

OCHCD COVID-19 Response Summary

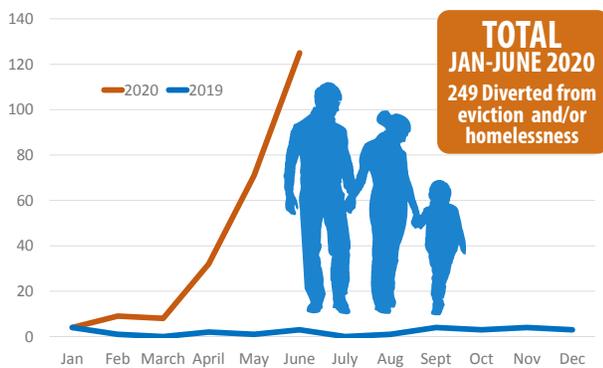
Orange County Housing and Community Development (OCHCD) promotes affordable housing, economic opportunity, and living free from discrimination.



The Board of Commissioners created the **Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA)** fund in 2018. In 2020, the Board of Commissioners significantly supplemented funding for this program and endorsed OCHCD's recommendation to enhance service delivery to:

- **STABILIZE** housing with financial assistance to 249 households, January – June
- **PREVENT** eviction and homelessness
- **STREAMLINE** referrals and eligibility with funding in the Towns of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough
- **ADMINISTER** funds for the Towns and County, improving access and efficiency

HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED



TOTAL JAN-JUNE 2020
249 Diverted from eviction and/or homelessness

*This number reflects new households assisted; 26 households also received repeat assistance. Total number of households assisted in 2019: 26

OCHCD partners with the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH) to run the **Housing Helpline**. Staff on the Helpline staff assist callers and emailers to:



- **ACCESS** programs and services
- **DIVERT** people from homelessness
- **REFER** to shelter and housing programs
- **PRIORITIZE** people on housing waiting lists

| | OCPEH HOUSING HELPLINE | | |
|-------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | NUMBER OF PEOPLE | NUMBER OF CALLS | NUMBER OF EMAILS |
| APRIL | 113 | 210 | 5* |
| MAY | 350 | 617 | 116 |
| JUNE | 391 | 1,005 | 194 |

*Housing Helpline began email access on April 28, 2020

OCHCD partners with the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, the Town of Chapel Hill, Orange County Emergency Services, and OCPEH on **Noncongregate Shelter Conversion** to:

- **PROTECT** people at homeless shelters from COVID-19
- **MOVE** homeless shelter to hotel in May 2020
- **FUND** safety modifications to shelter

The Board of Commissioners created the **Eviction Diversion Program** in June 2020.

OCHCD partners with OC Human Rights & Relations and OC Criminal Justice Resource Department to:

- Provide an attorney to **COUNSEL** and **REPRESENT** people in eviction with court proceedings
- **LINK** tenants to services and rental assistance

With support from Orange County Department of Social Services for a case manager position, OCHCD created the **Housing Help** program in March 2020, for people experiencing homelessness to secure and maintain stable housing with a flexible mix of:

- **HOUSING SEARCH** to locate units that match client needs
- **CASE MANAGEMENT** and linkages to programs and services
- **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** for housing costs over a few months or more

OCHCD administers the Orange County **Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)** program to provide long term housing affordability to people with low incomes, including recent initiatives to:

- **CREATE** new preferences for vulnerable populations
- **ISSUE** 125 HCV applications for people experiencing homelessness
- **INITIATE** the Landlord Incentive Program to increase available units for people with housing subsidies by providing a \$500 leasing bonus

The Board of Commissioners approved additional **CARES Act** funds to OCHCD for foreclosure prevention, rental assistance, and enhanced landlord incentives.



www.orangecountync.gov/Housing