



THE QUARTERLY UPDATE

April - June 2023

Welcome to the Office of Care Coordination's quarterly update. Included in this edition are updates related to staffing, Commission to End Homelessness, Continuum of Care, County-operated shelter services, community events and state funding awards.

Office of Care Coordination Staffing Updates

Care Coordination Manager

Damian Fonseca joined the Office of Care Coordination as the Care Coordination Manager in April 2023. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Northridge, and has spent the past five years working in the public and nonprofit sectors addressing homelessness in Los Angeles County and Orange County. He joins the Office of Care Coordination from the City of Stanton (City) and was contributory in developing the Hope Center of Orange County, a nonprofit created by the North Orange County Public Safety Collaborative to coordinate efforts in addressing homelessness in the North Service Planning Area. Damian is ecstatic to be part of the Office of Care Coordination, where he will support the Care Plus Program and the Commission to End Homelessness.

Shelter Data and Operations Specialist

Marlene Diaz started with the Office of Care Coordination as the Shelter Data and Operations Specialist in June 2023. Her journey with the County of Orange began three years ago as an Eligibility Technician with the OC Social Services Agency. There she participated in multiple special projects such as supporting the Customer Service Team at the Santa Ana Regional Center, participating in community outreach events, and becoming a part of the Outstation Team. While being part of the Outstation team, her experience with homelessness expanded providing the opportunity for her to visit homeless shelters and correctional facilities throughout Orange County, with the goal of eliminating barriers to benefits for most vulnerable clients. She is most excited to be part of a growing team that positively impacts the community.

Special Projects Specialist

Kristal Carr joined the Office of Care Coordination as the Special Projects Specialist in June 2023. Kristal is enrolled at Grand Canyon University and is working to obtain a bachelor's degree in human resource management. Kristal began her career with the OC Social Services Agency in February 2019 as an Eligibility Technician. As an Eligibility Technician, she supported with the increase in applications due to the COVID-19 pandemic and displayed great skills and dedication to helping customers receive timely benefits. Moreover, Kristal received a Most Valuable Player award in June 2022 for completing the most actionable tasks in the Call Center. Kristal is excited to join the Office of Care Coordination to continue supporting programs and projects that are addressing homelessness in Orange County.

Office of Care Coordination Staffing Updates (continued)

Coordinated Entry System Extra Help Staff Specialist

Julia Davis joined the Office of Care Coordination team in June 2023 as an Extra Help Staff Specialist to support the Coordinated Entry System team. Since 2018, Julia has worked as an Instructional Assistant to support students with special needs at the Newport-Mesa School District. Additionally, Julia has worked in the private sector providing Applied Behavior Analysis and Respite Care for individuals with special needs. Julia is excited to join the Office of Care Coordination and apply her administrative and analytic skills to make a positive impact on the programs and services supporting those experiencing homelessness in Orange County.

Office of Care Coordination in the Community

Annual Vendor Outreach Event

On May 11, 2023, the OC Procurement Office hosted the Annual Vendor Outreach Event. This event allowed vendors and community members to learn about the County of Orange's (County) procurement and contracting processes and how to successfully secure a contract with the County. The event was held at Freedom Hall inside Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley and was well attended by vendors from various fields and many County departments and agencies. This year, the Office of Care Coordination was invited to host a table at the Annual Vendor Outreach Event in support of efforts to have increased participation and engagement from Human Services vendors compared. Attendees were able to learn more about the Office of Care Coordination's work and potential partnership opportunities.



Permanent Supportive Housing Project

On June 15, 2023, WISEPlace, a nonprofit that aims to house vulnerable women, and Jamboree, an affordable housing nonprofit, broke ground in Santa Ana for a new supportive housing project for 47 people currently experiencing homelessness, including seniors, and unaccompanied women. The \$30 million project will bring 47 new homes to Orange County at the end of 2024.

The new affordable homes are being built at the former location of the WISEPlace shelter. The new supportive housing project will provide wraparound services to residents including therapeutic services, workshops on financial literacy, employment readiness, a fitness center, and community garden. In attendance at the groundbreaking event were County representatives from OC Community Resources, OC Health Care Agency and the Office of Care Coordination.



Preventing & Ending Homelessness: A Dialogue with Orange County Leaders and Federal Partners

On May 24, 2023, the Office of Care Coordination hosted a meeting with representation from the Board of Supervisors, County of Orange (County) department leaderships, the United States Interagency Council of Homelessness (USICH) and federal departments to discuss preventing and ending homelessness.

The County presented on local initiatives, and opportunities and challenges in addressing homelessness in partnership with federal agencies. USICH is the only federal agency with a sole mission focused on preventing and ending homelessness in America. The council consists of 19 federal agencies that help create and catalyze implementation of federal strategies and initiatives to end homelessness. As such, Helen Schneider, Senior Regional Advisory for USICH presented an overview of *All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness*. All In sets an ambitious goal to reduce homelessness by 25% by 2025. The plan is built around six pillars: three foundation pillars— equity, data and evidence, and collaboration—and three solution pillars—housing and supports, crisis response, and prevention.

USICH also presented the ALL Inside initiative, the USICH and its 19 federal member agencies will partner with state and local governments to strengthen and accelerate local efforts to get unsheltered people into homes in six places: Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Phoenix Metro, Seattle, and the State of California. To accelerate ongoing efforts by local leaders, USICH will offer innovative and tailored support to participating communities for up to two years:

- Embedding a dedicated federal official in each community to accelerate locally driven strategies and enact system-level changes to reduce unsheltered homelessness.
- Deploying dedicated teams across the federal government to identify opportunities for regulatory relief and flexibilities, navigate federal funding streams, and facilitate a peer learning network across the communities.
- Collaborating with philanthropy, the private sector, and other communities to identify opportunities for follow-on support and collaboration.

These efforts compliment the State of California’s plan to address homelessness and include:

- Take a people centered approach.
- Partnership with organizations and target vulnerable subpopulations: veterans, transitional age youth, and older adults.
- Master plan on aging to give the ability to those older adults to live where they want to live by providing affordable housing.
- Continue to reinforce the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH’s) efforts and lean on the already created Action Plan established to prevent and end homelessness.
- Focusing and relying on policy direction, guidance on evidence-based practices, people centered approach and equity access.

The meeting had robust discussions around opportunities to partner with USICH to expand affordable housing, reduce veterans’ homelessness and develop strong homelessness prevention strategies.



State Funding Awards

Emergency Solutions Grant

The State of California Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program provides funding to (1) engage individuals and families experiencing homelessness; (2) improve the quality of emergency shelters for individuals and families experiencing homelessness; (3) help operate the emergency shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents, (5) rapidly re-housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and (6) prevent families/ individuals from becoming homeless.

On June 13, 2022, the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) announced the release of the 2022 ESG Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) with an allocation of \$641,733 to the County of Orange as the administrative entity for Orange County Continuum of Care. On May 9, 2023, HCD announced the 2022 ESG Program Award of \$641,733 to the County of Orange for rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, grant administration, and other eligible activities. The State ESG Program award will support the ongoing operations of key programs in the homeless service system.

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention

The Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Program provides block grant funds to support regional coordination to expand or develop local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges. HHAP funding is allocated to three jurisdiction types for distribution: Continuums of Care, large cities, and counties. The County of Orange (County) is the eligible applicant for both the County and the Orange County CoC allocations. Additionally, the Cities of Anaheim Santa Ana are eligible applicants and have received funding through the first three rounds of HHAP funding. The City of Irvine became an eligible applicant for the first time during the HHAP Program Round 4 funding. Santa Ana are eligible applicants and have received funding through the first three rounds of HHAP funding. The City of Irvine became an eligible applicant for the first time during the HHAP Program Round 4 funding.

HHAP Round 4 is authorized by Assembly Bill 140, Section 50218.7, signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on June 19, 2021. The HHAP Round 4 is to fund evidence-based solutions that address and prevent homelessness among eligible populations, including but not limited to rental assistance and rapid rehousing, operating subsidies, landlord incentives, outreach and coordination, prevention and shelter diversion into permanent housing and capital improvement for the development of new navigation centers and emergency shelters.

On September 30, 2022, the State of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) through the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) announced the opening of the HHAP Round 4 application portal. On January 6, 2023, Cal ICH announced the allocations of the HHAP 4 funding per jurisdiction. On March 29, 2023, Cal ICH announced the HHAP Round 4 awards which included \$7,131,232.99 to the County of Orange, \$7,600,841.88 to the Orange County Continuum of Care, and the Cities of Anaheim, Irvine and Santa Ana were awarded \$5,092,995.47 each.

Commission to End Homelessness Updates

New Appointment

The Commission to End Homelessness (Commission) works in collaboration with the County of Orange (County), city governments, business sector, philanthropic organizations, community organizations, faith-based organizations, health care, public safety, and other interested stakeholders to address the County's initiatives surrounding homelessness.

On June 6, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved the appointment of Captain Jason Ivins to the Commission to End Homelessness as the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department representative for a two-year term beginning on June 22, 2023 to June 21, 2025.

Captain Ivins is a 24-year veteran of the Orange County Sheriff's Department and currently serves as the Captain of the Patrol Operations for the Behavioral Health Bureau. Captain Ivins has knowledge of the County of Orange's Stepping Up Initiative and Integrated Services Strategy. Captain Ivins will provide a public safety perspective on the issue of homelessness that compliments the expertise of local leadership to address homelessness in Orange County on the Commission to End Homelessness.

Commission To End Homelessness Recruitment

The Office of Care Coordination will be recruiting for vacant and expiring seats on the Commission to End Homelessness. The Commission to End Homelessness is comprised of twenty members, including eighteen voting members and two non-voting members. Commission to End Homelessness make recommendations to the Orange County Board of Supervisors that shape policy and design programs aimed at addressing the needs of individuals and families at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness across Orange County.

Membership Recruitment will be open from July 1, 2023, through August 31, 2023, for the following seats:

- Affordable housing development industry representative
- At-Large Member
- Chief of Police in an Orange County City
- Faith-Based Community Representative
- City Manager or elected official in the North Service Planning Area

The North Service Planning Area includes the following cities of Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Orange, Placentia, Stanton, Villa Park, and Yorba Linda. [The following Orange County Service Planning Area map can be referenced.](#) Details regarding the recruitment can be found on the Office of Care Coordination website at: [Commission to End Homelessness | Orange County CEO's Office \(ocgov.com\)](#).

Commissioners serve a two-year term and meet six times per year. Meetings are bi-monthly, on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm at the County Administration South Conference Center, 425 West Santa Ana Boulevard, Santa Ana, CA 92701. For additional information, please contact the Office of Care Coordination at (714) 834-5000 or via email Carecoordination@ocgov.com.

2023 Homeless Survey

In August 2022, the Commission to End Homelessness approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to assist in the development of the 2023 Homeless Survey. The Ad Hoc Committee consisted of representatives from various organizations in Orange County. The Office of Care Coordination, in collaboration with the Commission to End Homelessness and the Ad Hoc Committee, conducted a survey to gather updated and comprehensive data on individuals experiencing homelessness in Orange County. The 2023 Homeless Survey was a local effort that complements the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Point in Time Count. The survey focused on collecting data on the effectiveness of current homelessness programs, identifying service gaps, and determining resource availability. The information gathered will assist to coordinate regional resources to help address homelessness by evaluating access barriers and program accessibility. The survey will also help support knowledge gaps about unsheltered individuals and inform funding applications, local program, and policy decisions to increase access and resources.

Continuum of Care Updates

FY2022 CoC Program Award Announcement

On March 28, 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$2.8 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition Awards to approximately 7,000 local homeless housing and service programs across the United States and its territories. These CoC grants provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments to quickly rehouse individuals and families experiencing homelessness and provide support while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness.

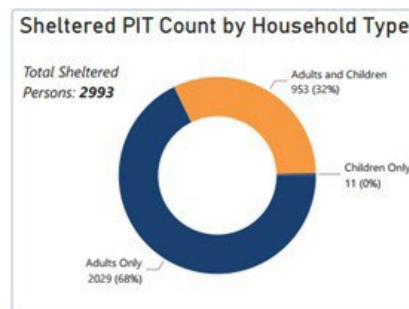
The Orange County CoC has been awarded \$31,453,663 for FY 2022. This represents a \$663,758 increase in CoC Program funding for the Orange County CoC. The new funding represents an increase in the CoC Planning grant, as well as the award of a new Coordinated Entry System (CES) Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Project in the amount of \$250,000 to the County of Orange as the CES lead agency and a new Rapid Rehousing Bonus Project in the amount of \$362,421 to Friendship Shelter, Inc.

The Office of Care Coordination looks forward to the impact this new funding will have in the Orange County CoC by providing rapid rehousing to individuals experiencing homelessness and system support to link survivors who have experienced or are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking to emergency shelter options, permanent housing options and supportive services.

2023 Shelter Point in Time Count Results

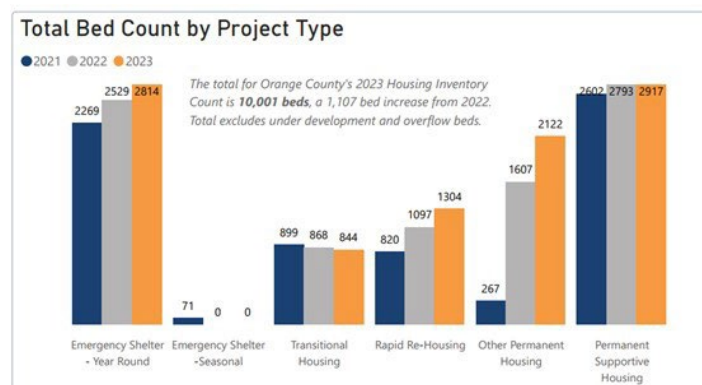
The Sheltered Point in Time Count was conducted on January 23, 2023, and reflects the number of people staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing projects on the night of the count.

The 2023 Sheltered Point in Time Count found a total of 2,993 persons experiencing sheltered homelessness which is an increase of 332 persons from 2022 to 2023. Additional information of the 2023 Sheltered Point in Time Count can be found in the chart below and at the following link: [2023 Sheltered Point In Time Overview](#)



2023 Housing Inventory Count

All Continuum of Care's (CoC) are required to conduct a Housing Inventory Count (HIC) annually during the last ten days in January. The HIC displays the number of beds and units available on the night designated for the count by program type, and includes beds dedicated to serve persons who are experiencing homelessness as well as persons in permanent housing programs, including other permanent housing and permanent supportive housing. The total for Orange County's 2023 HIC was 10,001 beds which is a 1,107 bed increase from 2022. Additional information of the 2023 HIC can be found in the chart below and at the following link: [2023 Housing Inventory Count Overview](#)



Continuum of Care Updates (continued)

Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

The Office of Care Coordination, as the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) collaborative applicant, in collaboration with the CoC Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Collaborative Committee and the Orange County Youth Action Board (YAB) is submitted an application for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The goal of the YHDP is to support selected communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

In preparation for the submission, the Office of Care Coordination in partnership with the TAY Collaborative Committee held a series of weekly planning meetings throughout May 2023. These sessions allowed community partners to provide insight into their organization and the work that is being done to address and prevent youth and TAY homelessness and service needs.

Homekey Updates

Homekey Update

Building on the success of Project Roomkey and the first round of Homekey, the Homekey Round 1 Interim Housing Services Program provided up to 132 non-congregate shelter beds to individuals experiencing homelessness in Orange County. Since Homekey Round 1 began services in November 2020, 227 participants have been served, with 65 percent exiting into permanent housing.

Homekey Round 2 Interim Housing Services Program continues a statewide effort to sustain and rapidly expand housing for persons experiencing homelessness and provided up to # non-congregate shelter beds to individuals experiencing homelessness in Orange County. The Homekey Round 2 Program began services for participants in October 2022, located in the City of Anaheim and the City of Huntington Beach. Since the Program began services, 248 participants have been served, with 30% exiting into permanent housing. The next phase of Homekey Round 2 will be transitioning its operations from interim housing to permanent supportive housing.

Homekey Request for Information (RFI)

The OC Community Resources (OCCR), Housing & Community Development Department released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking developers that have experience with the acquisition, rehabilitation, and use of property for permanent supportive housing or have identified sites or are willing to work with the County of Orange (County) on potential sites. The projects would be considered for the anticipated Round 3 of the State of California's Homekey Program as proposed in the FY 2022 State of California budget with a potential of \$1.3 billion in additional funding, subject to approval by the State as part of the State budget process.

The target population for the Homekey Program is individuals who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness, as defined in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulation, and who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Homekey Program Round 3 RFI period was March 13, 2023, through April 3, 2023. The Office of Care Coordination will continue supporting OCCR in the Homekey Program efforts and continue partnering with developers in the planning and implementation of future Homekey projects which will aid to enhance the number of units available to those individuals navigating through the System of Care in Orange County.

Shelter Updates

Central Cities Navigation Center

On June 13, 2023, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Central Cities Navigation Center, a joint effort between the Cities of Garden Grove, Fountain Valley, and Westminster. This year-round center aims to provide emergency shelter and wrap-around supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness. The Central Cities Navigation Center will be located at 13871 West Street in Garden Grove and is expected to open in Spring 2024.

The Central Cities Navigation Center will be operated by Volunteers of America of Los Angeles (VOALA). The Central Cities Navigation Center is designed to accommodate approximately 170 adults, with up to 100 beds available to clients on a 24/7 basis. In addition to three daily meals, clients will enjoy laundry facilities, pet accommodations, and transportation to and from the facility. The support services provided by this the navigation center will be extensive, including one-on-one case management, mental health and stabilization resources, substance use counseling, education services, life-skills development, employment assistance, and job training.

The County of Orange has contributed \$11.5 million to the project, with \$5.3 million allocated towards construction and renovation efforts and \$6.2 million to support the operations of the program for ten years. Moreover, the Cities of Garden Grove, Fountain Valley and Westminster will also help fund the annual cost of operations over the next decade. Ultimately, the Central Cities Navigation Center promises to provide much-needed support and resources to individuals experiencing homelessness in the community who require assistance in navigating the System of Care to achieve permanent housing.



For more information on the work of the Office of Care Coordination, please contact carecoordination@ocgov.com