
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

San Diegans Together Tackling Homelessness

Vision

San Diegans Together Tackling Homelessness is a transformative initiative in San Diego that unites the capabilities of the public, nonprofit, private, faith-based, and philanthropic sectors to devise a scalable and comprehensive plan to combat homelessness. This is not a committee, but a commitment.

Tagline: Uniting Business Ingenuity and Government Support with Community Spirit

Understanding the Situation (Data from the Regional Task Force on Homelessness)

- Homelessness is a "State of Emergency" in the city of San Diego
- **3285** Unsheltered + **3215** Sheltered = **6500** Total
- **14,258** Enter the system the past year; **8,843** Exit.
- For every **10** individuals that exit homelessness; **16** enter.

The City of San Diego directly supports approximately **2700** individuals per day through shelter, safe parking and sleeping sites with a budget of **\$78M**. The City of San Diego cost is approximately **\$30K** per client per year. This includes an overnight stay with wrap-around services.

Unified Goal: No One Sleeping On The Streets

All Hands-on Deck Strategy

Stakeholder Engagement

Collaborative efforts with the unhoused community, residents, and entities such as the City of San Diego, San Diego Housing Commission, Regional Task Force on Homelessness, shelter providers, colleges and universities, churches, business, and others for a holistic approach. The San Diego County is primarily responsible for mental health services in the region.

Resources

Determine all available resources and their accessibility. Promote the use of helplines like 211 for assistance. A proposed centralized digital portal website and app that would provide a one-stop solution for resources, shelter availability, and more. The homelessness resource center is also a centralized location where unsheltered individuals can seek assistance.

Expansion & Scalability

Formation of central working groups and sub-groups for coordinated efforts. Adopt an iterative approach for the program, incorporating feedback and continuous training. Engage the community to partner with government efforts.

Challenges & Forward Path

Potential challenges, including inter-organization politics and resource limitations, must be identified, and addressed early on. Conduct regular review sessions to discuss progress and identify solutions. Feedback mechanisms will drive iterative improvements, ensuring the initiative's adaptability and success.

Four Pillar Approach to End Homelessness:

1. **Prevention** – keep anyone on the verge of becoming unhoused in their current residence. It's cheaper by a magnitude of five to keep someone in their current residence than putting them into a shelter
2. **Shelter** – get everyone off the street. Everyone deserves to live with dignity with a toilet, handwashing station, shower, food, and security
3. **Exit** – place everyone into temporary or permanent housing. Between reunification and finding apartments anywhere in the region, we must identify all available housing and rehabilitation resources to address substance abuse and mental health
4. **Housing** – build more affordable housing. Increase supply/reduce demand. If we were able to stop time today, there is not enough affordable housing in San Diego to house everyone

Conclusion

San Diegans Together Tackling Homelessness presents an ambitious collaborative approach to an enduring problem. By uniting various sectors of society and leveraging shared resources, knowledge, and expertise, this initiative aims not just to manage, but to resolve the homelessness crisis in San Diego.

Through strategic planning, dedicated action, and community support, we aim to restore hope and dignity to every unhoused individual in our community. Our belief is that “if asked” stakeholders can and will step up to fill the gaps and work together towards a solution by building an ecosystem that can take in a person at any stage of homelessness and accurately and efficiently assess and provide appropriate resources.

The creation of a unified and structured ecosystem will also reduce the number of people who fall through the cracks, becoming homeless and sleeping on the streets. The ecosystem will move a person along the pathway towards permanent housing in tiered stages.

CALL TO ACTION

San Diegans Together Tackling Homelessness

The City of San Diego does not have the resources to solve the homelessness crisis alone. It is a humanitarian crisis and a burden every San Diegan must share. It will take all of us doing something collectively to make a meaningful difference. The ultimate goal is that all 1.4M residents contribute something to assist every stakeholder group. Donations can be made to the *San Diego Foundation* for the *San Diegans Together Tackling Homelessness* initiative.

Community Partners

Businesses

1. Employee Assistance Programs
2. Partner with organizations to provide services for their employees and the unhoused
3. Donate resources that can benefit the unhoused community – facilities, parking lots, etc.
4. Donate funds to jumpstart or progress current or new initiatives

Faith-Based

1. Establish a food pantry to serve food to the community
2. Launch safe parking lots to support unhoused residents with access to their own vehicles
3. Establish sites for tiny homes built for mobility and ease of access
4. Housing – identify rooms for rent
5. Donate funds

Nonprofits

1. Volunteer – financial education, job training, life skills, housing
2. Partner with service providers
3. Establish safe parking lots
4. Donate funds

Individuals

1. Volunteer – financial education, job training, life skills, housing
2. Be a friend
3. Donate funds

Donated Funds will Support the Four Pillars

- **Prevention** – reduce the annual intake into the system from 14,258 residents to < 8,843
- **Shelter** – serve an additional 1,000 residents above the current population
- **Exit** – assist an additional 1,000 additional residents in finding permanent housing per year
- **Housing** – raise funding to assist in building high rise affordable housing units

Solving the Problem

It is our goal to raise funding from the San Diego Community. Every business, nonprofit, faith-based organization and individual can contribute in some form or fashion to our ultimate goal.

Prevention – reduce the annual intake into the system from *14,258* residents to less than *8,843*. There are studies that show as little as *\$300* per month or *\$3600* per year is all that is needed to help individuals from falling into homelessness. To reduce the number of individuals entering the system to be less than those exiting the system, we need to impact approximately *5500* people on the verge of homelessness. This can be achieved by businesses offering Employee Assistance Programs or directing employees to financial counseling resources. Faith based organization can also refer members of their congregation.

Shelter – serve an additional *1000* residents above the current number. We are constantly seeking a long-term solution to house those in need of immediate shelter. Currently, we do not have enough beds, tents, or parking spaces to address the need. The sum of those three areas is about *2700* individuals served on a daily basis. Creating more capacity in the system is desperately needed to assure that no one sleeps on the streets.

Exit – assist *1000* additional residents in finding permanent housing per year. The average cost to provide services to the unhoused population in the state of California is approximately *\$42K* per year. The City of San Diego is averaging approximately *\$30K* per year when you combine shelters, safe sleeping, and safe parking. It has also been proven that much success has been achieved through the reunification program with family and friends.

Housing – raise funding to assist in building high rise affordable housing units. The City of San Diego currently owns the property that once housed the old central downtown library located at *820 E Street*. It is the city's desire to build a *40* story, *400-unit* complex that has amenities such as underground parking, convenient store, barbershop and beauty salon, childcare, coffee shop and police substation. The concept is for this to be *100%* affordable and owned by the City of San Diego. The revenue generated will be used to manage the facility and assist in other homeless efforts around the city.