

Resolution Declaring November Homelessness Awareness Month

WHEREAS, November is recognized nationally as Homelessness Awareness Month, and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month), a time to acknowledge the challenges faced by adults, youth and young adults, and families experiencing homelessness and to mobilize community-wide efforts toward lasting solutions; and

WHEREAS, 14,245 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa County in 2024—an increase of 40% from 2020¹, underscoring systemic housing challenges; and

WHEREAS, homelessness in Contra Costa County is driven primarily by the lack of affordable housing, with 30,812 low-income renter households in Contra Costa County not having access to an affordable home in 2024²; and

WHEREAS, according to *The Opportunity to Change: A Community Needs Assessment for Youth and Young Adult Homelessness*, an estimated 13,506 young people are experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County, driven by factors such as aging out of foster care, family conflict, a lack of affordable housing, and systemic disparities including racism, homophobia, and transphobia³; and

WHEREAS, renters needing to earn \$43.63 per hour—more than 2.5 times the City of Richmond's minimum wage—to afford the average monthly rent of \$2,269⁴; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 in Contra Costa County, there were only 3,787 temporary and permanent housing beds for persons experiencing homelessness, a stark shortfall compared to the scale of need across our communities⁵; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County's 34% increase in temporary and permanent housing beds⁶ over the past two years reflects a sustained commitment to expanding shelter and housing solutions; and

WHEREAS, racial disparities persist, with Black/African American/African households and people with Multiple Races were over-represented in the CoC relative to the county population (4x and 3x, respectively) ⁷; and

¹ 2024 Annual report [do full citation with page #]

² **California Housing Partnership**. (2024, May). *Contra Costa County 2024 Affordable Housing Needs Report*. https://chpc.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Contra-Costa_Housing_Report.pdf

³ Aronson, M., Giannone, C., Nawabi, S., & Braimah, N. (2024). *The opportunity to change: A community needs assessment for youth and young adult homelessness in Contra Costa County*. Contra Costa Health Services, Health, Housing, and Homeless Services. [638648533798100000](https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/32051/638868762849870000)

⁴ **California Housing Partnership**. (2024, May). *Contra Costa County 2024 Affordable Housing Needs Report*. https://chpc.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Contra-Costa_Housing_Report.pdf

⁵ Contra Costa Health. (2025). *[Contra Costa County 2025 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT]* <https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/32051/638868762849870000>

⁶ 2024 Annual report [do full citation with page #]

⁷ Ibid, page #

WHEREAS 63% of unsheltered people surveyed as part of Contra Costa’s 2025 Point in Time Count experienced being made to move by city workers or law enforcement within the past year⁸; and

WHEREAS research shows that criminalizing homelessness worsens the crisis and deepens existing racial inequities⁹ and

WHEREAS, since 2020, Contra Costa has seen an 79% increase in households with minor children, a 69% increase in seniors aged 65+, and a 53% increase in Transition Aged Youth (ages 18–24) accessing homeless services¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Continuum of Care unites over 50 organizations, jurisdictions, and individuals committed to preventing and ending homelessness through coordinated housing, health, and support services; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa Continuum of Care is committed to promoting evidence-based practices like Harm Reduction and Housing First to achieve permanent housing outcomes for the most vulnerable in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Action Board, composed of youth and young adults (YYA) with lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County, is actively leading and amplifying the voices of YYA, informing the Contra Costa Continuum of Care, and providing leadership and guidance in collaboration with community stakeholders to end YYA homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Homelessness, staffed by Contra Costa Health, serves as both an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors and the planning entity for the Continuum of Care, welcoming public engagement and collaboration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims November 2025 as Homelessness Awareness Month and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month in Contra Costa County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board affirms its commitment to building and sustaining a well-resourced, coordinated, and equity-driven Continuum of Care that meets the complex needs of people experiencing homelessness.

⁸ Contra Costa Health. (2025). [Contra Costa County 2025 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT] <https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/32051/638868762849870000>

⁹ DuBois, N., Herbert, C., & Sowards, E. M. (2025, February). *Criminalizing homelessness worsens the crisis: Research shows*. National Alliance to End Homelessness. https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/CriminalizingWorsensTheCrisis_NAEH_2-4-25.pdf

¹⁰ 2024 Annual report [do full citation with page #]