



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
SOLANO
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

CAP Solano JPA

Dawn La Bar,
Chair/Executive Director

707.428.7749
www.capsolanojpa.org

CAP Solano JPA 2019 Annual Report

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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1. Introduction from the Chair

Dear Community Stakeholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Community Action Partnership Solano, Joint Powers Authority (the JPA), I am pleased to present this report covering the activities of this body to coordinate homeless and safety net services during the 2019 calendar year. Through the leadership of the JPA, and the partnership of the jurisdictions, providers and other stakeholders, the JPA now administers over \$18 million dollars in federal, state and local funding to support homeless housing and services in Solano County.

Throughout the year, the JPA oversaw implementation of key priorities for “Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Forward Together,” the five-year Regional Strategic Plan outlining a central regional strategy to respond to homelessness in Solano County. The JPA continues to pursue federal and state funding to support programs for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and further the goals of the Regional Strategic Plan, including: improving system navigation through expansion of the Coordinated Entry System, increasing affordable housing through permanent housing and housing subsidies, and providing supportive services to help Solano residents maintain housing. In 2019, the JPA obtained significant amounts of California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), and Continuum of Care (CoC) funding to support permanent housing, homelessness prevention and diversion programs, youth services, and other supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

In 2019 the Solano County Administrator and the City Managers of each of the seven cities in Solano County signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing over \$900,000 over three years in jurisdictional support to expand the Coordinated Entry System (CES). The participating jurisdictions created a funding package to hire three additional staff for the CES and to develop a Landlord Incentive and Support Fund, and to provide operational costs to the CES Operator. A CES Operator – Resource Connect Solano – was selected through a competitive RFP process and all new CES Staff were hired and onboarded, including a Housing Locator, CES System Administrator, and System Manager. In 2019, the JPA worked to market the expanded CES through social media, marketing, and a community CES roll out event. In 2019, Resource Connect Solano served 1,195 individuals from throughout the county. The CAP Solano JPA also supported SafeQuest in its implementation of its award of a HUD CoC grant to create a separate, parallel Coordinated Entry System for those fleeing Domestic Violence. This is the first CES Domestic Violence award in Solano County.

The JPA also continues to work on expanding the capacity of local service providers to serve people experiencing homelessness. In 2019, the JPA awarded and is overseeing the implementation of three CSBG microgrants to local agencies who are new to government contracts to help build the capacity of local services providers in Solano County. The funded agencies will provide supportive services, housing subsidies, and employment and housing search assistance for low-income individuals and families who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. The CoC and JPA staff and JPA Fiscal Agent/Program Administrator also continue to provide regular technical assistance and capacity building visits to ESG, CoC-funded, and other JPA funded service providers throughout the year.

The JPA also worked toward improving the community's ability to measure the needs of the homeless population and how those needs are being met. Efforts to conduct a thorough unsheltered Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count in 2019 and continued support of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) have provided the community with a more accurate understanding of the homeless population and of overall system performance. Through targeted efforts in 2019, a 150% increase in HMIS users was achieved, with a record number of partner agencies contributing data to HMIS.

Every individual and family in Solano County deserves a fair and equal chance to live in an affordable, safe, and stable home with access to necessary community resources. The JPA is committed to serving all individuals and families in Solano County to achieve that vision. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Sincerely,
Kathy Lawton-Caesar
Vice-Chair
CAP Solano JPA

2. Community Action Partnership Solano, Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Overview

The JPA is a combined governmental agency formed by a memorandum of understanding between the Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, and Vallejo and the County of Solano to coordinate efforts to reduce poverty and homelessness in Solano County. Representatives from these governments serve on the JPA Board and meet at least monthly to fulfill their duties as Solano County's Community Action Agency. The JPA is also the Collaborative Applicant for Solano County's Continuum of Care (CoC), the Administrative Entity for other state and federal funds that flow through the CoC, and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead.

JPA Vision

All families and individuals in Solano County have equal access to community resources that lead to and support self-sufficiency.

JPA Mission

To strengthen agencies working to end poverty and homelessness. The objective is to provide services and resources in coordination with existing service providers, including but not limited to non-profit organizations and faith-based providers, to promote and encourage self-sufficiency for the most vulnerable members of the community.

3. Community Action Agency Report

Community Action Agencies are non-profit private and public organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's war on poverty. These agencies help people in achieving self-sufficiency. Some of the services that may be provided include: child care, education, energy assistance, emergency assistance, financial and legal services, food programs, health services, housing services, prevention programs, self-reliance programs, and youth services.

As the Community Action Agency for Solano County, the JPA administers funds allocated through the Community Services Block Grant Program.

A. Community Services Block Grant Program

The CAP Solano JPA is the entity responsible for administering Solano County's allocation of annual funding under the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG), an initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CSBG funds may be used to support activities that assist low-income families and individuals, homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farm workers, and elderly low-income individuals and families in attaining the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.

In 2019, a Community Needs Assessment was performed to inform the 2020-2021 Community Action Plan (CAP) and set priorities for the use of CSBG funding in Solano. The 2020-2021 CAP identified and assessed poverty-related needs and resources in Solano County and guides how the JPA will deliver CSBG-funded services to individuals and families most affected by poverty. The CAP is required by the federal Community Services Block Grant Act and California Government Code 12747.

The 2019 needs assessment identified lack of affordable housing, lack of employment opportunities, high cost of living, lack of education and training, and mental health and substance abuse issues as the primary causes of poverty in Solano County.

In response, the JPA chose to prioritize the 2020 CSBG funding to support programs that provide rental assistance, supportive and mental health services in housing, employment and job search opportunities, financial literacy and life skills trainings for young adults and single female-headed households.

B. 2019 Community Services Block Grant Program

In 2019, the JPA distributed \$188,389.10 in direct services funding as follows:

Organization	Number Served	Award	Program Description
Caminar	Expected Households Served: 25 Households Served to Date: 28	Amount Awarded: \$51,500.00	Provide rent and deposit costs, as well as move-in furnishings and essentials for adults with severe mental health conditions in order to obtain and maintain housing. Case Managers provided supportive housing services, including mental health case management and coaching in independent living skills.
SHELTER Solano, Inc.	Expected Households Served: 8 Households Served to Date: 129	Award amount: \$70,000.00	Case management, employment services to families experiencing homelessness, and development of Individual Service Plans and direct services for clients transitioning from shelter.
Fighting Back Partnership	Expected Households Served: 12 Households Served to Date: 14	Amount Awarded: \$36,889.10	Provide family strengthening and youth enrichment activities including case management, educational workshops and forums. Activities are designed to increase parental involvement, reduce chronic absenteeism, increase retention, increase quality job opportunities and produce empowered community change agents.
Mission Samoa	Expected Households Served: 8 Households Served to Date: 14	Award Amount: \$30,000.00	Case management to assist unemployed persons in obtaining and maintaining employment and/or obtaining the skills and competencies required for employment. Reimbursement for auto shop equipment used in job training and for contractor providing the training.

C. Tripartite Advisory Board

The Tripartite Advisory Board (TAB) was created in 2015 to guide the JPA Board in its capacity as the Community Action Agency. The TAB is responsible for advising the JPA Board in conducting a community needs assessment, clarifying the JPA’s mission, supporting long-range strategic planning and annual planning, assisting the JPA in implementing its programs, and evaluating the performance of JPA initiatives under CSBG funding. The TAB meets on a quarterly basis.

The TAB has twelve members: four from the public sector (elected officials or their representatives), four from the private sector, and four from the low-income sector (elected by the CoC). In 2019, Lauren Crutsinger served as Chair, and Tom Bartee served as Vice-Chair.

The following were the TAB members as of December 31, 2019:

Representative Type	Name	Organization
Elected Official Sector	Tom Bartee, Vice Chair	Office of Senator Bill Dodd
Elected Official Sector	Supervisor Erin Hannigan	Solano County Board of Supervisors
Elected Official Sector	Daniel Huerta	City of Vacaville
Elected Official Sector	Councilmember Katy Miessner	City of Vallejo
Low-Income Sector	Patrick Stasio	Solano County
Low-Income Sector	Jenalee Dawson	California Human Development
Low-Income Sector	Lisa Martin	California Tribal TANF Partnership
Low-Income Sector	Da Hae Kim	Legal Services of Northern California
Private Sector	Eric Ceballos	Solano Resident
Private Sector	Laura Escobar	United Way
Private Sector	Lauren Crutsinger, Chair	Seneca Family of Agencies
Private Sector	Ryan Loofbourrow	Sutter Health Government Relations

4. Homeless Management and Information Systems (HMIS) Lead Report

A. HMIS Overview

The HEARTH Act, enacted into law on May 20, 2009, requires that all communities have an HMIS with the capacity to collect unduplicated counts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other planners and policymakers use aggregate HMIS data to better inform homeless policy and decision making at the federal, state, and local levels.

Specific HMIS benchmarks from 2019 include:

Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA). The HUD required LSA report provides CoC-level Point-In-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) estimates of homelessness, as well

as estimates of chronically homeless persons, homeless veterans, and homeless children and youth. Through an on-going effort to improve data quality, Housing First Solano completed its inaugural submission of LSA data, which was used to write the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR).

HMIS usage. By the end of 2019, the CoC was using 91 HMIS licenses to collect client-level data as well as data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. HMIS is the universal data system for the homeless system of care. It prioritizes the most vulnerable in the community and allows for the system to more accurately serve those in need of homeless services and housing. Every agency selected through the most recent funding competitions is required to utilize HMIS. The more agencies that participate in HMIS the fuller picture the Solano CoC will have in addressing the needs of the community. The HMIS Administrator continues to train new users and provide technical support to service providers. In August 2019, the JPA approved a policy to consider subsidizing HMIS user licenses for agencies that cannot afford to pay for licenses to promote system access. Seventeen new licenses were added in 2019 which included six new homeless services providers that became HMIS Partner Agencies.

Coordinated Entry. The region's Coordinated Entry System, Resource Connect Solano, is using HMIS to support intakes, assessments, matching, and referral to move people into the CE System. By the end of 2019, 2,573 persons had received assessments through Resource Connect Solano in HMIS.

B. HMIS Lead Feedback

In 2019, Housing First Solano conducted a survey to collect feedback on the performance of the JPA as HMIS Lead. Thirty-two responses were collected:

1. Email Help Requests:
 - a. 53% of respondents had submitted a question to SolanoHMIS@homebaseccc.org.
 - b. 94% of respondents felt the response time was acceptable.
 - c. 94% of respondents felt HMIS staff were helpful or very helpful in resolving their issues.
 - d. 90% of respondents felt the combination of staff support and trainings allowed them to comply with HUD data entry and reporting requirements.
2. Individualized Trainings:
 - e. 87% of respondents had taken advantage of individualized HMIS trainings.
 - f. 89% of respondents felt the trainings were helpful or very helpful.
 - g. Respondents wanted the following trainings at future meetings:
 - Reporting (46%)
 - Monitoring Data Quality (31%)
 - Creating Custom Assessments (23%).
3. User Group Meetings
 - h. 63% of respondents had attended an HMIS user group meeting.
 - i. 95% of persons who had attended an HMIS user meeting felt it was helpful or very helpful.

- j. Respondents wanted the following subjects discussed at future meetings or trainings:
 - Reporting (35%)
 - Sharing Information in HMIS (42%)
 - Creating Custom Assessments (12%)
 - Using HMIS data for grant writing (12%).
4. Experience with ServicePoint System:
- k. 68% of respondents rated their experience with ServicePoint as “good” or “excellent.”
 - l. 59% of respondents would prefer the CoC adopt a different HMIS provider.
 - m. 88% felt their organization had the time, resources, and staff capacity to adapt to a different HMIS provider.
5. Additional Feedback about HMIS:
- n. Four respondents stated support for the CoC adopting Clarity as its HMIS provider.
 - o. One respondent stated support for trainings on cultural competency, harm reduction, and trauma-informed care.
 - p. One respondent stated support for consistency in data entry and related trainings.

5. Collaborative Applicant and Administrative Entity Report

The JPA serves as the Collaborative Applicant and Administrative Entity (the official contracting, management, and oversight entity) for Solano County’s Continuum of Care, which is known as the Housing First Solano Continuum of Care. Collaborative Applicant and Administrative Entity duties include: CoC administration; creating and operating a coordinated entry system; engaging the private sector on behalf of the CoC; promoting the visibility of the CoC; coordinating the annual CoC Program Competition; serving as the lead for state funding opportunities; making recommendations regarding performance measurement and improving outcomes; and coordinating the HUD required homeless Point-in-Time Count.

A. 2019 Continuum of Care Competition

On February 6, 2020, HUD announced Tier 1 and bonus grant awards for the FY 2019 CoC funding competition. Tier 2 awards are expected to be released later this year.

The Housing First Solano CoC was awarded \$1,405,824 in Tier 1 and \$42,767 in planning grant. Twelve permanent housing projects and two CES projects were funded in Tier 1. The 2019 Tier 1 allocations were as follows:

Tier 1					
Rank	Agency and Project	Type	New or Renewal	Amount Requested	Award
1	Caminar – Bonus Grant	PH	Renewal	\$33,321	\$35,337
2	Lutheran Social Services – STOP Plus Expansion	PH	New	\$71,585	\$74,448
3	Shelter, Inc. – Aspire	PH	New	\$62,692	\$64,972
4	Lutheran Social Services – STOP Plus	PH	Renewal	\$169,973	\$178,302
5	Caminar – Laurel Gardens	PH	Renewal	\$48,824	\$48,824
6	CAN-B – Housing Express	PH	Renewal	\$116,295	\$122,631
7	Caminar – Sereno Village Consolidation	PH	Renewal	\$117,185	\$124,409
8	CAN-B – Housing Express Expansion	PH	Renewal	\$114,360	\$123,636
N/A	CAN-B – Fairfield VETS Program	PH	Renewal	\$38,195	\$40,261
N/A	Edge Community Church – Restoration Project 2018	PH	Renewal	\$102,210	\$107,946
N/A	Solano Dream Center – Solano Dream Center	PH	Renewal	\$81,798	\$85,350
N/A	CAP Solano JPA –Coordinated Entry System Expansion	SSO-CE	Renewal	\$219,614	\$219,614
N/A	CAP Solano JPA - DV Bonus Coordinated Entry System	SSO-CE	Renewal	\$84,718	\$84,718
14	CAN-B – Healthy Living Your Way (Tier 1)	PH	Renewal	\$95,376	\$95,376
	Total				\$1,405,824

Planning Grant (Funded by HUD)					
Rank	Agency and Project	Type	New or Renewal	Amount Requested	Award
N/A	CAP Solano JPA – Planning Grant	Planning	N/A	\$42,767	\$42,767

B. Administrative Entity Report: HEAP, CESH, ESG

In 2019, the JPA distributed \$148,435.84 of the \$4,671,624.54 in direct services awards provided through funding from the State of California's Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds as follows:

Organization	Number Served	Award	Program Description
SHELTER Solano, Inc. – Emergency Shelter	Expected Households Served: 138	Award Amount: \$3,000,000	Capital improvements for constructing a kitchen and dining halls; reconfiguring a small dining hall into a food industry training facility and training resource room; installing security systems and facility upgrades. Startup funding to open slots for emergency shelter beds dedicated to the police departments of Vacaville (3 beds), Fairfield (5 beds), and RCS (3 beds).
SHELTER, Inc. – Prevention & Diversion	Expected Households Served: 160	Award Amount: \$800,000.00	New office space, staff and financial support to prevent or rapidly resolve homelessness by providing prevention and diversion services to homeless and at-risk clients referred from RCS.
CAN-B – Prevention & Diversion	Expected Households Served: 44	Award Amount: \$200,000	Provide prevention and diversion services to clients referred from RCS. Case management to create Intensive Service Plans for each client, including housing search and location services, budgeting classes, support services, and access to communication resources and public benefits.
On the Move – Youth Outreach	Expected Households Served: 450	Award Amount: \$449,326	VOICES Solano will develop a new and comprehensive drop-in resource center where homeless youth can access a variety of services to support their transition to self-sufficiency. This will include youth outreach, comprehensive case management, and information and referral services.
Vacaville Social Services Corp. – Youth Outreach	Expected Households Served: 150	Award Amount: \$222,298.54	Provide youth (ages 16-22) with a safe haven, housing, food, clothing, counseling, and connect them to health care and other services through proactive outreach, screening, assessment and referral.

In 2019, the JPA distributed \$22,763.87 of the \$689,902 in direct services awards funding through California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) funds as follows:

Organization	Number Served	Award	Program Description
SHELTER, Inc.	Expected Households Served: 30	Amount Awarded: \$482,932	Provide flexible, partial, time-limited housing subsidies to sustain and obtain permanent housing, as well as outreach to landlords willing to house homeless clients.
CAN-B	Expected Households Served: 34	Amount Awarded: \$206,970	Rapid rehousing, prevention, mental health, job training, and supportive services to extremely low-income homeless single adult veterans, chronically homeless, as well as chronically and situationally homeless unaccompanied youth.

The JPA also held a local competition for Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Balance of State funds. SHELTER, Inc. was selected as the Solano applicant and received \$302,654 in ESG direct services funds, which will be used as follows:

Organization	Number Served	Award	Program Description
SHELTER, Inc.	Expected Households Served: 35-88	Amount Awarded: \$102,654 (noncompetitive funds)	Homelessness prevention, housing location and placement assistance using repaid rehousing model and financial assistance.
SHELTER, Inc.	Expected Households Served: 12-15	Amount Awarded: \$200,000 (competitive funds)	Rapid rehousing, prevention, mental health, job training, and supportive services to extremely low-income homeless single adult veterans, chronically homeless, as well as chronically and situationally homeless unaccompanied youth.

C. Grant Writing Workshop

At the request of multiple providers, the JPA once again hosted a grant writing workshop on May 14, 2019, open to all Solano County community members and organizations. The three-hour workshop included an hour-long primer on the Continuum of Care Program followed by a two-hour general grant writing workshop. This workshop included a panel with local community experts providing tips on how to assemble competitive grant applications, as well as breakout group exercises reviewing sample project narratives and

budgets. Forty-five attendees participated in the workshop. The JPA will continue to provide this popular event annually.

D. Collaborative Applicant and Administrative Entity Feedback

As with the HMIS Lead feedback survey, Housing First Solano circulated a survey to the CoC General Membership seeking stakeholder input on the JPA's performance as Collaborative Applicant and Administrative Entity. Twenty-six respondents submitted input:

1. Responsiveness of CoC staff:
 - a. 88% of respondents felt the CoC staff were responsive or very responsive in answering questions and were satisfied or very satisfied with the level of service provided.
 - b. 88% of respondents attended CoC meetings, 65% attended CoC committee and workgroup meetings and 52% attended JPA meetings in 2019.
2. Feedback provided about CoC and JPA meetings was positive, especially regarding the organization of meetings, the information, expertise, funding opportunities and materials provided. A comment was made about the agendas being pre-determined, so the CoC and JPA will do more education around the Brown Act requirements for the meetings and encourage attendees to use the public comment periods of meetings.
3. 45% of respondents received CoC funding. Feedback regarding NOFA Services provided by CoC staff was positive.
4. The survey asked for feedback about how the Homeless Point-In-Time (PIT)/Housing Inventory Count (HIC) can be improved and how the data can be made more useful. Productive feedback was received and overall respondents felt the PIT/HIC data information was useful. The most common piece of feedback was that all jurisdictions should participate in the unsheltered PIT count and also that the police departments for each jurisdiction should be involved and support the count if they are not already doing so.
5. This year the survey asked about the process to apply for and get into contract for the various new and existing funding sources that flow through the CAP Solano JPA. Respondents were satisfied with the process to apply for funding, but most respondents felt the process to get under contract for funds was protracted and difficult. The CAP Solano JPA spent 2019 improving the performance and monitoring requirements included in the Memorandums of Understanding with agencies for funding.

6. Coordinated Entry System Report

In 2019, the JPA oversaw the implementation of the expansion of Resource Connect Solano (RCS), the region's Coordinated Entry System (CES). Coordinated Entry is an approach to coordination and management of a crisis response system's resources that allows users to make consistent decisions from available information to efficiently and effectively connect people to interventions that will rapidly end their homelessness. It provides a consistent,

streamlined process for accessing the resources available in the homeless response system. Through coordinated entry, the CoC ensures that the highest need, most vulnerable households in the community are prioritized for services and that the housing and supportive services in the system are used as efficiently and effectively as possible. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that Continuums of Care establish and operate a coordinated entry process.

The Coordinated Entry system was awarded \$219,614 through the FY 2018 HUD CoC. The award was disbursed in 2019 and funded three and a half case managers as well as public transportation bus passes for consumers experiencing homelessness. RCS provides Coordinated Entry services that cover the entire geographic scope of the CoC.

2019 Coordinated Entry System Expansion:

The Coordinated Entry System was also awarded \$84,178 through the FY 2018 HUD CoC NOFA to start a specific Domestic Violence Coordinated Entry System (DV-CES) in Solano County, run by SafeQuest. Implementation of this new DV-CES continues into 2020 with the goal of serving 40 unduplicated households annually.

Additionally, the cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, and Vallejo and the County of Solano all provided funding to expand RCS, recognizing that additional resources are needed to enable it to operate an effective and efficient system to address homelessness and implement best practice solutions to leverage the existing housing stock to increase housing opportunities. Over the course of three years the cities and County agreed to provide funds to the CAP Solano JPA to:

- Identify and select a third-party to serve as the Coordinated Entry operator;
- Provide technical assistance and oversight of the CES;
- Hire three new employees as part of the CES: a CES Manager, a CES Administrator and a CES Housing Locator;
- Make resources available for CES Operations, for a Landlord Support Fund pilot and for a Landlord Financial Incentive Pilot.

In April 2019, the JPA ran a local competition to select a nonprofit or government agency to serve as the region's Coordinated Entry Systems Operator for the next three years. Caminar was selected to run RCS through that process. RCS also hired all three new employees in 2019 and started to plan the implementation of the landlord support and incentive fund pilots. The expanded CES plans to serve 500 unduplicated households annually.

In 2019 RCS also worked closely with the HEAP and CESH awardees to create a process for Prevention and Diversion referrals as part of the CES expansion. A Guidebook was also created that included additional pre-screening questions and assessments for Prevention and Diversion. The Coordinated Entry policies and procedures received a major overhaul this year and language was added to reflect the CES expansions.

In 2019 the JPA implemented their first Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) grant awarded in 2018 (\$50,000). This involved the creation and implementation of a marketing plan for RCS, including the creation of RCS' website (www.resourceconnectsolano.org) and corresponding social media platforms. It also included the creation and distribution of RCS flyers for physical posting and outreach to

Solano County providers, agencies and partners to have them link to the RCS website on their sites. The CAP Solano JPA used half of this award to fund Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) work providing outreach on health, resilience, housing conditions and housing solutions; building strategic partnerships to pilot innovating financing mechanisms; writing policy briefs on the health inequities associated with the current housing crisis and training government staff on policies and funding mechanisms to improve housing affordability, quality and resilience.

The JPA applied for and was awarded a second Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) grant in 2019 in the amount of \$50,000 and is continuing to use those funds on marketing RCS in 2020. This will include holding a rollout event to publicize the new CES expansion, purchasing large-scale RCS advertisements and developing marketing materials for the new DV-CES. One goal of the marketing plan is still to target underrepresented populations in the Coordinated Entry System in Solano County, such as Latinx and youth. The other half of the CAP Solano JPA's CHIP grant was used to fund BARHII's work on affordable housing protection, preservation and production partnership building as well as their affordable housing training sessions. In 2019 BARII was selected for the BUILD Health Challenge, which brings \$200,000 to support a community land trust in Vallejo.

The JPA was recently awarded HCD technical assistance to assess and help build the capacity and efficiency of RCS. Assessment is ongoing.

Between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019, RCS reports a total of 1296 active clients in the coordinated entry system awaiting placement. RCS receives on average about 75 new intakes per month with the lowest number received in December 2019 (41 clients) and the highest in September 2019 (98 clients). Three hundred forty-one (341) clients exited the coordinated entry system with the following outcomes:

- Rental by client, no ongoing subsidy: 38%
- Rental by client w/ongoing subsidy: 5%
- Rental by client with RRH: 6%
- Rental by client with VASH:1%
- Permanent Supported Housing: 8%
- Permanent housing with family/friend: 8%
- No exit interview: 30%
- Other: 4%

During 2019, RCS made a total of 621 referrals for housing and services; most common referrals were as follows:

- Solano County ARCH: 30%
- Veteran Programs: 17%
- Room & Board Housing Operators: 11%
- Other providers: 42%

RCS holds monthly case conferences to refer and connect clients to services and housing. In 2019, the following agencies participated in RCS case conferences:

- Opportunity House
- SHELTER, Inc.
- BACS

- Berkeley Food and Housing Program
- Damascus House
- CAN-B
- Mike's Place (R&B)
- Edge Community Church
- Solano Advocates for Victims of Violence
- Solano County Health and & Social Services
- Caminar Supported Housing
- Ascending (R&B)
- SafeQuest
- Hugs 2 A Fresh Start (R&B)
- Veterans Resource Center
- City of Vallejo Homeless Services
- Anka Stop Plus
- Fairfield Homeless Intervention Team
- Madena's Haven (R&B)
- MLK Humanity Project
- Lutheran Social Services
- Homebase
- Genesis House (R&B)
- La Clinica
- Global Center for Success/Christian Help Center
- Solano Dream Center

RCS also participated in a total of 45 community engagement, trainings, and system promotion presentations.

7. Regional Strategic Plan

In 2016, the JPA commissioned the creation of a five-year regional strategic action plan to respond to homelessness in Solano County. The JPA continues to rely on the Strategic Plan as the foundational document to guide the priorities for all funding sources.

In 2019, the JPA made progress towards the goals outlined in the plan as follows:

The JPA continues to improve system navigation and collaboration across the CoC by expanding its Coordinated Entry System with local funding. The JPA has increased the number of new agencies delivering homeless housing and services, participating in HMIS and Coordinated Entry System case conferences. The JPA also increased the total amount of money being spent in the CoC area on homeless services and programs as well as diversified the types of funding streams that are being used to support these programs. Finally, the JPA increased program monitoring and supports local providers with regular technical assistance, capacity building visits, and trainings.

Information about the progress towards the Strategic Plan goals and Initial Year Implementation Guide, are available here:

<https://homebase.box.com/s/brgy4k8256jtq85jv3sunk96y8lyfb24>

8. Housing First Solano Continuum of Care (CoC) Report

A. Collaboration with JPA

Housing First Solano Continuum of Care (CoC) is the coordinating body for efforts to address homelessness in Solano County. The JPA provides funding for Housing First Solano CoC staff to ensure that it has the necessary capacity to discharge its attendant duties. Each jurisdiction has a seat on the CoC Board and most actively participate in the planning activities and governance of the CoC. There are JPA Board members actively involved in CoC Committees, including the Performance and Evaluation Committee, the Coordinated Entry Workgroup, and Point-In-Time Committee.

B. CoC Initiatives

The CoC continued to increase its visibility as it awarded and distributed new sources of funding to providers in the community through the JPA (i.e.: ESG, HEAP, and CESH 1 & 2). The CoC conducted many member trainings in 2019, including a Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) training. The CoC also made major changes to the CoC Governance Charter and Written Standards, including the adoption of a new general grievance process applicable to the entire homeless system of care. The CoC and JPA staff continue to attend community meetings within the homeless system of care in Solano County (i.e. Vacaville Homeless Round Table, Workforce Development Board, etc.).

C. Private Sector Engagement

The JPA continued to work closely with the private sector in 2019. The CoC invited the Solano Workforce Development Board to a CoC meeting to discuss their role in Solano and the services they can provide to clients and providers. All providers funded as part of the 2019 Continuum of Care competition reported that they either offer job training and employment search services themselves or directly connect their clients with external workforce development providers. The JPA is also collaborating with Sutter Health, Kaiser and NorthBay medical systems, and the Solano Economic Development Corporation to further the goals of the JPA and CoC.

D. Performance Measurement and Outcomes

In July of 2014, HUD released a document entitled *System Performance Measures: An Introductory Guide to Understanding System-Level Performance Measures*, which provides guidance on how to implement system-level performance measures to evaluate CoC performance as a coordinated system and to track community-level progress. In 2019, Housing First Solano continued to track all HUD performance measures and Local Performance Measures 8A and 8B:

Performance Measure	Housing First Solano Adoption
HUD Measure 1: Length of time persons remain homeless.	HFS uses this measure to determine whether the length of time people remain homeless is decreasing.
HUD Measure 2a: The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing destinations return to homelessness within 6 to 12 months.	HFS uses this measure to determine the effectiveness of CoC permanent housing placements.
HUD Measure 2b: The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing destinations return to homelessness within 2 years.	HFS uses this measure to determine the effectiveness of CoC permanent housing placements.
HUD Measure 3: Number of homeless persons.	HFS uses this measure to determine whether the number of people experiencing homelessness in the CoC is decreasing.
HUD Measure 4a: Employment and Income Growth For Homeless Persons in CoC Program-Funded Projects.	HFS uses this measure to determine whether there is an increase in the percent of adults who gain or increase cash income over time.
Local Measure 4b: Employment And Income Growth For Homeless Persons In Other Federally-Funded Projects.	HFS uses this measure to determine whether there is an increase in the percent of adults who gain or increase cash income over time.
HUD Measure 5a: Number of Persons Who Become Homeless for the First Time.	HFS uses this measure to determine whether there is a reduction in the number of persons who become homeless for the first time
Local Measure 5b: Number of Persons Who Touch the System of Care for the First Time.	HFS uses this measure to determine the need and change in need for prevention/diversion and other non-homeless-specific services.
HUD Measure 7a: Successful placement from Street Outreach	HFS uses this measure to assess street outreach efforts and will encourage additional street outreach projects to use HMIS
HUD Measure 7b: Successful placement in or retention of permanent housing	HFS uses this measure to assess street outreach efforts and will encourage additional street outreach projects to use HMIS

Performance Measure, Cont.	Housing First Solano Adoption
<p>Local Measure 8a: How long Coordinated Entry participants stay on the by-name list, including subpopulations</p>	<p>HFS monitors the average length of time all coordinated entry participants stay on the by-name list, as well as youth, people with substance abuse issues, and other subpopulations as needed to determine the level of unmet need.</p>
<p>Local Measure 8b: Failed housing placements</p>	<p>HFS tracks the number of clients who receive a housing placement through Coordinated Entry but cannot be found, do not show up at the sponsoring agency, or refuse the placement to determine what resources are needed for more successful housing placements.</p>

Housing First Solano observed progress in homeless system performance in several key areas. Housing First Solano observed a decrease in the average amount of time spent homeless from 403 bed nights in FY2017 to 346 bed nights in FY2018 (Metric 1.0). System performance measures revealed a decrease in returns to homelessness within two years of program exit from 15% in FY2017 to 13% in FY2018 (Metric 2.0). While Housing First Solano observed a 6% decrease in earned income for adult system leavers (Metric 4.4), system performance measures also reveal a 32% increase in non-employment cash for adult system leavers (Metric 4.5) and a 27% increase in total income among adult system leavers (Metric 4.6). System performance further point to increases in the percentage of homeless persons exiting to permanent destinations; the percentage of persons enrolled in emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing programs who exited to permanent housing destinations increased from 46% in FY2017 to 54% in 2018 (Metric 7b.1); in addition, the percentage of persons enrolled in permanent housing programs (excluding rapid re-housing) who exited to permanent housing destinations increased from 91% to 95% (Metric 7b.2).

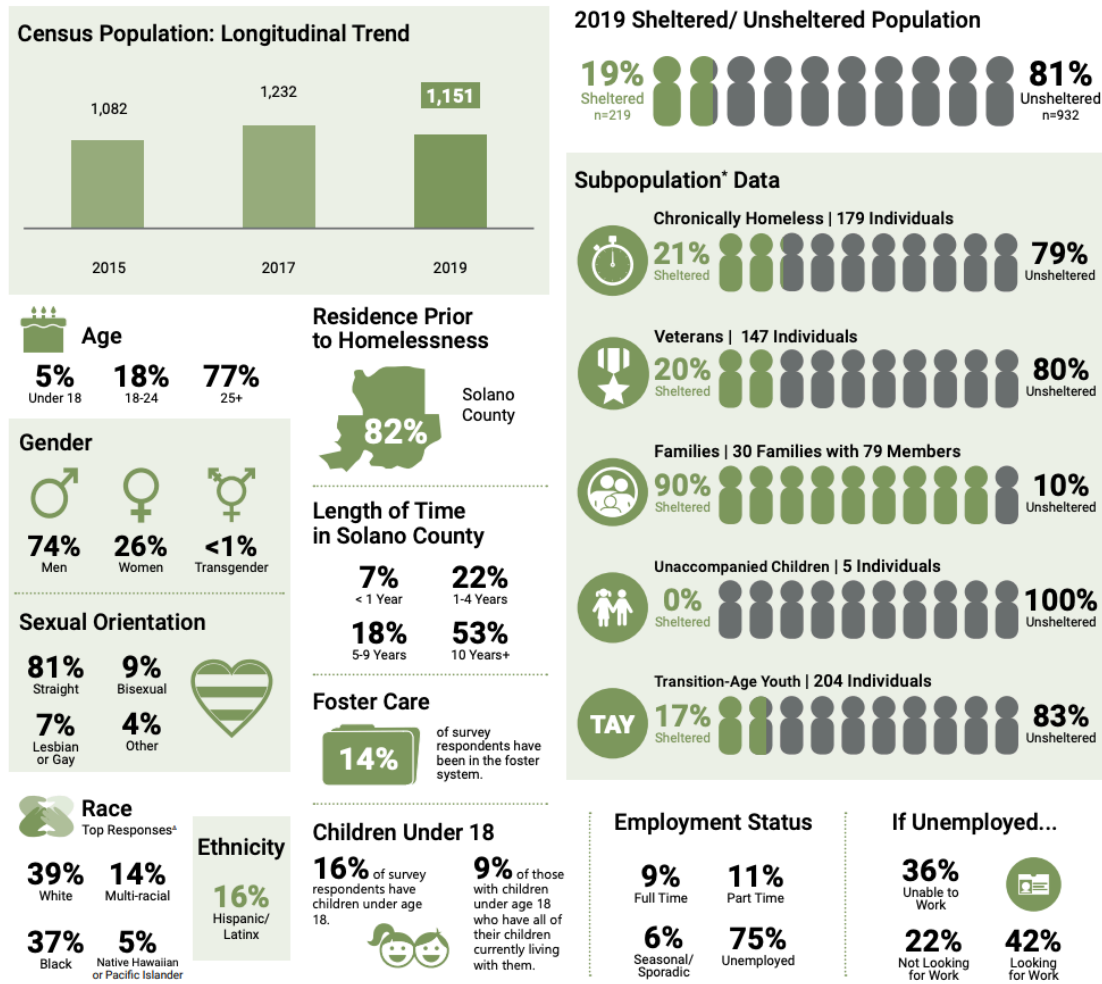
E. Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count

The Homeless PIT Count is conducted at least biennially in Solano and is a requirement to receive homeless assistance funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The PIT Count uses HUD’s definition of homelessness, which includes persons living in shelters and places not meant for human habitation. However, it excludes persons who are living doubled up with others due to economic hardship or those living in RV or trailer parks. Annual school data on family homelessness and other counts use broader definitions of homelessness. The PIT Count provides a snapshot of the number and demographics of those experiencing homelessness in the region on a given night. Yet it is not designed to be a complete analysis of the issues surrounding homelessness nor a comprehensive count of all homeless persons served over the course of a year. This snapshot

allows Solano to track trends concerning subpopulations, identify potential gaps in services and inform future planning, which is important for the implementation of the current regional strategic plan in Solano County.

The JPA prepared for the 2019 sheltered and unsheltered PIT count by contracting with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to lead the count and hosting numerous PIT Committee meetings. ASR and the JPA heavily recruited volunteers, including people with lived experience, and partnered with various agencies, including local school districts, to ensure the most accurate count. The PIT count took place on January 23, 2019 and had outstanding community participation. There were three deployment centers, one in the City of Vallejo, one in City of Vacaville, and one in the City of Fairfield, with over 110 volunteers. There was also an afternoon youth PIT count carried out with the assistance of JPA staff, youth with lived experience, and Solano County staff.

On August 22, 2019, the JPA released the results of its Point-In-Time (PIT) Count and Survey for 2019. The key findings from the 2019 PIT count were as follows:



Overall, the data from 2019 suggested that a large percentage of that population was chronically homeless or had significant service needs:

- The reported chronically homeless population had decreased from 434 in 2017 to 179 in 2019 (16% of the homeless population)
- 29% of respondents reported psychiatric or emotional conditions, 24% reported having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, 22% reported substance abuse, and 22% reported a chronic health condition
- 31% reported having a disabling condition that impeded their ability to live independently
- Over half (57%) reported that their current episode of homelessness had lasted for a year or more; 62% reported experiencing multiple episodes of homelessness. 38% were experiencing homelessness for the first time, indicating an opportunity for additional prevention services.
- 93% reported an interest in moving into safe, affordable, permanent housing if it were available.

The full PIT report from 2019 and an Executive Summary can be obtained on the JPA website at: <http://www.capsolanojpa.org/>

For 2019 in Solano County, the sheltered-only count was conducted on January 23, 2019. The JPA conducted the Sheltered Point-in-Time count by sending Provider Surveys before the date of the count to all emergency shelter and transitional housing providers asking the providers to complete them based on the information from the night of the count. The PIT results presented below reflect all the sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness counted on this night. The total number of individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness for 2019 was 219, a slight increase from 212 sheltered people in 2018.



	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Total
Total Number of Individuals Counted	138	81	219

Households and Individuals



	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Total
Total Number of Households	112	63	175
Total Number of Individuals	138	81	219

Youth Households



	Parenting Youth Households	Unaccompanied Youth Households	Total
Total Individuals (including parented children)	10	34	44
Youth Parents	5	N/A	5
Youth 18 to 24	5	34	39

Subpopulation data from PIT provider surveys and from HMIS and Provider Surveys

Number of People Who Are:	
Chronically Homeless	38
Chronically Homeless Veterans	5
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	46
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	58
Veterans	29

F. Housing Inventory Count

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires each Continuum of Care (CoC) to conduct an annual inventory of housing dedicated for homeless people in each community, called the Housing Inventory Count (HIC), during the last ten days of January. The HIC report tallies the number of beds and units available on the designated night by project type, and includes beds dedicated to serve persons who are homeless in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Permanent Housing. The category of Permanent Housing includes Permanent Supportive Housing (including HUD-VASH vouchers) and Rapid Re-housing.

In 2019, the HIC was conducted by sending surveys to homeless housing providers in Solano County. The providers completed the surveys based on the information gathered on the night of the homeless count, January 23, 2019.

	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Housing			Permanent Housing		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Total Number of Year-Round Beds	162	240	240	214	99	99	319	462	470
Total Number of Seasonal Beds	30	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Solano County saw changes in the numbers of Emergency Shelter beds since 2017 due to the transition from Mission Solano in Fairfield to Shelter Solano and the consolidation of the Mission Solano Transitional Housing and Emergency Shelter programs into one Emergency Shelter program. Solano County also lost some Transitional Housing beds with the closure of two Transitional Housing programs. However, Solano County increased Permanent Housing beds in 2019.

9. Conclusion

In 2019, the JPA oversaw progress in efforts throughout Solano County to strengthen its responses to poverty and homelessness. The JPA guided a significant investment of resources toward coordinated and productive capacity-building, expanded outreach, and an expanded, more effective Coordinated Entry system. The JPA continues to provide community-wide technical assistance, capacity building services and trainings. The JPA's commitment to implementing the five-year Regional Strategic Plan, in partnership with the jurisdictions and other stakeholders, will give the community strategies for leveraging shared resources to improve the quality of life in Solano County.