



## Response to Questions on the 2016 LOBs

**Request By:** Supervisor Herrity

**Relevant LOB(s):** LOBs #156, #158

**Question:** Provide data on the number of individuals who were moved from the homeless shelters to housing arrangements and remain in stable housing arrangements one year later.

**Response:**

The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) uses a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to track client data and information about homeless assistance programs in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. Based on data available in the HMIS, OPEH estimates that approximately 85 percent of families and individuals who move from emergency shelter to permanent housing remain in stable housing arrangements one year later. In FY 2015 a total of 1,296 homeless individuals moved from emergency shelter to permanent housing. Therefore, it is estimated that approximately 1,102 will remain stably housed one year later. Those individuals who return to homelessness are disproportionately single adults with disabilities. This estimate is generally consistent with data reported by other jurisdictions across the country.

It is important to note, though, that there are limits to current data collection methods. The HMIS only contains client data reported by homeless assistance providers in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. Individual client data is generally not shared across local jurisdictions due to privacy and confidentiality reasons, therefore it is difficult to determine if a family or individual returned to homelessness in another jurisdiction. National, state and local partners are working on improving data collection and sharing methods, within the bounds of the law, in order to better understand and serve the population of people experiencing homelessness.