# EHV Implementation
# Arlington County, VA CoC

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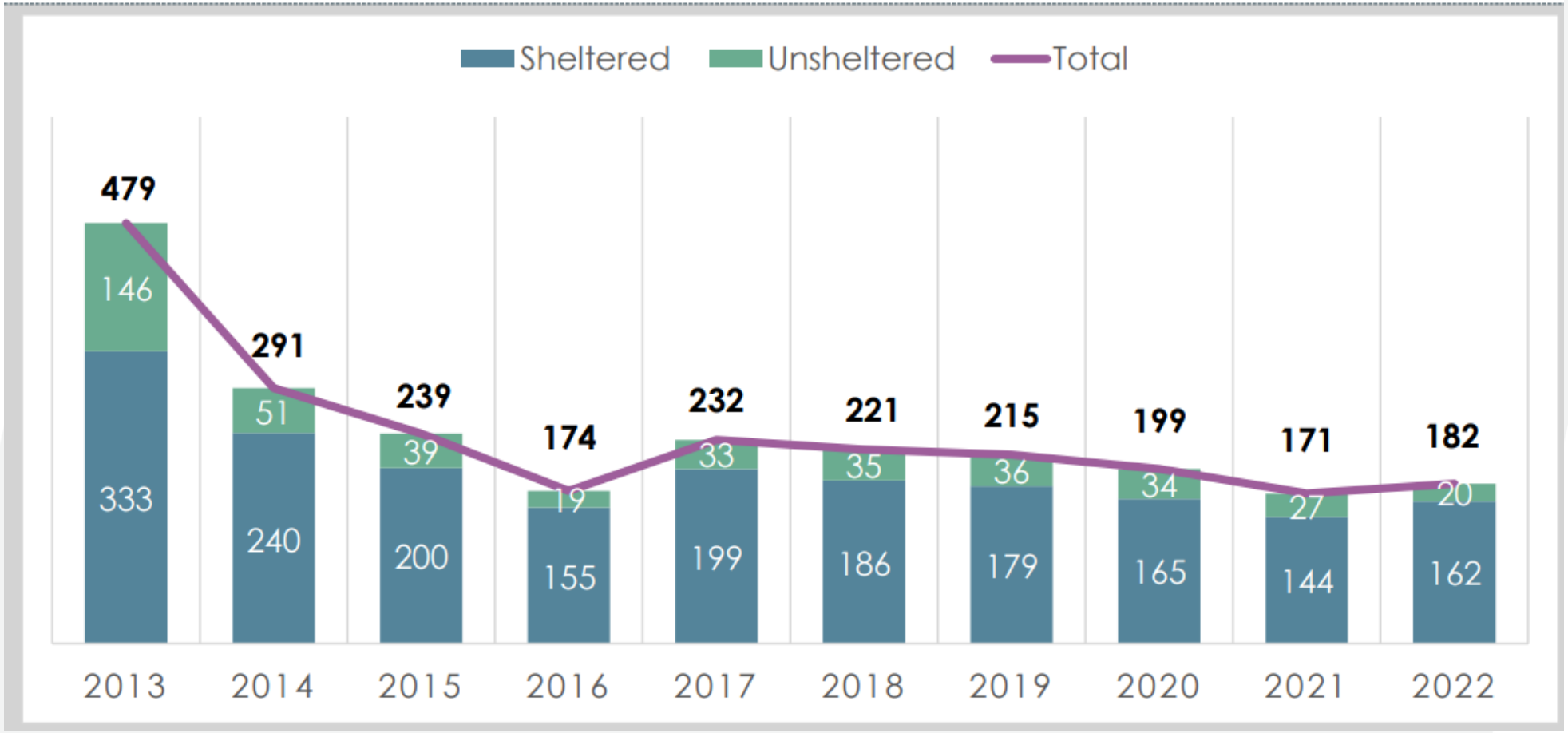
| Size | Population | Median Household Income |
|---|---|---|
| **26** | **236,434** | **$122,604** |
| Square Miles | Persons | 2020 Dollars |

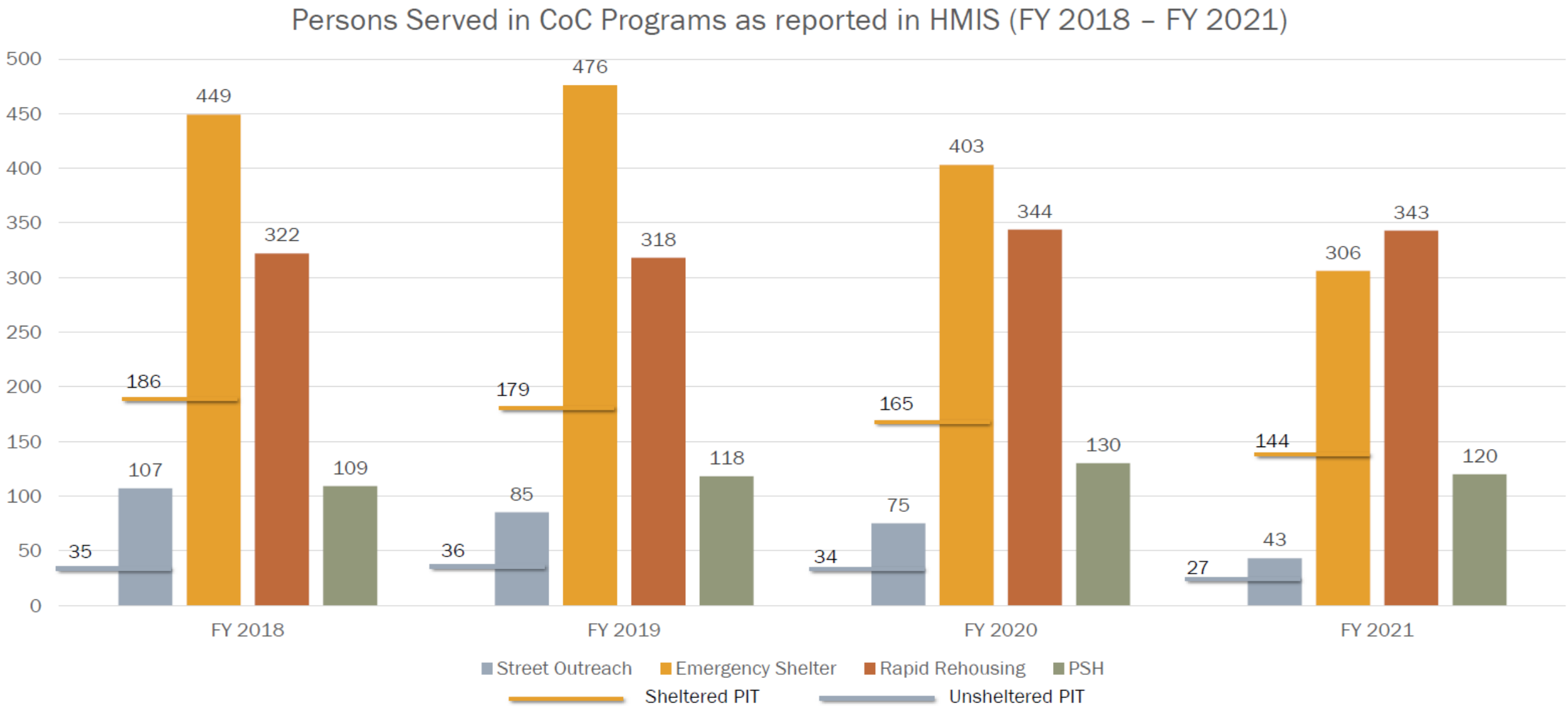
## Average Rents

| Year | Efficiency | One-Bedroom | Two-Bedroom | Three-Bedroom | Total Average Rent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2021 | $1,563 | $1,908 | $2,490 | $3,304 | $2,147 |

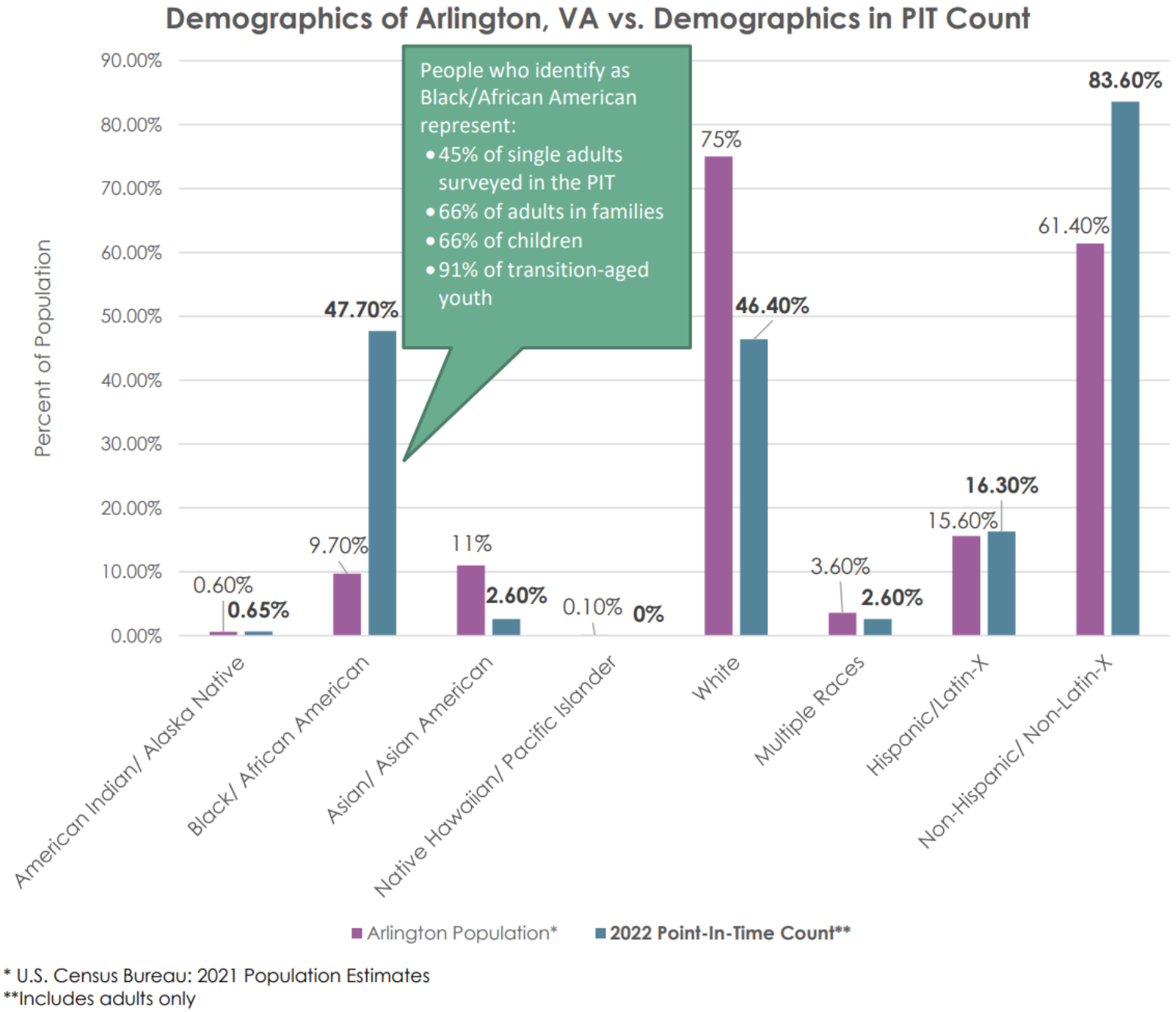
# Homelessness in Arlington, Virginia




https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/DHS/Public-Assistance/Action-Plan-Homelessness/Continuum-Care


Persons Served in CoC Programs as reported in HMIS (FY 2018 – FY 2021)
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
449
322
186
107
109
35
476
318
179
85
118
36
403
344
165
75
130
34
306
343
144
43
120
27
FY 2018
FY 2019
FY 2020
FY 2021
Street Outreach
Emergency Shelter
Rapid Rehousing
PSH
Sheltered PIT
Unsheltered PIT

# Racial Demographics




* U.S. Census Bureau: 2021 Population Estimates
**Includes adults only

# EHV Implementation

1. Reviewed Data & Local Trends
2. Established Goals & Guiding Principles Centering Racial Equity
3. Built on Existing CoC Policies
4. Developed Targeting & Prioritization Policies in Community
5. Established Referral Pathways

# Targeting & Prioritizing Vouchers

## *Establishing Goals & Guiding Principles*

**Identifying potential target groups**

- Maximizing available resources in our community
- Working to connect people with the resource that best meets their needs and goals

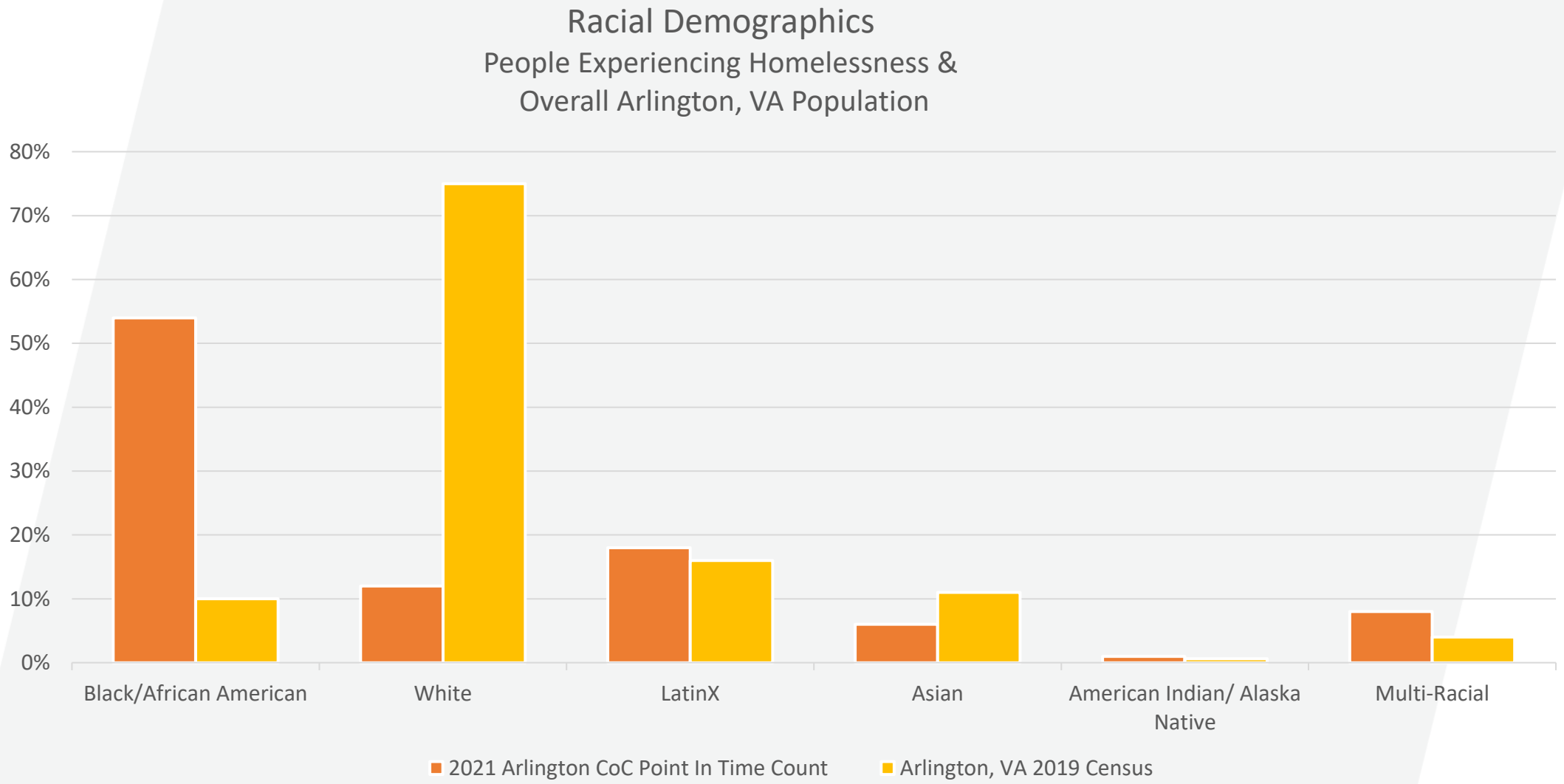
**Prioritizing vouchers by vulnerability**

- Establishing a consistent way to distribute resources when there isn't enough for everyone who needs it

**Ensuring distribution of vouchers promotes racial equity**

- Conducting an analysis of targeting and prioritization schema to ensure disparities are not perpetuated
- Utilize this opportunity to undo some of the harm oppressive housing and social policies have caused to Black, Indigenous and other People of Color

# Commitment to Racial Equity – Starting with the Data



# Final Prioritization & Targeting Policy

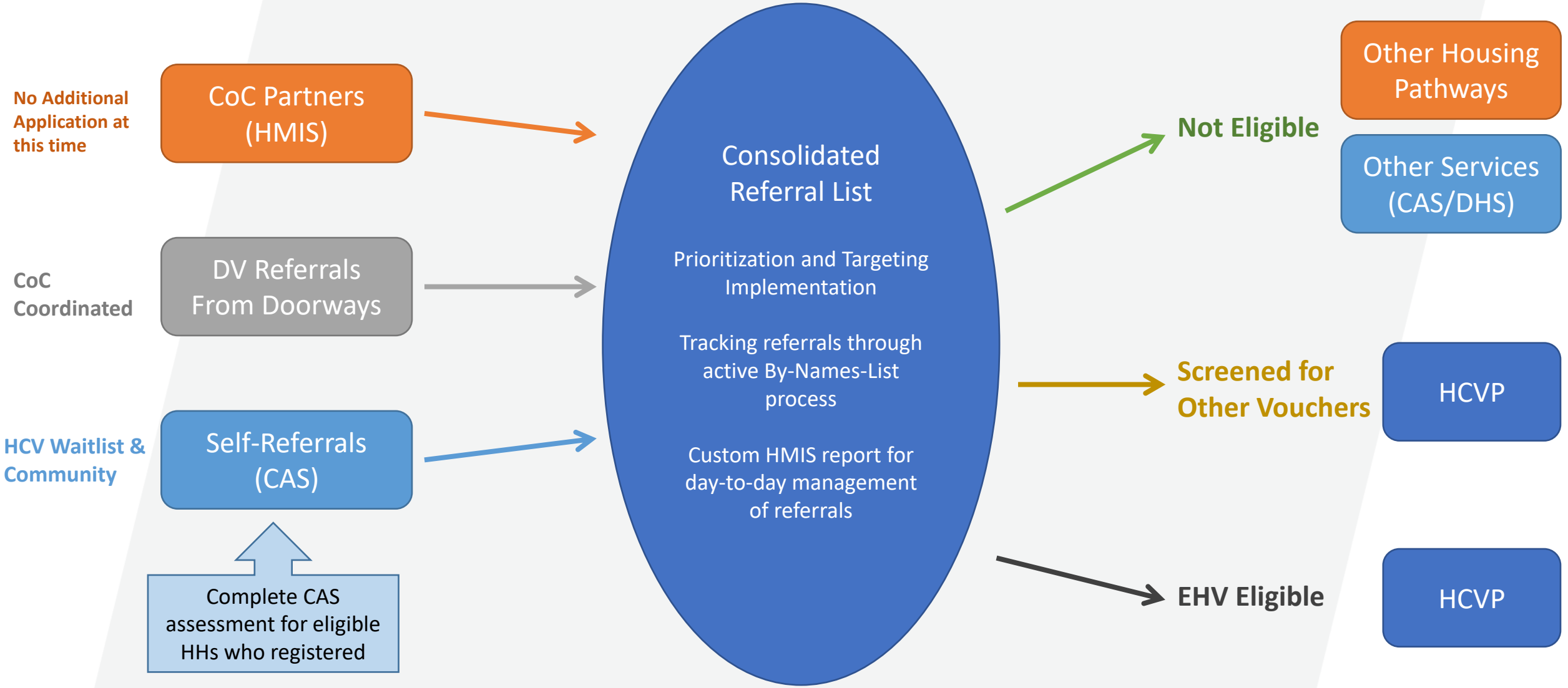
- Throughout implementation, considerations will be assessed for:
  - Effectiveness in identifying and referring households in a timely manner
  - Racial equity impacts
  - Opportunities to access other resources (VASH, FUP, and Mainstream Vouchers)
- Set-aside vouchers
  - Survivors of Domestic Violence (6 vouchers)
    - Prioritized by:
      1. Persons living with a disability
      2. Current experience of DV
      3. Families with children under the age of 12
  - Persons at-risk of homelessness (8 vouchers)
    - Prioritized by:
      1. Persons living with a disability
      2. Current experience of DV
      3. Families with children under the age of 12

# Final Prioritization & Targeting Policy

- Prioritizing remaining 22 EHV vouchers to the following households/groups in this sequence:
  1. Arlington Zero: Veterans and Chronic Homelessness Program
  2. Arlington Zero: Families Program
  3. Arlington Zero: Transition-Aged Youth Program
  4. Arlington Zero: Single Adults Program
  5. Persons enrolled in street outreach and/or emergency shelter.
- Prioritization within groups
  a. Persons living with a disability
  b. Current experience of DV
  c. Families with children under the age of 12

Arlington Zero refers to HMIS By-Names-List

# Referral Pathways



# Leveraged Resources & Community Strengths

- Local and State Rapid Rehousing (for services)
  - Housing Search Assistance
  - Stabilization Services
- Mainstream Vouchers – HCVP
  - People with disabilities, under age 62 and experiencing homelessness
- By-Names-List Protocols
  - Collaborative case conferencing for prioritization and coordination of referrals, EHV documentation support and housing search
- HMIS
  - Strong data quality and completed HUD Assessments used for HCVP applications
  - Custom-built report to consolidate referral groups for a master prioritization list
- Local Client Assistance Funds
  - Example: Supplementing services with in-home health care
- Emergency Rental Assistance through State's Rent Relief Portal
  - Concurrent efforts to support RRH participants struggling to maintain rent

# Critical Partnerships

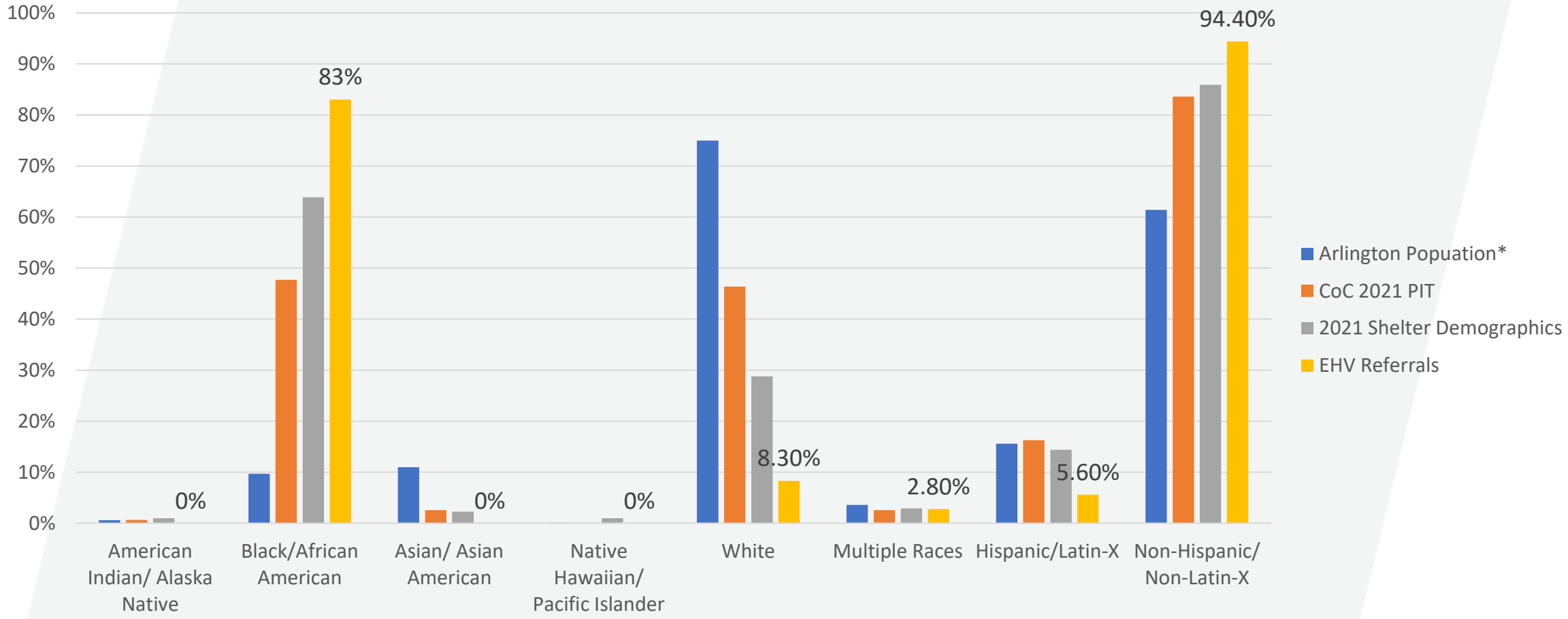
- Housing Choice Voucher Program Director & Staff
- Non-Profit Homeless Services Staff
- Street Outreach Teams
- Behavioral Health
- Housing Locator & Landlords

# Challenges & Strategies

- Associated risks and challenges based on prioritizing highly vulnerable households (housing ambivalence, transience, hospitalization, etc.)
  - Utilized street outreach teams and behavioral health teams to engage people in the community and sleeping outdoors
  - Collaboration with Community Assistance Bureau and Centralized Access System
  - Extended 'holds' for voucher slots linked to pending referrals
  - Case managers assisting with documentation
- "Self-referred" households not connected to community supports struggling with housing location
  - Voucher Briefing meetings included information about looking for housing in Arlington and CoC Housing Locator contact information
  - Utilized extensions for the housing search process and made more direct referrals to the Housing Locator for assistance
- Including people with lived experience of homelessness in planning processes
  - Utilizing ARPA funding distributed to non-profits to compensate people with lived experience who are participating in organization and systems planning and policy work
  - Adding CoC staffing capacity to embed racial equity and engagement of people with lived experience
  - Establishing ad-hoc focus groups for targeted opportunities

# Impacts

- As of July – 20 of 36 vouchers are leased up and 4 other households are finalizing their leasing/move in (67%)
- Representation of referrals based on the prioritization policy reflects demographic breakdowns within the CoC




*U.S. Census 2021 Population Estimates