



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

CAP Solano JPA

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1. Introduction from the Chair.....	3
2. Community Action Partnership of Solano, Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Overview	5
3. Community Action Agency Report.....	5
A. Community Services Block Grant Program.....	5
B. 2017 Community Services Block Grant Program.....	6
C. Tripartite Advisory Board	7
4. Homeless Management and Information Systems (HMIS) Lead Report.....	8
A. HMIS Overview	8
B. HMIS Lead Feedback.....	9
5. Collaborative Applicant Report.....	9
A. 2017 Continuum of Care Competition	10
B. Grant Writing Workshop.....	11
C. Collaborative Applicant Feedback	11
6. Coordinated Entry System Report.....	12
7. Regional Strategic Plan.....	13
8. Housing First Solano Continuum of Care (CoC) Report.....	14
A. Collaboration with JPA	14
B. CoC Visibility.....	14
C. Private Sector Engagement.....	14
D. Performance Measurement and Outcomes.....	14
E. Homeless Point in Time Count	16
9. Conclusion	18

2017 Annual Report

JPA CAP Solano



Regional Strategic Plan



- "Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Forward Together," the five-year regional strategic plan to respond to homelessness in Solano County was approved by the JPA and CoC Board in **March 2017**.
- An Implementation Planning Committee convened shortly thereafter and their Initial Year Implementation Guide was approved by the JPA in **July 2017**.
- In **January 2018**, the JPA oversaw a workshop where Solano's Mayors, Councilmembers, and Board of Supervisors addressed various aspects of the strategic plan, including outreach, coordinated entry, and housing.

Funding Awards

\$383k



Community Services Block
Grant Funds

\$450k



State Emergency Solutions
Grant Funds

\$1.3M



Department of Housing and
Urban Development Continuum
of Care Program Funds

\$4.9M



Partnership HealthPlan of
California Local Housing
Innovation Grant

Coordinated Entry

In 2017, the JPA oversaw the creation and launch of Resource Connect Solano, the region's Coordinated Entry System.

- Coordinated Entry provides a consistent, streamlined process for accessing the resources available in the homeless crisis response system. It ensures that the most vulnerable households in the community are prioritized for services.
- Caminar was selected through a local competition to serve as the region's Coordinated Entry Systems Operator.
- Throughout 2017, a Coordinated Entry Work Group met monthly to establish a governance structure and operational design of Resource Connect Solano, which officially launched in **December 2017**.

Point-in-Time Count

On **July 14, 2017**, the JPA released the results of its Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Survey conducted on **January 24, 2017**.

The PIT Count is conducted at least biannually in Solano and is a requirement to receive homeless assistance funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). More information about the 2017 PIT Count can be found on the JPA's website at www.capsolanojpa.org.

2017 Annual Report

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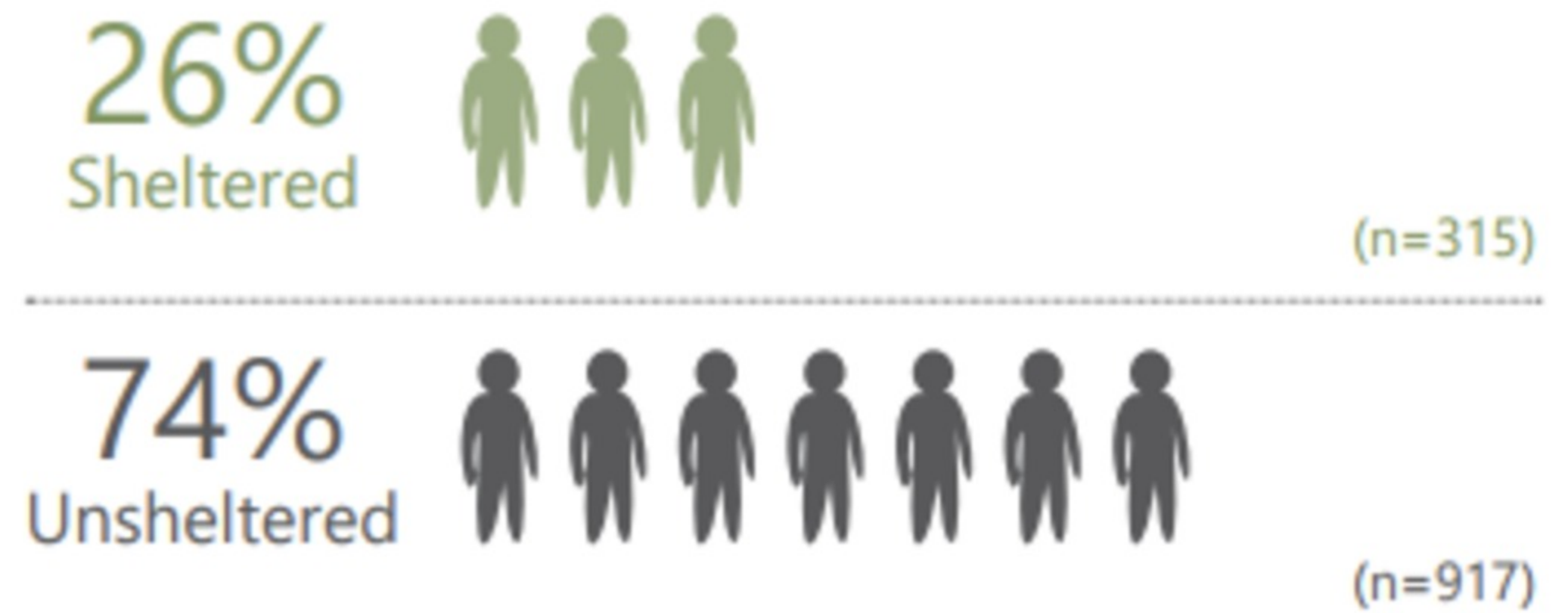


Homeless Census and Survey

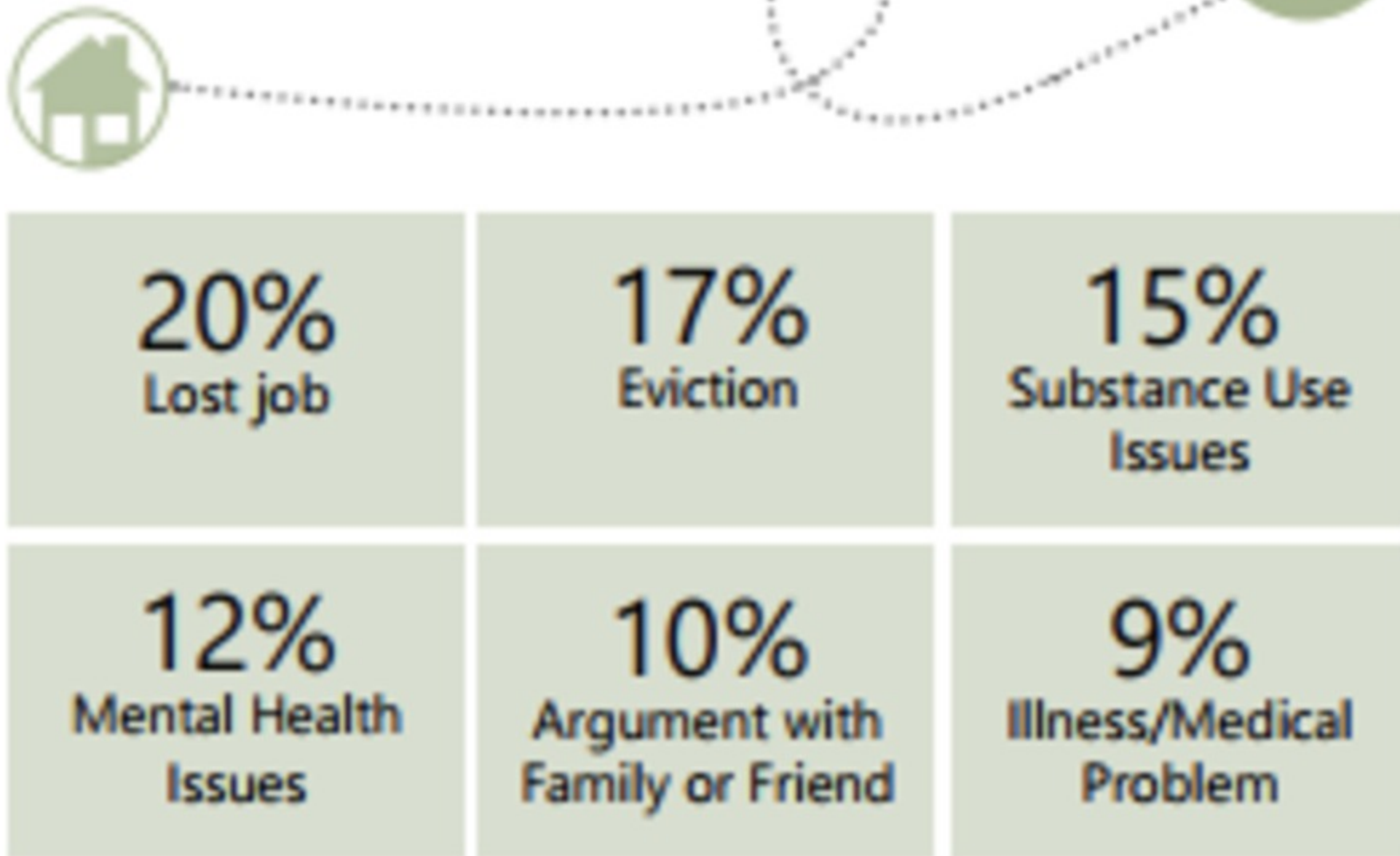
Census Population: Longitudinal Trend



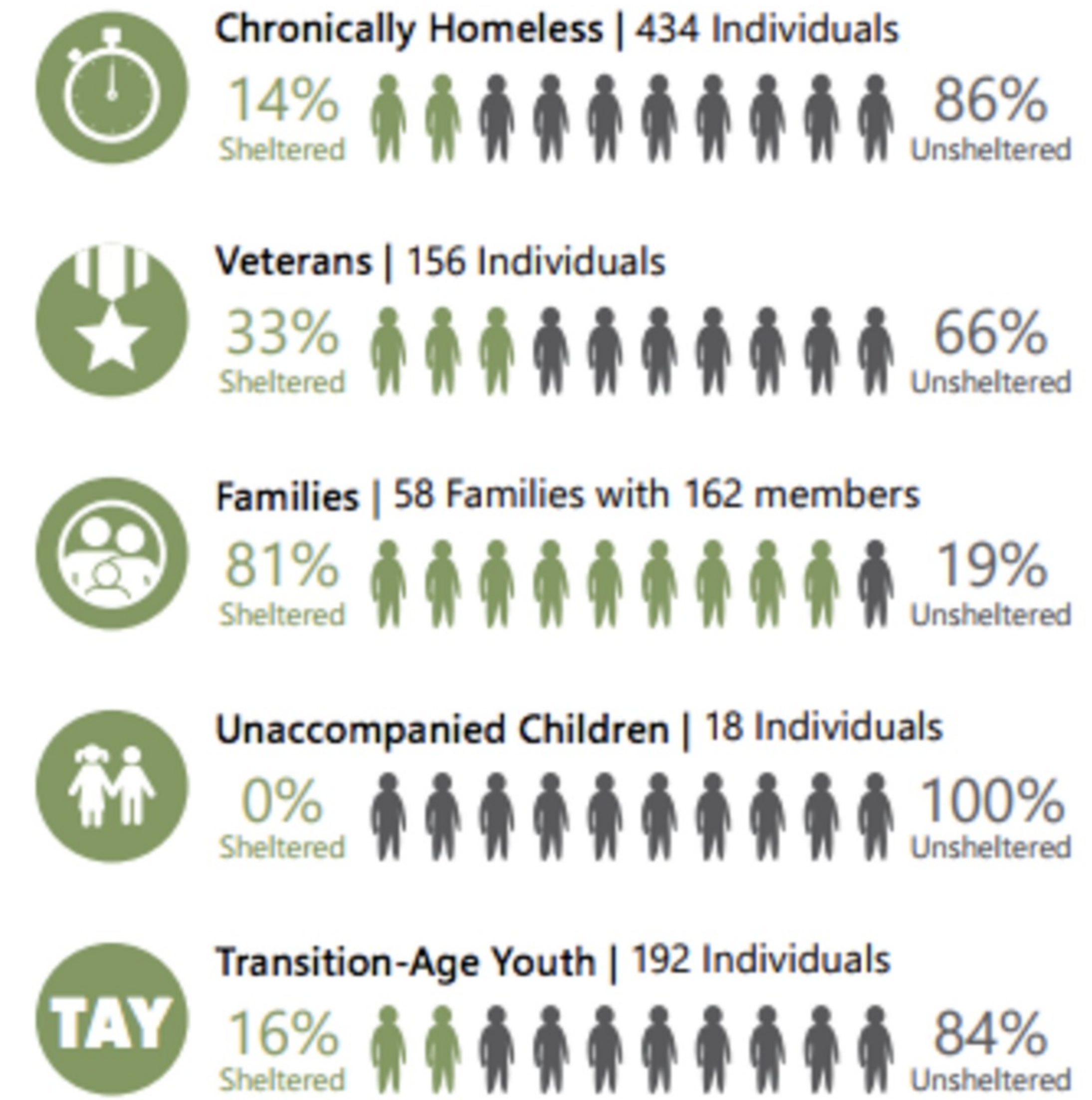
2017 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population



Primary Event or Condition That Led to Homelessness (Top 6 Responses)



Subpopulation Data



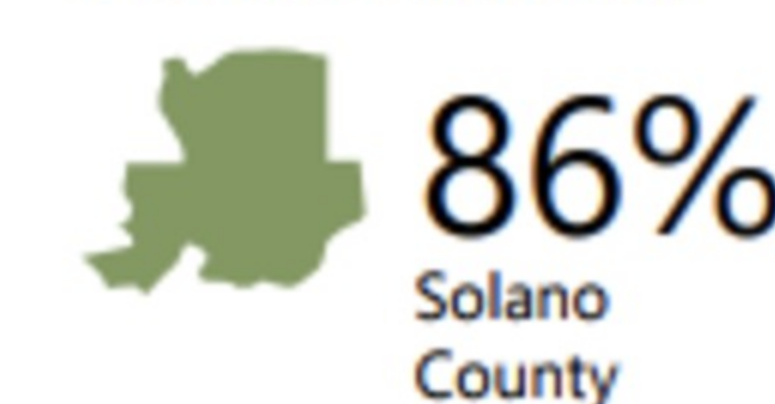
Employment



What Might Have Prevented Homelessness (Top 4 Responses)



Residence Prior to Homelessness



Length of Time in Solano County



1. Introduction from the Chair

Dear Community Stakeholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Community Action Partnership of Solano, Joint Powers Authority (the JPA), I am pleased to present this report covering the activities of this body to coordinate homeless and safety net services during the 2017 calendar year.

In 2017, the JPA continued to improve the lives of low-income individuals and families living in Solano County. Throughout the year, the JPA oversaw the development and the beginning implementation stages of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Forward Together,” a five-year plan outlining a central regional strategy to respond to homelessness in Solano County. As part of the implementation process, working groups of community stakeholders were convened to identify specific, key strategies needed to address homelessness in Solano County as well as the resources needed to support those strategies, and to build a roadmap for their implement. This data-driven, community-informed process recommended three objectives: Improving System Navigation, Increasing Affordable Housing Stock, and Creating Support Systems to Assist Residents in Maintaining Housing. The JPA ended the year supervising stakeholder committees on the three strategies and preparing to brief elected officials from the jurisdictions on pathways forward in each area.

Also during 2017, the JPA applied for and received a conditional Local Housing Innovation Grant award of approximately \$4,913,964 from the Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC). The Housing Innovation Grant will support implementation of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Forward Together 5-Year Strategic Plan, as well as the development of new Permanent Supportive Housing units, short or medium-term housing assistance, and wrap around supportive services for Solano County's most vulnerable Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The JPA looks forward to developing a competitive process through which to allocate grant funding to local agencies throughout the county in 2018 and beyond.

The JPA continued to contribute administrative and fiscal services to support the delivery of direct services to Solano residents experiencing poverty under three main funding streams. First, as the region’s Collaborative Applicant, the JPA submitted Housing First Solano’s successful application for \$1,284,935 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. Funding was distributed to 16 projects, including 13 permanent housing projects. Second, with the guidance of the Tripartite Advisory Board, the JPA administered \$382,856 in state Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding, including \$162,679 in direct service grants to non-profit organizations providing services to improve the lives of Solano County's low-income residents. Through these grants, over 66 households in Solano County received a variety of direct services, including employment search assistance, job training, rental assistance, security deposit and utility assistance, housing search assistance, and supportive services for housing. Third, the JPA oversaw \$450,000 in state Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding to rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families in Solano County. Because funding streams like the CoC, CSBG, and ESG programs bring in such significant resources into the region, the JPA hosted a public grant writing workshop in December to help other members in the community learn how to build organizational capacity to compete for such grants and operate as grant-funded institutions.

A major effort that the JPA led behind the scenes in 2017 was the creation and launch of Resource Connect Solano, the region's Coordinated Entry System. Coordinated Entry creates a central network through which all individuals and families experiencing homelessness can connect with housing and supportive services. Nationally recognized as the best practice by which high performing communities address barriers to self-sufficiency such as discrimination, alienation, prolonged exposure to trauma, and incompatible program placements, Coordinated Entry prioritizes the most vulnerable consumers experiencing homelessness and refers them to right-sized programs throughout the region. By focusing first on serving households with the most acuity and coordinating the program enrollment process among multiple agencies, Resource Connect Solano channels the region's limited inventory of housing and supportive service programs to those who otherwise would draw upon the most emergency services over the long term without such prioritized stabilization efforts. The JPA looks forward to learning from Resource Connect Solano's first year of operation so that the region's homelessness resources can be further streamlined and optimized.

The 2017 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count provided Solano County with a snapshot of challenges ahead. Between 2015 and 2017, the number of people experiencing homelessness in Solano increased. However, this may have been impacted by the county methodology. More of this population overall reported being chronically homeless or had significant service needs since the 2015 count. The average length of time that residents reported being homeless had also risen. Nearly all of those surveyed reported an interest in moving into safe, affordable, permanent housing if it were available. In addition to funding the 2017 PIT Count, the JPA collaborated with community leaders to improve count methodology to better identify the size of the homeless population in Solano County, utilizing outreach teams to reach homeless persons living in encampments, and including a new focus on identifying and counting youth experiencing homelessness through its first-ever dedicated Youth PIT Count.

Every individual and family in our region deserves a fair and equal chance to an affordable, safe, and stable home. The JPA remains committed to serving all the people of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo, and Solano County in achieving that vision. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Sincerely,
Kathy Lawton-Caesar
Chair/Executive Director

2. Community Action Partnership of Solano, Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Overview

The JPA is a combined governmental agency formed by a memorandum of understanding between the Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, and Vallejo and the County of Solano to coordinate efforts to reduce poverty and homelessness in Solano County. Representatives from these governments serve on the JPA Board and meet at least monthly to fulfill their duties as Solano County's Community Action Agency. The JPA is also the Collaborative Applicant for Solano County's Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead.

3. Community Action Agency Report

Community Action Agencies are non-profit private and public organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's war on poverty. These agencies help people in achieving self-sufficiency. Some of the services that may be provided include: child care, education, energy assistance, emergency assistance, financial and legal services, food programs, health services, housing services, prevention programs, self-reliance programs, and youth services.

As the Community Action Agency for Solano County, the JPA administers funds through the Community Services Block Grant Program.

A. Community Services Block Grant Program

The CAP Solano, JPA is the entity responsible for administering Solano County's allocation of annual funding under the Community Services Block Grant program (CSBG), an initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CSBG funds may be used to support activities that assist low-income families and individuals, homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farm workers, and elderly low-income individuals and families in attaining the skills, knowledge, and motivation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.

In the spring of 2015, the JPA conducted a community-wide needs assessment to inform a Community Action Plan (Plan) for 2016 and 2017 for the CSBG funding. The 2016-2017 Plan identifies and assesses poverty-related needs and resources in Solano County and guides how the JPA delivered CSBG-funded services to individuals and families most affected by poverty in 2017. The Plan is required by the federal Community Services Block Grant Act and California Government Code 12747.

The 2015 needs assessment identified the high cost of housing, lack of employment opportunities, lack of education and training for jobs, and mental and other health issues as

JPA Vision

All families and individuals in Solano County have equal access to community resources that lead to and support self-sufficiency.

JPA Mission

To strengthen agencies working to end poverty and homelessness. The objective is to provide services and resources in coordination with existing service providers, including but not limited to non-profit organizations and faith-based providers, to promote and encourage self-sufficiency for the most vulnerable members of the community.

the primary causes of poverty in Solano County. In response, the JPA chose to prioritize 2016 and 2017 CSBG funding for increasing access to permanent housing, including financial assistance, housing search assistance, and supportive services for housing. As a second funding priority area, the JPA chose to prioritize increasing access to employment, including both employment search assistance and job training and education.

The JPA drew upon the efforts to produce the region’s new five-year strategic plan to address homelessness, “Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Forward Together,” to update the 2016-2017 needs assessment with a 2018-2019 Community Action Plan (Plan) for 2018 and 2019 CSBG funding. These efforts found that the same main barriers to housing remained for those experiencing poverty in Solano County.

B. 2017 Community Services Block Grant Program

In 2017, the JPA distributed \$161,143.37 in direct services funding as follows:

Organization	Award	Program Description
Berkeley Food and Housing Project	Initial award amount: \$53,680.00 Amended Amount Awarded: \$35,625.09	<u>Employment</u> Employment program includes workshops, referrals to training programs, interview training and attire, job placement, and case management. Expansion of SSVF Program.
Community Action North Bay	Initial award amount: \$57,699.37 Amended Amount Awarded: \$71,859.37	<u>Housing</u> Rapid re-housing and homeless prevention, including rental assistance, housing search assistance, and supportive services to maintain housing.
House of Purpose	Initial award amount: \$51,300.00 Amended Amount Awarded: \$55,658.91	<u>Housing</u> Permanent Supportive Housing for homeless dual diagnosis individuals without income in a shared living situation. Program also provides case management services.

All program funding was fully expended on time by December 31, 2017.

Program outcomes were as follows:

Berkeley Food and Housing

- Four (4) job seekers were referred to employment services and received an individualized service plan assessment through the utilization of smart goals assessment to outline short- and long-term goals
- Four (4) veterans referred to employment services received an updated resume for job search services
- Four (4) employment seekers attended a soft skill workshop to improve their interviewing skills
- Six (6) participants attended a quarterly job club to discuss job search and interviewing activities
- One (1) participant received interview attire
- Two (2) participants received bus transportation assistance
- One (1) participant obtained money management and budget skilled training assistance
- One (1) participant obtained employment educational competencies requirement for employment
- One (1) participant obtained and/or maintained affordable housing
- One (1) participant obtained vocational security training required for employment

Community Action North Bay

- Twenty-two (22) households received assistance in the form of security deposit and rental assistance
- One (1) household received utility deposit and payment assistance
- Eight (8) households received food/household necessity assistance
- Five (5) households received job skills training
- Ten (10) households received emergency food assistance
- Four (4) households received budgeting assistance
- Twenty-five (25) households participated in a holiday food assistance program

House of Purpose

- Nine (9) clients received security deposit and rental assistance in permanent supportive housing
- Nine (9) clients received assistance with applying for and obtaining disability assistance
- Nine (9) clients received food assistance
- Nine (9) clients received medical assistance

C. Tripartite Advisory Board

The Tripartite Advisory Board (TAB) was created in 2015 to guide the JPA Board in its capacity as the Community Action Agency. The TAB is responsible for assisting the JPA Board in conducting a community needs assessment, clarifying the JPA's mission,

supporting long-range strategic planning and annual planning, assisting the JPA in implementing its programs, and evaluating the performance of JPA initiatives under CSBG funding. The TAB meets on a quarterly basis.

The TAB consists of members from the public (elected officials or their representatives), private, and low-income sectors. In 2017, County Supervisor Erin Hannigan served as Chair, and Vallejo City Councilmember Katy Miessner served as Vice-Chair.

The following are the current TAB members as of December 31, 2017:

Representative Type	Name	Organization
Elected Official Sector	Tom Bartee	Office of Senator Bill Dodd
Elected Official Sector	Supervisor Erin Hannigan	Solano County Board of Supervisors
Elected Official Sector	Daniel Huerta	City of Vacaville
Elected Official Sector	Councilmember Katy Miessner	City of Vallejo
Low-Income Sector	Patrick Stasio	Solano County
Low-Income Sector	Keetra Welling	Community Action North Bay
Low-Income Sector	Lisa Martin	California Tribal TANF Partnership
Low-Income Sector	Lauren Carden	Legal Services of Northern California
Private Sector	Joanie Erickson	Solano Coalition for Better Health
Private Sector	Laura Escobar	United Way
Private Sector	Lauren Crutsinger	Seneca Family of Agencies
Private Sector	Kay Tracey	Private Business

4. Homeless Management and Information Systems (HMIS) Lead Report

A. HMIS Overview

The HEARTH Act, enacted into law on May 20, 2009, requires that all communities have an HMIS with the capacity to collect unduplicated counts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other planners and policymakers use aggregate HMIS data to better inform homeless policy and decision making at the federal, state, and local levels.

Specific HMIS benchmarks from 2017 include:

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). Through an on-going effort to improve to data quality, Housing First Solano was able to have two more tables accepted in the 2017 AHAR for a total of 10 (out of 12).

HMIS usage. By the end of 2017, 13 agencies were using the CoC's HMIS to collect client-level data as well as data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. For the 2018 CSBG grant cycle, the JPA decided to add an HMIS user requirement. Doing so should increase the data collected that

informs the system performance reports and helps with the overall health and validity of the HMIS system.

Coordinated Entry. The JPA is pleased to have led Housing First Solano in meeting the HUD deadline of January 23, 2018 for implementation of Coordinated Entry. A major part of that compliance is HMIS. The region's Coordinated Entry System, Resource Connect Solano, is using HMIS to support intakes, assessments, matching, and referral to move people into the CE system.

HMIS Licenses. The JPA purchased nine new licenses with the idea of subsidizing CE entry points, a recognition of the importance of HMIS.

B. HMIS Lead Feedback

In November 2017, Housing First Solano conducted a survey to collect feedback on the performance of the JPA as HMIS Lead. Fifteen responses were collected:

- Email Help Requests (11 responses): 80% of respondents felt HMIS staff were helpful or very helpful in resolving their issues.
- Individualized Trainings (12 responses): 83% of respondents felt the trainings were helpful or very helpful.
- User Group Meetings (14 responses): 79% of persons who had attended an HMIS user meeting felt it was helpful or very helpful attend user group meetings
- Whether the combination of on-call support, trainings, user group and materials helped agency be better prepared to comply with HUD requirements? – All 5-responded yes
 - Comments: much better than in the past; on-call support is invaluable (email and phone); support has helped a lot. Webinars might be a good addition in the future.
- Experience with ServicePoint System
 - 47% of respondents rated their experience with ServicePoint as “good” or “excellent.”
 - 87% of respondents felt that HMIS staff were able to help them overcome challenges with ServicePoint.

5. Collaborative Applicant Report

The JPA serves as the Collaborative Applicant for Solano County's Continuum of Care, known as Housing First Solano. Collaborative Applicant duties include: CoC administration; creating and operating a coordinated entry system; engaging the private sector on behalf of the CoC; promoting the visibility of the CoC; coordinating the CoC Annual Competition; making recommendations regarding performance measurement and improving outcomes; and coordinating the Point-in-Time Count.

A. 2017 Continuum of Care Competition

On January 11, 2018, HUD announced the final awards for the FY2017 CoC funding competition. Housing First Solano secured a total of \$1,284,935 for use within Solano County, which was awarded for 16 projects. The award renewed 12 projects and funded three new projects, including 13 permanent housing projects (two new ones), renewal of coordinated entry project funding, and new funding to expand the CoC's coordinated entry work. In addition to the project funding, HUD awarded \$36,956 in planning grant funding which supports Housing First Solano's organizing efforts. The allocations were as follows:

Tier 1 (Funded by HUD)				
Rank	Agency and Project	Type	New or Renewal	Award
1	CANB – Fairfield Vets Program	PH	New	\$37,202
2	CANB – Healthy Living Your Way	PH	Renewal	\$122,966
3	CANB – Living Self Reliantly	PH	New	\$37,203
4	CANB – Living Self Sufficiently	PH	Renewal	\$69,483
5	CAP Solano JPA – Coordinated Entry Expansion	SSO	New	\$139,614
6	Caminar – Laurel Gardens	PH	Renewal	\$48,824
7	Anka Behavioral Health – STOP Plus	PH	Renewal	\$165,969
8	Caminar – Bonus Grant	PH	Renewal	\$32,361
9	CANB – Housing Express	PH	Renewal	\$113,055
10	CANB – Housing Express Expansion	PH	Renewal	\$110,436
11	City of Fairfield, CA – Restoration Project	PH	Renewal	\$61,187
12	Solano County Health & Social Services – CalWORKS PSH 2	PH	Renewal	\$55,790
13	Solano County Health & Social Services – CalWORKS PSH 3	PH	Renewal	\$60,208
14	CAP Solano JPA – Coordinated Entry	SSO	Renewal	\$80,000
15	Caminar – Sereno Village (Tier 1)	PH	Renewal	\$28,344

Tier 2 (Funded by HUD)				
Rank	Agency and Project	Type	New or Renewal	Award
15	Caminar – Sereno Village (Tier 2)	PH	Renewal	\$52,323
16	Caminar – Sereno Village Expansion	PH	Renewal	\$33,014

Planning Grant (Funded by HUD)				
Rank	Agency and Project	Type	New or Renewal	Award
N/A	CAP Solano JPA – Planning Grant	N/A	N/A	\$36,956

B. Grant Writing Workshop

At the request of multiple providers, the JPA once again hosted a grant writing workshop on December 7, 2017, open to all Solano County community members. The two-hour workshop included a panel discussion, grant writing exercises, and audience question and answer. Participant handouts, including worksheets to assist with budget planning and narrative crafting, have been posted on the JPA and Housing First Solano websites.

Grant Writing Workshop panelists included Joanie Erickson, Executive Director of the Solano Coalition for Better Health, and Laura Escobar, Director of Safety Net Programs for United Way Bay Area. Twelve additional participants attended the workshop.

C. Collaborative Applicant Feedback

As with the HMIS Lead feedback survey, Housing First Solano circulated a survey to the CoC General Membership seeking stakeholder input on the JPA’s performance as Collaborative Applicant. Twelve respondents submitted input:

Responsiveness of CoC Staff

- 83% of respondents felt the CoC Staff were response or very responsive in answering questions
- 83% of respondents felt the CoC Staff had excellent or good expertise in homelessness subject matter
- 82% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall level of service provided by CoC staff
- 83% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall direction and staff energy for the CoC

NOFA Services provided by CoC Staff

- 66% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the level of preparation, facilitation, training, and technical assistance provided for the CoC Program Competition (NOFA) process by CoC staff
- Seven of the 12 respondents were CoC funding recipients. The remaining three survey respondents did not answer this question

For CoC meetings, did you/do you prefer any particular style or content?

- 75% of respondents had attended at least one Housing First Solano meeting last year
- 83% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with CoC staff in organizing and facilitating the meetings
- 83% of respondents felt the general membership meeting frequency of bi-monthly met their needs
- Most respondents (60%) felt the community updates and trainings on HUD rules and regulations were the best part of the CoC meetings

Committee Meetings:

- 50% of respondents actually attended one of the committee meetings.]
- 60% of respondents felt the committees brought useful change to the CoC
- 80% of respondents felt the PIT/HIC information was useful

Other feedback for the CoC/JPA:

- 73% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the progress the CoC is making regarding HMIS, capacity building, and the Continuum of Care Competition
- Respondents were equally split between the types of trainings they wanted to see in the future, including:
 - HUD Regulations;
 - Provision of Services;
 - Community Engagement and Networking; and
 - Community Speakers

6. Coordinated Entry System Report

In 2017, the JPA oversaw the creation and launch of Resource Connect Solano, the region's Coordinated Entry System (CES). Coordinated Entry is an approach to coordination and management of a crisis response system's resources that allows users to make consistent decisions from available information to efficiently and effectively connect people to interventions that will rapidly end their homelessness. It provides a consistent, streamlined process for accessing the resources available in the homeless crisis response system. Through coordinated entry, the CoC ensures that the highest need, most vulnerable households in the community are prioritized for services and that the housing and supportive services in the system are used as efficiently and effectively as possible. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that Continuums of Care establish and operate a coordinated entry process.

Upon entering into contract with HUD in February 2017 to receive \$80,000 in CoC Program funding to establish and operate a Coordinated Entry System, the JPA ran a local competition to select a nonprofit or government agency to serve as the region's Coordinated Entry Systems Operator. Caminar was selected through that process. In March 2017, Caminar subsequently entered into a one-year subrecipient agreement with the JPA to manage 1.5 full time CES employees. Pursuant to the contribution of funding in July 2017 from the City of Vallejo for the provision of CES services in Vallejo, Caminar entered into a second subrecipient agreement with the JPA for a 0.5 full time CES employee in Vallejo.

Throughout 2017, the JPA directed HomeBase staff, and then Caminar, in the facilitation of monthly public meetings with a Coordinated Entry Work Group to receive direction on the governance structure and operational design of Resource Connect Solano. HomeBase provided technical support particularly with respect to the creation of written policies and procedures that reflected full compliance with relevant federal regulation, including legal principles under fair housing, equal access, nondiscrimination, the protection of personally identifiable information, and victims' rights. On the basis of the guidance Caminar received from CoC membership and HomeBase, Caminar proceeded to provide assessment, referral, matching, case management, and housing location services to the people of Solano County under the newly created CES, named Resource Connect Solano. Resource Connect Solano held an official launch event for the CoC on December 12, 2017. The JPA has monitored Caminar's progress throughout this process.

By the end of 2017, Resource Connect Solano was providing Coordinated Entry services that covered the entire geographic scope of the CoC. More information about Resource Connect Solano can be found online at the JPA's website, among other portals:
<http://www.capsolanojpa.org/get-help--resource-connect-solano.html>

7. Regional Strategic Plan

In 2016, the JPA commissioned the creation of a five-year regional strategic action plan to respond to homelessness in Solano County. A Working Group, composed of representatives from the County, each of the seven cities, and various service sectors (including law enforcement, Veterans Affairs, children and youth, affordable housing development) was convened to inform the design and content of the community engagement efforts and strategic plan draft. The final plan with community goals and benchmarks to define success and ensure accountability was approved by the JPA and the CoC Board in March 2017.

An Implementation Planning Committee, which reports to the JPA, was convened shortly after the plan was approved to develop an initial annual implementation plan to advance the core strategies in service of the plan goals. The committee met multiple times beginning in May 2017, forming separate working groups to draft distinct portions of the implementation guide. The JPA approved the Initial Year Implementation Guide in July 2017.

The JPA has overseen various aspects of initial plan implementation, including a workshop for Solano's mayors, councilmembers, and county supervisors. The workshop addressed various aspects of the strategic plan – outreach, coordinated entry, and housing – highlighting opportunities for jurisdictions and other stakeholders to contribute to the plan's implementation. The workshop includes a panel discussion of the existing outreach

efforts around Solano County and additional resources needed; a presentation by a neighboring county's Coordinated Entry Director to provide a picture of how additional resources could strengthen and expand Solano's system, and a slate of speakers from various Bay Area communities sharing their experiences with providing additional housing opportunities for people exiting homelessness. The workshop was held in January 2018, having been postponed from October 2017 due to the Northern California wildfires.

Information about the Strategic Planning process overall, as well as the Strategic Plan and Initial Year Implementation Guide, are available online at:
<https://tinyurl.com/SolanoHomelessStrategicPlan>.

8. Housing First Solano Continuum of Care (CoC) Report

A. Collaboration with JPA

Housing First Solano Continuum of Care (CoC) is the coordinating body for efforts to address homelessness in Solano County. The JPA provides funding for Housing First Solano CoC staff to ensure that it has the necessary capacity to discharge its attendant duties. Each jurisdiction has a seat on the CoC Board and actively participates in the planning activities and governance of the CoC. There are JPA Board members actively involved in CoC Committees, including the Performance and Evaluation Committee, the Coordinated Entry Workgroup, and Point-In-Time Committee.

B. CoC Visibility

The JPA's visibility in 2017 increased specifically through its work to implement the Regional Strategic Plan. Throughout the year, the JPA supported the convening of an Implementation Committee which recommended specific actions the city and county governments as well as cross-functional bodies like the JPA and the Housing First Solano CoC Board could take to address system navigation, increase affordable housing stock, and maintain existing housing. As of the first quarter of 2018, the County Administrator's Office and the City Managers' Offices were considering these recommendations.

C. Private Sector Engagement

The JPA continued to work closely with the private sector in 2017. Business leaders have been engaged in the drafting and implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan and attended multiple stakeholder meetings throughout the fall. The region's commitment to connecting clients with employment also drove private sector partnerships. JPA staff participated in the Solano County Workforce Development Board meetings throughout the year, employment remained a key focus of 2017 CSBG grant allocations, and all the providers funded as part of the 2017 Continuum of Care competition reported that they either offered job training and employment search services themselves or else had directly connected their clients with external workforce development providers.

D. Performance Measurement and Outcomes

In July of 2014, HUD released a document entitled *System Performance Measures: An Introductory Guide to Understanding System-Level Performance Measures*, which provides guidance on how to implement system-level performance measures to evaluate CoC

performance as a coordinated system and to track community-level progress. In 2017, Housing First Solano continued to track all HUD performance measures and Local Performance Measures 8A and 8B:

Performance Measure	Housing First Solano Adoption
HUD Measure 1: Length of time persons remain homeless.	HFS runs this measure quarterly to determine whether the length of time people remain homeless is decreasing.
HUD Measure 2a: The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing destinations return to homelessness within 6 to 12 months.	HFS runs this measure twice a year to determine the effectiveness of CoC permanent housing placements.
HUD Measure 2b: The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing destinations return to homelessness within 2 years.	HFS runs this measure twice a year to determine the effectiveness of CoC permanent housing placements.
HUD Measure 3: Number of homeless persons.	HFS runs this measure twice a year to determine whether the number of people experiencing homelessness in the CoC is decreasing.
HUD Measure 4a: Employment and Income Growth For Homeless Persons in CoC Program-Funded Projects.	HFS runs this measure twice a year to determine whether there is an increase in the percent of adults who gain or increase cash income over time.
Local Measure 4b: Employment And Income Growth For Homeless Persons In Other Federally-Funded Projects.	HFS runs this measure twice a year to determine whether there is an increase in the percent of adults who gain or increase cash income over time.
HUD Measure 5a: Number of Persons Who Become Homeless for the First Time.	HFS runs this measure twice a year to determine whether there is a reduction in the number of persons who become homeless for the first time
Local Measure 5b: Number of Persons Who Touch the System of Care for the First Time.	HFS runs this measure twice a year to determine the need and change in need for prevention/diversion and other non-homeless-specific services.
HUD Measure 7a: Successful placement from Street Outreach	HFS uses this measure to assess street outreach efforts and will encourage additional street outreach projects to use HMIS

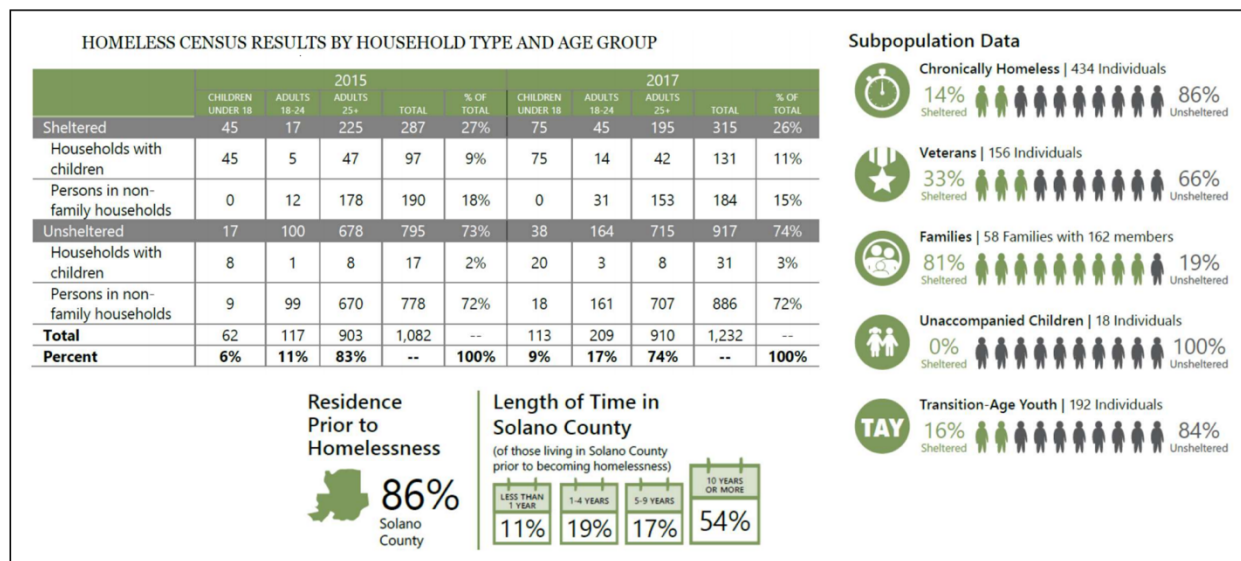
HUD Measure 7b: Successful placement in or retention of permanent housing	HFS uses this measure to assess street outreach efforts and will encourage additional street outreach projects to use HMIS
Local Measure 8a: How long Coordinated Entry participants stay on the by-name list, including subpopulations	HFS monitors the average length of time all coordinated entry participants stay on the by-name list, as well as youth, people with substance abuse issues, people with criminal records, and other subpopulations as needed to determine the level of unmet need.
Local Measure 8b: Failed housing placements	HFS tracks the number of clients who receive a housing placement through Coordinated Entry but cannot be found, do not show up at the sponsoring agency, or refuse the placement to determine what resources are needed for more successful housing placements.

E. Homeless Point in Time Count

On July 14, 2017, the JPA released the results of its Point-In-Time (PIT) Count and Survey for 2017. The PIT Count is conducted at least biannually in Solano and is a requirement to receive homeless assistance funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The last PIT Count was conducted in 2015. The PIT Count uses HUD’s definition of homelessness, which includes persons living in shelters and places not meant for human habitation. However, it excludes persons who are living doubled up with others due to economic hardship or those living in RV or trailer parks. Annual school data on family homelessness and other counts use broader definitions of homelessness. The PIT Count provides a snapshot of the number and demographics of those experiencing homelessness in the region on a given night. Yet it is not designed to be a complete analysis of the issues surrounding homelessness nor a comprehensive count of all homeless persons served over the course of a year. This snapshot allows Solano to track trends concerning subpopulations, identify potential gaps in services and inform future planning, which is important for the implementation of the current regional strategic plan in Solano County.

The 2017 PIT Count process included an enumeration of unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons in Solano County. The unsheltered census was conducted on January 24, 2017 from approximately 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and covered all of Solano County. The shelter census was conducted on the previous evening and included individuals staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities.

Key findings were as follows:



Overall, the data suggests that a large percentage of this population is chronically homeless or has significant service needs:

- The reported chronically homeless population has grown from 223 in 2015 to 434 in 2017 (35% of the homeless population)
- Nearly half of all respondents (48%) reported psychiatric or emotional conditions, 24% reported having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and 41% reported substance abuse
- Sixty-two percent report having a disabling condition that impedes their ability to live independently

Over half (59%) report that their current episode of homelessness has lasted for a year or more; 62% report experiencing multiple episodes of homelessness. 38% were experiencing homelessness for the first time indicating the opportunity for additional prevention services.

Ninety-one percent reported an interest in moving into safe, affordable, permanent housing if it were available.

The full PIT report, an Executive Summary, and an FAQ document with additional information can be obtained on the JPA website at: <http://www.capsolanojpa.org/>

F. Housing Inventory Count

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires each Continuum of Care (CoC) to conduct an annual inventory of housing dedicated for homeless people in each community, called the Housing Inventory Count (HIC), during the last ten days of January. The HIC report tallies the number of beds and units available on the designated night by project type, and includes beds dedicated to serve persons who are homeless in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Permanent Housing. The category of

Permanent Housing includes Permanent Supportive Housing (including HUD-VASH vouchers) and Rapid Re-housing.

In 2017, Solano County conducted the HIC by sending surveys to homeless housing providers in the County. The providers completed the surveys based on the information gathered on the night of the homeless count, January 24, 2017.

	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Housing			Permanent Housing		
	2016	2017	Chng	2016	2017	Chng	2016	2017	Chng
Total Number of Year-Round Beds	238	162	-76	181	216	+35	313	319	+6
Total Number of Seasonal Beds	50	30	-20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2017 saw a net loss of 35 beds. In 2016, there were a total of 732 beds recorded; this year there are 697 beds. This decrease is due to the closure of Samaritan House, Lift3 and fewer VASH beds.

9. Conclusion

In 2016, the JPA oversaw progress in Solano’s efforts to strengthen its responses to poverty and homelessness. The JPA guided the investment of our resources toward coordinated, productive, capacity-building. These efforts include expansive outreach, Coordinated Entry planning and preparation for Coordinated Entry implementation, and community-wide technical assistance and training. There has been tangible progress, such as the development of system performance measures and the improvement of data quality for the Continuum of Care; the addition of 64 rapid rehousing units in the community; and the allocation of new funding – i.e. Emergency Solutions Grant and CalWORKs Housing Support Program funds. While this progress is encouraging, there is much work left to be done. The JPA’s investment in the five-year Regional Strategic Plan, set to be completed in the spring of 2017, will give the community strategies for leveraging shared resources to improve the quality of life in Solano County.