

# Working Together to Effectively End Homelessness in Florida

Dr. Susan Pourciau, FHC Statewide Homeless Training and Technical Assistance Director

For the past two years, thanks to support from the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the Florida Housing Coalition has provided training and technical assistance in best practices to end homelessness. Our work includes on-site technical assistance in local communities, webinars, workshops, trainings, homeless Continuum of Care conference calls, and direct assistance via email and telephone. This work has engaged hundreds of people from dozens of communities.

Florida is making progress. Based on annual Point-in-Time Counts, the number of people who were homeless in Florida has decreased 40% in the last five years. However, as of 2016, Florida continued to rank third highest in the nation in terms of homelessness, with more than 33,000 people experiencing homelessness in Florida on a given day. While we are moving in the right direction, it is clear that Florida can work better and smarter to reduce homelessness.

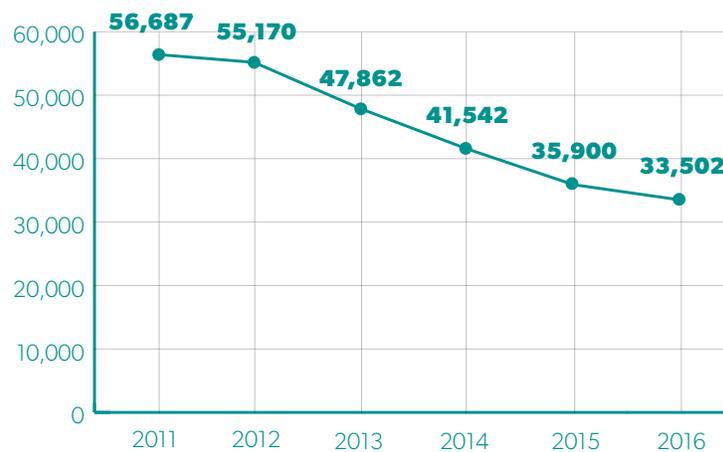
We have learned that Florida communities want to use best practice and the most efficient and effective means to address homelessness. For instance, there is substantial evidence that “rapid re-housing” with short-term financial assistance and services, is the most efficient and effective means of

helping the vast majority of individuals and families move out of homelessness quickly and successfully, when compared to transitional housing programs and service-intensive emergency shelters. The evidence is also very clear that

“permanent supportive housing” with long-term rent assistance and services, is the most efficient and effective way to help those who are chronically homeless and living with a disabling condition.

The good news is that another lesson learned is that so many Florida communities are seeking

solutions and answers, creating new collaborations, and willing to do the work that is required to meet the challenges ahead. During trainings, webinars, and site visits, stakeholders learned about best practices, coordinated entry,



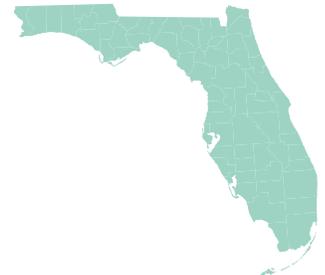
**TOTAL HOMELESSNESS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA**



targeting housing interventions, and increasing the stock of affordable housing for people who are moving out of homelessness.

As the Florida Housing Coalition's homelessness training and technical assistance

moves forward, stakeholders come together to learn more about best practice, share their own experiences and resources, and develop practical strategies to implement solid local systems and housing solutions. **HNN**



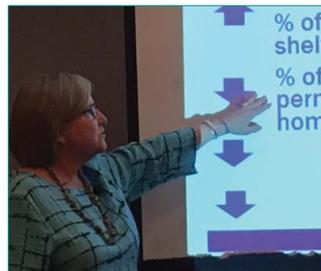
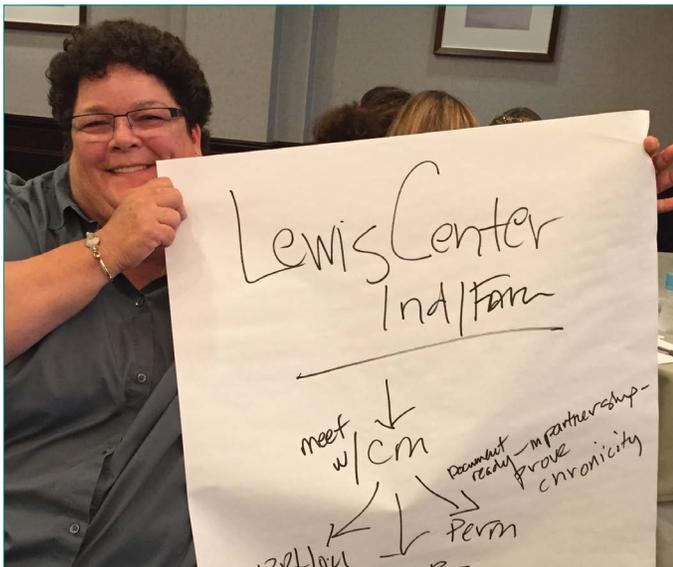
## PARTICIPATION ACROSS FLORIDA

Work sponsored by DEO offered assistance in these counties and attracted participation by surrounding counties:

- Alachua
- Bay
- Brevard
- Broward
- Citrus
- Duval
- Escambia
- Highlands
- Hillsborough
- Leon
- Manatee
- Marion
- Miami-Dade
- Nassau
- Okaloosa
- Orange
- Palm Beach
- Pinellas
- Polk
- Sarasota
- St. Johns
- Volusia

### DEO-Sponsored Training was Offered on These Topics:

- Effective Rapid Re-Housing
- Building Organizational Capacity
- Effective Emergency and Crisis Sheltering
- Successful Applications for HUD CoC Funding
- Emergency Solutions Grant Funding
- Fair Housing and Criminal Records
- Collaborating with Landlords for Housing
- Introduction to Florida Housing Finance Corporation Funding
- Weaving Housing First into Continuum of Care Systems
- Applying for the Homeless Housing Assistance Loan
- Best Practices in Continuum of Care Governance
- Collaboration between CoCs, DCF, and Managing Entities
- Working with Public Housing Authorities to End Homelessness
- Effectively Addressing Chronic Homelessness
- Working with Local Governments to End Homelessness
- Effective Permanent Supportive Housing
- Implementing Housing First Locally
- Avoiding Family Separation and Ensuring Equal Access in Programs



SUSAN POURCIAU

**Susan Pourciau** is the Director of Homeless Training and Technical Assistance for the Florida Housing Coalition. Susan's areas of expertise include housing first, Continuum of Care (CoC) governance, homeless system design, data analysis, rapid rehousing, CoC funding, and permanent supportive housing. Prior to joining the Florida Housing Coalition, Dr. Pourciau was the Executive Director of several human services nonprofit organizations and was on the faculty of Florida State University. Susan has a doctorate in Accounting and a law degree from Duke University.