SYSTEM CHALLENGES, RESOURCE GAPS, AND NEEDED SHIFTS

While the system is stronger and are more resources and commitment to to address homelessness than ever before, critical gaps and challenges remain in San Diego.

CRITICAL SYSTEM CHALLENGES

1. Fragmented Leadership, Vision, and Lack of Regional Coordination and Funding Alignment
2. Significant Disparities Exist
3. Authentically Incorporating the Voices of People with Lived Experience
4. Homeless System Infrastructure Refinement — Expand Use of Coordinated Entry and Use of Data to Drive Decisions
5. Significant Shortage of Housing that is Affordable and Willingness to Address
6. Responding to Unsheltered Homelessness
7. Lack of Available Low-Barrier Shelter Options
8. Need for More Health and Behavioral Health Services and Partnerships
9. Need for More Focus on Preventing Homelessness and Targeting Resources
10. Trained and Sustainable Workforce

REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL HOMELESS RESOURCES GAPS AND NEEDS

Across the region there are not enough homeless intervention resources to meet the need. There are not enough shelter beds to support people to exit the streets quickly with most shelters having lengthy waiting lists. More importantly, there are not enough permanent housing resources in the form of diversion assistance, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing.

CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM ORIENTATION AND NEEDED SHIFTS

It is critical for San Diego to bring on the needed interventions identified above, but it is equally important for the region to continue making shifts to a best practice-oriented system to ensure that the resources realized have impact.

- Commitment to Housing First
- Actively Addressing Disparities
- Regional Planning and Working Collaboratively
- Improved System Performance
- Broad Use of the Coordinated Entry System and Coordinated Shelter Intake
- Data-driven Decision Making
CORE SYSTEM PRINCIPLES EXPECTED OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN SAN DIEGO

To achieve the vision outlined in this plan, the region commits to a set of principles that both define our culture of working in collaboration and directs how we will work to prevent and end homelessness in San Diego moving forward.

- Act with Urgency, Compassion, and Eagerness
- Unified and Committed Leadership
- Commit to Housing as the Solution
- Center Racial Equity and Social Justice
- Include and Value the Voices of People with Lived Experience
- Share Accountability, Responsibility, and Transparency
- Promote a Person-Centered Homelessness Response System
- Value the Critical Role of Homeless Services Providers
- Data Must Drive Decision Making
- Collaboratively Seek and Align Funding to Achieve Goals

REGIONAL GOALS AND STRATEGIES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The Regional Plan outlines system changes needed to achieve better outcomes for people and end homelessness across San Diego County. The following goals and strategies will guide priorities, funding, and action. All goals are aligned with and embedded in existing federal, state, or local plans.

PEOPLE GOALS

- End Veteran Homelessness
- End Youth Homelessness
- Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness by 50%
- Prevent and End Homelessness Among Older Adults
- End Family Homelessness

SYSTEM GOALS

- Create a Strong and Equitable Regional System to End Homelessness
- Aggressively Expand Permanent Housing Options
- Meet the Needs of People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness
- Create Safe, Low-Barrier, and Housing-Focused Shelter
- Reduce the Flow of People Entering Homelessness

SYSTEM STRATEGIES

- Strengthen coordination
- Educate the community
- Mobilize diverse stakeholders
- Build equity and inclusion into the system
- Align funding
- Enhance capacity of homeless services system
- Use data to evaluate and improve performance
- Develop new affordable and supportive housing units
- Maximize utilization of existing rental stock
- Pair housing with supportive services for stability
- End the criminalization of homelessness
- Continue to build the practice of high-quality street outreach services
- Implement a regional clearance with support framework for addressing encampments
- Increase the number of low-barrier, housing-focused shelter beds
- Coordinate temporary housing intake
- Implement a low-barrier model and make services available
- Develop a coordinated system for homelessness prevention
- Work across sectors to prevent discharges into homelessness
- Prevent returns to homelessness

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

Implementation of this plan is a regional responsibility. The key bodies identified below will have both authority and specific ownership of plan goals and strategies.

- CoC Advisory Board
- CoC Committees
- Regional Task Force on Homelessness
- Government Agencies – Cities and County
- Homeless Services Providers and CoC Membership including Persons with Lived Experience

SHARED MEASURES

Performance will be measured using both quantitative and qualitative data. The CoC will review performance regularly and make needed adjustments to continue to move the plan forward.

- Increase the Performance of the Homeless Crisis Response System as Measured by HUD System Performance Measures
- Reduce Racial Disparities
- Increase Temporary and Permanent Housing Resources
- Know Every Person by Name and Reach “Functional Zero”
- Ensure the System Meets the Needs of Persons Receiving Services

The RTFH is responsible for collecting, tracking, and reporting on a significant amount of data as it pertains to homelessness in our region.

Scan this QR Code to download the full report including Part 4: Appendix. Or visit: rtfhsd.org