Ensuring Opportunity: Addressing Poverty in Contra Costa County
The Ensuring Opportunity Campaign was created by the Contra Costa Safety Net Task Force, the Family Economic Security Partnership, and numerous constituents, to reduce poverty in Contra Costa County.
Develop issue-specific report cards for five Safety Net areas:

- **Housing/(homelessness)**
- **Food**
- **Health**
- **Economic Security**
- **Family Safety**
Is not to generate new data, but rather curate persuasive existing data to cultivate long-term strategies to reduce poverty in Contra Costa County.
• **Who:** Ensuring Opportunity Report Card Committee
• **What:** Draft report card including data and stories
• **When:** Before the end of 2014
• **Where:** Contra Costa County
• **How:** Create brochures, presentations, etc.
• **Why:** Reshape public opinion about poverty
  Impact poverty policy
  Reduce poverty in throughout the county
Previously working independently on similar issues

Now Working together to **Ensure Opportunity**
Current Priorities

- Housing Security
- Food Security
Addressing Homelessness

Building on the extensive work of the Contra Costa Continuum of Care, the committee is exploring a Housing First approach.

The Report Card committee is compiling compelling data affirming the policy need for housing that is affordable for people who are homeless vs. “affordable housing”.
Addressing Homelessness

Partners exploring this and similar opportunities include but are not limited to:

County Homeless Director
Shelter Inc.
Family Economic Security Partnership
Human Services Alliance
Local Integrated Networks of Care
Multi-Faith A.C.T.I.O.N. Coalition
Employment & Human Services Dept.
Safety Net Task Force
Housing Security
Housing Insecurity Indicators in Contra Costa County:

- Total number of homeless = 8,252
- On any given night nearly 4,000 individuals are homeless
- Number of people living below the poverty line = 111,609
Did you know?

Homeless Costs

- Emergency Room visits for the homeless = $18,500/yr. (avg. 5/yr.)

- Incarceration costs in California = $47,000/yr. on average

Felons are 7 to 11 times more likely to experience homelessness either before or after prison
Did you know?

Housing Cost in Contra Costa County

- Cost of providing shelter, transitional, and/or permanent housing and services to a household for a year = $10-25,000/yr. on avg. (Data provided by Shelter, Inc.).

- Preventing a family’s homelessness = $1,000/yr. on average (Data provided by Shelter, Inc.).
Food Security
1 in 4 Emergency Food Recipients are Children
Did you know in Contra Costa County?

1 in 3 food bank clients have to choose between paying for food or paying for rent.

[Diagram showing the choice between food and rent]
Food Bank Quick Facts

- 149,000 people served each month
- 18,000,000 lbs. of food distributed in FY 2013
- enough for over 14 million meals
- Fresh produce is almost ½ of food distributed

96 CENTS OF EVERY $1 DONATED GOES DIRECTLY TO FOOD PROGRAMS
Economic Security
Did you know in Contra Costa County?

The self sufficiency standard for one adult and two young children (preschool and school age) is $63,945 (4 full time minimum wage jobs)

131,800 people live below the federal poverty level (38,000 of them are children)

Nearly 50,000 residents live in deep poverty (less than 50% of FPL)

242,744 (23%) people live below 185% FPL ($36,611 for a family of 3)
Q & A