

What is the City of Pasadena doing about homelessness?

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Homelessness is a complex, difficult, expensive and even vexing problem faced by Pasadena and many other cities. Addressing it requires resources, skill, patience, enforcement and empathy. The City of Pasadena and a number of nonprofit and faith-based homeless service providers are working hard to address this issue. However, many challenges remain including threats of annual funding reductions, early prisoner releases, and the overall increase in the homeless population of Los Angeles County.

People cannot be arrested merely because they are homeless. All of the public, including those who are homeless, are allowed to use public spaces. Pasadena's **Annual Homeless Count** is conducted in order to target our limited homeless resources most effectively, and to determine what kinds of characteristic they have (e.g., veterans, women, mental illness, physically disabled, substance abuse, etc.). Please visit www.PasadenaPartnership.com to view these reports. This year's count revealed that for the fifth year in a row, our homeless population has declined. However, the difficult to serve chronic homeless population increased.

Listed below are the resources that Pasadena is currently applying to this difficult issue. For further information please contact, Anne Lansing, who coordinates Pasadena's homeless efforts at (626) 744-6701 or alansing@cityofpasadena.net. For ways you can help please visit www.RealChangeMovement.org.

Homeless Prevention Program

Pasadena funds Friends in Deed's Homeless Prevention Program. This program is designed to help prevent households from becoming homeless by covering one time limited costs like back rent, which left unpaid could result in homelessness.

Rapid Rehousing Program

Pasadena funds Door of Hope's Rapid Rehousing Program. This program focuses on quickly housing newly homeless households because the longer a household is homeless the harder it is for them to get out homelessness.

Project HOUSED/FUSE Programs

Pasadena provides rent subsidies for Housing Works' housing first programs. These programs target the most chronically homeless persons and get them into permanent housing with supportive services. We target this population because they are the most vulnerable, most likely to die on the street if not housed, and the persons who are most costly to society since they are often very frequent users of some of society's most expensive support systems and services (e.g., emergency rooms, hospital beds, jails, courts, police, fire, paramedic, prosecutors, public defenders, etc.). Research has shown it is far less expensive to provide housing and services than to let the chronically homeless remain on the streets. The clients are provided permanent housing (as opposed to a shelter bed) thereby ending their homelessness.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Pasadena has partnered with nonprofit developers and Union Station Homeless Services to build and operate permanent supportive housing developments for formerly homeless individuals and families. The housing provided is permanent so those housed are no longer homeless.

Transitional Housing

Pasadena works with a few nonprofit organizations that operate a limited number of transitional housing sites for homeless individuals and families. Residents can stay for up to two years while they are helped to transition out of homelessness.

Emergency Shelters

There are dozens of emergency shelter beds for individual men and women, and families in Pasadena. When these beds are filled up homeless persons from Pasadena are given access to available shelter beds in other cities. A bad weather shelter opens in Pasadena on rainy winter nights to prevent hypothermia.

Basic Services for the Homeless

Some nonprofit organizations and faith-based organizations provide meals, clothes, showers, laundry and other basic services for homeless persons on a daily basis for free. Friends in Deed operates the Women's Room as a safe place for homeless women to spend the day and enjoy companionship while receiving basic services.

Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse Recovery Programs

Homeless persons in Pasadena have access to these programs through local homeless service providers at no cost although the services are not always located in Pasadena.

Homeless Outreach Workers

The best way to get chronically homeless persons, sometimes referred to those who are "service resistant," is to build a trusting relationship with them. They typically will not come to existing services themselves so homeless outreach workers go out to contact them repeatedly until trust can be established, then the outreach workers encourage them to participate in existing homeless services and housing. It is important to note that no one can be forced to participate in services even when free services that could be of benefit to them are readily available.

HOPE Teams

The Pasadena Police Department and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health collaborate to staff HOPE Teams which consist of one specially trained police officer and one county mental health worker. The HOPE Teams try to intervene where appropriate with mentally ill homeless persons.

Real Change Movement

This public education campaign on homelessness was developed by the City of Pasadena, Flintridge Center and Art Center College of Design. It seeks to provide information about homeless programs and resources and to educate the public on how to provide real help to the homeless. Included in the campaign are special orange meters installed throughout Pasadena that serve as public donation stations. The United Way of Greater Los Angeles matches the money collected by the meters which goes towards services that end homelessness in Pasadena. Please visit www.RealChangeMovement.org for more information.