

Annual Update on Homelessness

County of Santa Barbara | Board of Supervisors

July 14, 2026



Agenda

- Key Trends in Homelessness in 2025
- Encampment Resolution Update
- Funding Update
- The Future of Homeless Response
 - Homeless Alliance: Response and Prevention



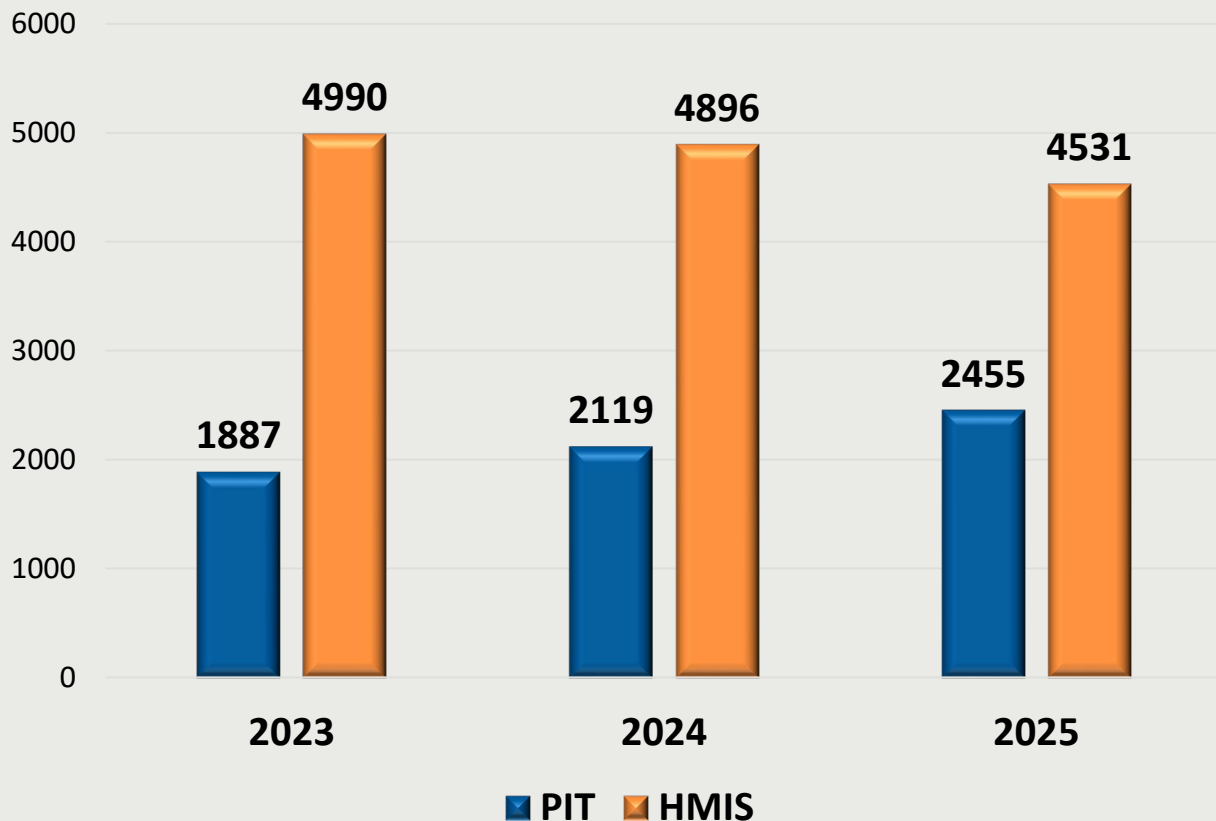
Key Trends in Homelessness





**Shifting Data Focus
=
Shifting Numbers**

PIT vs Annualized HMIS



Key Trends in the Homelessness Response System

People Experiencing Homelessness

- 4,531 people experienced homelessness and were entered into HMIS in 2025.
- This is a 6% decrease since 2023.

People Accessing Services for the First Time

- 1,527 people entered homelessness for the first time, 33% of the total number entered in HMIS in 2025.
- A 31% decrease since 2023.

Regional Trends

- “Missing” location data is being addressed with the migration to a new HMIS system.
- Regional population counts are stable.

Length of Time People Spend Unhoused

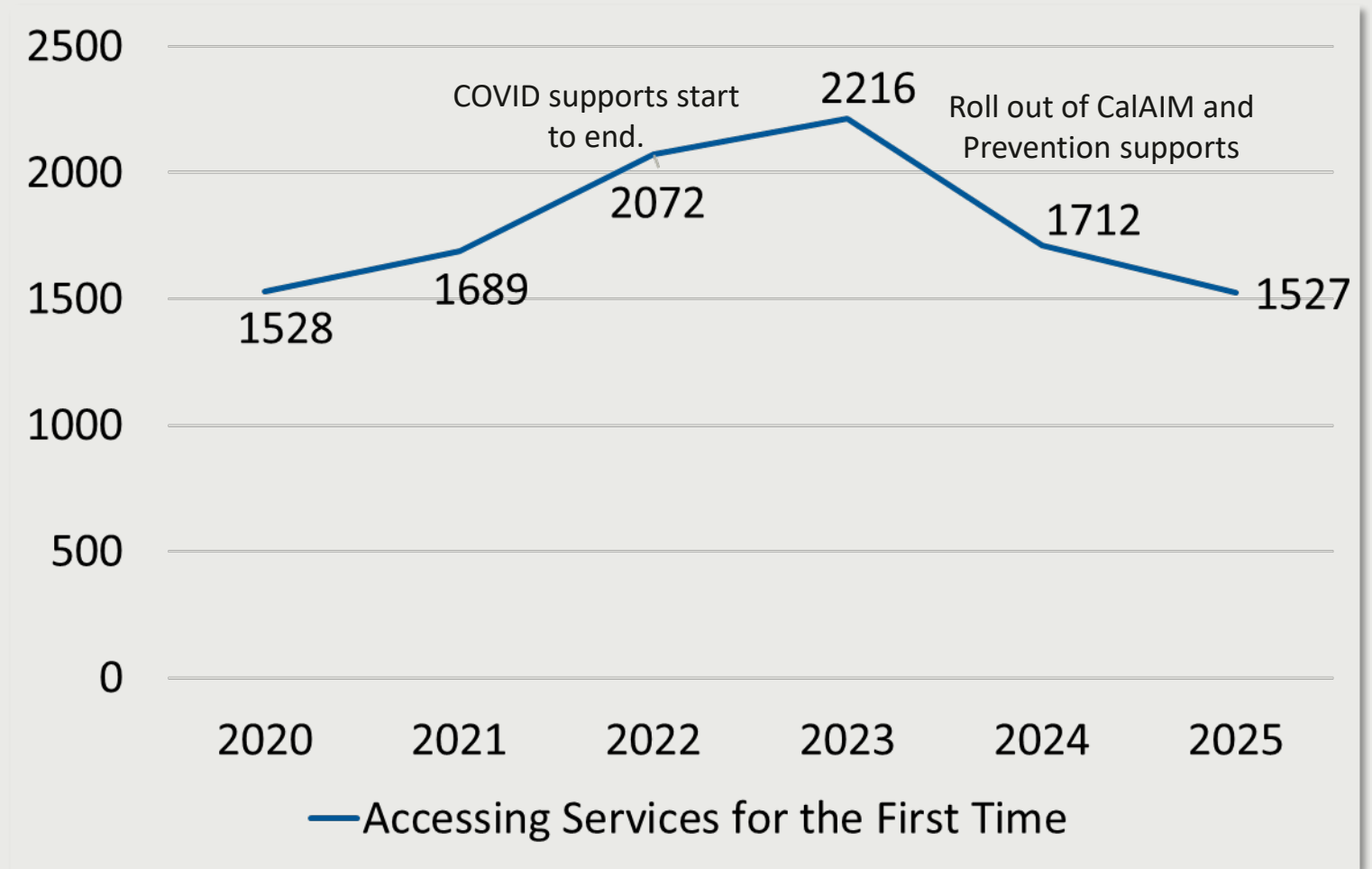
- On average, people remain unhoused for 190 days after entering the Coordinated Entry System; an increase of 134 days in 2023 (a 41% increase).

People Achieving Housing

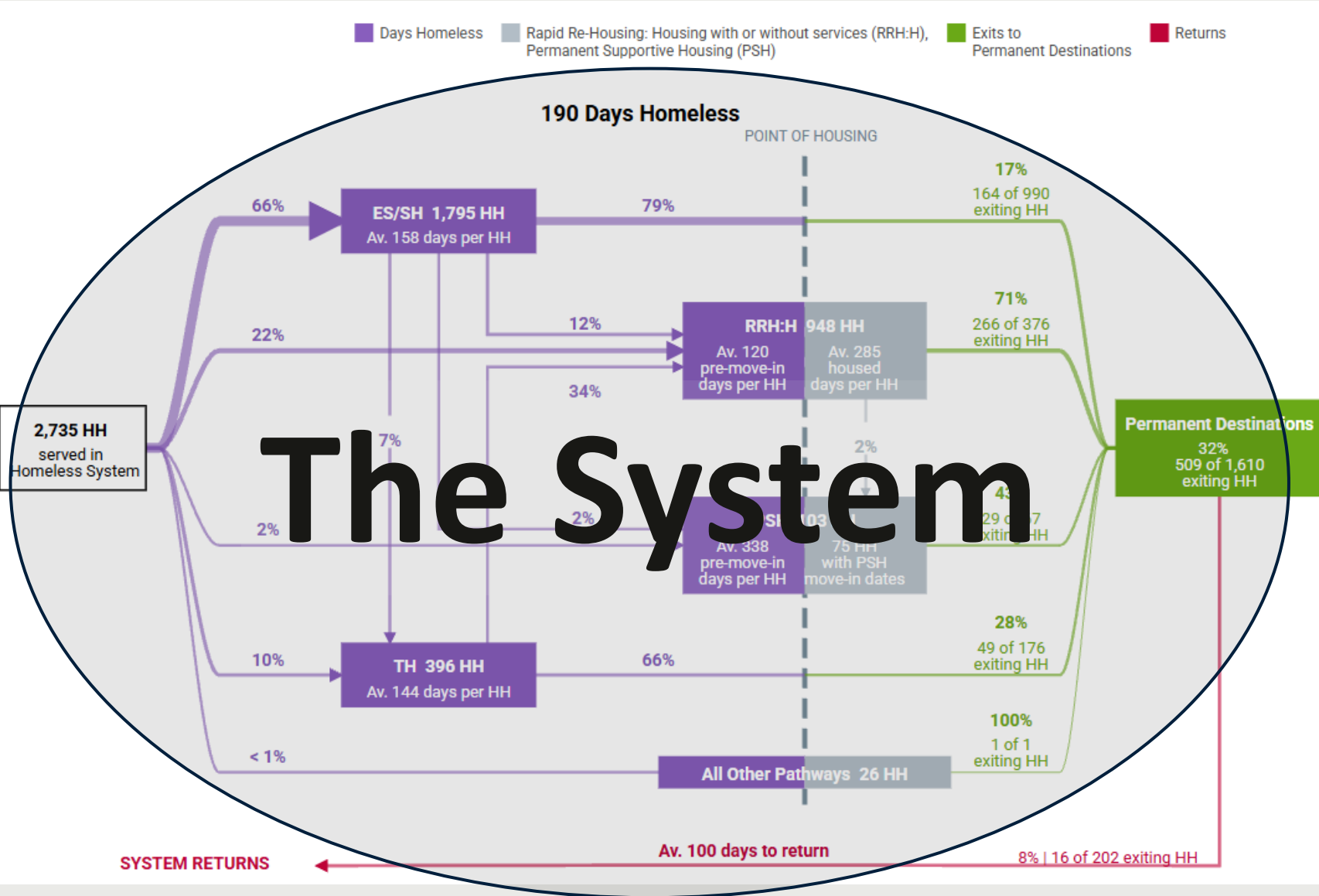
- 1,417 people transitioned out of homelessness (7% decrease from 2023)

First Time Access

- First-time access peaked in 2023, reaching a high of 2,216 individuals.
- Following the 2023 peak, the number declined over the next two years, down 31% between 2023 and 2025.
- The 2025 number indicates that first-time service utilization has returned to pre-pandemic levels.



Local System Map

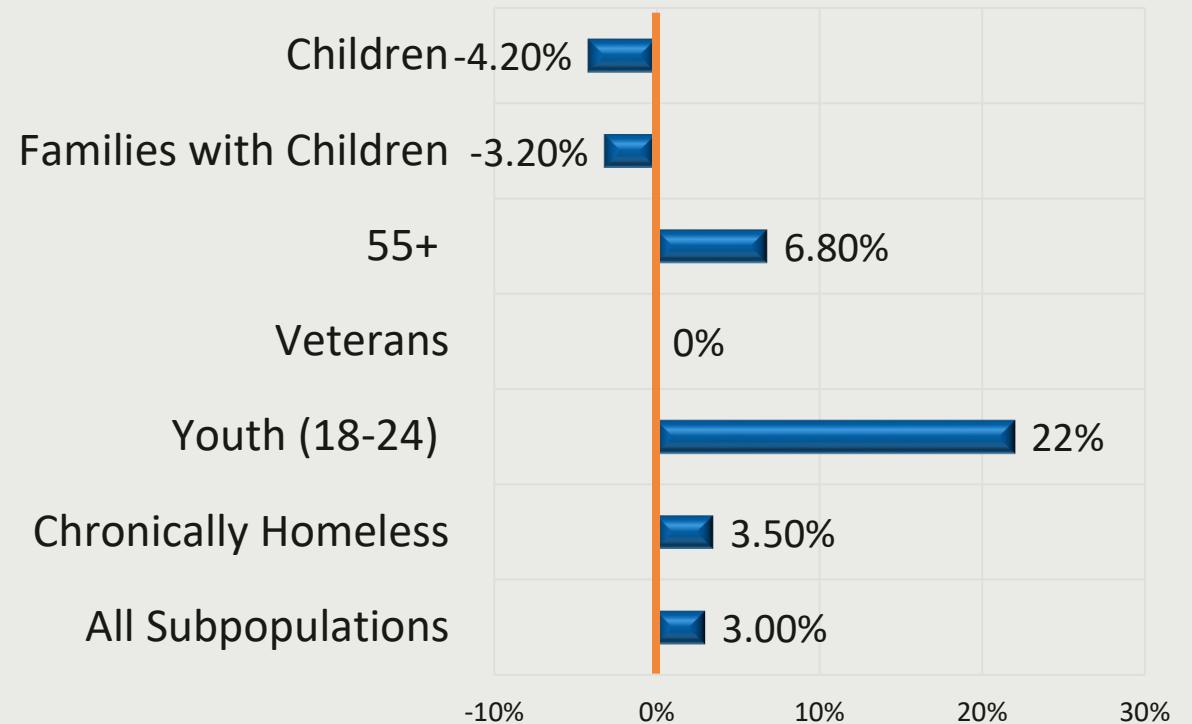


- In 2025, 2,735 households entered HMIS.
- It took an average of 190 days for a household to enter housing after they entered the system.
- Most households entered interim housing before permanent housing.
- 8% of households returned to homelessness upon exit.

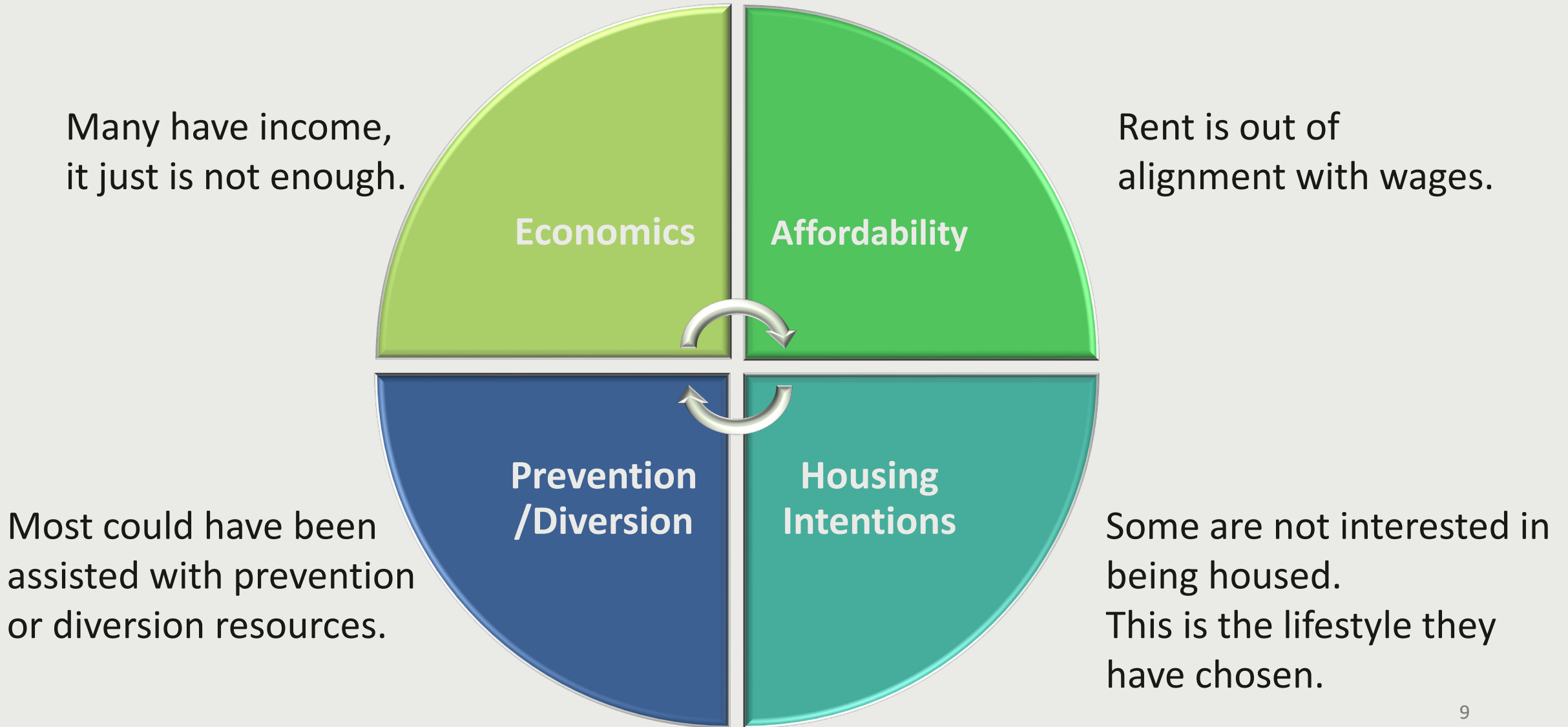
Subpopulation Details

- Youth are the fastest growing demographic.
- Age 55+ grew by 6.8% - an ongoing trend toward an older, medically vulnerable unhoused population.
- Children/Families with Children saw net decreases, highlighting successful interventions.
- There was a 3.5% increase in Chronic Homelessness.
- Veteran cohort remained completely flat at 0% change.

Subpopulation Change from 2023-25



Key Takeaways from the Vehicle Study



Encampment Response



Encampment Resolution Efforts and Overall Outcomes



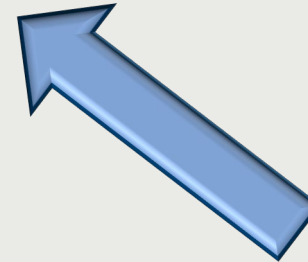
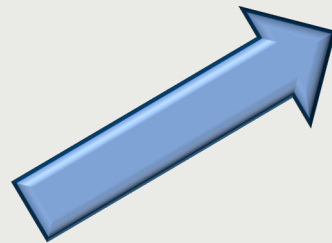
915

People Offered
Services



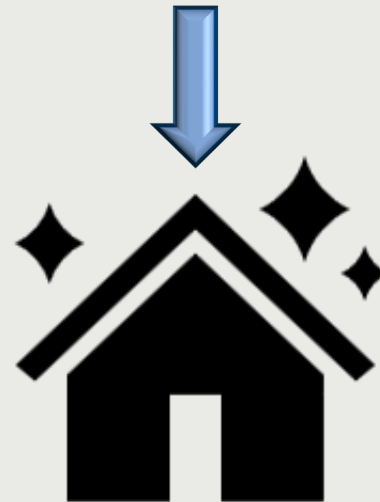
1,300

Encampments
Removed



686

Encampments on County-
controlled Property



333 People Permanently Housed

Encampment Locations

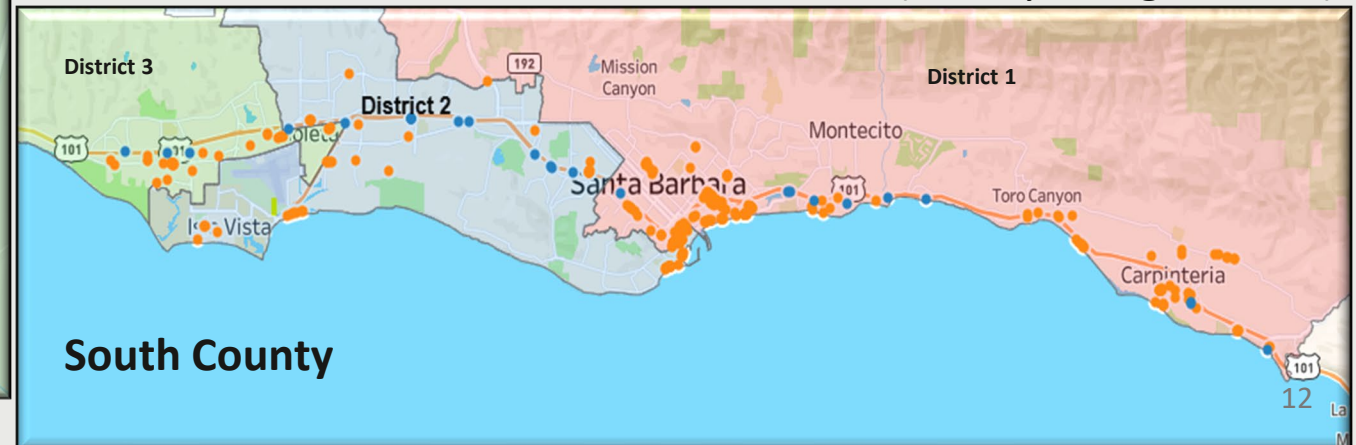
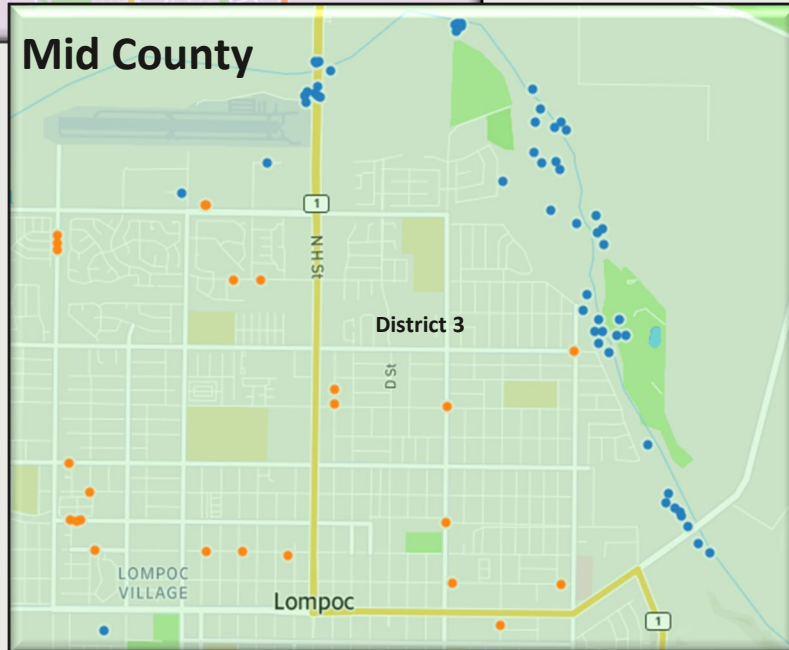
D1: 350 encampments, approx. 700 individuals
(Downtown SB, along Calle Real at Santa Claus Lane, Downtown Carpinteria)

D2: 120 encampments, approx. 300 people
(Even distribution across Isla Vista and Goleta Beach)

D3: 175 encampments, approx. 400 people
(Mostly in Lompoc area, in or near Santa Ynez Riverbed and Girsh Park in Goleta)

D4: 25 encampments, approx. 60 people
(Mostly near Santa Maria Airport and Santa Maria Riverbed)

D5: 45 encampments, approx. 100 people
(Mostly along railroad)



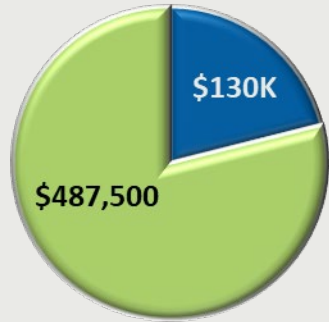
Funding Landscape

Local, State, Federal



The Funding Landscape

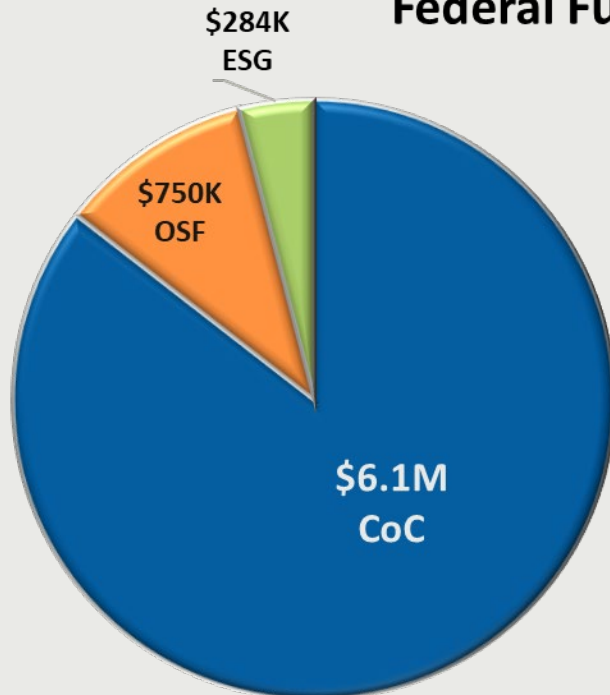
General Fund



Local funding is allocated to shelter support and warming centers.

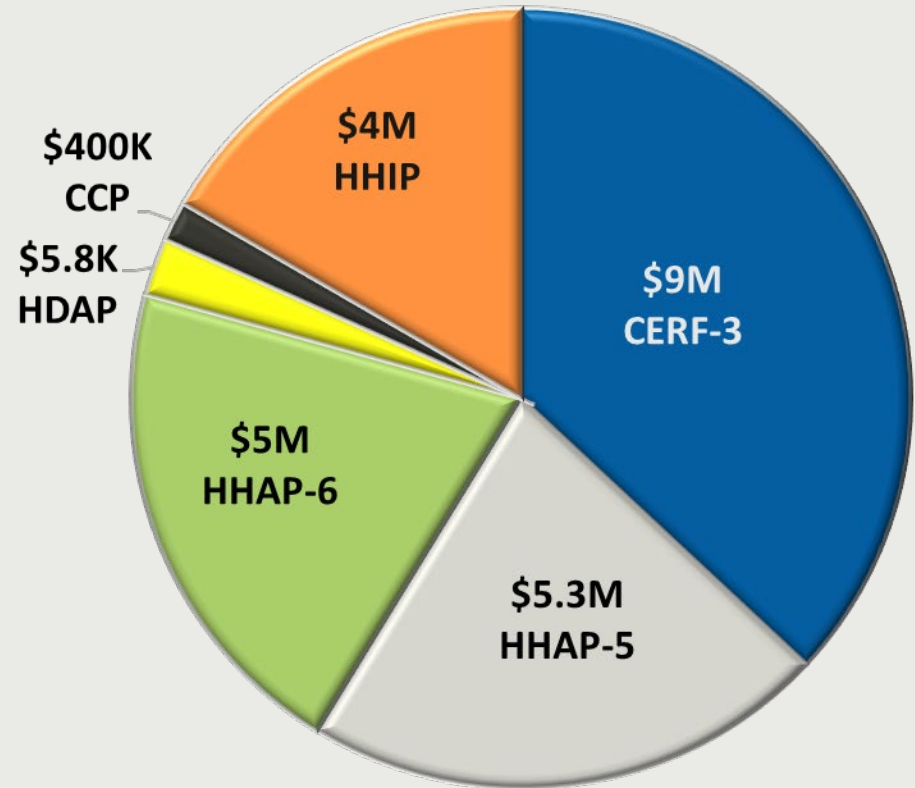
■ Warming Centers ■ Shelter Operations

Federal Funding



Federal funding is becoming more difficult to secure due to conflicting state and federal rules and laws.

State Funding



State funding is appropriated on an annual basis, making long term planning uncertain.

The Future of Homelessness Response

The HARP



Prevention, Diversion, and Retention

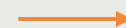
Moving from this...



Prevention



Emergency
Response



Housing
Retention

To this...



Prevention



Emergency
Response



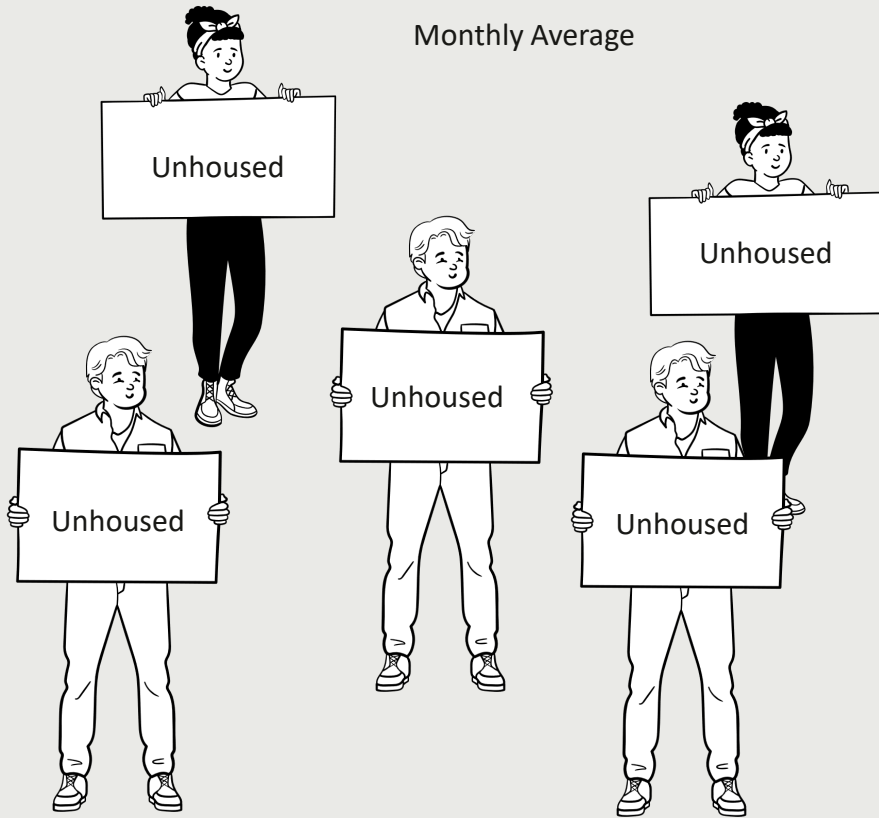
Housing
Retention

Current System Flow in SBC

System Entries

230

Monthly Average



190 Days

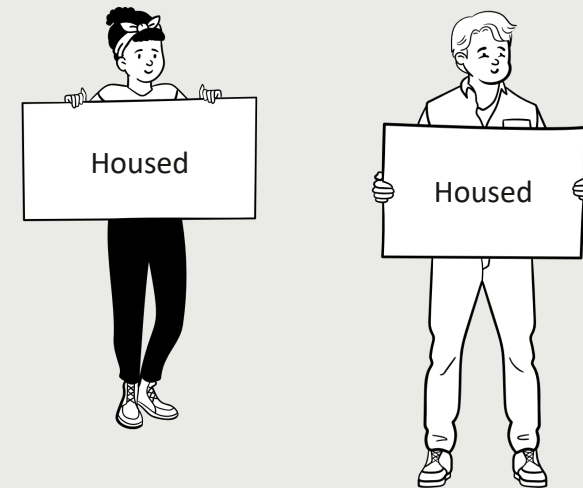


Housing Queue
("Shared CES")
1,187

System Exits

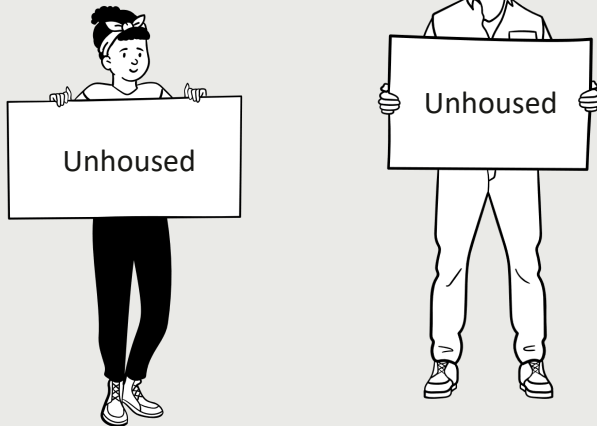
197

Monthly Average



Functional Zero

System Entries

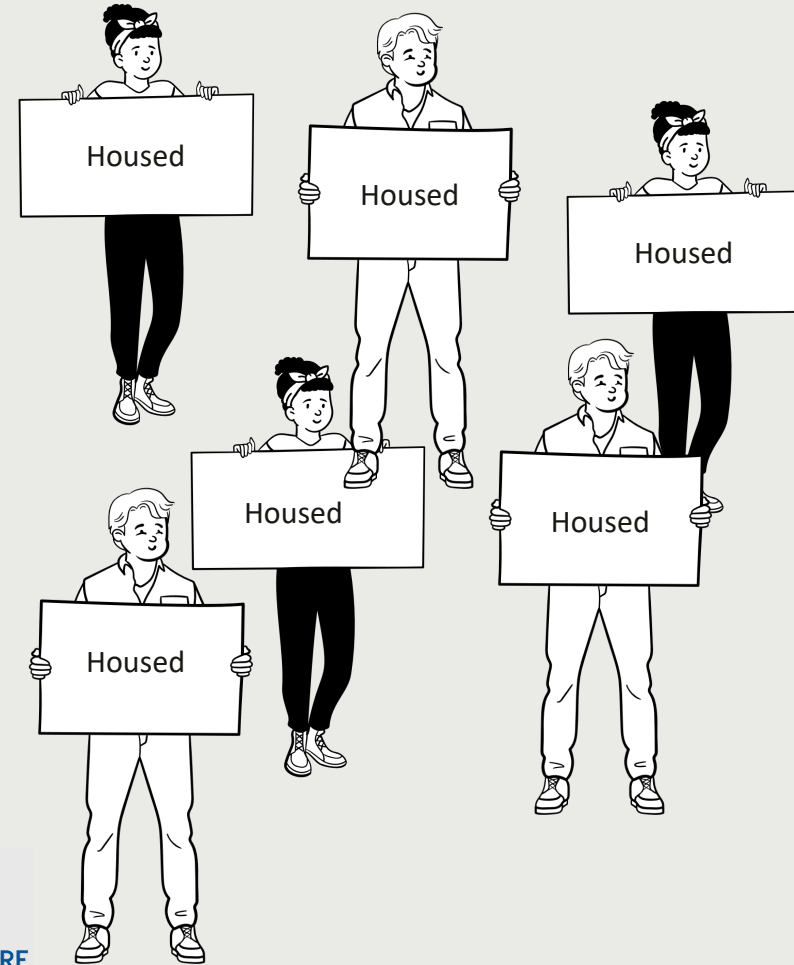


45 Days or Less



Housing queue
is community
dependent

System Exits



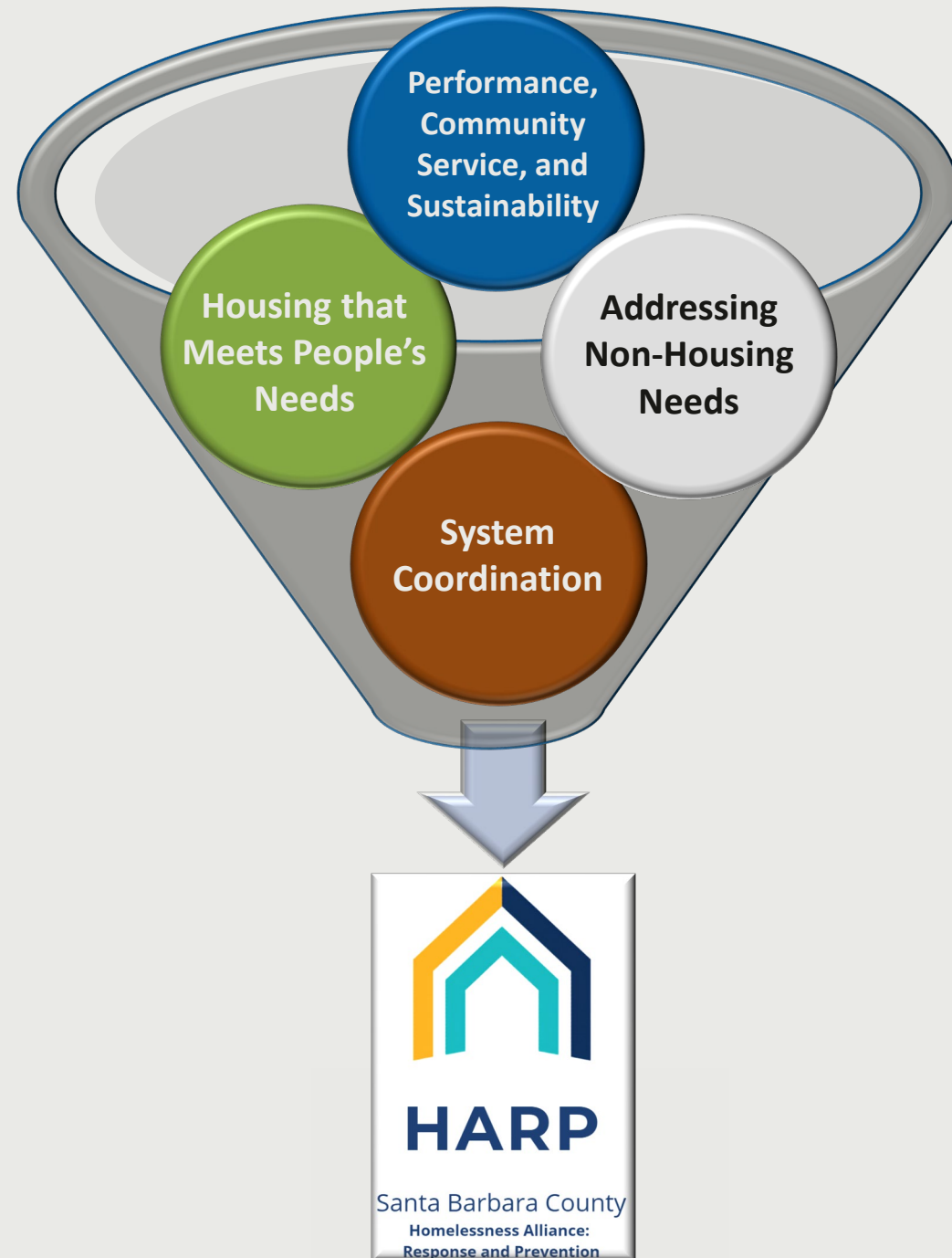
Homelessness Alliance: Response and Prevention

Our Mission

**Eliminate chronic homelessness and achieve functional zero
by December 2031**



SB HARP Goals



Next Steps for HARP Implementation



Technology support for the development of a single data hub.

It's been done elsewhere; we can do it here!



Leverage Workday to better track and coordinate resources.

We need to know where the homeless dedicated funding is going.



Develop collective processes across departments.

Unified framework will provided needed guidance.



Recommended Actions

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and file a report on homelessness in Santa Barbara County to ensure compliance with State of California and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements.
2. Determine that the proposed action does not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it consists of an organizational or administrative activity of government which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

