



CITY OF SANTA ROSA COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS SERVICES STRATEGY

PURPOSE:

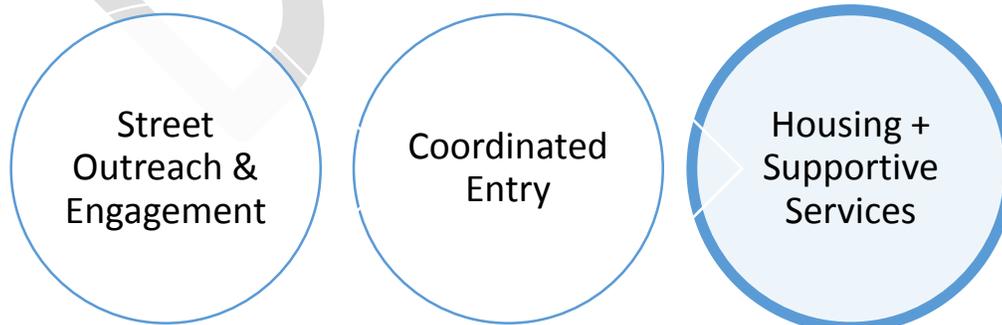
To adopt a Comprehensive Homeless Services Strategy, founded upon an evidence-based “Housing First” program model, with the goal of achieving “Functional Zero” within a reasonable period of time while addressing the immediate public health and safety needs of the unsheltered. Adoption of the Comprehensive Strategy and the Homeless Emergency Declarations Work Plan will help to strengthen existing programs and will provide a framework for new initiatives.

STRATEGY SUMMARY:

The Homeless Policy Subcommittee is currently considering development and adoption of a Comprehensive Homeless Services Strategy. This strategy supports an evidence-based “Housing First” model, which according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, “is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues.” Housing First prioritizes providing permanent housing as a primary strategy for ending homelessness. A Homeless Emergency Declarations Work Plan has been drafted in conjunction with this strategy which outlines existing and new initiatives for implementing the strategy. The Work Plan is attached.

Goal of “Functional Zero” as defined by the Homeless Policy Subcommittee: *The Santa Rosa community has a systematic response to ensure homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or is a brief and non-recurring experience with a goal of housing a person who has fallen into homelessness within 30 days while preserving the dignity of individuals and families.*

The Homeless Services Strategy aligns with the following three program areas. Programs have been implemented and are underway in each category.





BACKGROUND:

The Santa Rosa City Council established five specific priorities to better focus efforts derived from broad goals that were established for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2017. The first of these five priorities aims to reduce homelessness through a comprehensive strategy. In January 2016, recognizing the importance of this issue to the City and the broader community, Mayor Sawyer announced his appointment of Council Member Olivares (Chair), Vice Mayor Schwedhelm, and Council Member Combs to a Council Subcommittee on Homelessness. The City Manager also appointed staff from the Housing and Community Services Department to support the City's efforts related to homelessness.

The City is actively engaged in a range of efforts to prevent and end homelessness in our community. These include better coordination of services among key City departments, regional participation through the Sonoma County Continuum of Care, improving access to services through a Coordinated Entry system, sponsoring a street outreach team (the Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST)), and increasing the availability of shelter and housing options for the unsheltered.

On August 9, 2016, the Santa Rosa City Council formally declared a local homeless emergency. This move should give the City additional flexibility to address the homeless crisis. Furthermore, Council is hopeful that this action will rally community support for shared-based long-term solutions. In response to the declaration, the Subcommittee has prepared recommendations in the following areas – an interim Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP), approved by Council on October 11, 2016, a Comprehensive Homeless Services Strategy, and an Emergency Declarations Work Plan. CHAP established guidelines for use of private property for safe parking, safe camping, placement and maintenance of portable toilets and access to existing bathroom facilities, provision of temporary overnight shelter, and storage for personal belongings.

Attachment

- Homeless Emergency Declarations Work Plan

DRAFT Homeless Initiatives and Emergency Declarations Work Plan

EXISTING INITIATIVES	Status/Timeline	Assignment	Cost Estimate/Budget	
			Existing	Additional
1 In coordination with the approved City Housing Action Plan	Update Nov. 1	HCS/PED		
o Secure new, permanent resources to provide affordable housing				
o Evaluate removing barriers to produce affordable housing				
o Evaluate additional public and private resource partnerships to provide affordable housing				
2 Work with the Community Advisory Board on issues regarding homelessness and housing	Complete	HCS		
3 Support Subcommittee work efforts	Underway	HCS/CONTRACTORS		
4 Administer existing homeless service programs and contracts	Underway	HCS	\$1,667,991	
5 Support development of existing facilities (Homeless Services Center and Family Support Center) – the Block	Underway	HCS		
6 Participate in quarterly membership meetings and monthly Board meetings of the So. Co. Continuum of Care (CoC)	Underway	HCS		
7 Achieve Functional Zero	On-going	SR Team		
OTHER POTENTIAL INITIATIVES . . .				
TOTAL EXISTING INITIATIVES			\$1,667,991	\$ -
NEW INITIATIVES	Status/Timeline	Assignment	Cost Estimate/Budget	
			Existing	Additional
Fiscal Year 2016/2017: Quarter 2				
1 Implement expanded Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP)	Approved Oct 11	HCS/CAO/TAC		
o 1 standard restroom & handwash station, 1x week service				\$218/month
o 2 standard restroom & handwash station, 3x week service				\$660/month
o 1 ADA restroom & handwash station, 3x week service				\$562/month
o Fencing (rental; 500 ft plus privacy screening)				\$467/month
o Garbage service (4 yd dumpster & recycling)				\$415/month
2 City Council adopt Comprehensive Homeless Services Strategy and Work Plan	To City Council Nov 15	HCS/TAC		
3 Direct development of ordinance amendments for permanent CHAP	Pending/Q2-Q4	PED		
4 City Council pursues a direct partnership with local jurisdictions, including the County of Sonoma and cities, to expedite the development of a regional homeless service work plan to achieve functional zero (2x2)	Pending	Council/Subcom		
5 Chamber of Commerce Stakeholder Meeting	30-Nov	Chamber/HCS		
6 Catalog and identify potential public facilities suitable for shelter to include inventory of public bathrooms	Underway	HCS/TPW		
7 Meet with City of Sacramento	3-Nov	HCS		
8 Meet with City of San Jose	November			
9 Evaluate maintenance needs of Sam Jones Hall and consider investment	November	TPW		\$ 414,000
10 Attend OrgCode Leadership Academy on Ending Homelessness - share info with Subcommittee and Santa Rosa Homeless Collective	Oct 25-27	SR Team		
OTHER POTENTIAL INITIATIVES . . .				
TOTAL Q2			\$ -	\$ 414,000

DRAFT Homeless Initiatives and Emergency Declarations Work Plan

NEW INITIATIVES	Status/Timeline	Assignment	Cost Estimate/Budget	
			Existing	Additional
Fiscal Year 2016/2017: Quarter 3				
1 Evaluate potential new initiatives in conjunction with Council goal setting	Pending	HCS		
o Low barrier shelters				
o Landlord incentives (RENT Sonoma County, a working group of the Sonoma County Continuum of Care)				
o Accountability (Santa Rosa Homeless Collective)				
2 Solidify partnership with Sonoma County, courts and DA	Pending	Subcommittee		
3 Conduct Request for Proposals for Legal Aid/Fair Housing/Tenant-Landlord Services for homeless prevention	Jan-17	HCS		
4 OrgCode visit to Santa Rosa	Jan-17	C. Charities/HCS		
5 2017 Homeless Count	Jan-17	CoC		
OTHER POTENTIAL INITIATIVES . . .				
			TOTAL Q3	\$ - \$ -
Fiscal Year 2016/2017: Quarter 4				
1 Complete CHAP code amendments for permanent solution	Pending	PED		
2 Implement use of public property, if and as deemed appropriate by Council	Pending	HCS		
3 Implement new homeless services initiatives, if and as deemed appropriate by Council	Pending	HCS		
4 Continue partnership with the Santa Rosa Homeless Collective	Underway	HCS		
5 Continue to strengthen the existing Rapid Re-Housing Program efforts	Pending	HCS		
6 Align contracts with Comprehensive Homeless Services Strategy	Pending	HCS		
7 Present long-term plan for Sam Jones Hall	Pending	HCS/TPW		
OTHER POTENTIAL INITIATIVES . . .				
			TOTAL Q4	\$ - \$ -
			TOTAL NEW INITIATIVES	\$ - \$ 414,000
			GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,667,991 \$ 414,000