

Atlanta Continuum of Care + Governing Council Joint Meeting
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2025
[Virtual Meeting – View Recording](#)

❖ **Governing Council Executive Session**

- Attendees – Leslie Marshburn, Fletcher Morris, Marcus Mister, Brad Schweers, Maxwell Ruppensburg, Shemeka Dawson (proxy for Richard Deshields), Jeff Chesnut, Philip Gilman, Erica Headlee, Erika Mitchell, Mo Ivory, Tracy Jones
- May Minute Approval
 - The May meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.
- Governance Committee Updates
 - The Governance Committee is focusing on improving Governing Council member engagement and meeting attendance.
 - There's an open seat on the Governing Council for a City representative following Josh Humphries' departure. The City is in the process of filling this role.
 - Fletcher Morris has been appointed as the new chair of the Youth Action Board, formally approved by the Governing Council.
 - Leslie Marshburn and Brianna Flowers at Partners for HOME are collaborating on a survey for CoC-funded agencies. This survey aims to gather feedback anonymously and will be analyzed by Grady. Results will be presented at the September Governing Council retreat.
- Client Advisory Council (CAC) Updates
 - The CAC has resumed survey work, now focusing on individuals sleeping outside in downtown areas such as Woodruff Park, Garnett MARTA Station, and outside the Gateway Center.
 - Individuals interested in joining the CAC must have lived experience with homelessness and be 25 or older. Contact [Abby Bracewell](#) for details.
 - The CAC is partnering with Brianna Flowers to provide training opportunities for its members.
- Youth Action Board (YAB) Updates
 - The YAB has appointed a chair and a co-chair and is expanding its membership to include eight members.
 - They have completed a youth resource guide, available both in print and digitally.
 - The YAB is preparing to conduct youth-specific client satisfaction surveys in the community.
 - "Yapping with the YAB" is a new initiative to recruit members, with the next session scheduled at Hope thru Soap.
 - Planning is underway for a youth resource fair in October, aimed at connecting youth with various service providers. Contact [Fletcher Morris](#) for involvement details.

❖ **CoC General Meeting**

- Downtown Rising Updates – Camille Sims Russell
 - Five contracted teams—Gateway, Safehouse Outreach, Mend Culture, HOPE Atlanta, and Urban Alchemy—are leading Downtown Rising efforts alongside outreach groups. Pryor Street was recently decommissioned, and 50 households have been placed into housing.
 - Feedback and communication structures have been established across organizations and within the community. A collaborative outreach model ensures teams have the expertise and capacity to support vulnerable populations. A performance reporting framework tracks system-wide impact, and housing

- teams have been strengthened to accelerate housing placements. Narrative and communications protocols have also been developed to ensure cohesive messaging and evaluation.
- Zone engagement has started in Zone A, with canvassing underway to identify individuals in the area. Coordinated entry assessments and document readiness activities are beginning. Individuals will be referred to street medicine, behavioral health, and substance use treatment as needed. Currently, about 70 people are on the Zone A by-name list.
 - Introduction to Prevention – Cassandra Benjamin
 - Right at Home is launching a national prevention pilot in 10 cities, including Atlanta, to significantly reduce homelessness and build a foundation for federal prevention strategies.
 - Their pilot in Santa Clara County provided cash assistance, legal support, case management, and help accessing benefits. Of those served:
 - 90% had extremely low income
 - 84% were people of color
 - 60% were families with children
 - 93% remained housed two years later
 - Over 25,000 households have been supported with \$117 million in aid. Key partners include the [LEO Institute at the University of Notre Dame](#) as well as [Homebase](#).
 - JEDI Standards Review – Brianna Flowers
 - The JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Standards are a key initiative from the Atlanta CoC Strategic Plan. A 21-organization taskforce developed the standards and evaluation process, which cover four domains: administration, staff training, communication, and service provision.
 - Standards include specific indicators and an assessment tool to evaluate adherence.
 - From 125 completed self-assessments across 24 CoC agencies:
 - Nearly 80% post JEDI values on their websites and share them with staff
 - 87% reflect JEDI principles in their mission/vision
 - Most staff receive JEDI and population-specific training
 - 112+ individuals reported that their organizations offer or require annual anti-racism, bias, cultural humility, and diversity training—often during work hours
 - Most organizations actively share JEDI efforts via newsletters, websites, and other channels
 - Youth Homeless System Improvement (YHSI) Grant Information – Bidemi Animashaun
 - YHSI is a HUD-funded initiative focused on system-level improvements to prevent and address youth homelessness. It builds on work from the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) and the Coordinated Community Plan.
 - Goals include expanding youth-specific mobile coordinated entry and developing a youth-focused assessment tool.
 - Veteran Surge – David Mance
 - A national VA housing surge will be held over two days, including a housing fair at Rosel Fann Recreation Center. The goal is to move as many veterans as possible directly into housing or grant per diem programs.
 - Partners include the VA, Partners for HOME, HOPE Atlanta, PCCI, Open Doors, and local outreach teams. Agencies interested in participating should contact [David Mance](#) or [Iola Green](#).

- Atlanta Rising Communications – Hayley Johns
 - Partners for HOME has partnered with Jackson Spalding to lead communications and PR efforts. The goal is to boost awareness, support, and understanding of homelessness and solutions among Atlantans and civic/business leaders.
 - Currently, only 15% of surveyed Atlantans are aware of Partners for HOME; the goal is to raise this to 25% by December 2025.
 - Communications will focus on earned, shared, and owned media, with a phased approach:
 - Education and awareness
 - Focus on Atlanta Rising
 - Rallying community support
 - Preparing for 2026
 - Anyone interested in contributing to storytelling should reach out to [Hayley Johns](#).
- HUD NOFO Update – Annie Hyrila
 - HUD may release a 2025 NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) with a stronger emphasis on treatment and recovery, despite the implementation of a biannual NOFO cycle for 2024–2025.
 - This potential change could disrupt current work and increase the administrative burden on funded agencies.

❖ **Agency Round Robin**

- **The Furniture Bank:** Recently lost its warehouse to a fire but is operational in a new space. They've delivered mattresses and furniture to 50+ households and are still accepting referrals. Payments can be made by check, money order, or online. Client furniture selection is currently paused; staff are selecting items based on household size. Furniture donations are welcome.
- **Youth Housing Referrals:** Agencies with youth in need of housing should contact info@ioamhousing.com.
- **Our House:** Has open [childcare](#) slots and is hosting a back-to-school drive for eligible families.

The next CoC/Governing Council meeting will be held in-person on September 9. [Please register for the meeting online.](#)

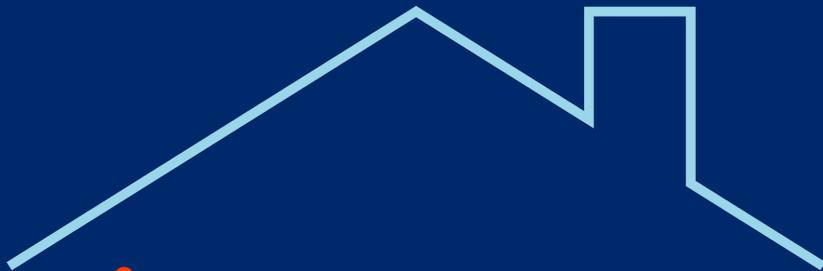
Atlanta Veterans Surge

PARTNERS FOR
 HOME

Key Points

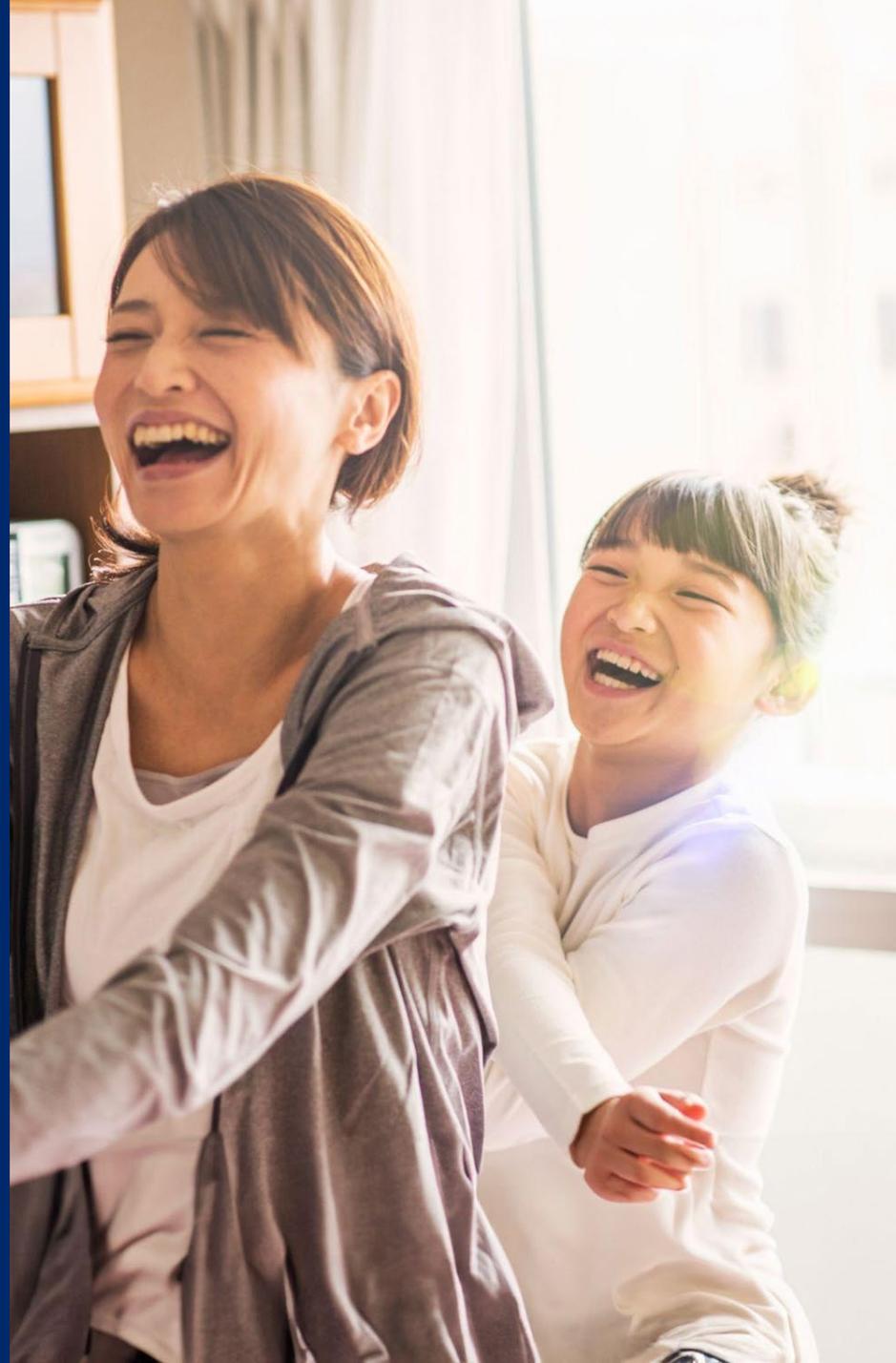
- National housing surge event conducted by Veteran Affairs
- 2 day outreach event
- 1 day will be utilized to conduct a housing fair
- The focus is to place Veterans from the street directly into housing or Grant Per Diem Program (Transitional Housing)
- Aug 12th, 13th, and 14th
- Must be completed by September by 2025





Right at Home

National Homelessness Prevention Partnership



The Challenge



In 2024, homelessness in the U.S. hit the highest level in decades - with **more than 770,000 people living outside**



A recent Harvard study found that **more than half of all Americans** are just one missed paycheck from ending up on the streets



Despite a new national framework, there currently is **no federal funding stream for homelessness prevention**

The Solution

Right at Home

National Homelessness Prevention Partnership

- Right at Home seeks to **substantially reduce the number of individuals and families losing their homes**, while laying the groundwork for a federal homelessness prevention strategy
- Our ultimate goal is to prevent **hundreds of thousands** of Americans from losing their homes, and provide a critical proof point for funding of a **national homelessness prevention strategy** that our country urgently needs



Santa Clara Homelessness Prevention System

Targeted Prevention in Santa Clara County

Assistance Available



Immediate cash assistance that can be used towards rent, utilities and other basic expenses



Legal support & eviction defense



Case management services

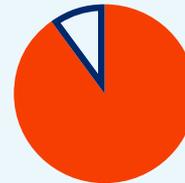


Assistance applying for benefits



Help accessing services & resources provided by other partners

Households Served



90%

Extremely Low Income at Enrollment



84%

People of Color



60%

Included Children

Evidence of Success in Santa Clara County



Since 2017 we have supported

24,877 households

at imminent risk of homelessness

through the Homelessness Prevention System
and special COVID-19 Relief Programs

\$117 Million

in financial assistance
distributed

93% of households

avoided homelessness

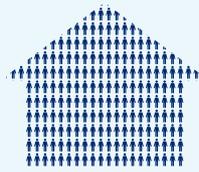
two years later

Data as of March 31, 2024

Sustainable Program Growth in Santa Clara County

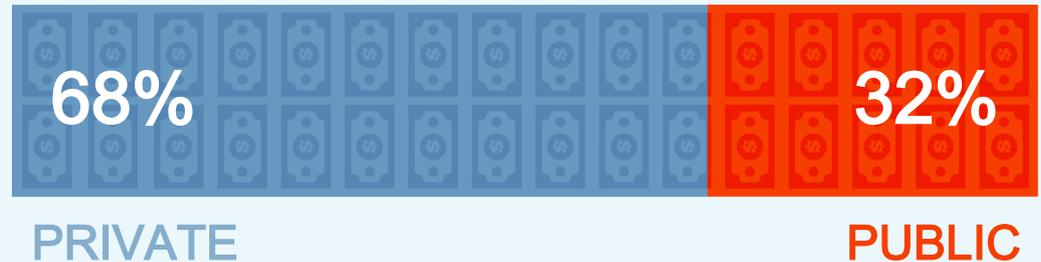


INITIAL
BUDGET
\$1.6M



CAPACITY
215

2017 PILOT CAPACITY & BUDGET FUNDING SOURCES

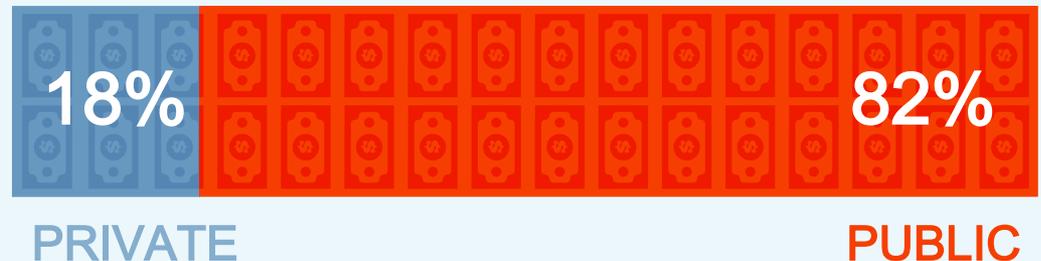


CURRENT
BUDGET
\$29.7M



CAPACITY
1,700

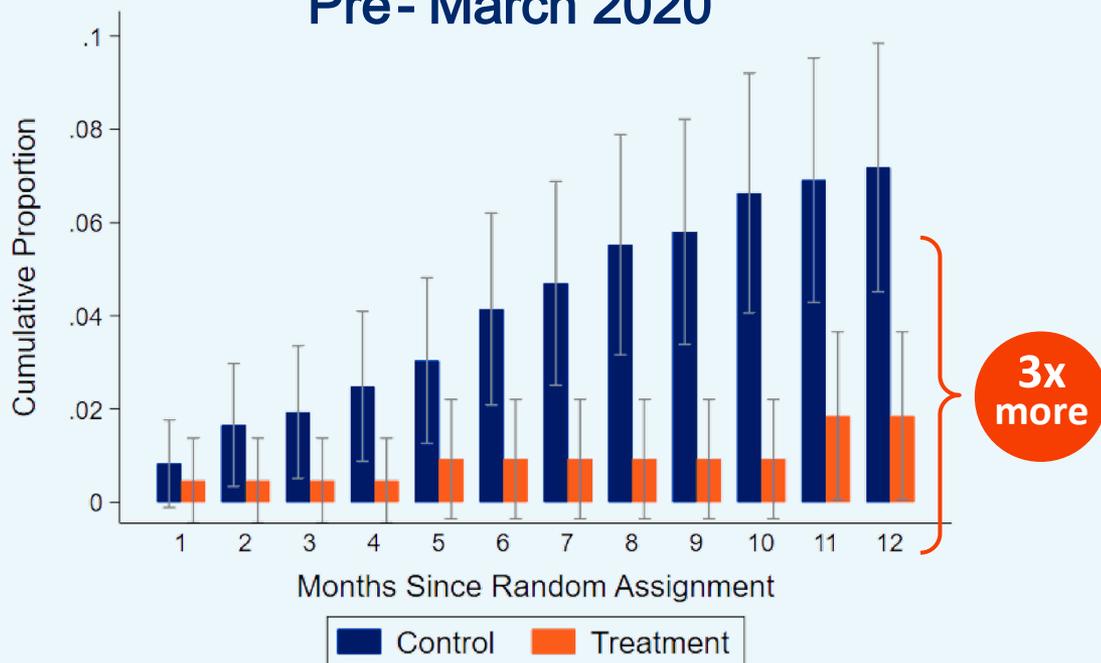
CURRENT CAPACITY & BUDGET FUNDING SOURCES



Key findings by LEO at the University of Notre Dame

- Decreased homelessness that persists over time
- Those not receiving assistance are 3 times more likely to experience homelessness
- Every \$1 spent on EFA resulted in benefits of \$2.47

Housing Outcomes over Time: Homeless Program* Use, Pre- March 2020



Source: HMIS program enrollment records



RAH Targeted Homelessness Prevention

Right at Home

National Homelessness Prevention Partnership



15,000+
Participants



10 Pilots
Nationwide



\$100M+ in
Private Funds



Ongoing Public
Support

Ste



DESTINATION: HOME



Right at Home Sites

● Awarded Planning Grants ● Planning Grants Pending



Homelessness Prevention Continuum

PROGRAM TYPE	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL
Housing Stability Emergency Financial Assistance Rental Subsidies	Future Risk of Loss of Housing or Homelessness	Housing Stability Economic Mobility
Eviction Prevention Legal Representation Tenant Support Services	Imminent Risk of Loss of Housing	Anti-displacement Unit habitability
Targeted Prevention Flexible Financial Assistance Housing Stabilization	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	Prevent loss of housing and housing stability
Homelessness Diversion Housing Problem Solving Shelter and Crisis Services	Experiencing Homelessness	Connect individuals to alternatives to emergency shelter

Right at Home

National Homelessness Prevention Partnership



Formal 3rd party evaluation by Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) at the University of Notre Dame

Willingness and ability to participate in rigorous research (RCT)

Use HMIS: track individual housing stability & offer a de-identified component for victims of domestic violence and undocumented immigrants

Technical Assistance



Homebase is a **national nonprofit and technical assistance provider**, working hand in hand with communities for over 35 years to develop and implement strategies that end homelessness.

Homebase will provide **tailored technical assistance** to each RAH site:

- Expertise in cross-system partnerships & best practices, and flexible support for program design, implementation planning, and evaluation
- Support to ensure effective data collection and HMIS integration
- Assist with development of Lived Experience Advisory Boards
- TA will include regular calls, in-person visits, planning sessions, and provider workshops and trainings