

SAN
JOSE'S
TEN
YEAR
HOMELESS
STRATEGY



seeing the NEED taking the LEAD

the plan

THE CITY OF SAN JOSE'S VISION is to ensure that every person and every family has a place they can call home. On September 9, 2003, the Mayor and City Council embraced a challenge set forth by the federal government to create a plan to eliminate chronic homelessness. The City's Ten-Year Homeless Strategy calls for programs and policies designed to be outcome driven through collaborative partnerships.

outcome driven

Improve the current homeless assistance system and meet the special needs of this population

and

Transition homeless families and individuals from streets and shelters to permanent housing



Creating and implementing a **Homeless Ten Year Strategy** is a particularly challenging feat considering today's shrinking economy that often puts nonprofits in competition with each other for dwindling public funds and private donations. Our hope is that this model can be replicated elsewhere to improve efficiency, eliminate duplication of services, and maximize limited dollars.

collaborative partnerships

The HSP will collaborate with other public and private agencies to identify and access the right resources to address individual needs.

The First Step to implementing the **Ten Year Homeless Strategy** is the collaboration of various partners. For years the San José homeless service agencies have worked independently to address the challenge of homelessness, struggling to meet the needs of families and individuals who find themselves without shelter. A key element to the success of San José's Homeless Plan involves the coordination and collaboration of all homeless service agencies. To this end, the Housing Department convened a series of meetings with key service providers to begin the process of collaboration. Three agencies, the Emergency Housing Consortium (EHC), InnVision, and Sacred Heart Community Service agreed to form a collaborative called the Housing Services Partnership (HSP) to deliver a range of services necessary to move homeless individuals and families into permanent housing.



The City's plan focuses on four strategies to assist families and individuals who are homeless and those who are at risk of homelessness.

Each strategy has several action plans; some have been implemented while others are in process.

Steps to follow

1

PREVENTION

Provide life skills training, rental and mortgage assistance, and job training

Create housing options for youth transitioning out of foster care



2

RAPID RE-HOUSING

Expand the efficacy of Section 8 housing vouchers, implementing the Housing First model

Increase the supply of affordable and special needs housing

Implement housing plans designed to keep families intact

3

WRAPAROUND SERVICES

Centralize and coordinate a wide variety of homeless services offered by local nonprofit agencies

Partner with the Workforce Investment Board and other agencies to link the homeless to jobs

Implement mandatory after-care for families and individuals moving from shelters to permanent housing

4

PROACTIVE EFFORTS

Conduct a census to determine the size of the local homeless population and a survey to determine type of services needed

Identify and fill gaps in the homeless assistance delivery system and build new partnerships between existing shelter and service providers to address the gaps

Collaborate regionally and provide support to outreach programs designed to help the homeless navigate through the social service system and obtain mental health services

*The City of San José and its partners are committed to achieving the **Ten Year Homeless Strategy** goals.*

State and federal support is critical to the success of this plan.

Through collaboration and partnerships, we will move closer to the goal of ensuring that every family and every person has a place they can call home.