

County of Santa Clara

Office of Supportive Housing

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August 1, 2018

TO: Board of Supervisors
Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee (HLUET)
Committee

FROM: Ky Le, Office of Supportive Housing (OSH)

SUBJECT: Homelessness Prevention Report

This report describes the Homelessness Prevention efforts managed by the Office of Supportive Housing (OSH).

The OSH is developing a supportive housing system so that every community will have a systematic response to ensure homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience. Homelessness Prevention services are intended to address one-time financial crises and assist households in preventing homelessness. OSH's goals are to implement a system of care that is centered on outcomes and best practices, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, build capacity and infrastructure, and strengthen connections with community partners, including schools.

The County's homelessness prevention services are primarily implemented by two programs. The first is the Emergency Assistance Network (EAN) Homelessness Prevention (HP) Program. Through agreements with seven community-based agencies that form the EAN, residents throughout the County have access to emergency financial assistance and housing services.¹ Some EAN agencies also provide limited case management services. The agreements have a maximum financial obligation of \$891,000 annually and are projected to prevent homelessness for 400 households annually. The EAN HP Program made programmatic improvements to the network of homelessness prevention services that had existed prior to the County establishing the OSH. For FY 2018 and FY 2019, an additional \$228,750 was provided to support the Emergency Assistance Network.

¹ The seven agencies are: Community Services Agency of Mtn. View and Los Altos (CSA), LifeMoves, Sacred Heart Community Services (SHCS), Salvation Army, St. Joseph's Family Center (St. Joseph's), Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS), West Valley Community Services (WVCS).

The County, in partnership with Destination: Home, the City of San José, and private funders, established the second program in July 2017. The Homelessness Prevention Pilot (HP Pilot) program targets families who have the highest needs and provides longer-term financial assistance, supportive services, employment services, child care, and transportation. Through combined resources of the County, Packard Foundation, Sunlight Giving, Google.org, and the City of San José, the program’s budget has increased to \$4.2 million, with \$750,000 contributed by the County. The 27-month HP Pilot program was launched with the goal of implementing a countywide homelessness prevention system that prevents all instances of family homelessness. The goal is to serve 660 families over the 27-month period. To date the program has served 223 households, providing an average of \$3,113 in financial assistance per household. The HP Pilot program is undergoing an independent evaluation conducted by the University of Notre Dame’s Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO).

The key differences between the EAN HP and the HP Pilot program are: 1) the HP Pilot program targets the highest need families with minor children; 2) supportive services for the HP Pilot program include case management to stabilize the family; and, 3) financial assistance can be provided for more than one month to families in the HP Pilot program.

The goals of the HP Pilot program are to expand homelessness prevention services and enable families to quickly connect with services throughout the community, streamline and standardize service delivery, and measure the collective impact of homelessness prevention. In an effort to standardize the service delivery across providers, a new assessment tool was implemented. The Prevention-Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (PR-VI-SPDAT) is required to screen all families in need of financial assistance. The intention is to implement a homelessness prevention system focused on outcomes and best practices in preventing family homelessness. The Pilot program will be evaluated over the 27-month term, the results of which will be utilized to determine effectiveness and improve the homeless system of care in the County.

The charts below describe the number of household served and average expenditures for the HP EAN program as well as the HP Pilot program.

EAN HP programs

Fiscal Year	Goal	Households Served	Average Financial Assistance per Household
2016 (half year)	200	294	\$1,808
2017	400	443	\$1,186
2018	400	424	\$1,317

HP Pilot programs

Fiscal Year	Goal	Households Served	Average Financial Assistance per Household
2018	330	223	\$3,113

The attached exhibits include data, outcomes and demographics related to the homelessness prevention programs during the reporting period.

Exhibit 1: Program Expenditures – The charts depict total program expenditures by category of assistance for the EAN HP Program and the HP Pilot Program.

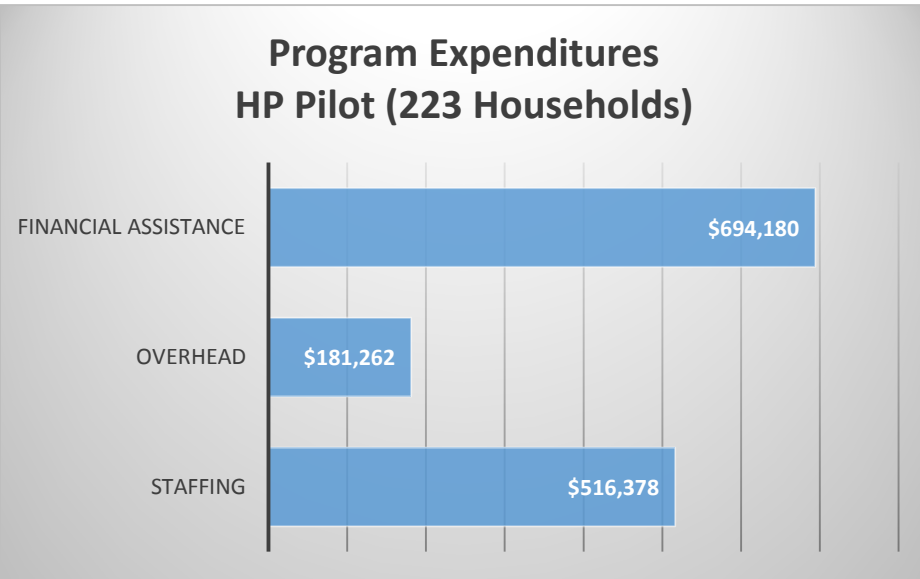
Exhibit 2: Reason for Assistance – The charts show the self-reported primary reason households applied for homelessness prevention assistance.

Exhibit 3: The charts describe the following:

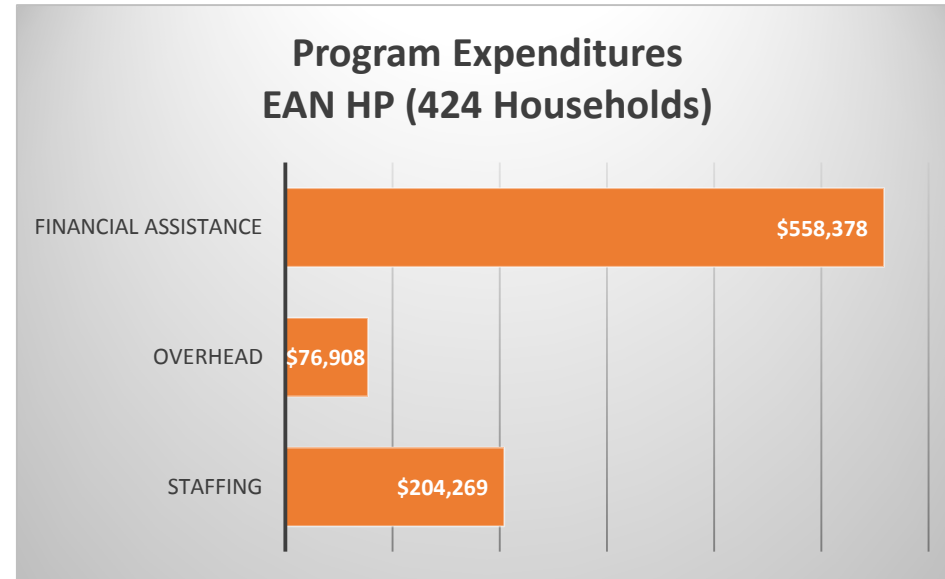
- A. Percent of Transactions – The charts show the percentage of the total transactions for each type.
- B. Outcomes – The charts depict the outcomes for households assisted, including the percent of households that remained stably housed while receiving assistance, the percent of households that received financial aid within three days of enrollment, and the percent households that received financial aid within five days of enrollment.

Exhibit 4: Type of Household Assisted – The charts show the number of households with children, adult-only households, and transition-age youth receiving assistance during the reporting period.

Total Spent (HP Pilot) \$1,391,821



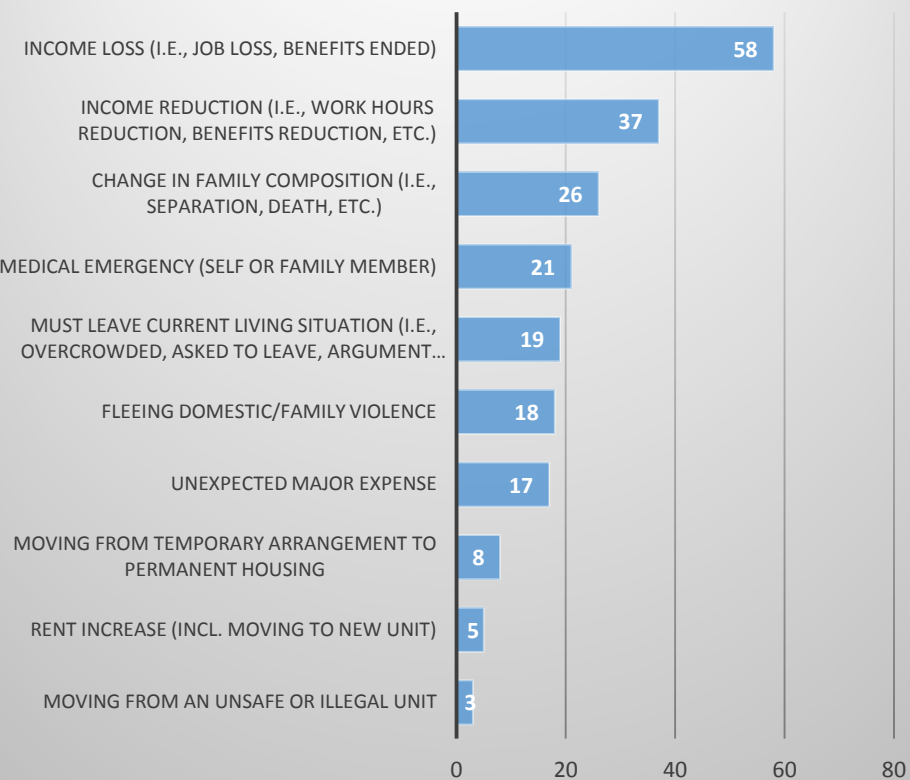
Total Spent (EAN HP) \$839,555



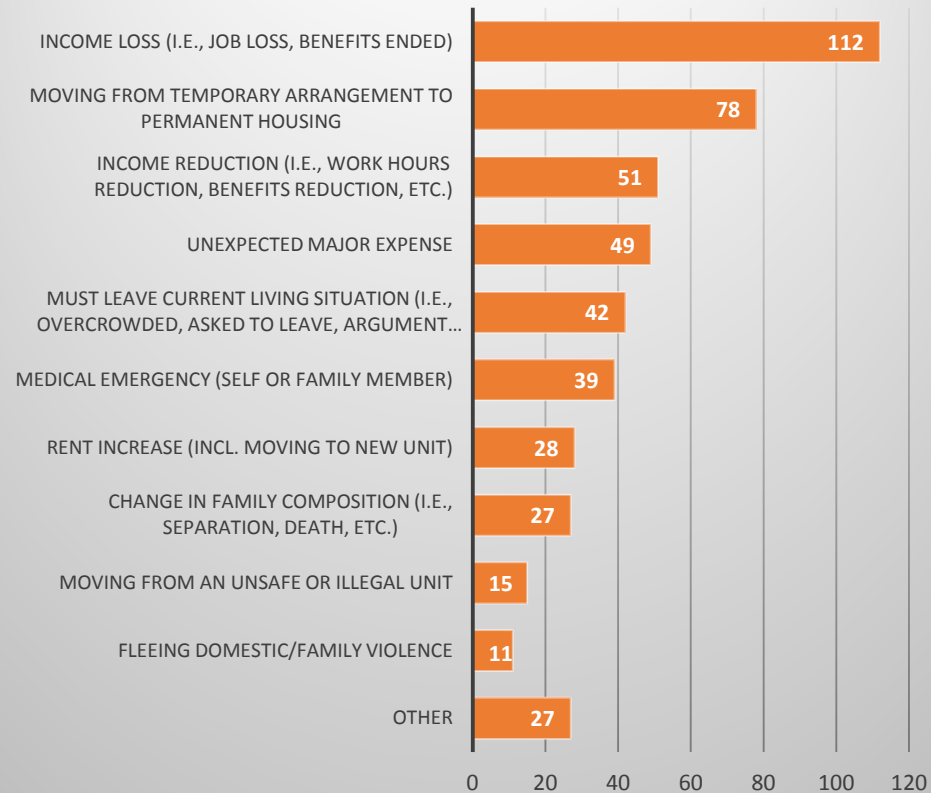
HP Pilot and EAN HP Data is based on 7 Homelessness Prevention programs provided by the following agencies:

- Community Services Agency of Mountain View
- LifeMoves
- Sacred Heart Community Service
- Salvation Army
- St. Joseph's Family Center
- Sunnyvale Community Services
- West Valley Community Services

HP Pilot Program- Reasons for Assistance (Number of Household Enrollments)



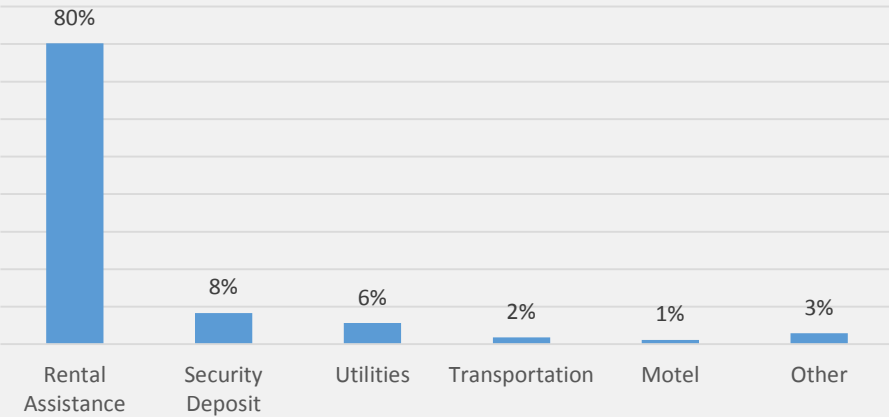
EAN HP - Reasons for Assistance (Number of Household Enrollments)



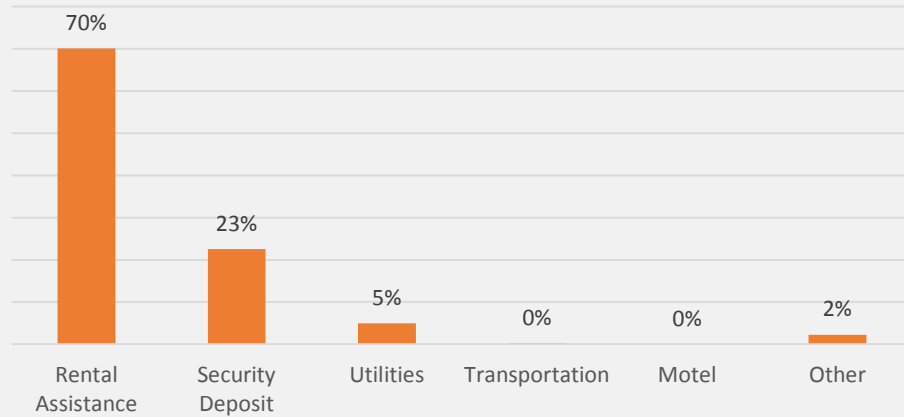
- For HP Pilot households, the main reason for Homelessness Prevention Assistance is income loss, followed by income reduction.
- After income, change in family composition, and medical emergency are the next two main reasons for assistance

- For EAN HP households, the main reason for Homelessness Prevention Assistance is income loss, followed by moving from a temporary arrangement to permanent housing.
- After those two areas, income reduction and an unexpected major expense are the main reasons for assistance.

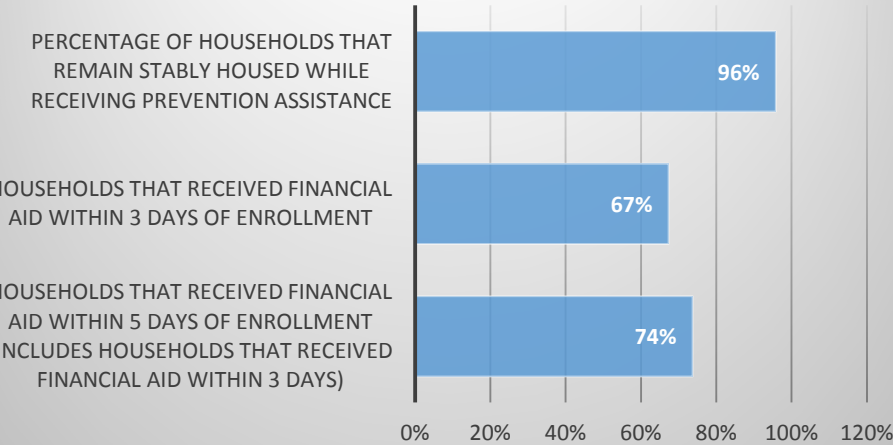
A Percent of Transactions for Each Type of Assistance (HP Pilot - 445 Transactions)



Percent of Transactions for Each Type of Assistance (EAN HP - 404 Transactions)



B Outcomes - Stable Housing and Financial Aid within 72 Hours (HP Pilot)



Outcomes: Stable Housing and Financial Aid within 72 Hours (EAN HP)

