

# Western Virginia CoC Collaborative Planning Activity: Barriers, opportunities, priorities, and needs

## **Methodology:**

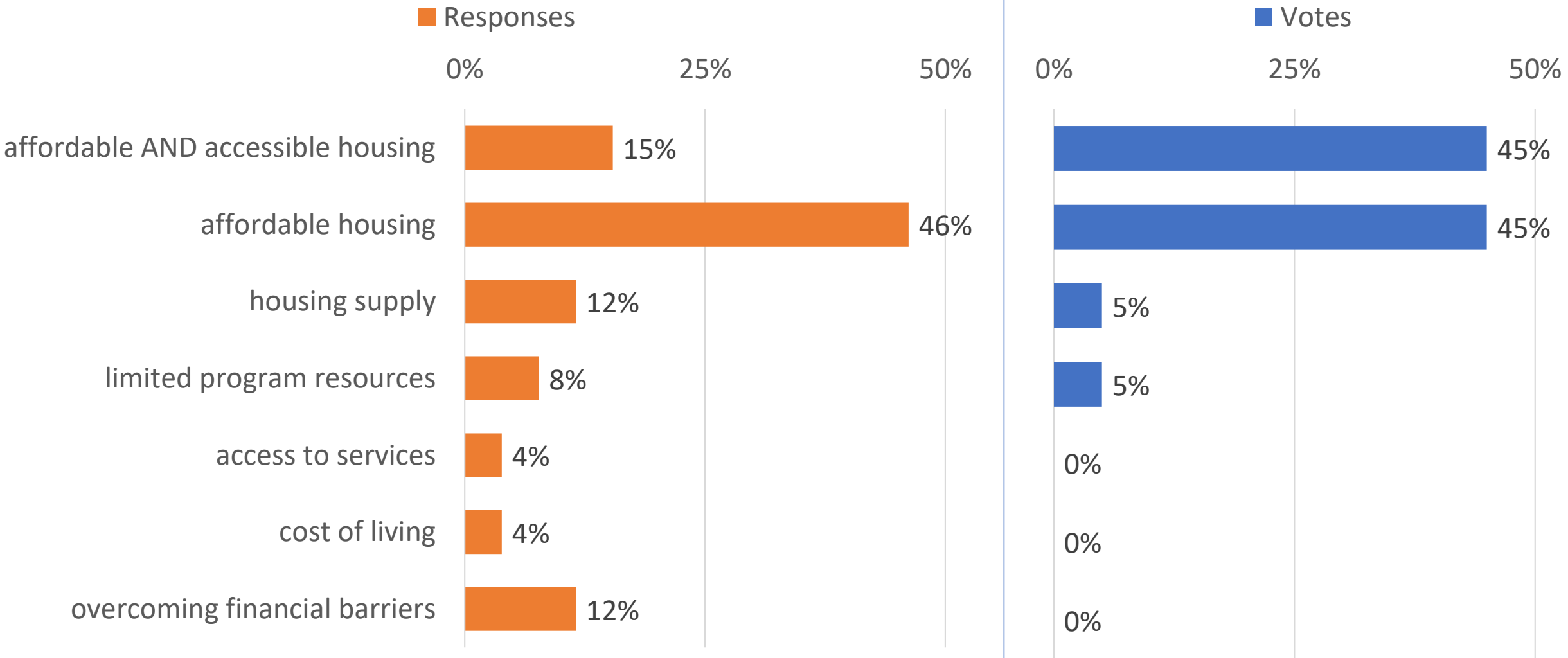
During the August 8, 2024 General CoC Meeting and HUD NOFO Information Session, Michael Wong conducted a four-question collaborative planning process with the 36 attendees present (both in person and virtual).

Each question had an opportunity for open-ended response. These responses were then shared for everyone to see and vote on. For the first question, each person was given one vote; for the remaining three questions, each person was able to vote for three responses.

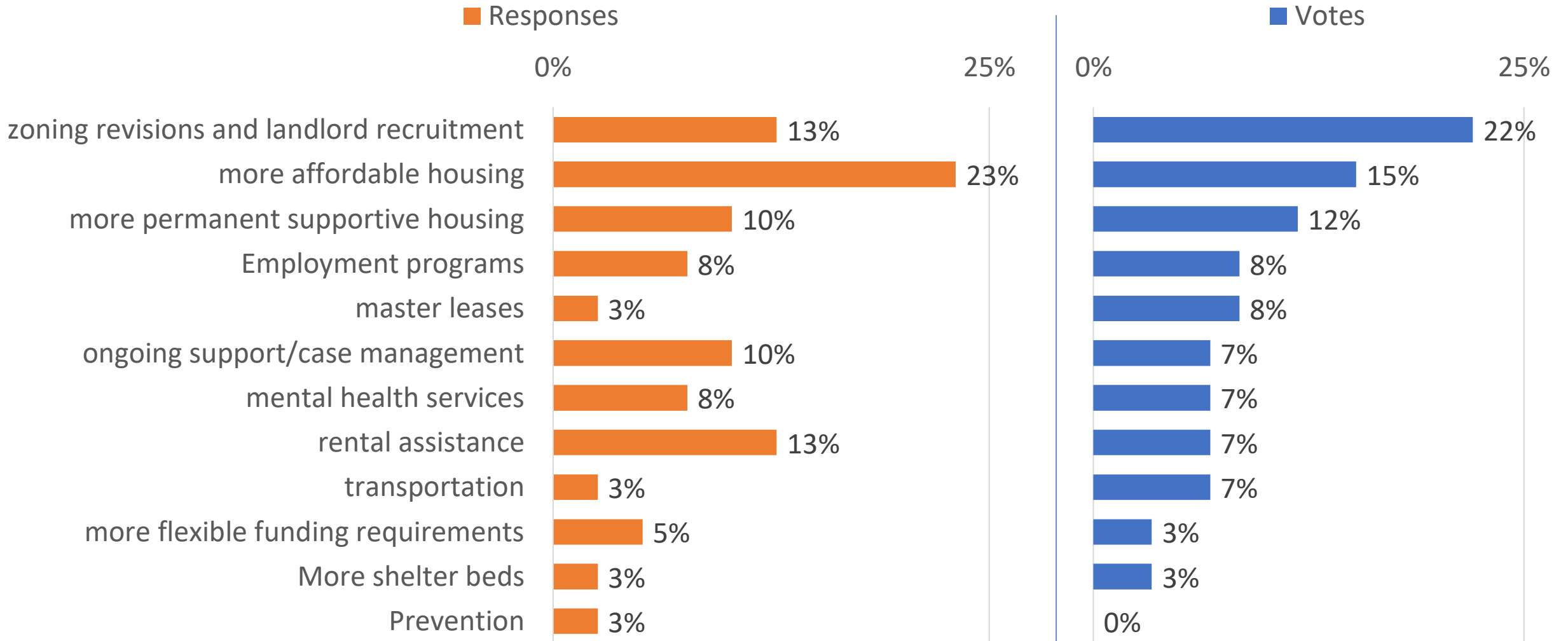
Because some responses were very similar (i.e. “emergency shelter,” “Shelters”, and “shelter”), CoC staff compiled the results into unified themes that group similar responses and the votes they received into single counts. The following visualizations use these themes to show both the range of initial responses (in orange on the left) and the frequency that each response received votes (in blue on the right).

The original responses and votes they received are included at the end of this document for review.

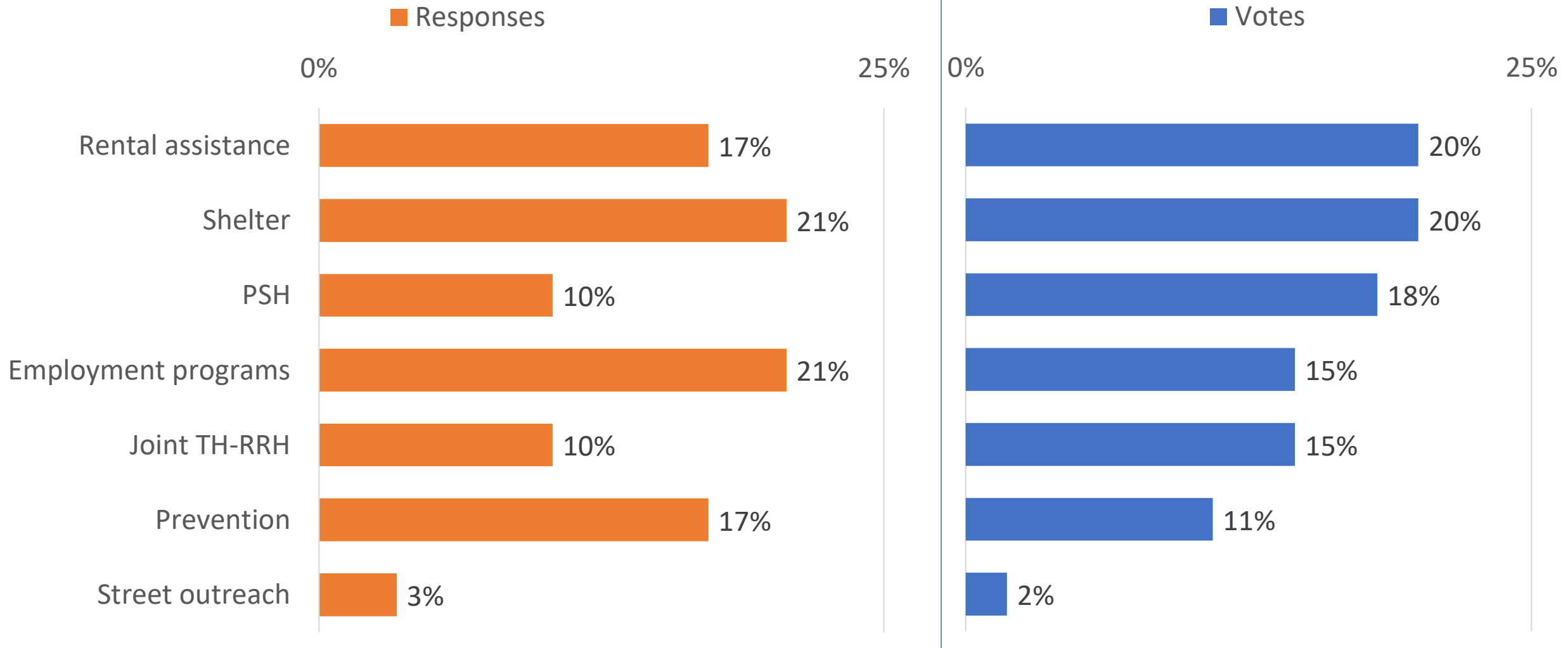
# 1. What is the greatest challenge in addressing housing instability in our CoC?



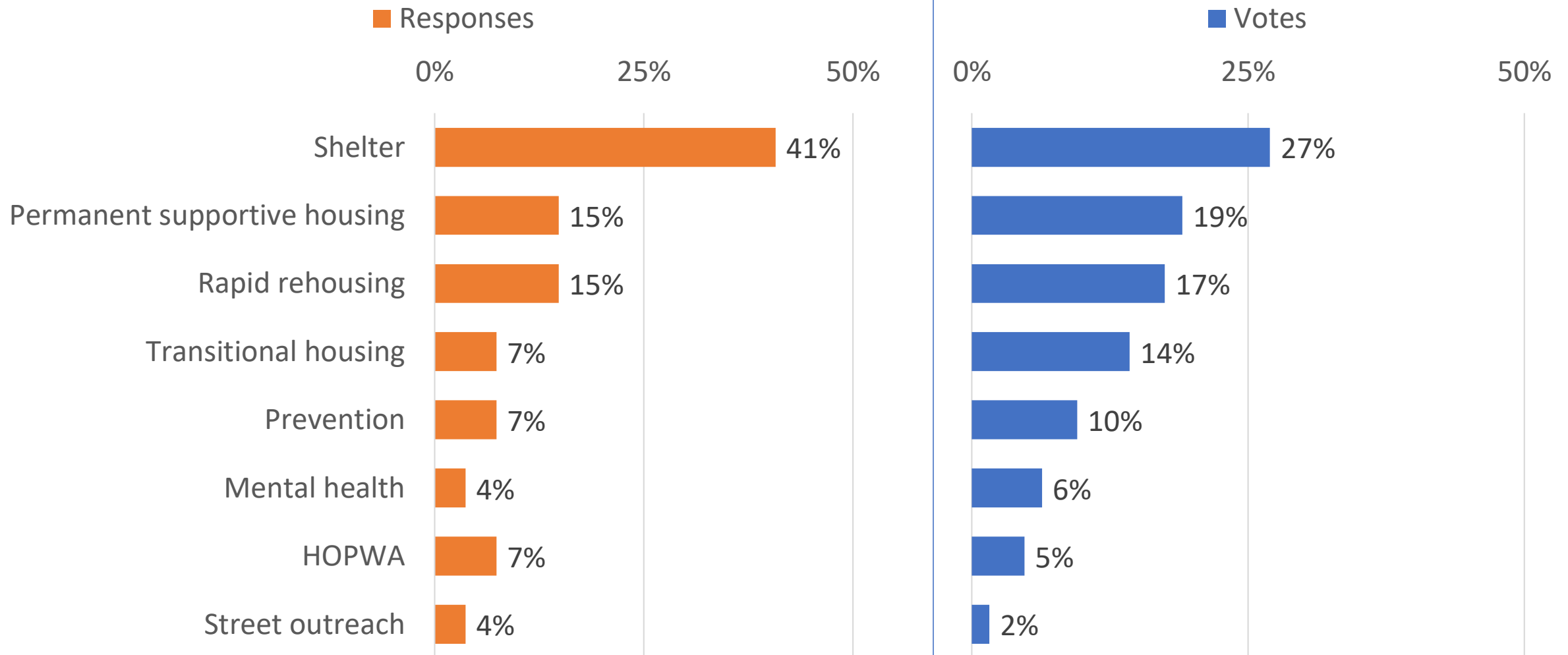
## 2. What are our top opportunities to reduce the number of families (households) experiencing homelessness in our CoC?



### 3. Recommended funding priorities?



## 4. Which CoC service needs to be expanded the most?



# What is the greatest challenge in addressing housing instability in our CoC?

Lack of affordable housing

5 **Popular**

Affordable housing without barriers (criminal, credit and rental history, credit scores, and 3.5x income to rent).

4

Lack of affordable housing along with people being screened out due to credit, criminal background and eviction history

4

lack of affordable and appropriate housing

3

Available supply at the end of a complicated journey

1

Lack of funding

1

Lack of affordable housing, low incomes that don't match housing costs, and lack of social safety nets for people in crisis.

1

Affordable housing without barriers

1

# What is the greatest challenge in addressing housing instability in our CoC?

Lack of affordable housing.

Not enough affordable housing

Lack of affordable housing.

Housing being geographically isolated from wrap around support services.

The availability of affordable housing for our clients. Listings have increased in cost substantially along with less units being available. Especially one bedroom units.

Working on personal budgeting/financial wellness with individuals to address barriers like outstanding debts.

Cost of housing, mental health, county leaders do not think affordable housing is necessary

The cost of living

# What is the greatest challenge in addressing housing instability in our CoC?

Cost of housing and limited rental stock

Securing housing

The availability of safe, affordable housing that meets program requirements.

Making sure the housing budget is sustainable and helping someone attain stable and predictable income.

Securing housing units

The lack of affordable housing stock in our area and the increasingly restrictive tenant selection screening/criteria that often locks out our clients.

Proving income requirements when some people have multiple "gigs" like door dash, instant cart, etc.

The availability of affordable units for our clients.



# What is the greatest challenge in addressing housing instability in our CoC?

Since 2020, rents have gone up significantly but our funding has been level in the last 2 funding cycles .

Lack of affordable and appropriate housing

# What are our top opportunities to reduce the number of families experiencing homelessness in our CoC

Partner with landlords to reduce barriers and work with local jurisdictions to increase housing supply through density incentives, zoning reforms, and local funding

8 Popular

Develop master leases on units to serve our clients with barriers.

5

Creation of housing units with embedded support services

4

Transportation

4

Create more affordable housing

4

Additional permanent supportive housing units

3

Accompaniment and case management to keep people housed

3

Workforce development and less barriers

3

# What are our top opportunities to reduce the number of families experiencing homelessness in our CoC

Increase the number of affordable units and increase the availability of mental health services. We need more affordable access to mental health services.

3

Affordable, appropriate housing opportunities with support to maintain

3

Shelter beds

2

Mental Health services

2

Zoning changes to allow for the creation of affordable housing for families

2

Higher level of care housing for individuals with SMI

2

Allow different types of housing

2

Rental assistance opportunities

1

# What are our top opportunities to reduce the number of families experiencing homelessness in our CoC

Appropriate housing

1

Targeted Prevention (but I wish the AMI was 0-80% or at least 50%)  
Tenant Based Rental Assistance  
Rapid Rehousing

1

Securing more low-cost property managers.

1

Improving linkages to PSH

1

FMR waivers for all programs

1

Employment Readiness Programs

1

More affordable housing

1

Less government oversight with Programs

1

# What are our top opportunities to reduce the number of families experiencing homelessness in our CoC

Provide long term rental support

1

Encouraging short term professional credentials that allow for higher wages.

1

Crisis Intervention Teams

1

Rental assistance

1

creating more affordable and appropriate housing that is safe and meets the needs of individuals and families

1

Affordable housing

More funding for housing services rapid rehousing and prevention

More affordable housing

# What are our top opportunities to reduce the number of families experiencing homelessness in our CoC

Prevention of homelessness.  
Drug & alcohol addiction  
treatment, financial  
management tools, parenting  
classes

More affordable housing.

# Recommended funding priorities?

Housing focused on Serious Mental Illness (PSH or higher level of care)

5 Popular

Emergency shelter

5 Popular

Rental assistance, rental application assistance, and security deposit assistance.

4

Joint Transitional Housing (RRH/PH) that includes individuals with felony records accompanied by supportive case management

4

Eviction Protection (funding to pay past due rent BEFORE court)

3

Creation of a Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing program

3

Rental assistance programs

3

Permanent supportive housing

3

# Recommended funding priorities?

permanent supportive housing and security deposit assistance

3

Shelter for families, particularly in the Northern counties

3

Rent assistance

2

Employment Readiness Programs

2

Work readiness

2

Unfortunately we are currently unable to house those that need and want housing. More money into low barrier shelter and family shelter would at least get them off the street into case management.

2

Targeted prevention.

1

Joint Transitional Funding (RRH/PH)

1



# Recommended funding priorities?

Targeted prevention

1

Rent assistance

1

Eviction prevention

1

work readiness

1

Job development

1

short term emergency shelters

1

Top priority is unsheltered-focused street outreach that links to PSH, RRH, and mental health services. Next priority is prevention and TBRA.

1

Literacy

1

# Recommended funding priorities?

Employee retention

1

Shelter

Short term emergency shelters.

Eviction protection before court

# Which CoC service needs to be expanded the most?

Emergency Shelter

10 Popular

Rapid ReHousing

7

Permanent supportive housing

6

Targeted Prevention

5

Transitional Housing

5

Mental health assistance

4

Transitional Housing

4

Shelters

3

# Which CoC service needs to be expanded the most?

HOPWA

3

rapid rehousing

2

PSH

2

Everything! But most urgently, street outreach and emergency shelter

2

PSH

2

Permanent Supportive Housing

2

Emergency Shelter & Rapid Rehousing

2

Emergency shelter

1

# Which CoC service needs to be expanded the most?

Emergency shelter

1

Rapid Rehousing

1

Prevention

1

Shelter beds

Emergency Shelter

shelters

Shelter

Emergency shelter

# Which CoC service needs to be expanded the most?

HOPWA