

OFF THE STREETS

Help get our homeless off the streets

Bridgeport, Connecticut Chapter

Prospectus

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Mission & Overview

To **Help the Homeless Off The Streets, One-Person-at-a-Time**. Off The Streets Bridgeport (OTSB) provides support to the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless in the Bridgeport, Connecticut – Fairfield County area. Operating with:

- 100% volunteers – no paid staff
- No Office Space
- Minimal Overhead
- 95% of funding goes directly to supporting the homeless
- No financial reliance on federal, state, or local government funds.

Community Support



Security Deposit Assistance

OTSB provides security deposit assistance for the prospective homeless individual or family. The payment is made directly to the landlord.

OTSB, with assistance from local social services, conducts a financial review of each prospective client to verify that a stable income or subsidy is available to pay the monthly rent. The review ensures a successful transition for the client as they enter an exciting new chapter in their lives providing hope for a better future.

“Starting a new chapter in my life, a better start than I have ever had before.”

LeeAnne – Expecting Mother
Provided Security Deposit Support

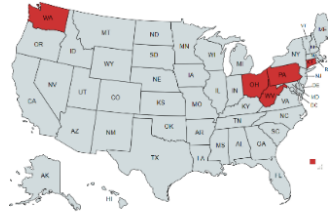


Furniture & Household Items

Furniture and household items are donated to OTSB. The donated items are good quality used goods that are provided to the homeless for the asking. Items include kitchenware, mattresses, blankets, dressers, tables, lamps, and other essential household items.

History

2009 *Off The Streets (OTS)* was founded in Danbury, CT by Deacon Michael Oles - author of *Help the Homeless Off The Streets, One Person at a Time*. Deacon Mike is a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel and Roman Catholic Deacon, volunteering for over 34 years to help the homeless. OTS has expanded to six locations across the country, in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.



Over 4,000 Homeless and near homeless have been successfully housed nationally since 2009.

Bridgeport Chapter History

2014 Deacon Kevin Moore, founded the Bridgeport, CT chapter, *Off The Streets Bridgeport (OTSB)*. He had a passion for expanding the OTSB reach to help the homeless and near homeless in Bridgeport and Fairfield County. Upon his untimely death in June 2019, *Gerard F. Agoglia, CPA* volunteered to carry on this legacy as the *Managing Director* of OTSB.

450 + Homeless and near-homeless successfully housed since 2014.

80 Households have received furniture donations since 2014.

84 Homeless individuals (**35** households) were provided security deposit assistance in 2022 of which, 16%, male; 36%, female and 48%, children.

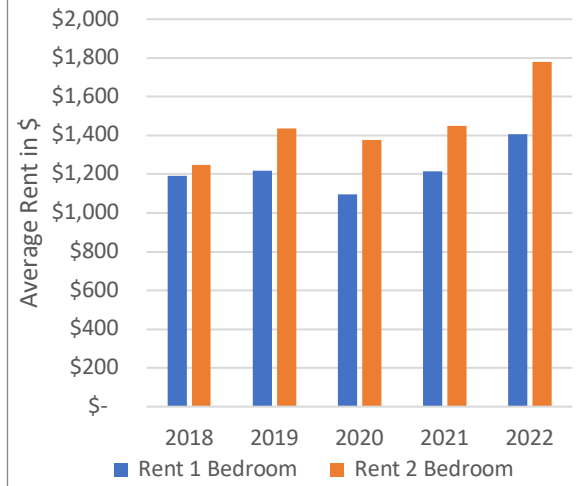
Needs in Bridgeport

As of 2020, there were **2,905** individuals experiencing homelessness in Connecticut, of which **306** were families¹. Bridgeport is the largest city in Connecticut with a population of **148,654** as of 2020, located in Fairfield County, one of the wealthiest counties in the country; however, Bridgeport suffers from a high poverty rate of **21.8%** as of 2021, nearly double the U.S. average and Connecticut average².

The average rent in Bridgeport, CT for a one/two-bedroom apartment is between \$1,400 and \$1,750, which has increased nearly 20% over the prior year and 30% since 2018³. Most landlords require a one or two months' rent security deposit that puts an extra financial burden on the prospective tenant of at least **\$1,400**. Pulling these resources together is nearly impossible for the homeless or near-homeless – with a recent study showing **7 in 10** Americans live paycheck to paycheck⁴.

As the country and Bridgeport approaches the end of the pandemic, financial support through federal direct payments, state rent relief, employment benefits, and the ending of the eviction moratorium will provide a safety net. There will be a **higher need for** housing assistance and to preserve the community, in Bridgeport and

Bridgeport Average Rents



Financial Support

OTSB is seeking to raise **\$200,000 + over the next** year in support in the form of grants and endowments from local charities (i.e., Lions & Rotary Clubs) churches, synagogues (Knights of Columbus) fundraising events and individual donations. This funding will help provide sufficient resources to support our mission and never need to turn away a homeless person for lack of funds. OTSB will continue to expand its impact in Bridgeport and throughout Fairfield County in helping to resolve homelessness in our community.

A successful Bridgeport helps maintain a successful Fairfield County and Connecticut!

Melissa – U.S. Veteran
Provided Security Deposit Support

¹ <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/co1/>

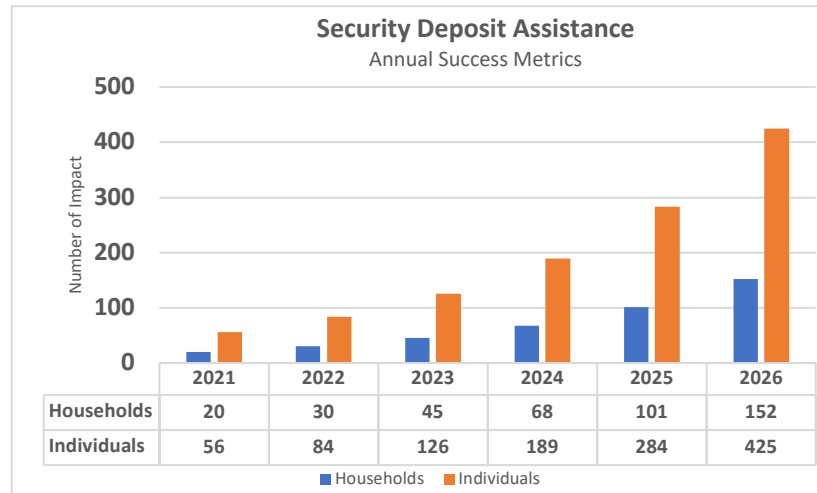
² <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/bridgeportcityconnecticut>

³ <https://www.zumper.com/rent-research/bridgeport-ct>

⁴ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/zackfriedman/2022/02/08/shock-poll-7-in-10-americans-live-paycheck-to-paycheck/?sh=222581b555f6>

Goals & Evaluation

OTSB strives to increase its impact by preventing homelessness and providing security deposit support to those in need. Preserving one of the most important pillars of a community, a home. To evaluate its success and impact, OTSB has



established the following goals:

- **50% annual growth** – Increase the number of security deposits provided annually through 2026
- **Reduce** the number of homeless and near homeless.
- **Establish** a sustainable, recurring revenue stream in support of the OTSB mission to house the homeless one-person-at-a-time.
- **30% increase in awareness** of the need to substantially reduce the homeless and near homeless population in Bridgeport and Fairfield County. This will be evaluated through an increase in Facebook followers, search engine views, fundraising events, Channel 12 News broadcast features and website visits to:
 - www.offthestreets-bridgeport.org