

- J. **Reynolds, Chair**
- W. Baxter, Vice-Chair
- J. Brown
- C. Ellinger
- T. Fogle
- B. Monarrez
- D. Gray
- F. Brown
- D. Sevigny
- K. Plomin



AGENDA

Social Services and Public Safety Committee

September 17, 2024

1:00 P.M.

- | | | |
|------|--|---------|
| I. | Approval of July 2, 2024 Committee Summary | (1-3) |
| II. | Annual Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention Update | (4-12) |
| III. | Annual NAMI Fayette Mental Health Court Update | (13-30) |
| IV. | Items Referred to Committee | (31) |

"Social Services and Public Safety Committee, to which shall be referred matters relating to the department of social services and its divisions, the department of public safety and its divisions, any related partner agencies, and matters relating to capital improvement projects."- Council Rules & Procedures, Section 2.102 (1) effective January 1, 2023. Adopted by Urban County Council September 22, 2022.

2024 Meeting Schedule

January 23	July 2
March 05	September 17
April 9	October 8
May 14	November 12



Social Services and Public Safety Committee

July 2, 2024

Summary and Motions

Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee Members Ellinger, J. Brown, Fogle, Monarrez, Gray, F. Brown, Baxter, Sevigny, and Plomin were in attendance. Council Member Lynch was present as a non-voting member.

I. Approval of May 14, 2024 Committee Meeting Summary

Motion by Ellinger to approve the May 14, 2024 Committee Summary. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

II. Recruitment, Retirement, and Retention for Public Safety

Ken Armstrong, Commissioner of Public Safety, provided an update on Recruitment, Retirement, and Retention for Public Safety. He reviewed recruitment activities and other initiatives for Division of Fire which include increased social media presence; enhanced software; and improved communication and engagement with applicants. There is a focus on physical and mental health with a wellness coordinator, physical fitness standards, and peer support. Other initiatives in the Division of Fire include the Safe Haven Box, Smoke Detector Program, and Hands-Only CPR. Authorized strength in the Division of Fire increased from 597 in 2019 to 622 in 2024. He spoke about attrition numbers which are based on data from January 1 each year and does not necessarily reflect turnover. When reviewing applicant numbers, he said there is one application process for two recruit classes.

Armstrong spoke about police recruitment and retention challenges which include competitive salaries, physical preparedness, and policing. The new workforce values different job benefits and senior personnel are leaving for other jobs in similar fields. Successes include overall increase in applications, utilizing social media, prep courses, and expanding recruiting efforts. Staffing successes include the police retiree program and an update to the age requirement for police candidates. He reviewed staffing levels and said 60-70% make it through the academy. He noted each class requires a separate application process.

Division of Community Corrections recruitment activities and initiatives include social media presence and a new Public Information Officer. They also have advertisements on city buses, local television stations, and an increased presence at job fairs. They communicate with Fort Campbell and Fort Knox advising them of an interest in recruiting veterans who are approaching separation from the military. Division of Corrections has established relationships with the Faith Based community to ask for their assistance in attracting candidates. The Division utilizes *Interview Now*, a software program that allows for the screening of job qualified applicants and contains ease of use communication through text message. Finally, he reviewed the status of collective bargaining agreements for each of the divisions.

When asked how many traffic safety officers there are, Armstrong said there are 20 authorized, 18 on duty, and 4 additional safety officers included in the upcoming budget. To clarify what is meant by "separating veterans", Armstrong said this makes individuals who are ready to leave service with the military aware there are jobs available in Public Safety. For example, there is a Military Police unit at Fort Knox which might be something they are interested in after military service. Armstrong said there are

approximately 300 officers assigned to the Bureau of Patrol and he will review last 5 years to see what this looks like. When asked if we have anything in place for current employees to help recruit or retain officers, Armstrong spoke about the referral program and explained how current officers can be compensated when recruits they bring in are doing well. Speaking about re-hiring retired employees, Armstrong said the Police Department hired 11 retired police officers and they also re-hire retired firefighters and community corrections officers.

Armstrong explained the 11 retired officers were not included in the number of vacancies because they are classified in the Human Resources system as 2 different positions. He described them as being similar to contract employees. When asked about authorized strength, Armstrong said this is the number of sworn positions Council has allocated over the years for each of the divisions. He said authorized strength is not based on anything other than averaging. There was some discussion about the number of vacancies and the impact this has on response times. Brian Maynard, Assistant Police Chief, explained the difference in priority versus non-priority calls. Armstrong added the Lexington Police Department has figured out how to use retired officers or civilians to fill vacancies and this saves about 1,000 personnel hours.

No action was taken on this item.

III. Eviction Diversion and Right to Counsel

Charlie Lanter, Commissioner of Housing Advocacy and Community Development began the presentation with an overview and acknowledged community partner involvement. Jonathan Wright, Housing Policy Advisor, spoke about Housing Stability Services as defined by the federal Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA). This program does all the things you might do to prevent an eviction *except* pay the rent. An opportunity was identified for a smaller targeted program that works closely with a vulnerable population (seniors, families with children, households fleeing domestic violence, etc.). Federal funding was exhausted last year, and they started working with community partners to build up the ability to offer housing stability services. He reviewed forcible detainer cases (eviction cases) filed in Fayette County 2018-2024. 2023 is when changes were implemented to the housing stabilization program to focus on tenants who have active forcible detainer cases which means you couldn't apply for rental assistance last year until your landlord filed an eviction case. This allowed the assistance to be targeted more accurately and effectively because this incentivized landlords to file eviction cases earlier and more often. The number of eviction warrants issued has continued to decrease since 2019. This means they have been able to save about 1,100 families from eviction. Kentucky Equal Justice Center focuses on tenant outreach and education to make sure tenants are aware of their circumstances. Wright spoke about the other assistance available to at risk tenants.

Wright explained the program is doing a good job reaching out to communities of color and the fact that a gap exists shows we have a lot of work to do. This is not a problem these programs can solve overnight by themselves but the fact these programs exist, and they are doing outreach is at least a step in the right direction. If there is a homeless family with a child in FCPS, the school will help them enroll and the McKinney-Vento program will refer families they believe to be eligible for this program to Goodwill. Almost all the families are several steps away from being ready to make the transition into housing. This program was designed to help people through the process and to find sustainable housing they can afford. Wright said the biggest barrier is employment. They have only seen a small number so far reach the point where they are ready to make the transition into housing with the help of financial assistance. When asked about McKinney-Vento, Wright said the first referral came in April 2023. In mid-June, 17 referrals were received from McKinney-Vento to Goodwill. 15 of those families as of mid-June were continuing to work with Goodwill. At that point, 1 of those 17 families successfully found housing. Since then, 2 more families

qualified for assistance and will transition into housing in the next couple of weeks. When asked how many case managers are available to help people with the transition, Jennifer Bergman, a Goodwill representative, said there are 4 career coaches and a program specialist who works with multiple programs. Wright stressed Goodwill is funding the staffing and administrative costs for the McKinney-Vento program 100% and everything LFUCG is funding for that program goes toward paying rent.

No action was taken on this item.

IV. Items Referred to Committee

No action was taken on this item.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

OFFICE OF HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

ANNUAL UPDATE

Jeff Herron, Homelessness Prevention Manager

September 17, 2024

Social Services and Public Safety Committee



LEXINGTON



Background and Overview

- Established in 2014
- Designated as Continuum of Care Lead, HMIS Lead in 2015
- 3 staff positions
- Innovative & Sustainable Solutions Fund
 - Moved from fixed amount to a percentage of previous FY revenues
 - FY 25: \$1,438,510
- Coordination and Planning Office – **does not provide direct services**



OHPI Responsibilities

COORDINATE	FACILITATE	EDUCATE	ADVOCATE
Staff/develop CoC	Develop funding applications, allocate funds	Training & technical support for partners	Identify system gaps & issues
Develop/operate Coordinated Entry system	Annual Point-in-Time Count	CoC website, social media, mailing list	Inform public policy & engage leaders
Develop system plans (ex: COVID, weather)	Daily operations of Coordinated Entry	Speaking events & media	Develop strategic plans
Develop service standards, set & monitor performance targets	Daily operations of HMIS	Analyze & publicize data	Promote equity and fairness
Designate/operate a client records system	Community data submissions	Research best practices & models	Seek community support
	Evaluation & compliance	Communicate across systems	Engage individuals with lived expertise
		Resource navigation	



Between FY20 and FY25, LFUCG has invested over \$44 million to address homelessness

Funding Sources

Local - \$17,774,264

\$4,779,118 – Innovative and Sustainable Solutions Fund*

\$7,805,609 – ESR Overnight Emergency Shelters

\$2,056,000 – General Fund

Federal - \$26,765,279

\$ 1,432,473 – Emergency Solutions Grant

\$ 3,640,523 – Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus

\$ 410,084 – Community Development Block Grant

\$ 1,108,149 – Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus

\$10,819,736 – Continuum of Care

\$ 9,354,313 – American Rescue Plan Act*



FY25 Local Funding

Emergency Shelter

\$1,918,014

(25% increase)

Innovative & Sustainable Solutions Fund

\$1,438,510

(92% increase)

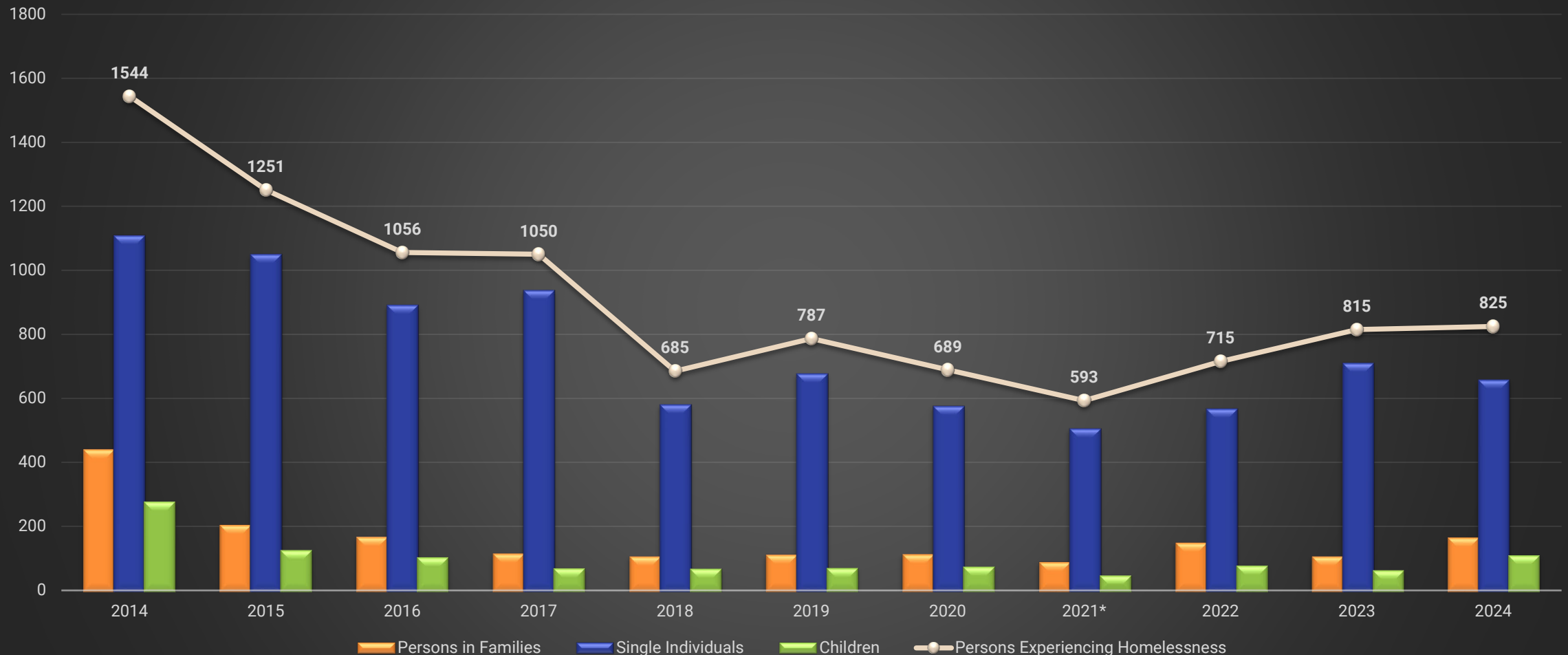
Winter Warming

\$2,000,000

* ISSF funded via ARPA for FY22-24



LexCount Results, 2014-2024





FY24 Homeless Encampment SOP Review

- 28 camp cleanups conducted in FY24
 - 18 unique locations
 - 15 cleanups (54%) were tied to 6 Emphasis Areas
- Total cost of \$51,805 / Average cost of \$1,850 per cleanup
 - FY23: Total cost of \$39,276 / Average cost of \$1,510 per cleanups
- Outcomes:
 - 19 camps – No contact/no evidence of active encampment
 - 9 camps – Contact made
 - 9 persons accepted services (4 permanently housed)
 - 8 persons declined services, voluntarily relocated



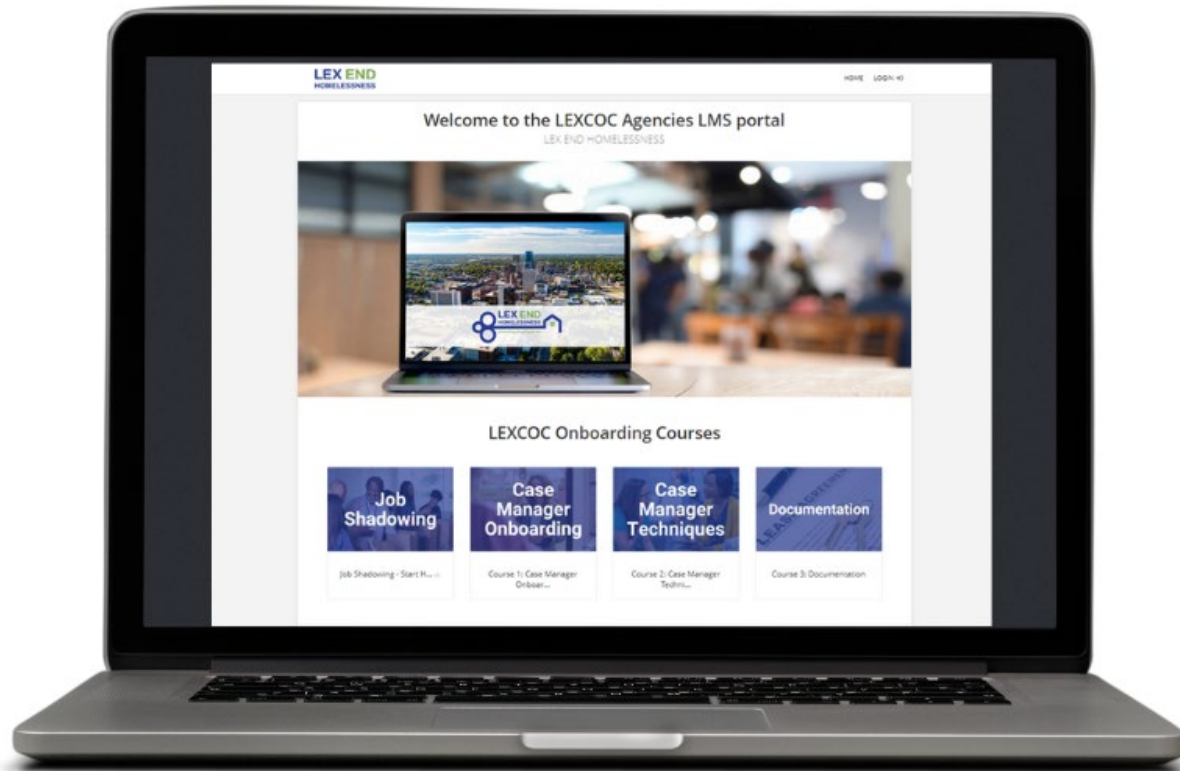
5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2021-2025)

- Released January 2021
 - 55 Recommendations/Actions
 - 28 Recommendations Completed/Ongoing

- Overarching Goals
 - Community Outreach and Engagement
 - Preventing Homelessness
 - Policy and Advocacy
 - Funding Sources
 - Expanding Permanent Supportive Housing



Current Projects



Onboarding Curriculum for Case Managers

Revamp of Local Assessment Tool

Shelter and Transitional Housing Feasibility Study

Housing Flex Fund

Landlord Partnership Program

FY 2024 Continuum of Care Program Competition

Questions?



LEXINGTON



FAYETTE MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION COURT

Going Strong in 2024:

Expanding the Mental Health Court With an
Aftercare Program

***Outcomes that the
community has come to
know and expect***

***Reviewing Our Participants'
Continued Success AFTER
THE PROGRAM...***

***LET'S TALK ABOUT
BEATING THE ODDS...***

STABLE HOUSING

ALMOST 50% ENTER PROGRAM
UNHOUSED

97% MAINTAINING STABLE HOUSING
AFTER 1 YEAR

THE RATE OF POVERTY ON ENTRY IS MORE
THAN 6 TIMES GREATER THAN THAT OF
FAYETTE COUNTY RESIDENTS AS A
WHOLE

Intersection of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse

90% of incoming
participants:
Severe Mental Illness
and
Substance Use Disorder

32% of Those
with SUDs:
**MORE THAN
ONE
SUBSTANCE**

***Success after
a year in the
program***
**MAINTAINING
SOBRIETY**

Based on random urine drug screens

- 60% of participants have maintained complete sobriety at 1 year in the program
- Compare this to the national average of 20% (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2023)

RECIDIVISM REDUCTION



KENTUCKY
Recidivism
Rate **46.6%**



FMHC
Recidivism
Rate **17.7%**



ALUMNI
PROGRAM
Recidivism
Rate **7%**

... a lifeline for maintaining progress made...

FMHC'S ALUMNI PROGRAM



Need for CONTINUING CARE?

- Need for support in early recovery
- Need for connection
- Need for relapse prevention
- Need for discussing daily life struggles with others
- Need for fun sober activities, especially those that are free of charge



Alumni Solution: **PALS** ***Participation, Alliance, Legacy, Service***

Connection to community navigation
after graduation

Continuation of engagement with peers,
socialization, & meetings

Incentivized engagement

Trauma informed care – a safe,
supportive environment

"I graduated... my recovery did not."
-FMHC Participant



Alumni Group Impact

- **Recidivism rates lowered**
- **Over 80% retention of participants**
- **Support from peers and staff**
- **Validation of struggles and challenges of recovery journey through no- pressure mentoring opportunities**



MONETARY SAVINGS FOR LEXINGTON

July 1, 2021–August 31, 2024

32 Graduates



FCDC Savings

*Incarcerated individuals with SMI require an
average of 60% more resources than
other individuals*

40,869 days of incarceration diverted
X \$115 /day

\$4,699,935

Law Enforcement Savings

99 post-graduate quarters X \$5,716 /quarter

\$565,884

National
average
expenditure

FCDC plus Law Enforcement

= \$5,265,819

July 1, 2021 – August 31, 2024



\$790,000
Investment



589% ROI

\$4,655,819
Return on
Investment



One-Time Funding

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT

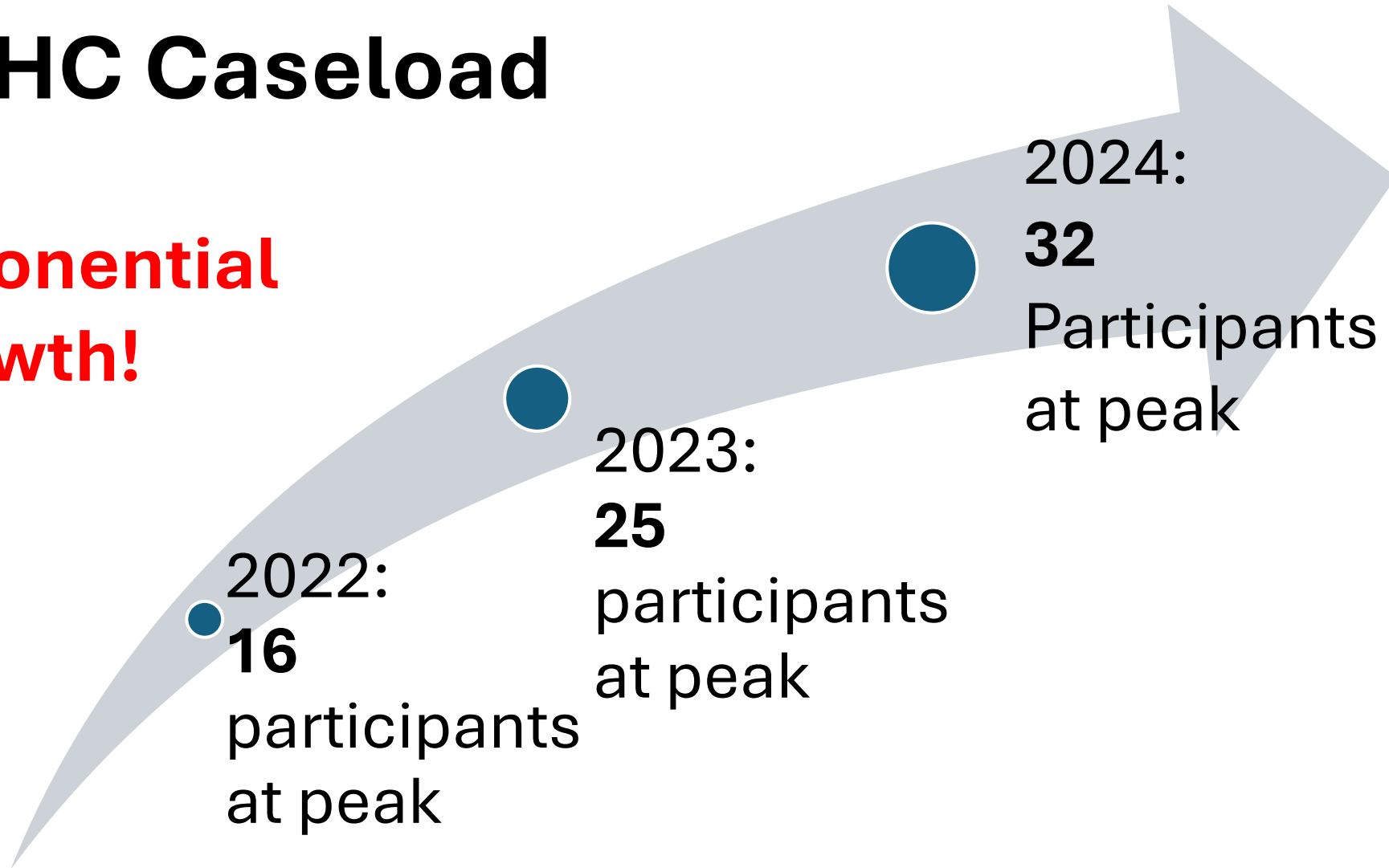
JULY 2021 THROUGH
JANUARY 2023

\$180,000

THANK YOU,
WE USED IT WELL!

FMHC Caseload

**Exponential
Growth!**



ALUMNI PROGRAM

PARTICIPANTS
SERVED:
25

AVERAGING 7
PARTICIPANTS
AT TWICE-WEEKLY GROUPS

1st Calendar half of 2024: **GOING STRONG!**

15 new participants!

35 Alumni Group meetings held!

Expanding our model to other KY communities;
Bullitt County is up and running!

Over 80 referrals made to community partners!

Providing internship and observation
opportunities to UK students!

Thank you for your time and support!

ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Social Services and Public Safety

Referral Item	Current Sponsor	Date Referred	Last Presentation	Status	Legistar File ID
1 Expand the Adult Mental Health Court with an Aftercare Program	T. Fogle	July 9, 2020	May 14, 2024		0534-24
2 Crime Reduction Technology	W. Baxter	September 21, 2021	May 2, 2023		1065-22
3 Assessment and Enforcement of Noise Ordinance	H. LeGris	July 5, 2022	August 22, 2023		0840-23
4 Review of Golf Cart Policies	L. Sheehan	October 11, 2022			
5 Eviction Diversion & Right to Counsel - Tenants' Bill of Rights	D. Wu	January 24, 2023	July 2, 2024		0702-24
6 Comprehensive Review of Code Enforcement (looking at ordinances, data, complaints, enforcement, technology, etc.)	D. Gray	June 29, 2023			
7 Coordinated Victim Response Plan	L. Sheehan	May 2, 2023			
8 Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition	J. Reynolds	February 27, 2024	March 5, 2024		0239-24
9 Crime Victim Paid Leave Policy for LFUCG	L. Sheehan	March 5, 2024	May 14, 2024		0533-24
10 Improvement of Fire Department Recruitment	B. Monarrez	July 9, 2024			
11 Villages Model Initiatives for Lexington	S. Lynch	August 20, 2024			
12 Youth Council	D. Gray	August 20, 2024			
Annual/Periodic Updates					
13 Substance Abuse Intervention Update	L. Sheehan	January 12, 2022	May 14, 2024		0532-24
14 Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention Annual Report	L. Sheehan	June 7, 2022	August 22, 2023	September 17, 2024	0901-22
15 Annual NAMI - Fayette Mental Health Court Update	D. Gray	February 20, 2018	November 14, 2023	September 17, 2024	0360-22
16 Annual LFUCG Affordable Housing Fund, Initiatives and Projects Update	D. Gray	August 10, 2021	November 14, 2023		1026-21
17 Annual Juvenile Treatment Court Update	D. Gray	July 9, 2020	October 10, 2023	November 12, 2024	1164-21
18 Annual Update on Recruitment, Retirement, and Retention for Department of Public Safety	D. Seigny	September 22, 2020	July 2, 2024		0450-21
19 Annual Update on Community Paramedicine Program	J. Reynolds	July 6, 2021	March 5, 2024		0300-23
20 Annual Review of Code Enforcement	J. Reynolds	October 8, 2019	June 13, 2023		0814-22
21 ONE Lexington Programs Update	J. Reynolds	September 25, 2020	January 24, 2023		0080-23
22 Emergency Financial Assistance program: monitor funding to determine community needs as other funding sources diminish	S. Lynch	May 30, 2023	January 23, 2024		
Subcommittees					
23 Gun Violence Task Force	J. Reynolds	October 11, 2022	April 9, 2024		0375-24