

# Preparation for 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature

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Strategies For Change

[thn.org](http://thn.org)

# Agenda



THN and  
Homelessness in  
Texas



Legislative  
Priorities

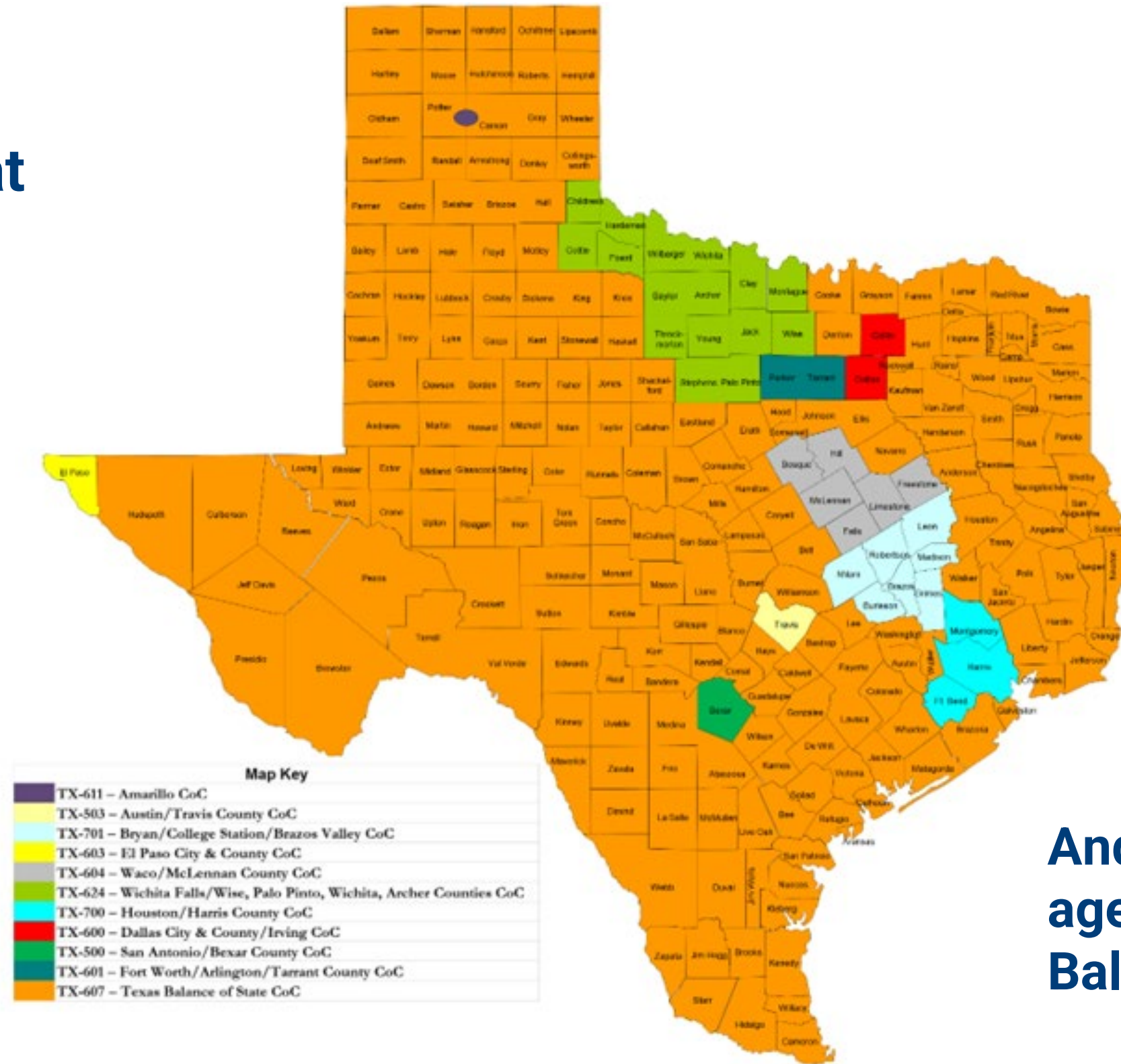


Homelessness  
Awareness Day



# Homelessness in Texas

The communities that THN works with/for:



And THN is the lead agency for TX Balance of State CoC



# Point-in-Time Homeless Count



**2,036**

**Veterans**

8% of PIT of People Experiencing Homelessness were Veterans



**1,358**

**Unaccompanied Youth**

Youth with no parent or guardian present were experiencing homelessness



**2,075**

**Households with children**

9% of PIT of People Experiencing Homelessness

**24 Hours in Texas**  
Point-In-Time Count, January 2023  
**27,377 People Counted**



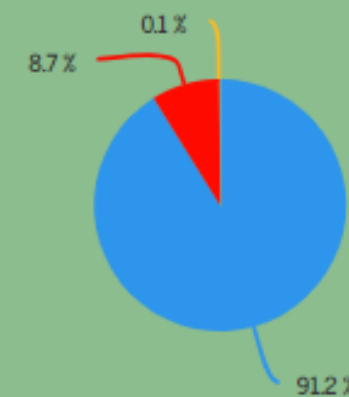
**38%**

Adults with barrier to housing because health issues



**4,886 in PIT of People Experiencing Homeless were Chronically Homeless**


**Homelessness by Household type**



● Household Without Children  
● Households With Children  
● Households With Only Children



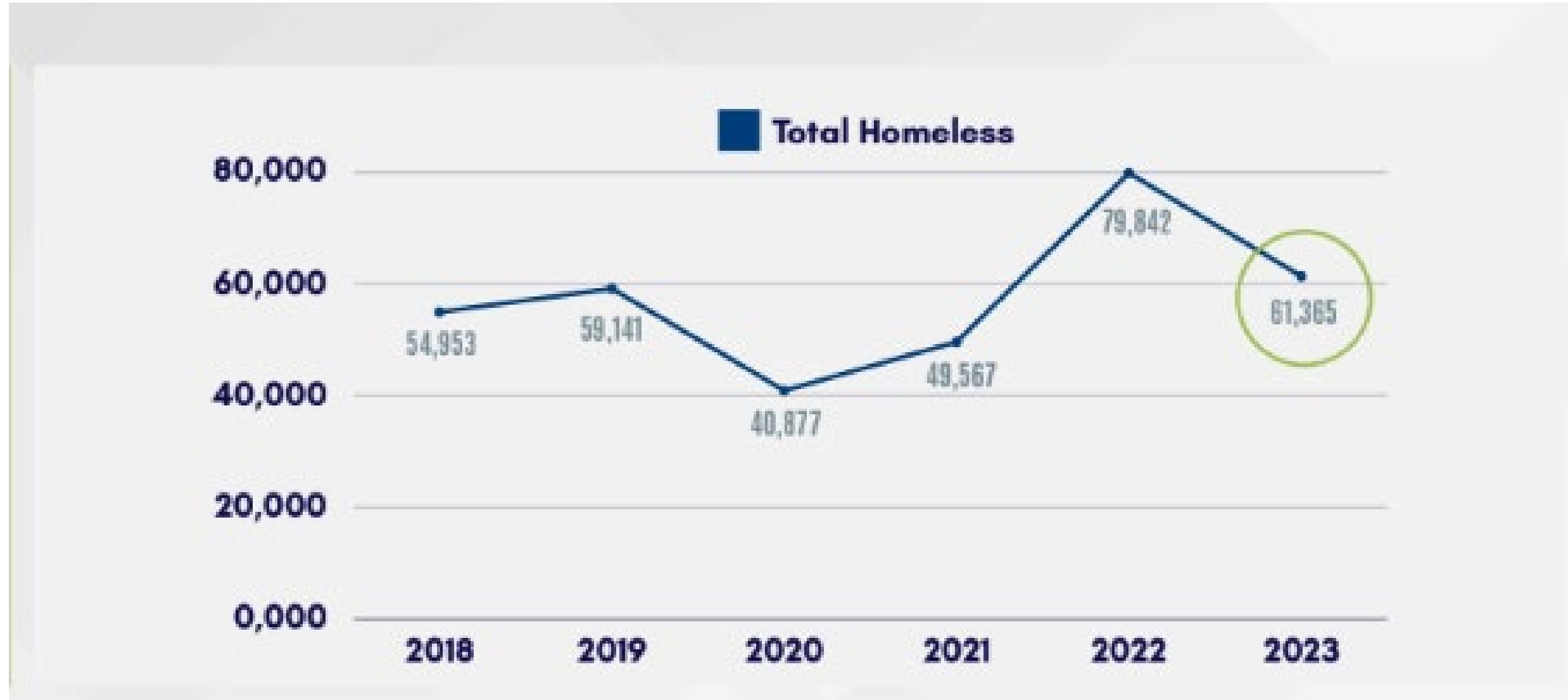
# Annualized Homeless Count



**61,365**  
unique individuals served  
across Texas CoCs in 2023

**2024**  
Data Dashboard

**SCAN ME** 



# THN's Priorities for the 89th Legislative Session

## - Strengthen Texas' Homeless Crisis Response Systems

- Homeless Crisis Response Systems, or Continuums of Care, end homelessness through the strategic development of systems based on data-driven solutions. They do this well, and with more funding they would do more.

## - Expand Affordable, Accessible housing opportunities

- Ending homelessness requires housing. Texas must support the development and rehabilitation of more affordable housing if we want to end homelessness.

## - Targeted, Intersectional Assistance

- Recognizing the intersections between Texans we serve who are also assisted by other systems of care and intentionally collaborating to provide aid (i.e. people with disabilities)

## - Play defense



# Legislation THN supports this Session

- Budget increase for the Homeless Housing and Service Program funding
- Support for TRLI
- Pilot program providing homelessness prevention funding for Veteran led households
- Funding to provide support to community college students at risk or experiencing homelessness
- Expansion support for the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network (THDSN)
- Trauma Informed training for peace officers working with people experiencing homelessness
- Establish a nonpenal law allowing for emergency detention in rare cases for the most severely mentally ill and expand Healthy Community Collaborative funding to assist with mental health treatment – May Support



# Legislation That May Hinder Efforts to End Homelessness

These are examples of legislation we will play defense against – we will educate policymakers and advocates on bills that contain proposed actions that, in THN’s opinion, limit opportunities for communities to address homelessness effectively.

**Bills filed last session that are likely to return (more are likely to be filed in 2025):**

- **HB 2035/SB 986 - Prohibits local eviction protections**
- **SB 1214 – Gives county commissioners courts authority to refuse sale of property intended for ending homelessness**
- **HB 4240 (Harrison)/SB 1803 - Statewide homeless Services Audit Bill. Would be duplicative and likely will require costly administrative adjustments to meet report requirements which will result in less money for services & shelter.**



**SB 2018 (Flores) – Would compel communities to aggressively enforce statewide camping ban lest risk losing tax revenue. It would increase costs on cities**



# Homelessness Awareness Day – March 12, 2025

