

November as Homelessness Awareness Month Resolution 2024

WHEREAS, the month of November is recognized as Homelessness Awareness Month in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the proclamation is acknowledge and raise awareness of the problems faced by youth, families and individuals at risk of and experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County; and to encourage support for the Contra Costa Continuum of Care focused on ending homelessness, funding permanent housing solutions, promoting program access, and optimizing self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, 14,002 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa in 2023 (a 28% increase since 2019)¹; and

WHEREAS, homelessness is more closely associated with housing availability, and housing costs, than with poverty²; and

WHEREAS, in Contra Costa, renters in Contra Costa County need to earn \$43.63 per hour - 2.5 times the City of Richmond minimum wage - to afford the average monthly asking rent of \$2,269³; and

WHEREAS racial disparities continue to be evident for those experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa, with Black/African American/African people represented four times higher, and people with Multiple Races almost four times higher in our system of care compared to the county population⁴; and

WHEREAS there was an 89% increase in households with minor children⁵, a 71% increase in the number of seniors aged 65+, and a 36% increase among Transition Aged Youth (ages 18-24) since 2019,⁶ and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Continuum of Care (CoC) unites over 50 organizations, cities, towns and individuals with a shared mission to prevent and end homelessness in Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Homelessness is both an Advisory Board to the Board of Supervisors and the planning body for the Contra Costa Continuum of Care and coordinates the community's policies, strategies, and activities toward preventing and ending homelessness in Contra Costa County and welcomes community participation and engagement; and

¹ 2023 Contra Costa Continuum of Care Annual Report:

cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/30782/638618317554030000, p. 4.

² Colburn, G., & Aldern, C. P. (2022). *Homelessness is a housing problem: How structural factors explain U.S. patterns*. University of California Press.

³ CONTRA COSTA COUNTY 2024 Affordable Housing Needs Report, California Housing Partnership [Contra-Costa Housing Report.pdf \(chpc.net\)](#)

⁴ 2023 Contra Costa Continuum of Care Annual Report:

cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/30782/638618317554030000 p. 48

⁵ Ibid p.6

⁶ Ibid p. 45

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WHEREAS, the Health, Housing and Homeless Services Division of Contra Costa Health, which staffs the Council on Homelessness, is committed to making homelessness short-lived and non-recurring by ensuring an integrated system of housing and support services for persons experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Contra Costa County hereby proclaims November as Homelessness Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors affirms its commitment to ensuring Contra Costa County continues to build and maintain a well-resourced, coordinated, and supportive Continuum of Care to meet the complex and multifaceted needs of people experiencing homelessness and ultimately end homelessness in Contra Costa County.