



# Building the Community Mosaic: Every Data Point Counts

Coalition for the Homeless  
June 4th, 2026

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*Lead Developer, Simtech Solutions*

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*Full Stack Developer, Simtech Solutions*

# Who are we?

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- Founded 1998 — mission-driven, for-profit technology partner
- Authors of HUD CSV Data Exchange Format and HUD APR Programming Specifications
- Developers of the first HMIS data warehouse in the US; proved efficacy of Housing First and produced the first prioritized By-Name List
- HomelessData.com supports HUD reporting for 3,900+ projects across the US
- Show The Way (STW) — first HMIS-compliant mobile app built for street outreach, day programs, and high-turnover shelters
- Counting Us — the most widely used HUD Point-in-Time Count app; 70 CoCs for the 2026 count across 35% geographic coverage for the continental U.S.



Simtech  
*Solutions*

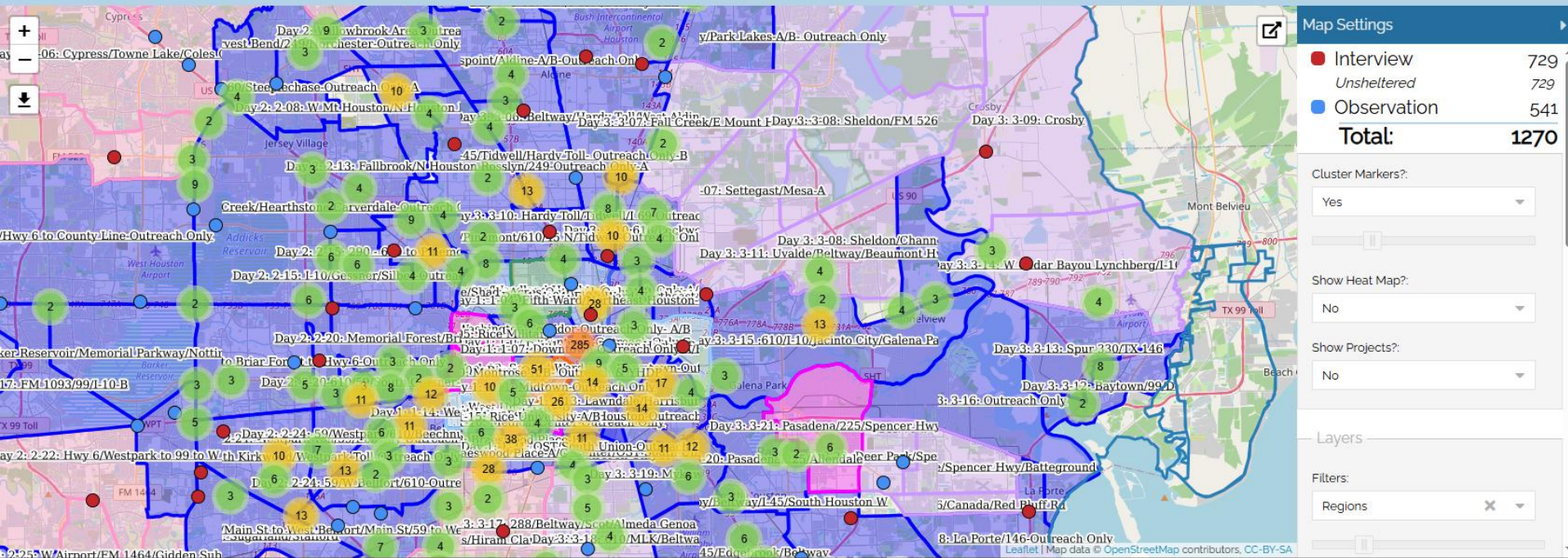


HomelessData

# Scale of the Point-in-Time Count

Map Submissions

 729 Interviews +  541 Observations =  1,270 Total Responses



### Map Settings

- Interview 729
  - Unsheltered 729
- Observation 541
- Total: 1270**

Cluster Markers?: Yes

Show Heat Map?: No

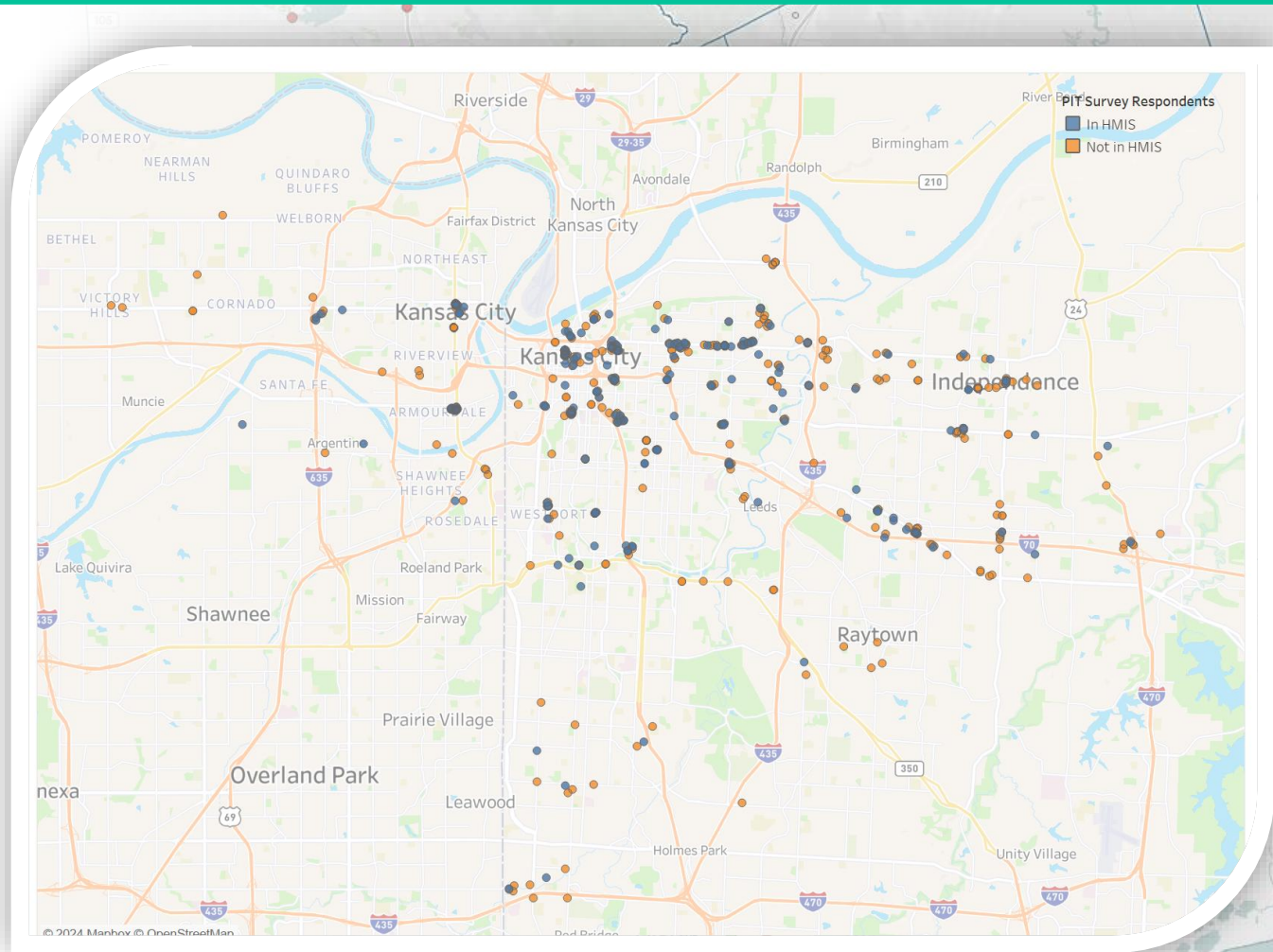
Show Projects?: No

Layers

Filters: Regions

# CHALLENGE OF CAPTURING THE FULL PICTURE

- PIT and HMIS data match reveals gaps in coverage





Back Unsheltered Survey

What age range do you fall into?\*

25-34

Surveyor Script (read aloud): "Thanks. Before I ask more questions, we can check our system to see if you're already in there. This helps us avoid asking things twice and makes sure we have the right info. It's just to help speed things up, is that okay?" \*

I asked for permission to look up in HMIS

Person gave permission

Person declined

HMIS Lookup Outcome\*

Found in HMIS

Submit Survey

Save Draft

# ONE PHASE AT A TIME

Not like this....



1



2



3



4

Like this!



1



2



3



4



5

# What are we trying to solve

## OUTREACH CHALLENGES



### HMIS not built for field outreach

Designed for office workflows, not real-time field use.



### Lengthy intake processes

Time-consuming steps create friction and reduce engagement.



### Disconnected systems

No data exchange between agencies or systems.



### Limited visibility in the field

No real-time view of interactions and client status.



## OPERATIONAL CONSEQUENCES



### Incomplete & delayed records

Critical client information is missing or entered late.



### Delayed coordination

Long intakes and manual steps slow down response and placement.



### Manual tracking & duplication

Teams maintain separate lists and duplicate data entry.



### People fall through the cracks

High-need individuals are missed without timely coordination.

# On-the-Go Outreach Solution

Designed for real-time, coordinated,  
field-based case management

Person-centered care

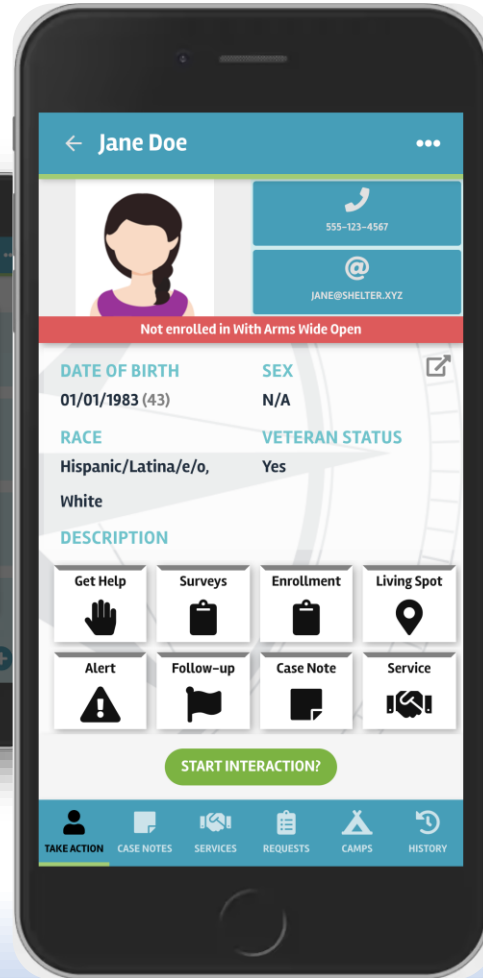
Progressive data collection during  
outreach

Shared client records across outreach  
workers

Cross-agency coordination

Support prioritization of high-need areas

Track and manage encampment sites



# HMIS Data Integration & Warehouse

- Automated HMIS data import pipeline keeps STW and HomelessData.com in sync
- The Warehouse connects external systems, enabling a unified view across partners
- Domain-based authentication provides fresh, up-to-date project data on login
- Data exchange supports BNL (By-Name List) and CE (Coordinated Entry) workflows with CFTH and Kansas City

BNL data integration

HMIS → STW client sync

CE Assessment import

External system connectors

Derek (Cool Guy) Smith

1/2

First Name  
Derek

Last Name  
Smith

Nickname/Alias  
Cool Guy

Name Data Quality  
Full name reported

Date of Birth  
1999

Date of Birth Type

SEARCH HMIS

SAVE CLIENT

SUMMARY PROFILE ENROLLMENTS



Used by street outreach workers



Leveraged client sync capabilities to pre-fill PIT Survey



Reduced the PIT survey by 24 questions (83%) for clients who matched



Data can be sent to warehouse for reporting with rest of HMIS data

# Hybrid PIT Count

The  
**HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE FRAMEWORK**

Coordinated. Data-Driven. Community Focused.

**Providers**



Deliver services and support



**HMIS**



Track services and outcomes

**Outreach Teams**



Connect with individuals



**Show The Way**



Coordinate care and resources

**Point in Time Count Volunteers**



Capture community snapshot



**Counting Us mobile app**



Collect accurate count data

**Regional Command Center**

Centralize data. Drive decisions.  
Coordinate response.

**HomelessData.com**

- ✓ All HUD Reports
- ✓ Coordinated Entry
- ✓ Inflows & Outflows
- ✓ Performance Dashboards
- ✓ Data Quality Monitoring
- ✓ NOFA Rating & Ranking Tools

and more...



# Coordinating a By-Name List

Overview Map
Client By-Name List

58

Already Active

+

0

Newly Identified

-

0

Returned to Active

=

58

Actively Homeless

All Geographies ▾
Filters ▾
Filter Bar Visibility ▾
Group Data Visibility ▾
Reconfigure Columns ▾
Clear Filters

 Hide Inactive Clients

⚙️ Drag a column header here to group by that column

		HMIS Client ID	Age	Race	Gender	Project	Project Type	Total Days Homeless	Disabling Condition	Veteran	Chronic	Youth	Last Activity	Actively Homeless	Identification Da
		▾	≥	▾	▾	▾	▾	▾	▾	=	=	▾		=	▾
		70379	13	Unknown	DKRMx	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	No	No	No	No	09/24/2019	Yes	09/24/201
		70684	36	White	Woman	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	No	No	No	No	09/24/2019	Yes	09/24/201
		69975	19	Unknown	DKRMx	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	No	No	No	No	09/24/2019	Yes	09/24/201
		69974	9	Unknown	DKRMx	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	No	No	No	No	09/24/2019	Yes	09/24/201
		70685	16	Multiple Races	Man	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	No	No	No	No	09/24/2019	Yes	09/24/201
		70683	4	Unknown	DKRMx	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	No	No	No	No	09/17/2019	Yes	09/17/201
		69613	33	Unknown	DKRMx	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	Yes	No	No	No	09/17/2019	Yes	09/17/201
		70667	25	Unknown	DKRMx	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	Yes	No	No	No	09/15/2019	Yes	09/15/201
		70668	6	Unknown	DKRMx	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	No	No	No	No	09/15/2019	Yes	09/15/201
		70680	45	White	Woman	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	No	No	No	No	09/10/2019	Yes	09/10/201
		70681	18	Multiple Races	Man	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	No	No	No	No	09/10/2019	Yes	09/10/201
		70437	15	Unknown	DKRMx	APR ...	Emergenc...	731-1095	No	No	No	No	09/10/2019	Yes	09/10/201

Export to...
 Run Report...
 Send Aggregate Results
 Days Homeless

Calculations as of: May 18th 2023 12:00:00 Total Clients: 58

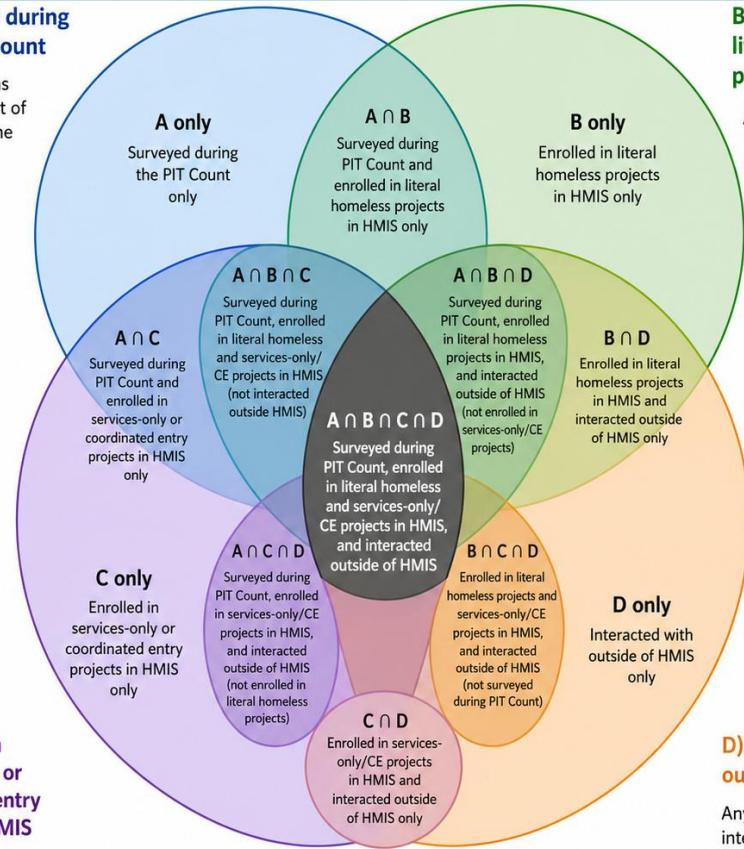
# Thank you ChatGPT

## A) Surveyed during the PIT Count

Anyone who was surveyed as part of the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count.

## B) Enrolled in literal homeless projects in HMIS

Anyone enrolled in a literal homeless project type in HMIS (e.g., ES, TH, PH, RRH).



## C) Enrolled in services-only or coordinated entry projects in HMIS

Anyone enrolled in services-only projects or Coordinated Entry projects in HMIS.

## D) Interacted with outside of HMIS

Anyone who was interacted with by outreach, public officials, park rangers, first responders, or healthcare (i.e., not entered into HMIS).

### Outside All Four

Individuals who are none of the above (not surveyed during PIT Count, not enrolled in any HMIS projects, and not interacted with outside of HMIS).

# A Person-Centered Approach to Capture Data and Progressively Engage

## MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs shows that people must meet basic needs first before they can achieve higher-level growth and fulfillment.



**WHEN BASIC NEEDS ARE MET,**  
PEOPLE CAN BUILD STABILITY, DIGNITY, AND HOPE.



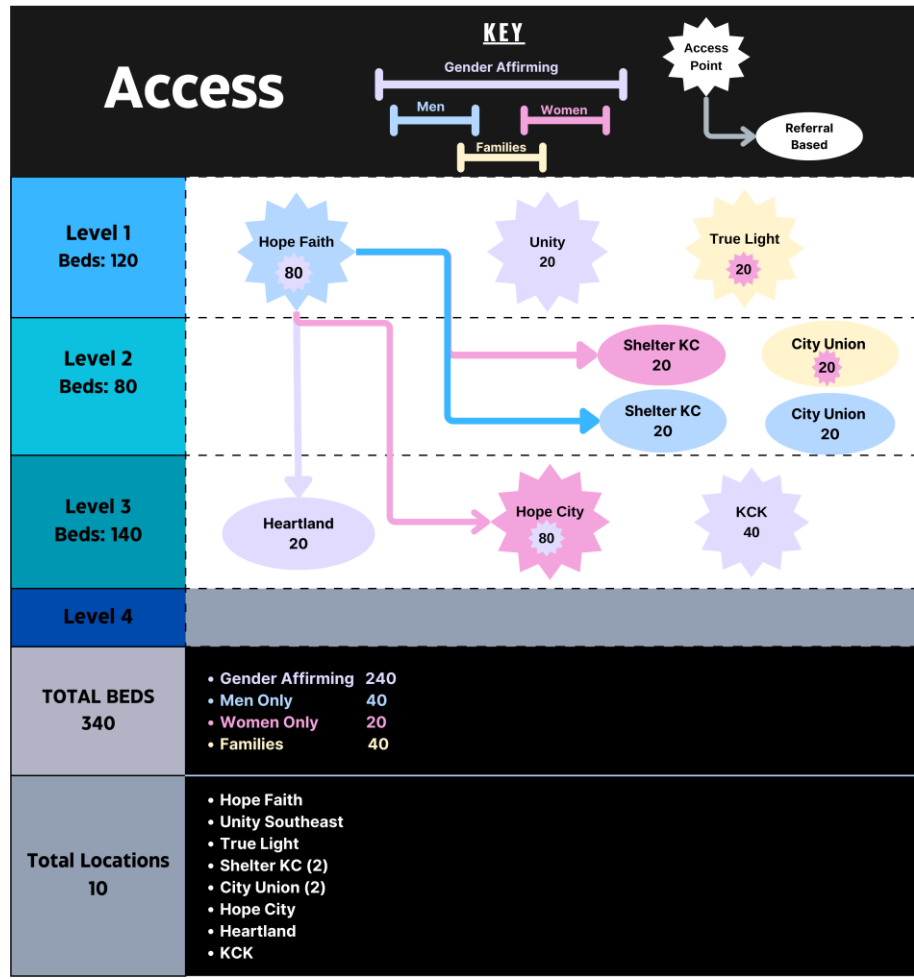
Mobile app technology helps us meet HUDs requirements while still providing care with empathy and human connection.

*“How can I help you today?”*

vs.

*“How can I capture your information and assess you today?”*

<b>LEVEL 1: December to March every night, 210 beds</b>	<b>Access Sites</b>
Hope Faith	100 Male (Gender Inclusive)
Unity Southeast	40 All Gender
True Light	17 Female Beds (Gender Inclusive), 3 Family
Hope City	50 Women
<b>LEVEL 2: 32 degrees and below, 60 beds</b>	<b>Referral Only Sites</b>
Shelter KC Men	20 Men
City Union Men	20 Men
City Union Women	17 Female, 3 Families
<b>LEVEL 3: 25 degrees and below (Nov. to April), 80 beds</b>	<b>Referral Only Sites</b>
Heartland	12 Male (Gender Inclusive), 8 Female (Gender Inclusive)
KCK	40 All Gender
Shelter KC Women	20 Women
<b>TOTAL BEDS: 350</b>	All Gender - 80    Men Only - 152 (112 Inclusive)    Women Only - 112 (25 Inclusive)    Families - 6
<b>LEVEL 4: 0 degrees (Capacity increases; 100 additional beds)</b>	



# KC Cold Weather Shelter Dashboard

Click on any data point to filter

Cold Weather Shelter

Select Date Range

Last Updated :

All Cold Weather Shelters

12/1/2024

2/28/2025

3/24/2025

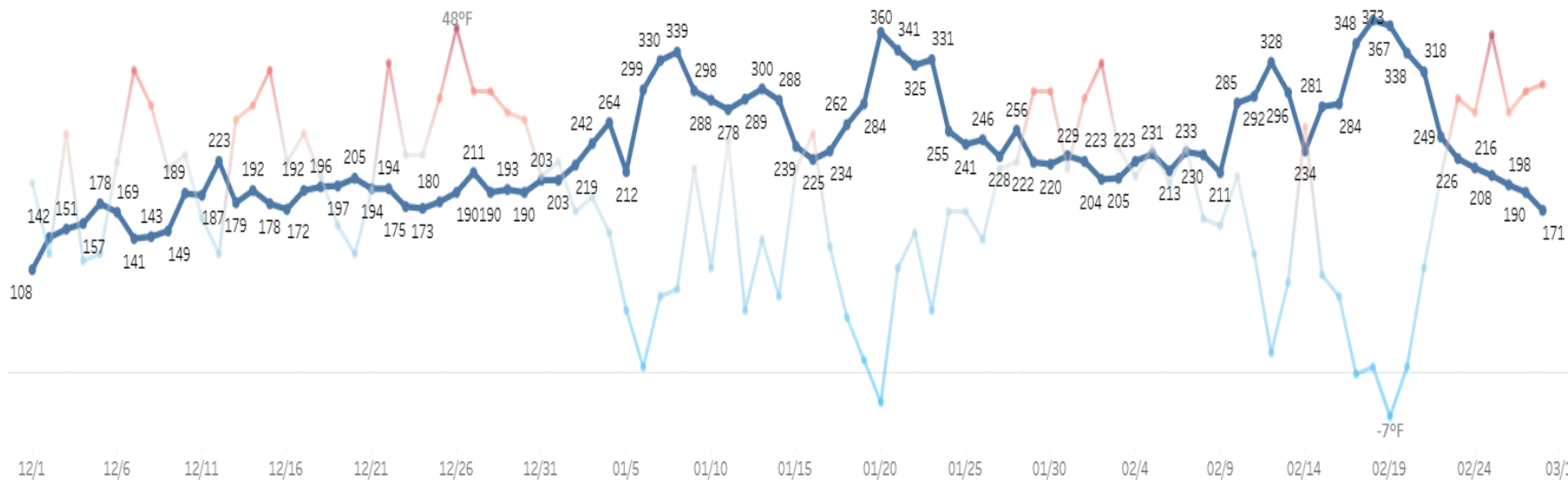
Total Bed Nights

21,224

Unique Clients

1,843

Shelter Guests by Date



**Org: Heartland Center for Behavioral Change  
Proj: (CWS) Heartland**



Website:  
Hours: Level 3 Activation -- Open when 25 degrees and below -- Referral only through access sites

Phone: 816-513-3699  
Email:

Available Beds: 0  
Reserved Beds: 20

**Org: Hope City  
Proj: (CWS) Hope City**



Website:  
Hours: Level 1 Activation -- Open Every Night Dec. 1 -- March 31 -- Access Site

Phone: 816-513-3699  
Email:

Available Beds: 21  
Reserved Beds: 29

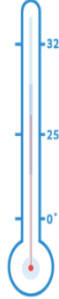
**Org: Hope Faith  
Proj: (CWS) Hope Faith**



Website:  
Hours: Level 1 Activation -- Open Every Night Dec. 1 -- March 31 -- Access Site

Phone: 816-513-3699  
Email:

Available Beds: 6  
Reserved Beds: 164



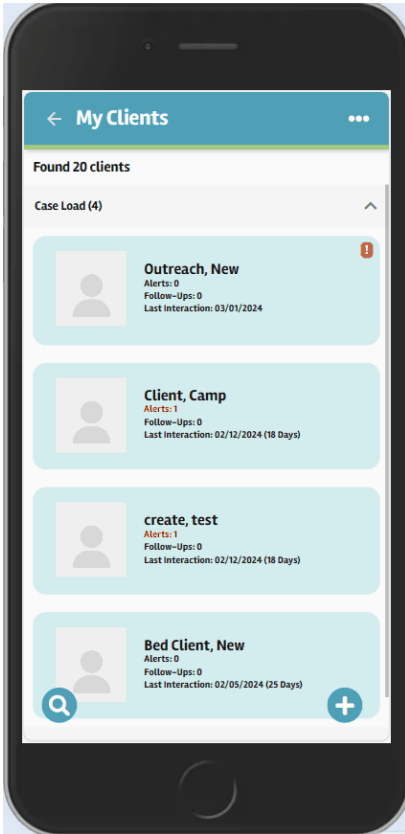
# Activation

Locations are activated to provide beds, meals, and services

LEVEL	ACTIVATES*	DATES
1	Open every night regardless of temperature	December 1st – March 1st
2	32 Degrees and Below 25 Degree Windchill Precipitation with Windchill of 32 Degrees	November 1st – April 1st (Pending Funding Availability)
3	25 Degrees and Below 15 Degree Windchill Precipitation with Windchill of 25 Degrees	↓
4	0 Degrees 0 Degree Windchill Precipitation with Windchill of 5 Degrees	

\*Determined by 8 am daily based on forecasted weather for that night, 6 pm to 6 am





**KANSAS CITY  
MISSOURI**

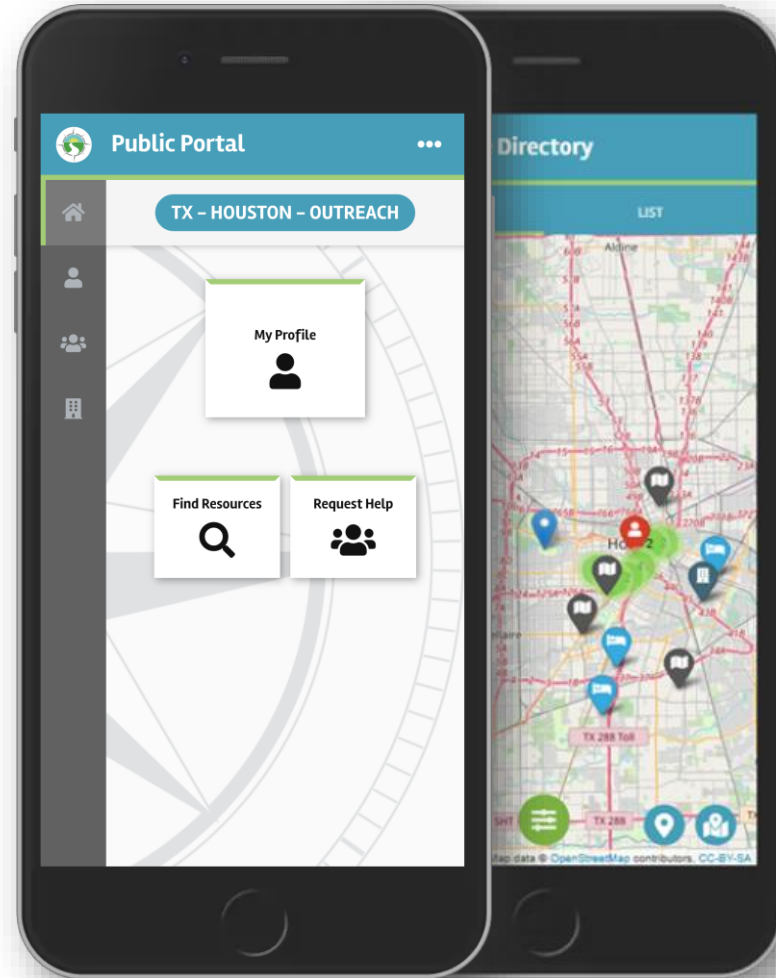


## Shelter Bed Requests

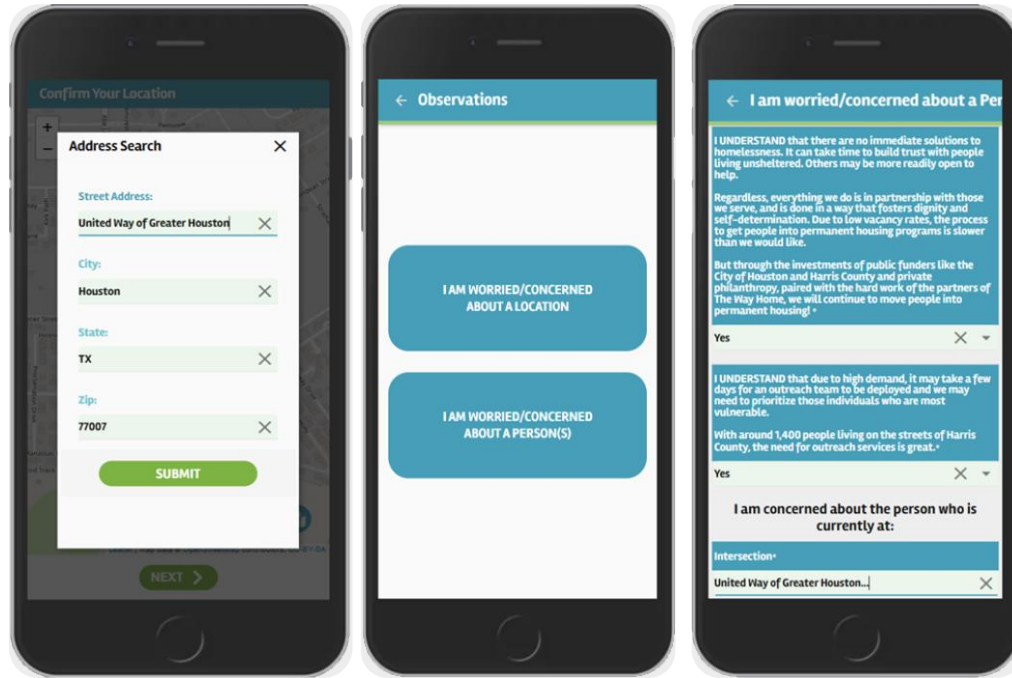
- A request for a nearby bed, that is appropriate and available, is submitted by outreach staff.
- Shelter staff are notified of the referral.
- If approved, the number of available beds is updated

# Youth Portal

- Built for Youth experiencing homelessness.
- After creating an account, youth can log in from the same STW home screen that outreach uses
- The Resource Directory feature does not require an account to use.
- Youth can create a profile provide additional information, and submit requests for help.
- The profile provides CFTH and its partners with additional information and context about potential clients.



# Community Access



- Citizen Requests allow users to submit requests for outreach assistance
- CFTH is gathering data on whether these requests actually result in locating a person or encampment.
- CFTH wants to be able to show we are following up, and the degree of alignment between the perception and reality of homeless presence in an area.

# Resource Directory



Show The Way

STW Demo

Change

Navigation

< ABC Outreach Project

Resource Info

Locations

Surveys

Funding

Users

Home

Resources

Users

Surveys

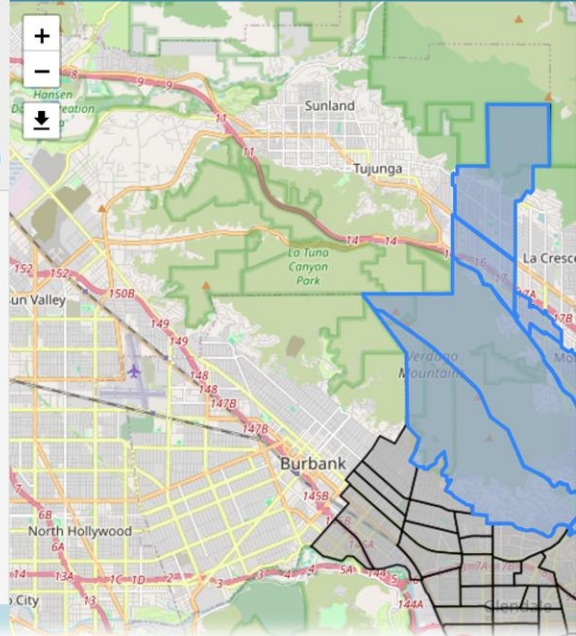
Question Bank

Administration

System Admin Tools



Coverage Area



HMIS Info

Organization:

AAA Outreach Providers

Project Name:

ABC Outreach Project

Project Common Name:

ABC Outreach Project

Project Type:

Street Outreach

Archive Resource

Update Reso...

Disable Resource Teams

Simtech  
Solutions



Resource Directory



MAP

LIST

ABC Outreach Project  
AAA Outreach Providers



Outreach Provider for People Experiencing Homelessness

[2901 Los Feliz Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90039](#)  
[555-867-5309](#)

Mon-Fri 8am-7pm Sat/Sun 10am-5pm

**Services:** Clothing, Employment, First Aid, Food & Water, Housing, Hygiene Items, IDs, Income & Benefits, Other Supplies, Shelter, Shower, Transportation

Type: Street Outreach

Tags: Child

ABC Shelter Project  
AAA Outreach Providers



Emergency shelter provided by AAA Outreach Providers.

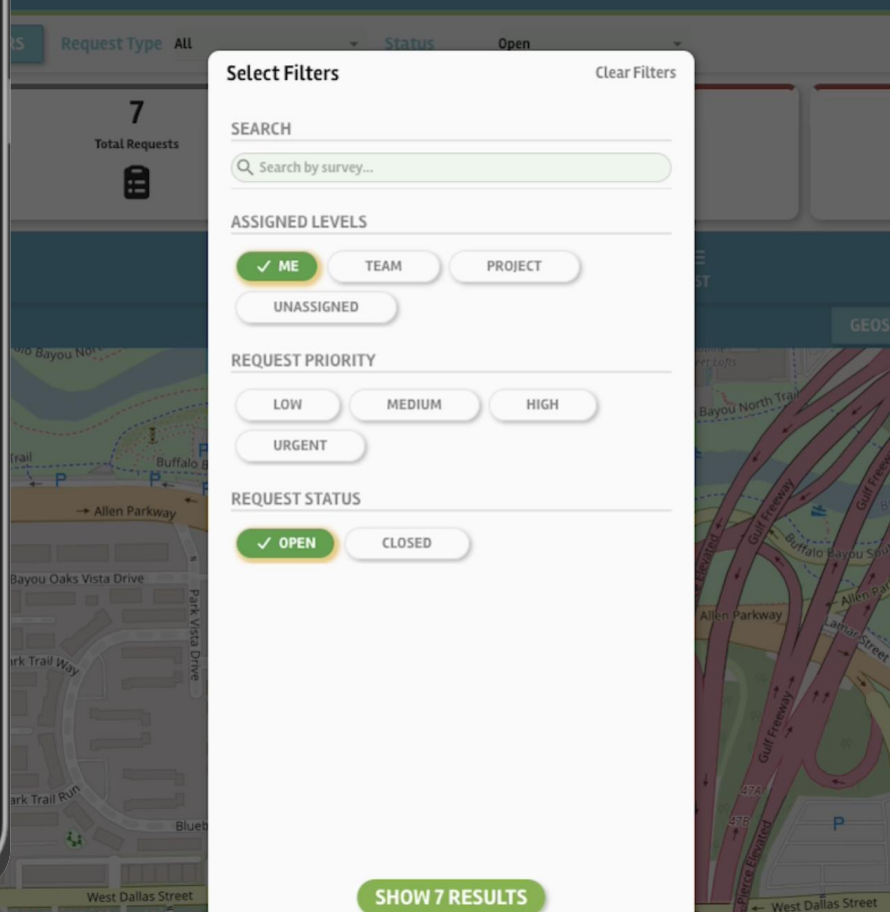
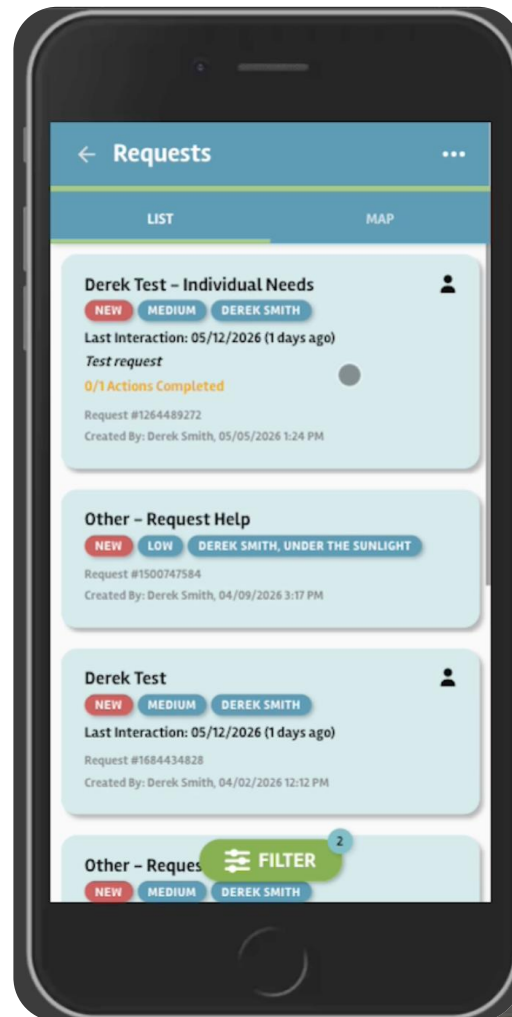
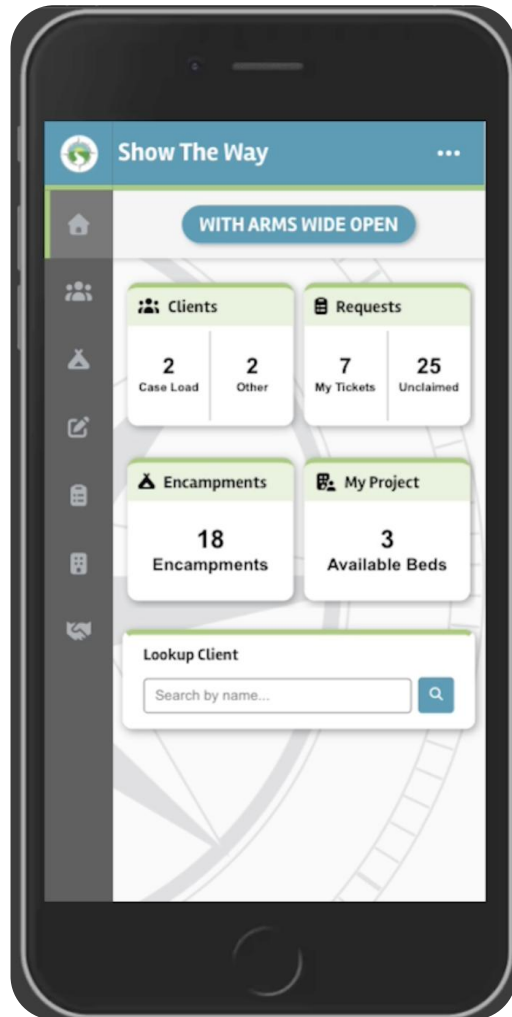
[1203 N Bronson Los Angeles, CA 90038](#)  
[123-123-1313](#)

24/7

FILTERS

**Services:** Check In, Coffee, Education,

# Your day at a glance





# Thank Y'all

## Questions & Contact Information

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