



CHATTANOOGA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

August 2021 Newsletter

CICH AND COMMUNITY KITCHEN FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Facilitated by Linda Katzman
Former Director of the Homeless Healthcare Center

CICH and the Community Kitchen Conducted a focus group in July of 14 participants who are currently experiencing homelessness. Here are the results rated from high to lowest in importance.

Barriers have you experienced trying to obtain housing

1. Old debt
2. Substance abuse
3. ID (no address, no money for fees)
4. Background/credit check
5. Paying bills on time/ budgeting
6. Steady employment
7. Lack of employment with a living wage
8. Criminal record
9. Discrimination based on
 - age/race/prior evictions/ mental or health illness
10. Trouble interacting with gatekeepers to housing
 - providers and case workers
11. Family size vs. available housing
12. Impact of The 'Patten Tower' fire:
 - limited housing options
13. Weapon rules and charges
14. Financial
15. Living with family with violent or criminal background
16. Landlord not following laws
17. Pet owner
18. Moving expenses
19. Housing Inspection cleanliness protocol
20. Employment

(Continued)

One thing you need right now to help find a permanent place to live.

1. Feel like you are heard by a case manager or housing provider
2. ID
3. Move in expenses
4. Interpersonal relationship skills
5. Assistance with old debts
6. More time to gather information for public housing
7. Deposit funds
8. Assistance for longer than 3 months
9. Need for security system in housing unit
10. Housing
11. Reliable assistance from 211 or other local agencies
12. Change laws around limitations on debt (old debt with no expiry)

Anything you want to discuss that was not asked.

1. Lack of 1 bedrooms when housing is available
2. Eligibility requirements to access housing need to be revisited
3. Transportation
4. Lack of information regarding housing and resources

Upcoming Events

CRHC- Emergency Solutions Grant Essentials

August 19, 2021 @ 9:00AM

August 20, 2021 @ 12:00PM Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Signal Centers Adult Day Services will host a seminar on financial wellness for people with disabilities in August. (TBA)

Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Essentials (networkforgood.com)

August 19, 2021 @ 9:00AM — August 20, 2021 @ 12:00PM Eastern Time (US & Canada)

CICH Annual Board Meeting- Virtual

Sept 17, 2021 @ 2pm

<https://zoom.us/j/99085974483?pwd=YlcvQnZObHBPbGJyL2xwdmYvNENVQT09>

#HARTGALLERY

Our Newest Program



The Chattanooga art scene is rich and vibrant. Artists, museums, galleries and art shows contribute to the lifeblood of our community. We're pleased to announce The Hart Gallery and Signal Centers have joined to continue the mission to provide people who have disabilities an opportunity to express themselves. Signal Centers will now be managing the gallery and we think it's a perfect fit!

Much of the inspiration comes from Courtney Chandler. An artist in her own right, Courtney has been the Director for 21 years. The encouragement she gives to the participants with disabilities has not only helped them create beautiful art but to also enjoy the experience. Now, Courtney will be taking on a new leadership role as Manager of The Hart Gallery.

