HOMELESSNESS IN KING COUNTY

SUMMARY

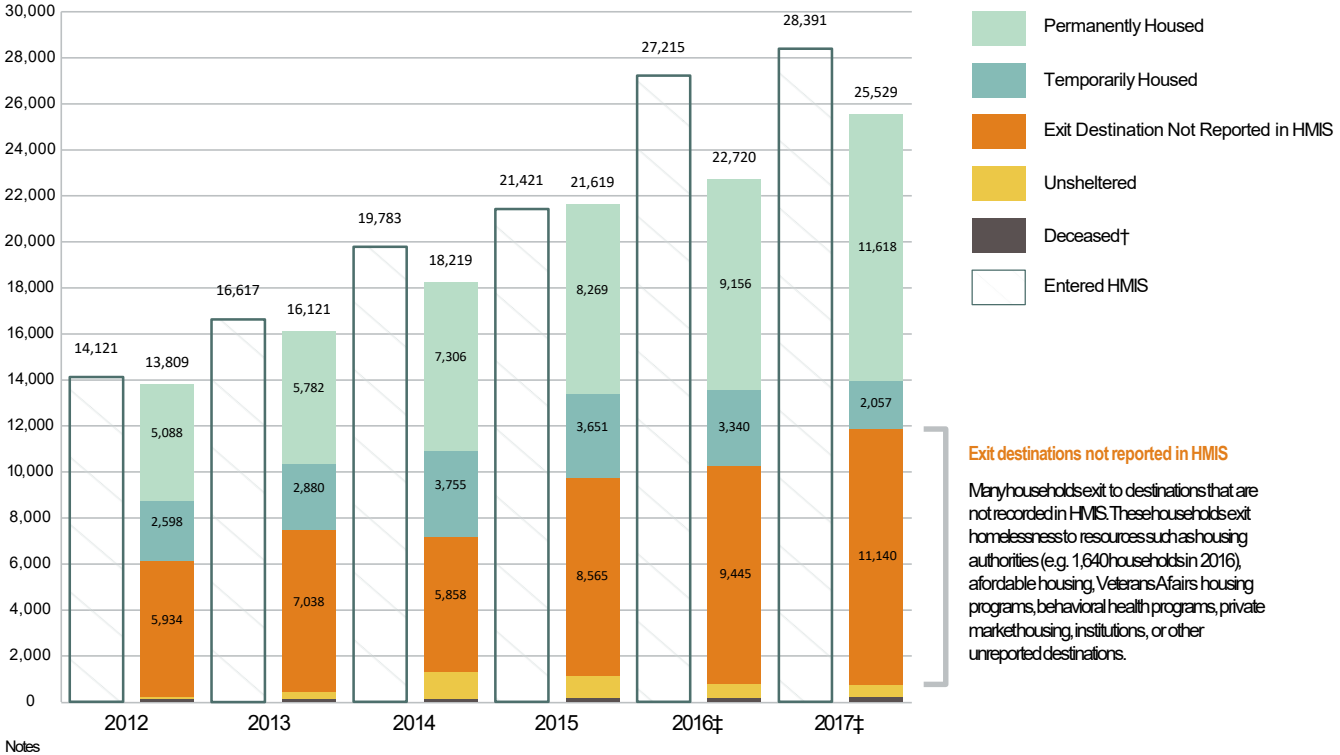
1. Data Walk
2. Continuum of Homelessness Programs
3. System Actors & Fragmentation
4. Example Jurisdictions

DATA WALK

King County

Approximate Number of Clients* Entering and Exiting HMIS in King County, 2012-2017

Note: HMIS tracks only agencies funded with homeless fund sources. Other systems such as housing authorities help people exit from homelessness but do not record those exits in HMIS.



Exit destinations not reported in HMIS

Many households exit to destinations that are not recorded in HMIS. These households exit homelessness to resources such as housing authorities (e.g. 1,640 households in 2016), afordable housing, Veterans Affairs housing programs, behavioral health programs, private market housing, institutions, or other unreported destinations.

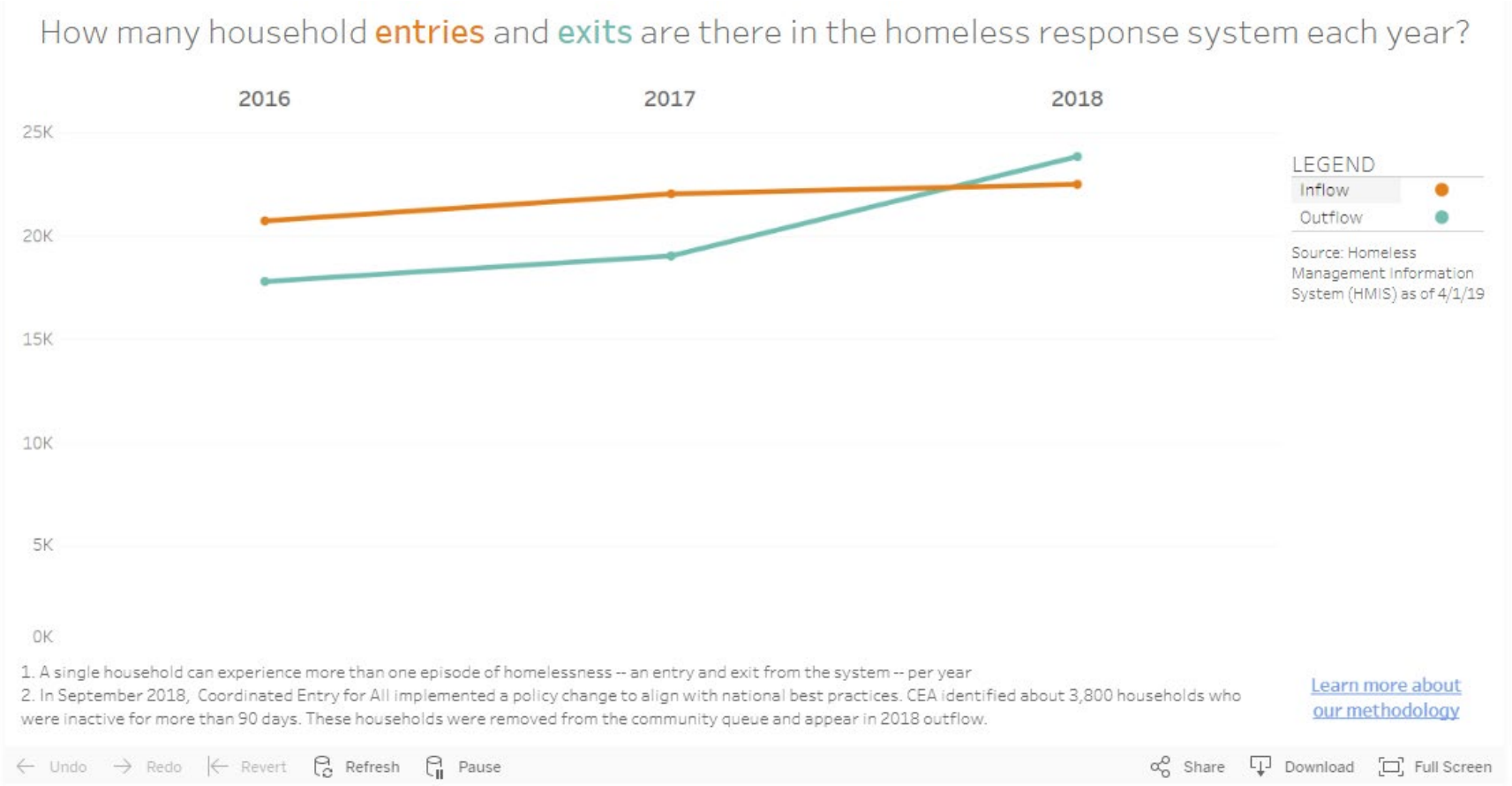
Notes

* In 2016-2017 many households entered and exited HMIS via Coordinated Entry for All (CEA). Each head of household completes one CEAtriage tool on behalf of their entire household, so it is not possible to determine the number of clients in each household, unless they subsequently enroll in a program in HMIS, at which time all household members are recorded. We have estimated the total number of clients in CEA-only households based on the average household size in HMIS.

†"Deceased" indicates that the head of household was deceased.

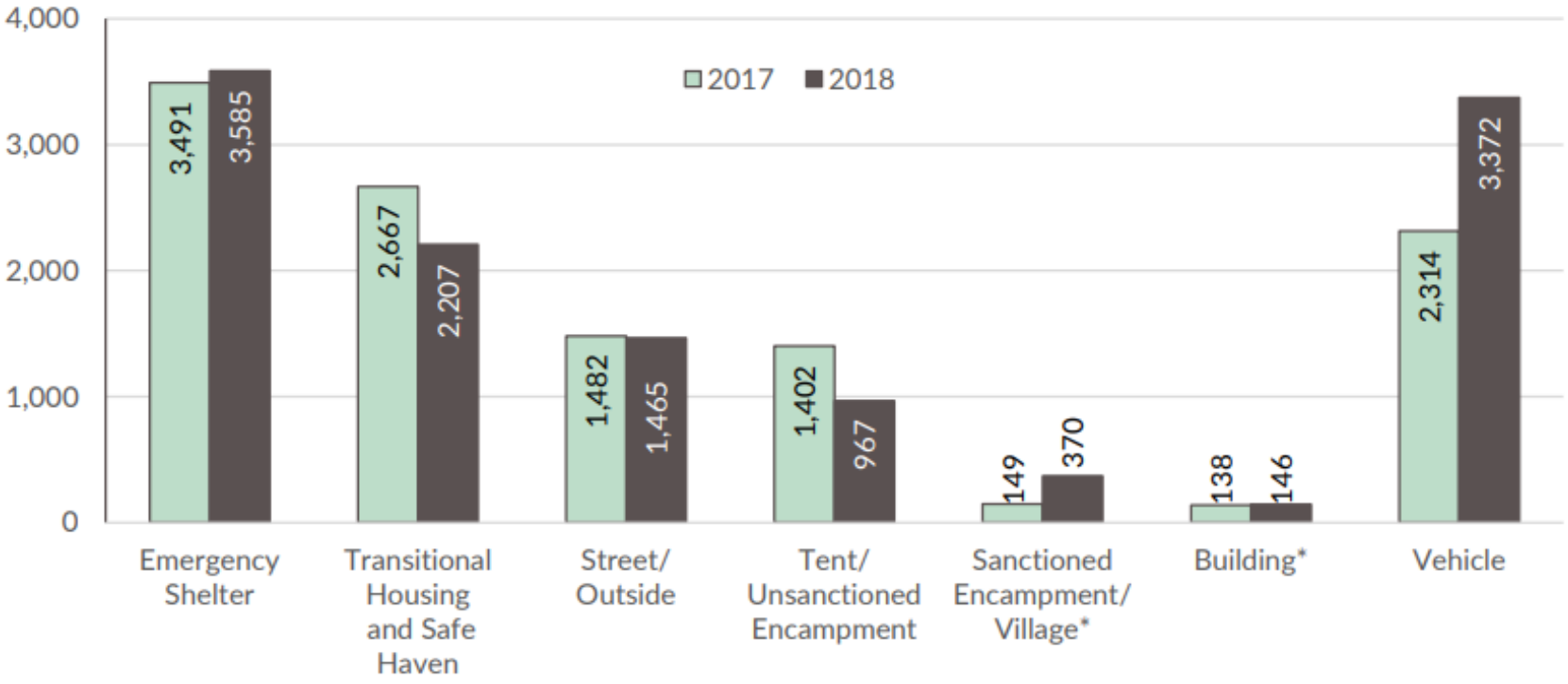
‡Coordinated Entry for All (CEA) launched in April 2016 and resulted in a large influx of households requesting homeless services (approximately 7,500 each in 2016 and in 2017 YTD).

DATA DASHBOARDS



http://allhomekc.org/data-overview/#what-is-the-need

5,228 PEOPLE (DOWN FROM 6,320) ARE LIVING UNSHELTERED IN KING COUNTY (2019)



2018 King County Point-in-Time Count Results

COUNT US IN

52% of people experiencing homelessness identified as people of color; however, people of color make up only **33%** of the King County general population.

The **highest** disparities were observed among those identifying as Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and multiple races.

12,112

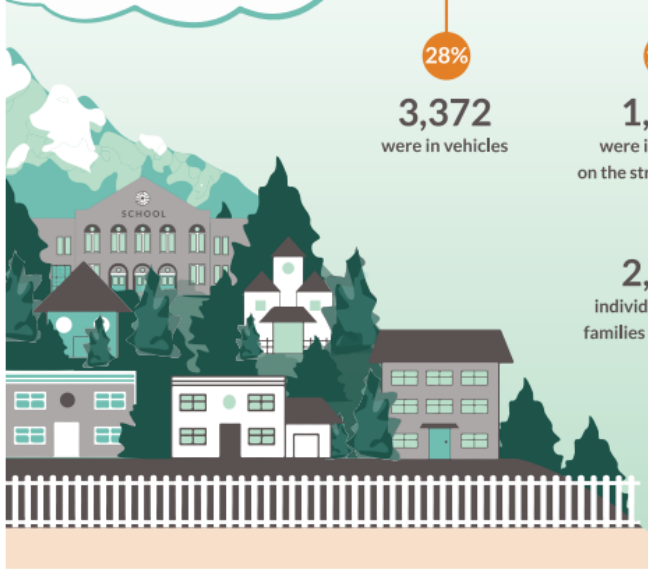
People were experiencing homelessness in King County on January 26, 2018

- **52%** — **6,320** were unsheltered
  - **28%** — **3,372** were in vehicles
  - **13%** — **1,611** were in buildings, on the street or outside
  - **11%** — **1,337** were in tents
- **48%** — **5,792** were sheltered
  - **18%** — **2,207** were in transitional housing and safe havens
  - **30%** — **3,585** were in emergency shelters

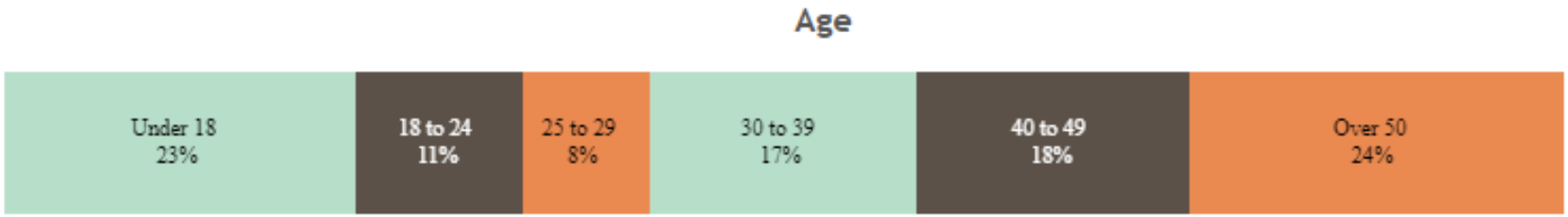
- **2,624** individuals were in families with children
- **1,518** individuals were unaccompanied youth and young adults
- **921** individuals were Veterans
- **171** of unaccompanied youth were minors (under the age of 18)

98% of survey respondents said they would move into safe and affordable housing if it were offered

80% of survey respondents cited more affordable housing and rental assistance as key to ending their homelessness



Characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness



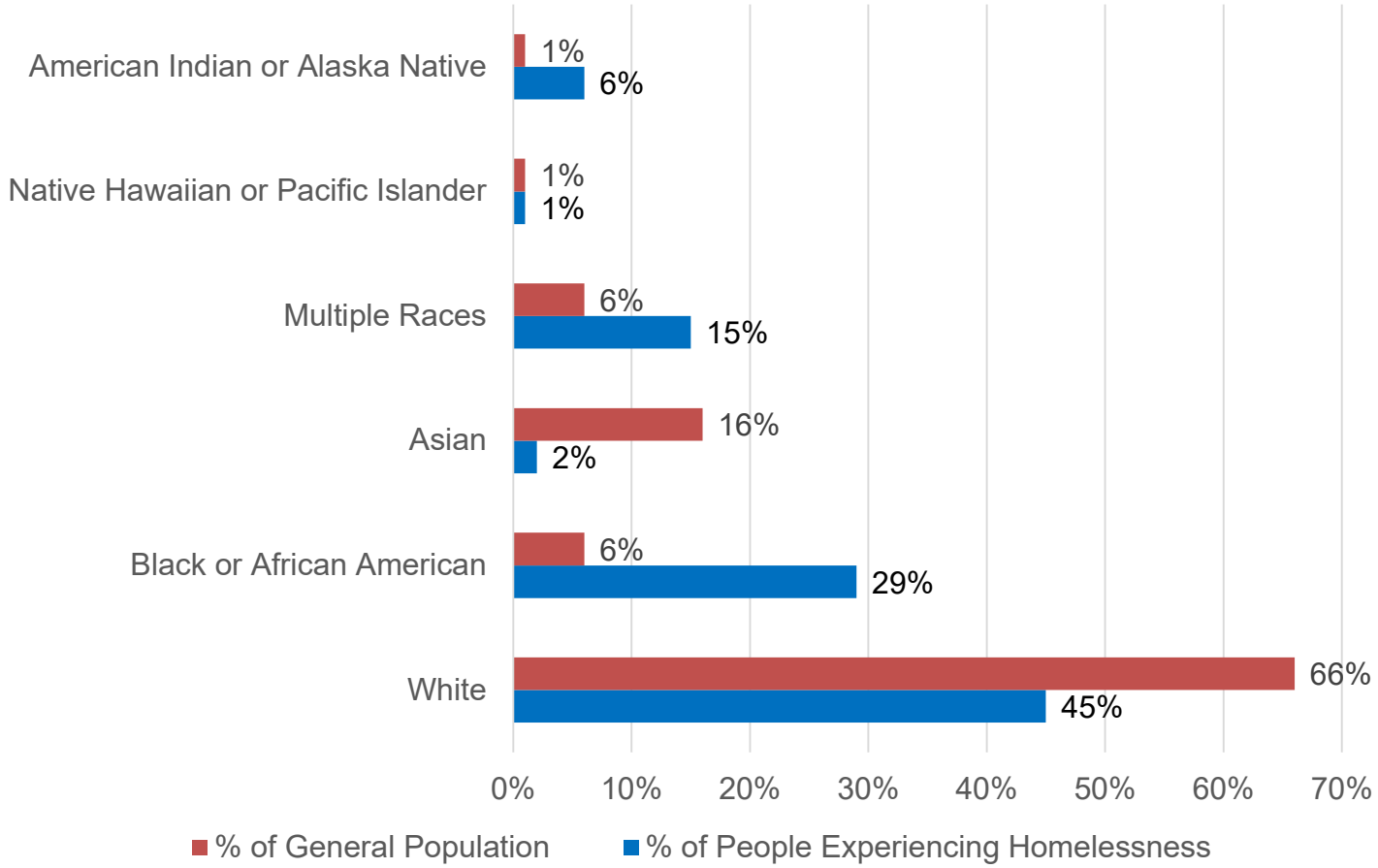
Young people identified themselves as LGBTQ at higher rates than other survey respondents – 28% of unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years old identified as LGBTQ, compared to 14% of other survey respondents.

40% of survey respondents reported a history of domestic violence or partner abuse (7% reported active domestic violence).

Among all survey respondents, 58% of individuals identifying as LGBTQ; 54% of families with children; and 43% of unaccompanied YYA report histories of DV.

Source: 2018 Count Us In Data

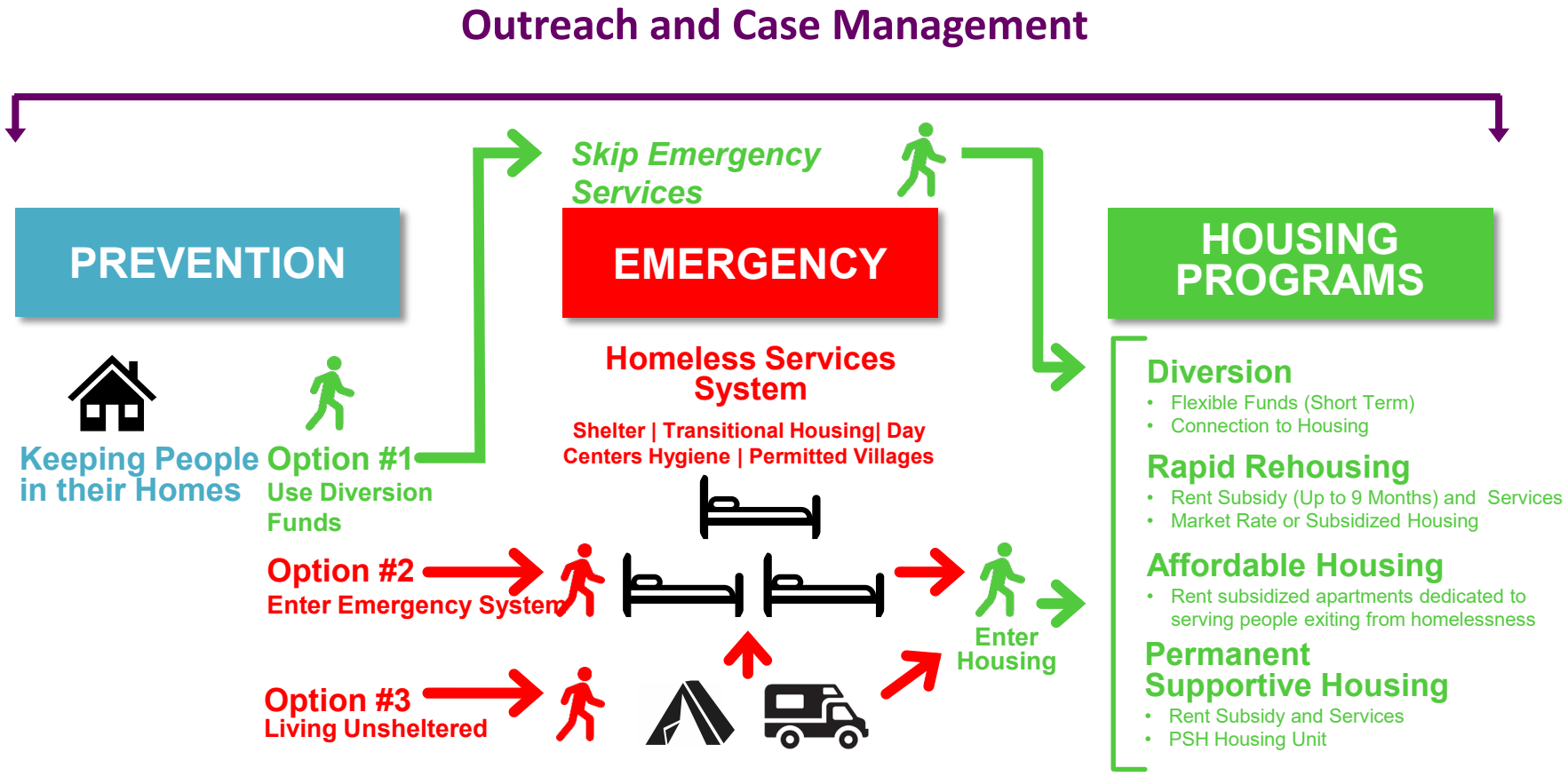
PEOPLE OF COLOR DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED IN RATES OF HOMELESSNESS IN KING COUNTY (2018 DATA)



Source: 2018 Count Us In Data

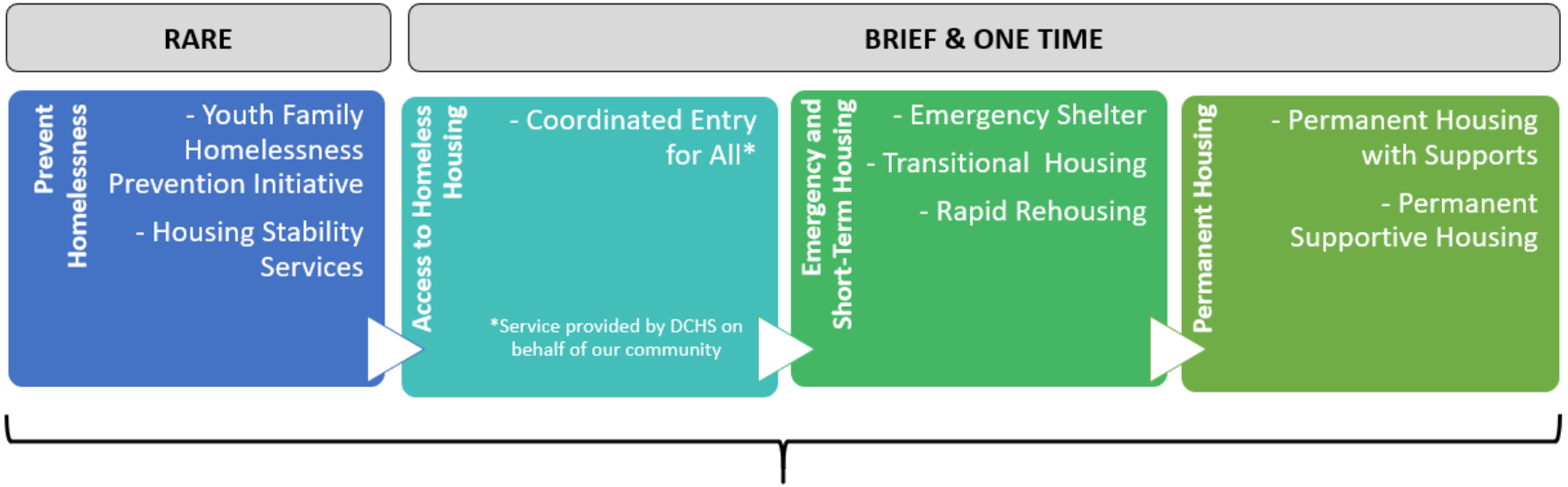
CONTINUUM OF HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS

HOMELESS SERVICES SYSTEM



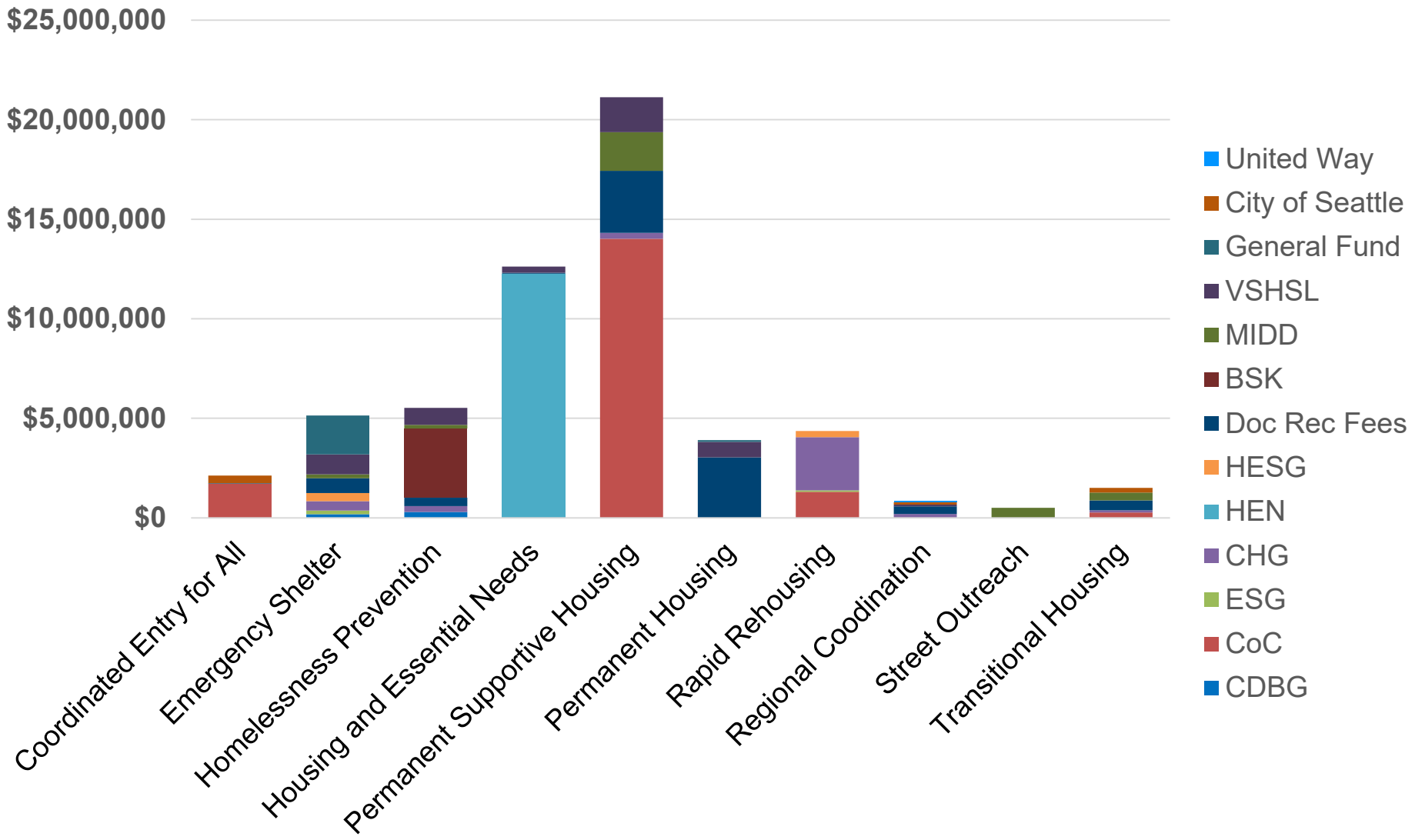
Source: Seattle Human Services Department

KING COUNTY DCHS HOMELESSNESS INVESTMENTS



Working together with public and private funders in our region, and with All Home, King County strives to make homelessness rare in our community, and should homelessness occur, to make it brief and one-time.

2018 DCHS HOMELESSNESS EXPENDITURES*



King County

*Does not include All Home

OUR SYSTEM: ACCESS POINTS

Emergency Shelters

Day Centers

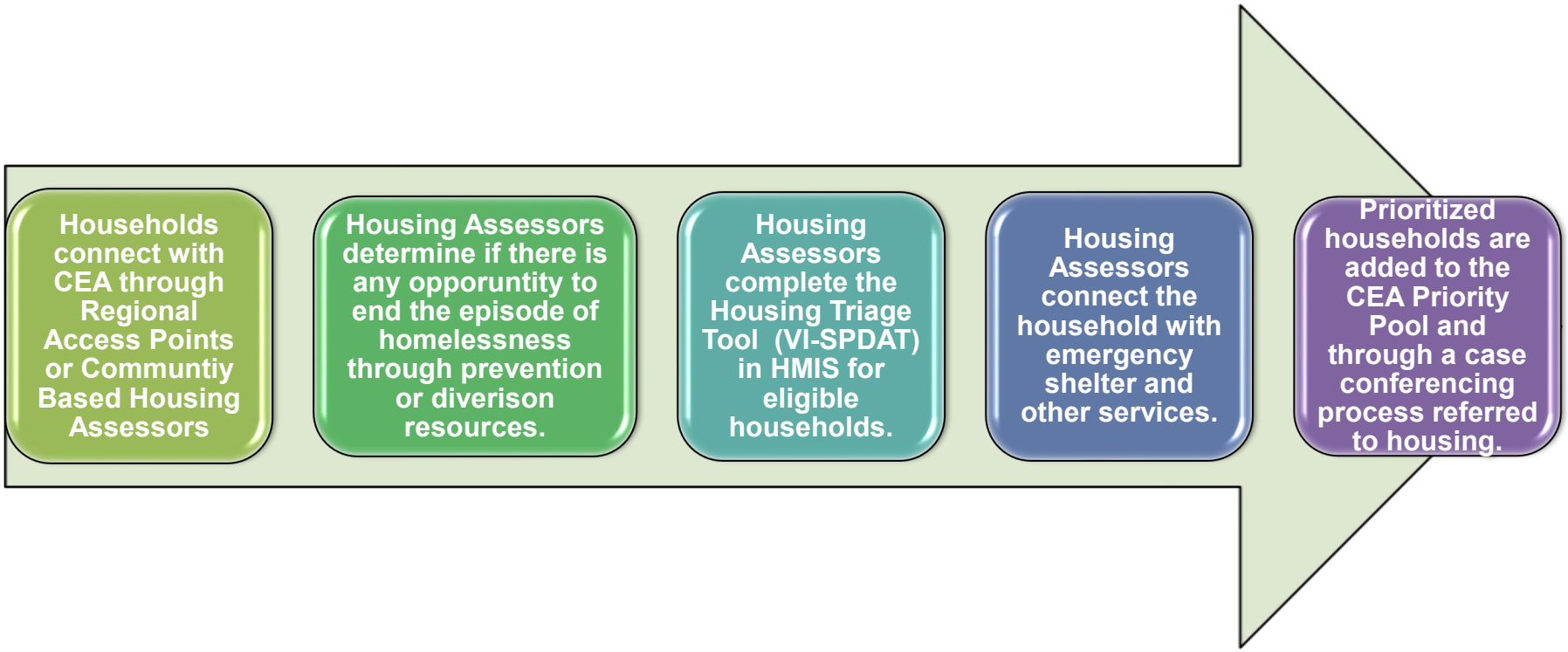
Street Outreach Teams

2-1-1

Other Systems

Coordinated Entry for All
(Assessment & Services at RAPs/Mobile & Referral Specialists)

COORDINATED ENTRY



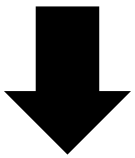
The purpose of Coordinated Entry for All (CEA) is to ensure that all people experiencing homelessness have fair and equal access to housing. The system aims to work with households to understand their strengths and needs, provide a common assessment, and connect them with housing and homeless assistance. Through the use of standardized tools and practices, CEA aims to incorporate the principles of a system-wide housing first approach and prioritize those with the highest service needs.

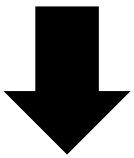
PAST RESPONSE – THE "CONTINUUM"

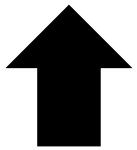
A HOUSING FIRST COMMUNITY

- ✓The belief that all people are housing ready. Housing has: Low barrier or high access (screening in), no conditions, voluntary services with a commitment to high engagement
- ✓Eligibility and screening policies do not create barriers to access needed resources
- ✓Program staff know how to assist people to apply for and obtain permanent housing
- ✓Policymakers, funders and providers plan collaboratively and align resources to ensure those resources are available to maximize housing choice for people who need it
- ✓There exists a data-driven approach to prioritizing the most vulnerable people for housing assistance
- ✓Unified, streamlined and user-friendly coordinated entry process to connect people with the most appropriate housing and services
- ✓Eviction back into homelessness is avoided through the transfer of one housing solution to another if needed

HOUSING FIRST CONTINUUM







Reduce the number of people who experience homelessness by targeting our **prevention** resources

Reduce the number of people who need shelter by utilizing **Diversion**

Increase the number of people who move into **permanent housing** and the time in which they do so

Functional Zero:

When everyone who needs emergency assistance can receive it without waiting and exits to PH within 20 days

SYSTEM ACTORS & FRAGMENTATION

CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC)

- **Federally mandated body to coordinate federal funding and ensure compliance with federal law.**
- **Receives CoC funds from HUD**
- **Required to:**
  1. Ensure collection of homeless system performance data (a "Homeless Management Information System" or HMIS)
  2. Establish and operating a coordinated needs assessment and referral process ("coordinated entry")
  3. Perform analysis to identify gaps in regional homeless services needs.
- **In King County, All Home is the CoC.**
- **All Home delegates collection and management of performance data to DCHS. DCHS is also in charge of operating Coordinated Entry assessment and referral process.**

Source: King County Auditor. 2018.

WHAT IS A CONTINUUM OF CARE?

"The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness."

https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/

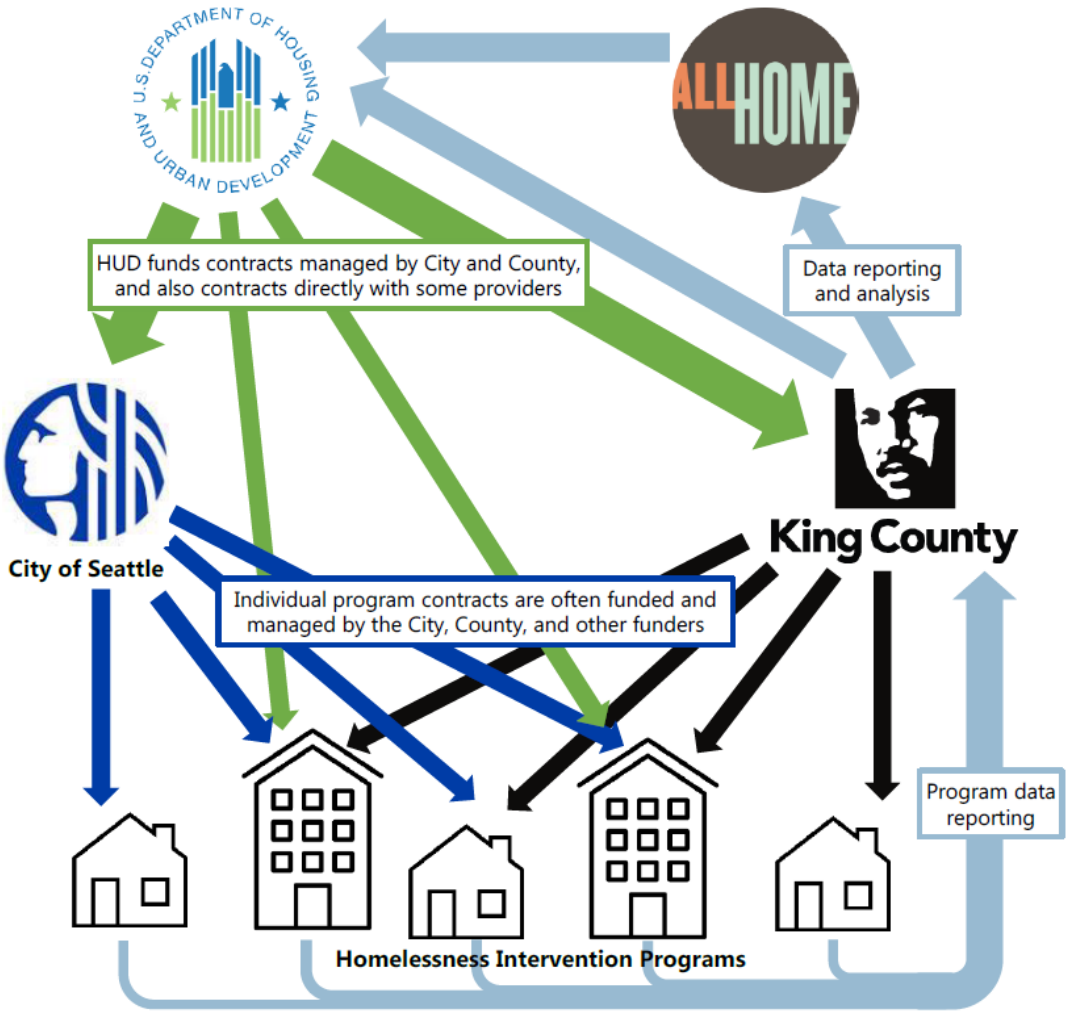
REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS FUNDERS

- **Federal:** COC Funds, with contracts managed by King County or Seattle
- **Housing Authorities**: federal housing vouchers
- **King County** (DCHS): local levies, document recording fees and pass through of federal dollars
- **Seattle and other cities**': general funds, housing dollars
- **Private Dollars:** Philanthropy (United Way, Raikes Foundation, Gates Foundation, etc.), Businesses, Private Donors, Faith Community

"In the Seattle/King County region, local funders have made progress on setting consistent standards for provider performance across funder contracts. However, local funders have placed less emphasis on how relationships between programs affect system performance."

Source: KC Auditor. 2018.

CONTRACTS HELD AND MONITORED BY A VARIETY OF ENTITIES



Source: KC Auditor. 2018

FRAGMENTATION IS A STRUCTURAL BARRIER TO SCALE & SYSTEMIZATION

"…[D]iffuse authority still hinders regional homeless response. Separate funding and contracting processes burden homeless housing providers, and funder autonomy slows programmatic changes that would respond to community needs. … All Home lacks the authority to unify local funders into an efficient and nimble crisis response system."

-King County Auditor, May 2018

"…meaningful progress on homelessness will require two things: Unified decision-making and accountability, as well as an ambitious plan to address this crisis."
"…our path forward must integrate decision making and accountability under one roof and unite us around a bold plan to solve this crisis."

-Marilyn Strickland, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce &Tricia Raikes, The Raikes Foundation, Dec. 2018

"*Further consolidating Seattle and King County homeless services is a smart move…. This should streamline and improve services for people without a home or at risk of losing one. It should also reduce duplication of effort and misalignment between two entities spending nearly $200 million a year."*

-The Seattle Times Editorial Board, Dec. 21, 2018

*"…All Home does not have the authority to make and implement decisions. Its governance is designed to solicit input, identify problems, and discuss solutions. It can convene but cannot make critical decisions, so leading significant changes may not be possible as currently structured.***"**

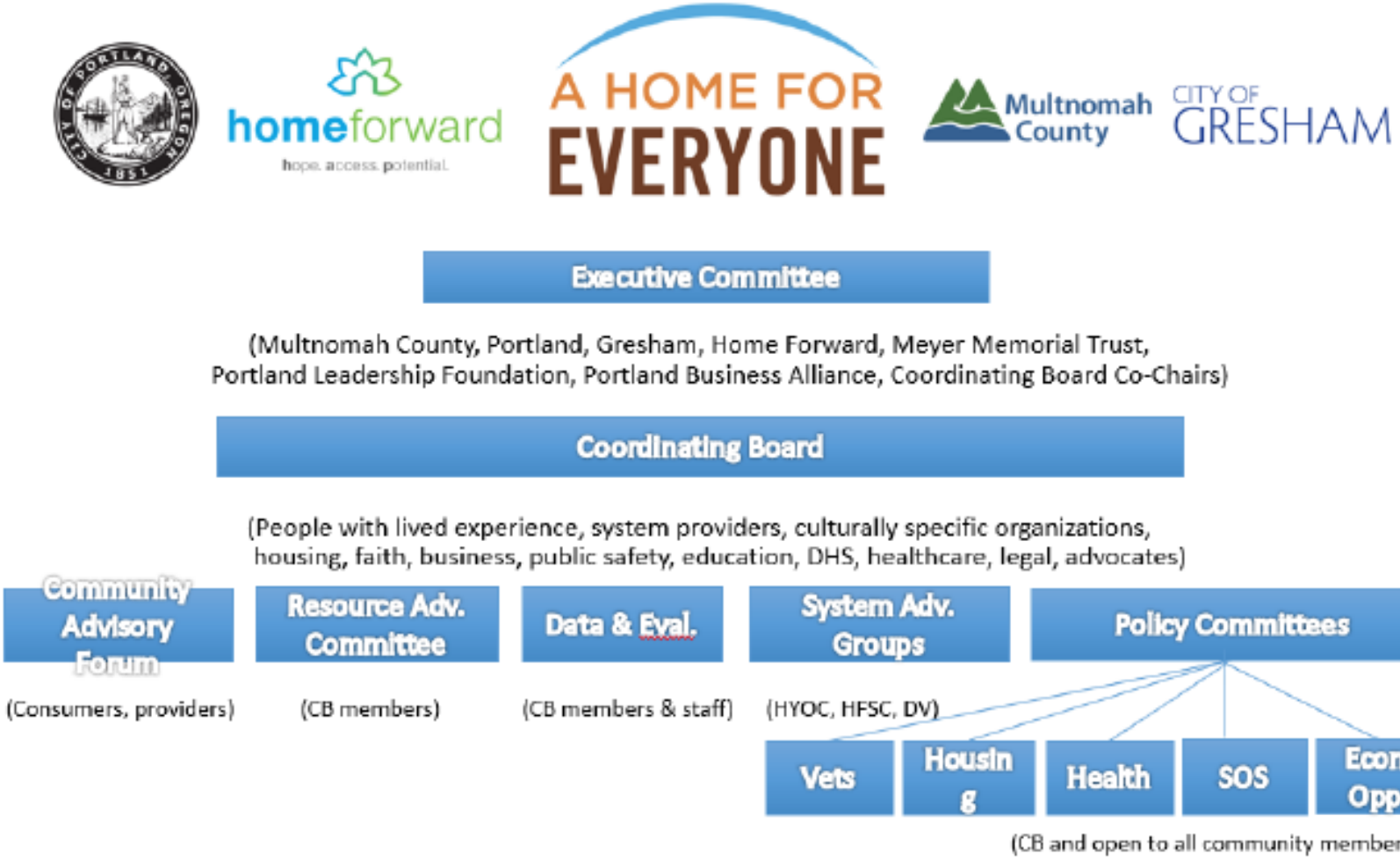
-Seattle/King County: Homeless System Performance Assessment. Sept. 2016. Focus Strategies.

"*All stakeholders view the current approach to meeting the crisis needs of homeless families as fragmented and siloed*."

-Barbara Poppe and associates. Aug 15, 2016.

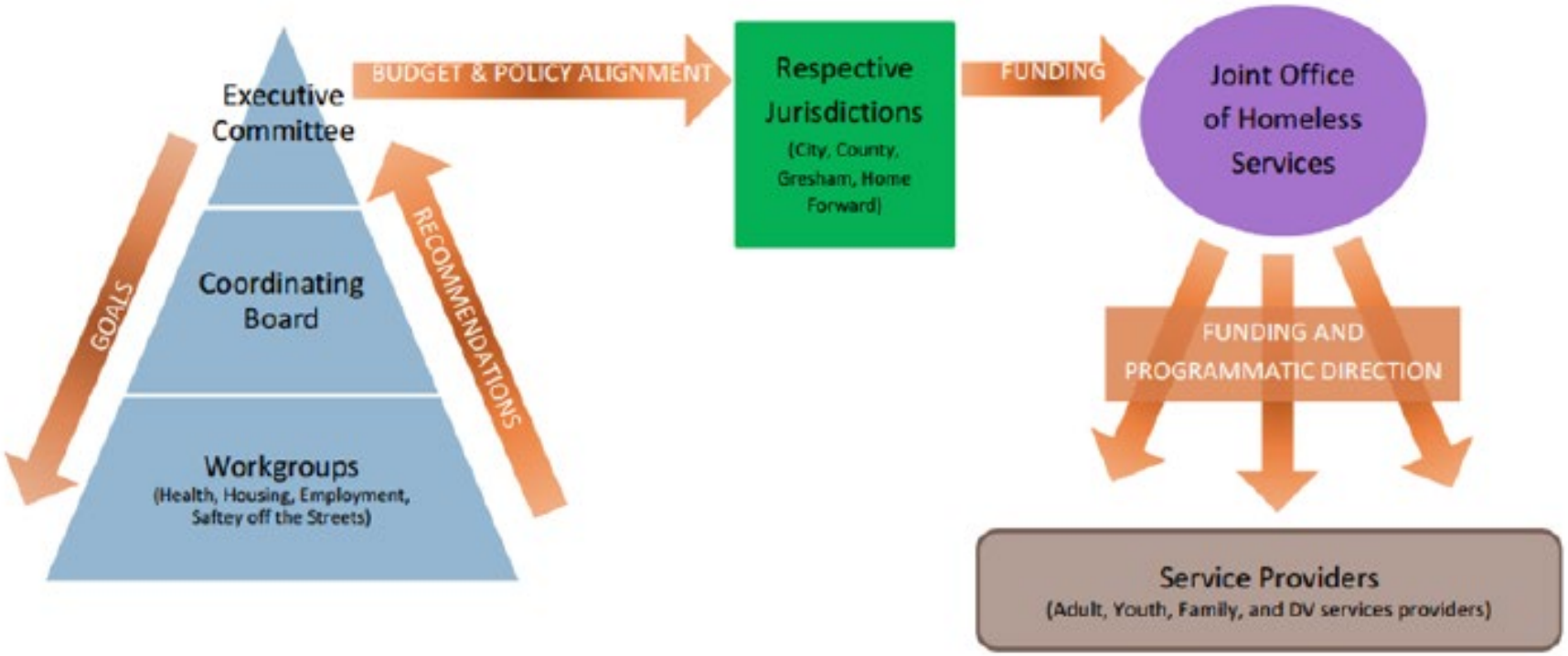
EXAMPLE JURISDICTIONS

PORTLAND


Executive Committee
(Multnomah County, Portland, Gresham, Home Forward, Meyer Memorial Trust, Portland Leadership Foundation, Portland Business Alliance, Coordinating Board Co-Chairs)
Coordinating Board
(People with lived experience, system providers, culturally specific organizations, housing, faith, business, public safety, education, DHS, healthcare, legal, advocates)
Community Advisory Forum
(Consumers, providers)
Resource Adv. Committee
(CB members)
Data & Eval.
(CB members & staff)
System Adv. Groups
(HYOC, HFSC, DV)
Policy Committees
Vets
Housing
Health
SOS
Econ. Opp.
(CB and open to all community members)

PORTLAND (CONT.)

Figure 1. A Home for Everyone Operational Flow



Note. Orange arrows indicate the active, transactional spaces in between entities.

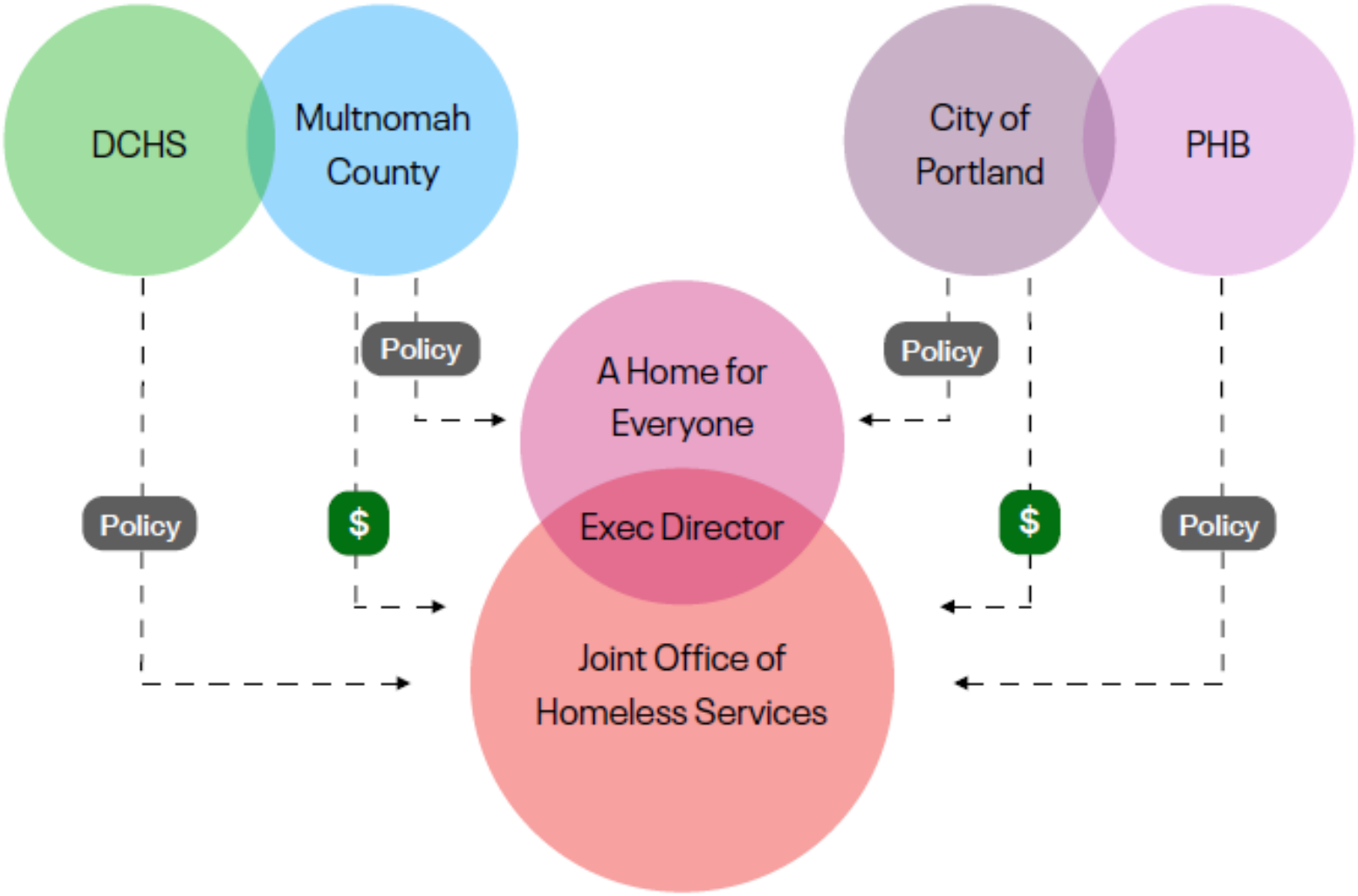
PORTLAND (CONT.)

In 2015, the City of Portland and Multnomah County established a Joint Office of Homeless Services to streamline services and housing opportunities, which is housed with the county.

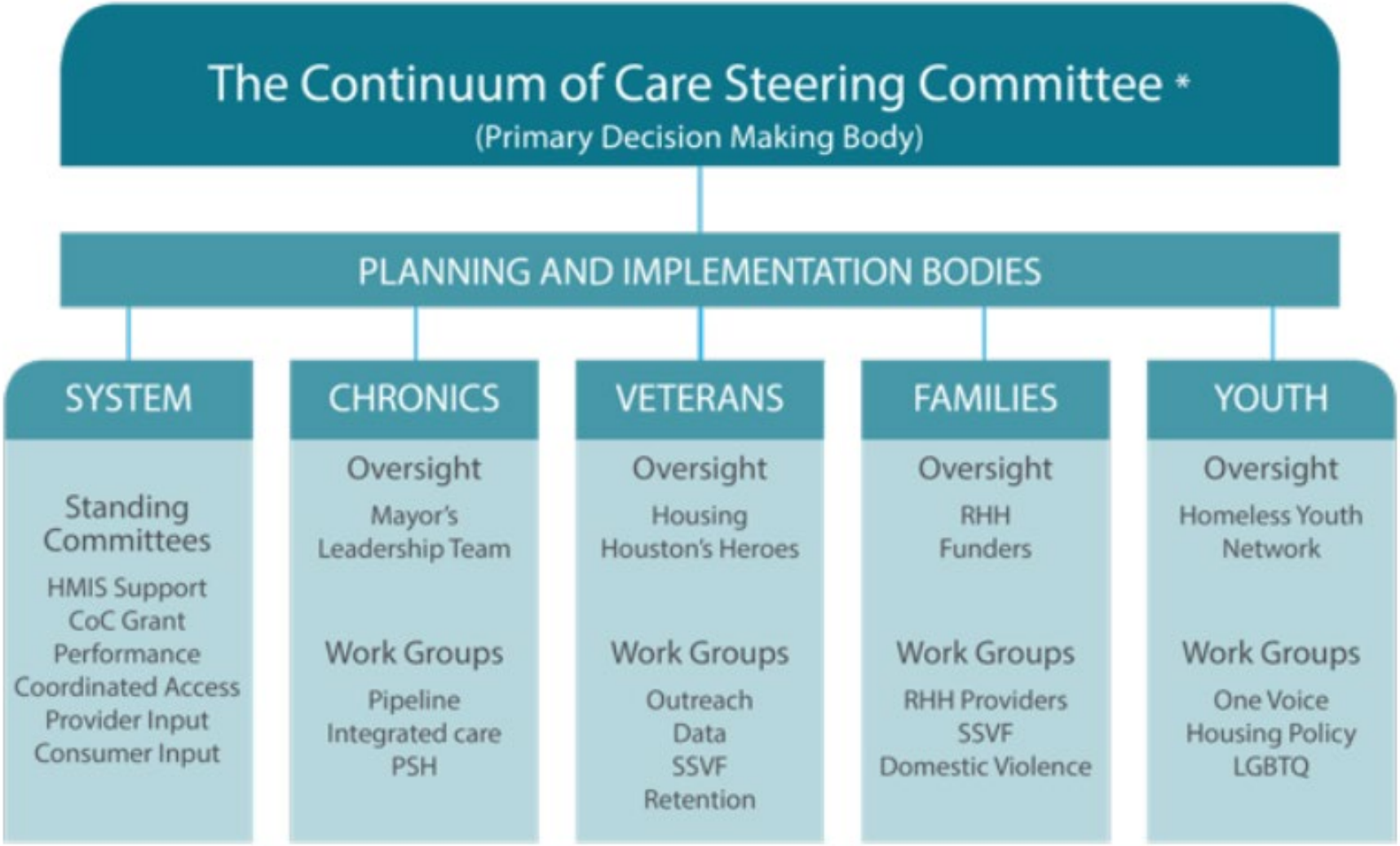
The Joint Office administers service contracts, conducts the point-in-time count, manages data systems, oversees data reporting and evaluation, monitors federal funding streams, and proposals for federal funding streams.

The Joint Office funds a nonprofit organization, A Home for Everyone, which coordinates policy-making and planning across governments and private-sector partners but does not lead implementation or manage services.

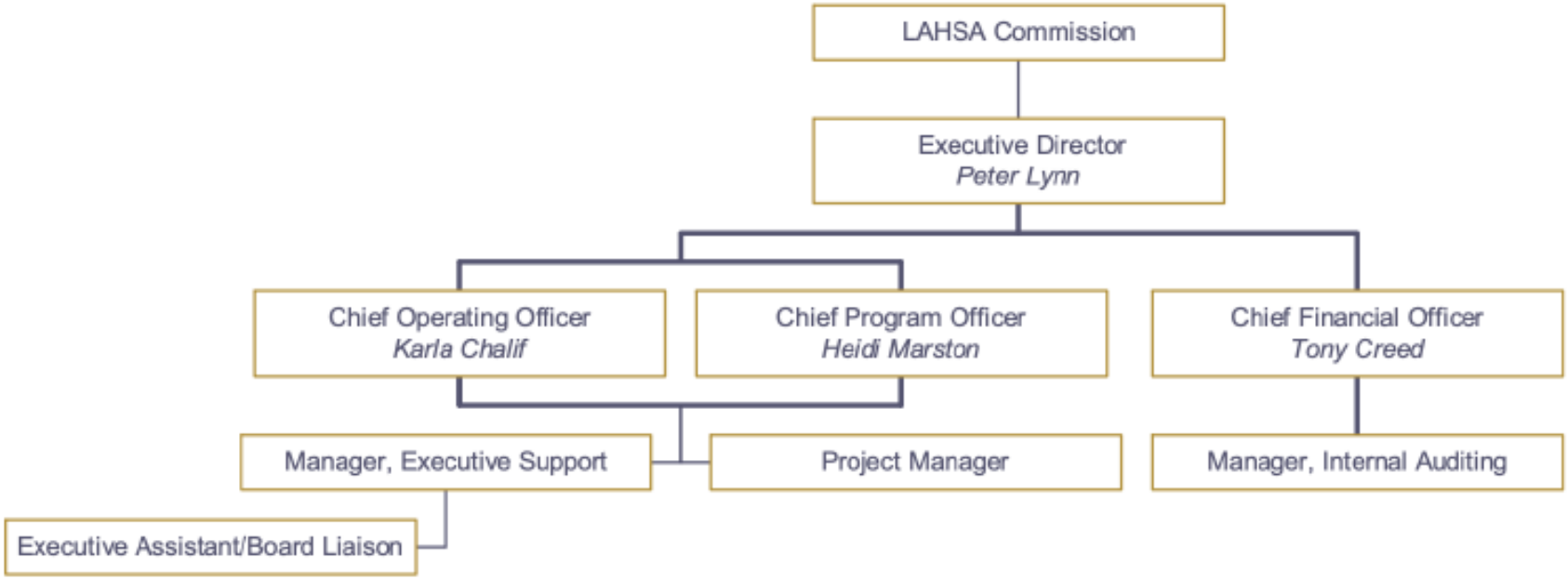
PORTLAND (CONT.)



HOUSTON


The Continuum of Care Steering Committee *
(Primary Decision Making Body)
PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION BODIES
SYSTEM
Standing Committees
HMIS Support
CoC Grant Performance
Coordinated Access
Provider Input
Consumer Input
CHRONICS
Oversight
Mayor's Leadership Team
Work Groups
Pipeline
Integrated care
PSH
VETERANS
Oversight
Housing Houston's Heroes
Work Groups
Outreach
Data
SSVF
Retention
FAMILIES
Oversight
RHH Funders
Work Groups
RHH Providers
SSVF
Domestic Violence
YOUTH
Oversight
Homeless Youth Network
Work Groups
One Voice
Housing Policy
LGBTQ

LOS ANGELES



LAHSA is governed by a politically appointed, 10-member Commission. Five members are selected by the County Board of Supervisors, and five are chosen by the Mayor and City Council. The Commission has the authority to make budgetary, funding, planning, and program policies.