

# TOOLKIT FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS



Homelessness is a crisis that impacts those who experience it, neighborhoods, businesses, and communities.

## Homelessness is solvable.



What do we know about people experiencing homelessness?



What are the resources?



What are best practices for solving the issue?



What can you do?

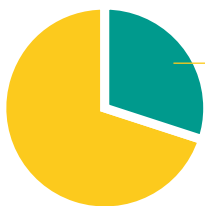


What is the City of West Covina doing?

# What do we know about homelessness

Many people experiencing homelessness do not have significant challenges such as severe mental illness or substance use disorders. The majority are homeless because of economic issues specifically housing and the high cost of living. Only a portion of people face issues such as mental illness and substance use disorders, however they can be quite visible in public as many of those who struggle with these challenges are sleeping outside.

## In fact,



**Only 30%** of people in the San Gabriel Valley are considered **Chronically Homeless** meaning that they have lengthy homeless history and a disability.



**72%** of households assessed for housing and services in West Covina **need limited short term financial assistance and support.**

**10%** need very minimal assistance and should be able to end their homelessness on their own.



Every night there are over **half a million people** experiencing homelessness across the country



**Nearly a quarter of the nation's homeless population is in California,** with LA accounting for a large portion of that group



There are 4,292 people experiencing homelessness in the San Gabriel Valley with **277 living in West Covina** according to LAHSA's 2018 homeless count

# How do we solve homelessness?

**First we must believe that homelessness is a solvable problem.**

According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 62 communities across the country including 3 states have ended Veteran homelessness demonstrating that it is solvable if we do the right things.

People become homeless for a variety of reasons but to solve it is fairly simple...

**Housing and appropriate services.**

Focus should be on figuring out how to get someone into housing quickly and provide the right amount of services to help them be successful in their place.

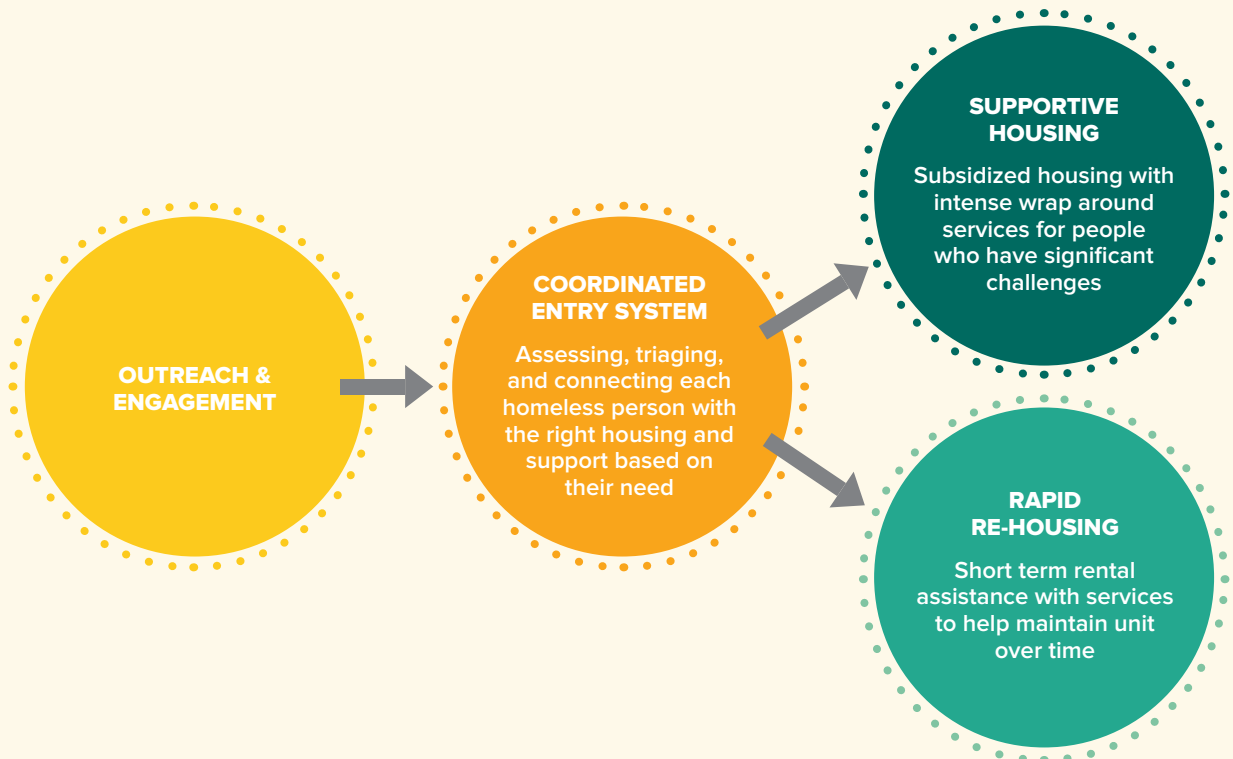
## HOUSING FIRST APPROACH



HOUSING

SERVICES

QUICKLY  
MOVING  
PEOPLE INTO  
THEIR OWN  
HOME AND  
PROVIDING  
THE RIGHT  
LEVEL OF  
SUPPORT



# What is West Covina doing?

The City adopted a Homeless Plan to guide its efforts in addressing homelessness, which has a minimum time frame of three years.

## LEADERSHIP

The City has committed to addressing homelessness and developed a comprehensive plan

## OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The City funds the Police Department's Homeless Outreach and Park Enforcement (HOPE) Team, and dedicates staff time to the Homeless Assistance Liaison Officer (HALO) Team and Mental Evaluation Team (MET)

## BASIC NEEDS

The City funds motel vouchers for emergency housing, coordinates with other agencies and churches for winter shelter sites, and provides funding for area food banks

## COORDINATION

The City coordinates with stakeholders in West Covina such as the school district and universities, and regional partners such as neighboring cities and the County of Los Angeles non-profit organizations

## RAPID RE-HOUSING

The City currently funds a Rapid Re-Housing Program and is considering enhancing this program as part of its Homeless Plan



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?



**Smile, look people in the eyes, and say “hi”** – Sometimes we forget that homeless people are people and deserve kindness, compassion, and respect



Keep copies of the **City of West Covina Community Services Resource Guide** in your car to hand out (you can find copies at City Hall or on the City website under Homeless Resources)



**Volunteer your time** – There are numerous organizations in the region to get involved with. You can also volunteer for the yearly Point In Time Count (Homeless Count)



**Educate yourself on best practices** – understand what is being done to address homelessness and how public funding is being used



**Say yes to affordable and supportive housing** – Show up to your town hall meetings, city council meetings, or community events and speak in support of housing



## What can you do to assist individuals and families to access housing and services?

The homeless Coordinated Entry System is the vehicle to assist individuals and families access housing and services based on their level of need in the San Gabriel Valley.

The first step for someone to take is to complete a specialized assessment. It is important to know where to tell people to go to start the process in addressing their homelessness.



**In the San Gabriel Valley, these agencies can assist individuals and families with completing the assessment:**

**Arcadia Mental Health**  
330 E Live Oak Ave.  
Arcadia, CA

**Volunteers of America  
El Monte Access Center**  
4501 Santa Anita Ave.  
El Monte, CA

**Foothill Unity Center**  
415 W Chestnut Ave.  
Monrovia, CA

**Foothill Unity Center**  
191 N Oak Ave.  
Pasadena, CA

**Union Station Homeless  
Services** 412 S Raymond Ave.  
Pasadena, CA

**Friends in Deed**  
444 E Washington Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA  
*Women only*

**Volunteers of America Pomona  
Homeless Outreach**  
2040 N Garvey Ave.  
Pomona, CA

**Call 211**  
*Families only*

# Resources in West Covina



## WHO TO CALL

**West Covina Police Department**  
and ask for the HOPE Team  
**(626)-939-8500**

**West Covina Code Enforcement  
Hotline**  
if abandoned property, trash, or  
excessive outdoor storage of property  
**(626)-939-8426**

**Los Angeles Homeless Services  
Authority  
(LAHSA) Hotline**  
**(213) 225-6581**

**211 LA County**  
**211**



## WEBSITES

### **Homeless Solutions for West Covina**

A portal via the city's official website that features information and resources for residents, business and property owners, and individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness

**<http://www.westcovina.org/residents/homeless-solutions-for-west-covina>**

### **City of West Covina Community Services Resource Guide**

An extensive list of local resources available to low income residents, seniors, those at-risk of homelessness, or anyone who may in need of supportive services.

**<http://www.westcovina.org/home/showdocument?id=12849>**

### **LAHSA Get Help**

**<https://www.lahsa.org/get-help>**

