

Annual Update on Homelessness

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA | BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JUNE 10, 2025



COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA
HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Agenda

- Recommended Actions
- Key Trends in Homelessness for 2024
- 2025 Point in Time Count
- Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness - *Year 4* update
- Encampment Resolution Strategy *Year 3* summary
- The Way Forward



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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.



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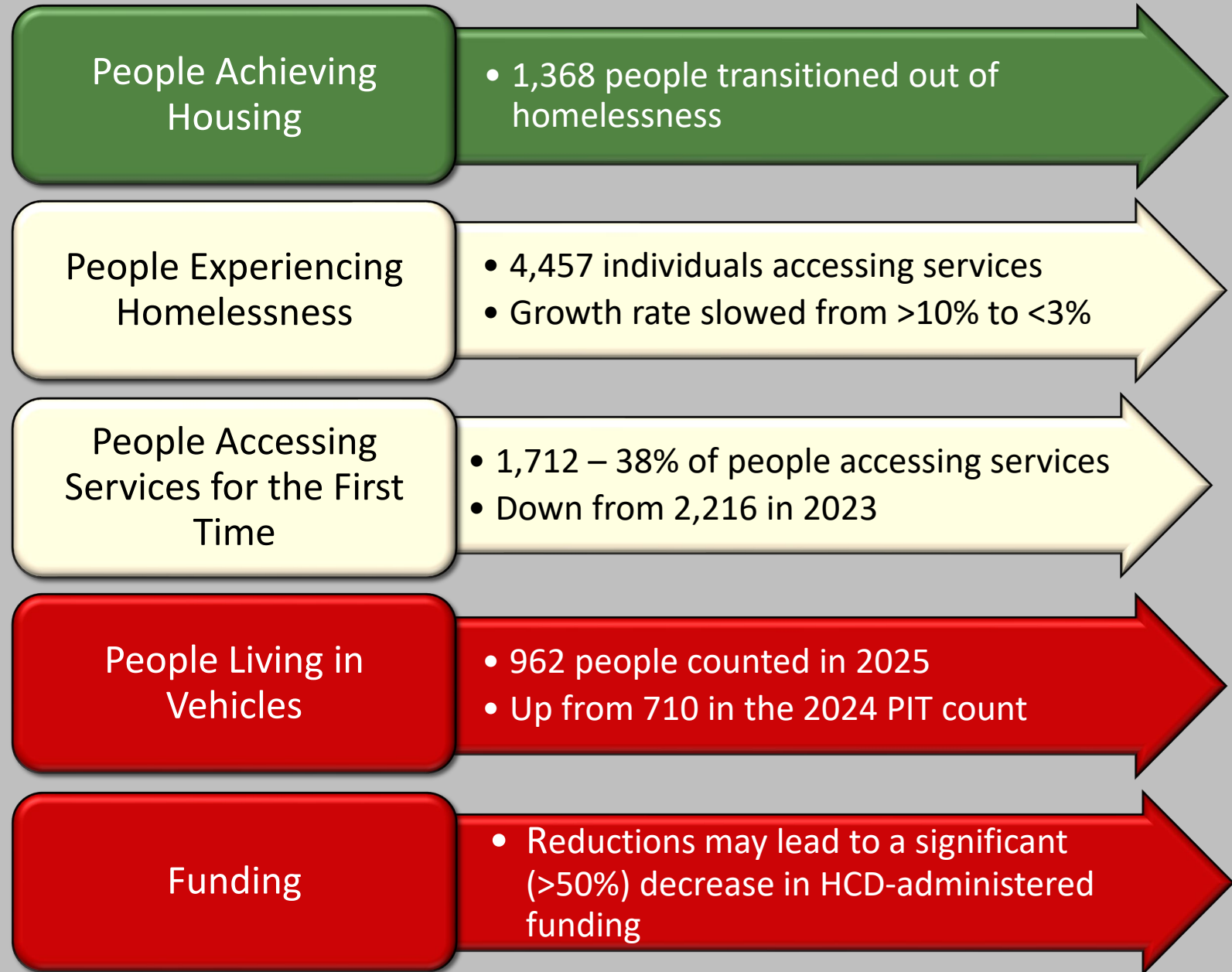
Key Trends



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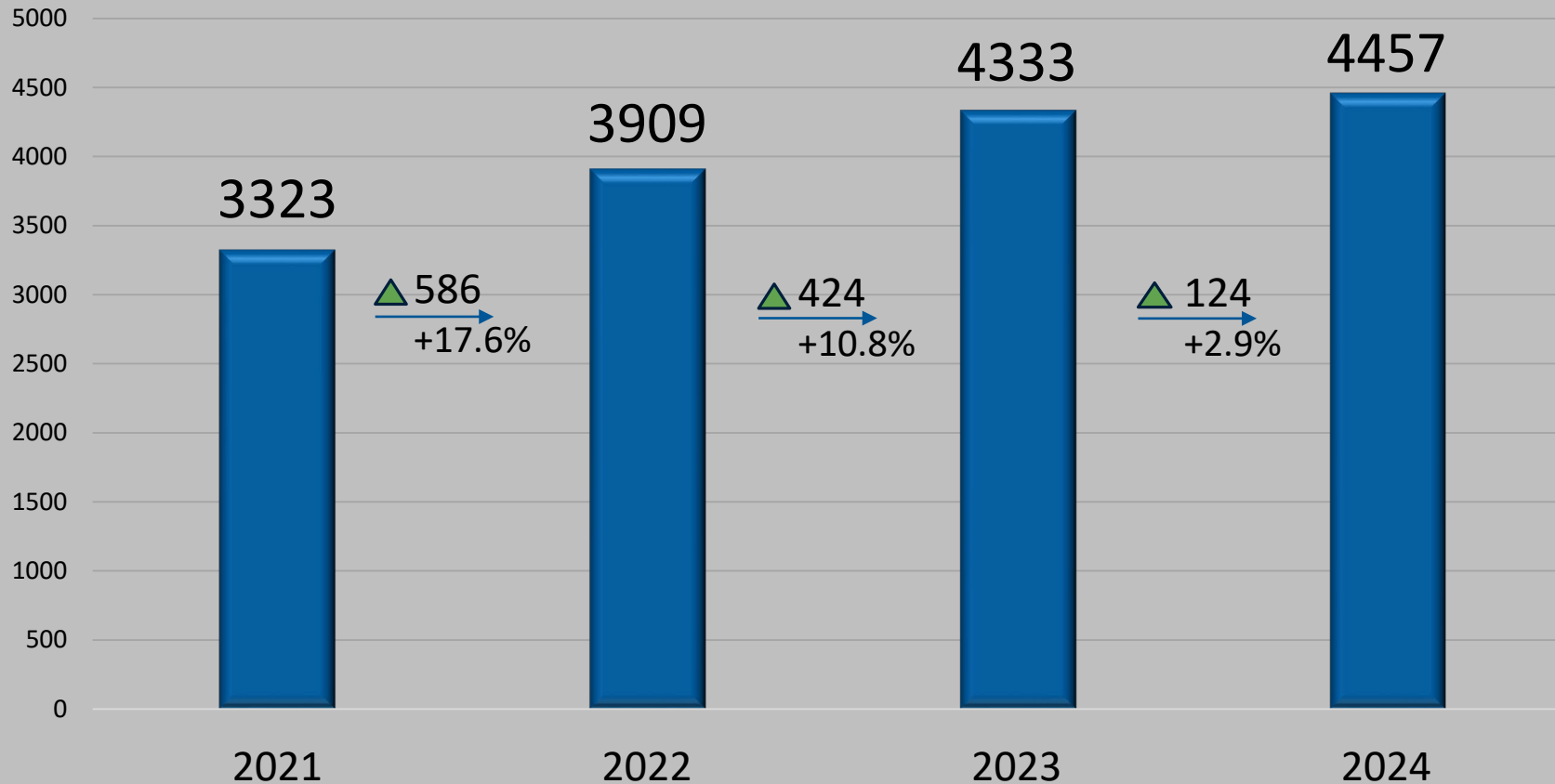


Key Trends in the Homelessness Response System



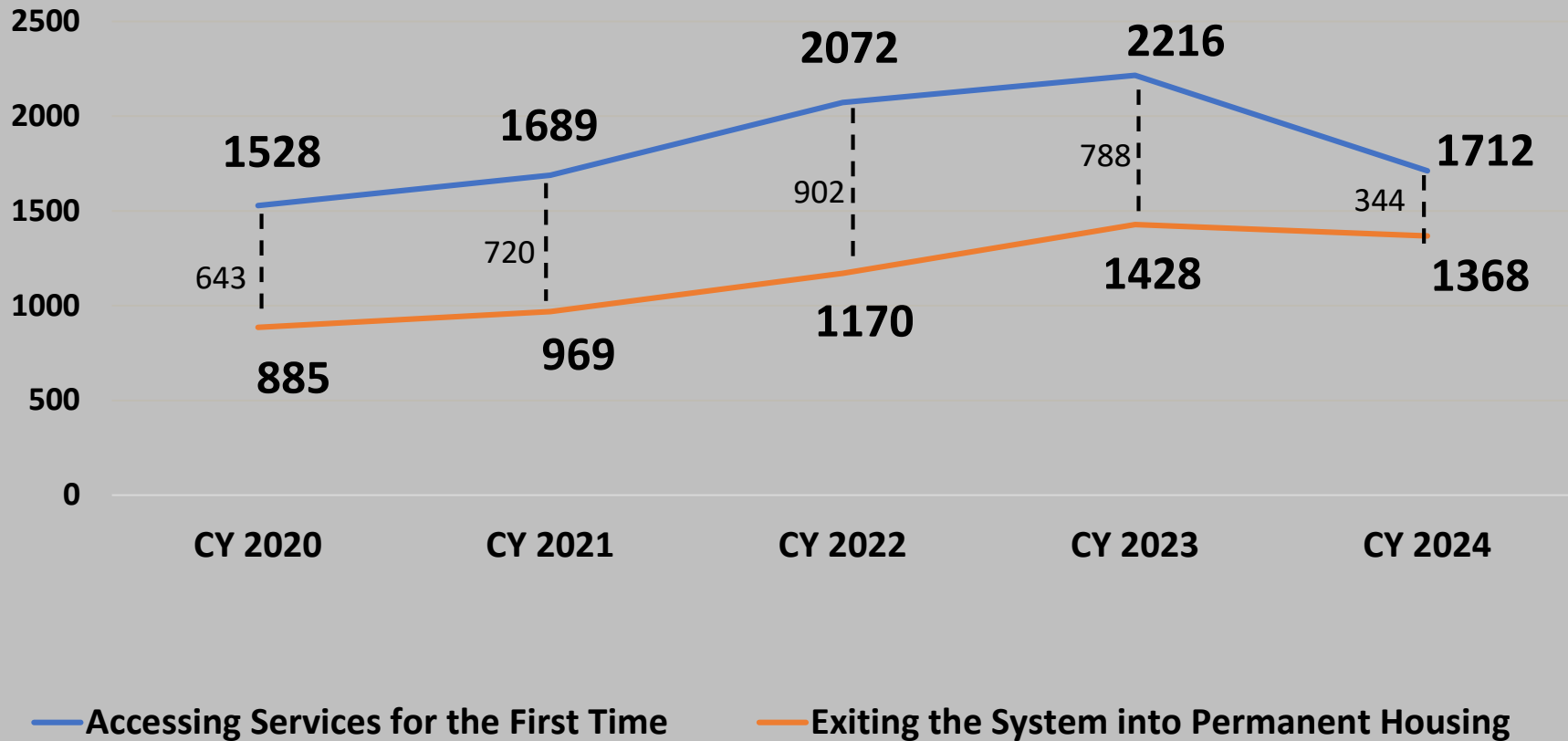
Number of People Accessing Services

The *known* “total homeless”



- The *growth rate* in the number of people accessing services has slowed year over years.
- The *total number* of people counted as homeless continues to rise, especially those living in vehicles.
- The number of people experiencing homelessness represents about 1% of the total County population.

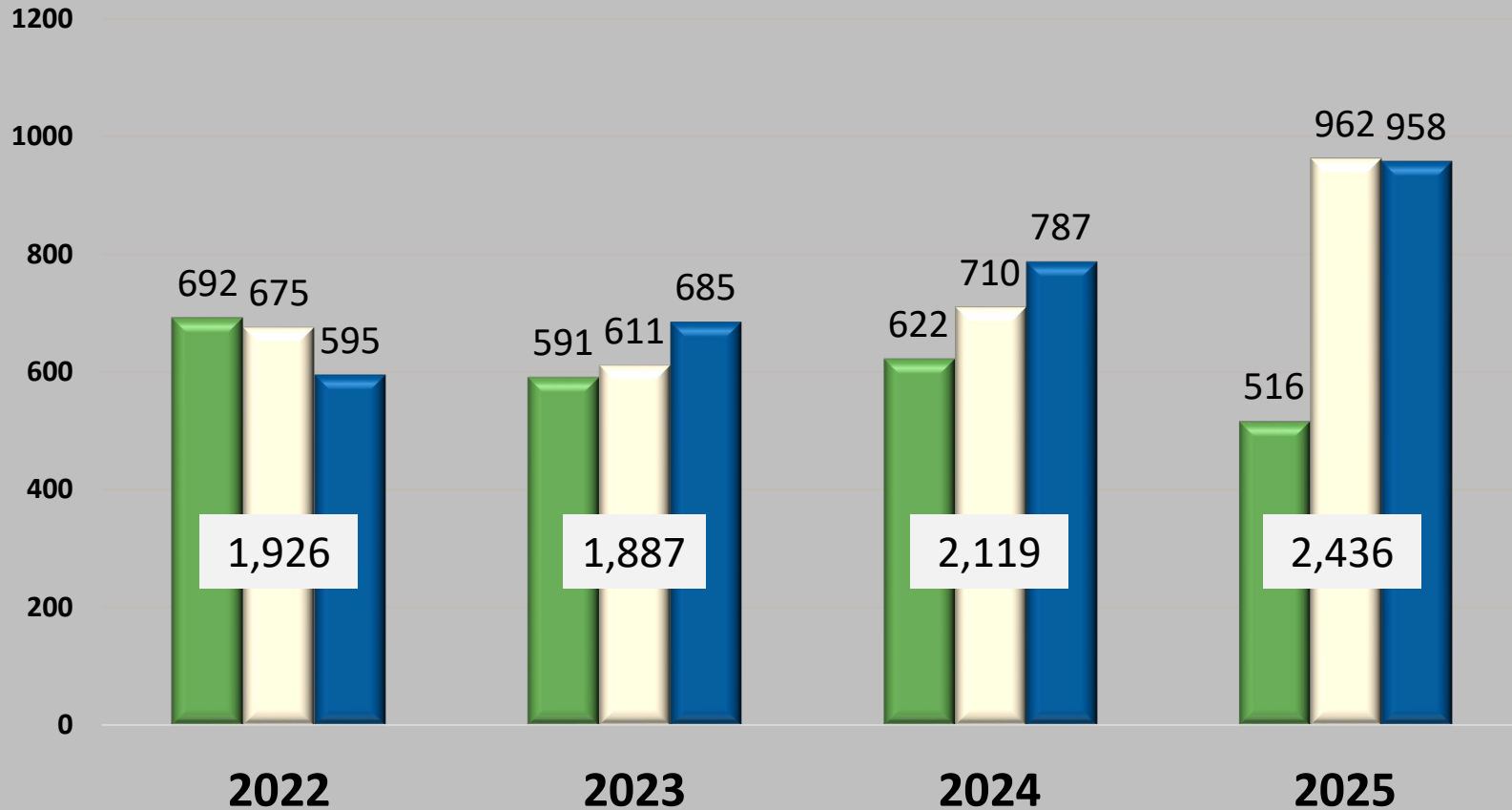
Those Newly Accessing Services vs Those Exiting to Housing



- When these lines intersect, our community will approach "functional zero," or where entries equal or fall below exits.
 - Most of the growing subpopulation of vehicular homeless is not included here.
- The top blue line only reflects individuals who reported experiencing homelessness for the first time in the calendar year indicated – a subset of the numbers on the previous slide

Point in Time Count Trends

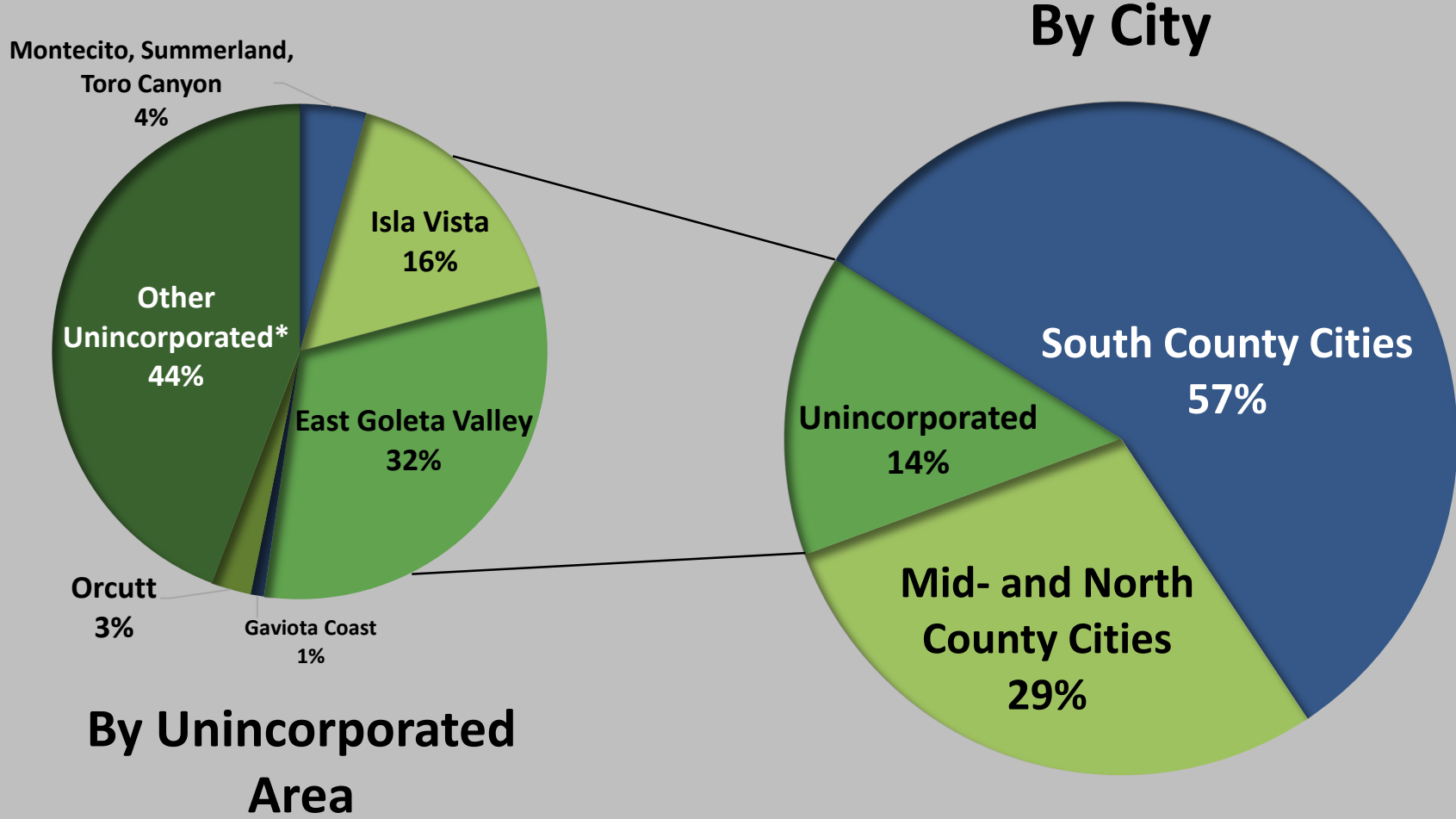
■ Unsheltered ■ Vehicular ■ Sheltered



- The number of people living **sheltered increased by 61%** since 2022.
- The number of people living **unsheltered decreased by 25%** from 2022.
- People **living in their vehicles increased 42%** since 2022.
- Overall, the people counted on the night of **the PIT has increased 24%** over the past 4 counts.
- PIT Count results should be kept in context of larger, more comprehensive data base.

PIT Count Geographic Distribution

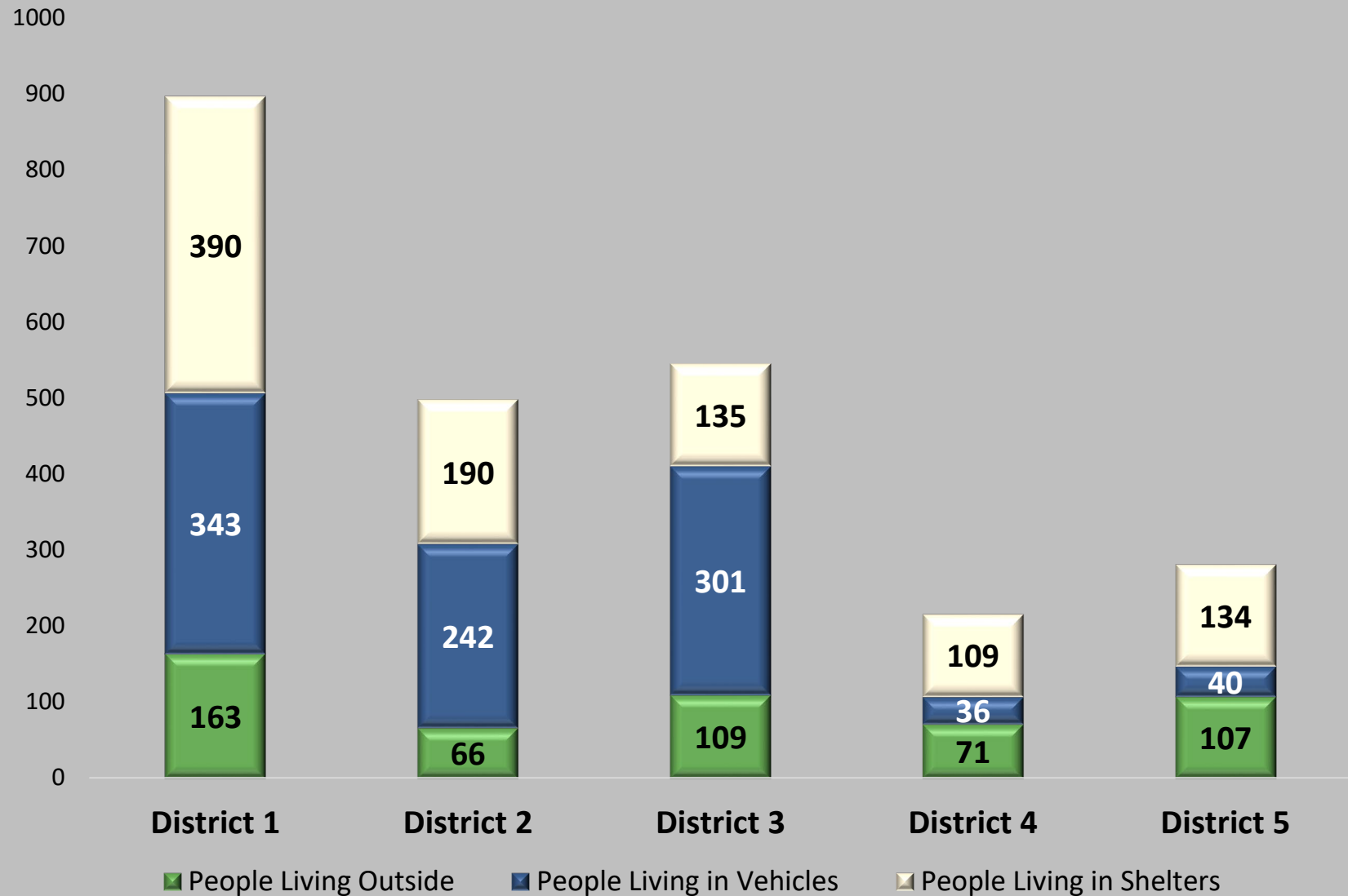
- The cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, and Goleta comprise 30% of the total county population and 57% of the unhoused population.
- Lompoc, Guadalupe, the Santa Ynez Valley, and Santa Maria have roughly 40% of the total county population and 29% of the total unhoused population.
- These charts include sheltered, unsheltered, and vehicular homelessness. Vehicular homelessness makes up a larger proportion of the count in South County than in North County.



*This count includes Bridgehouse and Rainbow Village, which are outside Lompoc city limits.

Point in Time Count by District

- The number of people living in their vehicles is nearly **twice** the number of people living outside.
- However, based on available data, people living in vehicles are not accessing the homeless service system at the same rate as people living outside.



Trends and Success

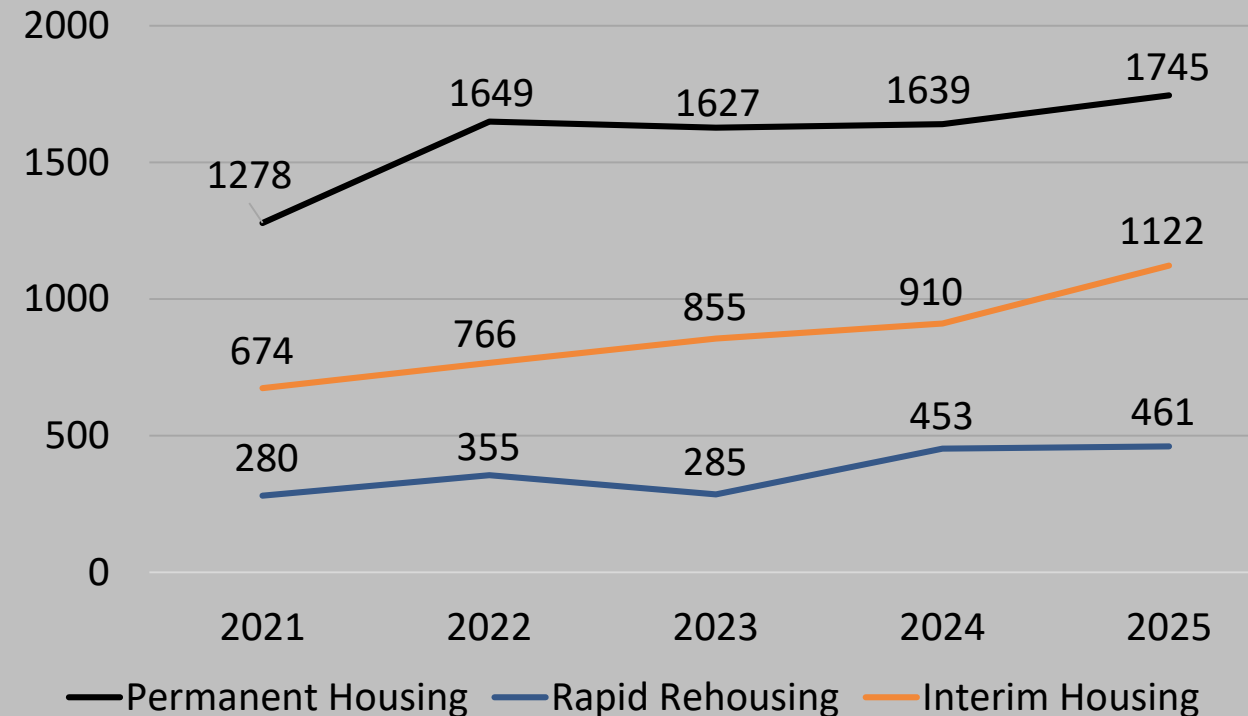


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System-wide Data Trends

- In CY2024, fewer people returned to homelessness from permanent housing than in 2023 (291 vs. 300).
- 106 Permanent beds were added between 2024 and 2025 (467 Permanent beds added since 2022).
- 212 Interim Housing beds were added between 2024 and 2025 (448 added since 2022).



System-wide Data Trends

- **Decrease in Veteran Homelessness.**

- 2024 – 90 people
- 2025 – 51 people

- **Increase in Families:**

- 2024 – 125 households
- 2025 – 146 Households
- Many of the families counted were living in vehicles.

- **Increase in Transitional Aged Youth (18-24):**

- 2024 – 78 people
- 2024 – 127 people



- **Increase in Seniors (55+):**

- 2024 – 34% of those counted
- 2025 – 37% of those counted
 - *26% of people living in the County are over the age of 55.*

- **Increase in length of time a person is in the system:**

- 2024 – 97 days
- 2025 – 133 days
 - *Unhoused includes Interim Housing stays.*

Encampment Response

YEAR 3 UPDATE



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Progress Report: Year 3 Encampment Resolution Strategy & Protocol

Deploy Encampment Response Protocol

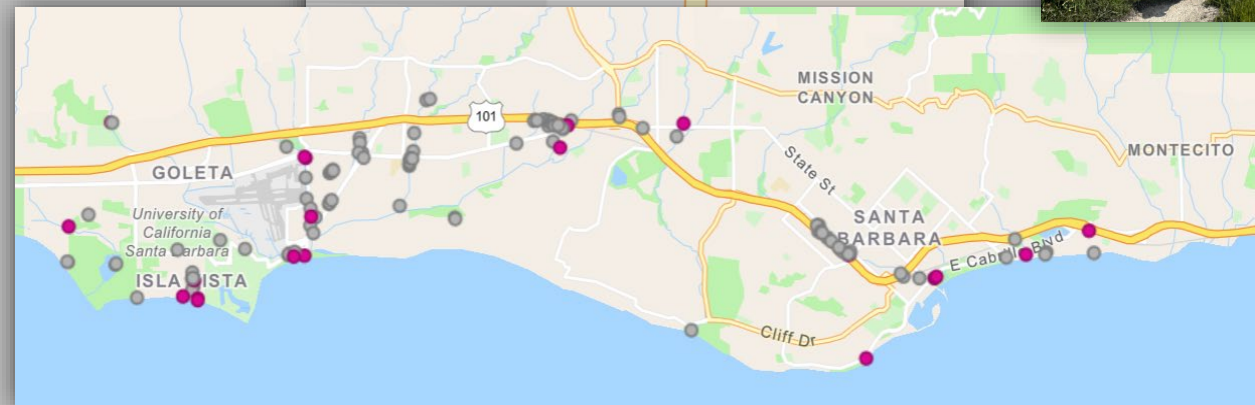
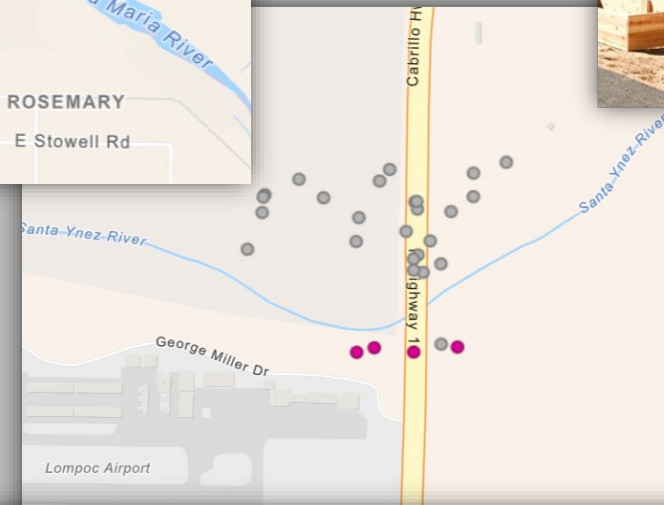
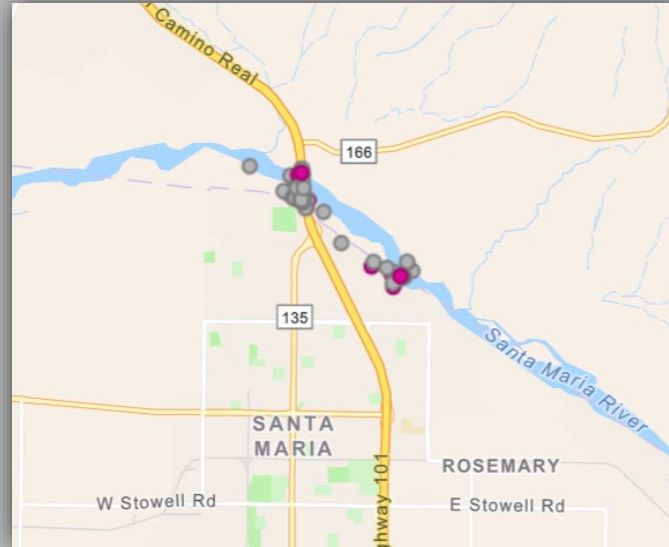
Provide robust outreach and engagement

Increase access to shelter

Leverage long-term rental subsidies

Create new permanent housing units

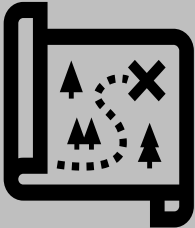
Sustain adequate funding



Encampment Resolution Efforts and Overall Outcomes



1,100
encampments
removed

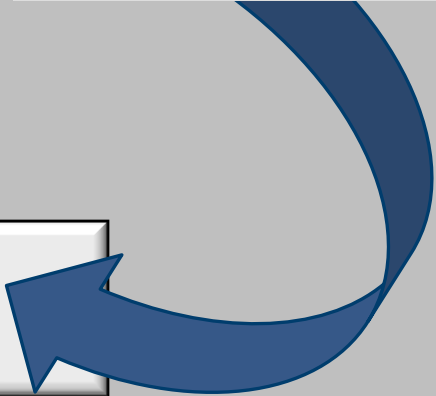


408
encampments on
County-controlled
property



464
people relocated
to shelter or
housing

276 people entered shelter
188 people permanently housed



Encampment Resolution Outcomes by Program

CERF-2 Outcomes to date

Waterways: \$6 Million

Projected to shelter 100 people, and re-house 100

- 319 individuals enrolled in services
- 66 housing placements
- 205 entered shelter



CERF-3 Outcomes to date

Vehicular Homelessness: \$8 Million

Projected to shelter 150 people, and re-house 150

- 242 individuals involved with 172 vehicles were enrolled in services
- 91 housing placements
- 54 entered shelter



Recent Successes

Encampment Response

- Santa Maria Riverbed partnership: The County, the City of Santa Maria, and San Luis Obispo County
- Resolved 102 encampments, 100 people entering shelter, and 64 people obtaining housing.
- 151 individuals connected to services in the first 10 months of CERF 3

Two New Interim Housing Facilities

- 359 people served, including 275 experiencing chronic homelessness.
- 56 people have achieved permanent housing.

Permanent Housing

- Buena Tierra opened its doors to permanently house 60 households in August 2024.

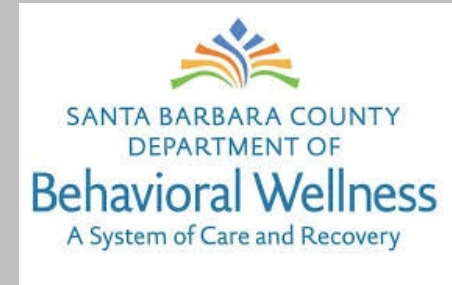
Additional Services

- Hedges House of Hope kitchen opening
- It is now providing lunch and dinner for residents at local interim housing facilities – about 330 meals per day.
- Provides culinary jobs skills training to residents.

Thank you to all our partners!



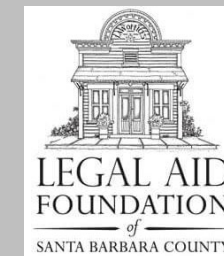
City Net



Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care



QWIKRESPONSE RESTORATION & CONSTRUCTION



And so many more!

Funding the Way Forward



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Planning for Funding Reductions and Next Steps

Where do we go from here?

1. Sustain Interim Shelter operations with ARPA, HHIP and HHAP funds through Year 5.
2. Continue our CERF-3 funded research and response to vehicular homelessness.
3. Maximize lessons learned and partnerships built during COVID-era funding.
4. Continue to seek and braid new funding.
5. Prevention – less expensive, more effective – but we need a comprehensive program.
6. Aspirational Goal: “Eliminating Chronic Homelessness and Achieving Functional Zero”

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