



STAFF REPORT FROM THE CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Contra Costa County Homeless System of Care Quarterly Report for Quarter 2, 2023 (April - June)

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Dear Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

The second quarter of this year the system of care focused on sharing information about the January Point in Time count, applying for funding and continuing to make improvements. The Council spent much time discussing and adjusting to the impact of changes to the Brown Act requiring in person attendance.

An additional message from Jo Bruno, Vice Chair :

We, as humans, are not meant to be categorized as a number or put into a systemic process, but that's the way the system works. Unfortunately, those of us in the crisis of homelessness have many different needs, and some basic, human needs are not being met. Being on the CoH, as lived experience advisor and getting involved in all committees and working groups has given me great insight to our systemic process. It's been rewarding. Our homeless system of care needs a lot of updates and I am constantly fighting against the red tape to make it easier for others because of what I've been through, I am honored to be part of these changes and we need to do more. It's slow moving, but we're doing the systemic work as a collaborative effort; it's great work.

Sincerely,

and

Juno Hedrick, Chair of the Council on
Homelessness

Jo Bruno, Vice Chair of the Council on
Homelessness



INTRODUCTION

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness (CoH) is the governing and oversight body for the County homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) and is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Council provides advice and input to the Board of Supervisors on the operations of homeless services, program operations, and program development efforts in Contra Costa County. The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness is the governing body for the Contra Costa County Continuum of Care (CoC).

The Contra Costa CoC is comprised of multiple partners, including service providers, members of faith communities, local businesses, private and public funders, community members, education systems and law enforcement, and others who are working collaboratively to end homelessness. The COH and COC are supported by Contra Costa Health Services Health, Housing & Homeless Services (H3) Division. H3 functions as the CoC administrative entity and collaborative applicant, CoC Lead Agency and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS database) Lead Agency.

The purpose of this report is to share information about the CoC and COH activities with the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and to provide recommendations from the COH to the County Board of Supervisors on long range planning and policy formulation that would support the county homeless CoC. This report includes information on system data, funding and policy activities, and CoC initiatives. All information will reflect activities and data for the prior quarter.

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

SYSTEM FUNDING

This quarter the CoC continued to evaluate the system of care and pursued funding opportunities to address the gaps in Contra Costa's homeless system, including our largest source of funding, the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

FEDERAL

HUD NOFO: This quarter the Council approved revisions to the 2023 HUD Continuum of Care Competition Renewal Housing Project Scoring Tool and was provided an overview of the regular CoC NOFO opportunity including background, local review and rank process, and recruitment process for 2023. Members were selected for the Review and Rank panel process for 2023. The NOFO is expected to be released in the coming months.



STATE

Homeless, Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP): HHAP grant through the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH) that provides local jurisdictions, including federally recognized tribal governments, with flexible funding to continue efforts to end and prevent homelessness in their communities. In this quarter, H3 requested initial disbursement of HHAP-4 funding from the State and is awaiting executed contract documents. Services funded through HHAP include Interim Housing, homelessness prevention, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and technical assistance.

Homekey 3: H3 submitted an application for the Homekey Program that is aimed to rehab physical facilities. The project will be a 54-unit building in San Pablo to house chronically homeless households to provide rental assistance and support services with an expected date of occupancy by the end of 2023.

LOCAL

Measure X: The Council heard updates from Health, Housing and Homeless Services about the RFP process for Measure X funding allocated for housing/homeless services.

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.

Equity: The Equity Committee made progress towards achieving the 2023 goal: *Create accessible information, outreach, and educational materials to engage hard to reach or previously unreached communities in Contra Costa County.* The Materials Development Group and Committee continued drafting campaign talking points and equity-related definitions.

Engagement of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness: The CoC continued to recruit people with lived experience to participate in a variety of activities, including the work of the Equity Committee and Homelessness Awareness Month planning.

Homelessness Awareness Month: Solicited members for Homelessness Awareness Month (HAM) Working Group to plan for events and tools to mark HAM in November.

Monitoring: In April the Oversight Committee heard a presentation on the Compliance Monitoring Review Process and timeline.

Performance Based Contracting: Providers have continued quarterly meetings with H3 to discuss progress and identify goals for the next quarter. Updates were provided at the Oversight Committee meeting in April.



Point in Time Count: In June, the CoC released the 2023 Point in Time Count Infographic here: <https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/pdf/PIT-infographic-2023.pdf> . See Appendix C.

COLLABORATIONS

Homeless Services-Workforce Development Integration (H-WIN)- These quarterly provide an opportunity for people working in Homeless Services and Workforce Development in Contra Costa to connect with and understand each other's resources and services. One meeting was held this quarter (5/10/23), with 31 partners in attendance.

AT HOME

In June, Christy Saxton gave a report out of the California State Association of Counties AT HOME Plan. The goal is to have a stronger and sustainable ongoing funding system to address housing and homelessness and a trailer bill is going directly to the Governor for approval.

GOVERNANCE/REPORTING

- **Brown Act:** In June, Council voted to maintain a single physical location for in person Council on Homelessness meetings to maintain option for members to use "Just Cause" and "Emergency Circumstances" exemptions and the Council sent a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors related to pending legislation per the Brown Act to allow advisory bodies to continue to attend meetings remotely and to remove the barriers of in-person quorum. Significant staff time was spent ensuring quorum would be met now that Brown Act requires in person quorum.
- Approved revisions to Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant Written Standards at May meeting.
- Governance Committee decided on recommended revisions to the Council on Homelessness Governance Charter and Bylaws. Document will go to County Counsel for legal review.
- Selected members of Nominating Committee which will meet next quarter to review and revise the application materials and process to fill vacant seats on the council.
- 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 in addition to an Orientation 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.
Funding Committee	Direct the community input process for several time-sensitive federal and state funding streams. NOFO prep work that previously happened at the CoC/ESG Committee will now happen at the Funding Committee.
Governance Committee	The purpose of the Governance Committee is to review and revise the Governance Charter and Bylaws to increase the efficiency and impact of the Council on Homelessness
HMIS Policy Committee	Develops and shares updates on HMIS policies and practices, compliance, and troubleshooting; Plans technical assistance and training; Informs standards of practice and monitoring
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% by 2024

Trainings

- Harm Reduction (4/10/23)
- Housing First (5/08/23)
- Racial Equity and Homelessness (6/12/23)

Events

- CoC Provider Meetings (3)
- H-WIN meeting (5/10)



The recordings, minutes and materials for trainings and meetings can be found on the H3 website¹ and on the County agenda center², and a calendar of upcoming meetings and events can be found on the H3 website.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Hear a presentation from the Council on Homelessness at a Board of Supervisors meeting in November and adopt a proclamation declaring November as Homelessness Awareness month; adopt a proclamation recognizing December 21, 2023 as Homeless Person's Memorial Day; and recognize the long service of Teri House, founding member of the Council on Homelessness, as she steps down from the Council this year.

¹ <https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/partners.php#Training>

² <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/agendacenter>



Appendix A

Commonly Used Acronyms and Terms

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



SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 18-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

Contra Costa County COVID-19 Resources:

Please see below for additional resources on COVID-19.

- *Health Services COVID Data Dashboard-* <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/dashboard>
- *Health Services Homeless Specific Data Dashboard-* <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/homeless-dashbc>
- *Health Services COVID Updates-* <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/health-services-updates>
- *Health Services Homeless-Specific COVID Resources -*<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-the-homeles>



APPENDIX B

Poll Question Answers Q2

How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended? Q1 avg

This is my first meeting	6%
I've attended some meetings	24%
I've attended a lot of meetings	67%
I prefer not to answer	0%

Do you have lived experience of homelessness?

Yes, currently	3%
Yes, within the past 7 years	17%
Yes, more than 7 years ago	15%
No	65%
I prefer not to answer	0%

What best describes your racial identity?*

African American/Black	13%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	7%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	5%
Hispanic/Latinx	26%
White	39%
I prefer not to answer	3%
I describe myself in another way	3%

*This category allows people to select multiple options



APPENDIX C

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY 2023 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count identified a 4% increase in the total number of people observed experiencing homelessness on a given night in Contra Costa County since 2020. This is a modest increase given California's ongoing housing crisis, the impact COVID-19 had on housing stability and resources, and the continued economic challenges.

Contra Costa is dedicated to increasing capacity for interim and permanent housing with new grants directed at increasing prevention programming and housing opportunities.

Thanks to the many service agencies and community members that provided support with planning and implementation of the 2023 PIT.

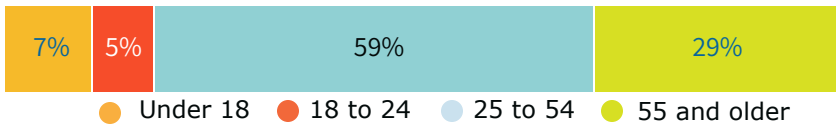
2,372 people experiencing homelessness on a given night in Contra Costa County

- 1,911 households
- 4% increase from 2020 to 2023

SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS



AGE



RACE

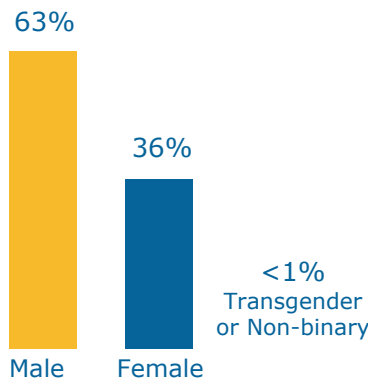
- 51% White
- 30% Black/African American
- 9% American Indian/Alaskan Native
- <6% All other Races made-up 5% or less

ETHNICITY

24% Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(e)(x)

2023 HUD data standards require that race and ethnicity data is captured separately.

GENDER



67% chronically homeless

4% veterans

HOUSEHOLD BREAKDOWN

Adult-only Households

made up 95% of households
 4% decrease since 2020

Households with Children

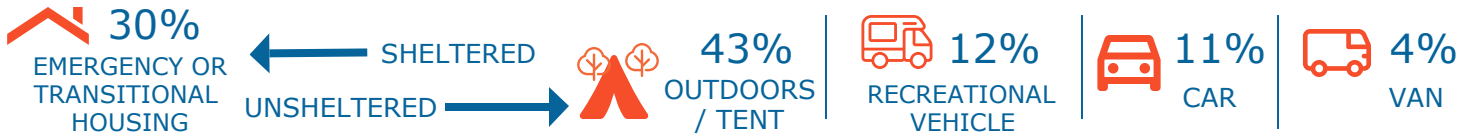
made up 5% of households
 12% increase since 2020

2023 UNSHELTERED OBSERVATIONS

	West 40%	Central 30%	East 30%
West County 29% increase from '20 to '23		2020	2023
Crockett		35	21
El Cerrito		24	7
El Sobrante		9	5
Hercules		7	20
N. Richmond		22	31
Pinole		7	8
Richmond		280	487
Rodeo		64	36
San Pablo		67	48
Total		515	663
Central County 4% decrease from '20 to '23		2020	2023
Clayton		2	10
Concord		160	241
Danville		7	7
Martinez		127	140
Pacheco		26	20
Pleasant Hill		90	31
Walnut Creek		80	40
Total		514	496
East County 6% decrease from '20 to '23		2020	2023
Antioch		238	334
Bay Point		49	50
Bethel Island		2	6
Brentwood		80	37
Oakley		50	9
Pittsburg		102	58
Total		523	494

Cities with fewer than 5 observed unsheltered individuals are not included in this table

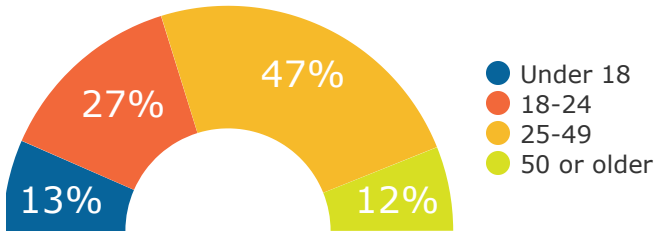
SLEEP SETTINGS ON THE NIGHT OF THE COUNT



CONDITIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HOMELESSNESS

The following data represent self-reported personal circumstances that contributed to homelessness and do not address the social and community conditions that are strongly correlated to homelessness.

AGE FIRST EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS*



FOSTER CARE



13% of adults had been in foster care

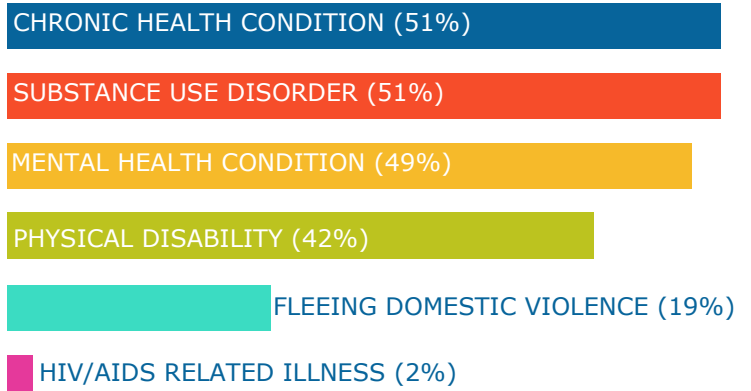
LEGAL SYSTEM INVOLVED



12% of adults had spent 1+ nights in jail/prison in the past year

SELF-REPORTED HEALTH CONDITIONS +

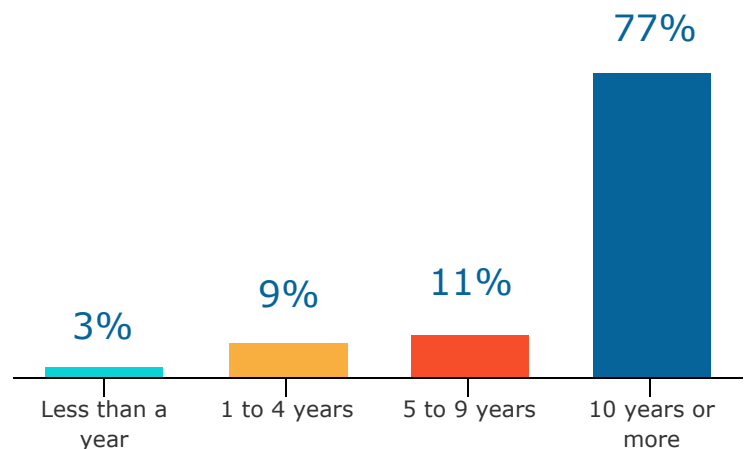
83% of households had at least one member with a disabling condition



SELF-REPORTED CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO HOMELESSNESS Δ * +

41%	Substance use disorder
27%	Employment loss
25%	Eviction/foreclosure
24%	Mental health condition
22%	Unable to stay with family/friends
16%	Divorce or separation

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY*



METHODOLOGY

- The 2023 PIT Count methodology followed the Housing and Urban Development's guidelines for a "night of" observational count followed by a random sample survey to gather demographic data and homeless experience.
- A household falls under chronic homelessness if the head-of-household has a disabling condition and has been homeless for 12 months or more in the last year or 12 months or more over four or more episodes during the last three years.
- Unaccompanied youth (<18), and unaccompanied young adults (18 to 24) are youth who do not live with a parent or guardian.

Δ Only display top responses

* Responses represent only unsheltered respondents

+ Multiple response question, results do not add up to 100%

For more information about Contra Costa County's Homeless Continuum of Care, please visit cchealth.org/h3/coc.