

Reducing Homelessness in your Community: Where Do You Start?

September 14, 2018



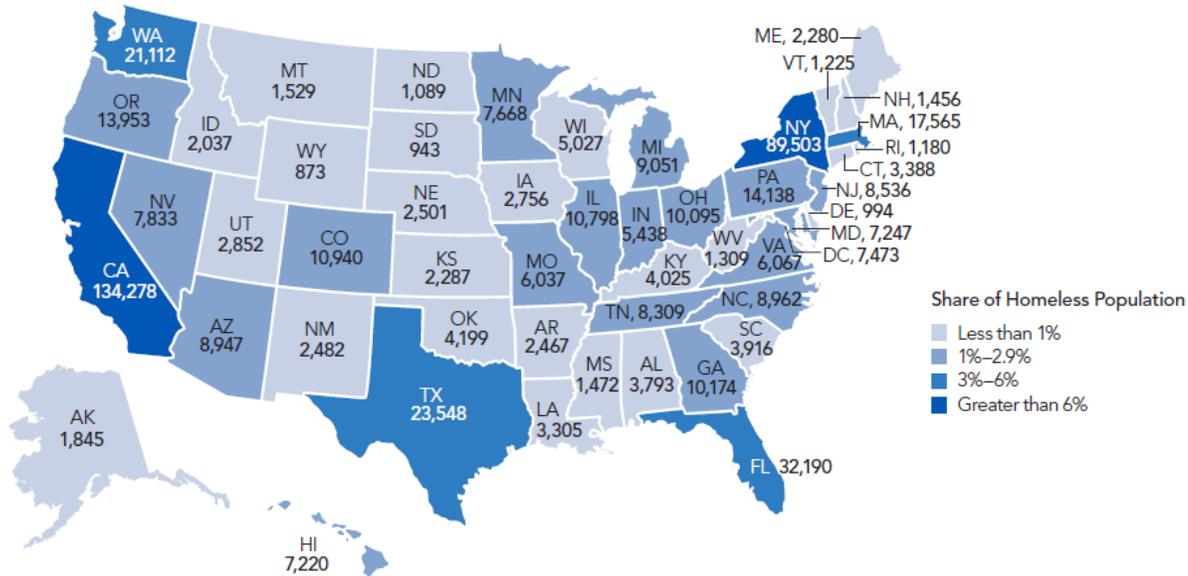
FOUNDED 1955

INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Speakers

- 
- Melissa Kuehne – Communications Manager, Institute for Local Government (Presiding)**
 - Paul Navazio, City Manager, City of Woodland**
 - Emily Halcon, Homeless Services Coordinator, City of Sacramento**
 - Helene Schneider, Regional Coordinator, US Interagency Council on Homelessness**

Homelessness in California



2016–2017	
Largest Increases	
CALIFORNIA	16,136 / 13.7%
NEW YORK	3,151 / 3.6%
OREGON	715 / 5.4%
NEVADA	435 / 5.9%
TEXAS	426 / 1.8%

- California accounted for nearly half of all unsheltered people in the country in 2017 (49%).
- Half of all people experiencing homelessness did so in one of five states: California (25% or 134,278 people); New York (16% or 89,503 people); Florida (6% or 32,190 people); Texas (4% or 23,548 people); or Washington (4% or 21,112 people).

Department of Housing and Urban Development 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress

Joint League/CSAC Homelessness Task Force



- Mission Statement: *“to provide needed education, identify resources and develop policy that cities and counties need to prevent, assist and reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our communities.”*
- Co-Chairs: Grass Valley Councilwoman Jan Arbuckle and Yolo County Supervisor Oscar Villegas

Joint League/CSAC Homelessness Task Force

Examine homelessness in CA

Discuss collaborative local solutions

Provide education and resources

Task Force Report

- I. Introduction
- II. Assessing the Cost of Homelessness
- III. Funding Options
- IV. Existing and Emerging Approaches
- V. Creating a Homelessness Plan
- VI. Partnering for Greater Impact
- VII. Building Support for the Spectrum of Housing in the Community—Public Outreach and Engagement
- VIII. Conclusion

Homelessness in California

In response to the growing issue of homelessness throughout California, the [League of California Cities](#) and [California State Association of Counties](#) have partnered to create a Joint Homelessness Task Force. The Task Force is working to promote collaboration between cities and counties in addressing the complex problem. ILG partnered with the League and CSAC to create the final report below.



Homelessness Task Force Report

As national and state programs fall short of fully addressing homelessness in California, local governments are coming together to find solutions for their communities. Collaboration, cooperation and support at the local level are key to addressing this crisis. That is why the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) formed the Joint Homelessness Task Force in late 2016 to examine these issues and discuss collaborative local solutions to address homelessness.



The task force met over the course of a year to better understand homelessness in California. The task force wanted to identify not only known best practices but also promising new practices that cities and counties are implementing to address homelessness, as well as the challenges, lessons and gaps communities are facing in the fight to end it. The culmination of the task force's work is a report, developed in partnership with League and CSAC affiliate the Institute for Local Government, which provides practical tools for cities and counties in California to use in addressing homelessness in their communities. Sections of the report are detailed below, or [read the full report here](#).

> [Task Force Members](#)

> [Executive Summary](#)

> [Introduction](#)

www.ca-ilg.org/homelessness

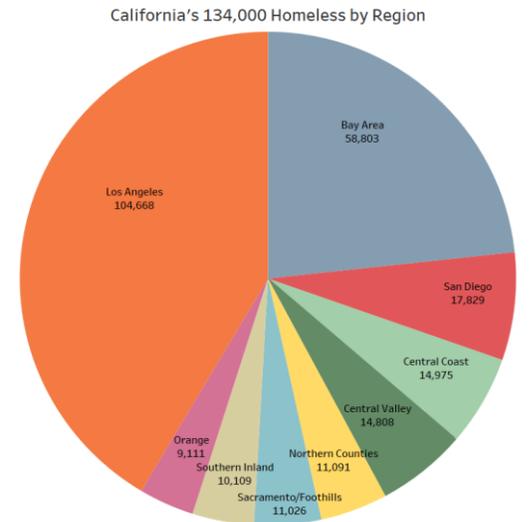
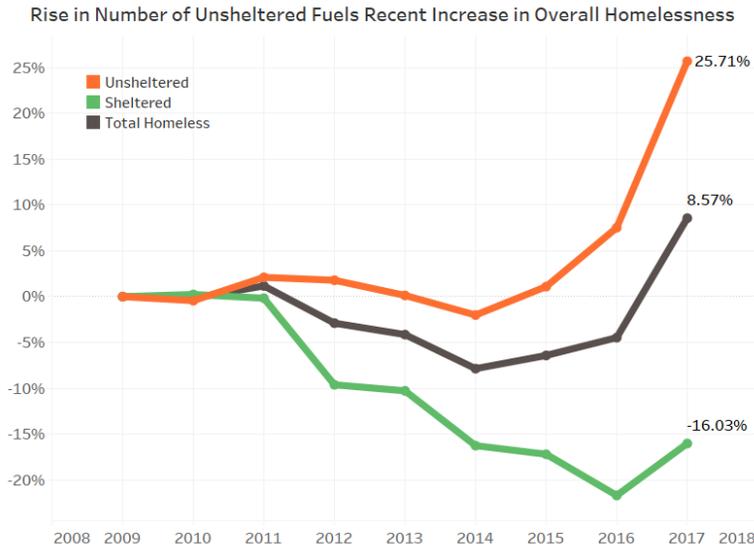
Introduction

State of Homelessness

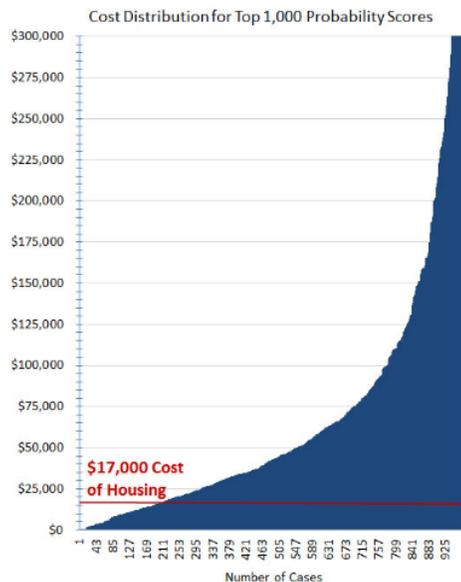
- From 2016 to 2017, homelessness in California increased 13.7%
- 134,278 Californians counted as homeless
- Experts agree that the number of people without housing is 3 to 4 times higher than recorded

Causes of Homelessness

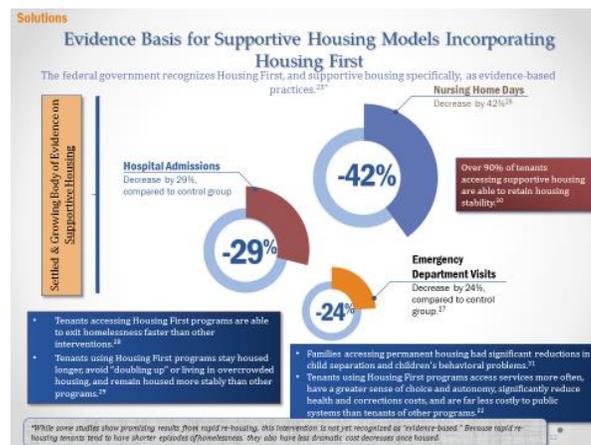
- Lack of affordable housing
- Poverty
- Lack of affordable health care
- Domestic violence
- Mental illness
- Addiction



Assessing the Cost of Homelessness



Silicon Valley Triage Tool



San Diego's Project 25

Data Collection and Sharing

- Allows cities and counties to understand the demographics and needs of their homeless populations as well as track the associated costs.

Preventative Services and Cost Savings

- Addressing homelessness early on and implementing preventative services and strategies can save jurisdictions resources and revenue in the long run.

Funding Options

Examples:

- San Jose - Streamlined Temporary and Incidental Shelter Program
- Marin County Landlord Partnership Program
- LA County Landlord Incentive Programs



Existing and Emerging Approaches

Housing
Veterans
Health and Social Services
Families
Law Enforcement



St John's Program For Real Change

Local Examples:

- Yolo County, Bridge to Housing
- Yuba County, 14 Forward
- City of Fresno, Poverello House
- City of San Diego, Housing Our Heroes
- Alameda County, Care Connect
- Marin County, Homeless Outreach Team
- San Mateo County, LifeMoves
- St. John's Program for Real Change
- City of Bakersfield Homeless Center
- Downtown Streets Team
- City of Citrus Heights Navigator Program
- City of Anaheim Homeless Outreach Team

Creating a Homelessness Plan

Homelessness Plans: Template for Strategies

CATEGORY

(For organizational purposes, identify which category best describes the strategy.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Management and Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinated Entry System | <input type="checkbox"/> Income |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

RECOMMENDATION

(One or two sentences describing the recommendation or action item.)

DESCRIPTION

(More in depth description of recommendation and strategy overall. May include additional information on the challenge the strategy is addressing.)

POPULATION(S) TARGETED

(A description of the jurisdiction's population and specifically the homeless population.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Age Youth (TAY) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronically Homeless Adult | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Victims of Domestic Abuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Pet Owners | <input type="checkbox"/> Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Adult | |

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE

(Identification of current funding available or possible funding the agency will pursue.)

IMPLEMENTATION TIME-FRAME

(When is the strategy expected to be accomplished?)

LEAD AGENCY

(Who is the lead responsible agency? This may be a department within the jurisdiction or a community partner.)

Partnering for Greater Impact

More efficient use of resources
Increased effectiveness in the community



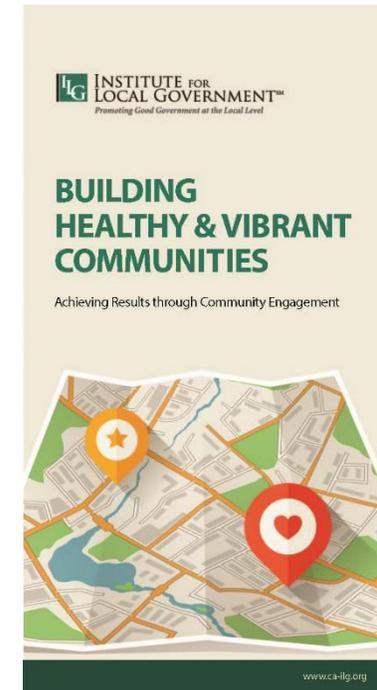
LA Home for Good – Walk

Examples:

- LA Home for Good
- Sacramento Steps Forward
- San Leandro Homeless Compact
- LA Interfaith Summit on Homelessness

Building Support for the Spectrum of Housing in the Community

- Engaging the Public in Planning for Housing
- Building Healthy and Vibrant Communities: Achieving Results through Community Engagement
- TIERS Public Engagement Framework
- Beyond the Usuals: Ideas to Encourage Broader Public Engagement in Community Decision Making
- Partnering with Community-Based Organizations for More Broad-Based Public Engagement
- Dealing with Deeply Held Concerns and other Challenges to Public Engagement Processes
- Effective Public Engagement through Strategic Communication
- Planning Public Engagement: Key Questions for Local Officials



To access these resources and more, visit the ILG's website at www.ca-ilg.org/engagement.

Share Your Story

Share Your Agency's Story



We know there are many more examples of innovative and successful programs throughout the state, and we welcome you to share your agency's story with us.

Please share lessons learned and examples of homelessness programs, partnerships or initiatives by contacting the Institute at 916-658-8202 or mkuehne@ca-ilg.org.

Share this page



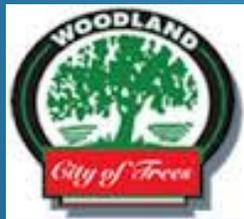
This item also appears in
Homelessness

Email *



City of Woodland's Homeless Action Plan

Paul Navazio
City Manager



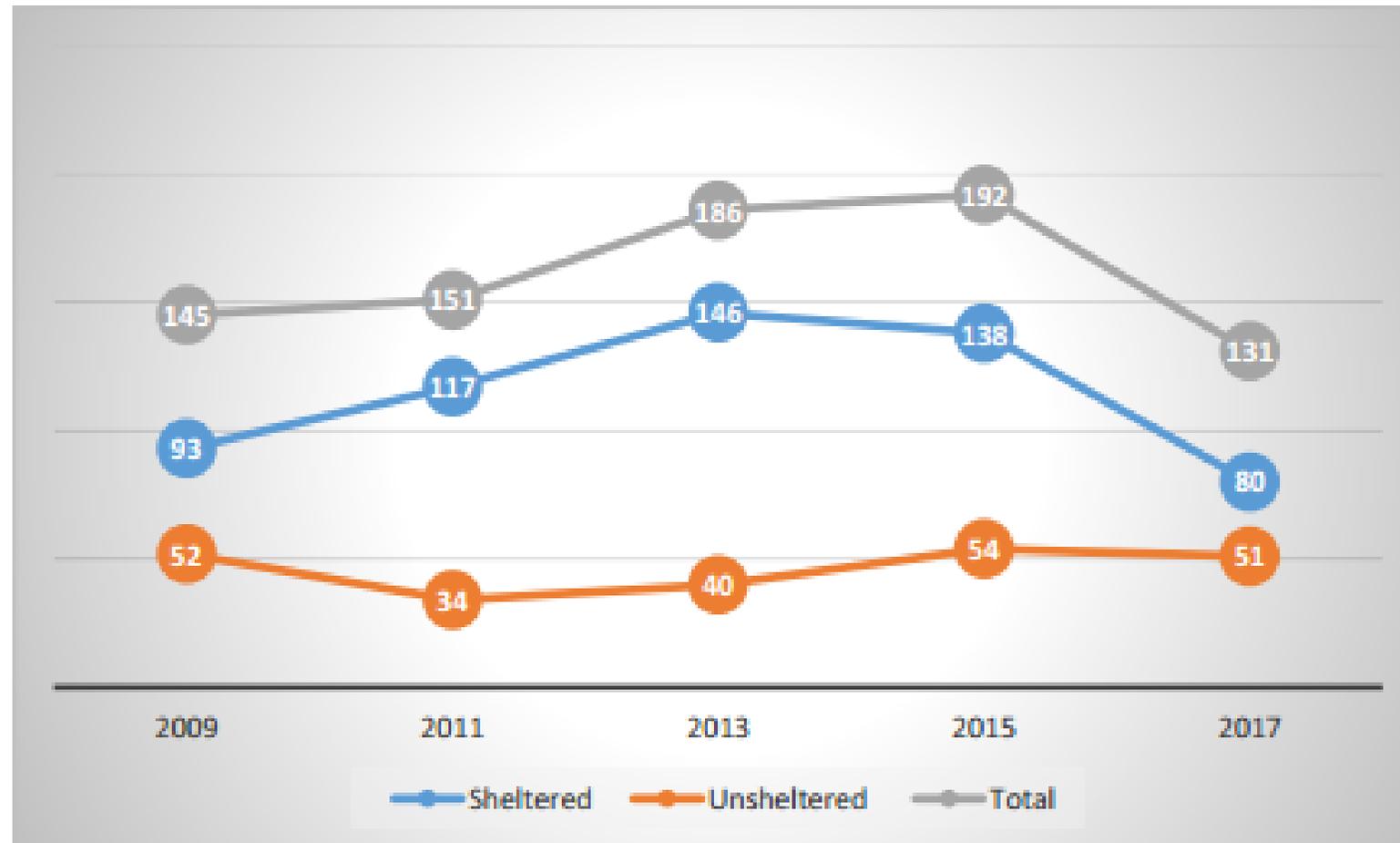
*League of California Cities
Annual Conference - September 14, 2018*

Case Study – City of Woodland



Sacramento Valley Division
Yolo County Seat
Population = 55,500

2017 Point-in-Time Homeless Count



Say WHAT...?

- Homeless Count does not pass the “eye-ball” test
- Who are these folks, where are they coming from, how did they get here?
- Who’s responsibility is this?
- County Seat” Complex (sic)
- ***Complaints Mounting***
- ***Drain on City Resources***

All-Staff Brainstorming

- Series of Brown Bag Lunch meetings
- What is Staff dealing with
- What can City Management do to assist?
 - What resources would be helpful?
 - Policies / Ordinances / Enforcement tools
- How best to coordinate our INTERNAL city efforts

Issues / Response

Needles **Knives/Weapons** **Library**
Electrical Outlets Coordinated Services
Human Waste
Prostitution **Fights** **Mental Health**
Dumpsters **Vandalism**
Panhandling **Garbage** **Arson** **Shelters**
Encampments
Broken Water Lines Human Waste
City Hall Patio **Absentee Slumlords** **Shopping Carts**
Scrap Metal Thefts **Needles**
Rehab / Treatment
Blighted Properties **Drugs**

Homeless Action Plan

<https://www.cityofwoodland.org/1013/Homeless-Action-Plan>

- **HOUSING**
 - Initiatives that contribute to ENDING HOMELESSNESS
 - “Housing First” Model
- **SHELTER /SERVICES**
 - Efforts to ENHANCE CAPACITY of services/shelters
 - Addressing needs of homeless UNTIL housing solutions bear fruit
- **MANAGING IMPACTS**
 - ADDRESSING IMPACTS of Homelessness in our Community

Managing Impacts of Homelessness

Description	Proposed Actions
<p>M1 – <u>Outreach / Visibility</u> Enhance outreach and police visibility to better coordinate the City’s approach for addressing homeless encampments and other homeless-related issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a HOST team (Homeless Outreach Street Team) to include representatives from City departments, staff from mental health agencies, and other partners. • Proactive approach to addressing “hot spots” and chronic issues/concerns • Consider hiring / assigning position of City Homeless Outreach Coordinator
<p>M2 – <u>Influx of homeless</u> Assist “stranded” homeless who want to return to their areas of origin in order to reconnect with family and friends support systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Yolo County Jail, Yolo County Probation Office, Dignity Health, Fourth & Hope, and other services providers to ensure clients from other communities are reconnected with their areas of origin. • Explore options for offering travel assistance to other individuals not receiving services in Woodland, provided that family or friends are available to house these individuals when they return.
<p>M2 – <u>Homeless encampments</u> Cleanups generate a significant amount of personal property that must be transported to a storage area and stored until the property can be returned to owners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide PD, PW and Parks with vehicle(s) to transport personal property and • Purchase a cargo container for storing the property at the City’s Municipal Service Center or other location.
<p>M3 – <u>Trespassing / Private Property</u> Homeless individuals are using unsecured, vacant properties as makeshift residences resulting in health hazards and other problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise City ordinances to increase penalties for property owners who do not secure vacant properties. • Cite squatters for trespassing / Neighborhood Court / Community service
<p>M4 – <u>Dumpsters</u> Locked dumpsters are being broken into with the contents scattered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with Waste Management, commercial property owners and apartment complex managers on protocols to minimize disruption of regular garbage and recycling pick-up. • Evaluate applicability of ordinances enacted in other communities specific to this issue.
<p>M5 – <u>Aggressive / Inappropriate Behaviors</u> Use of the library as a “de facto” day shelter has undermined the comfort level of library patrons and staff as some of the homeless patrons have brought in large sticks and knives; bathed in the restrooms; brought in luggage; and created other nuisance issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Program to hire a security guard for the library and potentially other City facilities. • Support the establishment of a day shelter to provide a safe place for homeless to gather during the day and access services.
<p>M6 – <u>Illegal Activity / Parks</u> Explore options for monitoring and reducing the increased instances of drug use and nuisance-type issues occurring at Freeman Park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install POD cameras in selected parks Freeman Park City Park Ferns Park

Managing Impacts of Homelessness

Description	Proposed Actions
<p>M7 – <u>Shopping carts</u> Explore options for reducing the proliferation of grocery store shopping carts at locations distant from grocery stores.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review City’s Shopping Cart ordinance • Collaboration with shopping centers / stores • Review contract services
<p>M8 – <u>Recycling centers</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate number, location and permits for recycling centers to reduce illegal scrap metal activity
<p>M9 – <u>Engage Homeless Population</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish relationships with (selected) homeless individuals / liaisons to assist with needs, self-policing and problem solving
<p>M10 – <u>Sharps / Needles</u> There has been an increase in the number of sharps (drug needles) discarded at City facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Public Works and Parks field staffs with training on handling sharps through YCPARMIA.
<p>M11 – <u>Vandalism / Theft</u> Increased instances of irrigation and electrical systems being tapped into at City facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security / harden facilities • Maintenance plan – reduce impacts
<p>M12 – <u>Expand Community Partnerships</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish collaborative initiatives with Downtown Businesses, Faith-based community and Neighborhood groups to assist with identifying problem issues / individuals and shared responsibility for response.

Homeless Action Plan Services / Shelters

Description	Proposed Actions
S1 – <u>Housing First Model</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore funding opportunities to purchase 1 to 2 residential properties for the City’s Housing First Pilot Project. • Work with Yolo County Homeless Coordinator to apply for Partnership HealthPlan of California’s Innovation Grants on Housing RFP to fund the purchase of 1 to 2 residential properties. • Apply for grant funds through Sutter Getting to Zero to support the operation of the City’s Housing First Pilot Project.
S2 – <u>Tiny Homes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore funding opportunities to increase the supply of temporary shelter for singles and couples in a village-type, tiny homes setting with services component. • Work with Yolo County Homeless Coordinator to apply for Partnership HealthPlan of California’s Innovation Grants on Housing RFP to fund predevelopment costs of temporary shelter for singles and couples.
S3 – <u>Shelter Capacity</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the operations of Fourth & Hope’s emergency shelter through the Community Development Block Grant program. • Expand capacity of Fourth & Hope shelter Allocate funding (public services component) through the CDBG Annual Action Plan. • Explore options for assisting Fourth & Hope with the financial sustainability of the emergency shelter • Consider funding a capital project for the shelter in FY 2018/19 CDBG Action Plan
S4 – <u>Daytime Shelter / Service “Club”</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify suitable site(s) for pilot daytime shelter
S5 – <u>County Homeless Coordination</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate means to improve coordination with Yolo County Homeless Coordinator
S6 – <u>Designated “camping” zone(s)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider designating specific areas where homeless are encouraged to live / sleep; ground rules;
S7 – <u>Life Skills / Job Training</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide/connect the homeless with basic life skills training, job training and employment opportunities.

Homeless Action Plan

Housing

Description	Proposed Actions
H1 – <u>Housing First Model</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore funding opportunities to increase the supply of permanent supportive housing (PSH) for homeless families and individuals.• Work with Yolo County Homeless Coordinator to apply for Partnership HealthPlan of California’s Innovation Grants on Housing RFP to fund predevelopment costs of PSH project.
H2 – <u>Affordable Housing</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to support developments gap loans and other assistance that increase the supply of affordable housing units
H3 - <u>Federal Continuum of Care</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to apply for grants through the Federal Continuum of Care program in partnership with Fourth & Hope to support permanent housing projects for homeless families and individuals.• Apply for renewals of Consolidated PSH, Relocation PSH, Bonus Project PHS on an annual basis.



Homeless Action Plan Highlights

Initiated Police Department-led Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST)

- Documented 275 individuals as of June 2018
- Over 225 contacts with homeless
- Over 70 camps visited
- Over 130 offers of service
- Over 50 business contacts
- Over 1,200 shopping carts picked up

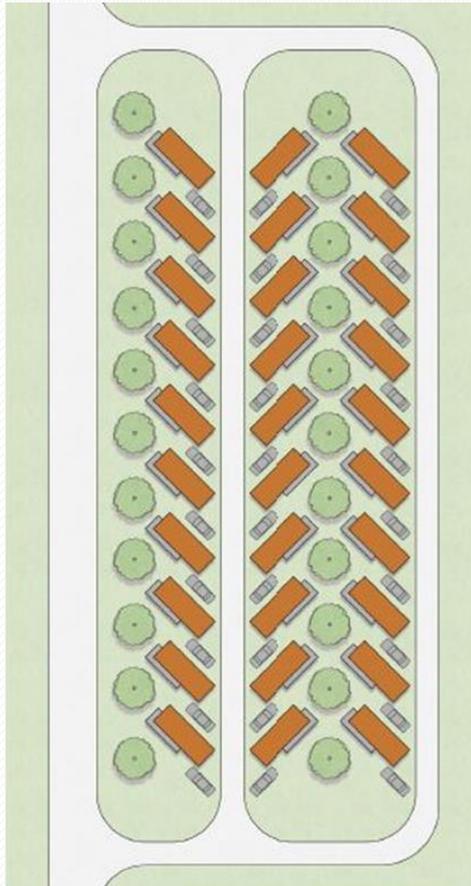


Camp Clean-Ups - *Agreements in place with CalTrans and CHP for coordinated clean-up and monitoring of freeway right-of-way and sound walls
coordination with Northern Pacific and Sierra Northern railroads*

Homeless Action Plan Highlights

- **Initiated Emergency Winter Shelter**
 - Partnership with faith-based community
- **Implemented Regular Multi-disciplinary Team Meetings**
 - City Manager's Office, Woodland Police, County HHS, District Attorney, Probation, Community-based Service Organizations, Dignity Health
- **Hired Social Services Manager**
 - Case manages referral to social services
 - Coordination with County, cities and service providers
- **Expansion of Fourth & Hope Shelter Services**
 - Starting Day Services 9/12/18
 - City providing portable toilets / showers

Homeless Action Plan Micro-Neighborhood Project



Ongoing Challenges

- Clean-ups and enforcement do not SOLVE problems; merely displace people, shifts problem to new location
- Public perception that City is not aggressively enforcing laws and city ordinances
- Many programs / funding sources are restricted to specific populations
- Coordination across jurisdictions remains a challenge
 - Competition for funding
 - Lack of comprehensive County-wide strategy

Need for Public Information and Education

Kicking the homeless out of Woodland won't solve the issue of homelessness. We're better than that.

Another view

DAILY DEMOCRAT
Saturday, August 4, 2018 \$1.00 FACEBOOK.COM/DAILYDEMOCRAT TWITTER.COM/WOODLANDNEWS/WOODLANDSPORTS
STATE OF YOLO COUNTY
Homelessness is No. 1 issue

Housing needs to be addressed, says county administrator

By Cintia Lopez
clopez@dailymodem.com
@cintialopez on Twitter

Homelessness was a major topic during the State of the County address on Thursday. County Administrator Bob Bunker said it's a major issue in West Sacramento.

ONLINE: Watch videos from the candidate forum at Facebook.com/dailymodem



WOODLAND
Candidates on the homeless issue

Three contenders, including incumbent Angel Barajas, running for District 3

During Wednesday evening's League of Women Voters forum, incumbent Angel Barajas, along with challengers Tania Garcia, and Bobby Harris each offered their solution to the homelessness issue.

Barajas agrees to meet with all.

WOODLAND
Council hears from people opposed to 'Tent City'

Anger and misinformation about homeless

YOLO COUNTY
Yolo DA says Proposition 47 contributes to homelessness

Reclassified crimes lets more people out of jail and onto the streets

Editor's note: This is the second part of a two-part series on homelessness in Woodland.

By Sarah Dowling
sdowling@dailymodem.com
@woodlanddowling on Twitter

WOODLAND CITY COUNCIL
Homeless a hot topic at forum

League of Women Voters event features those running for District 1 and 2 seats on council

By Cutler Hicks
cuthicks@dailydemocrat.com
@wectour

Resident City Council and 3 this Voters for

DAILY DEMOCRAT
Thursday, September 6, 2018 \$1.00 FACEBOOK.COM/DAILYDEMOCRAT TWITTER.COM/WOODLANDNEWS/WOODLANDSPORTS
City hires homeless coordinator

Action comes on the same day appeals court finds cities can't prosecute people for sleeping

By Jim Smith
jimsmith@dailymodem.com

County was working as supervising clinician of Homeless Services. Kristen received her bachelor's of science in environmental design from UC Davis and her counseling degree in psychology from National University.

Cline's hiring also comes as the city unveiled a dedicated section of its website specifically "Addressing Homelessness in Woodland." This site is intended to provide the community with ready access to general information on homelessness, how the city is addressing homelessness and related issues through its Homeless Action Plan, how residents can become more involved, and a Frequently Asked Questions page that will be updated on a regular basis.

The new website can be found at www.dailydemocrat.com/homelessness

Another view
Prop. 47 is offering homeless solutions

By Tracie Olson

Proposition 47 has been blamed for a lot, the most recent being a purported "explosion of homelessness" in Woodland, as recently reported by District Attorney Jeff Reisig. To the contrary, biennial data from the Yolo County Homeless Assessment Report shows that homelessness is declining in the county.

Prop. 47 is also one of the few criminal justice reforms that justice involvement and homelessness," stated HHS Director Karen Larsen. "If done right, we have the opportunity to reduce criminal justice involvement and homelessness for some of our residents who are struggling the most."

Steps to Success recently kicked off, benefiting from the input and support of every stakeholder and partner.



[What is the City Doing to Address Homelessness?](#)

[What Can I Do About Homelessness?](#)

[Resources / Reports](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Home](#) > [Government](#) > Homeless Action Plan

Addressing Homelessness in Woodland

The City of Woodland, like many cities in the region and across the state, continues to experience significant impacts associated with a growing homeless population. In 2017, the City formally endorsed the "[Housing First](#)" model - endorsed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - which shifts the focus (and funding) from shelters and field service to permanent supportive housing.

While the City works to prioritize implementation of a Housing First project for Woodland, we are increasingly concerned about the impacts and issues associated with our homeless population. These issues place an increased burden on staff and resources, often at the expense of funding budgeted for other city programs and activities.

[Point-In-Time Homeless Count \(January 2017\)](#)

[City of Woodland - Homeless Action Plan Summary](#)

[Report on Homelessness in Woodland \(April 2018\)](#)

What is the City Doing to Address Homelessness?

The City is developing specific strategies for managing the impacts of homelessness while we continue to focus on long-term solutions to address the problem of homelessness. The [Homeless Action Plan](#) includes initiatives to manage the impacts of homeless within our community, while also seeking to improve and enhance services to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families and contributing toward increasing housing opportunities.

Questions or Concerns?

Phone: 530-661-7879

[Email Homeless Outreach Street Team \(H.O.S.T\)](#)

Related Links

- [Yolo County 2017 Homeless Count](#)
- [Woodland PD Homeless Outreach Efforts](#)
- [Institute for Local Government - Homelessness in California](#)
- [HUD Supportive Housing](#)
- [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)
- [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

[View All](#)

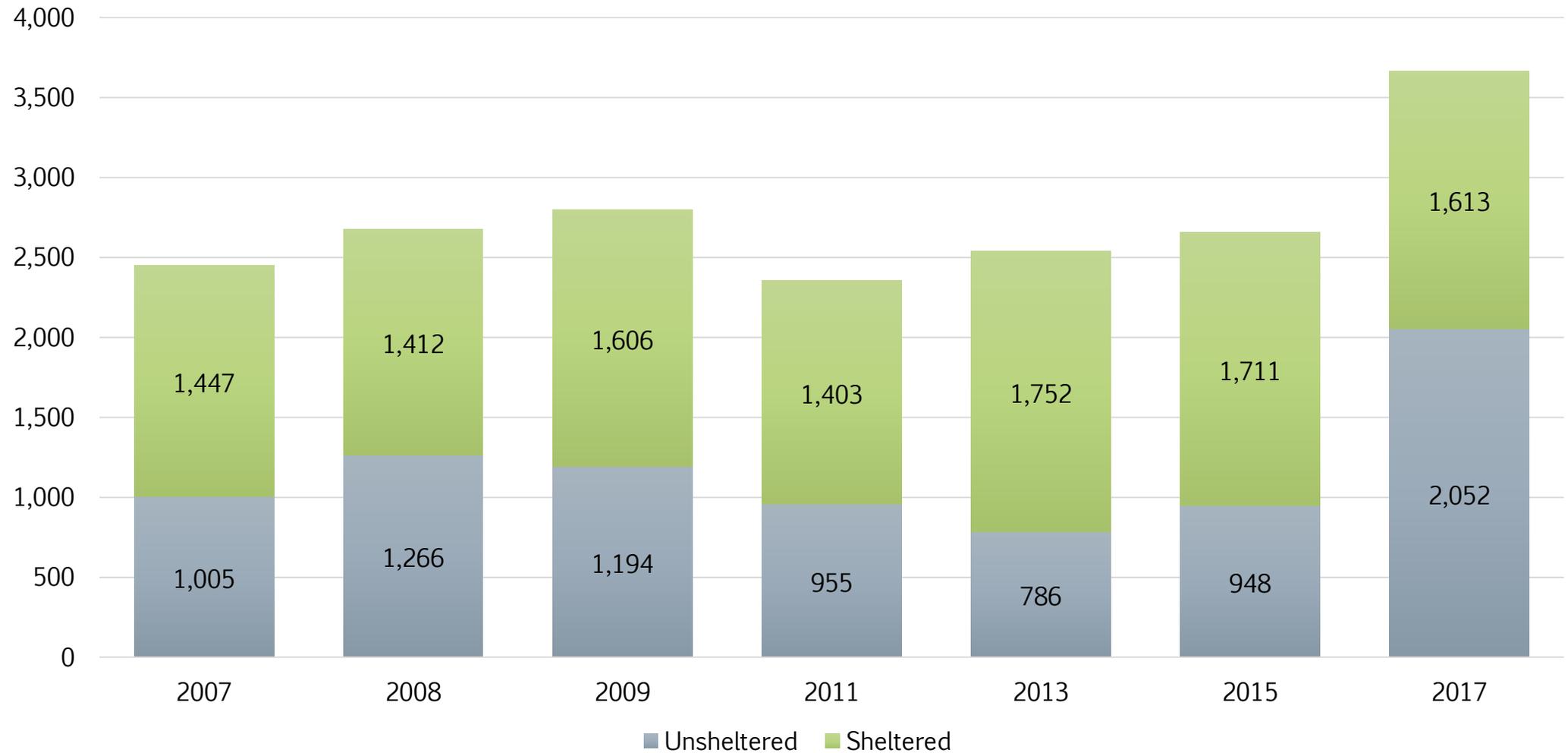
A City Oriented Response to Homelessness

League of California Cities

September 14, 2018

Homeless Point-in-Time Count

Sacramento County, 2007-2017



Homelessness in Sacramento

January – June, 2018



*21,913 calls to police
regarding homeless
related activities*

*812 encampments
reported through
City 311*



*2,266 service referrals
made by police
IMPACT team*



*2,844 cubic yards of
debris removed from
abandoned
encampments*

Homeless Death Report

Sacramento County, 2003-2017





A City Response

Safety

- The City is committed to the safety of all residents. This includes meeting the immediate safety needs of those experiencing homelessness

Stability

- The City is committed to ensuring individuals have access to the services necessary to transition from the streets or temporary shelters into permanent housing

Success

- The City is committed to supporting to helping transition individuals into permanent housing and helping them maintain long-term housing

A City Response



Safety: Crisis Response – SPD Impact Team

- › 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 7 officers
- › Respond to encampments City-wide
- › Service oriented approach
- › Mental health intervention
- › Community outreach partnerships



Annually: 4,656 referrals for service/housing
6,451 cubic yards of debris removed



Stability: Railroad Triage Shelter



- Up to 200 individuals nightly
- Focused outreach in community
- Access by outreach - no walk ups!
- 24/7 staffing and security
- On-site services, focusing on housing, health, & income acquisition
- Opened December 2017
- 135 positive exits (as of 8/15)

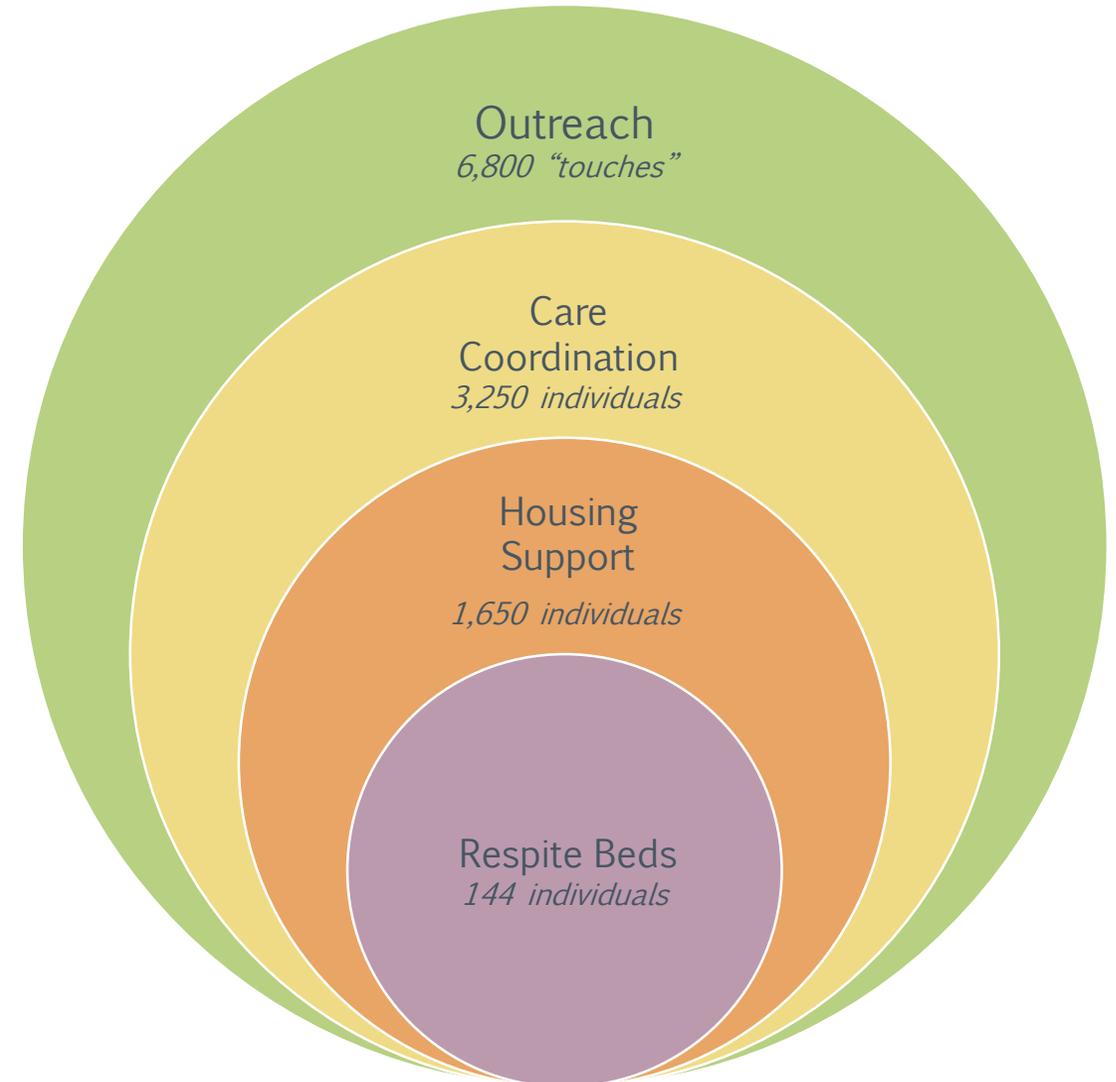
Success: pathways to
HEALTH  **HOME**



- › Four-year pilot program for high-risk Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are frequent users of multiple care systems and have poor health outcomes.
- › Provides flexible federal funding to improve health and housing outcomes and more efficiently and effectively use health care resources.
- › Pilots identify target populations, assess health and housing needs, coordinate care in real-time, and evaluate outcomes.
- › Promotes deeper collaboration and coordination between service providers by requiring pilots to form partnerships and share data

Success: pathways to
HEALTH  HOME

- › Vulnerable, unsheltered populations
- › Individuals with complex health care needs
- › Frequent users of emergency services & crisis health system
- › High-risk individuals exiting institutions



Upcoming Initiatives



Behavioral
Health



Employment
Programs



Innovative
Housing



Prevention
& Diversion



USICH & League of CA Cities Partnerships & Political Will

Helene Schneider, Regional Coordinator

September 14, 2018





Statutory Authority and Mission

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is charged with:

- **Coordinating the federal response** to homelessness
- **Creating a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector** to reduce and end homelessness in the nation
- **Maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government** in contributing to the end of homelessness



Coordinating the Federal Response

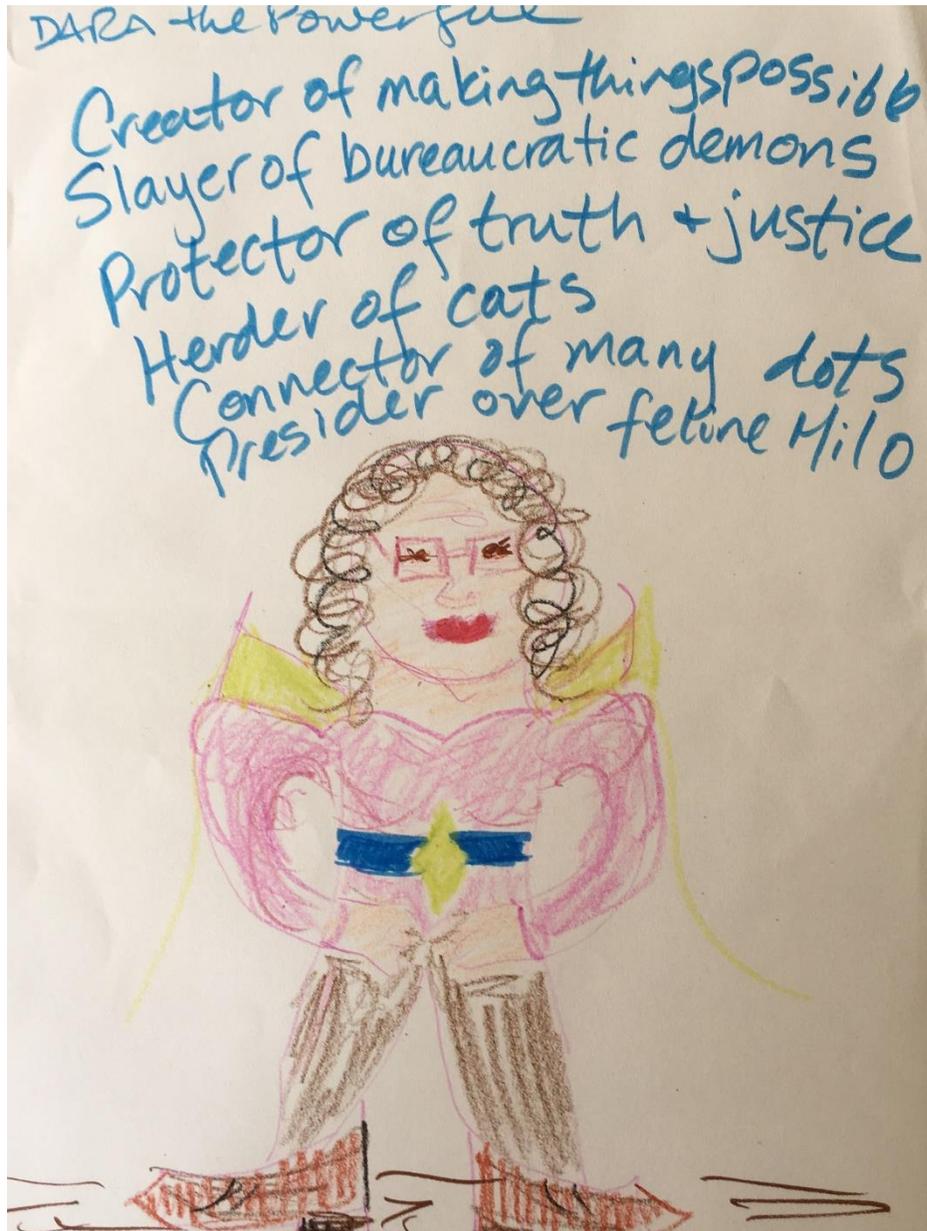
- The Council
- Council Policy Group
- Interagency Working Groups
- Performance measurement and accountability





USICH Roles and Activities

- **DC-Based Policy Team** – Coordinating strategies across federal agencies
- **Field-based National Initiatives Team** – Driving progress in communities
- **Communications Activities** – Providing tools and resources to strengthen practices



- Connector of Dots
- Slayer of Bureaucratic Demons



My introduction to USICH: El Carrillo, Santa Barbara Grand Opening, 2006





Political Will is Essential





City of Santa Barbara
RDA funds
Grant to HASB

HASB Purchases
& Manages Property

Council on Alcohol &
Drug Abuse "Project
Recovery"
Administers Program

Santa Barbara County
Behavioral Health Dept.
Contracts with CADA



Project Recovery Success: July 2012 – March 2018

Number of Clients admitted: 1154
35% Women; 65% Men



Clients reporting as Homeless: 807 = 70%

41% discharged to improved housing

73% clients successfully discharged after 14 days in program

80% discharged clients continued on with other outpatient services



USICH Areas of Increased Focus

- Increasing **affordable housing** opportunities
- Strengthening **prevention and diversion** practices
- Creating solutions for **unsheltered homelessness**
- Tailoring strategies for **rural communities**
- Helping people who exit homelessness to find **career success and economic mobility**
- Learning from the **expertise of people with lived experiences of homelessness**

Read the Plan.

www.usich.gov/home-together

#HomeTogether



Home, Together:

THE FEDERAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO
PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS



UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Home.

Because we know that the only true end to homelessness is a safe and stable place to call home.

Together.

Because the solutions are going to take all of us working together, doing our parts, strengthening our communities.





Our Shared National Goals

- Ending homelessness among **Veterans**
- Ending chronic homelessness among **people with disabilities**
- Ending homelessness among **families with children**
- Ending homelessness among **unaccompanied youth**
- Ending homelessness among **all other individuals**





Structure for Plan

Operational definition: Comprehensive response that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a **rare, brief, and one-time experience.**

Criteria and benchmarks: Essential elements of comprehensive systems and the **outcomes those systems must be able to achieve.**

**Rare,
Brief &
One-Time**



1) Ensure Homelessness is a Rare Experience

Objective 1.1: Collaboratively Build Lasting Systems that End Homelessness

Objective 1.2: Increase Capacity and Strengthen Practices to Prevent Housing Crises and Homelessness



2) Ensure Homelessness is a Brief Experience

Objective 2.1: Identify and Engage All People Experiencing Homelessness as Quickly as Possible

Objective 2.2: Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter or other Temporary Accommodations to All Who Need It

Objective 2.3: Implement Coordinated Entry to Standardize Assessment and Prioritization Processes and Streamline Connections to Housing and Services

Objective 2.4: Assist People to Move Swiftly into Permanent Housing with Appropriate and Person-Centered Services



3) Ensure Homelessness is a One-Time Experience

Objective 3.1: Prevent Returns to Homelessness through Connections to Adequate Services and Opportunities



4) Sustain an End to Homelessness

Objective 4.1: Sustain Practices and Systems at a Scale Necessary to Respond to Future Needs



Challenges with Encampments and Unsheltered Homelessness

May 2018



Caution is Needed When Considering “Sanctioned Encampments” or “Safe Zones”

In their 2017 Point-in-Time counts, some communities reported significant increases in the number of people experiencing homelessness. These increases were driven primarily by increases in the number of individuals (people in households without children) who are unsheltered—living and sleeping outside, in tents, in parks, in cars or RVs, in encampments, or in other places not meant for human habitation. These increases were seen largely in communities facing significant challenges within their rental markets—rapidly increasing rents, competition for units, and a limited supply of housing that people can afford.

Addressing the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is an issue that often generates contentious, emotional debates across communities. It requires urgent action. Understandably, leaders and housing and services providers within such communities want to find ways to address both the immediate safety and living conditions of the people who are unsheltered and the concerns of other community members.

In response, some communities have created, or are considering creating “sanctioned encampments,” “safe zones,” or other similar settings with a goal of helping people stay in a safer and more sanitary environment, without the risk of being arrested or cited. Sometimes these settings feature sheds or other structures, or provide areas for people to stay in their cars or RVs. Others simply provide places for people to sleep in their own tents or on mats. Some communities have created these environments

as a voluntary option for people living in unsafe situations. In other cases, people living outside may be compelled to move to the designated locations through the threat of citation or arrest. Before communities make the decision to create such environments, it is important to weigh the costs and consequences of that action, and the impact on the community’s systemic efforts to end homelessness.

If your community is exploring this step, here are a few cautions we think you should consider and discuss:

- **Creating these environments may make it look and feel like the community is taking action to end homelessness on the surface—but, by themselves, they have little impact on reducing homelessness. Ultimately, access to stable housing that people can afford, with the right level of services to help them succeed, is what ends homelessness. People staying within such settings are still unsheltered, still living**



As we respond to the crisis of unsheltered homelessness, we must not repeat past mistakes of focusing only on where people will be tonight. We must simultaneously be focused on where people can succeed in the long term—and we know that is permanent housing.

Executive Director Matthew Doherty
Housing First Partners Conference
April 10, 2018



Addressing Encampments & Unsheltered Homelessness

- Get good data, establish a benchmark
- Create & enhance partnerships & collaboratives
- Invest in Outreach Services, use a coordinated entry system
- Allow for low barrier emergency shelters
- Focus on Housing-First Models
- Ensure sustainability
- Share best practices



OPPORTUNITY! New State Resources

- Creation of CA Coordinating Council with funded staffing
- \$600M in FY19 State Budget for homelessness-related services
- Prop 2 Funds

How is your City coordinating with your Continuum of Care (CoC)?



Ingredients towards Success

- **Political Will**
- **Effective Use of Adequate Resources**
- **Collaborative Approach**
- **“Never Give Up” Attitude**



Why it Matters





www.usich.gov

Questions?



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The graphic features a green background with a white hexagonal pattern. It contains four white rectangular boxes. The top box has the Twitter logo and the handle @InstLocGov. The second box has the Facebook logo and the handle @InstituteForLocalGovt. The third box has the LinkedIn logo and the text 'Institute for Local Government'. The bottom box has the text 'Sign up for our newsletter: www.ca-ilg.org/news' and a yellow icon of a newspaper.