

# *The Evaluation of California's Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Youth Set-Aside Funding*

2024 Interim Report



Berkeley Public Health

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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>BHHI</b>	Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative
<b>Cal ICH</b>	California Interagency Council on Homelessness
<b>CCY</b>	California Coalition for Youth
<b>CES</b>	Coordinated entry system
<b>CHYP</b>	California Homeless Youth Project
<b>CoC</b>	Continuum of Care
<b>CRC</b>	Community Resource Centers
<b>CRC</b>	Capture-Recapture
<b>FUP</b>	Family Unification Program
<b>FYI</b>	Foster Youth Independence
<b>HDIS</b>	Homeless Data Integration System
<b> HEAP</b>	Homeless Emergency Aid Program
<b>HHAP</b>	Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program
<b>HMIS</b>	Homelessness Management Information System
<b>HUD</b>	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
<b>i4Y</b>	Innovations for Youth
<b>LGBTQI2S+</b>	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex 2-Spirit
<b>MSE</b>	Multiple Systems Estimation
<b>PEH</b>	People Experiencing Homelessness
<b>PIT</b>	Point-in-Time Count
<b>PSH</b>	Permanent Supportive Housing

<b>TAY</b>	Transition Age Youth
<b>TH</b>	Transitional Housing
<b>RRH</b>	Rapid Rehousing
<b>UC Berkeley</b>	University of California, Berkeley
<b>YAAH</b>	Youth Allies Against Homelessness
<b>YAB</b>	Youth Advisory Board
<b>YAC</b>	Youth Advisory Council
<b>YEH</b>	Youth Experiencing Homelessness
<b>YHDP</b>	Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program
<b>YSA</b>	Youth Set-Aside

# Research Team

Youth and Allies Against Homelessness (YAAH) is a research team based in Innovations for Youth (i4Y) at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health. i4Y is a multidisciplinary research center focused on youth equity through collaborative research, training, and community engagement<sup>1</sup>. YAAH conducts youth-partnered, community-engaged, action-oriented research to improve the well-being of youth experiencing homelessness (YEH). YAAH is made up of youth community members with lived expertise of homelessness, undergraduate and graduate students who have experienced homelessness or who have otherwise demonstrated a commitment to ending homelessness, a project coordinator, and faculty lead and co-founder, Dr. Coco Auerswald.

Our collaborators include the California Coalition for Youth (CCY) and the California Homeless Youth Project (CHYP). CCY is a nonprofit organization of youth, youth advocates, and youth-serving providers that serves disconnected youth across California<sup>2</sup>. CCY has supported the project by connecting the research team with community organizations, jurisdictions, and youth leaders throughout California to uplift youth voices and disseminate project findings. CCY's Executive Director and long-time partner of YAAH is Jevon Wilkes. CHYP is a research and policy initiative under the California State Library that takes on issues impacting YEH in California<sup>3</sup>. As the Project Director of CHYP, Pixie Popplewell has provided data to the project, particularly currently available data regarding the population size of the population of YEH. They act as the fiscal agent for the project's youth interns by ensuring receipt of paid compensation throughout the project. Both CHYP and CCY have provided considerable content expertise to the project.

# Introduction

## Introduction to the HHAP Youth Set-Aside (or HHAP YSA)

In 2019, Cal ICH announced the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program, which to date has provided five rounds of block grant funding totaling nearly \$3.9 billion to communities around the state to end homelessness<sup>4</sup>. Eligible communities include the state's 13 largest cities, 58 counties, and 44 Continuums of Care, or CoCs. CoCs are jurisdictions which may overlap with one or several geographically contiguous cities or counties. CoCs are awarded U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to address homelessness in their community.

In Rounds 1 and 2 of HHAP funding, Cal ICH required that 8% be set aside for programs and services for youth. By HHAP Round 3, the required percentage had increased to 10% of total funding for youth programs. This amounts to \$148 million block grant funding for youth homelessness to over 100 communities throughout California in the first three rounds alone, a dramatic increase in state funding to fulfill the needs of this population. This historic investment presents communities with the opportunity to create youth-centered, trauma-informed, and equitable interventions to end youth homelessness. The funds can be spent on a variety of different uses including street outreach; prevention and shelter diversion; new navigation centers and emergency shelters; services coordination; rental assistance and rapid rehousing; and operating subsidies.

## Introduction to the Project

In 2023, YAAH was contracted by the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) to complete a two-year evaluation of the HHAP YSA Rounds 1-3. This project is entitled the *“Evaluation of California’s Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Youth Set-Aside Funding.”* The project has four objectives:

**Objective 1.** To develop guidance for the implementation of the HHAP YSA;

**Objective 2.** To assess the impact of the HHAP YSA;

**Objective 3.** To calculate the evidence-based recommended proportion of the overall HHAP funding and size appropriate for the YSA; and,

**Objective 4.** To recruit and support a cohort of current and former youth experiencing homelessness (YEH) to meaningfully participate as researchers and participants in the guidance for and evaluation of the HHAP YSA.

## **Objective 1: *Guidelines to Prevent, Address, and End Youth Homelessness***

The contract activities during the first year addressed the first and second objectives of the project. The first deliverable for Objective 1 – developing guidance for the implementation of the Youth Set-Aside – was completed in January of 2024.

The [Guidelines to Prevent, Address, and End Youth Homelessness](#) tool was created by reviewing research literature and professional reports for strategies and best practices, and by soliciting input from youth leaders with lived expertise in youth homelessness, youth advocates, service providers, government leads, and subject matter experts. We intentionally chose this as our first objective to build relationships and promote collaboration with communities across California by offering them the *Guidelines* as a resource before asking them to participate in our research.

The *Guidelines* contain a comprehensive roadmap of interventions that communities can adapt to their specific contexts and needs<sup>5</sup>. They are a reference for HHAP grantees, as well as other youth-serving organizations, to provide the best available evidence to inform decisions about the spending of Youth Set-Aside funds and the implementation of youth-centered programs.

Dissemination of the *Guidelines* is an ongoing effort that began with a kick-off release webinar attended by HHAP grantees, government stakeholders, community members, and youth leaders in February of 2024. YAAH has presented the *Guidelines* at various events and conferences including CCY's *Youth Empowerment Summit* as well as their *Executive Advocacy Day*, National Network for Youth (NN4Y)'s *National Summit on Youth Homelessness + Hill Day*, and Alameda County Health Housing and Homelessness Services' *Ending Youth Homelessness Collaborative* meeting, among others.

More information about the *Guidelines* and a recording of the kick-off webinar can be found on the UC Berkeley [YAAH website](#) (yaah.berkeley.edu).

[Guidelines | Youth and Allies Against Homelessness](#)

## Objective 2: Assessing the impact of the Youth Set-Aside

The second objective of the project is the evaluation of the HHAP YSA funds. This objective is the primary focus of this *Interim Report*.

### Overarching Evaluation Questions

We have focused our evaluation on answering four categories of questions:

**Question 1:** What are the **characteristics** of the communities who received HHAP youth-set aside funds and of their current youth homelessness response system?

- What proportion are HUD Youth Homelessness Development Program (YHDP) sites? What proportion are rural, suburban, or urban? What proportion have a low, mid, or high Healthy Places Index, as defined by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California?
- Are HHAP recipient communities' youth homelessness response systems youth-inclusive?
- How does the youth-inclusiveness of the homelessness response system differ by community characteristics?

**Question 2:** Which communities have met the **minimum HHAP Youth Set-Aside**?<sup>1</sup>

Specifically,

- How much HHAP Round 1-3 YSA funding has been obligated and expended?
- What progress have communities been able to make to date towards the minimum obligation and expenditure for the HHAP YSA?
- How does expenditure to date differ by community characteristics?

**Question 3:** What is the **process** of applying for, receiving, and spending HHAP youth-set aside funds in recipient communities?

- How are decisions made about HHAP spending in the community? What inputs are included? Who is included and how?
- Are youth with lived expertise HHAP included in HHAP YSA decisions, and if so, in what roles? How do these differ by community characteristics?
- What are the major barriers to receiving, allocating, and spending HHAP YSA funds?

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<sup>1</sup> The obligation deadlines for HHAP Rounds 1 and 2 are 5/31/2023 and HHAP Round 3 is 5/31/2024. The expenditure deadlines are 6/30/2025 for HHAP 1 and 6/30/2026 for HHAP 2 and 3.

**Question 4:** What is the **impact** of the HHAP YSA funds on youth homelessness programming and systems in communities that receive HHAP funds?

- Has the HHAP Youth Set-Aside increased capacity in the community's youth homelessness response system?
- What programs or interventions have been funded by the HHAP YSA? Are they new or existing? Who runs these programs and what services do they offer?
- Who is targeted by HHAP YSA funded projects? Who is eligible?
- Who is served by HHAP YSA programs? Do the programs contribute to increased equity in communities regarding the receipt of services to address youth homelessness?
- How do these impacts differ by community characteristics?

## Accounting for Differences in HHAP Communities in the Evaluation

In an ideal world, the impact of HHAP funding would be equitable across communities. However, we recognize that the implementation and approach to spending HHAP funds may differ based on community characteristics and the related resources available to each community. Therefore we have included three community characteristics in our analyses to shed light on how they might lead to differences in HHAP YSA implementation:

### Characteristic 1: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Participation

The [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program](#) (YHDP) is a competitive grant program funded by HUD that provides CoCs throughout the country with vital resources to develop innovative solutions to prevent, address, and end youth homelessness<sup>6</sup>. HUD requires CoCs applying for YHDP funding to have a Youth Action Board (YAB) in place and to engage child welfare agencies and Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) providers to create a community action plan to address youth homelessness locally. Many sites also include representatives from the educational, behavioral health, and nonprofit youth-serving sectors organizations<sup>7</sup>. With the support of YHDP technical advisors, awardees are mandated to create a community action plan to address youth homelessness locally.

### Characteristic 2: Urbanicity

The experiences for YEH in rural, suburban, and urban areas differ, and these communities have differing resources. Thus it can be useful to take urbanicity into account in an evaluation of funding for YEH. HUD employs geographic data published by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to place CoC's into 4 categories: major city, other largely urban, largely suburban, and largely rural<sup>8</sup>.

HUD assigns the major city CoC category to the country's 50 most populous cities in the United States, based on U.S. Census data. HUD categorizes the remaining CoCs using NCES's Education Demographic and Geographic Estimates Program<sup>8</sup>.

This is not a perfect categorization system. As HUD notes, a CoC with more than half of its population living in rural areas would be classified as a "largely rural CoC." This does not mean that all the people experiencing homelessness in a largely rural CoC live in a rural area<sup>8</sup>.

### **Characteristic 3: Social Determinants of Health: Healthy Places Index 3.0**

If they are resource-rich and not resource poor, communities are more able to address youth homelessness. One way to measure these is to look at the social determinants of health in each community. The "social determinants of health" is a term employed in public health to describe the non-medical, non-individual-level resources that drive health outcomes<sup>9</sup>. These include racial equity, education, job opportunities, clean air and water, and other indicators that are positively associated with life expectancy<sup>10</sup>. The California Healthy Places Index 3.0 (HPI) is a project of the Public Health Alliance of Southern California. HPI maps data on the SDOH. A single indexed HPI score is based on 25 community characteristics, including access to healthcare, housing, education, and transportation. HPI scores range from 0 to 100. The higher the HPI score, the more social determinants of health (and resources) a community benefits from.

## **Objectives 3 and 4: YEH Population Size Estimation of YEH and YEH Research Interns**

Objective 3 consists of calculating the evidence-based recommended proportion of the overall HHAP funding and size appropriate for the YSA.

Objective 4 involves recruiting and supporting a cohort of current and former YEH to meaningfully participate as researchers and participants in the guidance for and evaluation of the HHAP YSA.

More details about and the status of the third and fourth project objectives are provided in Section IX: Next Steps for the Evaluation Project.

## **Introduction to the *Interim Report***

This *Interim Report* provides a snapshot of the progress YAAH has made at the approximate halfway point of the evaluation. The report documents what has been

accomplished, what we've learned so far, and where we plan to direct the project between now and the project end date for Cal ICH, HCD, and HHAP communities. We will prepare a community-oriented brief regarding our progress for distribution to communities who are HHAP recipients in the state and for posting to our website later this summer.

## Methods

### Overview

We employed three approaches in our mixed-methods evaluation of the HHAP Youth Set-Aside:

1. **A state data review of administrative reports regarding all recipients of HHAP rounds 1-3.** The documents reviewed included HHAP annual reports and quarterly fiscal data.
2. **A statewide survey of HHAP recipients.** The Qualtrics-based survey was distributed to HHAP recipients by our collaborators at Cal ICH. The contact list represents the 115 communities eligible for HHAP (#CoC, cities, counties). The list includes the 102 communities that received HHAP Round 1 funds, the 100 communities that received HHAP Round 2 funds, and the 76 communities that received HHAP Round 3 funds. The number of applicants fluctuated between HHAP rounds as some communities decided to consolidate their applications (e.g., a CoC applying one year and redirecting their funds to an overlapping county the next year).
3. **Semi-structured interviews and focus groups with participants from a purposive sample of 6 HHAP communities.** Participants included stakeholders such as HHAP grantees, youth-serving organizations, and youth leaders with lived expertise of homelessness.

## Variables

### State Data Review Variables

The quarterly fiscal reports included data on the following variables:

- **Jurisdiction Type:** whether the jurisdiction is a large city, county, or Continuum of Care (CoC).

- **HHAP Rounds 1-3 Allocations:** the total amount each community was allocated for HHAP Rounds 1-3.
- **HHAP Rounds 1-3 Youth Set-Aside (YSA) Minimum Expenditure Requirement:** the minimum dollar amount of the HHAP Rounds 1-3 funds that communities were required to spend on youth programs and services. The minimum amount for HHAP Rounds 1 and 2 is 8%. The minimum amount for HHAP Round 3 is 10%.
- **Sum Total Youth Obligations:** the amount of HHAP funding for which the grantee has placed orders, awarded contracts, received services, or entered similar transactions that require payment<sup>4</sup>.
- **Total Youth Expenditure To Date:** expenditures as of the 12/31/23 expenditure reports.
- **Obligated and Expended YSA funds by Eligible Use Category:** the total amount of YSA funds obligated and expended on a variety of homelessness services and interventions including prevention, outreach, supportive services, operating subsidies, interim, and permanent housing supports. The eligible use categories and statutory requirements vary slightly between rounds<sup>4</sup>.

The annual reports included data on the following variables:

- **Jurisdiction Type:** whether the jurisdiction is a large city, county, or Continuum of Care (CoC).
- **Project Title:** the title of each project that receives HHAP YSA funding.
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Project Type:** Project type assigned to specific projects based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's HMIS Project Descriptor Data Elements. These categorize each project with the specific type of lodging or services provided and the details about those project types. These include, but are not limited to, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, street outreach, prevention, and coordinated entry<sup>11</sup>. There is a slight overlap between HMIS project type and Cal ICH's eligible use categories.
- **Organization Name:** the name of the organization receiving YSA funds to implement the project.
- **HHAP Rounds 1-3 YSA Expenditures:** amount of YSA funding each project received per round.
- **Project Description:** brief description of the project.

# Statewide Survey Domains and Variables

## Original Survey Variables

The YAAH-developed survey distributed to all CoCs, cities, and counties that receive HHAP funds included questions regarding the following domains:

- The community's youth homelessness response system;
- The decision-making processes used to allocate the HHAP Round 1, 2, & 3 Youth Set-Aside funds (e.g., what sources of information were consulted, how decisions were made, youth engagement in decision-making);
- The projects funded by the Youth Set-Aside (e.g., what projects were funded, what types of organizations implemented these projects, what the eligibility requirements are for youth).

A PDF version of the statewide survey that includes every survey variable is included as Appendix I.

## Recoded Survey Variables

As stated in the background, we examined several community characteristics in our evaluation of the HHAP YSA. In order to do so, we recoded several variables to allow us to compare communities by characteristic as outlined below:

- **YHDP status:** HUD has awarded YHDP funds to 9 California CoCs. However, we also enumerated the cities and counties that received HHAP funds that are within those 9 CoCs to reflect all the jurisdictions that may have benefited from the funding. Thus, there are twenty-seven (27) HHAP Round 1 and Round 2 jurisdictions in California and twenty-three (23) HHAP Round 3 jurisdictions that we included as having received YHDP funding in our analysis. Given the extensive collaborative planning process required to apply to YHDP, jurisdictions were considered YHDP recipients even if they were awarded funds after receiving HHAP Rounds 1-3 funds.
- **Urbanicity:** We created a new variable to better understand how HHAP funding may have been differentially allocated by rural, urban, and suburban areas. We re-code the HUD jurisdictions that were part of CoCs that HUD characterized as a "major city CoC" or an "other largely urban CoC" into a single variable, "urban." Jurisdictions that were part of CoCs that HUD characterized as "largely rural" CoCs were re-coded as "rural." Jurisdictions that were part of CoCs that HUD characterized as "largely suburban" were re-coded as "suburban."

- **Healthy Places Index (HPI) score:** The research team stratified the HPI scores into tertiles. The communities in the lowest third of HPI scores (0 to 32) were labeled “low HPI;” communities in the middle third of HPI scores (33-67) as “middle HPI” or “mid HPI”; and communities in the highest third of HPI scores (68-100) as “high HPI.”

In addition to the variables listed above, we also categorized and recoded a number of the many definitions of youth homelessness used by communities as youth-inclusive, youth-exclusive, or situational. There are many federal definitions that communities can use to determine whether a youth is considered “homeless”. Some definitions are more inclusive to youth than others, which is of note because youth tend to have experiences of homelessness that differ from the experience of single adults. For example, YEH are more likely to engage in "couch-surfing," or frequently bouncing from one temporary living arrangement to another<sup>12</sup>. A definition that reflects the experiences of YEH enables communities to count all youth who lack stable and safe housing and to accordingly structure eligibility for services<sup>13</sup>. The research team stratified the definitions as youth-exclusive, situational, and non youth-inclusive.

- Definitions that we labeled *youth-inclusive* include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Category 3<sup>2</sup>, and the Runaway Homeless Youth Act (RHYA). The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as those who are couch surfing, or doubled up, as well as youth living in cars, and other public spaces that are not ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodation for human beings<sup>14</sup>. HUD Category 3 includes unaccompanied youth under age 25, or families with children and youth at imminent risk of homelessness, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition but are considered homeless under other federal statutes including McKinney-Vento and RHYA<sup>15</sup>. The RHYA definition includes youth under the age of 21 “who cannot live safely with a parent, legal guardian, or relative, and who has no other safe alternative living arrangement”<sup>16</sup>.
- Homeless definitions that we labeled *situational* are those that communities can, but don’t always, use to expand eligibility criteria for youth. These include HUD Categories 2 and 4, community-created definitions, and “other”. HUD Category 2 defines homelessness as those who are at imminent risk of homelessness and who lack the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing<sup>15</sup>. HUD Category 4 includes those who are fleeing or attempting to flee

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<sup>2</sup> Of note, HUD has not approved any CoC to use Category 3 funding.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/four-categories/category-3/>

domestic violence. While these definitions are neutral with regard to youth, communities can use them to serve a wider array of YEH.

- Homeless definitions that we labeled *non youth-inclusive* include HUD Category 1 and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) definition. HUD Category 1 defines homelessness to be an individual or family who: lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (defined as living in a shelter or in a place not fit for human habitation). Couch-surfing is not considered homelessness in this definition. The YHDP definition is considered *non youth-inclusive* because the definition only allows communities to allocate up to 10% of the funding awarded “to serve households with children and youth who do not meet paragraph 1, 2 or 4 of the homeless definition at 24 CFR 578.3 but are homeless under another Federal statute in paragraph 3 of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3”<sup>17</sup>. This restricts the ability of communities to serve all YEH, including those who are couch surfing.

## Interview domains

The research team developed semi-structured interview and focus group guides with the aim of better understanding youth homelessness within each of six intentionally selected communities; the process of applying for, receiving, and spending the HHAP Youth Set-Aside funds; and whether and how the HHAP Youth Set-Aside funds addressed the needs of YEH in the community or if they have not, why not?

Along with these broader questions asked of jurisdictional leads, service providers, and youth, we also included questions tailored to each group of experts in their respective semi-structured interview and focus group guides.

Focus group and interview guides for **jurisdictional leads** (also referred to as HHAP grantees) included the following domains:

- a review of the projects funded by HHAP rounds 1-3, (allocated during the 2020, 2021, and 2022 fiscal years);
- a description of the actors and decision-making process for the type of project/services that HHAP should fund;
- the actors and decision-making process for deciding which specific program would receive the funding for that project type; and
- the obstacles to both those decision-making processes

Focus group and interview guides for the **service providers** included the following domains:

- changes observed in programs and services available to YEH over the four years since HHAP was implemented;
- how HHAP funds changed spending on youth homelessness in the jurisdiction; and
- how decisions about which types and which programs/interventions to fund were made and who was included in the decision-making process

Focus group and interview guides for the **youth leaders** included the following domains:

- whether there had been any changes in youth programs and services since the COVID-19 pandemic;
- whether youth had been invited to discuss programs that would address the needs of YEH in the community and which programs should be funded; and
- what recommendations and advice youth would give to service providers in these programs, or to decision-makers in their communities

A PDF version of the general Semi-Structured Interview & Focus Group Guide is included as Appendix II.

## Data Collection

### State Data Review

Cal ICH provided the YAAH research team with HHAP annual reports and quarterly fiscal reports for HHAP rounds 1-3. The YAAH team submitted an HDIS data request to Cal-ICH in April of 2024 for additional data to include this report. These data have not been received as of the date of this report (this period has overlapped by a transition of some Cal-ICH activities to HCD). However, we plan to analyze them and data from subsequent HDIS requests for our final evaluation report (see more details in the [Next Steps](#) section).

### Statewide survey

Surveys were administered via UC Berkeley-licensed Qualtrics, a secure web-based survey platform. Survey links were distributed by our collaborators at Cal ICH to local government officials responsible for the HHAP Youth Set-Aside funds in all communities that received HHAP funds. Survey responses were collected from December 2023 through March 2024.

Our collaborators at Cal ICH and members of the research team sent multiple rounds of follow-up email reminders. Cal ICH also made calls to encourage jurisdictions who had not responded to participate.

## Semi-Structured Interviews and Focus Groups

Six communities were purposively selected to represent the state's geographic and demographic diversity for our qualitative data collection with HHAP recipients, service providers, and youth. Factors considered in the selection process include a community's designation as urban/suburban/rural, YHDP award status, total population size, Healthy Places Index score, percent of Youth Set-Aside expended, and geographic location (to include communities from across the state). The 6 communities selected were San Diego County, Alameda County/City of Oakland, San Benito/Monterey Salinas CoC, Visalia/Kings/Tulare CoC, Lake County County CoC, and Long Beach City/CoC.

Eligibility criteria for focus groups and interviews were specific to each type of participant. Youth with lived expertise of homelessness who participated in our interviews were eligible if they were 18 to 24 years of age (or had experienced homelessness in that age range), had lived experience of homelessness in one of the 6 jurisdictions, and were a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) member or had experience representing YEH in their community. HHAP grantees were eligible if they were government officials in one of the target communities who were meaningfully involved in or knowledgeable of the HHAP process. Youth service providers were eligible if they were employed by a community-based organization contracted by the HHAP grantees to implement a YSA-funded project in one of the 6 jurisdictions.

We employed multiple complementary approaches to recruit participants. The research team sent out an announcement of the study to a Cal ICH-provided list of the HHAP jurisdictional leads from the six chosen jurisdictions. We then held a kick-off meeting for all jurisdictions to introduce ourselves and our project to stakeholders from each community and answer questions about the planned work. We then contacted each jurisdiction to solicit the names and contact information for the HHAP-funded service providers in their community, as well as those of key stakeholders, including advocates and youth leaders. Our statewide research partners, the California Coalition for Youth and the California Homeless Youth Project nominated and connected us with potential participants from each community. In addition, at the end of each interview and focus group, we asked participants to nominate individuals who should be interviewed, and, when possible, to connect us to them. Finally, some of the individuals or programs who were mentioned in the interviews were added to our list of possible participants.

Connecting with appropriate youth participants for interviews and focus groups proved particularly difficult. Some communities had contact information for their YAB members available and were quick to connect us. Others faced challenges such as recent staff turnover in roles involved in the coordination of the community's YAB, turnover or gaps in YAB membership, or lack of updated contact information for reaching YAB members. We also tapped into our existing networks of youth homelessness providers and community members to seek out youth advisory board (YAB) members or other youth leaders with lived expertise of homelessness in the six identified communities. Despite our persistent attempts, youth recruitment was low. Youth made up a quarter of our sample.

Interviews and focus groups took place on Berkeley-licensed Zoom video conferencing software. We offered both individual interviews and focus group options to make the qualitative activities as accessible and comfortable for participants as possible, recognizing the challenges of coordinating multiple schedules and acknowledging that some of the topics covered could be personally sensitive or politically charged <sup>18,19</sup>. A similar semi-structured script was used as a guide regardless for both focus groups and interviews. Each interview and focus group included at least two researchers: one facilitator and one for note-taking and tech support.

Participants provided verbal consent. Youth participants were the only participants who were reimbursed and received payments of \$40 electronically for their participation.

## Data Analysis

A variety of analytical approaches were employed to synthesize the data that was collected over the first year of the evaluation.

## Review of State Data Sources

To facilitate a review of the available state data provided by Cal ICH, we created summary tables to compare how much communities were required to spend on the Youth Set-Aside, the sum total of contractually obligated funds, and the total Youth Set-Aside expenditures to date, cross tabulated by eligible use category. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize and compare the findings.

## Survey Data Analysis

Data collected with the Qualtrics-based statewide survey was cleaned and prepared for analysis. This cleaning included categorizing and recoding certain variables for analysis as described in the above "Variables" section.

The research team developed a comprehensive data dictionary for the survey responses as an internal reference tool to ensure consistent recoding and analysis of variables. The dictionary includes information such as the survey questions, corresponding R code, and justification and rules for recoding variables.

The first step of analysis was to run frequencies for survey responses, then frequencies of recoded variables and stratification of data to examine the impact of factors outside of the HHAP YSA program on its implementation. These factors, described above in the Introduction to the Project, included whether a jurisdiction has received YHDP funding, urbanicity, and HPI index.

Another component of the survey analysis included synthesizing the responses to open-ended questions into qualitative memos that summarize key points and provide supporting quotes from the text entered by survey respondents. Responses to the open-ended survey questions ranged in length and thoroughness. These memos are not included in this interim report but will be revisited in preparing for the final report at the end of the project.

## Qualitative Data Analysis

A rapid qualitative analysis approach was used to conduct and analyze the interviews and focus groups. Rapid qualitative analysis is an applied method used to expedite obtaining and interpreting qualitative data while maintaining scientific rigor of a study or evaluation. Scientific rigor is maintained by ensuring research protocols, such as semi-structured interview guides, are highly prescribed and well scaffolded. Rapid qualitative data collection and analysis aims to identify or expand the understanding of salient themes, intervention elements, or challenges and successes of a program<sup>20</sup>.

A team of 6, consisting of the project coordinator, 1 graduate and 3 undergraduate students and our lead youth intern conducted 15 interviews and 7 focus groups with HHAP grantees, youth service providers, and youth leaders over a 3 month period. Using a rapid approach, an interviewer and 1-2 note-takers conducted the interviews and focus groups. Interviews were recorded and transcribed using Otter.AI. Transcripts were reviewed for accuracy by the undergraduate research team. An open coding process was used to create a preliminary codebook.

Three transcripts were used to develop the preliminary codebook. For open coding, two lab members were assigned to each of the transcripts. In this phase, each reviewer independently read the transcript and labeled the content with codes in the format of gerunds of a verb. Each lab member entered their codes onto their respective transcript log. The research team identified 396 codes. The two lab members assigned to the same

transcript then compared their codes to agree on a final list of preliminary codes from that transcript. In teams, the coders reviewed the open codes from their assigned transcripts to discuss the code's meaning, identify the most salient themes, and collapse codes into broader categories to eliminate redundancies. The research team whittled the initial list down to 128 unique codes. The research team then met as a group to discuss, define, and rank the most salient themes to produce the final codebook. After this meeting, the research team arrived at a final list of 18 preliminary codes, attached as Appendix III.

Using the final codebook, transcripts were coded using Dedoose. Code reports for the primary codes were reviewed and summarized in memos, highlighting themes from the focus groups and interviews.

## Findings

We present our findings in two sections.

The first section is an overview of our **statewide findings** which includes the data gleaned from the statewide reports provided to the research team by Cal ICH and our survey results.

The second section provides our **case studies of 6 purposively-sampled jurisdictions** and their experience of receiving HHAP funding. These case studies are based on the qualitative data collected from key informants in each jurisdiction, the survey responses from each jurisdiction, and the quantitative data from the statewide reports provided to the research team by Cal ICH.

### Statewide Findings

This section summarizes the interim results of our state data review and our survey. The state data review includes information regarding all HHAP recipients. The results of our survey address our survey sample. Some of our evaluation questions could be answered with the statewide data. The more detailed questions required survey data. We have identified the sources of our data throughout.

The research team received 46 individual survey responses representing 50 communities (reflective of the fact that some communities redirected and/or combined their HHAP funds and responded once for what we considered multiple jurisdictions). This represents a response rate by HHAP wave of 50/102 or 49 % for HHAP Round 1 recipients, 49/100 or 49% for HHAP 2 recipients, and 40/75 or 53% for HHAP 3 recipients. A list of the communities that responded to the survey is included in Appendix IV.

## **Communities who Received HHAP Funding in Rounds 1-3 Compared to the Communities Surveyed**

Per Health and Safety Code (HSC) §§50216(b) and 50218(a)(1-3), eligible applicants for HHAP funding include the state's 44 Continuums of Care (CoCs), 58 counties, and 13 largest cities with populations greater than 300,000, for a total of 115 eligible communities<sup>21</sup>. However, applications were received from a varying number of communities. In HHAP Round 1, 102 jurisdictions were awarded funding. In HHAP Round 2, 100 jurisdictions were awarded funding. In HHAP Round 3, 76 communities were awarded funding. Cal ICH allowed jurisdictions to redirect their HHAP program allocations to their partnering CoC, large city (if applicable) or county<sup>21</sup>. A list of HHAP Recipients and their YHDP and HPI status is included as Appendix V.

Table 1 describes HHAP recipient communities and survey communities with regard to key variables. Based on these data the surveyed communities are comparable to HHAP communities overall except for urbanicity, with more of our survey communities being rural and fewer communities being urban relative to all HHAP communities. This suggests that our survey findings may be generalizable to the state as a whole.

*Table 1. Characteristics of HHAP-Recipient Communities and Survey Respondents*

	Statewide communities		Surveyed communities	
	Count	%	Count	%
Jurisdiction type				
City	14	12%	7	14%
County	58	50%	27	54%
CoC	44	38%	16	32%
YHDP				
YHDP	25	22%	9	18%
Not - YHDP	91	78%	41	82%
Urbanicity				
Rural	33	28%	18	36%
Suburban	44	38%	19	38%
Urban	39	34%	13	26%
Healthy Places Index				
68-100 percentile	42	36%	15	30%
34-67 percentile	40	35%	22	44%
0-33 percentile	34	29%	13	26%
Total	100	116	50	100%

## Youth Inclusiveness in Communities' Youth Homeless Response Systems

We assessed the youth inclusiveness of HAPP recipient communities in our survey by examining characteristics of their youth homelessness response system. These are reported in Table 2 below.

Overall, the vast majority of communities employed at least one youth-inclusive definition (86%). The majority had a YAB or Youth Commission (56%). The largest proportion of communities (but less than half) reported including a YEH representative on their CoC Board (46%). However, only a minority of communities conducted a youth PIT (42%) or employed a youth-specific Coordinated Entry System (CES) assessment tool (defined as the use of the Youth-VI-SPDAT; 28%), or included a YEH provider in their CES (20%).

YHDP communities were more youth-inclusive overall than non-YHDP communities. One hundred percent of YHDP communities fund a YAH or Youth Commission (vs. 46%). The majority had youth representation on their CoC board (78% vs. 32%), and conducted a youth PIT (56% vs. 39%). Though fewer than half (44%) have a YEH provider in their CES, the percentage was nearly triple than for non-YHDP communities (15%). They were equally unlikely to use a youth-inclusive CES tool. Although 78% of YHDP communities employed a youth-inclusive definition, non-YHDP communities were more likely to do so at 88%.

Urban communities were more youth-inclusive overall than suburban and rural communities. They were most likely to include youth on their CoC board (62% vs. 42% vs. 22%), to host a youth commission (69% vs. 47% vs. 56%), to conduct a youth PIT (54% vs. 47% vs. 28%), and to include a YEH provider in their CES. They are as likely to use a youth-inclusive CES tool as rural communities and more likely than suburban communities. However, they are least likely to employ a youth-inclusive definition. Of note, none of the rural communities reported including a YEH provider in their CES.

There was no clear pattern regarding youth inclusiveness by low, middle, or high Healthy Places Index.

Regarding the age range that communities employ to define youth for the YSA, 16 (32%) of communities define youth as 18 to 24 or 25, excluding minors, and 34 (68%) defined youth as 12 to 24 or 25.

Table 2. Youth Inclusiveness Variables Among Surveyed Communities

		Youth Inclusive Definition? % (n)			YEH provider in CES? % (n)			YEH CoC Board seats? % (n)			YAB or Youth Commission? % (n)			Youth PIT? % (n)			Youth CES tool? % (n)		
	n	Yes	No	Yes	No	DK*	Yes	No	DK	Yes	No	DK	Yes	No	DK	Yes	No	DK**	
All	50	86 (43)	14 (7)	20 (10)	78 (39)	2 (1)	40 (20)	46 (23)	14 (7)	56 (28)	36 (18)	8 (4)	42 (21)	54 (27)	4 (2)	28 (14)	36 (18)	36 (18)	
YHDP																			
YHDP	9	78 (7)	22 (2)	44 (4)	56 (5)	0 (0)	78 (7)	11 (1)	11 (1)	100 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	56 (5)	44 (4)	0 (0)	22 (2)	33 (3)	44 (4)	
Non - YHDP	41	88 (36)	12 (5)	15 (6)	83 (34)	2 (1)	32 (13)	54 (22)	15 (6)	46 (19)	44 (18)	10 (4)	39 (16)	56 (23)	5 (2)	29 (12)	37 (15)	34 (14)	
Urbanicity																			
Rural	18	83 (15)	17 (3)	0 (0)	100 (18)	0 (0)	22 (4)	56 (10)	22 (4)	56 (10)	44 (8)	0 (0)	28 (5)	72 (13)	0 (0)	33 (6)	33 (6)	33 (6)	
Suburban	19	95 (18)	5 (1)	26 (5)	68 (13)	5 (1)	42 (8)	53 (10)	5 (1)	47 (9)	42 (8)	11 (2)	47 (9)	47 (9)	5 (1)	26 (5)	47 (9)	26 (5)	
Urban	13	77 (10)	23 (3)	38 (5)	62 (8)	0 (0)	62 (8)	23 (3)	15 (2)	69 (9)	15 (2)	15 (2)	54 (7)	38 (5)	8 (1)	23 (3)	23 (3)	54 (7)	
HPI																			
HPI: Low	13	92 (12)	8 (1)	23 (3)	77 (10)	0 (0)	15 (2)	69 (9)	15 (2)	23 (3)	77 (10)	0 (0)	38 (5)	62 (8)	0 (0)	8 (1)	62 (8)	31 (4)	
HPI: Med	22	86 (19)	14 (3)	18 (4)	77 (17)	5 (1)	50 (11)	32 (7)	18 (4)	73 (16)	18 (4)	9 (2)	36 (8)	55 (12)	9 (2)	23 (5)	41 (9)	36 (8)	
HPI: High	15	80 (12)	20 (3)	20 (3)	80 (12)	0 (0)	47 (7)	47 (7)	7 (1)	60 (9)	27 (4)	13 (2)	53 (8)	47 (7)	0 (0)	53 (8)	7 (1)	40 (6)	

\* DK signifies responses marked, "I don't know"

\*\* Responses to, "What coordinated entry assessment tool or triage tool does your community use for youth?" categorized as "DK" include "I don't know", "Other", and "Community Created Tool"

## HHAP Set-Aside Spending and Meeting YSA Minimums

We analyzed state report data to examine how much money has been spent by communities, whether they met the minimum YSA requirement for obligations and expenditures, and to understand differences between communities in meeting the minimum YSA requirement.

**Of note, although we examine communities' progress towards obligating and expending their minimum Youth Set-Aside of 8% (for HHAP 1 and 2) and 10% (for HHAP 3), none of the expenditure deadlines have passed. The obligation deadlines for HHAP Rounds 1 and 2 are 5/31/2023 and HHAP Round 3 is 5/31/2024. The expenditure deadlines are 6/30/2025 for HHAP 1 and 6/30/2026 for HHAP 2 and 3.**

As of December 2023, \$49,440,000 of HHAP 1 funds had been allocated YSA statewide, \$62,195,996 obligated and \$46,444,016 expended<sup>22</sup>. As of the same date, \$22799999 of HHAP 2 funds had been allocated, \$24,846,589 obligated and \$13,678,108 expended. Finally, \$76,000,000 of HHAP 3 funds had been allocated, \$70,243,835 obligated and \$17,217,539 expended.

Figures 1-8 (pages 32-33) summarize the HHAP grantees that have met the YSA minimum obligation and expenditures (prior to the deadline) based on reports as of 12/23/2023 overall, and by YHDP status, geographic area, and Health Place Index.

Overall, the vast majority of communities statewide have obligated the minimum youth set-aside for HHAP Round 1, 2 and 3 (91%, 90% and 62% of communities respectively), for which the deadline has passed. HHAP obligations for HHAP 3 for which the deadline is not yet passed are lower. The majority (53%) have met the minimum expenditure requirement for HHAP Round 1, with 25% overall meeting the requirement for HHAP 2 and 5% for HHAP 3, all prior to the deadline. The average YSA percent obligation statewide for Rounds 1-3 is 11%, 10% and 8%. The average expenditure is 8%, 4%, and 1%.

YHDP communities were more likely to have expended the minimum YSA requirement for HHAP Round 1, 2, and 3. Specifically, 67%, 33%, and 13% of YHDP communities vs. non-YHDP communities (48%, 22%, and 2%, respectively) met the minimum youth set aside . Similarly, YHDP communities had higher percent expenditures (9%, 5%, and 2%) than non-YHDP communities (7%, 4%, and 1%).

In all rounds, rural (54%; 30%; and 12%) and urban (54%; 32%; and 7%) communities were more likely to have expended the minimum YSA requirement than suburban communities

(51%; 15%; and 0%). Similarly, urban (9% and 4%) and rural communities (8% and 5%) had higher percent expenditures (than suburban communities (6% and 3%) in HHAP Rounds 1 and 2.

Communities in the middle tertile for the HPI index were more likely to meet the minimum youth set-aside requirement than communities in the low tertile and high tertile in Round 2 (30%, 10%, and 11%) as well as in Round 3 (22%, 0%, and 0%). Communities in the middle tertile for the HPI index also had a higher expenditure than communities in the low and high tertiles in Round 2 (5%, 2%, and 3%) as well as in Round 3 (4%, 0%, and 0%).

## **Funded Programs, Who Administers Them, and the Services They Offer**

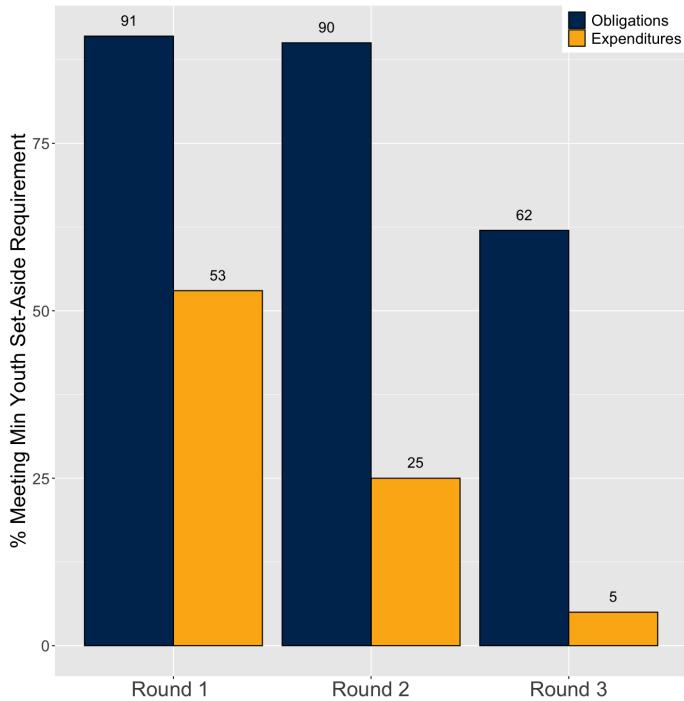
We will first review the data from HHAP reports regarding funded projects offered. We then review the survey findings that address this question.

Tables 3.a, 3.b, and 3.c (pages 34 and 35) summarize the funding that has been obligated and expended by eligible use category and HHAP Round from the May 2024 state report.

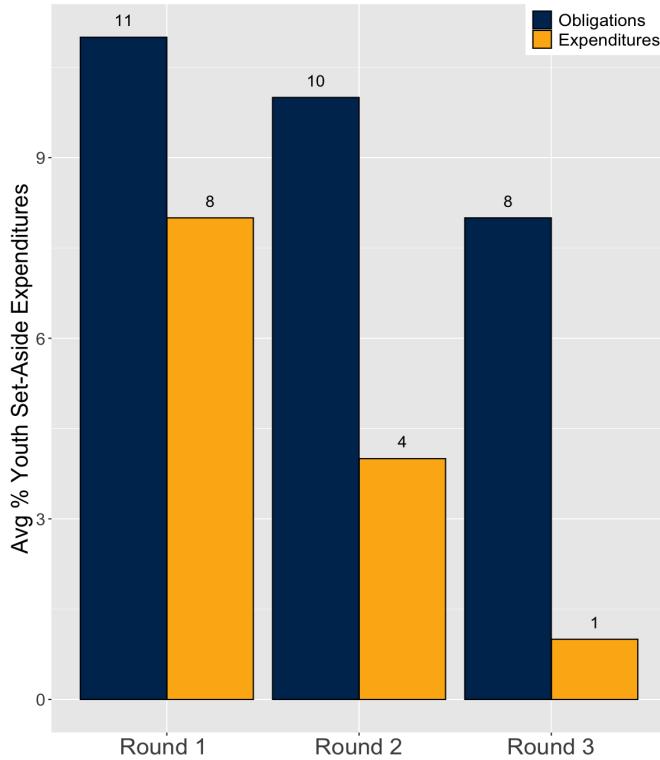
In Round 1, the largest category of expenditures was for operating subsidies (41%), the second largest for outreach and coordination (17%), followed by rental assistance and rapid rehousing (16%) together accounting for 74% of spending. In Round 2, the largest categories were operating subsidies (52%), followed by rapid rehousing (14%) and permanent housing and innovative solutions (12%), together accounting for 78% of spending. To date in HHAP 3, the largest categories were operating subsidies (55%), followed by service coordination (14%) and rapid rehousing (13%), together accounting for 82% of spending.

Table 4 (page 36) is a summary of the HMIS project types by type of jurisdiction (city, CoC, and county) statewide funded by HHAP Round 1-3 drawn from HHAP reports. Thirty seven percent of funds were spent on outreach and early intervention projects, followed by 25% on housing models and stabilization, 9% on beginning stabilization spending, and 5% on prevention. Of note, 24% of projects were not in HMIS, suggesting that they were for non-COC funded projects that are not required to enter data in HMIS. The biggest difference in HMIS project types by jurisdiction is in the area of housing models and housing stabilization, the primary area of focus for 36% of projects in counties, followed by 19% of CoC projects, and only 9% of projects in cities.

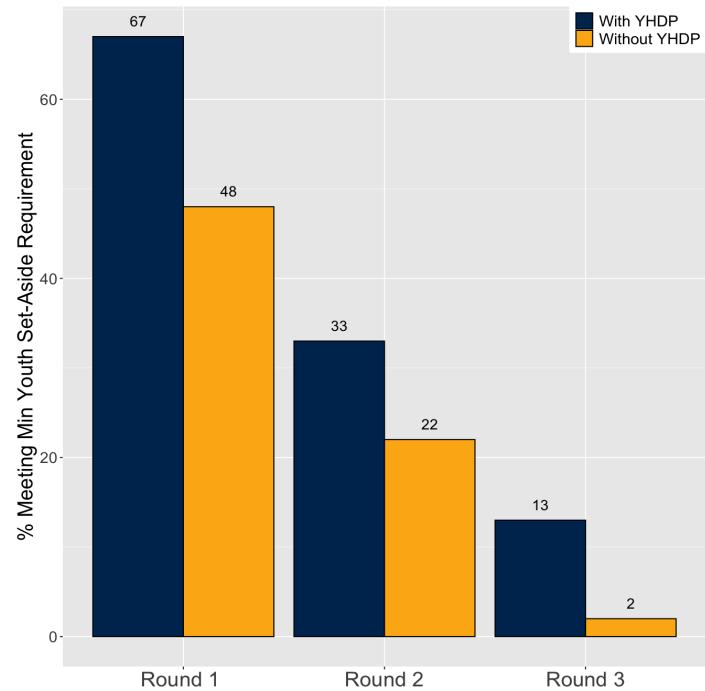
**Figure 1: Percentage of HHAP Communities Statewide who have Met the Minimum Youth Set-Aside Obligation and Expenditure by HHAP Round**



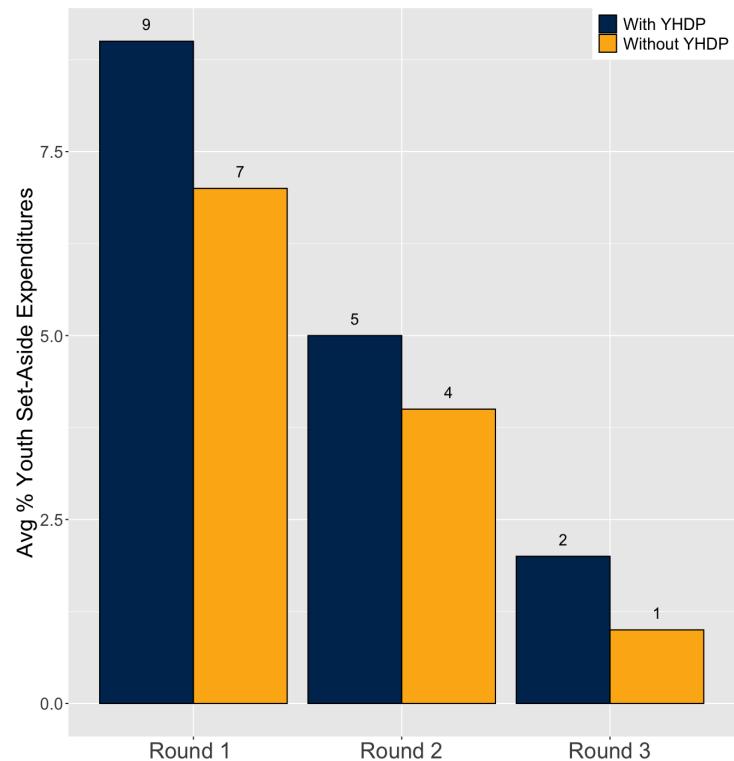
**Figure 2: Average Percentage of Youth Set-Aside Expenditures by HHAP Round**



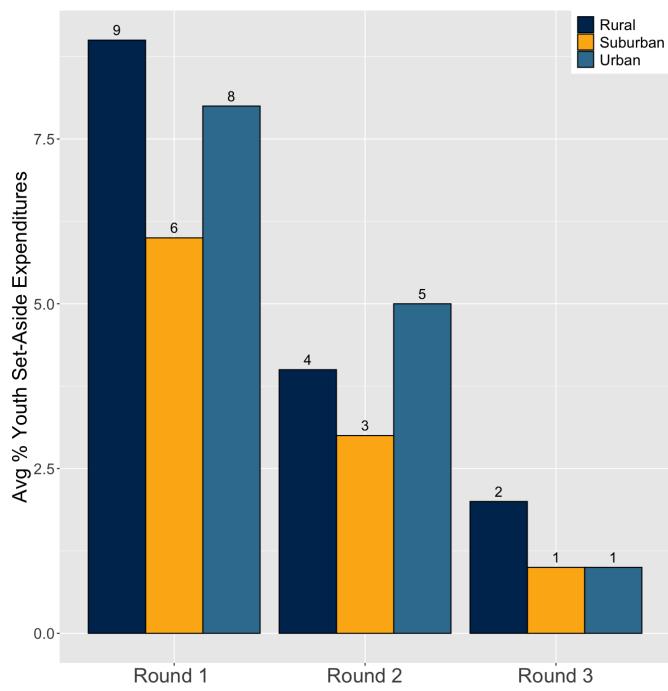
**Figure 3: Percentage of HHAP Communities Statewide Who Met the Minimum Youth Set-Aside Requirement by YHDP Status and HHAP Round**



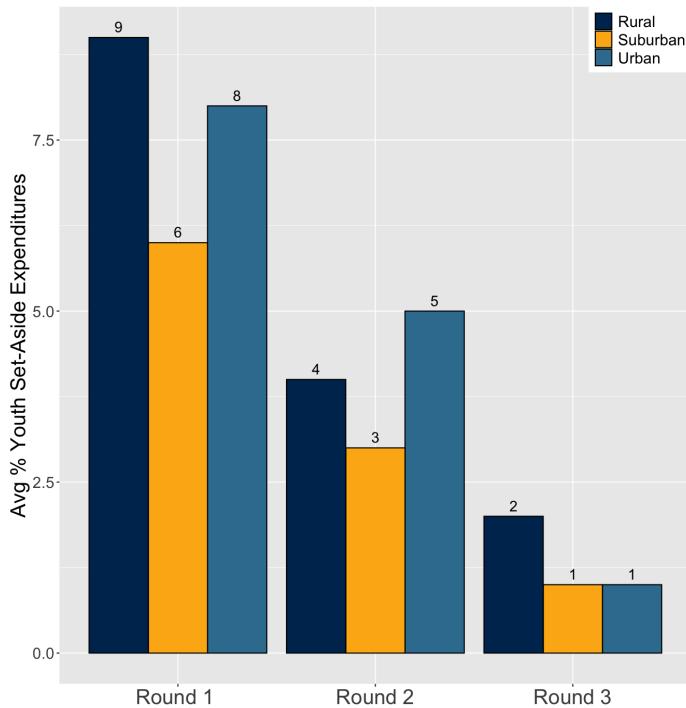
**Figure 4: Average Percentage of Youth Set-Aside Expenditures by YHDP Status and HHAP Round**



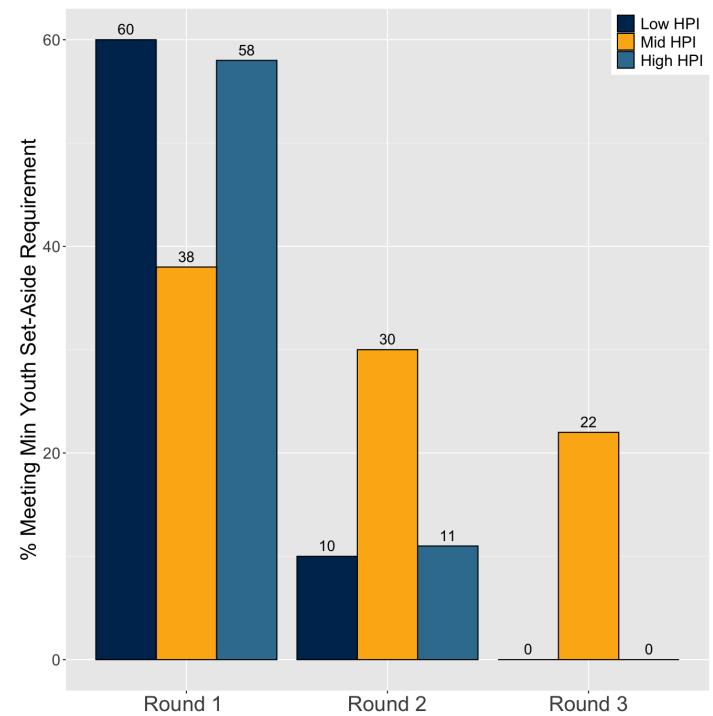
**Figure 5: Percentage of HHAP Communities Statewide who Met the Minimum Youth Set-Aside Obligation and Expenditure by Urbanicity and HHAP**



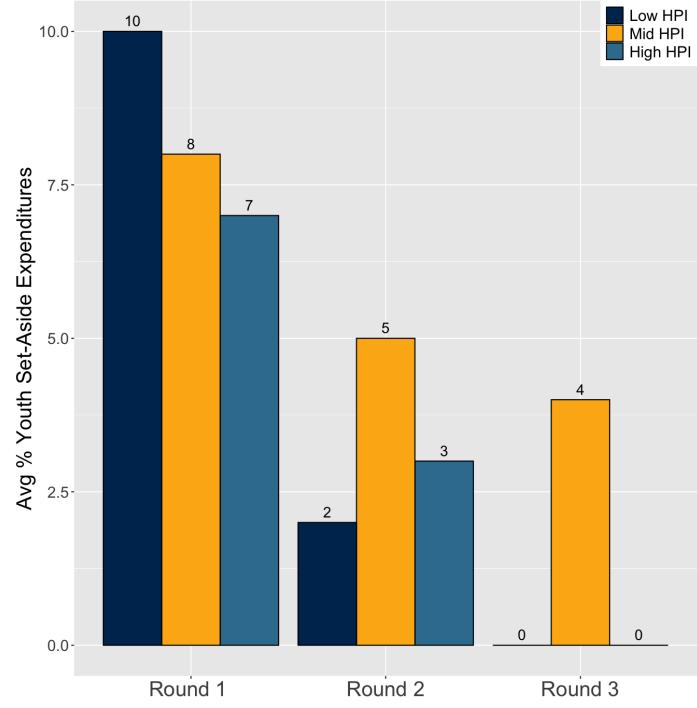
**Figure 6: Average Percentage of Youth Set-Aside Expenditures by Urbanicity and HHAP Round**



**Figure 7: Percentage of HHAP Communities Statewide who Met the Minimum Youth Set-Aside Obligation and Expenditure by HPI Tertile and HHAP Round**



**Figure 8: Average Percentage of Youth Set-Aside Expenditures by HPI Tertile and HHAP Round**



*Table 3.a. HHAP Round 1 Youth Set-Aside Grantee Data Snapshot (from Cal-ICH May 2024 data snapshot)*

Eligible Use Category	Obligated (contractually committed)	Percent of Funds Obligated (Of Obligations to December 31, 2023)	Expended (funding has been spent)	Percent of Funds Expended (Of Expenditures to December 31, 2023)
Prevention and Diversion	\$ 1,269,915	2%	\$1,006,384	2%
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters	\$7,132,576	11%	\$6,645,119	14%
Outreach and Coordination	\$10,655,944	17%	\$8,073,765	17%
Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing	\$16,492,191	27%	\$7,531,621	16%
Landlord Incentives	\$25,882	0%	\$6,233	0%
Permanent Housing and Innovative Solutions	\$5,645,044	9%	\$3,294,665	7%
Operating Subsidies	\$20,244,979	33%	\$19,184,194	41%
Systems Support	\$ 729,465	1%	\$702,035	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$62,195,996</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$46,444,016</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Table 3.b. HHAP Round 2 Youth Set-Aside Grantee Data Snapshot (from Cal-ICH May 2024 data snapshot)*

Eligible Use Category	Obligated (contractually committed)	Percent of Funds Obligated (Of Obligations to December 31, 2023)	Expended (funding has been spent)	Percent of Funds Expended (Of Expenditures to December 31, 2023)
Prevention and Diversion	\$1,519,268	6%	\$1,028,845	8%
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters	\$1,888,794	8%	\$725,248	5%
Street Outreach	\$902,215	4%	\$443,757	3%
Services Coordination	\$1,392,881	6%	\$665,090	5%
Rapid Rehousing	\$4,409,189	18%	\$1,953,792	14%
Permanent Housing and Innovative Solutions	\$3,090,608	12%	\$1,635,662	12%
Operating Subsidies	\$11,194,148	45%	\$7,080,796	52%
Systems Support	\$449,486	2%	\$144,916	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,846,589</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$13,678,108</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Table 3.c. HHAP Round 3 Youth Set-Aside Grantee Data Snapshot (from Cal-ICH May 2024 data snapshot)*

Eligible Use Category	Obligated (contractually committed)	Percent of Funds Obligated (Of Obligations to December 31, 2023)	Expended (funding has been spent)	Percent of Funds Expended (Of Expenditures to December 31, 2023)
Prevention and Diversion	\$2,200,220	3%	\$151,195	1%
Street Outreach	\$879,355	1%	\$117,122	1%
Services Coordination	\$8,262,493	12%	\$3,395,489	20%
Interim Sheltering	\$13,773,304	20%	\$1,478,574	9%
Rapid Rehousing	\$5,520,405	8%	\$2,157,441	13%
Shelter Improvements	\$101,728	0%	\$6,000	0%
Permanent Housing and Innovative Solutions	\$17,273,749	25%	\$452,092	3%
Operating Subsidies	\$21,050,590	30%	\$9,406,767	55%
Systems Support	\$1,283,720	2%	\$58,859	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,345,563</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$17,223,539</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 4. Count of HMIS Project Types funded by YSA Funds by Type of Jurisdiction from Annual Reports through September 2023**

Project Type	City	CoC	County	Total
<b>Prevention</b>				
Homelessness Prevention	0	9	6	15
Total/%	0/0%	9/6%	6/5%	15/5%
<b>Outreach &amp; Early Intervention</b>				
Street Outreach	0	16	5	21
Coordinated Entry	0	0	1	1
Day Shelter	0	1	2	3
Emergency Shelter	12	30	22	64
Low Barrier Shelter	0	1	0	1
Transitional Housing	2	7	7	16
Total/%	14/33%	55/39%	37/33%	106/37%
<b>Beginning Stabilization</b>				
Emergency Shelter - Entry Exit	1	1	1	3
Services Only	3	14	7	24
Total/%	4/12%	15/11%	8/7%	27/9%
<b>Housing Models &amp; Housing Stabilization</b>				
Permanent Housing - Rapid Re-Housing	2	20	28	50
Permanent Supportive Housing (disability required)	0	4	4	8
Permanent Housing with Services (no disability required)	1	2	6	9
Permanent Housing - Housing Only	0	1	3	4
Total/%	3/9%	27/19%	41/36%	71/25%
<b>Other</b>				
Not in HMIS*	13	35	21	69
Other	0	1	0	1
Total/%	13/38%	36/25%	21/19%	70/24%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>289</b>

\* Likely non-CoC funded projects that are not required to enter data in HMIS

Our survey data also sheds light and more detail on the programs funded by HHAP Rounds 1-3 in our surveyed communities.

The 50 surveyed communities reported funding 116 projects. Individual communities reported funding anywhere from 0 to 10 projects (the maximum number that could be reported in the survey), with the average being 2.5 projects funded/community in HHAP Rounds 1 through 3. One fourth of communities reported funding up to one project, and one fourth of communities reported funding 3 or more projects.

As illustrated in Table 5, half (50%) of projects were new, 48% of projects were existing projects, with 2% coded as other/no response. YHDP jurisdictions reported a higher rate of new projects (59%) than non-YHDP jurisdictions (48%). Urban, suburban, and rural projects reported a similar rate of new projects (53% vs. 47% vs. 50%). Low and high HPI sites reported a higher rate of new projects (63% and 59%) than mid-HPI sites (40%).

*Table 5. HHAP Round 1-3 New Projects Versus Existing Projects by YHDP Participation, Urbanicity, and Healthy Places Tertile (Survey Data)*

	ALL	Existing Project % (n)	New Project % (n)	Other %( n)
All	n = 115	48 (55)	50 (58)	2 (2)
YHDP				
YHDP	n = 27	41 (11)	59 (16)	0 (0)
Non - YHDP	n = 88	50 (44)	48 (42)	2 (2)
Urbanicity				
Rural	n = 38	50 (19)	50 (19)	0 (0)
Suburban	n = 37	49 (18)	49 (18)	3 (1)
Urban	n = 40	45 (18)	53 (21)	3 (2)
HPI				
HPI: Low	n = 19	32 (6)	63 (12)	5 (1)
HPI: Medium	n = 55	58 (32)	40 (22)	2 (1)
HPI: High	n = 41	41 (17)	59 (24)	2 (2)

We present the HMIS project types for the projects funded by our surveyed communities in Table 6. These are grouped by overall category. The majority of HHAP YSA-funded projects in Rounds 1-3 in our surveyed communities are dedicated to outreach and early intervention (42%) or housing models and housing stabilization (35%). The priorities and overall funding are similar for communities regardless of YHDP status, urbanicity, or HPI

tertile. There are two notable differences. One, while prevention funding is low overall, making up only 3% of funding; all prevention projects are based in urban jurisdictions. Second, YHDP sites and high HPI sites are most likely to prioritize services only.

*Table 6. HMIS Project Types for the Projects Funded by our Surveyed Communities*

	Prevention % (n)	Outreach & Early Intervention* % (n)	Services Only % (n)	Housing Models & Housing Stabilization** % (n)	Other*** % (n)
All	3 (3)	42 (49)	9 (11)	35 (41)	10 (12)
<b>YHDP</b>					
YHDP	4 (1)	46 (13)	14 (4)	21 (6)	14 (4)
Non-YHDP	2 (2)	41 (36)	8 (7)	40 (37)	9 (8)
<b>Urbanicity</b>					
Rural	0 (0)	53 (20)	8 (3)	34 (13)	5 (2)
Suburban	0 (0)	30 (11)	8 (3)	49 (18)	14 (5)
Urban	7 (3)	44 (18)	12 (5)	24 (10)	12 (5)
<b>HPI</b>					
HPI: Low	0 (0)	53 (10)	11 (2)	37 (7)	0 (0)
HPI: Med	2 (1)	54 (30)	4 (2)	30 (17)	11 (6)
HPI: High	5 (2)	22 (9)	17 (7)	41 (17)	15 (6)

\* Includes Coordinated Entry, Day Shelter, Emergency Shelter, New Navigation Center, Street Outreach, and Transitional Housing

\*\*Includes Permanent Housing (PH)-Housing Only, Permanent Housing (PH)-Housing with services (no disability required for entry), Permanent Housing (PH)-Housing with services disability required for entry), Permanent Housing (PH)-Rapid Re-Housing

\*\*\*Includes Not in HMIS, and Other

Services provided by surveyed HHAP YSA-funded projects are wide-ranging (see Table 7). The most common category of service offered was case management, followed by coordinated entry, housing referral and support services, employment support, financial support and benefits, connection to post-secondary education, nutrition support, transportation assistance, behavioral and physical health referrals, and finally, outreach and drop-in.

Over half of programs (56%) provide support to clients to access mainstream benefits applications, a key component of exiting homelessness. The vast majority of projects support clients to apply to Medi-Cal, Cal Fresh, CalWorks programs, and General Assistance. Half support clients with Social Security applications (SSI and SSDI). Only a

third provide support for applications for financial assistance for immigrants/refugees, notable given the recent increase in immigrant YEH in California. See Table 8

*Table 7. Services Offered to Youth by YSA HHAP Round 1-3 Projects (Survey Data)*

Services Offered	Frequency	Percent of projects
Case management		
Case management	94	81
Family reunification	43	37
Coordinated entry		
Coordinated entry	71	61
Housing referral and support		
Housing assessment	76	66
Housing location	60	52
Referrals to rapid rehousing	57	49
Referrals to permanent supportive housing	56	48
Housing triage	52	45
Landlord engagement	46	40
Referrals to transitional housing*	45	39
Referrals to emergency shelter	41	35
Landlord mediation	38	33
Roommate matching	19	16
Employment support		
Workforce development	58	50
Connection to training programs, including trade school	57	49
Financial support and benefits		
Assistance completing mainstream benefits applications	65	56
Flexible financial assistance	40	34
Financial literacy courses	40	34

Education		
Connection to post-secondary education	55	47
Nutrition		
Food distribution	54	47
Transportation support		
Transportation assistance	51	44
Behavioral and physical health support		
Referrals to substance use treatment	67	58
Needle exchange/harm reduction programming	16	14
Medical referrals (behavioral or primary care)	3	3
Outreach and drop-in		
Mobile outreach	29	25
Drop-in center	24	21
Services offered - Other		
Services offered - Other	5	4

\*Transitional housing includes: congregate, dorm style, scattered site, joint transitional/rapid rehousing, host homes, interim shelter, bridge housing, or other.

Table 8. Mainstream Public Benefits Applications Youth Receive Support in Completing

Type of Benefits	Frequency	Percent of projects
Medi-Cal	61	94
CalFresh	60	92
CalWORKs	56	86
CalWORKs Employment Services	45	69
General Assistance (GA)	50	77
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	33	51
Social Security Disability Insurance	33	51
Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants	21	31
Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)	18	28
Benefits help - Other (please specify)	5	8

## Youth-Exclusive Providers in HHAP-Funded Projects

It is a best practice for YEH to be served by YEH-exclusive providers. As we saw in Question 2, only 20% of communities in our survey have a YEH-exclusive provider. Of all funded projects, 38% were implemented by a YEH exclusive provider. Forty three percent (43%) were implemented by a provider that serves both YEH and PEH. The balance of projects were implemented by programs that served only adults experiencing homelessness (8%), families experiencing homelessness (6%), or youth but not YEH (5%).

Although a minority of projects were implemented by a YEH-exclusive provider, community differences exist (Table 9). Forty three (43%) of projects in YHDP jurisdictions had a primary implementing partner that was a YEH exclusive provider (vs. 37% of non-YHDP providers). Projects in urban communities were more likely than those in suburban or rural communities to be led by a YEH exclusive provider (44%, 38%, and 32% respectively). Projects in high and medium HPI sites were more likely than those in low HPI sites to be led by a YEH exclusive provider (39%, 39%, and 32% respectively). Of note, not only are a minority of programs led by a YEH provider, 34% of projects in rural communities and 37% of projects in low HPI communities were led by a PEH provider who does not serve youth, a youth provider who does not serve PEH, or an “other” provider.

*Table 9. Primary Implementing Organization of the HHAP Funded Project or Intervention Specializes in or Exclusively Serve Youth or YEH*

	All	YEH ONLY % (n)	YEH & PEH % (n)	PEH no YEH % (n)	Youth no YEH % (n)	FEH* % (n)
All	n = 116	38 (44)	43 (50)	8 (9)	5 (6)	6 (7)
YHDP						
YHDP	n = 28	43 (12)	54 (15)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (1)
Non - YHDP	n = 88	37 (32)	40 (35)	10 (9)	7 (6)	7 (6)
Urbanicity						
Rural	n = 38	32 (12)	34 (13)	21 (8)	5 (2)	8 (3)
Suburban	n = 37	38 (14)	49 (18)	0 (0)	8 (3)	5 (2)
Urban	n = 41	44 (18)	46 (19)	2 (1)	2 (1)	5 (2)
HPI						
HPI: Low	n = 19	32 (6)	32 (6)	0 (0)	21 (4)	16 (3)
HPI: Medium	n = 56	39 (22)	48 (27)	11 (6)	0 (0)	2 (1)
HPI: High	n = 41	39 (16)	41 (17)	7 (3)	5 (2)	7 (3)

\*Families experiencing homelessness

## Youth-Inclusive Definitions and Ages Ranges for Eligibility, Targeted Youth Subpopulations, and Youth Referral Mechanisms for HHAP YSA-funded Projects

The majority of YSA-funded projects in our survey (67%) employed a youth-inclusive definition for eligibility (see Table 10). As for the eligibility criteria for the community overall the projects in non-YHDP communities were more likely to employ a youth-inclusive definition (73%) than YHDP communities (50%). Projects in urban communities were more likely than rural or suburban communities to employ a youth-inclusive definition (71%, 66%, and 65%). Projects in low HPI communities were most likely to employ a youth-inclusive definition, followed by high and medium HPI communities (84%, 71% and 59%).

The majority of YSA-funded projects (56%) serve TAY youth (18-24 or 25), 43% serve minors and TAY, and one project serves only minors. Of projects in YHDP communities, the majority serve only TAY 76%, while half of projects in non-YHDP communities serve only TAY (49%) and half serve minors and TAY. Projects in rural communities are most likely to serve minors and TAY (74%), while projects in suburban (62%) and urban (78%) communities are most likely to serve only TAY.

*Table 10. Youth Homelessness Definition Used by Surveyed Communities and Eligibility Age Range for HHAP-Funded Projects and Intervention*

Category	n	Youth-Inclusive % (n)		Eligibility Age Range % (n)		
		Yes	No	Minors & TAY	TAY	Minors
Overall	116	67 (78)	33 (38)	43 (50)	56 (65)	1 (1)
YHDP						
YHDP	28	50 (14)	50 (14)	21 (6)	79 (22)	0 (0)
Non YHDP	88	73 (62)	27 (24)	50 (44)	49 (43)	1 (1)
Urbanicity						
Rural	38	66 (25)	34 (13)	74 (28)	26 (10)	0 (0)
Suburban	37	65 (24)	35 (13)	38 (14)	62 (23)	0 (0)
Urban	41	71 (29)	29 (12)	20 (8)	78 (32)	2 (1)
HPI						
HPI: Low	19	84 (16)	16 (3)	47 (9)	53 (10)	0 (0)
HPI: Med	56	59 (33)	41 (23)	61 (34)	38 (21)	2 (1)
HPI: High	41	71 (29)	29 (12)	17 (7)	83 (34)	0 (0)

Though it is important for programs for YEH to be inclusive of all youth, many subpopulations of YEH benefit from services that allow their specific needs to be addressed and/or for them to feel included or safe. As documented in Table 11, 69% of projects are reported to serve all YEH and do not target a specific youth subpopulation. Twenty percent (20%) of programs target each of the subpopulations listed in the table, with a slightly lower percentage of programs serving immigrant youth or minors.

Table 12 summarizes the referral sources for the HHAP YSA-funded projects in our survey communities. It illustrates that the vast majority of referrals come from within the homelessness response system. Over half of programs do not have referrals from outside the homelessness response system. Programs are more likely to receive a self-referral from a youth than from a professional in another sector.

*Table 11. Subpopulations of Youth Targeted by HHAP-Funded Projects*

Subpopulation	Frequency	Percent of projects
Systems youth		
Foster youth	27	23
Justice involved youth	21	18
Youth of color		
Black youth	22	19
Native American/Alaskan Native youth	22	19
Latine/x youth	22	19
Other Indigenous youth	21	18
LGBTQ2S youth		
Transgender youth	24	21
LGBQ+ youth	24	21
Gender nonconforming/nonbinary youth	24	21
Immigrant Youth		
Undocumented youth	20	17
Immigrant youth	20	17
Refugee youth	19	16
Youth with disabilities		
Youth with disabilities	25	22
Pregnant and Parenting Youth		
Pregnant/parenting youth	21	18
Minors		
Minors	17	15
All youth		
All YEH served: no target subpopulations	80	69
Other target subpopulation		
Other subpopulation (please specify)	1	>1

**Table 12. Referral Sources for HHAP YSA-Funded Projects**

Referral Sources	Frequency	Percent of projects
<b>Homeless response system</b>		
Coordinated entry	84	75
Community provider	80	71
Street outreach provider	68	60
Emergency shelter provider	61	54
<b>Self-referral</b>		
Self-referral	62	55
<b>System youth referrals</b>		
Foster care program/child welfare agency	49	44
Juvenile justice program	42	38
<b>Behavioral health referral</b>		
Behavioral health provider	49	44
<b>Educational system referrals</b>		
School (K-12)	45	40
School (post-secondary)	39	35
<b>Other</b>		
Referred by - Other (please)	8	7

## **Community Processes and Stakeholder Involvement for Implementing HHAP YSA Funding**

We examine the decision-making process for HHAP YSA here in three parts. We first examine what inputs were consulted in decision making, including information sources, who gave input, and who were decision makers overall and how these differed by community. We then examine the role of youth in decision-making more specifically. Finally, we share barriers to spending HHAP YSA funds reported by communities in our survey.

## Input and participants into decision-making

We inquired whether communities informed their decision with a community needs assessment, information about organizations' prior experience with YEH, and/or input from community PEH (a YAB, YEH, families experiencing homelessness or people with lived experience). We review what communities patterns were overall, then the differences by types of community.

### **Communities overall:**

In deciding *what types of projects should be funded*, communities overall:

- informed themselves with a community needs assessment, knowledge about organizations' prior experience with YEH and/or input from PEH just over half of the time.

In deciding *who implementing partners should be*, communities overall:

- informed themselves with a community needs assessment 28% of the time, knowledge about organizations' prior experience with YEH 72% of the time, and input from PEH 28% of the time.

Fourteen percent (14%) of communities overall stated they did not employ a community needs assessment, 12% did not employ information about organizations' prior experience with YEH, and 22% did not consult PEH in making funding decisions about the HHAP YSA.

### **YHDP vs. non-YHDP communities:**

In deciding *what types of projects should be funded*, YHDP communities:

- were more likely than non-YHDP communities to inform themselves with a community needs assessment (66% vs. 50%). They were equally likely to consider organizations' prior experience with YEH. Finally, they were much more likely to consult PEH (a YAB, YEH, families experiencing homelessness or people with lived experience; (75% vs. 50%).

In deciding *who implementing partners should be*, YHDP communities:

- were less likely than non-YHDP communities to inform themselves with a community needs assessment (22% vs. 27%). They were equally likely to consider organizations' prior experience with YEH. They were over twice as likely to consider input from PEH (55% vs. 25%).

All the communities that stated that they did not employ community assessments as an information source were non-YHDP communities.

## **Urbanicity:**

In deciding *what types of projects should be funded*:

- Rural, suburban, and urban communities were similarly likely to consult the results of a community needs assessment (55%, 58%, and 54%), or to consider organizations' experience with YEH (55%, 58%, and 62%). They differed most in whether they consulted PEH (a YAB, YEH, families experiencing homelessness or people with lived experience). A large majority of urban communities (70%) did so, followed by half of rural communities (50%), and 42% of suburban communities.

In deciding *who implementing partners should be*:

- Rural, suburban, and urban communities were not likely to consult a community needs assessment (33%, 16%, and 30%), or consider the input of PEH (22%, 26%, and 38%). Suburban and urban communities were more likely to consider an organization's experience with YEH (90% and 77%) than rural communities (50%).

## **Healthy Places tertile:**

Low HPI tertile communities were far less likely to have access to inputs for their decisions than middle or high HPI communities. Low HPI tertile communities were more likely to state they did not consult a community needs assessment in their funding decisions than medium or high HPI communities with 46% endorsing not using a community needs assessment in their community for fiscal decisions vs. 5% of medium tertile communities and 13% of high resource communities. Low HPI tertile communities were even less likely to consult PEH than medium or high tertile communities with 61% endorsing not consulting PEH in their community for YSA fiscal decisions vs. 5% of medium tertile communities and 13% of high resource communities. These differences led to major differences by HPI tertile in inputs regarding decisions regarding what types of projects should be funded as well as who implementing partners should be.

In deciding *what types of projects should be funded*:

- Low HPI tertile communities were half as likely to consult a needs assessment than medium or high tertile communities (31% vs. 64% vs. 66%) and less likely to consider organizations' experience with YEH (46% vs. 69% vs. 53%). They were vanishingly less likely to consult PEH (8% vs. 77% vs. 53%).

In deciding *who implementing partners should be*:

- Low, medium and high HPI communities were uniformly unlikely to consult a needs assessment (15% vs. 32% vs. 33%). Over half of communities in each tertile considered organizations' experience with YEH but low HPI community were less

likely to do so (54% vs. 73% vs. 87%). No low HPI community considered PEH input in decision making about implementing partners vs. 36% of medium HPI communities and 40% of high HPI communities.

### Youth inclusion in input and decision-making for HHAP YSA-Funded Projects

We examined the role of youth decision-makers, given that it is a best practice endorsed by USICH and HUD to include YEH in policy decisions that impact them<sup>23,24</sup>.

We measured the extent to which youth input was incorporated into the decision making process of HHAP funding implementation in three ways.

We first asked HHAP leads to respond regarding which community stakeholders they engaged for input or recommendations for HHAP YSA funding (Table 13). Most communities engaged jurisdictional leadership, other community members (including advocates and community-based organizations), subject matter experts or people with lived experience (68%), and cross system partners (62%). Fewer than half of communities (44%) reported engaging youth for input.

*Table 13. Stakeholders Groups Engaged for Input or Recommendations for HHAP YSA-Funded Projects*

	%(n)
Jurisdictional Leadership <sup>i</sup>	76 (38)
Other Community Members <sup>ii</sup>	74 (37)
PEH (not YEH) or subject matter experts <sup>iii</sup>	68 (34)
Cross System Partners <sup>iv</sup>	62 (31)
Youth <sup>v</sup>	44 (22)
Consultants <sup>vi</sup>	28 (14)
I don't know/Other <sup>vii</sup>	2 (1)

<sup>i</sup> includes elected officials, the CoC Board members, the CoC Lead Agency, and the Oversight Commission

<sup>ii</sup> includes advocates and community-based organizations

<sup>iii</sup> includes subject matter experts, adults w/ lived experience, or families w/ lived expertise

<sup>iv</sup> includes McKinney Vento Liaisons, and/or local education agency, child welfare agency or juvenile justice staff

<sup>v</sup> includes a YAB, Youth Commission, and/or youth with lived expertise

We then asked HHAP leads who had decision-making authority regarding which types of projects to fund with YSA funding (Table 14). In 76% of communities the stakeholders with decision-making authority were the jurisdictional leaders, followed by 40% of communities in which the elected officials were. Only 6% of communities gave YABs decision-making authority.

*Table 14. Stakeholders Groups with Decision-Making Authority for HHAP YSA-Funded Projects*

	% (n)
Jurisdictional Leadership	76 (38)
Elected Officials	40 (20)
Youth Advisory Board	6 (3)
None Listed	4 (2)
I don't know/Other	26 (13)

We subsequently directly asked communities if they included youth in recommendations and decision making and examined responses by community type (see Table 15).

Overall, the majority of communities (56%) were not youth-inclusive in their input, and nearly all (94%) were not inclusive in their decision-making. YHDP communities were twice as likely to be youth inclusive in soliciting input (78% vs. 37%) and more likely to be youth-inclusive in their decision-making (22% vs. 2%) than non-YHDP communities. Urban communities were most likely to be youth-inclusive in soliciting input (54%), followed by suburban (42%) and rural (39%) communities. Finally, none of the low HPI community solicited youth input in decision-making, and decision-making input was uncommon for both middle (9%) and high HPI (7%) communities.

Finally, we asked survey respondents to share whether the input of YEH was “meaningfully incorporated” in decision-making processes (Table 16). Among all respondents the majority (54%) agreed that YEH input was meaningfully incorporated, with 16% strongly agreeing and 38% somewhat agreeing. Twenty eight percent (28%) of respondents expressed a neutral view, and 18% of respondents disagreed, with 8% somewhat disagreeing and 10% strongly disagreeing. However, there were notable differences by community type. YHDP communities were far more likely to perceive that youth expertise was meaningfully incorporated into decision-making processes. Suburban communities were less likely to perceive that youth expertise was meaningfully incorporated into decision-making processes than rural and urban communities. Finally,

low HPI communities were less likely than middle or high HPI communities to perceive that youth expertise was meaningfully incorporated into decision-making processes.

*Table 15. Youth inclusiveness for Input, Recommendations, and Decision-Making Regarding HHAP YSA-Funded Projects*

	Input/Recommendations		Decision-Making	
	Youth Inclusive % (n)	Not Youth Inclusive % (n)	Youth Inclusive % (n)	Not Youth Inclusive % (n)
Overall (n = 50)	44 (22)	56 (28)	6 (3)	94 (47)
<b>YHDP</b>				
Yes (n = 9)	78 (7)	22(2)	22 (2)	78 (7)
No (n = 41)	37 (15)	63 (26)	2 (1)	98 (40)
<b>Community type</b>				
Rural (n = 18)	39 (7)	61 (11)	6 (1)	94 (17)
Suburban (n = 19)	42(8)	58 (11)	0 (0)	100 (19)
Urban (n = 13)	54 (7)	46 (6)	15 (2)	85 (11)
<b>HPI</b>				
Low (n = 13)	23 (3)	77 (10)	0 (0)	100 (13)
Middle (n = 22)	59 (13)	41 (9)	9 (2)	91 (20)
High (n = 15)	40 (6)	60 (9)	7 (1)	93 (14)

*Table 16. Was Youth Expertise Meaningfully Incorporated into Decision-Making Processes?*

	Strongly agree % (n)	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Overall (n = 50)	8 (16.0%)	19 (38.0%)	14 (28.0%)	4 (8.0%)	5 (10.0%)
<b>YHDP</b>					
Yes (n = 9)	3 (33.3%)	6 (66.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
No (n = 41)	5 (12.2%)	13 (31.7%)	14 (34.2%)	4 (9.8%)	5 (12.2%)
<b>Urbanicity</b>					
Rural (n = 18)	4 (22.2%)	7 (38.9%)	4 (22.2%)	2 (11.1%)	1 (5.6%)
Suburban (n = 19)	1 (5.3%)	6 (31.6%)	7 (36.8%)	2 (10.5%)	3 (15.8%)
Urban (n = 13)	3 (23.1%)	6 (46.2%)	3 (23.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (7.7%)
<b>HPI</b>					
Low (n = 13)	1 (7.7%)	4 (30.8%)	4 (30.8%)	1 (7.7%)	3 (23.1%)
Middle (n = 22)	4 (18.2%)	9 (40.9%)	6 (27.3%)	2 (9.1%)	1 (4.5%)
High (n = 15)	3 (20.0%)	6 (40.0%)	4 (26.7%)	1 (6.7%)	1 (6.7%)

## Reported Barriers to Project Implementation

The final area we examined to understand the process of HHAP YSA implementation were the barriers to project implementation. Communities were asked to report the major barriers they faced in the implementation of each of the 116 projects listed (Table 17). The most common category of barriers were barriers related to access to housing, including housing affordability (53%), difficulty finding private landlords to rent units (37%) or with the leasing process (28%), or obstacles to securing sites for acquisition (4%). The second most common barriers fell under challenges at the provider level, particularly challenges to recruiting staff for projects (46%), and challenges to identifying providers for projects (20%). Notably, although they are often cited, youth-level barriers were only the third most common, with a third of programs or fewer reporting citing challenges with youth accepting services (32%), gaining trust of participants (26%) or locating eligible youth (14%). Finally competing funding priorities were cited by 6% of communities.

*Table 17. Reported Barriers to HHAP Rounds 1-3-Funded Project Implementation*

Barriers to project implementation	Frequency	% of projects
<b>Housing Market Barrier</b>		
High cost of market rate units are unaffordable to participants	61	53
Difficulty finding private landlords to rent units	43	37
Difficulty with the leasing process	33	28
Difficulty securing sites for acquisition	5	4
<b>Barrier at the provider level</b>		
Difficulty recruiting, hiring, and/or maintaining appropriate staff	53	46
Difficulty identifying appropriate service provider	23	20
<b>Barrier at the youth level</b>		
Difficulty with youth accepting services	37	32
Difficulty gaining trust of participants	30	26
Difficulty locating youth who are eligible	16	14
<b>Barrier at the HHAP recipient level</b>		
Competing priorities (e.g. American Rescue Plan Act funding deadlines)	7	6
<b>Barrier - Other (please specify):</b>		
other	20	17

## The Community-Level Impact of HHAP Funding

We examined the community-level impact of HHAP funding in two ways.

We first asked communities if they were conducting their own monitoring or assessment (see Table 18). Overall, 44% stated they were conducting monitoring or assessment and 34% stated they were not. YHDP were just as likely as non-YHDP communities to be doing so at 44%. Over  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Urban communities (69%) were engaged in monitoring or assessments, followed by half of suburban communities (52%). Few rural communities (17%) were doing so. Low and high HPI communities were more likely to be engaged in monitoring or assessment (54% and 47%) than middle HPI communities (36%).

*Table 18. Community-Conducted Monitoring or Assessments for the Impact of HHAP YSA*

	Conducted Monitoring or Assessment % (n)	In Progress % (n)	No	I don't know/Other
Overall	44 (22)	24 (12)	34 (12)	6 (3)
YHDP				
YHDP	44 (4)	44 (4)	22 (2)	11 (1)
Non - YHDP	44 (18)	20 (8)	37 (15)	5 (2)
Urbanicity				
Rural	17 (3)	33 (6)	44 (8)	11 (2)
Suburban	53 (10)	11 (2)	39 (7)	0 (0)
Urban	69 (9)	31 (4)	15 (2)	8 (1)
HPI				
HPI low	54 (7)	31 (4)	23 (3)	0 (0)
HPI middle	36 (8)	32 (7)	41 (9)	0 (0)
HPI high	47 (7)	7 (1)	33 (5)	20 (3)

We also asked communities what areas of YEH wellbeing were most positively impacted by YSA funding and which aspects most required continued investment for improvement (see Table 19). At least half of communities cited improvement in housing stability, case management, behavioral health and access to public benefits. Fewer than half of communities cited improvements in food security, education, employment, or primary care, all key social determinants of health for YEH. At least half of communities cited the need for further improvements in housing stability and behavioral health, emphasizing the challenges for access to resources to address those areas. Fewer than half of communities cited case management, employment, primary care, public benefits, education, and food security. We did not examine these by community type.

**Table 19. Areas of Youth Wellbeing Most Positively Impacted by HHAP YSA-Funded Programs**

	Areas of Impact		Areas for Improvement	
Housing Stability	43	86%	39	78%
Case Management	36	72%	22	44%
Public Benefits	25	50%	14	28%
Food Security	22	44%	12	24%
Behavioral Health	26	52%	25	50%
Primary Care	13	26%	17	34%
Education	22	44%	13	26%
Employment	18	36%	22	44%
Other	5	10%	8	16%

# Community profiles

## Overview

This section contains the community profiles of the six chosen communities. Community profiles provide another way to answer our evaluations questions by examining in more detail the experiences of a broad range of HHAP recipient communities.

These profiles include the preliminary analyses of our qualitative data as well as data drawn from HHAP reports from each community. To date, the research team has conducted 14 interviews and 7 focus groups with these communities. A total of 33 participants have been interviewed (see Table 20).

A limitation to these data is that many interview respondents were not in their current roles when their communities were planning and implementing projects for HHAP Rounds 1-3. Half of the stakeholders interviewed were in their roles when HHAP Round 1 was released, although their involvement in the planning and design phase varied greatly by community. The remaining half joined their agencies after HHAP Round 3 applications were submitted and were not part of the planning or design phase for those rounds.

Despite extensive effort on behalf of the research team, the appropriate representative for HHAP grantees in some communities proved to be difficult to engage in qualitative activities. Due to factors such as high turnover in local government, many individuals who originally applied for HHAP in the communities no longer worked for the jurisdiction and were not available to participate. Other HHAP applicants who may still be working with their community simply did not have the bandwidth to participate and either declined or connected us with colleagues who may not have been as involved with the HHAP application and spending processes.

## Participating Communities and HHAP YSA 1-3 Obligations and Expenditures

As described in the methods above, the six chosen communities were diverse with regard to YHDP funding, urbanicity, geographic representation across the state, healthy places index score, and % expenditure of HHAP Round 1 funding. They include the San Diego CoC/City/County/CoC, Oakland/Berkeley/Alameda CoC, Salinas/Monterey/San Benito CoC, Visalia/Kings/Tulare CoC, Lake County CoC, and Long Beach CoC.

Tables 21-23 provide a summary of the Youth Set-Aside funding by eligible use category for HHAP rounds 1-3 for our six focus communities.

*Table 20. Descriptive Statistics for Interview and Focus Group Participants*

Participant Type	Count
Focus Groups	7
Interviews	14
Total # of Participants	33
Role (n=31)	Count
HHAP Grantee	13
Service Provider	13
Youth Leader with Lived Expertise (Participated in HHAP Grantee Focus Group)	1
Youth Advisory Board Member, Youth Council Member or Youth Community Member	6
Jurisdiction	Count
Alameda County	7
San Diego County	8
Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties CoC	7
Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties CoC	6
Long Beach CoC	3
Lake County CoC	2
Race/Ethnicity	Count
Asian/Asian American	4
Black/African American (e.g., Jamaican, Nigerian, Haitian, etc.)	2
Hispanic/Latiné/a/o/x (e.g. Puerto Rican, Mexican, Cuban, etc.)	5
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (e.g., Samoan, Guamanian, Chamorro, etc.)	2
White/European (e.g. German, Irish, Polish, etc.)	15
Mixed Race:	

American Indian/Alaska Native and Hispanic/Latiné/a/o/x and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1
Asian/Asian American and Black/African American	1
American Indian/Alaska Native and Black/African American and Middle Eastern/North African and White/European	1
Asian/Asian American and White/European	1
Prefer not to say	2
Gender	Count
Cis Woman	25
Cis Man	5
Non-Binary	1
Other (please specify): (Female)	1
Other (please specify): (Male)	1

**Table 21. HHAP Round 1 YSA Funding by Eligible Use Category for Community Profile Communities**

(Data compiled from Cal ICH Quarterly Fiscal Reports Through December 2023)

	State overall	%	San Diego County	Alameda County	Salinas / Monterey, San Benito	Visalia/ King, Tulare	Lake County	Long Beach City (HHAP1 only)	Long Beach CoC
HHAP Round 1 Allocation	\$618,000,000		\$9,996,652	\$18,204,668	\$3,185,326	\$2,141,746	\$500,000	\$4,650,605	\$2,231,142
YSA Minimum 8% (calculated)*	\$49,440,000	8%	\$799,732	\$1,456,373	\$254,826	\$171,340	\$40,000	\$372,048	\$178,491
Obligated	\$62,195,996	10%	\$5,145,547	\$1,595,108	\$254,826	\$131,895	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
Expended	\$46,444,016	7.5%	\$5,145,547	\$1,560,501	\$242,875	\$131,895	\$13,052	\$0	\$0
% of HHAP allocation spent on YSA			51%	9%	8%	6%	3%	0%	0%

HHAP Eligible Use Category	Overall HHAP YSA Round 1 Funding - California (% of total funding by eligible use category)	San Diego County	Alameda County	Salinas / Monterey, San Benito CoC	Visalia/ King, Tulare CoC	Lake County CoC	Long Beach City	Long Beach CoC
Operating Subsidies	\$19,184,194 (41%)				\$131,895 (100%)			
Outreach and Coordination	\$8,073,765 (17%)	\$4,558,294 (89%)	\$179,144 (11.4%)	\$228,145 (94%)				
Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing	\$ 7,531,621 (16%)	\$587,254 (11%)		\$14,730 (6%)				
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters	\$ 6,645,119 (14%)		\$1,200,000 (76.9)%			\$ 13,052 (100%)		
Permanent Housing and Innovative Solutions	\$ 3,294,665 (7%)							
Prevention and Diversion	\$ 1,006,384 (2%)		\$181,356 (11.6%)					
Systems Support	\$702,035 (2%)							
Landlord Incentives	\$ 6,233 (<1%)							

\*represents the calculated YSA minimum of 8% for HHAP Round 1 for comparison to the actual obligated and expended amounts.

**Table 22. HHAP Round 2 YSA Funding by Eligible Use Category for Community Profile Communities**

(Data compiled from Cal ICH Quarterly Fiscal Reports Through December 2023)

	California overall	%	San Diego	Alameda	Salinas / Monterey, San Benito	Visalia/ King, Tulare	Lake County	Long Beach CoC
HHAP 2 Allocation	\$284,999,998		\$4,569,898	\$8,473,531	\$1,507,181	\$593,062	\$250,000	\$3,254,164
YSA Minimum 8% (calculated)	\$22,800,000	8%	\$365,592	\$677,882	\$120,574	\$47,445	\$20,000	\$260,333
Obligated	\$24,846,589	9%	\$721,782	\$677,882	\$120,574	\$47,445	\$20,000	\$0
Expended	\$13,678,108	5%	\$591,449	\$497,617	\$79,999	\$47,445	\$8,163	\$0
% of HHAP allocation spent on YSA			13%	6%	5%	8%	3%	0%

HHAP Eligible Use Category	Overall HHAP YSA Round 2 Funding - California (% of total funding by eligible use category)	San Diego County	Alameda County	Salinas / Monterey, San Benito CoC	Visalia/ King, Tulare CoC	Lake County CoC	Long Beach CoC
Operating Subsidies	\$7,080,796 (52%)		\$357,710 (71.9%)			\$8,163 (100%)	
Street Outreach	\$443,756 (3%)						
Rapid Rehousing	\$1,953,792 (14%)	\$15,924 (2.7%)		\$79,999 (100%)			
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters	\$725,248 (5%)	\$9,743 (1.6%)					
Permanent Housing and Innovative Solutions	\$1,635,662 (12%)	\$51,294 (8.7%)			\$47,445 (100%)		
Prevention and Diversion	\$1,028,845 (8%)		\$139,907 (28.1%)				
Systems Support	\$144,916 (1%)						
Services Coordination	\$665,090 (5%)	\$514,488 (87%)					

**Table 23. HHAP Round 3 YSA Funding by Eligible Use Category for Community Profile Communities(Data compiled from Cal ICH Quarterly Fiscal Reports Through December 2023)**

	California overall	%	San Diego	Alameda	Salinas / Monterey, San Benito	Visalia/ King, Tulare	Lake County	Long Beach CoC
HHAP 3 Allocation	\$760,000,000		\$12,795,715	\$23,212,488	\$4,047,054	\$1,592,480	\$610,650	\$8,516,928
YSA Minimum 10% (calculated)	\$76,000,000	10%	\$1,279,571	\$2,321,249	\$404,705	\$159,248	\$61,065	\$851,693
Obligated	\$70,243,835	9%	\$7,200,000	\$2,298,158	\$404,705	\$24,245	\$61,066	\$ -
Expended	\$17,217,539	2%	\$2,087,309	\$38,201	\$20,216	\$24,245	\$-	\$ -
% of HHAP allocation spent on YSA			16%	.2%	.5%	1.5%	0%	0%

HHAP Eligible Use Category	Overall HHAP YSA Round 3 Funding - California (% of total funding by eligible use category)	San Diego County	Alameda County	Salinas / Monterey, San Benito CoC	Visalia/ King, Tulare CoC	Lake County CoC	Long Beach CoC
Operating Subsidies	\$9,406,767 (55%)			\$15,158 (75%)			
Street Outreach	\$117,122 (<1%)			\$5,058 (25%)			
Rapid Rehousing	\$2,157,441 (12.5%)	\$248,473 (12%)					
Interim Sheltering	\$1,478,574 (9%)						
Permanent Housing/Innovative Solutions	\$452,092 (3%)						
Prevention and Diversion	\$151,195 (<1%)						
Systems Support	\$58,859 (<1%)		\$38,201 (100%)				
Services Coordination	\$3,395,489 (20%)	\$1,838,836 (88%)			\$24,245 (100%)		
Shelter Improvements	\$6,000(<1%)						

## Cross-Cutting Qualitative Findings

In our analysis of the qualitative data, respondents reported several cross-cutting themes regarding the implementation of HHAP Rounds 1-3 YSA funds. Some of these were specific to the challenges for youth, some were challenges that were more broadly applicable. We summarize them here grouped by successes and challenges of HHAP funding. Examples of these can be found in the specific community profiles that follow.

### Successes

- **HHAP YSA helped fill a gap by providing resources to support operations of existing programs serving youth.** Prior to HHAP, California provided communities with one-time funding through the 2018 Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP). Many communities interviewed shared that HHAP helped support ongoing operations of existing youth programs that were created using one-time Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP) funds.
- **Communities were able to use HHAP funds to create new programs and to provide services that were not eligible for federal funding, including HUD CoC funding and YHDP funding.** One community was able to provide flexible financial assistance to cover basic needs to students whose housing crisis was resolved through staying with friends or family members. This included paying for food, hygiene products, and other necessities. CoC programs do not consider consumable supplies as a permissible eligible cost<sup>25</sup>. YHDP is slightly more flexible in allowing funds to be spent on consumable supplies.
- **Communities were able to use HHAP funds to create or support existing YABs.** Communities require funding to support YABs. This report emphasizes that youth input is lacking, both as input and in particular for decision making. Rural and low-HPI communities in particular report low youth input. YEH input requires funding not only for youth but also for staff to support youth and ensure ongoing youth recruitment. Even communities that have YHDP funding require funding for both YAB members and YAB support staff after the planning grant phase (which is not renewable)<sup>26</sup>.
- **Flexibility of HHAP allowed more youth to be served.** HHAP enables communities to serve students experiencing homelessness, youth who are couchsurfing, and youth who are at-risk of experiencing homelessness. The federal definitions that HUD uses to determine which youth are eligible for services are exclusive and do not reflect the lived experiences of youth. For example, youth who are couchsurfing are not considered homeless under Category 1. Only 10% of YHDP funds can be

used to support youth who are homeless by other (more inclusive) federal definitions, which includes students who meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. HHAP has equipped communities with resources to serve youth who might not otherwise be eligible to receive services within the homelessness response system.

- **HHAP communities that were YHDP sites had a built-in mechanism to plan for how HHAP funds should be used.** YHDP requires communities that apply to engage in a collaborative planning process to determine the strengths, gaps, and needs of its youth homelessness response system. YHDP communities created a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) in collaboration with its Youth Advisory Board (YAB), composed of members with lived experience of homelessness, as well as other stakeholders, like the community's child welfare agency(ies). Some communities used HHAP funds to expand the capacity of existing YHDP programs. Others used components of the CCP to guide the creation of HHAP-funded programs for youth.
- **HHAP communities were able to extend the geographic reach of programs within their jurisdiction.** HHAP communities reported employing funds to reach populations of youth outside of core population centers who did not have access to basic services, including youth in rural areas.
- **HHAP communities were able to make HEAP projects sustainable.** Communities described the concern that they had for not being able to sustain HEAP projects, projects that were able to be saved by HHAP funding.
- **HHAP allowed communities to expand services for populations not served by the current youth homelessness response system.** There are large subpopulations of youth experiencing homelessness who require specialized services to address their needs. Multiple sites described developing programs for such groups, such as students and formerly incarcerated youth.

## Challenges

- **Engaging youth is challenging.** Many providers and HHAP grantees noted how challenging it is to engage youth due to trust issues. Youth aging out of child welfare services into housing instability have a warranted distrust of the homelessness response system. Youth who are couch surfing don't always identify their housing instability as homelessness.
- **Youth experiencing homelessness are underrepresented in the Point-in-Time Count.** This is important because the HHAP allocation is based on PIT Count data<sup>27</sup>.

Furthermore, the undercounting of youth leads to an inappropriately low HHAP YSA allocation. Many communities interviewed shared that youth in their communities were couchsurfing. The PIT Count does not include youth who are couchsurfing as experiencing homelessness.

- **Structural barriers to accessing services for youth are a major challenge.** School-age students are not eligible for most services. One provider mentioned that the students she serves are not able to utilize emergency hotel vouchers because hotels will not rent rooms to minors. Rapid rehousing (RRH) has become a major resource for YEH, but youth continue to face barriers due to lack of rental history, income requirements, and rental costs that are not sustainable after the short- to medium-term RRH subsidy ends.
- **Challenges with identifying or attracting youth providers and staff.** Many communities noted struggling to identify providers to implement youth-serving programs. They reported that it was difficult to attract providers who work with and have established relationships with youth into the field of youth homelessness. Some interviewees attributed their unwillingness to expand to homelessness services to the unpredictable and unsustainable funding streams. In particular, interviewees reported a dearth of providers that served minors experiencing homelessness, primarily due to barriers and additional resources required for organizations to serve minors, such as expensive insurance requirements.
- **Lack of affordable housing.** Many communities mentioned the impact of the state's affordable housing crisis as a challenge to preventing, addressing, and ending youth homelessness. Many communities were hesitant to use future rounds of HHAP funds on short- to medium-term rapid rehousing subsidies because many youth would not be able to shoulder the high housing cost when the subsidy ended. Interviewees from rural communities shared how several years of forest fires decimated an already limited housing stock. They also shared that housing prices had increased as remote workers moved into their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Broader societal and economic factors have hindered the creation of new programs, factors that have been further exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19.** Many communities used HHAP YSA funds to expand their emergency shelter capacity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Communities that used HHAP YSA funds for capital investments shelter encountered multiple hurdles associated with new housing construction in California, such as high material costs, labor shortages, challenges to obtaining permits, and construction delays. COVID-19 exacerbated these issues. Specifically, communities shared that issues with PG&E, supply chain issues, and increasing material and labor costs delayed

new programs for youth from opening and posed major obstacles to funding expenditures.

- **HHAP funding is renewed on an annual basis instead of being a source of ongoing funding.** The fact that HHAP funding is allocated annually is a disincentive for communities to invest in long-term strategic planning of ambitious projects requiring an ongoing stream of funding.

## The Six Communities

### San Diego County

#### Community Snapshot

San Diego County is a county on the coast of Southern California. San Diego County covers an area of 4,526 square miles making it similar in size to the state of Connecticut<sup>28,29</sup>. San Diego County's vast geography includes a mixture of urban and rural communities, from coastal beachfront to mountains and desert<sup>29</sup>. According to the 2020 Census, San Diego County has a total population of 3.2 million making it the 2nd most populated county in California<sup>30</sup>. San Diego County has healthier community conditions than 67.9% of other California counties, according to the Healthy Places Index<sup>31</sup>. The City of San Diego is the county's seat and largest city. San Diego's Continuum of Care (CoC) encompasses the entire county. Because the city of San Diego is one of the nation's largest 50 cities, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) classifies the area's CoC as a "Major City CoC"<sup>8</sup>. San Diego CoC is a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program recipient. It was awarded \$7.94 million in YHDP funds in 2017<sup>32</sup>.

#### Youth Homelessness Counts: San Diego County

According to the 2022 point-in-time count, there were 8,472 people experiencing homelessness in San Diego County on a single night in January<sup>33</sup>. Approximately 22% of the total population experiencing homelessness were individuals 0 to 25 years of age. Approximately 6% of the total population were unaccompanied minors and transitional age youth (TAY). According to California's Homelessness Management Data Integration System (HDIS), 18,136 people accessed homelessness services in San Diego's Continuum of Care in 2023, 2,379 (13%) of whom were unaccompanied youth or TAY<sup>34</sup>. According to the California Department of Education's DataQuest Homeless Student Enrollment by Dwelling Type report, 21,216 students (4%) in San Diego County's school districts experienced homelessness during the 2022-23 school year<sup>35</sup>.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Importantly, PIT count data is a count of youth over a single night employing the HUD Category 1 definition of homelessness, whereas DataQuest data is a count of students who have experienced homelessness over a school year employing the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

*Table 24. Snapshot and Youth Homelessness Data in San Diego County*

Community Characteristics	
Region	San Diego County
Classification	Urban
Size	4,526 square miles
Healthy Places Index 3.0 Score (percentile)	67.9%
Youth Homelessness	
Point-in-Time Count of YEH (2022)	1,842 (6% of total PIT count)
Percentage of Youth among Individuals Served by Local Homeless Services System	13%
YHDP Community	Yes

### **HHAP Youth Set-Aside Expenditures**

San Diego was allocated a total of \$27 million in HHAP Rounds 1-3, mandating a minimum YSA of \$2.4 million. San Diego County's obligation and expenditures are far greater than the minimum with an obligation of \$13 million of its HHAP Rounds 1-3 YSA funds (or 48%) and an expenditure (through December 2023) of \$7.8 million (or 29%). San Diego County spent 51% (\$5.1 million) of its HHAP Round 1 funds, 13% (\$591,449) of its HHAP Round 2 funds, and 16% (\$2 million) of its HHAP Round 3 funds on youth programs and services, or \$5.4 million more than the required minimum Youth Set-Aside.

According to reports provided to the research team by Cal ICH, San Diego County spent Youth Set-Aside funds on rapid rehousing, outreach and coordination, services coordination, permanent housing, and interim shelter. Youth Set-Aside dollars enabled San Diego County to create two new programs for YEH:

- **Housing Our Youth (HOY)** provides housing and services to youth and young adults up to and including 24 years of age throughout the county who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness<sup>36</sup>. HOY services include “housing, peer support, care coordination, service navigation, transportation, job preparation, subsidized employment, education assistance, tenant support, and other wrap-around services as needed to help youth remain stably housed and prepared for self-sufficiency.”
- **Community Care Coordination Straight to Home** “provides housing, intensive care coordination and service navigation to individuals who are experiencing homelessness, have high needs, including behavioral health needs and/or chronic physical health conditions, and are exiting local jails.” Program services include

housing supports, transportation assistance, workforce development, and “other wrap-around services as needed to help participants remain stably housed and prepared for self-sufficiency.” This existing program was supplemented with HHAP YSA funding to pilot a new program that includes case coordination for youth ages 18-24 exiting local jails<sup>37,38</sup>.

*Table 25. At-a-Glance: San Diego County HHAP Youth Set-Aside*

Allocation and Spending Summary	
HHAP Rounds Awarded	1, 2, and 3
Total HHAP Allocation	\$27 million
Minimum Youth Set-Aside*	\$2.4 million
Total HHAP Funds Spent on Youth	\$7.8 million
Total HHAP Funds Obligated for Youth	\$13 million
Met Minimum YSA Expenditure**	Yes (HHAP Round 1-3)
Eligible Use Category (or categories)	
Round 1	Rental assistance and rapid rehousing; outreach and coordination
Round 2	Rapid rehousing; services coordination; permanent housing and innovative solutions
Round 3	Rapid rehousing; services coordination; interim shelter
HMIS Project Type(s)	
Round 1	PH - Rapid Re-housing; services only
Round 2	PH - Rapid Re-housing; services only; transitional housing; emergency shelter
Round 3	PH - Rapid Re-housing; services only
Percentage of HHAP Funds Spent on Youth Set-Aside (as of December 2023)	
Round 1	51%
Round 2	13%
Round 3	16%

\* Calculated YSA minimum of 8-10% for HHAP Rounds 1-3 for comparison to the actual obligated and expended amounts.

\*\* N.B.: The minimum expenditure deadline has not passed for any of the rounds as of the date of this report.

## San Diego: Interim Qualitative Findings

### *YHDP Coordinated Community Plan lay the foundation for HOY Program*

The existing community plan for addressing youth homelessness developed with YHDP funding bolstered the implementation of HHAP funds in San Diego County, facilitating their ability to launch new programs. A director of a HHAP-funded youth serving organization said the HOY program had its roots in the YHDP Coordinated Community Plan (CCP):

*[HOY] actually came out of the [YHDP] Coordinated Community Plan. The county got a hold of that 100 plus page document. And you will actually see a lot of our components ... were directly pulled from that plan, which had youth involvement and had a lot of stakeholders on it."*

### *San Diego County used HHAP YSA to create a new program that expanded eligibility criteria to meet the diverse needs of youth*

According to a director of a HHAP-funded youth serving organization, HHAP YSA's flexibility and broad definition of unaccompanied youth enabled the HOY program to institute more inclusive eligibility requirements that allowed more youth to be served:

*"We don't have very stringent eligibility requirements, if you're within our age range, and you're experiencing homelessness ... we think we were able to avoid the definition barriers."*

### *HOY Helped Geographically Expand Homeless Services for Youth Throughout the County*

The HHAP funding also allowed San Diego to geographically expand its services . As described by one HHAP-funded youth service provider:

*"[There are] essentially six sub recipients who we pass the funds through. Each of our partners are also large youth serving organizations ... [that cover] the entire region of San Diego County. And there are certain orgs that have a bit more presence, whether in the South or Central or in the North."*

Stakeholders from San Diego County's Office of Homeless Solutions shared that the county convened focus groups with members from the youth advisory board and other youth that:

*"[H]elped inform the creation of the Housing Our Youth program... We heard about making sure services were available regionally, not just in one specific region."*

## *HOY Serves a Broad Range of Youth Sub-Populations*

An official from the County Office of Homeless Solutions shared,

*"Some of the things we heard is that ... we needed services that address specialty needs. There [were] a lot of strong voices about LGBTQ+ services, services for those experiencing severe mental illness, and services for those experiencing substance use disorder."*

With the support of HHAP funding, HOY convened a new community collaborative involving a wide array of organizations specializing in specific sub-populations in order to meet the unique needs of youth.:

*"[E]ach one of our partners identified a particular set of services that they specialize in. [O]ne of our partners ... specializes in individuals who are working through severe mental illness and substance use disorders, because they have facilities that are set up for humans ... who are working through ... those situations ... [T]he same is true for parenting youth, foster youth, those who have experience with trafficking or sexual exploitation in any way."*

## **Alameda County**

### **Community Snapshot**

Alameda County is an urban county located in the San Francisco Bay Area. Alameda County covers a land area of 737.5 and is the 50th largest county in California<sup>39</sup>. As of the 2020 census, the population was 1.6 million, making it the 7th-most populous county in the state<sup>40</sup>. Alameda County has healthier community conditions than 92.9% of other California Counties, according to the Healthy Places Index<sup>31</sup>. Alameda County is part of the Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County Continuum of Care. HUD classifies the area as a "Major City CoC". The CoC is a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program recipient and was awarded \$6.57 million in YHDP funds in 2020. The CoC has an active YAB called Youth About Action that is composed of 8 members between the ages of 18-26 with lived expertise of homelessness and/or who have a demonstrated commitment to ending youth homelessness<sup>41</sup>.

### **Youth Homelessness Counts: Alameda County**

According to the 2022 point-in-time count, there were 9,747 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January in Alameda County. Approximately 14% of the total population experiencing homelessness were individuals 0 to 25 years of age. Approximately 9% of the total population were unaccompanied minors and transitional age youth (TAY). According to HDIS, 13,502 people accessed homelessness services in Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County CoC in 2023, 1,220 (9%) of whom were unaccompanied youth<sup>34</sup>. According to the California Department of Education's

DataQuest Homeless Student Enrollment by Dwelling Type report, 4,771 (2%) of students in Alameda County's school districts experienced homelessness in the 2022-23 school year<sup>42</sup>.

Table 26. Alameda County Community Snapshot

Community Characteristics	
Region	Alameda County
Classification	Urban
Size	737.5 square miles
Healthy Places Index 3.0 Score (percentile)	92.9%
Youth Homelessness Response System	
Point-in-Time Count of YEH	832 (9% of total PIT count)
Percentage of Youth among Individuals Served by Local Homeless Services System	9%
YHDP Community	Yes

### Alameda County: HHAP Youth Set-Aside Expenditures

Alameda County was allocated a total of \$50 million in HHAP Rounds 1-3, mandating a YSA of \$4.4 million<sup>22</sup>. Starting in HHAP Round 1, Oakland/Berkeley, Alameda County CoC redirected all of its funds to Alameda County. The community has expended \$2 million of its HHAP Rounds YSA 1-3 funds on programs and services for youth. The community has contractually obligated \$4.6 million of its HHAP Rounds 1-3 YSA. The community has spent 9% of its HHAP Round 1 funds, 6% of its HHAP Round 2 funds, and less than 1% of its HHAP Round 3 funds. As of December 2023, Alameda County has spent 4% of its HHAP Round 1-3 funds on programs and services for youth.

According to reports provided to the research team by Cal ICH, Alameda County spent HHAP Round 1-3 Youth Set-Aside funds on outreach and coordination, prevention and diversion, operating subsidies, systems support, and shelter. Alameda County spent HHAP Round 1-3 funds on 4 programs<sup>36</sup>.

- **TAY Mid-County Shelter** is an emergency shelter with modular units that provides 24/7 services to transitional age youth (TAY) in an expanding part of the county that does not have access to TAY services. The project's goal is to provide "standardized assessment; reserved 24-hour bed availability, case management, shelter supervision, crisis intervention; meals, physical & mental health linkages; substance use/recovery services; and education/life skills curriculum to youth."

- **Access Point 8** provides a range of coordinated entry services for YEH or youth at risk of experiencing homelessness, including housing problem solving, screening, and assessment at a resource center that exclusively services youth.
- **YAB Support** provides fiscal and programmatic management of the County's YAB.
- **Youth Program Specialist** staff position to coordinate youth services activities and provide administrative and programmatic support to the non-profit that administers the YAB.

Table 27. At-a-Glance: Alameda County HHAP Youth Set-Aside Expenditures

Allocation and Spending Summary	
HHAP Rounds Awarded	1, 2, and 3
Total HHAP Allocation	\$50 million
Minimum Youth Set-Aside amount*	\$4.4 million
Total HHAP Funds Spent on Youth	\$2 million
Total HHAP Funds Obligated for Youth	\$4.6 million
Met Minimum YSA Expenditure**	Yes (HHAP Round 1)
Eligible Use Category (or categories)	
Round 1	Outreach and coordination; prevention and diversion; new navigation center and emergency shelter
Round 2	Operating subsidies; prevention and diversion
Round 3	Systems support; prevention and diversion; interim sheltering
HMIS Project Type(s)	
Round 1	Emergency shelter; coordinated entry; not in HMIS
Round 2	Emergency shelter; coordinated entry; not in HMIS
Round 3	Not in HMIS
Percentage of HHAP Funds Spent on Youth Set-Aside (as of December 2023)	
Round 1	9%
Round 2	6%
Round 3	0.2%

\*This row represents the calculated YSA minimum of 8-10% for HHAP Rounds 1-3 for comparison to the actual obligated and expended amounts.

\*\*N.B.: The minimum expenditure deadline has not passed for any of the rounds as of the date of this report

## Alameda County: Interim Qualitative Findings

### *Youth Leaders in Alameda County Appreciated HHAP's Flexibility*

HHAP helped support funding Alameda County's Youth Advisory Board, expand shelter capacity, and create a youth-specific access point. A HHAP grantee said that HHAP was pivotal to sustaining the YAB. The YAB was founded in 2020 using private dollars, in part to help meet YHDP application requirements. Despite requiring communities to have a functioning youth advisory board, HUD does not allow YHDP recipients to use YHDP funds to support YAB operations. HHAP helped fill a gap left when the private funding ended to ensure that the YAB was able to continue to work closely with city and county decision makers, service providers and community stakeholders to devise and implement the programs and policies that meet the diverse needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness<sup>41</sup>. A service provider stated, "The YAB has done lots of good work for the community."

A youth leader who worked at an emergency housing provider that received HHAP YSA funding from the City of Oakland shared how HHAP helped provide holistic services to youth in their community. HHAP funds were spent on a program that provides cabin spaces and supportive services to help youth transition to permanent housing. The youth leader shared:

*"We have some pretty cool program offerings that I've never seen at other shelters. We have personal and communal development components ... where we have workshops throughout the week that could look like financial wellness workshops, art as therapy workshops, ... and healing modality workshops." Providing these services helps create a sense of belonging and "just builds community amongst all of us because sometimes shelter environments are very cold."*

### *A "Game Changer": HHAP YSA Funds Helped Create New Programs and Sustain Existing Ones*

A HHAP-funded service provider shared that HHAP was a "game changer" for expanding the community's youth homelessness response system:

*"The HEAP and HHAP set asides were game changing for [our organization]. [HHAP] opened up doors to us that were previously we were not successful getting into. So we have expanded greatly in Alameda since the HHAP funding was released, first with the HEAP, and then the HHAP sustained it. It's helped us in a lot of ways around expanding some of our beds. We were able to [build] a whole 30 bed shelter that's going to be fully funded for at least the next year in a community that really needed it that didn't have any resources for young people. Almost that whole project was funded through the HHAP funding. As a provider who [is] about 50% government funded and 50% private donor*

*funded, that gives us a whole year to figure out how to fund something with new donors and a new community, which is a blessing.”*

The interviewee went on to share how HHAP YSA funding helped improved the community's coordinated entry system (CES) by funding a youth access point:

*“It also helped us figure out things like the [Coordinated Entry] CES Access Point, some of which was HHAP funded. And so what's really fantastic about that is it separated the youth population from the rest. ... It's still broken and not perfect, but it's an improvement for sure.”*

#### **Alameda County used HHAP YSA funds for homelessness prevention**

*“And there's funds in there for things like flexible problem solving funding, which is game changing. ... It's not uncommon for young people who have exited our program to be a year into their experience of their own place and then have a light bill that was more than they anticipated and now they can't pay their light bill or they can't pay their rent and they're having to choose. ... To help young people stay housed has been really meaningful.”*

#### **Lingering Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Supply Chain Delayed Shelter Opening**

Several participants noted how that timing of the release of HHAP Round 1 funds coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic had lasting effects on homeless services and community strategies to prevent and address homelessness. The mid-county shelter mentioned above, funded almost entirely by HHAP, was built on school district property behind a former elementary school. Not having to acquire the land undoubtedly offset some of the project's costs.

Although the shelter is built, it hasn't been able to open due to lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A HHAP grantee interviewed shared:

*“The latest holdup is around PG&E and ... having to switch the electrical boarding ... And apparently [the switch gear needed is] not being produced. [A]cross the country ... folks ... are ... waiting for these... [T]hat has to happen in order for electricity to be available on the site... [A]ll of the actual homes are on site.”*

#### **Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties Continuum of Care**

##### **Salinas/Monterey, San Benito CoC Community Snapshot**

Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Continuum of Care (CoC) is located on the central Pacific Coast of California. The CoC encompasses Monterey County and San Benito County.

Monterey County covers 3,281.7 square miles and is the 17th largest county in California by total area<sup>43</sup>. According to the 2020 Census, Monterey County has a population of 439,035<sup>44</sup>. It is the 21nd most populous county in California<sup>45</sup>. Monterey County has healthier community conditions than 46.4% of other California counties, according to the California Healthy Places Index<sup>31</sup>. San Benito County covers 1,388.7 square miles and is the 35th largest county in California by land area<sup>46</sup>. According to the 2020 Census, San Benito County has a population of 64,210<sup>47</sup>. It is the 42nd most populous county in California<sup>45</sup>. San Benito County has healthier community conditions than 62.5% of other California counties, according to the California Healthy Places Index. HUD classifies Salinas/Monterey, San Benito CoC as a largely rural CoC<sup>33</sup>. The CoC is a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) recipient for which it was awarded \$5.57 million in 2019.

### **Youth Homelessness Counts: Salinas/Monterey, San Benito CoC**

According to the 2022 point-in-time count, there were 2,404 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. Approximately 19% of the total population experiencing homelessness were Individuals 0 to 25 years of age. Approximately 9% of the total population were unaccompanied minors and transitional age youth (TAY). According to HDIS, 2,917 people accessed homelessness services in Salinas/Monterey, San Benito CoC in 2023, 151 (5%) of whom were unaccompanied youth or TAY. According to the California Department of Education's DataQuest Homeless Student Enrollment by Dwelling Type report, 11,242 (15%) students in Monterey County's school districts and 323 (2%) in San Benito County's school district experienced homelessness in 2022-23<sup>48,49</sup>.

Table 28. Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Continuum of Care (CoC) Community Snapshot

Community Characteristics	
Region	Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Continuum of Care (CoC)
Classification	Rural
Size	3,281.7 square miles (Monterey County)
	1,388.7 square miles (San Benito County)
Healthy Places Index (percentile)	46.4% (Monterey County)
	62.5% (San Benito County)
Youth Homelessness Response System	
Point-in-Time Count of YEH	214 (9% of total PIT count)
Percentage of Youth among Individuals Served by Local Homeless Services System	5%
YHDP Community	Yes

## **Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties CoC: HHAP Youth Set-Aside Expenditures**

Salinas/Monterey, San Benito CoC was allocated a total of \$8.7 million in HHAP Rounds 1-3, mandating a minimum Youth Set-Aside of \$780,106<sup>22</sup>. The CoC has obligated all of its HHAP Rounds 1-3 YSA dollars. As of December 2023, the CoC has spent \$343,089 of its HHAP Rounds 1-3 funds on the Youth Set-Aside, or 4% of its HHAP Round 1-3 funds. This includes 8% of its HHAP Round 1 funds, 5% of its HHAP Round 2 funds, and less than 1% to date of its HHAP Round 3 Youth Set-Aside funds.

According to reports provided to the research team by Cal ICH, Salinas/Monterey, San Benito CoC spent Youth Set-Aside funds on rapid rehousing, operating subsidies, and outreach and coordination. According to annual reports provided to the research team, the community spent HHAP YSA funds on 6 projects <sup>22</sup>:

- **Housing Navigation and Stabilization Services** provides housing navigation services to youth referred to rapid rehousing in Monterey County.
- **The Salinas Valley and Monterey Peninsula Street Outreach Program** provides shelter “to homeless women and families with children,” as well as case management, wrap-around services, and connections to housing for all shelter guests.
- **The San Benito Youth Homeless Program** provides assessments, case management, individual services planning, and housing support and placement for youth.
- **Safe Place Emergency Housing** provides year-round emergency shelter for Transition Age Youth (TAY) between the ages of 18-24. The program has 12 beds and provides case management support and housing assistance.
- **The Navigation Center Operating Subsidies** is an emergency shelter program with the goal of opening up a new navigation center where “clients feel safe and included” and they can access case management, wrap-around services and other community referrals.

Table 29. At-a-Glance: Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties CoC HHAP YSA

Allocation and Spending Summary	
HHAP Rounds Awarded	1, 2, and 3
Total HHAP Allocation	\$8.7 million
Minimum Youth Set-Aside amount*	\$780,106
Total HHAP Funds Spent on Youth	\$343,089
Total HHAP Funds Obligated for Youth	\$780,106
Met Minimum YSA Expenditure**	Yes (HHAP Round 1)
Eligible Use Category (or categories)	
Round 1	Rental assistance and rapid rehousing; outreach and coordination
Round 2	Rapid rehousing
Round 3	Operating subsidies; street outreach
HMIS Project Type(s)	
Round 1	PH - Rapid re-housing; street outreach
Round 2	PH - Rapid re-housing
Round 3	Emergency shelter
Percentage of HHAP Funds Spent on Youth Set-Aside (as of December 2023)	
Round 1	8%
Round 2	5%
Round 3	0.5%

\*This row represents the calculated YSA minimum of 8-10% for HHAP Rounds 1-3 for comparison to the actual obligated and expended amounts.

\*\*N.B.: The minimum expenditure deadline has not passed for any of the rounds as of the date of this report.

### Salinas/Monterey San Benito CoC: Interim Qualitative Findings

*HHAP supported the ongoing operations of programs that were created with one-time HEAP funds*

Cal ICH's 2018 Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) was a precursor to HHAP and provided \$500 million in one-time funding to communities in California. The community used HEAP funds for outreach and shelter. While this one-time funding helped communities establish these critically important programs, the lack of ongoing funding to support operations put the future of these programs at risk. One participant from Monterey County's Department of Social Services explained:

*"When HEAP funding came out back in 2019, we established some key programs that didn't exist in our community anymore at that point in time. We had no outreach teams. We had a huge gap in shelter beds for any population at all and that funding came in and injected a huge resource into addressing homeless needs at that time and it was a one-time pot. It came in, it did all of these amazing things and then disappeared, leaving us completely blindsided of how we were going to keep these things running and nobody had answers. And so HHAP really came in after it and you know served as this way to ensure that huge investments that our community has established are able to stay operational."*

### **Challenges Locating and Engaging Youth**

When asked about youth engagement, one youth leader who works at her community's CoC lead agency noted that one barrier to engagement is not being able to reach eligible youth. In addition, some YEH with whom they are able to get in contact turn down services, such as transitional housing programs. The youth leader suggested this might be because the programs she is able to offer are temporary. She told a story about a client who was kicked out of a TH program for violence and was denied from another program due to the alleged violent behavior. But a couple months later, that same client was referred to a rapid re-housing program and was able to find an apartment. Timing and fit of the program is important to understanding may lead YEH to engage or disengage. She noted that the CoC amended their referral process in order to conduct a case conference between the CoC, youth provider, and the client to assess whether the client was willing to engage in the program. She mentioned that there is a push and pull between ensuring their referral rate is high and ensuring the client's needs fits the program:

*"When I am sending youth referrals out to programs, a big challenge is getting a hold of them. Just because if they had a phone that's no longer in service and they're eligible... but then I can't get a hold of them...There actually have been some instances where I was able to get a hold of someone and they declined. I feel bad because it's transitional and it's temporary... I think maybe the reason why they're declining is because of the barriers of those programs. [The program I offered] is co-ed and is shared."*

Another stakeholder shared that another barrier is the lack of knowledge regarding available programs among youth and their general mistrust in the system.

*"Sometimes they don't know exactly where to go. Then when they are able to find providers or places to provide the services that they need, they run into trust issues. ... Some clients who are located in Salinas don't want to relocate to Monterey."*

### ***Challenges to and Importance of Maintaining a Youth Advisory Board (YAB)***

Some interviewees shared that the YAB had been thriving during the YHDP planning phase but that attendance had since dwindled due to limited capacity of current youth members and limited staff capacity to recruit new members. A CoC lead who is temporarily filling the role of supporting the YAB noted that there has been a steady decline in youth participation, despite the provision of a stipend and transportation costs. An interviewee shared an explanation for why it may be hard to retain YAB members. They shared:

*"I'm finding that the majority of the YAB members that we do have, they don't show up to the meetings or they're just really busy and don't have the capacity to engage the community."*

Another interviewee offered:

*"They are moving into stable housing. Most of them are going to school, so I will say it's because they are super busy with school and I completely get it right. They're finally in a safe place and they want to really focus on their education."*

YABs are imperative to ensure youth have a seat at the table so that homeless programs are impactful and effective. A youth leader highlighted that if youth are not incorporated into the process, the needs of youth will not be addressed:

*"I think decision making as an older adult partner will be unsuccessful for youth if the set-aside funds don't include youth. Because you really don't know the needs of youth and young adults if you're just speaking on behalf of them and you're not literally hearing it from their mouths and what they need. Because it's essentially for [youth]. So I think involving them as much as possible can be really beneficial to the success of the spread out of the funds."*

### ***External Barriers to Implementing Programs***

Communities using HHAP funds for capital investments to expand the capacity of their homelessness response systems experienced external barriers to implementing programs. Delays associated with construction prevent programs from serving youth. A service provider stated:

*"With some projects, it's getting the right permits or getting access to the buildings that they want. We did have some issues with PG&E...I know that we had to stop some of our tiny home stuff because PG&E just wasn't moving fast enough so everything just kind of*

*stopped. So yes, I think it's those outside factors that we're having to deal with. I know if it was up to our directors, it'd be done and up and running but because we are running into all these different things. The bureaucracy is very slow."*

*The effectiveness of HHAP is hampered by the fact that it is not a dependable, ongoing source of funding.*

Stakeholders spoke to the challenges of creating and maintaining effective programs, recruiting and retaining staff, and finding new youth providers through the unknowns of HHAP sustainability. Like its predecessor (HEAP), HHAP is a one-time block grant program that is appropriated annually through the Governor's budget process. HHAP has been appropriated by the legislature every year since 2019, however, the funding is not guaranteed. The lack of sustainable funding hampers communities' abilities to create and maintain programs that meaningfully address and prevent homelessness. When participants in a focus group composed of HHAP grantees and service providers were asked about barriers and obstacles the community experienced in planning the types of projects to fund using HHAP YSA dollars, they emphasized how the lack of consistent and sustainable funding prevents communities from creating and maintaining programs to expand their ability to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

*"We don't solve homelessness in 12 months. You don't get a program up and off the ground operational and successful in doing what it needs to do even in the terms of a HHAP agreement in 4 or 5 years. You know, to see so much more going to something that has sustainability and could very well likely disappear after that time is heartbreaking for the people who are working so passionately to try and get these things off the ground. So, I think there's a lot of aspects of this whole way we're addressing homelessness for all populations is organized when we provide almost no sustainability to the whole effort."*

Furthermore the lack of sustainability of HHAP funding hampers the ability of programs to recruit and retain talented people to work within the homelessness response system.

*"[W]e're really not supporting new programs or new providers to get into this field. [The lack of sustainability of HHAP funding] hinders our ability to recruit talented people or people who are excited and wanted to do this work when they don't really feel a sense of stability."*

## Visalia/Kings Tulare Counties Continuum of Care

### Visalia/Kings Tulare Counties CoC Community Snapshot

Visalia/Kings Tulare Counties Continuum of Care (CoC) is located in Central California and is part of the San Joaquin Valley region. The CoC encompasses the city of Visalia,

Kings County, and Tulare County. Kings County covers 1,391 square miles and is the 34th largest county in California by total area. According to the 2020 Census, Kings County has a population of 152,486. It is the 33rd most populous county in the state<sup>45</sup>. Kings County has healthier community conditions than 8.9% of other California counties, according to the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) 3.0<sup>31</sup>.

Tulare County covers 4,824 square miles and is the 7th largest county in California by land area<sup>50</sup>. According to the 2020 Census, Tulare County has a population of 473,117. It is the 18th most populous county in the state<sup>45</sup>. Tulare County has healthier community conditions than 0% of other California counties, according to the California HPI 3.0. HUD classifies Visalia/Kings Tulare Counties CoC as a largely suburban CoC. The CoC has not received Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) funding.

### **Youth Homelessness Counts: Visalia/Kings Tulare Counties CoC**

According to the 2022 point-in-time count, there were 1,235 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. Approximately 13% of the total population experiencing homelessness were individuals 0 to 25 years of age. Approximately 4% of the total population were unaccompanied minors and transitional age youth (TAY). According to California's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS), 1,309 people accessed homelessness services in Visalia/Kings Tulare Counties CoC in 2023, 217 (16%) of those who accessed services were unaccompanied minors or TAY. According to the California Department of Education's DataQuest Homeless Student Enrollment by Dwelling Type report, 780 (3%) of students in Kings County and 3,301 (3%) of students in Tulare County school districts experienced homelessness in the 2022-23 school year<sup>51,52</sup>.

Table 30. Visalia/Kings Tulare Counties CoC Community Snapshot

Community Characteristics	
Region	Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties CoC
Classification	Suburban
Size	Kings County: 1,391 sq miles Tulare County: 4,823 sq miles
Healthy Places Index 3.0 Score (percentile)	67.9%
Youth Homelessness Response System	
Point-in-Time Count of YEH	53 (6% of total population)
Percentage of Youth among Individuals Served by Local Homeless Services System	16%
YHDP Community	No

## **Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties CoC: HHAP Youth Set-Aside Expenditures**

Visalia/Kings Tulare Counties CoC was allocated a total of \$4.3 million in HHAP Rounds 1-3, mandating a YSA of \$378,032. As of December 2023, Visalia/Kings Tulare obligated and spent \$203,585. The community has spent 5% of its HHAP Rounds 1-3 funds overall on the Youth Set-Asid, including 6% of its HHAP Round 1 funds, 8% of its HHAP Round 2 and 2% of its HHAP Round 3 funds on youth programs and services.

According to reports provided to the research team by Cal ICH, Visalia/Kings Tulare Counties CoC spent Youth Set-Aside funds on operating subsidies, permanent housing and innovative solutions, and services coordination<sup>22</sup>. Youth Set-Aside dollars enabled the CoC to support 4 programs for YEH:

- **Eden House** is a 23-bed public facility for adults experiencing homelessness that provides beds to people awaiting permanent housing placement for 60-90 days. HHAP Round 1 funds were used to support shelter operations.
- **Porterville Welcome Center** is a 30-bed interim shelter that consists of 15 emergency shelter beds and 15 bridge housing beds. The site serves adults experiencing homelessness. Three of the shelter beds and 3 of the bridge housing beds are dedicated to transitional youth, ages 18-24 who are experiencing homelessness. The shelter welcomes guests' partners and 1 pet on site. The project also provides space for storage of guests' possessions.
- **Youth Action Board (YAB)** The YAB is an advocacy group made up of youth and young adults who are currently experiencing or have experienced homelessness. YAB members help raise awareness and provide a voice for young people with lived expertise.
- **Building Community: Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness** will provide services to residents of the Neighborhood Village. The Neighborhood Village will be a 53-unit permanent housing community in Tulare County; all referrals will be made through the Coordinated Entry System. The HHAP funds will be used for case management for at least 20 YEH.

Table 31. At-a-Glance: Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties CoC HHAP Youth Set-Aside

Allocation and Spending Summary	
HHAP Rounds Awarded	1, 2, and 3
Total HHAP Allocation	\$4.3 million
Minimum Youth Set-Aside amount*	\$378,032
Total HHAP Funds Spent on Youth	\$203,585
Total HHAP Funds Obligated for Youth	\$203,585
Met Minimum YSA Expenditure**	No
Eligible Use Category (or categories)	
Round 1	Operating subsidies
Round 2	Permanent housing and innovative solutions
Round 3	Services coordination
HMIS Project Type(s)	
Round 1	Emergency shelter
Round 2	Data not available
Round 3	Services only
Percentage of HHAP Funds Spent on Youth Set-Aside (as of December 2023)	
Round 1	6%
Round 2	8%
Round 3	2%

\*This row represents the calculated YSA minimum of 8-10% for HHAP Rounds 1-3 for comparison to the actual obligated and expended amounts.

\*\*N.B.: The minimum expenditure deadline has not passed for any of the rounds as of the date of this report.

### Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties CoC: Interim Qualitative Findings

During the outreach phase, the research team was able to interview HHAP grantees, HHAP-funded service providers, and non-HHAP funded youth service providers. Given the short timeframe of data collection, the research team was not able to interview youth with lived expertise or representatives from the continuum of care.

## **Community Data Shows Number of Youth Experiencing Homelessness Higher than Point-in-Time (PIT) Count**

A HHAP-funded service provider shared that the client-level data their organization collects shows a much higher number of youth ages 18-25 experiencing homelessness compared to the PIT count.

*"Tulare County has a really high population of people experiencing homelessness per capita, even though sometimes our PIT counts don't show that. Our point-in-time counts don't all show accurate numbers, we have internal data that shows us but we have a very high number of youth 18 to 25 who have aged out of the foster care system."*

Another interviewee from a HHAP-funded service provider described the range of paths that lead to youth homelessness in the community:

*"It is not HUD's definition. Youth homelessness looks like the LGBTQ+ community being pushed out. It looks like foster youth who've aged out of the system [who have no income] or don't qualify for TAY housing. It also looks like sex trafficking or cycles of violence. It's a mixture of individuals."*

The interviewee added that many youth in the community are couchsurfing and that her organization hopes to:

*"Get traditional case managers to understand that a youth experiencing homelessness might look different than an adult. It may not be chronic homelessness. The challenges are changing old school perspectives and changing the way that we case manage."*

## **Youth Face Multiple Barriers When Trying to Access Services**

A stakeholder from a non-HHAP funded program that works with students experiencing homelessness noted that one of the biggest barriers to helping youth get access to services is bureaucracy. She shared of her experience helping a young person access services through 211:

*"They transferred me to the housing navigator, and I couldn't even leave a message. The mailbox was full. And so I'm trying to help this youth and I realized, like, I consider myself to be a somewhat competent adult. And I'm trying to navigate a system that's extremely frustrating for me. How is a youth with an intellectual disability going to navigate that system? Or any sort of mental health issues? Or, you know, there's all these things that are getting in the way? So I think the biggest barrier is, like the bureaucracy of it, the fact that it's, the system is extremely hard to navigate."*

An interviewee with Tulare County shared that housing youth is a challenge. During the pandemic, the community did a 100-day challenge to house 100 youth in 100 days. The effort did not go as hoped due to multiple issues, including the pandemic, difficulty engaging youth, minimal housing stock, and youth-specific barriers to renting apartments.

*“Due to the pandemic, and in particular, the eviction moratorium, housing was deadlocked. You really couldn't find apartments anywhere.”*

The interviewee continued:

*“Engaging youth in particular is a problem. You have all of the normal sort of remaining in contact with people, kinds of issues that you do with adults, but now there's typically additional layers on top of that. Adults can go and get burner phones very easily. A youth with no resources can't. ... And then what I would consider ... discrimination against people with no rental histories, no work, etc., versus those that do have those things. So the youth couldn't compete with other people that were in a highly competitive environment. I mean, they're competing with people with 20 and 30 year histories for apartments.”*

The interviewee also shared how

*“Another challenge is that homeless response systems aren't really built or funded for unaccompanied youth. And that's a major challenge. You can't send a youth to a homeless shelter when they're unaccompanied and underage. There's a lack of those sorts of resources for them as well.”*

#### ***Unpredictability of HHAP Encourages Communities to Focus on Short-Term Investments***

HHAP funding is appropriated annually. This community leveraged HHAP funds on short-term investments because of the funding source's unpredictability. An interviewee from Tulare County shared:

*“One of our overall funding strategies with HHAP is to not make long-term investments or long-term programs, because we knew this funding was temporary and one-time. We didn't even know if future rounds of HHAP would come about. I do find it interesting in the rhetoric where people will mention [that] counties didn't have these overarching funding strategies and priorities in place. We didn't know if funding was going to come or not. We couldn't strategize. If we had known there would be five rounds of HHAP, our planning process would have looked completely different.”*

They shared how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the county's funding strategy:

*"The first round of HHAP came at a time when it was the start of the pandemic. And everyone was scrambling for emergency support. Long-term planning just was not possible."*

#### ***HHAP Application Process Not Conducive to Community Engagement***

An interviewee shared that the HHAP application process prevents communities from engaging a diverse set of stakeholders to inform how to use the funds.

*"The state didn't give us any time to plan HHAP or go through a strategic planning process that includes all of these people. You have three months from issuance to turning it in."*

#### ***Innovative Housing Program Will Use HHAP Round 4 Funds to Provide Services to Youth***

A nonprofit organization in Tulare County is building a community complex called the Neighborhood Village. The Village is modeled after the Community First! Village in Austin, TX. The Village will have 53 fully furnished modular homes for rent, complete with in-unit kitchens and bathrooms. It will have a suite of services including on-site case management, wraparound physical and mental health services, care coordination, benefits navigation, and workforce development and training. HHAP Round 4 YSA funds will provide case management for 20 youth. The organization spearheading the Village is relatively new. The founder of the Village shared:

*"We feel like when people come ... back into a space where they feel like they belong, and are in relationship with humans and in community, that's when the really good stuff starts to happen. And then we hope that people get into jobs, and take part in the activities we're going to be offering. We have a peace garden. We have a permaculture garden. We have a culinary training program that'll help in the community kitchen, we have a dog park for our neighbors, and they can have dogs in their home."*

The organization overseeing the Village plans to use both quantitative and qualitative metrics to assess outcomes. One metric is called the Hope Index. Hope Index Scores are questionnaires that aim to objectively assess hope, which is defined as "the state of mind which results from the positive outcome of ego strength, perceived human family support, religion, education, and economic assets"<sup>53</sup>.

*"We've housed over 90 people, that's a lot for one little agency with one case manager, and we're keeping them housed, while everyone keeps asking me how well this hope and*

*hope and dignity index is going to give us a lot of that data. Yeah, it speaks to the way we care for our neighbors. That is wholly different than has been done in this county before. The Hope Index was born out of trying to measure our impact, not by numbers, but by qualitative data. We're trying to pull that to inform the way that we write proposals and broadcast our messages."*

## Lake County Continuum of Care

### Lake County CoC Community Snapshot

Lake County CoC is located in Northern California and is part of the state's Wine Country<sup>54</sup>. Lake County covers 1,255 square miles and is the 38th largest county in California by total area<sup>43</sup>. According to the 2020 Census, Lake County has a population of 68,163, making it the 40th most populous county in the state<sup>45</sup>. Lake County has healthier community conditions than 17.9% of other California counties, according to the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) 3.0<sup>31</sup>. The CoC has not received Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) funding.

### Youth Homelessness Counts: Lake County CoC

According to the 2022 point-in-time count, there were 339 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. Approximately 15% of the total population experiencing homelessness were individuals 0 to 25 years of age. Approximately 9% of the total population were unaccompanied minors and transitional age youth (TAY). According to California's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS), 256 people accessed homelessness services in Lake County CoC in 2023, 17 (7%) of whom were unaccompanied minors or TAY. According to the California Department of Education's DataQuest Homeless Student Enrollment by Dwelling Type report, 678 (6%) of students in Lake County school districts experienced homelessness in the 2022-23 school year<sup>55</sup>.

Table 32. Lake County CoC Community Snapshot

Community Characteristics	
Region	Lake County CoC
Classification	Rural
Size	1,255 square miles
Healthy Places Index 3.0 Score (percentile)	17.9%
Youth Homelessness Response System	
Point-in-Time Count of YEH	29 (9% of total population)
Percentage of Youth among Individuals Served by Local Homeless Services System	7%
YHDP Community	No

### Lake County CoC: HHAP Youth Set-Aside Expenditures

Lake County CoC was allocated a total of \$1.3 million in HHAP Rounds 1-3, mandating a YSA of \$121,065. The community has obligated and spent \$21,215 or 3% of its HHAP Rounds 1-3 funding on youth programs and services. The community has spent 3% of its HHAP Round 1 funds, 3% of its HHAP Round 2. The community has not yet spent its HHAP 3 Youth Set-Aside funds.

Lake County CoC spent Youth Set-Aside funds on new navigation centers and emergency shelters, operating subsidies, and street outreach. Youth Set-Aside dollars enabled the CoC to support 3 programs for YEH:

- **Hope Center** provides interim housing while clients work with housing navigators to pursue permanent housing.
- **Homeless Youth, General Guidance, and Emergency Shelter** provides housing navigation and supportive services to homeless student age youth and families. This program is led by the Lake County Office of Education's McKinney-Vento Liaison.
- **SSSF – Emergency Shelter (HHAP III)** is a temporary emergency warming shelter. This shelter was enacted after the full time emergency shelter had closed. The warming shelter served clients from February through October 2023.

Table 33. At-a-Glance: Lake County CoC HHAP Rounds 1-3 Youth Set-Aside

Allocation and Spending Summary	
HHAP Rounds Awarded	1, 2, and 3
Total HHAP Allocation	\$1.3 million
Minimum Youth Set-Aside amount*	\$121,065
Total HHAP Funds Spent for Youth	\$21,215
Total HHAP Funds Obligated on Youth	\$121,065
Met Minimum YSA Expenditure**	No
Eligible Use Category (or categories)	
Round 1	New navigation centers and emergency shelters
Round 2	Operating subsidies
Round 3	Operating subsidies; street outreach
HMIS Project Type(s)	
Round 1	Emergency shelter
Round 2	Emergency shelter; services only
Round 3	Emergency shelter
Percentage of HHAP Funds Spent on Youth Set-Aside (as of December 2023)	
Round 1	3%
Round 2	3%
Round 3	0%

\*This row represents the calculated YSA minimum of 8-10% for HHAP Rounds 1-3 for comparison to the actual obligated and expended amounts.

\*\*N.B.: The minimum expenditure deadline has not passed for any of the rounds as of the date of this report.

## Lake County CoC: Interim Qualitative Findings

### YSA Funds Supported Services to Address Student Homelessness

A county department received YSA funding to support families and students experiencing homelessness in the Upper Lake County area. There are no family or youth shelters in Lake County. The community has come up with creative solutions to fill the gap. A HHAP-funded youth service provider who worked with students experiencing homelessness in the area explained:

*"We're a very poor, poor county. A lot of our families and students live in trailers, with no running water, no electricity. So we see a lot of couchsurfing families. [W]e don't have*

*anything in our county for homeless youth or families. There's no shelter for our families. ... We don't like to, but we can send them to the State Park and help pay for that. And I think that gets them 29 days there when the weather's good."*

A HHAP grantee similarly noted the county did not have shelters up until the pandemic. She shared:

*"Because of COVID, we were finally able to have emergency shelters in Lake County, starting in 2020. Before that, it was just warming shelters." The only resource for transition age youth (TAY) is "a transitional housing facility that holds maybe four families for TAY parenting youth."*

#### ***Limited Affordable Housing Stock Compounded by Fires***

An interviewee shared that the community had limited affordable housing and that the housing stock had been decimated by fires in the area.

*"Like everybody else in California, affordable housing is a challenge. Another struggle that we have faced in Lake County, between 2015 and believe it was 2021, we had a fire every year that took out a significant portion of our housing stock."*

#### ***Positive Outcomes with Limited Resources for Students who Experience Structural Barriers***

Age is a huge barrier for students experiencing homelessness trying to access services. The county offered to temporarily house people in hotels, but an interviewee added, "The challenge with students is that a lot of them are underage. We can't put them in a hotel."

Lake County's program for students experiencing homelessness provides youth with flexible funding to stay with friends or family members. The community hopes to expand this program using HHAP Round 5 YSA funds. The interviewee shared that youth are "[A]ble to stay in a friend's house. [We give] them \$100 a week, to keep them in housing, to help cover food costs, or hygiene."

The program helped five students this year. The community was able to see positive outcomes, despite extremely limited resources. The interviewee added, "All of our students are in stable housing. And they're all on track to graduate. And it's great. And a couple of them are working."

## Long Beach Continuum of Care

### Long Beach CoC: Community Snapshot

Long Beach is a city in Southern California that covers approximately 52 square miles on the southern coast of Los Angeles County<sup>56</sup>. According to the 2020 Census, Long Beach has a population of 466,742<sup>57</sup>. Long Beach is one of four CoCs in Los Angeles County<sup>58</sup>. Long Beach has healthier community conditions than 43.1% of other California cities and towns<sup>59</sup>. HUD classifies Long Beach as a major city CoC. Long Beach does not have a youth advisory board that works exclusively on issues related to homelessness and has not applied for YHDP funding. However, Long Beach has a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) composed of 11 members between the ages of 16 and 26<sup>60</sup>. The YAC works on issues that impact all Long Beach youth residents, including mental health, affordable housing, and transportation<sup>61</sup>. Long Beach is part of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative, which received a Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grant in June 2024.

### Youth Homelessness Counts: Long Beach CoC

According to the 2022 point-in-time count, there were 3,296 people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach CoC on a single night in January. Approximately 6% of the total population experiencing homelessness were individuals 0 to 25 years of age. Approximately 4% of the total population were unaccompanied minors and transitional age youth (TAY) under the age of 25. According to California's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS), 5,243 people accessed homelessness services in Long Beach CoC in 2023, 307 (6%) of whom were unaccompanied minors or TAY<sup>62</sup>. According to the California Department of Education's DataQuest Homeless Student Enrollment by Dwelling Type report, 6,182 (9%) students in Long Beach Unified School District experienced homelessness in the 2022-23 school year<sup>63</sup>.

Table 34. Long Beach CoC Community Snapshot

Community Characteristics	
Region	Long Beach Continuum of Care
Classification	Urban
Size	52 square miles
Healthy Places Index 3.0 Score (percentile)	43.1%
Youth Homelessness Response System	
Point-in-Time Count of YEH	119 (4% of total population)
Percentage of Youth among Individuals Served by Local Homeless Services System	6%
YHDP Community	No

### Long Beach CoC: HHAP Youth Set-Aside Expenditures

The Long Beach CoC was allocated a total of \$14 million in HHAP Rounds 1-3 funds, mandating a minimum Youth Set-Aside of \$1.3 million. The city of Long Beach and Long Beach CoC were allocated HHAP funding in Round 1. The city of Long Beach was awarded a total of \$4.6 million in HHAP Round 1, with a minimum youth-set aside of \$372,048.43. Long Beach CoC was awarded \$2,231,141.93 in HHAP Round 1, with a minimum youth-set aside of \$178,491.35. Starting in HHAP Round 2, the city of Long Beach redirected its funds to Long Beach CoC. As of December 2023, Long Beach CoC has not obligated or spent any of its HHAP Rounds 1-3 Youth Set-Aside funds. A HHAP grantee interviewed shared:

*"[W]ith our HHAP ... Youth Set-Aside funds. We have used it primarily for the acquisition and capital for a youth congregate shelter."*

Similar to other communities that used HHAP funds to build interim housing, the community has invested in a shelter that has yet to open. The HHAP grantee explained:

*"We have funds set aside for the operations but because of ... delays with sighting, with construction, all those land use kinds of issues, that's meant that we've been delayed in implementing what would have been our primary youth resource here in Long Beach."*

Table 35. At-a-Glance: Long Beach CoC HHAP Youth Set-Aside

Allocation and Spending Summary	
HHAP Rounds Awarded	1, 2, and 3
Total HHAP Allocation	\$14 million (Long Beach CoC, HHAP Round 1-3) \$4.6 million (Long Beach City, HHAP Round 1)
Minimum Youth Set-Aside amount*	\$1.3 million (Long Beach CoC, HHAP Round 1-3) \$372,048 (Long Beach City, HHAP Round 1)
Total HHAP Funds Spent on Youth	\$0
Total HHAP Funds Obligated for Youth	\$0
Met Minimum YSA Expenditure**	No

Eligible Use Category (or categories)	
Rounds 1-3	Not specified
HMIS Project Type(s)	
Rounds 1-3	Not specified
Percentage of HHAP Funds Spent on Youth Set-Aside (as of December 2023)	
Round 1	0%
Round 2	0%
Round 3	0%

\*This row represents the calculated YSA minimum of 8-10% for HHAP Rounds 1-3 for comparison to the actual obligated and expended amounts.

\*\*N.B.: The minimum expenditure deadline has not passed for any of the rounds as of the date of this report.

### Long Beach CoC: Interim Qualitative Findings

#### *COVID-19 Emergency Response Led to Rapid Program Implementation Without a Holistic Plan*

A HHAP grantee that worked for the CoC shared how the rapid expansion of the CoC's homelessness response system funding during the COVID-19 pandemic impacted how communities chose to spend the HHAP funds. The timing of HHAP Round 1 and HHAP Round 2 occurred during a time when communities were responding to a public health emergency. The priority for many communities was rapidly expanding shelter and temporary housing capacity to ensure people experiencing homelessness had a place to safely shelter-in-place.

*"Funding is always a challenge. [S]ome other context: Here in Long Beach our CoC really largely operates off of just HUD federal COC funds up until about maybe 2019 or so. And then with HHAP all of a sudden programming and funding, expanded, you've got COVID, that comes up, and then there's COVID funds, ESG Cares Act. Programming and funding expands even more, but it happens during a time when ... all of our services and systems are really disrupted. So there's been this ... rapid growth and expansion of ... funding. But in ways that weren't super intentional to really assess the system, its needs, and then sort of scaffold programs into a holistic system model or system plan."*

The participant went on to explain how the priority for many communities during COVID-19 was rapidly expanding shelter and temporary housing capacity to ensure people experiencing homelessness had a place to safely shelter-in-place.

*"There's been lots of ... [rapid] program implementation, lots of standing up congregate shelters and things like that. Lots of acquisition and capital work ... we've been building up the access to the front door of the system, without necessarily having... a lot of tailored programming and services for special needs populations like youth."*

#### ***Federal Restrictions that Disproportionately Impact Youth Prevented Alternative Use of HHAP Funds***

Long Beach CoC estimates that the youth shelter is about a year away from opening. The CoC sought alternative ways to spend the YSA funds. For example, they attempted to spend HHAP dollars to temporarily house youth in a permanent supportive housing campus that had vacant units. A participant explained:

*"The developer/owner operator had reached out around the same time that we got notified that there was gonna be construction delays, and they let us know that they had underutilized units." The CoC planned to "take the operations dollars from the shelter and just move it to operations and lease and service" but "because the construction was funded by HUD, they've got a regulatory agreement that no one can be a full time student and live on the campus."*

Due to restrictions in the eligibility criteria for certain federally funded housing programs, youth who would otherwise qualify to live in permanent housing are deemed ineligible if they attend school full-time.<sup>4</sup>

#### ***Long Beach's Youth Advisory Council is Eager to Contribute to Planning How to Use the HHAP YSA Funds***

Long Beach has an active Youth Advisory Council that works on local social issues that impact the health of youth in the community. The council is composed of youth representatives from 11 districts. The Youth Advisory Council is housed within the Office of Health and Human Services' Office of Youth Development. Youth are paid for their time in exchange for their expertise on issues related to housing, transportation, youth development, planning for the future, and community care.

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<sup>4</sup> The National Network for Youth (NN4Y) is advocating for legislation to change this restriction because it disproportionately impacts youth. The bill would ensure that youth and young adults, as well as veterans who have experienced homelessness, can live in an affordable home while simultaneously pursuing education<sup>62</sup>.

When asked what interventions would serve the needs of youth in Long Beach, a youth leader shared

*"People just need somewhere to be, which really speaks to how uncomfortable our public and open spaces might be. And I feel like there's been a lot of push towards having more free centers."*

The Youth Advisory Council's goals and objectives are summarized in the Youth and Emerging Adults Strategic Plan<sup>60</sup>. A youth leader further explained the role of the council:

*"[T]he work that we do is mostly in response to move this new strategic plan forward. And this is a result of conversations with, at this point, I think nearly 1,000 youth. [O]ne of the goals is addressing housing. And for the most part, we've been trying to do this with the youth ... participatory budgeting process, which is at this point only \$400,000. [W]hich isn't enough to actually make some long term changes with all of the organizations that are involved."*

Youth in Long Beach are politically engaged, highly organized, and are experts regarding the needs of youth in their community. The youth leader interviewed shared their eagerness to be involved in conversations around the Youth Set-Aside.

*"[W]e've been advocating for more money...So I wonder how our Office of Youth Development can get involved with making sure that this [HHAP funding] is something that folks are talking about."*

Long Beach's CoC Board voted to create a lived experience CoC sub-committee. A HHAP grantee shared:

*"We are using HHAP funds to staff a position to oversee our boards and commissions. That person would also oversee the implementation of a youth lived experience board as well.... We've got a person identified. They'll move into the position and start working on the youth board"*

# Interim Recommendations

- **Make HHAP a permanent funding source.** Our qualitative data were loud and clear: the efficacy of HHAP is hampered by a pervasive fear that the funding will not be renewed for a new or subsequent round. This fear was renewed by the Governor's recently proposed budget for 2024-25 in the light of the state's fiscal deficit, although ultimately funding for Round 6 was included in the 2024-2025 Budget Act. Homelessness is a challenge in California in both years of deficit and surplus. Communities cannot continue their work and invest in ambitious solutions without stable funding.
- **Leverage HHAP YSA funding for the greatest impact on California homelessness overall.** Addressing, preventing, and ending youth homelessness will reduce one path into chronic adult homelessness. This is therefore a key strategy for the prevention of chronic adult homelessness. One way this can be done is to incentivize local communities to increase their YSA amount, as was done by San Diego (described in our case studies) for example and multiple other small and large communities. Another way this can be done is to divert unspent non-YSA funds into the YSA program, particularly to increase YSA funds for low HPI and rural communities.
- **YHDP communities are more likely to have systems and structures in place to meet the needs of YEH. California can maximize the benefit and impact of HHAP funds by ensuring the YHDP structures are available to all California communities.** This can be accomplished in a number of ways:
  - California can incentivize and provide TA for all communities, who are not current YHDP grantees, to apply for YHDP
  - California, as the state with the largest PEH population, can advocate with its Federal partners to make YHDP a national, permanent program for all CoCs, not simply a pilot program. This could start with extending the program to all CoCs in California, given the national focus on homelessness in California.
  - California can create a California-specific YHDP.
- **Incentivize all HHAP communities to implement a youth-inclusive youth homelessness response system.** These criteria include, but are not limited to, those described in Tables 2, 10, and 13-15.

As documented throughout this report, communities are in a very different state of readiness to accomplish this goal. In particular, communities with fewer resources (low HPI tertile communities) and rural communities already bear an enormous

burden with limited resources. Thus, we do not recommend requiring these criteria for all communities without first ensuring they have sufficient support and/or funding.

- **Youth voice and youth engagement are a best practice according to national and international guidelines. Youth engagement should be incorporated at all levels of the youth homelessness response system and in the implementation of HHAP YSA funding.** As demonstrated in this report, if HHAP YSA funds are employed to allow communities to support YABs, this will amplify youth voice, inform spending, and improve programming. This can be promoted by:
  - **Rewarding communities that invest YSA funds in a YAB**, in particular for establishing a YAB and/or to promote the sustainability of an established YAB. In addition, promote best practices in the maintenance of a YAB.
  - **Rewarding communities that invest funds to ensure the Incorporation of youth voice not only in recommendations, but also in decision-making** regarding about types of projects to fund and which organizations should be selected as implementing partners
- **Increase cross-sector referrals** to the youth homelessness response system. Youth's first contact as they become homeless is often in the educational or medical setting. More cross-system dialogue is needed as well as training about homelessness and the youth homelessness response system across sectors to increase awareness and referrals. In addition, increased screenings for youth homelessness should be promoted in educational and medical settings (especially emergency rooms and in primary care settings).
- **Address obstacles to spending HHAP YSA funding.** State support to address these obstacles will be necessary to help communities meet obligation and expenditure goals and to ensure that youth receive the YSA-funded services they need as soon as possible. It will also be necessary to support communities to be ambitious with this "game changing" funding.
- **Improve the data on which to base the level of the HHAP YSA funding allocation.** Stakeholders consistently shared that their community's PIT estimates don't reflect the true size or proportion of the population of YEH. This is a well-recognized weakness of PIT data. Stakeholders, especially those from rural communities, emphasized that many YEH are couchsurfing, especially in rural communities. PIT data do not include people who are couch surfing. The state has other data at its disposal upon which to inform funding decisions, such as persons served per year tracked in the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) and homeless student enrollment data, which includes youth experiencing homelessness in families and on their own, from California Department of

Education's DataQuest system. While these datasets have their own limitations, they get us closer to a more accurate population size. Finally, as described below under next steps, our project will be developing reproducible approaches to employing existing data to arrive at a more complete and inclusive estimate of the size of the population of YEH.

- **Amend the HHAP application process to allow communities to engage youth and other stakeholders in the planning process.** HHAP grantees shared how tight application deadlines prevent communities from meaningfully engaging the community to determine how to spend the YSA funds. Youth leaders shared their eagerness to be involved in the planning process. Similar to YHDP's coordinated community planning process, HHAP grantees should also include stakeholders from local educational agencies (LEAs) and public child welfare agencies (PCWA) in the planning process. Building in youth and stakeholder engagement into the application process will allow communities to create innovative, effective, and locally-tailored strategies to prevent, address, and end youth homelessness.
- **Create outcome measures specific for Youth Set-Aside funded programs in partnership with youth with lived experience and expertise of homelessness.** Starting with HHAP Round 3, grantees are required to report on California's System Performance Measures (CA SPMs). CA SPMs use HMIS data to assess whether local, state, and federally funded homelessness programs are preventing and ending homelessness. Some of these SPMs are helpful to assess the impact of youth programs, including tracking the average length of time young people remain homeless while accessing services, and the number of youth successfully placed from street outreach into interim or permanent housing. Other SPMs track successful exits from homelessness to permanent housing and the percent of youth returning to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing, while important, may not be measuring the appropriate outcome. However, positive housing outcomes for youth are different from those for adults. Youth are developmentally in a different place and require the recognition that they need the flexibility to engage in the normal tasks of adolescence and early adulthood. Based on current CA SPMs, a young person exiting homelessness into a transitional housing program would not be considered a successful exit to permanent housing. While exits to permanent housing should be the goal for adults, it is developmentally appropriate to hold young people to the same standard. As one youth shared,

“Young people should be allowed to say a two year transitional housing program is a stable exit for me at 20 years old. I don't need to be in the place that I'm going to live for the rest of my life at 20.”

- **Leverage HHAP Funds to Increase Developmentally-Appropriate Options for YEH by Allowing FT Students to Access Housing.** Housing that enables a YEH to attend school full time and permanently exit homelessness is an excellent example of a highly successful form of developmentally-appropriate temporary housing for youth. Such an indication for housing support, including for transitional housing or other new models of student housing should be incentivized to ensure that the large proportion of unhoused students in the community, State and UC systems have the stable housing necessary to complete their degree.
- **Increase funding for small and rural communities.** PIT counts require resources for planning, volunteer recruitment, training and supervision, coordination, and data analysis. Because the PIT is an unfunded mandate, rural communities in particular face enormous challenges. These include not only limited resources but often larger geographic areas to count with limited transportation options. In addition, because their overall populations of PEH are smaller, they receive lower amounts of funding but are still faced with the same enormous costs to build new programs. Ensuring a minimum allocation for HHAP applicants could assist small and rural communities to get new solutions off the ground.
- Incentives for new YEH-focused programs for YEH. Our data show that communities lack the YEH-focused programs they need to address the needs of YEH in their communities. Many programs invest in adult or family providers to address the needs of youth. These may not only be ineffective but, in the worst-case scenario, may also be harmful to youth. New models and incentives are needed to increase the availability of YEH-exclusive programs in all HHAP jurisdictions.
- **Align eligible use categories and HMIS project types to allow for better data collection and analysis.** Cal ICH asks grantees to report fiscal data based on eligible use categories and annual reporting based on Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) project type. HHAP's eligible use categories are broad and HMIS project types are narrow, making it difficult to understand exactly how HHAP YSA funds are spent. For example, communities are allocating most of their HHAP YSA dollars to operating subsidies "in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers<sup>63</sup>". This broad category makes it difficult to tease out what interventions HHAP YSA funds are spent on, thus making it difficult to track the impact of these funds. The state agency responsible for administering and overseeing HHAP should align eligible use categories with HMIS project types to allow more efficient tracking of HHAP YSA funds usage.

- **Create a separate HMIS funding code for HHAP YSA to better understand the impact of these funds.** Assembly Bill 77 requires communities to collect person-served data by state funding source, such as HHAP, as of July of 2023<sup>22</sup>. According to the state's AB 77 Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) project setup instructions, each community is required to input funding codes corresponding to each round of HHAP<sup>64</sup>. There are no funding codes for the HHAP Youth Set-Aside funds. Creating a HHAP YSA funding code separate from the general HHAP funding code in HMIS will allow the state to better determine outcomes and impact associated with the Youth Set-Aside funds.
- **Encourage communities to consult the YAAH Lab's Guidelines to Prevent, Address, and End Youth Homelessness**, which were developed to support communities as part of this project. The guidelines include additional recommendations for how to obligate YSA funding and/or how to implement a youth-inclusive youth homelessness response system ([yaah.berkeley.edu/cal-ich/guidelines](http://yaah.berkeley.edu/cal-ich/guidelines)).

# Next Steps

The next steps for each of our four project objectives are outlined below.

## Objective 1: Guidelines

We have disseminated the *Guidelines* at several conferences and meetings since their February 2024 release. With the appropriate support and time, we are committed to continuing to disseminate them. Because the state of youth homelessness and best practices to address it are continuously evolving, we will revisit and re-issue the *Guidelines* in 2025. We will seek feedback from youth and adult allies through focus groups and surveys to develop this updated “*Guidelines 2.0*” version.

## Objective 2: Evaluation

This summer, we will complete our Wave 1 interviews, then complete the analysis of the rich quantitative and qualitative project collected to date.

In late Summer 2024, we will update our data collection instruments and begin the communications and planning for Wave 2 data collection, set to start in Fall 2024. Similar to the first wave, Wave 2 will consist of an administrative survey that will be distributed to HHAP grantees across the state. The topics that the survey will focus on will be similar to Wave 1, with some refinement based on our Wave 1 initial findings. We plan to improve our survey response rate by embedding our survey as part of jurisdictions’ required HHAP annual report. Wave 2 will also include qualitative semi-structured interviews and focus groups with a select group of participants, likely from a new set of jurisdictions.

Data analysis will continue in the Winter 2024 and Spring 2025. Our final Report will likely be submitted in the 3rd quarter of 2025.

Importantly, we were not able to address person or population-level outcomes or questions of equity in our analysis without access to HDIS data. Despite longstanding disparities in the experience of homelessness experienced by youth from historically underserved populations (particularly Black, Native American, and LGBTQI2S youth, and Latinx youth) services that meet their specific needs are scarce. Any evaluation of the impact of HHAP would be incomplete without addressing the needs of the populations of youth who are vastly overrepresented in our state’s YEH population. Once we have received the client-level data we requested as well as data from future requests, the YAAH team will be able to examine who the HHAP YSA funds has served, paying particular attention to whether youth from historically marginalized communities were equitably served by HHAP YSA-funded programs. Data will also provide vital information

regarding the types of programs youth are accessing, the length of time young people are homeless, housing destination exits, and if young people are returning back to homelessness after exiting a HHAP YSA-funded program.

## Objective 3: Population Size Estimation

The existence of the HHAP YSA begs the question of how large the YSA should be. Although the YSA has increased from 5% for HEAP to 8% for HHAP Rounds 1 and 2, persistent obstacles to accurately assessing the size and composition of the population of YEH continue to impede efforts to right-size the YSA. Since 2007, many communities have improved youth inclusion in the biennial Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. However, the PIT is a system developed to count single homeless adults. YEH remain challenging to count employing PIT-mandated methods as youth often cycle in and out of various living situations, avoid labeling themselves as “homeless,” and defy the visual stereotypes of homelessness upon which many PIT counts rely<sup>65</sup>.

Objective 3 of our project is to better count and characterize the population of YEH employing existing administrative data. Our approach is based on the fact that YEH often interact with multiple systems (e.g., education, child welfare, health/mental health, adult/juvenile justice, and homeless services), each with its own data systems. We will apply gold standard, accessible epidemiological tools, to establish a reproducible method for integrating existing administrative datasets to produce the best possible estimates of how many young people are homeless at any one time (prevalence), how many additional youth become homeless over a period of time (incidence), who makes up the YEH population (characteristics), and whether and how YEH interact with systems. To meet our goals, we will employ capture-recapture (CRC), also known as Multiple Systems Estimation (MSE), a well-established epidemiological method in the field of population size estimation.

Employing linkages among administrative data sources, we will be better able to not only estimate the number but also the characteristics (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age) of the population of YEH. Please refer to *Capture-Recapture (CRC): The Basics* (Appendix VI) for an overview and diagram of the CRC method.

Our goal will be to obtain 4 sources of data for each of the 6 jurisdictions to be able to complete a robust estimation. Examples of the type of data we will request will include:

- Service provider data for providers for YEH in each county
- Department of Education data regarding students experiencing homelessness in each jurisdiction
- Homelessness Data Information System data for each jurisdiction

- County or district-level data regarding housing status for child welfare/foster care clients.
- County or district-level data regarding housing status for juvenile justice or parole data.

We will negotiate data use agreements for data sources from across the 6 jurisdictions we partnered with for our case studies above. We will also work with Cal-ICH and other statewide partners to ethically employ HDIS data and other data sources employing established data sharing systems that meet the highest standard for data security. We will build on our relationships with relevant stakeholders at the local level and the state level from our work to date.

Prof. Paul Wesson of the UCSF Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is the project Co-PI who will lead the population size estimation objective. Dr. Wesson is a social epidemiologist focused on quantifying the health burdens and disparities affecting hard-to-reach and socially marginalized populations. His research expertise includes developing and using data-driven methods for sampling hard-to-reach and “hidden” populations, population size estimation methods, and using advanced epidemiologic and statistical techniques to study the social determinants of health. Prof. Wesson will be joined by a postdoctoral researcher to guide this portion of the project.

## Objective 4: Community Interns

As a research group that prioritizes uplifting the voices of youth with lived expertise, maintaining a group of community interns is a crucial component of all our work. Young people who have experienced homelessness will join our YAAH evaluation team as paid project youth community interns for 4-8 weeks at a time. Youth will apply for or will be nominated by frontline staff for internship positions. Interns will receive training in youth-partnered, community-engaged research methods, including research ethics, and will be paid a living wage for their time.

Our lead community intern has been with YAAH since 2021. She will co-lead the recruitment, training, and support of the Fall cohort. We have recruited an initial group of advisors from our first pool of applicants to help us design our internship. We will recruit our first cohort of interns in the Fall of 2024 to help us interpret our Wave 1 findings and advise us on our Wave 2 data collection tools. Subsequent cohorts will participate in additional data analysis and discussion of implications.

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# Appendices

- I. Statewide Survey - Evaluation of California HHAP YSA
- II. Semi-Structured Interview & Focus Group Script
- III. Preliminary Codebook
- IV. List of Statewide Survey Communities
- V. HHAP Jurisdictions: YHDP Recipients and HPI Tertiles
- VI. Capture-Recapture (CRC): The Basics

Appendix I  
Statewide Survey:  
Evaluation of California HHAP  
YSA

# Evaluation of California's HHAP Youth Set Aside - Jurisdictional Leads Survey

## Survey Flow

**Block: Introduction (1 Question)**

**Standard: Consent (1 Question)**

**Standard: Sociodemographic Data (5 Questions)**

**Standard: Community-Specific Questions (12 Questions)**

**Standard: Design (12 Questions)**

**Standard: Implementation (4 Questions)**

**Standard: Project-Specific Questions (38 Questions)**

**Block: Monitoring & Assessment (8 Questions)**

Page Break

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#### Start of Block: Introduction

Thank you for participating in this portion of our research project, the “Evaluation of California’s Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Youth Set-Aside Funding”. This research aims to evaluate the impact of the **HHAP 1, 2, & 3 youth set-aside funds** on programs that address the issue of youth homelessness. As part of this impact evaluation, we are conducting this online survey with local government leads who oversee these funds. The online survey has been sent to all CoCs, cities, and counties that receive HHAP funds in California.

In this survey, we will ask you to answer questions regarding:

1. Your community's youth homelessness response system;
2. The decision-making processes used to allocate the **HHAP 1, 2, & 3 youth set-aside** funds (e.g., what sources of information are used, how decisions are made, how youth are involved in these processes, etc.) and;
3. The projects funded by the youth set-aside (e.g., what projects were funded, what types of organizations implemented these projects, what are the eligibility requirements for youth, among other similar questions).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [YAAH@berkeley.edu](mailto:YAAH@berkeley.edu). Learn more about our work at [yaah.berkeley.edu](http://yaah.berkeley.edu)

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#### End of Block: Introduction

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#### Start of Block: Consent

Before proceeding, please read the consent form carefully:

[Link to Consent Form](#)

By clicking "Accept" below, you agree to participate in this research activity.

By clicking "I would like to continue without participating in the research study", you decline to have your responses included in the research study, but will still complete the form as part of your reporting requirements.

- Accept (1)
- I would like to continue without participating in the research study (2)

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#### End of Block: Consent

**Start of Block: Sociodemographic Data**

Q3 Select your jurisdiction (City, County, or CoC):

▼ Select jurisdiction (1) ... My jurisdiction is not listed (119)

Q4 What is your name?

---

Q5 What is your email address?

---

Q6 What is your role in your organization?

---

Q7 Were you involved in the planning, funding allocation, and/or design of programs using the HHAP Youth Set-Aside for your County, City, or CoC?

- Yes for HHAP 1 (1)
- Yes for HHAP 2 (2)
- Yes for HHAP 3 (3)
- No (4)

**End of Block: Sociodemographic Data**

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**Start of Block: Community-Specific Questions**

Q290 This next set section asks community-specific questions about your community's (CoC, county, or city) youth homelessness response system.

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Q8 What definition for youth experiencing homelessness does your community use to determine eligibility for projects funded by the HHAP 1, 2, and 3's youth set aside? By community, we mean your CoC, County, City, or youth set aside funds implementing partner(s). Please check all that apply:

- Department of Health and Human Services Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) (§ 378) definition (1)
  - Department of Education's McKinney Vento definition (4)
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Category 1: Literally Homeless (§ 578.3) (5)
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness (§ 578.3) (6)
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes (§ 578.3) (7)
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence (§ 578.3) (8)
  - Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Definition, including pregnant or parenting youth (9)
  - Community-created definition (please specify) (10)

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  - Other (please specify) (11)

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-

Q9 What age range your community uses to define youth experiencing homelessness? Check all that apply.

- 12-24 (1)
  - 18-24 (4)
  - 12-25 (5)
  - 18-25 (6)
  - I don't know (7)
  - Other (please specify) (8)
- 

Q10 Is this the same definition that your community uses to determine eligibility for projects funded by the HHAP 1, 2, or 3's Youth Set-Aside?

- Yes (1)
  - No (2)
  - I don't know (3)
  - Other (please specify) (4)
- 

Q11 Prior to applying for HHAP 1, did your community have a community plan or strategic framework to address youth homelessness?

- Yes (1)
- No (4)
- I don't know (6)

---

Q12 Does your community conduct a separate, youth-specific population estimate, such as a separate Point in Time Count?

- Yes (1)
  - No (4)
  - I don't know (5)
- 

Q13 Does your community have service providers/community-based organizations exclusively serve youth or youth experiencing homelessness?

- Yes (youth) (1)
  - Yes (youth experiencing homelessness) (4)
  - Yes (both youth and youth experiencing homelessness) (5)
  - No (6)
  - I don't know (2)
  - Other (please specify) (3)
-

Q14 Does your Coordinated Entry System have service providers/community-based organizations that exclusively work with youth or youth experiencing homelessness?

- Yes (youth) (1)
  - Yes (youth experiencing homelessness) (4)
  - Yes (both youth and youth experiencing homelessness) (5)
  - No (6)
  - I don't know (3)
  - Other (please specify) (7)
- 
-

Q15 What Coordinated Entry model does your community use? Choose all that apply.

- Centralized intake using a phone hotline or Web-based service (e.g. 2-1-1 or community internet access) (1)
  - Centralized intake using a single physical point of assessment (i.e., emergency shelter, dedicated assessment center) with youth specific providers (4)
  - Centralized intake using a single physical point of assessment (i.e., emergency shelter, dedicated assessment center) without youth specific providers (5)
  - Phone intake for initial screening, and office location for assessment and referrals along with regional locations and with multiple phone numbers (6)
  - One agency does all assessments at different locations throughout continuum of care (7)
  - Multiple homeless service providers throughout county use same assessment tools (8)
  - I don't know (10)
  - Other (please specify): (9)
-

Q16 What Coordinated Entry assessment tool or triage tool does your community use for youth?

- VI-SPDAT (1)
  - Youth VI-SPDAT (4)
  - TAY Triage Tool (5)
  - Next Step Tool for Homeless Youth (6)
  - Homelessness Asset and Risk Screening Tool (HART) (7)
  - Alliance Coordinated Assessment Tool (8)
  - Community created tool (9)
  - I don't know (10)
  - Other (please specify) (11)
- 

Q17 Does your community's Continuum of Care board have seats reserved for youth with lived expertise of homelessness?

- Yes (1)
  - No (4)
  - I don't know (5)
-

Q20 Does your community have a Youth Advisory Board, Youth Advisory Council, Youth Commission or some other formal body led by youth in your community that focuses on issues related to youth homelessness?

- Yes, Youth Advisory Board/Youth Advisory Council (1)
- Yes, Youth Commission (4)
- Yes, both a Youth Advisory Board/Youth Advisory Council and a Youth Commission (5)
- No (6)
- I don't know (7) \_\_\_\_\_

**End of Block: Community-Specific Questions**

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**Start of Block: Design**

Q21 This next set of questions asks about the processes and stakeholders engaged and consulted with to determine how the HHAP Youth Set Aside funds would be allocated, which projects to fund, and which organizations would implement these projects.

---

Q22 In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide:

1) which project types (e.g., rapid re-housing, transitional housing, etc) were funded using the HHAP 1, 2, and 3 youth set-aside funds and

2) which organizations were selected to implement these projects (implementing partners):

	What types of projects should be funded (1)	Information used to select implementation partners(s) (2)	I don't know (3)	This source of information was not used in my community (4)
Programmatic data (e.g., HMIS, HDIS, PIT count, etc):Right (15)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence from guidelines or other published resources:Right (16)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community needs assessment:Right (17)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Competitive bidding process (such as a request for proposal process):Right (18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-approved vendor list:Right (19)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Based on the organization's previous experience working with youth experiencing homelessness:Right (20)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Based on the organization's programmatic performance data:Right (21)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Input from YABs, youth with lived experience, people with lived experience, and/or families with lived experience:Right (22)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Input from community members, service providers, organizations, and other implementing partners:Right (23)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Input from governmental institutions such as child welfare agencies, human services agencies, justice-oriented agencies, or public health departments:Right (24)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify): (25)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Click to write Statement 12 (26)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Display This Question:*

*If In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Programmatic data (e.g., HMIS, HDIS, PIT count, etc):Right [ What types of projects should be funded ]*

*Or In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Programmatic data (e.g., HMIS, HDIS, PIT count, etc):Right [ Information used to select implementation partners(s) ]*

*Or In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Programmatic data (e.g., HMIS, HDIS, PIT count, etc):Right [ Information used to select implementation partners(s) ]*

Q23 What programmatic data did your jurisdiction use?

- HMIS (1)
  - HDIS (2)
  - Housing inventory count data (3)
  - PIT Count data (4)
  - Youth PIT Count data (5)
  - California Department of Education CalPeds data (6)
  - Census data (7)
  - HUD Longitudinal Systems Assessment (8)
  - Other. Please specify: (9)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Input from YABs, youth with lived experience, people with lived experience, and/or families with lived  
experience:Right [ What types of projects should be funded ]*

*Or In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Input from YABs, youth with lived experience, people with lived experience, and/or families with lived  
experience:Right [ Information used to select implementation partners(s) ]*

*Or In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Input from community members, service providers, organizations, and other implementing  
partners:Right [ What types of projects should be funded ]*

*Or In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Input from community members, service providers, organizations, and other implementing  
partners:Right [ Information used to select implementation partners(s) ]*

*Or In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Input from governmental institutions such as child welfare agencies, human services agencies, justice-  
oriented agencies, or public health departments:Right [ What types of projects should be funded ]*

*Or In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Input from governmental institutions such as child welfare agencies, human services agencies, justice-*

*oriented agencies, or public health departments:Right [ Information used to select implementation partners(s) ]*

*Or In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Input from governmental institutions such as child welfare agencies, human services agencies, justice-oriented agencies, or public health departments:Right [ Information used to select implementation partners(s) ]*

*Or In this next question please select the sources of information your community uses to decide: 1)...  
= Input from governmental institutions such as child welfare agencies, human services agencies, justice-oriented agencies, or public health departments:Right [ Information used to select implementation partners(s) ]*

Q25 Which of the following groups provided input or recommendations? Check all that apply.

- CoC Board (1)
- CoC Board (2)
- CoC Lead Agency (3)
- Oversight Commission (4)
- Youth Advisory Board (5)
- Youth Commission (6)
- Subject matter experts (20)
- Elected officials (7)
- Advocates (8)
- Community-based organizations/Nonprofit service providers (9)
- Youth with lived expertise (10)
- Adults with lived expertise (11)
- Families with lived expertise (12)
- Consultants (13)
- McKinney Vento Liaison (14)
- Local Education Agency (includes local school districts, county offices of education, etc.) (15)
- Public Child Welfare Agency (Foster care, AB 12, etc.) (16)

- Juvenile justice (Sheriff's Department, Probation Department, etc.) (17)
  - I don't know (18)
  - Other (please specify) (19)
- 

Q26 Which of the following have decision-making authority on what **projects** are funded with the youth set aside funds and which organizations should be selected as implementing partners? Check all that apply.

- CoC Board (1)
  - CoC Lead Agency (2)
  - Oversight Commission (3)
  - Youth Advisory Board (4)
  - Elected officials (5)
  - None (8)
  - I don't know (6)
  - Other (please specify) (7)
-

Q291 Which of the following have decision-making authority on which organizations should be selected as **implementing partners**? Check all that apply.

- CoC Board (1)
  - CoC Lead Agency (2)
  - Oversight Commission (3)
  - Youth Advisory Board (4)
  - Elected officials (5)
  - None (8)
  - I don't know (6)
  - Other (please specify) (7)
- 

Q33 Based on your experience, please rate the following statement:

I believe the expertise provided by youth experiencing homelessness was meaningfully incorporated into planning, analyses, or funding decisions regarding the HHAP youth set-aside funds.

- Strongly disagree (1)
  - Somewhat disagree (2)
  - Neither agree nor disagree (3)
  - Somewhat agree (4)
  - Strongly agree (5)
-

Q34 Can you explain your answer to the previous question?

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Q35 Could you give us three (3) **positive** aspects your community experienced in the process of deciding which **project(s)** should be funded using the youth set aside funds and designing the project:

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Q36 Could you give us three (3) **barriers** aspects your community experienced in the process of deciding which **project(s)** should be funded using the youth set aside funds and designing the project:

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Q292 Could you give us three (3) **positive** aspects your community experienced in the process of deciding which **organizations should be the implementing partners** using the youth set aside funds?

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Q293 Could you give us three (3) **barriers** your community experienced in the process of deciding which organizations should be the implementing partners should be funded using the youth set aside funds?

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**End of Block: Design**

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**Start of Block: Implementation**

Q38 Thank you! You are over half-way through. We are looking forward to reviewing your responses. This next section addresses successes and barriers experienced by you and your community when budgeting, obligating, or expending the HHAP 1,2, or 3 youth set-aside funds, as well as specific project-related questions.

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Q39 Thinking on your experience budgeting, obligating, and/or expending the HHAP 1-3 youth-set aside funds, please describe 2-3 successes your community has experienced?

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Q294 Thinking on your experience budgeting, obligating, and/or expending the HHAP 1-3 youth-set aside funds, please describe 2-3 challenges your community has experienced?

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Q44 How many projects did your community fund using HHAP 1, 2, or 3 youth set-aside Please enter a numeric value up to 20.

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End of Block: Implementation

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Start of Block: Project-Specific Questions

Q45 In this set of questions, we will be asking you for specifics regarding the projects you have funded and/or implemented using HHAP's youth set-aside.

We will start with questions that correspond to each specific HMIS project type (e.g., Homelessness Prevention project type). There will then be questions for projects that were not required to be entered into HMIS. This information is very valuable to understand what each community is doing to end youth homelessness. It is an opportunity to learn from each other's experience with HHAP projects. We greatly appreciate your time and valuable insights.

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Q46 Please enter the title of one of the HHAP 1, 2, or 3 youth set-aside projects in your community:

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Q295 Is this a new project or did it exist prior to receiving HHAP funding?

- New project (1)
  - Existing project (4)
  - Other (please specify): (5)
- 
- 

Q47 How many organizations received funding to implement this project?

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Q296 What is the name of the primary organization responsible for implementing this project?

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Q49 Does this organization specialize in or exclusively serves youth or youth experiencing homelessness?

- Yes, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves youth experiencing homelessness. (1)
  - No, this organization works with youth, but has not previously worked with youth experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (15)
  - No, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves adults experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (16)
  - No, this organization that specializes in or exclusively serves families experiencing homelessness (17)
  - No, this organization works with both adults and youth experiencing homelessness, but not youth exclusively. (18)
  - Other (please specify): (2)
- 

Q299 Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project?

- Yes (1)
  - No (15)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project? = Yes*

Q303 What is the name of the next organization responsible for implementing this project?

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*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project? = Yes*

Q304 Does this organization specialize in or exclusively serves youth or youth experiencing homelessness?

- Yes, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves youth experiencing homelessness. (1)
  - No, this organization works with youth, but has not previously worked with youth experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (15)
  - No, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves adults experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (16)
  - No, this organization that specializes in or exclusively serves families experiencing homelessness (17)
  - No, this organization works with both adults and youth experiencing homelessness, but not youth exclusively. (18)
  - Other (please specify): (2)
- 

Q312 Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project?

- Yes (1)
  - No (15)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project? = Yes*

Q305 What is the name of the next organization responsible for implementing this project?

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*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project? = Yes*

Q301 Does this organization specialize in or exclusively serves youth or youth experiencing homelessness?

- Yes, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves youth experiencing homelessness. (1)
  - No, this organization works with youth, but has not previously worked with youth experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (15)
  - No, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves adults experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (16)
  - No, this organization that specializes in or exclusively serves families experiencing homelessness (17)
  - No, this organization works with both adults and youth experiencing homelessness, but not youth exclusively. (18)
  - Other (please specify): (2)
- 

Q313 Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project?

- Yes (1)
  - No (15)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project? = Yes*

Q311 What is the name of the next organization responsible for implementing this project?

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*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project? = Yes*

Q314 Does this organization specialize in or exclusively serves youth or youth experiencing homelessness?

- Yes, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves youth experiencing homelessness. (1)
  - No, this organization works with youth, but has not previously worked with youth experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (15)
  - No, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves adults experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (16)
  - No, this organization that specializes in or exclusively serves families experiencing homelessness (17)
  - No, this organization works with both adults and youth experiencing homelessness, but not youth exclusively. (18)
  - Other (please specify): (2)
- 

Q317 Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project?

- Yes (1)
  - No (15)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project? = Yes*

Q306 What is the name of the next organization responsible for implementing this project?

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*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project? = Yes*

Q318 Does this organization specialize in or exclusively serves youth or youth experiencing homelessness?

- Yes, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves youth experiencing homelessness. (1)
  - No, this organization works with youth, but has not previously worked with youth experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (15)
  - No, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves adults experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (16)
  - No, this organization that specializes in or exclusively serves families experiencing homelessness (17)
  - No, this organization works with both adults and youth experiencing homelessness, but not youth exclusively. (18)
  - Other (please specify): (2)
- 

Q319 Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project?

- Yes (1)
  - No (15)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project? = Yes*

Q320 What is the name of the next organization responsible for implementing this project?

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*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: Is there another organizations responsible for implementing this project? = Yes*

Q321 Does this organization specialize in or exclusively serves youth or youth experiencing homelessness?

- Yes, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves youth experiencing homelessness. (1)
  - No, this organization works with youth, but has not previously worked with youth experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (15)
  - No, this organization specializes in or exclusively serves adults experiencing homelessness prior to receiving HHAP youth set-aside funding. (16)
  - No, this organization that specializes in or exclusively serves families experiencing homelessness (17)
  - No, this organization works with both adults and youth experiencing homelessness, but not youth exclusively. (18)
  - Other (please specify): (2)
-

Q48 For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS Project Type is the project classified under? Select 1:

- Coordinated Entry (1)
  - Day Shelter (2)
  - Emergency Shelter (3)
  - Homelessness Prevention (4)
  - New Navigation Center (5)
  - Permanent Housing (PH) - Housing Only (6)
  - Permanent Housing (PH) - Housing with services (no disability required for entry) (7)
  - Permanent Housing (PH) - Permanent Supportive Housing (disability required for entry) (8)
  - Permanent Housing (PH) - Rapid Re-Housing (9)
  - Services Only (10)
  - Street Outreach (11)
  - Transitional Housing (12)
  - Not in HMIS (13) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other (Please specify. For example, a Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing Program): (14) \_\_\_\_\_
-

Q51 What youth homelessness definition does your community use to determine eligibility for this project? Please check all that apply.

- Department of Health and Human Services Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) definition (1)
- Department of Education's McKinney Vento definition (2)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Category 1: Literally Homeless (§ 578.3) (3)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness (§ 578.3) (4)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes (§ 578.3) (5)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence (§ 578.3) (6)
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Definition, including pregnant or parenting youth (7)
- Community-created definition (please specify): (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Other (please specify): (9)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q52 What age range does your community use to determine eligibility for this project?

- 12-24 (1)
  - 18-24 (2)
  - 12-25 (3)
  - 18-25 (4)
  - Other (please specify): (5)
-

Q53 How are youth referred to this project? Please check all that apply.

- Referred by coordinated entry (1)
- Referred by community provider (11)
- Referred by emergency shelter provider (7)
- Referred by street outreach provider (2)
- Referred by foster care program/child welfare agency (3)
- Referred by juvenile justice program (4)
- Referred by behavioral health provider (5)
- Referred by school (K-12) (6)
- Referred by school (post-secondary) (12)
- Self-referral (9)
- I don't know (10)
- Other (please specify): (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q54 What services are youth offered? Please check all that apply.

- Drop In Center (20)
- Mobile Outreach (21)
- Coordinated entry (1)
- Housing triage (2)
- Housing assessment (3)
- Flexible financial assistance (4)
- Family reunification (5)
- Landlord mediation (8)
- Landlord engagement (27)
- Housing location (7)
- Roommate matching (28)
- Referrals to emergency shelter (6)
- Referrals to transitional housing (25)
- Referrals to rapid rehousing (23)
- Referrals to permanent supportive housing (24)
- Case management (10)
- Food distribution (9)
- Needle Exchange/harm reduction programming (22)

- Referrals to medical providers (behavioral or primary care) (11)
  - Referrals to substance use treatment (12)
  - Workforce development (13)
  - Connection to post-secondary education (14)
  - Connection to training programs, including trade school (15)
  - Financial literacy courses (16)
  - Transportation assistance (17)
  - Assistance completing mainstream benefits applications (18)
  - Other (please specify) (19)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: What services are youth offered? Please check all that apply. = Assistance completing mainstream benefits applications*

Q55 What mainstream public benefits applications do youth receive support completing?

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (1)
  - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) (2)
  - CalWORKs (3)
  - CalFresh (4)
  - General Assistance (GA) (5)
  - Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) (6)
  - Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) (7)
  - CalWORKs Employment Services Program (8)
  - Medi-Cal (9)
  - Other (please specify): (10)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Coordinated Entry*

Q56 What were the Coordinated Entry funds used for? Please check all that apply.

- Creating a youth access point (1)
- Systems planning (2)
- Creating a youth specific assessment or triage tool (3)
- Other (please specify): (4)

-----  
Display This Question:

If Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Not in HMIS

And And For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS Project Type is the project classified under? Select 1: Text Response Is Not Empty

Or Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Other (Please specify. For example, a Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing Program):

And And For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS Project Type is the project classified under? Select 1: Text Response Is Not Empty

Q57 How would you describe the project funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds? Select all that apply

- Coordinated Entry (1)
  - Day Shelter (2)
  - Emergency Shelter (3)
  - Homelessness Prevention (4)
  - New Navigation Center (5)
  - Permanent Housing (PH) (Please specify) (6)
- 

- Permanent Housing (PH) - Rapid Re-Housing (9)
- Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing (19)
- Services Only (10)
- Street Outreach (11)
- Transitional Housing (12)
- Drop in center (13)
- Operating subsidies (14)
- Capital improvements (15)
- Systems support (16)
- Infrastructure development for CES/HMIS (17)
- Strategic Homelessness Plan (18)

Other (please specify): (20)

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*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Transitional Housing*

Q58 What transitional housing model does this project use? Please check all that apply.

Transitional housing - Congregate (1)

Transitional housing - Dorm style (more than one client/household in a room) (2)

Transitional housing (Scattered site) (3)

Joint transitional housing/rapid rehousing (4)

Host Homes (5)

Interim shelter (6)

Bridge housing (7)

Other (Please specify): (8)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Day Shelter*

*Or Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Emergency Shelter*

*Or Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = New Navigation Center*

Q59 How are the beds in your emergency shelter/navigation center set up?

- Congregate (1)
  - Individual room (2)
  - Mixed congregate and individual room (multiple clients not in the same household sharing a room) (3)
  - Other (please specify): (4)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Permanent Housing (PH) - Rapid Re-Housing*

Q60 Does your project use a joint transitional housing/rapid rehousing program model?

- Yes (1)
  - No (2)
  - Other (please specify): (3)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Permanent Housing (PH) - Rapid Re-Housing*

Q61 How long do rapid re-housing subsidies typically last?

- (1)
  - 7 months to 12 months (2)
  - 13 months to 24 months (3)
  - 25 months to 36 months (4)
  - I don't know (5)
  - Other (please specify): (6)
- 

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Permanent Housing (PH) - Housing Only*

*Or Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Permanent Housing (PH) - Housing with services (no disability required for entry)*

*Or Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Permanent Housing (PH) - Permanent Supportive Housing (disability required for entry)*

Q62 What type of permanent housing does your community offer? Check all that apply.

- PH - Housing Only (1)
  - PH - Housing With Services (no disability required for entry) (2)
  - PH - Permanent Supportive Housing (disability required for entry) (3)
  - Other (please specify): (4)
-

*Display This Question:*

*If Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Permanent Housing (PH) - Housing Only*

*Or Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Permanent Housing (PH) - Housing with services (no disability required for entry)*

*Or Loop current: For the this project that was funded by HHAP youth set-aside funds in your community, what HMIS P... = Permanent Housing (PH) - Permanent Supportive Housing (disability required for entry)*

Q63 Are these permanent housing new units in buildings that exclusively serve youth?

- Yes (1)
  - No (2)
  - Don't know (3)
  - Other (please specify): (4)
-

Q64 What barriers have you faced during the implementation of this project(s)? Please check all that apply.

- Difficulty identifying appropriate service provider for project (1)
- Difficulty recruiting, hiring, and/or maintaining appropriate staff for project (2)
- Difficulty gaining trust of participants (3)
- Difficulty with youth accepting services (4)
- Difficulty finding private landlords to rent units (9)
- Difficulty securing sites for acquisition (including identifying appropriate sites for new construction, difficulty obtaining permits to rehabilitate existing site, difficulty obtaining permits, difficulty obtaining approval from planning department, etc.) (12)
- Difficulty with the leasing process (rental application is too long, documentation requirements very onerous, etc.) (13)
- High cost of market rate units are unaffordable to participants (10)
- Difficulty locating youth who are eligible for this project (5)
- Competing priorities (e.g. American Rescue Plan Act funding deadlines) Please specify (11) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (please specify): (6) \_\_\_\_\_

Q65 What, if any, subpopulations of youth are being targeted through your project? Please check all that apply.

- Black youth (1)
  - Native American/Alaskan Native (2)
  - Other indigenous youth (Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, other indigenous groups) (3)
  - Latine/x youth (4)
  - LGBQ+ youth (5)
  - Transgender youth (6)
  - Gender nonconforming/nonbinary youth (7)
  - Undocumented youth (8)
  - Immigrant youth (9)
  - Refugee youth (10)
  - Youth with disabilities (11)
  - Foster youth (12)
  - Justice involved youth (13)
  - Minors (14)
  - Pregnant/parenting youth (15)
  - Other youth of color (Please specify): (16)
-

Other sub-population not captured here (please specify): (17)

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None, all youth experiencing homelessness are served by this program (18)

Q66 In what ways is this project responsive to the specific needs of the youth sub-populations identified in the previous question?

If this project serves all youth, please specify how this project is responsive to the needs of all youth in your community? (Open ended)

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End of Block: Project-Specific Questions

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Start of Block: Monitoring & Assessment

Q67 This is the last section of the survey! Again, thank you for participating and sharing your knowledge and experience designing and implementing programs using HHAP's youth set-aside funds.

Our last set of questions focuses on whether your community has had the opportunity to conduct monitoring or assessments of the projects funded by the HHAP youth set-aside.

By **monitoring**, we mean continuous oversight of the program and data collection (fiscal or programmatic) to understand if the program is being implemented as it was intended.

By **assessment**, we mean the impact the program has on intended outcomes (for example, has there been a sustained reduction in the rate of youth returning to homelessness in your community).

Q68 Within the last three years, has your jurisdiction monitored and/or conducted an assessment of the impact of the HHAP youth set-aside funds on the well-being of youth experiencing homelessness or the HHAP-funded projects that serve them? Check all that apply.

- Yes, we have conducted monitoring activities (1)
  - Yes, we have conducted assessment(s) (2)
  - No (3)
  - I don't know (4)
  - In progress (5)
  - Other (please specify): (7)
- 

Q69 What barriers have you experienced to conducting monitoring and/or assessment of the impact of the youth set-aside funds on the wellbeing of youth experiencing homelessness or the HHAP-funded projects that serve them?? (Open ended)

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Q70 What areas of youths' well-being do you think are being most positively impacted by the programs funded with HHAP funds in your community? Please check all that apply.

- Permanent housing (1)
  - Housing stability (2)
  - Housing retention (3)
  - Permanent connections (4)
  - Education (5)
  - Employment (6)
  - Food security (7)
  - Access to public benefits (8)
  - Increased utilization of supportive and case management services (9)
  - Increased access to primary care (10)
  - Increased access to behavioral health care (11)
  - Increased knowledge of harm reduction principles (12)
  - Reduction in drug use/overdoses (13)
  - Other (please specify): (14)
-

Q71 What areas need further development or resources to improve youth's wellbeing? Please check all that apply

- Permanent housing (1)
  - Housing stability (2)
  - Housing retention (3)
  - Permanent connections (4)
  - Education (5)
  - Employment (6)
  - Food security (7)
  - Access to public benefits (8)
  - Increased utilization of supportive and case management services (9)
  - Increased access to primary care (10)
  - Increased access to behavioral health care (11)
  - Increased knowledge of harm reduction principles (12)
  - Reduction in drug use/overdoses (13)
  - Other (please specify): (14)
- 

Q73 Have you had any unexpected (positive or negative) outcomes from the implementation of HHAP funds?

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Q74 Is there anything else you would like to add?

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Q75 Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this survey. We look forward to sharing the results with you. If you have any questions about the survey or the project in general, please contact us at [YAAH@berkeley.edu](mailto:YAAH@berkeley.edu)

## **End of Block: Monitoring & Assessment**

# **Appendix II**

## **Semi-Structured Interview & Focus Group Script**



## Evaluation of California's Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Youth Set-Aside Funding

*Focus Group Guideline for Jurisdictional leads for Youth Services*

### Part 1: Introduction

This interview is part of a study conducted by a research team at the University of California, Berkeley, funded by the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, or Cal ICH. The Youth and Allies Against Homelessness, or YAAH lab is a research team based in Innovations for Youth, a Berkeley School of Public Health research center. YAAH is made up of youth community members with lived experience of homelessness, undergraduate and graduate students who have experienced homelessness and/or who have demonstrated a commitment to ending homelessness, and our faculty lead, Dr. Coco Auerswald.

### Part 2: Consent

We're going to start off by having you review our consent document, which can be found [at this link](#). Please take a moment to read that and let us know if you have any questions. Be sure to click the link at the bottom of the form to download a copy for your records. Once you sign it we will begin!

### Part 3: Background

Since 2020, the Homeless, Housing Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) has earmarked set-aside funding for youth experiencing homelessness.

We are hoping to cover two topics in this interview:

1. First, we would like to learn about the processes your communities used when applying for, receiving, and spending the HHAP youth set-aside funds.
2. Second, we would also like to learn how these funds have addressed the needs of youth experiencing homelessness in your community or if they have not, why?

We hope that this research will benefit youth experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness around California by highlighting the successes and challenges communities experience when implementing programs and services that are intentionally youth-focused and youth-centered.

We are interviewing you because you are a HHAP grantee who is involved in programs for youth experiencing homelessness in your community. We're so grateful to hear your perspective!

The interview will last between 45 and 60 minutes. We will take notes during the interview. We will also video and audio record the interview and later transcribe it. The recordings will only be

used to make sure we have captured everything you share with us in our transcription. They will not be shared, and will be saved on a secure campus server.

Your participation in this interview is confidential. The stories you share here may be included in our evaluation, reports, or publications. However your identity will not be revealed.

#### **Part 4: Demographic Survey**

Before beginning the interview, we would like you to answer some questions about yourself via a [brief demographic survey](#).

#### **Part 5: Focus Group Questions**

Level-setting questions:

1. Please tell us your name, your pronouns, your role and the organization you work for, and how your work intersects with youth experiencing homelessness.
2. How would you describe the issue of youth homelessness in your community?
  - Describe the youth population (demographics, ages, etc.)
3. What is the biggest challenge to addressing youth homelessness in your community?

**We would like to spend the next portion of our time together understanding how your application, planning, and spending process has gone for these funds, to see what we can learn from you about the process and how to make it better.**

	HHAP 1 Description	HHAP 2 Description	HHAP 3 Description
What? (Q3)			
How? (Q4)			
Who? (Q5)			
Obstacles? (Q5b)			
Changes? (Q6)			

2. Can you walk us through these projects your community planned, and ultimately has funded using the HHAP youth set-aside?

3. Can you walk us through the decision process in your community regarding the type of project or activity the funds should be spent on?
4. What were the barriers or obstacles your community experienced at each step of the way when planning the type of project that would be funded?
5. Once you prioritized the type of program you would spend your funding on, can you walk us through the decision process in your community regarding to which organizations would receive the funds to implement the program?
6. What were the barriers or obstacles your community experienced at each step of the way when planning, budgeting or obligating these funds?
7. Now we would like to understand, based on your experiences, how (if at all) the HHAP youth set-aside funds has changed your community's youth homelessness response system?

The final area we would like to cover is the HHAP youth set-aside process going forward.

7. Did your experience with HHAP 1-3 youth set-aside affect your community's approach to the HHAP 4 and 5 application? If so, how?

Finally, we want to invite you all to share the names and contact information of anyone else you think we should talk to in your community who may have more insight. Feel free to add their names to the chat, or email us afterwards!

Is there anything else you'd like to add before we conclude?

**Thank you for taking the time to speak with us today. If you have any further questions about the research and your participation in it, you can find our contact information in the informed consent Form. You can also reach us at [yaah@berkeley.edu](mailto:yaah@berkeley.edu) or check out our website Yaah.berkeley.edu**

**Thank you for all you do for youth in your community every day**

# **Appendix III**

## **Preliminary Codebook**

Preliminary final codes	Definitions	Notes about code
Structural barriers to service access for youth	Structural barriers include policies and practices that systematically disadvantage YEH, including lacking knowledge of existing resources and programs; infrastructure barriers that prevent youth from being able to travel to existing services/programs; and barriers that prevent youth from easily accessing qualifying/being eligible services/services (IDs, lack of credit, etc), and	Traveling far to access youth specific resources; issues with lack of documentation/identification; Lacking structural capacity to serve YEH;
Lacking culturally/developmentally appropriate services	Youth systems of oppression with services that fail to to provide culturally- or identity-centered care. Examples include mental health services that do not incorporate indigenous healing practices or child welfare services that do not strive for YEH to maintain ties to their culture of origin.	Lacking culturally/developmentally appropriate mental health service; Lacking culturally/developmentally appropriate mental health service; Lacking culturally/developmentally appropriate mental health service;
Peer influence and support	Peer influence and support encompasses the need for young people to have strong connections to peers that have similar lived experience to them. This can come in positive forms through peer navigation services or in negative forms through peer pressure. The impact of peer community networks on YEH's individual outcomes.	
Lacking youth-dedicated services	Lacking youth-dedicated services entails both an absence and inadequacy of services dedicated for YEH. This can include a variety of short or long term services such as shelters, drop-in centers, job retention support, and interpersonal skills.	Includes lacking wrap-around services for youth as a whole
Lacking staff qualified to care for YEH	Lacking staff qualified to care for YEH addresses both the immediate shortage of staff and the systemic reasons behind it. This can include insufficiencies in pay, training, or experience, as well as budget constraints in hiring staff.	Defined as lacking staff, including funding or salary, and causes for the lack of staff.
Additional funding needs	Additional funding needs encompasses both the lack of overall funding for YEH programs, as well as a lack of flexible funding that can be spent on things "non-housing" support like basic needs (phone, utilities, food, furniture).	Additional funding needs includes lacking flexible/unrestricted funding
Challenges to identifying and counting YEH	Challenges to identifying and counting YEH include the difficulty of understanding the true size of this population due to the hidden and invisibilized ways they experience homelessness, including couch surfing and staying doubled up with friends or family. This also includes addressing the diverse pathways of youth into homelessness, due to family instability, being kicked out, etc	Defined as YEH invisibility, undercounting YEH, and defining homelessness narrowly. Providing services that address the diverse pathways into homelessness
Youth input	Youth input encompasses all the ways that YEH engage in advocacy, policy and program development, and participatory budgeting at the local, county, state, or federal level. This includes advocating for YEH-specific issues around homelessness services, but can also encompass broader systemic or structural issues, like education, juvenile justice, etc.	Can include youth advocating for youth, soliciting youth input, youth engaging, removing barriers to youth input, and sharing youth voice
Supporting sub-populations	Supporting sub-populations includes programs, policies, and interventions that provide culturally-centered and equity support to youth from different marginalized groups, including indigenous youth, migrant/newcomers, Black youth, LGBTQ+ youth, and foster youth.	Different kinds of sub-populations within YEH (ex. foster youth, indigenous, black youth)
Shitty housing eco-system	Refer to the ecosystem/conditions of getting more housing and serval factors that contribute to limited to none affordable housing, including land availability, construction costs, inflation, capitalism in that contribute to the displacement of YEH	Refers to the ecosystem/conditions of getting more housing
Collaboration	Lacking a cross system collaboration at all levels including but not limited to systems, institutions, programs, and services that leads to fragmented and gaps in support for YEH	Refers to collaboration at any level
Expanding youth homelessness response system with HHAP	Expanding youth homelessness response system with HHAP can include building a YAB, building a youth response system, continuing to fund access points, funding navigation centers, funding youth service coordinator position, spending funds to address the needs of YEH, youth shelters, youth specific programs, TAY programs, pregnant and parenting programs, drop in centers	Refers to applications of HHAP in instances where orgs were able to expand capacity
Structural challenges to spending HHAP dollars - Cal ICH	Structural challenges in regards to Cal ICH in spending HHAP dollars can include, the rules and regulations that are set for spending HHAP, what HHAP can be spent on, the unknown/uncertainty regarding HHAP rounds, sustainability of HHAP and if it will continue, the limited funds available/provided, meeting the short turnaround time in application processes etc.	Refers to issues to spending HHAP funding because of Cal ICH
Structural challenges to spending HHAP dollars - Community capacity	Structural challenges in regards to community capacity for spending HHAP funds can include not having community feedback for what the needs are in the community, lacking cohesion in the internal process among members making decisions, not able to implement programs due to factors(i.e building of housing in a location, etc), not having youth voice to speak to what the needs are for youth, limited folks specific in addressing youth homelessness	Refers to difficulty spending HHAP funding due to internal issues
Other sources of funding for YEH (YHDP,RHY etc)	Other sources of funding for YEH can include YHDP, RHY, or any other sources of funding that are targeted to support YEH specifically	Can include any other type of funding outside of HHAP
Lack of YEH engagement in youth services	Lack of YEH engagement in youth services can include YEH not accepting services or resources available when presented to them, YEH accepting resources or programs but not utilizing the programs to support the betterment of themselves, and not seeking out resources or programs.	Includes youth not participating in programs/services as a whole
Round 1 Qualitative Codebook - Version 1		

# **Appendix IV:**

## **Statewide Survey**

## **Respondents**

## **Statewide Survey Participants**

### **Jurisdiction**

City - Anaheim  
City - Santa Ana  
County - Butte  
CoC - Mendocino County  
County - Plumas County  
County - Lassen  
County - San Bernardino  
County - Santa Clara  
County - Merced  
CoC - Merced County CoC  
County - Placer  
CoC - Visalia Kings Tulare Counties  
County - Alameda  
CoC - Santa Ana, Anaheim/Orange  
County - Orange  
County - Siskiyou  
County - El Dorado  
CoC - Redding/Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen, Plumas, Del Norte, Modoc, Sierra Counties CoC  
County - Trinity  
City - Sacramento  
County - Contra Costa  
CoC - Yuba City & County/Sutter County  
City - Fresno  
County - Modoc  
CoC - Alpine, Inyo, Mono Counties  
CoC - Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties CoC  
City - Stockton  
County - San Diego  
County - Monterey  
County - Colusa  
CoC - Humboldt  
County - Nevada  
CoC - Santa Rosa, Petaluma/Sonoma County CoC  
County - Riverside  
CoC - Tehama  
City - San Jose  
County - Yuba  
County - Solano  
CoC - Nevada County  
CoC - Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County  
CoC - Oxnard, San Buenaventura/Ventura  
County - San Benito  
County - San Joaquin  
City - Riverside  
County - Mendocino  
CoC - Los Angeles City & County CoC  
County - Sacramento  
County - San Luis Obispo  
County - Stanislaus  
CoC - Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Tuolumne

# Appendix V

## HHAP Recipients: YHDP and HPI

## HHAP Jurisdictions with YHDP funding

Jurisdiction	Type of Jurisdiction
Alameda	County
Los Angeles	City
Los Angeles	County
Los Angeles City & County CoC	CoC
Monterey	County
Oakland	City
Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County CoC	CoC
Sacramento	City
Sacramento	County
Sacramento City & County CoC	CoC
Salinas City/Monterey, San Benito CoC	CoC
San Benito	County
San Diego City and County CoC*	CoC
San Diego*	City
San Diego*	County
San Francisco	City
San Francisco	County
San Francisco County CoC	CoC
San Jose	City
San Jose, Santa Clara City & County CoC	CoC
Santa Barbara	County
Santa Clara	County
Santa Cruz	County
Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC	CoC
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	CoC

## HHAP Jurisdictions by HPI Index Tertile

Jurisdiction in the Low Healthy Places Index Tertile (alpha order)	Jurisdiction Type
Bakersfield	City
Bakersfield/Kern County CoC	CoC
Colusa, Glenn, Trinity Counties CoC	CoC
Del Norte	County
Fresno	County
Fresno	City
Fresno City & County/Madera County CoC	CoC
Glenn	County
Imperial	County
Imperial County CoC	CoC
Kern	County
Kings	County
Lake	County
Lake County CoC	CoC
Lassen	County
Madera	County
Mariposa	County
Merced	County
Merced City & County CoC	CoC
Modoc	County
San Bernardino	County
San Bernardino City & County CoC	CoC
Santa Ana	City
Santa Ana/Anaheim/Orange County CoC	CoC
Sierra	County
Stanislaus	County
Stockton	City
Tehama	County
Tehama County CoC	CoC
Trinity	County

Tulare	County
Turlock, Modesto/Stanislaus County CoC	CoC
Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties CoC	CoC
Yuba	County
Jurisdictions in the Medium Healthy Places Index Tertile (alpha order)	
Amador	County
Amador/Calaveras/Mariposa/Tuolumne Counties CoC (Central Sierra CoC)	CoC
Anaheim	City
Butte	County
Calaveras	County
Chico/Paradise/Butte County CoC	CoC
Colusa	County
Glendale CoC	CoC
Humboldt	County
Humboldt County CoC	CoC
Long Beach	City
Long Beach CoC	CoC
Los Angeles	City
Los Angeles	County
Los Angeles City & County CoC	CoC
Mendocino	County
Mendocino County CoC	CoC
Monterey	County
Palm Springs	City
Plumas	County
Redding/Shasta/Siskiyou/Lassen/Plumas/Del Norte/Modoc/Sierra Counties, CoC	CoC
Riverside	City
Riverside	County
Riverside City & County CoC	CoC
Sacramento	City
Sacramento	County

Sacramento City & County CoC	CoC
Salinas City/Monterey, San Benito CoC	CoC
San Benito	County
San Joaquin	County
Santa Barbara	County
Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC	CoC
Shasta	County
Siskiyou	County
Solano	County
Stockton/San Joaquin County CoC	CoC
Sutter	County
Sutter/Yuba City & County	CoC
Tuolumne	County
Vallejo/Solano County CoC	CoC
Communities in the High Healthy Places Index Tertile (alpha order)	
Alameda	County
Alpine	
Alpine, Inyo, Mono Counties CoC	CoC
Contra Costa	County
Daly City/San Mateo County CoC	CoC
Davis/Woodland/Yolo County CoC	CoC
El Dorado	County
El Dorado County CoC	CoC
Inyo	County
Marin	County
Marin County CoC	CoC
Mono	County
Napa	County
Napa City & County CoC	CoC
Nevada	County
Nevada County CoC	CoC
Oakland	City

Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County CoC	CoC
Orange	County
Oxnard/San Buenaventura/Ventura County CoC	CoC
Pasadena CoC	CoC
Placer	County
Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC	CoC
Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County CoC	CoC
San Diego City and County CoC*	CoC
San Diego*	County
San Diego*	City
San Francisco	City
San Francisco	County
San Francisco County CoC	CoC
San Jose	City
San Jose, Santa Clara City & County CoC	CoC
San Luis Obispo	County
San Luis Obispo County CoC	CoC
San Mateo	County
Santa Clara	County
Santa Cruz	County
Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Sonoma County CoC	CoC
Sonoma	County
Ventura	County
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	CoC
Yolo	County

# Appendix VI

## Capture-Recapture (CRC): The Basics

### Figure 1 Capture-Recapture (CRC): The Basics

CRC is a method borrowed from fish and wildlife management to count and characterize hidden populations for which a complete list is not available. To illustrate its use, we imagine the case of Jonaé, a ranger who needs to know the number of fish in a park lake. She rows out into the lake on Day 1, catches 10 fish, and attaches bands to their fins. On Day 2, she returns and catches another 10 fish, noting how many are banded. Let's estimate how many fish are in the lake based on two scenarios. In Scenario 1, Jonaé catches 10 banded fish on Day 2. She concludes 10 fish are in the lake. In Scenario 2, she catches 5 banded fish on Day 2. In this case, she knows that a) half the fish are banded and b) she first banded 10 fish. Therefore, she concludes that 20 fish are in the lake. CRC is applied in public health settings to estimate the size of a hidden/partially observed population by assessing the overlap of two or more incomplete lists of the population. In the case of YEH, these lists could be administrative datasets (e.g., HMIS or a list of clients from a youth service provider). We cannot “band” YEH in the community, but we can match individuals on the first list (*the banded fish on Day 1*) with the individuals on the second list (*the fish caught on Day 2*), by using a combination of names, birthdates, or other identifiers.

