

Homeless

Homeless persons are those in need of temporary or emergency shelter. They are individuals who lack a fixed income and regular nighttime residence. Some are in need of short-term (immediate crisis) shelter, while others have long-term (chronic) needs. The homeless represent a broad category including single men and women, couples, families, displaced youths without parents, and seniors. They can include individuals who are victims of economic dislocation, physically disabled, teen parents with their children, veterans, hospital and jail discharges, alcohol and drug abusers, survivors of domestic violence, persons with AIDS, immigrants, refugees, and farm labor workers. According to Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency's (SHRA) 1998–2002 Consolidated Plan, on any given night approximately 5,121 individuals in families are homeless in Sacramento. SHRA states that the average age of single men using Sacramento's homeless shelters has decreased from 46 to 33 years old over the past five years. The average age of women accessing shelters in Sacramento is 36 years old. In addition, 35% of Sacramento's homeless men are veterans of all wars since the Korean War. Three percent of the total homeless population is comprised of senior's age 62 years and older.

According to an April 2002 report prepared jointly by the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance and SHRA, there were approximately 6,900 homeless individuals in various forms of assisted shelter or housing in 2001, plus approximately 700 additional unsheltered homeless persons. Organizations that provided assistance included Lutheran Social Services, Transitional Living and Community Support, and the Volunteers of America (VOA) Winter Overflow Shelter. The highest priority need for the homeless population according to the County Department of Human Assistance and local housing-for-the-homeless providers are transitional and permanent housing with supportive services for subgroups among the homeless population. The 2001 Sacramento County Continuum of Care Gap Analysis report is provided below (Table 8-20) and includes an analysis of homeless persons in the County and their needs.

Table 8-19**Sacramento County Continuum of Care Gaps Analysis**

		Estimated Need	Current Inventory	Unmet Need	Relative Priority
Individuals					
Beds/Units	Emergency Shelter	1,058	784	274	Moderate
	Transitional Housing	1,094	810	284	Moderate
	Permanent Supportive Housing	1,600	257	1,343	High
	Total	3,437	1,851	1,586	–
Estimated Supportive Service Slots	Substance Abuse Treatment	1,512	238	1,274	High
	Mental Health Care	1,202	128	1,074	High
	Housing Placement	3,093	101	2,992	High
	Transportation	2,062	159	1,903	High
Estimated Sub-Populations	Chronic Substance Abusers	1,512	238	1,274	High
	Seriously Mentally Ill	1,615	128	1,487	High
	Dually Diagnosed	687	370	317	High
	Veterans	1,134	30	1,104	Moderate
	Persons with HIV/AIDS	171	146	25	Moderate
	Youth	800	28	772	High
Persons in Families with Children					
Beds/Units	Emergency Shelter	406	301	105	High
	Transitional Housing	347	257	90	High
	Permanent Supportive Housing	1,812	453	1,359	High
	Total	2,565	1,011	1,554	--
Estimated Supportive Services Slots	Child Care	282	185	97	High
	Substance Abuse Treatment	1,128	238	890	High
	Mental Health Care	898	128	770	High
	Housing Placement	2,308	428	1,880	High
	Transportation	1,539	159	1,380	High
	Life Skill Training	1,923	185	1,738	High
	Medical/Dental	1,272	157	1,115	High
Estimated Sub-Populations	Chronic Substance Abusers	1,128	238	890	High
	Seriously Mentally Ill	1,025	128	897	High
	Youth (in family)	1,280	31	1,249	High

Source: Continuum of Care, Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance, 2001.

Agencies and Programs Offering Assistance to the Homeless

The following is a list of agencies and programs offering assistance to the homeless population in Sacramento County.

General Assistance for Singles and Families

CalWORKs provides one-time-in-lifetime funds to individuals on public assistance for rent and utility payments, funded through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Child Protective Services (CPS) provides emergency rent and utility assistance for families with children who have an open case with CPS.

Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) has limited funds available for individuals who are in danger of losing their utilities.

Sacramento Self-Help Housing Corporation provides housing referrals and housing advocacy to low-income and homeless families and individuals.

Community Services Planning Council provides information on homeless services through Infoline, a telephone contact and referral service.

Return to Residence (collaboration with law enforcement and Department of Human Assistance) provides bus transportation for homeless individuals who wish to return to a stable environment and living situation with family in another location.

Neighborhood Police Officers is operated by the Sacramento City Police Department to provide outreach to homeless individuals living in unsafe or unfit living conditions.

CARES – Short Term Housing Assistance provides emergency utility and rental payments and short-term supportive services.

Lutheran Social Services provides case management services and assistance to individuals/families that have progressed from transitional to permanent housing.

HEALTH provides healthcare outreach to persons in transitional housing programs.

Loaves & Fishes provides meals, information and referral, laundry, and social support to homeless individuals.

Francis House provides emergency motel vouchers and bus passes.

Emergency Shelter, Transitional and/or Permanent Housing Options

St. John's Shelter for Women provides 40 beds for homeless single women and women with children.

Salvation Army-Aid-in-Kind provides 50 beds for homeless single males.

Salvation Army-Men's Lodge provides 80 beds for homeless single males.

Salvation Army-Modular Program provides 60 beds for homeless single males and 20 beds for homeless single females.

Traveler's Aid provides nine homeless families (one or two parent) with motel vouchers.

Union Gospel Mission provides 86 beds for homeless single males.

Volunteers of America Aid-in-Kind provides 48 beds for homeless single males and 14 for homeless single females.

Volunteers of America CATC facility provides 72 single-male and 8 single-female beds.

Winter Overflow Shelter Program provides 140 single-male and 60 female/family beds.

Lutheran Social Services provides a Transitional Housing Program that accommodates 36 homeless family members.

Mather Community Campus provides spaces for 200 singles and 32 families (200 family beds).

Sacramento Area Emergency Housing – Family Preservation provides a program for 16 homeless families with Child Protective Services involvement or with children in foster care.

Sacramento Cottage Housing – Francis A. Quinn Cottages provides transitional housing for 60 homeless singles and 10 homeless couples.

VOA – Independent Readiness Program has beds for 46 homeless singles.

VOA – *Options for Recovery* serves 16 homeless, pregnant, or parenting females.

OMEGA Project provides permanent supportive housing for 15 formerly homeless singles and 15 formerly homeless families.

TLCS WORKS has 25 slots for permanent supportive housing and employment services for individuals that are entering or re-entering the workplace.

Substance Abusers

Comprehensive Alcohol Treatment Center (CATC) is operated by VOA and law enforcement, this center provides homeless individuals help with substance abuse problems.

Emergency Shelter, Transitional, and/or Permanent Housing Options

VOA Inebriate Program – Comprehensive Alcohol Treatment Center has 40 beds for singles with substance abuse problems.

Mentally Ill

Courtesy Mobil Van Outreach Program provides outreach to homeless mentally ill individuals “on the streets.”

Project Redirection Mental Health Project provides housing and treatment for mentally ill misdemeanants released from jail.

People Achieving Changes Together Program (PACT) provides outreach to homeless mentally ill individuals on a walk-in basis at shelter sites and by telephone contact.

Project HOPE provides outreach to homeless individuals with mental illness.

Outreach Mental Health Clinics is a Transitional Living and Community Support program (TLCS) providing mental health services to homeless individuals at the VOA shelters and Loaves & Fishes program.

El Hogar provides mental health services to homeless individuals at local shelters.

Emergency Shelter, Transitional and/or Permanent Housing Options

Transitional Living and Community Support – Carol’s Place provides 12 beds for homeless single males with mental illness and six beds for homeless single females with mental illness.

Transitional Living and Community Support – Palmer House is a program for 48 homeless singles with mental health issues.

TLCS – Cooperative Apartments has units for 25 homeless singles with mental illness and 25 homeless families with an adult member with mental illness.

Halcyon Place offers Shelter Plus Care SRO living situation for severely mentally ill homeless who chronically cycle through psychiatric hospitals and jail services.

Persons with Disabilities

Resources for Independent Living (RIL) provides outreach advocacy, assessment counseling, and housing referrals to homeless individuals with physical, sensory, developmental, or other disabilities.

Emergency Shelter, Transitional and/or Permanent Housing Options

Resources for Independent Living provides transitional housing for six homeless singles with severe physical, sensory, or developmental disabilities.

Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance (DHA) – *Halcyon Place* provides a program for 22 homeless, disabled singles.

Sacramento County DHA – Shelter Plus Care – *Shasta Hotel* provides a program for 18 homeless, disabled singles.

Sacramento County DHA – Shelter Plus Care provides 325 certificates for disabled singles and families.

VOA – NOVA House provides four beds for homeless, disabled singles.

RIL provides six beds for homeless singles with physical, sensory, or developmental disabilities.

Veterans

Veteran's Operation Stand Down is an outreach effort organized once a year by the Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc. to reach homeless veterans. This effort provides food, shelter, clothing, legal services, mental health counseling, and medical services.

Emergency Shelter, Transitional and/or Permanent Housing Options

Veterans Resource Center operated by the Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc. provides 30 beds for homeless male veterans and job placement, transportation services, employment training, and other supportive services.

Persons with HIV/AIDS

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) funds are available to help with payment of utilities and rent for low-income individuals with HIV/AIDS. HOPWA housing assistance case-management services are available by contacting the Center for AIDS Research, Education, and Services (CARES) and the Sacramento AIDS Foundation.

Breaking Barriers is a volunteer group that provides transportation for persons with HIV/AIDS to appointments, moving assistance, chore services, health fairs, and street/shelter outreach.

Emergency Shelter, Transitional and/or Permanent Housing Options

Breaking Barriers Housing Project provides a 12-bed facility with 24-hour, 30-day emergency shelter for homeless persons with HIV/AIDS.

AIDS Housing Alliance (AHA) provides 12 beds for HIV/AIDS clients and their families.

AHA – Avalon Hospice has six hospice beds for homeless persons with end-stage AIDS.

Victims of Domestic Violence

Women Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE) is a supportive services organization that provides shelter and referral for women who are victims of domestic violence. Homeless women who are victims of domestic violence are able to access these services through a hotline operated by WEAVE.

The Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center (SAEHC) and *St. John's Shelter for Women and Children* provide emergency shelter resources and referrals for women who may become homeless due to domestic violence issues.

Emergency Shelter, Transitional and/or Permanent Housing Options

WEAVE provides beds for 35 single women and women with children.

Youth

WIND Youth Center provides street outreach and counseling to homeless youth with substance abuse issues and other problems.

Teen Safety Net Program (collaboration between the Chemical Dependency Center for Women (CDCW) and WIND Youth Center) provides outreach to homeless youth ages 16–20 through substance abuse treatment, education, recreation, and referrals to medical care and other supportive services.

Sacramento Receiving Home provides emergency shelter for youths who are taken into protective custody by law enforcement in cases of child abuse and neglect.

Sacramento Crisis Nursery provides up to 30 days of continuous care for children, as well as assistance to their parents in obtaining/maintaining permanent housing and parenting skills.

Emergency Shelter, Transitional and/or Permanent Housing Options

Diogenes Youth Services provides emergency shelter with six beds for 12–16-year-old abused, abandoned, runaway youths and can provide transitional housing for up to 16 homeless youths ages 16–21.

WIND Youth Center Services provides a six-bed emergency shelter for homeless and runaway youth.

Dually Diagnosed

Chemical Decency Center for Women (CDCW) runs New Horizons, which provides outreach to homeless women with mental illness, substance abuse problems, or who are victims of domestic violence.

Mentally Ill Chemical Abuser Program (MICA) is accessed through walk-in visits at the TLCS outreach mental health clinics located next to the VOA shelter and Loaves & Fishes. Services include assessment, intake, case management, counseling, crisis intervention, and assistance with locating and obtaining shelter, transitional, or permanent housing. Referrals are also provided for mental health programs, medical care, substance abuse treatment, and other social services.

Emergency Shelter, Transitional and/or Permanent Housing Options

Chemical Dependency Center for Women (CDCW) is a program for 30 homeless single women and women with children with substance abuse and/or mental health issues and domestic violence history.

Sub- Strategy IV-D: Housing for the Homeless

Objective: Reduce homelessness in Sacramento County through the provision of a continuum of affordable housing opportunities and comprehensive supportive services.

Intent: Homelessness is a multifaceted problem that affects men, women and children of all ages and ethnicities; veterans; the disabled; and those who are employed. To address this problem, the County of Sacramento has developed a comprehensive Continuum of Care that offers emergency, transitional and permanent housing coupled with intensive, supportive and employment services that assists over 3,000 homeless men, women and children on a daily basis to resolve their homelessness. Despite this concerted effort to end homelessness in Sacramento County, there continues to be an unmet need for all levels of housing along the Continuum of Care.

To meet this on going need and to work to eliminate homelessness, the County of Sacramento will:

1. Strongly advocate for, seek, and secure State and Federal funding for additional housing opportunities and supportive services for those who are homeless.
2. Continue the long-standing partnership with, and support of, existing community organizations that provide services to those who are homeless.
3. Work to ensure the Continuum of Care offers housing opportunities to all homeless persons, including the elderly and disabled.

4. Work with County residents to achieve greater acceptance of programs that serve the homeless in the communities and neighborhoods.

Policy

HE-29. Support programs that address long-term solutions to homelessness, including work skills assessment, job training/placement, and permanent housing with supportive services.

(The shared objectives for program HE-28 (a) through 28(e), as contained in the County’s 2002 Consolidated Plan, are to accommodate 3,800 homeless individuals annually in the County’s winter shelter, 1,500 individuals annually in emergency and transitional housing facilities, and 20 individuals annually with HIV/AIDS in transitional housing. In addition, the County has established an objective providing “exits” for 1,600 of the more vulnerable homeless population, such as women and children, those with physical and mental disabilities, and the chronically homeless, who are less able to provide for themselves and often have need for extensive acute care services.)

Housing Program

HE-29 (a): Sacramento County will sponsor and support the Sacramento County and Cities Board on Homelessness, a collaborative effort of local business and neighborhood associations, homeless advocates, homeless service providers, the faith community, County departments, law enforcement, Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, SHRA and various cities within the County of Sacramento.

1. Plan, develop, and manage proactive systems improvements from a “whole community” perspective.
2. Build community collaboration and committed partnerships in all Board endeavors.
3. As much as possible, base all actions on substantiated and evaluated data.
4. Implement pilot improvement projects. If pilot projects are successful, work toward continuation and expansion of program services.
5. Increase coordination of efforts, programs, and providers of services through improved communication and tracking.
6. Develop recommendations for policy and community direction related to homelessness.

As part of the comprehensive, collaborative approach to homelessness, the County will continue to fund groups providing shelter and other services to the homeless, such as the Salvation Army, Women Escaping A Violent Environment (WEAVE), the Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center, and Volunteers of America. The level of financial support will depend on the availability of State and Federal funds for homeless shelters and supportive services.

The Homeless Plan sets forth a realistic strategy for increasing the number of short-term accommodations for the homeless in need of emergency shelter while focusing on long-term strategies that create exits to

homelessness by moving the homeless into permanent housing and independent living. To achieve the long-term objective, the consolidated plan will provide for supportive health care, case management, life-skills management, education, job training, and other services to assist homeless individuals and families achieve independence in permanent housing. The Plan will also recognize different strategies and programs needed to address various homeless sub-groups, such as women and children escaping domestic violence, homeless youth, seniors, working single adults, homeless veterans, individuals with substance abuse problems, persons with mental and other disabilities, and individuals with chronic illnesses.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: County Department of Human Assistance; Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency.

FUNDING: CDBG, HOME, Redevelopment Agency Housing set-aside funds, Emergency Shelter Grant Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Runaway Youth Program, HUD Shelter Plus Program, HUD Supplemental Assistance for Facilities to Assist the Homeless (SAFAH), State Emergency Shelter Program, State and Federal health care funding for the homeless, State and Federal alcohol and drug counseling services, employment services and literacy training programs.

OBJECTIVES: Develop affordable housing opportunities with supportive services for homeless persons in need; assist homeless men, women and children thorough the Continuum of Care to achieve independent living in permanent housing, ending their homelessness.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing participation on Homeless Board, continue to implement five-year Homeless Plan, 2002 – 2008.

HE-29 (b): Continue to provide transitional housing, job training, and employment counseling at Mather Field to help homeless people gain employment and long-term independence.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: County Department of Human Assistance and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency.

FUNDING: HUD McKinney Act.

OBJECTIVES: Provide housing and comprehensive job training.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing, 2002 – 2008.

HE-29 (c): Locate new homeless shelters within the unincorporated portion of the County where transportation and other needed services are available or accessible.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: County Department of Human Assistance and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency.

FUNDING: Appropriate identified funding source.

OBJECTIVES: Provide for dispersed shelter locations.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing, 2002 – 2008, including new family shelter in 2004.

HE-29 (d): The County will continue to implement Zoning Code provisions that permit homeless shelters in the GC and M-1 zones, subject to appropriate development, locational, and operations standards that address land use compatibility issues. Development standards will continue to be based on the type of permitted homeless use and not the clientele who will use any such facility.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: Planning and Community Development Department.

FUNDING: County General Fund.

OBJECTIVES: Identification of appropriate zoning categories and land use designations.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing, 2002 – 2008.

HE-29 (e): The County will continue to implement Zoning Code provisions to permit Single Room Occupancy (SRO) residential units, subject to appropriate development standards and locational requirements, in the RD-20, RD-25, RD-30, RD-40 and GC zones.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: Planning and Community Development Department.

FUNDING: County General Fund.

OBJECTIVES: Identification of appropriate zoning categories and land use designations.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing, 2002 – 2008.