

# THE QUARTERLY UPDATE

January - March 2022

Welcome to our Office of Care Coordination quarterly update. Included in this edition, are updates on the HOME American Rescue Plan Program, Orange County's Project Toolbelt and Homekey, the local Homelessness Action Plan and the 2021 Continuum of Care program award announcement.

## 2022 Point In Time Count

The County of Orange and Orange County Continuum of Care held the sheltered Point in Time (PIT) count the night of Monday, February 21, 2022, and the unsheltered PIT count started the morning of Tuesday, February 22 through Thursday, February 24, 2022.

The County of Orange contracted with City Net as project lead, to coordinate the mapping efforts, along with Covenant House to conduct the first Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) focused PIT Count.

The Office of Care Coordination would like to extend their appreciation to every street outreach agency, homeless service provider, local experts, law enforcement agencies and volunteers that provide their assistance.

The results of the 2022 PIT will be available in late spring.



## HOME-ARP

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The American Rescue Plan provides \$5 billion through the HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP) to HOME Participating Jurisdictions (applicants). In collaboration with other community stakeholders, HOME applicants can use the funding to make targeted, strategic investments in housing and other assistance for people experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations.

HOME-ARP eligible activities include:

- Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Supportive Services, Homeless Prevention Services, and Housing Counseling
- Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter

The Office of Care Coordination acting as the Collaborative Applicant for the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) continues to coordinate project consultation meetings with the HOME-eligible jurisdictions to review their proposed use of funding, provide technical assistance to the applicant, and identify potential opportunities for collaboration in administering HOME-ARP funds.

If you are interested in being notified about opportunities to participate in future HOME-ARP project consultations, as well as other federal funding opportunities, sign up for Continuum of Care meeting information and updates.

## FY2021 CoC Program Award Announcement

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On March 14, 2022, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$2.65 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 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 \$30,789,905 for FY2021, providing funding to 21 permanent housing program renewals, two permanent housing program expansions, and one new Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Project, the Homeless Management Information System and the Coordinated Entry System. This represents a \$1,794,922 increase in CoC Program funding for Orange County. The new Domestic Violence DV Bonus Project was awarded to Human Options in the amount of \$1,641,376.

The Office of Care Coordination looks forward to the impact this new funding will have in helping survivors of domestic violence receive support and guidance as they identify next steps towards permanent housing. Thank you to the Orange County CoC Board, our nonprofit service providers and staff who worked long hours to submit the FY2021 CoC Program Applications. We are grateful for your continued partnership in working towards ending homelessness in Orange County.

## Project Toolbelt

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As of the end of March 2022, Project Toolbelt, one of the County of Orange's COVID-19 homelessness response programs, provided housing placements to 609 program participants. Project Toolbelt engaged individuals experiencing homelessness who accessed Project Roomkey, with the goal of connecting them to appropriate housing opportunities by using the 'every tool in the tool belt' approach.

The Office of Care Coordination continues to work collaboratively with Project Toolbelt staff to case conference participants and their housing plans to ensure strong engagement and ongoing work towards permanent housing. With less than a handful of participants remaining and all working towards housing, this program was scheduled to end on March 31, 2022.

## Homekey Program

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The Homekey Program provides non-congregate shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness who are at high-risk for severe COVID-19 illness due to age and/or underlying health conditions. The Homekey Program at full capacity can serve up to 132 participants at any given time.

Since November 2020 to date, the Homekey Program has served 225 participants, with 66% of their exits moving into permanent housing. The next phase of the Homekey Program will consist of the conversion of the site as it transitions its operations from interim housing to permanent supportive housing.

Homekey Round Two provided the opportunity for a collaborative effort led by County of Orange Agencies including Orange County Community Resources (OCCR), CEO Real Estate and the OC Health Care Agency's Office of Care Coordination team, to apply for the acquisition of motels to serve those experiencing homeless. The County of Orange submitted three applications to the State and to date, two out of the three projects have received Homekey Program Round Two funding awards and the third application is still under consideration at this time. The first project in the City of Huntington Beach was awarded \$17 million to acquire the Quality Inn & Suites at 17251 Beach Boulevard and transition it into 62 rooms to house people experiencing homelessness. The second project in the City of Stanton was awarded \$6,070,000 to acquire and convert the Riviera Motel at 11892 Beach Boulevard into a 21-unit permanent supportive housing development for people experiencing homelessness.

## Orange County Cold Weather Shelter

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The County of Orange, in partnership with the Volunteers of America (VOA), opened The Orange County Cold Weather Emergency Shelter on December 1, 2021. This program allowed individuals experiencing homelessness to have a warm, safe space to sleep, a meal, and a shower each night they were in operation.



VOA partnered with Orange County Public Health to provide on-site weekly COVID testing and vaccine clinics and weekly visits from Mental Health and Recovery Services. Since opening their doors, the Cold Weather shelter has served 277 participants.

As the Cold Weather Shelter season closure date of March 31, 2022, approached, the Office of Care Coordination worked closely with VOA and street outreach providers to assess and refer participants to year-round emergency shelters.

## Local Homelessness Action Plan

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The Office of Care Coordination is working with Homebase Consulting Group to develop a local Homelessness Action Plan for Orange County. The Homelessness Action Plan is a requirement of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 3 grant application for the Orange County Continuum of Care and the County of Orange.

The local Homelessness Action Plan must include:

- A local landscape analysis that assesses the current number of people experiencing homelessness and existing programs and funding which address homelessness within the jurisdiction, utilizing any relevant and available data from the Homeless Data Integration System, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's homeless Point in Time count, Continuum of Care housing inventory count, longitudinal systems analysis, and Stella tools, as well as any recently conducted local needs assessments;
- Identification of the number of individuals and families served, including demographic information and intervention types provided, and demographic subpopulations that are under-served relative to their proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness in the jurisdiction; and
- Identification of all funds, including state, federal and local funds, currently being used, and budgeted to be used, to provide housing and homelessness-related services to persons experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness, how this funding serves subpopulations, and what intervention types are funded through these resources.

The Homelessness Action Plan will also have a focus on the following metrics:

- Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness
- Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time
- Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing
- Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless
- Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing
- Increasing successful placements from street outreach

The Office of Care Coordination and Homebase are developing Orange County's Homelessness Action Plan, ensuring compliance with the HHAP-3 requirements and application deadline of June 30, 2022. Consultation sessions are being scheduled with the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC), Commission to End Homelessness, CoC Policy Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee, Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) and two listening sessions with wider stakeholders.

For more information on the work of the Office of Care Coordination,  
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