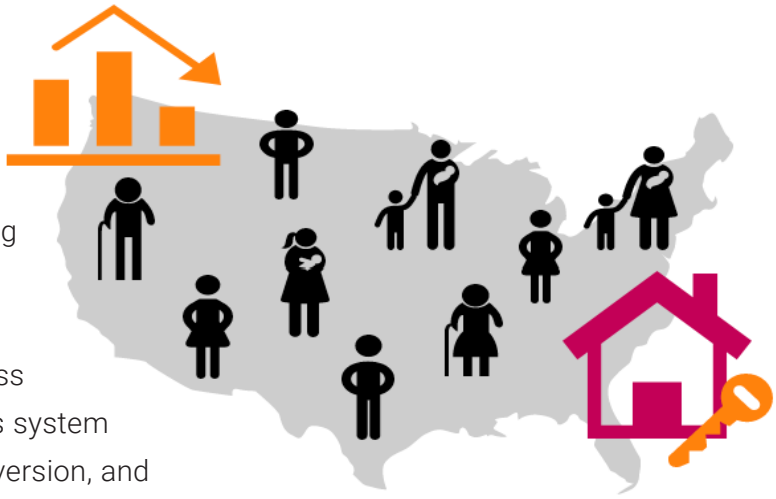
System Planning and Optimization Concepts

Tailoring Systems Change Efforts to Match Local Population Dynamics

Focus Strategies developed the System Planning and Optimization Concepts (SPOC) to help communities visualize key system improvement strategies that may be prioritized to reduce homelessness locally. For many communities, particularly those with significant unsheltered populations, the solution to ending homelessness is a dramatic increase in the affordable housing stock. Unfortunately, increasing the supply of affordable housing does not lie solely within the Homeless System's span of control. SPOC, therefore, demonstrates system changes related to performance, adding or expanding diversion, and adding inventory – all strategies within the sphere of CoC influence.



This is a sample modeling tool that is intended to help communities visualize the potential impact of a few examples of system changes, if they were to occur while holding everything else constant. For example, if everything remained the same ***except*** a community decided to implement robust diversion, how would that impact the size of the population experiencing homelessness? Of course, most system changes do not occur in isolation – there are often a variety of intended strategies implemented in stages, as well as changes in the local environment that impact the community – therefore, systems change effects can be immediate or delayed.

SPOC is intended to be a thought-provoking way to consider the impact of possible system changes and improvements. It is not – and should not be used as – a system planning and analytics tool. Comprehensive analysis is needed to create data-driven planning on the local level. For communities that want to invest in that planning, we offer our System-Wide Analytics and Projection (SWAP) analysis.

To find SPOC and learn more about SWAP, visit **focusstrategies.net**.

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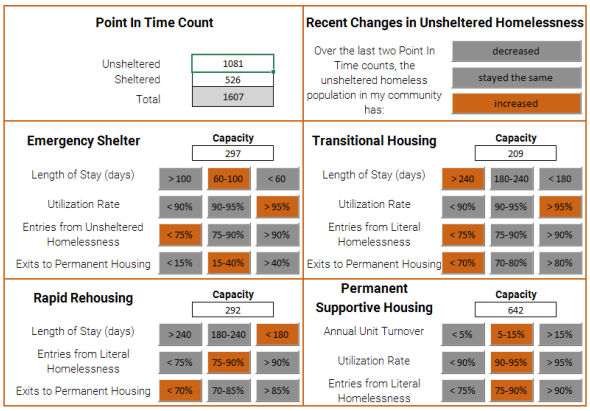
How to Prepare for and Use SPOC to Visualize System Improvement Efforts in Your Community

To use this sample modeling tool, you'll need information about:

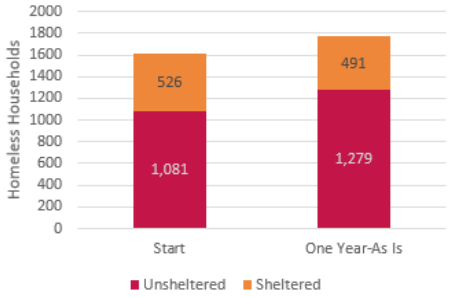
1. The size of your community's homeless population;
2. Homeless population dynamics (whether homelessness has been increasing, remaining about the same, or decreasing);
3. The community's capacity to serve homeless households; and
4. How system projects are performing.



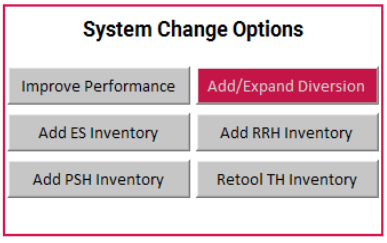
To use this sample modeling tool, you'll need information about:

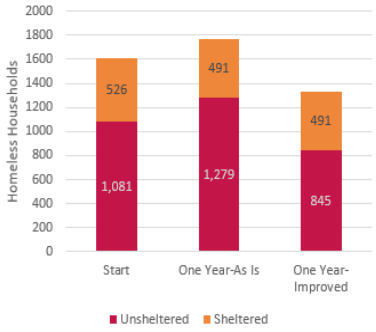
The tool is designed to calculate changes to the number of sheltered and unsheltered **households** in a community after one year.

The tool asks for capacity and performance information about four project types – emergency shelter (ES), transitional housing (TH), rapid rehousing (RRH), and permanent supportive housing (PSH) – to estimate the ability to serve and house households experiencing homelessness. Communities select the option for each performance measure that best describes the average current performance of each project type.



After entering the data and clicking "Calculate Baseline," the tool provides an initial estimate of the magnitude of the expected change in the size of the homeless population after one year *assuming everything remains the same* (e.g., inflow of newly homeless, project performance, capacity, as well as other potential system influences). A brief community description is provided, identifying the system improvement strategy that is estimated to most significantly decrease the population experiencing homelessness.





You can implement the suggested change(s) by selecting the suggested "System Change Options." The model demonstrates the estimated impact of the change on the size of the homeless population after one year. We encourage trying all system improvement strategies offered and compare their relative effectiveness in decreasing your homeless population. Note that only one system change scenario can be modeled at a given time; more intensive modeling is beyond the scope of SPOC.