

The Redding Area Homelessness Coalition Project (RAHCP) was formed June, 2015 to help our community better address homelessness. Upon evaluation of best practices there is a need for an improved coordination of services, including a streamlined eligibility and referral system, and enhanced data collection, which will increase the efficiency of current programs and better serve our most vulnerable, vets, families and youth. Improved coordination will also strengthen our position to secure future State Emergency Solutions Grants, Federal HUD grants and future State "No Place Like Home" funding.

Current RAHCP Activities

- 1) **HMIS Evaluation Project** was funded by Partnership HealthPlan CA in the amount of \$11,550. The project began 9/2/16, a community workshop was held 9/23/16 followed by software demonstrations on 12/2/16. The CoC Executive Board (EB) received the report with recommendations for the selection of a new HMIS software on 1/4/17. The next step is for CoC EB to discuss the recommendations and take action to choose an HMIS software and plan for administration and implementation. Funding is available to the CoC EB from the 2016 FY HUD CoC funding and "Whole Person Care" funding approved November 2016.
- 2) **Housing Work Group** Monthly meetings began in Oct. 2015 with a goal to expand existing housing opportunities, assist and support tenants to remain housed by improving linkages to services. We are creating a comprehensive guide to community resources that assist homeless, case managers and can be provided to landlords to improve awareness and expand opportunities for housing homeless or at risk of homeless in our community. The next meeting is Tuesday Mar. 7, 10:00 to 11:30, United Way-Northern Ca, 2280 Benton Dr. Bldg B.
- 3) **Health, Housing & Hope, Achieving Change Together** was formed to collaborate, raise funds and awareness to address homelessness. Meetings began in October, 2016. This is an active group and formed by representatives from six separate organizations, each with separate governing boards or advisors, and projects addressing homelessness. The alliance includes the Shasta Humanity Project (Micro-homes), Redding Homeless Day Resource Center, Project Homeless Connect, Clean Break Partnership (mobile shower facility), Community Care Fund and Bridges to Housing. A community FaceBook page was created, "Health, Housing & Hope". The next meeting is March 14, 12:30 to 2:00, United Way-Northern Ca, 2280 Benton Dr. Bldg B.

The RAHCP accomplishments.

Since July 2015, a large number of community members have been working with the RAHCP to develop three reports and a "Strategic Plan to Respond to Homelessness in Shasta County." Our goal is to create a more collaborative community-wide approach to address homelessness which includes the implementation of a strategic plan comprising of both short and long term goals as well as agreement on how accountability and success will be measured and reported.

- Engaged hundreds of community members since 2015 in over 90 events to determine areas of concern and prioritize best practice solutions
- 56 community members donated \$129,729 to support facilitation of community forums and develop three reports and a Strategic Plan for Shasta County
- Project Reports completed and shared with the community to date are:
 1. Continuum of Care (CoC) Evaluation (Nov. 2015)
 2. HMIS, Data System Evaluation (Nov. 2015)
 3. "Homeless Snapshot" compilation of population and community cost data (June 2016)
- Completed "Strategic Plan to Respond to Homelessness in Shasta County" (July 2016). This Plan was presented to the CoC EB, the CoC General Membership and the community at large.
- Reports and videos of each presentation are available at <http://www.norcalunitedway.org/redding-area-homelessness-coalition-project>

What we have learned regarding homeless data and estimated community costs.

- Over 3,100 people in Shasta County experienced homelessness in 2015, including an estimated 310 chronically homeless
- Chronically homeless persons cycle in and out of emergency rooms, jails and treatment facilities.
- \$34 Million is invested annually to manage homelessness through various healthcare and calls for service
- Included in the \$34M is:
 - \$12 M for treating homeless at out two hospitals, Mercy and Shasta Regional Medical Center
 - \$300,000 for Redding Fire responding to 33 fires and 1,913 non-fire incidents estimated to be attributed to homeless
- \$20,518,296, (60% of the \$34 M) is attributed to an estimated 10% of "high utilizers" or 310 homeless. This equates to approximately \$66,188 per high utilizer. The estimated cost to provide permanent housing and supportive services to a high utilizer is approximately \$11,500 which represents a potential savings of \$54,688 per homeless high utilizer.

Strategic Plan Priorities address solutions to homelessness.

- Ensure sufficient housing and case management to connect homeless to places to live and supporting services – (Priority #1)
- Strengthen leadership and improve collaboration with consideration for restructuring the CoC (Priority #4)
- Improve data (HMIS) system and accountability. Set and measure goals to maximize Return on Investment (Priority #5)
- Streamline eligibility and referral systems to save time and resources (Coordinated Entry) (Priority #6)