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City Council Work Session

Council Work Session

Homelessness Response Action Plan with County Partners

📅 January 7, 2025 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Available Online

Council in attendance:

- Councilor Avalos
- Councilor Dunphy
- Councilor Smith
- Councilor Kanal
- Councilor Pirtle-Guiney
- Councilor Ryan
- Councilor Koyama Lane
- Councilor Morillo
- Councilor Novick
- Councilor Clark
- Councilor Green
- Councilor Zimmerman

 [Presentation: Homelessness Response Action Plan with County Partners Work Session](#) 2.32 MB

Council Chamber doors open to the public 15 minutes before the meeting starts. Learn more about [visiting City Hall to attend a Council meeting](#). Watch the live broadcast on [YouTube](#), on the [Open Signal website](#), or on cable TV (Xfinity Channels 30 and 330, CenturyLink Channels 8005 and 8505).

Work sessions are public meetings related to a specific topic where information is presented to Council. Council does not vote or take any action; public testimony is not taken. The public and press may attend work sessions when held in person or watch the live broadcast online or on cable TV.

Location

City Council Chambers

1221 SW Fourth Avenue
Second Floor Auditorium
Portland, OR 97204

[Get Directions](#)

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Contact

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Senior Policy Advisor

✉ Skyler.Bocker-Knapp@portlandoregon.gov

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Homelessness Response System

City of Portland New Elected Officials Orientation

January 7, 2025



Agenda

- Background
 - History, Context
 - Guiding Documents: Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP)
- Homelessness Response System (HRS)
- HRAP
- Current Priorities and What's Next



A shared vision for people experiencing homelessness.

- A community where homelessness is rare and brief.
 - A community where people take care of one another, foster opportunity, and support livability.
 - A community where services are equitable, coordinated, effective, just and accessible.
- [Homelessness Response Action Plan](#)



U.S. homelessness jumps to another record high, amid affordable housing shortage



From NPR: <https://www.npr.org/2024/12/27/nx-s1-5241115/us-homeless-hud-housing-costs-migrants> Staff for the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust in Florida tally the number of people living unsheltered in downtown Miami, late on Jan. 26, 2024. The annual point-in-time count is a nationwide census mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Rebecca Blackwell/AP



HRS New Elected Officials Orientation



National Context

On a single night in January 2023, more than half a million people (653,104 people) across the United States were experiencing homelessness.

- **Largest number in history of national data collection.**
- **12.1 percent** year-over-year increase vs. 2022 - **largest increase** since data collection began in 2007.
- **70,642** more people did not have a place to call home in 2023 than in 2022.

Source: The 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2023.
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar/2023-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us.html>



Guiding Documents

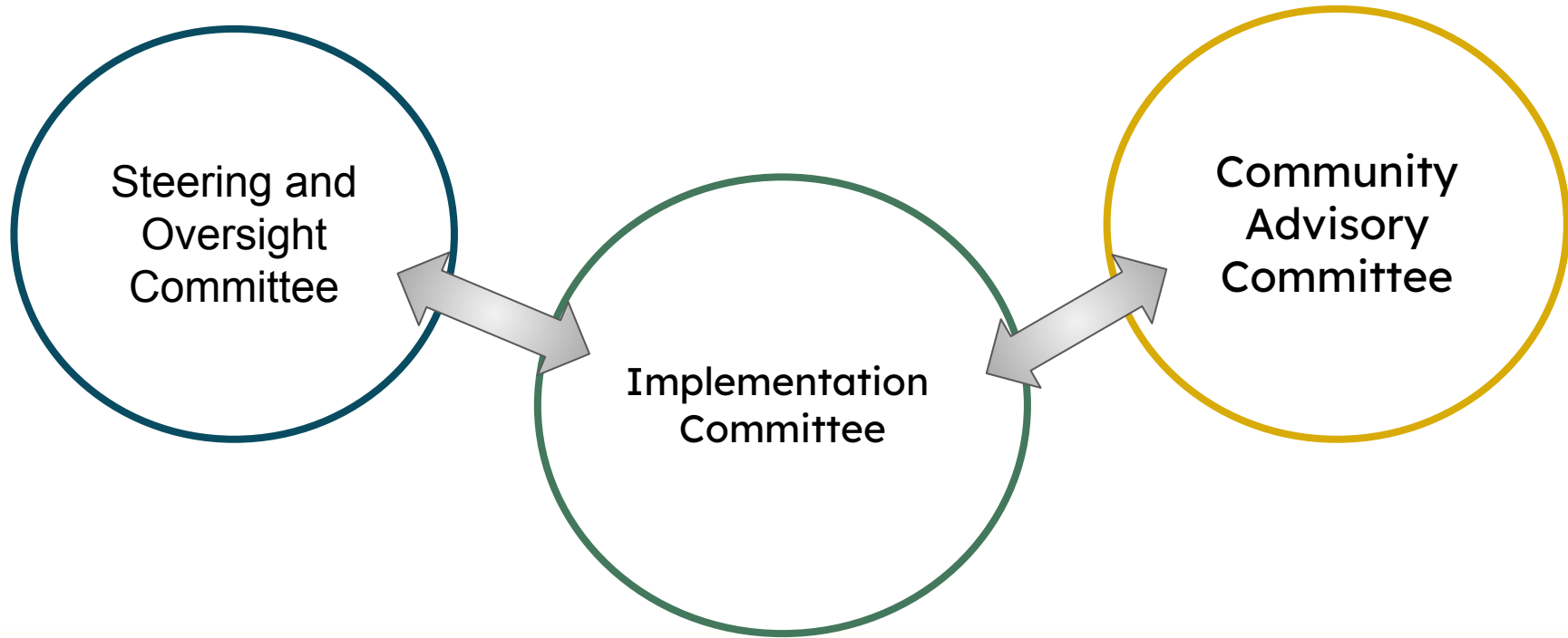
- IGA between Multnomah County and the City of Portland, which establishes a Homelessness Response System
- Homelessness Response Action Plan
- Committee Charters



Homelessness Response System



HRS Committees



Homelessness Response System Committees

Steering and Oversight Committee

10 Members

Elected officials,
CEOs,
Business Leaders,
Community
members, Health
Experts

- Monitor progress on HRAP goals
- Assess HRAP strategies based on performance
- Set systems-level strategy
- Align jurisdictional investments
- Adjust HRAP goals annually



Homelessness Response System Committees

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

16 Members

People with lived
experience,
Service providers,
Advocates,
Community members

- Review and recommend strategies, plans, and outcomes identified by the Implementation Subcommittee
- Identify emerging community needs and opportunities to the Steering and Oversight Committee and Implementation Subcommittee



Homelessness Response System Committees

Implementation Committee

12 Members

County COO,
City Administrator,
Department
Directors,
Organizational and
System Leaders

- Drive and direct the implementation of HRAP
- Recommend annual investment strategy
- Operationalize strategies
- Seek input from the CAC
- Monitoring progress toward goals and outcomes



Transformational Work

Implementation Committee summarized quotes:

- More holistic approach to support systems, avoid duplication of effort
- Helps to narrow and focus the work
- If blocked or stuck, we work together to find a path forward
- Coalesce around set of shared goals and principles
- A plan that marries housing and health (concepts + resources)
- More work to be done to support East County connections
- Richer, more effective partnerships, creates accountability



Homelessness Response Action Plan Overview



HRAP Overview

The Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP) addresses the needs of people pushed into homelessness, including:

- Preventing homelessness
- Coordinating behavioral health and mental health interventions
- Adding hundreds of shelter and recovery beds to provide safety off the street
- Housing placement



HRAP Structure

9 Goal Areas

29 Strategies

120 Action Items



HRAP Overarching Goals

End discharges
to the street
from behavioral
health, health
systems, and
hospitals by
December 2025.

End discharges
to the street
from carceral
settings by
December 2026.

End
homelessness for
youth aging out
of foster care by
December 2027.



Plan Goals

01

Establish system-wide housing navigation, care coordination and crisis intervention capability.

Key Completed Action Items:

- 1.1.3 Develop an outreach and engagement strategy workgroup and steering committee similar to the Community Sheltering Strategy.

02

Quickly increase the number of shelters using best practices and housing inventory. Define roles and responsibilities for shelter operators.

Key Completed Action Items:

- 2.1.2 Review and streamline shelter services contracting process for faster and more efficient contracting that allows providers to meet workforce needs.

03

Increase access to appropriate levels of behavioral health supports and reduce barriers to access.

Key Completed Action Items:

- 3.4.2 Develop ongoing process for environmental scan to consistently update list of opportunities for building behavioral health capacity.



Plan Goals

04

Establish rapid and long-term interventions aimed at preventing homelessness among specific populations: youth aging out of the foster care system; individuals exiting the criminal justice system; and people discharged from healthcare or behavioral health settings who are at-risk of becoming homeless.

Key Completed Action Items:

- 4.3.1 Conduct Assessment & Referral Center/Transition Service Unit needs analysis to determine changes and capacity needs to prevent all people leaving incarceration from entering homelessness.

05

Use the right dollars for the right service – including Medicaid dollars, employment support dollars and infrastructure dollars – to increase our federal match and reduce the competition for dollars based on the source. Invest dollars in services that create long-term stability.

Key Action Items in progress:

- 5.1.1 Bring together state Medicaid billing expertise and develop a plan to maximize Medicaid and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) billing for navigation and coordination services.



Plan Goals

06

Increase the production of affordable housing.

Key Completed Action Items:

- 6.1.4 Fund infrastructure investments that will facilitate local housing production, including affordable housing.
- 6.1.6 Identify 20 commercial buildings in Central City for potential housing conversion

07

Improve data and analytics across the system to measure progress and enhance use of physical and financial resources.

Key Completed Action Items:

- 7.2.2 Interim connection developed for shelter providers to report available access and appropriate placement spots available, to be tracked in real time.
- 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 Coordinate with other jurisdictions to align and communicate service definitions



Plan Goals

08

Establish a new governance structure that aligns strategies, resources and outcome measurements; clarifies roles and responsibilities; and extends the table to include nonprofit and private systems serving common populations and with additional resources.

Key Completed Action Items:

- 8.1.2 Agree on updated City-County IGA.
- 8.2.1 Launch Implementation Committee.
- 8.2.2 Launch Steering and Oversight Committee.

09

Develop and implement a communication strategy.

Key Completed Action Items:

- 9.1.1 - 9.1.4. Launch public facing website, performance dashboard, and newsletter.

A

Additional and Future Considerations for the Homelessness Response System

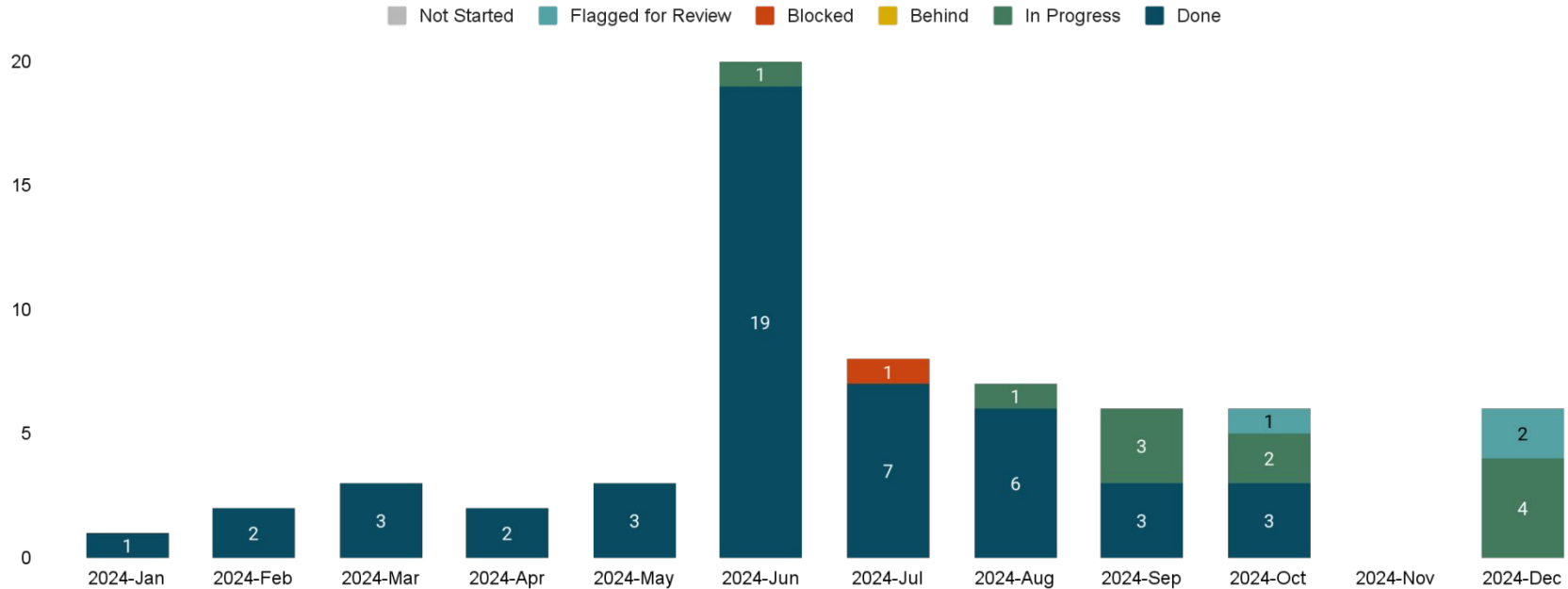
Key Completed Action Items:

- A.5.1 Fund outreach services at library locations.
- A.2.3 Move-In Multnomah contract for 140 rooms to be leased.



2024 Action Items Status Update by Month

2024 HRAP Action Item Status by Month Due



HRAP Key Performance Indicators



Baseline number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness identified as of January 2024 (5,398 on by-name list)



2,699 people – equivalent to half those on the list – placed in shelter or housing by the end of 2025



15% increase in exits from shelter to permanent housing by the end of 2025



75% of people retain permanent supportive housing 24 months after placement



HRAP Dashboard



Homelessness Response Action Plan



Overall Progress

Measure 1 Details

Measure 2 Details

Measure 3 Details

Measure 4 Details

Action Items

Data Through: September 30, 2024

Through the Homelessness Response Action Plan, Multnomah County, the City of Portland, and our many partners are supporting a system to address homelessness throughout Multnomah County. The plan's focused goals and outcomes shape our coordinated approach across systems and governments. It measures key metrics that help us assess the effectiveness of the work through better data collection and tracking, allowing for shared accountability and continuous improvement of our systems.

This dashboard tracks the progress on four key goals and broader set of Action Items in the Homelessness Response Action Plan. Click any of the tabs above for additional details on each goal.

[Click here to view the Homelessness Response Action Plan](#)

Since January 2024, the system has sheltered or placed in housing:

9,115

people

which
is

48%

of the way to the goal of
18,795 people by Dec. 2025*

Link to HRAP Dashboard:

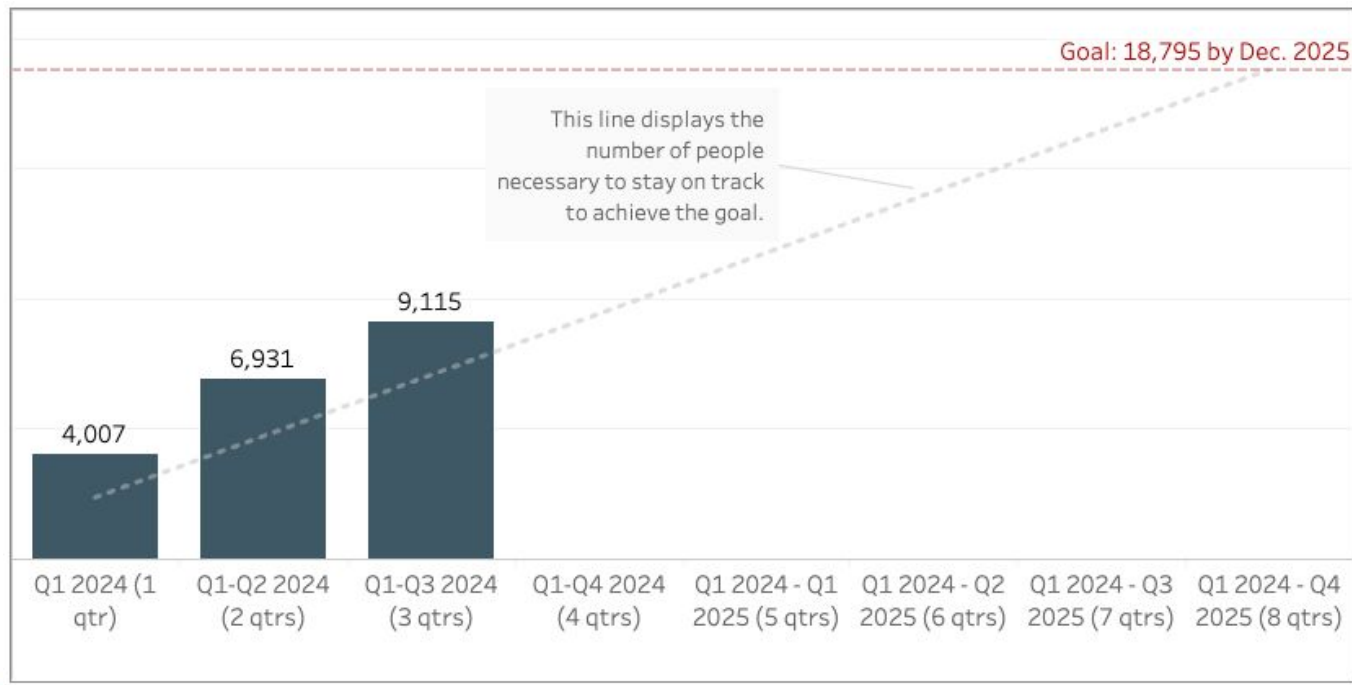
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/homelessness.response/viz/HRAPDashboard/LandingPage>



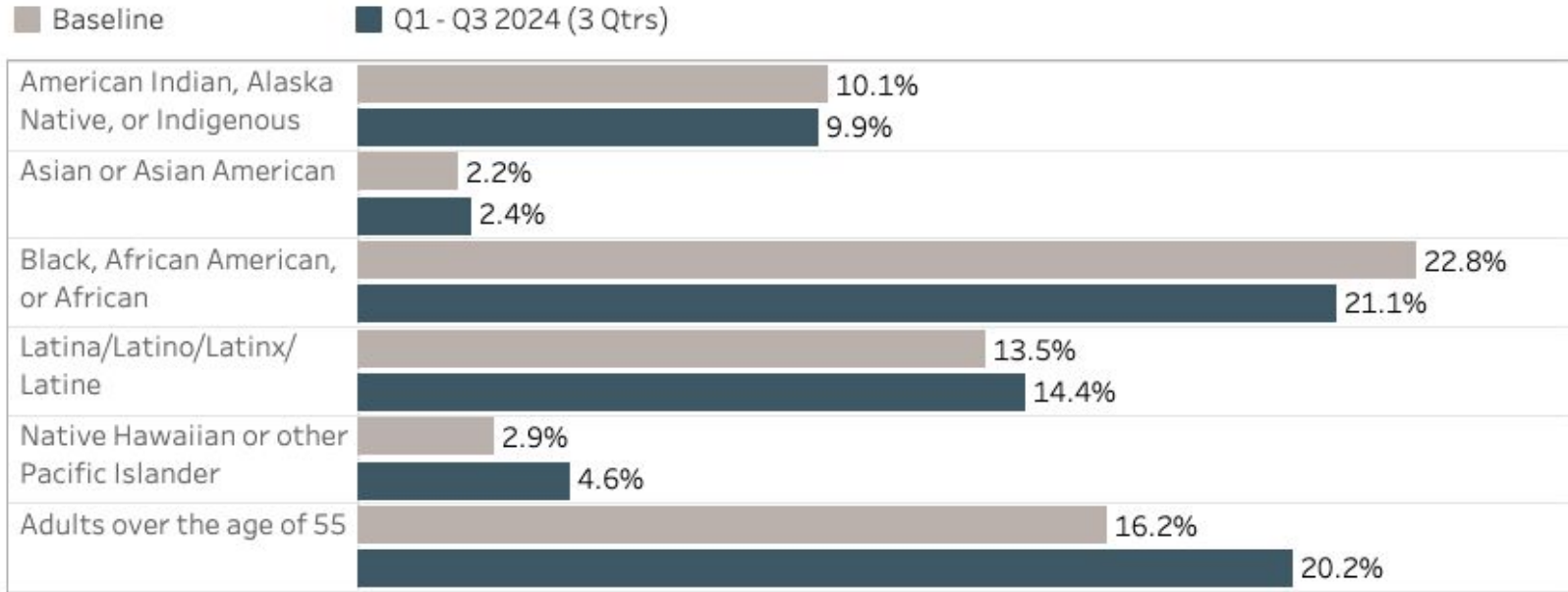
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Measure 1: Shelter or Place in Housing and Additional 2,699 Unsheltered People

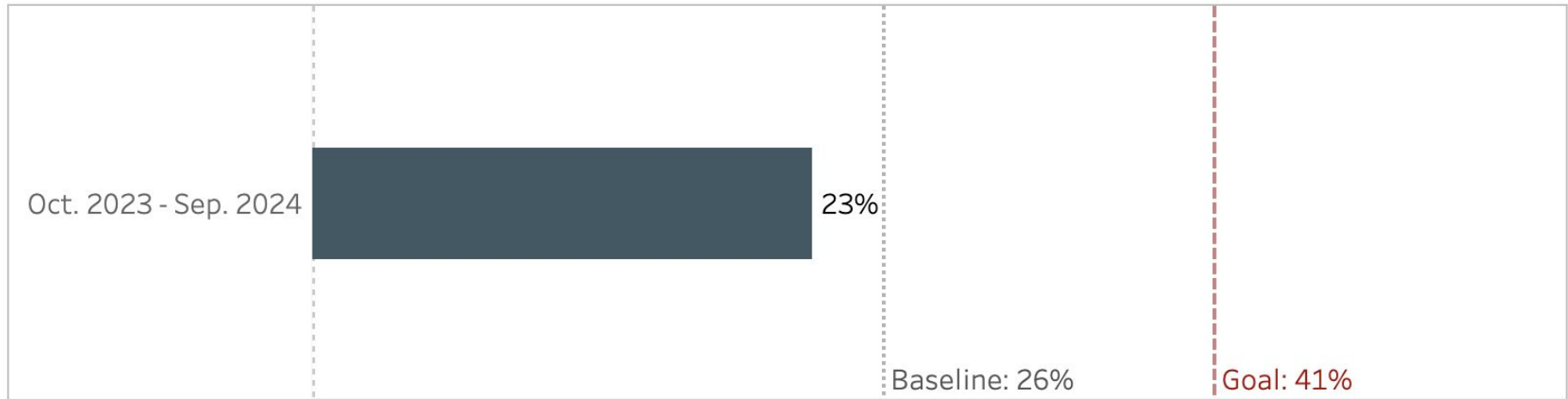


Measure 2: Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness for Priority Populations

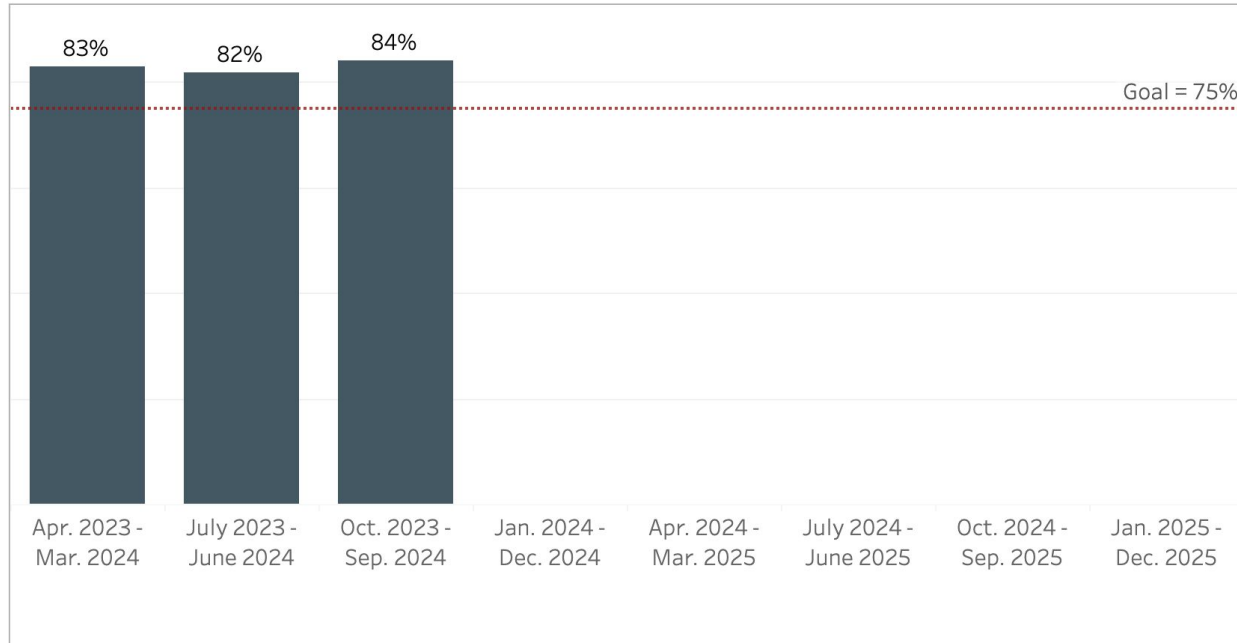


Measure 3: Increase Exits from Adult Shelter to Permanent Housing

Summary of Current Progress Towards Goal



Measure 4: Ensure People Retain Permanent Supportive Housing



Current Priorities & What's Next



Homelessness Response System Team

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