Alameda County Community Provider Advisory Group

Meeting 4: Housing and Homelessness

October 7, 2024

Alameda County Health

Agenda Overview

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Introductions & Discussion

Presentation by Alameda County Health
Housing & Homelessness Services (H&H)

Break

Provider Panel

Discussion

Public Comment

Closing

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# Community Provider Advisory Group - Overview

- **Objectives**
  - Develop shared understanding of evolving safety net policies and landscape
  - Align cross-sector priorities to support health and wellbeing of our communities
  - Identify system strengths and opportunities

- **Deliverables**
  - Guiding principles for CPAG meetings
  - System priorities to support planning and future investments

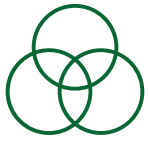*CPAG will not discuss program-specific funding to avoid future conflict of interest*

Guiding Principles
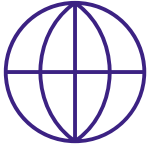
System perspective

Prioritize equitable access to care

Prioritize shared priorities / goals and coordination

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Today's Objectives

Understand prevalence of homelessness in the system and emerging needs

Discuss impacts of upcoming system initiatives and changes

Identify opportunities to coordinate and collaborate

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Discussion at tables

- Introduce yourself to your tablemates

- Assign a note taker

- Discussion questions
  - How has been your experience with CPAG?
  - What stood out for you from the past 3 meetings?
  - What outstanding questions do you have?

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Alameda County Health Housing and Homelessness Services

Jonathan Russell, Director, Housing & Homelessness Services

Jeannette Rodriguez, Deputy Director, Housing

Lucy Kasdin, Director, Health Care for the Homeless

Suzanne Warner, Deputy Director, Policy and Planning

Housing and Homelessness Services (H&H)

- H&H was created in 2019 (then OHCC) to support efforts to build a coordinated system for housing and homeless services; and to strengthen coordination with other County agencies and departments, cities, community-based organizations, and other external partners.
  - 7 FTE designated in December 2019 to 87 FTE today
  - Integration with other existing programs (BHD's Housing Services; Health Care for the Homeless; Housing & Community Development's homeless division).

- H&H also serves as County lead for strategic planning efforts around homelessness; coordinating, consolidating, and expanding services as needed.

- H&H Divisions:
  - Policy and Planning
  - Housing Services
  - Health Care for the Homeless
  - System Access and Equity

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Policy and Planning

- The **Policy and Planning** team oversees centralized services for H&H, which include:
  - Internal policies and administration
  - Reviewing and tracking local, state and federal legislation
  - Admistration of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); collecting and evaluating systemwide homelessness data and performance measures
  - Budgeting and Finance
  - Communications
  - Strategic Planning, incl. Home Together 2026 Community Plar
  - Operations, Contracting, and Personnel
  - Continuum of Care engagement

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Housing Services

The **Housing Services** team provides systems development and implementation for housing programs serving people experiencing homelessness throughout Alameda County. Within Housing Services, staff teams oversee contract and program implementation in the following major areas:

- CalAIM Housing Community Supports
- Housing Portfolio and Development Pipeline
- Housing Stability Services in Board and Care, Interim, Permanent Housing
- Learning Collaborative/Provider Support
- Community Care Expansion Preservation, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing, and Other Initiatives

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Health Care for the Homelessness

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless (ACHCH) is a Federally-funded health center program. The mission of ACHCH is to improve the health of persons in Alameda who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness by ensuring access to culturally-informed whole-person health care and housing services.

Services include:

- Comprehensive primary care with integrated behavioral health
- Street Health Services provided in unsheltered settings
- Shelters Health Services provided in shelters and drop-in centers
- Dental, optical and specialty care
- Substance Use Services- MAT, overdose prevention and harm reduction services

In 2023, ACHCH served over 8,800 patients with 75,500 visits

Housing and Homelessness Services
**Health Care for the Homeless**

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Health Disparities & Emerging Needs in the Homeless Population

- Homelessness exacerbates existing health conditions, creates new ones, & complicates medical treatment plans.

- Mortality rates for people experiencing homelessness in Alameda County in 2022 was 5.4 times that of the general population.

- Older adults are the fastest growing part of the homeless population in Alameda County.

- Health conditions that disproportionately impact persons experiencing homelessness include:
  - Unintentional Drug Overdose
  - Diabetes
  - Hypertension
  - Depression, Trauma, Cognitive Impairments and Other Mental Health conditions
  - Substance Use
  - HIV Infections

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System Access and Equity

The **System Access and Equity** division leads the County's homelessness response in Coordinated Entry, Equitable System Access, and programming for Special Populations for residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, bolstering equitable access to interim and permanent housing resources. Service areas include:

- Coordinated Entry
  - Countywide Access Points
  - Home Stretch/Housing Matching
- Equity and Special Populations
  - Survivor Services
  - Youth Services
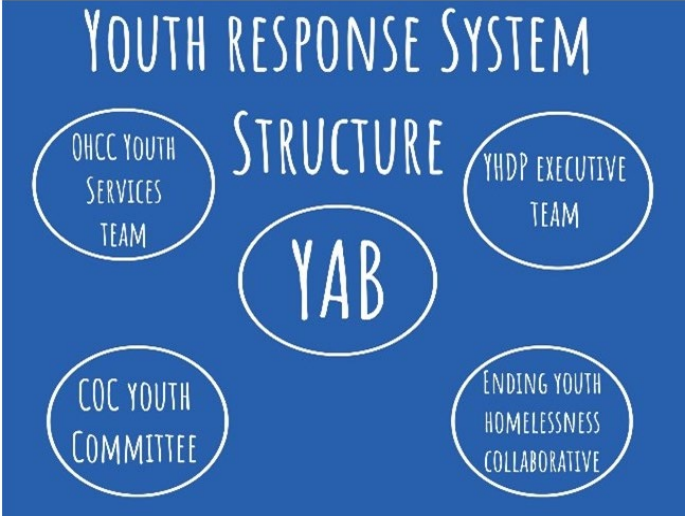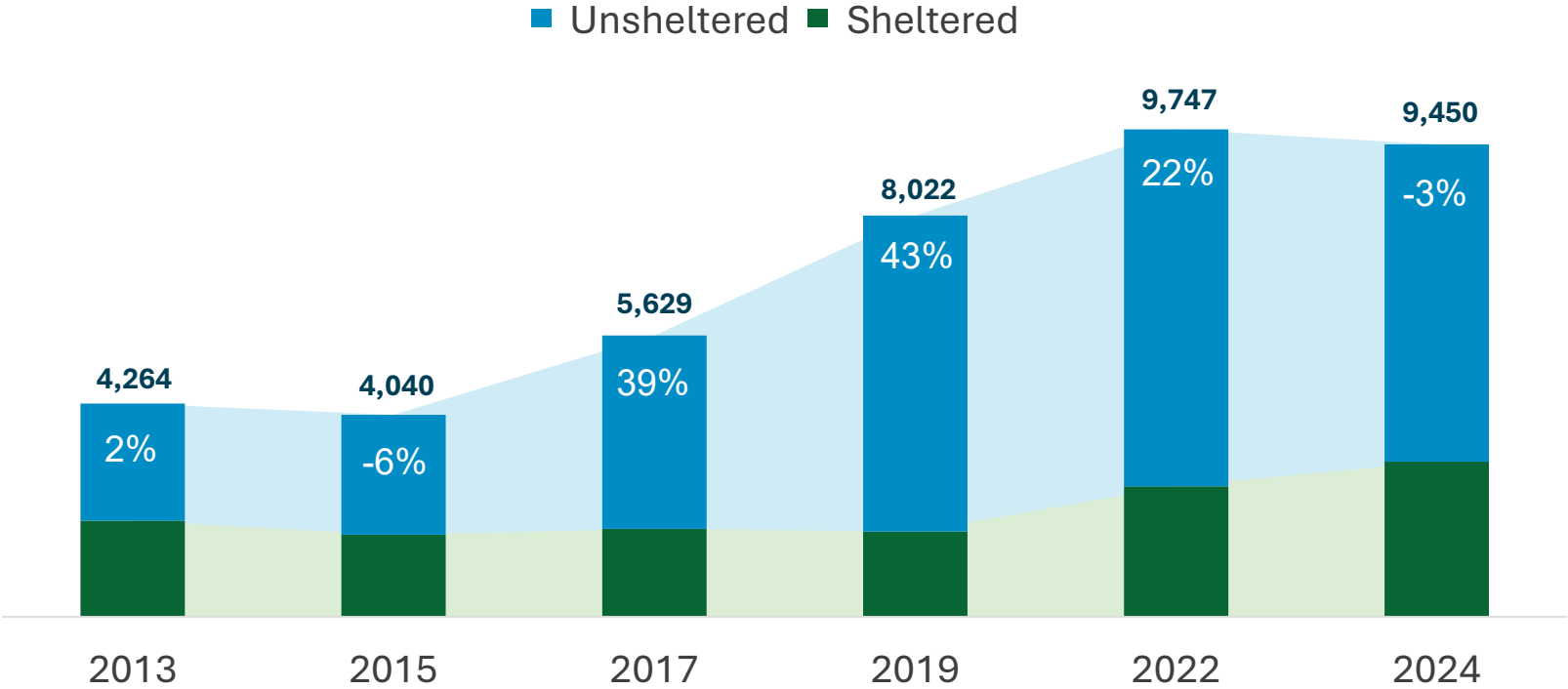
Current H&H Priorities

- Fund and launch coordinated strategies for **homelessness prevention**; focus on populations that are overrepresented among those experiencing first time homelessness.

- Target strategies to **prevent returns to homelessness** among populations that have higher rates of return than the systemwide rate.

- Identify dedicated funding sources to **expand availability** of permanent housing to accelerate the rate at which people gain housing and to decrease racial inequities.

- Advocate for **recurring funding** so programs and services can continue uninterrupted, and new funding can be used to expand needed aspects of the system.

- Continue to **build capacity and strengthen coordination** among key partners to expand system infrastructure to meet current and future needs.

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Current State of Strategic Plan and Community Impacts

Countywide Snapshot on Homelessness

- **9,450** people were estimated to be experiencing homelessness in the 2024 PIT Count.

- For the first time since 2013, **overall homelessness declined slightly** (3% from 2022)

- **Unsheltered homelessness declined significantly** (down 11% since 2022). **6,343** people were estimated to be living unsheltered in 2024.

- **3,107** people were sheltered, a 19% increase from 2022.

Alameda County Point-in-Time Count by Year

■ Unsheltered ■ Sheltered

Year	Count	Unsheltered %
2013	4,264	2%
2015	4,040	-6%
2017	5,629	39%
2019	8,022	43%
2022	9,747	22%
2024	9,450	-3%

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15

Home Together 2026 Community Plan Objectives

1 — Prevent homelessness for our residents

1. Address racial disparities in mainstream/upstream systems to prevent racially disproportionate inflow into homelessness
2. Focus resources for prevention on people most likely to lose their homes
3. Rapidly resolve episodes of homelessness through Housing Problem Solving
4. Prevent racially disproportionate returns to homelessness

2 — Connect people to shelter and needed resources

1. Expand access in key neighborhoods and continue improvements to Coordinated Entry
2. Lower programmatic barriers to crisis services such as prevention, problem solving, and shelter
3. Prevent discharge from mainstream systems to homelessness
4. Significantly increase the availability of shelter, especially non-congregate models, to serve vulnerable adults and families with children and to reduce unsheltered homelessness
5. Provide accessible behavioral health services to people with serious mental illness or substance use needs and who are unsheltered, in shelter, or in supportive housing programs

3 — Increase housing solutions
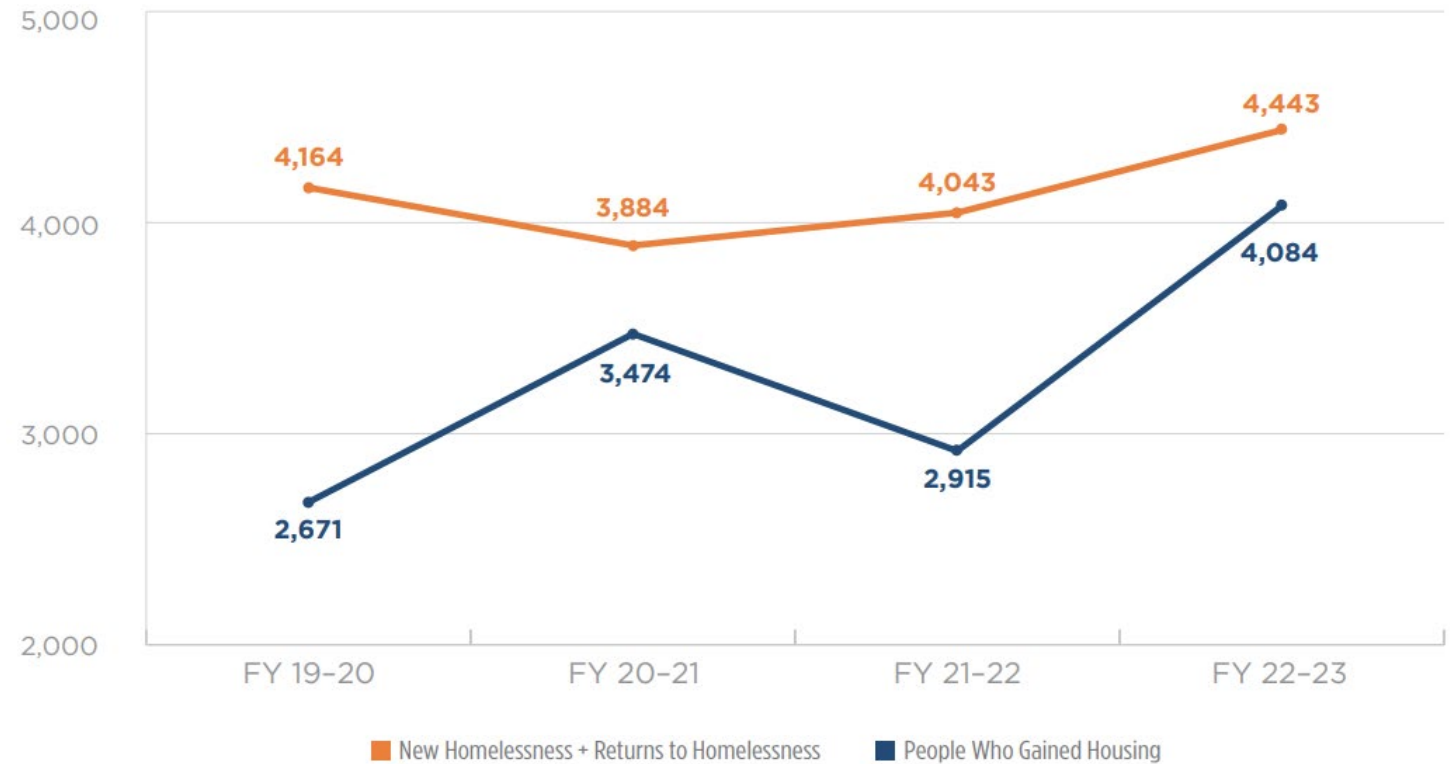
1. Add units and subsidies for supportive housing, including new models for frail/older adults
2. Create dedicated affordable housing subsidies for people who do not need intensive services
3. Create shallow subsidies for those who can exit or avoid homelessness with more limited assistance
4. Add new slots of rapid rehousing for those who can pay full rent over time
5. Ensure new housing funding is distributed across the county according to need
6. Reduce entry barriers to housing and ensure racial equity in referrals and placements

4 — Strengthen coordination, communication and capacity

1. Use data to improve outcomes and track racial equity impacts
2. Improve messaging and information availability
3. Build infrastructure to support and monitor new and expanded programs

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# Despite Housing An Increasing Number of People Annually, Inflow Surpasses Outflow

- Investment surges during the pandemic in FY 2021/22 resulted in 1,100 more housed in 2022/23 than prior year, but new entries still exceed permanent exits

- Countywide homelessness prevention strategy and scaled housing resources remain of paramount importance

- 24,547 were served in the homelessness response system throughout the year.

5,000

4,164

3,884

4,043

4,443

4,000

3,474

4,084

3,000

2,671

2,915

2,000

FY 19–20   FY 20–21   FY 21–22   FY 22–23

■ New Homelessness + Returns to Homelessness   ■ People Who Gained Housing

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While Some Systemwide Outcomes Show Improvement, Deep Racial Disparities Persist

Homelessness continues to disproportionately impact Black and Indigenous communities, where Black households comprise just 10% of the general population, but 55% of those newly experiencing homelessness.

Proportion of People Newly Experiencing Homelessness by Race and Ethnicity, FY22-23

■ FY 21–22 ■ FY 22–23 ■ 2020 Alameda County General Population
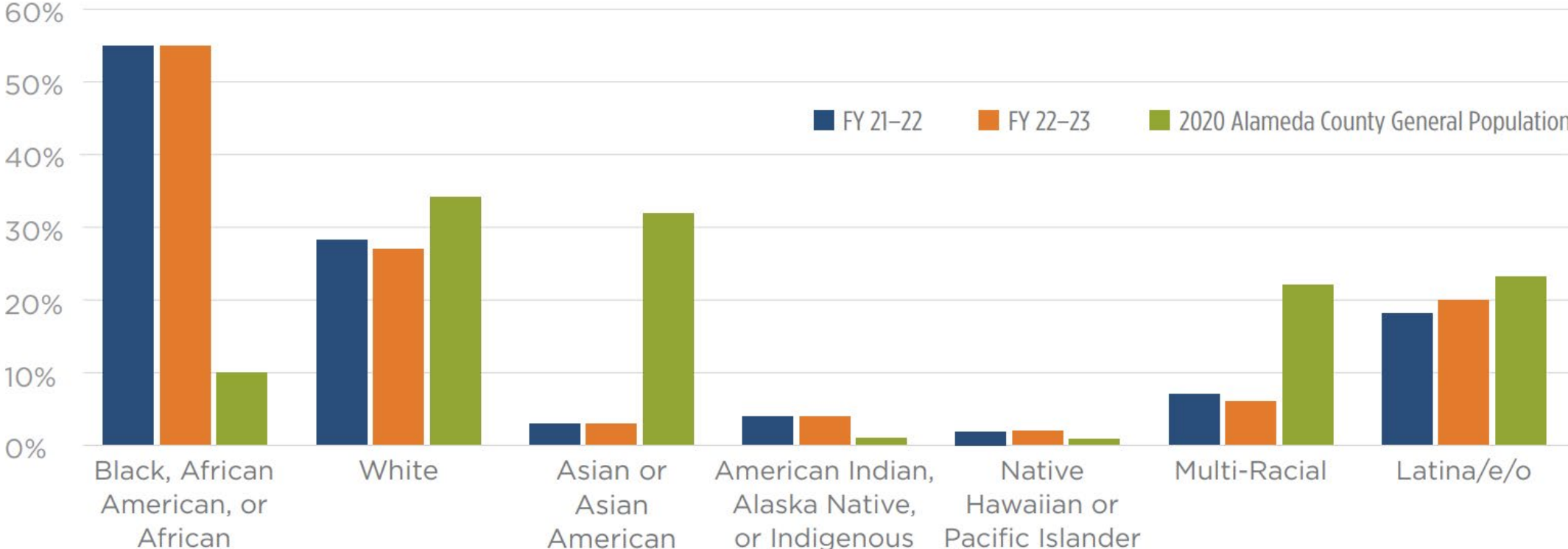
Sustainable Resources Are Still A Critical Need

Reliable funding is needed to maintain existing inventory and to significantly grow new inventory over time.
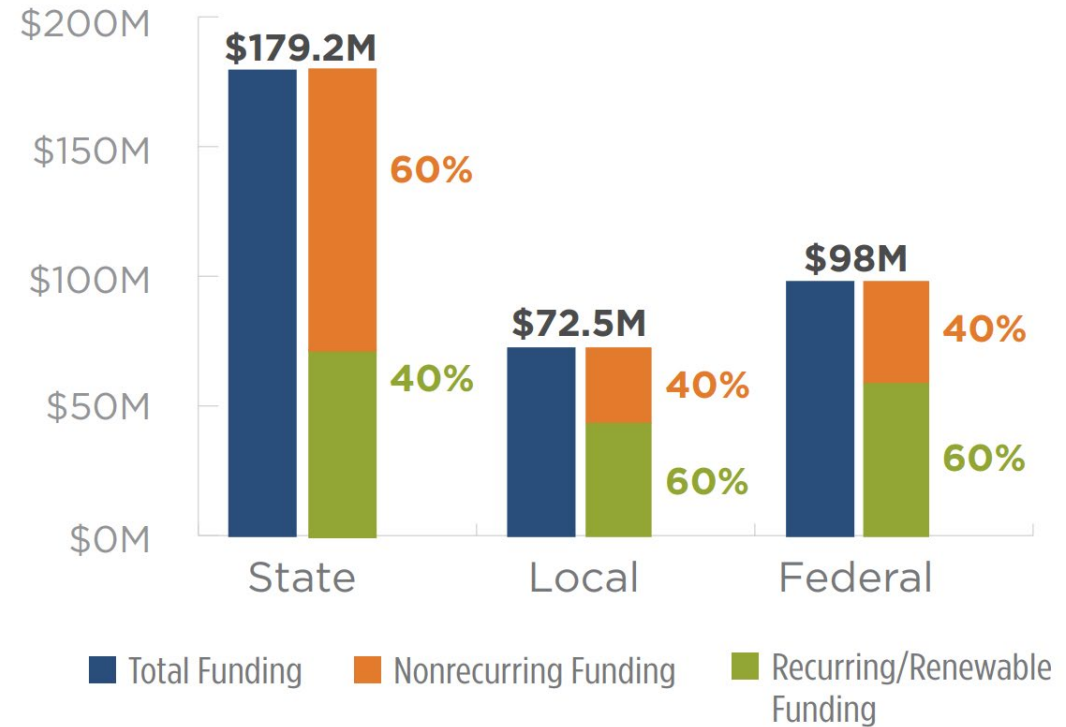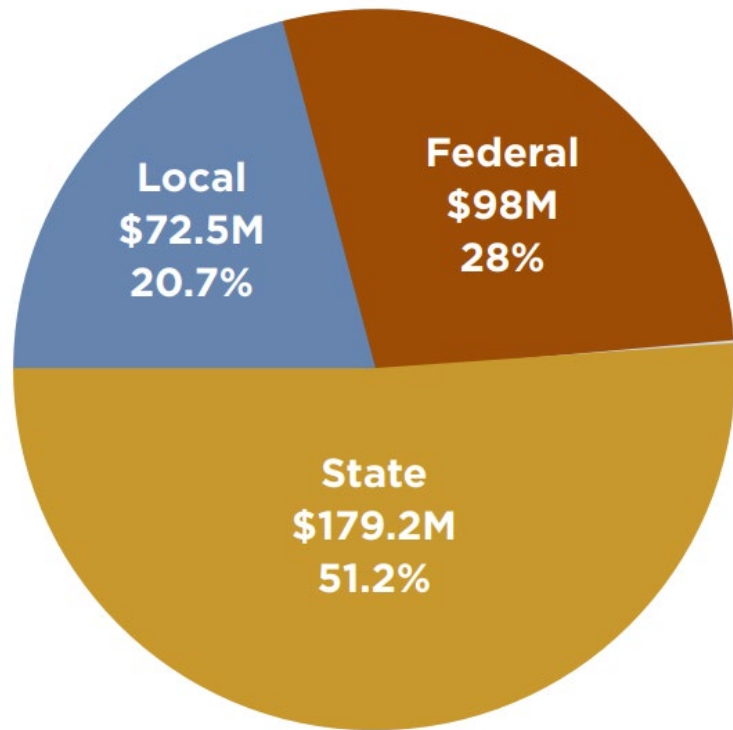
What's on the Horizon...

- Tectonic changes within the California system of care:
  - Proposition 1
  - Continued CalAIM implementation:
    - DHCS currently refining eligibility criteria and definitions for Community Supports;
    - Addition of Transitional Rent as a benefit;
    - Implementation of Short-Term Post Hospitalization Housing
  - Governor's Executive Order N-1-24, which orders state agencies to remove homeless camps throughout California, and encourages local jurisdictions do the same

- Growing uncertainty and shifting priorities with State 1x homelessness funding

- Increasing complexity requires expanded infrastructure and deeper coordination to reduce duplication within homelessness response
  - 68 funding sources across the county last fiscal year

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Q&A

Break – 5 minutes

We will be back at 2:10pm

Provider Panel

Provider Panel

- **Jamie Almanza**, Chief Executive Officer, Bay Area Community Services (BACS)

- **Aaron Ortiz**, Chief Executive Officer, La Familia

- **Cristi Ritschel**, Vice President of Resident Services, Satellite Affordable Housing Associates

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Q&A

Breakout Activity

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TEAM FOCUS
(pick only one)

A. Pick one area that is a high priority for your organization or sector in the next 3 years:

1. Braiding funding

2. Infrastructure for coordination within and across sectors

3. Access to care

4. Data exchange capacity and needs

5. Workforce needs (pipeline, funding, training, etc)

6. Community needs assessments and plans

B. What *specific* priorities, opportunities, or concerns will be key to consider in the next 3 years (use the dimensions list if helpful)

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Funding & Contracting	Reimbursement & Payer Models	Service Model Design	Operational Infrastructure: Staffing
Operational Infrastructure: Capacity	Reporting & Planning Infrastructure	Data & Evaluation	Community & Stakeholder Power
Communication & Messaging	Local Conditions & Resources	ACH Resources & Supports	BoS Awareness & Leadership
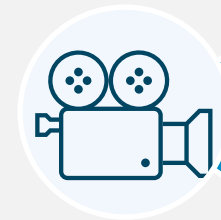
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Closing Remarks

Preparing for our last CPAG meeting

- Slides and notes will be posted on the website: health.alamedacountyca.gov/community-provider-advisory-group/

- **Final CPAG meeting**
  - Monday, October 28th
  - 1:00 – 4:00pm
  - same location

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