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COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ABOUT THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

Solidarity

“Solidarity does not assume that our struggles are the same struggles, or that our pain is the same pain, or that our hope is for the same future. Solidarity involves commitment, work, as well as the recognition that even if we do not have the same feelings, or the same lives, or the same bodies, we do live on common ground.”

- **Sara Ahmed**

Solidarity is more than a value; it is the foundation of everything we do at the Coalition on Homelessness. For nearly four decades, we have stood in solidarity alongside unhoused San Franciscans and ally organizations, building power together to confront injustice and create permanent, compassionate solutions to homelessness.

Since its founding in 1987 by homeless leaders and front-line service providers, the Coalition has remained guided by **one core principle: those who are most impacted must lead the movement for change.** Just two years later, Street Sheet was launched as a radical act of truth-telling—giving voice to people living the realities of homelessness and challenging the stereotypes, fear, and misinformation that have long dominated public discourse. Today, Street Sheet continues to be a cornerstone of our work, amplifying the creativity, resilience, and humanity of unhoused San Franciscans through art, and storytelling.

Across every program and campaign, we build community through shared struggle and mutual care. Our organizers conduct weekly outreach throughout San Francisco —listening, learning, and identifying real solutions shaped by those living the experience. Together, we’ve fought for policies that protect the rights of unhoused residents, secured housing for thousands and resisted the criminalization of poverty.

The year 2025 brought new challenges. As unhoused San Franciscans faced escalating hostility and a wave of disinformation, our community responded not with fear, but with deeper connection and renewed determination. **Through collaboration with front-line service providers and members of the unhoused community, we strengthened our organizing roots and continued to move toward justice—one campaign, one policy, one act of care at a time.**

Solidarity captures the essence of who we are: a collective of people standing shoulder to shoulder, rooted in love and accountability, uniting our struggles for housing, dignity, and human rights. Together, we are not just imagining a world where everyone has a home—we are building it.

GOING BIG 2026!

Here’s a look at some of our key priorities for 2026:

▪ A Humane and Effective Street Response

We’ll continue advocating for the human rights of unhoused San Franciscans in the courtroom and City Hall. Moving beyond just stopping the city’s illegal sweeps practices, we will work for a transformed city street response that is trauma-informed and data-driven, that works with each individual to leave homelessness behind.

▪ Coordinated Entry Reform

In 2025, we will continue pressuring the City to make the changes that homeless people have demanded to the broken housing placement system. These include a system that matches people with needs, creates a pathway for all unhoused people to leave the streets, and a transparent system that allows unhoused people to check their status. We will not give up until this system is fixed.

▪ Housing, Housing, Housing

As with every year, our primary goal for San Francisco’s 2025-26 budget will be to expand the City’s housing portfolio with new units of permanent supportive housing, long-term housing subsidies, and rapid rehousing. We will also continue to advocate for the expansion of homelessness prevention programs to keep at risk households in their homes, shelter beds and safe parking to provide respite for those without housing. San Francisco is still a long way from adequately investing in these desperately needed resources, but every year we make progress by fighting for budget priorities that help more unhoused San Franciscans find home.

▪ Meeting Behavioral Health Needs

While Prop C has led to 420 new treatment beds and almost 16,000 people being served, we have a long way to go to address the overdose epidemic and build a system that is truly responsive to the diverse needs of treatment seekers. We will continue our work to implement systemic changes, build capacity and ensure folks with behavioral health issues are able to stabilize in housing.

JOIN THE STRUGGLE!

None of the work we do is possible without the support of all of our incredible volunteers, allies, and supporters. To keep advancing justice next year, we need your help! Here’s how you can stay involved:

Read street sheet and join a workgroup: Our weekly workgroups are where all the magic happens! Find out more about our workgroups at **www.cohsf.org**

Become a sustainer: The easiest way for you give us a boost is visiting our website at www.cohsf.org and becoming a one- time donor or a monthly sustainer. send checks to 280 Turk, second floor, SF, CA 94102

ORGANIZING VEHICULARLY HOUSED SAN FRANCISCANS

This past year has been terrifying for households living in RVs who have been consistently harassed, displaced, and told to move on without a safe place to park. In early 2025, we successfully appealed and overturned an RV ban that the SFMTA passed. However, they acted again with legislation spearheaded by the Mayor including both a permit process at the SFMTA and a two hour time limit passed by the Board of Supervisors. We fought a strong campaign, but then were forced to scramble and make sure as many of the 500 households as possible received 6 month permits that exempt them from the two hour time limit. The process was jarringly complicated, which while we were helping households navigate, we were pressuring the city to ease up. The permit process is now closed and we are pushing hard to prevent tows and to get the city to open back up the permit process.

STOPPING THE SWEEPS

The city of San Francisco has regularly engaged in destroying homeless people’s property, displacing them with nowhere to go and citing and arresting them for being homeless. These operations hurt unhoused people and exacerbate homelessness itself. The COH filed a lawsuit against the city in 2022 to simply get them to follow their own policy. This lawsuit comes after decades of pushing the City to implement common-sense, evidence-based policies grounded in permanent solutions. After an arduous legal battle, partnered with the ACLU and Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights, we now have a settlement in place. The settlement allows us to monitor the city’s activities, noticing, and the halting of the destruction of homeless people’s property. If the city is out of compliance over the next five years, it will have to come before a judge.



2025 VICTORIES AT GLANCE

Secured funding for housing subsidies that will allow 450 households to leave homelessness behind and move into dignified housing, and expanded shelter for 300 households, all paid for by our very own Prop C, Our City Our Home.

Staved off the Mayor’s move to cut \$90 million from primarily youth and family housing to fund mostly single adult shelter.

Passed legislation to ensure families on short-term rental subsidies do not return to homelessness by extending their subsidies to five years.

Came to a successful settlement in our lawsuit against the city that includes extensive monitoring of city homeless encampment removal operations to prevent the confiscation of homeless people’s property.

Fought back and won against the city’s first proposed RV ban (although we were not as successful on the second ban)

Conducted weekly outreaches to hundreds of folks on the streets, in hotels, in RVs, in shelters and in parks to inform people of their rights, and get direction on where we should focus our work, while collaborating on our campaigns.

THE STRUGGLE FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

Core to addressing homelessness is of course housing. It is impossible to address the lack of employment, mental health, poverty, substance use, disease and sickness without the stability of a home to call your own. This year saw unprecedented attacks on not only homeless people but the very concept of Housing First, from President Trump all the way down to local policy makers. Legislation was introduced to halt new Permanent Supportive Housing units, and every single new building for homeless people faced unprecedented opposition. We not only supported new housing, but we pushed through and fought for additional short rental subsidies that can be used in the private rental market. This included subsidies for 100 adults, 130 homeless families, 65 for families living in RVs, and 100 youth. In addition, many of the city's supportive housing buildings are in dire need of rehabilitation, and included in the budget was \$37m for rehab for youth and adult buildings. In addition, we are so worried about the almost one thousand formerly homeless households in SF that are now in housing thanks to Emergency Choice Vouchers. Wrongly, these are set to be eliminated by the Trump administration. The city budget has \$27 million to pay the rent for folks until alternative housing is found. All of these interventions were paid for by our very own Prop C Our City Our Home, the 2018 initiative we wrote and got passed by voters. Lastly, the Mayor attempted to not cut \$90 million from primarily youth and family housing and move over to primarily single adult shelter, but tried to undermine the initiative by permanently removing the super majority requirement to move the funding around. We fought hard against that, protected youth and family housing, and limited the damage to give the Mayor authority to spend new funds capped at \$19 million.

KEEPING SAN FRANCISCANS HOUSED

We are fighting hard to expand back rent and legal assistance to keep folks housed. In the last point in time count, for every one household that was housed, three more became homeless. Unfortunately, SF does not have enough funding for back rent and legal defense, even though tenants have a right to counsel. We fought for additional emergency rental assistance funds and prevention on-going rental assistance to keep elders in their homes. All together Prop C has resulted in almost 23,000 households receiving homelessness prevention services over the first three years, including eviction prevention, rental assistance, and housing stabilization.

THE BELIEF IN DIGNIFIED SHELTER

Part of the Prop C spending plan included some additional investments in shelter. These included 120 Restore beds meant to serve individuals on the street who have severe substance use disorders and are in need of being stabilized. We also fought for and won another 160 hotel vouchers for homeless families and families experiencing domestic violence.

HALTING THE REVOLVING DOOR

For most homeless families, when they go to the city for help, the only thing available is short-term rental subsidies. These programs give rental assistance for 1-3 years, coupled with support services. While these are successful for some, the data shows much higher success rates with longer subsidies, and a portion of families return to homelessness after the rental assistance runs out. We worked to pass legislation in early 2025 that extends the subsidy to five years if the family is at risk of returning to homelessness.

