

Strategic Planning Update

CoC Strategic Planning Committee

July 15, 2022

Outline

- I. Refining to 3 Overarching Goals
- II. Proposal to Dive Deeper Into Key Themes

9 Emerging Goals

- I. Develop a countywide **coordinated funding process** to use available resources efficiently and effectively to drive local priorities and ensure accountability
- II. Improve participation and coordination in **data collection and access** to data
- III. Educate and **engage the community** in the effort to end homelessness in Sonoma County
- IV. **Improve transparency and effectiveness of the Coordinated Entry System** (front end of the homeless response system)
- V. **Eliminate disparities** in access, service provision, and outcomes in underserved and overrepresented subpopulations in the homeless response system
- VI. **Build supportive services capacity** to meet the complex health and disability needs of highly vulnerable homeless households
- VII. Develop, expand, and coordinate interventions to **support those living on the street, in encampments, or in vehicles**
- VIII. **Build new capacity to house the unsheltered** population by creating a comprehensive system flow that includes homeless prevention, interim housing, and permanent housing
- IX. **Create pathways to self-sufficiency** for individuals experiencing homelessness or living in supportive housing

Refining to 3 Overarching Goals

- I. Create comprehensive housing interventions, from prevention to permanent housing, to reduce inflow into homelessness and increase pathways to housing stability
- II. Build supportive services capacity to meet the complex and diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County
- III. Coordinate across Sonoma County to develop shared priorities, aligned investments, and equitable solutions to address homelessness

Goal I

Create comprehensive housing interventions, from prevention to permanent housing, to reduce inflow into homelessness and increase pathways to housing stability

1. Promote housing retention for those at risk of homelessness by investing in prevention and diversion interventions
2. Enhance and create interim housing options
3. Develop sustainable permanent housing solutions

Goal II

Build supportive services capacity to meet the complex and diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County

1. Standardize minimum compensation, training, and wellness practices for housing and supportive service providers
2. Significantly expand mental and physical healthcare services for individuals experiencing homelessness, including those living in supportive housing
3. Improve services dedicated to the unique needs of specific populations
4. Coordinate cross sectors of healthcare, behavioral health, and homeless response
5. Develop, expand, and coordinate interventions to support those living on the street, in encampments, or in vehicles
6. Create meaningful pathways to economic self-sufficiency

Goal III

Coordinate across Sonoma County to develop shared priorities, aligned investments, and equitable solutions to address homelessness

1. Develop a countywide coordinated funding process to use available resources efficiently and effectively to drive local priorities and ensure accountability
2. Prioritize funding to entities that align with local priorities to promote equity, center the voices of people with lived experience, and utilize evidence-based practices
3. Establish a monitoring and reporting system to inform decision makers
4. Ensure the voices of individuals with lived experience of homelessness are consistently incorporated into planning and evaluating the homeless response system
5. Improve service provider participation in data collection and access to data
6. Educate and engage the community in the effort to end homelessness in Sonoma County
7. Improve transparency and effectiveness of the Coordinated Entry System (entry points of the homeless response system)
8. Eliminate disparities in access, service provision, and outcomes in underserved and overrepresented subpopulations in the homeless response system

Proposal to Dive Deeper into Key Themes

Set series of sessions (1-2 hours/day) over 3 days to bring together stakeholders to offer input into priorities, gaps, and decision points

No formal action taken and open to public

Stakeholders to invite

- Strategic Planning Committee (and wider CoC)
- Providers
- Public

Proposed Key Themes

- I. Ensuring Housing First can be done right
 - a. Staffing, training, compensation, safety
 - b. Supporting mental and physical health needs
 - c. Creating low barrier environments
- II. Determining the most effective housing solutions (enhancing current housing programming vs. investing in new; interim vs. permanent)
- III. Coordinating funding and priorities (e.g., create a Homelessness Czar, cross jurisdictional Funding Advisory Board, shared RFP process that promotes priorities)
- IV. Priorities for Equity (Racial/ethnic, Youth/Seniors, Gender)
- V. Creating a true path to self-sufficiency (economic assistance, rental subsidies)
- VI. Meeting the needs of the unsheltered community (basic needs, outreach, crisis response, enforcement)
- VII. Incorporating the voices of individuals with lived experience of homelessness into planning and evaluating the homeless response system

Discussion

- Which themes are highest priority for a workshop?
- Which themes could be addressed in existing settings?
- Which theme areas will be most difficult to implement?
- Which theme areas will be easiest to implement?

Next steps

- Continue stakeholder engagement to identify themes, and develop goals, strategies, and action steps
- Work with Strategic Planning Committee to refine ideas, review draft sections, and create implementation details

Revised Goals for Strategic Planning Committee Discussion

Background

Developing goals, strategies, and action steps for the Sonoma County plan to address homelessness has been, and will continue to be, an iterative process. To date, Homebase has developed the content below based on an initial environmental scan of data and community work to date in combination with ongoing stakeholder input. Thus far, the goal has been to synthesize and encompass all feedback provided. As the process continues, Homebase seeks additional guidance on the direction of the plan by refining and prioritizing emerging strategies and action steps. Nothing described below represents a final product. Homebase hopes to use the Strategic Planning Committee to support this process.

Initial Emerging Goals

The following 9 goals were presented at a Strategic Planning Committee. Committee members felt that these goals captured the content needed for the plan.

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- II. Improve participation and coordination in data collection and access to data
- III. Educate and engage the community in the effort to end homelessness in Sonoma County
- IV. Improve transparency and effectiveness of the Coordinated Entry System (front end of the homeless response system)
- V. Eliminate disparities in access, service provision, and outcomes in underserved and overrepresented subpopulations in the homeless response system
- VI. Build supportive services capacity to meet the complex health and disability needs of highly vulnerable homeless households
- VII. Develop, expand, and coordinate interventions to support those living on the street, in encampments, or in vehicles
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Revised Overarching Goals

Upon continued reflection on the above goals, Homebase revised the structure to better articulate the priorities of the community in a more digestible way. As a result, there are now 3 proposed overarching goals that contain all of content from the previous 9 goals. These prioritize the themes of coordination, supportive service capacity building, and housing interventions.

- I. Create comprehensive housing interventions, from prevention to permanent housing, to reduce inflow into homelessness and increase pathways to housing stability

Revised Goals for Strategic Planning Committee Discussion

- II. Build supportive services capacity to meet the complex and diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County
- III. Coordinate across Sonoma County to develop shared priorities, aligned investments, and equitable solutions to address homelessness

Reorganized Strategies Under the New Goals

The 9 goals and related strategies have been reorganized under the 3 new proposed goals. Strategies presented remain proposals based on diverse stakeholder feedback. Some strategies are more detailed and articulated than others, and others may need refinement, which is why continued input is needed.

Goal I

Create comprehensive housing interventions, from prevention to permanent housing, to reduce inflow into homelessness and increase pathways to housing stability

Strategies

1. Promote housing retention for those at risk of homelessness by investing in prevention and diversion interventions
2. Enhance and create interim housing options
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Goal II

Build supportive services capacity to meet the complex and diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County

Strategies

1. Standardize minimum compensation, training, and wellness practices for housing and supportive service providers
2. Significantly expand mental and physical healthcare services for individuals experiencing homelessness, including those living in supportive housing
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Goal III

Coordinate across Sonoma County to develop shared priorities, aligned investments, and equitable solutions to address homelessness

Strategies

1. Develop a countywide coordinated funding process to use available resources efficiently and effectively to drive local priorities and ensure accountability
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