Shelter Task Force

August 9, 2021

Key Findings- Data:
Data systems/rigor needs to be bolstered

- Roughly 93% of all shelter exits were not tracked in HMIS from 2019-2021

- Using HMIS only for basic data entry leaves most of the story unwritten

- OPH CONNECT and OPH OUTREACH has perspective through qualitative data

Special populations

- **Those experiencing unsheltered homelessness:**
  - 2020 PIT = 83 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness
  - Data from Our Path Home CONNECT: around 150 families currently on the coordinated entry queue that not using shelter system (self-report)
  - Of those, there are at least 65 households that would use the shelter system if the shelter rules had less barriers

- **Youth & young adults experiencing homelessness:**
  - unaccompanied youth are not using the current shelter system
  - Education data shoes at least 100 youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Boise
  - Underserved population with specialized services/sheltering needs

Shelter Need in our Community
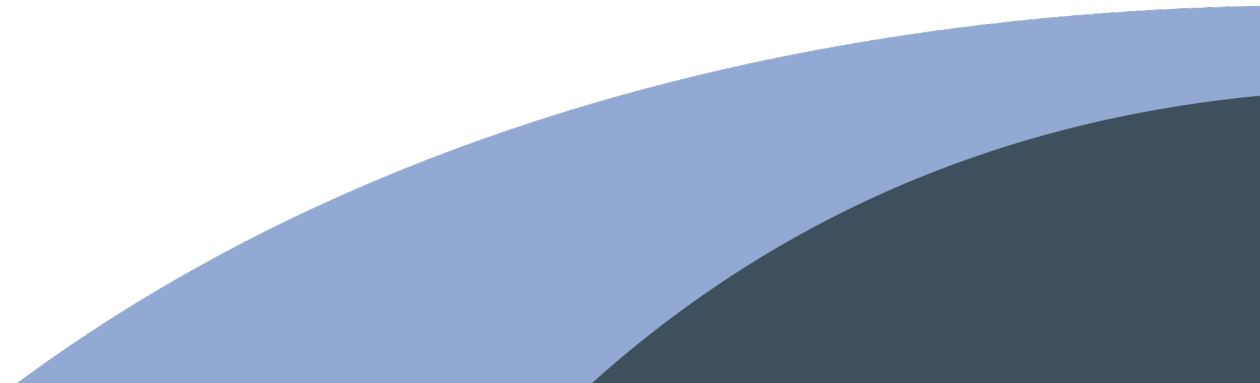
Current Shelter Capacity

	Adult-Only	Families with Children	Unaccompanied Youth	Overflow	Total # of Beds
Boise Rescue Mission (City Light)	86	29	0	50	165
Boise Rescue Mission (River of Life)	250	0	0	42	292
Interfaith Sanctuary	144	2	0	0	146
Total Traditional Shelter	**480**	**31**	**0**	**92**	**603**
Additional Shelter (Red Lion Hotel)	104	38	0	0	142

Average Shelter Usage

	2019	2020	2021
Adult-Only	257	367	347
Families with Children	57	75	81
Average # of Beds Occupied Per Night	**314**	**442**	**428**

This comes from HMIS inputs over the past three years, broken down by population. It is showing the number of beds that were occupied across all shelters on a given night each year.

Shelter Demand Forecast

	Shelter Demand (with a 30-Day Length of Stay)	Peak Demand		Current Shelter Capacity (without Red Lion)	Gap (Peak Demand – Current Capacity)
Adult-Only	284	437		480	-43
Families with Children	95	142		31	111
Total Beds Needed	**379**	**579**		**603** (with 90 overflow beds)	**0**

Recommendations

- Create exits to permanent solutions
  - Set goals around average LoS (30 days or less)
- Incorporate new OPH permanent housing goals + investments into shelter goals
  - New SH units (developed and leased) – 5 year goals:
    - Individuals: 87 PSH, 21 RRH, and 31 Diversion
    - Families: 17-25 PSH, 100 RRH, 31 Diversion
- Retain the ability to be flexible with the current beds/shelter capacity

It's not all about length of stay:

- LoS is important in terms of shelter bed capacity in the short and long term, but a good system has to take into account other metrics:

- Exits to permanent solutions (are people getting housed, are they staying housed?)

- Guest experience (this includes co-creation of design and programming)

- Capacity building for staff and administers, what does a housing first philosophy look like in shelter. What does it REALLY mean to provide trauma-informed care