

## OCOH Oversight Committee Liaison Investment Planning Worksheet: Homelessness Prevention

In March, Liaisons will develop and present priorities for their service area (dates below). This worksheet supports that process by asking a consistent set of exploratory questions of each Liaison and all Members. The answers to these questions will form the priorities and strategies for this year's recommendation process.

- Shelter & Hygiene Liaison: Nina Catalano
- Supporting OCOH Members:
- Liaisons and supporting OCOH Members will share a draft set of priorities with Departments at the next Homelessness Prevention Liaison meeting at 4:15pm on Thursday March 16.
- At the Committee meeting on March 23, Liaisons will present and refine the second drafts of the priorities.

**1. What questions do you have for the Department(s) about the budget, spending, or implementation of programs in this service area?**

- Clarify unspent funds in Eviction Prevention project type, are these contracted?
  - Goal of creating an integrated system that includes legal assistance, mediation, problem solving, rental assistance, problem solving, which is how eviction prevention fits into the picture.
  - Opportunity to carry forward \$\$ to keep the programs moving ahead, even as COVID relief dollars are exhausted.
- Will the prevention category continue to fund behavioral health services ongoing?
  - These are slowly shifting over to mental health in permanent housing.
- Targeted homelessness prevention/SF-ERAF: The application is still online, and people can apply. MOHCD is working to clear its back-list of applicants. Haven't relaunched the program publicly because they're not at 100% capacity to process new claims and meet the high demand. Shifting to a more targeted model that prioritizes those most at risk of homelessness using evidence-based criteria.

**2. Objectives and Strategies:** The four Objectives come from a crosswalk of the 2 Year Investment Plan (2021) and the Needs Assessment (2022) that was presented at the January 26, 2023 OCOH Meeting. The Strategies are specific to the fund category and originate in the 2-year Investment Plan (2021). The table below aims to crosswalk a relationship between the two sets of strategic priorities.

Objectives	Strategies
1. Center racial equity.	
2. Prioritize a wider array of programs to meet diverse needs.	Tailor supports to the unique needs of adults, justice-involved persons, youth, and families with children.
	Expand access to workforce training, employment programs, and job placement services.
3. Prioritize permanent housing solutions to generate system flow.	Develop a core homelessness prevention and diversion system (implicit: to stem inflow).
	Support PSH residents in retaining housing.
4. Increase investment, leverage funding, and coordinate effort to bring resources to scale.	

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### 3. What challenges and opportunities do you see?

- Consumer satisfaction/experience and input remains a missing piece for all areas of homelessness prevention, but especially Targeted Homelessness Prevention.
- Identify barriers by exploring and analyzing who is turned away or falls out of services and why.
- Fund Instability: there was a lot of one-time money in the fund for prevention that's been allocated to THP and Eviction Prevention, which set a baseline cost of operations. Unfortunately, the cost of operating has been increasing while fund revenue is decreasing. There's a lot of innovative problem-solving programs that won't be sustainable in the coming couple of years. There is concern that Homelessness Prevention is over-subscribed related to the revenue. Any savings are being rolled forward to sustain programs.

### 4. What investments should be protected?

Investment	Priority Level	Liaison	Department(s)
Targeted Homelessness Prevention / SF ERAF	High Priority	Not only protect these investments, but also scale them up to meet the need. (Core homelessness prevention system and bringing resources to scale)	Agree, these are important services. Moving out of the COVID Response and into "steady state." Implementing targeting tool to identify those at highest risk
Eviction Prevention	Are there other sources for these programs?	Eviction prevention isn't necessarily homelessness prevention. <i>[Note: Liaison and team were persuaded by the description of the programs' purpose, role in the prevention system, and impact. No longer a belief this should be funded with other sources.]</i>	Easily half of evictions are related to City-subsidized housing (PSH, RAD, PHA, etc), and then Eviction Prevention also supports anti-displacement and renters' advocacy groups (e.g. Causa Justa). Any allocation under \$11m will result in staffing layoffs because these programs are heavily dependent on staff.

### 5. What kinds of investments should be expanded, continued, or added?

Investment	Liaison	Department(s)
Targeted Homelessness Prevention	Increasing funding for Targeted Homelessness Prevention	
Problem solving staff, specialized to engage immigrant youth and parenting youth	Emergent need related to unaccompanied immigrant young people as well as pregnant and parenting young people	There are City conversations taking place around asylum seekers and unaccompanied immigrant youth.
Shallow Subsidies	Use as a Targeted Homelessness Prevention strategy for people or households stuck in an economic sustainability crisis loop, facing a catastrophic health issue, etc.	What is the program model for shallow subsidies related to Homelessness Prevention? How are they the same or different from shallow subsidies in permanent housing?

### 6. What questions would you like to answer through Community Engagement? (Can be near-term or long-term plans)