

HomeFirst Gwinnett 2022 Budget Request

Matthew Elder,
Director



HomeFirst
— GWINNETT —

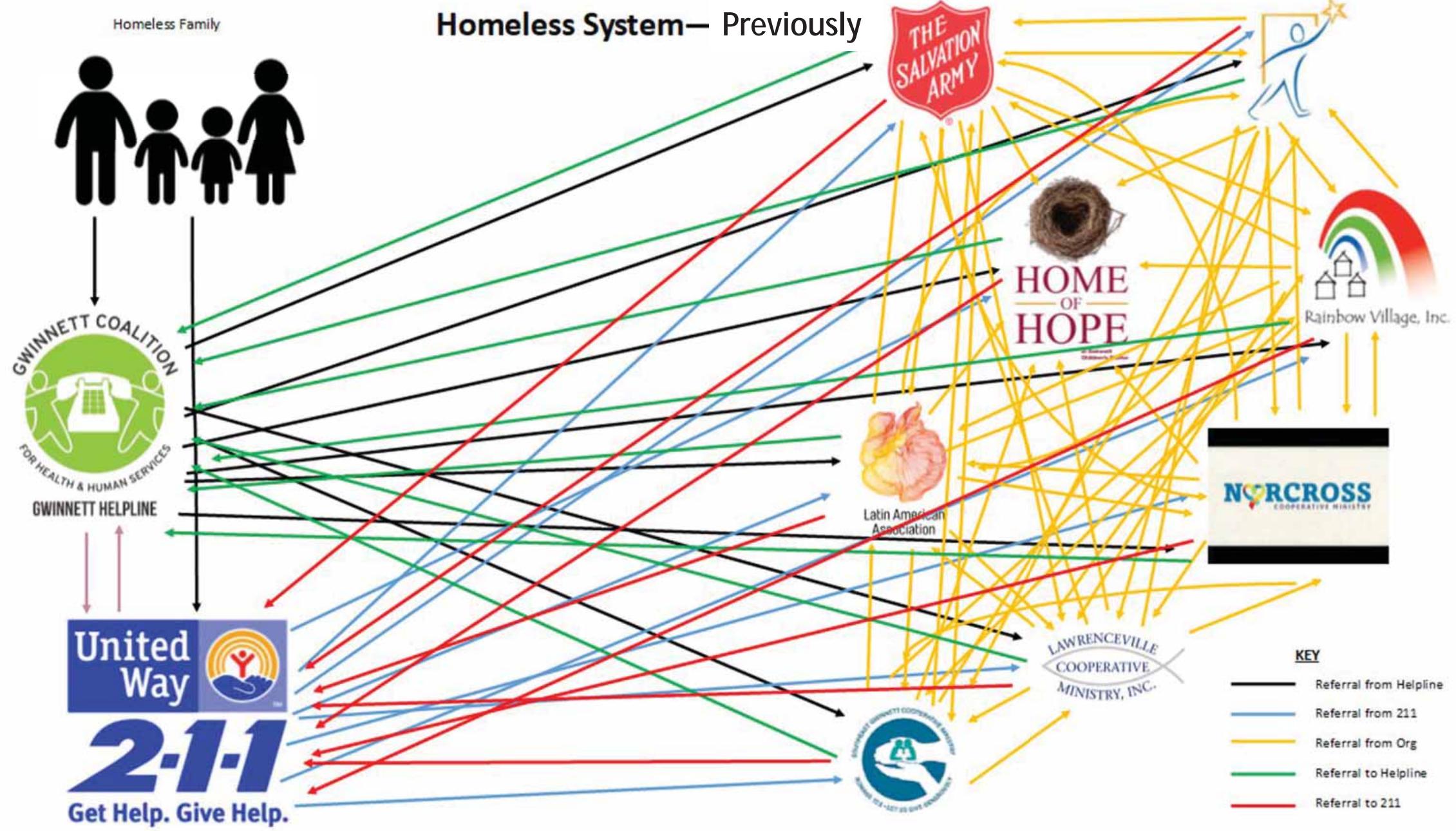
History



HomeFirst Gwinnett was established in July 2018



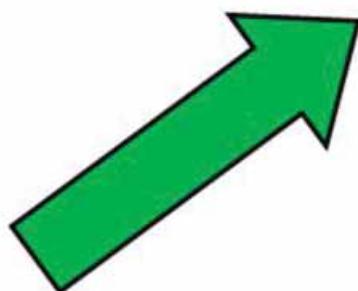
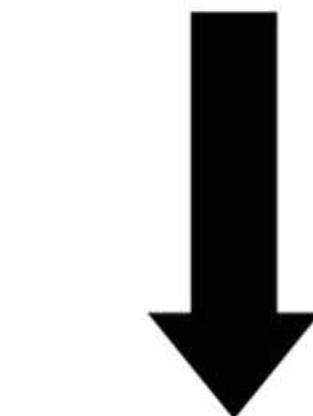
Mission: Develop a strategic approach to ending homelessness



Homeless Family



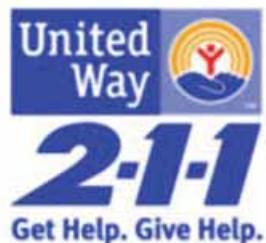
Homeless System—Coordinated Entry



Assessment Center



Assessment—What do you need and what do you qualify for?
Prioritization—How vulnerable are you?
Direct Referral—Referral to service provider who has availability to serve you right now, not at some point in the future.
[Focus on reducing burden for both clients and organizations.](#)



Emergency Shelter



NORCROSS
COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

Rental Assistance



Latin American
Association



Transitional Housing



Rainbow Village, Inc.



HOME
OF
HOPE
an Atlanta Children's Shelter

Cumulative Homeless Services Snapshot

Total Served: 11,712 Individuals



- Shelter – 5,365
- Eviction Prevention – 5,997
- Diversion - 350

Average Age: 39.8 Years Old



- 18-24 Years Old – 5%
- 62+ Years Old – 2%

Average Length of Episode: 6.5 Months



- Extended Stay – 61%
- Literally Homeless – 24%
- Doubled Up – 15%

HomeFirst Gwinnett Programs

Coordinated Entry System

- Serve as Lead Entity of Gwinnett County CES
- System contains more than 25 different housing partners

The Resting Spot Shelter

- Gwinnett's only operating Homeless Shelter
- 20 Bed Capacity for Women and Children
- Guests can stay up to 90 days

Project RESET

- Administrator for Gwinnett County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Provides up to 15 total months of rental/utility arrears and assistance to renters impacted by COVID-19

Warming Station

- Operated Gwinnett's only Warming Station from December 2020 – February 2021
- Provided guests with access to hot meal, showers, blessing bags, and coordinated entry services

HomeFirst Gwinnett Total Budget Request

2021 Budget	\$600,000.00
Changes to Base	\$-
2022 Base	\$600,000.00
Decision Packages	\$200,000.00
Total 2022 Budget	\$800,000.00

Decision Package #1 – Street Outreach Team - \$116,000.00

Description

- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for homeless and housing services has only increased. Not only has HFG received thousands of applications for assistance, but we have received more than 100 requests from local partners and county departments to respond to literally homeless situations.
- This request would allow HFG to hire two (2) full-time outreach personnel to serve on-call within the community.

Demonstrated Need

- 2021 YTD -> 6,620 Individuals Requesting Emergency Housing Assistance
 - 30% of which are Literally Homeless
 - Increase of 25% from March – December 2020 (9 months)
 - Hardest population to get to accept services

How does it work?

- Trained staff will deploy to different parts of the community based known encampment areas, safe haven parking lots, and individual tents that have been identified
- They will work with clients to develop relationship and move gradually towards offering services
 - Will also be available on-call to deploy in coordination with other community partners and/or County Departments and help ensure that any housing resources that may be available are identified on-site in an expedient fashion.

Decision Package #2 – COVID-19 Operations - \$84,000.00

Description

- Since the onset of COVID-19, HFG has worked diligently with community partners to develop new programs in response to the pandemic. While some of these programs have been covered by COVID-19 federal aid packages, other associated operating costs were paid for out of HFG reserves.
- This request for additional operating support would help pay for personnel to administer both Hotel/Motel voucher and diversion programs moving forward that were born out of our COVID-19 response.
- This request would allow HFG to hire two (2) full-time outreach personnel to serve on-call within the community.

Demonstrated Need

- Since March 2020, HFG has served more than 12,000 individuals with housing related issues who have been directly impacted by COVID-19.
- Despite best efforts, there is still a significant lack of inventory within the system.
 - For 2021, Gwinnett's Coordinated Entry System has only been able to make and accept referrals at a rate of 61%.

How does it work?

- HFG has other pending applications requesting additional funding for Diversion and Hotel/Motel Vouchers. This request would supply us with the necessary operational dollars to continue to administer these programs and even allow us to hire a dedicated staff member, if necessary.
- Staff would use dedicated time to review client applications, conduct limited case management, and provide voucher/diversion solutions to clients.

Questions?

Contact Information:

Matthew Elder

Director, HomeFirst Gwinnett

melder@unitedwayatlanta.org

404-527-8819