



STAFF REPORT FROM THE CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

***Contra Costa County Homeless System of Care Quarterly Report for  
Quarter 4 of 2022 (October-December)***

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Dear Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

This quarter brought concrete work plans for a number of our committees, system changes to better amplify the voices of people with a lived experience of homelessness and many wonderful tools and events to mark Homelessness Awareness Month. Next quarter we look forward to kicking off a number of new and/or ad hoc committees to keep the work moving and seeing what wonderful programs and services come to fruition with the Measure X funding opportunities.

Sincerely,

Juno Hedrick, Chair of the Council on Homelessness

and

Jo Bruno, Vice Chair of the Council on Homelessness



### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

### SYSTEM FUNDING

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

#### FEDERAL

**HUD Unsheltered NOFO:** In late June, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a first-of-its-kind package of resources to address unsheltered homelessness and homeless encampments, including funds set aside specifically to address homelessness in rural communities. Contra Costa submitted an application and is waiting for more information about awards.



**Housing Stability Voucher Program:** In October, Housing Authority of Contra Costa County, with support from the CoC, submitted a Letter of Intent to HUD to request Housing Stability Vouchers. These vouchers will be prioritized for Public Housing Agencies and CoCs who are awarded through the HUD Unsheltered NOFO. These vouchers are highly sought after and are competitively awarded. Contra Costa submitted an application and is waiting for more information about awards.

### STATE

**Bringing Families Home:** The Bringing Families Home Program, funded by the State of California Department of Social Services (CDSS), will provide housing supports and services to referred families receiving Contra Costa County child welfare services who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, thereby increasing family reunification and preventing foster care placement. The RFQ process took place in October and November 2022 and contract was awarded to Caminar. Services are slated to start in February 2023.

**Homeless, Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP):** HHAP Round 3 is a \$1 billion grant through the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH) that provides local jurisdictions, including federally recognized tribal governments, with flexible funding to continue efforts to end and prevent homelessness in their communities. HHAP Round 4 was submitted in November and additional revisions were requested to HHAP 3 applications statewide, including Contra Costa County.

**Homekey 3:** The RFP release date was pushed from September 2022 to March 2023. H3 will apply when the RFP is released.

### LOCAL

**Measure X:** The Council heard updates from Health, Housing and Homeless Services about the RFP process for Measure X funding allocated for housing/homeless services.

## SYSTEM INITIATIVES

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

**Equity:** The Equity Committee finalized a Work Plan to achieve this 2023 goal: *Create accessible information, outreach, and educational materials to engage hard to reach or previously unreached communities in Contra Costa County.*

**Engagement of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness:**



- **Recruitment:** The Council actively recruited for applicants for the Lived Experience seat and Youth Representative on the Council and received 10 qualified applications (plus 3 more that did not complete the application process) for the Lived Experience Advisor seat and one for the Youth Representative seat. Staff added two “Office Hours” (one remote and one in person) to support people with the application process. The Council ultimately selected Jo Bruno and Juno Hedrick for Lived Experience Seats and Anastasia Padilla for the Youth Representative Seat.
- **Homelessness Awareness Month:** A number of people with lived experience of homelessness were deeply involved in this quarter’s Homelessness Awareness Month activities, including helping develop the toolkit; conducting and being the subject of interviews for the short video; participating in the panel discussion; nominating and being nominated for candidates for the Thriving in the Face of Homelessness recognition category; and the Chair and Vice Chair, both who have a lived experience of homelessness, led the presentation to the Board of Supervisors.
- **Policies and Procedures:** H3, as staff to the Council and other CoC activities made progress researching and developing policies and procedures, including a compensation policy, for engaging people with a lived experience of homelessness in system level work.

**HMIS Evaluation:** H3 contracted with Focus Strategies to assess the configuration and use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to ensure that HMIS workflows, data and reporting enable providers to be successful with new program models and performance-based contracting. H3 and Focus Strategies worked on data collection through surveys, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews with partner providers, H3 staff, and people experiencing homelessness to get a robust understanding of challenges and opportunities in the HMIS. H3 and Focus Strategies share initial findings with the HMIS Policy Committee in November and discussed recommendations. In December 2022, Focus Strategies provided H3 with the final report based on feedback gathered through data collection activities.

**Homelessness Awareness Month:** To mark Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Council on Homelessness supported the following activities:

- Development of a 100+ page toolkit (<https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/pdf/Homeless-Awarenes-Toolkit-2022.pdf> )
- Creation of a short video amplifying the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness (<https://express.adobe.com/video/kP6MsvYeoN4te>
- Recognition of over 40 outstanding individuals and agencies impacting homelessness (<https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/advocate.php>)
- Presentation about Homelessness Awareness Month and sought adoption of a Resolution Declaring November Homelessness Awareness Month to the Board of Supervisors on 11/8.
- Hosting of a CoC Learning Hub on 11/14 called "R.O.O.T.S: Reflecting On Our Truth And Stories", a panel discussion featuring people with lived experience in our community. A



recording of the Learning Hub can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CeQjhH7gk> .

- Hosting of a Homeless Person's Memorial Event on 12/21 with a number of community and faith leaders (<https://youtu.be/7Cvv9pAbCkc>)
- Requested the Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution declaring 12/21 Homeless Person's Memorial Day.

**Monitoring:** Homebase is leading the 2022 monitoring process for 19 Continuum of Care-funded projects and will ensure grant activities are following the Department of Housing and Urban Development rules and regulations; improve individual program performance; and increase provider capacity regarding Continuum of Care compliance and financial management. An update on the Monitoring process was provided to the Oversight committee in November.

**Performance Based Contracting:** After training providers on how to use their performance Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3) began monitoring performance of programs within the program models through the performance dashboards created in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) by the Research, Evaluation and Data (RED) team at H3 with the first quarterly report due in December.

### COLLABORATIONS

**Homeless Services-Workforce Development Integration (H-WIN)-** These quarterly provide an opportunity for people working in Homeless Services and Workforce Development in Contra Costa to connect with and understand each other's resources and services. One meeting was held this quarter (10/12/22), with 30 partners in attendance.

### REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

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

**PATH Innovations Committee:** The Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing (PATH) Innovations Committee of the Council on Homelessness refined their work to examine prevention and rapid exit resources as mechanisms to reduce unsheltered homelessness. The committee also engaged with prevention and rapid exit providers to understand referral processes, program components, and outcomes. The committee drafted and finalized a work plan for 2023 to identify priorities and activities for the upcoming year.

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



**GOVERNANCE/REPORTING**

- The Chair and Vice Chair presented the Q3 Council on Homelessness report, proposed revisions to bylaws and proposed slate of new Council members at the November FHS Committee meeting.
- The revised bylaws were approved by the Board of Supervisors in December 2022 and included the conversion of Public Safety #1 Seat to Lived Experience Advisor #2 Seat; refined transparency and equitable practices section with emphasis on engagement of people with a lived experience of homelessness in Committee and Working Group activities; revised terms of Chair and Vice Chair from 2 years to 1 year to account for staggered expiration of seats and revised/Clarified Committees and Working Group names and descriptions.
  - Governance Committee will convene in Q1, 2023 and will agendize discussion of seat composition, including possible addition of new seats, such as a Landlord Representative seat, as suggested by this Committee during our last Quarterly report presentation.
- The proposed new Council members were approved by the BOS on 12/13/22. (See Appendix B for Roster with District information included, as requested).
- Submitted the annual Advisory Committee report to Clerk of the Board in December 2022.

**MEETINGS, TRAININGS AND EVENTS**

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

Committee	Purpose
Equity Committee	Create accessible information, outreach, and educational materials to engage hard to reach or previously unreached communities in Contra Costa County.
HMIS Policy Committee	Develops and shares updates on HMIS policies and practices, compliance, and troubleshooting; Plans technical assistance and training; Informs standards of practice and monitoring
Homelessness Awareness Month Planning Committee	Developing materials, tools and events to mark Homelessness Awareness Month in November.
Nominating Committee	Reviews and revises application process for potential new CoH members and provides recommendations to the full Council.



Oversight Committee	Reviewing and assessing the development, implementation, and improvement of the CoC, Coordinated Entry System, HMIS database, and system outcomes
PATH Innovation Committee	Work towards the goal of reducing unsheltered homeless in Contra Costa County by 75% by 2024

Trainings

- Trauma Informed Care (10/24/22)
- Motivational Interviewing (11/28/22)
- Case Management (12/12/22)

Events

- CoC Provider Meetings (3)
- CoC Learning Hub: "R.O.O.T.S: Reflecting On Our Truth And Stories (11/14)
- H-WIN meeting (10/12)
- Homeless Person’s Memorial Event (12/21)

The recordings, minutes and materials for trainings and meetings can be found on the H3 website<sup>1</sup> and on the County agenda center<sup>2</sup>, and a calendar of upcoming meetings and events can be found on the H3 website.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Direct county departments to build on partnerships created through Measure X, Homekey, and CalAIM to maximize funding toward resources dedicated to people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa.

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

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



**APPENDIX A**

**Commonly Used Acronyms and Terms**

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





## COH QUARTERLY REPORT

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

### *Contra Costa County COVID-19 Resources:*

*Please see below for additional resources on COVID-19.*

- *Health Services COVID Data Dashboard-* <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/dashboard>
- *Health Services Homeless Specific Data Dashboard-* <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/homeless-dashboard>
- *Health Services COVID Updates-* <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/health-services-updates>
- *Health Services Homeless-Specific COVID Resources -*<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-the-homeless>



**APPENDIX B**

**Council on Homelessness 2023 Members**

	Seat Name	Appointee	Affiliation	District Live	District Work	Term Ends
1.	Affordable Housing Developer Representative	Iman Novin	Novin Development Consulting	4	All	12.31.24
2.	Behavioral Health Representative	Margaret Schlitz	Portia Bell HumeCenter's West County FSP program	N/A	1	12.31.24
3.	City Government Representative	Teri House	CDBG Consultant, City of Antioch	5	3 & 5	12.31.24
4.	CoC/ESG Program Grantee Representative	Leslie Gleason	Executive Director, Trinity Center	N/A	4	12.31.23
5.	Community Member Representative	Keva Dean		1	5	12.31.23
6.	Education and Vocational Services Representative	Alejandra Chamberlain	Homeless Education Liaison, Contra Costa Office of Education	3	All	12.31.24
7.	Emergency Solutions Grants Representative	Gabriel Lemus	Contra Costa Department of Conservation and Development	5	All	12.31.24
8.	Employment and Human Services (EHSD) Representative	Angela Bullock-Hayes	Division Manager, EHSD	3	4	12.31.23
9.	Faith Community Representative	Wayne Earl	Pastor, Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship	1	1	12.31.23
10.	Health Care Representative	Mia Fairbanks	Healthcare for the Homeless	5	All	12.31.24
11.	Homeless Service Provider Representative	Deanne Pearn	Executive Director, Hope Solutions	2	All	12.31.24
12.	Lived Experience Advisor #1	Juno Hedrick		1	N/A	12.31.24
13.	Lived Experience Advisor #2	Jo Bruno	Person with lived experience	3	3	12.31.24
14.	Public Housing Authority Representative	Tony Ucciferri	Special Assistant to the Executive Director, Housing Authority of County of Contra Costa	4	5	12.31.23



## COH QUARTERLY REPORT

15.	Public Safety Representative #2	Shawn Ray	Lieutenant, San Pablo Police Department	2	1	12.31.23
16.	Reentry Services Representative	Pat Mims	Director, Reentry Success Center	1	1	12.31.23
17.	Veterans Administration Representative	Jai De Lotto	Northern California VA Healthcare System	N/A	All	12.31.24
18.	Workforce Development Representative	Janae Thomas	Swords to Plowshares	N/A	All	12.31.24
19.	Youth Representative	Anastasia Flores	TAY with Lived Experience	1	N/A	12.31.24