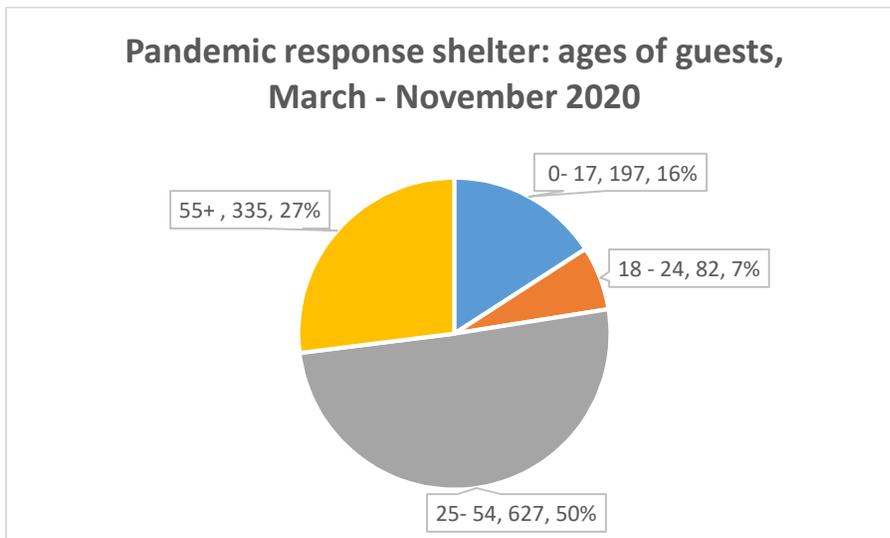**Pandemic response shelter update: March 16, 2020 – November 30, 2020**

Goal: The primary goal of the non-congregate pandemic response shelter is to provide safe, indoor accommodations that meet or exceed CDC pandemic shelter guidelines with sanitation and with supportive services and limited case management as part of a larger, comprehensive housing focused strategy to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness. This program will be operational through the first half of 2021 and may be extended, depending on community resources and needs.
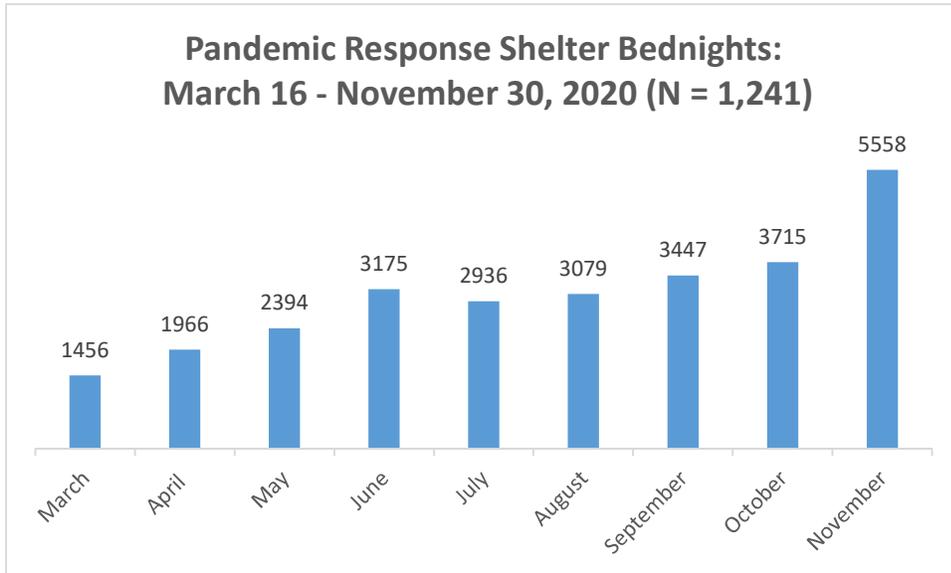
Program Components		
Basic Needs	**Case management and supportive services**	**Health and Safety**
Meals delivered safely Access to sanitation/ indoor restrooms and showers Laundry In kind donations of needed supplies	Multi-agency case conferencing Shelter support staff Mental health assessments as needed Linkages to other services and community resources	COVID symptom screening, testing, and follow up (Daily Planet Health Services) Ongoing symptom screening PPE provided

The pandemic response shelter allows for existing Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC) shelters to operate at a reduced capacity, thereby adhering to CDC social distancing guidelines. Additionally, the program has the unique attribute of expandable capacity, allowing for an increase in available units when shelter demand increases during extreme weather. RUMI is the shelter operator. (https://www.where-we-help.com/)

Total number of people served in a pandemic response shelter from 3/16/2020 to 11/30/2020: **1,241** including 920 single adults and 88 households with minor children (including 124 adults and 197 children)
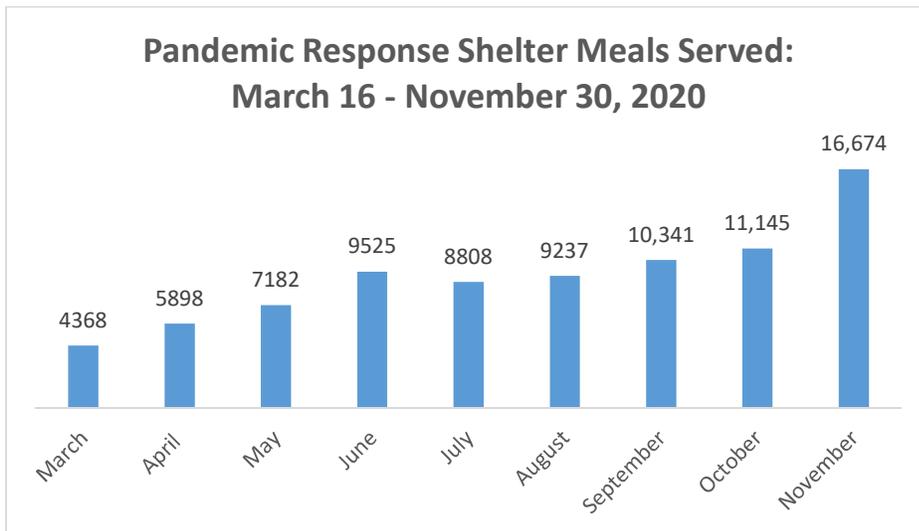

Pandemic response shelter: ages of guests, March - November 2020

0- 17, 197, 16%
18 - 24, 82, 7%
25- 54, 627, 50%
55+ , 335, 27%

Total number of shelter bednights provided in the pandemic response shelter (March to November 2020): 27,726

**Pandemic Response Shelter Bednights:
March 16 - November 30, 2020 (N = 1,241)**

Month	Bednights
March	1456
April	1966
May	2394
June	3175
July	2936
August	3079
September	3447
October	3715
November	5558

Cost per shelter bednight with meals, staffing, and other services provided in the pandemic response shelter, March to November 2020: $99.50

Meals: The provision of meals for shelter guests in the GRCoC are historically supported by community volunteers, congregational meal programs, and other community organizations. Many of these resources stopped during the initial stay at home orders. Meals provision must be safe, consistent, and scalable to meet the needs of pandemic response shelter guests.

Total number of meals delivered to guests of the pandemic response shelter: 83,178

**Pandemic Response Shelter Meals Served:
March 16 - November 30, 2020**

Month	Meals
March	4368
April	5898
May	7182
June	9525
July	8808
August	9237
September	10,341
October	11,145
November	16,674

Coordination with other resources to increase housing stability: Of the 1,241 people served in the pandemic response shelter from March to November 2020, **38.7%** of them have already exited to a more stable option such as year-round emergency shelter with housing-focused case management or permanent housing. Many people have only recently accessed the pandemic response shelter and we are still working to connect them to the resources they need to increase their stability. This work continues.

Direct Costs for Pandemic Response Shelter, March – November 2020:

Expenses	Costs: March 16 – November 30, 2020
Non-congregate shelter (hotel rent)	$2,016,543
Shelter staffing: intake and assessment, case management, monitoring and support, security	$365,775
Meals (delivered safely) *	$236,978
Transportation to shelter and medical appointments	$79,491
Janitorial and Laundry Services*	$51,127
Supplies	$8,917
Total direct costs for pandemic response shelter	**$2,758,831**

* Indicates services which historically were provided to shelter guests by community volunteers, congregational programs, and other community organizations but these resources were unavailable due to the pandemic and stay at home orders.

Homeward costs not included above:

- Program development and project management
- Partnership development and case conferencing support
- Federally required data collection and reporting
- Financial oversight, administration, and reporting
- Personal and cleaning supplies
- PPE for shelter staff and guests
- Administrative and logistical support

Other program costs: Support for the Homeless Crisis Line and Coordinated Outreach

Funding sources:

In March 2020, Congress appropriated additional funding to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on people experiencing homelessness. Funding was made available through local governments and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Applications for funding were publicly available and shared on Homeward list-serves and webinars. The GRCoC, Homeward, and other homeless service providers have been working to address the community needs and to maximize the services available in our community during these unprecedented times. Interested service providers worked to secure funding for these coordinated strategies and programs from the following sources:

- FEMA reimbursement for hotel costs for individuals over the age of 65 and/ or those with underlying health conditions putting them at higher risk for COVID-19 (Coordinated through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, 2020)
- City of Richmond Affordable Housing Trust Fund (by application)
- CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund made available through the Department of Treasury (ends December 30, 2020)
- Private funding: foundations, corporations, congregations, individuals
- CARES Act funding from U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (by application; funding available for programs from 3/2020 – 9/2022) from Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield, and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.
  - Emergency Solutions Grant- CV (ESG-CV)
  - Community Development Block Grant- CV (CDBG-CV)

Public Grants to Support the Pandemic Response Shelter, March - November 2020

Grant for 2020	Source	Amount supporting Pandemic Response Shelter, March – November 2020
City of Richmond Affordable Housing Trust (AHTF)	City AHTF	$50,000
City of Richmond	City of Richmond	$300,000
City of Richmond ESG-CV Part 1	HUD CARES Act funding	$614,003
Henrico County ESG-CV Part 1	HUD CARES Act funding	$175,000
Chesterfield County CDBG-CV Part 1	HUD CARES Act funding	$30,000
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VaDHCD) COVID funding	HUD CARES Act funding and FEMA	$301,447
VaDHCD COVID Homeless Emergency Response Funding Part 1	HUD CARES Act funding and FEMA	$180,000
VaDHCD COVID Homeless Emergency Response Funding Part 2	HUD CARES Act funding and FEMA	$300,000
CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund	Department of Treasury/ Virginia/ Richmond	$712,000
CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund	Department of Treasury/ Virginia/ Richmond	$89,000 (part of a larger grant supporting other pandemic response needs)
Total public sector funding for direct costs of pandemic response shelter		**$2,751,450**

HUD funding: Most existing HUD requirements for Emergency Solutions and Community Development Block Grants remain in place; some funding restrictions were waived for COVID.

Publicly funded homeless service agencies are required to use the Homeless Management Information System (known as HMIS or the Homeward Community Information System) to track client and program level services and outcomes. HMIS is governed by federal requirements to protect client information and through locally developed policies which can be found here: https://www.homewardva.org/hcismenu. HMIS is used by the City of Richmond and other local governments to complete federally required reporting.

Other federal requirements include:
- Coordination with the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care and the Coordinated Entry System.
- Compliance with regulatory requirements on eligible uses and data collection.

Funding for the Coordinated Homeless Services Network of Providers: The coordinated network of homeless service providers includes non-profit and public sector providers. Services provided include street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing. Homeless service providers engage case managers and other staff to support the households served by these programs. Staffing levels and caseloads vary by agency and may be determined by funding requirements. Staffing supports range from Licensed Clinical Social Workers to Peer Specialists. Many homeless service shelters and housing agencies employ staff who are certified in Housing Counseling by HUD. For a full list of homeless service providers engaged in the GRCoC, please see https://www.homewardva.org/about/homeward/systems-coordination.

The majority of funding for homeless services comes from private fundraising from individuals, foundations, congregations, corporations, and other private sector sources. The single largest funder of homeless services is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Special Needs Assistance Program, followed by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Homeless and Special Needs Housing division (VaDHCD.) The City of Richmond provides homeless services funding in three primary ways: Emergency Solutions Grant funding (HUD funding that is based on local needs and input and is coordinated with other HUD funding in the region through the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care), the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and non-departmental support.

Ongoing Needs for Advocacy and Support: The single greatest challenge with funding for homeless services is that there are not enough resources to address every need related to homelessness and housing instability. African-Americans are significantly over-represented in homelessness and racial inequities in many sectors continue to fuel this crisis. The needs of our most vulnerable residents continue to outstrip the resources of our coordinated homeless services system, even more so during the public health and economic fall out from the pandemic.

Increased investments in affordable housing for those with the lowest incomes including permanent supportive housing and other projects, especially for older adults, would be transformational to our efforts to address homelessness in our community.