

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

One City Center

**Thursday, February 20, 2020
9:00 AM**

AGENDA

1. Introductions

- a. Review and Approval of January 16, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes.

2. Homeless Voices for Justice

3. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics

- a. January, 2020 Shelter Bed Usage Statistics

4. LTS Update

5. Federal, State and Local Legislation

- a. February Legislative Update

6. Unsheltered Data

- a. Discussion on the initial ESAC research findings and possible motion to send a follow-up letter to the City Council (regarding the 3 months ESAC spent giving additional focus to unsheltered homelessness).

7. Homeless Services Center

- a. Shelter Policy Resolution Passed

8. Other Business

**Next Meeting
March 19, 2020
9:00 AM**

Location: One City Center

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Social Services Division
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Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, January 16, 2020

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Norm Maze	Shalom House
Peggy Lynch	Preble Street	Vickey Rand	CHOM
Dan Coyne	United Way	Josh Ruitto	City of Portland
Jim Divine	HVJ	Heather Zimmerman	Preble Street
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland	Elizabeth Jackson	GPH
Deb Ibonwa	MEJP	Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland	Emma Halas-O'Connor	MEJP
Donna Yellen	Preble Street	Henry Tarlow	City of Portland
Harrison Deah	City of Westbrook	Amanda Menthott	City of Portland - HCD

- Introductions
 - Arron asked for a motion to approve the minutes, Jim moved to approve the minutes, Henry seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- HVJ
 - HVJ attended the city council workshop this past Monday and will be at the February 3rd City Council meeting where a vote on the shelter policy resolution may be possible.
 - Dylan Monahan became a case worker and Anna Bruher is the new organizer.
- Monthly Statistics
 - Florence houses issued none and they currently have current active
 - Say current active not current total.
 - 1/3 at the family shelter, it is one family of three.
 - If it was a two parent family, one parent could stay with the kids in the shelter and restrict the one offending parent.
 - In this case, a single parent was restricted which effectively restricted two children along with it.
- LTS

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- o Short list/ CTOs across multiple shelters has a fairly large overlap between the two groups at the first meeting of the month.
 - These are the more complex cases
 - The decision makers at the agencies that are needed to remove barriers for this population are invited (DHS, etc.)
- o Housing placements have been lower due to a combination of data not being sent to OSS for who has been housed and there have been long term stayers housed but they were not tracked on those lists.
 - These are people staying in shelter that become long term stayers during their stay and are housed.
- Legislative Update
 - o State
 - FUSE: Frequent User Engagement collaborative. A bill with no fiscal note that convenes decision makers in remote areas that bounce between hospitals, shelters, and criminal justice.
 - Workgroup that would work through statewide homeless council
 - House 20 people, analyze data and then move onto another cohort to house the 200 most expensive to serve people.
 - ESAC supported it in October.
 - Sara moved for ESAC to write letter of support, Norm seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Act to create money not from HOME funds to supplement ESHAP.
 - \$30 million fiscal not outside of the homeless solutions rule to be limber for operations and capacity funds.
 - Attached to the general fund.
 - Summer and fall news articles from all over the state on people camping out; is a small fiscal note considering need.
 - In labor and housing and public hearing is Wednesday January 29th in the morning.
 - Norm moved to write a letter of support, Emma seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - It says low barrier but it is looking to be amended to be general shelter for providers around the state so it increases low barrier access but is not exclusive.
 - LD1645 state tax credit program.
 - Increase supply of affordable housing by about 50%
 - Preference for homeless population (chronic, LTS, high users)
 - Approved through legislature last session but is being considered early this session.
 - Dan moved to write a letter of support, Heather seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - People with rental subsidies now are having trouble finding units, this would help.
 - Maine affordable housing coalition helped put this through

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- LD38 \$15 million Bond for Homeless Housing.
 - Would go through referendum
 - We already voted in support last year and was carried over.
 - Will continue to support.
- LD775 Act to extend Support for certain Members of MaineCare Program: S
 - Section 17 and BRAP were minimized last year and this would reverse those.
 - Region 2 and 3 Homeless Councils endorsed this.
 - Norm moved to write a letter of support, Vickey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- LD1403
 - Rep Brennan Bill to amend General Assistance
 - Carry over but not set in stone in light of GA work group.
 - Last year proposed to bring service centers back to 90/10 but likely won't be included.
 - Group just finished.
 - 90% reimbursement not endorsed by state.
 - Homeless Law: reimburse municipalities providing GA to homeless individuals at 100%; not endorsed by state.
 - Suggested increase in staff capacity for GA at the State.
 - Trainings for GA administrations in municipalities across the state.
 - Cullen moved to write a letter of support, Donna seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Monday night workshop on new homeless services center planned to vote on proposed policy resolution on February 3rd.
 - Most conversation came down to capacity.
 - As written, capacity based on previous year's average bed night: 209.
 - There would continue to be as needed overflow at the site.
 - Likely a tight vote.
 - Councilor Cook asked for a budget for a 75 bed shelter.
 - Heather said a 75 bed shelter does not fit this community and is not a sound recommendation.
 - Heather said the resolution is probably a best-case scenario and encouraged people to continue to contact City Councilors, and commended the HHS&PS Committee and City staff noting the HUD representative voiced support of its best practices.
 - Discussion if there should be a motion supporting the shelter policy resolution being voted on February 3, 2020:
 - Tri chairs sent a letter asking to slow down the process until data is provided.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Dan asked that data has been shared? He is not comfortable endorsing something he has not read and does not like the perception of credibility if we asked to delay and not delivering.
 - Heather responded data wise, we do not have as much as we would like but would bring forward what we do have.
 - We can provide the number TOA/Path gathered, giving a picture of two different points of unsheltered.
 - ESAC Data.
 - Preble and Amistad Staff.
 - Atlantic Charitable fund's unsheltered study will uncouple from the PIT and will proceed pushed out to a later date with the help of UNE and USM students: possible March.
 - Donna things follow up to the letter is important and sending the two counts is an indication of the picture with more data to follow.
 - Heather will connect with Christine and write a letter with the data included.
- Norm moved to write a letter providing unsheltered data ahead of the shelter policy resolve, Heather seconded and the motion passed with City staff abstaining.
- Jim said there is new group called the people's housing coalition.
 - People asked what influence ESAC has and responded a suggestive influence.
 - Governance work may influence that.

○ Federal

- Budget passed a minibus that funded HUD at good levels for 2020.
 - It includes an increase of \$5 million to the runaway homeless youth.
- Lack of federal revenues because of tax cuts.
- SNAP is still looking at being cut three ways.
 - Time limits going through in April.
 - Utility allowance changes,
 - Broad based eligibility changes.
- Affirmatively fairer housing rule of 2015 is looking to be reversed by the trump administration under guise of streamlining the process.
 - It cuts the steps taken to make sure people were not discriminated against under fair housing act.
 - ESAC may want to weigh in on.
 - Norm moved ESAC to write a letter and Elizabeth seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
 - Wanted a 4% boost but was not included.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Family voucher for pregnant women and children under six, homeless, unstably housed or at risk of homelessness but is on hold.
- o Harrison asked about the proposed trump administration policy to change immigration policy on asylum seekers.
 - Increase in the length of time people must wait to apply for work authorization from 150 days to 1 year.
 - The GA limit is 24 months and this would eat up more of that.
 - Not official yet and must go through Congress, not a rule change.
 - Maine delegation against it.
 - Opposite of the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act Senator Collins is working on.
 - It is just a policy change the administration would like to see happen.
- o A proposed rule that would bar family members access to assistance if one person is found to have a person with a non-eligible immigration status.
 - This would displace 65,000 children who are US citizens.
 - 25,000 Households.
 - Would only affect public housing, not homeless assistance programs.
 - Would this affect USDA homes?
 - Not funded through HUD so it would not affect USDA RD but any subsidy from HUD could be affected.
- o HUD proposed rule on disparate impact.
 - Dismantle important enforcement tool combatting discrimination.
- o Donna thanked Heather as the veterans group at Preble Street was asked to submit testimony on SNAP and hunger.
- Meeting Length
 - o The extended meetings on the needs of clients and the new shelter ended.
 - o Jim is ok with a shorter or longer meeting.
 - o Vickey suggests tabling the length of time discussion until the smaller group meets to make recommendations in the scope, mission and structure of ESAC.
 - Aaron agreed.
 - Donna likes a permanent solution coming out of the governance group meeting and all of those meetings were over the 2 hours.
 - Do we want to try to say an extended meeting next month before governance comes back?
 - Vickey said If there is something going on in the community this group can respond with a longer meeting as this group as done when there are extenuating circumstances.
 - Norm said there have been some updates since the last meeting such as the projects at the Barron center or the numbers presented by HUD that are not consistent with what's seen on the ground or the CoC awards. Things of that nature could be
 - Does there need to be a formalized process for accepting agenda items.
 - Quick thigs can be on the agenda under other business.
 - Important items can be sent to Adam to be added to the agenda.

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- Larger items that will need time can be addressed as needed.
- HCD Consolidated Plan – Amanda Menthott
 - o The City gets \$2.1 Million Block grant funds, HOME funds and lead abatement money. They City automatically receives it but must submit a consolidated plan every 5 years that dictates how monies will be spent. A new 5 year plan must be submitted in May, 2021 and the process must be community (providers and users) driven.
 - o A community development taskforce is made and 9-12 residents of Portland are needed.
 - Resume and applications due next Friday
 - Anyone who lives in Portland and is a provider or uses services (PHA residents).
 - Want diverse voices.
 - o Donna asked if a resume is mandatory, thinking about PHS residents.
 - It is not and is optional but the checklist is required with a few sentences on why someone wants to join.
 - Is not mandatory but does not clearly state that a resume is optional.
 - o Donna asked if the meetings will be during working hours or evenings.
 - The meetings are twice a month and Amanda will work to create the best schedule for the group.
 - o Amanda will send the checklist to the listserv.
- PIT count is coming up and will likely meet at TOA the night of.
- United Way's investment process is open and is accepting applications and offering training on performance evaluation tomorrow; email Dan for information.

PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters per Night:

	January 2019	January 2020
ADOLESCENTS	17 Individuals	18 Individuals
FAMILIES	199 Individuals 63 Average Families	230 Individuals 71 Average Families
ADULTS	323 Individuals	265 Individuals
Total	539 Individuals	513 Individuals

OXFORD STREET SHELTER

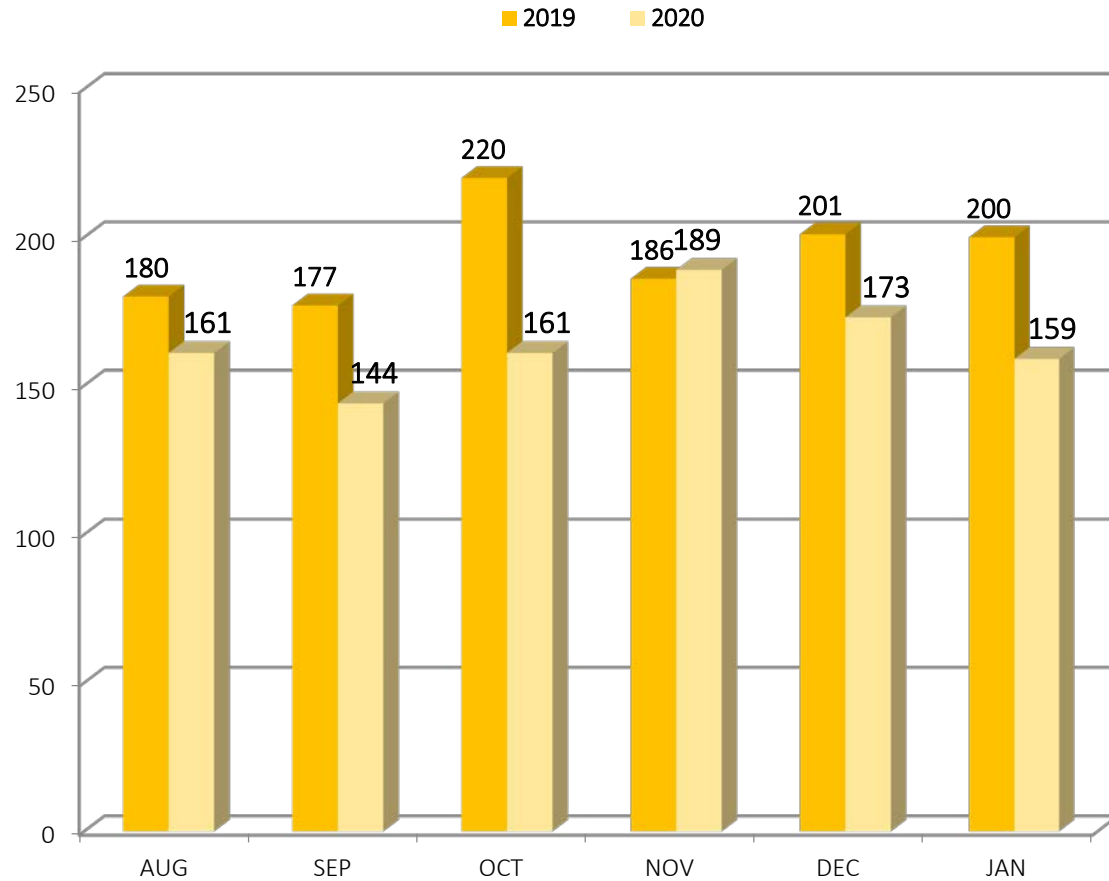
JANUARY 2020

Intakes by Residency

Some of the 5 intakes from Texas may represent asylum seekers.

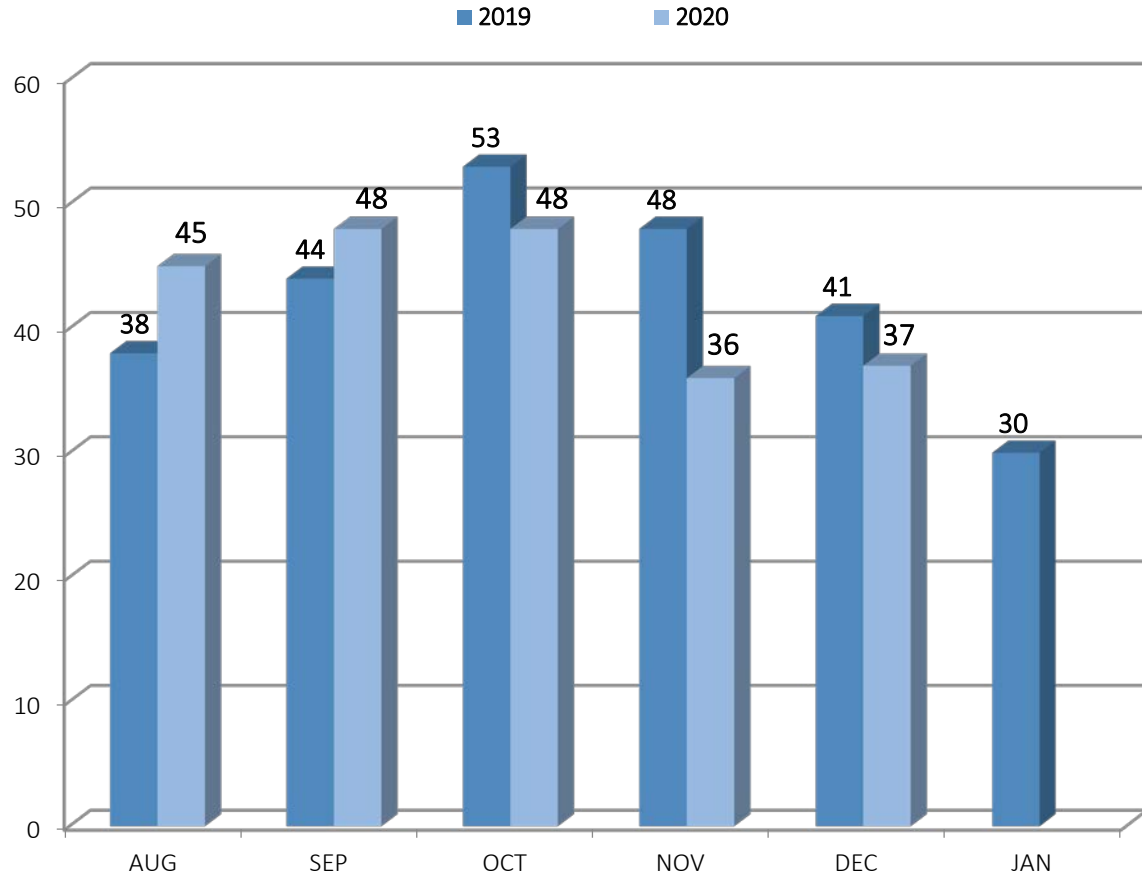
MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE						OUT-OF-COUNTRY	
Auburn	4	Sanford	3			CO	1	PA	1			Angola	1
Augusta	1	South Portland	5			CT	2	SC	1				
Bangor	3	Topsham	1			FL	1	TX	5				
Biddeford	6	Warren	1			IA	2						
Brunswick	1	Westbrook	4			IL	1						
Gorham	1	Windham	1			KY	2						
Harrington	1	Yarmouth	1			MA	4						
Lewiston	3					MO	2						
Naples	1					NH	3						
OOB	3					NY	1						
Pleasant Point	1					OK	2						
Pownal	1												
MAINE TOWN:	42	OUT-OF-STATE:	28	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:	1	PORTLAND:	37	Unknown:		TOTAL:	108		

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JANUARY 2020 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH



	INTAKES
Through These Doors	2/3
Family Shelter	13/37
Joe Kreisler	4
Milestone	24
Oxford Street (Men)	84
Oxford Street (Women)	24
Florence House	8
TOTAL	159

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JANUARY 2020 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



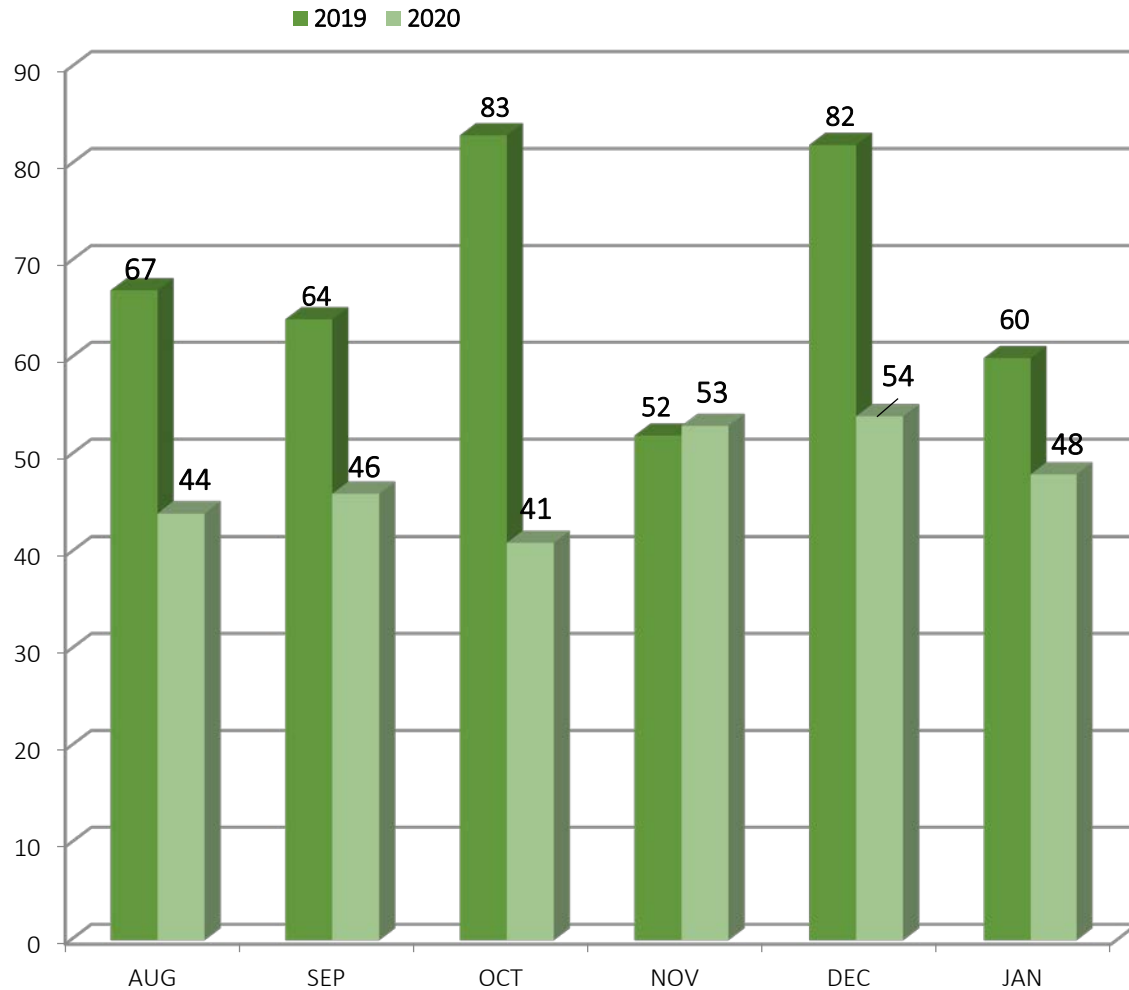
*Starting November, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	TRANSITIONAL	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	3/3	1/1	2/2
Family Shelter	10/35		10/35
Joe Kreisler	4	2	2
Milestone	4		4
Oxford Street (Men)	12		12
Oxford Street (Women)	3		3
Florence House	0		
TOTAL	36	3	33

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

JANUARY 2020

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

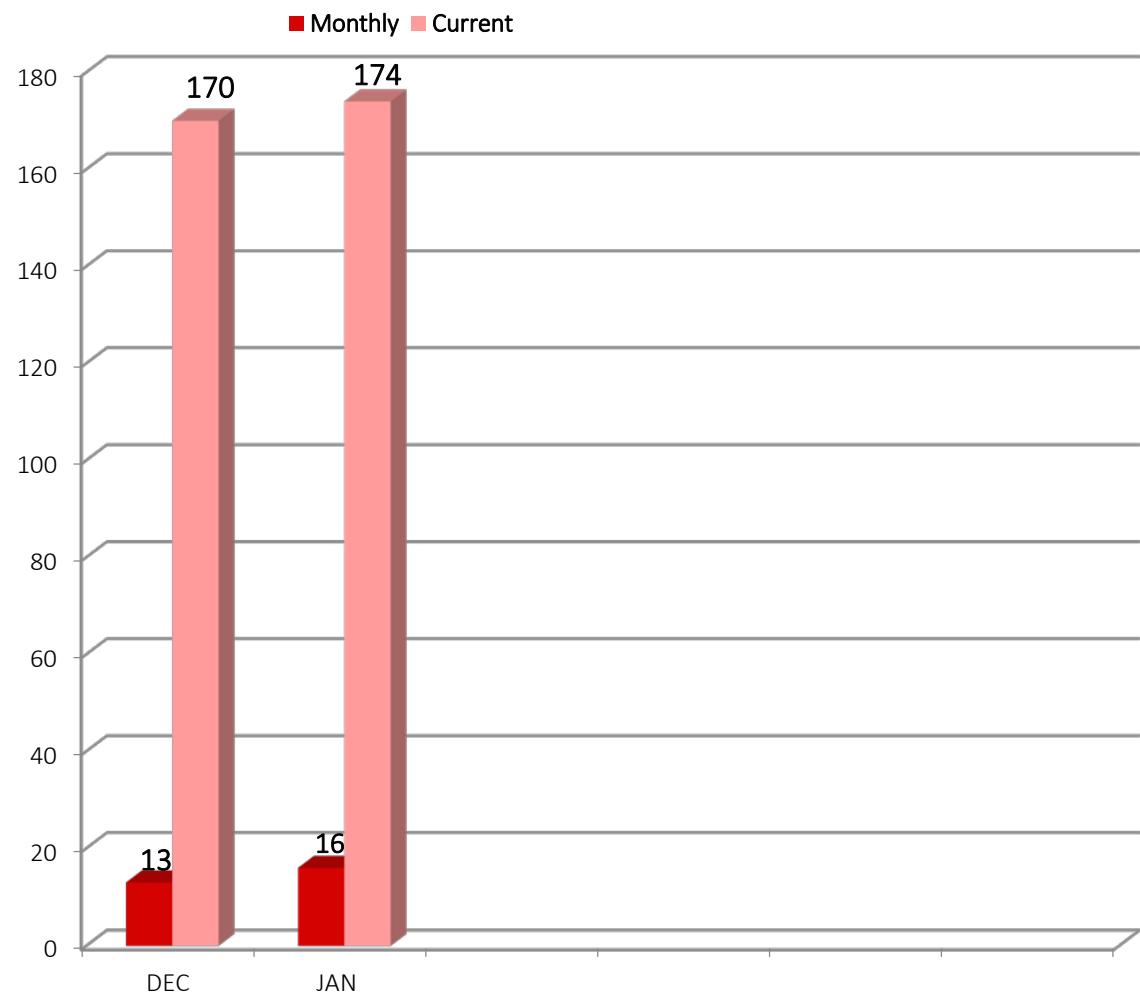


1 ST TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS	1 st Time Homeless Intakes	% of Total Intake	% of Total First Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	1/1	0.63%	2%
Family Shelter	12/35	7.55%	25%
Joe Kreisler	1	0.63%	2%
Milestone	10	6.29%	21%
Oxford Street (Men)	18	11.32%	38%
Oxford Street (Women)	5	3.14%	10%
Florence House	1	0.63%	2%
TOTAL	48	30.19%	100%

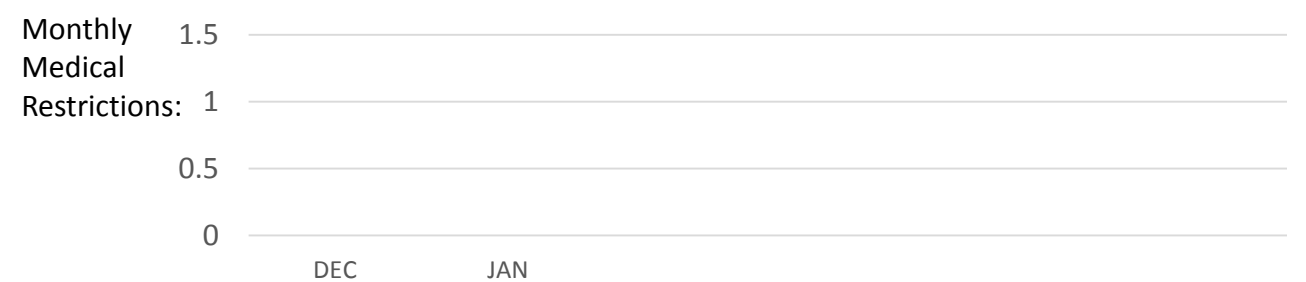
PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

JANUARY 2020

CTOs FROM SHELTER



CTO STATISTICS	CTOs in the Month	Medical Restrictions by Month	Current CTOs
Family Shelter	0	0	0
Joe Kreisler	1	0	6
Milestone	6	0	46
Oxford Street Shelter	9	0	120
Florence House	0	0	2
TOTAL	16	0	174



PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JANUARY 2020 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

On January : 21

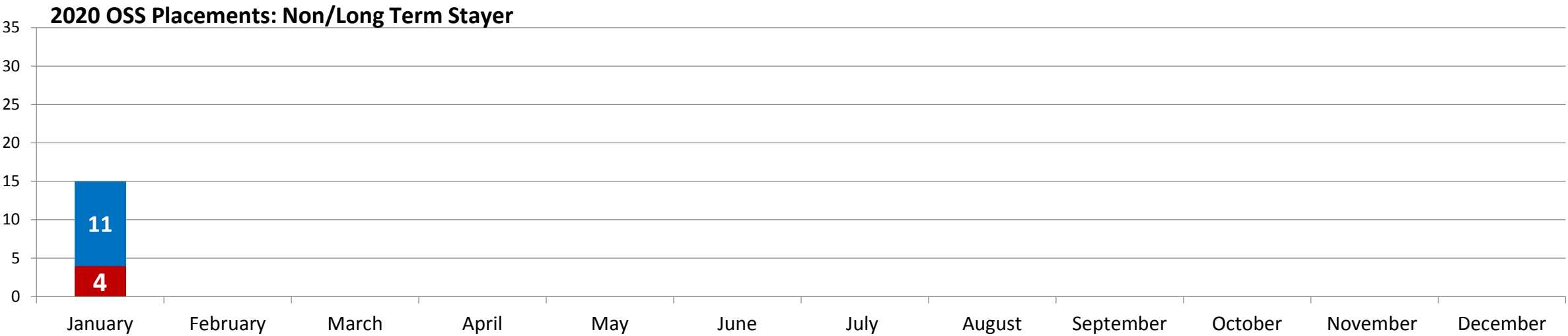
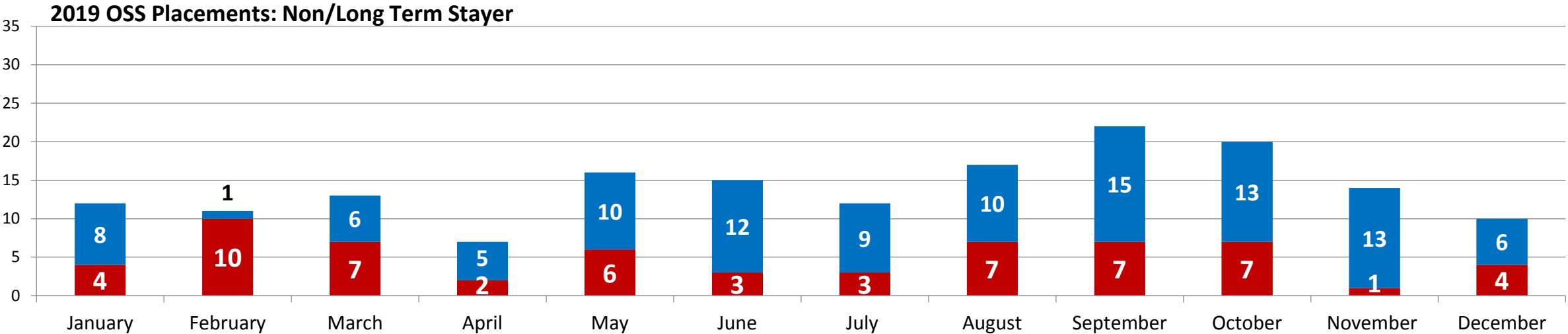
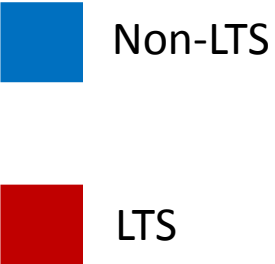
547 individuals

(including families)

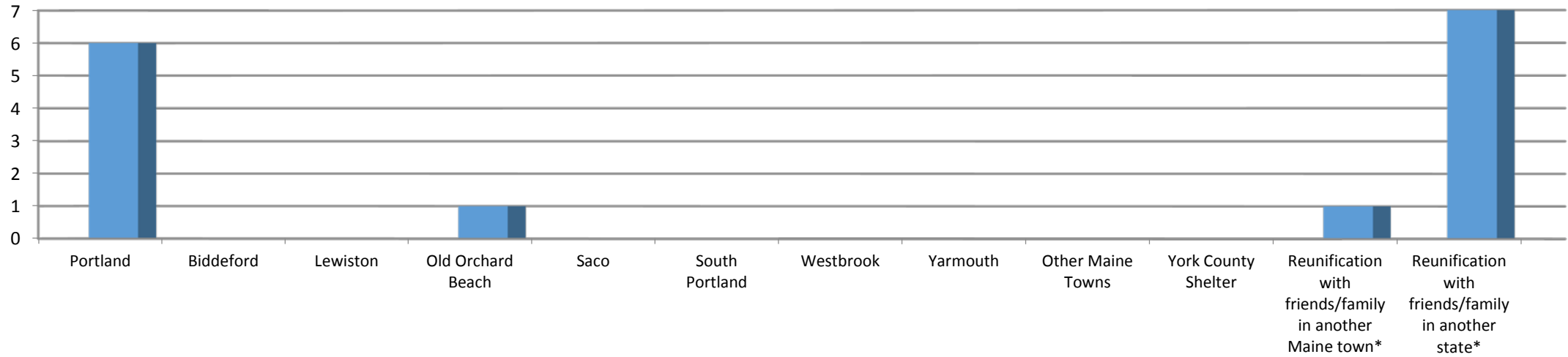
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	OSS Chairs	Total Bed Nights
1	16	201	41	15	37	180		490
2	16	215	40	17	39	176		503
3	14	215	39	16	40	159		483
4	14	215	40	15	45	168		497
5	14	220	38	13	43	182		510
6	14	227	38	15	39	183		516
7	14	229	37	20	43	188		531
8	14	219	38	21	45	183		520
9	15	222	41	21	49	181		529
10	16	219	38	20	45	159		497
11	16	218	39	17	44	166		500
12	16	215	40	17	45	191		524
13	16	223	39	17	48	194		537
14	16	212	39	15	49	197		528
15	16	219	40	14	41	196		526
16	16	214	40	23	44	191		528
17	16	214	40	14	42	187		513
18	16	205	42	18	43	176		500
19	16	205	41	16	38	185		501
20	16	208	42	17	41	199		523
21	16	224	41	18	50	198		547
22	16	220	40	19	44	182		521
23	16	221	40	22	42	185		526
24	16	221	38	20	44	170		509
25	16	217	40	22	46	178		519
26	16	209	40	19	41	186		511
27	15	209	39	17	43	186		509
28	15	213	40	23	48	176		515
29	15	213	40	22	44	185		519
30	16	198	39	24	44	179		500
31	16	198	37	17	38	165		471
Total*	480	6,658	1,226	564	1344	5631	0	15,903
Avg/night*	15	215	40	18	43	182	0	513
Highest*	16	229	42	24	50	199	0	547
Lowest*	14	198	37	13	37	159	0	471

OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

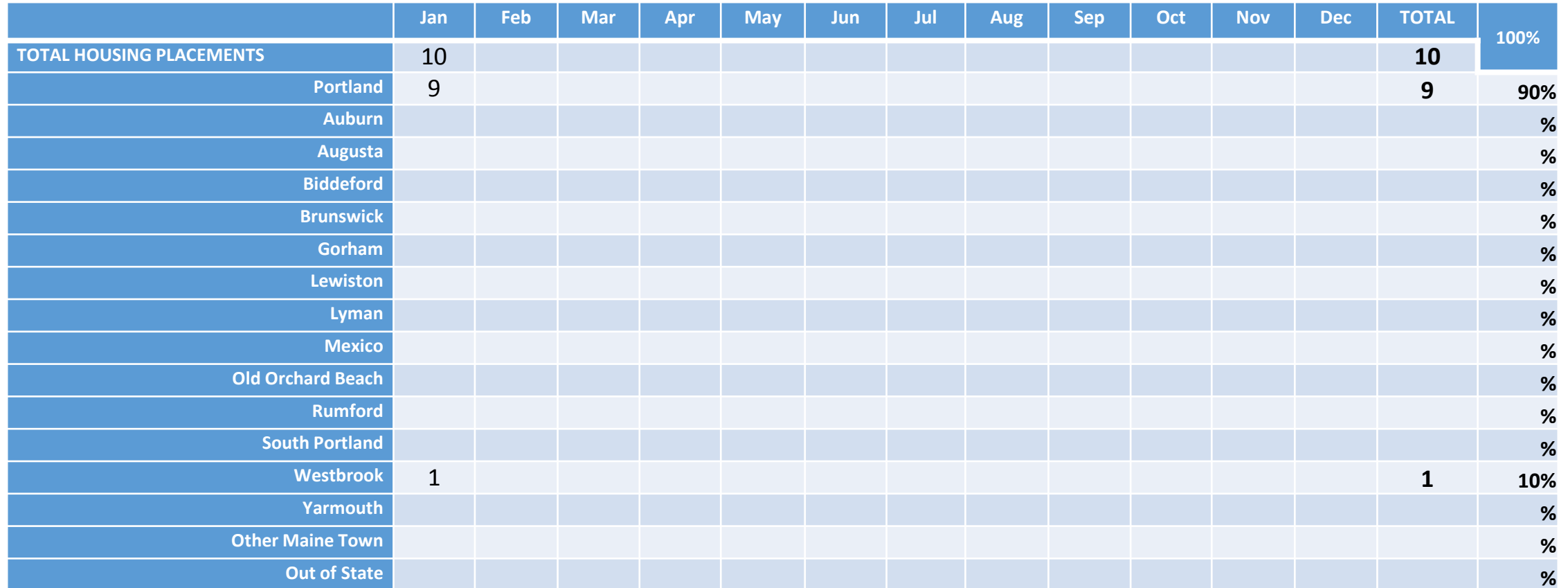


OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2020 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	15												15	100%
Portland	6												6	40.0%
Biddeford														0.0%
Lewiston														0.0%
Old Orchard Beach	1												1	6.7%
Saco														0.0%
South Portland														0.0%
Westbrook														0.0%
Yarmouth														0.0%
Other Maine Towns														0.0%
York County Shelter														0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*	1												1	6.7%
Reunification with friends/family in another state*	7												7	46.7%

■ 2020



Federal Legislation Update:**BUDGET & FUNDING-RELATED ITEMS**

➡ **FY20 Budget & Appropriations – No new update** – The President signed a final deal to fund affordable housing and community development programs at HUD and USDA as part of a larger minibus package for FY 20. Per the NLIHC, the spending package also includes legislative provisions to stop the administration from moving forward with efforts to undermine evidence-based approaches to ending homelessness, and it includes strong language to require HUD to release critical mitigation funds for Puerto Rico that were approved by Congress nearly two years ago. Unfortunately, the final bill does not include language to prevent HUD from moving forward with harmful policy proposals to force mixed-status immigrant families to separate or face eviction from HUD-assisted housing or to allow shelters to discriminate against transgender and LGBT people experiencing homelessness. Also included in the budget deal is \$132.4 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs an increase of \$5 million / 4% over last year's enacted levels; and \$80 million for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) at HUD, of which, up to \$10 million may be used for technical assistance. This represents level funding for YHDP overall with a slight increase for technical assistance. The House is expected to vote on the spending package this week, quickly followed by a vote in the Senate before it heads to the president's desk for his signature.

FY 20 THUD – No new update – The President signed a final spending package which included FY 20 HUD funding. See the attached chart for more details.

HR 2740: House Appropriations Labor, HHS, & Education Allocation Would Increase RHYA Funding – No new update – On 6/19 the House passed its H.R.2740, 'Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Defense, State, Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2020' which would fund HHS for FY 20, among other agencies. 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.

PROPOSED RULES

SNAP Proposed Rule (broad-based categorical eligibility) – No new update – The Trump Administration is expected to reopen the public comment period on a proposed rule to end broad-based categorical eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) after new analysis from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), SNAP's administering agency, suggested almost one million children could lose access to free school meals if the rule were implemented. It is anticipated the rule will be re-opened for 14 days. The rule received more than 127,000 comments during the 60-day comment period. Original analysis of the rule's impact indicated that, if implemented, as many as 3 million low-income people would be kicked off the program, and 500,000 children would no longer qualify for free school meals. According to the new analysis, as many as 982,000 children could be impacted by the rule change, with 497,000 children shifting from free to reduced-price meals and 40,000 children losing eligibility for the program altogether.

SNAP Proposed Rule (Utility Allowance) – No new update – The USDA release a proposed rule which would revise Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations to standardize the methodology for calculating standard utility allowances (SUAs or standards). The proposed rule would remove state flexibility in calculating Standard Utility Allowances (SUAs) to accommodate for differences in utility costs facing SNAP households when determining monthly benefit size. By capping and standardizing SUA calculations, the proposal would result in \$4.5 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Nearly 20 percent of all SNAP households with children would see cuts to their monthly benefit. Comments were due on Monday, 12/2.

SNAP Proposed Rule (time limits for unemployed/underemployed) – No new update – On 12/4 the Trump Administration stated that it had finalized SNAP rule which will 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. States could previously waive this, however this rule would eliminate that option. The USDA estimated earlier this year that up to 750,000 people would lose SNAP benefits if this proposal took effect – in Maine this will affect 1,200+ SNAP recipients. Officials say that about 7% of the individuals on SNAP are considered able-bodied adults without dependents (ABWDs). The new SNAP rule will take effect on 4/1/2020.

HUD Proposed Rule amending implementing of section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, as amended (Section 214) – No new update – 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 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."

➡ **HUD Proposed Rule Re. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule – New** – On 1/14 HUD published in the Federal Registrar a proposed rule which would completely change the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule. According to the CBPP: "The proposed rule ... would seriously weaken community efforts to enable all households to secure housing without facing discrimination. The rule would largely reverse 2015 regulations designed to ensure that housing agencies and communities receiving Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding fulfill their obligations under the 1968 Fair Housing Act. That law

requires them to identify barriers to housing access for certain specified groups and take affirmative steps toward ending housing discrimination and reversing damage from many decades of residential segregation and racist housing policies. If the rule takes effect, ongoing housing discrimination and segregation will likely continue to be swept under the rug and HUD resources will do far less to reduce segregation and expand housing opportunities for people of color, people with disabilities, and other protected groups. Rather than build on the 2015 rule, the new proposal would create a “check the box” set of standards enabling agencies and communities to continue hiding ongoing segregation and housing discrimination from the public. More information from the CBPP on the affects of the proposed rule can be found here: https://www.cbpp.org/press/statements/trump-administration-rule-would-reverse-communities-progress-toward-meeting-fair?utm_source=Housing+Policy+News&utm_campaign=aed80be65-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_20_06_59_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8dfdd50b8-aed80be65-110890801 To view the Proposed Rule and/or submit comments you can go here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/01/14/2020-00234/affirmatively-furthering-fair-housing> Comments on the proposal are due 60 days after the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register, with comments being due 3/16/2020.

HUD Proposed Rule Re. Fair Housing Disparate Impact – No new update – On 8/16 HUD released a proposed rule that would make changes to fair housing rules, specifically regarding its interpretation of the Fair Housing Act’s disparate impact standard. Per the NLIHC this change would “dismantle an important enforcement tool for combatting discrimination, further restricting access to housing for people of color, seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, LGBTQ people, victims of domestic violence and others.” Comments were due by 10/18 and can be submitted here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/08/19/2019-17542/huds-implementation-of-the-fair-housing-acts-disparate-impact-standard>

President Trump’s Poverty Policy Proposal – No new update – 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.

BILLS

HR 5191/S 2916 Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA) – No new update – On 11/20 Senators Susan Collins and Patrick Leahy (D-VT.), and Representatives John Yarmuth (D-KY-3), Don Bacon (R-NE-2), Jahana Hayes (D-CT-5), and Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-7) introduced the bipartisan, bicameral Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA). RHYTPA provides authorization for many essential local programs for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, including Basic Center Programs, Transitional Living Programs, Maternity Group Homes, and Street Outreach Programs. As authorizing legislation, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act defines the structure for these critical programs, as well as provides Congress with the legal authority to actually appropriate public dollars for the purpose of RHY grants. According to cosponsor Senator Leahy’s [press release](#), RHYTPA would:

- Act to reauthorize and increase authorization levels for programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act;
- Increase annual competitive grants for rural youth demographics from \$100,000 to \$200,000;
- Require the Department of Health and Human Services to develop every three years a national estimate of the prevalence of homeless youth; and,
- Allow extensions in length of stay in Basic Center Programs (BCP) from 21 days, to up to 30 days.

HR 4300: Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act – No new update – On 9/12 Rep. Madeline Dean (D-PA) reintroduced an improved version of the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act to expand the availability of FUP vouchers for youth aging out of foster care. The House passed this bill on 11/18, it now goes to the Senate for consideration.

S. 2946 / HR 5813: Pathway to Stable and Affordable Housing for All Act – No new update – on 11/21 Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) introduced this bill to effectively end homelessness through robust investments in the national Housing Trust Fund, funding rental assistance, and expanded funding for homelessness programs. On 2/7, Representative Grace Meng (D-NY) introduced a companion bill in the House.

➡ **S 1703 / HR3077: The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2019 – No new update** – The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA) of 2019 is sponsored by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Todd Young (R-IN), and Representatives Suzan DelBene (D-WA-1), Kenny Marchant (R-TX-24), Don Beyer (D-VA-8) and Jackie Walorski (R-IN-2). Maine’s entire Delegation has co-sponsored these bills, at the request of advocates in Maine. In the 115th Congress, AHCIA was cosponsored by more than 40 percent of all members of Congress. In 2018 two key provisions were enacted: a 12.5 percent Housing Credit allocation increase for four years (2018-2021), as well as “income averaging,” a provision that provides flexibility to serve a broader range of low, very-low and extremely-low income families. This year’s legislation builds on last year’s bill, and adds several new provisions to strengthen and improve the Housing Credit. The bill is estimated to incentivize the building of over 450,000 affordable homes over the next decade, and generate \$48.5 billion in wages and business income, \$19.1 billion in additional tax revenue, and 510,000 jobs.

Key provisions reintroduced in the AHCIA of 2019:

- Increase Housing Credit allocations by 50 percent, phased in over five years, to help meet the vast and growing need for affordable housing.

- Enact a minimum 4 percent rate to parallel the minimum 9 percent rate already enacted, providing predictability to the marketplace and substantially increasing production by making more developments financially feasible.

- Enable the Housing Credit to better serve hard-to reach communities including rural, Native American, high-poverty, and high-cost communities, as well as extremely low-income tenants.
- Make the Housing Credit a more effective tool for preserving the nation's existing affordable housing inventory by simplifying and aligning rules.

New provisions in the AHCIA of 2019 that will strengthen the Housing Credit:

- Make Housing Credit properties in rural areas eligible for additional credits if needed for financial feasibility.

- Clarify that the Housing Credit and Housing Bonds can be used to develop properties specifically for veterans and other special populations.
- Better align the Housing Credit with Violence Against Women Act protections.
- Ensure cost reasonableness is considered when awarding Housing Credits.
- Enable states to maximize Private Activity Bond affordable housing resources by recycling Multifamily Housing Bonds that are used in conjunction with Housing Credits.

➔ **HR 4302: Homeless Assistance Act of 2019 – No new update** – Sponsored by Rep. Sherman (D-CA). This bill would authorize public housing agencies to share certain data regarding homeless individuals and families for the provision of housing and services, and for other purposes. **The House passed this by voice vote on a motion to suspend the rules on 1/13. It now goes to the Senate for consideration.**

HR 5187: Housing is Infrastructure Act of 2019 – No new update – Sponsored by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA). This bill would provide \$70 billion to address the capital needs backlog for public housing and another \$32.1 billion for investments in affordable housing. This bill includes \$10 billion for a Community Development Block Grant set-aside to incentivize states and cities to eliminate impact fees and streamline the process to develop affordable homes, \$5 billion for mitigation efforts to protect communities from future disasters, \$5 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund and \$5 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership program. The legislation also includes \$2.5 billion each the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program, the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program and the Capital Magnet Fund and \$1 billion for the backlog of capital needs for the Section 515 and Section 514 rural housing stock. Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) is expected to introduce companion legislation in the Senate.

S 2613: Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 – No new update – Introduced by Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA). The bill would establish federal grant programs to address the unmet needs of people experiencing homelessness and would authorize increased funding for existing programs including the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF), project-based rental assistance (PBRA), and project-based vouchers (PBVs).

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.

HR 3620: Strategy and investment in Rural Housing Preservation Act of 2019 – No new update – Introduced by Rep. Lacy Clay. This bill was passed by voice vote in the House on 9/10. This bill would permanently authorize the Multifamily Housing Preservation and Revitalization program, expand the use of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) vouchers, and create an advisory committee to help the agency develop a comprehensive strategy to maintain the agency's rental housing portfolio, which provides more than 415,000 affordable homes to low-income people living in rural areas. The bill has been received by the Senate and assigned to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

S 923 / HR 1978: Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act (companion bill: HR 1978)– 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.

HR 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.

HR 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.

HR 715: HOMeS Act of 2019 – No new update – Sponsored by Rep. Steve Stivers. 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.

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

HR 1724: The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act of 2019 (HEASHFY) (companion bill S 789)– 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.

S 2615 / HR 2825: Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (HTC-GO) – No new update – Introduced by Senator Collins along with Senators Cassidy, Cardin, and Cantwell. This bill is the Senate version of the House's HTC-GO bill. The Senate bill would bring more value to Historic Tax Credit projects, improve access to the credit, and encourage investment in smaller rehabilitation projects. Key provisions of the bill:

- Increasing the credit from 20 to 30 percent for projects with rehabilitation expenses of less than \$2.5 million;
- Making it easier to meet the substantial rehabilitation test;
- Creating greater flexibility for nonprofit organizations to access HTC benefits; and
- Eliminating the HTC basis adjustment requirement which will bring more value to all HTC projects by increasing the basis of rehabilitated historic buildings for building owners and eliminating the so-called 50(d) rules.

S 3083: Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2019 – No new update – On 12/18, Senators Young and Van Hollen introduced bipartisan legislation which would authorize a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and improving life outcomes of poor children. The bill defines an “eligible family” as: pregnant woman or a child under the age of 6; meets all applicable eligibility requirements under this subsection; and is: a) homeless; b) unstably housed; c) living in an area of concentrated poverty; or d) at risk of displacement from an opportunity area for children or an area rapidly transitioning to become an opportunity area for children. Assistance would be provided to public housing authorities on a competitive basis.

S 3276: Allowing Steady Savings by Eliminating Tests (ASSET) Act” – New – On 2/11, Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Representatives TJ Cox (D-CA), Kim Schrier (D-WA), and Jimmy Gomez (D-CA) introduced the ASSET Act, which proposes eliminating asset limits for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and raising asset limits on Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The bill aims to improve financial security for low-income Americans and remove barriers to program applicants.

State Legislation Update: Color key-code: Bills highlighted in yellow have public hearings scheduled. Bills highlighted in blue have faced OTP Committee votes and/or OTP/OTP-as amended votes in at least one chamber but have not been passed to be engrossed or enacted in both. Bills highlighted in green have been sent for the Governor's signature or became law with or without the Governor's signature.

Housing & Services

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- **LD 2056, An Act to Create a Frequent Users Systems Engagement Collaborative** – Rep. Morales. This resolve establishes the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative in order to develop a plan to provide stable housing and community services to 200 persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are the most frequent consumers of high-cost services, such as psychiatric hospitals, emergency shelters, emergency rooms, police, jails and prisons. The collaborative must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than January 1, 2021 on its plan and recommendations. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters is authorized to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature related to the report. **Referred to the HHS Committee. A public hearing in front of the HHS Committee Was held Thursday, 2/13 at 1:00 PM, Cross Building, Room 209 A work session has been scheduled for 2/27 at 1pm.** The full bill text can be found here: <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1460&item=1&snum=129>

Homelessness Related Bills

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- **LD 1909, An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Maine** – Rep. Gattine – This bill, as amended would include ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$3,000,000 per year to the Shelter Operating Subsidy program within the Maine State Housing Authority to support operations and capacity at emergency homeless shelters across the State. The bill was amended to expand the use of funds to support shelter operations at all emergency homeless shelters, not just low-barrier emergency shelters as proposed in the bill. It also allows the Maine State Housing Authority to allocate funds to shelters using the funding formula methodology for shelter operations from its Homeless Solutions Rule. **On 2/18 the House voted Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment A; sent for concurrence in the Senate.** The full amended bill can be found here: <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1363&item=2&snum=129>
 - **LD 1916, An Act To Increase High School Graduation Rates for Students Experiencing Homelessness or in Foster Care** – Senator Libby – This bill would assist in increased high school graduation rates for youth experiencing homelessness in foster care. **A public hearing was held on 1/22 and a work session on 1/29. There is an anticipated divided report.** The full bill text can be found here: <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0663&item=1&snum=129>

Affordable Housing

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- **LD 1645, An Act To Create Affordable Workforce and Senior Housing and Preserve Affordable Rural Housing** – Rep. Fecteau. The purpose of this bill is to address Maine's shortage of safe, affordable housing by creating a state affordable housing tax credit. The tax credit is administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, which will allocate the state credit through a process similar to its current allocation of federal housing tax credits. This would:
 - o Create more than 1,000 units of affordable housing over 8 years
 - o At least 30% of credits would be targeted to housing for older Mainers

- o At least 20% of credits would be targeted to Maine's rural communities
- o Preserve some of rural Maine's most at-risk affordable housing
- o Creates jobs and critical economic activity statewide in the construction, engineering, and design sectors.

The House and the Senate passed an amendment to the bill which would extend the time the credit is available from 4 years to 8 years, until 12/31/2028. The total allocation is \$80M; however, the amendment spreads the \$80M over 8 years rather than 4, providing for credits of \$10M per year for 8 years rather than \$20M per year for 4 years. The amendment includes language requiring that in allocating credit for new rental units, MaineHousing either require or provide incentives to encourage for a minimum of 4 units or 20% of the total number of units, whichever is greater, that occupancy preference be given to persons who qualify for supportive housing (per the amendment: "'Supportive housing' means housing to assist persons with special needs in achieving housing stability. For purposes of this paragraph, 'person with special needs' includes a person who has experienced chronic homelessness or is displaced, has a disability, is a victim of domestic violence or has other special housing needs.'"). This bill was signed into public law.

- 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 \$15 million bond, to go to referendum, to invest in the creation of housing for people experiencing homelessness, to be administered by MaineHousing. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature.**

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 recalled by the Legislature for further consideration or drafting clarification. Currently listed as unfinished business in the House.**
- LD 1404, Resolve, To Provide Support Services and Funds to Prevent Homelessness – Rep. Brennan. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature.**
- 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. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature.**

Food Security and Basic Safety Net Assistance:

- 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. **Currently listed as Unfinished Business in the House.**
- LD 1403, An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Eligibility and Reimbursement – Rep. Brennan. This bill, as amended, would reestablish the 90% reimbursement rate for municipalities that incur net general assistance costs in any fiscal year in excess of .0003 of that municipality's most recent state valuation and 100% reimbursement for general assistance costs to Indian tribes. It retains the 70% reimbursement rate for other municipalities for costs below the .0003% of municipalities' most recent state valuation. The bill clarifies that reimbursement is based on gross costs rather than net costs. **This bill was on the Special Appropriations Table when the Legislature adjourned last session and was carried over.**

Other Homelessness Related Bills:

- 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. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature.**
- 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. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature.**
- 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. **Signed into public law on 2/14.**

Date	Description	Count	Qualitative notes
9/25/2019	Limited geographical count: Two-block radius of the Preble Street Resource Center	45 people sleeping outside	People were street sleeping, primarily without adequate equipment. Some people had blankets, some slept without any protection.
9/27/2019	Limited geographical count: Bayside neighborhood, downtown, waterfront, and East End neighborhood	54 people sleeping outside	People in Bayside, downtown, and waterfront were primarily street sleeping without adequate equipment. People on the East End were primarily camping with sleeping bags/tents
10/25/2019	ESAC count 1: Covering peninsula and some camp sites	67 people sleeping outside	People in Bayside neighborhood were primarily street sleeping without adequate equipment. Some had blankets and sleeping bags, some continued to sleep without any protection. Many campsites were reached too early to engage.
11/26/2019	ESAC count 2: Covering peninsula and campsites (two separate times)	28 people sleeping outside	Combination of cold weather and holiday week (Thanksgiving) likely impacted the count.

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLVE 7-19/20 OUTLINING POLICY GOALS FOR THE CITY
OF PORTLAND'S SINGLE-ADULT SHELTER FACILITY**

SPONSORED BY COUNCILOR BELINDA RAY

**RE: COMPLETION OF BEDNIGHTS CHART FOR Q4 OF 2019 AND ADJUSTMENT
OF ANNUAL AVERAGE; CONTEMPLATION OF AN OFF-SITE TRIAGE FACILITY;
ELIMINATION OF "PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS" LANGUAGE FROM POLICY GOAL
#8; AND ADDITION OF POLICY GOAL #14 REGARDING DIVERSIFICATION OF
REVENUE STREAMS FOR FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION**

WHEREAS, for the past 30 years a residence located at 203 Oxford Street, which was built in the year 1900 and originally designed as a two-family dwelling,¹ has been leased by the City of Portland to serve as a single-adult shelter facility, namely the Oxford Street Shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Oxford Street Shelter, which opened in December of 1989 with 50 beds has since expanded as follows²:

- to 62 beds in October 1994, due to an increase in homelessness;
- to 80 beds in 1996, due to an increase in homelessness;
- to 108 beds in 1998, due to an increase in homelessness;
- to 127 beds in 1999, due to an increase in homelessness;
- to its current maximum capacity of 154 beds as set by the Fire Department in 2000, due to an increase in homelessness; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, when the Oxford Street Shelter reached its maximum capacity of 154 beds, a plan for emergency shelter overflow was developed; and

WHEREAS, in April of 2003 the Salvation Army gym was used for the first time to accommodate overflow from the Oxford Street Shelter; and

WHEREAS, since that time alternative overflow options for the Oxford Street Shelter have been developed, including 75 mats at the Preble Street Resource Center and a limited number of mats at the City's General Assistance office; and

WHEREAS, the average nightly bed counts for the last three years, along with high and low censuses by month are as follows³:

	2019			2018			2017			
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	
January	241	271	212	227	248	208	222	238	185	January
February	240	271	212	227	238	211	225	247	178	February
March	239	261	199	219	246	184	228	239	212	March
April	227	257	204	222	240	202	227	243	207	April
May	203	217	178	201	220	177	224	245	204	May
June	203	222	181	199	222	172	221	235	185	June
July	191	211	171	201	221	185	213	227	187	July
August	171	188	135	207	229	186	204	222	182	August
September	155	176	141	201	215	185	206	226	181	September
October	<u>156</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>144</u>	207	223	188	201	225	184	October
November	<u>159</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>120</u>	211	248	182	204	227	169	November
December	<u>179</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>155</u>	228	254	199	208	244	165	December
ANNUAL AVG	208 <u>197</u>			213			215			ANNUAL AVG

WHEREAS, the only physical expansion of habitable space at the Oxford Street Shelter over the 30-year period from 1989 to 2019 occurred in 1995 when the City began leasing the adjacent property, a former auto body shop located at 197 Oxford Street; and

WHEREAS, each increase in the number of beds was recommended by the Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee (ESAC), which was jointly established in August of 1987 by the City of Portland and the United Way to monitor shelter beds in the City and serve as an advisory board to the City regarding homeless issues, with staff from the City Social Services Division serving as staff on ESAC²; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is currently working through a process to replace the Oxford Street Shelter with a new facility; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with this process, the City Council's Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee has held a series of meetings to examine and discuss the City's current single-adult shelter policies in order to ensure this City service is being provided in accordance with Council priorities and goals and in the best interests of the City and all of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, for the past three years the Oxford Street Shelter has served a population that generally comprises 28% stating they are from Portland, 40% stating that they are from other communities in Maine, and 32% stating that they are from out of state or out of country; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that in operating the Oxford Street Shelter for these past 30 years, the City of Portland has been providing a regional service that benefits communities and individuals far beyond the City’s boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes the need to bring together more resources from other municipalities as well as the State and Federal governments to encourage a more regional approach to addressing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, addressing homelessness was identified as a 2017 priority by the seven communities comprising the Greater Portland Council of Government’s Metro Regional Coalition, or MRC (Cape Elizabeth, Falmouth, Gorham, Portland, Scarborough, South Portland and Westbrook); and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2019 the MRC updated its Fiscal Year 2020 workplan goals under the heading of “Homelessness” to add the following:

1. To house more of the homeless in the Greater Portland area;
2. To more equitably distribute the responsibility of caring for the homeless across municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes the need to balance competing priorities in the City budget in order to best serve all of Portland’s residents; and

WHEREAS, there is no prior written record of Council guidance regarding its policy goals for the City’s single-adult shelter services aside from annual approvals of the municipal budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby proffer the following policy goals to provide staff with guidance on Council objectives as the City plans for its new homeless services center for single adults:

1. Continue to employ a housing first approach, using the homeless services center as a place to help stabilize people experiencing homelessness as they transition to more permanent housing;
2. Continue the excellent work of the award-winning Long-Term Stayer Initiative⁴, which seeks to focus resources on housing those people with the longest stays in homelessness in the City;
3. Look into Diversion and Prevention tactics such as the Pine Street Front Door Triage program, a program staff reports has successfully diverted “nearly 20% of individuals from ever entering homelessness and spending a night in a shelter.”⁵, and consider establishing a separate triage facility on

the peninsula or in another convenient location where individuals experiencing homelessness can present to determine their best path forward;

4. Along with diversion and prevention tactics, seek other methods to decrease the average nightly census at the City-run facility;
5. Continue to work with other cities and towns to develop a regional strategy for addressing homelessness and more equally distributing the responsibility of caring for the homeless across municipalities;
6. Continue to work with community partners and local and national experts to determine national best practices that will ensure the safety of staff, clients, and community members;
7. Continue to pursue partnerships to help to address the needs of specific homeless populations, increase the supply of permanent housing for the chronically homeless, and reduce the average nightly census at the City run facility;
8. Ensure the new facility is built with ample capacity to handle our current average annual nightly census-, which, for the last three years (2017-2019) has been approximately 200 individuals per night; for the previous 12 months. As of September 30, 2019, the average nightly census for the previous 12 months is 210;
9. Ensure the new facility has adequate capacity to handle overflow onsite as needed;
10. Over time, as the average nightly census regularly and on a year-round basis comes in below 200, consider establishing an appropriate cap on city services at the facility, with sufficient advanced notice to other communities and the State government regarding when said cap will go into effect;
11. Develop clear transportation guidelines to assist clients in reaching the facility and accessing outside services in the City as necessary;
12. Develop a clear policy for Criminal Trespass Orders and other cases in which a suspension of services may be merited so that clients can easily see how specific behaviors will impact their ability to stay at the facility; and
13. Develop clear guidelines establishing that services provided by the shelter, including meals, are only for shelter clients who have completed or are completing the intake process.

14. Work to diversify revenue streams both for the construction and operation of the new facility, involving as much as possible other municipal, state, and federal funding sources as well as contributions from community partners, individuals, and the private sector.

ATTACHMENT A

References

1. Maine Memory Network, <https://www.mainememory.net/artifact/67713>, accessed on October 17, 2019.
2. *Oxford Street Shelter History*, City of Portland Department of Social Services, circa 2004, <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2288/Oxford-Street-Shelter-History>, accessed on October 17, 2019.
3. Chart created on 10/22/2019 by Belinda Ray and based on Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee Monthly Shelter Statistics for the Oxford Street Shelter on the City of Portland website, <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=61>, accessed on October 17, 2019.
4. *National Alliance to End Homelessness Honors Pioneers in Innovation and Excellence at Annual Awards Ceremony*, National Alliance to End Homelessness Press Release, Washington D.C., October 10, 2017. <https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Awards-Ceremony-FINAL-101017.pdf>, accessed on October 22, 2019.
5. DHHS Staff Memo to HHS & PS Committee from Sarah Fleurant, Oxford Street Shelter Director, dated September 23, 2019. Available in the HHS & PS Committee packet from October 8, 2019.
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/web/UserControls/DocPreview.aspx?p=1&aoid=608>