# Pūpūkahi i Holomua
## *Unite to Move Forward*

Hawaiʻi Homelessness and Housing Conference 2023

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# Aloha ʻaina; aloha ʻoe

*For everyone who has ever been in-between*

# About me, as a human

Relationship-centered extrovert

I believe in radical hospitality, community care and direct action

Housing is a human right, homelessness is a political decision

Motherdad to six amazing young humans, Grandparent to one

Artist & Writer with too many cats

Multi-racial, native Hawaiian, māhū & trans

Recovering Case Manager turned Data Ambassador

In light of the theme E Neʻe Pu I Mua *(Moving Forward Together),* today I'm going to speak on ways to Pūpūkahi i Holomua *(Unite to Move Forward)*

In order to unite we must:

Be united within ourselves

Center and prioritize our relationships

Understand how we are connected

Identify common goals and values

Commit to each other and the processes required to meet our goals

# Agenda

- Aloha 'aina; aloha 'oe / Introduction
- Theme & Vision
- Agenda ← We are here ☺
- Context & Orientation
- Keep in mind- grounding considerations
- Learning Objectives
- Mālama pono – Relationships First
- Continuum of Care Overview & Ecosystem
- The Collective Impact Framework
- Key Takeaways
- Parting Thoughts
- Mahalo nui loa

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# Context & Orientation
## Honolulu, HI 2023

High racial disparities in homelessness, especially for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders

Isolated & Siloed Organizations
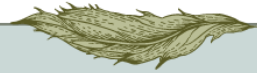
'Post-pandemic' funding landscape

Huge rent increases

Increasingly limited housing availability

Wages < cost of living

Hostile legislation against vulnerable communities

# Keep in mind

To move from systemic oppression to systemic compassion requires courage, vulnerability, trust, accountability, and a genuine willingness to examine our own internalized oppression and biases.

The system we are working through to 'manage homelessness' was built to uphold white supremacy and an exploitative economy – if ending homelessness was the Federal goal, budgets and policies would reflect this.

Including people who have been historically excluded requires intentional effort to ensure their safety and ability to meaningfully contribute to this work.
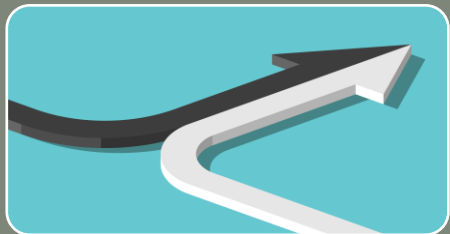
"Why are we here?"

We are all here because we believe **everyone** has the right to be housed and connected to care.

# *Learning objectives*

 Understand how you and your organization are connected to the Continuum of Care ecosystem

 Understand the importance of centering relationships in your work

 Understand how to apply the Collective Impact Framework to improve collaboration in your work

# *Mālama pono –*
# A Relationship-Centered Approach understands :

| Systems are made of people | Relationships are the core of systems | If you want to change the system, get the system in the room! |
|---|---|---|

# What does it mean to be relationship-centered?

Relationships:

- Are the **first goal**
- Are agents of change
- Are how we progress

# Mālama pono: Taking Care of Relationships

| Know Yourself | Consider | Connect | Communicate | Continue |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reflect on your experiences and assumptions | Consider the situation and factors such as history, trauma, external events | Connect as humans | Honestly and kindly | Continue leading with human communication |
| Give grace | | Intent to understand and make better | Without blaming | |
| | Reframe frustrating situations with compassion | | With accountability | Fulfill commitments to build trust |
| Be accountable | | Reaffirm common agenda | | |
| | | | Address hard conversations directly | Check in |
| | | Have humor & grace | | |

# Continuum of Care (CoC) Overview

A Continuum of Care (CoC) describes the system of collaborative relationships between engaged community members, organizations, and agencies dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness.

Members of the CoC recognize that long-term efforts and goals can only be realized through a cooperative approach.

No single person or organization can solve homelessness alone- it takes the community together

Partners in Care is the O'ahu Continuum of Care, whose mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation, and the coordination of integrated responses.

# The term "CoC" is used in 3 ways:

**1** — To describe the CoC PROGRAM of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

**2** — To describe the STRUCTURE required to be in place in a local community to access the program funds.

**3** — To describe broadly all individuals and organizations working with people experiencing homelessness in a geographic region regardless of funding, /**or** participating CoC Members

# The Oʻahu Continuum of Care:



- HMIS Lead

  CES Lead

  Collaborative Applicant &

  NOFA Grant Recipient:

  Partners in Care

- Housing & Services:

  Transitional Housing

  Rapid-Rehousing

  Permanent Supportive Housing

- HUD

  Local Government

  Policymakers & Legislators

- Emergency Shelter & Services

- Governing Board: Partners in Care Board

- Homelessness Prevention

- Coordinated Entry System Assessments & Intakes

- Collaboration with other Social Services & Benefits Providers

- Street Outreach

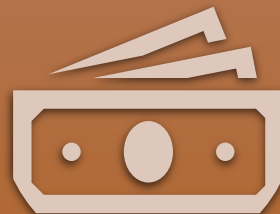- Housing Market Property Management Building Developers

# Understanding the Group Project

NOFO = Notice of Funding Opportunity- the Annual CoC Grant Competition

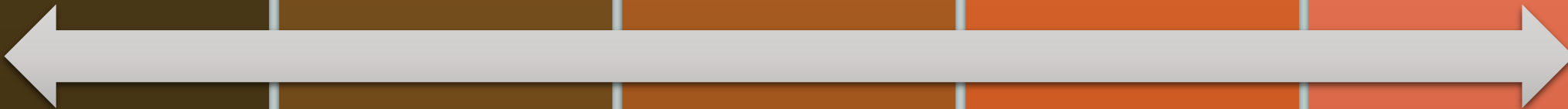All CoCs are scored as a whole community regardless of agency-specific funding sources.

YOUR DATA IMPACTS OTHER PEOPLE'S FUNDING

One organization's decision not to focus on data quality, compliance or performance could mean someone else's PSH project doesn't get funded!

THIS MEANS FEWER CLIENTS WILL BE HOUSED AND CONNECTED TO CARE

# Introducing the Collective Impact Framework

- To fulfill our respective roles and responsibilities, CHIP and the Indianapolis CoC use the Collective Impact Framework.

- Collective Impact is a 5-tenant framework that provides a way for interested folks from various sectors to address complex social issues.

- Promotes collaboration and shared responsibility.

- Introduced by John Kania and Mark Kramer in an article titled "Collective Impact," published in the Stanford Social Innovation Review in 2011

# Collective Impact Framework

Example:
Shelter Data Collaboration

## Common Agenda
Shared vision for change with agreed upon actions and shared definition of the problem

## Shared Measurement System
Agreed measures and indicators (HMIS DATA) for measuring success

## Backbone Support Organization
Separate organization with dedicated staff skilled to support the infrastructure
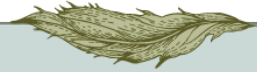
## Mutually Reinforcing Activities
Diverse stakeholders working together with specific activities that support and coordinate actions of others

## Continuous Communication
Trust, common vocabulary, sense of fairness/ objectivity in decision-making, problem solving

# The Collaboration Spectrum

| Compete | Co-exist | Communicate | Cooperate | Coordinate | Collaborate | Integrate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Competition for clients, resources, partners, public attention | • No systematic connection between agencies | • Inter-agency information sharing<br>• HMIS participation<br>• CES participation | • As needed, often informal interaction on discrete activities or projects | • Organizations systematically adjust and align work with each other for greater outcomes | • Longer-term interaction based on shared mission, goals, decision makers & resources | • Fully integrated programs, planning, funding |

# Key Takeaways

❖ Unity starts within ourselves

❖ Systems are made of people and relationships. Centering relationships creates better systems.

❖ A Continuum of Care is a closed ecosystem impacted by all its members

❖ The Collective Impact framework can be used to understand and improve our system-wide relationships.

❖ As a member of the Oahu Continuum of Care, you are in a position of power to transform your work toward systemic compassion.

# Parting Thoughts

*Communal liberation is the opposite of systemic oppression, but it is not an unachievable utopian fantasy.*

*Communal liberation lives alongside oppression, colonization, and white supremacy. It is embedded in our DNA, our talk story, our ʻōlelo, our defiance. It is every queer breath drawn, every flare of Kanaka, Black, and Indigenous joy, every act of love and solidarity. To expand communal liberation is to press away the impact of oppression.*

Mahalo nui loa!

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(they/them/theirs)

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