

# Sacramento County Homelessness Fact Sheet



## Office of Homeless Initiatives

The Office of Homeless Initiatives (OHI) was created to coordinate the response of various County departments to provide services to those experiencing homelessness in Sacramento County, as well as mitigating the impacts of homelessness on the community. OHI staff work on long term programs and solutions to homelessness, provide regular report outs to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), and engage with a variety of community stakeholders on solutions.

The OHI is committed to developing programs that endeavor to make homelessness in our community rare overall and brief when it occurs and that treat those experiencing homelessness with dignity, respect, and compassion. OHI's mission is to bring together a collaborative team of county departments, social advocates, those with lived experience, businesses and community based organizations to focus on improving housing outcomes and reducing homelessness in Sacramento County. OHI finds the unique solutions to serve our community members experiencing homelessness, via a comprehensive offering of programs and services such as shelter, re-housing, behavioral health, physical health, and prevention and diversion.

## Multi-Departmental Approach

Nearly all County Departments are working on issues intersecting with the homelessness crisis. From programs and services, to outreach, clean-up and legal services. Some of the departments that are regularly involved in responding to homelessness are:

- County Executive Office
- Homeless Initiatives
- Human Assistance
- Health Services
- Child, Family and Adult Services
- Code Enforcement
- Animal Services
- Regional Parks
- Department of Transportation
- Sheriff
- Finance
- General Services

## The State of Homelessness in Sacramento County

The latest [Point in Time Count \(PIT\)](#) estimates there are 9,278 people living unhoused in Sacramento County on any given night. Of those, 72 percent of those are living unsheltered— which means they are living in a tent, a vehicle or without any shelter. The nightly count translates to about 16,000-20,000 people that experience homelessness at some point in the year.

There are approximately 2,600 emergency shelter beds throughout Sacramento County, serving individuals, families, and transition age youth. Most are available year-round; some are seasonally opened during inclement weather. The County currently funds about 1,300 of these beds, with another 180 set to welcome guests within the next six month. Sacramento County is actively looking to stand up new shelter programs and locations to continue to address the crisis of unsheltered homelessness.

## Local Homeless Action Plan

In June of 2022, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved a collaborative [Local Homeless Action Plan \(LHAP\)](#), that was created in partnership with the Continuum of Care, Sacramento Steps Forward and the City of Sacramento. The Plan details the current state of homelessness in Sacramento County, lays out the current system gaps in shelter and housing resources to meet the needs of the population and establishes strategies in six key areas:

- Build and scale a Coordinated Access System (CAS)
- Ensure emergency shelter & interim housing is focused on rehousing
- Increase permanent housing opportunities
- Expand prevention & diversion programs
- Invest in community capacity building & training
- Ensure adequate behavioral health services

## Programs, services and information available for unhoused residents

### Outreach

- [Encampment teams](#) and services including sanitation stations, water distribution and trash services

### Shelter

- [Safe Stay Communities](#)
- Congregate shelter
- Scattered Site
- Motel vouchers
- Project Room Key
- Family Emergency Shelter

### Housing

- [Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency](#)
- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) housing
- Continuum of Care funded housing (accessed via 211)
- [Landlord Engagement and Assistance Program \(LEAP\)](#)

### System Improvements

- [Sacramento Steps Forward Dashboard](#)
- Coordinated Access
- Office of Homeless Initiatives

### Prevention Services

#### [Behavioral Health Services](#)

- Substance abuse treatment
- Mental health Services

## Sacramento County's Fiscal Commitment to Addressing Homelessness

In Fiscal Year 21/22, it is estimated that Sacramento County committed approximately \$181 million in funding to provide services and supports to those experiencing homelessness. Much of this funding is on-going annual commitments to current and new programs that provide outreach, shelter, treatment and rehousing services to those living unhoused and help mitigate the impacts to the community.

Additional funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was committed in FY 22/23 and will be invested in multi-year projects to increase these services and supports.

## Sacramento County provides Behavioral Health services to all eligible County residents

Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services is responsible for providing specialty mental health and substance use and prevention services throughout the County, inclusive of all of the cities. Whether homeless or not, Sacramento County is responsible for providing specialty mental health assessment and treatment services for those with severe needs and functional impairment. Managed care plans provide mental health services for those with mild to moderate needs and the County works closely with the plans to ensure appropriate connections are made.

