

District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness Strategic Planning Committee



April 27, 2021

Meeting Agenda



- . Welcome and Introductions
- II. 2021 Point-in-Time Count Results
- III. Federal Funding & Discussion on Priorities
- IV. ICH "Return to Normal"
- v. Partner Announcement & Updates
- vi. Adjournment





Meeting Agenda



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2021 PIT Count Overview



Today's Discussion:

- System Context for the 2021 PIT Count
- PIT Count Background & Overview
- 2021 PIT Count Totals and Percentage Changes
- Demographics, Experiences, and Characteristics of Population
- Sub-Population Detail
- Permanent Housing
- Discussion







Context

- * As part of the strategy to close DC General in 2019 and end the use of hotels as overflow family shelter in the fall of 2020, around 750 families exited the emergency shelter system in 2020. Most families who exited were housed through the Family Rehousing and Stabilization Program (FRSP), also known as rapid rehousing.
- DHS's Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) has been an essential resource in the District's work to end homelessness among families. HPP assisted nearly 1,000 in 2020.
- The District enacted one of the strictest eviction moratoriums in the country early in the public health emergency (May 2020).
- System inflow, for both unaccompanied individuals and families, tapered throughout 2020.







System Inflow

- * TCP conducts quarterly reviews of HMIS data to find households (single persons and families) entering the CoC for the first time.
- In FY20, counts of people newly experiencing homelessness in the District decreased by 13% for singles and by 12% among families as compared to FY19. Quarterly figures for FY21 to date indicate that similar decreases may occur for the current year.
- Inflow among new singles in past years has offset system exits -the CoC recorded flat to increasing PIT numbers for individuals despite 100s of housing placements happening each year.
- While the decreases in inflow are most likely attributable to the ongoing public health emergency, this indicator will be crucial to keep an eye on as eviction moratoriums expire.
- * However, continued work to minimize system inflow through prevention or diversion efforts is key to keep the system (single and family) from growing.







Returns to Homelessness

- TCP also conducts reviews of HMIS data to determine the rate at which households are returning to the CoC following previous exits.
- In FY20, the CoC saw fewer singles (unaccompanied adults) return to shelter following an exit to permanent housing as compared to FY19, which is likely also due to the same factors limiting new inflow.
- Fewer families returned to shelter in FY20 than in FY19, but percentage of families in the system who have returned is higher because the family sub-system is so much smaller than it was previously.
- Similar to new inflow, it will be important be mindful of returns to homelessness, and prevention or diversion efforts as well as maintaining a diverse set of housing resources for those exiting are integral to keep returns from occurring.







What is the PIT Count?

- The Point-in-Time Count or "PIT Count" creates a snapshot of the scope and scale of homelessness in the District at a single point in time.
- Required of every community that receives federal homelessness assistance funds from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- The Community Partnership (TCP) has coordinated and conducted the count on behalf of the District of Columbia Continuum of Care since 2001.
- PIT Data is used locally to plan programs, allocate funding, track progress toward goals outlined in Homeward D.C., and better meet the needs of our homeless neighbors.
- HUD provides a few guidelines for conducting a PIT Count, but every community develops its own methodology for implementation.

Creates a Snapshot of Homelessness in the District

Secures Funding

Aids Local Planning Efforts

Helps Us Track Progress

Makes Us More
Efficient In Meeting
Goals







Planning

- Began in November
- Same high standards while ensuring safety
- * 12 community-based teams
- PIT Count Website
- Training



Thank you so much to our survey volunteers, outreach teams, and agency partners who helped us complete a successful Point-in-Time Count in 2021!

PIT Count Website

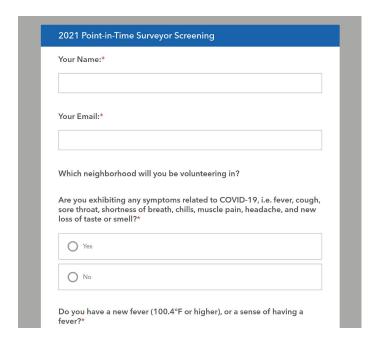






<u>Implementation</u>

- Jan. 27 9pm-2am
- Volunteer Waivers and COVID-19 Screenings
- Using Survey123
- Feedback from Team Leaders:
 - 96% said the count went extremely well or very well
 - Keeping changes for next year





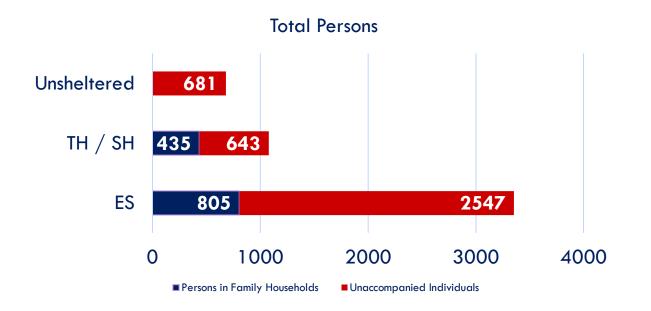
COVID-19 Screening and Internal Dashboard used to monitor screening completion and positive screenings.







Population Totals



UNSHELTERED

681 Persons:

• 681 Unaccompanied Adults

EMERGENCY SHELTER (ES)

3,352 Persons:

- 2541 Unaccompanied Adults
- 6 Unaccompanied Minors
- 313 Adults in Families
- 492 Children in Families

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (TH)*

1,078 Persons:

- 643 Unaccompanied Adults
- 181 Adults in Families
- 249 Children in Families
- 5 Children in Child-Only Families

*Includes three (3) unaccompanied adults in Safe Haven (SH)







Changes by Year

- * Since 2016, the count of persons in families has decreased by 73.4%. The sharp decrease is attributable to rigorous efforts at prevention and the increased availability of housing resources for families since the adoption of Homeward DC.
- * The number of unaccompanied persons, however, has increased by 5.1% during that same time. The slight decrease seen between 2020 and 2021 is likely a result of the public health emergency & eviction moratorium.









Changes From Last Year

- Overall, 19.9% fewer people were counted in the District's
 PIT Count from 2020 to 2021.
- The number of persons in families has changed by -49.0%.
- The number of unaccompanied persons has changed by
 -1.9%.

Household Type	2020	2021	% Change
Total Persons	6,380	5,111	-19.9%
Unaccompanied	3947	3871	-1.9%
Unaccompanied Adults	3937	3865	-1.8%
Unaccompanied Minors	10	6	-40.0%
Family Members	2,433	1,240	-49.0%
Adults in Families	1,011	494	-51.1%
Children in Families*	1422	746	-47.5%
Family Units	768	405	-47.3%

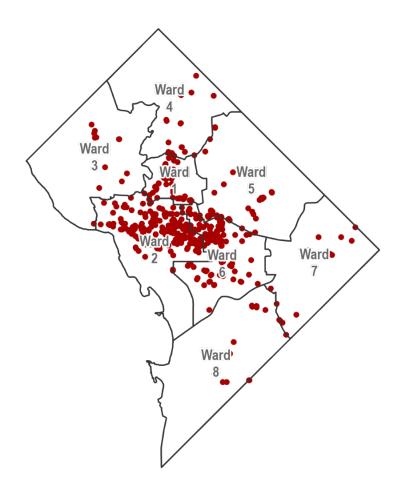






Unsheltered Persons

- * While the number of unaccompanied persons who were counted has decreased, the number of unsheltered unaccompanied persons has **increased** by 4.3%.
- Changes in options. With an ongoing public health crisis, those entering homelessness or those who used shelter occasionally might view staying in shelter as not an option for them, even considering the extensive safety measures that were implemented.
- * Changes in unsheltered persons' environment.
 Patterns of bedding down quickly changed.
 Individuals were no longer able to engage with their community in the same way. Sidewalks and parks became places that felt more secluded, like you could stick around. Movement throughout the city became more limited and everyone's interactions with the outside world changed.



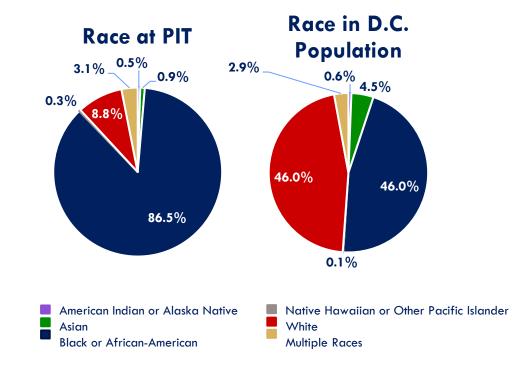






Race and Ethnicity

- African Americans are disproportionately affected by the drivers of homelessness in the District.
- * 86.5% of all adults who are experiencing homelessness are Black/African American, yet only 46.0%** of District residents are Black/African American.
- Additionally, 4.9% of adults identify as Hispanic or Latinx.



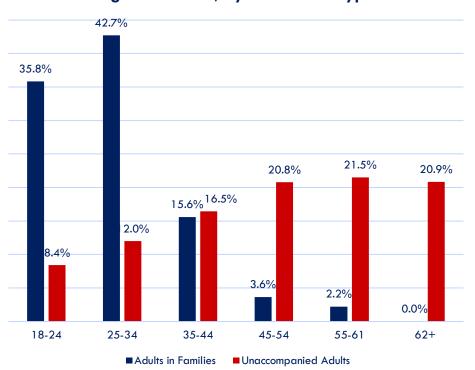






Ages

Ages of Adults, by Household Type



Unaccompanied Adults:

Median Age: 52 years old

Oldest Adult: 87 years old

Adults in Families:

Median Age: 28 years old

Oldest Adult: 61 years old

Children:

Unaccompanied Minors: All between the ages 13 – 17 **Median Age of Children in Families:** 5 years old

Children in families make up 60.2% of persons in households

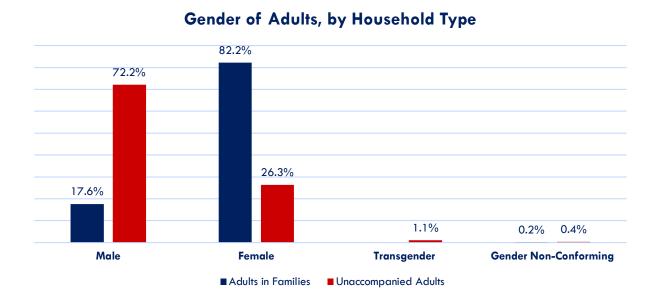






Gender

- *Men make up 72.2% and women make up 26.3% of all single adults. Additionally, 0.2% are trans male (FTM)*, 0.9% are trans female (MTF)*, 0.4% are gender non-conforming.
- *Women make up the greatest share of all adults in family households, at 82.2%.





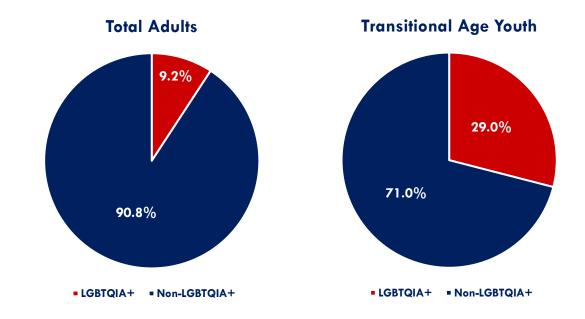
*Includes those persons who self-identified as trans MTF and FTM or those who choose to select a different gender assigned to them at birth from their current gender identity. Others may be counted in "Male" or "Female" if they did not specifically identify as trans or did not provide information about the gender assigned to them at birth.





LGBTQIA+

- ❖ 9.2% of all adults counted at PIT identify as LGBTQIA+, the rate is higher among Transitional Age Youth (ages 18 to 24) where 29.0% identified as LGBTQIA+.
- ❖ 9.5% of all Unaccompanied Adults and 7.3% of Adults in Families identified as LGBTQIA+.









Disabilities & Health Conditions

Disabling Conditions	Unaccompanied Adults	Adults in Families	Total Adults
Substance Use Only	5.2%	0.8%	4.7%
Mental Health Only	31.7%	19.4%	30.3%
Dual Diagnosis (Substance Use & Mental Health)	11.4%	1.0%	10.2%
Chronic Health Problem	23.5%	6.9%	21.6%
Developmental Disability	6.1%	3.8%	5.9%
Physical Disability	18.3%	3.8%	16.7%
Living With HIV/AIDS	3.7%	-	3.3%







Disabilities & Health Conditions

Experiences	Unaccompanied Adults	Adults in Families	Total Adults
Domestic Violence (DV) History	19.8%	44.1%	22.6%
Formerly Resided in an Institutional Setting*	48.0%	10.3%	43.8%
Formerly in Foster Care	11.7%	9.3%	11.5%
U.S. Military Veteran	4.8%	0.6%	4.3%
Limited or No English Proficiency	5.0%	2.2%	4.7%
Chronically Homeless**	50.2%	11.2%	37.9%

^{**} Chronically homeless includes those persons who have been experiencing homelessness for a year or more in total, either continuous or 4 episodes in the past 3 years <u>and</u> have a disabling condition. Rates of chronicity are calculated out of adults in emergency shelter, safe havens, or those who are unsheltered and do not include adults residing in transitional housing programs.





^{*} Institutional settings include: juvenile justice, and adult justice systems; residential detox/rehabilitation; residential mental health institutions; and long-term hospital stays.



Benefits and Income

Income & Employment	Unaccompanied Adults	Adults in Families	Total Adults
Receives Income	38.6%	61.9%	41.2%
Employed	9.0%	11.9%	9.3%

Primary Income*	Unaccompanied Adults	Adults in Families	Total Adults
Employment	21.8%	15.0%	20.6%
Social Security / Retirement	3.7%	0.3%	3.1%
SSI / SSDI / Disability	60.8%	14.4%	52.9%
TANF / Public Assistance	3.4%	63.4%	23.6%
Other Income Source	10.3%	6.9%	9.7%

^{*} Primary Source of Income is out of total number of people receiving some type of income.

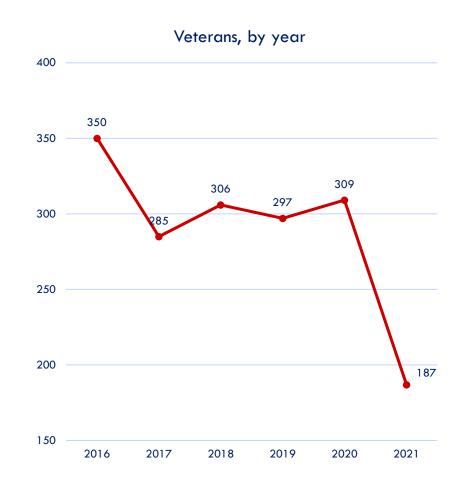






Sub-Population Detail: Veterans

- Veterans experiencing homelessness decreased by 49% between the 2020 and 2021 PIT counts. 3 Veterans counted were persons in families.
- The total number of Veterans experiencing homelessness is down by 61% since 2016.
- 295 Veterans were housed through PSH, SSVF, and other resources.
- In 2019, an average of 82 Veterans were identified as newly experiencing homelessness or returning to homelessness each month, compared to an average of 58 Veterans each month in 2020.









Sub-Population Detail: Chronically-Homeless

- The rate of chronicity has increased for both unaccompanied adults and family households between 2020 and 2021.
- Though the <u>rate</u> is higher for families, the <u>actual number</u> of families experiencing chronic homelessness is lower, this is due to the steep decrease in the number of families in emergency shelter.
- There are indications that inflow into the system has slowed during the pandemic and, at least for unaccompanied adults, housing placements have also been impacted.

Chronically Homeless*	2020		2021	
	%	#	%	#
Unaccompanied Adults	41.5%	1337	50.2%	1618
Family Households	5.7%	33	9.8%	23



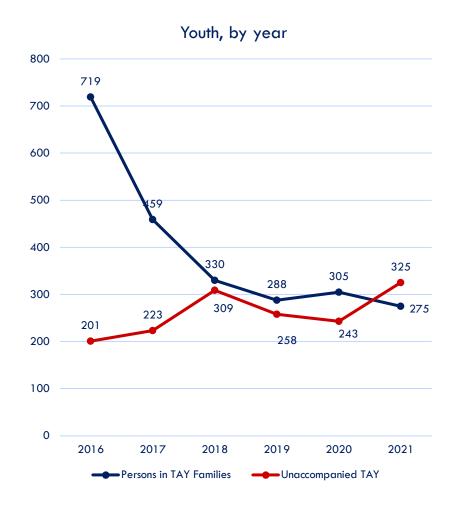
*Data on chronic homelessness includes those persons who have been experiencing homelessness for a year or more in total, either continuous or 4 episodes in the past 3 years and have a disabling condition. Rates of chronicity are calculated out of adults in emergency shelter, safe havens, or those who are unsheltered and do not include adults residing in transitional housing programs.





Sub-Population Detail: Youth

- * In the 2021 PIT count, there were 116 family households (275 persons) where the head of household was a Transitional Age Youth (TAY), a 43% decrease from the 202 households counted in 2020. The reduction in youthheaded family households is tied to the overall reduction in the number of families in the system.
- Unaccompanied TAY increased by 25% between 2020 and 2021.
- The increases in unaccompanied TAY and decreases in TAY family households follows trends reported on in the Homeless









Takeaways

- * The sharp percentage decrease between 2020 and 2021 is driven by ongoing efforts to prevent homelessness among families whenever possible (through programs like HPP and ERAP) and ensure rapid connection back to permanent housing for families that do enter shelter (~750 families exited shelter to housing during the time period).
- * The slight decrease in the count of unaccompanied individuals between 2020 and 2021 may be a result of the public health emergency and eviction moratorium, which could have slowed inflow and returns to the system. TCP is completing additional analysis on inflow among unaccompanied individuals to help answer questions and prepare for impacts of lifting the eviction moratorium in the coming year.
- The increased number of unaccompanied individuals who are chronically homeless might signal timing-in to chronicity, or better reporting through the PIT Count survey on factors that determine chronic homelessness.
- TCP is completing a spatial analysis of PIT data to better understand characteristics of unsheltered population.







Thank you for helping us complete the 2021 Street Count!

Government Partners:

DC Department of Human Services (DHS)
DC Interagency Council on Homelessness (DCICH)
Executive Office of the Mayor, Muriel Bowser



Community Organizations:

Community Connections

Everyone Home DC

Foundry UMC

Friendship Place

HER

HIPS

LAYC

Miriam's Kitchen

National Community Church

Pathways to Housing DC

VA Community Resource and Referral Center







TCP Contacts:

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Discussion



- Any questions about the data presented today?
- Anything that jumped out at you or surprised you?
- Any additional questions for analysis?





Meeting Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- II. 2021 Point-in-Time Count Results

m. Federal Funding & Discussion on Priorities

- Update on Use of Federal Funds
- Stimulus Payments/Tax Credits
- Discussion of Priorities and Strategies
- IV. ICH "Return to Normal" Discussion
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Overview of New Federal Funds: ERA

Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds is a program of the US Treasury to assist households unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The District expects to receive at least \$352M:

- \$200M The District received \$200M under Appropriations Act (December 2020)
- \$152M+ The District expects to receive a minimum of \$152M under the American Rescue Plan Act (March 2021)

Funds can be used to provide assistance to eligible households through new or existing programs. Covers direct *financial assistance*, *housing stabilization services*, and *administrative costs*.

- Financial Assistance includes: Rent, rent arrears, utilities and other expenses
 relating to housing (e.g., security deposits, application fees, internet service, etc.)
- Housing Stabilization services includes services that enable eligible households to obtain or maintain housing



ERA Overview (cont.)

Eligibility Criteria:

- Financial Hardship: Household member(s) who have qualified for unemployment, experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic.
- Household Income: At or below 80% of AMI
- Housing Instability: Household at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability (rent and utility arrears are themselves sufficient).

Documentation

- Federal requirements include proof of identity, proof of income, proof of lease
- In some cases, self-attestation can be utilized for people missing certain required documents.

Payments are made to landlords or utility companies on behalf of renters but can go to renters if landlords are unresponsive or if outreach attempts over 10 days are unsuccessful.



ERA1 and **ERA2** Comparison

	ERA1 (Appropriations Act) - \$200M	ERA2 (ARP) - \$152M+
Use of Funds	 - 90% must be spent on financial assistance (max 15 months past and forward) - 10% cap on housing stabilization - 10% cap on administration 	 75% must be spent on financial assistance (max 18 months past and forward) 10% cap on housing stabilization services 15% cap on administration
Eligibility	No difference (see earlier slide)	No difference
Deadlines	65% spend down by 9/30/21	Funds not obligated by 3/31/22 can be redistributed
Funding Availability	Assuming spend down met, funds can be spent through 9/30/22	Funds available through 2025



ERA: Projected Spend Categories/Amounts

- Stronger Together by Assisting You DC (STAY DC) rental and utility assistance – New program that provides funds to assist households unable to pay rent/utilities due to pandemic - \$208M+
- FRSP rental assistance and services Continuing support for families in FRSP - \$80M
- Rapid Rehousing for Individuals rental assistance and services expansion of RRH-I in FY21 and FY22 - \$15.2M
- Diversion for singles (Project Reconnect) and families (HPP) \$6.5M
- PSH and TAH case management expansion for individuals \$4M
- Housing navigation services expansion of DHS housing navigation team to focus on housing support for singles - \$635K
- Creation of Central Unit Repository \$380K
- Administrative costs \$19M

Amounts reflect estimates through FY22 – will be adjusted based on actual spend



STAY DC Program: Overview

STAY DC is a new program funded by ERA that provides funds to assist households unable to pay rent and utilities.

- Single application for rent and utilities
- Administered by DHS, in collaboration with DMPED, DMHHS and DHCD

Platform launched this month. As of Monday, April 26:

- 7,443 applications submitted (4,505 tenants; 2,938 housing providers)
- Total amounts requested to date (applications in review):

- Utilities: \$390K

- Rent: \$8.4M

Communication & Outreach:

- Outreach efforts include a website, media campaign, and grassroots outreach with trusted community entities
- Outreach effort will be ongoing (while funds are available) to ensure residents have the resources they need.

Website: Stay.dc.gov/Call Center: 1-833-832-7075



Upcoming Procurement

Rapid Rehousing – Individuals

- DHS seeking to expand RRH-I case management services by 300 additional slots
- Projected RFA release Week of May 3rd
- Pre-Bidders Conference Week of May 10

For more information or to receive notifications directly about this solicitation, please contact Marketa Nicholson, OCP Supervisory Contract Specialist, at marketa.nicholson@dc.gov.



ARPA Additional HUD Federal Resources

- Emergency Vouchers (\$5B total) The
 District's emergency voucher allocation out of
 \$5B total will be released in the next few
 weeks.
- HOME Investment Partnership funding: (\$5B total/\$19M District) Funding available to create affordable housing and services for people experiencing homelessness/at risk of homelessness.



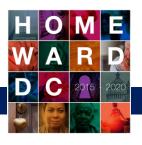
ARPA Stimulus Payments & Tax Credits



- IRS & Treasury now delivering 3rd round of Stimulus Payments
- Most people will get payments automatically:
 - Eligible taxpayers who filed 2019 and/or 2020 tax return prior to Round 3 distribution
 - SSI/SSDI & VA beneficiaries (regardless of filing status)
 - Anyone who successfully registered for 1st round using the IRS Non-Filers tool
- Individuals who WILL NOT automatically receive the 3rd round of stimulus checks:
 - > Did not file 2019 or 2020 tax return prior to distribution of 3rd round
 - > Did not use the Non-Filers tool under the 1st round



Expanded Child Tax Credit Highlights



- Aimed at reducing child poverty
- * \$3,000 \$3,600 per child for the year
 - > ~\$250-300 per child per month
 - option for families to receive advance monthly payments, rather than waiting for a lump sum based on tax liability
- Disbursements to start in July and go until December, with remaining credit to be claimed on 2021 tax return





Who Needs to File Tax Returns?



2020 Tax Returns

- For 1st & 2nd Stimulus rounds, if eligible and yet to receive either one or both stimulus payments.
- To receive disbursements of Expanded Child Tax
 Credit (July December)

2021 Tax Returns

- For 3rd Stimulus Payment round, if eligible and yet to receive.
- To receive all or remaining disbursements of Expanded Child Tax Credit, depending on receipt of early disbursements





Potential Impact of Filing (Single Parent)



Facts

- · Single parent with 1 child age 16 or younger.
- Wage Income is \$18,000 and paycheck tax withholding of \$1,000.
- · Did not receive any Stimulus Payments in 2020.

Adjusted Gross Income	\$18,000
Standard Deduction	(\$18,650)
Taxable Income	\$0
Tax Owed	\$0
Tax Withheld from Paycheck	\$1,000
Earned Income Tax Credit-Federal	\$3,526
Earned Income Tax Credit-DC	\$1,410
Additional Child Tax Credit	\$1,400
Recovery Rebate Credit ("Stimulus Payment")	\$2,900
Tax Refund	\$10,236





Potential Impact of Filing (No Dependents)



Facts

- Wage Income is \$12,000 and paycheck tax withholding of \$1,000.
- No dependents.
- Did not receive any Stimulus Payments in 2020 or 2021.

Adjusted Gross Income	\$12,000
Standard Deduction – Head of Household	(\$12,400)
Taxable Income	<u>\$0</u>
Tax Owed	\$0
Tax Withheld from Paycheck	\$1,000
Earned Income Tax Credit-Federal	\$294
Earned Income Tax Credit-DC	\$538
Recovery Rebate Credit ("Stimulus Payment")	\$1,800
Tax Refund	<u>\$3,632</u>





Free Tax Help available until May 17th

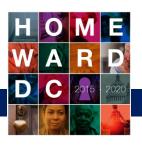


- * Deadline to file federal tax return: May 17,2021
- Free Tax Help
 - IRS has a number of resources listed on their website
 - ✓ Note: we tried to contact list to confirm but not successful
 - AARP has resources listed on their website as well.
 - ✓ We were able to contact them and confirm the following
 - ✓ Contact-Free: Taxpayers interact with Tax-Aide counselors online or by phone and exchange documents electronically. Meetings are by appointment only.
 - ✓ **Self-Preparation**: Tax-Aide provides taxpayers with free access to tax-filing software so they can prepare their own taxes. Taxpayers can also request help from a Tax-Aide counselor to coach them through the process via computer screen-sharing.





Free Tax Help available after May 18th



- Filing extension: Oct 15, 2021
- Catholic Charities –Financial Stability Network (FSN) will shift services to focus on:
 - tradition non-filers and/or
 - > individuals qualified for the earned income tax credit
- Interested in partnering with ICH to establish process for:
 - Making virtual appointments w/ CC-FSN staff or VITA tax expert (ideally CM would support client) until CC—FSN has green light to start seeing clients in person
 - Will provide instructions on documents to collect and bring to meeting
 - Will create simplified intake form to make tax filing less intimidating





Discussion



- Given the changing landscape and new federal funding, are there any changes to implementation priorities or areas of focus you would recommend?
- With regard to stimulus payments & tax credits, what strategies do we need to deploy to ensure our customers are able to take advantage of these benefits?





Meeting Agenda

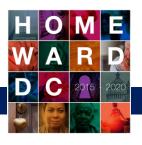


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 - Meeting Preferences
 - * Feedback
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Survey Questions



- Overall, how do you prefer to meet?
 - If preference depends on Committee/WG, additional questions to determine how preference maps to specific committees/WGs
- Likelihood of attending in person
 - if virtual is an option?
 - if virtual is not an option?
- Feedback on Virtual Meetings
 - > What is working well? What is not working well?
 - Recommendations and other comments/feedback?
- Who are you?
 - What constituent of the ICH do you represent?
 - Which meetings do you regularly attend?



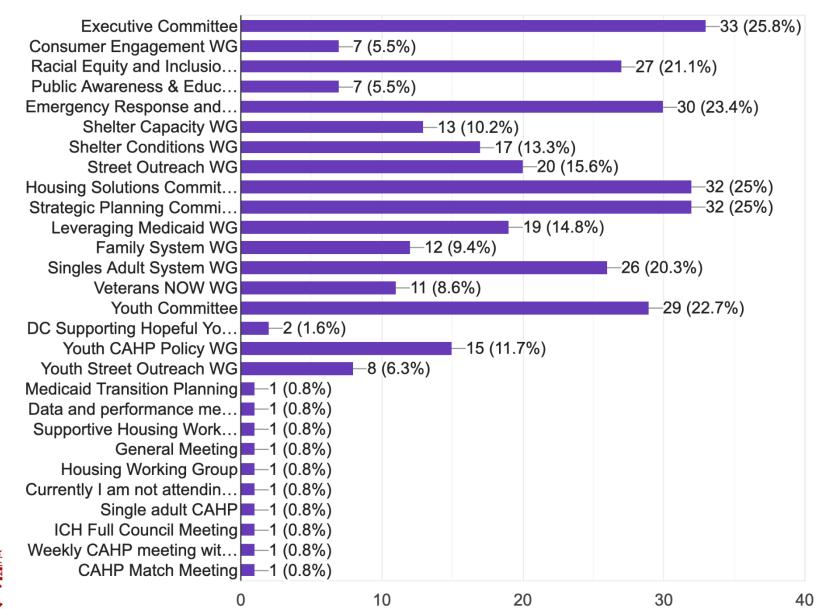


Context: Who took the survey?



Which meetings do you regularly attend (virtual or in person)?

128 responses



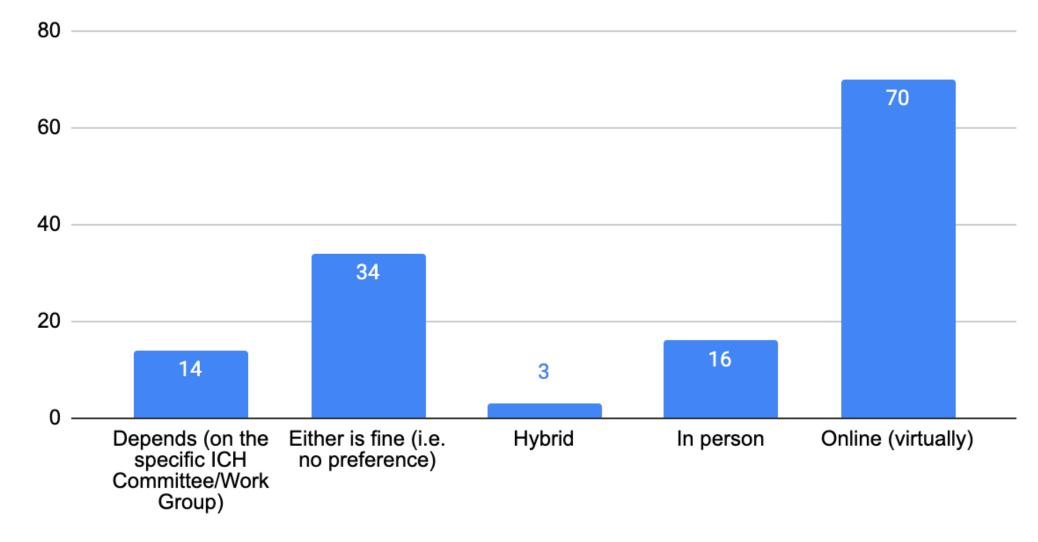


Results for Overall Preference



Overall, how do you prefer to meet?

Total of 137 Survey Respondents





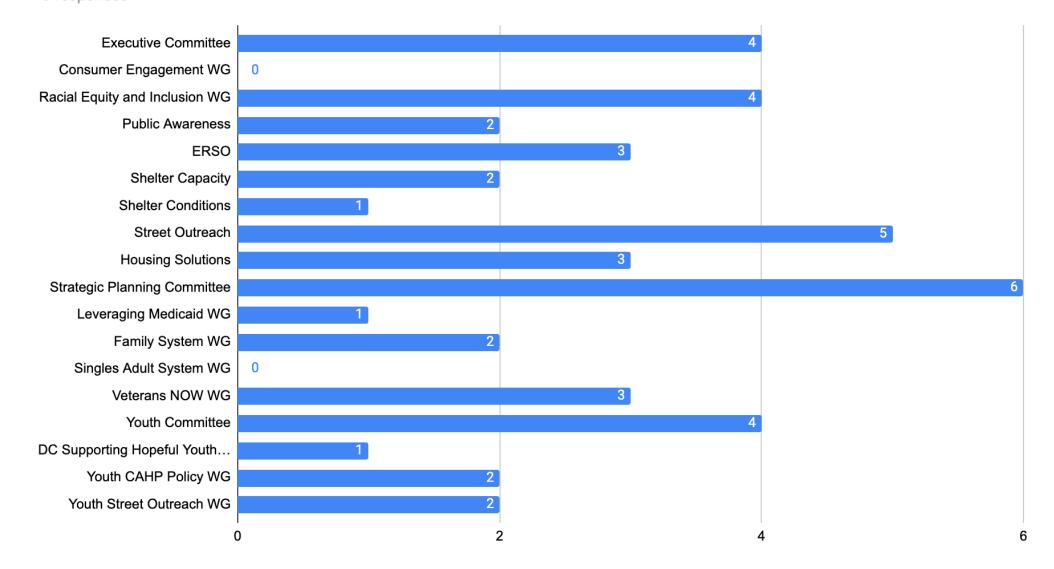


Deeper Dive on "In Person" Preference



Meetings regularly attended by respondents with in person preference

16 responses





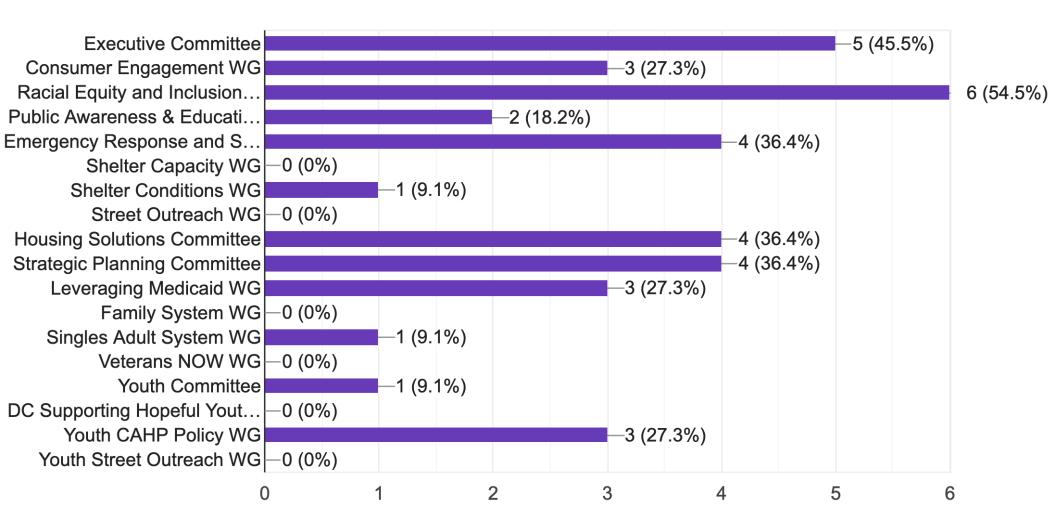


Deeper Dive on "Depends" Preference



Which ICH Committee/Work Group do you prefer to meet in person?

11 responses



Feedback



What's Working Well

- Chat function
- Breakout groups
- Sound quality
- Increased participation from broad range of staff

What's NOT Working Well

- personal connections & synergy
- too many presentations, less discussion/dialogue
- lack of understanding in some working mtgs b/c so many new participants
- harder to moderate b/c can't ready body language

Tools to Improve Meetings

- Zoom & Teams > WebEx
- White and jam board
- Covenant for virtual meetings. Examples:
 - √ cameras on,
 - conventions for chat and raise hand functions,
 - facilitation to ensure frequent talkers do not crowd the space and queue those who have not contributed.





Discussion

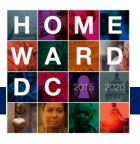








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- vi. Adjournment





Meeting Agenda



- . Welcome and Introductions
- II. 2021 Point-in-Time Count Results
- III. Federal Funding & Discussion on Priorities
- IV. ICH "Return to Normal" Discussion
- v. Partner Announcements & Updates
- vi. Adjournment







