

Tedford Housing

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2019

OUR MISSION:
*Creating pathways from homelessness to home
by partnering with people and their communities
in Midcoast Maine.*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Last year's annual report letter from Joyce McPhetres noted that it was a pivotal year for Tedford Housing. At the time, we were entering into uncharted territory with the town and community of Brunswick, defining ordinances and paving the way to continue our work to see our vision of the Tedford Housing Resource Center through. The good news is that there are now ordinances in place and we know the parameters within which we must work.

Much has happened since Joyce's letter last year. The planned retirement of executive director Craig Phillips was announced. With a skilled and dedicated staff and mission-driven board as our foundation, we are committed to finding the next leader for Tedford Housing, who will continue the important work of responding to the needs of our community's most vulnerable neighbors. As someone who has been on the search committee for the new executive director, I can confidently say we are well on our way to finding the next leader to guide Tedford Housing into the future.

The Merrymeeting Project for homeless youth is now a program of Midcoast Community Alliance. While we were saddened to have eliminated the program from Tedford's umbrella, we are happy to see that the program and Donna Verhoeven landed at such a wonderful youth organization.

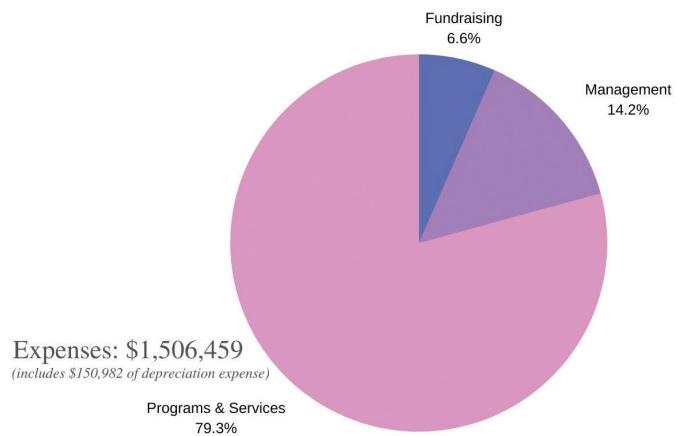
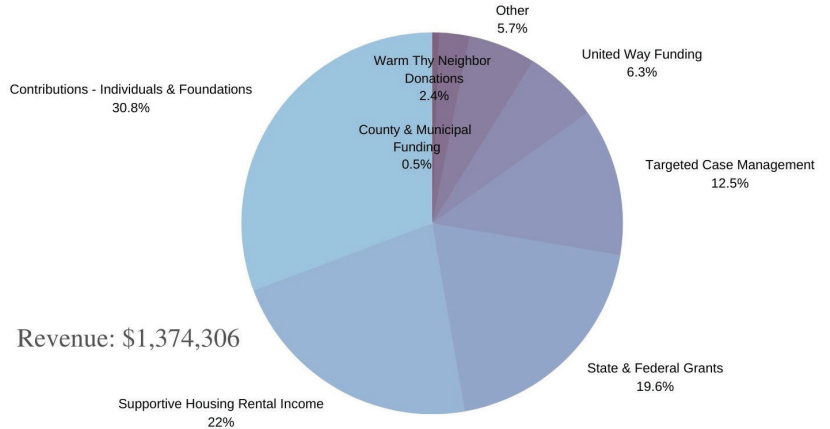
We continue to work on the Long Term Stayers Initiative Southern Midcoast in collaboration with Sweetser, MaineHousing, Mid Coast-Parkview Health, Maine Behavioral Healthcare, The Gathering Place and others. We are proud to report that since the initiative began in February of 2018, 25 individuals and families who have been homeless the longest in our region have been housed.

We continue to work closely with our community partners Oasis Free Clinics, The Gathering Place and Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program. Collaborations such as these have been key for Tedford Housing and the people we serve.

Tedford Housing's reach extends well beyond its emergency shelters. We are as effective as our connections and our connections are strong. We will continue to work with our partners to identify possible sites to fulfill our vision of a resource center for those neighbors who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. A comprehensive approach that includes case management services, supportive housing and emergency shelter, will result in the reduced risk of homelessness in the Brunswick area community, a faster return to housing stability for adults and families, healthier households and increased self-sufficiency.

We, as always, welcome you to join this effort if you would like to be involved.

Roger



TEDFORD HOUSING BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY 2019

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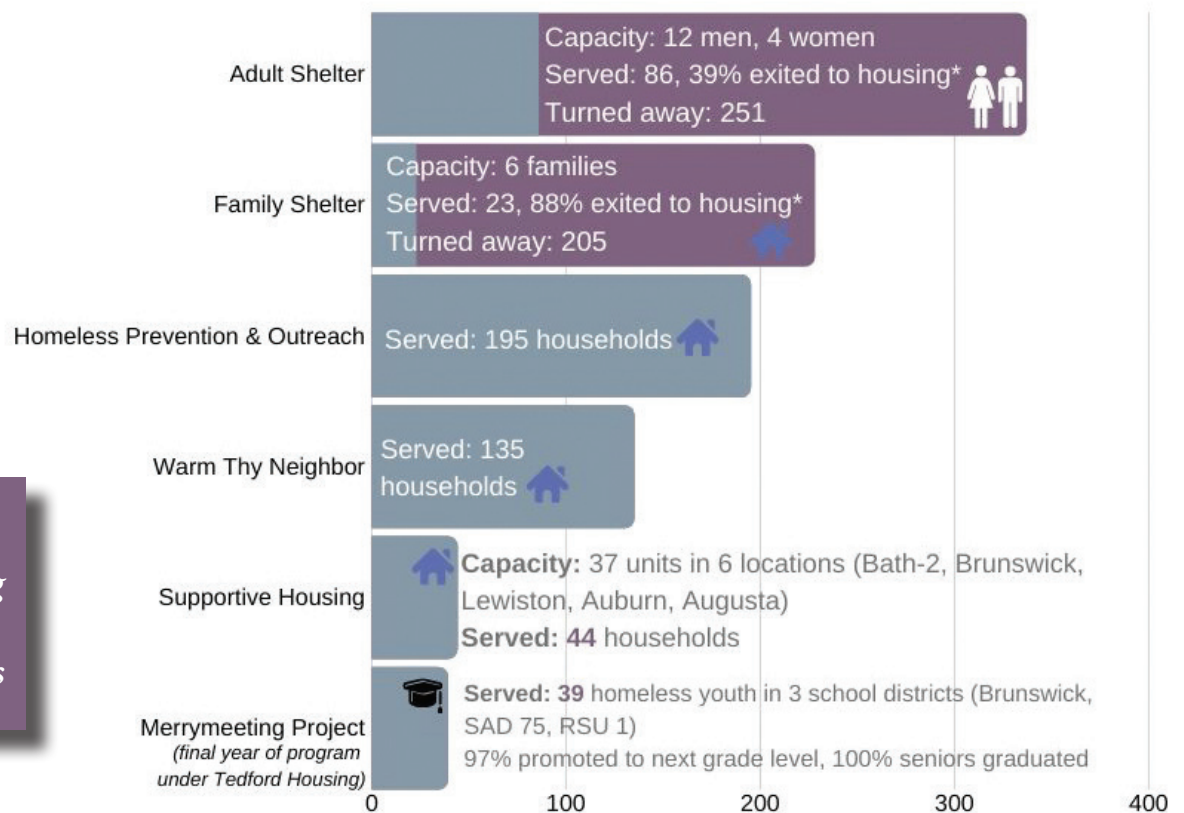
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FISCAL YEAR FY2019 BY NUMBERS

Visit
tedfordhousing.org
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annual report stats



* This statistic refers to shelter guests exited to permanent, affordable housing where the tenant pays no more than 30% of income towards rent. These percentages are well above the Maine Housing performance measure of 30% for exits to permanent housing.

AIMEE PINETTE: A TEDFORD SUCCESS STORY



Aimee Pinette's story is not uncommon. After fleeing with her son from an abusive relationship, she was left navigating the difficult and frustrating process of finding safe, affordable housing. While she worked full-time and took side jobs to help pay for rent and save additional money, she was left with many barriers.

Though not her fault, her name was included on a lease that resulted in an eviction. Her credit wasn't as high as most landlords required. She had pets and needed to stay in the Brunswick area to be close to work and so her teenage son could continue to go to the same school system. Even when she found an apartment - due to her diligent work scouring every resource she could - two didn't pass inspection, making her voucher useless.

Aimee started working with Tedford Housing about 4 years ago. She was on the waiting list to get into the family shelter and worked on housing while she waited. With the help of Tedford Housing case managers, she applied and was awarded housing vouchers. After successfully being housed, she lost her apartment when her voucher ran out, and she wasn't working at the time.

Aimee never lived in the family shelter, but she constantly worked with case managers to help keep herself on track. She and her son lived in an RV at a local campground this summer, hoping housing would come through before the campground closed and the weather got too cold. If you ask her now, she has no desire to camp again.

With a lot of work and patience, Aimee ended up finding an apartment in a great downtown location. Her landlord, whom she had worked with in the past, trusted her to sign a lease without a voucher. Aimee was able to access funds from Tedford Housing's homeless prevention program to partially pay for the security deposit. Her landlord is allowing her to pay the rest of the security deposit on a monthly basis in addition to her rent. She continues to work full-time and pay market rent for her apartment.

Her advice to others in similar situations is to do your homework and be willing to put in a lot of effort to find a place. Doing the search is a lot harder by yourself, she says, so reaching out to Tedford Housing was helpful. It's not an easy process, but Aimee is proof that persistence pays off.