



Homelessness Initiatives

At Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer's 2017 State of the City Address, homelessness was identified as the biggest social issue facing the City of San Diego and addressing it as one of administrations highest priorities. With a firm commitment to the "Housing First" philosophy the City, along with its network of partners, have made significant steps towards improving the delivery of homeless services.

Each budget released by Mayor Faulconer has provided the much needed resources to improve the City's homeless services system. These investments include; the ongoing operations of three emergency shelters, funding to assist homeless providers transition to the utilization of a standardized homeless information system, working with our partners in the criminal justice system to develop innovate approaches to address homelessness such as the S.M.A.R.T Program and expanding successful initiatives including Housing our Heroes.

The Housing First approach works and the third phase of the "Housing First – San Diego" plan doubles down on successes of past years. The 2017 Point-in-Time count highlighted the fact that the homeless crisis facing the City continues to grow but it also demonstrated areas where the City's efforts have been extremely successful. Data from the annual homeless census indicated a 24% reduction in unsheltered homeless veterans and an overall population decline of 10%, which can be directly linked to the efforts of the Housing our Heroes Initiative.

Over the last several months the administration has been working on the execution of three priority initiatives: issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the City's housing navigation center, selecting sites and service providers to operate a temporary bridge shelter and expanding the provision of transitional property storage.

In addition to these high priority projects, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer's Office is also working with regional stakeholders and social service providers to review or implement an array of action items meant to;

- 1) Foster the creation of additional affordable housing units as well as housing for low income and homeless San Diegan's.
- 2) Optimizing homeless program administration and outcomes
- 3) Improving the City's homelessness information infrastructure
- 4) Continue to identify short term solutions to provide for the immediate needs of the City's unsheltered population
- 5) Effectively facilitate the County's response to the hepatitis A outbreak

The administration is also working closely with the San Diego Housing Commission on the implementation of the third phase of the "Housing First – San Diego" initiative and with the Select Committee on Homelessness on the Rapid Housing Initiative that will take place in October.



The Mayor's Office will also continue to engage the Regional Taskforce on the Homeless and support the ongoing development of the both the Community Plan and a regional homeless crisis response system.

Shelter

Objective: Identify short term solutions to provide for the immediate needs of the City's unsheltered population

Identified locations for Temporary Bridge Shelters Complete

More than 3,200 individuals throughout the City live without shelter – on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or places unfit for human habitation. Although significant investments are being made to increase the inventory of low-income and permanent supportive housing units, it will be several years before an adequate supply of permanent housing is realized.

As a result, the City has been conducting an array of site analyses to determine the feasibility of providing temporary interim bridge shelters to house the most chronic and vulnerable of our homeless population while they are assisted with obtaining a permanent housing placement.

The three sites selected at located at: 14th & Commercial and will be operated by St. Vincent De Paul; 16th & Newton and will be operated by Alpha Project; 2700 block of Sports Arena Blvd that will house veterans and their families and will be operated by Veterans Village of San Diego.

Transitional Camping Area Complete

The 136-space Transitional Camp Area – to be located in the parking lot at the City Operations Yard at 20th and B streets – will provide a safe and sanitary space for more than 200 homeless individuals while the City continues sanitation efforts in downtown and other neighborhoods to eradicate the hepatitis A virus

Safe Parking Zone Complete

As another strategy to reduce homelessness in San Diego, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer announced the expansion of a safe parking program that provides individuals and families who are currently living out of their vehicles, a safe and secure place to park at night, with case managers and a housing specialist to help them find permanent homes.



The expanded program at the existing site will now offer 120 parking spaces to homeless individuals with plans of expanding to a city-owned parking lot near the intersection of Aero Drive and Murphy Canyon Road, with 60 parking spaces.

Transitional Property Storage

Fall 2018

The City is reviewing existing assets, as well as working with its network of service providers, to provide additional storage capacity for homeless individuals to securely store their belongings while they access services.

Streamline

Objective: Optimize homeless program administration and outcomes

Housing Navigation Center

Request for Proposals issued

The City is proposing the development of a facility that would serve as the physical embodiment of the Coordinated Entry System, a data driven approach to analyzing a homeless individual's need and efficiently matching them with the most appropriate housing resource. In addition, the center would provide bridge housing for homeless individuals including access to core supportive services. The City is working with the County and the San Diego Housing Commission to finalize the programmatic specifics, and the Request for Proposals was released in September 2017.

Transitional Housing Conversion

In Process

The City is working with its service providers to implement the recommendations outlined in a 2015 report conducted by the Corporation for Supportive Housing, which evaluated the San Diego region's network of transitional housing and identified 219 units that could either be converted into Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive or Bridge Housing units.

Reduce Shelter Barriers to Entry

In Process

The City, the San Diego Housing Commission and the City's three shelter providers have analyzed existing programs to determine their alignment with the "Housing First" model and to identify any self-imposed regulatory or operational barriers that may prevent homeless individuals from accessing services.



The findings were used to develop an Interim Housing Toolkit that the City and the San Diego Housing Commission will present to the Regional Task Force on the Homeless to provide a roadmap for other agencies interested in making similar improvements.

Performance-Based Contracting Summer 2018

The City has been moving towards the implementation of performance-based contracting for all of its U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development entitlement funded programs. In partnership with the San Diego Housing Commission and homeless service providers, the City is developing contractual revisions to reflect best practices and clearer metrics of success.

Connect

Objective: Improve the City's homelessness information infrastructure

Posting Shelter Availability In Process

The City funds the operation of three shelter facilities: the year-round Interim Housing at the Paul Mirabile Center, PATH Connections Housing Downtown and the Cortez Hill Family Center. For many homeless individuals, stakeholders and advocates, determining bed availability is often difficult. The City is working with

its three shelter providers and the San Diego Housing Commission to develop a system to track bed availability as well as a method to best make that information available to the public at large.

Sharing Data Spring 2018

The City's Performance & Analytics Department will work to streamline the process for receiving, analyzing and sharing relevant data sets regarding the operation of the City's homeless shelters and related services, funding and the annual Point-In-Time Count.

Community Collaboration Portal Spring 2018

Several individuals, advocates, community groups and faith-based organizations regularly provide meals or other items to homeless individuals. Although these efforts are well-intentioned, they often perpetuate a homeless individual's duration on the street and unfortunately do not move a homeless individual closer to a permanent housing placement.



As a result, the City will be developing a portal that interested parties can utilize to partner with service providers to facilitate their charitable efforts while also ensuring that homeless individuals who participate receive resources that will help them transition off the streets.

Homeless Service Website Spring 2018

The City's Homeless Service website will be updated to reflect current data, resources and status of the region's various efforts to address homelessness.

Build

Objective: Connect individuals to affordable housing through new construction or vouchers for existing units.

Housing SD Plan Released in summer of 2017

This is a comprehensive set of policy changes proposed by Mayor Faulconer that aim to address the high price of housing for low- and middle-income San Diegans as well as homeless San Diegans; by increasing supply, lowering development costs and promoting smart growth.

The strategies include the expansion of the Affordable/Sustainable expedite program, the provision of a Middle-Income Density Bonus, streamlining the process for the development of Accessory Dwelling Units (a.k.a. granny flats), updates to the Land Development Code, reviewing the methodology for calculating Developer Impact Fees and conducting a Parking Standards Analysis along the City's Transit Priority Areas.

\$25 million for Housing Development Request for Proposals issued February 2017

Earlier this year, the City released a \$25 million Notice of Funding Availability through Civic San Diego to facilitate the development of affordable rental units. The goal is to leverage the \$25 million, at below-market interest rates, with other funding sources from public and/or private organizations, into several developments that demonstrate certain affordability and mixed-income levels. Proposals are currently being reviewed by Civic San Diego and should be concluded by later this fall.



3-Year, \$80 million "Housing First – San Diego" plan Launched July 2017

This recently launched initiative by the City of San Diego and the San Diego Housing Commission invests nearly \$60 million over a three year period for the creation of new permanent supportive housing units as well as programing funds to focus on improving homelessness outreach, expanding the availability of prevention & diversion resources and scaling the agencies landlord engagement efforts in order to make additional housing units available for homeless individuals and families.

Treat

Objective: Effectively facilitate the County's response to the hepatitis A outbreak

Public Vaccinations Ongoing as necessary

Since June 28th, County Health personal have been partnered with the Homeless Outreach Team to provide vaccinations for homeless individuals who are living on the street or other places not meant for human habitation which has resulted in 371 individuals being vaccinated.

In addition, the City's network of libraries have hosted free clinics to provide hepatitis A vaccinations. In August the Mission Valley Branch was the first to offer the service and 60 individuals where vaccinated over a two day period. The next free clinic is scheduled for October 19th at the Central Library.

Protecting the City's Workforce Ongoing as Necessary

In order to protect City staff that are most at risk to being exposed to the hepatitis A virus, staff was notified in early May that free vaccinations would be made available as well as time during work hours to get vaccinated if they chose to do so. This included staff from the San Diego Police Department, San Diego Fire-Rescue, Library Department, Park & Recreation Department and Environmental Services.

Hand Washing Stations Ongoing as necessary

As of September 2, the City has worked with the County to facilitate the placement of over 40 handwashing stations and City staff has also identified additional locations where the placement of a station may be beneficial. The Mayor has directed staff to ensure the placement of these facilities are expedited and allowed to be sited while the required agreements are executed with the County.



*Sanitizing the public right of way
Ongoing as necessary*

Per the directive the City received from the County Health and Human Services Agency, the City is beginning implementation of the prescribed cleaning procedure to sanitize the public right of way.

*Educate the Public
Ongoing as necessary*

The County Health Department provided the City various informational handouts and posters in both English and Spanish that was ordered to be placed in public facilities such as City Hall, Park and Recreation facilities, Police Departments and Libraries.