Five-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness

OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

Housing and Homelessness Committee
May 23, 2022

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FIVE-YEAR-PLAN TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS

- **Pillar 1**: Prevent Homelessness
- **Pillar 2**: Increase housing production with a Focus on Affordability
- **Pillar 3**: Increase Availability and Effectiveness of Shelter Beds
- **Pillar 4**: Build a Coordinated Regional Coordinated Infrastructure
- **Pillar 5**: Increase the Availability of Services, With a Focus on Physical and Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment
- **Pillar 6**: Expand Public Awareness and Education About Homelessness and Housing
- **Pillar 7**: Funding Opportunities

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STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

- The City held three hybrid community meetings to inform the community about the Five-Year Plan and obtain feedback on the proposed pillars and activities within the pillars.
- Feedback was solicited to prioritize activities for HHAP-3 and HOME-ARP funding.
- The City hosted three Homeless Taskforce Meetings to solicit input from leaders and front-line staff who work with people experiencing homelessness to provide input.

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STAKEHOLDER INPUT

- The need to prioritize vulnerable groups experiencing homelessness.
- Supporting creative housing and low-barrier shelter options.
- Getting all hands on deck to help with the homelessness crisis.

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PRIORITIZATION OF SEVEN PILLARS

1. **Pillar 2**: Increase housing production with a Focus on Affordability
2. **Pillar 5**: Increase the Availability of Services, With a Focus on Physical and Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment
3. **Pillar 1**: Prevent Homelessness
4. **Pillar 3**: Increase Availability and Effectiveness of Shelter Beds
5. **Pillar 6**: Expand Public Awareness and Education About Homelessness and Housing
6. **Pillar 4**: Build a Coordinated Regional Coordinated Infrastructure
7. **Pillar 7**: Funding Opportunities

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HHAP-3

Homeless Housing, Assistance & Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 3 is a 1-billion dollar block grant authorized by AB-140.

- The City of Riverside's allocation is for $8,433,288.22
- 7% may be used for administration of grant program
- At least 10% must be allocated to programs and services for youth
- Applications are due June 30, 2022

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HHAP-3 REQUIREMENTS

The following State requirements are included in the HHAP-3 Application:

- Regional collaboration with County and Continuum of Care
- Strategic pairing of resources with other local, state, and federal funds.
- Demonstrate commitment to address racial & gender disparities
- Meaningful inclusion of people with lived experience of homelessness
- Funding projects that provide housing and services that are Housing First compliant and delivered in a low-barrier, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive manner.

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HHAP-3 APPLICATION

The following sections are required in the HHAP-3 Application:

- Landscape Analysis of Needs and Demographics
- Landscape Analysis of People Being Served
- Landscape Analysis of State, Federal, and Local Funding
- Outcome Goals Including Equity Goals
- Strategies to Achieve Outcome Goals
- Funding Plans for HHAP-3 (Budget)
- Demonstrated Need for Non-Congregate Shelter/Interim Housing

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DRAFT OUTCOME GOALS

Outcome Goal #1a: Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.		
Baseline Data: **Annual estimate of number of people accessing services who are experiencing homelessness**	Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024	
	Decrease/Increase in # of People	Decrease/Increase as % Change from Baseline
8385	2096	25% increase

Outcome Goal #1b: Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness on a daily basis		
Baseline Data: **Daily Estimate of # of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness**	Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024	
	Reduction in # of People	Reduction as % Change from Baseline
2155	216	10%

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DRAFT OUTCOME GOALS

Outcome Goal #2: Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time.		
Baseline Data: **Annual Estimate of # of people who become homeless for the first time**	Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024	
	Reduction in # of People	Reduction as % Change from Baseline
4714	236	5%

Outcome Goal #3: Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.		
Baseline Data: **Annual Estimate of # of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing**	Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024	
	Increase in # of People	Increase as % Change from Baseline
2358	472	20%

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DRAFT OUTCOME GOALS

Outcome Goal #4: Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.		
Baseline Data:	Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024	
Average length of time (in # of days) persons enrolled in street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, safe haven projects and time prior to move-in for persons enrolled in rapid rehousing and permanent housing programs"	Decrease in Average # of Days	Decrease as % Change from Baseline
109	1	-1%

Outcome Goal #5: Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.		
Baseline Data:	Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024	
% of people who return to homelessness after having exited homelessness to permanent housing	Decrease in % of People who return to Homelessness	Decrease as % Change from Baseline
8%	5%	-3%

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DRAFT OUTCOME GOALS

Outcome Goal #6: Increasing successful placements from street outreach.		
Baseline Data:	Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024	
Annual # of people served in street outreach projects who exit to emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing, or permanent housing destinations.	Increase in # of People Successfully Placed from Street Outreach	Increase as % of Baseline
321	353	10%

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HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS-ARP

- City grant allocation: $4,335,583

- Eligible activities:
  - Production or preservation of affordable housing
  - Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
  - Supportive Services
  - Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter

- Qualifying populations:
  - Homeless
  - At-risk of homelessness
  - Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
  - In other populations where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability
  - Veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet one of the preceding criteria

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 1, PILLAR 2

Increase Housing Production with a Focus on Affordability

Strategy No. 1: Increase housing production with a focus on affordability
- Create affordable housing for extremely low income to middle income households for subpopulations such as seniors, individuals with developmental disabilities, families, youth, veterans, LGBTQ, etc.
- Conduct an inventory of underutilized commercial properties that could be converted into affordable housing
- Create housing options for middle income households
- Assist seniors with aging in place by participating in a shared housing program or the Riverside County In-Home Supportive Services Program IHSS program
- Continue to develop affordable housing units on Housing Authority properties
- Continue operating a rental assistance program coupled with case management to tailor individualized case plans (implementation of Critical Time Intervention an evidence-based practice that produces positive outcomes when implemented with fidelity)
- Explore different housing types to assist in addressing the RHNA goals

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 1, PILLAR 2

Increase Housing Production with a Focus on Affordability

<u>Strategy No. 2</u>: Address the shortage of resources for the development of affordable housing

- Conduct a feasibility study on Inclusionary Housing
- Analyze Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs)
- Partner with developers to pursue the State's Housing & Community Development Department Multifamily Finance Super NOFA, Project Homekey, and any other federal and state available resources
- Obtain the State's Prohousing Designation
- Share the County's Project Based Section 8 Vouchers and No Place Like Home Notice of Funding Availability with affordable housing developers

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 2, PILLAR 5

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

<u>Strategy No. 1</u>: Evaluate current systems and identify gaps and opportunities
- Analyze services and partnership with Riverside University Health Systems – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) and Public Health
- Analyzing hours of greatest need (ex: overnight, early morning) and corresponding resources
- Analyzing gaps and opportunities by reviewing: (1) PSET/PANS/Street Nurse Program, (2) OHS outcomes and data, (3) existing community organizations/programs (LYNC), Salvation Army First Impressions, Path of Life Ministries, etc.), (4) Riverside Police Department and Riverside Fire Department response to homelessness and (5) Be Well OC
- Expand the LYNC to provide social worker interns in the City's libraries and community center
- Work with the RUHS – BH to provide mental health related training to organizations serving the homeless population
- Pursue a clinical therapist internship program that would operate in the same manner as the LYNC

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 2, PILLAR 5

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

Strategy No. 2: Advocacy
- Support Senate Bill 1338 – CARES Court
- Advocate for mental health and substance abuse treatment programs and facilities through the Riverside County region

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 3, PILLAR 1

Prevent Homelessness

Strategy No. 1: Ways to prevent homelessness
- Focus on preventative care and development principals (vs. relief) both pre- and post-homelessness
- Ensure that resources for threatened (at-risk) families are accessible and known
- Invest in the prevention of homelessness by coordinating and streamlining efforts to address the causes of households losing their housing
- Increase the communication and collaboration between agencies serving people experiencing homelessness and those entities and agencies that can most effectively provide for the prevention of homelessness
- Explore workforce development resources
- Outreach services to connect homeless individuals released from jail to shelter and transitional housing and other resources
- Explore a shared housing program
- Continue to operate the Reunification Program to reunite homeless individuals with their family or friends willing to provide the necessary support in achieving housing stability and self-sufficiency

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 3, PILLAR 1

Prevent Homelessness

Strategy No. 2: Connect homeless individuals with employment opportunities Focus on preventative care and development principals (vs. relief) both pre- and post-homelessness
- Advertise links to employment resources on the City's website
- Assist businesses to capitalize on incentives for hiring the "hard to employ" through Riverside County Workforce Development
- Collaborate with Goodwill Industries and Riverside County Workforce Development to host job fairs within the City of Riverside
- Continue to refer emergency shelter, rental assistance and permanent supportive housing program participants to employment assistance programs and report outcomes
- Link individuals with a lived experience mentor to offer support in navigating the workforce

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 3, PILLAR 1

Prevent Homelessness

Strategy No. 3: Advocacy
- Support Assembly Bill No. 2383 to "Ban-the-Box" eliminating the unlawful practice of discrimination against individuals with justice-involved backgrounds
- Support Assembly Bill No. 1816 to support homeless individuals with justice-involved backgrounds to access workforce development interventions and obtain stable housing

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 4, PILLAR 3

Increase number of low barrier shelter beds and evaluate effectiveness of current shelter bed programs

Strategy: Identify shelter bed needs and programming costs
- Analyze emergency shelter bed needs
- Release Request for Proposals for an alternative emergency housing product for a non-congregate shelter to be established on a City-owned vacant lot to expand the diversity of shelter types to provide wrap-around services specific to unique needs
- Evaluate the cost of acquiring a vacant commercial building to be converted into an emergency shelter program
- Provide adequate storage for program participant's belongings
- Analyze the effectiveness of existing emergency shelter programs
- Programming to address individuals who are justice-involved or previously justice-involved and/or working through addiction

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 5, PILLAR 6

Expand public awareness of housing and homeless programs and program outcomes

Strategy No. 1: Community Awareness
- Create a new Marketing Campaign to increase awareness and share resources with the community through libraries, schools, hospitals, and other social services entities
- Finalize a "Who to Call" flyer for residents and businesses needing assistance with homeless related issues
- Create a reporting dashboard on housing and homeless programs, regulatory track data
- Develop education campaigns on how the data influences City decision-making
- Continue/increase participation in networking and collaborative meetings with service organizations, churches, businesses, police and other city/county officials
- Reduce the amount of PD calls for service regarding the homeless
- Sharing updates and stories to highlight needs, gaps, and successes

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 5, PILLAR 6

Expand public awareness of housing and homeless programs and program outcomes

Strategy No. 2: Alternatives to providing to panhandlers
- Launch Marketing Campaign to include campaign against panhandling
- Inform community about how to volunteer to assist homeless, donate in lieu of giving to panhandlers
- Work with local businesses to inform patrons of alternatives to panhandling
- Explore options of giving stations/centers to drop off contributions to the homeless

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 6, PILLAR 4

Build a coordinated regional infrastructure to address shelter, housing, mental health and substance use disorder programming needs

Strategy No. 1: Identify programming needs by subregions through the Riverside County Continuum of Care
- Identify subregion areas
- Create a Homeless Programming Needs Committee made up of elected officials from each City and County Board of Supervisors
- Analyze shelter bed needs and how to establish these programs in the subregions based on need
- Analyze housing needs and identify opportunities for the creation of transitional, permanent supportive housing and permanent housing
- Analyze mental health and substance use disorder programs and how to establish these programs in the subregions based on need

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ACTION STEPS – PRIORITY 6, PILLAR 4

Build a coordinated regional infrastructure to address shelter, housing, mental health and substance use disorder programming needs

Strategy No. 2: Identify funding opportunities to meet programming needs by subregions

- Identify permanent funding opportunities to address subregion needs for affordable housing and homelessness programs

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FUNDING PRIORITIES

1. Development of affordable housing

2. Emergency shelter development and operations

3. Rental Assistance

4. Homeless Prevention

5. Outreach Services

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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan Priorities

#2 Community Well-Being, Goal No. 2.2

Cross-Cutting Threads

Community Trust   Fiscal Responsibility   Sustainability & Resiliency

Equity   Innovation

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Housing and Homelessness Committee conceptually approve the draft Five-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness including the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention-3 and HOME Investment Partnerships Program-ARP regional outcome goals and funding priorities for City Council's consideration.

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