

1. SUMMARY OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE CoC, LARGE CITY, OR COUNTY

According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an individual or family can be described as homeless if “(1) they live in a place not meant for human habitation, emergency shelter, transitional housing and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization; (2) they will immanently lose their primary night time residence within 14 days and have no other resources or support to obtain other permanent housing; (3) they are unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 or families with youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statues who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, have not had a lease and have moved two or more times in the past 60 days, and are likely to remain unstable because of special needs or barriers; or (4) they are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stocking or other dangerous life threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member and who lack resources to obtain other permanent housing.”

In January 2019, the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras conducted a Point in Time (PIT) Count of the homeless individuals in Placer County. Approximately 617 individuals were identified as meeting category 1 of homelessness. Of the 617 individuals:

- 77 under the age of 18
- 137 suffer from chronic substance abuse
- 64 are fleeing domestic violence
- 46 are military veterans
- 194 suffer severe mental illness
- 238 meet HUD’s definition of chronically homeless

In conjunction with the PIT Count, an annual Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) is created. As of January 2019, only 250 year-round emergency shelter beds and 217 transitional housing beds were available in Placer County. Not all beds were occupied on the night of the count, but based on the PIT Count alone, which is only a small snapshot of the reality of homelessness in the region, 296 individuals live in a place not meant for habitation on a regular basis. A minimal amount of Rapid Rehousing (182 beds) and Permanent Supportive Housing (188 beds) are available in the region, but affordable housing availability is scarce.

According to the Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) submitted to HUD, 1,379 households are being served in either Emergency Shelter/Safe Haven/Transitional Housing (1,004), Rapid Rehousing (197), or Permanent Supportive Housing (177). This information comes directly from the region’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Please note that at the time of the LSA submission, the Placer County CoC was merged with Nevada County CoC. Of the 1,379 households, 1,067 households are disabled, 402 meet the definition of chronic homelessness, and 413 households are aged 55+. Additionally, 81 individuals are unaccompanied youth and 133 households are veterans. Below is the gender and racial information according to the LSA:

- 624 Females
- 820 Males
- 5 Transgender

- 1 Gender Non-Conforming
- 1088 White, Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino
- 94 White, Hispanic/Latino
- 59 Black or African American
- 7 Asian
- 46 American Indian or Alaska Native
- 8 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- 134 Multiple Race

The Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras, Placer County, and other partnering agencies are continually cleaning HMIS data in order to ensure accuracy. It is recognized that not all individuals experiencing homelessness are in HMIS, and continual outreach is provided.

2. DEMONSTRATION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION

A. Coordinated Entry Process (CEP) Information

The Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras utilizes a phone system as the Coordinated Entry Process (CEP). Connecting Point serves as the entity responsible for operating the CEP as the initial point of contact. Additionally, local service agencies and Whole Person Care's outreach team are able to help individuals and households access the CEP. Individuals and households experiencing homelessness can access the CEP by dialing 1-833-3PLACER. Trained assessors conduct the vulnerability assessment on the phone with the individual seeking services. This assessment includes the collection of HMIS universal data elements as well as administering the standardized vulnerability assessment tool. The completed assessment results in a vulnerability score, which prioritizes households with the largest needs and vulnerabilities. The household's name is then placed on the By Name List (BNL), with the ranking being determined by the vulnerability score. All HMIS license holders are able to access the BNL and fill program openings based on the individual or household's eligibility. Whole Person Care has dedicated staff to review the current BNL and follow up with individuals who have been on the list for a long amount of time. This follow up allows us to remove individuals from the list who have either secured housing or are no longer residing in the area. Additionally, The Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras, Placer County, and other partnering agencies meet on a regular basis to discuss ways to serve 49 of the most vulnerable individuals and households on the BNL. This methodology was taken directly from the Built for Zero initiative. Many of the participating agencies have staff that are bi-lingual, or the Universal Language Line (ULL) is utilized.

The CEP has a grievance policy in place. An individual with a grievance is first asked to attempt to resolve the issue with the referral agency. If the issue cannot be resolved through the referral agency's grievance process, a grievance can be made to the Outcomes and Measurements Committee. This committee will review the grievance and the matter shall be

settled by Board vote. If there is a concern about discrimination, a Title VI complaint form may be completed and sent to Connecting Point.

B. Prioritization Criteria

The Coordinated Entry vulnerability assessment uses a variety of criteria to prioritize assistance. This includes the location where the individual has been sleeping, the number of instances of homelessness in the last three (3) years and disabling conditions. Additionally, a history of hospitalizations and/or victimization, whether the individual has HIV/AIDS or any medical vulnerabilities, and substance use or behavioral health issues are criteria for prioritization. If an individual is identified as being a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or human trafficking are immediately referred to the local domestic violence service provider (VSP). If the client does not wish to seek DV services through the local domestic violence service provider, they can still access the By Name List anonymously.

Pursuant to 24 CFR 577(a)(8), the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras involves all Emergency Solutions Grant recipients in the planning and implementation of the CEP. A policy and procedure manual has been established and made available to the local nonprofits and county staff. This manual details how an individual fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, but who are seeking shelter or services from nonvictim service providers. Any individual experiencing or fleeing from the above victimization(s) have full access to the Coordinated Entry Process and are informed of ways to insure his/her safety. A victim of domestic violence may access the CEP through the local VSP or through the phone system anonymously.

C. Coordination of Regional Needs

On January 16, 2020, the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras and County of Placer hosted a community meeting seeking input on how to prioritize HHAP funds. This meeting was attended by: Placer High School, Project Go, AMI Housing, Whole Person Learning, The Gathering Inn, City of Roseville, Chapa-De Indian Health, Volunteers of America Veteran Services, Stand Up Placer, Roseville Police Department, Placer County Adult System of Care, and the Latino Leadership Council. These individuals recommended a variety of project options. Additionally, the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras and Placer County coordinated the development of the Placer County Homeless Strategic Plan. This plan received input from a wide variety of service providers and community members and resulted in the identification of several priorities. Furthermore, the CoC Coordinator, HRCS President, and Placer County staff are in constant communication regarding gaps in services and potential solutions to said gaps. Both entities do not wish to approach HHAP with a siloed approach, instead we have decided to continue to collaborate closely and share the needs identified. One example of a need is the potential loss of funding for a local permanent supportive housing provider. Placer County and HRCS have discussed the possibility of using HHAP funds to support this agency so PSH beds would not be lost.

D. Creating Sustainable, Long Term Housing Solutions

The Placer County CoC and the County of Placer collaborate closely to identify gaps in services and ways to create sustainable, long-term housing solutions. Placer County staff sit on the board of the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras and are active leaders within the CoC. Additionally, community meetings have been held to receive input from the local stakeholders and community members regarding gaps in services. The Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras has an Outcomes and Measurements committee, which meets monthly. This committee reviews and discusses HMIS, PIT and CE data, as well as receives input from local stakeholders to improve the CE process and HMIS data quality. Placer County staff are actively involved in this committee and are able to use the data to inform homeless planning strategies.

3. RESOURCES ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

A. Existing Programs and Resources

HRCS receives funding through a variety of sources. Below is the list of funding sources and collaborations:

- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): HRCS does not directly receive funds through this program. However, historically funds have been awarded to Hospitality House and Advocates for Mentally Ill Housing
- Continuum of Care Program Competition (CoC): HRCS receives \$30,895.71 for CoC planning activities and \$51,266.00 for the operation of HMIS
- Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP): HRCS receives \$2,729,084.44. HRCS services both Nevada and Placer Counties, and has contracted out funds to the following agencies:
 - AMIH
 - Regional Housing Authority
 - Hospitality House
 - Friendship Club (Youth Service Provider)
 - County of Nevada
 - Volunteers of America
 - Placer County Adult System of Care
 - Whole Person Learning (Youth Service Provider)
 - The Gathering Inn
 - Stand Up Placer
 - Placer County Whole Person Care
- California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH): The Sutter Yuba Homeless Consortium has received \$558,995 for Round 1 of CESH funding and \$309,985 for Round 2. Funding has been allocated to the following agencies:
 - HRCS (for the operation of HMIS)
 - Nevada County
 - Volunteers of America
 - Stand Up Placer

- Placer County Whole Person Care
- Placer County Health and Human Services

The Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras closely collaborates with Placer County to provide homeless services. Both CESH and HEAP funds were allocated to county-operated projects. Additionally, through coordinated entry, case management conferencing is provided by county staff. Placer county staff are actively involved in both the CoC and Coordinated Entry Process. Gaps in services have been identified in the local homeless strategic plan, and HHAP funds will help contribute to the strategies identified in the strategic plan.

B. HHAP Funding Plans

HRCs and the County of Placer have hosted a community meeting, as well as discussing funding options at the monthly CoC meetings. The community meeting had representation from a variety of stakeholders. It was at this meeting that the following funding priorities were decided:

- Youth - \$58,146.34 – The local service providers and stakeholders that attended the community meeting discussed potential youth projects. These projects include TAY transitional housing and TAY RRH. HEAP funds were allocated to Whole Person Learning for a TAY Homeless Collaborative program. Whole Person Learning was an attendee at the meeting and provided input on the continued support of the collaborative.
- Delivery of Permanent Housing and Innovative Housing Solutions - \$272,560.97 – The local service providers and stakeholders that attended the community meeting discussed potential projects. These projects include: purchasing a mobile home park, permanent housing for active duty homeless members of the National Guard and Army Reserve, housing vouchers for veterans who do not qualify for HUD-VASH, LGBTQ housing, a Board and Care facility, motel conversion, or a master lease housing program for homeless senior citizens. Funding decisions will be further discussed at future community meetings.
- New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters - \$272,560.96. According to the 2019 Housing Inventory Count showed 250 year-round emergency shelter beds. Fifteen of these beds were hotel vouchers provided by Placer County CalWORKs and fifty are provided by Stand Up Placer, the primary victim service provider. On the night of January 23, 2019, the local emergency shelters had a 90% utilization rate. The 10% vacancy rate can be attributed to the possibility that Stand Up Placer had beds reserved for an upcoming human trafficking raid in Placer County. During the winter season, the three shelters have a combined utilization rate of 94%. The local emergency shelters have also had a 96% utilization rate during the summer months. An average of 50% have exited from the three emergency shelters into permanent housing during FY2018/2019. All individuals and households in emergency shelters receive case management services. Additionally,

emergency shelter providers have a close collaboration with the local permanent housing service providers and referrals are consistently made through Coordinated Entry. Potential projects include: expansion of the domestic violence emergency shelter, a new shelter for veterans, or a low barrier shelter. Funding decisions will be further discussed at future community meetings.

- System Support - \$72,682.92 – The local service providers that attended the community meeting unanimously determined that system support funds should be utilized to hire a Coordinated Entry Specialist. This position will monitor and maintain the By Name List. The BNL is essential in the delivery of homeless services and housing.
- Administration - \$50,878.05 will be used to administer the five-year grant term.

Agencies funded through HHAP will be required to comply with all Housing First components as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code § 8255(b). The Coordinated Entry Process itself complies with all Housing First components. The CEP evaluates an individual or household's needs and barriers in order to prioritize services. The most vulnerable are referred to appropriate services. Once funding decisions are made, contracts will include detailed information regarding Housing First and the requirements agencies must comply with.

4. PARTNERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

A. Collaborating Partner Efforts

The Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras Board of Directors (BoD) and the Placer County CoC will be responsible for monitoring the CoC's HHAP funding decisions. The BoD is comprised of: Hospitality House, Advocates for Mentally Ill Housing, Volunteers of America, County of Nevada, County of Placer, Stand Up Placer, and Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation. The Placer County CoC receives additional representation from Whole Person Learning (Youth agency), Project GO (Permanent Housing agency), Placer Independent Resource Services, Whole Person Care, Placer County Adult System of Care, City of Roseville, City of Rocklin, The Gathering Inn, Salvation Army Roseville, Tahoe/Truckee HHS, homeless service providers, youth advocates, CalWORKS, religious organizations, and other community members. HHAP will be a standing agenda item at the monthly CoC meetings. The Placer County CoC has had difficulty with representation from individuals with lived homelessness experience, but continual outreach is provided.

5. Solutions to Address Homelessness

Although the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras did not submit a strategic plan for the CESH funds, a plan was developed in response to the No Place Like Home requirements.

Excerpts of the plan, including the process, agencies involved, and resulting vision, principles, priorities, and goals:

Introduction

The Placer County Homeless Strategic Plan of 2018 was commissioned by the County of Placer Health and Human Services, Adult System of Care. The primary purpose of this plan is to meet the threshold funding prerequisite of the State of California's No Place Like Home program through the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). This plan will also assist in meeting the requirements of the recent Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) funding process administered by the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras (HRCS). This document addresses broader concepts beyond the requirements of the above-mentioned funding sources, including input meetings and interviews held throughout the county.

Participants in the Planning Process

A series of meetings were held between July and October of 2018 to gather information regarding the scope of the problem of homelessness in Placer County as well as to receive input and suggestions for solutions.

These meetings included:

- Law enforcement
- County and city elected officials
- The business community
- Shelter and service providers
- Placer County staff
- Community members and homeless advocates

Planning Meeting Summaries

Community Meetings

There were 2 meetings held for input from the general public regarding homelessness in Placer County. One meeting took place in Middle Placer and one in South Placer.

Auburn (Middle Placer)

A meeting was held to gather input from the general public in Auburn in August. At the beginning of this meeting, participants were asked 2 general questions: What comes to mind when you hear the word homeless, and what is the impact of homelessness in Placer County?

Concern was raised regarding how homelessness impacted the ability to use public spaces. Attendees said many parks and other types of public spaces were unusable because of people who are homeless at those locations. Participants also indicated that they did not want to see homeless individuals loitering in entrances to stores, and there was concern that the scale of the visible homeless problem that is present in the Bay Area will become mirrored in Placer County. Attendees did indicate they felt the sheriff's department does an adequate job in ensuring homelessness isn't a nuisance in the Auburn area.

Additionally, there was an impression that many people who are homeless want to be left alone and would not accept services. Attendees expressed the necessity to help those who are not interested in changing and to do so in a compassionate manner. Placer County's Whole Person Care Project was mentioned as a positive solution for moving homeless individuals into permanent housing.

Those in attendance divided into small working groups of between 3 and 6 people. The groups were asked to discuss a series of questions and provide responses. The responses were consolidated for both discussion and "voting." The following were the results:

- 1. What do you believe is the number one cause of homelessness in Placer County?**
Substance abuse, mental illness, and lack of affordable/accessible housing
- 2. What do you believe is the number one solution to ending homelessness in Placer County?**
Both permanent supportive housing and homeless services programs that include case management and accountability
- 3. How does homelessness impact the Placer community?**
Community divisiveness
- 4. How should the local government focus its resources to respond to homelessness?**
It should design programs that succeed in getting people self-sufficient

Roseville (South Placer)

As with the Auburn meeting, there was a meeting held in Roseville in August to gather input from the general public. There was resentment expressed that homeless individuals were keeping the public from safely using public spaces. A number of attendees expressed irritation about the amount of litter and trash created by the homeless population as well as the issue of trespassing. There was a representative of the Roseville Police Department present at the meeting who was able to address some of the community members' concerns. Currently, a Problem-Oriented Policing team is specifically tasked with engaging the homeless population regarding available services and enforcement if necessary.

Community attendees expressed a desire for accountability of those receiving services, as well as the necessity of a process to distinguish those who choose homelessness as a lifestyle from those with serious addiction or mental illness. There was strong willingness from the group for serving the latter. However, some attendees questioned whether addiction and mental health issues can be solved with the resources currently available. Overall, there was consensus that those who are mentally ill could not be held fully accountable for their behavior and that homelessness reflected a failure of the broader national mental health system. Attendees were divided into small working groups of between 3 and 6 individuals. The groups were asked the same questions and reached a consensus on 1 or 2 top responses. The responses were consolidated for both discussion and "voting." The following were the results:

- 1. What do you believe is the number one cause of homelessness in Placer County?**
Lack of affordable/accessible housing
- 2. What do you believe is the number one solution to ending homelessness in Placer County?**

Permanent housing, with an emphasis on supportive services and accountability

3. How does homelessness impact Roseville?

Divisiveness and tax burden

4. How should the local government focus its resources to respond to homelessness?

Increase the amount of permanent supportive housing, with an emphasis on substance abuse and mental health services

Placer Consortium on Homelessness Meeting (PCOH)

PCOH provided input to this Strategic Plan at its August 2018 meeting. In attendance were representatives from homeless services agencies, county staff, and community service homeless advocates.

A similar process to the above-mentioned community meetings was used. Attendees were divided into small working groups of between 3 and 6 individuals. The focus of the questions differed slightly from the 2 community meetings. Groups were then asked to come up with a consensus on 1 or 2 top responses. The responses were consolidated for both discussion and “voting.” The following were the results:

1. What do you believe is the number one cause of homelessness in Placer County?

Lack of affordable/accessible housing with supportive services

2. What do you believe to be negative consequences of homelessness in the community?

Community divisiveness

3. How should the problems of homelessness be solved, and what are the primary service and program needs for people who are homeless?

Innovative housing approaches and programs

4. How should the local government focus its resources to respond to homelessness?

Develop and build affordable housing

Tahoe-Truckee Area (East Placer)

In August, a meeting was held with agency representatives and community members in Tahoe City focused on homelessness in the Tahoe-Truckee area. Those present discussed the unique challenges in the region, including extremely high housing costs, the deficiency of new workforce housing construction in the Tahoe Basin, extreme weather in the winter, and the lack of shelter facilities. The need for permanent supportive housing and affordable housing was discussed.

Other challenges discussed: The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency has oversight for all development in this area with authority that spans both Nevada and California. Its guidelines make development less cost-effective and limit the amount of housing, affordable or otherwise. As with above-mentioned meetings, attendees were divided into small working groups of between 2 and 3 individuals. The groups were asked to discuss a series of questions and vote on the solutions. The following are the results:

1. What do you believe is the number one cause of homelessness in the Tahoe-Truckee area?

Lack of low-income and supportive housing

2. What do you believe to be negative consequences of homelessness in the Tahoe-Truckee area?

Access to health care (primary and mental health) and basic human suffering

3. How should the problems of homelessness be solved, and what are the primary service and program needs for people who are homeless in the Tahoe-Truckee area?

More low-cost and supportive housing

4. How should the local government focus its resources to respond to homelessness in the Tahoe-Truckee area?

Developing and building low-cost supportive housing

As the viability of new affordable housing development is discussed in the Tahoe Basin, an important resource in the Tahoe-Truckee area is the Mountain Housing Council of Tahoe-Truckee. This is a coalition of 28 partner agencies, including local government, nonprofits, and business groups. The groups assist with formulating local housing policy, including workforce housing, short-term rental policy, and housing development concepts. In 2016, the Tahoe-Truckee Community Foundation conducted a regional housing assessment, including an assessment of the current workforce and tourism trends, the housing market, housing policies, and assistance programs. The full report can be found at <http://www.ttcf.net/impact/regional-housing-study/>.

Campaign for Community Wellness

For the Campaign for Community Wellness (CCW) meeting in August 2018, the majority of the time was dedicated to providing input to this Strategic Plan document. The CCW is a collaborative among concerned community members, family members, nonprofit agencies, schools, law enforcement, mental health services staff, and Placer County Systems of Care. This collaboration provides a monthly forum to help strengthen the voice of the often unrepresented populations in decision making around mental health policy, resource allocation, and service delivery. The CCW makes recommendations for enhancements to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and changes directly to an MHSA Leadership Team.

This specific session began with a general discussion of homelessness. A significant portion of the meeting focused on the question: If resources are limited, how will service providers in Placer County prioritize them? Specifically, there was discussion as to whether services should be primarily focused on those who desire change and want to move toward self-sufficiency. A straw poll was taken and the votes were almost evenly split with the majority indicating their belief that programs should engage the homeless population regardless of their level of desire for services. The perspective was codified through the testimony of formerly homeless individuals. These individuals shared the reality that many people who are homeless have mental illnesses that may prevent them from pursuing available services.

After this discussion, the groups were asked to discuss a series of questions. The process was similar to the above-mentioned meetings, with participants “voting” for the solutions. The following are the results:

1. What do you believe is the number one cause of homelessness in Placer County?

Lack of permanent supportive housing and affordable low-income housing

2. What do you believe to be negative consequences of homelessness in the community?

Community divisiveness

3. What are your ideas on solving the problems of homelessness and what are the primary service and program needs for people who are homeless?

The number one solution was low-barrier rental housing for individuals with housing barriers, such as evictions and bad credit history; an additional solution was affordable permanent supportive housing

4. How should the local government focus its resources to respond to homelessness?

Developing and building affordable housing

Law Enforcement

A meeting with local law enforcement was held in September 2018 with representation from the Placer County Sheriff Department, Auburn Police Department, and Placer County Probation. The Roseville Police Department was not present at this meeting, but Thurmond Consulting spoke with them during a later time. Law enforcement members provided detailed and insightful information regarding the problems and issues law enforcement faces with the unsheltered homeless population they encounter within Placer County.

Law enforcement supports the approach of providing an appropriate level of services to the homeless population. The consensus in this meeting was that enforcement was ultimately neither a deterrent nor solution to homelessness. Law enforcement also supports substance abuse treatment and institutionalization for people with mental illnesses and expressed support of those who are willing to access services. Currently, the Social Services Unit (SSU) of the Roseville Police Department, a Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) team led by a licensed MSW, is specifically tasked with engaging identified community populations, including homeless individuals and families. SSU and Roseville PD in general, utilize a combination model of referring individuals to services and assistance, while also including enforcement responses, as needed. SSU works within the network of the Roseville Homeless Response Team to coordinate with local service providers and city housing programs to reduce homelessness in Roseville. Efforts of SSU and the Roseville Homeless Response Team, with local grants and programs, have resulted in reductions in homelessness in recent years, including an 18% reduction in 2018. These efforts and the use of POP Teams are seen as a best practice approach locally.

Business Community Chamber of Commerce Meetings

Staff of the Roseville, Loomis, and Lincoln Chambers of Commerce were interviewed to provide a snapshot of the interaction between homeless households and the business community. They had the following comments regarding homelessness in Placer County:

The Roseville Chamber sees loitering of homeless individuals in the downtown district a problem that negatively impacts customer traffic. It is believed that there is an increase in litter

and trash in the downtown area because of homeless individuals. Staff also mentioned that the presence of human waste in front of businesses was an issue.

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce indicated that there was not a major impact from the homeless population in the downtown Lincoln area. There are a few homeless individuals who are known in the community, but they do not create a major impact on the business district.

The

Lincoln Chamber indicated that it would be willing to offer resources to any sort of effort to address the problem of homelessness.

The Loomis Chamber indicated only a few minor issues with homeless individuals using the local library.

Elected Officials

Thurmond Consulting interviewed the following members of the Board of Supervisors:

- Jack Duran, District One
- Robert Weygandt, District Two
- Jim Holmes, District Three
- Kirk Uhler, District Four
- Jennifer Montgomery, District Five

Key consensus points brought up during the meetings included:

- The need for additional housing
- The value of Housing First
- Willingness to change zoning to assist in the development of housing
- The need for drug and alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, and job training
- Homeless prevention strategies, including one-stop solutions (navigation/day centers)
- The value of coordination among the county, cities, and nonprofits
- The importance of adhering to *the Boise Decision* (see upcoming section)
- The need for a communication strategy regarding homelessness
- The need for continued community meetings on homelessness
- A variety of opinions, both pros and cons, regarding a regional approach to homelessness

Key Conclusions From Meetings and Interviews

Affordable Housing with Support Services Is the Primary Solution

Affordable housing with support services was a consensus and primary solution to homelessness in almost every meeting and interview conducted. This includes housing with services along with subsidized rent assistance.

Several studies have found that permanent supportive housing reduces taxpayer costs by as much as 40%. When a chronically homeless individual is placed in housing with supportive services, the individual is no longer frequently utilizing emergency healthcare services, jails, and the criminal justice system.¹⁴ A study in Central Florida conducted in 2014 found that the average homeless person was utilizing approximately \$31,065 worth of emergency services

through inpatient hospitalizations, emergency room fees, and criminal justice costs. Alternately, the average cost to house a chronically homeless individual in permanent supportive housing was only \$10,051 per year.¹⁵

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Must Be Part of the Solution

There was a consensus throughout the meetings—from the elected officials, law enforcement, and the service providers—that substance abuse and mental illness, usually in combination, are a key component that makes a person homeless and keeps them homeless. There needs to be service slots and treatment beds available for all who need them when they need them.

Other Challenges

NIMBY

The presence of homeless individuals living on the street is something that presents a challenge for any downtown or neighborhood. There is a perception that homeless shelters or service sites could affect business foot traffic or decrease property values. This creates the issue of “Not in My Back Yard” or what is known as NIMBY. Those who work in developing and establishing housing for homeless and other low-income target populations are aware that this issue is one of the most difficult issues to address. State law requires that all public entities that receive state and federal housing funds develop zoning in which housing/shelter for those who are homeless is permitted by right. This problem becomes particularly acute when neighbors learn that housing will include not only homeless individuals but those with severe mental illnesses and are chronically homeless. The general public is often concerned when they are informed of Housing First and harm-reduction models used near their place of business or residence.

A well-planned series of community meetings and education initiatives ensuring that the community feels it has had input in the process can be effective in mitigating the NIMBY problem. After projects are established, this must be followed up with very tight management and security to maintain the trust and confidence of the surrounding area. Projects with a specific point of contact for neighbors can be a very effective component for alleviating fears.

Suggested Strategies

Below are suggested strategies for addressing homelessness in Placer County.

STRATEGY 1: Develop Affordable Housing With Services (i.e., Permanent Supportive Housing)

The community agreed that lack of affordable housing was one of the most prominent causes of homelessness as well as substance abuse and mental illness. During almost all of the meetings held in Placer County, the development of housing that is affordable with services to help with substance abuse and mental illness was the most commonly suggested solution. The development of permanent supportive housing was also the most commonly suggested role for local government to play in addressing homelessness. There has already been a significant amount of affordable housing development in Placer County. However, only a limited number of projects have been focused on permanent supportive housing.

STRATEGY 2: Continue Support at CDRA Housing Development Stakeholder Meetings

As mentioned previously, permanent supportive and affordable housing have been identified as a clear and present need in Placer County. Placer County's Community Development Resource Agency hosts a number of stakeholder meetings, with 50% of attendees being housing developers. Other stakeholders include advocates of affordable and homeless housing. We suggest continued support for this activity.

STRATEGY 3: Communicate Consistently With General Public About Homelessness

Often, the concerns of the public regarding homelessness are based on incomplete or inaccurate information. Keeping the public informed regarding the homeless population and the efforts being undertaken by agencies both public and private to address the problem is vital as well as updating the public regarding the extensive efforts of law enforcement and the challenges they face. In addition to keeping the public informed on agency and law enforcement efforts, it is important to have a campaign that is targeted at humanizing individuals who are experiencing homelessness. Any new projects or initiatives should be presented to the public during initial conceptualization—well before implementation or proposed construction. This strategy can be carried out via frequent community meetings, social media, radio, podcast, etc.

STRATEGY 4: Increase Investment in Treatment—Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health

Many chronically homeless individuals have long-term substance abuse disorders and mental health issues. Their lack of ability to pay rent at any level, no matter how affordable, is directly tied to their addiction and mental health, distorting their financial priorities and undermining their employability.

Although Placer County already has extensive treatment programs with treatment beds, there will very likely be a need for an increased number in the future considering statewide and national trends. An individual who is addicted to alcohol or drugs or who needs mental health treatment and is ready to make the necessary changes in their life should have resources available to them at that very important decision point.

STRATEGY 5: Increase Emergency Housing Beds

While the development of permanent supportive housing is a primary solution to addressing homelessness, new housing projects can often take several years to develop. A short- to medium-term solution to the housing crisis should include the increased development of interim housing beds. This could consist of emergency housing, bridge housing, and transitional housing to help lessen the gap between the unsheltered homeless population and the number of available beds.

STRATEGY 6: Continue Participation in the Built for Zero Campaign

Built for Zero is a rigorous national change effort working to help a core group of committed communities end veteran and chronic homelessness. Coordinated by Community Solutions, the national effort supports participants in developing real-time data on homelessness, optimizing

local housing resources, tracking progress against monthly goals, and accelerating the spread of proven strategies. Placer County is already signed up as a participant. More information can be found at www.community.solutions/what-we-do/built-for-zero.

HHAP Funding Outcomes

HHAP funds will be used to provide housing and supportive services for homeless and at-risk youth, the delivery of permanent housing and innovative solutions, and systems support to maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system. Specifically, with HHAP dollars, the following impacts will be made:

- Serve an unduplicated 300 homeless individuals with a 45% exit to permanent housing
- Reduce the number of homeless or at-risk youth
- Increase emergency shelter beds
- Reduce number of returns to homelessness
- Increase access to safe and affordable permanent housing
- Reduce the number of unsheltered individuals in the PIT Count
- Increase number of exits to permanent housing
- Decrease the number of individuals and households on the By Name List
- Reduce the length of time homeless



HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM (HHAP) ANNUAL BUDGET TEMPLATE

APPLICANT INFORMATION

CoC / Large City / County Name:	CA-515: Roseville, Rocklin, Placer County CoC	Receiving Redirected Funds? Y/N	No
Administrative Entity Name:	Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras	Total Redirected Funding	\$ -

HHAP FUNDING EXPENDITURE PLAN*

ELIGIBLE USE CATEGORY	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	TOTAL
Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing	\$ 14,536.58	\$ 14,536.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,073.17
Operating Subsidies and Reserves	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Landlord Incentives	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach and Coordination (including employment)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships	\$ 36,341.46	\$ 36,341.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,682.92
Delivery of Permanent Housing	\$ 136,280.48	\$ 136,280.49	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 272,560.97
Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing	\$ 14,536.58	\$ 14,536.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,073.17
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters	\$ 136,280.48	\$ 136,280.49	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 272,560.97
Strategic Homelessness Planning, Infrastructure Development, CES, and HMIS (up to 5%)						
Administrative (up to 7%)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 25,439.02	\$ 25,439.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,878.04
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION						\$ 726,829.24
Youth Set-Aside (at least 8%)						
	\$ 29,073.17	\$ 29,073.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,146.34

*Narrative should reflect details of HHAP funding plan

COMMENTS:

FINAL

February 5, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The County of Placer has a close collaboration with the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras, the administrative entity for Continuum of Care CA-515, with representatives from the County sitting on the Board of Directors. The Continuum of Care, CA-515 made up of three jurisdictions Roseville/Rocklin/Placer County meets monthly as a Board, Executive Committee and Subcommittees to address projects' outcomes, HMIS, Coordinated Entry and special tasks. The planning and evaluation of HHAP spending and projects will be a standing agenda item for the CoC meetings. Meetings are attended by local nonprofit agencies, representatives from local jurisdictions, law enforcement, religious organizations, county staff, and other members of the community. Additional community meetings will be held as needed. The County participated in conjunction with the CoC to determine priorities for the HHAP funds with 11 other organizations. Together the CoC and the County have identified needs to address homelessness and are working in concordance with the Placer County Homeless Strategic Plan.

Placer County supports the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras application for HHAP funding.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey S. Brown, MPH, MSW
Department Director