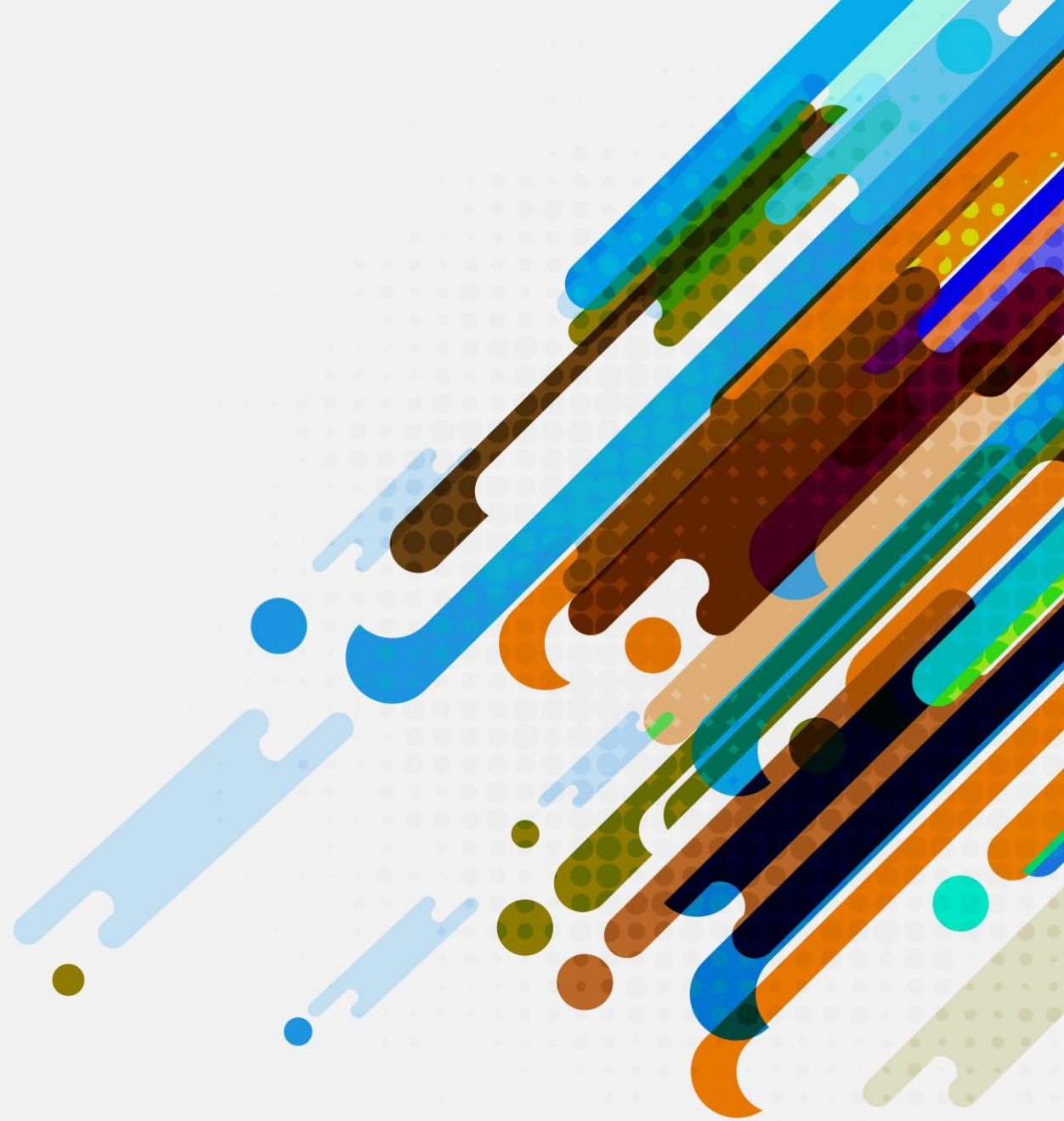


Fremont's Homelessness Response Planning

Informational Webinars
February 29, 2024
March 2, 2024



Welcome!



Meeting Agenda

- ✓ Discuss Homelessness Response Planning Process to Date
- ✓ Summarize What We Heard
- ✓ Present Our Preliminary Analysis
- ✓ Share Emerging Recommendations
- ✓ Questions

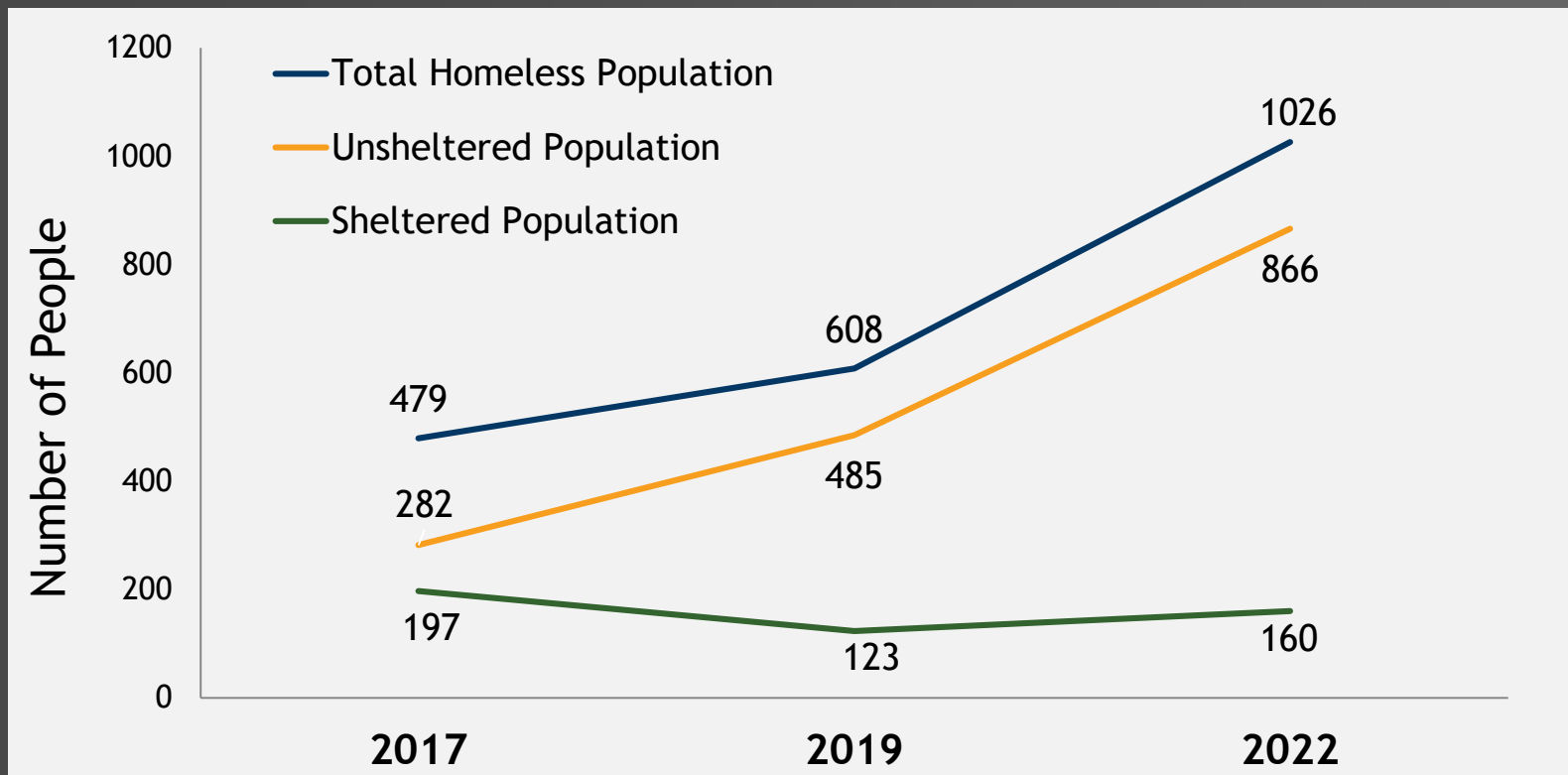
Mission Statement

The Fremont Homelessness Response Plan (HRP) will provide a roadmap for addressing homelessness, through coordinated and data-driven solutions, which remove barriers to assistance, expand housing opportunities, and improve quality of life throughout the community.



Homelessness Response Planning Process To Date

Phase I: Data Analysis (June-September 2023)



DATA SOURCES

- Homeless Point-in-Time Count
- Homeless Management Information System data
- City spending
- Alameda County Home Together 2026 Plan and other regional plans
- Best practices and trends in homeless response

Homelessness Response Planning Process To Date (continued)

Phase II: Community Outreach (September 2023-January 2024)

- 2 community workshops
- 15 individual interviews
- 5 focus groups
 - 2 with people with lived experience
 - 2 with business owners and 1 with housing providers
- Online community survey: 639 responses
- Recommendations submitted in writing
- 9 presentations to City Boards/Commissions and advisory groups



Homelessness Response Planning Process To Date (continued)

Phase III: Plan Development (January-March 2024)

- 2 informational webinars to share emerging recommendations
- Develop draft Plan to present to the City Council

Phase IV: Final Plan Review (May 2024)

- Present draft Plan to the City Council for study and potential adoption



What We Heard about Responding to Homelessness

Intense Emotions
Wide Range of Viewpoints
Common Themes
Useful Recommendations

We Heard...

Intense Emotions

- Frustration
- Despair
- Overwhelmed
- Compassion
- Hope

Common Themes

- Homelessness is worse and more visible
- Unhoused people are not getting the help they need (shelter, services, affordable rent)
- Unsheltered homelessness impacts quality of life and safety, increasing costs and damages
- Abatement actions are welcomed, but temporary fixes not solutions
- More affordable housing is needed
- Who will pay for what is needed

Recommendations

- Focus on prevention—it is more cost effective
- Expand safe parking and other services for unsheltered
- Increase parking enforcement and address blight
- Add more shelter
- Add more housing options
- Adopt policies that fast track affordable housing and keep people housed

Factors Informing Our Analysis



Homelessness in Fremont grew at a rate of 23% annually between 2019 and 2022



More people are living outside and in vehicles and they are more vulnerable—aging adults with health issues



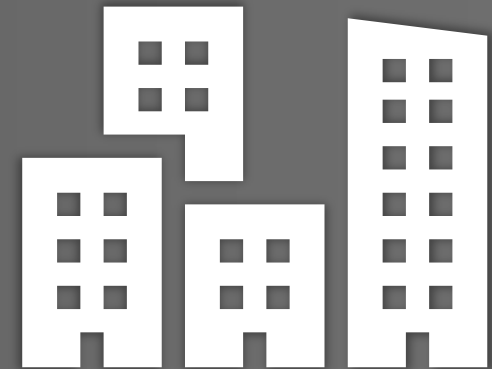
Less than 10% of people experiencing homelessness each year exit to housing



More people are becoming homeless each year than getting housed

Factors Informing Our Analysis (continued)

- Homelessness is a regional and national problem
- Recognize Fremont is not resourced to solve the problem alone
- Fremont's Plan will align with the County's Home Together 2026 Plan and state/national goals and requirements
- Resources to address the problem are shrinking or do not keep pace with need
- The response has to address short-term mitigation and long-term solutions
- It will cost more, may require trade-offs
- Strategies include multiple options and may be considered independently of each other



Our Preliminary Analysis

Analysis Modeled Two “What If” Questions

SCENARIO I: Maintain Status Quo

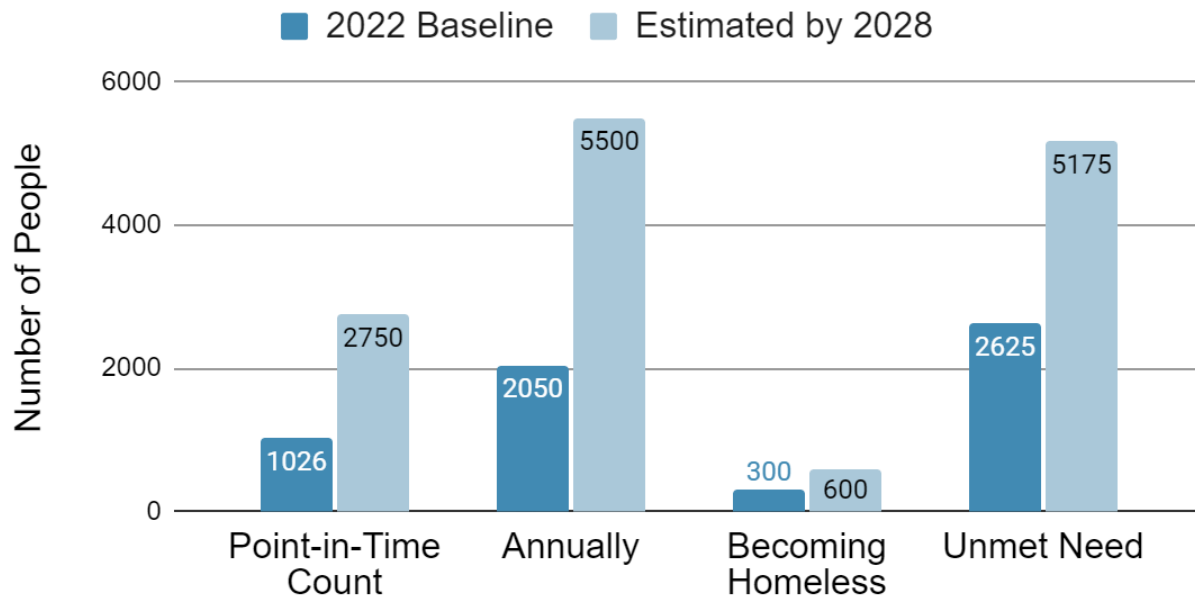
What would happen **if** Fremont continues to deliver the same kind of housing, shelter, and services at the same capacity and spending level over the next five years?

SCENARIO II: Eliminate Unmet Need

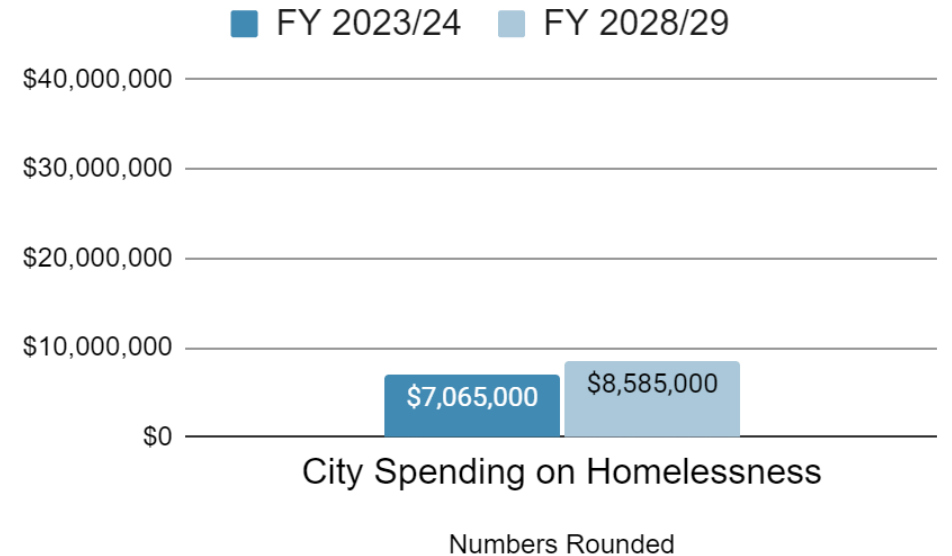
What would happen **if** Fremont invested in creating enough housing, shelter, and services per the County’s Home Together 2026 Plan, so that every individual that faced homelessness was rehoused in a year or less and no one had to reside outside?

Scenario I: Maintain Status Quo

Population Estimates for Scenario I: Maintain Status Quo

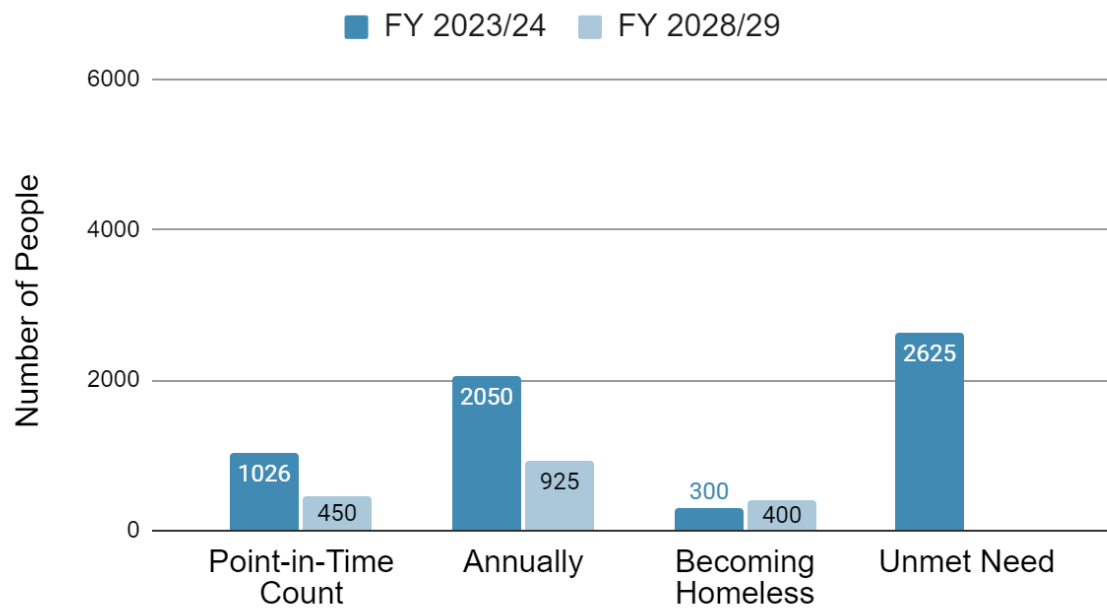


Spending Estimates for Scenario I: Maintain Status Quo

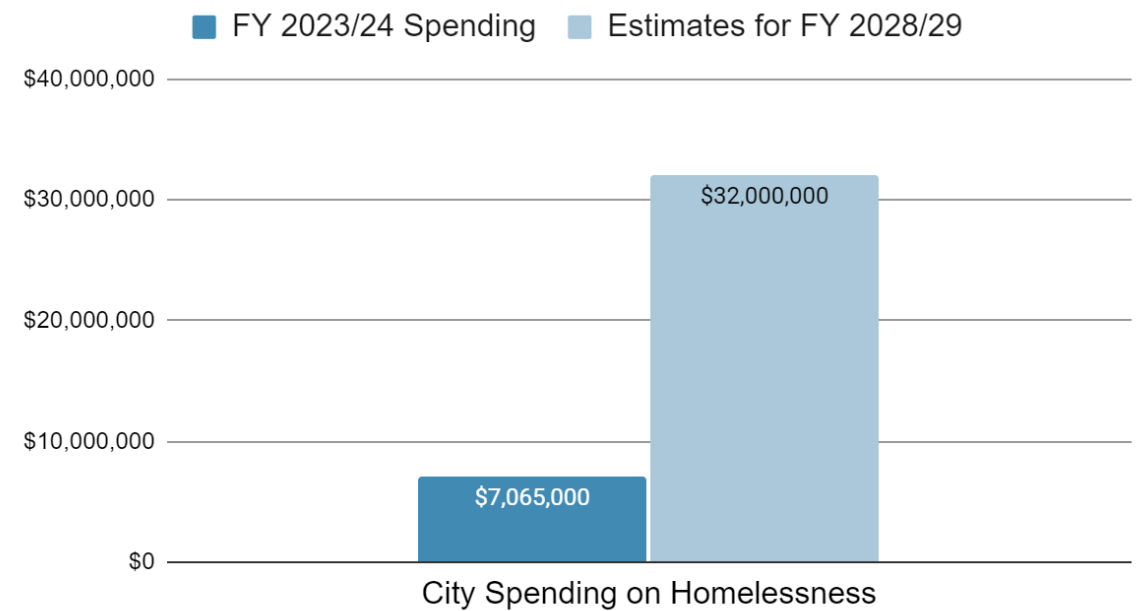


Scenario II: Eliminate Unmet Need

Population Estimates for Scenario II: Eliminate Unmet Need



Spending Estimates for Scenario II: Eliminate Unmet Need



Comparing Scenarios I and II

SCENARIO I: Maintaining Status Quo

Population experiencing homelessness more than **doubles** on all metrics

- Point-in-Time Count
- Annual number of unhoused
- People becoming homeless
- People staying homeless = unmet need reaches 94%

Costs are contained, increase by \$1.5M

SCENARIO II: Eliminating Unmet Need

Population experiencing homelessness drops

- Point-in-Time Count
- Annual numbers served
- People homeless
- People staying homeless = unmet need reaches 0%

Costs **increases 4.5 times** from \$7.1m to \$32m

Neither Scenario Works

What Now?

Recognizing that the **Status Quo** is unacceptable and **Eliminating Unmet Need** in five years is unattainable, recommendations were crafted to reach the following goals:

- **Goal A:** Stop the 23% annual growth rate of homelessness by reducing the number of people becoming homeless and increasing the number exiting for permanent housing
- **Goal B:** Increase the proportion of people who are well served, meaning they are on pathways to housing, stay homeless less than a year, and do not exit services to unsheltered homelessness
- **Goal C:** Reduce the impact of homelessness on those with and without permanent homes, in Fremont, by decreasing the number of people living unsheltered and the amount of city services and infrastructure managing encampment crises



Recommended Strategies and Investments and Goals They Support

GOAL A: Stop the growth of how many people experience homelessness

GOAL B: Serve more people on a path to housing

GOAL C: Reduce the impact of homelessness on the Fremont community

STRATEGY 1: Recommends Preventing Homelessness to Help Achieve **Goal A**

1. Maintain 2023/24 levels of prevention funding, double slots by Year 3 of the Plan, and maintain that level in Years 4 and 5
2. Use and update the infrastructure of the City's Keep Fremont Housed program to target prevention services
 - Conduct outreach to households most at risk of becoming unhoused: non-lease holders, disabled, seniors, those with a history of homelessness
 - Conduct outreach in neighborhoods with higher levels of rent burdened and overcrowded households
 - Rapidly resolve episodes of homelessness with housing problem solving and flexible financial assistance
3. Use infrastructure of the City's Rent Review Board to strengthen tenant/landlord relations
 - Offer mediation services for landlords and tenants
 - Consider landlord liaison services and incentives
 - Consider tenant protections, such as just cause evictions

STRATEGY 2: Recommends Increasing Housing Solutions to Help Achieve **Goals A and B**

1. Expand the supply of Rapid Rehousing (RRH), doubling from the current number, in Year 3 and again in Year 5
 - RRH = rehousing people in permanent housing units with time-limited rental subsidies and service that reduce over time
2. Launch a Shallow Subsidy Program that can assist households on fixed incomes with a small subsidy on a permanent basis to maintain their housing
3. Support policies to increase housing supply
4. Support initiatives at the state to increase affordable housing
 - Streamline development requirements, increase dedicated units
 - Allow for more density in developments
 - Support small landlords

STRATEGY 3: Recommends Connecting People to Shelter, Housing, and Services to Help Achieve **Goals B and C**

1. Convert the City's Winter Relief Program to twelve months instead of five months
2. Increase the number of people moving from encampments into shelter and housing
3. Expand the Housing Flex Fund (HHF) available at the Wellness Center to assist people from all programs serving unhoused residents (i.e. emergency shelters, interim housing, and street outreach)
 - HHF = a pool of funds used to assist people to exit homelessness with move-in or very short-term financial support
4. Create additional safe parking options for people living in their vehicles, including RVs
 - Triple current safe parking capacity by Year 3 and maintain it at that level

STRATEGY 4: Recommends Mitigating the Impact of Unsheltered Homelessness to Help Achieve Goal C

1. Pair parking restrictions with expanded safe parking
2. Expand City's Mobile Evaluation Team (MET) resources for crisis intervention
3. Develop structured and proactive encampment response to reduce health and safety hazards, resolve complaints, and connect people to services
 - Add more hygiene stations and trash removal for people living unsheltered
 - Decrease in emergency service calls to encampments for Fire, Police, and medical
 - Fewer unsheltered people; smaller encampment populations and footprints
 - Decreased impact on infrastructure: utilities, water, and structures including code enforcement cases and debris removal

STRATEGY 5: Recommends Strengthening Coordination and Capacity of Homeless Response to Help Achieve Goals A, B, and C



1. Accountability

- Establish clear metrics for all three goals, set baselines Year 1 and report out annually
- Engage community members in successful implementation of the Plan through a subset of existing commission seats
- Appoint people with homelessness experience to commissions and advisory boards
- Host listening sessions with currently unhoused residents



2. Coordination

- Participate in County's land use task force
- Develop and maintain an inventory of potential sites for interim or permanent housing
- Enhance information sharing across providers: develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for non-City funded programs, convene a coalition to share challenges and prevent duplication of efforts
- Expand connections to school districts and hospitals to better identify and serve families and the medically vulnerable

STRATEGY 5: Recommends Strengthening Coordination and Capacity of Homeless Response to Help Achieve Goals A, B, and C (continued)



3. Knowledge

- Improve data collection and reporting for information not collected in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Improve public access to data, including race, ethnicity, other demographics, unmet need, and program outcomes



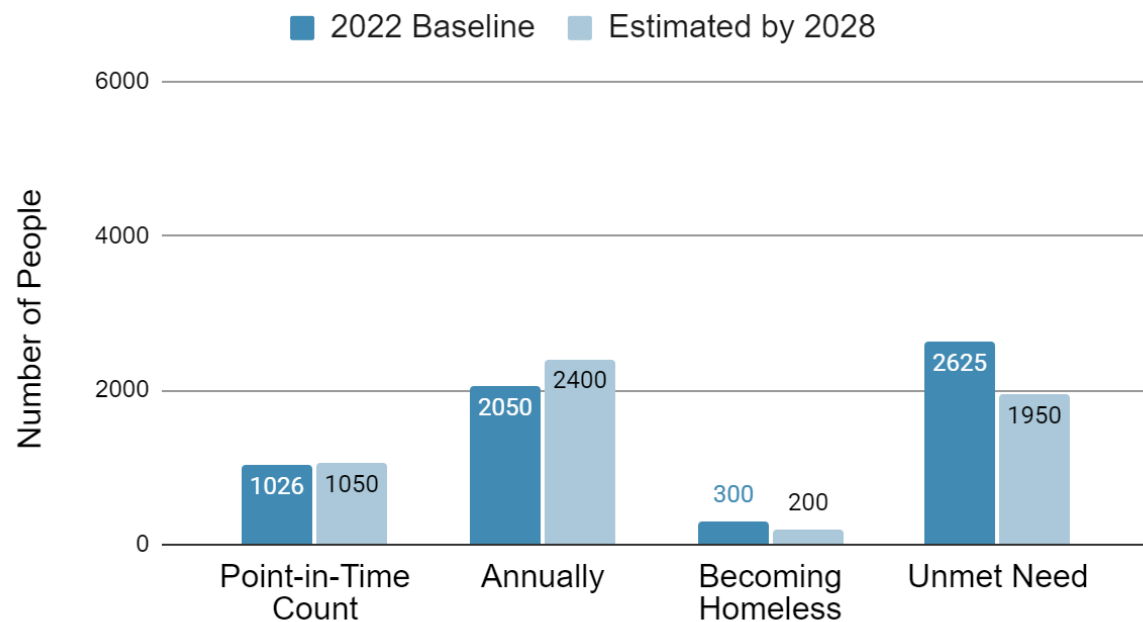
4. Capacity

- Consider adopting a local revenue stream dedicated to addressing homelessness
- Direct staff to track and pursue all available revenue streams from County, state, and federal sources

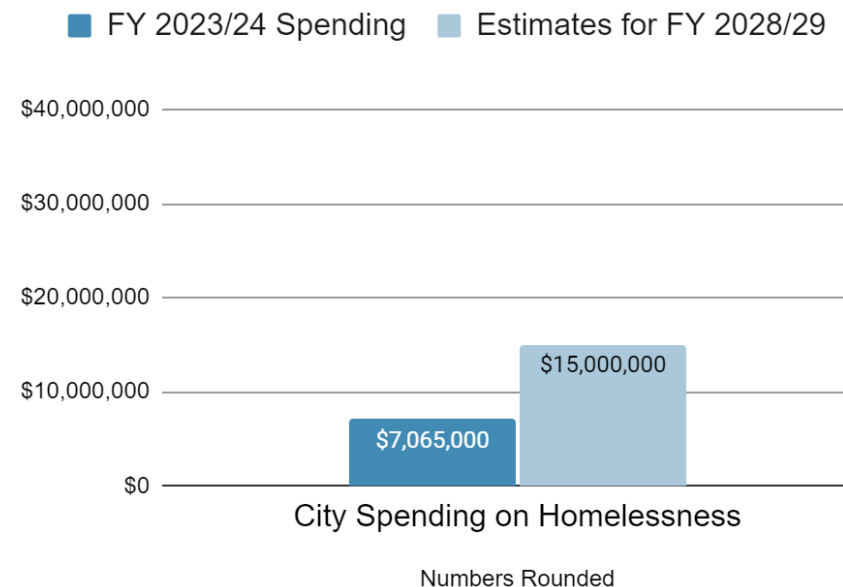
Modeling How These Recommendations Impact Homelessness in Fremont

SCENARIO III: Improving Results

Population Estimates for Scenario III: Improving Results

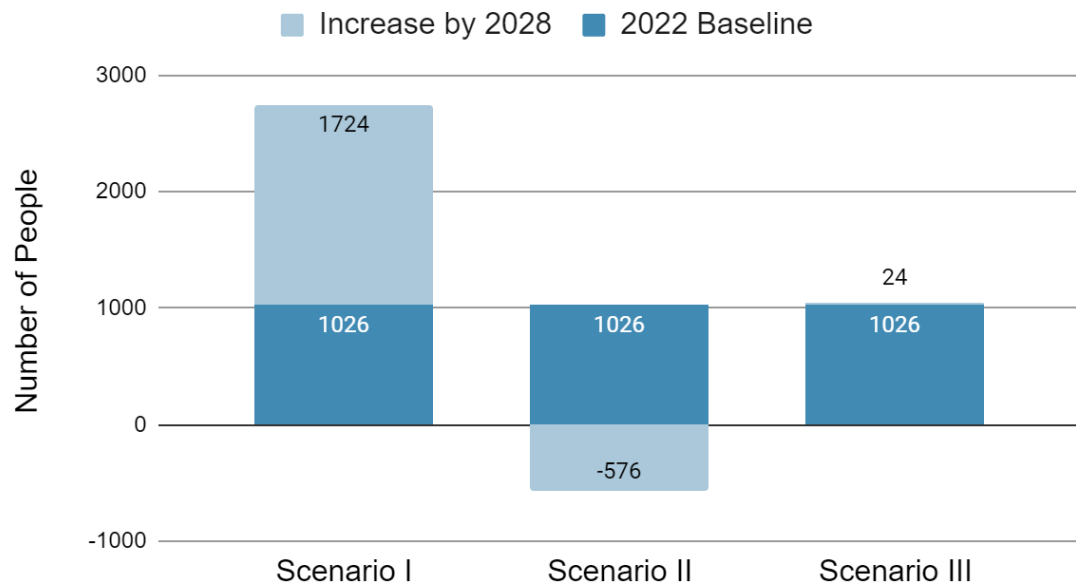


Spending Estimates for Scenario III: Improving Results

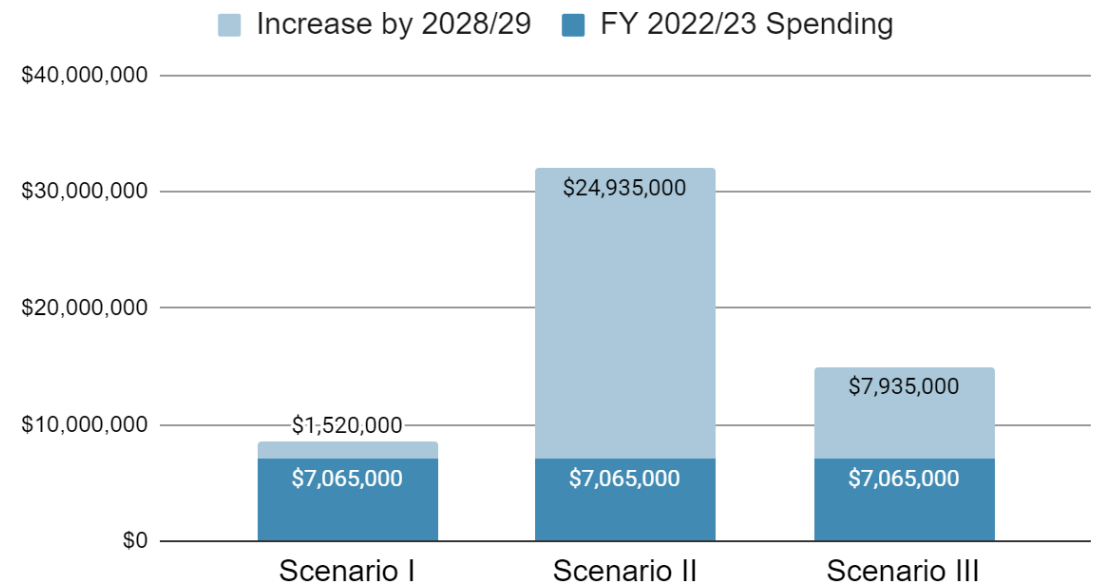


Comparing Three Scenarios

Estimated Change in Point-in-Time Count During Plan Period



Increases to FY 2022/23 Spending by Scenario



Closing and Next Steps

Thank You!

- Develop draft Plan to present to the City Council
- Present draft Plan to the City Council in May 2024
- Continue to provide updates through City communication channels including:



my.fremont.gov/homelessresponseplan

Questions?

