



MEDIA PACKET

The purpose of the Denton County Homeless Coalition is to serve as a catalyst for developing and providing needed services to those individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the county. To carry out this task most effectively, the Coalition, consisting of representatives from housing and social service providers (both public and private), non-profit organizations, local government agencies, special ministries, healthcare services, homeless persons and other concerned county residents, shall meet regularly to assess and prioritize needs specific to the homeless and at risk homeless in the county as well as the availability of services.

EMAIL: DCHCinfo@gmail.com

WEBSITE: EndHomelessnessDenton.com

FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/PointInTimeCount>

[Point in Time Count Data](#)

DCHC MEDIA CONTACT:

DCHC Chair

Jessica Peters, Program Director at Journey to Dream

jessica@journeytodream.com

469-470-2391

GENERAL BODY MEETINGS

The Denton County Homeless Coalition **General Body** meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday in even-numbered months alternating between Denton and Lewisville.

General Body Meeting Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- February 1, 2017- Lewisville
- April 5, 2017 – Denton
- June 7, 2017- Lewisville
- August 2, 2017 – Denton
- October 11, 2017 – Lewisville
- December 6, 2017 – Denton

See full list: <https://endhomelessnessdenton.com/events-2/>

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STORY IDEAS

2016-YEAR IN REVIEW

The following is a list of agency and community-wide efforts impacting persons experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness that were organized by the coalition and/or reported by community partners at Denton County Homeless Coalition meetings.

- ❑ 2016 PIT Count was completed January 21, 2016. The annual count provides a snapshot of homelessness in Denton County. Highlights:
 - 230 persons surveyed. The median length of homelessness was 1 year with a range of 6 days to 37 years. Over 17% had an alcohol or substance abuse issue, and nearly 26% were employed full-time. For more:
<https://endhomelessnessdenton.com/infodata/point-in-time-count/>
- ❑ The new Homeless Coordinator position jointly funded by the City of Denton and United Way of Denton County was filled February 8, 2016.
- ❑ Open Data Days focus on using open data to solve a community problem. Homelessness was one of the community issue featured during Denton Open Data Day on March 5, 2016. The group looked at homelessness by analyzing PIT Count raw data from 2013-2016.
- ❑ A Landlord Summit was held March 31, 2016. Hosted by Giving Hope, Inc., the event focused on educating and engaging private landlords to help increase housing options for persons experiencing homeless and those at risk of homelessness.
- ❑ The State of Homelessness event was held April 21, 2016. Event featured a review of local homelessness initiatives, data and trends from the PIT Count, and a report detailing findings from the Street Outreach program.
- ❑ United Way of Denton County created its next collective impact initiative, the Denton County Homeless Leadership Team (HLT). The HLT, supported by the Homeless Coordinator, brings together community leaders working to make homelessness in Denton County rare, brief and non-recurring. <http://www.unitedwaydenton.org/DCHLT>
Highlights:
 - HLT's inaugural meeting was held May 5, 2016.
 - Immediately HLT approved leadership, membership, vision/mission, bylaws and charter. Taking quick action, it formed Housing, Data and Consumer workgroups. Because of alignment in objectives, the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team's Housing workgroup was merged with the HLT housing workgroup to create one unified group working on housing solutions.
 - Upon recommendation of the Housing workgroup, a Housing pilot project for persons experiencing homeless with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disabling disorders has been developed and adopted. It will begin accepting referrals in January 2017.

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- Upon recommendation from the Data workgroup, HLT has approved a homeless definition and system data performance measures that will help establish important baseline measures for evaluating homelessness in Denton County.

Social Media influence grows from 683 Facebook likes to 894*

*(as of 12/2016)

- In July, 2016 the community received notice that HUD ESG Emergency Solutions Grant will not be funded in 2016-17 resulting in a loss of \$600,000 in local funding for Street Outreach, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Rehousing and Emergency Shelter services for the 2016-17 program year.
 - News of the loss results in increased press coverage and more awareness of funding for homelessness and housing initiatives in the community.
 - Funding loss results in staff layoffs and potential future program restructuring. Full impacts are still to be determined.
 - As a result, City of Denton, City of Lewisville and the County Commissioner's Court provide one-time, stop-gap funding totaling \$399,500.
 - Funding loss also creates urgency for the community to look at unified housing response systems for persons experiencing homelessness.
- HUD Emergency Solutions Grant funding in 2015-16 ended September 30, 2016. The \$600,000 in funds supported Street Outreach, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Rehousing and Emergency Shelter services in Denton County. Highlights:
 - 1391 persons (1039 households) were served in all supported programs. 123 in Street Outreach, 878 in Shelter, 202 were prevented from homelessness, and 188 were served in rapid rehousing.
 - 30% were children.
- Veterans Summit, an annual summit on housing and supportive services for veterans, was held September 15, 2016.
- The second Annual Veteran Stand Down was held in October 20, 2016. The event's theme was "Providing a Hand up, Not a Hand Out". It included distribution of supplies and services to homeless veterans.
- The Denton County Homeless Leadership Team hosted the first Homeless Summit in Denton County in an effort to expand the conversation around the need for affordable, accessible housing in Denton County. More than 100 people participated in the event.
- DCHC updated the coalition's policies and procedures. Policies were approved by the General Body. Simultaneously, the election process was also updated to adjust terms to an annual calendar, January – December.

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- ❑ DCHC Steering Committee, partnering with the Texas Homeless Network, rebooted the Coordinated Access pilot. Rebranded as Coordinated Entry (CE), the program engages community agencies to centralize the process of housing persons experiencing homelessness through a shared vulnerability assessment and housing prioritization list. DCHC recruited and put in place a Coordinated Entry Transition Team (CETT) to complete implementation. Additionally, a VISTA supported by the Texas Homeless Network and Denton Affordable Housing Corp is placed with United Way to help with CE implementation.
- ❑ Because the PIT Count is DCHC's most well know data tool for understanding the number of persons experience homelessness and current needs, the DCHC Steering Committee adds the PIT Count as a regular standing committee in its policies and procedures. To reinforce HUD Funding requirements, DCHC makes it a requirement for locally HUD funded programs to participate in PIT planning and implementation.
- ❑ Seeking to improve the media awareness and access to homelessness information, DCHC developed and approved a media contact list in 2016. The list was distributed and is accessible through the DCHC website and social media.
- ❑ Denton Housing Authority broke ground on a 322 Unit Affordable Housing Tax Credit Development. This development will increase the number of below market rate rent housing units in Denton. Development expected to be complete in late 2017.
- ❑ Denton Housing Authority received 10 HUD VASH vouchers in 2016 increasing available housing subsidies for homeless veterans in Denton County.

In the Media: Denton Record Chronicle

DRC featured regular articles and editorials in 2016 related to homelessness.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOME COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- ❑ Monsignor King opens in a new facility provided by the City of Denton and is in the process of renovation to expand the shelter to 100+ overnight beds. In 2016 it quickly added Monday and Tuesday to be open weekly in addition to the inclement weather nights.
- ❑ Leadership Denton 2016 class took on affordable housing as its annual project.
- ❑ Our Daily Bread served its 700,000th meal on September 12, 2016.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017 AND BEYOND

Looking ahead, a Denton County Homeless Coalition that working in alignment is well positioned to continue building an effective system response to homelessness. It is going to require continued engagement and ongoing support from DCHC members. Stay informed, stay engaged and stay active to help ensure homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

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The following organizations, segmented by basic need served, offer services to assist those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Each program will have a unique perspective on the issue of homelessness and how services are provided. Contact information is provided.

Emergency Shelters:

Salvation Army of Denton - <http://www.salvationarmydfw.org/p/locations/Denton>

Salvation Army provides emergency shelter to people experiencing homelessness in Denton County. Salvation Army also provides food pantry services as well as breakfast and dinner for residents of Denton County.

Contact Person: Lt. Linda Choi, Salvation Army Lieutenant
Linda.choi@uss.salvationarmy.org
940-566-3800

Monsignor King Outreach Center - <http://www.kingoutreachcenter.com>

Monsignor King Outreach Center provides emergency shelter during extreme weather periods (32 degrees and below, 100 degrees and above) for people experiencing homelessness in Denton County.

Contact Person: Betty Kay, Executive Director
thebkays@yahoo.com
940-319-1919

Domestic Violence/Shelter:

Denton County Friends of the Family - <http://www.dcfof.org>

Denton County Friends of the Family provides emergency shelter, advocacy, and counseling for people experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault.

Contact Person: Toni Johnson-Simpson, Executive Director
toni@dcfof.org
940-387-5131 ext. 107

Youth Shelter:

Journey to Dream - <http://www.journeytodream.com>

Journey to Dream will be providing shelter for homeless youth with the addition of Kyle's Place. Journey to Dream also provides peer-to-peer prevention assemblies, support groups, ministry and outreach to students.

Contact Person: Jessica Peters, Operations Director
jessica@journeytodream.com
469-470-2391

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Food Assistance:

[Our Daily Bread](http://ourdailybreaddenton.org) - <http://ourdailybreaddenton.org>

Our Daily Bread provides soup kitchen, referrals to agencies, and a weekly clinic for people experiencing, or at-risk of, homelessness. Denton.

Contact Person: Brenda Jackson, Executive Director
odbexecdirector@gmail.com
940-566-1308

[Vision Ministries](http://vision.dentonbible.org) - <http://vision.dentonbible.org>

Vision Ministries provides food, clothing and other essential items to those experiencing, or at-risk of, homelessness. Denton.

Contact Person: Michael Pirtle, Director
mpirtle@dentonbible.org
940-387-8230

[Denton Hunger Coalition](https://www.facebook.com/DentonHungerCoalition) - <https://www.facebook.com/DentonHungerCoalition>

The Denton Hunger Coalition's mission is to coordinate hunger relief efforts in Denton County and surrounding area by facilitating programs that address the issue of hunger.

Contact Person: Marty Otero - dentonhunger@gmail.com

Affordable/Subsidized Housing:

[Denton Affordable Housing Corporation](http://dentonaffordablehousing.org) - <http://dentonaffordablehousing.org>

Denton Affordable Housing Corporation is a community-based nonprofit organization which began operating in 1995 to address the need for affordable housing in Denton. **DAHC's** mission is to increase the supply of affordable housing in the Denton area through a variety of means.

Contact Person: Barney Cosimo, Interim Executive Director
denton@ddahc.org
940-484-7048

[Denton Housing Authority](http://www.dentonhousingauthority.com) - <http://www.dentonhousingauthority.com>

Denton Housing Authority provides housing assistance through HUD's section 8 program.

Contact Person: Sherri McDade
s.mcdade@dentonhousingauthority.com
940-383-1504

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Rental Assistance:

[Christian Community Action](http://cchelps.org) - <http://cchelps.org>

Christian Community Action provides rental assistance, medical care, food pantry services, and educational programs to residents of Southern Denton County.

Contact person: Michelle DeGrate, Vice President of Programs
michelle.derate@cchelps.org
972-221-1224

[Giving Hope, Inc.](http://www.hopeindenton.com) - <http://www.hopeindenton.com>

Giving Hope provides rental and utility assistance for the northern section of Denton County. Giving Hope also provides transitional housing for homeless single parents and Permanent Supportive Housing for homeless persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Contact Person: Dr. Alonzo Peterson, Executive Director
alonzo.peterson@hopeindenton.com
940-382-0609

[Interfaith Ministries](http://www.ifmdenton.org) - <http://www.ifmdenton.org>

Interfaith Ministries provides basic needs assistance for residents of Northern Denton County.

Contact Person: Condell Garden, Executive Director
condell@ifmdenton.org
940-565-5479

Veterans' Needs:

[Denton County Veterans Coalition](http://www.veteransofdentoncounty.org) - <http://www.veteransofdentoncounty.org>

Denton County Veterans Coalition helps veterans and their families, improve the quality of their lives by connecting their needs with solutions and resources that are available in Denton County and beyond.

Contact person: Chris Martin
c2w2martin@aol.com

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Medical Needs:

[Denton Community Health Clinic](http://www.dentonchc.org) - <http://www.dentonchc.org>

Denton Community Health Clinic provides sliding scale healthcare to Denton county residents and those experiencing homelessness.

Contact Person: Alice Masciarelli, Executive Director
alice@masciarelli.net
940-600-7527

[Health Services of North Texas](https://www.healthntx.org) - <https://www.healthntx.org>

Health Services of North Texas provides sliding scale healthcare to Denton county residents and those experiencing homelessness.

Contact Person: Louise Weston-Ferrill, Director of Programs
lferrill@healthntx.org
940-381-1501

Dental Needs:

[First Refuge Ministries](http://firstrefugeministries.org) - <http://firstrefugeministries.org>

First Refuge Ministries provides dental care, medical care as well as food pantry services to low-income residents of Denton County.

Contact Person: Paul Juarez, Executive Director
paulj@firstrefugeministries.com
940-484-4384 x107

Substance Abuse:

[Solutions of North Texas](http://sontx.org) - <http://sontx.org>

Solutions of North Texas provides substance abuse programs such as a Sober Living residential program, Intensive Outpatient Program, and a 12-step program.

Contact person: Leslie Wisenbaker, Program Director
leslie@sontx.org
940-898-6202

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Mental Health:

[Denton County MHMR](http://www.dentonmhmr.org) - <http://www.dentonmhmr.org>

Denton County MHMR provides services for people with mental illnesses, intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Contact Person: Pam Gutierrez, Executive Director
pamg@dentonmhmr.org
940-565-5260

Funding:

Denton Local Government Funding:

[City Of Denton](http://www.cityofdenton.com) - <http://www.cityofdenton.com>

The City of Denton provides support through funding to local social service and nonprofit agencies.

Contact Person: Danielle Shaw, Human Services Coordinator
danielle.shaw@cityofdenton.com
940-349-7237

Denton Local Private Funding:

[United Way of Denton County](http://www.unitedwaydenton.org) - <http://www.unitedwaydenton.org>

United Way of Denton County Assess the needs of our community and what assets are already at work meeting those needs. United Way of Denton County also supports various agencies through funding and advocacy.

Contact Person: Courtney Cross, Community Impact Coordinator
courtney@unitedwaydenton.org
940-566-5851 Ext. 116

Lewisville Local Funding:

[City of Lewisville](http://www.cityoflewisville.com) - <http://www.cityoflewisville.com>

City of Lewisville provides support through funding local social service and nonprofit agencies.

Contact Person: Jamie Kirby, Grants Coordinator
jkirby@cityoflewisville.com
972-219-3780