



# HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

For submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and  
Urban Development as a Substantial Amendment to the  
FY2021 Annual Action Plan.

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## Introduction

In September 2021, Athens-Clarke County Unified Government (ACCGov) was awarded \$2,506,309 in HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) program funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These funds are primarily designed to assist individuals or households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by developing or supporting affordable rental housing, providing tenant based rental assistance, providing supportive services, and acquiring and developing non-congregate shelter units.

HOME-ARP funds must be used to primarily benefit individuals or families from the following qualifying populations:

- Individuals experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness
- Individuals at risk of homelessness
- Persons fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- Others who are at great risk of housing instability who might benefit from supportive services to prevent homelessness
- Veterans, and families that include a veteran family member, that meet one of the preceding criteria

In order to receive the HOME-ARP funding, ACCGov developed this Allocation Plan for approval by HUD as a substantial amendment to its Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Action Plan. The development of this data-driven HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was informed, in part, through extensive stakeholder consultation and public engagement.

The Cloudburst Group, a consulting firm hired by ACCGov to help develop its Strategic Plan to Prevent & Reduce Homelessness, provided technical assistance in the development of the present HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

## Consultation

Prior to developing the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, ACCGov consulted with 45 stakeholders and service providers currently supporting the qualifying populations, and with 211 residents of Athens-Clarke County (ACC) who might benefit from programs funded by HOME-ARP. Through the efforts described below, ACCGov proactively engaged the local Continuum of Care GA-503 (CoC), homeless service providers, domestic violence service providers, veteran's groups, public housing agencies, public agencies that address needs of qualifying populations, and public/private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights and needs of persons with disabilities. These efforts went beyond the minimum consultation criteria established by HUD.

### Advisory Committee

- In March 2022, ACCGov's Mayor and Commission designated the Athens Homeless Coalition (the governing body of the local CoC) to act as an advisory group in the development of its Strategic Plan to Prevent and Reduce Homelessness, which would inform the allocation of HOME-ARP funds.

- The Athens Homeless Coalition designated a group of 16 of its members to serve in the Advisory Committee, representing Acceptance Recovery Center, Advantage Behavioral Health Services, The Ark, Athens Alliance Coalition, Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Athens Nurses Clinic, Bigger Vision of Athens, Family Promise of Athens, the Athens Homeless Coalition Board of Directors, Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center, Project Safe, Sparrow’s Nest, and St. Mary’s Health Care System.
- On November 30, 2022, ACCGov convened the Advisory Committee to inform them of HUD’s expedited deadline for HOME-ARP Allocation Plans and ACCGov’s planned consultation and public comment activities. Committee members were encouraged to promote participation across the CoC and with their clients in all activities described below.
- All organizations represented in the Advisory Committee participated in at least one consultation activity, as described on [Table 1](#).

### Consultation Activities

ACCGov’s consultation process consisted of four main components to gather critical information regarding unmet needs and gaps in services for the qualifying populations.

**A. Surveys.** ACCGov distributed two surveys to capture information from service providers and stakeholders, and individuals who may benefit from activities funded by HOME-ARP. Between December 8, 2022 and January 20, 2023, individuals had the option to complete the confidential and anonymous surveys online or by filling out a paper copy and submitting it to a participating service provider (anonymity was lost if participants chose to self-identify). Survey availability was promoted via:

- Email to members of the CoC and subscribers of various local listservs of service providers,
- United Way of Northeast Georgia’s 2-1-1 client database,
- Distribution of flyers with a QR code at local service providers, the Athens-Clarke County Library, and local food distributions,
- A-frame signs with the survey QR code strategically placed in downtown Athens, and
- ACCGov’s websites ([accgov.com/arpa](http://accgov.com/arpa) and [accgov.com/10473/Homelessness](http://accgov.com/10473/Homelessness)) and its Surveys listserv.

A total of 191 community members and 116 individuals representing 43 agencies/organizations completed the survey. Key themes from survey responses are incorporated into [Table 1](#) and [Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis](#) section of this document, while the community and stakeholder survey responses are outlined in [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#), respectively.

**B. Service Provider Meetings.** In an effort to gather information about needs and gaps in services from service providers and stakeholders, ACCGov:



*ACCGov staff distributed flyers at local food distributions to encourage participation from community members. Photo credit: ACCGov*

- Orchestrated and facilitated a meeting on December 15, 2022 at the Athens-Clarke Public Library, whereby 30 people representing 16 service providers learned about HOME-ARP and participated in breakout groups focused on the needs of qualifying populations. A copy of the presentation was made available to the public on [www.accgov.com/10473/Homelessness](http://www.accgov.com/10473/Homelessness).
- Presented preliminary findings based on survey responses and secondary data during the monthly Interagency & Community Meeting hosted by Family Connections-Communities in Schools (FC-CIS), held on January 13, 2023 at the Athens-Clarke County Library. Fifty-six individuals representing 24 agencies and local government attended and provided feedback that aided in the development of the present Plan. ACCGov made the presentation available to the public on <https://www.accgov.com/10473/Homelessness>, and FC-CIS livestreamed and posted the recording on <https://youtu.be/ySgyZo-D3hU>. Local newspaper *The Athens Banner-Herald* also [ran a story on January 13, 2023](#) about the meeting and the development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

Key themes from service provider meetings are incorporated into [Table 1](#) and the [Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis](#) section of this document.

**C. Focus Groups with Service Providers.** Between January 18 and January 20, 2023, ACCGov invited key stakeholders to participate in five separate focus groups to further explore needs and service gaps in our community and to help prioritize HOME-ARP eligible activities. The five groups included:

- Homeless Service Providers
- Supportive Service Providers
- Healthcare Service Providers
- Victim/Survivor Service Providers
- Immigrant Service Providers

Key themes from focus groups are incorporated into [Table 1](#) and the [Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis](#) section of this document. [Appendix C](#) includes interview questions, a summary of common themes, and group participants.

**D. Interviews with Community Members.** Between January 18 and January 20, 2023, ACCGov coordinated with Advantage Behavioral Health Systems, Athens Alliance Coalition, the Athens Area Homeless Shelter and Family Promise of Athens to identify current and former clients who are part of a HOME-ARP qualified population. A total of 20 individuals were interviewed in a confidential setting, and each received a \$20 gift card as a token of gratitude for their participation.

Key themes from these interviews are incorporated into the [Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis](#) section of this document. [Appendix D](#) includes the interview questions, summary of common themes, and participant demographics.

## **Organizations and Stakeholders Consulted**

Representatives from a total of 45 agencies participated in at least one of the activities listed above. Their comments helped guide the development of this HOME-ARP Allocation Plan ([Table 1](#)).

### **Summary of feedback received and results of upfront consultation with these entities:**

Consulted stakeholders and community members expressed high frustration with a decreased affordable housing stock in Athens-Clarke County, particularly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has translated into unsustainable increases in rent, high non-refundable application fees, reticence from landlords to sign or renew leases with individuals dependent on housing assistance, and reduced housing opportunities for individuals with low income and bad credit. Service providers commented that without the ability to transition clients from shelter units into affordable rental housing, they often feel at a loss.

Furthermore, the types of supportive services identified as high priority— including housing search assistance, financial assistance (e.g., first month’s rent), employment assistance/job training, and food assistance—speak to the community’s difficulties in finding, and being able to afford, existing housing options.

There was also a general consensus that Athens is a regional service hub, offering a variety of housing and supportive programs to those currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness. This was seen as a strength among stakeholders, though there was also concern that it encourages individuals to move to Athens from less-resourced areas. Many called for more efficient collaboration among providers, increased capacity building opportunities, and education to the larger community about existing efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness. There was also a call to make existing services more available to Spanish-preferring community members, through enhanced language services and less strict eligibility requirement.

**Table 1. Organizations and Stakeholders Consulted**

	<b>Name of Agency/Org</b>	<b>QP Served</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Feedback Received</b>
<b>Continuum of Care Governing Board</b>				
1.	Acceptance Recovery Center	All	Focus groups, Stakeholder mtg., Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All our clients are high risk/high need, many are chronically homeless and have criminal background that prevent them from accessing housing.</li> <li>• We provide housing with wrap-around services, but always need more space.</li> </ul>
2.	Advantage Behavioral Health Services	All	Focus groups, Stakeholder mtg., Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of affordable housing stock makes it difficult to provide adequate level of care or expand provided care.</li> <li>• Can't run rapid rehousing programs without affordable housing stock</li> <li>• Forced to look outside of Athens for housing</li> <li>• Supportive services that are most needed include case management, employment assistance, and counseling.</li> <li>• Prioritize affordable rental housing and non-congregate shelters</li> </ul>
3.	Athens Alliance Coalition (First Step Encampment)	Currently homeless	Stakeholder mtg., Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seems to be an increase in people moving to Athens who end up needing housing assistance</li> <li>• Rehab services don't always work, so people end up back to homelessness</li> <li>• Encampment works well, but we need to think about the "next step"</li> </ul>
4.	Bigger Vision	Currently homeless	Focus groups, Stakeholder mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize affordable rental housing, followed by TBRA, non-congregate housing, supportive services and NPO capacity building/operations.</li> <li>• We need more case management, employment and housing search assistance, life skills training, landlord/tenant liaisons, legal services, mental healthcare, childcare and food assistance.</li> <li>• A lot of people moving to Athens, in search of services which are already at capacity.</li> </ul>
5.	Athens Homeless Coalition Board	Currently homeless	Stakeholder mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to involve healthcare providers as well as local business owners/managers into these conversations</li> </ul>

	<b>Name of Agency/Org</b>	<b>QP Served</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Feedback Received</b>
6.	Family Promise of Athens	Currently homeless	Focus groups Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize affordable rental housing, followed by supportive services, non-congregate shelters, and TBRA. Capacity for NPOs also important.</li> <li>• A lot of people are just one paycheck away from homelessness. We try to provide transition into safe and secure housing.</li> <li>• There's a lot of cooperation/collaboration among homeless and supportive service providers; often it's "behind the scenes" so it's not noticed by others.</li> <li>• We are overwhelmed by calls and referrals, and inability to meet all needs.</li> <li>• Childcare, transportation and credit repair are critical to support these families.</li> </ul>
7.	Piedmont Athens Regional	All	Focus group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health for healthcare providers would help prevent burnout, which leads to staff shortages that ultimately impact community.</li> <li>• Difficult to discharge patients who have nowhere to go, particularly if they have high medical needs.</li> </ul>
8.	Project Safe	DV, etc.	Focus groups, Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelters are great for short term, but ultimately, we need more long-term affordable housing.</li> <li>• Even with funding for rapid rehousing, landlords are difficult to work with. Landlords are tired of damages, "drama", abusers coming back, etc. No longer care to hear the story of people who need housing.</li> <li>• Create network of landlords that work closely with all agencies. Maybe with assurances of the whole "collective" vs just one agency, they'd be more willing.</li> <li>• Over the last few years, have had to change safety planning (even providing tents to families with kids) because there is nowhere to place them. Often, victims prefer to stay in abusive household because going to a hotel or shelter seems less safe.</li> </ul>
9.	Sparrow's Nest	Currently homeless	Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize non-congregate shelters, followed by affordable rental housing, supportive services, NPO capacity building and TBRA.</li> <li>• Supportive services most needed in Athens include: case management, food assistance, housing search counseling, life skill straining, mental health, credit repair, childcare, housing cost assistance</li> </ul>



	<b>Name of Agency/Org</b>	<b>QP Served</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Feedback Received</b>
10.	St. Mary's Healthcare System	All	Focus group, Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many patients don't have stable housing upon discharge; their high medical needs make it difficult for them to be self-sufficient and to live on their own.</li> <li>• CHW provides a lot of referrals to local providers, but patients' feedback is that their needs are not met. It is obvious local providers are at capacity.</li> <li>• High medical bills mean less money to spend on shelter.</li> <li>• Prioritized TBRA, followed by affordable rental housing, NPO capacity building, non-congregate shelter and supportive services.</li> </ul>
11.	The Ark	At risk, Other, DV+	Stakeholder mtg., Focus group, Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We do a lot of preventative support (e.g., utilities &amp; rental assistance), and then refer to local agencies once we have a good understanding of client's needs.</li> <li>• Many clients don't say that they need mental healthcare, but they will say yes if asked directly.</li> <li>• Prioritized affordable rental housing, followed by TBRA, non-congregate shelter and supportive services.</li> </ul>
ACCGov also outreached multiple times to the Athens Nurses Clinic, a member of this category, but did not receive any feedback.				
<b>Homeless Service Providers</b>				
Several agencies listed in the COC Governing body section above are themselves homeless service providers, including: Acceptance Recovery Center, Advantage Behavioral Health Services, Athens Alliance Coalition, Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Athens Homeless Coalition Board, Bigger Vision of Athens, Family Promise of Athens, Project Safe and The Sparrow's Nest.				
12.	Backpack Project of Athens	Currently homeless	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritized affordable rental housing, followed by non-congregate shelter, TBRA and supportive services.</li> <li>• The most needed supportive services are employment assistance/job training, legal services, transportation, financial assistance/rental assistance, credit repair, and landlord-tenant liaison.</li> </ul>
13.	Lydia's Place	Currently homeless	Focus group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve a very specific group of youth who aged out of foster care, and who actively working or in school.</li> <li>• Has not taken government money because of restrictions; now they have more freedom to manage own eligibility requirements.</li> <li>• Doesn't have infrastructure or capacity to manage more clients, or larger grants.</li> <li>• Would want to expand in the next few years.</li> </ul>

	<b>Name of Agency/Org</b>	<b>QP Served</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Feedback Received</b>
14.	Salvation Army	Currently homeless	Focus group, Stakeholder mtg., Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have recently changed policies to increase safety of LGBTQIA+ shelter residents</li> <li>• Maintaining existing shelters is very expensive. Currently unable to use all shelter space because lack of funding to fix roof over men's space.</li> <li>• Have had to turn away people who have high medical needs because they're unable to provide adequate support.</li> <li>• Prioritizes capacity building/operations for NPOs, followed by affordable rental housing, supportive service, non-congregate shelters and TBRA. Difficult to build capacity with housing costs increasing</li> <li>• Top services needed: food assistance, housing search/counseling, case management, employment assistance/job training, mental health, credit repair.</li> <li>• Government funding is difficult and burdensome to secure and manage, particularly for new leadership.</li> </ul>
15.	Street Love Ministries	Currently homeless	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritized affordable rental housing, followed by NPO capacity building, supportive services, TBRA and non-congregate shelters.</li> <li>• Case management, employment assistance, food assistance, mental health, outreach services, victim services for those who need it, transportation and housing financial assistance, should be prioritized.</li> </ul>
<b>Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking Victims/Survivors Service Providers</b>				
Project Safe, listed in CoC Governing Board section of this table, is also a DV Victims/Survivors Service Provider. ACCGov also outreached to ACC-Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners multiple times but did not receive feedback.				
16.	The Cottage	DV+	Focus groups, Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athens needs more staffing to staff homeless shelters that are safe for victims of sexual assault, offering more hotel vouchers for after experiencing sexual assault.</li> <li>• Also need to help educate folks who are transitioning out of homelessness.</li> <li>• Most needed supportive services include case management, childcare, employment assistance/job training, legal services, mental health, credit repair, and housing financial assistance</li> <li>• Would prioritize affordable rental housing, followed by NPO capacity building, supportive services, TBRA and non-congregate housing</li> </ul>

	<b>Name of Agency/Org</b>	<b>QP Served</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Feedback Received</b>
17.	Divas Who Win	DV+	Focus group, Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% of their clients have experienced sexual assault. Many are parents, but they have already lost kids, so they don't necessarily need family housing.</li> <li>• Our clients need multiple support systems working together – ideally one case worker to help them through a 2–3-year transition.</li> <li>• Short-term assistance model doesn't address underlying causes.</li> </ul>
18.	Western Judicial Circuit-District Attorney's Office	All	Focus group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Figure out a way to incentivize landlords to offer lower rents; they often prefer to accept students willing to pay higher rent vs. someone with assistance.</li> <li>• We need more transitional housing, too.</li> <li>• There is a lot of collaboration, particularly among victim service providers.</li> </ul>
<b>Veteran's Groups</b>				
ACCGov outreached multiple times via email and phone to the following veteran's associations but did not receive any feedback during the consultation period: AMVETS, Post #10, Georgia Department of Veterans Services, Homeless Veteran Initiative, VA Outpatient Clinic, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 2872, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3910.				
<b>Public Housing and Affordable Housing Agencies</b>				
19.	Athens Area Habitat for Humanity	At risk, DV+, Other	Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers make it possible for us to offer lower cost homeownership. There's a strain on volunteers though, and they are not always available.</li> <li>• Order of priorities: affordable rental housing, TBRA, non-congregate shelter, supportive services. Capacity building for NPOs also important.</li> <li>• Need more case management, housing search assistance/counseling services, landlord liaison services.</li> </ul>
20.	Athens Housing Authority	At risk, DV+, Other	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided data incorporated into this plan, including the number of individuals currently on the AHA waiting list.</li> </ul>
21.	Athens Land Trust	At risk, DV+, Other	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritized affordable rental housing, followed by supportive services, non-congregate shelter and TBRA. Capacity building for NPOs is also important.</li> <li>• Key services needed are childcare, housing search assistance, mental health, financial housing assistance, credit repair and tenant/landlord liaison.</li> </ul>

	<b>Name of Agency/Org</b>	<b>QP Served</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Feedback Received</b>
22.	Columbia Residential	At risk, DV+, Other	Stakeholder mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to provide enhance education and support for people transitioning out of homelessness into long-term housing, including cleaning tips.</li> </ul>
<p>ACCGov outreached multiple times via email and phone to other organizations in this category but did not receive feedback. These include: Athens Development Corporation and Hancock Community Development.</p>				
<p><b>Public agencies that address needs of qualifying populations, and public/private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and needs of persons with disabilities.</b></p>				
23.	ACC Police Department	All	Focus group, Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We make referrals to local agencies as needed, particularly through the ACCPD and ABHS co-responder program</li> <li>• We take extra steps to mitigate repeat encounters</li> <li>• We need to improve the existing organizations to be more inclusive</li> </ul>
24.	ACC Public Library	All	Stakeholder mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended two stakeholder meetings but did not provide specific feedback.</li> </ul>
25.	Athens Community Council on Aging	All	Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need more emergency shelters - when we had a 71-year-old get kicked out of his housing, he spent an entire weekend living outside in downtown Athens because Bigger Vision had no space. There was nowhere else for him to go while we helped to mediate the situation.</li> <li>• Constantly surveying those who are facing homelessness, domestic violence, etc. would be the best.</li> <li>• Community based efforts are the most successful. Working with individual providing mutual aid. With the levels of hierarchy in the nonprofits, there are people who do not know much about the needs of the people making decisions and this is an issue. When it is the opposite, I think we are the most successful.</li> <li>• Understanding how different needs overlap will help organizations and communities work together rather than working separately. If one place is focusing on food, they should have connections with places centered on shelter, housing.</li> <li>• My concern is that we are not listening to those from the populations themselves. I believe we should give this people the agency they deserve to help direct care.</li> </ul>

	<b>Name of Agency/Org</b>	<b>QP Served</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Feedback Received</b>
				<p>Giving people the agency would allow them to be treated like human beings and be better integrated into the community they belong in. Treating people like people and hearing their concerns will go far. One of the best things to give agency is giving money, so that people can spend it in ways they seem fit for their situation. Also, from my experience here at a nonprofit. There are so many people facing homelessness or on the cusp of homelessness, and we are stretched thin as I believe most places are. I believe my statement above will help better distribute the care that these people need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritized affordable rental housing, followed by supportive services, TBRA, non-congregate shelters, and capacity building.</li> <li>• Case management, housing search assistance, counseling, landlord/tenant liaison are the most needed supportive services most need for this population</li> </ul>
26.	Athens Housing Advocacy Team	All	Stakeholder mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenant-landlord relations are strained.</li> <li>• Advocacy is critical to support tenants.</li> <li>• Materials and services should also be made accessible to non-English speakers, particularly Spanish speakers.</li> </ul>
27.	Athens Pride & Queer Collective	All	Focus group, Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGBTQ+, particularly trans individuals, face discrimination when seeking local services. Many choose not to stay at existing shelters because they feel unsafe.</li> <li>• Need for more gender-neutral bathrooms, sleeping spaces, clothes closet, etc.</li> </ul>
28.	Clarke County Board of Education	All	Focus group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District invested a lot in social work categories, counselors to help identify at-risk or high-risk kids, including homelessness.</li> <li>• Behavioral and academic results are affected by homelessness.</li> <li>• Give gift cards, temporary hotel/housing vouchers, food pantries at schools, mental health &amp; physical health clinics, students facing homelessness can get free services at school-based clinics.</li> </ul>
29.	Clarke County School District	All	Focus group, Stakeholder mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As funding ends, we will lose key staff that helps support needs of students/families outside of school.</li> <li>• Mental health is such a crucial area, for kids and families.</li> <li>• Critical to build trusting relationships with community and among providers.</li> </ul>

	<b>Name of Agency/Org</b>	<b>QP Served</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Feedback Received</b>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School social workers collaborate a lot with local service providers, but it would be helpful to have a better idea of which agency is supporting who (to minimize service duplication, etc.).</li> <li>• Currently offering parent-to-parent groups focused on parenting, financial skills.</li> </ul>
30.	Department of Public Health – Northeast Division	All	Focus group, Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of in-person psychiatric care, easier access to lower-level care. Even if they're insured, they're under-insured and/or lack of providers outside of ABHS.</li> <li>• Specialty Care HIV+ clinic has 700 patients, relied really heavily on Live Forward for housing assistance. Over the last few years with Live Forward's decline, many clients have lost housing because of the loss of funding. So then relied heavily on ABHS Transitional &amp; Rapid Re-Housing Program.</li> </ul>
31.	Dignidad de Inmigrante	All	Focus group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latinx immigrant community has difficulty accessing existing housing and supportive services due to (1) lack of information in Spanish, (2) lack of providers with Spanish-speaking staff, (3) un- and under-documented immigrants not eligible to participate in key government-funded programs, (4) lack of information about how to access/navigate existing services.</li> <li>• More funding and advocacy for immigrant community is needed.</li> <li>• Prioritize supportive services with language support, landlord-tenant liaisons and affordable rental housing.</li> </ul>
32.	Extra Special People	All	Stakeholder mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial statues of families who have someone with a disability</li> <li>• Not many locations that are accessible for individuals with a disability</li> <li>• Lack of resources to pass along to people, especially in housing.</li> </ul>
33.	Family Connection-Communities in Schools (including Neighborhood Leaders)	All	Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's important to engage people experiencing homelessness in these plans.</li> <li>• Prioritize case management, food assistance, landlord-tenant liaison, mediation and transportation.</li> <li>• Ranked priorities are affordable rental housing, TBRA, supportive services, capacity building and non-congregate shelter.</li> <li>• How can we make existing services more accessible to non-English speakers?</li> <li>• Need to also continuously update service provider listings, to reflect current programs, eligibility requirements, etc.</li> </ul>

	<b>Name of Agency/Org</b>	<b>QP Served</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Feedback Received</b>
34.	Georgia Department of Community Supervision	All	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided data about housing status of individuals under supervision. Did not provide any additional comments or feedback on HOME-ARP.</li> </ul>
35.	Georgia Options, Inc	All	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritized affordable rental housing, followed by TBRA, supportive services, NPO capacity building and non-congregate shelters.</li> <li>• Key supportive services to improve/enhance: Employment assistance/job training, food assistance, housing search assistance/counseling, outreach services, mental health, financial housing assistance.</li> </ul>
36.	Goodwill of North Georgia	All	Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The supportive services that are most needed are case management, childcare, transportation, employment assistance/job training, financial housing assistance and rental assistance, and victim services for those who need them.</li> <li>• Prioritize HOME-ARP for affordable rental housing, followed by supportive services, TBRA and non-congregate shelters.</li> </ul>
37.	Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging	All	Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would prioritize affordable rental housing, followed by TBRA and non-congregate shelter (tied), and supportive services.</li> <li>• Recommend focusing HOME-ARP on case management, housing search assistance/counseling, landlord-tenant liaison, outreach services, childcare, employment assistance/job training.</li> </ul>
38.	People Living in Recovery	All	Stakeholder mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health and substance use are huge risk factors, and under-addressed co-occurring conditions to homelessness.</li> <li>• Would like to see more housing/shelter that incorporates substance use recovery, more affordable treatment facilities (including for women w/kids)</li> <li>• Lack of affordable housing stock, and low wages for those transitioning out of supportive housing are problems</li> </ul>
39.	Positive Impact Health Centers	All	Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need different housing to support individuals with different needs. For individuals who have never had housing support, having an apartment within a staffed building/complex who can respond immediately in crisis would be great.</li> </ul>

	Name of Agency/Org	QP Served	Consultation Method	Feedback Received
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More funds, better landlord agency engagement and more partnership. Better housing conditions. Provision for an overnight support service that all agencies could use with highly skilled staff as a lot of issues occur at night. Something akin to the ACT team but for all supported individuals.</li> <li>• There's little support for individuals who don't have experience managing a household. I've seen individuals placed in subsidized/transitional apartments and then get evicted at some point during the course of their tenancy because of antisocial behavior, non-payment of rent or due to persistent unmanaged mental health issues. There needs to be more supported housing with regular staff visits to ensure individuals w/complex health and social needs can sustain housing.</li> <li>• Prioritized affordable rental housing, followed by NPO capacity building, TBRA, non-congregate shelter and supportive services.</li> </ul>
<p>ACCGov also outreached multiple times via email and phone to the following agencies within this category, but did not receive any feedback: Access Point of GA, Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement, Athens Immigrant Rights Coalition, ACC Criminal Justice Division, Bike Athens, Freedom from Bondage Recovery, Fresh Wind Recovery Ministry, Hope Haven of Northeast Georgia, Just Stay Sober Recovery House, Love.Craft Athens, Modern Pathways to Recovery House, Palm House Recovery Center, Second Chance Recovery, etc.</p>				
<b>Others, including Healthcare, Faith-Based Organizations and Business</b>				
40.	Athens First UMC	All	Stakeholder mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended stakeholder meeting, but did not provide specific feedback</li> </ul>
41.	Athens Neighborhood Health Center	All	Focus group, Stakeholder mtg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients often report that they've gone through all local homeless service providers, but still facing housing instability or feel unsafe at existing shelters.</li> <li>• Have one streamlined application that works for multiple programs would help decrease re-traumatization of clients every time they have to tell their story.</li> </ul>
42.	Best Western Athens	Currently homeless, DV+	Stakeholder mtg., Email, Phone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationship between hotel and service providers works well, particularly when case manager is onsite.</li> <li>• Consider turning existing hotels into longer-term transitional housing by installing kitchenettes.</li> </ul>



	<b>Name of Agency/Org</b>	<b>QP Served</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Feedback Received</b>
43.	Inn Between the Hedges	Currently homeless, DV+	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared that they are in the process of having to evict individuals/families who are staying at the hotel, due to lack of payment</li> <li>• Would be interested in a hotel voucher program.</li> </ul>
44.	Mercy Health Center	All	Focus groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service providers in nearby counties seem so overwhelmed, they send clients to Athens because of perception there are more services here.</li> <li>• Would be interesting to have NPO and gov't leaders go through "a day in the life of" to gain true understanding of all obstacles, etc.</li> <li>• Rent increases are forcing individuals out.</li> <li>• ACCGov should find ways to limit outside "predatory" investors to buy out properties that kick out native Athenians that can't afford other units.</li> <li>• More collaboration between service providers would be nice; maybe an online platform to share data.</li> </ul>
45	United Way of Northeast Georgia	All	Stakeholder mtg., Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing services and shelters need to be bolstered and supported.</li> <li>• Families have to choose between working and childcare.</li> <li>• Prioritize affordable housing, followed by TBRA, non-congregate shelter, NPO capacity building and supportive services.</li> <li>• Services most needed include childcare, financial assistance for housing, mental health/substance use support, landlord mediation, employment assistance, housing search assistance.</li> </ul>

## Public Participation

### Description of Public Participation Process

- **Date of Public Notice:** February 12, 2023
- **Public Comment Period:** February 13 – March 7, 2023
- **Date of Public Hearing:** March 7, 2023

The public hearing was held as part of the ACCGov Mayor & Commission Regular Session meeting at City Hall (301 College Avenue, Athens, GA, 30601) on March 7, 2023. The meeting was broadcast live and rebroadcast live on ACTV Spectrum Cable Channel 180, and streamed live online on [www.accgov.com/videos](http://www.accgov.com/videos), on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/accgov](http://www.youtube.com/accgov) or the YouTube app on mobile devices or TV devices by searching @accgov) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/accgov](http://www.facebook.com/accgov)).

### Description of Efforts to Broaden Participation

ACCGov exceeded the minimum public comment period required by HUD (23 days total) to provide multiple opportunities for service providers, stakeholders and community members to submit comments prior to the adoption of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan by the county's Mayor and Commission on March 7, 2023. During the public comment period of February 13 – March 7, 2023, specific efforts to expand public participation included:

- On February 13, 2023, published the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan draft and bilingual (English and Spanish) summary sheets with public comment opportunities on [www.accgov.com/hcd](http://www.accgov.com/hcd).
- Made printed copies of the Allocation Plan and summary sheets available at ACCGov's Housing and Community Development Department (375 Satula Ave, Athens, GA 30601) and the East Athens Development Corporation (410 McKinley Dr., Athens, GA 30601), and by request.
- Accepted written comments in English and Spanish submitted to ACCGov by U.S. Mail, e-mail and an online form at [www.accgov.com/hcd](http://www.accgov.com/hcd). The online Mayor & Commission Agenda Item Comment Form was also available at [www.accgov.com/publicinput](http://www.accgov.com/publicinput).
- Held a drop-in community meeting on February 16, 2023 at the ACC Library (2025 Baxter St., Athens, GA 30606) to encourage participation from residents who might be otherwise reluctant to attend the televised Public Hearing in City Hall on March 7, 2023. A bilingual ACCGov staff member was present to encourage participation from Spanish-speaking individuals.
- Encouraged interested parties to attend and submit public comment during the televised and streamed Mayor & Commission Regular Session public hearing meeting at City Hall (301 College Avenue, Athens, GA, 30601) on March 7, 2023. Recording of this meeting is available at [www.accgov.com/videos](http://www.accgov.com/videos).
- Published advertisement outlining the amount of HOME-ARP that ACCGov will receive, and the range of activities ACCGov may undertake, in the county's largest print outlet *The Athens-Banner Herald* on Sunday, February 12, 2023 ([Appendix E](#)).
- Distributed a media release on February 16, 2023 outlining public participation process and activities.

**Summary of comments and recommendations received through the public participation process either in writing, or orally at a public hearing**

ACCGov’s HCD will enter a narrative response here once the public comment period concludes.

**Summary of comments or recommendations not accepted and the reasons why:**

ACCGov’s HCD will enter a narrative response here once the public comment period concludes.

**Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis**

**Description of HOME-ARP Qualifying Populations within Athens-Clarke County**

*People Currently Experiencing Homelessness*

For the purposes of HOME-ARP, HUD defines “homeless” as someone who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes individuals and families who are “unsheltered” (residing in a place not meant for human habitation) and “sheltered” (staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing).

According to the 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) count, a total of 74 unsheltered homeless individuals and families reside in Athens-Clarke County (Table 2). The 2023 PIT count was conducted on January 27, 2023; however, the data verification was not complete at the time of this assessment and analysis. ACCGov anticipates an increase in the county’s homeless population.

**Table 2. 2022 PIT Count Results**

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	97	49	0	74	220
Total Number of Persons	141	68	0	74	283
Number of Children (under age 18)	40	18	0	1	59
Number of Persons (18-24)	6	14	0	3	23
Number of Persons (over age 24)	95	36	0	70	201

ACCGov also reviewed active clients in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) utilized by local homeless service providers, to determine the number and demographics of active clients enrolled through 2021 (Table 3). HMIS data indicated 1,737 (53%) female, 1,532 (46%) male, and 19 (<1%) non-binary or multiple gender individuals. Almost 2/3 of active clients were Black or African American, while 1/3 were white, with small numbers of individuals from other races. The overwhelming majority of clients in HMIS are non-Hispanic, with only 79 (2.4%) individuals of Hispanic/Latino/a/x ethnicity. 868 clients (26.3%) are under age 18, 207 (6.28%) are age 18 to 24, 1658 (50.3%) are 25 to 54, 473 (14.4%) are 56 to 65, and 83 (2.5%) are age 65 and over. 96 active clients were veterans and 987 had experienced domestic violence.

**Table 3. Demographics of people currently experiencing homelessness in 2021**

	# of Clients	% of Clients
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	1,737	52.7%
Male	1,532	46.5%
Multiple genders, or non-binary	19	<1%
Transgender	n/a	n/a
Non-Binary or Other Fluid Identity	n/a	n/a
<b>Race</b>		
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	12	0.36%
Asian or Asian American	3	0.09%
Black, African American, or African	2,094	63.45%
Multi-Racial	109	3.30%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	9	0.27%
White	1,055	31.97%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	79	2.40%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)	3,211	97.45%
<b>Age Group</b>		
Under 18	868	26.34%
18 to 24	207	6.28%
25 to 54	1658	50.32%
55 to 64	473	14.36%
65 and Over	83	2.52%
<b>Veteran Status</b>		
Is a veteran	91	2.8%
<b>Domestic Violence</b>		
Has experienced DV	987	30.0%
<b>Disability</b>		
Has a disabling condition	1,640	49.77%

*Source: HMIS. Note: Percentages do not necessarily add up to 100, as missing responses were excluded*

### ***People at Risk of Homelessness***

For the purpose of HOME-ARP, HUD generally defines those “at risk of homelessness” as an individual or family that (1) earns less than 30% of the HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI), and (2) has insufficient resources to prevent them from becoming homeless, and (3) meets at least one other condition that indicates housing instability (e.g., moves frequently for economic reasons, lives in severely overcrowded housing, has received an eviction notice, etc.).

CHAS 2015-2019 data indicates a total of 11,915 extremely low-income households ( $\leq$  30% HAMFI) in Athens-Clarke County, of which 10,245 (86%) are renters and 1,670 (14%) are

homeowners (Table 4). These individuals are more likely to be burdened by housing costs (Table 5), participate in eviction prevention programs (28% of participants in [ACCGov's ARPA-funded Eviction Prevention Program](#) were extremely low income, Figure 1), and live in the home of someone else or in overcrowded conditions because of economic hardships (CHAS 2015-2019). Additional data in this qualifying population is included in Appendix F.

**Table 4. Household Income Distribution Overview**

	Owner	Renter	Total (%)
Household Income ≤ 30% HAMFI	1,670	10,245	11,915 (24%)
Household Income >30% to ≤50% HAMFI	1,865	5,455	7,320 (15%)
Household Income >50% to ≤80% HAMFI	2,805	6,350	9,155 (19%)
Household Income >80% to ≤100% HAMFI	1,700	2,715	4,415 (9%)
Household Income >100% HAMFI	11,020	5,015	16,035 (33%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,060</b>	<b>29,780</b>	<b>48,845 (100%)</b>

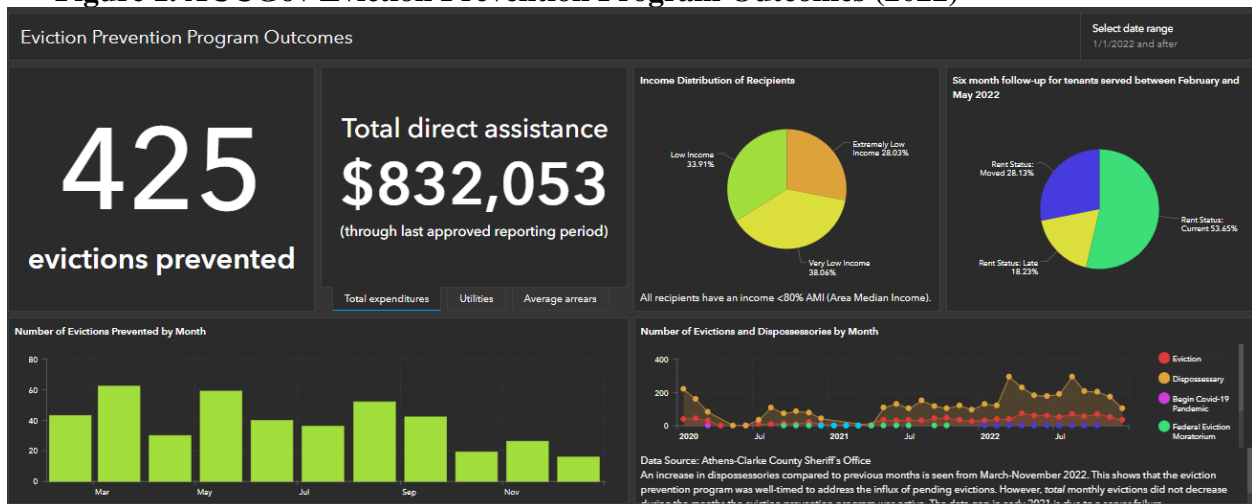
Source: 2015-2019 CHAS

**Table 5. Household Income by Housing Cost Burden (Owners and Renters)**

	Cost burden > 30%	Cost burden > 50%	Total
Household Income ≤ 30% HAMFI	9,400	8,140	11,915
Household Income >30% to ≤50% HAMFI	5,615	2,110	7,320
Household Income >50% to ≤80% HAMFI	3,390	440	9,155
Household Income >80% to ≤100% HAMFI	545	125	4,415
Household Income >100% HAMFI	520	85	16,035
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,470</b>	<b>10,905</b>	<b>48,845</b>

Source: 2015-2019 CHAS

**Figure 1. ACCGov Eviction Prevention Program Outcomes (2022)**



### ***People Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking***

Data from local housing and supportive programs designed for members of this qualifying population indicate that domestic violence, dating violence and sexual assault are prevalent issues in our community. For example, [Project Safe](#) offered temporary shelter to 131 clients in 2021 (2021 Annual Report) and [Divas Who Win](#) assisted 58+ domestic abuse survivors in 2021 and 106 in 2022. The Western Circuit District Attorney’s Office Data Dashboard indicated that 19 family violence cases were filed in ACC in 2021 (vs. 93 in 2019 and 78 in 2020).

[The Cottage](#) served 339 survivors of sexual assault residing in Athens-Clarke County, while Divas Who Win also served 86 survivors of sexual violence in 2022. FBI Crime Data Explorer [NIBRS table](#) indicated a total of 168 sex offenses reported within ACC in 2021.

The Cottage reported serving 7 trafficking survivors in 2021, while Divas Who Win assisted 2 survivors of sex trafficking in obtaining permanent housing in 2021 and provided supportive services to 11 others in 2022. Only 2 cases of “Trafficking – Commercial Sex Acts” were recorded in Athens-Clarke County in 2022 (vs. 1 in 2021), according to the ACCPD [Crime Map](#) and the FBI Crime Data Explorer [NIBRS table](#).

Furthermore, the 2022 [Point-in-Time Count](#) indicated that at least 37 individuals (13% of the surveyed population) in Athens-Clarke County were experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Fifteen of them were unsheltered at the time of the survey. The percent of PIT count respondents who are survivors of domestic violence has fluctuated widely in the past several years, from a low of 5% in 2020 to a high of 39% in 2017. Additional data on this qualifying population is included in Appendix F.

#### ***Other populations***

For the purpose of HOME-ARP, this qualifying population includes individuals and families that (1) have previously experienced homelessness, are currently housed through temporary or emergency assistance, or need additional supporting services to avoid return to homelessness, (2) are experiencing severe housing cost burden, or (3) have an annual income between 30-50% HAMFI (very low income) and meet other conditions that indicate housing instability (e.g., moves frequently for economic reasons, lives in severely overcrowded housing, has received an eviction notice, etc.).

Per Table 4 above, CHAS 2015-2019 data indicates that there are 19,235 households in Athens-Clarke County earning less than or equal to 50% of the HAMFI. The vast majority (78%) of these households spend more than 30% of their monthly income on housing costs, with 53% of them spending more than 50% on these costs. The number of households experiencing housing cost burden represents ~31% of all households in the county.

Similar to the “At Risk” qualifying population, they are more likely to participate in eviction prevention programs (66% of participants in [ACCGov’s ARPA-funded Eviction Prevention Program](#) were extremely or very low income) and live in the home of someone else or in overcrowded conditions because of economic hardships (CHAS 2015-2019). Additional data in this qualifying population is included in Appendix F.

## **Description of Unmet Housing and Service Needs for Qualifying Populations**

### ***Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5***

Sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations need access to beds and units, with an emphasis on individuals or adult-only households. The 2022 PIT noted 68% of the 283 individuals experiencing homelessness were in an adult-only household, and preliminary data from the 2023 PIT reinforce this finding. This does not diminish the need for units for families with children, as we anticipate seeing an increase in families experiencing homelessness when the 2023 PIT count is completed. Meetings with stakeholder and focus groups echoed the need for affordable units for both individuals and families. Provider-owned transitional and permanent supportive housing for individuals was particularly identified in stakeholder meetings. The need for supportive services for homeless populations is also evident through the stakeholder and community surveys received. The primary service need identified from both stakeholders and community surveys was housing search assistance, which further highlights the lack of affordable units in ACC. Many other housing services were also noted as unmet needs including, but not limited to, case management, financial assistance (housing), food assistance, mental health services and employment training.

### ***At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5***

The unmet needs for the populations at risk of homelessness include resources for rental and utility assistance and development of affordable rental housing units. Inadequate supply of affordable rental housing inventory was a constant theme among survey responses and stakeholder consultations. There are 11,915 extremely low-income households ( $\leq 30\%$  AMI) in ACC, of which 86% are renters and 14% are homeowners. Additionally, instances of households containing multiple families, overcrowding, and students living doubled up with another household contribute to the populations at risk of homelessness in ACC. Lack of educational attainment is noted with 1,897 owner-occupied households and 2,015 renter households have a householder who did not graduate High School. An increased stock of available and affordable rental housing units would alleviate this unmet need. Other resources such as supportive services for housing search counseling, childcare, transportation assistance, and workforce development training or employment opportunities that would increase household income were highlighted in group meetings to address the unmet housing needs of the qualifying population.

### ***Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice***

Lack of affordable rental units, non-congregate shelter and transitional housing were cited by the stakeholder group as a high need for serving persons escaping domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking. ACC has limited housing units and services available for this often-underreported qualifying population. Existing traditional homeless shelters available cannot adequately meet the complex needs of victims. Safety, confidentiality and specialized supportive programs are required to properly serve this clientele. Similar housing services identified by other qualifying populations are needed in addition to building capacity in staffing and programs specialized in serving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking survivors.

*Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability as defined by HUD in the Notice*

The unmet needs for the populations needing assistance to prevent homelessness or at risk of greater housing instability are the same as those mentioned previously, including supportive services and development of affordable rental housing units. The primary housing issue affecting most renter and homeowner households on the edge of homelessness in ACC is that they are housing cost burdened. Elderly households have at a greater risk of experiencing cost burden. Financial support to obtain and maintain housing is required for this population. Additionally, an increased stock of available and affordable housing units would alleviate this unmet need. Other resources such as supportive services including but not limited to childcare, housing counseling, and workforce development training or employment opportunities that would increase household income could also assist in addressing the unmet housing needs of the qualifying population.

Other Populations that qualify include those at risk of housing instability or in unstable housing situations include the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons reporting substance abuse, and victims of domestic violence. Limited income and high service needs to support independence are factors that contribute to housing instability. Additionally, persons exiting institutions such as incarceration, foster care, in-patient medical/hospital stays often end up homeless. Limited services to connect these individuals to housing combined with the lack of affordable units further underscores the needs for additional housing services and affordable rental and supportive housing units in ACC.

**Description of gaps within the current shelter and housing inventory as well as the service delivery system:**

The 2022 Continuum of Care Point in Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Counts (HIC) show there is a need to continue to invest in shelter and housing for the homeless population. The 2022 PIT showed 73 unsheltered homeless adults without children and 119 adults without children in emergency or transitional shelter. Comparatively there were 0 unsheltered homeless families identified in the 2022 PIT but 27 homeless families (90 persons) in emergency or transitional shelter.

The Homeless Needs Inventory Gap Analysis shows a surplus of 24 Family beds in emergency shelter and transitional housing compared to homeless population of Family households with at least 1 child. The analysis indicates that a gap exists for adult households without children of 57 beds. One contributing factor to this shortage of beds is the loss of 36 beds due to needed facility repairs. According to this data, shelter bed inventory is not sufficient to meet the need in ACC, however, shelter bed capacity is not the only factor that impacts homelessness. In the 2022 PIT count ACCGov gathered supplemental data to augment the HUD requirements. The unsheltered persons interviewed cited the following barriers to obtaining shelter: No beds available, unable to stay with pet, banned from shelter, unable to secure their belongings, no phone/call in method. The focus group comprised of Domestic Violence and Victim Service providers also indicated a need for non-congregate shelter and stronger protective rights as traditional shelters are not ideal for that special population.



There is a demonstrated housing inventory gap of rental units available to extremely and very low income populations, as shown in the table below. 81.1% of extremely low income residents are spending more than 30% of their income on rent, with 70.1% of extremely low income households experiencing severe cost burden (spending >50% of income on rent). Among very low income residents 51.1% are spending more than 30% of their income on rent, and 28.3% are severely cost burdened. Table 8 was created using CHAS 2015-2019 data, and Athens-Clarke County has seen an increase in housing costs across the board in the past three years, with extreme rent increases seen in some previously affordable units.

**Table 6. Homeless Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis**

	Current Inventory			Homeless Population				Gap Analysis	
	Family	Adults Only	Vets (subset of adults only population)	Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Vets	Victims of DV	Family	Adults Only
	# of Beds	# of Beds	# of Beds					# of Beds	# of Beds
Emergency Shelter (2022 HIC)**	84	79	-						
Transitional Housing (2022 HIC)	30	56	-						
Permanent Housing* (2022 HIC)	174	184	110						
Sheltered Homeless (2022 PIT)				90	119	7	22		
Unsheltered Homeless (2022 PIT)				0	73	10	15		
<b>Current Gap</b>								0	57

*Data Sources: 1. Point in Time Count (PIT); 2. Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count (HIC); 3. Consultation. Notes: Permanent Housing here includes PSH, VA-VASH, and rapid rehousing. \*\*36 beds were subtracted from the 2022 HIC count due to the current closure of the Salvation Army men's shelter*

**Table 7. Housing Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis of At-Risk and Other Populations**

	<b>Current Inventory</b>	<b>Level of Need</b>	<b>Gap Analysis</b>
	# of Units	# of Households	# of Households
Total Rental Units	30,697*		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI (At-Risk of Homelessness)	2,995+	<b>10,245+</b>	
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 50% AMI (Other Populations)		<b>5,455+</b>	
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (At-Risk of Homelessness)		7,320+	
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (Other Populations)		1,710+	
<b>Current Gaps</b>			<b>11,065+</b>

Data Sources: +Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) 2015-2019; \*American Community Survey (2017-2021)

**Table 8. Rental Unit Affordability in ACC**

<b>Rental Unit Affordability</b>	<b>Occupant Income Category</b>				
	<b>0-30% HAMFI</b>	<b>30-50% HAMFI</b>	<b>50-80% HAMFI</b>	<b>80-100% HAMFI</b>	<b>&gt;100% HAMFI</b>
Rental Units Affordable and Available at Less Than 30% HAMFI	1,940	375	525	60	160
Rental Units Affordable and Available at 30-50% HAMFI	3,585	2,290	2,310	660	805
Rental Units Affordable and Available at 50-80% HAMFI	3,785	2,545	3,085	1,725	3,135
Rental Units Affordable and Available at 80-100% HAMFI	935	245	435	270	915

Data Sources: CHAS 2015-2019

Athens Housing Authority provided current waitlist data, demonstrating the need for increased public housing capacity. As of January 1, 2023 3294 extremely low income and 220 very low income households were on the Athens Housing Authority waitlist. Households have spent an average of 670 days on the waitlist, with 1 and 2 person households experiencing the longest wait times, at 689 and 708 days respectively. 1 person households account for 48.9% of the current waitlist, while 2 person households account for an additional 27.3%. Racial demographics of households on the waitlist include 72.6% Black households, 19.6% white households, and 5.9% households of multiple races.

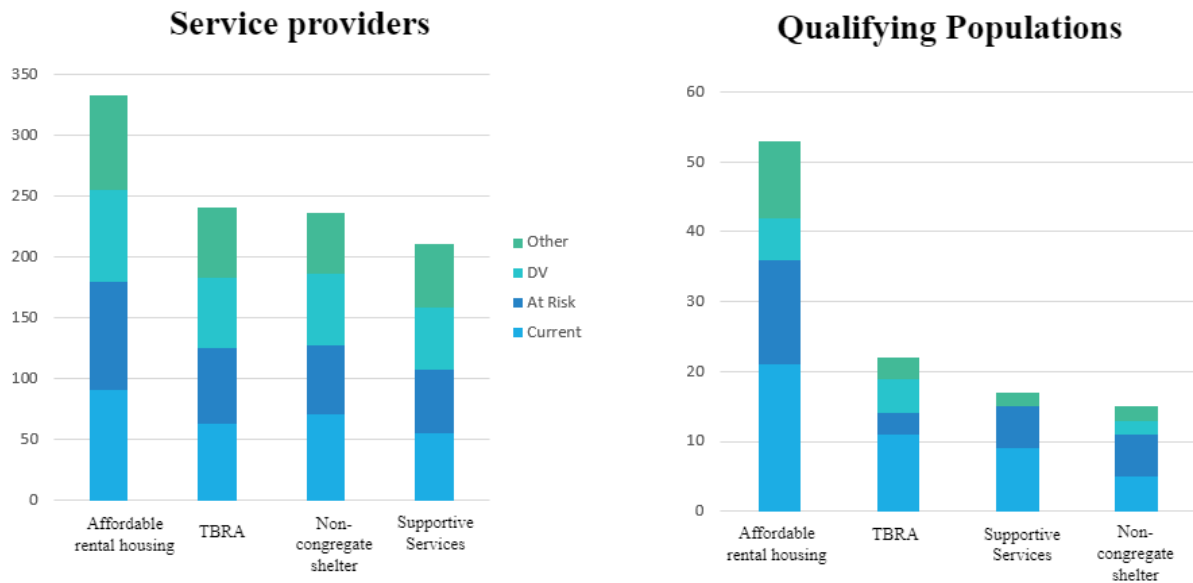
Poor housing quality is another burden faced by extremely and very low-income households. Per CHAS 2015-2019 data, 55 extremely low income renter households and 90 very low income renter households live in a house lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities. Minor housing quality issues are more common, with 13% of respondents reporting pests, 8% reporting mold, and 9% reporting cracks or holes in the most recent [Athens Wellbeing Project survey](#). Feedback received during stakeholder sessions and focus groups indicates that there is both a gap in tenant knowledge of how to address housing quality concerns, as well as a gap in landlord willingness or ability to quickly address problems, especially in lower rent units.

**Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:**

Affordable Rental Housing has been identified by ACCGov through consolidated planning as a priority need for the community at large, the data collection and stakeholder engagement and input for this HOME-ARP Allocation Plan has highlighted that affordable rental housing is a crucial need for those in all qualifying populations. Figures 2 show the priority needs for each qualifying population as obtained in survey results.

A common theme throughout all discussions with focus groups, stakeholders and individual interviews the need to increase capacity to bolster existing supportive services for the qualifying populations was ever present. Strengthening and improving the system to connect those experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness to housing and providing wrap-around services to ensure successful housing is a priority for our community.

**Figure 2. Activity prioritization by service providers and qualifying populations**



**Explain how the PJ determined the level of need and gaps in the PJ’s shelter and housing inventory and service delivery systems based on the data presented in the plan:**

Various sources and methods of data collection were utilized by ACCGov staff to obtain accurate and timely information, including:

- Point-In-Time (PIT) January 2022
- Housing Inventory County (HIC) January, 2022
- Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data
- American Community Survey (ACS) data
- ACCGov Consolidated Plan
- Service provider survey
- Service provider consultation
- Community survey
- Interviews with members of qualifying populations

Quantitative data analysis and qualitative stakeholder input were instrumental in determining the needs and gaps of ACC’s shelter and housing inventory as well as service delivery systems.

**HOME-ARP Activities**

**Describe the method(s) that will be used for soliciting applications for funding and/or selecting developers, service providers, subrecipients and/or contractors:**

Applications for activities not directly administered by ACCGov will be solicited from developers, service providers, subrecipients and/or contractors through requests for proposals following ACCGov procurement policies and regulations as specified for Federal programs.

**Describe whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly:**

ACCGov may administer eligible activities directly, if needed.

**If any portion of the PJ’s HOME-ARP administrative funds are provided to a subrecipient or contractor prior to HUD’s acceptance of the HOME-ARP allocation plan because the subrecipient or contractor is responsible for the administration of the PJ’s entire HOME-ARP grant, identify the subrecipient or contractor and describe its role and responsibilities in administering all of the PJ’s HOME-ARP program:**

A subrecipient or contractor is not responsible for the administration of the County’s entire HOME-ARP grant.

In accordance with Section V.C.2. of the Notice (page 4), PJs must indicate the amount of HOME-ARP funding that is planned for each eligible HOME-ARP activity type and demonstrate that any planned funding for nonprofit organization operating assistance, nonprofit capacity building, and administrative costs is within HOME-ARP limits (Table 9).

**Table 9. Use of HOME-ARP Funding**

	<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b>Percent of the Grant</b>	<b>Statutory Limit</b>
Supportive Services	\$ 625,000		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ 0		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 0		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 1,300,000		
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 125,315	5%	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 125,315	5%	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 330,679	13 %	15%
<b>Total HOME ARP Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 2,506,309</b>		

**Describe how the PJ will distribute HOME-ARP funds in accordance with its priority needs identified in its needs assessment and gap analysis:**

Table 9 shows the HOME-ARP budget and the amount of funding allocated for each eligible HOME-ARP activity type. The County will allocate over half (52%) of its allocation to the development of affordable rental housing. The remaining funds will go toward HOME-ARP Supportive Services, Non-Profit Operating, Non-Profit Capacity Building and Administration and Planning.

**Describe how the characteristics of the shelter and housing inventory, service delivery system, and the needs identified in the gap analysis provided a rationale for the plan to fund eligible activities:**

HOME-ARP funds must be used to primarily benefit the qualifying populations through the four eligible activities: tenant based rental assistance (TBRA), development and support of affordable housing, provision of supportive services, and acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter (NCS) units. The characteristics of the shelter and housing inventory, service delivery system, and the needs identified in the gap analysis demonstrated the greatest needs in the county are the development of affordable rental housing units, and supportive wrap-around services for qualifying populations.

The prioritization of the development of affordable rental units is evidenced by the significant percentage (34%) of renter households in the county that have a household income of  $\leq 30\%$  HAMFI. More than 70% of these renter households are severely cost burdened by paying more than half of their income towards housing costs. The housing needs and gap analysis table shows a gap of 11,065 households with no affordable rental units. The need for supportive services to the qualifying populations has been documented through stakeholder and community engagement activities. More than 45 agencies and service providers as well as 211 individuals representing the qualifying populations were consulted during this process and supportive services to support the qualifying populations was identified as a priority need in Athens.

TBRA and development of NCS, two of the eligible housing activities under HOME-ARP, are not being funded through this HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. Although TBRA was ranked among the priority needs in survey responses, the lack of capacity with our current providers coupled with the significant gap in available affordable rental units does not support the allocation of any HOME-ARP funds to this activity type. While shelter bed analysis demonstrates a need for additional beds for adult only households, stakeholder and community input prioritized increasing the affordable rental stock. ACCGov is currently developing a Strategic Plan to Prevent and Reduce Homelessness that will help inform project selections under ARPA funding as well as future funding opportunities such as CDBG and HOME. Activities not included in this allocation plan may be addressed through these future opportunities.

The use of HOME-ARP funds for the development of affordable rental housing and supportive services will help address the gap of affordable rental units needed to serve the Qualifying Populations.

### **HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals**

#### ***Estimate the number of affordable rental housing units for qualifying populations that the PJ will produce or support with its HOME-ARP allocation:***

ACCGov estimates it will produce or support the development of 5-10 affordable rental housing units for qualifying populations. This equates to a per-unit subsidy range of \$130,000 to \$260,000. The maximum per-unit subsidy established in NAHA does not apply to HOME-ARP units. No less than 70% of the affordable rental housing units acquired, rehabilitated or constructed with HOME-ARP funds must be occupied by households in the qualifying populations. As mentioned previously in this plan, ACCGov is currently developing a Strategic Plan to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness and a separate Affordable Housing Investment Strategic Plan. The desired result of these overarching plans to address affordable housing deficiencies is to critically consider all available and future funding sources as well as policy to improve the affordable housing inventory in Athens. Future funding opportunities to leverage the HOME-ARP allocation may help us in increasing the total number of affordable rental units in the county.

#### ***Describe the specific affordable rental housing production goal that the PJ hopes to achieve and describe how the production goal will address the PJ's priority needs:***

ACCGov will provide HOME-ARP funding to address the lack of affordable rental housing and service needs and achieve the goal of production and preservation of affordable housing and supportive services. ACCGov will address the priority need by funding the development of new rental units to benefit qualifying populations, including very low income households at or below 30% AMI and households at risk of homelessness with incomes of 30-50% AMI. Development activities may include acquisition, new construction or rehabilitation. Through creation of affordable rental units and increasing supportive services, HOME-ARP funding will contribute to the overarching goal of reducing homelessness and housing instability for the most vulnerable populations.

## Preferences

*Identify whether the PJ intends to give preference to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project:*

ACCGov does not intend to give preference to one or more qualifying populations or subpopulations for specific activities under the HOME-ARP Plan.

ACCGov will invite all relevant agencies serving all HOME-ARP qualified populations to submit proposals for funding to carry out the eligible activities identified on Table 9. ACCGov will work with subrecipients to ensure that all qualified populations have access to every activity funded by HOME-ARP.

*If a preference was identified, explain how the use of a preference or method of prioritization will address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or subpopulation of qualifying population, consistent with the PJ's needs assessment and gap analysis:*

No specific preferences identified.

## Referral Methods

*Identify the referral methods that the PJ intends to use for its HOME-ARP projects and activities. PJ's may use multiple referral methods in its HOME-ARP program:*

A list of projects and activities funded through the HOME-ARP program will be made available through communication to the Athens Homeless Coalition and local listservs to ensure providers serving qualifying populations are aware of the new resources. HOME-ARP funded projects and activities will serve applicants of their programs on a first come-first eligible-first served basis.

*If the PJ intends to use the coordinated entry (CE) process established by the CoC, describe whether all qualifying populations eligible for a project or activity will be included in the CE process, or the method by which all qualifying populations eligible for the project or activity will be covered:*

ACCGov does not intend to use the coordinated entry (CE) process for referrals.

*If the PJ intends to use the CE process established by the CoC, describe the method of prioritization to be used by the CE:*

ACCGov does not intend to use the coordinated entry (CE) process for referrals.

*If the PJ intends to use both a CE process established by the CoC and another referral method for a project or activity, describe any method of prioritization between the two referral methods, if any:*

ACCGov does not intend to use the coordinated entry (CE) or other process for referrals.

## **Limitations in a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project**

*Describe whether the PJ intends to limit eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project to a particular qualifying population or specific subpopulation of a qualifying population identified in section IV.A of the Notice:*

ACCGov does not intend to limit eligibility for HOME-ARP Rental Housing.

*If a PJ intends to implement a limitation, explain why the use of a limitation is necessary to address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or subpopulation of qualifying population, consistent with the PJ's needs assessment and gap analysis:*

ACCGov does not intend to limit eligibility for HOME-ARP Rental Housing.

*If a limitation was identified, describe how the PJ will address the unmet needs or gaps in benefits and services of the other qualifying populations that are not included in the limitation through the use of HOME-ARP funds (i.e., through another of the PJ's HOME-ARP projects or activities):*

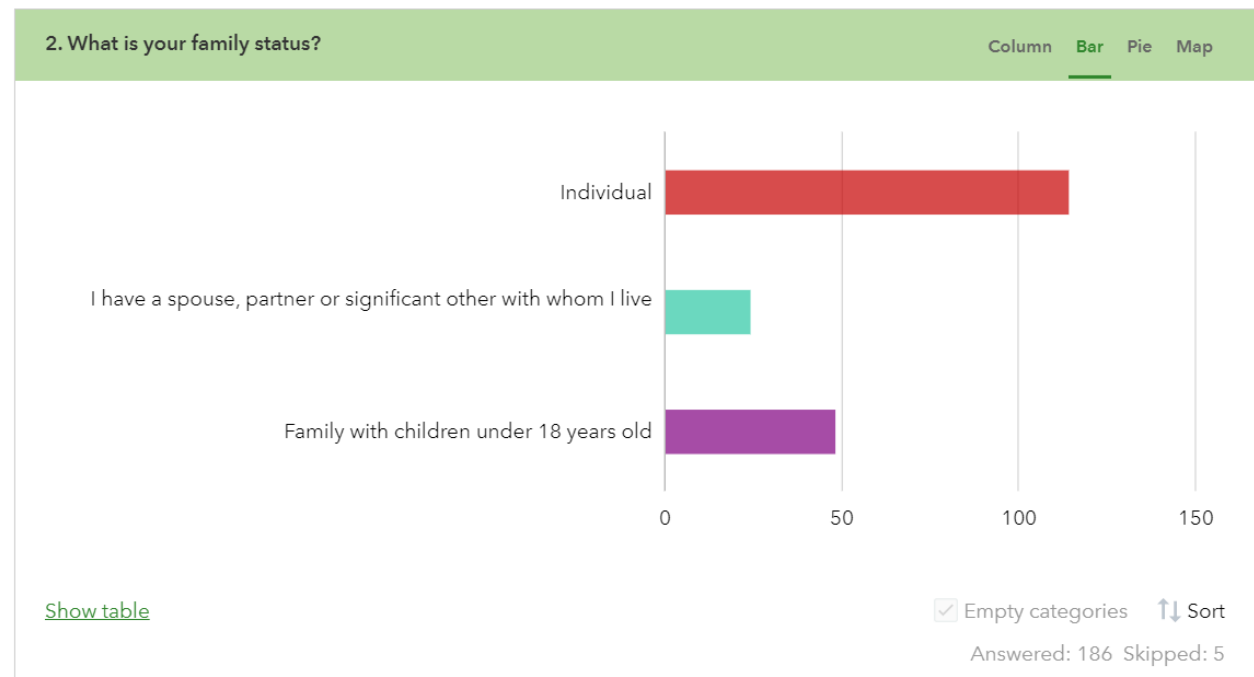
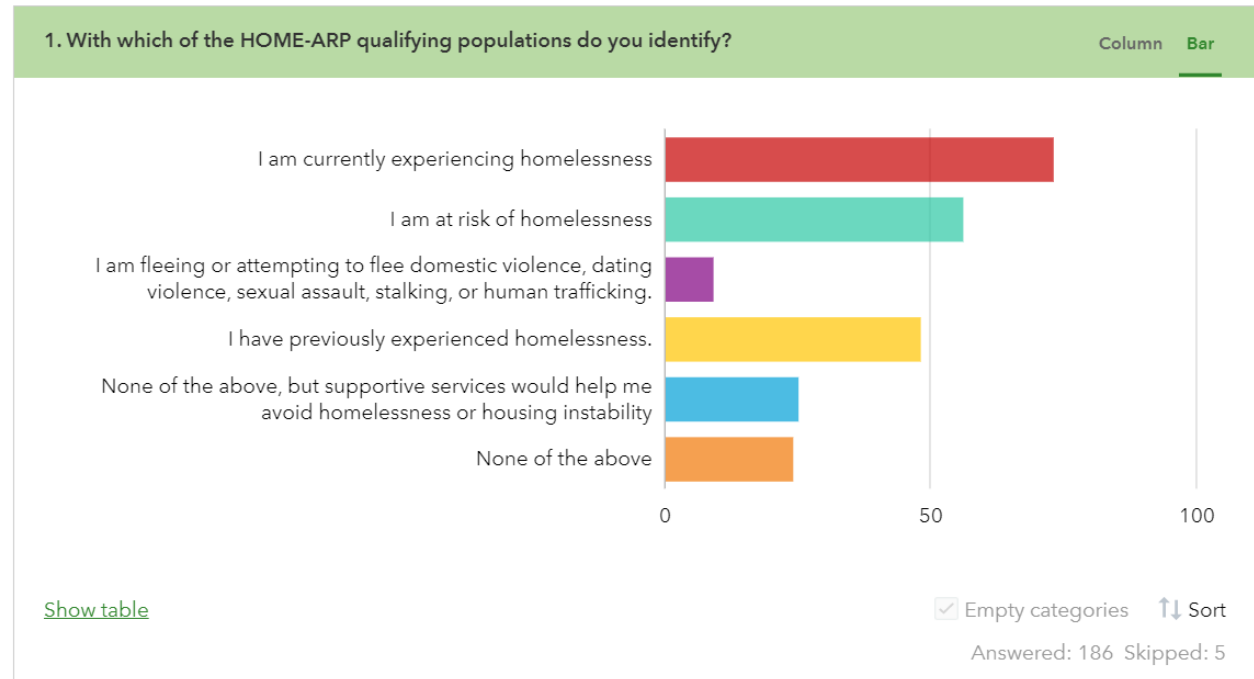
ACCGov does not intend to limit eligibility for HOME-ARP Rental Housing.

## **HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines**

ACCGov does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds.

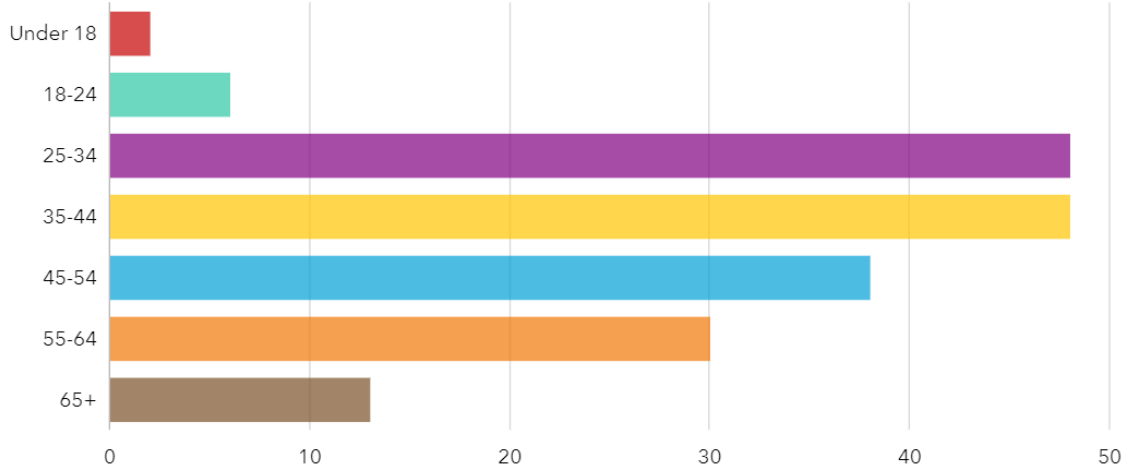


## Appendix A: Community Survey Responses



### 3. What's your age range?

Column **Bar** Pie Map



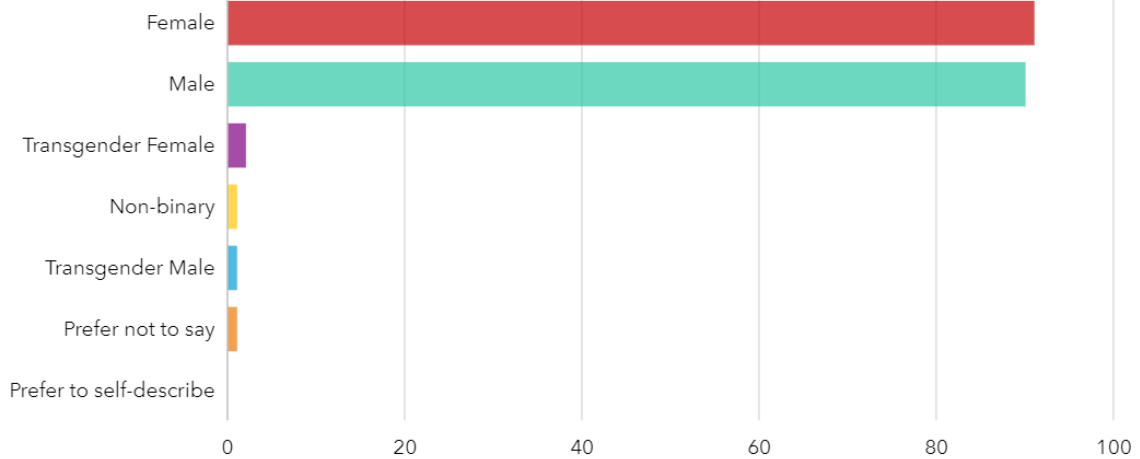
[Show table](#)

Empty categories [Sort](#)

Answered: 185 Skipped: 6

### 4. Which best describes your gender identity?

Column **Bar** Pie Map



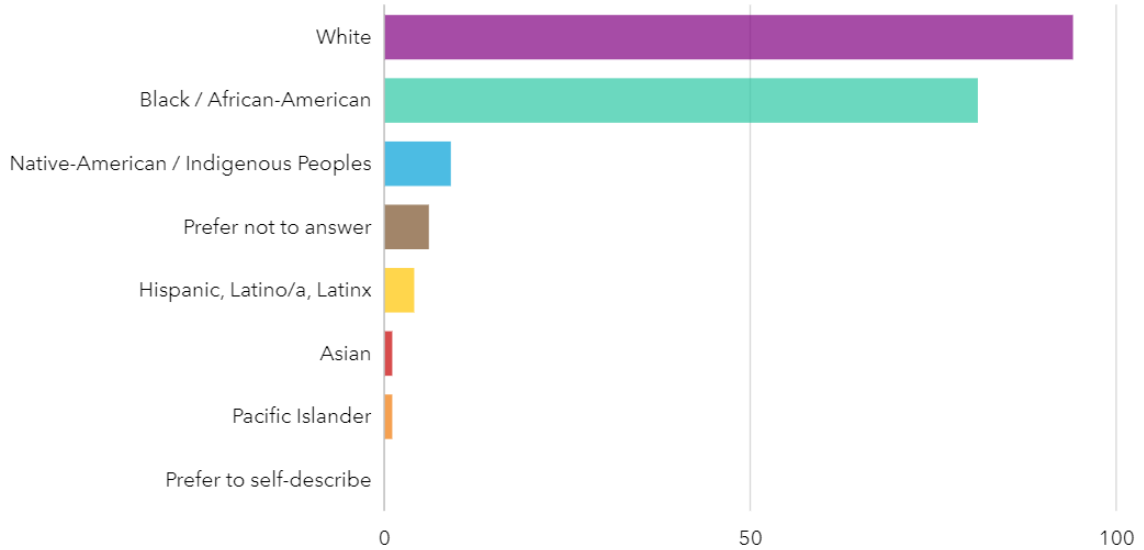
[Show table](#)

Empty categories [Sort](#)

Answered: 186 Skipped: 5

5. What's your race and/or ethnicity?

Column **Bar**



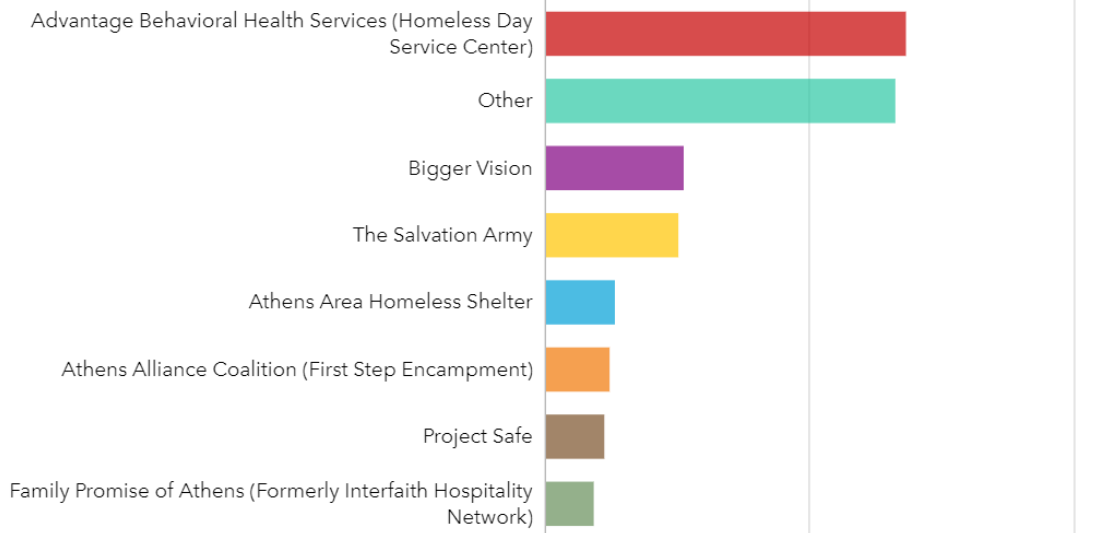
[Show table](#)

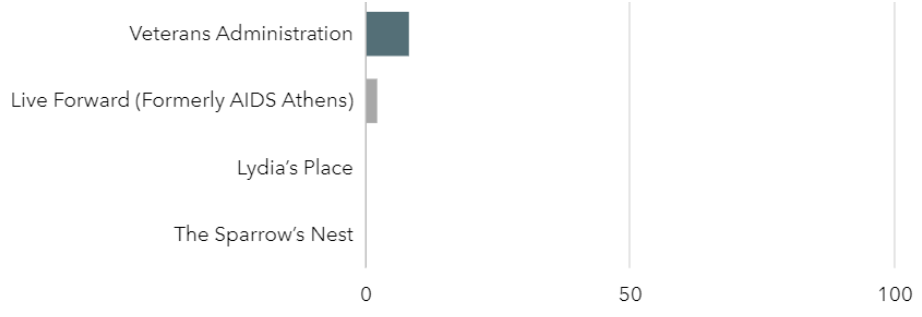
Empty categories [↑↓ Sort](#)

Answered: 185 Skipped: 6

6. What organizations or programs are you currently engaged with, or have engaged with in the past?

Column **Bar**





[Hide table](#)

Other response  Empty categories

Response	Count
ARC	10
None	3
Acceptance Recovery Center	3
ARC, FDC	2
Action	2
United Way	1
The ark, emergency clinic	1
Staying in a friend's building	1
Ssi, food stamps	1
Spring hope church, first baptist church, united methodist church	1
Social service	1

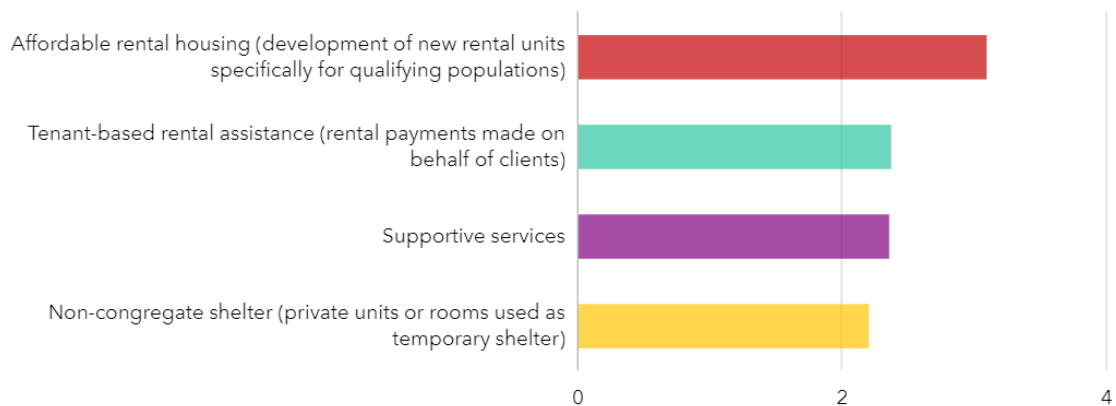
Serendipity Recovery Anything's Possible	1
River Edge	1
Rental Assistance Community Affairs	1
Put out abhs housing illegally and caused me medical health problems and troubles to be requesting and asking monetary damages now and I haven't been paid yet.	1
Partnership of Community services	1
N/A	1
Mitchell bridge abhs	1
Mercy clinic, freedom center (Diva's), AA -biscayne, no longer there	1
HUD/VASH thru Veterans	1
Hope springs outreach center	1
Georgia Athens regional	1
Gateway	1
GA DEPT COMM AFFAIRS RENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM..FOODSTAMP MEDICAID...DIDABILTY APPLICATION PENDING WITH SSA WINDER GA	1
Food stamps	1
First Baptist church, united Methodist church	1
Energy. Assistant	1
Department of Public Health	1
DEACS, Potter House, ARC, FDC, FTC	1
Daily bread	1
Clay health clinician 1270 Prince Avenue	1

Churches and others	1
Athens Recovery Center	1
Athens Community Council on Aging	1
Athens Clinic	1
Athens Baptist church meals and hope springs ministries	1
ARC Dawson County Drug Court	1
American Red Cross	1
Advantage mental health services	1
Acceptance Recovery	1
Section. 8 Housing low income medical insurance	1

Answered: 161 Skipped: 30

7. In your opinion, which of the following is most needed in Athens?

Column Bar



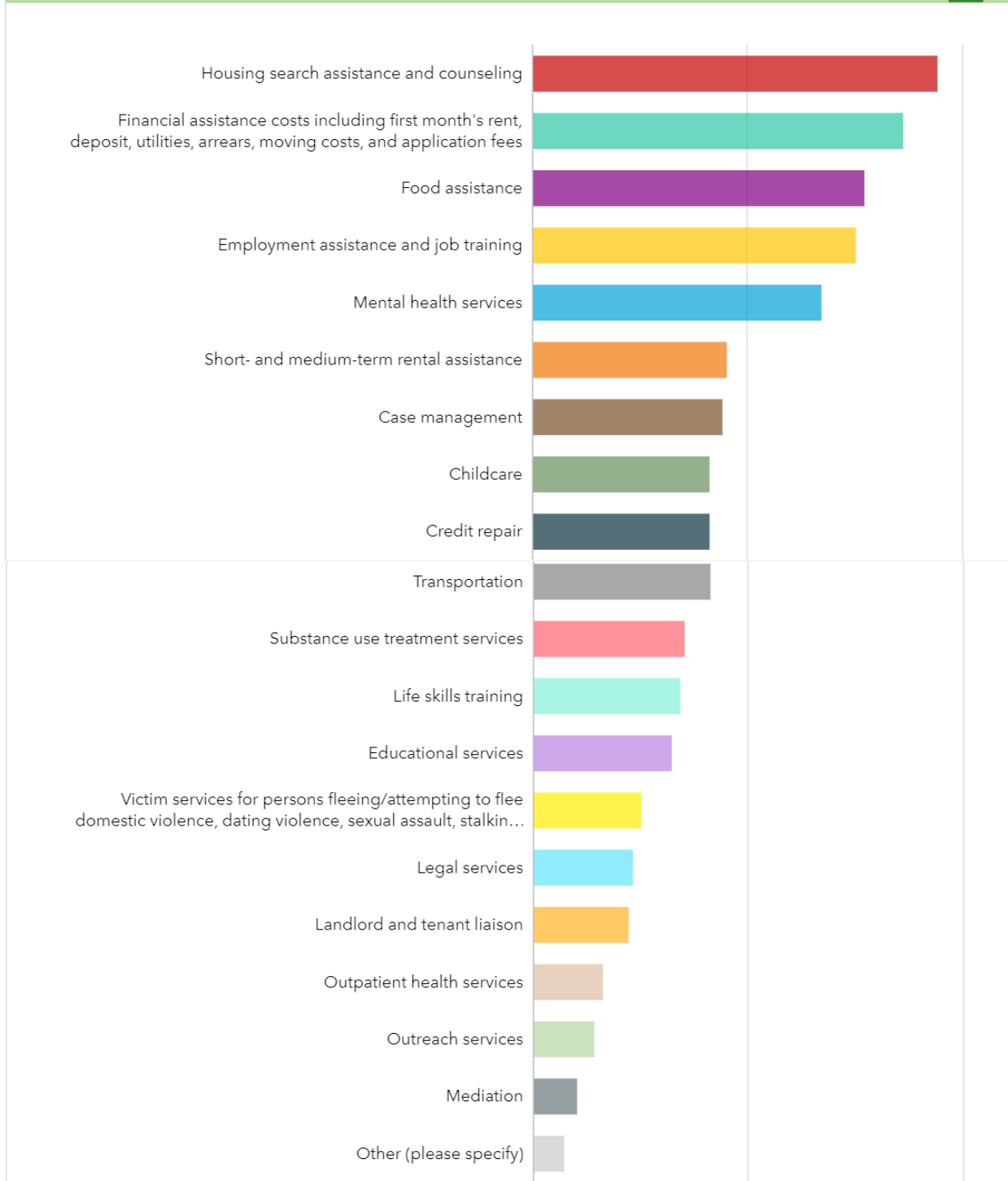
[Show table](#)

Show/hide choices Sort

Answered: 137 Skipped: 54

8. Select the top 5 supportive services you believe are most needed for the 4 priority populations:

Column Bar



[Hide table](#)

Other response  Empty categories  Sort

Response	Count
Weather assistance	1
Sopport groups, (anger management) , glasses	1
Solve the problem not medicate the problem	1
quality affordable housing	1
NOTE FROM ADMIN - Also selected: Outpatient Health Services; Financial assistance costs including first month's rent, etc AND Short- and medium-term rental assistance	1
Independent living housing for individuals dealing with mental disabilities.	1

Answered: 182 Skipped: 9

### 9. What could local agencies do to make these services more accessible to people who need them?


[Word cloud](#) 

Response	Count
N/A	8
Advertising	4
Advertise	3
Work more closely with Athen's churches, temples, & mosques, that currently provide shelter, food and safe place s. Also, engage UGA...they don't pay taxes leaving us to bear the costs. UGA could provide transportation (they h ave so many busses), medical/health services, job training, etc.	1
Website resources list	1
Use all available local media to inform prospective clients of available resources as well as how to access the servi ces, including transportation	1
Transportation	1
Too many people not enough services	1
They help some people and some people it doesn't help some.	1



They already doing good.	1
The issue is not the services provided but the larger economical aspect that the County continues to approve student housing for UGA off campus thus removing space and affordable options for lower income people in prime areas surrounding downtown. The County needs to put their foot down or impose an agreement for every unit of student housing approved UGA shall fund a unit at another site for affordable housing in the county. UGA encompasses over 750 acres but for some reason they can't find room to build more efficient housing for their ever increasing population on that land? Most Students have a minimal impact on the economy since they really do not spend much.	1
Talk to them to see what that individual needs most	1
Talk to the person before having them fill out paperwork (get the basics, get me in)	1
Survey through other Agencies like Red Cross, St Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, School Social Worker etc.	1
Stop turning away people, make qualifications less strict	1
Stop lying to the public and not familiar with the system you working with, have pleasant personality with the people make sure that they understand the program.	1
Stay open 24/7 Open to the public	1
Start more programs that help the homeless	1
Staff being more involved.	1
Spending more time asking what's needed, census	1
Speak more about them. Put effort into them.	1
Resources list	1
Recovery programs	1
Reach out to the community	1
Reach out to people who really need the service	1
Reach out through schools and mail	1
Reach out on Facebook, Newspapers ads,. Text messages through phone.	1

Answered: 143 Skipped: 48

**10. What other ideas do you have to help reduce & prevent homelessness in Athens?** Word cloud 

Response	Count
N/A	9
None	3
NA	3
More homeless shelters	2
Would like non-congregate shelter at Howard Johnson	1
Work-ready program	1
Using funds- not all has been used	1
Transitional services	1
To help everyone that is homeless and use money properly.	1
Support from the property owners	1
Stop rent from rising and minimum wage is not efficient	1
Stop approving student housing outside the campus. UGA should only admit what they can house.	1
Stop all the price gouging from landlords it's not just them it's everywhere you go people are gouging prices \$6 per gallon of milk unheard of but that's supposed to be okay I think we need to do something about all the price gouging if some of that would stop maybe some of us lower class citizens would be able to survive more on our own than with the help of the local agencies such as welfare food stamps take a few minutes and look at price gouging s a good place to start thank you	1
Stimulus payment type options; a weekly stipend, a service provided through businesses, grocery stores, and banks.	1
Start in early education	1
Stabilize infrastructure for outreach services	1
Some laws are bogus - people lose kids or housing	1
Revisit residential planning regulations, stop giving amazing deals to developers without requiring a percentage of affordable housing units, limit and tax AirBnB type properties, raise UGA entry level staff salaries, reinstate the means testing for the HOPE scholarship.	1

Rental help	1
Rental cost and deposit- affordable entry and rent control.	1
Rental assistance and more substance use programs that are long-term and affordable	1
Rent is becoming ridiculously high and jobs aren't paying enough to cover them	1
Rent control and more emergency shelters	1
Rehab/renovate unused building's for the homeless.	1
Reduce the cost of living for rental properties. It's a lot of single families out here in Athens that need this extremely. It's becoming more stressful and causing mental breakdowns that we didn't know we had. Everything is going up besides the pay at our jobs.	1
Raise money to open a center for the homeless	1
Provide housing for homeless.	1
Provide help to people at risk, once they become homeless it's important to stay focused and keep working. People need to have compassion and support each other.	1
Protecting veterans and more affordable housing. Rent control laws.	1
Police should be more helpful	1
People that care	1
Open more shelters for the homeless	1
Ones who is definitely in needs others and myself	1
Offer more job opportunities	1
Offer more help to people who need/want substance abuse help but don't have the money for admission	1
Offer classes to people, give in take on how this can happen, give step to help prevent these problems before they probi escalate	1
Nothing	1

Needs more low rental apartments	1
More transitional homes	1
More shelters instead of high rent college apt.	1
More shelters	1
more shelter and more services with less barrier.	1
More shelter	1
More services for elderly. More assistance with finding housing	1
More section 8 availability	1
More psychological surveys and family involvement, if possible to get to the root causes. More awareness and long term assistance with volunteer life coaches.	1
More preventative class for all	1
More places like Bigger Vision	1
More Outreach community and committees.	1
More options for affordable housing	1
More Homeless shelters, lower rent and rent control	1
More help , jobs, and a lot.	1
More employers who hire felons, esp if felonies dropped off your record after time	1
more emergency shelter, more long term supportive housing for mental health, more financial benefits and financial knowledge	1
More education especially religion	1
More education and outreach in the school systems. More education and resources for law enforcement.	1
More and better homeless shelters	1
more access to those resources and more information about homeless. Full picture of what the resources are in Athens. Rent Control. More case management and knowing who to go to to prevent becoming homelessness.	1

Make sure people are getting the help they need	1
Make substance abuse treatment more accessible.	1
Lower Rent prices	1
Live skills training, better education	1
Jobs, easier way to pay rent	1
Job security or transportation	1
Job fair *Note from Katie: I had trouble reading the handwriting and gave my best effort as to what it would say.	1
Job care	1
Increase the minimum wage, don't bring more unaffordable student housing, have a place where people can sign up for rental assistance BEFORE they get eviction notices, increase property tax for houses being used as airbnbs and vacation homes, tax corporations at higher rates if they aren't bringing high paying jobs to Athenians, create a church-nonprofit coalition. Every church should sponsor at least one nonprofit in the area. I have plenty of ideas but prevention is key.	1
I imagine that a lot of homelessness is due to substance abuse and mental issues, so that needs to be paramount in addressing homelessness. We have to figure out ways to help those with substance issues to get the help they need, and of course we need to really address mental issues as well.	1
I don't some people are going to do what they want.	1
Howard Johnson non-congregate shelter	1
Helping the homeless to seek qualifying jobs that will help to be able to afford housing.	1
Helping people before a crisis	1
Help with obtaining and maintaining a job to help meet basic needs	1
Help people find jobs/help with ss, birth certificate	1
Help get them jobs	1
Have the police deal with the trashed area on College Ave where a bunch of homeless people currently need to stop doing drugs and leaving trash all over the place outside their tents.	1
Have housing made For a 2nd chance.	1

Give the services away. Don't be selective.	1
Give money to unhoused people instead of non profits	1
Fundraiser	1
Funding needs to be better used and get another building for the homeless.	1
Free financial-centered case management *Note from Katie: I'm not sure if "case" is interpreted as "case" or "cost".	1
Fordable rent	1
Enforce,federal inductions,federal crime charges,and with convictions,to payee representatives to miss handle relatives supplement security income(s.s.i. Checks),as well as send the social security admin. Representatives to federal prison,for going into a claimants files and they are not on a claimants files,as a payee representatives,authorized,and or nothing else to go into someone else social security admin. Case file,because the social security admin. Representatives are breaking the government privacy act law and they should be accountable for their actions to go into anyones case file illegally,they should pay damages and go to federal prison too. That does not excuse the actions of no one to work for the government,to do the public/citizens and the taxpayers and families/their children wrong.all is well and so mote it be.AMEN.Geraldine Brewer(Big Mama)	1
Educated on legal vs non legal evictions by law enforcement agencies that's very important. Me personally became homeless by and illegal eviction carried out by a Sheriff's Deputy .	1
Easy job access for those who have certain disabilities or mobility issues.	1
Don't make it a requirement for people to have lived on the streets for a year before being able to qualify as homeless.	1
Do more work to housing and more shelters where longer stay up to a year where you save money and don't get kicked early in the morning.	1
Discourage out of county homeless. Athens's should not be a magnet for others problems.	1
-Develop a program of lawyers who would represent tenants as they go through the legal eviction process. We can prevent homelessness through quality legal representation. -more housing inventory. Even with housing voucher or RRH programs, there's no where to rent. -increase the monthly rent payments for a local RRH program. There hardly any units that fit DCAs FMR requirements. Use local funds to allow homeless agencies to pay above FMR to create more housing options for clients	1
Create more places to live My friend said she didn't realize that Athens so many homeless people	1
counsel and advise all low income head households about bill planning budgeting etc. so the ones that have some money can make better choices to help sustain their households . I didn't ever look at all my bills n money incoming n outgoing per month until I applied for foodstamps at 28yrs. old and I see this as an important life skill that I wish someone taught me about sooner. many adults like me barely had any parents or supervision growing up and the simplest advice most kids n teens get from good parents ...has never been spoken to someone like me. I wish I had a mom to teach me about proper male female relationships dating independence and what red flags to look for in guys. it would have prevented my domestic violence of 18yrs maybe prevented the rape at 13yrs old and much more. I felt so stupid as an adult when I finally realized which bad choices I made that set tone for my hopeless lifestyle..All adults are not truly grown up adults if we weren't given the knowledge to know.	1

Build more shelters and offer more programs and services to help people like me who have low income and are in the process of moving with my boyfriend in Jefferson, GA at the beginning of 2023.	1
Build more places for tents and homes	1
Build affordable housing	1
Build a homeless community(jobs, housing,food,education)	1
Bigger building for them	1
Better high paying jobs	1
Better decision making, educational services, programs to help learn trades	1
Better availability to no cost drug treatment	1
Better allocating the funds United way isn't a fund base non profit we should not be allocating government money	1
Better adult education & mental health/substance abuse support	1
Banks that help save money	1
Background and amount that attendant need to make when everybody know how much you get paid an hour everybody doesn't qualify based on that but yet it's one of the largest criteria good credit and three times the amount of rent that's ridiculous when everybody makes the same	1
Assistance, people that would help find housing	1
affordable or free healthcare and Affordable housing	1
Affordable housing/rooms /efficiency's. Programs for actual help.	1
Affordable housing, more shelters	1
Affordable housing or entry to housing assistance	1
Address zoning constraints that restrict construction of affordable multi housing units accessible to public transportation and education facilities	1
a better support system.	1

Answered: 126 Skipped: 65

11. Are there other comments you would like to share about the needs facing any of the qualifying...

Word cloud 

No	11
N/A	4
None	2

You know I'm staying in a cold freaking building but I'm better than most some don't have that I would be willing to ask my friend can I give someone more need than I am the building that I'm sleeping in I'm willing to give that up just so some family should stay in out of the rain it's not very warm but it's dry you know I need help but I'm not going to take the help away from someone who's in more shape than I am that's bad that other people could do this but won't what's happened to America help your fellow man it's better to give than receive if you need the place that I'm staying in ask me I'll talk to my friend	1
We quite simply need more housing that working class people can afford to live in	1
We need people to be able to get the assistance they all need	1
We need more shelters. Have resources all in one central location. More coordination between shelters to advance people through like in Columbus ga. Homeless resource network	1
We need more options than some of the current shelters. *Note from Katie: For question 7, they put a checkmark for all options. *Note from Katie: For question 8, they marked a total of 7 options. The additional items they marked that are not already listed on this survey are "Short- and medium-term rental assistance", and "Other: Hotel vouchers being provided in case you can't find overnight shelter."	1
We need HELP seriously. My rent has went up \$300 in the last past year. I'm a single mom and want my kids to live in a good neighborhood to raise them in.	1
We need good people and leaders to take control of this situation please	1
We are affordable living rent	1
Want to be in better place, help finding	1
Trying to find a place, or a job. Mental health services. Autism effects him being able to et	1
Try to employ individuals that don't mind helping others regardless of their race, social status etc. Perhaps they should be surveyed on these same type of issues in a similar way.	1
Too much to text ima a single mom at work my kids are at home due to school break can't afford to be there with them or provide childcare	1
There are a lot of younger homeless now. It's worse than it has been (he's been homeless 13 years, chose the hob o lifestyle) more fentanyl, more sex trafficking and drug reliance. He is doing what he can to help and guide other homeless people	1



Seriously, stop trying to develop financial literacy plans and educational assistance and landlord liaisons that run through non profits and just give the people who need it a basic income. 1

Safety and Security for those who are experiences homelessness. When I am at Bigger Vision I feel safe but when I leave those doors I feel very scared. I wish I felt safe walking down the street. 1

Rent cap \*Note from Katie: For question 7, they marked "Affordable rental housing" and left the other options blank. 1

Rapid rehousing Apartments are dangerous. Puts people who have already struggled with substance abuse in proximity with fentanyl dealers and sexual abusers. Especially women need better security. Scared of shelter plus due to roommate requirement 1

Rapid housing program- more commodities for who accepts the vultures and we do not know who can accept. I have have call over 400 places and have not been able to find one place to accept my vultures. More housing opportunities for those who do not have transportation. 1

Prioritize needs of people who are trying and just need a bit of assistance over people who are chronically homeless with severe substance issues who aren't ready to stop using 1

Plans to move to Detroit for cheaper housing once she saves enough 1

Pass out papers to homeless people letting them know about assistance. \*Note from Katie: For question 7, they marked an "X" for "Non-congregate shelter" and left the other options blank. 1

Not sure what "qualifying populations" means. Put veterans first, however. 1

Not at this time. 1

Not at this time \*Note from Katie: For question 7, they put an "X" for "Affordable rental housing" and left the other options blank. \*Note from Katie: For question 8, they selected a total of 6 items on the list. The additional choice they marked that is not already included in this survey is "Financial assistance costs including first month's rent..." 1

No more drugs \*Note from Katie: For question 7, they marked "Tenant-based assistance" and left the other options blank. 1

need more clothes and resources to protect people experiencing homelessness. More food 1

Need food to eat, help get people government assistance, 24/7 services, tools to be educated find jobs. 1

Myself and others	1
More section 8 vouchers because I spend almost all of my disability check on rent and light bills and don't have money to go visit my family, get presents for my grandkids, enjoy life better or have good quality of life	1
More housing for HIV & AIDS people like me Tondus Edwards *Note from Katie: For question 7, they put a check mark for "Non-congregate shelter", "Affordable rental housing", and "Supportive services." They left the other option blank. *Note from Katie: For question 8, they marked a total of 11 options. The additional items they marked that are not already listed in this survey are "Outpatient health services", "Outreach services", "Substance use treatment services", "Transportation", "Financial assistance costs including first month's rent...", and "Short-and medium-term rental assistance."	1
More help and understanding for people's things happen sometimes that they can't help...	1
More food pantries	1
More food locations around county	1
Medication requirement and access through IV to prevent drugs from the sold on the streets.	1
Make people work *Note from Katie: For question 7, they put an "X" for "Non-congregate shelter" and left the other options blank.	1
Low income n home less n abuse victims all probably have some commonalities like lack of proper parenting and simply picking up where the teen years left off 13+ hitting on topics listed above could be life changer for so many huge impact on community. you can give a man a fish n he'll eat tonight...teach a man to fish he'll eat for a lifetime	1
Long-term housing	1
Let's try to stop landlord from over charging for rent	1
Just update	1
Just glad to be here at the encampment	1

I(Geraldine Brewer–big mama,was operating and running our White House,government,senate,congress,and other things about our government,when formerly President Donld(don) J. trump,was in the White House;Trump had the title as President,but I (Geraldine Brewer–big mama,was running and operating our government,country,and the White House,to have been giving orders to Pres. Donald J. trump. Do your own checking to found this out yourselves.All is well and so mote it be.AMEN. I also changed the state of Georgia Food Stamp Program name and discontinued the Food Stamp Booklets and/also other things in the 1990's and other people took the credit,money,rises,vacation/holiday payments and ect,and I to live in a tent now. where is my moneys,home,and vehicles at now and money in the bank now.All is well and so mote it be.AMEN.

1

I think helping people obtaining or thinking about acquiring a sense of life purpose would help. Philosophical thinking, i believe, can help someone realize that giving and showing Love to Others helps one live happily–a selfisly unselfish way of living. Behaving in a seemingly unselfish way for the purpose of selfishly being happier.

1

I say a prayer for all the homeless myself every night. Wish I could do more.

1

I have checked Sparrow's Nest and Salvation Army as a volunteer for item number 7.

1

I feel that more focus need to be given to individuals struggling with mental disabilities and not having low income housing for those individuals.

1

I come here to help people

1

I applied for rapid rehousing last summer. Never heard back from them even though they said I qualified for the housing & emergency status. It's now end of Dec. I'm still living in my car. Programs need to follow thru.

1

I am thankful for the encampment

1

I am a service provider in Athens. I answered the other form and rarely put substance use treatment as an option due to not wanting to assume those that are unhoused or at risk of being unhoused had a substance use disorder. And there are other things that would include substance use treatment such as case management services. We currently serve 70 individuals and children at Acceptance Recovery Center, nearly all of which were unhoused prior to receiving care from us.And in my experience, most of the unhoused people I have met/ work with have had a substance use disorder and/or other mental health disorders. Just wanted to be able to share that somewhere on this assessment.

1

I am a new amputee. I am one of the "fall through the cracks" type of people. I need a stable home I can call my headquarters and be able to know I have to return to in order to spend more of my time developing skills, finding work, and avoiding homelessness. I also need to accrue enough money so as to allow me to fix my car and become more mobile again. And a big thing is to change my mindset of myself in order to succeed more in life and become a more productive member of society.

1

How can we require landlords to accept subsidized housing? That's a huge issue, the money is there, but greedy landlords and property owners can refuse to rent to these populations. Tax the hell out of them if won't accept vouchers.

1

Help people understand how to live life OFF the street

1

Have hope, have faith, don't put homeless people down

1

Guaranteed government job program, basic income

1

Government makes too much money for the regular people to suffer like we do

1

Give the help that each individual needs and therapy to get off the streets. \*Note from Katie: For question 7, they put an "X" for "Affordable rental housing" and left the other options blank.

1

Folks with mental health issues aren't going to stay. Temporary day centers & night shelters are helpful, as well as a focus on supporting our vets, single moms & addicts with counseling services. peace!

1

Families are being ripped apart by the homelessness epidemic in Athens. We have to do something and do it quickly.

1

Energy assistance failed to help me and I was qualified so they said, it was denied because I didn't have a lease after all the paperwork they had me to do my landlord said he couldn't wait any longer, she told me she had put 4000.00 in my account, the judge override the rent that I was paying. Evicted September of last year 21. They fool me no help was there

1

Encourage the people to help because I know everybody can give something back if it's nothing but a little bit of their time

1

Athens needs to allocate more local funding to Shelter Plus Care units for families. The fact that there's only five in the whole county is concerning.

1

Athens has resources, keep getting people to come out and help (talk, support), autism support services

1

Appreciate breakfast at first Baptist, shelter life helps you grow and develop interpersonal skills. Not owed non congregate shelter. Would like to do art

1

Another stimulus check of any \$ \*Note from Katie: For question 7, they put a checkmark for "Affordable rental housing" and left the other options blank.

1

Action needs to be imminent with appropriate oversight so Athens will be recognized for humanity and concern for all residents

1

I have a 22-year-old son who I am desperately trying to find out information and or help to get him a place to live.


1

Answered: 120 Skipped: 71

## Appendix B: Stakeholder Survey Responses

### Information about your Organization

#### 1. What organization do you work for (if applicable)?

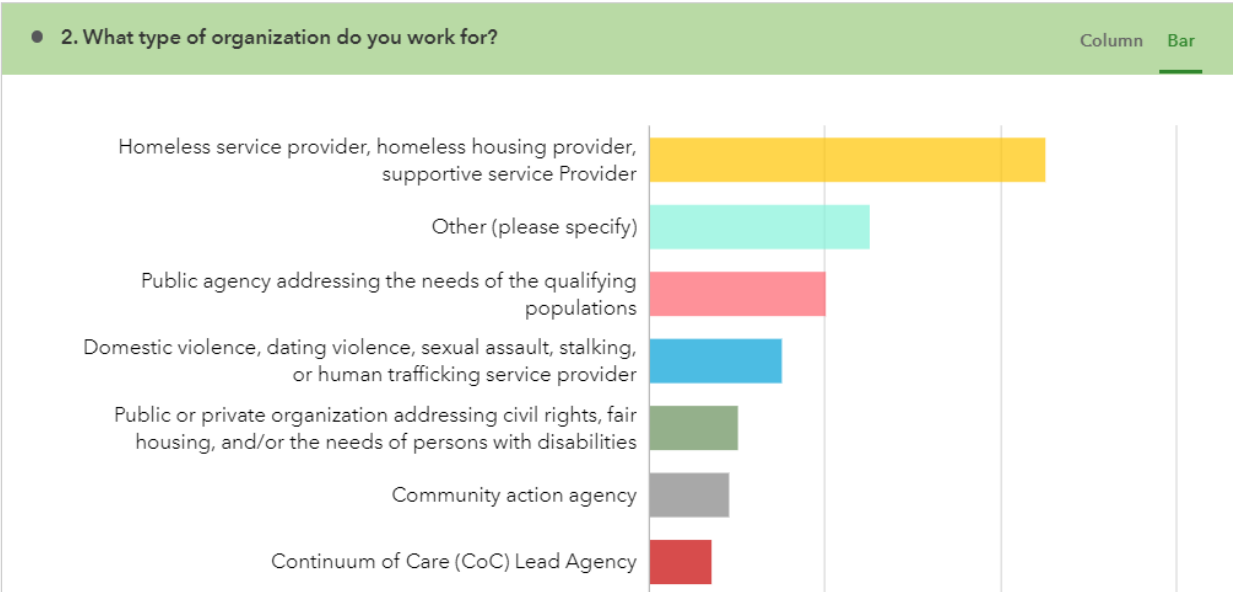
Word cloud 

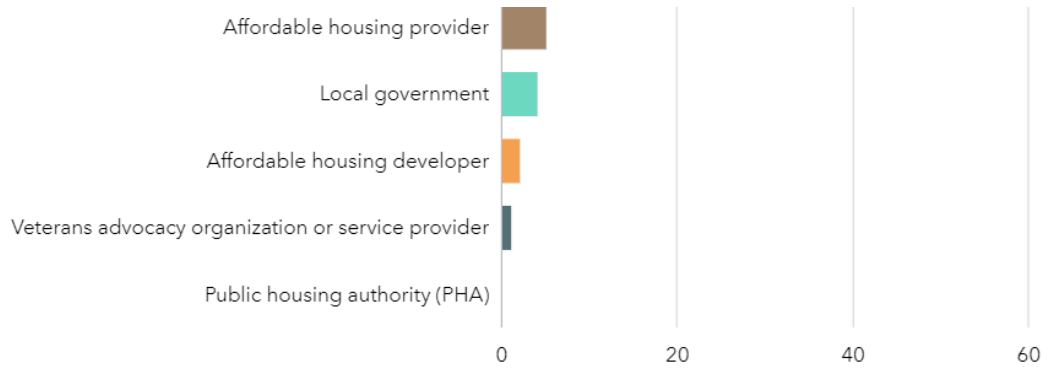
Response	Count
Advantage Behavioral Health	8
Project Safe	7
Advantage Behavioral Health Systems	7
Athens Community Council on Aging	6
Advantage BHS	5
Advantage	3
The Salvation Army Athens	2
The Ark	2
Project Safe, Inc.	2
Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging	2
Divas WHO Win Freedom Center	2
Acceptance Recovery Center	2
ABHS	2
United Way of Northeast Georgia	1
The Salvation Army of Athens, GA	1
The salvation army	1
The Cottage, SAC & CAC	1
The Backpack Project of Athens	1
The Ark UMOC	1
Street Love Ministries, Inc.	1
St. Mary's	1
Sparrow's Nest	1

Salvation Army Athens	1
Salvation Army	1
Project Safe Inc.	1
Project Safe Inc	1
Previously Our Daily Bread	1
Positive Impact Health Centers	1
Mental Health	1
Goodwill Of North GA	1
Georgia Options, Inc.	1
FRESH Start THRIVE	1
Family Promise Athens	1
Family Promise	1
Family Connection-Communities in Schools	1
Divas Who Win	1
Department of Public Health	1
Bigger Vision of Athens	1
Athens Land Trust	1
Athens Community Council on Agency - Meals on Wheels	1
Athens Clarke County Police Department	1
Athens Clarke county	1
Athens Area Homeless Shelter	1
Athens Area Habitat for Humanity	1

ADVANTAGEBHS	1
Advantage Homeless Day Service Center	1
Advantage BHS ( Classic City Recovery )	1
Advantage Behavioral Health Systems	1
Advantage Behavioral Systems	1
Advantage Behavioral Heath Systems	1
Advantage Behavioral Health Systems - Homeless Day Service Center	1
Advantage Behavioral Health System.	1
Advantage Behavioral Health Services	1
Advantage Behavioral Health Systems	1
Advantage Behavior Health Systems	1
Advantage Behav. Health	1
Advantage ACT Team	1
ABHS - THRIVE Homeless Services	1
Advantage Behavioral Health	1

Answered: 96 Skipped: 20





[Hide table](#)

Other response  Empty categories

Response	Count
CSB	2
Behavioral Health	2
We also addressing substance use using a housing first model.	1
Unsure if we fall into the above categories. Nonprofit serving older adults. Many clients likely at risk of homelessness.	1
Social services (GRA etc) and youth programs	1
Non-Profit that provides a safe space for women navigating through sex work, substance use, and sex trafficking survivors and we do that through peer support advocacy and justice	1
Non-Profit serving qualifying populations	1
Non-profit serving older adults	1
Non profit assisting low income families	1
mental health/addiction	1
Meals on Wheels	1
Hospital	1
Home Delivered Meals for seniors	1

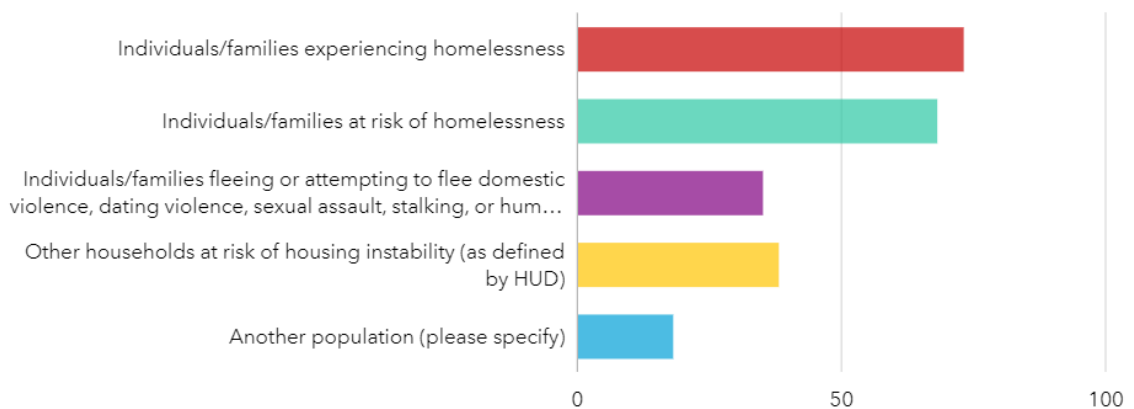


HIV medical care provider, HIV/Hep C testing and prevention, community based Covid vaccination provider	1
Drug and Alcohol Treatment	1
Community Service Board providing Behavioral Health Services	1
Community Service Board	1
Area Agency on Aging	1
AIDS Service Organization	1
Aging services provider	1
Addiction recovery housing provider for the unhoused and/or returning citizens.	1

Answered: 100 Skipped: 16

● 3. What HOME-ARP qualifying population(s) does your organization primarily serve?

Column Bar

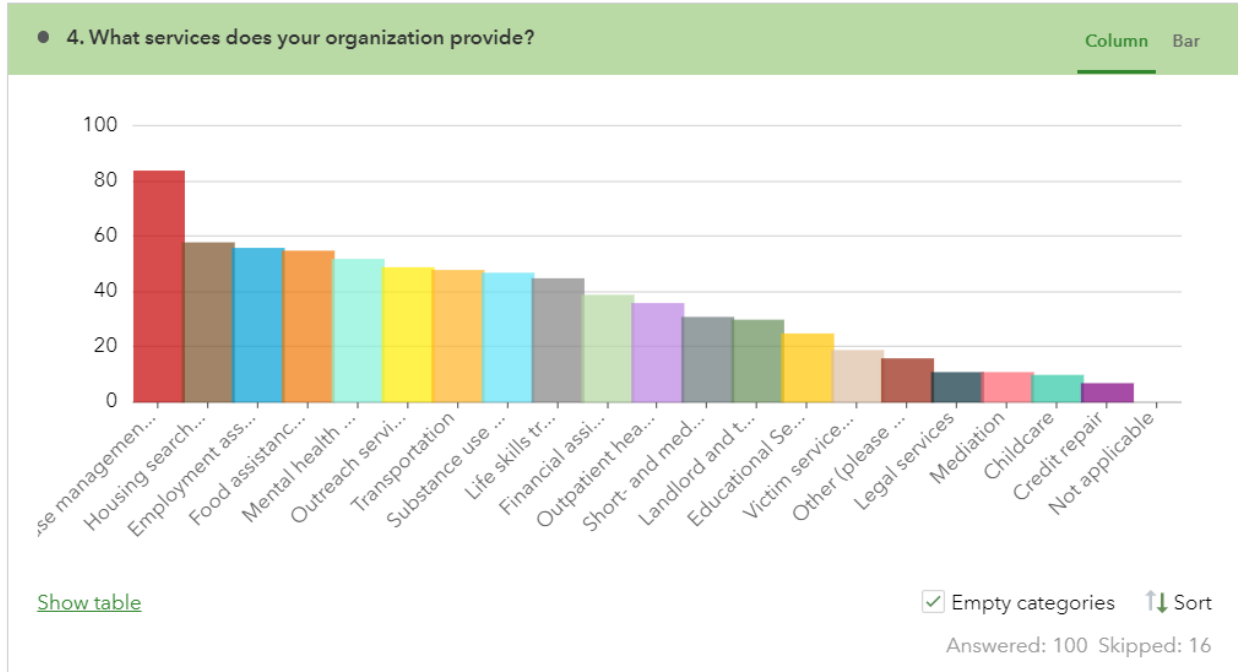


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Other response  Empty categories

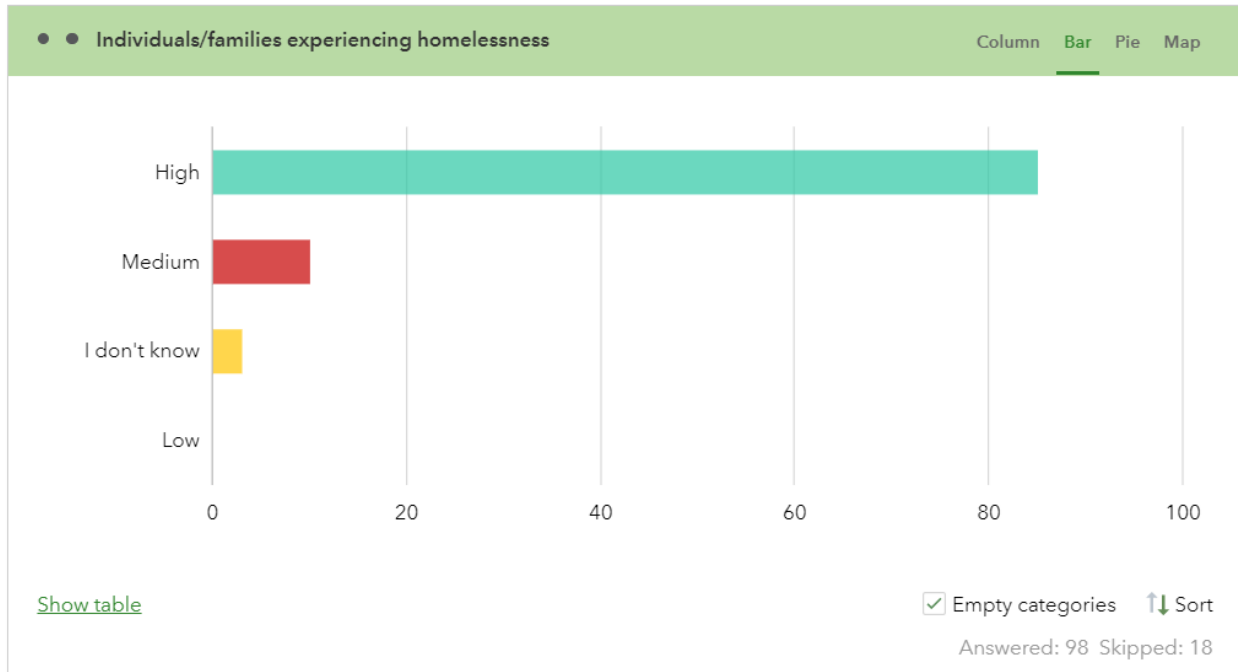
Response	Count
People with Substance Use Disorder	2
Those with a behavioral health disorder (s).	1
Senior adults	1
PLWHA	1
People with substance use disorders (i.e. disabilities), people with PTSD, families, children, pregnant persons, trans populations (only one in the state), and/or persons who have been previously incarcerated	1
Older adults in North Georgia	1
Older adults and individuals with disabilities who struggle to afford housing, or need to find more accessible housing.	1
Older adults -- could theoretically fall into any of these categories on a case-by-case basis. I have mostly interacted with clients facing substantial rental increases while living on a very low fixed income.	1
Older Adults	1
Mental health population	1
Inpatient Treatment	1
Individuals with SPMI and Individuals with Substance Use Disorders	1
Families with children 0-5 years old.	1
behavioral health, individuals with severe/persistent mental illness	1
50% - 80% of AMI	1

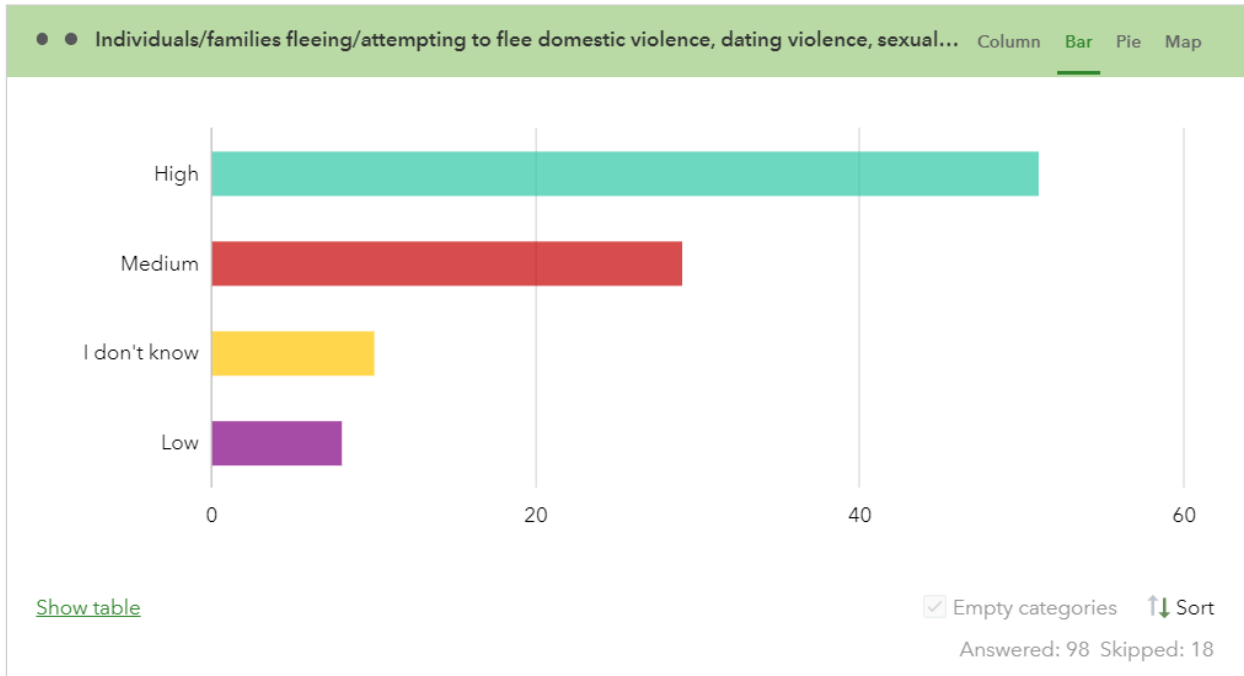
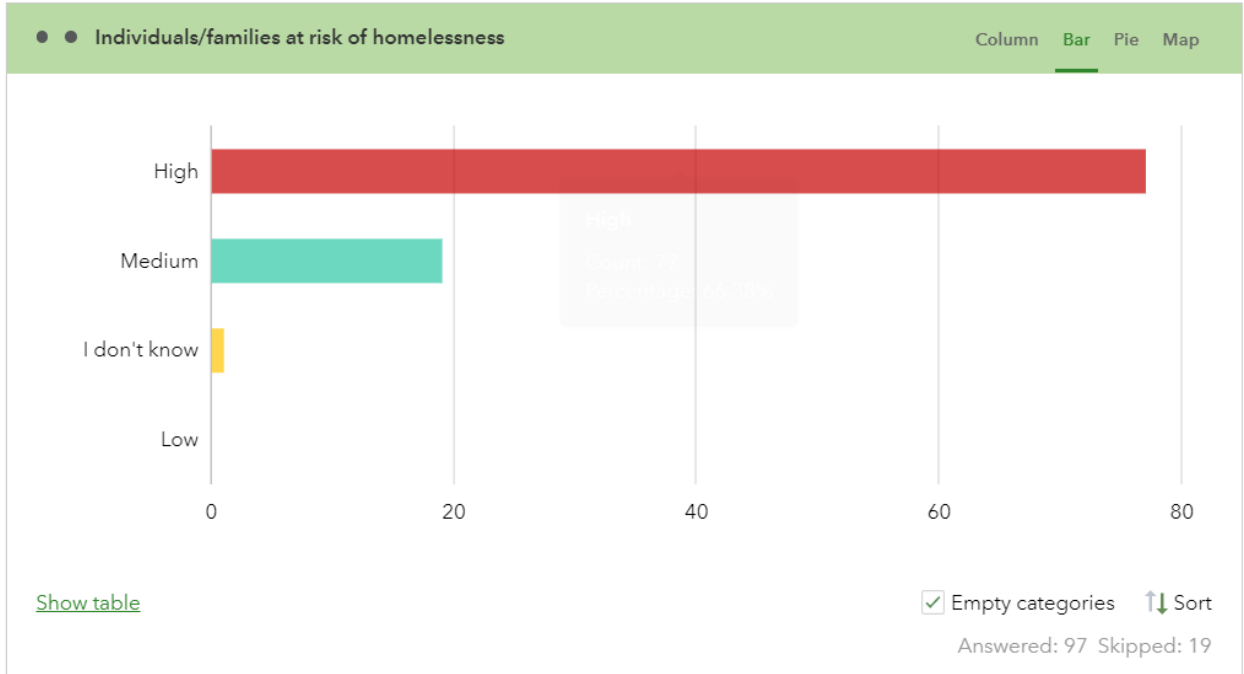
Answered: 99 Skipped: 17

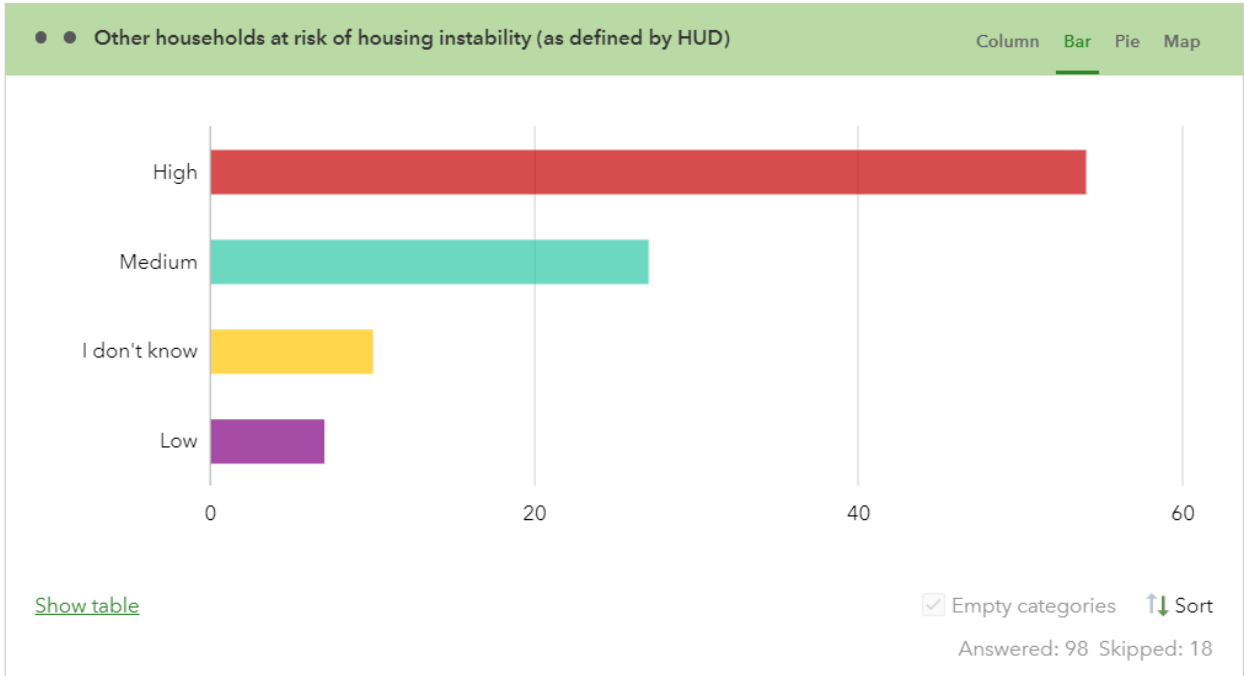


**Eligible Activity Prioritization**

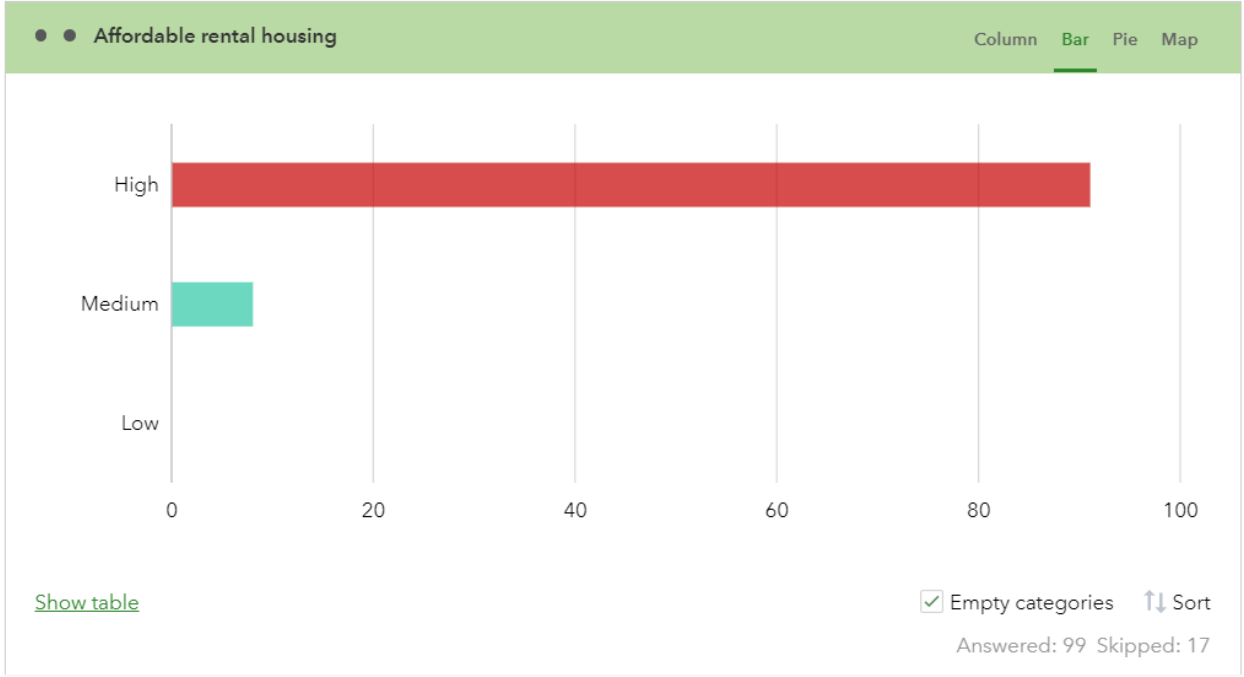
Eligible Activity Prioritization > 5. How would you describe the overall level of need for each HOME-ARP qualifying population using a scale of High, Medium, and Low?

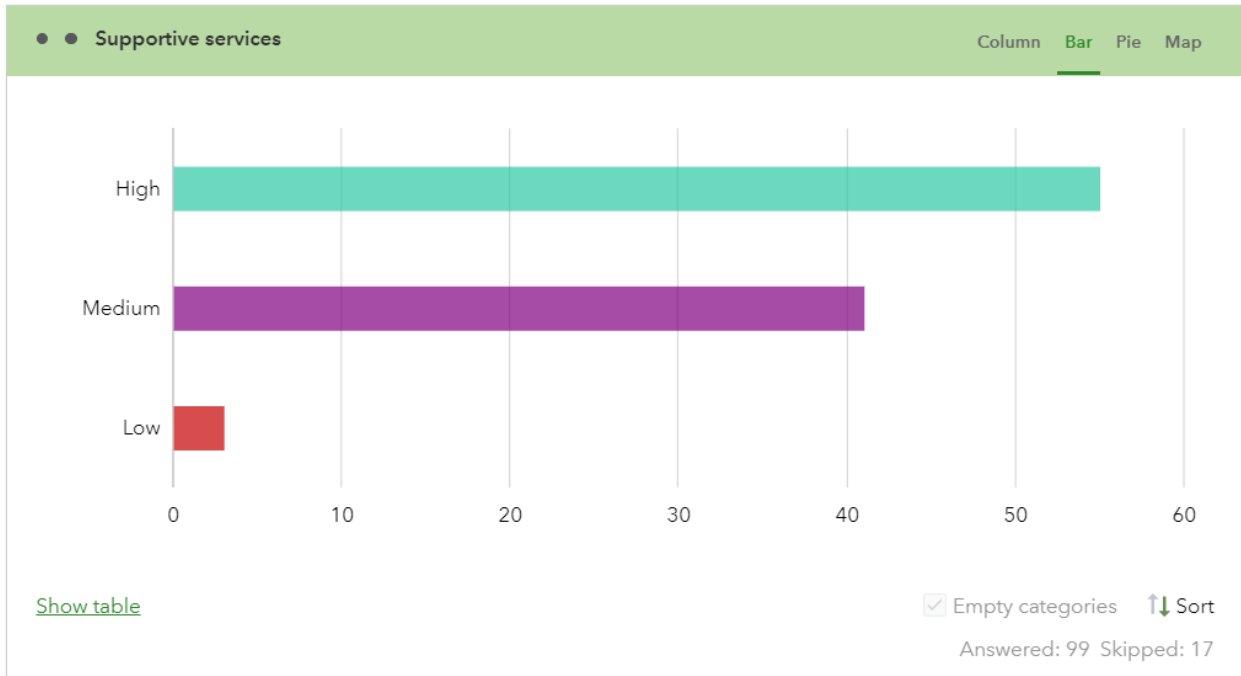
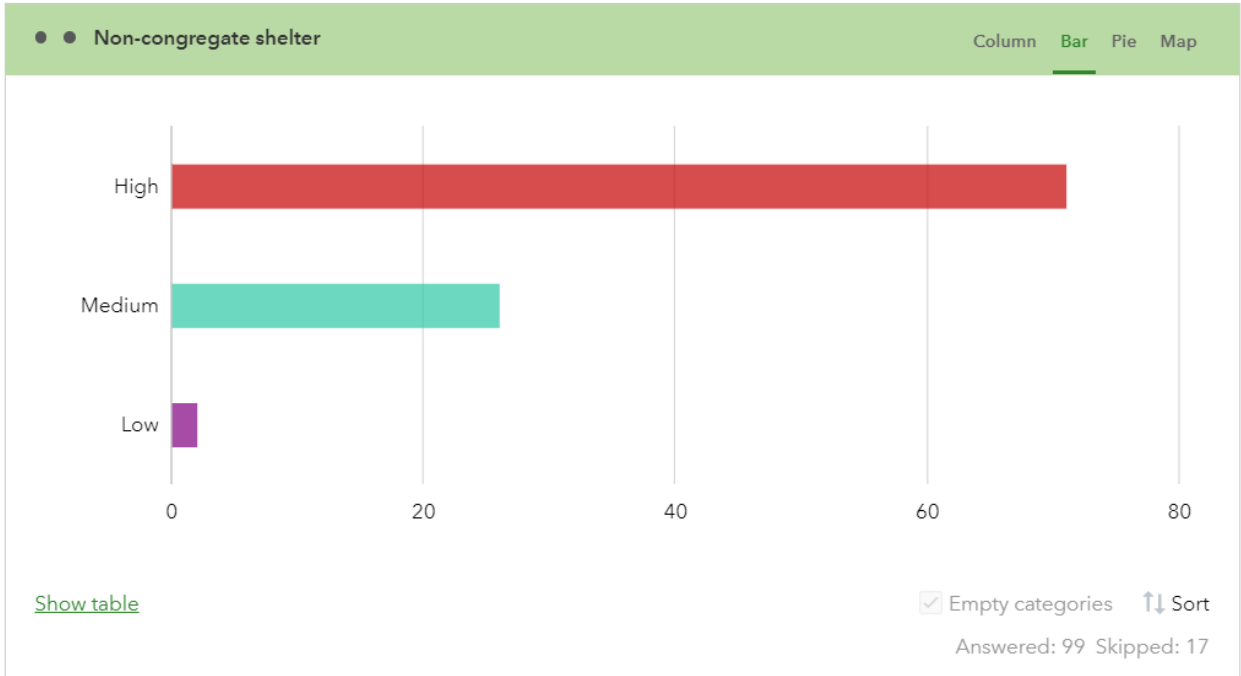


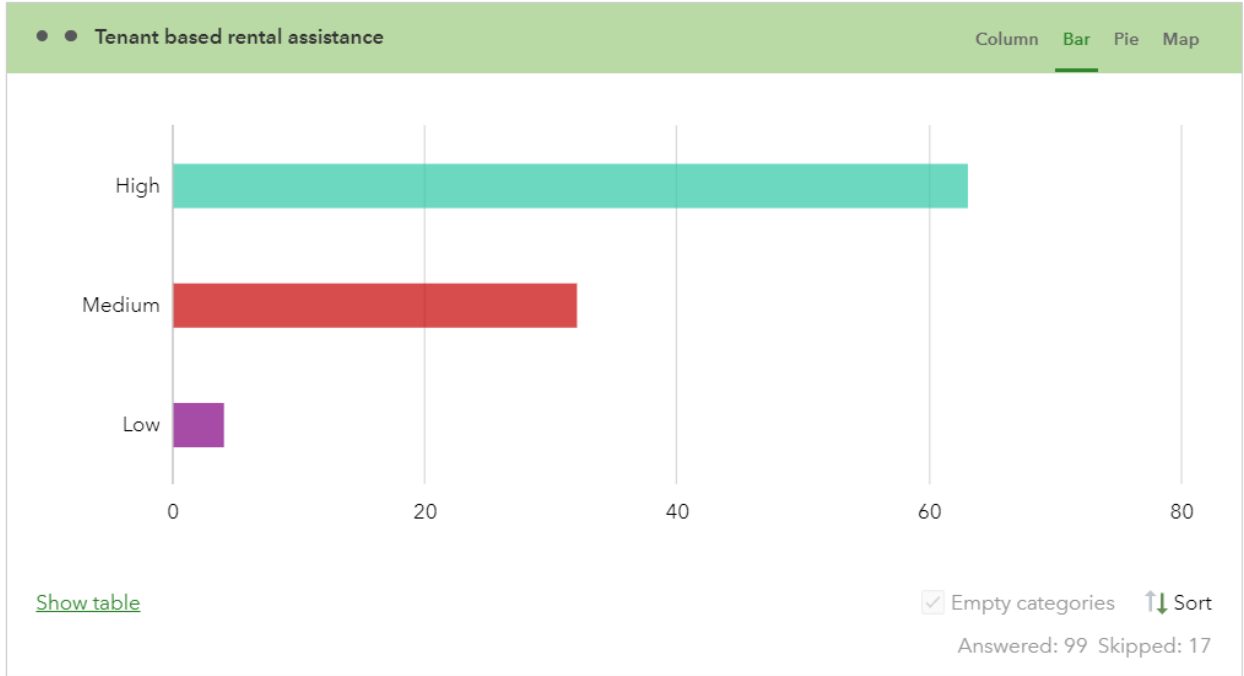




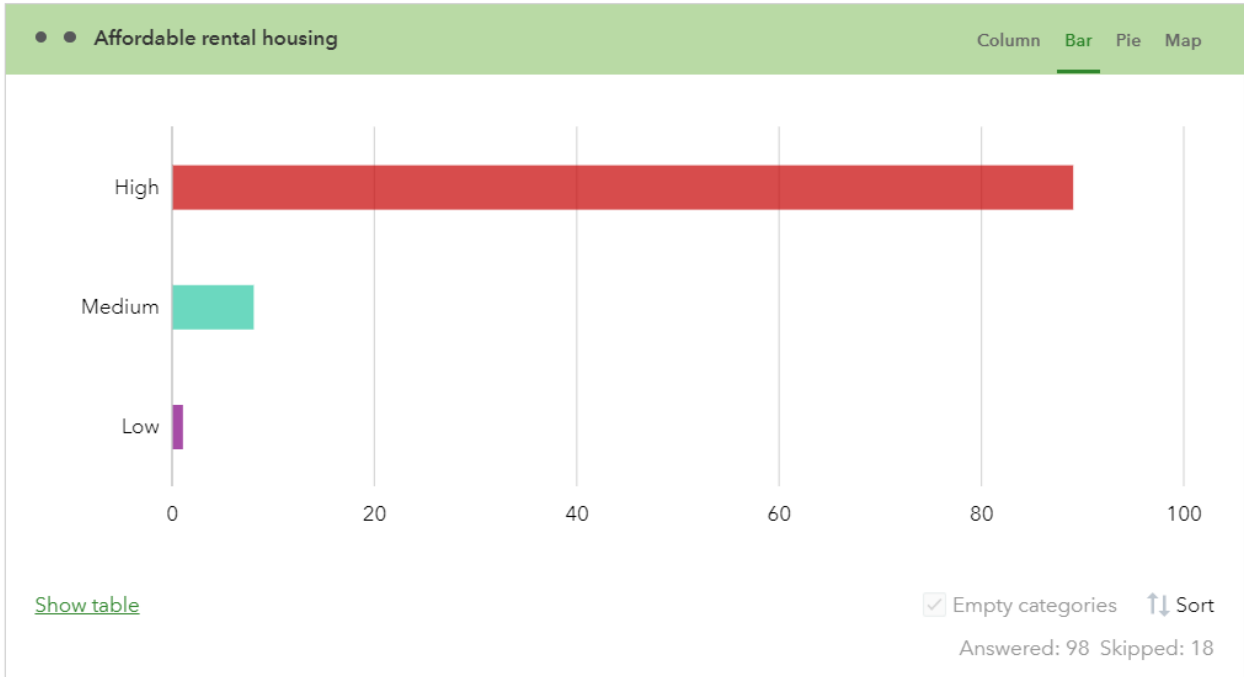
Eligible Activity Prioritization > 6a. Rate the unmet needs of individuals/families experiencing homelessness

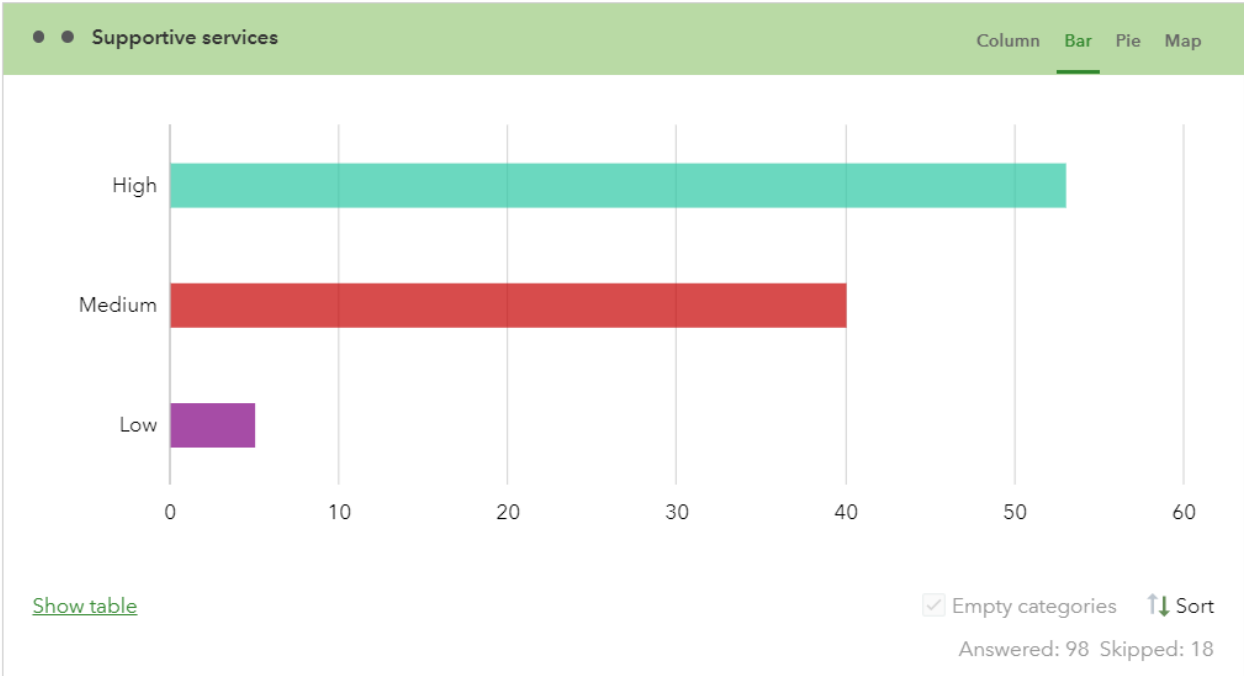
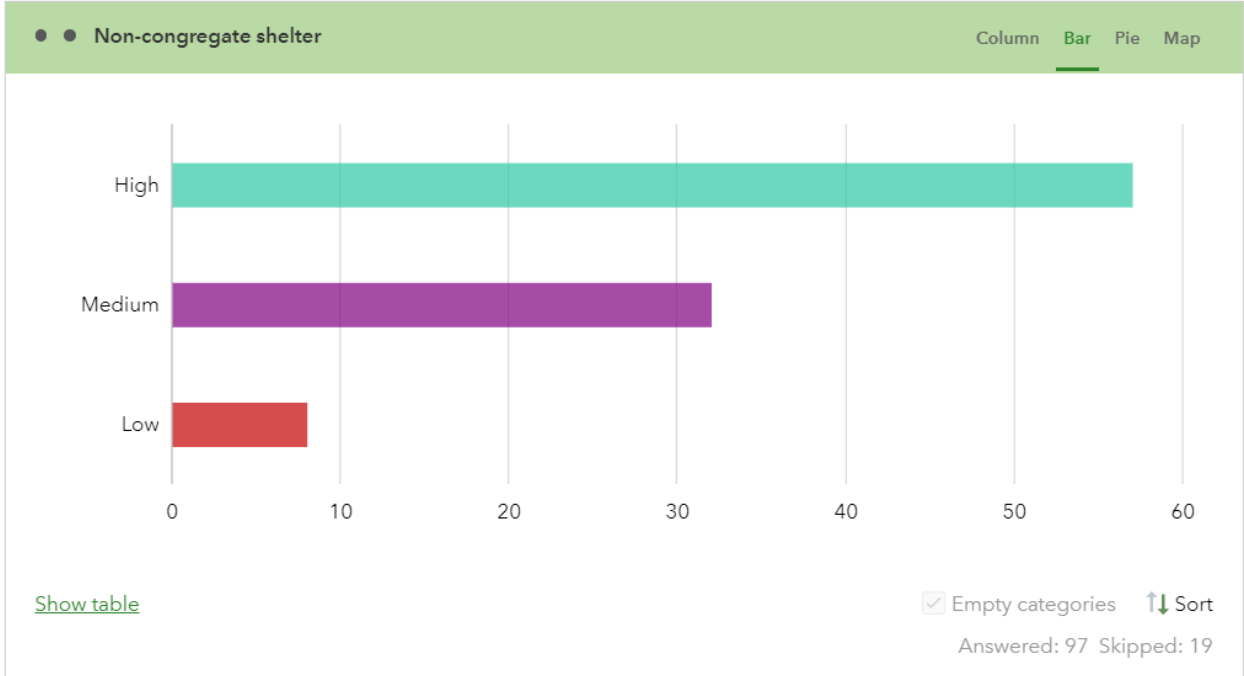




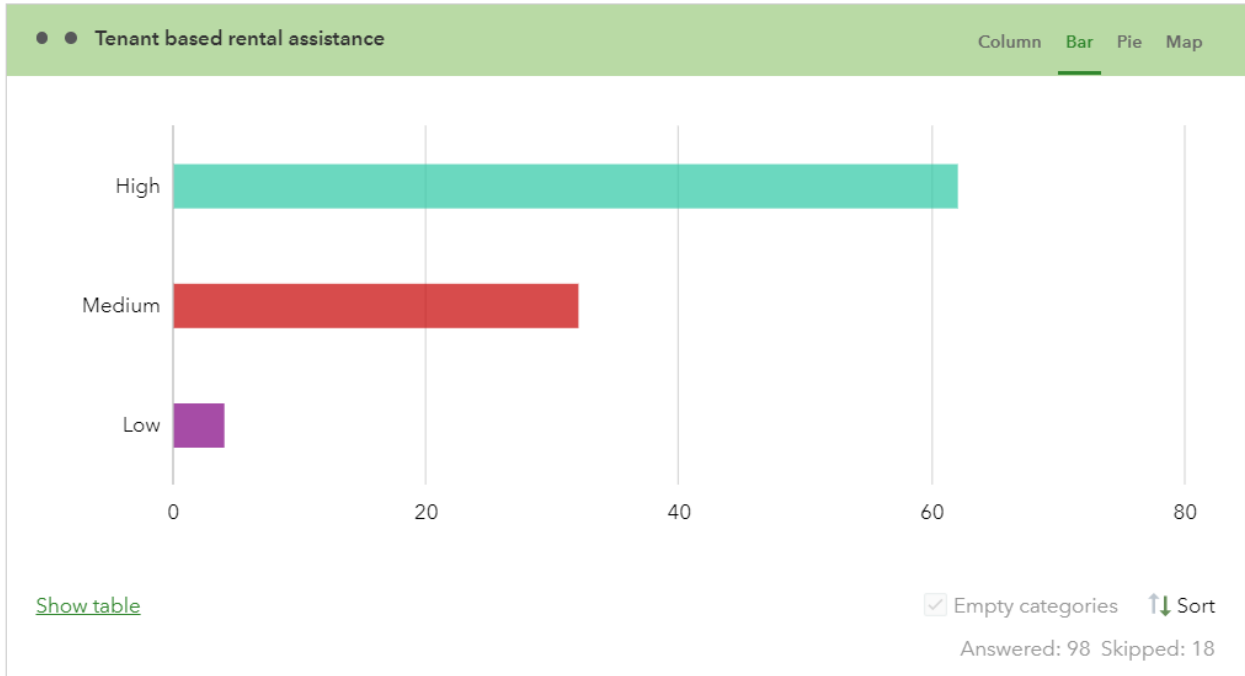


Eligible Activity Prioritization > 6b. Rate the unmet needs of individuals/families at risk of homelessness

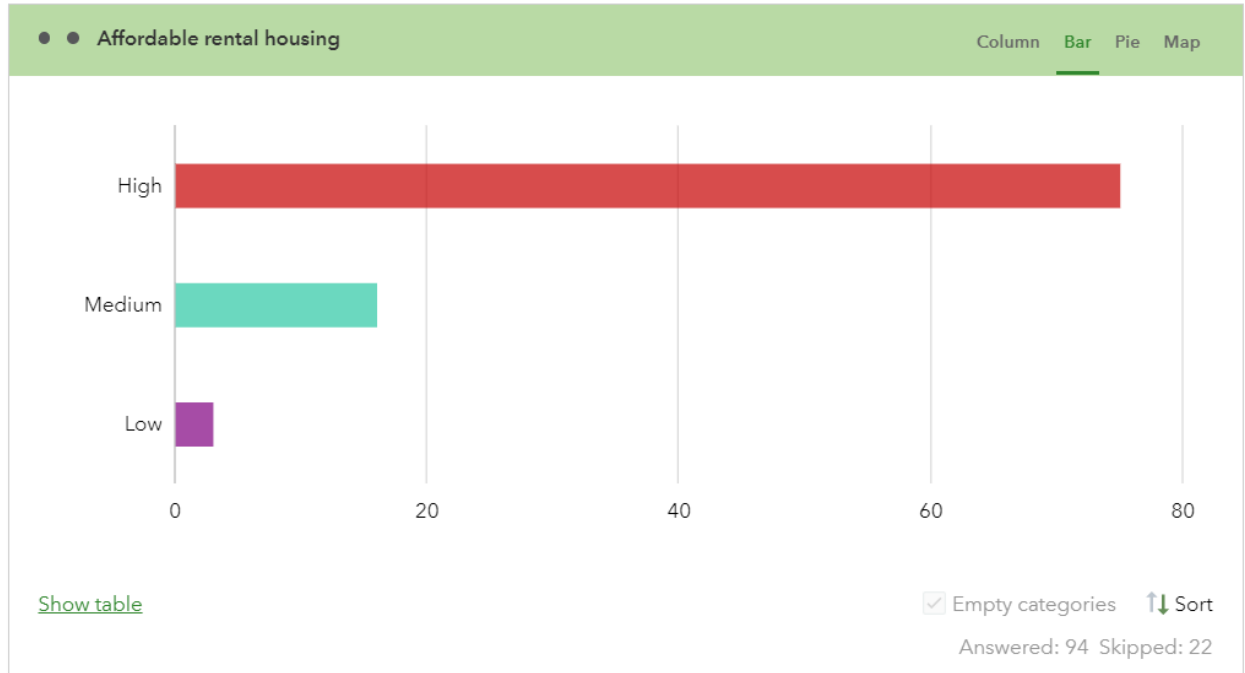


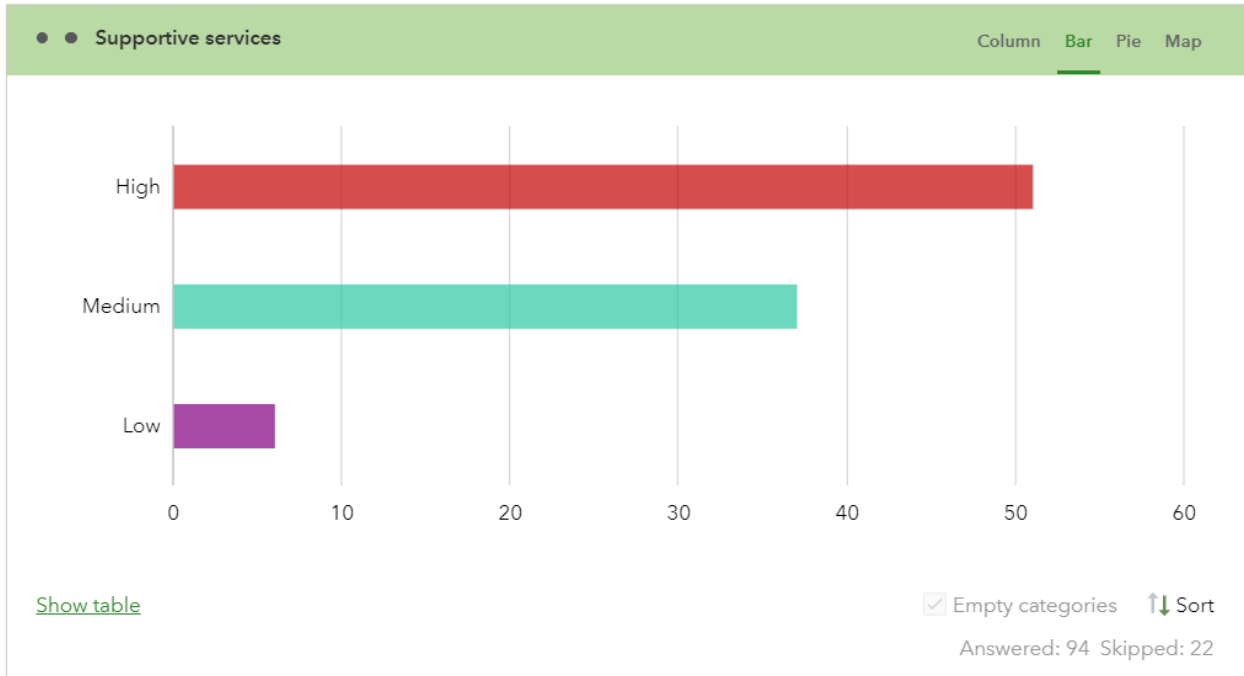
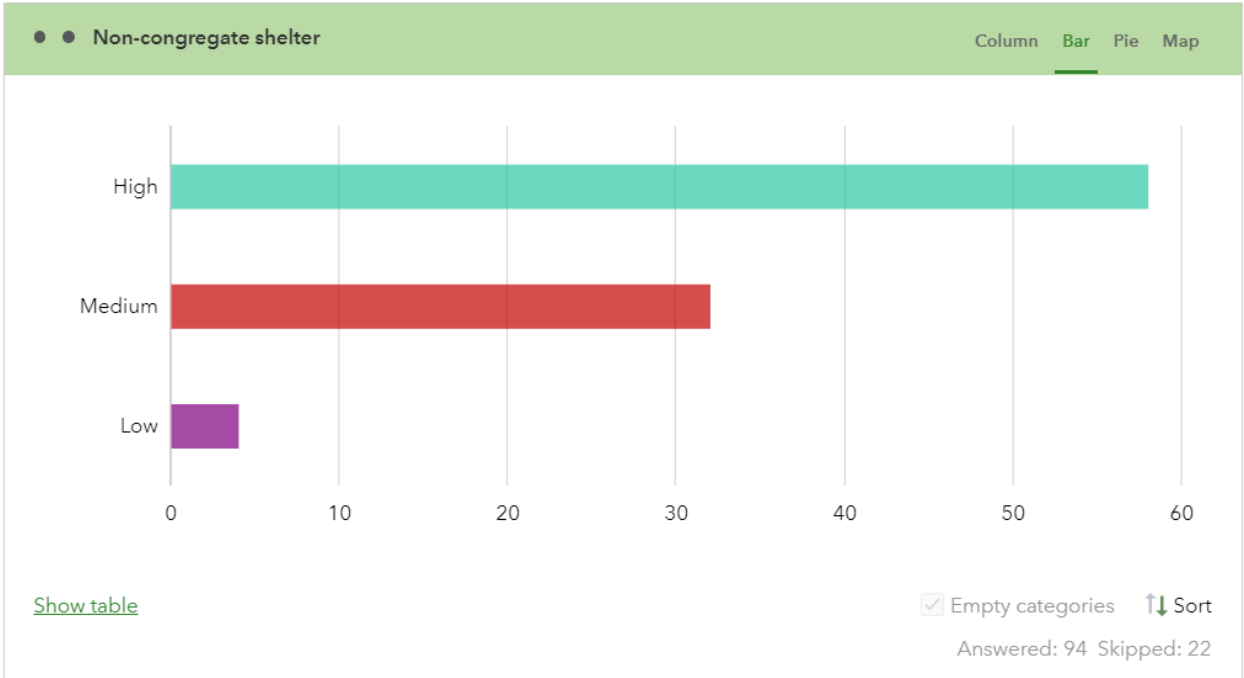


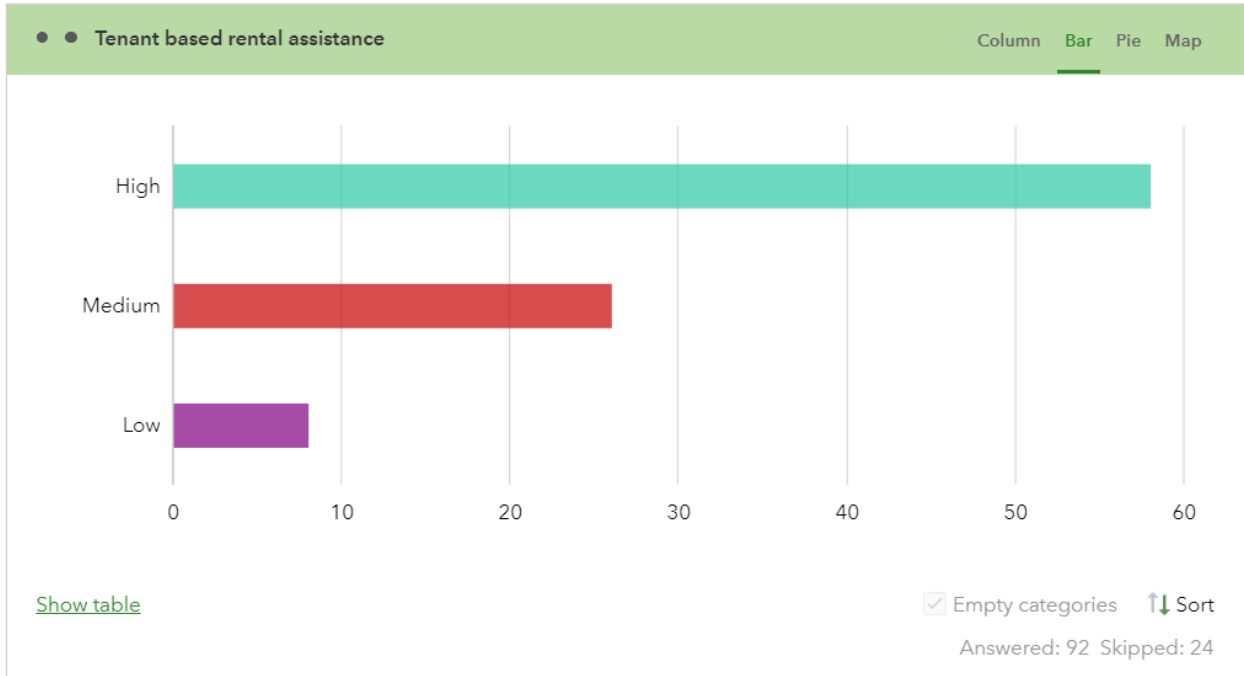




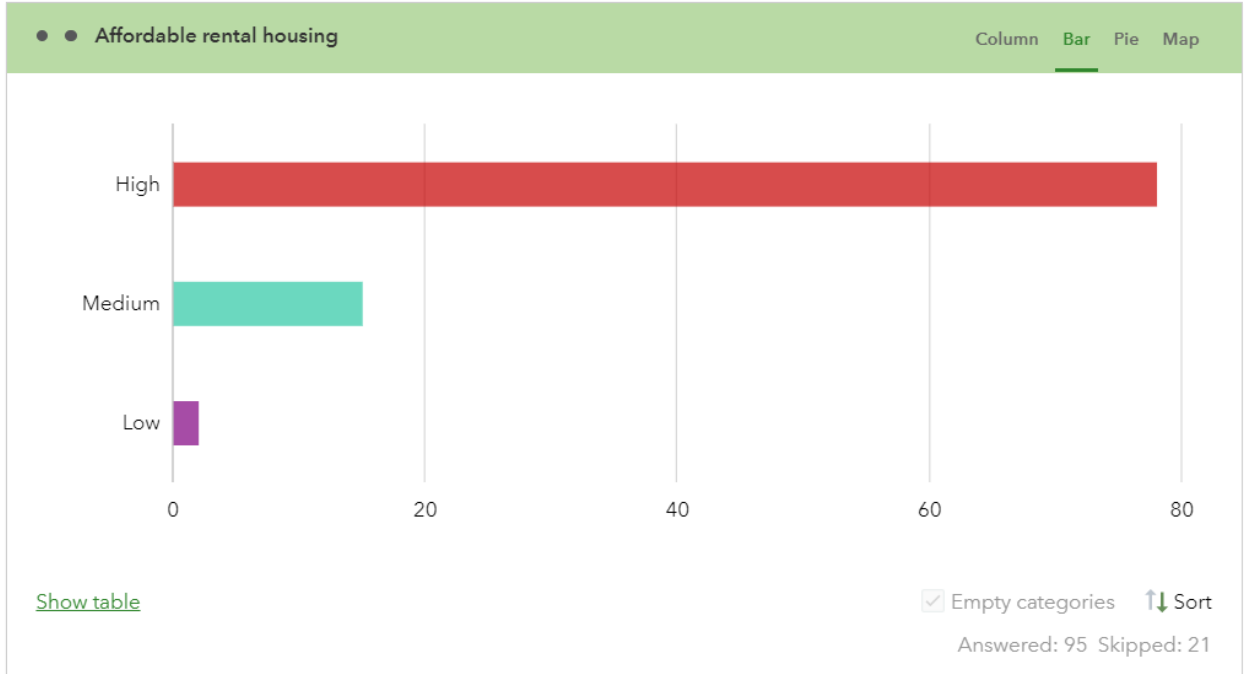
Eligible Activity Prioritization > 6c. Rate the unmet needs of individuals/families fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking

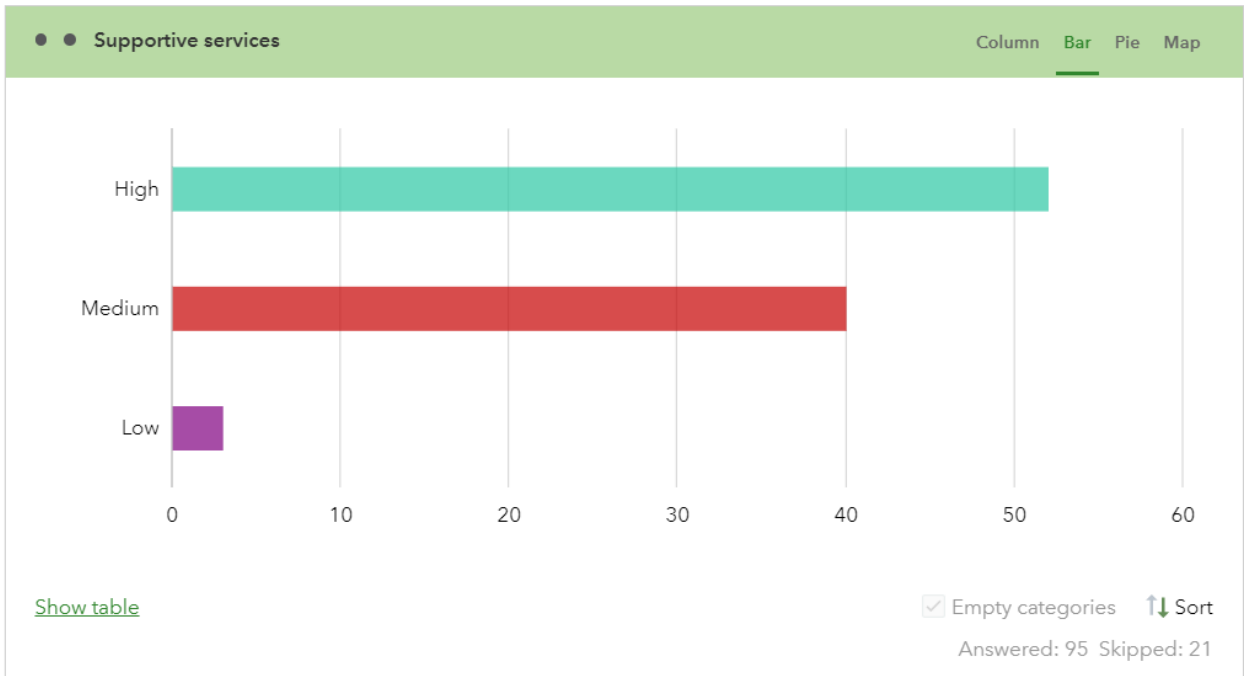
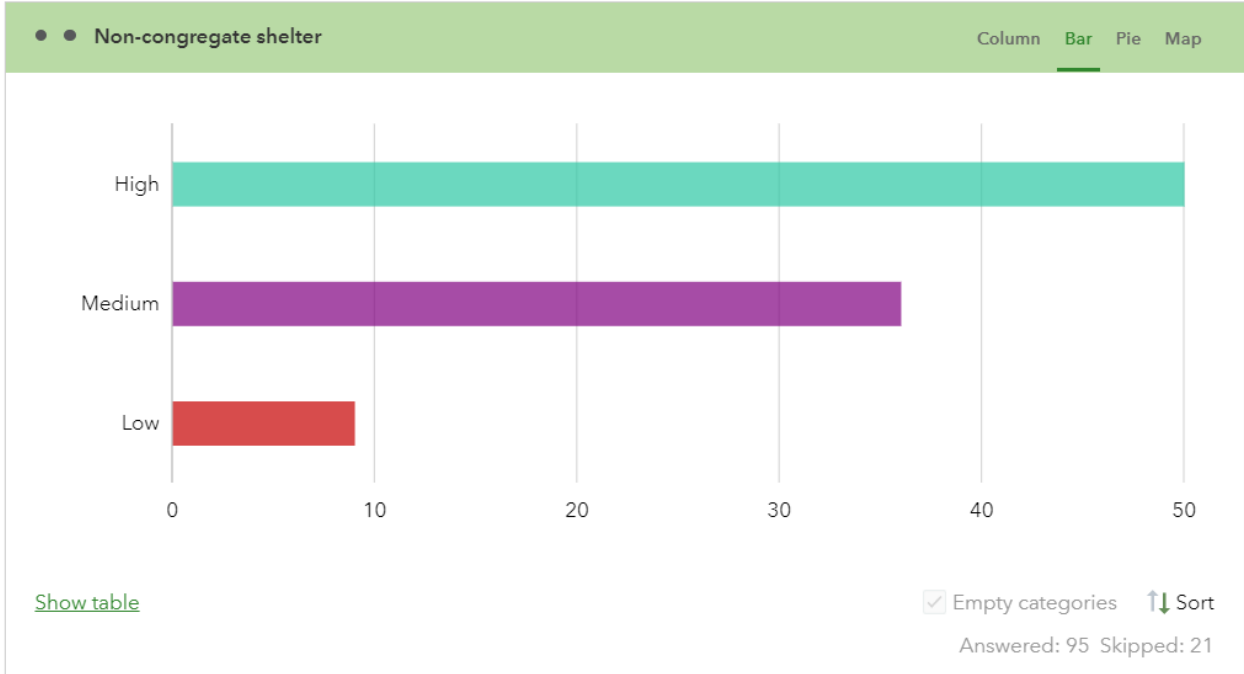


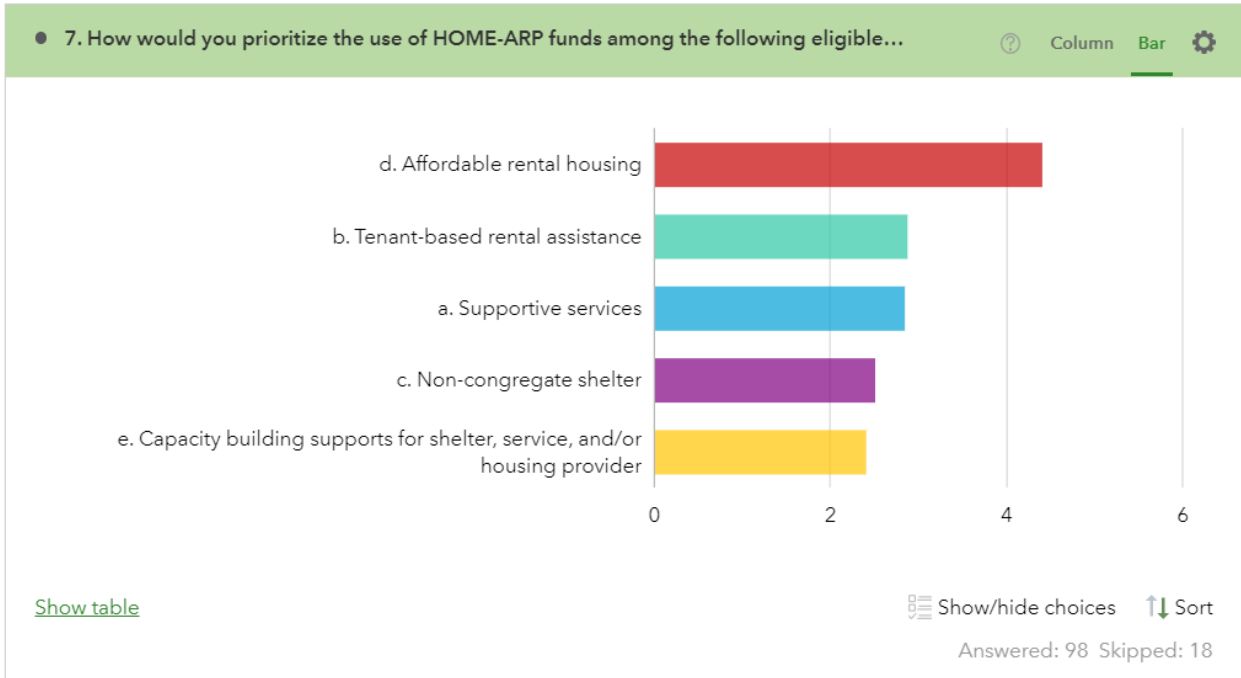
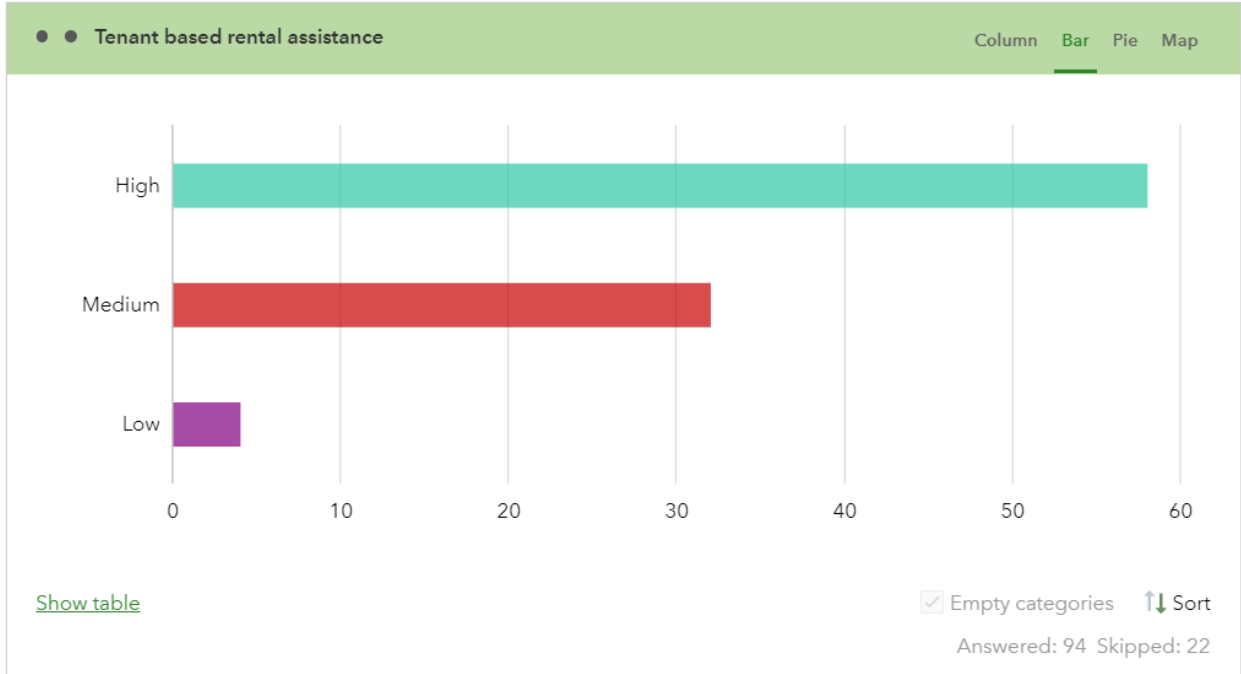




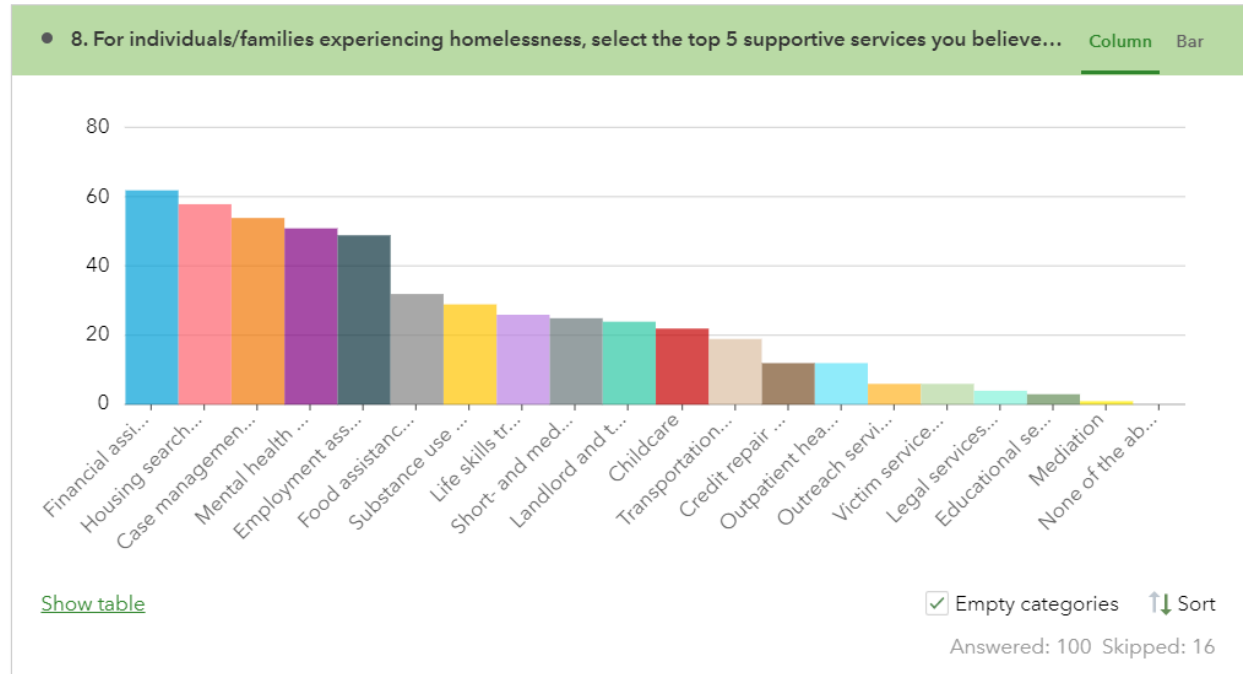
Eligible Activity Prioritization > 6d. Rate the unmet needs of other households at risk of housing instability (as defined by HUD)



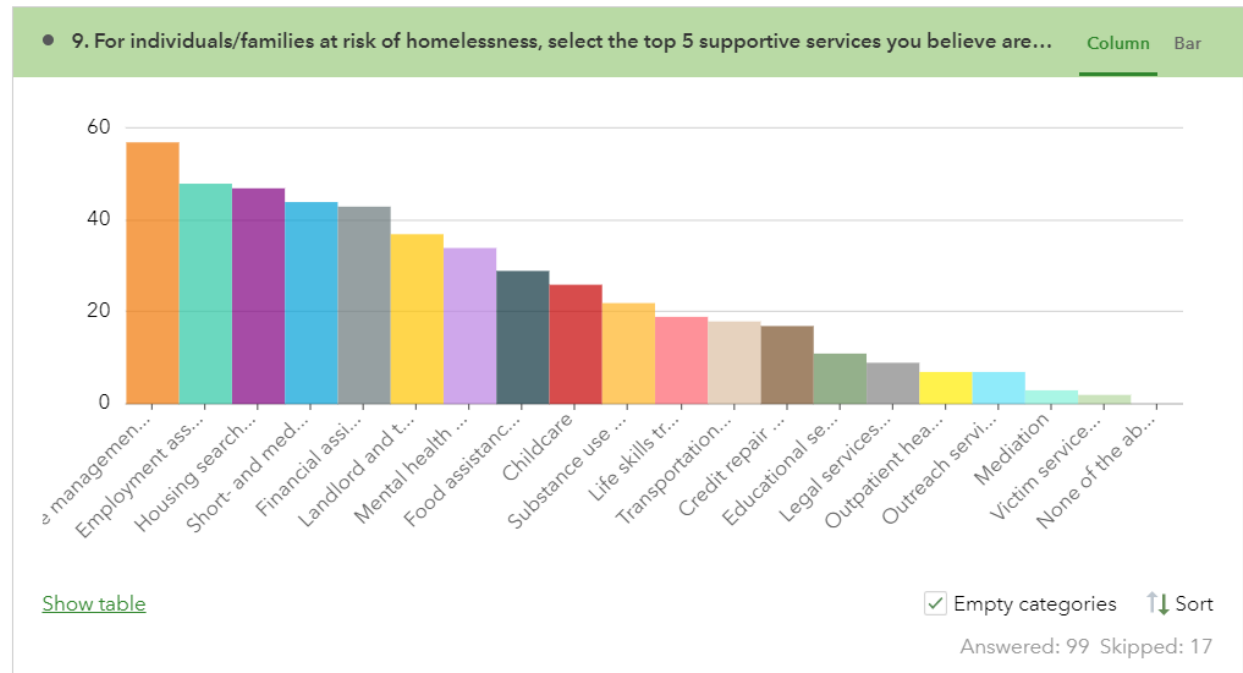




### Needs of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness



### Needs of Individuals at Risk of Homelessness



## Appendix C: Service Provider Listening Sessions

ACCGov organized five listening sessions for HOME-ARP consultations, each designed for a specific type of stakeholder (homeless service providers, non-health supportive service providers, health supportive service providers, and victim/survivor service providers). In total, 26 stakeholders attended these focused sessions. Broadly, providers echoed themes from the surveys, stakeholder meetings and client interviews.

### Discussion Questions

1. What are your current priorities (goals) as an agency?
2. If you wanted to get something done on an issue related to homelessness or affordable housing, who would you call first?
  - a. Are you satisfied with the current level of coordination?
  - b. How could coordination among service providers be improved?
  - c. Who are your key partners?
3. The barrier most commonly brought up in the previous stakeholder session from HOME-ARP was rising rents and lack of affordable housing. What is the Athens community doing to address this?
  - a. Any landlord engagement?
  - b. What strategies would you recommend to increase affordable housing availability?
4. In what ways is Athens currently succeeding in addressing homelessness?
  - a. What resources are in most demand?
5. What if any equity issues do you see in ending homelessness?
  - a. How can these be addressed?
6. Are you engaging with people experiencing homelessness or housing stability as partners in your work?
  - a. Forums for input/feedback?
7. Whiteboard Activity: What are your top recommendations to:
  - a. Improve how providers coordinate
  - b. Reduce unsheltered homelessness
  - c. Move people into permanent housing
  - d. Stop returns to homelessness
  - e. Improve referrals and supportive services
8. Anything else you would want ACCGov or community leaders to know about addressing homelessness or affordable housing in Athens?

### Key Themes

#### *Affordable Housing*

Providers unanimously agreed there is a great need for affordable rental housing, additionally noting that these units should be available based on a sliding scale to accommodate different levels of affordability for different households. Providers also suggested using funds for rehabilitation of properties that are substandard or damaged to increase overall housing stock.

### *Organizational Capacity Building*

Providers noted that organizations are in need of additional staff to carry out overall coordination and navigation activities. They also suggested hiring a paid staff member for the Athens Homeless Coalition to provide these system-wide supports. Providers expressed support for additional staff within Athens-Clarke County government to support streamlined funding processes for homeless services.

### *Supportive Services*

Childcare was a common need that providers were seeing among clients. This included childcare services available outside of traditional business hours, which is not currently available in the community. Providers reiterated client suggestions for additional mental health services, including medication management and ongoing counseling needs.

Additionally, providers noted that the county is in need of additional prevention services. There are currently limited options for landlord mediation and eviction mediation that could be provided through housing counseling services. Providers noted that there are options for clients seeking to become homeowners, but this is a very small proportion of clients and similar credit and mediation options should be available for rents. Additionally, there is a need to increase access to these services among the local Hispanic/Latinx community by translating materials, bilingual staff, etc.

### *Non-Congregate Shelter*

Shelter operators who participated in the listening sessions stated that they operate on a constant waitlist, never having enough beds or resources to meet the number of requests received. Providers noted a need for additional low-barrier shelters in the community, expressing support for non-congregate models that provide intensive case management and open access for clients to enter and exit at any time of day.

## **Participants**

<b>Consultation Group</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Homeless Service Providers <i>Jan. 18, 2023</i> <i>ACC Planning Department</i> <i>Auditorium</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shea Post, Athens Area Homeless Shelter</li> <li>2. Rebecca Blankenship, Athens Area Homeless Shelter</li> <li>3. John Burch, Advantage Behavioral Health System</li> <li>4. Madison Sanders, Family Promise of Athens</li> <li>5. Kelly Brannen, Lydia’s Place</li> <li>6. Sheldon Greenland, The Salvation Army</li> <li>7. Angela Pope, Clarke County School District</li> </ol>
Supportive Service Providers <i>Jan. 18, 2023</i> <i>ACC Planning Department</i> <i>Auditorium</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lucy Hudgens, The Ark</li> <li>2. Danielle Bonanno, Acceptance Recovery Center</li> <li>3. Soraia Santos Felgenhauers, Clarke County School District</li> <li>4. Dr. LaKeisha Gantt, CCSD Board of Education</li> <li>5. Dr. Mumbi Anderson, CCSD Board of Education</li> <li>6. Cpt. William Hood, ACC Police Department</li> </ol>



<p>Victim/Survivors Service Providers  <i>Jan. 18, 2023</i>  <i>Athens Clarke County Library</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Donna Bracewell, Project Safe</li> <li>2. Rachel Abbruzzi, The Cottage</li> <li>3. Chanda Santana, Divas Who Win</li> <li>4. Tanya Wingfield, Western Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office</li> </ol>
<p>Healthcare Service Providers  <i>Jan. 19, 2023</i>  <i>ACC Planning Department Auditorium</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tammy Gilland, Piedmont Athens Regional Health Center</li> <li>2. Catherine Gurak, St. Mary's Health Care System</li> <li>3. Patrick Reilly, Clarke County Health Department</li> <li>4. Evan Mills, Advantage Behavioral Health System</li> <li>5. Ruby Peel, Athens Neighborhood Health Center</li> <li>6. Bradford Coleman, Mercy Health Center</li> </ol>
<p>Immigrant Support Groups/Providers  <i>Jan. 25, 2023</i>  <i>Webex</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beto Mendoza, Dignidad Inmigrante en Athens</li> <li>2. Noe Mendoza, Dignidad Inmigrante en Athens</li> <li>3. Aline Loza, Family Connection-Communities in Schools and Dignidad Inmigrante en Athens</li> </ol>

## Appendix D: Community Interviews Key Themes & Demographics

Between January 18-20, 2023, ACCGov coordinated with Advantage Behavioral Health Systems, Athens Alliance Coalition, the Athens Area Homeless Shelter and Family Promise of Athens to interview 20 current and former clients who might stand to benefit from programs funded by HOME-ARP.

### Discussion Questions

1. Can you walk us through your living situation over the last two years?
2. Tell us about your current housing situation, including how long you have been there?
3. Tell us about your major sources of support through this timeline, including financial and social support at each housing point.
4. What is your main source of income?
5. What is the main reason you lost your housing?
6. Did you have difficulty accessing housing support services?
  - a. How long did you have to wait to get help from the agency?
  - b. What was your experience like?
7. Did/do you feel supported by the homeless service providers?
  - a. Were there any supports or services that you wanted but just weren't available to you?
  - b. What was the most helpful information you received from homeless service providers?
  - c. What kind of barriers did you run into while homeless (access to services, personal barriers, structural barriers)?
  - d. Do you have a disability? If yes, do you feel that your disability has made it difficult to gain stable housing?
  - e. How could community services/case managers/services workers have better supported you?
8. Do you feel like you have a voice in shaping how programs are run?
9. In your opinion, what are the main causes of homelessness in Athens?
  - a. What could be done to address these causes?
10. Drawing on your experience, does homelessness differ across racial/ethnic groups?
11. To the extent that you feel comfortable discussing this, has racial discrimination played a role in your experience of homelessness? Do you feel like racial discrimination occurs in homeless programs in Athens?
12. When you think of other disenfranchised groups, for example, people who identify as LGBTQ or have a disability, what barriers do they face related to homelessness in the county?
13. If you were to talk to someone going through a similar experience, what advice would you give them?
14. What advice do you have for the services providers as it tries to address homelessness?
15. How do you describe your race/gender? Sexual orientation?
16. Is there anything else you'd like to share with me?

## Key Themes

Key themes across interviews, as they relate to HOME-ARP eligible uses included:

### *Affordable Housing*

All of the interviewees stated that there was a shortage of affordable housing in the Athens area. Those who were currently or recently housed noted that affordable housing is often available in areas that are unsafe or the housing itself was substandard. Three interviewees currently had housing vouchers and were looking for housing, and an additional two interviewees had housing move-in dates for specific units. These individuals remarked that it was very difficult to find acceptable housing within their voucher or subsidy amount, many landlords did not accept financial assistance, and that locating housing often meant leaving Clarke County. While leaving was an option for some people, those without transportation or with children attending Clarke County schools were more reluctant to explore options in other counties. Affordable housing was most often the top need expressed by interviewees.

### *Non-Congregate Shelter*

Many interviewees had difficulty finding shelter or emergency housing options (e.g., motels paid for by an agency). They frequently reported having to call numerous places numerous times to find an opening in a program, doing this navigation work without the assistance of any case manager. Some people waited months for a shelter bed to become available, often living unsheltered or in places not meant for human habitation in the meantime. Interviewees agreed there should be more emergency housing in Athens-Clarke County.

However, not all shelter was considered ideal or acceptable. Some interviewees did not stay in the larger congregate shelters because those facilities were viewed as unsafe (and some people who did attend these types of facilities were harmed in them). Other programs that required daily entry and exit posed challenges. The primary challenge was that in these facilities the bed was not guaranteed beyond the one night, leading to people sometimes being left outside for the evening. Additionally, calling to try to obtain one of the spots for the night was prohibitive for those with few minutes left on their phone, and the call-in and entry times sometimes conflicted with people's work or school schedules. Interviewees appreciated shelter programs that offered private rooms, something particularly beneficial for couples and people with children, as well as programs that allowed entry and exit at any time.

### *Supportive Services*

Interviewees spoke highly of the services they were able to access. Many interviewees were accessing medical care, both emergency and primary care, and were satisfied with the services they received from local hospitals. Only one interviewee reported difficulties accessing Medicaid or indigent medical services. The most frequently requested supportive service was ongoing mental health services. Crisis services could be accessed through various programs, but there were options for ongoing psychiatric care for more acute individuals. Many individuals who requested greater access to mental health services did not have acute mental illness. These individuals were often experiencing depression and anxiety, in many cases directly related to their homelessness, and had few options for regular counseling and support.

Non-health related supportive services included credit repair and counseling and job training. Many interviewees had poor credit that prohibited them from renting apartments and were in need of credit services to help raise their score and clear old or erroneous debts from their record. Additionally, some interviewees were paying monthly on large amounts of debt that counseling services may be able to consolidate. While many interviewees were working, these jobs were not paying enough to meaningfully improve their living situation. Interviewees suggested Athens increase investment in education programs and work partnerships that would lead to above minimum-wage employment.

### Participant Demographics

The table below outlines self-identified demographics of interviewees:

**Table 10: Community Interview Participant Demographics (Self-Described)**

	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Race/ Ethnicity</b>	<b>Household Type</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Housing</b>
1	Transgender Woman	Black	Single Adult	Part-Time	Unsheltered
2	Woman	Black	Single Adult	Unemployed	Unsheltered
3	Woman	Black	Single Adult	Unemployed	Unsheltered
4	Man	Hispanic	Single Adult	Full-Time	Unsheltered
5	Man	White	Single Adult	Full-Time	Unsheltered
6	Man	White	Adults & Children	Unemployed	Unsheltered
7	Woman	White	Adults & Children	Full-Time	Unsheltered
8	Woman	White	Adults & Children	Unemployed	Sheltered
9	Woman	Black	Adults & Children	Unemployed	Housed, At-Risk
10	Woman	Black	Adults & Children	Full-Time Student	Sheltered
11	Woman	Black	Adults & Children	Full-Time Student	Sheltered
12	Woman	Black	Adults & Children	Full-Time	Sheltered
13	Woman	Black	Adults & Children	Full-Time	Sheltered
14	Woman	White	Adults & Children	Full-Time	Sheltered
15	Woman	White	Adults Only	Unemployed	Recently Housed
16	Man	White	Adults Only	Unemployed	Recently Housed
17	Man	Black	Single Adult	Unemployed	Unsheltered
18	Woman	Black	Single Adult	Unemployed	Recently Housed
19	Woman	White	Single Adult	Unemployed	Recently Housed
20	Man	Black	Single Adult	Unemployed	Recently Housed

**Appendix E. Public Notice on *Athens Banner-Herald***

**Public Notice  
Athens-Clarke County  
Housing & Community Development Department  
HUD HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN**

Notice is hereby given by the Athens-Clarke County Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) of a proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. The allocation plan outlines which types of activities will be undertaken with the funding provided through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) HOME Investment Partnership American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP). All activities shall benefit homeless and qualifying populations primarily through the provision of housing and services.

**The Mayor and Commission will receive citizen comments on the proposed plan at a public hearing on March 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM in City Hall.** The plan will be available for review and written public comments concerning the plan will be received from February 13, 2023 through March 7, 2023 per HUD Notice CPD-21-10 public comment requirements. Comments must be submitted in writing to:

The Housing & Community Development Department via: [marci.irwin@accgov.com](mailto:marci.irwin@accgov.com) or 375 Satula Avenue, Athens, GA 30601

A summary of the proposed use of funds is as follows:

<b>HOME-ARP Allocation</b>	<b>\$2,506,309</b>
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$1,300,000
Supportive Services	\$ 625,000
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	\$ 0
Acquisition & Development of Non-Congregate Shelter	\$ 0
Nonprofit Operating (5%) & Capacity Building (5%)	\$ 250,630
Administration & Planning (13%)	\$ 330,679

The draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is located on the Housing and Community Development website at [www.accgov.com/hcd](http://www.accgov.com/hcd)

Hard copies are available for review at the following locations during normal business hours and by request by contacting Marci Irwin at [marci.irwin@accgov.com](mailto:marci.irwin@accgov.com) or 706-613-3155

Housing and Community Development Department Office  
375 Satula Avenue  
Athens, GA 30601  
706-613-3155

East Athens Development Corporation  
410 McKinley Drive  
Athens, GA 30601  
706-208-0048

All locations are in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia and are accessible to people with Disabilities. We encourage ACC residents to review the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. If you have any questions or require special assistance, please call Housing and Community Development staff at 706-613-3155. Written comments should be submitted to the Housing and Community Development Department to [marci.irwin@accgov.com](mailto:marci.irwin@accgov.com) or mailed to 375 Satula Ave, Athens, GA 30601. All comments received during the public notice comment period will be considered and a summary incorporated into the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan submitted to HUD.

AP-2448211

## Appendix F. Additional Data on Qualifying Populations

### People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

#### *Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance:*

Based on comprehensive data collected from a representative sample of households in ACC in Fall 2021/Winter 2022, the [Athens WellBeing Project 3.0 Housing Report](#) indicates that ~15,000 households (29% of all ACC households) moved at least once in the last two years. Of those, ~10,000 moved twice and ~4,500 moved 3 or more times. Black/African-American and Hispanic/Latinx households were more likely to have moved in the last two years compared to their White counterparts. While this data is not available specifically for extremely low-income households, or for the period of 60 days immediately preceding the application for homeless prevention assistance, it speaks to the housing volatility experienced in our community.

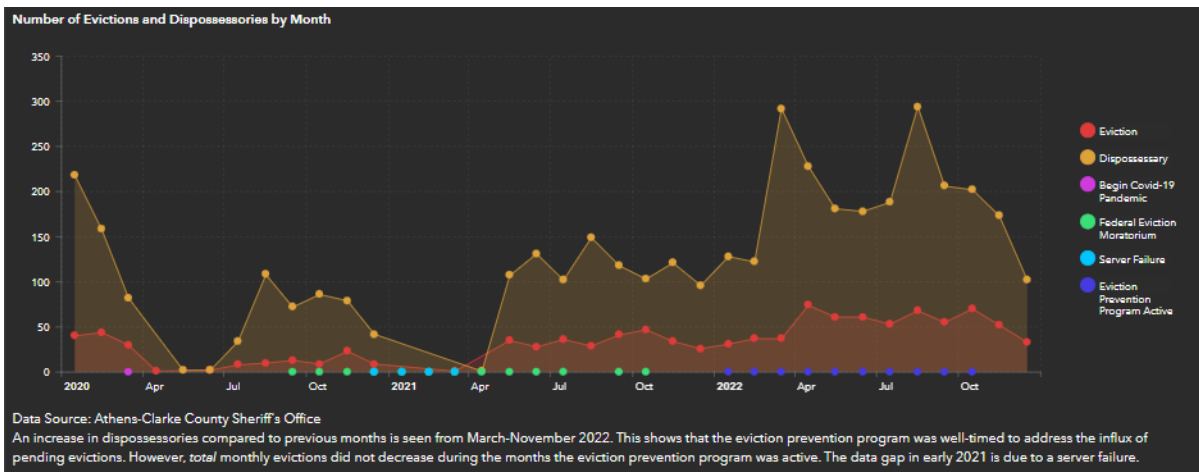
#### *Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship:*

2015-2019 CHAS data indicates that 215 extremely low-income households have a family type of more than one family or one family with at least one subfamily. It is likely that many of these families are doubling up due to economic hardship.

#### *Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance:*

A total of 2,257 dispossessories were served in ACC between January 1 and December 16, 2022. 618 evictions were served during the same time period. As of December 16, 2022, 145 households were served dispossessories within the previous 21 days. Data is not available to quantify what percent of these households meet the extremely low-income threshold.

Between January-December 2022, an ARPA-funded Eviction Prevention Program assisted 425 households, of which approximately 28% had extremely low income. During the first 10 months of the program, 82% of recipients were Black/African American, 17% were white, and 1% were of unknown race.



***Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low income individuals:***

Several hotels in Athens-Clarke County provide rooms at a weekly rate to individuals and households who have no other residence. ACCGov reached out to five hotels directly via phone and email to determine the number of households in this population. Only one hotel responded and indicated that 38 rooms are currently rented by tenants with no other residence and no assistance from charitable organizations or government programs. ACCGov was unable to verify whether individuals living in these hotels fall into the extremely low income, very low income, or other income bracket.

***Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau:***

According to CHAS 2015-2019 data for Athens-Clarke County, 65 extremely low income renter households live in overcrowded conditions. This represents 0.6% of extremely low income households. An additional 20 extremely low income homeowner households live in overcrowded conditions.

***Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution***

Data from the [GA Department of Corrections](#) indicate that 122 individuals (107 male and 15 female) with a home county of Clarke County were released in fiscal year 2022. While the GA Department of Corrections does not provide data on the income status of these individuals (or their household) following release, we know that 47% of incarcerated individuals were unemployed prior to entering prison and additional 7% were employed only part time. The Athens field office of the [GA Department of Community Supervision](#) also reported that they typically have between 40-50 homeless individuals on felony probation and parole, though exact data was not available.

The [Georgia Department of Human Services](#) shared that in their FY2022, 8 youth aged out of foster care in Athens-Clarke County, compared with 10 youth in 2021 and 7 in 2020. [Lydia's Place](#), a local non-profit, provided housing and supportive services to 10 young adults exiting foster care or homelessness in 2022. In January 2023 alone, the organization is housing 9 students with 3 in the intake process.

[Advantage Behavioral Health Systems \(ABHS\)](#) provided data on the number of households discharged from their THRIVE residential programs in FY2022. Out of 141 total discharges 103 (73%) were successfully discharged to stable housing, while 38 (27.0%) were unsuccessfully discharged. ABHS was unable to provide income data for these households, so it is unknown what percent of unsuccessfully discharged individuals are below 30% AMI, what percent are 30-50% AMI, and what percent are >50% AMI.

**Table 11. Individuals Served by THRIVE Residential & Destination Data**

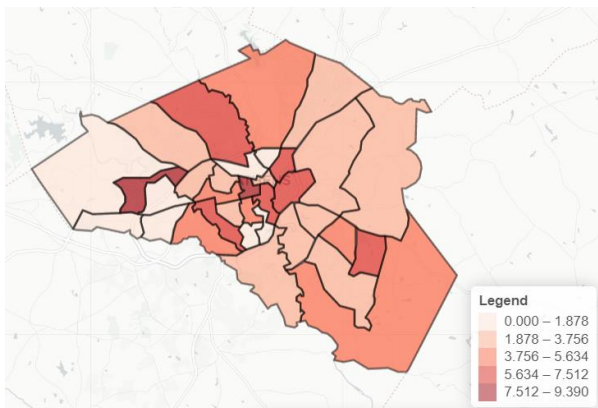
Program	Program totals		Stably Housed/ Successfully Discharged		Unsuccessfully Discharged	
	Served	Discharged	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Rapid Re-Housing Program	115	5	2	40%	3	60%
MH Residential Program	22	12	6	50%	6	50%
Forensics Residential Program	19	2	2	100%		0%
Hotel Voucher Program	73	73	63	86%	10	14%
Housing Support Program	161	31	16	52%	15	48%
Shelter Plus Care Program	85	10	9	90%	1	10%
Crisis Respite Program	12	8	5	63%	3	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27%</b>

*Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient’s approved consolidated plan:*

The 2020 Athens-Clarke County Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice identified the following vulnerabilities that place households at an increased risk of becoming homeless: lack of educational attainment, lack of work history, poor health status, domestic violence, mental illness, and substance abuse.

**Lack of Educational Attainment:** According to the American Community Survey 2017-2021, 1897 owner-occupied households have a householder who lack a high school diploma or GED, while 2015 renter households have a householder who did not graduate high school.

**Lack of Work History:** At the time the report was written, ACC saw a 12.3% unemployment rate in April 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, unemployment rates have steadily decreased and have reached some of the lowest rates since 2012. The latest available data, from November 2022 indicates preliminary 2.5% unemployment rate. Unemployment in Athens does vary throughout the county, as outlined in Figure 3. With that said, many stakeholders consulted for this Allocation Plan highlighted that although unemployment rates are low, many Athenians hold multiple low-wage jobs to make ends meet, putting them at risk of losing their housing.



**Figure 3. Distribution of unemployment in ACC, based on ACS 2016-2020**

Source: [comapuga.shinyapps.io/AthensSocialAtlas](http://comapuga.shinyapps.io/AthensSocialAtlas)



**Poor Health Status:** According to the [Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center’s 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment](#), 33.9% of adults 18 years and older reported having high cholesterol and 36.9% reported having high blood pressure. Almost 8% of adults aged 20 or older had a diagnosis of diabetes, and 3% of Athenians have kidney disease. Seventy-percent of all Medicare beneficiaries in Athens in 2018 (9,198 people) have multiple chronic conditions, with 14% having six or more. This report also indicates that 29% of ACC residents 20 years and older were obese in 2019.

**Domestic Violence:** Described elsewhere in this report.

**Mental Illness & Substance Abuse:** Current information on the percent of Athens-Clarke County residents affected by mental illness and substance use disorder was obtained from Athens Wellbeing Project 3.0 survey data, collected in 2022. These values were used to estimate the affected number of extremely low income households, as shown in Table 12.

**Table 12. Estimate of Number of ACC Residents Affected by Mental Illness, SUD**

	Households with at least one family member who has depression or anxiety	Households who needed mental health treatment but did not access it	Households with at least one member who has substance use or alcohol use disorder	Households who needed but did not access SUD/AUD treatment
Percent Share of AWP 3.0 Respondents	33%	7%	6.5%	4%
Estimated Number of ELI Households	3932	822	774	477

*Source: Athens Wellbeing Project 3.0*

**Youth Experiencing Homelessness.** Another subpopulation at risk of homelessness are youth that may not meet the requirements listed above, but qualifies as “homeless” under other federal statutes. Clarke County School District provided data on the number of children meeting this criteria from 2020-2023. Since 2020, the number of youth in shelters has decreased, while the number staying in hotels/motels has steadily increased (Table 13).

**Table 13. CCSD McKinney-Vento (Homeless) Data**

	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020
Doubled Up	228	271	226	243
Shelters	59	77	69	82
Hotels/Motels	109	85	60	S (<=2)
Unsheltered	4	0	1	S (<=2)
Total	400	433	356	387
Unaccompanied Youth	Data unavailable	50	28	
Migratory Children/Youth	Data unavailable	0	11	
Students with Disabilities	Data unavailable	92	84	
Limited English Proficiency	Data unavailable	17	17	

*Source: CCSD*

Additionally, [US Department of Education ED Facts Data Files](#) were consulted to obtain data on the racial demographics of children and youth meeting this criteria. Racial demographics were only available for the 2019-2020 school year, at which time 79.1% of homeless students were Black, 8.0% were Hispanic, 7.2% were white, 4.7% were two or more races, and 1.0% were Native American.

**People Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking**

Unsheltered: The 2022 [Point-in-Time Count](#) indicated that at least 37 individuals (13% of the surveyed population) in Athens-Clarke County were experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (Table 14). Fifteen were unsheltered at the time of the survey.

Domestic and Dating Violence: Project Safe, a local non-profit providing services to domestic violence survivors, [reported](#) sheltering 131 clients in 2021, with 25 clients receiving long term housing. Project Safe also reviewed 1,437 police reports for domestic violence, served 580 clients in outreach, responded to 2,393 hotline calls, and 188 text conversations in 2021. Divas Who Win, another local nonprofit, reported assisting 58+ domestic abuse survivors in 2021 (background information was not captured for all clients), and 106 domestic violence survivors in 2022. The Western Circuit District Attorney’s Office Data Dashboard indicated that 19 family violence cases were filed in ACC in 2021 (vs. 93 in 2019 and 78 in 2020).

**Table 14. Unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking**

	# of Individuals
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	8
Male	7
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
Black, African American	5
Multi-Racial	2
White	8
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x), any race	1
<b>Age Group</b>	
18 to 24	2
25 and over	13
<b>Household Size</b>	
1	9
2	3
5+	3

*Source: 2022 PIT*

Sexual Assault: The FBI Crime Data Explorer [NIBRS table](#) indicates a total of 168 sex offenses reported in Athens-Clarke County in 2021. Of these offenses there were 58 instances of rape, 9 instances of sodomy, 44 instances of sexual assault with an object, 44 instances of fondling, and 6 instances of incest. While the percentage of survivors of sexual assault who may be fleeing or attempting to flee a situation is unknown, local service provider data does provide some context around the size and demographics of individuals in this qualifying population. Divas Who Win served 86 survivors of sexual violence in 2022.

Additionally [The Cottage](#), a local sexual assault and children’s advocacy center, served 21 survivors of sexual assault experiencing homelessness in 2022, a slight decrease from 25 served in 2021. The total number of survivors served in 2022 was 873, with 39% of those individuals (339) residents of Clarke County. Additional demographic data was available for 2021, but was

not able to be broken out by county of residence. In total 207 new adult clients were served, including 171 females, 18 males, 5 transgender individuals, 7 non-binary individuals, and 6 of unknown gender. 50 of these individuals identified as LGBTQ, 22 live with disabilities, 9 were English as a second language learners, and 5 were incarcerated. Additionally, The Cottage served 221 child clients in 2021, including 140 females and 81 males.

**Human Trafficking:** Current data on human trafficking in Athens-Clarke County was obtained from the Athens-Clarke County Police Transparency Hub [Crime Map](#). Two cases of Trafficking – Commercial Sex Acts were recorded in 2022, and 1 case was recorded in 2021. The FBI Crime Data Explorer [NIBRS table](#) was in agreement with ACCPD data, indicating one human trafficking offense in 2021. Organizations assisting victims of human trafficking in Athens-Clarke County include The Cottage and Divas Who Win. The Cottage served 7 individuals identified as trafficking survivors in 2021. Divas Who Win assisted two survivors of sex trafficking in obtaining permanent housing in 2021, and assisted 11 survivors of sex trafficking in varying capacities in 2022.

### **Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability as defined by HUD in the Notice**

Households must meet one or more of several criteria to qualify for the “other” category. The size and demographics of populations meeting each of the criteria are detailed below.

A household which has annual income that is less than or equal to 30% of the area median income, as determined by HUD and is experiencing severe cost burden (i.e., is paying more than 50% of monthly household income toward housing costs): 2015-2019 CHAS data indicates that 7185 extremely low income renter households and 955 extremely low income homeowner households in Athens-Clarke County are experiencing severe cost burden.

Households which have an annual income between 30-50% AMI (very low income) and meet one of the following criteria:

A. Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance: Athens-Clarke County was not able to obtain data for households meeting this criteria. The closest proxy available came from Athens Wellbeing Project 3.0 survey data. This survey asked participants how many times they had moved in the preceding two years. In total, 19% of respondents had moved twice in the past two years and 9% had moved 3+ times.

B. Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship: 2015-2019 CHAS data indicates that 25 very low income households have a family type of more than one family or one family with at least one subfamily. It is likely that many of these families are doubling up due to economic hardship. As of 2020 at least 243 students enrolled in Clarke County School District were living doubled up with another household. The number of these households with an extremely low income status is unknown.

C. Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance: In total 2707 dispossession notices were served in Athens-Clarke County between January 1 and December 15, 2022. 594 evictions were served during the same time period. As of December 15, 2022 145 households were served dispossession notices within the past 21 days. Data is not available to

quantify what percent of these households meet the extremely low income threshold. However, data is available for a subset of households who applied for ARPA-funded eviction prevention assistance. Of the 417 households assisted by this program approximately 38% were very low income. For the program as a whole 82% of recipients were Black/African American, 17% were white, and 1% were of unknown race.

D. Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low income individuals:

At least 38 households are residing in a hotel not paid by a charitable or government program as of January 2023, but the income status of these households was unable to be determined. Thus it is unknown how many fall into the “at risk” population and how many fall into the other population. For more information on data collection for this population refer to the corresponding paragraph in the People At-Risk of Homelessness section.

E. Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau: According to CHAS 2015-2019 data for Athens-Clarke County, 10 very low income renter households live in overcrowded conditions. This represents 0.1% of very low income households. No very low income homeowner households were reported as living in overcrowded conditions.

F. Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution: [GA Department of Corrections](#) data indicate that 122 individuals (107 male and 15 female) with a home county of Clarke County were released in fiscal year 2022. GA Department of Corrections does not provide data on the income status of these individuals (or their household) following release. However, GA DoC data indicates that 47% of incarcerated individuals were unemployed prior to entering prison, while an additional 7% were employed only part time, indicating that these individuals are likely to qualify as very low or extremely low income.

The [Georgia Department of Human Services](#) provides data on the number of young adults exiting foster care by county in GA. In FY2022 eight youth aged out of foster care in Athens-Clarke County, compared with 10 youth in 2021 and 7 in 2020.

G. Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient’s approved consolidated plan: The Athens-Clarke County Consolidated Plan identifies the following vulnerabilities that place households at an increased risk of becoming homeless: lack of educational attainment, lack of work history, poor health status, domestic violence (covered above), mental illness, and substance abuse.

Current data on the number of Athens-Clarke County residents who lack a high school diploma or GED was obtained from the American Community Survey 2017-2021. 1897 owner-occupied households have a householder who did not graduate high school, while 2015 renter households have a householder who did not graduate high school.

Current information on the percent of Athens-Clarke County residents affected by mental illness and substance use disorder was obtained from Athens Wellbeing Project 3.0 survey

data, collected in 2022. These values were used to estimate the affected number of very low income households, as shown in Table 12.

***Veterans and Families that include a Veteran Family Members***

Veterans and their families who qualify as part of any of the populations describe above are also eligible to benefit from HOME-ARP funded programs. ACCGov reviewed active clients (as of January 2023) in HMIS to determine the number and demographics of individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness, described on Table 15.

**Table 15. Demographics of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in 2021**

<b>Demographic</b>	<b>Number of Clients</b>	<b>Percentage of clients</b>
<i>Race</i>		
Black, African American, or African	42	46.15%
White	47	51.65%
Missing	2	2.20%
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	1	1.10%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)	90	98.90%
<i>Gender</i>		
Female	10	10.99%
Male	80	87.91%
Multiple-Genders	1	1.10%
<i>Age</i>		
25 to 55	46	50.55%
56 to 65	32	35.16%
Over 65	13	14.29%
<i>Disability</i>		
Has a disabling condition	64	70.33%

Source: HMIS

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Athens-Clarke County Unified Government  
Housing & Community Development Department  
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