

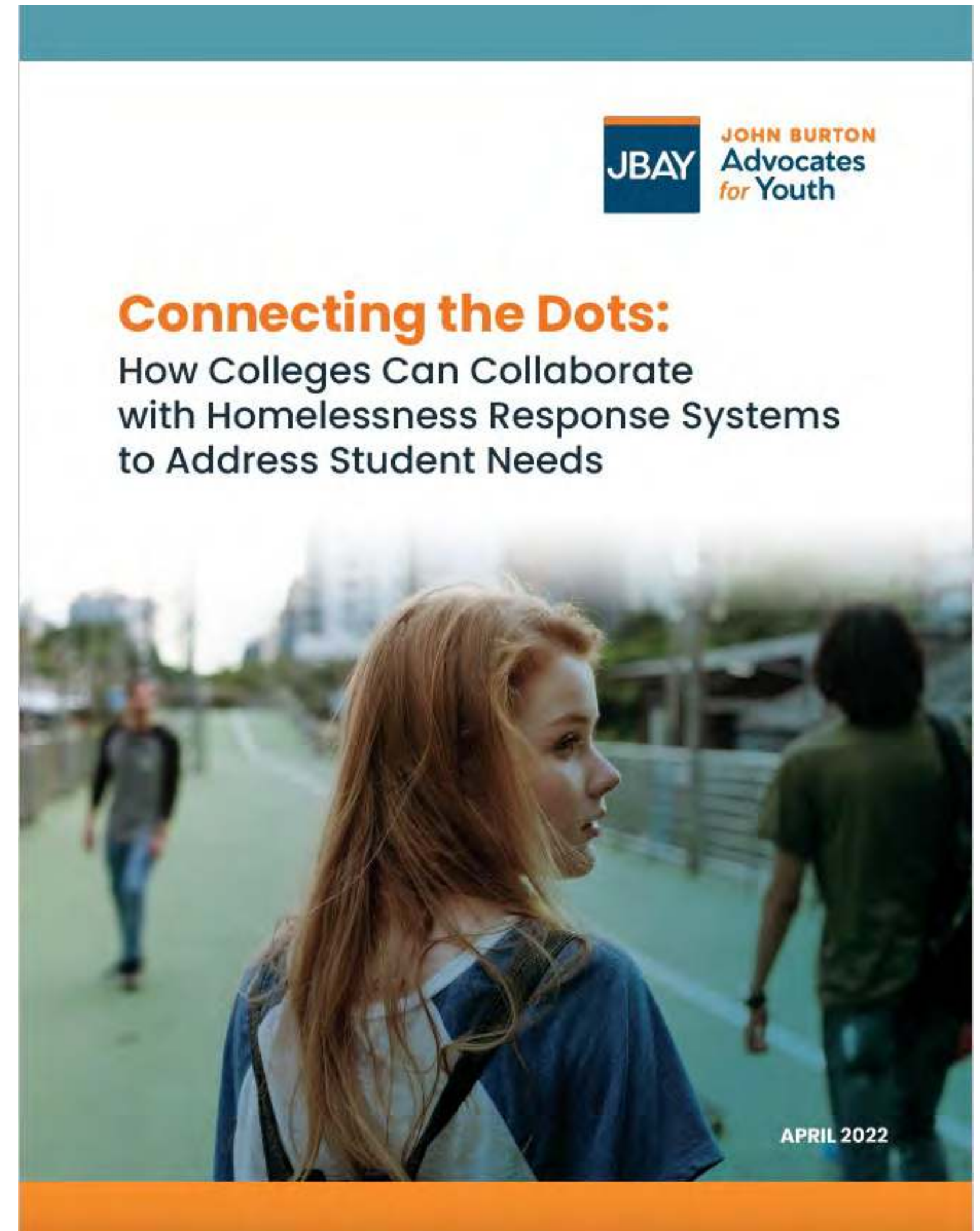
# Connecting the Dots: How Colleges Can Collaborate with Homelessness Response Systems to Address Student Needs



April 7, 2022

# Logistics

- This event is being recorded and will be available on John Burton Advocates for Youth's website
- Please use the Q&A function to submit questions throughout the presentation
- Download the publication at <https://jbay.org/resources/connecting-the-dots>



# Agenda

Background

Understanding the Homeless Services System

Recommendations

Panelist presentations

Q&A



# Today's Panelists



**Natalie Chavez**  
HOPE Coordinator  
Fresno City College



**Alexis Villa**  
Associate Dean, Student Equity & Achievement  
Imperial Valley College



**Justin Mendez**  
Basic Needs Program Manager  
Long Beach City College



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



**Dianka Lohah**  
Basic Needs Program Coordinator  
Long Beach City College



**Debbie Raucher**  
Director of Education  
John Burton Advocates for Youth

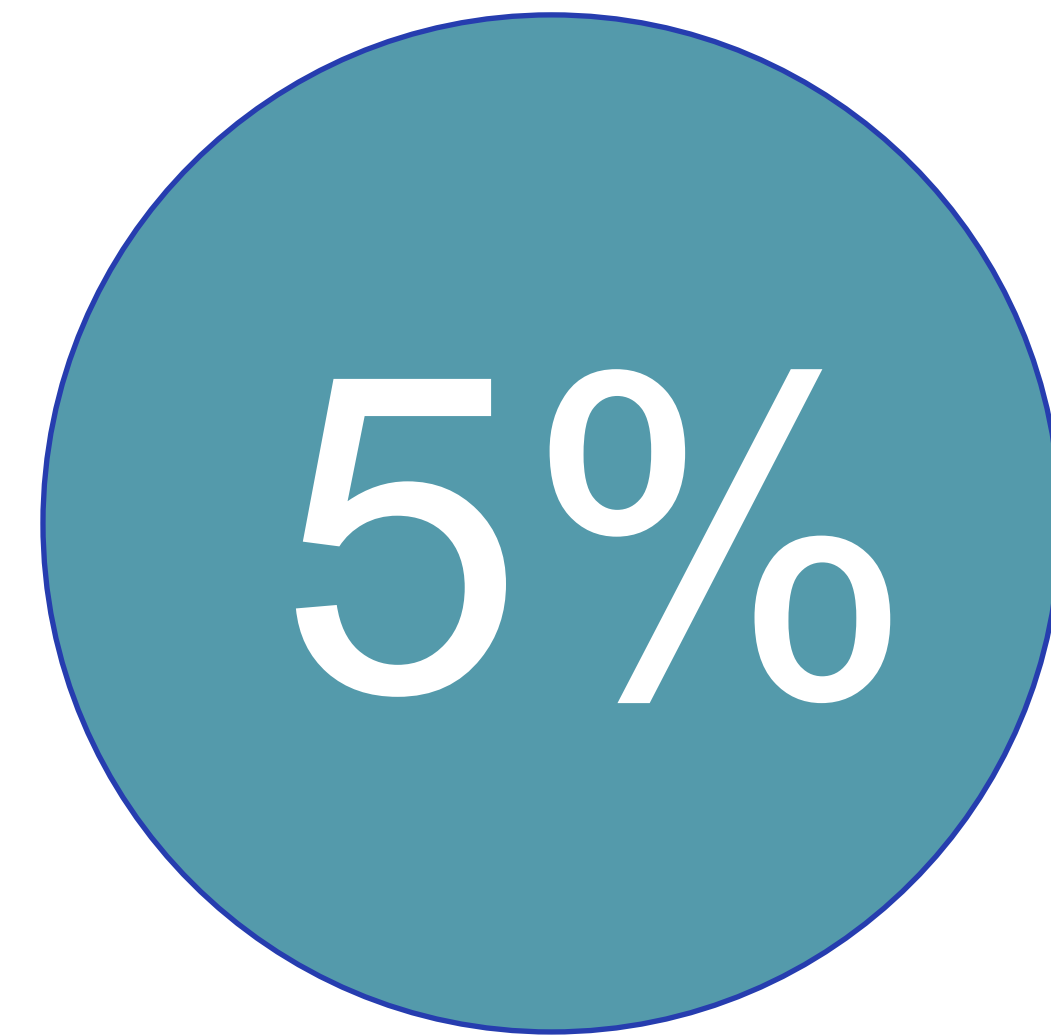
# Scope of the Problem



Community  
College



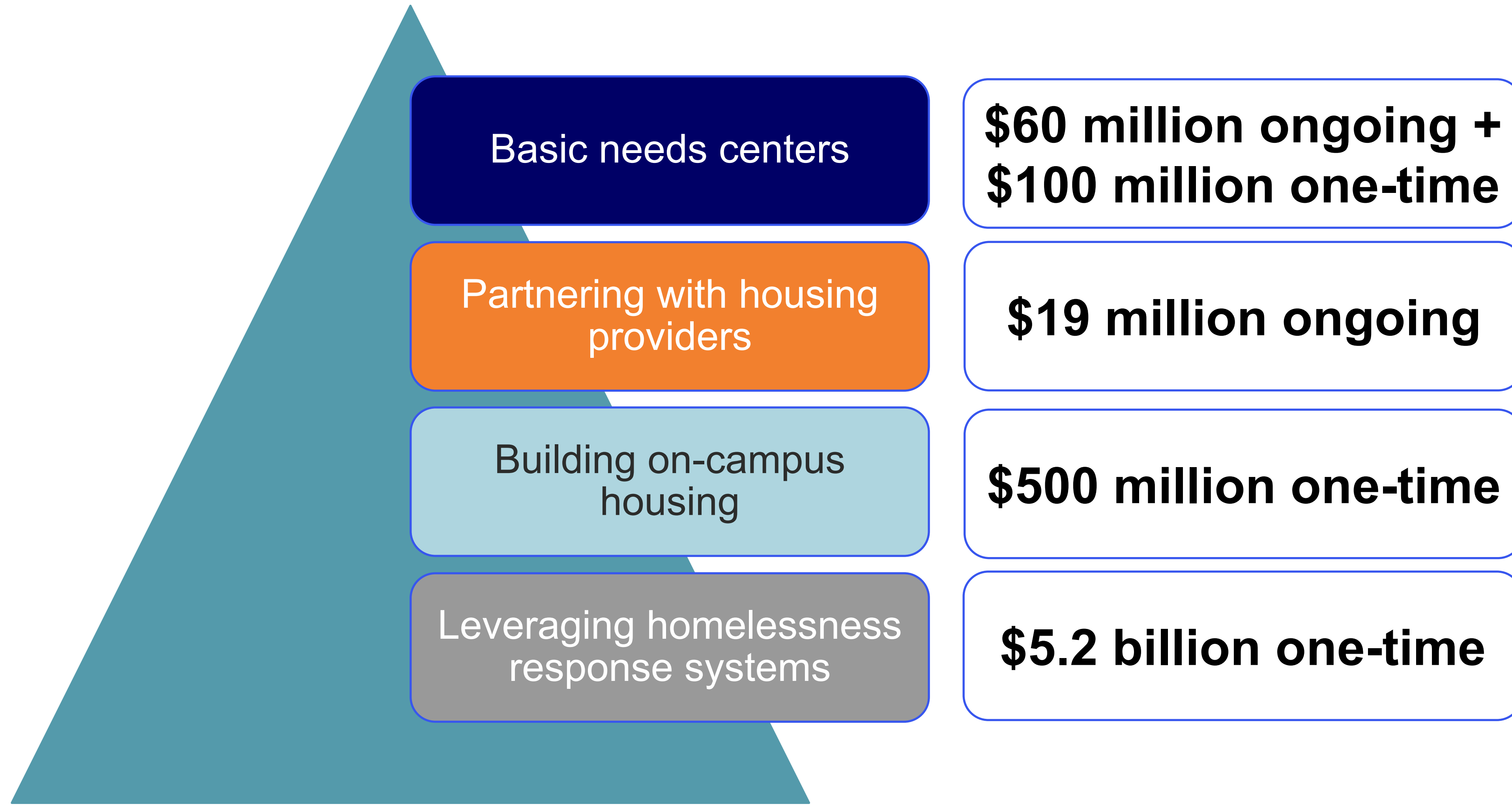
CSU



UC

African American and American Indian students are up to 40 percent more likely than white and Asian students to experience basic needs insecurity.

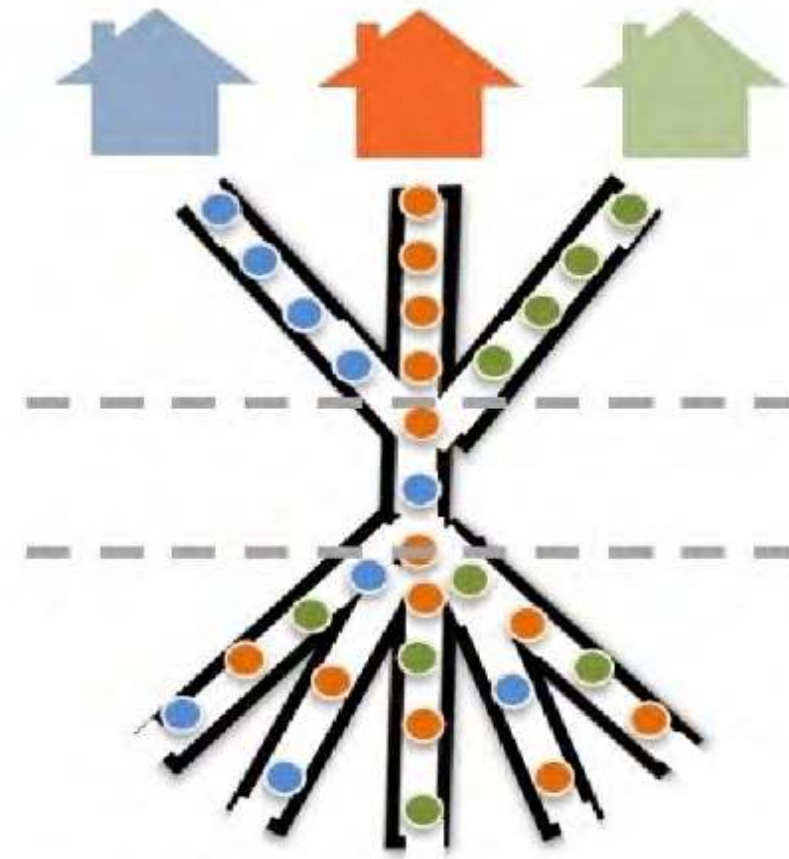
# Background & Context



# Homelessness Response System



Continuum  
of Care



Coordinated  
Entry System



State  
Homelessness  
Funding



# Continuum of Care



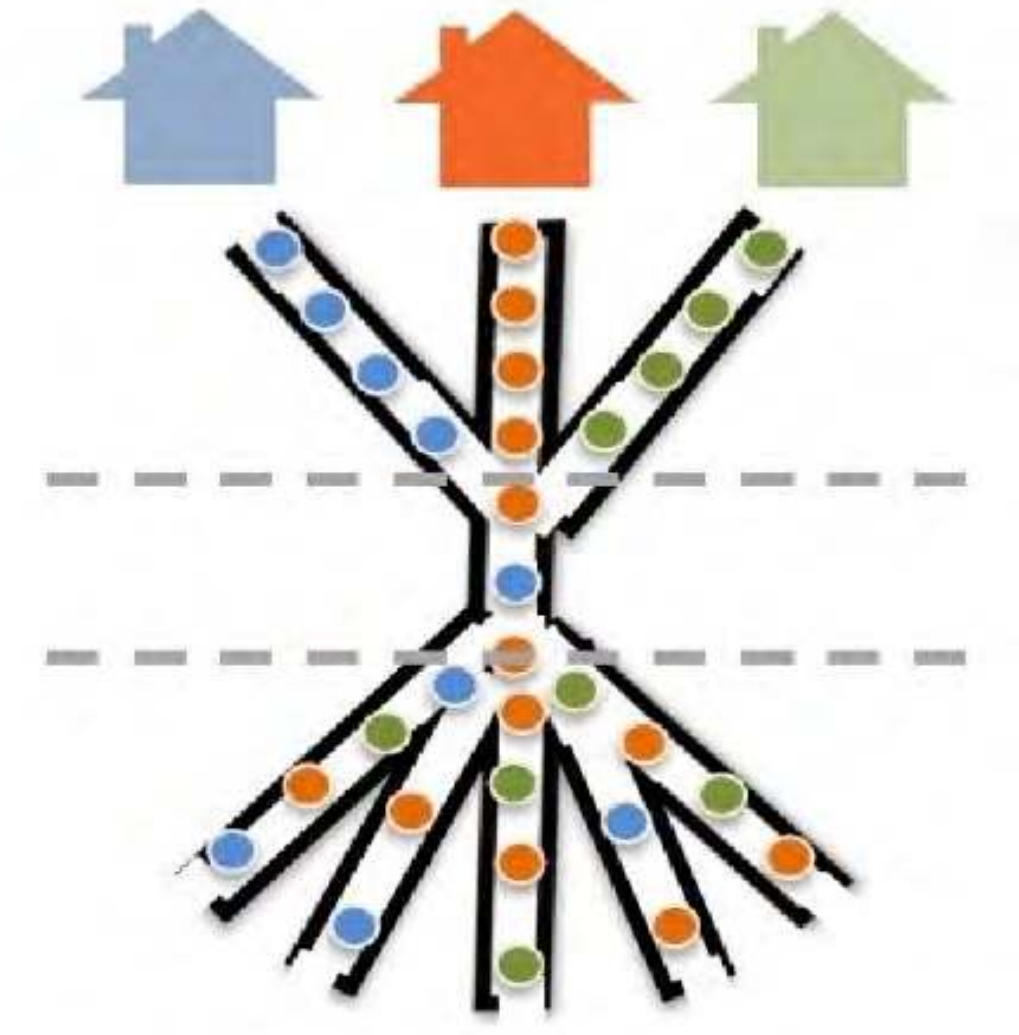
Disseminates federal and state funding to nonprofit providers and local governments to operate and provide housing services



Each CoC has a board that oversees dispersal of funds made up a diverse group of community leaders



# Coordinated Entry System



Required in every CoC region



Streamlined process to evaluate people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness



Identifies most appropriate service based on needs assessment

# Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Program



\$2 billion over 2 years

To CoCs, Counties and 13 cities

Distributed to housing providers

- Can be used for rental assistance, homelessness prevention and a variety of other uses
- At least **10%** of the allocation **MUST** be used to address the needs of **youth** experiencing homelessness

# Addressing Homelessness Requires a Strategy that Leverages Community Partners



*“How else are we going to address student homelessness without connecting to the people who can?” – Basic Needs Center Staff*



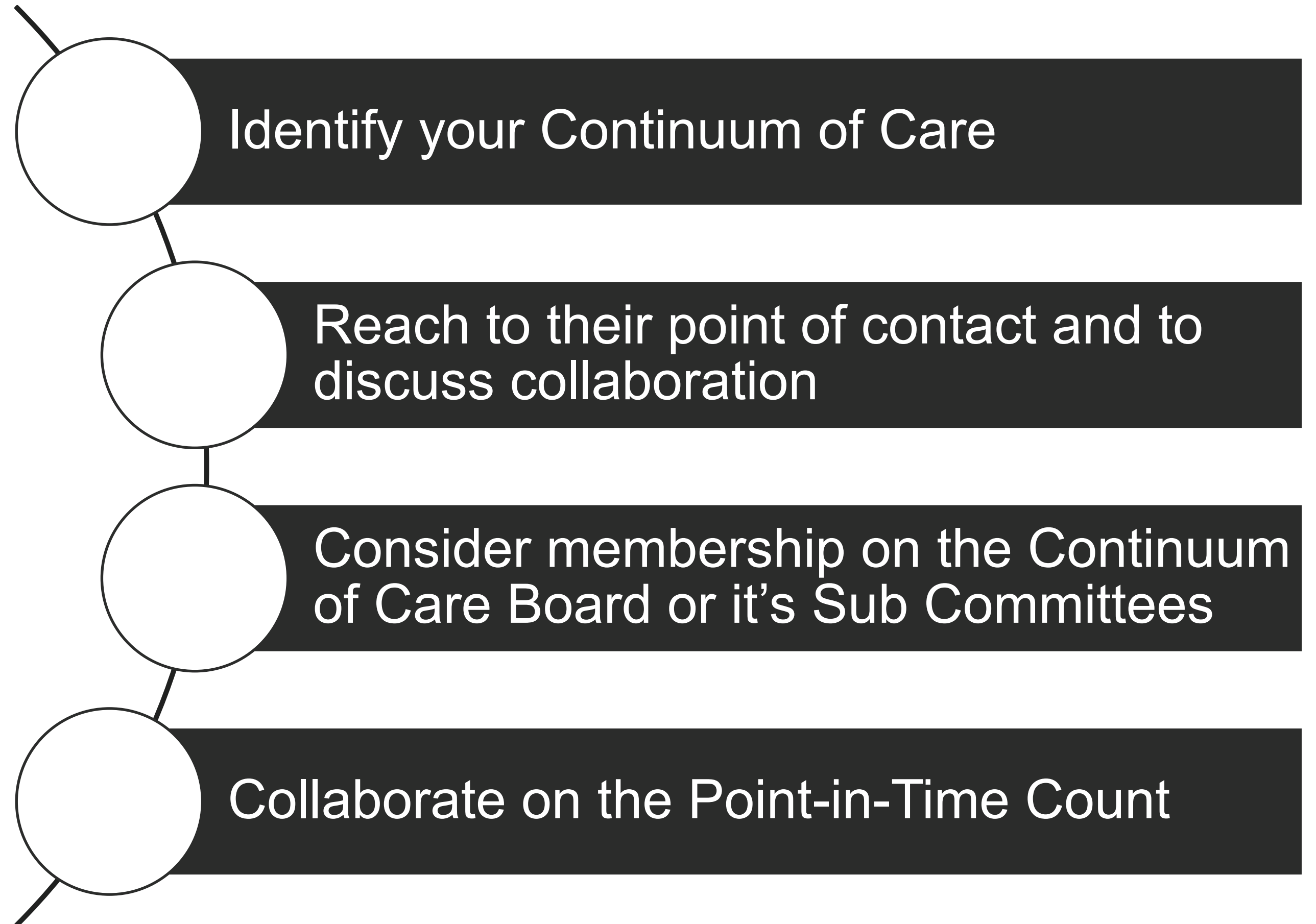
# 1. Ensure Appropriate Staffing to Leverage Homelessness Response Systems

- Basic needs center staff that are full-time and solely dedicated are more able to establish external relationships
- Staff with backgrounds in social work or social services find it easier to participate in their continuum of care





## 2. Participate in Continuum of Care



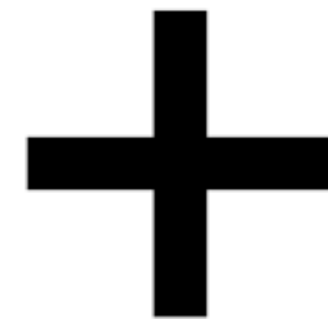
# 3. Partner with Housing Providers

Use one-time funds to partner with housing providers

## College Retention

ID homeless students and refer to housing provider

Education focused case management



## Rapid Rehousing

Housing navigation

Rental Subsidies

Housing stabilization

# 4. Co-Locate Housing Services on Campus

- Invite coordinated entry providers onto campus
- Train staff to enter students into the coordinated entry system and become a coordinated entry site







Basic Needs Services at Your College:

**CREATING A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR LOCAL  
CONTINUUM OF CARE**



# How did we establish a relationship with CoC?

**Attending meetings** of local task force on homelessness and **networking** with the people in attendance

Began **attending subcommittee meetings** and getting involved with the work

**Presented to the CoC** on the services available for students with experiences of homelessness or foster care at IVC

**Joined the CoC** as members and began actively participating at events

Began **referring students for services** and volunteered for the local Point in Time Count.

**Funding opportunities** were announced; funding that had a youth component were not receiving applications.

Applied for HEAP funding for Homelessness Diversion for Justice Impacted Students and Youth Services – **Awarded close to \$500K!**

Applied for **additional funding** for our housing projects. The CoC offers information on programs, services, resources, and grant opportunities.

\*You do not need to be a member of the CoC to apply for grant funding opportunities, and your campus may apply if they meet eligibility criteria, however it is highly recommended for campus teams to attend regular meetings to be in the loop for new programs, services and grants available for students.

# HOW DO WE BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO **BASIC NEEDS** ON OUR CAMPUS?

## DATA

Gather any data on how many students may be experiencing barriers to basic needs. Gather rosters, reach out to special programs.

## IDENTIFY

Identify your DREAM TEAM: who are the strategic stakeholders to expand basic needs efforts for your campus?

## PLAN

Draft a plan of what services can be offered at your campus; identify potential funding sources; connect with your local CoC, county providers and nonprofits.

## INFORM

Host informational sessions for campus community. Involve/inform all campus community members (i.e., participatory governance) & provide updates.

How it  
started:  
August 2016






# How it's going: March 2022





# “START WHERE YOU ARE, USE WHAT YOU HAVE, DO WHAT YOU CAN.”

- Reach out to your local CoC
  - Establish Connections
  - Apply for Grant Opportunities
- Stay Connected to JBAY and Organizations that provide technical assistance to do the work.
  - Reach out to other colleges for guidance.
- Stay Informed for New Funding through CCC
  - Attend Webinars
- **YOU GOT THIS! WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER** 
  - Every action will lead to the development of comprehensive basic needs services on your campus. Lean on staff, faculty and administrators on your campus that are already doing the work to break down barriers for students.



# Long Beach City College

## Basic Needs Program

- Connecting with the CoC
- Becoming a CES Site
- Establishing Partnerships with Housing Providers





# Connecting with Continuum of Care

## 1. Research and learning

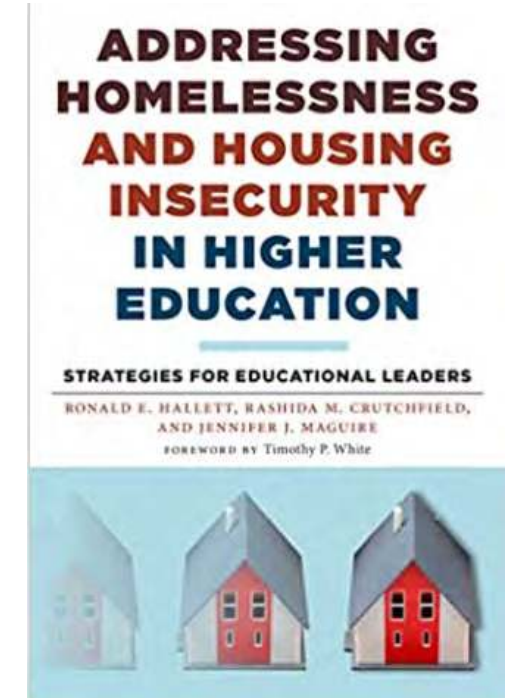
- Attend housing insecurity in higher ed workshops and webinars
- Read *Addressing homelessness and housing insecurity in higher education: Strategies for educational leaders*

## 2. Participate in meetings with local homelessness service entities:

- Continuum of Care (CoC) meetings
- Homeless Services Bureau
- City council sub-committees: Homeless Services Advisory Committee
- Neighborhood Coalitions: Long Beach Homeless Coalition

## 3. Join general membership meetings and apply for seat on Board

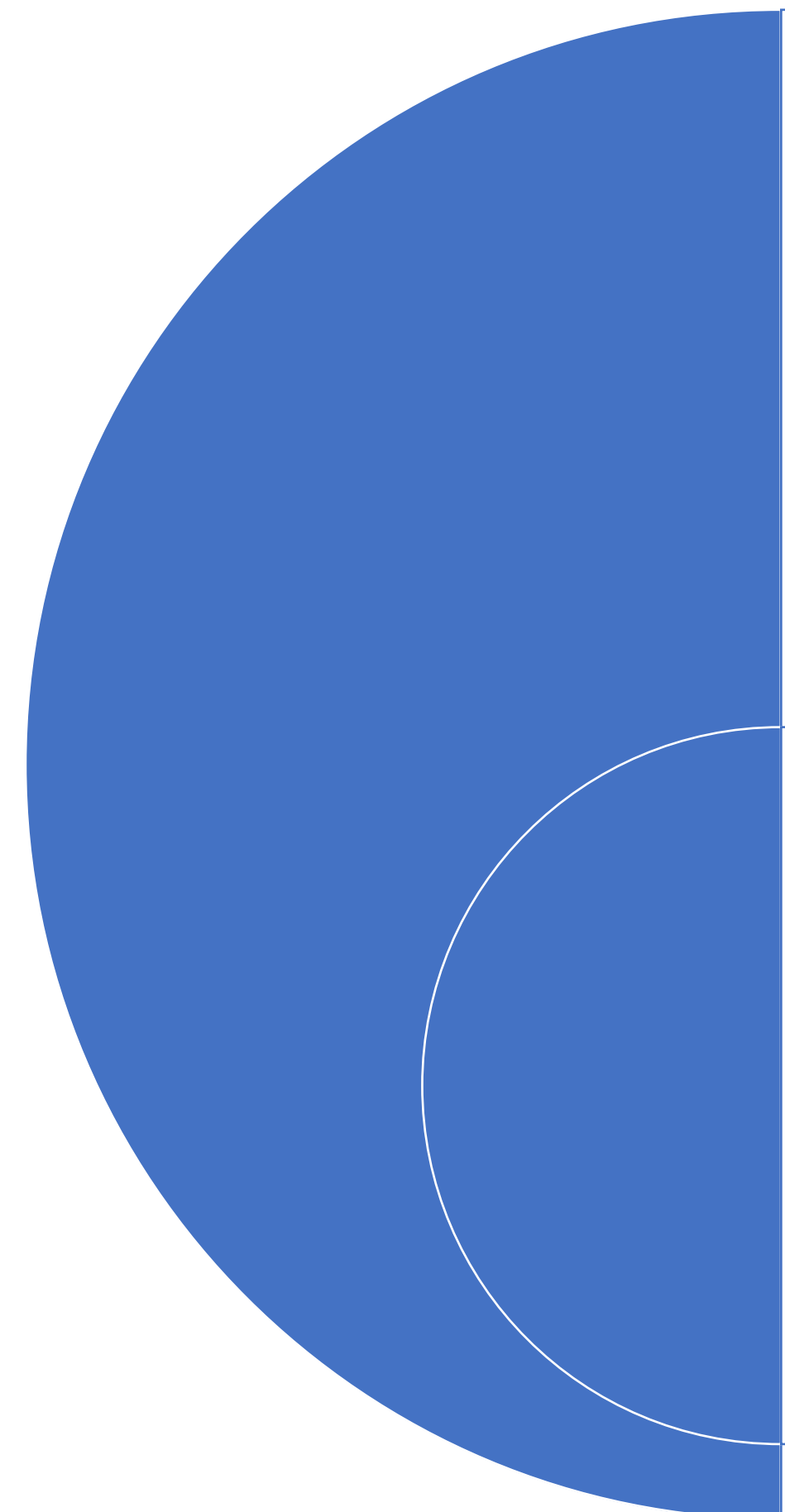
- Bring a representative voice and advocate for college students
- Cultivate relationships with agency partners
- Learn of new housing opportunities
- Potential access to CES



**#REALCOLLEGE CALIFORNIA**



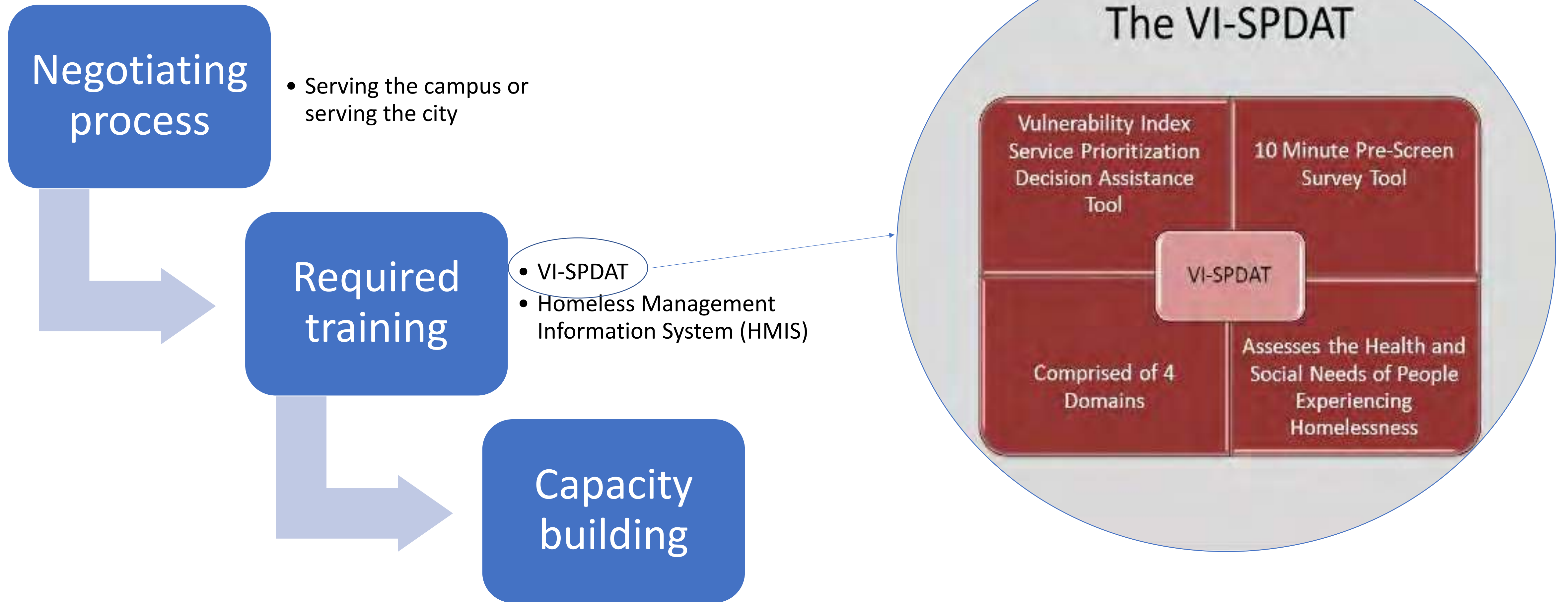
# Lessons Learned



<p>Why students are not matched in CES opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Length of homelessness</li><li>• Not student-centered environment for authentic responses</li><li>• HUD vs. McKinney-Vento definitions</li><li>• Available housing options in Long Beach</li></ul>
<p>Joined CES Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In the preliminary stages of examining policies and procedures</li><li>• Goal of college becoming an assessment site.</li></ul>



# Becoming a Coordinated Entry Site



# Relationships with Housing Providers



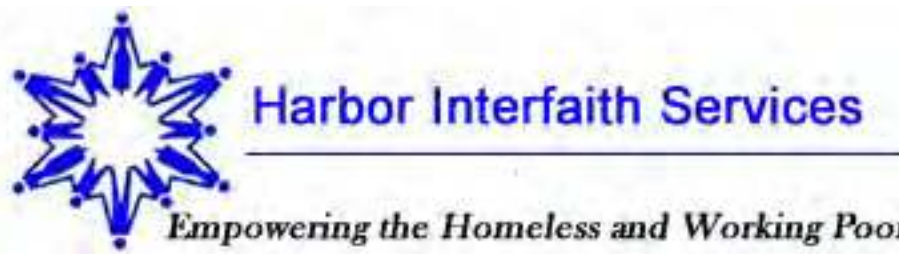
## Student-Centered Approach to MOU's

- Identify student population and needs
- Closing gaps by reducing eligibility requirements
- Housing-first vs. Student-first considerations



## Local Coordinated Entry Site Providers

- Harbor Interfaith (LA County)
- Long Beach Multi-Service Center (Long Beach)
- Mental Health of America Los Angeles (Long Beach)



## Non-profit housing providers

- Jovenes, Inc.
- Economic Roundtable
- Volunteers of America
- Shower of Hope



**Campus resources + Community resources for network of support**



# LBCC Housing Assistance Network

## Campus Resources

- CCCCO Basic Needs Budgets
- Student Equity & Achievement Plan
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
- The LBCC Foundation



## Community Resources

- Jovenes, Inc.
- Economic RoundTable
- Shower of Hope
- Mental Health of America Los Angeles
- Volunteers of America
- Sanctuary of Hope
- Harbor Interfaith
- Long Beach Multi-Service Center



Housing  
Opportunities  
Promote  
Education



Fresno City College



# Housing Survey conducted June 2020

21,053  
STUDENTS  
SURVEYED



1936  
RESPONSES

29  
HOMELESS HUD  
definition

327  
UNSTABLY  
HOUSED  
Mckinney Vento  
Definition

## AGE OF RESPONDENTS

60% were 18-24 yrs. old

## CAMPUS PROGRAMS

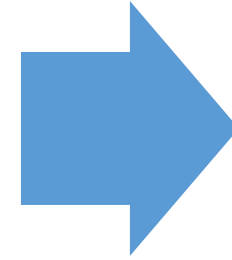
Unstably housed students were also participating in several other key programs including:

- 74% EOPS
- 36% DSPS
- 21% CalWORKS
- 7% Veterans Center

## OTHER MAJOR FINDINGS

- 29% experienced foster care
- 14% identified as LGBTQ
- 47% had previous mental health history

January 2021  
COC partnership on  
HOMEKEY project opened  
11 affordable units



May 2021  
\$275,000 County HHAP  
funding partnership to serve  
sixty 18-24 yr. old students



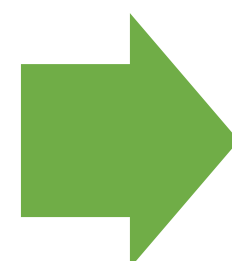
June 2021  
County THP investment to  
provide ongoing support to  
18-24 yr. old students



June 2021  
COC \$98,000 HEAP  
investment for 60 students  
rental subsidy



November 2021  
\$13 million HOMEKEY  
partnership with the City of  
Fresno for 69 new  
apartments for coordinated  
entry students



March 2022  
HHAP funding partnership  
with the City of Fresno to  
fund a yr. round emergency  
shelter and rental subsidy  
for 60 students



# TIMELINE OF COLLEGE PARTNERESHIP WITH COC





# HOPE STUDENTS

Any students without a fixed address attending Fresno City College and enrolled in any campus in the State Center Community College District

# APARTMENTS

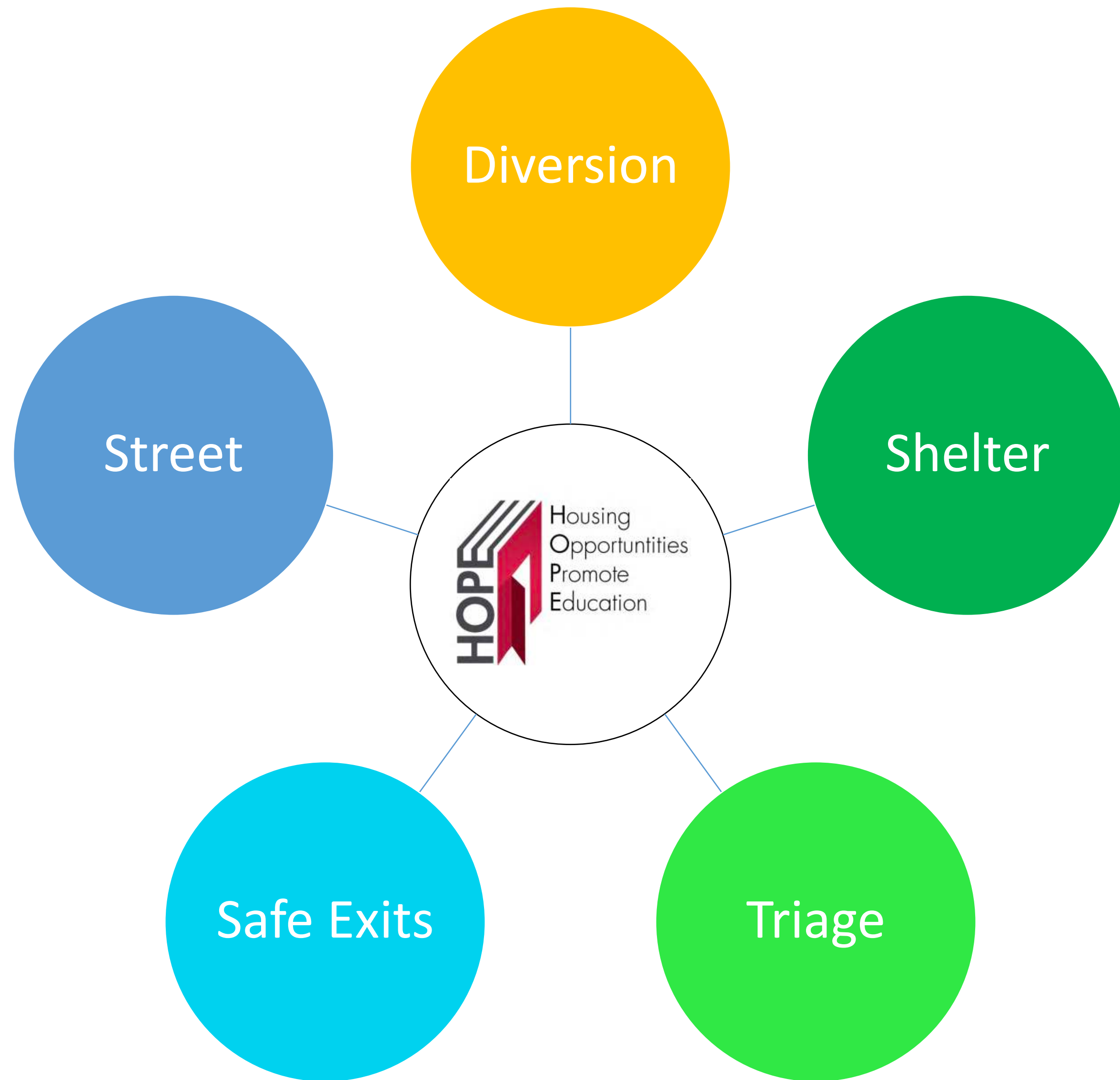
Students lease HOPE housing for 12 months

# OVERALL GOAL

Students remain permanently housing stable after HOPE program participation







## CROSS SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

HOPE has successfully partnered with the City, County and COC of Fresno to create affordable housing for students and benefit homeless residents seeking their education to become permanently housing stable

## ONE FRESNO HOUSING PLAN

HOPE is now written into the City of Fresno affordable housing strategic plan

## BRAIDED FUNDING

HOPE has successfully partnered with the COC to leverage funding from:

- Homekey
- HHAP-Homeless Housing Assistance Prevention Program
- HEAP-Homeless Emergency Aid Program
- THP-Transitional Housing Program



# A Home For Homework

How Jovenes & LA County Colleges are Partnering to House Homeless Students





**“We help youth go from Invisible to Invincible”**

**We are leaders** among LA’s homeless youth agencies, now covering all of Southeast LA

**A proven track record** of programmatic success, innovation, and compassionate care for our youth

In the last 10 years, we have:



Quintupled the number of housing units



Become a leading agency in LA’s Coordinated Entry System for Youth



Implemented best practices, invested in evaluation



# Moving Youth Off Our Streets & Into a New Life

We offer a variety of housing options for homeless youth:

- Leadership within LA's Coordinated Entry System
- Emergency & Bridge Transitional Housing
- Host Homes
- Family Reconnection
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Affordable Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing (rental subsidies)
- College Focused Rapid Re-Housing
- College Focused Bridge Housing

## Youth Housing Success & Demographics

**468**

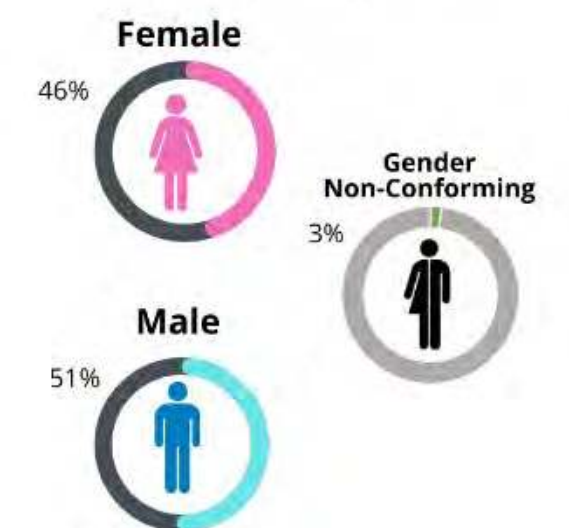
### YOUTH HOUSED

In the year 2021, Jovenes was able to house 468 unduplicated homeless or at-risk youth in Los Angeles County.

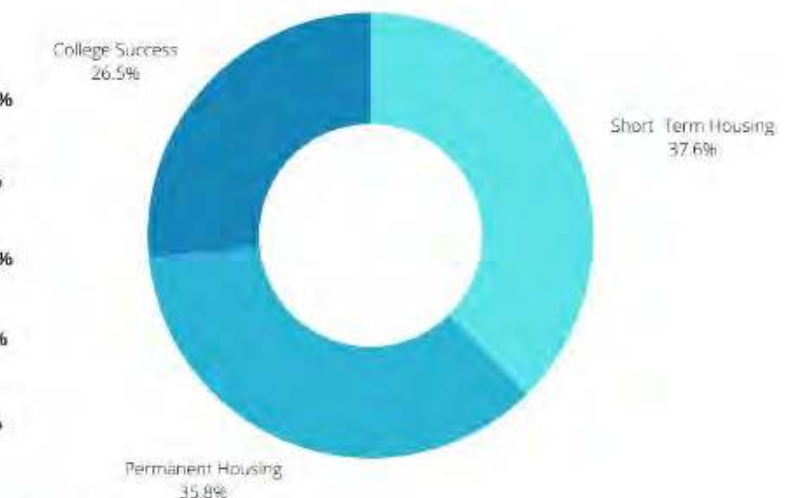
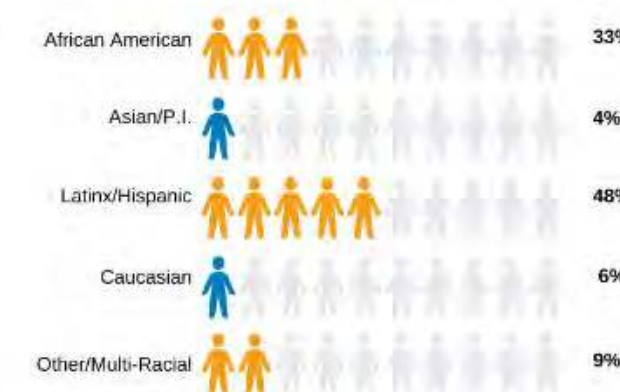
**92%**

### INCREASED OR MAINTAINED THEIR HOUSING STABILITY

### Gender Identification



### Race/Ethnicity



**33%**

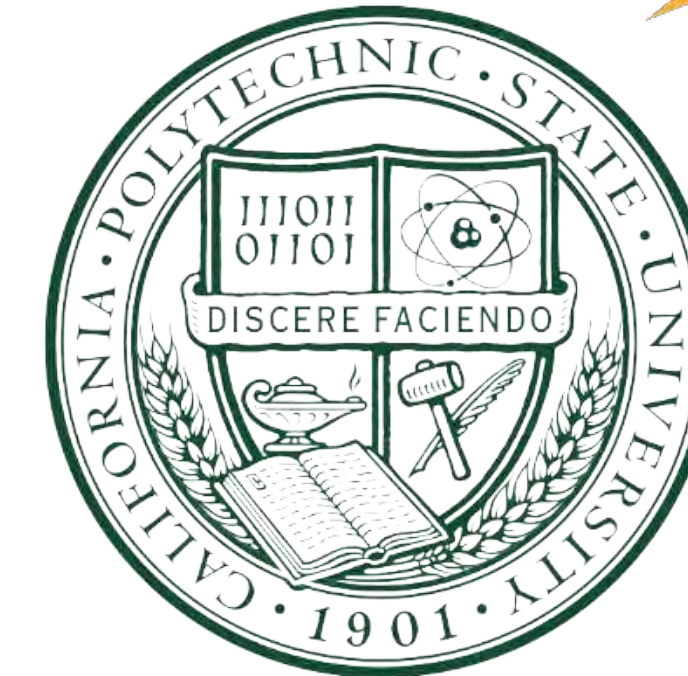
### SYSTEMS INVOLVEMENT

Those who age out of foster care and/or are involved with the probation department make up 34% of the youth we serve



# Creating Homes for Homeless Students

Jovenes' College Success Initiative combines traditional and academic case management in order to support students as they live in stable housing options tailored to their needs. By taking away the burden of housing costs, our students are able to focus on academic achievement. We provide rental subsidies (and other housing supports) to homeless students so they can move into permanent & stable housing, focus on their education, and graduate.





# Partnering With Schools to Support Students through CES & Other Resources

## Jovenes:

- Partners with colleges to identify students experiencing homelessness
- Co-Locates staff on campus (or virtually)
- Creates a variety of housing options dedicated to students
- **Utilizes housing as a tool to help students graduate**
- Leverages Private & Public Funding
- Shares our practices to encourage replication and policy change- AB74
- Celebrate student success!



*"Because Jovenes stepped in early and helped support me financially and psychologically with the guidance and encouragement of their staff, I was able learn the skills that made me a successful long-term student and transfer to the University of California Irvine as an applied physics major!"*

## Benefits for Campuses to Partner with Housing Providers

### *Engaging with CES & Partnering with a Housing Provider Helps*

- Accessing local housing stock for eligible homeless populations
- Assists with housing identification & landlord recruitment
- Obtaining Rental subsidies & other housing types
- Ensures students receive the case management, personal development, and mental health support they need
- Limits campus liability
- Creates additional opportunities for advocacy/systems change



# College Focused Rapid Rehousing

College-Focused Rapid Rehousing: Typically, rapid rehousing is a rental subsidy designed to be a time-limited intervention that moves youth into permanent housing and provides them with the time it takes to gain employment, begin saving, and gradually take on the full cost of the lease. For college students, Jovenes modified this intervention by extending its duration of rental assistance to match student's time in the school.





# College Focused Bridge Housing

Jovenes is master leasing apartments close to campus that can house one to four students at a time. Students will have the opportunity to stay in these apartments as long as they are in good standing with school and program rules. Students will also be assessed for rapid-rehousing and move into permanent housing if that model is a better fit for their needs.





# Dorm-Style Housing!

## *Vibe Apartments*

for CSULB &  
LBCC Students





# Resources

- Basic needs law fact sheet: <https://jbay.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Fact-Sheet-basic-needs-budget-2021-1.pdf>
- List of CoCs: <https://jbay.org/resources/coc-roster/>
- Counties receiving HHAP funding: <https://jbay.org/resources/county-homeless-funds-roster/>
- Cities receiving HHAP funding: <https://jbay.org/resources/roster-of-cities-receiving-state-homelessness-funds/>

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