Homelessness is Dynamic and Situational

Across the Fresno community, individuals move in and out of homelessness daily. It’s not always the same people who are homeless day after day. The faces fluctuate from day to day. Those who are chronically homeless are most likely to be unsheltered.

Causes of Homelessness

There are four important dimensions that are both causes and consequences of homelessness. Consistently, the lack of access to affordable housing is the primary driver of homelessness.

For instance, an individual may be experiencing health issues that directly lead to homelessness, or homelessness can cause health issues and loss of a job.

- Housing is out of reach—supply and affordability
- Inadequate income—chronic and crisis
- Health issues—chronic and crisis
- Domestic violence and trauma—recent and lifetime

Overcoming homelessness

Henry

Vietnam Veteran, 1972–1975

A landlord-tenant disagreement left Henry, an Army Veteran, homeless in December 2017, three weeks before Christmas. While he was panhandling, two caseworkers, whom Henry now refers to as angels, approached him and helped him with a plan to get into an apartment supported by the VA.

- 10% of all homeless adults in California are Veterans.¹
- A disabled person receives only $906/month from SSI, yet a modest one-bedroom apartment costs $771/month, which is 85% of their monthly income.²
- Fresno County needs 41,108 more affordable rental homes to meet needs of its lowest-income renters.³


Creating flow through the system to housing

Diversion

Crisis Resolution

Permanent Housing

Prioritize Unsheltered People With Housing Crisis Seeking Shelter

From National Alliance to End Homelessness, Emergency Shelter Learning Series

Community Driven Response is Required

No one should have to live or die on the streets of our Fresno County communities.”

SAL QUINTERO, CHAIRMAN
FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

“A great community is able to maintain quality of life while affirming the dignity of every individual.”

LEE BRAND, MAYOR
CITY OF FRESNO

Comprehensively Addressing Homelessness in Our Community
### Percent Change: Total Homelessness Compared to West Coast Cities

#### Focusing on Four Pillars

**Engage community & align resources**

**STRATEGY**
Adopt a Collective Impact Initiative approach: Establish a new public-private collaboration to strengthen data collection and usage; define homelessness as a community issue to garner added resources and supportive services for joint solutions.

**Reduce inflow to homelessness**

**STRATEGY**
Increase diversion and crisis assistance: Consistent, community-based diversion, service connections, resolve housing stability issues, and divert from entering homelessness.

**Improve crisis response**

**STRATEGY**
Create low-barrier crisis housing options: Better engage individuals at-risk of homelessness and those already unsheltered. Employ robust permanent housing placement solutions with case management and supportive services, as needed.

**Expand permanent housing options**

**STRATEGY**
Establish a partnership to connect unsheltered, chronically homeless individuals to permanent supportive or other housing. New resources include additional Bridge Housing leading to 600 Fresno Housing Authority Housing Choice Vouchers accompanied with case management services provided by the County.

### Timeline

**2010**
- Plan to End Chronic Homelessness
- Working Group to Address Homelessness Encampments
- Fresno County

**2016**
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Fresno Police Department
- Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health

**2017**
- Anti-Camping Ordinance
- Fresno City Council
- Research Project: Barriers, Challenges, and Opportunities
- Fresno Police Department

**2018**
- Decentralized Homeless Task Force
- Site Visits
- Fresno Police Department

**2019**
- Research Project: Street2Home
- Fresno Individuals, Organizations, & Institutions

**2020**
- Key Findings & Community Input Sessions
- Fresno Individuals, Organizations, & Institutions

### Key Findings & Community Input Sessions

- tranquil hotspots
- integral contributions from local partners
- diverse perspectives on homelessness
- effective collaboration strategies

### Street2Home Report Released

- Optimal solutions: enhanced collaboration
- Reduced homelessness: community-wide impact

### Focusing on Four Pillars: 13 Recommendations

1. **Adopt Collective Impact Initiative and engage cross-sector community leaders**
2. **Educate and engage the entire community in solutions**
3. **Strengthen the data foundation—what gets measured, gets done**
4. **Scale up diversion and make consistent access to housing and services**
5. **Preserve affordable housing options**
6. **Build and implement collaborative community solutions to reduce homelessness among domestic violence survivors**
7. **Align community programs to create a comprehensive crisis response network that provides person-centered and housing-focused service**
8. **Create new, low-barrier crisis housing options**
9. **Partner and recruit landlords to enhance and expand all types of housing placement options and supports**
10. **Scale up rapid re-housing**
11. **Increase permanent supportive housing**
12. **Aggressively expand non-traditional permanent housing options**
13. **Design a cross-sector demonstration for people who experience street homelessness and are frequent users of public services.**