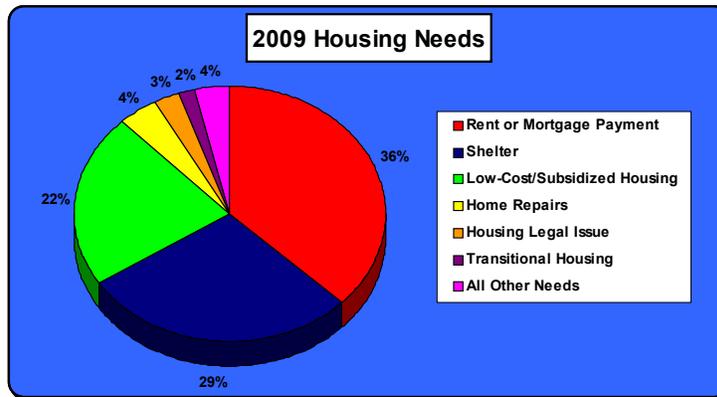
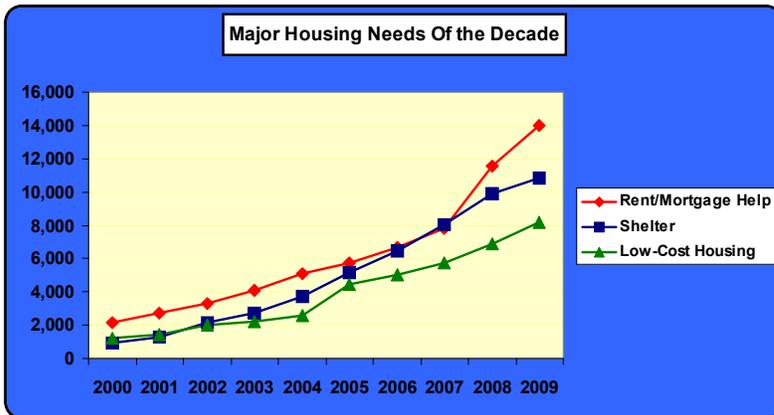


Housing Troubles Escalate as Decade Ends

- The dust has started to settle on the **housing crisis** that set off an economic recession in December of 2007.
- But it sure doesn't feel like that to the Connect2Help Specialists who respond to **tens of thousands of housing-related needs** every year.



- During 2009, more than **35,000 people** called Connect2Help with a housing-related need. This is almost 1 out of every 5 I&R callers; it also is a **15% increase** compared to 2008.
- The vast majority (**87%**) of these calls were for help paying rent, finding shelter or locating affordable housing.
- The **upward trend** for these 3 needs over the past decade is a red flag for our community.



- During 2009, 14,000 people called for help to make a rent or mortgage payment. This is a **21% increase** compared to 2008, and a **552% spike** since 2000.
- Aside from very limited **FEMA** funds, the only other recourse for most people needing rent or mortgage help was to apply to their **township trustee**. Allocation amounts and eligibility requirements vary widely among trustees.
- Most people needing help **did not qualify** for assistance; this was especially true for those who had been recently laid-off.

- In response to this growing need, a group of Central Indiana community funders created the **Community Economic Relief Fund** in December of 2008. The infusion of these community funds has contributed to a **dramatic drop in the percentage of "unmet" rent and mortgage needs** – from 56% in 2008 to 27% in 2009.
- Many people calling C2H were past the point of asking for help with a rent payment; they had no place to stay and needed emergency shelter. During 2009, **10,802 callers asked for help finding shelter**; this is a **10% increase** compared to 2008, and a **1,048% jump** compared to 2000. There are **21 shelters** that serve central Indiana 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 13% 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.
- Calls for help finding **low-cost housing** continued to grow, **increasing by 19%** compared to 2008. Many who hoped to qualify for subsidized housing called looking for information on HUD housing and Section 8. Unfortunately, the waiting lists for these housing units often are years long. Thousands were provided information about local rental properties from a database on the www.indianahousingnow.org website. It was difficult to find "affordable" housing for many of these callers, because **more than half** (56%, based on available data) **had no income or were on some form of public assistance**.

For assistance or more information about human services needs in Central Indiana, dial 2-1-1 or (317) 926-4357.



Community Partner

3901 N. Meridian St., Ste. 300, Indianapolis, IN 46208; (317) 920-4850; Fax: (317) 920-4885; www.Connect2Help.org

