



February 4, 2020

TO: Mayor Steinberg and City Council Members
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Sacramento Steps Forward COC Advisory Board

FROM: Bob Erlenbusch, Executive Director, SRCEH
Cori Ring-Martinez, Sacramento Area Program Director, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water [EJCW]

RE: Recommendation from the Homeless, Housing Assistance Program [HHAP] from Homeless Environmental Justice Alliance [HEJA]

Background: *Lack of Access to Sanitation Options for Homeless People:*

Recognizing the severe lack of access to sanitation – bathrooms and showers – as simultaneously a public health crisis, a widespread human rights violation for people experiencing homelessness in our City and County, and an environmental threat to our shared waterways – SRCEH and EJCW convened the *Homeless Environmental Justice Alliance* on January 22, 2020.

An extremely diverse group of more than 40 individuals representing 20 organizations attended – including Area Congregations Together, Downtown Partnership, Midtown Business Association, Landpark Neighborhood Association, Walk Sacramento, Sacramento Tax Payers Association, Save the American River, Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee [SHOC], Homeless Union and Poor Peoples Campaign.

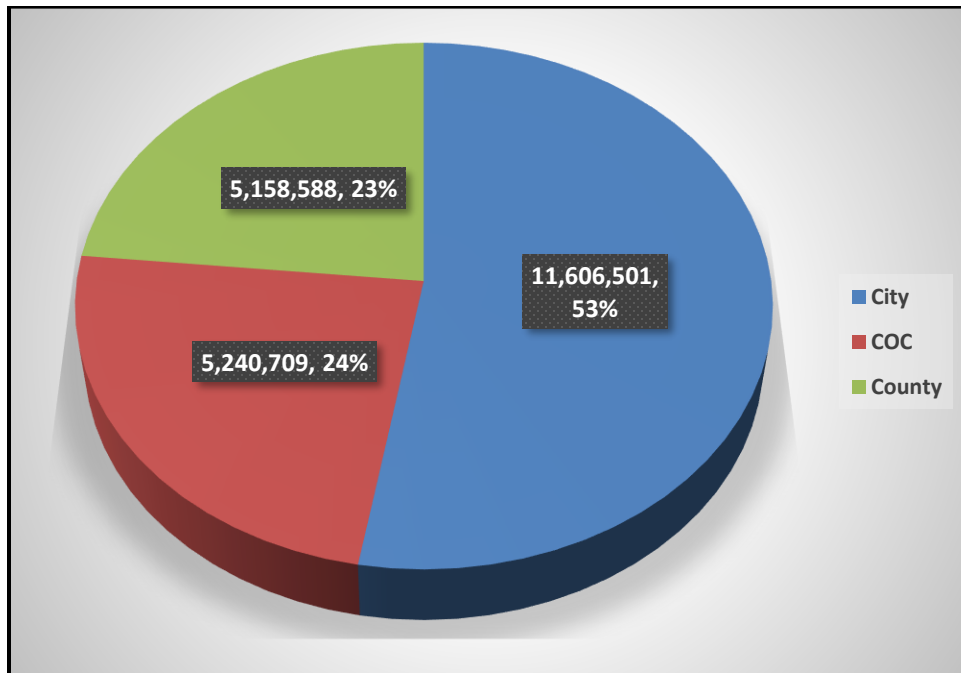
Consensus on 4 Common Sense Solutions to Homeless Sanitation Issues:

The organizations all agreed on 4 common sense solutions to Homeless Sanitation Issues: see attached flyer

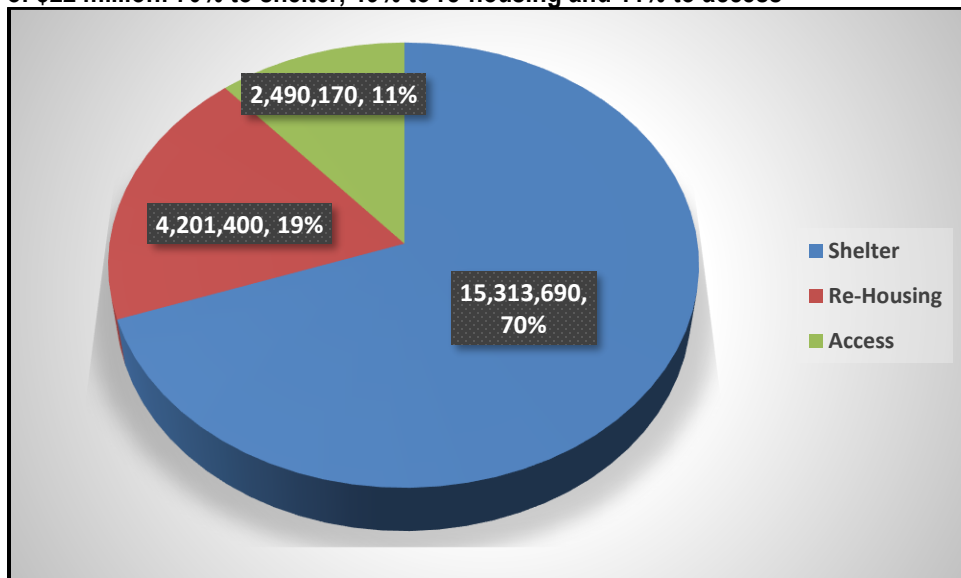
- [1] Access to Bathrooms:** Portland Loos in areas of high concentrations of homeless people [coupled with a Mobile Shower and Bathroom program – below] - each would be staffed by people experiencing homelessness since research has shown the most effective programs are staffed by attendants – for safety and also serving as a point of access; Note: The Pit Stop 6 month pilot program was had bathroom attendants who made referrals;
- [2] Mobile Shower/bathroom program:** this could serve as a “point of access” with case managers helping consumers access services and housing;
- [3] Hand Sanitizing Stations:** again, to address the public health issue of Hepatitis C and other communicable diseases;
- [4] Mobile Encampment Trash Pick Up program –** modeled after the highly successful program in Oakland CA.

HEJA frames these solutions as both Cost Effective Sanitation Solutions & Access Points, including homeless employment for homeless people- the latter is one of the three broad uses allowable uses of the Homeless, Housing Assistance Program funds [HHAP] as identified by the HHAP Collaborative Investment Plan [Shelter; Rehousing and Innovation which includes Access]

HHAP \$22 million funding allocation to City; County and COC [note: does not include \$2.1 million for youth; \$1.8 for administration; \$327,000 for planning and HMIS for a total allocation of \$26.274 million]



Distribution of \$22 million: 70% to shelter; 19% to re-housing and 11% to access



Note: funds must be expended on “evidence based solutions”: Below are five evidenced based programs which provide employment to people experiencing homelessness as well as the dignity of a shower, bathroom and washing machines and case management and access to services: Lava Mae in San Francisco, PIT Stop, SF , PIT Stop and the North A Street Project in Sacramento

LAVA MAE, S.F.- In 5 years [2014 – 2019] the Lava Mae [Mobile Shower Program] in San Francisco served 31,494 people experiencing homelessness or 6,298 homeless people annually. It is a proven point of access for people experiencing homelessness.

WE Hope, Palo Alto: A trailer outfitted with two shower restrooms and two washer and dryer units to be moved from designated locations, such as churches or private businesses, and even remote encampments. In addition, the trailer will include a volunteer nurse or case worker to assist in medical assistance, referrals and counseling for health issues and counsel on housing, education etc. services available to the homeless.

PIT Stop: SF: Public Works partners with two nonprofit organizations that staff the Pit Stops, as part of a workforce development program for people who have faced barriers to employment. Hunters Point Family staffs 23 of the 24 Pit Stop locations.

PIT Stop, Sacramento- PIT Stop, a 6 month pilot mobile bathroom project was used by 9,102 homeless men and women from June -September, 2016 for an average monthly use of 2,275 homeless people, many of whom were engaged in a referral process by the PIT Stop attendants.

North A Street Bathroom Sanitation Program, Sacramento: The Sanitation Program on North A averages about 8,000 uses per month – and linked with the North A Rehousing Program place 200 homeless people into housing in 2019.

Homeless Environmental Justice Alliance [HEJA] HHAP recommendations

HEJA recommends the following: The City, County and COC create a **Homeless Sanitation Employment Program** who employ people with lived experience as staff attendants to the Portland Loo bathrooms, North A Sanitation Program, Mobile Shower and Bathroom Program and Mobile Encampment Trash Pick-Up Project.

We propose **\$3 million in HHAP funds or 13.6% of the total funding allocation [\$22 million] go toward these four common sense sanitation solutions: \$1 million from the City or 8.6% of its allocation; \$1 million from the County or 19% of its allocation and \$1 million from the COC or 19% of its allocation.**

This is proposal is extremely cost effective especially given that at the end of 2019, the Park Rangers spent \$4.97 million in homeless related clean-up- or \$1.65 times as the \$3 M HEJA recommendation.