

Pathway Home: Responding to Homelessness in Tulare County

November 2019



WHY A STRATEGIC PLAN?

Align stakeholders and resources in support of shared objectives

Establish greater community-wide collaboration

Identify solutions with the potential for the most impact on reducing homelessness in the community

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS



Over 40 Interviews



Nearly 650 Surveys



**75+ Stakeholder
Summit Participants**

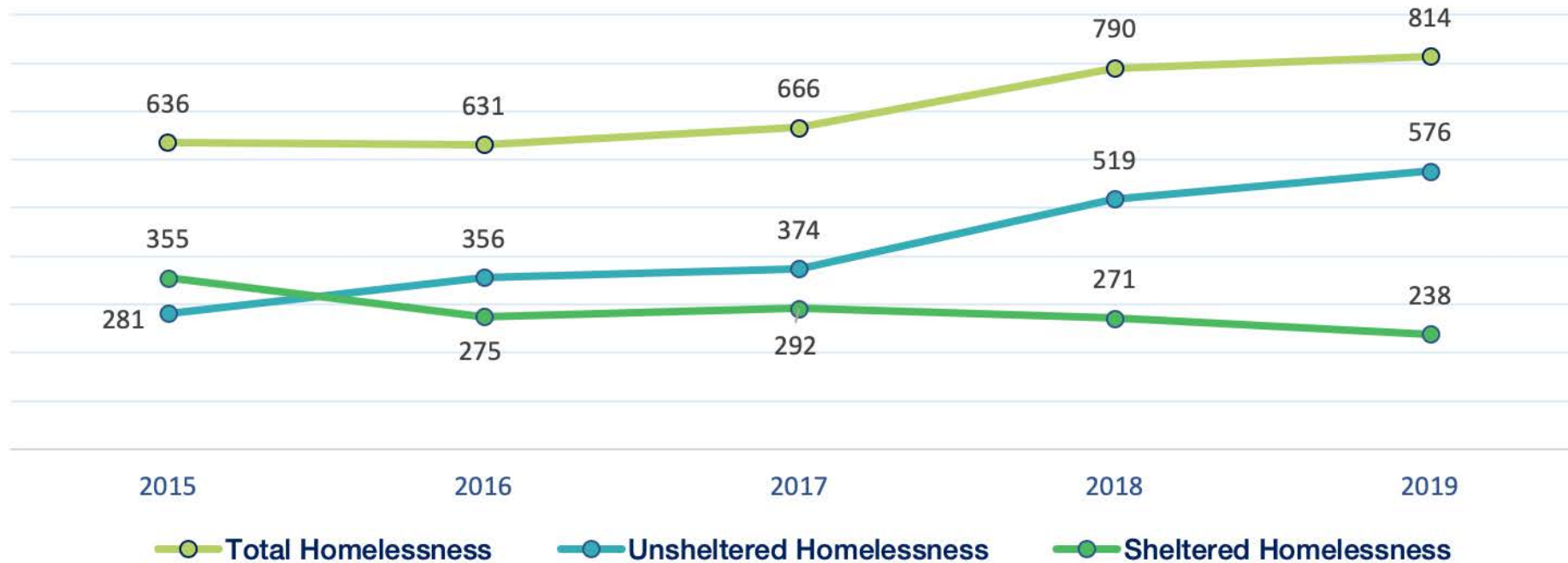
- Environmental scan
- Stakeholder interviews
- Focus groups
- A half-day Community Summit
- Topical committee meetings
- Community surveys
- A series of presentations and discussions

WHAT DOES
THE STRATEGIC
PLAN INCLUDE?

- Overview of Homelessness in Tulare County
- Tulare County's Homeless Response System: The Opportunities and Challenges
- Solutions to Homelessness in Tulare County

HOMELESSNESS IN TULARE COUNTY

Point-In-Time Homelessness In Tulare County



- Almost 30% increase in homelessness since 2015.
- 71% living unsheltered: on the street or another outdoor location, in a vehicle, in abandoned buildings, or encampments.

WHO IS HOMELESS?

- Schools report more than 3,000 kids were homeless in 2017-2018 school year.
- Since 2015, almost double the number of adults age 55+ who are homeless.
- 73% of men and 67% of women are living without shelter.
- More youth are living unsheltered than ever before.
- Over 1 in 5 homeless families with children are living without shelter.

Veterans



83% Unsheltered

Disability



89% Unsheltered

Unaccompanied Youth



49% Unsheltered

Adults 55+



86% Unsheltered

HOMELESSNESS IN TULARE COUNTY

- Over 90% of homeless households had their last stable residence in Tulare County.
- 532 homeless adults with disabilities counted in the 2019 PIT – 244 chronically homeless.
- 64% have no financial resources, including public benefits.

Poverty and Unemployment

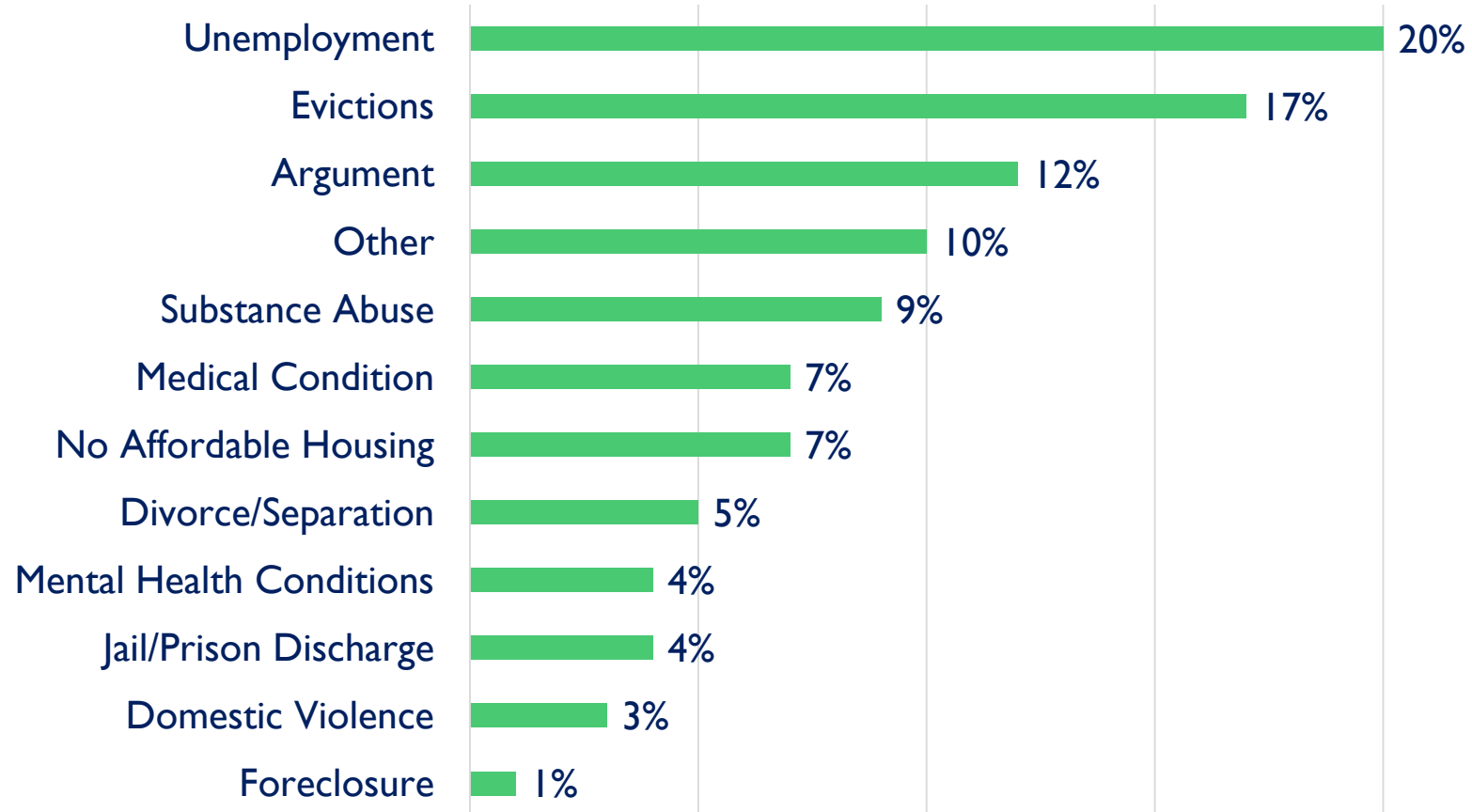
- Nearly 1 in 4 County families live below the federal poverty line (2017).
- Median County income is 33% less than the statewide average.

Rising Costs of Housing

- Rental costs continue to increase relative to wages.
- Median rents increased by 9% (2012 to 2017).
- One of four people indicated housing-related issues as their reason for homelessness (2019).

CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS IN TULARE COUNTY

MOST COMMON CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS



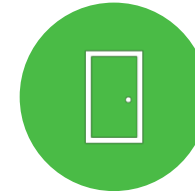
STRONG SYSTEM IN PLACE



146 Permanent Supportive Housing beds added since 2012 (95% retention rate)



71 Rapid Rehousing beds added since 2012 (including bi-county SSVF)



Every Door Open Coordinated Entry System has connected over 217 Kings and Tulare County residents to housing interventions



100% of CoC and ESG program-funded projects are Housing First



Established HOPE Team and Outreach Case Manager in Visalia, Countywide PATH Outreach and Housing Navigator programs



Launched the Local Initiatives Navigation Center (LINC) program in Visalia and Tulare



Homeless diversion/housing stabilization programs are ongoing



285% increase in annual Federal CoC funding

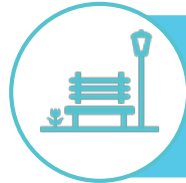
SYSTEM CHALLENGES

- Lack of **county-wide consensus**
- No **low-barrier shelter options** anywhere in the county
- Many individuals require **intensive services**
- Resources are **not tailored to needs** or are **underutilized**
- **Public misunderstandings** about homelessness
- Few **housing resources** to meet the need
- **Difficult to find units** even when subsidies are available
- **Transportation** is limited

GOALS FOR STRATEGIC PLAN



Increase Access to Permanent Housing



Increase Access to Services to Support Exits from Homelessness



Expand Services for Subpopulations with Special Needs

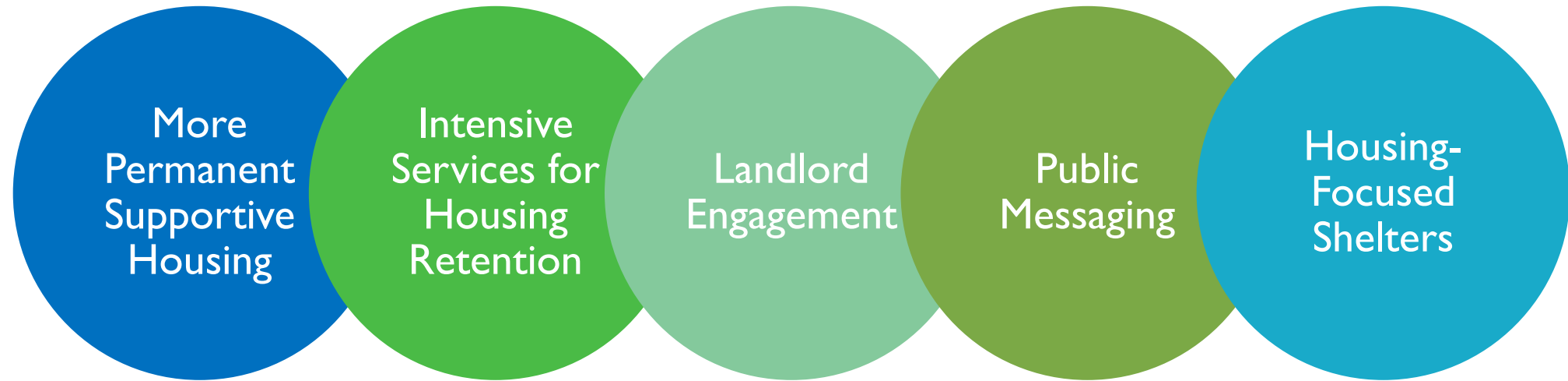


Prevent Homelessness for Those at Risk



Strengthen Public Engagement and Community Partnerships

PRIORITIES ACROSS ALL GOALS



RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR TULARE COUNTY

- Endorse the Countywide Strategic Plan as a shared roadmap for addressing homelessness in Tulare County.
- Partner with other jurisdictions to establish a centralized “backbone” structure to facilitate community-wide Strategic Plan implementation, coordinate county-wide communication and messaging.
- Continue process of enhancing alignment, accessibility, coordination of existing resources, in line with new funding streams and opportunities.
- Continue expanding partnerships to integrate service provision and expand programming -- HOPE Team, low-barrier shelters, PSH, mobile-multidisciplinary.

CONCLUSION

- Questions
- Concerns
- Requested Changes

- Next Steps
 - Gather input at Tulare, Porterville, and Visalia City Council meetings
 - Review with Countywide Task Force on Homelessness
 - Seek Board of Supervisors adoption of plan in early 2020