

**ITEM 6B**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Homelessness Committee  
April 20, 2022**



**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** CV Housing First: First Quarter Report for 2022

**Contact:** Anyse Smith, Management Analyst ([asmith@cvag.org](mailto:asmith@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** CVAG is now in its second year of operating the CV Housing First program with staff. The program is focused on the CV200, a by-name list of chronically homeless individuals residing in desert cities that have frequent contacts with law enforcement and who are likely to be shelter resistant or who have already fallen out of housing. The list was developed in partnership with CVAG's member jurisdictions and local law enforcement.

CVAG staff has committed to adjusting CV Housing First programming based on the data, and provides quarterly updates to its members about the program. The CV Housing First team uses two primary methods to get clients to housing solutions: rapid resolution and crisis stabilization units:

- Rapid resolution is an urgent, cost-saving solution that the Housing First staff use to help overcome the barriers that keep people from getting housing. This could include options such as helping them secure their identifying paperwork, which then can help them qualify for benefits. It also includes sorting out the process for housing, medical, mental health, substance abuse, employment, and mainstream benefits.
- The crisis stabilization units allow CVAG to connect CV200 individuals to housing. These are apartments and hotel rooms where clients stay, generally up to 90 days, that keep them off the streets. Through case management and frequent interactions with the team, CVAG is helping them achieve the goal of permanent housing, programs, and family reunifications

On a weekly basis, staff also conducts valley-wide coordinated outreach, and participates in regular planning meetings with law enforcement, healthcare providers, county behavioral health teams, and other service providers. In the first year, 75 CV200 clients were in permanent housing solutions and another 32 non-CV200 clients were housed.

CVAG staff will continue to provide quarterly reports as it provides services in 2022. In the first quarter of 2022, 15 CV200 clients were in permanent housing solutions and another seven non-CV200 clients were housed. This represents a small uptick in statistics as compared to the latter half of 2021.

CV Housing First Clients – By the Numbers through March 31, 2022

<b>CV200 as of 3/31/2022</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Clients housed in Crisis Stabilization Units (CSH)	33				33
Clients being helped through Rapid Resolution (RR)	0				0

Clients returned to the street (failures)	5				5
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Clients moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	15				15
Clients moved into permanent housing through RR (successes)	0				0
<b>TOTAL HOUSED FROM LIST OF 200</b>	<b>15</b>				<b>15</b>

<b>NON CV200 as of 3/31/2022</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Households Housed in CSH Units	1				1
Households being helped through RR	6				6

Households returned to the street (failures)	0				0
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Households moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	1				1
Households moved into permanent housing from RR (successes)	6				6
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS HOUSED</b>	<b>7</b>				<b>7</b>
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS HOUSED</b>	<b>7</b>				<b>7</b>

CVAG staff continues to track program metrics, such as the length of stay in the units. For the first quarter, the CV200 clients who successfully exited the program into permanent housing stayed in a crisis stabilization unit for **69 days**. Those CV200 clients who exited the program unsuccessfully stayed **115 days**. This is longer than CVAG staff aims to keep clients in the units. However, this quarter's figures – based on five people – were skewed by a couple of individuals who could not secure housing based on their low voucher level and no credit history. CVAG staff had hoped to not disrupt their progress by finding a solution, but had to exit them to emergency shelters when it became apparent no permanent solution would be found.

Throughout the year, CVAG staff also added additional program metrics to track the permanent housing resolutions. Knowing the type of housing where clients resolve will help with identifying future opportunities and options for housing, while also highlighting where we face challenges in finding placement for clients. Of the 15 permanent housing resolutions in the first quarter, the breakdown of clients' Exit Destination is as follows:

- Family/Friends – 0
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) – 2
- Rental With Ongoing Subsidy (Low Income Senior Housing) – 1
- Rental With Ongoing Subsidy (VASH Voucher) – 0
- Rental With Ongoing Subsidy (Housing Choice Voucher) – 6
- Rental with No Ongoing Subsidy - 5
- Rapid Rehousing - 1
- Shared Housing - 0

CVAG staff will continue to track the housing status of permanently resolved clients at the six- and 12-month period after they were initially housed to determine which clients still remain in housing and which have returned to homelessness. For the clients who are still in housing or who have been recently housed, CVHF staff remains ready and available to assist with providing supportive services and linkages to services to prevent a return to homelessness.

**Fiscal Analysis:** The CV Housing First program, including the staffing and CV200 program, is incorporated into the CV Housing First budget, which has been funded by contributions from cities, Riverside County, the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation, and grants.

**ITEM 6C**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Homelessness Committee  
April 20, 2022**



**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Additional Funding Support for CV Housing First

**Contact:** Anyse Smith, Management Analyst ([asmith@cvag.org](mailto:asmith@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a memorandum of understanding with Inland Counties Legal Fund to accept a \$300,000, three-year grant from the State Bar of California for homelessness services**

**Background:** The CV Housing First Program focuses primarily on providing intensive case management services to the CV200 – a by name list of chronically homeless individuals who are high utilizers of public emergency services and who have frequent contact with law enforcement. Chronically homeless individuals often face difficulty with accessing housing due to barriers such as having no income, or not having their vital documents (such as a birth certificate or ID).

CVAG staff, over the course of the past year, has worked to build partnerships with organizations that can bolster the services available to the CV 200 clients. One of those partnerships has been with Inland County Legal Services (ICLS), and it has been focused on providing legal services to CVHF clients. ICLS recently was successful in obtaining grant funding from the State Bar of California that will be used for homeless services ICLS provides throughout the region. The grant, which is for three years, identified CVAG as one of its partners.

CVAG's portion of the grant will largely go to costs associated with the legal clinics. These are held on a regular basis and provide an opportunity for CV 200 clients, who are case managed by CVAG, to work with legal experts in order to receive assistance with acquiring their vital documents, as well as being connected to mainstream benefits such as Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI). Clients who are unsheltered often have limited access to phones, computers, and email – all of which present a barrier to acquiring and, in some cases, maintaining income. Without income, individuals face extreme difficulty qualifying for housing, even if housing is identified. Case managers will schedule an appointment for clients to meet with an advocate who can assist with addressing their particular needs as determined by an assessment tool administered by the case manager. Once clients have been qualified and assigned an advocate, case managers will continue to assist by coordinating transportation for the client to future appointments and providing any follow up documentation. This direct assistance will increase clients' access to permanent housing, thereby ending their homelessness. ICLS offers these services to CVAG's program participants and clients who are referred by other homeless services providers in the desert region.

Legal services will also be provided to unsheltered individuals where they reside through the Mobile Access Center (MAC). Advocates from ICLS and Housing First staff work collaboratively

to offer these services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness through a combination of in-person and virtual meetings, which can take place in the MAC.

Details of the funding agreement are still being worked out between ICLS and the State Bar. Once they are finalized, ICLS and CVAG will need a memorandum of understanding to execute their partnership. CVAG staff is recommending that authorization be provided to the Executive Director to negotiate the agreement and accept the funding.

**Fiscal Analysis:** ICLS is receiving a \$1.2 million, three-year grant through the State Bar of California to fund legal aid that addresses homelessness and homeless prevention. ICLS' grant proposal identified \$300,000 for CVAG – or \$100,000 a year – to cover costs associated with the legal clinic. This also will help the program supplement previous funding sources, such as the California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) Program, which CVAG had utilized but have been drawn down.

ICLS is also working with Step up on Second, a non-profit that provides permanent supportive housing solutions, in order to expand homeless services across eastern Riverside County and San Bernardino County.