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SACRAMENTO AREA

HOMELESSNESS PROGRESS REPORT

Point-in-Time count: Number of people experiencing homelessness increases

By Tim Swanson

The 2022 Point in Time Count of people experiencing homelessness, conducted over two nights in late February, found 9,278 people without homes in Sacramento County—up 67 percent, from 5,570 in the count conducted in 2019. The increase shows reason for continued concern about this complex issue, but there are also a few glimmers of hope according to those closest to the count.

The report, [Homelessness In Sacramento](#), was prepared by the Division of Social Work and the Center for Health Practice, Policy and Research at the California State University, Sacramento. It was released by Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF), the region's lead agency for coordinating community efforts to end homelessness.

"Homelessness is a complex issue with no single driver," said Lisa Bates, SSF Chief Executive Director. "However, the extreme housing shortage and lack of affordability is one significant contributor to the increase in homelessness in Sacramento and in most other regions of the state."



Sacramento's localities and the Sacramento Continuum of Care (CoC) have increased investments and resources to address the crisis.

The report found 72 percent of people experiencing homelessness slept outdoors, in tents or vehicles, not in shelters. Most of them, (91 percent) come from within the Sacramento region, and approximately 75 percent were within the Sacramento city limits.

9,070 individuals obtained permanent housing since 2019 and shelter capacity has increased 57 percent, providing shelter to 10,459 persons over three years.

[The City of Sacramento](#) invests an estimated \$33 million a year for shelter and other services, operating approximately [1050 emergency shelter beds](#) and supporting community based organizations that provide housing and shelter. The Department of Community Response provides people experiencing homelessness with available resources and housing options.



DCR Director, Bridgette Dean, noted one of the positive findings in the PIT Report. "There are fewer families with children living on the streets, at least partially because of our city motel voucher program," said Dean. "We have seen the success and immediate impact of having dedicated motels as shelter options for those most at risk, in lieu of housing options."

The City has five motels under contract, representing 370 rooms housing approximately 450 people. "We dedicate the majority of those rooms to families with children," said Dean. "We know that providing a safe and stable place to stay, having the kids enrolled in school and providing key supports, will begin to address the underlying reasons the family is experiencing homelessness."

[Sacramento County](#) in the last year alone has allocated \$50 million in addition to its long running programs that address, prevent, or divert homelessness, including targeted help for mental health needs, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, rehousing assistance, sheltering and other programs.

Recently the City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento and CoC approved a combined \$13 million to develop and implement a new Coordinated Access System, which will streamline access to resources for people experiencing homelessness.

About this Report

The City of Sacramento, Sacramento Housing and Development Agency, Sacramento Steps Forward and the County of Sacramento are publishing this monthly report to keep the community informed about our collaborative work to address homelessness in Sacramento.



The City's Department of Community Response and contractor Hope Cooperative are working with the Midtown Association and Sacramento Downtown Partnership to reach out to people experiencing homelessness in the central city and connect them with shelter space and other services. The newly formed Central City Multi-Service Teams represent a new approach to addressing a complex issue, officials said.

"Homelessness is a multi-faceted issue that requires a multi-faceted approach to solutions," said Michael Ault, executive director with the Downtown Partnership. "Working collaboratively to meet individuals experiencing homeless where they are is a critical step towards nurturing the wellbeing of our entire community."

Our partnership with DCR and Hope Cooperative is part of addressing much-needed community services for people experiencing homelessness," said Emily Baime Michaels, executive director of the Midtown Association. "Through this outreach, we see meaningful progress being made toward Midtown's safety and success."

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

SHRA is administering shelter housing for homeless residents in partnership with the City and Sacramento Steps Forward. One of three such facilities is Emergency Bridge Housing at the Grove in North Sacramento. The community of sleeping cabins opened June 2020 and currently serves up to 24 unsheltered transitional age youth (TAY) aged 18-24 in response to Governor Newsom's Shelter Crisis Declaration of January 2020 and the 100-day challenge to California cities to close the gap in housing unsheltered residents. Through the youth centric coordinated entry system, shelter guests receive robust wrap around services coordinated by First Step Communities that provides youth with housing and support through case management which helps the community address the concerns of homeless youth early in their life to help prevent them from falling into chronic homelessness. To date, 117 of 209 guests have obtained housing. One EBH guest commented, "I get to have a chance to grow and I have a place now where I can be safe and practice being self-sufficient." [View Homeless Shelter Reports.](#)



Sacramento Steps Forward

The Sacramento City & County Continuum of Care was recently awarded \$866,498 by the [California Interagency Council on Homelessness](#) (Cal ICH) through the Family Homelessness Challenge Grant to create a Family Collaborative Strategy to expand our capacity to collect real time quality data on families experiencing or imminently at risk of homelessness, develop shared goals and strategies across systems of care to address family homelessness, and build cross-agency case conferencing by using an established quality by name list of homeless families in our community. This funding will enable us to partner with the Black Child Legacy Campaign to address the racial disparities of those experiencing homelessness, particularly among our Black/African American community, which fully aligns with the Racial Equity Action Plan.

Created by Governor Gavin Newsom and the Legislature, the Family Homelessness Challenge Grant program is part of a broader \$12 billion package to address homelessness contained in the 2021-22 state budget.

Sacramento CoC Awarded \$866K Cal ICH Family Grant



County of Sacramento

Sacramento County's will launch it's first "Safe Stay Community" for persons experiencing homelessness. The new concept community will open at 8144 Florin Road, on the corner of Power Inn and Florin at the former site of a now razed grocery store. The site will house up to 100 [Pallet sleeping cabins](#) – both single and double occupancy, bathrooms, and communal gathering spaces. At any point in time, it can shelter up to 125 people. Safe stay communities are temporary shelter settings for unhoused community members. These communities are built as a safer and more sanitary environment and offer critical services oriented towards exiting to permanent housing. Each site will include 24/7 security, case management services, on-site power, sanitation and food services. Read more about the Safe Stay Communities.

