

City of San Bernardino

HOMELESS INITIATIVES



QUICK FACTS



According to the 2020 San Bernardino County Cost Study chronically homeless individuals cost cities \$31,873 per person per year just to manage

1,350

2022 POINT-IN-TIME
COUNT
Homeless individuals

992

UNSHELTERED
HOMELESS PEOPLE
(169 increase from
2020)

358

SHELTERED HOMELESS
PEOPLE
(125 increase from 2020)

44%

Suffer from a mental
Health disorder

59%

Are Chronically
Homeless

60%

Have substance use
problem

80%

Have no income



**2 OUT
OF 1**

Homeless men
outnumber homeless
women

27%

Become homeless for the
first

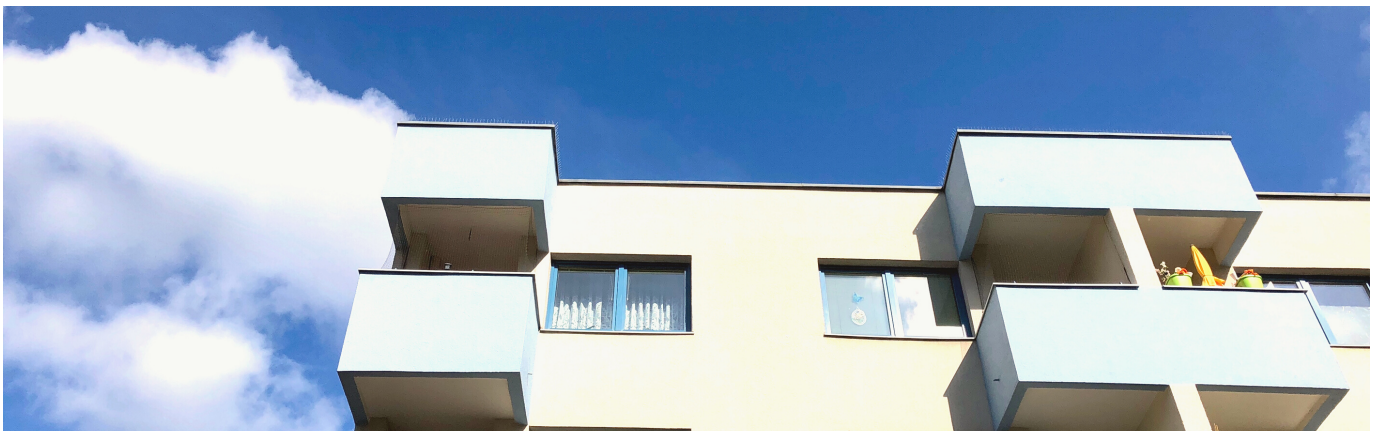
**40% (37.8%) OF THE CITY'S HOMELESS POPULATION ARE BETWEEN THE
AGES OF 25-39**

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Although there are many pathways that lead to homelessness, decades of inadequate affordable housing production have contributed significantly to the current state of Homelessness, which is now prevalent across the Country. The number of people living without adequate housing has become a Humanitarian crisis. Closer to home, the May 2022, San Bernardino County Housing Needs Report showed how Inland Empire renters need to earn \$34.86 per hour (2.3 times the state minimum wage) to afford the average rent of \$1,813. Because many residents are facing housing instability, homelessness is expected to grow, and the City needs to take action to mitigate the issue.

According to the 2022 Point-In-Time Count Survey, San Bernardino had the highest concentration of homeless individuals in the County. Homelessness increased by 20% compared to 2020 in which 1350 people were counted as homeless, 992 were unsheltered and 238 were in shelter.

This City has a chance to make a positive impact on homelessness through innovation and collaboration. The following goals represent best practice solutions that were created from community input and experts in the homeless provider industry.



PROPOSED ACTIONS, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1

HOMELESS SOLUTIONS COORDINATOR (HIRED)

- Optimize collaboration between community partners and help to centralize services
- Provide guidance on homeless related issues and act as the City's single point of contact for the community and service providers
- Identify, research, write and administer grants that support homeless outreach and services
- Develop, coordinate, and evaluate city contracted programs to address homelessness

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ENHANCE SHELTER OPERATIONS

- Apply for grants directed to build low barrier shelters to help increase shelter capacity
- Identify best plan of entry and referral method (i.e., referrals generated from 211, direct access from local hospitals, homeless outreach teams, and shelter staff)
- Explore use of a Navigation Center operating as a Day Center that provides onsite supportive services, case management and housing navigation
- Consider a Recuperative Care Center as a separate wing of the Navigation Center allowing hospitals to provide a safe discharge to homeless patients in need of additional rest and recovery (reduces readmission by 50%; basic needs met, homeless person able to receive help with housing stability and other support services)
- Explore financial partnerships with foundations/investors for long-term sustainability of center

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HOUSING FIRST MODEL

- Identify and inventory housing currently available
- Understand the placement priority for local residents
- Explore opportunities to increase affordable housing supply with support service components (i.e., alternative/transitional/permanent housing)
- Explore municipal code changes that would eliminate impediments and accelerate housing production and utilize planning grants to help accelerate and streamline the approval process
- Explore partnerships with affordable housing developers to expand the inventory of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing units, especially through the use of time-saving and innovative methods
- Explore partnerships with agencies that provide housing subsidies and “master lease” programs to low income and special groups (i.e., chronically homeless, disabled adults, veterans, seniors, youth, and full-time students)
- Seek opportunities for gap funding with non-profit agencies

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VANDALISM, THEFT AND MISUSE

- Consider modifications to City operating and maintenance plans and code of conduct policies to help reduce the impact of increased instances of misuse of public infrastructure, equipment, and facilities
- Work with commercial property owners and apartment complex managers on protocols to minimize disruption of regular garbage and recycling pick up
- Consider related municipal code updates to address issues related to unlawful acts in public areas
- Incorporate prevention assistance education to life skills training

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HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- Get an understanding of current resources available
- Explore partnerships with service providers who touch those on the verge of homelessness (i.e., Community Action Partnership, 211, Catholic Charities) and who can provide rental and utility assistance.
- Explore the “Room and Board” and “Shared Housing” models
- Incorporate prevention assistance education to life skills training

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OUTREACH/VISIBILITY

- Create a public awareness campaign that is tracked and maintained regularly for progress and communication (campaign would include Housing Division activities)
- Support efforts and collaborate with SWAG (contracted by the County), Sheriff's HOPE Team, local non-profits even after the City establishes its own Homeless Engagement Team to continue linking homeless population with resources and service providers throughout the City and County
- Continued coordination with the San Bernardino Police Department, Code Enforcement, and Public Works to promote safety
- Continue to use a proactive approach to address "hot spots" and chronic issues related to the homeless population (i.e., CRM System/SB Direct)
- Utilize a software system that creates a Citywide database allowing PD, homeless service providers and homeless outreach teams the ability to engage and remain in communication with homeless population who frequently relocate making it difficult to connect to services
- Explore funding opportunities (i.e., CESH, HHAP, ESG & others) that can be used for homeless outreach services, operations and support efforts.

- Outreach to the public and businesses with best practices for dealing with the homeless population (How? And what type of Outreach? Workshops?)
- Ask property owners to complete 602 forms and renew them regularly
- Promote collaboration and eliminate

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TRESPASSING/PRIVATE PROPERTY

- Encourage the use of Penal Code 602 to:
 - Allow Code Enforcement and Police to access private property to address concerns at a much faster pace (trespassers given 3 days to vacate)
 - Allow immediate enforcement in commercial areas as long as "No Trespassing" sign are posted
 - Authorize Code Enforcement to help clear panhandling & loitering from commercial areas
- Revise City ordinances to develop/increase penalties for property owners who do not secure vacant properties and ensure cost recovery mechanisms in Municipal Code
- Encourage property owners to effectively utilize private security
- Explore the revision of Municipal Codes to address public sleeping and anti-camping when sufficient long-term accommodations exist

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HOMLESS ENCAMPMENTS

- Explore the expansion of mobile showers, fully equipped with sinks, toilet stalls and laundry stations
- Continue to utilize a centrally located warehouse to provide personal storage bins for unattended property found in unhoused encampments considering health issues
- Consider the use of the City's Homeless Engagement Outreach teams posting vacate notices in public and private space encampments and directing the homeless to available services
- Explore safe parking lots and charging stations

8

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Establish regional focus through collaboration with neighboring government agencies
- Identify and develop strategic partnerships with new service providers
- Establish agreements with partner agencies to outline the purpose and scope of partnership, rules of engagement and desired outcomes to help ensure a smooth working relationship
- Establish a volunteer engagement process and program

