



# 500 IN 500

*A plan to identify 500 units of affordable housing in 500 days*

[500in500.alleghenycounty.us](http://500in500.alleghenycounty.us)



# Too Many People Living on Streets

In 2020, the unsheltered homeless population surpassed the sheltered homeless population for the first time nationally. Allegheny County also saw a steep rise.

With no offer of help beyond overflow shelter.

Without flow from the shelter system, we can not make reasonable shelter offers or provide the necessary support to unsheltered homeless.



**500 IN 500**

# Too Many People Living in Shelter

We've seen a 40% increase in the length of stay in shelter.



75% of people staying in shelter are determined to be "low needs" which means that they can be quickly housed.



Of those people, 76% are first-time homeless, and 46% have some income.

As housing costs have increased and pandemic era supports expired, more and more people have found themselves unable to find affordable housing.

**Shelter is supposed to be a solution in an emergency – not a permanent home.**



**500 IN 500**

# 500 Units in 500 Days

We don't want people living on the street and we don't want people living in shelter.

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**We can either launch a campaign to continuously build more shelters or we can launch a campaign to get people out of shelter and into permanent housing.**

These are the problems that “500 in 500” seek to solve. Together we will identify 500 units of deeply subsidized, affordable housing in the next 500 days to help move people out of shelter and into stable, safe housing.

This program will bring together a diverse cross section of partners all committed to working together to identify and bring online units for this purpose with urgency. Unlike other markets where housing is so expensive and no vacancies exist, Allegheny County has the capacity to solve this problem – we need to just work together to make them available and prioritize them for this use.



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# Partners for Progress

Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato, County Departments including Department of Human Services, Allegheny County Economic Development, the Allegheny County Housing Authority, additional government partners at the city and municipal level, developers, and foundations are all committing to work together to find 500 units as a first step in this campaign.

Five hundred units is not the final goal, but it is a tangible start. And this program will help reorient the way organizations work together to help coordinate options specifically for people exiting shelters.



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# Pathways to Housing

Through public housing units

County investment in creating additional homes

Low Income Housing Tax Credit units (LIHTC)

Converted market rate units

Funding upgrades in affordable units that were offline to put them back into use

Add new units that people are inspired to commit to this effort

Converted properties that are residential-adjacent, such as motels or nursing homes



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# How Will We Measure Success?



## Additional Units

Identify 500 units of affordable housing in 500 days or less to help move people out of shelter and into a safe, stable, affordable place to live.



## Increase Flow from the Shelter System

Meaningfully reduce the length of stay in shelter and increase the number of people leaving shelter to housing. Shelters should be for emergency stays that are brief.



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# How to Help

If you want to help support this plan to identify 500 units for our unhoused neighbors, there are different ways to get involved:

**Developers can identify units and whole buildings for this use.  
We have programs to subsidize rent and support tenants.**

**Welcome all people in your community as neighbors.**



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