

STANISLAUS COMMUNITY SYSTEM OF CARE RACIAL EQUITY AND GAPS ANALYSIS SUMMARY

The Stanislaus Community System of Care (CSOC) acts as the Continuum of Care (CoC) for Turlock, Modesto, and Stanislaus County (CA-510). This report was developed in compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to promote equity of opportunity, access and outcomes which may look different for persons from diverse race, cultural or ethnic groups. The CSOC is tasked to identify unmet service needs, impediments to access for persons of color, and seek service delivery methods that foster successful outcomes for minority populations. This study examines available data from the U.S. Census Decennial Survey, U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS); the 2020 to 2022 Point-in-Time homeless count (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) conducted by members of the CSOC; CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool developed by HUD; and system-level performance data known as the Longitudinal Systems analysis (LSA) collected from CoC member organizations and reported to HUD. The report includes recommended actions based on the most current nationwide best practices that may apply to challenges faced in Stanislaus County.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the PIT Count, the HIC, and LSA reports reveal the following details regarding residents of Stanislaus County experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

- Black/African American/African households account for 3% of the total population in Stanislaus County, but 13-14% of the total homeless population.
- Black/African American/African youth account for 3% of the total population, but 14% of the unsheltered unaccompanied youth population.
- Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous veterans account for 2% of the total population, but 10% of the unsheltered veteran population. However, the total number of unsheltered veterans is low.
- Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) households account for 46% of the total population and 55% of households in poverty. The Hispanic population is steadily increasing each year.
- Hispanic adult only households account for 45% of unsheltered homelessness.
- Hispanic families with children account for 51% of all unsheltered households with children.
- Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) youth account for 59% of the total population, and unaccompanied Hispanic youth account for 49% of unsheltered youth homelessness.
- Hispanic youth in families with children account for 54% of those experiencing homelessness.
- Black or African American households are accessing transitional housing at a decreasing rate according to the last three PIT counts.

Current studies can provide a roadmap for CoC member agencies to reduce disparity of opportunity and access to services for persons of color. Consideration of the following

recommendations would move the County of Stanislaus towards the goal of reducing the incidence of homelessness among high-risk populations of color and improve the chance that persons experiencing homelessness will access services and achieve long-term housing stability.

Setting and Achieving Goals. Establish a definition of equal access to opportunity and equitable outcomes. Ensure data integrity and set measurable goals and due dates for agencies responsible for tracking and reporting progress to the CoC.

CoC Structure and Policy Review. Review CoC structure to allow for more equitable input from persons of all racial and ethnic groups.

Coordinated Entry Process. Evaluate and modify the Coordinated Entry process to cultivate equitable outcomes for persons from all racial and ethnic groups.

Outreach, Engagement, and Service Access. Enhance current outreach and supportive service operations to foster equity of service provision to underrepresented populations and communities.

Advocacy and Collaboration. Advocate for additional innovative housing solutions. Create opportunities for Leadership, advocates, and persons experiencing homelessness or housing instability to discuss the issue of homelessness and equity. Advocate for increased access to basic living necessities.

STAKEHOLDER CONCLUSIONS

- South and West Modesto are the largest underrepresented neighborhoods, both socio-economically and ethnically.
- The Airport Neighborhood is the most vulnerable community according to the stakeholders who attended the meetings.
- Outreach and Engagement has been disjointed and uncoordinated. Many of the rural areas are not receiving adequate outreach and/or supportive services.
- Accessibility to services and basic necessities needs improvement. The Economic Development Department within Stanislaus County should be involved in conversations to ensure under-represented communities are getting access to employment and necessities such as groceries, hygiene products, etc.
- Additional transitional housing has been identified as a need.
- County and agency leadership should be actively involved in the communications surrounding homelessness.
- Transportation to and from the rural communities has been identified as a need.
- The Coordinated Entry Process should be reviewed to ensure equitable outcomes.