# Homeless Outreach Update

Homeless Outreach in Alexandria involves providing proactive, trauma-informed engagement and connection to supportive services to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness throughout the City of Alexandria. Efforts are made to connect individuals to shelter, housing, healthcare, benefits, behavioral health services, and other critical resources while promoting health and safety in public spaces. While resources, support, and connections are offered, best practice is also to respect the self-determination of individuals who are being engaged.

## 1. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

Unshelted homelessness in the City of Alexandria in the PIT counts include singles in their late 40's/early 50's (with people as young as 27 and others as old as 75) with no income, some mental health conditions with varying degrees of official diagnosis and treatment, having been homeless for 2 years, and about 50% were contemporaneously considered chronically homeless by HUD's definition of chronicity.



## 2. Encampments

Number of current encampments and their general locations as of October 13, 2026:

- 5 Encampments (a makeshift area of tents or other material creating an enclosed area) within the City Of Alexandria:

- Eisenhower (in a wooded area)
- King Street – (in a wooded area),
- Duke Street – (in a wooded area).
- Lake Cook Park – (on trail line).
- Del Ray – (under Monroe and Main Line bridge). Both areas are scheduled to be cleaned on the 23rd of October.

- 10 Public Spaces being utilized (Bench, Bus stop, Metro, Vehicle, Park) but no enclosure of tent or makeshift home in the following locations: Del Ray, Old Town, King Street, West End

- April to October of 2026 there have been 22 Encampments or Public Spaces (Bench, Bus stop, Metro, Vehicle, Park) cleaned up.

- The number of encampments and public-space locations fluctuates from week to week. When an encampment or public space is addressed, individuals may relocate to another area or public space, resulting in changes to the number and location of encampments being monitored.

## 3. Shelter capacity

- 128 Total Year-round Beds
- Singles- 40 beds (37 beds filled; 93% utilization reported on 2026 Housing Inventory Count)
- Families- 88 beds/20 rooms earmarked for families, 100% of them are in use during the most recent HIC.

# 4. Outreach

## When Outreach Is Conducted

Outreach is conducted daily with activities and locations varying based on client needs, referrals, seasonal factors and known areas where individuals experiencing homelessness may be staying. Some days focus on locating individuals identified through referrals, while others focus on the areas where known clients, including individuals on the PATH caseload.

## Approach to Outreach

Outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness is client-centered, trauma-informed, and relationships-based. Outreach staff meet individuals where they are, building trust, and I on I with them to engage them in a listening, and respect each person's autonomy, choices, and readiness for change.

## Who Conducts Outreach

PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness): Provides case management to individuals experiencing homelessness who meet the program's eligibility criteria, including those with serious mental illness (SMI).
- Outreach: Assists individuals experiencing homelessness, connecting them with appropriate community resources, necessities, and supportive services.

## Where Outreach Is Conducted

Outreach is conducted on foot and by vehicle throughout the community in a variety of locations where individuals experiencing homelessness may stay or congregate. Locations are identified through referrals, previous outreach encounters, community reports, and knowledge of areas where individuals may be living.

### Areas commonly visited include:

City parks, wooded areas, secluded encampments, and bridges and along waterfront areas, behind businesses, shopping centers, apartment buildings, instants or around apartment complexes, abandoned buildings, public sidewalks, bus stops, metro stations, libraries and other public spaces, enclosed or less visible areas that may provide temporary shelter



# Actions taken when individuals refuse help:

- DCHS values individual personal choice and self-determination and does not force services on anyone, but staff work hard to ensure everyone is aware of the supportive services within the City and their right to access them to transition out of homelessness.

- When individuals request assistance, the outreach team connects them with the appropriate services, including behavioral health services, church-based meal programs, Neighborhood health, libraries, and other community partners that support their needs and housing goals.

- The PATH Coordinator collaborates with the Alexandra Police Department (APD) during encampment cleanups to promote safety and foster positive relationships with individuals experiencing homelessness. The PATH Coordinator also provides education and training to APD's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) on available homelessness and effective, appropriate approaches to engaging with individuals experiencing homelessness.

### Average number of people engaged per day

- As of October 13, 2026, the average number of clients seen per day is 8.

### Waitlist

- Number of singles and families on the waitlist as of October 20, 2026
- Singles: 101 (76 Men, 24 Women)
- Families- 8 (24 total household members)

### How many of those are currently unhoused

- Approximately 9 are currently street homeless

In general, our unhoused clients do not tend to enter for shelter/vasilist services due to being primarily served by various outreach teams, discomfort in offering personal information during shelter intake, and utilizing the Winter Shelter hypothermoac program during colder months. Therefore, the total number of street homeless individuals served in Alexandra homelessness services is higher than the number presented above.

- In FY2026, there was an average of 104 days spent on the Shelter Waitlist