



Santa Clara County Continuum of Care

Santa Clara County: Community Plan to End Homelessness

Focus Area 1

Prevent people from becoming homeless.

Strategy A – Expand programs and investments to prevent people from becoming homeless.

Sub-Strategies

- A1:** Increase public and private funding for homelessness prevention programs.
- A2:** Strengthen and sustain a high-impact homelessness prevention system.
- A3:** Align policy and affordable housing investment to improve housing stability for households at-risk of homelessness.

Strategy B – Ensure services are effective to prevent people from becoming homeless.

Sub-Strategies

- B1:** Prevent evictions through early identification, tenant protections, and system coordination.
- B2:** Enforce fair housing protections and increase access to legal services to combat housing discrimination.
- B3:** Leverage health care resources to prevent homelessness.

Strategy C – Enhance coordination across systems to prevent people from becoming homeless.

Sub-Strategies

- C1:** Prevent homelessness at discharge or system exit through coordination with health care or behavioral health institutions, foster care, or criminal legal systems.
- C2:** Establish partnerships to increase income and employment for those at-risk of homelessness.
- C3:** Strengthen partnerships with safety net services for a community-driven approach to preventing homelessness.

Focus Area 2

Continue to house people and support them in retaining their housing.

Strategy A – Increase and maintain a range of housing options that meets the need.

Sub-Strategies

- A1:** Increase public and private funding to build more permanent housing and implement system improvements.
- A2:** Increase public and private funding to expand temporary housing capacity and implement system improvements.
- A3:** Prioritize development of housing for extremely low-income individuals and families making 30% of Area Median Income or less and set joint targets.
- A4:** Build up programs and services to reach geographically underserved areas of the county.
- A5:** Strengthen and diversify permanent housing capacity and options to meet varied needs and acuity levels.
- A6:** Strengthen and diversify temporary housing capacity and options, including Emergency Interim Housing (EIH), to meet varied needs and acuity levels.
- A7:** Co-design innovative and inclusive housing and service models with people with lived experience that expand access to diverse, permanent housing solutions.

Strategy B – Increase consistency, diversity, and quality of housing and services for people accessing the housing system.

Sub-Strategies

- B1:** Standardize high-quality service delivery and individualized care across the housing system.
- B2:** All housing programs are safe, healthy, and accessible to everyone.
- B3:** Improve tenancy support for participants in permanent housing programs.
- B4:** Invest in equitable workforce development programs for people with lived experience within the homeless system.
- B5:** Promote skill-building and career advancement opportunities for people with lived experience within the homeless system.
- B6:** Support the development and implementation of programs led by people with lived experience that provide peer support, housing navigation, and mentorship.

Strategy C – Improve system coordination throughout the housing system.

Sub-Strategies

- C1:** Reduce returns to homelessness and program exits.

C2: Increase coordination between property management and service providers to ensure housing stability.

C3: Reduce housing search time and expand landlord capacity for scattered site housing programs.

Focus Area 3

Strengthen access to care and services for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Strategy A – Build capacity and expand access to trusted, culturally responsive, and coordinated services and resources throughout Santa Clara County.

Sub-Strategies

A1: Identify sustainable funding for increased access to care and services for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

A2: Prioritize peer-led and community-driven outreach and communications models to effectively serve underserved regions and populations who are historically underserved or overrepresented in the homeless system.

A3: Improve system-wide access to real-time, understandable, and comprehensive resource information and availability.

Strategy B – Increase consistency, variety, and quality of outreach, basic, and essential needs services.

Sub-Strategies

B1: Expand service delivery offerings for basic and essential needs and to support stability.

B2: Ensure that service providers are equipped with the skills, capacity, and ability to effectively serve those in unsheltered situations.

B3: Create a consistent, person-centered approach to address vehicular homelessness.

B4: Connect impacted populations to culturally responsive services.

Strategy C – Invest in approaches that improve outcomes and reduce harm for people living unsheltered and the community at-large.

Sub-Strategies

C1: Strengthen coordination between behavioral health, homeless service providers, and public safety partners to divert non-violent homeless-related calls away from law enforcement.

C2: Expand re-entry and behavioral health services as alternatives to arrest or emergency room admission.

C3: Decrease the number of people residing in encampments and reduce criminalization of homelessness for those who are unsheltered

Focus Area 4

Center and invest in people with lived experience to lead and transform the homeless system.

Strategy A – Expand the representation of people with lived experience in leadership roles and decision-making bodies.

Sub-Strategies

A1: Build capacity of local jurisdictions and organizations to increase lived experience in leadership roles and decision-making bodies

A2: Create accessible and flexible leadership opportunities that consider varying interests, availability, and backgrounds

A3: Reduce structural barriers to participation.

Strategy B – Build leadership capacity and advancement pathways for people with lived experience.

Sub-Strategies

B1: Provide opportunities such as mentorship and education for people with lived experience to establish pathways for leadership advancement.

B2: Support transitions from advisory roles to formal decision making and leadership positions.

B3: Advance equity in hiring, advancement, and retention of people with lived experience.

Strategy C – Equip homeless system partners to effectively partner with people with lived experience.

Sub-Strategies

C1: Establish standards and best practices to support authentic lived experience engagement

C2: Formalize processes to regularly evaluate the quality and depth of lived experience engagement and use findings to drive improvement.

C3: Develop clear accountability measures to transparently demonstrate how lived experience input informs decisions and system change.