



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES

**DATE:** Thursday, May 18th, 2023, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

**RECORDING OF MEETING:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EvtIU1OkRTiZiw3ORocPW-XLs3j1fO-do0-rRf8sVRWhFpWsCRGDstM6KMptWCie.PPvqjbMT6-LTjS7h>

**PASSCODE:**

20zC@4ep

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
9:00	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b>Hybrid Meeting Norms</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>
	<b>Public Comment</b> – Open Period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.	- <i>Members of the public</i>
9:25	<b>PIT Count/HIC Update</b> – Update on PIT Count/HIC results and reporting plans	- <i>Dana Ewing, H3</i>
9:45	<b>Prevention Learning Cohort Update</b> – Report out on recent work and learnings from the cohort	- <i>Jo Bruno, Committee Member</i>
10:00	<b>Prevention and Coordinated Entry</b> – Overview of prevention services provided by Caminar and connections with Coordinated Entry System	- <i>Mary Fitzgerald, H3</i> - <i>Caminar representative</i>
10:30	<b>Preview: Prevention and Rapid Exit Program Models Review</b> – Preview of upcoming work for the Committee	- <i>Shelby Ferguson, H3</i>
10:45	<b>Announcements</b>	- <i>All</i>
10:50	<b>Next Steps</b>	- <i>Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies</i>



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Member in Attendance: Wayne Earl, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Jo Bruno, Tony Ucciferri, Iman Novin, Juno Hedrick

Staff and Consultants: Shelby Ferguson (H3), Mary Fitzgerald (H3), Caroline Miller (H3), Jamie Jenett (H3), Dana Ewing (H3), Matt Mitchell (FS), Matt Lemon (FS)

Additional Attendees: Shayne Kaleo (SHELTER, Inc.), Carl Mason (Hope Solutions), Lynna Magnuson (Caminar), Kalil Macklin (Anthem Blue Cross), Keva Dean (COH member)

## **Hybrid Meeting Norms**

Matt Mitchell described several norms for hybrid meetings including a recommendation to wear masks in person, practicing social distancing, raising your hand, saying your name before speaking, and maintaining a safe and respectful environment. Individuals who behavior in a manner that threatens the safety of the group or does not honor meeting norms may be asked to leave.

## **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Teri House made a motion to approve the minutes from April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Shawn Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

## **PIT Count/HIC Update**

Dana Ewing presented results from the Point in Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) conducted on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There were 2,372 people experiencing homelessness on that day of whom 70% were unsheltered and 30% were sheltered. This represents a 4% increase compared to the 2020 count. There has also been an increase in total capacity of 562 beds since 2020.

The results were submitted to HUD on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and were presented to the Council on Homelessness. Upcoming reports that will use that data include a PIT infographic, PIT StoryMap, and annual report. Wayne Earl asked when HUD is expected to release the data to the public. Dana Ewing stated it will probably be later this year.

Committee members discussed the StoryMap and geographic analyses including plans to maintain the StoryMap over time and the usefulness of actionable, geographic data to inform services, planning, and



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the impact of things like encampment closures. Teri House noted that Contra Costa is in the planning phases for a new consolidated plan and that city-level detail would be helpful. Dana Ewing noted the StoryMap is being created using one-time funding and that she will keep the Committee updated.

Wayne Earl noted that the Committee's charter is to reduce homelessness and thus the increase in the PIT county means we have missed our targets. Dana Ewing noted that the increase is compared to 2020 because data from the 2022 count could not be validated.

Committee members discussed the PIT count results and data challenges. Committee members noted that the 4% increase raises questions because there has been a noticeable increase in homelessness in the county and that service providers are seeing many more people. H3 staff stated that the PIT count is one source of data and there is also data available via HMIS. Committee members noted that it is useful to look at both data sources because the PIT count can be tracked over time and that many people who do not access services could be counted in the PIT count.

Wayne Earl asked about the impact of the PIT count on distributing HUD funding, particularly when the reality on the ground does not match the results of the count. Dana Ewing noted that HUD funding is between 10-25% of the budget and there are other state and local resources as well.

Dana Ewing provided details on what the infographic, StoryMap, and Annual Report will include. She noted the three reports combine to give a fuller picture of homelessness in the county and help understand unsheltered homelessness, the population at-risk of homelessness, and whether prevention/diversion is targeting the right audience.

### **Prevention Learning Cohort Update**

Shelby Ferguson provided an update from a peer learning call with all seven communities on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The call included presentations by Jonathan Russell from BACS on the core elements of prevention and from Sacramento Steps Forward on a housing problem solving strategy led by people with lived experience, train the trainer models, and utilization of HHAP funding.

Next steps for the cohort include monthly internal meetings with Community Solutions and another peer call in June. The team is working on mapping by zip codes and implementing prevention on a larger scale. Teri House noted that zip codes can be challenging for jurisdictions to use as it can be difficult to break them down and determine what applies to specific geographic areas.

Shelby Ferguson noted that there is ongoing work in other committees related to the cohort work including a coordinated prevention definition, equity measures, community outreach and education, and program models. She provided ways that the PATH committee can support and contribute to the



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work including examining models for inequities, bringing in new prevention partners, and sharing feedback.

Tony Ucciferri asked if the meetings are looking at a national strategy. Shelby Ferguson stated that Community Solutions has national data, but the team is looking at a strategy specifically for Contra Costa. Jo Bruno noted that the Built for Zero website helps explain more about the nationwide movement.

Shelby Ferguson noted that they have been working with Community Solutions since the fall and they expect to wrap up the first phase of work in July. The first phase will include definitions and may include a draft version of a tool. She noted there may be a second phase to the work, but that is still to be determined.

### **Prevention and Coordinated Entry**

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald and Lynna Magnuson presented an overview of prevention connected to Coordinated Entry and an example of a prevention program operated by Caminar.

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald described the housing problem solving method in which financial assistance for things like rent arrears, first month's rent, and other cost is available in amounts of up to \$3,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for families, though the program often tries to braid together additional funding from other sources. She noted that the program uses HUD's definition for at risk of homelessness and outlined the process to access funding including access points, prescreening, and referrals/enrollments.

Wayne Earl asked why the HUD definition is used and noted that the definition is narrow and often does not cover people living in different types of situations including living with friends or in other situations in which they may not get formal notices of eviction. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald stated she shares that frustration, and that this criterion is for HUD funding only. There are other programs that H3 and 211 can connect folks to, such as programs that serve people who have received a 30-day notice. She noted that they want to have programs accessible to everyone and that one goal is to bring in more funding.

Committee members discussed financial assistance including whether funds go the person or to a landlord, the need to be able to support people who do not have official documentation or who are living in creative situations, and the types of costs the funds can cover. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald noted that funds typically go from the service provide directly to the landlord or other party. She noted that funds can cover other housing-related costs like moving assistance and that they try to make the program accessible to folks in various living situations by allowing different types of documentation such as a letter from a leaseholder.



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Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald described population targeting. She noted that CE programs are not population specific and are open to anyone who qualifies, while some program partners target specific populations including families receiving CalWorks, families involved with the child welfare system, and people who are on probation. Teri House noted that some cities fund prevention efforts which can be some of the braided fundings programs use. Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald noted that it is very important for providers to keep the info that 211 has up to date to help people get connected to a resource that meets their needs.

Lynna Magnuson shared an overview of the Bringing Families Home program operated by Caminar for families involved with the child welfare system. She noted that the program is a partnership between the Employment and Human Services Department, H3, and Caminar and that funding flows from the California Department of Social Services to the county. She highlighted several flexible aspects of the program including the ability to access financial assistance without holding a lease, making attempts to secure commitments from landlords to not pursue eviction after receiving funding, and using a more expansive definition of homelessness that includes living situations that cannot safely accommodate children.

Lynna Magnuson stated that H3 does a good job with contracts, trainings, ramp up meetings, connecting with other providers, and more. She noted that the partnership is very client centered and that she is happy to be a provider in Contra Costa.

### **Preview: Prevention and Rapid Exit Program Models Review**

Shelby Ferguson shared that H3 will want to get the Committee's feedback on prevention and rapid exit models including on the prevention definition, standard assessment and prioritization tool, and housing problem solving. She noted that the two programs are similar except for the population served, as prevention is for people at risk of homelessness and rapid exit is for people experiencing literal homelessness. Matt Mitchell noted that the Oversight Committee is responsible for updating and approving the program models, but the PATH Committee can bring insight and recommendations on making the models better. Shelby Ferguson noted that the Committee will be getting into these questions more over the next few months and there will likely be some content for discussion at the June meeting.

Teri House asked about the use of HUD and Measure X funding. Shelby Ferguson noted that the recommendation is to use both in part because Measure X has more flexibility. There will be a presentation on recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and materials should be posted online.



## PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee members discussed various gaps and challenges with the program models including communicating with providers about the need and funding gap and the fact that some people may not know about calling 211.

Iman Novin stated that it would be helpful in future meetings to get more detail including the amount of HUD funding, how many people access the programs, which providers have contracts, and a breakdown of which providers offer rapid exit versus prevention. Teri House noted some of this information is available in the materials for the Board of Supervisors recommendations and in providers annual reports.

Iman Novin noted that while a majority of funding goes to landlords in the form of rent, many do not know about the program. Juno Hedrick noted that some landlords do not want to engage with the systems or have had bad experiences in the past. Juno Hedrick noted that housing navigators do an amazing job and that it is worth thinking about landlord outreach and education. Teri House stated that jurisdictions can be partners in this effort.

### **Announcements**

Tony Ucciferri stated they are opening applications to the project-based voucher waitlist for five properties, including three for seniors and two for families.

### **Next Steps**

Matt Mitchell noted that the Committee will be moving in to talking about evaluation and program models in Quarter 3. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



# PLAN FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE

May 18, 2023, 9:00 – 11:00 am

# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

*PATH Innovations Committee is comprised of a diverse group of community stakeholders and CoC partners who commit to leading, monitoring, implementing, and assigning priorities to reduce unsheltered homelessness by 75% by the end of 2024.*



# ROLL CALL

PATH Innovations Committee Members

## Just Cause

- A need to care for a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner
- A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person;
- A need related to a physical or mental disability that is not otherwise accommodated for; or
- Travel while on official business of the body or another state or local agency.

## Emergency Circumstances

- A physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

# VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE EXEMPTION

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Deanne Pearn

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Iman Novin

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Jo Bruno

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Juno Hedrick

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Shawn Ray

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Teri House

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Tony Ucciferri

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Wayne Earl

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

# INTRODUCTIONS

H3 Staff  
Homebase  
Focus Strategies  
Stakeholders

# HYBRID MEETING NORMS

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

# HYBRID MEETING NORMS

1. Masking is recommended but not required (masks are available)
2. Social distancing – red = please keep safe distance, green = ask first
3. Raise your hand (actual or virtual) before speaking
4. Say your name and if you're a Committee member before speaking
5. 2-minute timer for public comments
6. Maintain a safe and respectful environment, even when disagreeing
7. Make and take space – consider your privilege and other voices who are in and not in the room
8. Minimize distractions like side conversations and cell phone use
9. Food and drink – please clean up and be mindful of smells and allergens

# HYBRID MEETING NORMS

An individual may be asked to leave should they behave in a manner that threatens the safety of the group or does not honor these meeting norms.

# REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*



# ACTION ITEM

- Approve minutes from the April 20, 2023 PATH Innovation Committee meeting.



# PUBLIC COMMENT

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

*Open period for public comment on items discussed or not listed on the agenda.*

# PIT COUNT/HIC UPDATE

*Dana Ewing, H3*

# 2023 PIT RESULTS

**2,372**

people were experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- 70% were unsheltered
- 30% were sheltered

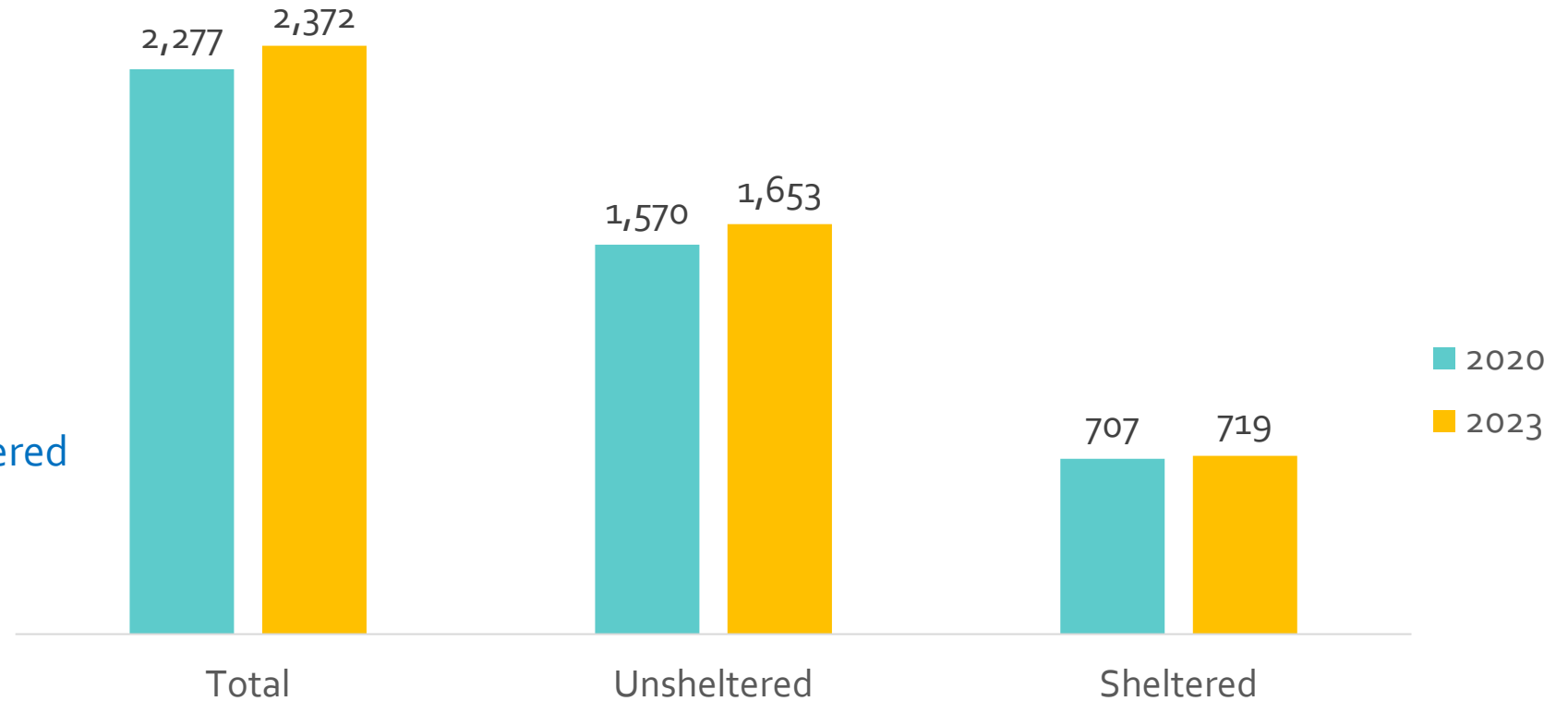


# 2023 PIT RESULTS

Number of Homeless Individuals, by Sheltered and Unsheltered Status, 2020 vs 2023

4% increase in the total homeless population since 2020

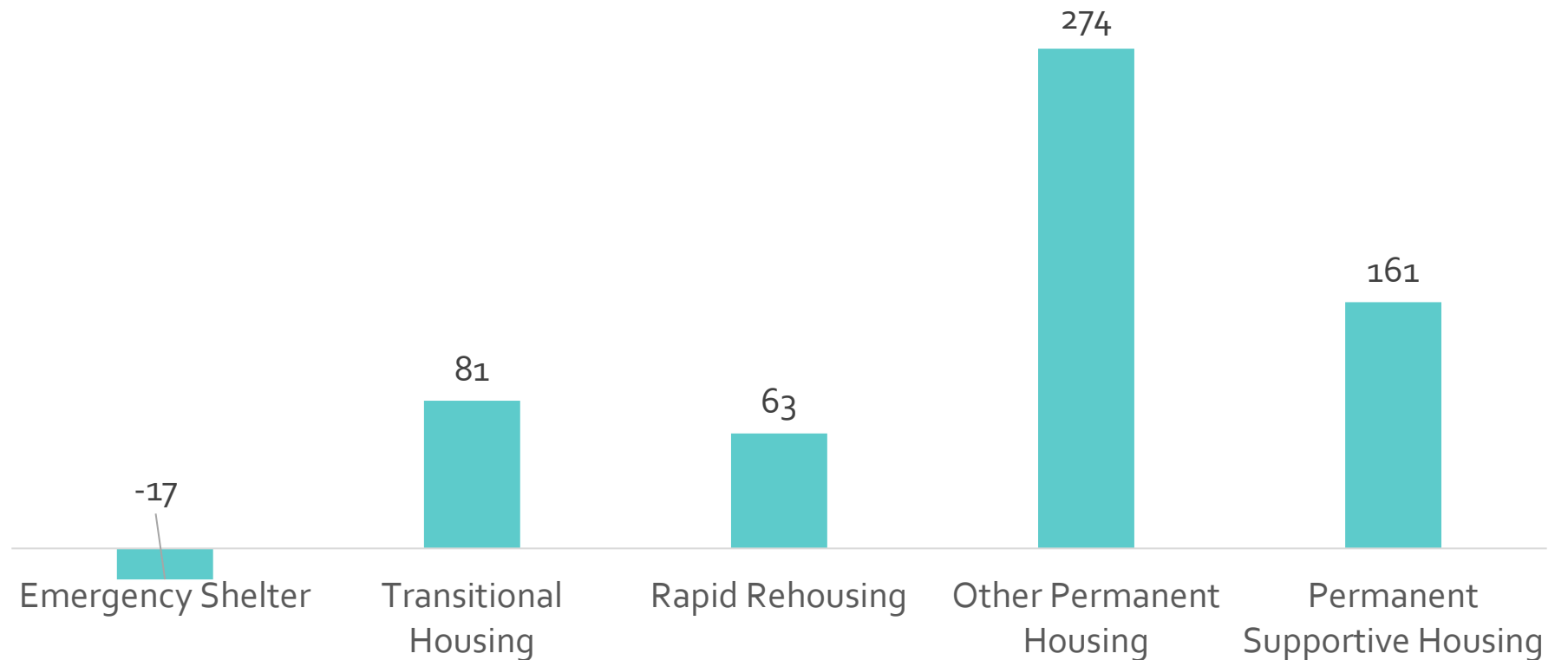
- 5% increase among unsheltered
- 2% among sheltered



# HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT

## Change in Available Number of Beds by Program Model HIC 2023

Increased total capacity by 562 beds since 2020



# DATA REPORTS

HUD data was submitted on 4/28/23

PIT 2023 data was presented at the COH on 5/4/23

Upcoming reports:

- 2023 PIT Infographic
- 2023 PIT StoryMap
- 2022 Annual Report

# WHAT IS AN INFOGRAPHIC?

**An infographic** is a visual communication meant to capture attention and enhance comprehension with data (pie charts and bar graphs) and minimal text that gives an easy-to-understand overview of a topic.

This would provide a snapshot of those identified during the count and can not include people who are at-risk.

## Topics to include:

- Total individuals/households
- Demographics
  - Race/ethnicity
  - HH type
  - Disabling conditions
  - Age
- Length of time homeless
- Unsheltered city data



# WHAT IS A STORYMAP?

**StoryMaps** are web-based maps that draw on the power of maps and geography to tell a story. May include other local data, images, and qualitative information.

This let's us start talking about social context of prevention before people hit the CoC

## Topics and Other Data to consider:

- Overlay unsheltered data with shelter and CARE Center resources
- Integrate with other health and social data in CoCo:
  - Housing affordability
  - Health indicators
  - Census tract income
- Include HIC to show capacity

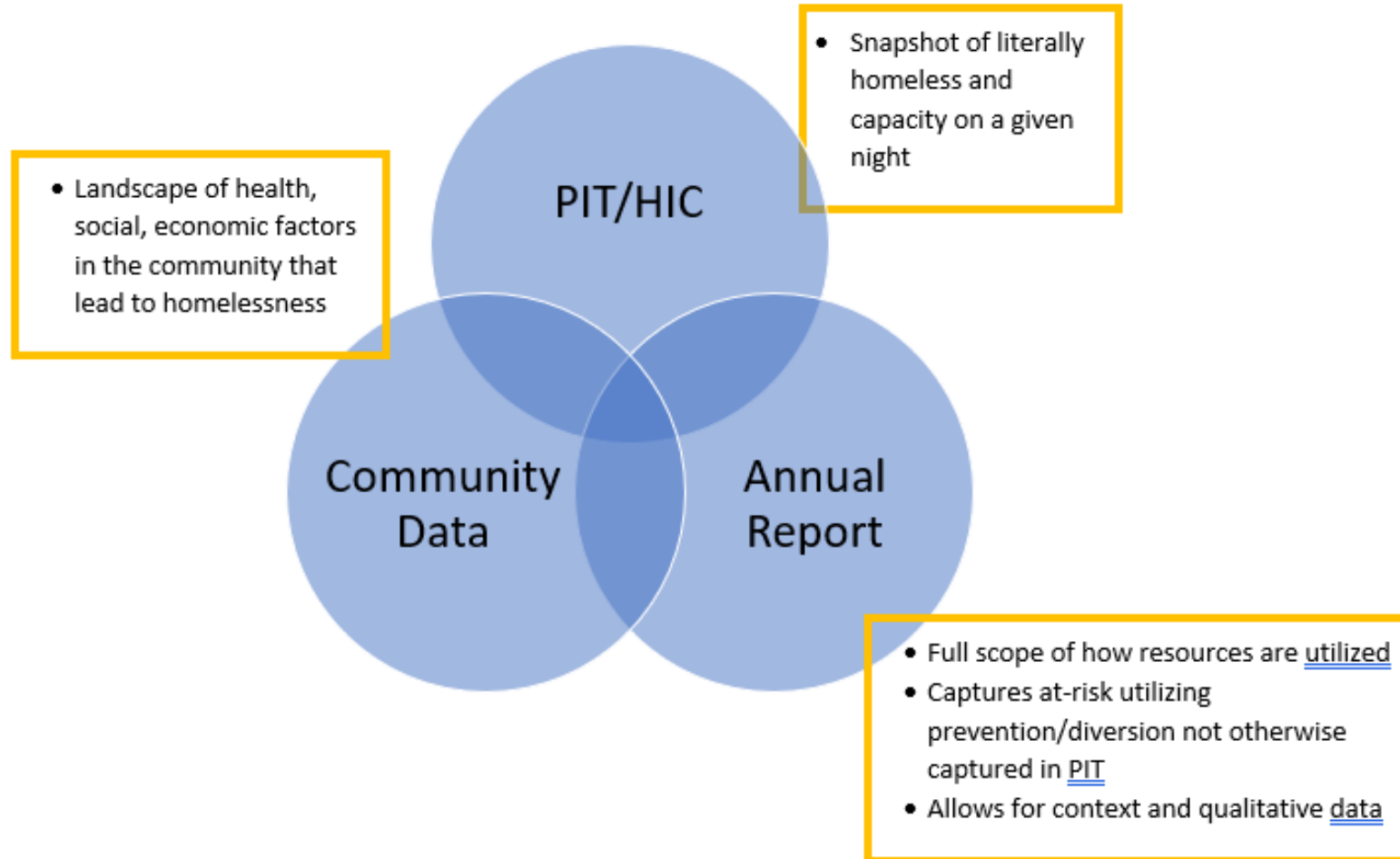
# WHAT IS THE ANNUAL REPORT?

**Annual report** provides a fuller picture of people experiencing homelessness throughout the year; those at-risk, literally homeless, and housed in permanent housing programs.

## **Annual Report topics:**

- Demographics
- Program Utilization
- Outcomes
  - by race/ethnicity
  - by household type
  - by program model
- Can highlight successes and challenges
- Can include spending and resources

# THE FULL DATA PICTURE



# PATH COMMITTEE

How do we use the data to:

1. Understand unsheltered homelessness
2. Understand at-risk
3. Identify whether prevention/diversion is targeting the right audience (are these people who would have hit the unsheltered system of care if not for prevention/diversion and therefore reducing inflow)?

# PREVENTION LEARNING COHORT UPDATE

*Jo Bruno, Committee Member*

# PEER LEARNING CALL – APRIL 25, 2023

- All seven communities participated
  - Spokane City and County, WA
  - Eugene/Lane County, OR
  - Richmond/Contra Costa County, CA
  - Cincinnati/Hamilton County, OH
  - Charlotte/Mecklenburg County, NC
  - Greater Hartford, CT
  - Washington, District of Columbia

# PEER LEARNING CALL – APRIL 25, 2023

- Presentation from Jonathan Russell
  - Core elements of prevention systems
    - Shared vision, housing-focused access points, standardized tools and protocol, shared data, ongoing support
- Presentation from Sacramento Steps Forward
  - Housing problem solving strategy led by People with Lived Experience of homelessness
  - Train the trainer model on housing problem solving
  - Utilized HHAP funding to provide 42 hours of training, ongoing mentoring and supports, and management of program

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN OTHER COMMITTEES?

## Coordinated Prevention definition

Oversight – role to update and align program models to community definition

PATH – help develop community definition

## Equity Measures

Oversight – monitor progress in program models

Equity – thought partner to equity measures in program models, assess success of outreach materials

PATH – examine prevention models for inequities and identify targeting strategies



# WHAT'S GOING ON IN OTHER COMMITTEES?

Community outreach and education

Program Models

Equity Committee – help create new materials and identify new partners

PATH – bring new partners in to prevention work

Oversight – Make recommendations for revision to program models, monitor annual performance

Equity Committee – share feedback on program models based on learnings

PATH – share feedback on Prevention and Rapid Exit program models based on learnings

# PREVENTION AND COORDINATED ENTRY

*Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3*

*Lynna Magnuson, Caminar*

# PREVENTION: OVERVIEW

**Purpose:** To prevent a person at-risk of homelessness from becoming homeless, or to *divert* a person experiencing homelessness from entering the homeless response system

- **Housing Problem-Solving**

- Includes landlord/tenant mediation, information and referral, leveraging of a households natural supports



Goal: Housing Retention

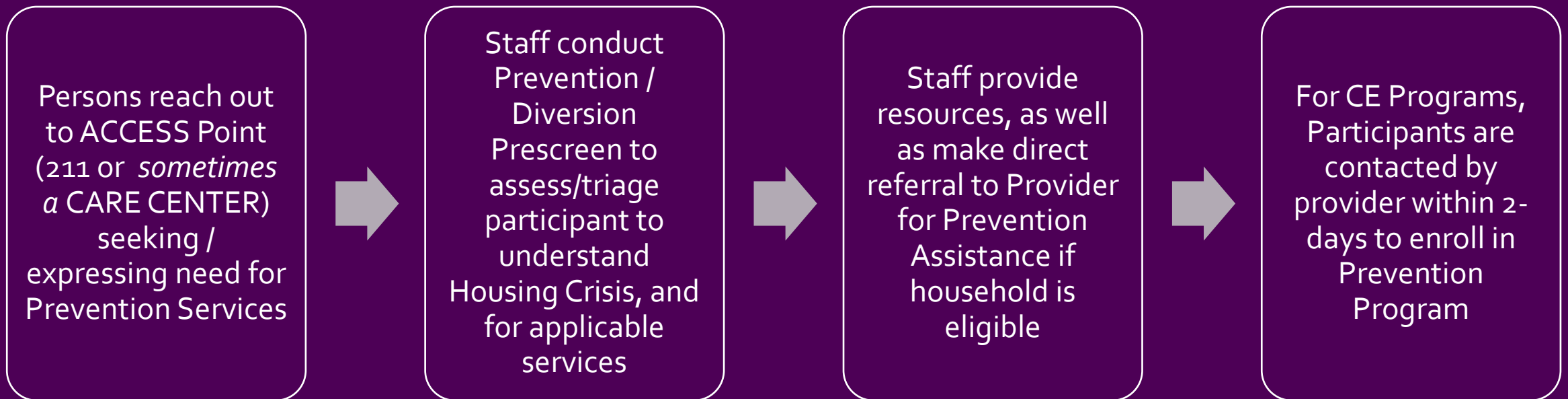
# PREVENTION: OVERVIEW

**Eligible Population:** Households who meet HUD's definition of "at-risk of homelessness"

**Financial Assistance:** \$3,000 for individuals, \$5,000 for families

- Rent Arrears
- Deposit
- First Month Rent
- Other costs associated with relocating to more stable housing

# PREVENTION: IMPLEMENTATION



# PREVENTION: POPULATIONS & ACCESS

## Through Coordinated Entry

- Generally not population specific; open to anyone meeting eligibility
- Accessed through CE ACCESS Points / 211

## Targeted Populations with Coordinated Entry as a Partner / Referral Mechanism

- CE Team acts as intermediary between other entities and providers, to support access to and implementation of population specific prevention programs
- Current Examples:
  - Families receiving CalWorks (HSP)
  - Child-Welfare involved families (BFH)
  - Probation (HIP)

## Resources Outside of Coordinated Entry, but still accessible

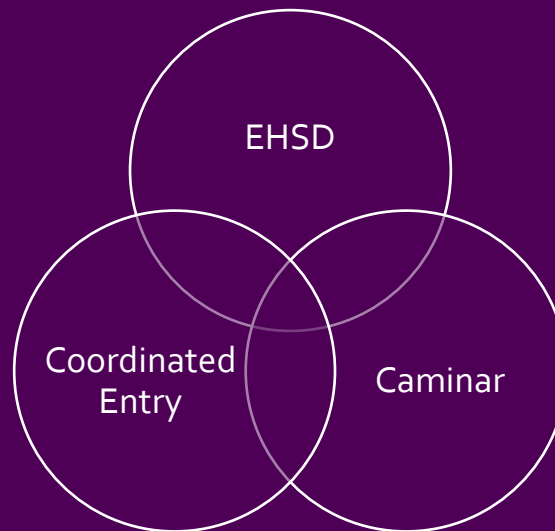
- Other population specific programs
- Adult Protective Services Programs
- SSVF (Veterans)
- Faith Based Organizations
- Note: 211 (ACCES Point) keeps up-to-date information on many prevention programs and offers as many / all possible resources to callers they believe may apply

## SPOTLIGHT: BRINGING FAMILIES HOME

- Example of a Program and other entity that partner with H3 / Coordinated Entry Team to provide Rapid Rehousing and Prevention Services to a *target population*
- **Target Population:** Child-Welfare Involved Families / Families with Open & Active case with Contra Costa Children and Family Services

## SPOTLIGHT: BRINGING FAMILIES HOME

- Bringing Families Home is a partnership between EHSD, H<sub>3</sub> and Caminar where Caminar provides homelessness prevention and diversion, as well as rapid re-housing, to prevent participant family homelessness and reduce the occurrence of foster care placement





# HOW IS BRINGING FAMILIES HOME FUNDED?

**California Department of Social Services**

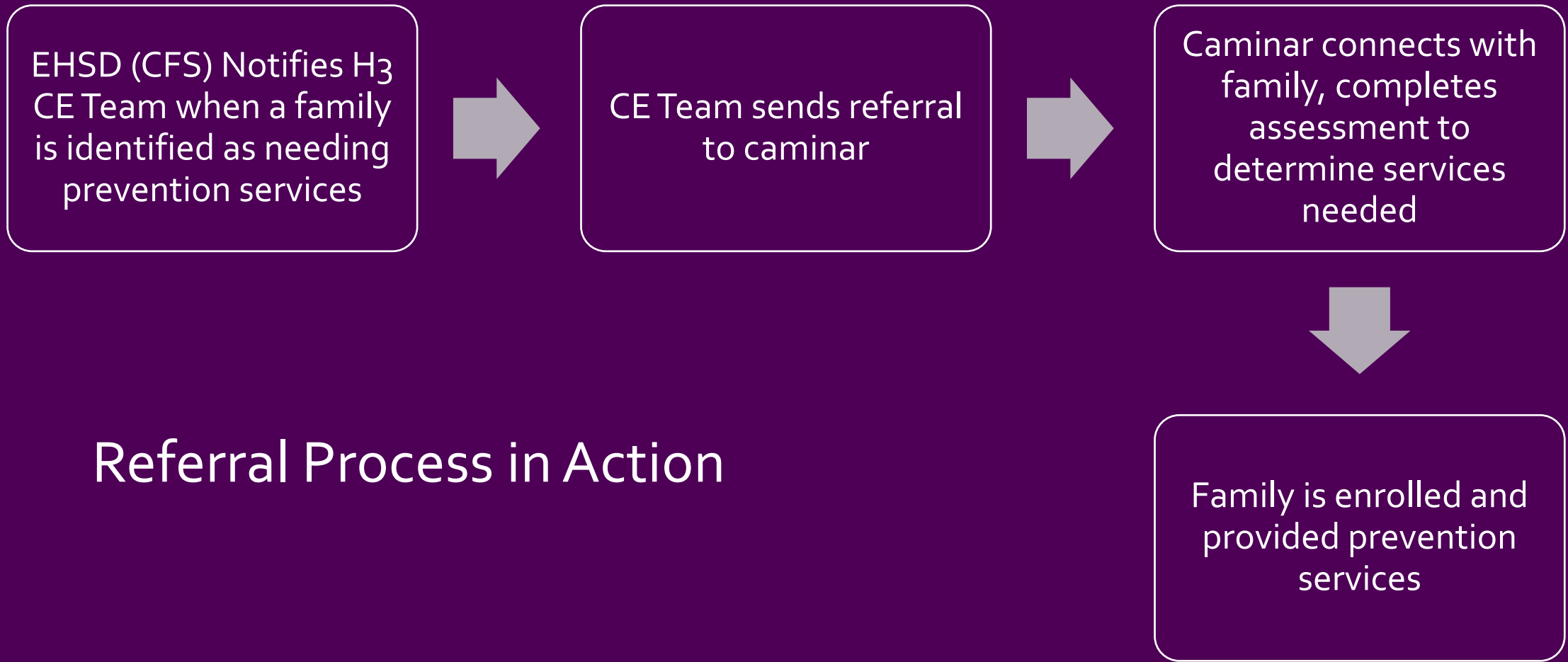
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graph TD; A[California Department of Social Services] --> B[Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services]; B --> C[Contra Costa County H3 Program]; C --> D[CAMINAR];
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**Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services**

**Contra Costa County H3 Program**

**CAMINAR**

# BFH REFERRAL PROCESS



## Referral Process in Action

# SERVICE OVERVIEW

Homelessness Prevention/Diversion keeps referred Bringing Families Home (BFH) families from experiencing literal homelessness for the first time or returning to it after being permanently housed. Referred families will receive:

- Housing Problem Solving used to stabilize existing housing
- Financial assistance can help with utility or rent arrears, first month's rent or deposit, other costs associated with relocating to more stable housing and/or other expenditures to help household stay in current housing, such as food vouchers or repairs.

Holding a lease is not a requirement for homelessness prevention financial assistance.

There will always be attempts made to secure commitment from landlord not to pursue eviction/canceling of the lease after payment.

# SPECIAL RULES

- Participants enrolled in Homelessness Prevention/Diversion can be co-enrolled with PSH and RRH
- Participants should not be co-enrolled in programs that require participants to be literally homeless, CORE, CARE, Emergency Shelter, and Rapid Exit.
- Participants are exited from Homeless Prevention/Diversion after the 30-day, post-housing stabilization follow up contact has occurred. Households exited from this model are typically exited from the system of care.

# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Eligibility expands beyond HUD definition to account for living situations that cannot accommodate a child

# QUESTIONS

- New Provider: Lynna Magnuson, CAMINAR
- Or
- Coordinated Entry Manager: Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald

PREVIEW:  
PREVENTION &  
RAPID EXIT  
PROGRAM MODEL  
REVIEW

*Shelby Ferguson, H3*

# PREVENTION & RAPID EXIT PROGRAM MODELS

- **Role of PATH Committee**: share feedback on Prevention and Rapid Exit program models based on learnings
  - **Prevention definition**: does it align with shared definition determined in Prevention cohort?
  - **Prevention Standard Assessment & Prioritization Tool**
  - **Housing Problem Solving (Prevention & Rapid Exit)**: training and involvement from people with lived experience (PWLE)

Link to the models: [Program-Models.pdf \(cchealth.org\)](#)



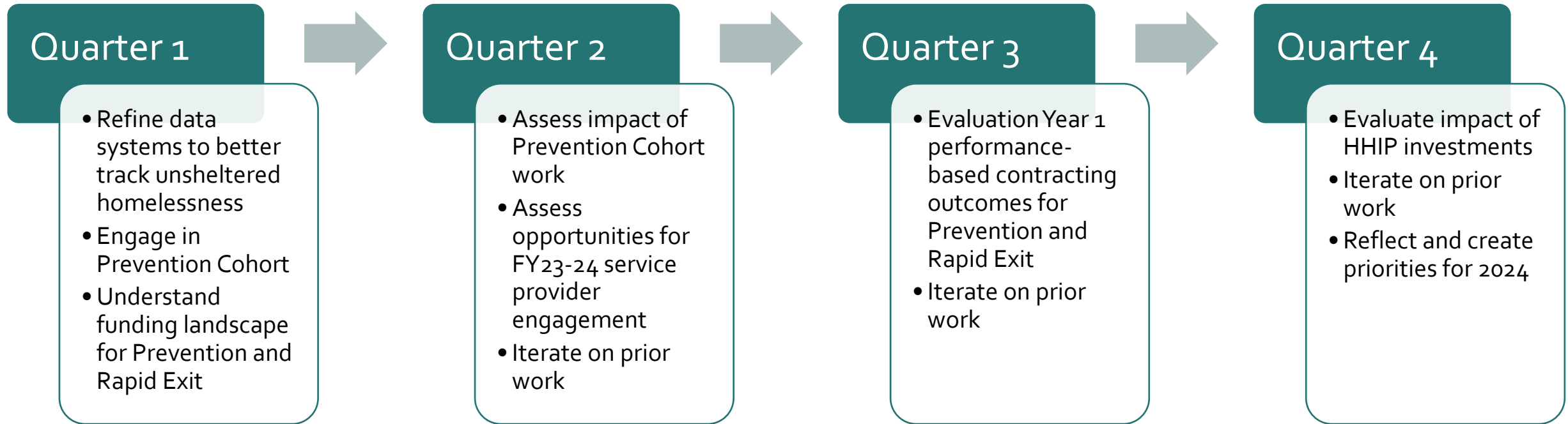
# PREVENTION PROGRAM MODEL

- **Purpose**: To keep people from experiencing literal homelessness for the **first time or returning** to it after being permanently housed.
- **Eligible Population and Prioritization**: Eligible households meet HUD's definition of "at-risk of homelessness" in 24 CFR 576.2. Assistance will be prioritized for those most likely to become homeless according to **research-based criteria**, which includes prior experience of homelessness. The prevention model includes the adoption of a **standard assessment tool**.
- **Required Elements**: Those that meet the criteria for the most at risk are supported with **Housing Problem Solving** and, if needed, financial assistance to avoid time in Emergency Shelter or unsheltered homelessness. Homelessness prevention is provided based on need rather than proof of sustainability post assistance.

# NEXT STEPS

*Matt Mitchell, Focus Strategies*

# 2023 ROADMAP



# UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- June 15, 2023
- July 20, 2023
- August 17, 2023