



City of Riverside

Homeless Reduction Strategy Plan



City of Arts & Innovation

A Service Oriented Five-Year Plan

Adopted September 18, 2012

City of Riverside

Homeless Reduction & Prevention Strategy

Five-Year Plan

Operational Statement

The City of Riverside is committed to expanding its current operations available to the homeless and those at-risk while partnering with new and existing agencies and resources to solidify a unique community system of dignified supportive housing, prevention programs and supportive services.

PRIORITY #1

1. Community Education

Objective: *Successfully educate and inform the public of homeless concerns so that an effective community wide effort to assist the homeless is represented, blight is reduced, calls are placed/referrals are made to the correct agencies for the precise needs of the person(s) in need. Effectively reduce panhandling and increase revenue for homeless and prevention services.*

Strategy: Community awareness

- Launch Marketing Campaign to increase awareness
- Continue/increase participation in networking and collaborative meetings with service organizations, churches, businesses, police and other city/county officials
- Pursue/reach new opportunities of contact
- Ensure Effective Communication about the solutions
- Educate businesses and others about what they can do to help create a real solution
- Educate the Community about homelessness and resources
- Reduce the amount of PD calls for service regarding the homeless

Strategy: Alternatives to providing to panhandlers

- Launch Marketing Campaign in increase awareness that also includes campaign against panhandling
- Inform community about how to volunteer to assist homeless, donate in lieu of giving to panhandlers
- Work with local businesses to inform patrons of alternatives to panhandling
- Explore options of giving stations/centers to drop off contributions to the homeless

Target Date: One year from the Plan's adoption date.

2. Basic Needs Services

Objective: *Readily available basic services*

Strategy: Expansion of services on Hulen Place

- Laundry program for homeless clients
- Showers and rooming essentials
- Accessible meal centers
- Expansion of medical services at the Access Center
- Drop in center*
- Have all mainstream programs under one roof*
- Temporary storage services for personal belongings
- Add a dental clinic to the Access Center
- Implement a vision care program at the Access Center
- Create respite care program or strategy to prevent people from being discharged from hospitals onto the streets
- Create a homeless court program

Strategy: Access to affordable/free transportation

- Buss passes for the homeless to access services

Target Date: Two years from the Plan's adoption date.

*This action has a five year target date.

PRIORITY #2

1. Prevention Services

Objective: *Enhance existing homeless prevention services*

Strategy: **Ways to prevent homelessness**

- Focus on preventative care and development principals (vs. relief) both pre- and post-homelessness
- Ensure that resources for threatened (at-risk) families are accessible and known
- Invest in the prevention of homelessness by coordinating and streamlining efforts to address the causes of households losing their housing
- Pursue additional resources in order to provide for more clients (increase level of services)
- Increase the communication and collaboration between agencies serving the homeless and those entities and agencies that can most effectively provide for the prevention of homelessness
- Support the implementation of Laura's Law that allows counties to compel outpatient treatment in extreme cases

Objective: *Evaluate the success of homeless prevention services*

Strategy: **Create or use existing databases to evaluate homeless prevention services**

- Use HMIS to track homeless clients and to evaluate existing homeless prevention services
- Develop tracking system to ensure quality of data

Target date: Two years from the Plan's adoption date.

2. Outreach

Objective: *Immediate effective outreach for the chronic and visible homeless*

Strategy: **Reduce homeless population through outreach services and programs**

- Create an emergency response team to include: Police, Outreach Riverside County Department of Mental Health, church partners, etc.
- Collaboration and communication with other providers to provide immediate services and outreach
- Mobile center to serve on the streets
- Increase in funding for detox and substance/alcohol treatment

- Increase funding for mental health services
- Outreach providers throughout the county to work together more closely
- Attend conferences on homeless issues
- Incorporate the use of interns through local colleges

Target Date: One year from the Plan's adoption date.

PRIORITY #3

1. Employment Services

Objective: *Identify employment opportunities that would assist households in becoming self-sufficient*

Strategy: **Connect homeless individuals with job opportunities and resources**

- Create employment programs with a case management component that serves homeless individuals or those at-risk of becoming homeless to achieve permanent employment
- Support organizations providing transitional employment opportunities
- Create and/or assist businesses to capitalize on incentives for hiring the “hard to employ”
- Work with local agencies and educational or skills training institutions to create income opportunities through job development and working with the community to hire homeless individuals
- Host job fairs within the City of Riverside

Target Date: Three years from the Plan's adoption date.

2. Permanent Housing

Objective: *Develop permanent housing “pipeline” that will provide a clear path to permanent housing for individuals with different needs*

Strategy: **Create housing opportunities for homeless individuals**

- Consider the use of Housing Authority properties to be rehabilitated and designated for supportive permanent housing
- Permanent housing with lower barriers and possible subsidies for up to one year
- Provide case management tailored specifically to each clients with individualized case plans that have been placed in an affordable housing unit
- Additional affordable housing units aimed at serving individuals at 30% of area median income
- Develop a “furniture connection” in order to provide clients with furniture
- Develop a partnership with HomeAid to provide housing on a larger scale to the homeless, including those just released from treatment and mental health facilities
- Ensure that emergency (interim) housing/shelter remains available for individuals and families in crisis and integrate these emergency services into the housing pipeline

Objective: *Pursue and expand partner relationships with residential property owners*

Strategy: **Address barriers to housing homeless individuals through partnerships**

- Strengthen relationships with landlords to make allowances on client's history/past offenses
- Become involved in the 100K homes campaign that connects homeless individuals with affordable housing
- Continue a dialogue with non-profits that specialize in homeless services to possibly offer permanent housing services on a larger scale than what is currently provided

Target date: Five years from the Plan's adoption date.

PLAN ADOPTED: September 18, 2012

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