

Update on Activities Responding to Unsheltered Homelessness

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Public Assets & Homelessness Committee

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Q4 & Full-Year 2022 Outcomes
- Key Outreach Activity
- Operations Update



Introduction

- The Human Services Department's (HSD) mission is to **connect people with resources and solutions during times of need** so we can all live, learn, work and take part in strong, healthy communities.
- In 2022, most homelessness contracts moved from HSD to King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA).
- HSD Regional Coordinators remain at the City as part of the Unified Care Team (UCT) to serve a unique, person-centered role to facilitate neighborhood efforts in accordance with the Multi-Departmental Administrative Rules.
- HSD coordinates the shelter recommendation and referral process for City funded set-aside shelter resources but does not lead encampment removal operations or schedule priority sites.



Q4 2022 Outcomes

- 433 referrals (duplicated) to shelter, representing 378 unique individuals
 - 353 referrals were initiated by HSD System Navigators
 - 80 Referrals were made in collaboration with 18 different outreach providers
 - From 114 different encampment sites
- 100% referrals were to 24/7 enhanced shelters (77% of total referrals) or tiny houses (23% of total referrals)
- 52% of referrals were to people experiencing homelessness who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC).
- Referrals based on 877 shelter recommendations (duplicated)

Q4 2022 Outcomes

- 186 individuals were confirmed by HSD as enrolling into the shelter they were referred to, an increase of 22% year-over-year.
- This represents an enrollment rate of 49.2% for the quarter, an increase compared to 46.1% in Q3 2022.
- Confirmed enrollments are likely a significant undercount due challenges reconciling HSD and HMIS data.

Reasons for Shelter Offer Declines

- In Q4, HSD began tracking reasons for declined offers of shelter
- HSD captured 264 instances in Q4 when unsheltered individuals shared a reason for declining shelter:
 1. Does Not Want Shelter (24%)
 2. Wants Tiny Home (21%)
 3. Wants Permanent Housing (11%)
 4. (tie) Vehicle/RV-Related Issue (7%)
 4. (tie) Other Reasons – i.e., medical, already secured shelter (7%)

Full-Year 2022 Outcomes

- HSD facilitated 1,831 referrals to shelters, an increase of 52% compared to 2021.
- 99% of referrals were to enhanced shelters (73% of total referrals) or tiny house villages (26% of total referrals).
- Referrals were made in partnership with 30 different provider partners and from 201 different encampment locations.
- 53% of referrals were made to people experiencing homelessness who are BIPOC.



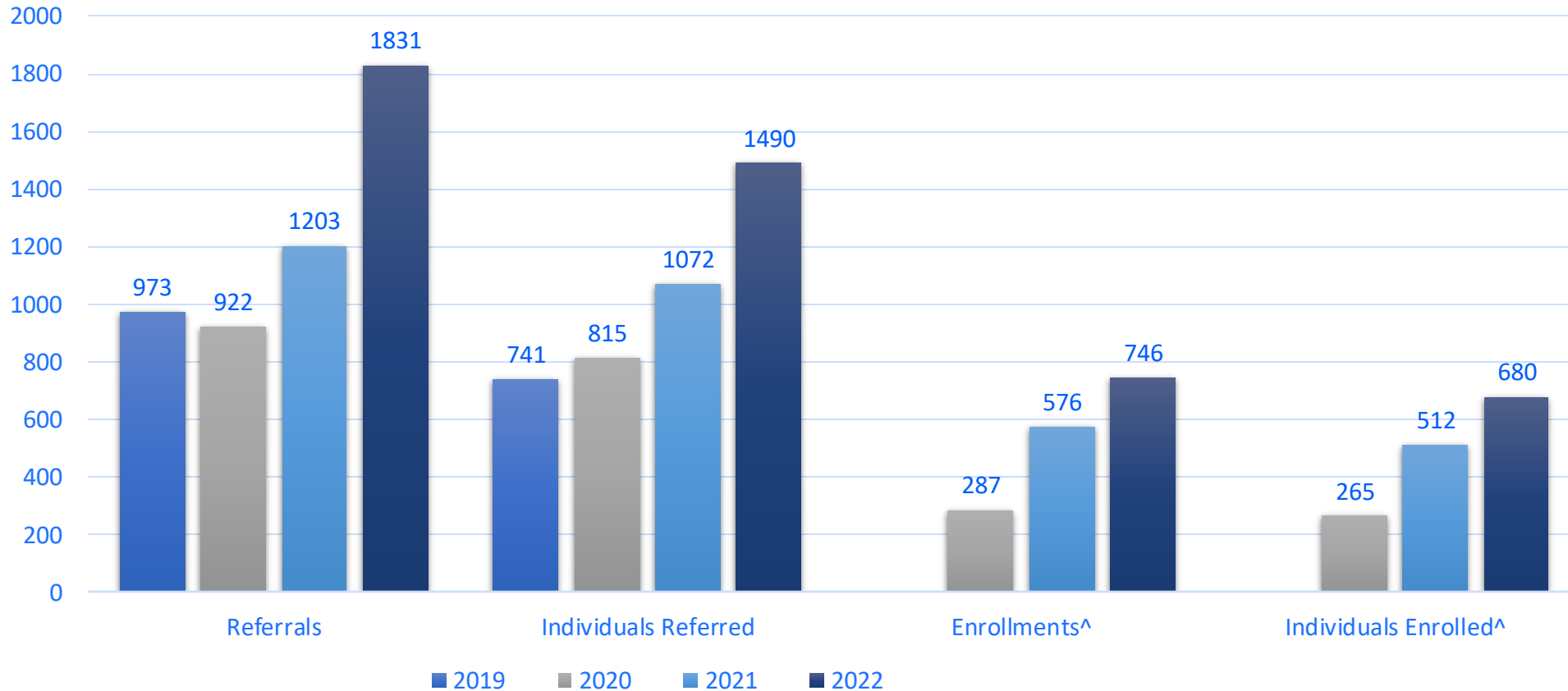
Full-Year 2022 Outcomes

- Providers and service organizations made 4,446 total shelter recommendations (duplicated).
- HSD confirmed 746 enrollments (duplicated) into shelter in 2022, an increase of 30% compared to 2021.*
- 680 unique individuals were confirmed as enrolling into shelter, an increase from 512 in 2021.*

**Shelter enrollment tracking is challenging due to the data match required between HSD data and HMIS. Matching these distinct data sets is imperfect for several reasons. This includes approximately 25% of enrollments in HMIS having anonymized PII, individuals providing different PII (such as a name) to HSD and HMIS; individuals enrolling at a shelter over 48 hours after a referral is made; or individuals enrolling at a different shelter than which they were referred.*



HSD Outcomes By Year



^Shelter enrollment tracking is challenging due to the data match required between HSD data and HMIS. Matching these distinct data sets is imperfect for several reasons. This includes approximately 25% of enrollments in HMIS having anonymized PII, individuals providing different PII (such as a name) to HSD and HMIS; individuals enrolling at a shelter over 48 hours after a referral is made; or individuals enrolling at a different shelter than which they were referred.

Key Outreach Activity

- HSD continues to coordinate efforts with KCRHA's System Advocates and the Partnership for Zero initiative, including a recent Services and Benefits fair in the Chinatown-International District.
- HSD continues to facilitate outreach huddles with providers and KCRHA in neighborhoods citywide.



Operations Update

- HSD, the Mayor's Office, and KCRHA continue to work collaboratively on an agreement to align with the UCT's new geographically based strategy (HSD-035-C-001-2023).
- HSD, as a member of the UCT, and in partnership with KCRHA, will continue to improve coordination and service delivery for meaningful site resolutions ("solutions beyond removals").

Questions?

