



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS ORIENTATION

January 8, 2026 from 1:00-2:50pm

WELCOME

Jamie Schecter, H3

Purpose of the Meeting: This meeting is the annual orientation for new and continuing Council members.

INTRODUCTIONS



Jamie Schecter, *Homeless Services Chief*

Jaime Jenett, *Community Engagement Specialist*

CoH specific items, email: CChomelesscouncil@cchealth.org

All other inquiries, email: contracostaCoC@cchealth.org



Michele Byrnes, *Directing Analyst*

Mark Mora, *Senior Policy Analyst*

Email: contracosta@homebaseccc.org

TODAY'S AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introductions & Community Builder
2. Grounding in the Work
3. Contra Costa Homeless System of Care Overview
4. Break (around 2:00)
5. CoH Commitment to Serving the Community
6. Council Expectations & Responsibilities
7. Council Member Committee Participation
8. Wrap-up

CoH MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Name

Pronouns

(example: she/her)

Council Seat

(example: Re-Entry Representative)



FACILITATORS' REQUESTS FOR TODAY

01

Minimize multi-tasking

02

Share your experiences

03

Focus on getting oriented (vs. retaining detail)

Are there any other meeting requests that would help you today?

Community Builder

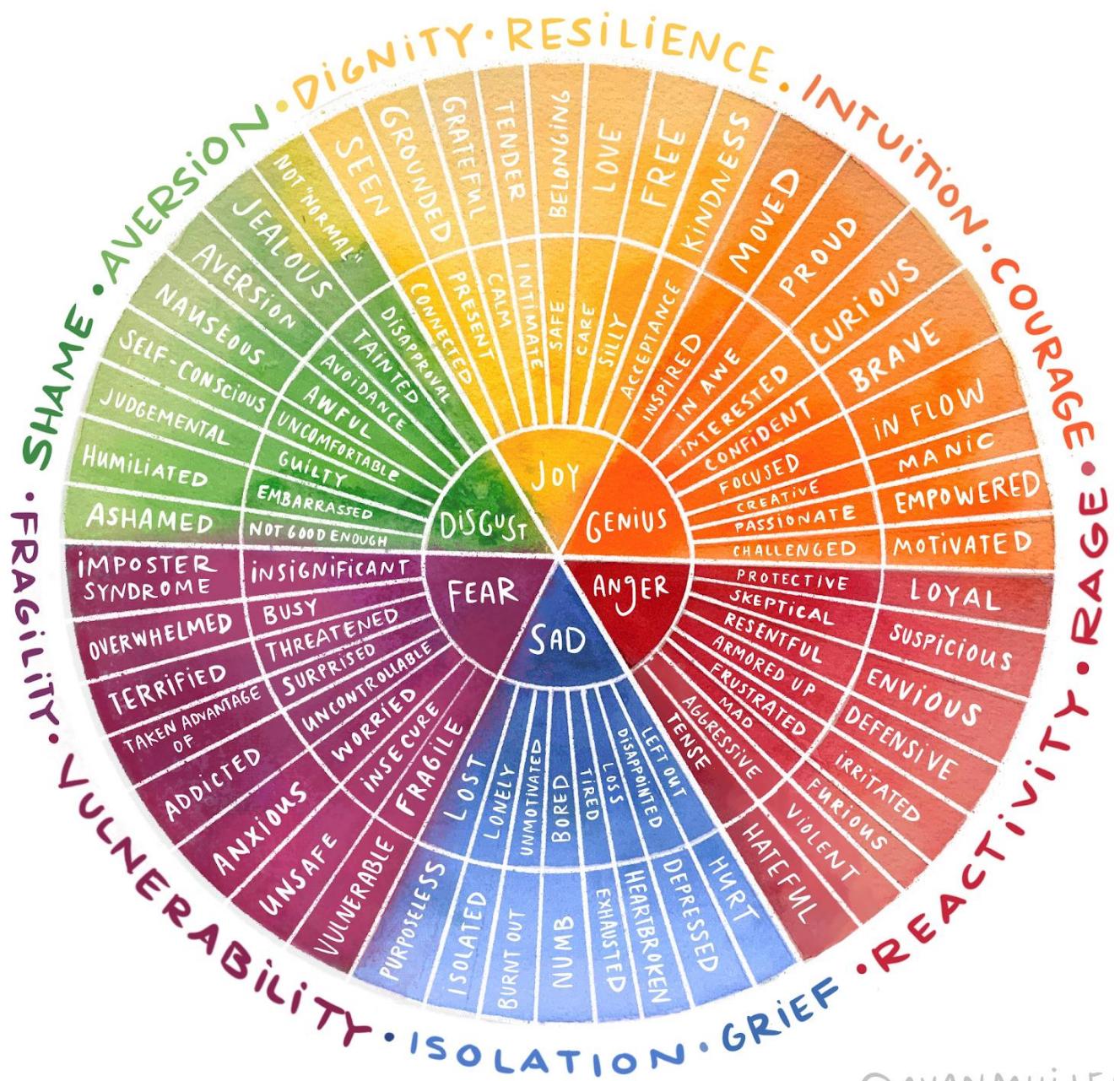
GROUNDING IN THE WORK

Mark Mora, *Homebase*

HOMELESSNESS AWAReNESS MONTH VIDEO

Reflection Questions:

- Is there anything from the video that stood out to you?
- What emotions did the video bring up for you?

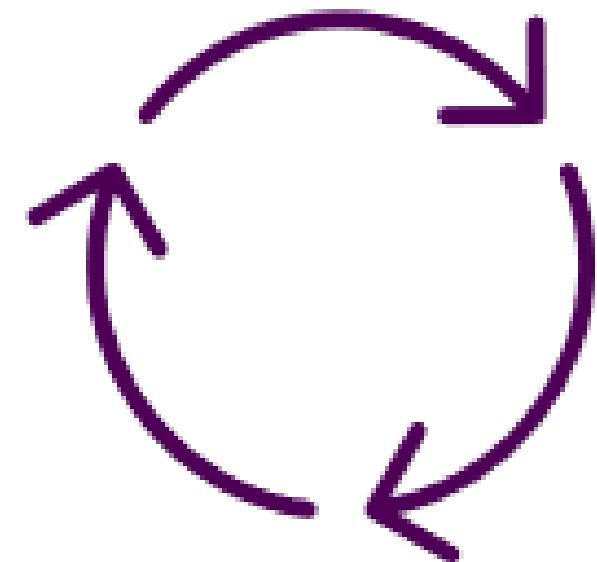


@AVANMUIJEI

IDENTIFYING OUR “WHYS”: ACTIVITY

What motivates you to work on preventing and ending homelessness?

What brought you to this work?



CONTRA COSTA HOMELESS SYSTEM OF CARE OVERVIEW

Michele Byrnes, *Homebase*

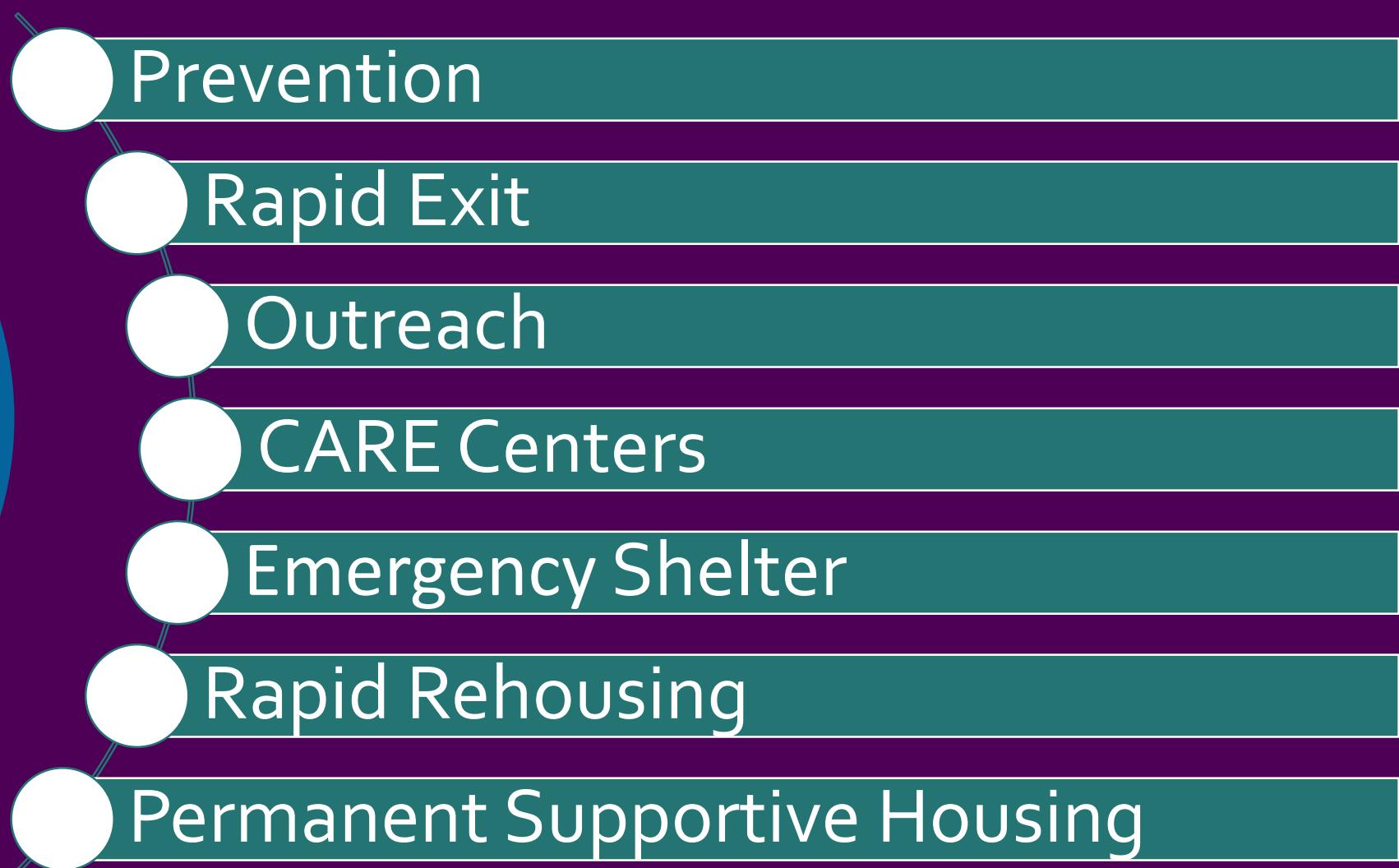
WHAT IS A CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) ?

- Group of organizations and agencies that collectively **coordinates homeless assistance activities and resources** in a community.
- CoC's:
 - Are **NOT a legal entity**
 - **Designate an entity** to apply for funding on its behalf (H3)
 - Receive **federal CoC funding** through an annual competitive process
 - Promote **community-wide commitment** to ending homelessness
 - Must establish certain community-wide **processes**:
 - Ex: coordinated way for people to access services (also known as Coordinated Entry)

WHAT ARE SOME OF HUD'S MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR CoCs?

- CoC Board/Council: collective of individuals designated to provide **oversight and governance** on behalf of the CoC
- Coordinated Entry: the **process** established by the CoC to ensure that people experiencing or at risk of homelessness are
 - **Prioritized** for resources based on **severity of need**, and
 - **Matched** to available resources most **suitable to meet their needs**
- HMIS: **data systems** that communities use to collect and analyze client, service, and housing data

CoC MODELS OF CARE

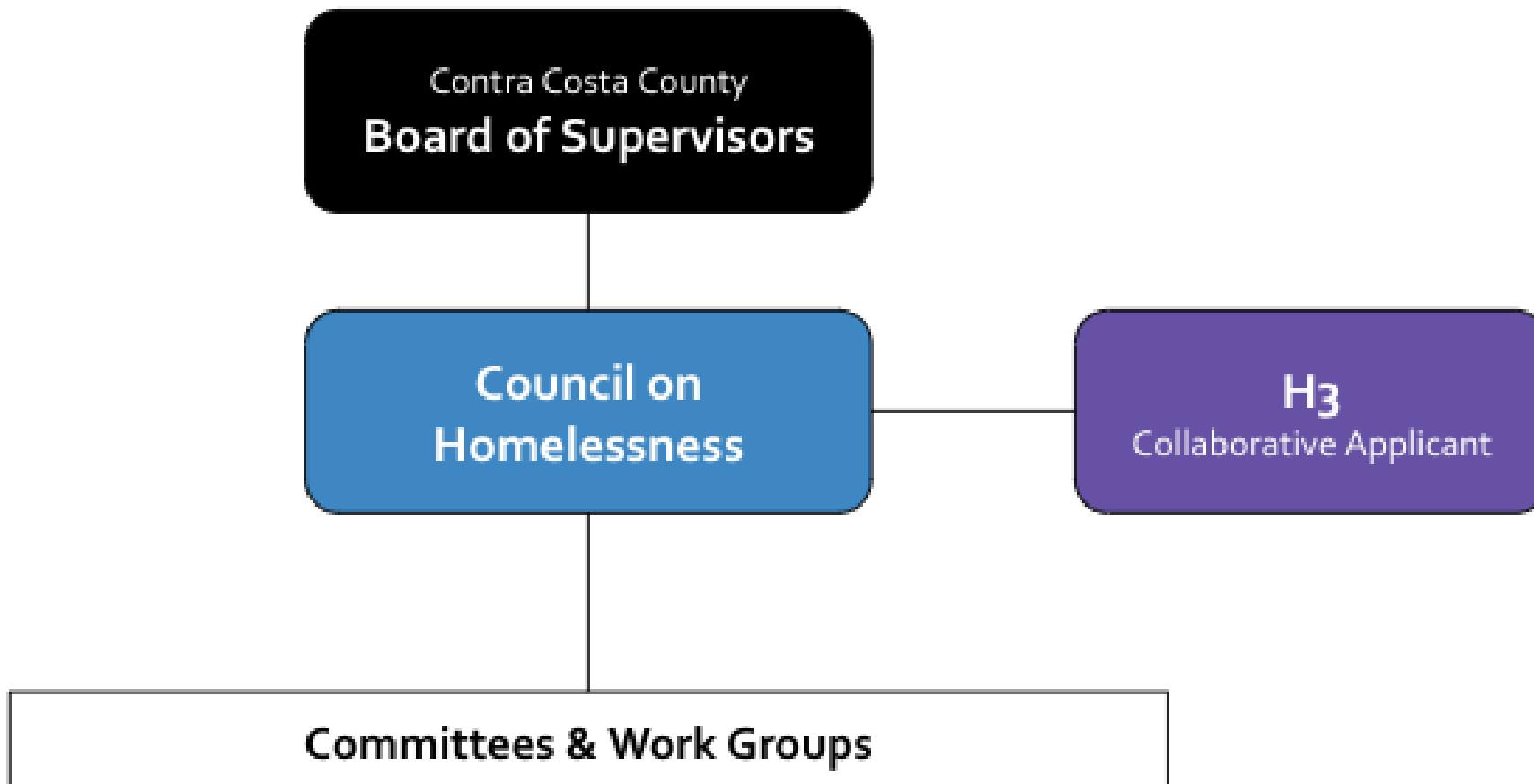


For more information [about Contra Costa's Program Models](#)

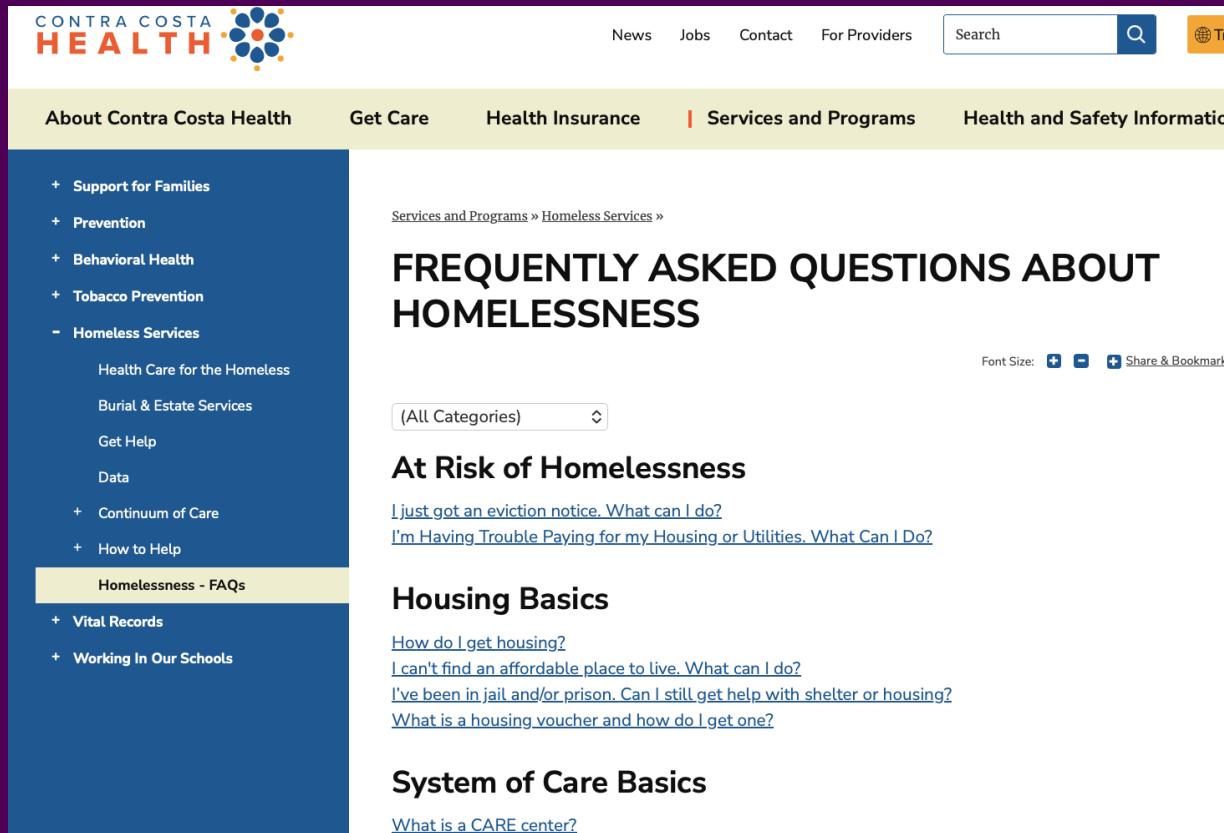
CONTINUUM OF CARE BUDGET OVER TIME

	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY23-24	FY24-25	% Change
CoC Award	\$ 15,857,604	\$ 15,239,701	\$16,296,852	\$17,318,215	\$19,300,140	\$22,336,034	+47%
Special NOFO Award*	-	-	-	-	\$1,789,609	\$1,789,609	N/A
Other government and local funding	\$ 19,676,057	\$ 25,158,000	\$ 28,967,000	\$33,015,872	\$21,689,934	\$22,727,750	-10%
Total Funds	\$ 34,862,042	\$ 41,454,852	\$ 45,815,402	\$50,334,087	\$42,779,683	\$49,853,393	+13%

COUNCIL FLOW CHART



RESOURCE: FAQS ON HOMELESSNESS



The screenshot shows the Contra Costa Health website with a dark blue header and a light blue sidebar. The header includes the Contra Costa Health logo, navigation links for News, Jobs, Contact, For Providers, a search bar, and a language selector. The sidebar contains a sidebar menu with categories like Support for Families, Prevention, Behavioral Health, Tobacco Prevention, and Homeless Services. The main content area features a title 'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS' and sections for 'At Risk of Homelessness', 'Housing Basics', and 'System of Care Basics', each with a list of links.

CONTRA COSTA
HEALTH 

News Jobs Contact For Providers 

About Contra Costa Health Get Care Health Insurance | Services and Programs Health and Safety Information

+ Support for Families
+ Prevention
+ Behavioral Health
+ Tobacco Prevention
- Homeless Services

Health Care for the Homeless
Burial & Estate Services
Get Help
Data
+ Continuum of Care
+ How to Help

Homelessness - FAQs
+ Vital Records
+ Working In Our Schools

Services and Programs » Homeless Services »

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

Font Size:

(All Categories) 

At Risk of Homelessness

[I just got an eviction notice. What can I do?](#)
[I'm Having Trouble Paying for my Housing or Utilities. What Can I Do?](#)

Housing Basics

[How do I get housing?](#)
[I can't find an affordable place to live. What can I do?](#)
[I've been in jail and/or prison. Can I still get help with shelter or housing?](#)
[What is a housing voucher and how do I get one?](#)

System of Care Basics

[What is a CARE center?](#)



ANY QUESTIONS SO FAR?

BREAK
RETURN AT: 2:10

CoH
COMMITMENT
TO THE
COMMUNITY

Jaime Schecter, *H3*

WHO DOES THE CoC SERVE?

Overall data

- 9,995 households served (14,245 individuals)
- 40% increase since 2020

Increases since 2020 by age group

- Households with children (79% increase)
- TAY (55% increase)
- 65+ (69% increase)

Racial Inequities

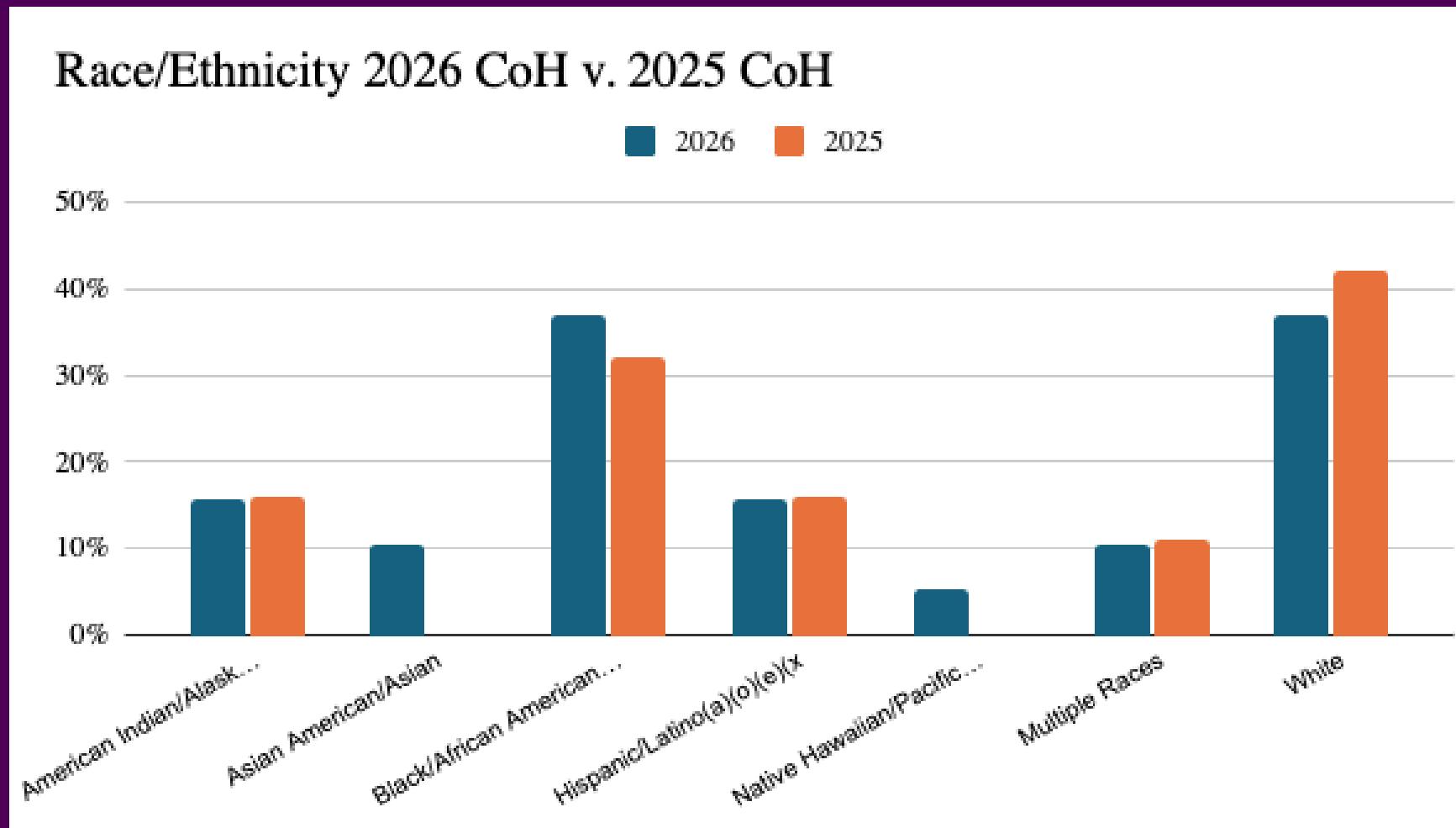
- Black/African American/African over-represented 4x in CoC vs. county population
- Multiple Races over-represented 3.8x in CoC vs county population

Disability

- Disabling condition (68%)
- Long-term mental health condition (48%)
- Chronic health condition (39%)
- Physical disability (39%)

DEMOGRAPHICS OF 2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS

- 42% of 2026 CoH have current or lived experience of homelessness (same % as 2025 CoH)



COUNCIL EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Jamie Jenett, *H3*

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES



Advises County Board of Supervisors



Provides advice and input on the operations of homeless services, program operations, and program development efforts



Creates a forum for the CoC to communicate about strategies to prevent and end homelessness



Educes the community on homeless issues, and advocates on policy issues

COUNCIL MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Attend monthly CoH meetings IN PERSON**
 - Two virtual attendances permitted per year
 - Two absences (excused or unexcused) in a rolling 12-month period warrant inquiry from the Council
 - Three absences warrant a recommendation of removal
- **Participate in at least one additional committee** in 2026
- **Review meeting materials** in full in preparation for each meeting
- **Uphold standards of performance and good conduct**
- **Complete required trainings** by the end of March 2026 (information will be emailed to CoH members)

CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides **general oversight** for the CoH
- **Presides over CoH meetings**
- Participates in a **monthly CoH planning call** with H3 and Homebase
- **Represents the CoH** in community-facing efforts as needed:
 - Presents the quarterly CoH report to the Family and Human Services Committee; writes an introductory message for this report
 - Presents the Homelessness Awareness Month toolkit at the Board of Supervisors meeting in November; writes an introductory message for the toolkit
 - Reviews and approves CoC applications for funding

VICE-CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participates in a **monthly CoH planning call** with H3 and Homebase
- Assumes responsibility of Chair if the Chair is absent or vacant

PEER MENTORSHIP

- New members partner with existing members for ongoing mentorship and guidance
- Email contracostacoc@cchealth.org if you want to become a mentor or need a mentor

HOMEBASE & H₃ RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Develop CoH agendas and other meeting materials** in partnership with the Chair, Vice Chair, CoH Members, other CoC members, and/or partners as needed
- **Coordinate meeting logistics**
- **Publicly post materials** in accordance with the Sunshine Act
- **Research and provide insight on relevant topics** (for example: HUD CoC NOFO competition)

REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Please reach out to the Council on Homelessness
at CChomelesscouncil@cchealth.org at least 72 hours before
a meeting or deadline to request
reasonable accommodation.

For more information, please see Contra Costa County's
[Reasonable Accommodations](#) page.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Various H3/Homebase staff and Council
Members

GOALS OF THE FOLLOWING SLIDES

Receive an overview
of the Committees

Be ready on to
approve Committee
membership in
meeting following
orientation

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Purpose:

- Reviewing and assessing the development, implementation, and improvement of:
 - CoC
 - Coordinated Entry System
 - HMIS database
 - System Outcomes
- Oversee the following Working Groups:
TBD

Timing:

Every other month, tentatively 3rd
Thursday, 11:30 -1:30pm

Membership:

- 2025 Number of CoH Members:
6
- 2025 CoH Members:
 - Alejandra Chamberlain, Education and Vocational Services
 - Courtney Pal, Affordable Housing Provider
 - Juno Hedrick, Lived Experience Advisor
 - Mia Fairbanks, Health Care
 - Verneda Clapp, Workforce Development
 - Wayne Earl, Faith Community

HMIS POLICY COMMITTEE

Purpose:

- Develops and shares updates on HMIS policies and practices, compliance, and troubleshooting
- Plans technical assistance and training
- Informs standards of practice and monitoring

Timing:

3rd month of quarter, tentatively 2nd Tuesdays from Noon – 1:30pm

Membership:

- 2025 Number of CoH Members: 5
- 2025 CoH Members:
 - Dani Jimenez, Behavioral Health
 - Gabriel Lemus, Emergency Solutions Grant Seat
 - Heather Worobey, Veteran
 - Juno Hedrick, Lived Experience Advisor Seat
 - Tony Ucciferri, Public Housing Authority Seat

FUNDING COMMITTEE

Purpose:

- Expanded in scope after previously existing as the CoC/ESG Committee (which supported the application process for funds administered by HUD, including the CoC Program)
- Direct community input process for several federal and state funding streams
- CoC NOFO work is now under the Funding Committee

Timing: Monthly from February to May 2026, time TBD

Membership:

- 2025 Number of CoH Members: 6
- 2024 CoH Members:
 - Dani Jimenez, Behavioral Health
 - Hope Dixon, Community Member
 - Nicole Green, Reentry Services
 - Sherina Criswell, Homeless Service Provider
 - Wayne Earl, Faith Community
 - Yahel Moreno, Youth

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Purpose:

- Review and revise the Governance Charter & Bylaws to increase CoH efficiency and impact

Timing:

Monthly from February-April 2026 (2-3 meetings), time TBD

Membership:

- 2025 Number of CoH Members: 3
- 2025 CoH Members:
 - Carolyn Foudy, EHSD
 - Hope Dixon, Community
 - Juno Hedrick, Lived Experience Advisor

AD HOC COMMITTEES: STARTING LATER

- **Point-in-Time Count Workgroup**: Plan and implement the annual Point-in-Time Count, an annual HUD-required count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness and provide recommendations to the full Council
 - Estimated Timing: ad hoc, November 2026 to January 2027, dates TBD
- **Homelessness Awareness Month Workgroup**: Plan for annual Homelessness Awareness Month (November) activities
 - Estimated Timing: March - November (likely virtual with one in person meeting)
- **CoH Nominating Committee**: Reviews applications for potential new Council members and provides recommendations to the full Council
 - Estimated Timing: ad hoc, 1-2 meetings from July to October 2026, dates TBD

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Which committees are you potentially interested in participating in?

- Oversight Committee
- HMIS Policy Committee
- Funding Committee
- Governance Committee – ad hoc
- Point-in-Time Committee – ad hoc
- Homelessness Awareness Month Committee – ad hoc
- CoH Nominating Committee – ad hoc

CLOSE OUT

Michele Byrnes, *Homebase*

NEXT STEPS

- Think about Committee alignment (finalize at CoH meeting later today)
- Attend next CoH Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 1 – 3 PM
- Complete the required trainings by end of March
 - Brown Act & Better Government Ordinance Training
 - Ethics Training
 - Implicit Bias Training

Questions?

Jaime Jenett, Staff to the Council

Jaime.Jenett@cchealth.org

925-464-0152 (cell)