



CITY OF RIVERSIDE

HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN



RiversideCA.gov/HomelessSolutions



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MISSION — STATEMENT



Reduce homelessness by **creating and maintaining affordable housing and programming utilizing a whole-person care approach** to support individuals and families to achieve housing stability and self-sufficiency.

QUICK FACTS

514 UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PEOPLE

were counted **in the City** during the 2022 by Riverside County Homeless Point-in-Time Count.

Down from 587 in 2020



2022 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



1,980
UNSHeltered
Homeless
People



410
Sheltered
Homeless
People

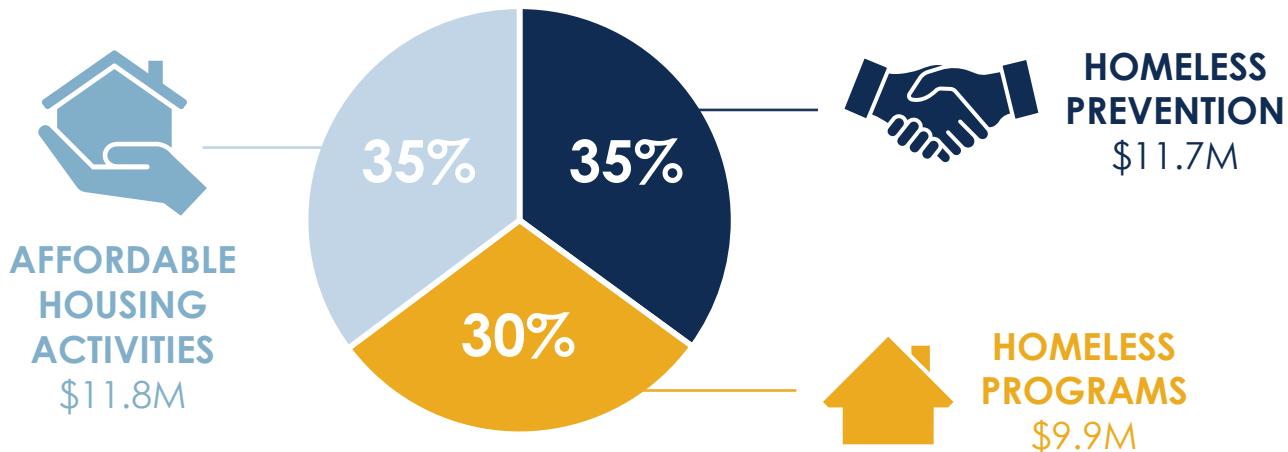
DIVERSE HOUSING STOCK



3,141

affordable housing units

OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS FY 2021/2022 BUDGET



PROBLEM STATEMENT

Homelessness is a multi-dimensional problem that affects every community in Riverside County, every county in the State of California and every state in the union. The City of Riverside acknowledges that there are many subpopulations represented, each of which is unique and requires an array of options and wraparound support services to achieve self-sufficiency and housing security.

According to the 2022 County-wide Point-In-Time Count, the City of Riverside has the largest number of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness across the County. Specifically, there are 514 unsheltered persons with 410 sheltered within our City.

The biggest reasons people are homeless include family disruption, unemployment, and lack of income. Individuals reported that the problems keeping them homeless include: chronic homelessness* at 56%, substance abuse at 36%, and mental illness at 32%. Of the unsheltered homeless people within our City, 39% live on the street, 17% were found living in a tent or shed, and 16% were living in a vehicle.

Homelessness is prevalent across the Country, State, County, and City and is being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. To reduce the number of people living without adequate housing, it is crucial to continue to provide services, shelter, housing, and support for our marginalized neighbors.

The following goals represent solutions that were created with input from the community, end-users, experts, the Housing and Homelessness Committee, Mayor and City Council, and the Office of Homeless Solutions.

*Chronic homelessness is defined as someone who has experienced homeless for one year or more.
(National Alliance to End Homelessness, March 2021)





GOAL #1

Increase Housing Production With a Focus on Affordability



- Ensure 90% of expiring affordable housing covenants are maintained.
- 5% increase in affordable housing units inventory.
- 550 market rate and affordable housing units built annually.
- 55 for-sale market rate and affordable housing units built annually.
- 5% increase in number of sites developed from 2018 Housing First Plan

PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developers (market rate and affordable housing) • Non-profits • State Housing & Community Development
CITY DEPARTMENT LEADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Homeless Solutions - Housing Authority • Community Economic Development Department • Office of Communications • Successor Agency
LEVERAGED CITY RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City, Successor Agency and Housing Authority real estate inventory • Permanent Local Housing Allocation • HOME Investment Partnerships Program
GOAL ALIGNMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Envision Riverside Strategic Plan: Priority 2, Community Well-Being, Goal 2.1 • HOME-ARP Allocation Plan • HHAP-3, Outcome Goal 1a, 1b, 3, 4, 5, 6

GOAL 1: GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Renew existing affordable housing covenants that will expire this decade
- Market Housing Element and City-and Housing Authority-owned sites to developers
- Receive an annual update on 6th Cycle Housing Element
- Leverage state and other resources to encourage first-time homeownership
- Research ongoing affordable housing funding streams

HIGHLIGHTS



Affordable Housing

Work with property owners with expiring affordable housing covenants to extend the term of their affordable housing covenants to ensure tenants remain housed.



Leverage State and Other Resources to Encourage First-Time Homebuyers

The Housing Authority will market state and other first-time homebuyer resources and first-time homebuyer workshops to help low-income households achieve the dream of homeownership.



Receive Annual Progress Report on 6th Cycle Housing Element

The City of Riverside must prepare an Annual Progress Report (APR), submitted to the California Office of Planning and Research and the Housing & Community Development Department, reporting on the status and progress of the General Plan, including the 6th Cycle Housing Element implementation. The Planning Division presents the APR to City Council in the first quarter of each year before submitting to the State.



Market Housing Element and City and Housing Authority Owned Sites to Developers

Develop a webpage whereby developers can quickly identify housing sites identified in the 6th Cycle Housing Element and sites owned by the City-and Housing Authority-owned, showing the zoning and potential densities.



Research Ongoing Affordable Housing Funding Streams

To address the affordable housing crisis, the Housing Authority will research dedicated funding streams that can assist in the developments of affordable housing units for extremely low to low-income households.





GOAL #2

Increase the Availability of Services, with a Focus on Physical and Mental Health Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- Increase number of social work interns by 15% annually.
- Increase in skills to reduce re-traumatized/increase confidence/job satisfaction among the Public Safety and Engagement Team, Parks and Neighborhood Specialist Team and Outreach Workers by 45% annually.
- Refer 96 individuals to “physical and behavioral health” resources annually.
- Decrease homelessness among “chronically homeless” by 5% annually.
- Decrease homelessness among those struggling with substance abuse by 5% annually.
- Increase the number of people who accept services from the Public Safety and Engagement Team and the street nurse by 25% annually.
- Increase the number of people who are successfully placed from street outreach by 25% annually.
- Refer 15 individuals annually to the Home Court Program.
- Care Court implementation by October 1, 2023.

PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside University Health Systems - Behavioral Health • Riverside County Department of Public Health • Riverside County Home Court Program • Non-profits • Path of Life • La Sierra University • California Baptist University • Loma Linda University
CITY DEPARTMENT LEADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Homeless Solutions - Homeless Services • City Attorney's Office • Riverside Police Department
LEVERAGED CITY RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure Z • American Rescue Plan Act • CARES Act
GOAL ALIGNMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Envision Riverside Strategic Plan: Priority 2, Community Well-Being, Goal 2.2 • HHAP-3, Outcome Goal 1a, 1b, 4, 5, 6

GOAL 2: GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Partner with local universities and colleges to expand the social work intern program
- Provide training to the Public Safety and Engagement, Parks and Neighborhood Specialist and Street Outreach teams
- Participate in Home Court Program
- Track implementation of State's CARE Court and advocate for resulting local resources
- Advocate for County, State, and Federal resources

HIGHLIGHTS



Clinical Social Worker Internship Program

Partner with local universities to provide internship hours with Office of Homeless Solutions for clinical social work students. Interns will be placed at libraries to deliver services to those in need. Interns will build rapport with the goal of working cohesively with the individual to create a plan to exit homelessness.



Intentional Connections to Care

Partner with Riverside University Health Systems – Behavioral Health or other entity to provide training to teams working directly with individuals experiencing homelessness to provide training in Trauma Informed Care, Harm Reduction, Motivational Interviewing, and other best practices in human services.



Street Nurse Program

The professionally trained street nurse will provide assessments in the field, care coordination, case management, and referrals for primary care, medical insurance, pharmaceutical and other services as needed. The individual(s) will support outreach teams in the urban and wildlands areas.



HOME Court Program

Collaboration between City and County providers to offer opportunities for alternative sentencing or diversion for individuals with low-level misdemeanor offenses with linkages to housing, behavioral health treatment, life skills courses, and peer support services.



Parks and Neighborhood Specialist

20 non-sworn Parks and Neighborhood Specialist to provide safety and monitoring of parks and surrounding neighborhoods to lessen the burden on Riverside Police Department in non-emergency response calls.



CARE Court

20 non-sworn Parks and Neighborhood Specialist to provide safety and monitoring of parks and surrounding neighborhoods to lessen the burden on Riverside Police Department in non-emergency response calls.



Urban Public Safety and Engagement Team

Expand the Public Safety and Engagement Team to provide both evening and early morning coverage across the City of Riverside. The team will respond to 311 service requests and follow a monthly calendar that focuses on hotspot areas to engage those experiencing homelessness in encampments to offer services and supports, to tag items for debris and trash abatement, and provide enforcement as appropriate.



Wildlands Public Safety and Engagement Team

Wildlands Public Safety and Engagement Team will focus on the Santa Ana River bottom (SAR). The team will follow a monthly calendar that focuses on hotspot areas to engage those experiencing homelessness to offer services and supports, to tag items for debris and trash abatement, provide enforcement as appropriate and enforce the anti-camping ordinance to ensure safety for all.



Access Center Outreach

Outreach workers cover the City of Riverside hotspot areas and respond to 311 service requests to engage individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the City. The team evaluates individual needs and walks alongside the person to develop a plan to exit homelessness. Resources and shelter options are presented, and the team does an infield intake to identify the individual and their location for follow up. An outreach representative is available at the Access Center to support walk-ins.





GOAL #3

Prevent Homelessness



- 84% rental assistance programs retention rate annually.
- 15% increase in unduplicated number of households assisted through rental assistance programs in 2023 with 10% thereafter.
- Refer 75 households annually to an employment assistance program.
- 5% annual decrease in homelessness amongst those who are justice involved.
- 5% annual increase of seniors assisted through the Office of Homeless Solutions referred to Riverside County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS).
- Enroll six individuals through the Shared Housing Program annually.

PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside County Department of Public Social Services • Riverside County Housing & Workforce Development • Riverside and Alvord Unified School Districts • Riverside County Office of Education • Riverside County Sheriff's Department
CITY DEPARTMENT LEADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Homeless Solutions - Homeless Services and Housing Authority • Office of Communications
LEVERAGED CITY RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHAP-3 • Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) • Measure Z
GOAL ALIGNMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Envision Riverside Strategic Plan: Priority 2, Community Well-Being, Goal 2.2 • HHAP-3 Outcome Goal #1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GOAL 3: GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Establish in-reach services with Presley Detention Center to connect individuals experiencing homelessness to family, shelter, transitional housing, and/or other resources
- Partner with Riverside County Housing & Workforce Solutions and Goodwill Industries and advertise their employment programs
- Create a collaboration of service providers to provide ongoing resources and support for families with children in the Alvord and Riverside Unified School Districts and Riverside County of Education (RCOE)
- Advertise the IHSS Program and connect seniors to this resource
- Create a shared housing program for people who want or need to share their homes for financial, security or companionship
- Advertise HomeConnect, a county-wide response system for those in a housing crisis
- Review Crime Free Multi-Housing Ordinance

HIGHLIGHTS



School Connections

Ensure that City of Riverside School Districts (Alvord and Riverside) are aware of resources available to at risk families. By developing and distributing materials, bringing partners and the County together for presentations before the beginning of each school year, Pupil Services will be equipped with up-to-date information to share with students and families to make connections before individuals experience homelessness.



Jail In-Reach

Gain access to Robert Presley Detention Center to connect with individuals who self-identify as homeless. By connecting with justice-involved individuals, we have an opportunity to support in the creation of an exit plan, empowering the individual to leverage available resources and shelter options decreasing homelessness among justice-involved individuals.



Identify at Risk Households

Identification of at-risk households through United Lift and City of Riverside Rental Relief programs. Connect individuals to Goodwill, County Workforce Development, and America's Job Centers of California for job readiness workshops, mock interviews, resume writing workshops, and job training vouchers up to \$8,000.00 per person. Industry recognized sectors and certifications that align with an individual's interest will be identified. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds will support eligible teens and adults to subsidize employment opportunities for on the job-training. Other opportunities like paid apprenticeships and internships are also available in specific sectors.



Shared Housing

Create and/or identify affordable housing for low income to extremely low-income households with a fast track for seniors. Seniors will be matched with Riverside County In-Home Supportive Services Program (IHSS). Leveraging best practices and the National Shared Housing Guide to responsibly place people to decrease homelessness and isolation.



Review of Crime Free Multi-Housing Program

Review Crime Free Multi-Housing Program to identify barriers impacting people with justice-involved backgrounds from potential prejudice and stigmatization perpetuating the cycle of recidivism and economic despair.





GOAL #4

Increase Availability and Effectiveness of Emergency Shelter



- Increase the number of emergency shelter beds by 25% in 2023.
- Increase the number of people exiting from emergency shelter to housing by 10% annually.
- Decrease the number of unsheltered people by 10% annually.
- Increase the number of people accepting shelter from the Public Safety and Engagement Team and Outreach teams by 25% annually.

PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profits
CITY DEPARTMENT LEADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Homeless Solutions - Homeless Services • City Attorney's Office • Riverside Police Department • Fire Department • Community & Economic Development Department • General Services • Public Works
LEVERAGED CITY RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure Z • HHAP-3
GOAL ALIGNMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Envision Riverside Strategic Plan: Priority #2, Community Well-Being, Goal 2.2 and Priority #5, High Performing Government, Goal 5.3 • HHAP-3, Outcome Goal 1a, 1b, 4, 6

GOAL 4: GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Release Request for Proposals (RFP) for Non-Congregate Shelter at 670 Iowa and present selected vendor to Housing & Homelessness (H & H) Committee
- Identify vacant sites and buildings for an additional emergency shelter to be presented to the H & H Committee
- Create a new storage program for the Public Safety and Engagement Team and homeless individuals entering programs
- Hire team members for Wildlands Public Safety and Engagement Team and purchase required equipment
- Propose anti-camping ordinance for Wildlands

HIGHLIGHTS



Storage Program

Storage for individuals experiencing homelessness and seeking shelter services to remove barriers. Storage units will allow people to safely store their personal belongings. Additionally, outreach and case managers will have the ability to drop notes inside these units as reminders of upcoming appointments.



Non-Congregate Emergency Shelter

Provide low barrier shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness. Request for proposals for alternative emergency housing non-congregate shelter to expand diversity of shelter types and provide wrap-around services leveraging best practices.





GOAL #5

Expand Public Awareness



- Annual increase of 311 calls related to homeless activities by 25%, decreasing emergency 911 calls related to homelessness.
- 50% increase in traffic to the Office of Homeless Solutions web page annually.

PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-profits
CITY DEPARTMENT LEADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office of Homeless Solutions - Homeless Services and Housing Authority• Office of Communications
LEVERAGED CITY RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measure Z
GOAL ALIGNMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Envision Riverside Strategic Plan: Priority 2, Community Well-Being, Goal 2.2 and 2.3

GOAL 5: GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Present at community and stakeholder meetings
- Update “who to call” flyer for residents and businesses needing assistance with homeless related activities
- Update data dashboard on Office of Homeless Solutions
- Share stories, highlights and statistics on success
- Create Office of Homeless Solutions Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS



Quarterly Newsletter

Create the Office of Homeless Solutions quarterly newsletter to share with the public to provide progress toward goals, share success stories, share Housing & Homelessness Committee and Council meeting information to keep the community informed and encouraging participation.



Presentation

Attend community and stakeholder meetings to share Office of Homeless Solutions updates and respond to community questions and concerns.



Homelessness Awareness Campaign

Identify individuals experiencing homelessness who are interested in sharing their story to build a powerful campaign and highlight that homelessness does not discriminate.





GOAL #6

Coordinated Regional Infrastructure



- Maintain 50 Cold Weather Shelter Program beds annually.
- Attend 25 Continuum of Care and committee meetings annually and advocate for the increase of shelter beds, mental health programs and affordable housing based on a gap analysis.
- Increase number of emergency shelter beds throughout Riverside County by 10% by 2024.

PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profits • Riverside County Housing & Workforce Solutions • Riverside County Continuum of Care • Neighboring Cities in Riverside County • District 2 Homelessness Collaborative • Riverside County Executive Office
CITY DEPARTMENT LEADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Manager's Office • Office of Homeless Solutions - Homeless Services
LEVERAGED CITY RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
GOAL ALIGNMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Envision Riverside Strategic Plan: Priority #2, Community Well-Being, Goal 2.2 • HHAP-3, Outcome Goal 1a, 1b, 4, 6

GOAL 6: GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Maintain 50 Cold Weather Shelter Program beds annually.
- Attend 25 Continuum of Care and committee meetings annually and advocate for the increase of shelter beds, mental health programs and affordable housing based on a gap analysis.
- Increase number of emergency shelter beds throughout Riverside County by 10% by 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS



Homeless Management Information System

Work with County lead on agreement between HMIS and Outreach Grid (OG) to allow data to be imported and exported seamlessly. This will support the entire county in their ability to gain access to individuals that are served in the City of Riverside and move to a different region.



MOU Between City and County

Executed MOU between the City and County of Riverside to identify collaborative efforts with a responsible department/line staff named for accountability purposes.



Continuum of Care (CoC) Participation

Attend 25 CoC meetings as well as sub-committee meetings to stay up to date with projects and action items from other regions as well as share out successes and gaps within our City.



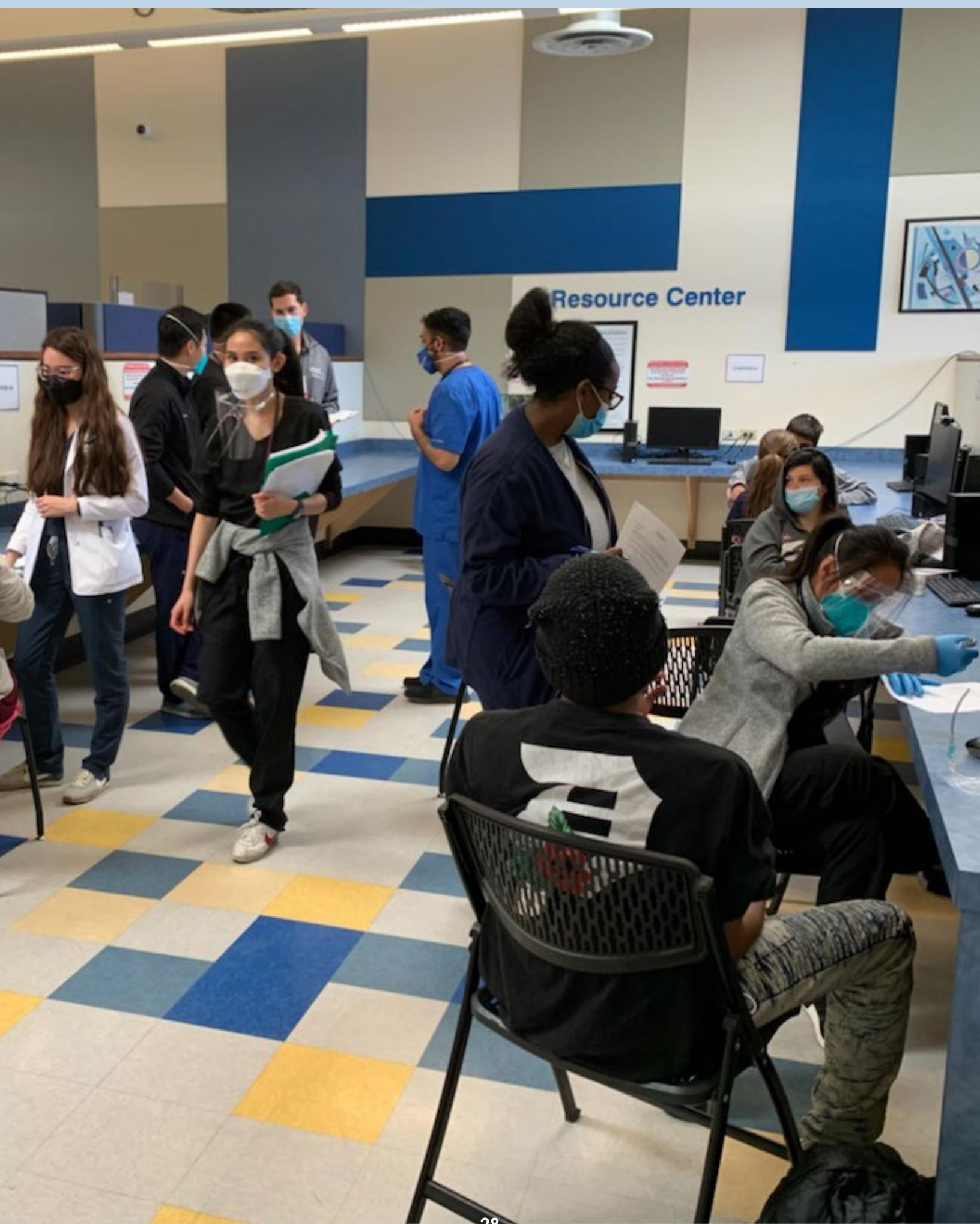
Winter Shelter

Collaborate with the County to ensure that there is a location for the 2022 Winter Shelter.



Enforcement

Riverside Police Department, Public Safety and Engagement Team, Parks and Neighborhood Specialist, Community Behavioral Health Assessment Team, and Problem Oriented Policing are all partners in reducing crime across the City. These entities will continue to protect vulnerable populations and answer calls to ensure community safety. The Sheriff Department will be the responsible party at County sites within the City of Riverside.





OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

The City is a leader in the region providing emergency shelters, outreach, case management, resources and multidisciplinary teams addressing homelessness. The City has taken a proactive approach to addressing homelessness in our community in partnering with a wide-range of non-profit organizations, social service agencies and faith-based entities. The City has created a centralized environment to provide short-term emergency shelter coupled with a range of complementary supportive services necessary to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness to address their unique needs and to provide a pathway to housing stability.

The Hulen Place Service Campus provides an array of services:

- **Riverside Access Center:** Provides multiple resources and connections for individuals at risk of homelessness or those experiencing homelessness. Some of the services offered include linkage to emergency shelter, kennel usage for pets of individuals accessing services at Hulen Campus, monthly life skills classes, access to computer lab, hygiene kits, snack packs and outreach workers who connect folks to trips back to their place of origin, support to complete housing documentation and street nurse assistance.
- **Community Emergency Shelter:** Owned and operated by Path of Life Ministries. The program provides 90 beds (54 male beds and 36 female beds) to adults for up to 90 days coupled with case management to assist clients with obtaining temporary housing, vital documents, job readiness, counseling, and various other forms of social, spiritual, and emotional support.
- **Helping Hearts Recuperative Care:** Specializes in mental health treatment for those unable to care for themselves in an independent living situation. The program includes a high level of care -- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in a home-like setting that is an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization or institutional care. The program has 28 beds with an average stay of 90 days.



- **Illumination Foundation:** A partner of the Hulen Campus that operates a recuperative care shelter that accepts individuals who were recently discharged from the hospital and need support to recover from their stay. Often times individuals are well enough to be discharged from a hospital but not well enough to return to regular activity and certainly not well enough to return to living on the street. Illumination Foundation provides a space for individuals to heal. The program has 50 Beds; with an average stay of 90 Days
- **The Place:** Chronically homeless adults experiencing a serious mental health disorder and have been unsuccessful in being placed in shelter or housing supports are eligible for placement here. The Place offers a drop-in center that operates 24 hours a day as well as on-site, low demand, permanent supportive housing for up to 25 adults. The drop-in centers leverage lived experienced mentors to engage guests and gently encourage housing services. Meals, showers, laundry, and linkage to a wide range of community resources are provided. The Place is operated by Recovery Innovations of California, Inc. under contract with the Department of Mental Health
- **Mercy House:** This shelter will offer bridge housing services and accept referrals by the Access Center or partner agencies. Eligible individuals will already have a housing plan and are awaiting approval for section 8, TBRA, or other housing options. This program offers – 23 beds with an average stay of 90 day.

The City operates a Rapid Re-Housing and Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program to provide up to 24 month's of rental assistance to those experiencing homelessness coupled with case management.

The City is mandated by the State to produce affordable low to middle-income housing that meets the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements of creating **18,457 total housing units**. The table below provides a breakdown of these unit requirements.

Income Category (% of County AMI)	Number of Units
Extremely Low (30% or less)*	2,431
Very Low (31% to 50%)	2,430
Low (50% to 80%)	3,064
Moderate (81% to 120%)	3,139
Above Moderate (Over 120%)	7,394
Subtotal	18,458
No Net Loss Buffer (17%)	3,185
Total	21,643

AMI = Area Median Income Note: * The City has a RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Assessment) obligation of 4,861 very low-income units (inclusive of extremely low-income units). Pursuant to State law (AB2634), the City must project the number of extremely low-income housing needs based on Census income distribution or assume 50 percent of the very low-income units as extremely low. Assuming an even split, the City's RHNA allocation of 4,861 very low-income units may be divided into 2,430 very low and 2,431 extremely low-income units. However, for purposes of identifying adequate sites for the RHNA allocation, State law does not mandate the separate accounting for the extremely low-income category

The City's Housing Authority has **689 affordable housing units** in the pipeline for development.







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