

COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS OF HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY

FY2026 IMPACT REPORT

JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026



Strengthen. Connect. Extend. Transform.

Strengthening the System. Changing Lives.

The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County (CFTH) leads the regional effort to solve and prevent homelessness across Houston, Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties. As the lead agency for The Way Home, our region's coordinated homeless response system, we bring together public and private partners around a shared vision for making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring. Through data-informed leadership, technical expertise, performance management, and collaborative planning, we help create a more efficient, responsive, and accountable system that connects people with the right support at the right time.

CFTH in Action: Turning Insights into Improvements

The Way Home Rapid Re-Housing project provides a concrete example of how CFTH works—convening providers, landlords, and community partners to improve a program's design and better serve individuals and families.

We used data to drive decisions. By integrating the Unit Matching Questionnaire into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), we created a more consistent and transparent matching process, supporting more than **206 completed questionnaires** during the year.

We addressed operational barriers. CFTH's Landlord Engagement team became trained to conduct property inspections, while our finance team streamlined communication and payment processes that had been contributing to delays.

We applied technical expertise. Through nearly **200 hours** of provider training, technical assistance, and collaborative workgroups, CFTH helped partners navigate the revised processes and identify challenges as implementation continued.

These targeted improvements produced measurable results. During the year, average placement times decreased more than **25 days**, helping **190 households** move into housing sooner and begin connecting with case managers and other supports earlier.

These changes addressed specific operational barriers, but the larger story is how CFTH approaches its work: **using data to identify challenges, bringing people and expertise together to develop solutions, and continuing to evaluate what the system needs.** Throughout this report, you'll see how that same approach creates ripples across every area of our work—**strengthening** CFTH's capacity, **connecting** The Way Home, **extending** collaboration beyond the homeless response system, and ultimately **transforming** the lives of people experiencing homelessness.

**Some years measure progress.
Others reveal what makes progress possible.
FY26 DID BOTH.**

Throughout the past year, communities across the country faced unprecedented uncertainty surrounding the federal Continuum of Care (CoC) funding that serves as the foundation of local homeless response systems. Here in Houston, Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties, more than \$70 million in annual funding that supports housing and critical services was delayed, withdrawn, reissued under new priorities, and continues to face disruption from litigation, shifting timelines, and changes in funding philosophy.

Yet what I will remember most isn't the uncertainty. It's how our community responded.

While federal timelines shifted, our partners never stopped serving people. And behind the scenes, CFTH worked alongside providers every step of the way, sharing information, providing technical assistance, coordinating planning efforts, and preparing for multiple possible outcomes so our community would be ready no matter what came next.

That experience reinforced something we've long known: a strong homeless response system depends on trusted people and partnerships willing to adapt when circumstances change. It also underscored the importance of a more resilient funding model. While federal funding remains the foundation of our homeless response system, CFTH is working to secure sustainable, long-term investments that are locally controlled, giving our community greater flexibility to respond to local needs and expand opportunity for years to come.

As you read the experiences in this report, I hope you'll see more than individual accomplishments. I hope you'll see the ripple effect of a community working together, where every improvement strengthens our system, every partnership opens new opportunities, and every investment helps more people move toward independence.

THANK YOU for helping make these ripples of impact possible.



KELLY YOUNG
President & CEO





Opening the Right Doors

Coordinated Entry is the first step for individuals or families seeking housing assistance in our homeless response system.

Through a shared, standardized process, CE assesses each household's needs, prioritizes access based on vulnerability, and connects individuals and families to the most appropriate housing and supportive services as quickly and equitably as possible.

Strengthen.

400 staff hours saved annually through automation of Coordinated Entry data maintenance.

Turning time into capacity

Routine processes that once required hours of manual work, such as removing inactive client records, now run automatically, allowing staff to focus more time on supporting providers and improving data quality.

Extend.

A partnership with **Healthconnect Texas** is bridging data across healthcare, criminal justice, and homeless services to build a more complete understanding of the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Data Across Systems

By securely linking de-identified data across systems, this collaboration is laying the groundwork to better understand health needs, identify gaps and opportunities for assistance, and inform how people may be connected to the right services and resources.

Connect.

Case Conferencing Review

Committee provides a process for case managers and service providers to recommend review of rare, exceptional cases where an individual's circumstances may not be fully captured through the standard Coordinated Entry assessment.

Creating Greater Access

Launched by CFTH, the committee brings together a multidisciplinary team to review complex situations, such as urgent medical conditions, safety concerns, or significant barriers to engagement. This structured process supports fair and consistent decision-making and helps providers identify appropriate resources and next steps across The Way Home.

Transform.

Coordinated Entry assessments expanded to locations where people were receiving support (known as inreach), reaching individuals who may not otherwise access the homeless response system.

A Life Changed

An individual living unsheltered with medical and accessibility needs was connected through one of these inreach sites. After completing a Coordinated Entry assessment, they were matched to housing resources and have remained stably housed since November 2025, demonstrating how meeting people where they are can lead to life-changing outcomes.



CFTH's **Outreach team** serves on the front lines of homelessness, engaging daily with people living unsheltered across Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties. Through consistent, relationship-based engagement, the team builds trust, assesses individual needs, and works with partners to connect people with housing, services, and practical solutions that support their path forward. This coordinated approach helps reduce the time people experience homelessness while strengthening the region's outreach response.

Strengthen.

Through a mobile outreach coordination app, CFTH addressed **170 community requests**, identifying and responding to people experiencing homelessness more efficiently.

Responding Strategically

Increased use of the mobile app, combined with enhanced reporting processes, strengthened CFTH's ability to identify community needs and respond more strategically. Improved visibility helps outreach teams prioritize locations, reduce duplicate efforts, and connect more individuals to solutions.

Extend.

By expanding the Multi-Visit Patient (MVP) Program to **five hospitals**, CFTH is helping more patients move from repeated emergency room visits to coordinated support and solutions.

Closing Gaps

Through weekly case conferences with public and private hospitals, CFTH works alongside healthcare providers to identify patients experiencing or at risk of homelessness who may otherwise go unrecognized. These partnerships connect individuals to outreach and other solutions, closing critical gaps in care while improving coordination between healthcare and the homeless response system.

Connect.

A collaborative partnership expanded outreach beyond the I-610 Loop, serving **369 people**.

Expanding Across Our Region

In partnership with another outreach provider, CFTH expanded the system's services beyond downtown Houston, reaching communities and individuals that have less access. Outreach teams focused on helping remove barriers for clients, such as distance, limited transportation, and unfamiliarity with available resources.

Transform.

The SMART Teams delivered **778 coordinated outreach services to 246 individuals** facing some of the most complex barriers to stability in our community.

Support for Complex Needs

The Street Multi-Access Response & Treatment (SMART) Team provides intensive, multidisciplinary support, bringing together CFTH outreach staff and healthcare, mental health, and substance use providers to address complex medical, behavioral health, and housing needs. Through consistent, relationship-based engagement, the team builds trust and connects individuals directly from the streets to treatment, psychiatric medications, and housing.







The **Income team** helps people build the financial stability needed to stay housed. By connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with employment, education, benefits, and other income resources, the team creates pathways toward greater independence. Working alongside workforce development and community partners, CFTH integrates housing and income services for lasting success.

Strengthen.

Centralizing income and employment resources improved CFTH's ability to deliver consistent, coordinated support.

Centralized Resources

The Income team developed a centralized hub of vetted employment, education, benefits, and income resources. By bringing these tools and connections together, the team improved oversight, increased consistency, and created a shared approach to service delivery and data-informed planning.

Extend.

More than **80 professionals** gained practical tools to help remove identification barriers to housing, employment, benefits, and other essential services.

Removing Barriers

In May 2026, CFTH's ID Workgroup brought together case managers, agency leaders, identification specialists, and community partners to improve how people obtain essential documents. By expanding shared knowledge, formalizing resources, and improving cross-sector coordination, the workgroup helped make a missing ID less likely to stand between someone and the services they need.

Connect.

372 people were connected to employment opportunities and supportive services through CFTH's partnership with Workforce Solutions.

Services that Build Income

Stable housing is only one part of long-term success. Employment services, including job-search assistance, vocational training, education, childcare, transportation, work attire, and other supports, help individuals build the income needed to maintain housing and move toward financial independence.

Transform.

Employment and vocational training helped one mother build a stronger future for her family.

Creating New Possibilities

While living with her two young children in an emergency shelter, Claire enrolled in Economic Empowerment services through a partner agency with three goals: finding employment, completing vocational training, and earning her GED. With consistent support, she found work as a hotel housekeeper, received the attire she needed for her new job, and completed all 11 vocational training sessions. Today, she continues working toward her GED, bringing her closer to the future she envisioned for herself and her family.



The **Public Affairs team** builds the relationships, resources, and public support that strengthen CFTH and The Way Home. Through development, advocacy, communications, and engagement, the team secures investments, advances public policy, and fosters collaborations that create lasting change for people experiencing homelessness.



Strengthen.

More than \$3.1 million in private philanthropy expanded CFTH's capacity to lead, innovate, and respond to emerging community needs.

Investing in Agility

As CFTH's regional leadership continues to grow beyond what federal Continuum of Care funding supports, private philanthropy provides the flexibility to advance innovative solutions and address emerging opportunities. Unrestricted investments allow CFTH to respond where traditional funding cannot.

Extend.

Eleven trainings deepened collaboration between law enforcement and the homeless response system, creating more opportunities for connection before crises escalate.

Shifting Toward Connection

Because involvement with the criminal justice system is often intertwined with homelessness, CFTH partnered with law enforcement agencies to increase understanding of homelessness, available resources, and appropriate response strategies. These trainings helped shift interactions toward connection and problem-solving, increasing opportunities for individuals to access housing, behavioral health care, and supportive services.

Connect.

Coordinated advocacy helped protect at least 22 homeless service providers from legislation that could have disrupted access to housing and services.

Protecting the System

When proposed state legislation threatened to restrict where homeless service providers could operate, CFTH mobilized The Way Home partners to advocate for the region's homeless response system. Over four weeks, staff held **20+ legislative meetings**, visited **150 House offices**, and contributed **100+ hours** to advocacy. Their efforts helped prevent the legislation from advancing, preserving access to critical services for thousands across the region.

Transform.

Advocacy to strengthen Texas law created a pathway to care for one woman who had spent years living unsheltered.

From Policy to Care

A woman who had lived beneath a downtown overpass for years faced significant barriers to accessing care. Although her behavior frequently raised concerns about her safety and well-being, she was unable to recognize her need for treatment. Through coordinated outreach by The Harris Center and law enforcement, and an emergency detention approach aligned with the forthcoming Senate Bill 1164 changes, she was connected to appropriate treatment. Today, she remains engaged in Assisted Outpatient Treatment and stably housed. CFTH successfully advocated for revisions to SB 1164, expanding pathways to treatment for people experiencing behavioral health crises and helping more individuals access care, stabilize, and move toward housing.

THANK YOU DONORS

Every ripple begins with an investment.

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We regret any omissions or errors of spelling.

Huntington Helps Drive Lasting Community Impact

For CFTH, lasting change begins with partners who show up with purpose. Huntington Bank has been one of those partners, supporting efforts that meet urgent needs, strengthen long-term stability, and help more Houstonians move toward a pathway home.

Throughout the past year, Huntington has supported CFTH in multiple ways, demonstrating a commitment to both meeting immediate needs and investing in long-term change. Their support of Cold Weather Kits helped strengthen our region's coordinated response during severe winter weather, ensuring outreach teams could provide people living outdoors with essential supplies while sharing life-saving information about warming centers, shelter options, and available resources.

Huntington also invested in the next generation of leaders through its support of The Way Home's Youth Action Board. By providing a financial literacy workshop, Huntington equipped young adults with practical knowledge and skills to strengthen long-term financial stability while empowering young leaders with tools they can carry into their futures, helping shape solutions that better serve their peers and our community.

Beyond financial support, Huntington has embraced opportunities to learn alongside us. Members of the Huntington team have participated in CFTH Presents educational sessions, attended our annual corporate event, and taken the time to better understand the programs, partnerships, and coordinated efforts that shape Houston's homeless response system.

Together, these investments create a ripple effect. Support for outreach strengthens the community's emergency response. Investments in young leaders help shape the future of homelessness solutions. Continued learning and engagement deepen collaboration and inspire new opportunities for impact. Huntington's partnership extends far beyond any single initiative. It strengthens the people, partners, and systems working together to prevent, resolve, and keep homelessness from recurring.





Every investment in CFTH strengthens the expertise, partnerships, and systems behind our region’s response to homelessness. The result is an impact that begins within CFTH, expands throughout our systems and the broader community, and ultimately reaches the individuals and families we serve.

Strengthen.

\$19.6M

Invested in systems infrastructure

Investment in CFTH builds the strategy, leadership, and innovation needed to convene partners, drive data-informed decisions, and advance performance.

Connect.

\$11.3M

Distributed in grants to partner organizations

CFTH invests in 70+ partner organizations across our tri-county region to deliver housing solutions.

Extend.

Behavioral Health • Government Workforce • Criminal Justice • Healthcare

CFTH connects systems and sectors to remove barriers, align resources, and strengthen the response to homelessness. Together, we create more coordinated, effective responses for people experiencing homelessness.

Transform.

23,000+

People served annually through the regional response

These collective efforts create more opportunities for people to move from homelessness toward housing, recovery, income, and greater independence.

Where support comes from

Government grants & public funding	\$17.8M
Private philanthropy (foundations, individuals & corporations)	\$2.9M
Investment income	\$540K
Other	\$7K
Total Revenue	\$21.3M

Responsible stewardship



Percentages based on total expenses of \$22,981,482 from FY25

Program Services	85.4%
Management & Administration	13.7%
Fundraising	0.9%

A strong foundation

Net Assets
\$17.5M

CFTH undergoes an annual independent financial audit and federal single audit to ensure accountability and responsible stewardship of entrusted resources

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