



Weekly Update from the Coalition for the Homeless
June 26, 2018 – Part 2!

The Coalition for the Homeless knows that Permanent Housing combined with supportive services is the key to ending homelessness for individuals and families.

The Coalition for the Homeless does not believe that encampments are acceptable living environments for people experiencing homelessness nor are they safe and acceptable for those living near encampments.

Public Education Campaign update:

- The Public Education Committee is working on the implementation of an “ambassador program” for neighbors living near the Wheeler encampment. This program will aim to empower neighbors with tools and resources to redirect individuals and groups that drop off food and in-kind items to those living at Wheeler to more meaningful donation/volunteer opportunities.

Update on the status of the “by-name” list of individuals experiencing homelessness and living at Wheeler encampment:

- 71 homeless individuals were identified as living at Wheeler encampment on April 25, 2018.
 - o Of those 71 homeless individuals, 10 of them are not chronically homeless so they have been referred to Rapid Re-housing; a permanent housing program for non-chronically homeless individuals and families.
 - o Of those 71 homeless individuals, 61 of them fit the definition of being chronically homeless and were referred to both a Permanent Supportive Housing program and a Housing Navigator who will help them move into that program.
 - **Of those 61 chronically homeless individuals, 28 people have been housed since April 25, 2018.**
 - Initially, the pace was quicker because of a new PSH development that had opened.; that development is now full.
 - o Another reason for the slowing pace is that a large portion of the population living at the encampment face significant barriers and can be very difficult to engage with.
 - Another 8 of those 61 chronically homeless individuals have left the encampment.
 - o During the day, there are anywhere from 15-30 “hangers on” at Wheeler encampment who are not homeless and do not sleep in the encampment, but they loiter, prey on the homeless individuals living at Wheeler, abuse drugs, etc. Typically, these “hangers on” leave the encampment when homeless agency staff members show up.
 - o Since April 25, 3 new individuals have shown up to and are living at the encampment. The Way Home housing navigators are still concentrating on the original list, but are taking note of those arriving for the next wave of outreach and engagement should it be needed.