City Council Staff Report

Subject: From Homelessness to Self-Sufficiency

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Department: Housing & Neighborhood Preservation

Date: November 25, 2026

Type of Item: Informational

Summary

During the informal session on December 1, 2026, Housing and Neighborhood Preservation (HNP) Director Ruth Hill and Homeless Services Administrator Pam Shine will present an overview of the community service system to prevent and end homelessness in Virginia Beach and upcoming initiatives.

Background

- In Virginia Beach, there is a systematic and coordinated approach to address homelessness through the Bringing an End to All City Homelessness (BEACH) Community Partnership, which is a coalition of City, nonprofit and faith organizations.
- There are five ways to access the homeless service system:
    - **Housing Resource Center (HRC):** Triage and assessment for homeless services Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m. to noon
    - **Regional Housing Crisis Hotline:** Screening and referrals to community resources, 757-227-5932, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
    - **Homeless Outreach Team:** Goes out Monday-Friday (routine and flexible schedules) to meet individuals where they are to conduct assessments, make direct referrals to shelter and offer connections to resources.
    - **StandUp for Kids:** Coordinated entry focused on youth (ages 18-24), 757-818-4901
    - **Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation (VBCDC):** Coordinated entry focused on veterans, 757-500-2754, Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30 p.m.
- The most vulnerable individuals are connected to shelter and housing opportunities, as space is available.
- A standard assessment tool is used to determine vulnerability — a best practice and equitable approach for prioritizing resources

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Deputy City Manager Amanda Jarratt at AJarratt@VBgov.com or Housing & Neighborhood Preservation Director Ruth D. Hill at RDHill@vbgov.com or 757-385-5752.

Attachment (1)

- 2026 PIT Snapshot

2026 Virginia Beach Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

On Jan. 29, 2026, **325** individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in Virginia Beach.

86% sheltered

60 in Winter Shelter (seasonal)
220 in year-round shelter

14% unsheltered

18% decrease from 2025 PIT
45 sleeping outside, in encampments, cars or the woods

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

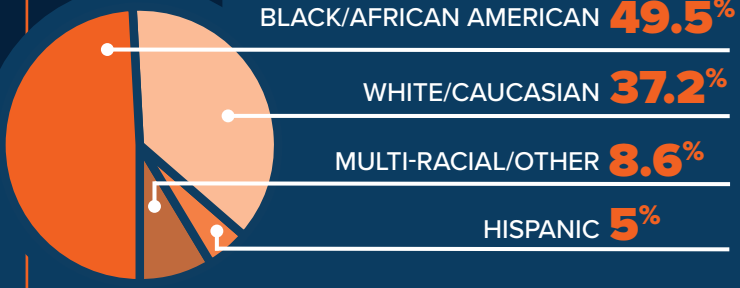
FAMILIES	SINGLES	CHILDREN ONLY
26 (**87** individuals)	**236** individuals	**2** individuals

What is PIT?

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count provides a snapshot of all individuals experiencing homelessness during a single night in January.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires communities that receive federal homelessness funding to conduct an annual PIT Count.

Experiencing homelessness means living in shelters, transitional housing, outside or places not meant for human habitation.



<1% YOUTH (AGES 18-24)

21% OLDER ADULTS (AGES 55 & UP)

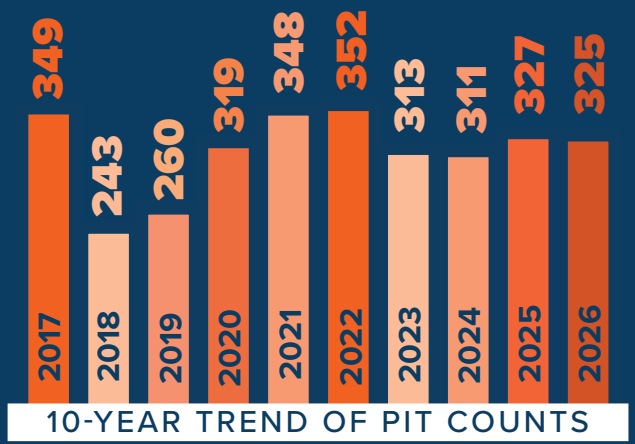
Primary Causes of Homelessness

Lack of income /insufficient income

Loss of employment

Other
COVID-19, eviction, housing loss, medical, mental health, relational (e.g., family breakup, escaping domestic violence, asked to leave by relatives)

13% VETERANS



10-YEAR TREND OF PIT COUNTS

23% CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

Homeless for a full year, or who had four different episodes of homelessness in the last three years, and have a disabling condition

VIRGINIABEACH.GOV/PITCOUNT

VB Housing & Neighborhood Preservation

BEACH Bringing an End to All City Homelessness