

# TARGETED PREVENTION IS KEY TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS



Across California, at least two people become homeless for every person housed through local homeless response systems. To make sustained progress on this pressing issue, we must significantly reduce the numbers of people being pushed into homelessness.



## TARGETED HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

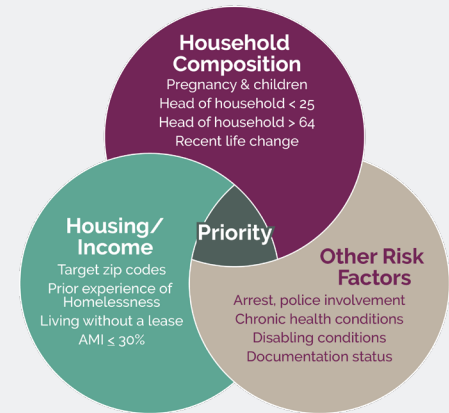
**Targeted prevention programs direct prevention resources to the households at highest risk of experiencing homelessness.**

These programs use an assessment tool to ask questions about evidence-based risk factors for homelessness.

High-risk applicants eligible for assistance receive a combination of emergency financial assistance; time-limited, housing-focused case management; and individualized referrals to service providers and programs to keep them housed.

Targeting distributes prevention resources more efficiently and equitably, though this does mean that not everyone who applies for financial assistance will receive it. Depending on capacity, programs can provide referrals and resources other than financial assistance for households who are not prioritized for financial assistance based on their risk profile.

### Risk Factors for Homelessness



## HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION IS A CONTINUUM

**Homelessness prevention is a continuum of programs and services** that can be strategically deployed to reduce the risk of homelessness. It can be a powerful part of a larger strategy to address homelessness, **reducing the number of people who need shelter and crisis services, and using limited resources more efficiently and equitably.**





## SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS IN THE BAY AREA

To reach the households at highest risk, All Home and Bay Area Community Services (BACS) developed an **online technology platform that hosts a portal for each program in a growing regional network of targeted prevention programs (starting in San Francisco, Oakland, Napa, and Contra Costa counties)**. Each portal has a multilingual online application, an assessment tool that assigns priority scores based on risk, and a secure “back end” that can identify high-scoring households, as well as track the status of applications and financial assistance provided.

**Financial assistance and services are flexible and highly individualized**, based on what each household needs to stay housed and build stability. All Home’s program data indicates that **households need an average of about \$6,000 in direct financial assistance (not including other program costs, like services) to stay housed**.

Between 2020 and 2022, All Home’s targeted prevention pilots **distributed a total of over \$80 million** in federal rent relief, philanthropic, and public resources.

- Nearly 98% of recipients had incomes below 50% AMI.
- More than one-third had previously experienced homelessness.
- Almost 80% identified as people of color.



## MODELS FOR ALL HOME’S APPROACH

**Keep People Housed Oakland**, powered by BACS, has provided services to more than 7,700 households since 2018 —92% remained stably housed from 2018-2021, and 93% from 2021-2023.

**Santa Clara County’s Homelessness Prevention System** has provided services to more than 7,000 households since 2017. While in the program, 94% remained stably housed; only 7% became homeless within two years after exiting the program.

## WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO SCALE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

**To solve homelessness, we need to get aggressive about preventing it.** California should direct funding toward targeted homelessness prevention and set policy on how to assess risk and track meaningful outcomes.

**Significant and ongoing investment can deliver powerful regional and state-level results, and is essential** to enable our

homelessness response efforts to succeed. To establish a targeted homelessness prevention program, counties should assess the numbers of people experiencing homelessness for the first time each year, more efficiently and equitably target existing resources, ideally using an assessment tool, and coordinate their approach with other aligned communities to help the strategy scale statewide.

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