

UNITED4OC
LET'S **FACE**2024 TOGETHER



Homelessness in Orange County: The Costs to Our Community

HOMELESSNESS IN ORANGE COUNTY: The Costs to Our Community

An Orange County United Way, Jamboree & UCI Sponsored Study

Research Team

David A. Snow and Rachel Goldberg

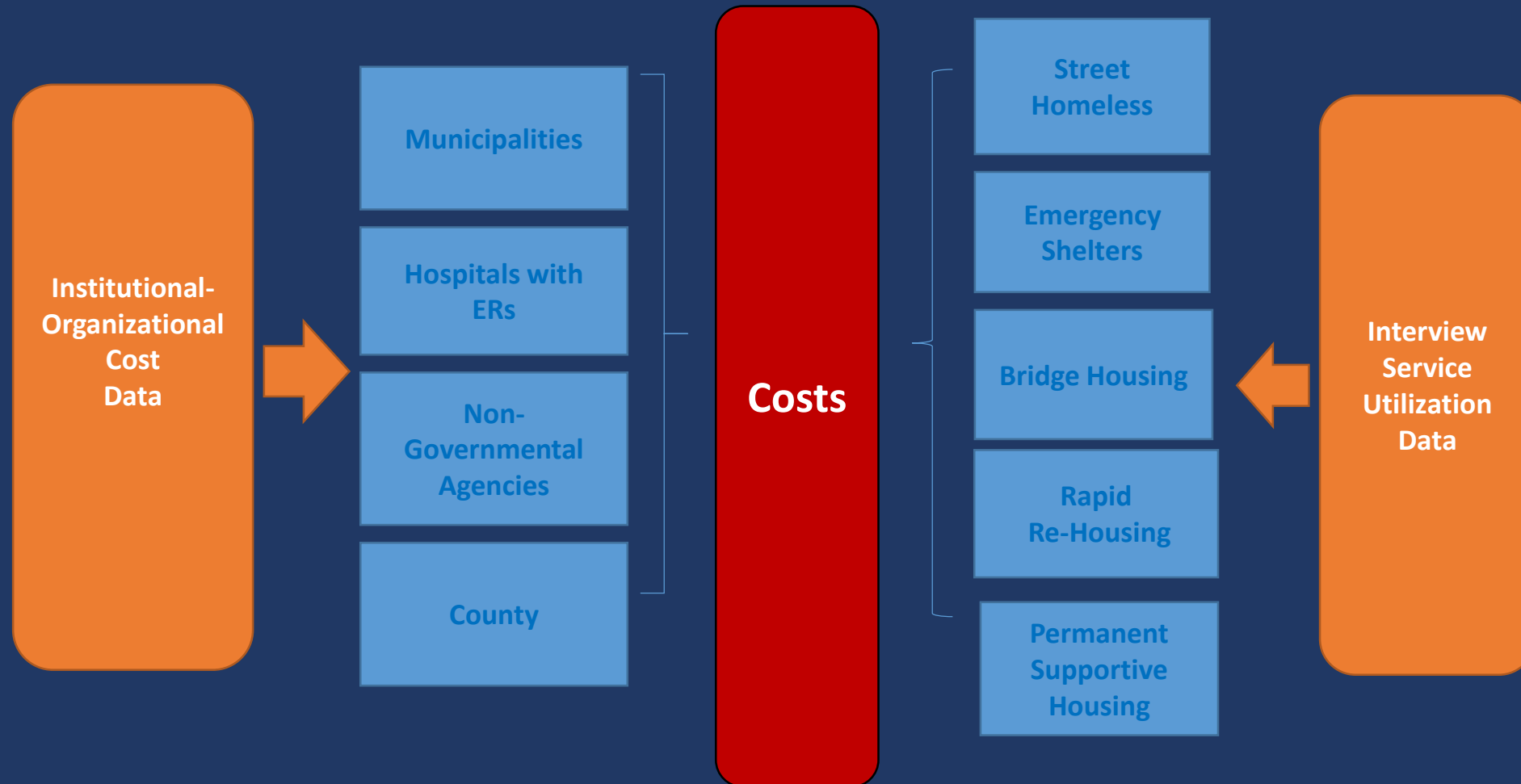
Professors of Sociology

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Graduate Research Assistants

University of California, Irvine

COST STUDY DESIGN



Key Findings

WHO ARE OUR HOMELESS?

- **Mainly long-term Orange County residents: 68% of those surveyed had been here over 10 years**
- **Predominantly US-born individuals: 90%**
- **Middle aged: 52% are age 50 or older**
- **Mostly non-Hispanic White: 47%**
- **Primarily male: 57%**
- **Live with Children under 18: 17%**
- **Reporting Fair/Poor Health: 45%**

SELECTED CHILDHOOD CONDITIONS THAT INCREASE VULNERABILITY TO HOMELESSNESS:

- ▶ **32% experienced sexual and/or physical abuse as a child**
- ▶ **42% had parent or other adult household member with alcohol or drug problem when growing up**
- ▶ **14% had parent or immediate family member who spent at least one night homeless when growing up**
- ▶ **18% spent time living with non-parental relatives, foster parents, or in orphanage in childhood**


TOP 3 REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

- **Securing or retaining jobs with sustainable wages: 40%**
- **Finding or retaining affordable housing: 36%**
- **Family issues: 28%**

4. What is the annual cost of addressing homelessness in Orange County?

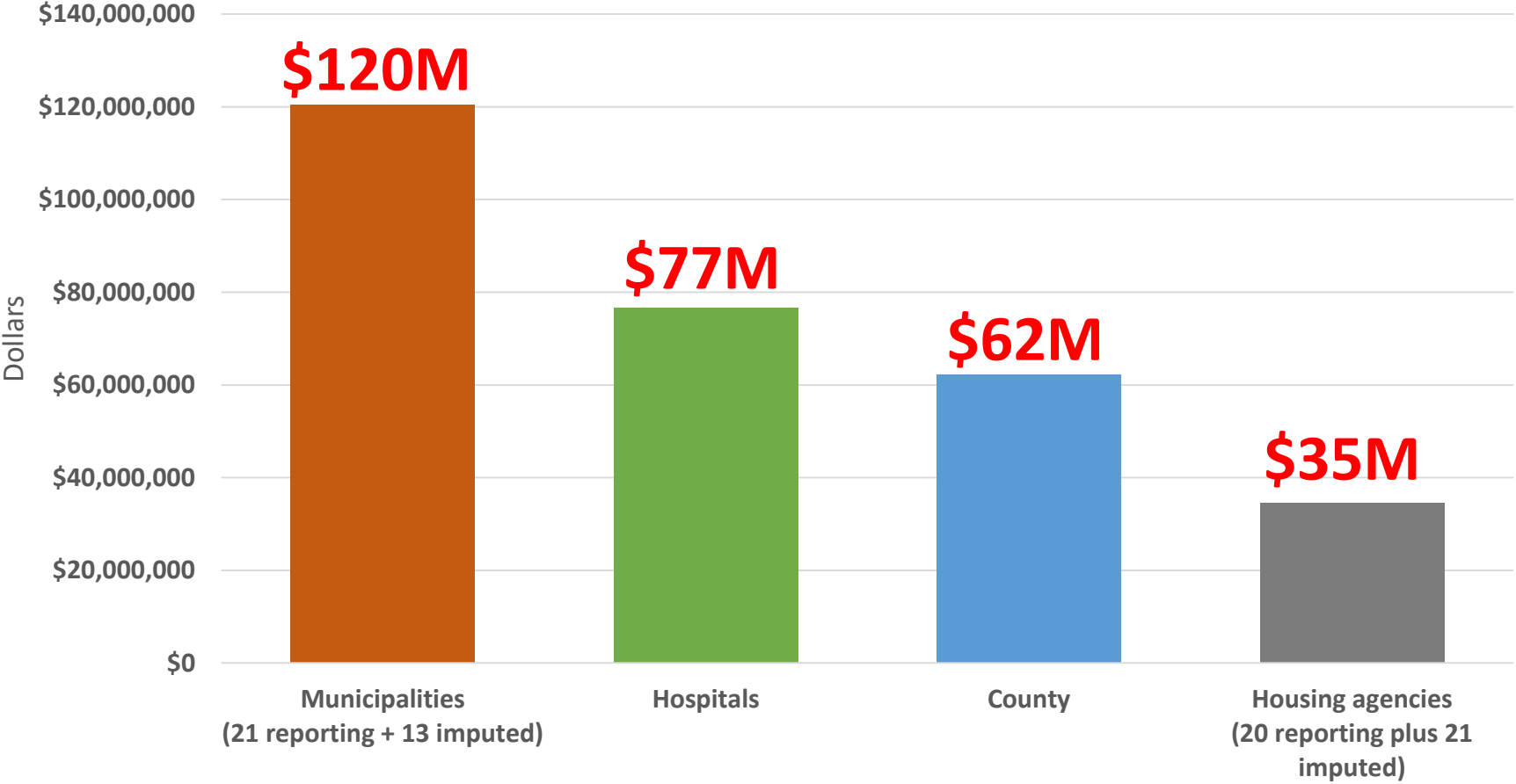
a) \$50 Million

b) \$16 Million

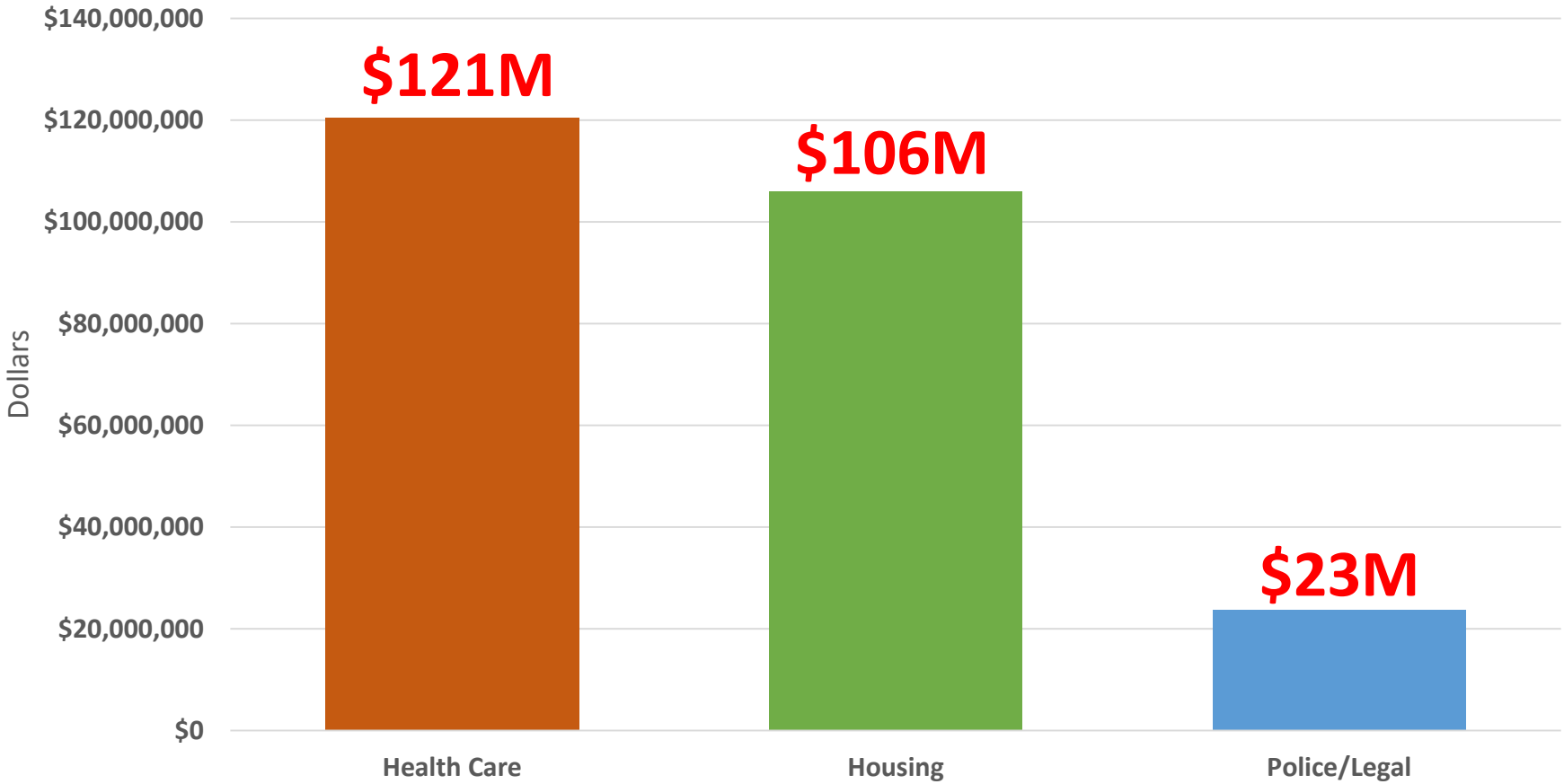
 c) \$299 Million

d) \$150 Million

Annual Cost of Addressing Homelessness Across Four Institutional Sectors in OC: \$299M

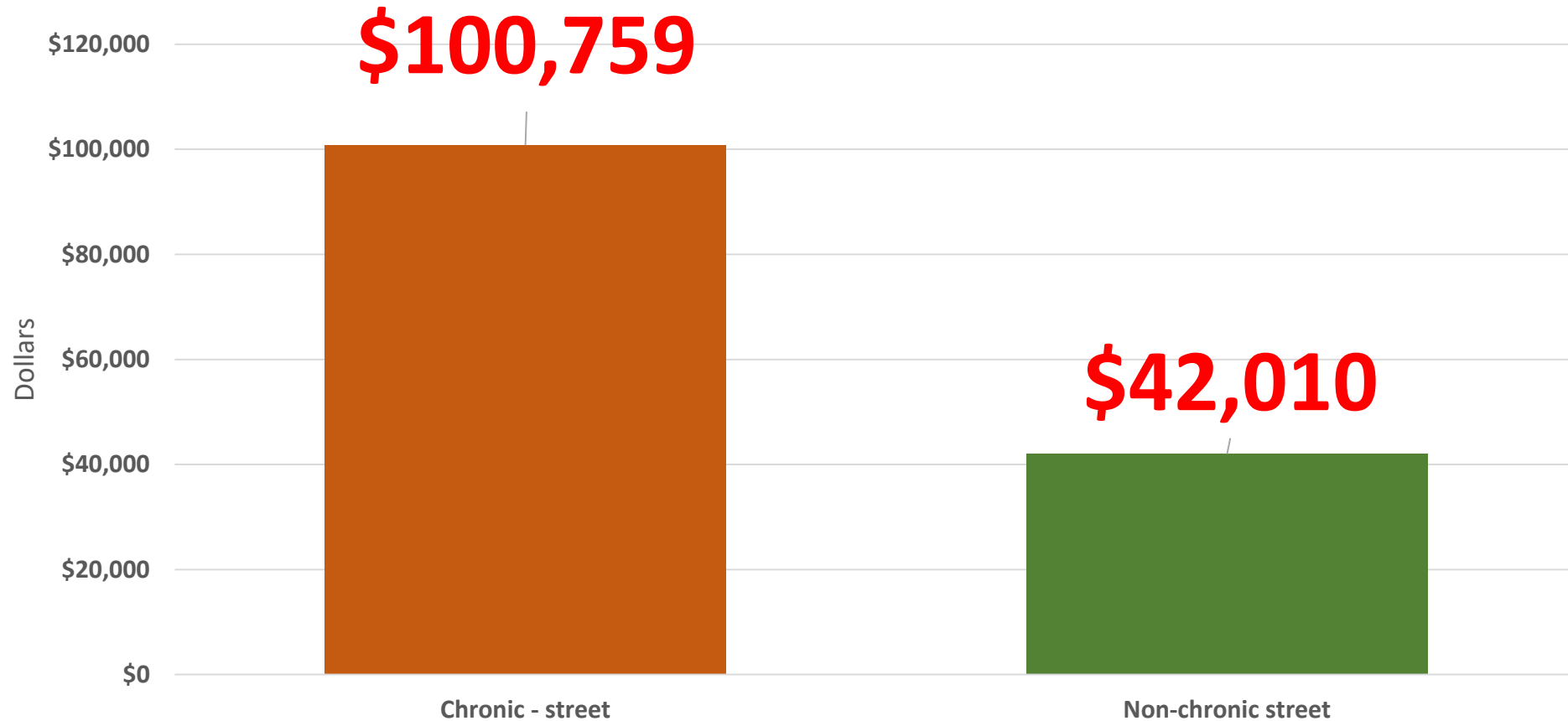


Annual Cost of Addressing Homelessness By Cost Cluster



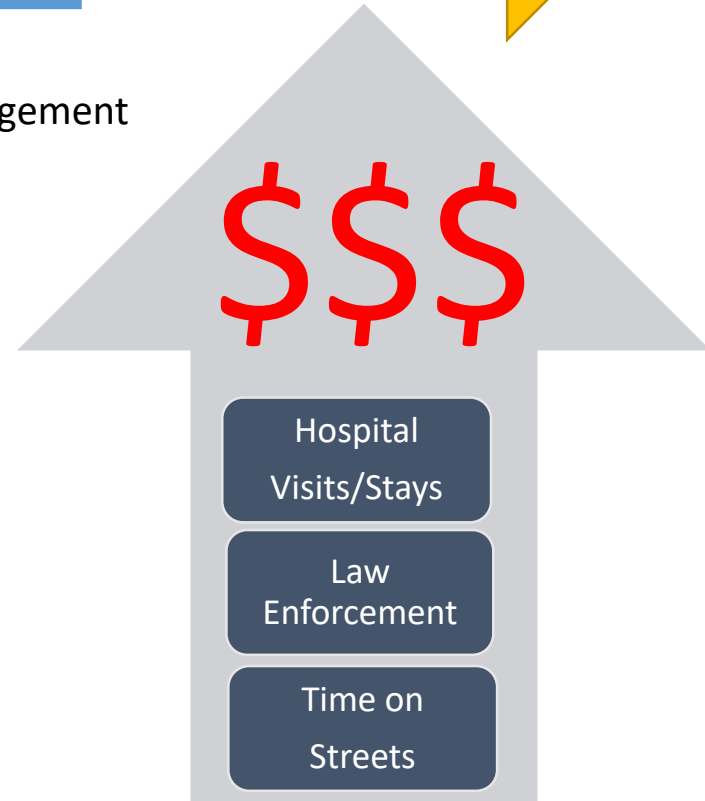
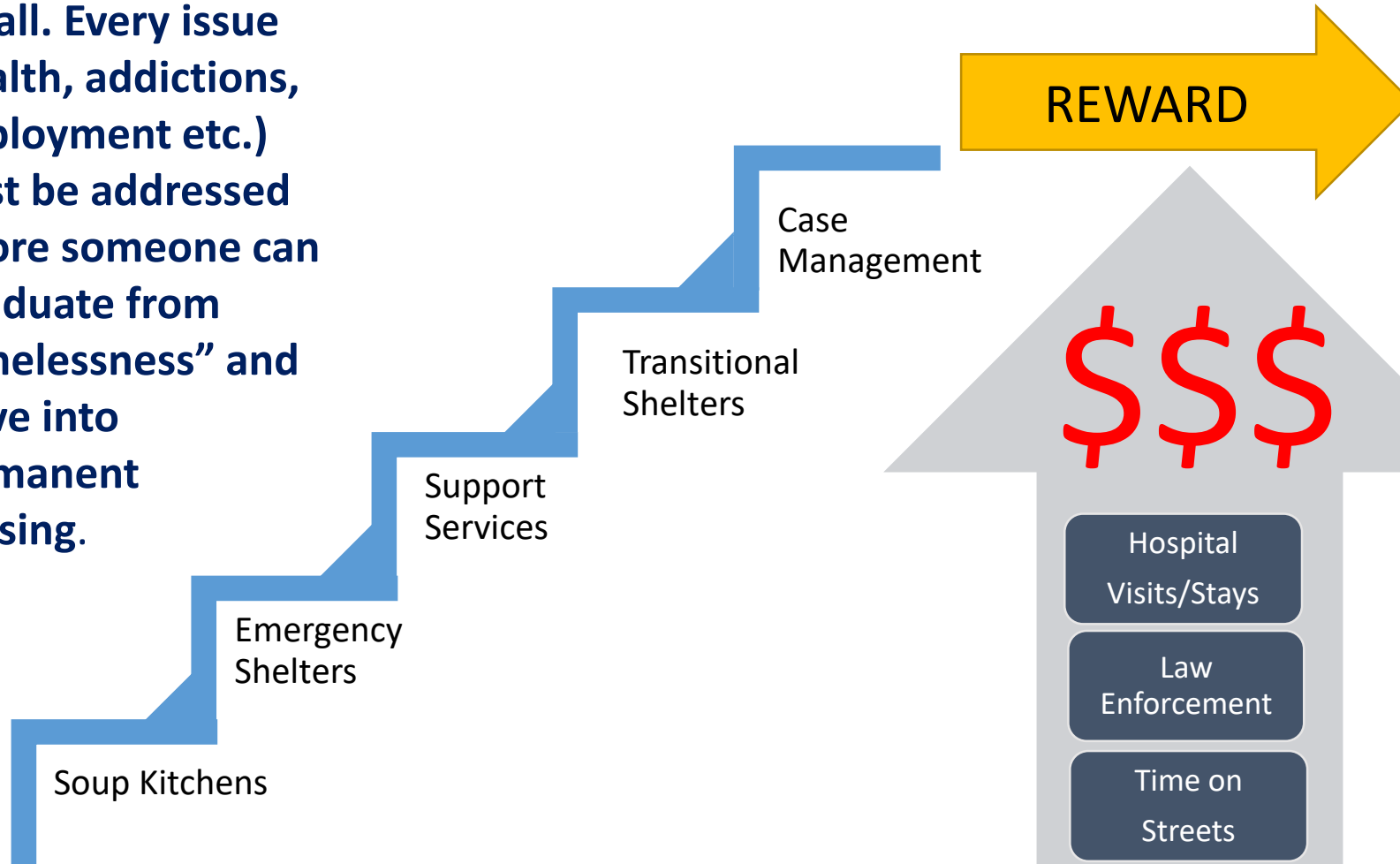
CHRONIC VS NON-CHRONIC ON THE STREETS

AVERAGE COSTS PER PERSON, PER YEAR



TREATMENT FIRST MODEL

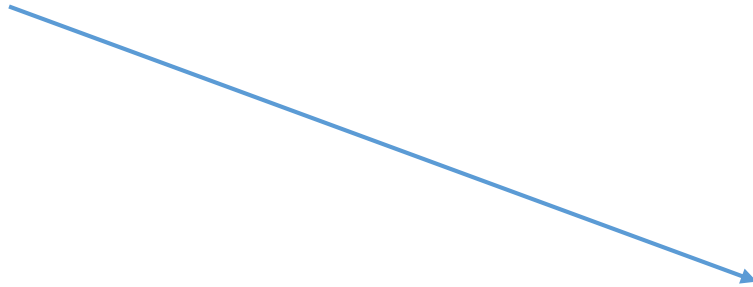
Philosophy: One size fits all. Every issue (health, addictions, employment etc.) must be addressed before someone can “graduate from homelessness” and move into permanent housing.



THE TURNING OF THE TIDE

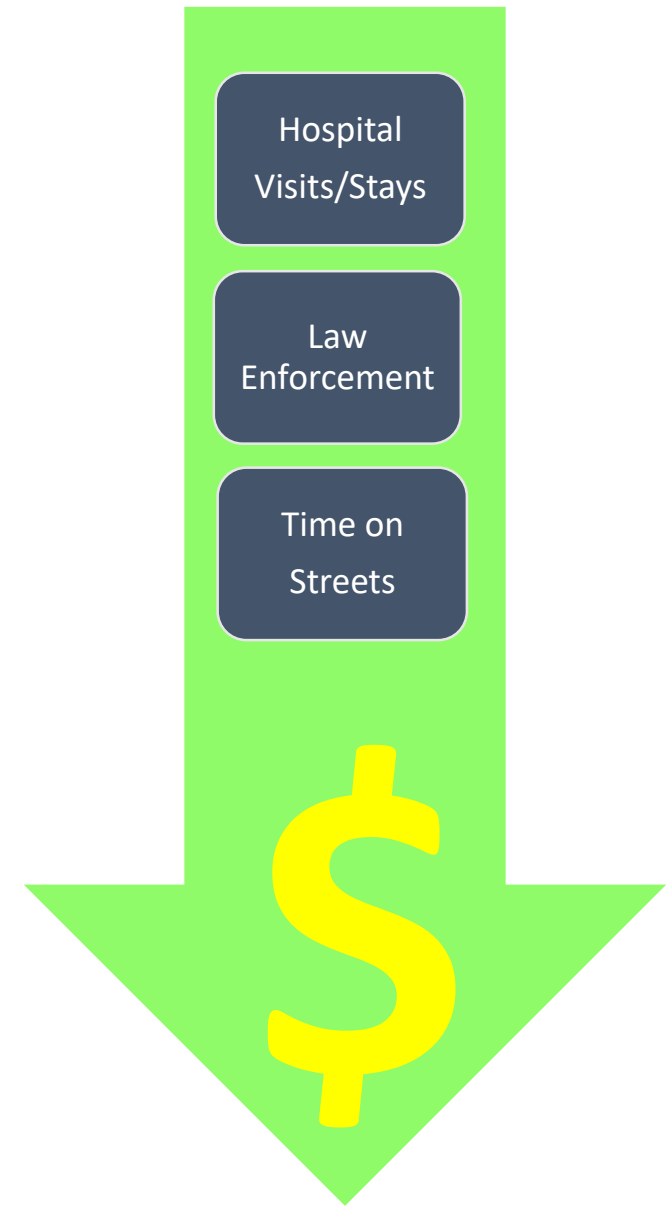
- **George H.W. Bush: Research findings change the federal conversations on homelessness**
- **George W. Bush: push for communities to create ten year plans to end chronic homelessness using evidence based practices**
 - **Clear distinction made between chronic and non-chronic homelessness**
 - **Foreword movement with new model: Housing First**
- **Obama: expands goal to end ALL types of homelessness, chronic, non-chronic, youth etc.**

HOUSING FIRST MODEL

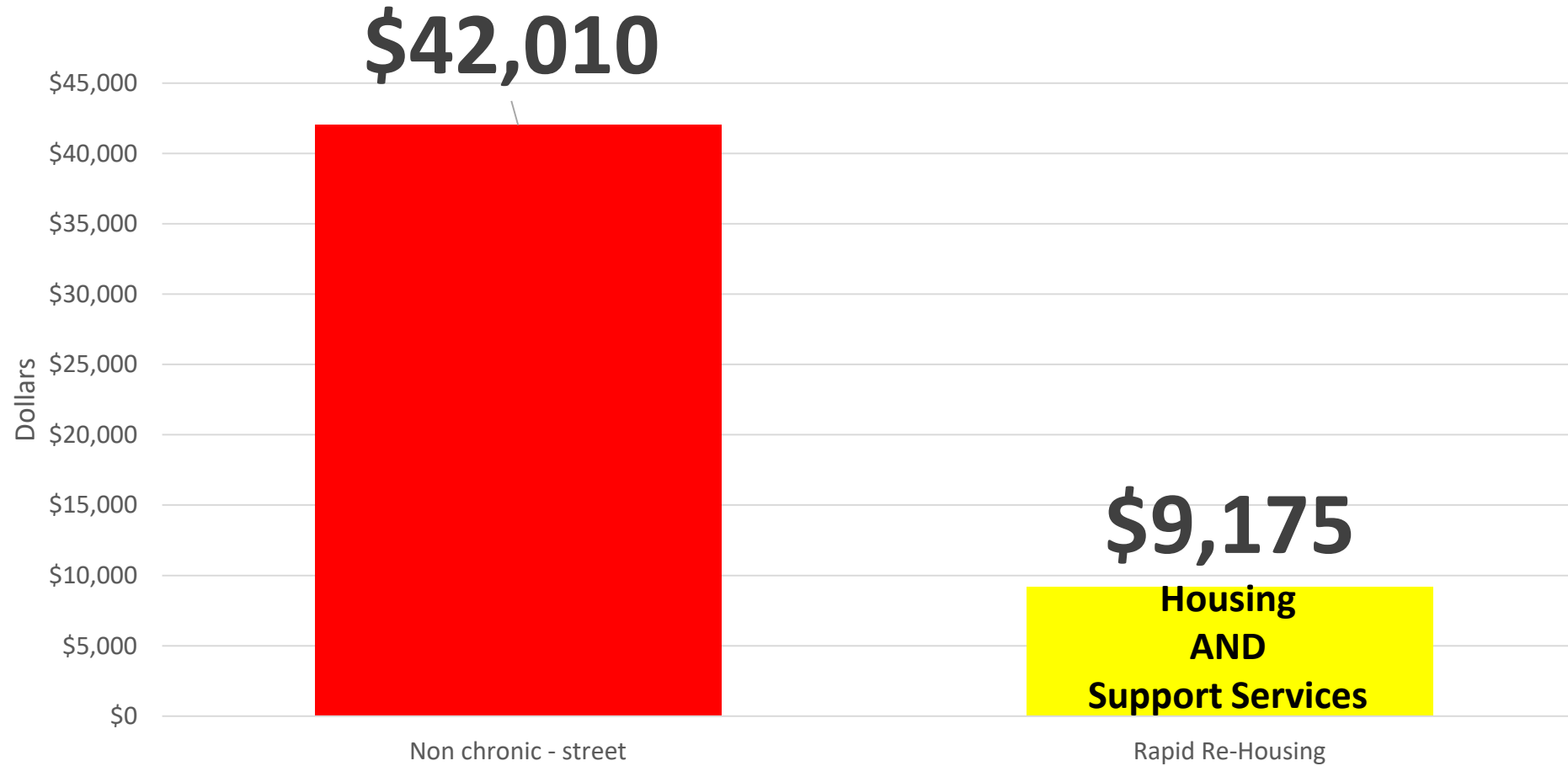


Philosophy:

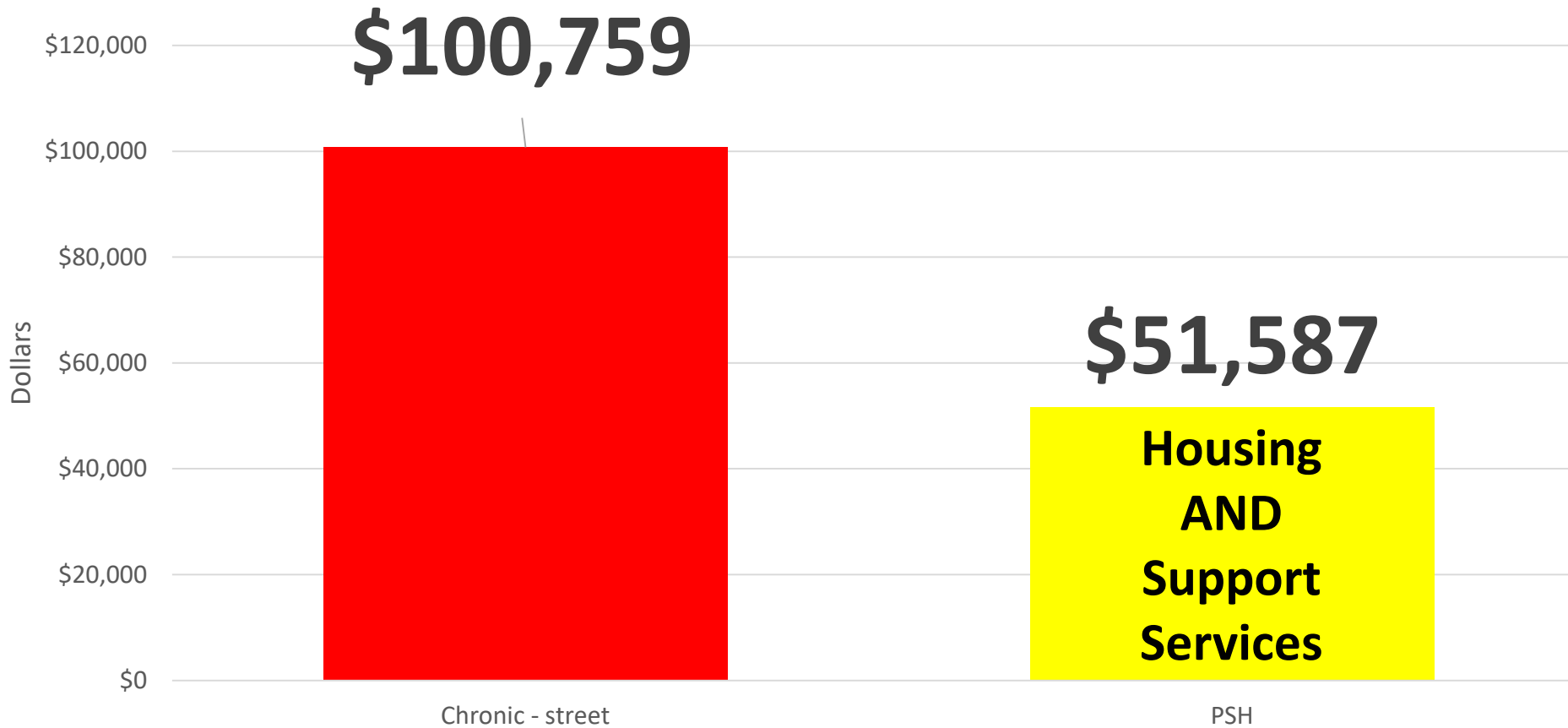
People should be permanently housed AND provided support services as quickly as possible. Homelessness is viewed first and foremost a housing problem and is treated as such. E.g. Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing.



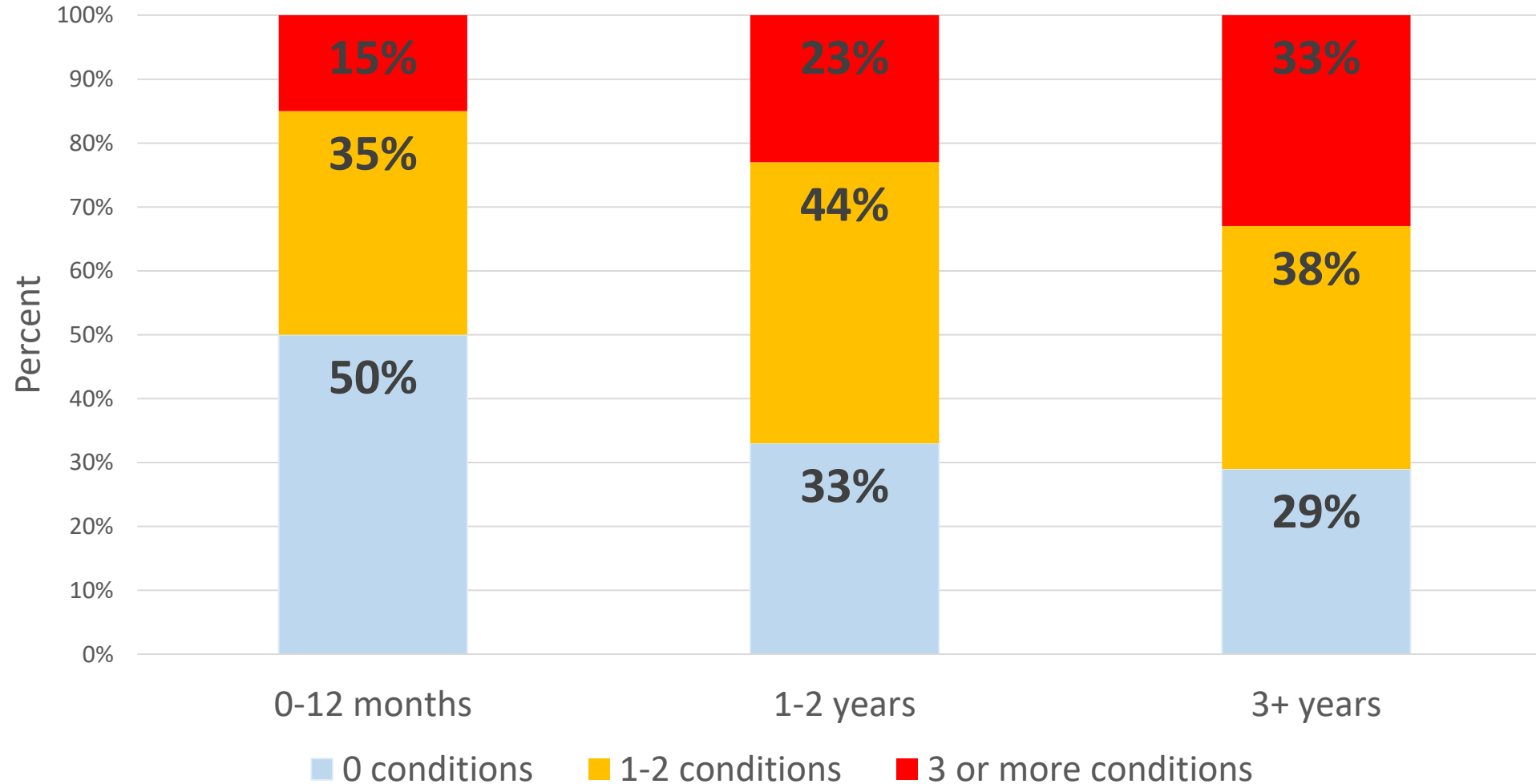
NON-CHRONIC STREET VS NON-CHRONIC IN RAPID RE-HOUSING AVERAGE COSTS PER PERSON, PER YEAR



CHRONIC STREET VS CHRONIC HOUSED AVERAGE COSTS PER PERSON, PER YEAR



NUMBER OF CHRONIC PHYSICAL HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY STREET/SHELTER HOMELESS, BY LENGTH OF TIME ON THE STREET



MOST COSTLY 10% OF CHRONIC HOMELESS

On the Streets

\$439,787

Per person, per year

Housed WITH Services

\$55,343

Per person, per year

TO HOUSE AND PROVIDE SERVICES
TO ALL OF OC'S CHRONICALLY
HOMELESS WOULD

SAVE \$42M

DIFFERENCES IN PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR AND WELLBEING ACROSS HOUSING CATEGORIES

Variables	Street	Shelter	Housed			Total
			Trans/Int	RR	PSH	
# times ticketed*	0.68	0.10	0.11	0.05	0.08	0.30
# times arrested*	0.15	0.02	0.02	0	0	0.06
# times in ambulance	0.20	0.15	0.02	0	0.06	0.11
% had trouble getting things done because of alcohol or drugs in last month*	22%	13%	0	0	10%	12%
% Find it difficult or very difficult to find safe place to sleep	49%	29%	5%	4%	2%	25%
% Find it difficult or very difficult to find place to wash/shower	56%	13%	12%	0	0	24%
% Find it difficult or very difficult to get clean clothes	40%	15%	2%	0	12%	20%
% Find it difficult or very difficult to find toilet	47%	19%	0	4%	4%	21%
% Find it difficult or very difficult to feel good about self	43%	33%	12%	12%	18%	28%
Total number interviewed	89	48	41	24	49	251

* Differences between housing categories are statistically significant at p<0.05 level

THREE MAJOR TAKE-AWAYS and a QUESTION

- 1. The primary cause of homelessness is the gap between the cost of rental housing and the availability of living wages to access that housing.**
- 2. The cost of homelessness decreases markedly with the provision of housing, and this cost reduction is most pronounced for the chronic homeless.**
- 3. Many of the troublesome issues associated with homelessness disappear or diminish markedly with the provision of housing.**

SO WHY NOT HOUSING FIRST??

RECOMMENDATIONS

This study clearly demonstrates that housing the homeless reduces systemic costs that can be reallocated to other priorities. The study also provides the basis for action in Orange County, in an aligned and collaborative fashion, amongst all stakeholders, including the County, our 34 municipalities and the private sector, including nonprofits and business. As such, we offer the following immediate and actionable recommendations resulting from the study's findings

1 CREATE a better community-wide understanding of “who are our homeless” based upon the profile of OC’s homeless identified from the cost study. Orange County’s homeless are our own, and we have to work collectively to develop the right solutions for our community as a whole.

2 FORMALIZE a countywide collective impact effort to end homelessness with a shared set of goals and agreed upon respective roles, to include the County of Orange ACC-OC and city officials, the business, nonprofit and faith-based communities.

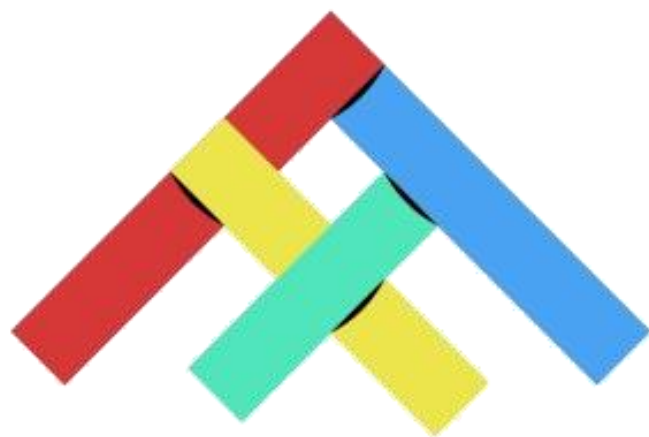
3 DEVELOP specific numeric goals for the creation of housing unit types needed for the varying homeless populations and an agreed-upon time-bound action plan to increase housing stock (e.g. Emergency Shelter, Bridge Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing).

4 PRIORITIZE populations to be housed first, start with housing the top 10% of the chronically homeless in Orange County immediately. If these individuals—the chronic homeless on the streets or in emergency shelters—remain homeless, their service, criminal justice, and hospital and health care costs are likely to be at least \$433,845 per year. Thus, we need to create a robust system of care using those meeting with success in other communities as models for Orange County, which will also support Recommendation #2.

5 ASSESS AND MAP current public and private funding and resources dedicated or available to address homelessness in Orange County, and create strategic public-private partnerships to bridge existing gaps and redeploy existing resources in alignment and collaboration with the goals set to end homelessness.

**Executive Summary
&
Full Report Available at**

<https://www.unitedwayoc.org/resources>



**UNITED TO END
HOMELESSNESS**

Launched – February 28th 2018

VOICE of OC

BROAD-BASED CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO HELP AND HOUSE HOMELESS PEOPLE IN ORANGE COUNTY



Nick Gerda/Voice of OC

Formerly homeless man Robert Morse, also known as "Santa Bob," receives a standing ovation after speaking at Wednesday's United Way kickoff event.

By NICK GERDA

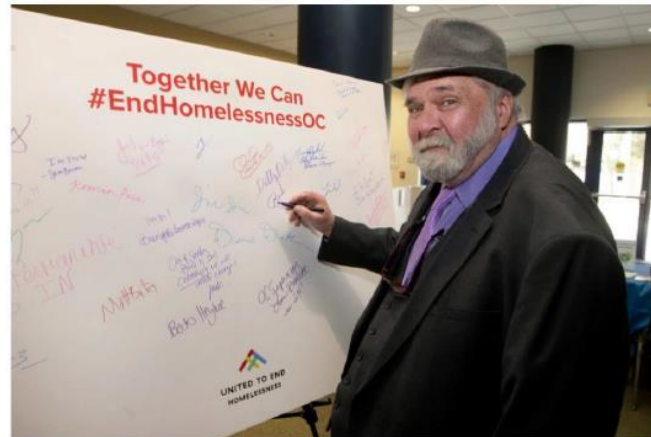
A broad-based campaign was launched Wednesday to bring together Orange County's leaders in business, philanthropy, faith, and government around ending homelessness, including providing housing with support services for homeless people who have been on the streets for years.

The effort, led by [Orange County United Way](#), piggybacks on a study it commissioned from UC Irvine that found it costs the public less to house long-term homeless people with wraparound health services than keep them on the streets where they often rotate in and out of expensive stays at emergency rooms and jails.

The campaign is in close collaboration with an effort by Orange County's association of cities to

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

'DO YOU THINK THAT HOMELESS PEOPLE CHOOSE TO BE HOMELESS?' ORANGE COUNTY UNITED WAY HOPES TO CHANGE PUBLIC OPINION ON BUILDING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



Robert Morse, who was once homeless, signs a pledge to help end homelessness as part of Orange County United Way's public awareness campaign "United to End Homelessness." (Photo courtesy of David Kawashima)

By [THERESA WALKER](#) | thwalker@scng.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: March 1, 2018 at 8:48 am | UPDATED: March 1, 2018 at 8:50 am

[Orange County United Way's](#) next step in an effort to deflate the rising numbers of homeless people in local communities by building supportive housing might be the toughest: getting the general public on board.

That's the task of a newly formed leadership team of business, philanthropic, government and faith community representatives that United Way unveiled at a gathering Wednesday, Feb. 28, to kick off its "United to End Homelessness" initiative.

89.3 KPCC Member-supported news for Southern California

Is Orange County turning the corner on homelessness?



Homeless people living along the Santa Ana River flood control channel wait in line for motel vouchers offered by the county on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018. JILL REPLOGLE/KPCC

By JILL REPLOGLE

In April 2017, federal Judge David O. Carter marched through the 2-mile-long homeless encampment stretched out along the Santa Ana River flood control channel in the heart of Orange County and declared, "No one's got good answers to this."

But nearly a year and several lawsuits later, a wave of efforts to reduce chronic homelessness is sweeping through Orange County, making a once-elusive goal seem reachable.

In the final days of February, under Judge Carter's watch, the last of the tents were cleared from the riverbed encampment and some 700 homeless people were placed in motels.

Meanwhile, dozens of OC's top business and civic leaders have pledged to help find — and fund — housing and support to the county's estimated 2,500 homeless people who sleep outside on any given night.

Goals of United to End Homelessness

Our overall goal is to end homelessness in Orange County. Key to achieving this is implementing the recommendations laid out in the groundbreaking [2017 UCI Homelessness Cost study](#). To that end, we will:

- **Rally our community in support of a permanent supportive housing solution for chronically homeless individuals.**
- **Identify homes for our chronically homeless neighbors in need through accessing existing rental units and by working with our partners to support and champion efforts to develop new units.**
- **Work with the County and others to leverage data that can help the community gain detailed insights so that we may enhance the overall system of care.**

Public Awareness Campaign: The Proclamation

We, the undersigned, agree that...

- Every man, woman and child in Orange County ***should be treated with dignity and respect***, including those experiencing homelessness.
- Everyone experiencing homelessness has a unique background, life story, and circumstances that led them into their current circumstances.
- We are willing to have our own preconceptions about homelessness challenged and reframed in our effort to ***seek real and lasting solutions***.
- Those in our community suffering from debilitating and disabling conditions who ***are chronically homeless should be provided with housing*** and all necessary support.
- We must ***work together to solve homelessness***; no one entity, including government, can do it alone. It will take all of us working together to #endHomelessnessOC

Public Awareness Campaign: The Survey

Take the Survey

A few simple questions about homelessness in OC

[Begin Now](#)

Public Awareness Campaign: Stories



Meet "Santa Bob"

An Orange County Resident

Video from the other Orange County

Unique Role of the Faith Based Community

Currently recruiting for our Faith Leaders Committee

Phase One

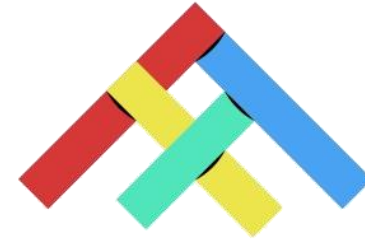
1. Equip faith leaders through training and accurate information so they can help build a movement of champions in the community
2. Build movement of champions for homeless solutions:
 - “From the pulpit”
 - Homelessness 101 trainings
 - Public Awareness Campaign/Social Media trainings
 - Advocacy trainings: speaking at City Council/Board of Supervisor meetings, writing effective letters etc.
3. Mobilize the champions:
 - Participation in Public Awareness Campaign
 - Advocating for solutions: speaking at public meetings, petitions, letters of support etc.

Phase Two

Train and mobilize faith community to provide support and fellowship for people once they are housed.

Action Items

- Complete the contact card
- Join the Faith Committee
- Follow us on social media
- Proclamation: sign and share!
- Survey: sign and share!
- Stories: please send us leads
- Spread the word!



**UNITED TO END
HOMELESSNESS**

**UnitedToEndHomelessness.org
[#EndHomelessnessOC](https://twitter.com/EndHomelessnessOC)**