

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7-25**  
**ONE PHILLY RESPONSE TO ENDING STREET HOMELESSNESS**

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, the number of people experiencing homelessness has increased across the country and in Philadelphia, including but not limited to, our youth, men, women, families, veterans, members of the LGBTQ+ community, those with substance use disorders, and seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) annually conducts a full Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of people experiencing homelessness, including both sheltered and unsheltered populations in Philadelphia; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homeless, Philadelphia's annual Point-in-Time counts those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and

**WHEREAS**, this count is broken down into three categories: 1) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation (such as a condemned building with no functioning heat or water); 2) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, and local government programs); or 3) Is exiting an institution where the individual has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, the Point-in-Time Count identified a total of 976 people living on the street or in places not meant for human habitation, a 38% increase from the 2023 Point-In-Time count (706); and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Point-in-Time Count identified a total of 1,178 people living on the street or in places not meant for human habitation. This was a 21% increase from the 2024 Point-in-Time Count; and

**WHEREAS**, people experiencing street homelessness are disproportionately exposed to violence, extreme weather, untreated medical and behavioral health conditions, and premature mortality; and

**WHEREAS**, OHS has concluded that in order to successfully transition people from the streets into safer, more stable housing it is necessary to increase access to quality shelters; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing shelter capacity, when paired with coordination among multiple City Departments, health systems, service providers, community partners, and

pathways to permanent housing improves public safety and quality of life and supports long-term stability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of Philadelphia has the authority to direct City agencies to take coordinated action to protect health and safety and to advance the well-being of the City's most vulnerable residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, CHERELLE L. PARKER, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, by the powers vested in me, do hereby **ORDER** as follows:

**SECTION 1. Immediate Actions.**

1. The Office of Homeless Services (OHS), under the direction of the Managing Director, and in coordination with the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS), Office of Community Wellness and Recovery, Office of Public Safety (OPS), Finance Department, Capital Programs Office (CPO), Department of Planning and Development (DPD), Department of Public Property (DPP), Law Department, and any other such Office, Agency, or Department as needed shall:
  - (a) Facilitate access and provide financial support to operate 1,000 new shelter beds, assisting those experiencing street homelessness through the creation of new shelters and new operational opportunities by January 31, 2026;
  - (b) Use every lawful means necessary to increase individuals' access to shelter, while also decreasing the number of people experiencing street homelessness in the City of Philadelphia;
  - (c) Work with behavioral health experts and public safety partners to increase the amount of outreach activity across the City to encourage individuals to accept shelter and to obtain healthcare and treatment;
  - (d) Work with service providers to immediately expand shelter bed capacity with access to on-site wrap around behavioral health services;
  - (e) Ensure that shelter capacity expanded pursuant to this Order is integrated with services designed to promote stabilization, address health and behavioral needs, and support successful transitions to permanent housing;
  - (f) Engage and collaborate with local residents and business owners to successfully integrate new shelters into communities; and
  - (g) Collaborate with the Philadelphia Housing Authority and other housing partners to increase permanent supportive housing access and supply for people who are homeless and at risk of becoming homeless.

**SECTION 2. Intragovernmental Cooperation.**

1. Every City Department shall prioritize assisting OHS in abating the street homelessness crisis and shall take all necessary steps to give effect to this Order.
2. The Managing Director, in collaboration with members of the Mayor's Cabinet and Department heads covered by this order, to the fullest extent allowable under Section 8-401 of The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, shall deploy employees of City Departments and require such other intragovernmental coordination as may be necessary to implement this Order.

**SECTION 3. Intergovernmental Cooperation.**

I call upon all governmental and quasi-governmental entities at the federal, state, and local level to assist the City in abating Philadelphia's street homelessness crisis, through intergovernmental collaboration including financial assistance, legislative solutions, and the leveraging of non-profit and philanthropic partnerships.

**SECTION 4. Public-Private Partnerships.**

OHS and all other relevant City agencies shall engage both internal and external stakeholders to identify new public-private partnerships and leverage existing partnerships to abate street homelessness.

**SECTION 5. Additional Measures.**

The Managing Director, in consultation with the City Solicitor, shall assess whether abating the street homelessness crisis requires the City to invoke additional powers under the statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or ordinances of the City of Philadelphia.

**SECTION 6. Effective Date.**

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Date: 12/19/25

  
Cherelle L. Parker, Mayor