

County of Santa Clara

Office of Supportive Housing

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March 19, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

FROM: Consuelo Hernandez, Director, Office of Supportive Housing

^{DS}
C.H.

SUBJECT: 2019-2020 State of Supportive Housing Report Executive Summary

Today the Office of Supportive Housing (OSH) will release an Executive Summary of the 2019-2020 State of the Supportive Housing System Report (2019-2020 Report). The attached executive summary provides a brief overview of progress over the past two years. The full report will provide stories of progress, report on outcomes, including the 2016 Measure A Affordable Housing Bond, and highlight achievements across the system. The full report will be issued in April and presented to the Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation (HLUET) committee at the April meeting.

Previous annual State of the Supportive Housing System reports focused on describing the socio-economic causes of homelessness and the intergovernmental and public-private partnerships that were critical to meeting the goals of the 2015 Community Plan to End Homelessness. In 2019, as the 5-year period covered by the plan came to an end, the OSH convened a broad group of stakeholders to develop a roadmap for future work. The Continuum of Care adopted the 2020 Community Plan to End Homelessness (Community Plan) and the Board of Supervisors endorsed the plan in August 2020. In addition to defining the strategies for the next five years, the Community Plan sets aggressive targets to achieve by 2025.

Please contact Kathryn Kaminski, OSH Deputy, at kathryn.kaminski@hhs.sccgov.org or 408-278-6425, for additional information or if you have any questions.

Cc: Chief Board Aides
Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
James Williams, County Counsel
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board
Ky Le, Deputy County Executive

Attachment: 2019-2020 State of the Supportive Housing System Executive Summary

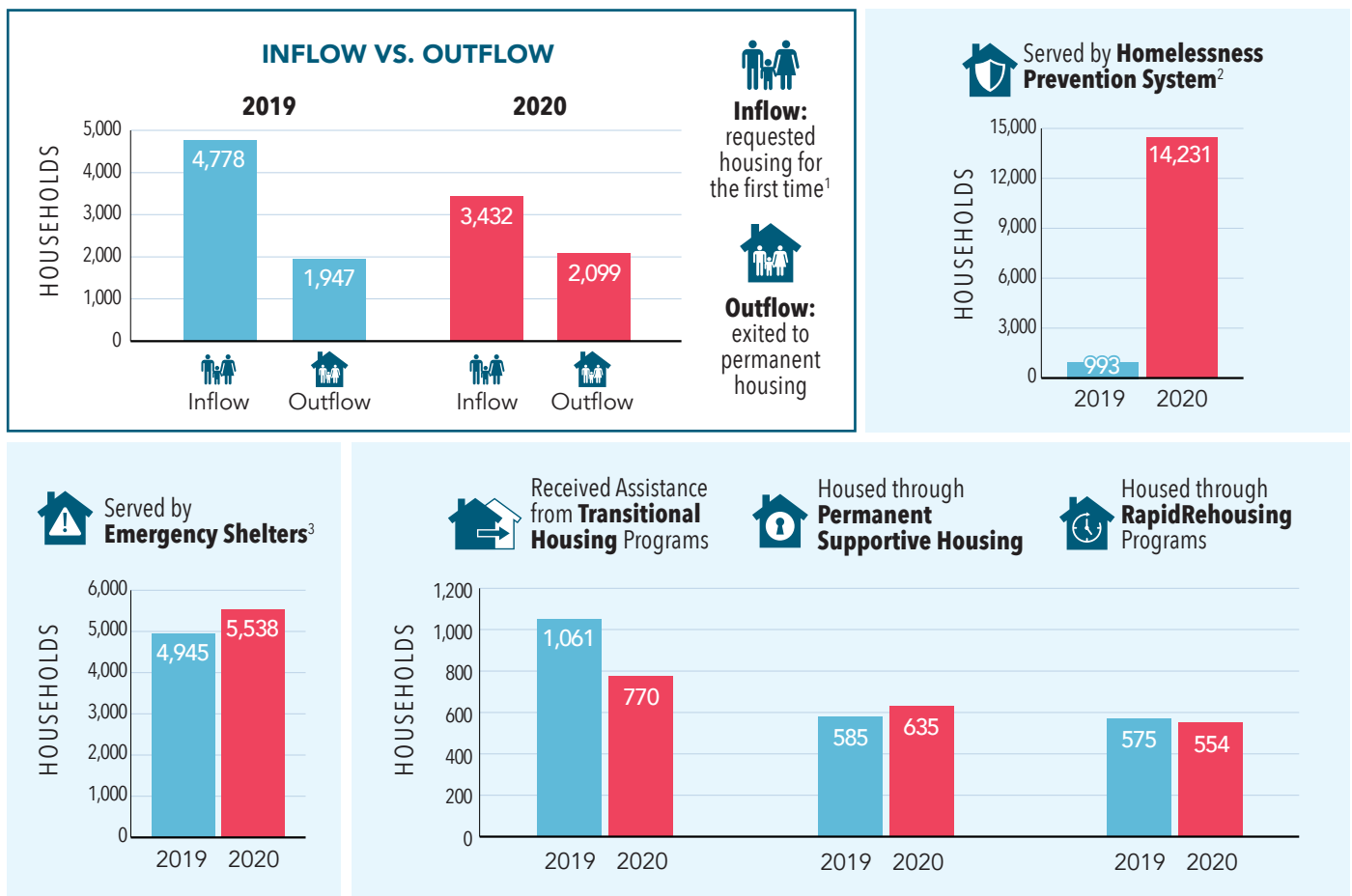
STATE OF THE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SYSTEM

2019-2020 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Santa Clara County is the heart of Silicon Valley, and a hub of wealth, progress, and invention. However, with these economic gains have come societal and humanitarian costs. While some residents have prospered, others have been left behind. Income disparities and sharp rises in housing costs have caused thousands of Santa Clara County residents to become homeless each year, forcing them to double up with friends and relatives or to sleep in shelters, on streets, in vehicles, and other places where people are not meant to live.

Ending and preventing homelessness became more urgent than ever with the arrival of the new Coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community in early 2020. The realities of the COVID-19 pandemic have further exposed deep gaps in our social safety net, demanding that the County and its many partners respond rapidly to prevent disproportionate impacts on our most vulnerable residents.

Over the course of 2019 and 2020, the Supportive Housing System continued to expand and provide support to thousands of county residents in need:



¹This metric shows the total number of people assessed by the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool for the first time. This number likely decreased from 2019 to 2020 because of barriers to people being assessed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

²This increase between 2019-2020 reflects the prevention system's influx of funding for people in need of COVID-19 related financial assistance.

³This increase reflects the temporary increase in the emergency shelter capacity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE 2020-2025 COMMUNITY PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

PROGRESS TO DATE

In 2019, as the 5-year period covered by Santa Clara County's first community plan came to an end, a broad range of community partners came together to develop a roadmap for future work to end homelessness in 2020 and beyond. Over the course of the first community plan, despite significant progress in creating a supportive housing system that moves thousands of homeless individuals and families into housing each year, the crisis continued to grow. The systemic factors driving homelessness are stronger than ever and are forcing more of our community members onto the streets and into shelters every day.

The new community plan – launched in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic – focuses on these systemic factors to address the root causes of homelessness, in addition to continuing to expand the supportive housing system and the many programs and services for people who are currently homeless.

The three key strategies in the plan include:



STRATEGY 1

Address the root causes of homelessness through system and policy change



STRATEGY 2

Expand homelessness prevention and housing programs to meet the need



STRATEGY 3

Improve quality of life for unsheltered individuals and create healthy neighborhoods for all

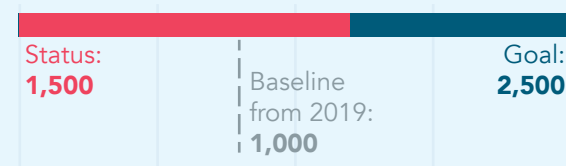
In addition to laying out a roadmap of strategies to prevent and end homelessness, the Community Plan set aggressive targets to achieve by 2025. After the first year of the plan, the following progress has been made:



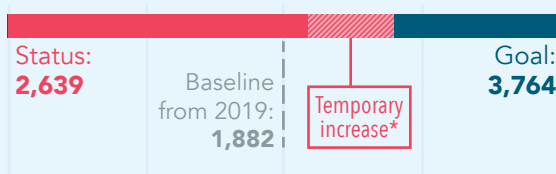
House **20,000 people** through the supportive housing system



Expand the Homelessness Prevention System and other early interventions to serve **2,500 people per year**



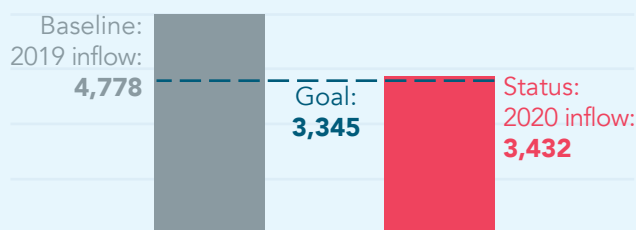
Double temporary housing and shelter capacity to reduce the number of people sleeping outside



* Temporary increase is the result of a temporary capacity increase of 1,123 for COVID-19 and a temporary decrease of 516 for social distancing.



Achieve a **30% reduction** in annual inflow of people becoming homeless



While there is still much work to be done and the economic impacts of COVID-19 are still not yet entirely clear, we know the need for bold action to prevent and end homelessness in our community has never been greater. As we have seen over the past year, it will require tremendous effort, new partnerships, and innovative strategies—and it will require the entire community to be a part of the solution.