

FINAL

CITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND COMBAT HOMELESSNESS CITY OF LA PUENTE

1. City and Plan Information

| Name of City | Period of Time Covered by Plan | Date of Plan Adoption |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| La Puente | July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2021 | June 12, 2018 |

2. Why is the City working to develop and implement a homelessness plan?

Homelessness across Los Angeles County has reached staggering levels and severely impacts the health and well-being of those living without a permanent home, as well as neighborhoods, businesses, and residents. In 2017 the City of La Puente had a homeless population of 26 persons according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) annual point-in-time count homeless census (PIT Count). This was a 47% decrease from the year before, when the count was 49 people.

It is important to note that personnel with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which holds a contract with the City of La Puente, track individuals experiencing homelessness in La Puente and estimate that in May 2018 there were approximately 74 people living on the street or in vehicles, and not 26 as reported by the PIT Count.

In addition to the adult homeless population, the school districts serving La Puente have relatively high numbers of youth experiencing homelessness, a group that includes youth enrolled in public school who meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless—essentially that they must lack a “fixed, regular, and adequate” nighttime residence, but not necessarily be living outside or in a shelter (See Appendix D). In 2016-2017, Bassett Unified School District (USD) had 478 homeless students, Hacienda-La Puente USD had 665, and Rowland USD had 2,875.

It is also useful to examine city-level data from the Coordinated Entry System (CES), the regional database used to track and prioritize adults experiencing homelessness. (Note: minors meeting the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness may not appear in CES.) This provides an enhanced view of these individuals and their needs using responses to the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) survey and other indicators of a person's overall health and wellbeing.

The VI-SPDAT helps identify the co-occurring social and medical factors that generally contribute to homelessness and assists in prioritizing individuals for limited housing and services resources. It does this by producing an acuity score, which serves as a reference for administrators in charge of local resources.

The survey can also help identify an appropriate housing intervention for someone experiencing homelessness. In LA County it is suggested that people experiencing homelessness who fall into the low-acuity scoring range of the assessment (0-3) should be able to find housing on their own, or self-resolve, those in the mid-acuity scoring range (4-11) are best served by Rapid Re-Housing programs, and high-acuity individuals (12+) generally need supportive housing.¹

¹ Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Draft CES Prioritization Policies. Available: <https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=1896-draft-ces-prioritization-policies>.

Other useful indicators in the data set include information about a person's housing history, criminal history, physical and mental health, history of substance use, and general demographic information such as age and race. All of these elements are self-reported by the individuals being assessed. For the purposes of this Homeless Plan, all data has been de-identified to protect confidentiality. The date range being reviewed is from July 2016 through November 2017. The data results in the following information:

- 76% of assessed individuals who said they are from La Puente are in the mid-acuity range, indicating a substantial need for time-limited housing assistance, such as Rapid Re-Housing. In addition, 9% of individuals were high-acuity (12+) and 15% were low-acuity (0-3).
- 37% of people assessed in La Puente were 25-40 years old, while 32% were 41-55 or older, 18% were 56-plus, and 12% were 18-24.
- Of individuals for whom data on race is available, 65% are white, 6% are black or African American, 6% are Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 3% are American Indian, and 3% are Asian.
- 65% of those assessed identified as male and 32% identified as female (data was incomplete for the remaining 3%).
- Of those assessed, 55% reported receiving health care at an emergency room at least once in the last six months
- 34% report having a chronic health condition
- 22% report having a mental health issue
- 5% report a substance use disorder

Demographics at the regional level can serve as a guide and benchmark for local trends. The following provides an informative snapshot of who was experiencing homelessness in SPA 3 in 2017.²

- 67% (2,373) were unsheltered and living outside while 33% (1,179) were in some form of temporary shelter accommodations
- 76% were single adults, 18% were families, and 6% were youth and young adults
- 28% were female, 72% were male, .4% were transgender, and .2% did not identify with a gender
- 50% were Hispanic/Latino, 24% were white, 18% were African American, 5% were American Indian, 2% were Asian, and 1% identified as other
- 5% were age 62 and up, 17% between the ages of 55-61, 60% between the ages of 25-54, 7% between the ages of 18-24, and 11% were under the age of 18
- 6% were United States Veterans
- 30% were considered chronically homeless, meaning that they have lengthy or repeated histories of homelessness along with a long-term disability such as mental illness, substance use disorder, or a physical health problem
- 28% had a mental illness, 17% had a substance use disorder, and 2% had HIV/AIDS
- 27% have experienced domestic/intimate partner violence in their lifetime

² SPA 3 includes the communities of Alhambra, Altadena, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Claremont, Covina, Diamond Bar, Duarte, El Monte, Glendora, Hacienda Heights, La Puente, La Verne, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Mt Baldy, Pasadena, Pomona, Rosemead, Rowland Heights, San Dimas, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, Temple City, Walnut, and West Covina

It is the City’s intent to create a Plan that will help guide the City over the course of three years with the goal of reducing instances of homelessness in the community. In addition, the Homeless Plan will help La Puente to be proactive in identifying ways to implement the LA County Homeless Initiative strategies identified in this Plan. The City recognizes the need to partner with the County and other public and private agencies to contribute to these strategies.

3. Describe your City’s planning process

The Homeless Plan was created through a collaborative process that included the input of multiple stakeholders from different sectors. Key activities of the plan process included a ride-along with the Sheriff’s Department’s Special Assignment Officer team, and two public input sessions targeted to different stakeholders, including the City Council, City Departments, schools, Homeless Services Provider Partners, the general public, businesses, including current and formerly homeless individuals, and the faith-based community. As a part of each stakeholder input session, groups were asked to provide feedback on the challenges of homelessness within the City as well as to provide input into possible strategies, many of which make up the identified goals and strategies for the City within the Plan. For summaries of challenges as well as strategies from each input session see Appendices A and B.

4. What are the goals of the City’s plan and related actions? Review the example below, then respond to the prompts for your own City goals. Add sections for additional goals if needed.

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| Goal 1: Enhance Coordination Between City and Key Stakeholders, Including the Coordinated Entry System (CES) (Homeless Initiative Strategy Link(s): A1, A5) |
| Action 1a: Create a comprehensive list of City and regional services available to those experiencing homelessness in La Puente that can be distributed by LASD officers, City Staff, posted on City webpage, and available at City facilities |
| Action 1b: Educate City Staff and stakeholders on using County Web-Based Outreach Reporting Portal for reporting unsheltered individuals who may need outreach and engagement services |
| Action 1c: Develop strategies for working with youth and Transition Age Youth (TAY) population, in collaboration with Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD), Rowland Unified School District and Bassett Unified School District, for example partnering with CES TAY lead to increase outreach and assessment locations, supporting existing prevention and diversion strategies aimed at helping youth to remain with families |
| Action 1d: Encourage City staff, the public, and other partners to participate in regional Point in Time Count to count homeless households within the City |
| Action 1e: Provide ongoing education on homelessness and City’s Homeless Plan to residents, businesses, City staff, medical providers, and faith-based organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider enlisting members of these groups for a homelessness task force that would hold a standing meeting and report to the City Council |
| Action 1f: Work with service provider partner(s) already operating walk-in services to increase local CES access points |
| Action 1g: Engage local hospitals and clinics, including the Bay Area Addiction Research and Treatment (BAART) Center located in the City and Pathway Recuperative Care, to ensure staff at these facilities understand the CES process for housing and prevention (see Action 3b) |
| Action 1h: Ensure City staff, homeless services providers, and other stakeholders understand County-funded prevention program, including eligibility requirements and how to make referrals if households are facing an eviction (A1: Homeless Prevention Program for Families and A5: Homeless Prevention |

| <i>Program for Individuals)</i> | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Associated Policy Changes | Goal Measurement | Goal Ownership | Leveraged City Resources | Timeline |
| <p>1a, 1b, 1d, 1f, 1g, 1h: No associated policy changes</p> <p>1c: Potential update to current protocol for engaging people experiencing homelessness and making referrals</p> <p>1e: Approval and appointment of task force</p> | <p>1a: Completion of list</p> <p>1b: Completion of training session on Outreach Portal</p> <p>1c: Completion of strategies document</p> <p>1d: Increased participation relative to 2018 count</p> <p>1e: Completion of training plan; formation of homelessness task force</p> <p>1f: Increase in available access points</p> <p>1g: Summary report on engagement efforts</p> <p>1h: Summary report on engagement efforts</p> | <p>Development Services Department</p> | <p>City staff time to accomplish goals and actions</p> | <p>1a: 6 months</p> <p>1b: 9 months</p> <p>1c: 1 year</p> <p>1d: Prior to 2019 Point-in-Time count</p> <p>1e: 18 months</p> <p>1f: 1 year</p> <p>1g: 9 months</p> <p>1h: 9 months</p> |

| Goal 2: Increase Income for Households Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness (Homeless Initiative Strategy Link(s): C2, C4, C5) | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Action 2a: Work with local Adult Education Programs to expand services available to homeless and formerly homeless individuals in the City and potentially neighboring cities | | | | |
| Action 2b: Explore possibility of partnering with HLPUSD Adult Education’s Innovative Rehabilitation Services to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with employment opportunities (C2: <i>Increase Employment for Homeless Adults by Supporting Social Enterprise</i>) | | | | |
| Action 2c: Engage local businesses to provide job training or employment opportunities for homeless households engaged in programs and consider City incentives to businesses for these activities | | | | |
| Action 2d: Ensure City staff understand the referral process for Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Teams (CBEST) for individuals requiring assistance with SSI/SSDI/Veteran’s benefits/Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (C4: <i>Countywide Supplemental Security/Social Security Disability Income and Veterans Benefits Advocacy</i> and C5: <i>Establish a Countywide Veterans Benefits Advocacy Program for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness</i>) | | | | |
| Action 2e: Refer individuals to appropriate programs at Bassett, Rowland, and Hacienda-La Puente Unified School Districts which serve La Puente | | | | |
| Associated Policy Changes | Goal Measurement | Goal Ownership | Leveraged City Resources | Timeline |
| 2a-2d: No | 2a-2e: Summary report | Development | Staff time | 2a: 1 year |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|--|---|
| associated policy changes 2e: Completion of referral plan | | Services Department | | 2b: 1 year 2c: 2 years 2d: 6 months 2e: 6 months |
|--|--|---------------------|--|---|

| Goal 3: Expand Temporary and Long-Term Housing Solutions (Homeless Initiative Strategy Link(s): B7, D7, F7) | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| Action 3a: Work with faith-based organizations (e.g. St. Stephen’s Missionary Baptist Church) to explore the creation of Safe Parking Programs for homeless households living in their vehicles and engage the County, CES Leads, and LAHSA for services funding at the site | | | | |
| Action 3b: Explore the creation of a City Rapid Re-Housing program in partnership with the County for moderate-acuity individuals experiencing homelessness (<i>B3: Expand Rapid Re-Housing</i>) | | | | |
| Action 3c: Consider partnering with neighboring cities that fund Rapid Re-Housing programs and hotel/motel vouchers to organize a regional engagement and incentive program for landlords and owners of hotels/motels | | | | |
| Action 3d: Work with the developer(s) and the County to identify funding streams for the fully entitled 74-unit senior housing project in La Puente (<i>F7: Preserve and Promote the Development of Affordable Housing for Homeless Families and Individuals</i>) and consider including permanent supportive housing units and partnering with the County to provide social services funding (<i>D7: Provide Services and Rental Subsidies for Supportive Housing</i>) | | | | |
| Action 3e: Engage County Community Development Commission around housing preservation and creation strategies (<i>F7: Preserve and Promote the Development of Affordable Housing for Homeless Families and Individuals</i>) | | | | |
| Action 3f: Explore options for acquiring and rehabilitating blighted commercial properties, including hotels/motels, as permanent supportive housing and/or affordable housing (<i>D7: Provide Services and Rental Subsidies for Permanent Supportive Housing, F7: Preserve and Promote the Development of Affordable Housing for Homeless Families and Individuals</i>) | | | | |
| Associated Policy Changes | Goal Measurement | Goal Ownership | Leveraged City Resources | Timeline |
| 3a, 3c, 3d: No associated policy changes 3b: Approval of RRH expenditure | 3a, 3b, 3d, 3f: Summary report 3c: Program plan for engagement/incentive program 3e: List of properties with expiring covenants completed and sent to CDC | 3a, 3c, 3f: Development Services Department, LASD 3b, 3d, 3e: Development Services Department | 3a-3f: Staff time 3b: Potential funding for City portion of RRH subsidy 3f: Potential grant funding | 3a: 2 years 3b: 2 years 3c: 2 years 3d: 1 year 3e: 1 year 3f: 2 years |

5. Identify City employees or other staff who will lead implementation of the plan.

Table 1: Primary Contact for Plan Implementation

| Name & Position | Address & Email | Phone | % of Time |
|---|---|--------------|-----------|
| John di Mario, Director, Development Services Department | 15900 Main St La Puente, CA 91744 jdimario@lapuente.org | 626-855-1517 | TBD |

6. Describe the City’s participation or plans to participate in any new or ongoing collaborative efforts, within the City and/or with other cities and/or in the Service Planning Area.

The City and its partners are currently providing and participating in the following activities:

- The City conducted a Know Your Rights workshops for immigrants in order to build trust with public officials and utilize available resources.
- The Hacienda LA Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD) has an adult educational program, which includes a culinary arts program with a 90% placement rate.
- La Puente has 291 federally subsidized units of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families.
- HLPUSD and St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church offer food pantries once per month.
- La Puente connects people with the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless rotational winter shelter during operating months via a shuttle bus, which provides a pick-up and drop off location in the City.
- La Puente permits the construction of secondary units, or Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), per city ordinance.
- 94 residential units are dedicated to senior housing in La Puente, and 74 more units are fully entitled and approved by the City but have yet to secure financing.
- The City facilitated Tax Exempt Financing totaling \$15.3 million to rehabilitate 253 low-income family apartment units in the City.
- Local law enforcement maintains a list of individuals experiencing homelessness in La Puente and is familiar with most by name.

7. Review specific County Homeless Initiative Strategies from the table below and consider how the City could collaborate and align planning efforts to achieve mutual goals.

Table 2: City Planning Activities tied to County Homeless Initiative Strategies

| | Plan to participate | Currently participating | County Homeless Initiative Strategies |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| A – Prevent Homelessness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A1. Homeless Prevention for families |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A5. Homeless Prevention for Individuals |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| B – Subsidize Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | B3. Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Rehousing |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | B4. Facilitate Utilization of Federal Housing Subsidies |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | B6. Family Reunification Housing Subsidies |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | B7. Interim/Bridge Housing for those Exiting Institutions |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | B8. Housing Choice Vouchers for Permanent Supportive Housing |
| C – Increase Income | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | C1. Enhance the CalWORKs Subsidized Employment Program for Homeless Families |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | C2. Increase Employment for Homeless Adults by Supporting Social Enterprise |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | C4/5/6. Countywide Supplemental Security/Social Security Disability Income and Veterans Benefits Advocacy |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | C7. Subsidize Employment for Homeless Adults |
| County Homeless Initiative Strategies | | | |
| | Plan to participate | Currently participating | |
| D – Provide Case Management & Services | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | D2. Jail In-Reach |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | D5. Support for Homeless Case Managers |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | D6. Criminal Record Clearing Project |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | D7. Provide Services for Permanent Supportive Housing |
| E – Create a Coordinated System | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | E4. First Responders Training |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | E5. Decriminalization Policy |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | E6. Expand Countywide Outreach System |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | E7. Strengthen the Coordinated Entry System (CES) |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | E8. Enhance the Emergency Shelter System |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | E10. Regional Coordination of Los Angeles County Housing Agencies |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | E14. Enhance Services for Transition Age Youth |
| F – Increase Affordable/ Homeless Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | F1. Promote Regional SB2 Compliance and Implementation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | F2. Linkage Fee Nexus Study |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | F4. Development of Second Dwelling Units |

| | | Program |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | F5. Incentive Zoning/Value Capture Strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | F6. Using Public Land for Homeless Housing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | F7. Preserve and Promote the Development of Affordable Housing for Homeless Families and Individuals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | F7. Housing Innovation Fund (One-time) |