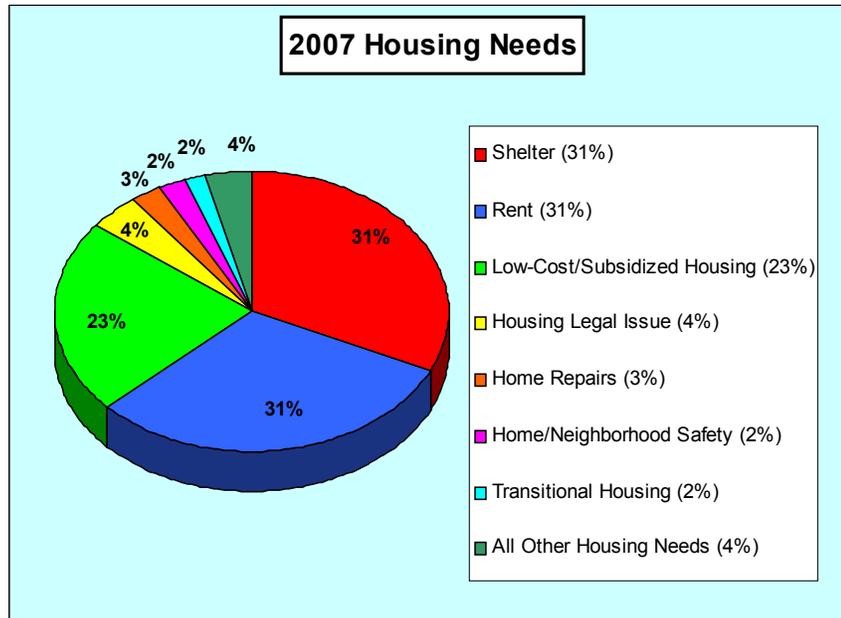


Connect2Help™

Connect2Help™ facilitates connections between people who need human services and those who provide them.

P.O. Box 30530, Indianapolis, IN 46230-0530; (317) 920-4850; Fax: (317) 920-4885; www.Connect2Help.org

For Connect2Help™ Services: dial 2-1-1 or (317) 926-4357



- More than 24,100 people called Connect2Help™ (C2H) in 2007 requesting help with a housing issue. This represents 21% of all I&R callers (roughly 1 out of every 5) in 2007, and a 19% increase compared to 2006.
- The three (3) largest needs in the housing category were those for shelter, rent assistance and low-cost/subsidized housing. I&R Specialists responded to 8,030 calls from people needing shelter in 2007. This represents a 24% increase in the number of shelter calls compared to 2006 (6,469). There are 22 shelters in central Indiana that serve homeless women, men and families and people in domestic abuse situations; 14 of these serve Marion County. Despite existing resources, finding shelter space remains difficult; C2H Specialists were unable to help 26% of those calling for shelter. During extremely cold weather, the Winter Contingency Plan offers people a place to sleep for the night; aside from this resource (provided by 2 shelters in Marion county), many people must go without shelter due to limited capacity at existing shelters throughout the rest of the year.
- Rent/mortgage assistance accounted for 31% of all housing needs. Of the 7,836 rent requests, 6,056 (77%) were recorded as “unmet.” FEMA money for rent assistance continues to be a very scarce resource. The only recourse for most people needing rent is to apply to their township trustee. Allocation amounts and eligibility requirements vary widely among trustees; most people needing help do not qualify for assistance. There simply are not enough financial resources in the community to meet this need.
- Finally, finding affordable housing continues to be a struggle for many people in central Indiana. More than 5,700 people called C2H asking for help finding housing that they could afford. This is a 13% increase in the number of callers compared to 2006. Callers who thought that they might qualify were referred to Section 8 and HUD for lists of subsidized housing. However, the waiting lists for subsidized housing are sometimes years long. Callers requesting help finding affordable housing were often directed to resources using the www.indianahousingnow.org website. This is a website maintained by Socialserve.org, a non-profit organization based in North Carolina. It was the result of a collaboration between C2H, the City of Indianapolis and several housing service providers.

For more information on housing needs in central Indiana, contact Connect2Help™



Formerly Information & Referral Network

