

# 2016 STRATEGIC PLANNING: ISSUE SUMMITS

Two day-long Issue Summits on topics relating to strategically and effectively responding to homelessness in Solano County were held on Thursday, December 1 and Monday, December 5 in Suisun City and Vallejo, respectively. The Summits were held in two different cities on two different days to accommodate as many interested parties as possible. Both Summits contained the same content, so those interested could pick the one that worked best. Each Issue Summit included presentations of innovative ideas and proven methods for addressing homelessness, as well as facilitated discussions about if and how those ideas and methods could or should be implemented in Solano County.

The Summits were attended by a total of approximately 120 people, including elected officials at the city, county, state, and federal levels; representatives of the County and Cities; a wide variety of faith-based, non-profit, and community-based organizations, agencies, and coalitions; and concerned residents, including some formerly homeless individuals.

The specific topics covered included:

- Creative solutions to increase deeply affordable housing stock
  - Exploring innovative housing models and solutions
  - Building relationships with landlords
  - Funding opportunities
  - Maintaining housing affordability over time
- Improving navigation through the homeless system of care
  - System coordination
  - Housing navigators and locators
  - Outreach and engagement
- Serving subpopulations of the homeless community: Veterans; People who are Chronically Homeless; People with Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorders; Families, Children, and Youth; and Older Adults

The Issue Summits are part of an ongoing process to develop a 5-Year Regional Strategic Plan to Respond to Homelessness in Solano County. A major component of the planning process is community engagement, with ideas and feedback solicited from stakeholders and community members through a variety of means. The Summits were intended to present stakeholders and interested community members with specific strategies currently under consideration for inclusion in the Strategic Plan – including examples and supporting ideas – and to spur discussion about if and how those strategies could be implemented in Solano County.

The Strategic Plan was commissioned by the Community Action Partnership of Solano County Joint Powers Authority (“CAP Solano JPA”), a governmental body comprised of the County and Cities, which, among other things, provides oversight and coordination of homeless and safety net services to the residents of Solano County. CAP Solano JPA consists of representatives from each of Solano County’s seven cities (Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville, and Vallejo) as well as the County itself, and the decision to develop a Strategic Plan was a collective one. HomeBase, a non-profit organization with extensive experience working in and with Solano County as well as in other Bay Area Counties, was selected by the JPA to develop the strategic plan.

Materials from the Issue Summits and information about the Strategic Planning process overall – including how you can become involved - is available [online](https://tinyurl.com/SolanoHomelessStrategicPlan) at: <https://tinyurl.com/SolanoHomelessStrategicPlan>.