

Oregon Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

- Welcome & Roll Call
 - Group Agreements
- Lessons Learned from Houston
 - Matt White (Housing Innovations)
- Draft Recommendations Review
 - Discussion
 - Motion to Vote
- Next Steps and Timeline

Agenda

Welcome & Roll Call

Task Force Roll Call

Ariel Nelson, League of Oregon Cities

Jessica Pratt, Association of Oregon Counties

Jimmy Jones, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

Paula Hall, CAPECO

Jennifer Parrish Taylor, Urban League of Portland

Katrina Holland, JOIN

Marisa Espinoza, Northwest Pilot Project

Vanessa Timmons, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Maria Vargas (pending appointment), Latino Network

Dolores Martinez (proxy for Gustavo Morales/pending appointment), EUVALCREE

Nicole Witham, Northern Jackson County Community Member

Alan Evans, Helping Hands Re-Entry

Jill Smith, Oregon Housing & Community Services Department

Sen. Kayse Jama

Sen. Dick Anderson

Sen. Wlinsvey Campos

*green indicates present



Give grace and forgiveness



Take space and make space –
openly share and support
your colleagues as they
openly share experiences



Take good care – manage
your boundaries



Engage in lively conversation,
even if it feels awkward



Be thoughtful and
compassionate



Does it need to be said, does
it need to be said by me, does
it need to be said by me right
now

Group Agreements

Lessons Learned from Houston, TX



The Way Home

Houston/Harris County
Community COVID Housing Program (CCHP)

Houston's History with Disasters

COVID Investments = Public Health Tool to
End Homelessness



Hurricane
Harvey

COVID - Diversion,
RRH, Bridge

Consolidated Funding; Braided Contracts

Funders	Funding Sources:	Contract Administrator:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Houston• Harris County• Philanthropy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESG-CV, ESG Annual• CDBG-CV, CDBG Annual• HOME-ARP, HOME• CoC Program• City General• County General• Private/Philanthropy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coalition for the Homeless (CFTH)

Houston CCHP Plan

Diversion:

4 Agencies serve 2,000

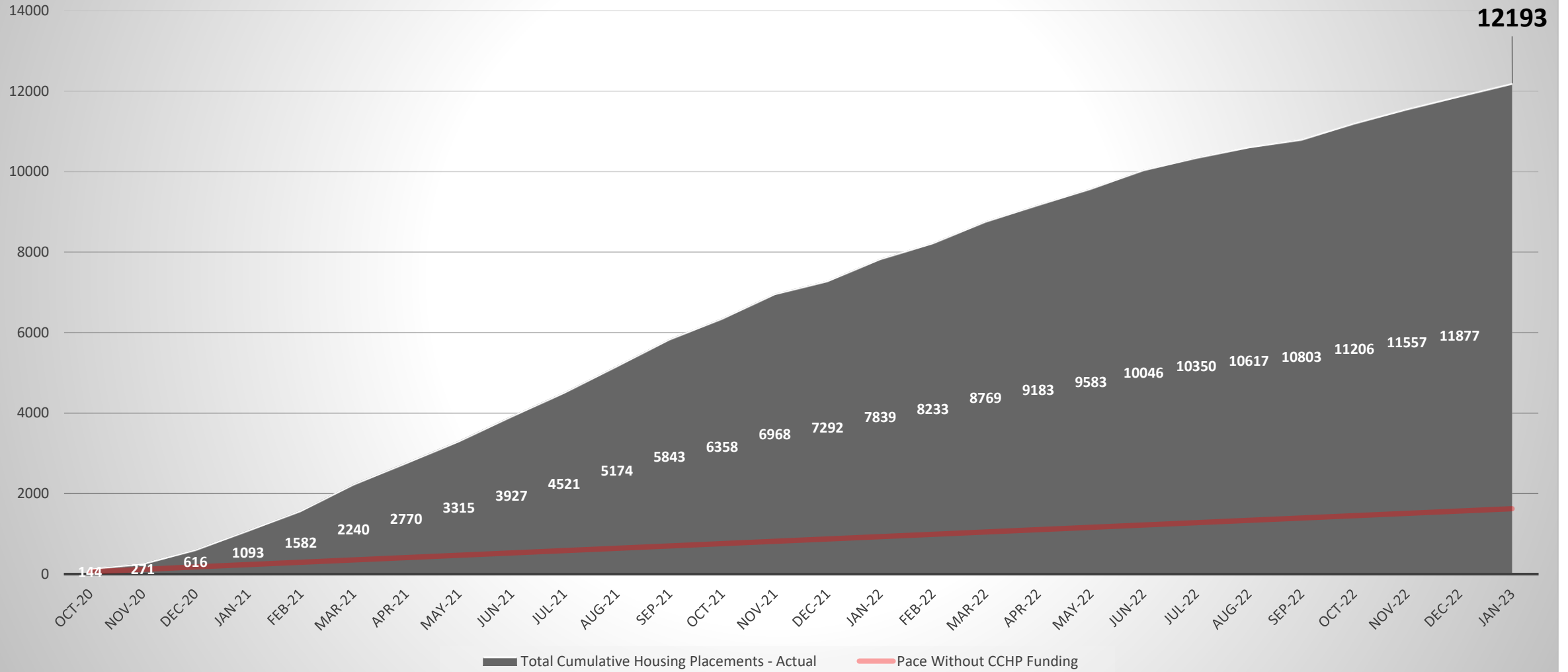
RRH:

6 agencies serve 1,700

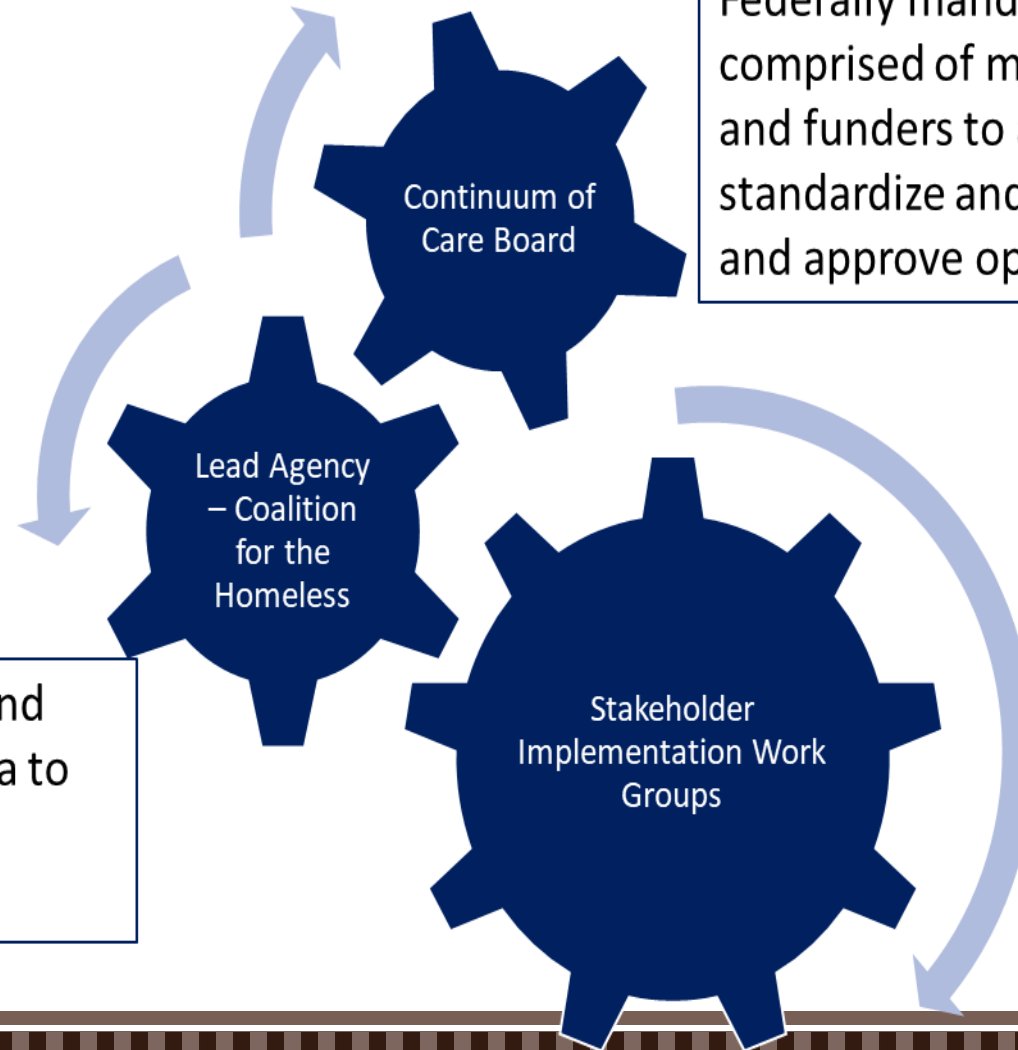
Bridge to PSH:

4 agencies serve 1,000

The Way Home System Performance CCHP Funding People Served Tracker January 31, 2023



Homelessness System Governance Structure

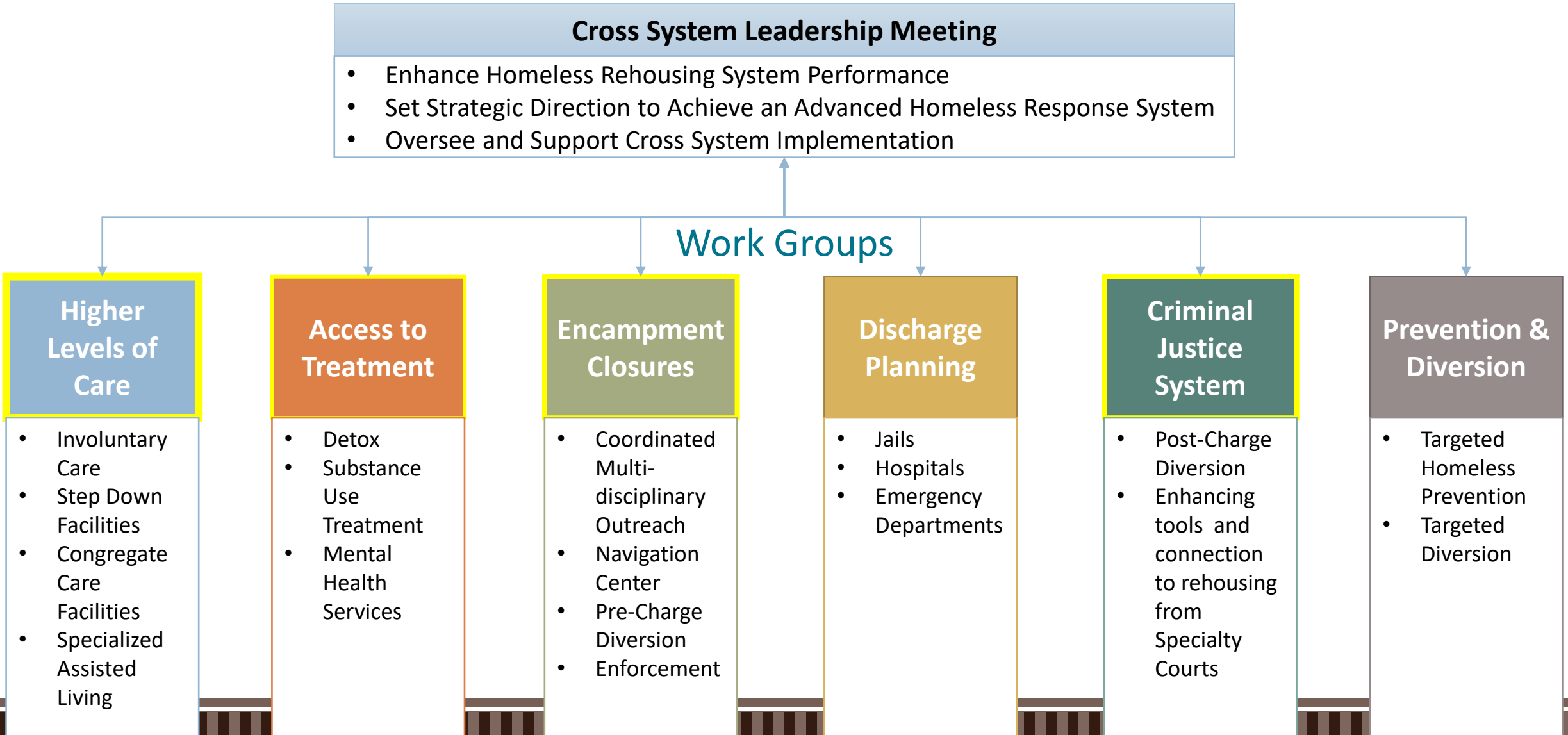


Federally mandated board largely comprised of major system partners and funders to align investments, standardize and oversee performance, and approve operating policies.

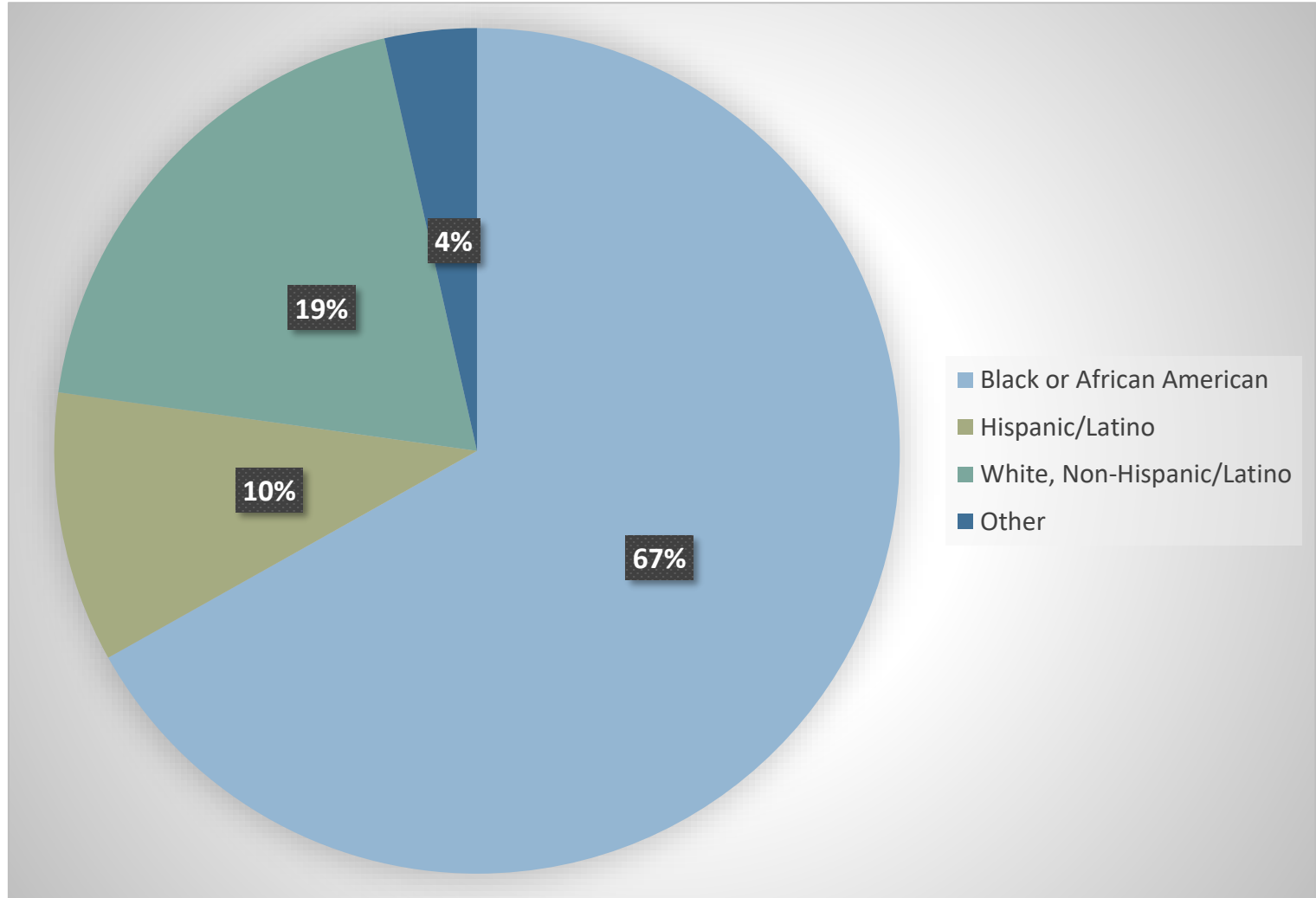
Backbone organization creates and maintains infrastructure and data to drive implementation of system strategies and policies.

Collection of standing and ad hoc workgroups organized to support implementation and policy creation.

Goal - Create a Structure to Support Cross System Partnerships to Effectively End Homelessness



Race & Ethnicity Data





Next Big Thing

Advancing our System
with ARPA

Houston Homeless Encampment Strategy

Clearance and Closure with Supports

Intensive Outreach and Engagement – Multi-disciplinary outreach teams engage encampment residents in housing-focused case management

Housing Surge – Resource-intensive housing fair. Everyone is housed.

Clearance – All structures and belongings removed from encampment.

Closure – Camp closed and cordoned off, all persons accept housing or temporary navigation center (interim housing) with option to store belongings

Downtown Locations

Before



After



Allen Parkway and 45 North

Before



After



The Timbers

Before



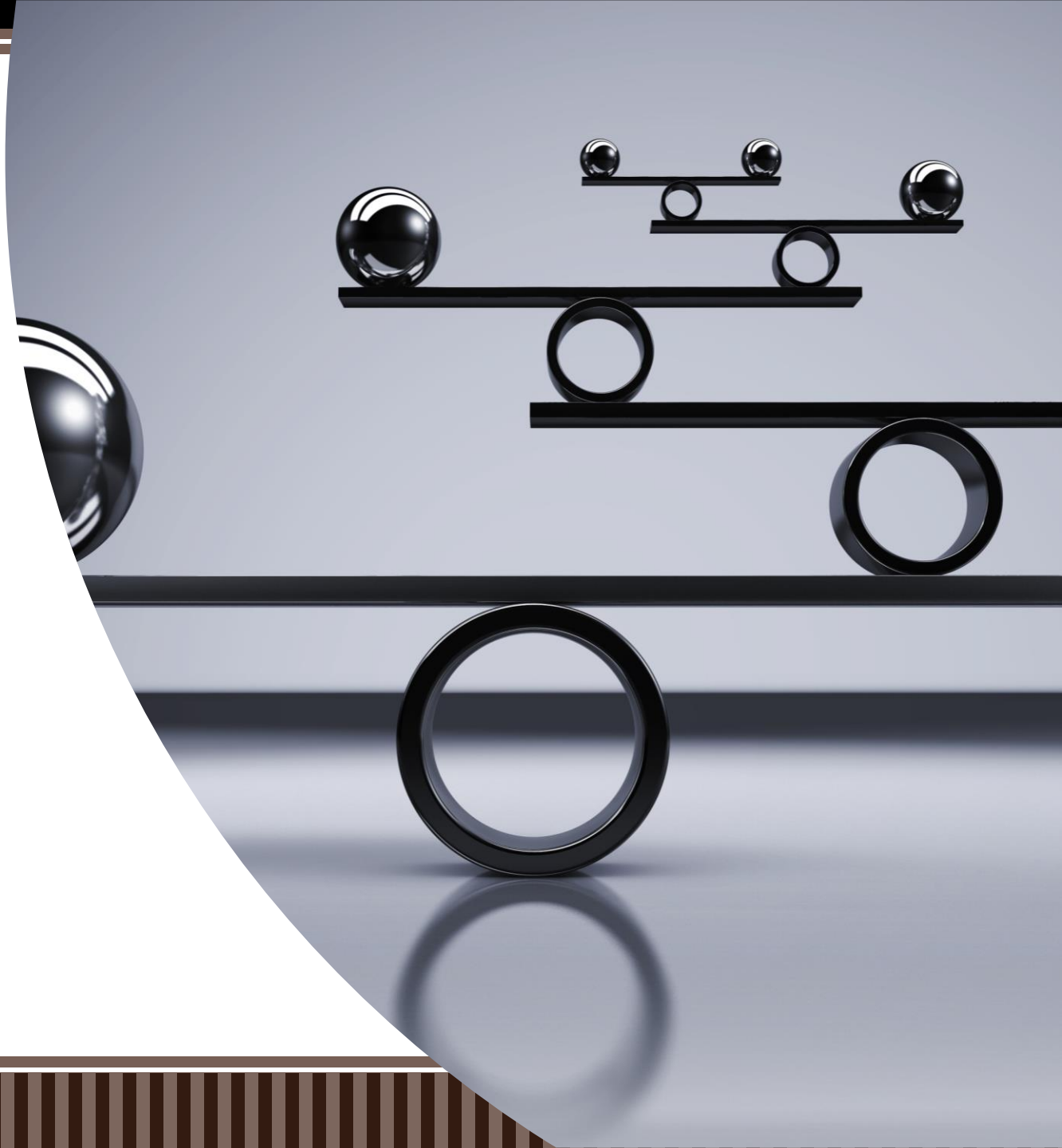
After



Vision for an Advanced Homelessness Response System

CCHP 2.0 2021–2025

- Continue the transformation of the homelessness response system
- Work to end unsheltered homelessness
- Address all large encampments
- Become an investor in permanent housing infrastructure for persons exiting homelessness



Goals of CCHP 2.0

System Metrics	Pre-CCHP Before 2020 Actual	CCHP 2020-2022 Actual	CCHP 2.0 2023 Goal
PIT Total Count	4,000	3,000	1,000
PIT Chronic	800	287	0
PIT Unsheltered	1,650	1,500	250
PIT in Large Encampments	~650	~500	0
Annual Count of Persons	~12,500	~8,500	~5,000
Annual Exits from Streets to PH	315 (9%)	445 (15%)	250
Ave. Time from Referral to PH Move-in	93 days	31 days	< 30 days
Annual inflow of newly homeless	8,750 (70%)	6,150 (72%)	< 5,000 (100%)

Q&A

Draft Recommendations

Area 1: Solutions Regarding Eligibility and Funding of Services

1) An unprecedented crisis requires extraordinary measures. A billion-dollar problem cannot be solved with inadequate local, state, or federal resources. The Task Force requests an **ongoing** funding of **\$1.1 billion**:

- \$510 million for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing with no less than \$102 million provided to the Oregon Balance of State
- \$190 million to expand Oregon's Housing Development Grant Program ("Trust Fund")
- \$190 million with no less than \$38 million provided to the Oregon Balance of State to establish an Oregon Special Needs Assistance Program – a set-aside of locally flexible funding for:
 - federally recognized tribes that border within Oregon
 - culturally specific organizations **representing historically underserved populations**
 - culturally based organizations
 - recovery-based shelter or transitional housing operators
 - re-entry based operators
 - returning citizens who are at-risk of homelessness
 - disability-serving organizations
 - migrant seasonal farmworker organizations
 - domestic and sexual violence providers
 - human trafficking providers
 - youth-serving providers
 - LGBTQ+ serving providers
- **\$50 million to preserve existing services and funding for antipoverty programs that intersect homelessness set-aside for Community Action Agencies**
- **\$100 million to establish a state-funded housing choice grant program, the Oregon Housing Choice Grant, for Oregonians who are rent burdened (spending 30% or more of their income on rent) and meet one of the following eligibility criteria:**
 - Working families with children under 18
 - Individuals who **can verify with a certified provider their disability**
 - Individuals who are age **55** and older
- \$50 million to establish a Direct Service Provider Hiring and Retention Fund a stopgap fund to bridge over the benefits cliff that faces frontline service providers, reduce turnover, and ensure living wages for employees in the homeless services sector
- \$5 million to expand the landlord risk mitigation fund to provide landlords with an incentive and added security to work with tenants receiving local, state, or federal rental assistance. Targeted program will offer:
 - Up to \$1,000 and up to fourteen days' rent loss to the landlord in reimbursement or some potentially required move-in upgrades, and up to \$5,000 in qualifying damages caused by a tenant during tenancy.
- \$3 million CoC capacity building grant to establish local planning groups within the Oregon Balance of State
- \$2 million insurance mitigation fund for smaller organizations with annual operating budgets at or below \$5 million that are typically disadvantaged by state insurance requirements to receive funding

Area 1: Solutions Regarding Eligibility and Funding of Services

- 2) The Task Force recommends the department may disburse state and federal homelessness funds through grants and loans to local governments as defined in ORS 197.015, tribes as defined in ORS 273.462, individuals, housing authorities as defined in ORS 456.005, nonprofit corporations as defined in ORS 65.001, culturally specific organization or culturally responsive organization as defined in ORS 456.005 and community action agencies as described in ORS 458.505.
- 3) The Task Force recommends the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department receive authority from the Legislative Assembly to, in its sole discretion, to allocate homelessness funding in any method that ensures statewide geographic coverage without regard to existing or prior distribution formulas, including through a competitive grant or contract process.

Area 2: Changes to the State's Funding Structure

1) The Task Force recommends the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department work with its partners in the Interagency Council on Homelessness to establish universal goals to address homelessness across the state and employ the tools of targeted universalism to then design and implement coordinated programs and policies that are tailored to meeting the needs of all Oregonians.

Through this process, OHCS could develop specific solutions to address unmet needs, incorporating those solutions into a universal goal-oriented framework to equitably benefit all groups involved. Under the targeted universalism framework, OHCS would develop strategies that operationalize equity, direct resources and achieve outcomes for those most impacted by homelessness.

With this approach, policymakers and community stakeholders across Oregon can account for how different groups are situated within structures, culture, and across geographies to obtain the universal goal and account for the culturally specific needs of different protected class groups, vulnerable populations, and underserved communities. Targeted universalism is a method of policymaking and programming that sets out to move all groups toward the universal policy goal, as well as a way of communicating and publicly marketing such programs in an inclusive, bridging manner. It is an approach that supports the needs of particular groups, including those in the majority, while reminding everyone that we are all part of the same social and civic fabric.

Area 2: Changes to the State's Funding Structure

2) The Task Force recommends the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department adopt a competitive funding structure for administering state and federal resources to address homelessness that prioritizes both maintaining existing service levels and expand funding availability and eligibility beyond historically funded organizations, geographies, and institutions by:

- Direct allocation, through formula funding or other means as determined in partnership with each sovereign nation, to the nine federally recognized tribes that border within Oregon
- Direct allocation, through formula funding or other means as determined by the Agency, to **Community Action Agencies** based on community engagement and input, for anti-poverty initiatives that intersect with homelessness priorities
- Direct allocation, through formula funding or other means as determined by the Agency based on community engagement and input, to Continuum of Care (CoC) and local planning groups structured similarly to coordinated homeless response offices established in [House Bill 4123](#) (2022)
- Direct allocation, through formula funding or other means as determined by the Agency based on community engagement and input, to culturally specific, culturally responsive, culturally based, and other organizations **within the 2023/2024 fiscal year** that are focused on reducing disparities where there is a demonstrated overrepresentation in homelessness **in communities that are historically underrepresented.**

Area 3: Modifications for Contracting Processes

- 1) The Task Force recommends the 82nd Legislative Assembly to expressly direct and grant the authority to the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to create opportunities for people with lived experience of homelessness and/or housing insecurity to inform state policymaking and to provide direct compensation to people with lived experience of homelessness or housing insecurity for their expertise. Compensation and support may be operationalized as formal advisory board structures, focus groups, surveys, and by other means. The Task Force recommends that the legislature permit the agency to contract with local non-profits and other entities to facilitate direct connections and compensation for people with lived experience who are providing their feedback to improve homeless services.
- 2) The Task Force recommends the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department receive authority from the 82nd Legislative Assembly to identify, procure, and implement a comprehensive grants and financial management system no later than December 2025.

Area 3: Modifications for Contracting Processes

- 3) The Task Force recommends the 82nd Legislative Assembly direct both the Oregon Department of Justice and Oregon Department of Administrative Services to review, revise, and negotiate language changes to contracts within 21 business days of receipt.
- 4) The Task Force recommends the 82nd Legislative Assembly direct both the Oregon Department of Justice and Oregon Department of Administrative Services to review insurance requirements for smaller organizations with annual operating budgets at or below \$5 million that are typically disadvantaged by state insurance requirements to receive state funding. The Task Force recommends these requirements be revised with the intention of investing in historically underfunded and underrepresented communities and organizations.

Area 3: Modifications for Contracting Processes

- 5) The Task Force recommends the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department adopt a funding cycle **by the end of the 23-25 biennium** on a biannual timeline to support transparency for current or prospective grantees:
 - a. January – OHCS hosts statewide listening sessions to inform funding cycle priorities.
 - b. February – OHCS announces funding cycle opportunities.
 - c. March – OHCS holds statewide pre-bidders conference.
 - d. April – OHCS releases applications for funding with a deadline of 45 days minimum for completion
 - e. May/June – OCHS reviews applications and makes notice of intent to award.
 - f. July – grant agreements are fully executed.

Task Force Member: Voting

VOTING OPTIONS:

- 1): Vote on all recommendations
- 2): Vote on each recommendation
- 3): Not ready to vote

VOTING PROCESS:

- 1): Motion made by Task Force member
- 2): Motion seconded by another Task Force member
- 3): Vote by roll call to be tallied by “yes,” “no,” or “abstain”

Next Steps

Next Steps

- The finalized draft report will be shared with you via email by 3/3/23 for comments, edits, endorsement.
- All edits to be finalized at the 3/15/23 meeting.
- Report submitted to Legislative Assembly with a copy to the Oregon Housing Stability Council the week of 3/20/23.

THANK YOU!