



State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Economic & Housing Stability
Bureau of Housing Supports
Presented to House Finance Division III
February 23, 2021
Chris Santaniello

Agenda

- Contact Information
- Overview of Division/Bureau
- Key Programs / Services
- Population Served
- Delivery System
- Accomplishments and Key Challenges
- Workload Benchmarks
- Financial Summary



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Bureau of Housing Supports Mission

To end homelessness in NH through a collaborative approach to ensure that all people experiencing homelessness obtain permanent housing and self-sufficiency.



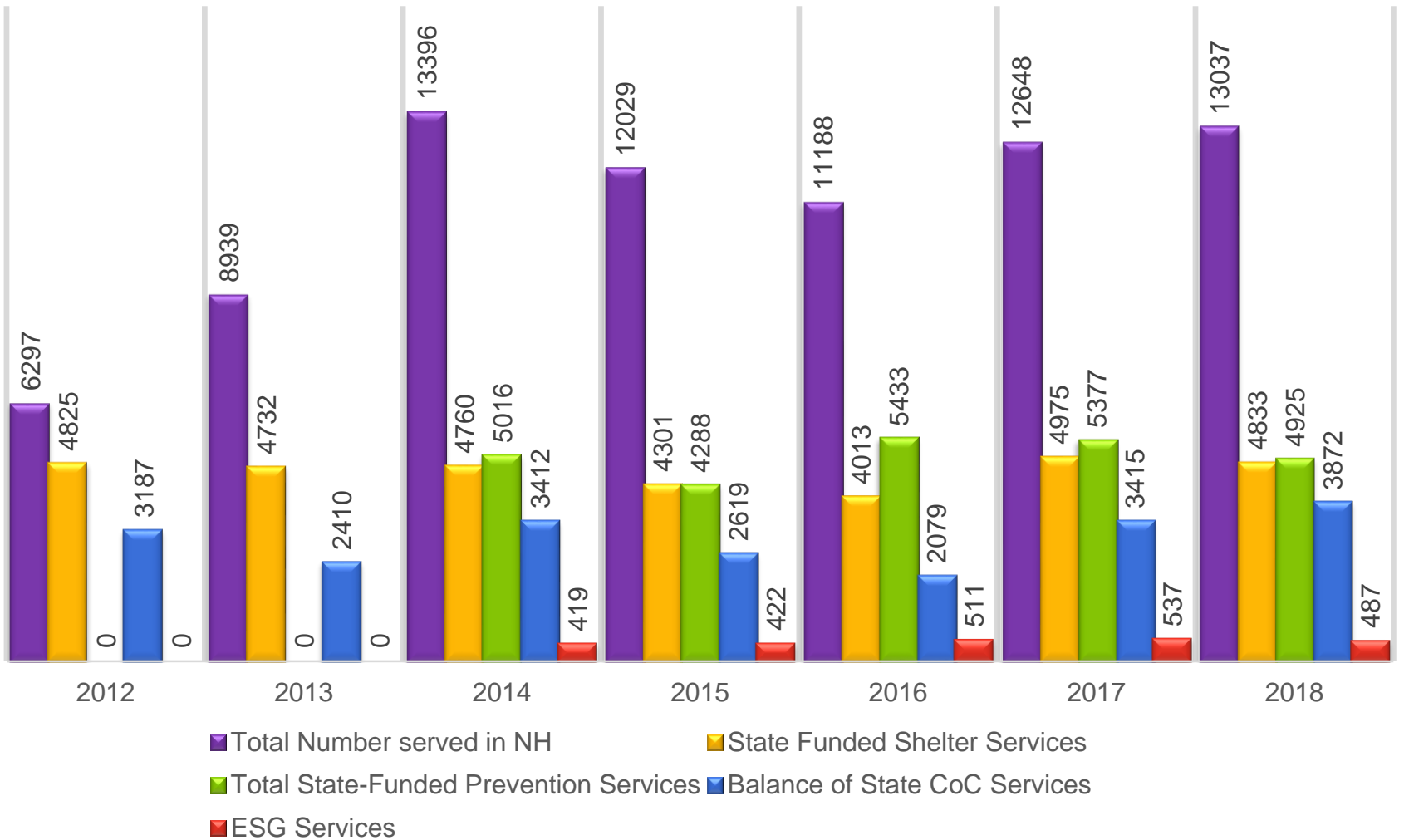
Overview – Bureau of Housing Supports (BHS)

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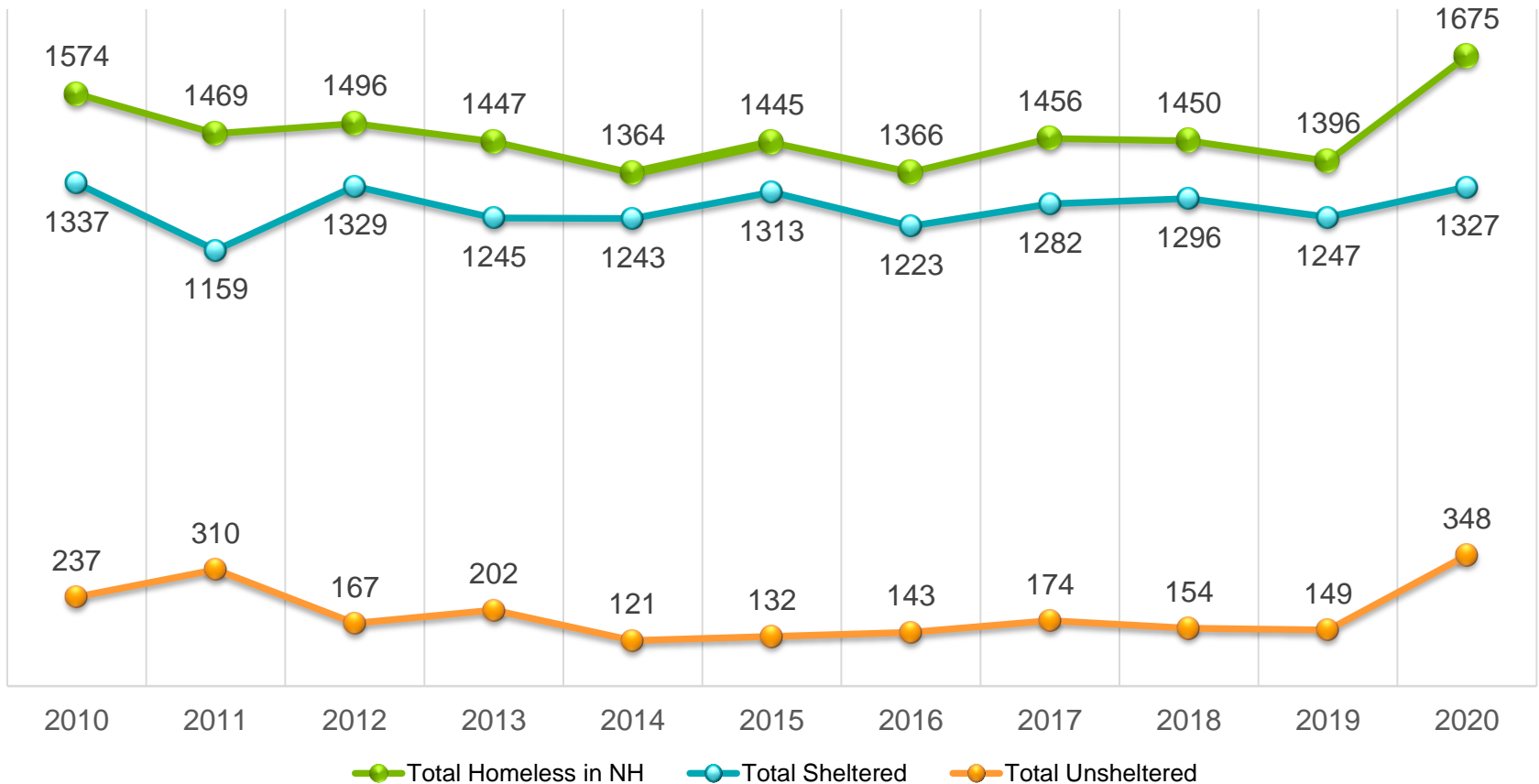
- Assists people who are experiencing housing instability or homelessness to access housing, shelter, and/ or other services to assist in achieving or maintaining housing stability and independence.
- Provide short and medium term rental assistance and Permanent Supportive Housing to individuals, youth, and/ or families, along with supportive services to maintain housing stability.
- Provide outreach services to those who are considered “hard to reach,” such as those residing on the streets, or other places not meant for human habitation to increase their transitions to housing stability.
- Provide intensive case management services to connect individuals and families to appropriate services including medical and mental health care, TANF/SNAP benefits, SSI/SSDI, and any other services necessary.



BHS Summary Of Individuals Served



Annual Point in Time Counts (APTTC)



*APTTC are conducted in January of each calendar year

*2017 was the baseline year to count youth who were experiencing homelessness according to HUD



Bureau of Housing Supports Programs

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

Balance of state Continuum of Care works collaboratively with HUDS funded projects throughout NH

Continuum of Care funded projects provide Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and Coordinated Entry outreach.

Emergency Solutions Grant provides Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing to homeless or at-risk households

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) provides short and long term rental assistance and supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness who have a diagnosis of HIV or AIDS.

Emergency Shelters (ES)

ES provides temporary shelter (non-permanent) designed to meet the basic needs of individuals and families who have no other housing options and who would otherwise be sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation.

ES ensure the basic needs of each individual are met. At a minimum including a safe, protective, and sanitary environment as described in RSA 126-A:26

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

Projects for Assistance in Transitioning from Homelessness (PATH) street outreach for people with serious mental illness (SMI) experiencing homelessness.

NH receives the small state minimum of \$300,000 per year for the entire state. PATH has been level funded since NH first received the funding in the 1990s.

PATH services are provided by 6 CMHCs and the Tri-County Community Action Program.





HUD and Continuum of Care (CoC)

The CoC Program is designed to assist individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families experiencing homelessness and to provide the services needed to help such individuals move into transitional and permanent housing, with the goal of long-term stability.

NH has 3 CoC:

- Greater Nashua- Harbor Homes
- Manchester- Families in Transition (FIT)
- Balance of State- Bureau of Housing Supports (BHS)

HUD contracts directly with the CoC to:

- Promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness;
- Improve coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness; improve data collection and performance measurement; and
- Allow each community to tailor its program to the particular strengths and challenges within that community.
- Funds and programs cannot cross CoC with CoC funding.

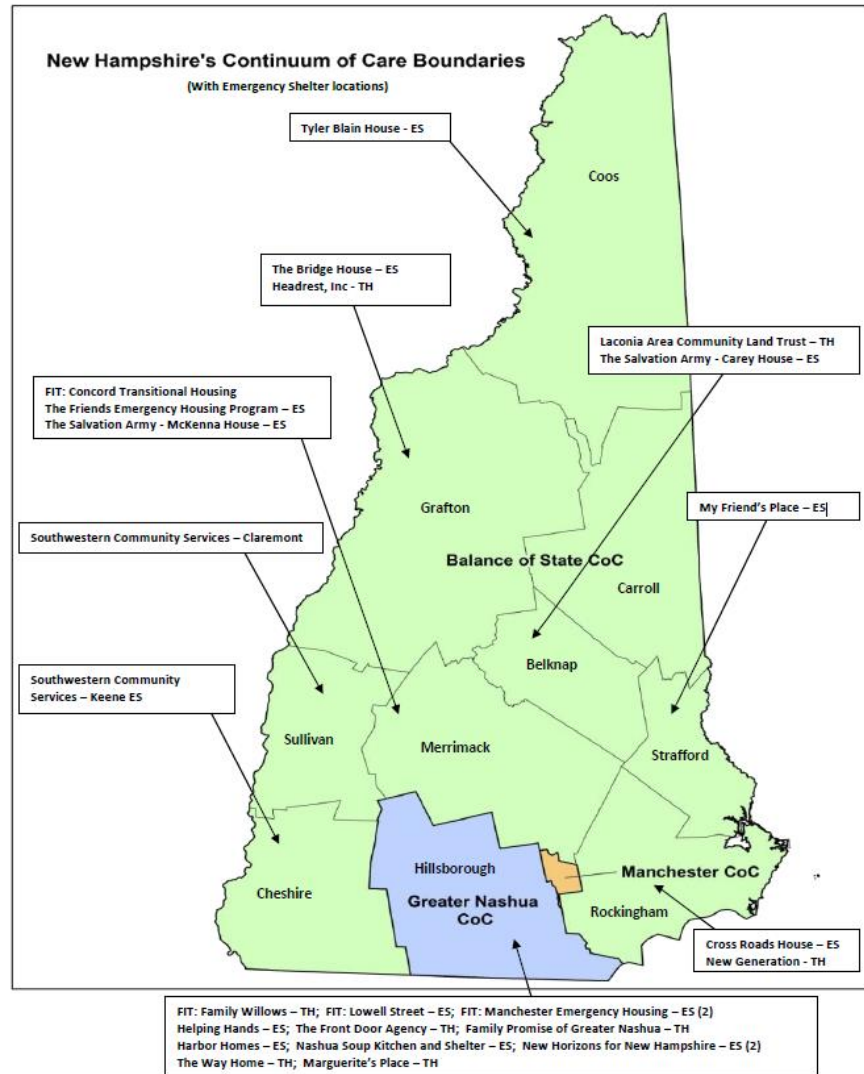
FY 2020 funding for each CoC, used to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness

- Balance of State: \$4,775,549
- Greater Nashua: \$2,091,092
- Manchester: \$1,561,039



Delivery System

of Providers by type
1. Permanent Housing - 23
2. Transitional Housing - 1
3. Rapid Re-Housing – 10
4. Homeless Shelters – 43
5. Homeless Outreach - 10
6. Homeless Intervention – 17



BHS Key Accomplishments

- BHS implemented a Coordinated Entry process that standardizes the way individuals and families who are at risk of homelessness or those experiencing homelessness. Having a common frame for assessment and referrals to the housing and services that they need for housing stability. By using a Prioritization List of all people in the homeless services system, individuals with the highest level of vulnerability are prioritized for available housing.

- BHS was awarded 3 new projects through the FY 2019 Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care competition
- Rapid re-housing for Strafford County
- Statewide Coordinated Entry System for survivors of domestic and sexual violence
- Expansion of Permanent Supportive Housing in the North Country

- Through the work with the Council on Housing Stability, BHS is partnering on these key initiatives:
- Submitting a 1915 (i) Medicaid State Plan Amendment for a Supportive Housing Benefit to help individuals with serious mental health diagnoses or SUD obtain and maintain permanent housing.
- Creating a Comprehensive Case Management model for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability where the case management will follow the person.

- BHS partnered with Public Housing Authorities to expand two voucher programs in NH
- Mainstream vouchers will provide rental assistance to non-elderly individuals with disabilities. This will create a flow out of Permanent Supportive Housing, opening up beds for individuals with intense service needs
- Foster Youth to Independence provides Housing Choice vouchers to youth between the ages of 18 - 24 who have left foster care and are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.



BHS – Key Challenges



There is a lack of affordable housing across NH, with almost half of all renters paying more than 30% of their income for rent. Rental vacancy rates in NH are at 1.8%, with a nationwide vacancy rate of 6.6%.



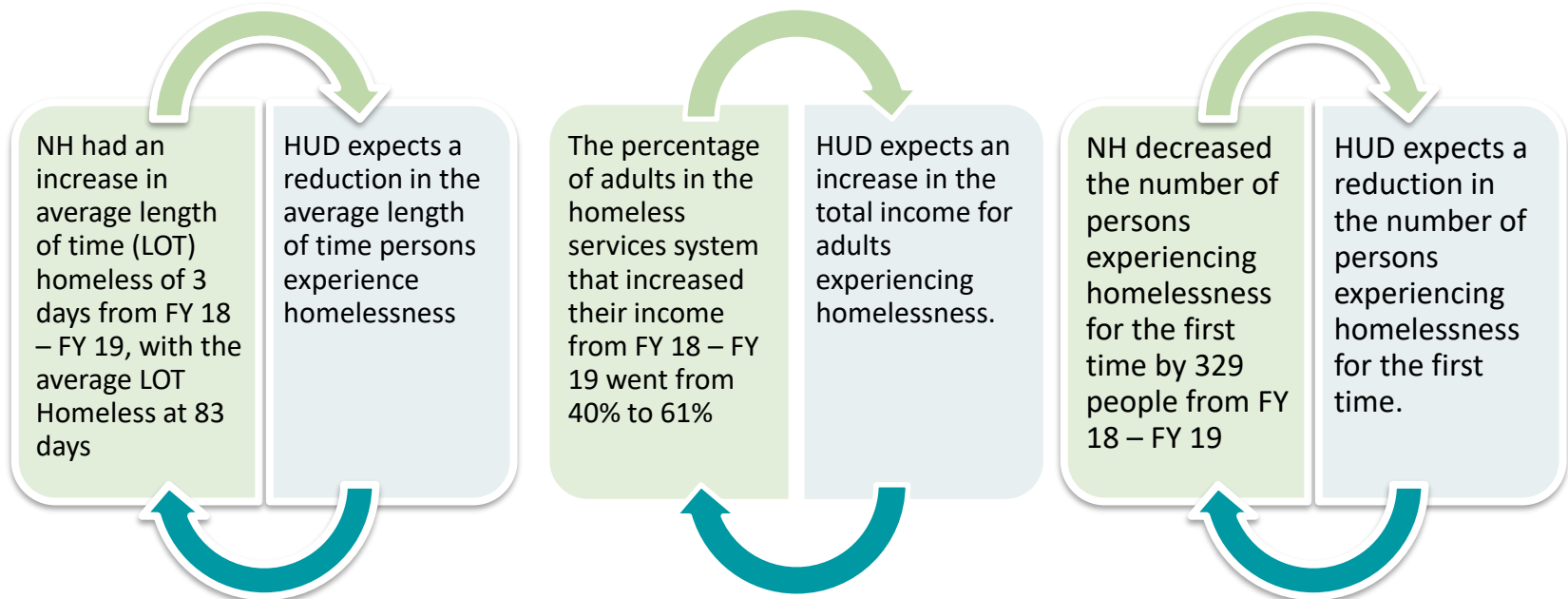
State General Funds support the emergency shelter system in NH. Shelters are reimbursed at \$8.80/day and the actual cost is \$47/day.



Federal funding is extremely restrictive and siloed, limiting the ability of community partners to be flexible and creative when finding solutions to homelessness.

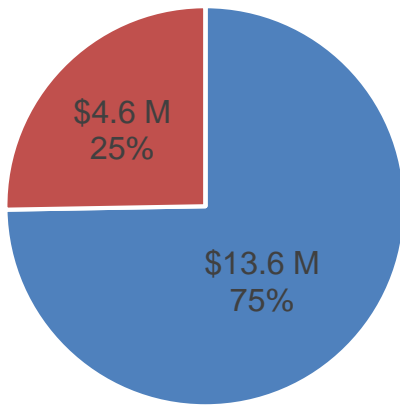


Workload Benchmarks



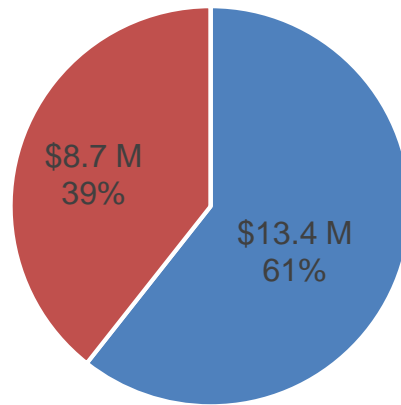
BHS Budget

2018 / 2019



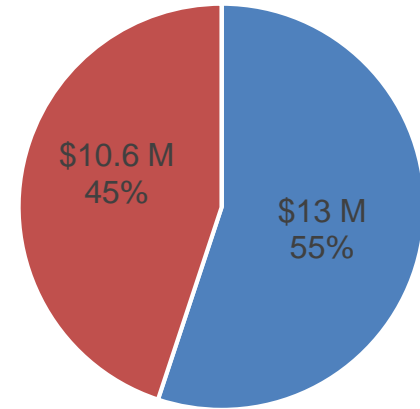
- Federal Funds
- General Funds
- Other

2020 / 2021



- Federal Funds
- General Funds
- Other

2022 / 2023
Request



- Federal Funds
- General Funds
- Other



5% Incremental / Decremental Budget Outcome

Increased funding for existing shelters will support ongoing operations and essential services for individuals experiencing literal homelessness.

Case management, street outreach, and youth rapid re-housing will leverage federal funding to increase services to underserved populations.

The Medicaid Supportive Housing benefit will fill gaps for people experiencing literal homelessness, connecting them with mainstream resources and improving their health outcomes.

Decreased shelter funding would cause smaller programs to close, leading to an increase in unsheltered homelessness.

A decrease in eviction prevention funding would lead to an increase in unsheltered homelessness.



BHS Accounting Units

Activity- Accounting Unit	Accounting Unit Title	Division	Bureau	Budget Book Page #	Budget Briefing Book Page #
4230-7926	Path Grant	DEHS	BHS	966	--
4230-7927	Housing-Shelter Program	DEHS	BHS	967	36



BHS Staffing

Governor Recommended Positions SFY20	%	4230 – Bureau of Housing Supports Accounting Unit
5	100%	7927 - Housing-Shelter Program

Through BHS contracts, over 200 people are employed to support New Hampshire citizen’s with housing instability. BHS staff provide contract management, system coordination, and ensure compliance with all state and federal rules and regulations to ensure continued federal funding.

