



STAFF REPORT FROM THE CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Contra Costa County Homeless System of Care Quarterly Report for Quarter 2 of 2022 (April-June)

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Dear Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

This quarter the homeless Continuum of Care was busy with funding! We applied for funding, received notification about previously submitted applications and began gearing up for the HUD CoC competition, which provides the majority of our community's resources for housing and services. We are also encouraged by the development of the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)'s Community Resilience Centers (CRC) program designed to support upgrades of neighborhood-level resilience centers. We see great opportunities for collaboration with County and community partners to bring resources to our community to help support our shared clients during climate and other emergencies.

The CoC has been moving forward with efforts to improve equity and increase the engagement of people with a lived experience of homelessness in our planning and decision making. We're continuing to work on evaluating and improving components of our system of care with monitoring, performance-based contracting and a new HMIS evaluation.

Sincerely,

Juno Hedrick, Chair of the Council on Homelessness

and

Jo Bruno, Vice Chair of the Council on Homelessness



INTRODUCTION

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness (CoH) is the governing and oversight body for the County homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) and is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Council provides advice and input to the Board of Supervisors on the operations of homeless services, program operations, and program development efforts in Contra Costa County. The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness is the governing body for the Contra Costa County Continuum of Care (CoC).

The Contra Costa CoC is comprised of multiple partners, including service providers, members of faith communities, local businesses, private and public funders, community members, education systems and law enforcement, and others who are working collaboratively to end homelessness. The COH and COC are supported by Contra Costa Health Services Health, Housing & Homeless Services (H3) Division. H3 functions as the CoC administrative entity and collaborative applicant, CoC Lead Agency and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS database) Lead Agency.

The purpose of this report is to share information about the CoC and COH activities with the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and to provide recommendations from the COH to the County Board of Supervisors on long range planning and policy formulation that would support the county homeless CoC. This report includes information on system data, funding and policy activities, and CoC initiatives. All information will reflect activities and data for the prior quarter.

This report was produced on behalf of the CoH by H3 in collaboration with the CoH and CoC partners.

SYSTEM FUNDING

This quarter the CoC continued to evaluate the system of care and pursued funding opportunities to address the gaps in Contra Costa's homeless system, including our largest source of funding, the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

FEDERAL

HUD CoC NOFO: In advance of the FY 2022 Continuum of Care competition that is anticipated to begin next quarter, the CoC/ESG Committee proposed changes to advance equity in the New Housing Project Scoring Tool and propose changes to lower barriers for new projects that are used to prioritize applications in the CoC's internal Review and Rank process. The Council on Homelessness will make a final decision on the proposed changes and Scoring Tools at the July 2022 Council on Homelessness meeting.



HUD Unsheltered NOFO: In late June, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a first-of-its-kind package of resources to address unsheltered homelessness and homeless encampments, including funds set aside specifically to address homelessness in rural communities. The \$322 million available under this NOFO will enhance communities' capacity to humanely and effectively address unsheltered and rural homelessness by connecting vulnerable individuals and families to housing, healthcare, and supportive services. This Special NOFO strongly promotes partnerships with healthcare organizations, public housing authorities and mainstream housing providers, and people with lived expertise of homelessness. HUD is prioritizing communities with high unsheltered homeless counts based on the 2019 Point In Time Count. Contra Costa will conduct a thorough review of funding requirements before determining an application strategy.

STATE

Community Resilience Center Funding: The historic 2021-2022 State Climate Budget package, which provided over \$15 billion to tackle wildfire and drought challenges, build more resilient communities, promote sustainable agriculture, and advance a nation-leading climate agenda, includes \$100M to the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) over two years for a new Community Resilience Centers (CRC) program.

SGC's CRC program will fund new construction and upgrades of neighborhood-level resilience centers to provide shelter and resources during climate and other emergencies, such as extreme heat events and poor air quality days. The program will also fund year-round services and ongoing community amenities and programming, such as food distribution and workforce development training, that build overall community resilience. SGC will prioritize community-serving locations across the state, such as schools, libraries, community centers, health clinics, and places of worship.

SGC plans to release draft program guidelines in September 2022 for a 30-day public comment period. Once released, SGC will host a series of public workshops to provide opportunities to review and comment on the proposed program structure. For more information go to: <https://sgc.ca.gov/programs/community-resilience-centers/>.

Family Challenge Grant: In March, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for a Family Homelessness Challenge Grant (FHC-1) to provide one-time grants and technical assistance to local jurisdictions and continuums of care to address and end family homelessness. Thirty million (\$30 m) will be distributed across a minimum of two rounds of funding. The RFA for Round 1 is for funds totaling \$15 million and awards will be determined through this competitive RFA process. Contra Costa applied for and was not awarded this funding source.



Homeless, Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP3): HHAP Round 3 is a \$1 billion grant through the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council that provides local jurisdictions, including federally recognized tribal governments, with flexible funding to continue efforts to end and prevent homelessness in their communities. H3 submitted an application at the end of June for the funds, after gathering community input on the possible priorities for the \$3,434,907.05 allocated to the CoC and the \$3,205,913.24 allocated to the County.

Homekey 3: H3 will be applying for a Homekey 3 allocation in September.

Pet Assistance and Support (PAS): H3 applied for a portion of the \$10m PAS grant offered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development that allows qualified homeless shelters to provide shelter, pet food and supplies, and basic veterinary services for pets owned by individuals experiencing homelessness, along with staffing and liability insurance related to providing those services. These services and accommodations reduce barriers, making shelter and services accessible to people who otherwise would not access these resources. Contra Costa County and Bay Area Community Services (BACS) both received awards, with more than \$550k to support Brookside shelter with the construction of an outdoor dog park, pet supplies, and veterinary services and \$450k to Delta Landing to support the construction of two outdoor dog parks, kennels/crates, with an additional \$150k separately awarded to BACS for pet services and resources on site.

LOCAL

Project Based Voucher Program: In June, H3 submitted an application to Housing Authority of Contra Costa County for project-based vouchers to support the upcoming El Portal Project in San Pablo. These vouchers are highly sought after and are competitively awarded.

SYSTEM INITIATIVES

The CoC regularly engages in multiple activities, partnerships, evaluations, and improvement that are designed to improve services to clients and achieve various system goals.

Equity The Council on Homelessness approved the establishment of a temporary Equity Working Group to review the [Contra Costa Race Equity Report](#) developed by C4 Innovations, facilitate community discussions to gather feedback on next steps, and make recommendations to the Council on Homelessness about how to move this important work forward. Two community input opportunities to help the COH set equity priorities for the next year will take place in Q3. Additionally, the CoC/ESG Committee finalize proposed changes to advance equity in the New Housing Project Scoring Tool for the FY 2022 Continuum of Care competition in June.

Engagement of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness: One of the two community input opportunities to help set Equity priorities for the next year is specifically designed for



people with a lived experience of homelessness and includes a small stipend/incentive, as is best practice. H3 solicited input from people with lived experience as part of the process to revise the CoC "access to services" flyer that will be released in Q3. In addition, Council on Homelessness members with a lived experience of homelessness are very actively involved in a variety of committee work and projects.

HMIS Evaluation: H3 contracted with Focus Strategies to assess the configuration and use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to ensure that HMIS workflows, data and reporting enable providers to be successful with new program models and performance-based contracting. H3 and Focus Strategies introduced this project to the HMIS Policy Committee of the Council on Homelessness in June 1011.

Monitoring: Homebase is leading the 2022 monitoring process for 19 Continuum of Care-funded projects and will ensure grant activities are following the Department of Housing and Urban Development rules and regulations; improve individual program performance; and increase provider capacity regarding Continuum of Care compliance and financial management. The monitoring process of all CoC funded agencies will be completed in late July.

Performance Based Contracting: The Council on Homelessness approved standardized program models for homeless services in the Continuum of Care at the June 2nd CoH meeting. CoC providers and Health, Housing, and Homeless Services worked quickly to create workplans for FY22-23 to implement these models and will work throughout the year to adjust and improve the models before formally integrating these standards into County contracts.

Point in Time Count: The Point in Time Count, a comprehensive point-in-time count of families and individuals experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa, tallies information about people sleeping in emergency shelters and transitional housing as well as people sleeping in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation. This year, the sheltered count took place on the night of February 23rd and the unsheltered count, supported by over 140 volunteers and staff, took place in the early morning hours on February 24th. The results estimate that 3,093 people were staying in shelter beds or living outdoors in Contra Costa during the count, compared to 2,295 in 2019. A full data set that includes jurisdiction level numbers will be made available later this summer.

COLLABORATIONS

Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS): The Homeless Collaborative is continuing to hold joint monthly meetings with the East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) Concord Committee. In May, the Concord City Council voted to extend the deadline for completion of a term sheet by CNWS conversion master developer, Concord First Partners, until January 21, 2023. The term sheet was initially due to be completed in April 2022. The Council's action was taken in response



to a request by the master developer, Concord First Partners, to prematurely acquire the land through a Disposition and Development Agreement to reduce the developer's financial risk. The City Council rejected this proposal and instead granted the term sheet extension. The Homeless Collaborative and EBHO Concord Committee met jointly with City staff in May to discuss the status of the project and continue to advocate for adherence to requirements around housing for people experiencing homelessness and other affordable housing.

Holistic Intervention Partnership (HIP): The goal of the Holistic Intervention Partnership (HIP) is to reduce system burden and improve criminal justice outcomes in misdemeanor cases throughout the county. Of the 16 clients experiencing homelessness referred to the program this quarter, 1 was placed into permanent housing and 6 were diverted from entering homelessness. The other 7 were still working on housing plans and 2 were unreachable.

Homeless Services-Workforce Development Integration (H-WIN)- These bi-monthly meetings provide an opportunity for people working in Homeless Services and Workforce Development in Contra Costa to connect with and understand each other's resources and services. Two meetings were held this quarter, with over 30 partners in attendance at each one.

Master Plan On Aging: At the April Council on Homelessness meeting, Ana Bagtas, Area Agency on Aging Division Director, gave a presentation about the Master Plan for Aging Local Playbook, which included an overview of the Area Agency on Aging, demographics of Older Adults in Contra Costa County, and how to get involved in the master plan.

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

Contra Costa is committed to the Regional Action plan which aims to reduce unsheltered homelessness by 75% by 2024. The Regional Action Plan proposes a 1-2-4 framework which posits that to accomplish this reduction, for every 1 additional interim housing unit funded, 2 permanent housing solutions, and 4 prevention interventions are needed.

CES Evaluation: This quarter, the results of the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Evaluation were shared publicly. Findings to improve CES were provided to the Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing (PATH) Innovations Committee of the Council on Homelessness. Recommendations included further studying barriers to CES access, improving CORE dispatch, refining assessment tools, and establishing a plan to monitor for equity in the system.

PATH Innovations Committee: The Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing (PATH) Innovations Committee of the Council on Homelessness refined their work to examine prevention and rapid exit resources as mechanisms to reduce unsheltered homelessness. The committee also discussed broader causes of homelessness and will review data related to unsheltered homelessness at future meetings.



Funding Opportunities: All of the funding opportunities mentioned earlier in the report would support Contra Costa’s efforts to achieve the Regional Action Plan goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness by 75% by 2024.

GOVERNANCE/REPORTING

- The COH Governance Committee developed draft bylaws revisions which will be submitted to County Counsel next quarter for review.
- The Chair and Vice Chair presented the Q1 Council on Homelessness report at the May FHS Committee meeting.

MEETINGS, TRAININGS AND EVENTS

Council on Homelessness (COH) Meetings: The Council on Homelessness held three (3) regular business meetings. In addition to the regular Council on Homelessness meetings, the following committees met:

Committee	Purpose
ESG/CoC Committee	Supports the application process for funds administered by HUD, including the CoC program
Governance Committee	Review and revise the Governance Charter & Bylaws to increase CoH efficiency and impact
HMIS Policy Committee	Develops and shares updates on HMIS policies and practices, compliance, and troubleshooting; Plans technical assistance and training; Informs standards of practice and monitoring
Oversight Committee	Reviewing and assessing the development, implementation, and improvement of the CoC, Coordinated Entry System, HMIS database, and system outcomes
PATH Innovation Committee	Work towards the goal of reducing unsheltered homeless in Contra Costa County by 75% by 2024

Trainings

- Mandated Reporting of Elder and Dependent Abuse (4/25)
- Housing First 201: Practical Implications and Applications (6/7)

Events

- CoC Provider Meetings (3)
- CoC Executive Director meeting (1)
- HHAP 3 Community Input opportunity (5/12)
- CoC Learning Hub (5/9)
- H-WIN meeting (4/13)



The recordings, minutes and materials for trainings and meetings can be found on the H3 website¹ and on the County agenda center², and a calendar of upcoming meetings and events can be found on the H3 website.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As COVID response and funding is winding down and shelters have reopened, the remaining COVID-19 hotel for people experiencing homelessness closed this quarter.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Request relevant Contra Costa departments including Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD), Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS), Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) and Office of Reentry and Justice (ORJ) participate in the September – October draft guidelines workshops related to Community Resilience Center Funding and explore collaborating on the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) when released in 2023. For more information go to <https://sgc.ca.gov/programs/community-resilience-centers/>.

¹ <https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/partners.php#Training>

² <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/agendacenter>



APPENDIX A

Commonly Used Acronyms and Terms

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
BIPOC	Black and Indigenous People of Color
CARE	Coordinated Assessment and Resource
CCYCS	Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services
CDBG, CDBG-CV	Community Development Block Grant (federal and state programs) and the federal Community Development Block Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
CESH	California Emergency Solutions and Housing program (state funding)
Continuum of Care (CoC)	Continuum of Care approach to assistance to the homeless. Federal grant program promoting and funding permanent solutions to homelessness.
Con Plan	Consolidated Plan, a locally developed plan for housing assistance and urban development under CDBG.
CORE	Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement program
COVID-19	Coronavirus
DCD	(Contra Costa County) Department of Conservation and Development
DOC	Department Operations Center
EHSD	(Contra Costa County) Employment and Human Services Division
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ESG and ESG-CV	Emergency Solutions Grant (federal and state program) and the federal Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
ESG-CV	Emergency Solutions Grant CARES
FMR	Fair Market Rent (maximum rent for Section 8 rental assistance/CoC grants)
HCD	Housing and Community Development (State office)
HEAP	Homeless Emergency Aid Program (State funding)
HEARTH	Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009
HHAP	Homeless Housing and Assistance Program
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships (CPD program)
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (federal)
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act
NOFA/NOFO	Notice of Funding Availability/ Notice of Funding Opportunity
PHA	Public Housing Authority
PUI	Persons Under Investigation
PWLE	People With Lived Experience of Homelessness
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance



TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 18-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

Contra Costa County COVID-19 Resources:

Please see below for additional resources on COVID-19.

Health Services COVID Data Dashboard- <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/dashboard>

Health Services Homeless Specific Data Dashboard- <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/homeless-dashboard>

Health Services COVID Updates- <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/health-services-updates>

Health Services Homeless-Specific COVID Resources [-https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-the-homeless](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-the-homeless)