

Homelessness Prevention Liaison Meeting

Programmatic Deep Dive

Date of Meeting: February 12, 2024

Attendees:

<p>Controller’s Office: Radhika Mehlotra, <i>Homelessness Policy Specialist</i>; Ivy Huwald, <i>Performance Analyst</i></p>	<p>Department of Homelessness and Housing: Marion Sanders, <i>Chief Deputy Director</i>; Christine Rolan, <i>Budget Director</i> Nikon Guffey, <i>Director of Coordinated Entry, Prevention, and Problem Solving</i></p>	<p>Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development: Brian Cheu, <i>Director of Community Development</i> Helen Hale, <i>Director of Housing Services</i></p>	<p>Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee: Member Bonnie Preston; Member Scott Walton</p>
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1. **Context Setting** - What are all the services offered as part of Homelessness Prevention programming through OCOH?
 - HSH’s Prevention is focused on **flexible housing assistance**.
 - A large portion of OCOH Prevention budget funds **SF ERAP** and **Home sharing** through the Home Match program.
 - Focused on effectively targeting households in need of the most assistance and ensuring access to services across communities.
 - MOHCD advocates for **rent control** and offers **full-scope right-to-counsel services** as well as tenants’ rights training and mediation, conflict resolution services, and anti-displacement subsidies.
 - Who is the target population for Homelessness Prevention programs and services?
 - BIPOC led CBOs, geographic-specific, sub-population-specific. MOHCD uses a multi-media approach to ensure info is accessible on various websites, flyers, buses, etc.
 - No wrong door policy with a focus on **effective triaging**
 - **Specific eligibility:** must be SF resident, 50% AMI or below, experiencing housing instability and/or financial hardship in the last year.
 - How many people are not able to access Prevention services that require them?
 - SF ERAP tracks household demographic vulnerability factors including demographic data on who is eligible and who is not (geographic info, race/ethnicity, age, etc.). MOHCD will explore ways to standardize sharing this data to the Committee.
 - How has the loss of state funds impacted Prevention programming?
 - MOHCD’s one-time injection of funds (approximately \$40 million) to support SF ERAP will be exhausted by the end of FY24.
 - MOHCD will rely **primarily on OCOH revenue funds** to support programs, especially emergency rental assistance going forward.
 - Could one-time funding within Prevention address ongoing impacts of COVID and the loss of state funding?

- Prevention funding within the OCOH budget is unique in that it was built on one-time sources being balanced over multi-years. **Current savings** should carry through FY25-26.
- Prevention is funded primarily through **Prop C and some General Fund budget**. The focus going forward is to **stabilize local sources** for program funding.

2. Programming Update on Homelessness Prevention - What homelessness prevention programming in the OCOH fund was proposed by the Committee?

- **Black tenant focused eviction prevention.**
- MOHCD has been prioritizing using the less volatile general fund so that some FY24 dollars can be returned to HSH to fund their programs (this means they are not technically OCOH funded but are still able to strategically implement programs)
- Which programs have been fully implemented?
 - SF ERAP and home-match shared housing services since July 2023 - 7 houses matched so far.
- Which programs have been partially implemented?
 - **Housing stabilization services, connection to legal assistance, advocacy and work force development are in progress.**
 - Workforce development had a soft rollout in fall of 2023, but implementation will begin in April of FY24.
- Which programs have not been implemented thus far?
 - **Financial Assistance Program** (emergency one time fund supports for things like PGE bills, etc.) has not been implemented yet.
- **Measures of success across Permanent Housing programming** - Which programs have demonstrated success along those measures?
 - **SF ERAP** is focused on client-centered data collection and has been able to successfully target populations most impacted by homelessness.
 - Data shows they've been **targeting over 30% Black/African American and over 20% Latinx populations.**
- What challenges are emerging across the programs:
 - Minimizing the **breakdown of family structures** (i.e. young adult easier to house by applying separately as TAY services than staying in a family household)
 - Challenge to **capture the TAY population who is being served in family units.**
 - **Discharge planning** for specific populations where they are trying to meet them at their facilities before they've exited (hospitals, jails). This is a work in progress, strategizing currently to plan a systemic way to coordinate this type of prevention.
- Are there Prevention programs that are serving sub-populations including victims and survivors of domestic violence; larger family sizes; or pregnant people?
 - **Coordinated entry** gives applicant the choice to go through system as TAY or part of the larger family.
 - **SF ERAP** selection criteria prioritizes households with pregnant members.