

ATTACHMENT 3

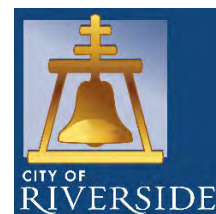
CITY OF RIVERSIDE PLAN TO TRANSITION RESIDENTS FROM HOMELESS SHELTERS TO PERMANENT HOUSING



to



Prepared by:



I. BACKGROUND

The State of California has enacted laws to address the statewide crisis of unsheltered homelessness and associated impacts to community quality of life. Government Code 8698.2 (Appendix “A”) allows cities to declare a shelter crisis when “a significant number of persons are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to their health and safety.” The law includes several provisions that ease the regulatory barriers on local jurisdictions to allow for creation of emergency shelter during a declared shelter crisis. Among the provisions, local jurisdictions must report to the Senate Committee on Housing and the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development various data on homelessness and housing unit availability during a declared shelter crisis. In 2020, the passage of AB 2553 (Appendix “B”) added, among other provisions, a requirement to include “a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing” by July 1, 2021, and to report “the number and bed capacity of new homeless shelters built pursuant to this section” in annual reports, the first report due by January 1, 2022.

On March 18, 2018, the City of Riverside adopted the *Housing First Strategy: A Road Map to Create, Implement, and Operate a Housing First Approach in the City of Riverside*. The report serves as the adopted plan providing policy guidance, site recommendations, and policy recommendations for best practices related to development and operation of supportive housing. Riverside’s Housing First Approach has been recognized as a national best practice. It calls for priority placement of unhoused persons in supportive housing that provides wraparound services, including medical treatment, wellness, and job referrals. Traditional screening barriers, such as sobriety and participation mandates, are removed, resulting in more stable housing environments for persons experiencing homelessness. Stability reduces rates of return to homelessness and increases the likelihood of unhoused persons securing safe, permanent housing. In 2016, the Housing First Approach helped Riverside house all of its veterans experiencing homeless. Housing First is now the policy citywide.

On December 8, 2018, the City of Riverside declared a shelter crisis within city limits, pursuant to Government Code 8698.2, because a significant number of persons in the City were found to be without the ability to obtain shelter, a condition resulting in a threat to the health and safety of those persons.

Since its shelter crisis declaration, the City has made progress in addressing shelter and services needs for unhoused persons of all ages residing in city limits. The 2018 Housing First Plan indicated that the City was pursuing the creation of nearly 400 units to house the 389 persons experiencing homelessness identified in the 2017 Point in Time Count. According to the 2020 City of Riverside Comprehensive Annual Performance & Evaluation Report, the City had “237 permanent supportive housing units in the pipeline for development.” More recently, a review

of available data for this report disclosed 285 permanent supportive housing units built or in progress between 2019-2021.

Although development of homeless shelters has begun to address homelessness in the City, a review of the data indicates a need for more shelter beds. Riverside's 2020 Point In Time Count disclosed 587 unhoused persons while the number of beds in new homeless shelters was 201. Meanwhile, the number of persons exiting the system and no longer in need of housing was 157 persons in FY2019/2020, and 154 persons in FY2020/2021 (to date). Between 2019-2021, the average number of exits was 156 persons. Even when factoring in system exits, the number of unhoused persons in Riverside's 2020 Point In Time Count exceeds available beds by approximately 230.

II. DEVELOPING A PLAN TO TRANSITION RESIDENTS FROM HOMELESS SHELTERS TO PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

AB 2553 requires a city with a declared shelter crisis to develop a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing. Plan development begins with understanding the number of unhoused residents living in city limits who need permanent supportive housing. For this data, we drew from the City's By Name List, dated May 28, 2021. This roster identifies the number of unhoused residents in the City living in a shelter or on the streets, who have been contacted and assessed for priority by an outreach or shelter worker and have been connected to a housing voucher or are waiting for an available housing voucher. Whereas the larger shelter occupancy data includes unhoused persons who have come from other communities, the By Names List provides a "real time" estimate of Riverside residents experiencing homelessness.

This information better equips the City to:

- Understand the scope of homelessness in the community
- Understand how people move in and out of the system on an ongoing basis
- Have accurate information to set goals to reduce homelessness
- Have accurate information to understand if you are making progress in ending homelessness

Drawing from the By Names List data, below is a summary of Riverside households (defined as families or individuals experiencing homelessness) contacted for housing vouchers:

Active (Waiting for home connection): 196 households

- Permanent Supportive Housing: 132 households
- Rapid Re-Housing: 45 households
- No intervention: 19 households

Home connection (Received housing voucher and looking for housing unit): 71 households

- Permanent Supportive Housing: 38 households

- Rapid Re-Housing: 33 households

This data on households awaiting housing placement and households with housing vouchers serves as the starting point for developing a plan to transition unhoused Riverside residents into safe, permanent supportive housing.

Additionally, the County of Riverside will receive an additional 374 Section 8 vouchers from the federal government that will be provided to formerly unhoused individuals and families that were placed in Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing programs that no longer need case management. The City has 17 permanent supportive housing units that will enable these residents to graduate onto the Section 8 Program and free up their unit for a shelter client or homeless individual living on the streets.

Currently, an estimated 36% of unhoused living in City limits are residents of the City of Riverside. Efforts should be made to dedicate shelter beds to City of Riverside residents.

To assist residents in homeless shelters transition into permanent housing the City will carry out the following activities:

1. Family Reunification Program. Cover transportation costs to reunite individuals with family and friends who are willing to assist them.
2. Dedicated Emergency Shelter Beds. Secure additional beds at the Path of Life Emergency Shelter for dedicated beds for City of Riverside residents.
3. Add 101 Shelter Beds in the City of Riverside. The City will have created an additional 101 shelter beds in the City of Riverside to address the ongoing need.
4. Creation of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing units. To-date, the City's Housing Authority has 532 affordable housing units in the pipeline for development, which 285 are set-aside for permanent supportive housing. The Housing Authority will work with housing developers to identify development opportunities for the remaining six vacant Housing Authority sites.
5. Dedicate up to 35% of the City's Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funds to the Rapid Re-Housing Program. Dedicate up to 35% of the ESG grant funds to the Rapid Re-Housing to cover security deposits and up to 12 months of rental assistance for homeless individuals.
6. Ensure Residents in the Emergency Shelters Complete a Standard Assessment Tool are Document Ready for Continuum of Care Housing Resources. Ensure all outreach workers are trained to complete the standard assessment tool – the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Assessment Tool (VI-SPDAT) that considers the household's situation and identifies the best type of housing intervention to address their situation. A community queue known as the By Name List (BNL) of eligible households is generated from the VI-SPDAT. The BNL is used to fill spaces in the permanent housing programs, including permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing, in the County.
7. Dedicate up to 50% of HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program, Program Income Funds to the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program. The City receives HOME program

income from payments on residual receipt loans and down payment and housing rehabilitation loans.

8. Work with Communities Not Providing Homeless Resources. Continue to host the Riverside Homeless Forum to encourage cities and counties to discuss shelter and housing needs and how smaller communities can collaborate to address homelessness within their communities.

III. DATA GATHERING METHODS

As required by Government Code 8698.4 and AB 2553, this progress report summarizes the City's activities in response to the declared shelter crisis.

To carry out this assessment, data were gathered from a variety of sources.

Data on shelter occupancy, permanent supportive housing placement, permanent supportive housing units, system exits, bed capacity, programs, and services, were collected from these sources:

- OHS Data Snapshot FY19-20 and FY20-21
- 2020 Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey, Riverside County Department of Social Services
- City of Riverside Point-in-Time Count 2020 Percentages (excel data sheet)
- Riverside Emergency Shelter Zip Code Data 7-19 to 6-20 (excel data sheet)
- Housing First Strategy: A Road Map to Create, Implement, and Operate a Housing First Approach in the City of Riverside
- City of Riverside Comprehensive Annual Performance & Evaluation Report, Program Year 2019-2020
- City of Riverside By Names List 05-28-2021 (excel data sheet)
- Riverside County 2021 Affordable Housing Needs Report
- COVID-19 EOC Mass Care and Shelter Updates, May 17, 2021
- Path of Life Ministries Project Outcomes Data, July 2019 to June 2021
- City of Riverside News Releases
- Riverside Cabin Village Shelter Impact Summary
- News articles
- Public reports
- Staff presentations
- City Council/Housing Authority meeting minutes
- Social media posts
- Stakeholder interviews

IV. REQUIRED REPORTING INFORMATION & DATA SET FOR INCLUSION IN UPDATED PLAN

Summarized below is the reporting information required by State Law:

(A) The total number of residents in homeless shelters within the city:

FY 2019/2020: 758

FY 2020/2021: 718

Additional information:

- Numbers include Path of Life Community Shelter, Path of Life Family Shelter, Pallet Shelter Village
- Numbers are past/present clients served
- Current numbers of residents in Path of Life Community & Family shelters: 122 (data as of 5-14-21.)
- COVID Crisis FY 2020/2021: Project Room Key (motels/hotels for homeless): 88 clients in 65 rooms (as of 5-14-21.)
- COVID Crisis FY 2020/2021: 15 FEMA trailers added at Riverside Airport (no available numbers on residents.) These just for pandemic use only
- PITC, Unsheltered Homeless population in Riverside:
 - FY 2019/2020: 439
 - FY 2020/2021: 587

Sources:

OHS Data Dashboard; COVID-19 EOC Mass Care Shelter Update meeting; City of Riverside Press Release; County/City data on Point-In-Time Counts.

(B) The total number of residents who have moved from a homeless shelter into permanent supportive housing within the city:

FY 2019/2020: 193

FY 2020/2021: 283

Additional Information:

- FY 2019/2020 #s include: Path of Life Community & Family Shelters. Also includes clients who moved into housing with the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program
- FY 2020/2021 #s include: Path of Life Community & Family Shelters, Project Room Key individuals/seniors. Also includes clients who used the TBRA program to move into housing
- Total # of people who benefited from 2020 CARES Act & 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance:
 - FY 2020/2021: 1208

Sources:

OHS Data Dashboard; COVID-19 EOC Mass Care Shelter Update meeting; City of Riverside Press Release; City of Riverside website.

(C) The estimated number of permanent supportive housing units:

Estimated total: 285 units

FY 2019-2021: projects include:

- Built:
 - 3943 10th Street: 6 units
 - Mulberry Village: 10 units
 - The Grove Church/The Grove Village: 4 units
- In progress:
 - Aspire 3rd/Fairmont: 32 units
 - Mission Heritage: 11 units
 - Entrada Chicago/Linden: 8 units
 - Crest Community Church: 10 units
 - 2550 14th St.: 2 units
 - Oasis Senior Villas: 46 units
 - St. Michael's Church: 24 units
 - Cedar Glen/Palm Communities: 24 units
 - La Sierra Apartments, 11253 Pierce St.: 34 units
 - Sunrise at Bogart, 11049 Bogart Ave.: 22 units
 - University/Brockton: 52-bed facility for LGBTQ young people with HIV/AIDS

(D) The number of residents who have exited the system and are no longer in need of a homeless shelter or permanent supportive housing within the city:

FY 2019/2020: 157

FY 2020/2021: 154

*For FY 2020/2021, July 2021 to Present, the following referrals were made for citizens who came to the City's Access Center seeking housing assistance and were referred to the Path of Life shelter and Pallet shelter.

- 335 referrals to Path of Life shelter
- 98 referrals to Pallet Shelter

Additional Information:

- Data from Path of Life Community & Family Emergency Shelters.

Sources:

Path of Life spreadsheets on clients.

(E) The number and bed capacity of new homeless shelters built pursuant to this section within the city:

FY 2019/2020:	30 units with 56 beds, Pallet Shelter Village 50 beds (increase from 15), Path of Life Community Shelter new contract
FY 2020/2021:	Ongoing efforts
FY 2021/2022:	28 beds, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing 23 beds, Bridge Housing 50 beds, Recuperative Care

Additional Information:

- Due to COVID, Village occupancy is 1 person per unit. Post pandemic will increase to 2 persons per unit plus 4 single ADA accessible units.
- OHS Data Dashboard says post pandemic occupancy will be 56 people. However, other reports say full occupancy is 60 people.

Sources:

OHS Data Dashboard; City of Riverside website; City of Riverside Press Releases; City of Riverside videos.

(F) New actions the city is taking under the declared shelter crisis to better serve the homeless population and to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness:

FY 2019/2020:

- Adopted a resolution declaring establishment of emergency housing at public facilities to be of urgent necessity for preservation of life, health, and property pursuant to Section 1109 of the City Charter, waiving the competitive procurement requirements therefore, and amending Resolution No. 23387 to expand the definition of “Designated Public Facilities”
- Approved temporary housing with purchase of 20 Pallet homes funded through donations and augmented funding for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program for about 40 households in the amount of \$740,000 for a more permanent solution and applicable countywide and appropriate \$1,064,000 from unallocated Measure Z fund balance, provided the funds are reimbursed by the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program
- Offered utility assistance
- Provided COVID-19 testing for unhoused residents
- Provided vaccines for unhoused residents

- Added 15 temporary trailers for unhoused residents with COVID-19 symptoms at Riverside Airport
- Continued leading a regional approach for homeless solutions

FY 2020/2021:

- Proposed new shelter beds:
 - Bridge Housing: 23 beds
 - Helping Hearts Hulen (mental health): 28 beds
 - Illumination Foundation (recuperative care): 50 beds
- Santa Ana River Bottom Multidisciplinary Encampment Response Plan. Santa Ana River Bottom is a cluster of encampments in the riverbed. Outreach teams were created to assess how many unhoused persons are residing there and identify services they need. The goal for this project is to place people in housing and provide services, as well as clean up the river bottom and trails.
- Massachusetts Action Plan (A MAP Home). Four-month program that cleared out encampments and found housing and supportive services for 63 unhoused residents living on Massachusetts Avenue
- Provided hygiene stations at Santa River bottom and Massachusetts Avenue sites
- Provided Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program for about 72 households
- Provided COVID-19 testing for unhoused residents
- Provided vaccines for unhoused residents
- Offered Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Enacted temporary moratorium on tenant evictions due to COVID-19 hardships
- Offered utility assistance for low-income residents
- Hired consultant to discuss inclusionary housing
- Exploring affordable housing opportunities for developers through Housing Element Update
- Continued leading a regional approach for homeless solutions

Sources:

OHS Data Dashboard; City of Riverside Housing & Homeless Committee Memorandum; City of Riverside's Response Plan; City of Riverside News Releases, City Council/Housing Authority meeting Minutes, Dec. 17, 2019.

(G) The ordinance and any associated findings adopted by the city pursuant to paragraph (2):

FY 2019/2020:

In response to AB 2553:

- Emergency Housing At Public Facilities, Resolution No. 23530 (dated December 17, 2019) passed, Resolution No. 23387 Amended -- Whereupon, the title having been read and

further reading waived, Resolution No. 23530 of the City Council of the City of Riverside, California, Declaring the Establishment of Emergency Housing at Designated Public Facilities to be of Urgent Necessity for the Preservation of Life, Health, and Property Pursuant to Charter Section 1109 and Waiving Competitive Procurement Requirements Therefor; and Amending Resolution No. 23387 to Expand the Definition of “ Designated Public Facilities”, was presented and adopted.

FY 2020/2021:

- Shelters By-Right in Industrial Zones, Ordinance No. 7552 (dated April 20, 2021) passed. Amended the zoning code to allow emergency shelters by-right in Industrial Zones.

Sources:

City of Riverside City Council/Housing Authority meeting Minutes, Dec. 17, 2019, and April 20, 2021

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Key stakeholders involved in the Continuum of Care were identified and interviews were conducted to understand their current operations, goals, measures of success, and gaps to be addressed. The interviews offered a candid glimpse into the roles various service providers play in addressing homelessness in the City. A standard questionnaire was used for interviews (Appendix “C”). Follow up questions were posed as needed to elicit clarification or details. Interviews were conducted with a total of 13 interviewees representing the following 8 service providers:

- **Path of Life Ministries** (2 interviewees)
- **Operation Safehouse** (1 interviewee)
- **Illumination Foundation** (1 interviewee)
- **CityNet** (2 interviewees)
- **Helping Hearts, California** (1 interviewee)
- **Riverside University Health System** (4 interviewees)
- **Riverside County** (1 interviewee)
- **Access Center, City of Riverside** (1 interviewee)

After conducting the interviews, a review of the interview data elicited recurring themes and salient points noted by the interviewees, which are summarized below.

Interview Findings

Goals

The goals of each organization varied depending on the respective organizations' missions. Common goals included provision of shelter, housing placement, street-level engagement, street-level human services delivery including medical and wellness services, reducing recidivism, and crisis intervention for youth and adults. The unifying thread among the service providers was an aspiration to prevent and ultimately end homelessness in our time.

Measure of Success

Interviewees reported various measures of success in combatting homelessness. These are best understood when grouped as quantitative and qualitative metrics, summarized below:

Quantitative

1/ Housing Placement Numbers:

One of the most straightforward ways to measure success is placing people in housing. This includes placement in any form of housing, such as temporary shelter, permanent supportive housing arrangements, sober living homes, and, with hope, independent living situations in the future. Consensus is that getting just one person out of homelessness and into housing is a success, because ultimately this preserves human dignity and saves lives.

2/ Collecting and Acting Upon Street-level Data:

Street outreach results in data gathering on the ground. These data include number of contacts with unhoused persons, needs assessed, services offered and accepted, among other details. These data are essential for determining if face-to-face contact is working or if actions should be redirected to better serve clients' needs. The data gathered on the ground support consistent client check-ins and improve case management. Actionable data about unhoused persons in need holds partners and the City accountable.

3/ Numbers of Services Rendered:

Success is measured through services rendered by the partner organizations. Some service providers consider these Key Performance Indicators of service efficacy. Metrics include:

- How many unhoused persons accepted services?
- How many unhoused persons refuse services, and why was help refused?
- Which services are in high demand? For example: DMV assistance? DPSS facilitation? Benefits and SSI help? COVID stimulus checks help?

Qualitative

1/ Basic Human Service:

A recurring success metric is the need to go beyond quantifiable data and fundamentally aim to provide basic human services to the neediest among us. For service providers, this is done by asking questions such as:

- Did we save a life today?
- Did we help fulfill basic needs?
- Did we get someone medical or behavioral care?
- Did we find a person shelter or housing?
- Did we uphold or restore dignity?

2/ Service Provider Consistency:

Partners strive to connect regularly and consistently with unhoused persons. Especially for outreach staff, these kinds of connections build trust, resulting in a greater likelihood of unhoused persons being open to accepting help and housing placement. This is particularly important for unhoused residents with acute needs, such as families, youth, and persons with disabilities. Consistent contact closes gaps in providing housing, services, and programs.

3/ Reconnecting People to Care Providers:

Reconnecting unhoused persons to their care providers is a key metric. This removes a service barrier that could make the difference between life and death. This also decreases unhoused persons' reliance on and usage of emergency services as a form of healthcare -- an expensive, inequitable, and ultimately ineffective way to address the health needs of the City's most vulnerable. Reconnections include linking unhoused people with outside medical providers as well as offering in-house therapy.

4/ Self-sufficiency:

Provision of services and housing is on a continuum. Ideally, those in need will work with service providers, move through the process, and eventually graduate to a point of no longer needing homeless services, because they will be independent and can maintain their own home. Reaching self-sufficiency is considered a major success.

5/ Feedback

Success is measured through feedback. This includes feedback from clients, service partners, and the community. For example, clients share ideas for improving programs and services, Judges offer feedback on programs and services that reduce recidivism, and hospital directors relay what offerings help unhoused citizens stay healthy so as not to use emergency services as a form of healthcare. The more programs and services are tailored through feedback to meet the needs of unhoused persons, the better partners can measure success in addressing the crisis of homelessness.

6/ Success Stories:

For several partners, success can be measured through the "success stories" of unhoused citizens who sought help and are now in healthier, safer environments. Success is broadly defined. It includes finding permanent housing, overcoming substance addiction, gaining employment,

becoming self-sufficient, reconnecting with family, among many other gains. Ethical storytelling is possible, and it goes a long way to supporting homeless services by putting a human face on the people in need.

Strengths

1/ Leadership:

The City of Riverside is touted as a true leader on addressing homelessness. Partner organizations agreed that the City demonstrates clear and innovative leadership, pointing to evidence such as creating the Office of Homeless Solutions, empowering a strong Housing Authority, enacting bold ordinances for housing and homelessness, setting up the Access Center, and “all the work,” as one interviewee described, that the City is undertaking. With leadership comes accountability, and the City is praised for taking ownership of the homelessness problem. This point was juxtaposed against mentions of other cities in the region that ignore homelessness or prefer to cast blame instead of seeking solutions. Partners said that people look to the City of Riverside for leadership because it is a proven leader.

2/ Collaboration:

Partners regard the City for its strong emphasis on collaboration. City staff and departments are highly collaborative. The City takes the lead on collaborative organizing by bringing together various service providers. A partnerships ethos is evident in this work. City staff is also highly responsive by email, phone, and in person. Partners agreed this makes a difference. Said one interviewee: “You want to keep collaborating with folks like that. When you have someone to call who actually responds, it removes barriers.” Collaborative problem-solving is a clear driver, indicating that the City believes the most effective way to address homelessness is by working together. This is furthered demonstrated in the strong collaborations among service provider organizations. While at times pursuing the same RFPs, homeless service providers do not view each other as competitors, but rather partners, in the fight against homelessness – a viewpoint underscored by the City’s emphasis on collaboration. As one interviewee, said: “It’s not a competition, but a collaboration.”

3/ Authentic Outreach:

Partners unanimously agreed that outreach is a strength in the Continuum of Care. In particular, the street-level outreach by partners is essential. Street outreach is conducted safely, always in teams, with empathy, consistency, and technical expertise. Service providers know how to connect with unhoused citizens in their spaces. Street outreach personnel go out with their own organizations or as part of multidisciplinary teams to facilitate service delivery for unhoused persons. For its part, the City has done well creating public education campaigns using multimedia resources and social media to raise awareness about these efforts. Homeless services outreach in the City of Riverside serves as a model for neighboring cities, counties, and regions.

4/ Data-driven Results:

Several partners expressed a strength in pursuing data-driven results. This ties into the above identified success metric of collecting actionable street-level data. Service providers are able to tailor programs and services according to data gathered during street-level outreach. For instance, personal contacts that disclose unhoused persons in need of psychiatric help can result in more clinical staff being deployed to those locations to respond to particular psychiatric and medical needs. Such targeted approaches to care are more efficient uses of staff time and resources for a homelessness problem spread throughout the City and region.

5/ Passion:

Passion drives this work. Passion is a trait that service providers and City staff share in abundance. This work is hard; it can be unforgiving and daunting. As a result, both partners and City staff are susceptible to burn out. Passion keeps them going. They believe they can make a difference. They know this work saves lives. They care about the wellbeing of unhoused persons and are going above and beyond to deliver empathetic services for this vulnerable population.

Opportunity Areas

1/ Staffing:

Improvements to staffing came up in several interviews. Service providers asked for a variety of staff-related enhancements, including:

- Increase staffing. Simply put, more people are needed to do this work. Service providers need more outreach staff to contact and build relationships with unhoused citizens spread out across the City. Additional office support staff would help the field personnel with case management and help executive staff deliver effective operations.
- Increase public sector employees for accountability. Hiring additional City staff was noted as a way to support accountability. City employees are public sector workers accountable to the people of Riverside, whereas contractors and vendors – i.e., many of the homeless service providers – do not have the same public accountability imperatives. It was noted that homeless response would be enhanced if there were more accountable city employees providing services and more city workers conducting street-level outreach.
- Increase clinical staff on street-level outreach teams. Additional field-based clinical personnel trained in medical and behavioral services are urgently needed to improve response for unhoused persons experiencing medical, psychological/psychiatric, and behavioral episodes.
- Increase visibility of City resources. Notwithstanding the City's existing resources committed to addressing homelessness, additional service visibility is needed. This is especially the case in the Downtown Riverside area, perhaps the densest and busiest part of the city that interfaces with a high concentration of the unhoused populace. It would behoove the City to step up its visual presence on the ground by sending out more clearly

identified city employees such as outreach workers, code enforcement officers, and clean-up crews.

- Prevent burnout. This work brings you in contact with the City's most vulnerable residents. Many unhoused citizens have experienced trauma, and some persons in need exhibit concerning medical and psychiatric episodes. Service providers often have to make repeated contacts just to build trust; some unhoused citizens will accept help while others, for a variety of reasons, choose not to. The work can be taxing and seemingly unmoving. It can also be dangerous, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff burnout is real. Therefore, the City and service providers need to invest in ensuring staff in the Continuum of Care have access to resources, therapy, medical coverage, time off, and any necessary training to carry out their job duties without inordinate stress that can lead to burnout.

2/ Funding:

Increase funding. Like staffing increases, this was another succinct and straightforward area of improvement. All interviewees expressed a need for increased funding. More funding would hire more staff, provide both new and enhanced services and programs, allow partners to take on more projects, and increase options for shelter and housing, all of which improve outcomes for Riverside's unhoused population. Additional funding should be explored from all sources, including local assessments, local, state, and federal funds, and private grants and partnerships.

3/ Housing:

Although the City has made notable gains in housing placement and the creation of permanent supportive housing, service providers raised several urgent opportunities, summarized below:

- Build more affordable housing units
- Build more permanent supportive housing units
- Unlock land to be used for more housing creation
- Provide more shelter bed spaces
- Offer more robust shelter selection reflecting the diverse needs of unhoused citizens
- Offer long-term housing options
- Build more specialized shelters, such as facilities for families, youths, LGBTQ+, single men, and women, and persons with disabilities
- Incentivize developers to build a greater percentage of permanent supportive housing
- Incentivize landlords to offer permanent supportive housing options
- Incentivize landlords to be part of cooperative case management efforts, and remove the stigma of providing permanent supportive housing in neighborhoods

- Analyze and remedy obstacles in the City's local land use approval process – looking at both ministerial and discretionary approvals – that disincentivize affordable housing and permanent supportive housing production
- Demonstrate creativity in acquiring and building more permanent supportive housing
 - Acquire dormitories, hotels/motels, SRO buildings, empty shopping centers, warehouses, other large, abandoned sites, for conversion into supportive housing
 - Build more solid tiny homes vs temporary pallet homes
 - Explore new co-living arrangements (which are really older forms of living from the recent past), such as shared living environments, dormitories, SROs, and cottage-style housing that keeps families together
- Encourage and support a Continuum of Care that graduates unhoused citizens from permanent supportive housing to self-sufficient living. This leads to personal empowerment and makes room for the next person in need

4/ Services:

The City and service providers should explore building out services. Interviewees offered the following examples:

- Multiple service providers raised the need to tailor more housing and human services for populations with specialized needs. These include families, children, and young people; the LGBTQ+ community; persons with mental and/or physical disabilities; formerly incarcerated persons, and more. Specialized housing arrangements, behavioral and mental wellness programs, and crisis intervention, among other offerings, should be explored for these special-needs groups
- Service providers expressed a need for better marketing of programs and services they provide. They acknowledged the challenging optics of not wanting to appear like “bragging” about successes while simultaneously needing to raise awareness about the organizational mission in order to gain buy-in from unhoused persons, community members, and funders alike. The way to do this properly, one interviewee said, is to engage in ethical storytelling
- With data about the unhoused population collected on the ground, service providers raised the opportunity to utilize that data for education. Both quantitative and qualitative data can be deployed to demystify how everyday people can one day become unhoused. Data used for such ethical storytelling puts a human face on the homelessness crisis. According to one interviewee, this would be an effective way to address opposition to homeless housing programs by the NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) set

5/ Community Partnerships:

Service providers would like to see the City expand on its collaborative leadership to increase new community partnerships. Attention should be given to the following identified priorities:

- Support the business community. More and better resources are needed to support businesses grappling with homelessness issues, especially small businesses and “mom and pop” businesses in Riverside. Proprietors would benefit from a variety of City-provided assistance in this highly sensitive area. A need was expressed for the City to advance equity in assistance by supporting business needs too
- Encourage adjacent cities to do more. Service providers acknowledge that the City of Riverside has exercised leadership in taking on responsibility for addressing homelessness. But the problem of homelessness is not confined to Riverside. Other cities need to do their fair share to respond to the crisis. Riverside City leaders should begin asking neighboring jurisdictions to do more to address homelessness. A coordinated regional response, driven by Riverside’s ethic of collaboration, will go a longer way to solving the problem of homelessness that is in no way confined to one jurisdiction
- Balance compassion and enforcement. Empathetic service delivery is what service providers strive for, but the hard truth is that it does not always work. There are times when compassion fades and enforcement becomes necessary. This is especially the case when the living conditions or behaviors of unhoused persons have the potential to cause harm to themselves and others. The City must balance out its compassionate stance with a willingness to pursue appropriate enforcement measures when necessary
- Honor the work of longtime partners. Some service providers in the Continuum of Care have been delivering homeless services in Riverside long before the declared shelter crisis. These organizations demonstrate a long track record of success, yet they do not always feel like their work is given the respect it is earned through years of reliable service. First, the City needs to be made aware of this concern. Second, the City should consider taking active steps to remedy this concern. One recommendation by a service provider is to offer right of first refusal for RFPs for longtime partners who have successfully delivered homeless services in Riverside for years

CONCLUSION

The City of Riverside has made significant progress in addressing homelessness during its declared shelter crisis. A review of data on shelter occupancy, placement in permanent supportive housing, permanent supportive housing units, system exits, bed capacity, and services and programs showed advancement in finding housing for persons of all ages. Moreover, interviews with eight service organizations disclosed a forward momentum for the City and partners in the Continuum of Care. Based on the stakeholder interviews, the City has demonstrated itself to be a collaborative and innovative leader in providing housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. The City should build on its leadership prowess and continue showing the way for other jurisdictions locally and nationally. A review of the measures of success, noted strengths, and recommended areas of opportunity in the Continuum of Care will help the City move forward on efforts to address homelessness during the current shelter crisis and ultimately to prevent and end homelessness in our time.

Notwithstanding this laudable progress, more work is needed. Housing affordability in the county is getting increasingly out of reach for working families. According to the *Riverside County 2021 Affordable Housing Needs Report*, 80% of extremely low-income households pay more than half their income toward housing costs, while 51,451 low-income renter households lack access to affordable housing options. To afford the average rent of \$1,466 per month in the county, renters must earn double the state's minimum wage (\$14/hour), or about \$28.19 per hour. The lack of affordable housing coupled with rising housing costs and disproportionate wages demonstrates how everyday citizens in precarious housing situations can slip into homelessness.

The high number of unhoused persons found in the 2020 Point In Time Count compared to available shelter beds in the City underscores the necessity to create more housing arrangements during the declared shelter crisis. As required by AB 2553, a plan to transition unhoused persons from shelters to permanent supportive housing should start with the 196 households actively awaiting housing and the 71 households that received housing vouchers and are actively looking for housing, with a priority for residents of the City of Riverside.

APPENDIX “A”

GOVERNMENT CODE - GOV

TITLE 2. GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA [8000 - 22980]

(Title 2 enacted by Stats. 1943, Ch. 134.)

DIVISION 1. GENERAL [8000 - 8899.72]

(Division 1 enacted by Stats. 1943, Ch. 134.)

CHAPTER 7.8. Shelter Crisis [8698 - 8698.4]

(Chapter 7.8 added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1116, Sec. 2.)

8698.

For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) “Political subdivision” includes the state, any city, city and county, county, special district, or school district or public agency authorized by law.

(b) “Governing body” means the following:

- (1) The Governor for the state.
 - (2) The legislative body for a city or city and county.
 - (3) The board of supervisors for a county.
 - (4) The governing board or board of trustees for a district or other public agency.
 - (5) An official designated by ordinance or resolution adopted by a governing body, as defined in paragraph (2), (3), or (4).
- (c) “Public facility” means any facility of a political subdivision including parks, schools, and vacant or underutilized facilities which are owned, operated, leased, or maintained, or any combination thereof, by the political subdivision through money derived by taxation or assessment.

(d) “Declaration of a shelter crisis” means the duly proclaimed existence of a situation in which a significant number of persons are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to their health and safety.

(e) “Emergency bridge housing community” means any new or existing facilities, including, but not limited to, housing in temporary structures, including, but not limited to, emergency sleeping cabins consistent with the requirements of subdivision (h) of Section 8698.3 that are reserved for homeless persons and families, together with community support facilities, including, but not limited to, showers and

bathrooms adequate to serve the anticipated number of residents all of which may be located on property leased or owned by a political subdivision. An emergency bridge housing community shall include supportive and self-sufficiency development services, have the ultimate goal of moving homeless persons to permanent housing as quickly as reasonably possible, and limit rents and service fees to an ability-to-pay formula reasonably consistent with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's requirements for subsidized housing for low-income persons.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 691, Sec. 1. (AB 2176) Effective January 1, 2017.)

8698.1.

Upon a declaration of a shelter crisis, the following provisions shall apply during the period of the emergency.

(a) The political subdivision shall be immune from liability for ordinary negligence in the provision of emergency housing pursuant to Section 8698.2. This limitation of liability shall apply only to conditions, acts, or omissions directly related to, and which would not occur but for, the provision of emergency housing. This section does not limit liability for grossly negligent, reckless, or intentional conduct which causes injury.

(b) The provisions of any state or local regulatory statute, regulation, or ordinance prescribing standards of housing, health, or safety shall be suspended to the extent that strict compliance would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the shelter crisis. Political subdivisions may, in place of such standards, enact municipal health and safety standards to be operative during the housing emergency consistent with ensuring minimal public health and safety. The provisions of this section apply only to additional public facilities open to the homeless pursuant to this chapter.

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (4), a city with a population of more than 3,500,000 may permit the operation of an emergency housing facility year-round when the facility does not comply with state building standards for local fire and life safety standards if they submit reasonable standards to the State Fire Marshal that, at a minimum, do all of the following:

(A) Require an emergency housing facility to be subject to the building standards related to fire and life safety that the state and local regulations require for existing residential occupancies, and the building standards related to fire and life safety for a new residential use that were in effect at the time the building was constructed.

(B) Provide reasonable alternative fire and life safety standards that, a minimum, include all of the following:

(i) A maximum occupant load of 49. However, the fire department may propose an occupant load greater than 49, but not to exceed 150, if the city can demonstrate that the facility can safely permit the proposed occupant load.

(ii) Twenty-four-hour active fire watch.

(iii) Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

(iv) Fire extinguishers.

(v) Ingress and egress that facilitates rapid exit of the facility.

(vi) Emergency evacuation signage and emergency egress lighting.

(vii) Every egress shall be free from storage and other obstructions.

(viii) Limited occupant storage in each room in the facility.

(ix) Prohibiting the use of open flames or combustibles.

(x) Prohibiting smoking in the facility.

(xi) Fire code inspection plans that occur in intervals of 30 days or less that includes authorization for the fire department to shut down the facility for major or multiple violations.

(xii) A process for remedying fire code violations immediately.

(xiii) A process for submitting quarterly inspection reports to the State Fire Marshal.

(2) The State Fire Marshal shall review the standards within 30 days and either approve them or respond as to why the city does not meet the threshold requirements. If the standards do not meet the threshold requirements, the city shall not use them.

(3) A facility shall be permitted pursuant to this subdivision for a maximum of 90 days with 90-day extensions permitted, not to exceed 730 days of continuous operation.

(4) For purposes of this subdivision, the term "building standard" means a building standard as defined in Section 18909 of the Health and Safety Code or other standard adopted by a local agency pursuant to Section 17958 of the Health and Safety Code.

(5) No new permits shall be authorized pursuant to this subdivision on and after January 1, 2023. However, a facility that was issued a permit before January 1, 2023, may continue to operate after that date pursuant to a 90-day extension of the permit, and may receive consecutive 90-day extensions to operate until December 31, 2024, subject to the 730-day limit specified in paragraph (3).

(Amended by Stats. 2020, Ch. 148, Sec. 2. (AB 2960) Effective January 1, 2021.)

8698.2.

(a) (1) The governing body may declare a shelter crisis and may take such action as is necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, upon a finding by that governing body that a significant number of persons within the jurisdiction of the governing body are without the ability to obtain shelter, and that the situation has resulted in a threat to the health and safety of those persons.

(2) For purposes of this chapter, the governing body of the state, in making a declaration of a shelter crisis pursuant to paragraph (1), may limit that declaration to any geographical portion of the state.

(b) Upon a declaration of a shelter crisis pursuant to subdivision (a), the political subdivision may allow persons unable to obtain housing to occupy designated public facilities during the duration of the state of emergency.

(Added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1116, Sec. 2. Effective September 25, 1987.)

8698.3.

Notwithstanding any other provisions in this chapter, upon a declaration of a shelter crisis by the City of San Jose, the following shall apply during a shelter crisis:

(a) Emergency housing may include an emergency bridge housing community for the homeless located or constructed on any city-owned or city-leased land, including land acquired with low- and moderate-income housing funds.

(b) (1) The city, in lieu of compliance with state and local building, housing, health, habitability, or safety standards and laws, may adopt by ordinance reasonable local standards for the design, site development, and operation of emergency bridge housing communities and the structures and facilities therein, to the extent that it is determined at the time of adoption that strict compliance with state and local standards or laws in existence at the time of that adoption would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the shelter crisis. The Department of Housing and Community Development shall review the city's draft ordinance to ensure it addresses minimum health and safety standards. The department shall, as set forth in Section 9795 of the Government Code, provide its findings to the Senate and Assembly housing committees and the Senate Judiciary Committee within 30 calendar days of receiving the draft ordinance.

(2) During the shelter crisis, except as provided in this section, provisions of any state or local building, housing, health, habitability, or safety standards or laws shall be suspended for the emergency bridge housing communities provided that the city has adopted health and safety standards for emergency bridge housing communities

consistent with ensuring minimal risk to public health and safety and those standards are complied with. Landlord tenant laws codified in Sections 1941 to 1942.5, inclusive, of the Civil Code providing a cause of action for habitability or tenantability, shall be suspended for the emergency bridge housing communities provided that the city has adopted health and safety standards for emergency bridge housing communities and those standards are complied with. During the shelter crisis, the local and state law requirements for an emergency bridge housing project to be consistent with the local land use plans, including the general plan, shall be suspended.

(3) This section applies only to a public facility or an emergency bridge housing community reserved for the homeless pursuant to this chapter.

(c) An emergency bridge housing community constructed or allowed under this chapter shall not be subject to the Special Occupancy Parks Act (Part 2.3 (commencing with Section 18860) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code), the Mobilehome Parks Act (Part 2.1 (commencing with Section 18200) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code), or the Mobilehome Residency Law (Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 798) of Title 2 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Civil Code).

(d) An emergency bridge housing community that complies with the applicable requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336), as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-325), shall be exempt from Part 2.5 (commencing with Section 54) of Division 1 of the Civil Code and actions thereunder for the duration of the shelter crisis.

(e) The city shall match each resident of an emergency bridge housing community to an affordable housing unit identified in the city's housing plan that shall be available for the resident to live in on or before January 1, 2025.

(f) On or before July 1, 2017, the city shall develop a plan for every emergency bridge housing community to include onsite supportive services. The city shall make the report publicly available.

(g) On or before January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the city shall report to the Legislature the number of residents in every emergency bridge housing community, the number of residents who have moved from an emergency bridge housing community into permanent affordable housing, the average time required for a resident to receive a permanent affordable housing unit, and the actual and projected number of permanent affordable housing units available through January 1, 2025.

(h) An "emergency sleeping cabin" means a relocatable hard-sided structure that may be used for occupancy only pursuant to Section 8698 and this section. It shall have a raised floor area of no less than 120 square feet of interior space for two occupants and a minimum of 70 square feet of interior space for one occupant. It shall contain no plumbing or gas service. An emergency sleeping cabin shall meet a minimum of a 20 pounds per square foot live load roof structure, shall be provided

light, heat, and ventilation, and shall comply with minimum emergency bridge housing design standards as follows:

- (1) Electrical power available as needed to meet the light and heat requirements of this subdivision. The source of electricity may be solar power.
 - (2) At least one interior lighting fixture.
 - (3) Electrical heating equipment approved for residential use.
 - (4) Means of ventilation allowing for adequate air replacement.
 - (5) At least one GFCI-protected receptacle for use by the occupant or occupants.
 - (6) At least two forms of egress placed remotely from each other, one of which may be an egress window with a sill height of not more than 44 inches from the floor, a minimum net opening height of 24 inches, and a minimum width of 20 inches.
 - (7) A privacy lock on each door.
 - (8) When required to meet accessibility requirements, compliance with the applicable requirements specified in Chapter 11B of the California Building Code.
 - (9) One permanently wired smoke alarm with battery backup, listed and labeled in accordance with UL 217, installed in accordance with the California Residential Code and NFPA 72. Battery powered alarms are permissible in lieu of wired alarms only when the cabin is solar powered and other electrical service is not supplied to the cabin. Smoke alarms shall be listed and approved by the State Fire Marshal.
 - (10) This subdivision shall remain operative until the date on which the California Building Standards Commission includes standards in the California Building Standards Code that conform to this subdivision.
- (i) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.

(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 342, Sec. 1. (AB 1745) Effective January 1, 2020. Repealed as of January 1, 2025, by its own provisions.)

8698.4.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, upon a declaration of a shelter crisis by a city, county, or city and county, the following shall apply to the respective city, county, or city and county during the shelter crisis:

- (1) Emergency housing may include homeless shelters for the homeless located or constructed on any land owned or leased by a city, county, or city and county, including land acquired with low- and moderate-income housing funds.

(2) (A) (i) The city, county, or city and county, in lieu of compliance with local building approval procedures or state housing, health, habitability, planning and zoning, or safety standards, procedures, and laws, may adopt by ordinance reasonable local standards and procedures for the design, site development, and operation of homeless shelters and the structures and facilities therein, to the extent that it is determined at the time of adoption that strict compliance with state and local standards or laws in existence at the time of that adoption would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the shelter crisis. For a jurisdiction that adopts an ordinance establishing reasonable local standards, those standards shall, at a minimum, meet the standards provided in the 2019 California Residential Code Appendix X, and California Building Code Appendix O, and any future standards adopted by the Department of Housing and Community Development related to emergency housing or emergency housing facilities, unless the city, county, or city and county adopts findings stating why the standards cannot be met and stating how the standards in the ordinance protect health and safety. Upon the adoption of an ordinance, the city, county, or city and county shall file a copy of the adopted ordinance, and any associated findings, with the department.

(ii) During the shelter crisis, except as provided in this section, provisions of any housing, health, habitability, planning and zoning, or safety standards, procedures, or laws shall be suspended for homeless shelters, provided that the city, county, or city and county has adopted health and safety standards and procedures for homeless shelters consistent with ensuring minimal public health and safety and those standards are complied with. Landlord tenant laws codified in Sections 1941 to 1942.5, inclusive, of the Civil Code providing a cause of action for habitability or tenantability shall be suspended for homeless shelters, provided that the city, county, or city and county has adopted health and safety standards for homeless shelters and those standards are complied with. During the shelter crisis, the local and state law requirements for homeless shelters to be consistent with the local land use plans, including the general plan, shall be suspended.

(B) This section applies only to a public facility or homeless shelters reserved entirely for the homeless pursuant to this chapter.

(3) Homeless shelters constructed or allowed under this chapter shall not be subject to the Special Occupancy Parks Act (Part 2.3 (commencing with Section 18860) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code), the Mobilehome Parks Act (Part 2.1 (commencing with Section 18200) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code), the Mobilehome Residency Law (Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 798) of Title 2 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Civil Code), or the Recreational Vehicle Park Occupancy Law (Chapter 2.6 (commencing with Section 799.20) of Title 2 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Civil Code), except that disposition of any vehicle or its contents abandoned by its owner shall be performed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 1980) of Title 5 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code.

(4) The California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code) shall not apply to actions taken by a state agency or a city, county, or city and county, to lease, convey, or encumber land owned by a city, county, or city and county, or to facilitate the lease, conveyance, or encumbrance of land owned by the local government for, or to provide financial assistance to, a homeless shelter constructed or allowed by this section.

(5) (A) On or before July 1, 2019, the Cities of Berkeley, Emeryville, Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Diego, the County of Santa Clara, and the City and County of San Francisco shall develop a plan to address the shelter crisis, including, but not limited to, the development of homeless shelters and permanent supportive housing, as well as onsite supportive services. The city, county, or city and county shall make the plan publicly available.

(B) In the case of a shelter crisis declared by the County of Alameda, a city located within the County of Alameda, the County of Orange, a city located within the County of Orange, or the City of San Jose, the county or the city, as applicable, shall develop the plan described in subparagraph (A) on or before July 1, 2020, and shall include in the plan required by this subparagraph a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing.

(C) In the case of a shelter crisis declared by any other county or city not described in subparagraph (A) or (B) on or before January 1, 2021, the county or the city, as applicable, shall develop the plan described in subparagraph (A) on or before July 1, 2021, and shall include in the plan required by this subparagraph a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing.

(D) In the case of a shelter crisis declared by any other county or city not described in subparagraph (A) or (B) after January 1, 2021, the county or the city, as applicable, shall develop the plan described in subparagraph (A) on or before July 1 of the year following the declaration of the shelter crisis, and shall include in the plan required by this subparagraph a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing.

(6) If the city, county, or city and county has declared a shelter crisis, the city, county, or city and county shall report, by January 1 of each year, all of the following to the Senate Committee on Housing and the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development:

(A) The total number of residents in homeless shelters within the city, county, or city and county.

(B) The total number of residents who have moved from a homeless shelter into permanent supportive housing within the city, county, or city and county.

(C) The estimated number of permanent supportive housing units.

(D) The number of residents who have exited the system and are no longer in need of a homeless shelter or permanent supportive housing within the city, county, or city and county.

(E) The number and bed capacity of new homeless shelters built pursuant to this section within the city, county, or city and county. The information regarding the bed capacity shall be included in reports due by January 1, 2022, and by January 1 of each year thereafter. Bed capacity shall not include the parking vehicle capacity of a homeless shelter on a parking lot owned or leased by a city, county, or city and county specifically identified as one allowed for safe parking by homeless and unstably housed individuals.

(F) New actions the city, county, or city and county is taking under the declared shelter crisis to better serve the homeless population and to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness.

(G) The ordinance and any associated findings adopted by the city, county, or city and county pursuant to paragraph (2).

(b) A declaration of a shelter crisis by a city, county, or city and county and the provisions in this section that are or may be utilized by a city, county, or city and county, including an ordinance adopted by a city, county, or city and county pursuant to clause (i) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), shall apply to any land owned or leased by an agency or entity created pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code) if the city, county, or city and county that declared a shelter crisis is one of the parties to the agreement creating the entity or agency and the real property owned or leased by the agency or entity is located within the jurisdiction of the city, county, or city and county that declared the shelter crisis.

(c) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Homeless shelter" means a facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless that is not in existence after the declared shelter crisis. A temporary homeless shelter community may include supportive and self-sufficiency development services. A "homeless shelter" shall include a parking lot owned or leased by a city, county, or city and county specifically identified as one allowed for safe parking by homeless and unstably housed individuals.

(2) "Permanent supportive housing" means housing for people who are homeless, with no limit on length of stay, and that is linked to onsite or offsite services that assist the supportive housing resident in retaining the housing, improving the person's health status, and maximizing the person's ability to live and, when possible, work in the community.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

(Amended by Stats. 2020, Ch. 147, Sec. 1. (AB 2553) Effective September 25, 2020. Repealed as of January 1, 2026, by its own provisions.)

Web:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=1.&chapter=7.8.&lawCode=GOV&title=2

APPENDIX “B”

Date Published: 09/29/2020 02:00 PM

Assembly Bill No. 2553

CHAPTER 147

An act to amend Section 8698.4 of the Government Code, relating to local government, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 25, 2020. Filed with Secretary of State September 25, 2020.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2553, Ting. Shelter crisis declarations.

Existing law authorizes a governing body of a political subdivision, as those terms are defined, to declare a shelter crisis if the governing body makes a specified finding. Upon declaration of a shelter crisis, existing law, among other things, suspends certain state and local laws, regulations, and ordinances, including those prescribing standards of housing, health, or safety, to the extent that strict compliance would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the shelter crisis and allows a city, county, or city and county, in lieu of compliance, to adopt by ordinance reasonable local standards and procedures for the design, site development, and operation of homeless shelters and the structures and facilities therein.

Existing law, upon a declaration of a shelter crisis by specified local jurisdictions, specifies additional provisions applicable to a shelter crisis declared by one of those jurisdictions. Existing law, among other things, exempts from the California Environmental Quality Act specified actions by a state agency or a city, county, or city and county relating to land owned by a local government to be used for, or to provide financial assistance to, a homeless shelter constructed pursuant to these provisions, and provides that homeless shelters constructed or allowed pursuant to these shelter crisis declarations are not subject to specified laws, including the Special Occupancy Parks Act. Existing law also defines a “homeless shelter” as a facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless that is not in existence after the declared shelter crisis. Existing law requires a city, county, or city and county that declares a shelter crisis pursuant to these provisions to develop a plan to address the shelter crisis on or before July 1, 2019, or July 1, 2020, as applicable, and to annually report particular information, as indicated, to specified committees of the Legislature on or before January 1, 2019, or on or before January 1 of the year following the declaration of the shelter crisis, as applicable, and annually thereafter until January 1, 2023. Existing law repeals these additional provisions as of January 1, 2023.

This bill would apply those additional provisions to a shelter crisis declared by any county or city. By expanding the scope of these provisions to apply within any county or city that has declared a shelter crisis, the bill would expand the above-described exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act. This bill would require jurisdictions that adopt ordinances under the act, to, at a minimum, meet the standards provided in the 2019 California Residential Code Appendix X, the 2019 California Building Code Appendix O, and any future standards adopted by the Department of Housing and Community Development related to emergency housing or emergency housing facilities unless that jurisdiction provides, when filing their ordinance with the Department of Housing and Community Development, an explanation of why the standards cannot be met and how the standards in the ordinance protect health and safety. The bill requires jurisdictions to provide the same information in their annual report to the Legislature. The bill would additionally exempt homeless shelters that are constructed or allowed pursuant to the shelter crisis declarations from the Recreational Vehicle Park Occupancy Law, which governs occupancy and tenancy of recreational vehicle parks. The bill would also revise the definition of a "homeless shelter" to include a parking lot owned or leased by a city, county, or city and county specifically identified as one allowed for safe parking by homeless and unstably housed individuals. The bill would require the county or city to develop the above-described shelter plan on or before July 1, 2021, or on or before July 1 of the year following the declaration of the shelter crisis, as specified, and to include a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing. The bill would require the above-described annual report, for reports due by January 1, 2022, and thereafter, to include the bed capacity of new homeless shelters built, as specified. The bill would require a declaration of a shelter crisis by a city, county, or city and county and those additional provisions that are or may be utilized by a city, county, or city and county to apply to any land owned or leased by an agency or entity created pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, if the city, county, or city and county that declared a shelter crisis is one of the parties to the agreement creating the entity or agency and the real property owned or leased by the agency or entity is located within the jurisdiction of the city, county, or city and county that declared the shelter crisis. The bill would extend the repeal date of these provisions to January 1, 2026.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

DIGEST KEY

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

BILL TEXT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS
FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

Section 8698.4 of the Government Code is amended to read:

8698.4.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, upon a declaration of a shelter crisis by a city, county, or city and county, the following shall apply to the respective city, county, or city and county during the shelter crisis:

(1) Emergency housing may include homeless shelters for the homeless located or constructed on any land owned or leased by a city, county, or city and county, including land acquired with low- and moderate-income housing funds.

(2) (A) (i) The city, county, or city and county, in lieu of compliance with local building approval procedures or state housing, health, habitability, planning and zoning, or safety standards, procedures, and laws, may adopt by ordinance reasonable local standards and procedures for the design, site development, and operation of homeless shelters and the structures and facilities therein, to the extent that it is determined at the time of adoption that strict compliance with state and local standards or laws in existence at the time of that adoption would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the shelter crisis. For a jurisdiction that adopts an ordinance establishing reasonable local standards, those standards shall, at a minimum, meet the standards provided in the 2019 California Residential Code Appendix X, and California Building Code Appendix O, and any future standards adopted by the Department of Housing and Community Development related to emergency housing or emergency housing facilities, unless the city, county, or city and county adopts findings stating why the standards cannot be met and stating how the standards in the ordinance protect health and safety. Upon the adoption of an ordinance, the city, county, or city and county shall file a copy of the adopted ordinance, and any associated findings, with the department.

(ii) During the shelter crisis, except as provided in this section, provisions of any housing, health, habitability, planning and zoning, or safety standards, procedures, or laws shall be suspended for homeless shelters, provided that the city, county, or city and county has adopted health and safety standards and procedures for homeless shelters consistent with ensuring minimal public health and safety and those standards are complied with. Landlord tenant laws codified in Sections 1941 to 1942.5, inclusive, of the Civil Code providing a cause of action for habitability or tenantability shall be suspended for homeless shelters, provided that the city, county, or city and county has adopted health and safety standards for homeless shelters and those standards are complied with. During the shelter crisis, the local and state law requirements for homeless shelters to be consistent with the local land use plans, including the general plan, shall be suspended.

(B) This section applies only to a public facility or homeless shelters reserved entirely for the homeless pursuant to this chapter.

(3) Homeless shelters constructed or allowed under this chapter shall not be subject to the Special Occupancy Parks Act (Part 2.3 (commencing with Section 18860) of Division 13 of the Health and

Safety Code), the Mobilehome Parks Act (Part 2.1 (commencing with Section 18200) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code), the Mobilehome Residency Law (Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 798) of Title 2 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Civil Code), or the Recreational Vehicle Park Occupancy Law (Chapter 2.6 (commencing with Section 799.20) of Title 2 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Civil Code), except that disposition of any vehicle or its contents abandoned by its owner shall be performed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 1980) of Title 5 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code.

(4) The California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code) shall not apply to actions taken by a state agency or a city, county, or city and county, to lease, convey, or encumber land owned by a city, county, or city and county, or to facilitate the lease, conveyance, or encumbrance of land owned by the local government for, or to provide financial assistance to, a homeless shelter constructed or allowed by this section.

(5) (A) On or before July 1, 2019, the Cities of Berkeley, Emeryville, Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Diego, the County of Santa Clara, and the City and County of San Francisco shall develop a plan to address the shelter crisis, including, but not limited to, the development of homeless shelters and permanent supportive housing, as well as onsite supportive services. The city, county, or city and county shall make the plan publicly available.

(B) In the case of a shelter crisis declared by the County of Alameda, a city located within the County of Alameda, the County of Orange, a city located within the County of Orange, or the City of San Jose, the county or the city, as applicable, shall develop the plan described in subparagraph (A) on or before July 1, 2020, and shall include in the plan required by this subparagraph a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing.

(C) In the case of a shelter crisis declared by any other county or city not described in subparagraph (A) or (B) on or before January 1, 2021, the county or the city, as applicable, shall develop the plan described in subparagraph (A) on or before July 1, 2021, and shall include in the plan required by this subparagraph a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing.

(D) In the case of a shelter crisis declared by any other county or city not described in subparagraph (A) or (B) after January 1, 2021, the county or the city, as applicable, shall develop the plan described in subparagraph (A) on or before July 1 of the year following the declaration of the shelter crisis, and shall include in the plan required by this subparagraph a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing.

(6) If the city, county, or city and county has declared a shelter crisis, the city, county, or city and county shall report, by January 1 of each year, all of the following to the Senate Committee on Housing and the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development:

(A) The total number of residents in homeless shelters within the city, county, or city and county.

(B) The total number of residents who have moved from a homeless shelter into permanent supportive housing within the city, county, or city and county.

(C) The estimated number of permanent supportive housing units.

(D) The number of residents who have exited the system and are no longer in need of a homeless shelter or permanent supportive housing within the city, county, or city and county.

(E) The number and bed capacity of new homeless shelters built pursuant to this section within the city, county, or city and county. The information regarding the bed capacity shall be included in reports due by January 1, 2022, and by January 1 of each year thereafter. Bed capacity shall not include the parking vehicle capacity of a homeless shelter on a parking lot owned or leased by a city, county, or city and county specifically identified as one allowed for safe parking by homeless and unstably housed individuals.

(F) New actions the city, county, or city and county is taking under the declared shelter crisis to better serve the homeless population and to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness.

(G) The ordinance and any associated findings adopted by the city, county, or city and county pursuant to paragraph (2).

(b) A declaration of a shelter crisis by a city, county, or city and county and the provisions in this section that are or may be utilized by a city, county, or city and county, including an ordinance adopted by a city, county, or city and county pursuant to clause (i) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), shall apply to any land owned or leased by an agency or entity created pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code) if the city, county, or city and county that declared a shelter crisis is one of the parties to the agreement creating the entity or agency and the real property owned or leased by the agency or entity is located within the jurisdiction of the city, county, or city and county that declared the shelter crisis.

(c) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Homeless shelter" means a facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless that is not in existence after the declared shelter crisis. A temporary homeless shelter community may include supportive and self-sufficiency development services. A "homeless shelter" shall include a parking lot owned or leased by a city, county, or city and county specifically identified as one allowed for safe parking by homeless and unstably housed individuals.

(2) "Permanent supportive housing" means housing for people who are homeless, with no limit on length of stay, and that is linked to onsite or offsite services that assist the supportive housing resident in retaining the housing, improving the person's health status, and maximizing the person's ability to live and, when possible, work in the community.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 2.

This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

Because many jurisdictions need to begin building shelters immediately to address the ongoing homelessness crisis which has only been exacerbated by COVID-19, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.

Web: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB2553

APPENDIX “C”

City of Riverside Housing First Strategy Update

Protocol and Interview Questions

Deliverable:

“Identify key stakeholders involved in the continuum of care; conduct interviews with a defined set of questions to understand current operations, goals, measures of success, and gaps to be addressed.”

Protocol:

- Interviews to be conducted by video conference throughout June 2021
- At the beginning of interviews, introduce Sagecrest Planning+Environmental and our role in project
- Explain the purpose of the interview for qualitative data gathering for Housing First Plan Update and State Law reporting compliance
- Explain answers are anonymized in a summary report with no attribution to individuals or organizations
- Record interviewee’s name, title, organization
- At the conclusion of the interview, invite any follow up communications if additional insights come to mind

Questions:

1. Can you briefly tell me about your organization’s work addressing homelessness?
2. What are your organization’s goals in addressing homelessness?
3. How does your organization measure success in addressing homelessness?
4. What is your organization doing well in addressing homelessness?
5. What are the gaps or improvement areas in addressing homelessness?
6. What can be done to increase the number of permanent supportive housing units in Riverside?
7. What is the city doing well in addressing homelessness?
8. What are gaps or improvement areas for the city to address regarding homelessness?
9. Anything else you would like to add?