

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Remote Meeting

**Thursday, March 17, 2022
8:30 AM**

AGENDA

1. Introductions

- a. Join Zoom Meeting
<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/82297908674?pwd=TjNNQkNDMDd0b0x6MXJwZVM5c3JiUT09>

Meeting ID: 822 9790 8674

Passcode: 774448

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82297908674#,,, *774448# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,82297908674#,,, *774448# 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)

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- b. Welcome & Introductions – Dan Coyne facilitating
- c. Approval of minutes

2. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics

- a. February Statistics

3. Hotel update and discussion (Aaron Geyer)

4. ESG Presentation (Victoria Volent)

- a. Proposed 2022-2023 Budget for ESG

5. **Update on local ARPA funding directions and opportunities (Aaron Geyer)**
6. **Update on Cumberland County Homeless Response Service Hub (Dan Coyne)**
 - a. Introduction of Work Works opportunity for discussion
7. **Federal, State, and Local Legislation update (Cullen Ryan, others)**
 - a. February Update
8. **Other items and updates**

Next Meeting
April 21, 2022
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Remote Meeting

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Social Services Division
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aeg@portlandmaine.gov

Adam Harr
Health & Human Services Department
Social Services Division
(207) 482-5144
ash@portlandmaine.gov

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Remote Meeting

Thursday, February 17, 2022

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	Brian Townsend	Amistad
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown	Hannah Brier	United Way
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland	Vickey Rand	CHOM
Bill Higgins	HA4All	Ben Strick	Spurwink
Johnathan Sarbeck	District Attorney	Mike Guthrie	CoP FS
Sarah Michniewicz	BNA	George Rheault	West Bayside Resident
Sara Fleurant	CoP OSS		

Meeting Summary

During the statistics discussion, shelter staff clarified that first time homelessness is based on self-reporting. 640 people are sheltered in hotels; the City is advocating for continued hotel funding as there is only capacity to absorb 30 of the individuals who will be displaced when hotel funding ends. Criterion to open warming centers narrowed to when the temperature drops to 5 degrees or below due to frostbite risk. The first day WC used had over 30 people with the second and third having over 70 people. The WC wasn't opened 2 days that met the criterion to open to lack of staff to do so. Wearing masks and isolating for 10 days if symptomatic recommendations have not changed for congregate settings. Bills at the State would update zoning making it easier to develop housing: LR 2299 and LD 1673.

January Meeting Minutes

- Jenny moved to approve the minutes and Terrence seconded. The minutes were approved with none opposed.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- **January Statistics**

- Average Families stayed at 30 compared to last year but the size decreased shown by the average individuals decreasing from 73 to 68.
- Families with school aged children entering hotels consistent but overall GA hotels appear to be trending down.
- OSS intakes consistent with approximately 1/3 out of state, in state, and Portland.
 - 6 TX intakes are likely asylum seekers.
- 1/3 of all intakes report experiencing homelessness for the first time.
- When someone self-reports first time homelessness but staff know they are not experiencing homelessness, those people would be filtered out.
- Current CTOs remain flat at 77.
- The plurality of our housing placements were GA (7), Section 8/HCV (6), and without subsidy (5).
 - Some of these are Emergency Housing Vouchers.
- Highest census: January 29 and 30 had 369 people in shelter.

- **Hotel Update and Discussion**

- Social Services working closely with TOA to convert GA to ERA
- Roughly 250 people in GA and contract hotels with 35-40 at Comfort Inn, 190 families for 640 individuals.
- Planning to continue to use hotels through the end of March.
- Caity Hagar is in contact with MEMA to prepare a letter to the Administration to convey the importance of this funding.
- FEMA will give a 30 day notice when the funding is set to expire.
- When they close, will we be changing capacity of shelters to avoid increase in unhoused?
 - This is a discussion to have as there is only capacity to increase by 30 people; it would help those thirty but not large number of people.
- This is a universal challenge of the pandemic the country will have to face when funding ends.

- **Warming Center Update**

- Working group started in November including Caity Hagar to determine a cut of temperature when it becomes unsafe.
 - 5 degrees due to frostbite risk.
- For unsheltered who have nowhere else to go.
- Have opened a total of three days at First Parish.
- Multiple organizations distributing donated clothing, doing outreach, safety planning go for the end of the day,
- 2 days not opened when criteria were met: many organizations had staff out due to the pandemic and the danger of staff driving in; instead focused on outreach.
- First day at over 30 people; the second and third had over 70 people.
- Challenges
 - Difficulty managing the unowned space across multiple organizations.
 - Needed three strained staff instead of volunteers for safety.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- This is challenging with Covid staffing shortages.
 - Will need infrastructure with staff or rotation for long term stability of this annual need.
 - Thank you Ben and Spurwink!
 - Is it a pilot for what the community needs to understand as fundamental takeaways to plan in the summer and fall for next winter?
 - It has been so rapid fire that there hasn't been time to reflect between openings.
 - They will collectively reflect.
 - First Parish has been a great partner and has prompted more of the faith community to get involved.
- **Legislative Update**
 - **Federal**
 - Still in continuing resolution that expires tomorrow.
 - Proposed THUD budgets look good with capacity for HCV to help 250,000 households.
 - Rep. Pingree putting forth a bill to reduce the wait time for work authorization to 30 days.
 - **State**
 - LD 1871 would extend the pilot from the Maine Human Rights commission to investigate discrimination due to housing status by two years.
 - LD 1822 An Act To Improve Access to Behavioral Health Services by Limiting Cost Sharing by Insurers
 - LD 1848 An Act To Increase the Availability of Assertive Community Treatment Services
 - LD 1860 An Act To Address Maine's Suicide and Opioid
 - Crises through the Construction of Affordable Recovery Facilities in Underserved Areas of the State
 - LD 1910 An Act To Improve Children's Mental Health by Requiring Insurance Coverage for Certain Mental Health Treatment
 - LD 1915 An Act To Improve Intensive Behavioral Health and Public Safety Case Management Services
 - LD 1961 An Act to Help Alleviate Maine's Housing Shortage and Change the Membership of the Maine State Housing Authority
 - LR 2299 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions
 - Would implement specific recommendation that would make it far easier to develop housing, specifically affordable housing.
 - LD 1673 An Act To Create a Comprehensive Permit Process for the Construction of Affordable Housing

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- A zoning land use carry over bill that would create a Maine comprehensive permit process.
 - Supplemental budget announced for this year and the budget that starts July 1st.
 - Funding for childcare
 - Funding for direct support professionals to actualize the funding mechanism to 125% of the minimum wage to go into effect immediately when the budget passes retro to July 1st.
 - 27.6 million Increase to the Maine earned income tax.
 - Part U established a new program in economic and community development to increase affordable housing units in Maine.
 - Nearly \$2 million of funding for homeless youth.
 - \$12 million of unappropriated funding.
 - Bills on the table could be funded as part of the budget.
 - We can strongly advocate for bills on the week of the 28th.
 - Many bills got carried over.
- **Covid Update**
 - **Updated CDC guidelines**
 - “CDC updated four guidance documents for homeless service providers and health departments to be consistent with recent updates to the [quarantine and isolation](#) guidance and [up to date](#) vaccination recommendations. People experiencing sheltered homelessness should isolate for 10 days if they have COVID-19 and quarantine for 10 days after exposure to someone with COVID-19. People experiencing unsheltered homelessness should also stay away from crowded areas or congregate settings for at least 10 days if they have symptoms of COVID-19, have COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.”
 - Highlights the risk of Covid spreading in congregate setting but does not change operations.
 - On downslope but infections are still high.
 - Challenge is that CDC guidance lags.
 - Wearing masks and isolating for 10 days recommendations have not changed.
- **Other Business**
 - 40 Bed Preble Street Shelter
 - Construction delayed due to supply chain issues.
 - Set to open in June or July.
 - HVJ has met with the City manager, mayor and Councilors Chong and Pelletier.
 - Ricky’s Tavern across from the post office in Bayside had a lodging house of seven bedrooms on the floors above; the building was emptied out over the last year.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Ending this housing contributes to homelessness.
- Did the developer reach out to anyone at the City?
 - This was raised at the HVJ meeting. 94 Portland is being converted into 4 apartments. HVJ worked replacement of housing and will follow up.
- The Cathedral of Immaculate Conception is interested in hosting WC M-F.

DRAFT

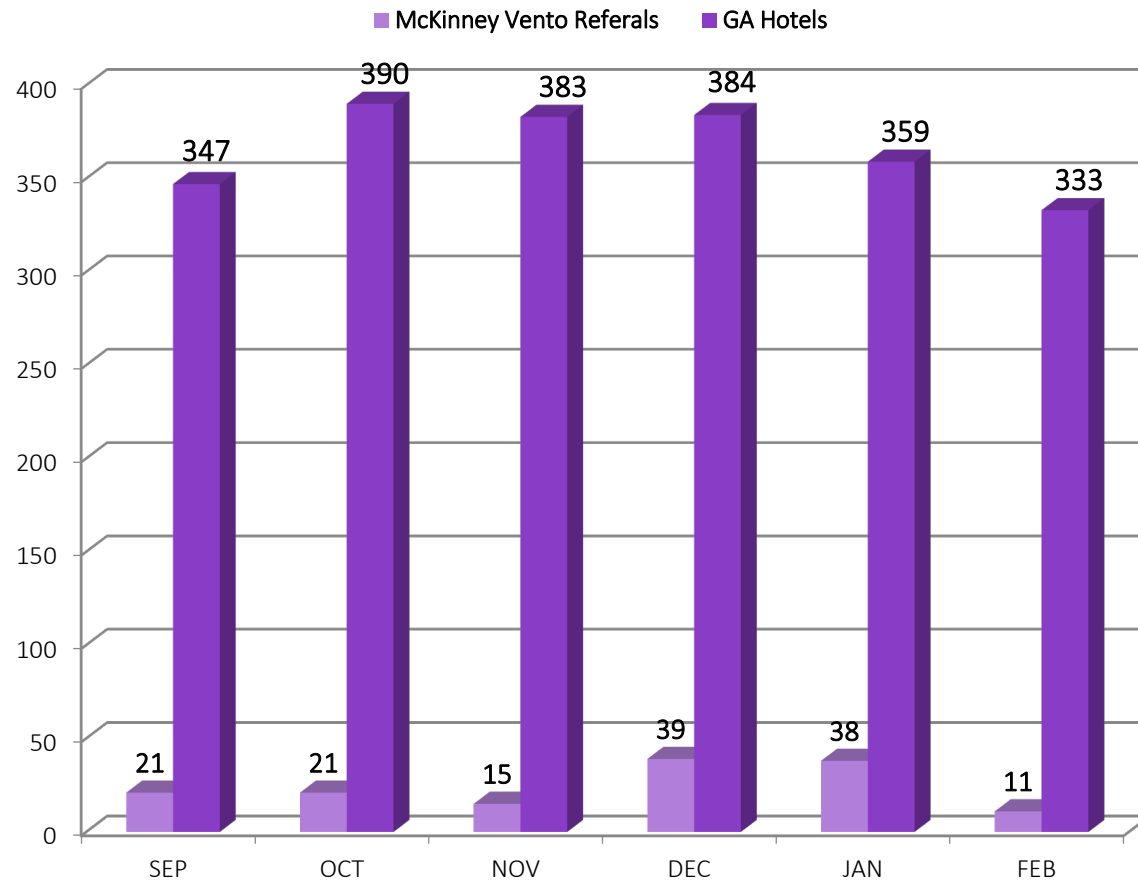
PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

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

	February 2021	February 2022
ADOLESCENTS	10 Individuals	15 Individuals
FAMILIES	131 Individuals 41 Average Families	60 Individuals 29 Average Families
ADULTS	160 Individuals	277 Individuals
Total	366 Individuals	352 Individuals

*GA hotels are on the next slide.

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE FEBRUARY, 2022 General Assistance Hotels



	Month*	Total
Families with School Aged Children	11	249
Unduplicated GA Hotels	333	2,489

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.

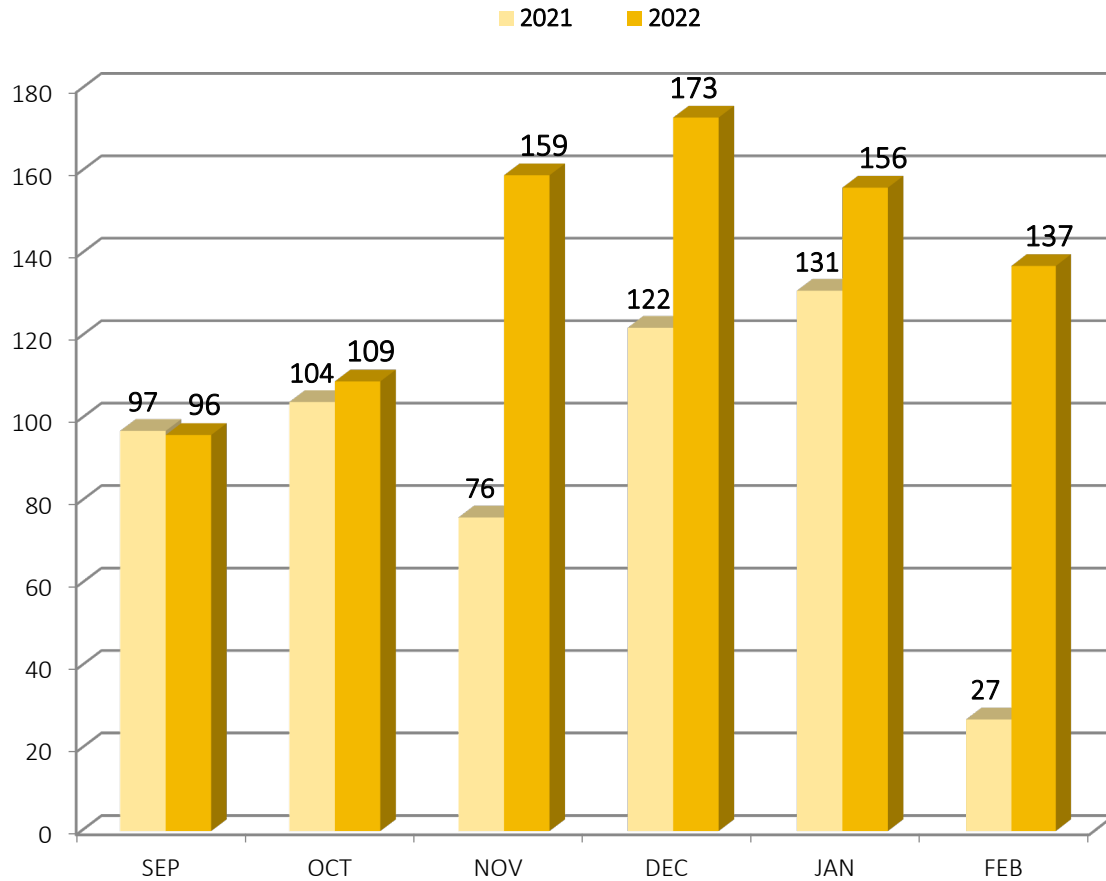
OXFORD STREET SHELTER

FEBRUARY, 2022

Intakes by Residency

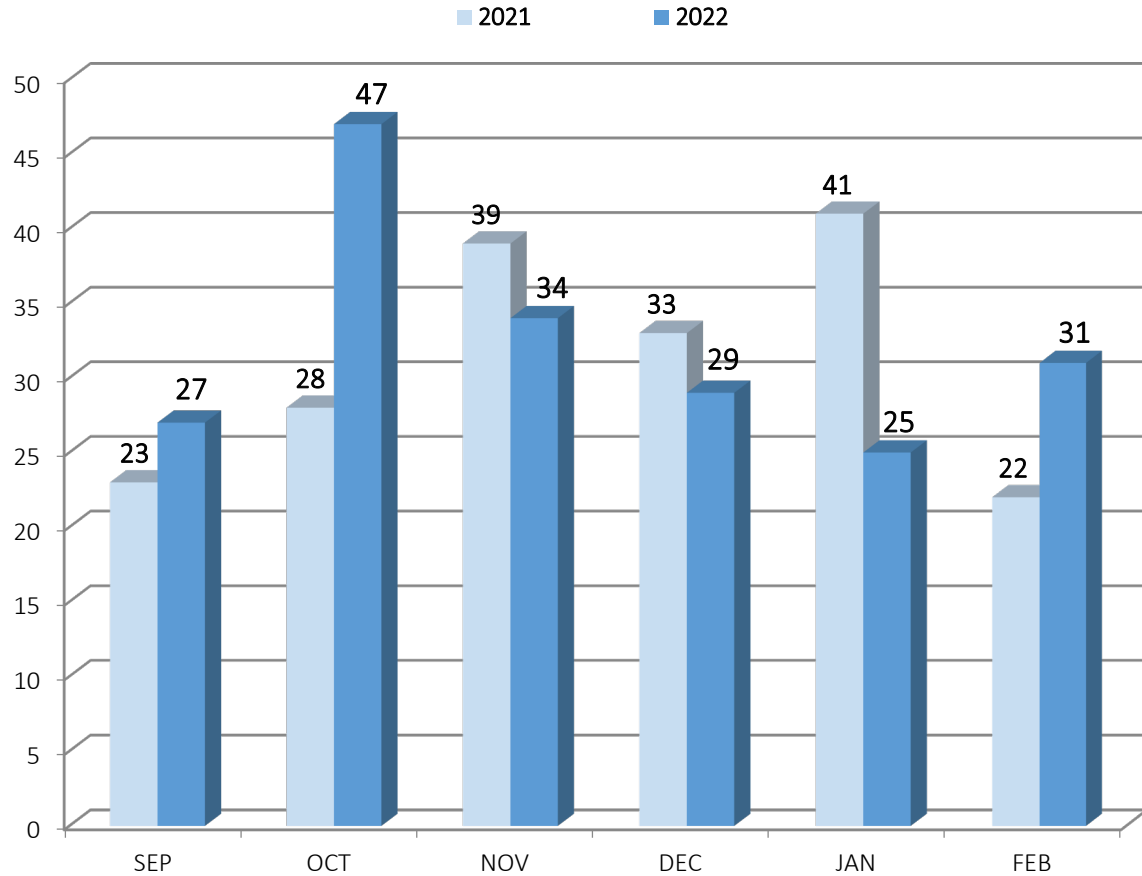
MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE						OUT-OF-COUNTRY	
Alfred	1	Gorham	1	Scarborough	1	AR	1	TN	1				
Augusta	1	Gray	1	South Portland	3	CT	1	TX	1				
Baldwin	1	Hebron	1	Springfield	1	FL	1	VA	1				
Bangor	4	Hiram	1	Waldoboro	1	LA	1	VT	1				
Belfast	2	Kittery	1	Warren	1	MA	3						
Berwick	1	Lewiston	3	Waterboro	1	MO	1						
Biddeford	2	Littleton	1	West Paris	1	MS	1						
Boothbay Harbor	1	New Castle	1	Westbrook	3	NC	1						
Mechanic Falls	1	Oxford	1			NH	3						
Cornville	1	Saco	1			NY	1						
Damariscotta	1	Sanford	2			PA	1						
MAINE TOWN:	44	OUT-OF-STATE:	19	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:	0	PORTLAND:	25	Unknown:	5	TOTAL:	93		

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE FEBRUARY, 2022 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH



	INTAKES	Pre-COVID Bed Capacity	Current Bed Capacity
Through These Doors	5/9	16	16+ at shelter and hotel overflow
Family Shelter	7/26	146	136
Joe Kreisler	4	24	24
Milestone	12	41	34
Oxford Street (Men)	70	154 at OSS, 75 at PSRC overflow	75 at OSS, 149 at contracted hotel
Oxford Street (Women)	23		
Florence House	16	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven
TOTAL	137/160	496	474+

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE FEBRUARY, 2022 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



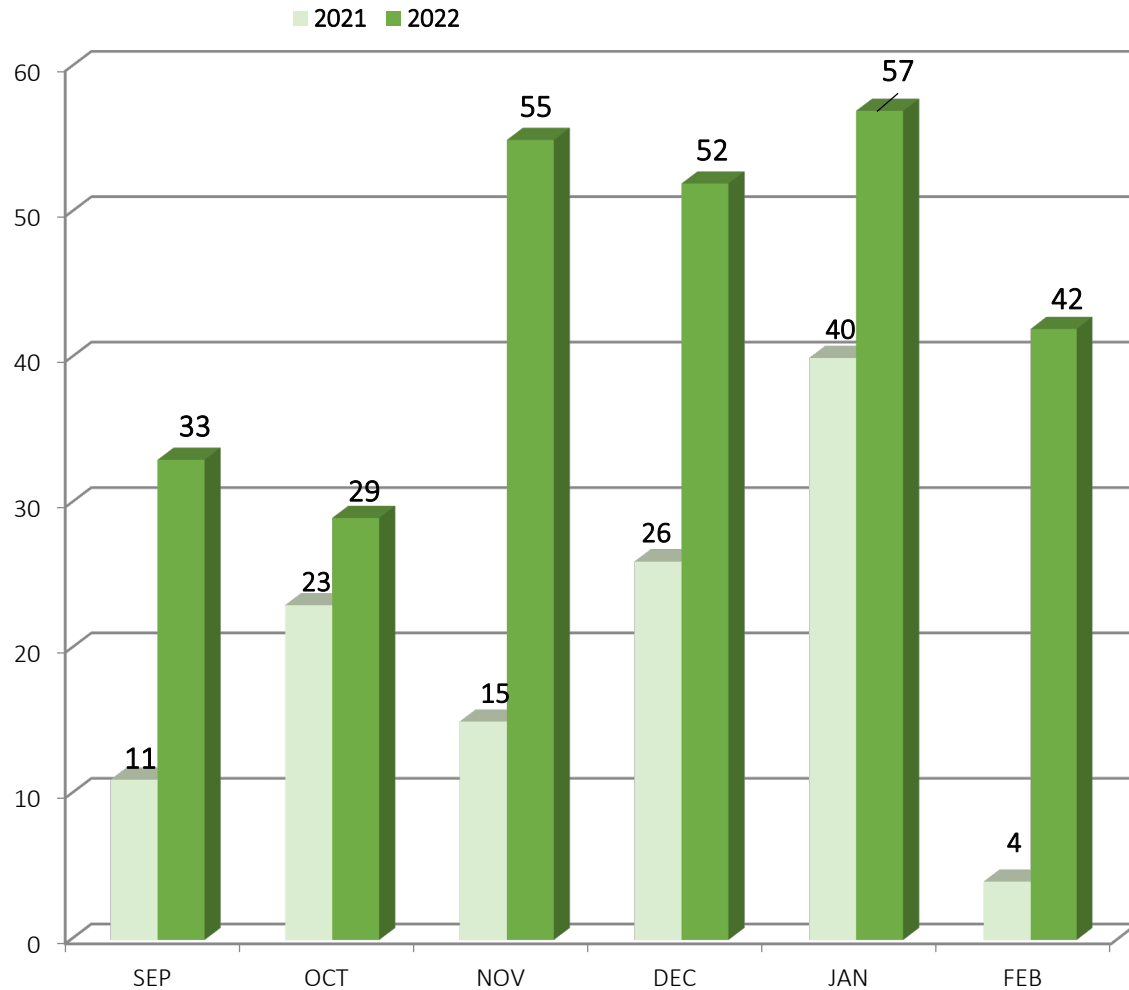
*Starting October, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	BED NIGHTS	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	6/10	770	3/3	3/7
Family Shelter	10/29	3,890		10/29
Joe Kreisler	6	392	2	4
Milestone	2			2
Oxford Street (Men)	4	645		4
Oxford Street (Women)	0			
Florence House	3	502	1	2
TOTAL	31/54		6/6	25/48

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

FEBRUARY, 2022

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



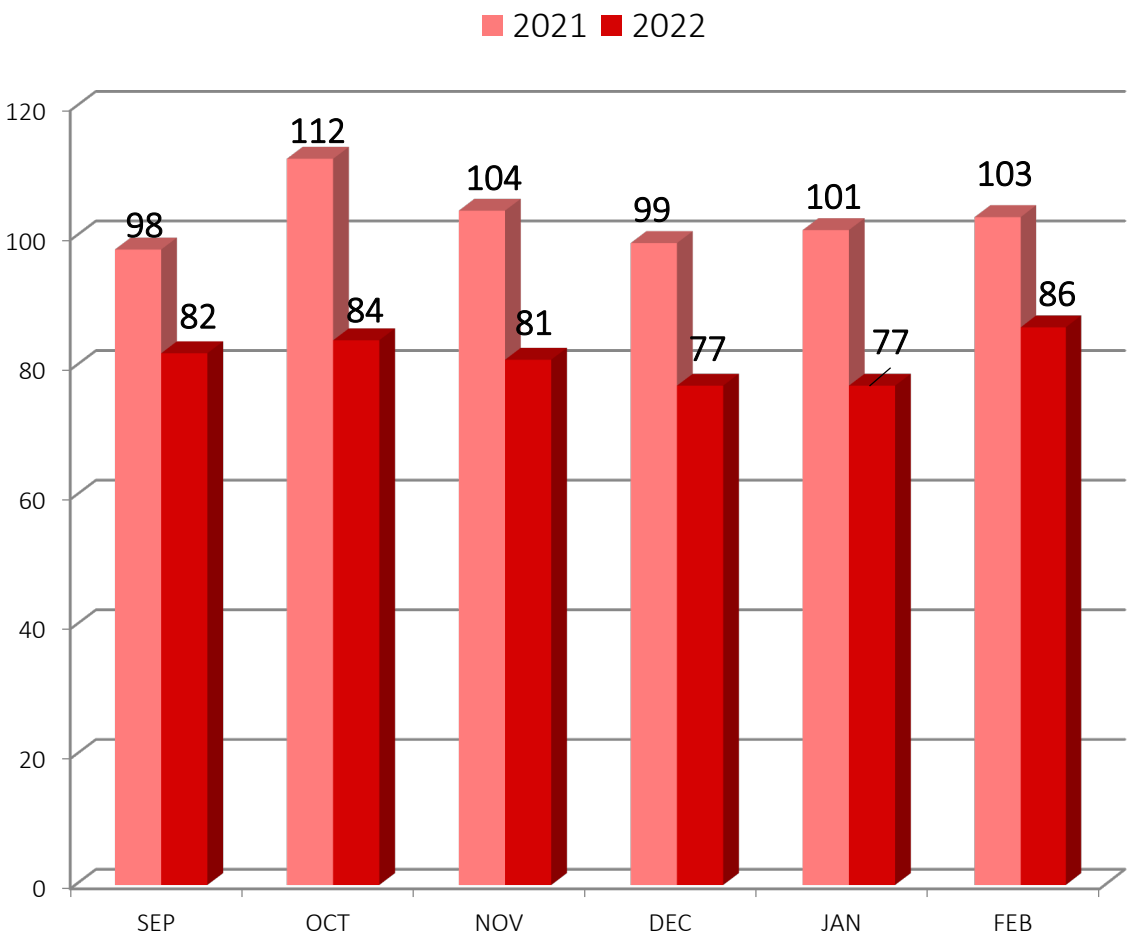
1 ST TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS	All Intakes	1 st Time Homeless Intakes	% of the Shelter's Intakes	% of All Intake	% of Portland First Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	5/9	0	-	-	-
Family Shelter	7/26	6/23	86/88%	4/14%	14/39%
Joe Kreisler	4	2	50%	1/1%	5/3%
Milestone	12	5	42%	4/3%	12/8%
Oxford Street (Men)	70	17	24%	12/11%	40/29%
Oxford Street (Women)	23	7	30%	5/4%	17/12%
Florence House	16	5	31%	4/3%	12/8%
TOTAL	137/160	42/59		31/37%	100%

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

FEBRUARY, 2022

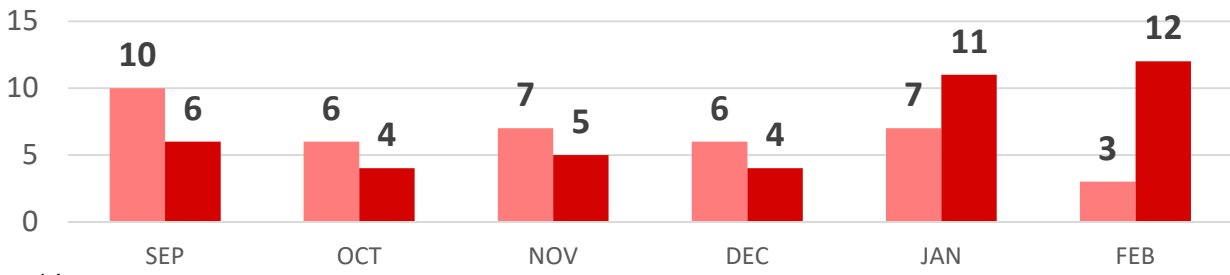
CTOs FROM SHELTER

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	10	0	64
Florence House	0	0	1
TOTAL	12	0	86

CTOs Issued in the Month



PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE FEBRUARY, 2022 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY TYPE

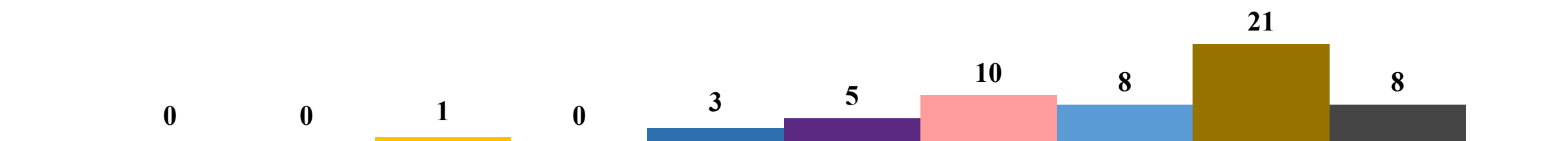
	S+C	BRAP	Recovery Home	Public Housing	STEP	Family Reunification	Sect. 8/ HCV	OTHER	GA	No Subsidy
Through These Doors					1		2	1*		2
Family Shelter									10	
Joe Kreisler						2	1	3*		
Milestone									1	1
Oxford Street (Men)							1		3	
Oxford Street (Women)										
Florence House			1					2*		
TOTAL			1		1	2	4	6	14	3

*Hotel, YHDP, Hope House, FYI, EHV, Avesta.

Distribution of Placements in the Month:



2022 Placements: 56

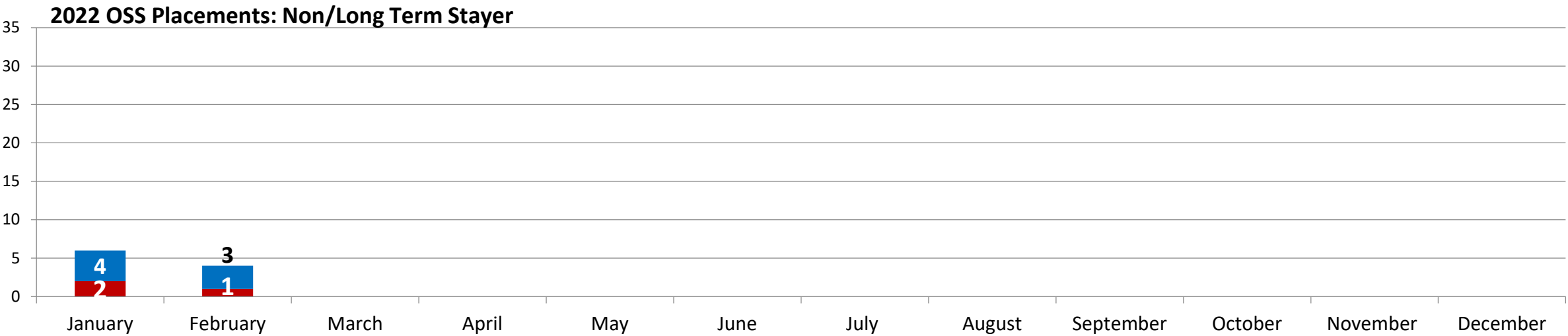
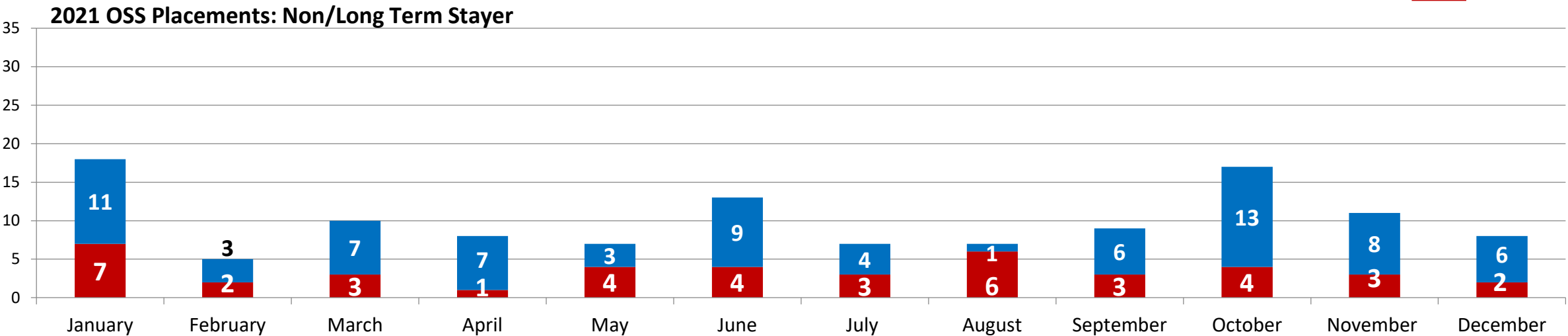
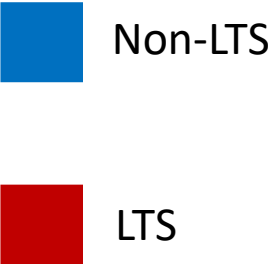


PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE FEBRUARY, 2022 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

On February: 17
386 individuals
(including families)
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

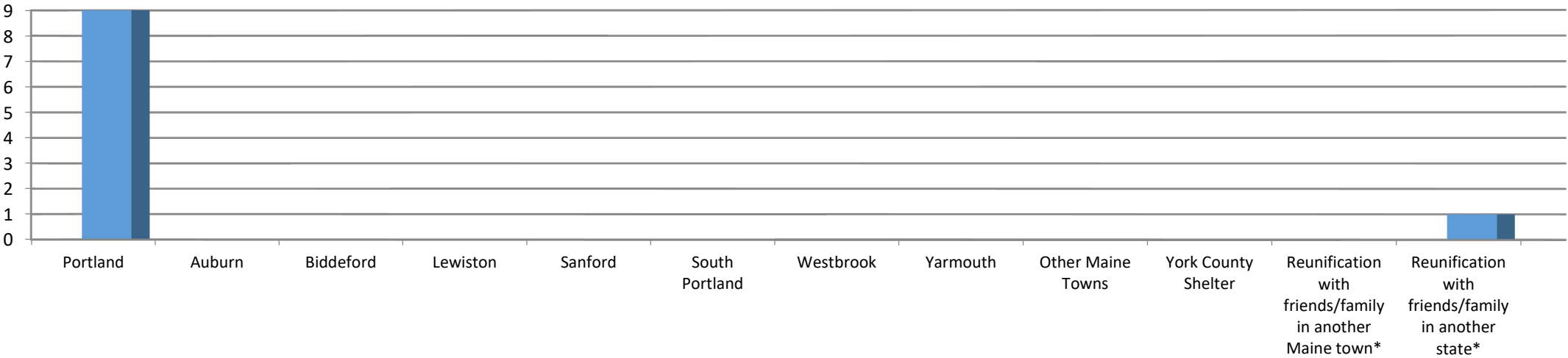
Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	OSS Chairs	Total Bed Nights
1	16	59	36	11	25	209	0	356
2	16	48	35	12	24	194	0	329
3	16	46	37	15	27	185	0	326
4	16	42	38	12	26	191	0	325
5	16	39	37	13	30	201	0	336
6	16	39	37	16	33	208	0	349
7	15	39	37	14	30	199	0	334
8	12	39	36	20	28	194	0	329
9	12	39	40	13	30	210	0	344
10	12	39	40	16	32	215	0	354
11	13	44	36	16	28	217	0	354
12	13	42	37	20	29	214	0	355
13	13	42	36	19	29	186	0	325
14	13	40	39	22	39	227	0	380
15	13	40	37	16	34	225	0	365
16	13	46	40	16	34	219	0	368
17	17	49	40	21	40	219	0	386
18	17	47	37	17	33	224	0	375
19	16	43	38	16	35	216	0	364
20	16	43	38	16	30	188	0	331
21	16	43	38	16	31	209	0	353
22	16	45	37	15	34	212	0	359
23	16	47	39	11	35	204	0	352
24	16	53	36	14	36	213	0	368
25	15	53	35	13	36	207	0	359
26	15	53	38	12	38	210	0	366
27	15	53	35	11	38	200	0	352
28	14	55	34	18	34	217	0	372
Total	414	1,267	1,043	431	898	5,813	0	9,866
Avg/night	15	45	37	15	32	208	0	352
Highest	17	59	40	22	40	227	0	386
Lowest	12	39	34	11	24	185	0	325

OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



One of these LTS placements had 1,416 bed nights, over half of the weighted total for the OSS placements.

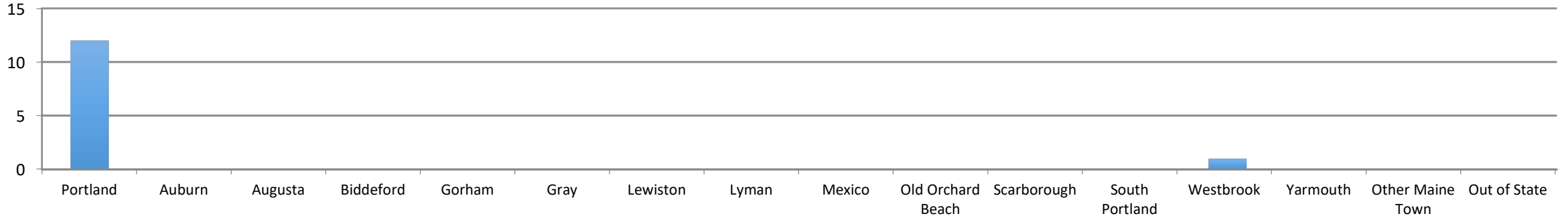
OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2022 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	6	4											10	100%
Portland	5	4											9	90%
Auburn														0.0%
Biddeford														0.0%
Lewiston														0.0%
Sanford														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*														0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another														

FAMILY SHELTER PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

■ 2022



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	October	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	100%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	3	10											3	
Portland	3	9												92.3%
Auburn														0.0%
Augusta														0.0%
Biddeford														0.0%
Gorham														0.0%
Gray														0.0%
Lewiston														0.0%
Lyman														0.0%
Mexico														0.0%
Old Orchard Beach														0.0%
Scarborough														0.0%
South Portland														0.0%
Westbrook		1												7.7%
Yarmouth														0.0%
Other Maine Town														0.0%
Out of State														0.0%

City of Portland, Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program

The ESG program provides funding to: (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street; (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents, (5) rapidly rehouse homeless individuals and families, and (6) prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless. Eligible recipients generally consist of states, metropolitan cities, urban counties, and territories, as defined in 24 CFR 576.2. Each recipient must consult with the local Continuum(s) of Care operating within the jurisdiction in determining how to allocate ESG funds.

ESG Essential:

Chestnut Street Family Shelter: Funds pay for staff who provides housing assistance by seeking affordable units, applying for eligible subsidies and accessing transitional housing opportunities and follow-up case management services by assisting with budgets, tenant/ landlord negotiations, and connecting to area resources. There is a need in Portland to expand the essential services with the high number of families arriving. The budget is adjusted to cover 1.25 FTE; this will allow the case manager to work with 5-10 families (17-34 individuals).

ESG Prevention:

Oxford Street Shelter: Funds pay for staff who assist in preventing individuals from becoming homeless and providing necessary case management and referrals.

Rapid Re-housing:

Oxford Street Shelter: Funds pay for staff who assist persons who have become homeless by quickly moving them into permanent housing and providing the necessary case management and referrals to address individual needs.

Proposal for EGS Essential and Preventative grants:

HUD has not yet released ESG allocations for fiscal year 2023. Once the final allocation is announced, any necessary adjustments will be proportionately to increase or decrease the budget to match the final allocation amount.

2022-2023 ESG Budget

Proposed 2022-2023 Budget for ESG

Emergency Solutions Grant 2014-2023

rev. 03.14.2022

Program	ESG Budgeted Funding Amount by Fiscal Year									
	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
Operations: Homeless Health	\$28,993	\$35,391	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Essential Services: Family Shelter	\$21,853	\$26,675	\$28,327	\$28,327	\$28,327	\$27,000	\$52,064	\$52,065	\$82,477	\$82,477
Homeless Prevention: Family Shelter	\$21,853	\$26,675	\$52,369	\$52,369	\$52,395	\$51,200	\$27,865	\$30,412	\$0	\$0
Homeless Prevention: Oxford Street	\$8,972	\$10,952	\$13,800	\$13,244	\$13,262	\$12,950	\$13,815	\$16,363	\$16,363	\$16,363
Rapid Rehousing: Oxford Street	\$35,888	\$43,807	\$55,200	\$55,200	\$55,200	\$54,200	\$55,064	\$55,064	\$55,064	\$55,064
Administration and HMIS	\$5,600	\$6,836	\$12,138	\$12,092	\$12,096	\$11,781	\$12,065	\$12,479	\$10,953	\$10,953
<i>Total (Actual)</i>	\$123,159	\$150,336	\$161,834	\$161,232	\$161,280	\$157,131	\$160,873	\$166,383	\$164,857	\$164,857
<i>Admin/HMIS cap</i>	\$9,237	\$11,275	\$12,138	\$12,092	\$12,096.00	\$12,096	\$12,065	\$12,479	\$12,364	\$12,364

Explanation (FY23)

Operations: Homeless Health	This program is no longer administered by the City of Portland
Essential Services: Family Shelter	Funds pay for staff who provides housing assistance by seeking affordable units, applying for eligible subsidies and accessing transitional housing opportunities and follow-up case management services by assisting with budgets, tenant/ landlord negotiations, and connecting to area resources. There is a need in Portland to expand the essential services with the high number of families arriving. The budget is adjusted to cover 1 .25 FTE, this will allow the case manager to work with 5-10 families (17-34 individuals).
Homeless Prevention: Oxford Street Shelter	Oxford Street Shelter: Funds pay for staff who assist in preventing individuals from becoming homeless and providing necessary case management and referrals.
Rapid Rehousing: Oxford Street Shelter	Funds pay for staff who assist persons who have become homeless by quickly moving them into permanent housing and providing the necessary case management and referrals to address individual needs.
Administration and HMIS	Funding goes to pay for licenses to use HUD's Homeless Management and Information System. Licenses are provided by Maine Housing.
Budget Notes	3.14.2022 HUD has not yet released ESG allocations for fiscal year 2023. Once the final allocation is announced, any necessary adjustments will be proportionately to increase or decrease the budget to match the final allocation amount.

NOTE:

City Council will take public comment on this budget

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

Color code: **Orange font = Budget bill**; **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 1995	Governor Mills	An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023	Public Hearing: 2/28 and Work Sessions on 3/8 and 3/10 at 10am in front of the HHS Committee for DHHS portions Public Hearing: 3/3 at in front of the Labor & Housing Committee for Labor/Housing portions	This is the Governor's Supplemental Budget Bill and includes: • Funding to raise rates to be sufficient to pay direct support professionals at 125 percent of minimum wage; • Funding for the Homeless Youth Program • Nearly \$12 million in unappropriated funding for the discretion of lawmakers
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, Work Session: 2/2, Judiciary Committee Divided Report	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.
LD 1968	Rep. Talbot Ross	An Act To Expand Access to Mental Health and Crisis Care for Individuals in Jails and Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	Update: Public Hearing: 3/1, Work Session 3/4 in front of the HHS Committee – tabled at the Work Session pending bill review/revisions	This bill proposes to create pathways to alleviate the crisis of individuals experiencing homelessness and individuals languishing in the county jail system who are suffering from acute mental health crises and substance use disorder by implementing measures to improve their access to psychiatric treatment, wraparound services, supportive housing and other services that are part of the continuum of care. Measures include (but are not limited to): • Immediately remove barriers to permanent supportive housing for this population, create clear pathways to the development of permanent supportive housing for this population commensurate

				with need within a rapid timeframe, and examine and remove barriers to admission to crisis care, licensed psychiatric facilities, detoxification, and recovery residences, which are a part of the cycle of proper care for this population. • Increase the supply of community-based Intensive Case Managers who can flexibly wrap services around this population and stay with them through to stable housing and permanent success there and increase access to ACT Team services. • Require the Department of Health and Human Services report on service locator project data regarding inpatient and community beds by geographic region, establish a telehealth behavioral health service for jails, and have DHHS ensure there is adequate availability of appropriate residential treatment within the state. • Allow necessary updates to 15 MRSA 101. -Insert "community ACT team" reference in 101(D)(4) -When a court orders commitment, ensure there is a clear and reasonable timeframe for the appropriate placement. Placement shall take place within 30 days.
LD 1822	Rep. Morales	An Act To Improve Access to Behavioral Health Services by Limiting Cost Sharing by Insurers	Public Hearing: 1/11/22, Work Session: 3/3, Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee – Tabled at the Work Session – next WS on 3/10	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 1848	Rep. Madigan	An Act To Increase the Availability of Assertive Community Treatment Services	Public Hearing: 1/18 Work Session: 2/2 in front of the HHS Committee Voted OTP/AM	This bill amends the behavioral and developmental services law regarding mental health hospitalization to add the definition of "prescriber," which is defined to mean a licensed health care provider with authority to prescribe, including a licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner or licensed physician assistant who has training or experience in psychopharmacology.
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 1910	Rep. Tepler	An Act To Improve Children's Mental Health by Requiring Insurance Coverage for Certain Mental Health Treatment	Public Hearing: 1/27; Work Session: 3/3 in front of the HHS Committee – Tabled	This bill requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for mental health treatment services that use evidence-based practices that are recommended by a provider for a child 18 years of age or younger.

			at the Work Session – next WS on 3/10	
LD 1915	Rep. Berry	An Act To Improve Intensive Behavioral Health and Public Safety Case Management Services	Public Hearing: 2/3/22, Work Session: 2/22 in front of the HHS Committee – Divided report.	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 1961	Sen. Hickman	An Act to Help Alleviate Maine's Housing Shortage and Change the Membership of the Maine State Housing Authority	Public Hearing 3/7 at in front of the Labor & Housing Committee	This bill includes among the state goals for all state and municipal agencies affecting natural resource management, land use and development preserving the State's tribal and cultural resources; addressing significant disparities in housing needs and access to educational, occupational and other opportunities; furthering the purposes of the federal Fair Housing Act; and promoting housing choice and economic diversity in housing, including housing for both low-income and moderate-income households. It also changes the membership of the Maine State Housing Authority and specifies that appointments to the Maine State Housing Authority and the appointment of the director of the authority are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters.
LD 2003	Speaker Fecteau	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions	Public Hearing 3/7 at in front of the Labor & Housing Committee	This bill makes changes to zoning and land use laws based upon the recommendations in the report of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. The bill: 1. Amends the fair housing provisions of the Maine Human Rights Act, and to prohibit municipalities & government entities from using these criteria to restrict the construction or development of housing accommodations in any area; 2. Establishes the Municipal Housing Development Permit Review Board, which is responsible for the review of municipal housing development permit decisions; 3. Prohibits municipalities from adopting any ordinance that caps the number of building or development permits each year for any kind of residential dwellings; 4. Requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop a program to provide technical assistance to municipalities for the purposes of developing and implementing zoning and land use ordinances; 5. Requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to implement a program to provide grants to municipalities for the

				purposes of contracting for services and hiring staff to help administer municipal responsibilities in developing and implementing zoning and land use ordinances and appropriates \$1,294,680 for that program in fiscal year 2022-23; 6. Requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to create an incentive program that a municipality may participate in for up to 3 years and receive grants of up to \$25,000 per year for fulfilling certain requirements related to reviewing how its zoning and land use ordinances may impact the availability of housing; 7. Defines "affordable housing development," requires municipalities to allow affordable housing developments to be built at certain densities and sets certain criteria to ensure that an affordable housing development remains affordable for at least 30 years; 8. Requires, for any zone in which housing is permitted, that a municipality permit structures with up to 4 dwelling units and creates general requirements for municipal ordinances governing residential zones; 9. Beginning April 20, 2023, requires municipalities to allow the construction of accessory dwelling units and sets out specific requirements for the permitting and construction of accessory dwelling units; and 10. Requires that a municipality designate an area within the municipality as a priority development zone, which is defined as a zone in which multifamily housing is permitted at a greater density, and requires the priority development zone to be located in an area that has significant potential for housing development and is located near community resources. Municipalities are not required to designate a priority development zone until 2 years following adoption of rules by the Department of Economic and Community Development.
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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	Update: Work Session on 2/22 in front of the AFA Committee which voted ONTP	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	UPDATE: Work Session on 2/22 in front of the AFA Committee which voted ONTP	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	UPDATE: Public Hearing on 2/14 in front of the Labor and Housing Committee	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,	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.

			Economic Advancement and Business Committee, reported out as Referred to Judiciary Committee- ONTP ; Public hearing on 2/22 & Work Session on 3/2 in front of the Judiciary Committee – Divided Report	
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 432	Rep Madigan	Resolve, To Improve Behavioral Health Care for Children	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 65 to reimburse for additional collateral contacts for children's home and community-based treatment. Those additional collateral contacts are between the child's mental health professional and parents, medical providers, psychiatric providers, residential providers, case managers and school personnel as long as the goal of the collateral contact is included in the goals of the individual treatment plan. Fiscal note: \$133K General Fund, \$240K Federal Match
LD 496	Rep Gramlich	An Act To Increase Timely Access to Mental Health Services by Increasing MaineCare Reimbursement Rates (title was amended, originally: An Act To Clear Waiting Lists for and Ensure Timely Access to Mental Health Services for Maine Children)	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	This bill, as amended, provides funding to increase rates in rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, Children's Home and Community Based Treatment and Section 97, Appendix D, Principles of Reimbursement for Child Care Facilities by 25% no later than July 1, 2021. The bill as amended also includes a 25% reimbursement increase for outpatient therapy for individuals and families and outpatient group therapy under the MaineCare program. Fiscal Note: 9.2M General Fund, \$21M Federal Match
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 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.

Federal Legislation Update – Short Version

BUDGET & FUNDING-RELATED ITEMS - Updates

FEMA Hotels – Update – On 3/1 it was announced that FEMA funding for hotels as non-congregate shelter has been extended until 7/1 (previously set to expire on 4/1).

FY 22 Budget – Update – On 3/9 House and Senate leaders released a final deal to fund affordable housing and community development programs at HUD and USDA as part of a larger omnibus package for fiscal year (FY) 2022. Overall, the spending bill provides HUD programs with \$53.7 billion, or \$4 billion above FY21 enacted levels. Despite this increase, overall the bill funds HUD programs less than the president’s FY22 budget request, the House proposal, and the Senate proposal. The bill provides:

- \$27.37 billion for HCVs and \$13.94 billion on PBS8 (enough funding is provided to renew all existing contracts); and
- \$200 million to expand rental assistance vouchers to an additional 25,000 households, including individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, and Veterans.

The bill does not include the House Appropriators’ proposed expansion of Housing Choice Vouchers to an additional 125,000 households.

The House is expected to vote on the package on 3/9, before it heads to the Senate for approval. In case the Senate is unable to pass the spending bill by Friday, 3/11, when the current continuing resolution (CR) expires, the House will also vote on 3/9 to extend the CR through 3/15.

Congress’ Budget Resolution & “Build Back Better Act” Infrastructure Reconciliation Package — 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.

Update – **On 1/19, President Biden stated at a press conference that the Build Back Better Act will likely be “substantially slimmed down” before it’s enacted. Recent reports suggests that housing is not currently included in the priorities for the reconfigured/slimmed down bill.**

-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.

BILLS - Updates

Housing for All Act of 2022 – New – On 2/25 Senator Padilla introduced the Housing for All Act of 2022. The bill’s stated purpose is: “To address the homelessness and housing crises, to move toward the goal of providing for a home for all Americans, and for other purposes.” The bill would address the severe shortage of 6.8 million affordable homes for renters with the lowest incomes by investing in proven solutions to housing instability among the lowest-income households, including:

- The national Housing Trust Fund (\$45 billion);
- Supportive housing programs for the elderly and people with disabilities (\$900 million);
- HOME Investment Partnership Programs (\$40 billion);
- Housing Choice Vouchers (Expands the housing choice voucher program to provide assistance to homeless individuals and families and creates an entitlement to housing choice vouchers for extremely low income families);
- Project-Based Rental Assistance (\$14.5 billion);
- ESG (\$5 billion over 10 years);
- CoC Grants (\$15 billion over 10 years);
- Hotel/motel acquisitions and conversions to housing or non-congregate shelter (\$500 million); and
- Permanently reauthorize USICH.

HR 6693 Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act – New – On 2/10 Congresswoman Pingree reintroduced her Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act, which would reduce the 365-day waiting period for Asylum seekers to obtain work authorization to 30 days. The bill makes no changes to law or regulation relating to the asylum process. Senator King introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

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 – No New 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 – No New Update – 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.

Governor Mills announces Revenue Forecasting Committee Projects Additional \$411.6 Million in Revenue for Current Biennium & a forthcoming Change Package to the Supplemental Budget – New – On 3/1 Governor Mills announced that the Revenue Forecasting Committee projects an additional \$411.6 Million in revenue for the current biennium (FY 22 and FY 23). As such she announced that a Change Package to the Supplemental Budget is forthcoming and will be introduced as emergency legislation for the Legislature to consider. The Governor also stated that she will propose adding at least half of the new revenue forecasted by RFC – \$205.8 million – to the \$411 million she previously proposed to give back to Maine people through direct checks.

Governor Mills announces FY22/FY23 Supplemental Budget (LD 1995) – New – On 2/15 Governor Mills introduced a supplemental budget proposal that returns half of the surplus back to Maine taxpayers, delivers crucial tax relief to working Maine families, and provides two years of free community college to pandemic-impacted students to strengthen Maine’s workforce. It also increases the Budget Stabilization Fund to more than \$500 million. [The full Supplemental Budget Bill Language, which is 48 pages long, can be found by clicking this link](#); [Part A, which includes the specific line items and is 158 pages long, can be found by clicking this link](#)). Initiatives and budget items in the Supplemental Budget include, but are not limited to:

- \$30 million from the General Fund to fully implement updated rates for direct support worker wages, add and accelerate new cost-of-living adjustments for rates, and raise rates to be sufficient to pay direct support professionals at 125 percent of minimum wage.
- \$27.6 million in ongoing General Fund dollars so families can afford necessities and fight poverty by increasing the value of Maine’s Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which provides a refundable tax credit to working Maine people and families.
- Part U: Establishes the Housing Opportunity Program within the Department of Economic and Community Development to encourage and support the development of additional housing units in Maine, including housing units that are affordable to low and moderate income people and housing units targeted to community workforce housing needs. Included within Part U are Service Provider Grants and Community Housing Incentive Program grants ([Page 28 of the Supplemental Budget Bill Language](#)).
 - Proposed Funding ([page 45 of Part A](#)): Competitive grants to regional service providers to support town housing ordinance development, planning board and public processes in participating municipalities: \$1,000,000 in FY 23; Community housing implementation grants to towns: \$1,550,000 in FY 23;
- \$487,063 (page 85) and \$1,512,937 (page 98) in FY 23: Funding for homeless youth services in the Mental Health Services – Children program and the Homeless Youth Program ([page 85 and 98 of Part A](#)).
- \$831,880 in FY 23: Funding for 8 Behavioral Health Program Coordinators within the Department of Public Safety ([page 150 of Part A](#)).
- Nearly \$12 million in unappropriated funding for the discretion of lawmakers.

Public Hearings have been held and Work Sessions start the week of 3/7.

BILLS

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