Contra Costa County Homeless System of Care Quarterly Report for Quarter 1, 2025 (January - March)

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 - 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 monitor the impact of the new federal administration on Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) funding.

FEDERAL

HUD NOFO: HUD released the first round of award decisions in early 2025. Contra Costa CoC was awarded over $22 million dollars for all renewal projects and one new rapid rehousing project to serve survivors of domestic violence. In March 2025, HUD began issuing grant agreements for projects with new requirements such as compliance with Executive Orders. In alignment with guidance from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the CoC recommends

grantees consult with legal counsel to understand the impact of these changes. The Council received updates on federal funding during monthly meetings.

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.

CoC Participant Satisfaction Survey: These annual surveys were conducted in the month of March across the 7 CoC Program Models (read about the CoC Program Models and Performance Standards here: 638258163191470000). Results analyzed and shared in quarter 2.

Communications:

- Published Frequently Asked Questions page on H3 website (Frequently Asked Questions About Homelessness | Contra Costa Health)
- Hosted first "Homelessness 101" community forum at San Pablo Library in partnership with Contra Costa Library Adult Education program (3/18). Next event planned for 5/19 from 6 pm – 7:30 pm at Pittsburg Library (Homelessness 101: Community Awareness Session | Events | Contra Costa County Library)

Equity: Progress towards the 2025 Work Plan included:

1. Monitor metrics related to equity in the CoC: Dashboard still being developed
2. Provide input to CoC policies and procedures: March: received an update on recommendations from the Governance Committee
3. Learn about topics and programs impacting equity in homelessness response program: Received the following presentations-"Equity Committee 101" presentation to recap the committee's history; "Funding 101" to provide an overview of funding within the Continuum of Care; CoC/CES 101 and Data Basics/HMIS 101.
4. Develop equity dashboard: Outlined dashboard framework as a tool to track and visualize data for a clearer understanding of equity in service delivery, discussing its goals, audience, and potential data. Further discussions refined its purpose for Equity Committee members while considering partners like Behavioral Health, identifying key disparities such as income, language, location, and positive outcomes.
5. Leverage partnerships to increase participation in Equity Committee, particularly PWLE: In progress
6. Develop projects and recommend priorities within CoC to address root causes of racial disparities in homeless system of care: In progress

Engagement of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness (PWLE):

- Housing Needs Assessment Process: hosted input session with Youth Action Board and group of system utilizers, HNA reDesign Steering Committee includes 3 PWLE.
- Staff hosted monthly support meetings for Council members with lived experience of homelessness
- Engaged multiple people with lived experience in Point in Time count planning and execution.

Point in Time Count (PIT):
- More than 150 volunteers and staff were trained and participated in the community observational count portion of the PIT held on the morning of Thursday, January 30, 2025.
- Completed survey gathering process.

Youth and Young Adult Homelessness
H3 and the Youth Action Board (YAB), a group of transitional aged youth with a lived experience of homelessness, remained actively engaged in advancing our youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness response. Q1 activities include:

- **YYA Community Strategic Planning:** In February, H3 launched a year-long effort to implement the **YYA Homelessness Strategic Plan**. This plan outlines 14 first-tier and 10 second-tier actions across eight objectives, directly addressing the findings from our recent **needs assessment** and the voices of YYA and providers. This work will set us on a path to developing a longer-term and comprehensive coordinated community plan.
- **CoC Initiatives:** Throughout Q4, YAB members participated in key CoC initiatives including the Housing Needs Assessment Redesign Steering Committee, the Housing and Homelessness Funding RFP Panel, and the YYA Community Strategic Planning.
- **Youth Empowerment Summit:** On March 2-4, H3 staff, YAB members, and RYSE Center partners attended the Youth Empowerment Summit in Sacramento. The event brought together young people, community leaders, and service providers from across California to collaborate on preventing and ending youth homelessness.
- **YAB Meetings and Leadership Development:** The YAB held nine hybrid meetings at H3 offices in Concord and the RYSE Center in Richmond. Meetings focused on finalizing YAB bylaws, electing core leadership, creating restorative space, and the formation of three subcommittees: Communications, Outreach & Retention, and Data & Research
- **YHDP Application:** The HUD NOFO for the FY 2024 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) was published on January 14, 2025, but later removed on January 28. H3, YAB, and partners remained committed to reapplying once YHDP is re-published.
- **Community Partnerships:** The YAB continued collaboration with key partners, including Rainbow Community Center and the Alameda County YAB.

- **YAB One-Year Anniversary:** In March, the YAB celebrated its official one-year anniversary with a community building and recognition of all the progress made.

GOVERNANCE/REPORTING

- The Brown Act requirement for in person attendance continues to create barriers to participation for a number of members in seats that require lived experience.
- Hosted COH Orientation on 1/9.
- At the February Council on Homelessness meeting, the Council elected Nicole Green as Chair and Juno Hedrick as Vice Chair.
- The Governance Committee met in February and March to review bylaws and consider updates and improvements.
- Polls conducted at the beginning of each Council on Homelessness regular meetings capture data on # of Council meetings previously attended, lived experience of homelessness and race/ethnicity of attendees. (See Appendix B for Q4 averages.)

MEETINGS, TRAININGS AND EVENTS

Council on Homelessness (COH) Meetings: The Council on Homelessness held three (3) regular business meetings this quarter. 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.
Governance Committee	Review and revise the Governance Charter and Bylaws to increase CoH efficiency and impact.
HMIS Policy Committee	Develops and shares updates on Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) policies & practices, compliance, & troubleshooting. Plans technical assistance & training.
Nominating Committee	Reviews application tools and process for potential new CoH members.
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% .

Trainings

- Meeting the Housing Needs of People With Criminal Records (1.13.25)
- Housing First (2.10.25)
- Supporting Families with Minor Children and Unaccompanied Minors (3.10.25

Events
- CoC Provider Meetings (3)
- Homeless-Workforce Integration Network field trip to Lao Community Family Development location in San Pablo (2/26)

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Publicize CCH/Contra Costa Library "Homelessness 101" events in district newsletters when quarterly event falls in their district.

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[1] Trainings | Contra Costa Health (cchealth.org)
[2] https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/agendacenter

APPENDIX A

Commonly Used Acronyms and Terms

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

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

APPENDIX B

Poll Question Answers Q1

How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended?	Q4 avg
This is my first meeting	16%
I've attended some meetings	24%
I've attended a lot of meetings	45%
I prefer not to answer	0%

Do you have lived experience of homelessness?	
Yes, currently	6%
Yes, within the past 7 years	4%
Yes, more than 7 years ago	19%
No	73%
I prefer not to answer	0%

What best describes your racial identity?*	
African American/Black	12%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	10%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	7%
Hispanic/Latinx	21%
White	40%
Multi-racial	7%
I prefer not to answer	1%
I describe myself in another way	2%

*This category allows people to select multiple options