

Barbara Poppe and associates

The collective for impact

HHAP Consultation: Palm Springs

Presentation to Palm Springs City Council

January 29, 2020

Barbara Poppe and Associates

The collective for impact

Barbara Poppe is the founder of Barbara Poppe and Associates and the former executive director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2009-2014.

During her tenure, **Opening Doors**, the first comprehensive federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness was launched in June 2010.

Ms. Poppe is a nationally recognized expert on homelessness and results-driven public-private partnerships.

Ms. Poppe serves on the national board of the Enterprise Community Partners and the national advisory board for the Center for Evidence-based Solution to Homelessness.

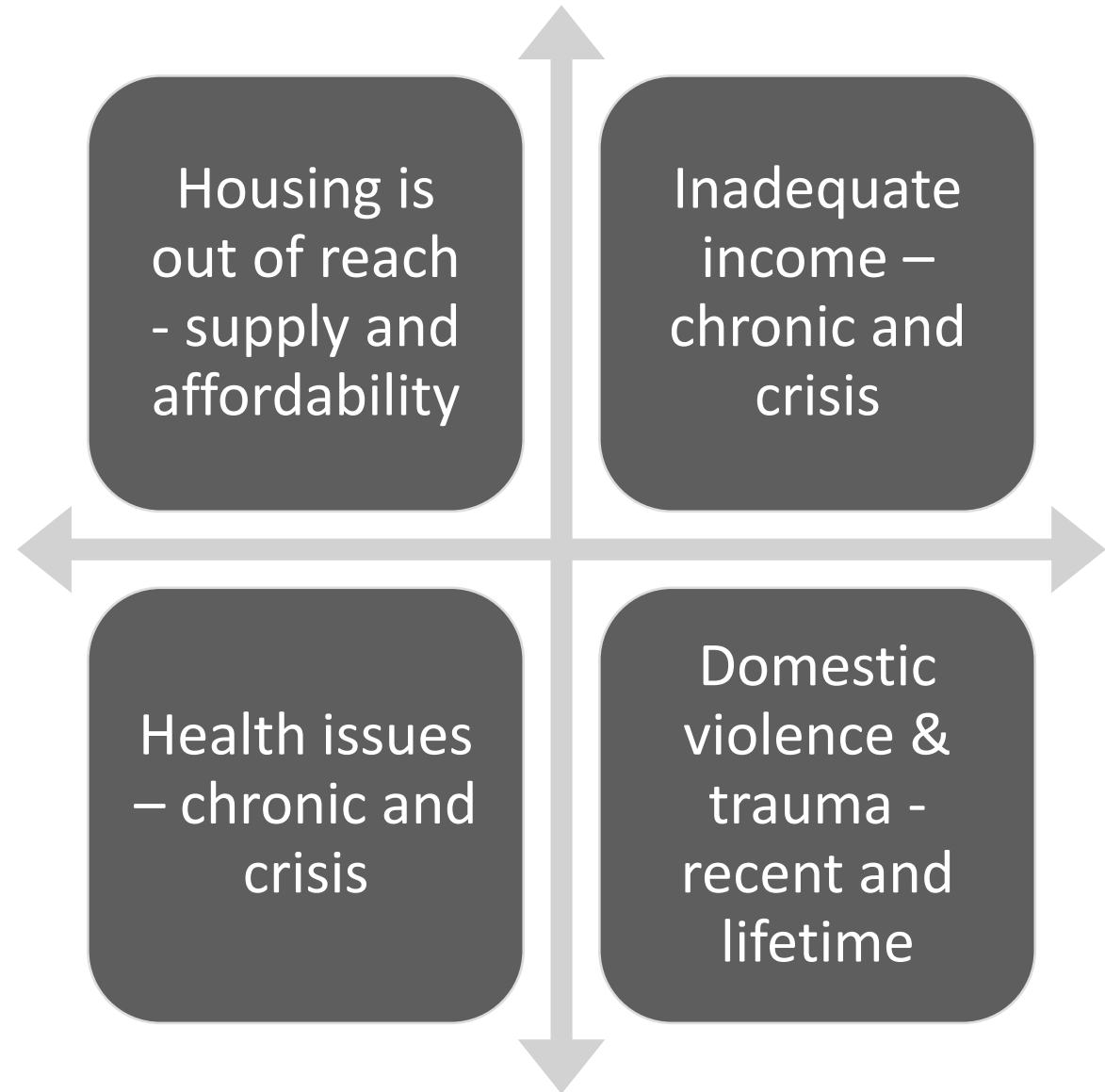


Overview

- Grounding in best practices and definitions
- Purpose of consultation & process
- Background on HHAP
- Key Leader perspectives
- Options and opportunities for HHAP investment
- Q&A



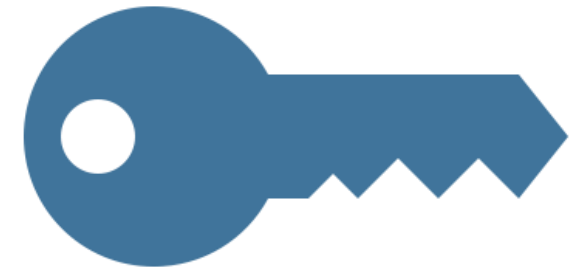
Causes and consequences of homelessness



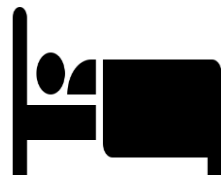


Keys to success The Path Forward:

recommendations to advance an end to homelessness in the Coachella Valley



Housing Solutions



Crisis Response



Alignment

Recommendations

Community Engagement and Leadership

Establish the **Coachella Valley Collaborative to End Homelessness**

Increase Exits to Housing and Services

- Scale up **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** that uses best practices approach and increase access to housing and services in other settings
- Increase access to affordable rental housing by **preserving existing housing** options and establishing a coordinated and **collaborative landlord recruitment** initiative
- Align **Rapid Rehousing (RRH)** funding and practices with best practices approach; scale up as needed

Improve Cross-Sector Responses

- Implement an enhanced **Health Home Program** to prevent homelessness and assist homeless individuals to exit more quickly to stable housing with services
- Establish an **early childhood and school-based collaborative** for homelessness prevention programs to stabilize the most vulnerable children and families

Improve Crisis Response

- Scale up diversion assistance or “**assisted rapid resolution**” (problem-solving with access to flexible financial assistance) across the Coachella Valley
- Establish a true, **collaborative crisis response system** to provide a more comprehensive response to homelessness across the Coachella Valley

The Path Forward:

recommendations to advance an end to homelessness in the Coachella Valley

Definitions

- **Rapid resolution** is aimed at keeping households from becoming homeless by providing services that permit them to stay safely in current housing or, if that is not possible, move to other housing without lapsing into homelessness. Priority is given to households who are most likely to be admitted to shelters or be unsheltered if not for this assistance.
- **Rapid Rehousing** includes housing identification, rent and move-in financial assistance, case management, and other services available to households who have become homeless. This approach places a priority on moving a family or individual experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible, and then working with the household for an extended period—from several months to two years—to meet their living expenses.

Definitions

- **Bridge Housing** is interim housing used as a short-term stay when an individual has been offered and accepted a permanent housing intervention but, is not able to immediately enter the permanent housing housing. AKA – Crisis Stabilization Housing
- **Permanent supportive housing** (PSH) is decent, safe, affordable, community-based housing that provides disabled tenants with the rights of tenancy and links to voluntary and flexible supports and services for people with disabilities who are experiencing chronic homelessness.

Purpose of consultation with Palm Springs

- Build from the earlier work for the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation in 2018
 - The Path Forward: *recommendations to advance an end to homelessness in the Coachella Valley*
- Share best practices and strategies that other communities have successfully implemented
- Solicit input and ideas
- Share expert advice and generate ideas for City Council who will develop a plan to apply for HHAP

Consultation Process



Key leader interviews



Document review



Focus group



Site visit



Council working session



Recommendations

City of Palm Springs' HHAP Application

Proposal should:

- conform to the HHAP requirements
- contribute to measurable reduction in homelessness within Palm Springs
- align with and support the regional approach to homelessness
- identify cost efficient, rapidly deployable, building technologies, practices, financing strategies, and policies that can be implemented in Palm Springs and replicated in other communities
- leverage other funding sources, partnerships, and resources
- invest in projects that are best able to be sustained beyond these one-time HHAP investment



Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP)



- To support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges throughout the state.
- Spending must be informed by a **best practices framework focused on moving homeless individuals and families into permanent housing and ensuring those individuals and families to maintain their permanent housing.**
- **\$10M** is dedicated to the City of Palm Springs.

Other information about HHAP

- **Prohibited:** shall not use HHAP grant program funding to supplant existing local funds for homeless housing, assistance, or prevention.
- **Mandated:** use at least 8 percent of their funds for services specific to the needs of homeless youth.
- **Permissive:** use funds for the following:
 - **Up to 5 percent** of an applicant's program allocation may be expended on a strategic homelessness plan and/or infrastructure development to support Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) and Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS).
 - **Up to 7 percent** of a program allocation may be used for a jurisdiction's administrative costs incurred to administer the funds. This does not include staff costs or other costs directly related to

Eligible uses for HHAP

- Rental assistance and rapid rehousing;
- Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers. Operating subsidies may include operating reserves;
- Landlord Incentives (including, but not limited to, security deposits and holding fees);
- Outreach and coordination (which may include access to job programs) to assist vulnerable populations in accessing permanent housing and to promote housing stability in supportive housing;
- Systems support for activities necessary to create regional partnerships and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system particularly for vulnerable populations including families and homeless youth;
- Delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions (such as hotel and motel conversions);
- Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing; and
- New navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated need.

Key Leader interviews

- Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
- CV HEART collaborative
- CVAG
- Desert AIDS Project
- Martha's Village and Kitchen
- Palm Springs Police Department HOT team
- Path of Life Ministries
- Riverside County Executive Office
- Riverside Housing Authority
- Riverside University Health System - Behavioral Health
- Well in the Desert



Who is homeless and why?

- Predominately, single adults/couples without children are experiencing homelessness in Palm Springs
 - Very few children or youth
 - Growing number of seniors
 - Most challenging are people with severe, persistent mental illness and addiction
- Rents are increasing. City of Palm Springs is not building/replacing rental housing for lower income households, including seniors
- Seasonal workers – few jobs during summer so unable to pay rent and become homeless.

Collaboration

- City of Palm Springs is viewed positively as good collaborator on services delivery with more active engagement recently.
- Collaboration is improving among nonprofit organizations, but mistrust and miscommunication remain
- CV HEART is gearing up publicly not but has been working informally for past several months to bring providers together.

What's happening – reducing inflow and preventing homelessness?

What's working?

- Rapid resolution
- Transportation assistance
- New MVK medical respite program
- Feeding programs

What's not working?

- Eviction due to rising rents, especially seniors
- Households with financial crisis are at risk of eviction
- Discharge from recovery/sober living centers

What's happening to address homelessness?

Positives

- Shared housing and PSH is successful
- Landlord engagement
- Well in the Desert provides important day services
- Year-round overnight shelter/cooling center at Boxing club
- CVAG's new multi-service center

Comment

*Boxing club helps a little bit.
Decreases immediate needs, slightly more organized but doesn't help people really self-resolve, and is unlikely to create ways for more folks to get off the streets.*

What's happening to address homelessness?

Housing Challenges

- Affordable apartments, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) slots and units
- Full & shallow subsidies for disabled, elderly, and working poor
- Landlords willing to take people with poor credit, prior eviction and/or criminal histories.

Comment

It is not hard to find people who want to leave the streets, it's hard to put them in housing.

What's happening to address homelessness?

Crisis Challenges

- 24/7 shelter beds
- Many people won't access congregate shelter
- Connecting to benefits
- Timely access to medical detox, services for people with mental illness
- Response to some physical health issues

Comment

People who are unsheltered are mobile so hard to consistently connect to services and find when housing match occurs.

What are ideas to better address homelessness?

- **Build more permanent supportive housing**
- Expand crisis stabilization units (bridge housing)
- Build out navigation center on city owned property at Boxing Center
- Figure out cheap ways to serve easiest to rehouse people
- Provide more access to showers, laundry restrooms, and safe storage

Overarching Recommendations

85% Dedicated to new housing and services

8% Mandatory youth set-aside

7% Admin, leadership & accountability

0% Planning/CES/HMIS (if feasible)

Potential allocation of funds

USES		AMOUNT	
Youth set aside		\$	800,000
Admin, leadership & accountability		\$	700,000
Program purposes		\$	8,500,000
	Total	\$	10,000,000

Leadership & accountability

Develop and implement contract/grant standards for performance and outcomes, HMIS participation, collaboration with other providers, alignment with best practices, and compliance on all city grants(in addition to HHAP) – require regular reports to Council committee

Launch civic engagement campaign to raise private funding and capital investment, pro bono services, and build cohesive community response to address homelessness

Dedicate position to function as Housing Initiatives Director and collaborate with CVAG, CoC, RivCo and others – develop clear action plan with benchmarks and metrics and provide regular reports to Council committee

Options: Housing

Create new PSH and bridge housing units

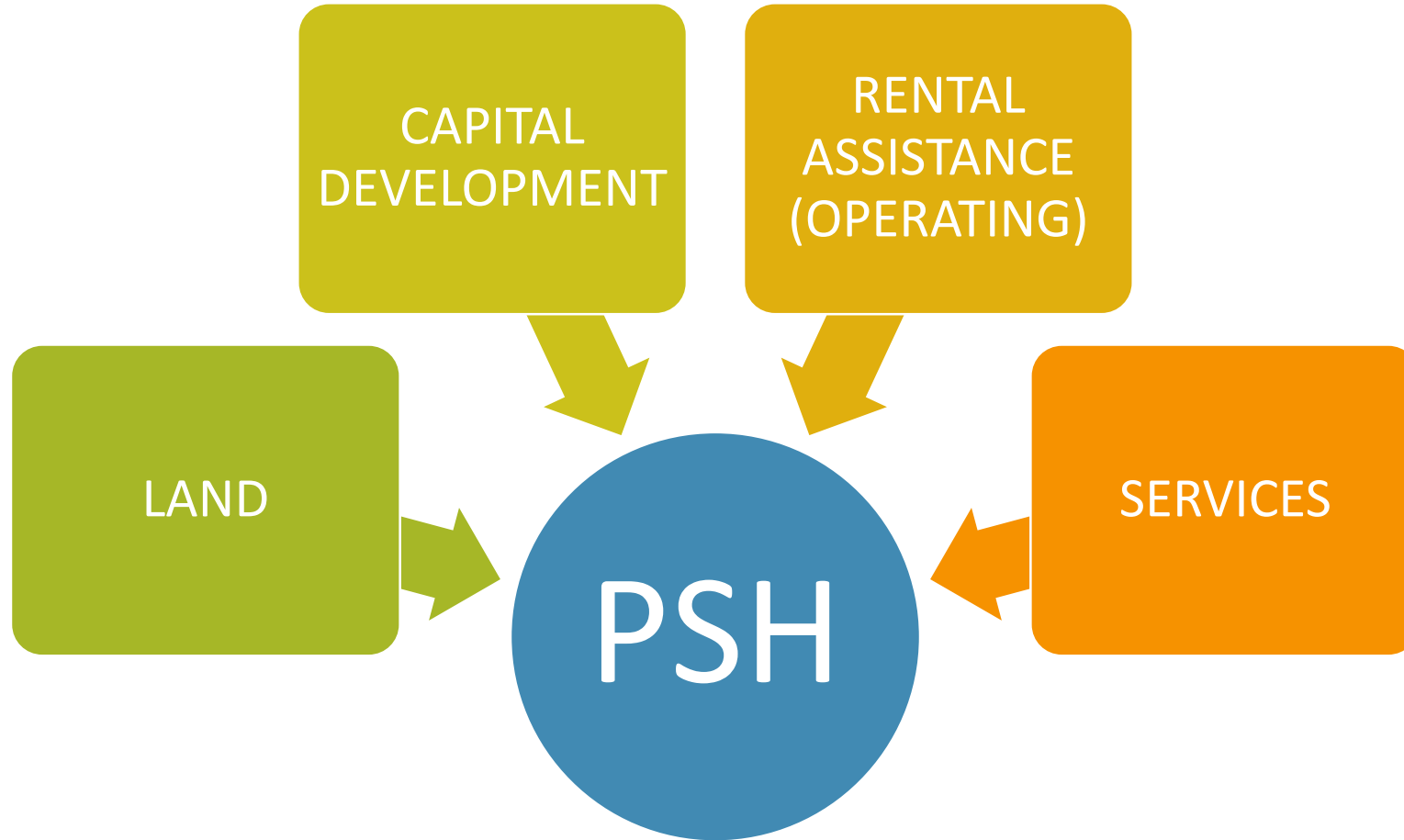
One shot and rapid rehousing financial assistance to exit homelessness

Landlord engagement and incentives

Definitions

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Permanent Supportive Housing



Create new
PSH and
bridge
housing units

Potential partners

- State of California as funding partner
- Lift to Rise, LISC/NEF, and/or Enterprise to help raise private capital
- Riverside County - HOME funds/other resources and pool SB 2 funds.
- Housing Authority for project-based housing vouchers
- DBH for NPLH investment, and ongoing intensive case management and other services; funding for bridge housing subsidies (on-demand)
- DPSS for funding for bridge housing subsidies (on-demand)
- Health Systems, Health Centers (e.g. Borrego, DAP, Clinicas, and County FQHCs) and IEHP for services, capital investment, and bridge housing subsidies
- Agua Caliente tribe, school system, churches, others who can provide free/low cost land

Create new
PSH and
bridge
housing units

Development models

- Dedicate units within new affordable rental housing
- Rehab existing apartments and dedicate some/all units
- Motel conversion
- Purchase scattered site condos
- New build on city owned or other free land

Create new
PSH and
bridge
housing units

City of Palm Springs roles

- Identify potential sites and provide land
- Use state streamlining tools to expedite development
- Offer other incentives for projects

Options: Prevention

Prevent homelessness for seniors at risk

- Emergency and shallow rent assistance
- Partner with RivCo

Expand Rapid Resolution

- Flexible financial assistance
- Partner with CVAG

Reduce discharges from treatment and other institutions into homelessness

- Partner with CVAG

Options: Crisis Response

24/7 Navigation Center with 50 low barrier crisis beds for individuals who are chronically homeless and/or highly vulnerable

Engage faith-based and other civic organizations to establish safe shelter options across west valley for families with children and adults/couples who can resolve homelessness with light touch services

Improve day services to create safe, accessible storage options and shower/restroom/laundry facilities

HHAP Definition: Navigation Center

- Housing First, low-barrier, service-enriched shelter
- Focused on moving homeless individuals and families into permanent housing
- Provides temporary living facilities while case managers connect individuals experiencing homelessness to income, public benefits, health services, shelter, and housing.

Not recommended for HHAP investment

- Supplanting grant program funding to supplant existing local funds for homeless housing, assistance, or prevention [HHAP prohibition]
- New outreach services [current efforts should be sustained]
- Crisis response investment only [will not reduce homelessness]
- Co-located services only [needs to be connected to housing placement]
- Ongoing operating costs [HHAP is one-time]

Overarching Recommendations

85% Dedicated to new housing and services

8% Mandatory youth set-aside

7% Admin, leadership & accountability

0% Planning/CES/HMIS (if feasible)

Recap of priorities for HHAP



A large, dark, irregular ink blot is centered on a white background. The blot has a textured, splattered appearance with various shades of dark blue and black. The word "Questions?" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the center of the blot.

Questions?