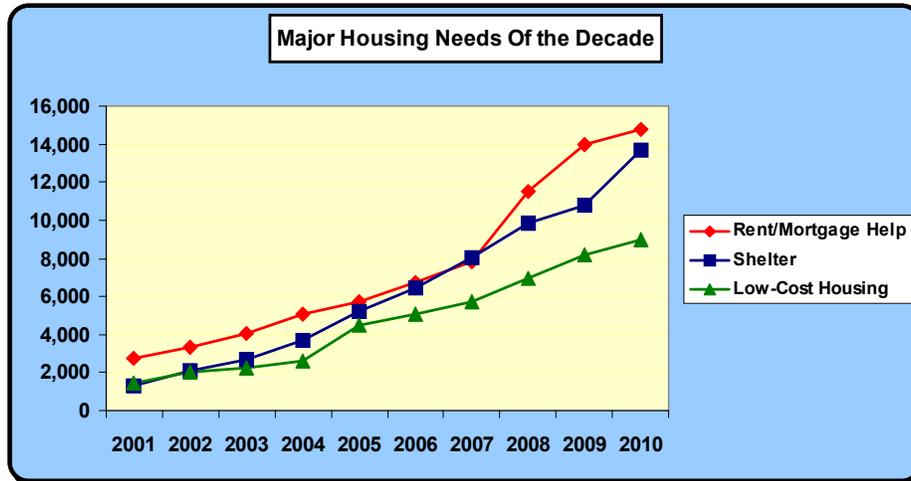


Without a Place to Call Home, Everything is Harder

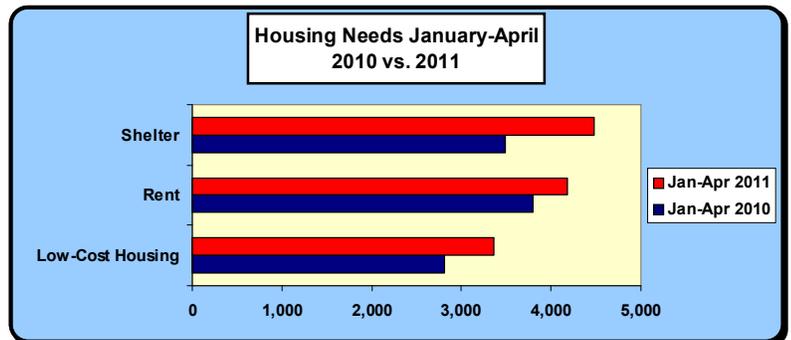
Finding safe, affordable housing, paying rent and, when all else failed, searching for emergency shelter were needs that dominated all others for more than 37,000 people right here in our community during 2010.



Despite some recovery in the economic climate, these needs surged upward, increasing by 10%, 6% and 27%, respectively, compared to 2009. A look at the first 4 months of 2011 shows a continuation of this trend.

While each of these needs is critical, the most alarming trend is that of the rise in needs for emergency shelter. During the first 4 months of 2011, these calls jumped by 29%.

This trend is mirrored in the results of the 2011 Homeless Count conducted by the IU Public Policy Institute and the Coalition on Homelessness Intervention and Prevention. Data from the January 27, 2011 point-in-time count show that homelessness is at its highest level since 2007.



Homeless Count data revealed that 28% of the homeless were members of a family. Connect2Help (C2H) 2011 shelter data show that families represented close to twice that amount – 48%. Of this 48%, 30% were single-parent families, 10% were 2-parent families and 8% were from extended family or doubled-up and sharing.

Of those calling for shelter during the first 4 months of 2011, 47% had no income; 29% received some kind of public assistance; 15% were employed (8% full-time); 3% received unemployment compensation; and 7% had some “other” kind of income.

C2H 2011 data also show a 23% increase in the number of children living in the households of people calling for shelter, compared to January through April 2010.

While the number of people who are homeless continues to increase, the resources available to meet these needs have not. 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 14% 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.

Connect2Help continues to publish community needs and resources via our website, www.connect2help.org. Check back regularly for updated information.



Community Partner

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

