

# System Impact Committee

August 6th, 2025

### Goals for Today

The August System Impact Committee meeting will focus on key funding, data, and governance topics shaping the CoC's system-level work. Members will receive an overview of HHAP Round 6, including funding allocations, required application components, and opportunities for community input. The committee will then review two data-focused items: an update from ICF and the HMIS Lead Team on efforts to strengthen HMIS data capacity and governance, and a discussion of how the FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards changes may impact the CoC's ability to analyze system performance across populations. Finally, the committee will engage in a discussion about streamlining the CoC committee structure, providing feedback to inform Leadership Board decisions about potential restructuring and consolidation to improve clarity and impact.

# Agenda



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- L. Welcome / Introductions
  - 1. Ground rules and norms
  - 2. Approval of Minutes
- 2. Public Comment
- 3. Announcements
- 4. Icebreaker
- 5. HHAP 6
- 6. 2025 SIC Workstreams
  - 1. Update to Data Standards
  - 2. CoC Streamlining Discussion



### **Ground Rules**

- 1. The first time you speak, state your name, preferred pronouns, and where you live/organization or agency affiliation. In a public meeting, it is helpful to know who is speaking as well as where they live in the community and/or what organization or agency they represent.
- 2. One person speaks at a time. Refrain from side conversations. Pay attention to the person speaking. If you think you will forget an idea that comes to mind, write it down.
- **3. This is a public discussion, not a debate.** The purpose is not to win an argument, but to hear many points of view and explore many options and solutions.
- 4. Everyone is encouraged to participate. You may be asked to share what you think, or we may ask for comments from those who haven't spoken. It is always OK to "pass" when you are asked to share a comment
- 5. No one or two individuals should dominate a discussion. If you have already voiced your ideas, let others have an opportunity. When you speak, be brief and to the point.
- 6. Listen to and respect other points of view.
- 7. Do your best to understand the pros and cons of every option, not just those you prefer. Be as objective and fair-minded as you can be.
- **8. Seek first to understand, not to be understood.** Ask questions to seek clarification when you don't understand the meaning of someone's comments.

- Ahead of today's meeting, Homebase distributed the meeting minutes (meeting minutes are the written record of our monthly meetings) from the April 2<sup>nd</sup> System Impact Committee meeting for committee members.
- The draft minutes have also been posted in the System Impact Committee's google drive folder.
- This time is held for committee members to let us know if they believe the minutes to do not accurately capture the discussion items from the September meeting and need to be amended.
- You may also email Homebase at jose@homebaseccc.org and matthieu@homebasesccc.org copying alameda@homebaseccc.org, if you see anything in the draft minutes that are distributed following today's meeting that should be amended.
- No roll call vote is needed, corrections not already received by Homebase will be noted and minutes changed accordingly.

## **Approval of Minutes**



# **Public Comment**

- Public Comment will be taken at the beginning of each meeting and is limited to 2 minutes per person.
- Homebase has created a public comment tracker where public comments across CoC meetings will be recorded.
- Comments will be directed to the appropriate CoC committee or County staff.
- You may also email Homebase at jose@homebaseccc.org and matthieu@homebaseccc.org, copying alameda@homebaseccc.org, if you If you would like to submit written comments.



# Announcements

# EveryOne Home

#### **Onboarding Materials Project**

EveryOne Home is currently updating the Committee member onboarding materials and training!

Current trainings are available on the **EveryOne Home website** and include:

<u>Continuum of Care 101</u>: An overview of the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) program.

<u>EveryOne Home 101:</u> An overview of the EveryOne Home Governance Charter, Committee Structure, Description of each Committee, and materials in the EveryOne Home Google Drive and the EveryOne Home website.

<u>Voting Member Responsibilities:</u> An overview of what it means to be a voting member on an EveryOne Home CoC Committee, including meeting norms, the CoC conflict of interest policy, attendance expectations, and more.

<u>Centering Racial Equity</u>: A training on the equity role of the CoC, the importance of centering equity in the homelessness response, exploring how racism appears in our system, and understanding the role of system design and evaluation in advancing racial equity goals.

We have now finished collecting input and feedback, including through surveys and focus groups.

Stay tuned for updates once we have finished reviewing the feedback and incorporating it into the onboarding process!

# Announcements

#### **HMIS Committee Data Quality Workgroup**

The HMIS Committee has formed a workgroup to better understand the barriers service providers face in maintaining high-quality data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This includes challenges related to timeliness, completeness, accuracy, and utilization.

#### **Data quality directly impacts:**

- Accurate counts of people experiencing homelessness
- Tracking where people are going within the system
- Understanding the length of time individuals spend in services
- Measuring outcome data like exit destinations
- HUD reporting compliance
- CoC NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) competitiveness
- Ensuring equity in our data and services

#### We are seeking input from:

- Coordinated Entry Providers using HMIS
- Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing providers
- Other HMIS-participating service providers
- City Government Partners who use HMIS or manage providers that use the HMIS and/or who work directly with the HMIS Lead Team

#### **How You Can Participate:**

The workgroup is offering the following ways to share your insights:

- Virtual focus groups reach out to Jose Lucio (<u>jose@homebaseccc.org</u>) and Matthieu Kaman (<u>Mathieu@homebaseccc.org</u>) to participate!
- Electronic survey <u>Survey link</u>



# Ice Breaker (Nic Ming, Co-Chair)

#### • Prompt:

"If we could only track **one thing better in the next year** to
understand how well our system
is working, **what would it be?**"



# Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 6

ALAMEDA COUNTY AND CITY OF OAKLAND
JULY 17, 2025

# **Presentation Summary**



**OVERVIEW OF HHAP** 



KEY ELEMENTS OF ROUND 6



**DISCUSSION** 

#### Overview of HHAP

"reflects the state's priorities to prevent and expeditiously reduce unsheltered homelessness through homelessness prevention activities and sustain existing Interim Housing Solutions and Permanent Housing Solutions, including long-term sustainability of permanent affordable housing."

HHAP Round 6 is a \$1 billion grant that provides local jurisdictions with flexible funding to continue efforts to improve regional and systems coordination to prevent and end homelessness in their communities. HHAP-5 C HHAP-6 require applicants to create and implement Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plans.

# Eligible Applicants/Recipients

- Each Continuum of Care (CoC), County and Large City is allocated a HHAP funding amount by the State
- Entities in a region must submit a single coordinated HHAP application but may receive funds separately.
- Alameda County administers the CoC's allocation; City of Oakland administers their own

# HHAP Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

#### Round 1 (5/2020-6/2025)

CoC Allocation \$9.4 M

County Allocation: \$8.7 M

City of Oakland: \$19.7 M

#### Round 2 (10/2021-6/2026)

CoC Allocation \$4.5 M

County Allocation: \$4.0 M

City of Oakland: \$9.3 M

#### Round 3 (1/2023-6/2026)

CoC Allocation \$12.0 M

County Allocation: \$11.2 M

City of Oakland: \$24.0 M

#### Round 4 (7/2023-6/2027)

CoC Allocation \$12.9 M

County Allocation: \$12.1 M

City of Oakland: \$26.0 M

#### Round 5 (7/2024-6/2028)

CoC Allocation \$14.0 M

County Allocation: \$13.4 M

City of Oakland: \$28.4 M

Since HHAP Round 1 was first administered in 2020, the funds have supported the following efforts in the **City of Oakland:** 

- > Developing and expanding emergency shelter interventions
- > Street outreach support
- > Street hygiene interventions and support
- > Capacity Building for small emerging organizations
- Permanent housing for homeless adults
- ➤ Navigation Centers including RV Safe Parking sites and Community Cabin sites
- > Increased case management
- > Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing for TAY and single adults

Since HHAP Round 1 was first administered in 2020, the funds have supported the following efforts in **Alameda County:** 

- > Access Points/Housing Resource Centers (CES) countywide
- > Street Health and Outreach teams countywide
- > Local funding match for Housing Community Supports (housing navigation, tenancy sustaining services, housing deposits)
- > Expansion of HMIS system administration and licensing w/ Bitfocus
- ➤ Emerging Leaders Program to support persons with lived experience to participate in our CoC; providing CoC operations support
- > Regional Interim Housing projects (safe parking, emergency shelter, navigation centers, etc.) in partnership with cities
- > TAY Projects, including Access Point, Mid-County shelter, and support for the Youth Action Board

# HHAP 6 – Key Elements

- Summary of community input
- > Summary of the roles and responsibilities of each funded entity
- ➤ List of all encampments in the region and how the applicant entities propose to address them (new element)
- ➤ System Performance Measures Improvement Plan list of key actions the applicants will take to improve system performance and address disparities
- Funding Plan for use of HHAP 6 funds
- > Sustainability plan for Interim Housing inventory (new element)
- > Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between applicant entities

## Allowable Uses of HHAP 6 Funds

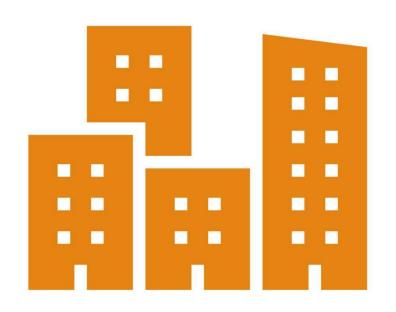
In Round 6, the State of CA is prioritizing funding for:

- Sustaining existing interim housing solutions (emergency shelter, transitional housing, bridge housing, etc.)
- Sustaining and expanding permanent housing solutions (rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing)

New interim housing and non-housing solutions (e.g., outreach, coordinated entry) are only allowed if the applicants can demonstrate sustainability of the existing interim and permanent housing inventory in the region.

There is a 10% set-aside for programs serving youth, which can include non-housing solutions.





## HHAP 6 Allocations

- > City of Oakland: \$23.0 million
- Alameda County: \$10.7 million
- Continuum of Care: \$11.5 million

# Application Timeline

Application Development: Underway

Community Input Sessions: July 17, August 6, August 7

Deadline for Submission: August 29, 2025

Funding Awarded: Rolling process between September and December 2025



## **QUESTIONS?**

- What is important to communicate to the State regarding the sustainability of existing Interim Housing (a requirement to document funding through FY 28/29)?
- Any feedback to share with the State regarding their request that we share our inventory of encampments in the region?
- With the tightening restrictions on use of funds to support systemwide infrastructure and capacity (e.g., HMIS, CE), how can the community best plan for supporting these efforts?
- What do you see as the most under-funded needs in our Homeless Response System right now?

# 2025 SIC Workstreams

- Data Standards Changes
- Streamlining CoC Committee
   Structure



# Framing Today's Discussion

#### We Know:

- Many of these changes especially the retirement of fields like Gender and Sexual Orientation, and the removal of identity-affirming language — are widely viewed as harmful, not helpful.
- Community members, providers, and system leaders have been clear: this does not represent progress.

#### **Today's Conversation Will Be:**

- Transparent about what HUD is requiring
- **Grounded** in the real impacts on our work and our communities
- Focused on what we can do practically and collectively in response

#### **Our Goal:**

 To give you the information you need, be honest about the limitations, and begin preparing together for how we preserve meaningful, inclusive, and accountable data practices despite these changes.

# What's Changing - at a Glance

#### Retirement of Elements by October 1, 2025:

- Gender
- Sexual Orientation (Runaway and Homeless Youth RHY specific)
- Coordinated Entry Assessment

#### **Revisions Already in Effect (as of October 1, 2023):**

- Race & Ethnicity merged into one field
- Identity-affirming language removed from Name, SSN, Race
- Fair Housing language removed from Emergency Shelter setup guidance
- Reorganized and renumbered destination and living situation responses

#### Implementation Deadline:

All changes must be active by October 1, 2025

# What's Not Changing

Our Commitment to data-informed decision-making

Our shared goal: better understanding and serving people experiencing homelessness

Your role as providers and partners remains critical

# Key Shifts in the Data Standards

# Elimination of identity data fields:

- Gender and Sexual
   Orientation no longer
   part of HMIS after FY
   2024
- The replacement for gender categories is "Sex" and will be mapped/available for the Oct. 1 launch date

# Erasure of cultural and trauma-informed framing:

- Person-Centered Data Collection section stripped of equity and trauma language
- SSN and Race guidance weakened (e.g., no reminder to serve people without documentation)

# Weakened compliance references:

- Removed fair housing language in Emergency Shelter project guidance
- Removed expectations around cultural humility in data collection

# We Know These Changes Raise Concerns

Questions we've heard:

- "How will we track gender- or LGBTQrelated disparities now?"
- "How will this affect our ability to analyze trends over time?"
- "What message does this send to the communities we serve?"

These are not hypothetical—they are real consequences:

- Loss of demographic insight
- Disrupted continuity for equity analysis
- Perceived erasure of identity and lived experience

We share these concerns — and we know they're being raised in other communities as well. Many CoCs are still grappling with how to respond and what this means for local priorities.

# HMIS Lead Team – Taking a Proactive Approach

#### The HMIS Lead Team is:

- Meeting with BitFocus to assess technical options for preserving visibility where possible
- Coordinating with HUD TA (Abt) to understand mandates and push back where we can
- **Planning for training and rollout** the HMIS Committee can support by providing space to lift up concerns, questions, and community feedback throughout implementation.
- **Documenting everything** including what we're losing and why it matters

# What's Staying the Same and What We Can Still Do

#### What's Staying the Same:

- Historical data remains intact past entries won't be erased
- Alameda CoC's values and priorities are unchanged
- We are still allowed to collect additional, local data — even if not required by HUD

#### What We Can Still Do:

- Preserve additional fields or notes where possible in HMIS
- Continue equity analysis using historic data and local variables
- Elevate concerns to HUD through formal TA and CoC leadership channels

# Data Standards Changes - Discussion

- What are folks concerns on the data standards updates?
- How does this change our ability to use HMIS data to understand system performance across different populations and other potential implications for system-level analysis and decision-making?
- As a committee, how can we respond to these changes to ensure that the data we rely on remains accurate, meaningful, and actionable?



# Discussion: Streamlining CoC Committees



# Why are We Talking about This?

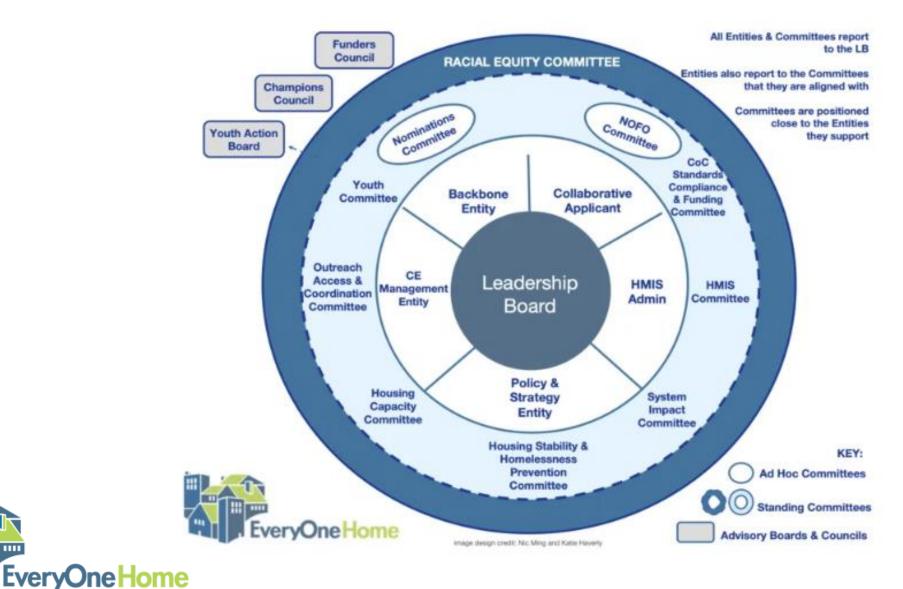
Background: The Leadership Board is exploring ways to streamline the CoC Committee structure to strengthen impact, reduce inefficiencies, and ensure committees are focused on meaningful, high-priority work.

- Concerns include:
  - Some committees may have overlapping scopes or duplicative responsibilities.
  - The current structure can make it difficult to focus on strategic deliverables and longterm goals.
  - Opportunities may exist to consolidate or shift work to better support systemwide progress.

**Goal:** The SIC Committee is being asked to reflect on its role and structure as part of a broader conversation:

- Is the committee producing essential, impactful work?
- Is the cadence sustainable and effective?
- Could this work be better aligned, integrated, or streamlined?

## Current CoC structure



# What do Our Committees Currently do?

#### **HMIS** Committee

 The HMIS committee helps oversee and improve the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to meet HUD requirements and support strong data infrastructure for the CoC. It serves as a space to identify system challenges, recommend improvements, and uplift user feedback. The committee reviews HMIS policies, evaluates the HMIS Lead annually, and applies a racial equity lens in all of its work.

#### SIC Committee

• The System Impact Committee monitors progress toward the CoC's strategic plan (Home Together) by reviewing system and provider performance, identifying trends, and recommending policy or program changes. It helps shape Point in Time Count methods, tracks racial equity goals, supports provider performance review and quality improvement, and advises on funding alignment. The committee uses a racial equity lens throughout its work.

#### **ESC Committee**

• The Evidence-Based Solutions
Committee ensures the CoC uses
data and proven practices to
address the root causes of
homelessness and reduce disparities
across Alameda County. It promotes
accountability across all CoC
committees, supports the use of
evidence-based frameworks, reviews
key policies and deliverables, and
helps track progress on performance
goals. The committee also trains
members, provides technical
support, and produces an annual
accomplishments report.

# What do Our Committees Currently do?

#### **HCC Committee**

The Housing Capacity Committee
works to expand permanent
supportive and deeply affordable
housing for people experiencing
homelessness in Alameda
County. It promotes housing
targeted to households below
10% AMI, coordinates funding
and planning efforts, and partners
with local agencies and
developers. The committee also
tracks housing production and
supports landlord engagement.

#### **HSHP** Committee

 The Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention
 Committee focuses on preventing new entries into homelessness and supporting housing retention, especially for formerly homeless individuals. It identifies best practices, analyzes inflow trends, targets gaps in prevention services, and fosters cross-sector collaboration. The committee also advises on prevention funding and works to prevent institutional discharges into homelessness.

#### **OAC Committee**

• The Outreach, Access, and Coordination Committee works to ensure people experiencing homelessness can easily and equitably access services that meet their needs. It oversees and strengthens Coordinated Entry, monitors system access and outcomes, reviews assessment tools, and identifies barriers to engagement. The committee supports continuous improvement to the Coordinated Entry System.

# What do Our Committees Currently do?

#### Youth Committee

• The Youth Committee brings together youth with lived experience, providers, and public systems to build a coordinated response to youth homelessness. It aligns goals across sectors, shapes policies for youth-specific Coordinated Entry and funding, monitors system performance, and ensures TAY providers are included in funding opportunities. The committee develops strategies tailored to the diverse needs of TAY subpopulations.

#### **CoC SCF Committee**

 The Standards, Compliance, and Funding Committee oversees the collaborative process for applying for CoC funding and supports HUD compliance and performance evaluation. It manages project rating and ranking, coordinates with other committees on performance standards, and ensures alignment with HUD and ESG requirements. The committee applies a racial equity lens and works to include BIPOC-led organizations in funding opportunities.