

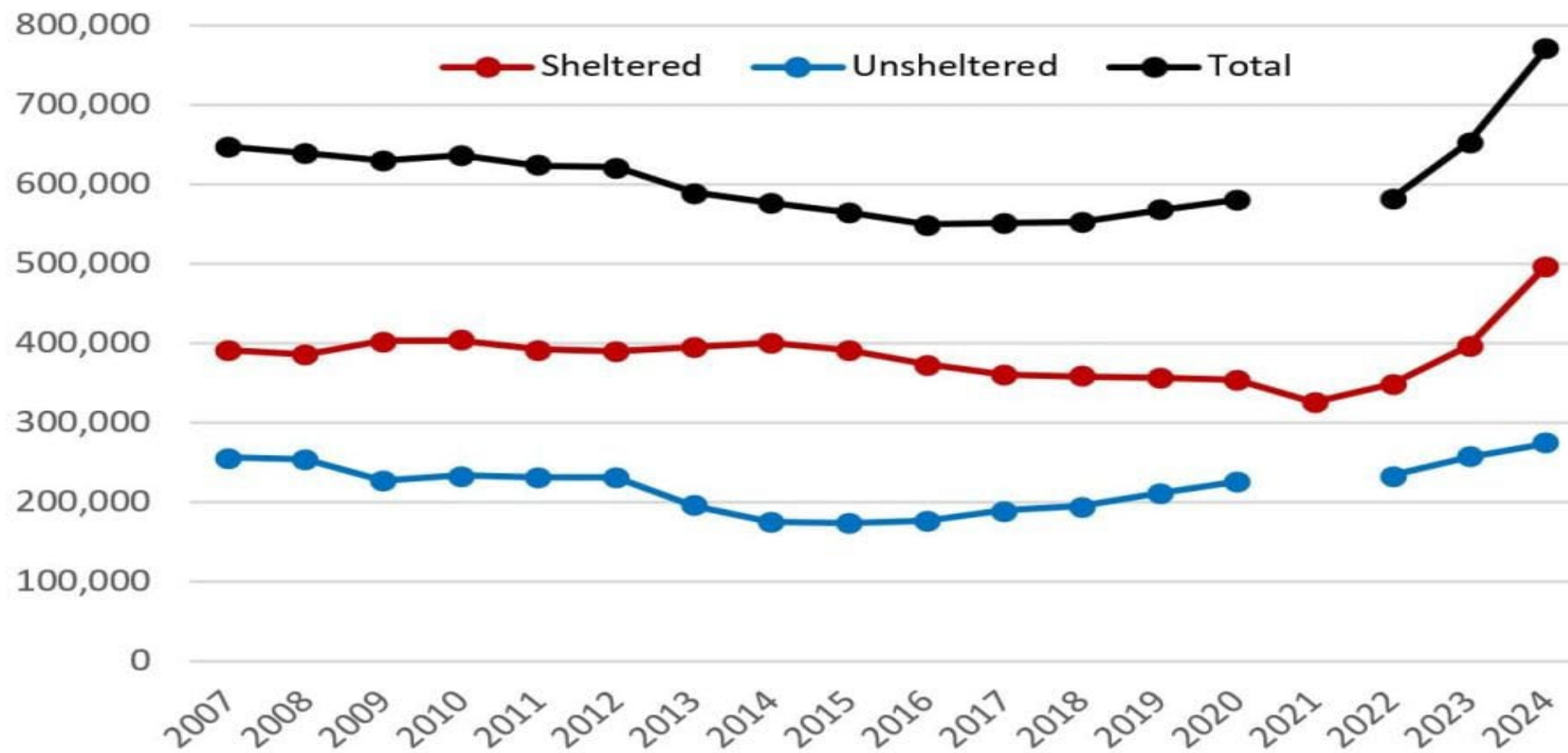


Wichita Falls Citizens Addressing Homelessness

The Time is Now

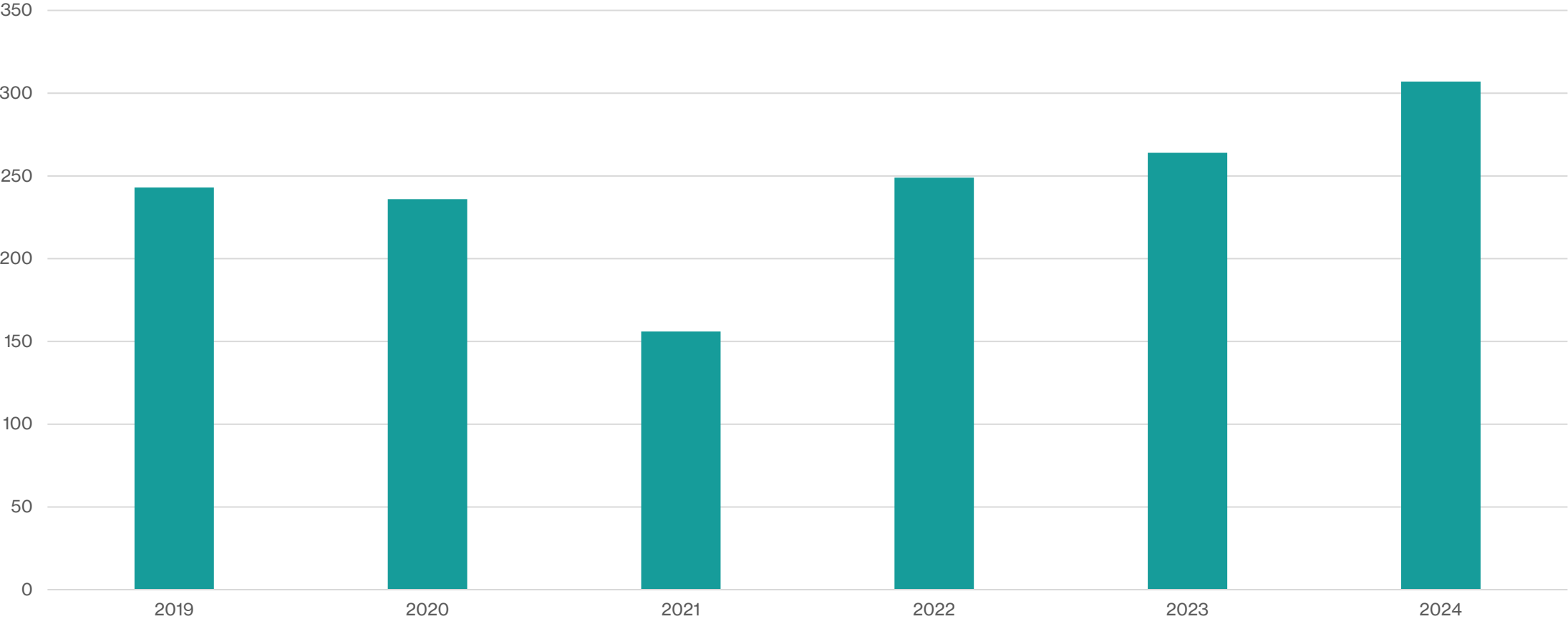


Homelessness in the USA is Increasing



Homelessness in Wichita Falls is Increasing

Whichita Falls Homeless by Point in Time Count





Addiction/Mental
Illness

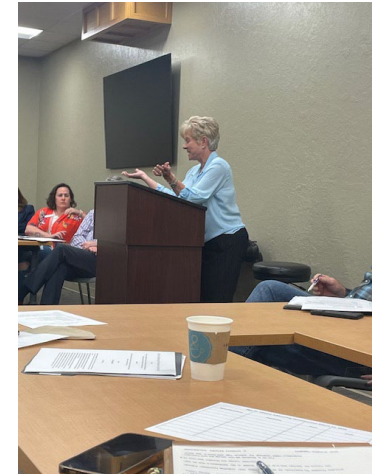
Migration

Economic and
Societal

Unsheltered

CAH: Three Community Summits

Our journey began with a community meeting January 18, 2024, followed by two more held March 21 and October 24.






Join Us for

Citizens Addressing Homelessness in Wichita Falls Solutions Summit

Thurs, Jan 18, 2024
2:30pm-Reception Coffee & Snacks
3:00-5:00pm Summit

URHCS Transition Clinic Education Room
1301 Third Street
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

**Thank you in advance for reviewing the attached document & preparing to contribute to the discussion.*







CAH: Action Groups

1. **Mission Statement/Ethical Framework** - Steve Sparks
2. **Business Leaders** - Bob Payton
3. **Community Education and Communication** - Karel Davis
4. **Innovating the Continuum of Care Coalition** –Pat Daughtery
5. **Improved Information Sharing and Navigation Pathway** - Nancy Townley
6. **Boots on the Ground Recruitment and Training** –Stephen Santellano





MISSION

Ethically reducing homelessness through citizen partnerships, innovative solutions, and effective actions.

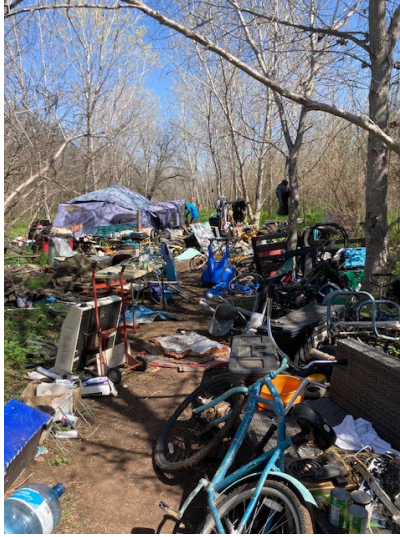
VISION

To be an exceptional community that responds to the difficult problem of homelessness with durable and sustainable solutions.

MOTTO

“A City at Home”

Ride-alongs, Meetings, and Visits



A Community Action Plan (Highlights)





A Community Action Plan Highlights

Improved communication/cooperation and information sharing:

- City departments including police, fire, and parks.
- County government and Regional Planning Commission (COC).
- Healthcare/mental health providers.
- The WFA Food Bank and the various food pantry providers.
- Various service providers: While this will initially include the above list of participants, once established, participation will be expanded.



A Community Action Plan Highlights

Improved resource navigation and management. This effort will include education about resource navigation tools already in use and the deliberate sharing of resource lists by stakeholders.

Educating the community about steps to confront homelessness

- Combating apathy
- Resources available
- Opportunities for constructive involvement
- Reducing counterproductive involvement

A Community Action Plan Highlights

Expanding access to mental health care and related crisis services

Example: Expanding the reach of **case-management** into the streets and neighborhood is essential, and several innovative solutions to accomplish this were discussed.





A Community Action Plan Highlights

Support and increase support for emergency shelters, especially for specific populations:

- The most immediate needs are for shelter beds for **women with minor children** and unsheltered people with **short term medical needs**. The teen population is also vulnerable to a shortage of beds.
- **“Faith Respite Units”**: For unsheltered people with short term medical needs.
- Expand access for other specialized/challenging populations.



A Community Action Plan Highlights

Innovations of the permanent supportive housing system:

- Improve access to permanent supportive housing through changes that encourage increased turnover/circulation of vouchers for those in need.
- Consider methods to incentivize movement away from housing vouchers (graduation from the program)



The Time is Now

Urgency

The problem is worsening and won't get better without our urgent attention

Opportunities

Addressing the issue will make our community much stronger and better.

Technological Advancements

Easier to break down silos, create synergies, enforce laws, educate citizens, and solve problems.

Capturing the Awareness

Citizens from all sectors are alert to this issue now.

Leadership

The current community leadership for city and county governments, major community stakeholders, and citizens is poised to respond effectively.

The Time is Now

