

### Commitment to Health Equity

Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc. believes that to improve the wellness of the least served and fully live out its mission of "Serving Humanity to Honor God," it must recognize the inequities inherent in its communities that contribute to poor health outcomes. **Health Equity is both the process and goal by which Methodist Healthcare Ministries seeks to carry out that purpose.** Health Equity is a framework of thought and action that strives to reduce racial and socio-economic disparities and create fair and just opportunities for every person to reach their full potential.

### Current State

- 46% of Texans are cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of a household's income on housing costs and utilities
- Texas has a shortage of 614,487 rental homes affordable and available to households whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income
- Rural areas have higher homeownership rates than urban areas, 81.1% compared to 59.8% nationally, but quality and value tends to be lower than urban areas
- The 2023 Point in Time Count estimates 27,377 individuals as homeless in Texas
  - In MHM's 74-County Region, the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population is estimated to be 9,065 individuals



### Desired Future State

All people in MHM's service area have fair and equitable housing necessary to optimize long term health.

### Vision

To be the leader for improving wellness of the least served



#### OBJECTIVE 1

Increase access to stable and affordable housing to achieve desired future state

#### PRIORITIES

- Prevent eviction and resident displacement
- Support home repair, rehabilitation programs, and preservation programs
- Provide new affordable housing developments

#### OBJECTIVE 2

Reduce the population of unsheltered homeless to achieve desired future state

#### PRIORITIES

- Support homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and domestic violence shelters
- Provide wrap-around services for shelters
- Expand or increase evidence-based Permanent Supportive Housing programs

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Increase Access to Affordable and Stable Housing to Achieve Desired Future State

Reduce number of unhoused individuals and families in MHM service area

Priority	<b>Prevent eviction and resident displacement</b> Rapid rehousing efforts, emergency assistance including rental and utility
Priority	<b>Support home repair, rehabilitation, and preservation programs</b> Efforts to keep existing affordable homes safe and healthy, title planning
Priority	<b>Provide new affordable housing developments</b> Home ownership and rental efforts to increase access to affordable housing, municipal code updates
Metrics	Reduction in evictions and displacement, number of units rehabilitated or developed, green/sustainable housing certificates, zoning or code changes

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Reduce the Population of Unsheltered Homeless to Achieve Desired State

Reduce number of unsheltered individuals and families in MHM service area

Priority	<b>Support homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and domestic violence shelters</b> Increase capacity for shelters, including to serve individuals or families fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence
Priority	<b>Provide wrap-around services for shelters</b> Include case management, life skills training, and other services at shelters
Priority	<b>Expand or increase evidence-based Permanent Supportive Housing programs</b> Efforts to provide low-barrier housing programs, like Housing First
Metrics	Number of unsheltered homeless provided shelter or housing, participants using wrap-around services who secured permanent housing

