BASIC NEEDS
INITIATIVE

# Professional Development Workshops



- ***Basic Needs Ambassador Training***

  - Tuesday, March 10th, from 10AM-3PM at the Chancellor's Office

- ***Technology to Build Awareness of Basic Needs Services***

  - Monday, April 6th, from 2-3PM via Webinar

- ***I CAN Help Training***

  - Thursday, April 30th, from 8AM-5PM at the Chancellor's Office

- ***Basic Needs Research Consortium***

  - Tuesday-Wednesday, June 2-3, at the Chancellor's Office

BASIC NEEDS INITIATIVE

# BRINGING STUDENTS HOME

## Options for Addressing Homelessness Among College Students

February 25, 2020

JOHN BURTON ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

www.jbaforyouth.org

# John Burton Advocates for Youth
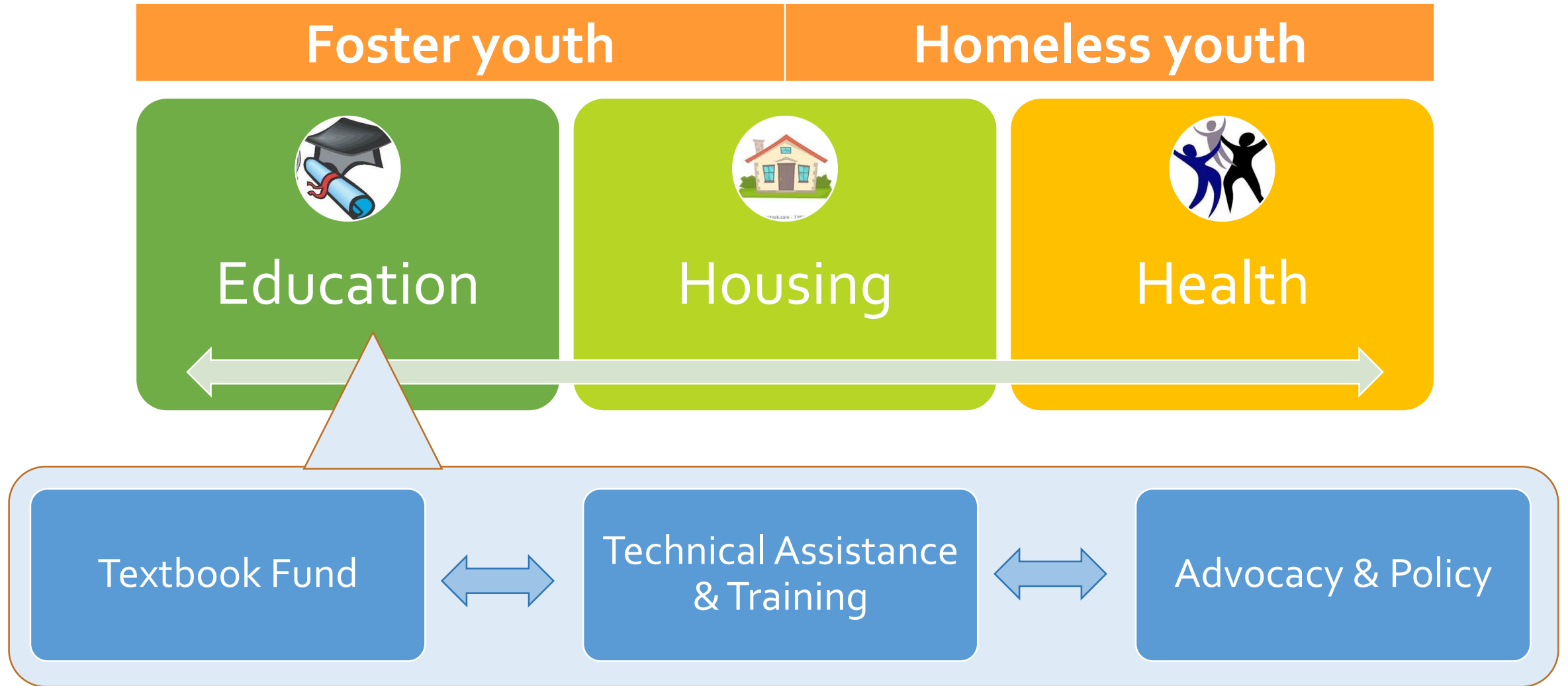
# Prevalence of Homelessness Among California's College Students - CSU
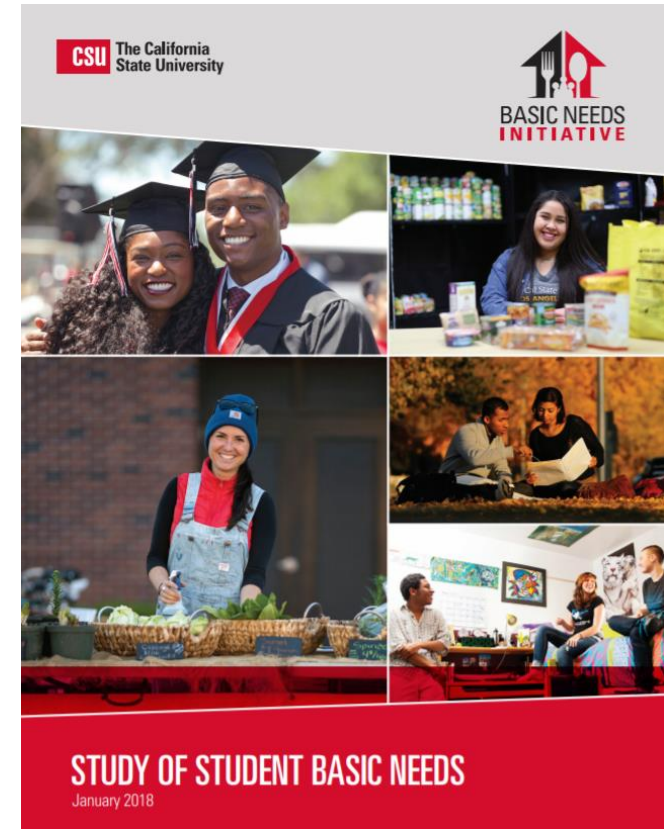
## CSU Students

- **1 in 10** of CSU students experience homelessness (10.9%)

- **1 in 4** students who were former foster youth experience homelessness (24.9%)

- **1 in 5** of African American first-generation students experience homelessness (18%)

# Homelessness – Risk Factors

History of homelessness with families

Experience in foster care

LGBTQ and gender non-conforming students

Young parents

Immediate or unexpected financial crisis

Economic instability and lack of safety net

# Who is homeless?

| | HUD Definition | Education Definition |
|---|:---:|:---:|
| Primary nighttime residence not meant for human habitation (cars, parks, abandoned buildings) | X | X |
| Emergency shelter | X | X |
| Residence will be lost within 14 days with no other residence and inadequate resources or supports | X | |
| Fleeing domestic violence with no other residence and inadequate resources or supports | X | |
| Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, etc. (couch surfing and doubled up) | | X |
| Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations | | X |

# Addressing Homelessness Requires a Multi-Pronged Approach
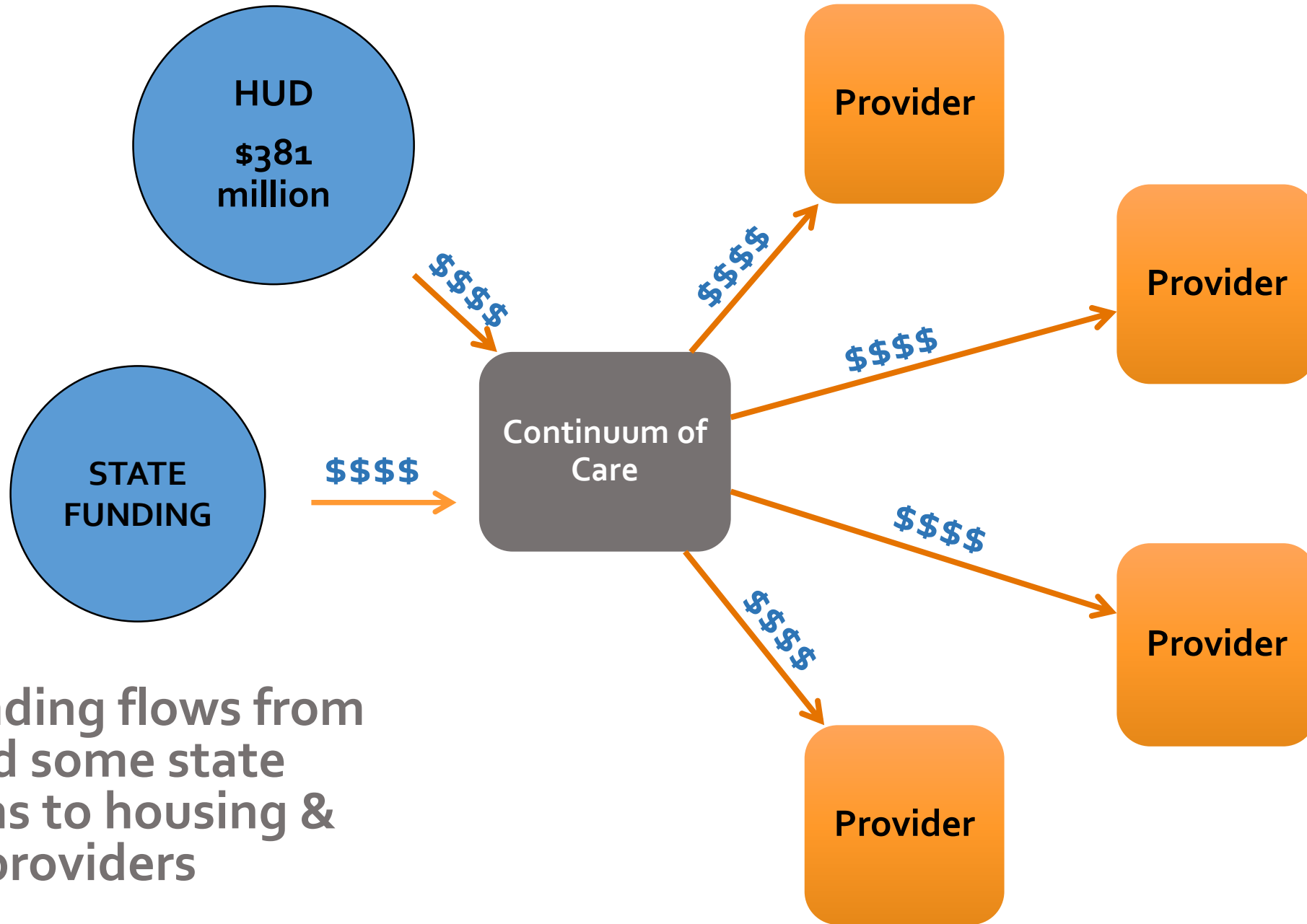
# The Homelessness Response System

# Continuums of Care (CoCs)

## Continuum of Care (CoC) Basics

- Entity that receives and administers HUD funding
- Regional but not exclusively county-based
- 44 CoCs in California
- Primary vehicle for helping people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness
- Determines local priorities and makes funding decisions

How funding flows from HUD and some state programs to housing & service providers

# HUD Housing Administered by Continuums of Care

| Emergency Shelter | Transitional Housing |
|---|---|
| **Rapid Rehousing** | **Permanent Supportive Housing** |

## Housing not administered by the CoC:

- Housing Choice (Section 8) Vouchers & Public Housing
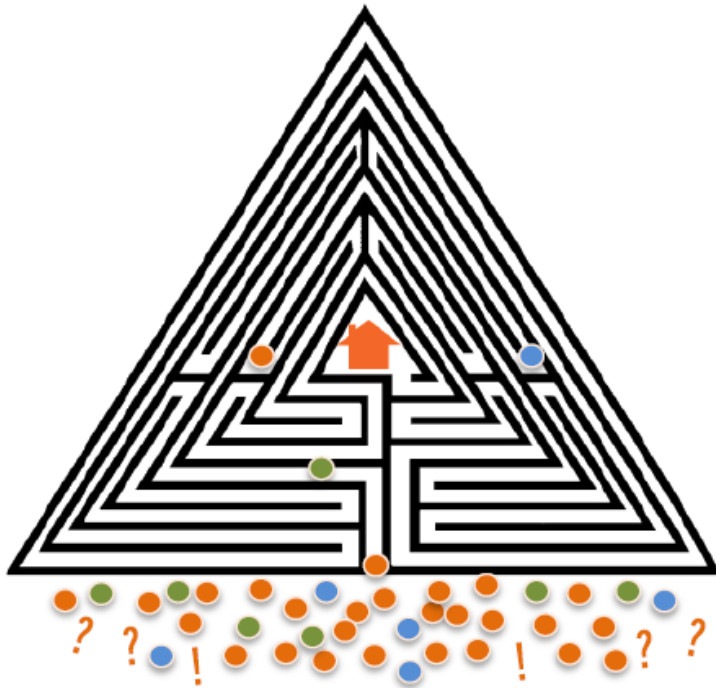- Permanent Affordable Housing
- THP-Plus (foster youth)
- Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)
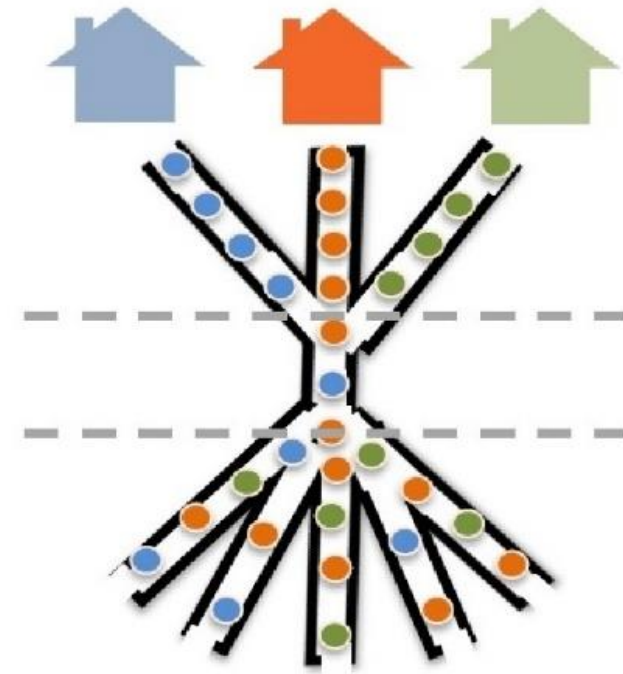
# What is a Coordinated Entry System?

## Without CES

## With CES

# How Does CES Work?

Access → Assessment → Prioritization → Referrals to Housing Resources → Safe & Stable Housing

Problem-Solving / Connections to Mainstream Resources
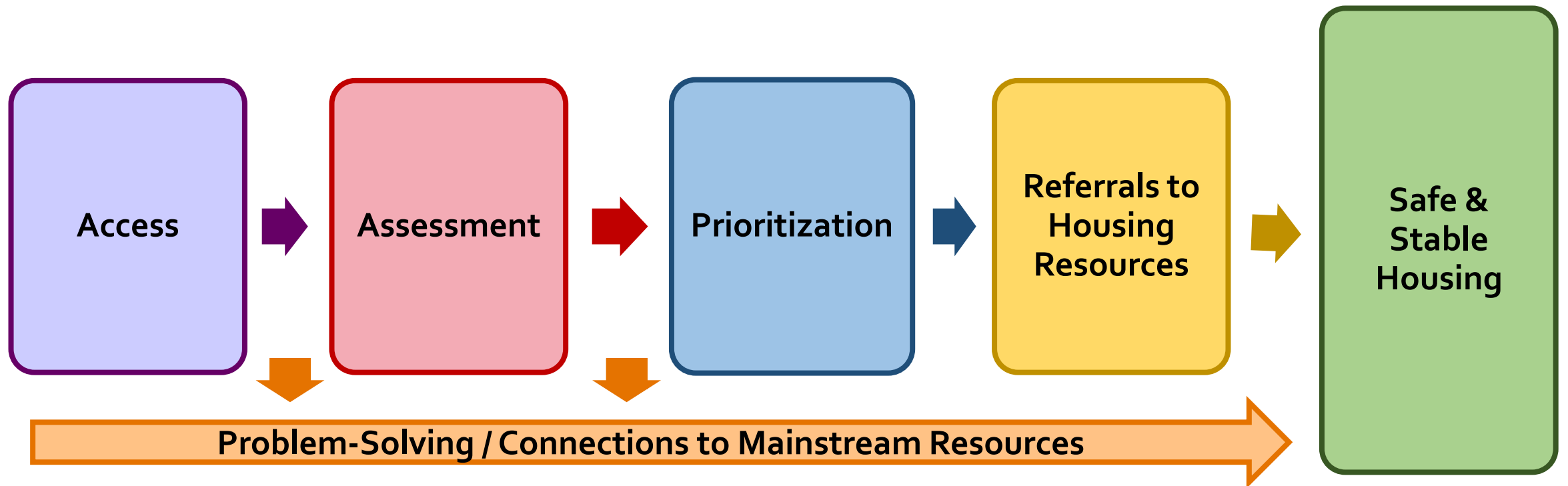
# CES Access Points

**May be Single or Multiple Points of Access**

**Virtual or Phone Access**

**Street Outreach**

**Youth Coordinated Entry**

# Eligibility & Prioritization for Housing Resources

- Eligibility
  - ➢ Often must meet HUD Definition of Homelessness for <u>federal</u> programs
  - ➢ Additional Program Requirements (e.g., veteran status, senior, chronically homeless, families, serious mental illness, youth)

- Prioritization
  - ➢ Vulnerability: Chronic Homelessness, Disability, and other factors
- Youth-targeted resources

*Lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate. nighttime residence:*
*(i) living in a place not meant for human habitation;*
*(ii) living in a shelter.*

# Practical Strategies for Campuses

# 1. Make Referrals to CES

## Know your community's coordinated entry access points

- Familiarize key campus staff with locations & phone numbers
- Are there youth-specific access points?
- What is the eligibility and referral process?
- Refer students in need of housing to appropriate access points
- Ensure that if students are current or former foster youth, they are referred to the child welfare agency or local provider.

# 2. Co-locate with a provider that assesses for coordinated entry.

Partner with the Continuum of Care or local provider to bring coordinated entry assessment on campus.
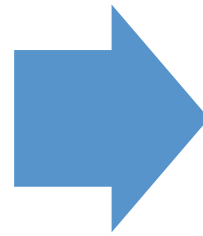
Provider with CES contract can assess students on campus and refer to housing and services.

# 3. Get involved with CoC stakeholder meetings

- Opportunity to influence community priorities

- Stakeholder input was required for the HEAP planning process and open to the public.

- **Get involved before critical input periods if possible**



Continuum of Care (CoC) Roster: https://www.jbaforyouth.org/coc-roster

# 4. Participate in the Homeless Point-In-Time Count.

- "Snapshot" of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January; administered by Continuum of Care in odd years

- Main source of data used by federal government

- Determines federal funding allocations to address homelessness and impacts state funding as well

**Ensure homeless students are included in PIT Counts**
- Volunteer for the count
- Make sure homeless students complete surveys

Point-in-Time Count CoC Roster: https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/pit_count_coc.pdf

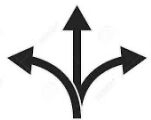# 5. Target resources to students with greatest needs

Develop clear protocols for determining housing status and targeting housing resources

Evaluate risk factors

Ensure financial aid is being maximized

Create systems that are flexible and trauma-informed

# 6. Ensure your campus' financial aid policies address student homelessness.

Ensure financial aid administrators understand rules on how to make a homeless determination

Reevaluate Cost of Attendance based on individual circumstances

Prioritize special populations in timing of disbursements

Modify SAP appeals policy to make homelessness an extenuating circumstance

Allow students to defer housing deposits until financial aid is available

FAFSA Visual Guide for Homeless Youth (JBAY):
https://www.jbaforyouth.org/fafsa-guide-homeless-students

# 7. Ensure your campus is fully implementing AB 1393 & AB 1228.

**AB 1393 (Skinner, 2009):** Priority housing for current and former foster youth

**AB 1228 (Gipson, 2015):** Priority housing for current and former homeless youth

- CSUs required to grant priority for:
  - ✓ Student housing generally
  - ✓ Year-round student housing
  - ✓ Housing open for most days in year

Cannot charge during breaks

# 8. Partner with local housing providers to develop long-term solutions

## Find housing providers in your community:

- Develop relationships over time
- Take advantage of state and local funding opportunities

# Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) - 2018

| | |
|---|---|
| **Program Overview** | • $500 million one-time block grant to address homelessness |
| **Funding Mechanism** | • Funds distributed to 43 Continuums of Care and 11 Largest Cities<br>• Each local agency developed a system to distribute funds to providers |
| **Key Elements** | • At least **5%** of the allocation MUST be used to establish or expand programs to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness |
| **Student Housing** | • Three housing providers received HEAP funds to implement college-focused rapid rehousing with local community colleges (San Joaquin Delta, Santa Rosa JC, Southwestern)<br>• Imperial Valley College received a direct allocation for services |

# HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE, AND PREVENTION PROGRAM (HHAP) - 2019

| | |
|---|---|
| **Program Overview** | • $650 million one-time block grant to address homelessness |
| **Funding Mechanism** | • Funds distributed to 43 Continuums of Care and 13 Largest Cities and 58 Counties<br>• Each local agency developed a system to distribute funds to providers |
| **Key Elements** | • Allocations are based on each CoCs proportionate share of the state's total homeless population based on the 2019 homeless point-in time count (PIT).<br>• At least **8%** of the allocation MUST be used to establish or expand programs to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness |

# HHAP IMPORTANT DATES

| HHAP TIMELINE | |
|---|---|
| Program Guidance | October 29, 2019 |
| Allocations announced based on 2019 PIT count and NOFA released | January 2020 |
| Deadline for jurisdictions to submit applications to State | February 15, 2020 |
| Final date to award funds to jurisdictions | April 1, 2020 |
| Deadline for program funds to be contractually obligated | May 31, 2023 |
| Funds shall be fully spent | June 30, 2025 |

# HHAP ALLOWABLE USES

1.  Rental assistance

2.  **Rapid rehousing**

3.  Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation shelters

4.  Incentives to landlords, such as security deposits and holding fees

5.  Systems support to create regional partnerships and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system

6.  Hotel and motel conversions

7.  Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing

8.  New navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated need

# Core Components of Rapid Rehousing

**Housing navigation** or search assistance including

- recruitment of landlords
- identification of shared housing opportunities
- support with housing application processes
- credit counseling
- facilitation of reunification with family members willing to provide stable housing

# Core Components of Rapid Rehousing

**Housing-related financial assistance**

- rental application fees
- rental subsidies
- security deposit assistance
- utility payments
- moving cost assistance
- interim housing assistance while seeking permanent housing

**Housing stabili-zation services**

- ongoing tenant engagement
- case management
- credit repair assistance
- employment support
- life skills training
- referrals to other resources

# Step 1: For campuses, the first step is connecting with a housing provider that can apply for HHAPP
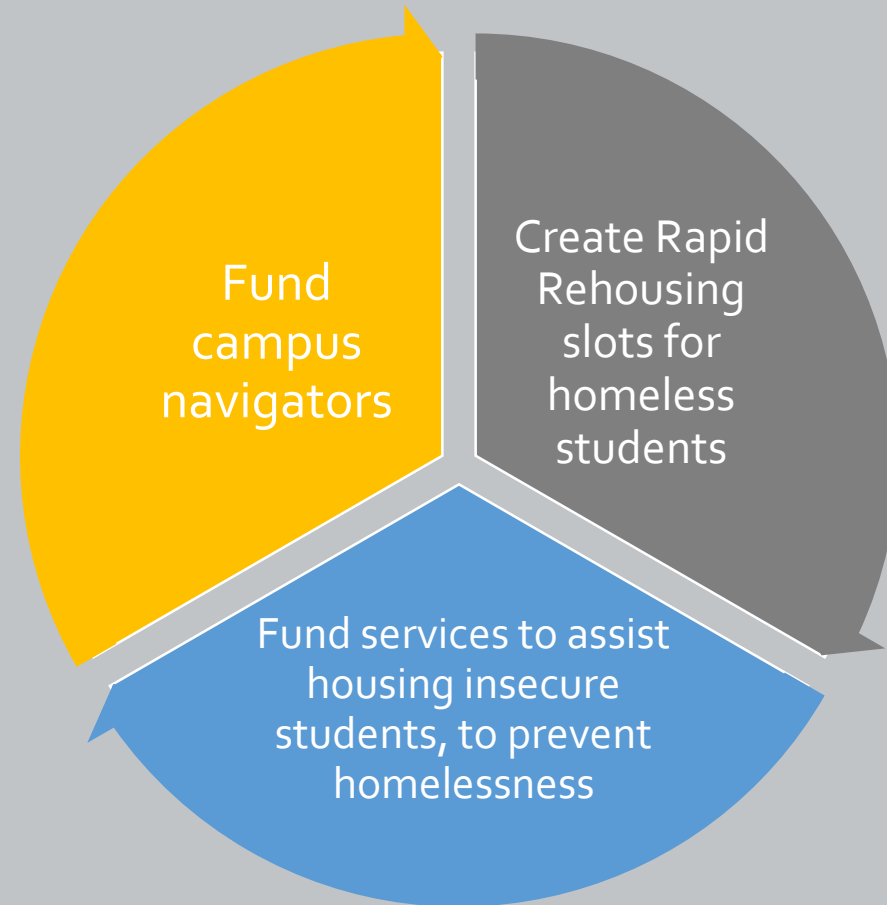
# Consider partnering with organizations that have contracts with the CoC, County or City

- Existing contracts and relationships facilitate issuing funds.

- Getting a contract for the first time is difficult.

- May 2019 study found few HEAP recipients were first-time CoC grantees.

# Step 2: Make contact with your local Continuum of Care, county and large city

## CoC

- 44 Continuums of Care in California
- Distributes HUD funding and funding from CA Department of Housing and Community Development.

## County

- 58 counties
- Each have a Department of Housing and Community Development.

## Large City

- Anaheim, Bakersfield, Fresno, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Ana, and Stockton.

*Visit HHAPP webpage at www.jbaforyouth.org to find a contact for your CoC, County and Large City

# HHAPP Considerations

- Move quickly with Large Cities
  - Their HEAP process included less formal stakeholder engagement and were more likely to sole-source than issue competitive NOFAs

- Clarify that 8% is a minimum, even if their PIT youth percentage is lower than 8%
  - With HEAP, jurisdictions with smaller allocations (under $4 million) were more likely to allocate the minimum to homeless youth.

- Expect to have to educate your CoC, County and Large City on college student homelessness

# Step 3: Stay informed

- Subscribe to receive notices at HCFC website
- Visit JBAY web page on HHAPP implementation - https://www.jbaforyouth.org/hhapp/
  - Fact sheet
  - FAQ
  - Continuum of Care, County and Large City contacts
  - % of homeless who are unaccompanied youth

# Other Resources

- 5 Guides to Help Homeless College Students
  - California Homeless Youth Project & SchoolHouse Connection
  - https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/5-Guides-to-Help-Homeless-College-Students-FINAL.pdf

- SchoolHouse Connection Webinars:
  - https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/webinars/archived-webinars/

**"We help youth go from Invisible to Invincible"**

. **We are leaders** among LA's homeless youth agencies, now covering all of Southeast LA

. **A proven track record** of programmatic success, innovation, and compassionate care for our youth

. In the last five years, we have:

Quadrupled the number of housing units

Become a leading agency in LA's Coordinated Entry System for Youth

Implemented best practices, invested in evaluation

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# Moving Youth Off Our Streets & Into a New Life

**We offer a variety of housing options for homeless youth:**

- Leadership within LA's **Coordinated Entry System**
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Family Reconnection
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Affordable Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing (rental subsidies)
- **College Focused Rapid Re-Housing**
- **College Focused Bridge Housing**
- **College Focused Host Homes**



*"I was a Freshman at East LA College when I became a homeless. Jovenes has provided me with the housing, guidance and encouragement I needed to graduate and transfer to Cal-State LA this Fall.*
*-Adaena*

**229 Unduplicated Youth Housed Last Year**

# Jovenes' College Success Initiative- Creating Homes for Homeless Students

- Partner with colleges to identify students experiencing homelessness
- Create a variety of housing options dedicated to students
- Utilize housing as a tool to help students graduate
- Leverage Private & Public Funding
- Share our practices to encourage replication and policy change
- Target to highest need students
- Celebrate student success!

# Peer Navigators - Students helping Students

- Our Peer Navigators are current Community College Students who have lived experience with homelessness
- They spend 30-40 hours per week on campus, conducting outreach and assessment
- Connect youth with our housing opportunities
- Housed at Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS) and Financial Aid Offices

# Adapting Homeless Services for Students

## Traditional Housing & Case Management

- ✓ Assists with housing identification & landlord recruitment
- ✓ Provides rental subsidies
- ✓ Provides case management
- ✓ Utilizes Housing First approach
- ✓ Is time-limited

## *College-Focused* Housing & Case Management

- ✓ Assists with housing identification & landlord recruitment
- ✓ Provides rental subsidies
- ✓ Provides case management
- ✓ Utilizes Housing First approach
- ✚ Is time-limited *with flexibility*
- ✚ Utilizes Peer Navigators
- ✚ Provides academic case management (in addition to "traditional" CM)
- ✚ Partners with colleges

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# College-Focused Housing Options

**College Focused Rapid- Rehousing:** Rapid Rehousing is a rental subsidy is designed to be a time-limited intervention that moves youth into permanent housing and provides them with the time it takes to gain employment, begin saving, and gradually take on the full cost of the lease. Within a year, the subsidy should end and the youth will take on full responsibility for their lease. For college students, Jovenes seeks to leverage publicly funded subsidies with private support to extend the duration of rental assistance to match a student's time in school.

**College Focused Bridge Housing:** Jovenes is master leasing apartments close to campus that can house one to four students at a time. Students will have the opportunity to stay in these apartments as long as they are in good standing with school and program rules. Students will also be assessed for rapid-rehousing and move into permanent housing if that model is a better fit for their needs.

**College Focused Host Homes:** Jovenes is outreaching to local homeowners who have a spare bedroom in their houses and who are willing to welcome a student into their home. Under this arrangement, the student will stay in these houses for six months or less, while a more suitable long-term solution can be developed. Hosts and students will undergo a matching process to determine fit, and both will be supported by Jovenes Staff.

# Progress So Far

- College Success Initiative (CSI) launched in August 2016

- 80 students housed

- 15 have already graduated/transferred

  - 12 more Graduations/Transfers expected by summer 2020

- 67.5% have maintained their enrollment in college and are working on completing their academic goals

- 96% have maintained their housing

BELLA AND HER CASE MANAGER, MARYURY

Graduated from East LA College & transferring to Cal State-Riverside to purse a Bachelors in Sociology

WHAT JOVENES MEANS TO ME:

"Before Jovenes, my life was a mess and school was hard. Jovenes helped me straighten out my life. Their support was the best thing that has happened to me. My degree and success is partly due to Jovenes. I am grateful"

# The Falcon's Nest at Cerritos College

**A centralized office dedicated to assist students with their basic needs.  Services include:**

**Franco's Closet** – a clothing closet maintained for students to have access to professional attire.

**Office of the Case Manager** – A full-time employee who is responsible for promoting holistic student wellness.

**Franco's Market** – a food pantry dedicated to students who are experiencing food insecurity.

**CalFresh Assistance**– Students will be able to receive assistance with the application process for CalFresh benefits.

**Legal Services**– undocumented students have access to legal advice on campus.

# Student Housing Project

# Contact Us- Q&A

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Dr. Dilcie Perez
VP of Student Services, Cerritos College
dilcieperez@ceritos.edu

https://jovenesinc.org/college-housing/