



STAFF REPORT FROM THE CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Contra Costa County Homeless System of Care Quarterly Report for Quarter 3, 2024 (July - September)

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 - 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: In this quarter, HUD announced the FY 2024 Continuum of Care competition and providers worked collaboratively with the CoC to ensure an on-time submission. Council on Homelessness members served as the CoC's Review and Rank panel to create and approve the



Priority Listing that was approved by the Council on October 3, 2024. (See Appendix B for 2024 CoC Priority Listing). HUD award decisions are expected sometime in early 2025.

CoCBuils NOFO: On July 19, 2024, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Continuum of Care Buils (CoCBuils) NOFO to fund acquisition, rehab, or new construction of permanent supportive housing. The application deadline is November 21, 2024 and each CoC can submit one project. In this quarter, the CoC published a letter of interest and solicited applicants for this opportunity.

STATE

Encampment Resolution Grant (ERG): In the previous quarter, H3 submitted an application for funding and this quarter, H3 received noticed of award to target services to an encampment in San Pablo. Funding is administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The Council on Homelessness provided a letter of support for this application.

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 goal is *“By Dec 31, 2024, Equity Committee will have provided equity focused input to all COH committees and Working Groups, partnered on equity focused projects and strengthened relationships with partners essential to increasing equity.”* Progress this quarter includes:

- Providing Input to all COH Committees and Working Groups:
 - Discussed how to improve the Measure X Funding process.
 - Discussed Equity considerations related to Nominating Committee work
 - Optional demographic questions were added to the Participant Satisfaction survey this year per recommendation from the Equity Committee
- Partnering on Equity-Focused Projects:
 - Reviewed Point in Time Count data with an Equity lens
- Strengthening Relationships With Equity Partners:
 - Received a presentation about the Reentry System of Care
 - Received an update on the Participant Satisfaction Survey

Engagement of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness (PWLE):

The Nominating Committee included 3 Council members with lived experience, the Point in Time Count included 5 Council members with lived experience. PWLE were deeply involved in planning for Homelessness Awareness Month activities.



Grants Pass Supreme Court Decision and California Executive Order N-1-24: The Council was scheduled to receive a presentation about the local impact of the Grants Pass Supreme Court Decision and California Executive Order N-1-2 n but ran out of time. The topic was scheduled for the October 3, 2024 meeting.

Homelessness Awareness Month: Recognitions: Set categories for recognitions, recruited for nominations and sent recommendations to Council. Will support reception to honor those nominated. **Panel:** Supported planning of Panel Discussion on youth and young adult homelessness co-hosted by Contra Costa College, Youth Action Board and Council.

Presentation: The Council Chair and Vice Chair will present to the Board of Supervisors on November 12th. **Memorial:** A memorial event, cohosted by the Contra Costa Crisis Center, SoS Richmond, NAMI Contra Costa, Loves and Fishes and the Council on Homelessness will take place on 12/20 at the Walnut Creek Library. To register click here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfP7dXvjgnQCcWtEswc7IVN0psoaPjMZRbKwL4355tKfyENCQ/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfP7dXvjgnQCcWtEswc7IVN0psoaPjMZRbKwL4355tKfyENCQ/viewform?usp=sf_link).

Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

Matthew Aronson Consulting provided a CoC training on Adulthood on July 15th, 2024. The County submitted an application for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project NOFO at the end of August. The final Community Needs Assessment was presented to the Council this quarter. The Youth Advisory Board (YAB), which was established to provide leadership, education, and advocacy opportunities for young people involved in the continuum of care services, has been holding hybrid meetings at Pomona TLP and RYSE Center, with 19 youth and young adults participating so far. YAB also submitted a YouTube video as part of the application which can be see here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=gsAJBHnxUX0>

SYSTEM DATA

Annual Report: In September, the 2023 CoC Annual Report a comprehensive summary of all of the activities, outcomes, and future goals across CoC programs, was released and the Council received a presentation on the data. The presentation covered the purpose of the report, capacity building, fiscal year budget, program utilization, program model categories, population by household type, age, race and ethnicity, disabling condition, subpopulations and exits to permanent housing, data by region, and goals in looking forward to 2024. Contra Costa reported a 22% increase in funding over the past year, which permitted to serve 14,000 people in 9,632 households, a 20% increase from 2019. Jamie addressed the recent changes to the data collection process by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which now includes Middle Eastern and North African as a race category and combines Hispanic and Latinx origins into the ethnicity question. The final report will be released the month of September.



Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Community Needs Assessment:

Q3 centered on the finalizing the YYA Community Needs Assessment and working with the Youth Action Board and partners to complete and submit a competitive application to HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). The YHDP application was submitted on August 28. The Youth Needs Assessment can be found here:

<https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/31103/638648533798100000>

Point in Time Count (PIT): The first 2025 Point in Time Count Committee Work Group meeting took place in September. The community observational count portion of the PIT will be held on the morning of Thursday, January 30, 2025. Volunteer recruitment will begin in late November.

CoC Participant Satisfaction Survey: CoC funded/contracted providers across the seven CoC program models collected surveys from their participants in June. Results were analyzed and shared at the August Oversight and PATH Committee meetings as well as the August CoC Provider meeting. Highlights of the over 500 responses include 98% of participants agreed that "staff treats them with dignity and respect" and 95% said they "felt welcomed by staff" across all programs.

CoC Compliance Monitoring: In July, the Council received an update on the 2024 CoC compliance monitoring process. The process identified areas for improvement and recommendations. Each participating agency was given reports detailing their specific findings and were expected to respond with improvement plans. Future monitoring visits will check if recommended changes have been implemented.

GOVERNANCE/REPORTING

- The Brown Act requirement for in person attendance continues to create barriers to participation for a number of members in seats that require lived experience.
- On 9/5, the Council accepted revisions proposed by the Nominating Committee to make the nominating process more accessible and inclusive. Recruitment for applicants for 8 seats began on 9/6.
- The Council has begun to make space for Council members to share expertise and perspectives by creating a Learning Corner on the agenda for Council Members to present in service learning opportunities.
- 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 Q3 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.
Homelessness Awareness Month Committee	Plans activities and materials for Homelessness Awareness Month (November).
Nominating Committee	Reviews application tools and process for potential new CoH members.
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

- Adultism and Working With Youth and Young Adults (7.15.24)
- Trauma Informed Care (8.12.24)
- Connecting Clients to Employment (9.9.24)

Events

- CoC Provider Meetings (3)
- Homeless-Workforce Integration Meeting (8/14)



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

- To demonstrate respect and be in alignment with best practice, create policies and mechanisms to provide financial compensation to participants with lived experience asked to engage in Board of Supervisor activities including advisory boards, focus groups, and planning processes.

¹ [Trainings | Contra Costa Health \(cchealth.org\)](https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/agendacenter)

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



COH QUARTERLY REPORT

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



APPENDIX B

Poll Question Answers Q3

How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended? Q3 avg

This is my first meeting	9%
I've attended some meetings	32%
I've attended a lot of meetings	59%
I prefer not to answer	0%

Do you have lived experience of homelessness?

Yes, currently	8%
Yes, within the past 7 years	15%
Yes, more than 7 years ago	7%
No	69%
I prefer not to answer	0%

What best describes your racial identity?*

African American/Black	9%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	6%
Hispanic/Latinx	23%
White	42%
Multi-racial	9%
I prefer not to answer	2%
I describe myself in another way	3%

*This category allows people to select multiple options