The City of SAN DIEGO
Mayor Todd Gloria

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026

City of San Diego Approves New Outreach Contracts to Expand Support for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

PARTNERSHIPS WITH NONPROFITS PROVIDE ACCESS TO SHELTER, HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego is strengthening its efforts to help people experiencing homelessness access shelter, healthcare and permanent housing through new provider outreach agreements. On Tuesday, the City Council approved a contract with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) San Diego to support the City's Coordinated Street Outreach Program. In addition to the agreement with PATH San Diego, the City will also contract with Healthcare in Action (HIA), a medical group dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness, to support unsheltered individuals who need a higher level of care.

Through the program, 35 outreach workers will be assigned to engage with individuals living on the street or encampments in communities across San Diego to connect them with shelter, care services and, ultimately, housing.

The Coordinated Street Outreach Program has demonstrated success since it launched in 2020. In fiscal year 2026, the program served 5,615 people, up 59% from the previous year, and placed 666 people into permanent housing, a 57% increase compared to fiscal year 2025.

"Ending homelessness requires meeting people where they are and connecting them with the services and support they need to rebuild their lives," said Mayor Todd Gloria. **"Under my administration, we've strengthened our outreach efforts, expanded access to shelter and helped thousands of San Diegans connect with critical services, including hundreds who have moved into housing. By bringing medical professionals directly into our street outreach efforts, we're taking another important step toward addressing the complex challenges that keep people experiencing homelessness. We'll continue working with our partners to help more people off the streets, into care and on a path toward permanent housing."**

The agreement with PATH San Diego includes Mobile Homeless Response Teams who are geographically assigned to areas throughout the City and assist with documentation, benefits, housing navigation, and coordination with healthcare, behavioral health, shelter and other service providers. The agreement also

includes Rapid Response Teams who respond to community referrals and reports, including those made by the public, or where additional engagement is needed.

“Outreach is a vital first step in helping people experiencing homelessness access the services, shelter, housing, and care they need,” said Angie Striepling, Senior Director of Programs at PATH San Diego. **“PATH is grateful for the City of San Diego’s continued partnership, especially with the expansion of our Rapid Response Team, which provide services seven days a week. The partnership with Healthcare in Action and a continued Downtown-specific outreach team will help us more comprehensively address the needs of those we connect with. Together, we’ll continue meeting people where they are while offering additional levels of support to address the complex needs of unsheltered San Diegans.”**

HIA will coordinate with PATH San Diego to provide an enhanced level of support for individuals whose medical, behavioral health, mental health or other health-related needs may interfere with their ability to secure permanent housing on their own. Where eligible, HIA will connect participants to and leverage Community Supports and Enhanced Care Management available through California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM). This coordinated approach will help outreach teams address immediate health needs while connecting participants to ongoing treatment, supportive services and housing opportunities.

"Healthcare in Action is honored to join PATH and the City of San Diego in the Coordinated Street Outreach Program. We already have a strong working relationship with PATH, and we look forward to a more structured and organized collaboration,” said Michael Wu, MD, Medical Director for San Diego and Orange County, Healthcare in Action. **“Outreach is often the first trusted relationship a person living outside has with any system of care, and by working together we can connect eligible people directly to street medicine, so they receive care where they are and have a stronger path toward stable housing."**

Previously the City contracted with HIA through grant-funded homeless encampment projects in specific areas, like the San Diego River operation. PATH San Diego has served as one of the City's Coordinated Street Outreach Program providers since the program’s inception.

The agreements with PATH San Diego and HIA also include regular involvement in mobile resource events – known as CARE (Community Coordinated Access to Resources and Engagement) events – throughout the City where individuals can connect with a variety of services through local nonprofits and government partners. These resource events have served 2,271 individuals since January.

The new outreach agreements will use Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues to fund the majority of the Coordinated Street Outreach Program's operating costs. Both agreements run through June 2027, with options for four additional one-year renewals. For fiscal year 2027, the City will invest an estimated

$2.4 million in outreach services through PATH San Diego and approximately $289,000 in outreach services through HIA. Projected ongoing annual costs are $4.2 million for PATH San Diego and just under $500,000 for HIA.

The expanded outreach partnerships are part of the City's broader approach to addressing homelessness, which includes shelter, safe sleeping and safe parking programs, housing navigation and connections to supportive services. By coordinating these resources, the City is working to help more individuals move from unsheltered homelessness toward greater stability and permanent housing.

In addition to street outreach, the City currently funds 2,700 sheltering options for individuals experiencing homelessness, where outreach teams make regular referrals. This includes approximately 1,600 traditional shelter beds across 17 different programs, 760 tent spaces at the Safe Sleeping Program and 350 Safe Parking spaces for individuals experiencing homelessness in their vehicle. The budget for the City's Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department is largely supported by dedicated homelessness funding, including TOT funds and grant funding from California's Homelessness Housing, Assistance and Prevention program (HHAP).



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