

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Remote Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 2022
8:30 AM

AGENDA

1. Introductions

- a. Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83421946262?pwd=eG1Md0lYcmc0dDVucnlPNVRvbnM2dz09>

Meeting ID: 834 2194 6262
Passcode: 402872
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,83421946262#,,,,*402872# US (Chicago)
+19292056099,,83421946262#,,,,*402872# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 834 2194 6262
Passcode: 402872
Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/keyDYcpXst>
- b. Review and approval of December 16, 2021 draft meeting minutes.
- c. Stop discrimination based on homelessness: <https://www.preblestreet.org/2022/01/20/current-action-stop-discrimination-based-on-homelessness/?bbLinkId=257647267&bbemailid=37714211&bbjrid=-2054440056>

2. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics

- a. Decemebrr Statistics
- b. Statistics Discussion – Facilitator guides :
 - What do these numbers tell us?
 - What are the implications?
 - What actions should we consider based on those implications?

3. **Winter Warming Center update – Ben Strick**
4. **PIT Count update – MaryBeth Twomey or Norman Maze**
5. **Shelter Licensing update – Terence Miller**
6. **Legislative and Policy Updates – Cullen Ryan and others**
 - a. Bill tracking with state and federal updates.
7. **Other Business**

Next Meeting

February 17, 2022

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Remote Meeting

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Remote Meeting

Thursday, December 16, 2021

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Norm Maze	Shalom House
Jim Devine	HVJ	Ben Martineau	HVJ
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors	Dan Coyne	United Way
Terence Miller	Preble Street	Sarah Michniewicz	BNA
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown	Brian Townsend	Amistad
Ginny Dill	Office of Behavioral Health	Hannah Brier	United Way
Cullen Ryan	CHOM	Vickey Rand	CHOM
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland	Oliver Bradeen	Milestone
Mary Cook	TOA	Ben Strick	Spurwink
Victoria Volent	CoP	Mailyss Day	PHA
Suzanne Randall	HA4All	Mike Guthrie	CoP FS
Bill Higgins	HA4All		

Meeting Summary

The meeting opened with announcements on the Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil which is on December 21, 2021 and the HOME-ARP Consultation Meeting on January 11th at 10:00 AM to get provider input on the \$3.5 ARPA funding the City of Portland and Cumberland County got to address homelessness. Spurwink's Living Room Crisis Center is set to open in February. There is ongoing dialogue of how the role of the statistics at the meeting and it was decided to discuss further at a meeting next year while assigning who will read the statistics 12 months out for providers to be prepared as well as pushing the deadline to send the data to Adam to two Mondays before the meeting so he can share the stats by the Friday before the meeting to give enough time for people to synthesize the data and bring questions to the meeting. Shelters were also asked to provide the length of stay that their housing placements represent.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

PIT Count is January 25th with three service days following. Winter warming center plan will be posted on the City's website with an alert when a temperature threshold is met; an additional space for 25 people during the day is needed. TOA took over ERA with 188 people enrolled and is working through a backlog; they are asking MaineHousing about entering into HMIS as ERA and GA placements will influence the PIT count; service day forms can also capture this but with a large administrative burden.

The moratorium on new shelters in Bayside was lifted and Shelter Licensing passed but a vote to reconsider was approved and there will be a workshop on January 5th and a vote on the 19th. The developer of the HSC held a meeting to get feedback and will hold future workshops on the site plan, layout and design, and operations. Providers are working to reduce the calls for service in South Portland hotels, including working with MaineHousing to contract an additional hotel to have staffing. The ability to shelter people in hotels with FEMA finding has been extended through April first. The continuing resolution means funding is shrinking due to inflation. The state is going into the second half of the biennial on January 5th and will consider 500 bills, 150 of which are new.

November Meeting Minutes

- Terrence moved to approve the minutes and Ben seconded. The motion passed with none opposed.
- **Announcements**
 - The Annual Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil is December 21, 2021
 - Gather outside the learning collaborative at 4:30 with a procession to monument square to recognize those who passed away in the community over the past year.
 - HOME-ARP Consultation Meeting
 - meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, from 10:00 - 11:00 via Zoom. Information about the funding program can be found at the link below. <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/2021-10cpdn.pdf>
 - \$3.5 million for the City of Portland and Cumberland County to address homelessness (HOME American Rescue Plan)
 - For individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, fleeing DV or at the greatest risk of housing instability.
 - Spurwink working to open the Living Room Crisis Center in February, slightly delayed from the anticipated January opening.
- **November Statistics**
 - Some providers have expressed not going over the stats and to email out and talk if there are questions.
 - Some feel it is important to go over the stats at the meeting.
 - We have voted to not read the stats at the meetings before.
 - We should speak to it at the January of February meeting.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- What are we here for if we don't go over the statistics?
- The statistics are valuable when they foster dialogue.
- The statistics are important and is there a way to look at trends.
 - First time homeless seem to be
- With the rotating reporting, the folks don't have a mastery of the numbers.
 - What is the role supposed to be and do a 12 month schedule.
- The CoC board of directors is looking statewide for data and making data dashboards for the hubs.
 - Biggest performance measure is housing
 - Missing lengths of stay before people are housed.
- Make the shelter data deadline the 2 Mondays before the meeting so Adam can send the stats out by the Friday before the meeting.
- **Winter Planning and PIT Count Update**
 - PIT Count is January 25th is night of the count but will be doing service based days wed-Friday Jan 28th to capture who slept out but was not seen the night of the count.
 - Stakeholders are being sent letters to recruit volunteers.
 - Find PIT crew leaders for each area.
 - An alert will go out when a certain temperature threshold has been reached to show how to access warming centers/resources.
 - Space for people to go is still a challenge.
 - Space for around 25 people to be opened as a daytime warming station that is above and beyond what we currently have.
 - Does anyone have a space they are willing to open about 5 days a year? They have a plan to be able to staff it.
 - Plan will be posted on the City website when finalized.
- **ERA Update**
 - TOA is taking over hotel assistance provided by GA.
 - Processing applications from early October.
 - Adding staff capacity to take on caseload.
 - Unable to get people to hotel assistance immediately due to a backlog.
 - Working on data sharing.
 - Enrolled 100 people from GA into ERA
 - 88 people receiving hotel assistance not referred from GA.
 - Sending an email to providers with clear guidance on helping people navigate ERA and to clients receiving ERA and how to maintain eligibility.
 - People cannot get into hotels immediately and please spread that message to people going to their office.
 - GA decision sheets save time documenting income.
 - Reasonable accommodation practice is still in the works.
 - Will this go into HMIS to have accurate data?
 - Will ask MaineHousing; TOA does have an HMIS license so there is an argument to be made.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- This is a discussion to have in advance of the PIT.
 - ERA will make our count low.
 - Survey forms can capture this with added administrative burden.
- **Shelter Licensing Update and Bayside Moratorium Lifted**
 - Shelter Licensing passed but a vote to reconsider was approved and there will be a workshop on January 5th and a vote on the 19th.
 - People feel there is no desire for control over any aspect of shelter and what happened in Bayside could happen anywhere. The impression of things being unmanageable in Bayside is pervasive. Not having licensing will not make it easier to open shelters in other areas.
 - The moratorium on new shelters in Bayside was lifted.
- **Calls for Service in South Portland Hotels Update**
 - Hotels in South Portland are used for overflow.
 - Leadership in South Portland showed a large increase in calls for service. Providers are working to decrease calls for service through coordination and staffing an additional hotel.
 - Proposal to MaineHousing to set up a second contract similar to the OSS contracted hotel.
- **Update on the Homeless Services Center**
 - Developers collaborative hosted a meeting this week.
 - Sought feedback that may impact the actual design of the building as construction starts soon.
 - Looking for partners to refine the existing management plan.
 - Ended abruptly but has a sense for an ongoing effort through periodic meetings to inform the construction and design team.
 - Possibly three workshops:
 - Site plan,
 - Layout and design,
 - Operations.
 - There is thoughtful inclusion of widespread input.
 - Questions remained and we are looking for follow-up.
 - Reality of substance use of people seeking emergency shelter.
 - Dueling obligations to law and the populations we are trying to serve.
- **Legislative Update**
 - **State**
 - Going into the second half of the biennial on January 5th; will consider 500 bills, 150 of which are new.
 - Homeless policy committee working on requests for the next biennial session in January 2023; about ten pieces of legislation covering homelessness.
 - Is there a greater chance with the revenue forecast?

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Hopefully the case but they may say localities have ARPA finding instead.
- **Federal**
 - Ability to shelter people in Hotels/FEMA funding extended through 4/1/22.
 - Continuing resolution through February 18th.
 - Staying at the same funding level is hurt by inflation.
 - Senate FY 22 T-HUD Budget smaller than House.
 - Build Back Better has \$150 Billion in affordable housing investments and \$150 million in home and community based services.
 - Would be the largest investments we will see in our careers.

Meeting ended at approximately 9:35 AM

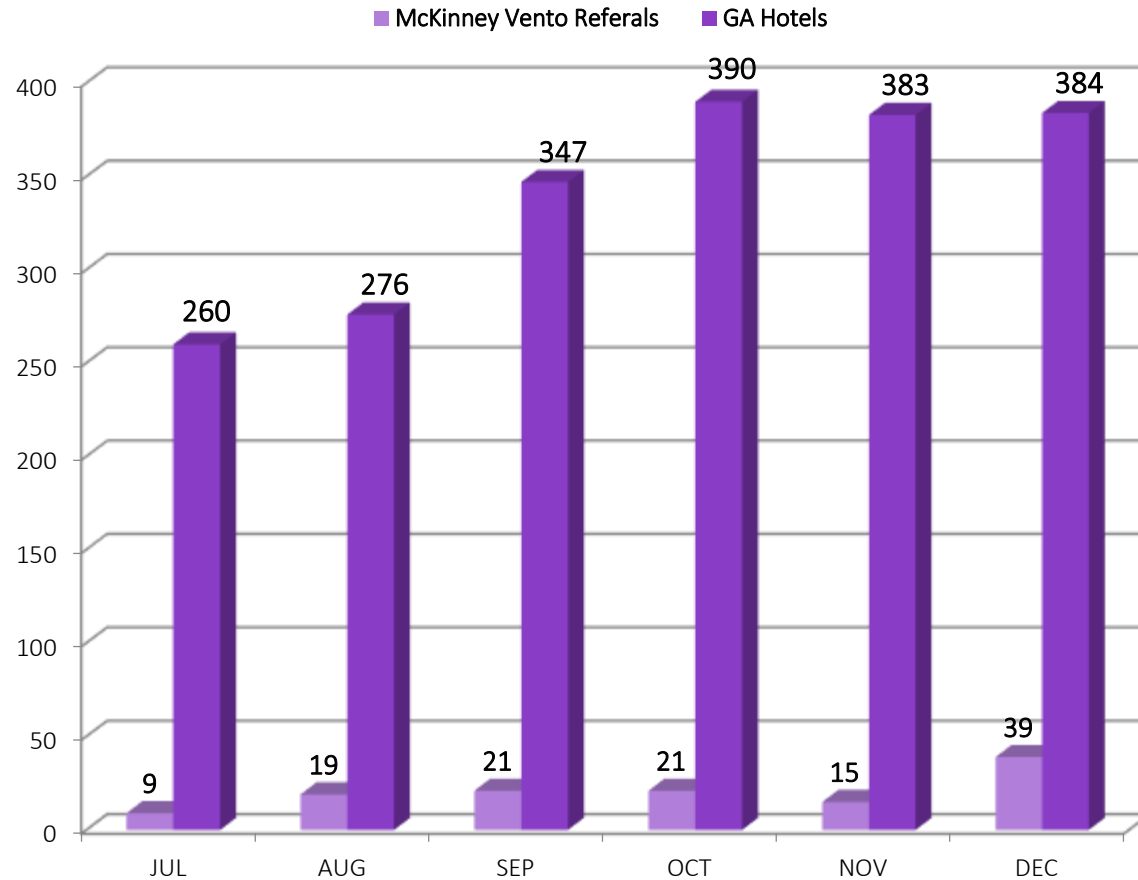
PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters* per Night:

	December 2020	December 2021
ADOLESCENTS	10 Individuals	22 Individuals
FAMILIES	159 Individuals 53 Average Families	73 Individuals 30 Average Families
ADULTS	207 Individuals	271 Individuals
Total	375 Individuals	366 Individuals

*GA hotels are on the next slide.

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER, 2021 General Assistance Hotels



	Month*	Total
Families with School Aged Children	39	200
Unduplicated GA Hotels	384	2,285

Total Unduplicated GA Hotels are the cases granted General Assistance hotel rooms from April, 2020 through the end of the month being reported.

*Started referral partnership with South Portland Schools in December, 2020.

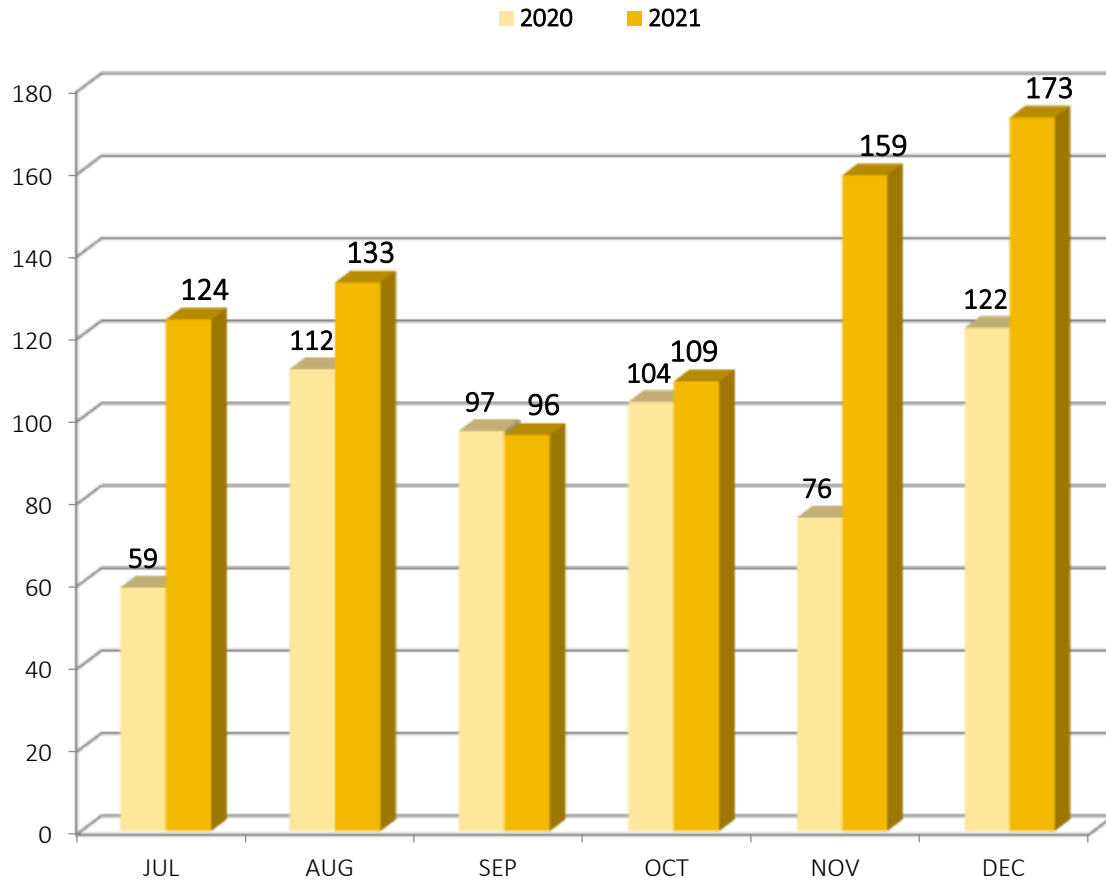
OXFORD STREET SHELTER

DECEMBER, 2021

Intakes by Residency

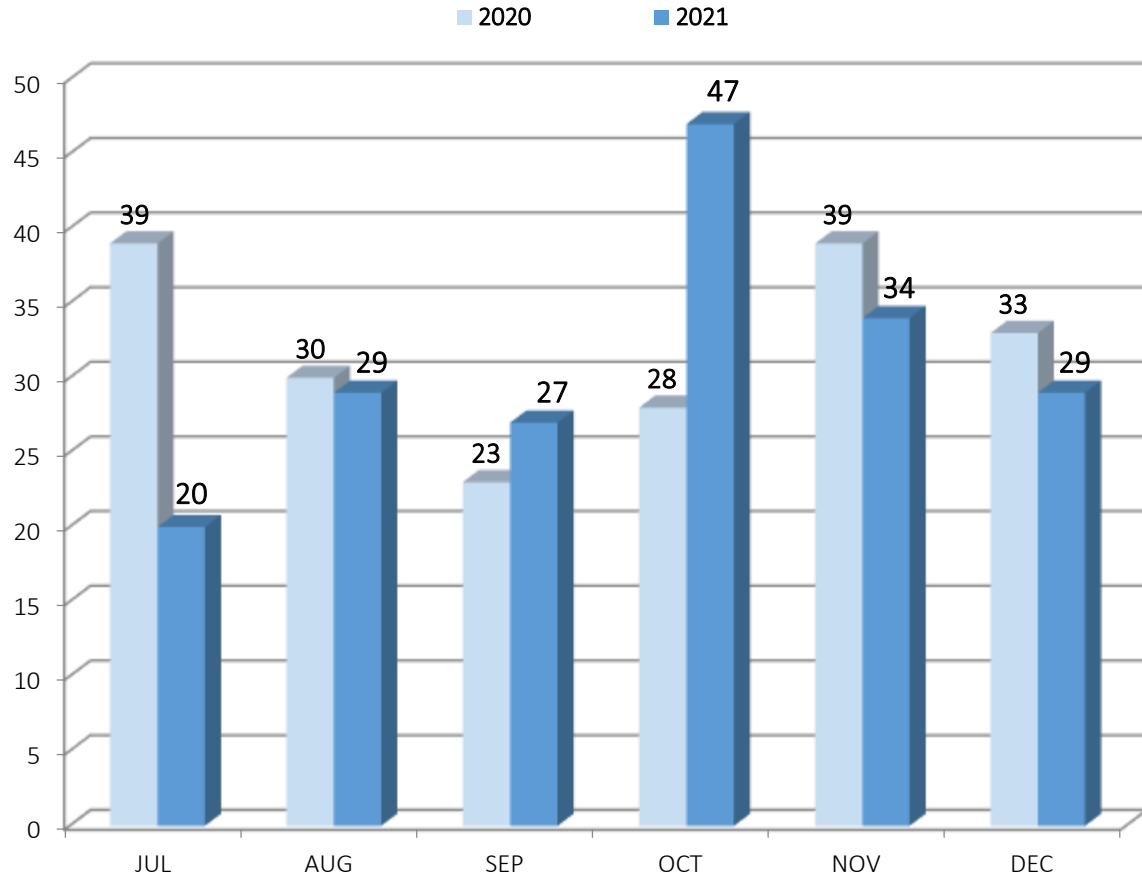
MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE						OUT-OF-COUNTRY	
Auburn	1	Hebron	1	Searsport	1	AK	1	NH	1			DRC	
Bangor	1	Hiram	1	South Portland	9	CA	1	NJ	1				
Bath	1	Houlton	1	Waterboro	1	CT	1	NV	1				
Berwick	1	Kennebunkport	2	Westbrook	6	DC	2	NY	2				
Biddeford	2	Lewiston	6	Windham	1	FL	2	OK	1				
Bremen	1	Lyman	2	Woodstock	1	GA	2	SC	1				
Brunswick	1	OOB	1	Yarmouth	1	IL	2	TN	1				
Chebeague Isl.	1	Otisfield	1			KY	1	TX	3				
Cornish	1	Rumford	1			LA	1	UT	1				
Gorham	1	Saco	2			MA	3	VT	1				
Harrison	1	Scarborough	2			MD	1	WA	1				
MAINE TOWN:	53	OUT-OF-STATE:	31	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:	1	PORTLAND:	35	Unknown:			TOTAL:	120	

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER, 2021 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH



	INTAKES	Pre-COVID Bed Capacity	Current Bed Capacity
Through These Doors	3	16	16+ at shelter and hotel overflow
Family Shelter	3/7	146	136
Joe Kreisler	17	24	24
Milestone	13	41	34
Oxford Street (Men)	86	154 at OSS, 75 at PSRC overflow	75 at OSS, 149 at contracted hotel
Oxford Street (Women)	34		
Florence House	17	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven
TOTAL	173	496	474+

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER, 2021 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



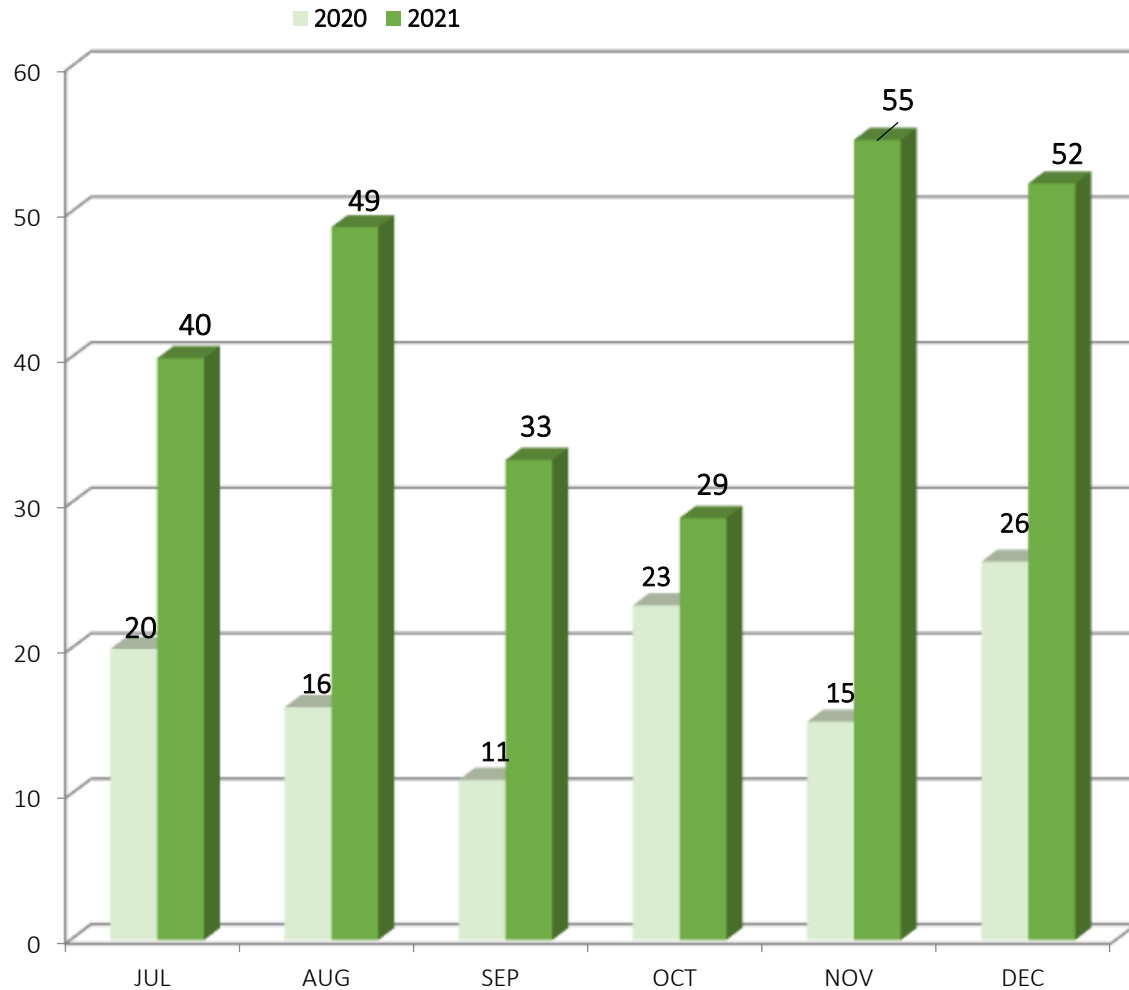
*Starting October, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	BED NIGHTS	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	6.5/13	119	.5	6
Family Shelter	6/21	256		6/21
Joe Kreisler	7	395	4	3
Milestone	0			
Oxford Street (Men)	8	1,334		8
Oxford Street (Women)	0			
Florence House	1	16		1
TOTAL	29	2,120	5	24

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

DECEMBER, 2021

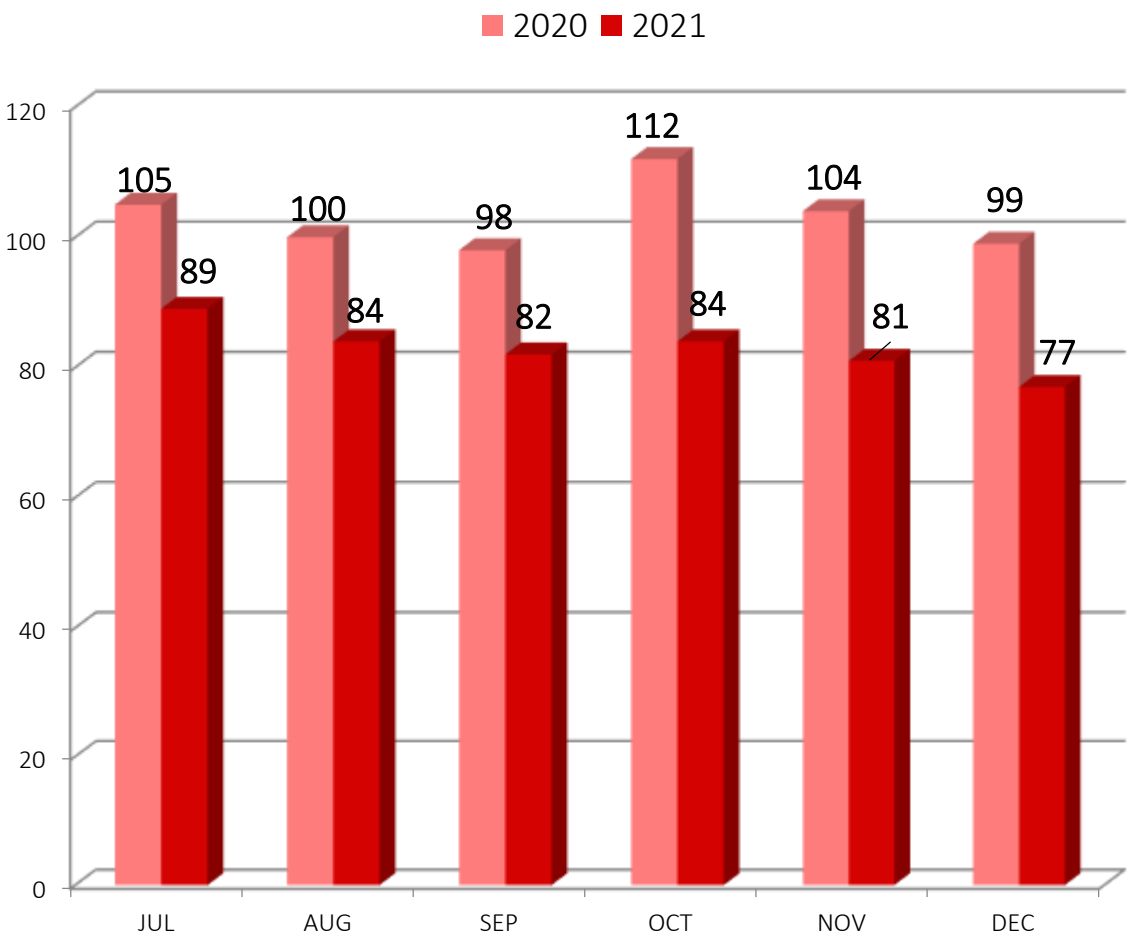
1st TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS (BASED ON SELF-REPORTING)



1 ST TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS	1 st Time Homeless Intakes	% of the Shelter's Intakes	% of All Intake	% of Portland First Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	0			
Family Shelter	3/7	100%	1.7%	5.8%
Joe Kreisler	12	70.6%	6.9%	23%
Milestone	5	38.5%	2.9%	9.6%
Oxford Street (Men)	22	25.6%	12.7%	42.3%
Oxford Street (Women)	10	29.4%	5.8%	19.2%
Florence House	0			
Page 13 TOTAL	52		30%	100%

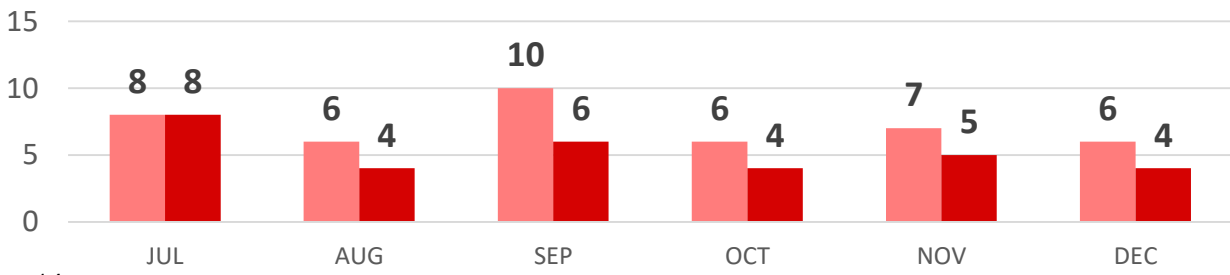
PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER, 2021 CTOs FROM SHELTER

Total Current CTOs

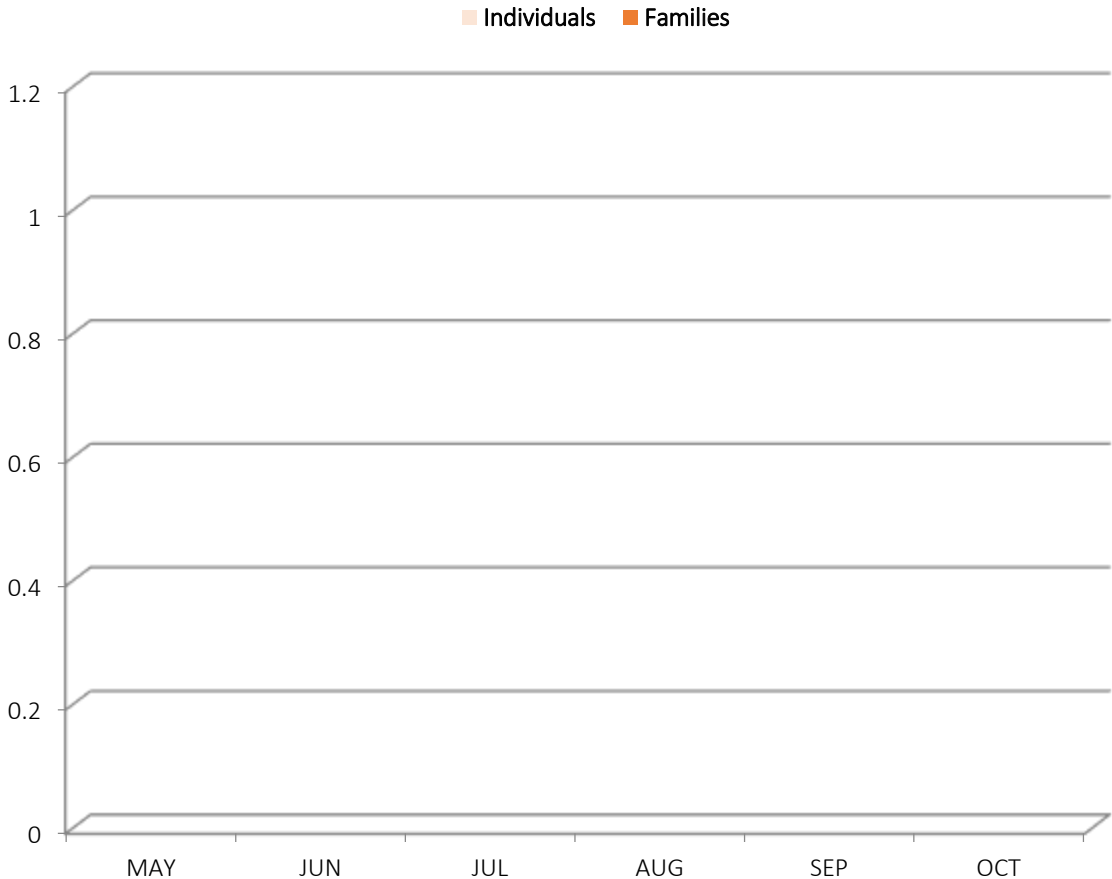


CTO STATISTICS	CTOs in the Month	Medical Restrictions in Month	Current CTOs
Family Shelter	0	0	0
Joe Kreisler	0	0	1
Milestone	2	0	20
Oxford Street Shelter	2	0	55
Florence House	0	0	1
TOTAL	4	0	77

CTOs Issued in the Month



PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE
DECEMBER, 2021
WARMING CENTER STATISTICS BY MONTH



Warming Center	
Intakes	0*
Housing Placements	
Family Promise	

*In GA hotels.

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

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER, 2021 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY TYPE

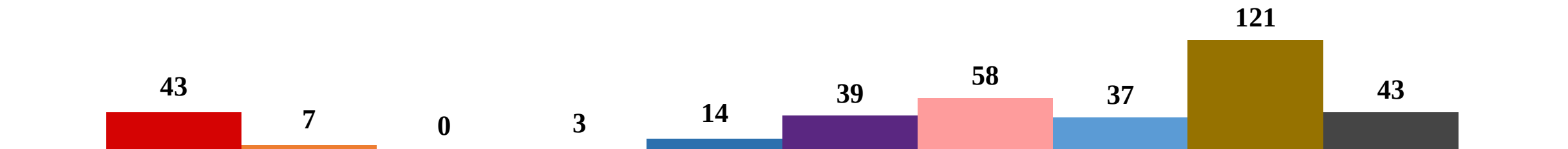
	S+C	BRAP	Sober House	Public Housing	STEP	Family Reunification	Sect. 8/HCV	OTHER	GA	No Subsidy
Through These Doors					1		2	1.5*		2
Family Shelter									6	
Joe Kreisler								4*	3	
Milestone										
Oxford Street (Men)	2					3	1		1	1
Oxford Street (Women)										
Florence House								1*		
TOTAL	2				1	3	3	7	10	3

*RRH, Foster Care, Transitional Living Program, Avesta,

Distribution of Placements in the Month:



2021 Placements: 365

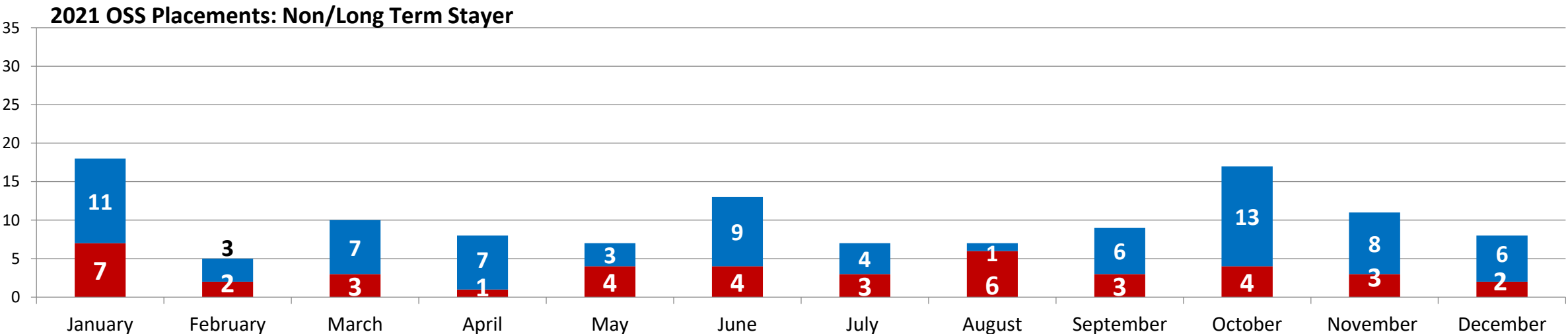
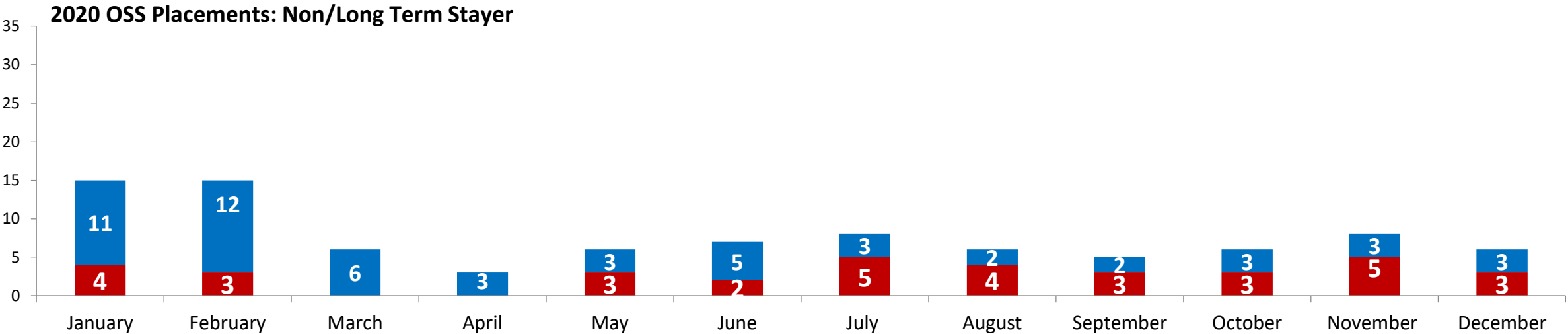
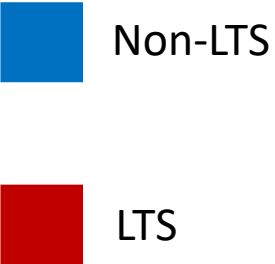


PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER, 2021 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

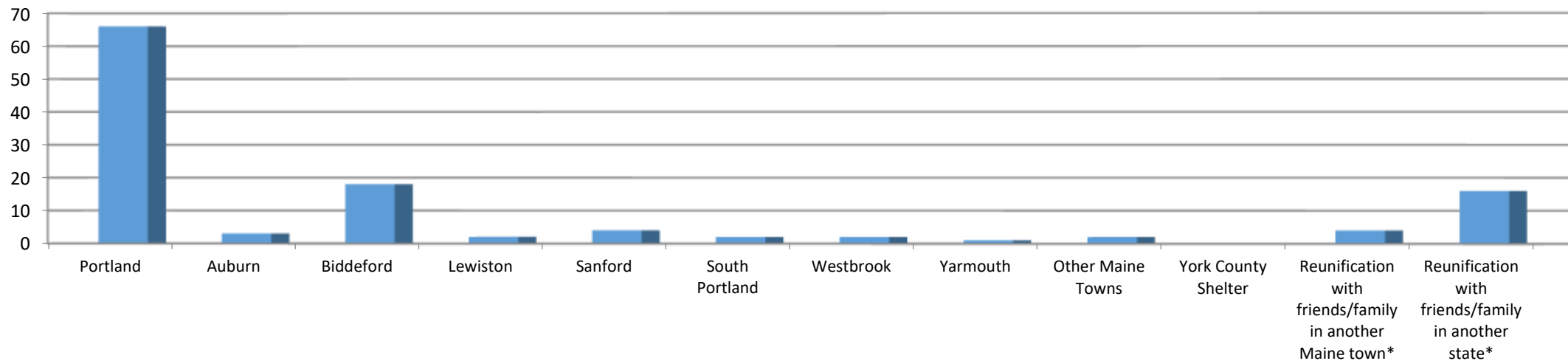
On December: 14
383 individuals
(including families)
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	OSS Chairs	Total Bed Nights
1	12	75	36	23	30	200	0	376
2	14	72	31	20	29	200	0	366
3	11	72	35	24	23	198	0	363
4	11	69	31	24	24	200	0	359
5	12	69	33	24	23	203	0	364
6	13	69	36	24	26	205	0	373
7	12	68	35	24	26	212	0	377
8	12	68	37	24	26	209	0	376
9	15	68	36	24	30	202	0	375
10	15	68	35	20	36	208	0	382
11	15	65	34	23	35	209	0	381
12	15	64	36	22	32	206	0	375
13	15	64	35	22	32	202	0	370
14	15	59	35	24	33	217	0	383
15	15	58	35	21	31	213	0	373
16	15	55	39	23	36	204	0	372
17	15	55	33	21	22	207	0	353
18	15	55	35	21	29	207	0	362
19	15	55	34	22	31	210	0	367
20	15	55	39	19	19	217	0	364
21	14	55	39	19	29	225	0	381
22	14	53	34	22	23	219	0	365
23	14	53	36	23	21	227	0	374
24	11	53	36	20	25	212	0	357
25	10	53	31	24	23	202	0	343
26	10	53	34	23	26	209	0	355
27	10	53	37	23	26	202	0	351
28	10	49	35	24	26	208	0	352
29	10	49	34	22	21	211	0	347
30	10	49	36	24	25	211	0	355
31	10	49	35	21	22	208	0	345
Total	400	1,852	1,087	694	840	6,463	0	11,336
Avg/night	13	60	35	22	27	208	0	366
Highest	15	75	39	24	36	227	0	383
Lowest	10	49	31	19	19	198	0	343

OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



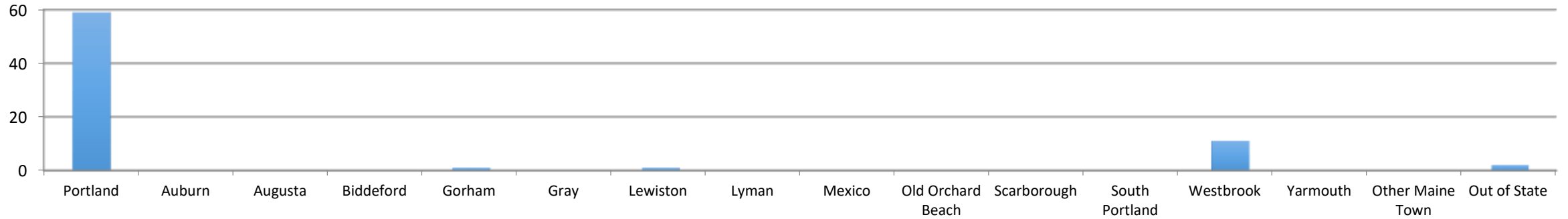
OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2021 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	18	5	10	8	7	13	7	7	9	17	11	8	120	100%
Portland	12	4	9	4	2	8	5	6	4	6	4	2	66	55.0%
Auburn				1	1						1		3	2.5%
Biddeford									4	9	3	2	18	15.0%
Lewiston	1										1		2	1.7%
Sanford						3					1		4	3.3%
South Portland				1								1	2	1.7%
Westbrook	1							1					2	1.7%
Yarmouth			1										1	0.8%
Other Maine Towns	1				1								2	1.7%
York County Shelter													0	0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*					2		1			1			4	3.3%
Reunification with friends/family in another state*	3	1		2	1	2	1		1	1	1	3	16	13.3%

FAMILY SHELTER PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

■ 2021



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	October	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	100%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	6	5	9	13	5	4	7	6	2	6	5	6	74	
Portland	2	5	8	12	5	2	6	3	2	5	5	4	59	79.7%
Auburn														0.0%
Augusta														0.0%
Biddeford														0.0%
Gorham	1												1	1.4%
Gray														0.0%
Lewiston							1						1	1.4%
Lyman														0.0%
Mexico														0.0%
Old Orchard Beach														0.0%
Scarborough														0.0%
South Portland														0.0%
Westbrook	1		1	1		2		3		1		2	11	14.9%
Yarmouth														0.0%
Other Maine Town														0.0%
Out of State	2												2	2.7%

Federal Legislation Update – Short Version

BUDGET & FUNDING-RELATED ITEMS - Updates

President Biden Memorandum re. FEMA & 100% Federal cost coverage for hotels through 4/1/2022 – New – On 11/9 President Biden released a memorandum to FEMA and Homeland Security directing them to provide 100% federal cost share for all work eligible for assistance under Public Assistance Category B sections 403, 502, and 503 of the Safford Act, as well as subsequent related memorandums/executive orders issued by the President during the pandemic, through 4/1/2022. This includes the use of hotels/motels.

FY 22 Budget – Update – Congressional appropriators in the House and Senate announced progress towards reaching a deal on a federal spending package for FY 22. The announcement came after a 1/13 meeting between Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL) and House Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Kay Granger (R-TX). The current CR is set to expire February 18, at which point Congress will need to pass an FY22 spending bill, enact another CR, or face a government shutdown. Per NLIHC, the FY22 budget presents Congress with an opportunity to move our nation towards universal, stable, and affordable homes for all by making significant investments in affordable housing, including expanding Housing Choice Vouchers to an additional 125,000 households with low incomes.

- The House spending bill would fund HUD programs at almost \$7 billion above FY21 enacted levels and includes significant funding increases to nearly all HUD programs, including an expansion of rental assistance through the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program to an additional 125,000 households.
- The Senate proposal, however, would provide HUD with over \$1 billion less than the House proposal and does not include the major expansion of rental assistance.
- More information on what's included in the Senate bill, the House bill, and the President's request from NLIHC can be found by [clicking here](#).

Senate Merkley-Padilla letter to preserve housing investments in Build Back Better reconciliation package – No new update – On 10/14 Senators Merkley and Padilla sent a dear colleague letter to the President, Speaker Pelosi and majority Leader Schumer urging them to preserve the housing investments included in the Build Back Better Act (see below). A total of 36 Senators including the two authors and Senator King signed on to this letter.

Congress' Budget Resolution & "Build Back Better Act" Infrastructure Reconciliation Package – Update – On 11/5, the House passed the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill, which the House had previously tied to the passage of Build Back Better.

-On 11/19 the House voted to approve the Build Back Better Act.

-On 12/20, Sen. Manchin announced he will not vote for the bill, thwarting its ability to pass. The White House and congressional leadership have pledged to continue working on the bill until it is enacted. Senate Majority Leader Schumer said he will bring up the bill for a vote in the new year. As negotiations in the Senate continue, the bill will likely be significantly reworked and some priorities in the bill may be removed altogether. Advocates are urging senators to retain the historic investment in affordable housing.

-As passed by the House, the Build Back Better Act is a \$1.75 trillion package – negotiated down from \$3.5 trillion – and includes \$150 billion in affordable housing investments, including:

- \$25 billion in rental assistance for hundreds of thousands of households
- \$65 billion to preserve our nation's public housing infrastructure
- \$15 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) to build and preserve over 150,000 homes affordable to extremely low-income households.

This is less than the original proposed \$330 billion in affordable housing, but is still the most substantial federal investment in quality, stable, affordable homes for the country's lowest-income people ever (per NLIHC). The bill includes an additional investment of \$150 billion for Home and Community-Based Services. These services can help older adults and people with serious disabilities, including those who have experienced homelessness and now have access to housing, to receive essential services to assist them to retain that housing and be connected to their communities. The extension of the refundable Child Tax Credit will also provide those eligible families experiencing homelessness with much needed income.

House T-HUD FY 22 Appropriations – No new update – On 7/12, House Appropriations Subcommittee overseeing HUD spending passed a [bill](#) to fund critical housing and homelessness programs for FY 22. The full House Appropriations Committee is expected to vote on the bill on 7/16. Per the CBPP: The bill includes \$56.5 billion for HUD programs, a \$6.8 billion increase (14%) above FY 21 enacted levels and \$314 million below the President's FY 22 request. Specifically the bill provides the following increases:

- \$1 billion to fund approximately 125,000 new HCVs targeting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness (In addition to \$25 billion to renew existing vouchers);
- \$150 million to enable housing agencies to provide robust services to expand housing options for families with vouchers;
- An 11% increase for housing agencies to operate, maintain, and improve public housing for more than 955,000 resident households;
- A 14% increase for Homeless Assistance Grants; and
- A \$45 million dollar (43%) increase for the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

BILLS - Updates

The Decent, Affordable, Safe Housing for All (DASH) Act – No new update – On 8/18 Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) announced the DASH Act, legislation to make a generational investment to house all people experiencing homelessness, tackle the housing affordability crisis, and expand homeownership opportunities for young people by creating a new down payment tax credit for first-time homebuyers. The DASH Act would make stable, safe and decent housing available for all by:

- Housing everyone experiencing homelessness within five years, and prioritizing children and families for placement, by issuing them a Housing Choice Voucher, because young children are heavily impacted by housing instability, and because housing is a chief determinant of health;
- Expanding health, child care, financial and nutrition services for families and individuals to stay on a path to unassisted housing stability, because the climb out of housing poverty is nearly impossible to complete alone;
- Greatly increasing the production of deeply affordable housing for families exiting homelessness and for low-income households by investing in effective, efficient existing programs and reforming the tax code to strengthen the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to weather the economic fallout from the pandemic, as well as establish a Renter's Tax Credit and Middle-Income Housing Tax Credit (MIHTC);
- Investing in homeownership in underserved communities and for low income Americans with new tax credits and down payment assistance, including a down payment tax credit for first-time homebuyers; and
- Incentivizing environmentally-friendly development strategies and land use policies.

How the DASH Act ends homelessness:

- Any person or family experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness will be able to contact a public child welfare agency, a public housing agency or any organization that is a part of a community's Continuum of Care and be evaluated for their eligibility for a Housing Choice Voucher. If they are deemed eligible, they will receive a voucher to pay the amount of rent that exceeds 30% of their adjusted income. Each person or family that receives a voucher will be individually evaluated for supportive services and will have access to a caseworker. Services will be provided through the Continuum of Care, and public housing agencies will administer the voucher; services will be permanently funded federally to meet the need.
- Housing Trust Fund: The legislation provides \$10 billion in the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) for the next ten years to states to acquire, develop or rehabilitate deeply affordable housing. States will be required to commit their entire allocation to eligible activities within five years, though the construction does not have a time limit. The intent is for states to efficiently construct a sufficient supply of deeply affordable housing that cannot otherwise be built given current resources and market conditions.
- Public housing agencies will receive a capacity investment in order to serve everyone experiencing homelessness in their jurisdiction, and states will receive a generational investment through the Housing Trust Fund program to construct an initial tranche of housing for these voucher recipients. States will be held accountable for making demonstrated progress towards housing all eligible people and families.

Key tax Provisions of the DASH Act:

- *Emergency Affordable Housing Act:* The Emergency Affordable Housing Act (EAHA) would strengthen the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to weather the economic fallout from the pandemic, by preserving and protecting current LIHTC properties, dramatically expanding production, and extending housing to those at extremely low incomes. Key provisions would expand the 9% housing credit by 50% to house more families; provide a 50% basis boost to projects that prioritize extremely low-income renters; expand the 4% credit for rural areas; reduce the tax-exempt bond financing threshold for 4% credit projects from 50% to 25% for 3 years; and preserve tens of thousands of affordable housing units by closing a key loophole. EAHA would produce nearly 1 million new affordable housing units over the next ten years.
- *Renter's Tax Credit:* Some 11 million low-income Americans are rent burdened. The Renter's Tax Credit provides a refundable tax credit to property owners who rent to eligible tenants with incomes at or below 30% of area median income. The credit equals up to 110% of the difference between market rent and utilities and 30% of the tenant's income. Each year, Treasury will allocate renters' credits to states through a per capita formula. States in turn will allocate their credits to participating property owners who have signed a binding rent reduction agreement with eligible tenants. A state's unused credits are returned to the national pool. Participating property owners must also comply with the Fair Housing Act.
- *Middle-Income Housing Tax Credit (MIHTC):* A new Middle Income Housing Tax Credit (MIHTC) would continue where the very successful LIHTC program leaves off, by providing a tax credit to developers who house tenants between 60 and 100% of area median income. The credit would equal 50% of the present value of construction costs, or 5% per year on an undiscounted basis. States would administer the program, and Treasury would annually allocate the credit to states based on a \$1 per capita formula with a \$1.14 million small state minimum. States could also use MIHTC dollars to augment their LIHTC program.

S 1469/HR 6287 Homeless Children and Youth Act – Update – On 12/14 the Homeless Children and Youth Act was introduced in the House by Congresswoman Sherrill and Congressman Van Taylor, and co-signed by nine other members of Congress. It was previously introduced in the Senate on 4/29 by Senators Feinstein, Portman, and Baldwin. HCYA corrects flaws in the HUD homeless assistance system. It aligns the HUD definition of homelessness with the definitions utilized by other federal agencies, increases data transparency within the current system, and allows localities to prioritize program models that best meet the needs of their communities.

S 3350 Helping Foster and Homeless Youth Achieve Act – New – On 12/9 the Helping Foster and Homeless Youth Achieve Act was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and Rob Portman (R-OH). This bipartisan legislation removes barriers

to higher education for youth experiencing homelessness and youth formerly in foster care by requiring federally-funded institutions of higher education waive application fees for foster and homeless youth. Waiving the barrier of application fees will increase access to postsecondary education for homeless and foster youth.

RULES – No New Updates

State Update: Per Statute, the 2nd Regular Session of the 130th Legislature (the “short session”) begins the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday of January (1/12/22) and concludes the third Wednesday in April (4/20/22). Cloture, that date when bill titles must be submitted for consideration, is on 9/24.

LD 1733 An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds – Governor’s Bill Re. American Rescue Plan Act funding

– On 7/19 the Legislature passed and the Governor signed this bill as amended into law. It did not receive 2/3’s vote so it will become effective 90 days after adjournment sine die (which occurred on 7/19). The final bill can be found here:

http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?id=1733&PID=1456&snum=130 The bill includes:

- Nearly \$6M to backstop increased pay for behavioral health workers under Secs. 17, 26, 28, and 65 passed in the budget
- \$50M for affordable workforce housing with a Maine State Housing Authority and Department of Economic and Community Development partnership, \$20M of which is subject to a pilot program using Project Labor Agreements.
- \$10M in one-time funds (2021-2022) for grants to existing emergency homeless shelters, including those that assist homeless youth, to be used for operations, maintenance or capital improvements. – **The Maine Shelter Network has recommended MaineHousing include this money in the operations pot within the ESHAP program.**
- \$1.5M Support for Housing navigators in the Maine State Housing Authority – 2-year pilot program within the Maine State Housing Authority. The authority shall hire individuals referred to as "housing navigators" affiliated with local housing authorities, general assistance programs or nonprofit organizations to assist tenants with locating housing and the rental application process and to provide supportive services to promote successful landlord-tenant relationships.

BILLS

Please see the attached Bill Tracking Document for information on Bills in the Second Session of the 130th Legislature.

130TH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION – JANUARY 5, 2022 - APRIL 20, 2022**USEFUL LINKS**

- Maine Legislature Homepage: <http://legislature.maine.gov/>
- Maine Legislature YouTube Channels for Legislative Committees: <https://www.youtube.com/mainestatelegislature>
- Sign up to Testify and/or submit testimony here: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

2022 NEW BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1915	Rep. Berry	An Act To Improve Intensive Behavioral Health and Public Safety Case Management Services	Public Hearing: 2/3/22, 1pm, HHS Committee	This bill provides funding for the recruitment and retention of all Intensive Case Manager positions in the State via a \$5 per wage-hour stipend payment and a \$1 per wage hour stipend payment for employees in those positions holding or obtaining a relevant master's degree. These increases are commensurate with the increases given to the child welfare services program in Public Law 2017, chapter 471.
LD 1860	Sen. Moore	An Act To Address Maine's Suicide and Opioid Crises through the Construction of Affordable Recovery Facilities in Underserved Areas of the State	Referred to HHS Committee	Still a concept draft. This bill proposes to direct new federal money to construct affordable recovery facilities in underserved areas in order to better address the State's suicide and opioid crises.
LD 1822	Rep. Morales	An Act To Improve Access to Behavioral Health Services by Limiting Cost Sharing by Insurers	Public Hearing: 1/11/22, 10am, Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee	This bill prohibits insurance carriers offering a health plan that provides or covers any benefits with respect to behavioral health services from applying a copayment, deductible, coinsurance or other cost-sharing requirement to those behavioral health services.
LD 1871	Rep. Talbot Ross	Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Extend Its Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues	Public Hearing: 1/25/22, 1pm, Judiciary Committee	This resolve extends by 2 years the 2-year Maine Human Rights Commission pilot program to receive, review and investigate incidents and complaints of harassment due to a person's housing status and other reports of interference with a person's access to public accommodations and extends the deadlines for its reports. The resolve is retroactive to June 16, 2020, the effective date of Resolve 2019, chapter 113.
LR 2299	Speaker Fecteau	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions		

LR 2339	Sen. Hickman	An Act To Help Alleviate Maine's Housing Shortage through Changes to Zoning Laws		
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CARRIED OVER BILLS FROM 2021

Color code: Black font = Homelessness related bill; Green font = Housing/Rental Assistance related; Blue font = Service related; Purple font = General Assistance related;

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 211	Rep. Cloutier	An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	As amended: Provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$3,000,000 per year to MaineHousing's Shelter Operating Subsidy program to support operations and capacity at all emergency homeless shelters across the State. Funding allocation would be based upon the Homeless Solutions Rule shelter funding formula.
LD 654	Rep. Arford	An Act To Create a 24-hour Shelter Capital Project Funding Program	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Establishes the 24-hour Shelter Capital Project program within MaineHousing to support new construction or expansion of emergency 24-hour shelters for persons experiencing homelessness. New construction and expansion projects funded by the program must address an increase in the need for shelter capacity in the region since the construction, or expansion, of an existing shelter or shelters in the region or since the start of the outbreak of COVID-19 or both. Includes a one-time supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 to MaineHousing to fund the program.
LD 175	Rep. Cloutier	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters	Public Hearing in front of the AFA Committee held then Carried Over	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to create and enhance regional homeless shelters.
LD 1300	Rep. Supica	An Act to Require County Governments to Coordinate with Municipalities to Create Plans to Address Homelessness	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Requires the county commissioners of each county, in consultation and coordination with the Statewide Homeless Council, regional homeless councils and the municipalities in the county, to develop and implement a plan with protocols to address homelessness within the county.
LD 773	Rep. Brennan	An Act To Assist Public School Students and Families Who Are Homeless	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Requires that MaineHousing give priority for temporary housing assistance to homeless students and their families who are identified and referred by a local educational agency liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

LD 473	Rep. Morales	An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	As amended: Establishes the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program within the Maine State Housing Authority. The program provides rental assistance to qualified tenants and provides housing navigation services and includes a guarantee program to encourage landlords to work with rental assistance programs. Creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund to carry out the program. Includes an ongoing non-lapsing General Fund appropriation of \$9,000,000 per year.
LD 50	Rep. Brennan	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless	Public Hearing in front of the AFA Committee held then Carried Over	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$15,000,000, will be used for capital construction costs for housing for persons who are homeless
LD 1673	Rep. Talbot Ross	An Act To Create a Comprehensive Permit Process for the Construction of Affordable Housing	Tabled at the Work Session then Carried Over.	This bill establishes a comprehensive permit process to streamline the building construction permitting system and promote the creation of additional affordable housing by public agencies, nonprofit organizations and limited dividend organizations.
LD 913	Rep. Hasenfus	An Act To Enact the Maine Data Collection Protection Act	UPDATE: Work Session on 1/6 in front of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee, reported out as Referred to Judiciary Committee- ONTP	This bill creates the Maine Data Collection Protection Act, which prohibits data collectors from collecting and aggregating, selling or using specific types of public documents or information from those documents for the purpose of determining a consumer's eligibility for consumer credit, employment or residential housing.
LD 415	Rep. Stearns	Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Increase MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Targeted Case Management Services To Reflect Inflation	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Requires DHHS to amend its rules governing MaineCare reimbursement for targeted case management services to provide an increase reflecting cost increases from 2010 to 2020.
LD 582	Rep. Madigan	An Act To Support the Fidelity and Sustainability of Assertive Community Treatment	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Modifies the definition of ACT to better align the definition with an evidence-based treatment model. Adds definitions of "psychiatric provider" and "medical assistant" and changes the description of the composition of the multidisciplinary teams that provide assertive community treatment. Requires DHHS to increase the MaineCare reimbursement rates for ACT by 25% immediately to allow providers to continue to offer the service. Requires the department to amend its rules governing ACT to provide an initial authorization period of 6 months for clients meeting eligibility

				requirements for ACT and require reauthorization no more often than 6 months thereafter.
LD 1059	Rep. Morales	An Act To Provide Substance Use Disorder treatment to Adolescents	UPDATE: Work Session on 1/20 in front of the HHS Committee	Require DHHS to work with stakeholders to develop and fund a continuum of evidence-based treatment services for adolescents affected by substance use disorder. Services would include, but not be limited to, detoxification beds in hospitals or residential settings and intensive outpatient treatment services.
LD 512	Rep. Dodge	An Act to Provide Intensive Case Managers to Counties That Do Not Have County Jails or Regional Jails	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	As amended: Provides funding for 4 additional ICM positions in DHHS. Directs the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the geographic distribution and activities of the ICMs.
LD 910	Rep. Brennan	An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Requires the State to provide 100% reimbursement for GA costs to Indian tribes. It provides that a municipality's most recent state valuation rather than the all state valuation is used for calculating when the municipality begins to be reimbursed 90% for GA costs and that the reimbursement is for gross costs rather than net costs. It establishes that the new reimbursement to municipalities begins July 1, 2022.