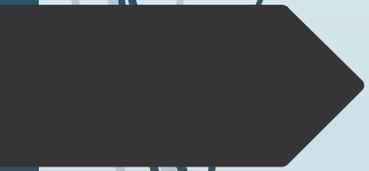


CODE BLUE



Code Blue in Tompkins County

Code Blue – New York

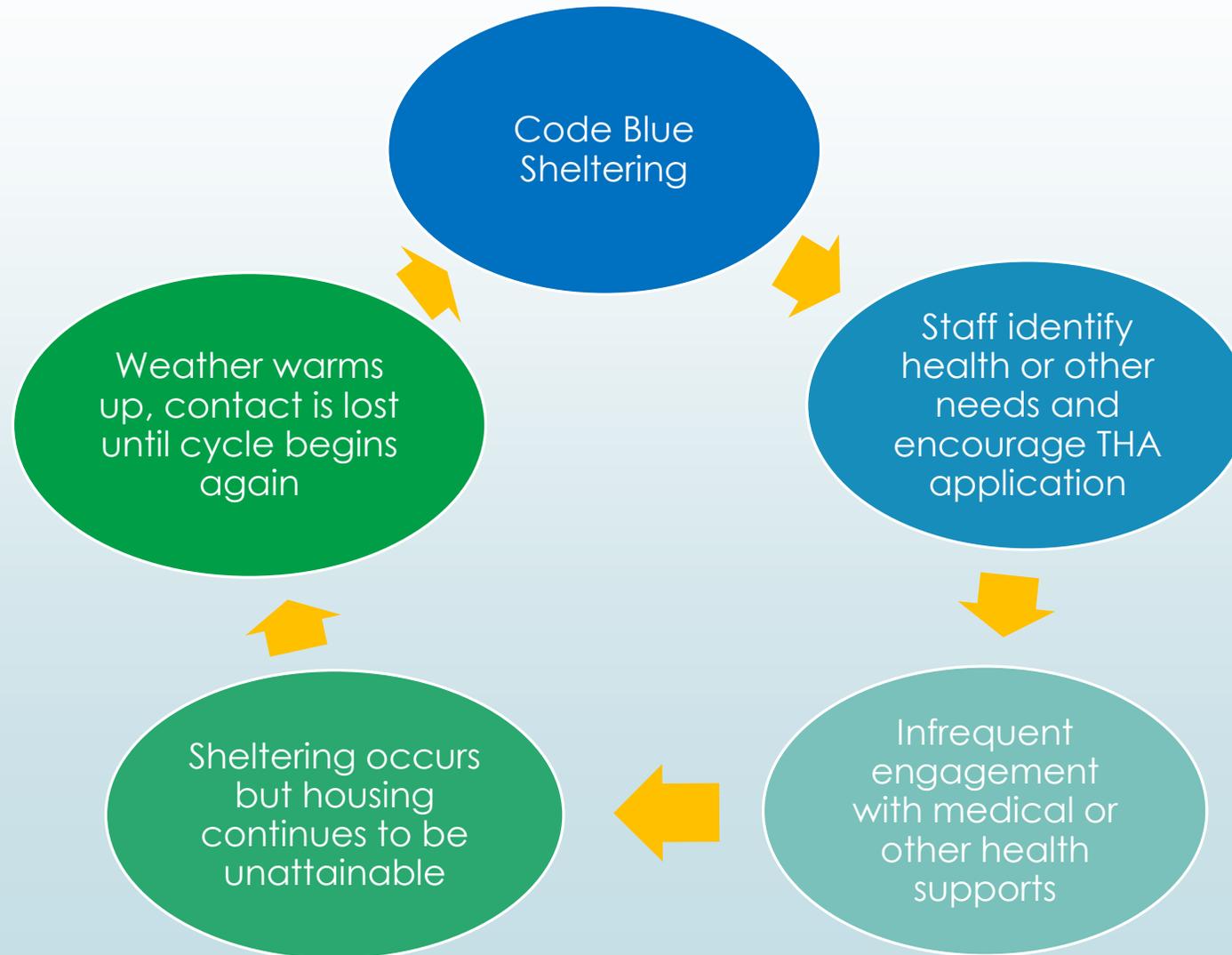
- ▶ On January 3, 2016,
- ▶ **Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued an Executive Order to protect homeless individuals from inclement winter weather where temperatures decline to 32 degrees or below. The order ensures that homeless individuals are directed to shelter during inclement winter weather which can cause hypothermia, serious injury and death. It also requires homeless shelters to extend their hours of operations so that those without shelter can remain indoors. The State will assist local social services districts if they are lacking facilities, resources or expertise.**



Code Blue Eligibility

- ▶ No eligibility requirements other than 32 degrees with wind chill and self report of homelessness
- ▶ Is a life saver for those facing exposure to the elements – and/or those potentially using central nervous system depressants or battling behavioral health challenges
- ▶ DSS must house folks and encourages people to apply for Emergency THA, however, with no requirement to do so, many refuse
- ▶ Although shelter staff attempt to engage guests, when someone is not applying for THA, permanent housing is almost never achieved and engagement in substance abuse, medical, and mental health treatment, is often not possible.
- ▶ There are concerns that this largely untracked population may be migrating from one county to another seeking shelter – limiting possible interventions to work toward permanent housing

Code Blue Cycle

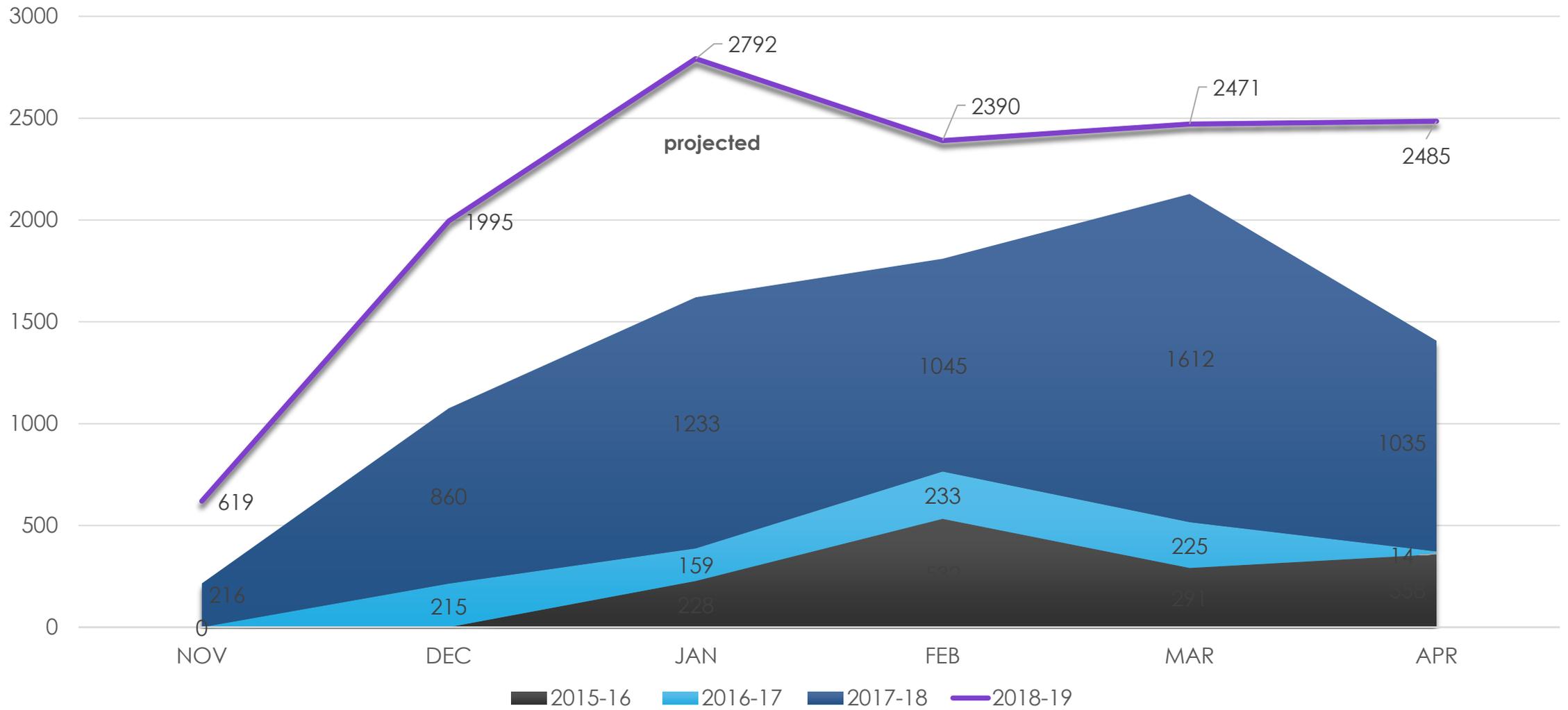




Tompkins County Sheltering Under Code Blue

- 12 Bed Homeless Shelter (individual rooms)
- Increased by 7 open concept beds in 2018
- Sheltering in cooperative churches – open concept with overnight staffing – Church has required an addition of a cleaner due to found needles
- Hotel use is considerable
- Emergency Housing Staff use a Housing First Approach – working with primarily Temporary Assistance and some Code Blue guests
- Damage has occurred to shelter and hotels
- Threats and incidents of violence have been on the rise

Code Blue Bed Nights



Homeless Housing Options

Emergency Shelter

St John's Emergency Shelter – 19 beds

This is the only service impacted directly by code blue.



Transitional Housing

Endeavor House – 4 beds for people formerly incarcerated

A Place to Stay – 4 beds for women

Advocacy Center – 9 beds for Domestic Violence Survivors

Youth Outreach – 13 scattered apartments for youth ages 16-24 year

Supportive Housing

Amici House – 24 beds for young people ages 18-24 (Opening in February 2019)

Chartwell House – 12 beds for men in recovery

Corn Street Apartments – 16 beds for families

Court Street Place – 10 beds for men

Lakeview – 8 beds for people with physical and emotional disabilities

Magnolia House – 24 beds for women & their children in recovery

Second Wind Cottages – 15 cottages for men

St. John's Single Room Occupancy – 12 beds

VA Veteran's Assistance Housing – 3 current beds in Tompkins County (based on need)

Housing Choice Vouchers

Tompkins Community Action has 1,049 vouchers

Ithaca Neighborhood Housing has 1,038 vouchers



Housing Challenges

- ▶ 2017 - 60% of households spent more than 30% of household income on housing (NYS 54%)
- ▶ 2017 – Residential median sale price \$232,250
- ▶ 2016 – 19,000 market rate rentals – 4.8% vacancy
 - ▶ 30% of market – large apt. properties – 1.8% vacancy (2/3 students)
 - ▶ 70% of market – 6.5% vacancy
- ▶ 2013 – Over 15,000 commuters daily



Housing Impact

- ▶ The lack of adequate housing that is affordable, accessible, and safe creates obstacles for those in need of supportive housing.
- ▶ High development costs and limited land with good transportation connections make it difficult to build new housing units.
- ▶ Older and poor housing stock means that many in need live in substandard units.
- ▶ Low number of on-campus housing options, creates high demand for rental housing in City and County.

All of these factors have contributed to the high cost – low supply affordable housing market – resulting in greater pressure on temporary assistance and Code Blue demands.



Housing Initiatives

- ▶ **Community Housing Development Fund** – 3-way partnership with City, County and Cornell to encourage the construction and rehabilitation of housing units that will remain affordable (for 49 years) to successive buyers or renters.
- ▶ Partnership with **Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS)** – local non-profit housing organization – providing permanent affordable for-sale housing – through a community housing trust – with buyers purchasing their house with a 99-year land lease from INHS.
- ▶ County's new **Municipal Housing Affordability Grant Program** – The 2019 budget provides \$45,000 to support grants to municipalities working to address affordable housing challenges.
- ▶ **Incremental Development Alliance** – This nonprofit alliance will make 4 visits to Tompkins County in 2019 to provide training, education, input on infill analysis, technical assistance and assist efforts to nurture compatible infill development with developers within Tompkins County communities.
- ▶ In 2019 the County provided funding for **LawNY** and **Community Dispute Resolution Center** to help prevent evictions and resolve landlord tenant disputes, plus the **CNY Fair Housing** contract to provide technical assistance to bolster the County's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing efforts.



Questions?