



SOLANO COUNTY COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

Final Report

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE



SOLANO
COUNTY



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Background

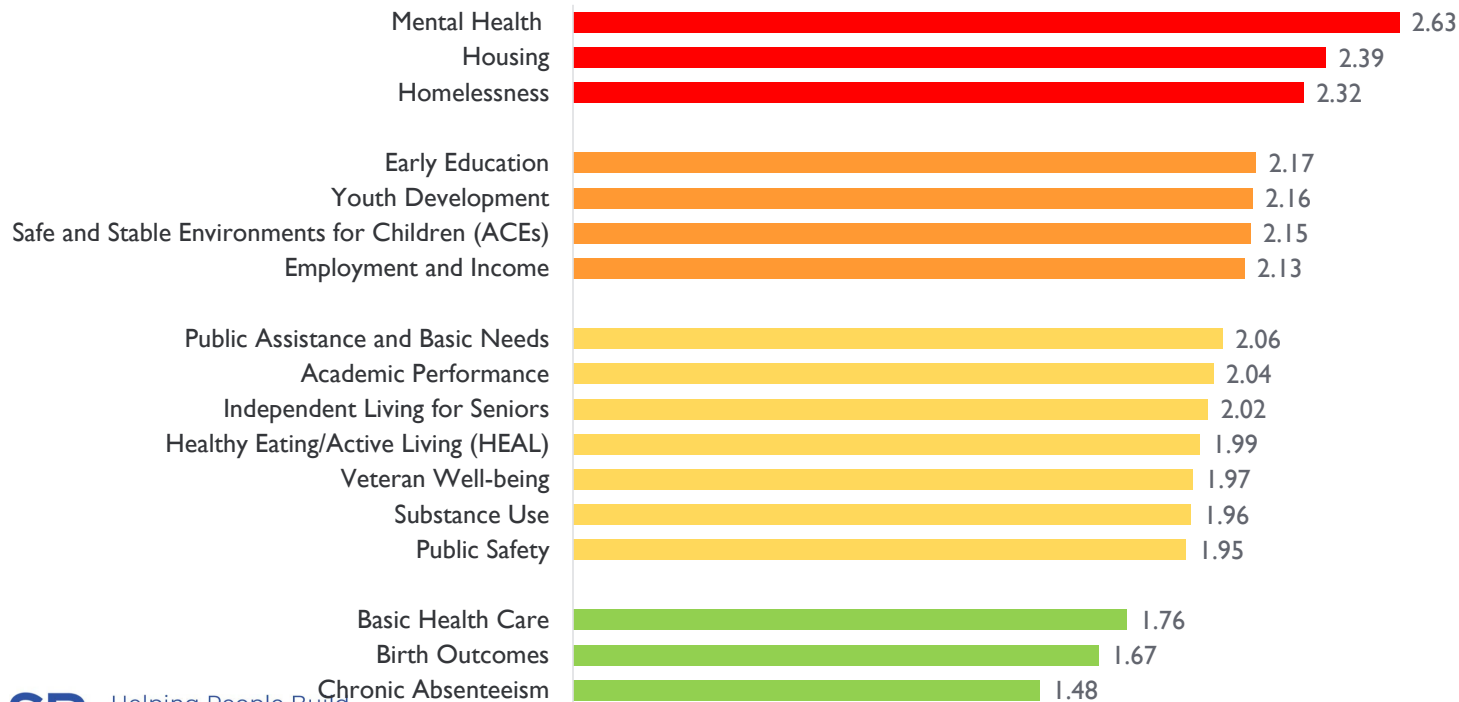


Background

- Each year, the Solano County Board of Supervisors (BOS) contributes on average \$2 million of General Fund dollars to non-county agencies.
- Prior to 2018, there was no framework in place to guide grantmaking.
- In FY2018/19, on behalf of the Board, the County Administrator's Office initiated a Human Services Needs Assessment (HSNA) to:
 1. Identify the greatest human service needs and effective strategies;
 2. Allocate non-county funding to meet those needs;
 3. Create a structure for monitoring the effectiveness of these grants; and
 4. Show how this funding is having an impact.

Priority Needs According to HSNA

Each need was scored on each of the eight criteria using a 1-3 scale; the higher the overall average score, the higher the priority in Solano County.



Criteria:

1. Unfavorable trend
2. Many people affected
3. Leader priority
4. Community priority
5. Planning team priority
6. Available assets
7. Will / commitment for change
8. Ability to show change

Summary of the Community Investment Fund

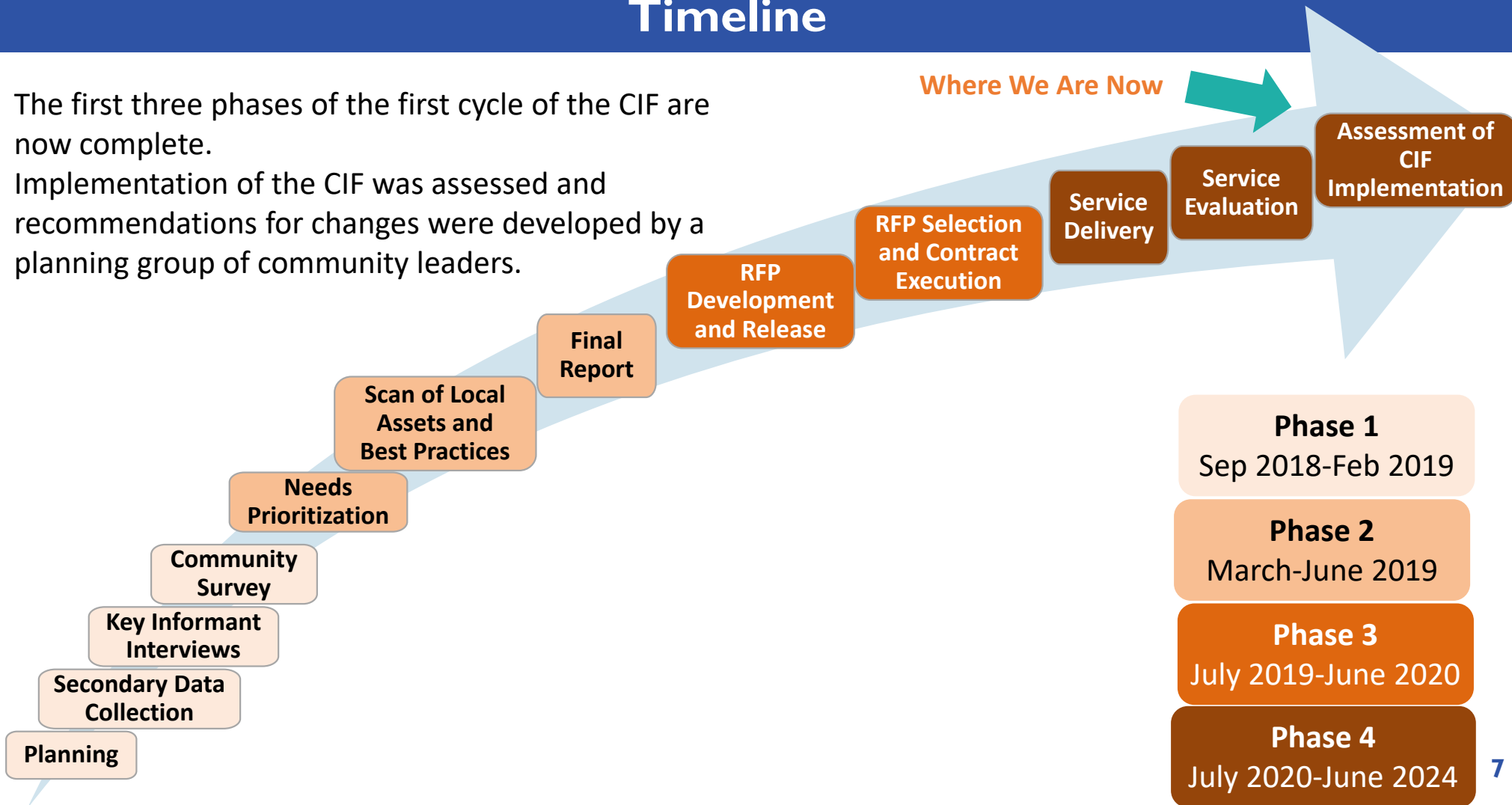
- The HSNA also articulated a way to fund strategies to meet the top needs.
- The CIF was \$2m annually, allocated across three types of grants:



Solano County Human Services Needs Assessment Timeline

- The first three phases of the first cycle of the CIF are now complete.
- Implementation of the CIF was assessed and recommendations for changes were developed by a planning group of community leaders.

Where We Are Now



CIF Renewal Process

In spring 2023, the process began to renew the CIF for the next three-year term. A Planning Group was created, consisting of made up of BOS members and County Department leaders. Members included:

- Erin Hannigan, Supervisor for District 1 – CIF Planning Group Chairperson
- Wanda Williams, Supervisor for District 3
- Debbie Vaughn, Assistant Director, Solano County Administrator's Office
- Gerald Huber, Director, Solano County HSS
- Christopher Hansen, Chief Probation Officer, Solano County Probation
- Suzanne Olawski, Director, Solano County Library Services
- Liane Peck, Director, Solano County Child Support Services
- Michele Harris, Executive Director, First 5 Solano
- Dean Farrah, Superintendent, Solano County Juvenile Detention
- Emery Cowan, Deputy Director-Behavioral Health, Solano County HSS
- Jayleen Richards, Public Health Administrator, Solano County HSS
- Denise Winters, Deputy Director, First 5 Solano
- Tami Lukens, Principal Management Analyst, Solano County Administrator's Office

CIF Renewal Process

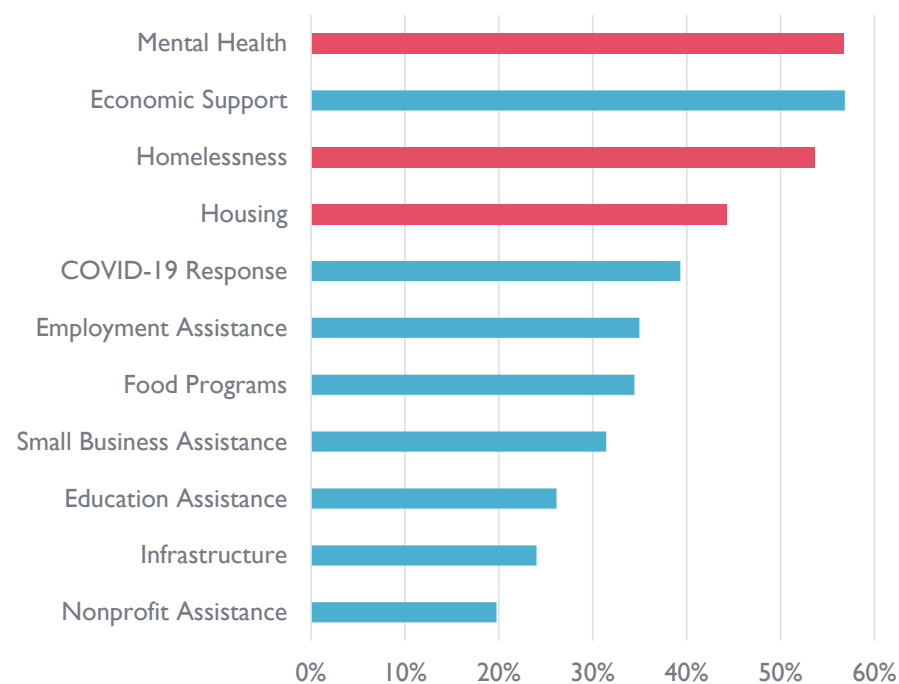
The Planning Group(s) met multiple times to discuss:

1. How the landscape of needs and assets has changed in the county since the 2018-19 HSNA
2. Effectiveness of grants given during the first three-year CIF team
3. Recommended changes to the CIF for the next three-year term (FY2024/25 – FY2026/27), including:
 - Alignment with other current initiatives to avoid duplication
 - Grants proposed within the Legacy Programs, Annual Grants, and Deep Investments
 - Where to invest unspent and unallocated funds

Affirmation of Top Needs in 2023

- Planning Team reviewed current needs from a variety of perspectives:
 - Other reports (CHNA, ARPA)
 - Key leader interviews
- Top needs of the CIF were affirmed as still being:
 1. Mental Health
 2. Homelessness
 3. Affordable Housing

Types of Projects the County Should Focus on with ARPA One-Time Funds



Source: Solano County ARPA Survey 2021.

Note: N = 941. Participants could select more than one response. Infrastructure was broken into two categories – Broadband/IT & Water/Sewer – both of which were marked by 24% of the sample.

Annual Grants



Annual Grants

- This category of the CIF was created to address the top six needs found in the HSNA:
 - Mental Health
 - Housing
 - Homelessness
 - Early Education
 - Youth Development
 - Safe and Stable Environments for Children
- \$250K total is available per year, with up to \$50K per proposal.
- Requests for Proposals were released each year.
- Proposals were scored and ranked by a panel and recommended to the BOS to be funded.

Mental Health

Housing Affordability

Homelessness

Early Education

Youth Development

Safe & Stable
Environments for children

Annual Grants (FY2020/21-FY2022/23)

- All but three grantees met 100% of their performance measures:

Organization	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY2022/23	Total Funding Spent	% of Performance Measures Met
On the Move	✓	✓	✓	\$149,264	100%
La Clinica de la Raza	✓	✓	✓	\$134,307	100%
Parents by Choice		✓	✓	\$97,269	100%
Kyle Hyland Foundation for Teen Support		✓	✓	\$84,868	100%
Napa Solano SANE-SART	✓		✓	\$81,479	100%
Rio Vista CARE		✓	✓	\$71,747	100%
Community Medical Center	✓			\$50,000	67%
FSUSD FRC	✓			\$49,684	100%
Vacaville Solano Services Corporation			✓	\$49,642	83%
Fairfield PAL	✓			\$23,569	83%
Agape Counseling Center and Network		X		\$8,221	N/A
Dixon Unified	X			\$0	N/A

X – Contract ended early

Annual Grant Recommendations for FY2024/25-FY2026/27

The Planning Group is recommending the following changes to the Annual Grants:

- Increase grant size to \$75K
 - Rationale: All grantees applied for the full \$50K in the previous funding cycle, suggesting it may not be enough
- Also offer \$25K grants
 - Rationale: Mini grants can support grassroots organizations with small projects
- Increase total amount of funding in Annual Grant category from **\$250K/yr** to **\$365K/yr**. This allows for:
 - Four \$75K grants
 - Two \$25K grants

Deep Investments



Deep Investments

- This category addressed the top three needs:
 - Mental Health
 - Affordable Housing
 - Homelessness
- An Outcomes Framework was used to define key outcome indicators and evaluate progress.
- To address **Affordable Housing**, in FY2022/23, the CIF began putting \$200K to Housing Trust Fund; recommendation is to continue this approach.
- To address **Mental Health** and **Homelessness**, the Planning Group proposed changes to grants.



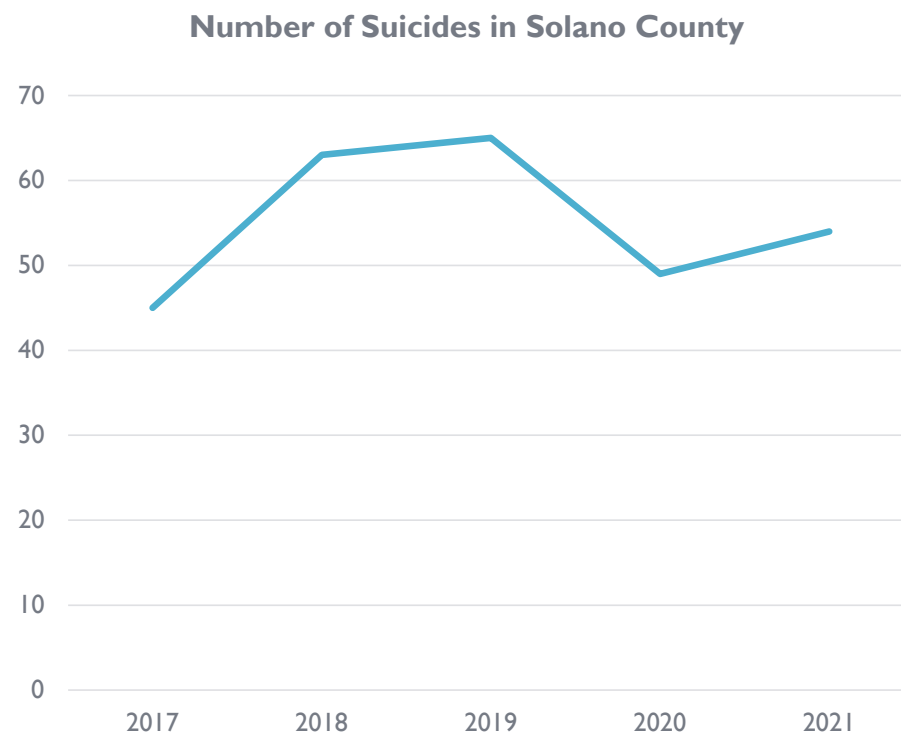
Deep Investments:

Mental Health



Suicide

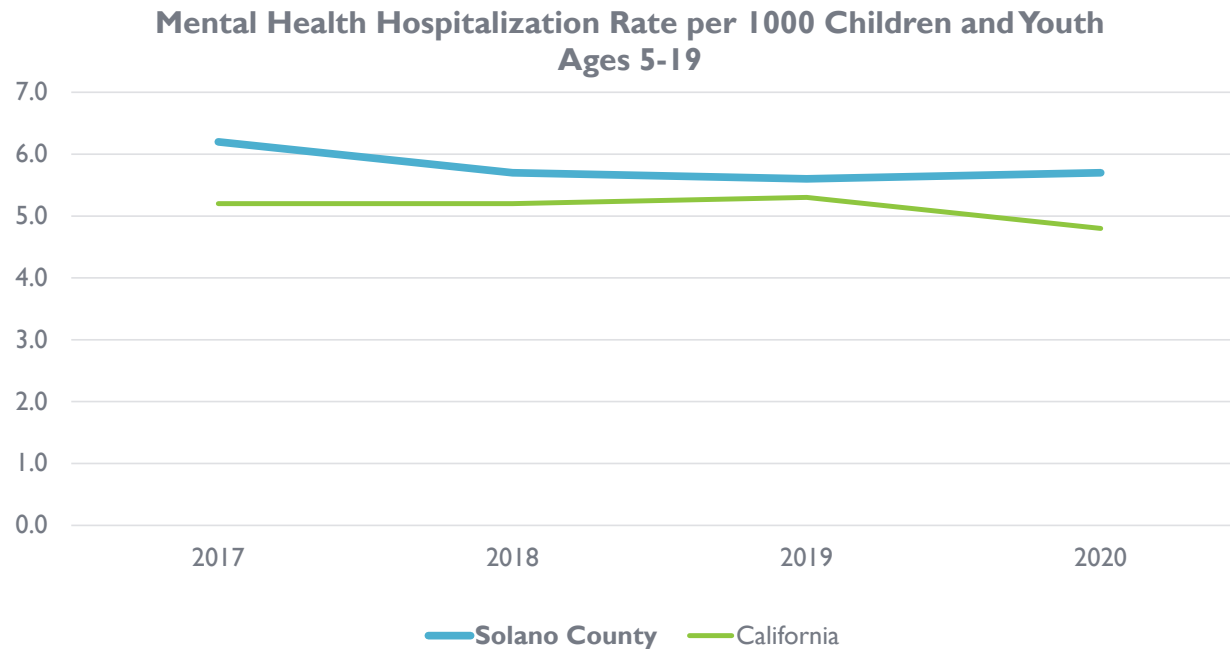
- There were 54 suicide deaths in 2021, a 7.7% increase from 2020.
- Solano's suicide rate was higher than the rate statewide in 2020:
 - **14.0** per 100,000 in **Solano**
 - **10.5** per 100,000 in **CA**



Sources: Solano County Behavioral Health (SCBH), Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan 2021 and Diversity and Equity Report 2022 Annual Update.

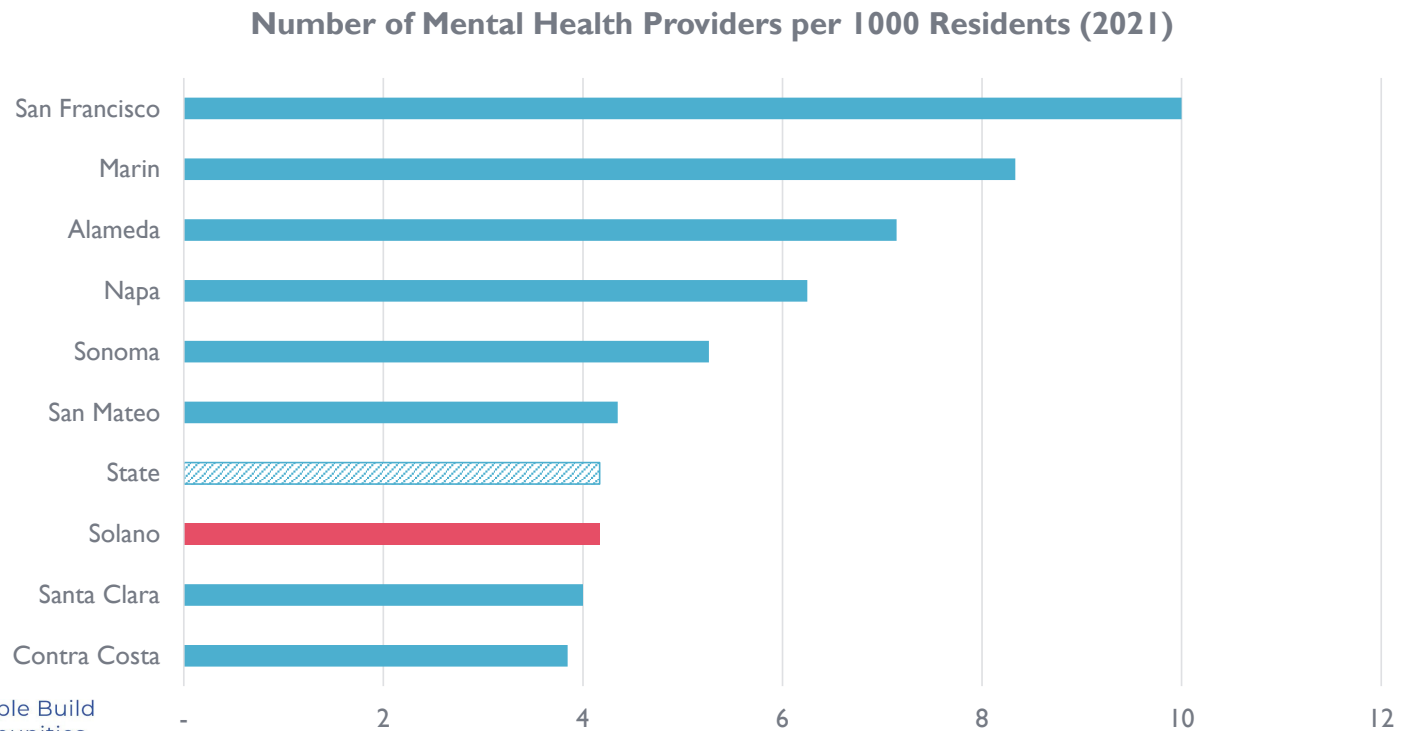
Youth Mental Health Hospitalizations

- Solano's youth mental health hospitalization rate is slightly higher than the rate statewide.



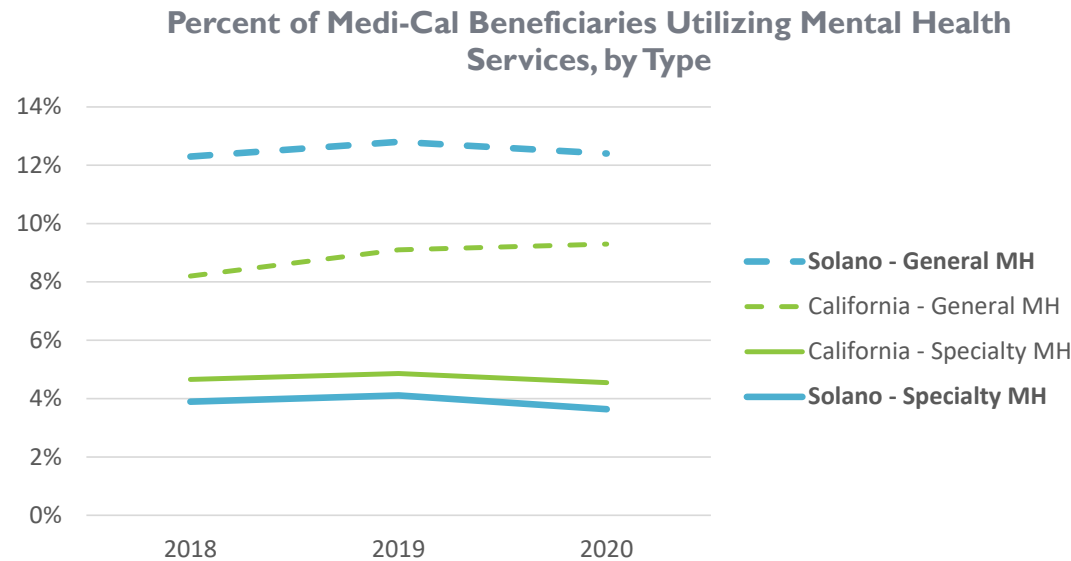
Mental Health Providers

- Solano has fewer mental health providers than most other Bay Area counties.



Mental Health Access for Residents on Medi-Cal

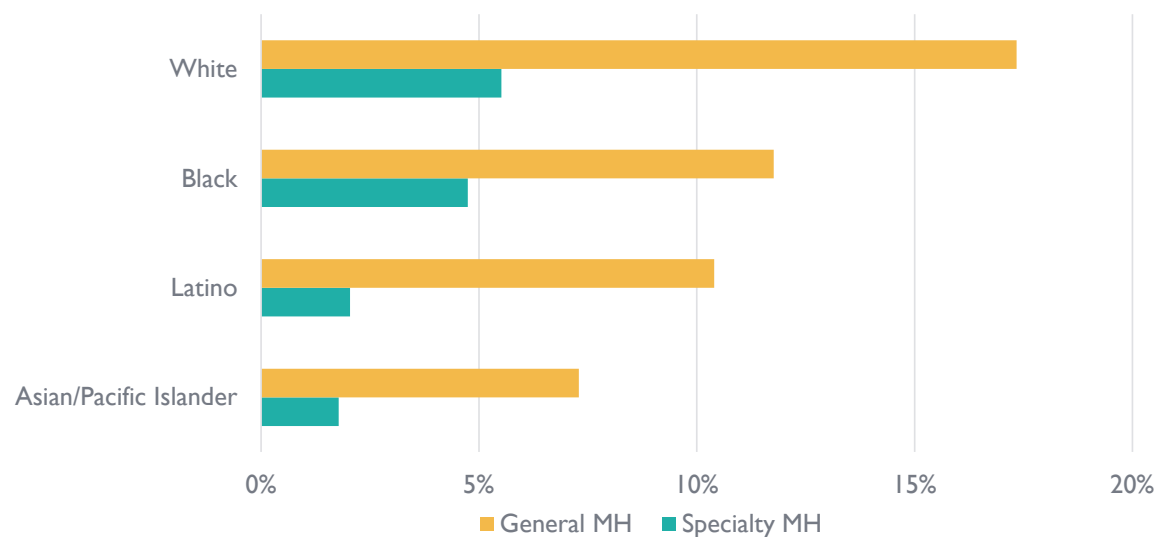
- **12%** of Medi-Cal beneficiaries in Solano accessed **general mental health** services (through Partnership/Carelon BH) in 2020, a rate that is higher than the state's.
- **4%** accessed **specialty mental health** services (through Solano County Behavioral Health) in 2020, a rate that is similar to the state's.



Mental Health Access for Residents on Medi-Cal, by Race/Ethnicity

- Mental health service utilization rates were highest among White Medi-Cal beneficiaries and lowest among Latino and Asian/PI beneficiaries.

Percent of Medi-Cal Beneficiaries in Solano County Utilizing Mental Health Services, by Type and Race/Ethnicity (2020)



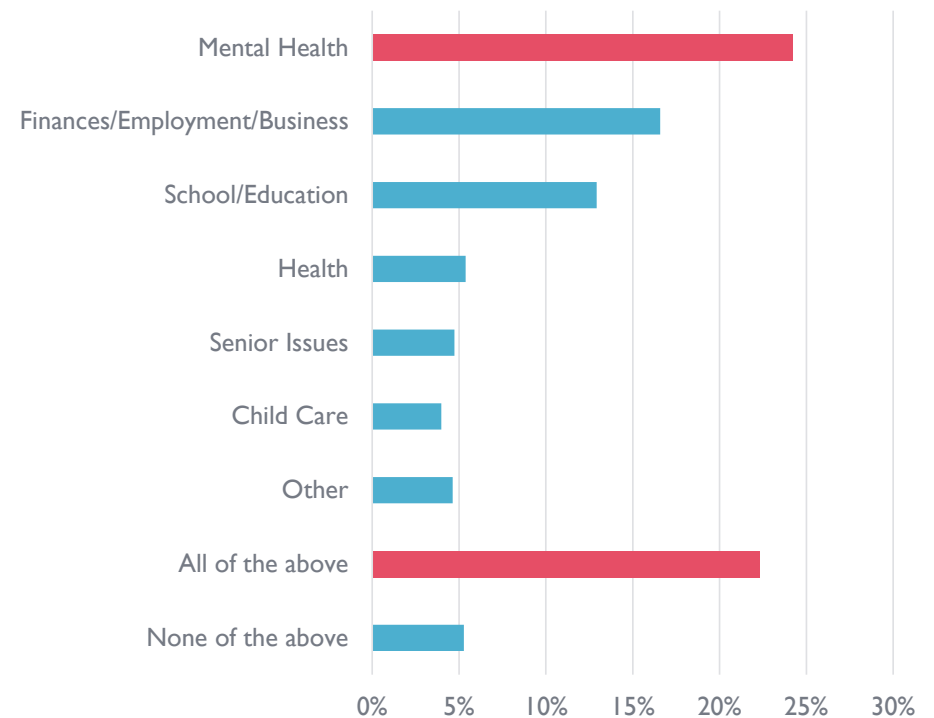
Sources: Solano Medi-Cal Specialty Behavioral Health External Quality Review & CA Department of Health and Human Services MHS Dashboard Adult Demographic Datasets and Report Tool.

Note: Number of beneficiaries served through Solano Behavioral Health=1,286 (White); 323 (Latino); 699 (Black); 251 (Asian/Pacific Islander). Number of beneficiaries served through Carelon BH=3,093 (White); 2,079 (Latino); 1,626 (Black); 815 (Asian/Pacific Islander).

Impact of COVID-19 on Solano Community

- In late 2021, **941** people who live, work, or own property in Solano County were surveyed about how COVID-19 impacted them.
- **46% of respondents said mental health was the most significant impact** of COVID-19 on them/their family (24% marked “mental health” and 22% marked all of the impacts listed).

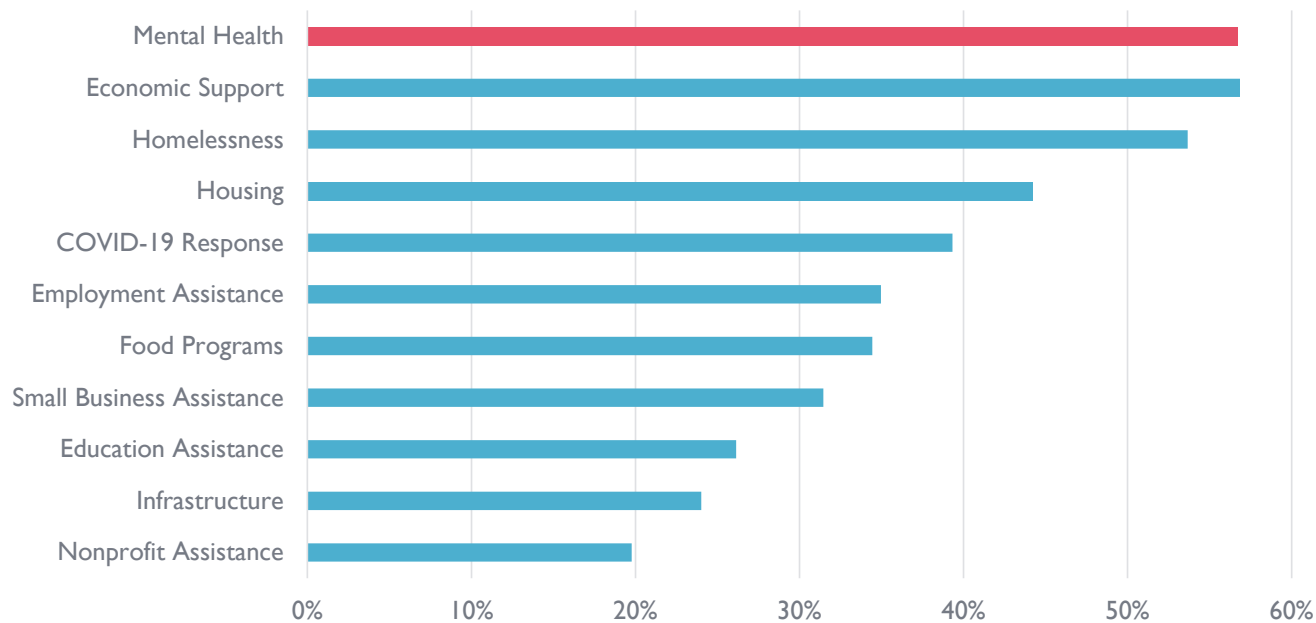
Most Significant Impacts of COVID-19



Solano Community's ARPA Funding Recommendations

- Mental health projects were a **top recommendation for ARPA spending**, mentioned by 57% of the sample.

Types of Projects County Should Focus on with ARPA One-Time Funds



Solano County Mental Health System

- County mental health experts said new funding is available for public mental health programs, housing for people with mental health challenges, and mental health services for youth and justice-involved residents.
- Solano is limited by behavioral health staffing shortages.
 - Behavioral Health had a ~20% vacancy rate in 2022, and many contractors have vacancy rates that are similar or higher.
- The Planning Group and experts recommended the CIF continue to address the following key challenges in the county's mental health system:
 1. Connecting people to services.
 2. Increasing people's understanding around how to respond to mental health crises.



Deep Investments – Mental Health (FY2020/21-FY2022/23)

- **A Better Way** was funded to provide Mental Health First Aid trainings to providers. They did not meet their performance measures - contract terminated.
- **Touro University** was successful developing the SolanoConnex app to connect residents to mental health services; in year 3, Touro stepped in to provide the trainings originally provided by A Better Way.

Grantee	Strategies	Total Funding Spent	Perform. Measures Met FY2020/21	Perform. Measures Met FY2021/22	Perform. Measures Met FY2022/23
A Better Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer evidence-based Mental Health First Aid training to county residents 	\$349,125	67%	0%	Not funded
Touro University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map the mental health system of care • Connect residents to appropriate mental health services via SolanoConnex web app; • Train community members using <i>Be Sensitive, Be Brave</i> curriculum 	\$974,103	100%	100%	100%

Outcomes of Mental Health CIF Grantees – Touro

Mapped the behavioral health system of care

Developed and launched Connex app

660 community members reached through face-to-face promotion of app

500 outreach materials distributed

9 navigators were trained and connected residents to services



Outcomes of Mental Health CIF Grantees – Touro, cont.

Since November 2021:

8,017 visits to providers' pages

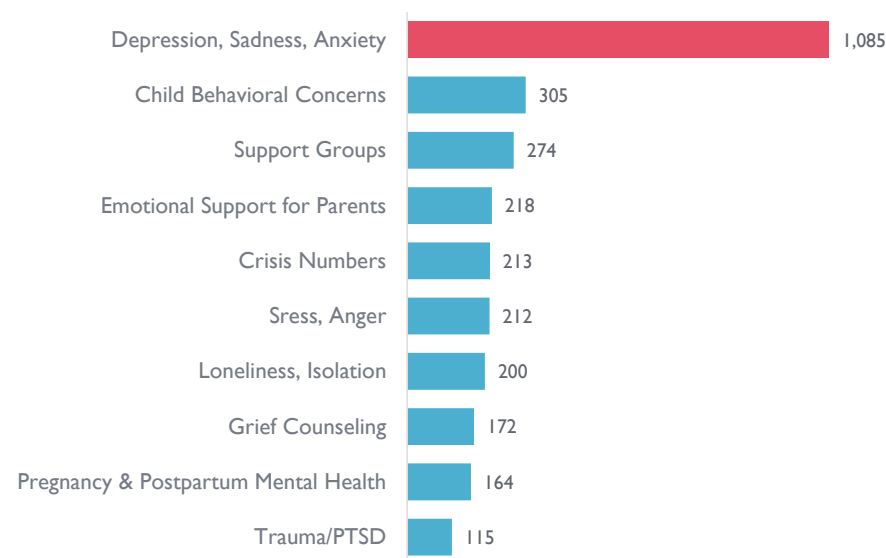
1,336 visits to hotlines pages

102 people served by patient navigators

89 community events

43 podcasts profiling providers in Solano

Top 10 Mental Health Sub-Categories on SolanoConnex (Number of Clicks)



Source: Touro University, SolanoConnex's Mixpanel. November 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

Deep Investments – Mental Health Recommendations (FY2024/25-FY2026/27)

- Continue funding **Touro University at \$600K** per year to offer:
 - SolanoConnex app maintenance
 - *Be Sensitive, Be Brave* Community trainings
 - Expanded navigation component, whereby navigators follow up with clients to ensure they get connected to services



Click [here](#) for a video overview of the program

Deep Investments:

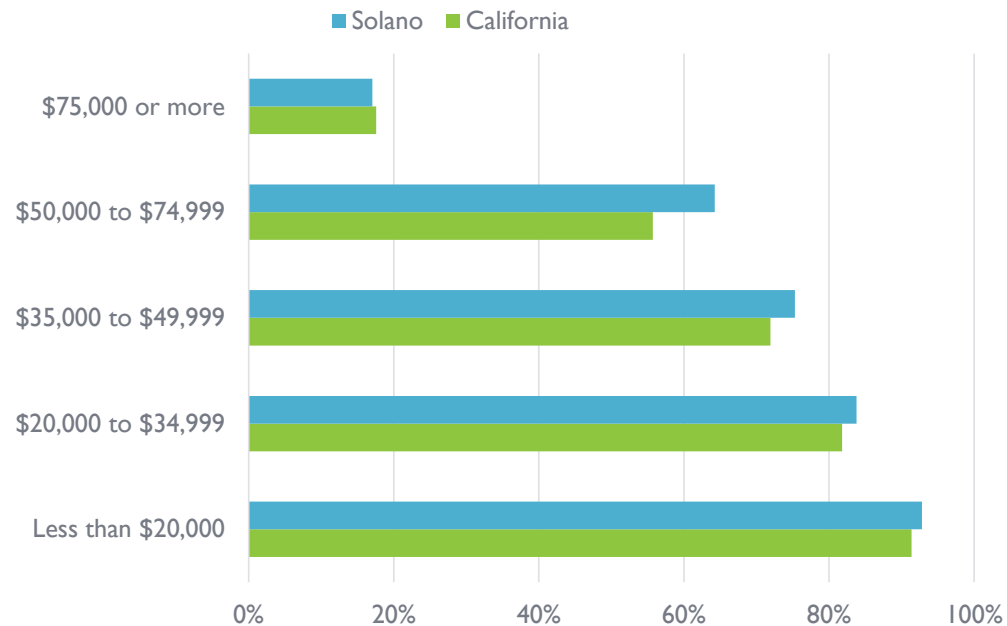
Homelessness



Housing Needs

- In Solano County, lower-income households are greatly affected by the high cost of housing and are at high risk for homelessness.

Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Housing (2021)

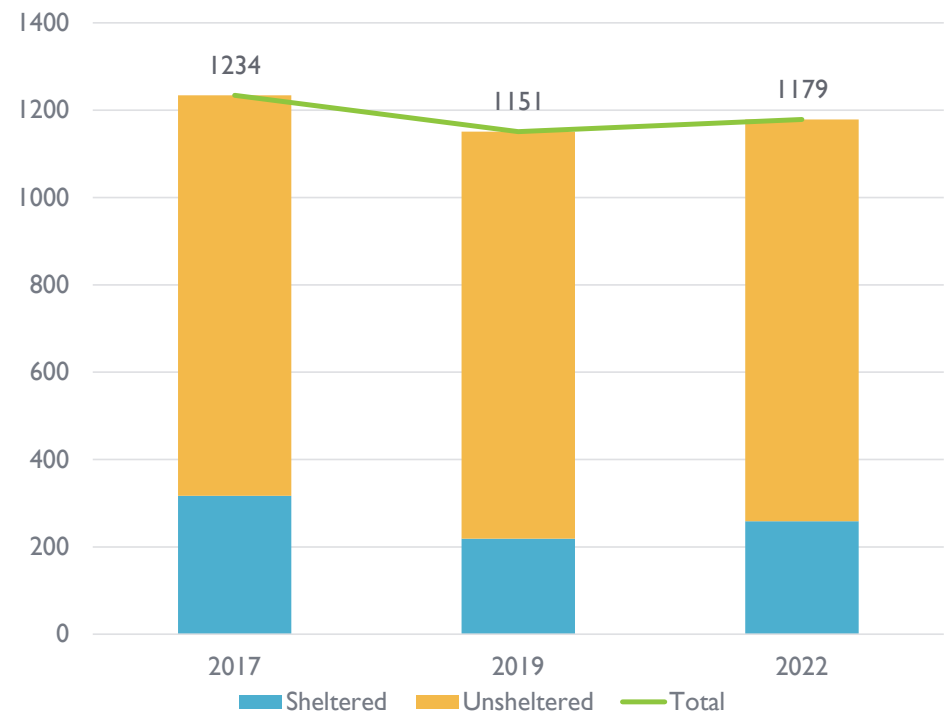


64,238
Solano households
lack affordable housing

Homelessness (Point in Time Count)

- Homelessness rose slightly between 2019 and 2022.
- 78% of the 1,179 people counted were unsheltered.
- The rate of homelessness was lower in Solano than in the state overall in 2022:
 - 26 per 10,000 people in Solano
 - 44 per 10,000 people in CA

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness, Solano County



Disproportionality in Experiences of Homelessness

- Based on the PIT count and other research, these populations are overrepresented among individuals experiencing homelessness:



People with issues related to mental health, chronic health, or substance use



People who identify as non-Hispanic Black



People living in high need zip codes

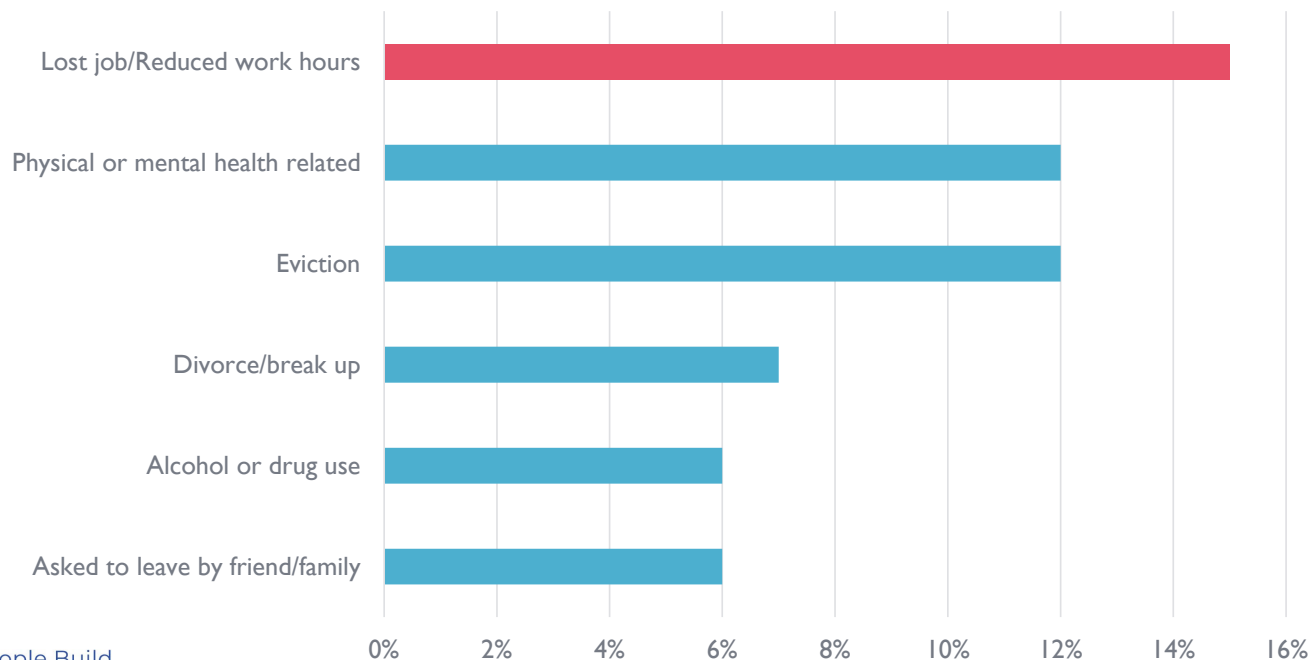


People living in poverty

Events Leading to Homelessness: Top 6 Responses

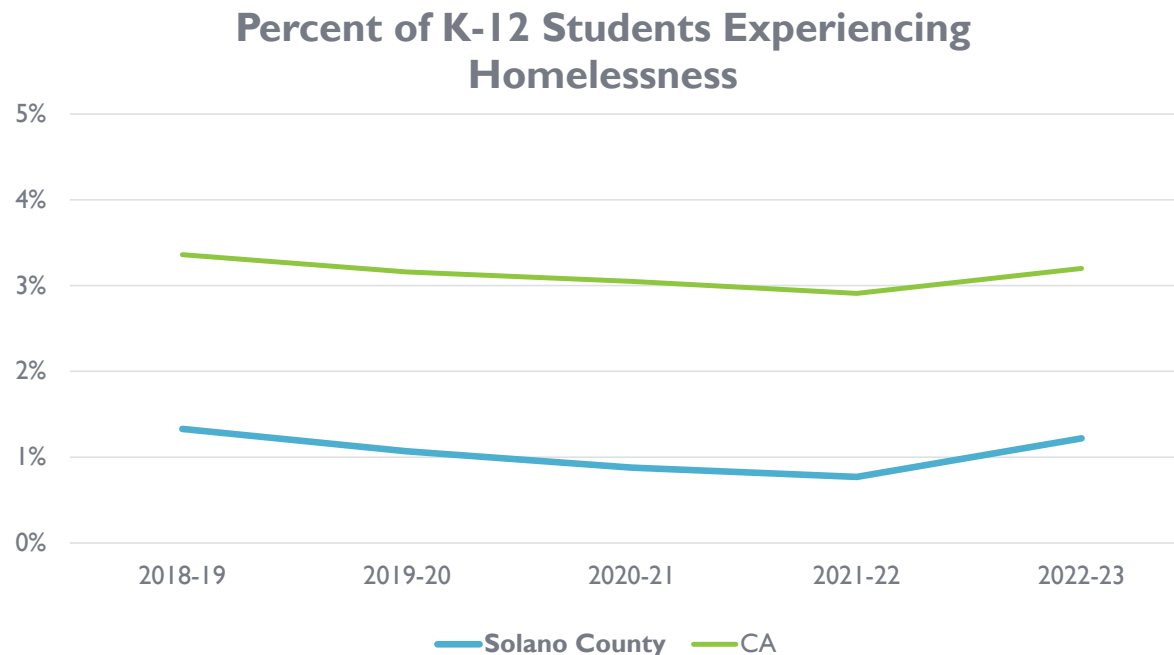
- The most common event leading to homelessness was job loss:

Top 6 Events Leading to Homelessness in Solano (2022)



K-12 Homelessness

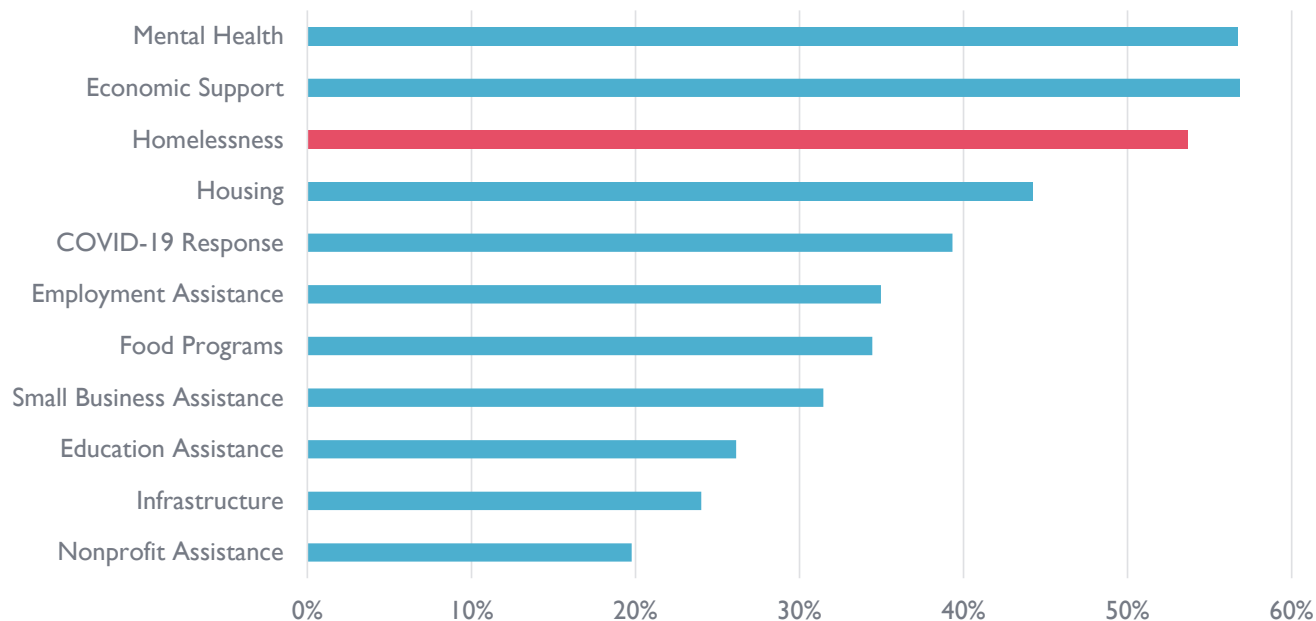
- Homelessness among public school students increased in SY2022-23, but the rate is lower in Solano than it is statewide.



Solano Community's ARPA Funding Recommendations

- Homelessness projects were a **top recommendation for ARPA spending**, mentioned by 54% of the sample.

Types of Projects County Should Focus on with ARPA One-Time Funds



Deep Investments – Homelessness (FY2020/21-FY2022/23)

- The initial Deep Investment grantees were providing homelessness intervention services but are not continuing in FY2024/25.

Grantee	Strategies	Total Funding Spent	Perform. Measures Met FY2020/21	Perform. Measures Met FY2021/22	Perform. Measures Met FY2022/23
Volunteers of America	Rapid rehousing program for recently homeless individuals to gain and maintain permanent housing	\$578,113	100%	100%	100%
Vacaville Solano Service Corporation	Open a Transition-Age Youth shelter in Vacaville	\$461,976	N/A	100%	83%

Solano County Homelessness System

- Most available funding in Solano County goes to **intervention** programs to address homelessness.
- Local homelessness experts said the CIF could fill a gap in **prevention** services.



Shifting from Intervention to Prevention of Homelessness: All Home Homelessness Prevention Program

- Keeping a family housed (\$5,700) is half the cost of helping re-house (\$10,000). The county is also planning more investments in intervention. The Planning Team therefore discussed shifting the focus of CIF funding from *intervention* to *prevention*.
- **All Home** offers an innovative approach to homelessness prevention. The program begins with an online assessment tool to identify families most in need. Eligible families are connected to a local service provider for direct financial support and case management to stabilize.
- The program is successful in other counties: in Santa Clara County, 97% of families remained housed while being enrolled in the program; 96% of families were housed one year after leaving the program.
- All Home is backed by a regional pool of philanthropic prevention funds to help programs get started. All Home would match funding from the CIF for two years:
 - \$500K/yr if CIF investment is \$400K, for a total of \$900K (158 clients)
 - \$600K/yr if CIF investment is \$700K, for a total of \$1.3M (228 clients)
- In the third year, All Home helps counties find sustainable funding sources.

Benefits of Potential All Home Pilot Program in Solano



Cost savings relative to intervention



Regional partnership and advocacy creates leveraging opportunities



Can track and show impact of program



Fills gap in resources/services currently available

Deep Investments – Homelessness Recommendation (FY2024/25-FY2026/27)

- Fund **All Home** to offer homeless prevention services
 - Invest **\$700K/yr** to receive a \$600K/yr match from All Home in the first two years
 - All Home staff to work with Solano County to develop sustainable funding sources over first 2 years
 - This level of investment will serve **228** families in the county annually



Legacy Programs



Overview of Legacy Programs

- Legacy programs were established by the BOS and sustained to serve a specific population.
- Assessments of programs were conducted in 2020-2022 to determine any changes needed to programs.
- The results revealed two groups did not meet criteria for an advisory board and duplicated efforts of other collaboratives/organizations in county.
- As a result of the assessment:
 - The Senior Coalition was disbanded.
 - The Children’s Alliance’s focus was narrowed from four broad areas of impact to child abuse prevention and put under the direction of Child Welfare Services in Solano County Health and Social Services.

Legacy Programs Recommendation

- Recommendation: Continue funding these programs:

Organization	Program Description	FY2024/25 Amount
CASA of Solano County	Children's advocates	\$130,325
Veteran's Court Case Manager	Collaborative court case manager	\$86,966
Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano	Food and nutrition services	\$50,000
Children's Alliance	Child Abuse Prevention Council	\$30,000
North Bay Stand Down	Connects veterans to programs and services	\$8,000
Legacy Program Subtotal		\$305,291

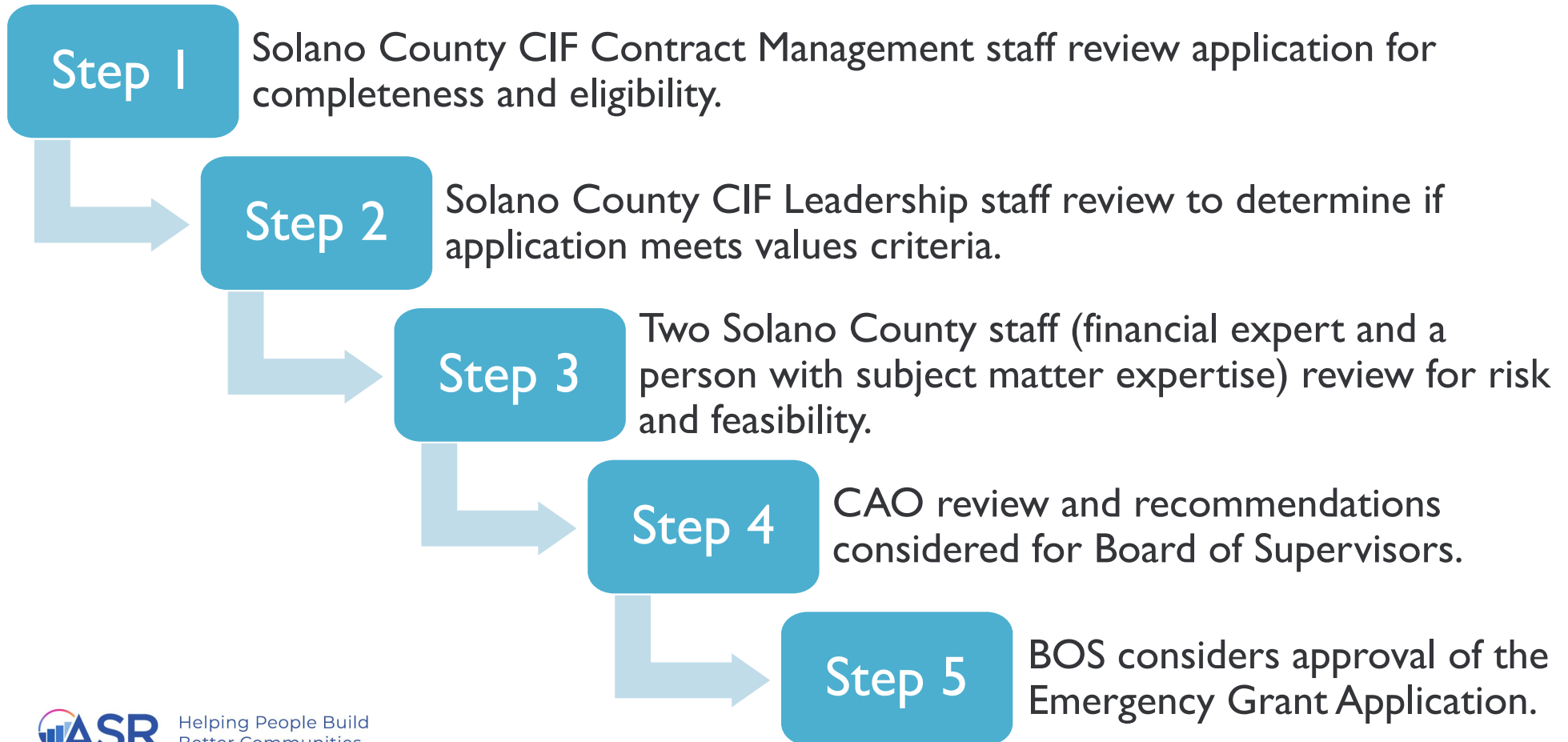
Emergency Fund



Emergency Fund Added to CIF

- An Emergency Fund category of up to \$250K has been added to CIF beginning in FY2023/24; funding comes from savings in current CIF term.
- Emergency Fund will fund one-time emergency projects for agencies who offer services addressing one or more of the six priority CIF needs.
- Eligible organizations must be well-established (in business two-plus years).
- Organizations will receive a one-year commitment and can re-apply after five years.
- The overall CIF investment increases by \$250K in FY2024/25.
- Funding will be considered by your Board after a comprehensive application review process is conducted, described on next slide.

Application Review Process



**Summary of
Recommendations for
CIF term
FY2024/25 - FY2026/27**



Overall Recommendations: Rollover

■ Rollover Policy:

- In the current CIF term, unspent or unallocated funds in a fiscal year are “swept”, in that they do not roll over to the next year.
- In order to keep the CIF funds in the community, the Planning Group recommends (with CAO concurrence) to establish a policy change to roll over unallocated and unspent CIF funds each year.
- The Planning Group made recommendations on how to spend these available funds in the next CIF funding cycle.
- If the recommendation is approved, then any unspent funds will be used for later rounds of Annual Grants.

Summary of the Community Investment Fund

- The Planning Group recommends allocating \$2.17m as follows:

\$2,170,291 Community Investment Fund		
Annual Grants	Deep Investments	Legacy Programs
\$365,000 Annually	\$1,500,000 Annually	\$305,291 Annually
One-year commitment	Three-year commitment	Three-year commitment
Addresses top 6 needs	Addresses top 3 needs	Addresses many needs

Summary of Recommendations

- 3-year funding cycle
- \$600,000 leveraged per year for 2 years for All Home Homelessness Prevention Program

Organization	Program Description	FY2024/25 Amount
Annual Grants		\$365,000
(Determined each year)	Annual Grants	\$365,000
Deep Investment		\$1,500,000
Housing Trust Fund	Housing Trust Fund	\$200,000
Touro	SolanoConnex app; expanded navigation	\$600,000
All Home	Homelessness Prevention Program	\$700,000
Legacy		\$305,291
CASA of Solano County	Children's advocates	\$130,325
Veteran's Court Case Manager	Collaborative court case manager	\$86,966
Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano	Food and nutrition services	\$50,000
Children's Alliance	Child Abuse Prevention Council	\$30,000
North Bay Stand Down	Connects veterans to services	\$8,000
Grand Total		\$2,170,291
Emergency Fund		\$250,000
(Determined each year)	Emergency Fund Grants	\$250,000

Contact ASR

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