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**Which Homeless Programs Are Working? Taxpayers Group Seeks Input on New Standards to Measure Success in Reducing Homelessness**
Taxpayers Educational Foundation Seeks Public Input By November 10th

**San Diego, CA (October 27, 2022)** – Today the San Diego County Taxpayers Educational Foundation’s new Public Regional Outcomes Standards (PROS) Board released four draft principles for how the success of homelessness programs in the San Diego region should be measured and reported in order to standardize the evaluation of these programs and increase effectiveness. The board, part of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association’s educational nonprofit, is seeking public input on its proposed reporting metrics:

1. Outreach: How to report on successful street outreach so the region can acknowledge whether and to what degree an operator successfully engaged an individual and built enough trust and rapport to help them navigate our complex system to end their homelessness.
2. Outcomes: How to report the long-term housing outcomes of individuals serviced by an operator using standard data in the Homelessness Management Information System so we can determine whether an applicant individual ends up back on the streets and why that is occurring systematically.
3. Case Information: How to report the degree to which appropriate case information is shared amongst operators so all operators are set up for successful engagements with an individual experiencing homelessness.
4. Process Improvement: How to report the conduct of continuous process improvement so investors know that lessons are learned and services are made better.

These recommendations were developed over a series of robust and in-depth meetings of working groups of public agencies, private funders, service providers, and individuals who have experienced homelessness, all of whom brought different expertise to the crafting of these regional evaluation and reporting principles. These working groups met bi-weekly since June and have been designed to be as inclusive as possible, rotating around the county with options for virtual participation.

The PROS Board is seeking public input on the suggested regional standards over the next two weeks. The documents can be viewed [here](https://www.sdcta.org/prosboard-homelessness) on the web. Public feedback can be submitted to sdprosboard@sdcta.org.

“We know there is good work happening to provide homelessness services, but the scale of this crisis requires shared standards so we can achieve an even more effective response that the everyday taxpayer and voter can see and feel,” said Haney Hong, member of the PROS Board and president of the San Diego Taxpayers Educational Foundation, the organization that convenes the PROS Board and its working groups. “The working groups’ four drafts released today – and there are more to come – are the culmination of hard discussions around measurement and reporting. The Regional Task Force on Homelessness’ recent report about more San Diegans falling into homelessness than exiting emphasizes that we must do all we can to make the entire system – prevention, diversion, and emergency management – more effective and more efficient.”

The goal of the PROS Board’s effort is to adopt regionally accepted public good evaluation and reporting standards that will create a common language for how San Diego tracks outcomes in reducing homelessness. Homeless service providers and all funders, public and private, can use these rules to self-audit and independently audit performance and create assurances that the network of individuals and organizations working to end homelessness are acknowledging where things work well in the system. Ultimately, the consistency in reports will permit the optimal investment of limited resources from their myriad sources.

In parallel with this work by the San Diego Taxpayers Educational Foundation’s Public Regional Outcomes Standards Board, the San Diego County Taxpayers Association – the region’s trusted watchdog since 1945 – is convening local accountants and public auditors to create the shared procedures of reviews and performance audits that will assure performance reports are indeed material representations of the outcomes as defined through the PROS Board principles.

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The San Diego Taxpayers Educational Foundation supports the San Diego County Taxpayers Association and the general taxpaying public with in-depth research and educational programming for community leaders and civil servants. The Foundation convenes the regional community of public policy practitioners, educators, and artists who want to study issues objectively and to facilitate civility and citizenship in public policy discussions. The Foundation also administers the new Public Regional Outcomes Standards Board (PROS Board), which sets regionally accepted principles in evaluating and reporting public good outcomes.