



# LAUDERTRAC

## HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE



Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2022

September 2022

### BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING, AND HOPE

#### Improving Homeless Outreach and Awareness

Fort Lauderdale Police Department officers endeavor to build trust and instill a feeling of safety when interacting with individuals experiencing homelessness. To support this effort, 97% of our officers have completed Homeless Awareness Training. Upon completing the training, officers have a broader understanding of mental illness and possess the skills necessary to actively listen, effectively communicate, and successfully de-escalate emotionally charged situations involving individuals in crisis.

Trained officers may adapt their verbiage, change their tone of voice, and speak more slowly when they identify an individual in crisis. The result lowers the emotional response of the individual, allowing for a more beneficial interaction. Officers also provide referral information on various assistance programs to support mental health, substance abuse and addiction recovery, medical services, housing assistance, and other common needs of the homeless through the City's Community Court.



#### HOMELESS AWARENESS TRAINING

Police Officers learn verbal and non-verbal techniques for active listening and methods to de-escalate emotionally charged situations.

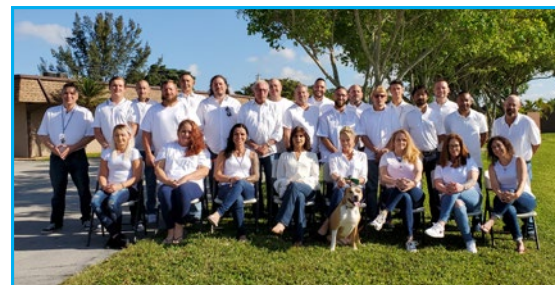
**485 Officers (97%) have completed the training**

#### Helping one person might not change the WORLD, but it could change the WORLD For ONE person!

For information on access to shelters, primary health care referrals, behavioral health services, family reunification, legal services, or basic needs, call the Homeless Help Line at 954-563-4357.

#### Partnership with Fellowship Recovery Community Organization

The Fellowship Recovery Community Organization (FRCO) offers respite, recovery residence, and recovery community center services to Community Court participants. FRCO works to support those seeking to initiate and sustain recovery from a substance use disorder and to measurably improve recovery capital through assertive linkage to community-based assets, recovery community engagement, and recovery housing.



FRCO believes that most Community Court participants that are struggling with substance use disorders need treatment before transitioning into any recovery residence. However, their willingness to participate in treatment and the availability of treatment beds can be challenging for the underserved homeless community. Historically, the period between an intervention and treatment is when most participants lose hope and discontinue the recovery process, ultimately returning to homelessness. The FRCO Respite facility bridges the gap between intervention and treatment giving people that seek recovery a safe place to stay while awaiting treatment. Program participants can stay as long as they need, contingent on their active participation in the recovery program. They are required to follow program standards and engage in FRCO services including Recovery Capital Navigation, peer support reviews, and drug and alcohol testing.

Navigating the systems of care in Broward County can be challenging. FRCO Recovery Navigators meet with Community Court participants in a peer setting to determine their needs and connect them to the appropriate community resources. The response from Community Court participants has been well received. The opportunity for the City to partner with FRCO and provide mutual support will continue to make a major impact in our community.