

# Addressing Homelessness Workgroup

## Where We Are At:

The Sutter County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) health priority workgroup aimed at addressing homelessness in Sutter County convened Wednesday, February 22, 2023. During this meeting community partners finalized the overarching vision for addressing homelessness and determined the objectives that we will collectively work together to achieve over the next three to five years.

**Overarching Vision Statement:** Ensure a safe place to live for everyone in our community

## **Objectives:**

- By January 30, 2027, reduce the number of unsheltered individuals by 20% from the 2023 Point-In-Time Count.
- By January 30, 2028, decrease the number of people entering homelessness by 50% when compared to Sutter County's 2023 rate.
- By December 31, 2028, increase the number and variety of affordable permanent housing options in Sutter County by 50 units.

## What's Next?

During our next meeting, we will identify the strategies and actions that will be implemented to achieve each objective above. We will also determine who will be leading the associated activities and the timeline in which they will be implemented. Defining these steps and actions will help ensure that the CHIP is not only an achievable and actionable plan, but that we are accountable for performing this critical work.

## **Strategies:**

- A general approach or collection of actions to achieve a desired goal or overarching vision.
- Provides a clear roadmap: smaller steps along the way to achieving an objective
  - The objective is WHAT you are going to do, and the strategy is HOW you will do it.

## **Actions:**

- Specific programmatic, policy or other action that implements or "operationalizes" the strategy.

## **National Evidence Based Strategies:**

### Healthy People 2030:

- Permanent supportive housing with housing first- to promote health equity for people experiencing homelessness and have a disabling condition. Housing first programs:
  - Decrease homelessness
  - Increase housing stability
  - Improve quality of life
  - Reduce hospitalization and emergency department visits

### County Health Rankings & Roadmaps:

- Expand Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)
- Debt advice for tenants with unpaid rent
- Housing mediation services- facilitate mediation between tenants and landlords to resolve conflict and prevent eviction.

## **Local Strategies:**

### Sutter-Yuba Homelessness Consortium Strategic Plan:

#### Priority 1- Homelessness Prevention

- Limit first time homelessness by decreasing evictions
- Prevent returns to homelessness

#### Priority 2- Support for Shelter and Housing

- Develop affordable housing options for extremely low-income households
- Further research potential housing models (tiny house, modular, conversions)
- Improve outreach to landlords, property management companies, and developers
- Broader support for the Homeless Data Management Information System (HMIS) and Coordinated Entry (CE) Systems

#### Priority 3- Community Partnerships

- Support the business community's efforts to engage with individuals experiencing homelessness
- Create opportunities for homeless persons to get involved in the community
- Improve awareness and resources on social media for local community
- Work with partner agencies and businesses to employ individuals experiencing homelessness

#### Priority 4- Health Services

- Provide additional support for the Street Medicine team
- Increase mobile service engagement
- Provide additional support for outreach teams
- Create safe respite location for sick/injured individuals with no other resources to recover

**Homeless and Housing Instability (HHIP):** A voluntary Medi-Cal Managed Care Incentive Program that aims to improve health outcomes and access to whole person care services by addressing housing insecurity and instability

#### Additional Homeless Initiatives/Funding in Sutter County

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP):

- HHAP Round 1 provided funding to support regional coordination and expand capacity to address immediate homeless challenges. This funding was utilized for Better Way shelter operations, a 40-bed emergency shelter program. This shelter program utilizes the housing first model and includes case management and housing navigation services.
- HHAP Rounds 2 & 3 provided funding to build on regional collaboration to develop a unified regional response to homelessness and provide continued funding to homeless prevention. Based on regional needs for additional permanent housing, funding was utilized to support the expansion/creation of permanent supportive housing for residents experiencing homelessness.

#### What You Can Do:

Before the next workgroup meeting please consider the following questions and come prepared to share your insights:

- What key strategies can be implemented to achieve each identified objective, what assets and resources exist in our community that can be leveraged for our work, and what work is already being conducted that we can build upon?
- What are the actions necessary to operationalize our strategies?
- Who will lead our identified CHIP activities and what is our timeline for implementing our strategies and actions?