



# Delaware Continuum of Care FY20 System Performance Report

*October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020*

## System Performance Measures

On behalf of the Delaware Continuum of Care (CoC), Housing Alliance Delaware annually compiles and reports System Performance Measures (SPM) using CMIS (Community Management Information System) data. The CoC's SPMs are submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and are a critical tool used by HUD to determine how well communities across the U.S. are responding to homelessness.

SPMs are community-wide measures that allow us to understand the extent of homelessness in our communities, and how we are doing in our shared work to prevent and end homelessness. This report includes the System Performance Measures for the report period of October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 – referred to in the report as FY20. This data was reported to HUD in March 2021.

## Limitations in FY20 Data

In 2020, there were significant changes to Delaware's homeless response due to COVID-19. Statewide, congregate emergency shelters that report data in CMIS reduced their bed capacity by 50 – 60% to maintain health and safety. This means that congregate emergency shelters served fewer households than ever before.

In addition, more than 1,000 people were sheltered temporarily in hotels and motels for extended periods of time during the FY20 reporting period in response to COVID-19. Households staying temporarily in hotels/motels were not captured in CMIS. This gap in data, of more than 1,000 people, impacts each of the FY20 SPM metrics significantly, as this number of people may account for up to 30% of people that were homeless during the report period.

For this reason, we do not recommend using FY20 SPM data to draw conclusions about homelessness in Delaware in FY20. This report is being published to ensure that the data is made public for all who have an interest, and particularly those for whom this data has funding or operational impacts. In this report, all FY20 SPMs are compared to FY19 SPMs. Year-to-year

comparisons in outcomes, as well as the data coverage rate in our community, have the potential to impact Delaware’s annual Continuum of Care Funding award. Delaware currently receives more than \$8.2 million in federal homeless assistance dollars through the Continuum of Care funding program.

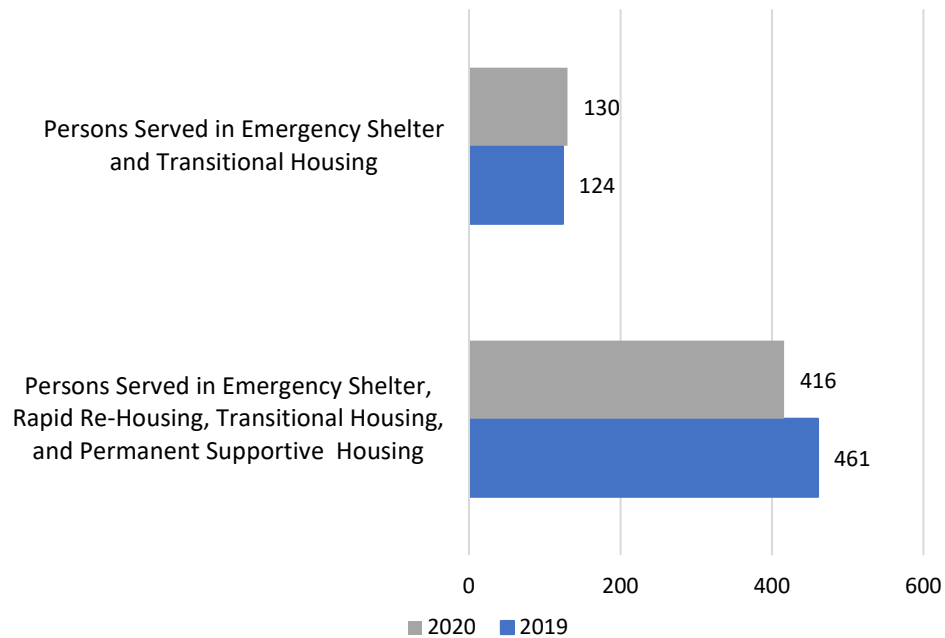
## SPM: Average Length of Time Homeless

This measure tells us how many days, on average, people remain homeless in Delaware before they are able to move back into permanent housing. The longer someone is homeless the more likely they are to have deteriorating mental and/or physical health, aggravated substance abuse problems, or the loss of familial or other community supports. As a community, we are working to decrease the average length of time that an individual or family experiences homelessness in Delaware.

This metric is sorted by project type. Depending on the project type, the metrics draw from different data to make their calculations. The metrics are described below.

- For households served in Emergency Shelter (ES) and Transitional Housing (TH):
  - The **average length of time** homeless was 130 days.
  - The **median length of time** homeless was 70 days (the median length of time is not displayed in the graph below).
  - These metrics are calculated using project entry and exit dates in CMIS.
  
- For households served in all homeless assistance projects, including ES, TH, RRH (Rapid Re-housing) and PSH (Permanent Supportive Housing):
  - The **average length of time** homeless was 416 days.
  - The **median length of time** homeless was 216 days (the median length of time is not displayed in the graph below).
  - This metric is calculated differently, and includes additional project types.
    - These metrics are calculated using a “look back” method that takes into account time that the household may have been unsheltered or in other homeless living situations, regardless of whether or not that living situation is associated with a project entry in CMIS.
    - These metrics include households served by permanent supportive housing (PSH), which serves folks who have long lengths of homelessness. In most cases, people served in PSH projects have more than 1 year of homelessness prior to project entry.

### Average Length of Time Homeless (in days)



### SPM: Returns to Homelessness (FY18 – FY20)

This measure tells us how many people exit homelessness and move into permanent housing, only to return to homelessness again within 2 years. It also provides information about when they return to homelessness within that 2-year period of time. This metric uses look back data, starting in FY18.

In FY20, nearly 1 in 4 households in Delaware returned to homelessness within 2 years.

#### Emergency Shelter

In 2020, 12.5% of households that exited emergency shelter to a permanent housing destination returned to homelessness within 6 months (more than 1 in 10).

In 2020, 29% of all households that exited emergency shelter to a permanent housing destination returned to homelessness again within 2 years (3 in 10).

#### Transitional Housing

In 2020, 18% of all households that exited a transitional housing program to a permanent housing destination returned to homelessness again within 2 years (2 in 10).

## Permanent Housing

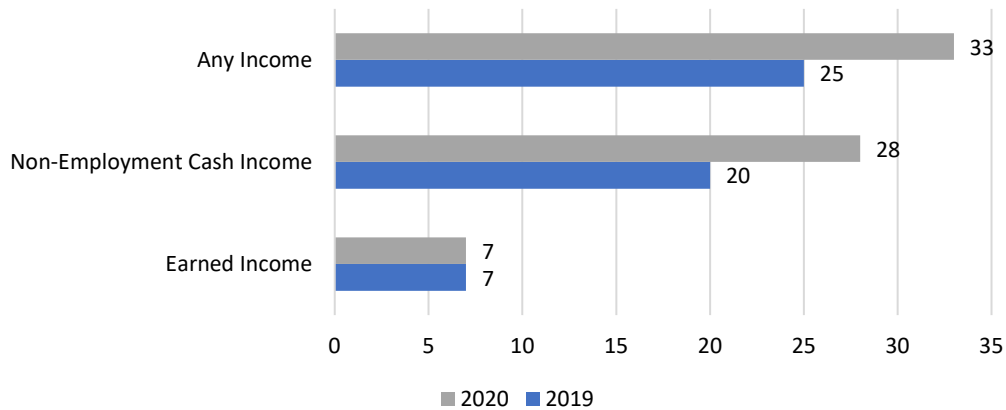
For households that exited from Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) or Permanent Supportive Housing to a permanent housing destination, 16% returned to homelessness within 2 years.

	2019	2020
<b>Returns from Emergency Shelter</b>		
6 Months	20%	13%
6-12 Months	9%	10%
13-24 Months	9%	7%
2 Years	38%	30%
<b>Returns from Transitional Housing</b>		
6 Months	9%	3%
6 – 12 Months	1%	5%
13-24 Months	10%	10%
2 Years	20%	18%
<b>Returns from Permanent Housing (Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing)</b>		
6 Months	4%	6%
6 – 12 Months	4%	5%
13-24 Months	6%	5%
2 Years	15%	16%
<b>Total Returns</b>		
6 Months	12%	9%
6-12 Months	6%	7%
13 – 24 Months	8%	7%
2 Years	26%	23%

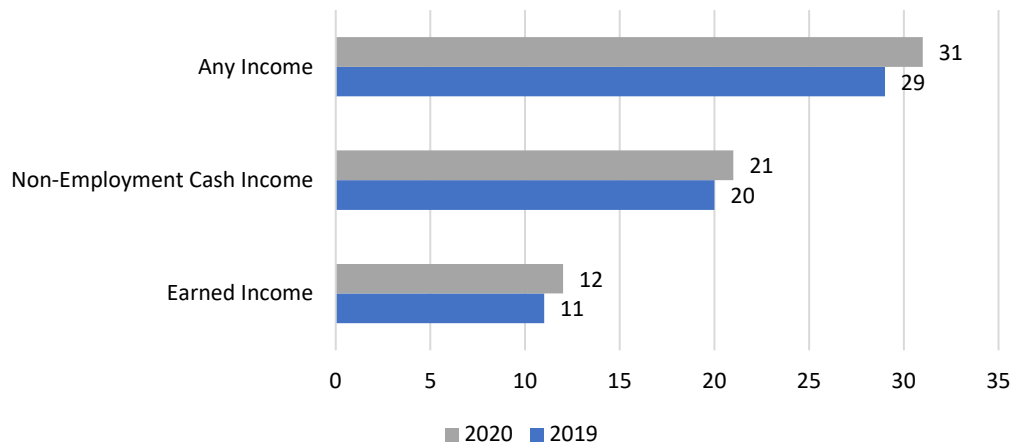
## SPM: Income Growth for Households Served by Continuum of Care Funded Projects

This SPM is only calculated for homeless assistance projects that receive federal Continuum of Care funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This metric shows the percent of adults served who increased their income from employment or non-employment sources. The first metric includes adults who remained in a CoC funded project during the reporting period (“stayers”). The second metric includes adults who exited from a CoC funded project during the reporting period (“leavers”).

### Percentage of Adult Stayers Who Increased...



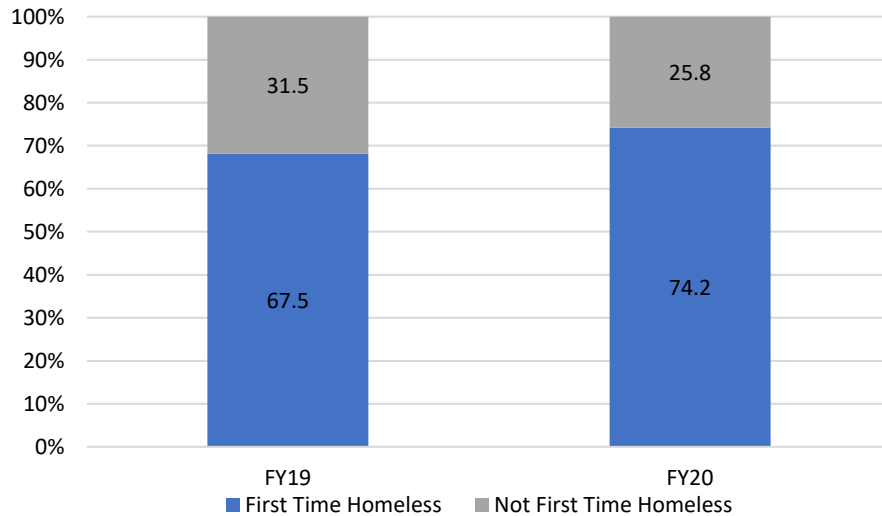
### Percentage of Adult Leavers Who Increased...



## SPM: First Time Homelessness

This performance measure tells us the percent of people served by a homeless assistance project who are homeless for the first time in our community during the reporting period. This measure is calculated by counting the total number of people served by a homeless assistance project in Delaware, and identifying people with no prior enrollments in a homeless assistance project during the prior 2 years. Those people are considered *first time homeless* in this metric.

In FY20, 74.2% of people who experienced homelessness in Delaware were first time homeless, compared to 67.5% in FY19.



### SPM: Housing Stability

This measure tells us the percentage of homeless households that moved from homelessness to permanent housing during the FY20 reporting period.

#### Exits from Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Rapid Re-Housing

Of the people who exited from an ES, TH, or RRH project in FY20, 46% exited to a permanent housing destination (known as a “successful exit”). This includes subsidized housing, rental housing, homeownership, or moving in permanently with families and friends.



833 of 1822 exits were successful in FY20, no change from FY19.

## Housing Stability in Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) provides a permanent housing subsidy to people experiencing homelessness who have a disabling condition, including those who are chronically homeless. This measure tells us the percentage of people served by PSH in Delaware who remain stable in PSH or move on to other permanent housing destinations.

