

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

DECEMBER 21, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

General Housekeeping Items

1. Please kindly mute the audio functions on your device when you are not speaking.
2. For purposes of minutes, any person speaking should identify themselves by first and last name and office before speaking.
3. Please mute your speaker before you are ready to speak to cut out any ambient background noise. Also make sure to close doors and windows as appropriate to reduce background noise.
4. Participants should identify yourself by using the **raise hand** feature on MS Teams. If you are joining by computer, click on the Participants tab and then the “More” icon that looks like three dots (...). Click on the **raise hand** and control the function when appropriate.

Housekeeping Items Cont.

5. Council members needing to excuse yourselves, please raise your hand to let the Chair know or speak up if on the phone.
6. If you involuntarily disconnect, please call Justin Limasa at **(808) 342-1174** for assistance to reconnect.
7. If you voluntarily disconnect, please announce that you are leaving the meeting and staff will record the time for the meeting minutes.

II. Overview and Approval of Agenda

- ❑ Motion to move two items up on the agenda to follow public testimony:
 - 1. Item VIII.a and b. Updates from the Chair and council members.
 - 2. Item VI.a. Presentation of federal, state, and local funding.
- 1. follow public testimony.

III. Approval of Minutes

- ☐ Review and approve minutes for the September 21, 2020 regular meeting.
- ☐ Minutes can be found online at:
<https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/hich/agenda-and-minutes/>

IV. Public Testimony

1. Members of the public wishing to testify should signal your intent to testify by **raising your hand** so staff can notate the names and order of testifiers.
2. Testimony will be provided **in the order that hands are raised**.
3. Please state your first and last name and organization for the record before starting your testimony.
4. Please try to mute your speaker before you are ready to speak to cut out any ambient background noise.
5. Testimony should be limited to **one minute**.

VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report

USICH Housing Updates Regarding \$900B Pandemic Relief Plan agreed to by Congress (**Subtitle B**):

- ❑ **Is there an extension of the eviction moratorium?** Yes. The COVID-19 Stimulus Package extends the CDC's eviction moratorium until **January 31, 2021**.
- ❑ **What kind of assistance would renters receive?** Eligible renters would be able to receive assistance with rent and utility payments, unpaid rent or utility bills that have accumulated since the beginning of the pandemic, and other housing expenses that were incurred due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic. Eligible renters would also have access to services, such as case management and tenant-landlord mediation, to help them remain stably housed. ***A household may receive up to 12 months of assistance but may receive an additional three months of assistance only if it is necessary to ensure the household remain stably housed and funds are available.***
- ❑ **How would renters (and property owners) apply for, and receive, assistance?** Renters would apply for assistance with entities that state and local grantees select to administer the program. Once a renter qualifies for assistance, the administering entity would send the payment directly to the landlord. ***If a landlord declines to receive the assistance from the administering entity, a renter may instead receive a payment directly from the administering entity to make rental payments to their landlord themselves.*** Landlords could also directly apply for rental assistance under the program but will be required to notify the tenant that assistance is being provided on their behalf and obtain the tenant's consent.

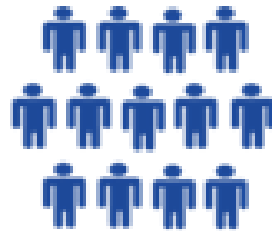
VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report

USICH Housing Updates Regarding \$900B Pandemic Relief Plan agreed to by Congress (Continued):

- ❑ **Who would be eligible to receive emergency rental assistance?** Eligible households are defined as renter households who: (1) have a household income not more than 80 percent of the area median income (AMI); (2) have one or more household members who can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and (3) have one or more household members who qualify for unemployment benefits or experienced financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic. ***Assistance would be prioritized for renter households that do not exceed 50 percent of AMI as well as renter households who are currently unemployed and have been unemployed for 90 days.*** In determining household income, the administering entity must consider the household's income for 2020 or the household's monthly income at the time of the application for assistance, which must be recertified every three months if the household is receiving ongoing rental assistance.
- ❑ **How would Treasury distribute the funding?** The Department of Treasury will distribute funds to states and localities using the same formula used to distribute Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF). Small states will receive a minimum of \$200M in emergency rental assistance. Localities with populations over 200,000 people may request to receive their allocation of emergency rental assistance directly. Under the program, the District of Columbia is treated as a state. The U.S. territories would share a set-aside of \$400M (with a small territory set-aside), while \$800M would be set aside for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report

The following four performance benchmarks are used to evaluate the implementation of the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness and ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness:



COUNT

Number of people experiencing homelessness according to the statewide Point in Time Count.

6,458 people
(2020 PIT Count)



CAPACITY

Number of permanent housing beds for people experiencing homelessness in Hawaii.

3,744 beds
(2020 HIC Inventory)



HOUSING PLACEMENTS

The percentage of people exiting a homeless program that are placed into permanent housing.

55% housed
(As of October 31, 2020)

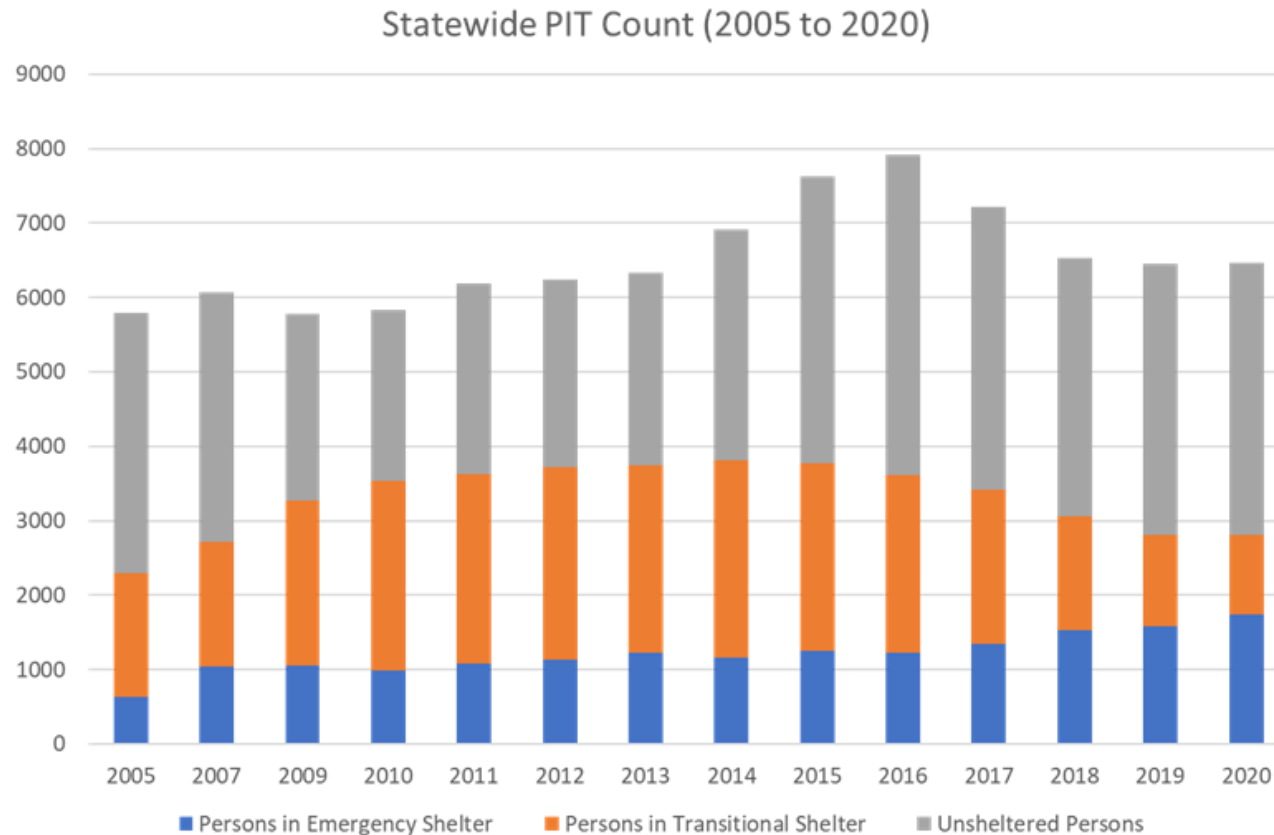


LENGTH OF STAY

The average number of days a person is enrolled in a homeless program, such as shelter.

152 days
(As of October 2020)

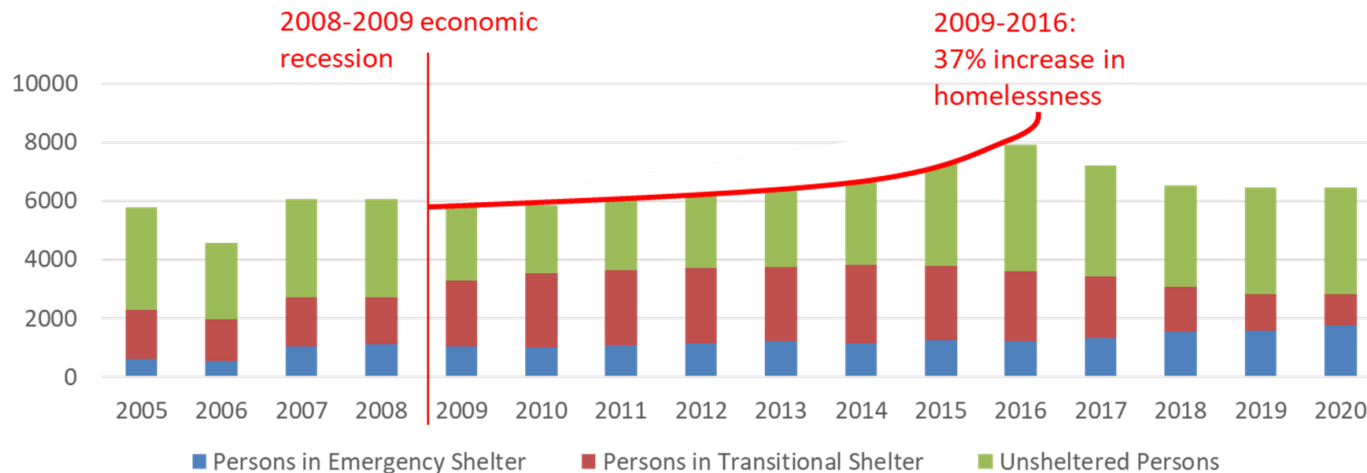
VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report cont.



- Overall statewide reductions between 2016-2019, and rate remains flat between 2019-2020.
 - Numbers on Maui, Hawaii and Oahu lower compared to 2016.
 - Numbers on Kauai relatively flat.
- PIT data mirrors trends in other data sets.
- Numbers in emergency shelter and transitional shelter reflect trends in funding and policy.
- Analysis of Oahu unsheltered numbers indicates majority is short-term and self-resolves.

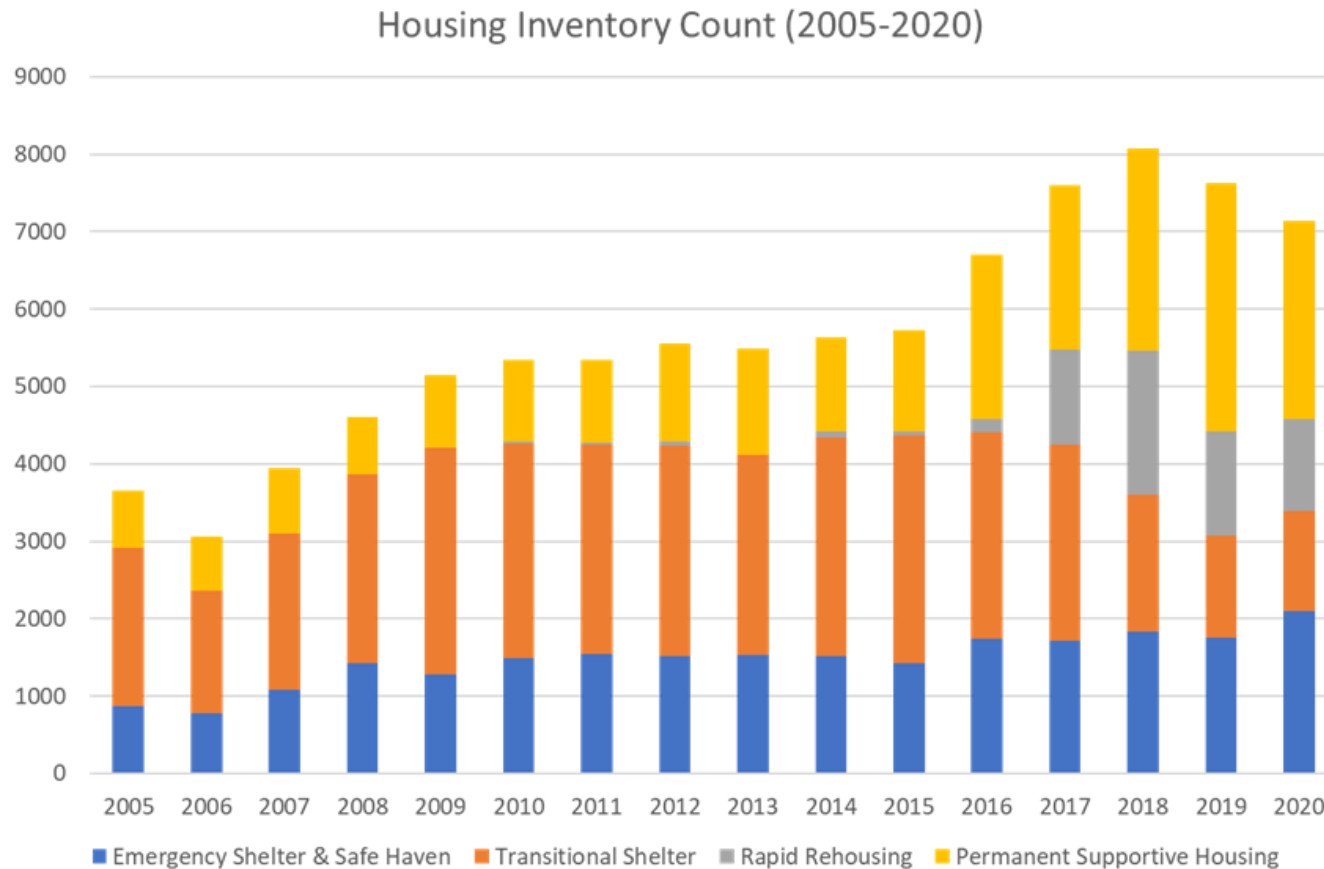
VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report cont.

What can we expect looking forward based on historical trends?



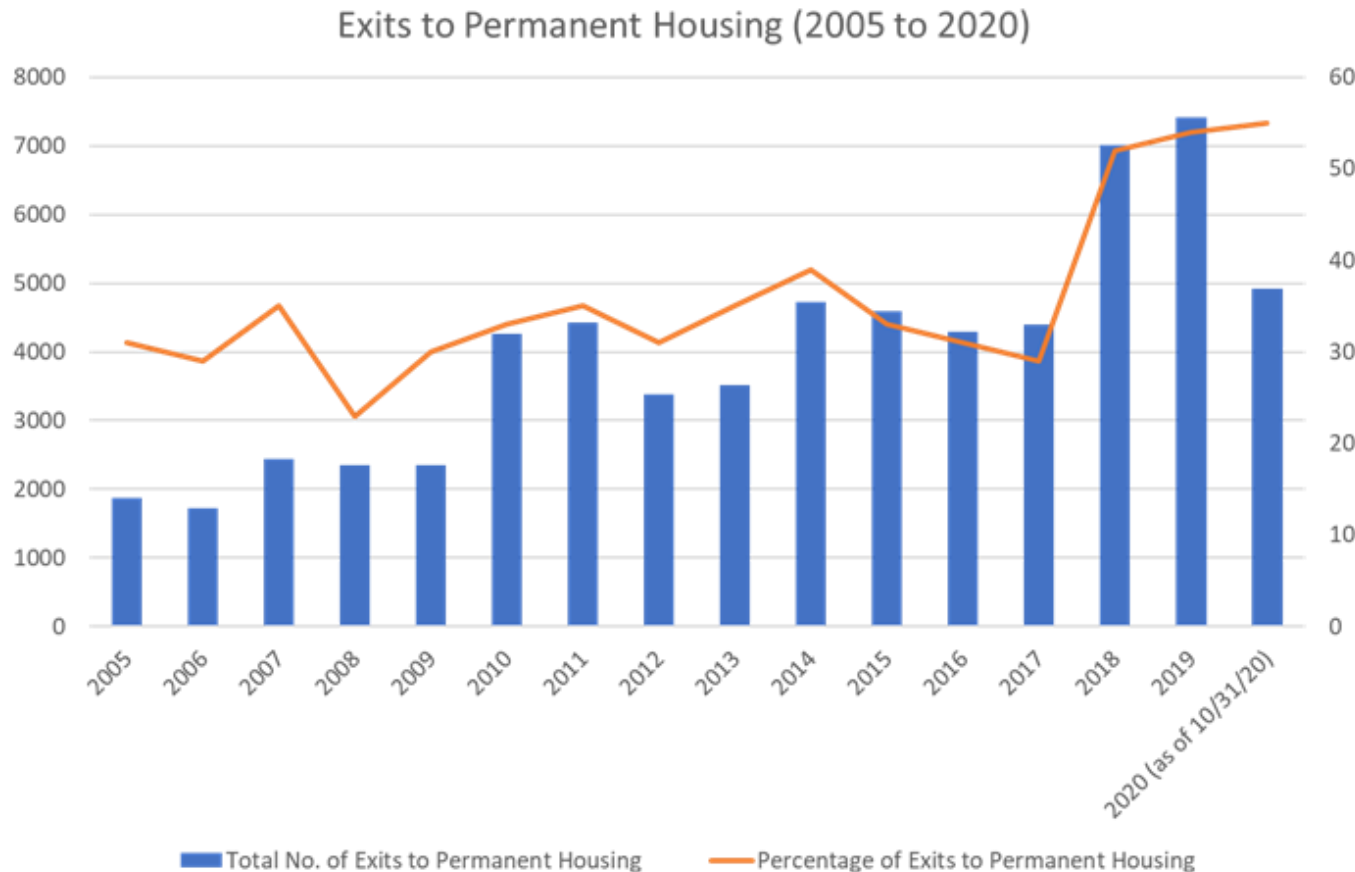
- Between 2009 and 2016, there was a **37% increase in statewide homelessness - an additional 2,139 people.**
- We anticipate a similar gradual increase on a greater scale over the next several years.
- Numbers of 'doubled up' students in DOE data has increased nearly 40% between 2016 and 2020.
- Between July 2020 and December 2020, the number of adults behind on rent or mortgage that anticipate eviction or foreclosure in next two months increased from 14,596 (16.4%) to 45,994 (44.1%) – one of the highest rates nationally.

VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report cont.



- Increase in PSH and RRH beginning in 2016.
 - Over past two years, numbers have decreased slightly.
 - Does not include housing not specifically targeted for homeless individuals or projects not reported to HUD.
- Increase in emergency shelter beds between 2019-2020.
- Does not include programs like the Provisional Outdoor Screening & Triage (POST) that enable short-term stays.
- Transitional shelter has steadily decreased.
- Trends reflect change in federal, state and local funding and policy.

VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report cont.



- Housing placements continued at a high rate during the pandemic.
- Rate of housing placement is 55% (2020) vs. 54% (2019).
- In 2020, rates of placement have been higher on neighbor islands compared to Oahu.
- Statewide, fewer people exiting services to housing – 492 per month (2020) vs. 618 per month (2019)
- In general, service utilization in 2020 is about 14% less than 2019.
 - Impact of COVID on outreach.
 - Reduction in congregate shelter capacity.

VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report cont.

Average Length of Stay in Emergency Shelter

	Oahu	Maui	Kauai	Hawaii Island
2017	103 days	55 days	85 days	72 days
2018	103 days	110 days	103 days	78 days
2019	108 days	96 days	94 days	81 days
2020	118 days	94 days	73 days	100 days

- Goal is 90 days to exit from emergency shelter stay.
- Length of stay fluctuates by island, but tends to be longer on Oahu vs. Neighbor Islands.
- Length of stay may be impacted by limited housing inventory and housing resources.

VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report cont.

Average Length of Stay in Transitional Shelter

	Oahu	Maui	Kauai	Hawaii Island
2017	288 days	110 days	150 days	363 days
2018	290 days	187 days	226 days	305 days
2019	299 days	116 days	322 days	322 days
2020	356 days	182 days	190 days	346 days

- Goal is 120 days to exit from transitional shelter stay.
- Length of stay fluctuates by island, but tends to be longer on Oahu and Hawaii island.
- Length of stay may be impacted by limited housing inventory and housing resources.

VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report cont.



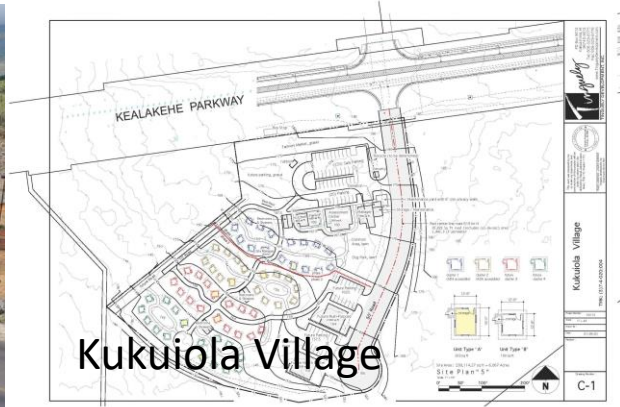
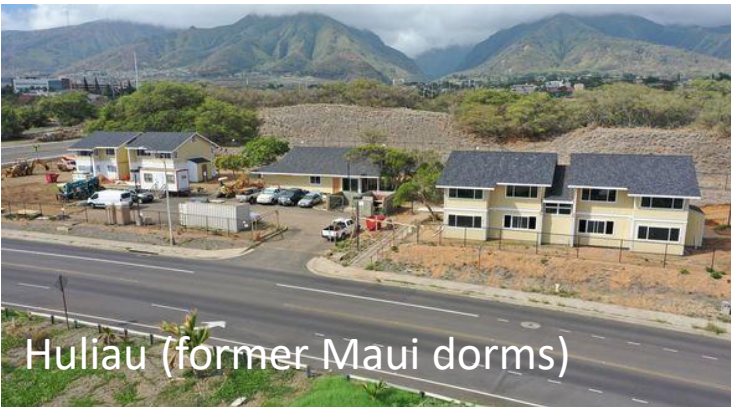
- Continue focused outreach efforts.
- Use of By Name Lists for encampments on State lands.
- Circulate daily shelter vacancies.
- Link outreach to mobile COVID-19 testing and flu shot distribution.
- Link with behavioral health services through DOH and integration with Hawaii CARES line.
- Collaborative effort in partnership with PIC and many other stakeholders.

VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report cont.



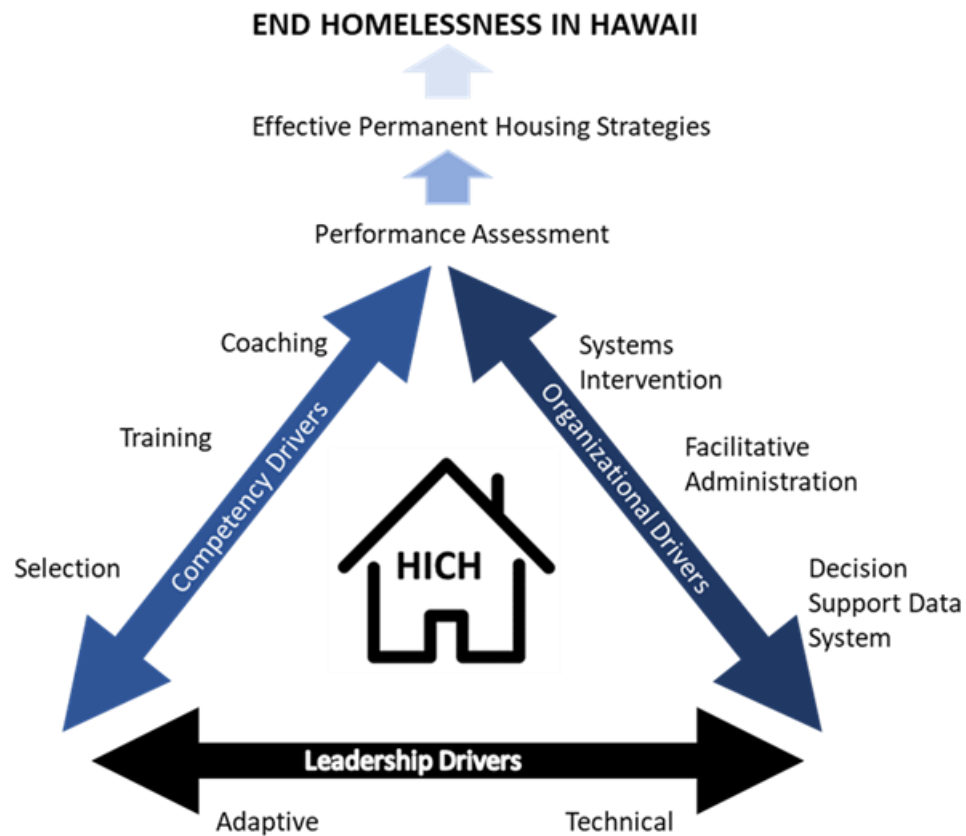
- Focused on community engagement and training for the sector.
- 2020 Statewide Homeless Awareness Virtual Conference.
- Training for security guards and private sector businesses.
- Development of 'Talk Story' sessions.
- Homelessness presentation to Board of Land & Natural Resources.
- Continuation of trainings for State law enforcement.
- Production of infographics and facilitation of weekly webinars.

VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report cont.



- Continue implementation of Ohana Zone programs statewide.
- Ohana Zone programs provided flexibility to respond to needs during the pandemic (e.g. POST and Hawaii island tiny homes).
- 3,116 individuals served as of 11/30/20, including 625 placed into permanent housing.
- 432 new beds/units added, and 358 beds preserved.
- Spending is on-track (over half of funds expended as of project halfway point).

VIII.a. Chairperson & Staff Report cont.



- Worked on development of draft ten-year plan for 2021-2031.
- Utilized feedback from efforts to implement current plan, as well as efforts from early Ohana Zone evaluation.
- Invest in strengthening the capacity of our ***housing-focused system***.
 - Leadership capacity.
 - Training and strengthening core competencies.
 - Build capacity for data-driven decision making.

VIII.b. Written Reports from Council

DBEDT

- Updates on financing for Huliau, Keaula, and Kukuiola
 - Huliau expected to be complete in March 2021, expended \$1,453,104 of its \$5,000,000 appropriation to date.
 - Keaula (Pua Loke) complete, expended \$1,997,400 of its \$2,000,000 appropriation to date.
 - Kukuiola is underway, and a third amendment to MOU between HHFDC and County has been executed to approve grading plan and set forth conditions for construction work.
- State Rent Relief & Housing Assistance Updates (as of 12/16/20)
 - \$59,256,701 approved to assist 13,552 households
 - \$54,364,052 disbursed to assist 12,819 households
 - \$4,892,649 payments pending

DOD

- Task Force Medical (TF-Med) continue to provide medics to support the City POST site at Keehi Lagoon, including temperature checks, wellness checks, and meal delivery.
- TF-Med expects to continue partnership with City and HPD beyond December 2020.

VIII.b.Written Reports from Council

OHA

- Kupuna Meal COVID Response Program Contract: April 2020 (12 weeks), \$450,000
- Food Security COVID Response Program Grant: June 2020 – June 2021, \$721,739
- Emergency Financial Assistance Grant: Jan 2020 – Dec 2021, \$3.83M (includes additional \$2.17M for COVID Response)
- Funding to DHHL: Annually, \$3M
- Two-year Program Grants: Oct 2019 – Sept 2021, \$6M
- Other Grant Highlights:
 - Hawaiian Community Assets (\$515,886) to establish the Hawaii Affordable Housing Fund, which will serve Native Hawaiians with financial counseling, individual development accounts, and loans to rent or own homes, and provide Native Hawaiian communities / nonprofits with technical assistance and loans to build or preserve 1500 units of affordable housing by 2026.
 - Homestead Community Development Corporation (\$484,114) for the Native Hawaiian Housing Stability Project to support the delivery of HCDC Financial Literacy Program and Micro Enterprise Assistance Program on Kauai to Native Hawaiians to achieve homeownership or rental housing on Kauai, through knowledge and training necessary for housing stability.
 - Substance Abuse Treatment grants to Salvation Army FTS (\$278,212) and Malama Na Makua A Keiki, Inc. (\$119,234)
 - Kulia Grants (\$500,000), including grants to PID Foundation, Project Vision Hawaii, and Honolulu Habitat for Humanity

VIII.b. Written Reports from Council

County of Hawaii

- Mayor Roth took office on 12/7/20, Homeless Coordinator position transferred to Office of Housing & Community Development
- Keolahou Emergency Shelter & Assessment Center renovations scheduled to be completed by 12/30/20.
- Kukuiola development continues addressing grading, archaeological and flora habitation on or near construction site.
- Assessment Center at Ulu Wini continues providing much needed navigation services.
- COVID-19 response:
 - Financail Navigation Program through 6/30/21
 - Hale Hanakahi, seeking to extend program through February 2021
 - Ka Lamaku, seeking to extend program through June 2021
 - Rent & Mortgage Assistance Program (RAMP), as of 12/12/20 distributed \$9,860,685 to 1,664 households, ending on 12/30/20.
 - Non-government Utilities Program allocated \$75,000 to provide financial assistance to households whose income was impacted by a loss of employment or reduction in hours, ends 12/30/20.
 - Holomua Hawaii, as of 11/28/20 distributed \$20,519,121 in financial assistance to 2,322 Hawaii island businesses.

County of Kauai

- Five county beach parks designated for homeless encampments – Currently 220 individuals have permits.
- 2nd Annual Kauai Housing Connect held on November 16, 27 & 20 – 125 surveys conducted, representing 253 individuals.
- Currently, 20 households (62 individuals) residing at Kealalula, including six households from county beach parks.
- Kauai Police Department (KPD) now partnering with Kauai Community Alliance and Kauai County Homeless Coordinator.

VIII.b. Written Reports from Council

☐ **Maui County**

- Coordinated Entry System (CES) administration continues, including case conferencing.
- Compassionate Responses suspended since early February 2020 due to COVID-19 and CDC guidelines.
- Wahi Hoomalu O Wailuku includes 23 tiny home units, open since May 2020 and expected to close in March 2021. Family Life Center took over operations in November and permanently housed nine individuals.

☐ **City & County of Honolulu (please refer to brief update from the county)**

☐ **Partners in Care (please refer to presentation for item V.b.)**

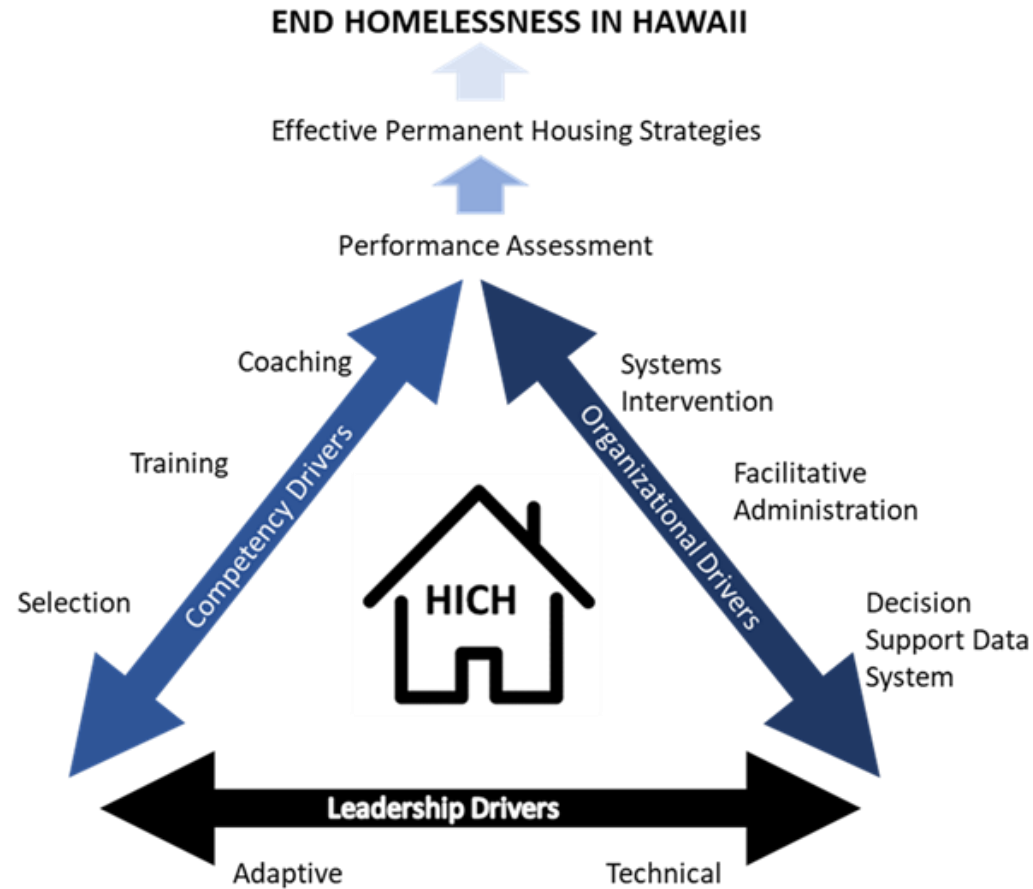
Other Agenda Items

- V.a. Discussion regarding efforts by DHHL and OHA to address the needs of native Hawaiians experiencing homelessness.
- V.b. Discussion regarding updates from the CoC regarding the 2021 PIT count for unsheltered homeless individuals, FY 2020 CoC Program Competition, and advocacy priorities for the 2021 legislative session.
- V.c. Discussion regarding adoption of a communication plan to increase awareness of the homeless issue and council activities, including adoption of HICH logo.
- VI.a. A presentation by GCH staff, including an overview of federal, state, and local funding streams to address homelessness.
- VII.a. Recommendations for consideration from PIG regarding ten-year strategic plan.

V.b. 2021 Advocacy Priorities

- Addressing source of income discrimination related to rental housing.
- Expungement of non-violent criminal offenses that adversely impact individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Sustaining funding for core homeless services, including Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Outreach, Civil Legal Services, Assessment Centers, and Stored Property / Trash & Debris Removal.
- Sustaining funding to support affordable rental housing development, including funding to sustain the Rental Housing Revolving Fund and Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund.

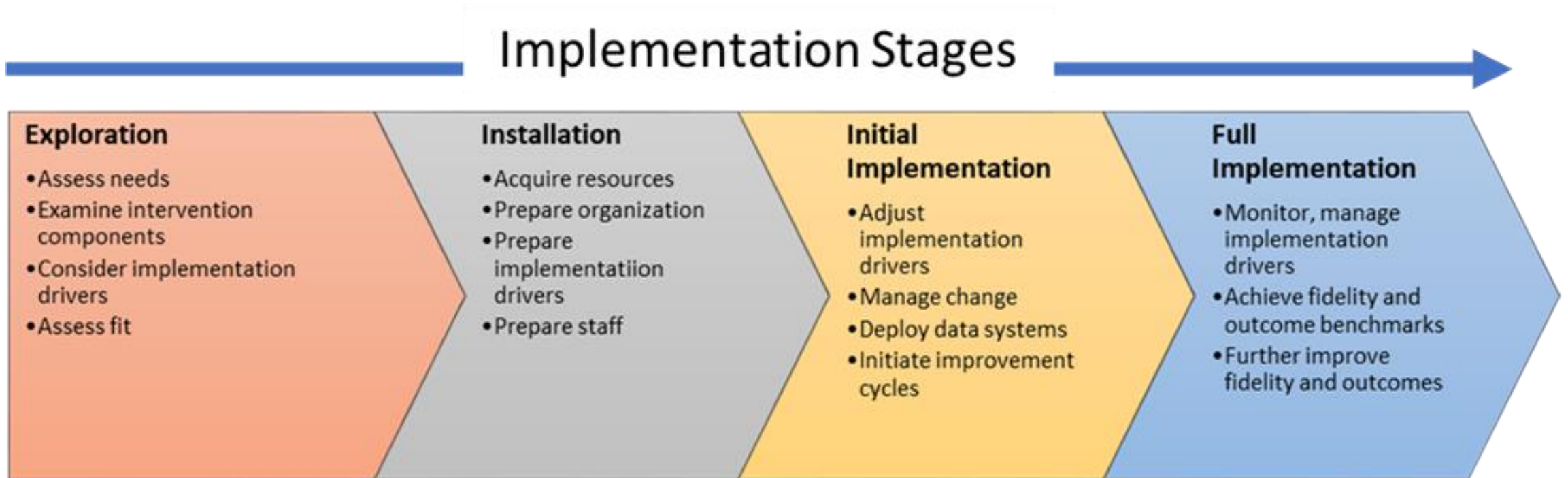
VII.a. PIG recommendations



Five Focus Areas

- **Building System Capacity and Strengthening Core Competencies.**
- **Strengthening System Leadership and Stakeholder Alignment.**
- **Invest in Organizational Support and Infrastructure.**
- **Sustaining and Scaling Housing-Focused Strategies.**
- **Diversion and Prevention to Address Households at Imminent Risk of Homelessness and Support Connections to Treatment for the Most Vulnerable.**

VII.a. PIG recommendations cont.



VII.a. PIG recommendations cont.

- ☐ **December 2020:** Share draft framework of plan with council members and other key stakeholders.
- ☐ **January 2021 – March 2021:** Collect feedback and suggested revisions to the draft framework.
- ☐ **March 2021:** Share feedback and suggested revisions with full council.

Meeting Schedule

- Monday, March 15, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Monday, June 21, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Monday, September 20, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Monday, December 20, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.