



Cal ICH  
**Listen & Learn**



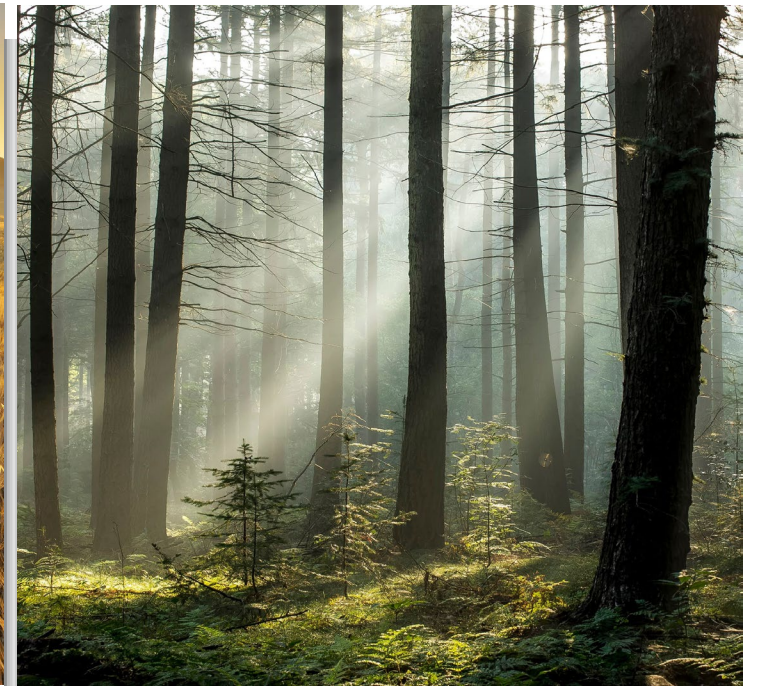
# Tribes and Continuums of Care: Partnerships and Point-in-Time Counts

**September 4, 2025**

Art by Lorenzo Antonio Rodriguez, Mescalero/Tarahumara, CA resident

# Land Acknowledgement;

## In gratitude to all California Native American Tribes, Ancestors and Descendants



# Listen & Learn Series: Housekeeping

## Say “Hello!”

- Feel free to introduce yourself in the chat.

## Please, Mute During Presentations

- Out of courtesy to our presenters, we ask all participants to remain muted during presentations and while others are speaking.

## Asking Questions

- During our Questions & Answers Time, please raise your virtual hand if you would like to ask a question.
- Questions will be responded to in order of receipt.
- You will be called on to unmute when it is your turn.
- You may also share your question in the chat.
- If we run out of time, please leave your contact information so we can follow up with answers via email.



# Tribes and Continuums of Care: Partnerships & Point-in-Time Counts

## Introduction

## Presentations

- **Vevila Blossoming Bear**
  - Tribal Homelessness Data: Laying the Foundation
- **Peter Connery**
  - Setting the Stage: Including Tribes and Tribal Lands in Point-in-Time Counts

## Panel Discussion

- **Priest Martinez** and **Veronica Wilson** discuss Northern Circle and Mendocino CoC's partnership and lessons learned

## Questions from the audience (Q&A)

## Survey and Wrap Up

# Agenda



Art by Erica Pinola, Redwood Valley Rancheria

# Listen & Learn Series: Purpose

Creating a space to connect, learn, and share.

**Providing resources** and follow-up support

**Elevating tested models and best practices** for solving common problems

**Building stronger channels** between local and state entities



**Breaking down silos** and fostering peer connections across local communities

**Sept. 4th**

## **Tribes and Continuums of Care: Partnerships & Point-in-Time Counts**

### **Goals of today's session:**

- 1) Highlight benefits of partnerships between Continuums of Care (local homelessness response systems) and Tribes.**
- 2) Learn from a local partnership that included Tribes and Tribal lands in the Point-in-Time homelessness count.**



## California Interagency Council on Homelessness

- Secretary and Director-level representatives from **19 state departments and agencies** and **two community leaders** appointed by the state legislature.
- Aligns state departments and agencies to **develop policies and identify resources, benefits, and services** to prevent and end homelessness in California.
  - Action Plan to Prevent & Address Homelessness
- Meets quarterly and is supported by multiple groups such as an **Advisory Committee, Lived Experience Advisory Board** and **a future Tribal Advisory Board**.



# The Cal ICH Local Initiatives Division



Jeannie McKendry



Brina Sylve



Thelma Sanders



Lisa Avron



Gabby Watson

## Deliver Resources

- Deliver resources and information to strengthen partnerships and support local communities.

## Amplify Best Practices

- Amplify best practices to enhance collaboration and improve system-wide responses.

## Act as Communication Conduit

- Act as a communication conduit across systems to prevent and end homelessness.



# Cal ICH Tribal Affairs



**Vevila Blossoming Bear, MSW  
(Choctaw)**  
Cal ICH Tribal Liaison



Uplifts the needs, voices, and best practices of Tribal Communities to local and state decision makers- and the public.



Supports 19 state entities and others with advisement on culturally responsive programs and policies that honor tribal self-determination and sovereignty.



Provides education centered on the actual situatedness of Tribal Communities, CA – Tribal state history, and meaningful Tribal consultation.

Sept. 4th

# Tribes and Continuums of Care: Partnerships & Point-in-Time Counts

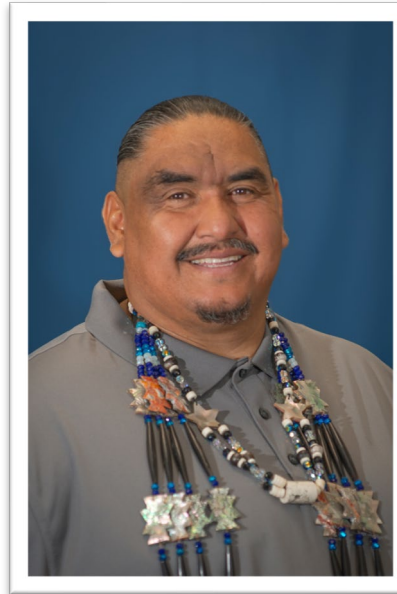


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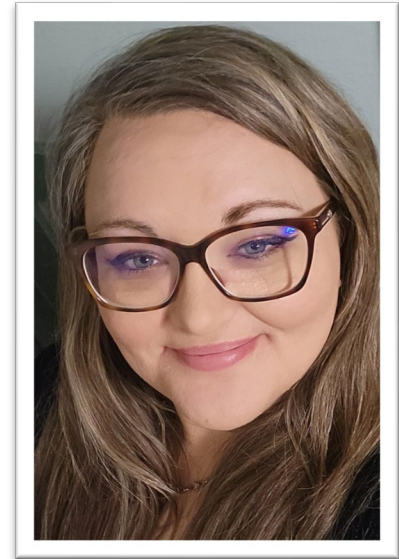
# Tribes and Continuums of Care: Partnerships & Point-in-Time Counts



**Peter Connery**  
Vice-President and CFO of Applied Survey  
Research



**Priest Martinez**  
**(Redwood Valley Little River Band  
of Pomo Indians)**  
Manager for Northern Circle  
Indian Housing Authority



**Veronica Wilson, MSW**  
Program Administrator,  
Mendocino County Housing  
Coordination Unit



# Joining Together in Community

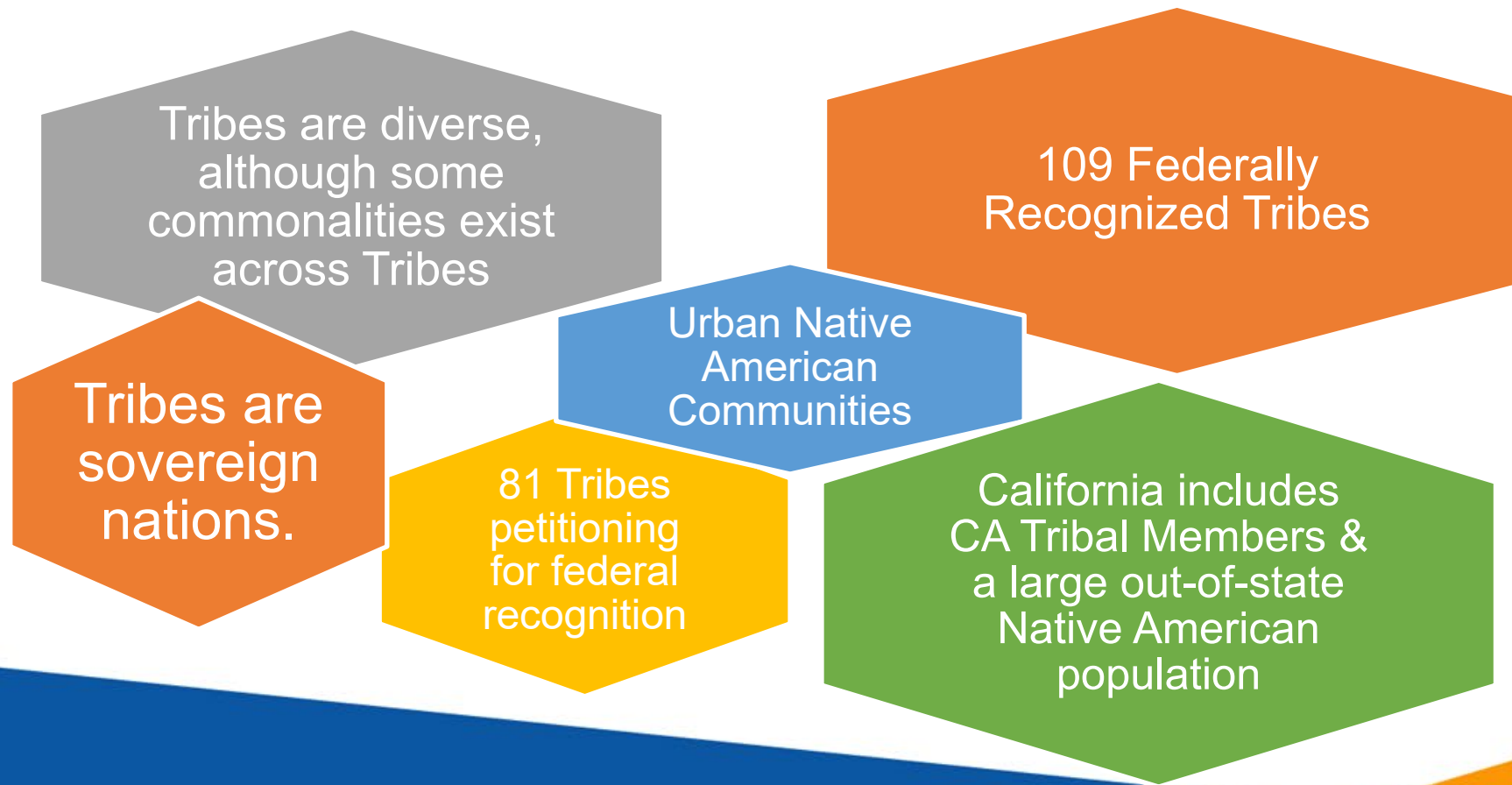


Art by Lorenzo Antonio Rodriguez,  
Mescalero/Tarahumara, CA resident

- A time for us to come together in our diversity, focused on the same goal.
- Let's protect the confidentiality of Tribes and Homelessness Response Systems in our Q & A.



# California Tribal Communities



# Tribal Homelessness Data

- Homelessness, traditionally, did not exist in Tribal Communities.
  - It was created by federal, local, and state actions or inactions.
- Tribes are usually not included in the data, yet they experience the **highest disparities** of homelessness.
- Up to 40% of community members are experiencing homelessness among California Tribes.



Art by Lorenzo Antonio Rodriguez, Mescalero/Tarahumara, CA resident



# Tribal Participation in Homeless PIT Counts- Mendocino County

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(831) 728-1356

Peter Connery

[Connery@appliedsurveyresearch.org](mailto:Connery@appliedsurveyresearch.org)

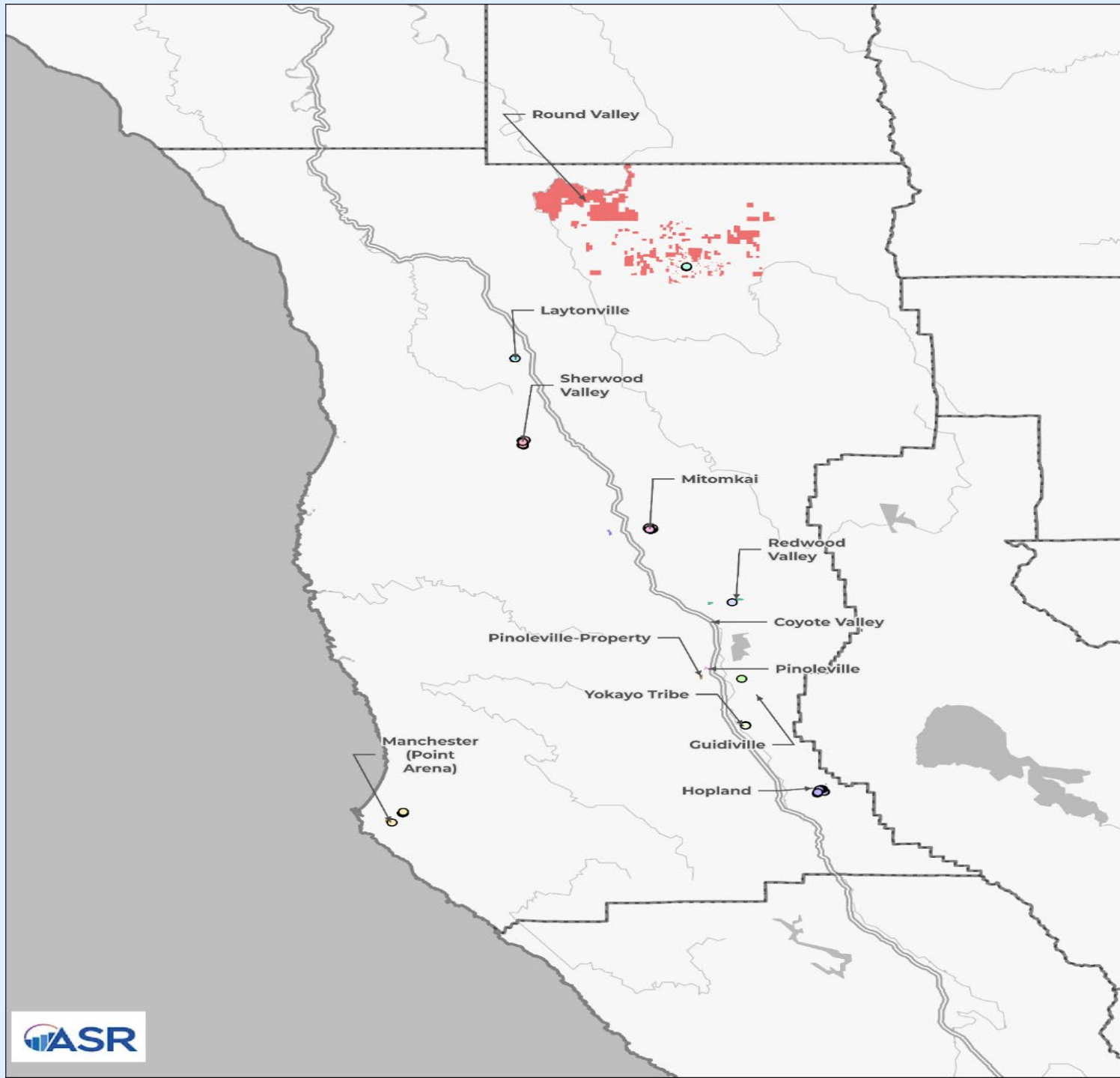


# Purpose and Benefits of PIT Counts

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of every person experiencing homelessness in the US during the last 10 days of January
- Meet federal data reporting requirements
- Develop valid & accurate demographic data about homelessness on tribal land
- Retain & improve funding
- Increase general community awareness
- Link to strategic, program & policy planning including "mainstreaming" to general services
- Enable the CoC to effectively measure program & policy impact



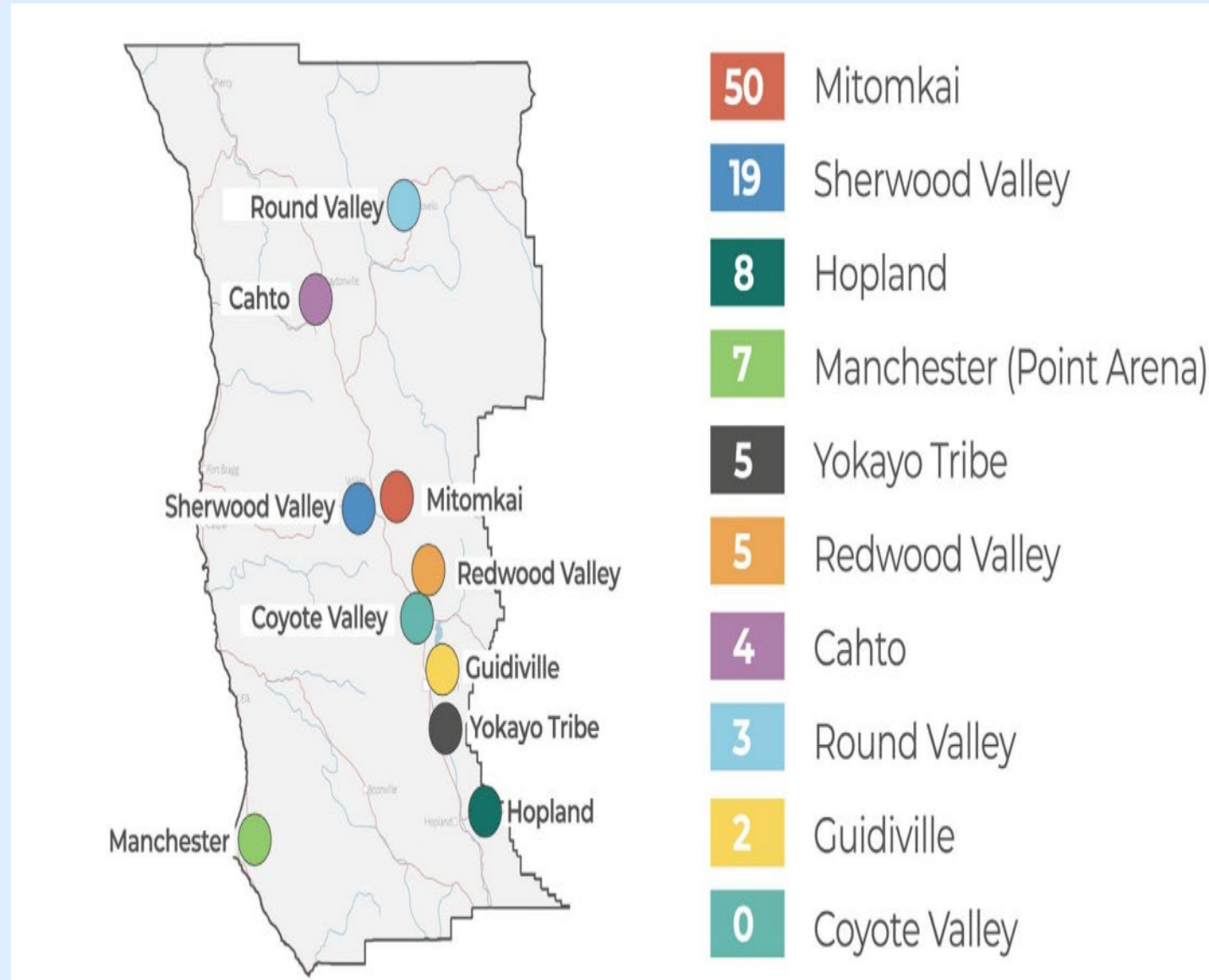
# Tribal Data Points



# Key Steps for Tribal Participation in the PIT Count

- Local CoC should endorse/support the effort
- Identify tribal contact(s) to organize canvassing of tribal lands
- Tribal and CoC leaders MUST agree on expectations for PIT effort
- Tribal leadership organizes outreach teams (CoC pays)
- CoC trains all participants to ensure HUD compliance and quality control
- CoC supplies maps, field data collection tools and general support for tribal teams
- Tribal leaders review data for reporting accuracy
- CoC reports findings to tribal leadership in forum of their choice

# Mendocino Unsheltered Results



## Panel Discussion

# Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority (NCIHA) and Mendocino County CoC



Priest Martinez  
(Redwood Valley Little  
River Band of Pomo  
Indians)

Empowerment and  
Supportive Services  
Manager

Northern Circle Indian  
Housing Authority  
(NCIHA)



Veronica Wilson, MSW

Program Administrator

Mendocino County  
Housing Coordination  
Unit



# Panel Discussion



Priest Martinez  
(Redwood Valley Little  
River Band of Pomo  
Indians)

Empowerment and  
Supportive Services  
Manager

Northern Circle Indian  
Housing Authority  
(NCIHA)

- What inspired you to partner with your local Continuum of Care?
- What went well in your collaboration – that you think others might benefit from knowing?

# Panel Discussion



Veronica Wilson, MSW

Program Administrator

Mendocino County  
Housing Coordination Unit

- How has your homelessness response system shared power and decision-making with Tribal and other tribal representatives in the planning and execution of the Point-in-Time count?
- What has been most valuable for you within Mendocino's tribal inclusion and partnership thus far?

# Questions & Answers (20 min)

## Asking Questions

- Please raise your hand if you would like to ask a question.
- You will be called upon to unmute when it is your turn.
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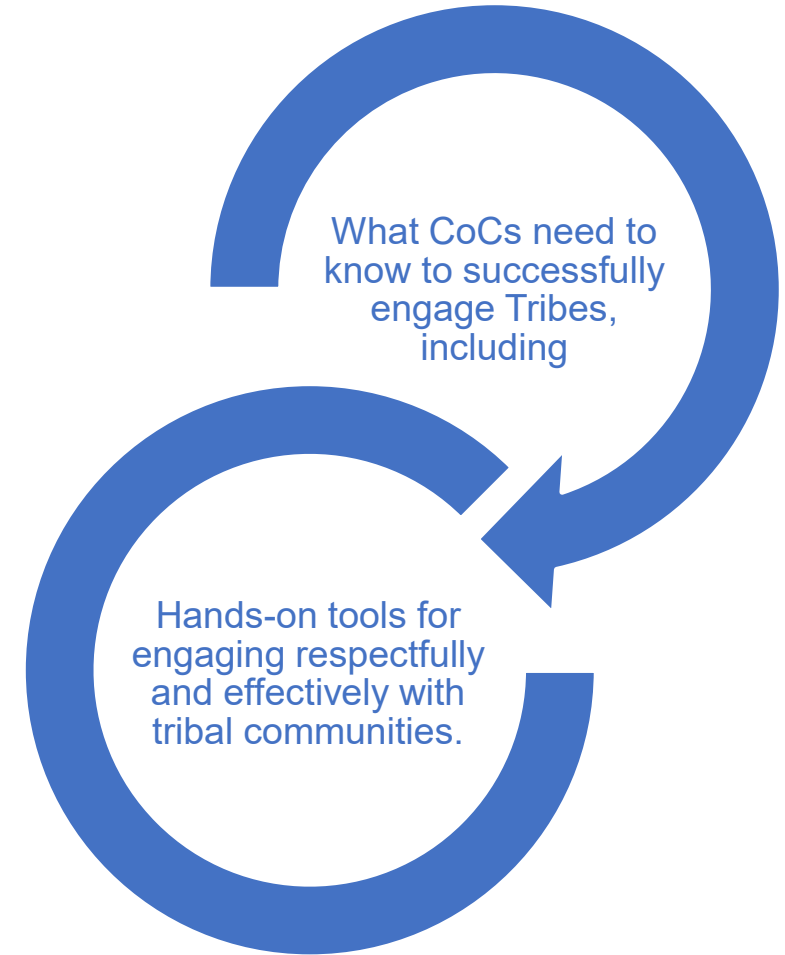
# Announcements



## Calling all CoCs!

Tribal Affairs is partnering with the **Pala Band of Mission Indians** to provide a **two-part series Tribal Engagement Training**:

- Part 1: October 29, 2025, 10:30-12:00pm
- Part 2: October 30, 2025, 10:30-12:00pm







## Take the Survey!

- Provide feedback on today's session.
- Suggest ideas for future topics.

## Watch for Follow-up Email including:

- Resource sheet, PowerPoint, and recording of webinar

## Looking for more Support from Cal ICH?

- Email: [calich@bcsh.ca.gov](mailto:calich@bcsh.ca.gov)

# Thank you!

**Vevila Blossoming Bear**, Tribal Liaison

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