

Attachment 3

Consultation Input from Stakeholders and Agencies

- *Homeless Service Providers (March 12, 2025):* More alternative emergency shelters that are less costly to develop, such as tiny homes; more permanent supportive housing; more mental health care services, particularly for persons with severe cases; more emergency safe housing given the federal administration's current policy on migrants and trans persons; more educational services against racism; more services and protection for the LGBTQ community, who get harassed when accessing services; need more non-congregate transitional shelters; need more funding to support services; new housing standards being used by the Department of Health Services should be applied to shelters; more access to behavior health supportive services; more resources and housing for transitional aged youth given the closure of SAY, including women with children; more resources for persons entering homelessness for the first time is needed; and need more homeless prevention resources.
- *Affordable Housing Developers (March 13, 2025):* More funding is needed for housing projects, includes rental and ownership; there is a high need for services in permanent supportive housing projects; more funds to support the operational component of permanent supportive housing projects is needed; more housing that is accessible to an aging population is needed, because this population is growing; more local funds are needed to be successful in state and federal funding requests; not all homeless want transitional housing; [they] would like to see more access to permanent supportive housing; have the County synchronize the funding process to align with state and federal level funding applications; [they] would like to see more access to affordable housing by all income levels.
- *Fair Housing Service providers (March 18, 2025):* Cases of illegal rent increases and imposition of junk fees are rising and many landlords do not abide by state law or local ordinances; some landlords threaten to call immigration enforcement on their tenants regardless of citizenship; there is a rise in racism related issues as well as credit [scores] being used as a means to deny housing; there are many older homeowners who are renting bedrooms in their home to maintain housing stability; housing retention is critical to combat homelessness; the current federal administration is attacking fair housing legal services and availability of future funding sources is concerning; new affordable housing development is needed, but it takes a long time to develop; more resources to support fair housing services are needed; more resources to assist homeowners are needed; more permanent supportive housing is needed; supplemental financial support was available during covid-19 and programs served more clients, but now with cuts in funding, fair housing services are struggling to maintain the same level of services; due to testing and enforcement by fair housing organizations some larger landlords were able to revise their practices to comply with state laws, so we know that services are effective; we would like to see more landlords abide by state laws, but it

takes education; there is a rise in mold issues and in some cases the issue is so severe where the tenant cannot continue residing in their home; a tenant needing air conditioning is being used as a tactic to evict them; and landlords are burdening low income tenants with additional utility expenses, even in situations where the landlord is supposed to be responsible for them.

- *Victims of Domestic Violence, Stalking, Assault, and/or Human Trafficking (March 27, 2025):* With the closure of The Rose shelter there is a higher need for emergency shelters as well as safe housing that does not have strict time limits, because often times, the person moving out of a shelter will have to start over again and can regress; local planning ordinances to rehabilitate an existing property into a shelter make the process long and costly, it's not easy to navigate all the requirements imposed on a project; more financial support for these types of projects is needed; more partnership efforts are needed to create a housing and services inventory program to prevent clients from "timing-out" of the shelter and or services and returning to homelessness; more transitional housing is needed as well as permanent supportive housing; more different models of housing are needed, because affordable housing projects take a long time to develop and there is a high need now; the model used by SHARE [shared housing] has been very helpful and clients can create positive relationships amongst themselves; the fastest growing population in the County are seniors and senior women, who had a working career, but Social Security does not cover their housing expenses and they become homeless; persons fleeing domestic violence is only one type of clients being served, there are many other types of clients, including trans persons, mothers with youth children, and youth alone, who seek emergency safe housing and or services; more financial support resources are needed for emergency safe housing.
- *Monthly Meeting with Ending Homelessness Team of Department of Health Services (May 1, 2025):* Funding is being focused on rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, homeless outreach, permanent supportive housing, coordinated entry, and other nuanced programs such as those provided at drop-in centers and congregate permanent supportive housing for households exiting homelessness.
- *City of Santa Rosa Staff (May 7, 2025):* The City needs more housing for the homeless, whether it is emergency shelters, transitional housing, and or permanent supportive housing. The City adopted their three-year Consolidated Plan in 2024 and will focus on the following goals:

1. Increase the supply of affordable rental housing for the City's lowest income households;
 2. Preserve existing affordable housing stock;
 3. Provide housing assistance and related supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families;
 4. Provide housing and services to special needs populations;
 5. Increase access to home ownership opportunities for City residents;
 6. Provide funding for public facilities and improvements;
 7. Promote economic development activities in the City;
 8. Assist the City's lowest-income households through rent subsidies partially funded by HOME in the form of Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA); and
 9. Provide Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) Seed Money Loans or funds for Operating Expenses.
- *Sonoma County Housing Authority (May 9, 2025):* To maintain housing stabilization, the County needs more supportive services to serve Housing Authority clients and resources that support these services. Supportive services, including emergency financial assistance as well as financial literacy training, are highly needed by persons and households exiting homelessness. Additionally, increased access to services by persons suffering mental health conditions is needed.
 - *Homeless Coalition of Sonoma County (May 28, 2025):* Additional homeless services paired with mental health services are needed, more permanent supportive housing tied with behavioral health services, increased accessibility to services, on-site mental health services at existing facilities, more rapid-rehousing, more support for families with children, more collaboration within the county, more shelters for minors, more support for micro-enterprise for the immigrant community, more supportive services, a broader point of view on solving homelessness; efforts should show increased housing retention and access to food and security.