

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**Survey of Local Homeless Coalitions
for
FY 2004-2005**

**Annual Report on Homeless Conditions
In Florida**

**OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES
1317 WINEWOOD BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0700**

FY 2004-2005 SURVEY

PART I

HOMELESS COALITION AND CONTINUUM OF CARE INFORMATION

Please provide the Florida Department of Children and Families with the following information for inclusion in the FY 2004-2005 "Annual Report on Homeless Conditions in Florida to the Governor and Legislature."

Name of Coalition: Homeless and Hunger Coalition of Northwest Florida, Inc.

Mailing Address for Coalition: P.O. Box 549

Panama City, FL 32402-0549

Telephone Number: (850) 872-4130 Fax Number: none

Name of Executive Director: Not Applicable

Email Address for Director: Not Applicable

Name of Chairperson ~~President~~: Bill Mayhew

Mailing Address for Chairperson ~~President~~: 1808Country Club Drive

(if different from Coalition) Lynn Haven, FL 32444

Phone Number for Chairperson ~~President~~: (850) 271-3070

Email Address for Chairperson ~~President~~: Tecumseh@knology.net

Name of person completing this survey: Ron Thomasson, A.I.C.P.

Signature of person completing this survey: _____

Date: April 29, 2005 Telephone Number: (850) 276-4180

Name all counties served by your homeless coalition:

1. Bay 3. Gulf 5. Jackson

2. Calhoun 4. Holmes 6. Washington

Total Membership of your Homeless Coalition: 88 (Number of individuals and agencies that are members of and/or participate in Coalition activities.)

List all active Continuum of Care efforts within your Coalition's service area counties. All Continuums should be listed, regardless of whether the Continuum has applied for, or been awarded funding by the federal government.

Pursuant to section 420.624(1), F.S., a Continuum of Care means a framework for a comprehensive and seamless array of emergency, transitional and permanent housing, and services to address the various needs of homeless persons and persons at-risk for homelessness. The nature and configuration of housing and services may be unique to each community or region, depending on local needs, assets, and preferences. The statute also outlines the components of a continuum of care system. Please see the statute for those details.

Continuum of Care Name: The Northwest Florida Continuum of Care
County(s) Served: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, & Washington
Lead Agency: The Homeless and Hunger Coalition of Northwest Florida, Inc.

Describe your Coalition's role in supporting, facilitating, and coordinating the Continuum of Care efforts in your service area.

The Homeless and Hunger Coalition of Northwest Florida, Inc. is the lead entity for the Continuum of Care planning process in the six-county area we serve and, which parallels the same area as the Department of Children and Families' District 2A. The By-Laws of the Coalition lists the agency's purpose to plan, network, coordinate and oversee the delivery of services to the homeless. To this end the Coalition seeks to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and to ensure a comprehensive and holistic approach in serving the continuum of housing and support service needs of those suffering from homelessness. The ultimate goal, along with homelessness prevention, is the realization of self-sufficiency. This membership group is led by a Board of Directors and is made up of representatives of State agencies, local government, the public housing authorities, social service providers, nonprofit organizations, local public school, homeless and formerly homeless individuals, faith-based groups, and veteran service organizations.

The mechanism of formal involvement and coordination of area activities for the homeless occurs between the Board of Directors, Coalition consultants, and the membership through general Coalition and Committee meetings. The Continuum of Care Committee works with the Executive Consultant to manage, analyze, measure, and improve the C of C planning process and service delivery. Over the course of the past six months the Coalition has undergone a paradigm shift in its emphasis and approach to the C of C planning process.

PART II

THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE HOMELESS

Definition of Homeless: Section 420.621, Florida Statutes.

According to Florida Statutes, Homeless means an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:

1. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill;
2. An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
3. A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

The term does not refer to any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to state or federal law.

HUD's Operational Definition of Homelessness:

In order to promote further clarification regarding who is and is not homeless, as well as consistency with the definition used in practice by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the basic definition is expanded as follows:

A person is considered homeless only when he/she resides in one of the places described below:

1. In places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings (on the street).
2. In an emergency shelter.
3. In transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters.
4. In any of the above places, but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution.
5. Is being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified, and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
6. Is being discharged within a week from an institution, such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility or a jail/prison, in which the person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
7. Is fleeing a domestic violence housing situation and no subsequent residence has been identified, and the person lacks the resources and support networks to obtain housing.

What is the estimated number of people who are homeless on any given day within each of the counties served by your homeless coalition during **FY 2004-2005** (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)?

<u>County</u>	<u>Estimated Daily Homeless Population</u>	
	<u>Statutory Definition</u>	<u>Operational Definition</u>
1. <u>Bay</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>1,051</u>
2. <u>Calhoun</u>	<u>0*</u>	<u>0*</u>
3. <u>Gulf</u>	<u>0*</u>	<u>0*</u>
4. <u>Holmes</u>	<u>0*</u>	<u>0*</u>
5. <u>Jackson</u>	<u>0*</u>	<u>0*</u>
6. <u>Washington</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
Total All Counties: <u>383</u>		

* No information available – There was no participation by these Counties in the January 2005 Point-In-Time Survey

- Are the estimates above daily (point-in-time) estimates? Yes _____ No X
- Are these estimates the result of a point in time survey conducted the last week of January 2005?
Yes X No _____
- Provide the actual 2005 PIT count data by county.

<u>County</u>	<u>PIT Count</u>
1. <u>Bay</u>	<u>1,051</u>
2. <u>Calhoun</u>	<u>0</u>
3. <u>Gulf</u>	<u>0</u>
4. <u>Holmes</u>	<u>0</u>
5. <u>Jackson</u>	<u>0</u>
6. <u>Washington</u>	<u>8</u>

Please provide the following information based on the composition of the homeless population within the counties (catchment area) served by your homeless coalition. For each item below, a reference is provided to the appropriate question in the short form survey (e.g., Q. 4 refers to Question 4 in the short form survey).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Computations in all data sub-categories should total 100 percent.

BE SURE TO PROVIDE BOTH THE ACUTUAL NUMBER, PLUS THE % FIGURES

Sex (Q. 6)

Male	Number	<u>163</u>	<u>66</u> %
Female	Number	<u>82</u>	<u>39</u> %
TOTAL		<u>245</u>	<u>100</u> %

Age (Q's. 7,14 and 18)

Children (under age 18)	Number	<u>325</u>	<u>31</u> %
Adults (18 to 60)	Number	<u>689</u>	<u>66</u> %
Elderly (60 and older)	Number	<u>23</u>	<u>3</u> %
TOTAL		<u>1,037</u>	<u>100</u> %

Race (Q. 8b)

American Indian/Alaskan Native	Number	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u> %
Asian	Number	<u>-0-</u>	<u>0</u> %
Black/African American	Number	<u>46</u>	<u>20</u> %
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Number	<u>-0-</u>	<u>0</u> %
White	Number	<u>183</u>	<u>76</u> %
Other: _____	Number	<u>4</u>	<u> </u> %
TOTAL		<u>242</u>	<u>100</u> %

Veteran (Q.9 and 19)

Did the person ever serve in the U.S. military?			
Yes	Number	<u>52</u>	<u>22</u> %
No	Number	<u>188</u>	<u>78</u> %
TOTAL		<u>240</u>	<u>100</u> %

Family Status (Q. 10, 11,13)

Single, no minor children	Number	<u>**</u>	<u> </u> %
Single, with minor children	Number	<u>**</u>	<u> </u> %
Married, no minor children	Number	<u>**</u>	<u> </u> %
Married, with minor children	Number	<u>**</u>	<u> </u> %
TOTAL		<u> </u>	<u>100</u> %

** No information available for this category

The following questions pertain to homeless experiences and conditions of homelessness.

Prior Episodes of Homelessness (Q. 20)

Number of times person has been without a regular place to stay in the last three (3) years.

1 time	Number	<u>68</u>	<u>36</u> %
2-3 times	Number	<u>51</u>	<u>27</u> %
4 or more times	Number	<u>69</u>	<u>37</u> %
	TOTAL	<u>188</u>	<u>100</u> %

Disabling Conditions (Q. 21)

Does the person have any of the following conditions? (You may list more than one condition.)

a. Physical	Number	<u>60</u>	<u>54</u> %
b. Development	Number	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u> %
c. Mental health	Number	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u> %
d. Drug or alcohol addiction	Number	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u> %
e. HIV/AIDS	Number	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> %
	TOTAL	<u>112</u>	<u>100</u> %

Length of Homeless Episode (Q. 22)

How long since the person or family had a regular place to stay?

1 week or less	Number	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u> %
More than 1 week, less than 1 month	Number	<u>23</u>	<u>13</u> %
Between 1 and 3 months	Number	<u>46</u>	<u>26</u> %
More than 3 months, less than 1 year	Number	<u>34</u>	<u>19</u> %
1 year or longer	Number	<u>58</u>	<u>32</u> %
	TOTAL	<u>179</u>	<u>100</u> %

PART III

COALITION RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT OR ALLEVIATE HOMELESSNESS

Please identify proposals for new initiatives or changes to existing programs that would help prevent or alleviate homelessness in your community?

A. State Government

Do not cap the Housing Trust Fund—make more of this fund available to build transitional, permanent supportive housing, housing for other special needs, and affordable housing for our workforce population (prevention of homelessness). Provide homeless funding to all Coalitions on a formula basis that would at a minimum support a paid Executive Director's position.

B. Federal Government

Create legislation to provide tax credits for single-family housing to spur the private sector to build more affordable housing in markets that are deficient. Increase the level of funding for housing for transitional, permanent supportive, elderly, and other special needs populations.

C. Private Sector

Join local Coalitions to rid communities of homelessness for the sake of improved quality of life and the attendant improvements in economic development and net reduction of community's cost to deal with the homelessness problem in existing paradigm.

D. Local Government

Local jurisdictions need to rise above the level of putting homelessness and the need for affordable housing through a narrow litmus test of ideology. The abdication of local governments from a leadership role in the issue of homelessness and its direct connectivity and overlap with the larger issue of the worsening lack of affordable housing needs rectification. At the least they can step to the plate and coordinate their applications for CDBG funds with the local coalitions and affordable housing advocacy groups.

OPTITIONAL DATA (Not Applicable—we did not use the long form)

The following section is an optional response. If your coalition used the long form of the point in time survey instrument , this data should be available. If your coalition only used the short form point in time survey, you do not need to provide this data.

Education Level Completed (Question 10)

Highest level completed:	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
a. Grade School (up to Grade 8)	_____	_____
b. Some high school	_____	_____
c. High school diploma or GED	_____	_____
d. Some College	_____	_____
e. College degree	_____	_____
f. Vocational or trade school	_____	_____
TOTAL	_____	100%

Experiences in the Past Year (Question 29)

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
a. Stayed in public housing	_____	_____
b. Had a child or children taken away	_____	_____
c. Gone to a hospital emergency room	_____	_____
d. Became homeless as result of hurricanes	_____	_____
e. Been arrested because you had nowhere to stay	_____	_____
f. Been in jail or prison	_____	_____
g. Been in detox or crisis unit	_____	_____
h. Been in foster care (during last 5 years)	_____	_____

Cause of Homelessness (Question 30)

Employment or financial	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
a. Unemployed or lost job	_____	_____
b. Income failed to meet basic needs	_____	_____
c. Welfare benefits ended	_____	_____
d. Lack for job training or education	_____	_____
e. Money Management problems	_____	_____
f. No jobs available	_____	_____
g. Have no one to watch my children	_____	_____
h. Choose not to work	_____	_____

Housing

i. Evicted	_____	_____
j. Temporary arrangement ended	_____	_____
k. Released from jail, prison, hospital	_____	_____
l. Unsafe housing	_____	_____
m. Left shelter or other program	_____	_____

Medical/Disability

- n. Physical/medical problems _____
- o. Mental health or emotional problems _____
- p. Alcohol or drug problems _____
- q. HIV/AIDS _____

Number _____ % _____

Family

- r. Break-up, divorce, separation _____
- s. Moved out to escape abuse _____
- t. Ordered to leave by police or court _____
- u. Left/ran away from home _____
- v. Could not longer stay in foster care _____
- w. Other _____

Employment Status (Question 31)

- Not Employed _____
- Employed full time (not day labor) _____
- Employed part time (not day labor) _____
- Employed in day labor _____

TOTAL _____ 100%

Type(s) of Income Received (Question 32)

- Income from work _____
- Unemployment Compensation _____
- SSI or disability benefits _____
- Veterans benefits _____
- Workers Compensation _____
- Temporary cash assistance/welfare _____
- Social Security retirement/pension _____

Number _____ % _____

Non-Cash Benefits Received

- Food Stamps _____
- Medicaid/Kidcare _____
- Medicare _____
- WIC _____
- Veterans Health Care _____
- Subsidized child care _____
- Section 8, public housing, rent assistance _____
- Child support/alimony _____
- Relatives, friends or others _____
- No source of income _____

Number _____ % _____

Reason why first came to community (Question 28)

- Born or grew up here _____
- There were jobs here _____
- Family or friends are here _____
- Good weather _____
- Good shelters and services here _____
- Visited here and decided to stay _____

Number _____ % _____

TOTAL _____ 100%