Contra Costa County Homeless System of Care Quarterly Report for Quarter 2, 2025 (April - June)

INTRODUCTION

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness (CoH), appointed by the Board of Supervisors, serves as the governing and oversight body for the County's Continuum of Care (CoC). Supported by Contra Costa Health's Health, Housing & Homeless Services (H3) Division, the CoC is a collaborative network of service providers, community members, and public and private partners working to end homelessness. This quarterly report provides updates on CoC activities, system data, funding, and policy developments, along with CoH recommendations to support long-range planning and policy for the County's homeless response system.

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

SUCCESS STORY

Pathways to Housing: The Impact of Rick Judd Commons

Maria, a resident at Concord Shelter, had endured years of homelessness as her disability severely limited her housing options. Fortunately for Maria, ***Rick Judd Commons*** opened this spring. This new affordable housing project with 62-unit affordable housing units, including 13 units set aside for formerly homeless households with disabilities, was made possible through a network of dedicated partners, including ***Contra Costa Health's Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3)***, ***Contra Costa Behavioral Health Division***, ***Resources for Community Development (RCD)***, the ***John Stewart Company***, and the ***Contra Costa Housing Authority***.

 Maria and 12 other formerly homeless households with disabilities were referred to the homeless set aside units through Contra Costa's Coordinated Entry System, with the support of ***H3's CORE Homeless Outreach and staff at Concord and Brookside Shelter***, the ***Bay Area Community Services Delta Landing Team***, and the ***Contra Costa Health Enhanced Case Management Team***.

With access to ongoing supportive services through Contra Costa Behavioral Health, on-site supportive services, transit, and community amenities, these 13 households will now have a foundation to rebuild their lives. Maria's story is a testament to what is possible when housing providers, outreach teams, case managers, and community organizations unite to create pathways to housing. Together, we are making a difference—one home at a time.

SYSTEM FUNDING

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

FEDERAL

- **2024 CoC NOFO Funding:** $22.3M awarded for renewal and one new project. Grant agreements are being issued, with new federal compliance language tied to executive orders (e.g., restrictions on gender identity language and immigration status). Agencies are advised to consult legal counsel regarding these changes. H3 clarified that HMIS does not track citizenship status and recommends continued legal review.
- **HUD CoC Application Debrief:** The local CoC scored highly overall in this national funding competition.
- **USICH Update:** As of March 14, 2025, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness has scaled back to minimum operations per executive order.
- **CoC Builds NOFO (June):** HUD re-released the capital development NOFO for permanent supportive housing. Hope Solutions' Village of Hope project was re-submitted.

STATE
- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) FY 2025–26:** DCD approved $399,140 in ESG funding recommendations. Six applications were approved; 7.5% allocated to administration, with the remainder supporting homeless prevention, rapid rehousing, street outreach, and emergency shelter projects.
- **AB 109 Funding:** H3 informed the Council on Homelessness about new, one-time state funding recommended by the Community Advisory Board on AB 109 Public Safety Realignment to support local housing programs.
- **HHAP Round 6:** Planning underway for the next Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) application. Three stakeholder engagement meetings scheduled to inform budget and priorities, including one co-facilitated with Behavioral Health at June COH meeting. Application due to the State by end of August 2025.

LOCAL
- **Housing & Homeless Services RFP**: Board of Supervisors approved on April 15, with contracts starting July 1 or later.

DATA

System Performance Measures
In May, the COH received an overview of the HUD System Performance Measures (SPM), a federally mandated report used to assess Continuum of Care (CoC) performance and guide funding decisions. The data—covering metrics such as returns to homelessness, total homeless population, income and employment outcomes, and housing exits—helps track trends, evaluate policy impacts, and inform CoC goal-setting amid shifting funding priorities.

Point in Time Count
The 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count report was released at the end of Q2 and showed a **26% decrease in homelessness** across Contra Costa County compared to last year. On a single night

in January, 2,118 people were identified as experiencing homelessness, 725 fewer people than in 2024.

Additional highlights from the 2025 PIT Count include:

- Homelessness decreased by more than 30% in Central, East and West County.
- Temporary and permanent housing beds increased by 34% since 2023.
- Similar to previous years, 72% of people reported being Contra Costa residents for 10 or more years.

You can view the full 2025 PIT Count report on *our website*.

Contra Costa County Communications and Media team made a short video about the Point in Time Count process: 2025 Annual Homelessness Point in Time Count - YouTube.

SYSTEM INITIATIVES

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

CoC Participant Satisfaction Survey

The CoC received 897 participant satisfaction surveys in the month of March across the seven (7) different program models. Read more about the program models here:

This is a 44% increase from 2024. 61% of those surveyed had been accessing CoC services one year or longer with 40% hearing about CoC services from 211 call line or online database. 96% reported they would recommend CoC services to others.

Collaboration

- Contra Costa Health: Behavioral Health conducted a stakeholder feedback session during the 6/4 COH meeting.
- H3 and the Contra Costa Library system co-hosted a "Homelessness 101" community forum on 5/19 at Pittsburg Library, with additional events planned for next quarter. Food and basic survival supplies provided by White Pony Express.

Communications

- CCH: H3 staff presented at the Corporation for Supportive Housing and Housing California conferences, where they showcased Contra Costa's provider training resources and the El Portal Place project.
- CORE mobile outreach was showcased on page 10 in the March/April edition of the City of Pleasant Hill's newsletter "The Outlook".

Engagement of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness (PWLE)

- Staff hosted monthly support meetings for Council members with lived experience of homelessness

- Engaged multiple people with lived experience in Point in Time count planning and execution.

Equity
- Equity Committee continued to refine the Equity dashboard and received demographic data from the Client Satisfaction survey.

Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

This quarter, the Youth Action Board (YAB) key activities included:
- Participated in Innovative Approaches to Youth Engagement in Policy, Democracy, and Participatory Research with UC Berkeley.
- Continued participation in the H3 Housing Needs Assessment Committee, Youth & Young Adults (YYA) Strategic Planning Implementation and Core Meetings, and the Council on Homelessness.
- Took part in the Pride Proclamation at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) June 10th meeting, where YAB members shared key findings from The Opportunity to Change: Community Needs Assessment for YYA Homelessness in Contra Costa County (2024).

Future YAB work includes:
- Participate in the H3 Youth and Young Adult Transitional Housing RFP panel.
- Join the YYA Homelessness & Adultism Train-the-Trainer sessions with the Matthew Aronson Consulting (MAC) team and present during November's National Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month.
- Finalize and submit recommendations to the Implementation Committee for the three identified priorities from the Youth and Young Adult Strategic Plan:
  - Resources (Action 1.2): Get a handle on the resources we have and provide a toolkit that helps different stakeholders access resources.
  - Outreach (Action 1.5): Create and implement an outreach plan.
  - Safety & Liberation (Action 4.3): Understand how well current partners are welcoming and supporting LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC YYA.

GOVERNANCE/REPORTING

- Approved revisions to Council bylaws, pending County Counsel approval.
- Recommended a new candidate for the City Government Representative seat.
- Following Zoom-bombing incident during the April meeting, transitioned Zoom component of COH meetings "Meetings" to "Webinar" format to reduce the ability of bad actors to disrupt meetings.
- Polls conducted at the beginning of each Council on Homelessness regular meetings capture data on # of Council meetings previously attended, lived experience of homelessness and race/ethnicity of attendees. (See Appendix B for Q2 averages.)

MEETINGS, TRAININGS AND EVENTS

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

Committee	Purpose
Equity Committee	Create accessible information, outreach, and educational materials to engage hard to reach or previously unreached communities in Contra Costa County.
HMIS Policy Committee	Develops and shares updates on Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) policies & practices, compliance, & troubleshooting. Plans technical assistance & training.
Oversight Committee	Reviewing and assessing the development, implementation, and improvement of the CoC, Coordinated Entry System, HMIS database, and system outcomes
PATH Innovation Committee	Work towards the goal of reducing unsheltered homeless in Contra Costa County by 75%.

Trainings
- VAWA Compliance & Strategies for Serving Survivors of Domestic Violence (4.14.25)
- Trauma Informed Care (5.15.25)
- Fair Housing (6.9.25)

Events
- CoC Provider Meetings (3)

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to advocate for ongoing support for people who lose eligibility for services and other resources due to federal and state policy decisions
- Share Annual Report and Point-In-Time Count reports and open seats on the Council on Homelessness with your constituents

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

APPENDIX A

Commonly Used Acronyms and Terms

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
BIPOC	Black and Indigenous People of Color
CARE	Coordinated Assessment and Resource
CCYCS	Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services
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
DCD	(Contra Costa County) Department of Conservation and Development
DOC	Department Operations Center
EHSD	(Contra Costa County) Employment and Human Services Division
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
PWLE	People With Lived Experience of Homelessness
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 18-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

APPENDIX B

Poll Question Answers Q2	
How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended?	**Q2 avg**
This is my first meeting	9%
I've attended some meetings	33%
I've attended a lot of meetings	58%
I prefer not to answer	0%
Yes, currently	
Yes, within the past 7 years	2%
Yes, more than 7 years ago	10%
No	14%
I prefer not to answer	84%
	0%
What best describes your racial identity?*	
African American/Black	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	16%
Hispanic/Latinx	10%
White	7%
Multi-racial	16%
I prefer not to answer	42%
I describe myself in another way	8%

*This category allows people to select multiple options