



Contra Costa County Homeless System of Care Quarterly Report for Quarter 1, 2026 (Jan-March)

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

Ashley moved to the Bay Area at eight, left for Kansas City at sixteen, and returned to Contra Costa County in 2011 to escape domestic violence. Since then, she has called this community home, though for more than a decade, "home" meant motels, staying with friends, and even living in a tent for a few months.

The challenges were compounded by unemployment and mental health struggles, including a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance use disorder. As a single mother, the barriers were even greater: "I've had places say that I can stay, but my son can't. And of course, I'm not going to stay somewhere that my child's not allowed." Ashley explains, "Not having a job, not having a stable place to stay, it all coincided together." Reflecting on that time, she adds, "I was just tired of it all. I was dancing myself around in circles and not getting anywhere."

Ashley tried several recovery programs over the years, but without housing, lasting progress was hard. Eventually, she entered an inpatient program and then decided to try the [Bay Area Rescue Mission](#). The shelter provided a bed, but the daily requirement to leave at 7 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. was exhausting. "You're really left walking the streets of Richmond until they let you back in," Ashley recalls. After nine days, she transitioned into their longer-term residential program, which gave her the stability she needed to focus on her next steps. "My kids were my motivation. I wanted to be able to drug test clean and get a good job."

While in that program, Ashley connected with [CORE Mobile Outreach](#), which completed a housing assessment and entered her into the [Coordinated Entry System](#). Through that process, she was referred to [Hope Solutions' Rapid Rehousing program](#). "Housing was my most urgent need," Ashley says. While Hope Solutions was ready to help her search, Ashley proudly found her own apartment—a milestone that underscored her determination to rebuild her life. Hope

Solutions helped with rent for a year, furniture, and household items. CORE also helped her obtain vital documents like her birth certificate, and Hope Solutions provided ongoing support through regular check-ins.

Employment was another milestone. After completing her recovery program, Ashley began working as a waitress, bartender, and cook at a local hotel. “I just started stacking checks and saving,” she says. Her main goal was simple: “Just to get into some sort of housing, to get stable somewhere.”

Today, Ashley lives in Richmond with her fiancé and her 16-year-old son. Although she recently lost her job, her fiancé works full-time, and Ashley is actively looking for new employment. “Everything’s basically working out for the best,” she says.

Ashley acknowledges that the system still has gaps—especially for survivors of domestic violence and single parents, but her story is rooted in resilience and hope. After years of uncertainty, she reflects on her progress with quiet determination: “Slowly but surely, everything’s coming together.”

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 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Funding

- Due to a court order issued on December 23, 2025, HUD could not take action on the NOFO issued in 2025 and was required to take steps to process renewals for FY2025 CoC funding. To meet this requirement, HUD re-issued the FY2024-2025 NOFO on January 8, 2026 and required CoCs to submit renewal projects and new projects created through reallocation by February 9, 2026.
- The Contra Costa CoC submitted a package of renewal projects and one new project created through funds reallocated by Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA). SAHA voluntarily reallocated funding from Tabora Gardens permanent supportive housing due to finding new funding and no longer needing CoC funding. The CoC requested to use these funds to expand Coordinated Entry services.

STATE

HHAP Round 6

- In this quarter, California’s Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) requested final 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 received a standard agreement in April 2026.

LOCAL

Consolidated Housing and Homeless Services RFP:

- In September 2026, 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. Review panelists, including members of the Youth Action Board, County staff, homeless services staff, and a community member, finalized recommendations and H3 and DCD notified applicants of recommended funding in March 2026.

DATA

Point in Time Count

- The observational component of the homeless Point in Time Count was completed 1/29/26, thanks to partners including the County GIS team and 200+ volunteers who supported observational and survey counts.
- After the observational count, the CoC collects community surveys to learn about the demographics, needs, and causes of unsheltered homelessness from people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in our community. Surveys were gathered during the month of February.
- Data is expected to be submitted to HUD by April 30, 2026.

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

Housing Needs Assessment

- The Coordinated Entry System (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. The Oversight Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the HNA to the full Council on Homelessness. The Council

is expected to review and approve in April. Implementation of the new assessment will begin in Q2.

Collaboration

City of Richmond Homekey Project

- CES collaborated with the city of Richmond to develop a prioritization strategy for upcoming state funded Homekey project which will bring 48 studio units of permanent supportive housing projects to the community.

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 120 housing vouchers, preventing displacement and protecting a critical housing resource for vulnerable households.

Coordinated Entry Case Conferencing Initiatives

- The H3 Coordinated Entry Team continues to facilitate housing-focused case conferencing across the system, including targeted efforts for Transition-Age Youth (TAY) and Veterans, as well as program-specific case conferencing for families experiencing homelessness, participants fleeing domestic violence, and those in emergency shelter. These forums are driving stronger coordination and shared accountability across providers, helping move households more efficiently toward housing. Evaluation findings indicate improved housing stability for participants, while also strengthening provider capacity and empowering staff to navigate complex cases, remove barriers, and advance housing placements.

Homelessness 101

- The Homelessness 101 series collaboration with the Contra Costa Library continued, with a session at the Brentwood library. Approximately 20 people attended including staff from the City of Antioch, interested community members and partner agencies.

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.

Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

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

Celebration and Reflection

- Marked two years of youth leadership and impact. Since March 2024, the YAB has continued meeting in co-hosted spaces at H3, the Rainbow Community Center, and the RYSE Center.
- Planned and hosted the YAB's first retreat at the RYSE Center in February. Activities included group bonding and grounding, a guided tour of RYSE and its advocacy history, and a gallery walk and fireside chat focused on advocacy reflection.

Leadership Development & Capacity Building

- Participated in Homebase's training for CoC Lived Experience members: Stipends and Impacts on Taxes and Public Benefits.
- Three YAB members received scholarships to attend the 2026 California Coalition for Youth's statewide Youth Empowerment Summit.

Funding & Governance Work:

- In January, completed the RFP Review Panel for the Consolidated Housing & Homelessness Funding and the first annual review and revision of YAB bylaws.

Data & Research Subcommittee:

- Participated in the January PIT Count in Wes and Central County
- Supported the February PIT Survey at Contra Costa College, Los Medanos College, and the RYSE Center.

Future YAB work includes:

- Release updates to the 2024 Community Needs Assessment and reconvene partners for Youth & Young Adult Strategic Planning.
- Prepare for and apply for HUD's FY 2026 CoC Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Grant NOFO.
- Continued collaboration with H3 Research, Evaluation, and Data (RED) Team to plan a Youth Survey to address gaps in current data.
- Launch YAB social media presence.

GOVERNANCE/REPORTING

- **Governance Committee:** Reviewed and suggested edits to Governance Charter and Bylaws to increase CoH efficiency and impact. Suggestions to go to County Counsel before going to COH for approval, then will come to BOS for final approval.
- 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 Q1, 2026 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:

- **Governance Committee:** Review and revise the Governance Charter and Bylaws to increase CoH efficiency and impact.
- **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
- **Oversight Committee:** Reviewing and assessing the development, implementation, and improvement of the CoC, Coordinated Entry System, HMIS database, and system outcomes

Trainings

- Supporting Families with Minor Children and Unaccompanied Minors (2.9.26)
- VAWA Compliance and Strategies to Support People Fleeing Domestic Violence (3.9.26)

Events

- CoC Provider Meetings (3)
- Homelessness 101 sessions (3)

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Advocate to the Governor and Legislature to support full funding of programs that support people exiting homelessness such as HHAP 7 and Multi-Family Housing Programs in Governor's May Revision budget.
2. Share information about Homelessness 101 series with constituents.

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 Q1

How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended?

Q1 2026 avg

This is my first meeting	5%
I've attended some meetings	20%
I've attended a lot of meetings	75%
I prefer not to answer	0%

Do you have a lived experience of homelessness?

Q1 2026 avg

Yes, currently	12%
Yes, within the past 7 years	3%
Yes, more than 7 years ago	12%
No	74%
I prefer not to answer	0%

What best describes your racial identity?*

Q1 2026 avg

African American/Black	20%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	10%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	15%
Hispanic/Latinx	15%
White	30%
Multi-racial	5%
I prefer not to answer	1%
I describe myself in another way	3%

*This category allows people to select multiple options