Progress on One Seattle
Homelessness Action Plan

February 16, 2024
Deputy Mayor Tiffany Washington

Our homelessness goals fall into three areas:

Building more housing – especially affordable housing – faster
Effort led by Office of Housing, supported by SDCI

Bringing people indoors and supporting a pathway to stability
Effort led by KCRHA

Keeping public spaces clean, open, and accessible to all
Effort led by Unified Care Team

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More Affordable Housing, Faster

Affordable housing units opened in 2023

+1,400 homes

# of days saved by design review exemption

-282 days

Affordable housing units already funded and under development

+7,600 homes

89% of permits approved in less than 1 year (253-day average)

Less than 1 year

To be funded by new housing levy over next seven years

+3,100 homes

- **Office of Housing**
- **Department of Construction and Inspections**

Seattle Homelessness Response System

PREVENTION	EMERGENCY	HOUSING SUPPORTS

Keeping People in their Homes

Rental assistance and tenant supports

Homeless Services System

Places for people to go when they are unsheltered

Permanent Housing

One-time, short-term, and long-term supports

Understanding Partnership Roles

	Seattle	KCRHA
Housing Capital and Development	✓	
Prevention & Community Stability	✓	
CoC Funded Programs		✓
Shelter programs	✳	✓
Diversion programs		✓
Rapid Rehousing		✓
Coordinated Entry		✓
HMIS		✓
Outreach	✓	✓
Encampment Cleans & Removals	✓	✳

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The Unified Care Team

Where We Were
January 2022

- Estimated 1,000 tents and 300+ RVs

- Backlog of ~10K Encampment Constituent Service Requests

- Multiple City departments working different parts of the same problem in silos

- Information about encampments tracked by hand, stored in spreadsheets, updated infrequently

Where We Are
As of January 2024

- 523 verified tent count
  227 verified RV count

- 41K Customer Service Requests triaged in < 3 days in 2023

- One collaborative, coordinated effort to provide a holistic response

- Database of citywide encampments, updated daily, includes public impact scoring

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Unified Care Team - A *One Seattle* Approach
Ensuring Seattle streets, sidewalks, and public spaces are clean, open, and accessible to all.

DON ▶ Engaged Communities & Neighbors

Accessible Sidewalks & Streets ◀ **SDOT**

SPD ▶ Parking Enforcement & On-site Safety

Outreach and Coordination with KCRHA ◀ **HSD**

SPR ▶ Safe & Accessible Parks

Customer Service & Standards ◀ **FAS**

SPU ▶ Protecting Public Health & Environment

Solutions for Restoring Safe Spaces ◀ **SCL**

SPL ▶ Bringing People Together

Private Property Encampments ◀ **SDCI**

SFD ▶ Emergency Response & Prevention

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2023 UCT Highlights

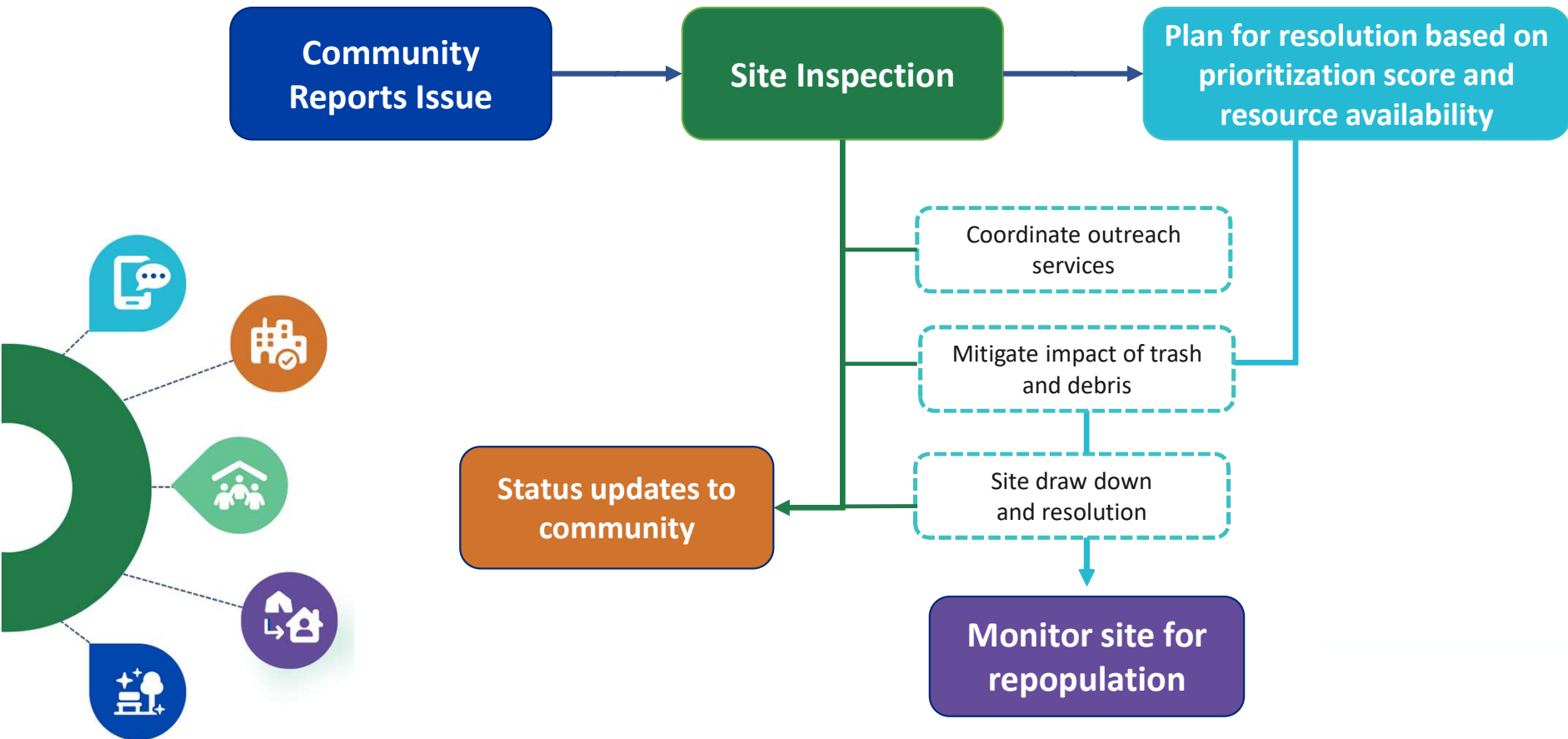|		
20% Increase in shelter referrals over 2022	**11K+** Visits by UCT crews to clean sites	**5.9M** Pounds of debris removed from encampments
41K+ Customer Service Requests triaged < 3 days	**24%** Decrease in verified tent count citywide since Jan 2023	**12K+** Site inspections completed

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Rules Governing Encampment Removals

MDAR 17-01 and FAS 17-01 ("MDARs") cover four main areas:

- The amount of **notice** required prior to moving an encampment
- Guard rails around when and how we address **hazards and obstructions**
- Requirements for **offers of shelter** prior to a removal
- Storing and providing access to **personal property** removed

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Encampment Work Cycle

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Community Reports Issue  →  Site Inspection  →  Plan for resolution based on prioritization score and resource availability
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- Coordinate outreach services
- Mitigate impact of trash and debris
- Site draw down and resolution

Status updates to community

Monitor site for repopulation

Neighborhood Team Model

- 5 teams, 1 per geographic area
- Each team conducts:
  - Inspections
  - Outreach
  - Removals
  - General cleaning
  - RV remediation and geo-cleaning
  - Ticketing and towing (parking enforcement)
  - Community engagement

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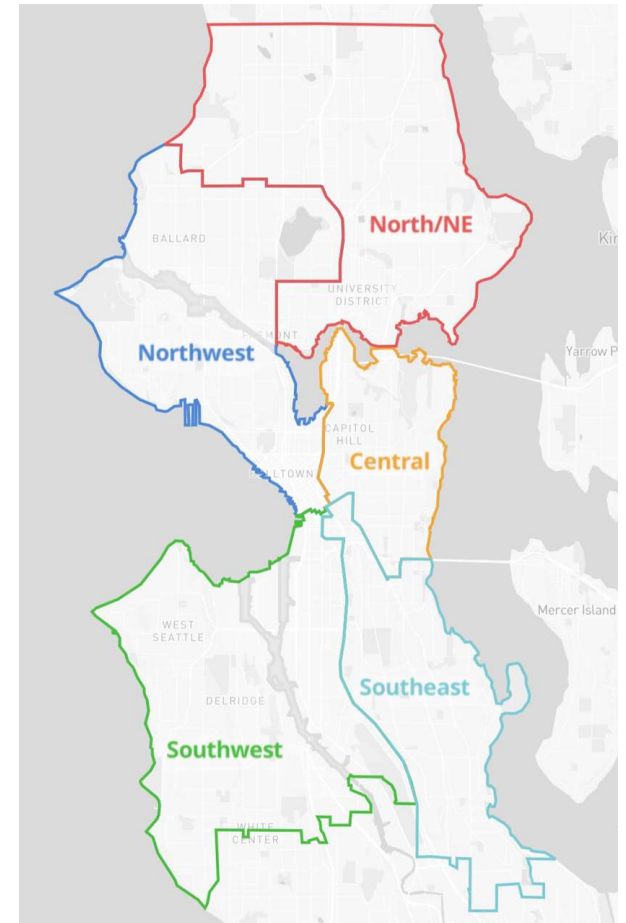
Public Impact Scoring and Site Prioritization

Points Assigned by Site Attributes (Inspections)

+2	Full mobility impact
+1	Partial mobility impact
+1	Blocking entrance
+1	Large amounts of debris
+1	Blocking sight line
+1	Within RSE Priority Area

+1	Insufficient clearance for a wheelchair
+1	Near children/playground
+1	Within public school walk zone
+1	Chemical/hazard
+1	Near waterway
+1	Per 5 RVs

Points Assigned by Proximity

+1	History of encampment fires in proximity within the last 6 months
+1	History of violent crime incidents in proximity within the last 6 months

Verified and Confirmed Public Safety

+3	Recent significant violent crime
+2	Recent non-VC shots fired
+2	Recent significant encampment fires

Citywide Encampment Operations - Viewer
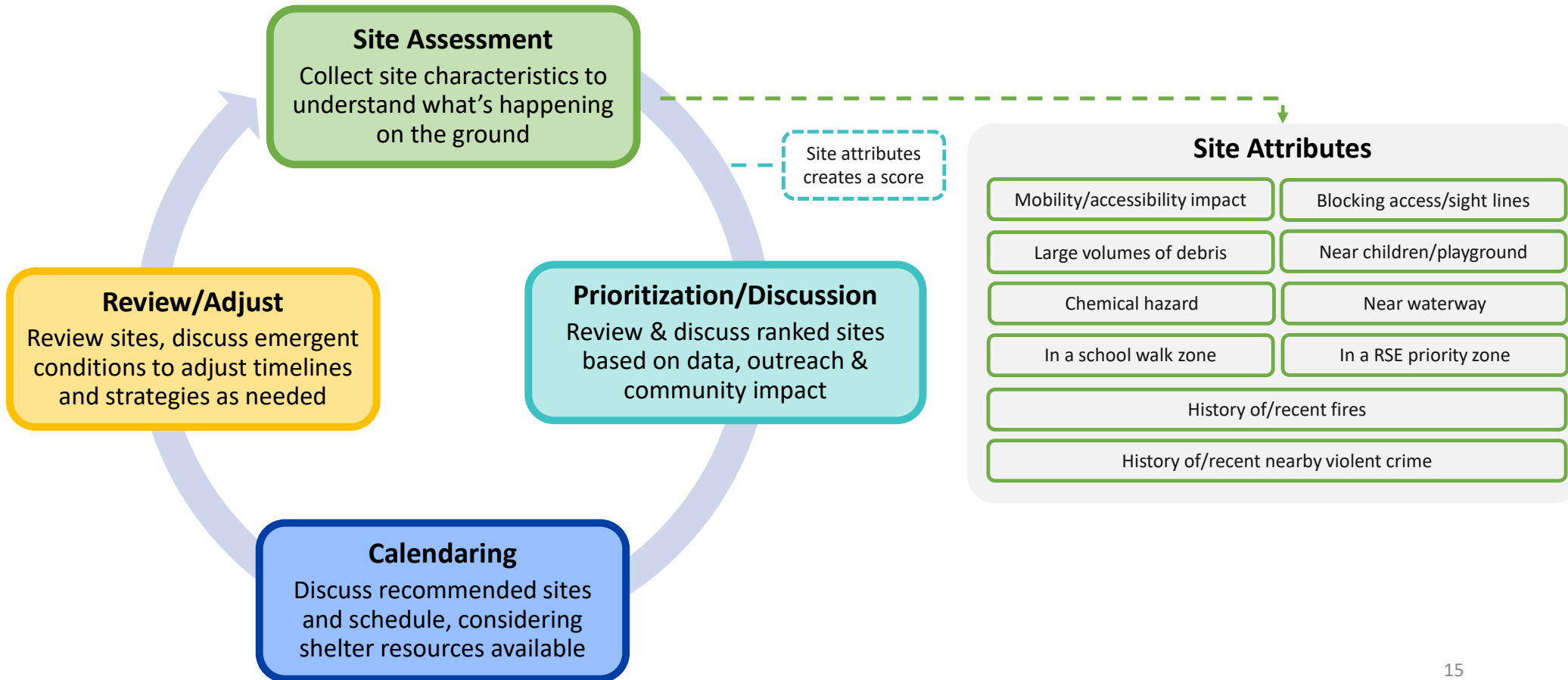City of Seattle
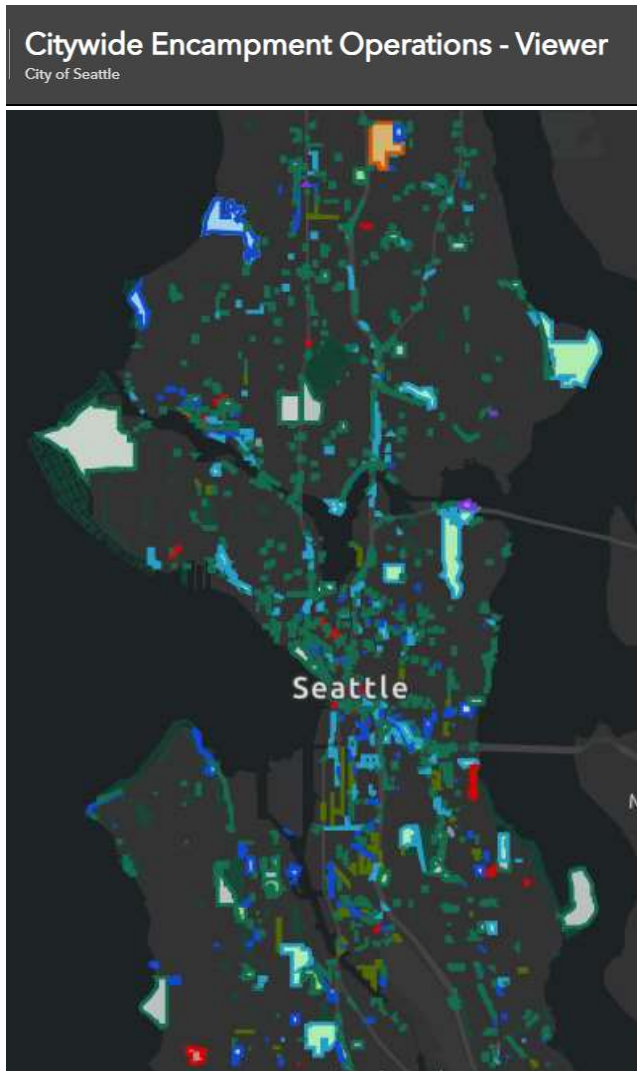
Data-Informed Encampment Response

Our standardized data system contributes to:

- Equity

- Consistency

- Understanding of conditions on the ground

Prioritization is more than the points

A dynamic data- and people-informed approach to site resolution.

Site Assessment
Collect site characteristics to understand what's happening on the ground

Site attributes creates a score

Review/Adjust
Review sites, discuss emergent conditions to adjust timelines and strategies as needed

Prioritization/Discussion
Review & discuss ranked sites based on data, outreach & community impact

Calendaring
Discuss recommended sites and schedule, considering shelter resources available

Site Attributes

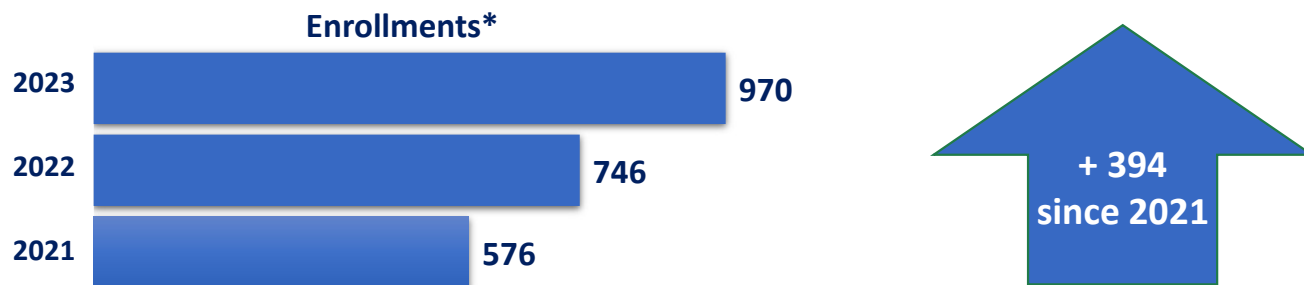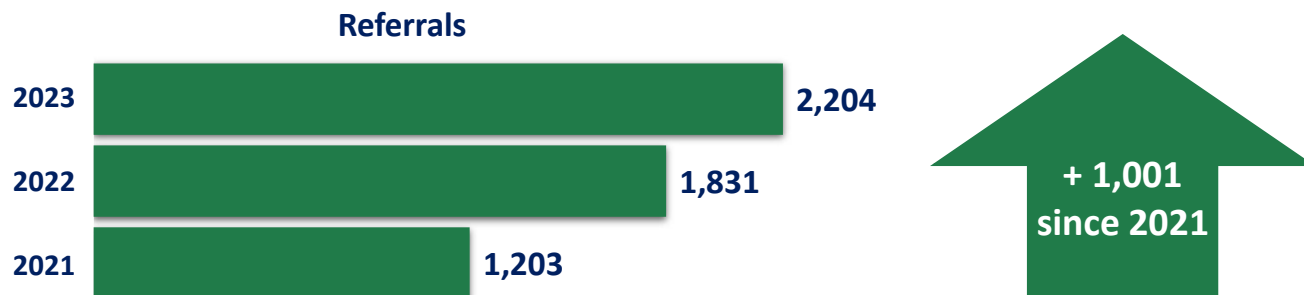|	
Mobility/accessibility impact	Blocking access/sight lines
Large volumes of debris	Near children/playground
Chemical hazard	Near waterway
In a school walk zone	In a RSE priority zone
History of/recent fires	
History of/recent nearby violent crime	

Public Safety Encampment Data

We believe this data shows our prioritization process is helping reduce many of the dangerous or violent elements we see at some encampments.

Addressing the highest impact sites first appears to be contributing to a reduction in fires and shots fired.

	2022	2023	% Change
Shots fired	116	69	**-41%**
Fires	1,617	1,351	**-16%**
Medical response calls	12,138	12,946	**+7%**

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Shelter Referrals & Enrollment

Referrals

2023	2,204
2022	1,831
2021	1,203

+ 1,001 since 2021

Enrollments*

2023	970
2022	746
2021	576

+ 394 since 2021

*Confirmed shelter enrollments are an undercount due to several challenges in the data match required between UCT and HMIS that include approx. 25% of HMIS enrollments with anonymized PII, individuals providing different PII to UCT/HMIS; individuals enrolling over 48 hours after a referral; or individuals enrolling at a different shelter than referred.

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Top Challenges

- Limited RV solutions

- Public safety intersection

- Lack of substance use treatment and behavioral health options

- Moving people from shelter to permanent housing

- Frequent repopulation of sites

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Summary

- We've made progress on Homelessness Action Plan goals

- Our partnership with KCRHA continues with a focus on improving system performance

- The UCT Neighborhood model and data infrastructure provides a strong foundation for continued progress

- More than 7,600 affordable homes are currently under development, with at least 3,100 more to be funded by new housing levy

- Citywide tent and RV counts have decreased significantly

- 2023 shelter referrals and enrollments are at record levels