



Update on Veteran and Inside (Not Outside)

PRESENTED TO THE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERAGENCY
COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS

FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Goal:

- Create a homeless services system which provides permanent housing for Veterans and chronically homeless individuals and which operates at “Functional Zero.”

Core Values:

- Use a “Housing First” model to rapidly connect individuals and families with permanent housing with preconditions such as sobriety or treatment compliance, and then providing support services as necessary to keep people housed.
- Make decisions about resource allocation and housing placements based on data. This data-driven approach allow for the identification of Veterans who are homeless and chronically homeless individuals and families across multiple service systems, and matching the housing placement to the specific needs of each of the clients.

The Goal and Core Values

“Functional Zero” concept for the Zero:2016 Veterans homelessness campaign

The standard established by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) for Veterans homelessness is that the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness will be no greater than the current monthly housing placement rate for Veterans experiencing homelessness; the formula used in the County’s effort has been:

- **Functional Zero = Number of Homeless Veterans \leq Veteran Monthly Housing Placement Average**



For Montgomery County, the Functional Zero number was determined to be six or fewer Veterans who are homeless each month.

Current Status of the Veterans Effort



Montgomery County achieved functional zero for Veterans experiencing homelessness as of the end of December 2015 and has remained at or close to the sustaining level from 2016 to the present. Since the beginning of the effort, 144 Veterans have moved from homelessness into permanent housing.



The County's effort has been recognized by both the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Zero:2016 Campaign. The County is one of only 10 communities to be recognized by both entities for effectively ending Veteran homelessness

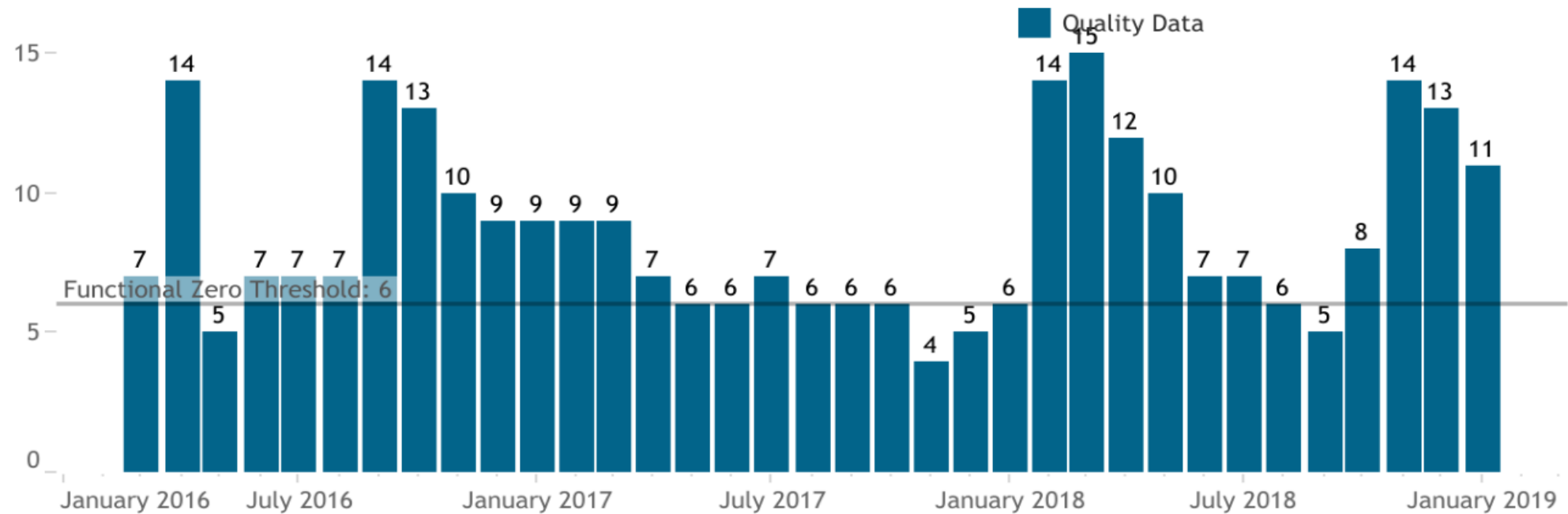


The focus on ending Veteran homelessness was an extension of a system-wide embrace of the Housing First Model as well as a multi-year push to prioritize Veterans for housing.

Veteran Functional Zero Status from 2016-Present

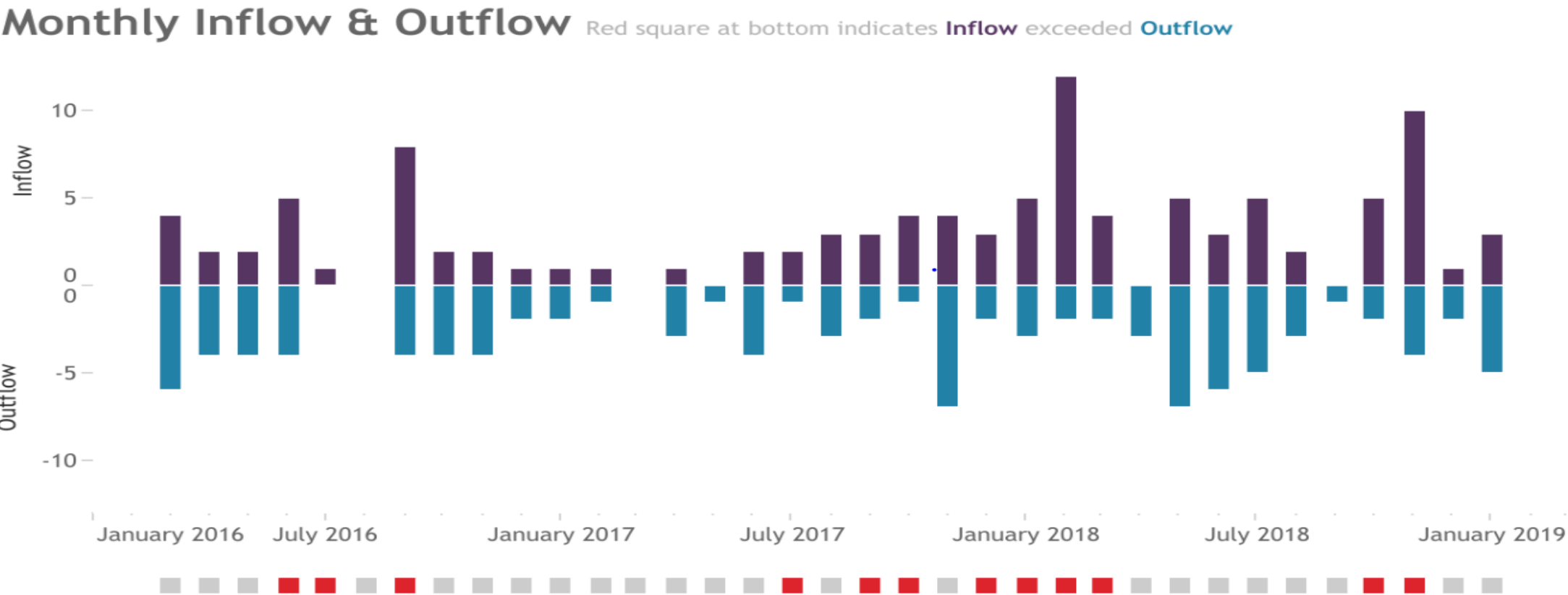
The chart below tracks the number of Veterans who were homeless in Montgomery County at the end of each month from January 2016 to January 2019.

Actively Homeless Population Monthly count for Veteran subpopulation(s)



Measurement of Client Inflow and Outflow in a Sustainable System

The chart below tracks the number of Veterans newly becoming homeless in Montgomery County and the number of Veterans exiting homelessness into permanent housing.



Shifting the Focus to Chronically Homeless Individuals

Through the work done to successfully reach the goal of the Zero:2016 Veterans effort, the providers and County staff created a strong infrastructure to identify, prioritize, and quickly house Veterans who were homelessness.



With this increased organizational capacity, and based on lessons learned during the Zero:2016 effort, the Community established the Inside (Not Outside) campaign to focus on a much larger homeless population – those who met the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of Chronically Homeless.



Inside (Not Outside) officially kicked off in 2016; approximately 300 individuals in the County were thought to meet the chronic homeless definition at that time.

Meeting the Definition for Chronic Homelessness Individuals

An individual or Head of Household meets HUD's definition of Chronically Homeless when they -

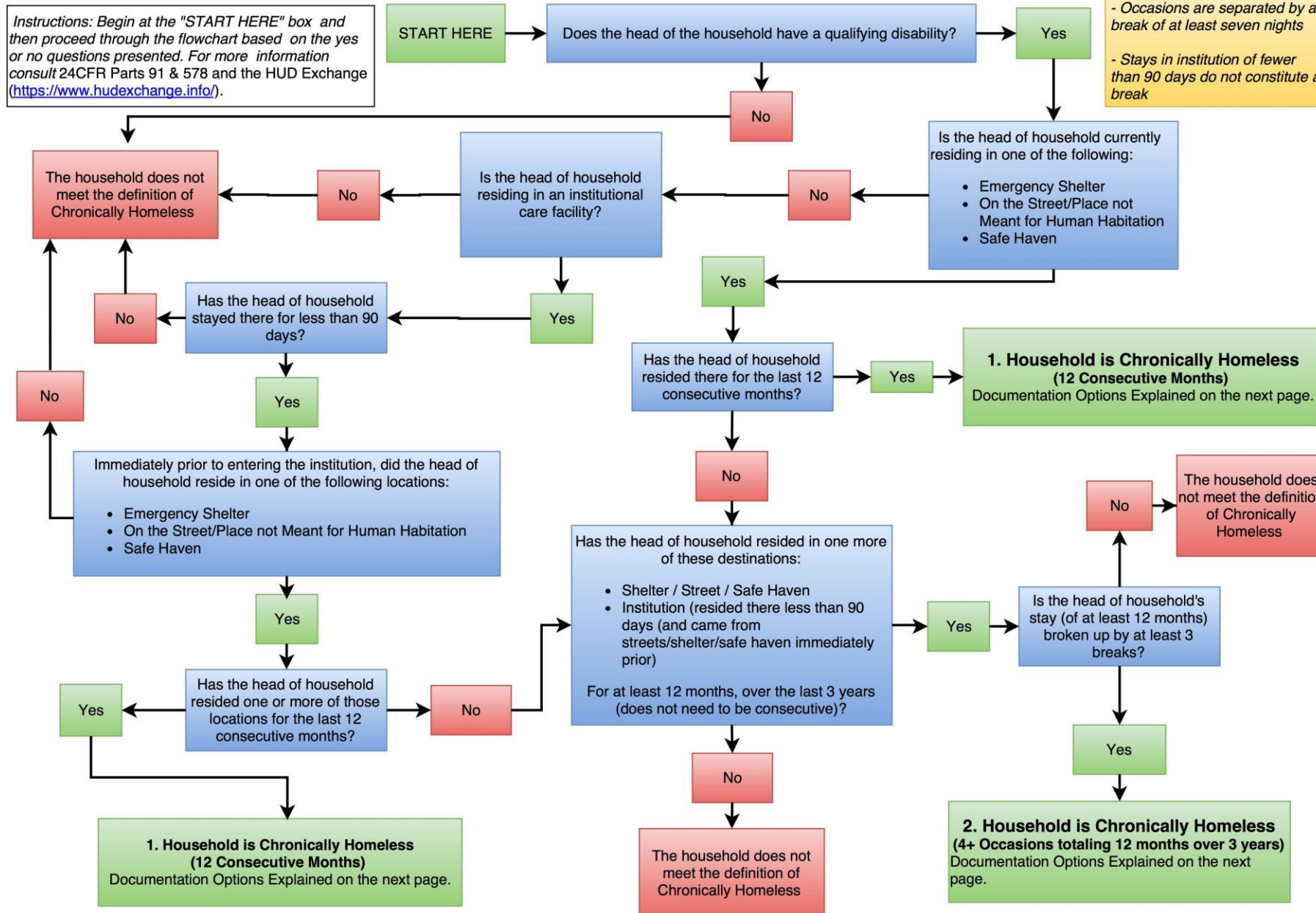
1. Have a disability, and
2. Live on the streets, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; or
3. Live in an institutional care for fewer than 90 days and immediately beforehand have been living on the streets, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
4. Have been homeless continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions (7+ days) in the last 3 years where the combined occasions must total at least 12 months.

Flowchart of HUD's Definition of Chronic Homelessness

Instructions: Begin at the "START HERE" box and then proceed through the flowchart based on the yes or no questions presented. For more information consult 24CFR Parts 91 & 578 and the HUD Exchange (<https://www.hudexchange.info/>).

Remember:

- Occasions are separated by a break of at least seven nights
- Stays in institution of fewer than 90 days do not constitute a break



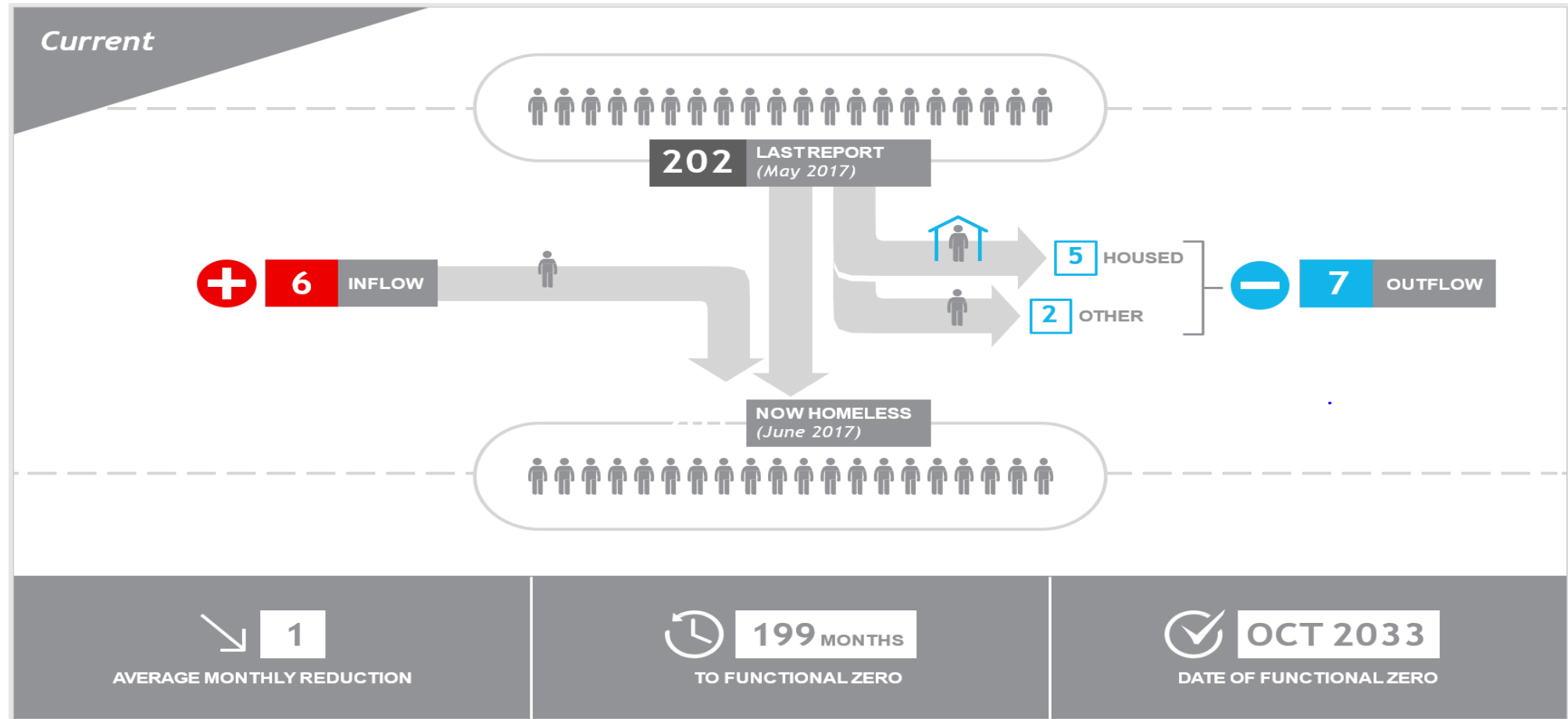
“Functional Zero” concept for the Inside (Not Outside) campaign on chronic homelessness

Unlike the Federal goal on Veterans homelessness, which tied a communities target for Functional Zero to a calculation of the inflow over time, the Federal goal on chronic homelessness is a set number.

Per directive from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), for Montgomery County to effectively end chronic homelessness, there should be ***no more than three unhoused*** chronically homeless individuals or families in the County at any time.

Nationally, the push to end chronic homelessness started almost a decade ago. To date, only three communities have been able to effectively end chronic homelessness; Lancaster PA, Rockford IL, and Bergen County NJ.

Estimated of Timeline to Achieve Goal on Chronic Homelessness with then-existing resources (mid-2017)



New Program Initiatives/Capacity added during the the Inside (Not Outside) campaign



New Outreach Coordinator staff position and increased outreach provider capacity to better connect and engage with individuals staying outside

New Housing Location staff position to create new relationships with Landlords/Property Management Companies, and strengthen and expand existing partnerships

New Coordinated Entry and HMIS staff position added, which improved the efficiency of the by-name list process and Coordinated Entry meeting structure

Implementation of an Acuity Scale to better match client's ongoing service needs with the appropriate level of supportive services provide.

Expanded funding and provider contracts for permanent housing programs, particularly the HIP Expansion program

New Program Initiatives/Capacity added during the the Inside (Not Outside) campaign (cont.)



Stronger partnership with the Housing Opportunities Commission, especially with the **Move-Up initiative**

Expanded the Furniture program for persons moving into unfurnished permanent housing units

Medicaid Waiver-maximize the use of Medicaid funding for housing support services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness or returning to homelessness from long-term institutionalization.

Developed a new **“Return to Homelessness”** and **“PSH to PSH transfer”** policy

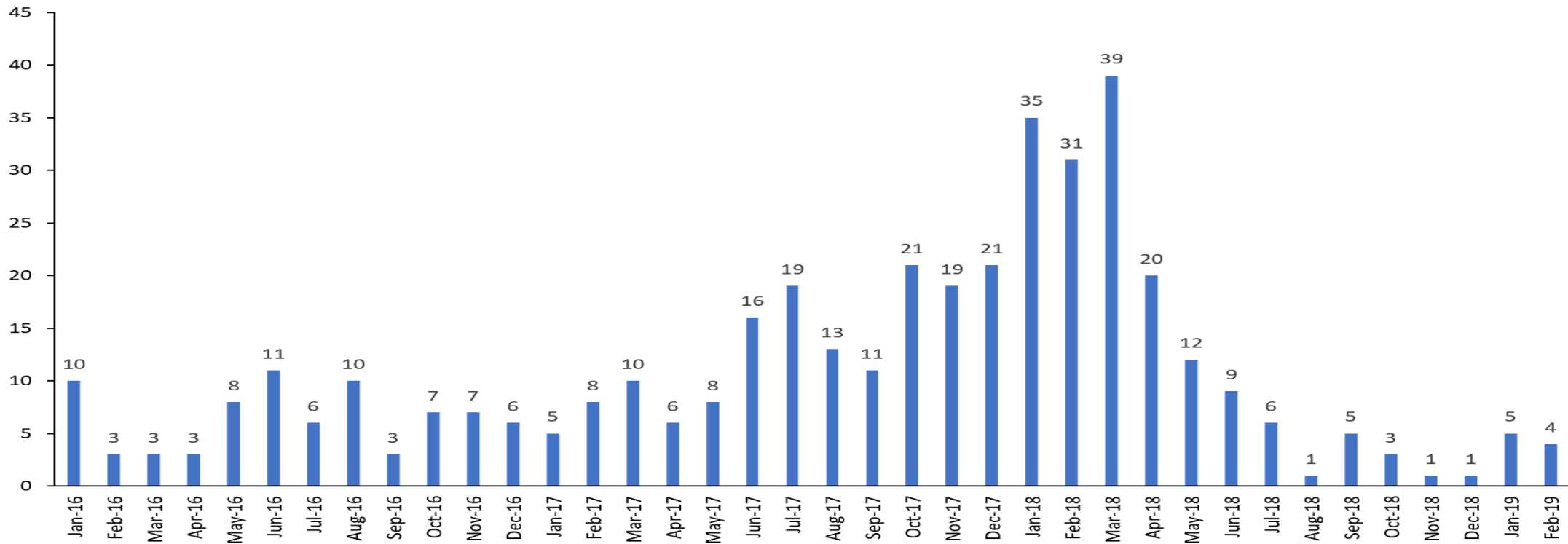
Additional program resources resulted in increased capacity of existing service providers and new providers working within the Continuum

New Housing
Resources Put in Place
since 2017-2018 to
Meet the Gap for
Housing Placements for
Chronically Homeless
Individuals

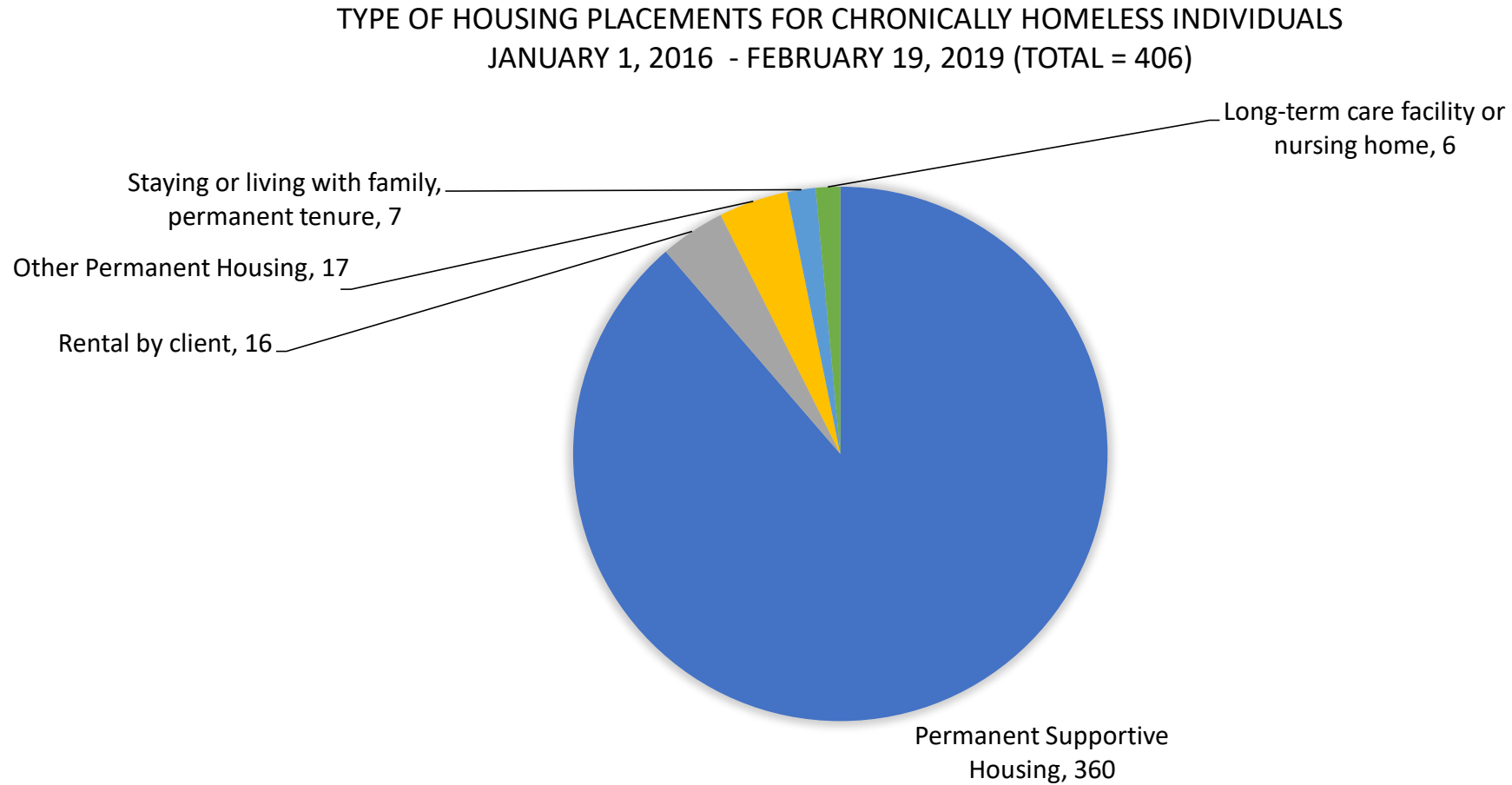
AGENCY / PROGRAM
HOC – Expansion of the McKinney Program
HOC – New vouchers set aside to assist on the “Move-Up” effort
DHCA – New resources to assist on the “Move-Up” effort
Housing Unlimited additional placements
Montgomery Housing Partnership additional placements
HHS – Dedication of Recordation Tax resources to create new PSH slots
HHS – New PSH slots through resource reallocation
IW PLQ – Added new PSH slots

Number of Housing Placements for Chronically Homeless Individuals

Housing Placements by Month for All Chronically Homeless Clients
January 1, 2016 - February 19, 2019 (Total = 406)



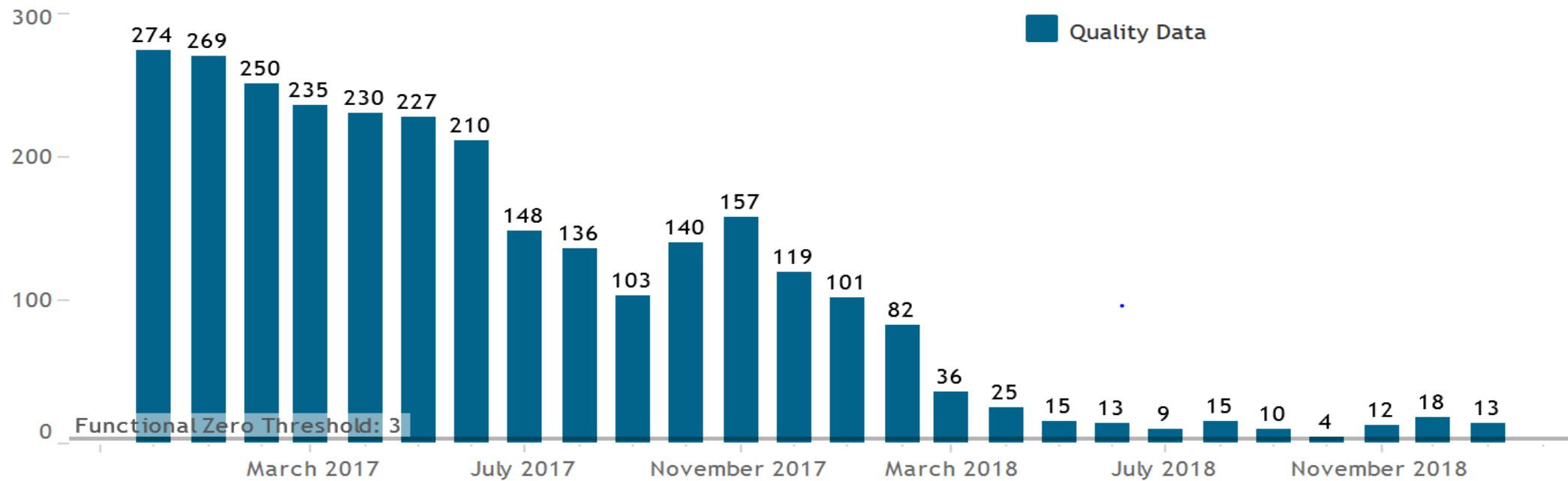
Types of Permanent Housing Placements for Chronically Homeless Individuals



Current Number of Chronically Homeless Persons Remaining on the List to be Housed

The chart below tracks the number of Chronically Homeless individuals in the County at the end of each month from January 2016 to January 2019.

Actively Homeless Population Monthly count for Chronic subpopulation(s)



Measuring the Vulnerability Individuals Who are Homeless

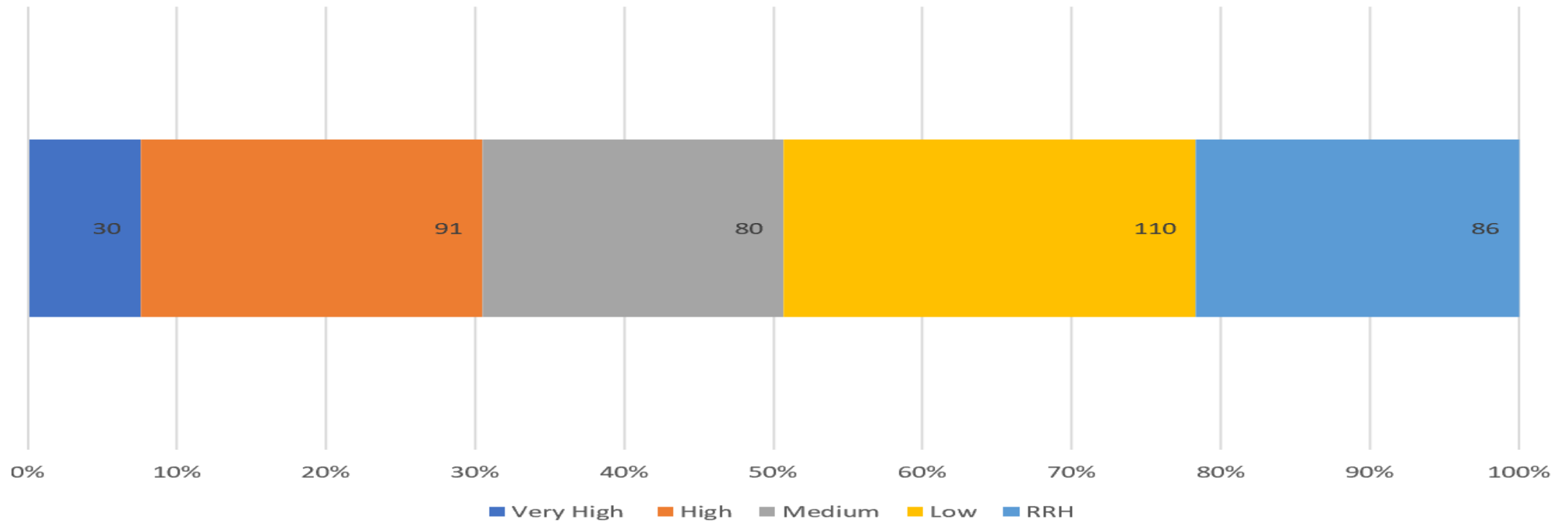
In 2015, the County officially adopted two measurement tools – the “Vulnerability Index–Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool” (VI-SPDAT) and the “Full Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool” (SPDAT).

The VI-SPDAT and full SPDAT are administered by provider staff and clients are given a score that represents their expected service needs for Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing. The scoring and priority levels are as follows:

- Very High (Priority 1) – VI-SPDAT 16+ or SPDAT 50+
- High (Priority 2) – VI-SPDAT 14-15 or SPDAT 45-49
- Medium (Priority 3) – VI-SPDAT 13 or SPDAT 40-44
- Low (Priority 4) – VI-SPDAT 9-12 or SPDAT 38-39
- Rapid Rehousing – VI-SPDAT 4-8 or SPDAT 20-37

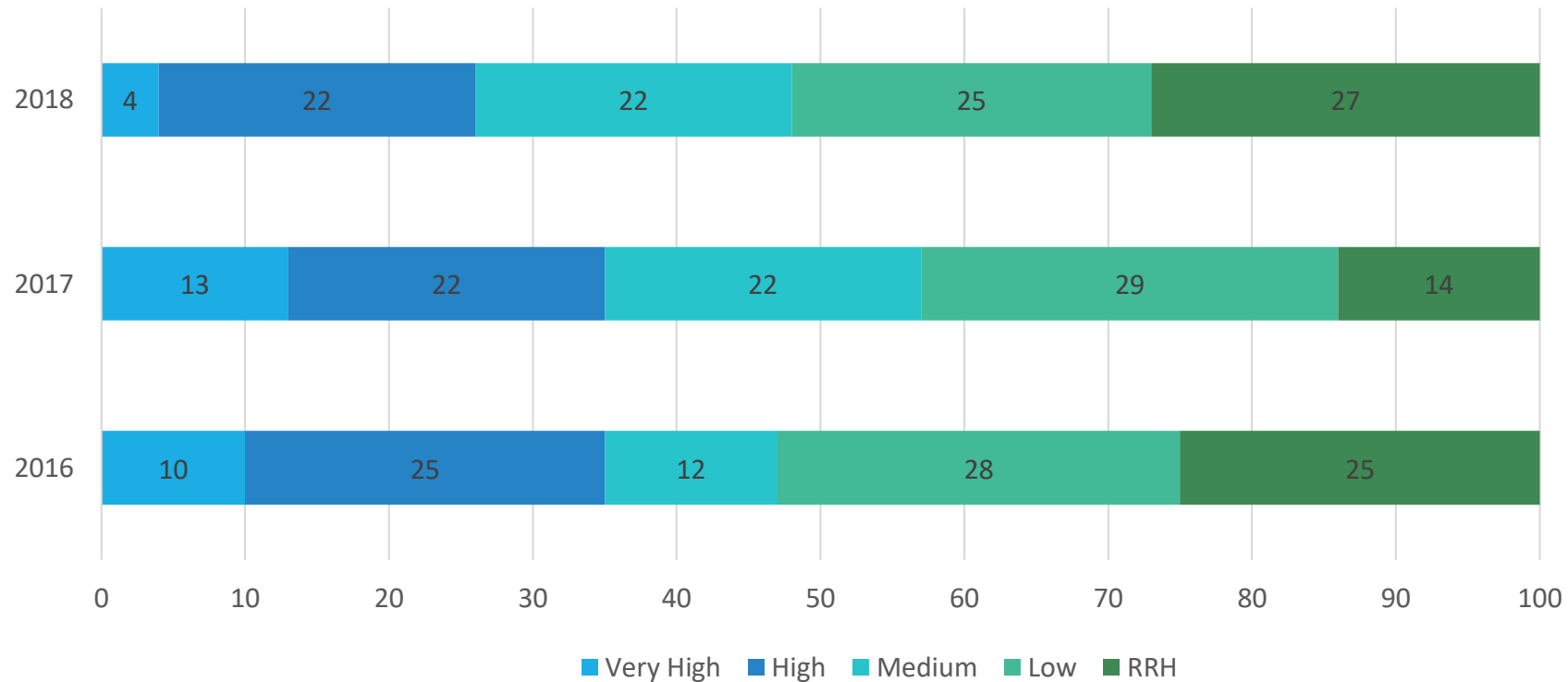
Vulnerability Levels for Chronically Homeless Persons Housed, Total

The chart below tracks the Priority Level/Acuity of Need
of All Chronically Homeless Clients
Housed January 1, 2016 - February 19, 2019 (Total = 406)

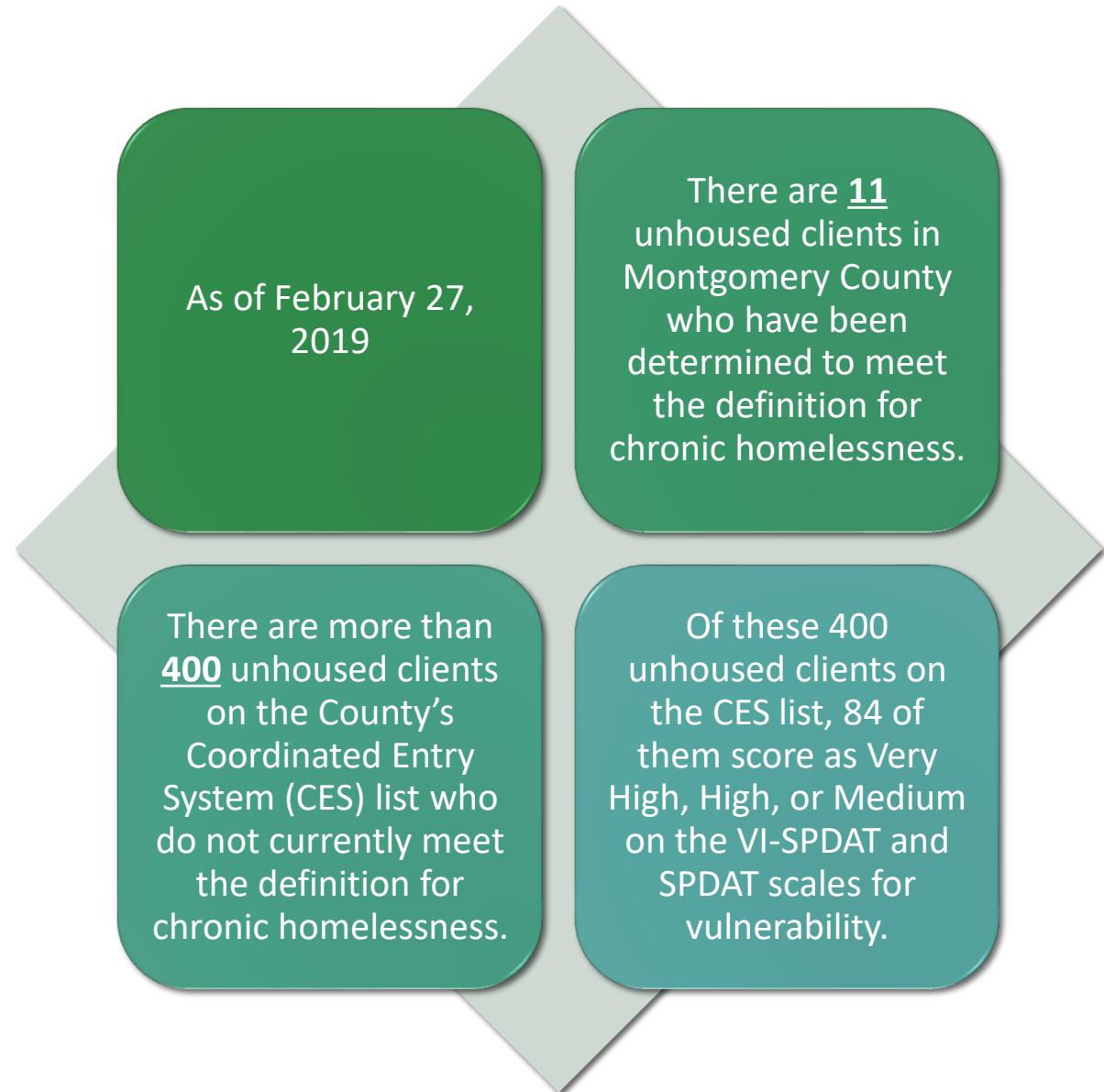


Vulnerability Levels for Chronically Homeless Persons Housed, Percentages by Years for 2016, 2017, 2018

The chart below tracks the percentage, by Priority Level, of All Chronically Homeless Clients Housed in 2016, 2017, and 2018



Vulnerability Levels of Clients Currently Being Served in the County's Homeless Continuum of Care



Reassessing the County's Goal on Chronic Homelessness



The goal in the County has always been to provide permanent supportive housing placements for the homeless persons who are most at-risk while staying on the streets or in temporary shelter.



When the Inside (Not Outside) effort began, the focus on persons meeting the HUD chronic definition was viewed as the most direct way to connect permanent supportive housing placements for the most at-risk.

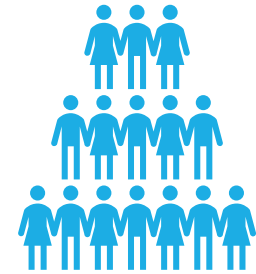


Three years into this effort, with almost all of the persons meeting the chronic definition now permanently housed, it seems an appropriate time to reconsider the prioritization system to ensure that the most at-risk persons are identified for the permanent supportive housing placements.

Measuring Success for the Inside (Not Outside) campaign



Over the past ten months (May 2018-February 2019), the average number of unhoused chronically homeless clients on the County's list has been 12.



The data over the past three years of the effort indicates that a sustainable system has been established, where the inflow of chronically homeless persons has been matched by the rate of placements



UNDER THE CURRENT PROTOCOL, CLIENTS WHO MEET THE DEFINITION FOR CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS HAVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR ALL PERMANENT HOUSING PLACEMENTS.

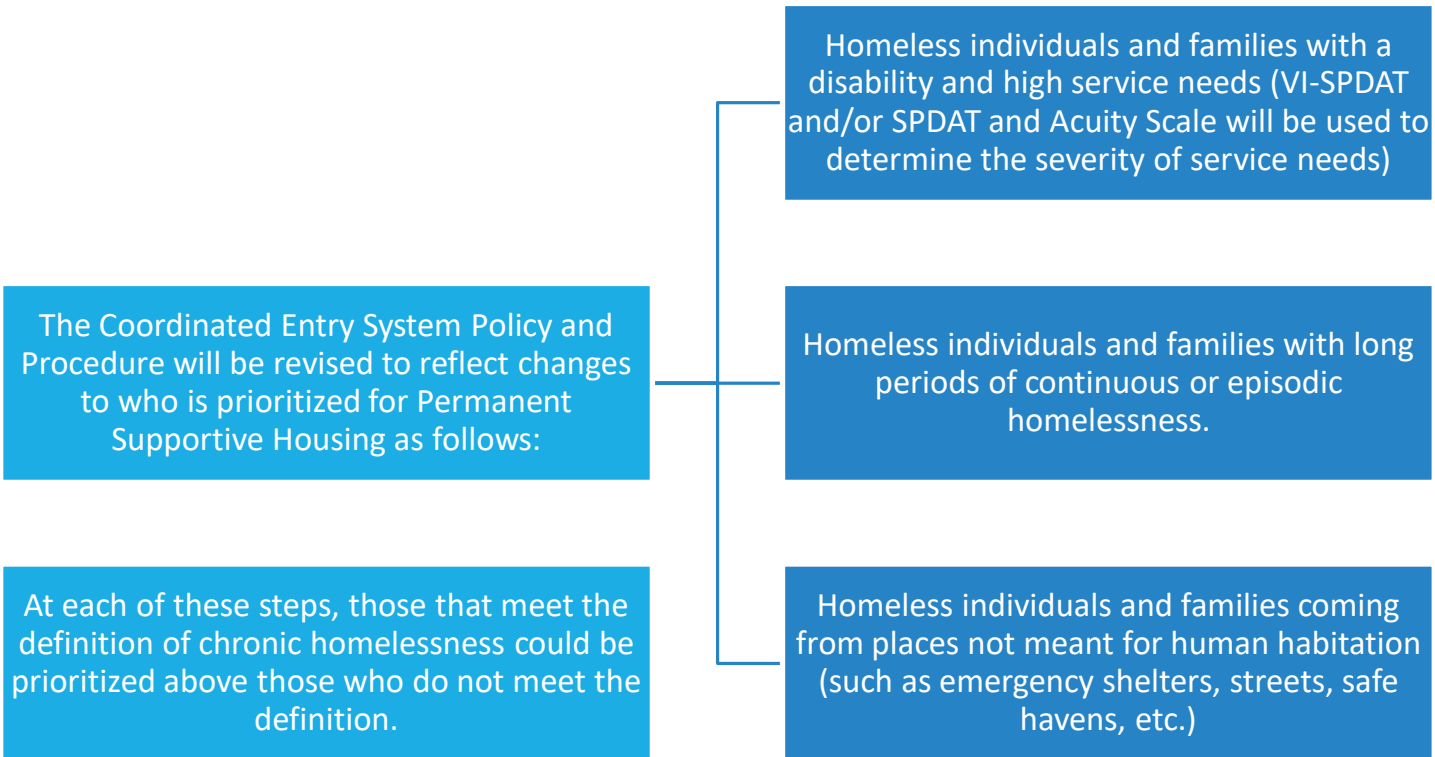


IT IS ONLY AT THE FIFTH STEP OF THE PROTOCOL THAT THE MOST SEVERE SERVICE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT MEET THE CHRONIC DEFINITION ARE PRIORITIZED.



IN PRACTICE, A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF NON-CHRONIC CLIENTS ARE IDENTIFIED FOR PERMANENT HOUSING PLACEMENTS .

Updating the County's Prioritization Standards



Proposed New Prioritization Policy