1. Homelessness in Orange County: The Costs to Our Community

2. United to End Homelessness
HOMELESSNESS IN ORANGE COUNTY:
The Costs to Our Community
An Orange County United Way, Jamboree & UCI Sponsored Study

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Key Findings
WHO ARE OUR HOMELESS?

- Mainly long-term Orange County residents: 68% of those surveyed had been here over 10 years
- Predominantly US-born individuals: 90%
- Middle aged: 52% are age 50 or older
- Mostly non-Hispanic White: 47%
- Primarily male: 57%
- Live with Children under 18: 17%
- Reporting Fair/Poor Health: 45%
TOP 3 REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

• Securing or retaining jobs with sustainable wages: 40%

• Finding or retaining affordable housing: 36%

• Family issues: 28%
Annual Cost of Addressing Homelessness Across Four Institutional Sectors in OC: $299M

Notes: Housing agencies are agencies providing Emergency Shelter, Bridge Housing, Rapid Rehousing, or Permanent Supportive Housing services. The figure provided totals the program budget spent on homelessness across these agencies.
Annual Cost of Addressing Homelessness By Cost Cluster

- **Health Care**: $121M
- **Housing**: $106M
- **Police/Legal**: $23M

Note: Each cluster contains costs spanning institutional sectors (e.g., counties, municipalities, non-governmental agencies).
CHRONIC VS NON-CHRONIC ON THE STREETS
AVERAGE COSTS PER PERSON, PER YEAR

Notes: Cost estimates consider utilization of soup kitchens, food pantries, substance abuse services, ambulance services, ER services, inpatient hospital stays, mental health services, other health services, motel/voucher/rental assistance services, shelter nights, transitional housing nights, rapid rehousing nights, PSH nights, policing, nights in jail/prison. These estimates do not capture other potential costs, including probation, changes in property values, park maintenance costs, etc. Reports from the last month are annualized.
**TREATMENT FIRST MODEL**

**Philosophy:** One size fits all. Every issue (health, addictions, employment etc.) must be addressed before someone can “graduate from homelessness” and move into permanent housing.

**REWARD**
- Hospital Visits/Stays
- Law Enforcement
- Time on Streets
THE TURNING OF THE TIDE

• George H.W. Bush: Research findings change the federal conversations on homelessness

• George W. Bush: push for communities to create ten year plans to end chronic homelessness using evidence based practices
  • Clear distinction made between chronic and non-chronic homelessness
  • Foreword movement with new model: Housing First

• Obama: expands goal to end ALL types of homelessness, chronic, non-chronic, youth etc.
Philosophy:
People should be permanently housed AND provided support services as quickly as possible. Homelessness is viewed first and foremost a housing problem and is treated as such. E.g. Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing.
NON-CHRONIC STREET VS NON-CHRONIC IN RAPID RE-HOUSING
AVERAGE COSTS PER PERSON, PER YEAR

Notes: Cost estimates consider utilization of soup kitchens, food pantries, substance abuse services, ambulance services, ER services, inpatient hospital stays, mental health services, other health services, motel/voucher/rental assistance services, shelter nights, transitional housing nights, rapid rehousing nights, PSH nights, policing, nights in jail/prison. These estimates do not capture other potential costs, including probation, changes in property values, park maintenance costs, etc. Reports from the last month are annualized.
CHRONIC STREET VS CHRONIC HOUSED
AVERAGE COSTS PER PERSON, PER YEAR

$100,759

$51,587

Notes: Cost estimates consider utilization of soup kitchens, food pantries, substance abuse services, ambulance services, ER services, inpatient hospital stays, mental health services, other health services, motel/voucher/rental assistance services, shelter nights, transitional housing nights, rapid rehousing nights, PSH nights, policing, nights in jail/prison. These estimates do not capture other potential costs, including probation, changes in property values, park maintenance costs, etc. Reports from the last month are annualized.
NUMBER OF CHRONIC PHYSICAL HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY STREET/SHELTER HOMELESS, BY LENGTH OF TIME ON THE STREET

Note: Chronic physical health conditions include arthritis, asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive lung disease, cirrhosis or severe liver damage, diabetes, emphysema, epilepsy or other seizure disorder, HIV/AIDS, hypertension, leukemia, and lymphoma.
MOST COSTLY 10% OF CHRONIC HOMELESS

On the Streets

$439,787
Per person, per year

Housed WITH Services

$55,343
Per person, per year
TO HOUSE AND PROVIDE SERVICES TO ALL OF OC’s CHRONICALLY HOMELESS WOULD SAVE $42M
Recommendations:

CREATE a better community-wide understanding of “who are our homeless” based upon the profile of OC’s homeless identified from the cost study. Orange County’s homeless are our own, and we have to work collectively to develop the right solutions for our community as a whole.
Recommendations:

FORMALIZE a countywide collective impact effort to end homelessness with a shared set of goals and agreed upon respective roles, to include the County of Orange, ACC-OC and city officials, the business, nonprofit and faith-based communities.
Recommendations:

DEVELOP specific numeric goals for the creation of housing unit types needed for the varying homeless populations and an agreed-upon time-bound action plan to increase housing stock (e.g. Emergency Shelter, Bridge Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing).
Recommendations:

PRIORITIZE populations to be housed first, start with housing the top 10% of the chronically homeless in Orange County immediately. If these individuals—the chronic homeless on the streets or in emergency shelters—remain homeless, their service, criminal justice, and hospital and health care costs are likely to be at least $433,845 per year. Thus, we need to create a robust system of care using those meeting with success in other communities as models for Orange County, which will also support Recommendation #2.
ASSESS AND MAP current public and private funding and resources dedicated or available to address homelessness in Orange County, and create strategic public-private partnerships to bridge existing gaps and redeploy existing resources in alignment and collaboration with the goals set to end homelessness.
Executive Summary
&
Full Report Available at

https://www.unitedwayoc.org/resources
UNITED TO END HOMELESSNESS
Launched – February 28th 2018

BROAD-BASED CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO HELP AND HOUSE HOMELESS PEOPLE IN ORANGE COUNTY

A broad-based campaign was launched Wednesday to bring together Orange County’s leaders in business, philanthropy, faith, and government around ending homelessness, including providing housing with support services for homeless people who have been on the streets for years.

The effort, led by Orange County United Way, is built on a study commissioned from UC Irvine that found it costs the public less to house long-term homeless people with wraparound health services than keep them on the streets where they often rotate in and out of expensive stays at emergency rooms and jails.

The campaign is in close collaboration with an effort by Orange County’s association of cities to end homelessness.

By NICK GERDA

DO YOU THINK THAT HOMELESS PEOPLE CHOOSE TO BE HOMELESS? ORANGE COUNTY UNITED WAY HOPES TO CHANGE PUBLIC OPINION ON BUILDING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

‘Do you think that homeless people choose to be homeless?’ Orange County United Way hopes to change public opinion on building supportive housing.

Together We Can #EndHomelessnessOC

United Way, who are some homeless, open a dialogue to help end homelessness as part of United.com’s ‘#EndHomelessness’ campaign. UnitedWayEnd Homelessness

By THERESA WALKER | twalker@scng.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: March 1, 2018 at 8:48 am | UPDATED: March 1, 2018 at 8:50 am

Orange County United Way’s next step in an effort to defuse the rising numbers of homeless people in local communities by building supportive housing might be the toughest: getting the general public on board.

That’s the task of a newly-formed leadership team of business, philanthropic, government and faith community representatives that United Way unveiled at a gathering Wednesday, Feb. 28, to kick off its ‘United to End Homelessness’ initiative.

By JILL REAGLE

Is Orange County turning the corner on homelessness?

In April 2017, federal Judge David O. Carter marched through the 2-mile-long homeless encampment stretched out along the Santa Ana River flood control channel in the heart of Orange County and declared, “No one got good answers to this.”

But nearly a year and several lawsuits later, a wave of efforts to reduce chronic homelessness is sweeping through Orange County, making a once-elusive goal seem reachable.

In the final days of February, under Judge Carter’s watch, the last of the tents were cleared from the ever-shrinking encampment and some 700 homeless people were placed in motels.

Meanwhile, dozens of OC’s top business and civic leaders have pledged to help find — and fund — housing and support to the county’s estimated 2,850 homeless people who sleep outside on any given night.
Our overall goal is to end homelessness in Orange County. Key to achieving this is implementing the recommendations laid out in the groundbreaking 2017 UCI Homelessness Cost study. To that end, we will:

• Rally our community in support of a permanent supportive housing solution for chronically homeless individuals.

• Identify homes for our chronically homeless neighbors in need through accessing existing rental units and by working with our partners to support and champion efforts to develop new units.

• Work with the County and others to leverage data that can help the community gain detailed insights so that we may enhance the overall system of care.
Initial Steps

• Launched Public awareness Campaign
• Held first Leadership Council meeting
• Held first Rental Roundtable working group
Public Awareness Campaign: The Proclamation

We, the undersigned, agree that...

- Every man, woman and child in Orange County should be treated with dignity and respect, including those experiencing homelessness.
- Everyone experiencing homelessness has a unique background, life story, and circumstances that led them into their current circumstances.
- We are willing to have our own preconceptions about homelessness challenged and reframed in our effort to seek real and lasting solutions.
- Those in our community suffering from debilitating and disabling conditions who are chronically homeless should be provided with housing and all necessary support.
- We must work together to solve homelessness; no one entity, including government, can do it alone. It will take all of us working together to #endHomelessnessOC
Public Awareness Campaign: The Survey

Take the Survey

A few simple questions about homelessness in OC

Begin Now
Public Awareness Campaign: Stories

Meet "Santa Bob"

An Orange County Resident
Action Items

- Follow us on social media
- Proclamation: sign and share!
- Survey: sign and share!
- Stories: please send us leads
- Spread the word!

UnitedToEndHomelessness.org

#EndHomelessnessOC