HOME SONOMA COUNTY

Coordinated, compassionate, effective services in the fight against homelessness
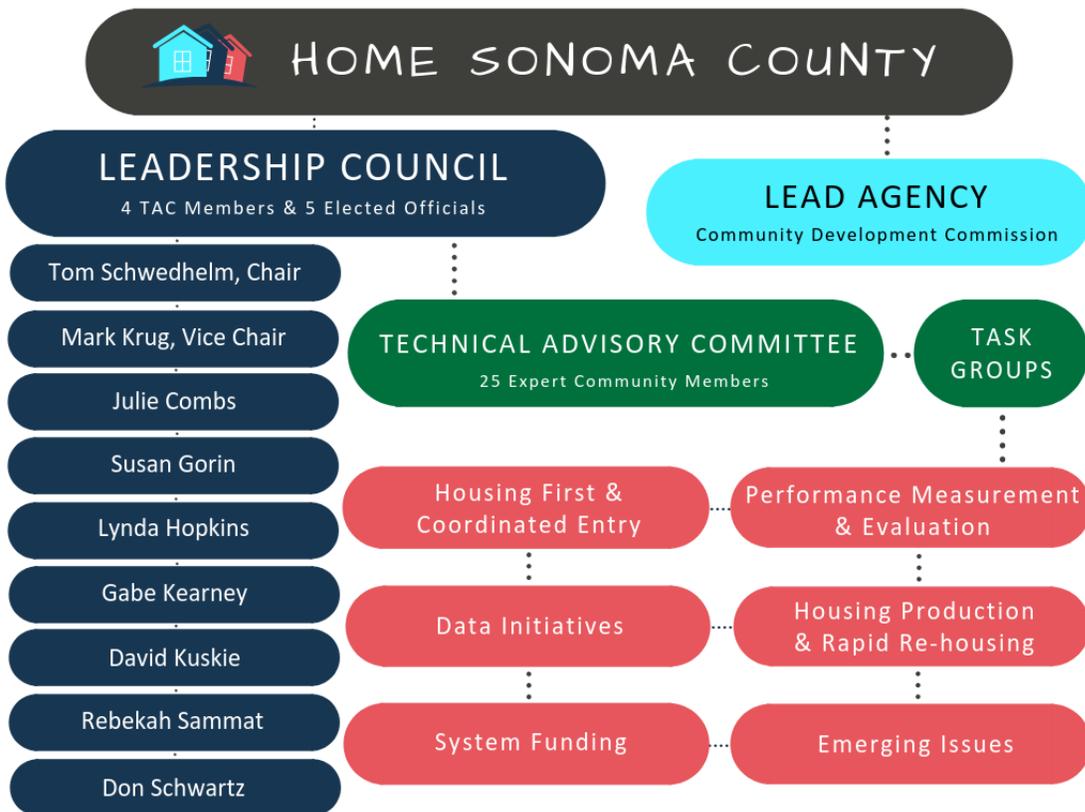
HOME SONOMA COUNTY

OVERVIEW

Home Sonoma County is Sonoma County's homeless services system of care. The countywide effort is governed by a nine-member Leadership Council responsible for allocating funds to local homeless services programs. The Council consists of local elected officials and individuals with lived homeless experience and is advised by Task Groups comprising its 25-member Technical Advisory Committee.

LEAD AGENCY

Sonoma County Community Development Commission (CDC)
1440 Guerneville Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Homeless-System-of-Care/

Staff Coordinator
Michael Gause
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The Community Development Commission (CDC), Sonoma County's Public Housing Authority, has administered state and federal grants for over 20 years. The CDC manages approximately $6 million in homeless grants and program funds each year, and oversees the county's required Homeless Management Information System and Homeless Count, along with other mandatory planning efforts.

HOME SONOMA COUNTY

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
4 TAC Members & 5 Elected Officials

- Tom Schwedhelm, Chair
- Mark Krug, Vice Chair
- Julie Combs
- Susan Gorin
- Lynda Hopkins
- Gabe Kearney
- David Kuskie
- Rebekah Sammat
- Don Schwartz

LEAD AGENCY
Community Development Commission

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
25 Expert Community Members

TASK GROUPS

- Housing First & Coordinated Entry
- Performance Measurement & Evaluation
- Data Initiatives
- Housing Production & Rapid Re-housing
- System Funding
- Emerging Issues

BACKGROUND

Home Sonoma County launched in 2018, after an independent study found that local homeless services were fragmented and ineffective. Following a year of collaboration with local stakeholders, Home Sonoma County was created – a structure established to set vision, make decisions and measure results throughout the county in a coordinated effort to end homelessness.

THE GOAL OF **HOME SONOMA COUNTY** IS TO ACHIEVE **FUNCTIONAL ZERO** HOMELESSNESS IN SONOMA COUNTY USING A **HOUSING FIRST** MODEL.

Functional Zero

Functional zero homelessness is reached when the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in a community is less than the average number of homeless individuals being connected with permanent housing each month.

- To achieve functional zero, a community must have the ability to quickly connect people with housing and ensure that homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring.
- Functional zero has been achieved by jurisdictions throughout the United States. While it does not mean that a community completely eradicates homelessness, it does mean that homeless episodes are shorter and fewer people return to the street.

Housing First

Housing First is an approach to quickly connect people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without barriers to entry. A Housing First strategy is required by July 2019 for Sonoma County to remain eligible for federal and state funding.

- Homelessness is primarily a housing crisis; it can be addressed through safe and affordable housing.
- Those experiencing homelessness can achieve stability in permanent housing. Some need little support for a brief period of time, while others need more support for longer.
- Issues such as sobriety, compliance in treatment, or criminal histories are not necessary to succeed in housing.

Technical Advisory Committee

The Home Sonoma County Technical Advisory Committee is comprised of 25 community stakeholders that represent formerly homeless individuals, nonprofit service providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, local governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement agencies and veterans organizations. The 2019 Home Sonoma County Technical Advisory Committee members are listed below.

Celeste Austin	Chuck Fernandez	Chris Keys	Barbie Robinson
Rev. Lindsey Bell-Kerr	Una Glass	Alice Linn	Debra Sanders
Tom Bieri	Vanessa Guevera	Tim Miller	Daniel Schurman
Dave Cade	Mary Haynes	Annie Nicol	Mary Stompe
Colleen Carmichael	Jennielynn Holmes	Jennifer O'Donnell	Angela Struckmann
Karin Demarest	Kathryn Jurik	Tamara Player	Jerry Threet
			Katrina Thurman