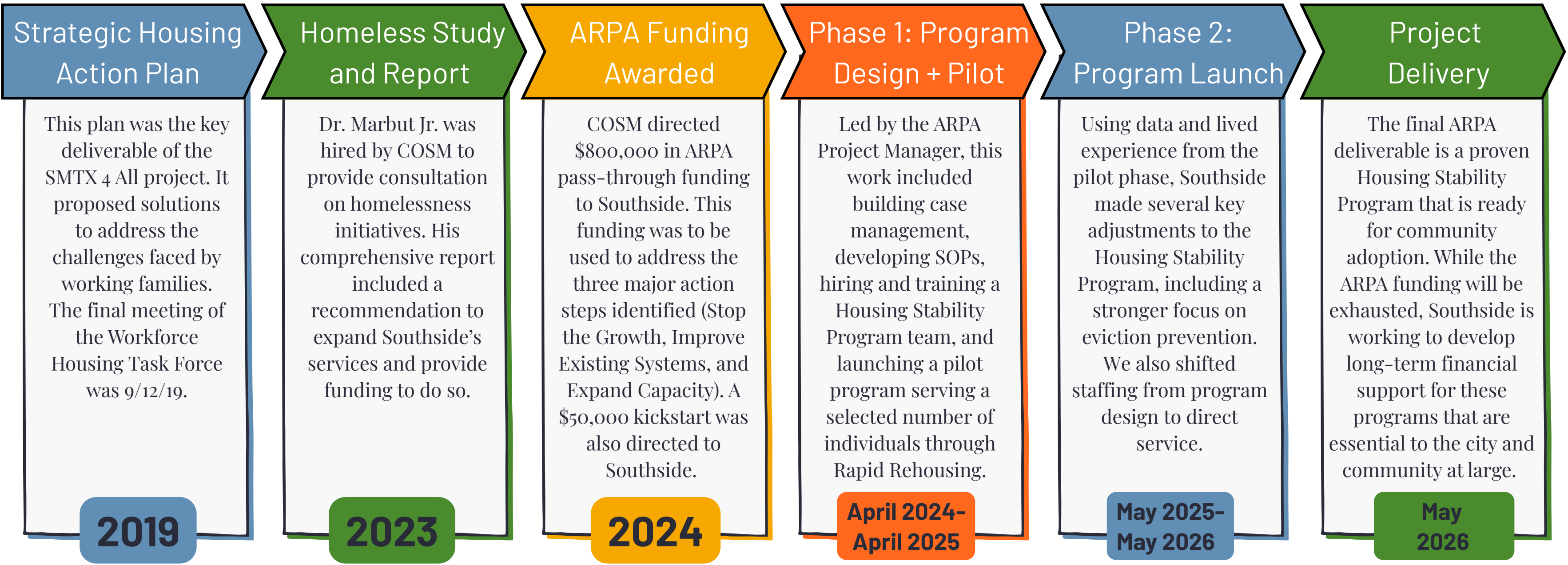




Strategic Action on Homelessness



HISTORY



Project Purpose

This project addresses an identified growth in homelessness and housing instability and multiple disconnected efforts with gaps in service provisions.

Our three key major strategic action steps:

1. Stop the growth
2. Improve existing systems
3. Expand capacity



Target Populations



Primary

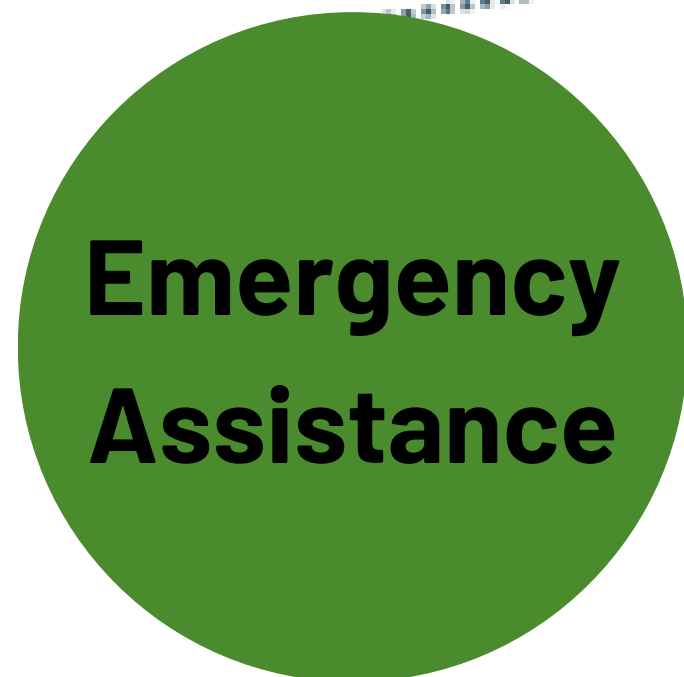
San Marcos resident families at risk or experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Secondary

San Marcos resident families at risk or experiencing homelessness in a recurring situation.

Tertiary

San Marcos resident individuals at risk or experiencing homelessness for the first time or in an episodic manner.



Emergency Assistance

Stop the Growth

Families are able to stay in current, stable housing with connected utilities.

Improve Existing Systems

Partnerships with First Presbyterian Church, Hays Helping Hands, and St. Vincent de Paul eliminate duplication of services and cover higher bill amounts than each could alone.

Expand Capacity

Partnership with Community Action brings Southside a part-time Emergency Assistance case manager, streamlining processes and increasing success rates.



Outcomes

- 77% of the 400+ applications received annually are approved
 - 75% of recipients are San Marcos residents
- Bills up to \$800 are covered and families remain stable
- \$36,000 from Southside combined with partners became nearly \$68,000 of 2025 assistance

More Than Numbers

Eviction Prevention Success story

After major stress and anxiety, this is where I found Southside Community Center. They stepped in and kept me literally from being homeless and kept the power on. This was an eye opening event, that humbled me and taught me how bad it sucks to be dependent on others for my well being. With that being said, Martine at Southside was assigned as my counselor, and she was life saver for me. She worked diligently and found a way to pay my bills, or gave me a referral for other expenses. She helped relieve me of the nightmare of not having an income, keeping power on and keeping cell phone active. I was at the end of my rope with the fact, I might be homeless at age 66.

If it wasn't for Martine at Southside Community Center, I'd be living in my car. I can't thank her enough. They were the only local help that helped with rent and electricity. And referred me to a place that would help me with my cell phone.

I can never say thank you enough times. Literally saving people's lives with ways and means to keep them living safely.

Eviction Prevention

Stop the Growth

Preventing evictions keeps families from entering homelessness.

Improve Existing Systems

Addresses a gap both at Southside and in San Marcos between emergency assistance and services for the unhoused community.

Expand Capacity

This brand-new program is possible entirely thanks to staffing and program funding from the ARPA grant.



Outcomes

- 81 evictions prevented since July
 - 100% of evictions were prevented with intervention
 - Only 2 repeat clients
- Direct payments account for 14% of total spending
- Average of \$2125 per family to prevent homelessness

More Than Numbers

Lisa's Story: Featured by the Texas Homeless Network

When my family and I came to Southside, we were in a difficult place—uncertain, overwhelmed, and trying to hold on to hope. We didn't just need a roof over our heads—we needed stability, support, and a fresh start. Southside gave us all of that and more.

From day one, the staff treated us with kindness, respect, and genuine care. They saw us as a whole family—me, my partner, and our two children—and supported us in ways that truly made a difference. Whether it was connecting us to resources, helping us navigate next steps, or just offering a safe place to breathe and regroup, Southside was there every step of the way.



Southside didn't just offer us shelter—they offered us dignity, hope, and the tools to rebuild our lives. We will always be grateful for everything they've done to help us find our footing again.

Rapid Rehousing



Stop the Growth

Moving families from homelessness to stability reduces the current number of unhoused individuals

Improve Existing Systems

Partnerships with Methodist Healthcare Ministries, HOME Center, BR3T, Security State Bank & Trust, Hill Country MHDD, San Marcos CISD developed and continue

Expand Capacity

San Marcos does not have enough affordable housing to sustain a large-scale rapid rehousing program; this capacity-building is beyond the scope of the grant and Southside's programs



Outcomes

- 38 families went through the program with a 52% success rate (housed after 12 months of case management)
- \$6000 per family
- Development of the Eviction Prevention Program, which has a much higher rate of success
- Direct payments represent 15.7% of total spending



Transitional Housing

Stop the Growth

Moving families from homelessness to stability reduces the current number of unhoused individuals

Improve Existing Systems

Partnership with BR3T reduces duplication of services. Wraparound case management and deposit assistance increases the rate of successful permanent housing

Expand Capacity

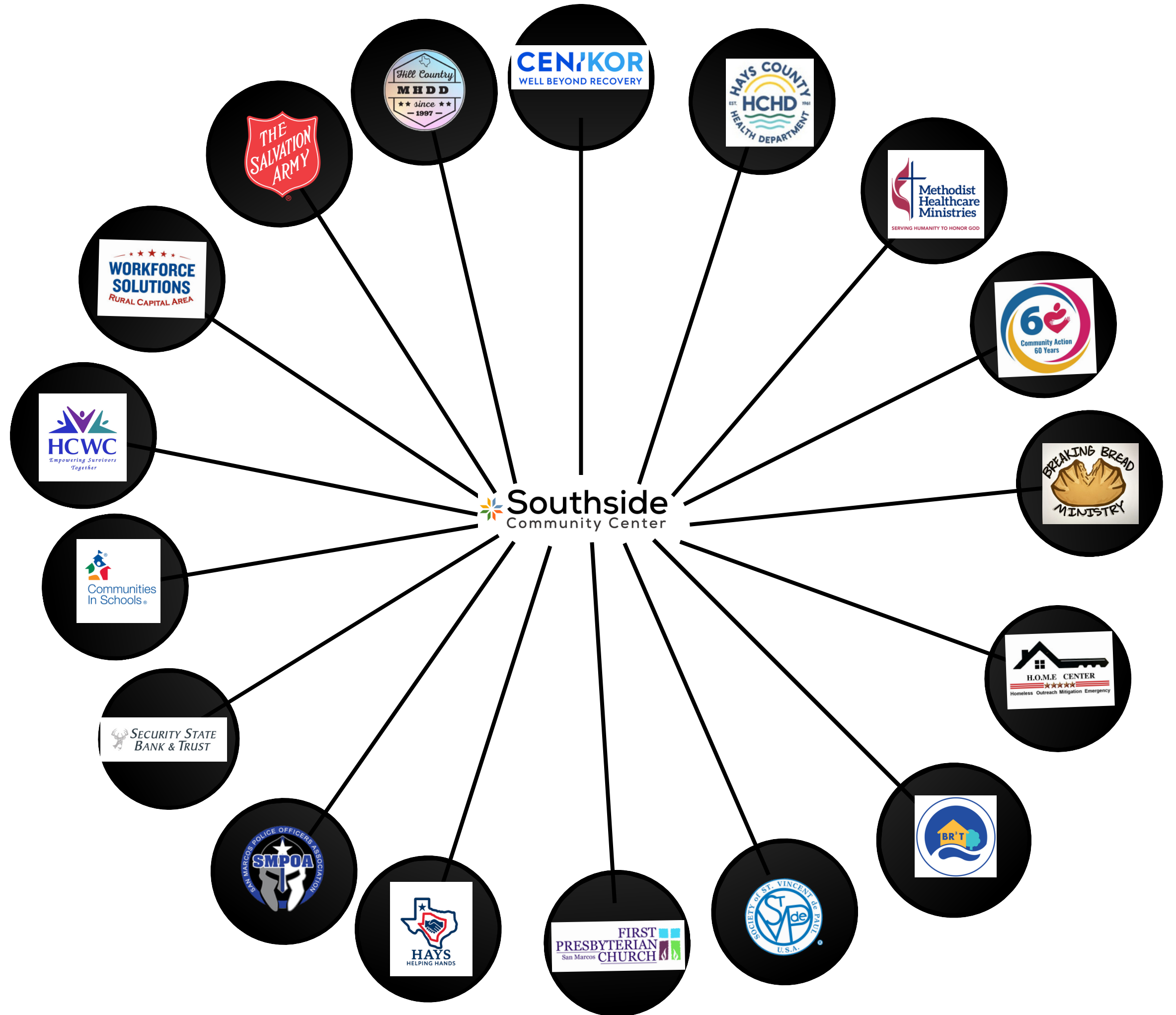
Reducing time in the transitional shelter to 60 days allows Southside to serve at least 36 client units annually versus 20-26. Cohort-style entry allows us to meet current needs



Outcomes

- Since October, 3 cohorts--20 individuals or families--have entered the program
- Half have completed the full 60-day stay and program
- 71% (6 client units representing 9 individuals) have transitioned into permanent housing
- \$600 per individual/family cost to Southside

Coordinated Community Based Services



Community Capacity Building



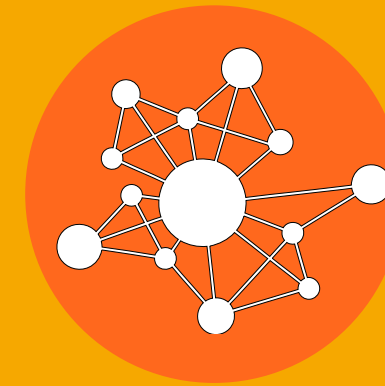
Add appropriate staff and training at Southside Community Center



Build network of partners



Identify gaps in existing services and work with partners to reduce gaps

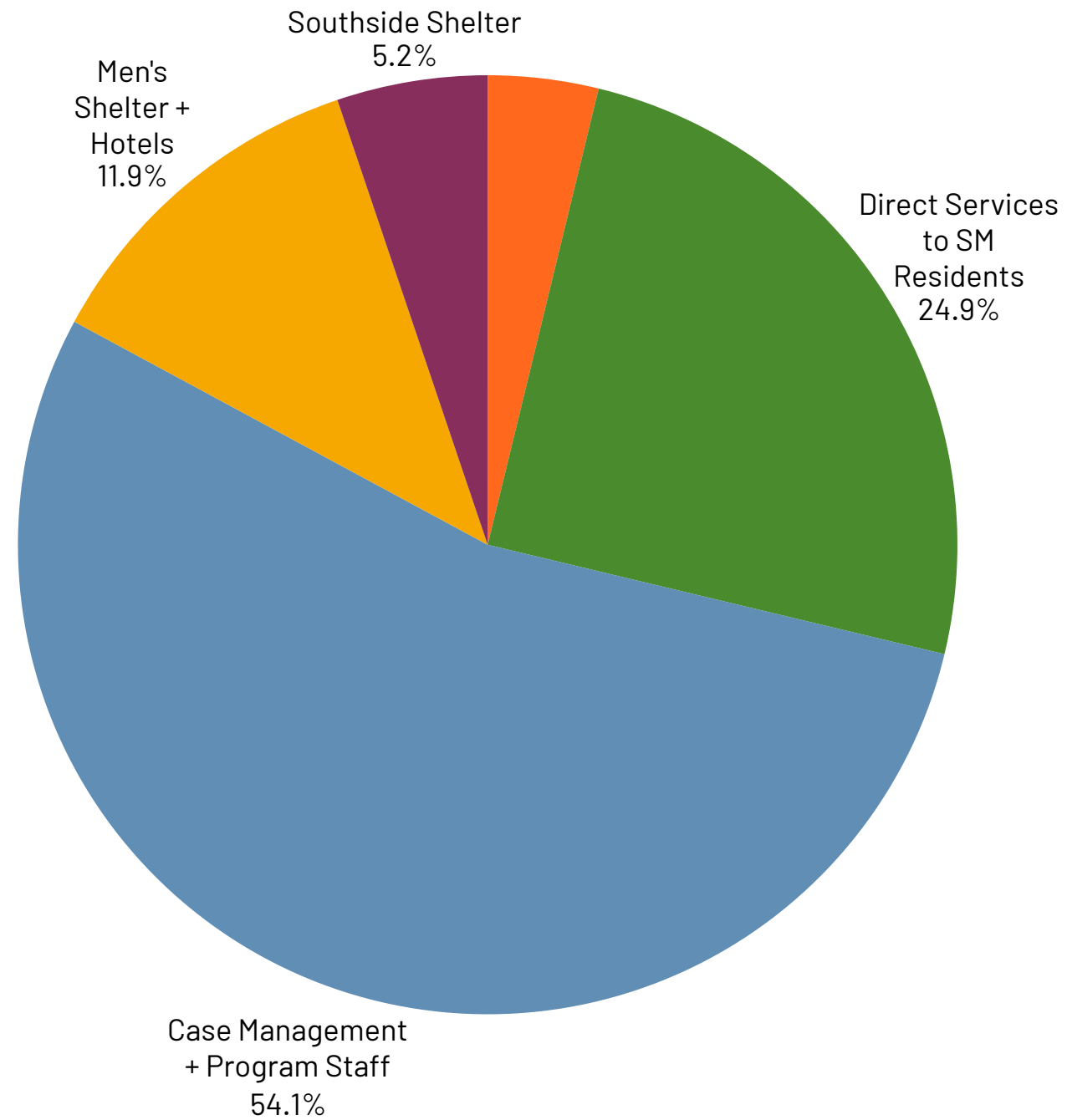


Identify duplication of services and work with partners to reduce duplication

Improved Community-Based Physical Infrastructure

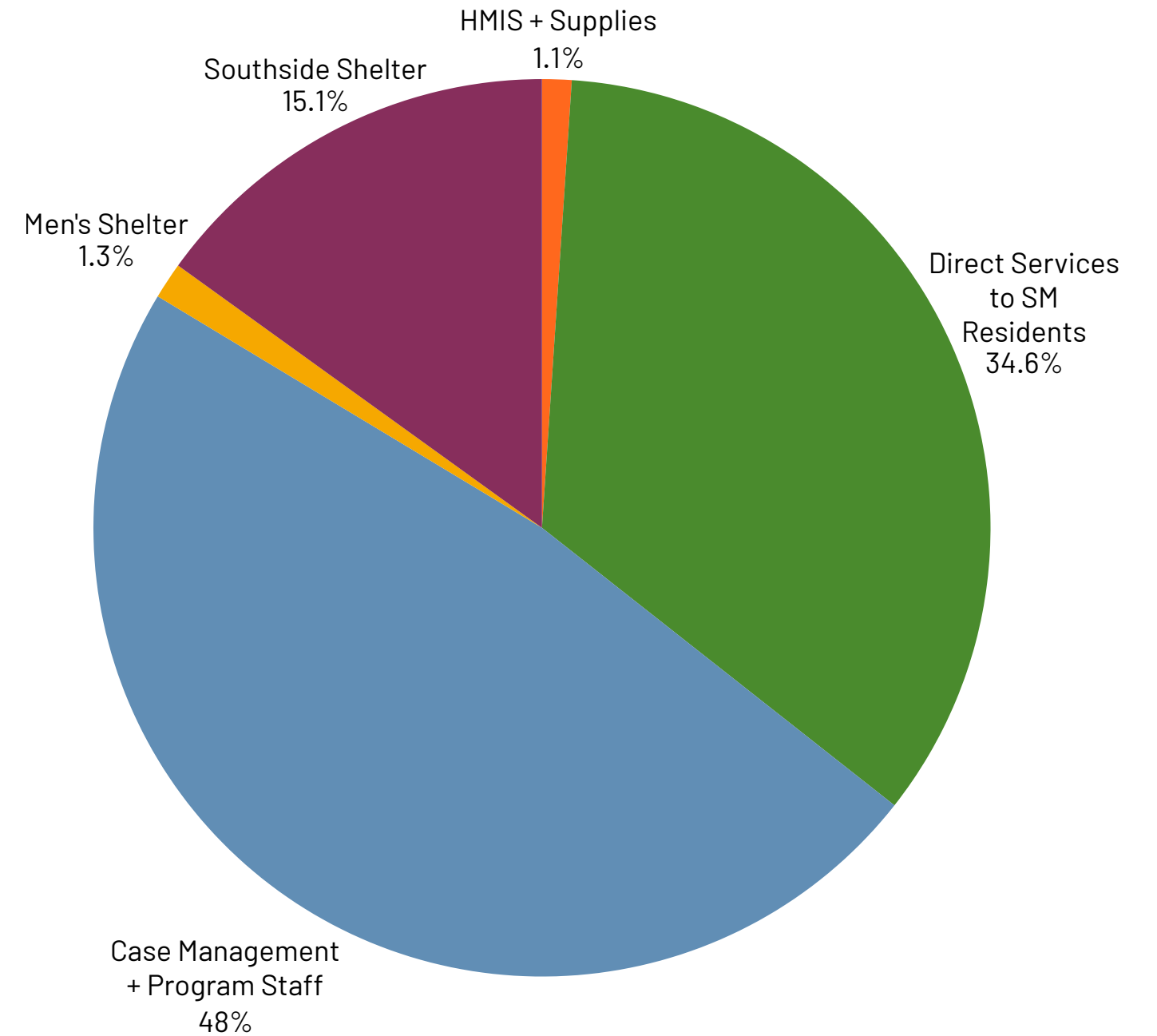


Phase 1 Expenditures



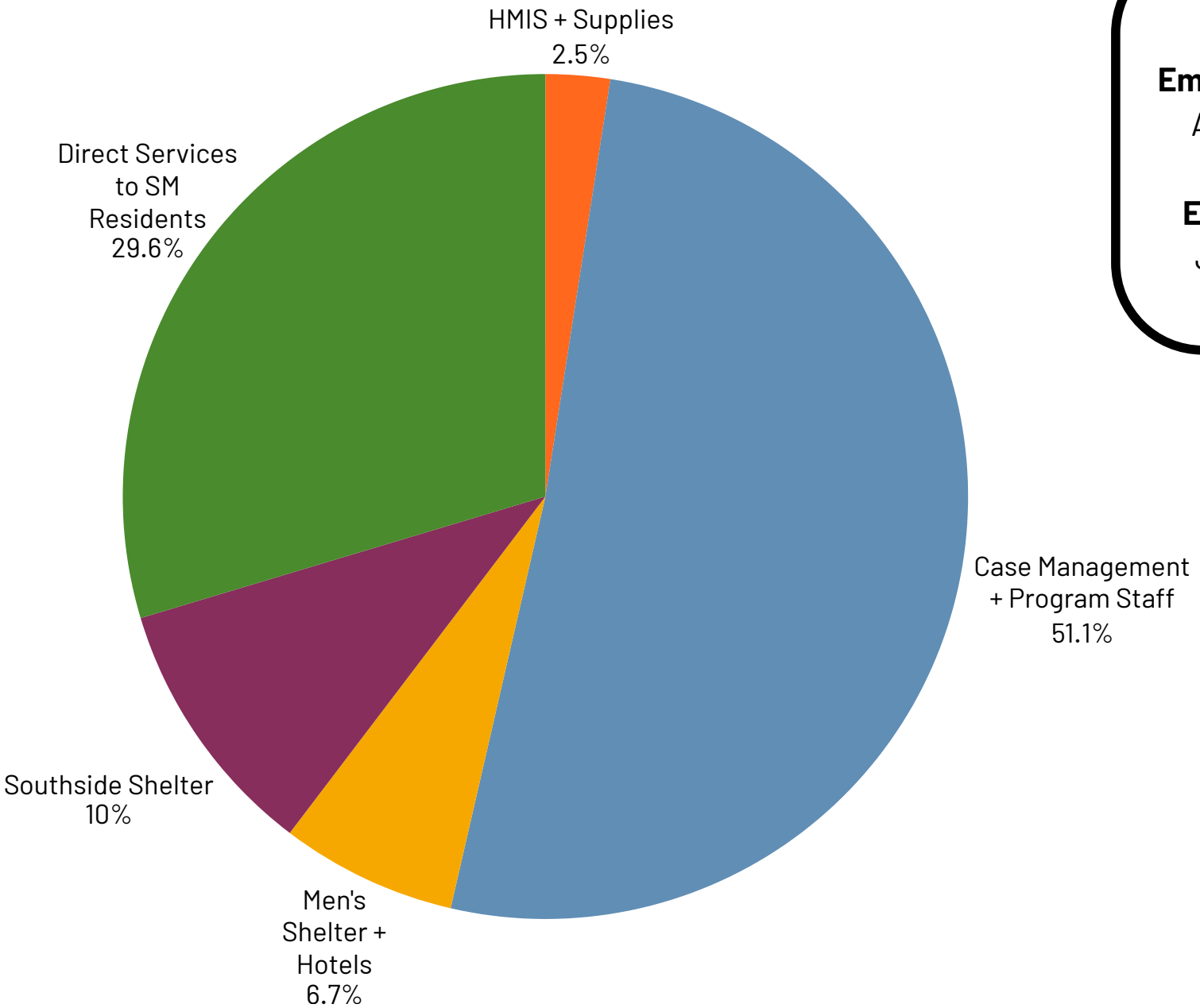
Total: \$411,537
38 families served

Phase 2 Expenditures



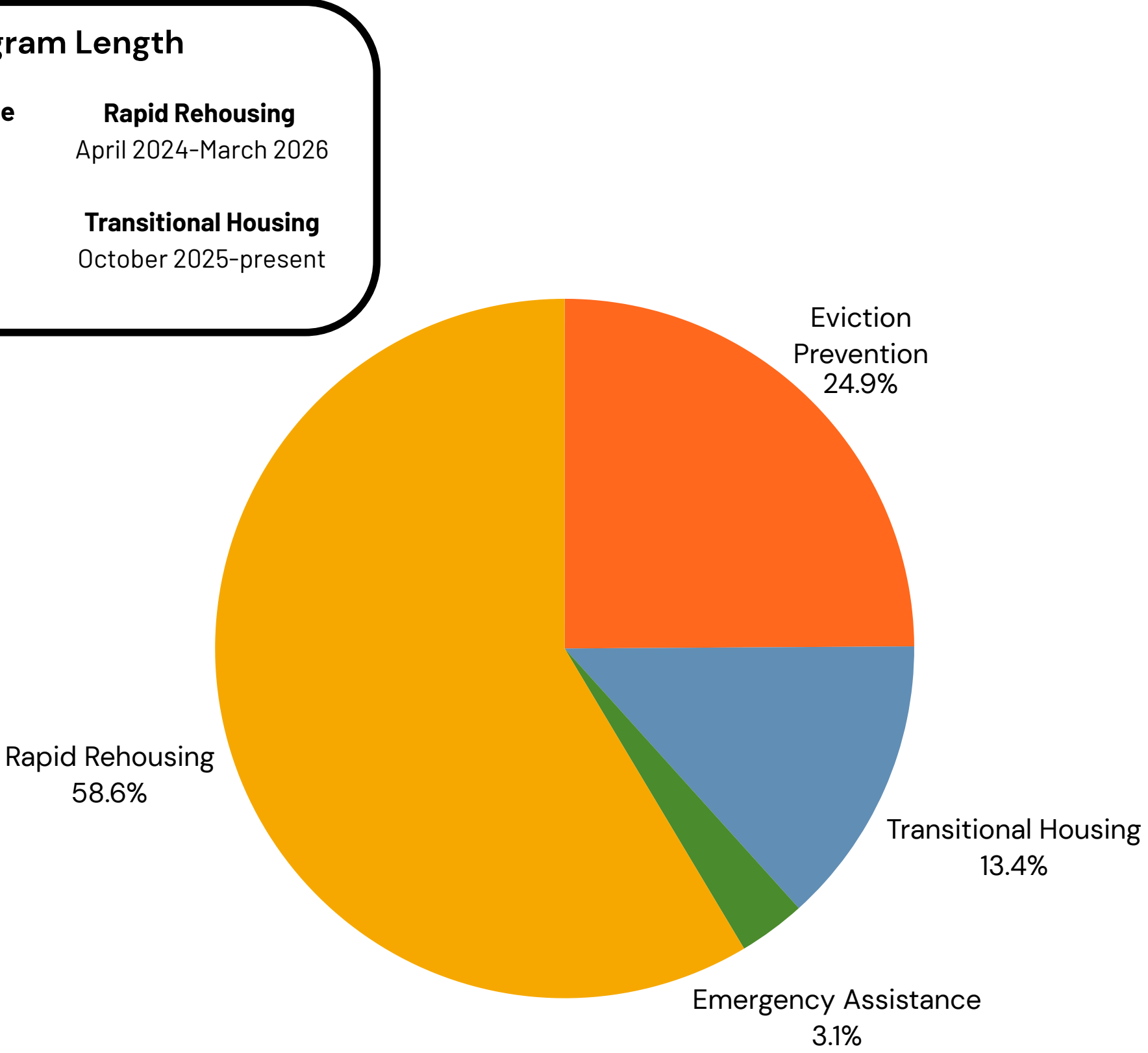
Total: \$394,182
100 families served

Expenditures by Category



As of March 31
\$805,719 spent

Expenditures by Program



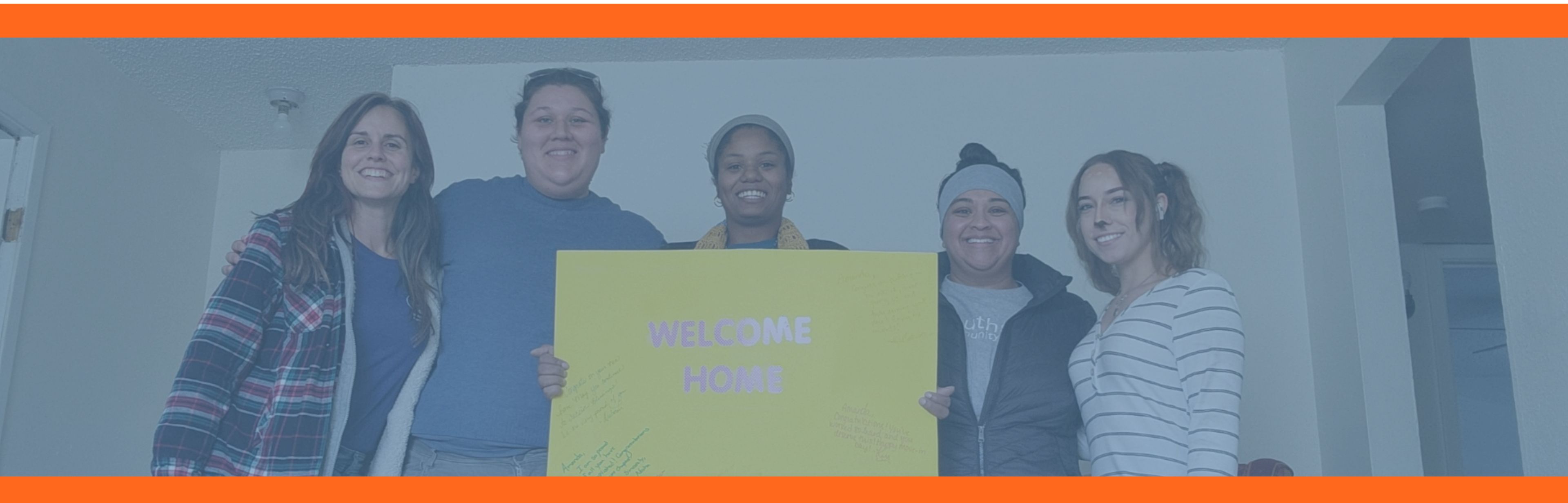
Program Length	
Emergency Assistance April 2024-present	Rapid Rehousing April 2024-March 2026
Eviction Prevention July 2025-present	Transitional Housing October 2025-present

Lessons Learned

- San Marcos does not have the capacity to sustain a successful housing first approach at this moment
- Committed program participants are imperative to ensure successful outcomes for families
- Prevention is cheaper and more successful
- Investing in local, effective community organizations

Solve the most solveable problem first





**Thank you for entrusting
Southside with this project!**