Spotlight on Homelessness
a discussion...
1,152 Ventura County
57,794 Los Angeles County
134,278 State of California
How Do We Make a Difference?

We work together...
Thousand Oaks: A Safety Net

- **Shelter** 30-40 night
- **Meals** 75-80 day

- County of Ventura
- Lutheran Social Services
- Police Department
- Other Faith-Based & Non-Profit Organizations
- City of Thousand Oaks
Thousand Oaks Police Department

- Homelessness is a condition, not a crime
- Police involvement is a short-term solution to a complex issue
- 60 percent of patrol officers contact homeless individuals two or more times per shift
- 85 calls per month related to homelessness
- A primary front-line link to social services
Reaching Vulnerable Populations

• TOPD’s Vulnerable Populations Officer works closely with social services agencies

• Lutheran Services, County of Ventura staff accompany officer during weekly outreach

• Mental health and addiction issues are prevalent

• 135 contacts per month
Examining Local Challenges

In 2017, TOPD initiated bi-monthly stakeholder meetings to address local priorities:

• Public Education
• Addressing service resistance
• Access to meals and shelters
• City priority program
• Addressing sanitation issues
Giving to panhandlers can do more harm than good.

Make Your Spare Change Count is a public education campaign that encourages all of us make a meaningful impact by giving instead to local social service groups.
Online Resource: Conejo Connections

• Collaboration with community partners and TOPD
• New section on City’s public website with quick links to local resources
• Provides access to local social service contacts for adults and seniors, youth and families
• Homeless Resources tab links to County/TOPD handout
Public Works

- Addresses the health and safety issues that result from homelessness
- Helps ensure public access to public areas
- Protects open space from environmental hazards
- Coordinates with Police, CRPD, COSCA, CalTrans, and other social service agencies
Public Works

Recent actions include:

• Collaborated on clean-up efforts
• Installed enhanced lighting and additional trash receptacles in key areas
• Created greater visibility with trimming, planting and ground cover
• Participate on TOPD stakeholders collaborative
Public Libraries

• Public access to computers and information is key for many homeless individuals.

• Library has taken steps to address patron concerns and works to provide safe, compatible public spaces.
Community Development Grants

$184,339 Funds Distributed

RAIN Transitional Living Center
Collaboration, Partnerships and the CoC

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional planning body of representative stakeholders designed to promote a shared commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.

The County of Ventura provides staff support to the Countywide Continuum of Care, collaborating with city partners, non-profit organizations, housing developers and providers, law enforcement, education, healthcare, business partners.

Make data-driven decisions on funding and policy recommendations.

Collaboration and Partnerships are key to all of the Continuum of Care efforts.
Ventura County CoC Structure

VC CoC ALLIANCE

VC CoC BOARD

PROVIDERS

HMIS LEAD

CoC LEAD

Data & Evaluation

HMIS

Info & Outreach

Housing & Services
CoC Board Members

Mike Taigman—American Medical Response
Kevin Clerici—Downtown Ventura Partners
Carolyn Briggs—Community advocate
Sommer Barwick—City of Simi Valley
Dawn Dyer—Dyer Sheehan Group, Inc.
Susan Englund—United Way of Ventura County

Pam Marshall—community advocate
Drew Powers—City of Thousand Oaks
Mike Powers—County of Ventura
Michael Nigh—Area Housing Authority of Ventura County
Carmen Ramirez—City of Oxnard
Nancy Wharfield—Gold Coast Health Plan

City of Thousand Oaks

VENTURA COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE ALLIANCE ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN VENTURA COUNTY
Who is Homeless In Ventura County?

1,152 Unsheltered & Sheltered
- Sleeping in places not meant for human habitation (streets, parks, vehicles, garages, encampments)
- Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing programs

15,800 At-Risk Populations
- Doubled-up, couch-surfing, paying for motel rooms
- Jail, hospital, treatment facility
Pathways to Home
Ventura County’s Coordinated Entry System
Pathways to Home Coordinated Entry System

Screening
- Triage
- Diversion
- Prevention

Assessment
- Eligibility
- Needs
- Vulnerability Assessment

Referral
- Direct Referrals
  * Through Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
What Services are Available?

HMIS Direct Referrals
- Homelessness Prevention
- Street Outreach
- Day Services
- Emergency Shelter
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Housing Navigation and Referrals
- Referrals to mainstream resources
  *income, employment, health insurance, etc*

Vacancies Filled Through Prioritization Process
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
Starting with just one phone call, the Pathways to Home program allows individuals and families to access homeless services through a coordinated process. The program includes a collaborative network of service providers who coordinate and connect people to resources to meet their needs. Any of the providers listed below can assist clients with the intake assessment for referrals through HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). There’s no need to call multiple agencies. A phone call to any of the providers listed below is all it takes.

Clients may also contact 2-1-1 to reach the Pathways to Home program.
Questions?