



City Council Study Session

November 10, 2025

6:00 PM, Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.

To view a Council meeting agenda, visit <https://independencemo.portal.civicclerk.com/> and select 'Most Recent Council Agenda'.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Homelessness Prevention and Mitigation

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Boards and Commissions Report
2. **Please Note:** In accordance with RSMo. 610.021, the City Council may convene in a Closed Executive Session during or after the meeting, on matters of litigation, legal action, and/or attorney client communications, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), on matters of personnel, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(3) and personnel records, as permitted by 610.021(13), on matters of contracts, as permitted by 610.021(12), on matters of real estate, as permitted by 610.021(2) and/or matters of labor negotiations, as permitted by 610.021(9).

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE 2025

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

November 10, 2025



Homelessness: Prevention and Mitigation

11/10/2025

Outline

Scope of the issue

City responses

Mitigation strategies

Prevention strategies

Homelessness is increasing across the country

Highest that it has ever been in the US

- Increased mental health and substance use disorder
- Inflation
- Drastic increases in rent in KC Metro
- Low wages and patched together employment
- Not enough affordable housing

Scope of the Issue

1 in 4 people worry about entering homelessness
especially young adults

22% of renters spend ALL of their money on rent

Barriers

Identification

Outstanding warrants

Past evictions

Cost of housing

Mental health and substance use disorder

Unsheltered Work Group

- Alternative Response for Community Health (ARCH)
- Community Services League
- Community LINC
- Comprehensive Mental Health
- Drumm Center for Children
- Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness
- Heartland Center for Behavioral Change
- Independence Health Advisory Committee
- Independence Housing Authority
- Legal Aid of Western Missouri
- MidContinent Public Library
- Summit Point Restorative Initiative
- Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity

Scope of the Issue



Amber Bauer

**Senior Director of
Continuum of Care**

Point in Time Count

24 hour process on one day in January

Takes coordinated effort of community

Accuracy depends on effort

Why does it matter to have an accurate count?

Point in Time Count

Who are hard to count?

People living in hotels

People in hospital or jail

Families doubled up

Hard to reach places

Independence numbers

150 unsheltered

41 were chronically homeless (greater than 1 year)

53 were new homeless

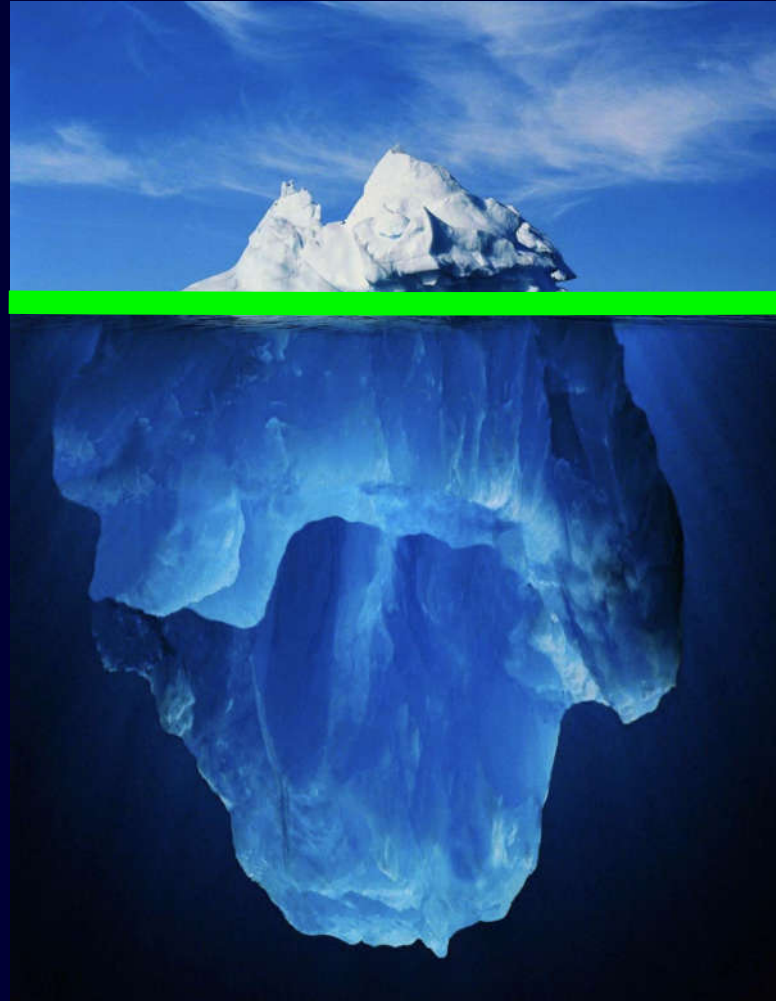
3 with children

33% with a disability

20% were over age 50

72% white

Seen



Unseen

Uncounted

Estimated 2000 are at risk of becoming homeless.

Currently doubled up, couch surfing, living in hotels, living in cars—half of these are children

Those with housing supports that are at risk of funding cuts

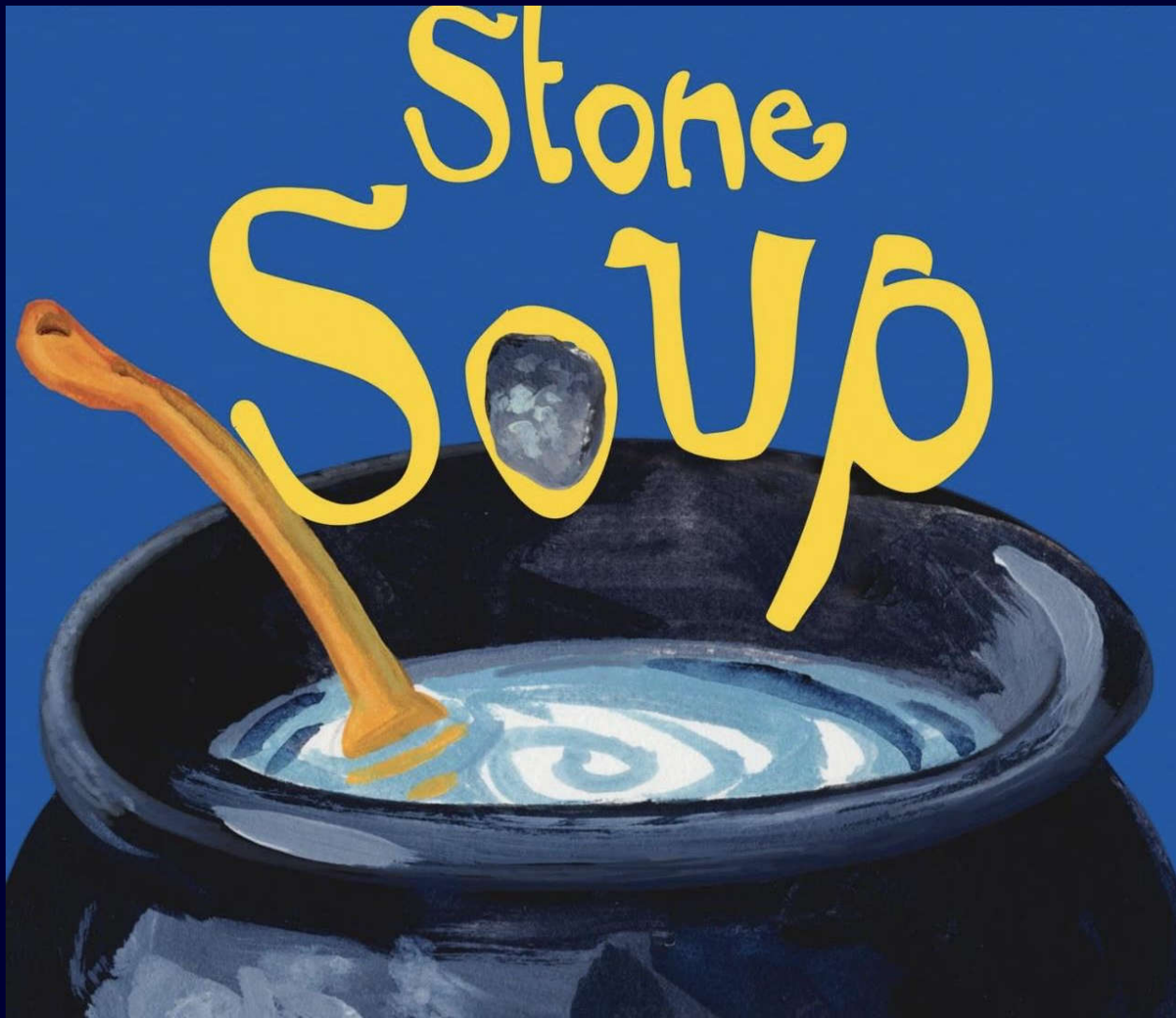
Additional strains on system

Medicaid losses in state of Missouri (200,000 people)

Reduction in SNAP and food aid will put more strain on ability to pay rent

More housing being bought as investments with significant rent increases

Loss of 30% of affordable units (LHTEC expiration)



City Interventions

Ordinances

Prohibition against soliciting for money

Prohibition against camping on public properties

Prohibition against trespassing on private properties

Memorandum of Understanding with businesses to
remove trespassers

Arrests for violating City laws

City Interventions

Removal of illegal encampments

Demolition of dangerous buildings

ARCH program

Community policing

City Interventions—-Court

Youth Court— intervene on early interpersonal disputes, substance use, mental health issues (age 7-18)

Truancy Diversion Court—referral for services

Drug Court

—If getting treatment services, suspended court action

Address outstanding warrants if working with community agency or services

City Interventions

Working with outside agencies

Cross Jurisdictional cooperation

Supporting housing efforts

Mitigation

Community Services League

Independence TOGETHER

Drop In Center

Cold Weather Shelter

Housing

Savings Plan and Wealth Building



T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R

1,000,000

Pounds of Trash Collected!





Comprehensive
Mental Health Services

- Behavioral healthcare across the entire age spectrum
- Walk-in 24 hour Behavioral Crisis Center (over age 18)
- Residential and outpatient substance use disorder treatment
- School based and home based youth support
- Specialty Team does camp outreach to invite to treatment and therapy
- Intensive Residential Treatment Program—20 beds

ARCH Program

Paramedic and Social Worker team

Called to scene by police, fire or dispatch

Conduit to community resources

Transport to mental health facility or ER

Build relationship for longer term intervention

Follow ups with high needs clients

Community Engagement Officers

Make connections

Refer to existing resources

Alert for mental health needs

Arrest if necessary

School Resource Officers



Prevention

Who is at highest risk?

Mothers with young children

Domestic Violence survivors

Foster youth

Elderly and Disabled

Substance Use Disorder

Past legal issues

Mother's Refuge



- Safe home for pregnant and young moms up to age 21 up to 2 years
- Independent Living Program for up to 3 years (gives them a renters history)
- Life skills, parenting, money management, mental and physical health care, savings program
- Long term after care supports



The journey ahead
starts here, together.

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- Keep women stably housed by securing existing home with cameras, new locks, Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders
 - Provide legal support, counseling and financial coaching
 - Parenting supports
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Drumm Center for Children

- On-site housing and support for foster families (40-60 elementary to high school children at any one time).
 - Training in life and relationship skills, counseling, school supports
 - Street Outreach to youth with services delivered in schools, libraries, community agencies
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Drumm Center for Children

- Transitional Living Program for 16-24 year olds
- Case management, therapy services, educational/workforce training for up to 18 months in 31 individual apartments.
- 92% of youth left the program with a stable place to live, a job and a vehicle



HILLCREST TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- 90 Day adult and family program (rent and utility free for 3 months) to build an exit plan to sustained housing
- Targeting working people living in motels or in cars
- 200 new applicants each month for 90 units
- Youth transitional program—added 11 apartment units in Independence for up to 2 years to meet educational goal



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- Behavioral healthcare and substance use recovery
 - Services for people coming through drug court
 - Treating more than 500 clients per year
 - Specialty Team does camp outreach to invite to treatment and therapy
 - Partner with ARCH for ride along
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Truman Habitat for Humanity

- Home Preservation through critical home repairs and home modifications
 - Especially targeted to disabled and elderly to keep them in their homes (15-20/year)
 - Weatherization programs
 - Rehab of abandoned or donated homes for new homeowners
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Legal Aid of Western Missouri



- Home Preservation through beneficiary deeds
- Eviction prevention
- Foreclosure prevention
- Help for grandparents to get guardianship of grandchildren
- Legal representation to take abandoned housing to put into rehabilitation programs



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- Transitional housing for those moving out of homelessness
 - Take people leaving street living or who are returning from incarceration
 - Accept people directly from hospital
 - Help residents relearn what it means to live inside with rules
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- Must agree to be substance free (random drug testing)
 - Set goals for education, work training, recovery
 - Counseling, work supports, transportation, substance use therapy, peer support
 - Housing assistance after the program
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Take Aways

Housing matters

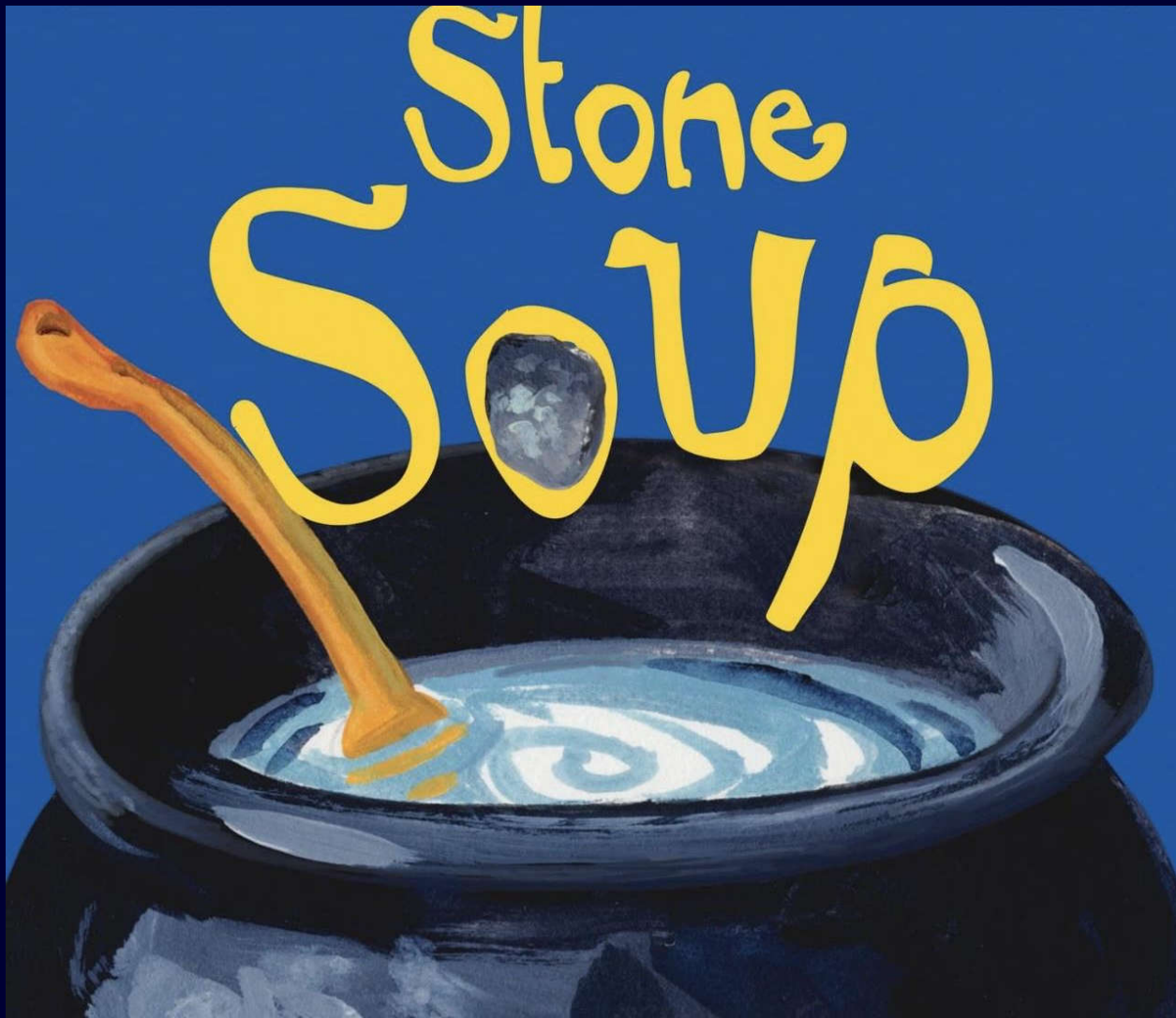
Wrap around services matter

Early supports for children and families pays lifelong dividends

Take away thoughts

Make early interventions when someone moves to the street

Lasting reduction takes regional effort and leadership and must be sustained over time







MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 10, 2025

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Susanne Holland, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Boards and Commissions Report

Human Relations Commission

- A recommendation has been made to reappoint Lupe Moe and Charline Gray to the Human Relations Commission.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, reappointing these individuals to the above board.

Public Safety Tax Oversight Committee

- A recommendation has been made to reappoint Charline Gray and Patrick Casey to the Public Safety Tax Oversight Committee.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, reappointing these individuals to the above board.

Street Improvement Oversight Committee

- A recommendation has been made to reappoint Wes Epperson, Pam Wishon, Libet Ojeda and Marcie Gragg to the Street Improvement Oversight Committee.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, reappointing these individuals to the above board.



Sustainability Commission

- A recommendation has been made to reappoint Anthony Sommer to the Sustainability Commission.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, reappointing this individual to the above board.

Tax Increment Finance Committee

- A recommendation has been made to reappoint Ron Bruch to the Tax Increment Finance Committee.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, reappointing this individual to the above board.

Truman Memorial Scholarship Committee

- A recommendation has been made to reappoint Robie Mathews to the Truman Memorial Scholarship Committee.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, reappointing this individual to the above board.

Independence Harry S. Truman Award Commission

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Ron Clemons to the Independence Harry S. Truman Award Commission.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing this individual to the above board.