



# PHASE I COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



SPONSORED BY SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION AND  
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL WELLNESS

# Recommended Actions

- Receive and file staff report on 2019 Phase I Homeless Plan
  - *identifies key strategies to address homelessness*
  - *ensures compliance with State requirements demonstrating regional planning process*
- Adopt 2019 Phase I Homeless Plan.

# Process of drafting the Community Action Plan

- Scan of the homeless and housing environment in Santa Barbara County
- Review of all related material, processes and planning from the past several years
- Community-based process held October 2018 - January 2019
  - *community meetings*
  - *consumer focus group*
  - *targeted outreach through interviews, surveys and data collection*

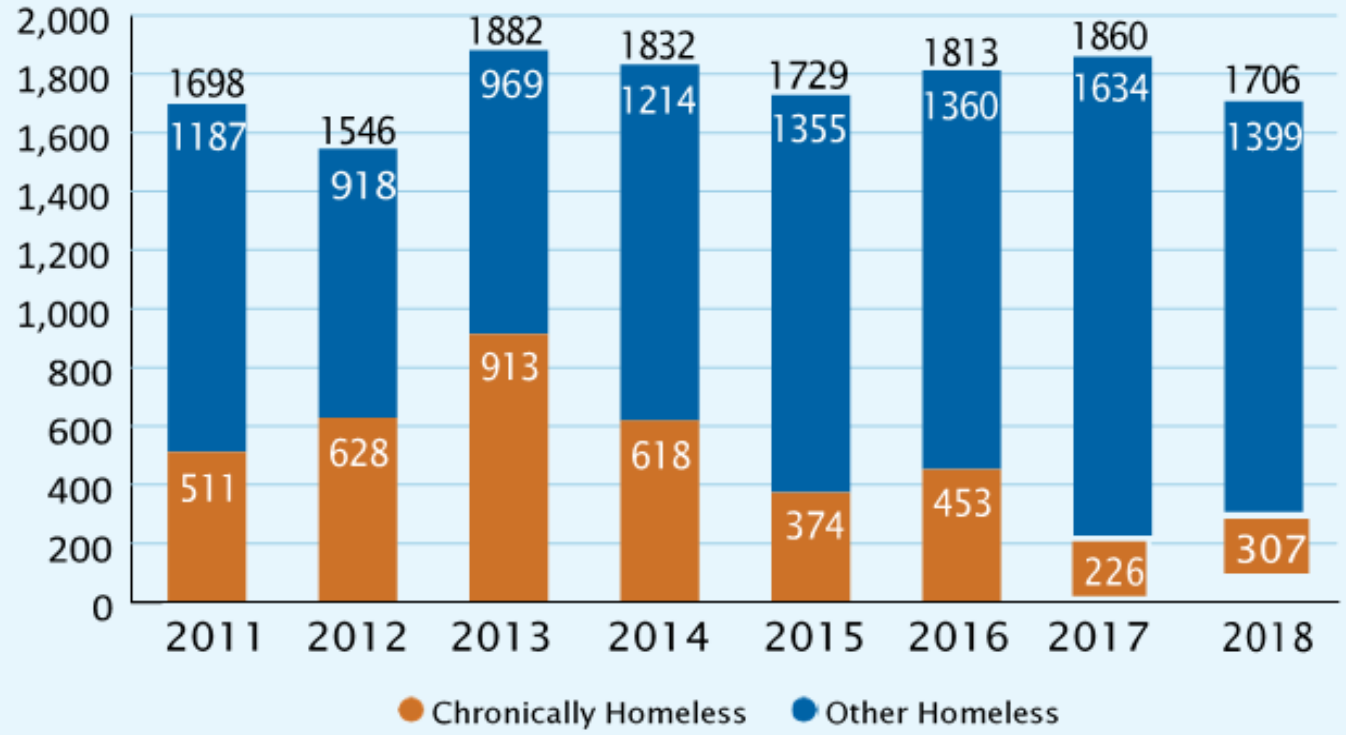
# Goals of the Community Action Plan:

- Identify needs
- Establish strategies to address those needs
- Build and enhance partnerships
- Begin to guide all parties in a common direction
- Discuss metrics to track progress
- Ensure compliance with multiple funding streams
- Provide a building block for Phase II planning

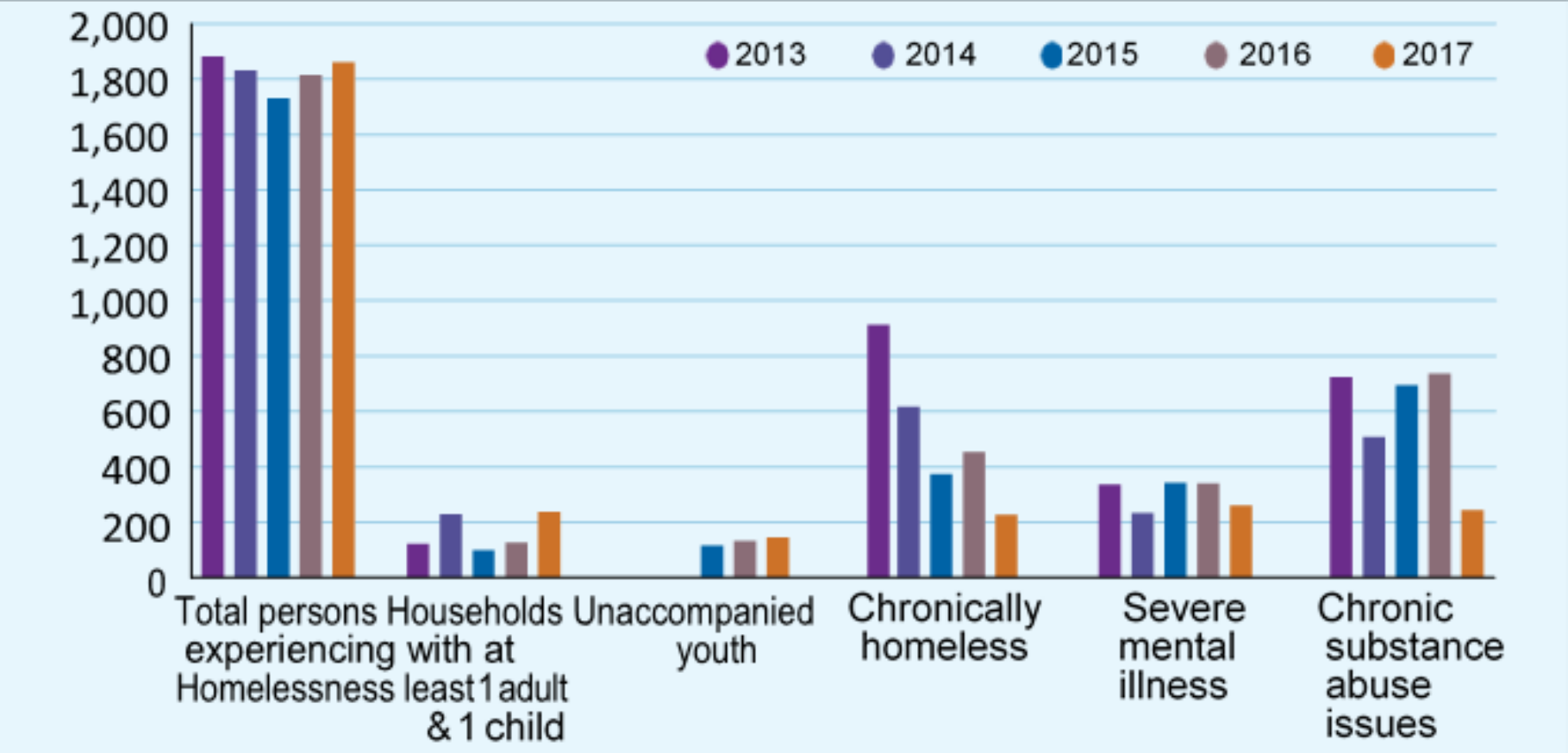
# **CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESSNESS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

# SB County Homeless Population over Time

**Santa Barbara County Homeless Population Over Time**



# Current Trends in Homelessness in Santa Barbara County



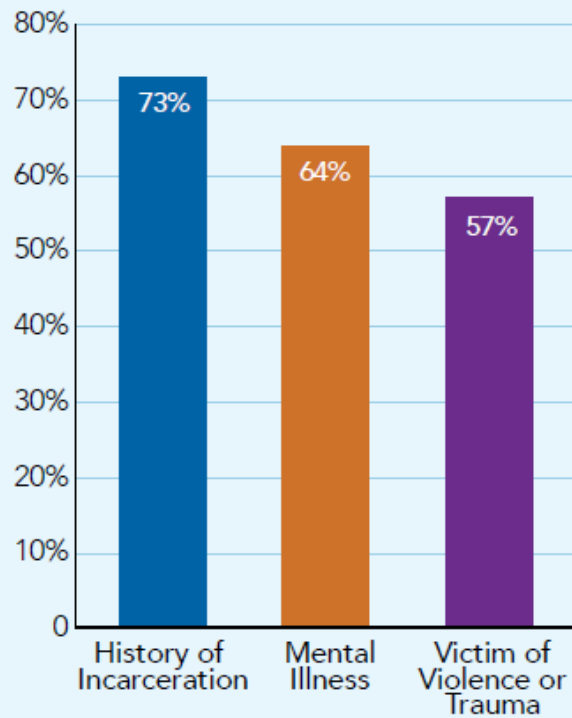
# Special Populations of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

<b>Special Populations of Persons Experiencing Homelessness</b>	<b>Number of Persons</b>
<b>Persons with Severe Mental Illness</b>	219
<b>Persons Currently Homeless because of Domestic Violence or Assault</b>	117
<b>Persons who report Chronic Substance Abuse</b>	294
<b>Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Under 18</b>	34
<b>Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Age 18-24</b>	108



# Persons Experiencing Homelessness with Co-Occurring Disorders and Severe Mental Illness

**Issues Faced by People Experiencing Homelessness**



	Adult-Only Household	Mixed Household	Unaccompanied Children	Total	% of Persons Served
<b>Mental Health Problem</b>	784	47	1	<b>832</b>	<b>32.1%</b>
<b>Alcohol Abuse</b>	186	9	0	<b>195</b>	<b>7.5%</b>
<b>Drug Abuse</b>	118	49	1	<b>230</b>	<b>8.9%</b>
<b>Chronic Health Condition</b>	434	8	2	<b>444</b>	<b>17.1%</b>
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	12	0	0	<b>12</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Developmental Disability</b>	121	19	4	<b>144</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
<b>Physical Disability</b>	597	23	3	<b>623</b>	<b>24.1%</b>

# Strategies to Address Unmet Needs

## 1) Increase access to safe, affordable housing

Activities in Progress	Activities to be Initiated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CESH/HEAP funding allocated to increase available housing</li><li>• CoC and ESG projects increase access in 2019-2020</li><li>• Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) providing additional housing opportunities through subsidies and affordable housing projects</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase affordable housing available for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness</li><li>• Increase the Pool of Funding Available to Provide Housing and Services</li><li>• Expand Shelter System and Create Low Barrier Options</li><li>• Develop and Improve Partnerships with Landlords</li></ul>

# Strategies to Address Unmet Needs

## 2) Use best practices to deliver tailored supportive services and meet individual needs

Activities in Progress	Activities to be Initiated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trainings provided on harm reduction, Trauma informed care</li><li>• CoC-funded projects using Housing First through Coordinated Entry System (CES) referrals for Permanent Housing</li><li>• Significant increase in client income and improved connection to mainstream benefits</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement Housing First, Low Barrier Housing</li><li>• Engage in Harm Reduction</li><li>• Provide Trauma Informed Care</li><li>• Expand Supportive Services to Meet Client Needs</li><li>• Connect Clients to Mainstream Services</li></ul>

# Strategies to Address Unmet Needs

## 3) Build a Collective Action Plan; Improve Data Sharing

Activities in Progress	Activities to be Initiated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant investments in open HMIS</li><li>• Year-over-year improvements in HMIS bed coverage rates</li><li>• Agreement with PHAs</li><li>• Drafting a common Release Of Information</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Craft a Collective Response to Homelessness</li><li>• Improve Data Collection Countywide</li><li>• Implement an Open HMIS System</li><li>• Improve Data Sharing with Medical and Behavioral Health Care Providers</li></ul>

# Strategies to Address Unmet Needs

## 4) Strengthen Support System Available to Help Residents Obtain and Maintain Housing

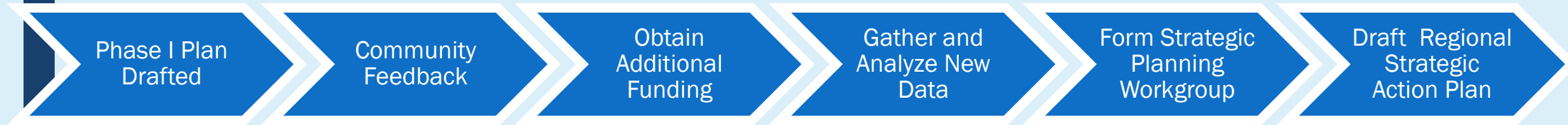
Activities in Progress	Activities to be Initiated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CESH/HEAP funding allocated for prevention and diversion</li><li>• Broad CES outreach program covers all regions and populations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve Prevention and Diversion Programs</li><li>• Create a Flexible Source of Funding Administered through Coordinated Entry System</li><li>• Reach Out to Those Least Likely to Apply for Help</li></ul>

# Strategies to Address Unmet Needs

## 5) Build Provider Capacity to Address the Needs of Specific Populations

Activities in Progress	Activities to be Initiated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least one existing provider already specializes in serving the needs of homeless survivors, families, veterans, youth, seniors adults with serious mental illness, and the vehicular homeless</li></ul>	<p>Build Provider Capacity to Address the Needs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Survivors of Domestic Violence</li><li>• Families with Children</li><li>• Homeless Veterans</li><li>• Homeless Youth</li><li>• Vehicular Homeless</li><li>• Adults with Serious Mental Disorders</li><li>• Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance</li></ul>

# What happens next?



- Needs and Strategies identified will act as foundation for Phase II Planning
- New funding (CoC, ESG, HEAP, CESH, NPLH) will complement the Strategies identified
- New data will be available: PIT, HIC, System Performance Measures, etc.
- A Strategic Planning Workgroup will lead:
  - Community Engagement
  - Drafting Regional Strategic Action Plan

# Summary of Recommended Actions

- Receive and file staff report on 2019 Phase I Homeless Plan
- Adopt 2019 Phase I Homeless Plan.



# QUESTIONS?

