

**South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting
& Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

First Christian Church
2930 El Dorado St, Torrance

Attendees: Guests Grace Weltman, Clementina Verjan, Elisabeth Young (LAHSA); Co-Chair Mark Silverbush, Chery Carew (Family Promise), Cheryl Castillo (Alliance for Housing & Healing), Harriet Chase (League of Women Voters), Sothy Chim (DPSS), Johan Dodge (SPUMChurch), Elizabeth Eastlund (Rainbow), Cliff Gardner (1736), Heather Hocking (BCHD), Kati Hoover (TUSD), Felecia Howard (US Vets), Julie Jacks (Family Promise), Dawn Jones (Cloudbreak), Wanda Luong (CPAF), Ryan Macy-Hurley (1736), Louis Mena (School on Wheels), Janae Oliver (Kaiser), Yolanda Polony (DPSS), Millicent Pulido (CPAF), Alma Ramos (Alliance for Housing & Healing), Ana Reoyo (DPSS), Elaine Ruggiero (BHS), Jeremy Sidell (PATH), Lucia Vides (Harbor Community Clinic), Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By the Sea Church), Tammy Wood (LAUSD).

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:40 am and everyone introduced himself or herself.
2. **Minutes Review and Approval.** The minutes for the February 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.
3. **Agency Host Overview.** Chery Carew gave an overview of how First Congregational Church (FCC) supports those experiencing homelessness. They have a local community outreach providing clothing, food, and holiday funds; they also support global mission projects. FCC is providing the Family Promise (FP) of the South Bay program operational base, which after four years since its local inception is opening in April. FP is a national program where local networks of 13 faith congregations forms a partnership to house newly homeless families from their local communities. May 17th will be its Grand Opening.
4. **Featured Speaker: LAHSA Quarterly Review.** Policy and Planning (P&P) Director Grace Weltman and P&P Manager Clementina Verjan gave the following report. (Note: their presentation is included in these minutes.)
 - a. LAHSA Updates. Grace announced that these Quarterly Meetings are shifting their emphasis: instead of being primarily a “report-back” meeting, they will be more discussion-oriented as LAHSA wants to listen to community needs and engage in more regional planning.

She then made several brief announcements: (1) LAHSA has hired Chris Callendrillo, Director of Programs; in addition, more staff are being brought on to provide additional

engagement at the regional level to solicit input from a broader stakeholder group before decisions are made. (2) LAHSA is actively looking at sustaining the Coordinated Entry System (CES) beyond the upcoming year when United Way and its Funders Collaborative are providing for its funding. (3) The Homeless Count will now be held annually. (4) LAHSA wants to provide more training for service providers.

- i. Homeless Count 2015 (HC15). Clementina remarked that this activity is a great opportunity to foster education and community volunteer engagement. This year 89% of the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC) was covered, up from 72% in 2013. She commended SPA 8 for completing all its tracts so it will not be necessary to extrapolate estimates for any uncovered areas in the South Bay. LAHSA is getting feedback from the volunteers and site coordinators on this year's Count and will have a report at the end of March. The overall LA CoC results will be released at the 24 April LAHSA Commission Meeting, with the goal of having the SPA-level information 15 May and individual city reports by the end of that month.

She asked for community feedback on any homelessness changes we have seen, such as if we have noticed an increase of vehicular homelessness in a particular area. For the Youth Count component, it was felt many homeless students were attending school during the day when the census was taken. Coalition members representing schools felt it was challenging to identify who the homeless were because they did not want to be identified. Grace said LAHSA is revisiting the methodology used in future Youth Counts.

- ii. Training Opportunities. LAHSA wants to provide training opportunities for all agencies, even those not receiving funding with them. For users of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), it is looking at ways to facilitate an easier startup and training that does not require in-person classes at its downtown location. It is also assisting organizations in producing detailed data reports to help look at both organizational and system-level views to show the success of programs by looking at specific performance measures. This analysis will enhance funding grants by showing data-driven regional needs.

Planning is underway to develop best practices for a "youth coordinated entry system" that compliments the existing CES for homeless individuals. LAHSA analyst Laura Petry is leading this effort to broaden the community engagement and secure funding for such a system.

The goal of ending Veteran homelessness was discussed. Because of the approaching deadline to meet this goal in 2015, it has tremendous visibility. Additional VASH vouchers and an increase of rapid re-housing SSVF funds are coming into LA.

- iii. Employment Opportunities. Grace announced LAHSA is seeking a Communications Director and increasing its Emergency Response Team (ERT) outreach staff. LAHSA job postings are online [at its website](#).
 - b. Homeless Outreach Assessment Project. Grace conveyed LAHSA recognizes there are several non-profit agencies and other organizations (e.g., DMH, LAHSA, VA, etc.) performing homeless outreach. It is looking to connect these efforts with the available housing assets. A team from LAHSA is going to each SPA to meet with CES leadership to help identify these. The notion of “outreach” versus “referrals” was discussed. Tammy Wood informed us the Los Angeles Unified School District has identified over 13,000 homeless students within its district. Kati Hoover from Torrance Unified School District said more outreach was needed in her community; the reputation that there are “no homeless” needs to be addressed so we can advocate for more housing resources. Wanda Luong with the Center for the Pacific Asian Family said a large challenge is providing bilingual staff that not only know foreign languages but also are culturally sensitive. LAHSA currently has 16 ERT staff and has submitted a proposal to the City and County of LA for an additional 20 to help cover the LA CoC.
 - c. Service Planning Areas Needs Feedback. Clementina lead a discussion about how to invite new stakeholders to SPA 8’s homelessness discussions; elected officials, city managers, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, and law enforcement were identified as key partners we should include. Many of these were actively involved with HC15 so we want to build on those initial relationships to keep them engaged. The idea of holding community clinics was suggested; these could provide information on how cities could use their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) HUD funding to enhance homeless services. Providing more active engagement with our county supervisors was also suggested.
 - d. Regional Community Planning. HUD is funding LAHSA for 3 years to assist with regional planning and outreach coordination. LAHSA has already developed a toolkit to assist with this planning process, but it was stressed it is not a “cookie cutter” approach. A vision statement and community plan are the outputs from this process. It was requested LAHSA provide an updated organizational chart and contact list of its growing staff.
- 5. LAHSA’S Coordinating Council Report Back:** Elizabeth Eastlund gave a report back from this Council, which has been developing strategies to reallocate funds from existing programs to make them more in line with HUD’s priorities. Staff has been looking at the cost effectiveness of transitional housing (TH) programs serving families and those for single adults. The Coordinating Council is considering a program cut-off threshold amount: if a program exceeds this threshold, it will be cut back. The attached briefing summarizes these strategies and shows the TH program amount spent by the LA CoC grantees. There are no SPA 8 programs affected by this threshold cutback.

TH for transitional age youth and domestic violence survivors will be examined separately. HUD recognizes this is an effective housing strategy for these populations.

6. Committee Reports

- a. **Advocacy:** Nancy Wilcox gave the report for Paul Stansbury. His committee is developing a policy for deciding which upcoming legislation to back. Often support requests are made with only a few days in which to respond so getting full membership approval is impractical.
- b. **Governance:** Nancy called for a vote to approve the By-Laws, which unanimously passed. She thanked Emma Ogley-Oliver and her committee for its work in creating this document. The next step is to elect the Board; this process will be discussed at next month's meeting.

7. Co-Chairs' Report:

- a. Nancy reported she was working on the CES Year 2 proposal. All the planning for the League of Women Voters co-sponsored homelessness forum, being held on April 27th, are set.
- b. In-person voting on the Coalition's new logo was held. Results will be announced soon.

8. Member Agency Announcements

- a. Elizabeth announced Rainbow Services won the Ikea "Life Improvement Contest" so it will be redoing its children's playroom with the award.
- b. Tammy provided information on the 2nd Annual Homeless Education Symposium sponsored by LAUSD being held on April 14th Gardena Valley Baptist Church.
- c. Elaine Ruggiero said BHS opened its Family Health Center in Hawthorne.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

a joint powers authority of the city & county of los angeles

Los Angeles Continuum of Care Meetings

March/April 2015

Presented by:

Grace Weltman, Director
Clementina Verjan, Manager
Policy and Planning Department



Agenda

1. LAHSA Updates
 - 2015 Homeless Count
 - Training Opportunities
 - Employment Opportunities
 - Coordinated Entry System for Youth
 - Goal to End Veteran Homelessness
2. Homeless Outreach Assessment Project
3. Regional Community Planning
4. Service Planning Areas Homeless Services Needs Feedback



2015 Homeless Count-Street Count

<u>Item</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2013</u>
# Census Tracts in CoC	1,887	1,887
# CT Required	966	750
# CT Counted	1,687	1,355
Percent Covered	89%	72%
<u>Region with Tracts Total</u>	<u>2015 Counted</u>	<u>2013 Counted</u>
SPA 1 – 70 Total	69 – 99%	64 – 91%
SPA 2 – 393 Total	305 – 78%	190 – 48%
SPA 3 – 325 Total	244 – 75%	259 – 80%
SPA 4 – 268 Total	255 – 95%	199 – 74%
SPA 5 – 143 Total	141 – 99%	113 – 79%
SPA 6 – 203 Total	203 – 100%	143 – 70%
SPA 7 – 264 Total	249 – 94%	189 – 72%
SPA 8 – 221 Total	221 – 100%	198 – 90%

In 2013 HC, had only 2 SPAs above 90% completion, this year-6 SPAs above 90%, 2 w/94-95%, 2-99%, and 2 w/100% coverage ³



2015 Homeless Count

- Community input regarding your region
 - Were there any changes in your SPA that we should be aware of?
 - Were there any changes to the population types in your community?
 - Are there any ordinances, policies, or regulations in your SPA that may have impacted our homeless neighbors in your community?
 - Are there any programs that helped house our homeless neighbors?



Next Steps

- **March 31**
 - Debrief results compiled and report prepared
- **April 24**
 - Presentation of results to LAHSA Commission
 - Presentation of results to City and County Departments
- **April 30**
 - Deadline for HUD submission of LA Continuum of Care results
- **Shortly thereafter**
 - Results for County Supervisorial Districts, Service Planning Areas, City of Los Angeles, City Council Districts
 - Results for Opt in Cities and Opt In Communities

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Training Opportunities

- **Various LAHSA Departments:**
 - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
 - Fiscal Department
 - Programs Department
- **Courses include:**
 - HMIS User Forum for All Program Types
 - Programmatic Documentation Standards and Contract Compliance
 - Non-CoC Funding Request Preparation and Effective Billing Practices
 - RFP Budget Preparation for Non-CoC
 - Full APR Training
 - <http://training.lahsa.org/>
 - <http://training.lahsa.org/resources.aspx>

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Other LAHSA Updates

- Employment Opportunities
 - Emergency Response Team
 - Director of Communications
 - <http://www.lahsa.org/jobs.asp>
- Coordinated Entry System for Youth
- Goal to End Veteran Homelessness

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Homeless Outreach Assessment Project

- Overview
- Discussion on Outreach Efforts on a Regional Basis
 - Who is doing homeless outreach in your community?
 - What kind of outreach is being done?
 - How do local outreach efforts coordinate and work with existing homeless services providers?
- Next Steps

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Regional Community Planning

Overview

- Toolkit developed to guide the community planning process
- intended for any community or region to use in their local efforts to address homelessness
- provides framework of a planning process that guides communities through:
 - recruitment and engagement
 - data collection
 - developing vision statements and goals
 - documenting community plans
 - evaluating progress

Purpose

- to facilitate and guide communities throughout the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) using an interactive process that will result in community plans that will reduce homelessness and improve housing conditions in their communities.

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Service Planning Areas Homeless Services Needs Feedback

- What are the homeless services needs for this community?
- What stakeholders(s) is(are) missing?
- What training would you like to see?
- Other requests/needs?

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Questions/Comments?

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LA Coordinating Council Reallocation Recommendations

Policy and Planning Committee
March 19, 2015



Background

- Reallocation is when a CoC shifts funds in whole or part from existing eligible renewal projects to create one or more new projects without decreasing the CoC's ARD.
- In the FY 2014 Application, reallocation could only be used to create new permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless or rapid re-housing to serve homeless families.

Background

In the FY 2014 Competition, the LA CoC implemented 3 reallocation strategies:

- Decrease rental assistance requests for PSH projects where possible (former S+C)
- Decrease grant amount for projects demonstrating 3 years of underspending (former SHP)
- Fully reallocate employment and healthcare Supportive Service Only projects (SSOs)



FY2015 Reallocation Strategies

- Strategy 1: Further decrease rental assistance for PSH projects where possible (former S+C)
- Strategy 2: Decrease grant amount for projects demonstrating 3 years of underspending (former SHP)
- *Strategy 3: Reallocate high-cost transitional housing (TH) projects*

Strategy 1: PSH Rental Assistance (former S+C)

- FY 2014: \$5.2M reallocated
- Historical spending patterns indicate that further reductions are likely possible
- Projects renewing for the first time are now eligible to be reduced
- Thus far, PHAs have committed \$900,000 for new projects in FY 2015



Strategy 1: Policy Recommendation

Recapture CoC Grant funds from former Shelter Plus Care Program Grants based on Public Housing Authorities identifying funds for reallocation to Permanent Supportive Housing.

Strategy 2: Underspensing (Former SHP)

- FY 2014: \$0.9M reallocated
- The majority of savings were reallocated through the FY 2014 Competition
- Continuation of this strategy will ensure that grantees are fully utilizing CoC funds

Strategy 2: Policy Recommendation

Recapture CoC Grant funds from former Supportive Housing Program grants, including Supportive Service Only, Transitional Housing Programs and Permanent Supportive Housing Programs from grants that demonstrate at least three years of underspending of at least 5% of the total annual grant amount, based on lowest amount of underspent funds incurred over the three year period and make such amounts available under reallocation for new Permanent Supportive Housing projects in the 2015 HUD CoC Program Application.



Strategy 3: High-Cost Transitional Housing Projects (NEW)

- Most TH projects provide a supportive and efficient bridge to permanent housing for individuals and families
- A small subset of projects consistently report a high cost per housing outcome
- Reallocation of these projects to permanent housing would be a more cost-effective use of CoC Program resources.

Strategy 3: Policy Recommendation

Establish Cost Effectiveness Thresholds for CoC Program Transitional Housing:

- *Single Adults: \$20,000/permanent housing outcome**
- *Families: \$30,000/permanent housing outcome**

For FY 2015, reallocate CoC Grant funds from Transitional Housing Projects where the 3-year aggregate cost effectiveness exceeds the threshold by more than 33% (\$26,700 and \$40,000, respectively).

Exceptions are made for projects that have changed operators within the review period. These recommendations do not apply to projects targeting victims of domestic violence or youth.

*Based upon 2015 LA County FMR and estimated supportive services cost for LA CoC PSH Projects



Additional Transitional Housing Data

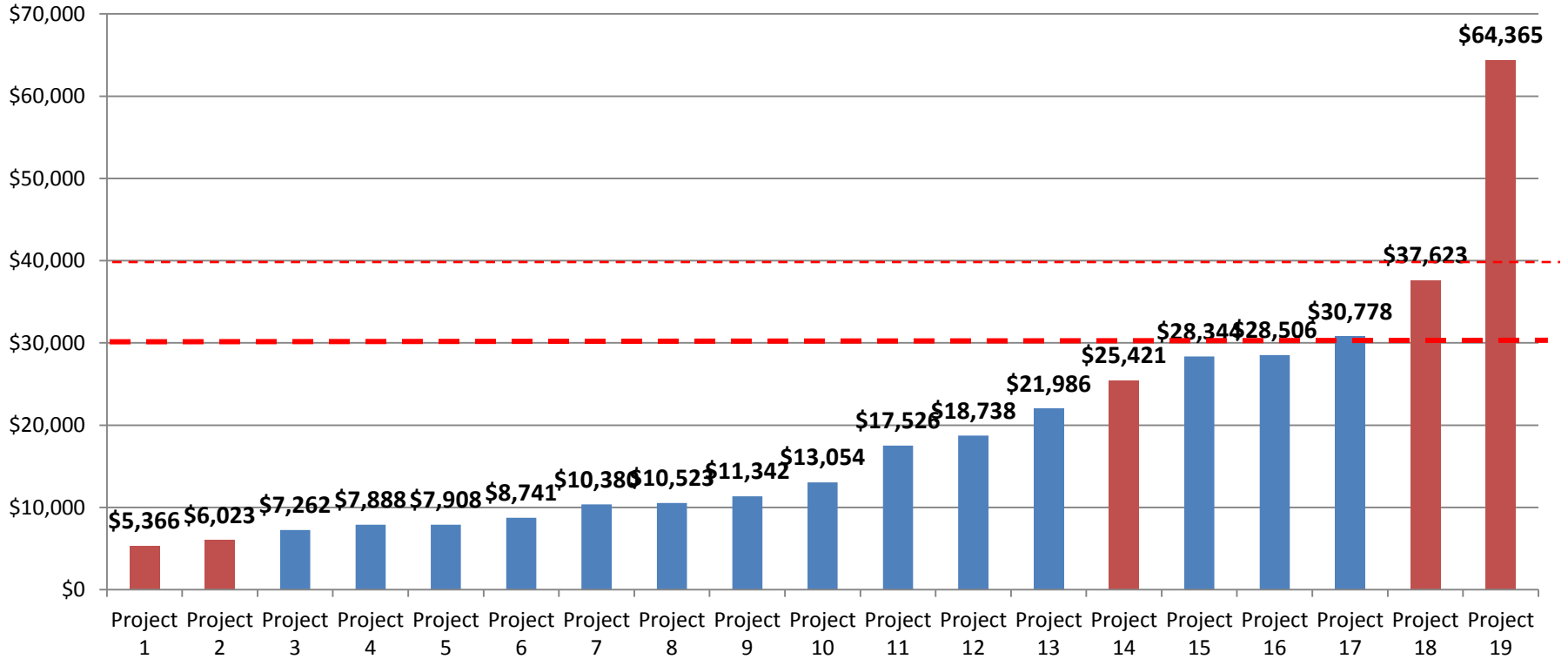


Additional Transitional Housing Data

- The following charts look at the aggregate of 3 years of cost effectiveness (total permanent housing placements and expenditures over 3 years)
- The projects are split into 2 groups by population served: Families (non-Youth/DV), Single Adults (non-Youth/DV)

Projects Serving Families

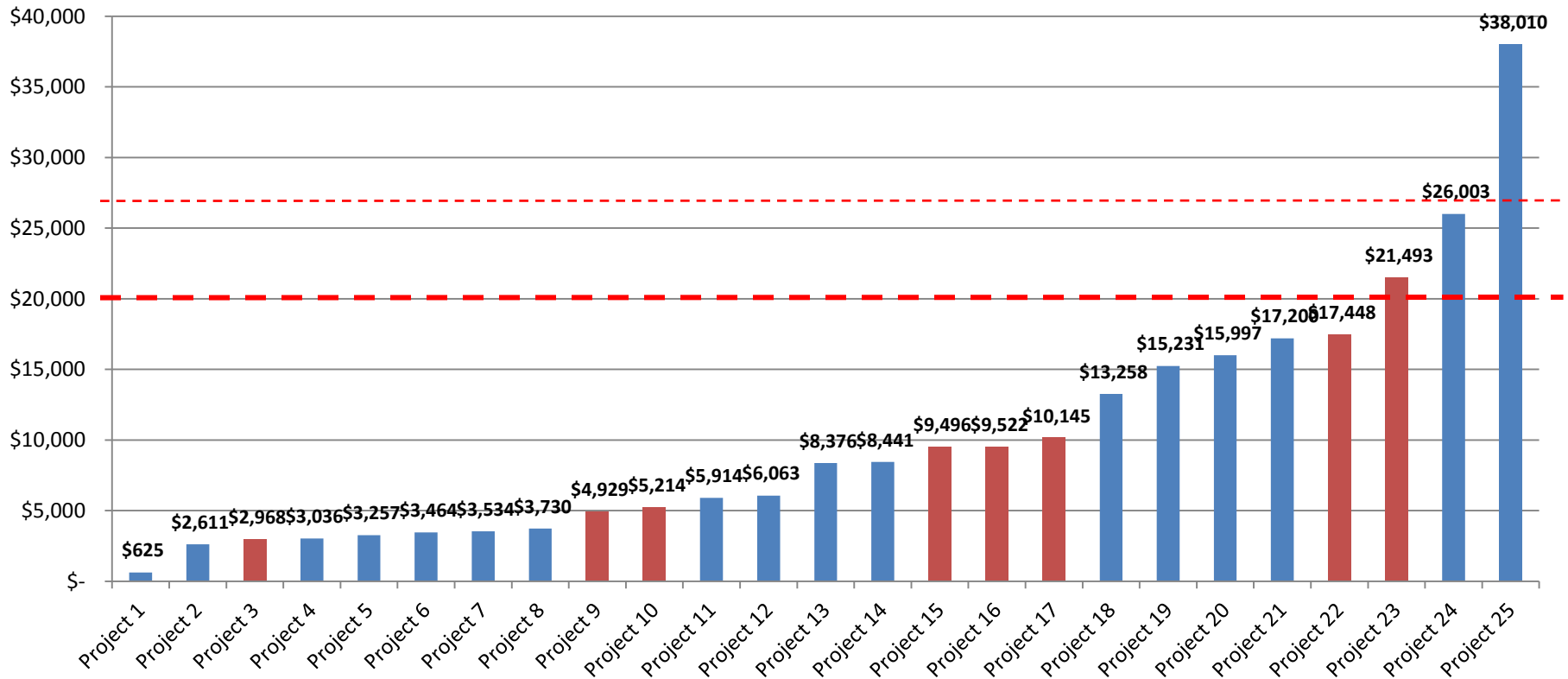
3-Year Aggregate Cost Effectiveness - Family Projects



*Projects in red have a substance abuse focus

Projects Serving Single Adults

3-Year Aggregate Cost Effectiveness - Single Adult Projects



*Projects in red have a substance abuse focus

Regional Impact

The CoC will gain:

- Approximately 50-60 units of permanent housing

The CoC will lose:

- 9 family TH units in SPA 6 (5% of Family TH in SPA 6)
- 20 TH beds for single adults in SPA 4 (1% of single adult TH in SPA 4)