

HOMELESS SERVICES DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

Calendar year 2025

Dated 3/10/2026

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Introduction

The San Luis Obispo County Five Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness (Five Year Plan) was developed during September 2021- July 2022, led by a cross-community steering committee.

The Five-Year Plan was approved by the Homeless Services Oversight Committee on July 18, 2022, and adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on August 9, 2022.

The purpose of this report is to provide information and updates on progress made in the calendar year 2025 toward achieving the Five-Year Plan's goals.

To address the needs of community members experiencing homelessness, partnership is needed across sectors that involves the collective effort and commitment of public, private and non-profit organizations so that we can develop a seamless, adequately resourced system that is easy to navigate and does not pose unnecessary barriers to those we are trying to serve.

Per the Plan's design, achieving the goals will take the coordinated efforts of the County, the cities, and stakeholder groups. In this spirit of cooperation, the County and its partners have engaged in system wide changes during the implementation of the Five-Year Plan in order to address identified system gaps and achieve the collective vision.

The Homeless Services Division acknowledges this report is not all inclusive and there is significant and impactful work being done by many community partners including Cities and non-profit providers who are not represented in this report.

Progress toward resolving homelessness would not be possible without the commitment and participation of all system partners.

At the time the Five-Year Plan was created, the following baseline data was utilized:

- 1,483 people were observed as experiencing homelessness throughout SLO County in the 2019 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count.
- 1,448 people were observed as experiencing homelessness throughout SLO County in the 2022 PIT Count; of those, 1,158 (80%) were observed as unsheltered, **making San Luis Obispo's rate of unsheltered homelessness the 3rd highest in the country among largely suburban counties.**

The Five-Year Plan included the following specific targets:

1. Reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness to 50% of the 2022 levels within five years.
2. Reduce the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to 50% of the 2022 levels within five years.
3. Build at least 300 interim housing units, 500 permanent supportive housing units and 1,667 low-income housing units.

Five Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness

The Five-Year Plan laid out six lines of effort as a roadmap to guide data-based decision making and focus efforts that would result in achieving specific targets and ultimately reducing homelessness.

1. Create affordable and appropriately designed housing opportunities and shelter options for underserved populations.
2. Focus efforts to reduce or eliminate the barriers to housing stability for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, including prevention, diversion, supportive services and housing navigation efforts.
3. Improve and expand data management efforts through HMIS and Coordinated Entry system to strengthen data driven operational guidance and strategic oversight.
4. Create, identify and streamline funding and resources.
5. Strengthen regional collaboration.
6. Build public engagement through information sharing and partnership.

The Five-Year Plan acknowledges that:

- In order to achieve the community goal of reducing homelessness, a collective effort must be made to not only build additional housing, but to also increase the services needed to support people experiencing homelessness or are at risk of it; and
- In order to reduce homelessness, services must address barriers such as trauma, mental health, substance use and addiction, and physical health challenges; and
- The plan needs to be flexible and adaptable to changing needs so that service delivery is data driven and informed by current needs and best practices.

Finally, the Five-Year Plan identified the following target timeline for activities:



Since the Five-Year Plan was adopted in August 2022, much progress has been made which is outlined in this report.

Homeless Services System of Care Overview

A region's homeless services system of care consists of community partners that provide or support housing, shelter, services and resources for people who are experiencing homelessness or who have recently experienced homelessness in the community. A Continuum of Care is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

In San Luis Obispo County, the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) is the oversight body of the County's Continuum of Care (CoC) that is responsible for:

- Recommending funding allocations to homeless services providers;
- Convening public and private service providers to examine local homeless data to identify gaps and service needs;
- Facilitating planning and policy development conversations in a collaborative forum; and
- Advancing the needs identified at all levels through advocacy, training and collaborative decision making.

The CoC (and HSOC) membership includes a broad range of stakeholders including elected city officials, County Board of Supervisors, Social Services, Behavioral Health, nonprofit service providers, affordable housing developers, Office of Education, local businesses, hospitals, law enforcement, healthcare providers, faith-based members, victim services representatives, veteran service representatives, and interested community members. HSOC meetings are open to the public and subject to Brown Act. For more information about HSOC or to view meeting information please visit:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Social-Services/Homeless-Services-Division/Homeless-Services-Oversight-Council.aspx>.

The County's Board of Supervisors serves as part of the homeless services continuum including approving funding recommendations and providing direction on priorities.

In addition to the HSOC meetings described above, HSOC has delegated subcommittees to work on specific tasks. Subcommittees may be standing committees or may be special committees with limited duration. As of March 2026, the HSOC subcommittees that are operating are:

Coordinated Entry Committee

The Coordinated Entry Committee oversees the development of the policies, guidance, and procedures of the four components of the Coordinated Entry System (CES): access, assessment, prioritization, and referral. The Committee also ensures that the guidance and procedures developed by CES workgroups are in alignment with the principles of the CES policies.

Data and Performance Committee

The Data and Performance Committee functions as the governing body for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The Committee provides oversight of HMIS and ensures compliance with the CoC Program Interim Rule and any HMIS requirements prescribed by HUD. This includes review of HMIS Policies and Procedures, review and approval of annual HUD reports, and utilizing HMIS reporting tools to evaluate effectiveness of homelessness interventions and projects.

Services Coordinating Committee

The Services Coordinating Committee identifies and discusses service needs in the community. The Committee provides opportunities for provider agencies to collaborate and share information on specific issues, including coordination of services.

Homeless Services Division

In 2023 the County formed the Homeless Services Division within the Department of Social Services following the approval of the County's Five-Year Plan in August of 2022. The County's Homeless Services Division serves as a critical piece of the region's system of care. It was formed to consolidate the County's homeless and affordable housing development related staff, create more stability and predictability in funding and program structure, reduce duplication, allow for more meaningful mid-term and long-term planning and provide centralized coordination to help streamline homeless services.

The Homeless Services Division is composed of three units:

Grants and Land Use:

The Grants and Land Use unit focuses on administration of multiple Federal and State grant programs intended to encourage development of affordable housing and homeless services. They also oversee required monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting and development of action plans required by the departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Housing and Community Development (HCD).

Continuum of Care (CoC):

The CoC unit focuses on operational support of HSOC and supporting the work efforts and recommendations made by HSOC and its subcommittees. The CoC unit is also responsible for ensuring compliance with HUD CoC requirements including monitoring of System Performance Measures (SPMs).

Data and Community Relations:

The Data and Community Relations unit focuses on administration of the countywide HMIS and has oversight of HMIS data. The Data and Community Relations unit is responsible for HMIS user support, monitoring and reporting HMIS data, the required Point in Time Count and working closely with community service providers.

The Homeless Service's Division responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Pursuing and Administering State, Federal and Local funds to support efforts to address homelessness in San Luis Obispo County;
- Administration of the County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS);
- Completion of required State and Federal reporting;
- Development and oversight of required State and Federal planning documents;
- Support of the Homeless Services Oversight Council and its various subcommittees to achieve efforts to improve the local homeless services continuum of care;
- Completion of annual Point in Time (PIT) Count;
- Coordination and collaboration with other entities serving populations impacted by homelessness to coordinate and streamline services;
- Administering efforts to manage encampments located on properties that are the County's area of responsibility; and
- Analyzing data, examining trends, making recommendations, and coordinating with partners to identify strategies and funding available to make progress toward goals outlined in the County's Five-Year Plan to Reduce homelessness.

Line of Effort

One

Create affordable and appropriately designed housing opportunities and shelter options for underserved populations.

Line of Effort One focuses on the need to increase both the number of interim and permanent housing opportunities for prioritized beneficiary groups experiencing homelessness and to create opportunities for unsheltered individuals who may have specific housing barriers.

The Five-Year Plan included the specific goal of adding 300 Interim Housing units, 500 Permanent Supportive Housing units and 1,667 Low-income (and below) Housing units over five years.



In 2025, the following progress was made:

Affordable Housing:

316 Affordable Housing units were completed in 2025.

- Tiburon Place 43
- Sunrise Villas 68
- River Walk Terrace 78
- California Manor* 75
- Cleaver & Clark* 52

* County provided funding for projects above except for California Manor and Cleaver & Clark

Interim Units:

16 interim beds were added in 2025 with the addition of ten warming center beds in Paso Robles and six Behavioral Health Bridge Housing beds.

Permanent Supportive Housing:

63 Supportive Housing beds were added in 2025 with new units completed at Tiburon Place and Maxine Lewis in San Luis Obispo.

The affordable housing units noted above are ones that the County's Homeless Services Division was involved with or was made aware of by local builders. There may be other affordable housing developments built which are reported directly to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Prior year data is not available from HCD until approximately July of the following year. This accounts for any discrepancies between numbers reported in this report and numbers reported on the HCD website.

The pipeline of planned affordable housing units continues to grow as there are a little over 1,000 permitted affordable housing units planned to come online between 2026 and 2029 provided, they successfully obtain full funding. This number can be significantly impacted by the availability of funding and other systemic factors.

In addition to these efforts, the County focused efforts to move forward the Welcome Home Village Project which will bring 40 units of Permanent Supportive Housing and 14 units of Interim Shelter once completed. The Welcome Home Village Project is anticipated to open Spring 2026.

The County's Department of Planning and Building also focuses on the development of affordable housing opportunities as part of its Housing Element. Information about the current Housing Element plan can be found online at [Active Planning Projects - County of San Luis Obispo \(ca.gov\)](https://www.sanluisobispo.gov/active-planning-projects).

Line of Effort Two

Focus efforts to reduce or eliminate the barriers to housing stability for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, including prevention, diversion, supportive services and housing navigation efforts.

Line of Effort Two focuses on strengthening supportive services across subpopulations to assist people who are experiencing homelessness in obtaining and maintaining housing.

In 2025, the following progress was made:

- Multi-year prevention services contracts were awarded, ensuring that prevention services are available countywide.
- Improved collaboration to serve those experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the coastal areas.
- Relunched the TBRA program resulting in 42 households, representing 71 individuals, housed through Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) specific funding. This program opens referrals through the Housing Consortium and required specific configuration in HMIS to allow expanded referral processes from providers who are not typically part of the homeless services continuum of care. This program last served clients in 2018.
- Launched the Library social worker collaboration between the County of San Luis Obispo Libraries and Social Services Departments. This collaboration embedded a County social worker full time at the San Luis Obispo library branch for the purpose of connecting patrons experiencing homelessness to services. Launched in the second half of calendar year 2025, this project served 88 patrons, with 92% being connected to additional resources in the community.
- Launched the Blue Bag Program in the second half of calendar year 2025. The Blue Bag Program provides resources to providers to conduct additional outreach and offer trash pick up to encamped individuals, empowering individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness to maintain a level of cleanliness in their area and reducing environmental impact.
- County encampment management process established in collaboration with multiple County departments. In the first three months of operation, this process addressed nine encampment locations, resulting in more than 16,000 pounds of debris removed.
- Outreach to Bob Jones trail under Encampment Resolution Funding program began which will ease transition into the Welcome Home Village project.
- The County of San Luis Obispo's Health Agency also pursued numerous system improvements to improve access to services. Additional details on these service expansions are available on page 12 of this report.



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

In 2025, the City of San Luis Obispo, County of San Luis Obispo, and CAPSLO partnered to launch the Community Safe Parking Pilot Program, expanding CAPSLO's overnight safe parking capacity from 12 to 24 spaces. This expansion doubled safe parking availability countywide and remains the only safe parking program in San Luis Obispo County.

Since launching, Community Safe Parking has served 21 households, and all CAPSLO Safe Parking programs combined have served 45 households since the fall of 2025. The program provides a consistent and safe overnight parking location while keeping participants connected to case management and housing navigation. The program has achieved a 60-percent housing exit rate to date. Safe Parking sites have been hosted across three faith-based community locations and three City-owned sites, with ongoing discussions to expand participation among additional faith and community partners within the City of San Luis Obispo.

Line of Effort Three

Improve and expand data management efforts through HMIS and Coordinated Entry system to strengthen data driven operational guidance and strategic oversight.

Line of Effort Three focuses on improving and expanding data management efforts through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and the Coordinated Entry system to strengthen data-driven operational guidance and strategic oversight

In 2025, the following progress was made:

- Celebrated **one full year of Clarity** implementation in March 2025. The new Clarity system:
 - Doubled the number of enrolled agencies participating in HMIS.
 - Increased the number of HMIS users by 54%.
 - Improved care coordination through enhancements like secure in-app messaging, direct referrals and assessment notifications.
 - Introduced a helpdesk ticketing system to provide better user support.
 - Increased training opportunities by adding an online training portal with over 1,000 courses available to enhance continuous learning.
 - Created an online knowledge database with more than 100 articles, offering a centralized hub of resources and guides for HMIS users.
- Expanded the number of HMIS participating agencies including the Veteran’s Affairs Greater Los Angeles. This partnership expanded resources available to Veterans experiencing homelessness in San Luis Obispo County.
- Migrated management of the Veteran’s by name list from manual excel sheets into HMIS to leverage Clarity system functionality.
- Launched a public facing dashboard with HMIS data. This provides a centralized location for community members to learn more about homeless services in San Luis Obispo County.
- Launched custom data reports for the Cities of San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles.
- Introduced a minimum intake process for HMIS to capture low barrier services only projects. For example, capturing showers and meal programs. This process allows a fuller picture of all services being provided to the community.
- Began efforts to complete data matching with CenCAL using Clarity’s API tool to import data. This will allow providers to better coordinate services across CalAIM services.
- Piloted shelter community queue to help manage emergency shelter access.



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS:

For over a decade Good Samaritan Shelter and the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) programs have served our most vulnerable population of Veterans in need in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. SSVF offers wrap around case management services with additional support from Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention services. They have partnered closely with local service providers including 5Cities Homeless Coalition with an understanding that effectively addressing and eliminating Veteran homelessness takes a village. Since the inception of the programs, at least 430 Veterans and their family members in San Luis Obispo County have been housed.

In 2025 several strategic enhancements were made to the SSVF program including direct entry of SSVF data into HMIS, onboarding Greater Los Angeles Veterans Affairs to increase resource access, and creation of a new dashboard embedded within HMIS to manage the Veteran’s By Name List.

In September 2025, local partners held their first case conference using the improved functionality of HMIS. This has improved the system’s ability to quickly identify the needs of Veterans in San Luis Obispo County and from July 2025 to February 2026 the number of chronically homeless veterans not in permanent housing dropped from 43 to 22.

As we move into 2026, Good Samaritan and CapSLO are poised to serve our remaining Veterans experiencing homelessness with additional partner providers like the HUD-VASH team utilizing their VA One Team initiative.

Create, identify and streamline funding and resources

Line of Effort Four

Line of Effort Four focuses on increasing funding and resources through new federal, state and private grant opportunities, and aligning funding available to address homelessness and community needs and priorities.

In 2025, the following progress was made:

- Submitted applications for funding totaling \$ 13,277,188.80
- Received funding awards totaling \$6,481,668.83 that will be distributed to various programs in the community for homeless services and affordable housing.
 - Note: As of the writing of this report the HSD has not received funding award notifications for funding pursued under Homekey+, Continuum of Care funds or Cycle 2 PLHA.
- Awarded contracts to community providers for services, affordable housing, and public facilities totaling \$13,646,539.60 for FY 25/26.
- Applied for Homekey+ funding in collaboration with Restorative Partners for their Healing and Restoration Campus (HARC) project. The HARC would restore property along Los Osos Valley Road and provide permanent supportive housing for justice involved individuals at risk of homelessness.
- Collaborated with CAPSLO to develop more comprehensive coordinated entry policies to improve consistency and access to services.
- Collaborated with Behavioral health to pursue Flex Pools grant, resulting in award of \$115K to assist County in analyzing feasibility of implementation of Flex Pools.
- Collaboration with Planning and Building to design the Regional Housing Incentive Fund.
- Collaboration with Planning and Building to pursue ProHousing designation for the County of San Luis Obispo.
- Continued work on implementation of the CDBG-DR program.
- Pursued the Farm and Ranch Grant award project in collaboration with the City of San Luis Obispo, the Public Works department and a private property owner. This resulted in an award of \$150,000 to address excessive debris accumulated as a result of illegal dumping and addressing an area known to be frequently encamped.
- Conducted required activities to complete the 2025 Consolidated Plan which guides HUD funding use for the years of 2025-2029.
- Standardized contract formats across all programs to improve consistency.
- Fully implemented use of Neighborly program to manage all aspects of grant management including the RFP process, reimbursement requests, and quarterly reporting.
- Awarded \$1.3Million in SB1090 funding through Board of Supervisor's approved action to an affordable housing project known as Cambria Pines.
- Actively pursued additional CDBG-DR mitigation measures funding that resulted in an additional \$2.5Million award to San Luis Obispo County for infrastructure support. Ongoing these funds will be managed by the Public Works Department.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS:

The City of Atascadero's Community Action Team (CAT) was formed to address homelessness through a balanced, compassionate approach.

CAT brings together law enforcement, behavioral health clinicians, social services, and nonprofit partners to provide outreach, housing pathways, and coordinated encampment cleanups.

CAT has achieved measurable results in the past year including:

- 1,135 service calls addressed;
- 50 cleanups completed;
- 36 tons of debris removed; and
- 18 individuals transitioned into housing.

This partnership-driven model restores public spaces, improves safety, and delivers life-changing outcomes.

Line of Effort Five

Strengthen regional collaboration.

Line of Effort Five focuses on creating a regional coordinated response to homelessness to minimize duplication of efforts and improve system effectiveness to reduce homelessness.

In 2025, the following progress was made:

- Continued support of the Affordable Housing Task Force.
- Increased level of coordination across agencies through development of Coordinated Entry policies and working with partners to make housing referrals more efficient.
- Gathered and distributed information about Warming Centers operations to Cities, County Office of Emergency Services, United Way, Adult Protective services, and other parties.
- Collaborated with volunteer run organizations to distribute information about their services.
- Collaboration with SLOCal Careers to train homeless services agencies on employment resources such as the CALJobs data base to support clients in their job search needs.
- Conducted an HSOC annual planning session to bring together stakeholders to provide input on priorities.
- Solicited community feedback on Community Development Needs Assessment.
- Collaborated with the Planning and Building Department to hold two town halls to share the regional housing incentive fund information and solicit community feedback.
- Collaborated with multiple agencies to find solutions for encampment clean up and management of encampments located on County areas of responsibilities.
- Conducted three stakeholder meetings for the development of HHAP-6 application.
- Collaborated with Affordable Housing developers to celebrate affordable housing month. This included public outreach and culminated in a Board of Supervisor’s resolution presentation.
- Began work on 2026 PIT including collaboration with higher education partners and hiring interns. This allows the HSD to conduct all PIT activities in-house rather than hiring a contractor who may not be familiar with local practices.
- Collaborated with City partners to develop the Regional Compact on Homelessness.
- Worked with partners to established new grant award guidelines which support using performance and fiscal metrics to determine award amounts.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS:

The City of Paso Robles’ Homeless Services Manager led the formation of the North County Homeless Network (NCHN) in collaboration with the County of San Luis Obispo – a strategic step forward to encourage collaboration and coordination of services between agencies.

Participation included **29** organizations across **7** sectors with **62** participants.

The NCHN promotes:

- Relationship building across sectors;
- Shared learning and information exchange;
- Cross-jurisdictional awareness;
- Peer connection and dialogue; and
- Foundation for future coordination.



Line of Effort Six

Build public engagement through information sharing and partnership.

Line of Effort Six focuses on engaging and educating the public and other key stakeholders with outreach materials, data dashboards and improving community partnerships to increase support for addressing the needs of the homeless.

In 2025, the following progress was made:

- Daily social media posts updating public on issues between January-June of 2025.
- Weekly story placements in local print and broadcast media between January-June of 2025.
- Affordable housing Month campaign and board presentation in April 2025.
- Three affordable housing community outreach events conducted in Spring of 2025.

As part of the County's resiliency and rebalancing initiative, the communications program manager position was eliminated effective June 30, 2025. This position oversaw community outreach including town hall events, media relations, and social media communications.

As a result of this elimination the following impacts were observed:

- Responses to the 2026 Community Needs Assessment survey dropped by 86% as compared to the 2025 Community Needs Assessment.
- Previously planned community engagement sessions were cancelled.
- Planned updates to public facing dashboards and websites were scaled back or eliminated.
- Expanded outreach to seek new applicants for funding was eliminated. When targeted and active outreach was conducted in 2024 the division saw new partners applying for funding resulting in a broader array of applicants. With the elimination of the communication position this expanded outreach was eliminated and has resulted in a reduction of both the number of applications and the range of entities applying.
- Media engagement strategies were scaled back with 14 press communications released the first half of 2025 as compared to two in the second half of 2025.
- Dedicated homeless services social media accounts were closed and social media communications were channeled through the County of San Luis Obispo's general social media account. Overall posts related to homeless services dropped from 270 posts between January and June 2025 to less than 20 from July to December as communications were dialed back to only the most critical outbound communications such as information about availability of warming centers.

Highlight on Behavioral Health

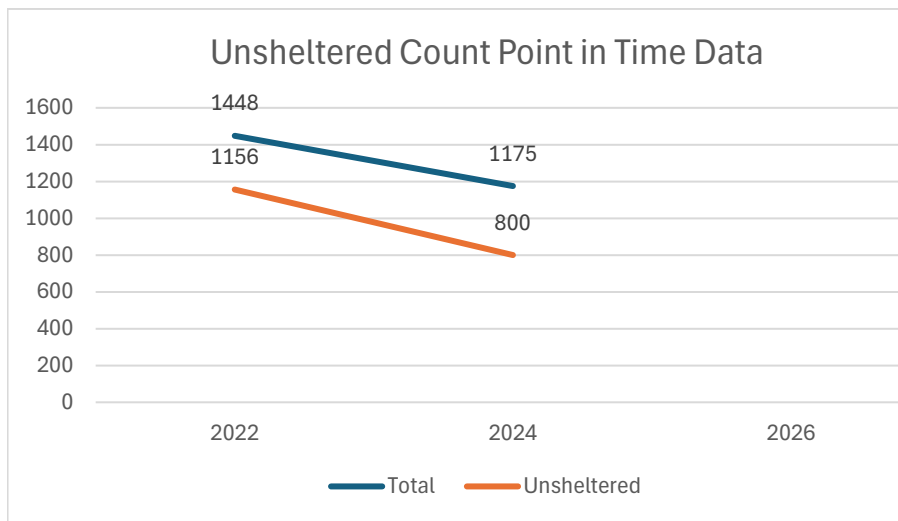
- The County Behavioral Health Department (BHD) added six more transitional housing beds and services for individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness with serious behavioral health conditions through the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing program (growing from 18 to 24 beds).
- Over the last year, the Homeless Outreach Team, a partnership between the BHD and Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA), met and engaged 459 unhoused individuals, 75 were screened for mental health services, 50 received a health screening or check-up by a program nurse, and 32 were enrolled in more intensive full services partnership (FSP) services. Of the 32 individuals enrolled:
 - 10 (31%) individuals secured housing.
 - There was an 89% reduction in days spent at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), compared to the prior 12 months before enrollment (40 days compared to 362).
 - There was a 99% reduction in days spent at the Jail/Juvenile Hall, compared to the prior 12 months before enrollment (16 days compared to 1,582).
- In FY 2024-25, the Community Action Teams (CAT) provided 2,063 services to 380 unique individuals. Services included 5150 evaluations, transportation to hospitals for medical clearance, medication services, provision of necessities, and referrals and care coordination.
- The County BHD is set to expand CAT into South County. The County is partnering to provide CAT services in Grover Beach and will soon expand to Arroyo Grande.
- The County BHD began implementation of Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court on December 1, 2024. This new civil court process is designed to link individuals who have Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders to County Behavioral Health services, under the oversight of a judge, for up to 24 consecutive months and is meant to be a diversion process to prevent hospitalization, conservatorship or incarceration. In the first six months of implementation, there were 13 CARE respondents with two in the initial phase, nine dismissed without prejudice, and two care agreements.
- The 24/7 community based mobile crisis team (MCT), operated in partnership with Sierra Mental Wellness Group, provided 1,156 responses in FY 2024-25 including:
 - De-escalation, brief crisis interventions, and connections to services for individuals experiencing a mental health and/or substance use disorder crisis.
- In partnership with CenCal Health and Good Samaritan, a new 12-bed sobering center was opened on the Health Agency campus in San Luis Obispo in June 2024. In FY 2024-25, there were 561 admissions, 513 unique individuals, and an average of 46 admissions per month. Sobering Centers provide a safe, supportive environment to become sober and provide warm hand-offs for additional substance use and health care services.

Point in Time (PIT Count)

The County-wide Point in Time (PIT) Count consists of two activities:

- Sheltered Count
 - The Sheltered Count includes all individuals who reside in emergency shelters or transitional housing on the night of the PIT Count. This activity occurs every year on a single night in January.
- Unsheltered Count
 - The unsheltered count includes individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of the PIT Count, who are not residing in a shelter. This includes people residing in locations not meant for habitation such as vehicles, outdoors, streets or sidewalks or homemade structures. The unsheltered PIT Count occurs every other year on a single night in January. The sheltered count is also conducted during unsheltered count years

The chart below shares data from unsheltered point in time count years. The total number includes all persons counted experiencing homeless which is inclusive of the unsheltered numbers in the second line.



In 2024, the County conducted both the sheltered and unsheltered Point-in-Time Count and observed an encouraging trend with **a reduction of 30.8% in unsheltered homelessness and a reduction of 19% in overall homelessness** when compared to the 2022 PIT Count.

During the 2024 PIT Count, 510 individuals were interviewed allowing for a closer look at the County’s residents experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Of the people interviewed, the County learned:

- 88% have lived in San Luis Obispo County for at least one year or longer.
- 42% have been experiencing unsheltered homelessness for five years or longer.
- 38% have been experiencing unsheltered homelessness for between 1-5 years.

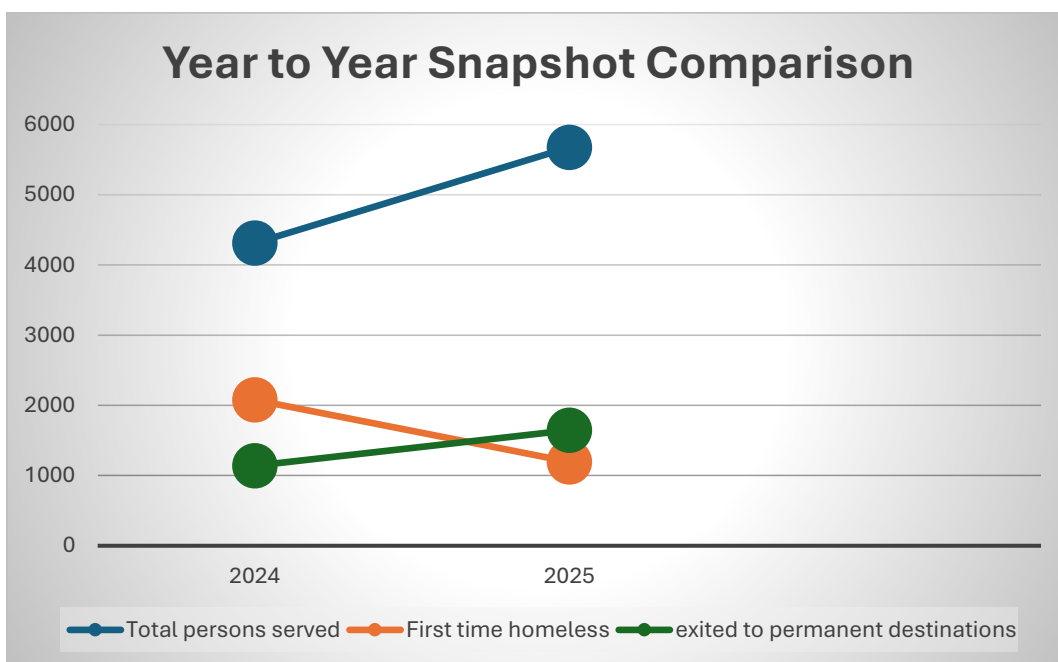
While the PIT Count provides valuable information, it is important to remember this represents the count of individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night and does not account for the total number of persons who may need homelessness services during the year.

The next unsheltered Point-in-Time Count was conducted on January 27, 2026. Results were not yet available in time to include in this report but will be included in the next update or can be found online at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/social-services/homeless-services-division/point-in-time-count>

Data Review

The number of people who are served by the homeless services system encompasses more than just those counted on the single night of the Point-in-Time. The charts below show a variety of system data including Point in Time and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data. Each chart is labeled to indicate what is being presented.

The chart below shows year over year comparison for the following key system performance metrics: Total unduplicated persons served, total number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time, and total number of persons who exited to a permanent location.



Between calendar year 2024 and 2025, San Luis Obispo County saw:

- A 31.7% increase in the number of persons served
- A 42.5% decrease in first time homelessness
- A 44.4% increase in persons exiting to permanent destinations

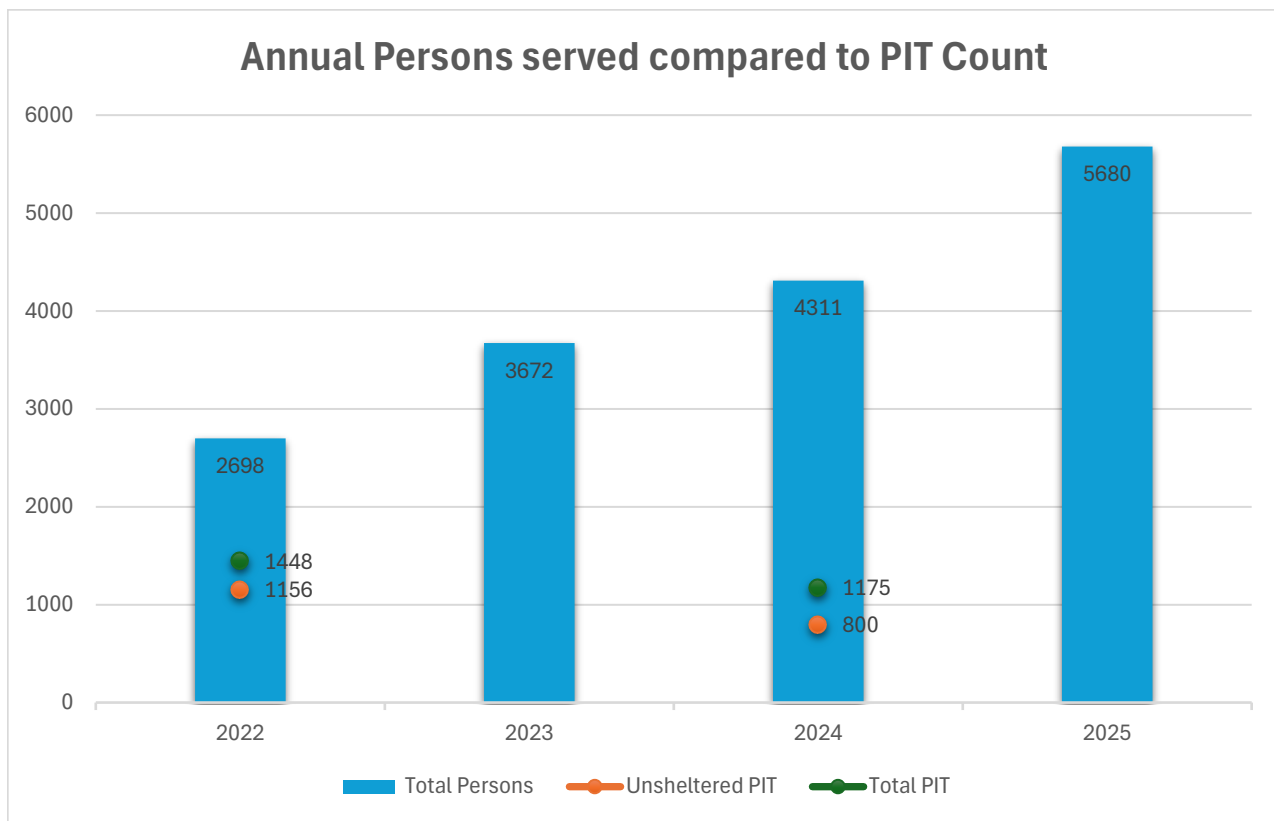
While some of these outcomes could be attributed to better data capture as the number of participating HMIS agencies expands, there was also significant investment in prevention services in both 2024 and 2025 and a sharp increase in the number of affordable housing units that were brought online in both of those years that also contributed to these positive outcomes.

As measured by the Point-in-Time Count, from 2022 to 2024, the County of San Luis Obispo saw a 30.8% reduction (from 1,156 to 800) of individuals who were experiencing unsheltered homelessness. In 2022, 80% of individuals experiencing homelessness were unsheltered, this was reduced to 68% of the total population in 2024.

The County notes that there was a methodological change in the way the Point-in-Time Count was conducted from 2022 to 2024 which may account for some of the reduction. More details can be found in the full community report available online at <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PIT-Count.aspx>.

The chart below shows the total number of unduplicated persons who were served in HMIS participating programs during that calendar year and Point in Time data for comparison

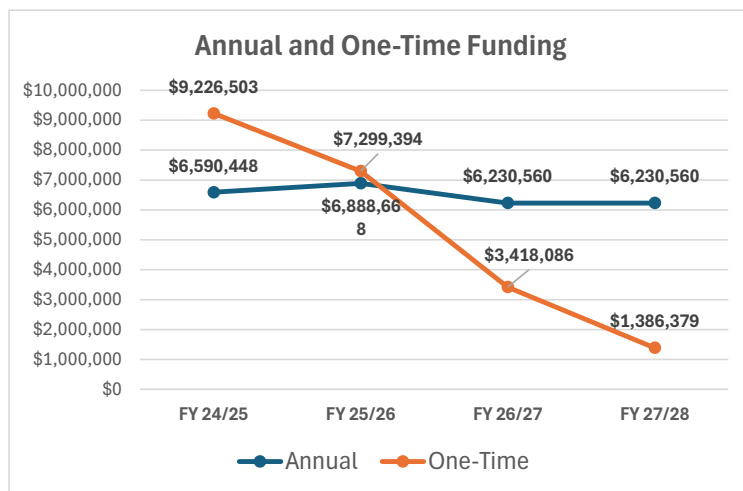
Of note, this chart reflects the power of the new HMIS to better capture data. It should not be read that homelessness is increasing, but rather that the expanded number of programs participating in HMIS and the upgraded system is capturing a greater percentage of the population than before. It is especially interesting to note that while the total numbers served show an increase due to better data capture, the PIT Count shows a reduction of homelessness on a single night.



Funding Review

One of the biggest challenges for addressing homelessness is the lack of consistent and stable funding sources that can be used to address needs across the homeless services array. The charts below show an overview of funding awarded by the Homeless Services Division and a projection of currently known upcoming funding. Note that these amounts are only for funds awarded for the fiscal year indicated and do not include any previously awarded funding that covers multiple years.

The chart below shows the projected average funding coming into the County for future fiscal years. Notably, the projected one-time funds will decrease significantly barring any additional funding made available to the County.

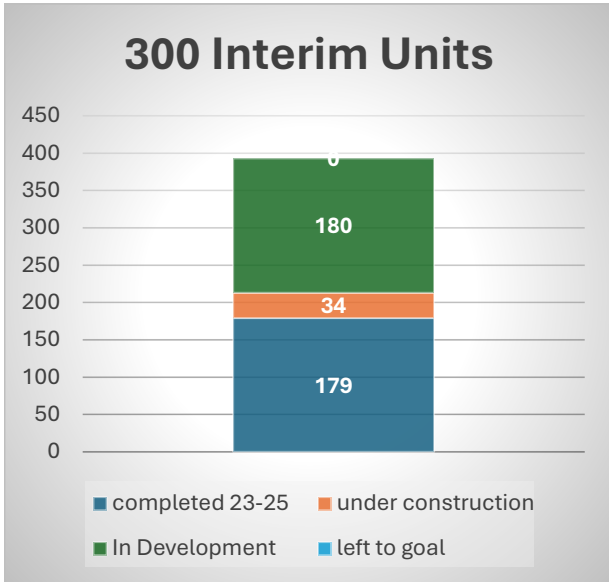


Please note this chart is an estimate based on best available information as of the date produced and is subject to change. Additionally, these amounts are the total estimates and are used to fund the homeless services continuum inclusive of prevention, outreach, sheltering operations and building affordable housing.

Funding sources administered by the Homeless Services Division include:

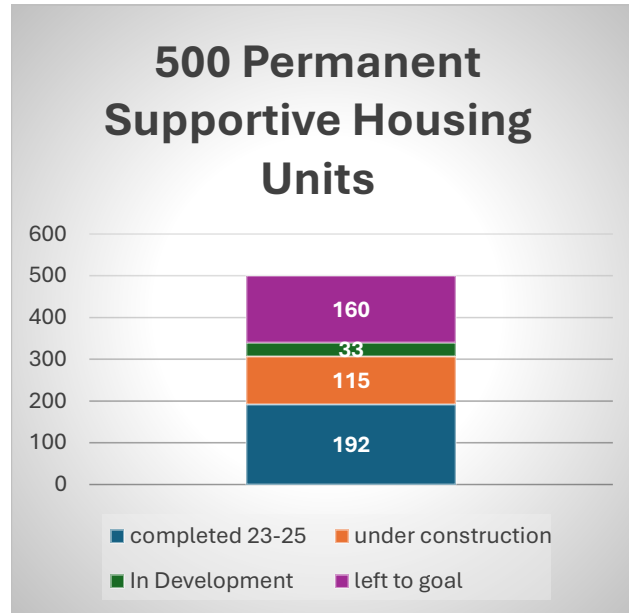
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG);
- Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG);
- Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF);
- Permanent Local Housing; Allocation Program (PLHA);
- HOME Investment Partnership (HOME);
- HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP);
- Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP);
- Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP);
- Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care (HUD CoC);
- SB 1090 Proceeds;
- County Title 29 funds;
- County Local Funds (General Fund); and
- Other competitive awards.

Progress toward housing goals

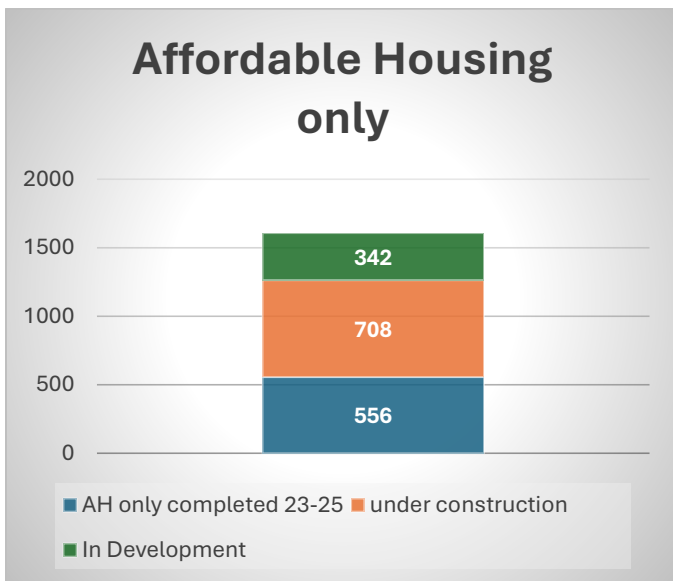


*Interim Units include a mix of year-round shelter, transitional, and warming center expansion beds.

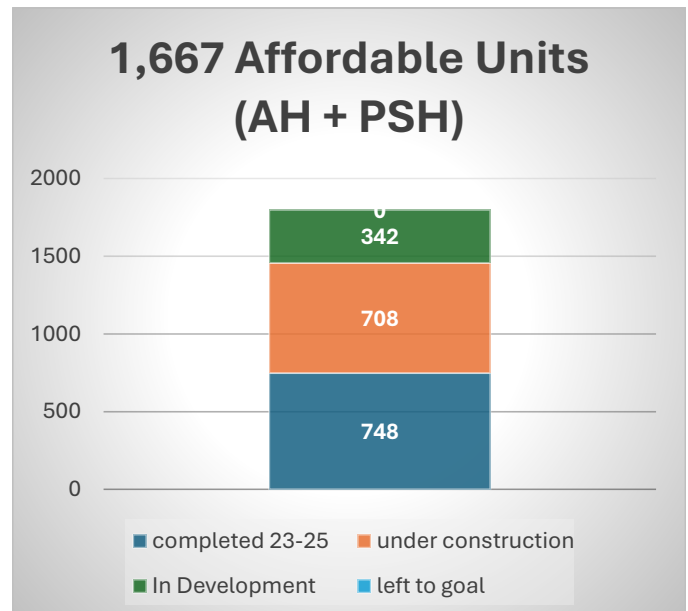
As of calendar year 2025, the county is **60%** of the way towards meeting the goal of adding 300 new interim units. Assuming all units that are under construction and in development come online the county will exceed this goal.



As of calendar year 2025, the county is **38%** of the way toward meeting the goal of adding 500 Permanent Supportive Housing units. Assuming the units currently under construction are completed, the county will be at 61% of this goal



The chart above shows the number of Affordable Housing units added, not including Permanent Supportive Housing Units.



As of calendar year 2025, the county is **55%** of the way toward meeting the goal of adding 1,667 affordable units. Assuming unit under construction and in development are finished, the county will exceed this goal.

Conclusion and Next Steps

As we celebrate the progress achieved and mark the halfway point of the County's Five-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness, it is time to begin preparing for the next iteration of the Plan.

Beginning in Spring 2026, the Homeless Services Division will work with stakeholders to examine system data and develop recommendations for updates to the County's Five-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness. The goal is to bring the updated plan to the Board of Supervisors in Fall of 2027 for adoption in 2028.

Priorities for the next reporting period include:

- Updating the Five-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness;
- Using HMIS to refine system processes and ground decisions in data;
- Identifying and addressing system gaps;
- Advocacy at all levels for sustained and ongoing funding dedicated to homeless services; and
- Continued pursuit of strategies to make progress in all lines of effort.

Cumulative progress toward 5-Year Plan Goals (Calendar Years 2023-2025):

<p>Line of Effort 1: Create affordable and appropriately designed housing opportunities and shelter options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 748 Affordable housing units completed (Includes Affordable Housing and PSH). • Permanent supportive housing beds expanded by 192. • Expansion of winter sheltering with the opening of warming centers in Arroyo Grande and Paso Robles. • Interim shelter bed capacity increased by 179 beds. • Home Safe Program housed 106 older adults or adults with disabilities.
<p>Line of Effort 2: Focus efforts to reduce or eliminate barriers to housing stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both HHAP funding and County General Funds awarded for multi-year prevention services projects county wide. • The County Behavioral Health Department added 24 transitional housing beds and services for individuals experiencing homeless with serious behavioral health conditions through the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing program. • Two seats reserved on the HSOC for people with lived experience. • One seat designated on the HSOC executive committee for people with lived experience. • 879 individuals experiencing homelessness were engaged through the Homeless Outreach Team, a partnership between the Behavioral Health Department and Transitions Mental Health. These individuals are offered screening for mental health and physical health and can be enrolled in more intensive full services partnership programs. Of those enrolled in the full service partnership program, 18% secured housing, and there was a 89% reduction in days spent at the Psychiatric Health Facility and an 99% reduction in days spent either in Jail or at the Juvenile hall when compared to the 12 months prior to enrollment. • The County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Division and the City of San Luis Obispo police department’s Community Action Team partnered to delivery intensive support and interventions to more than 500 individuals. • In FY 2024-25, the Community Action Teams (CAT) provided 2,063 services to 380 unique individuals. Services included 5150 evaluations, transportation to hospitals for medical clearance, medication services, provision of necessities, and referrals and care coordination. • The County BHD began implementation of Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court on December 1, 2024. This new civil court process is designed to link individuals who have Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders to County Behavioral Health services, under the oversight of a judge, for up to 24 consecutive months and is meant to be a diversion process to prevent hospitalization, conservatorship or incarceration. In the first six months of implementation, there were

<p>13 CARE respondents with two in the initial phase, nine dismissed without prejudice, and two care agreements.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with CenCal Health and Good Samaritan, a new 12-bed sobering center was opened on the Health Agency campus in San Luis Obispo in June 2024. In FY 2024-25, there were 561 admissions, 513 unique individuals, and an average of 46 admissions per month. Sobering Centers provide a safe, supportive environment to become sober and provide warm hand-offs for additional substance use and health care services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaunch of Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) project in 2025, a project which last served clients in 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of Library Social Worker pilot program, a collaboration between the County of San Luis Obispo’s Library and Social Services Departments to embed a full time social worker in the San Luis Obispo library branch for the purpose of connecting patrons experiencing homelessness to services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the Blue Bag pilot program in two regions of the county.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a comprehensive encampment management process for the County of San Luis Obispo.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of a rotating overnight supportive parking program in collaboration with the City of San Luis Obispo and Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County BHD expanded Community Action Teams into South county with new services launching in Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande.
<p>Line of Effort 3: Improve and expand data management efforts</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation activities for the new Clarity HMIS system including training/onboarding for HMIS users in 2023.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved the Point in Time (PIT) count data collection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed conversation from the legacy HMIS to the new Clarity HMIS system in 2024 along with on-demand training using TalentLMS and an encyclopedia of knowledge-based resources with HelpScout.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added user-friendly functionality to allow case managers to easily share documents and increased technical support to HMIS users.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed internal ticketing system for HMIS – process an average of 340 assistance requests monthly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Coordinated Entry policies and procedures to increase consistency among programs and decrease barriers to housing placement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than doubled the number of HMIS participating agencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the number of HMIS users by 54% between 2023 and 2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved care coordination through database enhancements like secure in-app messaging, direct referral to the community queue for permanent supportive housing placements and assessment notification for case managers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded reporting capabilities with more than 110 reports available for users to meet funder needs and provide agencies with deeper insights to support decision making.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrated multiple manual tracking and data management practices from agency excel sheets into the HMIS to leverage Clarity’s system functionality.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched public facing dashboard, updated quarterly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of custom data reports for Cities of San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced a minimum intake process for HMIS to capture low barrier services only projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloted shelter community queue to help manage emergency shelter access.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Veteran's by name list functionality into HMIS to improve care coordination and VA reporting
<p>Line of Effort 4: Create, identify and streamline funding and resources</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed the Homeless Services Division within the Department of Social Services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in homeless funding flowing into the County.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Neighborly Grants Management System. This system streamlines grant management from posting of notices of funding availability to application to tracking of outcomes and reporting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrated data on County First Time home buyer loans into Neighborly so that management and oversight of data is centralized.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovered \$291K CDBG program funds from project that was awarded and then stalled.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with Behavioral Health to pursue Flex Pool implementation support grant, resulting in an award of \$115K to assist the County in implementation of Flex Pools.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with Planning and building to design the Regional Housing Incentive Fund.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with Planning and Building to pursue ProHousing designation for the County of San Luis Obispo.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with Public Works to pursue special funding to address excessive debris accumulated through illegal dumping, resulting in an award of \$150K to conduct clean up and mitigation efforts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursued additional CDBG-DR funds for the County which resulted in an additional \$2.5M awarded to San Luis Obispo County for infrastructure support separate from the prior award for mobile home replacement.
<p>Line of Effort 5: Strengthen regional collaboration</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing Task Force was created and supported ongoing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased level of coordination across agencies through the development of various Coordinated Entry polices, creating a uniform approach on prioritization of housing placements, referrals and the ability to coordinate by seeing where clients are in the system of care through HMIS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed a Youth Advisory Board.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathered and distributed information about Warming Centers operations to Cities, County Office of Emergency Services, United Way, Adult Protective services, and other parties.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned and coordinated a strong regional collaboration for the 2024 Point-in-Time Count.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased efforts for participation by individuals with lived experience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated with local domestic violence provider to resolve data collection issues with their stand-alone database.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnered with Santa Barbara County to address encampments in the Santa Maria riverbed which resulted in 149 persons being served and more than 150 tons of debris removed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with SLOCOG to host Governor Newsom’s Sr. Advisor on homeless. This visit included a roundtable with community partners and site visits to local service providers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted annual HSOC planning sessions to bring together stakeholders to set priorities for the following year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with partners to conduct multiple public outreach events including, affordable housing town halls, stakeholder meetings, and Board resolution events celebrating affordable housing month.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with City partners to develop the Regional Compact on Homelessness.
<p>Line of Effort 6: Build public engagement through information sharing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased community engagement and received input through workgroups, forums, and outreach campaigns.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated and hosted multiple community information sessions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two Point in Time Count community information and training sessions; ○ Six Community Development Needs Assessment in-person community workshops; ○ Four Welcome Home Village Community and Stakeholder information sessions; and ○ Three Homeless, Housing Assistance and Prevention Program community information and input sessions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased social media presence to share system-wide homeless services information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased the number of followers/subscribers by 247% from 200 in January 2024 to 695 in June 2025 (social media archived as of July 1, 2025).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased presence in traditional media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 177 media features between 2024-June 2025.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSD increased community member responses to the Community Development Needs Assessment by over 6400%. In 2022, prior to HSD’s formation, the County received 14 responses. In 2023 HSD received 316 responses and in 2024 we received 918.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 PIT count success with more than 250+ volunteers which was the largest public-facing event for HSD to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteers were recruited county-wide through media outreach, social media, and word of mouth. ○ PIT count includes both sheltered count and unsheltered count. ○ With the 2024 PIT count we saw a 31% reduction in individuals. experiencing unsheltered homelessness and a 19% reduction in overall homelessness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a centralized resource “Get Involved” webpage to direct interested community members to volunteer opportunities.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to countywide warming center services by developing and coordinating a consistent notification system for service providers, emergency services, and the public.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For key initiatives, developed and implemented communication plans including press releases, media engagement, social media presence and distribution of memos and talking points to stakeholders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a media relations plan for the Homeless Services Division which was in effect from FY 22/23 through 24/25.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided annual updates beginning in 2024 to the public on homeless services activities and progress on the Five-Year Plan to address Homelessness.
<p>Staff note that the dedicated communications position originally included in the Homeless Services Division’s staffing was eliminated in June 2025. As a result, communications strategies were scaled back including the closure of all social media accounts, scaling back of outbound media communications to only those required under funding terms, scaling back website updates, and eliminating most public outreach events.</p>