



HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

**Coachella Valley Water District
Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

Members of the public may use the following link for listening access and ability to address the Homelessness Committee when called upon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86560977607?pwd=aEPMd6vQJKrqwOqafNKbmLoIcHAFZ.1>

Dial In: +1 669 900 9128 US

Webinar ID: 865 6097 7607

Password: 812514

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT VIA DIAL IN OPTION, PLEASE CALL 760-346-1127

Public comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Homelessness Committee prior to the meeting at cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Members of the public joining the meeting by Zoom can also provide comment by using the “raise hand” feature or hitting *9 on the phone keypad.

As a convenience to the public, CVAG provides a call-in option and internet-based option for members of the public to virtually observe and provide public comments at its meetings. Please note that, in the event of a technical issue disrupting the call-in or internet-based options, the meeting will continue unless otherwise required by law.

THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE. ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA. UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL ACTION ITEMS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Waymond Fermon, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Indio
Roll Call P4
Pledge of Allegiance
Agenda Modifications
Conflict of Interest Disclosure

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the first of two opportunities for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Homelessness Committee on items appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. At the discretion of the Chair, comments may be taken at the time items are presented. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

3. **CHAIR / COMMITTEE / CVAG STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - A. **Approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026, Homelessness Committee Meeting** P5
 - B. **Adopt Resolution No. 2026-002-HC authorizing the CVAG Homelessness Committee, as an eligible multijurisdictional body, to utilize the teleconferencing provisions established under Senate Bill 707** P9
 - C. **Receive and file the quarterly report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in the first quarter of 2026** P11

- 4.1 **ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

5. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**
 - A. **Federal funding shifts to Continuums of Care** – Tanya Torno, Riverside County COC Deputy Director, and Greg Rodriguez, Housing and Workforce Solutions’ Deputy Director for Government Affairs and Community Engagement P14

Recommendation: Information

- B. **Annual report for Alan Seman Bus Pass program – Candice Graff** **P15**

Recommendation: Receive and file the 2025 Annual Report for the Alan Seman Bus Pass Program

- C. **California’s Encampment Resolution Funding – Erica Felci** **P18**

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to partner with Riverside County on an application for the California Department of Housing and Community Development’s Encampment Resolution Funding

- D. **Annual contributions to the CV Housing First Program – Erica Felci** **P20**

Recommendation: Adopt a 3.2-percent increase to the CV Housing First contribution in Fiscal Year 2026-27

6. **INFORMATION**

- A. Attendance Record **P22**

- B. Updates from Ex Officio Members

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the second opportunity for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Homelessness Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this Committee may do so at this time. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

ITEM 1

**Homelessness Committee
Fiscal Year 2025-26 Roster**



VOTING MEMBERS	
City of Blythe	Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Christina Gordon
City of Coachella	Councilmember Yadira Perez
Desert Healthcare District	Director Carole Rogers, RN
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Jan Pye
City of Indian Wells	Mayor Toper Taylor
City of Indio	Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon – <u>Chair</u>
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Pro Tem Joe Pradetto
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Naomi Soto
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Pro Tem Michael O’Keefe
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez– <u>Vice Chair</u>
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members	
Pedro S.G. Rodriguez, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition	
Amanda Galindo, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	
Vacant, Executive Director, Home Aid Inland Empire	
Samuel Hollenbeck, Chief Executive Officer, Martha’s Village and Kitchen	
Vacant, The Salvation Army	
Angelina Coe, Executive Director, Shelter from the Storm	

CVAG Staff
Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director
Candice Graff, Management Analyst

ITEM 4A

**Homelessness Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2026**



1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Chair Waymond Fermon, City of Indio, at 10:04 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Behavioral Health, 81555 JFK Court, Indio, CA 92201.

Coachella Valley Behavioral Health’s Market Chief Executive Officer Steven Hytry welcomed the Committee and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting and tour.

Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Blythe	Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Mayor Raymond Gregory
City of Coachella	Councilmember Yadira Perez
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Jan Pye *
Desert Healthcare District	Director Carole Rogers, RN*
City of Indian Wells	Mayor Pro Tem Brian Penna
City of Indio	Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon, <i>Chair</i>
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña,
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Naomi Soto
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Pro Tem Joe Pradetto
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Pro Tem Michael O’Keefe**
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez*

**arrived at item 3*

*** arrived at item 5*

Ex-Officios Present

Shelter from the Storm	Angelina Coe
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Members and Ex-Officios Not Present

Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition	Pedro S.G. Rodriguez
Martha’s Village and Kitchen	Samuel Hollenbeck
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	Darla Burkett

Chair Fermon led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no agenda modifications or conflicts of interest announced.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

3. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Deputy Executive Director Erica Felci opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee and expressing appreciation to the Coachella Valley Behavioral Health staff for their hospitality. She also provided an overview of the day’s agenda and details regarding the scheduled tour.

Mayor Raymond Gregory announced that Cathedral City has appointed Councilmember Christina Gordon as its new representative on the Homelessness Committee. Beginning next meeting, he will serve as the alternate.

Chair Fermon shared his concerns regarding the recent fatality near the Jackson Bridge in Indio and emphasized the need for collaboration with CalTrans and the City to address safety issues on bridges. He also informed the Committee that the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission will host its annual gala on March 19th at Agua Caliente Casino.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve the minutes of the September 17, 2025, Homelessness Committee Meeting**
- B. Approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025, joint meeting of the Homelessness Committee and Executive Committee**
- C. Adopt CVAG Resolution 2026-001 and authorize the Executive Director to submit grant applications for the CV Housing First program, including seeking \$114,225 in Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) funding for the CV Housing First outreach efforts**

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT

VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
MAYOR GREGORY	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PYE	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM PENNA	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM FERMON	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM PRADETTO	AYE
MAYOR SOTO	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM OKEEFE	ABSENT
SUPERVISOR PEREZ	ABSENT
TRIBAL CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

4.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None

5. DISCUSSION / ACTION

- A. Presentation: California’s Prohousing Designation Program**

Thomas Brown, Housing Policy Analyst with the Department of Housing and Community Development, provided a comprehensive overview of the program. Brief member discussion ensued. Due to time constraints for the scheduled tour, the question-and-answer session was deferred to the end of the meeting.

No action was taken, as the item was presented for informational purposes only.

B. CV Housing First’s Year in Review

Management Analyst Candice Graff delivered a PowerPoint presentation highlighting key accomplishments and program data from the past year.

A brief discussion followed, during which Ms. Felci and Ms. Graff responded to Committee members’ questions regarding the statistics presented.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA AND SECONDED BY TRIBAL CHAIR MIRELEZ TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE CV HOUSING FIRST REPORT FOR 2025, REPRESENTING CLIENTS SERVED THROUGHOUT THE CALENDAR YEAR

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 1 MEMBERS ABSENT

VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
MAYOR GREGORY	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PYE	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM PENNA	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM FERMON	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM PRADETTO	AYE
MAYOR SOTO	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM OKEEFE	AYE
SUPERVISOR PEREZ	ABSENT
TRIBAL CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

C. Overview of Coachella Valley Behavioral Health

Coachella Valley Behavioral Health’s Director of Business Development Byron Bonsall provided a brief overview of the facilities services that are available for clients.

Brief member discussion ensued with Mr. Bonsall answering questions prior to the start of the tour.

No action was taken as this item was an information only item.

D. Tour: Coachella Valley Behavioral Health

Mr. Bonsall led the Committee on a tour of the facility.

6. INFORMATION

A. Attendance Record

B. Updates from Ex Officio Members

Shelter From the Storm Executive Director Angelina Coe reported that the organization received an influx of approximately 200 calls during the first two weeks of December and provided an overview of efforts through the holidays and the start of 2026. Ms. Coe also shared that the organization is experiencing staffing shortages and is actively hiring.

C. Conflict of Interest Guidance

D. Riverside County Continuum of Care's Annual impact Report

7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District Steve Robbins Administration Training Room, 75515 Hovely Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District Steve Robbins Administration Training Room, 75515 Hovely Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260

5. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Presentation: California's Prohousing Designation Program

Chair Fermon returned to item 5A and opened the floor for Committee members to ask Mr. Thomas, from the Department of Housing and Community Development, any additional questions. A brief discussion followed, during which Mr. Thomas responded to questions from Committee members.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado
Deputy Clerk

ITEM 4B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
April 15, 2026



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Authorizing Use of SB 707 Teleconferencing Provisions

Contact: Elysia Regalado, Deputy Clerk (eregalado@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2026-002-HC authorizing the CVAG Homelessness Committee, as an eligible multijurisdictional body, to utilize the teleconferencing provisions established under Senate Bill 707

Background: The California Legislature passed Senate Bill 707 (2024) to modernize the teleconferencing provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act and establish updated rules for specific categories of legislative bodies, including eligible multijurisdictional bodies. SB 707 took effect on January 1, 2026, and its provisions are now available for use by qualifying agencies.

CVAG's committees qualify as eligible multijurisdictional bodies under SB 707 because their membership includes cities, the County of Riverside, and tribal governments. The legislation recognizes that regional agencies often include members who travel across multiple jurisdictions and therefore benefit from additional flexibility when participating remotely.

Adopting the proposed resolution will authorize the CVAG Homelessness Committee to use the teleconferencing flexibilities available under SB 707. These include exemptions that allow remote participation without posting a member's teleconference location, subject to certain limits. For the Homelessness Committee, this would mean members could use this option up to two meetings per calendar year. SB 707 requires that an eligible multijurisdictional body adopt a resolution in open session at a regular meeting before using these provisions.

Adoption of the resolution does not obligate CVAG to rely exclusively on SB 707. CVAG may continue using traditional Brown Act teleconferencing rules, with SB 707 serving as an additional option when appropriate. Implementing SB 707 will also support member participation, particularly for a regional body whose members travel, while maintaining full compliance with the Brown Act's public access and transparency requirements.

This is a one-time resolution that does not require periodic renewal. At the direction of CVAG's Legal Counsel, a separate resolution has been adopted for each CVAG committee, each assigned a unique resolution number to ensure accurate tracking and future reference.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to adopt the resolution.

Attachment: Resolution 2026-002-HC

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-002-HC

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE OF THE
COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
AUTHORIZING THE USE OF TELECONFERENCING PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 707
FOR ELIGIBLE MULTIJURISDICTIONAL BODIES**

THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS DOES HEREBY FIND, RESOLVE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) is a regional, multijurisdictional agency composed of cities, the County of Riverside, and tribal governments, and therefore qualifies as an *eligible multijurisdictional body* under the Ralph M. Brown Act, as amended by Senate Bill 707 (2024); and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 707 modernizes the Ralph M. Brown Act's teleconferencing provisions and establishes specific teleconferencing flexibilities for eligible multijurisdictional bodies, including exemptions from certain traditional teleconference requirements; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953.8.7 authorizes eligible multijurisdictional bodies to utilize these teleconferencing provisions upon adoption of a resolution in open session at a regular meeting of the body, and in compliance with other requirements contained in Government Code sections 54953.8 and 54953.8.7; and

WHEREAS, the Homelessness Committee desires to ensure that its members may utilize this teleconferencing method and participate remotely when appropriate, while maintaining full compliance with the Brown Act's public access and transparency requirements; and

WHEREAS, adopting this resolution will allow CVAG to implement the teleconferencing options available to eligible multijurisdictional bodies under SB 707, while continuing to provide meaningful public participation and access to meetings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Homelessness Committee of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments hereby authorizes the use of the teleconferencing provisions available to eligible multijurisdictional bodies under Government Code section 54953.8.7, as amended by Senate Bill 707 for meetings of the Homelessness Committee and other qualifying CVAG legislative bodies, as appropriate. This resolution shall remain in effect unless and until amended or rescinded by the Homelessness Committee.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homelessness Committee of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, County of Riverside, State of California, on April 15, 2026.

By: _____
Waymond Fermon
Homelessness Committee Chair

Witnessed By: _____
Tom Kirk
Executive Director

ITEM 4C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
April 15, 2026**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: CV Housing First’s Quarterly Report for First Quarter of 2026

Contact: Candice Graff, Management Analyst II (cgraff@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Receive and file the quarterly report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in the first quarter of 2026

Background: CVAG is in its sixth year of operating the CV Housing First program with staff. The program is focused on the CV 200, a by-name list of chronically homeless individuals residing in desert cities that have frequent contacts with law enforcement and who are likely to be shelter resistant or who have already fallen out of housing. The list was developed in partnership with CVAG’s member jurisdictions and local law enforcement. It is also maintained in partnership with those agencies.

The CV Housing First team uses two primary methods to get clients to housing solutions: rapid resolution and crisis stabilization units, which are residential units, apartments and hotel rooms that CVAG rents to case manage CV Housing First clients.

Updates on the program’s metrics are provided quarterly to the Homelessness and Executive Committees. CVAG staff has committed to adjusting CV Housing First programming based on the data and based on available funding.

CV Housing First Clients – By the Numbers through March 31, 2026

CV 200 as of 3/31/2026	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Clients housed in Crisis Stabilization Units (CSH)	41				41
Clients being helped through Rapid Resolution (RR)	0				0
Clients returned to the street (failures)	15				15
Clients moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	14				14
Clients moved into permanent housing through RR (successes)	0				0

Clients moved into permanent housing through Outreach (successes)*	4				4
TOTAL HOUSED FROM LIST OF 200	18				18

NON CV 200 Clients	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Households Housed in CSH Units	1				1
Households being helped through RR	0				0

Households returned to the street (failures)	1				1
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Households moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	0				0
Households moved into permanent housing from RR (successes) *	0				0
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS HOUSED	0				0
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS HOUSED	0				0

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Clients Housed	72	54	58	50	53
Clients Still Housed	18	26	40	30	43
Clients No Longer Housed	17	13	12	17	7

The data is divided by CV 200 clients – the by-name list of chronically homeless individuals that CVAG maintains in partnership with law enforcement and code enforcement – and non-CV 200 clients. There was one, non-CV 200 client served in the first quarter of 2026.

CVAG staff has set an internal goal of permanently housing 65 individuals this calendar year; in order to meet this goal, CV Housing First will need to house at least 16 individuals each quarter. The first quarter puts CVAG staff off to a strong start towards reaching this goal. One of the reasons why the CV Housing First program had such a solid quarter was due to the 11 clients who had housing referrals and were pending move-in at the beginning of 2026. This includes housing individuals in the newly opened Desert

Marigold project in Cathedral City. The CV Housing First program is anticipating a reduction in project-based vouchers available in 2026 since new projects have fully leased up and there have been no announcements regarding new project openings in the near future. Staff are anticipating these changes and have been working hard to focus on connecting clients to other programs that can lead to housing in the future such as detox/rehabilitation centers, Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court, Prop 47, workforce solutions, and others.

The total number of clients housed or returning to the streets is less than the total helped each quarter, as the grand total includes clients who may remain in their units at the end of the quarter. CVAG continues to refine its data metrics in order to be transparent about how many and how quickly individuals are housed. CVAG also tracks clients who are being permanently housed by the CV Housing First program via outreach efforts, and not case management based in the crisis stabilization units.

CVAG staff also tracks how long individuals are staying in the program before being housed or returning to the street. The goal is to exit clients within 90 days to permanent housing solutions. Over the past five years, it is not uncommon for the length of stay to exceed 100 days. For the first quarter, the CV 200 clients who successfully exited the program into permanent housing stayed in a crisis stabilization unit on average for 86 days. Those CV 200 clients who exited the program unsuccessfully stayed on average 35 days.

Fiscal Analysis: The CV Housing First program, including the staffing and CV 200 program, is incorporated into the CV Housing First budget, which has been funded by contributions from cities and Riverside County grants.

ITEM 5A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
April 15, 2026



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Federal funding shifts to Continuums of Care

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Housing First is a nationally used approach to ending homelessness. It centers on the philosophy is that once someone has a stable housing situation, they can then focus their attention on issues like maintaining employment, and addressing addiction or mental health issues – ultimately putting them on the path to maintaining a permanent housing solution. CVAG shifted to the CV Housing First model in 2017 based on extensive review by the CVAG Homelessness Committee and expert analysis that was funded by the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation. Today, the CV Housing First program is run by CVAG staff and it includes an array of services like rapid re-housing and the use of crisis stabilization units, which are hotel rooms and apartments, to get someone under a roof almost immediately.

In July 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order called “Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets” that called for an end of federal financial support of Housing First policies. A few months later, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released a Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), making \$3.9 billion in competitive grants available. Riverside County’s COC is eligible to apply for \$22,997,584 in funding. In line with the Executive Order’s direction, the NOFO introduces substantial policy shifts that include an emphasis on transitional housing and supportive services, as well as a new funding cap of \$5,222,010 for permanent housing projects. In Riverside County, this cap is expected to affect more than 430 households currently receiving permanent housing assistance.

Programs across Riverside County continue to support the Housing First approach. However, the County’s Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS), as well as the COC, are looking to strategically position the region to secure the most funding. This has included coordinating with programs to transition affected households to alternative housing resources and ensuring continuity of services.

Tanya Torno, COC Deputy Director, and Greg Rodriguez, HWS’ Deputy Director for Government Affairs and Community Engagement, will attend the April meeting of the Homelessness Committee to brief members about the federal funding shift and its impact on the County.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this informational report. The funding shift will not directly impact CVAG’s CV Housing First budget, which are largely funded by member jurisdictions’ contributions, but could ultimately reduce the grant opportunities that CVAG can compete for.

ITEM 5B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee

April 15, 2026



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Alan Seman Bus Pass Program 2025 Annual Report

Contact: Candice Graff, Management Analyst II (cgraff@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Receive and file the 2025 Annual Report for the Alan Seman Bus Pass Program

Background: Since 2007, CVAG has provided a bus pass program that works in conjunction with non-profit agencies throughout the Coachella Valley to ensure homeless or near homeless individuals can get access to case management services, employment opportunities and medical care. The program is named in honor of Alan Seman, a longtime Rancho Mirage Councilmember and member of CVAG's Homelessness Committee who was a strong advocate for the program.

In recent years, CVAG staff has worked with agencies that receive passes through the Alan Seman Bus Pass program to better track how they are being used. This includes providing passes to the following organization serving people who are homeless, or at risk of being homeless: Shelter from the Storm; Coachella Valley Rescue Mission; CVAG's CV Housing First; Desert Hot Springs Family Resource Center; Jewish Family Services of San Diego; Mama's House; Mecca Family & Farmworker's Service Center; Safe House of the Desert; Marthas Village and Kitchen; Galilee Center; and Well in the Desert.

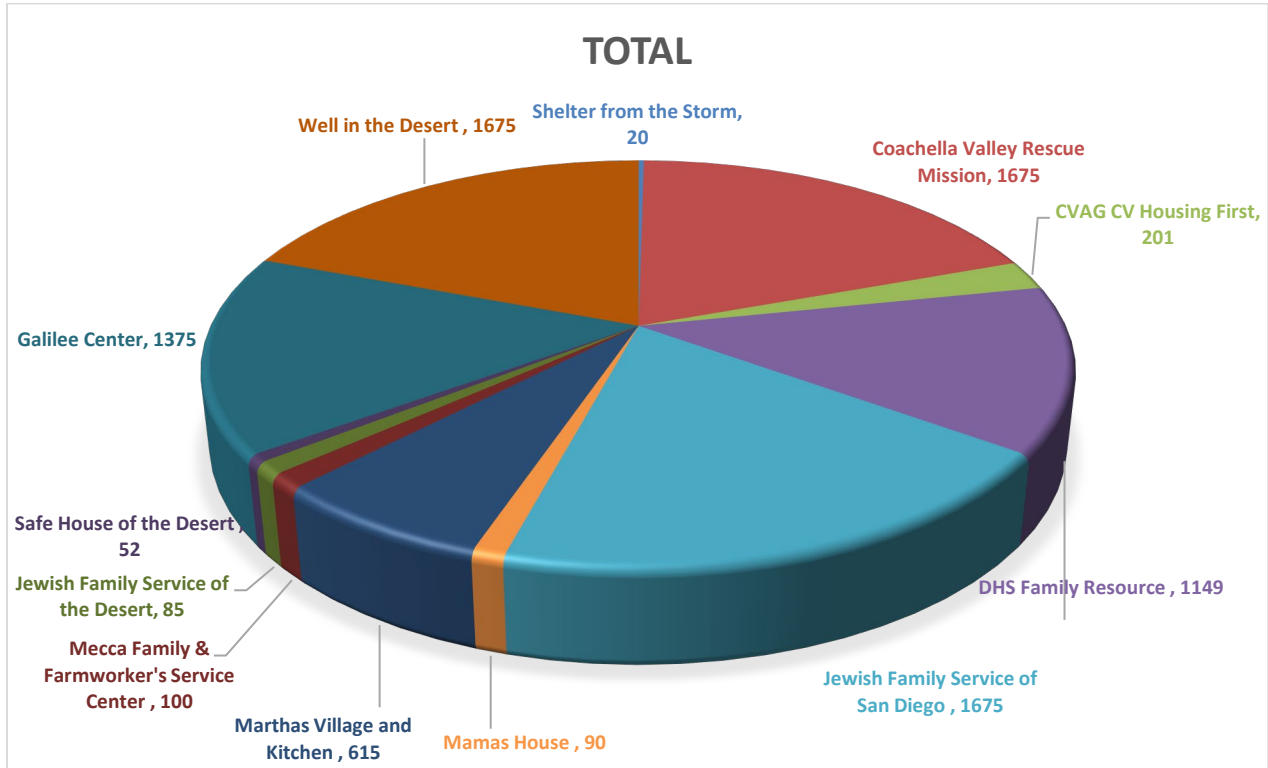
A total of 8,712 passes were distributed in 2025, including single day passes for adults, youth, and seniors. CVAG utilizes 31-day passes for CV Housing First clients who will be in crisis stabilization units, usually for an average of 30-90 days. These bus passes allow clients to search for housing, address outstanding legal issues, job search, gather vital documents, and have transportation to mental health facilities.

CVAG staff has also had initial conversations with SunLine's General Manager about ways to improve the projects. In the coming year, CVAG staff will be looking at its partnerships with local police departments to see if there are additional opportunities to connect homeless individuals that they encounter to services. Staff is also considering what ways the program can be streamlined and made more effective in order to maximize available funding.

Fiscal Analysis: The Alan Seman Bus Pass Program is funded through \$3,000 contributions that CVAG member cities contribute annually.

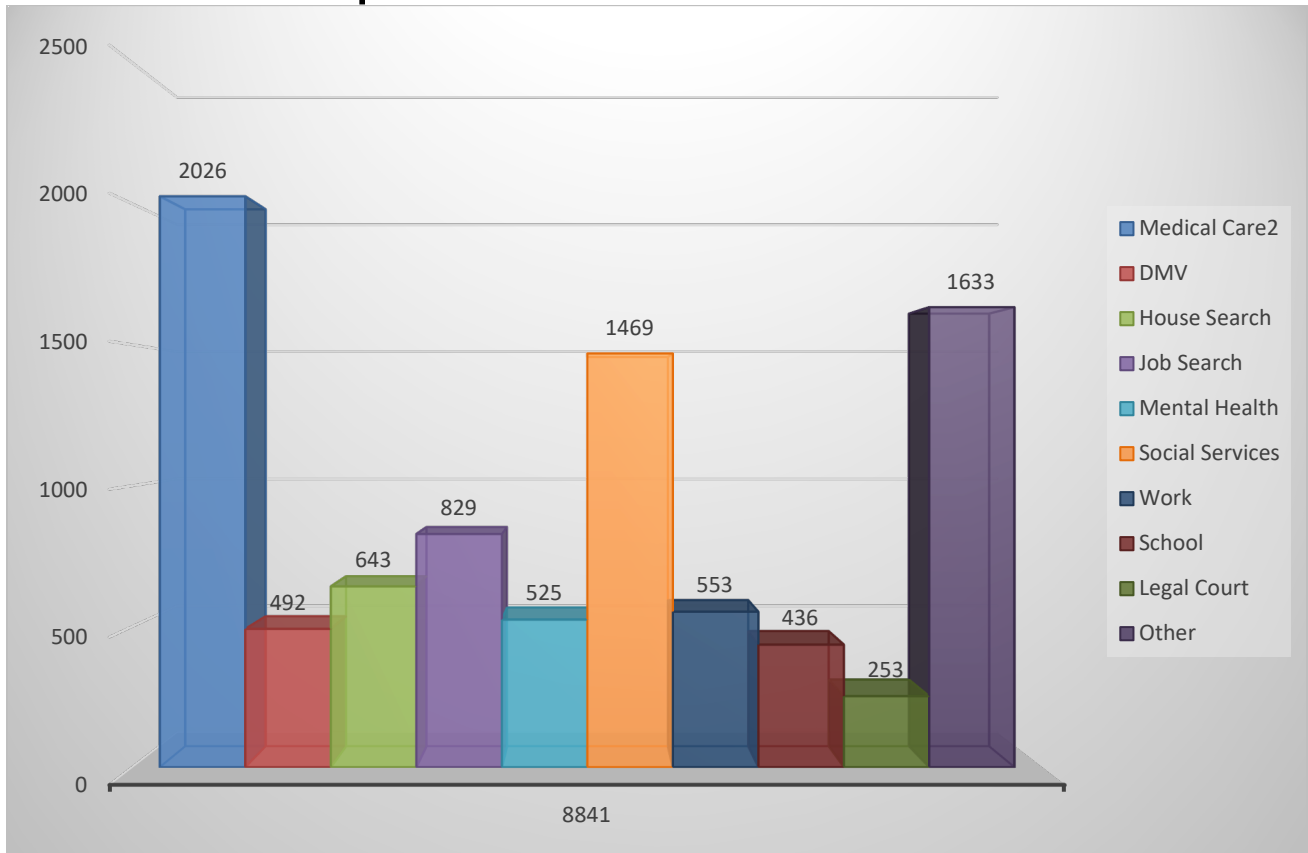
Attachment: 2025 Bus Pass Report

Totals Passes Used by Agencies



Agency	Adult Day Passes	Youth or Senior Day Passes	31-Day Adult Passes	31-Day Senior Passes	Totals
Shelter from the Storm	20	0	0	0	20
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	675	1000	0	0	1675
CVAG CV Housing First	6	0	153	42	201
DHS Family Resource	1149	0	0	0	1149
Jewish Family Services	590	1085	0	0	1675
Mamas House	90	0	0	0	90
Marthas Village and Kitchen	315	300	0	0	615
Mecca Family & Farmworker's Service Center	100	0	0	0	100
Jewish Family Service of the Desert	50	35	0	0	85
Safe House of the Desert	52	0	0	0	52
Galilee Center	965	410	0	0	1375
Well in the Desert	600	1075	0	0	1675
Totals	4612	3905	153	42	8712

Top Uses of Bus Passes



ITEM 5C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
April 15, 2026**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: California's Encampment Resolution Funding

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to partner with Riverside County on an application for the California Department of Housing and Community Development's Encampment Resolution Funding

Background: The state's Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) program is part of California's broader effort to invest in programs that resolve homelessness. ERF is a competitive grant program that focuses on addressing the safety and wellness of people within encampments by transitioning individuals into interim shelter and then using low-barrier, data driven solutions such as the housing first model to connect them with permanent housing.

In March 2026, HCD released a notice of funding availability for the fifth round of ERF, which will make \$93 million available. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis until June 30, 2026, or until funds are depleted, whichever occurs first. Eligible applicants include counties, cities and Continuums of Care.

Riverside County has been successful in securing ERF funding for three rounds, including more than \$12 million to deliver services in the San Jacinto River bottom that helped more than 180 individuals. The City of Palm Springs also received ERF funds in 2024, with more than \$5.1 million coming to the City to address homelessness in areas such as the Tahquitz Creek stormwater channel.

In April 2026, in an aim to distribute grant funding across the county, Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions staff approached CVAG staff about their intent to apply for the current round of ERF with an eye on bringing funds to the Fourth District this year. Initial conversations have identified a partnership with CVAG's CV Housing First program to supplement the services in the region. Staff have also identified an opportunity with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, a separate agency that owns large swaths of habitat land across the Coachella Valley. While these lands are ideal habitat for endangered and threatened species, these vacant, open desert properties are also attractive sites for homeless to gather. The CVCC, which is staffed through contract by CVAG, has refocused its efforts to address these homeless encampments. In 2025, the CVCC undertook a massive cleanup on land in and near the City of Desert Hot Springs through a \$500,000 grant from CalRecycle. The success of this cleanup has prompted additional conversations with CalRecycle staff about other, future funding as well.

Staff is still finalizing the scope of a grant application, but it will likely involve both CVAG's Housing First program and the CVCC's lands in unincorporated communities, which can be considered an "encampment zone" under the grant requirements. Given the timing and rolling application, CVAG staff is now recommending that the Executive Director be authorized to take the steps necessary to partner with Riverside County to apply for this ERF funding. This item will also be presented to the CVCC at its next meeting.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for applying for this grant. Riverside County would serve as the lead applicant, and CVAG can use existing staff time to cover any coordination.

CVAG and CVCC staff will look to leverage existing resources and programs, including the CalRecycle partnership, to strengthen the application.

ITEM 5D

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
April 15, 2026**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Annual contributions to the CV Housing First Program

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Adopt a 3.2-percent increase to the CV Housing First contribution in Fiscal Year 2026-27

Background: Since 2009, CVAG has funded its regional homelessness programs – first Roy’s Desert Resource Center, and then later programs that evolved into CV Housing First – by contributions from member jurisdictions. Since 2021, these contributions have been solidified through Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with participating cities.

In December 2024, at the recommendation of the Homelessness Committee, the Executive Committee authorized the Executive Director to execute MOUs with member jurisdictions to increase the CV Housing First contribution from \$100,000 to \$125,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and provide for annual inflation adjustments that are reviewed by the Homelessness Committee. This was the first contribution increase that had been requested in more than 15 years.

The authorization led staff to include an annual inflation adjustment into the MOUs. The inflation factor was identified as the same one utilized to budget other CVAG programs, which is based on the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Area Consumer Price Index (CPI). Such CPI is identical to the one reviewed by the Finance and Executive Committees when considering an increase to membership dues during the budget process. This inflation factor is calculated on the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) as the over-the-year percent change, measured as of January. The CPI-U, All items for the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario metropolitan area rose by 3.2 percent during the January-to-January time period.

Staff is now recommending the Homelessness Committee adopt the 3.2-percent increase to the CV Housing First contribution in Fiscal Year 2026-27. Staff would note that this is less than the percentage being recommended for the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) rates, as the time period for the adjustment is different in order to mirror what is used by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission.

With the Homelessness Committee’s approval, CVAG staff will inform cities of the increase. To date, the following cities have approved multi-year MOUs for CV Housing First: Cathedral City, Indian Wells, Indio and Palm Springs. The Cities of Palm Desert and La Quinta have one-year MOUs, which was based on their preference. The City of Rancho Mirage’s staff is actively working with CVAG to finalize its agreement, inclusive of the CPI adjustment. CVAG staff has been in communication with city leaders in Coachella as they consider their budget, and CVAG staff paused its programming in the City until the agreement is finalized. As previously noted to the Committee, the City of Desert Hot Springs is not participating in the program and instead investing

in a city-specific program. Separately, the County of Riverside, which has been instrumental in helping CVAG secure additional funds through grants, has an agreement for general fund contributions of \$359,711 through the current fiscal year. CVAG staff has reached out to County staff to solidify future contributions.

Fiscal Analysis: The recommended action would increase the annual contribution by participating cities by 3.2 percent in Fiscal Year 2026-27, raising it from \$125,000 to \$129,000.

Until Fiscal Year 2023-24, CV Housing First operations were fully funded by member jurisdictions' contributions as well as a now-ended contribution from the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation and occasional grants. This had allowed CVAG to develop a fund balance and start planning for future needs. Even with the recommended increase, the program now is operating at a deficit, as rents of the crisis stabilization units continue to increase and other costs go up.

ITEM 6A

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY2025-2026

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	*NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
City of Blythe			●		●		●						3 out of 3
City of Cathedral City			○		●		●						2 out of 3
City of Coachella			●		●		●						3 out of 3
Desert Healthcare District			○		●		●						2 out of 3
City of Desert Hot Springs			●		●		●						3 out of 3
City of Indian Wells			●		●		●						3 out of 3
City of Indio			●		●		●						3 out of 3
City of La Quinta			○		●		●						2 out of 3
City of Palm Desert			●		●		●						3 out of 3
City of Palm Springs			●		●		●						3 out of 3
City of Rancho Mirage			●		●		●						3 out of 3
County of Riverside			●		●		○						2 out of 3
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians			●		●		●						3 out of 3
Total Attendance Per Meeting			10		14		13						

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	*SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition			○		○		○						0 out of 3
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission			○		○		○						0 out of 3
HomeAid Inland Empire			○		○		○						0 out of 3
Martha's Village and Kitchen			○		○		○						0 out of 3
The Salvation Army (vacant)			○		○		○						0 out of 3
Shelter From the Storm			●		○		●						2 out of 3
Total Attendance Per Meeting			1		0		1						

* This was a joint meeting with the Homelessness Committee on Dec 1, 2025

No Meeting
 Vacant **
 Present ●
 Absent ○