

Commission to

ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Office of Care Coordination

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025

DISCUSSION – ITEM #I COMMISSION TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

OC Grand Jury Report

- OC Grant Jury released a report titled, <u>Homelessness: Is Orange County Moving in the Right Direction?</u> on June 27, 2025.
- County of Orange is a required respondent and must submit a reply within 90 days.
- The report includes seven findings, one mentioning the Commission to Address Homelessness, and five recommendations, one mentioning the Commission to Address Homelessness.
 - **Finding 5** The Commission to Address Homelessness has not provided the Board of Supervisors with sufficient recommendations on homelessness prevention efforts, focusing instead on reactive strategies.
 - Recommendation 2 The Board of Supervisors should request that the Commission to Address Homelessness prepare a plan outlining current and future (next two years) prevention strategies. The Commission should submit this plan to the Board of Supervisors by December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter. (F1, F4, F5)



OC Outreach & Engagement

- Staffing Updates
 - Karen Betances has been promoted to the Director of Programs.
 - Kevin Alexander has been hired as the OC Outreach & Engagement Manager
- Office of Care Coordination is diligently working to recruit for open positions within OC Outreach & Engagement.
- Referrals can be made via phone to (800) 364-2221.

COUNTY OF ORANGE

SAME — DAY SOLUTIONS FAIR

OC Same-Day Solutions Fair

- Since the success of the first and second OC Same-Day Solutions Fair, the Office of Care Coordination has been working diligently to coordinate future event locations.
 - September 25 Orange
 - November 20 Placentia
- The Office of Care Coordination hosted the second Same-Day Solutions Fair in the City of Lake Forest on July 24, 2025.
 - Over 25 different organizations provided resources spanning mental health, substance use, housing, public benefits, basic needs, legal aid, and more.
- To host or participate in an upcoming Same-Day Solutions Fair, please contact the Office of Care Coordination.











OC Same-Day Solutions Fair Participating Organizations

- Child Support Services
- Coordinated Entry System
- Department of Rehabilitation
- HCA Behavioral Health Services
- HCA Public Health Services
- Homeless Court, including the OC Public Defender and the District Attorney
- OC Clerk-Recorder
- OC Probation
- Social Services Agency
- CalOptima Health
- Chrysalis
- Families Forward

- Friendship Shelter
- HomeAid OC
- Loving Paws
- Mobility United
- OC Rescue Mission
- OC Workforce Solutions
- Orange County Housing corporations Stepping Up
- Public Law Center
- Revival Hair
- South County Outreach
- United Way
- US Vets
- VA Long Beach Healthcare System

OC Same-Day Solutions Outcomes

- 120 unduplicated households participated in the OC Same-Day Solutions Fair, including 20 families (households with minor children).
- 585 service engagements and provisions occurred.
- 288 informational engagements occurred meaning individuals engaged with the various organizations present to receive general information about available services.
- State Senator Dr. Steven Choi and representatives from cities of Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Irvine, Laguna Woods and Laguna hills attended the OC Same-Day Solutions Fair.











DISCUSSION – ITEM #3 COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT

Commissioner Spotlight

Susan Parks – President and Chief Executive Officer, Orange County United Way



Orange County United Way

Vision:

An Orange County <u>united</u> to improve lives today and for generations to come.

Mission:

To lift our community by addressing the most challenging human needs through collaboration, advocacy, and strategic programming. We leverage our innovative and action-oriented approach to deliver measurable results.





Our Approach

Our unique approach comes from an understanding that our community's most critical issues are interrelated, and we must tackle them in an interconnected way to provide long-term solutions.

We do this through four bodies of work:



✓ Helping students graduate and prepare for meaningful careers



✓ Empowering families to build lasting financial security



✓ Preventing and ending homelessness through proven strategies



✓ Connecting Orange County residents to vital services through 2110C



Our Role with Special Purpose Voucher Holders



• WelcomeHomeOC



WhateverItTakes



Advocacy

Next: Meetings with OC Congressional Delegation

Current Status: Special Purpose Vouchers - OC

		Allocated	Status
Emergency Housing Voucher	All PHA's	1000+	Funding will end in 2026
Mainstream	All PHA's	954	No new voucher allocations
Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	OCHA SAHA AHA	1188	Continuing
Foster Youth to Independence	SAHA OCHA	125	Continuing





Community Campaign - November



"The Person in Front of You"

A Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Campaign

We asked our partners- "In our current environment what do you need?"

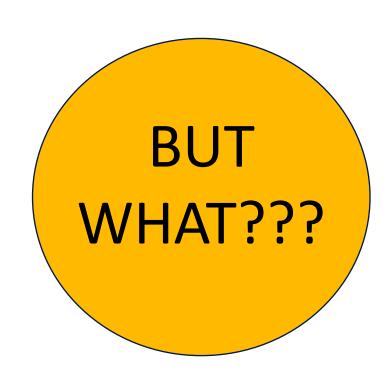
- 1) A simple yet profound message, an invitation to see one another with dignity, empathy, and shared hope.
- 2) A message that reflects a vision for Orange County where everyone has access to safe and affordable housing and the opportunity to thrive.

WHAT WAS REQUESTED

Covert and Overt messaging that....

- Is a public demonstration of solidarity
- Converts passive awareness into active engagement
- Creates a lasting visual impact







Community Campaign - November



A Two Part Campaign
"The Person in Front of You"

A T-SHIRT CAMPAIGN

(October- November)



AND

LARGE SCALE AERIAL PHOTO GATHERING

(9:30 AM November 15, 2025)



ARE YOU IN?



It's not just a shirt-it's a movement.



1. Join us in advocating for Emergency Housing Vouchers

2. Be a part of the campaign!

Contact: Becks Heyhoe-Khalil BecksH@UnitedWayOC.org 949-263-6112



PRESENTATION – ITEM #4 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update

An update on federal legislation presented by:

■ Cori Takkinen – Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.

Presentation Overview



Overview of Executive Order



Legislative Developments



Looking Ahead

Directs DOJ, HHS, HUD, and DOT to:

- Support civil commitment and institutional treatment for unsheltered individuals with serious mental illness or substance use disorder.
- Prioritize grants for jurisdictions enforcing laws against open drug use, unauthorized camping, and squatting.
- Restrict funding for harm-reduction programs (e.g., safe consumption sites).
- Increase accountability in homelessness programs (e.g., treatment participation, public safety outcomes).
- Allow or require health data collection and sharing with law enforcement (where legally permitted).

Potential Implications for the County

Potential Federal Funding Opportunities:

- Address mental health treatment bed shortages.
- Crisis intervention funding for FQHCs and CCBHCs.
- Support for drug courts and jail diversion programs.
- Emergency law enforcement funds for encampment removals.

Anticipated Restrictions:

- Federal harm reduction funding (e.g., SAMHSA) no longer supports syringe programs supervised consumption sites.
- Counties may use alternative funding sources (e.g., state, local, opioid settlement dollars).

Anticipated New Requirements

HUD Homelessness Programs:

- Treatment participation requirements.
- Housing restrictions for certain populations (e.g., sex offenders).
- Potential limits on safe consumption site operations.

Data & Privacy:

- Health data collection and sharing with law enforcement may be required.
- Counties must balance these requirements with privacy laws and operational practices.

Next Steps for the County

- Monitor guidance and rulemaking from DOJ, HUD, and HHS.
- Assess local enforcement and behavioral health capacity.
- Coordinate across departments and stakeholders.
- Track legal developments, especially around civil commitment and consent decrees.



Important to Note:

The federal agencies named in the EO will need to issue guidance and/or regulations implementing the EO within the confines of existing law.

Legislative Developments

Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act of 2025

- Reform NEPA, permitting, and other regulatory reforms to streamline the process for building affordable housing units.
- Create CDBG incentives based on "housing growth improvement rates" and penalizes (up to 10%) jurisdictions with low rates.
- Increase Affordable Housing Incentives within Opportunity Zones.
- Amend Capital Investment Grants (CIG) scoring to give a bonus in areas that establish pro-housing policy near public transportation routes
- Increase the Public Welfare Investment Cap, allowing greater private investment into affordable housing.
- Bill requires HUD to be more proactive in zoning regulations and make recommendations to Congress on zoning reforms to increase housing supply.
- Grants to local jurisdictions to cover the cost of home repairs/renovations to improve habitability for low-income landlords and owners of affordable housing stock.

Looking Ahead



Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) funding will be exhausted by as soon as September 2026.



The politics of the 119th Congress do not lend themselves to a high likelihood of additional funding for EHVs.



Determining alternatives now is important.



Christopher Townsend

President

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Chief Executive Officer
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BGoldeen@TownsendPA.com

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PRESENTATION – ITEM #5 FALLING THROUGH THE SAFETY NET

FALLING THROUGH THE SAFETY NET: Understanding Individuals' Journey and Contributing Factor to Homelessness



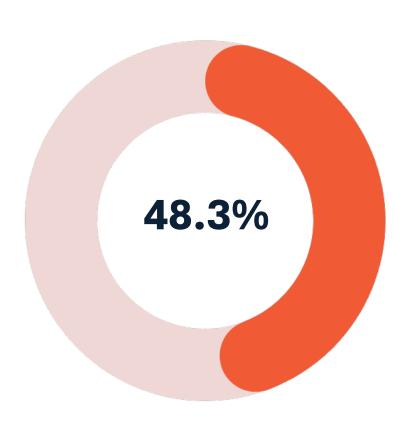
Falling Through the Safety Net:

Understanding Individuals'
Journey and Contributing
Factors to Homelessness



WHY 'JOURNEY & FACTORS'





In **2024**, the **Point In Time Count** found that 48.3% of *unsheltered* respondents were experiencing homelessness **for the first time** in the last 12 months.



WHY 'JOURNEY & FACTORS'







PARTNERSHIPS



METHODOLOGY



REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE SIZE

Approximately **20%** of the 2024 Point In Time
Unsheltered Count
across Orange
County.

SURVEY

The survey included
50–70 questions
with conditional logic
to prompt follow-up
questions.

CITY NET DEPLOYMENT

City Net conducted the survey in March 2025, coordinating with other street outreach teams and cities.

The survey took about **18 minutes** to

complete.

DATA ANALYSIS

City Net performed data cleanup, produced an initial report by survey question, and conducted further analysis in collaboration with the Office of Care Coordination.

SURVEY LIMITATIONS







PARTICIPATION





2025 SURVEY AT A GLANCE

1,149 Individuals Approached

840 Participated

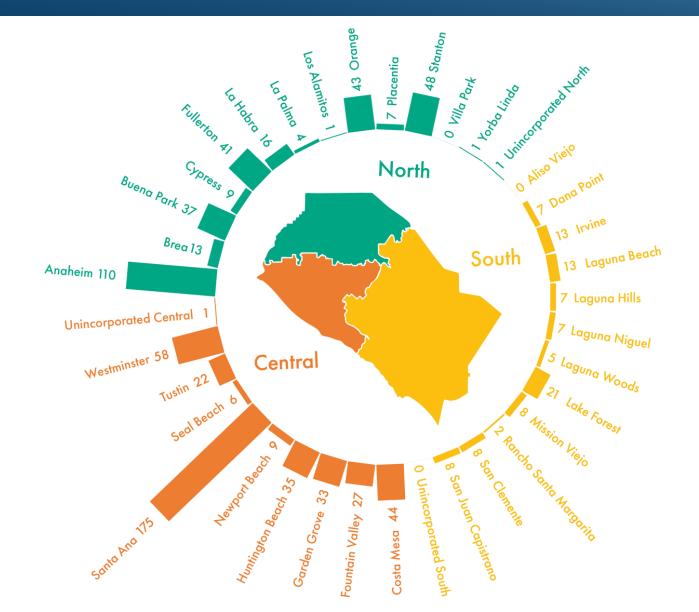
2023 SURVEY PARTICIPATION

77% Participation



SURVEY COVERAGE





NUMBER OF SURVEYS COLLECTED PER CITY AND SERVICE PLANNING AREA

840 TOTAL RESPONDENTS



DEMOGRAPHICS



Alignment between the 2024 Unsheltered Point In Time Count and the 2025 Survey Respondent Demographics confirms the dataset's reliability



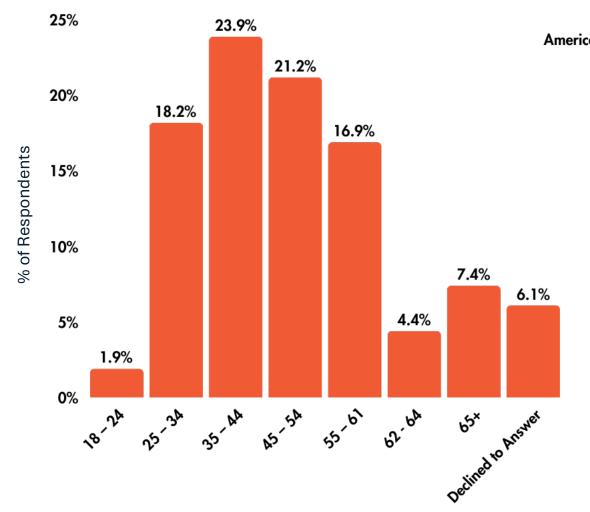


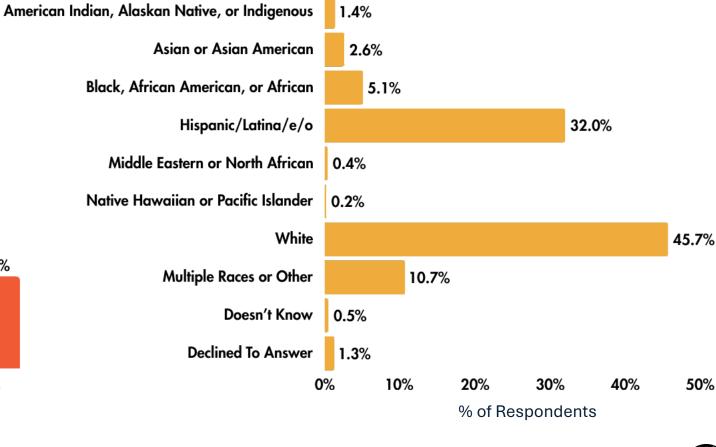
DEMOGRAPHICS

COUNTY OF ORANGE

AGE RANGE

RACE AND/OR ETHNICITY

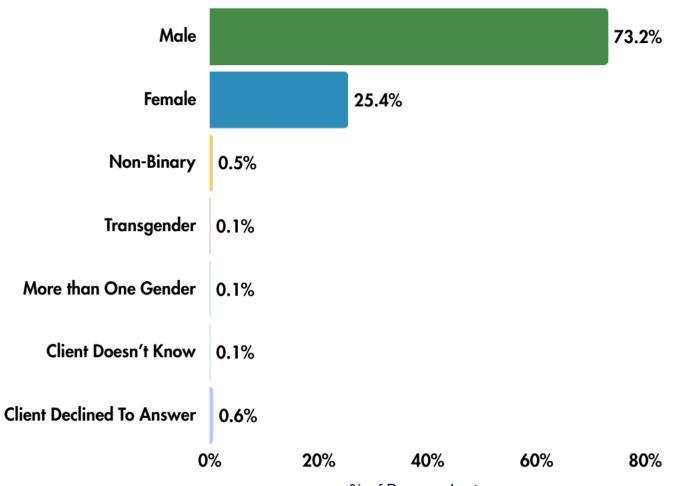




DEMOGRAPHICS



GENDER



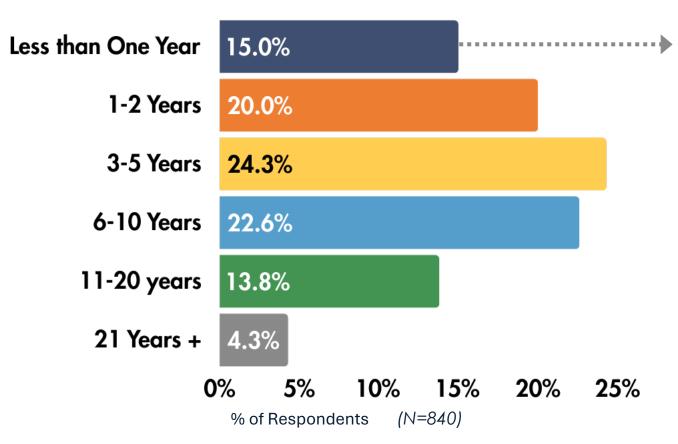


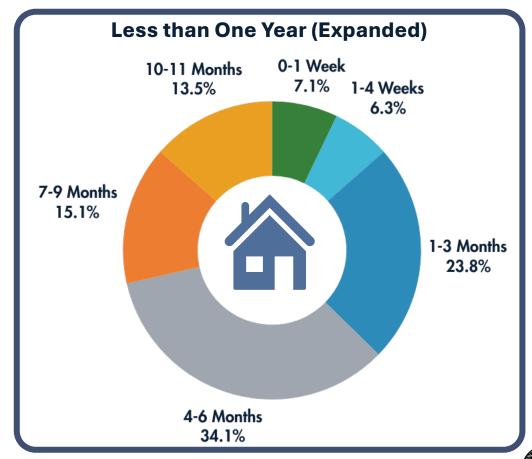


LENGTH OF TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?





LIVING CONDITIONS

OLINTY OF ORANGE

2025







2023













JOURNEY INTO HOMELESSNESS



LIFE BEFORE HOMELESSNESS

HOW DID THEY BECOME HOMELESS?

WHAT DID THEY DO TO AVOID IT?

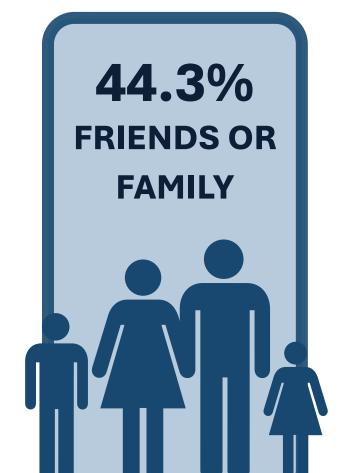
WHAT COULD HAVE HELPED?

WHAT DOES LIFE LOOK LIKE NOW?

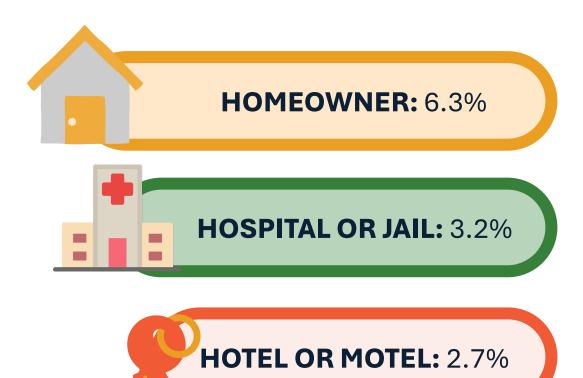




WHEN LAST HOUSED, WHAT WAS THEIR HOUSING SITUATION?



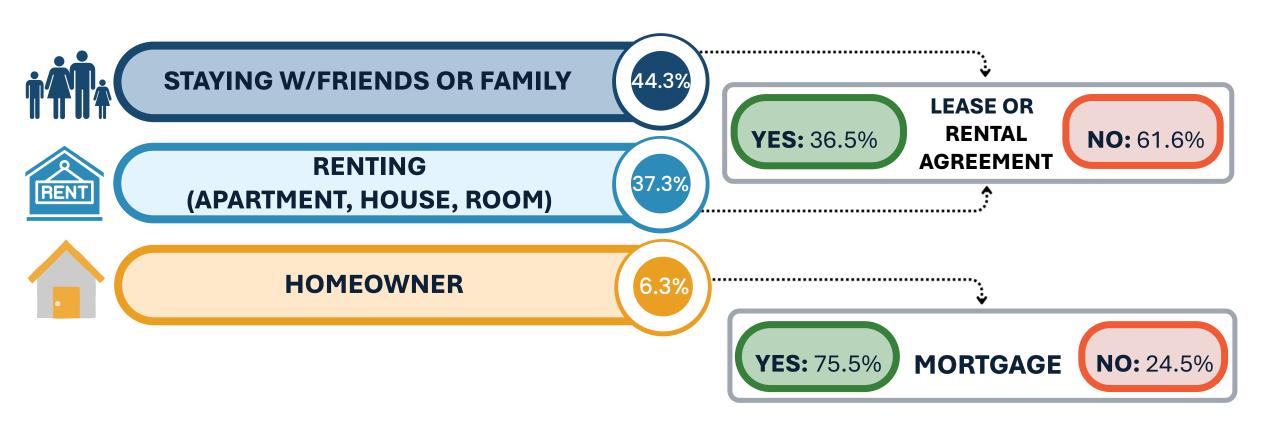








WAS THEIR NAME ON THE MORTGAGE, LEASE OR RENTAL AGREEMENT?

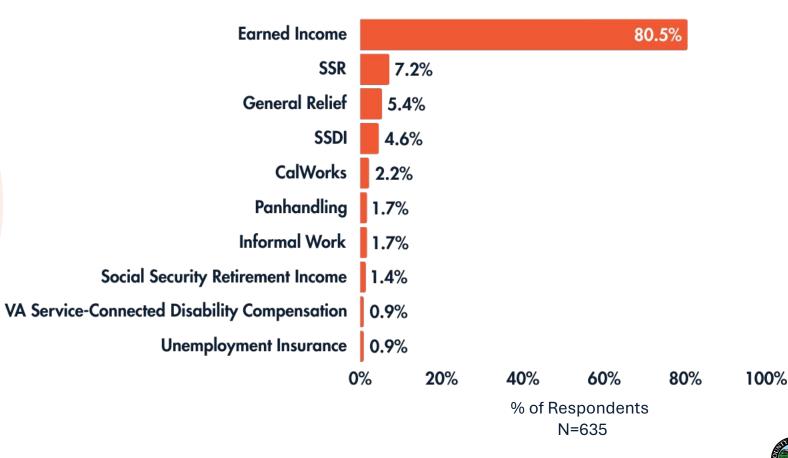






WHAT WAS THEIR SOURCE OF INCOME?

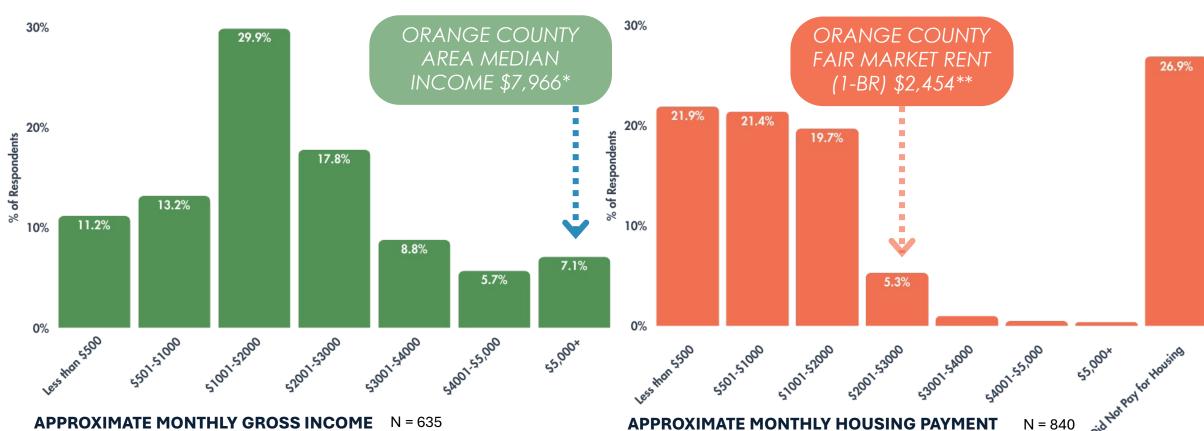






HOW MUCH DID THEY MAKE?

HOW MUCH DID THEY PAY?



APPROXIMATE MONTHLY GROSS INCOME

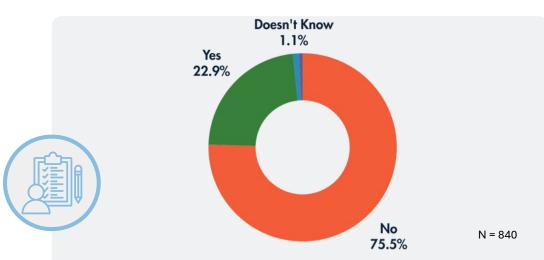
*2025 Area Median Income for a 1-person household is

\$95,000



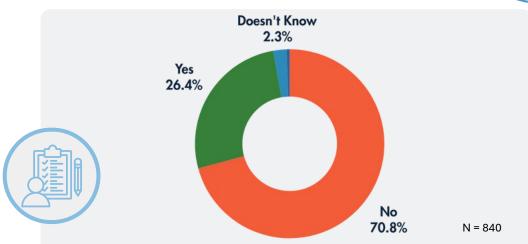


DID THEY HAVE SAVINGS?



SAVINGS IN A TYPICAL MONTH	% OF RESPONDENTS	
Less than \$500	35.9%	
\$501-\$1000	17.7%	
\$1001-\$5000	20.3%	
More than \$5,000	20.3%	
Doesn't Know	5.2%	
Declined to Answer	0.2%	

DID THEY HAVE DEBT?



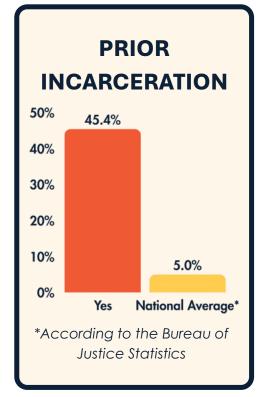
TYPE(S) OF REPORTED DEBT*	% OF RESPONDENTS		
Credit Card Debt	60.4%		
Personal Loans	25.2%		
Medical Bills	22.5%		
Student Loans	14.0%		
Housing-Related Debt	11.3%		

*Respondents selected all that apply; N = 222

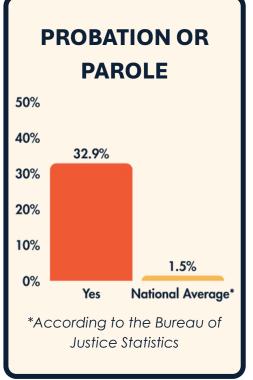


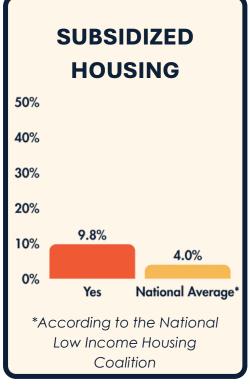


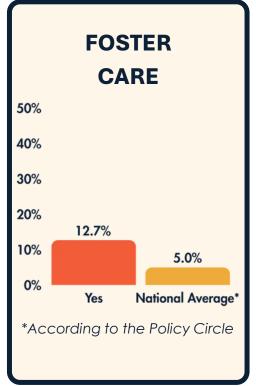
WHO ARE THEY? (PAST PERSONAL EXPERIENCES)

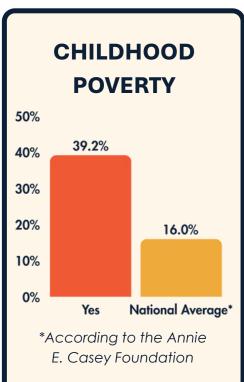


N = 840













WHO ARE THEY? (SELF-REPORTED DISABLING CONDITIONS)



8.0%

REPORTED BEING DIAGNOSED WITH A **COGNITIVE DISABILITY** PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS



14.8%

REPORTED BEING DIAGNOSED WITH AN **EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL DISABILITY** PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS



17.4%

REPORTED BEING DIAGNOSED
WITH A **PHYSICAL DISABILITY** PRIOR
TO BECOMING HOMELESS





HAD THEY EXPERIENCED ONE OR MORE TRAUMATIC EVENTS THAT IMPACTED THEIR LIFE?





NEARLY ³/₄ STATED

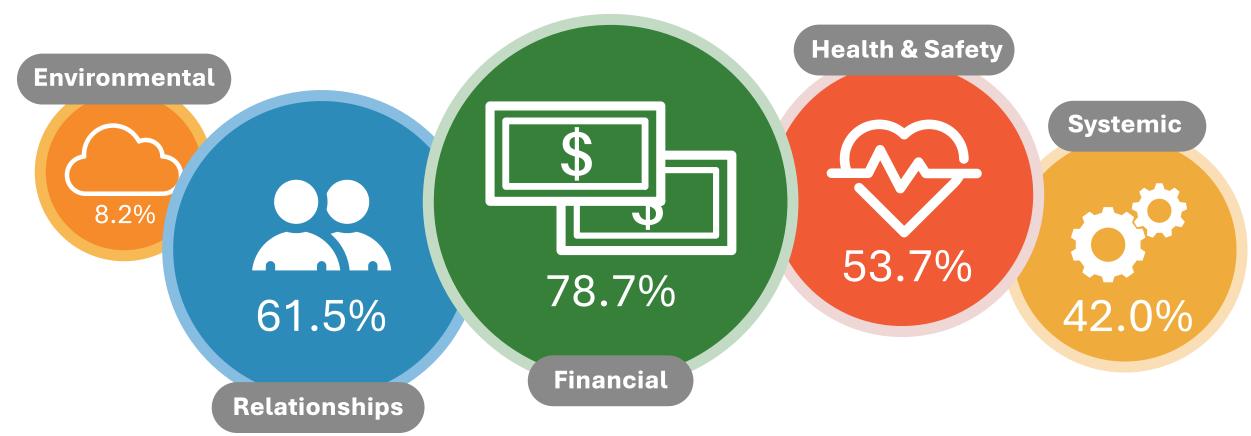
TRAUMATIC EVENTS PLAYED

A ROLE IN THEIR HOMELESSNESS





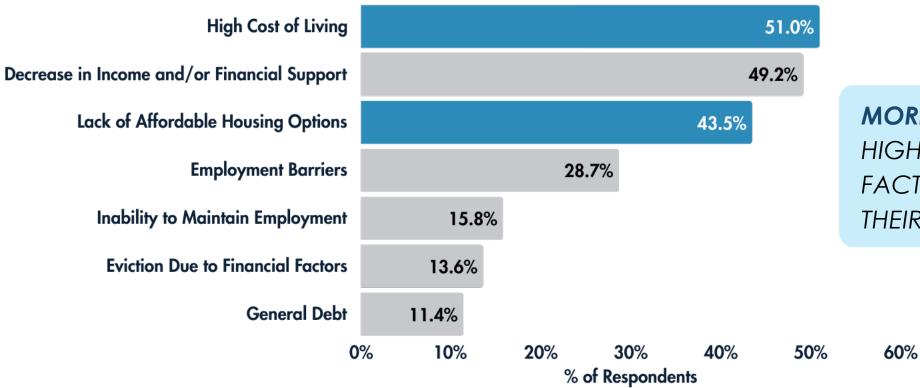
FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO HOMELESSNESS







FINANCIAL FACTORS MOST CITED FINANCIAL DRIVERS OF HOMELESSNESS



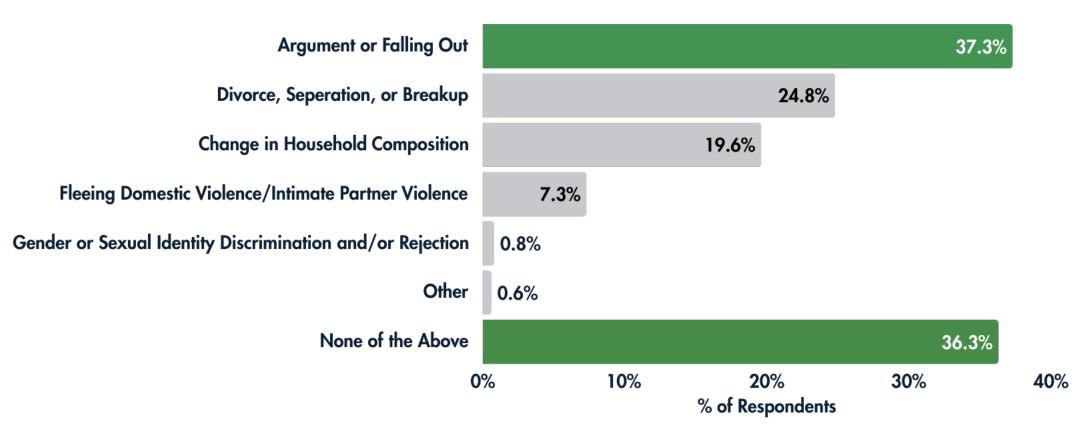
MORE THAN HALF POINTED TO HIGH COST OF LIVING AS A FACTOR THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR HOMELESSNESS.





RELATIONSHIP FACTORS

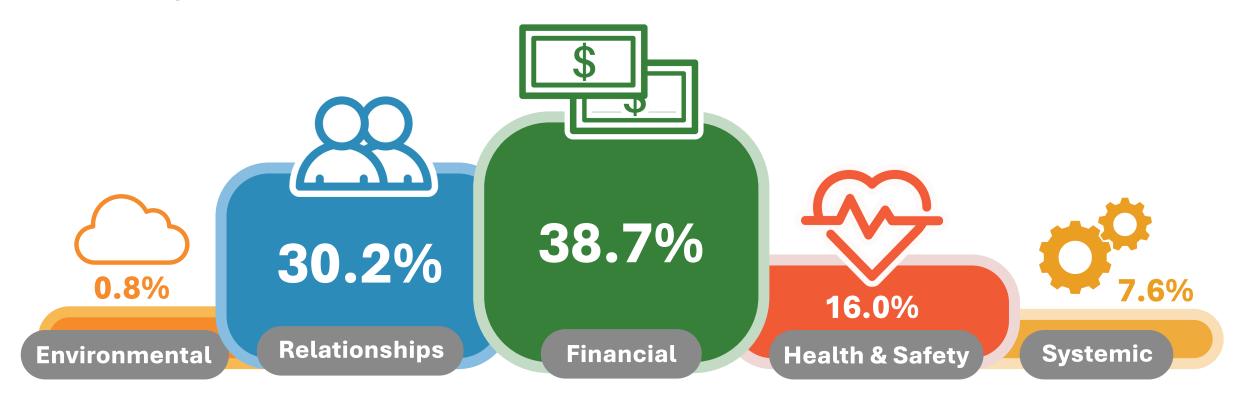
MOST CITED RELATIONSHIP-RELATED DRIVERS OF HOMELESSNESS







WHICH FACTOR PLAYED THE BIGGEST ROLE IN THEIR HOMELESSNESS EXPERIENCE?

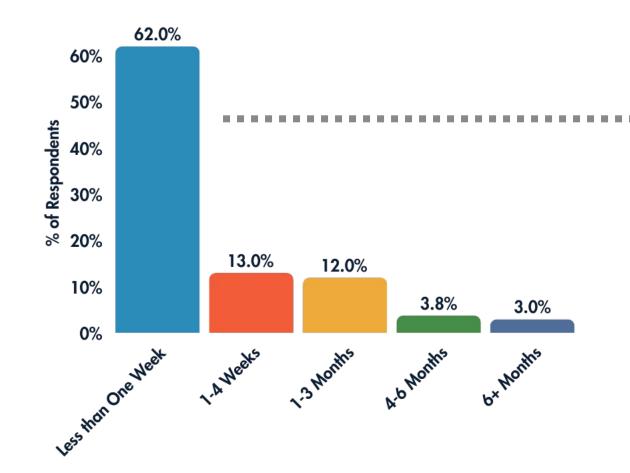


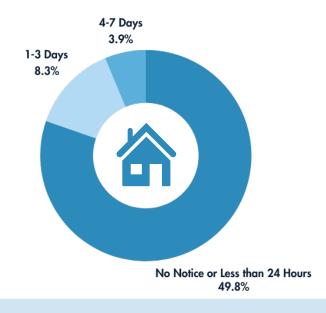




HOW MUCH NOTICE DID THEY RECEIVE?

Less than One Week (Expanded)





NEARLY 50% OF RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED RECEIVING NOTICE LESS THAN A WEEK PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS WERE STAYING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

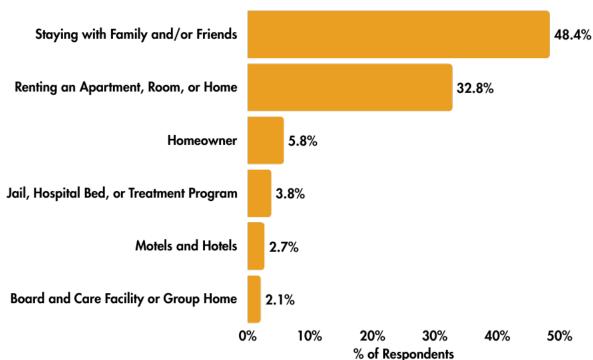




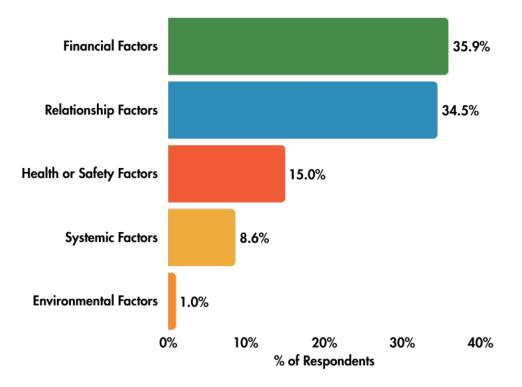


FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVED LESS THAN 1 WEEK NOTICE...

Where Did They Live?



Main Factor Contributing to Homelessness

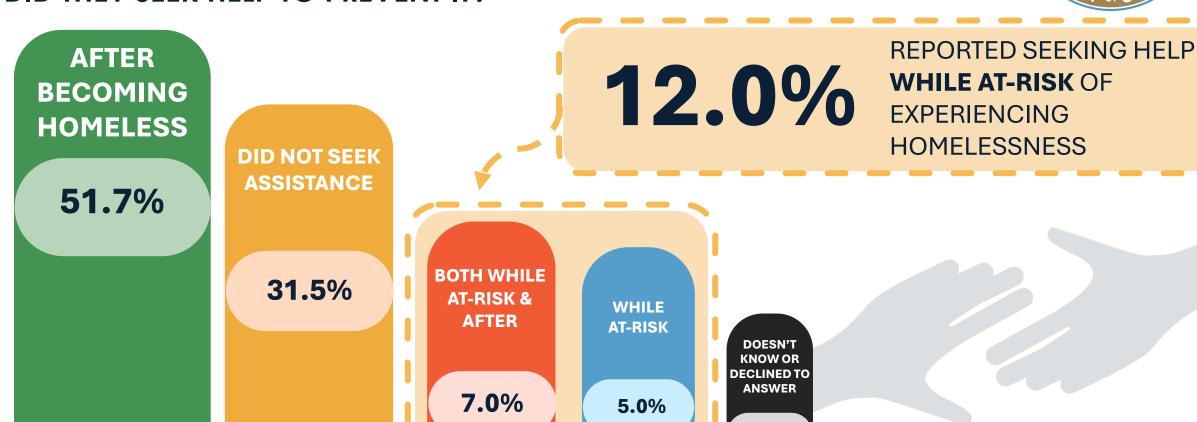




4.7%



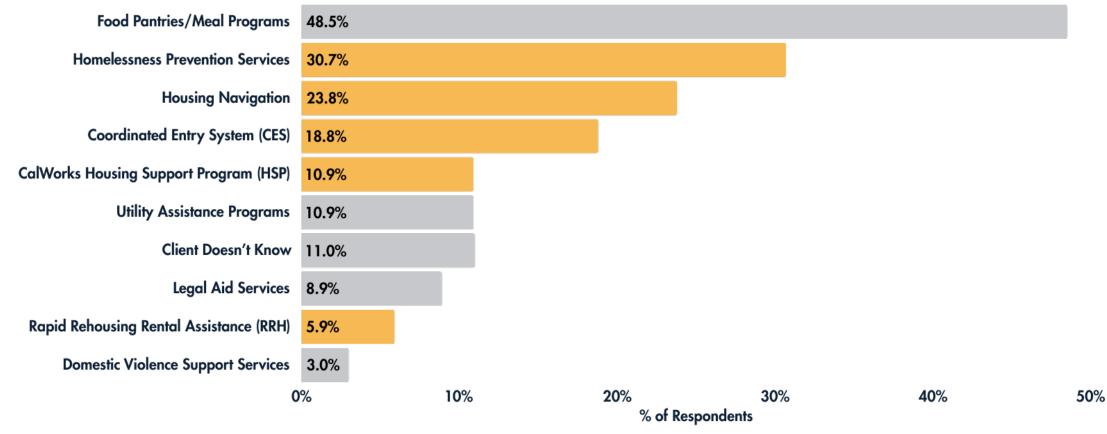
DID THEY SEEK HELP TO PREVENT IT?







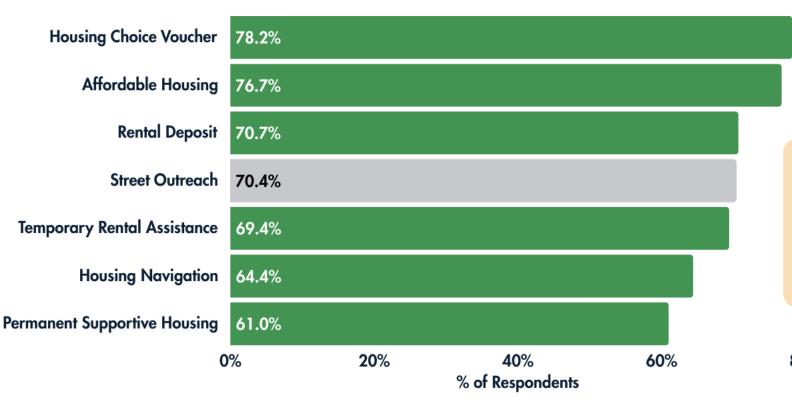
IF THEY SOUGHT HELP, WHAT DID THEY RECEIVE







WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE COULD HAVE HELPED IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES OF REMAINING HOUSED OR TO SECURE HOUSING?



RESPONSES **OVERWHELMINGLY**UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF
ASSISTANCE WITH RENT PAYMENTS OR
ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING
OPTIONS.

80%





IF "TEMPORARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE" COULD HAVE HELPED...

HOW MANY MONTHS OF TEMPORARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE BEEN NEEDED TO ACHIEVE HOUSING STABILITY?



12 MONTHS +

• 31.6% OF RESPONDENTS INDICATED 12 MONTHS OR MORE OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE HOUSING STABILITY.

6 MONTHS OR LESS

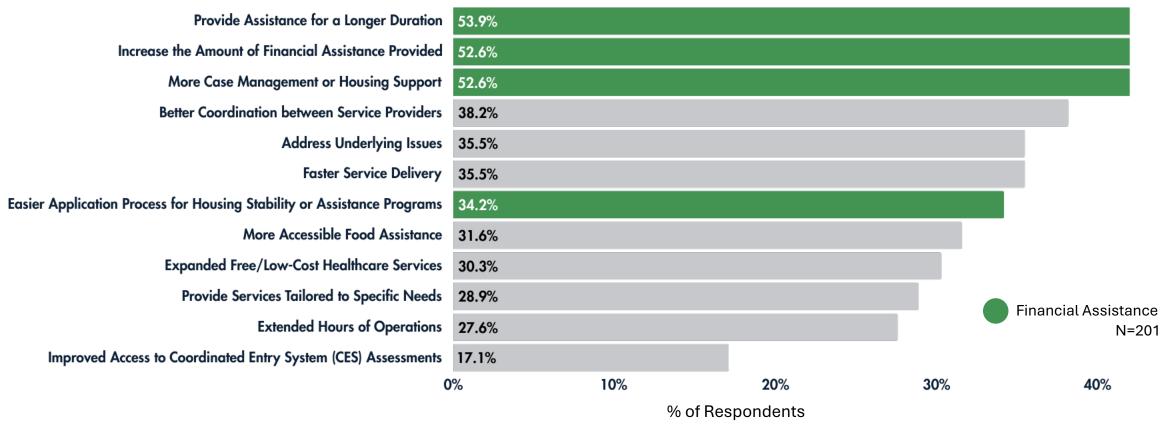
39.1% OF RESPONDENTS BELIEVED THAT UP TO HALF A YEAR OF SUPPORT COULD HAVE HELPED.

N=583





WHAT COULD HAVE HELPED THEM STAY HOUSED RATHER THAN JUST DELAY HOMELESSNESS?







HOW HAS HOMELESSNESS CHANGED THEIR LIFE?

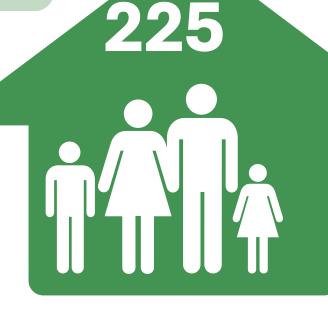
225 REPORTED THEIR
HOUSEHOLDS WERE
COMPOSED OF ADULTS
AND CHILDREN WHILE
PREVIOUSLY HOUSED



ONLY 6 HOUSEHOLDS ARE STILL COMPOSED OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN.

212 REPORT THEIR HOUSEHOLD IS NOW COMPOSED OF ONLY ADULTS. **7** DECLINED TO STATE.







LIFE BEFORE
HOMELESSNESS

HOW DID THEY
BECOME HOMELESS?

WHAT DID THEY DO TO AVOID IT?

WHAT COULD HAVE HELPED?

WHAT DOES LIFE LOOK LIKE NOW?



PRIOR TO HOMELESSNESS

INCOME

CURRENTLY

60.9%	Earned Income	7.6%
5.4%	SSI	7.5%
4.1%	General Relief	17.4%
1.7%	CalWORKs	1.7%
1.3%	Panhandling	4.5%
1.3%	Informal Work	5.3%
1.1%	Social Security Retirement	1.9%
0.7%	VA Disability	0.7%
0.7%	Unemployment Insurance	0.3%
23.2%	No Income	55.5%

43.1%
CURRENTLY HAVE
AN INCOME

*RESPONDENTS
SELECTED ALL THAT
APPLY; N=840





WHO ARE THEY? (SELF-REPORTED DISABLING CONDITIONS)



8.0%

REPORTED BEING DIAGNOSED WITH A **COGNITIVE DISABILITY** PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS

4.5% DIAGNOSED AFTER EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



14.8%

REPORTED BEING DIAGNOSED WITH AN **EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL DISABILITY** PRIOR TO
BECOMING HOMELESS

14.8% DIAGNOSED AFTER EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



17.4%

REPORTED BEING DIAGNOSED
WITH A **PHYSICAL DISABILITY** PRIOR
TO BECOMING HOMELESS

14.2% DIAGNOSED AFTER EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

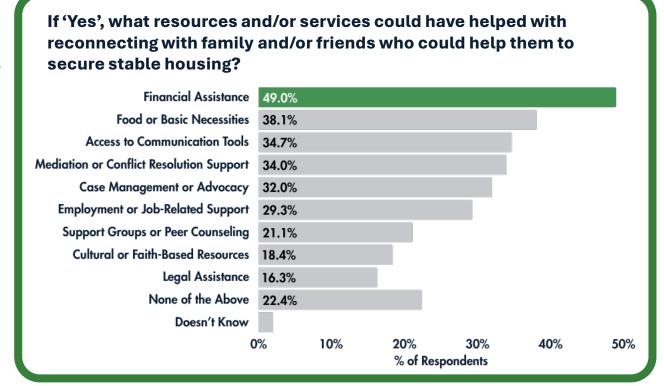




ARE THERE FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS THEY COULD REACH OUT TO FOR SUPPORT IN SECURING STABLE HOUSING?







*Respondents selected all that apply;
N=147
Falling through the Safety Net 62



KEY FINDINGS



The factors and journey into homelessness are varied

Prior to
homelessness,
people had high
vulnerabilities
and systeminvolvement

Safety net resources and programs were not accessed prior to homelessness

Financial factors
are the most
significant in
most individual's
path to
homelessness

The results of this study are consistent with previous statewide and nationwide studies

Membership Ad Hoc

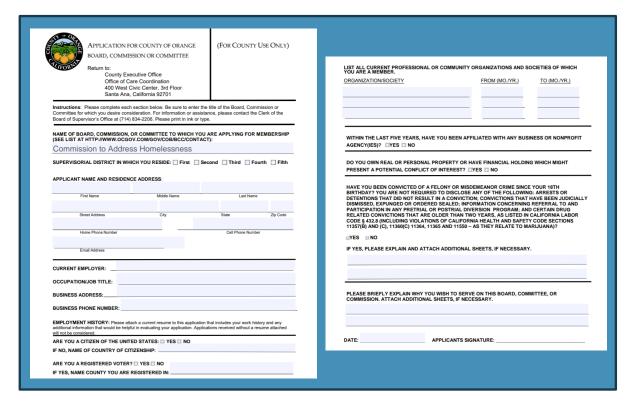
- The Ad Hoc met in May to review the existing recruitment process and discuss the expansion of candidate application questions to better align with the mission and purpose of the Commission.
- The Ad Hoc also considered the recruitment of expired and vacant seats. The membership recruitment for the Commission will be conducted in two phases to ensure continuity while preserving the Commission's momentum on key initiatives. This phased approach also allows the Commission to integrate new members in a thoughtful and manageable manner.

Ad Hoc Membership

- Vicente Sarmiento, Chair and Supervisor, Second District
- Todd Spitzer, Orange County District Attorney
- Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plan Representative
- Jason Ivins, Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Representative
- Robert Morse, Continuum of Care Board Representative

Additional Application Questions

- What unique skills, experience, or perspectives do you bring that make you especially well-suited to work on solutions to homelessness in our community?
- As a regional leader, how would you use your role to bring together diverse partnerships to support countywide initiatives to address homelessness?



Phase I Membership Recruitment

- Business Representative
- Central Service Planning Area Representative
- South Service Planning Area Representative
- Faith-Based Community Representative
- Philanthropic Leader
- Lived Experience Representative

Phase 2 Membership Recruitment

- Hospital Representative
- Behavioral Health Representative
- Two Continuum of Care Board Representatives
- Orange County Sheriff-Coroner
 Department Representative

Membership Recruitment Timeline



Ad Hoc Review of Phase 2 Membership Applications

Membership Recommendations

Approve the recommendation for appointment of the following candidates to serve on the Commission to Address Homelessness as detailed below to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

- i. Susan Parks, President and Chief Executive Officer of Orange County United Way as the Business Representative
- ii. Benjamin Vazquez, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Santa Ana as the Central Service Planning Area Representative
- iii. Debra Rose, City Manager for the City of Lake Forest as the South Service Planning Area Representative
- iv. Ivan Pitts, Senior Pastor at the Second Baptist Church as the Faith-Based Community Representative
- v. Benjamin Hurst, Director at The Salvation Army, Orange County as the Philanthropic Leader

ACTION – ITEM #7 MEETING MINUTES

Commission to Address Homelessness Meeting Minutes

Approve Commission to Address Homelessness minutes from the June 18, 2025, regular meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Commission to Address Homelessness Meeting

■ The next regular meeting is October 15, 2025.

October						
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	