

Connect2Help™

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

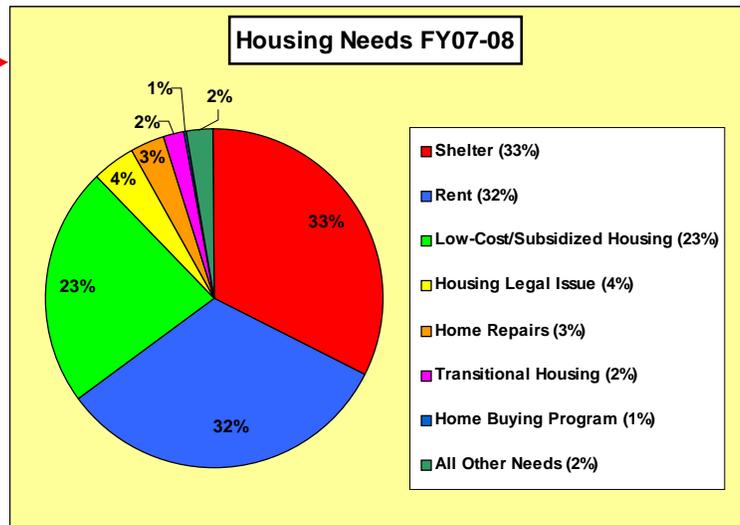
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For Connect2Help™ Services: dial 2-1-1 or (317) 926-4357

Housing Remains at Top of Community Needs List

Community Needs By Category – FY07-08

1. **Housing (17%)**
2. Utility (16%)
3. Food (10%)
4. Mental Health & Addictions (8%)
5. Goods (7%)
6. Financial (6%)
7. Holiday Assistance (6%)
8. Health (5%)
9. Legal (4%)
10. Government (4%)
11. All Other Needs (17%)



- Nearly 26,200 people called Connect2Help™ (C2H) in fiscal year 2007-2008 requesting help with a housing issue. This represents 20% of all I&R callers (roughly 1 out of every 5) in FY07-08, and a 23% increase compared to FY06-07.
- Shelter, rent money and low-cost (or subsidized) housing were the most pressing housing-related needs.
- C2H responded to 8,839 calls from people needing shelter in FY07-08; this is a 24% increase compared to FY06-07. 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 22% of those calling for shelter. During extremely cold weather, the Winter Contingency Plan (provided by 2 shelters in Marion County) offers people a place to sleep for the night. Salvation Army also offers the Emergency Bed Space Plan, which provides emergency shelter for victims of domestic abuse if there is no other shelter space available. Aside from these resources, many people must go without shelter due to limited capacity at existing shelters throughout the rest of the year.
- Helping people find money to pay their rent was even more difficult than helping them find shelter. Of the 8,819 rent requests, 6,324 (67%) 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 that rose by 26% compared to FY06-07.
- Finally, finding affordable housing continued to be a struggle for many people in central Indiana. 6,264 people called C2H asking for help finding housing that they could afford. This is a 19% increase in the number of callers compared to FY06-07. 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. More than 3,400 callers requesting help finding affordable housing were directed to resources using the www.indianahousingnow.org website. This website is 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™



Community Partner

Formerly Information & Referral Network

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American Association of Suicidology

