

6. Point-In-Time Count Committee Update

Janel Fletcher, H3

7. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

Juno Hedrick, Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor and Anastasia Lockwood, YAB Member and Outreach & Retention Subcommittee Facilitator

8. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

Council on Homelessness Members

9. Funding Updates

Jamie Schechter and Christy Saxton, H3

10. (ACTION ITEM) DISCUSS and APPROVE 2025 Quarter 3 Council on Homelessness Recommendations for Report to County Board of Supervisors

Jamie Schechter, H3

11. Update: Website Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Jamie Schechter, H3

12. Announcements

All

The next meeting is currently scheduled for 10.30.25

Adjourn

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 2400 Bisso Lane, D2, Concord during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: Council on Homelessness: contracostacoc@cchealth.org



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-4015

Agenda Date: 10/2/2025

Agenda #:

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Agenda and Slides for 10.2.25 COH meeting

Presenter:

Contact:

Information:

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

October 2, 2025 from 1:00-3:00

WELCOME

Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Services Representative*

Purpose of the Meeting: These are monthly meetings for the Council on Homelessness (COH) to conduct the business of the Council. The Council is the planning body that coordinates the community's policies, strategies, and activities toward preventing and ending homelessness in Contra Costa County.

IN-PERSON / HYBRID MEETING

- As of March 1, 2023, all Council on Homelessness Meetings and CoH Committee meetings are required to convene in person or in a hybrid format
- All CoH members must attend in person unless using a “just cause” exemption

Just Cause

- A need to care for a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner
- A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person;
- A need related to a physical or mental disability that is not otherwise accommodated for; or
- Travel while on official business of the body or another state or local agency.

Emergency Circumstances

- A physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE EXEMPTION

HYBRID MEETING NORMS

Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Services
Representative*

HYBRID MEETING NORMS CONT.

1. Raise your hand (actual or virtual) before speaking
2. Say your name before speaking and try to speak as clearly as you can
3. 2-minute timer for public comments
4. Make and take space – consider your privilege and the other voices who are in and not in the room
5. Minimize distractions like side conversations and cell phone use
6. Maintain a safe and respectful environment, even when disagreeing
7. If in-person meeting is interrupted for an emergency, the meeting will be suspended or cancelled, case-by-case basis.
8. An individual may be asked to leave should they behave in a manner that threatens the safety of the group or does not honor these meeting norms.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Services
Representative*

INTRODUCTIONS

Council Members: Please unmute and share your name, pronouns, seat, and agency (if applicable)

Community Members: Please introduce yourself in the chat.

***Purpose of the Meeting:** These are monthly meetings for the Council on Homelessness (COH) to conduct the business of the Council. The Council is the planning body that coordinates the community's policies, strategies, and activities toward preventing and ending homelessness in Contra Costa County.*

POLL – WHO'S IN THE ROOM?

- 1) How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended?
- 2) Do you have lived experience of homelessness?
- 3) What best describes your racial identity?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Services
Representative*

CONSENT CALENDAR

Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Services
Representative*

CONSENT CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

- Items on the consent calendar are **generally non-controversial and do not require much, if any, discussion**
- Enables grouping such items together and **deciding on them at one time**
- Council members and the public can **remove an item** from the consent calendar if they **desire to discuss the item by informing the Chair**

Source: <https://www.ca-ilg.org/resource/concept-consent-calendar>

ACTION ITEM

Approve the **consent calendar** items as listed:

- Approve minutes from the September 4, 2025 Council Meeting
- Approve staff report for the October 2, 2025 Council Meeting



CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) UPDATE

CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity Update –
Mark Mora, *Homebase*

COC NOFO UPDATE

Mark Mora, *Homebase*

BACKGROUND: HUD COC NOFO

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program
- HUD releases a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), competition for approximately 450 Continuums of Care
- FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 CoC NOFO:
 - First time two-year NOFO cycle (was annual competition)
 - Released on July 31, 2024, and made approximately \$3.5 billion available nationally
 - Contra Costa was awarded \$22.3 million in FY 2024

UPDATE: HUD COC NOFO

- HUD has indicating that there will be a 2025 CoC NOFO competition but it has not yet been released
- *If* there is a 2025 competition:
 - We do not when the NOFO will be released (usually any time from July to October)
 - The competition window might be shorter than usual
 - Expect significant changes to funding requirements → new HUD priorities
- Flag for Council – the NOFO timeline may not allow time for typical Council review and approval of competition process revisions
 - In this scenario, the revisions would be finalized by the Funding Committee

COC NOFO WORK GROUP

- Work group of the Funding Committee - tasked with improving the CoC NOFO competition process
- Work group meetings:
 - Goals: streamlining process, aligning with new HUD priorities
 - 8/19: Renewal Housing Project Scoring Tool
 - 9/16: Renewal Housing Project Scoring Tool + Policy Prioritizing High Performing Renewal Projects
 - 9/30: New Housing Project Scoring Tool
- We encourage all stakeholders (especially providers) to stay tuned and plan to participate

COMMITTEE REPORT OUTS

**Homelessness Awareness Month Committee
(ACTION ITEM)**– Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry
Services Representative;*

Youth Advisory Board – Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair
and Lived Experience Advisor;* Anastasia Lockwood,
YAB Facilitator and Member

**HOMELESSNESS
AWARENESS
MONTH
COMMITTEE
(ACTION ITEM)**

Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services
Representative*

EVENTS AND TOOLS FOR 2025 HAM

Tools

- Resolutions of Support
- Recognitions
- Toolkit
- Video

Events

- BOS Presentation (11/4)
- HAM Recognitions Reception (11/4)
- Memorial Event (12/19)
- TAY led community training

IMPORTANT HAM DATES

Launch Toolkit and Social Media

- October 27th

Board of Supervisors Presentation

- Tuesday, 11/4, 10(ish) am
- Martinez

Reception and Recognition Ceremony

- Tuesday, 11/4, Noon – 1:30
- Martinez

TAY Led Training

- Monday, 11/10, 10 am - Noon
- Virtual

Memorial Event

- Friday, 12/19, 11 am – 1 pm
- Antioch

RECOGNITION CATEGORIES

Outstanding
Volunteer

Outstanding
Housing
Provider

Outstanding
Partnership

Phoenix
Rising

WHAT DO NOMINEES RECEIVE?

Toolkit

- Document with full submission language (like what's in packet) put in toolkit

Board of Supervisors presentation

- Document with full submission language included as attachment to presentation packet

Reception

- Individual recognition and certificate during ceremony at reception

NOMINATION SUBMISSIONS

Outstanding
Volunteer

16

Outstanding
Housing
Provider

13

Outstanding
Partnership

45

Phoenix Rising

17

ACTION ITEM

Approve recognition nominations as recommended by the Homelessness Awareness Month Committee.



RECEPTION 11/4, NOON -1:30 PM



- Mix and Mingle
- Presentation of certificates to nominated people/agencies
- Eat tasty things
- Celebrate

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT COMMITTEE

Janel Fletcher, *H3*

SEPTEMBER PIT SUBCOMMITTEE RECAP

- No change to “Night of” observational PIT count methodology from previous years.
- PIT Date identified:
 - Night of Count: January 28th (sheltered)
 - PIT Count observational count morning of January 29th (unsheltered)
 - PIT Survey for ~two weeks after the Night Count
- Volunteer Recruitment begins in December
- Survey Incentives discussion:
 - \$10.00 gift card recommendations included: Target, Walmart, McDonalds, 7-Eleven, DollarTree, Dollar General, and Chevron

PIT PLANNING CALENDAR

September	October	November	December	January	February
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review HUD PIT Count Methodology and Guidance Select PIT Count date and time Choose PIT Count Methodology COH Sub-Committee selected (August) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and confirm all sheltered count locations Review unsheltered hotspots Identify unsheltered grids and technology Develop volunteer recruitment plan and tools Identify new HUD data standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COH votes to approve PIT Methods Secure incentives Set training dates and select kick-off sites Review PIT survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign CORE and stakeholders teams to grids PIT HUB will be LIVE Publicize the Count for media purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train PIT Volunteers Test data collection Conduct PIT Count 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up surveys at shelter and unsheltered sites Data analysis Submit HUD data to HDX Debrief and summarize tentative plans for future PIT Counts

UPCOMING PIT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

HOT SPOTS: Friday, October 17th 1 pm – 3 pm VIRTUAL

PIT SURVEY: Friday, November 21st 1 pm – 3 pm **IN PERSON**
(Hybrid)

YOUTH ACTION BOARD (YAB)

Juno Hedrick, CoH *Lived Experience Advisor and
Vice Chair, YAB Coordinator*

YAB SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Bimonthly hybrid YAB Meetings at H3 Offices, Concord and RYSE Center, Richmond

YAB Subcommittees Meetings: Outreach & Retention

Youth & Young Adult (YYA) Community Strategic Planning: Core Team Meeting

CoH and Oversight Committee

PIT and HAM Committee Workgroup

Peer Support Check-In Meetings

YAB SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

YAB Fall Fest
Resource Fair at
DVC San Ramon

Trinity Rooted
Partners
Roundtable in
Walnut Creek

Community
Impact Fund
Town Halls in
Districts 1 and 3

Adulthood and YYA
Partnership teach
back sessions

National YAB
Connection Space

YAB SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES



NEXT STEPS



Data & Research subcommittee to begin planning for Youth Point-in-Time Count.

Homeless Awareness Month planning, including YAB-lead YYA & Adultism training on November 10th

YAB community outreach for 2026 members.

Prepare for HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program FY 2024 NOFO to be re-released soon!

CONNECT WITH YAB!

Are you—or do you know—a young person with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability who wants to create change?

RSVP to join a meeting as a guest to learn more!

For more information, email:

ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org



OLD BUSINESS

Sector Report Outs – Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Services Representative*

Funding Updates - Jamie Schechter and Christy Saxton, *H3*

SECTOR REPORT OUTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services
Representative*

FUNDING UPDATES

Jamie Schechter, *H3*
Christy Saxton, *H3*

FUNDING UPDATES - HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SERVICES RFP



- Released September 24, 2025 – [Consolidated Housing and Homelessness Services Request for Proposals](#)
- Includes renewal funding for Measure X Housing programs, HHAP, and other funding sources
- Prioritizing sustaining services given shifting federal and state funding landscape
- Sign up for Funding Opportunity updates through the [CoC Newsletter](#)

FUNDING UPDATES – FEDERAL BUDGET



- Federal Budget – **No update since September meeting (as of posting)**
 - Both the [House](#) and [Senate](#) passed appropriations bills for Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (THUD) that increases CoC funding
 - Neither bill contained additional funding for the Emergency Housing Voucher program
 - Congress has until October 1 to pass final FY2026 spending bills or enact a continuing resolution

FUNDING UPDATES – COC BUILDS



- On Friday, September 5, 2025, issued a **third** CoC Builds notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) due by September 12, 2025. Litigation has paused this NOFO.
- Applicant eligibility and prioritized populations changed such that no Contra Costa CoC projects would be eligible
- Senators Murray and Gillibrand [wrote to the Office of the Inspector General](#) requesting information on the CoC Builds process, including why Round 2 awards shared with Congress, were never announced
- In the Round 2 awards, Hope Solutions' Village of Hope Project was awarded to build permanent supportive housing for transition aged youth in Pittsburg.

NEW BUSINESS

**(ACTION ITEM) Discuss and Approve 2025
Quarter 3 Council on Homelessness
Recommendations for Report to County
Board of Supervisors – Jamie Schechter, H3**

**Update: Website Compliance with
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) –
Jamie Schechter, H3**

**DISCUSS AND
APPROVE 2025 Q3
COUNCIL ON
HOMELESSNESS
RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR REPORT TO
COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

Jamie Schecter, *H3*

POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Advocate for evidenced based solutions like Housing First and Harm Reduction.
- Include end of year opportunities such as Homeless Persons' Memorial event (12/19) and Point in Time count volunteer event in district newsletters and networks.
- In alignment with CoCs and nonprofits across the country, advocate on behalf of CoCs to:
 - ensure CoC Builds round two awards are restored and
 - the FY25 HUD CoC NOFO competition honors FY24 awards to avoid interruptions in services.

ACTION ITEM

Approve the recommendations for the Q3 Council report to the FHS Committee of the County Board of Supervisors



UPDATE: WEBSITE COMPLIANCE WITH ADA

Jamie Schecter, *H3*

ADA COMPLIANCE FOR DIGITAL CONTENT

New standards for making documents and content on public facing websites accessible for people who use screen readers.

- **By April 24, 2026**
 - U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - All public-facing digital content for County websites meets accessibility standards

Now

- No new PDFs being posted to cchealth.org unless required for other regulatory compliance or a funding deliverable
- Removing or modifying existing .pdfs (we have 300!)
- Removed documents will be available upon request by emailing contracostacoc@cchealth.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open for all to share announcements about upcoming events and to give brief reports about recent events/trainings relevant to the Council on Homelessness

PIN IT

Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Services
Representative*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Next COH Meeting:** Thursday, October 30, 1 – 3 PM (IN PERSON)
- **CoC Training (Creating a Stronger Homeless System of Care: Building Better Connections and Outcomes):** Monday, October 6, 10 AM – 12 PM (Zoom)
- **Homelessness Memorial Event Planning Meeting:** Wednesday, October 8, 2 – 3 PM (Zoom)
- **Homeless Service Provider Meeting:** Thursday, October 9, 8:30 – 9:30 AM (Zoom)
- **PATH Committee Meeting:** Thursday, October 16, 9:30 – 11 AM (VIRTUAL)
- **Oversight Committee Meeting:** Thursday, October 16, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM (VIRTUAL)
- **Point-In-Time Count Committee Work Group:** Friday, October 17, 1 pm – 3 pm (Zoom)
- **Funding Committee:** Tuesday, October 21, 12:30 – 2:30 PM (Possibly IN PERSON)
- **Homelessness Awareness Month Committee Work Group:** Wednesday, October 22, 2 – 4 PM (Zoom)



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025, 1 PM – 3 PM

2120 DIAMOND BLVD., CONCORD, CA (MCMORROW TRAINING ROOM)

For more information about parking and access, go to <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/8368/County-Administration-Building-Access>. While the use of masking is not required, it is recommended. Masks will be available at the meeting.

MEETING PURPOSE:

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, provides advice & input on the operations of homeless services, program operations, and program development efforts in Contra Costa County.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

The public may attend this meeting in person at the above location. The public also may attend this meeting remotely via Zoom or call-in. Log-in information and call-in information is provided below.

HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING VIA ZOOM:

Link to register: <https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclf-uspzovGdR7op72t5-X4nsGdqdpvL-X>

How to Join the Meeting Via Call-In: 1-669-444-9171 / Meeting ID: 838 8249 1530

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER
1:00	1. <u>Call to Order</u> - Chair starts the meeting	Nicole Green, <i>Chair and Reentry Services Representative</i>
1:00 15 min	2. <u>Introductions</u> a. Hybrid Meeting Norms (1 min) b. Roll call of Councilmembers and introduction of guests (11 min) c. Poll – Who’s in the room? (3 min)	Nicole Green, <i>Chair and Reentry Services Representative</i>
1:15 5 min	3. <u>Public Comment</u> - Open period for members of the public to comment on items not listed on the agenda.	Members of the public
1:20 5 min	4. <u>Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)</u> – Items on the consent calendar are generally non-controversial and may not require discussion. Approving the Consent Calendar means approving the items below in one vote. Council members and the public can remove an item from the consent calendar for discussion by informing the Chair. a. APPROVE minutes from the September 4, 2025 Council meeting b. APPROVE staff report for the October 2, 2025 Council meeting	Nicole Green, <i>Chair and Reentry Services Representative</i>
1:25 5 min	5. <u>Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity Update</u> a. Update on CoC NOFO and Funding Committee (5 min)	Mark Mora, <i>Homebase</i>
1:30 40 min	6. <u>Committee Report Outs</u> - Report outs from each of the committees below. a. Homelessness Awareness Month Committee (15 min)	a. Nicole Green, <i>Chair and Reentry Services Representative</i>



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. (ACTION ITEM) REVIEW and APPROVE recognition nominations as recommended by the Homelessness Awareness Month Committee ii. Provide updates on Homelessness Awareness Month materials and activities (10 min) b. Point-In-Time Count Committee Update (5 min) c. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update (10 min) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Janel Fletcher, <i>H3</i> c. Juno Hedrick, <i>Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor</i> and Anastasia Lockwood, <i>YAB Member and Outreach & Retention Subcommittee Facilitator</i>
2:10 <i>20 min</i>	7. <u>Old Business</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sector Report Outs from Council Members (10 min) b. Funding Updates (10 min) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nicole Green, <i>Chair and Reentry Services Representative</i> b. Jamie Schecter and Christy Saxton, <i>H3</i>
2:30 <i>10 min</i>	8. <u>New Business</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. (ACTION ITEM) DISCUSS and APPROVE 2025 Quarter 3 Council on Homelessness Recommendations for Report to County Board of Supervisors (5 min) b. Update: Website Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (5 min) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jamie Schecter, <i>H3</i> b. Jamie Schecter, <i>H3</i>
2:40 <i>5 min</i>	9. <u>Announcements</u> – Open for all to share announcements about upcoming events and to give brief reports about recent events/trainings relevant to the Council.	All
2:45	10. <u>Pin It</u>	Nicole Green, <i>Chair and Reentry Services Representative</i>

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

Persons who wish to address the Council on Homelessness during public comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the Council on Homelessness that are not on the agenda, or who wish to comment with respect to an item on the agenda, may comment in person, via Zoom, or via call-in. Those participating in person should stand where they are sitting when called upon. Those participating via Zoom should indicate they wish to speak by using the “raise your hand” feature in the Zoom app. Those calling in should indicate they wish to speak by pushing “9” on the phone. All public comments will be limited to 2 minutes per speaker. For assistance with remote access contact: contracostacoc@cchealth.org or call 925-608-6700. Public comments may also be submitted before the meeting by email at contracostacoc@cchealth.org or by voicemail at 925-608-6700. Comments submitted by email or voicemail will be included in the record of the meeting but will not be read or played aloud during the meeting.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
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
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	Notice of Funding Availability
PHA	Public Housing Authority
PUI	Persons Under Investigation
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 16-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

EQUITY DEFINITIONS

(adapted from C4 Innovations and approved by Council on Homelessness on 8/3/23)

Term	Definition
Individual Racism	A person's beliefs and actions that serve to perpetuate racial oppression. This can be conscious and unconscious. This may be externalized or internalized
Institutional Racism	Policies and practices at the organization (or "sector") level that perpetuate oppression. It involves unjust policies, practices, procedures, and outcomes that work better for white people than people of color, whether intentional or not.
Interpersonal Racism	The interactions between people - both within and across racial groups.
Microaggressions	Brief, everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to certain individuals because of their group membership.
Race	A social construct created in the 17th century by white Europeans to justify the enslavement of Africans and the spread of colonialism. Understanding of race as a concept has changed over time, but the outcomes of discrimination based on race remain entrenched in our systems.
Race Equity Lens	A way of viewing the world in an integrated and holistic manner, taking into account past and present racial injustices and seeking to address them through more equitable practices and structures.
Racial Bias	Implicit and/or explicit bias that reinforces discriminatory attitudes and behaviors when interacting with people or situations.
Racial Equity	The condition where one's racial identity does not predict their social, health, or economic outcomes. Racial equity is a process of eliminating racial disparities and improving outcomes for everyone. It is the intentional and continual practice of changing practices, systems, and structures by prioritizing the measurable change in the lives of people of color.
Racism	A system of institutional, systemic oppression, and practices of individuals and society that shape cultural beliefs and values that support racist policies and practices.
Structural Racism	How these effects interact and accumulate across institutions and across history. Structural racism highlights how racism operates as a system of power with multiple interconnected, reinforcing, and self-perpetuating components which result in racial inequities across all indicators for success.
Systemic Racism	infrastructure of rulings, ordinances or statutes adopted by a sovereign government or authoritative entity, whereas such ordinances and statutes entitles one racial group in a society certain rights and privileges, while denying other groups in that society these same rights and privileges because of long-established cultural prejudices, religious prejudices, fears, myths, and Xenophobia's held by the entitled group.
White Fragility	White fragility refers to feelings of discomfort a white person experiences when they witness or engage in discussions around racial inequality and injustice. Their engagement in conversations about racism may trigger a range of defensive actions, feelings, and behaviors, such as anger, fear, and silence. These reactive behaviors reinforce continued white dominant culture.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-4016

Agenda Date: 10/2/2025

Agenda #: 3.

Advisory Board:Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM) a APPROVE minutes from the September 4, 2025 Council meeting and b. APPROVE staff report for the October 2, 2025 Council meeting

Presenter: Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

Contact:

Information:

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

APPROVE minutes from the September 4, 2025 Council meeting and APPROVE staff report for the October 2, 2025 Council meeting



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025, 1 pm – 3 pm

Recording link: Available by email request to CChomelessscouncil@cchealth.org

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (11): Alejandra Chamberlain; Bessie Scott; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Mia Fairbanks; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Wayne Earl
- Remote (5): Tony Ucciferri (as community member, unable to vote)
- Absent (4): Carolyn Foudy; Juno Hedrick; Nicole Green; Verneda Clapp; Yahel Moreno

Staff Attendance: Jaime Jenett, H3; Mark Mora, Homebase; Tania Morales, Homebase

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Jill Ray, BOS District 2; Marjorie Oliver, City of Antioch; Sarani Soto, ILS; Bianca Berrios, SPIRIT program; Victoria Fairchild, SPIRIT program
- Remote: Ms. Evon Ufland, Agape's Restore & Renew Home; La Tanya Johnson, Caminar; Lynna Magnuson, Caminar; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Sonja Shephard, Community member; Lucie Johnova, Contra Costa Crisis Center; Jaclyn Tummings, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development; Melanie Erickson, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, Contra Costa County EHSD; Teresa, Contra Costa County EHSD; Gina Bills, CCCOE; Elizabeth Winstead, DOR; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Janel Fletcher, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Stephanie Bodisco, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Emily Bero, Hope Solutions; Carmen Cano, Lao Family Community Development; Wilanda Hughes, Lao Family Community Development; Phil Arnold, NAMI Contra Costa; Rena Moore, Safe Return Project; Ricka Davis-Sheard, Share Community; Alicia Alferez, SHELTER Inc.; Andrea Foti, SHELTER, Inc.; Cynthia-Bella Chavez, SHELTER Inc.; Juan Florez, SHELTER, Inc.; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, SHELTER Inc.; Teri Lundvall, Winter Nights; Heaven Walker, YAB member; 15104595689



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

AGENDA ITEM

1) Call to Order

A. Chair starts the meeting:

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Jaime Jenett called the meeting to order.

2) Introductions

A. Meeting Norms:

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Jaime Jenett went over the hybrid meeting norms and guidelines to help ensure that meetings are conducted in a safe and respectful environment that encourages participation and inclusivity. Due to a Zoom bombing, the virtual meeting format has been changed from “meeting” to “webinar” format and the difference of features was explained.

B. Roll call of Council members and introduction of guests:

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Jaime Jenett conducted a roll call of Council members and invited guests to introduce themselves in the chat.

C. Poll – Who’s in the room?

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Jaime Jenett conducted the poll activity called “Who is in the room?” with the purpose of getting a sense of who is attending the meeting. The poll was conducted via Zoom poll. All answers are anonymous, and the results are provided below:

- **Question 1: How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended?**

This is my first meeting:	0 (0%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	5 (23%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	17 (77%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

- **Question 2: Do you have lived experience of homelessness?**

Yes, currently	0 (0%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	1 (5%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	6 (27%)



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

No	15 (68%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)

- **Question 3: What best describes your racial identify?**

African American/Black	5 (15%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3 (9%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	3 (9%)
Hispanic/Latinx	5 (15%)
White	13 (38%)
Multi-racial	4 (12%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (3%)

3) Public Comments

A. Open period for members of the public to comment on items not listed on the agenda

Members of the public:

- None.

4) Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

A. APPROVE minutes from the August 7, 2025 Council meeting

B. APPROVE staff report for the September 4, 2025 Council meeting

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Members made a motion to approve the items in the consent calendar as listed:

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the consent calendar items as listed above.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Mia Fairbanks
 - Seconded by: Dani Jimenez
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Bessie Scott; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Mia Fairbanks; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Wayne Earl
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: Heather Worobey



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

- ABSENT: Juno Hedrick; Carolyn Foudy; Nicole Green; Verneda Clapp; Yahel Moreno

5) Committee Report Outs

A. Nominating Committee

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

The nominating committee is in the process of recruiting applications for 2026 open seats on the Council on Homelessness. The Nominating Committee met to recommend revisions to the recruitment materials. Jaime reviewed the proposed changes to the application materials and scoring rubric. There will be 11 open seats and the seat positions were shown as well as names of members whose seats are expiring. Jaime then recruited Council members to serve on the Nominating Panel which will review and score applications. The following council members expressed interest in being part of the nominating panel: Hope Dixon, LeAnn Matthews and Sherina Criswell.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To review and approve revisions to the Council on Homelessness member application materials as recommended by the Nominating Committee AND approve the COH members listed above for the Nominating Panel.
- Discussion:
 - Since there were no virtual council members present to vote, the approval for voting was made as a whole group.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Sherina Criswell
 - Seconded by: LeAnn Matthews
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Bessie Scott; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Mia Fairbanks; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Wayne Earl
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - ABSENT: Juno Hedrick; Carolyn Foudy; Nicole Green; Verneda Clapp; Yahel Moreno



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

B. Funding Committee: CoC NOFO Work Group

Presenter: Mark Mora, *Homebase*

Mark provided an update on the Funding Committee COC NOFO Work Group, which is tasked with improving the COC-NOFO competition process in preparation of a possible 2025 CoC NOFO competition. The group has convened to discuss possible revisions to the renewal project scoring tool and a policy which prioritizes high-performing renewal projects over new projects. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for September 16th and 30th to further discuss these topics.

C. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

Presenter: Caroline Miller, H3 and Heaven Walker, YAB member

The Youth Advisory Board provided an overview of YAB's August activities, including bi-monthly meetings, Welcome Week events at colleges — where a total of 15 young people with lived experience of homelessness were interested and wanted to connect — and participation in an RFP panel for transitional housing. YAB is also working on ongoing strategic planning efforts and its involvement in planning the Homeless Awareness Month. Additionally, the Data and Research Subcommittee kicked off in early September and is preparing for the Youth Point-in-Time count. YAB continues to seek new members for 2026. Caroline also noted that HUD is expected to re-release the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program NOFO soon. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB may send an email at ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org.

6) Old Business

A. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

- Mia Fairbanks shared that the Health Care for the Homeless Governing Board is recruiting for the Community Advisory Board where the purpose is to expand services to clients on the streets as part of the medical outreach. Meetings are once a month on the third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. -12 30 p.m. In addition, the same Governing Board is recruiting people with lived experience who have received care from the program and is visiting some shelters to share the position with clients. Rides to the meetings and lunch will be provided to the participants.
- Hope Dixon expressed her disappointment for the pausing of California Assembly Bill 90 (AB-90), which is a legislation for safe overnight parking for California community college students. The bill is no longer moving forward this year due to its significant cost. Hope shared that the bill might come back year after year, making relevant to colleges



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

and legislation that this program needs to be funded. As a way to think about solutions, Hope will be presenting at two conferences soon and may be reaching out to some partners to discuss collaboration and support in co-presenting some of the great work that has been happening and as part of a lot of interest at the community college level.

- Jaime Jenett stated that the Early Implementation of Basic Needs Centers report, which is a college case-study, has been released and it contains a lot of great information as well as partners we already worked with.
- The Stand Down on the Delta event will have the homeless outreach team and HUD-VASH team participating on-site to screen veterans for the programs. Veterans will receive services such as medical, dental, housing, job placement, etc. The event will take place from September 12 - 15th at the Fairgrounds in Antioch, CA.

B. Funding Updates

Presenter: Shelby Ferguson, *H3*

The Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) application for Round 6 was submitted on August 29. The HHAP Round 7 is intended for appropriation in FY26-27 for a budget of 50% of round 6 allocation. A new Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Consolidated Housing and Homelessness Services program will be released next month. Moreover, there has not been any update on the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill that increases for the Continuum of Care program. Congress has until October 1 to pass a reconciled version or enact a continuing resolution, which would maintain current funding levels. Lastly, Shelby invited Contra Costa County's residents to fill out the Community Impact Fund (previously known as ARPA funding) survey to find out about community needs and preferences around funding priorities. Jill Ray added that the ARPA dollars were intended for COVID relief, and the Board of Supervisors have allocated \$1 million per district — there are five districts total — with each supervisor holding a community forums in their communities. To receive news about funding opportunities, please sign up on the [Contra Costa County Health's website](#).

7) New Business

A. Learning Corner: SPIRIT Program (Behavioral Health Service Provider Individualized Recovery Intensive Training)

Presenter: Victoria Fairchild and Bianca Berrios, *Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services, Office for Consumer Empowerment*

Bianca Berrios, a 2023 SPIRIT graduate and co-instructor, shared her personal journey from addiction to recovery and her transformation through the SPIRIT program, which helped her regain confidence and pursue higher education. Victoria Fairchild, a 2016 SPIRIT graduate, also shared her path from being homeless to becoming a co-instructor,



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

highlighting the program's role in her recovery and career development. The SPIRIT program, a 9-unit college course at Contra Costa College, provides training in behavioral health for individuals with lived experience ages 18 and above. The course aims to build skills in peer support, career development, and personal wellness, with a focus on recovery and resilience. Participants receive an educational allowance, internships, and ongoing support from the vocational team. The application process is rigorous, with six staff members reviewing each application to ensure authenticity and readiness for the program. The course emphasizes self-awareness, empowerment, and career opportunities within Contra Costa County's behavioral health system. To learn more about the SPIRIT program and how to apply, please visit the [Contra Costa County Health's website](#).

8) General Announcements

A. General Announcements:

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

- Wayne Earl announced plans for a Homelessness Memorial event, with the next planning meeting scheduled for September 10th. Anyone interested in being part of the planning process can fill out the Zoom's [registration form](#). The official announcement can be found at the [Contra Costa CoC's website](#).
- Bessie Scott highlighted the success of the Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) program and thanked Contra Costa County' staff for their collaboration. The ERF program has helped 33 people, including 19 dogs where all rooms have their own dog crate. Hope Solutions is on the site and is assisting clients with housing, document readiness, jobs, etc.
- Ricka Davis-Sheard, Executive Director of Share Community, shared that the program has moved its mobile shower location at the Veterans Memorial Building in 403 6th Street and encouraged attendees to spread the word about the new site.
- Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla shared that the Head Start and Early Head start program are currently recruiting children 0-5 throughout the county. Parents with children who are interested in applying may do so by filling out a [form](#) on the CSB Connect's website.
- The Homelessness 101 has sessions at the Antioch Library on September 13th and one in Walnut Creek, thanks to the partnership with the county library system.
- HUD-VASH is hiring of two social workers in Martinez.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

9) Pin It

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

- The next COH meeting will be on October 2nd, from 1:00 – 3:00pm at 2120 Diamond Blvd. in Concord.
- A list of upcoming meetings was shared and will also be sent via email. Calendar meeting invites to all committee meetings will be sent out to COH Council members based on the committees for which they signed up.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

Commonly Used Acronyms

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



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

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



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS STAFF REPORT

Report for the October 2, 2025 Council on Homelessness Meeting

INTRODUCTION

The Council on Homelessness staff report is to inform the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness of the status of projects happening within the Continuum of Care. The report was created to create space on Council on Homelessness meeting agendas for discussion on important issues, to share more information in a digestible format, to make it easier for Council on Homelessness members to review and track ongoing content, and to increase transparency about the work happening within the Continuum of Care. The Council on Homelessness guides the content included in the staff report.

PROJECTS

Project: Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) and Homeless Collaborative

There are no updates at this time.

Technical Assistance (TA) Updates:

There are no updates at this time.

COMMITTEES

Equity Committee

The Equity Committee Work Group met on 9/9/25. The group reviewed dashboard data and received a summary of findings and possibly opportunities for interventions. Aisha Teal, EHSD Workforce Services Bureau presented about a Guaranteed Income Pilot. No recommendations for the Q3 COH report were generated. Accountability Corner highlighted achievements such as the development of an equity dashboard and client satisfaction survey. Began 2026 work plan process by reviewing 2025 priorities and discussed potential adjustments for 2026. Reminded about upcoming Funding Committee.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS STAFF REPORT

Funding Committee

- The purpose of the Funding Committee is to direct the community input process for several time-sensitive federal and state funding streams, including updating materials and preparing for the bi-annual Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO) competition.
- A CoC NOFO (Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity) work group was established to begin preparing improvements for a possible 2025 funding competition. Because a 2025 competition was not expected, the work group is quickly preparing in advance of a possible NOFO release. Two meetings have been held so far (8/19 and 9/16) focusing on possible revisions to the Renewal Housing Project Scoring Tool and a competition policy prioritizing high performing renewal projects over new projects. The next meeting will be held on 9/30/25 (virtual) and will be focused on possible revisions to the New Housing Project Scoring Tool. More meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Nominating Committee

- The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to review and revise the process to recruit and select new Council members.
- The Committee met on 8/4 and 8/18 and proposed revisions to the 2025 Council on Homelessness application materials. The Council reviewed and adopted the recommended revisions at their 9/4 meeting. Once the application window is closed, a Nominating Panel of non-conflicting Council members will be convened to review and score applications.

Oversight Committee

- The purpose of the Oversight Committee is to review and assess the development, implementation, and improvement of: CoC, Coordinated Entry System, HMIS database, and System Outcomes.
- The next meeting will be in person and is scheduled for October 16th, 11:30am - 1pm. CoH members are asked to attend in-person. Community members are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. [Register](#)

Plan to Accelerate Transformative Housing Innovations Committee

- This committee did not meet in September. The next meeting will be in person and is scheduled for October 16th, 9:30 am – 11:00 am. CoH members are asked to attend in-person. Community members are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. [Register](#)



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-4017

Agenda Date: 10/2/2025

Agenda #: 5.

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: (ACTION ITEM) REVIEW and APPROVE recognition nominations as recommended by the Homelessness Awareness Month Committee

Presenter: Nicole Green, Chair and HAM Committee member

Contact: contracostacoc@cchealth.org

Information:

Information: Every November, for Homelessness Awareness Month, the Council on Homelessness recognizes outstanding individuals, groups and partnerships for their work addressing homelessness in Contra Costa. We need you to tell us who they are!

The four categories for nominations are:

- Phoenix Rising: for individuals with a lived experience of homelessness who have demonstrated outstanding courage, strength and/or resilience
- Outstanding Partnership: for partnerships [with/between government agencies, nonprofits/CBOs, advocacy groups, faith organizations, individuals (including those facing homelessness), and businesses] that support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Outstanding Volunteer: for individuals or groups who have enriched the lives of people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County through volunteer effort
- Outstanding Housing Provider: for landlords, property management companies, and other housing operators that create permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness

Nominees will be notified in advance and recognized publicly by the Homeless Continuum of Care for their contributions. Their names and accomplishments will be highlighted widely, and they will be honored during a brief reception at the County Administration Building in Martinez on November 4, 2025 from Noon - 1:30

Referral History and Update:

The Homelessness Awareness Month Committee reviewed nominations and is recommending the attached for approval.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

(ACTION ITEM) REVIEW and APPROVE recognition nominations as recommended by the Homelessness Awareness Month Committee

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2025 Recognitions for “Outstanding Housing Provider”

As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize **those landlords, property management companies, and other housing operators that create permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness** in Contra Costa County through the Outstanding Housing Provider category.

Outstanding efforts towards providing permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness can be demonstrated in a number of ways including length of time involved in providing units/rooms; Number of units/rooms; and/or; quality of units/rooms rented

Person or company must rent units/rooms in Contra Costa County to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This may include shared housing, sober living environments, recovery housing, board and cares, halfway houses and transitional housing.

Nominees

- Joyce Lao
- Joyce Lao
- Joyce Lao
- Joyce Lao
- Joyce Lao
- Joyce Jingjing Lao
- Jyoti & Sumer Desai
- Mei Lei and John Sommer
- Robert Linhart
- Ryan Domingue (all Oxford House House Managers) and Rachel Domingue
- Shah (Shahrooz) Wadpey
- Stephanie Bergin
- Tiffany Powell

The following pages contain descriptions of each nominee as provided by the person (s) who nominated them.

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)

Tiffany Powell

Nominated by: Tanya Jacobs, Collaborating Agency

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Glo's Independent Living, LLC continues to bridge the gap with the underserved communities who experience minimal supports while in their needs of transitions. They have provided affordable and supportive housing resources to community members to ensure they have a safe and stable housing environment.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Glo's leadership team is passionate, patient and consistent with providing care to their community members. Their residents value their work and support the efforts to continue to maintain a safe, living environment.

The leadership team is resilient and has lived experience of providing care to their community.

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)

Joyce Lao

Nominated by: Kevin Keow, Renter

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: I have been in this program twice now and I have got to say that programs like this does help out a lot to homeless people.me as for myself it has lifted my spirit and hope up in many ways and I'm a second offender to this program.from the streets that I came from it took me time to adjust my way back to a normal living environment I wasn't used to having a room nor to mention a roof over my head with out no supervision watch.i have to thank God for making this happen and my landlord for given me a second chance to start a new life sober.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

There's a big difference from the time that I was homeless I felt like I was worthless and couldn't fit in with society like a normal person could that people wouldn't talk to or approach me and the feeling of being single out because it I was homeless in the streets label as the dirty filthy bad guy straggling around lost in the streets but when I seemed for help I Started to see the light and cleaned myself up ate better, slept better, dressed better and start to self a different person in the mirror and fitted right back into society and a normal person and meet new people and got hired for a job and got my life back on track

I appreciate these programs very much and I hope that they would expand and have more program for us it also help us from staying off the streets.we all have good in us but some time when the tough times come up some tend to fall down and just give up and never get back up again.so I thank u guy so very much and God bless u all in the organization

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)

Joyce Lao

Nominated by: joyce jingjing lao, self

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Since November 2024, Joyce Jingjing Lao, through Nova Vita LLC, has provided a safe and supportive housing environment for nearly 70 individuals seeking stability and change. Over the past 9 months, her program has offered 22 clean, stable, and well-managed rooms to individuals and families facing homelessness in Contra Costa County. While her organization is still less than a year old, Joyce's impact has been substantial. She not only provides physical shelter but also creates a supportive, structured community where people can rebuild their lives. Her emphasis on quality housing, clear rules, and a respectful, person-centered approach ensures that residents feel both supported and accountable. Even during late pregnancy and shortly after giving birth, Joyce continued to personally visit the houses at least three times per week, speaking with residents, listening to their concerns, and offering encouragement.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Joyce's work goes beyond simply providing rooms—she builds a community where residents can experience dignity, accountability, and belonging. She often tells them: "This is my house, but it is your home. I want you to feel at home here. At the same time, because this is my house, everyone needs to follow the rules." She also reminds residents that making mistakes is understandable, as long as they are willing to learn and change. What she encourages them to avoid is repeating the same mistake over and over—"Don't keep falling in the same place," she often tells them. This message has given many residents the courage to keep trying, to take responsibility, and to believe that change is possible. Since November 2024, nearly 70 residents have lived at Nova Vita homes. Some have moved on to higher levels of care, others have successfully found employment and moved out, and some, after finding work, have chosen to stay because they value the supportive family-like environment. Today, about 30 residents continue to live in Nova Vita housing, actively working on personal change and stability.

Joyce Jingjing Lao demonstrates extraordinary commitment to her residents and to the community. She creates housing that is not just shelter but a true home—a place where individuals can recover, grow, and prepare for long-term stability.

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Joyce Lao

Nominated by: Kelly Deegan, Tenant

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Joyce Lao

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Joyce has a special way about her, she not only connects with each of her tenants personally, she provides a safe and secure home for her tenants. By doing so it creates positive foundations for successful futures! I was able to LOVE myself again! There are not enough hours in a day for me now where as before there were too many! Thank you Joyce for providing what I needed to become the woman I so longed to be!

What separates Joyce blouse homes from the rest of Contra Costas program housing is that she genuinely cares about the homeless community

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Joyce Lao

Nominated by: Maria V Cortes, Tenant

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: she goes above and beyond to help and make sure people who meet the criteria are able to be helped in her units or houses in a safe manner.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

I feel speaking for myself and family that is very grateful for opening her doors to her sober living homes. For being able to feel safe and living clean and sober having a place of my own to utilize and stay positive it's a Blessing

I 'am thankful today for making the right choices in life and staying focused and motivated to achieve my goals and dreams. With the Grace of my higher power having a place of my own couldn't do it with a second chance thanks to Joyce Lao

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Joyce Lao

Nominated by: Lance Johnson, Tenant

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Joyce is quick to respond to requests and is a pleasure to engage with.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

In our household we all highly value Joyce as she is considerate of each of our needs and able to take that information and have us all work together.

I highly recommend Joyce to anyone that is in need of housing placement. Her housing environment is safe, clean and nurturing.

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Shah (Shahrooz) Wadpey

Nominated by: Bill Jones, Tenant (Hope Solutions) in master leased PSH units

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Shah Wadpey has master leased units to Hope Solutions' permanent supportive housing programs since 2016. He leases a total of 10 units that house 17 Hope Solutions clients who were chronically homeless and face a range of disabling conditions. Shah is a landlord who provides high quality, well-maintained units to his tenants/subtenants. He also treats Hope Solutions clients and staff with consistent kindness and respect, maintaining a willingness and openness to all clients that is commendable. When he has had work opportunities for which Hope Solutions clients may be eligible, he has also freely offered those opportunities.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Shah has maintained a steady partnership with Hope Solutions through a range of challenges our clients have faced while living in his units. He is consistently willing to roll up his own sleeves to partner with us when maintenance issues arise, and he demonstrates a responsiveness to Hope Solutions clients that shows he understands their challenges while respecting their strengths. Our clients who have had occasion to interact with him have told us they view him as a good and kind person, and they like the units in which they make their homes. For clients in permanent housing situations, being able to live long-term in a quality unit has a direct positive impact on their quality of life and stability.

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Mei Lei and John Sommer

Nominated by: Brittany Grenier, Work with this provider in the community!

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: The JMS recovery homes provides our reentry parolees a place to come home. They are treated with dignity and respect. It's a beautiful home where the men feel confident.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

They understand through their own lived experience what it feels like to come home from being in prison and allow the men to make this place a home, not just a halfway house.

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Robert Linhart

Nominated by: Jim Becker, Colleague

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: RCF Connects would like to recognize landlord Robert Linhart for his partnership with our Housing First and ERF2 programs. He has provided housing for formerly unhoused residents since 2023. The housing units are of good quality, and he rents one two and three bedroom apartments and single family homes. He currently provides 27 housing units for individuals and families.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Robert Linhart actively works with us to make sure that residents take up key services to help them move forward. He maintains strong communication with us so that we can address issues and celebrate successes. He also participates in our Stand on Your Feet and other events with his residents to help them feel supported.

He continues to add the housing units to the available pool so that more people can be served.

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)

Joyce Jingjing Lao

Nominated by: Wilanda Hughes, none

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Nova Vista LLC - has provided 14 transitional housing beds and 3 permanent housing for justice-impacted individuals since February 2025, who were facing homelessness. The individual participant values the work of the nominee by having a safe residence to call home.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Nova Vista LLC's commitment to accessibility is one of the cornerstones of our housing programs. Nova Vista has established a network of housing locations throughout Contra Costa and Solano counties, enabling us to offer immediate and same-day placement for those in need. At times, being able to secure transitional housing within 24 hours of release is highly valued by justice-impacted individuals, as it provides a critical bridge to stability and safety.

Clients have expressed a strong sense of security and belonging while residing at Nova Vista LLC.

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Ryan Domingue (all Oxford House House Managers) and Rachel Domingue

Nominated by: Wilanda Hughes, none

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Oxford House has provided transitional and permanent housing to participants to decrease homelessness affecting participants battling substance abuse through recovery. The last three years we have worked with several Oxford Houses such as - Summer, The Pond, Remedy, and Cinelli providing transitional and permanent housing to about 10-12 participants on average in a calendar year.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

The Oxford House program goes beyond simply treating addiction by recognizing that a stable living environment is essential for long-term recovery. Their work to provides a safe, sober, and supportive residential setting to help remove barriers to recovery and provide a foundation in which other issues can be addressed.

By creating an environment where participants can connect with others on a similar journey, they have helped to reduce the isolation and stigma often associated with both homelessness and addiction.

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Jyoti & Sumer Desai

Nominated by: Marjorie Oliver, Partner

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Jyoti and Sumer Desai, owners of the Executive Inn, have made an extraordinary contribution to ending homelessness in Antioch by offering their property to house unhoused residents through the City's Opportunity Village program. Their current commitment provides temporary housing for 37 individuals and 23 canine companions from the Devpar Encampment for a two-year period.

This marks their second time partnering with the City. Their first effort lasted three years and led to remarkable outcomes—many residents transitioned into permanent housing, employment, and greater stability. The Executive Inn is not only functional but welcoming, with its vibrant bougainvillea and inviting atmosphere offering a true sense of home.

The Desais' sustained generosity and commitment have created a vital bridge from homelessness to hope, making them invaluable partners in the region's housing solutions.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

The Executive Inn, through the Opportunity Village program, has transformed the lives of unhoused residents from the Antioch Devpar Encampment by offering safe, dignified temporary housing and a pathway to permanent stability. Residents now have a beautiful space to call home—where they can sleep, shower, and live with their pets—while receiving meals, laundry access, transportation to medical appointments, and critical support services.

Thanks to the generosity of Jyoti and Sumer Desai, owners of the Executive Inn, and the collaboration of partners like the Housing Consortium of the East Bay (HCEB), Hope Solutions, Loaves and Fishes, White Pony Express, and the CORE Team, residents are connected to case management, rapid rehousing, and daily nourishment. This collective effort has restored hope not only to the individuals served but also to the broader community, who see this as a model of compassion and impact.

The Desais' commitment is deeply valued by service providers, city leaders, and community members alike, who recognize that their work is not just about shelter—it's about dignity, opportunity, and lasting change.

Supervisory District: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Stephanie Bergin

Nominated by: Latanya Johnson, Housing provider who has and continues to work with Caminar clients

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness: Stephanie, a landlord in Contra Costa, has provided housing to 4 families through the county's Bringing Families Home program run by Caminar and is committed to working with the program to house more clients. She also works with the City of Concord Rapid Rehousing program and clients working with GROW Concord.

Supervisory District: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2025 Recognitions for “Outstanding Partnership”

As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to **recognize partnerships that support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness** through the Outstanding Partnership category. Partnerships can be with/between government agencies, nonprofits/CBOs, advocacy groups, faith organizations, individuals (including those facing homelessness), and businesses. The partnership must support people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County in some way, but does not have to only serve people experiencing homelessness.

1. C4SI - Capitalists for Shared Income Project
2. Community College Welcome Week
3. Contra Costa Transition Aged Youth (TAY) By Names List Case Conference Partnership
4. El Portal Place
5. FYI Vouchers
6. GROW Community
7. Homeless Workforce Integration Network (H-WIN)
8. Homelessness 101 Series
9. Laundry Love with Grace
10. Leave No One Behind
11. Pet Support for People Experiencing Homeless
12. Point in Time Count GIS Project
13. Prevention Screening Tool Project
14. Reentry Services Collaboration
15. Streamlining Data to Better Support People Experiencing Homelessness
16. Supporting Homeless People and Pets in Need
17. Supporting Homeless TAY at Community Colleges
18. Supporting Housing Insecure Students at DVC
19. Supporting Immigrant Workers
20. Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Clients
21. Unsheltered Veterans Surge Event
22. Youth Action Board
23. CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach/City of Antioch Partnership
24. Community Supports Program
25. Delta Landing Partnership
26. Facing Homelessness/City of Antioch Partnership
27. Furnishing For The Future
28. Hope Solutions Teamwork
29. Lao Family Community Development /Nova Vita Partnership
30. Lao Family Community Development /Oxford House Partnership
31. Navigating Home
32. Opportunity Junction/Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa Partnership
33. Recovery Services for Latinos Experiencing Homelessness
34. SHARE Community/City of Antioch Partnership
35. Support for Families in WCCUSD #1
36. Support for Families in WCCUSD #2
37. Supporting Children in Shelters
38. Supporting Wellness in Shelters
39. Teaming Up For Success
40. Teamwork in the Field
41. The Fountain Project
42. Trinity Center/ Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa Partnership #1
43. Trinity Center/ Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa Partnership #2
44. Trinity Center/ St. Mary's Partnership
45. CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach Community-wide Partnership

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

C4SI - Capitalists for Shared Income Project

Nominated by: Leticia Wiesner, Trinity Center

Key Partners are: C4SI - Capitalists for Shared Income and Trinity Center

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The partnership between C4SI Capitalists and Trinity Center directly supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County by providing \$58 credit cards that help meet immediate and practical needs. These funds empower individuals to purchase essentials—such as clothing, personal care items, or transportation—that are critical to getting back on their feet. This support, combined with Trinity Center’s programs in housing navigation, workforce development, and community services, helps members overcome barriers, restore dignity, and take meaningful steps toward stability and independence. By addressing both urgent needs and long-term goals, the partnership plays a vital role in reducing homelessness and strengthening the community safety net in Contra Costa County. This support, combined with Trinity Center’s programs in housing navigation, workforce development, and community services, helps members overcome barriers, restore dignity, and take meaningful steps toward stability and independence. By addressing both urgent needs and long-term goals, the partnership plays a vital role in reducing homelessness and strengthening the community safety net in Contra Costa County.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Community College Welcome Week

Nominated by: Caroline Miller, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: CCH's CORE mobile outreach Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Education Team; Youth Action Board (YAB) and Contra Costa Community Colleges

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The Youth Action Board (YAB) partnered with the CCH CORE mobile outreach Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Education Team to bring vital homeless resources directly to students across all Contra Costa Community College District campuses during Welcome Week. This partnership is rooted in lived experience—both CORE mobile outreach staff and YAB members have lived experience of homelessness—and their work and partnership are critical in ensuring outreach is authentic, effective, and driven by those who know the challenges firsthand. By providing resources on campuses, the partnership meets students where they are, breaking down barriers to housing and support.

The YAB would like to give a heartfelt shoutout to Sherina Criswell, Care Coordinator with the CORE mobile outreach TAY Education Team. Thank you for bringing your heart to this work every day and for your gift of connecting with everyone you meet. You embody the spirit of this partnership—leading with care, authenticity, and commitment to young people

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Contra Costa Transition Aged Youth (TAY) By Names List Case Conference Partnership

Nominated by: Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: Contra Costa Coordinated Entry Team; CCH's CORE mobile outreach TAY, Education Team & Family Teams; CCH's Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services (CCYCS) Team; Hope Solutions TAY Programs Team; and Trinity Center.

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

This partnership helps ensure that all TAY experiencing literal homelessness in Contra Costa County are connected to the services they need to move toward housing stability, offering a model of coordinated response in addressing homelessness for a specific population in our community. Also special thanks to the CCH:H3 HMIS team for creating the report / data system to support implementation!

This housing-focused case conference, led by the Coordinated Entry (CE) Team, convenes bi-weekly and brings together dedicated TAY providers to identify housing solutions and pathways for every known TAY-headed household experiencing literal homelessness in our community. Since its launch in November 2024, through the Tipping Point Collaborative's Bay Area TAY initiative, this effort has strengthened the homeless system's response and deepened collaboration among TAY providers. Impact highlights (Year One): 350+ unduplicated TAY discussed and served 300+ connected to street outreach 120+ referred to shelter 90+ referred to permanent housing programs 100+ connected to other essential services and/or reunited with family This meeting ensures that all TAY experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County are connected to the services they need to move toward housing stability. Together, this collaboration represents the power of partnership in driving solutions for young people facing homelessness and offers a model of coordinated, housing-focused response.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

El Portal Place

Nominated by: Jamie Schechter, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: Housing Authority of CC, CCH, Hope Solutions, Overa

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

In partnership we were able to successfully house 54 chronically homeless individuals in record time. All partners worked together to ensure processes were efficient and residents were able to move into a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Supervisory District where project takes place: Jamie

FYI Vouchers

Nominated by: Shelby Ferguson, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: Contra Costa Employment and Human Services (ESHD) Children and Family Services Bureau, Hope Solutions and Housing Authority of Contra Costa County

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

This partnership is a collaborative effort to serve former foster youth in moving into independent housing, many for the very first time in their lives. This collaboration helps the young person apply for the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher, a housing voucher for former foster youth. The team also provides housing navigation to help locate a unit, and financial assistance to help participants secure and move into housing.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

GROW Community

Nominated by: Ronda Deplazes, Community Member

Key Partners are: GROW Community project in Concord

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

GROW Community project in Concord pulls together amazing people and volunteers to provide clothing, showers, food, acceptance and encouragement for people experiencing homelessness.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Homeless Workforce Integration Network (H-WIN)

Nominated by: Morgan Perkins, Hope Solutions

Key Partners are: Homeless Workforce Integration Network (H-WIN) is a collaboration between Contra Costa Health: H3 (Health, Housing & Homeless Services), the Contra Costa Workforce Development Board (WDBCC), and a wide network of community-based organizations including adult schools, community colleges, career centers, youth and young adult programs, re-entry services, and supportive housing agencies. HWIN grew from a cross-system partnership based in human centered design which brought together professionals in housing and workforce as well as participants with lived experience to identify the gaps between the two system and create a more accessible pathway of care. Program founders include Maureen Nelson, Administrator for the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County; Jaime Jenett, Community Engagement Specialist with CCH: H3; and Morgan Perkins, Senior Education and Employment with Hope Solutions, who serves as our Chair.

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

HWIN's mission is to close the gaps between housing and workforce by bringing together professionals in the community whose job it is to support people experiencing homelessness. The goal is to better connect county residents to the resources that enable them to have stable housing, to earn a livable wage, and to thrive. Quarterly network meetings bring together providers and administrators to learn, share resources, problem solve, network and make referrals. Past programming has featured presentations from Sparkpoint, HealthRIGHT 360, and the Department of Child Support Services. More recently the H-WIN network has taken field trips to sites like America's Job Center of California (AJCC), Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP), and Lao Family Community Development (LFCD). These cooperative actions improve warm hand-offs, strengthen communication, and build service pathways to help participants access training, education, and employment opportunities.

Now in its fourth year, H-WIN has grown from an idea for the 2020 Workforce Accelerator Fund (WAF-8) project into a countywide network and trusted space for collaboration. Service providers from all sectors come together to make our programs work better for our participants.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Homelessness 101 Series

Nominated by: Jaime Jenett, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: Contra Costa County Library, Contra Costa Health: Health, Housing, and Homeless Services, Cities of Antioch and Walnut Creek and White Pony Express

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The Homelessness 101 series is a collaborative educational initiative designed to increase public understanding of homelessness in Contra Costa County. This partnership brings together public agencies, nonprofits, and community members to create an accessible, engaging space for learning and dialogue. Launched through a partnership between the Contra Costa County Library and Contra Costa Health's Health, Housing, and Homeless Services team, the series offers informative sessions tailored for a wide audience—from concerned residents and aspiring service providers to individuals currently experiencing homelessness. Albert Garcia from Contra Costa County Library has played a central role in the success of this initiative. His leadership in coordinating with library sites across the county ensured that each session was well-organized and community-centered. Albert also led the development and distribution of marketing materials, helping to broaden outreach and increase attendance. Additionally, he worked closely with city staff, nonprofit partners, and volunteers to align logistics and ensure that each event was welcoming and impactful. The series has been hosted in Pittsburg, San Pablo, Concord, Antioch, and Walnut Creek, with up to 40 attendees per session. Attendees have included government officials and staff, safety net service providers, interested community members and people experiencing homelessness. Highlights include:

- **City Engagement:** Staff from Antioch and Walnut Creek actively participated in planning and outreach.
- **Direct Support Services:** White Pony Express provided food and essential supplies to attendees. CORE mobile outreach teams were present to provide attendees experiencing homelessness with direct access to services and information.
- **Library Support:** Local librarians helped manage logistics, distribute supplies, and recruit attendees.

Homelessness 101 exemplifies the power of cross-sector collaboration. It not only educates the public but also directly supports individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The initiative's success is a testament to the dedication of its partners—especially Albert Garcia's behind-the-scenes coordination and leadership.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Laundry Love with Grace

Nominated by: Rev. Deb White, Grace Episcopal Church

Key Partners are: Grace Episcopal Church, Martinez; City of Martinez; Episcopal Impact Fund; First Congregational Church, Martinez; Laundry Love (national); Episcopal Impact Fund; Martinez Community Foundation.

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Laundry Love with Grace washes the clothes and bedding of low and no-income families and individuals in Martinez. We provide the quarters, detergent, and snacks and spend time in community together at Launderland in Martinez while the laundry is running. People with lived experience of homelessness work side-by-side with volunteers to wash their clothes and bedding. Laundry Love at Grace has grown exponentially since our first Friday when we washed about seven loads of laundry for three people. We now regularly wash about 100 loads per week. We are part of a national group that brightens the lives of thousands of people each month through love, dignity, and detergent!

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Leave No One Behind

Nominated by: Elder Desiree Rushing, NAMI Contra Costa

Key Partners are: NAMI Contra Costa, City of Concord, Minar, various faith centers across the county, Hope Solutions, Opportunity Village. Contra Costa Crisis Center, SOS Richmond, Loaves and Fishes, Facing Homelessness in Antioch, Place of Peace Outreach, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

"Leave No One Behind" (LNOB) Program is a part of the NAMI FaithNet program and we partner with the City of Concord, Minar, Various faith centers across the county, Hope Solutions, Opportunity Village. Contra Costa Crisis Center, SOS Richmond, Loaves and Fishes, Facing Homelessness in Antioch, Place of Peace Outreach, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. LNOB supports unsheltered people in the encampment behind Target in Antioch, the encampment at the railroad tracks in Antioch on A street and the encampment in the JCPenney parking lot in Brentwood as well as people on the streets of Oakley, Antioch and Pittsburgh. We give unsheltered people and people with mental health issues food, resources and prayer when they ask. NAMI Contra Costa also participates in the planning of the annual Homeless Persons' Memorial event which includes many of the same partners listed above. Faith Centers in Contra Costa County allow us to feed and use their property for education and shelter and the sorority has donated articles and food to us to distribute. We have received backpacks with socks, toiletries.etc. NAMI Contra Costa staff is comprised of people peers we serve in the community. For more information go to: NAMI Contra Costa | Weekly Warm Meals Volunteering. Ashley Lowe adds "The partnership actively seeks out and documents homeless encampments in Contra Costa County and adjusts meals provided to them based on the level of need. Homeless individuals are welcome to come by and pick up food from NAMI CC's office, even if it isn't a lunch day. They feel supported by one of their basic needs being met." Gigi Crowder adds, "NAMI Contra Costa volunteers and staff directly engage with people with lived experience of homelessness by talking with them and providing takeaway lunches for them weekly, and more frequently if they come by again. The partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County because they provide some basic needs (water, food, sanitizers) to unsheltered individuals who normally have a difficult time getting nutrition."

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Pet Support for People Experiencing Homeless

Nominated by: Rebecca Sanders, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: Joybound People & Pets. Contra Costa Animal Services and Contra Costa Health

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Joybound and Contra Animal Services partnered with CCH to spay/neuter and vaccinate over 30 unhoused pets so that their unsheltered owners could be housed. This partnership was essential in housing more than 35 unsheltered individuals. This collaboration continues with Joybound offering free pet vaccination clinics monthly in our community. These partners have also provided support to pets of people in interim housing like Delta Landing. Without this support, people with pets would be resistant to housing. Thank you to Joybound for assisting us in keeping these families together!

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Point in Time Count GIS Project

Nominated by: Janel Fletcher, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: The Contra Costa Department of IT (DoIT) Geographic Information System (GIS) team and CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3)

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The Contra Costa Department of IT (DoIT) Geographic Information System (GIS) team are exceptional planning and implementation partners who are integral to the successful completion of the annual homeless Point-in-Time Count coordinated by the CCH: H3 team in Contra Costa County. Their partnership ensures Contra Costa's PIT Count runs efficiently and effectively. DoIT GIS provide support to H3 through all phases of the PIT Count. DoIT provide updated field- and office-based mapping & monitoring applications, provide training to H3 staff and volunteers, participate in meetings and count day, and conduct post-processing and product development. The partnership supported people facing homelessness by ensuring that 145 volunteers participating in the 2025 Point in Time count had a seamless app experience with clear and accurate routes to visually count people experiencing homelessness and their sleep settings. Additionally, the team prepared census tract data results for CCH:H3 to make informed estimations about the number of people, characteristics and experiences of individuals and families living in unsheltered conditions. The Point-in-Time Count is required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and results are used to prioritize federal funding for homeless services in Contra Costa County. Their collaboration makes trainings fun and interactive for our volunteers. They are always willing to help our volunteers with any technical issues that may arise the day of, always going above and beyond. For ensuring the application is user friendly and making sure volunteers feel supported.

Thank you, Bear Hartley, Martin Lynch, Morgan March, Philip Weeks, Tatiana Moger, and Timothy Brink. H3 is grateful for your partnership.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Prevention Screening Tool Project

Nominated by: Shelby Ferguson, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: Contra Costa Crisis Center, CCH: H3 Coordinated Entry Team and Prevention Providers

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Contra Costa Crisis Center, our local 211 provider, the Coordinated Entry team, and the Prevention providers are the key players in implementing the new prevention screening tool that assesses and prioritizes households at risk of homelessness for our very limited prevention resources in our community. Contra Costa Crisis Center has been an invaluable partner in the roll out of the new and improved prevention screening tool. They have been screening countless calls utilizing this new tool and referring to our prevention providers when participants at risk of homelessness are eligible. It is incredibly challenging work as it is a new way to prioritize households for our limited prevention resources and is a very important piece of our Coordinated Entry System.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Reentry Services Collaboration

Nominated by: Lisa Thomas, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office, CCH: Detention Health Services, the Office of Reentry and Justice (ORJ), and the Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Public Defender's Office: This collaboration ensures that unhoused individuals preparing for release are referred to CORE for homeless services, often the same day. Together, CORE and the Public Defender's Office coordinate transportation, intake, and referrals to services such as shelter, housing, and alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment. The Public Defender's Office remains engaged with CORE throughout the individual's transition, providing updates and supporting continued service connections. Key Partners: Nicole Green and Lori Beath

Detention Health Services: Working closely with Detention Health medical staff, CORE helps connect individuals with Medi-Cal, discharge medication plans, and follow-up medical care. CORE also provides transportation to ensure people leaving custody can pick up prescriptions and attend post-release medical appointments. Key Partner: Rissa Guitarte

Office of Reentry and Justice (ORJ): ORJ bridges reentry systems countywide. Together, CORE and ORJ conduct planning calls, develop referral tools, and provide group programming inside detention facilities. CORE provides weekly support groups in detention facilities, and these groups focus on life skills, housing opportunities, and peer-selected support topics, helping prepare individuals for success after release. Key Partner: Patrice Gillroy

Community Advisory Board (CAB): CAB serves as the link between community voice and systems planning. CAB and CORE share program outcomes, contribute to discussions on funding opportunities, and collaborates with other stakeholders on AB109 strategies. Key Partner: Gariana Youngblood

This re-entry service partnership actively engages individuals with lived experience of homelessness and reentry by incorporating their input in groups, advisory discussions, and service planning. Their perspectives shape programming and ensure the services remain grounded in real-world needs. This re-entry service collaboration provides a continuum of support from detention to the community. Services include housing support groups inside detention facilities, pre-release and post-release planning, transportation, and coordinated referrals to housing, treatment, and sober living environments. Together, partners, including

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county



Men and Women of Purpose, Hope Solutions and Lao Family Community Development ensure that individuals at risk of homelessness have access to stable housing options, healthcare, and recovery supports as they transition back into the community. Tim Perkins from the Contra Costa Office of Education adds a special shout out to Cedric Windston of Men and Women of Purpose: "Cedric is instrumental in helping inmates pre and post release. He has been integral in getting inmates the needed resources to succeed."

Since July 2024, this partnership has successfully supported 181 individuals exiting detention into treatment programs and 16 individuals transitioned directly from detention into their own rental units. These outcomes show the effectiveness of the partnership in reducing homelessness and strengthening reentry pathways.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Streamlining Data to Better Support People Experiencing Homelessness

Nominated by: Jamie Schechter, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: Contra Costa Health Divisions - Business Intelligence, Contra Costa Health Plan and Health, Housing, and Homeless services

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Streamlining data to better support participants experiencing homelessness. Through this partnership, Contra Costa Health brings together multiple divisions to better serve people experiencing homelessness. Key activities have included:

- developing a high risk flag notification so Contra Costa staff can better support participants who may experience things like emergency department admission. This increased coordination ensures staff are less likely to lose track of participants experiencing a crisis
- partnering to streamline CalAIM claiming and billing to increase community support services
- partnering to utilize health data to improve the Continuum of Care's Housing Needs Assessment and reduce data collection burden on staff and participants seeking housing

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Supporting Homeless People and Pets in Need

Nominated by: Alexander Martinez-Harris, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: Joybound and CCH's CORE mobile outreach program

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

CCH's CORE mobile outreach program is proud to nominate Joybound People and Pets as an outstanding partner in our work to support unsheltered residents at a longterm encampment in Antioch. Joybound brought their animal welfare expertise and resources into encampments where companion animals had become a significant barrier to shelter and housing. By providing discounted veterinary care, spay and neuter surgeries, and rehoming options, Joybound empowered clients, people with lived experience of homelessness, to make informed choices about their pets while preserving the deep emotional bonds that matter so much to them. Joybound's services addressed service needs for which CORE mobile outreach required assistance: the overwhelming number of unvaccinated and unaltered animals in encampments. Without access to these services, many individuals were ineligible for shelter or housing due to pet limits, leaving them stuck in unsafe conditions. Through Joybound's care and compassion, more than 30 dogs were safely rehomed, 5 animals were spayed and neutered and vaccinated, and 4 puppies were fostered. These outcomes directly reduced barriers to housing, supported the encampment residents health and safety, and created a pathway for people to move indoors.

CORE mobile outreach staff build trust with individuals every day, but it was Joybound's willingness to meet us in encampments and treat the encampment residents and their' pets with dignity that made this partnership exceptional. Their work not only improved animal welfare but also gave the residents hope and practical solutions at a time when they felt stuck. Joybound's collaboration with CORE is a model for how community-based organizations can bring unique expertise to homelessness response and create life-changing results.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Supporting Homeless TAY at Community Colleges

Nominated by: Caroline Miller, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: Contra Costa Community College District, Basic Needs Programs and Youth Action Board

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Over the past year, the Youth Action Board (YAB) has partnered with the Contra Costa Community College District's Basic Needs Programs (4CD) to better support Youth & Young Adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness or in need of essential services. This partnership centers YYA with lived experience. Together, the YAB and the 4CD Basics Needs Program helped shape the county's YYA Strategic Plan process and brought critical homeless resources directly to students during Welcome Week.

The YAB would like to give special thanks to Hope Dixon, Basic Needs Coordinator at Contra Costa College. Hope's unwavering support and genuine commitment to uplifting youth voices has been key to this partnership's success. From consistently showing up to YAB meetings to helping host the first-ever YYA Homelessness Panel at Contra Costa College during Homeless Awareness Month 2024, Hope has modeled what it means to be a true partner and advocate.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Supporting Housing Insecure Students at DVC

Nominated by: Sherina Rina Criswell, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: CCH's CORE mobile outreach program and Diablo Valley College

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The key partners in this collaboration include CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, Diablo Valley College (DVC), and Contra Costa Health Services. This partnership brings together education, outreach, and healthcare services to create a more holistic approach to supporting individuals experiencing homelessness. People with lived experience of homelessness are engaged in multiple ways. CORE mobile outreach regularly employs or consults with peer advocates who have firsthand experience with homelessness, ensuring services remain compassionate, trauma-informed, and culturally relevant. These individuals often participate in outreach efforts, act as trusted messengers, and provide feedback that helps shape the services offered through this partnership. Their insight is critical in building trust with unsheltered populations and in tailoring responses to real-world challenges. The CORE mobile outreach and DVC partnership supports people facing homelessness by bridging critical gaps between emergency outreach and long-term stability services. CORE mobile outreach teams conduct field engagement to identify and connect unsheltered individuals with immediate needs such as shelter, food, hygiene kits, and medical care. Through collaboration with DVC, individuals are also given access to educational pathways, workforce development, and support programs that aim to create sustainable exit routes from homelessness. In addition, DVC's Basic Needs program and Student Services provide wraparound supports—including case management, mental health counseling, and assistance with applying for financial aid and housing. This integrated model allows clients and students experiencing homelessness to transition from crisis to stability, with educational and vocational tools to support long-term independence.

One unique aspect of this partnership is its commitment to reducing the stigma of homelessness within educational spaces. By fostering a culture of inclusion and support at Diablo Valley College, students facing housing instability can pursue their education without fear of discrimination. The collaboration also emphasizes the importance of mobility and flexibility—CORE's mobile units and outreach strategies are designed to meet people where they are, both physically and in terms of their readiness to engage in services. This trauma-

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)



informed approach has proven effective in building trust and empowering clients toward self-determined goals.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Supporting Immigrant Workers

Nominated by: Joleen Lafayette, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

Key Partners are: Hijas del Campo and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Loaves and Fishes provides hot nutritious meals to Hijas Del Campo agency that serves immigrant workers working in the fields of Contra Costa County

Loaves and Fishes provides 50 hot meals two times a week to Hijas Del Campo who then takes them to their clients who are working in the fields in Contra Costa County. Many of their clients are threatened by ICE and are very low income people experiencing food insecurity.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Clients

Nominated by: Nancy Mosqueda, CCH: Public Health: FMCH

Key Partners are: Violet Barton and her team of case managers at Contra Costa Health: Family, Maternal and Child Health

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Contra Costa Health: Family, Maternal and Child Health does a tremendous job trying to provide support to pregnant and parenting people experiencing homelessness. Violet is a great leader for our team- she's always looking for ways ideas to help case managers find housing resources for pregnant and parenting clients struggling with housing. These programs include homeless services and also things like Welcome Home Baby and First 5. She helped me support a pregnant client in a very complicated situation who was living on the streets. Thanks to Violet's help and the work of our team, the client had a healthy baby and got connected to family in a different part of the state. She helped me think of solutions I wouldn't have even considered and now our client and her baby are happy, healthy and living in secure housing. Violet provides our team much needed management, support and leadership which helps us serve our homeless clients even better. It is amazing having her. She is very knowledgeable with extensive experience in Family Maternal and Child Health so she understands our work in the field and she works with us closely to make sure we do an outstanding job with our clients. She's always very responsive.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Unsheltered Veterans Surge Event

Nominated by: Jai De Lotto, Department of Veterans Affairs

Key Partners are: VA Homeless Program, CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, CCH's Coordinated Entry Team, Insight Housing, Shelter Inc's SSVF program and Veterans Accession House

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Together this team provides services to unsheltered and At-Risk Veterans. We had a successful Unsheltered Veterans Surge Event on 7/30. The goal was to identify Unsheltered Veterans in CCC, connect them to the VA (if not in the system), admit same day interim housing and HUD VASH Program for voucher. We had 4 Outreach teams with a representative from SSVF, VA Homeless Programs and CORE, each bringing their specified knowledge and skillset to the teams. Used the Veteran By Name List (VBNL) to identify the eligible unhoused Veterans and location. We had multiple meetings as a team to make sure the list stayed updated. CORE was the lead driver due to their knowledge of the hot spots, SSVF completed screenings in the field to support the enrollment process, VA Homeless Program completed a prescreening to identify specific program eligibility - before sending the Veteran to the HUB where we had onsite HUD VASH Screenings, Social work Triage, Nurse, Supportive Services for Veterans Families, Social Security Rep, Veterans Benefits Rep, Veteran Service Officers, Veterinary services and free phones. We had additional drivers to take Veterans to the HUB and then to the housing they were referred to. VA and CoC Coordinated Entry Specialists sat side by side to confirm if Veterans were in each systems and to gather the most recent status of services received. As a team we exceeded our goal: 32 Veterans engaged in street outreach, 10 Veterans admitted to our HUD VASH program and streamlined for a HUD VASH Voucher, 13 Interim Housing placements, Social Security assisted 10 Veterans, VBA 9 Veterans and 26 Veterans presented at the HUB for services. We only had 2 months to coordinate this big event and since our Veteran services and CoC Homeless Programs teams already had a lot of these relationships already established along with the processes in place, we were able to build upon that and make it a successful event. Brittany Ferguson from the Contra Costa Coordinated Entry Teams adds, "Jai DeLotto, on behalf of the VA coordinates with the various Veteran Services in Contra Costa. He coordinates the Veteran's By Names Lists meetings and spearheaded the 2025 Contra Costa Veteran Surge event. His leadership is truly admirable."

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Youth Action Board

Nominated by: Caroline Miller, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: RYSE Center, CCH: Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3) and the Continuum of Care (CoC)

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Since 2022, RYSE has partnered with Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3) and the Continuum of Care (CoC) in advancing our county's response to youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness. Together, we launched the Youth Action Board (YAB) in 2024, creating paid leadership roles for young people with lived experience. Through the YAB, youth leaders directly shape and guide system improvements in collaboration with key stakeholders working to end YYA homelessness. Their vision is at the heart of the YYA Strategic Plan which reflects their vision to "increase the number of centers like RYSE—spaces with wraparound services that prioritize joy, healing, hope, and fun." Through the Housing Justice Program, RYSE provides housing stabilization, rental assistance, family reunification, conflict resolution, and advocacy with landlords and agencies with an approach that is deeply relational and grounded in healing, justice, and youth leadership. RYSE also advocates alongside young people, ensuring that their lived experiences are at the center of policy and practice. In 2024, more than 200 young people received housing support and linkages through RYSE's programs.

H3, the CoC, and YAB extend our deepest gratitude to the RYSE Center for your commitment to young people. Special shout-out to Kanwarpal Dhaliwal, Gemikia Henderson, and Randy Joseph. Thank you for keeping us accountable and reminding us of the healthy struggle toward building a Contra Costa where YYA are not just supported but truly honored and uplifted as partners in shaping their own ecosystem of care.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach/City of Antioch Partnership

Nominated by: Marjorie Oliver, City of Antioch

Key Partners are: CCH's CORE mobile outreach program and the City of Antioch

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Antioch funds a CORE mobile outreach team to support people experiencing homelessness in Antioch. Every day the CORE mobile outreach team is out in the field connecting one-on-one with the unhoused of Antioch, providing survival supplies, connecting people to resources and completing applications for housing and other resources. They work alongside Antioch's Police, Public Works and Code Enforcement to provide support to the residents when the city abates homeless encampments. I especially want to recognize Rebecca Sanders, a CORE mobile outreach Program Coordinator, who goes all in for our unhoused residents. She really loves her job and it is evident in all she does. The City of Antioch is truly blessed to have Rebecca and CORE mobile outreach out on the streets caring for our unhoused community members.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Community Supports Program

Nominated by: Gabrielle Fowler, CCH: Public Health: ECM

Key Partners are: Staff at Contra Costa Public Health Community Supports Program

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Housing navigators with the CCH: Public Health Community Support Program help Medi-Cal Members who are homeless or at-risk find temporary/permanent shelter or housing. These Housing Navigator case managers manage clients referred from the Public Health ECM program. Housing navigators provide in-person housing navigation and tenancy sustaining services through case management. In addition to assisting clients with housing searches & application submissions, these housing navigators sometimes go beyond to network with landlords and property managers, assist clients with measures to increase their income and searching for opportunities to get their clients support for deposits and move-in cost assistance. The Contra Costa Public Health Community Support Housing Navigators are a small but mighty team. They are a team of 4 covering West, Central, East & Far East County.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Delta Landing Partnership

Nominated by: Janette Kennedy, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

Key Partners are: Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa and BACS at Delta Landing

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The two organizations work to help the homeless community by providing services, such as a hot and nourishing meal at Delta Landing, an interim housing facility that provides basic healthcare, housing navigation, and case management provided on-site to help residents recover from homelessness and find permanent housing.

Loaves and Fishes and BACS have worked together for the last 3 years and have provided many people with hope. Lived experience staff and board members help advise the work Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa does everyday.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Facing Homelessness/City of Antioch Partnership

Nominated by: Marjorie Oliver, City of Antioch

Key Partners are: Facing Homelessness and the City of Antioch

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Nichole Gardner and her non-profit, Facing Homelessness offer resources to our local unhoused residents. in the city of AntiochThe City of Antioch helps fund and support this amazing partnership. Together these partners collaborate on how to support the work of Facing Homelessness, including how to best assist the unhoused and promote their resources to those who need it. Nichole is the boots-on-the-ground advocate for the City of Antioch's Unhoused Residents. She fights for their rights by attending City Council Meetings and any other meetings she can find, speaking up for them, calling for solutions and challenging the status quo. She drives around town in her bus offering food, water, and resources while offering a listening ear, words of encouragement and a compassionate heart.Nichole has a Facing Homelessness in Antioch Facebook page that is informative, collaborative and encouraging for all community members.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Furnishing For The Future

Nominated by: Shelby Ferguson, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: Make it Home and Continuum of Care

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Make it Home - Make it Home has been partnering with many local homeless service providers in the Contra Costa Continuum of Care to provide furniture for participants moving into housing at a very low cost to providers. Make it Home has fully furnished countless participants homes who are moving into housing on their own, many for the first time.

This partnership ensures that households moving into housing do so with dignity. Having furniture contributes to long term success in maintaining housing and helps participants feel a sense of pride and ownership over their new home.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Hope Solutions Teamwork

Nominated by: Ronald Broach, Hope Solutions

Key Partners are: Hope Solutions' Housing Works Rapid Rehousing and Eviction Prevention Program

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

This program has consistently exceeded the milestones outlined in the 2024–2025 fiscal year agreement. Through the coordinated efforts of dedicated Case Managers, Employment Specialists, and Housing Navigators, the program has housed and stabilized numerous individuals and families facing homelessness, creating lasting pathways to independence. This team's impact is reflected not only in the number of units secured, but in the quality, safety, and suitability of the homes they connect clients to. Their commitment extends beyond housing placement—fostering relationships, increasing economic stability, and ensuring long-term tenancy. Collectively, their work transforms lives and strengthens the community's ability to end homelessness. Combining their individual strengths, they lift one another higher, creating a solid foundation for the next wave of clients to step into stability—truly a “Transformers, activate!” moment in the fight to end homelessness. The difference between Hope Solutions and others is simple: our service delivery model is rooted in Compassion, Understanding, Flexibility, and Forgiveness—all tied together with our action phrase: “We are going to LOVE on you, and there ain't nothing you can do about it.” The true Grammy Award winners of these services are our unhoused neighbors, who gain vital support in securing and maintaining housing, accessing employment opportunities, and increasing their income. These steps open the door to the social and economic mainstream, providing immediate stability and the potential for generational wealth. Our work also ripples far beyond the individuals we serve. Community members benefit when encampments disappear from their neighborhoods—property values rise, fear and anxiety decrease, and their streets become safe and welcoming once again. Children are no longer exposed to the dangers that often accompany homelessness, giving them a healthier, more secure environment to grow up in. And for our staff, this work is a privilege. They have the rare and rewarding opportunity to walk alongside someone on their journey toward self-sufficiency and independence—a front-row seat to transformation in action. Aristotle once said, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” While Madam Director Klevin, Employment Specialists Erica and Morgan, Housing Navigators Kelly and Amanda, and Case Managers Unique, Sara, Toni, and Ron each shine brilliantly in their individual roles, they are also essential pieces of a much larger whole—one dedicated to healing our community and breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Together, the

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county



Hope Solutions Housing Works Rapid Re-Housing and Eviction Prevention Team exemplifies collaboration at its finest, combining expertise, compassion, and relentless dedication. Their collective efforts do more than provide housing—they ignite hope, inspire stability, and create pathways to lasting independence. It is with great pride that I present this exceptional team as nominees for the Outstanding Partnership category, honoring their unwavering dedication and transformative impact on our community.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Lao Family Community Development /Nova Vita Partnership

Nominated by: joyce lao, Nova Vita LLC

Key Partners are: Nova Vita LLC and LFCD Housing for Strong Reentry Program

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

We want to recognize Nova Vita LLC, led by Joyce Jingjing Lao, and the Housing for Strong Reentry Program, supervised by Wilanda Hughes. The partnership directly engages people with lived experience of homelessness and incarceration by housing them in safe, stable environments and listening to their feedback to improve services. Since March 2025, the partnership has supported nearly 10 individuals by combining quality housing with reentry case management and wraparound services. This collaboration removes one of the greatest barriers for justice-involved individuals—stable housing—while promoting long-term stability, family reunification, and reduced recidivism

This partnership is built on a human-centered and mutually supportive approach. Joyce provides dignity, structure, and accountability in housing, while Wilanda not only supports residents but also assists Joyce in daily management, strengthening the collaboration. Though new, this partnership is already breaking cycles of homelessness and incarceration and creating second chances in Contra Costa County.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Lao Family Community Development /Oxford House Partnership

Nominated by: Ryan Domingue, Oxford House

Key Partners are: Lao Family Community Development - Housing For Strong Reentry and Oxford House

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Wilanda Hughes and Rohullah Najibi from Lao Family Community Development (LFCD) work hands on with clients and have found housing and provided funding for many men and women to come to my Oxford House Inc. homes in Contra Costa County. They have awesome resources and find housing solutions for so many men and women each year.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Navigating Home

Nominated by: Casey Costa, EHSD

Key Partners are: Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Navigators

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

As Navigators we receive referrals from the community & various agencies to help the public who are in need including 211, CORE, Season of Sharing, Salvation Army, Loaves & Fishes, Greater Richmond Interfaith Program, and the Child Abuse Council. Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Navigators help the community find housing, connect them with shelters, help with past due rent, help with deposits & first month rent, help the public navigate the various housing programs & help advocate for the public as well. As Navigators we receive referrals from the community & various agencies to help the public who are in need. We are constantly receiving referrals directly from 211 & CORE mobile outreach. Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Navigators help the community find housing, help connect them with shelters, help with past due rent, help with deposits & first month rent, help the public navigate the various housing programs & help advocate for the public as well. Our goal is to help the public through any crisis they may have & help them become self-sufficient. Without a stable roof over one's head how can they become self-sufficient?

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Opportunity Junction/Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa Partnership

Nominated by: Joleen Lafayette, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

Key Partners are: Opportunity Junction and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Opportunity Junction serves individuals who are very low income giving them the opportunity to learn admin skills or nursing skills for an opportunity in a new career. Loaves and Fishes provides hot meals to Opportunity Junction 4 days a week ensuring their clients have nutrition and access to healthy food

Since 2000, Opportunity Junction has been providing training, support, work experience, and placement assistance, which help motivated Contra Costa County job seekers launch careers that lead to financial security. When we work together, motivated job seekers develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed. Their success makes their families and our community stronger. Mission: Driven by the fundamental belief that everyone who works hard deserves the opportunity to succeed, our mission is "to help motivated Contra Costa County job seekers develop the skills and confidence to launch careers that lead to financial security."

Opportunity Junction programs help job seekers launch careers Programs: Our core programs help motivated job seekers launch careers that lead to financial security. We offer job training for careers in healthcare (starting with Certified Nursing Assistant training) and office administration (focused on office technology skills). We also offer career counseling and placement assistance to those with other goals and ambitions. In the evenings, we offer classes in computer applications.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Recovery Services for Latinos Experiencing Homelessness

Nominated by: Eduardo Segura-Melendez, BiBett

Key Partners are: Pueblos Del Sol, Support4Recovery and Contra Costa Health

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Support 4Recovery Casa Andres: The Pueblos Del Sol (BiBett) residential and detox program partners closely with Support4Recovery's Casa Andrés, the only other Spanish-speaking program and sober living home in the county, to address the unique needs of the homeless Hispanic community. Many of the clients we serve face not only substance use challenges but also cultural and language barriers that make accessing treatment difficult. By working together, we ensure that these individuals receive care that is both linguistically accessible and culturally responsive. When homeless Hispanic clients enter our detox or residential program, we begin planning their next step in recovery with Casa Andrés. Through this partnership, clients have a direct pathway to a sober living environment where their language and culture are understood and respected. Casa Andrés provides a safe, supportive space where recovery principles are reinforced in Spanish, reducing isolation and increasing the chances of long-term success.

CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach: Our residential and detox program works closely with Contra Costa Health's CORE mobile Outreach to meet the needs of the homeless community by addressing both recovery and housing challenges. CORE identifies individuals experiencing homelessness who struggle with substance use and provides direct referrals into our detox and residential services. To ensure a smooth transition, we use a warm handoff process where case managers from both programs meet with the client to develop a plan that connects treatment and housing resources. Through outreach efforts, CORE's workers share information about our services during their street-level engagement, while our staff provide clients with up-to-date housing and shelter resources at discharge. When transportation is a barrier, CORE assists in getting clients from the streets or shelters to our intake appointments so they can access treatment without delay. We maintain ongoing communication through regular case conferences, which allows us to coordinate care for shared clients and address recovery, housing, medical, and mental health needs holistically.

CCH: Health Care for the Homeless: in particular Dr. Hernandez and his team. Our residential and detox program also works in collaboration with the doctor from the local homeless van clinic, who plays a vital role in addressing the medical needs of our clients and the wider community. Many individuals experiencing homelessness face serious health challenges that

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county



often go untreated, creating additional barriers to recovery. By partnering with the clinic, we are able to connect clients to essential medical services while they engage in treatment. The doctor provides physical exams for our clients, helping us meet intake requirements and ensuring that underlying health issues are identified and addressed early. This partnership also allows our program to provide continuity of care for homeless clients, many of whom do not have a primary care provider. When medical needs arise beyond our scope, we are able to refer clients directly to the clinic for further evaluation and treatment.

This collaboration strengthens the overall care we provide, as recovery is not limited to sobriety but also requires attention to physical health. Through the support of the doctor and the homeless van clinic, our clients gain access to compassionate, low-barrier medical care that would otherwise be out of reach. Together, we not only improve individual health outcomes but also strengthen the network of care available to the homeless community as a whole.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

SHARE Community/City of Antioch Partnership

Nominated by: Marjorie Oliver, City of Antioch

Key Partners are: The SHARE Community and The City of Antioch

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The SHARE Community brings showers and toilets on wheels to the street to help our unhoused neighbors - delivered with an unexpected level of care they call RADICAL HOSPITALITY®. When the City of Antioch receives calls or a walk-in requesting for basic services such as food, clothing, showers, etc, a resource we often share with our unhoused residents is the shower program through The SHARE Community. The City of Antioch helps fund and support this amazing partnership. The City sends clothing donations, financial resources, youth and adult volunteers, and promoting their resources. The SHARE Community provides showers, toilets, clean clothes and shoes, a grooming station, and beverages and snacks to local guests on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As the unhoused community members arrive, they are welcomed with smiles, hugs and a whole lot of love. The location where The SHARE Community provides their offerings, tables and chairs are set up for eating, playing games, and connecting with friends, old and new. This location also has a medical mobile unit and is a place where Loaves and Fishes provides lunch. The SHARE Community's mission is to share hope, abundance, resources and encouragement by creating ways for people to work together toward positive change.

Ms. Ricka Davis-Sheard, Founder and Executive Director of the SHARE Community offers the unhoused a bit of normalcy on every Tuesday and Thursday with hot showers for the unhoused community. While they are in the "in between" stages. Ms. Ricka and the SHARE Community not only offer hot showers to the unhoused community they also offer clean clothes, new under garments, shoes, breakfast, hot coffee/water & they share resources. Ms. Ricka and the SHARE Community give so freely of their time, energy, and an overflowing abundance of love, joy, patience, and steadfast commitment to the unhoused. It's a calling that can only be carried out with hearts as generous and compassionate as theirs. [submitted by Ms. Evon Ufland]

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Support for Families in WCCUSD #1

Nominated by: Halle Homich, Community Education Partnerships

Key Partners are: WCCUSD Families in Transition Team + Community Education Partnerships

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

They partner together to identify and support students and families experiencing homelessness. The Families in Transition Team, which consists of 4 team members: the WCCUSD Homeless and Foster Liaison, the CEP Program Manager/FIT Biligual Support Specialist, the Academic Case Worker and the Community Resource Specialist collaborate to identify students and families in the school district who are experiencing homelessness. We provide bus passes, school supplies + backpacks, graduation support, housing resources, tutoring and academic support, and referrals to other community resources.

Our team members have welcomed and enrolled countless newcomer families who have come through the Richmond family shelters.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Support for Families in WCCUSD #2

Nominated by: Martha Encarnacion, Community Education Partnerships

Key Partners are: West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and Community Education Partnerships (CEP)

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

CEP is a contracted partner with WCCUSD to support their Families in Transition Office to ensure students and families are receiving the services they need to remove barriers for students to attend school. WCCUSD and CEP work together in developing better structure to ensure families get the support they deserve and find ways to bring awareness on the McKinney Vento act.

WCCUSD and CEP also work together to plan events and meet with other local agencies in partnership to meet the needs of our community.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Supporting Children in Shelters

Nominated by: Martha Encarnacion, Community Education Partnerships

Key Partners are: Bay Area Rescue Mission and Community Education Partnerships

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Bay Area Rescue Mission has a family homeless shelter where they have programs for families and Community Education Partnerships works with the Rescue Mission to provide academic 1:1 tutoring and small group support to the kids living at the shelter. Community Education Partnerships also works with the Rescue Mission and the school district to make sure students have access to quality education. The Rescue Mission ensures collaboration on events and programming with Community Education Partnerships is integrated in the shelters programming.

Both have been working together for a few years and has been a successful program where they both uplift each other.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Supporting Wellness in Shelters

Nominated by: Wayne Earl, Bay Area Rescue Mission

Key Partners are: Key partners include The Fountain Project offering medical and life wellness services that serve residential clients of the Bay Area Rescue Mission's Life Transformation Program

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The Fountain Project has partnered with the Bay Area Rescue Mission (BARM) for many years. They come onsite to BARM multiple times a year for their One Heart Health Fairs, where they provide medical and wellness services, guidance on health care, and support for overall well-being. Their compassionate approach to health and healing meets our clients where they are, enhances their understanding of health and wellness, and encourages them to actively participate in their own health journeys. In addition to these health fairs, the Fountain Project offers the same services to BARM students and staff twice a week at their new facility on Harbor Way. All services, classes, and instruction are provided entirely free of charge and with love.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Teaming Up For Success

Nominated by: Roman Smith, Client

Key Partners are: Nola Wright, ECM Case Manager, Contra Costa Health and Ms. Roman Smith, client

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

I am honored to nominate Nola Wright for her exceptional partnership in supporting me and my children during one of the most difficult times in our lives. Over the past year, Ms. Wright has worked side by side with me through Enhanced Care Management, not only ensuring my medical needs were met but also helping me navigate the many barriers that stood between my family and safe housing. Our work together was truly a partnership. Ms. Wright stayed in close communication with me, checking in regularly, listening to my concerns, and helping me set priorities. She supported me in scheduling medical appointments, making sure prescriptions were refilled on time, and advocating for my care when I felt overwhelmed. At the same time, she recognized that my family's health and safety could not be separated from our unstable housing situation. When I was offered an apartment, Ms. Wright immediately stepped in as a partner. She connected me with a housing resource that paid the security deposit, but she didn't stop there. She walked me through the application process, encouraged me when I doubted myself, and followed up to ensure everything was completed on time. Her consistent support meant I didn't have to navigate these challenges alone. Through this collaboration, we were able to secure a safe home for me and my children, moving us out of an abusive environment and preventing homelessness. This nomination recognizes not only Ms. Wright's dedication but also the partnership between myself, Enhanced Care Management, and local housing resources. Together, this partnership provided stability, safety, and a foundation for a better future for my family.

Miss Nola Wright makes a life-changing difference for those she serves. She ensures that each person feels seen, heard, and cared for throughout the entire process of transitioning into housing. Her assistance goes beyond just finding a place to live; she provides resources such as food pantry access, meal delivery services tailored to health needs, and guidance toward community supports that strengthen long-term stability. Individuals like myself have directly benefited from her compassion and thoroughness. Nola helped me secure a home for my three daughters and myself, helping to remove us from a domestic violence environment. I left every

Supervisory District where project takes place:



meeting feeling comfortable and supported every step of the way. Her work is deeply valued not only by the individuals and families she helps but also by the broader community, which recognizes her as someone who restores hope and dignity to people who need it most.

Miss Nola Wright is not only a resourceful advocate but also a truly kind and caring individual. She treats every person with respect and humanity, making sure no need is overlooked. Her dedication is personal and heartfelt, and she carries out her work with a spirit of generosity that makes a lasting impression. She does not just place people into housing—she makes sure they feel secure, cared for, and supported in building a better future. Her work is a shining example of what it means to truly end homelessness, one life at a time.

Supervisory District where project takes place:

Teamwork in the Field

Nominated by: Carmen Francois, CCH: Public Health: ECM

Key Partners are: CORE Mobile Outreach and SOS Richmond both have a lot of people with lived experience on the teams which really helps clients feel comfortable.

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Together they assist clients with housing, referrals, hygiene, snacks. SOS Richmond offers a safe place to rest.

Tanya Ruscigno from CORE Mobile Outreach and O'Neil from SOS Richmond are amazing

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

The Fountain Project

Nominated by: Morgan Richie, SOS Richmond

Key Partners are: The Fountain Project (nominee), SOS Richmond and GRIP (nominators)

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The Fountain Project has been a transformative partner in expanding access to wellness and health services for unhoused residents of West Contra Costa County. Through their innovative collaboration with SOS Richmond’s Safe Harbour site and GRIP, they have introduced programs and resources that bring healing, hope, and dignity to neighbors who too often face insurmountable barriers to care. This partnership does more than provide services — it changes lives. By creating safe, welcoming, and trust-based opportunities for people to participate in wellness activities, the Fountain Project has inspired individuals to take courageous steps in their health journeys. Many who first engaged through this partnership have gone on to connect with primary care, behavioral health, and housing resources. The impact has been deeply felt by both program participants and staff. Families in shelter have found renewed strength and healing, parents have gained tools to manage the daily stresses of homelessness, and children have discovered joy, creativity, and resilience. SOS Richmond and GRIP team members themselves report direct benefits to their own health and well-being from the Fountain Project’s offerings — a testament to the holistic power of this work. These services not only restore dignity to participants but also help frontline staff show up with greater patience, compassion, and energy for the hard work they do every day. By offering free acupuncture, chiropractic care, and massage therapy, the Fountain Project provides immediate relief from the physical and emotional toll of homelessness and service work. Participants have described these opportunities as “life-changing.” One GRIP resident shared: “For the first time in months, I felt human again.” An SOS staff member echoed this, saying: “The Fountain Project not only supports our clients — it helps us as staff show up with more compassion and energy.” The Fountain Project exemplifies the spirit of an Outstanding Partnership. By meeting people where they are, reducing barriers to care, and walking alongside unhoused residents and service providers alike, they have proven themselves an indispensable ally in building a healthier, more resilient, and more compassionate community for all.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Trinity Center/ Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa Partnership #1

Nominated by: Pamela McGrath, Trinity Center

Key Partners are: Trinity Center and Loaves & Fishes Contra Costa

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Trinity Center serves unhoused and unstably housed adults by providing essential services , including meals, showers, laundry, clothing, that help support their engagement with housing focused case management, workforce development for employment readiness, whole person wellness, and integration into the community. Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa County offers a hot, nutritious, noontime meal each weekday at Trinity Center, making Trinity Center an official Loaves & Fishes Dining Room where anyone can receive hot nutritious meals. Loaves & Fishes also brings their Culinary Training Program to Trinity Center once a year, providing valuable job training. Together, we ensure that our marginalized neighbors receive nutritious meals and other vital life preserving services that allow people to apply their efforts and energy to engage in life enhancing programs and services. Trinity Center and Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa County collaborate on events and activities outside of their established partnership activities. We brainstorm and day dream about how to offer more and better services to our entire community.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Trinity Center/ Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa Partnership #2

Nominated by: Joleen Lafayette, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

Key Partners are: Trinity Center and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Trinity Center is an amazing organization who provides food, daily shelter, showers, laundry and navigation services to people living in Contra Costa County who are unhoused, food insecure

Loaves and Fishes partners with Trinity Center by operating one of our dining rooms within their Walnut Creek facility, where we provide hot, nutritious meals to their clients Monday through Friday. We also offer a free 12-week culinary training program each January, open to Trinity Center clients who are interested in pursuing a career in the culinary industry. During the program, participants prepare dinners for Trinity Center's Winter Nights program, further supporting the community while gaining valuable hands-on experience.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Trinity Center/ St. Mary's Partnership

Nominated by: Joshlynn Little, Trinity Center

Key Partners are: Trinity Center and St. Mary's congregation with St. Vincent de Paul network

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Over the past several months, Trinity Center has had the privilege of building a meaningful and impactful partnership with St. Mary's congregation working with the St. Vincent de Paul network. Together, we have worked hand in hand to support our unhoused and housing insecure neighbors in Contra Costa County, ensuring they have access to not only critical day services and case management through Trinity Center but also vital one time financial assistance through St. Vincent de Paul. This collaboration has directly resulted in \$5,000 of financial support to Trinity Center members, meeting a wide range of urgent needs. With these funds, members have been able to pay for car insurance, secure a car starter to get to work, cover a PG&E bill, maintain storage units, register their vehicles, repair a car, pay a phone bill, and even cover application and deposit fees for housing. These supports have prevented setbacks that often push individuals deeper into crisis while also creating opportunities for stability and forward progress. Our partnership centers the voices and lived experiences of those we serve. Every request that comes through is rooted in the immediate and specific needs expressed by our members. By listening to their circumstances and advocating alongside them, this partnership empowers individuals with agency and dignity rather than assuming a one size fits all solution. The flexibility of this partnership has been especially meaningful, allowing us to address barriers that, though they may seem small, are often the deciding factor in whether someone can access employment, maintain housing, or continue on their path toward stability. This partnership has had a direct and tangible impact on individuals experiencing homelessness in our county. By addressing critical financial gaps, Trinity Center and St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul together help members avoid losing what little stability they have while moving them closer toward their long term goals. For example, paying for a phone bill allows a member to stay connected to their employer and case manager. Covering car repairs or registration keeps transportation available for work and appointments, and for the many individuals who live in their cars, keeping those repairs and registrations current is vital to ensuring their home remains usable and safe. Supporting application fees and deposits removes a significant barrier to securing housing. These interventions are life changing, giving our members hope and opportunities to move forward.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county



The success of this partnership is not only in the dollars spent but also in the relationship built between our organizations. Our staff, particularly in collaboration with Barb from St. Mary's, have created a streamlined and responsive process that makes assistance both accessible and timely. This trust and communication have been key to maximizing impact, and we are deeply grateful for the compassion and dedication St. Vincent de Paul brings to this work. We look forward to continuing to strengthen this partnership and expanding the ways we can meet the needs of Trinity Center members together.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach Community-wide Partnership

Nominated by: Lisa Thomas, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Key Partners are: CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, City of Concord, Contra Costa Public Works, CCH: Health Care for the Homeless, CalAIM providers, and local shelters

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

As CARE Coordinator for CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, Kenneth Humphrey collaborates with the City of Concord, Concord Police Department, Public Works, Health Care for the Homeless, CalAIM providers, and local shelters to create a coordinated response. These partnerships not only address immediate needs but also support long-term housing and health stability. Engagement of People with Lived Experience: Kenneth prioritizes including people with lived experience of homelessness through peer specialists who help guide services, build trust, and ensure outreach remains client-centered and trauma-informed. The partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County by connecting them to basic needs, health care, CalAIM services, shelters, and housing navigation. By working closely with local agencies and including peer specialists with lived experience, Kenneth Humphrey and CORE mobile outreach build trust and help clients engage in long-term stability resources.

Staff says, "We open the door for many client encountering issues with addiction and homelessness" and "we help clients with their recovery"

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2025 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. The nominee must volunteer in Contra Costa County and the volunteer activity must be without pay

Nominees

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bay Church Shower Volunteers | 10. Moises Riley |
| 2. Christina Castle-Barber | 11. Mrs. Ricka Davis-Sheard |
| 3. Daniel Aderholt Sr. | 12. Nichole Gardner |
| 4. Daniel Aderholt Sr. | 13. Nichole Gardner |
| 5. Darren Stallcup | 14. Teresa Pasquini |
| 6. Jenny Slye | 15. Teri Edlinger |
| 7. Mark Pitzlin | 16. Ricka Davis-Sheard |
| 8. May Yamamoto | 17. Donnie Diego |
| 9. May Yamamoto | |

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Bay Church Shower Volunteers

Nominated by: Margaret Wessner, I work on the mobile clinic at the Martinez Marina where the shower volunteers come

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Bay Church members volunteering to provide showers in Martinez, Bay Point, Pittsburg, and Antioch

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

In a time where the loudest Christians are preaching hate, and where the majority of Christians are driving past poverty without a second glance, it is so heartening to witness people following the teachings and example of Jesus.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Christina Castle-Barber

Nominated by: Deborah White, Priest

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Christina Castle-Barber is a tireless advocate for people experiencing homelessness. She created the Laundry Love with Grace service, which provides clean laundry and bedding for low or no-income families and individuals. She helped develop Grace's Blessing Box, which offers free food to individuals who need it. Within the last year, this program has grown over 300 percent. Christina has also begun working with other non-profits to establish Laundry Love services in other Contra Costa cities. Christina also coordinates Grace Church Martinez's participation in Winter Nights, which provides shelter and meals for families during the winter months (six years); she assists with the backpack and Spirit of Giving programs at Hope Solutions (six years); and co-chairs the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace (three years). Christina also participates in ministry to Death Row inmates (over 20 years).

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Christina has worked for the county for many years in services to our unhoused neighbors, but everything I have described in this nomination is done as a volunteer outside of her hours for the county.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Daniel Aderholt Sr.

Nominated by: Heather Smith, American River Homeless Crew VP and Secretary

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Daniel Aderholt Sr has been helping our unhoused all over California everyday. He helps Contra Costa County, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, San Joaquin county and sacramento county, Solano, Alameda, Bakersfield etc, with his American River Homeless Crew members with supplies and brand new clothes and food and he practically lives in Contra Costa County antioch and concord area helping our homeless there the most! he's saves 1,000's of peoples lives everyday.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Daniel Aderholt was mentally and physically abused by his soon to be ex wife claudia aderholt and he still put his homeless family first . im one of the homeless he saved off the streets and now i help coordinate supplies and cleanups with his American River Homeless Crews.. my name is Heather Smith.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Daniel Aderholt Sr.

Nominated by: Miguel Chapman jr, Homeless volunteer of American River Homeless crew non profit

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

My CEO of American River Homeless crew non profit hardly ever sleeps he's always helping our homeless and when someone calls him needing help? Out the door he goes and he's driving all over California helping us .. I am homeless myself and he's made me inventory manager of our non profits.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

There is no homeless advocate more loving and understanding then Daniel Aderholt.

This man spent 978,790 dollars helping us homeless since he started American River Homeless crew non profit and I know this for a fact by his receipts. This man spends his own money saving our homeless from dying everyday.

There is no one like Daniel Aderholt Sr in this world and we the homeless love him 🙏

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Darren Stallcup

Nominated by: Darren Stallcup, I am nominating myself, respectfully.

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Helping the less fortunate as well as advocating for recovery

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

I would like to nominate myself, Darren Stallcup, for recognition in the Outstanding Volunteer. Over the past several years, I have committed myself to going above and beyond in addressing homelessness and the fentanyl crisis in both Contra Costa County and San Francisco. My work has been driven not by pay or recognition, but by a deep belief that every person deserves dignity, safety, and hope for a better future.

As a volunteer, I have spent countless hours on the streets distributing food, clothing, hygiene kits, blankets, and tents to individuals experiencing homelessness. I have also worked directly in shelters, helping with intake, providing support, and guiding people toward programs that can assist with employment, housing, and rehabilitation. My efforts extend beyond basic aid, I hand out Narcan and fentanyl test strips, educate people on overdose prevention, and encourage those struggling with addiction to take the first steps toward recovery. These efforts are consistent, hands-on, and deeply personal. I do not walk past people in need, I stop, listen, and help. Building relationships with the less fortunate because I know what it's like myself to be homeless as my home burned down and I lost everything and had to rebuild my life. Now I offer hope in the form of both action as well as kind words of encouragement because if I can do it, anybody can do it. There is hope. There is a way out. Recovery is possible. It's never too late to turn your life around and live the life you always dreamed of. This commitment to treating every unhoused individual with humanity is at the heart of my service.

Beyond volunteering, I have worked tirelessly to build partnerships that amplify impact. By connecting with churches, nonprofits, community advocates, and other local leaders, I have helped coordinate resources and mobilize volunteers in a way that reaches more people than I ever could alone. I have organized fundraising efforts to provide critical supplies, collaborated with faith organizations to expand outreach, and worked with advocacy groups to push for safer, cleaner, and more compassionate approaches to homelessness and the fentanyl epidemic. These partnerships are not just about coordination, they are about uniting different voices, experiences, and strengths to create lasting change in both Contra Costa County and San Francisco.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county



I believe my efforts as both a volunteer and a partner go above and beyond the ordinary. This work requires consistency, sacrifice, and courage... showing up day after day, even when the problems seem overwhelming. I am proud of the difference I have made, but I also know there is so much more to be done. For these reasons, I respectfully nominate myself, Darren Stallcup, for recognition during Homelessness Awareness Month.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Jenny Slye

Nominated by: Daniel Aderholt Sr, CEO of American River Homeless Crew 501c3

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Jenny Slye has been a devoted member of American River homeless Crew helping our homeless in Antioch California. She's always the first to volunteer to help her CEO Dan Aderholt supply our homeless in Contra Costa County every week for over a year.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Jenny Slye has come along ways and doesn't let hard times discourage her from helping those in need.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Mark Pitzlin

Nominated by: Eve Birge, Community partner

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Mark, of Mark's Light Ministries, has been quietly but powerfully serving unhoused individuals in the Contra Costa region for over ten years. What began as a simple act of compassion—Mark and his wife walking through Martinez, offering a single sandwich to a person in need—has grown into a sustained, high-volume outreach delivering hundreds of meals and much more, twice a week, across several cities (Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill). Length of involvement: Approximately ten years. The journey started when Mark's wife was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's; walking together became a time to serve. Over the years, Mark has carried on even as circumstances changed. Concentration of service: Twice weekly distributions, each time producing 300+ meals, going to multiple encampments and locations. No overpass, no group of people seen in need, is overlooked. Mark consistently responds to spontaneous needs ("if someone looks like they need a meal just walking around, his call is 'How about a meal?'"). He also personally addresses urgent medical or crisis situations, stepping in when others would not (for example, when someone was seriously ill and paramedics didn't help, Mark carried him to safety so treatment could be administered). Additional forms of giving: Beyond meals, Mark invests in relationships. He delivers friendship, remembers names, greets people with warmth. He spent years offering free puppet shows to families in community centers, creating laughter and lightheartedness. He does not withhold; every piece of food is made as though he would eat it. He helps in non-meal ways: retrieving a tow hitch from home to move someone's belongings to prevent their possessions from being lost, for example. Humility & selflessness: Mark's service is not for recognition. He does not push his religious beliefs, though his faith motivates him. Instead, his approach is of listening, caring, meeting practical needs, respecting people's dignity. Impact: Last year, White Pony Express provided Mark with 51,748 pounds of prepared meals, grab-and-go items, fruit, and snacks—and Mark conscientiously distributed this bounty to encampments so it could find its way to unhoused neighbors who would otherwise be without. The scale is massive. For many recipients, these are not occasional meals but a lifeline—the difference between going hungry or having enough or not having someone who will show up and care.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Mark's service grows out of personal adversity (his wife's Alzheimer's), which gives a deeper sense of sacrifice, perseverance, and humility.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)



He is deeply relational: hugs, remembering names, greeting all people. These small gestures carry enormous weight among people who often go unnoticed.

He tailors responses to real need, not rigid programs: spontaneous meals, delivering food when someone is hungry just walking by, helping with a tow hitch, responding when paramedics refuse—these are acts beyond protocol.

Mark does not seek recognition; indeed, some of those he helps describe him as “a friend with food and caring.”

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

May Yamamoto

Nominated by: Joleen Lafayette, Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

See below, Over 5 years

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Nomination from Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

It is with deep gratitude and admiration that we nominate May Yamamoto for Volunteer of the Year. May is a shining example of what it means to serve with compassion, consistency, and heart. She dedicates the majority of her days to Loaves and Fishes, offering her time, energy, and spirit in countless ways that uplift both our clients and our team. Always wearing a warm, welcoming smile, May brings light and positivity to every space she enters. Her helpful nature, tireless work ethic, and unwavering reliability have made her an essential and deeply valued part of our organization.

One of May's most visible contributions is the LFCC beautiful garden outside our building at 835 Ferry Street, she lovingly manages it daily making sure it is looking good, trimmed, and watered. Through every season, she brings life and color to our space by planting flowers and maintaining a community vegetable garden,, creating a welcoming and peaceful environment for everyone who walks through our doors and by our building. Her attention to detail and pride in her work are evident in every bloom and leaf.

But May's impact doesn't stop there. Each Saturday, she can be found in our dining room helping to prep meals and serve hot food to our clients. Her kindness, care, and commitment to service are evident in every interaction, making each person feel seen and respected. She brings the same generous spirit to the Martinez Senior Center, where she volunteers when she's not at Loaves and Fishes, continuing her mission to support and care for others in our community.

May's work is not driven by recognition but by a deep and genuine desire to help others. She is giving, dependable, and one of the hardest-working volunteers we've had the privilege to know. Her humility, consistency, and kindness embody the very best of what it means to serve. We are incredibly fortunate to have her as part of our Loaves and Fishes family, and we can think of no one more deserving of the title Volunteer of the Year.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

May Yamamoto

Nominated by: Joleen Lafayette, Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Volunteer of Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa May Yamamoto

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Nomination from Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

It is with deep gratitude and admiration that we nominate May Yamamoto for Volunteer of the Year. May is a shining example of what it means to serve with compassion, consistency, and heart. She dedicates the majority of her days to Loaves and Fishes, offering her time, energy, and spirit in countless ways that uplift both our clients and our team. Always wearing a warm, welcoming smile, May brings light and positivity to every space she enters. Her helpful nature, tireless work ethic, and unwavering reliability have made her an essential and deeply valued part of our organization.

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Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Moises Riley

Nominated by: Moises Riley, Son

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

moises alexander amaya

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

cada experiencia que vivi en la calle me hizo mas fuerte y perseverante en la vida por que nunca deje que los optaculos me derrotaran y orgulloso de mi mismo por que pude aportar un impacto positivo no solo en la comunidad sino aun nivel departamental estatal he internacional en poder consecientizar que tan importante es la inclusion y consientizacion para nuestra comunidad que lo necesita

Supervisory District where project takes place: I don't know

Mrs. Ricka Davis-Sheard

Nominated by: Ms. Evon Ufland, Friend

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Ms. Ricka of SHARE Community is coming up on 5 years of committed service to the unhoused community. They offer hot showers, clothing and hygiene packets, breakfast, water & coffee.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Ms. Ricka and the SHARE Community are a light and beacon of HOPE during the in between stages of our unhoused community here in East Contra Costa County in the city of Antioch, Ca.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Nichole Gardner

Nominated by: Tami Weinert, Friend and fellow outreach worker

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Nichole Gardner advocates for our city's unhoused men and women daily. She is involved in going before our mayor and city council, cooking and serving, managing a Facebook page to allow our homeless friends, advocates and those who want to help to stay connected. She travels and goes to encampment sweeps. She advocates for rights for those who are being moved from place to place. She is a friend to our unhoused neighbors and a voice that cries out on their behalf. She has been doing this for about 10 years I believe. Probably longer. I met her many years ago at an event for our unhoused community.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

She is also a mom and takes care of her boys while serving our community. Nichole is full of empathy and is lionhearted. She is about bringing people together and building this community and making sure our homeless brothers and sisters are seen, represented and loved.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Nichole Gardner

Nominated by: Nichole Gardner, Director of Facing Homelessness/ I am nominating the Facing Homelessness Team

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Facing Homelessness Street Outreach Team

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

This is a hard working team who have compassion for the unhoused living on the streets of Antioch and are heavily involved in the community. The entire team should be recognized for their hard work and dedication to Antioch's unhoused communities.

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Teresa Pasquini

Nominated by: Lauren Rettagliata, friend

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Teresa Pasquini has been a volunteer for over 25 years for those who are most often homeless or living in situations that are making their lives unbearable. Teresa has helped hundreds of people living on the street find housing and also the needed treatment and care to stay housed. Teresa spent her time focused on advocating for a full continuum of psychiatric care that includes all levels of Housing That Heals. That continuum includes Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) for those who cannot survive in supported independent living and do not deserve to be housed in a jail pod or a cardboard tent. Teresa is a former Contra Costa County Mental Health Commissioner. She was also a founding member of a Behavioral Health Care Partnership that began in 2009 at Contra Costa Regional Center, the county's public hospital. It was one of the first patient and family partnerships in the nation that focused on Psychiatric units; the forgotten units with forgotten patients. It is this work that taught her the importance of partnering with patients, families, and the staff who serve both. Teresa is on a mission to reform local, state, and federal mental health systems. So that homelessness is not an option when one leaves the hospital or a treatment center. Teresa's decades of lived experience drives her current passion for "Housing That Heals." Teresa has traveled extensively telling her story in a variety of forums, including the Institute of Healthcare Improvement, a Grand Rounds at the University of Michigan with our Chief of Psychiatry, an event at the National Quality Forum with a Contra Costa Sheriff Deputy, and a media event on Capitol Hill in 2015. She was one of three family members from California who told our stories of failed first care that ended with tragic consequences for all three families. It is hard to capture the depth of despair that her family and so many others have experienced. Her purpose for taking this journey was to start a crucial conversation that would not leave her son uncared for.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Teresa's work has impacted many of the current laws that now benefit people with a serious mental illness or substance use disorder. Through years of work she has used her influence to help both write and support legislation that helps those who are so seriously ill that they cannot help themselves.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Teri Edlinger

Nominated by: Morgan Richie,

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Teri Edlinger embodies compassion in action. At SOS Richmond, she has become a strong and steady presence in our donation center, ensuring that critical needs are never overlooked. When she learns something is missing — whether it's a warm coat, a pair of shoes, or basic supplies — Teri doesn't stop at identifying the gap. She goes out and finds it, making sure our unhoused neighbors have what they need to survive and stabilize. SOS staff member Desiree describes Teri as "the most beautiful soul" and her actions live up to this description. Her generosity is rooted in her own lived experience of love and loss. After her son passed away this year, Teri chose to donate all of his clothing to others in need, transforming personal grief into a source of comfort for the community. She brings that same spirit of compassion to every interaction, showing up with kindness, dedication, and a smile that lifts those around her.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Supervisory District where project takes place: 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)

Ricka Davis-Sheard

Nominated by: Marjorie Oliver, Partner in unhoused residents' advocacy

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

For the past five years, the volunteers of SHARE Community have faithfully dedicated their time, energy, and compassion to serving unhoused residents of Antioch through our mobile shower program. Their commitment goes far beyond the simple act of providing showers. They have shown up week after week, rain or shine, to create a welcoming environment where dignity and care are restored. These volunteers have concentrated their service on ensuring that community members who are often overlooked have access to basic needs such as food and coffee, clean, hot showers, hygiene kits, laundry vouchers, and fresh clothing. Their impact extends far beyond hygiene. They offer kindness, encouragement, and Radical Hospitality®, reminding every guest that they are seen and valued.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

n/a

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Donnie Diego

Nominated by: Rich Town, friend

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Donnie Diego is more than a leader — he is a voice, an advocate, and a guiding light for those experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Having walked through homelessness himself, Donnie carries a deep understanding of the challenges faced by our most vulnerable neighbors. Today, he turns that lived experience into action, compassion, and change. As Chairman of the Consumer Advisory Board for Healthcare for the Homeless, Donnie has ensured that the perspectives of people with lived experience are not just heard, but centered in countywide decision-making. Under his leadership, the board has strengthened collaboration between providers and the community, making healthcare and housing programs more responsive, humane, and effective. Beyond policy, Donnie's daily work embodies hope in action. As a Registered Substance Abuse Counselor, Peer Support Specialist, and Discovery House Alumni Association Board Member, he meets people where they are, walking beside them through recovery, mental health challenges, and the difficult path out of homelessness. His trainings in WRAP, CBT, DBT, and crisis intervention equip him with the tools to help individuals heal, while his heart ensures they feel seen, valued, and never alone. Donnie's impact can be measured not just in programs improved or meetings led, but in lives changed — in the resident who found courage to begin recovery, in the shelter guest who learned new life skills, in the countless people who now have a voice at the table because he insisted they belong there. Quietly but powerfully, Donnie has helped turn hardship into hope, and struggle into strength. He is a true unspoken hero whose dedication continues to transform the homelessness community of Contra Costa County.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2025 Recognitions for “Phoenix Rising”

This category recognizes **individuals with a lived experience of homelessness** who have demonstrated outstanding courage, strength and/or resilience through the Phoenix Rising category. The Phoenix is a bird that rises up again and again from the ashes. It embodies courage and resilience through its journey or flight.

Nominated people must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County and/or have experienced homelessness elsewhere and currently live and/or work in Contra Costa County.

Nominees

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Anastasia Lockwood | 9. Michael Callanan |
| 2. Ashley Ontiveros | 10. Moises Riley |
| 3. Brittany Ferguson | 11. Nicole Rogers |
| 4. Brittany Grenier | 12. Rebecca Sanders |
| 5. Christina Smith | 13. Robin Butler |
| 6. David Nolan | 14. Tami Townsend |
| 7. Donnie Diego | 15. Tammy Stoichich |
| 8. Donnie Diego | 16. Tanya Ruscigno |

The following pages contain descriptions of each nominee as provided by the person (s) who nominated them.

Anastasia Lockwood

Nominated by: Caroline Miller, YAB

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Over the past year, Anastasia has grown into a vital member of the Youth Action Board (YAB). Drawing from their lived experience, they have consistently shown up in the community to advocate for young people and work toward improving the homeless response system—even while still navigating it themselves. Anastasia’s commitment and resilience are evident in the many ways they’ve contributed: participating in the HAM panel, serving on RFP panels and participating in interviews, engaging in trainings, leading outreach efforts, and lending their voice to strategic planning.

Anastasia’s steady presence, thoughtful contributions, and deep compassion for others have left a lasting impact on their peers and the broader community. They embody the spirit of rising above challenges while lifting others alongside them.

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Ashley Ontiveros

Nominated by: La Tanya Johnson, Former case manager

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

This client was homeless, lost her children to CFS, and separated from all she has knows. During my time with her she graduated from SPIRIT program and Restore. Gained custody of her children moved and maintained permanent housing and received employment as a parent partner

Brittany Ferguson

Nominated by: Tanya Ruscigno, Co-worker

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Brittany has been very helpful to CORE mobile outreach and she always advocates for the clients. Brittany has lived experience and uses her past struggles to persevere through helping her community.

Brittany from H3 has taught myself so many things and she is always responsive. She truly has a passion for this line of work and she helps build people up.

Brittany Grenier

Nominated by: Michele Eklund, Friend/coworker

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

She shows up everyday with a positive attitude, she inspires her clients, she doesn't judge people. She helps everyone no matter what.

She's a beautiful soul

Christina Smith

Nominated by: Bill Jones, I supervise her Program Director, and I was her mentor when she completed her SPIRIT program internship.

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Christina's story is one of courage, resilience, and strength. She has faced challenges that might have kept others from moving forward, yet she has transformed her lived experiences—emerging as a true survivor—into a powerful source of wisdom and compassion. Today, Christina not only guides her own path with clarity and purpose but also uplifts, supports, and inspires the vulnerable clients she serves in the APS Home Safe program at Hope Solutions. From the beginning, Christina stood out as someone who leads with heart. She understands, on a deeply personal level, just how overwhelming life's hardships can be, and she brings that lived understanding into every interaction. Her clients trust her because she truly gets it. In her presence, they feel seen, respected, and empowered. Partners and colleagues alike recognize her authenticity and empathy, which have built bridges of trust and strengthened our entire program. Christina's leadership is compassionate, but it is also grounded in accountability. She creates spaces where teamwork thrives, where every voice matters, and where people feel both supported and challenged to grow. She demonstrates that empathy and excellence are not opposites—they go hand in hand. Through her example, Christina shows that resilience is not simply about surviving hardship, but about transforming those hardships into a driving force for change, growth, and impact. Her journey, and the way



she channels it into her work, embodies the very essence of this award. Christina is a courageous leader, a compassionate provider, and an inspiration to everyone around her. We are honored to nominate her and to celebrate the remarkable impact she continues to make in the lives of her clients, colleagues, and community.

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

David Nolan

Nominated by: Morgan Richie,

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

David Nolan's journey exemplifies the courage and resilience at the heart of the Phoenix Rising Award. Once a participant in SOS Richmond's Job Readiness Program, David has risen from the challenges of homelessness to step into a role of leadership — inspiring others through both his hard work and his integrity. From the beginning, David's team recognized him as a natural leader. His honesty, work ethic, and reliability quickly set him apart, and his peers came to trust him as someone who would always show up and follow through. David does not shy away from difficult tasks or hard truths — instead, he leans in with determination and clarity. What makes David's leadership unique is the care he shows for others. His coworker Shyloh describes how David consistently looks out for his teammates, whether by making sure a bike wasn't stolen, motivating his crew to clean up entire blocks of trash, or encouraging them to keep pushing forward. David's trustworthiness and compassion have a direct impact not only on his coworkers, but on the community streets where his team works every day. David's story is one of transformation and service. By moving from participant to leader, he has become a living example of what is possible when resilience meets opportunity. His presence encourages others to believe in themselves, to imagine a future beyond survival, and to take pride in contributing to their community. In David, we see the embodiment of the Phoenix: rising again and again, carrying



courage, strength, and care into every new chapter. SOS Richmond is proud to nominate him for the Phoenix Rising Award.

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)

Donnie Diego

Nominated by: Rich Town, friend

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Donnie is more than a leader — he is a voice, an advocate, and a guiding light for those experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Having walked through homelessness himself, Donnie carries a deep understanding of the challenges faced by our most vulnerable neighbors. Today, he turns that lived experience into action, compassion, and change. As Chairman of the Consumer Advisory Board for Healthcare for the Homeless, Donnie has ensured that the perspectives of people with lived experience are not just heard, but centered in countywide decision-making. Under his leadership, the board has strengthened collaboration between providers and the community, making healthcare and housing programs more responsive, humane, and effective.

Beyond policy, Donnie's daily work embodies hope in action. As a Registered Substance Abuse Counselor, Peer Support Specialist, and Discovery House Alumni Association Board Member, he meets people where they are, walking beside them through recovery, mental health challenges, and the difficult path out of homelessness. His trainings in WRAP, CBT, DBT, and crisis intervention equip him with the tools to help individuals heal, while his heart ensures they feel seen, valued, and never alone. Donnie's impact can be measured not just in programs improved or meetings led, but in lives changed — in the resident who found courage to begin recovery, in the shelter guest who learned new



life skills, in the countless people who now have a voice at the table because he insisted they belong there.

Quietly but powerfully, Donnie has helped turn hardship into hope, and struggle into strength. He is a true unspoken hero whose dedication continues to transform the homelessness community of Contra Costa County.

Supervisory District: They serve the entire county

Donnie Diego

Nominated by: Kevin Johnson, Friend

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

I am thrilled to nominate Donnie Diego for the Phoenix Rising Award, which honors individuals with lived experience of homelessness who exemplify extraordinary courage, strength, and resilience.

Despite his struggles with homelessness, Donnie has not only thrived but has become a beacon of hope and leadership. He is Chairman of the Healthcare for the Homeless Consumer Advisory Board and has driven significant improvements in healthcare access for the homeless community. His dedication to service also shined through his role as Vice President of the Resident Council at Brookside, where he championed his peers and fostered positive change. For two years Donnie volunteered his time and services at the Brookside Shelter where he managed inventory and donations as well as helped shelter staff with daily operations.

Throughout his journey, Donnie continues to thrive amidst the challenges of homelessness. He's trained and certified a Peer Support Specialist by three esteemed agencies: Contra Costa College, CalMHSA the California Mental Health Services Authority, and Medi-Cal. He has also completed courses in interpersonal development and financial management with Pacific Clinics, which led him to co-facilitate the day habilitation program at the shelter. Additionally, he graduated from the Re-Entry Success Center's Alpha Program and received the Harriet Tubman Award from the Remedy Support Group, along with a



certificate of recognition from the State Legislature through Assembly member Buffy Wicks and participated in the Contra Costa County Early Engagement Group on substance disorders.

Donnie's journey from homelessness to a pillar of strength and resilience is a testament to his unwavering courage. His dedication to empowering others and continuous pursuit of personal and professional growth make him an ideal candidate for this award. He is an inspiration to us all.

Supervisory District: I don't know

Michael Callanan

Nominated by: Tanya Ruscigno, Coworker

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Mike started CORE mobile outreach and has stayed all these years because he has a passion for this work.

Mike is my new supervisor and he is calm, understanding, and always in a good mood. He listens to everyone and always is responsive.

Moises Riley

Nominated by: Moises Amaya, Son

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Apesar de las dificultades que pase y lo duro que fue vivir en la calle me dio el corage y la motivacion de luchar por seguir adelante sino tambien la experiencia y las historias de cada persona que sufre en las calles por falta de un hogar y las causas que por las que estas personas son olvidadas y rechazadas pero mas grande fue mi motivacion al escuchar a cada una de esas personas que me abrieron su corazon para poder darme razones y dificultades pero mas hermoso fue que todas esas personas tenemos suenos metas que por las dificultades de la vida aveces nos toca sufrir estos problemas pero hoy es mas grande la motivacion para que podamos ayudar ala comunidad a cambiar el rumbo de nuestros futuros y que el gobierno brinde y se enfoque en planes de ayuda para los mas necesitados que no pueden alzar su voz

igualdad y inclusion ala comunidades mas vulnerables

Nicole Rogers

Nominated by: Roberto Roman, Co-worker/friend

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Nicole Rogers, a recent addition to the team at the Office for Peer and Family Empowerment (OPFE), knows that stories have beginnings and endings. It has taken some reflection for her to consider how her story began. “I feel like my story begins in a place of strength,” she says, “even though it didn't seem like that in the beginning.” The start of an 18-year process of overcoming mental health and substance use challenges also seemed like a very dark place to Nicole. “But in that dark place,” she says, “there was a glint of light that showed through.” In pursuing that light, she also experienced periods of homelessness and battled suicidal thoughts. The point where change seemed within grasp for Nicole was when she became pregnant. “I knew I had to save myself to save my unborn child,” she says. A devastating reality faced Nicole when, during her pregnancy, her baby’s father died from fentanyl overdose. “It really opened up my eyes, knowing that, as it was with him, it could have been with me, too.” Nicole found a refuge in Restore, a faith-based recovery program that supports women who have graduated from inpatient treatment and have open cases with Children and Family Services. Nicole eventually became a manager, group facilitator, and admin worker there. At Restore, Nicole also learned about the SPIRIT program when, during a presentation by the peer co-instructors, she received encouragement to not only apply for SPIRIT but also look into the Clean Slate program to expunge her record

and improve her employment opportunities. She was hesitant at first. “I was so stuck on my past that I didn’t see my future,” she says. “Even though I had shown signs of rehabilitation, I thought that there was no hope for me.” Yet, hope prevailed! Nicole enrolled in SPIRIT and graduated in 2024. Now, she is the newest SPIRIT Peer Vocational Specialist at OPFE. Her journey has changed her outlook. “There’s always time to rebuild your life, if that’s what you want. Bad moments and bad times don’t have to equal bad life.”

I can personally vouch for Nicole's integrity, perseverance, and dedication to helping others. She has become an instrumental part of the Office for Peer and Family Empowerment team over the last year. Her journey through adversity into victory inspires m

Rebecca Sanders

Nominated by: Tanya Ruscigno, Supervisor

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Rebecca is an amazing supervisor and she's always available to help whenever assistance is needed. She also goes out in the field and assists coworkers with helping clients.

Rebecca is also always available to talk if a co worker is feeling overwhelmed or down, or needs a listening ear. She is truly an amazing supervisor.

Robin Butler

Nominated by: Roxanne M. Perry-White, Care Coordinator at Delta Landing Homeless Shelter

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Robin had been homeless for a number of years. She placed herself on numerous housing authority waitlists; and monitored them closely. She performed all tasks required to be part of the BACS Community Services Organization in a timely fashion

The client never gave up on her search for a forever home. She moved into her home in May 2025.

Tami Townsend

Nominated by: Tanya Ruscigno, Coworker

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Tami demonstrates strength, courage, and resilience every single day. She goes, goes, goes for all clients and her community. She cares about all of the unhoused and goes the extra mile.

Tami is a team player and always gives a helping hand.

Tammy Stoicich

Nominated by: Tanya Ruscigno, Coworker

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Tammy is a part of the CCH: H3 data team and she assists with a huge part of CCC reports and trains all of CORE mobile outreach. She is very patient with everyone and very professional.

Tammy has lived experience and she is a kind and loving woman. She has a heart for the unhoused.

Tanya Ruscigno

Nominated by: Brittany Ferguson, Colleague

Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience:

Tanya Ruscigno each day demonstrates resilience, she is the true example of a phoenix rising. When she gets knocked down, she gets back up 10x harder. Tanya has lived experience homeless, and in recovery. I admire her strength and passion for helping and serving our community.