



Contra Costa Continuum of Care

Homelessness Awareness Month Toolkit

2023

INTRODUCTION

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness is happy to join communities around the country in recognizing November as Homelessness Awareness Month. In Contra Costa, we take this opportunity to create and share materials and events that help people learn, engage and recognize people and projects working to address homelessness.

This toolkit is divided into three sections:

LEARN

In this section you will find data, information about services, and links to videos by and about people with a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa where you can learn directly from the people most impacted by homelessness.

ENGAGE

Do you want to attend an event, volunteer or donate? This is where you'll find what you need.

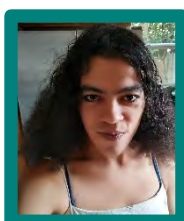
RECOGNIZE

This section highlights the great work done to support people experiencing homelessness in our community.

We hope you will find this toolkit inspiring, helpful and worth sharing far and wide.



Juno Hedrick
Chair and Lived Experience Representative



Jo Bruno
Vice Chair and Lived Experience Representative

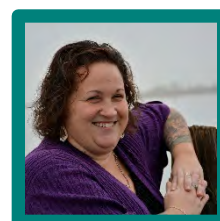


TABLE OF CONTENTS

This year we've made our Homelessness Awareness Month Toolkit easier to use and share by creating a [virtual hub with documents that can easily be downloaded](#) or shared with others in addition to this printable document.

- **To be taken to the downloadable/sharable electronic version:** Click on the underlined name of the section, folder or document in the Table of Contents
- **To be taken to the document you want in this packet:** Click on the page number in the Table of Contents.

<u>LEARN</u>	
<u>Data</u>	p. 5
<u>Guide: Contra Costa Homelessness Data Overview</u>	p. 6
<u>Report: CoC Annual 2022</u>	p. 7
<u>Report: CONTRA COSTA COUNTY 2023 Affordable Housing Needs Report</u>	p. 74
<u>Report: PIT Infographic 2023</u>	p. 79
<u>Connecting to services</u>	p. 81
<u>Flyer: Connecting to Services (English)</u>	p. 82
<u>Flyer: Connecting to Services Flyers (Spanish)</u>	p. 84
<u>Families with Children</u>	
<u>Guide: Connecting to Services: Families with Children 0-5</u>	p. 86
<u>Guide: Connecting to Services: Families with School Aged Children</u>	p. 89
<u>Transition Aged Youth (18-24)</u>	
<u>Guide: Connecting to Services: Transition Aged Youth</u>	p. 92
<u>Flyer: H3 Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services</u>	p. 95
<u>Veterans</u>	
<u>Guide: Connecting to Services: Veterans</u>	p. 97
<u>Flyer: Veterans Affairs Walk-In</u>	p. 99
<u>Flyer: Veterans Affairs Housing Flyer</u>	p. 100

<u>Videos</u>	p. 102
<u>2023 Video: Challenging Myths About Homelessness: A Message For Your Neighbors</u>	p. 103
<u>2022 Video: R.O.O.T.S: Reflecting On Our Truth and Stories</u>	p. 103
<u>2021 Video: H.O.P.E: Hearing Other People's Stories</u>	p. 103
<u>2020 Video: Contra Costa Homelessness Awareness Month 2020</u>	p. 103
<u>2023 Video Interview Transcripts</u>	p. 104
<u>ENGAGE</u>	
<u>Events</u>	p. 131
<u>Calendar of Events for November</u>	p. 132
<u>Flyer- Concord Unhoused Resource Fair</u>	p. 133
<u>Flyer- Foster Parent Training</u>	p. 134
<u>Flyer- Homeless Persons' Memorial Event</u>	p. 135
<u>How to Help</u>	p. 136
<u>Guide: How to Help: Donate</u>	p. 137
<u>Guide: How to Help: Faith Community</u>	p. 140
<u>Guide: How to Help: Landlords</u>	p. 142
<u>Guide: How to Help: Volunteering</u>	p. 144
<u>Flyer- Contra Costa Crisis Center Volunteer</u>	p. 147
<u>Flyer- Northern California Family Center Volunteer</u>	p. 148
<u>Flyer: SHELTER Inc Thanksgiving Food Drive</u>	p. 149
<u>RECOGNIZE</u>	
<u>Council on Homelessness Recognitions</u>	p. 150
<u>Recognition: Outstanding Landlord</u>	p. 151
<u>Recognition: Outstanding New Project/Program</u>	p. 158
<u>Recognition: Outstanding Volunteer</u>	p. 172
<u>Recognition: Resilience in the Face of Homelessness</u>	p. 182

LEARN

DATA

CONTRA COSTA HOMELESSNESS DATA OVERVIEW

2022 COC ANNUAL REPORT

Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3) produces an annual report each calendar year for the Council on Homelessness to describe the populations served and service utilization within the homeless Continuum of Care (CoC). Read through this year's report to learn about successes, challenges, and the unique stories of people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County in 2022. See the full report here: <https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/pdf/Annual-Report-2022.pdf>

2023 POINT IN TIME COUNT INFOGRAPHIC

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an annual census and survey to identify the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population across the County. This count is required for all recipients of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding. The PIT Count takes place during the last week of January each year. See the infographic here: <https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/pdf/PIT-infographic-2023.pdf>

CONTRA COSTA AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEED REPORT 2023

The 2023 Affordable Housing Need Report highlights market conditions in Contra Costa County and key indicators of housing need for low-income families, including: levels of housing production, state and federal funding, asking rent trends, and local wages. See the full report here: https://chpc.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Contra-Costa-County_Housing-Report_2023.pdf

STORYMAP

This Point In Time Count StoryMap is a direct response to the critical questions our stakeholders ask about homeless experience and how to prevent homelessness. It weaves together local, state, and national data with personal stories of people in Contra Costa County with lived experience with homelessness to highlight why Contra Costa County continues to fight the challenging battle of reducing homelessness. See the StoryMap here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9f82dea759d04bf2838f4092e48eff3d>



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Contra Costa County Continuum of Care
Health Housing and Homeless Services



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Contra Costa Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) Overview	6
CoC and Community Partnerships	9
CoC Capacity Building	11
CoC System Successes	13
CoC Budget	16
CoC Program Utilization	17
Positive Outcomes and Exit Destinations	21
Prevention and Diversion	24
Crisis Response	25
CR-Rapid Exit	26
CR-Street Outreach	28
CR-Support Services	29
CR-Emergency Shelter	31
CR-Transitional Housing	33
CR-Rapid Rehousing	34
Permanent Housing	35
Demographics	38
Household Type	38
Age Groups	41
Race and Ethnicity	44
Gender	49
Disabling Conditions	51
Chronic Homelessness	52
Survivors of Domestic Violence	53
Sexual Orientation	53
Veterans	53
Housing Outcomes Summary	56
Regional and City Data	58
Cause of Death per Coroner	61
Other CoC Data	62

Executive Summary

This annual report provides a deep dive into the activities and outcomes of the Contra Costa Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) during 2022. The CoC is made up of multiple service providers, guided by a Council, and operated by an administrative lead. With a shared vision and clear objectives, the CoC continues to meet the needs of people in a housing crisis.

Numbers Served

During 2022, the CoC served 7,725 households (10,600 individuals) served in the CoC during 2022, reflecting a 3% increase from 2019, the year before the COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted the county.

- 1,169 households served in prevention and diversion, for households at-risk of homelessness or newly homeless and not yet engaged in CoC services
- 5,848 households served in crisis response programs, for households in sheltered and unsheltered sleep settings
- 1,166 households served in permanent housing programs, for households that had been homeless and subsequently placed into permanent housing through supports

Outcomes

Out of the 7,725 households served during 2022, 3,370 (44%) were able to retain, or exit to, permanent housing.

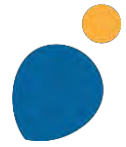
- 90% of household enrollments in prevention and diversion programs exited to permanent housing
- 29% of household enrollments in crisis response programs exited to temporary or permanent housing and another 9% entered into emergency shelter
- 96% of household enrollments in permanent housing programs either retained their housing or exited to other permanent housing

CoC Budget

The CoC sought out over \$50 million in funding for services during 2022. Sixty-six percent of those funds were from government and local funding (\$33 million) and 34% from federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds (\$17 million).

CoC Capacity Building

The CoC's lead administrator is Contra Costa Health's Health, Housing and Homelessness Services division (H3). During 2022, H3 led a variety of activities that took place to build capacity within the CoC.



- Conducted trainings on key topics related to responding to the housing crisis and serving those impacted by homelessness (critical time intervention, case management, fair housing, housing first model, how to serve victims of domestic violence, among others).
- Data quality and performance monitoring tools were developed by H3 to enhance data quality and accuracy. During 2022, data accuracy increased from 79% to 94%.
- H3 developed CoC program models and performance-based contracting to create consistent and transparent performance standards to improve the quality of service and outcomes across the CoC.
- An equity committee was established to address recommendations made in an equity assessment conducted in 2022. The committee approved a new housing prioritization tool and CoC monitoring process for the CoC-funded projects to ensure that equity goals are being met.
- CORE Outreach continues to expand with new partnerships with the City of Martinez and the Contra Costa Health Plan.

CoC Successes

The CoC is ever-changing with new initiatives, partnerships, and development.

- There were 537 referrals through the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to house vulnerable individuals and families in stable long-term housing.
- The county shelters were improved with the sleep stations that offer privacy, allowing couples and multi-generational adult households to stay together. Additionally, pet facilities were set up to allow people with pets to access shelters.

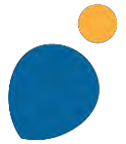
Population Characteristics

- Households with Children: There were 1,314 households with children served in 2022, a 32% increase since 2019.
- Transition Age Youth (TAY), ages 18-24: TAY made up 8% of the CoC served and increased by 21% since 2019.
- Race/ethnicity: Black/African American/African households and American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous were over-represented in the CoC relative to the county population (4x and 7x, respectively).



- Disabling conditions: 69% of households served in the CoC had a member with at least one disabling condition. Mental health condition was the most prevalent disability, accounting for 43% of households.
- Chronic homelessness: 48% of all households in crisis response were chronically homeless.
- Survivors of domestic violence: 20% of households accessing crisis response had at least one household member that had experienced domestic violence.
- Sexual orientation: 2% of adults served in crisis response identified as LGBTQIA+ and 26% of those people were between the ages of 18 and 24.
- Veterans: The CoC served 803 veterans in 2022 (10%) of all adults. Veteran households made up 41% of all households in permanent housing programs.
- Housing outcomes vary for sub-populations:

Population	From Prevention	From Crisis Response
General Population	90%	21%
Race/Ethnicity		
Black/African American/African (HH)	93%	22%
White (HH)	87%	21%
Multiple Races (HH)	91%	21%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x) (HH)	91%	20%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (HH)	96%	18%
Asian American/Asian (HH)	92%	17%
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous (HH)	84%	17%
Other Sub-Populations		
Veterans (Ind)	82%	43%
Households with Children (HH)	97%	40%
Survivors of Domestic Violence (Ind)	88%	26%
Households with Disabling Condition (HH)	75%	22%
Chronically Homeless (HH)	n/a	16%
LGBTQIA+ (Ind)	n/a	16%



Regional and City Data

More people lost housing from Richmond than any other city (n= 1,435), followed by Antioch (n=1,096) and Concord (n=909). More people lost housing in east county (33% of households) than in central or west, while fewer households slept in east county (30% of households) the night prior to enrolling into programs, suggesting that many households move from east county to other regions of the county.

Coroner's Data

An annual memorial has been hosted in Contra Costa since 2004 to acknowledge and honor people who pass away while experiencing homelessness. During 2022, 106 people were identified by the county coroner's office as passing away while homeless. The number one cause was accidental death by overdose.

Contra Costa Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) Overview

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is designed to assist individuals and households experiencing a housing crisis by providing the housing and/or services needed to help households retain housing or move into transitional and permanent housing, with the goal of long-term stability. CoCs are partially funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and have specific requirements. HUD rules state that the primary purpose of the CoC Program is to:

- Promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness
- Provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments to re-house homeless individuals and families rapidly while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities as a consequence of homelessness
- Promote access to, and effective use of, mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is comprised of multiple partners and service providers, with a single applicant to streamline the funding application process, encourage coordination of housing and service providers on a local level, and establish a more coordinated and strategic approach to address the complex needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Contra Costa County's CoC is designed to assist individuals and families who are at risk of homelessness, are currently experiencing homelessness, or were formerly homeless and in need of on-going support to sustain housing stability. The CoC relies upon community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness and improve coordination with non-CoC resources and other local programs targeted for people experiencing homelessness.

"Homelessness is first a housing issue, and necessary supports and services are critical to help people remain housed. Our system must be nimble and flexible enough to respond through the shared responsibility, accountability, and transparency of the community."

-Contra Costa Continuum of Care Bylaws

All CoCs are required to have: 1) a CoC advisory board; 2) an administrative agency; 3) a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) administrator; and 4) a Coordinated Entry administrator. In Contra Costa, Contra Costa Health's Health, Housing, and Homeless Services division (H3) is the county entity that fulfills these CoC administrative roles. H3 is also a direct service provider.

CoC Advisory Board

The Council on Homelessness (COH) is the advisory board to both the CoC in Contra Costa County and the County Board of Supervisors. The COH is comprised of 19 seats designated by area of expertise or role within the CoC including affordable housing development, behavioral health, city government, educational and vocational services, faith community, funders, health care, public housing, public safety, reentry services, veteran services, workforce services as well as seats for community member, adults, and transition age youth with lived experience of homelessness.

The COH and its sub-committees guide the direction of the CoC and make decisions on policies and programs adopted and implemented in the CoC. The COH meets for monthly council meetings as well as various sub-committee meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

Administrative Agency

H3 provides administrative oversight, strategic guidance, fiscal management, and technical assistance to a network of community-based agencies organized to respond to homelessness in the community. H3 applies for CoC funds and is the point of contact with HUD. During 2022, H3 conducted the following CoC administrative agency tasks:

- Applied for federal, state, and local funds and resources for CoC programming
- Provided staffing and administrative support for COH meetings and sub-committee meetings, CoC Providers' meetings, and various community meetings
- Identified funding for technical assistance on multiple initiatives, including:
 - Regional Action Plan
 - Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing (PATH) Innovations Committee
 - Performance Based Contract Model plan dashboards and technical assistance
- Planned, staffed, and implemented the 2023 Point-in-Time Count
- Created a comprehensive annual report and a HUD Systems Performance Measures report

Staffing and Administration of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

H3 provides staffing and management to ensure HMIS is effectively meeting HUD requirements. H3 monitors for complete and accurate data entered by providers that are ultimately submitted to HUD in quarterly and annual reports. Additionally, H3 provides HMIS training, data quality assessments, technical assistance, and ensures data security for all CoC-funded service providers.

Coordinated Entry System Management

Coordinated Entry is a centralized and coordinated process designed to streamline voluntary placement into permanent and stable housing through intake, assessment, and provision of referrals. The purpose of the county's Coordinated Entry System (CES) is to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, and connected to housing and homeless services based on their strengths and needs. CES facilitates the use of standardized tools and practices across the CoC, incorporates a system-wide Housing First approach, and, in an environment of scarce resources, coordinates housing support so that those with the most severe service needs are prioritized. Contra Costa's CoC has designated H3 as the provider and manager of the CES. H3 provides the staffing and administration to oversee CES.

Coordinated Entry
creates fair and equal
access to services based
on individuals' strengths
and needs.

Housing First

Contra Costa County uses a Housing First approach to serve people experiencing homelessness. Housing First establishes that a person experiencing homelessness must first be able to access a decent, safe place to live that does not limit length of stay (permanent housing) before stabilizing, improving health, reducing harmful behaviors, or increasing income. Under the Housing First approach, anyone experiencing homelessness should be connected to a permanent home as quickly as possible, and programs should remove barriers to accessing housing, such as requirements for sobriety or absence of criminal history. It is based on the "hierarchy of need." People must access necessities — like having a safe place to live and food to eat — before being able to achieve quality of life or pursue personal goals. Housing First does not mean "housing only." On the contrary, Housing First acknowledges social services and care coordination are necessary elements of housing stability and quality of life.

CoC and Community Partnerships

Collaboration between CoC service providers, nonprofits, community partners, and agencies results in a wide-casting network of services, allowing broader reach and a wider array of services for those accessing the homeless system of care. Examples of key partnerships during 2022 are described below.

Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD)

H3 continued its partnership with Contra Costa Employment and Human Services (EHSD) through multiple state funded projects including:

- **Home Safe** is a prevention and housing stabilization program for older adults with an open EHSD Adult Protection Services (APS) case and who are either at-risk or experiencing homelessness.
- **HousingWORKS!** is an eviction prevention and rapid rehousing program run by EHSD for families receiving CalWORKS and are at-risk or experiencing homelessness.
- **The Housing, Disability, and Advocacy Program (HDAP)** is designed for individuals experiencing homelessness who are eligible for General Assistance (GA) and pending Social Security Income (SSI).



Probation & Public Defenders

H3 partnered with Contra Costa County Probation and the Contra Costa Public Defender's Office on two initiatives. The first initiative with County Probation provides homeless prevention and rapid rehousing for adults and transition aged youth (TAY) currently on probation. The Public Defender's Office is involved in the second initiative called the Holistic Intervention Partnership (HIP), which is funded through the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). This program provides housing and case management services to adults involved in the criminal legal system.

Housing Authority

The Housing Authority of Contra Costa County collaborated with H3 on multiple projects in 2022, accounting for over 183 housing placements made through the Coordinated Entry System in 2022 (34% of all referrals placed into permanent housing in the CoC). These projects included distribution of Emergency Housing Vouchers, as well as the Hacienda Heights Affordable Housing Project.

2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

The Research, Evaluation, and Data (RED) team plans and leads all PIT efforts, relying heavily on community-wide collaboration required to implement the PIT successfully. Planning and preparation for the 2023 PIT began September of 2022 and PIT sub-committees were held in November and December. Volunteer recruitment focused on having representation from a variety of stakeholder agencies, including county and city government staff, service providers, police departments, agencies that serve veterans and transition age youth, and individuals with health conditions. This resulted in the best PIT volunteer turnout ever, with 164 community volunteers working with CORE Outreach and H3 staff to conduct the observational count and 14 agencies taking part in data collection for the follow-up survey.



CalAIM Implementation

Contra Costa Health Plan (CCHP) works with H3 to provide community supports that address social determinants of health amongst health plan patients through the CalAIM program. As part of the contract, community supports such as respite recuperative care, post-hospitalization placements, housing transition navigation services, and tenancy sustaining services are provided to meet the social needs of patients and address housing instability. H3 meets weekly with the CCHP to increase program capacity across the system and has hired direct service staff to support the growth.

Heat Emergency Weather Response

In response to intense heat waves during summer 2022, CORE mobile outreach distributed extra water bottles to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and transported people to designated indoor locations to cool off. The Concord Service Center expanded hours to provide a safe place for unsheltered individuals to cool down; non-profit mobile shower programs added days to their regular schedule; and information about the additional resources was pushed out to over 2,000 providers and community members via CoC email blasts.

CoC Capacity Building

The CoC, with the administrative support of H3, provides continuous improvement through trainings, tools, and collaboration to improve services and expand capacity across the CoC.

CoC Trainings

To ensure that providers have the knowledge and skills to implement best practices and comply with funder requirements, the CoC provided monthly trainings on topics that included critical time intervention, case management, motivational interviewing, trauma informed care, how to connect clients to workforce services and mainstream benefits, fair housing, housing first, mandated reporting of elder and dependent abuse, violence against women act compliance & strategies for serving survivors of domestic violence, and how to have problem solving conversations.

Data Quality & Performance Monitoring Tools

As part of capacity building efforts, multiple administrative staff within H3 worked collectively to create and implement Data Quality tools to monitor and measure Program Model Performance Standards as well as Coordinated Entry Annual Performance Report data and outcomes. The tools allow providers to monitor data quality and outcomes in real time, with accurate tracking of performance, outcomes, and data quality. Implementation of these tools resulted in system-wide data quality improvements; data accuracy increased from 79% to 94% with these new tools. The dashboards also allow each agency to monitor their own program performance.

Data accuracy
increased from
79% to 94%

CoC Program Models and Performance Based Contracting

H3, through the support of a consultant, developed seven CoC-wide program models. The purpose was to create consistent and transparent performance standards to improve the quality of service and outcomes for individuals and families served across CoC programs. The Council on Homelessness (COH) approved the CoC Program Models in June 2022, and the models and performance standards were integrated into provider contracts in July 2022. Simultaneously, the Research, Evaluation, and Data (RED) team, alongside the CoC administrators within H3, developed performance dashboards for each of the seven program models as a tool for agencies and H3 to monitor their data. Additionally, CoC providers were each provided a self-assessment tool where they could measure current practices and determine areas for growth.

Equity

In early 2022, C4 Innovations presented the results of the Equity Assessment of the Contra Costa homeless system of care they were contracted to conduct in 2021. As a result of the report, the COH established an Equity Committee and approved a 2023 work plan. This plan guides the Equity Committee in creating accessible information, outreach, and educational materials to engage hard-to-reach or previously unreached communities in Contra Costa County.

The Council approved changes to a revised housing project scoring tool for the FY 2022 Continuum of Care competition and the CoC monitoring process of 19 CoC funded projects in our system of care. They ensured that these tools helped advance equity in the system of care.

Data Integration

The HMIS team has continuously worked with CCH's Information Technology department to further integrate HMIS data with CCLink, the county's primary health record system. The two-way data integration fosters the exchange of valuable data. This provides homeless service staff ways to connect and collaborate with a client's healthcare/health plan team, while also giving clinical providers more insight into their patients' social situations.



With several statewide holistic health initiatives underway, there has been an increased demand to analyze and report on data derived from both systems. Reporting tools have been developed to aid in client matching and provide actionable analytics across both the healthcare and homeless systems.

Coordinated Outreach and Referral (CORE) Team Expansion

CORE street outreach increased the number of teams through contracts with the City of Martinez and the Contra Costa Health Plan (CCHP). As a result of this expansion, the total number of teams operating across the county increased to 13. Working with the CCHP ensured a stronger linkage between healthcare and outreach.

CoC System Successes

The CoC is ever-changing with new initiatives, partnerships, and forward-thinking development. During 2022, there were a number of critical successes that were the result of years of planning and implementation.

Permanent Housing Referrals

In 2022, the Coordinated Entry System referred over 537 households to permanent housing programs and projects. Households placed in permanent housing could receive both time-limited and long-term financial support and case management, if needed, to obtain housing.

Of these placements, a notable effort includes the referrals and placements made to Hacienda Heights, a 150-unit Senior Housing building in Richmond operated by Mercy Housing. Most of these, 125 units, were filled by the Housing Authority of Contra Costa's Project Based Voucher (PBV) waiting list. The remaining 25 units were filled through the CoC's Coordinated Entry System through collaboration with multiple partners. CES prioritizes households based on vulnerability and length of time homeless. The 25 households placed through CES will receive ongoing Permanent Supportive Housing Case Management services from Hope Solutions to ensure they maintain their housing and thrive.

Housing units filled through the Coordinated Entry System, involved the collaboration of Contra Costa Health: Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3) Division, Mercy Housing, the Housing Authority of Contra Costa County, and Hope Solutions, demonstrating that success that can be achieved when county, community, and affordable housing partners come together in an effort to end homelessness and provide supportive housing for our most vulnerable community members.

Improved Interim Housing

Project RoomKey (PRK) hotel programs that were established during the COVID-19 pandemic were closed during 2022 as programming shifted back to pre-pandemic “norms.” While the county shelters were unoccupied as residents were in PRK hotels, the facilities were remodeled to include individual sleep stations that provide privacy and allow for couples and multi-generational adult households to reside together. The shelters also had an outdoor play area with kennels for pets as many people would not access shelters if it required leaving their pets. The remodeled Concord Service Center also began functioning as a warming center with six beds for individuals who need to come indoors but cannot access a shelter.



Improvements were also made at Delta Landing Interim Housing Program to include a wellness center with a patient-centered design. Participants began repopulating Delta Landing, which has 174 rooms and can house up to 249 participants, in February 2022.

In 2022, Contra Costa County and Bay Area Community Services (BACS) received awards from the Pet Assistance Grant offered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, totaling more than \$1 million. This funding was used to build outside dog parks at the Brookside Shelter and Delta Landing, as well as purchase pet supplies such as kennels, crates, and veterinary services. These purchases allowed many people with pets to gain access to emergency and interim housing as most did not want to part with their pets during their housing crisis.



Emergency Housing Vouchers

The Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program provided a significant opportunity for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), Continuums of Care (CoCs), and Victim Service Providers (VSPs) to develop collaborative partnerships and strategies that effectively address the needs of vulnerable populations in their communities. Through EHV, HUD provided housing choice vouchers to local PHAs to assist individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness and either fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, or were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability. The Contra Costa CoC was allotted 199 EHV's to distribute from September 2021 through September 2023. In

2022, the CoC was able to house 158 households utilizing EHV's successfully and is on track to distribute the remaining vouchers during 2023.

Future Initiatives and Goals

- **Bringing Families Home** will be a project for Children and Family Services (CFS) involved families. It will have the capacity to serve 28 families through prevention and an additional 29 families through rapid rehousing. This is a partnership between EHSD, CFS bureau/division, H3, and Caminar, a new provider in 2023.
- **HUMS Expansion** – In 2023, HUMS will expand to include new units at El Portal Place in San Pablo.
- **Measure X** will provide an additional \$2.3 million to fund four new permanent housing projects and eight new service providers.
- **Special NOFO** is a \$5.3 million one-time 3-year grant to help address unsheltered and rural homelessness. Through Thrive CCC and housing stability vouchers, the grant will be used to house 28 of the most vulnerable people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Additionally, the Housing Authority will distribute 41 vouchers to help more people who are currently homeless or at-risk of homelessness.
- **El Portal Place** is a former office building set to open in Fall 2023 that H3 has been working to rehabilitate into permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless households.

These new funding initiatives build on each other to meet CoC objectives through community supports, a robust infrastructure, and policy changes. Priorities include:

Expanded targeted prevention with families, transition age youth, and households at risk of homelessness

Expanded interim housing focused on case management to help households become document ready and to reduce unsheltered homelessness

Increased permanent housing through El Portal Place, HUMS expansion, housing stability vouchers, and Thrive CCC

CoC Budget

Budgets are prepared for each federal fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). During fiscal year 2022-2023, which overlaps with the calendar year for this annual report, HUD awarded the CoC \$17,318,215. This amount represents a 9% increase over four years in HUD funding. Additional non-HUD funds in the amount of \$33,015,872 obtained through grants and foundations provided supplemental and critical financial resources for CoC administration, planning, data management, housing, and COVID-19 response. These non-HUD funds, which account for 66% of the CoC budget, have increased by over \$13 million, or 68%, from fiscal year 2019-2020 to fiscal year 2022-2023 (Table 1).

The majority of the CoC funds are one-time, emergency funds that cannot be assured in future fiscal years

Table 1: Fiscal Year Budgets for 19-20 through 22-23

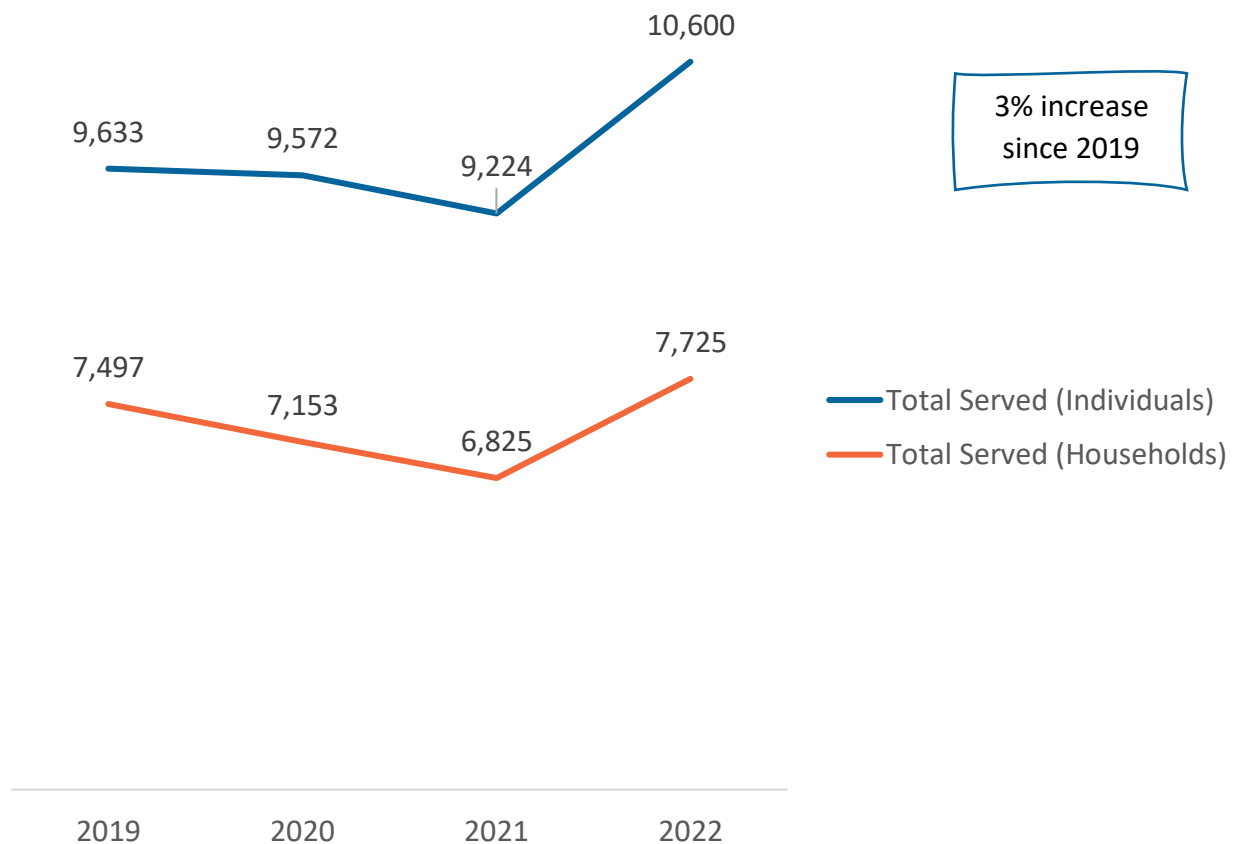
Budget	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	% Change
CoC Award	\$ 15,857,604	\$ 15,239,701	\$16,296,852	\$17,318,215	+9%
Other government and local funding	\$ 19,676,057	\$ 25,158,000	\$ 28,967,000	\$33,015,872	+68%
Total Funds	\$ 34,862,042	\$ 41,454,852	\$ 45,815,402	\$50,334,087	+44%

CoC Program Utilization

During Calendar Year 2022, 7,725 unique households were served in CoC programs, with 10,600 people in those households. This represents a 3% increase in households served since 2019, or prior to COVID-19. During 2020 and 2021, the number of households served decreased while services were limited and capacity to serve people at shelters was reduced to prevent over-crowding and the spread of COVID-19 (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Number of Households and Individuals Accessing CoC Services, 2019-2022



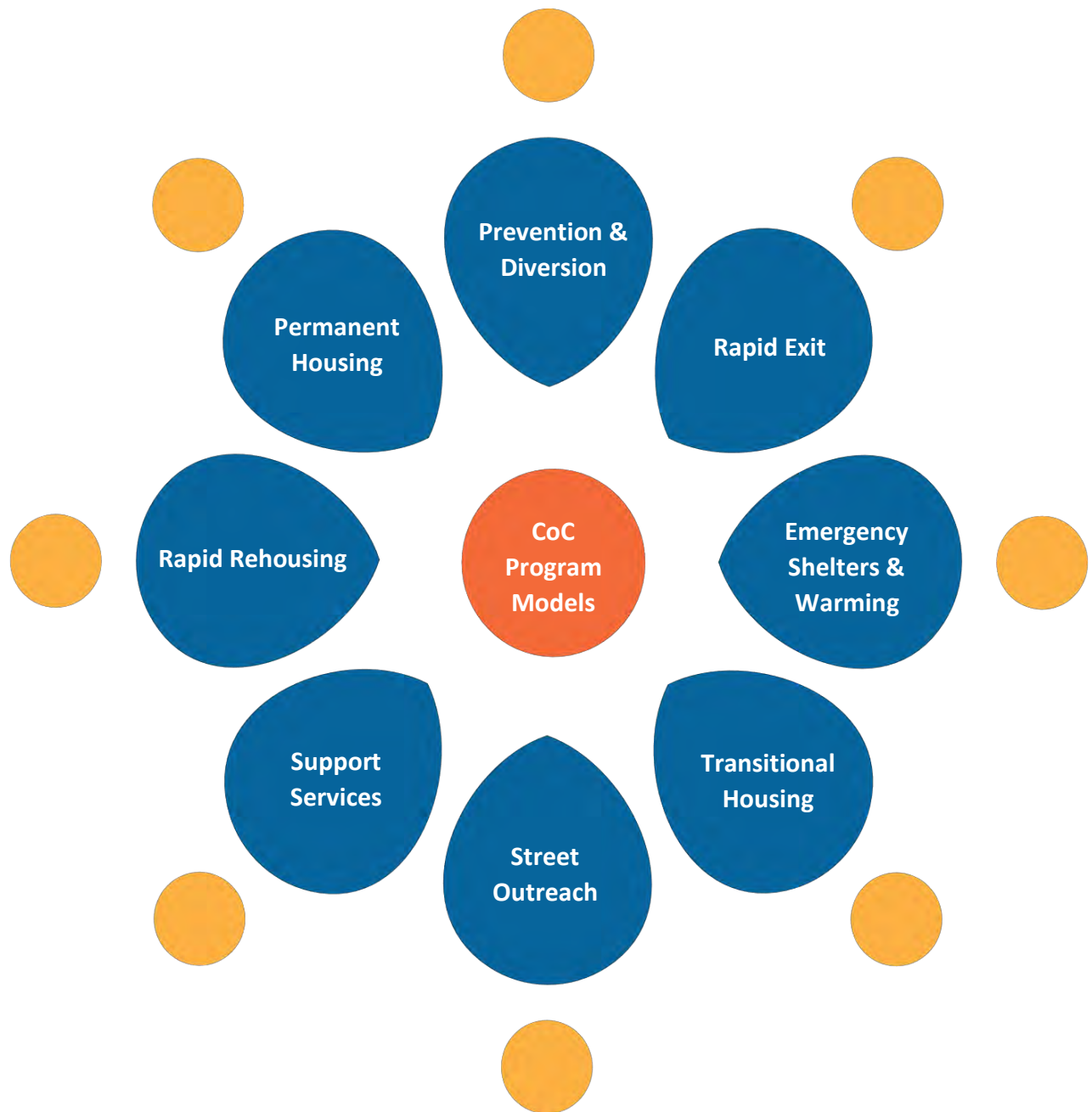


Figure 2: Program Models and Categories

Prevention & Diversion:

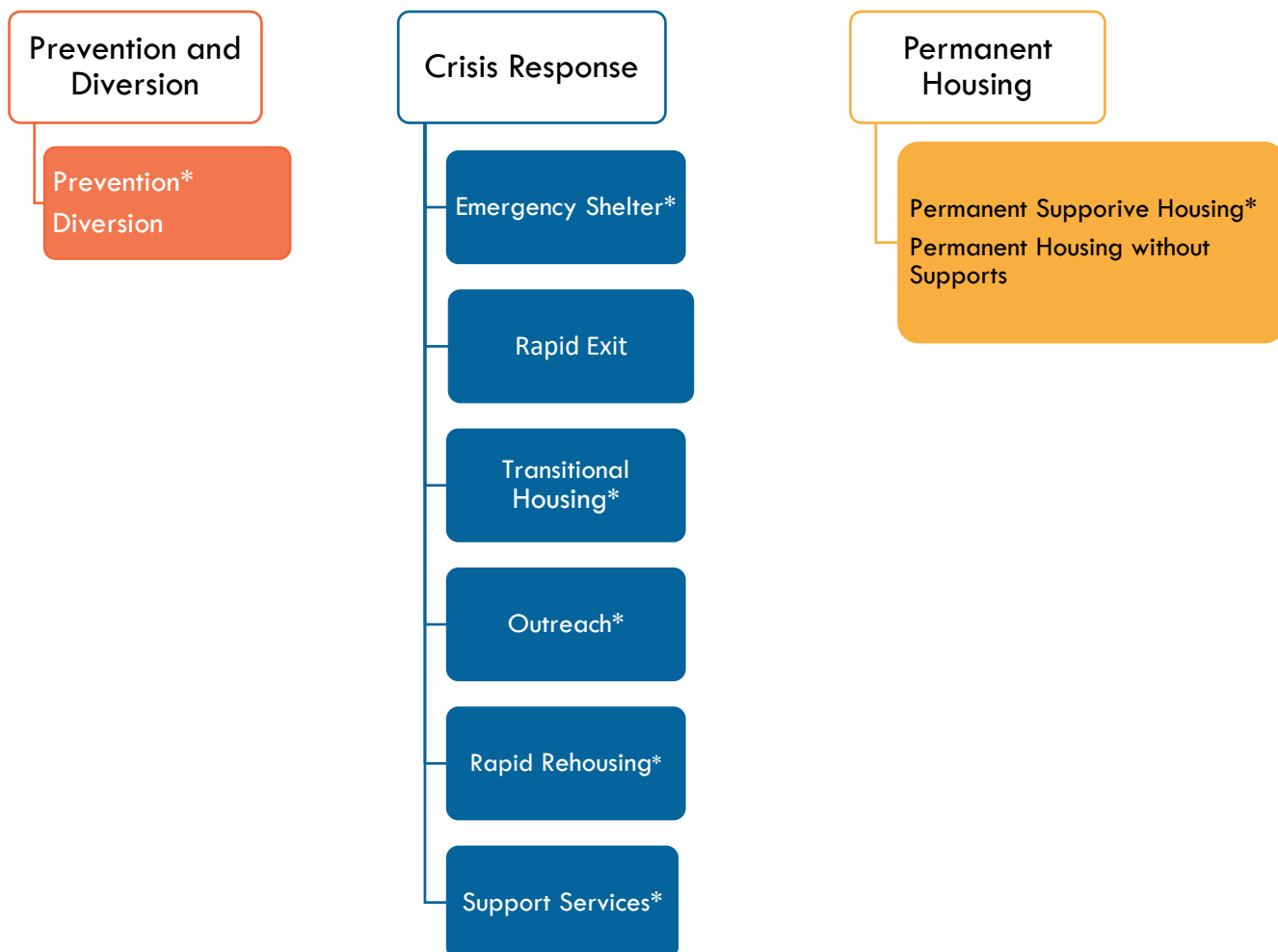
for people/households who are at imminent risk of homelessness. Services include case management, conflict resolution, and financial assistance.

Crisis Response:

for people/households currently experiencing literal homelessness. Services include outreach, emergency or interim shelter, basic needs, case management, referrals to financial and social benefits, housing navigation, and linkages to health and housing services.

Permanent Housing:

for people/households who were formerly homeless, many of which have disabilities, and need wrap-around services. Permanent housing programs include long-term housing supports, sometimes with case management.



The program models with an asterisk (*) are also “project types” defined by HUD.

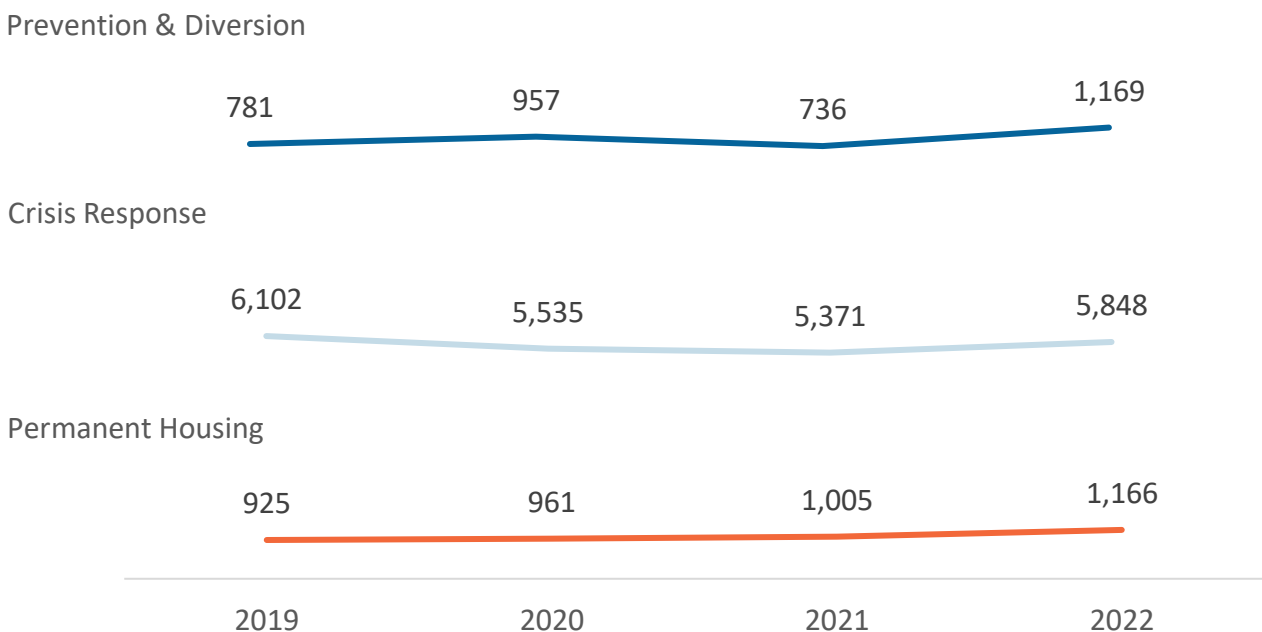
The majority of households served in the CoC were served in crisis response programs designed for people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness (72% of household enrollments, n=5,849). Households in prevention/diversion and permanent housing both made up 14% of enrollments (n=1,169 and 1,166, respectively, Figure 3).

Figure 3: Household Enrollment Across Program Model Categories, 2022



There was a 50% four-year increase in the number of households served in prevention and diversion, a 4% decrease in crisis response, and a 26% increase in permanent housing (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Number of Households Served, by Program Model Category, 2019-2022



Positive Outcomes and Exit Destinations

There were 89 programs in the CoC, listed in Appendix A. These programs fall under the program models adopted by the CoC. Desired exit destination for each program model varies depending on the target population (at-risk, sheltered, or unsheltered) and expected outcomes:

Permanent Housing	Temporary Settings	Emergency Shelters	Institutional Settings	Unsheltered Settings
• rental units (subsidized or not) • own home • living with friends or family on permanent basis	• transitional housing • living with family or friends on a temporary basis • hotel/motel not paid for by the CoC	• interim housing designated for people experiencing homelessness • hotels/motels paid for by the CoC	• hospitals, mental health facilities • rehabilitation centers • foster care • long-term care facilities • detention	• encampment • vehicles such as cars and RVs • uninhabitable buildings

There are two additional exit destination statuses:

1. **Still active** status occurs when a household has not yet exited a program. This is common for permanent housing programs where households remain housed and engaged in programming, and for interim housing programs where households remain unhoused and engaged in shelter or rapid rehousing. Households that do not engage with programming are automatically exited after 90 or 120 days, depending on the program model.
2. **Missing data** for exit destination occurs when households stop engaging with CoC programs without providing their next destination or sleep setting (this includes households that are auto-exited. This is common for households in crisis response as many households may find housing on their own, may move out of the area, or may simply stop accessing CoC programs, yet continue to experience homelessness.

Positive Exits from Prevention and Diversion

Programs in prevention are designed for people about to lose their housing (some programs are specific to households that might lose their housing within the next two weeks). Diversion programs target households that are literally homeless but have not yet accessed the CoC and have resources that make CoC services unnecessary. The goal of prevention and diversion programs is to gain housing quickly with a permanent housing exit destination. Because these programs are designed to be short-term and have regular contact with participants, there is not a lot of missing exit data.

Positive Exits from Crisis Response

Street outreach and support services provide resources and referrals for people sleeping outside who need access to basic living necessities and referrals to housing support. Positive outcomes for outreach and support services entails further engagement in the CoC at shelters and/or referrals to housing services. Missing exit destination from outreach and support services is common for the many people who stop engaging with these programs without formally exiting CoC programs.



However, other program models in crisis response, such as rapid rehousing and rapid exit, have a housing focus and help people experiencing homelessness achieve housing through case management and financial assistance. Data collection on exit destination is more complete for these types of programs, although many still exit the system without exit data.

Positive Exits from Permanent Housing

A positive outcome for permanent housing is simply maintaining housing through a permanent housing program or exiting to other permanent housing destinations (these outcomes are summarized below in Table 2).

Table 2: Positive Outcomes for Each Program Model Category

Program Model Category	Positive Outcomes
Prevention and Diversion	Remain housed upon program exit
Crisis Response (other than Rapid Rehousing)	Temporary stay at a shelter, transitional housing, friend, or family member's home; permanent housing; institution; long-term care setting
Crisis Response (Rapid Rehousing)	Exit to permanent housing, subsidized or not
Permanent Housing	Remain housed in permanent housing program or exit to other permanent housing

Exit destinations for households utilizing each of the program model categories are provided in Table 3. These outcomes should be judged based on the program model objectives, as described above, and should not be compared across program model categories.

Table 3: Exit Destinations for Household Enrollments by Program Model Categories, 2022

Exit Destination	Prevention/ Diversion (n=1,170)	Crisis Response (all programs) (n=5,849)	Crisis Response (RRH only) (n=1,101)	Permanent Housing (n=1,166)
Permanent Housing	87%	17%	46%	96%
Temporary Setting	3%	13%	12%	1%
Emergency Shelter	1%	9%	6%	<1%
Institution	1%	3%	1%	<1%
Unsheltered	1%	8%	21%	<1%
Still Active	7%	14%	11%	n/a
Missing Data	0%	36%	3%	<1%

A description of each program model category is provided in the following section, along with the number of households served and demographic data during 2022. The program models are listed in order of category (prevention and diversion, crisis response, and permanent housing). Crisis response has multiple program models; data summaries are provided for those as well.

Outcomes for these program models are based on total household enrollments and have duplicated data because households may enter a program model multiple times during a reporting period. In addition to the housing exit destination for all enrollments, this section includes the proportion of households per program model that exited to permanent housing. This data run removes some of the duplications and provides a clearer understanding of housing rates for each program model.

Prevention and Diversion

1,170 Households
Served in 2022



Utilization and Demographics

Prevention and diversion programs provide short-term, one-time support for people at risk of homelessness or who have been homeless but recently accessed the system of care for the first time. Supports include conflict resolution between tenants and landlords or family members, financial assistance for utilities, rent, deposits, or fees related to housing, and case management. Demographics for those served in prevention in 2022:

Household Type

Adult-only: 54%
Households with Children: 42%
Unaccompanied minors: 4%

Age

<18 (40%); 18-24 (7%); 25-54 (42%);
55-64 (6%); 65+(5%)

Chronic Homelessness

There are no chronically homeless in
Prevention/Diversion

Race/Ethnicity

Black/African American: 50%
White: 34%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x): 22%
All others: 5% or less

Gender

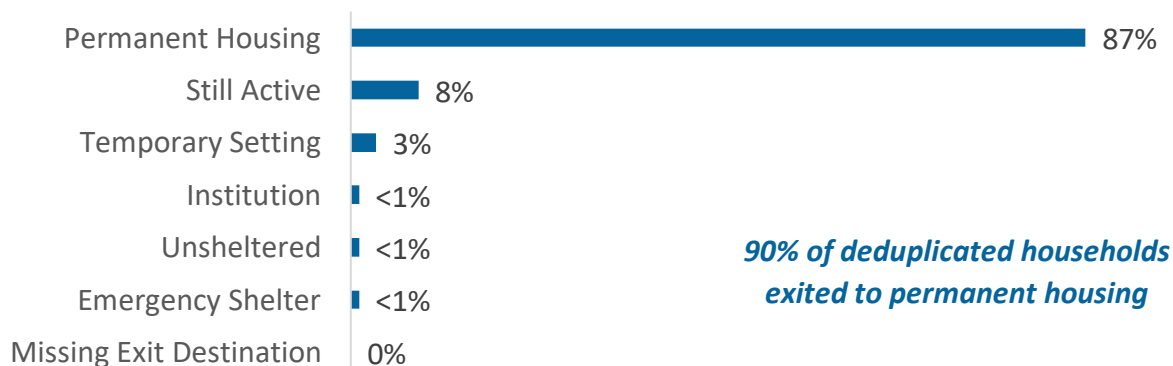
Women: 60%
Men: 40%
Transgender/gender non-conforming: <1%



Outcomes

Outcomes for prevention and diversion focus on maintaining permanent housing. Almost 90 percent (87%) of household enrollments in prevention and diversion exited to permanent housing, 3% exited to a temporary setting, and 1% exited to an institution, shelter, or unsheltered settings. Eight percent were active at the time this report was generated. There was no missing exit destination for households accessing prevention/diversion programs (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Exit Destination for Households Accessing Prevention/Diversion, 2022



Crisis Response

Utilization and Demographics

5,849 Households
Served in 2022



Crisis response includes all program models designed to serve people who are in sheltered and unsheltered settings. Program models under crisis response are rapid exit, street outreach, support services, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing. Demographic and outcome data specific to each program model are provided in the next section. However, it is helpful to aggregate data across all program models within crisis response to describe households that are literally homeless. Demographics for those served in all crisis response program models in 2022:

Household Type

Adult-only: 89%
Households with Children: 11%
Unaccompanied minors: <1%

Age

<18 (15%); 18-24 (8%); 25-54 (51%); 55-64 (18%); 65+ (8%)

Chronic Homelessness

44% were chronically homeless

Race/Ethnicity

White: 43%
Black/African American: 39%
American Indian/Alaska Native: 9%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x): 18%
All others: 5% or less

Gender

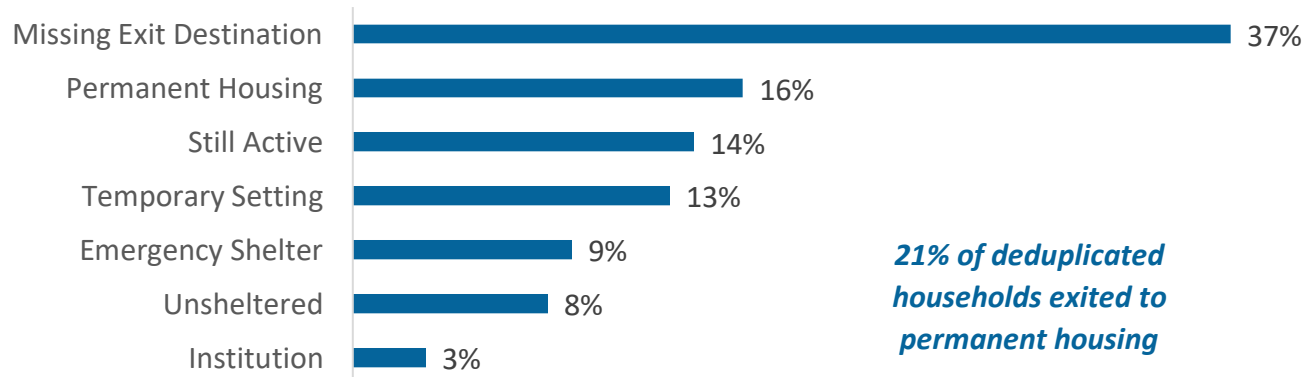
Men: 55%
Women: 45%
Transgender/gender non-conforming: <1%



Outcomes

More than one-third (37%) of household enrollments in crisis response had missing exit data, 16% exited to permanent housing and another 13% to temporary setting. Nine exited to emergency shelter, 8% to an unsheltered setting, and 3% to an institutional setting. Almost a third of deduplicated enrollments (30%) exited to temporary or permanent housing (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Exit Destination for Households Accessing Crisis Response, 2022



CR-Rapid Exit

Utilization and Demographics

102 Households
Served in 2022



Rapid exit is a program model designed for households that are newly homeless but not yet active in the CoC to prevent entry into crisis response or to quickly resolve a household's homelessness once they enter a shelter, transitional housing situation, or an unsheltered situation. Demographics for those served in Rapid Exit in 2022:

Household Type

Adult-only: 85%
Households with Children: 15%

Age

<18 (17%); 18-24 (5%);
25-54 (47%); 55-64 (25%); 65+ (6%)

Chronic Homelessness

37% were chronically homeless

Race/Ethnicity

White: 45%
Black/African American: 47%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x): 18%
All others: 5% or less

Gender

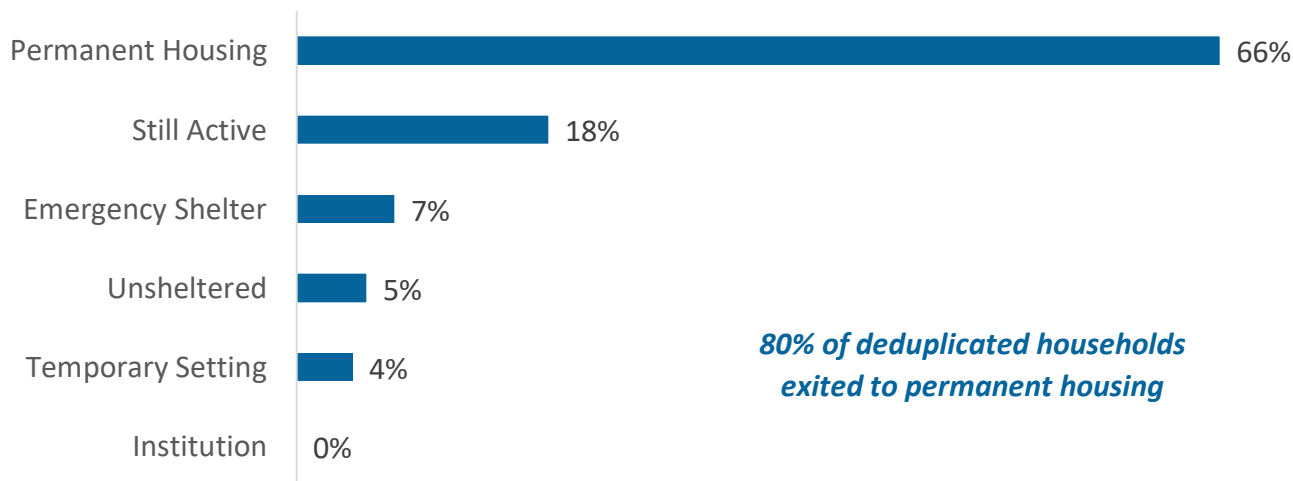
Women: 42%
Men: 56%
Transgender/gender non-conforming: 2%



Outcomes

For the 102 households enrolled during 2022 in Rapid Exit, 66% exited to permanent housing, 7% to an emergency shelter, 5% to unsheltered homelessness setting and 4% to a temporary setting. Eighteen percent were still active at the time this report was analyzed (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Exit Destination for Households Accessing Rapid Exit, 2022



**80% of deduplicated households
exited to permanent housing**

Rapid Exit Success Story



Sharon never expected to become homeless herself. When the unit she and her grandson lived in fell into a toxic state of disrepair due to landlord neglect, they had to leave. A recent widow with no family, Sharon had no choice but to move into her car.

Sharon was referred to the Coordinated Entry System (CES) by the San Pablo Police Department who directed her to the Coordinated Entry System. Once part of CES, Sharon was connected to Rapid Exit services. Rapid Exit program staff at Hope Solutions identified a number of challenges during her intake (bad credit, facing an eviction, low income, and a very high car payment) as well as some possible resources. They connected her grandson with the RYSE Center, a youth-serving agency, that was able to pay for them to stay in a hotel until they located housing. SparkPoint helped provide gift cards for food and other essential items while they waited. Rapid Exit staff helped with the housing search, and finally identified an apartment complex in east county with a 2-bedroom unit that they could afford. CORE outreach was able to help get her belongings out of storage and into their unit. She now lives with her grandson in an apartment and can focus on finding more stable employment.



Partners in this success:

- Hope Solutions
- RYSE
- San Pablo Police Department
- SparkPoint
- CORE Street Outreach

“Hope Solutions has helped me and my grandson start a new life. After my partner of 17 years passed away, we became homeless. Hope Solutions staff went above and beyond to help us. We are now in our new home and my grandson was able to walk the stage and receive his high school diploma!

Thank you so much for all your support.”

Sharon

Hope Solutions Rapid Exit Program Participant

CR-Street Outreach

3,379 Households
Served in 2022



Utilization and Demographics

Street outreach is provided in the community to link people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with basic needs (including but not limited to food, water, and hygiene kits) as well as referrals and connections to service providers within the CoC. Demographics for those served in street outreach in 2022:

Household Type

Adult-only: 89%
Households with Children: 11%

Age

<18 (15%); 18-24 (7%); 25-54 (54%); 55-64 (18%); 65+ (6%)

Chronic Homelessness

57% were chronically homeless

Race

White: 45%
Black/African American: 36%
American Indian/Alaskan Native: 10%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x): 19%
All others: 6% or less

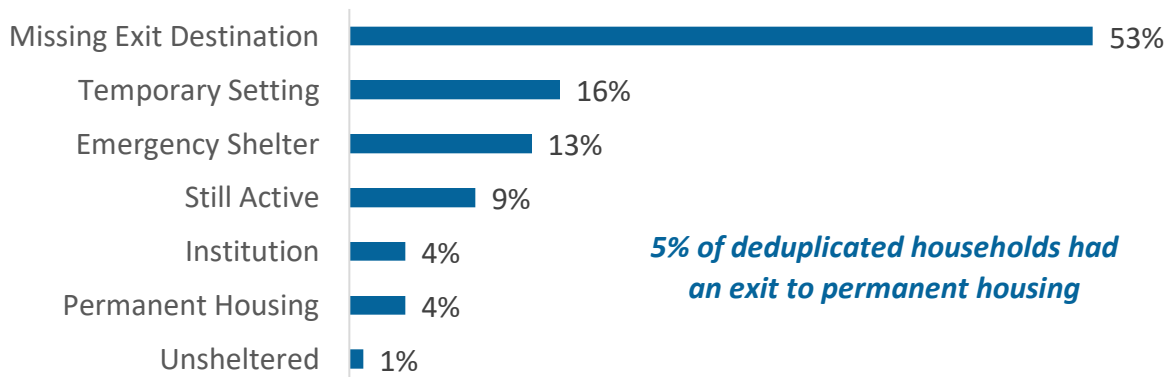
Gender

Women: 54%
Men: 46%
Transgender/gender non-conforming: <1%

Outcomes

The purpose of street outreach is to engage with people sleeping in unsheltered settings and refer them to supports that might lead to shelter, temporary housing, or permanent housing. More than half of household enrollments in outreach (53%) simply stopped accessing programs in the CoC and did not provide exit data. One-third (33%) had exits to temporary or permanent settings (16% to temporary settings, 13% to emergency shelter, and 4% to institutional settings). Nine percent were still active in outreach at the time this report was analyzed, and 1% exited back to unsheltered (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Exit Destination for Households Accessing Street Outreach, 2022



CR-Support Services

2,122 Households
Served in 2022



Utilization and Demographics

Some support services program models provide basic needs such as meals, showers, hygiene kits, mail service, and referrals to other resources that might lead to shelter, temporary housing, or permanent housing. Other support services focus on enrollment into benefits programs.

Demographics for those served in support services in 2022:

Household Type

Adult-only: 95%

Households with Children: 5%

Age

<18 (8%); 18-24 (9%); 25-54 (54%);
55-64 (21%); 65+ (8%)

Chronic Homelessness

29% were chronically homeless

Race/Ethnicity

Black/African American: 45%

White: 44%

Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x): 18%

All others: 5% or less

Gender

Men: 53%

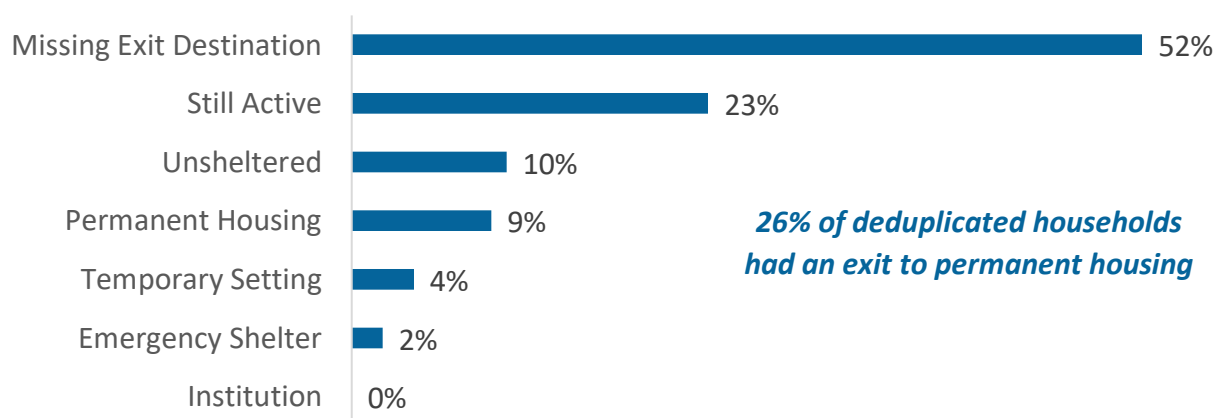
Women: 46%

Transgender/gender non-conforming: <1%

Outcomes

Many people who access support services stop engaging with all programs in the CoC and do not provide exit data. More than half (52%) of household enrollments with support services during 2022 did not have exit data. Almost one-quarter (23%) were still active in support services when the data was analyzed. Sixteen percent exited to temporary or permanent settings (9% to permanent, 5% to temporary, and 2% to emergency shelters, Figure 9).

Figure 9: Exit Destination for Households Accessing Support Services, 2022



Support Services Success Story



Ronald and his young son first came to Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) in 2012. He was not interested in entering GRIP's family shelter, so while the father and son were living on the street, GRIP staff helped Ronald enroll his son in school with transportation, school supplies, clothes, connections to health care, and food pantries. Staff tried to help him with finding housing, but he was unable to follow through with the pieces he needed to complete on his own.

Years later, GRIP staff learned that Ronald was connected to a case manager through Community Connect, and together, the caseworkers were able to get him a 1-bedroom unit in a senior housing program.

At the same time, staff also connected Ronald's 18-year-old son, Rondale, with the Calli House Transition Aged Youth shelter. A case manager at GRIP worked with staff at Calli House to support Rondale in enrolling in an employment program. Rondale has graduated from the employment program and has a temporary job in Yosemite, but he will return soon to help his father as his in-home support services worker so they can be together again, housed and supported.



Partners in this success:

- GRIP CARE Center
- Calli House Transition Age Youth Shelter
- Contra Costa Office of Education
- Local food pantries, and health clinics
- Community Connect
- Employment program

CR-Emergency Shelter

Utilization and Demographics

1,417 Households
Served in 2022



Emergency shelters provide interim housing for people who do not have safe and healthy sleep settings. People experiencing homelessness generally come from uninhabitable locations (encampments, streets, or vehicles), are fleeing domestic violence, or have lost their temporary housing. Demographics for those served in emergency shelters in 2022:

Household Type

Adult-only: 90%
Households with Children: 8%
Unaccompanied minors: 2%

Age

<18 (13%); 18 to 24 (7%); 25 to 54 (43%); 55 to 64 (24%); 65+ (13%)

Chronic Homelessness

52% were chronically homeless

Race/Ethnicity

White: 47%
Black/African American: 35%
American Indian/Alaskan Native: 8%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x): 18%
All others: 6% or less

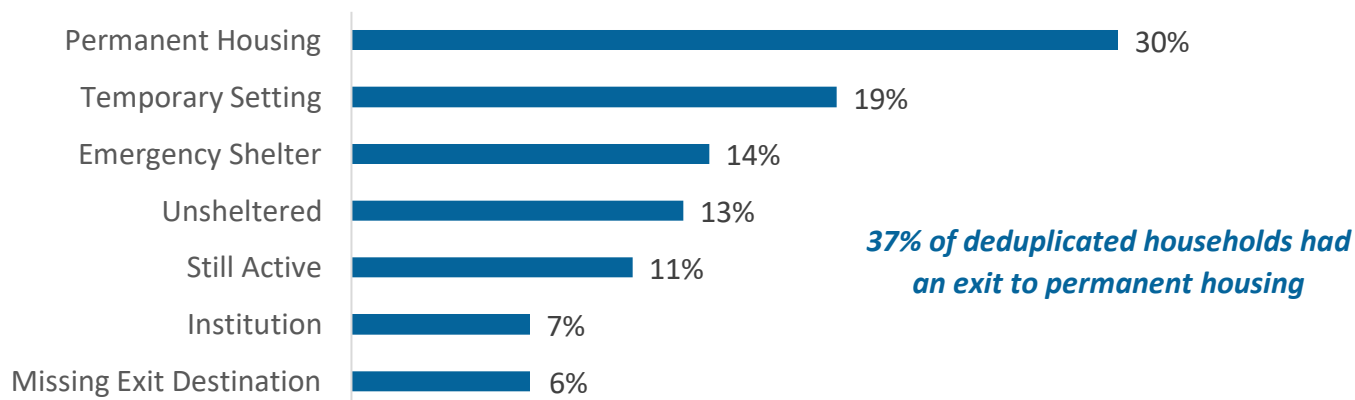
Gender

Men: 53%
Women: 46%
Transgender/gender non-conforming: 1%

Outcomes

Emergency shelter aims to provide short-term and interim shelter until people find temporary or permanent housing resources. Almost half of household enrollments exited to a temporary or permanent settings (30% to permanent housing, 19% to temporary). Another 14% exited to another shelter, 13% exited to unsheltered homelessness, and 7% to an institutional setting. Ten percent were still active at the time this report was run, and there was missing exit data for 6% (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Exit Destination for Households Accessing Emergency Shelter, 2022



Emergency Shelter Success Story



When Mary came to the Mountain View Family Shelter in July 2022, she was a single mom and pregnant with another child. She had been experiencing homelessness on and off for about seven years; ending a toxic relationship resulted in her most recent bout of homelessness. While she was close to her family, their struggles with housing meant she could not live with them. Despite being employed, she was not able to make enough money for stable housing.



Mary's case worker at Mountain View supported in exploring higher paying employment, begin budgeting the money she did have and helped get the documents she needed, like a birth certificate, so that when she was referred to a housing program she would be ready to move in. When Mary was referred to Rapid Rehousing program, she was motivated and determined to find a home. When she found an apartment, she called her caseworker with excitement to tell her that she finally had her own space for herself and her children.

Partners in this success:

- Mountain View
- SHELTER, Inc. – rapid rehousing program

Mary reports that her goals are to have a career and be self-sufficient enough not to need help from housing programs. She is happy for the start of this new chapter and is so thankful to SHELTER, Inc and her case manager for helping her get through her struggles and leading her on the right path to success.

CR-Transitional Housing

Utilization and Demographics

131 Households
Served in 2022



Transitional housing provides short-term housing to get households off the streets and into more stable living environments until permanent housing can be established. These programs are generally focused on specific sub-populations such as Transition Age Youth (18 to 24) and veterans. Demographics for those served in transitional housing in 2022:

Household Type

Adult-only: 99%

Households with Children: 1%

Age

<18 (1%); 18 to 24 (38%);
25 to 54 (39%); 55 to 64 (12%);
65+(10%)

Chronic Homelessness

20% were chronically homeless

Race/Ethnicity

White: 43%

Black/African American: 37%

American Indian/Alaskan Native: 10%

Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x): 24%

All others: 8% or less

Gender

Men: 82%

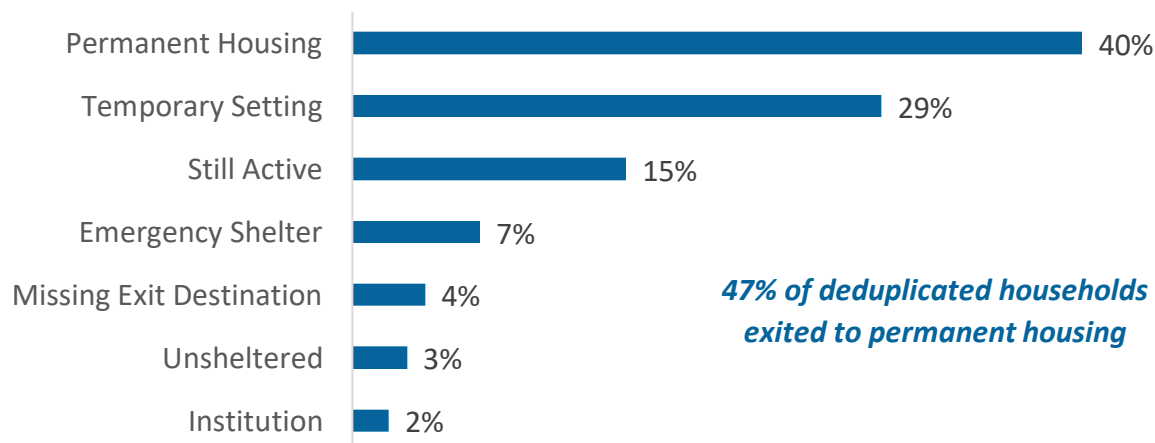
Women: 16%

Transgender/gender non-conforming: 2%

Outcomes

The primary goal of transitional housing is to move households from temporary housing to permanent housing. Forty percent of household enrollments exited to permanent housing. Twenty-nine percent of enrollments exited to temporary settings, 7% exited to an emergency shelter and 3% exited to unsheltered status. Fifteen percent were still enrolled in transitional housing when the data was analyzed (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Exit Destination for Households Accessing Transitional Housing, 2022





Utilization and Demographics

Rapid rehousing integrates short-term financial assistance with services and case management to help those experiencing homelessness get quickly re-housed and stabilized. Demographics for those served in rapid rehousing in 2022:

Household Type

Adult-only: 76%

Households with Children: 24%

Age

<18 (25%); 18 to 24 (10%); 25 to 54 (43%); 55 to 64 (13%); 65+ (9%)

Chronic Homelessness

31% were chronically homeless

Race/Ethnicity

Black/African American: 48%

White: 38%

Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x): 16%

All others: 4% or less

Gender

Men: 54%

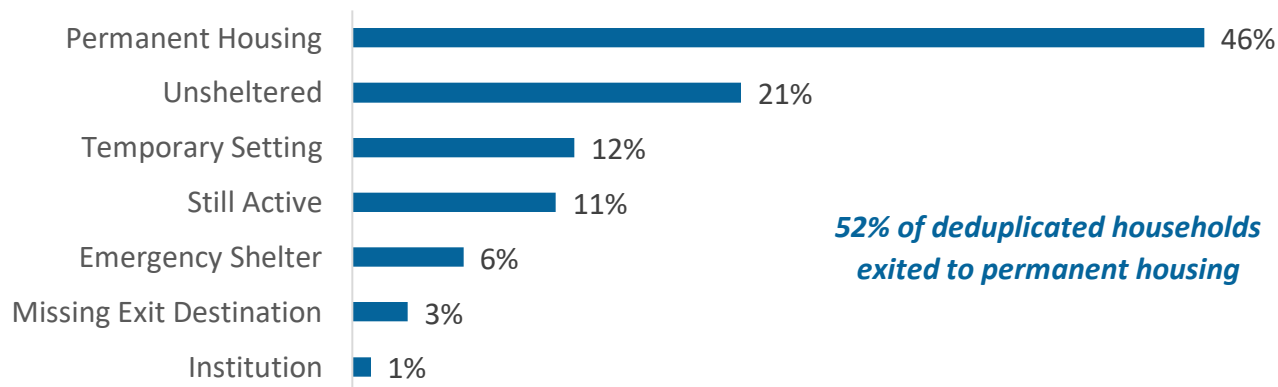
Women: 46%

Transgender/gender non-conforming: <1%

Outcomes

Households enrolled in rapid rehousing generally work with case managers to address barriers to obtaining housing and help identify appropriate housing opportunities. Households stay enrolled in rapid rehousing even after a move-in date until they can sustain housing on their own without support. Almost half (46%) of household enrollments in rapid rehousing exited to permanent housing and another 11% were still active (not yet in housing) when this report was generated. Twenty-one percent exited to unsheltered settings, 6% to emergency shelters, and 1% to an institutional setting. There was missing exit destination for 3% of enrollments (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Exit Destination for Households Accessing Rapid Rehousing, 2022



Permanent Housing

Utilization and Demographics

1,166 Households
Served in 2022



Permanent housing programs provide long-term financial support for housing for people who were previously homeless. Many include case management and wrap-around services. Most households stay housed in this program for many years. Demographics for those served in permanent housing in 2022:

Household Type

Adult-only: 79%
Households with Children: 21%

Age

<18 (25%); 18 to 24 (4%);
25 to 54 (38%); 55 to 65 (21%);
65+ (12%)

Chronic Homelessness

49% were chronically homeless

Race/Ethnicity

White: 45%
Black/African American: 39%
American Indian/Alaskan Native: 6%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x): 13%
All others: 4% or less

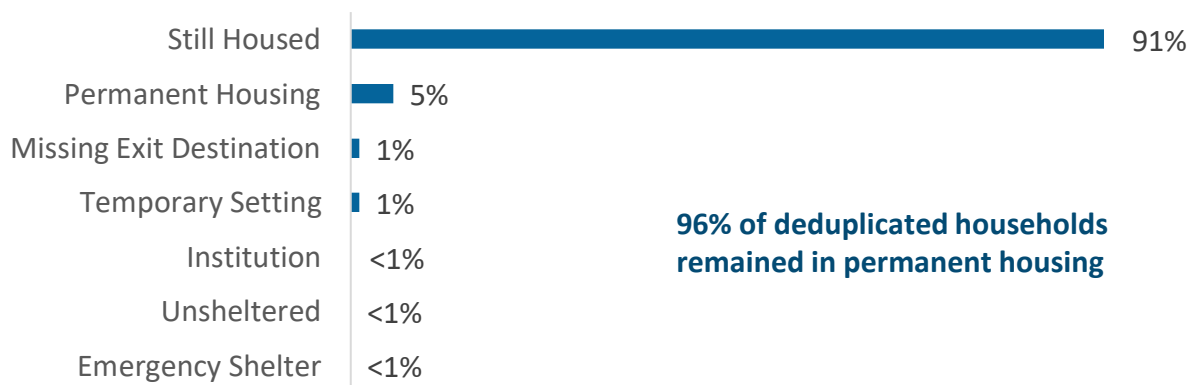
Gender

Women: 54%
Male: 46%
Transgender/gender non-conforming: <1%

Outcomes

Households in permanent housing programs generally stay in their housing until they can no longer live independently; 89% of households in permanent supportive housing were still enrolled at the time this report was generated. Another 5% exited to permanent housing (resulting in 94% remaining housed), 1% to temporary housing, and 1% had missing exit destination data (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Exit Destination for Households Accessing Permanent Housing, 2022



Permanent Housing Success Story

Roxy became a victim of domestic violence and violent attacks that were triggered by her trans identity. She was experiencing homelessness and the added trauma led to feelings of hopelessness and desperation.

In March 2017, the West County Adult Mental Health clinic referred her to the Brookside shelter. At Brookside, she met a case manager she had worked with previously through Calli House, the transition aged youth shelter she had stayed at previously. That case manager helped Roxy move into the Permanent Connections, a transition aged youth permanent supportive housing program. While in permanent housing, she received support with money management, mental health, and cognitive behavioral therapy, among other services.

Over the years, Roxy has successfully accessed services to help maintain her mental, physical, and emotional health, working with Rubicon Programs, Recovery Innovations, Fred Finch Youth and Family Services, Adult mental health, Richmond Works and many more community-based agencies.

With stable housing, Roxy has also been able to successfully complete her legal gender transition process. The transition, she reports, has given her the confidence to apply herself in everyday life. Roxy is in what she calls “the career of her choice” as an In-Home Support Service (IHSS) provider. She reports that she strives to offer services the way she wished someone had when she was younger- the best way. Roxy no longer receives public benefits and now has earned income. Roxy reports that her stability has contributed towards rebuilding wholesome personal and family relationships.



Partners in this success:

- Brookside and Calli House emergency shelters
- Rubicon Programs
- Fred Finch Youth and Family Services
- Adult Mental Health
- RichmondWORKS



"I am a living testament of what permanent and consistent housing, doubled up with relevant services can do in helping shape a person's life. I owe everything I am to Permanent Connections. Everything I have accomplished could not have been possible if I had not met people who believed in me, people who encouraged me and held up my hope when I was ready to give up."

- Roxy

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Household Types

Age Group

Race/Ethnicity

Gender

Chronicity & Disability

Domestic Violence Victims

Sexual Orientation

Veterans

Demographics

The CoC is made up of 10,600 people in 7,725 households, all from different backgrounds. This section of the report provides demographic data for individuals and households accessing the CoC during 2022.

Household Type

Household types in the CoC fall into three categories:

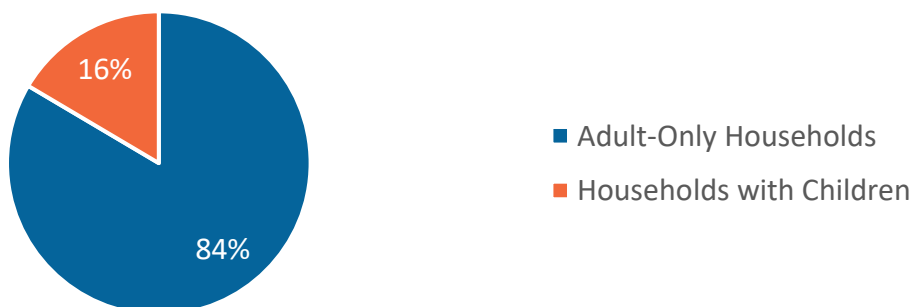
1. households with adults and children (under 18)
2. households with only adults (single or multiple adults)
3. unaccompanied minors (households with no adult head of household).

This section summarizes the three household types, their characteristics, their program utilization, and their outcomes.

Almost 8,000 households (7,725), making up 10,600 people, accessed services in the CoC during 2022. There has been in the number of households served in the CoC (among prevention and diversion, crisis response, and permanent housing programs) since 2019.

Adult-only households made up 83% of the household enrollments in the CoC during 2022 and households with children made-up 16% (Figure Fourteen). There were 73 unaccompanied minors served at a youth program in the CoC, making up less than a tenth of a percent of all enrollments in the CoC. The number of unaccompanied minors is small and disaggregating in further analysis jeopardizes confidentiality and therefore is not included in further analyses in this report.

Figure 14: Proportion of Enrollments in the CoC, by Household Type, 2022



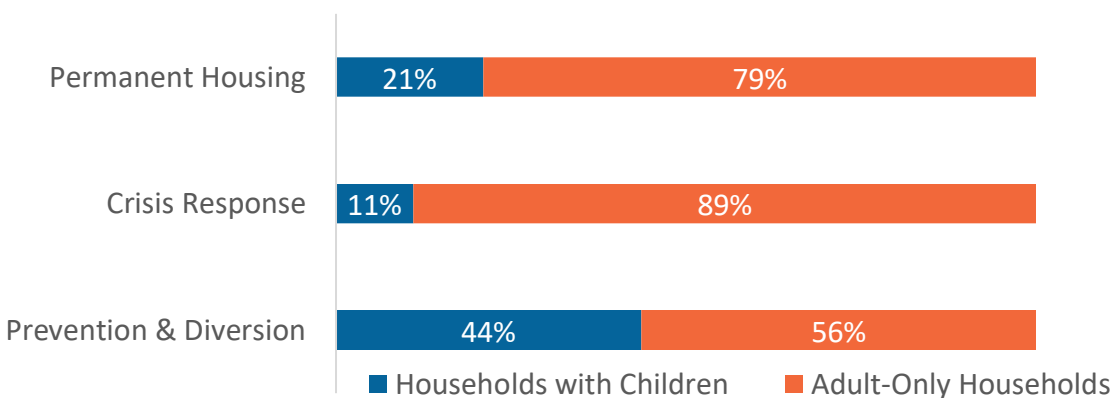
Adult-only households experienced a 4% decrease from 2019 to 2022, while households with children increased by 32% (Table 4).

Table 4: Number of Households, by Household Type, Served in the CoC, 2019-2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022	4-year % change
Adult-Only Households	6,961	6,391	5,994	6,651	-4%
Households with Children	994	1,031	1,075	1,314	32%
Total (Unique) Households	7,497	7,153	6,825	7,723	3%

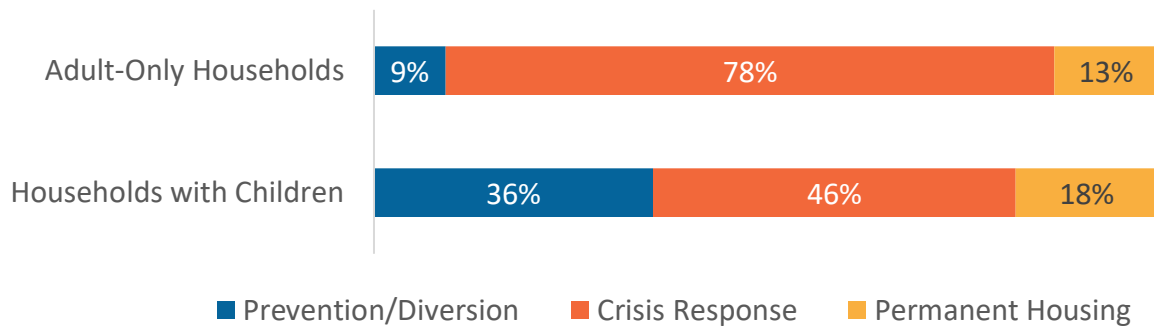
Adult-only households were the largest household type accessing all three program model categories; more than half of households served in prevention and diversion (56%, n=640), 89% among crisis response (n=5,430), and 79% among permanent housing (n=5,430), Figure 15).

Figure 15: Program Model Category, by Household Type, 2022



Program utilization varied considerably for households with children compared to adult-only households. A greater proportion of households with children accessed prevention and diversion (36% of households with children) than adult-only households (9% of adult-only households). A lower proportion of households with children (46%) accessed crisis response than adult-only households (78%). Rates for accessing permanent supportive housing were closer (18% of households with children and 13% of adult-only households, Figure 16).

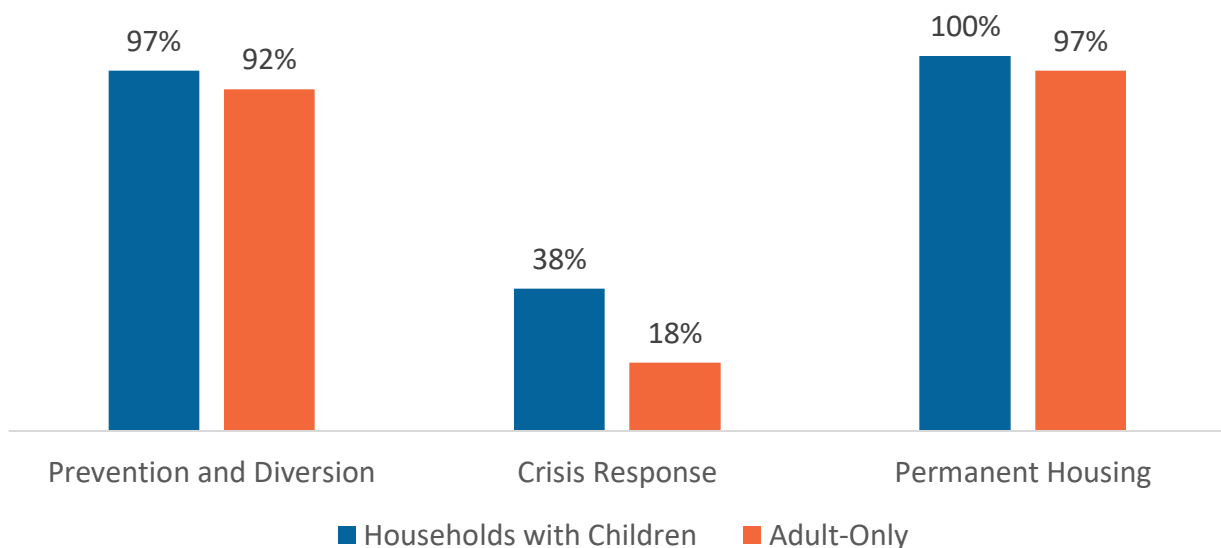
Figure 16: Program Model Category Utilization, by Household Type, 2022



Exits to Permanent Housing by Household Type

Households with children had higher exit rates to permanent housing from all three program model categories than adult-only households during 2022. Among prevention and diversion, households with children had a 97% exit rate to housing rate compared to 92% for adult-only households. Forty percent of households with children exited to permanent housing from crisis response compared to 18% of adult-only households, and 100% of households with children, compared to 97% of adult-only households, retained housing or exited to permanent housing from permanent supportive housing programs (Figure 17).

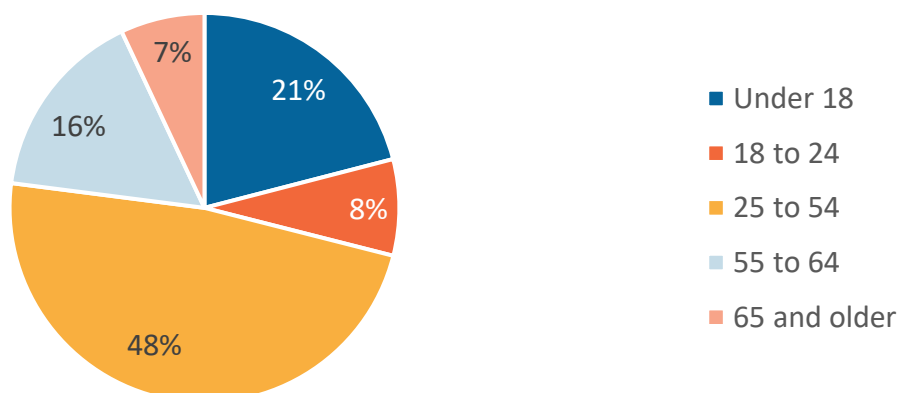
Figure 17: Percent of Exits to Permanent Housing, or Retained Housing, by Household Type, 2022



Age Groups

Adults ages 25 to 54 years old made-up almost half (48%) of all people accessing services in the CoC during 2022, followed by minors (ages 0 to 17, 21%). Older adults (55- to 64 years of age) made up 16%, seniors (ages 65 and older) made up 7%, and transition-age youth (TAY, 18 to 24) made up 8% (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Age Distribution for All People Experiencing Homelessness Served by the CoC, 2022



Over the last four years, the CoC has experienced shifts in the number of people within most age groups. These changes reflect the CoC's prioritization to serve populations most at-risk of complications of COVID-19, with a focus on older adults and seniors and people with chronic health conditions. Programs serving households with children have also increased, resulting in more minors. There was a 36% increase in the number of seniors 65+ from 2019 to 2022, a 30% increase among minors, a 21% increase among TAY, and a 7% increase among 55- to 64-year-olds with no percent change among 25- to 54-year-olds (Table 5).

Table 5: Four-year Percent Change (2019-2022) Among Age Groups

	<18	18-24	25-54	55-64	65+
4-Year Percent Change	30%	21%	0%	7%	36%

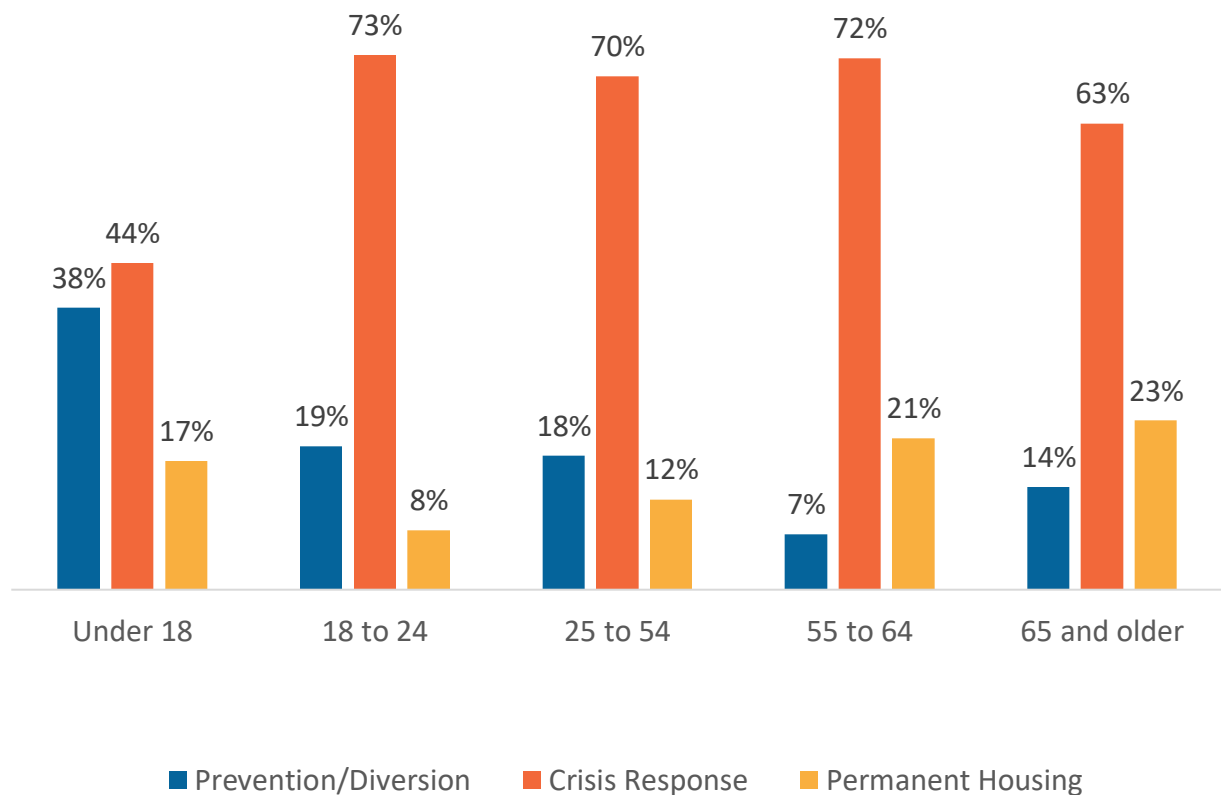
Adults between the ages of 25 and 54 made up the largest age group accessing prevention and diversion and crisis response while minors under 18 made up the largest group accessing permanent housing (Table 6).

Table 6: Number of Each Age Group Served in Program Model Category, 2022

	<18	18-24	25-54	55-64	65+
Prevention & Diversion	943	164	983	136	123
Crisis Response	1,092	612	3,772	1,306	560
Permanent Housing	431	68	663	372	203

Minors had a higher proportion in Prevention/Diversion than any other age group (38% of minors) and older adults 55 to 64 had the lowest proportion in prevention/diversion with 7%). TAY had the highest proportion in crisis response (73%), followed closely by 55- to 64-year-olds (72%) and 25- to 54-year-olds (70%). Minors had the lowest proportion in crisis response at 44%. Seniors 65 and older had the highest proportion in permanent housing programs (23%), and TAY had the lowest (8%, Figure 19).

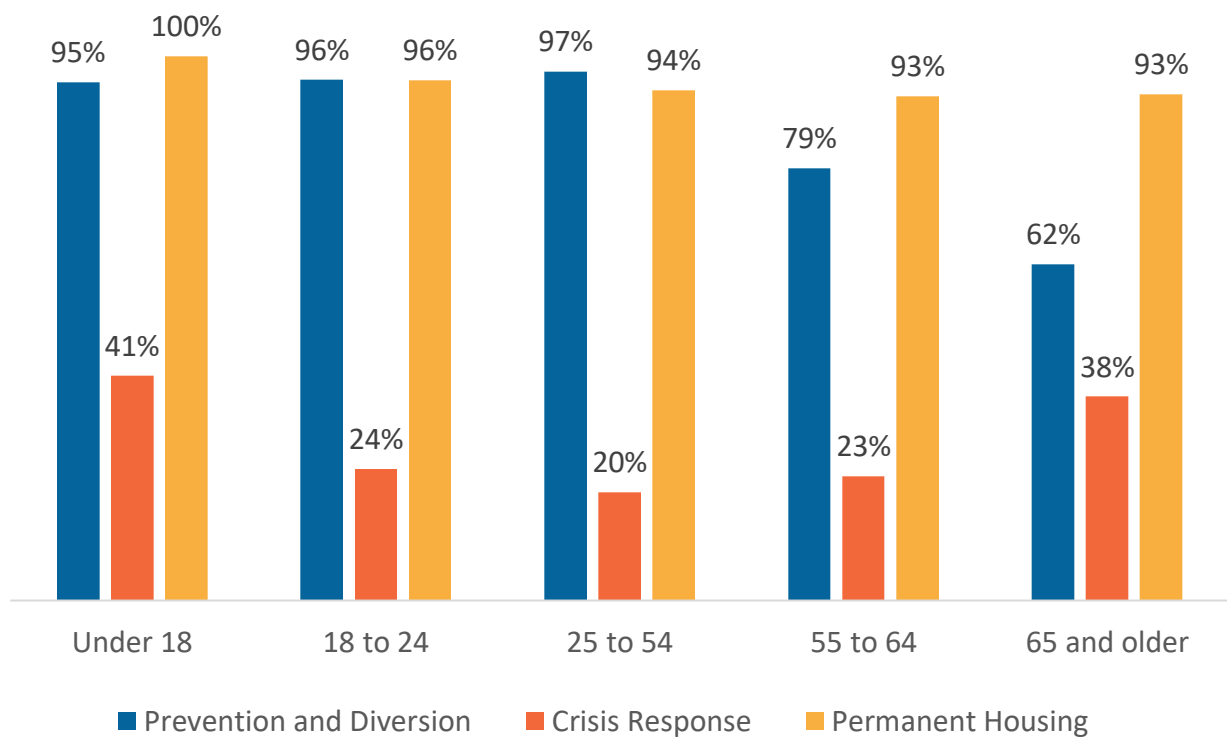
Figure 19: Program Utilization for Each Program Model Category, by Age Group, 2022



Age Group Exits to Permanent Housing

Minors had the highest exit rates to, or retention in, permanent housing from crisis response and permanent housing programs than any other age group. Exits to permanent housing from prevention/diversion ranged from 97% for adults ages 25 to 54 to 62% among older adults 65 and older. Exits to permanent housing from crisis response ranged from 41% among minors to 20% among adults ages 25 to 54. All household types had a housing retention rate of 93% or higher (Figure 20).

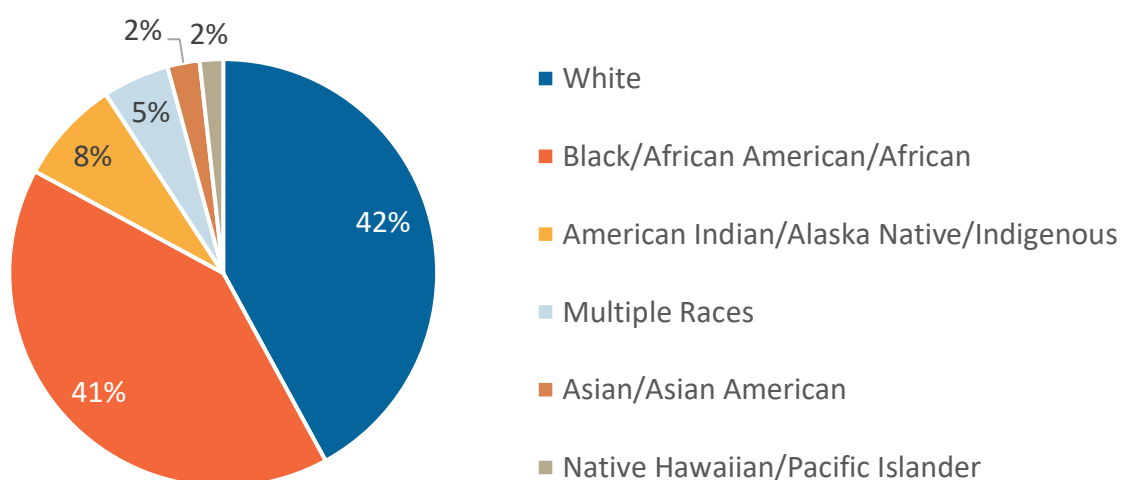
Figure 20: Percent of Exits to, or Retention in, Permanent Housing, by Program Model Category and Age, 2022



Race and Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity data is generally analyzed for the head of household. Much of the data in this section is for the head of household unless otherwise stated. Race and ethnicity are separate data elements per HUD definition; people who are Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x) may self-report any race. Across all three program model categories (prevention and diversion, crisis response, and permanent housing), White households made up the largest race category (42%, n=3,182), followed closely by Black/African American/African households (41%, n=3,090), American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous (8%, n=595), people with Multiple Races (5%, n=382), and 2% for each Asian American/Asian and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (n=184 and 134, respectively, Figure 21). Eighteen percent (n=1,411) of households in the CoC were Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x).

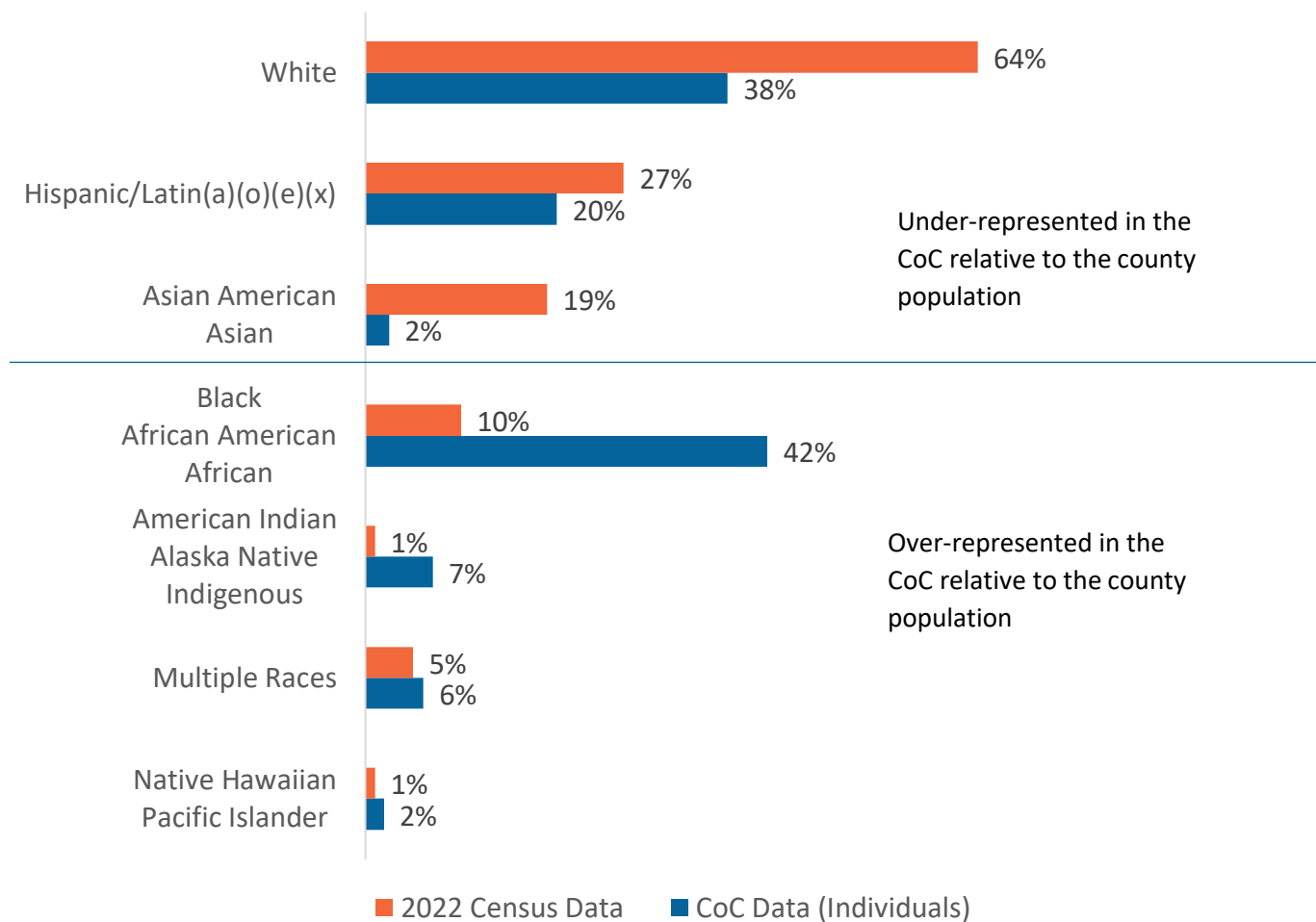
Figure 21: Racial Distribution of Heads of Households Across the CoC, 2022



Compared to the racial composition of all Contra Costa residents (2022 U.S. Census estimates), White, Asian American/Asian, and Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x) were underrepresented in the CoC, while Black/African American/African and American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous households were over-represented. Census data are available for individuals and not head-of-households, thus the proportion in the following graphic is for individuals and does not match the head-of-household proportions above. White individuals represented 64% of the county population, and only 38% of the CoC, and Asian American/Asian made up 19% of the county population and 2% of the CoC. Conversely, Black/African American/African people represented 42% of the CoC had only 10% of the county population (four times higher), and American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous were 7% of the CoC and only 1% of the county (seven times higher than the

census). Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x) represented a smaller proportion (20%) than census estimates (27%, Figure 22).

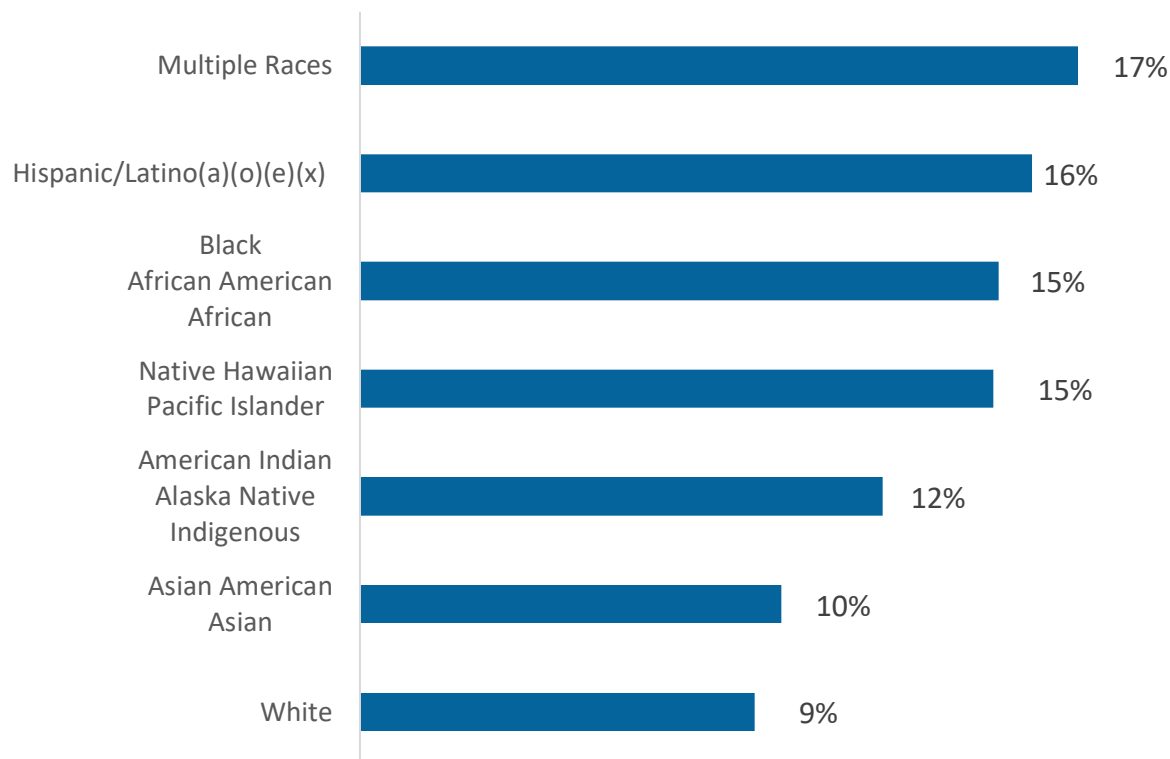
Figure 22: Race Distribution in the CoC* Compared to 2022 County Census Data Estimates



*County census data is available at: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/contracostacountycalifornia>. Race distribution for Figures Twenty-One and Twenty-Two are different because census data is run at the individual level, not household, therefore, the CoC data was run at individual level for Figure Twenty-Two.

Household type varied across races and ethnicities. White households had the lowest rate of households with children (9% of households), followed by Asian American/Asian (10%). Head-of-household with Multiple Races had the highest proportion of households with children (17%, Figure 23).

Figure 23: Proportion of Households with Children in the CoC, by Race and Ethnicity, 2022



The proportion of households accessing the three program model categories also varied by race and ethnicity distribution.

Prevention and Diversion

Asian American/Asian households were more likely to use prevention and diversion (27%), followed by Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (20%). American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous were least likely to access prevention and diversion (5%).

Crisis Response

The proportion of American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous households who accessed crisis response (85%) was higher than all other races/ethnicities, followed by people with Multiple Races (74%). Asian American/Asian households were least likely (58%).

Permanent Housing

White individuals were most likely to access permanent housing (16%), followed by Asian American/Asian (15%). Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x) households and American Indian/Alaska Native were least likely to utilize permanent housing programs (10% each, Table 7).

Table 7: Proportion of Households Served in Each Program Model Category, by Head of Household's Race/Ethnicity, 2022

Race/Ethnicity	Prevention and Diversion	Crisis Response	Permanent Housing
White (n=3,182)	11%	73%	16%
Black/African American/African (n=3,090)	17%	69%	14%
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous (n=595)	5%	85%	10%
Multiple Races (n=382)	15%	74%	12%
Asian American/Asian (n=184)	27%	58%	15%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (n=134)	20%	70%	11%
Hispanic/Latino(a)(o)(e)(x) (n=1,411)	17%	73%	10%
Across CoC, Regardless of Race/Ethnicity (n=7,725)	15%	72%	14%

Permanent Housing Outcomes

Permanent housing exit destinations from prevention, crisis response, and permanent housing varied slightly across race and ethnicity. The number of households for each race with exits to permanent housing are provided in Table 14.

Prevention and Diversion Outcomes

Head of households who identified with Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander had the highest rate of exits to permanent housing from prevention and diversion (96%) than other races/ethnicities. American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous had the lowest exit rate to housing from prevention and diversion (84%).

Crisis Response Outcomes

Black/African American/African households had the highest rate of exits from crisis response (22%). American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous and Asian American/Asian had the lowest (17% each).

Permanent Housing Outcomes

Black/African American/African and Multiple Races had the highest housing retention in permanent housing programs (100%). Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander households had the lowest rate of sustaining permanent housing (93%, Table 8).

Table 8: Number and Proportion of Households with Exits to, or Retention in, Permanent Housing from Each Program Model Category, by Race/Ethnicity, 2022

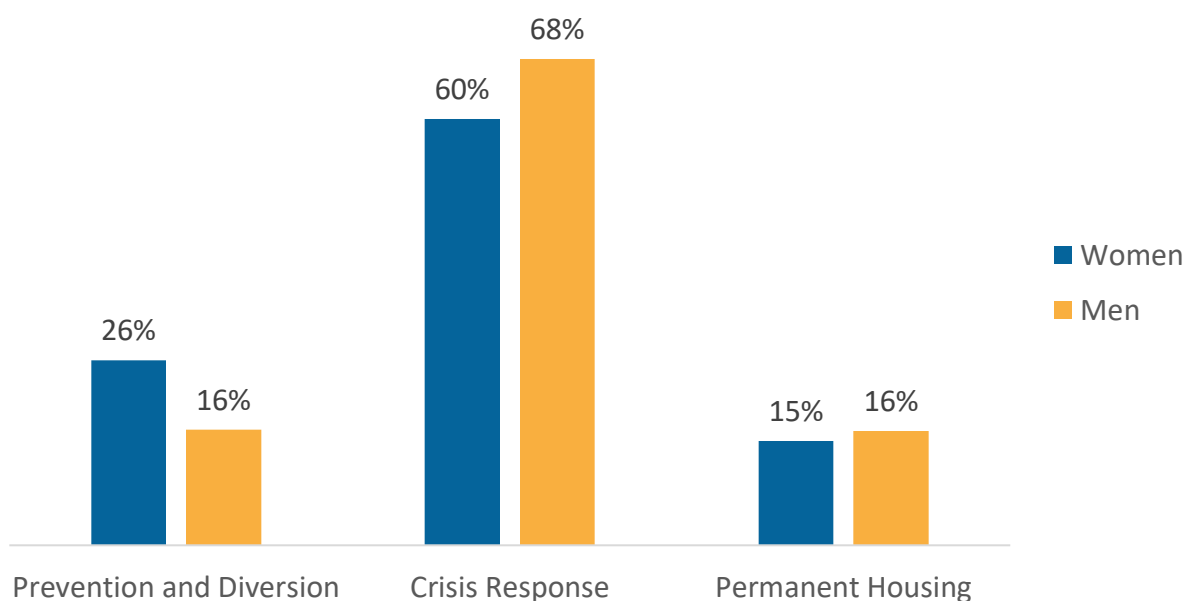
Race/Ethnicity	Prevention and Diversion		Crisis Response		Permanent Housing	
	N	% exited to perm housing	N	% exited to perm housing	N	% exited to perm housing
White	378	87%	2,485	21%	506	98%
Black/African American/African	552	93%	2,273	22%	444	100%
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	31	84%	527	17%	64	97%
Multiple Races	58	91%	291	21%	45	100%
Asian American/Asian	52	92%	113	17%	30	97%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	27	96%	96	18%	15	93%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x)	255	91%	1,075	20%	143	99%

Gender

The CoC served slightly more men (51%) than women (48%), and less than 1% of people accessing services identified as transgender or gender non-conforming. Given the small number of people in the CoC who identified as transgender or gender non-conforming, their data was suppressed from this report and not disaggregated at the program model category to protect the confidentiality of those individuals.

Women were more likely than men to access prevention and diversion programs (26% of women served in the CoC compared to 16% of men served); men were more likely to access crisis response (68% versus 60%). Both genders accessed permanent housing at similar rates (15% of women and 16% of men, Figure 24).

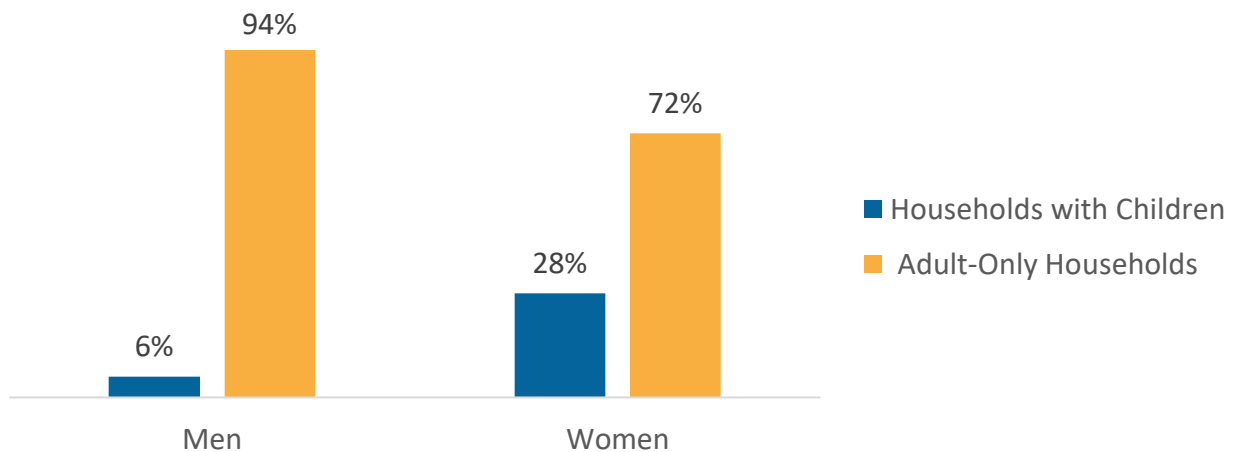
Figure 24: Program Model Category, by Gender, 2022



* Less than 1% reported transgender or gender non-conforming. Data suppressed to protect confidentiality.

Women were more likely to be in households with children; 28% of women compared to 6% of men (Figure 25).

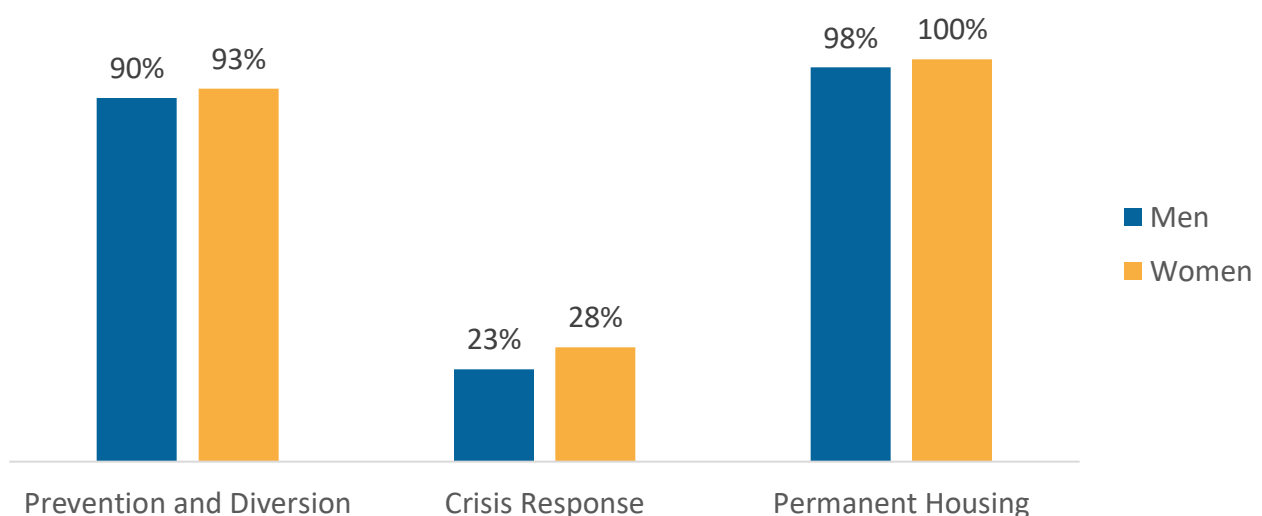
Figure 25: Household Type, by Gender, 2022



Permanent Housing Outcomes

Women had better permanent housing rates compared to men for all program model categories. For prevention and diversion, 93% of women versus 90% of men exited to permanent housing. Over a quarter (28%) of women in crisis response exited to permanent housing, compared to 23% of men. All women in permanent housing program retained housing compared to 98% of men (Figure 26).

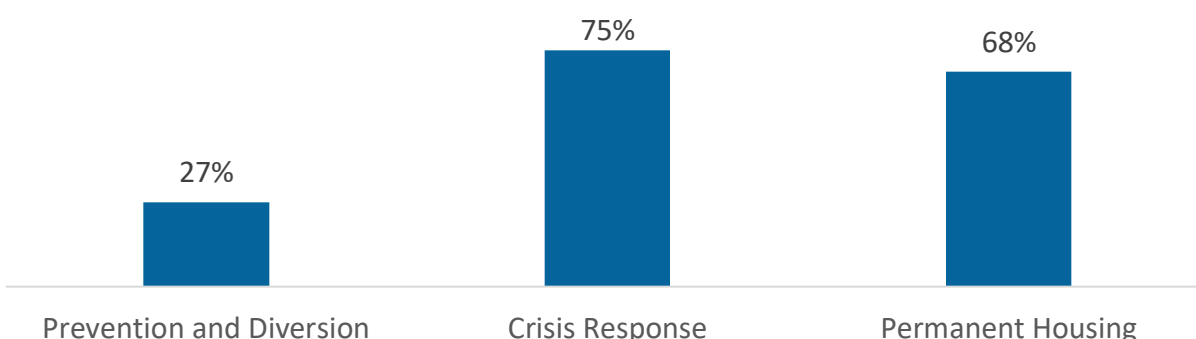
Figure 26: Proportion of Households with Exits to, or Retention in, Permanent Housing, by Program Model Category and Gender, 2022



Disabling Conditions

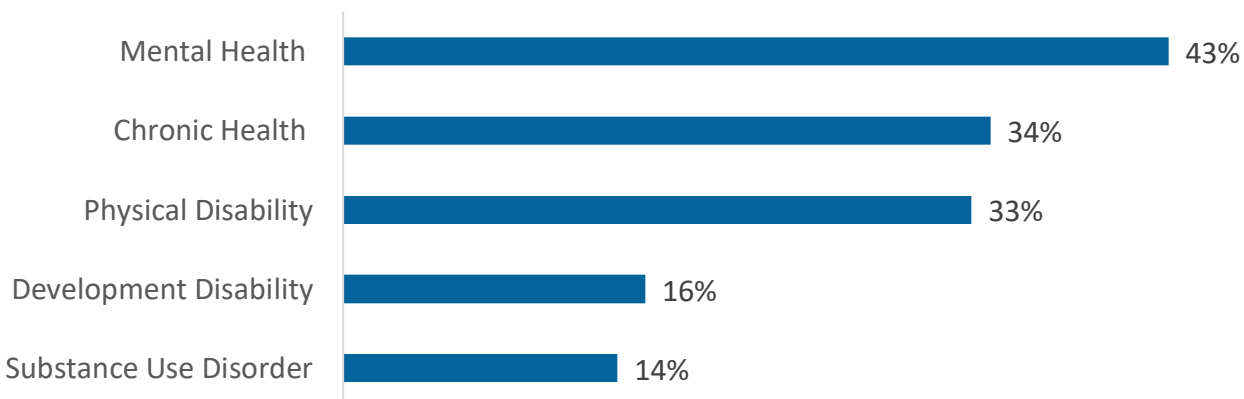
Almost 70% of households (69%) across all CoC programs reported having a disabling condition. The HUD definition of a disabling condition is a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug use, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or brain injury that is expected to be long-term and impacts the individual's ability to live independently, a developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. Three-quarters (75%) of households served in crisis response reported having a disabling condition, 68% of households in permanent housing programs, and 27% in prevention and diversion (Figure 27).

Figure 27: Proportion of Households with at Least One Disabling Condition, by Program Model Category, 2022



Mental health was the most common disabling condition among households served in the CoC with 43% of households served having a member with a mental health condition. One-third (34%) of households had a chronic health condition and (33%) a physical disability. Sixteen percent reported a developmental disability and another 14% reported a substance use disorder (Figure 28).

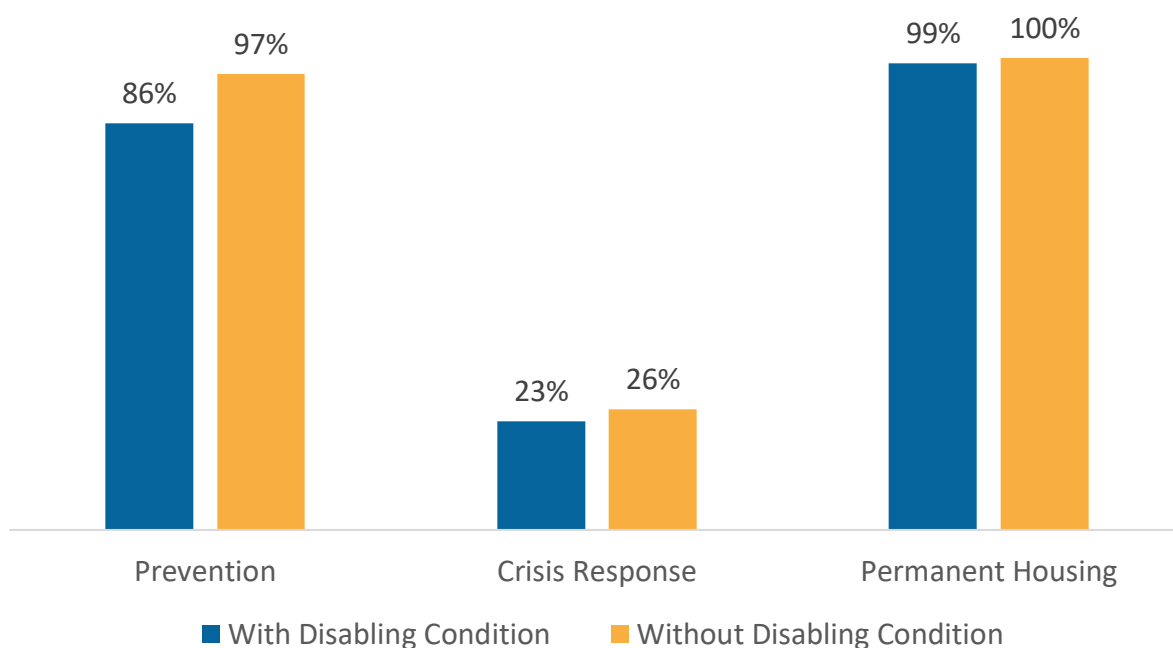
Figure 28: Proportion of Households with Disabling Conditions, 2022



Permanent Housing Outcomes

Households without people with disabling conditions had a slightly higher exit rate to permanent housing (100%) than those with a disabling condition (99%). From prevention, 97% of households without a disabling condition exited to permanent housing compared to 86% of households with disabling conditions; 26% from crisis response for those without disabling conditions compared to 23% of those with a disabling condition (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Proportion of Households with Exits to, or Retention in, Permanent Housing, 2022



Chronic Homelessness

An individual is defined by HUD as chronically homeless if they have a disabling condition and have lived in a shelter, safe haven, or place not meant for human habitation for 12 continuous months or for four separate occasions in the last three years (must total 12 months). These individuals are a subset of those with a disabling condition and were served in crisis response or permanent housing; prevention programs do not serve chronically homeless individuals.

Half of all households served in crisis response during 2022 were chronically homeless (48%, N=2,832). Sixteen percent of chronically homeless households exited to permanent housing.

Survivors of Domestic Violence

History of domestic violence data is collected during program enrollment into crisis response programs and less consistently for people enrolling in prevention and diversion or permanent housing programs. This section include data only on people accessing crisis response services.



One out of five adults (20%) who accessed crisis response programs reported experiencing domestic violence at some time in their lives; for women, 37% had experienced domestic violence. More than one-third of those people (37%) were fleeing domestic violence at the time they enrolled into the program.

The majority of survivors of domestic violence were women (79%); less than 1% identified as transgender or gender non-conforming. Twenty-six percent of people in crisis response who were survivors of domestic violence exited to permanent housing.

Sexual Orientation

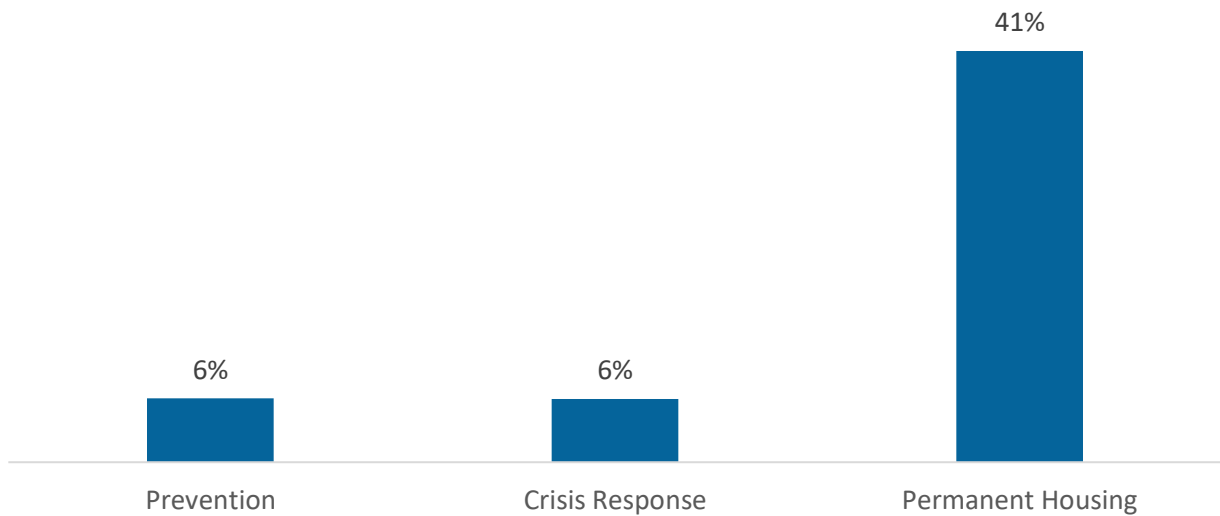
Two percent of adults served in crisis response, identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning/queer (LGBTQIA+). There is a large amount of missing data on sexual orientation among prevention/diversion and permanent and this report does not include those outcomes. One-quarter (26%) of people who were LGBTQIA+ were between the ages of 18 and 24. Sixteen percent of adults in crisis response who were LGBTQIA+ exited to permanent housing.



Veterans

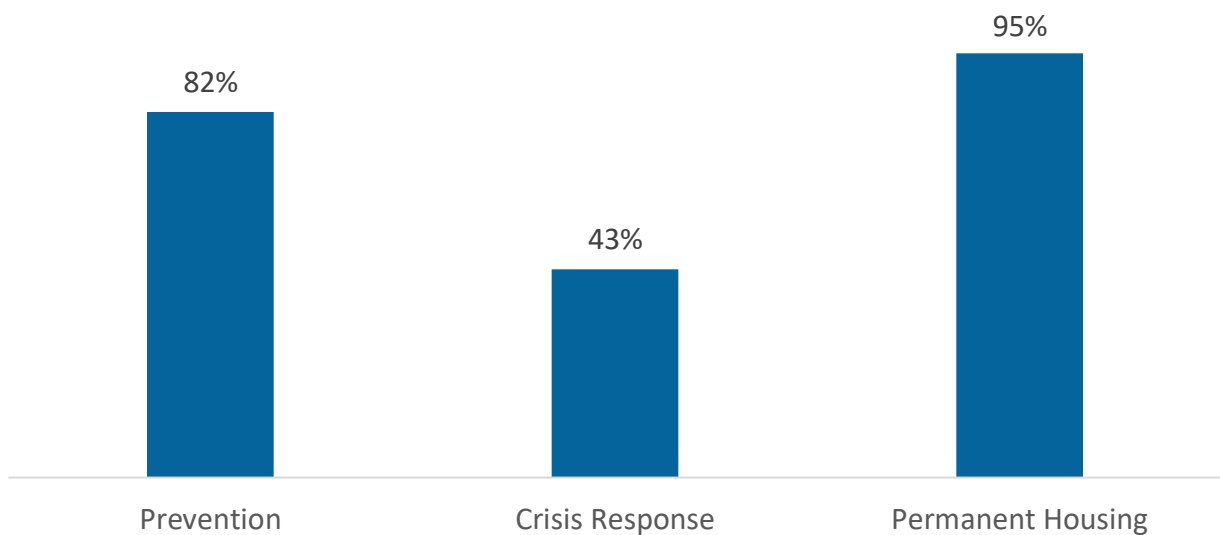
The CoC served 803 veterans during 2022 (10% of the population served). There were more veterans in permanent housing than in crisis response or prevention and diversion programs during 2022 (380 veterans in crisis response and 88 in prevention/diversion). Veterans made up 6% of adults served in prevention/diversion, 6% of adults served in crisis response, and 41% of adults served in permanent housing programs (Figure 30).

Figure 30: Percent of People Accessing Each Program Model Category who are Veterans, 2022



Eighty-two percent of veterans exited prevention to permanent housing in 2022; 43% of veterans in crisis response exited to permanent housing (higher than any other sub-population in the CoC), and 95% remained in their permanent housing program or exited to another permanent housing destination (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Percent of Veterans who Remain Housed or Exited to Permanent Housing, by Program Model Category, 2022



Housing Outcome Summary:

For Prevention & Crisis Response



Housing Outcomes Summary

Almost half (44%, n=3,370) of all households served in the CoC during 2022 were housed on exit or maintained housing. Outcomes across sub-populations vary for those exiting from prevention and diversion and those exiting from crisis response while the proportion of people maintaining permanent housing or exiting to other permanent housing is consistent across all sub-populations.

3,370 households
were housed during
2022, 44% of all
households served

Table 9 presents the percent of households (HH) or individuals (Ind) served during 2022 with exits to permanent housing from prevention/diversion and crisis response programs. This data was provided in previous sections and is now presented together for easy comparison. The overall exit rate to permanent housing for the CoC from prevention and diversion was 90%, and 21% from crisis response.

Among race and ethnic groups, three groups had the highest exits to housing from crisis response: Black/African American/African (22%), White (21%) and Multiple races (21%). American Indian/Alaskan Native/Indigenous and Asian/Asian American households had the lowest (17%). Among other sub-populations, Veterans had the highest rates of exits to permanent housing (43%), followed by households with children (40%). LGBTQIA+ and chronically homeless households had the lowest rates (16%, Table 9).

Table 9: Housed on Exit Rates by Sub-Populations, 2022

Population	From Prevention	From Crisis Response
General Population	90%	21%
Race/Ethnicity		
Black/African American/African (HH)	93%	22%
White (HH)	87%	21%
Multiple Races (HH)	91%	21%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x) (HH)	91%	20%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (HH)	96%	18%
Asian American/Asian (HH)	92%	17%
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous (HH)	84%	17%
Other Sub-Populations		
Veterans (Ind)	82%	43%
Households with Children (HH)	97%	40%
Survivors of Domestic Violence (Ind)	88%	26%
Households with Disabling Condition (HH)	75%	22%
Chronically Homeless (HH)	n/a*	16%
LGBTQIA+ (Ind)	n/a*	16%

REGIONAL & CITY DATA:

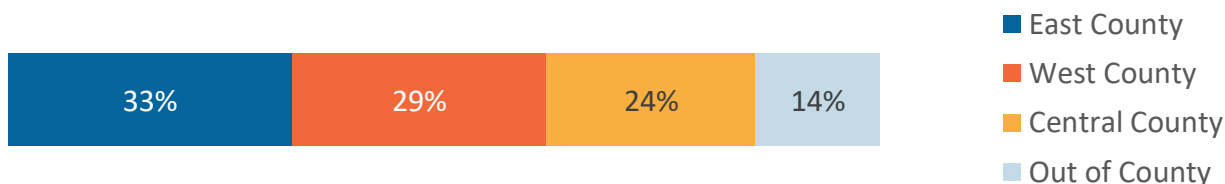
- West County
- Central County
- East County
- Out of County



Regional and City Data

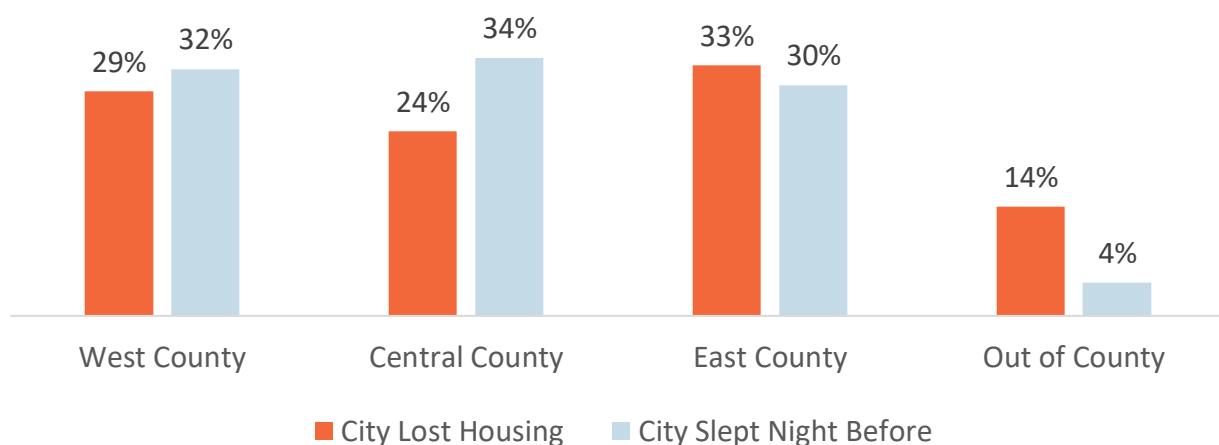
People experiencing homelessness were asked in which city they lost housing and in which city they slept in the night before enrollment into crisis response. This provides city and regional data to help understand where people lost their housing and identify a greater need for prevention services. Thirty-three percent (n=2,085) of households accessing crisis response lost their housing in East County, 29% (n=1,869) in West County, 24% (n=1,555) in Central County, and 14% (n=910) outside of Contra Costa County (Figure 33).

Figure 33: Proportion of Households Losing Housing by Region, 2022



When comparing the region where households lost housing with the region they slept in the night prior to enrolling into programming, it appears there is movement across the county. The proportion of households that lost housing in West County and Central County was lower than the proportion of households that slept in those regions the night prior to program enrollment while the opposite was true in East County. The proportion of households that lost housing in West County (29%) was lower than the 32% of households that slept in West County prior to enrollment. Similarly, the proportion that lost housing in Central County (26%) was lower than the proportion that slept in Central County (34%). Conversely, the proportion that lost their housing in East County (33%) was lower than the proportion that lost their housing in East County (30%, Figure 34).

Figure 34: Where Households Lost Housing and City Where Slept Before Enrollment, by Region, 2022



The city data for where households lost their housing is provided in Table 10.

Table 10: Contra Costa Cities Where Households Lost Their Housing, 2022

East County		Central County		West County		Out of County	
Antioch	1,096	Concord	909	Richmond	1,435	County Not Listed	480
Pittsburg	589	Martinez	256	San Pablo	186	Alameda Co	196
Bay Point	160	Walnut Creek	160	Rodeo	57	Solano Co	125
Brentwood	101	Pleasant Hill	93	El Sobrante	52	San Francisco Co	61
Oakley	91	San Ramon	33	North Richmond	40	Sonoma Co	16
Bethel Island	29	Danville	24	Pinole	38	Santa Clara Co	12
Discovery Bay	12	Pacheco	20	El Cerrito	30	San Mateo Co	11
Byron	7	Clayton	20	Crockett	17	Napa Co	5
		Lafayette	18	Hercules	14	Monterey Co	2
		Alamo	7			Marin Co	2
		Orinda	4				
		Moraga	4				
		Port Costa	4				
		Clyde	2				
		Kensington	1				
Total	2,085		1,555		1,869		910

CORONER’S DATA:

Cause of Death Reported by the Coroner’s Office



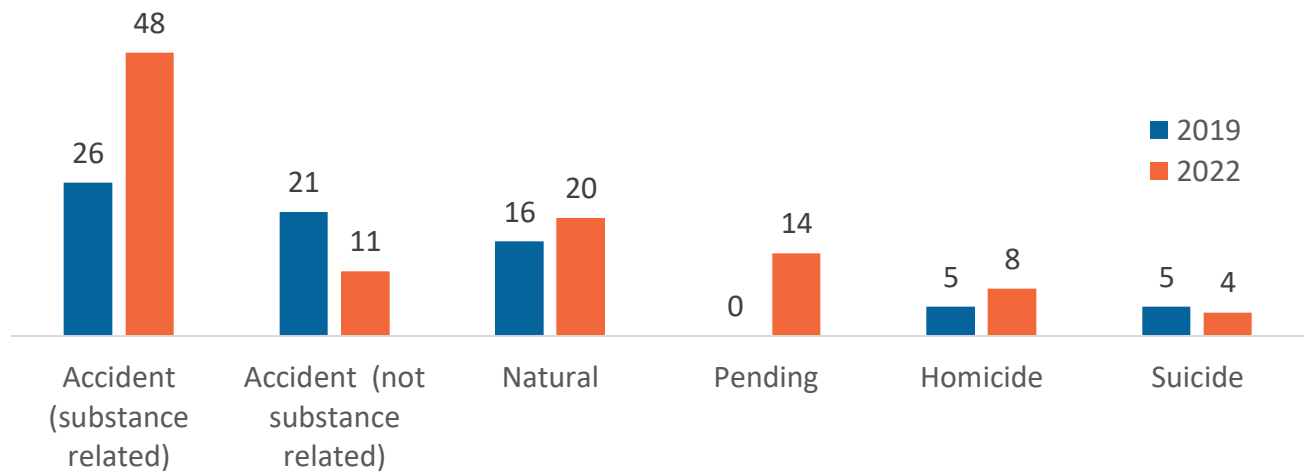
Cause of Death per Coroner

H3 hosts a memorial for people who pass away while experiencing homelessness to give dignity to those who lost their lives while still struggling with a housing crisis. Additionally, data from the Contra Costa County Coroner's Office is provided to H3 to identify causes and trends in death rates among individuals experiencing homelessness. The Coroner's Division was notified when someone passed away in a location without medical staff to report the cause of death. The coroner reported 106 people experiencing homelessness who died during calendar year 2022, a 38% increase from 2019.



There was an 85% increase in the number of drug and alcohol related accidental deaths between 2019 and 2022. This increase in drug and alcohol related deaths coincides with an increase among the general population across the county. The Journal of American Medicine reported that the pandemic was with the highest annual number of fatal drug overdoses on record in the US¹. There was also a 25% increase in the number of deaths by natural causes (Figure 34).

Figure 34: Cause of Death Recorded by Coroner for People Experiencing Homelessness, 2019 and 2022



¹ JAMA Netw Open. 2022;5(3):e223418. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.3418

Other CoC Data

This annual report provides a comprehensive summary of the people and households that access the CoC and is meant to raise questions, identify successes, and inform future programing and policies. Additional data sources help the CoC understand the population, needs, and program successes.

System Performance Measures (SPMs)

System Performance Measures are reported to The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) annually and include seven measures to help communities gauge their progress in preventing and ending homelessness. The federal fiscal year is from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. When shifts in SPMs are observed, the CoC may determine if these impacts are signs of changes in the community or environment (such as housing capacity or impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic) or how programs within the CoC are affecting outcomes for those served. A full report on the SPMs is available on the H3 website at cchealth.org/h3.

Point -in-Time (PIT) Count

The PIT Count is an annual “count” of people in interim housing (emergency shelters and transitional housing) or observed in unsheltered settings. This count is required of all HUD funded CoCs, to be conducted every other year. H3 plans, implements, analyzes, and reports on the PIT Count. A PIT infographic and StoryMap are available on the H3 website at cchealth.org/h3.

Appendix A: Program Names and Agencies, 2022

Prevention and Diversion Programs

Agency	Program	# Individuals	# Households
SHELTER, Inc.	Rental Assistance (Prevention)	1,673	676
Catholic Charities of the East Bay	Prevention Program	76	76
Hume Center	CE Prevention/Diversion	80	74
Hume Center	Home Safe Prevention	72	71
Hope Solutions	CE Prevention/Diversion	156	58
Hope Solutions	Probation Prevention	64	56
Northern California Family Center	Prevention (Youth)	48	48
Hume Center	Holistic Intervention Partnership (HIP) Prevention	47	46
SHELTER, Inc.	SSVF Prevention	71	45
Insight Housing	SSVF Prevention	72	33
Hope Solutions	HousingWorks HSP Eviction Prevention	19	7
SHELTER, Inc.	Positive Futures Prevention	3	3
Hope Solutions	Parole Prevention	1	1
SHELTER, Inc.	ESG (State) Prevention	4	1

Rapid Exit Programs

Agency	Program	# Individuals	# Households
Hume Center	CE Rapid Exit	61	60
Hope Solutions	CE Rapid Exit	77	43

Emergency Shelter Programs and Warming Center

Agency	Program	# Individuals	# Households
Bay Area Community Services	Delta Landing	500	411
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	Concord Warming Center	293	292
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	Concord Shelter	255	251
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	Brookside Shelter	147	146
COVID-19 FEMA	Marriott	196	136
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	Philip Dorn Respite Center	117	117

Bay Area Community Services	Don Brown	106	106
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	Calli House	66	66
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program	GRIP Family Shelter	175	54
Trinity Center	Trinity Center Evening Program	39	39
Northern California Family Center	Emergency Shelter	29	29
Winter Nights Shelter	Winter Nights Family Shelter	61	22
SHELTER, Inc.	Mountain View Family Shelter	58	20

Transitional Housing Programs

Agency	Program	# Individuals	# Households
Contra Costa Behavioral Health	Uilkema House	45	45
Veterans Accession House	Veterans Accession House	36	36
Contra Costa Homeless Program	Mary McGovern	30	30
Contra Costa Homeless Program	Pomona Apartments	25	23

Street Outreach Programs

Agency	Program	# Individuals	# Households
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	CORE Mobile Outreach	4,170	3,379

Support Services Only

Agency	Program	# Individuals	# Households
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	CORE Mobile Outreach	4,170	3,379
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program	GRIP	1,047	848
Trinity Center	Trinity Center	558	553
Hope Solutions	Housing Navigation	389	252
Trinity Center	Trinity Center Young Adult Program	202	202
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	Concord Service Center	183	183
Employment and Human Services Department	The Housing, Disability, and Advocacy Program (HDAP)	138	138
Hope Solutions	Housing Navigation for HDAP	124	124
Hume Center	Holistic Intervention Partnership (HIP) SSO	82	79
City of Richmond - Castro Encampment Resolution	Castro Encampment Transition Care Program	83	79
Housing Consortium of the East Bay	Rydin/Castro Safe Park	69	64
Winter Nights Shelter	Winter Nights Parking Lot Program	49	37

Hope Solutions Contracts	Housing Navigation for Transition Age Youth	20	15
SHELTER, Inc.	HVRP Employment Services	8	8
Humanity Way	Humanity Way	2	2

Rapid Rehousing Programs

Agency	Program	# Individuals	# Households
Bay Area Community Services	Rapid Rehousing	207	175
Insight Housing	SSVF Rapid Rehousing	201	139
Hope Solutions	HousingWorks HSP	287	103
SHELTER, Inc.	SSVF Rapid Rehousing	129	93
Hope Solutions	Probation RRH	100	85
SHELTER, Inc.	AB109 Rapid Rehousing	78	76
SHELTER, Inc.	Positive Futures Rapid Rehousing	78	75
SHELTER, Inc.	REACH Plus RRH for Families and Singles	136	56
Hope Solutions	TAY Rapid Rehousing	55	34
Hope Solutions	Parole RRH	22	22
Hope Solutions	City of Concord Rapid Rehousing	18	9
Hope Solutions	Probation TAY RRH	7	7
SHELTER, Inc.	ESG (State) RRH	14	7
SHELTER, Inc.	Rental Assistance (Homeless)	6	6
SHELTER, Inc.	ESG (County) RRH	12	5

Permanent Housing Programs

Agency	Program	# Individuals	# Households
Department of Veterans Affairs	HUD VASH	556	418
Hope Solutions	COC RAP TBRA	469	305
Hope Solutions	Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV)	239	158
Hope Solutions	ACCESS	52	52
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	HUMS	34	34
SHELTER, Inc.	Permanent Turning point	77	31
Hope Solutions	Garden Park Apartments	67	28
Hope Solutions	Families in Supportive Housing (FISH)	80	22
Lifelong Medical	Idaho Apartments	21	21
SHELTER, Inc.	Project Thrive	39	18

RCD	St. Pauls Commons	19	15
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	Destination Home	16	14
Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services	Permanent Connections	13	13
SHELTER, Inc.	Tabora Gardens	13	12
Hope Solutions	Lakeside Apartments	35	12
Hope Solutions	Hacienda Heights	10	10
Lifelong Medical	Idaho Apartments - HOPWA units	10	10
Hope Solutions	COC RAP Ohio Street	13	9
Hope Solutions	COC RAP Villa Vasconcellos	5	5
Hope Solutions	COC RAP Lakeside	4	4
Satellite Affordable Housing Associates	Columbia Park Manor	2	2
SHELTER, Inc.	Tabora Gardens	2	2
Contra Costa Behavioral Health	Veterans Square	2	1



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY 2023 Affordable Housing Needs Report



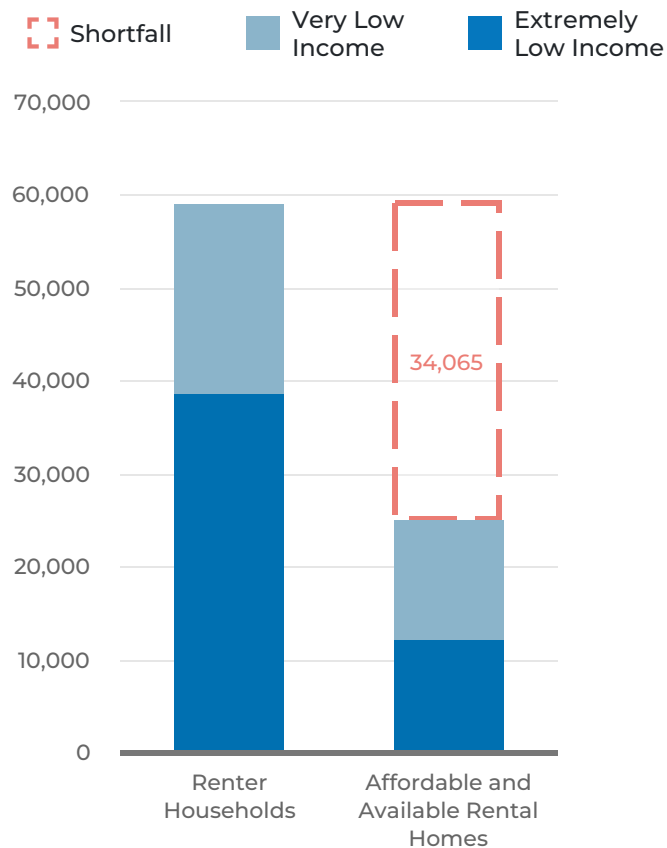
**California
Housing
Partnership**
*California's Experts on Affordable
Housing Finance, Advocacy & Policy*

KEY FINDINGS

- Renters in Contra Costa County need to earn \$42.69 per hour - **2.6 times** the City of Richmond's minimum wage - to afford the average monthly asking rent of \$2,220.
- **34,065** low-income renter households in Contra Costa County do not have access to an affordable home.
- State and federal funding for housing production and preservation in Contra Costa County is \$368 million, a **188% increase** from the year prior.
- **74%** of extremely low-income households in Contra Costa County are paying more than half of their income on housing costs compared to 0% of moderate-income households.
- In 2022 in Contra Costa County, there were only **1,136 beds** available in the interim and permanent housing supply for persons experiencing homelessness.

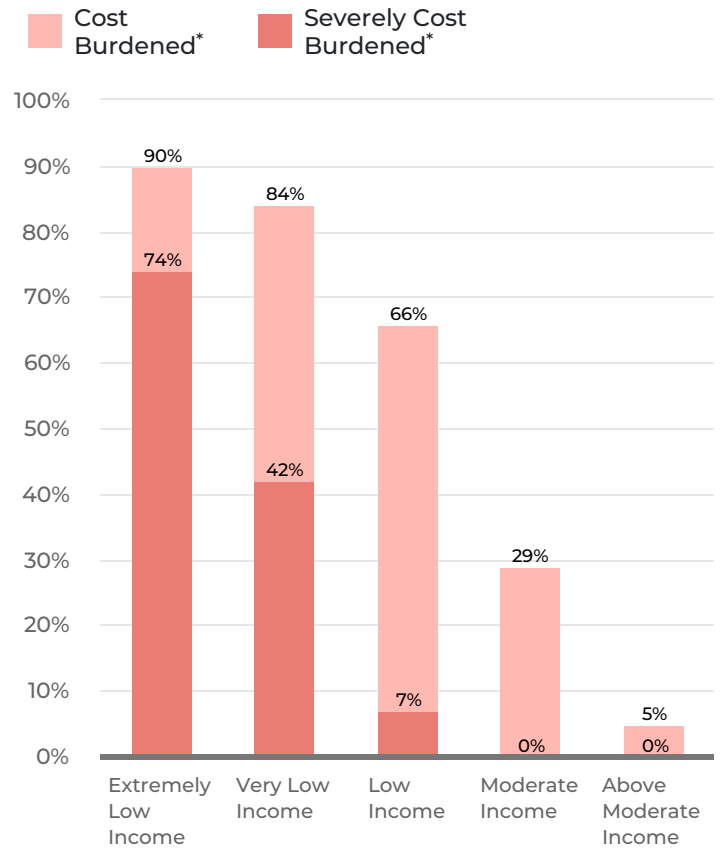
AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOMES

34,065 low-income renter households in Contra Costa County do not have access to an affordable home.



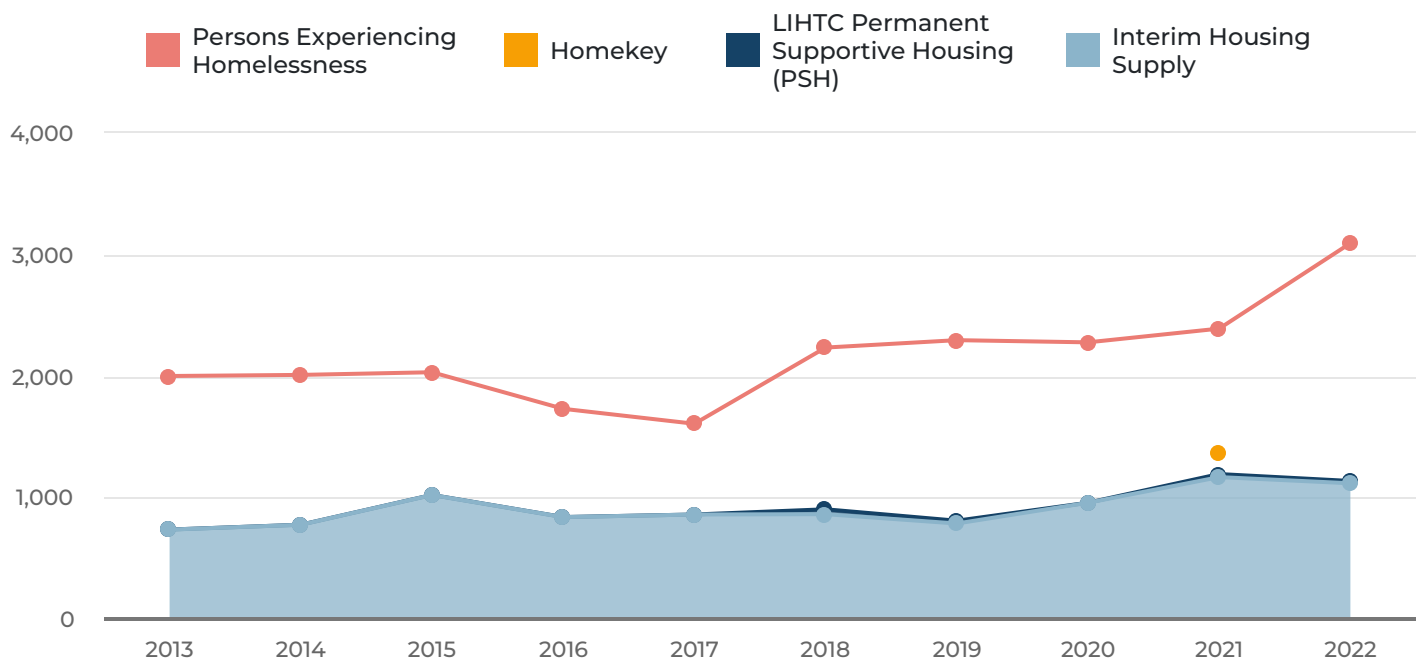
COST BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS

74% of ELI households in Contra Costa County are paying more than half of their income on housing costs compared to 0% of moderate-income households.



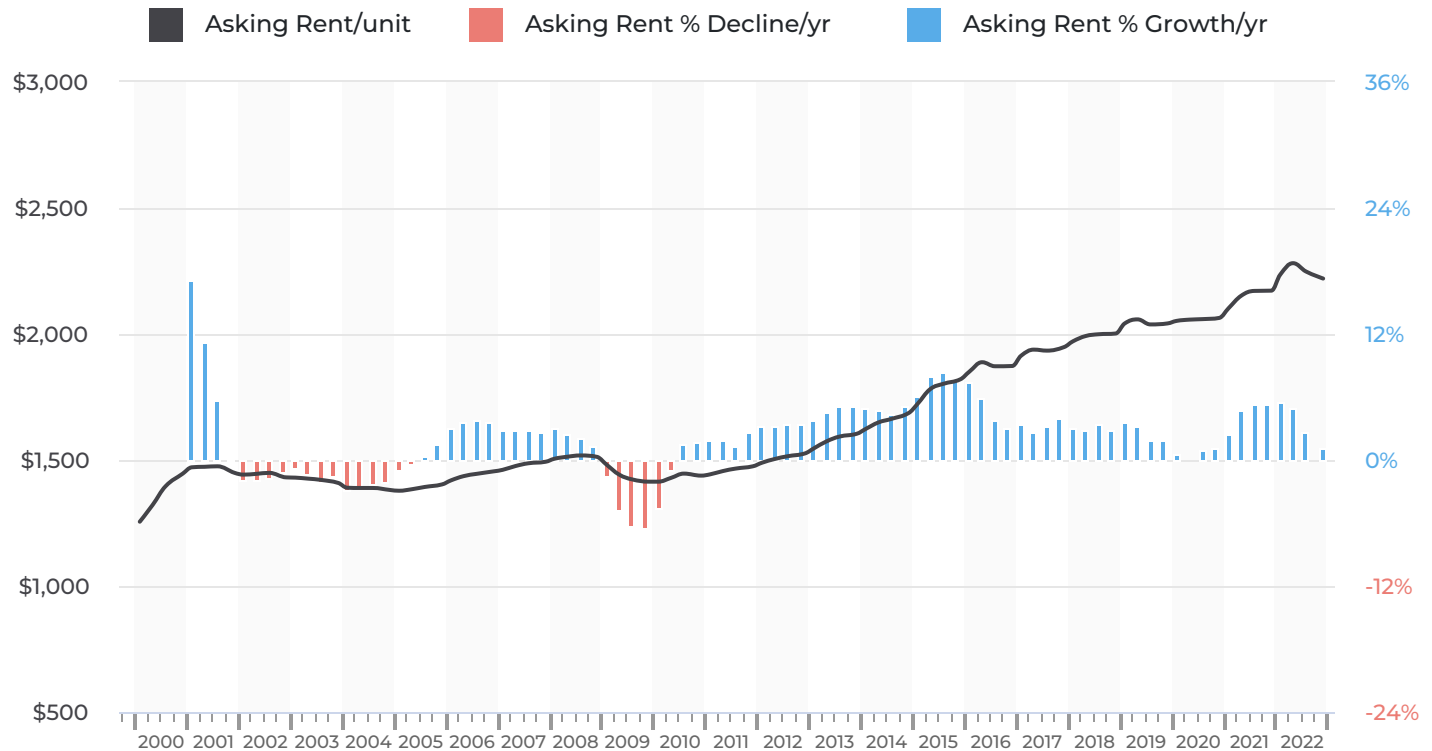
HOUSING FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

In 2022 in Contra Costa County, there were only **1,136 beds** available in the interim and permanent housing supply for persons experiencing homelessness.



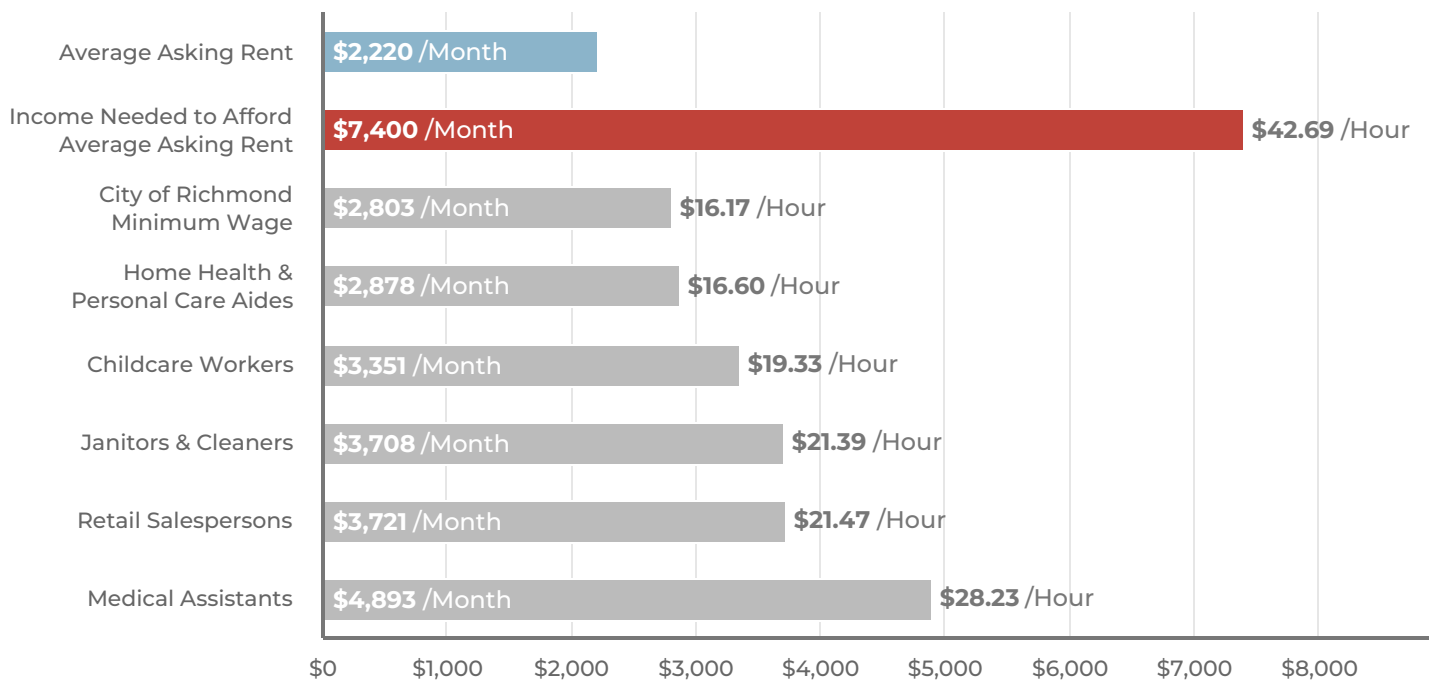
ASKING RENT TRENDS

Asking rents in Contra Costa County **increased by 1.2%** between Q4 2021 and Q4 2022.



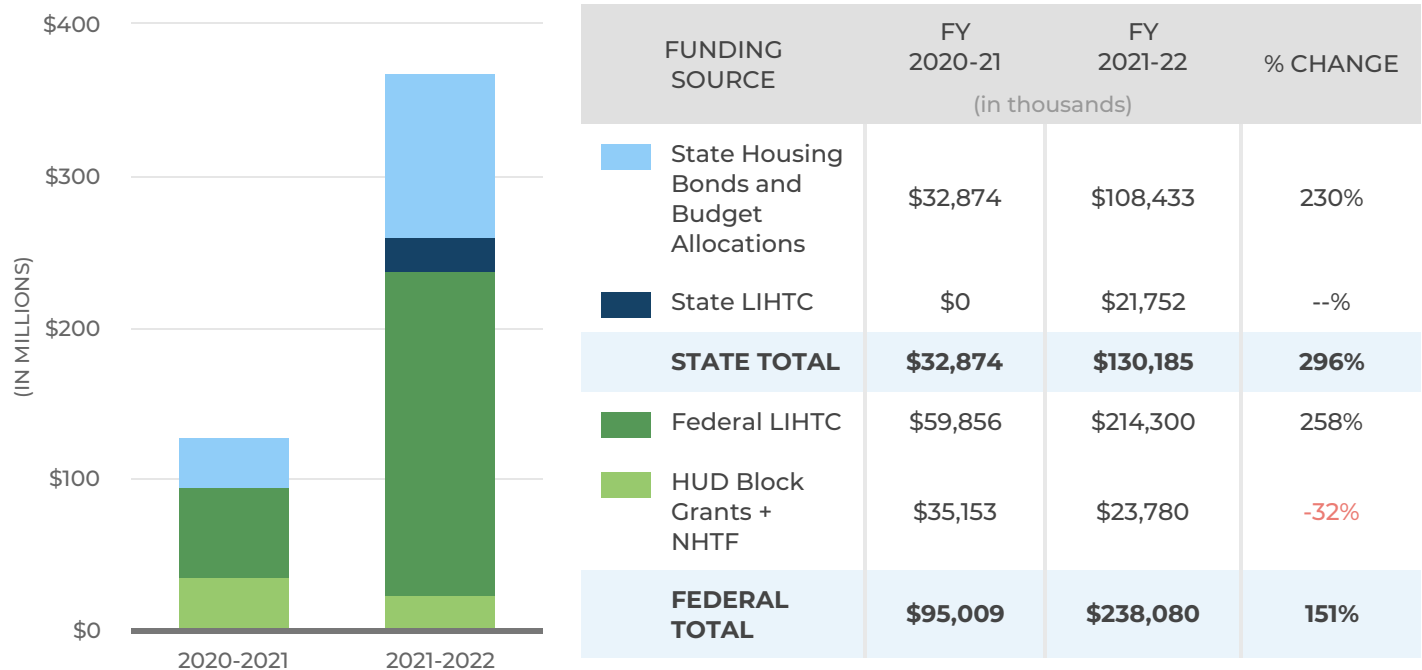
WHO CAN AFFORD TO RENT

Renters need to earn **2.6 times** the minimum wage to afford the average asking rent in Contra Costa County.



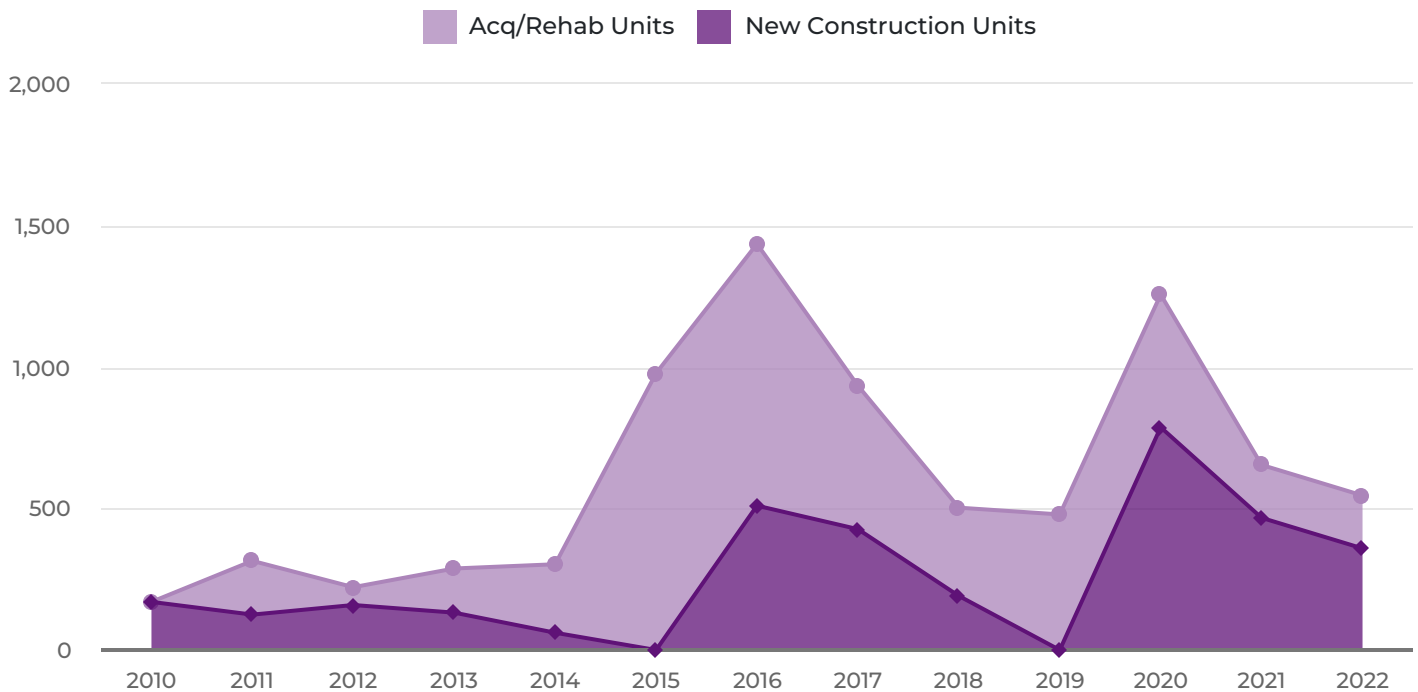
STATE & FEDERAL FUNDING

State and federal funding for housing production and preservation in Contra Costa County is \$368 million, a **188% increase** from the year prior.



LIHTC PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit production and preservation in Contra Costa County **decreased by 17%** between 2021 and 2022.



WHAT CAN STATE LEADERS DO TO HELP?

Solving California's affordable housing crisis requires a long-term, comprehensive, evidence-based set of policy solutions at scale, similar to those described in the [Roadmap Home 2030](#).

By pairing clear goals with synergistic policy and system-change strategies that can have an effect over time, the investments made today will bring about the outcomes many Californians have been longing for.



Roadmap Home 2030

The Roadmap provides a bold vision for solving California's affordable housing and homelessness challenges.

Learn more at roadmaphome2030.org

The Partnership supports a robust slate of 2023 legislative priorities on the State Policy page of chpc.net

DATA SOURCES & NOTES

AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOMES

California Housing Partnership analysis of 2021 1-year American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data with HUD income levels. Methodology was adapted from NLIHC gap methodology.

COST BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS

California Housing Partnership analysis of 2021 1-year American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data with HUD income levels. Methodology was adapted from NLIHC gap methodology. *Cost burdened households spend 30% or more of their income towards housing costs. Severely cost burdened households spend more than 50%.

HOUSING FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

HUD Point-in-Time (PIT) Housing Inventory Count (HIC) reports, 2013–2022. California Housing Partnership's Preservation Database, April 2023.

ASKING RENT TRENDS

CoStar Group average asking rent for two-bedroom apartments (accessed March 2023).

WHO CAN AFFORD TO RENT

CoStar Group average asking rent for two bedroom as of March 2023. Bureau of Labor Statistics Average Annual Wage Data for California Occupations, 2022.

FUNDING FOR HOUSING

California Housing Partnership analysis of HCD Program Awards and Annual Reports, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CPD Appropriations Budget Reports, California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) Mixed Income Program, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCHS) Program Reports, California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities Program, and federal and state Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC).

LIHTC PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION

California Housing Partnership's Preservation Database, April 2023. Please note that this data does not include manager units or market rate units created through the LIHTC program.

This report was produced by the California Housing Partnership | chpc.net

Lead Researcher: Danielle M. Mazzella, Senior Research Manager

ALL CALIFORNIA COUNTIES: chpc.net/publications/housing-need-reports



**California
Housing
Partnership**

California's Experts on Affordable
Housing Finance, Advocacy & Policy

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY 2023 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count identified a 4% increase in the total number of people observed experiencing homelessness on a given night in Contra Costa County since 2020. This is a modest increase given California's ongoing housing crisis, the impact COVID-19 had on housing stability and resources, and the continued economic challenges.

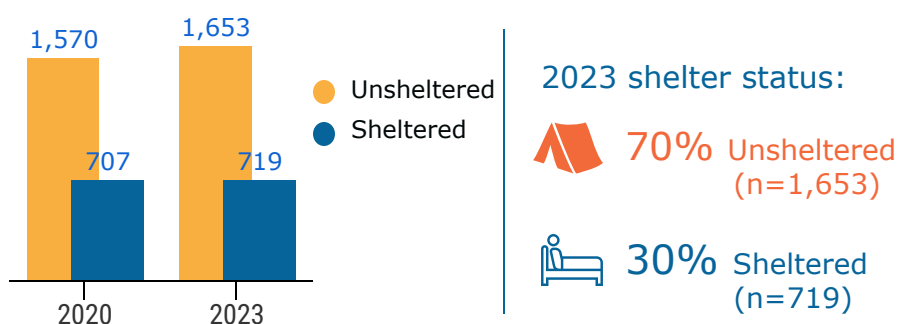
Contra Costa is dedicated to increasing capacity for interim and permanent housing with new grants directed at increasing prevention programming and housing opportunities.

Thanks to the many service agencies and community members that provided support with planning and implementation of the 2023 PIT.

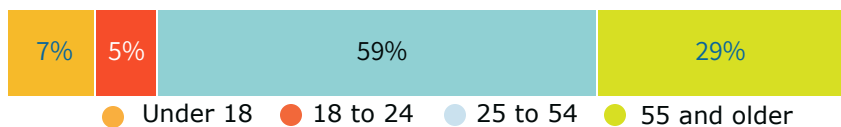
2,372 people experiencing homelessness on a given night in Contra Costa County

- 1,911 households
- 4% increase from 2020 to 2023

SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS



AGE



RACE

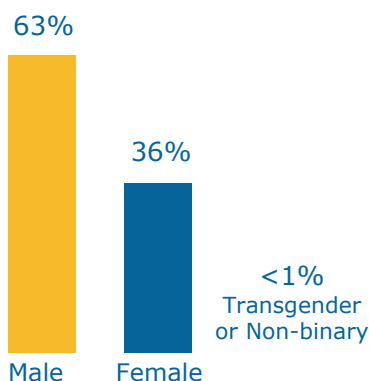
51% White
30% Black/African American
9% American Indian/Alaskan Native
<6% All other Races made-up 5% or less

ETHNICITY

24% Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x)

2023 HUD data standards require that race and ethnicity data is captured separately.

GENDER



67% chronically homeless



4% veterans

HOUSEHOLD BREAKDOWN

Adult-only Households



made up 95% of households



4% decrease since 2020

Households with Children



made up 5% of households



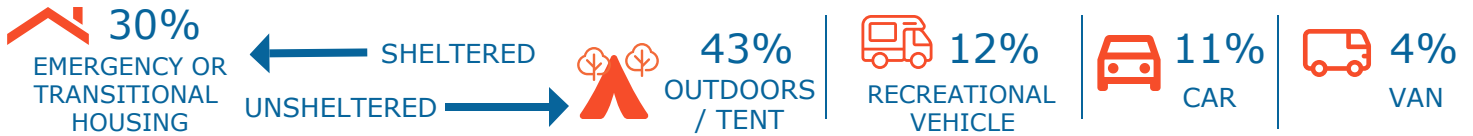
12% increase since 2020

2023 UNSHELTERED OBSERVATIONS

West 40%	Central 30%	East 30%
West County 29% increase from '20 to '23	2020	2023
Crockett	35	21
El Cerrito	24	7
El Sobrante	9	5
Hercules	7	20
N. Richmond	22	31
Pinole	7	8
Richmond	280	487
Rodeo	64	36
San Pablo	67	48
Total	515	663
Central County 4% decrease from '20 to '23	2020	2023
Clayton	2	10
Concord	160	241
Danville	7	7
Martinez	127	140
Pacheco	26	20
Pleasant Hill	90	31
Walnut Creek	80	40
Total	514	496
East County 6% decrease from '20 to '23	2020	2023
Antioch	238	334
Bay Point	49	50
Bethel Island	2	6
Brentwood	80	37
Oakley	50	9
Pittsburg	102	58
Total	523	494

Cities with fewer than 5 observed unsheltered individuals are not included in this table

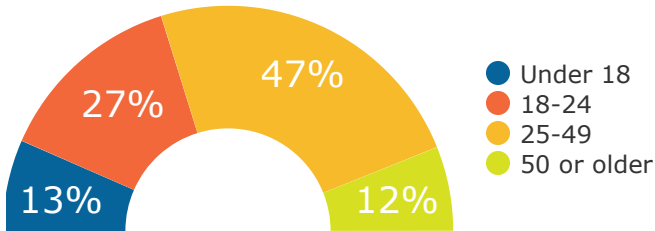
SLEEP SETTINGS ON THE NIGHT OF THE COUNT



CONDITIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HOMELESSNESS

The following data represent self-reported personal circumstances that contributed to homelessness and do not address the social and community conditions that are strongly correlated to homelessness.

AGE FIRST EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS*



FOSTER CARE



13%

13% of adults had been in foster care

LEGAL SYSTEM INVOLVED



12%

12% of adults had spent 1+ nights in jail/prison in the past year

SELF-REPORTED HEALTH CONDITIONS +

83% of households had at least one member with a disabling condition

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION (51%)

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (51%)

MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION (49%)

PHYSICAL DISABILITY (42%)

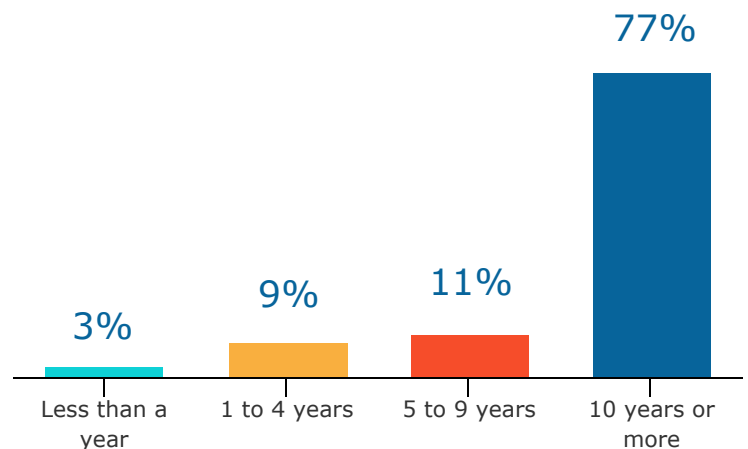
FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (19%)

HIV/AIDS RELATED ILLNESS (2%)

SELF-REPORTED CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO HOMELESSNESS Δ * +

41%	Substance use disorder
27%	Employment loss
25%	Eviction/foreclosure
24%	Mental health condition
22%	Unable to stay with family/friends
16%	Divorce or separation

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY*



METHODOLOGY

- The 2023 PIT Count methodology followed the Housing and Urban Development's guidelines for a "night of" observational count followed by a random sample survey to gather demographic data and homeless experience.
- A household falls under chronic homelessness if the head-of-household has a disabling condition and has been homeless for 12 months or more in the last year or 12 months or more over four or more episodes during the last three years.
- Unaccompanied youth (<18), and unaccompanied young adults (18 to 24) are youth who do not live with a parent or guardian.

Δ Only display top responses

* Responses represent only unsheltered respondents

+ Multiple response question, results do not add up to 100%

For more information about Contra Costa County's Homeless Continuum of Care, please visit cchealth.org/h3/coc.

CONNECTING TO SERVICES

Accessing Homeless Services in Contra Costa County



If you are experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Contra Costa, here are three ways you can access services.

1) CALL



Call 211 or text "HOPE" to 20121

- Callers will be given resources and information
- Free, confidential service is available 24/7
- Find useful resources online at 211cc.org

2) CARE



Walk into a CARE Center

- Coordinated Assessment Resource and Engagement (CARE) Centers are drop-in sites for people experiencing homelessness

RICHMOND — GRIP—165 22nd Street
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m.–3 p.m. | Sat & Sun: 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Services

- Basic needs (meals, bathrooms, mail, laundry, showers)
- Case management

WALNUT CREEK — Trinity Center—1888 Trinity Ave.
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Services

- Basic needs (meals, bathrooms, mail, laundry, showers)
- Case management
- Adults only

3) CORE



Connect to CORE outreach by calling 211

- Coordinated Outreach Referral and Engagement (CORE) Teams assist individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness by connecting them to healthcare, basic needs and referrals to shelter
- CORE is not available 24/7 and is not a crisis response. Call 911 for emergencies

cchealth.org/h3 | (925) 608-6700

Shelter Name	Location	Agency	Population	Access Point	Contact
Bay Area Rescue Mission	Richmond	Bay Area Rescue Mission	- Adults - Families with Minor Children	Self-refer	Single men: Please call (510) 215-4868 for pre-intake and shelter bed availability. Single women & women with children: Please call (510) 215-4860 for pre-intake and shelter bed availability
Brookside Shelter	Richmond	Contra Costa Health	Adults	CORE	Call 211 and press option 3 to connect with CORE Mobile outreach.*
Calli House	Richmond	Contra Costa Health	Transition Aged Youth (18-24)	Self-refer	Call 510-374-3134
Concord Shelter	Concord	Contra Costa Health	Adults	CORE	Call 211 and press option 3 to connect with CORE Mobile outreach. *
Delta Landing	Pittsburg	Bay Area Community Services (BACS)	Adults	CORE	Call 211 and press option 3 to connect with CORE Mobile outreach. *
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)	Richmond	Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)	Families with Minor Children	Self-refer	Walk into CARE Center during CARE Center hours . After business hours, call CORE mobile outreach.
Mountain View	Martinez	SHELTER, Inc.	Families with Children	CORE	Call 211 and press option 3 to connect with CORE Mobile outreach. *
Northern California Family Center	Varies	Northern California Family Center	Unaccompanied minors	Self-refer	Call 800-718-4357
Phillip Dorn Respite Center	Concord	Contra Costa Health	Medically fragile adults	Hospitals	N/A
STAND! For Families Free of Violence	Undisclosed	STAND! For Families Free of Violence	Survivors of Domestic Violence (including families with children)	Self-refer	Call 888-215-5555
Trinity Center Seasonal Program	Walnut Creek	Trinity Center	Adults	Self-refer	PLEASE NOTE - Program is seasonal and only operates from December-April. Call (925) 949-8712
Winter Nights Safe Parking Program	Pittsburg	Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.	Couples, families, or individuals living in their vehicles	Self-Refer	Call 925-435-2074
Winter Nights Family Shelter	Rotating	Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.	Families with Minor Children	Self-Refer	PLEASE NOTE - Program is seasonal and only operates from September – June. Call 925-435-2074.

**Note: CORE is not an emergency response service. CORE takes calls until midnight each night. If someone does not answer the phone, you may leave a message or try calling again. If you leave a message with a callback number, staff will call you back as soon as possible.*

Acceso a los servicios para personas sin hogar en el Condado de Contra Costa



Si usted es una persona sin hogar en Contra Costa o está en riesgo de quedarse sin hogar, estas son tres maneras de acceder a los servicios.

1) Llame



Llame al 211 o envíe un mensaje de texto con la palabra “HOPE” al 20121

- Le proporcionaremos recursos e información
- Servicio gratuito, confidencial y disponible 24/7
- Encuentre recursos útiles en línea en 211cc.org

2) Centros CARE



Acuda a un Centro CARE

- Los Centros de Evaluación Coordinada, Recursos e Integración (CARE) son lugares de acogida para las personas sin hogar

RICHMOND — GRIP—165 22nd Street
Lun.-vie.: 9 a.m.–3 p.m. | Sáb. y dom.: 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Servicios

- Necesidades básicas (comida, baños, correspondencia, lavandería, duchas)
- Administración de casos

WALNUT CREEK — Trinity Center—1888 Trinity Ave.
Lun.-vie.: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Servicios

- Necesidades básicas (comida, baños, correspondencia, lavandería, duchas)
- Administración de casos
- Adultos únicamente

3) CORE



Póngase en contacto con CORE llamando al 211

- Los equipos de Integración Coordinada, Referencia y Participación (CORE) ayudan a las personas y a las familias desprotegidas y sin hogar que requieren de servicios del cuidado de la salud, necesidades básicas y referencias a un refugio
- CORE no está disponible 24/7 y no es un servicio de respuesta para casos de crisis. Llame al 911 en caso de una emergencia

cchealth.org/h3 | (925) 608-6700

Nombre del refugio	Ubicación	Agencia	Población	Punto de acceso	Contacto
Bay Area Rescue Mission	Richmond	Bay Area Rescue Mission	• Adultos • Familias con niños menores	Auto-referencia	Hombres solteros: Llame al (510) 215-4868 para conocer la preadmisión y la disponibilidad de camas de refugio. Mujeres solteras y mujeres con niños: llame al (510) 215-4860 para conocer la preadmisión y la disponibilidad de camas de refugio.
Brookside Shelter	Richmond	Contra Costa Health	• Adultos	CORE	Llame al 211 y presione la opción 3 para conectarse con el alcance de CORE Mobile.*
Calli House	Richmond	Contra Costa Health	• Jóvenes en edad de transición (18-24)	Auto-referencia	Llame al 510-374-3134.
Concord Shelter	Concord	Contra Costa Health	• Adultos	CORE	Llame al 211 y presione la opción 3 para conectarse con el CORE servicios de apoyo móvil.*
Delta Landing	Pittsburg	Bay Area Community Services (BACS)	• Adultos	CORE	Llame al 211 y presione la opción 3 para conectarse con el CORE servicios de apoyo móvil.*
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)	Richmond	Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)	• Familias con niños menores	Auto-referencia	Ingresa al CARE Center durante las horas de CARE Center. Después del horario comercial, llame a CORE mobile outreach.
Mountain View	Martinez	SHELTER, Inc.	• Familias con niños	CORE	Llame al 211 y presione la opción 3 para conectarse con el CORE servicios de apoyo móvil.*
Northern California Family Center	Varía	Northern California Family Center	• Menores no acompañados	Auto-referencia	Llame al 800-718-4357
Phillip Dorn Respite Center	Concord	Contra Costa Health	• Adultos médicamente frágiles	Hospitales	No aplicable
STAND! For Families Free of Violence	Sin Revelar	STAND! For Families Free of Violence	• Sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica (incluidas las familias con niños)	Auto-referencia	Llame al 888-215-5555
Trinity Center Seasonal Shelter	Walnut Creek	Trinity Center	• Adultos	Auto-referencia	TENGA EN CUENTA - El programa es estacional y solo opera de diciembre a abril. Llame al (925) 949-8712
Winter Nights Safe Parking Program	Pittsburg	Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.	• Parejas, familias o individuos que viven en sus vehículos	Auto-referencia	Llame al 925-435-2074
Winter Nights Family Shelter	Varía	Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.	• Familias con niños menores	Auto-referencia	TENGA EN CUENTA - El programa es estacional y solo opera de septiembre a junio. Llame al 925-435-2074.

Nota: CORE no es un servicio de respuesta de emergencia. CORE toma llamadas hasta la medianoche cada noche. Si alguien no contesta el teléfono y estas llamando antes de la 4 pm, puedes dejar un mensaje o intente llamar de nuevo. Si deja un mensaje con un número de devolución de llamada, personal le devolverá la llamada lo antes posible.

CONNECTING TO SERVICES:

Families With Children (0-5)

Your path to support can start today.

Call 211 or drop into the **Richmond CARE Center** to start a conversation about your housing and support needs.

Richmond CARE Center: 165 22nd Street, M-F: 9 am – 3 pm, Sat/Sun: 8 am – 2 pm]

Families with children ages 0-5 facing homelessness may find these additional information and resources helpful:

BAY AREA CRISIS NURSERY

For parents with children aged 0-5 experiencing homelessness who need additional childcare and housing support for their children.

- **Nursery:** Children ages 0-5 may stay at the Nursery for up to 30 days.
- **Emergency Childcare Services-** Emergency Childcare Services are now offered between 7 am – 7 pm daily!
- **Crisis Day Services-** Support parents in finding and maintaining employment, attending court dates, classes, medical appointments, etc.
- **Crisis Residential Overnight Program-** Parents voluntarily admit their child(ren) when experiencing a crisis.
- **Respite Overnight Program-** For parents who just need a break can visit the Nursery for monthly visits. These visits range from 1-3 days.

For more information go to <https://bayareacrisisnursery.org/> or call 925-685-8052.

BRINGING FAMILIES HOME

The **Bringing Families Home Program** provides families at risk of or experiencing homelessness, who are ALSO receiving Contra Costa County Child Welfare services, with housing supports and services. Families should reach out to their Child Welfare case manager to see if they qualify.

CALWORKS CASH AID

The **California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids** (CalWORKs) program provides financial aid for children who lack financial support and care, additionally, the program promotes and encourages employment to enable families to become self-sufficient. Families connected to CalWORKs who are at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness should tell their CalWORKs caseworker because there may be housing resources and programs available through the CalWORKs program.

- CalWORKs Fact Sheet: <https://ehsd.org/benefits/calworks-cash-aid/calworks-fact-sheet/>.

For more general information about CalWORKs in Contra Costa County call (866) 663-3225.

CARE CENTER - RICHMOND

Coordinated Assessment Resource and Engagement (CARE) Centers are drop-in sites for people experiencing homelessness. The Richmond CARE Center welcomes families with children.

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)
165 22nd Street, Richmond
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m.–3 p.m. | Sat & Sun: 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Services

- Basic needs (meals, bathrooms, mail, laundry, showers)
- Case management

CORE MOBILE OUTREACH- FAMILIES

The **Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement (C.O.R.E.) program** works to engage and stabilize homeless individuals living outside through consistent outreach to facilitate and/or deliver health and basic need services and secure permanent housing. C.O.R.E. teams serve as an entry point into Contra Costa's coordinated entry system for unsheltered persons and work to locate, engage, stabilize and house chronically homeless individuals and families. CORE has a team specifically designated and trained to work with families with children

To connect with CORE, please call 211 and notify the call-taker that the person seeking services is part of a family with children.

HEAD START

For parents with children aged 0-5 who need free or low-cost Child Care and Pre-School.

- Part-day or full-day care is available
- Center hours are 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Home-based services, health and nutrition services, and mental health services offered

For more information, call (925) 272-4727 or go to CSBConnect.org

SHELTER

The following shelters in Contra Costa accept families with children.

Shelter Name	Location	Agency	Population	Access Point	Contact
Bay Area Rescue Mission	Richmond	Bay Area Rescue Mission	• Adults • Families with Minor Children	Self-refer	Single men: Please call (510) 215-4868 for pre-intake and shelter bed availability. Single women & women with children: Please call (510) 215-4860 for pre-intake and shelter bed availability
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)	Richmond	Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)	• Families with Minor Children	Self-refer	Walk into CARE Center during CARE Center hours . After business hours, call CORE mobile outreach.
Mountain View	Martinez	SHELTER, Inc.	• Families with Children	CORE	Call 211 and press option 3 to connect with CORE Mobile outreach. *
STAND! For Families Free of Violence	Undisclosed	STAND! For Families Free of Violence	• Survivors of Domestic Violence (including families with children)	Self-refer	Call 888-215-5555
Winter Nights Safe Parking Program	Pittsburg	Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.	• Couples, families, or individuals living in their vehicles	Self-Refer	Call 925-435-2074
Winter Nights Family Shelter	Rotating	Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.	• Families with Minor Children	Self-Refer	PLEASE NOTE - Program is seasonal and only operates from September – June. Call 925-435-2074.

CONNECTING TO SERVICES:

Families With School Aged Children

Your path to support can start today.

Call 211 or drop into the **Richmond CARE Center** to start a conversation about your housing and support needs.

Richmond CARE Center: 165 22nd Street, M-F: 9 am – 3 pm, Sat/Sun: 8 am – 2 pm]

Families with School Aged Children facing homelessness may find these additional information and resources helpful:

BRINGING FAMILIES HOME

The **Bringing Families Home Program** provides families at risk of or experiencing homelessness, who are ALSO receiving Contra Costa County Child Welfare services, with housing supports and services. Families should reach out to their Child Welfare case manager to see if they qualify.

CALWORKS CASH AID

The **California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids** (CalWORKs) program provides financial aid for children who lack financial support and care, additionally, the program promotes and encourages employment to enable families to become self-sufficient. Families connected to CalWORKS who are risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness should tell their CalWORKS caseworker because there may be housing resources and programs available through the CalWORKS program.

- CalWORKs Fact Sheet: <https://ehsd.org/benefits/calworks-cash-aid/calworks-fact-sheet/>.
- For more general information about CalWORKs in Contra Costa County call (866) 663-3225

CARE CENTER - RICHMOND

Coordinated Assessment Resource and Engagement (CARE) Centers are drop-in sites for people experiencing homelessness. The Richmond CARE Center welcomes families with children.

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)
165 22nd Street, Richmond
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m.–3 p.m. | Sat & Sun: 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Services

- Basic needs (meals, bathrooms, mail, laundry, showers)
- Case management

CORE MOBILE OUTREACH- FAMILIES

The **Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement (C.O.R.E.) program** works to engage and stabilize homeless individuals living outside through consistent outreach to facilitate and/or deliver health and basic need services and secure permanent housing. C.O.R.E. teams serve as an entry point into Contra Costa's coordinated entry system for unsheltered persons and work to locate, engage, stabilize and house chronically homeless individuals and families. CORE has a team specifically designated and trained to work with families with children

To connect with CORE, please call 211 and notify the call-taker that the person seeking services is part of a family with children.

SCHOOL DISTRICT HOMELESS LIAISONS

The **Contra Costa County Office of Education, Youth Services Department**, provides support and resources to the 18 School Districts, CCCOE-Operated School Sites, and Charter Schools to implement McKinney-Vento. Technical assistance and training are also available to district homeless liaisons and other staff who are involved in working with homeless children and youth. The term homeless children and youth for these services means, "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence". This may include the following living situations:

- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in motels or hotels
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings or other facilities not designed for regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason

- Runaway or unaccompanied youth
- Youth abandoned in hospitals

To learn more about services available and the liaison for each school district click here:

https://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/departments/studentprograms/youth_services/_y_s_/education_for_homeless_youth

SHELTER

The following shelters in Contra Costa accept families with children.

To find out if there are available beds, reach out to the Contacts shown below.

Shelter Name	Location	Agency	Population	Access Point	Contact
Bay Area Rescue Mission	Richmond	Bay Area Rescue Mission	• Adults • Families with Minor Children	Self-refer	Single men: Please call (510) 215-4868 for pre-intake and shelter bed availability. Single women & women with children: Please call (510) 215-4860 for pre-intake and shelter bed availability
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)	Richmond	Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)	• Families with Minor Children	Self-refer	Walk into CARE Center during CARE Center hours . After business hours, call CORE mobile outreach by calling 211 and pressing option 3
Mountain View	Martinez	SHELTER, Inc.	• Families with Children	CORE	Call 211 and press option 3 to connect with CORE Mobile outreach. *
STAND! For Families Free of Violence	Undisclosed	STAND! For Families Free of Violence	• Survivors of Domestic Violence (including families with children)	Self-refer	Call 888-215-5555
Winter Nights Safe Parking Program	Pittsburg	Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.	• Couples, families, or individuals living in their vehicles	Self-Refer	Call 925-435-2074
Winter Nights Family Shelter	Rotating	Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.	• Families with Minor Children	Self-Refer	PLEASE NOTE - Program is seasonal and only operates from September – June. Call 925-435-2074.

CONNECTING TO SERVICES:

Transition Aged Youth (18-24 years old)

Your path to support can start today.

Call 211 or drop into a **CARE Center** to start a conversation about your housing and support needs.

- **CARE Center: Richmond:** (GRIP) 165 22nd Street [M-F: 9 am – 3 pm, Sat/Sun: 8 am – 2 pm]
- **CARE Center: Walnut Creek:** (Trinity Center) 1888 Trinity Ave [M-F, 8 am-4 pm]

Transition Aged Youth facing homelessness may find these additional information and resources helpful:

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The three community colleges in Contra Costa (Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College and Los Medanos College) have Basic Needs programs to support students with things like food and housing.

- Contra Costa College: <https://www.contracosta.edu/student-services/basic-needs/>
- Diablo Valley College: <https://www.dvc.edu/basic-needs/>
- Los Medanos College: <https://www.losmedanos.edu/basicneeds/>

CONTRA COSTA YOUTH CONTINUUM OF SERVICES (CCYCS)

The Contra Costa Health, Health Housing and Homeless Services Youth Continuum of Services (CCYCS) provides daytime drop-in services, overnight emergency shelter (Calli House) and connections to supportive housing programs for runaway or homeless youth age 18-24 years. For more information, connect with CORE Mobile outreach by calling 211 and notify the call-taker that the person seeking services is a transition-aged youth.

CORE MOBILE OUTREACH- TAY

The Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement (C.O.R.E.) program works to engage and stabilize homeless individuals living outside through consistent outreach to facilitate and/or

deliver health and basic need services and secure permanent housing. C.O.R.E. teams serve as an entry point into Contra Costa's coordinated entry system for unsheltered persons and work to locate, engage, stabilize and house chronically homeless individuals and families. CORE has a team specifically designated and trained to work with Transition Aged Youth.

To connect with CORE, please call 211 and notify the call-taker that the person seeking services is a transition-aged youth.

HOUSING PROGRAMS-TAY

Contra Costa has a number of housing programs for Transition Aged Youth experiencing literal homelessness, including Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. If you are literally homeless and a Transition Aged Youth, find out more and/or start the intake process with CORE mobile outreach by calling 211 or go to a CARE Center in Richmond or Walnut Creek (for location and days/hours, see

<https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/help.php>).

PREVENTION RESOURCES- TAY

Contra Costa has resources set aside specifically to support Transition Aged Youth who are at risk of homelessness. Services may include Housing Problem Solving support and/or one-time financial assistance. TAY at risk of homelessness in Contra Costa should call 211 to find out more about prevention resources that may be available.

RAINBOW COMMUNITY CENTER

Rainbow Community Center offers LGBTQIA+ houseless youth with temporary housing, by providing hotel vouchers (18+), transportation, relocation financial aid, medication assistance, housing for those at risk of homelessness, and permanent supportive housing assistance.

WHO WE SERVE

- LGBTQIA+ Youth Experiencing Homelessness (12-24)
- LGBTQIA+ Youth within the Foster Care System
- LGBTQIA+ TAY Victims of Crime

HELP WE OFFER

- Hotel Vouchers
- Transportation/Ride Share/BART/Bus support
- Food and Clothing
- Relocation Funds
- Housing Assistance
- Counseling Services
- Youth Support Groups

For additional information, questions, or support, please reach out to Director of Youth Housing, Dana Johnson at dana@rainbowcc.org or (925) 692-0090 ext. 704.

SCHOOL DISTRICT HOMELESS LIAISONS

The Contra Costa County Office of Education, Youth Services Department, provides support and resources to the 18 School Districts, CCCOE-Operated School Sites, and Charter Schools to implement McKinney-Vento. Technical assistance and training are also available to district homeless liaisons and other staff who are involved in working with homeless children and youth. The term homeless children and youth for these services means, "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence". This may include the following living situations:

- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in motels or hotels
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings or other facilities not designed for regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason
- Runaway or unaccompanied youth
- Youth abandoned in hospitals

To learn more about services available and the liaison for each school district click here:

https://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/departments/studentprograms/youth_services/_y_s_/education_for_homeless_youth

SHELTERS

While TAY may stay at any of the adult shelters in Contra Costa as long as they are over the age of 18, Calli House in Richmond is designated for Transition Aged Youth, with TAY specific programming, services and trained staff. For more information on Calli House, connect with CORE Mobile outreach by calling 211 and notify the call-taker that the person seeking services is a transition-aged youth. To learn more about all Contra Costa shelters and how to connect, see the second page of the document at this link: <https://ccchealth.org/h3/coc/pdf/Access-Flyer-w-Shelters.pdf>



**To access shelter or
housing services for
people ages 18-24:**



Mission Statement

Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services (CCYCS) mission is to successfully integrate homeless and runaway youth back into the community with the skills, resources, and community network necessary to achieve and maintain a better quality of life.

CCYCS operates with the philosophy that every young person has the ability to make good choices for themselves, when provided with gentle guidance, support, and positive opportunities.

We value the diversity, determination, resiliency, and strength that all youth bring to our doors.

**Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services
Health, Housing & Homeless Services**

Contra Costa Health

**2400 Bisso Lane, Suite D, 2nd Floor
Concord, CA 94520**

Tel: (925) 608-6720 Fax: (925) 608-6741

<http://cchealth.org/h3>

CCYCS is funded in part by the Department of Health and Human Services Administration of Children and Families, Prop. 63: Mental Health Services Act, Community Services Block Grant, the State of CA Transitional Housing Program Plus, Wells Fargo and Contra Costa General Fund.

Call 211

**Free and voluntary services
include:**

Emergency Shelter
Transitional Housing
Permanent Housing
Case Management
Counseling
Health Care Services
Legal Services
Family Reunification
Employment Assistance
Peer Support Groups
Linkages to substance abuse and
mental health treatment
School Enrollment
Meals, showers, laundry facilities,
mail service
Transportation Assistance

**CONTRA COSTA
YOUTH
CONTINUUM OF
SERVICES**



*Interim Housing
Transitional Living
Independent Living
Permanent Supportive
Housing*

**Contra Costa Continuum of Services is a
program of Contra Costa Health in
partnership with Heluna Health.**

INTERIM HOUSING

Based in West Contra Costa County, this short-term housing and supportive services program is designed to address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth ages 18-24, 24 hours a day/7 days a week in Contra Costa County. Participants can stay up to 4 months and the program has capacity to serve up to 15 youth at a time. Participants receive intensive case management services and supports to return back into the community.



DROP IN SERVICES

Monday through Friday, from 12-1 pm, homeless youth may access drop-in services including food, clothing, showers, crisis intervention, counseling, life skills education, and other supportive services.



HEALTHCARE

Healthcare is provided through an adolescent health clinic on-site. A Healthcare for the Homeless Nurse Practitioner provides health assessments, physical exams, immunizations, STD testing, and family planning services. Dental and mental health services are also provided onsite.



**To access
shelter or
housing
services for
people ages
18-24:**



Call 211

TRANSITIONAL LIVING

A 13-bed transitional living program in Central County for youth ages 18 through 24 who are homeless or exiting the foster care system. The program is staffed 24 hours a day and provides participants guidance and support to develop the life skills necessary to secure and maintain employment, address their health needs, and sustain long-term housing.

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Located in West Contra Costa County, this up-to-24-month independent living program is for people ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness who have demonstrated readiness to live independently and ability to engage in meaningful daily activities. The location is has 5 separate apartments within one gated community and a co-located staff office that offers participants onsite supportive services during day hours.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Our Permanent Supportive housing program provides subsidized permanent housing and wraparound case management services for homeless youth ages 18-24 living with disabilities. Participants are expected to maintain an ongoing relationship with their case manager, who supports the youth in meeting the terms of their rental agreement, developing and maintaining independent living skills, and leading healthy and successful lives in the community.

CONNECTING TO SERVICES: Veterans

Your path to support can start today.

Call 211 or drop into a **CARE Center** to start a conversation about your housing and support needs.

- **CARE Center: Richmond:** (GRIP) 165 22nd Street [M-F: 9 am – 3 pm, Sat/Sun: 8 am – 2 pm]
- **CARE Center: Walnut Creek:** (Trinity Center) 1888 Trinity Ave [M-F, 8 am-4 pm]

Veterans facing homelessness may find these additional information and resources helpful:

CORE MOBILE OUTREACH

The Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement (C.O.R.E.) program works to engage and stabilize homeless individuals living outside through consistent outreach to facilitate and/or deliver health and basic need services and secure permanent housing. C.O.R.E. teams serve as an entry point into Contra Costa's coordinated entry system for unsheltered persons and work to locate, engage, stabilize and house chronically homeless individuals and families.

To connect with CORE, please call 211 and notify the call-taker that the person seeking services is a veteran.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

Walk-in services are available to Veterans seeking assistance with connection to housing resources on:

Martinez VA Homeless Walk-In Clinic
Mondays from 9am - 12pm
Building 25, 150 Muir Rd., Martinez
Please Check-In @ Bldg. 19 for screening.

Veterans may also call our Homeless Triage Line Monday- Friday during normal business hours to be connected with helpful, local VA homeless program staff: 925-372-2067.

INSIGHT HOUSING (FORMERLY BERKELEY FOOD AND HOUSING PROJECT)

Roads Home is Insight Housing's largest program that works to help end homelessness among veterans and their families. The Roads Home program encompasses all our Veteran services, including Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP), the Grant and Per Diem Veterans Transitional Housing (GPD), and Housing & Urban Development/Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing voucher administration (HUD-VASH). For services in Contra Costa County call 1-925-957-6042.

SHELTER, INC

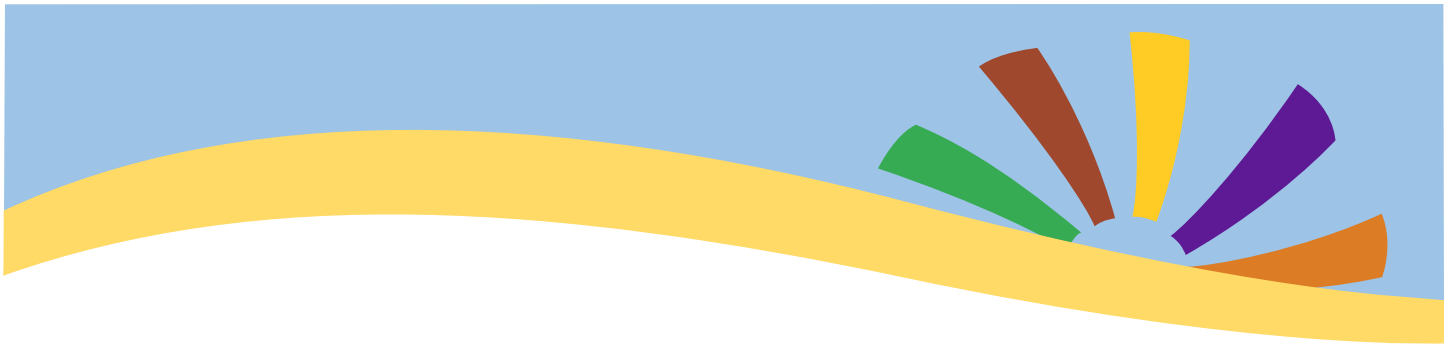
Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program: We offer individualized education, training, and other resources to assist homeless Veterans in achieving their employment goals. For those Veterans struggling with homelessness, we have a housing program that promotes stability and assistance with housing. With the assistance of our Veterans team members, many life sustaining resources are available to those we proudly call Veterans. For more information on this program, see [HRVP Services](#) or email HVRP@shelterinc.org.

Support Services for Veterans Families

For Veterans who are single, head of a household, or spouse of the head of a household, who are homeless and looking to maintain permanent housing in Contra Costa County, with income less than 50% AMI and capable of sustaining permanent housing after short-term case management and/or financial assistance, see [SSVFSvcsflyer](#) or email SSVF@shelterinc.org or call 925-233-6941.

SHELTER

Some shelters in our community have beds set aside specifically for veterans. To find out if there are available beds, all 211 and press option 3 to connect with CORE Mobile outreach. Please let the call taker know that the person seeking shelter is a veteran.



Martinez VA Homeless Walk-In Clinic

Beginning 10/2/23, walk-in services will now be available to Veterans seeking assistance with connection to housing resources on:

*** Mondays from 9am - 12pm**

Building 25

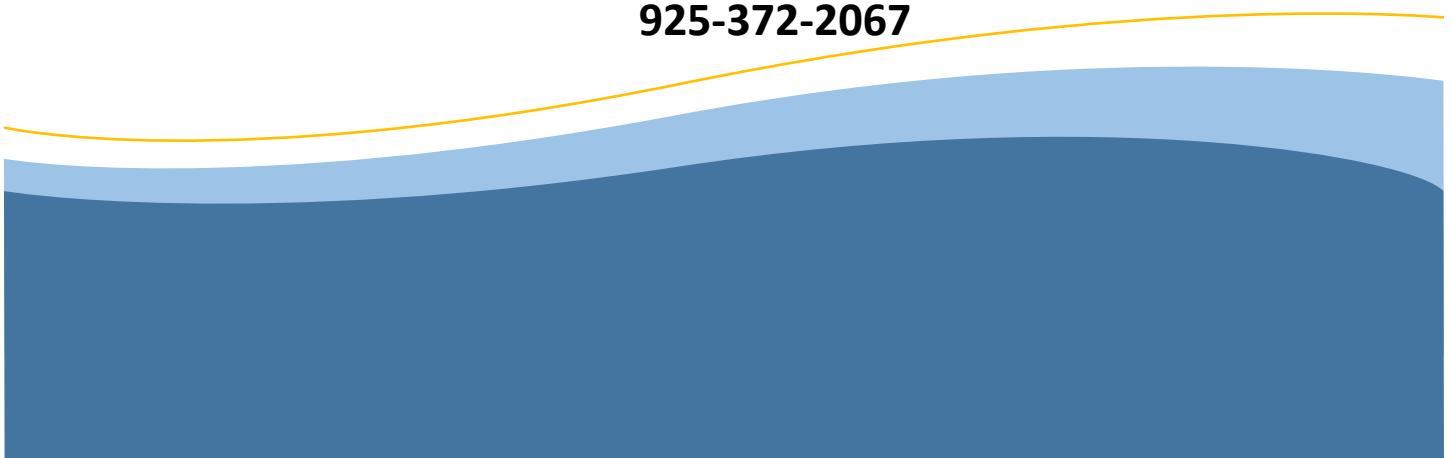
150 Muir Rd.

Martinez, CA 94553

Please Check-In @ Bldg. 19 for screening.

Veterans may also call our Homeless Triage Line Monday-Friday during normal business hours to be connected with helpful, local VA homeless program staff:

925-372-2067



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Emergency Housing Providers

- Brookside Shelter (Richmond)
- Compassion Residio (Lodi)
- Dignity's Alcove (Stockton)
- Salvation Army (Sacramento)
- Shelter Solano (Fairfield)
- Stockton Shelter (Stockton)

Residential Treatment Providers

- Bi-Bett Corp. (Contra Costa County)
- Nation's Finest (Sacramento County)
- River City Recovery (Sacramento County)
- Walter's House (Yolo County)
- Medical Respite

Grant and Per Diem (Transitional Housing) Providers

- Nation's Finest, Sacramento & Mather
- Community Action North Bay, Dixon
- Victory Village, Jackson
- Volunteers of America, Sacramento

We also partner with the following Public Housing Authorities in our HUD-VASH Program: Contra Costa County, City of Pittsburg, City of Vallejo, City of Fairfield, Yolo County, Sacramento County, Butte County, City of Redding, Shasta County, Stanislaus County, El Dorado County, San Joaquin County Public Housing Authority, City of Roseville, Placer County, Nevada County, City of Vacaville, and Solano County.

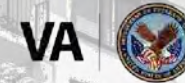
*** If you are a landlord interested in helping to house homeless Veterans in your area, please email: HomelessVets@va.gov to connect with us.**



For additional information,
please contact:

Tanya Tabon
Homeless Program Manager
(707) 862-6290

Kristen Yahn
HUD-VASH Program Manager
(530) 892-3810



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Northern California Health Care System

VA Northern California Health Care System

Homeless Veteran
Programs and Services



OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

VA Northern California Health Care System (VANCHCS) offers a wide range of services through direct care and community partnerships to Veterans experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. These include:

- Homeless Drop in Services and Resource Information Groups
- Short-Term/Emergency Housing and Residential Treatment
- Transitional Housing through the Grant and Per Diem Program
- Permanent Supportive Housing through the HUD-VASH program
- Outreach and Veteran Treatment Court services to eligible Veterans who are involved in the criminal justice system.

● DROP IN CLINIC ASSISTANCE

Nation's Finest

153 Hartnell Ave., Suite 100
Redding, CA 96002
Drop-In Services
Tuesdays 9am - 12pm
(530) 223-3211

Fairfield Outpatient Clinic

103 Bodin Circle, Bldg. 778 Travis
AFB, CA 94535
Homeless Drop-in Clinic
Tuesdays 9am - 12pm
(707) 437-1852

Mare Island Outpatient Clinic

201 Walnut Ave.
Mare Island, CA 94592
Homeless Drop-In Clinic
Thursdays 9am - 12pm
(707) 562-8269

Martinez Outpatient Clinic

150 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553
Homeless Drop-In Clinic
Bldg. 25, Tuesdays 9am - 12pm
(925) 372-2067

Yuba-Sutter Stand Down Office

604 D Street, Marysville, CA 95901
Tuesdays 9am – 11am
(530) 749-1036

Sacramento VA Medical Center Homeless PACT Clinic

(916) 366-5349
10535 Hospital Way, Mather, CA 95655
Drop-in Clinic
Mon – Fri 9am - 12pm & 1pm - 3pm
HPACT Clinic: (916) 366-5349
(Healthcare)
Homeless Triage Line: (916) 843-7271

Chico Outpatient Clinic

1601 Concord Ave., Chico, CA 95928
Mon-Thurs, 8am – 4:30pm
(530) 635-2467

Stockton Outpatient Clinic

7777 South Freedom Rd., Building S-5
French Camp, CA 95231
Housing Resource Meeting, 1st & 3rd
Monday of the month at 10:00am
(209) 946-3434

Modesto Outpatient Clinic

1225 Oakdale Road, Room 175
Modesto, CA 95355
Housing Resource Meeting, 2nd & 4th
Wednesday of the month at 10:30am
(209) 946-3434

**If unable to come to a facility, please
call one of the numbers listed during
normal business hours of Monday-
Friday 8:00am-4:30pm**

VIDEOS

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH VIDEOS

1. Challenging Myths About Homelessness: A Message from Your Neighbors (2023)

https://youtu.be/zglqIUN4_0M

2. R.O.O.T.S: Reflecting On Our Truth and Stories (2022)

<https://youtu.be/cQPBCyGBjc0>

3. H.O.P.E: Hearing Other People's Stories (2022)

<https://youtu.be/ry8qfXN8HcY>

4. Contra Costa Homelessness Awareness Month (2020)

<https://youtu.be/90XAIXguQRA>

2023 VIDEO INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS

For Homelessness Awareness Month, we interviewed 12 people who were longtime Contra Costa residents prior to becoming homeless. We were only able to use a fraction of the input provided from the interviews to create the short video that can be seen here. We are providing the raw interview transcripts so people have an opportunity to bear witness to and learn from the experiences of these people who so generously shared their time, stories and wisdom for Homelessness Awareness Month this year.

Interview #1

Connections to Contra Costa

How long have you been in Contra Costa? What brought you here?

I have been in Contra Costa county since I was 8 yrs old I'm 43 now so about 90% of my life. I moved here with my mom from Las Vegas because this is where we are from originally. My mother was running from an abusive relationship when I was two so she left Las Vegas with me when I was 7 my dad found us so we moved back when I was 8.

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood, street)

I grew up in Crockett California and started hanging out in San Pablo around my grandparents house when I was 15 and I moved to Richmond when I was 21 and I've been here ever since.

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

John Swett High School in Crockett I went to middle school in Crockett also.

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

I'm not currently working but I volunteer with the homeless in West Contra Costa county in the Richmond area and their surrounding cities.

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

Yes, I'm part of Faith In Action East Bay.

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County? (examples: Medical; Family; Friends; Faith community; Lack of transportation)

What keeps me here is I love Contra Costa county I love Richmond I have kids here my mom's here my grandchildren are here and all my support is here although I would like to move somewhere cheaper I love Contra Costa county.

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homeless?

I experienced homelessness most of my life since I was 15 however I didn't live on the streets on a constant basis until about 7 or 8 years ago

What is your current living situation?

I'm currently house with a section 8 voucher where I've been for the last 8 months.

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

What led me to homelessness is a domestic violence relationship. I had to get out I don't have any help from the police or family so I let my section 8 go and moved into a tent thinking I would get away from him but I didn't he followed me there too by the grace of God the Lord took him home 2 years into my being homeless so I've been working the last 5 years to get out of homelessness.

Have you been homeless anywhere else?

No I've never been homeless anywhere else

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

I think the only thing that could have helped prevent my homelessness was more help with domestic violence somewhere where me and my teenage son could go to get away.

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

I need a job working with the homeless doing what I love bringing outreach to people that are still outside helping them get inside and helping them to learn how to live again inside.

Message

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

I want people to know that everyone is not drug addicts and criminals that are homeless that everyone deserves a chance and with the right type of support everyone can get out of this situation. Some people need more support than others they've been outside along time. And not all outreach is going to look the same for everyone. You'd be surprised when people are lacking when they're homeless but there's always something that drove them there whether it be mental illness lack of a job whatever it is there was always something that happens that got them there.

What might help you or other people in a similar situation?

More programs that can help women in DV situations with teenage children

Anything else you want to say?

I want to say that everyone deserves a chance in life. Everyone deserves a roof over their head. You have no idea what kind of trauma people go through outside until you're outside. It's very traumatic.

Interview #2

Connections to Contra Costa

How long have you been in Contra Costa? What brought you here?

- Been in the county for 28 years. 1995 and became homeless here.
- I'm an army brat.
- Concord, Martinez, PH. Behind a rock quarry for 3 years, behind Sam's club for 3 years. I'm done with the creek. The whole rain and flooding is too much. You're cold and wet. That water comes up fast.
- Most of the people that I know that are homeless are from around here. They have family here. They became homeless here. You don't go anywhere. You just go to the nearest corner.

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood, street)

- I lived in Germany, Japan and San Francisco, Anchorage
- Contra Costa has everything. You're close to the cities and mountains and oceans. When I was in St. Louis, there was a lot of segregation. That was uncomfortable.

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

- N/A

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

- N/A

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

- N/A

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County? (examples: Medical; Family; Friends; Faith community; Lack of transportation)

- N/A

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homeless?

- I lived on the [Martinez] marina. It was my #2 favorite front yard. #1 was the presidio in San Francisco
- 17 years in Contra Costa

What is your current living situation?

- In the Concord Shelter. I had the option to go to Delta Landing in Pittsburg and have my own room, but I said, no. I've been in this area, I need to stay in this area. Everyone I know is here. All my doctors and everything is here. That's a problem for housing right now. I don't know how to explain that I don't want to go over the hill [Pittsburg or

Antioch]. The problem is I want to be able to do good and get better and get educated and get skills. If I go over there, I'll be stressed out and trying to figure out my way around.

- Waiting for my social security to come through to see how much income I'll have.
- I'm grateful for the shower and the laundry and that I don't have to sleep in the dirt with the rats and the mice anymore.

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

- I went from high school to marriage to marriage and never really got any kind of employable skills. I learned that I wanted to be a librarian. I like researching. I've read everything I can find on the internet about ending homelessness.
- When my relationship broke up, because we weren't married he was able to just toss me to the side and not help me out or nothing.
- I had a job, I was working at Shell station and a church to clean. Was renting a room and they decided they wanted to sell their house.
- I tried to get a studio in Monument and they said I didn't make enough. There was no way I was going to get Shell to give me more hours, so I gave up then. And that was it. I became homeless.
- It's been a long 17 years
- I like to be not seen.
- While I was out on the creek, I just had ENOUGH. I needed to do something. I never want to live in another tent again. I'm tired, my dog is tired. I just don't want to be on the street anymore.
- I'm nervous about living with someone else because I don't want to lose everything because someone else messes up.
- Ex: 6 years ago he threw a bat at my head. That was really scary. A month before that he cracked my rib. I wouldn't have fallen into that relationship if I wasn't homeless. He did keep me safe. He was very protective. He would beat people up in an instant. But then nobody protected me from him. My second ex throwing me out with two kids was worse.

Have you been homeless anywhere else?

- No.

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

- If I could have gotten a \$200-\$300 a month to help pay the rent. Just to move in would have been way too much money. Find a way to make more money or get another job. It's about getting education and job skills.

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

- I know there's not very much available [in housing]

Message

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

- People treat you like you're a loser. They really look down on us without even knowing anything about us.
- I didn't know anything about homelessness until I became homeless.
- My abusive relationship lasted as long as it did because there was no place else to go.
- There have been a lot of really good people who have come along and helped.
- There's nothing worse than being cold and hungry.
- Long term I want to go to college and be a librarian. I can't do any of that in the shelter. I can't relax, I can't sleep right, I can't eat right, I can't think. It's so noisy. I was in the big dorm shelter in 2013 and I lasted a week. I cried every single day.
- I went 10 years without hearing from my son.
- For a long time I was ashamed. I didn't tell anyone. No one in my family knew that I was homeless...for at least 10 years.
- My dad didn't want to help me if I was still living in a tent.

What might help you or other people in a similar situation?

- You don't even see half of [the people who are homeless in our county].
- I think people don't get mental health help because they're scared. Scared of finding out that they're really messed up.

Anything else you want to say?

- I see myself buying a house. No one can kick me out.

Interview #3

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood, street)

I grew up in Lake County and Concord.

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

I went to Ygnacio Valley High School and Crossroads High School for pregnant girls.

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

I work in Martinez at La Casa Ujima Family Recovery Services as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor.

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

I'm on the Concord City Council Homeless Strategic Plan Committee.

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County? (examples: Medical; Family; Friends; Faith community; Lack of transportation)

I'm deeply rooted here. However, I plan on moving out of the county the first of the year. It's too expensive here for a single mother. I don't know how anyone does it.

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homeless?

I have experienced homelessness for about 7 years in my life.

What is your current living situation?

I currently have an apartment in Pleasant Hill that Hope Solutions helped me get into. My subsidy ends in Jan; hence me moving.

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

In the past it was because of drugs and alcohol. The most recent time was because lack of affordable options and resources. Until Hope Solutions stepped in.

Have you been homeless anywhere else?

I was homeless in Lake County.

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

In the past sobriety would've prevented it, most recently, more resources to single mothers would have prevented it.

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

I'm trying to get permanent affordable housing, however, it's impossible.

Message

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

People need more housing resources. There has got to be a better way for people to get help. The only reason I got help was because I spoke up in a meeting, nobody was listening or helping before that day.

What might help you or other people in a similar situation?

People need more options. Single parents especially.

Anything else you want to say?

There has got to be a better way to get housing vouchers than sitting on a waitlist for 10 years after waiting 10 years for the list to open. We need more affordable housing.

Interview #4

Connections to Contra Costa

How long have you been in Contra Costa? What brought you here?

Grew up in Concord.

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood, street)

My Mom was a single mom and we wound up getting into drugs and addiction. Been at shelter for 8 months.

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

I went to Concord High.

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

I don't have an income. I'm waiting on SDI. It's supposed to take 6 months but taking 8 months and I haven't heard anything. Not able to work. Disabilities and plus I have the dog so there is no real option to work.

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

I plan to go to meetings again once I get out of this shelter

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County? (examples: Medical; Family; Friends; Faith community; Lack of transportation)

I just grew up here. I know everything around here. I'm familiar with it. It's easier b/c I know where everything is. I spent my whole live here. I would be lost someplace else.

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homeless?

I've been homeless over 12 years in Contra Costa. Twelve years is just the last stretch. I've been homeless a lot longer than that. First became homeless at 27, with my mom. We lost our trailer and became homeless. It was a struggle. She had 2 cats in her car. I'd see her at park. She eventually got someone to let her live with them. I became homeless a long time ago.

What is your current living situation?

I've been at the shelter for 8 months now. I'm waiting for housing. Me and my dog have been at the Concord shelter for the past 8 months

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

Been through a few programs. Tis last one was DVR and I've been clean and sober 18 months. That's th reason I'm having a hard time finding housing. It been a real struggle. I can't find a place that will take a dog. I have a housing voucher but can't find a unit that will take dogs.

Have you been homeless anywhere else?

No

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

If I wouldn't have gotten into drug addiction. I wish I had gotten sober the first time. Life would be a lot different.

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

Hope. I'm stuck in a rut right now. I have anxiety and depression disorder. I started a new medication and hopefully that helps my mood. Sometimes it's a chore just doing anything during the day. I have no income right now and that really holds you back from doing anything.

Message

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

It was rough being homeless in Concord. You always got to move around. There is no tolerance for homeless in CC. The police answer to homelessness in CC is to move to Vallejo or something like that. We're people also. Some people treat us like a disease. They're afraid to touch they feel it's contagious. We're human beings also.

I made some bad choices in my life before but I'm making good ones now. I'm really trying to get on with my life. I just need a little help. I'm just hoping for one little chance to get on with my life. Hard being homeless in Concord. Always have to move around. No tolerance for homelessness in CC. Police answer is to tell you to move out.

The shelter is really good. They're not going to kick me out anytime soon. It's just a struggle to find housing with this dog.

What might help you or other people in a similar situation?

I wish there were more openings for animals. A lot of people have pets. I don't know why I can't find a place with a pet. It's really a struggle. I shouldn't have to be separated from my dog to live somewhere. It's been me and her for the last 3 years. I've been actively searching for 18 months for a place to live. Faya is dog's name.

Anything else you want to say?

N/A

Interview #5

Connections to Contra Costa

How long have you been in Contra Costa? What brought you here?

13 years, since 2009. I was a victim of 2008 Recession; owned a 2 bedroom house in Westborough and lost my home

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood, street)

Westborough in South San Francisco, CA

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

Westborough Junior High, South City High School (South San Francisco High School) & UC Davis

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

No, not yet

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

Yes, Seeking Safety Support Group

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County? (examples: Medical; Family; Friends; Faith community; Lack of transportation)

No family around. What keeps me here is I don't have anything anywhere else. This is the county where I got enlightened as far as letting go of the dark life, like my AHA moment".

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homeless?

In 2015, I was homeless. Then I went to a program. After the program, I went to SLE, where I was hired to manage it. In January of 2023, I found myself homeless again. I was in Concord".

What is your current living situation?

Currently staying at Brookside Shelter

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

Broken heart and Separation cause my homelessness. Ex-partner cheated on me. I was asked to leave the house. I ended up in Concord. I called Mike Callanan and was referred to a shelter.

Have you been homeless anywhere else?

No

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

Sure, at that time I was using.

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

No, I feel blessed being here. I am grateful for the support and services I am receiving.

Message

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

Must have the "don't give up attitude". That's the mentality that I had and continue to have in order to get through the current phase of my life.

Interview #6

Connections to Contra Costa

How long have you been in Contra Costa? What brought you here?

Homeless in Washington

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood, street)

Crockett

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

John Swett

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

N/A

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

N/A

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County? (examples: Medical; Family; Friends; Faith community; Lack of transportation)

Resources

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homeless?

2021

What is your current living situation?

Shelter

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

Mental Health

Have you been homeless anywhere else?

Washington

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

Not did drugs

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

No

Message

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

Weed being legal is not a good idea

What might help you or other people in a similar situation?

Follow the directions of your case manager.

Interview #7

Connections to Contra Costa

How long have you been in Contra Costa? What brought you here?

45 years. Dad got transferred here

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood, street).

Pleasant Hill

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

N/A

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

Can't work. Can work part time. Disability. Can't swing hammer. Trying to get a job at amazon.

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

N/A

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County? (examples: Medical; Family; Friends; Faith community; Lack of transportation)

Friends and know my way around here

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homeless?

7 years, all in Contra Costa

What is your current living situation?

I moved into a duplex 2 months ago through a permanent supportive housing program.

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

I was union carpenter and then I was in a serious motorcycle accident. I couldn't work because of my injuries. I was living in a 40 foot boat at the marina for 5 years. Then the owner turned off the water and power and they cleared us all out. I got a spot at Delta Landing.

Have you been homeless anywhere else?

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

If the owners didn't shut down the marina

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

I'm not homeless and not living in my car. I have a toilet and a shower. Life is pretty good.

Message

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

People shouldn't judge people. People shouldn't look down on the homeless. Not all are bad. Some people are halfway decent and people don't know what.

What might help you or other people in a similar situation? Anything else you want to say?

Build more housing. Get more people to work with the homeless. Go interview people who are homeless to see what they have to say.

Interview #8

Connections to Contra Costa

How long have you been in Contra Costa? What brought you here?

I have been in this county since October 5 1991(the day I was born)

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood, street)

I grew up on 10th St across from Slicks barbershop (I believe is the name) I also lived on Walton Ln behind Church on the Rock and I also grew up on Wolverine St right off country hills behind the water park area

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

I went to Preschool next to The Hampton Inn in Pittsburg followed by Fremont and Jack London Elementary I attended Black Diamond Middle School all of middle school(4 years for me I got held back at the awkward grade of 7th) I attended DVHS followed by a quick move to Arkansas where I completed only half the 9th grade before returning to California and DVHS I then moved to Brentwood with my best friend and attended Independence High across from Liberty HS we then moved with my best friends mom to Tulare County(Visalia) and attended 2 schools there followed by a move back to DVHS (once I moved back to my dads) then Boswell continuation to round it up U never ended up Graduating though I did receive my GED online a few years back

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

I currently am not working anymore

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

I'm more spiritual though I do have a relationship with my lord and savior Jesus Christ

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County? (examples: Medical; Family; Friends; Faith community; Lack of transportation)

Honestly, I moved away from Contra Costa County a handful of times, and every time I did something I was brought me back so I feel like maybe I have a calling out here or something

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homelessness?

I remember the date exactly it was August 21, 2012 and since then I've been off and on homelessness it's crazy it's been so long.

What is your current living situation?

I live in a warehouse that I used to do security for, but Any week now it will be demoed, as well as my living situation will be demoed again

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

When I can say in short, is never take for granted, the hands that were there for when, no other hands were there for you

Have you been homeless anywhere else?

I've been homeless in Barstow, California, as well as Sacramento and a small stint in Duarte California.

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

Better decisions, guidance, and being hard lifting to myself to keep myself motivated.

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

Sincere smiles. It seems nowadays all I get are smiles based off of pity or because somebody has ulterior motives and wants some thing.

Experience of Homelessness

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

I want people to know that this lifestyle can be prevented as long as you steer clear of anything that takes away from your education or your livelihood and your family, is your only family don't forget that don't give me wrong. I love my street family but I know they're not forever but the blood that flows to my body and the blood flows through my kins body

What might help you or other people in a similar situation?

If you have a home to go home to go home before that home is no longer your home, and your longing for a place that no longer exists the feeling that will never return because we took it for granted

Interview #9

Connections to Contra Costa

How long have you been in Contra Costa? What brought you here?

My husband and I bought a house in Point Richmond for \$93,000 in 1995.

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood, street)

N/A

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

N/A

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

For income, we do recycling and odd jobs.

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

N/A

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County? (examples: Medical; Family; Friends; Faith community; Lack of transportation)

They're not going to chase me out. Someone needs to be here to change things and fight this fight. I've done the research. Once upon a time, Richmond had enough public housing...when WWII was over, because they wanted to protect property values for white owners, they bulldozed tens of thousands of units of public housing. [[Richmond: Wartime Work and Unfair Housing \(habitatebsv.org\)](https://habitatebsv.org/)]. They wanted to artificially inflate property values. And now they're blaming homeless people because they can't afford to live anywhere.

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homeless?

I moved onto a bus in November 2020.

What is your current living situation?

We live on our bus. I have a little bit of savings.

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

I sold my house to my Mom. She was getting sicker and sicker and she needed someone to take care of her [so I moved in]. When she died I found out that her husband convinced her to sign it over to him [instead of going to me]. All of a sudden she was dead and I had no place to live. I wound up moving in with a friend from the dog park. He died in 2019. He was one of the first COVID cases. His brother inherited the house. I tried to stay until he threatened to shoot my dogs. I moved onto a bus in November 2020.

We had discussed when she died that I would inherit my grandmother's house, I'd have a trust and after she died, I found out that her husband convinced her to sign it over. No one expected her to die. All of a sudden she was dead and I had no place to live.

I sold to Mom. She was getting sicker and sicker and she needed someone to take care of her. We didn't know she was dying. My stepfather murdered my mother. He poisoned her and I was exposed to the same poisons as she was and wound up getting severe nerve damage which made me disabled. Not only did that break me physically, but it made it so that I didn't want to participate in the world.

I also have a disabled daughter. I was able to get my daughter a scholarship to CIP. My mom died. We had discussed when she died that I would inherit my grandmother's house, I'd have a trust and after she died, I found out that her husband convinced her to sign it over. No one expected her to die. All of a sudden she was dead and I had no place to live. I was grieving and in shock. I wound up moving in with a friend from the dog park. My friend died in 2019 he was one of the first COVID cases. His brother inherited the house. I tried to stay until he threatened to shoot my dogs. I decided to move onto a bus. My dogs are non-negotiable. My family is all dead, you know? I moved onto a bus in November 2020.

I was on Rydin Road for 2 years. Then the city evicted all the residents without providing alternative location. The city has support but the only thing they would allow us to spend money on is motel rooms or security deposits but I have no income. If you can't pay rent, what good is a security deposit? It was like they assumed we had incomes or assumed we could get government incomes. If it was that easy to solve, I would have solved it already.

Have you been homeless anywhere else?

N/A

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

Affordable housing. I was paying \$600/month. I need retraining. I used to be a Ju Jitsu instructor.

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

I'm educated but I'm disabled.

I've been wanting to be a grant writer. I want vocational training. I keep asking people how we get it and hitting brick walls. I used to write for the mayor of SF. I'm a really good writer, I don't need that much training.

I was advocating for safe parking place. There needs to be running water, garbage, some kind of cleanliness.

Message

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

Don't blame the homeless for their situation. They have less power, less influence and less money than anyone else in society. It should not be on their shoulders to fix this problem. They did not create it. If you want people to fix the problem, you have to turn to the people who have the power to fix the problem. It's hard to keep trying when

you've never had a win. I'm pissed off and I feel like if I give up, the bad guys win, the...people who are judging people who are different as being bad. They don't want to believe that the homeless are good for anything. People in government need to start looking at homeless people as a resource instead of as a problem. There is a lot that homeless people can do that is really beneficial, that can help save not only CA but the world. There are alternative energy technologies that we do not currently have the manpower to implement. Why not get the homeless trained up to be solar energy installers and methane capture and biofuels technology. Connect with UC systems to get them to sponsor research projects, train the homeless on data collection so they're research assistants instead of homeless people and people will allow them in to the communities. People who are homeless are seen as garbage and as useless. Of course they're useless if you're not allowing them to do anything.

What might help you or other people in a similar situation?

If you stop having faith in goodness, you let the bad guys win. No matter what happens, no matter how hard it is, you have to trust that there are still good things out there. And the way to do that is to see the goodness inside of you and that way you can know that there is goodness inside of other people too. [When I met my partner] he was totally alone. He grew up in foster care...he had no family. He had no cell phone because he had no one to call. I realized I've never been that alone. It's very therapeutic to help people. Like when you're broken yourself and in a lot of pain, easing someone else's pain you can't prevent your own suffering but you can focus so much on someone else that you can forget about yourself.

Everyone has the capacity to work now and then. Maybe they don't have the capacity to work every day 9-5. I haven't met anyone that's not capable of doing anything.

Everyone has the capacity to do something. I care about the people. I see their struggle. I'm lucky. I had a family who loved me once. I had a family who invested energy and time and money when I was growing up. Most of the people who are homeless, my partner included, never had that. A lot of these people got started on drugs through their parents. It's not their fault.

Anything else you want to say?

I am willing to give my time and energy to changing the system. The job trainings programs are getting people ready for jobs that won't pay their rents. A lot of times the meetings that do accomplish something do not include the voices of homeless people.

It would be easy to solve. An RV park, a tiny home community and it would be cheaper and faster and easier than what they're doing. It's like they're doing everything except what will work. I'm working with a group that's advocating for the creation of a tiny home community. If you give them homes, they're not homeless people. Yes, there are people with mental problems, with drug problems but that's not the homeless issue. Those are different issues. If they don't create more housing, there's nothing to transition into and so people just transition back onto the streets and all that money is wasted. I do not want to support the system. Like working, taxes, bank accounts, credit cards. I don't want to put any energy into that if it's just going to be stolen and used for nefarious purposes.

Interview #10

Connections to Contra Costa

How long have you been in Contra Costa? What brought you here?

Born and raised here. Lived in the same home until I was 22. I left for awhile for college and travel but have been home for the last 8 years.

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood, street)

Parkside! If you know, you know. With the Bruno name, I have roots here! Parkside market sausage and deli sandwiches. Pittsburg City Park. Nestled between highway 4, before the huge wall was put in place, and the train tracks. I am an 80-90s child, riding bikes, dodging tumbleweeds, and chasing ice cream trucks.

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

Parkside Elementary, and I spent a lot of time at the city library as a kid. I was walking to and from school because I was only 6 blocks away. Had friends along the way. I went to Central Jr. High, which is no longer there. It's the adult center now. But I recall the bowling alley under that school. Then, Pittsburg High like all my cousins aunts uncles and parents graduated from. I am an LMC graduate in journalism and also SPIRIT graduate from CCC.

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

I work from home, in Pittsburg (even though I'm without residency). Sure, I haven't received mail for over a year now, but I work from home as a Peer Support Specialist with Delta Peers and Lived Experience Advisor on the council on homelessness.

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

I'm team captain of a pool team, representing Pineda's Bar in Pittsburg. There are 14 teams representing about 8 bars who play the pool tournament throughout Pittsburg Antioch and Oakley. This is my third season playing but first time as team captain.

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County? (examples: Medical; Family; Friends; Faith community; Lack of transportation)

It's home. My support group is here. I'm familiar with the roads and I'm comfortable here. The sounds of the tracks and the reflection of the moon on the delta waters is all I really need to be content in life. I also have a responsibility to my ancestors, who came to Pittsburg from Sicily and wanted to create a better life for their children. My family helped create Pittsburg. My heart drifts under the Antioch bridge.

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homeless?

Looking back at my life story, I became homeless in 2014 when I sold my single wide trailer for \$1,000 and a car after I graduated from college. Since then, I've either been on a friends couch, in temporary bedrooms, in my truck, or staying in hotels.

What is your current living situation?

Safe! For the first time in nearly 10 years, I have a safe living environment. But it is not home. It's not even comfortable. It's safe.

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

The first night I slept in my truck was the first time I ever felt homeless (2019) but I've been in survival mode my entire life. I knew how to survive. But, that first night, it was a choice. I decided to sleep in my truck, and to continue sleeping in my truck for over a year because I refused to go back to an abusive situation. I needed to be alone.

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

Yes, legit support. A safe place for me to rest after experiencing such an abusive situation. Instead, I jumped around just surviving and never truly getting rest. I wish I had access to a peer respite without any limited time to rest. I needed safety and kindness. Unfortunately it took over 2 years to find it.

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

Mail, a local bank account, WiFi access at home, my truck to be legal and registered with insurance. These things I cannot do because I do not have proof of residency.

Message

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

I am your neighbor. I am your cousin. I am your prayer warrior, local columnist, and a conduit of community voice that changes public policy. My experience as a born and raised child in contra costa, I have made it my adult responsibility to make sure another child doesn't experience the kind of violence I've experienced throughout my life here.

What might help you or other people in a similar situation?

Peer Respite, peer support, genuine guidance without outside influence or racist biases. Political shenanigans, hate speech and fear of the other has rotted the minds and hearts of so many people, so in all honesty, what would help is acting more humane to one another.

Anything else you want to say?

Your hurtful and hateful judgment upon those of us who are unhoused is a direct reflection of your relationship with your God. Fix it!

Interview #11

I have lived in Contra Costa all but 4 years of my life. I lived on El Monte Way in 1971 Mission school wasn't ready until 1st Grade. It was brand new, we had the best time playing every sport during the year. It was block vs block tackle football or basketball every weekend.

Can't work I have Neuropathy, 2 right shoulder surgeries and 3 left knee scopes. My hands and feet are numb and the pain is so intense you can't comprehend this magnitude of pain without living with it. It can completely take you down for days at a time. You can't hide from it and you have to be prepared to cancel anything else during your day at a moment's notice and living in a car makes it worse. If it wasn't for my daughters Jasmine 11 and Gia 9 I really don't think I would be here right now.

I have to make sure they will be ok they are still young, but them seeing me living in the car homeless, flat broke for a whole year waiting on SSDI and SSI to get approved. While my kids suffer...yes my kids suffer, no new school clothes, no friends party's or anything. Kids don't get going from 90,000 plus a year to Zero.

Can't get unemployment because I am disabled. Denied Cash Aide because I have a pension 200,000 they want me to cash out first. Pay extra taxes for early withdrawal like they don't double tax it already. Meanwhile I am losing everything I worked my whole life for. Storage going to Auction next week I owe 900. I saved it for the last 7 months but this time I can't do it and there is no one to help. We are Losing Everything!! The mortgage hasn't been paid since Feb. PGE is 18k ect ect. It's a giant black hole and I am watching everything getting sucked into it in slow motion and I can't stop it.

I go days without a shower and lucky to get a full meal a day when the food card runs out. Go to food give aways and dry beans pasta and a big package of frozen chicken. Now I just need a kitchen to cook it in. We are homeless giving me beans pasta and chicken with a smile on your face is insulting. Do you even know what homeless means. Without a Home!!! Great Answer but you forgot....without a bed, electricity, kitchen, shower, toilet, sofa, heating, AC, TV, Wi-Fi, garbage service, mailbox, cell phone sorry the free cell phones are junk phones not even worthy of the word free. How about easily hackable with decent service from 3am to 315am daily.

Why don't you be a good politician and dump your carrier for one of the freebies and give it a try. Explain to me how some of the best Doctors in the bay area say I am disabled with something that has no cure. But Social Security says well you probably are but we deny everyone 2 times just to make sure you have nothing when you get it. Well it's working and I can't.

What am I suppose to do. Watch my kids suffer....it's not about me it's about what I am trying to leave them. I raised 7 kids and loved each one the same. We are humans struggling to survive and you look at us and treat us like we are a burden to your community. I have yet to meet anyone of you unless your looking for votes. Pass Laws that help the less fortunate. Treat them equal as if they were your favorite neighbor. Walk in the shoes of a guy who busted his butt so mom could stay home and raise the kids. Just when your about to fi ally call it a career as a

steelworker the red tape of the Government slowly eliminates everything you worked for and doesn't blink a eye.

We are without homes!

Interview #12

Connections to Contra Costa

How long have you been in Contra Costa? What brought you here?

I can't remember how long I've been in Contra Costa. I used to live with my family but they kicked me out.

Where did you grow up (eg: city/town, neighborhood/treet)

San Palok, Philippines

Where did you go to school (could be elementary/middle/high/college/more)?

Albert Elementary School, San Ramon Magsaysay High School

Are you working? If so, where (geographically)?

No, I can't physically work anymore.

Are you part of any groups or faith communities? If so, what are they?

No

What keeps you here and connected to Contra Costa County?

I have nowhere to go. I have medical insurance

Experience of Homelessness

How long have you been experiencing homelessness?

I can't remember, probably over 10 years.

What is your current living situation?

Homeless, I am staying at Brookside Shelter

Is there anything you want to share about what led to your homelessness?

It was hard to find a job back then. Now, I am old I can't work.

Was there anything that you think could have prevented your homelessness?

I could've tried harder to find a job. If I did that back then, I would not be homeless right now.

Is there anything you need or want now that you're not getting?

No

Message

What do you want people in Contra Costa to know about your experience?

Being homeless is hard especially my English is limited and I don't have a family to help me.

What might help you or other people in a similar situation?

Just pray

Anything else you want to say?

Work hard so you don't become homeless.

ENGAGE

EVENTS

Contra Costa Homelessness Awareness Month

Calendar of Events

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Foster Parent Certification Event 9 am – 5 pm
5	6	7 Presentation to Board of Supervisors 9:30 am	8	9	10	11
12	13 Walnut Creek Community Forum 6 pm @ City Council Chambers	14	15 Unhoused Resource Fair 2 pm – 4 pm Concord Library	16	17 SHELTER, Inc. Thanksgiving Food Drive deadline 4 pm	18 Community Villages Brown Bag Distribution 11 am – 1 pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Anyone experiencing homelessness or at risk of, unhoused, shelter residents, all ages please join. 25+ resource providers, free haircuts, snacks, treats for pets, free giveaways.

CCPD Clean Slate 12-4pm to help with post-conviction relief



CONTRA COSTA
HEALTH



Concord Library

2900 Salvio Street 94519 | 925.646.5455
Mon 10-8 • Tues 10-8 • Wed 10-6
Thurs 10-6 • Fri 9-5 • Sat 9-5 • Sun Closed



For special accommodations, please contact the Library with 72 hours notice.



FOSTER PARENT CERTIFICATION EVENT

Interested in helping youth in your community? Learn what it takes to be a Foster Parent!

Must be 18+, financially stable, pass a background check & have adequate space to help children in need

NOVEMBER

4

9-5pm

ANTIOCH SENIOR
CENTER
"RIVERVIEW ROOM"

415 W. 2nd Street
Antioch, CA 94509

RSVP BY 11/1 to reserve your seat!
925-370-1990

www.ncfc.us

FREE LUNCH
PROVIDED
AT EVENT!

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Presents

Homeless Person's Memorial Event

A space to remember, honor and celebrate those in our community who have died.

Thursday,
December 21st
2 pm – 3:30 pm

In person
(Martinez)
and Online

Register for this event here:

<https://bit.ly/hpmevent>



Submit a name to be read by clicking here:

<https://bit.ly/hpmnames>
or texting 925-464-0152



HOW TO HELP



Donation Opportunities

These agencies provide services to people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa. Reach out to each agency directly to learn more about their volunteer opportunities and donation needs.

BAY AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES (BACS)

Bay Area Community Services (BACS) provides innovative behavioral health and housing services for teens, adults, older adults, and their families across the Bay Area.

510-613-0330

<http://bayareacs.org/ways-to-give/>

BAY AREA COMMUNITY RESOURCES (BACR)

BACR's mission is to promote the healthy development of individuals and families, encourage service and volunteerism, and help build community.

<https://www.bacr.org/get-involved>

BAY AREA RESCUE MISSION (BARM)

The mission of the Bay Area Rescue Mission (BARM) is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the homeless and needy and empower them to change their world.

510-215-4873

<https://www.bayarearescue.org/make-a-donation/>

THE BAY CHURCH COMPASSION PROGRAMS

Clean Start program offers mobile hot showers to those who are unsheltered.

650-513-1509

<https://thebay.church/connect/compassion/>

CAMINAR

Empowering and supporting individuals and families to move toward resilience, wellness, and independence.

650-513-1509

<https://www.caminar.org/donate>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE EAST BAY

Catholic Charities East Bay works with youth, children, and families to promote resilience, strengthen families, and pursue safety and justice for all

510-768-3100

<https://www.cceb.org/get-involved/donate/>

CONTRA COSTA CRISIS CENTER

The Crisis Center dedicates their services to keep people alive and safe, helping them through crises, and providing or connecting them with culturally relevant resources in the community, and have done so since 1963.

925-939-1916

<https://www.crisis-center.org/ways-to-give/>

GREATER RICHMOND INTERFAITH PROGRAM (GRIP)

Responding to the call to service, GRIP transforms the lives of homeless, hungry and disenfranchised people.

510-233-2141
<https://gripcares.org/donate/>

HEALTH, HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES (H3)

The Contra Costa Health, Housing and Homeless Services Division (H3) integrates housing and homeless services across our health system; coordinates housing and homeless services across County government and in the community.

925-608-6700
<https://cchealth.org/h3/#Donate>

HOPE SOLUTIONS

Hope Solutions heals the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to highly vulnerable families and individuals.

925-448-2004
<https://www.hopesolutions.org/donate>

HUMANITY WAY

We aspire to restore humanity by providing for people's basic needs (i.e., housing, employment, food, clothing, mental health services, etc.), whether disadvantaged, in a crisis, or in need of emotional or psychological healing.

925-247-4601
<https://humanityway.org/contact-us>

INSIGHT HOUSING

Insight Housing (formerly known as Berkeley Food & Housing Project (BFHP)) is passionately committed to a single goal: To ensure that everyone has access to food, housing, and stability.

510-649-4965
<https://insighthousing.org/get-involved/donate/>

LAO FAMILY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To advance the economic mobility and well-being of diverse communities through culturally-informed specialized employment, housing, education and support services

510-533-8850
<https://lfc.org/ways-to-give/>

MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER

Monument Crisis Center is a community-based non-profit family resource center for Central and East Contra Costa County. Located in Concord, the Center offers nutritious food, quality resources and referrals to low-income individuals and families in order to help them become stable and secure in our community.

925-825-7751
<https://www.monumentcrisiscenter.org/support-us>

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FAMILY CENTER

Northern California Family Center's Crisis Homes are licensed foster family home that provide temporary, emergency shelter for youth between the ages of 9-17 years of age. Crisis Homes shelter runaways and at-risk youth.

925-370-1990
<https://ncfc.us/>

THE S.H.A.R.E. COMMUNITY

Our mission is to share hope, abundance, resources and encouragement with members of the community and the organizations who serve them by creating ways for people to work together toward positive change.

<https://www.thesharecommunity.com/give>

SHELTER, INC

SHELTER, Inc. strives to realize a vision: rebuilding lives, one family at a time, by giving them a home, the skills, and the resources to live the life they deserve.

925-335-0698
<https://shelterinc.org/support/donate/>

S.O.S. RICHMOND

Housed and Unhoused neighbors working together on Jobs, Encampment Services, Outreach, and Safe Living Spaces as solutions to Homelessness

510-806-8650
<https://www.sos-richmond.org/donate.html>

STAND! FOR FAMILIES FREE OF VIOLENCE

STAND! For Families Free of Violence is a catalyst for breaking the multi-generational cycle of violence, promoting safe and strong relationships, and rebuilding lives.

925-603-0175
<https://www.standffov.org/donate>

TRINITY CENTER

Trinity Center provides essential safety net services and a pathway forward for vulnerable populations. We advocate for those who are seeking housing, financial stability, and wellness. Join us in our mission to uphold the values of dignity, respect, inclusion, equity, and vibrancy of life for all.

925-949-8712
<https://trinitycenterwc.org/shop-with-a-purpose/>

VETERAN ACCESSION HOUSE

The principal goals of the Veterans Accession House Program are to break the cycle of homelessness by combining housing with supportive services, increase and or stabilize income, encourage personal growth, support education, and link achievements to employment.

925-822-3175
[Donate Now - Veterans Accession House \(vahouse.org\)](#)

WAY2LOVE

We provide housing support to residents residing at the Castro Encampment in Richmond CA. We provide support and hot meals throughout the month to the homeless living in the Contra Costa County Area. We also provide basic life necessities such as but not limited to: Blankets, socks, tents, hats, haircuts, showers, water, hygiene items, hotel vouchers.

<https://www.way2loveinc.org/donate.html>

WINTER NIGHTS

We protect homeless families by providing shelter in a clean, safe, and warm environment and help families break the homelessness cycle by assisting them toward self-sufficiency and into stable housing.

925-933-6030
<https://cccwinternights.org>

HOW TO HELP: FAITH COMMUNITY

COORDINATE YOUR EFFORTS



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

Many faith partners in Contra Costa County are doing tremendous work to support people experiencing homelessness. We want to make sure that your volunteers have all the information they need to connect people experiencing homelessness with the full array of services that may be available to them. Congregations doing outreach/feeding programs/clothing donation programs can:

- Coordinate with CORE outreach to potentially go out with your volunteers to provide additional resources. Email Contracostacoc@cchealth.org or call 925-608-6716 to start this conversation.
- Make sure your programs listed in the 211 database so people seeking your type of services know about the work you're doing. Contact Blanca Gutierrez, 211 Resource Manager, blancag@crisis-center.org to find out more about how to create a listing for your program.
- Request a "Homeless Services 101" training for your volunteers! Contact Jaime.jenett@cchealth.org or call 925-608-6716 for more information.

WANT TO BUILD HOUSING?



Many congregations have property and want to explore opportunities to build affordable housing. Here are a few resources if your congregation wants to learn more about this kind of opportunity:

- Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition: <https://www.multifaithactioncoalition.org/break/>.
- City of Antioch: <https://www.antiochca.gov/community-development-department/planning-division/housing-and-the-faith-community/>

HOW TO HELP: LANDLORDS

HAVE AN OPEN ROOM?



If you or someone you know has an extra room available in their home, please contact Home Match Contra Costa. Home Match is a nonprofit shared housing program that improves lives and communities by bringing people together to share homes. Turn your spare room into an opportunity for income and new social connections! It is free to apply. Home Match thoroughly screens all participants, which includes a free background check, photo ID verification, and income verification for Home Seekers. They connect people based on compatibility and offer on-going support, even after move-in.

For more information, please email HomeMatchContraCosta@frontporch.net, call 925.956.7385 or visit <https://covia.org/programs/home-match/share-your-home/>

HAVE AN OPEN UNIT?



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Many people in our community trying to exit homelessness are connected to programs that will pay for their rent and provide supportive services to help ensure their success but are unable to find a landlord who will rent to them. As a landlord, you have the power to literally end someone's homelessness!

Benefits to Landlords Who Participate:

- Guaranteed rent
- Potential extra security deposit
- Designated staff person to act as liaison between landlord and tenant
- The knowledge that you are actively helping end homelessness in your community

For more information, email contracostacoc@cchealth.org or call 925-608-6716.



Volunteer Opportunities

These agencies provide services to people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa. Reach out to each agency directly to learn more about their volunteer opportunities and donation needs.

BAY AREA COMMUNITY RESOURCES (BACS)

Bay Area Community Services (BACS) provides innovative behavioral health and housing services for teens, adults, older adults, and their families across the Bay Area.

510-613-0330
<http://bayareacs.org/ways-to-give/>

BAY AREA RESCUE MISSION (BARM)

The mission of the Bay Area Rescue Mission (BARM) is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the homeless and needy and empower them to change their world.

510-215-4873
<https://www.bayarearescue.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

CAMINAR

Empowering and supporting individuals and families to move toward resilience, wellness, and independence.

650-513-1509
<https://www.caminar.org/volunteer-opportunities>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE EAST BAY

Catholic Charities East Bay works with youth, children, and families to promote resilience, strengthen families, and pursue safety and justice for all

510-768-3100
<https://www.cceb.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

CONTRA COSTA CRISIS CENTER

The Crisis Center dedicates their services to keep people alive and safe, helping them through crises, and providing or connecting them with culturally relevant resources in the community, and have done so since 1963.

925-939-1916
<https://www.crisis-center.org/volunteer/>

GREATER RICHMOND INTERFAITH PROGRAM (GRIP)

Responding to the call to service, GRIP transforms the lives of homeless, hungry and disenfranchised people.

510-233-2141
<https://gripcares.org/grip-volunteer-opportunities/>

HEALTH, HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES (H3)

The Contra Costa County Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3) Division of Contra Costa Health Services integrates housing and homeless services across our County health system.

925-608-6700
<https://cchealth.org/h3/#Volunteer>

HOPE SOLUTIONS

Hope Solutions heals the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to highly vulnerable families and individuals.

925-448-2004
<https://www.hopesolutions.org/volunteer/>

HUMANITY WAY

We aspire to restore humanity by providing for people's basic needs (i.e., housing, employment, food, clothing, mental health services, etc.), whether disadvantaged, in a crisis, or in need of emotional or psychological healing.

925-247-4601
<https://humanityway.org/contact-us>

INSIGHT HOUSING

Insight Housing (formerly known as Berkeley Food & Housing Project) provides a comprehensive range of housing, food, and support services to help those in need move from homelessness into a safe and affordable home of their own.

510-649-4965
<https://insighthousing.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER

Monument Crisis Center is a community-based non-profit family resource center for Central and East Contra Costa County. Located in Concord, the Center offers nutritious food, quality resources and referrals to low-income individuals and families in order to help them become stable and secure in our community.

925-825-7751
<https://www.monumentcrisiscenter.org/volunteer>

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FAMILY CENTER

Northern California Family Center's Crisis Homes are licensed foster family home that provide temporary, emergency shelter for youth between the ages of 9-17 years of age. Crisis Homes shelter runaways and at-risk youth.

925-370-1990
<https://ncfc.us/>

SHELTER, INC

SHELTER, Inc. strives to realize a vision: rebuilding lives, one family at a time, by giving them a home, the skills, and the resources to live the life they deserve.

<https://shelterinc.org/support/volunteer/>
Yareth.Rodriguez@ShelterInc.org

STAND! FOR FAMILIES FREE OF VIOLENCE

STAND! For Families Free of Violence is a catalyst for breaking the multi-generational cycle of violence, promoting safe and strong relationships, and rebuilding lives.

925-603-0175
<https://www.standffov.org/volunteer>

TRINITY CENTER

Trinity Center provides essential safety net services and a pathway forward for vulnerable populations. We advocate for those who are seeking housing, financial stability, and wellness. Join us in our mission to uphold the values of dignity, respect, inclusion, equity, and vibrancy of life for all.

925-949-8712
<https://trinitycenterwc.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

VETERANS ACCESSION HOUSE

The purpose of the Veterans Accession House is to "Help Those Who Served First." As a public benefit corporation, non-profit 501 (c) (3), we offer housing for Veterans experiencing homeless or at risk of homelessness.

(925) 822-3175
<https://www.vahouse.org/>

WAY2LOVE

We provide housing support to residents residing at the Castro Encampment in Richmond CA. We provide support and hot meals throughout the month to the homeless living in the Contra Costa County Area. We also provide basic life necessities such as but not limited to: Blankets, socks, tents, hats, haircuts, showers, water, hygiene items, hotel vouchers.

<https://www.way2loveinc.org/contact-us.html>

WINTER NIGHTS

Winter Nights Family Shelter in Contra Costa County, CA provides homeless families with children a clean, safe, and warm shelter with bedding at night and a daytime services center.

925-933-6030

<https://cccwinternights.org/volunteer/>

Contra Costa Crisis Center

Volunteers Needed!

**Serve as a
volunteer
answering
988
Suicide
and Crisis
Lifeline
Calls!**

Spanish speakers
strongly encouraged
to apply!

**Scan this
code to open
our page!**



Our Mission:

To keep people alive and safe, help them through crises, and provide or connect them with culturally relevant services in the community



For more information, go to www.crisis-center.org/volunteer/

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FAMILY CENTER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You Will Gain:

- Knowledge of non-profit organizations
- participation in recruiting Host Homes
- experience advocating for at-risk/ vulnerable populations
- Free tracking portfolio to share on universities applications

Northern California Family Center is a non-profit organization looking for volunteers to contribute to our community by enhancing NCFC's Runaway & Homeless Youth Program.

High School Juniors & Seniors Welcome!



Join Us!

www.ncfc.us

For more information about our program, Please contact:
Jazmin Caliman
jcaliman@ncfc.us
707-315-3319



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

We are unable to accept fresh or frozen food.

Help over 300 low-income families celebrate Thanksgiving!

Donate items from the list below!

Please go to: [SIGN UP GENIUS](#) to sign up to volunteer and assemble food boxes.

TURKEY—Gift cards (\$30) to local grocery stores. Please no fresh or frozen turkeys.

CANNED GOODS

Candied yams
Chicken stock
Corn
Cranberry sauce
Cream of mushroom soup
Green beans
Canned Fruit
French fried onions
Pasta sauce

DRY GOODS

Beans
Biscuit or bread mix
Gravy mix
Instant mashed potatoes
Pasta noodles
Rice
Stuffing mix
Cake or brownie mix

EXTRAS- Can opener, oven mitts, napkins, aluminum foil, kitchen gadgets.

Don't have time to shop? Monetary (cash/ check) contributions are gladly accepted and will be used for each household's turkey purchase. Contributions can be mailed to SHELTER, Inc., P.O. Box 5368, Concord, CA 94524

*ALL FOOD DONATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL NOVEMBER, 17 at 4 p.m.
at SHELTER, Inc. 1333 Willow Pass Rd. Ste., 206 Concord, CA
Questions? Contact Yareth Rodriguez at Yareth.rodriguez@shelterinc.org*

About SHELTER, Inc.

SHELTER's mission is "to prevent and end homelessness for low-income, homeless, and disadvantaged families and individuals by providing housing, services, support, and resources that lead to self-sufficiency." Since 1986 SHELTER has helped an estimated 170,000 men, women and children living in Contra Costa County and beyond. SHELTER is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, offers a comprehensive, integrated system of services ranging from homeless prevention to transitional shelter to permanent, affordable housing.

RECOGNIZE

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2023 Recognitions for “Outstanding Landlord”

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize landlords or property management companies that have enriched the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County by providing permanent housing opportunities. Outstanding efforts can be demonstrated in a number of ways including length of time involved in housing people affected by homelessness, number of units rented to individuals and/or families facing homelessness, quality of units rented, etc. Landlord or property management company must rent units in Contra Costa County to people individuals and/or families facing homelessness.

Nominees

- Donald Hassan
- Eric Sadati
- Tiffany Powell

The following pages contain descriptions of each nominee as provided by the person (s) who nominated them.

Donald Hassan

Nominated by: Amanda Jenkins, Friend

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Donald has been renting SROs to people experiencing homelessness for over 10 years. He has several different properties that he rents to people, some with multiple units and some single family homes. He is a great landlord and he works with people's situations as much as he can. He understands the struggle because he was homeless so many years ago.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness: He currently works with the city of Richmond housing individuals from the Rydin Rd and Castro encampments. The city as well as the residents seem to value his work.

Mr. Hassan does this work because he wants to help people; the money is not the driving force for him, and I believe that makes for a great landlord.

Erc Sadati

Nominated by: Jose Villa, Housing partner

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Eric Sadati has been working with Community Based Organizations for over 15 years. He has worked with a host of programs which include, HUMS, Destination Home, CoC Rental Assistance Program (formerly Shelter Plus Care) and the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Eric's portfolio includes more than 200 tenants and has more than 40 buildings with multiple units.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness: Aside from Eric having a plethora of units in the county, Eric works hard to address issues that our participants might have with their units. These issues include maintenance and or pest issues. Eric is patient with our participants and works with them when they fall behind on their rent. H-3's PSH program recognizes Eric as an outstanding landlord for his empathy and patience with our participants that struggle with their trauma, mental health and substance use.

Eric Sadati

Nominated by: Jacqueline Franco, SHELTER, Inc. employee

Supervisory District: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Eric Sadati is a landlord that assists participants of SHELTER, Inc. programs with housing. He has assisted our participants for many years. He rents approximately 15-20 units to individuals and families facing homelessness. Eric ensures that the properties are well maintained and safe before and after tenants move in.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness: SHELTER, Inc. values the partnership with Eric Sadati for many reasons. Eric understands the importance of a comfortable living environment and fosters a sense of community among our agency and participants. In essence, Eric Sadati creates a home, not just a rental property. We have families and individuals that have experienced homelessness for years and with the help of Eric, they now have a place to call home.

He works great with our staff and clients and wants to see our participants succeed in their housing.

Eric is a cornerstone of a positive rental experience for both the agency

He addresses issues promptly and fairly. He is responsive to maintenance requests, respectful of the tenant's privacy, and communicates clearly. Mr. Sadati creates a home, not just a rental property.

Tiffany Powell

Nominated by: Danaya Gilmore, Tenant

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: I nominate Tiffany Powell for outstanding land lord she saved me and my son from living outside and from an abusive relationship. We now live in a beautiful home that was fully furnished and very up to date/clean she also has other homes where she helps disabled families and single people aswell as teenagers and elderly. She DESERVES this award!!!! 🏆

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness: Tiffany Powell Powell provides fast housing for etc.... She partners with agencies that can help and provide her residents with paying rent, finding work and finding permanent housing that's why I really value what she's doing for the community.

Tiffany Powell

Nominated by: Rayshaan Johnson, Tenant

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: I have one unit I'm staying in because of Tiffany I love the space she helped me in a real time of need I was dealing with homelessness since 16 I am now 23 and because of her I get the opportunity to raise my son in a household I can call mine and I will forever appreciate her

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness: Me and my son were positively affected I value what Tiffany does because not only did she help me get a place and be stable she presents opportunities for my career helped me get my life together with working as a CNA etc.

I just appreciate Tiffany for all her hard work and consistency ♡

Tiffany Powell

Nominated by: Lee Powell, Tenant

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Tiffany Powell is a very loving and caring, and wonderful person/ role model in the community to people in need of shelter, food and looking for work and I nominate her

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness: Her difference is her places are affordable, loving and caring, she works with her tenants on whatever they need. I, my house mates and other individuals who live at her house is always welcoming and respectful to everyone. I and the community values Tiffany Powell's work

Tiffany Powell is very understanding, loving and caring and very helpful to me and all her tenants and she always wants the best for everyone and helps people in need of shelter, food, clothes, jobs and school

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2023 Recognitions for “Outstanding New Project/Program”

The “Outstanding New Project/Program” category is to recognize new projects or programs that enrich the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County. The project/program must enrich the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County in some way; does not have to exclusively serve people experiencing homelessness; and must have started after November 2021.

Nominees

- Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime (A3)
- Art in a Box
- City of Richmond Castro Street Encampment Project
- Clean Start Showers
- GROW
- Make It Home
- Muriel E. Mayes Center
- Opportunity Village
- Project H.O.P.E.
- Rapid Rehousing Concord
- The Compass Center

The following pages contain descriptions of each nominee as provided by the person (s) who nominated them.

Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime (A3)

Nominated by: Roxanne Winn, Employee

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

A3 responds to Psychiatric Emergencies. A3 stands for Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime. I would love for the Program to have the program more known to the public, such as an Advertisement on Social Media or local news. It would be helpful to also educate the public that we have a process for our response. It is very important to know that we have such a unique program to fit the type response that is needed.

For more about A3, go to <https://cchealth.org/a3/>

Art in a Box

Nominated by: Joan D'Onofrio

Supervisory District: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

Art in a Box contains 14 art supplies to be delivered to 500 homeless children in first to eighth grades. The boxes are put together through my Clayton valley/concord rotary club and we just received a grant from our district.. Five other rotary clubs pledged \$500 and \$1000 donations. In fact one of our members is donating 500 colored pencils that amounts to \$3000.

For more about Art in a Box, go to <https://pioneerpublishers.com/art-in-a-box-for-homeless-children-of-contra-costa-county/>

City of Richmond Castro Street Encampment Project

Nominated by: Amanda Jenkins, Friend

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

Housing homeless residents from Castro encampment in Richmond. They have housed over 40 individuals thru an encampment resolution grant from Gavin newsom they are still finding permanent housing for around 50 more people. They have changed so many people lives thru this program.

For more about this project, go to

<https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/4212/Unhoused-Interventions>

Clean Start Showers

Nominated by: Danielle Organ, Volunteer

Supervisory District: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

The Clean Start Shower program has served over 2,000 people facing homelessness in Contra Cost county. Our homeless communities in Martinez, Bay Point and Pittsburg rely on the clean start shower trailer 3 times a week for all hygiene needs, hot water, clean toilets, clean clothing as well as friendship and emotional support as well as support getting connected with additional services.. All of the volunteers that support the clean start shower program are amazing individuals who work very hard to show everyone matters in this county. Everyone who comes to shower is welcomed as a friend, and this has meant a great deal to many people in unfortunate circumstances.

For more about Clean Start Shower Program go to
<https://thebay.church/connect/compassion/>

GROW

Nominated by: Andrea Altman, co-worker

Supervisory District: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

GROW prepares, serves and delivers over 300 meals and hydration weekly, all the while make close and personal contact with a significant majority of Concord's homeless community. Throughout the first 11 plus months this groups of exclusively community-funded volunteers has reunited 5 people with their families, supported 4 people entering/exiting detox and helping them into rehab. Throughout the extreme winter this organization raised to provide emergency shelter for over 40 nights for dozens of people who otherwise would have been freezing outdoors or in leaky vehicles. Tue GROW volunteers continue to connect their homeless friends with existing resources and work to solve problems when existing answers aren't readily available. The organizations mission is to help people while making a positive impact on Concord, for all residents.. The work of GROW has been respected by city leaders as well as county staff, GROW is contacted regularly by case workers for assistance for county clients and organizes aid when possible. This team passionately wants to make a difference and will work with everyone that wants to be part of the solution to find ideas and make the ultimately work.

For more about GROW, go to <https://www.growconcord.com/>

Make It Home

Nominated by: Nel Ellwein, Board Member of Make It Home and regular volunteer

Supervisory District: District 2 (San Ramon, Danville, Alamo, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Canyon, Rossmoor, Parkmead, Saranap and a portion of Walnut Creek))

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

Make It Home (MIH) is a non-profit furniture bank. They take donations of gently-used furniture and home goods from individuals and community businesses and then partners with social service agencies to furnish homes for families and individuals in need. MIH recycles, repurposes, and curates gently-used, donated furnishings to transform empty spaces into homes. The organization distributes furnishings to unhoused individuals and families moving into housing, youth transitioning out of foster care, people experiencing domestic violence, refugees, and others in need. There is no other organization in the East Bay that stocks and provides furniture and curates entire spaces like Make It Home. By providing furnishings to those formerly in crisis, Make It Home not only creates a true home for its clients, but also greatly increases their confidence and sense of security. In filling each empty dwelling, Make It Home creates a true home and addresses mental health needs, physical health needs, and financial and social wellbeing for the individuals it serves. With a real bed, a good night's sleep becomes possible. A table allows a family to eat together. A sofa means comfortably hosting friends and case workers, while a desk provides a place to complete homework or other tasks. Rugs, lighting, art, and more make it cozy. Not having to pay for or finance these items reduces financial stress. The results of Make It Home's work are pride of place, dignity, and confidence, which—coupled with other support systems—lead to healthier outcomes for families, children, and adults. These efforts dramatically reduce the chance of individuals returning to the streets and puts them on a positive path. Make It Home opened the Walnut Creek warehouse in September 2022 and demand for MIH's services is growing quickly. From

inception through July 2023 the Walnut Creek warehouse has served 144 households, with 355 people (including 172 children).. Make it Home does this work while also diverting tons of furniture waste from landfill. The work we do reduces the amount of disposable waste, preserves valuable, limited landfill space and reduces CO2 emissions by reusing items.

Make it Home's Walnut Creek warehouse is the organization's second Bay Area location. Its first warehouse is located in San Rafael.

For more about Make It Home, go to <https://www.makeithomebayarea.org/>

Muriel E. Mayes Center

Nominated by: Wayne Earl, employee

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

Muriel E Mayes Center For Women and Children. The Bay Area Rescue Mission opened the Muriel E Mayes Center For Women and Children in May of 2022. This is a 114-bed, year-long residential, comprehensive, Christ-centered, multi-dimensional approach for women and women with children to address the root causes of homelessness, poverty, substance abuse, and hopelessness.

For more about the Muriel E. Mayes Center go to

<https://www.bayarearescue.org/bridge-of-hope-center-opens/>

Opportunity Village

Nominated by: Jazmin Ridley, City of Antioch

Supervisory District: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

Opportunity Village is Antioch's First Non-Congregate Bridge Housing Program designed to serve unsheltered residents in the city. The goal of the program is to help unsheltered residents achieve permanent stable housing through a program rich in support services provided by Bay Area Community Services.

For more about Opportunity Village go to

<https://www.antiochca.gov/pscr/housing-programs/ovp/>

Project H.O.P.E.

Nominated by: Neil Gang, Chief/Supervisor, City of Pinole Police Department

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

After 2020, The City of Pinole experienced an increasing number of unhoused individuals in our community and felt that there was an increased need to provide immediate resources to these individuals. This information led the City, led by the police department, to create a new initiative called Project H.O.P.E, which stands for Helping Others Through Positive Encounters. Understanding the stigma police departments faced, we knew we wanted to create a program that built authentic relationships, made each person feel invited, comfortable, and valued, and provided resources they could obtain immediately through attending the event. Project H.O.P.E focuses on connecting those individuals experiencing homelessness to vital quality-of-life resources. Project H.O.P.E is for all age groups, including those caring for pets. This event is possible through partnerships and donations from local businesses and City of Pinole community members. Individuals who attend this event are connected to resources such as S.O.S. Outreach, C.O.R.E, Love Apparent Seniors Services, Arlington and Heritage Baptist Church, McDonald meal vouchers, haircuts by Buss Down Barber, pet food from Pets Referral Center, and showers provided by Motel 6. Each recipient receives a hot meal and an Essential Needs Kit, including personal hygiene supplies, a new shirt, socks, and underwear. Although this event occurs in Pinole, these resources are available to those outside the city limits and positively impact the regional unhoused community. Over the last three years, Project H.O.P.E has aided nearly 100 individuals with resources. Although Project H.O.P.E occurs once a year, the homeless outreach efforts are continuous and a part of our mission. Our officers

have access to Essential Need Kits when encountering any individuals in need. These efforts could not be accomplished without the passion, heart, and actions of our Community Outreach Officer, Natasha Valdepena, the creator and coordinator of Project H.O.P.E.

Rapid Rehousing Concord

Nominated by: Leng Power, Staff member at City of Concord

Supervisory District: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

Rapid Rehousing Concord utilizes the Concord's Permanent Local Housing Allocation funding to focus on assisting individuals/families currently experiencing homelessness in Concord, to secure permanent housing and provide support to ensure a successful and sustained transition. Though the City of Concord has supported our community partners assisting with response to homelessness through other funding sources, the Rapid Rehousing Concord program is an important shift in how the City is directly allocating resources and designed a program that we are hopeful to sustain and grow. While Rapid Rehousing is not a new approach to homeless response, we have been able to add to the system of care and contribute additional resources to transition households into permanency.. The City of Concord recognized early on that we needed to partner with organizations that had experience in operating a Rapid Rehousing Program which led us to a strong partnership with Hope Solutions. The City of Concord also leveraged the CORE team to ensure consistency in assessment into services and additional resources should Rapid Rehousing Concord not be a viable option for an individual. Since the program started in 2022, RRC has successfully exited 12 households into permanent housing. With housing stability, the children have maintained critical educational connections and a majority of the households also report an increase in income.

For more about Rapid Rehousing Concord go to:

<https://www.cityofconcord.org/332/Homeless-Services-Prevention>

The Compass Center

Nominated by: Hope Dixon, Self

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Describe the project/program and how it enriches the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa:

The Compass Center at Contra Costa College stands as a place of hope for those facing homelessness and struggling with their basic needs while attending college. Tailored to offer comprehensive support and vital referrals, this program is dedicated to assisting individuals in their pursuit of education and a brighter future. Recognizing that basic needs are foundational to success, the Compass Center serves not just as a support system, but we hope as a catalyst for change.

For more about The Compass Center, go to

<https://www.contracosta.edu/student-services/basic-needs/>

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2023 Recognitions for “Outstanding Volunteer”

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize individuals or groups who have enriched the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County through volunteer efforts. Outstanding efforts can be demonstrated by length of involvement, by a strong concentration of service or impact of efforts.

Nominees

- Amanda Jenkins
- Ann Lawrence
- Betty Blackmore -
Gee
- Contra Costa Medical
Reserve Corps
- Daniel Aderholt
- Kelly Fossan-
McKinkley
- Logan Campbell
- Nichole Gardner

The following pages contain descriptions of each nominee as provided by the person (s) who nominated them.

Amanda Jenkins

Nominated by: Nicole Moses, Friend, bussiness partner

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Nominee's service: Amanda has been volunteering her time to help the homeless in her community for the last 8yrs. She started a Safe park called the Castro encampment which she managed solely for 2yrs and now she continues to serve on there board as well as be an advocate for the residents also she continues to advocate act as as a liaison between the city and the residents. She also volunteers with Faith and action east bay

Alot of the homeless population do not trust city officials and case workers due to there always feeling there being lied to so Amanda has helped to restore trust in many people and helped so many people with attaining placement. The city as well as the residents appreciate her work and she continues her work not for money but for the satisfaction of seeing what a difference it is making in so many peoples lives.

Ann Lawrence

Nominated by: Carmella Kowall, Friend and co-worker

Supervisory District: District 2 (San Ramon, Danville, Alamo, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Canyon, Rossmoor, Parkmead, Saranap and a portion of Walnut Creek))

Nominee's service: Ann Lawrence has been volunteering with Winter Nights for more than 10 years. Ann began as a co-hosting church volunteer. Ann's passion and skills didn't keep her in that one position for very long. She has been the lead coordinator for many years. In about 2017, she came up with the idea of the One Winter Night fundraiser. She calculated what it cost us to keep the family shelter open for one night and solicited donations on that basis. It was a great success. Ann was the powerhouse behind filing the paperwork for Winter Nights (toward the end of our 16th season) to become Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc. – an independent 501C3. She has decorated for dinner, decorated for parties, and decorated for luncheons. She has washed linens, crocheted hats, transported, donated, organized, led teams, led meetings. Ann cooked for, cleaned up after, read books too and played with the children. Ann has written letters, written thank-you cards and written emails. Ann is one of our original Board of Directors and is now Board Treasurer. Ann has written numerous successful grant requests. She has worked on fundraising, our website, and our incorporation. There really isn't much Ann hasn't worked on.

Ann has worked with our clients for many years, both at the shelter and behind the scenes. She works tirelessly for the homeless, and for our programs...somedays working more hours than our staff. She is passionate and driven to helping the homeless in our county. Ann wears so many hats in our organization that it would take 10 people to do all the things she does as a volunteer. We are forever grateful for all she does for Winter Nights and for our clients.

Ann bakes a fabulous tomato pie, is an incredible gardener, and, you can't have her.

Betty Blackmore-Gee

Nominated by: Margaret White, Co worker

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Nominee's service: Ms. Betty Blackmore Gee has been working with EAHCOM on the Nephew Project for 4 years. She interviews potential homeless individual and refer them to receive housing assistance through the project. After they are housed, Betty uses her own time and monies to take them to get identification if needed and to get a resume prepared so they can be job ready. She keeps in contact with them and is the agency's eyes and ears to know what is needed by the client. She is our continual means of contact with every client we have been able to get off the streets and housed. We have other that provide the emotion support but Betty brings the family aspect to what we do. Whether female or male, Betty is seen as the auntie of the agency.

Having Betty is the first line of contact brings in a more family aspect to our approach. Client know we are an agency but they always feel that they can share how they feel with Betty. It gives more insight to those who work with the emotional support of our clients. We know the clients value her but all of us who work with her know that we could not do this project without her valuable input.

Contra Costa Medical Reserve Corps

Nominated by: Caroline Miller, H3 Staff

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Nominee's service: Volunteers from the Contra Costa Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) supported donation and supply management for H3's CORE team during the January storms (January 11-19). With the MRC support, the CORE team was able to focus their outreach efforts and immediately provide emergency and basic needs supplies to over 600 people experiencing homelessness.

Emergency supplies coordinated with volunteers from MRC included: 600 sleeping bags and 250 food/basic needs bags.

MRC Volunteers included: Kandy Heinen, Jack Peabody, Kay Ramsdell, Mary Schreiber, and Karen Simpson.

CCH Staff (that coordinates MRC): Theresa Dade-Boone and Daniella Poy Wing

Daniel Aderholt

Nominated by: Claudia Aderholt, wife

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Nominee's service: Daniel Aderholt has been saving our homeless lives every day all over California including Antioch, Concord, Martinez, Oakland, Richmond, El Sobrante, Hayward, Pleasanton, Livermore.. he provides tents , sleeping bags, brand new clothes, hot food and supplies to survive living on the streets for the past 43 years almost everyday.

My husband Daniel Aderholt has saved 1,000's of our homeless lives and has shown our American River Homeless Crew members & our homeless population the true meaning of unity & compassion for each other in being a family and helping each other ! Most importantly he has dedicated his life in saving our homeless & their pets lives.

My Husband was honored winning Contra Costa County award last year.. but he deserves so much more for his volunteer service helping his fellow homeless people and saving 1,000's of our homeless lives each year from dying.. This man loves his American River Homeless Crew members and our homeless population more then anyone i know.. He has been working 7 days a week saving our homeless for 43 years in Contra Costa County... since he was homeless himself in his youth.

Kelly Fossan-McKinkley

Nominated by: Amelia Juner, Volunteer/friend

Supervisory District: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Nominee's service: She has formed an amazing group of volunteers who help homeless in Concord on a daily basis with basic necessities (food, hydration, hygiene, etc) and fills in any gaps left by existing agencies based in the clients' needs. Her efforts started approximately a year ago from just herself and have grown into an official non-profit organization with 40+ volunteers. She has helped homeless individuals get into rehab, housing, reconnect with family, get through the day with food, helped homeless pets, provided weekly showers, plus many other life-changing services.

The difference that Kelly's work makes for people facing homelessness is that she will help anyone in need without judgement. She listens to the needs of each individual and does her absolute best to meet them. Whether that's providing a shower chair or transportation to county services. The homeless individuals were helped in many different ways. She meets each at their level of need and helps. The homeless value the work of this individual because her work bridges a gap between existing services and being able to access them. A great number of homeless have benefitted from her efforts. They have been able to better their lives because of Kelly's efforts.

Kelly has put together a great group of individual volunteers who do all they can on a daily basis to give each homeless individual what can specifically and personally help them get to where they want to be in life. In a kind, non-judgemental manner, allowing the homeless individuals to start loving themselves enough to provide for themselves what they can.

Logan Campbell

Nominated by: Jay Howard, He's one of my constituents

Supervisory District: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Nominee's service: From 8/22 to 1/23, Logan Campbell served on the ad hoc subcommittee for the unhoused in the city of Martinez. Upon learning of the Homeless Action Coalition's imminent plans to discontinue services at Camp Hope (an encampment of unhoused individuals located at the outdoor amphitheater at the City's Waterfront) Logan Campbell got a team of drug and alcohol addiction service providers, along with mental health services volunteers to help facilitate onsite assessment of Camp Hope to determine how to support those remaining and identify available shelter or housing.

Without daily supervision and supportive services, these individuals would not have been properly housed or directed to treatment / mental health services before the planned closure date of 11/23/22.

When the residents of Camp Hope were informed that the Homeless Action Coalition would no longer be present at the camp, morale quickly began to deteriorate.

Logan's efforts in coordinating and getting the volunteers along with food delivery ensured that the camp's morale stayed positive and prevented panic among its residents.

Nichole Gardner

Nominated by: Tami Weinert, Fellow homeless advocate

Supervisory District: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Nominee's service: I am nominating Nichole Gardner. She heads up an outreach here in Antioch. She brings food, supplies, friendship, connections to resources. She leads a team of volunteers who are active all year connecting with and loving our cities homeless neighbors. She is fierce advocate on the streets as well as at city council meetings. She has helped our homeless population vote, fed them, mourned with them, celebrated their victories whether that be standing up under the battle with addiction, improving mental health, finding housing, representing with APD as encampment are torn down and belongings are lost, making sure that they have a voice. She began a Facebook page called Facing homelessness in Antioch and there our homeless friends and the people who want to come alongside have a place to meet. She is tenacious and passionate about our most underrepresented neighbors. Thank you for considering her. She is fierce, loving and undeterred.

Our entire homeless community. Her heart touches anyone who needs to be seen and who needs compassion. One woman who immediately comes to mind is Kim. She is a middle aged, dear lovely woman who found herself homeless and is someone who I have reached out to as well. Nichole rallied for her and because of that love, and deep care Kim is now housed. I gas over thr moon when I heard. There are more stories that I am sure she would love to share with you.

Nichole Gardner

Nominated by: Deborah Temple, Supporter

Supervisory District: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Nominee's service: Nichole Gardner for the past 8 years has been a force to be reckoned with in her work in supporting the homeless in Antioch. Nichole worked with the city of Antioch to provide its homeless the first transitional housing for homeless project as she advocating for safe parking and bathrooms for the homeless. She's collaborated and organized the community to supply donations to the unhoused, In addition she cooks or provides a hot meals every Wednesday where she distributes clothing and other necessities (blankets, socks, underwear, jackets, pants, tents and anything can support or serve). She provides harm reduction supplies such as narcan as well as fire safety and safety kits. She has created real relationships with people celebrating holidays and birthdays and organizing vigils for unhoused friends who pass away on the streets. Nichole supports the whole human being advocating for housing and mental health while holding community raffles to support folks with gas and grocery gift cards.

Nichole has been instrumental in the work done in Antioch regarding the homeless. She is loved by the homeless community in Antioch because she sees them and fights for them. The city, the homeless and the people who care about the homeless value Nichole Gardner because she is not just talk but she is show up.

Nichole Gardner is worthy and deserving of recognition

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2023 Recognitions for “Resilience in the Face of Homelessness”

Resilience” is defined as the capacity to withstand or to recover from difficulties or adversity. The "Resilience In The Face of Homelessness" category is designed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated resilience in the face of homelessness.

Nominated people must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County and/or have experienced homelessness and currently live and/or work in Contra Costa County.

Nominees

- Amanda Jenkins
- Brendi Velasquez
- Cristina Garrotto
- James Cherry
- Jessica Taran-Mott
- Jo Bruno
- Lance McPhee
- LeeAnn Matthews
- Loren Dalbert
- Markus Newsome
- Mimi Randolph-Wells
- O'Neill Fernandez
- Onterrio Brown
- Sylvester Carter
- Thea Mount
- Wayne Earl

The following pages contain descriptions of each nominee as provided by the person (s) who nominated them.

Amanda Jenkins

Nominated by: Nicole Moses, Business Partner, friend of 30yrs, family

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Amanda has been thru so much during her time with homelessness yet she still has found the strength to overcome her issues and return to housing and at the same time of being homeless started the Castro encampment and continues to assist the city of Richmond in housing the other 100 people from the same encampment and be an advocate for those who have no voice and help restore trust back in them with the city to make there jobs easier in getting people housed. She has made sure to never forget where she came from but to use her experience as a stepping stone to a better life. Since being housed she has taken many trainings in homeless outreach and next month will start back to school to earn her AA in sociology so she can continue doing this work for years to come. She has had a lot of loss in her life since being homeless yet rather then let it get her down she says it has done the opposite it has made her strive for better fueling her fire to be an advocate for those still struggling with homelessness.

She is now convinced she is doing God's work on God's time of passage. She never wants to forget where she has been n life or she feels she will forget where she's going.

Brendi Velasquez

Nominated by: Leng Power, City of Concord Staff supporting the Homeless Strategic Plan project.

Supervisory District: I don't know

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Brendi was appointed by the City of Concord City Council to serve on the Homeless Strategic Plan Working Group representing the Lived Experience seat. Brendi has contributed a depth of knowledge from her experience to the broader understanding and awareness of the Working Group. Brendi leads with passion and empathy which empowers others with lived experience to share their stories as well.

Brendi Velasquez has strived against the face of homelessness in numerous ways both in the work of guiding the Homeless Strategic Planning process for the City of Concord and also in her personal endeavors as she has shared her educational progress and volunteer work with various community based organizations working to form connections with those experiencing homelessness. Brendi is also a role model for her young daughter as she attends the monthly nightly meetings alongside Brendi.

Cristina Garrotto

Nominated by: Beth Limberg, colleague

Supervisory District: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

When Cristina became homeless, she believed that she was "above" the rest because she chose to be homeless in order to leave a bad relationship. She had a bachelors degree, a family who would help her, and a sense of personal power. She was independent and expected to be in and out of homelessness according to her own plan. When Cristina realized that she would be homeless longer than planned, she sought services only to find that services were not as accessible as she expected. Over time, Cristina found herself doing things that shifted her sense of herself. As things got worse, Cristina says that she recognized the need for change. The "gift of desperation" helped her to recognize that anyone could get trapped into bad spaces and that she needed to get out and become someone who could help those who were trapped. She did. She now is housed, re-engaged with her family, and employed as a case manager serving in the H3 systems of care.

When on the streets, Cristina met so many people who appeared complacent with their circumstances. It was devastating to her; these 'new friends' didn't seem to know that services were available to help. Even so, these people shared their stories with Cristina and helped her in ways she didn't even know she needed help. For this, she is forever grateful. One of the places that had tremendous impact on Cristina was Trinity Center. No matter what she did or "put them through," they were always welcoming. Without the staff support system, Cristina says she would have lost herself. They reached out to her. They sat with her through crisis. They helped Cristina know who she wanted to be when she became housed again. While at Trinity, Cristina met Alisha Jackson, a housing navigator for Hope Solutions, who set her on the right path for housing. Now, and in every job she has had since becoming housed again, Cristina uses her new resources to help those she encountered when homeless. She's gone back to those she knew to give them resources and hope.

James Cherry

Nominated by: Diana Baires, Colleague

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Veteran James Cherry has overcome monumental challenges in his personal and professional life. He started as a HUD-VASH participant and now goes above and beyond to serve Veterans as a peer support. James is the definition of resilience- he embodies all that a positive attitude and endurance mean.

James is an outstanding person, friend, and colleague. He is the type of person this field needs- someone who brings joy and passion into everything they do. His laugh is infectious and he makes friends wherever he goes because of his kind spirit and positive nature.

Jessi Taran

Nominated by: Adeline Leal,

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Her name is Jessi Taran, and she is a 53-year old woman who lives in a bus in Richmond with her partner and 2 dogs. She was living in Rydin Road and operated a food donation kiosk there until it was dismantled in September last year. She was part of the Richmond delegation that attended the Community First! Village symposium in Austin TX at the end of April to learn how to replicate this revolutionary model of tiny homes and RVs in our area. She interacted with the formerly homeless residents there so the group could have a better idea of their perspective of Community First! She is a vital member of the Community First! Greater Richmond, whose "purpose is to inspire broad support for a Community First! Village model that will provide permanent housing, care services, and peer support for the chronically homeless." Jessi is also in constant contact with her fellow former residents of Rydin Road and helps them in any way she can. She participates in the Richmond Homeless Task Force meetings and advocates for herself and these residents. She recently alerted the task force that one of the residents has gone missing, and Richmond is following up. She is a member of Faith in Action, and in a recent video her voice narrates the entire video. She has attended events and conferences in LA this year.

Within the last year she has attended several church services letting the pastors know who she is, and she still has access to food for food distribution as she continues to distribute food to the homeless residents in the area. Jessi is one of the most resilient people I know. She is exceptional in her abilities, her intuition, her persistence, her passion, and her empathy!

Jessica Taran-Mott

Nominated by: Tanya Jacobs, Community Organizer

Supervisory District: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Jessi has spent countless hours serving the unhoused communities, advocating for new beginnings, healthier quality of life, and ways to integrate one another together as one community. Jessica identifies ways to change the way of life for everyone and to make sure the voices are heard from her associates within the community. Jessi has paved the way for members of the unhoused community by ensure they have equal rights and access to everyday living.

Jesse is awesome and always speaking out loud about the community needs but also has made the initiative to be inclusive in the process. Jesse has traveled with our organization to Texas to speak and advocate for the unhoused community to returning to California to help organizers and community members be apart of solid solutions to ending homelessness.

Jo Bruno

Nominated by: April Loveland, work acquaintance

Supervisory District: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Jo Bruno has utilized her experience to serve as an advocate for the unhoused population in Contra Costa County. She went from living in her car on the streets of Antioch to graduating the SPIRIT program as Class Valedictorian. Jo works closely with H3 to provide a Peer voice for the homeless population. She is currently developing a plan to implement WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) for individuals utilizing the Homeless Continuum of Care.

Jo Bruno is the founder of Delta Peers and a writer that has produced many different pieces under the title "A Cup of Jo Bruno."

Lance McPhee

Nominated by: Shawwna Costanzo, friend

Supervisory District: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Continually ministered to people on the street, bringing many to AA meetings. Recovered from knee replacement surgery while living in his automobile. Helps others while experiencing his own mental and physical conditions.

Lance makes me smile. Points out ways to stay humble. Shows love to fellow humans whatever their path in life.

LeeAnn Matthews

Nominated by: Ady Olvera, friend

Supervisory District: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

LA.M is an amazing community leaders facing hardships as an unhoused person; accepting help to her whenever offered; and volunteering in social justice causes that could impact improving the lives of unhoused residents in Concord.

LA.M is very generous with her time, helping other unhoused individuals struggling more than her, offering rides, food, and other types of support. She is most impressive when telling her story, and how she has overcome certain obstacles and supporting other communities leaders seeking change.

LeeAnn Mathews

Nominated by: Kelly McKinley, Friend

Supervisory District: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

The system has failed her and she is still trying to better her life

Loren Dalbert

Nominated by: James Becker, Employer

Supervisory District: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Loren Dalbert was a homeless veteran, suffering from PTSD and other challenges. He joined the RCF staff team as a Lived Experience Consultant, despite doing everything he could during the interview process to not get hired. But he is an incredibly brilliant person, and has stepped into larger leadership roles at RCF Connects. He is now the Manager of our Mobility LABs initiative in Antioch, helping community resident leaders build solutions to end poverty. He was also elected by his peers to serve on RCF's Executive Staff Team, helping RCF ensure that it centers resident voices in all of its work. Loren is now mentoring his son who has secured a job with Hope Solutions, advocating for affordable housing in the community. Most recently, Loren represented RCF at the Leshner Center News Makers event, and is working with former Stockton Mayor, Michael Tubbs, on a guaranteed income program for the community he serves.

Loren has also been able to use his technology skills to help local residents build a business to provide key technology services.

Markus Newsome

Nominated by: Heather Spellman, Writer/videographer

Supervisory District: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Marcus, a 32-year-old African American male had a checked youth and was in and out of trouble with the law. His family and friends were frustrated at his choices in life and in associates, and would no longer help. He became homeless, lived on couches and in his car in Contra Costa County for several years. He finally decided he needed a change, first trying one non-profit as a cook, and then SHELTER, Inc. where the case manager, eligibility specialists and housing navigators helped him to enter truck operator school, obtain his commercial license, start working and obtain housing. He is elated he is back in control of his life and thanks the people responsible.

Marcus had drug use issues in his past but is now clean.

Mimi Randolph-Wells

Nominated by: Wayne Earl, co-worker

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Mimi Randolph-Wells' life story is a testament to the power of resilience, compassion, and the transformative impact of community support. Once facing the harsh realities of homelessness while caring for her young daughter in the confines of a car in Richmond, Mimi's journey turned pivotal when a compassionate police officer knocked on her window. That simple act of kindness led her to the Bay Area Rescue Mission, where her life would be forever changed.

Stepping into the Bay Area Rescue Mission was a turning point for Mimi. The mission provided her and her daughter with a safe place to live and showered them with the essentials they so desperately needed: a room, clothes, food, and supplies. However, the overwhelming outpouring of love, kindness, and empathy she encountered touched Mimi's heart. She recalls tears of gratitude as she felt embraced by the warmth of the mission's staff and volunteers.

Fast forward two decades and Mimi Randolph-Wells is now a shining example of how one person's transformation can become a beacon of hope for an entire community. From her once-fragile position as a homeless mother, Mimi has become a key leader at the Bay Area Rescue Mission. Her unwavering commitment to raising awareness and funds has led her to raise millions of dollars, enabling the mission to support mothers like herself who need a helping hand.

Mimi's influence has expanded far beyond the walls of the mission. Her story of triumph over adversity resonates with individuals across the Bay Area, inspiring them to take action and make a difference. With her newfound position, she has elevated her own life but also uplifted the lives of countless others. Her journey from homelessness to heroism is a testament to the power of community, compassion, and the human spirit's ability to overcome challenges.

Mimi Randolph-Wells is a beacon of hope, a symbol of resilience, and a true hero of our community. Her dedication to creating positive change has transformed her from a recipient of aid to a tireless advocate for those in need. Her legacy is one of strength, generosity, and the profound impact a single individual can have on the lives of many.

O'Neill Fernandez

Nominated by: Tomi Nagai-Rothe, Colleague

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

O'Neill Fernandez was unhoused in several locations in Contra Costa County and now lives in Richmond as the Director of Programs for SOS Richmond. He went from a six figure salary to living in a tent over a matter of months due to a personal trauma. He now works for both Lifelong Medical as an encampment health ambassador - reaching out to friends and former neighbors - as well as supervising SOS's field staff (all hired from encampments). O'Neill lives with his partner and baby daughter. Clean and sober and a model for so many transitioning into housing and into a caring environment of peers helping peers.

O'Neill Fernandez is a natural leader, public speaker and deeply caring individual who works around the clock - literally. All Neighbor Care Line calls come to him personally and he is dedicated to offering resources that help others improve their health, housing and income.

O'Neill has a unique ability to connect to ANYONE. His colleagues bring neighbors who have behavioral health issues and need various kinds of assistance, and somehow O'Neill makes a strong connection with them. Those trusting relationships are the basis for supporting positive changes.

Unhoused neighbors need housing but they really need to be reconnected, and O'Neill knows and acts on that understanding.

O'Neill was born and raised in Hawaii on Oahu, and is Native Hawaiian (and Puerto Rican). The aloha spirit runs deep in him. As evidenced in the ways that people have shown up for one another following the fires on Maui, residents of Hawaii take it on themselves to support their community.

He has overcome incredible personal adversity and says, "It is the gas in my engine." O'Neill says that all of his experiences have made him who he is today.

Onterrio Brown

Nominated by: BETTY BLACKMORE-GEE, I am an advocate and outreach worker for the homeless.

Supervisory District: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Onterrio Brown was invited by his friend to move to California to get a job and a fresh start and move in with him and his girlfriend and was homeless as soon as he arrived in California.

Onterrio is a 40 year old single father with a 12 year old daughter, whom he has custody of since she was 3 years old. After coming to California, his friend's girlfriend did not want any visitors living with them. His friend ended up moving out and went back to his home state. He introduced him to someone who wanted to help. They loaned him a car to sleep in.

They were told to call 211 for resources. 211 referred them to a safe parking program at a church in Antioch. They lived in the car for about a month and was able to move into a shared housing program for about a week. That program had to close that house because of lack of funding.

I am an advocate and outreach worker for our program called, The NEPHEW HOMELESS PROJECT in West County. NEPHEW (New Empowering Philosophies that Heals Emotional Wounds).

Another agency referred them to me. I immediately started looking for resources for them to keep them from living outside. Onterrio was introduced to someone who had a two bedroom apartment and was looking for a roommate. Our program was able to pay Onterrio portion of the rent for 4 months. I then referred him to another agency and they were able to help pay his rent for the next 6 months.

While going through all of these challenges, Onterrio was able to find a job soliciting roofs for a roofing company knocking on doors in the cold and raining season. After a few months, he got a better and permanent and a more stable job.

I am so proud of Onterrio because of his resilience, he now have a better job, found a 2 bedroom apartment and moved in on July 1, 2023. A reliable car for work and his daughter, Terrianna stable in school.

His desire is to find a trade school to learn a professional skill to better himself.

Sylvester Carter

Nominated by: Nicole Green, Program Collaboration and support

Supervisory District: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

SJC is a transitional house located in East Contra Costa County and provides housing for the homeless population. Sylvester Carter owns SJC and he demonstrates resilience through self-awareness when working with the justice impacted population. The owner views challenges as learning opportunities. With his lived experience he is able to provide housing support for those in need and helping participants understanding how to take a positive perspective on situations. The owner Sylvester Carter supports the community and has compassion for others, shows commitment to supporting the homeless population that is justice impacted.

SJC works with community partners such as BACS, Shelter Inc, Hope Solutions and community programs working with the homeless population. Mr. Carter provides housing support for those in need with wrap around services. He has been a great housing resource for those facing homelessness within the county.

Thea Mount

Nominated by: Nichole Gardner, Friend

Supervisory District: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

When I first met Thea about 7 years ago she was homeless and living on the streets of Antioch with her partner. She was battling a drug addiction and living in her car. Once our group started advocating for homeless rights and working with the homeless in the community she was the first to join us at council meeting to advocate for herself and her friends. She also organized her friends living on the streets to do encampment cleanups around the city. She was able to get herself clean a few years back while still living in her car and she got a job. She got into the delta landing program and obtained housing and has maintained housing and a job for a couple of years now. She still gives back and volunteers to serve her friends that are still living on the streets. I can not think of anyone who is more becoming of overcoming being homeless on our streets and getting their life back on track.

Wayne Earl

Nominated by: Stephanie Sewell, Work Collogue

Supervisory District: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Nominee's personal accomplishments that reflect resilience and courage.

Wayne Earl is a remarkable individual who emerged from the depths of addiction and homelessness to become a beacon of hope in the San Francisco East Bay community. Wayne's journey began on the streets, where he battled the grip of drug addiction, struggling to find a way out of his despair. One day, Wayne realized he needed help to break free from his destructive cycle. That moment of clarity led him to the Bay Area Rescue Mission, a lifeline that would transform his life. Through their comprehensive program, Wayne faced challenges head-on, determined to rebuild his life from the ground up. Today, Wayne is a shining example of triumph over adversity, a source of inspiration for his unhoused neighbors. He conquered his own demons and has become an integral part of the Bay Area Rescue Mission. Wayne's dedication shines through in his leadership of crucial projects and his representation of the mission within the county. Beyond his full-time role, Wayne's impact extends even further. He selflessly runs a church serving the community in need, embodying compassion, and understanding from his own experiences. Wayne's journey reminds us that the human spirit is resilient, capable of transformation, and boundless kindness. His unwavering care for people is a testament to the lessons from his past, proving that the most beautiful expressions of humanity can arise from the darkest circumstances. Wayne would say, "All Glory goes to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."



To access homeless services:

1) Call 211

2) Go to:

<https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/help.php>

To learn more about homeless services and the CoC:

Visit: <https://cchealth.org/h3/>

Email: contracostacoc@cchealth.org

Call: 925-608-6700