BRIDGING THE GAP:

Connecting College Campuses to the Homelessness Response System

January 31, 2019

JOHN BURTON

ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

www.jbaforyouth.org

Today's Agenda

- Overview of College Student Homelessness
- The Homelessness Response System, Continuums of Care & HUD Funding
- The Coordinated Entry System
- Practical Strategies for Campuses / Next Steps
- Resources
- Question & Answer

Today's Presenters

Cecilia Cruz
Student Health Center Coordinator
East Los Angeles College

Colleen Ganley Ammerman
Student Mental Health Specialist
California Community College Chancellor's Office

Jaclyn Grant
Youth CES Coordinator
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

Eric Hubbard
Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships
Jovenes, Inc.

Shahera Hyatt
Director
California Homeless Youth Project

Hope Kamer
UC Berkeley MSW Intern
John Burton Advocates for Youth

Gillian Morshedi
Staff Attorney
HomeBase

Simone Tureck Lee
Associate Policy Director
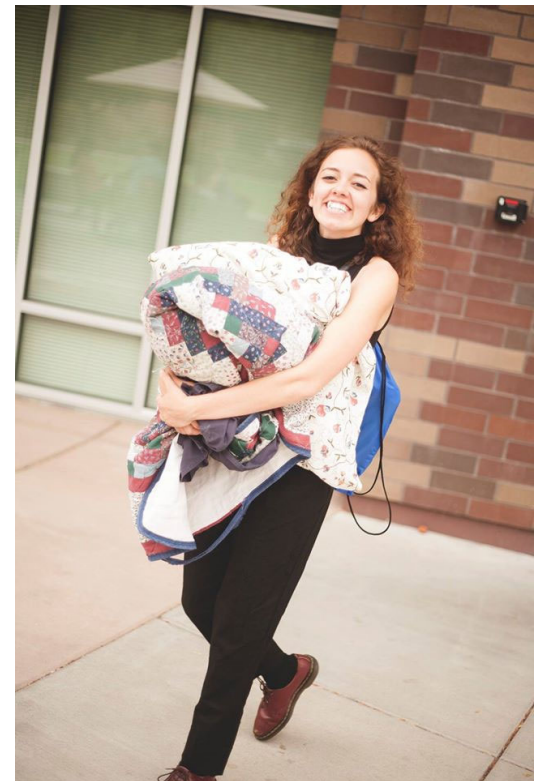*John Burton Advocates for Youth*

There Are Homeless College Students?

Brand new community college data

- 60% of students report being housing insecure

- 19% of students report being homeless

- 50% students report being food insecure

Previous data on four-year institutions

- 1 in 10 CSU students (11%) report being homeless

- 1 in 20 UC students (5%) report being homeless

Challenges Homeless Students Face

Lack of supportive adults

Mental health issues and impact of trauma

Insufficient support with educational planning and developing study skills

Inadequate financial resources
- Difficulty paying fees and purchasing textbooks
- Inability to secure stable housing
- Lack of reliable transportation
- Food insecurity

Homeless Youth Liaisons on Community College Campuses

Every community college & CSU campus is required to designate a staff member within the financial aid office or another appropriate office/dept. to serve as a Homeless and Foster Student Liaison

- Liaison informs current and prospective students about financial aid and other assistance available to homeless youth and current and former foster youth

Established by AB 801 (2016), effective January 1, 2017

Bottom Line?

82% of respondents to a survey of 81 **college-level staff** indicated **housing** is the need they are **least** able to provide to students.

56%% of respondents to survey of **Continuums of Care** indicated they have **no formal engagement** with their local **institutions of post-secondary education**.

We hope this web seminar changes these numbers!

The Homelessness Response System: Overview

- Continuum of Care Program

- U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - Funding and Requirements

- Housing Types
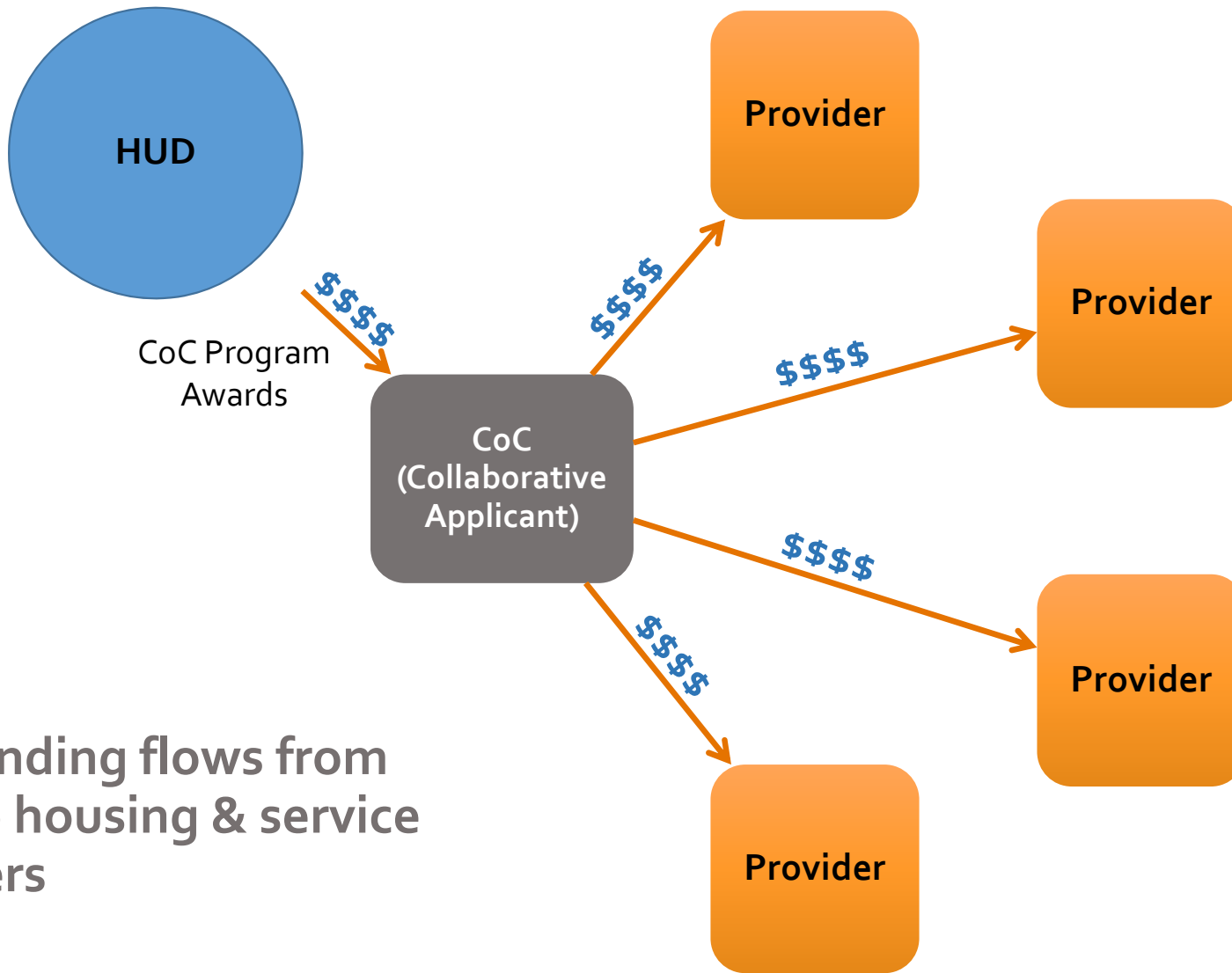
- Eligibility and Prioritization

Continuums of Care (CoCs) & HUD

Continuum of Care (CoC) Basics

- Administrative entity that receives and administers HUD funding
- Local or regional system – *not county-based*
- 38 CoCs in California
- Primary vehicle for helping people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

- Largest funder of homeless assistance programs in the country
- California received $381,008,456 in HUD funding in 2018

HUD

CoC Program Awards

$$$$

CoC (Collaborative Applicant)

$$$$

$$$$

$$$$

$$$$

Provider

Provider

Provider

Provider

How funding flows from HUD to housing & service providers

HUD Housing Administered by Continuums of Care

| Emergency Shelter | Transitional Housing |

| Rapid Rehousing | Permanent Supportive Housing |

Housing not administered by the CoC:

Housing Choice (Section 8) Vouchers

Permanent Affordable Housing

Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs

JOHN BURTON

HUD-Funded, CoC-Administered Housing Types: Temporary
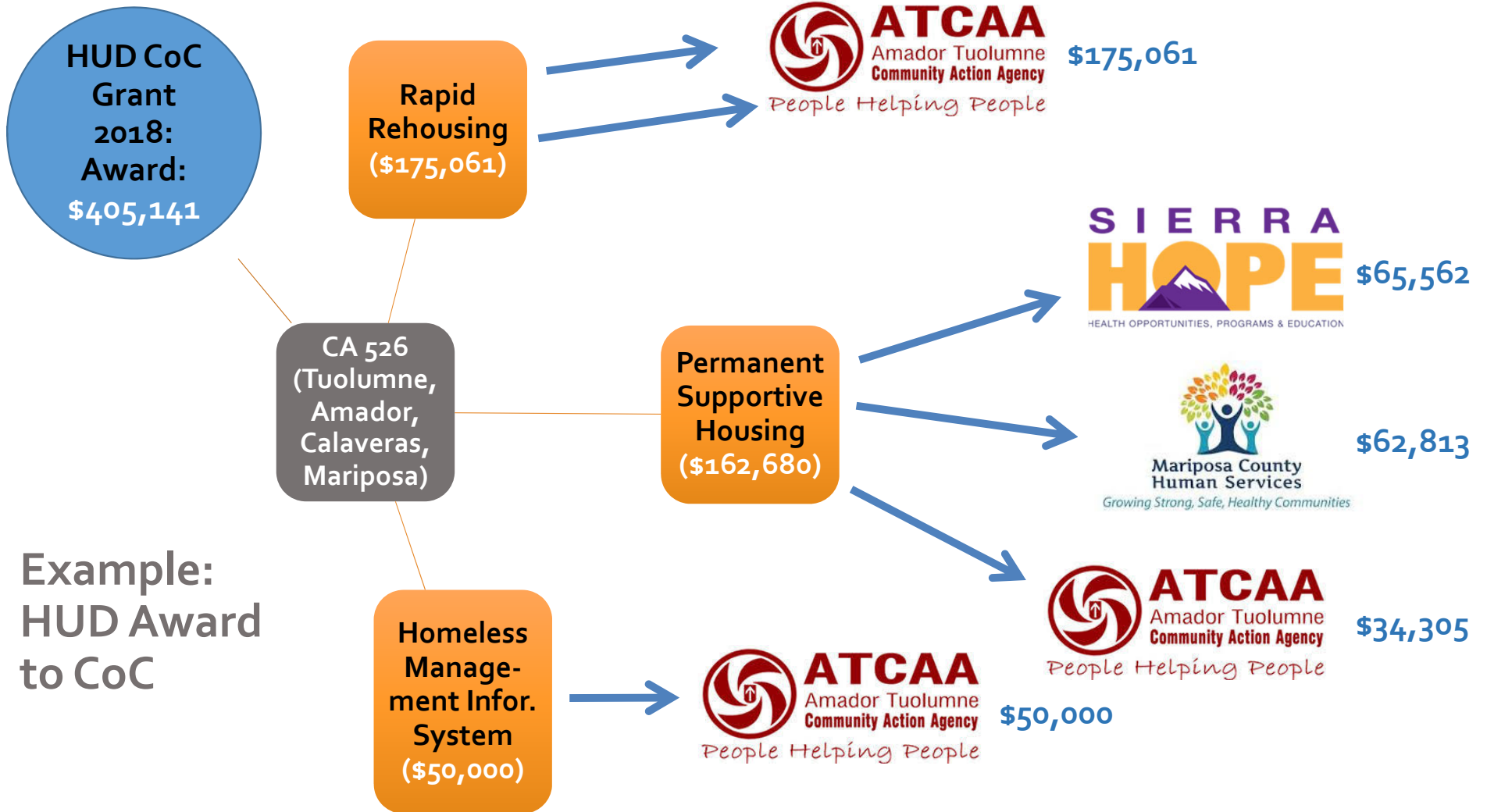
- **Emergency Shelter**
    - A facility the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter.
    - Typically provided for up to 90 days or until specific goals are accomplished by the client.
    - Services and requirements vary greatly

- **Transitional Housing**
    - Type of supportive housing used to facilitate the movement of individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing.
    - Fairly intensive supportive services provided by the organization managing the housing or other public or private agencies.
    - Time limited (up to 24 months), and client must move on from housing at the end of assistance.

HUD-Funded, CoC-Administered Housing Types: Permanent

- **Rapid Rehousing**
  - Places a priority on moving a family or individual experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible.
  - Duration of financial assistance varies (up to 24 months), and is reduced over time. Client may remain in the unit after assistance ends.
  - Limited case management/supportive services.

- **Permanent Supportive Housing**
  - Combination of long-term (not-time limited) housing and intensive (voluntary) services designed for people with disabilities who need support to live stably in their communities.
  - Services can include case management, substance abuse or mental health counseling, advocacy, and assistance in locating and maintaining employment.
  - May be provided in a single structure or at scattered sites.

HUD CoC Grant 2018: Award: $405,141

Rapid Rehousing ($175,061)

ATCAA Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency — People Helping People — $175,061

CA 526 (Tuolumne, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa)

Permanent Supportive Housing ($162,680)

SIERRA HOPE — HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS & EDUCATION — $65,562

Mariposa County Human Services — Growing Strong, Safe, Healthy Communities — $62,813

ATCAA Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency — People Helping People — $34,305

Homeless Management Infor. System ($50,000)

ATCAA Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency — People Helping People — $50,000

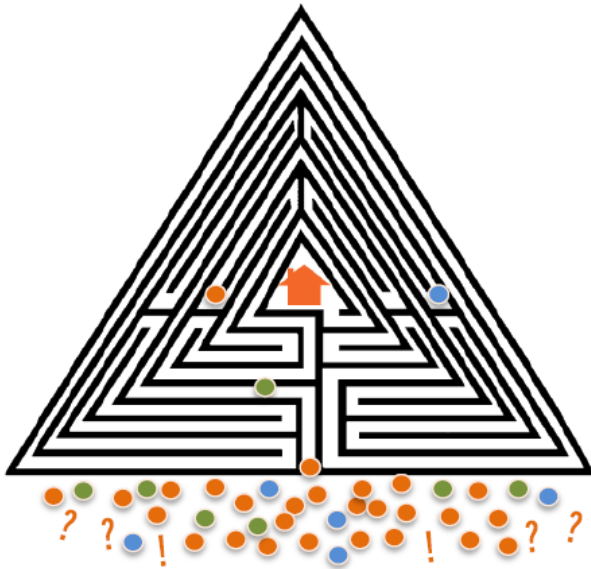**Example: HUD Award to CoC**

Eligibility & Prioritization for Housing Resources

- Eligibility
  - Minimum: HUD's Definition of Homelessness
  - Additional Housing Type and/or Program Requirements (e.g., veteran status, specific age range, chronically homeless, families, serious mental illness)

- Prioritization
  - Vulnerability: Chronic Homelessness, Disability, and other factors
  - Use of Coordinated Entry: Assessment, Matching, and Referral
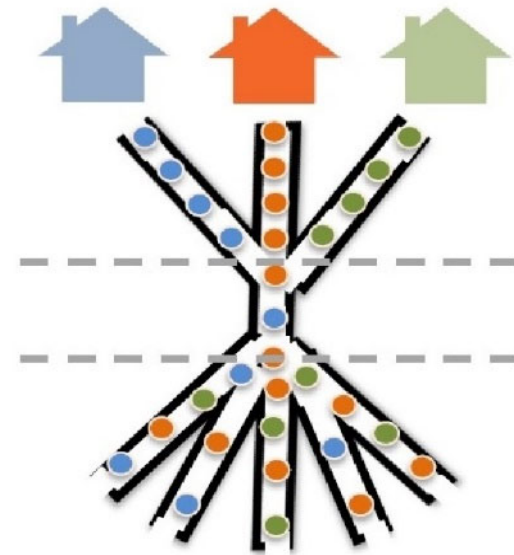
- Youth-Targeted Resources

The Coordinated Entry System
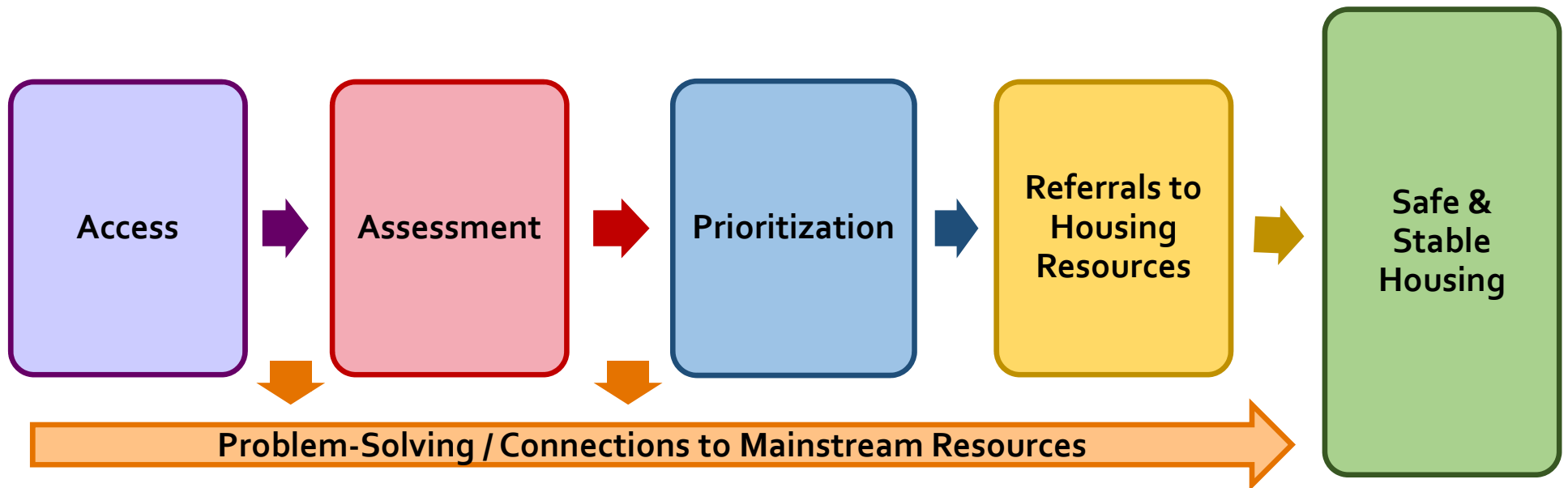
What is a Coordinated Entry System?

Without CES

With CES

How Does CES Work?

Access → Assessment → Prioritization → Referrals to Housing Resources → Safe & Stable Housing

Problem-Solving / Connections to Mainstream Resources

CES Access Points

Single Point of Access

Virtual or Phone Access

Outreach

Regional Hubs or Multi-Site Centralized Access

"No Wrong Door" Approach

Youth Coordinated Entry Systems

- Access Points and/or Coordinated Entry Systems specifically tailored towards youth and young adults

- Common features:
  - Safe, accessible, and inclusive spaces and processes
  - Assessments informed by unique experiences and vulnerabilities of youth
  - Developmentally appropriate housing and service resource options
  - Provider expertise in working with young people
  - Youth-centered approaches to engagement and supportive services

Practical Strategies for Campuses

And Next Steps

1. Know your community's access points; refer youth to access points.

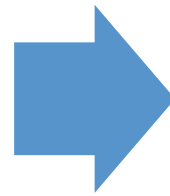## Know your community's coordinated entry access points

- Familiarize key campus staff with locations & phone numbers
- Are there youth-specific access points? Which are most youth-friendly?

Refer youth in need of housing to access points

- Know your community's process

2. Co-locate with a provider that assesses for coordinated entry.

Partner with the Continuum of Care or local provider to bring coordinated entry assessment on campus.

Provider with CES contract can assess youth on campus and refer eligible youth to housing and services.

Campus Highlight: East Los Angeles College has an Access Point on Campus

- Peer navigator employed by community provider, Jovenes, Inc. has office space on ELAC's campus

- Administers coordinated entry assessment (Next Step Tool) on campus and refers to housing & services

- Major advantage with this model is being able to have students assessed _on campus_

History & Funding

Partnership began small: Jovenes "liaison" would visit Guardian Scholars & refer youth to their housing program.

Funded partly by Jovenes & partly by ELAC.

Growth: MOU between Jovenes & ELAC – Peer Navigator has office space in EOPS & assesses youth there.

Publicly funded via Jovenes (i.e. CES, housing or mental health contract).

3. Ensure key campus staff are familiar with eligibility.

Familiarize key campus staff with the landscape:

- HUD definition of homelessness
- Eligibility for specific housing options
- Local service providers who may serve youth who do not meet the HUD homeless definition but are still housing insecure

Youth with foster care histories:

- Ensure that if youth are eligible for extended foster care or THP-Plus, that they are being referred to their county child welfare agency or local provider.

4. Use touch points with students strategically.

When distributing emergency housing vouchers, ensure students are **connected to the local homelessness response system.**

When distributing any basic needs resources, ensure eligible homeless students are **completing FAFSA correctly** to get independent student status.

Post contact information in food pantries, support offices, health center, etc. for connecting with homelessness response system, and of any homeless liaisons or housing navigators if they are on your campus.

5. Attend care coordination meetings.

If meetings are open in your community, consider attending care coordination meetings.

- Send key staff who interface with homeless students.

- Campus staff have a unique perspective - advocate for youth *as* college students and ensure education is made a priority in their care plan.

6. Get involved with CoC stakeholder meetings during critical input periods.

- Get involved with Continuum of Care stakeholder meetings during **critical input periods** (Recent example: Homeless Emergency Aid Program-HEAP)

    - Stakeholder input was required for the HEAP planning process and open to the public.

    - **Attending these meetings helps ensure key populations (i.e. homeless youth, homeless students) are represented.**

7. Participate in the Homeless Point-In-Time Count.

- "Snapshot" of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January; administered by Continuum of Care

- Main source of data used by federal government to track the number, demographics & needs of people experiencing homelessness

- PIT counts determine federal funding allocations to address homelessness

Ensure homeless students are included in PIT Counts

- Volunteer for the count – it's happening now!
- Make sure homeless students complete surveys

8. Ensure your campus' financial aid policies address student homelessness.

Ensure financial aid administrators are well-trained and advised on how to make a homeless determination

Reevaluate Cost of Attendance based on individual circumstances

Prioritize special populations in timing of disbursements

Modify appeals policy to make homelessness an extenuating circumstance

9. Ensure your campus is fully implementing AB 1393 & AB 1228.

AB 1393 (Skinner, 2009): Priority housing for current and former foster youth

AB 1228 (Gipson, 2015): Priority housing for current and former homeless youth

- CSUs & UCs required; community colleges requested to grant priority for:
  - ✓ Student housing generally
  - ✓ Year-round student housing
  - ✓ housing open for most days in year

Cannot charge during breaks

10. Consider providing temporary housing on campus.

Emergency housing on campus:

- Set aside dorms for emergency short-term housing while longer-term housing is identified and secured
- Hotel vouchers on campuses without housing / to supplement emergency on campus housing

Resources

- Continuum of Care (CoC) Roster: https://www.jbaforyouth.org/coc-roster/
- Point-in-Time Count CoC Roster: https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/pit_count_coc.pdf
- AB 801 Homeless Youth Liaisons Roster: http://www.cccstudentmentalhealth.org/basic-needs-initiative/ (*Look under "News & Announcements" under "Basic Needs Summary Report" and click on "liaisons)*
- Children & Youth – HUD's Definitions of Homelessness: https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HUDs-Homeless-Definition-as-it-Relates-to-Children-and-Youth.pdf
- 10 Practical Strategies for Campuses (from this webinar): https://www.jbaforyouth.org/practical-strategies-for-campuses/

Resources

- 5 Guides to Help Homeless College Students (California Homeless Youth Project & SchoolHouse Connection): https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/5-guides-to-help-homeless-college-students-in-california/?utm_source=Main+list&utm_campaign=fd47372be2-MailChimp-Jan%233&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_96caefa5d6-fd47372be2-44935929

- FAFSA Visual Guide for Homeless Youth (JBAY): https://www.jbaforyouth.org/fafsa-guide-homeless-students/

- THP-Plus roster for former foster youth: https://www.jbaforyouth.org/thp-plus-provider-roster/

- Information about AB12/Extended Foster Care eligibility: https://www.jbaforyouth.org/ca-fostering-connections/ and THP+FC roster for non-minor dependents: https://www.jbaforyouth.org/thp-fc-provider-roster/

Question & Answer

To submit live questions, click on the "questions" panel, type your question, and click "send."

- To contact JBAY at a later date, e-mail Simone Tureck Lee at simone@jbay.org.

- Presentation materials and audio will be posted at www.jbaforyouth.org under "training archive." They will also be emailed to all webinar registrants later today.