



Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee (Minutes of the Meeting on April 6, 2023)

<u>2022 TCCoH Membership</u>	Aug 2022	Sep 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 9, 2023	Mar 20, 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023	Jul 2023
Supervisor David Goldemberg - Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓*	✓	✓*			
Colette Such, District 1 Rep.	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Shelley Muniz, District 2 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Larry Barsetti, District 3 Rep.	V	V	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	A			
Dana Butow, District 4 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Jeanette Lambert, District 5 Rep.	E	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Joe Bors, ATCAA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	E	E	✓			
Andy Merrill, City of Sonora Rep.	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
LeeAnn Hatton, Rep. Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California	E	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓			
Darla Merlin, Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	E	E	✓	A	✓*	✓	A	✓	E	✓			
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council	V	✓	E	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Bill Pooley, Tuolumne County Sheriff	E	E	✓	✓	✓*	A	E	✓*	✓*	E			
Kris Albrecht, Tuolumne County Veteran Services	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓			
Cathie Peacock, Interfaith	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓			
Jennifer Salazar, Lived Experience	V	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.													
Adventist Health Sonora					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Central Sierra Continuum of Care (CSCoC) Youth Advisory Board					✓	✓	✓			✓			
Law Enforcement						✓		✓					
Superintendent of Schools Office		✓				✓							
Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office	✓						✓	✓		✓			
Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E Vacant = V

15 Committee Members = 9 Quorum

*Supervisor Ryan Campbell

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>	<u>Other Guests in Attendance</u>
Rebecca Espino, Health and Human Services Agency Director	
Michael Roberson, Homeless Services Coordinator	
Christina Cunha, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Campbell noted an emergency that was occurring at the high school and by vote of consensus the committee chose to move forward with the meeting and to break, if needed.

Supervisor Campbell called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

All Committee Members and staff introduced themselves. Christina Cunha confirmed a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF 3/9/23 & 3/20/23 MEETING MINUTES

Andy Merrill made a motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2023, and March 20, 2023. Colette Such seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Lynne and Lori provided comment regarding starting a new business called Rockey's Ruff House to assist the homeless by incorporating dogs.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OR POTENTIAL REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR USE AS A NAVIGATION CENTER

Michael Roberson, Housing Coordinator provided the history of combatting homelessness in Tuolumne County. He spoke of the housing element in the general plan and the state mandate for counties to provide housing for the homeless population as noted in the requirements for the Health and Human Services Agency, and the Board of Supervisors adopted priorities for the plan to combat homelessness.

Michael Roberson shared his outreach efforts before the Rafferty Court property open house.

Supervisor Campbell opened discussion for committee members.

Committee members provided comments and asked clarifying questions.

A member of the public provided comment regarding the cost to live in the facility and noted concern regarding squatters.

A member of the public provided a comment stating “If not there where? If not now when”? and then provided encouraging words to the audience.

A member of the public provided comment regarding life choices, taxpayers, and concerns regarding controlling those who have access to their properties.

A member of the public provided a comment regarding his concerns about who will be hanging around outside the facility. He also commented about other homeless shelters.

Christopher Kahn, Refuse Recovery provided comment regarding the need for separation of male and female and suggested having watchdogs from the neighbors and having proper disclosure from behavioral health to provide proper services.

Karson Canady provided comments with concerns about proximity to the neighborhood, the school, and the effects on the living situation of the neighbors.

A member of the public provided comment regarding staff stating no knowledge of the meeting and the vicinity of the property to his him and the loss of property value.

Dianna Harrington provided comment on the nice facility but noted the concern of the shower facility. The communal situations could cause some problems and the facility is e far from services. She commented on her concerns about the proximately of the school.

Dena Canady provided comment regarding the loss of home value and the proximity to the school.

A member of the public provided a comment of concern regarding his home’s proximately and all of his money is wrapped up in his home. He commented on concerns of the children in the area and a park would. He suggested moving the location.

A member of the public provided a comment that it is not the right location. She asked the committee to pray on it.

Judith Schirmer lives in Sonora Vista and is on the Board she spoke of the Sonora Vista homeowner’s association, CC&R, and bylaws to keep the neighborhood up to standards.

A member of the public provided a personal story of a trauma that happened to her in her home. She noted she was concerned with the plan.

Jean Dakota provided a comment regarding the lack of support services near the facility.

A member of the public provided comment regarding concerns about security guards in the neighborhood, concerns about the propane tank, and that fire insurance rates will go up.

Brice Canady provided comment regarding his request for a copy of the grant, assisting Seniors instead, and stated the Navigation model has a low success rate.

Committee members provided comment and asked clarifying questions.

Michael Roberson explained that this committee is an Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors and requested a yes vote from the committee. However, no matter the vote he will still be providing his recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Dana Butow made a motion to approve sending the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors of potential real property acquisition for the use of a navigation center. Jennifer Salazar seconded the motion. By a vote of 5-6-1 with Andy Merrill, Dana Butow, LeeAnn Hatton, Colette Such, and Jennifer Salazar voting in favor, Kris Albrecht, Cathie Peacock, Joe Bors, Jeanette Lambert, Darla Merlin, Tom Crosby, voting against, and Shelley Muniz abstaining, the motion failed.

The Committee Members would like to receive more operations information for a facility.

V. INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN UPDATE & DISCUSSION

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

VI. COMMUNITY INPUT FORUMS UPDATE & DISCUSSION

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

VIII. SERVICE PROVIDER REPORTS & DISCUSSION

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

IX. TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS & DISCUSSION

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

X. FUTURE MEETING DATES & TIMES

Thursday, May 11 @ 5:30 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room

Thursday, June 8, @ 9 a.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room

Thursday, July 13 @ 9 a.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Campbell adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Proposed Tuolumne County Navigation Center
 20420 Rafferty Court, Soulsbyville, CA 95372



Tuolumne County Homeless Services is asking for community input on the possibility of purchasing a former memory care facility in Soulsbyville, California for the development of a Navigation Center. Navigation Centers are a critical tool in the effort to reduce homelessness by increasing housing.

Navigation Centers provide intensive case management to connect people to the unique care and housing solutions they need. Clients receive personalized support to help address housing barriers such as lack of personal identity documents, disability, unemployment, or histories of eviction. A Navigation Center provides interim housing for up to six months with on-site case management, streamlined access to social services and medical care, and coordinated entry into pathways to permanent housing. A Navigation Center also has on-site management present 24/7. A Navigation Center is not a 24/7 walk-up emergency shelter, rescue mission, soup kitchen, campsite or RV parking lot.

An Open House Walk-Thru will take place on Wednesday April 5th, 2023 from 7-9 a.m. and 5-7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

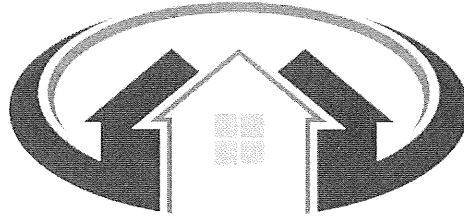
Property Description		
Built in 1998	3.31 Acres	15000 Square Feet
Two Buildings	25 bedrooms	Two commercial kitchens
Group meeting rooms	Office space	Fenced perimeter
C-1 & M-U Zoning		

Proposed Site & Services Advantages		
Meets accessibility requirements	Fire suppression system in place	Currently vacant
On a cul-de-sac	Sufficient parking	Could house up to 50 individuals
In-room toilets & sinks, and ample showering facilities	Outdoor gathering areas	Public transportation available
Space for educational and training sessions	Offices for support staff	Fits withing priority projects

Proposed Site & Services Disadvantages		
Adjacent to housing subdivision	Distanced from general services	Distanced from health services
Within 1 mile of a school	Shared access road	Near a park

A community input survey can be found at <https://forms.office.com/g/2WvPv9Masd>. Please consider giving input as to whether or not Tuolumne County Homeless Services staff should or should not recommend to the Board of Supervisors that this facility be purchased and developed into a Navigation Center.

More information on Tuolumne County Homeless Services housing program priorities can be found here: <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24725/Tuolumne-County-Homeless-Housing-Program-Priorities>.



TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES

Engaging the unsheltered on a path to permanent housing

Homelessness Affects Us All

There are many triggers a person might experience that may lead to homelessness: family conflict, domestic abuse, physical and mental illness, substance abuse, unemployment, cost of housing, and criminal activity. There are detrimental effects of being homeless for both the unhoused and for the entire community. Increased fire risk, improper sanitation, and litter in homeless encampments, threatens the health & safety of all citizens.

Homelessness affects law enforcement efforts in Tuolumne County too. Case law prohibits moving homeless individuals from public lands unless there is a place they can go to shelter.

There is an increased awareness about homelessness in Tuolumne County. Concerned citizens, local service providers and government have come together in recent years to look for answers that will both assist individuals and families in our community who are experiencing homelessness and ensure that neighborhoods and businesses are not negatively impacted by the crisis. The work on the front line makes many significant contributions toward reducing human suffering, but more housing options are needed.

Tuolumne County Homelessness Data for 2022		
Determining the number of people who are homeless in Tuolumne County is challenging. The two metrics that Tuolumne County staff uses is based on information from CalFresh and the PIT count.		
Data Source	# of People Identified as Homeless	Demographic Breakdown
CalFresh (Food assistance program)	739 people	Male=454 people Female=285 people Older than 60 years=83 people Under 18 years old =70 people 18 to 26 years old=92 people
Data Source	# of People Identified as Homeless	Demographic Breakdown
Point in Time Count (Federal Homeless Count)	266	Chronically Homeless=109 people Veterans=17 people Mental Illness=61 people Substance Use Disorder=37 people Domestic Violence=53 people

Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency has responded to the challenges of homelessness in our community by developing programs and providing services that are aligned with the State & Federal funding that is available. To end homelessness, a community-wide coordinated, cost-effective approach to delivering services, housing, and programs is needed.

Plan to Reduce Homelessness

On December 13th, 2022, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors approved nine Homeless Services priority projects as a part of a more comprehensive plan to reduce homelessness in Tuolumne County. Two of these priorities are the development of the Navigation Center and Distributive Housing Programs.

Navigation Center

Navigation Centers are a critical tool in the effort to end homelessness. Navigation Centers provide intensive case management to connect people to the unique care and housing solutions they need. Clients receive personalized support to help address housing barriers such as lack of personal identity documents, employment opportunities, or histories of eviction. If a Navigation Center has a housing component the housing is temporary and low barrier with on-site case management, streamlined access to social services and medical care, and coordinated entry into pathways to permanent housing.

Distributive Housing

Distributive housing is a model that Tuolumne County currently uses through services provided by Health & Human Services Agency staff. Homes designated for specific purposes and distributed around the County could be used for homeless veterans, seniors, women, families, recovery, recuperation, or support to those with a mental health diagnosis. Tuolumne County has access to funds to purchase residential properties and to offer those properties to individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness for both transitional and supportive housing. Shared housing agreements and rent amounts would be fairly structured. For those who need personal, or housing supports, services would flow through HHSA and other service providers who serve the homeless.

Homeless Housing Data

County staff has success in supporting unhoused individuals and families toward more permanent forms of housing. Case management and supportive services are critical components of moving the unhoused through their housing barriers toward self-sufficiency.

Prevention & Housing Placements 2022		
380 Total Referrals for Housing Support		
HSP Homeless Prevention Grant supported 21 Families from becoming homeless		
Program	Temporary Housing	Permanent Housing
Project Roomkey	77 people	0
CalWorks (<i>Families</i>)	45 people	27 people
HDAP (<i>Disabled</i>)	37 people	10 people
Other	2 people	63 people
Total	161 people	100 people

Eligibility for Homeless Housing

The Navigation Center and Distributive Housing Programs are designed to temporarily house and support participants in securing stable, permanent housing. Participants agree to the participation rules and expectations. Tuolumne County currently operates three supportive living homes; future housing initiatives will be modelled after their success.

Only homeless individuals who are engaged in Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency services are eligible for participation in the County housing programs (this includes being a Tuolumne County resident). An assessment team will determine the level of need, available supportive services, program eligibility and the appropriate housing resource. The assessment team will include Health & Human Services Agency staff, Resiliency Village staff, Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency staff, center for Non-Violent Community staff, Disability Resources Agency staff, Area 12 Agency on Aging staff, and Chicken Ranch Rancheria staff.

In addition, program participants must meet the following eligibility requirements and agree to the program rules and expectations.

Eligibility Requirements			
Literal Homelessness	Imminent Risk	Fleeing Domestic Violence	Transitional Age Youth 18-25 Years Old
Living on the street	Will lose residence in 14 days of seeking assistance	Fleeing or attempting to flee	No lease or occupancy 60 days prior
Lacking a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime address	Lacks resources to obtain housing	No other resources to obtain housing	2 or more moves in 60 days and will continue due to needs/barriers
Living in a temporary shelter			
Living in a public place not designed for regular sleeping accommodation (car, park, abandoned building, etc.)			
Discharged from an institution with <90 residence			

Housing Agreements			
No visitors – only case/household members allowed in room	No involvement in or allowance of illegal activity	Must abide by all noise ordinances/not allow noise disturbances	Agree to clean and sanitize common areas after use
Accept responsibility for any damages	Agree to keep the room neat	Agree to participate in chores	Agree to engage in service plan
Agree to announced/unannounced visits from case managing social worker	Accept responsibility for own household's food/meals	Agree to read and understand rules/violations and understand immediate termination violations leading to exit from program	Store all personal belongings in identified personal space/not leave belongings in common areas/absolve County of responsibility to replace any belongings

Violations Leading to Exit from Program			
Failure to maintain/secure full-time/part-time employment or other income (e.g., SSI) within six months of entering facility	Failure to participate in service plan to address barriers to securing permanent housing for one month time period	Failure to provide verification of participate in service plan objectives/goals	Lack of engagement and/or avoidance with case managing social worker and repeated cancellations

Lack of cooperation with unannounced home visits	Housing unapproved household members, guests, or visitors	Participating in high-risk activities or exhibiting unsafe behavior	Failure to maintain safe and sanitary living space
Failure to maintain a clean, hazard free facility (no clutter/items outside living space)	Prolonged drug use and/or alcoholism and lack of engagement in treatment/recovery support and services as identified in the service plan	Refusal to update case plan to include substance addiction treatment goals	

Immediate Termination Violations			
Dealing and/or trafficking all drugs	Violent or threatening behavior	Intentional destruction of property	Possession of weapons
Allowing known criminals with sex offenses and/or violent crimes to visit or harboring criminals with warrants	Failure to obey all laws including trespassing on adjacent parcels.		

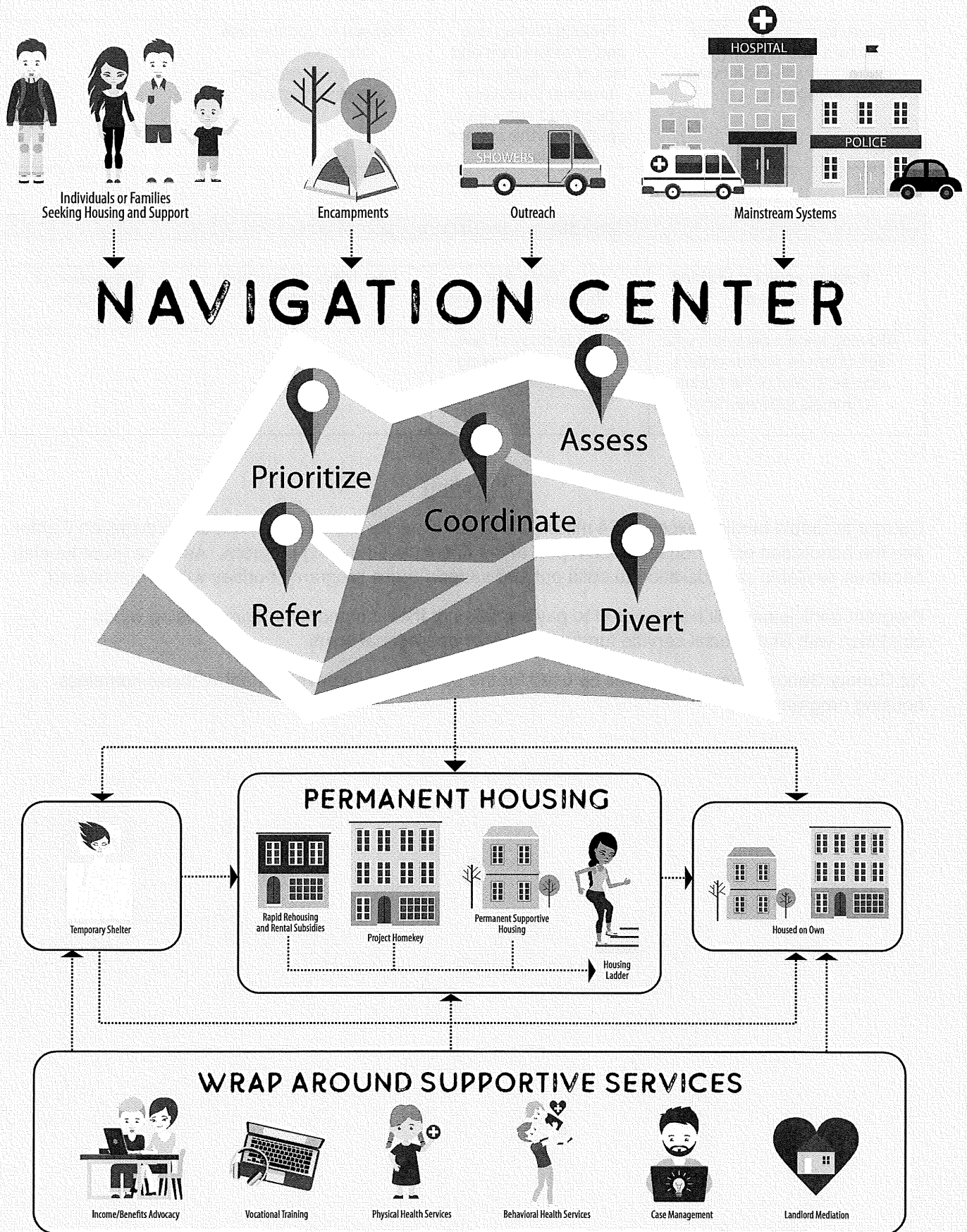
Funding

Current available funding exceeds \$4 million which will allow for the development of a Navigation Center and the acquisition of six houses to be a part of the distributive housing program. As more grant funding becomes available consideration to build out and support these program priorities will be considered.

Program participants will be expected to pay a portion of their income for interim housing which combined with State social service funding will cover operational costs.

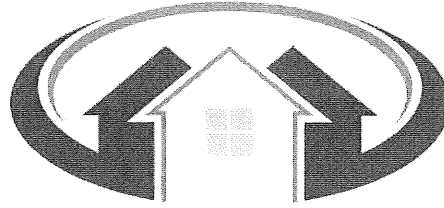
No County General Fund money will be used for the purchase and development of these homeless housing programs.

TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES SYSTEM FLOW



Building an Effective Homeless Response System

Adapted from the National Association to End Homelessness



TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES

Engaging the unsheltered on a path to permanent housing

Ending homelessness requires building a system that leverages programs and resources in the most efficient manner in order to house as many people as possible.

Effective Homeless Response Systems...

- Implement an efficient and coordinated process that moves people from homelessness to housing as quickly as possible and diverts people from imminent homelessness whenever possible
- Use a systematic approach to align interventions and resources across programs in a coordinated way around this common goal
- Ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time

Effective Homeless Response Systems have measurable goals that demonstrate...

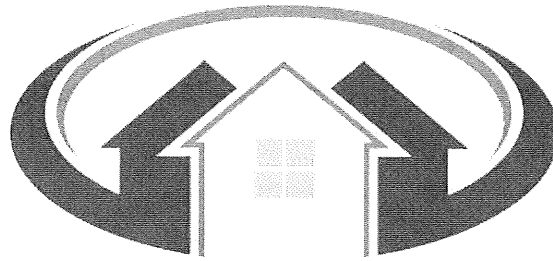
- Reduction of in-flow into homelessness
- Increased exits to permanent housing
- Decreased average length of homelessness
- Decreased returns to homelessness

Effective Homeless Response Systems exhibit the following characteristics...

- Housing First approach across all interventions within the system
- Diversion from imminent homeless system when safe and appropriate
- Rapid identification and engagement of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to connect them to crisis services and housing assistance
- Quick, accessible, low-barrier pathways to shelter and other crisis services with short stays in shelter
- Rapid connection to permanent housing for all sheltered and unsheltered people, whether or not they are matched to a housing resource through coordinated entry

Priorities for Building a Better System...

- Align all activities and interventions of your system around the common goal to quickly get people into permanent housing and help them stay
- Fund the activities and interventions that are effective in reaching this goal
- Develop strategic resource collaboration and coordination across all types of providers of homeless, housing, and human services to improve outcomes and fill gaps



TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES

Engaging the unsheltered on a path to permanent housing

PRIORITY PROJECTS 2023

Community Toolkit on Homelessness

Homeless people are members of our community and should be extended the same level of consideration as those who are housed. However, every private citizen, business, and property owner deserves to live their lives free of the negative impacts of those living unhoused. A community toolkit will address County policy and practice related to citizen rights, law enforcement efforts and homelessness.

Coordinated Entry

The Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a Continuum of Care (CoC) established system-wide process to quickly and equitably coordinate the Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requirements of access, assessment, prioritization and referrals to housing and services for people experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness. HHSA staff has been trained and the system is being developed consistent with the programs offered. Other regional service providers input their project information to this system to help create accurate data-driven assessments and reports.

Homeless Management Information System

A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. Each CoC is responsible for selecting an HMIS software solution that complies with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards. Regional partners are obligated to use the HMIS system. HMIS is operational in Tuolumne County and is expanding consistent with staff training and program development.

Navigation Center

Navigation Centers are a critical tool in the effort to end homelessness. Navigation Centers provide intensive case management to connect people to the unique care and housing solutions they need. Clients receive personalized support to help address housing barriers such as lack of personal identity documents, employment opportunities, or histories of eviction. If a Navigation Center has a housing component the housing is temporary and low barrier with on-site case management, streamlined access to social services and medical care, and coordinated entry into pathways to permanent housing. Tuolumne County also has a need for a mobile and outreach-oriented component of navigation services.

Transitional Shelter

Transitional shelters are a form of temporary housing that is typically offered with other supportive services for a set period of time and could be a part of a more permanent Navigation Center but with the option for a longer stay.

Safe Parking

A Safe Parking program is intended for adults who are using their vehicles as housing. The Safe Parking program would provide a safe parking environment on County property by permit only with the requirement that the program participant is engaged in a person-centered case management plan to support stabilization and movement toward permanent housing.

Landlord Education & Engagement

Private market landlords are critical partners in the work to help people quickly exit homelessness. Strong connections to landlords are even more important in high-cost, low-vacancy markets, where affordable housing options are limited and even those with a voucher may find themselves unable to locate a unit. Successful landlord partnerships are locally driven and involve ongoing engagement. No single approach is the answer, the unique needs and assets of each community must be considered. Partnership with Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA), Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority, Tuolumne County Association of Realtors, local property managers and landlords are essential in this effort. Core components should include a housing locator, a housing manager, a centralized housing hotline, housing search assistance, risk mitigation funds for landlords, mediators, subsidies for flexible funds, education classes and landlord recruitment events.

Distributive Housing

Distributive housing is a model that Tuolumne County currently uses through services provided by HHSA staff. Homes designated for specific purposes and distributed around the County could be used for Veteran's, women, families, recovery, recuperation, or support to those with a mental health diagnosis. Tuolumne County has access to funds to purchase residential properties and to offer those properties to individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness for both transitional and supportive housing. Shared housing agreements and rent amounts would be fairly structured. For those who need personal or housing supports, services would flow through HHSA and other service providers who serve the homeless. In addition, active participation in a care plan would be required.

Increase in Permanent Housing

Increased capacity for permanent housing in Tuolumne County is paramount to solutions for homelessness. Continued collaboration with SRHA and the Tuolumne County CDD will include coordinated efforts for acquiring grant funds as well as creating partnerships with developers and other stakeholders that are attractional and supportive and that will yield an increase in permanent housing capacity.