

# CSAC – League Joint Task Force on Homelessness

Public Works Officers Institute and CEAC Spring Conference  
Thursday, March 23, 2017  
San Diego, CA



## The Issue

- In 2016, US Department of Housing and Urban Development reported California had 118,000 homeless people (22% of the nation's homeless population).
- California Dept. of Housing and Community Development estimates at least one-third of homeless population have mental illness (higher for chronically homeless).



## The Issue

- Funding for affordable housing has been significantly reduced
  - Elimination of redevelopment agencies resulted in annual loss of \$1 billion
  - Federal funding for critical housing program slashed 50-77% between 2005 and 2015



## How We Got Here

- April 2016: League Board of Directors adopted support for a joint city-county task force to review plans and study best practices
- May 2016: CSAC Board of Directors did the same
- September 2016: First meeting of Task Force



## Who Is It?

Cities	Counties
Grass Valley	Yolo
Sacramento	Merced
Vacaville	Los Angeles
San Diego	Placer
Anaheim	Sacramento
San Jose	San Joaquin
Modesto	Marin
Santa Monica	San Bernardino
South San Francisco	Santa Clara
Los Angeles	Yuba
City and County of San Francisco	



## Mission

To provide needed education, identify resources, and develop policy that cities and counties need to prevent, assist, and reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our communities.



## Goals and Outcomes

- Don't let the perfect get in the way of the good.
- Treat the issue like the crisis that it is.
- Get information out as fast as possible, even before final report is published.
- Create a website both cities and counties can use.
- Recommend changes to state and federal policy.
- Create a long-term strategy to continue the work of the Task Force.
- Publish a Report.



## Report

- A list of essential elements of a local homelessness initiatives.
- Examples of best practices and collaboration with city, county, community based organizations, and other organizations.
- A discussion of roles and responsibilities.
- Information on existing programs, services and resources available to address various homeless populations.
- Case studies highlighting opportunities and challenges faced by various local governments and agencies as they implement local homelessness plans.





## Report (cont.)

- What data is needed and how to use that data.
- An exploration of total costs of primary and secondary impacts and causes of homelessness.
- Recommendations to increase availability of affordable and supportive housing.
- Look at siting challenges, including public perception of community impact.



## Homelessness Plans

*(under current review)*

- Essential Elements
  - Outline of local picture, including homeless count data
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Unique Local Challenges and Opportunities
  - Inventory of Existing Resources, Actions, and Programs
  - Identify Additional Resources, Actions, and Programs
  - Identify Community and Government Partners



## Roles and Responsibilities

*(future review)*

- Both cities and counties have same general roles and responsibilities (housing caseworkers, land use decisions, contributing local funds)
- However, counties have additional responsibilities (and funding) because of their relationship to the state.
- Also need to review roles and responsibilities within the jurisdiction (law enforcement, mental health, child protective services, planning, public works, etc.)



## Existing Resources

*(reviewed in Nov. 2016)*

### Used Frequently (71%-100% of responses)

Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuum of Care Program</li><li>• Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)</li><li>• Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers</li><li>• Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grants*</li></ul>
State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)</li></ul>

*\*indicates County only*



# Existing Resources

(reviewed in Nov. 2016)

## Used Sometimes (41%-70% of responses)

Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emergency Solutions Grants</li><li>• HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Voucher Program</li><li>• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/CalFresh*</li></ul>
State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mental Health Services Act Housing Program*</li></ul>

\*indicates County only



# Existing Resources

(reviewed in Nov. 2016)

## Used Infrequently (1%-40% of responses)

Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The HOME Investments Partnerships Program</li><li>• Rapid-Rehousing Program</li><li>• Section 202 (Supportive Housing for Elderly)</li><li>• Section 811 (Supportive Housing for Disabilities)</li><li>• Dept. of Veterans Affairs' Supportive Services for Veteran Families</li><li>• Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/CalWORKs*</li><li>• Medicaid/Medi-Cal*</li><li>• Promoting Safe and Stable Families (Title IV -B)*</li></ul>
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\*indicates County only



# Existing Resources

(reviewed in Nov. 2016)

## Used Infrequently (1%-40% of responses (cont.))

State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prop. 41 Veterans Housing Grants</li><li>• Mental Health Services Act Full Service Partnership Funding*</li><li>• Mental Health Wellness Act (SB 82) Crisis Services Grants*</li><li>• CalWORKs Housing Support Program*</li><li>• CalWORKs Family Stabilization Program*</li><li>• CalWORKs One-Time Homeless Assistance*</li></ul>
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*\*indicates County only*



# Existing Resources

(reviewed in Nov. 2016)

## Local Sources

- Public Safety Funding or Resources
- Outreach Workers/Case Management Staff
- Local Sales and Use Tax
- Animal Care and Regulation
- Transit or Transportation Assistance
- Development Fees
- Transient Occupancy Taxes
- Bond Proceeds
- General Fund Revenues





## No Place Like Home

- Provides \$2 billion to build and rehabilitate housing for chronically homeless residents with mental illness (10,000 housing units)
- Funding goes to the county; cities must work with the county for delivery
- Draft guidelines coming soon; NOFA expected in early 2018



## Existing Services and Programs

*(future review)*

- Behavioral Health and Social Services
- Health (Whole Person Care, etc.)
- Law Enforcement (including re-entry)
- Employment training and services
- Veterans
- Homeless Youth
- Families
- Seniors



## Data and How to Use It

*(future review)*

- Main Questions:
  - How do we coordinate, get systems to talk to one another?
  - What data is most useful?

## Understand Total Costs

*(future review)*

- Goal: Good data is always important. But also, can we use downstream savings for upstream services?
  - If we can prevent incarceration and/or hospitalization, can we capture those savings to pay for housing, services, etc.
- Challenge: Tracking and Understanding the Total Cost

## Housing and Rapid Rehousing

*(under constant review)*

- Increase the production of affordable housing
  - Streamline CEQA and permitting
  - More resources
- Use existing housing to address the shortage of affordable housing
- Keep affordable housing affordable (long-term)
- Non-traditional housing options
  - Second units, group housing



## Focus on Housing First

- Highly effective strategy
- Permanent housing first, then services
  - Substance abuse treatment
  - Health care
  - Job training



## Siting Challenges

*(future review)*

- Build support for the spectrum of housing in the community
  - Permanent Supportive Units
  - Temporary Units
  - Transitional Housing
  - Short-Term Emergency Shelter
  - Re-Entry Facilities
  - Group Homes
  - Sober Living Homes
  - Psychiatric Facilities
  - Elder Care Homes
  - Treatment and Recovery Facilities
  - Veterans Housing
  - Worker Housing



## Examples of Best Practices

*(constant review)*

- What is a Best Practice?
- Task Force hearing examples of what cities and counties are doing at each meeting.





## Los Angeles

- City and County focused on intergovernmental and regional collaboration to find long-term solutions and shared strategies.
- Both City and County have adopted strategies/plans to address homelessness in their jurisdiction.
- City plan officially recognizes connections to components of County plan.
- Neither restricted plans to things that were immediately achievable.
- Plans include strategies that could prove to be very controversial.



## Los Angeles

- Opportunities and Challenges:
  - City \$1.2 billion bond for supportive and affordable housing. (Approved Nov. 2016)
  - County ballot measure to raise \$355 million annually to combat homelessness. (Approved Feb. 2017)
  - Need strategies and tools to gain community support for new homeless service and housing locations.
  - Work with State to develop legislation to facilitate funding for services and housing development.



## Sacramento

- City and County focused on intergovernmental and regional collaboration to find long-term solutions and shared strategies.
- Both City and County have adopted strategies/plans to address homelessness in their jurisdiction.
- Both City and County are focused on long-term planning
- City of Sacramento has impact team with law enforcement that includes a lieutenant, sergeant, and psychologist or social worker



## Sacramento

- Opportunities and Challenges:
  - Chronic homeless population continues to grow
  - How county services work is not clear to everyone
  - Funding and interventions are not coordinated
  - They have a strong strategic vision
  - Collaboration between city and county elected officials has been empowering to staff



## Yuba County

- Found that biggest challenge to getting started was
- Looking at environmental impacts – initial results are staggering
- Focus: “CAO” (Commitment – Accountability – Outcome)
- Looked for something they could do to achieve quick results.



## Yuba County

- 14 Tough Sheds
- Onsite Services Available
- Community Bathrooms/ Showers
- Nearby Church is Providing Meals





## Anaheim

- Working on a project that creates a location to consolidate services to the homeless population, looking at each case individually, and having a homeless coordinator.

## San Francisco (City & County)

- Focusing on supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and outreach.
- Formed a new department that centralizes services, resource constraint, and navigation centers (two online with a third in the process; goal is to open six total).



## Santa Clara County

- Voters approved a \$950 million GO bond measure for supportive housing on November ballot.



## Santa Jose

- Focused on supportive housing and the Housing First model. The City also sponsored legislation (AB 2176, 2016):  
Established a pilot program to operate a “emergency bridge housing community” that will provide housing for homeless persons in any new or existing facility during a city-declared shelter crisis.



## San Bernardino County

- Hired a consultant to help coordinate programs and providers.
- Focused on veterans first (400+ people) and identifying resources to eradicate barriers.
  - Housed over 700 veterans and have seven entities putting housing navigators together creating more permanent housing for example motels, apartments, etc.



## Placer County

- Hired a homeless consultant to engage in planning process with cities.
- Prioritizing resources:
  - Section 8 vouchers for homeless
  - Use of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding stream
  - Whole person application
  - Focus on seriously mentally ill homeless individuals
  - Support for emergency shelters



## Marin County

- Working on improving the city and county partnerships on homelessness. They have a homeless coordinator czar in San Rafael and established Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT).
- Mental health has three mobile crisis units on the street.
- Addressing criminal justice issues has proven to be key and they received a grant from the Chronic Alcohol with Justice Initiative.
- Looking at creating a multi-service center, and very interested in the housing first model.



## Yolo County

- Implementing efforts to provide temporary housing in addition to wrap around services to chronically homeless folks.
- Collaborative effort between housing advocates, behavioral health, law enforcement and other county providers. They had teams that went out to encampments and staff got to know each individual. Fifty people took advantage of the opportunity to move into permanent housing. The project was called Bridge to Housing.





## 2017 Legislation

- SB 2 (Atkins) – Building Homes and Jobs Act
  - Would generate hundreds of millions of dollars per year for affordable housing, supportive housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing and other housing needs via a \$75 recordation fee on specified real estate documents.
- SB 3 (Beall) – Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018
  - Authorizes a \$3 billion general obligation bond to fund affordable housing programs and infill infrastructure projects.



## 2017 Legislation

- AB 74 (Chiu) - Housing
  - Establishes the Housing for a Healthy California Program that will issue grants on a competitive basis to support county and city efforts to assist individuals experiencing homelessness.
  - Specifically, funds interim housing, long-term rental assistance, and wraparound services, which includes healthcare and education.







# Thank you!

*For more information:*

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