

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

One City Center

**Thursday, June 20, 2019
9:00 AM**

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions**
 - a. Review and approval of May 16, 2019 meeting minutes.
 - b. Announcements
- 2. HVJ Update**
- 3. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics**
 - a. May Statistics
- 4. LTS Update**
- 5. Federal, State and Local Legislation**
 - a. Policy/Advocacy Update – 6/14/2019
- 6. Other Business**

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: One City Center

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, May 16, 2019

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
George Rheault	Bayside Resident	Sara Ewing-Merril	GP Family Promise
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown	Jeff Tardif	City of Portland Family Shelter
Jim Divine	HVJ	Christina Cook	TOA PATH
Cullen Ryan	CHOM	Andrew Bove	Preble Street
Jacques Ngaliema	Greater Portland Health	Henry Tarlow	City of Portland
Amanda Methot	City of Portland	Vickey Rand	CHOM
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors	Brian Townsend	Amistad
William Higgins	Homeless Advocacy for All		

Introductions

- Approval of Minutes
 - o Bill moved to accept, Vickey seconded.
 - o Motion to approve the minutes passed without discussion.
- Announcements
 - o Finance committee voted:
 - \$50,000 in the PCSF bringing it up to \$200,000;
 - \$45,000 to warming center overflow.

HVJ

- Monday 5/20 and Portland inclusionary commission will have a rally at 4:30 then giving public comment to the City Council.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Annual summer solstice vigil June 21st.
 - Location TBD: Tommy's park, monument square, or the steps of City Hall.
- Rally for affordable housing around the 30th.

April Statistics

- <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/986>

Warming Center

- 5 families for 18 individuals last night 5/15.
- Black out dates but with numbers below 30 means the family shelter can use its own space without using the Preble Street soup kitchen.
- 2 families from eagle pass Texas.
 - More from Laredo and El Paso.
 - The families are paroled.
- 6 families sent from El Paso were not paroled and are ineligible for PCSF/GA.
- 7 families housed in 41 Chestnut.
 - Another 8 Unites coming in mid to late summer.
 - Privately owned; working with the landlord after new property management (Brick Light) took over and rehabbed the building.
- Finance Committee: The warming Center cap is only for individual adults.
 - Does not affect FS overflow at the SA.
 - Currently funded in the budget.
 - All overflows are staffed by the City (Not the SA)
- Some clients in the shelter have I-94s expiring soon but they are in the recess of applying for asylum.
 - Number is tracked
 - Possibly 6 to 10.
- 1 family did not get their rent paid this month and may end up a return.
- It is possible that there could be empty spaces in the shelter and families in the warming center due to a lack of eligibility
 - Not there yet and may never get to that point.
- Parolees must wear ankle bracelets indefinitely until court dates unless there is a doctor's note.
- Detention centers do not act consistently making situations unpredictable.
- Press Herald reported a Pastor in Texas corresponding with an official in Portland.
 - Unknown who
 - Rumors on waves of travelers comes from the families in warming center and they are fairly accurate.
 - Shelters and detention centers are communicating with the family shelter
 - Texas organizations thought they were sending folks to a resettlement center.
 - They realized a year ago that the family shelter is a shelter, not a welcome center.
- Do families who have arrived communicate with those still traveling or are at the border?
 - What is available in Portland.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- o Who is able to divert? (Logistically or politically)
- 1- and 2-bedroom apartments are not available
 - o Mostly small families.
 - o 3 bedrooms need a family of 5.
 - o 160 people are violating air bnb regulations and could potentially become rental units.

LTS

- 230 placements (beginning of the month was 234)
 - o 93.8% placed
- Minutes captured 244 last month (possible typo).
- The number tracked is who is housed.
- Low placements in April.
- Access to rental subsidies and folks are looking for housing.

Legislative Update

<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/GenFile.aspx?ad=2016>

- Federal
 - o Trying to raise the caps.
 - Receipts are low for housing program; short by 3.5 to 4 Billion dollars
 - Same amount needed for rental subsidies
 - About 8 billion dollars is needed to get even with 2019 levels.
 - o HUD Proposed rule amending housing and community development act to change eligibility to immigrants.
 - o 25,000 household to have at least one ineligible member.
 - o 60 comment period closes on July 9th.
 - Sent to listserv
 - Would ESAC like to comment?
 - Brian made a motion to support, Jeff seconded,
 - Motion passed without discussion.
 - o Unclear how many are affected in Maine.
 - Majority in NY, LA and Texas.
 - o 15% increase to runaway and homeless youth.
 - o Policy proposal to change the measure of inflation when calculating poverty.
 - Changing poverty line to limit eligibility.
- State
 - o Any bills do undo LePage era tax cuts?
 - Yes, 1317.
 - Could ESAC support it?
 - o CHOM and the City have testified in support of a variety of bills.
 - o Rulemaking to reinterpret which asylum seekers are eligible for GA.
 - o Bill to update GA reimbursement rate.
 - o 1523 recovery residence to come into compliance and a rental subsidy.
 - Voted ought to pass.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- o 775 to change section 17
 - Rule changes instead.
- o 613 stakeholder group for BRAP voted ought to pass
 - How would stakeholders be found/chosen?
 - Concern that CAA (Shalom House) would help
- o BRAP: separate bill suggesting a 30% income versus 50% income but that had passed before but it was unfunded.
 - Would need a fiscal note every year.
 - One legislature can't bundle the appropriations of future legislatures.
 - MaineHousing is having a tough time with section 8 due to lack of housing
 - Could these be backfilled with BRAP? (BRAP supposed to be temporary but effectively permanent because folks cannot access section 8).
- o 195 Youth reunited with families and the families would not lose coverage passed and moving towards signature.
- o Bill heard last night Senator Kathy Breen study commission to fix the broken mental health system
 - Only testimony in favor from jails, prisons, and law enforcement.
 - Likely favorable.
- o End of policy update lists bills voted ought not to pass.
- o HVJ on May 6th on LD 1294 pilot program on harassment due to housing status or lack of employment (homeless bill of rights)
 - Testified in support.
 - Work session scheduled on May 23rd at 1:00 PM.
- o MEJP1317 amendment to expand who is eligible to cover the gap if the rule change doesn't pass.

Homeless Services Center

- Preble Street opposes the Riverside location and asked the organizations in attendance their opinions on the proposed locations:
- HVJ via the Don't Hide Us Include us campaign opposes the riverside location.
- Council Workshop on Monday and the council will take it up in early June.
- Amistad weighed in at every step.
 - o Barron center is the least imperfect
 - o Officially endorsed County Way.
 - Most of the literally homeless individuals spoken to did not mind the proximity to the jail.
 - It was mostly people advocating on behalf of the literally homeless.
 - o Riverside is too far away.
 - o Tone and type of opposition is tough because the City has limited energy and must be mindful of the possibility of the City deciding the status quo.
- George Rheault is unhappy with the process.
 - o Neighborhoods have said they would not accept a 150+ bed shelter but would accept a 40-bed shelter.
 - o Could agencies create smaller shelters in those neighborhoods?

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Inefficiencies of a scattered site model is more than financial
 - Programs are not big or well resourced
 - Strain would severely hinder delivery of services.
 - Very different way of conceptually looking at 150 beds at the current model.
- Not looking to warehouse people but to move to housing quickly.
- Are housing first or temporary housing projects from community partners coming forward soon?
 - No update on the TOA project on the Barron Center campus?
- We already have a lot of scattered sites and the need is for a new large shelter.
- The Barron center seemed to be the best of the options.
- An internally facing center is important; services on site will allow people to get their needs met.
- Hope the conversation is not limited to 150 beds as the current need is over 200 so the conversation should be about a shelter that is adequate and flexible to scale down.
 - Focus should be getting people housed (we are good at this).
 - Building housing takes years so it will take a long time to get down to 150.
- Current situation is outward facing, with people needing to move across a neighborhood.
- TOA doesn't officially have a stance, but from Christina's personal perspective and based her experience as a PATH provider:
 - OSS can be challenging for folks with a trauma history.
 - Smaller spaces can feel safer
 - A greater staff to client ratio increases the sense of security. (Than is at a large shelter)
- List of City-owned properties may get an update, as some staff are preparing for the possibility that neither location is accepted.

Next Meeting June 20th at 9:00 AM

PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters per Night:

	May 2018	May 2019
ADOLESCENTS	14 Individuals	19 Individuals
FAMILIES	203 Individuals 62 Average Families	162 Individuals 54 Average Families
ADULTS	279 Individuals	282 Individuals
Total	496 Individuals	463 Individuals

31 Days in the Month of May

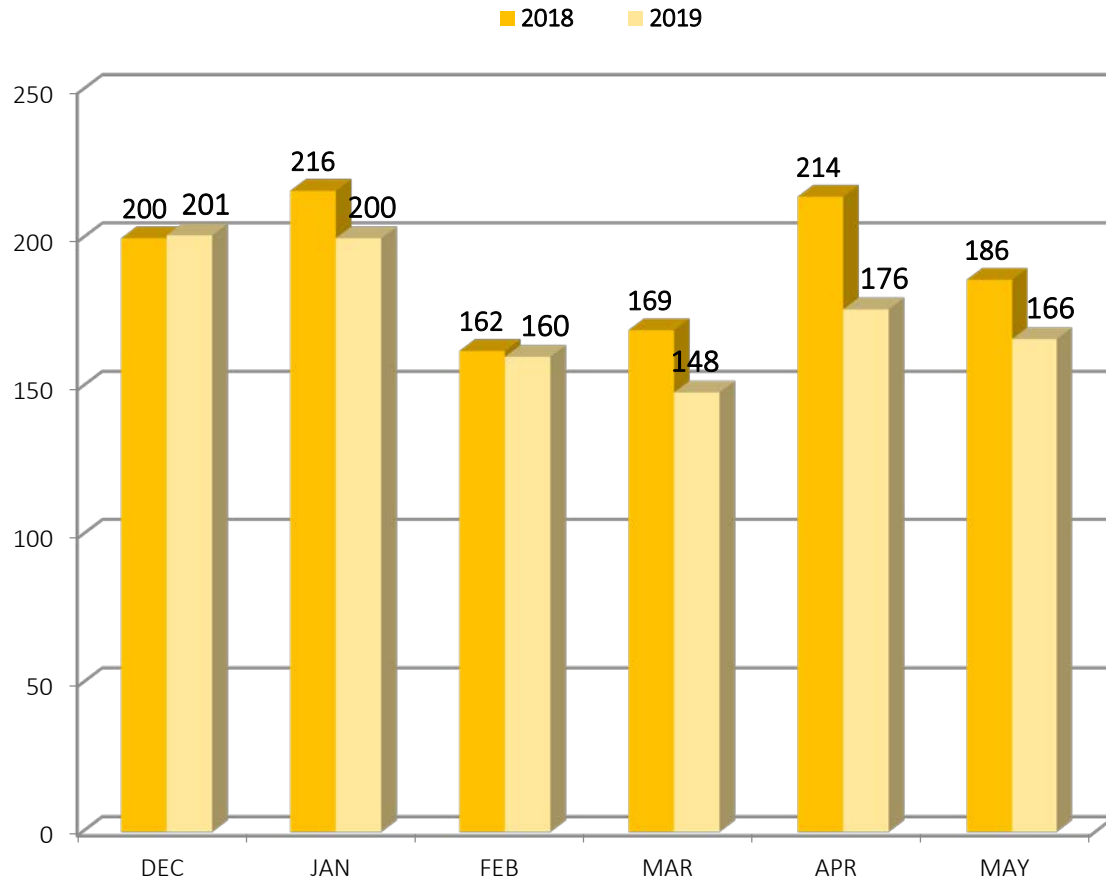
OXFORD STREET SHELTER

May 2019

Intakes by Residency

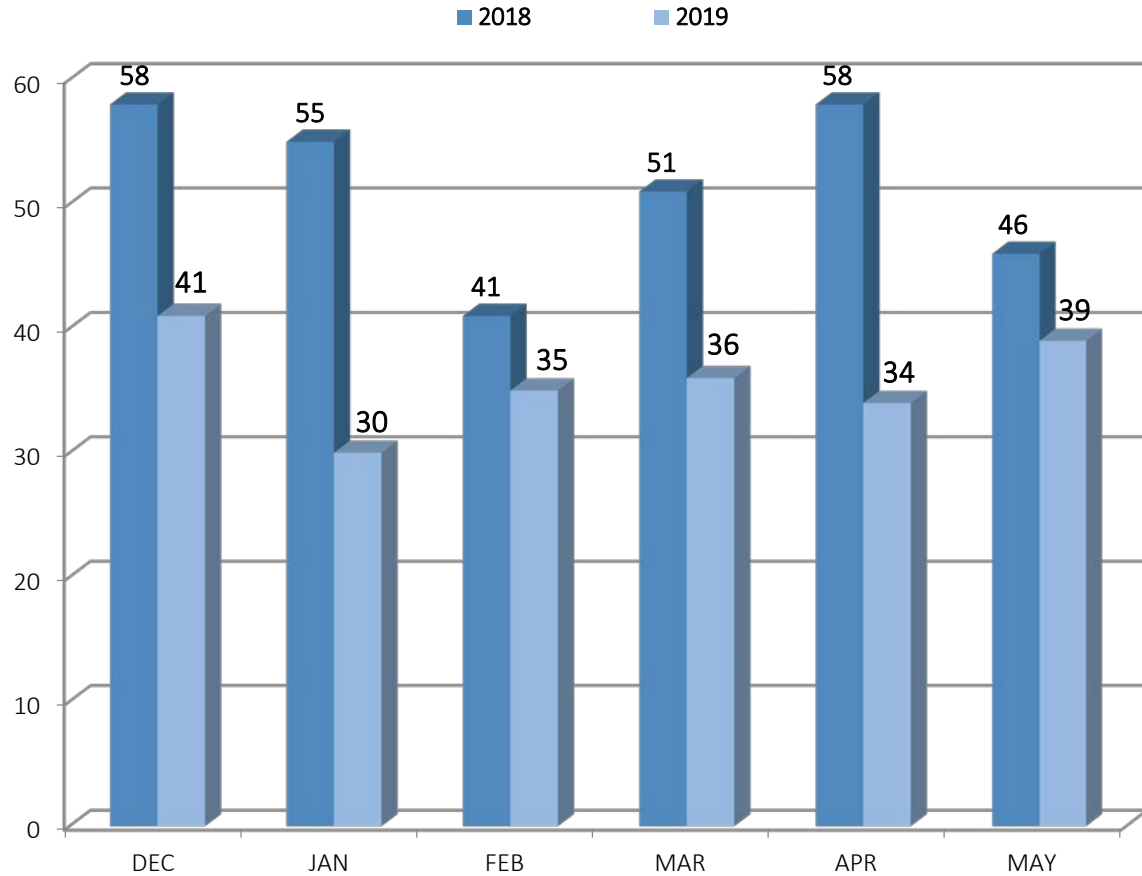
MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE				OUT-OF-COUNTRY				
Acton	1	Levant	1	Standish	2	CA	3	NH	3	Angola	8			
Auburn	3	Lewiston	3	Steep Falls	2	CO	2	NV	2	DRC	4			
Augusta	1	Lincoln	1	Westbrook	11	CT	1	NY	4	Romania	1			
Bangor	2	Lisbon	1	Windham	1	DC	1	OR	1	Rwanda	2			
Biddeford	2	Mapleton	1	Winthrop	2	FL	2	PA	1					
Buxton	1	New Gloucester	1			GA	1	SC	2					
Camden	1	Rockport	1			IL	3	TX	2					
Charleston	1	Saco	1			LA	1	WA	1					
Farmington	1	Sanford	4			MA	5							
Gray	2	Scarborough	2			MI	1							
Hallowell	1	South Portland	4			NC	1							
MAINE TOWN:		54	OUT-OF-STATE:		37	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:		15	PORTLAND:	27	Unknown:		TOTAL:	133

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE MAY 2019 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH



	May INTAKES
Through These Doors	1/2
Family Shelter	16/47
Joe Kreisler	3
Milestone	5
Oxford Street (Men)	101
Oxford Street (Women)	32
Florence House	8
TOTAL	166

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE MAY 2019 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH

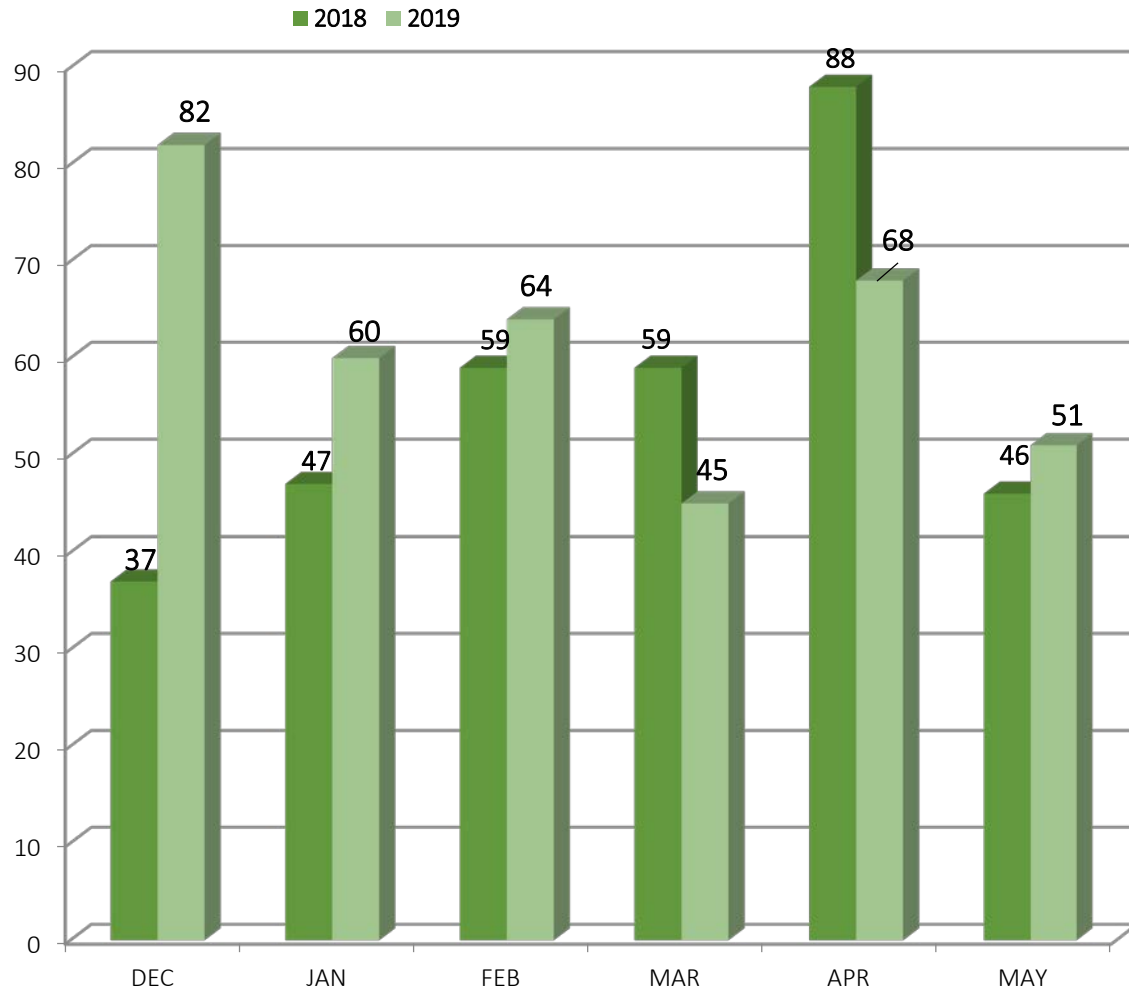


*Starting November, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	TRANSITIONAL	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	4/5		4/5
Family Shelter	10/37		10/37
Joe Kreisler	8	2	6
Milestone	1		1
Oxford Street (Men)	14		14
Oxford Street (Women)	2		2
Florence House	0		
TOTAL	39	2	37

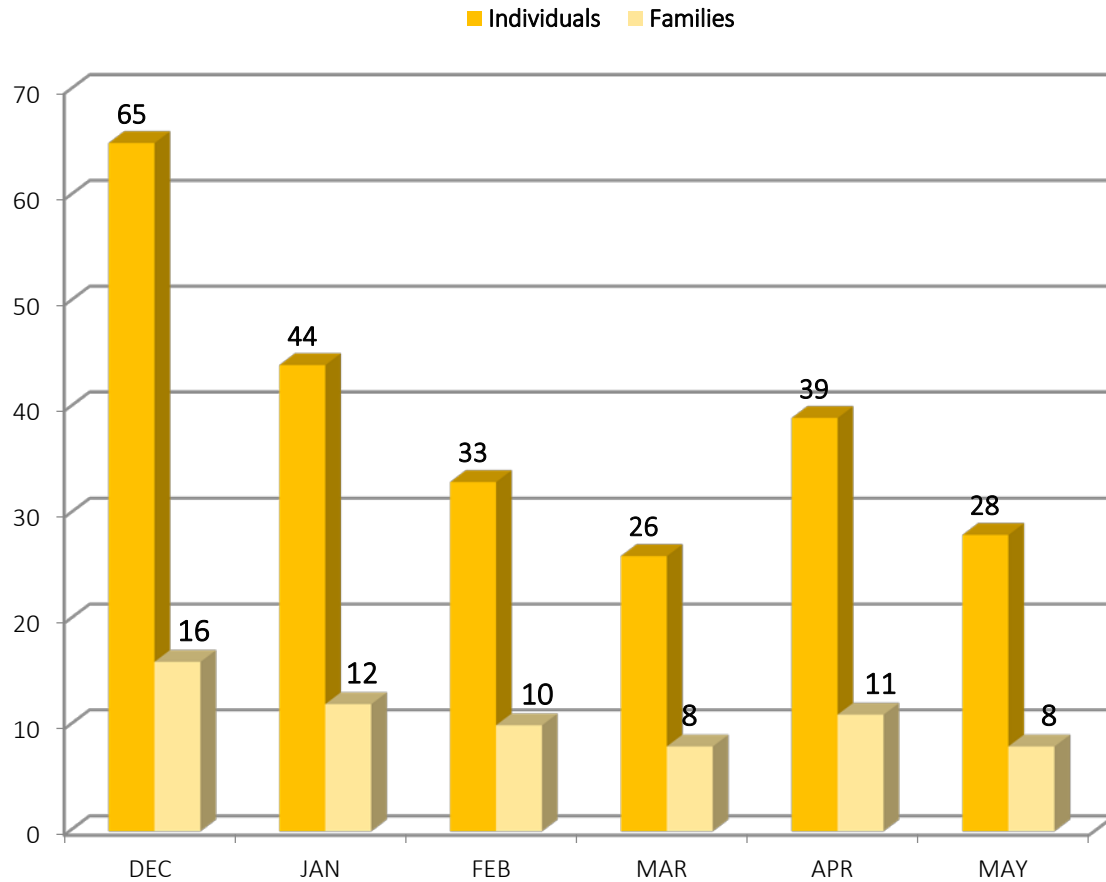
PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE MAY 2019

1st TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS (BASED ON SELF-REPORTING)



1 ST TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS % OF ALL INTAKES (BASED ON SELF-REPORTING)	1 st Time Homeless Intakes	% of Total First Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	1/2	2% (3%)
Family Shelter	14/42	27% (53%)
Joe Kreisler	3	6% (4%)
Milestone	2	4% (3%)
Oxford Street (Men)	23	45% (29%)
Oxford Street (Women)	6	12% (8%)
Florence House	2	4% (3%)
TOTAL	51	100%

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE MAY 2019 WARMING CENTER STATISTICS BY MONTH



Warming Center Location	Nights Used
Family Shelter only	19
Salvation Army only	11
FS & SA	
FS & Yarmouth	
FS & Preble	
Preble only	1
FS & GA	

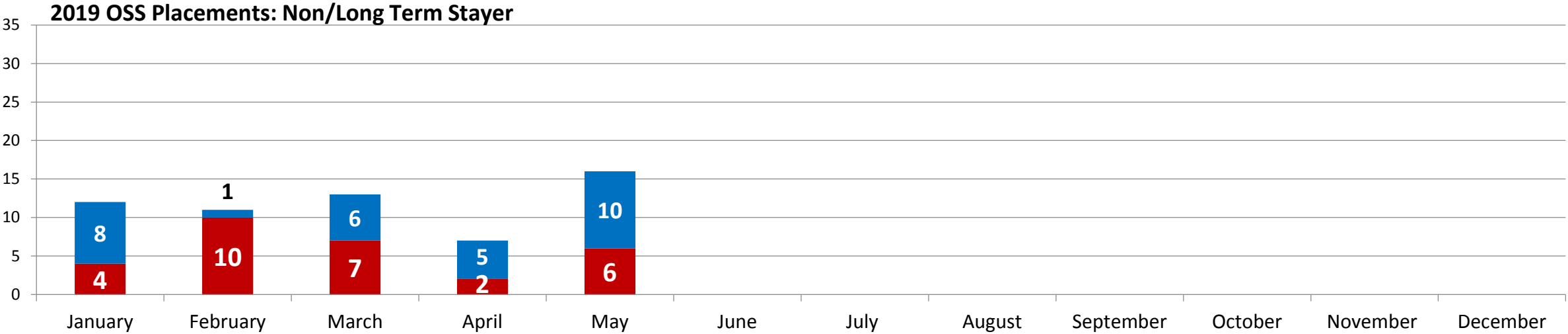
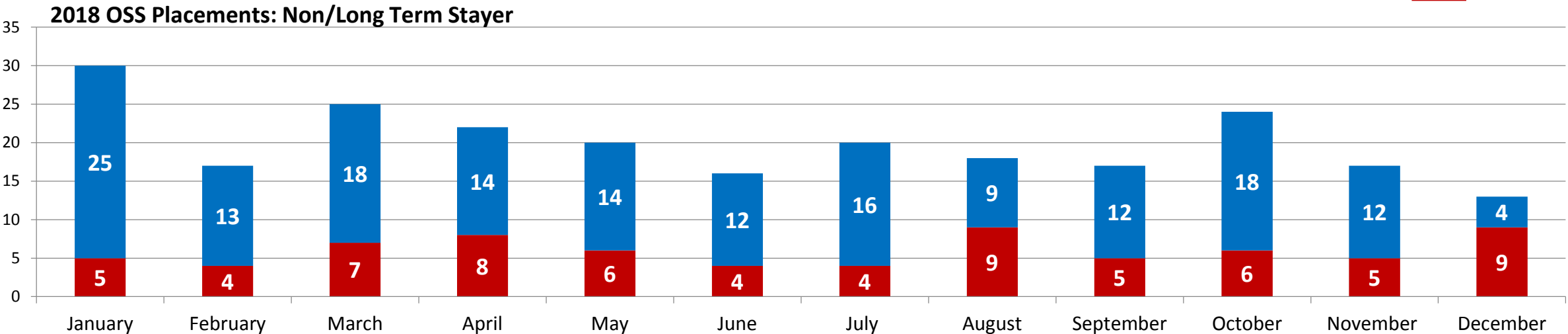
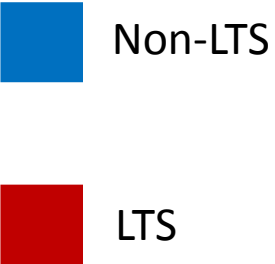
Date	Families	Individuals
1	14	52
2	13	49
3	15	58
4	14	55
5	14	54
6	15	54
7	11	36
8	7	25
9	7	22
10	7	20
11	6	18
12	6	18
13	5	17
14	4	13
15	5	18
16	6	20
17	5	18
18	5	18
19	5	18
20	3	13
21	4	14
22	6	22
23	6	22
24	6	22
25	6	22
26	6	22
27	8	26
28	9	34
29	9	33
30	10	36
31	9	31

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE MAY 2019 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

On May 1:
512
individuals
(including families)
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Door	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	OSS Chairs	Total Bed Nights
1	10	186	39	23	41	213		512
2	9	179	39	22	43	216		508
3	9	190	41	22	42	178		482
4	9	187	38	17	36	187		474
5	9	186	38	20	41	185		479
6	9	176	36	25	42	208		496
7	9	158	39	24	42	202		474
8	9	154	37	22	37	207		466
9	9	151	40	24	43	195		462
10	8	146	39	23	40	189		445
11	8	144	38	20	32	190		432
12	8	144	39	24	41	212		468
13	10	140	38	22	41	208		459
14	10	133	37	18	44	205		447
15	10	139	40	18	41	217		465
16	10	141	38	22	43	213		467
17	10	139	40	19	33	204		445
18	10	139	35	16	35	208		443
19	10	139	40	19	39	204		451
20	9	137	39	20	39	202		446
21	9	138	41	20	42	216		466
22	9	146	40	21	42	216		474
23	9	146	39	18	42	215		469
24	9	146	39	15	43	193		445
25	9	146	40	11	39	182		427
26	9	146	40	10	33	190		428
27	9	150	38	13	35	206		451
28	9	158	39	15	43	211		475
29	9	153	40	15	42	214		473
30	9	159	40	16	44	215		483
31	7	154	39	17	36	186		439
Total*	282	4,750	1,205	591	1,236	6,287	0	14,351
Avg/night*	9	153	39	19	40	203	0	463
Highest*	10	190	41	25	44	217	0	512
Lowest*	7	133	35	10	32	178	0	427

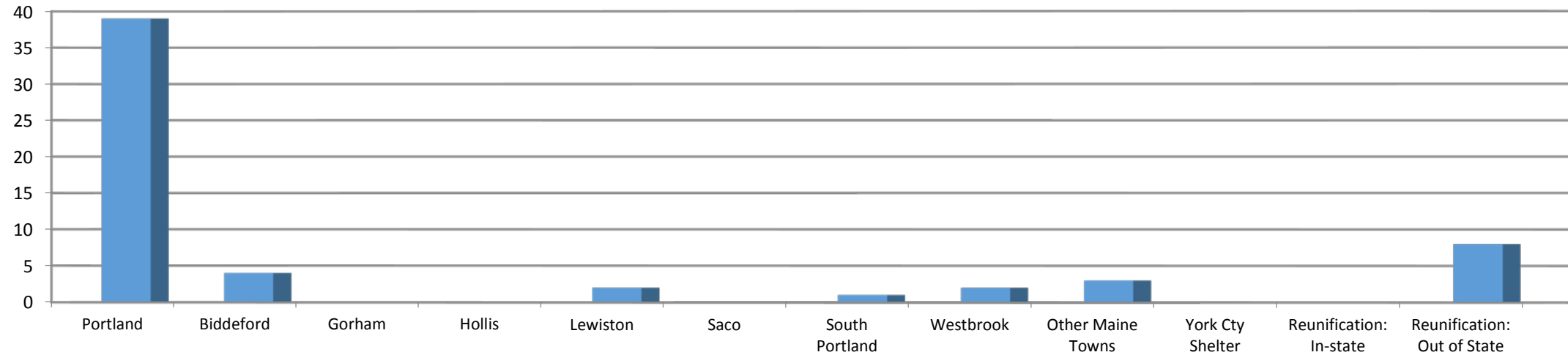
OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW

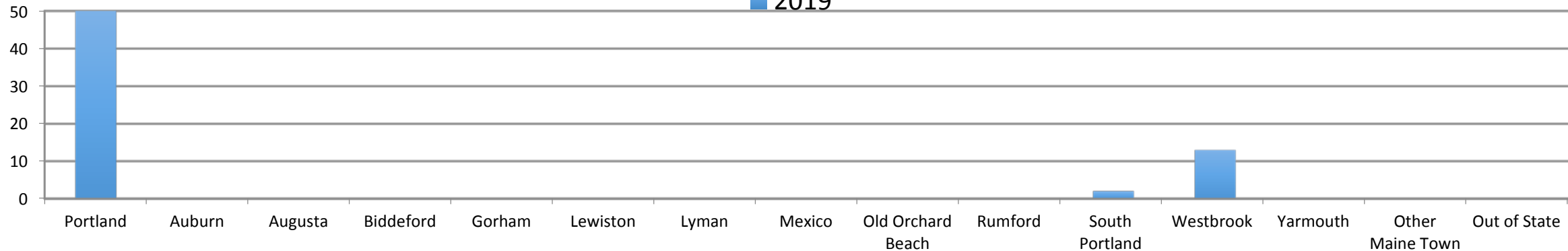
PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL

2019 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	12	11	13	7	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	100%
Portland	8	8	10	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	66%
Biddeford	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7%
Gorham	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Hollis	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Lewiston	0	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3%
Saco	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
South Portland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2%
Westbrook	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3%
Other Maine Towns	0	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5%
York County Shelter	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Reunification with friends/family in another state*	2	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	14%

FAMILY SHELTER
PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA
2019

[illegible]

Policy/Advocacy Update – 6/14/2019

Federal Legislation Update:

FY20 Budget & Appropriations – Update – Congress is working on the FY 20 allocations and budget, which begins 10/1/19. If Congress does not lift the Budget Control Act federal spending caps, sequestration would occur, as the previous agreement to lift the caps only included FY 18 & 19. Advocacy organizations are urging Congress to lift the caps to ensure affordable housing, community development, and transportation programs receive the highest allocation of discretionary funds possible for FY20. The House Appropriations Committee is in the process of releasing subcommittee allocations, which will allocate overall funding with which each subcommittee will have to work for their individual FY 20 appropriations bills.

Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginnie Mae – Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, and Ginnie Mae are all down on receipts, which will affect available funding for HUD unless Congress authorizes additional funding. Just to keep housing where it is currently, there is a \$7-8 billion gap which will need to be addressed in addition to raising the caps.

House Appropriations FY 20 THUD Bill – New – On 5/22 The House Appropriations Committee released its draft FY 20 THUD funding bill. In total, the legislation provides \$137.1 billion in budgetary resources, an increase of \$6 billion above the 2019 enacted level and \$17.3 billion above the President's budget request.

-Proposed House FY 20 HUD funding levels for specific programs (not an all-inclusive list):

- **Tenant-based Rental Assistance:** \$23.8 billion, \$1.2 billion above the 2019 enacted level and \$1.6 billion above the President's budget request.
 - o **HUD/VASH:** \$40 million, equal to the 2019 enacted level. The President's budget request proposed eliminating this program.
- **Project-Based Rental Assistance:** \$12.6 billion, \$843 million above the 2019 enacted level and \$570 million above the President's budget request.
- **Homeless Assistance Grants:** \$2.8 billion, \$164 million above the 2019 enacted level and \$201 million above the President's budget request.
- **HOPWA:** \$410 million, \$17 million above the 2019 enacted level and \$80 million above the President's budget request.
- **CDBG:** \$3.6 billion, \$300 million above the 2019 enacted level. The President's budget request proposed eliminating this program.
- **HOME:** \$1.75 billion, \$500 million above the 2019 enacted level. The President's budget request proposed eliminating this program.
- **Public Housing Capital Fund:** \$2.9 billion, \$80 million above the 2019 enacted level. The President's budget request proposed eliminating this program.
- **Public Housing Operating Fund:** \$4.8 billion, \$100 million above the 2019 enacted level and \$1.9 billion above the President's budget request.
- **Choice Neighborhoods Initiative:** \$300 million, \$150 million above the 2019 enacted level. The President's budget request proposed eliminating this program.
- **Self-Sufficiency Programs:** \$150 million, \$20 million above the 2019 enacted level and \$75 million above the President's budget request.
- **USICH:** \$4.1 million, \$500,000 above the 2019 enacted level. The President's budget request proposed eliminating this program.

-Policy Provisions included in the funding bill:

- Blocks the administration's public housing rule change on undocumented immigrants in affordable housing, which would threaten the housing tenure of 55,000 children who are citizens or legal residents.
- Requires all HUD grantees to develop a resiliency plan as part of the consolidated planning process.

House Appropriations Labor, HHS, & Education Allocation Would Increase RHYA Funding – New – On 5/7, The House Appropriations Committee released its fiscal year 2020 subcommittee allocations and its report accompanying the fiscal year 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. With this bill RHYA would be funded at **\$147 million in FY 2020--- a 15% increase from FY 2019.** This would also fund the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (EHCY) at \$100 million---a 7% increase from FY 2019.

HUD Proposed Rule amending implementing of section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, as amended (Section 214) – New – The proposed rule, published on 5/10 in the Federal Registrar, would bar U.S. citizens and eligible immigrants from receiving federal housing assistance if they share a home with an immigrant family member who's ineligible due to their immigration status. The proposed rule would also specify that individuals who are not in eligible immigration status may not serve as the leaseholder, even as part of a mixed family whose assistance is prorated based on the percentage of members with eligible status. The current rule allows for mixed-status families; under this new rule, every single member of a household must be of "eligible immigration status." HUD acknowledged that this rule could displace more than 55,000 children, all of whom are legal U.S. residents or citizens. Approximately 25,000 households, representing about 108,000 people, now living in subsidized housing have at least one ineligible member, according to the HUD analysis. Per Diane Yentel with NLIHC: "Tens of thousands of deeply poor kids, mostly U.S. citizens, could be evicted and made homeless because of this rule, and – by HUD's own admission – there would be no benefit to families on the waiting list." There is a 60-day comment period, which closes on 7/9/19. To view the proposed rule and

submit comments go to: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/10/2019-09566/housing-and-community-development-act-of-1980-verification-of-eligible-status>

HUD Proposed Rule Re. Equal Access – New – Per the NLIHC, on 5/22 HUD announced “a forthcoming proposed rule to weaken the Equal Access Rule and, with it, important protections for LGBTQ people experiencing homelessness. The announcement came just one day after HUD Secretary Ben Carson testified to Congress that HUD had no intention of weakening the rule.”

President Trump’s Poverty Policy Proposal – New – Per CBPP: The Trump Administration yesterday [floated a proposal](#) to use a lower measure of inflation when adjusting the poverty line each year. This policy would over time cut or take away food assistance, health, and other forms of basic assistance from millions of people who struggle to put food on the table, keep a roof over their heads, and see a doctor when they need to. If the [poverty line is altered](#) in this fashion, fewer individuals and families will qualify over time for various forms of assistance, including many who work hard but are paid low wages.

HR 1856: Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 – No new update– Reintroduced by House Financial Services Committee Chair Maxine Waters (D-CA). This bill would provide a path to end homelessness in the United States, and for other purposes. This bill passed the House Financial Service Committee on 3/28. This legislation is a comprehensive plan to ensure the lowest-income people have safe, decent, and affordable homes. The bill invests \$13.27 billion over five years to address the shortage of affordable housing and combat homelessness by providing 410,000 new affordable homes for the lowest-income households. The bill earmarks \$1 billion annually to the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and \$50 million each year for rental assistance to be used in conjunction with HTF-created housing. Within Congressman Waters’ bill is a 75% set-aside that will help create new supportive housing throughout the country. Additionally, this bill would permanently authorize appropriations for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Act and permanently reauthorize USICH.

S. 923: Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act – No new update – Sponsored by Senators Feinstein, Murkowski, and Congressmen Lieu and Stivers. This bill would bill authorize \$750 million in grants annually for the next five years for local governments. It also conditions federal funds on a grant recipient’s ability to provide not only housing but also comprehensive services like mental health care, substance abuse treatment and job training.

H.R. 7022: Homes for Our Heroes Act – New – Sponsored by Rep Peters (CA-52), this bill seeks to expand HUD-VASH eligibility to Veterans who are not dishonorably discharged, but who have not received supportive housing services from Veteran’s Affairs, and greater transparency about implementation.

H.R. 508: Trafficking Victims Housing Act of 2019 – No new update – Sponsored by Rep. Joyce Beatty. This bill would require a study and report on the housing and service needs of victims of trafficking and individuals at risk for trafficking.

H.R. 232: Landlord Accountability Act of 2019 – No new update – Sponsored by Rep. Nydia Velazquez. This bill would amend the Fair Housing Act, to prohibit discrimination based on use of section 8 vouchers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 715: To amend section 428 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to provide incentives to grantees under the Continuum of Care program to re-house all former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes – No new update – Sponsored by Rep. Steve Stivers. Content of bill and bill summary not available.

S. 8: Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act – No new update – Sponsored by Sen. Marco Rubio. This bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the supported housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not fewer than one program manager for every 35 rental assistance cases under such program, and for other purposes.

Trump Administration Proposed SNAP Rule – No new update – Per the Food Research & Action Center: The Trump Administration’s [proposed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) rule](#) would time limit food benefits for unemployed and underemployed people who can’t document sufficient weekly work hours. They would lose SNAP eligibility after three months. Comments were due 4/2/19.

H.R. 1724: The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act of 2019 (HEASHFY) – No new update– This bill was introduced by Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rob Portman (R-OH) in the Senate, and by Representatives Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Don Young (R- AK). HEASHFY amends the Higher Education Act to simplify eligibility for federal financial aid and to improve outreach, resources, and policies for homeless and foster youth. The legislation:

- Streamlines the process of applying for and receiving financial aid;
- Helps students access housing;
- Designates a higher education liaison to help students access services;
- Asks states to grant in-state tuition rates to those students who haven’t had stable residency;
- Ensures that college access programs identify, recruit, and prepare homeless and foster students for college; and
- Requires the U.S. Department of Education to help resolve questions about a student’s independence, simplify the FAFSA, and publish useable data and reports.

State Legislation Update:

Color key-code: Bills that are not highlighted have not had Committee Report-Outs. Bills highlighted in yellow have had Committee Report-Outs, but no other action. Bills highlighted in teal have been voted to be engrossed in at least one Chamber. Bills highlighted in pink have had votes for enactment in at least one chamber. Bills highlighted in blue are on the Special Appropriations Table. Bills highlighted in green have been sent to the Governor and/or been signed into Public Law.

Affordable Housing

- LD 48, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless" (Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland). This bill would authorize a \$15million bond, to go to referendum, to invest in the creation of housing for people experiencing homelessness, to be administered by MaineHousing. A Public Hearing was held on 1/22. Not reported out by Committee.

Rental Subsidies

- LD 1523, An Act To Ensure the Quality of and Increase Access to Recovery Residences – Sen. Bellow. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted.**

Support Services

- LD, 775, An Act To Expand Community Support Services for Certain Adult Members of the MaineCare Program – Rep. Gramlich. This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 17, Community Support Services to include access to services to persons who have a diagnosis of bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, panic disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder. In practice, this would revert back to the previous Section 17 (pre-March 2016) eligibility criteria. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted.**
- LD 613, Resolve, Concerning the Adoption of Rules To Carry Out the Purpose of the Bridging Rental Assistance Program – Rep. Dick Farnsworth. This resolve directs DHHS to adopt rules for BRAP in order to ensure fairness, equity and access to the program for those persons with mental illness who qualify for the program. **The bill became law without the Governor's signature.**
- LD 1404, Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Request a Waiver Relating to Support Services and To Provide Funds To Prevent Homelessness – Rep. Brennan. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted.**
- LD 195, An Act To Continue MaineCare Coverage for Parents During the Rehabilitation and Reunification Process – Rep. Patty Hymanson. **The bill became law without the Governor's signature.**
- LD, 763, An Act To Ensure the Availability of Community Integration Services – Rep. Rachel Talbot-Ross. This bill provides funding to increase reimbursement rates in the Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 17 for community integration services to \$24.25 per quarter-hour. This would increase the rate for Section 17 CI services. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted.**
- LD 1275, An Act To Support Access to Health Services for Homeless Youth in Maine – Sen. Linda Sanborn. **The bill was signed by the Governor and became public law on 6/5.**
- LD 1318, Resolve, To Increase Access to Housing-related Support Services – Rep. Drew Gattine. This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for waivers to provide housing-related services, including housing transition and tenancy sustaining services, to individuals with disabilities, older adults needing long-term services and supports and persons experiencing chronic homelessness under the 1915(b) and 1915(c) Medicaid waiver provisions. **The bill was signed by the Governor and became public law on 6/6.**
- LD 1602 Resolve, Establishing the Working Group on Mental Health – Sen. Breen. This resolve establishes the Working Group on Mental Health to assess the State's capacity to serve Maine citizens with behavioral health needs and propose a comprehensive mental health plan for the State. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Study Table pending final passage.**

Combination of Housing, Subsidies, and/or Support Services:

- LD 1337, An Act To Save Lives by Establishing a Homeless Opioid Users Service Engagement Project within the Department of Health and Human Services (HOUSE) – Rep. Gattine. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Study Table pending final passage.**

Food Security and Basic Safety Net Assistance:

- LD 1317, An Act To Restore Services To Help Certain Noncitizens Meet Their Basic Needs. Rep Gattine. This bill removes limitations on food supplement program benefits and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program benefits, provides MaineCare coverage and modifies language for state-funded supplemental security income to maintain consistency throughout the law for certain noncitizens who are lawfully present in the United States or pursuing a lawful process to apply for immigration relief. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee held on 4/12; Work Session held 4/25, in which there was a divided report from the Committee – the Majority Report was OTP as amended. It is on the House's calendar as unfinished business, tabled pending acceptance of either report.**
- LD 795, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Food – Rep. Craig Hickman. This constitutional resolution declares that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to acquire, produce, process, prepare, preserve and consume and to barter, trade and purchase the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being. **On 6/12 The House reconsidered its action whereby the resolution was Passed to be Engrossed. House Amendment A was read and adopted, and it was Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by**

Committee Amendment A and House Amendment A in non-concurrence. On 6/13 Senator Libby moved the Senate recede and concur and it was tabled until later in the day's session pending further consideration.

- LD 1159, Resolve, To End Hunger in Maine by 2030 – Rep. Hickman. This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation and collaboration with interested parties and stakeholders (including various state Departments and Offices) to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to eliminate hunger in the State by 2030. **On 5/20 Governor Mills signed the bill into law.**

Other Homelessness Related Bills:

- LD 184 – An Act To Amend the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Coordination Program – Rep. John DeVeau. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. A Public hearing was held on 2/4, and a Work Session was held on 2/4 and 3/27. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted.**
- LD 459, An Act To Include Homelessness in the Laws Governing Emergency General Assistance – Sen. Ben Chipman. Bill summary: This bill defines "homelessness" for the purposes of the laws governing general assistance and specifies that a person experiencing or facing homelessness who meets the conditions for receiving emergency assistance in current law is eligible for emergency general assistance. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted. Committee Amendment A changes the bill title to "An Act Regarding Presumptive Eligibility and Homelessness under the General Assistance Laws" and: This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, changes the definition of "homelessness" in the bill to remove references to a need for permanent or safe housing. It adds a requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse a municipality 100% of direct general assistance costs after a person has spent 90 consecutive nights homeless or in an emergency shelter for the homeless. It also establishes presumptive eligibility for general assistance for 30 days for persons who are provided shelter at emergency shelters for the homeless and specifies that no other municipality may be determined to be the municipality of responsibility during that 30-day period. It also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a work group of stakeholders to examine the municipal general assistance program and report findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 2, 2020.**
- LD 46, An Act to Establish a Substance Use Disorder Clinic at the Cumberland County Jail – Rep. Michael Brennan. This bill would provide funding (\$250,000 in each year of the biennium) to create a substance use disorder clinic at the Cumberland County jail. On 5/28 both the House and Senate passed the bill to be engrossed as amended. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted.**
- LD 510, An Act To Authorize Funding for Transitional Housing for Women Veterans and Their Families – Rep. Bettyann Sheats. This bill would provide a one-time \$150,000 General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 2019-20 to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope to provide suitable housing for women veterans in transition and their families. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted.**
- LD 866, An Act To Support College Completion by Homeless Youth in Maine – Rep. Michael Brennan, & Rep. Charlotte Warren. This bill requires institutions of higher education in the State to designate an existing staff member to serve as a liaison for homeless youth who are enrolled in that institution of higher education. The bill also requires institutions of higher education to give homeless youth priority for on-campus housing, develop a plan to provide homeless youth housing during school breaks and allow homeless youth who are enrolled part-time to access on-campus housing during the homeless youth's first year of school. The bill also expands the tuition waiver for state postsecondary educational institutions to include tuition waivers for homeless youth. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted.**
- LD 1294, Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Implement a Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues – Rep. Talbot-Ross. **The bill was Passed to be Enacted in each chamber. The bill now goes to the Governor for signature.**
- LD 353, An Act to Classify Recovery Residences as One-family Dwellings for the Purposes of the Fire Code. This bill requires a recovery residence located in a house to be considered a one family dwelling under rules concerning safety to life from fire if the recovery residence has no more than 6 occupants and contains a fire extinguisher and smoke detector in each room. This bill also defines "recovery residence" as an alcohol-free and illegal substance free shared living residence for persons recovering from substance use disorder that provides peer support and connects residents to support services and community resources. **The bill was Passed to be Enacted in each chamber. The bill now goes to the Governor for signature.**