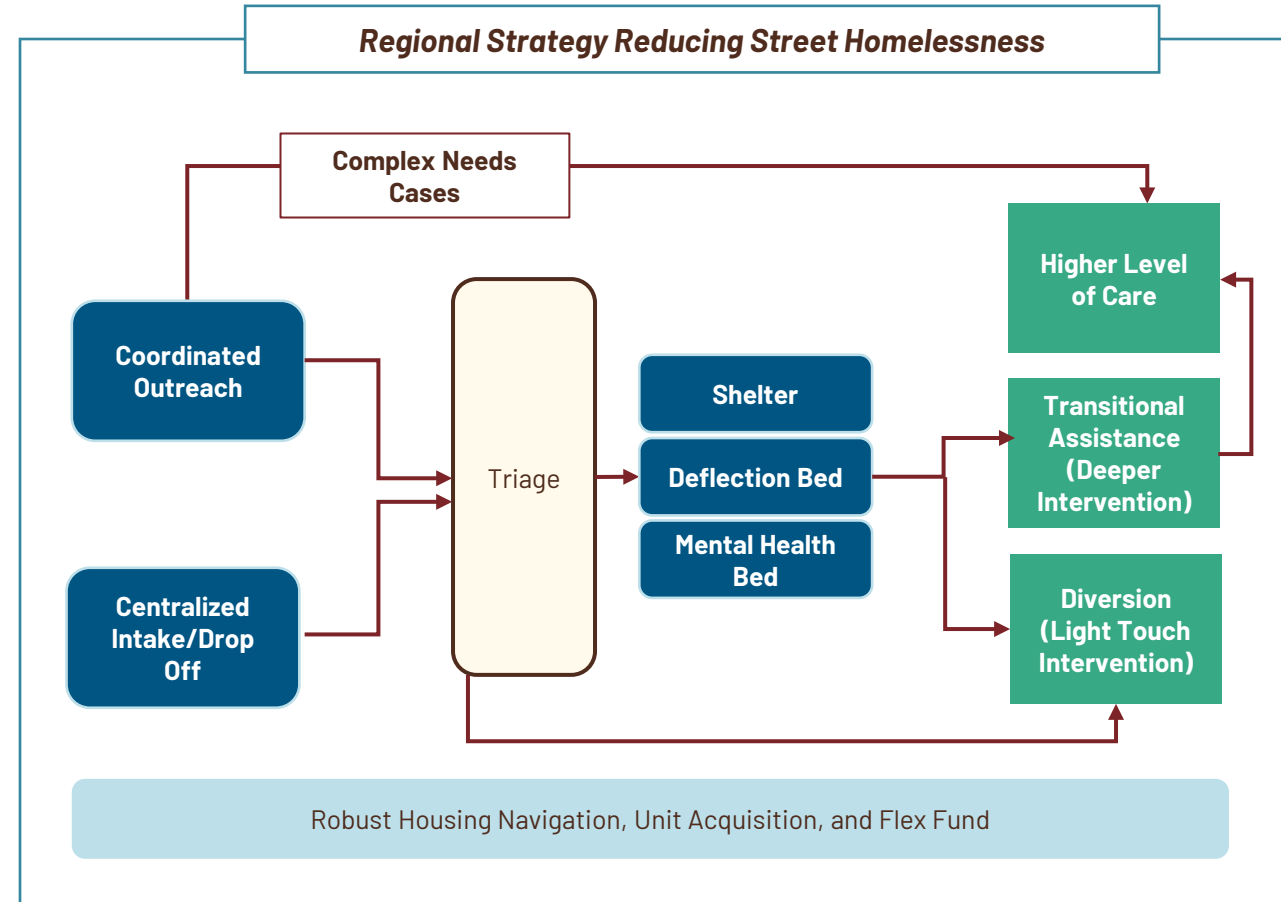
Coordinated drop-off location(s) for law enforcement to bring adults/families for immediate triage, stabilization, and bed-matching.

Pillar 3: Services to Promote Self Sufficiency and Resolve Homelessness

Equip crisis beds to bring more inside, ensuring everyone connects to services to recover & transition from homelessness.

Pillar 4: Specialized Response for Complex Needs

Coordinated solutions for people with most severe mental health / substance use issues.



FUEL THE STRATEGY THAT'S PROVEN TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS

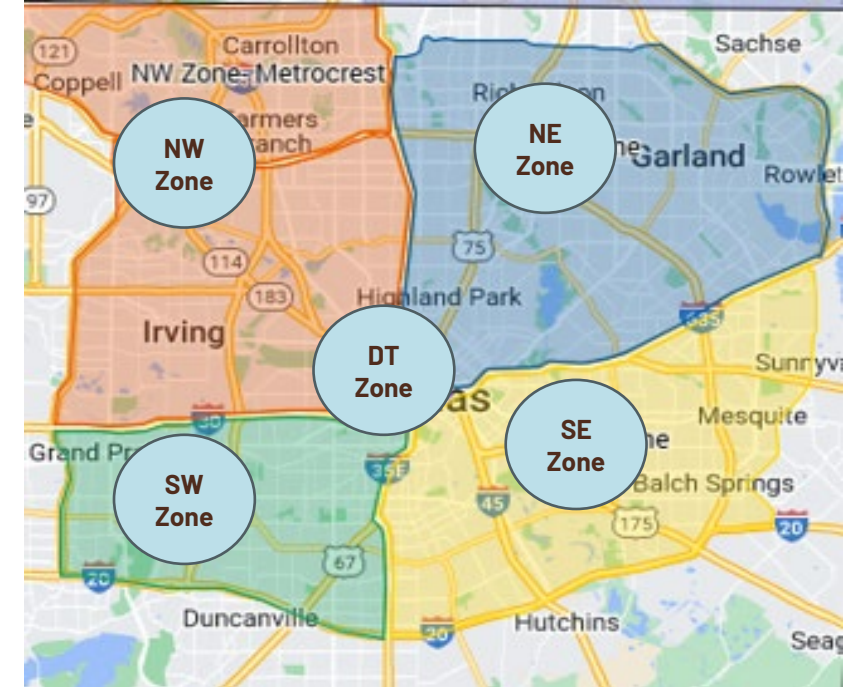
Scale Downtown Proofpoint Across Dallas County:

1. 5 multidisciplinary, rapid response outreach teams
2. Deployed in real-time to engage neighbors on streets in each targeted region
3. Expanded real-time coordination + immediate shelter transport

Criminal Justice & Homeless Response System Integration:

1. **Preventing exits to the streets.** Diversion and coordinated release processes with County partners.
2. **Diverting people with severe mental health issues.** Coordinating with law enforcement, behavioral health, and hospital systems to streamline access in patient psychiatric treatment.
3. **Targeting frequent jail utilizers:** Prioritizing supportive housing and treatment options for FUSE program clients.

Coordinated Outreach Teams for Dallas County



FUNDING GAPS ARE PUSHING PEOPLE OUTSIDE, INCREASING JAIL UTILIZATION

Each year, thousands of **new** households enter homelessness



With limited exit pathways, shelters can't keep up with demand

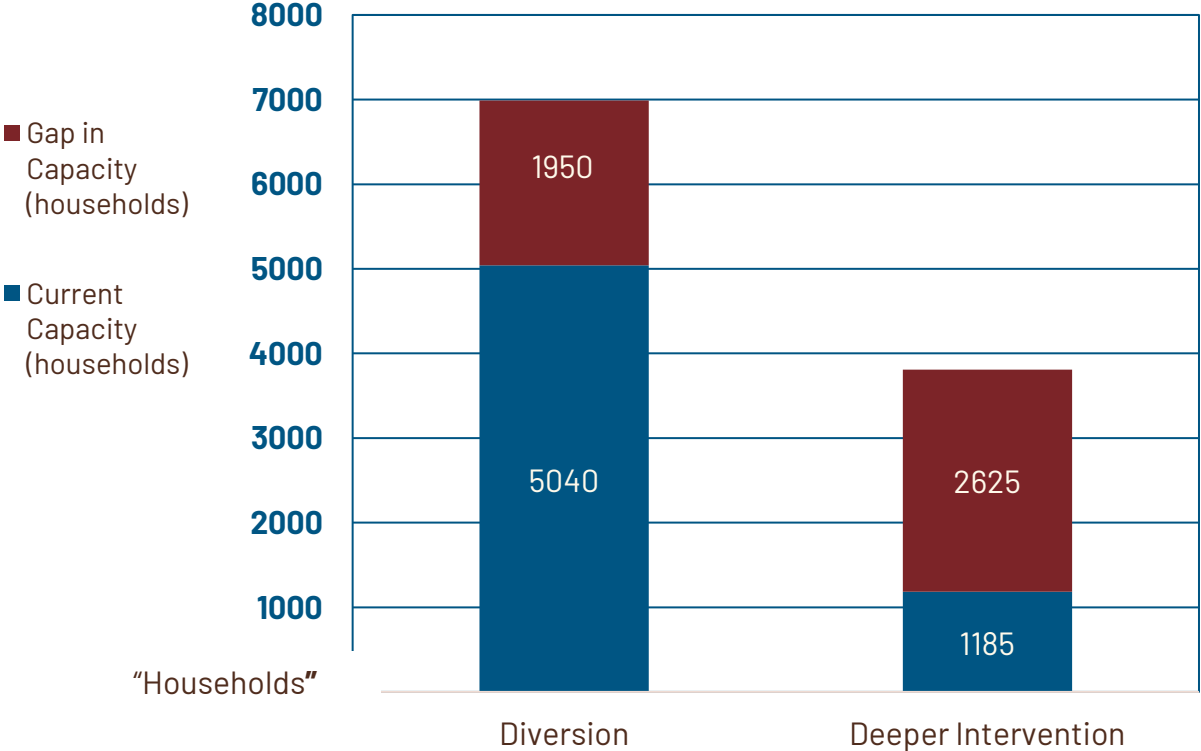
- ~10,800 households need an intervention to exit homelessness each year
- 58% are being served by the system
- 42% are not being served because of funding gaps

The Result:

People get stuck in shelter, beds stay full, and others are pushed to the street, where they are **9 X more likely to spend time in jail**

PERMANENTLY SCALE THE SYSTEM TO SERVE EVERYONE IN NEED

Current Annual Capacity and Gap



Expanded Investment Needed to Serve all Households Each Year

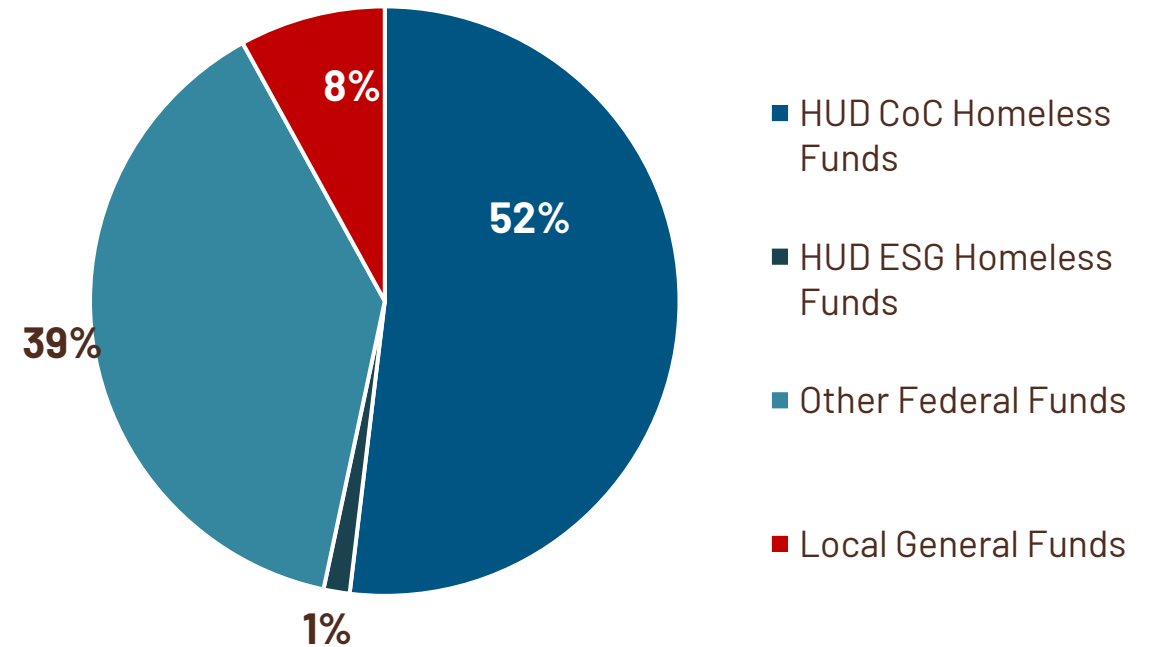
Intervention Type	# of additional Households	Avg per Household	Estimated Annual Cost
Crisis Facility Operations and Jail Diversion			\$20,200,000
Diversion	1,950	\$1,900	\$3,700,000
Deeper Intervention	2,625	\$28,700	\$75,300,000
Total			\$99,200,000



THIS INVESTMENT MUST SUPPLEMENT – NOT REPLACE – EXISTING FUNDING

- 9 jurisdictions make critical public investments in the homeless response system across Dallas and Collin counties
- Current gap estimates assume these investments remain in place
- Most system funding still comes from federal sources – reinforcing the need for stronger local control over community priorities

% of Public Funding for the Homeless Response System from HUD and Local Sources



HOMELESS RESPONSE TAX PROPOSAL

THE PROBLEM:

Despite nationally recognized outcomes, the homeless system faces an ongoing, unsolved funding gap. This stands in the way of our vision to ensure **no one is forced to sleep outside**.

10,800
Households need help to exit homelessness

~\$100M
Annual funding gap to meet these needs

90+%
Of homeless funding is from federal sources

88%
Increase in annual need since 2021

The Risk:
Joining the Nation in Rising Street Homelessness

- 80% of the system’s operating budget comes from HUD—leaving it vulnerable to federal funding shifts
- No sustainable local source exists to manage increases in annual inflow into homelessness

The Goal:
Ensure no adult, family, or young person is forced to sleep outside

- A locally controlled revenue stream to provide regional solutions.
- Manage sustained annual inflow -- preventing surges in street homelessness



THE SOLUTION:

We need sustained funding to permanently scale our homeless system to respond to all in need each year.

Dallas County Property Tax Ballot Measure	
<p>Revenue Math</p> <p>To generate ~\$100 million annually, Dallas County homeowners would pay \$0.024 higher per \$100 valuation increase</p>	<p>Voter Impact</p> <p>For the median Dallas County homeowner, this would cost approximately \$5 per month</p>



THE RESULT: MEASURABLE COMMUNITYWIDE IMPACT



* Dallas County Health and Human Services, The Cost of Homelessness in Dallas and Collin Counties, 2024

* Boston Consulting Group, Downtown Dallas Public Safety Report, 2024

* Dallas County Jail Population Management Power BI Dashboard (2025 Unsheltered book-in data)



POLLING RESULTS SHOW CLEAR VOTER SUPPORT

HOMELESSNESS IS A SALIENT ISSUE FOR VOTERS

- HOMELESSNESS IS A TOP-TIER ISSUE, DRIVEN BY HIGH VISIBILITY ON THE STREETS.
- SELECTED AS ONE OF THE TOP 3 ISSUES BY VOTERS

A MAJORITY SUPPORT INVESTING MORE IN SOLUTIONS.

- 59.5% BELIEVE MORE FUNDING WILL HELP ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS.
- A MAJORITY, 51.6%, ALREADY SUPPORTS A TAX MEASURE AT BASELINE PRIOR TO ADDITIONAL MESSAGING.

SUPPORT STRENGTHENS WHEN VOTERS SEE PROOF THE SYSTEM IS WORKING AND UNDERSTAND HOW FUNDS WILL BE USED.

- INCREASES TO 60.7% WHEN VOTERS HEAR ABOUT:
 - Local progress reducing homelessness
 - A focus on helping people escape homelessness and achieve self-sufficiency



DALLAS COUNTY HOMELESS FUND (PROPOSED CONCEPT)

GOAL: Dallas County Homeless Fund (Homeless Fund) will be used in coordination with other government and private sector investments to ensure the homeless response system is equipped to resolve homelessness for every **adult, family, and young person** within an average of 65 days.

FUNDING ALIGNMENT: Commissioners Court approves a five-year strategic plan developed in partnership with the All Neighbors Coalition (the Continuum of Care planning body). The plan includes a coordinated system budget that shows how the Homeless Fund will be braided with other public and private investments to meet annual system needs. Each year, the budget is reviewed and updated based on the communitywide gaps and needs assessment.

ELIGIBLE USES

Eligible costs categories align to federal standards ([24 CFR 578.37](#)) and include:

- Time-limited rental/financial assistance
- Supportive services (e.g. Case management, street outreach, assessment, intake etc)
- Facility operating costs
- System planning, data management and reporting
- Project administration

Capital costs for acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction of projects are considered in future 5-year plans after the system performance benchmarks have been met.



FISCAL ADMINISTRATION STRUCTURE (PROPOSED CONCEPT)

Contract Terms	Initial 5-year term, based on a 5 year strategic plan, with renewal opportunities based on contract performance
Contract Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive, distribute, and be accountable for the 'Dallas County Homeless Fund' in coordination with other government and private funds for the region's homeless response system. • Serve as an accountable and independent steward of investments to maintain a system that is equipped to resolve homelessness for every adult, family, and young person entering the system within an average of 65 days.
Contracting Entity	Housing Forward, Continuum of Care (CoC) Collaborative Applicant
Sole Source Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating body for regional, multijurisdictional homeless response system • Appointed Lead Agency for the federally mandated Continuum of Care (CoC), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Coordinated Access systems • Fiscal agent and rent administrator for multiple leveraged public and private sources • Established performance management infrastructure
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer and implement 5-year plan • Raise and maintain annual funding sufficient to achieve system goals • Communitywide strategic planning • Funding alignment • Performance management and accountability • System coordination and implementation • Data management and reporting
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain system governance, policies, and service standards • Oversee procurement and funding allocation with Independent Review Committee

IMMEDIATE FUNDING GAPS

This table outlines immediate funding gaps remaining after accounting for all existing public and private investments currently supporting the homeless response system.

Intervention Type	Intervention	Gap in # of Households Served	Avg per Household	Estimated Annual Cost
Diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time-limited rental assistance- up to 3months One-time financial assistance Case management 	1,950	\$1,900	\$3,700,000
Deeper Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time limited rental assistance - up to 24 months Case management 	2,625	\$28,700	\$75,300,000
Crisis Facility Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centralized intake and crisis operations Jail diversion facility operations 			\$20,200,000
Total				\$99,200,000

