



Riverside Community Broad-Based Homeless Action Plan Fiscal Year 2011-12

City of Arts & Innovation

The City of Riverside has taken a pro-active approach to addressing homelessness in our community, partnership with a wide-range of non-profit organizations, social service agencies, faith-based institutions, and the community at-large. Through collaboration, the City of Riverside's Homeless Assistance and Prevention Strategy has successfully assisted many individuals and families moving toward stable housing. The following is an update on the fiscal year 2011-12 accomplishments and some of the major initiatives currently underway.

1. HOMELESS STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM

The City of Riverside Homeless Street Outreach Team (Team) continues to provide daily mobile outreach and client service engagement focused on the "hardest-to-reach" populations on the streets or in service venues. The Team partners with other city staff, local service providers, law enforcement, health professionals, and the community at-large to help people get connected with the services they need to get off the streets, into stable housing, and ultimately achieve self-sufficiency. A number of service professionals and community volunteers participate in "ride-alongs" with the Team to assist in connecting people with needed services.

During the 2011/12 program year, the Team engaged over 746 homeless individuals and assisted 421 homeless individuals while working with community partners to connect people to a range of services such as shelter, housing, employment, benefits support, behavioral and medical services, and transportation back to their hometown. The Team has continued to apply a "Housing First" model with over a dozen chronically homeless individuals, assisting them in exiting life on the streets and moving directly into housing, coupled with aggressive case management. The Team operates from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, and various weekend hours as assigned.

2. ONE-STOP MULTI-SERVICE CAMPUS

A pivotal goal within the City's Homeless Action Plan is the creation of a centralized service environment to provide short-term emergency shelter along with a range of supportive services critical to assisting homeless individuals and families in addressing their issues and achieving housing stability. Since the adoption of the Homeless Action Plan, the City has pursued a long-term strategy to assemble properties at Hulen Place in a "campus-style" setting where a wide-range of service needs can be addressed in a coordinated delivery system that includes outreach, crisis intervention, interim housing, and "rapid re-housing" accompanied by supportive case management. The campus is modeled after the national best practice PATH Mall in Los Angeles and similar other models across the county. This campus model brings the concept of the "one-stop shop" concept to the social service arena. To date, four properties on Hulen Place in Ward 1 have been acquired to support this model. Several components are already operational and include (as shown on the attached Campus map): Multi-Service Access Center and Homeless Pet Kennel, Path of Life Riverside Emergency Shelter, "The Place" Safe Haven Supportive Housing and Drop-in Center, and the SmartRiverside Digital Inclusion Program.

3. EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAMS

The City continues to partner with Path of Life Ministries to operate the Year-round Emergency Shelter on Hulen Place. Path of Life operates two programs from the emergency shelter facility – *the Year-Round Short-Term Emergency Shelter Program and the Cold Weather Shelter Program*. Path of Life also operates the County-supported Family Shelter at 2530 3rd Street. In program year 2011/12, Path of Life assisted 349 unduplicated individuals through the Emergency Shelter Program, 688 unduplicated individuals through the Cold Weather Shelter Program, and 357 unduplicated men, women and children through the Year-Round Family Shelter. Path of life engages over 500 volunteers annually through the popular and highly successful

Guest Chef Program which supplements shelter food costs through donations and volunteer assistance. In addition to the shelter operations, Path of Life also provides 142 beds of transitional housing and families with children at King Hall on the March Air Reserve Base and free medical services to homeless individuals in partnership with Kaiser Permanente and Riverside Community Health Foundation through the Health in Motion mobile medical van.

4. HOUSING FIRST INITIATIVE / TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

During the 2011/12 program year, City staff continued to work with community partners to implement the best practice “Housing First” approach, which emphasizes moving people into housing as quickly as possible and providing services that support housing stability and retention. This approach has been carried throughout all aspects of the City’s homeless program. The Housing First approach represents a significant shift away from the traditional homeless service delivery system, where attempts are made to provide food and service to folks in the street rather than in a stable environment. The methodology is premised on the belief that vulnerable and at-risk homeless individuals and families are more responsive to interventions and social services support after they are in their own housing, rather than while living in temporary/transitional facilities or housing programs. With permanent housing, these families can begin to regain the self-confidence and control over their lives that they lost when they became homeless. Research shows that it is a much more cost effective model as well. This effort currently includes federal stimulus-funded Homeless Prevention and Rapid RE-Housing Program (HPRP) (#5 below); the HUD-funded Permanent Supportive Housing Program (SHP) (#6 below); the Veteran’s Administration Supportive Housing Initiative (VASH) administered by the Veterans’ Administration Loma Linda and the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside; the City’s HUD-funded Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program; and a Riverside County Shelter Plus Care “Street-to-Home” program.

The City’s TBRA program, administered by the Housing Authority of Riverside County, provides eligible homeless and at-risk households in Riverside. The new “Street-to-Home” program, also administered by the County’s Housing Authority, builds on a pilot initiative started under the TBRA program and targets chronically homeless individuals for assistance with exiting life on the streets and moving directly into housing using Shelter Plus Care housing vouchers coupled with case management and supportive services.

5. HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM

In September of 2009, the City was allocated over \$1.3 million in federal stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP). The intent of the federal funding is to serve persons who are experiencing a housing emergency due to the economic downturn and became or would become homeless *but for* this assistance and can remain stably housed after this temporary assistance ends. Building on the existing TBRA program described above, the City partnered with the Housing Authority of Riverside County to implement the HPRP program. The program includes payment of rental arrears, assistance with move-in costs or short-to-medium-term rental subsidies coupled with critical case management services to facilitate client stabilization and self-sufficiency. From October 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012, the assisted 1,159 individuals in 433 households have been assisted with homeless prevention and rapid re-housing program funding. Of those assisted during this period, 179 individuals in 74 households received assistance with homeless prevention services.

6. PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

The City continues to utilize funds awarded through the HUD Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Program (SHP) to support the operations of two permanent supportive housing projects providing for sixteen (16) households. Eight households reside at two multi-family properties on 7th Street in Ward 2, and the other eight households reside at the Autumn Ridge Apartments in Ward 5. One of the projects provides supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and the second project provides supportive housing for homeless persons with disabling conditions and their families (where applicable). On-going case management and supportive services are provided to ensure housing stability and the achievement of self-sufficiency goals. The City is working in partnership with local nonprofit housing developers, Riverside Housing Development Corporation and National CORE, as well as supportive service providers to implement these two projects. Staff will continue to pursue new opportunities to partner with local nonprofit organizations to develop and implement additional permanent supportive housing projects.

7. ANNUAL FUNDING FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Approximately \$1.6 million in federal funding was allocated by the City Council in fiscal year 2011/2012, from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME), Housing Opportunities with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs, to over a dozen public and private service agencies that assist homeless individuals and families and those at-risk of becoming homeless in Riverside. This funding supports a wide-range of programs and services including homeless prevention, outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, mental health, substance abuse treatment services, domestic violence assistance, rental assistance, basic needs resources, general emergency assistance and referral services.

8. RIVERSIDE HOMELESS CARE NETWORK

Over 50 organizations, including nonprofit service providers, municipal service agencies, law enforcement, and faith-based institutions, continue to participate in monthly meetings of the City-sponsored *Riverside Homeless Care Network* (Network). The Network serves as a vehicle to facilitate effective communication, coordination, and collaboration within the continuum of care services to the homeless in the City of Riverside. Network meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Riverside Access Center. City staff is working with the Homeless Care Network partners to develop a comprehensive plan to transform our local homeless service system into one centered on creating solutions to ending the cycle of homelessness through the Housing First approach. The plan will include establishing a coordinated, community-wide, uniform system for assessing and responding to housing needs, determining appropriate service interventions and accessing available and new resources and services to facilitate housing stability.