

Background

Aurora's mission is to create solutions that prevent and end homelessness in our community. We believe that everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. Aurora's Street Outreach program is one of just three of its kind in Indiana, where we serve as the "boots on the ground" to provide care, supplies, and services to those living on the streets, in shelters, and in places not meant for human habitation.

Statement of Need

Homelessness in Vanderburgh County is rapidly increasing, with over 2,800 unique individuals experiencing homelessness in Evansville every year. On a single night in January 2024, an all-time high of 535 individuals were counted as experiencing homelessness locally. This eclipsed the previous high of 525, recorded only one year before, in 2023. (Homelessness, 2025) This program addresses our most vulnerable population: HUD-defined "Category One" homelessness – those who are living on the streets, in emergency shelters, or places not meant for human habitation caused by mental health, substance abuse, HIV Aids, and domestic violence. Aurora's Street Outreach team serve as a lifeline connecting our clients to services such as housing, employment, transportation, and much more.

Program Description

With a total of 46 years of experience in social services, the Outreach Team scours the streets, woods, near highways/riverbanks, and encampments, identifying the homeless population and providing intensive case management. Immediate care is provided with supplies such as food and water, hygiene products, blankets, and clothing. Seated at the center of social services for our unhoused population, Aurora's ultimate goal for each client is to find permanent housing solutions while connecting him/her to other essential services such as medical and mental health services, addiction treatment, emergency sustenance bags, and transportation to care. To produce these strategic outcomes, the Outreach Team works collaboratively with homeless shelters and partner agencies to find the best possible solution for each individual. So far, in 2025, 267 referrals have been made to other organizations. Additionally, the Outreach Team helps individuals apply for birth certificates, identification cards, and other documents, which creates a path toward sustainability and housing. Our goal is to serve 100 unduplicated individuals a month.

Program Outcomes

This program offers SMART Goals, including increasing the % of exits into housing from 56% to 65% and reducing the % of clients returning to homelessness from 7% to 5%. Aurora's Street Outreach program impacts not only those living in poverty and experiencing homelessness but also on our community as a whole. Collaborations strategically occur with the Evansville Police Department and mental health programs which reduce the use of costly emergency resources and promote the opportunity to access stability through preventative care, mental health support, and housing programs. Moreover, by reducing disparity in our low to middle-income neighborhoods and providing vital services, this program creates upward mobility and stabilization in distressed neighborhoods.

As a leading organization in Vanderburgh County, Aurora is at the center of advocacy and public awareness of homelessness. Through prevention activities and community awareness, we are focused on the pragmatic causes of homelessness toward permanent solutions. Aurora also advocates for the socio-economic changes necessary in our community to end homelessness. The long-term outcomes produced by Aurora demonstrate that our dedicated staff and volunteers can make a difference in creating permanent housing solutions for those experiencing homelessness. Through your generosity, this program will build upon these innovative strategies to make our community more stable and safer for all. Together, we will make transformational and lasting change.