

# TOOLKIT

FOR ADDRESSING  
**HOMELESSNESS**  
FOR CULVER CITY





Culver City Welcome Sign



Culver City Lion Statue



Culver City Hall



Culver City  
Veterans Memorial



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## **CULVER CITY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS**

In 2004, the Culver City Council established the Committee on Homelessness. Its function was to serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council on issues and policies surrounding homelessness.

The Committee on Homelessness is committed to improving the quality of life in Culver City by:

Advising City Council and staff on short and long-term strategies to decrease homelessness.

Reviewing homeless services provided by independent contractors and making recommendations as needed; and

Collaborating with our community and acting as a voice for the public.

The committee also works with the City and the LA Homeless Services Authority to recruit volunteers and solicit donations for the annual Homeless Count.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The City partners with both St. Joseph Center and Upward Bound House to provide housing and supportive services to people experiencing homelessness in our City.

The St. Joseph Center Homeless Outreach Team works daily with homeless individuals in our community to connect them to housing, medical care, and supportive services.

Upward Bound House Family Shelter serves homeless children and their families. Upward Bound House also works with the Culver City School District and links homeless children in City Schools to housing and supportive services.

The visibility of homelessness is concerning for many. It is also costly for cities and communities to try to address. Increasing homelessness can strain social and community services, law enforcement, and public health resources. Residents may be concerned about noise, safety, environmental impacts, aesthetics, or property values. People often want to be compassionate, but don't know the best way to help.



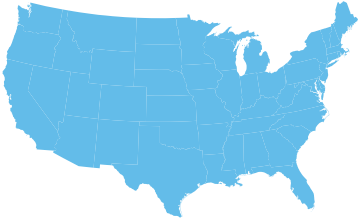
Homelessness in southern California is a large and complex issue. It can be difficult to know which actions or strategies are most appropriate to address the varied needs of people experiencing homelessness. However, everyone who lives, works, goes to school, or visits Culver City can contribute and be part of the solution.



The homelessness crisis can feel overwhelming, but there are actions every citizen can take to help communities address local, immediate issues with long-term strategic solutions.



# WHO IS HOMELESS?

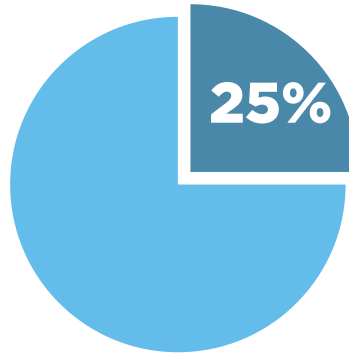


Every night there are over **half a million** people experiencing homelessness **across** the **country**.



Nearly **a quarter** of the nation's homeless are in **California**, with **LA** accounting for a **large portion** of it with many **living outside**.

**Many people experiencing homelessness do not have significant challenges such as severe mental illness or substance use disorders.**



In fact, less than 25% of people in west LA cities are considered **Chronically Homeless**, meaning that they have a lengthy homeless history and a disability.

However, these individuals can be quite visible in public as many of those who struggle with these challenges are sleeping outside.

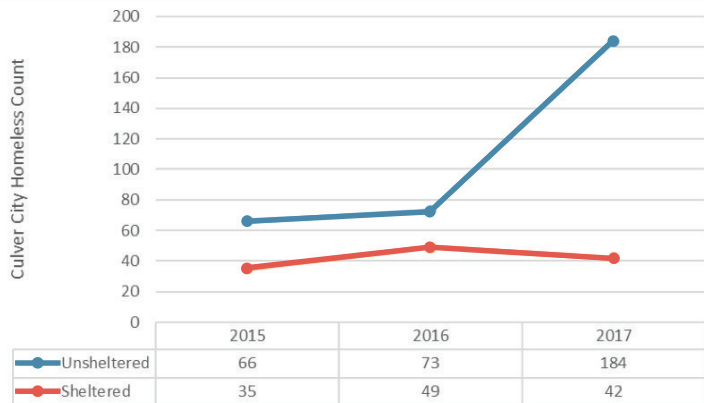


There are **4,485 people** experiencing homelessness in **LA's westside**, including **226** living in **Culver City**.

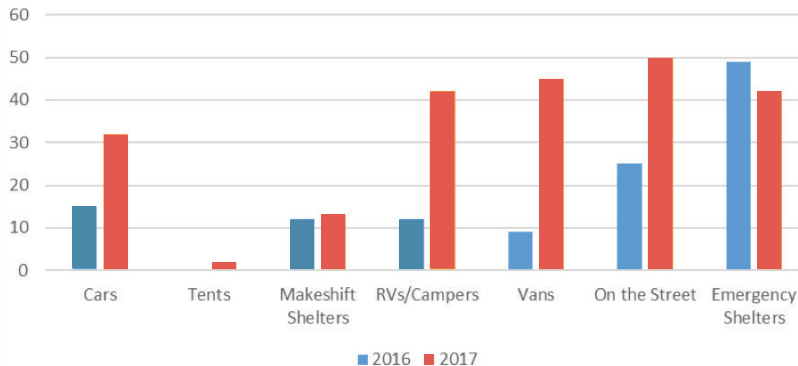
# WHO IS HOMELESS IN CULVER CITY?

In 2017, an estimated 226 people were homeless on a given night, nearly double the 2016 estimate.

The increase has been mostly in sheltered homelessness, people living in cars, tents, or on the street.



Culver City Homeless Count 2016-2017



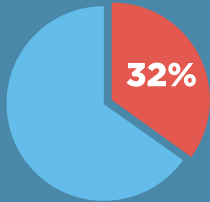
# WHY ARE PEOPLE HOMELESS?

People may become homeless for a variety of reasons. The majority are homeless because of economic issues, including the high cost of living.



Average rent in Los Angeles has increased more than 20% in 3 years

Rising rents can put stable, affordable housing out of reach. Often, a medical emergency, job loss, or other unexpected life events can result in *homelessness*.



32% of people in westside cities report domestic violence experience

Some may leave their homes due to domestic violence, abuse, or other safety reasons.

It can be difficult for anyone to rebound from a bout of homelessness, but it can be especially difficult for people with disabilities, serious mental illness, or chronic health problems.



# HOW DO WE SOLVE HOMELESSNESS?

**FIRST, we must believe homelessness is a solvable problem...**

**Culver City has adopted a 3 year plan to combat and end homelessness that will guide the city's efforts.**

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

Quickly moving people into their own home and providing the right level of support



HOUSING



SERVICES

## COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Assessing, triaging, and connecting each homeless person with the right housing and supports based on their need

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Subsidized housing with wraparound services for people who have significant challenges

RAPID RE-HOUSING

Short term rental assistance with services to help maintain unit over time

# WHAT YOU CAN DO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

As a member of the community, you may see and interact with individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness in a variety of ways.

- On streets or sidewalks
- In public spaces such as parks
- On public transportation
- Through work, school, volunteering, or other activities.



**Visible signs** of homelessness can create feelings of frustration, sadness, compassion, and anxiety among members of the community.



It's important to remember that homeless individuals are people. They have rights and deserve kindness, compassion, and respect just like anyone else in the community.

**Smile and say 'hi.'**

MEMBERS  
OF THE  
COMMUNITY...

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?



### **DONATE**

items such as snacks, water, hygiene supplies, or socks to local shelters or service providers. If you're unsure what to donate, call the shelter, food bank, or other agency and ask what their most common needs are. Financial donations of any size are also helpful for service providers.



### **VOLUNTEER**

your time. There are numerous organizations and opportunities in Culver City and neighboring cities to get involved.



### **GET INVOLVED**

with local efforts. Consider what you may be able to do through your school, work, neighborhood organization, place of worship, or other groups that can help the City address homelessness locally.



### **EDUCATE**

yourself on best practices. UNDERSTAND what is being done to address homelessness in Culver City and how public funding is being used.



### **SAY 'YES' TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

and supportive housing in Culver City. Show up to town hall meetings, city council meetings, or community events and speak in support of housing.

# BUSINESS OWNERS... WHAT CAN YOU DO?

As a business owner in Culver City, you and your staff and customers may see and interact with individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness in a variety of ways.

- Homeless individuals may congregate in common spaces that are visible from your business.
- People may panhandle outside of shops or stores, or may ask for food outside of restaurants.
- Homeless individuals and families may stay in vehicles or make-shift shelters in more industrial areas as it is often quieter and less populated (and may be safer).
- You or your staff may donate or volunteer with organizations that help those experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness that is visible on sidewalks, in parking lots, or in public spaces may make some customers uncomfortable. And staff who may be opening or closing a business in the early morning or late evening may feel unsafe.

It's important to remember that homeless individuals are people. They have rights and deserve kindness, compassion, and respect just like anyone else in the community. You and your business can be part of the solution.

## BUSINESS OWNERS...

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Find out if you can **DONATE** items you make or sell to local shelters or service providers. For example, surplus or damaged clothing, hygiene items, or housewares. If you're unsure what to donate, call the shelter, food bank, or other agency and ask what their most common needs are. Financial donations of any size are also helpful for service providers.

**EDUCATE** yourself on best practices. **UNDERSTAND** what is being done to address homelessness in Culver City and how public funding is being used.



If your business is a food service, find out if you can **DONATE SURPLUS FOOD** to the food bank. Many markets, grocers, and restaurants can participate in local food recovery services that reduce food waste and help people in need.

Consider hosting a **COMPANY-WIDE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY** such as completing a shift at a soup kitchen or a school supply drive for homeless children.



Consider **MATCHING CHARITABLE DONATIONS** made by your employees.

Make sure your **LIGHTING AND SECURITY** systems (locks, cameras, etc.) are operational to discourage trespassing or vandalism.



**SAY 'YES' TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING** and supportive housing in Culver City. Show up to town hall meetings, city council meetings, or community events and speak in support of housing.

# CULVER CITY STAFF... WHAT CAN YOU DO?

As an employee of the City of Culver City, you and your colleagues may see and interact with individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness in a variety of ways.

- You may work in a department or agency that addresses housing, homelessness, or poverty directly.
- Homeless individuals may occupy public spaces such as sidewalks, parks, libraries, public transportation, or other public areas that are maintained by City or County staff.
- Residents, visitors, and business owners may express concerns about local homelessness to you, or ask you for information on the City's plan to address homelessness.

Through your work, you represent the City. You may have to reply to questions from concerned citizens or requests from people in need. Homelessness can create feelings of frustration, sadness, compassion, and anxiety in the community, making it sometimes stressful or confusing to know the best way to respond.

It's important to remember that homeless individuals are people. They have rights and deserve kindness, compassion, and respect just like anyone else in the community.

People experiencing homelessness have the same rights to public safety and the use of public spaces as all other community members and visitors in Culver City.

CULVER  
CITY STAFF...

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?



### BE AWARE

of the City's plans and strategies to address homelessness. Know who to refer people to with questions about policies or laws.



### KNOW THE RULES

and follow any relevant procedures when addressing issues related to homelessness.



### DIRECT

people to available resources. Know where to refer people for services or help.



### UNDERSTAND

that homelessness is a difficult and complex issue for communities and for people. Try to BE PATIENT AND COMPASSIONATE in situations that may be stressful.



### EDUCATE

yourself on best practices. UNDERSTAND what is being done to address homelessness in Culver City and how public funding is being used.



### SAY 'YES' TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

and supportive housing in Culver City. Show up to town hall meetings, city council meetings, or community events and speak in support of housing.

## St. Joseph Center



Culver City St. Joseph Homeless Outreach Team  
in front of St. Joseph Homeless Service Center

## Upward Bound House Family Shelter

Upward Bound House was founded in 1991 and the Family Shelter was founded in 2010. Upward Bound House serves approximately 80 families with children per year in Culver City.





# RESOURCES

## **Culver City Homeless Hotline:** 310-253-6767

### **HOMELESS SERVICES:**

#### **St Joseph Center:**

<https://stjosephctr.org/sjc-locations/>  
1-310-396-6468

#### **St Joseph Center Homeless Services:**

<https://stjosephctr.org/sjc-locations/>  
1-310-399-6878

#### **Upward Bound House:**

<http://upwardboundhouse.org>  
1-310-306-1865

#### **LAHSA Shelter Hotline:**

[www.lahsa.org/get-help](http://www.lahsa.org/get-help)  
1-800-548-6047

#### **Los Angeles Homeless Online Portal**

<https://www.lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop/>

#### **The Shower of Hope portable showers:**

<http://theshowerofhope.org/>.

#### **Chrysalis:**

<https://changelives.org/santa-monica/>,  
1-310-401-9400

#### **Food Stamps and General Relief:**

<http://dpss.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpss/-main/programs-and-services/general-relief/>  
1-310-337-4333

### **VETERANS' SERVICES:**

#### **US Department of Veterans Affairs**

##### **Culver City Office:**

[www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=516](http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=516),  
1-310-641-0326

# RESOURCES

## GENERAL RESOURCES:

### Los Angeles County Information Line:

[www.211la.org/](http://www.211la.org/)  
2-1-1 or 1-800-339-6993

### City of Los Angeles Information Line:

[www.lacity.org/311-services](http://www.lacity.org/311-services)  
3-1-1 or 1-213-473-3231  
LA Homeless Service Authority:  
[www.lahsa.org/](http://www.lahsa.org/)  
1-213-683-3333

### LA Legal Aid Foundation:

<https://lafla.org/>  
1-310-899-6200

### People Assisting the Homeless (PATH):

[www.epath.org/](http://www.epath.org/), 1-310-644-2216

### Westside Coalition:

[www.westsideshelter.org/](http://www.westsideshelter.org/)  
1-310-314-0071

## CRISIS/EMERGENCY:

### Psychiatric Emergency team:

[www.dmh.lacounty.gov/](http://www.dmh.lacounty.gov/)  
1-800-854-7771

### Police Dispatch:

[www.culvercitypd.org/operations-bureau/contacts](http://www.culvercitypd.org/operations-bureau/contacts)  
1-310-837-1221

### Sanitation issues:

[www.culvercity.org/city-hall/city-government/city-departments/public-works](http://www.culvercity.org/city-hall/city-government/city-departments/public-works)  
1-310-253-6400

### LA County Domestic Violence Hotline:

<http://dpss.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpss/main/programs-and-services/specialized-supportive-services/domestic-violence/>  
1-800-978-3600

### LA Rape and Battering Hotline:

[www.peaceoverviolence.org/hotlines](http://www.peaceoverviolence.org/hotlines), 1-310-392-8381  
Emergency: 9-1-1

