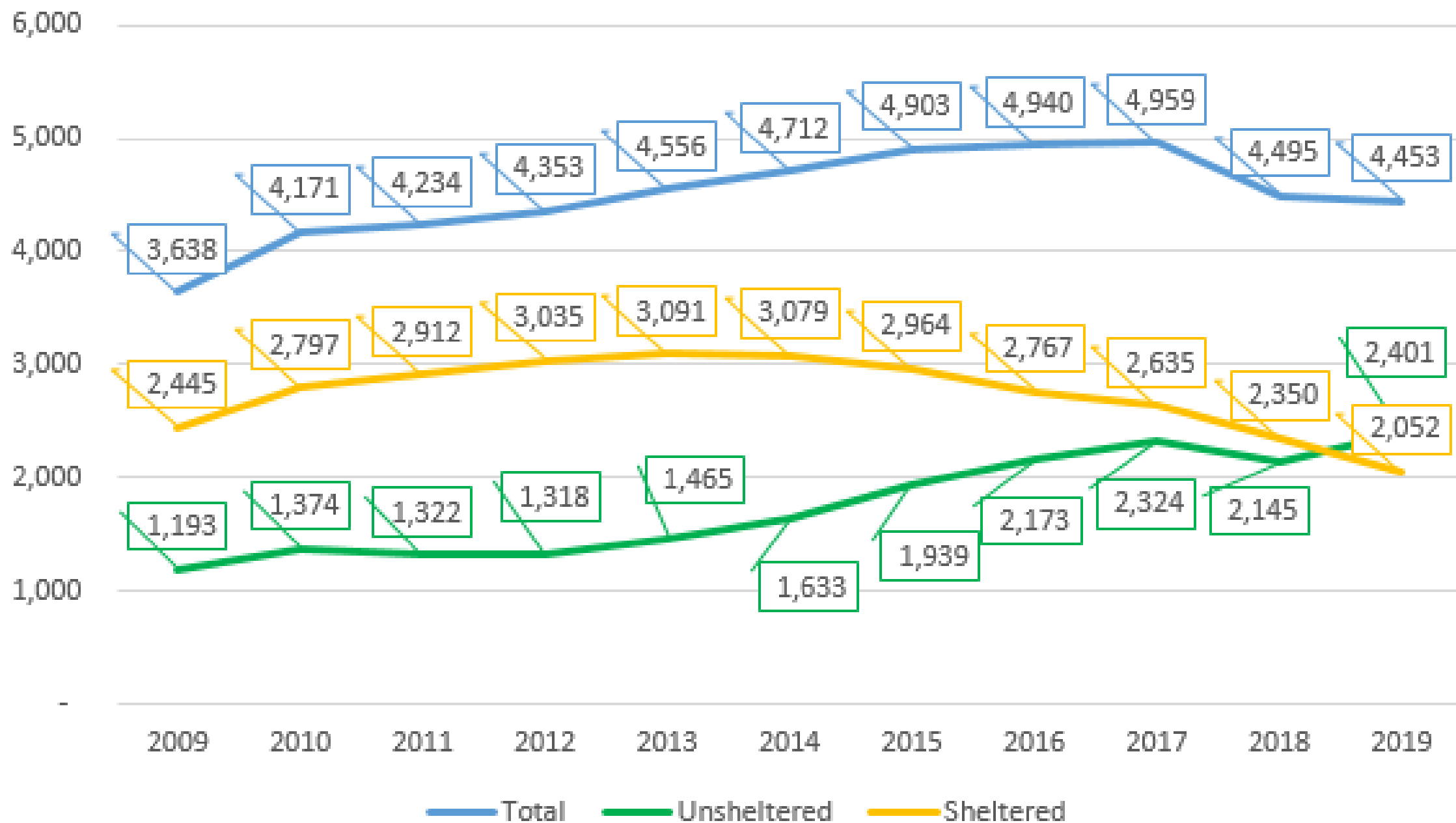


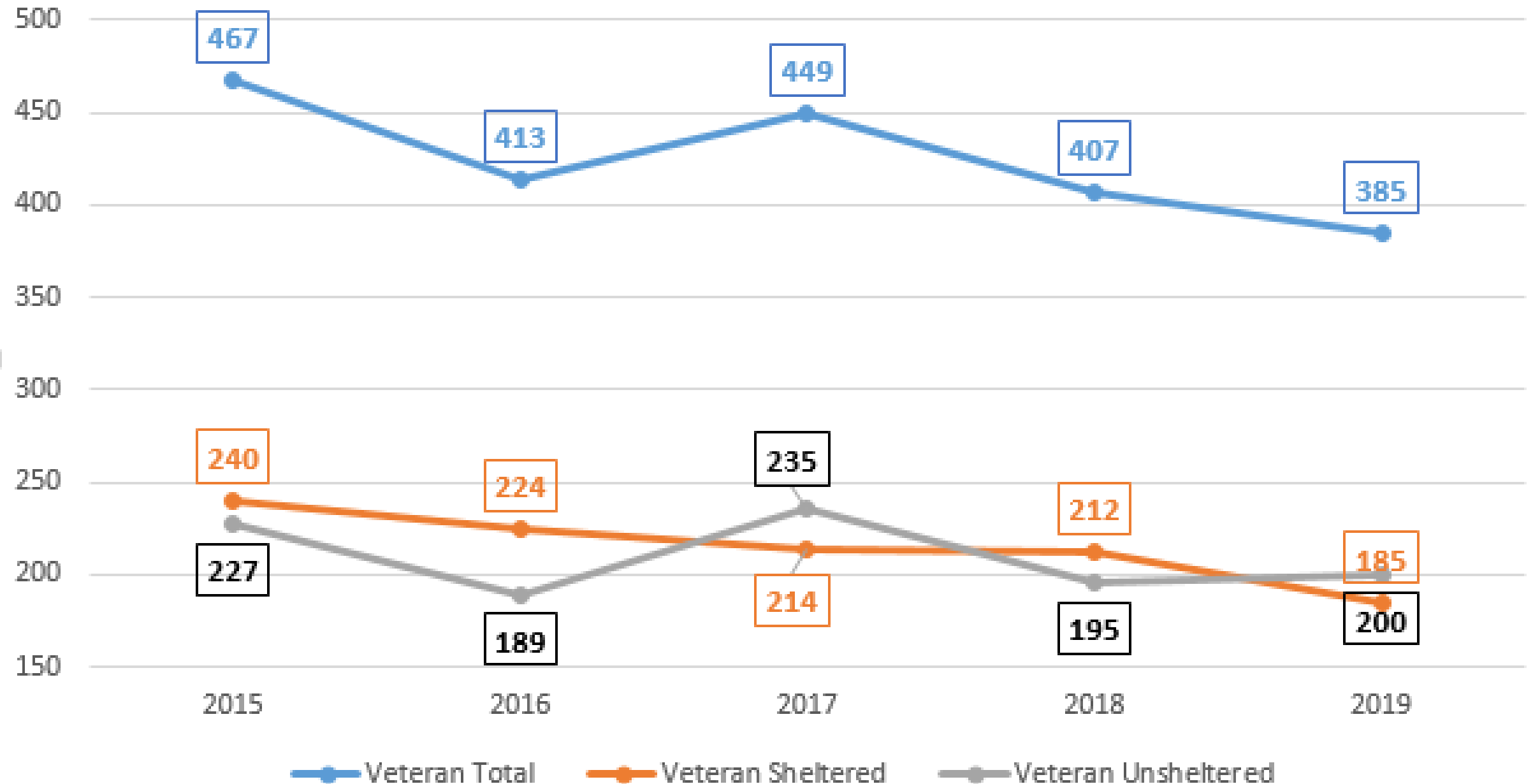
# Beyond the Human Cost of Homelessness: Strategies Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness

Marc Alexander, Executive Director, Honolulu Mayor's Office of Housing  
Hawaii Congress of Planning Officials, 12 September 2019

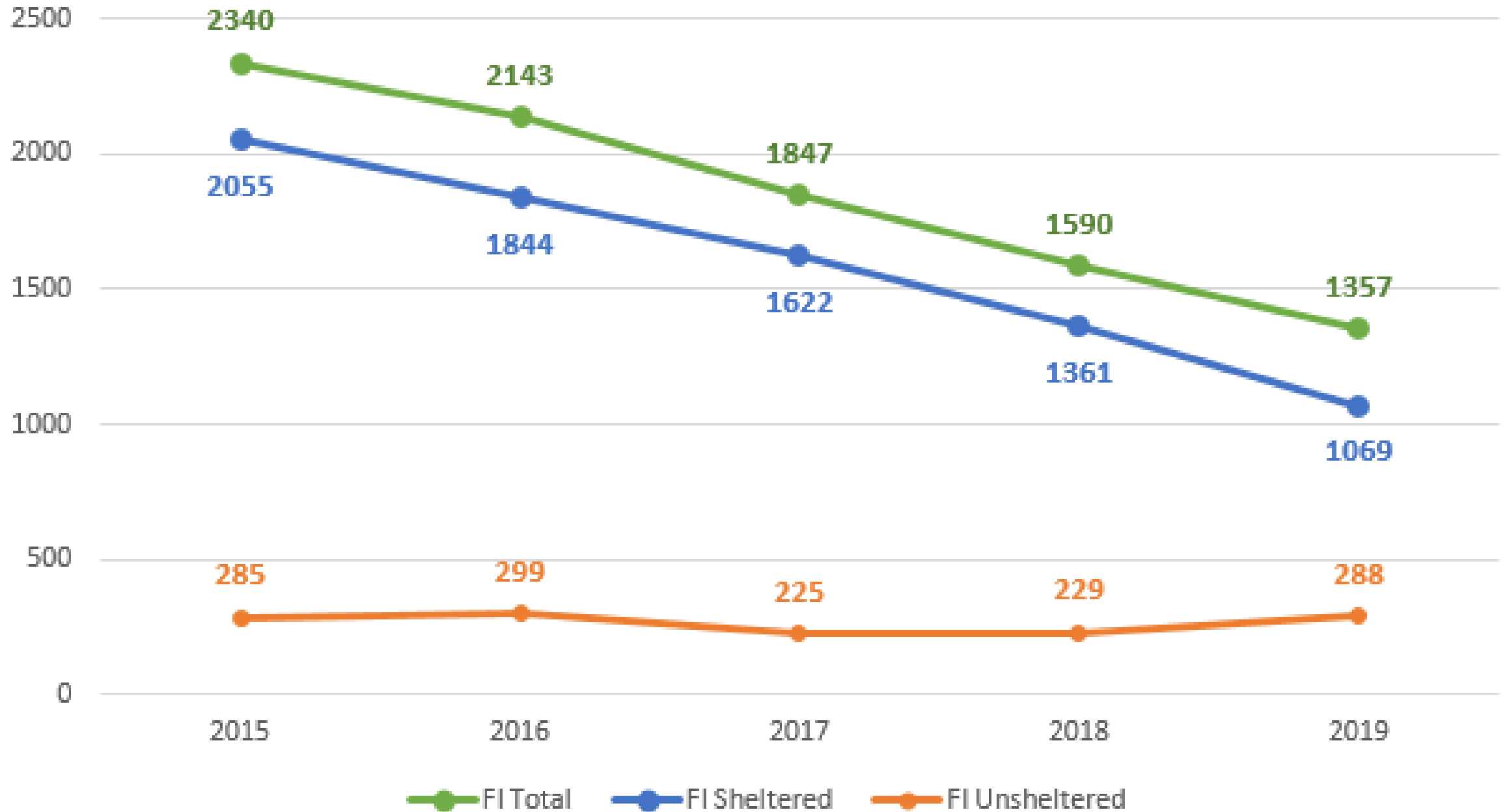
## Sheltered, Unsheltered, and Total Trends



# Homeless Veteran Population



# Homeless Family Individuals Population



# What's Behind the Progress in Reducing Family, Children, and Veteran Homelessness?

# Housing!

“The only permanent solution to homelessness is housing and an effective support system and the only way this can be achieved is through the city, state, and service providers working closely together.”

(Mayor Kirk Caldwell)

# Overall Strategy

- ▶ Systems approach
  - ▶ Collaboration
  - ▶ Coordinated entry system
- ▶ Implementation of evidence-based and best-practices
- ▶ Data driven
  - ▶ Targets
  - ▶ Reported on Honolulu Dashboard:  
<http://www.honolulu.gov/dashboard>
- ▶ Housing-focused
  - ▶ With support services, including employment & health services
  - ▶ Affordable housing, including culturally appropriate options
- ▶ Community engagement

# Homelessness

Updated through: 2019

## Homeless Point-in-Time Count



Reduction in the percentage of homeless persons on Oahu

01

⊕ Below Target



Updated through: July 2019

## Homeless Clients into Permanent Housing



Total number of people housed

3,113

⊕ On Track



Updated through: July 2019

## Homeless Vets into Permanent Housing



Total number of veterans housed

202

⊕ Near Target



Updated through: July 2019

## Monthly Emergency Shelter Occupancy



Percentage of beds utilized

92

⊕ Near Target





# Affordable Housing

Updated through: 2018

## Affordable Housing Units Permitted



Total number of units permitted  
or ready for occupancy

1,306

⊕ On Track



Updated through: August 2019

## ADU's Permitted



ADU building permits issued or  
awaiting pickup

165

⊕ Near Target



Updated through: 2018

## City Inventory of Housing Units



Total number of City housing  
units

1,340

⚓ See detail



# Affordable Housing Results in 2018

- ▶ City efforts have resulted in 1,306 total affordable housing units (rental and for-sale) approved for building permits or having received a certificate of occupancy in the calendar year 2018.
- ▶ Mayor Caldwell's goal of 800 units was exceeded by 506 units or 63%
- ▶ Noteworthy that 199 rental units specifically target those making 60% area median income (AMI) and below, our population of greatest need.
- ▶ Building permits issued:
  - ▶ 667 AH For-Sale Units
  - ▶ 417 AH Rental Units
  - ▶ 222 ADU's

# Housing First

Housing First is a paradigm shift from the traditional *housing ready* approach. It follows a basic principle—that *everyone* is ready for housing, regardless of the complexity or severity of their needs. Housing is the stable platform upon which all other outcomes depend, including employment, health, education, and the well-being of children. Post-housing services support stability and prevent returns to homelessness.



# Housing First Works: Example of Honolulu's Program

- ▶ Total of 315 vouchers have been funded, which provides housing support through rental assistance and case management for up to 315 households and approximately 450 individuals at any time
- ▶ Housing First, which has been used successfully throughout the country, offers permanent, affordable housing as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- ▶ In 2018, 91 percent of Honolulu's Housing First clients came into the program as chronically homeless, and over 60 percent came directly from living on the streets
- ▶ In the first three years of the Housing First Initiative, an average of 86 percent of all clients have remained housed

# Targeting Unsheltered Homelessness: Specific Actions

- ▶ H.E.L.P. Honolulu: HPD led interagency outreach effort
  - ▶ Special monthly outreach events designed to get unsheltered persons off the streets
  - ▶ As of August 29<sup>th</sup>, 192 people have moved off the streets into shelter and other programs through HELP
- ▶ Outreach Navigation Program: Awarded to Institute for Human Services (HS)
  - ▶ Providing psychiatric and legal services (especially in support of Assisted Community Treatment) to the chronically homeless, those suffering from mental illness and/or substance use disorder, treatment resistant



# Targeting Unsheltered Homelessness: Specific Actions

- ▶ Landlord Engagement Program: Awarded to Partners in Care/ Aloha United Way
  - ▶ Implement engagement and support activities/services to encourage landlord participation in all housing voucher programs
- ▶ Urgent Care Clinic (part of Pūnāwai Rest Stop)
  - ▶ By 2020 establish clinical care center for homeless persons and to divert non-emergent care from emergency departments
- ▶ Joint Outreach Centers
  - ▶ First one was established in Chinatown; now also in Kāneʻohe
  - ▶ Interagency effort providing medical care, case management, and other services



# Targeting Unsheltered Homelessness: Specific Actions

## ► Hygiene Centers

- Provide 50,000 hygiene services to support relationship building
- Engage 500 persons or families in case management and referral to appropriate shelter solutions
- Support mobile programs through partnerships and services

## ► Shift from Complaint-Driven System to Strategic Approach

- Targeted parks and areas
- Three-step process: outreach, enforcement, and community engagement-activation



# Targeting Unsheltered Homelessness: New Program Beginning November 2019



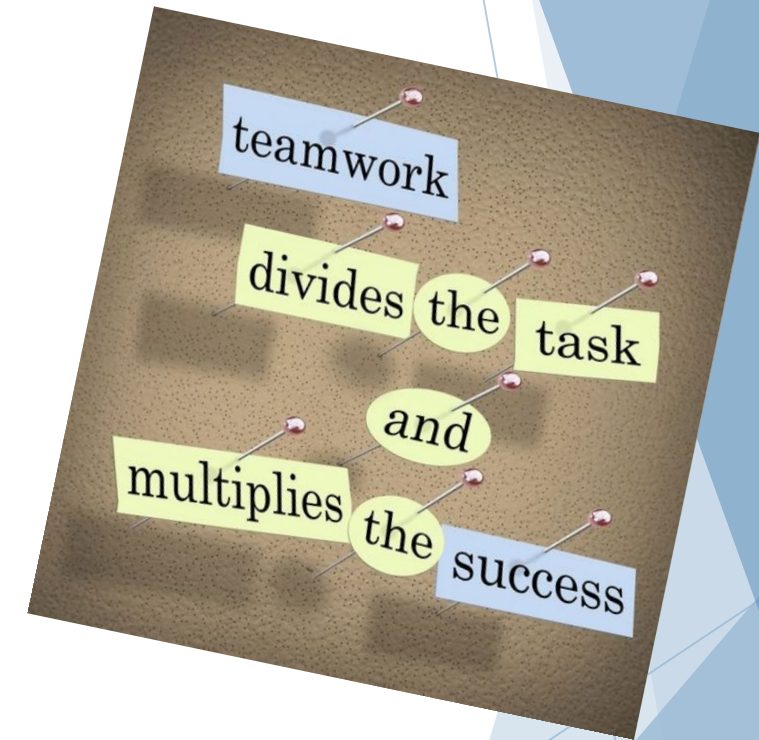


# What is LIFT/HONU?

- ▶ In June 2018, the concept of a Lift Mobile Navigation Center (Lift) was proposed.
- ▶ The “Lift” referred to the lifted park regulations that would be suspended to facilitate the establishment of a Mobile Navigation Center.
- ▶ The unrestricted park land would allow the Honolulu Police Department to take over a section of a designated area and be unlimited by current rules, such as permitting, closure times, and camping limitations.

# Partnership

- ▶ State-funded project ('Ohana Zone Funding) managed by the City and County of Honolulu
- ▶ Department of Community Services
- ▶ Honolulu Police Department
- ▶ Other existing outreach and shelter services providers



# How does it work?

- ❖ Once a park site is selected, HPD would bring up to 10 inflatable tents made by Pennsylvania-based FAST Shelter that can house 54 individuals or more than 100 family members.
- ❖ The area would function as a service-oriented hub where a variety of services and direct access to programs could be provided.

## INFLATABLE SHELTERS



*FAST Shelter* based out of Philadelphia provides temporary, inflatable shelters to industrial, commercial, and government customers.

- Inflatable Rigid Frame Shelter
- Provides 414 sq. ft of space.
- Unpacked to operational in approximately seven minutes.
- NFPA 701 fire rated, UV coated, waterproof, and 35 mph wind rated.



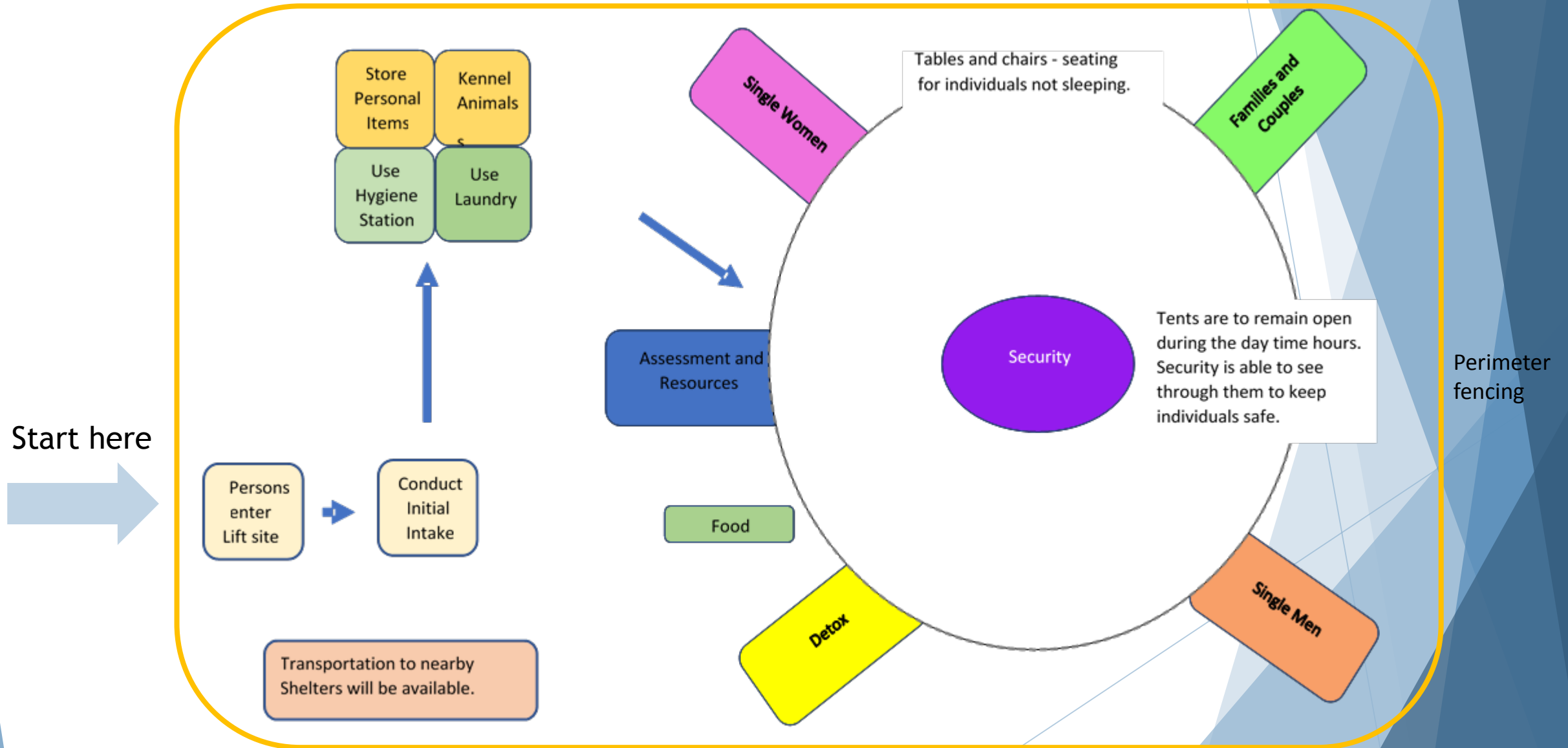
# How does it work?

- ▶ The tents would remain between 60 and 90 days and health care and other social service partners would be based there to help individuals move into a more permanent living arrangements elsewhere.
- ▶ In the event shelter space is not readily accessible or when appropriate, the Mobile Navigation Center could serve as a temporary overnight shelter until existing shelter services become available.
- ▶ Plainclothes officers would be on hand in the parks and additional patrols would police nearby neighborhoods.

# How does it work continued...

- ▶ At the end of the 60 to 90 day period, the tents would relocate to a different part of Honolulu. And when the zone moves, so do the service providers. That helps bring services to parts of the city where there are not as many service offerings.
- ▶ The benefit of utilizing an area park is that it already has laws in place to regulate the area outside of the designated deployment area.
- ▶ This will also be useful once the Lift Mobile Navigation Center vacates the park, because officers will be able to utilize existing ordinances to enforce park rules and ensure that the Lift did not create squatters.

# Sample of Proposed Site Layout





# How will it help?

- ▶ With on-site navigation staff that serve as a bridge between officers and existing shelter services, this will stream line the verification process, and provide regularly updated information on shelter availability.
- ▶ With the Honolulu Police Department and Department of Community Service' robust social service partnerships, the Mobile Navigation Center plans to provide the following primary services:
  - ▶ Medical care
  - ▶ Mental health services and referrals
  - ▶ Substance use disorder services and referrals
  - ▶ Housing navigation
  - ▶ Hygiene and laundry services
  - ▶ Transportation to HONU & shelter (24/7 transportation provider)



# How will it help?

- ▶ The Mobile Navigation Center will coordinate these additional services:
  - ▶ Identification card replacements (State Identification Card, Hawaii Driver's License, etc.)
  - ▶ Veterinary care for pets
  - ▶ Meals (for those that have accepted shelter)
  - ▶ Transportation to transit stations (during extended stays)
- ▶ The Mobile Navigation Center will provide additional opportunities for data collection
- ▶ The Navigation Center will provide a 24/7 mobile intake point that can be utilized by the Honolulu Police Department and/or State Sheriffs as locations that law enforcement can refer an individual to in lieu of enforcement



# Mahalo!

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