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COORDINATED ENTRY HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT (HNA)  
REDESIGN PROJECT

PROPOSAL TO THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:  
APPROVE NEW CONTRA COSTA HOUSING NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT

**FEBRUARY 19, 2026**

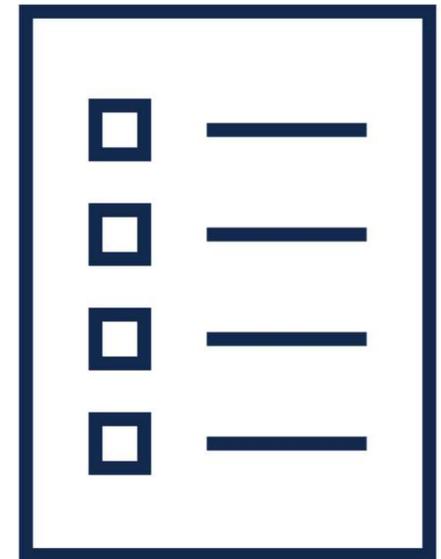
# Agenda



Assessment Redesign Process

New Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) Tool

Next Steps for Launch





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# **Needs Assessment Redesign Process**

## Assessment Redesign Purpose

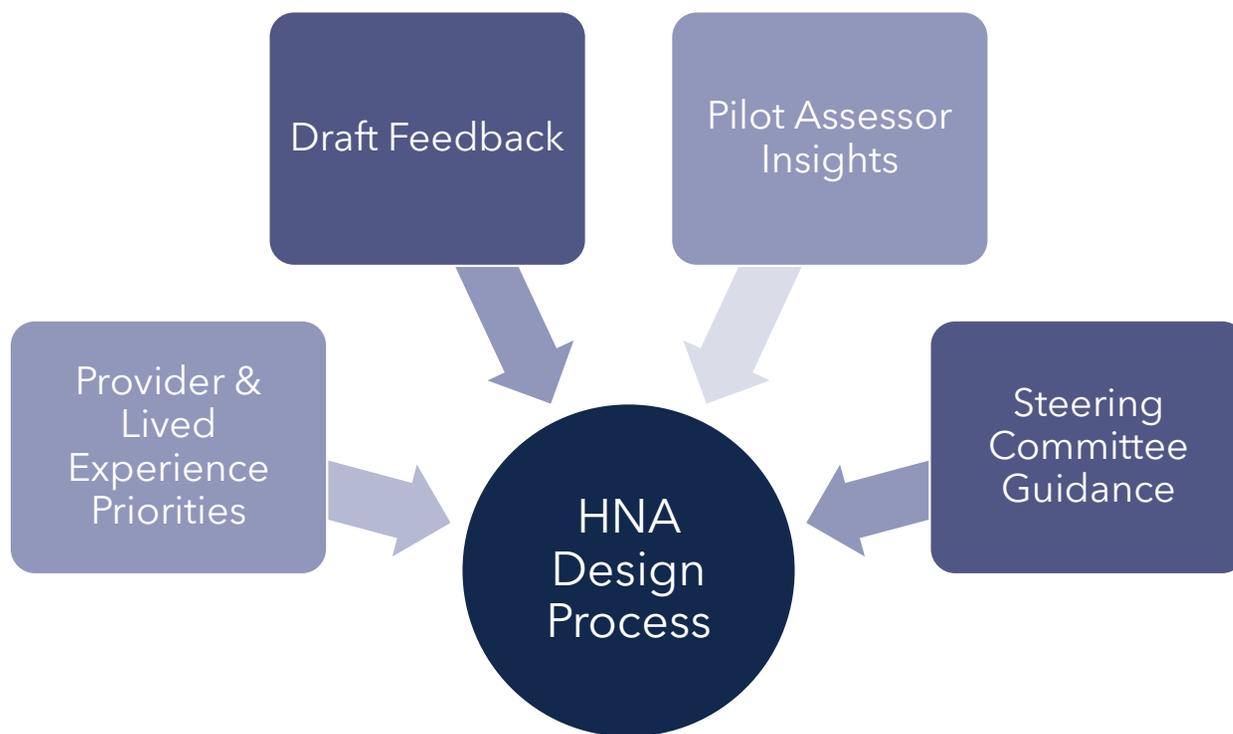
- In 2022, Contra Costa County conducted a Coordinated Entry Evaluation and replacing the VI-SPDAT was a key recommendation.

- 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:

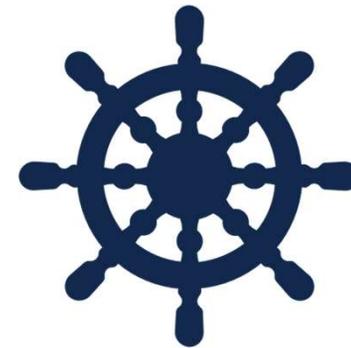
- Priorities for HNA design
- Practical implementation and interpretation considerations

# 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



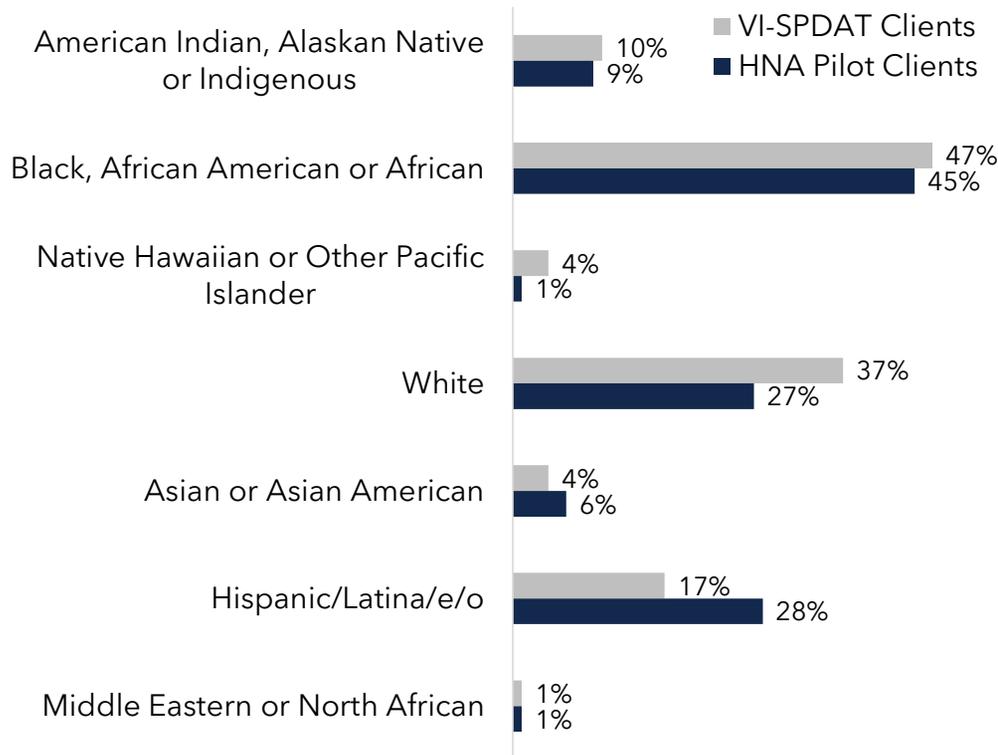
In December 2025 & January 2026, H3 piloted a draft CC-HNA in the community.

- 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

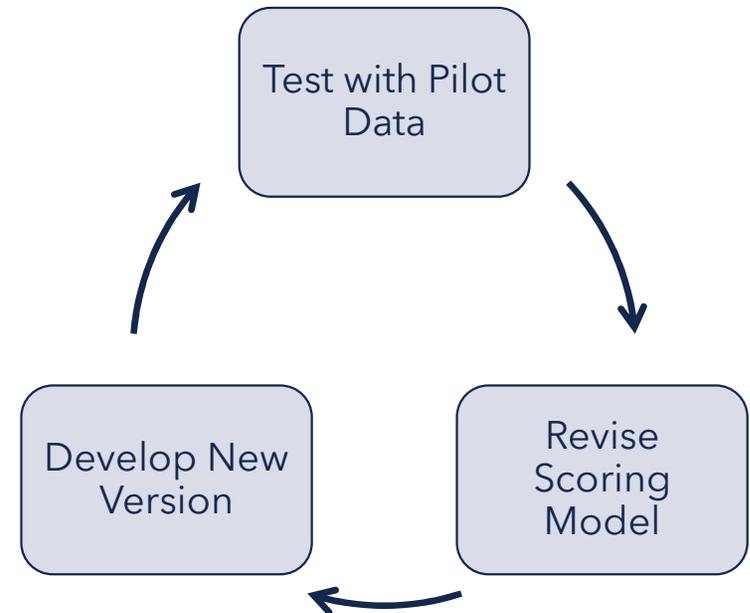
## Key Insights:

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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

**Questions?**



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# **Adoption & Next Steps**

## **Action Item:**

Approve adoption of the CC-HNA for use in the CES

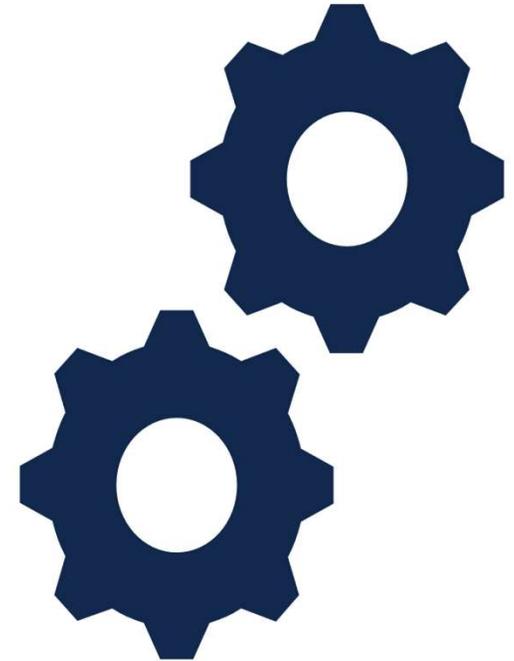
## Next Steps

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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**

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