

Shelter for All: Key Points on Homelessness for Every Planning Director to Know

A Presentation to the

Bay Area Planning Directors Association

by HomeBase

May 30, 2014

Who is Homeless?

What factors contribute to homelessness?

- WHO? Individuals, families (just over 36% of the homeless population in 2013 were people in families), unaccompanied youth (over 8%), veterans (nearly 10%), and persons fleeing domestic violence
- Chronically Homeless – individuals with a disabling condition who are the most vulnerable population, as they have lived for extended periods of time in shelters or in places unsuited for human habitation and have cycled through the service system without getting the help they need.
- What risk factors can contribute to homelessness?
 - Poverty
 - Severe housing cost burden (i.e. even though San Francisco has the highest minimum wage in the country, it would still take at least 4 full time minimum-wage jobs to afford the average rent in San Francisco)
 - Unemployment, sudden loss of job
 - Foreclosure
 - Unexpected/severe medical crises, lack of insurance coverage
 - Behavioral health
 - Substance use

Bay Area Homelessness

	2013 Total Population*	2011 Poverty Rate (% of total population)**	2012 (2Q) Foreclosure Rate (per 100,000 households)***	2013 Point in Time Count of Homeless Population	2013 Homeless Population (% of Total)
Alameda	1,578,891	12.4	157.49	4,264	.27
Contra Costa	1,094,205	12.5	94.25	3,798	.35
Marin	258,365	9.3	257.44	693	.27
Napa	140,326	12.4	140.05	245	.17
San Francisco	837,442	12.8	579.02	6,776	.81
San Mateo	747,373	6.7	245.5	2,281	.31
Santa Clara	1,862,041	10.2	206.64	7,631	.41
Solano	424,788	13.6	71.39	1,329	.31
Sonoma	495,025	11.7	154.28	4,280	.86

*United States Census Bureau Population Estimates for 2013, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06000.html>.

**Christopher Wimer, et al, A Portrait of Poverty within California Counties and Demographic Groups, pg. 4, The Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, at http://www.stanford.edu/group/scspi/poverty/cpm/CPMBrief_CPI.pdf

***Patchwork Nation, www.patchworknation.org

Total Persons Experiencing Homelessness - Comparison

TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

	2007	2009	2011	% CHANGE, 2007-11
Bay Area Total	30,062	28,137	27,493	- 8.5 %
Los Angeles	68,608	42,694	45,422	- 33.8 %
New York City	50,372	50,261	51,123	+ 1.5 %

Infrastructure of Response to Homelessness: Federal

- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - Primary implementer of targeted federal response
- There are also broader mainstream resources available, which should be tailored to help meet the housing and service needs of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Other agencies involved in targeted and mainstream response:
 - Health and Human Services
 - Veterans Affairs
 - Labor
 - Education
- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
 - Provides federal interagency leadership and collaboration

Infrastructure of Response to Homelessness: State

- Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Administers, develops and advocates homeless policies in California
- California Housing Finance Agency
- Governor's Ten Year Chronic Homelessness Action Plan (2010; 2013)
 - Provides goals and action steps to reduce chronic homelessness

Infrastructure of Response to Homelessness: Local

- Continuum of Care (CoC)
 - Governing body that provides a framework for organizing and delivering targeted housing and services
 - Works to prevent and end homelessness for individuals and families
- Local jurisdictions work collaboratively with CoC's to meet the housing and service needs of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Why is there still homelessness?

- Lack of extremely-low income/low-income affordable housing
 - inability to provide the sheer number of low-cost/no-cost units needed to house everyone in need
- Operating resources and treatment/services and linkages not currently available
- Need for a comprehensive system of care to prevent, divert, and instantly respond to episodes of homelessness

As Planning Directors, what can you do to help end homelessness?

- Requires a collaborative approach
- All community stakeholders need to be involved in the local CoC
 - Engage in interventions - efforts to prevent and end homelessness
 - Participate in CoC, 5-Year and 10-Year Plan development and implementation
- Target limited resources to specific populations, such as veterans, transition age youth, Health and Behavioral Health patients, families, etc.

Key opportunity to provide input: the Consolidated Plan

- In 1995, HUD consolidated four formula programs (CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG) into one application.
- HUD requires that communities develop a Consolidated Plan every 3-5 years that determines local needs, priorities, resources, and goals.
- In their Consolidated Plan, communities must describe their homeless strategy, resources available to address the needs of homeless people and people at risk of homelessness, and consult with CoCs and other community stakeholders

Key opportunity for collaboration: the Housing Element

- The Housing Element is a local plan to meet the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community
- The Housing Element requires communities to identify and analyze the housing needs of the homeless and extremely low-income households and identify sites and programs to meet those needs, including transitional housing and emergency shelter, and also to facilitate local efforts to effectively use state funds earmarked for homelessness
- Opportunity to engage your CoC in developing and participating in the public planning process
 - Ensures that the most needed interventions will be prioritized to respond to homelessness locally.

Key Opportunity for Involvement: CoC and ESG Coordination

- The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program provides additional funding for outreach, prevention, emergency shelter, and rapid rehousing.
 - State and local governments distribute ESG funds to non-profit and departmental subrecipients.
- The HEARTH Act requires CoC and ESG recipients to coordinate their response to homelessness.
- This is another opportunity for community stakeholders to engage in collaborative planning and targeted interventions. Join your CoC!

How can you stay involved?

- Coordination and Collaboration with your CoC and other municipalities
- Access key resources to stay engaged:
 - Call HomeBase and we can help connect you to others within your community, to other communities, and to state and national resources.
 - HomeBase: 415-788-7961, Carolyn Wylie or Amanda Stempson
 - Or visit us online: www.homebaseccc.org
 - We can also help with linkages to key federal resources.
 - Also check out HUD's site at:
 - OneCPD Resource Exchange, <https://www.onecpd.info/>
- For additional resources, relevant data, and networking opportunities, join the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness and Housing, a Bay Area forum on homeless and housing policy. For more info and to join the RSC listserv, contact Ashley Hart McIntyre, ashley@homebaseccc.org

Contact Information



HomeBase

Policy | Advocacy | Planning

Legal and Technical Assistance | *Advancing Solutions to Homelessness*

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