



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

March 5, 2026 from 1:00-3:00

WELCOME

Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Advisor*

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.
- Immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse or domestic partner
- Military service obligations
- Physical or family medical emergency

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE EXEMPTION

HYBRID MEETING NORMS

Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Advisor*

HYBRID MEETING NORMS

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**

Juno Hedrick, Vice Chair & Lived Experience Advisor

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

Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience
Advisor*

CONSENT CALENDAR

Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience
Advisor*

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 February 5, 2026 Council Meeting
- Approve staff report for the March 5, 2026 Council Meeting



MEET DR. GRANT
COLFAX, NEW
CEO OF CONTRA
COSTA HEALTH

Dr. Grant Colfax, *Contra Costa Health*

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

**Update on CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity
and Funding Committee** – Mark Mora, *Homebase*
and Jamie Schechter, *H3*

**UPDATE ON COC
NOFO AND
FUNDING
COMMITTEE**

Mark Mora, *Homebase*
Jamie Schechter, *H3*

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

2025 Has NOT Been A Routine Year

- **July 2024** – HUD announced that CoC NOFO was moving to a 2-year cycle (next NOFO would be 2026)
- **Nov 13, 2025** – HUD unexpectedly released FY 2025 CoC NOFO
- **Dec 8, 2025** – HUD withdrew FY 2025 CoC NOFO (due to ongoing litigation)
- **Dec 12, 2025** – Contra Costa CoC paused the local competition
- **Dec 19, 2025** – HUD released v.2 of FY 2025 CoC NOFO, but was blocked from implementing it due to preliminary injunction
- **Jan 8-9, 2026** – HUD re-issued the two-year [FY 2024 – 2025 CoC NOFO](#) (from July 2024)
- **Feb 6, 2026** – Contra Costa CoC submitted package of renewal and projects per re-released FY 2024 – 2025 CoC NOFO

Two-Year FY 2024-2025 CoC NOFO

- Originally issued in July 2024, HUD re-issued Jan 2026
- Focuses largely on renewing existing CoC grants in a non-competitive manner
- A very limited amount of reallocated funds were made available to new projects
- Per local policy:
 - Eligible new projects were limited to Coordinated Entry (CE) and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) projects
 - Eligible applicants were limited to H3 as current operator of CE/HMIS projects
- Contra Costa CoC submitted package of renewal and new projects on February 6, 2026

FY 2025 CoC NOFO

- Timeline:
 - Originally released on 12/13/25
 - Withdrawn on 12/8/25
 - Contra Costa CoC paused local competition indefinitely on 12/12/25
 - Re-released with changes on 12/19/25 (but was blocked from being implemented due to preliminary injunction)
- Included significant program changes: 30% cap on funding for permanent housing, service participation requirements, new eligible project types, etc.
- On 2/27/26 HUD filed an emergency motion with the court requesting that the preliminary injunction (from December 2025) be dissolved so HUD issue a new FY 2025 CoC NOFO to make awards for grants expiring in Quarters 3 and 4
- If the dissolution is granted, HUD could re-release FY 2025 CoC NOFO

FY 2026 CoC NOFO

- Highlights from the FY 2026 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agendas (THUD) Appropriations for Homeless Assistance Grants:
 - The lowest HUD can set Tier 1 at is 60% of Annual Renewal Demand (it was 30% in the FY 2025 CoC NOFO which was unprecedented)
 - HUD is required to publish the FY 2026 NOFO by June 1, 2026 with awards made by December 1, 2026
- Funding Committee will meet monthly starting in March to update policies and scoring tools in preparation for the 2026 CoC NOFO competition

COMMITTEE REPORT OUTS

Oversight Committee (ACTION ITEM) Approve New Contra Costa Housing Needs Assessment as recommended by the Oversight Committee- Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, *H3*; Claire Burrus, *Focus Strategies* and Allison Mabb, *Focus Strategies*

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

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, *H3*; Claire Burrus, *Focus Strategies* and Allison Mabb, *Focus Strategies*

COORDINATED ENTRY HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Presenter:

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, *H3*

Claire Burrus, *Focus Strategies*

Allison Mabb, *Focus Strategies*

Role for Council Members:

listen & ask questions

Vote on Action Item

Role for Community Members:

listen & ask questions



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**COORDINATED ENTRY HOUSING NEEDS
ASSESSMENT (HNA)
REDESIGN PROJECT**

**PROPOSAL TO THE COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS:
APPROVE NEW CONTRA COSTA HOUSING NEEDS
ASSESSMENT**

MARCH 5, 2026

Agenda

Assessment Redesign Process

New Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) Tool

Next Steps for Launch





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Needs Assessment Redesign Process

Assessment Redesign Purpose

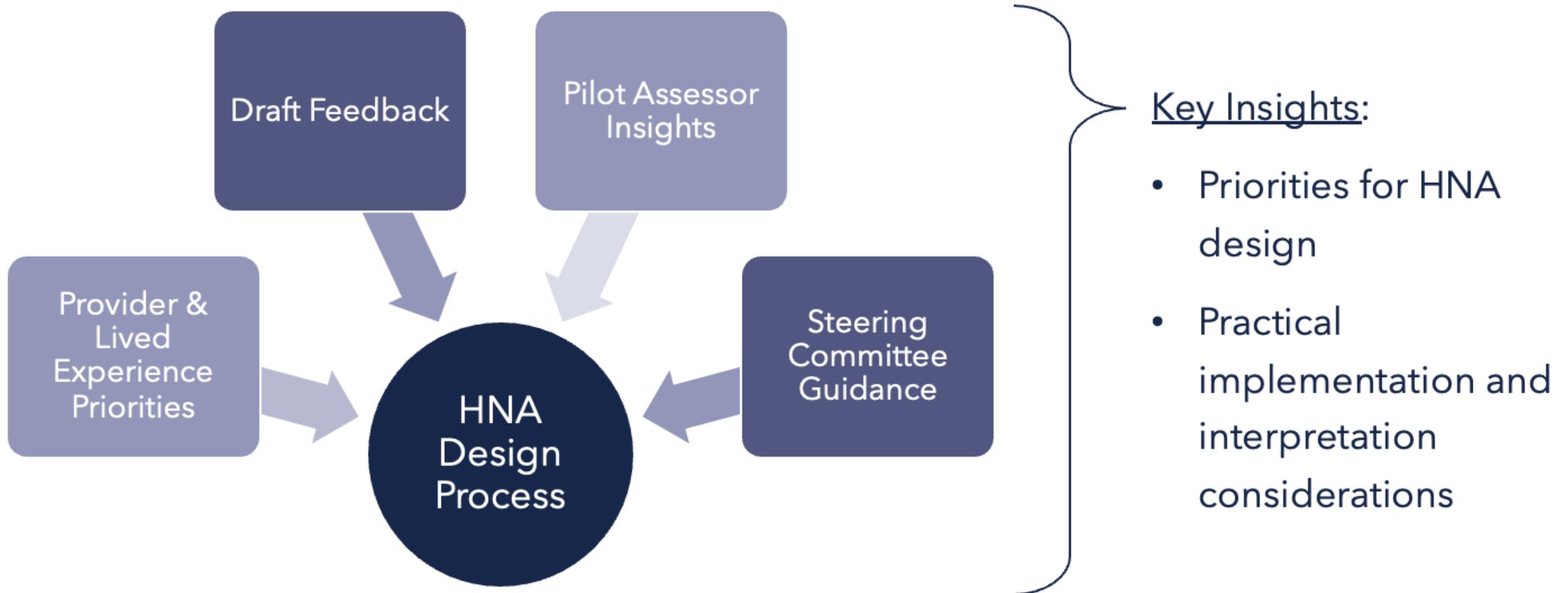
- In 2022, Contra Costa County conducted a Coordinated Entry Evaluation and replacing the VI-SPDAT was a key recommendation.

- Nationally, the VI-SPDAT as an assessment tool has been found to perpetuate inequitable outcomes.

In response, the County launched a redesign effort to develop a **customized assessment** that is:

- trauma-informed,
- leveraging empirical data,
- grounded in local experience,
- prioritizing households at-risk of prolonged homelessness, *and*
- furthering fairness in the CES.

Tool Redesign Process Grounded in Stakeholder Feedback

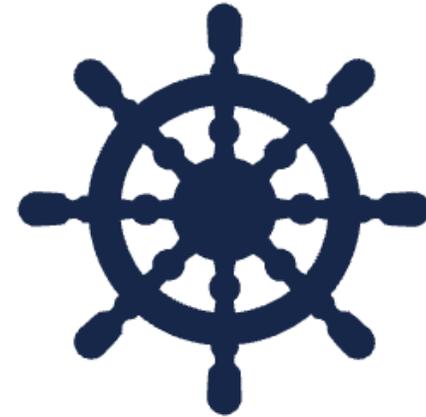


Key Insights from Stakeholders Informing New HNA



Priorities for HNA Design

- Base the tool on predictors of prolonged homelessness
- Capture the severity of conditions and experiences



Practical Implementation & Interpretation Considerations

- Minimize the number of questions asked
- Ensure questions are understandable and minimally invasive

Leveraging HMIS & CCHS Data in HNA Design

Focus Strategies used Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Contra Costa Health System (CCHS) data to identify **predictors of prolonged homelessness** for people accessing the CES.

These factors were used to design the HNA to prioritize households with the greatest likelihood of prolonged homelessness without housing support.



- Local data surfaced the key characteristics linked to prolonged homelessness
- These insights guided which topics the HNA covers and how much weight each receives in the final score

Piloting the Draft CC-HNA



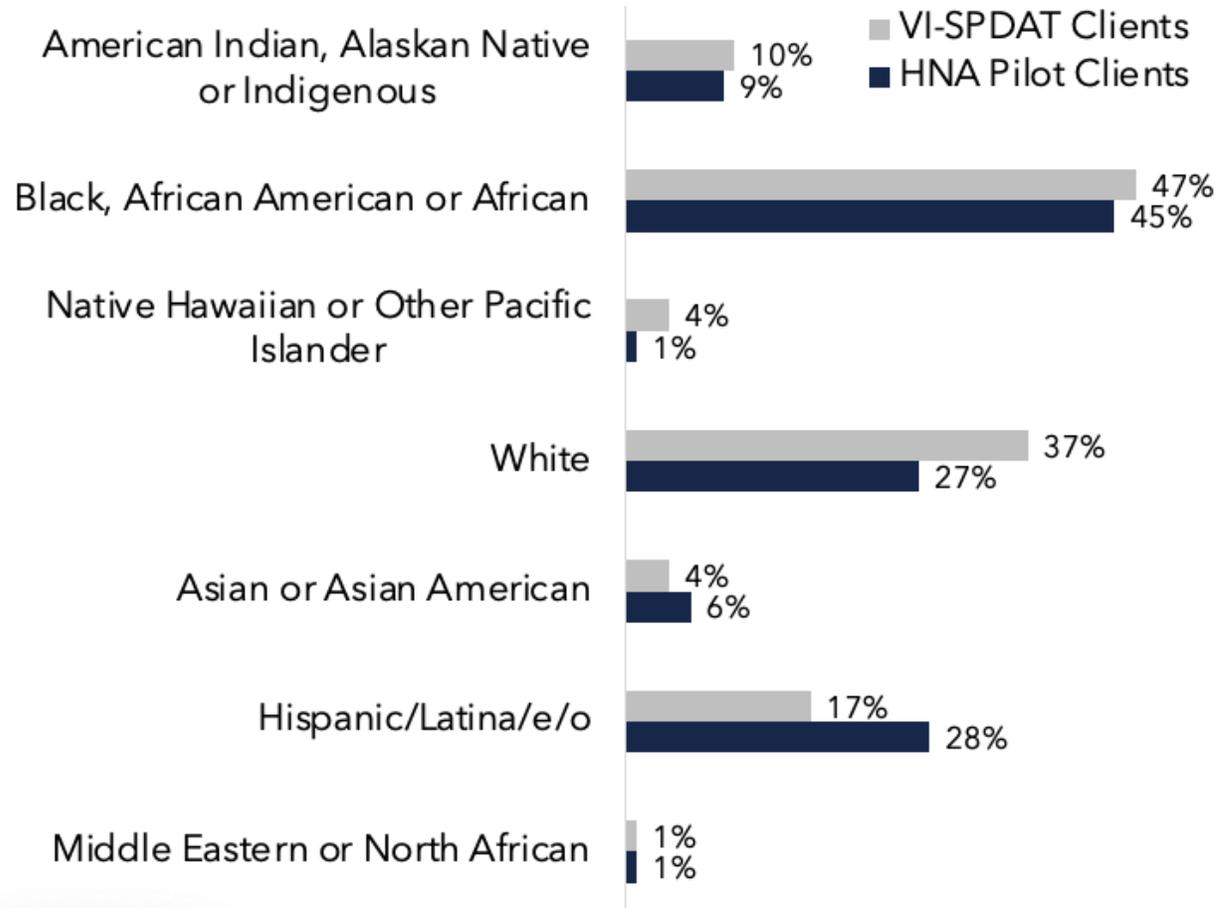
In December 2025 & January 2026, H3 piloted a draft CC-HNA in the community.

- 15 current Coordinated Entry assessment staff participated
- **109 pilot assessments** were completed
- Pilot participants were compensated with \$25 gift cards

Key Insights:

- Pilot participants were overall **demographically representative** of the population served by the CES
- Participant feedback reflected high rates of **understanding** and **comfort** with the assessment questions
- Staff indicated that the pilot tool was **clear** and **trauma-informed**

Pilot HNA Respondents by Race and Ethnicity



Key Insights:

- Pilot participants were overall **demographically representative** of the population served by the CES
- Participant feedback reflected high rates of understanding and comfort with the assessment questions
- Staff indicated that the pilot tool was clear and trauma-informed

Pilot HNA Participant Feedback Survey Results



94%

understood what the questions were asking

94%

understood why the questions were being asked

89%

felt comfortable answering the questions honestly

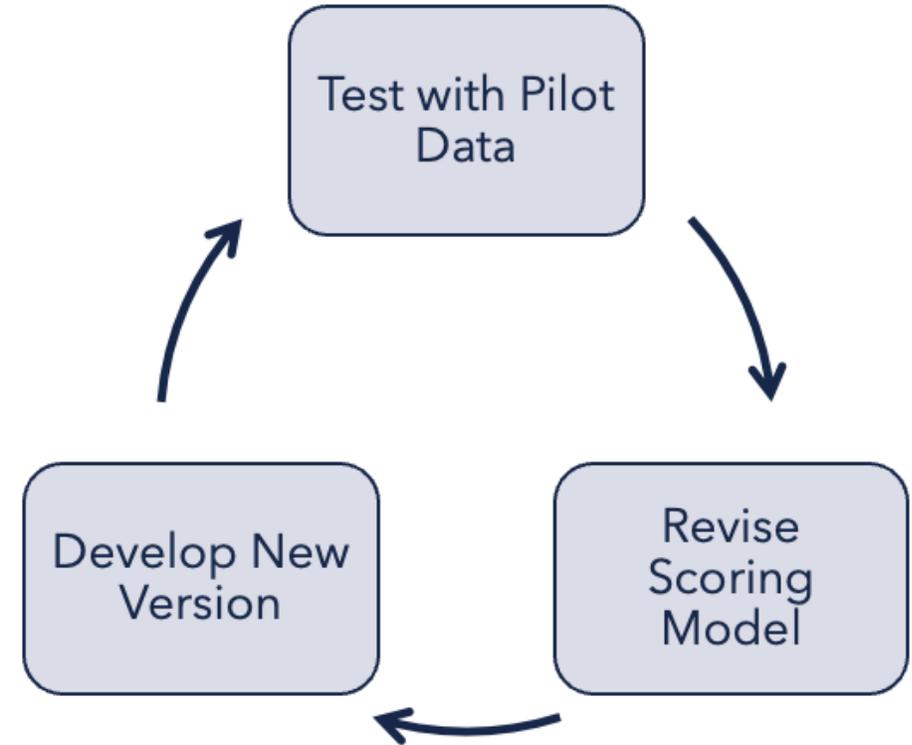
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Developing a Fair and Locally-Driven Scoring Model

Developed through 5 rounds of testing and iteration, the final CC-HNA scoring model:

- Prioritizes households at highest risk of prolonged homelessness
- Does not show bias toward or against any racial or ethnic group
- Reflects input from people experiencing homelessness and the providers working directly with them





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The NEW Contra Costa Housing Needs Assessment (CC-HNA)

Overview of the CC-HNA

-  The CC-HNA contains **19 questions** and requires ~**15-30 minutes**
 - Responses to 7 of the 19 questions are **pre-populated** for most households completing the assessment based on prior information collected in HMIS intake, and are **confirmed by assessors** rather than being asked again
-  Questions in the CC-HNA are grouped into five key areas, each of which contribute to a household's **risk of prolonged homelessness** without the support of a housing resource through the CES

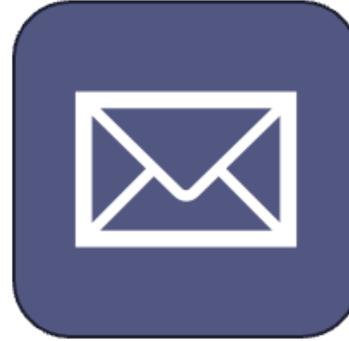
CC-HNA Collects and Weighs Information in 5 Key Areas

1



History of Housing
and Homelessness

2



Income and
Employment

3



Disabilities and
Health

4



Experiences with Services and
Other Systems of Care

5



Experiences Impacting
Wellbeing

History of Housing and Homelessness



Item	Weight
1 - Episodes of Homelessness	Medium
2 - Total Time Homeless	Medium
3 - Lack of Rental History	Medium
3b - Negative Rental History	Medium
4 - Housing Loss Due to Gender, Cultural, Religious or Sexual Identity	Medium

Income and Employment



Item	Weight
5 - Zero or Fixed Income	High
5b - Inability to Increase Income	Medium

Disabilities and Health Conditions



Item	Weight
6 - Number of Disabling Conditions in the Household	High
6b - Severity of Disabling Conditions in the Household	High

Experiences with Services and Other Systems of Care



Item	Weight
7 - Inability to Access / Avoidance of Care	Low
8-11 - Utilization of Emergency Services	High (overall)
12 - Law Enforcement Encounters	High
13 - History of Incarceration	Low
14-15 - History with Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice Systems	Low
16 - Level of Education	Low

Experiences Impacting Well-Being



Item	Weight
17 - Fleeing Domestic Violence	High
18 - History of Abuse	Medium
19 - Homelessness and Abuse	Medium



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Questions?



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Adoption & Next Steps

ACTION ITEM

- Approve the new Contra Costa Coordinated Entry Housing Needs Assessment

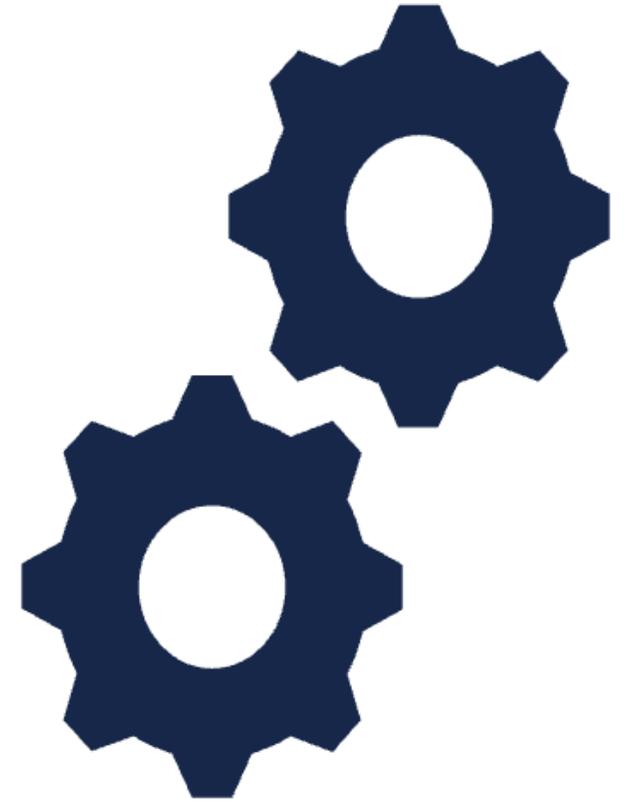


Next Steps

Over the coming months, H3 will implement the CC-HNA.

Key steps include:

- Communicate CC-HNA launch to stakeholders
- Train assessors on the CC-HNA
- Update CES policies and workflows
- Officially launch the CC-HNA & retire the VI-SPDAT
- Monitor CC-HNA data over time





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THANK YOU!

For Questions:

H3

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald at Mary.Fitzgerald@cchealth.org

Focus Strategies

Claire Burrus at Claire@focusstrategies.net

Allison Mabbs at Allison@focusstrategies.net

YOUTH ACTION BOARD (YAB)



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

Anastasia Lockwood, *Council Youth Representative and YAB Member*

YAB FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Bimonthly hybrid meetings at H3 in and RYSE

Subcommittees:
Communications,
Data & Research,
Outreach & Retention

Workgroups:
Nominating Debrief

Council on
Homelessness (CoH):
CoH Meeting, Oversight
Committee

Peer Support Check-
In Meetings

YAB FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

YAB Retreat & New
Member Orientation

Youth PIT Surveying w/
CORE & Partners

National YAB
Connection Space



COMING UP IN MARCH!

Social Media

Council on
Homelessness
(CoH): CoH
Meeting

Youth & Young
Adult Strategic
Planning

Financial
Literacy and
Taxes Learning
Opportunities

Progress
towards
updates to
2024
Community
Needs
Assessment

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?

Join a meeting as a guest to learn more!

For more information:

✉ ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org

☎ 925-500-3237

2026 Contra Costa County YAB
Meeting RSVP



OLD BUSINESS

Update: CoC Monitoring – Alex Michel and Michele Byrnes, *Homebase*

Sector Report Outs from Council Members – Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor*

Funding Updates – Jamie Schecter and Christy Saxon, *H3*

UPDATE: COC COMPLIANCE MONITORING PROCESS

Alex Michel and Michele Byrnes, *Homebase*

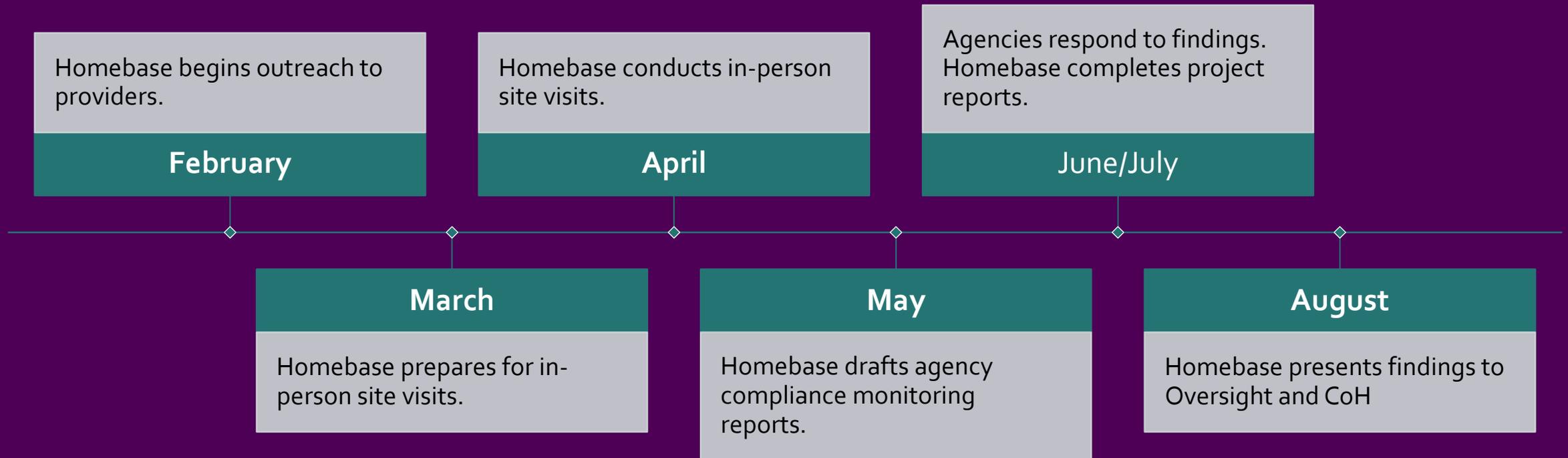
PURPOSE OF COMPLIANCE MONITORING

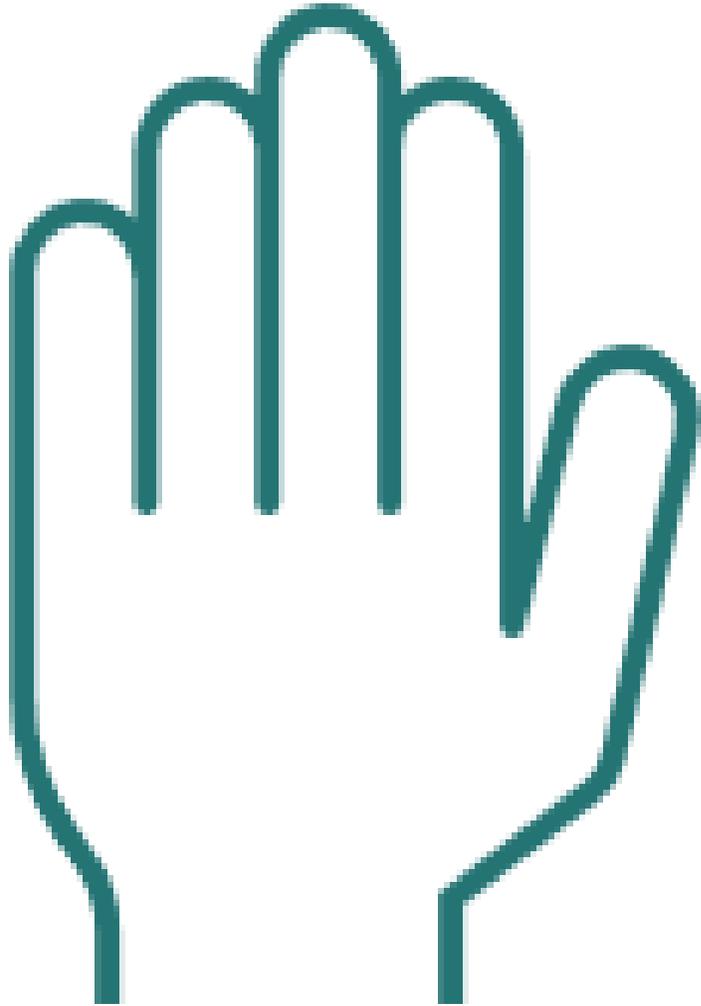
- Improve **system performance** by identifying barriers to effective program performance;
- Increase **knowledge** among CoC-funded agencies regarding CoC compliance and financial management;
- Help agencies **prepare for audits or monitoring** from HUD; and
- Identify opportunities and gaps for **additional technical assistance, trainings, or one-on-one meetings** regarding areas of compliance impacting multiple agencies.

APPROACH – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- Performance categories
 - Verification of participant eligibility
 - Low-barrier, person-centered services
 - Documentation of case management
 - Grievance Procedures
 - VAWA Compliance
- Review three participant files per project (2 current, 1 exited/post- subsidy client)
- 22 projects, including:
 - PSH, DV RRH, Care Centers, Homeless Prevention/Rapid Exit, 211

COMPLIANCE MONITORING TIMELINE





QUESTIONS?!

**SECTOR
REPORT OUTS
FROM COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience
Advisor*

FUNDING UPDATES

Jamie Schechter and Christy Saxton, *H3*

FUNDING UPDATES

- Local
- State
- Federal

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

Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience
Advisor*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Next COH Meeting:** Thursday, April 2, 1 – 3 PM (IN PERSON)
- **CoC Training (Violence Against Women Act and Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence):** Monday, March 9, 10 AM – 12 PM (Zoom)
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Policy Committee:** Tuesday, March 10, 12 – 1:30 PM (IN PERSON)
- **Homeless Service Provider Meeting:** Thursday, March 12, 8:30 – 9:30 AM (Zoom)
- **Funding Committee:** Tuesday, March 17, 2:30 – 4:30 PM (Zoom)
- **Governance Committee:** Wednesday, March 18, 1 – 3 PM (IN PERSON)