

My name is Stephany, and I'm currently unhoused

For nearly four years, I did everything I was told to do to get help. I called 2-1-1, signed up for Coordinated Entry, went to drop-in centers, and signed up for every low-income housing lottery that opened its waitlists. I followed the rules. I made goals. I went to school full-time, I volunteered, and I earned honest dollars.

And still... I remain unhoused.

During these years, I've also watched as several people lost their lives

Adolfo, the sweetest man ever, who just wanted to listen to his gospel music and preach the word of the lord, lost his life after he was hit by a car coming out of the San Leandro street Tunnel.

Gringo, who, after having his shelter demolished several times by the Union Pacific railroad, gave up rebuilding and remained unsheltered, which made it harder to cook and eat, stay warm, and rest. This led to his health deteriorating rapidly. He died in the park on 98th Ave about a year ago

Then there's Tommy, who has lived in the streets for over 20 years... Who's fed most of us at least once, just like Gringo. he was recently released from a 70-day hospital stay after suffering a severe stroke, and recently found out he has lung cancer.

Tommy found Canelo a couple of years ago after he had a major stroke. He had been lying in the sun for 3 days, covered in his own feces and ants.

Mario burned alive after falling asleep in the winter with his torch on, trying to stay warm in his van

Arab, a veteran who lives in his car, is currently undergoing chemotherapy as he battles cancer

Mariano, who worked every day, was hit on the head and killed while he slept in his tent

Martin

I can go on...so imagine how astonished I was to find out that the average life span of a homeless person is 42 to 52 years old... I'm 35

But I haven't stopped trying. I graduated from Chabot College with honors and an associate degree in Liberal Arts and Humanities. I earned my Google IT Support Certificate through Merit America, volunteered over 60 hours with various nonprofits, and now I'm pursuing my bachelor's at Georgetown University, where I'm on the Dean's list. My future goal is to work on solutions to the very problem I'm a part of.

These are the kinds of efforts that should be recognized, but the system isn't built to support people while they're trying. It's full of waitlists, closed doors, and broken processes, as I'm often treated as an eyesore while I'm being pushed out of the city slowly but surely. The same city that's left me out in the rain on Valentine's Day with the belongings I was able to save, no shelter, and no alternative. Navigating homelessness while doing everything within my power to

progress in life is not a challenge for the weak-minded. I've had to withdraw from classes due to the simple stress of worrying about essentials, the insecurities and self-doubt that stem from stigma, and for my own sanity. Believe me, I have a growth mindset and no excuse attitude but living on these streets will get the best of anyone. These are the things that I hope you keep in mind when trying to find solutions or while making policies that have a great effect on mine and other unhoused individuals' lives, because we are just that, individuals.

However, I'm not here just to name what's broken. I'm here with solutions we can start today, like

- A fast-track system for people at work or school. Meet us halfway.
- Peer-led outreach by people with lived experience. because trust matters.
- Short-term rental subsidies for people ready to move forward but just need help getting over the financial hurdle.
- Mobile "care pods" bring vital services directly to where people are, not the other way around.
- And real funding transparency. If the money is for us, we should know where it's going and if it's working.

We don't need perfect systems. We need ones that listen, respond, and act now because we're dying on these streets, especially the elderly living in harsh environments, and not is it not okay, it's inhumane...



**THE OAKLAND, BERKELEY/ ALAMEDA COUNTY CoC
Fall Community Meeting
Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, 9:30am – 4:30pm
Location: California Endowment 2000 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612**

Written Public Comment Form

This form may be completed by and submitted to Homebase at alameda@homebaseccc.org.
Written comments will be posted to the Everyone Home webpage.

Name:	
Affiliation:	
Person with Lived Experience?	Yes No

Comments:

	Prevention	Street-Level	Shelters	Tiny Homes/RV Sites	Temporary Housing SROs/Hotels	Housing
Home Together Strategy	Prevent Homelessness	Access & Coordinate	Expand Shelter	Expand Shelter	Expand Shelter	Increase Housing
County Homeless Intervention Measure W/\$170M annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow Subsidies • Emergency Rental Assistance • Housing Stabilizing Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Navigation • Access Points • Street Health and Outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New interim housing • Enhanced Support for existing shelter 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool • Rental subsidies • Tenancy sustaining services • Housing Deposits
County CBO Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACS/Keep Oakland Housed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Resource Centers: BACS, BOSS, EOCP, Adobe city managed • Street Health: LifeLong Medical Care, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Bay Area Community Health, and Roots Community Health 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Leandro RV Parking 		
Current Oakland Initiatives CA HEAP for shelters, CA HHAP and Measure Q/\$30M, 30% Homelessness		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMP, closing/"cleaning" encampments • Hygiene (portable toilets, wash stations) at a minimum of 55 encampments • 34 mobile shower sessions/week <p>Unsure of status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Vincent • EOCP/Crossroads & Family Matters • St. Mary's? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiny Homes: Operation Dignity, Roots Comm Health, HCEB • [200] RV program spaces, Urban Alchemy, HCEB • Closed: Wood St RV Site 	<p>BACS Henry/Holland (227), Lao Care Campus (43) Matilda Cleveland, Clifton Hall (Senior and Family), Youth Spirit Artworks (22)</p> <p>Closed: Merritt Lodge (Karen Boyd said it's becoming a battered women's shelter)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HomeKey Projects • Rapid Rehousing:

Recommended Food Security Support

	Prevention/Re-Housed	Streets/Encampments	Tiny Homes/SROs	RVs	Shelters
Kitchen Access	Home Kitchens	No refrigeration Food storage issues Limited cooking facilities	Access to shared refrigeration and microwaves	Small Kitchens	Congregate meal setting, dinner and breakfast provided
Pantry	Agency Partner referrals for clients	RTE packages Mobile Pantry	Agency Partner for Site Operators	Agency Partner for Site Operators	Agency Partner for Site Operators
Cal Fresh Outreach	CalFresh Enrollment referrals RMP add to EBT for seniors and those with disabilities	Hands on CalFresh Enrollment, address ID requirements provide address support. RMP added to all	On-site CalFresh enrollment	On-site CalFresh enrollment	On-site CalFresh enrollment
Prepared Meals	MOW referral for seniors RMP access \$5 EBT meals via Saba Grocers, Mandela Partners, CBO pantry distributions	Street Meal Priority, free to CBO distribution partner	Facility Pantry \$5 Site operator meal contribution Mobile \$5 EBT client paid meals	Facility Pantry MOW referral for seniors Mobile \$5 EBT client paid meals	On-site access
CBO Partners	Keep Everyone Housed Program Merritt Lodge (city project closed, new DV housing)	ACCFB RTE Agency Partners (unknown) CK Grassroots CBOs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Program • Serenity House • Punks with Lunch • EOC • Roots Comm Health • Homies • Berkeley Free Clinic • Kerry's Kids AC Street Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LifeLong Medical Care • Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center • Bay Area Community Health • Roots Community Health 	Community Cabins (Oakland) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Dignity (3 sites) • Roots Comm Health • HCEB SROs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACS Henry/Holland • Lao Care Campus • Matilda Cleveland • Clifton Hall (Senior and Family) • Youth Spirit Artworks Emeryville Hotel	AC: San Leandro RV Parking Oakland RV Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCEB (2 sites) Seniors • Urban Alchemy 	St. Vincent's St. Mary's BOSS Bay Area Serenity House (women's shelter) EOCP Covenant House