

Santa Cruz Coalition on Homelessness

Community Meeting
May 8, Louden Nelson Community Center

Welcome.

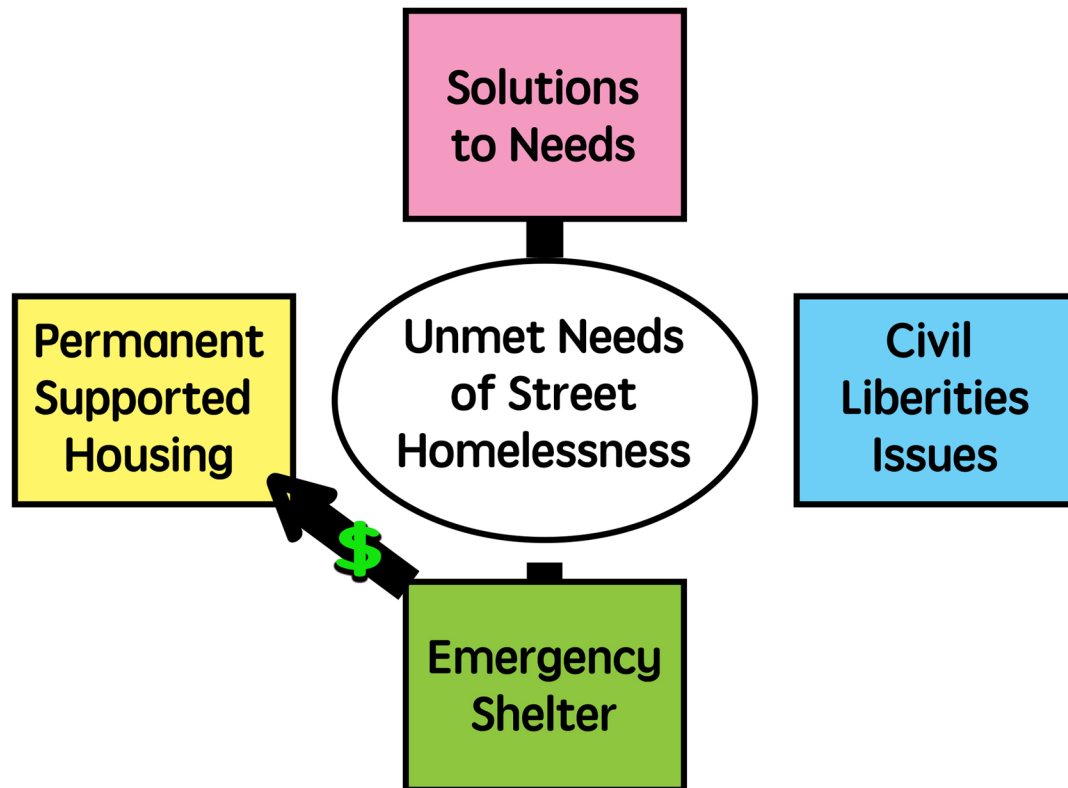
We're honored you've joined us for this first step on the journey to transform the experience of people who sleep outside and in vehicles. We're committed to listing the needs people have and to thoughtfully engage in ways those needs might be met. We believe that through researching successful programs in other cities, we'll have a better understanding of what's possible and what problems we might avoid. Many programs already exist here, yet they may be difficult to access while in a state of homelessness.

Incomplete list of needs

Shelter (of any kind)
A safe place to be during the day
Storage
Shower
Laundry
Restroom
Safe parking
Mental health counsel/treatment
Addiction treatment/meetings
Employment and training
Education
Family repair
Birth Certificate & photo ID
Cell phone plan
Disability services

Day care
Financial services
Groceries
Hot meal
Health care
Pet care
Senior services
Immigration services
Legal services
Permanent housing assistance
Transitional housing
Transportation & Paratransit
Veterans services
Youth services

The federal government has reduced funding for emergency shelter in favor of permanent supported housing programs which struggle in high-cost housing markets. As a civil liberties issue, sleeping and camping bans are a valid concern, yet it doesn't address the basic needs of people who sleep outside.



It's called "homelessness," reducing a myriad of needs, to that which may not be as immediately pressing as other needs. We label people who sleep outside with the most difficult of needs to fulfill – housing – while some of the most basic dignity and safety creating things are withheld.

Homelessness is reduced to the lowest common denominator experience. People must carry with them what few possessions they can maintain. Simply getting and staying clean, laundering clothes, and having ready access to bathrooms can be a challenge. The ability of a person to move around the community without the label of "homelessness" imprinted on them becomes impossible.

Vision.

By focusing on needs, and developing low-cost and effective programs that are successful in other cities, the experience of homelessness can be reduced and improved while benefiting every resident.

There are dozens of cities on the west coast and beyond that have established safe, clean and dignifying alternative shelter, storage and shower programs. When people have their basic needs met, they're more able to heal the circumstances that are responsible for their homelessness.

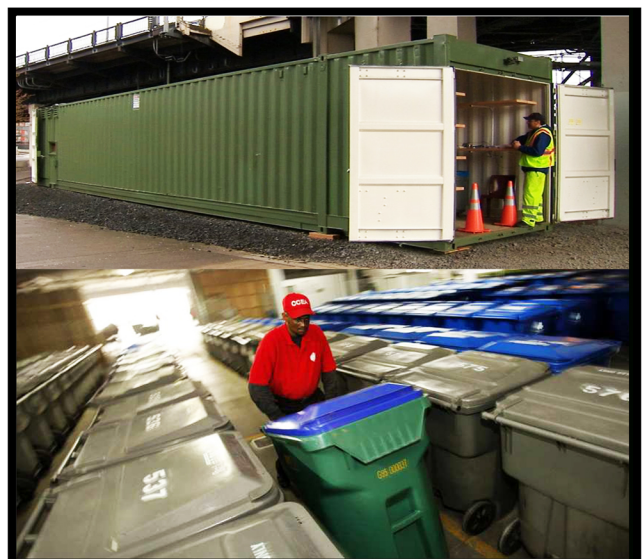
Shelter



Showers



Storage



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 Cell phone plan
 Disability services

Shelter Programs

With homelessness mushrooming everywhere and institutional shelter proving to be expensive and less than ideal, many cities have experimented with alternative shelter programs. Enough time has gone by to prove them to be effective and relatively low cost.

Basic elements usually include:

- Nonprofit guidance/fundraising
- A set of rules
- Boundary fence with a monitored gate
- Intake desk
- Bathrooms, dumpster, showers
- Food preparation area
- Community space
- Electronics charging area
- Materials, bedding, clothing donations
- Relationship with county or nonprofit case worker program
- Uniform modular or micro shelter design
- Transportation system
- Etc.



Othello Village
Seattle, WA



Nickelsville
Seattle, WA



Tent City 5
Seattle, WA



Tiny House Vlg
Seattle, WA



14 Forward
Marysville, CA



Conestoga Huts
Eugene, OR



Hazelnut Vllg.
Portland, OR



Right2DreamToo
Portland, OR

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Shelter Programs continued



River Haven
Ventura, CA



Opportunity Vlg
Eugene, OR



Rsvlt. Safe Spot
Eugene, OR



Quixote Vlg.
Olympia, WA



Tent City 4
Seattle, WA



Dignity Village
Portland, OR



Camp Michela
Santa Rosa, CA



Expwy Safe Spot
Eugene, OR

Basic Elements of all Sanctuary-type camps and villages



Front gate
Tiny House Vlg
Seattle, WA



Intake desk
Tent City 4
Seattle, WA



Set of rules
Tent City 5
Seattle, WA



Community space
Opportunity Vlg.
Eugene, OR



Food prep/ktchn
Hazelnut Village



Shower house
Tiny Hs. Village



Garbage/rcycling
Opportunity Vlg.



Bathroom
Opportunity Vlg.

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 Hot meal
 Pet care
 Senior services
 Immigration

Portable shower programs

Legitimate shower facilities are expensive, require several permits and are usually a function of an established shelter. While a shower facility in a building is advantageous for many reasons, it's easier, more affordable, and transportable when built on wheels. Important considerations when planning a portable shower are from where water will be accessed, and to where gray water will be drained to. Many portable shower projects acquire permission to access fire hydrants and/or to drain gray water into storm drains or landscaping. It can be difficult to design and cumbersome to operate a portable shower that transports potable water and/or gray water onboard.

Mobile shower programs are highly advantageous where populations are located in different areas.



Clean Start
 City of Santa Rosa &
 Catholic Charities



The Pit Stop
 City of Sacramento



Lava Mae (trailer)
 San Francisco
 (nonprofit)



Shower to the People
 St. Louis, MO
 (nonprofit)



Othello Village
 Sacramento, WA
 (private donation)



Think Dignity
 San Diego
 (nonprofit)

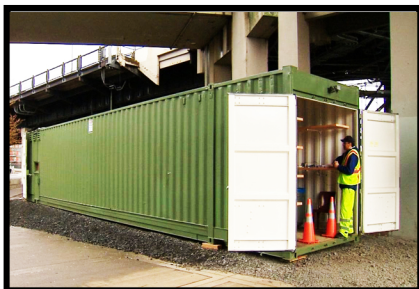
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Storage programs

One of the biggest challenges for people who sleep outside is how to deal with personal property. For lack of appropriate storage of belongings, many people carry everything they have with them. Some carry heavy backpacks, while others tote bike trailers burdened with heavy weight. Some attempt to hide belongings in various places around town, only to find them stolen or confiscated by authorities. Those who attempt to maintain camps in natural areas may have their belongings removed.

A person's pack may contain important documents that are crucial to one's ability to access services and benefits. Personal belongings may also include family heirlooms, documents, photos and the last vestiges of a "normal" life.

Storage programs become vitally important and allow a person to move around the community without having to carry a bed-roll and other signifiers of homelessness. These programs not only make life much easier for people, they allow for increased personal dignity and self-respect – which can be critical for people who wish to rebuild their lives.



**Central City Concern
 Day Storage
 Portland, OR**



**Think Dignity
 San Diego, CA**



**First United Church
 Vancouver, Canada**



**The BIN
 Los Angeles, CA**



**The Transitional
 Storage Program
 Los Angeles, CA**



**The BIN
 Los Angeles, CA**

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Permanent housing
Transportation
Veteran's services
Youth services

Coalition on Homelessness Community Meeting Sign-up/Questionnaire

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Organization if applicable:

Thank you for attending Coalition on Homelessness – Community Meeting

We're glad you've taken this first step with us on a journey to reduce and improve the experience of homelessness, benefiting all. We're interested in your feedback about this meeting and what you have to share as this coalition grows.

Does it make sense to you that we've listed the needs that people have and then have begun matching those needs with programs that work?

Do you agree that low-cost, effective programs can be established and maintained in Santa Cruz?

Are you already advocating for a specific program and if so, please describe.

What type of support do you see yourself offering Coalition on Homeless?

☐ **Representing a program**

☐ **Creating or running a program**

☐ **Volunteer**

☐ **Financial support**

☐ **Other, please describe**

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