



Contra Costa County Homeless System of Care Quarterly Report for Quarter 4, 2025 (October – December)

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

In one Antioch encampment, a surprising barrier stood between residents and stable housing: dogs. Lots of them. More than 30 dogs lived alongside their unhoused human companions—many of whom had deep emotional bonds with their pets but faced impossible choices.

To enter shelter and eventually transition into housing, clients must limit their pets to two per household. But in this encampment:

- One client had 6–7 dogs, including a pregnant female who had already endured six litters.
- Puppies were dying from parvo or being hit by cars.
- The emotional and physical toll on both humans and animals was growing.
- Without access to affordable veterinary care, spay/neuter services, or rehoming support, the situation felt unmanageable.

That's when a meaningful partnership took shape. With funding from [Antioch's Encampment Resolution Fund \(ERF\)](#), **CORE Mobile Outreach team** partnered with [Joybound People and Pets](#), a local animal welfare organization, to bring compassionate, practical solutions to the unsheltered people and animals living in the encampment.

- **Joybound** provided discounted vaccinations, spay/neuter surgeries, and medical care.
- **CORE Mobile Outreach** coordinated logistics, identified dogs that matched Joybound's intake criteria (by gender, size, and availability), and transported both clients and animals to and from the animal clinic for treatment.

Thanks to this partnership and the trust CORE staff built with clients:

- 5 animals were spayed/neutered and vaccinated.
- 4 puppies were fostered and rehomed.
- Over 30 dogs were successfully placed in new homes—often through word-of-mouth and community connections.
- Clients were able to reduce their pet count, making them eligible for shelter and housing opportunities.

This effort didn't just improve public health and animal welfare—it opened doors to stability for people who had felt stuck. By honoring the human-animal bond and offering real solutions, the CORE and Joybound teams helped clients take meaningful steps toward housing readiness. This is what partnership looks like: meeting people where they are, solving problems creatively, and walking the path to housing—one pawprint 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

2025 CoC NOFO Funding

- On November 13, 2025, HUD released the 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that imposed major policy changes to the CoC program. The CoC immediately began to implement a local process to apply for funding.
- In response to legal challenges, HUD withdrew the NOFO on December 8, 2025, and posted another NOFO on December 19, 2025. Due to a court order issued on December 23, 2025, HUD cannot take action on the NOFO issued in 2025 and is required to take steps to process renewals for FY2025 CoC funding. The court order does not require HUD to obligate or award funding.

STATE

HHAP Round 6

- In this quarter, California's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) requested corrections to the HHAP Round 6 application submitted in August 2025. H3 submitted requested corrections within the required timeframe on behalf of the County and CoC's joint application. The County should receive a standard agreement in early 2026.

LOCAL

Youth Housing & Homeless Services RFP:

- Hope Solutions began administering the transitional living program and other housing services to Transition Aged Youth (TAY), ages 18-24, at various locations in Contra Costa County as of October 15, 2025.

Consolidated Housing and Homeless Services RFP:

- The Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) and Health Housing, and Homeless Services (H3) released the annual Consolidated Housing and Homelessness Funding Request for Proposals for the Measure X Housing Fund and multiple other funding sources, including funding dedicated to emergency shelter, prevention and diversion services, coordinated entry CARE Center services, and rapid rehousing services for specific populations. The deadline for submissions was Friday, October 31, 2025. In November and December, H3 reviewed applications for completeness, provided training to RFP review panelists, and convened panelists to coordinate applicant interviews. Panelists included members of the Youth Action Board, County staff, homeless services staff, and a community member.

DATA

2024 Annual Data Report

- Contra Costa was scheduled to present 2024 system level data from HMIS to the Council on Homelessness on 12.4.25 but ran out of time. The COH received the [slide deck with data](#) (starting p. 75).
- Total people served: 14,245 individuals
- Black/African American/African and Multi-Racial over-represented relative to County census
- 5-year increases include:
 - +40% total households served since 2019
 - By Program Type: +111% use of Prevention and Diversion services; +29% using Crisis Response services; +51% in Permanent Housing
 - Family Configurations: +79% households with children and +31% adult-only households
 - Ages: +73% children under age 18 (almost all in families, not unaccompanied minors) and +69% aged 65+
- Exits to Permanent Housing:

- Three racial/ethnic groups had the highest exits to housing from Crisis Response: Black/African American/African (23%); Multiple Races (21%) and Asian American/Asian (19%). Lowest were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous (17% respectively) and Hispanic/Latinx (16%)
- Other sub-populations: Veterans had the highest rates of exits to Permanent Housing (42%) from Crisis Response, followed by Households with Children (39%). Chronically Homeless households had the lowest rates (15%)
- Where lost housing:
 - Thirty-eight percent (n=3,786) of households accessing a program lost their housing in East County, 24% (n=2,415) in West County, 22% (n=2,174) in Central County and 14% (n=1,430) outside of Contra Costa County
- Deaths of people experiencing homelessness decreased 33% from 2023.
- 2024 Accomplishments
 - Increased Services
 - El Portal Place/HUMS Expansion
 - Coordinated Prevention
 - Pet Resources in shelters
 - Pre-trial services
 - Youth Homelessness Strategic Planning
 - Housing Assessment Tool Revamp

Point in Time Count

- Planning for the Point in Time Count continued during Q4. The PIT is scheduled to take place on 1/29/26.

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.

Expanded/Improved System Capacity

Prevention Triage Tool Rollout

- In Q3, the Coordinated Entry System (CES) launched a new Prevention Triage Assessment to support a targeted prevention approach, focusing resources on households at imminent risk of homelessness. The tool is now used by the Contra Costa Crisis Center (211) when screening callers at-risk of homelessness and seeking

housing assistance, helping to standardize eligibility screening countywide and prioritize limited prevention funds for households most likely to experience housing loss without intervention.

Housing Needs Assessment

- CES continued work to redesign and pilot a new Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) to replace the previous assessment tool used to determine housing needs and prioritization. In addition to pilot testing, CES completed a second round of stakeholder engagement with homeless service providers, system partners, steering committee members, and people with lived experience to gather feedback on both the tool and implementation process. This input is informing final refinements to ensure the HNA reduces respondent burden, improves alignment with local housing resources, and more effectively supports equitable and consistent housing placement decisions across the system.

Streamlined Access to CalAIM

- Contra Costa Health Plan (CCHP) Member Services is now directly accessible through the CORE mobile dispatch phone menu via 211. This new direct-transfer feature streamlines connections for callers seeking information or support related to CalAIM's Enhanced Care Management (ECM), Community Supports, and other CCHP services. It builds on existing menu options currently available through CORE for Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) and Behavioral Health's A3 program, making CORE an even more effective entry point for both the public and providers.

Collaboration

Homelessness Awareness Month: Homelessness Awareness Month activities included:
Homelessness Awareness Month activities included:

- Materials: Launch of [2025 Homelessness Awareness Month Toolkit](#); Launch of [a video](#) celebrating Homelessness Awareness Month; Creation of [10 posters](#) highlighting success stories of people in Contra Costa experiencing homelessness.
- Events: 11/4: Presentation to Contra Costa Board of Supervisors and 2 resolutions of support; 11/4: [Homelessness Awareness Month Reception](#) that celebrated with close to 100 people; 11/10: Youth led training on Adulthood and Working with Youth and Young Adults with over 120 attended; Multiple cities, including Antioch, El Cerrito, Oakley, Pittsburg, San Pablo, adopted resolutions naming November Homelessness

Awareness Month; and a memorial event, cohosted by Antioch Seventh Day Adventist Church, Bay Area Rescue Mission, City of Antioch, Contra Costa Council on Homelessness, NAMI Contra Costa, and Safe Organized Spaces Richmond was held 12/19 at the NAMI CC - 40 Voices African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub. [See video](#) from the event.

Legacy Court

- The Coordinated Entry System (CES), in collaboration with Contra Costa Behavioral Health's Housing Support Team, began making referrals to 13 supportive housing units at Legacy Court, a new permanent housing opportunity in West County operated by Eden Housing. Funded through the State's *No Place Like Home* program, Legacy Court serves individuals experiencing chronic homelessness with significant behavioral health needs, with residents receiving on-site supportive services provided by Contra Costa Behavioral Health. As of December 31, all referred households had successfully moved into their units, reflecting strong cross-division coordination and timely lease-up.

Coordinated Entry Voucher At-Risk Initiative

- CES continued its collaboration with the Contra Costa Housing Authority to support households at risk of losing their housing vouchers due to lease compliance or administrative related barriers. Through targeted outreach, coordination, and problem-solving with participating households and partners, the initiative helped stabilize housing and prevent voucher termination. As of the end of the reporting period, this effort successfully preserved approximately 90 housing vouchers, preventing displacement and protecting a critical housing resource for vulnerable households.

Communications

- Staff continued to bring CCH:H3 and Council on Homelessness webpages into compliance with new ADA digital access laws.

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.

- Homelessness Awareness Month and Homeless Persons' Memorial event provided multiple opportunities to engage people with lived experience.

Equity

- Equity Committee sunset in December. Key priorities from the committee will be upheld by the Oversight Committee.

Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

This quarter, the Youth Action Board (YAB) key activities included:

Homeless Awareness Month & Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month Engagement

- Delivered [CoC Training: Adulthood and Working With Youth and Young Adults](#) on November 10, with 115 participants. The YAB was invited to provide similar training for Marin County Health & Human Services on December 9.
- Participated in the California Coalition for Youth (CCY) Bay Area Youth HOPE Month Ice Skating Event on November 4 in Oakland, joining YABs from across the Bay Area to raise awareness and inspire action to end youth homelessness.
- Hosted CCY's CalYouth Tour at the Council on Homelessness Recognition and Reception on November 4, as part of a statewide movement to educate communities and mobilize action.

Funding & Governance Work

- Served on the RFP Review Panel for Consolidated Housing & Homelessness Funding.
- Participated in YAB Governance Workgroup for annual review and revision of bylaws.
- Held 3 YAB Nominating Workgroup meetings, developed scoring rubric, and reviewed 17 applicants for 5 vacant seats.

Data & Research Subcommittee

- Participated in PIT trainings in preparation for the January PIT Count.
- Collaborated with H3 Research, Evaluation, and Data (RED) Team to plan a Youth Survey to address gaps in current data.

Future YAB work includes:

- Release updates to the 2024 Community Needs Assessment and reconvene partners for Youth & Young Adult Strategic Planning.

- Participate in PIT Count (January) and PIT Survey (February); continue planning for Youth Survey in Fall 2026.
- Strengthening regional partnerships with other YABs and CCY as part of the statewide Youth Empowerment Summit.

GOVERNANCE/REPORTING

- Equity Committee and PATH Innovations Committee sunset in December as part of an effort to maximize utilization of resources. Key priorities from the committees will be upheld by the Oversight Committee.
- Candidates for eleven open seats, including 4 new members, were recommended by the Council and approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- 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 Q4 and 2025 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
Funding Committee	Direct the community input process for several time-sensitive federal and state funding streams, including revising scoring tools for the Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO) competition
HMIS Policy Committee	Develops and shares updates on Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) policies & practices, compliance, & troubleshooting. Plans technical assistance & training
Homelessness Awareness Month	To plan activities and materials to mark November as Homelessness Awareness Month
Nominating Committee	Reviews and revises application process for potential new CoH members and provides recommendations to the full Council

Committee	Purpose
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%
Point in Time Count Committee	Plan and implement the annual Point-in-Time Count, an annual HUD-required count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness

Trainings

- Creating a Stronger Homeless System of Care: Building Better Connections and Outcomes (10.8.25)
- Adulthood and Working With Youth and Young Adults (11.11.25)
- Connecting Clients to Mainstream Benefits (12.11.25)

Events

- CoC Provider Meetings (3)
- Homelessness Awareness Month
- Homeless Persons’s Memorial event

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the Board of Supervisors **advocate to the Governor and Legislature for the following actions:**

- **Restore full HHAP funding for FY 2025–26 and beyond.**
HHAP has been the most effective state program for reducing homelessness at the local level. Eliminating this funding will undermine progress and increase homelessness.
- **Ensure timely distribution of the \$1 billion in HHAP funds already approved for FY 2024–25.**
These funds have been delayed for 18 months, creating uncertainty and jeopardizing local programs.
- **Commit to sustained, predictable homelessness funding in future budgets.**
Counties need stability to plan and maintain successful programs that prevent and reduce homelessness.

Appendix A: Commonly Used Acronyms and Terms

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
BHSA	Behavioral Health Services Act
BIPOC	Black and Indigenous People of Color
CARE	Coordinated Assessment and Resource
CCYCS	Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant (federal and state programs)
Continuum of Care (CoC)	Continuum of Care approach to assistance to the homeless. Federal grant program promoting and funding solutions to homelessness.
CORE	Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement program
DCD	(Contra Costa County) Department of Conservation and Development
DHCS	California Department of Health Care Services
EHSD	(Contra Costa County) Employment and Human Services Department
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grant (federal and state program)
FMR	Fair Market Rent (maximum rent for Section 8 rental assistance/CoC grants)
HCD	California Department of Housing and Community Development
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
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
PWLE	People With Lived Experience of Homelessness
RFP	Request for Proposals
RRH	Rapid Rehousing
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSO	Support Services Only
TA	Technical Assistance
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 18-24)
TH	Transitional Housing
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

Appendix B Demographic Poll Question Answers Q4

How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended?	Q4 2025 avg	2025 avg	2024 avg
This is my first meeting	11%	10%	10%
I've attended some meetings	20%	24%	30%
I've attended a lot of meetings	70%	62%	57%
I prefer not to answer	0%	0%	0%

Do you have a lived experience of homelessness?	Q4 2025 avg	2025 avg	2024 avg
Yes, currently	7%	5%	7%
Yes, within the past 7 years	6%	6%	14%
Yes, more than 7 years ago	13%	17%	11%
No	74%	75%	63%
I prefer not to answer	0%	0%	0%

What best describes your racial identity?*	Q4 2025 avg	2025 avg	2024 avg
African American/Black	23%	17%	14%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	9%	9%	5%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	5%	7%	8%
Hispanic/Latinx	23%	18%	22%
White	31%	38%	38%
Multi-racial	6%	8%	10%
I prefer not to answer	0%	0%	4%
I describe myself in another way	4%	3%	2%

*This category allows people to select multiple options