

HOMELESSNESS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

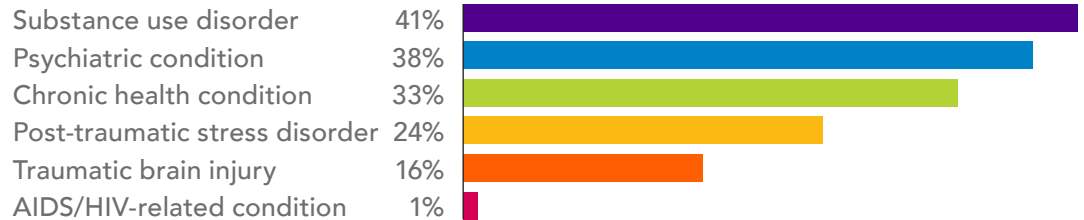


A Snapshot of Homelessness



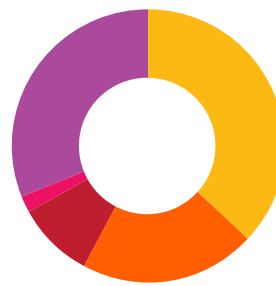
Homeless: **831** people in the City of Santa Cruz

Disabling Conditions That Contribute to Homelessness*



Duration of Homelessness*

30 days or less 8%
1-11 months 37%
1 year or longer 56%



Locations*

Streets 37%
Vehicles 21%
Encampments 9%
Abandoned structures 2%
Sheltered 31%

69% Unsheltered

*Santa Cruz County

Source: 2015 Point-in-Time Homeless Census

Short Horizon Solutions (0-3 years)

Support the Implementation and Success of Coordinated Entry

Provide support to launch and sustain this new system. Require that any City-supported homeless program to integrate with the system.

Increase Homeless Outreach Services and Mobile Behavioral Health/Mental Health Response

Expanded mobile mental health team from the County Health Services Agency. Consider additional outreach workers in the downtown.

Contract for Homeless Jobs Engagement Program

Contract with the Downtown Streets Team to provide homeless outreach and jobs opportunity. Team could assist with clean-ups, beautification projects, maintenance of downtown, dumping clean-up, and support services in public garages and other facilities.

Create a Triage Location/Expanded Recovery Center for Crisis Intervention

Explore partnerships with County and health providers to establish more treatment bed capacity and reserve one bed for on-demand treatment of people found in crisis. Expand services offered at the Recovery Center. Advocate to include mental health triage center for individuals who are sub-acute, but clearly in need of psychiatric intervention.

Secure Storage Facilities

Identify and secure facilities to allow individuals to check their possessions into a managed storage facility or rental storage lockers. Co-locate with other services and case management, or follow the storage, shower and laundry facility model (SHWASHLOCK).

Secure Hygiene Resources: Restrooms and Showers

Explore locations and providers of additional restrooms and showers dedicated for the homeless community. Consider hygiene buses or mobile restroom trailers, as well as supportive partnerships with the faith-based community, homeless advocates, businesses and other organizations.

Continue to Fund Homeward Bound

Appropriate \$25,000 in the FY 2018 Budget for Homeward Bound. Outreach to other service-providing agencies to offer access to these funds. Invite the Homeless Action Partnership to jointly fund the program. Encourage public donations.

Secure Electronic Device Charging Resources

Research the charging station program at the library. Secure and site electronic device charging resources in the City. Encourage other locations outside of the City.

Short Horizon Solutions (continued)

Create a 2x2 Committee with the County

Formally invite the County to participate and schedule the first meeting for Summer 2017.

Explore Potential for Local Help from No Place Like Home Legislation (AB 1618)

Work with the County in anticipation of the Notice of Financial Availability release in Winter 2018.

Develop a Revenue Source for Housing

Support the work of the Affordable Housing Committee or other efforts to identify, create and dedicate funding for development of housing.

Coordinate State Advocacy with Other High-Ratio Homeless Communities

Engage in Strategic Planning with the Homeless Services Center, County and Other Service Partners

Engage and Advocate Federal Representatives on Homelessness and Mental Illness Needs

Improve City's Internal Coordination System and Homeless Protocols from Front Line to Public Safety Staff, and Ensure Training and Support

Create Homelessness Information and Resource Page on City Website

Long Horizon Solutions (5+ years)

Cultivate Development of Housing

Support the development of housing.

In addition, three shelter options are recommended and are ranked in terms of priority:

#1 Consider San Francisco Navigation Center Model

Engage in partner and community discussions about a regional navigation center. This is the gold standard: a one-stop facility integrating rehabilitation, employment, shelter and wrap-around services.

#2 Pursue Permanent, Regional, Year-Round Homeless Shelter Center

Engage in partner and community discussion about a regional year-round homeless shelter center.

#3 Explore a Day Center with Basic Services and Case Management

Consider the re/establishment of a day center with basic services and case management workers to provide a productive environment that helps with immediate and long-term needs.

