



**San Luis Obispo  
Countywide 10 Year  
Plan to End  
Homelessness**

*We envision a future  
in which the housing  
and comprehensive  
services necessary to  
remain housed are  
available for all,  
affording everyone  
maximum self-  
sufficiency, and the  
opportunity to be  
productive and  
participating  
members of our  
community*

## **HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC) Meeting Agenda**

March 17, 2021, 1 p.m.

Members and the public may participate by Zoom video call:

<https://zoom.us/j/94827168284?pwd=aXlScXNBZjFYb2tFNVNVelJ6aEJCUT09>

Or dial in:

+1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 948 2716 8284

Passcode: 433038

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes
4. Action/Information/Discussion
  - 4.1. Discussion Item: United Way – Homeless Resource List
  - 4.2. Action Item: Vote to Approve the HSOC Ad Hoc Encampment Committee's Alternatives to Encampment Recommendations Document
  - 4.3. Discussion Item: Plans for Update of Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness
    - 4.3.1 Action Item: Framework for Regional Homeless Action Plan
  - 4.4. Discussion Item: Preventing, Preparing for and Responding to the Impacts of COVID-19
    - 4.4.1 Discussion Item: State Rental Assistance Program
    - 4.4.2 Discussion Item: Update on Preparing for Efforts to Vaccinate People Experiencing Homelessness

5. Committee Updates
6. Future Discussion/Report Items
7. Next Meeting: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 1pm
8. Adjournment

# HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

## HSOC Meeting

January 20, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Members and the public were able to participate by Zoom call.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Anne Robin Bettina Swigger Bill Crewe Brenda Mack Carlyn Christianson Caroline Hall Dawn Ortiz-Legg Devin Drake Grace McIntosh Janna Nichols Jeff Smith Jessica Thomas Kathy McClenathen Kristen Barneich Marcia Guthrie Mariam Shah Mark Lamore Nicole Bennett Rick Gulino Scott Smith Shay Stewart Steve Martin Susan Funk Susan Lamont	Amelia Grover Marlys McPherson	Abby Lassen Airlin Singewald Becky Jorgeson Cara Vereschagin Carlos Mendoza Carolyn Berg Carrie Collins Dona Hare Price Elaine Archer Elaine Mansoor Elidia Lopez George Solis Jan Maitzen Jeff Al-Mashat Joanna Balsamo-Lillien John DiNunzio Julia Collins Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Lisa Howe Lisa Jouet Lucy Passaglia Marianne Kennedy Matt Leal

		Patti Toews Ray McKelvey Riley Smith Russ Francis Sue Warren Theresa Harpin Toffi Boreham Tom Sherman Tony Navarro Vincent Escoto Yael Korin
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Mariam called the meeting to order at 1pm.	
2. Public Comment	<p>Becky announced that Hope's Village are moving ahead with their Tiny House Village for chronically homeless people including those with disabilities, elderly people, and veterans. Hope's Village will know on January 22<sup>nd</sup> if they will be leased the land in North County for 30 tiny homes.</p> <p>Yael announced that Los Osos Community Advisory Council will be holding a homelessness forum on January 26<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Mariam announced that she will soon be moving from Grover Beach, and so stepping down from Grover Beach City Council, which also means stepping down from her position with HSOC.</p>	

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		Janna made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Grace. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Action Item: Vote to recommend \$11,694,982 in grant awards for CARES Act Funding under the Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (ESG-CV) Round 2 allocation, the State of California’s ESG-CV Continuum of Care Allocation Round 2 allocation, and the Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Round 3 allocation	<p>Laurel and Tony provided background on the ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) and CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus) funding programs. Both ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) and CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding are made available annually, based on a block grant formula rather than a competitive process. The County receives two ESG grants – one directly from the federal government via HUD (Department of Housing &amp; Urban Development), and one via the State of California. The Department of Social Services (DSS) administers the State ESG grants, while the Department of Planning &amp; Building (Planning) administers the Federal ESG grants. CDBG grants are also made available through HUD and are managed by Planning.</p> <p>The ESG-CV and CDBG-CV grants are funding programs in addition to the annual ESG and CDBG grants. These funding programs were made available through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and</p>	<p>Susan Funk made a motion to recommend \$11,694,982 in grant awards for CARES Act Funding under the Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (ESG-CV) Round 2 allocation, the State of California’s ESG-CV Continuum of Care Allocation Round 2 allocation, and the Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Round 3 allocation, seconded by Carlyn. The vote passed with a majority in favor. Brenda voted against. Grace, Janna, Mark, Rick, Scott, Steve and Susan</p>

	<p>Economic Security) Act, which was enacted in March 2020. The ESG-CV program includes the same eligible activities as the annual ESG program, but includes additional activities focused on preventing, preparing for an responding to coronavirus, including non-congregate shelter, activities to prevent the spread of the virus (including hygiene and sanitation), and hazard pay to allow nonprofits to retain essential workers. For the State ESG-CV program, funding cannot be used for homelessness prevention activities (unless all people experiencing homelessness in the jurisdiction have been permanently housed). For ESG-CV funding, there was an additional focus on ensuring equity in health and racial disparities.</p> <p>CDBG-CV program funding must be used to meet the CDBG national objectives, while also being used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.</p> <p>An ad hoc Grant Review Committee met on January 11<sup>th</sup> to review applications for all three funding programs and to make recommendations. The CDBG-CV applications were also reviewed by an Inter-agency Review Committee, consisting of representatives from the County and cities, on January 12<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Laurel and Tony presented the recommendations made by the Grant Review Committee and Inter-agency Review Committee:</p>	<p>abstained.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$125,400 in State ESG-CV funding for Transitional Food &amp; Shelter</li> <li>• \$1,906,184 in Federal ESG-CV and State ESG-CV funding for Salvation Army</li> <li>• \$20,000 in State ESG-CV funding for TMHA (Transitions Mental Health Association)</li> <li>• \$13,000 in State ESG-CV funding for RISE</li> <li>• \$20,000 in State ESG-CV funding for Stand Strong</li> <li>• \$7,016,948 in State ESG-CV, Federal ESG-CV, and CDBG-CV funding for a collaborative project led by CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo)</li> <li>• \$1,054,091 in CDBG-CV funding for HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) to make improvements to their Project Homekey Permanent Supportive Housing project</li> <li>• \$1,490,909 in Federal ESG-CV funding for HASLO for shelter rehabilitation</li> <li>• \$48,850 in CDBG-CV funding for People's Self Help Housing</li> </ul> <p>More details, including breakdown of funds between grant program, and funding requested, can be found in the agenda packet.</p> <p>Tony and Laurel took questions from the Council and clarified the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAPSLO are requesting funding for an isolation room as the current alternative housing sites</li> </ul>	
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	<p>for people who test positive for coronavirus would not allow for continuation of services, particularly for medically fragile people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Grant Review Committee consisted of representatives from DSS, the Public Health Department, SLO Community Foundation, and a consultant who has been involved in helping providers ensure better access to healthcare</li><li>• The total funding available through CDBG-CV is \$1.8 million, though \$1.5 million is available to applicants as \$300,000 will be the administrative portion which pays for staff time in the Planning and Public Health Departments</li><li>• The proposed 40 Prado renovation would provide a safer environment by fixing ventilation and adding a deionizer, thereby increasing capacity to serve medically fragile people</li></ul> <p>Kristen requested that in future, the Council be provided with the full applications and information including who was part of the Grant Review Committee, prior to taking a vote. Bettina requested that, in future, more information be provided on the impact the money will have, such as the number of beds added and whether these are short term or permanent housing beds.</p> <p>Tony also reported that the Interagency Review Committee had recommended an additional \$98,000</p>	
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	<p>be awarded to People's Self Help Housing through the CDBG-CV allocation, if reimbursement of lost rent is an eligible activity. It was not clear in the Interagency Review Committee's meeting that this was eligible, but Planning have since confirmed that it is.</p> <p>This would require amending the motion in order to move \$98,000 from one of the other recipients. This was not discussed or proposed in the meeting, so the motion carried by HSOC did not include an amendment to this effect.</p>	
4.2.Action Item: Authorize Creation of a Ten-Year Plan Strategy Committee	<p>Laurel reported that the County is working with a vendor to update the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Laurel asked the HSOC to authorize the creation of a Ten-Year Plan Strategy Committee.</p>	<p>Janna moved to authorize the creation of a Ten-Year Plan Strategy Committee, seconded by Devin. All were in favor, with none opposed and no abstentions.</p>
4.3.Action Item: Vote to Approve Priorities for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 2 Funding	<p>Laurel provided some background on the HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention) funding program. HHAP is a grant from the State, split into two rounds. The first round of funding has been secured, and the RFP (Request for Proposals) will be released later this year.</p> <p>The County is working to complete the application for the second round. Applicants are required to identify priorities for the funding, although these can be amended later. The State has asked for the priorities to be informed by a community planning process. In</p>	<p>Scott moved to approve the priorities for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 2 funding, with the addition of emergency shelter, seconded by Kristen. All were in favor, with none against and no abstentions.</p>

	<p>December 2018, HSOC developed a needs assessment and carried out public consultation for the HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) and CESH (California Emergency Solutions &amp; Housing) grant programs. The County has brought the priorities that came out of this work to three of the HSOC committees, which have confirmed that these are still the main priorities. In particular, the Housing Committee stated that the first priority is permanent supportive housing, followed by street outreach and case management.</p> <p>Laurel clarified that the key priority for the first round of HHAP ('making whole' the HEAP projects which still needed funding) cannot be used for the second round, as applicants must choose from a list of eligible categories. However, by including emergency shelter as a priority, some of the funding could be used to support existing projects. The HSOC advised that the motion be amended to include emergency shelter as one of the priorities.</p>	
4.4. Discussion Item: Provide Input on the Alternatives to Encampments recommendations from the HSOC Ad Hoc Encampment Committee	<p>Laurel explained that the Alternatives to Encampment recommendations have had input from several of the committees, and the Executive Committee wanted the full HSOC to review the draft document. The HSOC recommended that the document be forwarded to city managers and the County Administrative Officer for comment, then be reviewed at the next full HSOC meeting in March.</p>	

4.5. Action Item: Vote to Elect HSOC Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Chairs for 2021	<p>Mariam nominated Susan Funk as HSOC Chair.  Janna nominated Kristen as Vice Chair.  Scott nominated himself to continue as Housing Committee Chair.  Devin nominated himself to continue as Services Coordinating Committee Chair.  Janna nominated herself to continue as Finance &amp; Data Committee Chair.</p>	<p>Devin made a motion to elect those nominated to the positions of HSOC Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Chairs for 2021, seconded by Kathy. All were in favor, with none opposed and no abstentions.</p>
5. Committee Updates	<p>Janna reported that the Finance &amp; Data Committee's report was included in the agenda packet.</p> <p>Scott and Devin reported that there were no updates from the Housing and Services Coordinating Committees.</p>	
6. Future Discussion/Report Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternatives to Encampment recommendations document</li> <li>• Staff recommendations on how to move forward with the Ten-Year Plan Strategy Committee</li> </ul>	
7. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Date: Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March at 1pm		
8. Adjournment	<p>Mariam adjourned the meeting at 3pm.</p>	

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL****HSOC Special Meeting****March 5, 2021 1:00 p.m.****Members and the public were able to participate by Zoom call.**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS</b>
Anne Robin Bettina Swigger Bill Crewe Brenda Mack Carlyn Christianson Caroline Hall Devin Drake Janna Nichols Jessica Thomas Kathy McClenathen Kristen Barneich Mark Lamore Mary Ann Reiss Rick Gulino Scott Smith Shay Stewart Susan Funk Susan Lamont	Amelia Grover Anna Miller Dawn Addis Dawn Ortiz-Legg Grace McIntosh Jeff Smith Nicole Bennett Steve Martin	Brandee Puett Carolyn Berg Dawn Marie Elaine Archer Elaine Mansoor George Solis Joanna Balsamo-Lillien Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Mariam Shah Russ Francis Suzanne Leedale Theresa Harpin Tom Sherman Wendy Lewis
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>		<b>CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS</b>
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Susan Funk called the meeting to order at 1pm.	
2. Public Comment	Mariam announced that this will be her last HSOC meeting, and thanked everyone for all their work over	

	<p>last seven years that she has been involved with the Council.</p> <p>Mary Ann Reiss introduced herself as the new representative from Pismo Beach.</p> <p>Suzanne introduced herself as Chief Operating Officer from CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo), and thanked HSOC for the HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) funds already awarded and for considering the additional funding.</p> <p>Janna provided an update on 5Cities Homeless Coalition's (5CHC) HEAP-funded work. For the building project, 5CHC have replaced the roof, windows and deck areas to ensure the building is watertight, and have now moved into the building, although there is additional construction work still to do. For the youth project, 5CHC served 56 homeless youth in 2020.</p> <p>Susan Funk noted that, per HUD's (US Department of Housing &amp; Urban Development) regulations, potential recipients of grant awards are not allowed to comment or answer questions during HSOC's discussion of the awards. In future, HSOC agendas should allow time for each organization to speak briefly on their application for funding, prior to the discussion of grant awards.</p> <p>Wendy shared that ECHO (El Camino Homeless</p>	
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	<p>Organization) are in the process of getting permits to do construction projects in North County, and will most likely be starting this work in early April.</p> <p>Elaine Mansoor reported the Salvation Army have been very busy due to COVID and its impact on clients. She shared that the HSOC awarded the Salvation Army funding in 2020 for permanent supportive housing, but more funding is needed, and so asked that Salvation Army to be considered for future funding. The funding gap is around \$53,000.</p> <p>Scott noted that HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) have sourced additional funding for their Paso Robles HEAP project, and so asked for HASLO's proportion of additional HEAP interest from the Paso Robles project to be redirected to CAPSLO's detox facility (this would not include the interest on the Atascadero project funding, for which additional funding is still needed).</p>	
3. Action/Information/Discussion		
3.1. Action Item: Vote to recommend 1) reallocation of \$129,764 from the County's Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) grant from its Administrative award to the Community Action Partnership	<p>Laurel provided some background on the HEAP grant and the two recommendations for consideration by HSOC. All HEAP-funded projects have encountered rising costs, partly due to the impact of COVID. CAPSLO's (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) detox facility, in particular, has a \$260k funding gap. Partly due to COVID, the County has not</p>	

of San Luis Obispo's HEAP grant; and 2) awarding program income from the HEAP grant to the existing subrecipients and the County to be used for HEAP-eligible purposes.	<p>spent as much on administrative costs as anticipated, so the first recommendation is to reallocate funding from administrative costs to CAPSLO's detox facility. This funding must be spent no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The second recommendation involves awarding earned interest. HEAP funding was given up front, and so the County earned interest on the income, which must be used for the same activities and in the same proportion as the original funding. The interest earned to date is over \$114,000. Interest must be spent no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>. The breakdown of funding was provided in the staff report in the agenda packet (it was noted in the meeting that the amounts shown for the City of Paso Robles and CAPSLO were switched in Table 1. The correct figures are \$357,500 for CAPSLO, and \$1,504,462 for the City of Paso Robles).</p>	Shay made a motion to approve the recommendations, including an amendment to reallocate HASLO's Paso Robles portion of interest to CAPSLO's withdrawal facility; seconded by Carlyn. The motion was approved with none opposed. Janna, Rick, Scott and Susan Lamont abstained.
4. Next Regularly Meeting: Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March at 1pm		
5. Adjournment	Susan Funk adjourned the meeting at 1:35pm.	

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)**  
**ACTION ITEM**  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4.2**

**ITEM: VOTE TO APPROVE THE HSOC AD HOC ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS DOCUMENT**

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Vote to approve the Ad Hoc Encampment Committee's Recommendations document.

**SUMMARY NARRATIVE:**

The 2019 San Luis Obispo County Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count found that 79% of the population of persons experiencing homelessness in the county were unsheltered. The impact of being unsheltered may have substantial impact on the physical and mental health of homeless adults, children and youth. Lack of access to hygiene and sanitation facilities may put homeless persons' health at risk. Being unsheltered also may make homeless persons more vulnerable to being the victims of violent crime.

Unsheltered homelessness also impacts the communities in which it occurs, including increasing expenses for those communities. Lack of sanitation and hygiene facilities as well as the absence of a place where people living in encampments can dispose of their trash may lead to contamination of nearby waterways, and campfires started for the purpose of cooking or providing warmth may create fire dangers. Cleaning up encampments may cost as much as tens of thousands of dollars per clean up.

Some communities in California and elsewhere have implemented actions to try to reduce unsheltered homelessness or mitigate the impact of unsheltered homelessness on persons experiencing homelessness and the communities in which they live. These actions have included increasing the supply of permanent supportive housing and offering housing when clearing waterways of encampments,<sup>1</sup> creating tiny home villages,<sup>2</sup> leading public

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. <https://voiceofoc.org/2018/02/anaheim-approves-homelessness-policies-focused-on-housing/>.

<sup>2</sup> E.g. <http://cms.klove.com/news/2018/07/05/Tiny-Houses-On-Church-Property-Ease-Sacramento-Homelessness-podcast-/>.

health campaigns to immunize homeless persons from Hepatitis A,<sup>3</sup> providing trash pick up to homeless encampments,<sup>4</sup> and providing hygiene and sanitation facilities to encampments.<sup>5</sup> Locally, cities and the County have implemented or are planning efforts to address some of these issues as well, such as by adding mental health therapists to law enforcement Community Action Teams, planning immunization campaigns, and other efforts.

### ***Ad Hoc Encampment Committee***

At the request of County of San Luis Obispo District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson, the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) on July 24, 2019 established an Ad Hoc Encampment Committee to assess the scope and geographic distribution of encampments, examine the severity impacts and identify resources needed to address, provide a forum for coordination – including coordination with agencies from unincorporated communities – and make recommendations as to programs and budget allocations needed to address these issues.

During the Fall and Winter of 2019, the HSOC worked to develop further the parameters of the committee and to identify and recruit key stakeholder agencies. The committee held its first meeting in March 2020 and in the Spring and Summer, began identifying the scope and impacts. In August 2020, the Committee established a working group on Alternatives to Encampments and tasked it with researching examples and model practices from other communities, obtaining stakeholder input and developing recommendations for alternatives to encampments that could be presented to the Board and other stakeholder groups.

On January 20, 2021, the Alternatives to Encampments working group draft recommendations were brought the HSOC for discussion. On March 4, 2021, the revised recommendations document was reviewed and approved (with minor amendments) by the HSOC Encampment Committee. County staff also sought input from the Encampment Committee on the Regional Framework.

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<sup>3</sup> E.g. <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/newsMediadocs/2017PR/DPH-release-Hepatitis-A-vaccination-campaign.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> E.g. <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-homeless-encampment-cleanup-dumping-bathrooms-trash-20190619-story.html>.

<sup>5</sup> E.g. see: <https://www.watereducation.org/western-water/can-providing-bathrooms-homeless-protect-californias-water-quality>.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There would be no immediate financial impact from this recommendation. Should the Board of Supervisors choose to implement one or more of the provisions, there could be costs associated with that action that would be determined at that time.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

Staff recommend that this item be adopted.

# Homeless Encampments in SLO County Recommendations

Homeless Services Oversight Council  
Encampment Committee

March 2021

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## **Executive Summary**

In recognition of the urgency of finding solutions to the proliferating homeless encampments in SLO County, especially during the pandemic, the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) presents these recommendations.

At the request of Supervisor Bruce Gibson, HSOC convened an Encampment Committee to pool resources and expertise to develop recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. This is a draft document, including only the recommendations presented by one of the Encampment Committee's working groups.

These recommendations offer a range of options for meeting the needs of homeless people within SLO county, by offering a broad continuum of shelter and housing types that will provide them with security, stability, and sanitation. These recommendations will relieve the environmental degradation caused by unsanctioned encampments and will improve the health and safety of both people living in the camps and those who reside in the neighboring areas.

The recommendations presented in this document:

1. Provide Services to Existing Encampments
2. Authorize Sanctioned Encampments
3. Authorize Safe Parking Programs
4. Create Alternative Housing Options
5. Increase Shelter Space in South County

## **Introduction**

In May 2019, District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson proposed that the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) establish a committee to address the community impacts of homeless encampments. This was prompted by concerns over the significant growth in the population of unsheltered homeless people in recent years, and the public health and safety risks and impacts posed by encampments. In particular, Supervisor Gibson cited fire risks caused by open flames used for cooking and warming, the negative impacts on riparian areas and water supplies caused by trash and human waste, health and environmental hazards caused by discarded materials including syringes and cooking fuels, and community concerns over criminal activity in some encampments.

Responding to Supervisor Gibson's proposal, the HSOC authorized the creation of an ad hoc Encampment Committee in July 2019 and held a special meeting the following month to develop a strategy for convening the new committee and soliciting interest. This was followed by a planning meeting in January 2020, which provided direction to participation and structure of the new committee.

The Encampment Committee met for the first time in March 2020. Per Supervisor Gibson's proposal, membership of the committee was based on broad geographic representation, including people from communities affected by encampments and representatives from special districts, as well as the service providers and City and County representatives who sit on the HSOC. At this initial meeting it was agreed that the committee would break out into five working groups to focus on particular issues and approaches, then report back to the full committee.

Progress was delayed with the outbreak of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdown. At a time when providing assistance to homeless people and moving them out of congregate shelter was most critical, the committee was not able to meet for two months as resources were diverted to dealing with the immediate effects of the new and unfamiliar emergency situation. When the committee reconvened in June 2020, the working groups were formalized, with a focus on the following areas of work: Costs, Data, Public Health & Safety, Outreach & Communications, and Alternatives to Encampment. A sixth working group, Behavioral Health, was later convened following discussions within the Public Health & Safety working group.

The working groups were tasked with drawing up recommendations, to be reviewed by the Encampment Committee and the full HSOC before being presented to the Board of Supervisors. This document represents five recommendations, in draft form, which are the result of several months' work by the Alternatives to Encampment working group. The recommendations have been reviewed and revised by the HSOC Encampment Committee and have benefited from input given by other HSOC committees, including the Executive Committee and the Services Coordinating Committee.

Since the formation of the HSOC Encampment Committee, a separate committee, consisting of the County Administrative Officer and City managers, has been convened to address encampments throughout the county. In January 2021, the HSOC proposed that the draft recommendations from the Encampment Committee be shared with this new committee, for comment and review, prior to the full HSOC's review in March.

The contents of this document are not being presented as final recommendations. The Encampment Committee is anticipating recommendations from the other five working groups (Costs, Data, Public Health & Safety, Outreach & Communications, and Behavioral Health), which will also feed into a final document to be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

You may note that, although these are the recommendations of the Alternatives to Encampment working group, two of the recommendations do not propose alternatives to encampments, but the provision of services to, and sanctioning of, encampments. This is because these recommendations came up in the course of the working group's discussion and were considered important enough to merit inclusion. The first recommendation – provide services to existing encampments – has been identified by the working group as the top priority, while the other recommendations are of equal standing.

HSOC proposes that the County implement these recommendations in coordination with the Cities, and undertake as quickly as possible the following actions:

- Select appropriate sites for the various alternative housing options
- Identify sources of funding and allocate necessary funding directly
- Support efforts for community education regarding the need for these alternatives to encampments
- Direct appropriate departments to assist community organizations as fully as possible with rendering the services necessary for the operation of these alternative housing options
- Coordinate these efforts with the Homeless Services Oversight Council and other local government efforts to address unsheltered homelessness

## **Recommendation #1: Provide Services to Existing Encampments**

HSOC recommends that San Luis Obispo County provide basic services to existing encampments in feasible locations, to empower residents and provide safety and sanitation.

These basic services include trash collection, syringe collection, overdose prevention, laundry services and hygiene services (portable toilets, hand washing stations and showers).

Several of these services have been provided already within the county, either on a limited term basis or with limited reach. Providing additional resources would allow for a scaling up of these programs, improving safety and sanitation for the benefit of those in encampments and local residents, and avoiding the expenses of large-scale cleanup when encampments are removed.

### Trash & Syringe Collection: Blue Bag Pilot Program

In July 2019, County Public Works were authorized to run a four-week Blue Bag Partnership Pilot program. This was funded through the Waste Management cost center.

The Blue Bag Partnership distributes uniquely colored, durable waste disposal bags to unsheltered residents of encampments and collects and disposes of bagged waste. The primary purpose of the Blue Bag Partnership is to provide basic sanitation service to areas with significant encampments and attempt to offset the expense of largescale waste cleanup and disposal during encampment removal.

The Pilot effort tracked several metrics to gauge the overall impact of the effort, including the weight of waste removed and number of sharps collected for safe disposal. Over the four weeks, 170 blue bags were distributed, 46 sharps containers were distributed, 1,603 sharps were collected for disposal, and 6.81 tons of trash were hauled to landfill. Outputs in a typical week included 1-2 employees at 0.4 FTE, and an additional 3-4 employees at 0.1 FTE.<sup>1</sup>

### Basic Hygiene Services: Shower the People & Hope's Village SLO Shower Program

There are two services currently offering showers to people in encampments within the county, though their reach is limited.

Shower the People provides a mobile shower program for homeless people and people with critically low incomes. The organization provides a three-unit shower trailer with three private bathrooms, each equipped with a sink, toilet, shower and dispensers of biodegradable soap and shampoo. They supply clean towels, washcloths, toiletries,

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Forms-Documents/Press-Releases/Blue-Bag-Partnership-Pilot-Final-Report.pdf>

socks, and underwear. Showers are available for three hours a day per site, in San Luis Obispo (Sundays and Tuesdays), Oceano (Wednesdays), and Grover Beach (Thursdays).

The program is entirely supported by grants and donations from churches, organizations, and individual donors in the community, and is run completely by volunteers.<sup>2</sup>

Hope's Village of SLO also provides weekly shower services on Saturdays, at the SLO United Church of Christ. Their mobile trailer contains two shower units, including one that meets ADA accessibility guidelines.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.showerthepeopleslo.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://hopesvillageofslo.com/showers>

## **Recommendation #2: Authorize Sanctioned Encampments**

HSOC recommends that San Luis Obispo County authorize sanctioned encampments across the county where needed, to provide safe and permanent spaces for homeless people to shelter and receive services.

Sanctioned encampments would serve as locations with low barrier entry for unsheltered individuals and newly homeless individuals who decline, or are not able to stay in, shelter beds and other housing options.

Authorizing sanctioned encampments in multiple locations throughout the county, across the five SLO County supervisorial districts and the Seven Cities, would help to avoid a situation where a large number of homeless people are encouraged to gather at one location, and the resulting tension with local area residents. Sanctioned encampments would allow for greater security, both for local residents and people in the encampments, by providing spaces that can be monitored and enclosed with fencing.

Sanctioned encampments would also allow homeless people a sense of security that their shelter will not be removed and would allow service providers a consistent location for service delivery. This would be of benefit to agencies providing the services referenced in recommendation #1 (trash and syringe collection, and basic hygiene services), and would also provide greater access to services and support including (where feasible) behavioral and physical health treatment, lockers and safe storage for personal items, general community services (e.g. housing support, grocery stores, pharmacy), medical services (including for medically fragile homeless people),<sup>4</sup> food and potable water delivery, provisions for pets, laundry services and fire safety.

Sanctioned encampments have been set up in several locations in California:

- Berkeley City Council allocated \$922,000 over eighteen months for a sanctioned encampments program which provides climate-controlled, wind-resistant durable tents, portable toilets, handwashing stations, shower and sanitation services, garbage pickup and needle disposal.<sup>5</sup>
- The County of Stanislaus entered into a \$500,000 agreement with a local provider for a six-month period to provide homeless people living at a sanctioned encampment with coordination of safety and security, supportive services including case management, and rehabilitative opportunities to support the transition out of homelessness.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Doctors Without Walls – Santa Barbara Street Medicine are dedicated to providing free, volunteer medical care for the most vulnerable of Santa Barbara County, when and where they are in need: <https://sbdww.org/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/01/22/berkeley-officials-vote-in-favor-of-sanctioned-homeless-camp-pilot-program>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/modesto/modesto-homeless-community-to-leave-beard-brook-for-new-location/103-622123290>

- Oakland City Council provides services to encampments that include garbage pickup, portable toilets and wash stations. In January 2020, \$600,000 was allocated to a pilot project which expands these services to a new encampment.<sup>7</sup>

HSOC acknowledges that not all encampments within the county will be appropriate for sanctioning. Caltrans (California Department of Transportation) recently issued guidance on encampments during the pandemic. This guidance distinguishes encampments by priority level according to safety threat, to individuals within the camps, local residents and the environment. Encampments are assessed according to the severity of their impact, with higher level risk encampments being prioritized for removal immediately or within a reasonable timeframe. Caltrans' guidance could serve as a useful starting point for determining which encampments are appropriate for sanctioning and receiving services. This would avoid encouraging encampments which are causing damage to the environment or having a negative impact on the surrounding area.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jan/07/the-oakland-women-who-took-over-a-vacant-lot-to-house-the-homeless>

### **Recommendation #3: Authorize Safe Parking Programs**

HSOC recommends that San Luis Obispo County authorize Safe Parking programs, operating in appropriate regions throughout the county.

Safe Parking Programs allow unhoused persons to safely stay in their vehicles overnight on authorized streets, lots, and other properties. There have been several recent local initiatives which could serve as pilot projects for an expanded Safe Parking program across the county. HSOC recommends that the County and Cities evaluate the various safe parking pilot projects and explore funding options from federal and state sources.

Within the county, currently only the City of SLO has enacted an ordinance pertaining to safe parking areas. The ordinance states that safe parking areas are subject to meeting specific performance standards and permit requirements, to ensure that the facilities are compatible with surrounding uses and effectively facilitate clients' transition to permanent housing.<sup>8</sup>

From late March to June 30, 2020, overnight parking along with hot showers and bathrooms were available at three locations: San Luis Obispo Vets Hall parking lot, Los Osos Library Parking Lot and Coastal Dunes RV Park and Campground in the South County. Although there were minimal rules, there were no neighbor complaints or serious incidents reported. It has been estimated by one of the agencies delivering services to the sites that they averaged 10 to 22 patrons a day. The total cost (capital costs of portable showers, excluding administration) for 16 weeks was \$85,500.<sup>9</sup>

CAPSLO's (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) 40 Prado Safe Parking Program offers individuals living in their cars or small RVs a safe place to park overnight at 40 Prado, as well as access to showers, meals, mental and physical health services, and housing case management. There are on-site supervisors and cameras monitoring the area at all times. In February 2020, CAPSLO received \$16,500 for safe parking for a 1-year period at 40 Prado. In July 2020, CAPSLO received additional funding through the end of the year to expand the program. CAPSLO reported a cost of \$23,000 for the expanded program between July and December 2020.

SLOCOG (San Luis Obispo Council of Governments) had dedicated \$16,000 to a safe parking program, and in December 2020 increased their FY20/21 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) budget by \$84,000 for this purpose.

Considering how this may be implemented on a county-wide basis, it may be useful to look at the County of Ventura's recently announced pilot program, which it has implemented as a new approach to the county's growing vehicle encampments. The pilot program designates overnight parking areas, in which participants are required to take part in housing support services, responsible disposal of waste and fire safety. The

<sup>8</sup> Source: Title 17 Art. 4 Regulations for Specific Land Uses and Activities | San Luis Obispo Municipal Code.

<sup>9</sup> SLO County and city partner with 40 Prado on safe parking program for homeless | SLO the virus (newtimesslo.com): <https://www.newtimesslo.com/SLOthevirus/archives/2020/07/22/slo-county-and-city-partner-with-40-prado-on-safe-parking-program-for->

County also set up one-stop homeless services in the area one day a week, providing support including medical care and food stamps.

HSOC recognizes that there is no 'one size fits all' model for Safe Parking programs. Not all homeless people are looking to move into permanent housing or additional services; some only want a place they are permitted to park without being moved on.

According to people involved with the program at the Vets Hall, one reason for its high participation rate was due to there not being a case management requirement. Case management is also the major budget expense for safe parking programs, although it is linked to a higher success rate for permanent housing. As such, HSOC recommends three tiers of program:

Tier 1 programs designate safe areas for street parking, or parking lot spaces for overnight stays, but without any facilities or services.

Tier 2 programs designate safe areas for overnight parking with limited screening and services, similar to the program run in Spring 2020 at the Vets Hall.

Tier 3 programs designate safe areas for street or lot parking with screening, facilities, and a range of supportive services including case management, similar to the 40 Prado Safe Parking program or the County of Ventura pilot program.

Identification of appropriate spaces, and the type of publicity, should be considered in conjunction with law enforcement and City administration. Smaller areas for programs can be operated by providers and nonprofits including churches and faith-based organizations with 'quick build' planning approval from City and County administration. Program sites with smaller footprints and discrete visual impacts may not even be noticed by neighbors. With four Safe Parking spots or fewer, there is typically no formal public noticing requirement for the surrounding area.

## **Recommendation #4: Create Alternative Housing Options**

HSOC recommends that San Luis Obispo County create feasible housing options and opportunities throughout the county and cities and identify possible sites for the establishment of Tiny House Villages.

As a first step towards moving homeless people out of encampments and into other types of shelter and supportive housing, HSOC recommends that the County take stock of the options presently available, and the opportunities for expanding pilot programs.

A catalogue of housing options and opportunities would allow agencies and the County to formulate plans for moving people out of encampments and into other, safer types of shelter where services can be provided, and for preventing people from moving into encampments.

Examples of housing options and opportunities include tiny house villages and communities. Tiny house villages are an efficient way to provide immediate housing, not only because they are cost effective and are built relatively quickly, but also because they create communities that allow residents to get on the path to permanent housing in a supportive, village-like environment.

Tiny house villages have been built in less than six months at a cost between \$100,000 to \$500,000 on an area that is 6,000 square feet to several acres, depending on the number of tiny houses, amenities, and common facilities. Villages can support 20 to 70 people on an annual budget of \$30,000 to \$500,000, depending on staffing and services. The individual houses may be wooden structures, cabins on wheels, Conestoga huts, or pallet shelters.

There are villages that provide transitional housing, permanent housing, and some that offer both. Tiny house transitional and permanent villages have been operating successfully across the United States because they provide safety and security to their residents, while addressing the concerns of their neighbors and surrounding communities.

A number of local nonprofits have already worked up proposals for creating tiny house villages and communities. In particular, the HSOC Encampment Committee supports the efforts of Hope's Village of SLO, which has been seeking a viable 3-to-5-acre site for a self-sustaining drug and alcohol-free community village containing 30 tiny houses for 50 unhoused people.

Their model tiny cabins on wheels, which measure 77 square feet, cost \$3,900 to construct. Villagers will share usage of a 2,500 square foot common house with a commercial kitchen, dining area, bathrooms, showers, office space, meeting rooms, and laundry facilities. Villagers will be able to receive training in new skills while

preparing to move on to other types of housing, although some may become permanent residents.<sup>10</sup>

5Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC) has proposed to place 20 or more Pallet Shelters, providing space for up to 30 residents, to house 5CHC clients in case management. Pallet Shelters structures can be assembled, and programs put into operation within 1 month. The total cost, for 20 structures plus supporting equipment, security, case management, supportive services and direct financial assistance, has been estimated at \$800,000 for 12 months of operation.

Another option is to add single units to a single lot, for example ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) added to houses. This could also include RVs in commercial and industrial parking areas, and tiny houses on wheels in residential backyards. Following a new SLO City ordinance which allows tiny houses on wheels in residential backyards, SmartShare Housing Solutions launched a new program named Tiny House Consulting, to help low income SLO residents to host tiny houses on wheels and other ADUs in their backyards.<sup>11</sup>

Other housing options and opportunities to explore would include congregate shelter, dormitory type housing, churches and religious institutions, older motel and hospitality properties, non-profit facilities, warming centers, HomeShare mentor program housing, JADUs (Junior Accessory Dwelling Units), residential hotels, conventional homes (via choice vouchers or the 65Now program), and buildings (e.g., offices and commercial buildings) that are currently vacant due to the pandemic.

<sup>10</sup> For more details see their business plan here:

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/a94aabe1-00b7-4060-95b1-65f37aa20659/downloads/Bus%20Pln%207%2030%2020.pdf?ver=1606666876890>

See also: <https://www.newtimesslo.com/sanluisobispo/it-takes-a-village/Content?oid=10335495>

<sup>11</sup> New program helps bring tiny house dreams to life in SLO city backyards:

<https://www.smartsharehousingsolutions.org/tiny-house-consulting/>

### **Recommendation #5: Increase Shelter Space in South County**

HSOC recommends that San Luis Obispo County work with local nonprofits to increase the shelter space available in South County.

Increasing the available shelter space will help to prevent people from resorting to living in encampments, where it is more difficult for them to access services and to transition to permanent housing or other types of shelter.

HSOC recognizes the political feasibility issues of creating new shelter space at sites close to residential areas. In 2019, the County had approved a grant for the acquisition of the abandoned Hillside Church for 5Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC) and People's Self Help Housing to operate a campus and begin construction of affordable housing, but these plans were withdrawn following strong opposition from the local community.

Sites that are further from residential areas may be more politically feasible but may also be less effective in enabling people to access services, and in redirecting them from encampments – including those now close to residential areas.

HSOC proposes that any solution to the lack of shelter space in South County should be addressed as part of a regionally coordinated approach, in which shelter spaces are sanctioned across the county. This would help to avoid a situation in which certain areas experience overwhelming demand for services.

## Attachments

For additional information, please see the Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4n7liI5d4o98ntq/AAC2XBCAb8RuR\\_50-HkAHWVGa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4n7liI5d4o98ntq/AAC2XBCAb8RuR_50-HkAHWVGa?dl=0)

This folder includes the following documents:

- **2019 Homeless Census Survey Report**, a report prepared for SLO County based on data from the most recent Point in Time (PIT) count of unsheltered homeless people within the county
- **Arroyo Grande Resolution on Homeless Task Force**, a 2017 memorandum from the City of Arroyo Grande recommending the City Council consider participation in the formation of the South County Homeless Task Force and appointment of a Council Member to serve as a representative on the task force
- **Encampment Resolution Pilot Report**, an evaluation of the City of Philadelphia's Kensington Encampment Resolution pilot program
- **Examples of Safe Parking Programs**, from within California but outside SLO County
- **Latest California Homeless Tent – Shed Camp Building Codes**, a 2018 information bulletin from HCD (Department of Housing & Community Development) addressing the permanent adoption of emergency building standards
- **Possible Camp Locations**, for sites within SLO County
- **Startup Costs**, estimating costs for items including security cameras, portable restrooms, showers, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, etc.
- **Tiny Homes & Villages**, including rationale and examples

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)**  
**ACTION ITEM**  
**March 17, 2021**

**AGENDA ITEM 4.3.1: FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL HOMELESS ACTION PLAN**

**ACTIONS REQUIRED:** 1. Vote to support an overview of the draft *Framework for Regional Homeless Action Plan and Multiyear Efforts (Framework)* and its relationship to the HSOC Ad Hoc Encampment Committee's recommendations.

**SUMMARY NARRATIVE:**

The County Board of Supervisors identified Homelessness (including detoxification and rehabilitation services) as one of its FY 2021-22 priorities during its annual priority setting strategic planning meeting on December 8, 2020. Addressing the challenges surrounding homelessness will require focused and collaborative actions by the County, seven Cities, San Luis Obispo Council of Government (SLOCOG), HSOC, nonprofits/organizations, and communities. The intent is to initiate a regional homeless pilot program, which begins with establishing the County Administrative Office as the lead in the effort and seeking to support action through a collaboration framework among County, Cities, SLOCOG, HSOC, nonprofit organizations and other key stakeholders. This item presents an overview of the draft *Framework for Regional Homeless Action Plan and Multiyear Efforts (Framework)* and describes its relationship to the HSOC Ad Hoc Encampment Committee's recommendations.

**Alternatives to Encampments Recommendations:** On January 20, 2021, the Full HSOC initiated a discussion of the Encampment Committee's recommendations; however, the Full HSOC only had several minutes to discuss initial thoughts. No formal action or input was given, but members indicated an interest in seeking input on the recommendations from the County Administrative Officer (CAO) and City Managers.

Subsequently, County staff provided a brief overview of the HSOC Ad Hoc Encampment Committee's recommendations to the CAO and City Managers. County staff highlighted the recommendations on various forms of "alternative housing options" to unsanctioned encampments and existing conditions, including: (1) services to existing encampments, such as Blue Bag programs; (2) sanctioned encampments; (3) safe parking programs; (4) create alternative housing options; and (5) increase shelter space in South County. The Encampment Committee generally recommended that the County, in coordination with the

Cities, expedite implementation of: identification of appropriate sites for various alternative housing options; identify and allocate funding; support community education on the need for these alternatives; direct departments to assist community organizations as fully as possible to implement alternatives; and coordinate with HSOC and across local government efforts to address unsheltered homelessness.

***Multiyear Action Framework & Links to Alternatives to Encampments Recommendations:***

The County Administrative Office, in coordination with the City Managers and various County Departments, developed the attached draft Framework (**Attachment 4.3.1 (2)**) as a proposal for moving forward several pilot programs and strategic planning efforts related to the Encampment Committee's recommendations. Staff presented a summary of the approach to the HSOC Executive Committee on February 17, 2021, and sought input from the Encampment Committee on March 4, 2021. Today, staff seeks Full HSOC support of the Framework before taking it forward to Boards and Councils for multiagency support for resources needed to pursue the efforts outlined in the Framework.

This framework is intended to create new pathways to action that will leverage the substantial existing homeless services and resources dedicated by regional partners. This framework will be refined and adapted by a newly formed Countywide Homeless Action Team and, following the pilot phase, will be replaced by a collaboratively agreed upon strategic action plan to be implemented by the County with support from its partners. The Framework envisions creating a Countywide Homeless Action Team that will build regional collaborative relationships focused on actions to prevent and address homelessness (in support of and coordination with HSOC). The Team will champion immediate implementation of proven, feasible strategies. The Team will concurrently participate in the update of the *10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*, in order to identify a multi-year action plan to prevent homelessness and to increase shelter, housing capacity, and build supportive services capacity for individuals that are currently unhoused.

Below are several highlights of near-term goals outlined in the draft Framework, as well as how each goal relates to the Encampment Committee's recommendations:

- **Fiscal Year (FY) 20-21:** propose to develop preliminary cost estimates for the pilot programs and seek commitment and allocation of funding and staff resources by potential partner agencies throughout the region in order to accomplish initial pilot programs and other efforts identified in FY 2021-22. [\*\[relates to Encampment Committee's recommendation to identify and allocate funding\]\*](#)

- **FY 20-21:** propose to create a Countywide Homeless Action Team to implement pilot programs and support strategic planning (e.g. representatives of County Departments, Cities, etc. focused on operations/implementation). This action team will coordinate with HSOC and other organizations at key milestones. *[relates to Encampment Committee's recommendations for County to coordinate with Cities to implement alternative housing options; ability to direct departments to assist community organizations as fully as possible to implement alternatives; will include steps to coordinate with HSOC and across local government efforts.]*
- **FY 20-21:** Collaboratively develop a communication/community engagement strategy for initial buy-in of partner agencies and community members (e.g. describing the issue, why it's important, and letting the communities know this is under development and takes multiagency approach). *[relates to Encampment Committee's recommendation to support community education on the need for these alternatives and to coordinate with HSOC and across local government efforts]*
- **FY 21-22:** propose to identify appropriate priority sites to establish *pilot* programs for two of HSOC's recommended options: Blue Bag program at existing encampments; and safe parking programs. *[relates to Encampment Committee's recommendation to identify appropriate sites for various alternative housing options; this Framework focuses first on the Encampment Committee's recommendations for #1 services to existing camps and #3 safe parking pilot programs to address some immediate needs, while considering other comprehensive strategies.]*
- **FY 21-22:** propose to work with County Department of Social Services to initiate a HUD-required update to the 10-Year Plan, for increasing shelter and housing capacity as well as capacity of homeless supportive services, and ensure that the planning effort is focused on setting actionable and feasible paths forward. To maximize efficacy of the plan update, work with City Managers and CAO to develop a list of priority needs from the plan. *[relates to Encampment Committee's alternative housing options as a part of the planning effort; in addition would consider others strategies and actions, as the team researches successful actions/programs throughout the USA and lays out recommendations most appropriate and feasible to our region.]*
- **FY 21-22:** propose to develop a clear and coordinated Engagement and Communication Strategy, in coordination with the HSOC and 10 Year Plan update effort, which would consider needs for community education, etc. *[relates to Encampment Committee's recommendations to support community education on the need for alternative housing options]*
- **Future FY's:** actions will be driven by regionally-supported and update to the 10-Year Plan, once completed. *[further effort to move towards implementation of Encampment Committee's recommendations and/or other effective strategies will be identified during the FY 2021-22 processes.]*

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

County staff is working on preliminary cost estimates for the pilot programs, making assumptions using a maximum number of sites, with acknowledgment that actual pilot programs costs will depend on further discussions with partners regarding number and location of sites, duration of pilot efforts, and other factors. The draft Framework includes an item to seek commitment and allocation of funding and staff resources by potential partner agencies throughout the region in order to accomplish initial Pilot Programs and other efforts identified in FY 2021-22.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

Staff seeks HSOC's support for the draft Framework and efforts targeted for FY 2021-22.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 4.3.1 (2) - Draft Framework dated February 5, 2021

## FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL HOMELESS ACTION PLAN & MULTIYEAR EFFORTS

**REVISED DRAFT 2/5/2021 – FOR HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE’S REVIEW**

### Vision Statement

Our Region supports policies and actions that increase shelter options, reduce homelessness, provide services to those experiencing or at critical risk for becoming homeless, and expand services with a focus on those strongly connected to SLO County in order to create secure, stable and sanitary conditions, to guide homeless individuals towards key resources, and to promote health and safety of those individuals and the surrounding community/ecosystems.

### Mission Statement

The Countywide Homeless Action Team will build regional collaborative relationships that are focused on actions to prevent and address homelessness. The Team will champion immediate implementation of proven, feasible strategies. The Team will concurrently participate in the update of the *10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*, in order to identify a multi-year action plan to prevent homelessness and to increase shelter, housing capacity, and build supportive services capacity for individuals that are currently unhoused.

### Framework for Strategic Regional Action

Addressing the challenges surrounding homelessness will require focused and collaborative actions by the County, seven Cities, nonprofits and communities. The intent is to initiate a Regional Homeless Pilot Program, which begins with establishing the County Administrative Office as the lead in the effort and seeking to support action through a collaboration framework among County, Cities, SLOCOG, nonprofit organizations and other key stakeholders. This framework is intended to create new pathways to action that will leverage the substantial existing homeless services and resources dedicated by regional partners. This framework will be refined and adapted by a newly formed Countywide Homeless Action Team and, following the pilot phase, will be replaced by a collaboratively agreed upon Regional Homeless Strategic Action Plan to be implemented by the County with support from its partners.

#### **A Region United in Addressing Homelessness: INITIAL DRAFT Snapshot of Support Services**

*(not comprehensive and intended to be updated in FY 2021-22)*

##### **Core programs funding Region’s activities:**

County Funding Oversight & Administration  
Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)  
Continuum of Care Programs (CoC)  
Community Dvpm. Block Grants (CDBG)  
Home Investment Partnership (HOME)  
Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA)

##### **County Social Services :**

CalWORKS  
General Assistance  
Cal Fresh (food stamps)  
WIOA Programs (e.g. One Stop centers)  
Medi-Cal (including Affordable Care Act)

##### **County Health Agency:**

Behavioral Health—Mental Health/MHSA  
Behavioral Health—Drug and Alcohol  
Public Health—Medically Indigent Services  
Emergency Medical Services  
Public Health—Family Health Services  
Public Health—Health Promotion

##### **Snapshot of Collective Nonprofits, Cities & County Developed Facilities & Services:**

*(not comprehensive)*

##### **Access to shelter:**

Shelter & Warming Centers operations  
Permanent supportive housing programs  
Transitional housing programs  
Rapid rehousing programs  
Affordable housing programs  
Housing case management services  
Various safe parking programs  
Outreach & case management services  
Supportive services for veterans & families  
Crisis hotlines & services  
Access to legal assistance  
Rehabilitation & detox facilities

##### **Some Current Special Projects/Programs:**

65 Now Program  
Sheriff Community Action Team (CAT)  
Homeless Outreach and Crisis Services Co.  
CAT & Paso Robles/Atascadero City Police  
Homeless Outreach and Crisis Services for SLO City CAT  
Housing Support Program  
Bringing Families Home Program  
Housing and Disability Advocacy Program  
Benefits Advocacy and Resource Connections for Homeless  
Mental Health Services Act Full Service Partnership and Projects to Assist in the Transition from Homelessness  
Behavioral Health Clinician support-40 Prado

## **Draft Outcomes for Success**

It is critical to define a regional set of Outcomes for Success, so our regional efforts lead towards highest positive impacts and so we know if this effort achieves its purpose. The Countywide Homeless Action Team will develop a list of specific and measurable outcomes that the regional partners can collaborate towards. **Below is an initial list of initial draft outcomes, which will be updated and/or wholly revised:**

- Develop and implement a regional interagency coalition among County, Cities, SLOCOG, service providers, and stakeholders that support regional collaborative action to address homelessness.
- Create secure, stable and sanitary conditions to guide homeless individuals towards key resources
- Reduce number of persons living in encampments or in unsheltered environments by XX% from 2019 PIT Count
- Adopt a common regional set of goals towards addressing shelter and housing options, including: Increase shelter beds by XXX in order to serve XX% of the homeless population; and [add numbers of permanent supportive units, very low income units, targeted intervention programs or facilities]
- Expand services available to individuals that are unhoused, with a focus on those strongly connected to SLO County [add metric?]
- Reduce numbers of unnatural injuries or deaths related to being chronically unsheltered by XX% from [what reference data/year]
- Reduce the number and frequency of calls to Emergency Services by XX% from [what reference data/year]
- Interagency agreement, such as a level of services agreement, on how partners will come together

## **Goals**

The following are the goals of the proposed framework:

### **Goals for Remainder of FY 2020-21**

1. County Administrative Office takes leadership role related to strategic planning and administrative oversight of the development and implementation of regional homelessness services, in order to ensure that programs, activities and resources across all departments and with external partners are aligned with the County's goals to address key challenges surrounding homelessness.
2. Establish a **Countywide Homeless Action Team**, which includes committed leadership and/or staff dedicated to achieving the Team's mission and vision. It is envisioned that this Team, would include two separate sub-working groups: a policy/leadership working group and an operations working group. During initial meetings, clearly delineate individual agencies' roles and authorities and identify resources and services currently available (working in coordination with the Whole Care Program Manager). Consider and refine the following framework as needed to set the best trajectory forward for regionally coordinated action to accomplish the Team's mission and vision.
3. Establish a Regional Homeless Pilot Program mission and framework and seek endorsement from key partners, including HSOC, SLOCOG and the seven Cities. *[this draft document]*
4. Commit and allocate **funding and staff resources** to accomplish initial Pilot Programs and other efforts identified below in FY 2021-22. Partners may also consider approving additional contributions to other key homeless supportive services or facilities happening throughout the region, to the extent feasible (e.g. Medically Assisted Withdrawal Treatment Center Capital Project).
5. Collaboratively identify and map unsanctioned encampments to the extent feasible and develop assessment criteria for determining priority sites for pilot program actions in FY

2021-22. As a part of this, consider streamlined ways of information sharing between agencies and service providers, where feasible.

6. Collaboratively develop a communication/community engagement strategy for initial buy-in of partner agencies and community members (e.g. describing the issue, why it's important, and letting the communities know this is under development and takes multiagency approach).

### **FY 2020-21 Deliverables**

Countywide Homeless Action Team roster

Matrix of multiagencies' homeless services roles and programs, as well as gaps

Multiagency endorsement of this *Framework*

Adopted FY 2021-22 Budget with necessary, multiagency funding allocations

Initial encampment mapping tool

*The following goals assume that annual budget approval includes necessary allocations for efforts outlined below.*

### **Goals for FY 2021-22**

1. Collaboratively develop and implement a clear and coordinated Engagement and Communication Strategy pertaining to a regional approach to preventing and addressing homelessness.
2. Identify priority **existing encampments** to establish **pilot Blue Bag programs** (including trash collection services, basic hygiene services, sharps collection services and outreach services). This includes determining the appropriate roles of partner agencies and establishing sufficient funding to conduct pilot efforts.
3. Identify priority locations and create **pilot safe parking programs** in effective and feasible locations with security and limited services, such as basic hygiene services and to the extent feasible, conduct outreach to connect users to resources and services (e.g. shelter or housing opportunities). This includes determining the appropriate roles of partner agencies and establishing sufficient funding to conduct pilot efforts.
4. To the extent efforts proceed and are funded, support partner agencies in creating new **sources of housing, shelter or sanctioned encampment(s)** with access to services and resources in order to improve health, safety and quality of life for unsheltered individuals and restore healthy and safe neighborhoods/ ecosystems onsite and in surrounding area (e.g. Five Cities Homeless Coalition) to the extent projects are feasible and supported.
5. Initiate the **HUD-required update to the 10 Year Plan** in order to maintain Federal funding and ensure that planning effort is focused on setting actionable and feasible paths forward. To maximize efficacy of the plan update, work with City Managers and CAO to develop a list of priority needs from the plan. This may include laying out a set of multi-year regional strategic actions for increasing shelter and housing capacity, as well as capacity of homeless supportive services to support unhoused individuals and families in seeking secure, stable and sanitary shelter, with a long term goal of finding permanent and as needed supportive affordable housing. The plan should consider various populations' needs and determine most appropriate strategies for supporting the population. When exploring the possible alternative shelter and housing options and potential locations for implementation, the Countywide Homeless Action Team should consider public policy implications, cost/benefits

and feasibility of the various options before outlining recommended implementation strategies, as well as other potential related issues such as fire mitigation and/or water quality implications at implementation locations. The plan should consider how to leverage and expedite the affordable housing identified in the eight local agencies' Housing Elements, particularly very low income and permanent, supportive housing, in areas that are most appropriate and feasible in the near-term. The plan should also consider and align priorities for policies, actions and funding to the extent feasible with the recently updated 5-year Consolidated Plan, as it also guides Federal funding priorities.

6. Develop key metrics for assessing funding and program level effectiveness in addressing and preventing homelessness. As a part of this, consider streamlined ways of data sharing between agencies and service providers where feasible.
7. Develop a collaborative **legislative and funding** strategy in order to advocate for, pursue and leverage State and Federal policies and funding towards homelessness prevention and addressing the highest priority, regional homeless services and resources.
8. Commit and allocate **funding and staff resources** to accomplish initial Pilot Program efforts in FY 2022-23.

#### **FY 2021-22 Deliverables**

Engagement and Communication Strategy

Completion of Blue Bag Program implementation at priority encampment(s)

Completion of Safe Parking Program implementation at priority site(s)

Initiate update to the 10 Year Plan (as required by HUD)

Regional strategies for State and Federal advocacy (for legislation and funding)

Adopted FY 2022-23 Budget with necessary, multiagency funding allocations

#### **Goals for FY 2022-23**

1. Consider lessons learned in FY 2021-22 and associated refinements needed, and continue development of **update to the 10 Year Plan** or initiate the plan's implementation, if it is complete. This may include implementation of homeless prevention and strategies to address current homelessness such as cleaning up and moving individuals in priority unsanctioned encampments to alternative shelter or site options with access to services and resources in order to improve health, safety and quality of life for unsheltered individuals and restore healthy and safe neighborhoods/ecosystems onsite and in surrounding area.
2. Develop a plan **to increase shelter space** in priority locations throughout the region, especially in South County as no permanent shelter exists.
3. Commit and allocate **funding and staff resources** to accomplish initial Pilot Program efforts in FY 2023-24.

#### **FY 2022-23 Deliverables**

*TBD (determined during update to the 10 Year Plan development)*

#### **Goals for FY 2023-24**

1. Consider lessons learned in FY 2022-23 and associated refinements needed, and continue to implement of the **update to the 10 Year Plan**.
2. Implement plan for **increasing shelter space** and permanent supportive / affordable housing options to the greatest extent feasible.

**FY 2023-24 Deliverables***TBD (determined during update to the 10 Year Plan development)***Milestone Schedule for FY 2020-21**

<b>Tentative Date</b>	<b>Task</b>
January – February 2021	Develop Framework with City/County Managers
February 17, 2021	Present to HSOC Executive Committee: Framework (and relationship to Encampment Committee recommendations)
February 2021	Establish Countywide Homeless Action Team(s) and begin initial work products (e.g. roles and existing resources inventory)
February 2021	With Action Team: Develop draft Pilot Programs' cost estimates
March 17, 2021	Present to HSOC: Framework (and relationship to Encampment Committee recommendations)
March 2021	With Action Team: Identify sites and prioritization process for both pilot programs
March 2021	With Action Team: Identify work plan for pilot programs
March 2021	Develop communication/community engagement strategy for initial buy-in of partner agencies and community members
March 2021	Develop Boards/Councils/HSOC Package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff report</li> <li>Presentation</li> </ul> <p>Attachments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HSOC recommendations</li> <li>Framework</li> <li>Inventory of existing efforts</li> <li>Matrix: partners roles/authorities</li> </ul>
March 17, 2021	HSOC approve proposed item
April- June 2021	Execute contract for 10 Year Plan Update and initiate work effort with consultant
Early April 2021	Present to County Board: Present HSOC recommendations and Framework for implementing specific actions, and Seek approval of midyear Budget Augmentation Request
Late April – May 2021	Present to COG Board, IWMA Board, & City Councils: Present HSOC recommendations and Framework for implementing specific actions, and Seek approval of midyear Budget Augmentation Request
June 2021	Adopt FY 2021-22 Budgets

*[future FY schedules to be created with Action Team]*

## FY2020 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

### Summary Report for CA-614 - San Luis Obispo County CoC

#### Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless

This measures the number of clients active in the report date range across ES, SH (Metric 1.1) and then ES, SH and TH (Metric 1.2) along with their average and median length of time homeless. This includes time homeless during the report date range as well as prior to the report start date, going back no further than October, 1, 2012.

**Metric 1.1:** Change in the average and median length of time persons are homeless in ES and SH projects.

**Metric 1.2:** Change in the average and median length of time persons are homeless in ES, SH, and TH projects.

a. This measure is of the client's entry, exit, and bed night dates strictly as entered in the HMIS system.

	Universe (Persons)		Average LOT Homeless (bed nights)			Median LOT Homeless (bed nights)		
	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
1.1 Persons in ES and SH	718	677	62	67	5	22	21	-1
1.2 Persons in ES, SH, and TH	718	677	62	67	5	22	21	-1

b. This measure is based on data element 3.17.

This measure includes data from each client's Living Situation (Data Standards element 3.917) response as well as time spent in permanent housing projects between Project Start and Housing Move-In. This information is added to the client's entry date, effectively extending the client's entry date backward in time. This "adjusted entry date" is then used in the calculations just as if it were the client's actual entry date.

The construction of this measure changed, per HUD's specifications, between FY 2016 and FY 2017. HUD is aware that this may impact the change between these two years.

## FY2020 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

	Universe (Persons)		Average LOT Homeless (bed nights)			Median LOT Homeless (bed nights)		
	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
1.1 Persons in ES, SH, and PH (prior to "housing move in")	1015	1106	708	835	127	274	243	-31
1.2 Persons in ES, SH, TH, and PH (prior to "housing move in")	1015	1106	708	835	127	274	243	-31

## FY2020 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

### Measure 2: The Extent to which Persons who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness

This measures clients who exited SO, ES, TH, SH or PH to a permanent housing destination in the date range two years prior to the report date range. Of those clients, the measure reports on how many of them returned to homelessness as indicated in the HMIS for up to two years after their initial exit.

After entering data, please review and confirm your entries and totals. Some HMIS reports may not list the project types in exactly the same order as they are displayed below.

	Total # of Persons who Exited to a Permanent Housing Destination (2 Years Prior)	Returns to Homelessness in Less than 6 Months		Returns to Homelessness from 6 to 12 Months		Returns to Homelessness from 13 to 24 Months		Number of Returns in 2 Years	
		FY 2020	% of Returns	FY 2020	% of Returns	FY 2020	% of Returns	FY 2020	% of Returns
Exit was from SO	10	0	0%	3	30%	1	10%	4	40%
Exit was from ES	73	12	16%	4	5%	6	8%	22	30%
Exit was from TH	0	0		0		0		0	
Exit was from SH	0	0		0		0		0	
Exit was from PH	250	9	4%	8	3%	11	4%	28	11%
TOTAL Returns to Homelessness	333	21	6%	15	5%	18	5%	54	16%

### Measure 3: Number of Homeless Persons

#### Metric 3.1 – Change in PIT Counts

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## FY2020 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

This measures the change in PIT counts of sheltered and unsheltered homeless person as reported on the PIT (not from HMIS).

	January 2019 PIT Count	January 2020 PIT Count	Difference
Universe: Total PIT Count of sheltered and unsheltered persons	1483	1423	-60
Emergency Shelter Total	290	228	-62
Safe Haven Total	0	0	0
Transitional Housing Total	21	23	2
Total Sheltered Count	311	251	-60
Unsheltered Count	1172	1172	0

### Metric 3.2 – Change in Annual Counts

This measures the change in annual counts of sheltered homeless persons in HMIS.

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Unduplicated Total sheltered homeless persons	1075	750	-325
Emergency Shelter Total	1075	750	-325
Safe Haven Total	0	0	0
Transitional Housing Total	0	0	0

## FY2020 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

### Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in CoC Program-funded Projects

Metric 4.1 – Change in earned income for adult system stayers during the reporting period

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	41	52	11
Number of adults with increased earned income	5	7	2
Percentage of adults who increased earned income	12%	13%	1%

Metric 4.2 – Change in non-employment cash income for adult system stayers during the reporting period

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	41	52	11
Number of adults with increased non-employment cash income	27	28	1
Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income	66%	54%	-12%

Metric 4.3 – Change in total income for adult system stayers during the reporting period

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	41	52	11
Number of adults with increased total income	32	34	2
Percentage of adults who increased total income	78%	65%	-13%

## FY2020 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

### Metric 4.4 – Change in earned income for adult system leavers

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	17	14	-3
Number of adults who exited with increased earned income	0	2	2
Percentage of adults who increased earned income	0%	14%	14%

### Metric 4.5 – Change in non-employment cash income for adult system leavers

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	17	14	-3
Number of adults who exited with increased non-employment cash income	3	7	4
Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income	18%	50%	32%

### Metric 4.6 – Change in total income for adult system leavers

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	17	14	-3
Number of adults who exited with increased total income	3	9	6
Percentage of adults who increased total income	18%	64%	46%

## FY2020 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

### Measure 5: Number of persons who become homeless for the 1st time

Metric 5.1 – Change in the number of persons entering ES, SH, and TH projects with no prior enrollments in HMIS

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Person with entries into ES, SH or TH during the reporting period.	1027	619	-408
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, TH or any PH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	203	174	-29
Of persons above, count those who did not have entries in ES, SH, TH or PH in the previous 24 months. (i.e. Number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time)	824	445	-379

Metric 5.2 – Change in the number of persons entering ES, SH, TH, and PH projects with no prior enrollments in HMIS

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Person with entries into ES, SH, TH or PH during the reporting period.	1215	1089	-126
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, TH or any PH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	247	229	-18
Of persons above, count those who did not have entries in ES, SH, TH or PH in the previous 24 months. (i.e. Number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time.)	968	860	-108

## FY2020 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

### Measure 6: Homeless Prevention and Housing Placement of Persons defined by category 3 of HUD's Homeless Definition in CoC Program-funded Projects

This Measure is not applicable to CoCs in FY2020 (Oct 1, 2019 - Sept 30, 2020) reporting period.

### Measure 7: Successful Placement from Street Outreach and Successful Placement in or Retention of Permanent Housing

Metric 7a.1 – Change in exits to permanent housing destinations

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Persons who exit Street Outreach	2	20	18
Of persons above, those who exited to temporary & some institutional destinations	1	3	2
Of the persons above, those who exited to permanent housing destinations	0	3	3
% Successful exits	50%	30%	-20%

Metric 7b.1 – Change in exits to permanent housing destinations

## FY2020 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Persons in ES, SH, TH and PH-RRH who exited, plus persons in other PH projects who exited without moving into housing	1051	887	-164
Of the persons above, those who exited to permanent housing destinations	360	329	-31
% Successful exits	34%	37%	3%

### Metric 7b.2 – Change in exit to or retention of permanent housing

	Submitted FY 2019	FY 2020	Difference
Universe: Persons in all PH projects except PH-RRH	125	131	6
Of persons above, those who remained in applicable PH projects and those who exited to permanent housing destinations	113	121	8
% Successful exits/retention	90%	92%	2%

## **FY2020 - SysPM Data Quality**

### **CA-614 - San Luis Obispo County CoC**

This is a new tab for FY 2016 submissions only. Submission must be performed manually (data cannot be uploaded). Data coverage and quality will allow HUD to better interpret your Sys PM submissions.

Your bed coverage data has been imported from the HIC module. The remainder of the data quality points should be pulled from data quality reports made available by your vendor according to the specifications provided in the HMIS Standard Reporting Terminology Glossary. You may need to run multiple reports into order to get data for each combination of year and project type.

You may enter a note about any field if you wish to provide an explanation about your data quality results. This is not required.

## FY2020 - SysPM Data Quality

	All ES, SH				All TH				All PSH, OPH				All RRH				All Street Outreach			
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
1. Number of non-DV Beds on HIC	136	109	160	221	24	4	4	4	257	297	350	361	74	74	33	404				
2. Number of HMIS Beds	100	100	50	180	20	0	0	0	86	126	121	129	74	74	33	404				
3. HMIS Participation Rate from HIC ( % )	73.53	91.74	31.25	81.45	83.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.46	42.42	34.57	35.73	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00				
4. Unduplicated Persons Served (HMIS)	873	810	1075	750	0	0	0	0	116	127	140	148	1394	1391	695	1036	232	225	122	286
5. Total Leavers (HMIS)	723	631	794	645	0	0	0	0	27	29	32	34	489	358	484	417	24	212	8	21
6. Destination of Don't Know, Refused, or Missing (HMIS)	635	527	659	518	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	175	72	45	24	7	5	0	3
7. Destination Error Rate (%)	87.83	83.52	83.00	80.31					3.70	0.00	3.13	2.94	35.79	20.11	9.30	5.76	29.17	2.36	0.00	14.29