

Culver City: Addressing Homelessness with Housing, Services and Outreach.

Culver City is focused on creating a holistic and comprehensive approach to address homelessness in our community.

According to the 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, there are 204 people experiencing homelessness in Culver City. Culver City is dedicated to addressing the multifaceted needs of our unhoused neighbors through the creation of interim housing and affordable housing programs, expanding wraparound mobile health and mental health services and homeless street outreach services.

Culver City has a diverse coalition of community partners, city agencies, neighborhood groups and citizen advocates ready to address homelessness, and we are counting on everyone doing their part to help our ambitious effort succeed. In turn, our constituents can expect transparency and accountability when it comes to our challenges and progress.

Culver City is addressing homelessness through the following program efforts:

PROJECT HOMEKEY

Culver City was awarded \$26.6 million under California's Project Homekey Round 2 to produce 73 units of interim and permanent supportive housing for the chronically unhoused.

Development of the project was supported by the County of Los Angeles Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS) Department of Health Services (DHS), Supervisor Mitchell, and the County of Los Angeles CEO Department Homeless Initiative. The project also coordinates with the lead Coordinated Entry System (CES) for Service Planning Area (SPA) 5, St. Joseph Center (CES) and the lead Continuum of Care (CoC), and the Los Angeles Services Homeless Authority (LAHSA). The lead service provider and operator of the project is Exodus Recovery, Inc. Since 1989, Exodus has provided quality mental health and substance use treatment services throughout Southern California.

In November 2023, Culver City opened the two repurposed motels. Both repurposed motels provide a safe place indoors where people can find wrap-around services, healing, and stabilization. Combined, the projects take an innovative approach to streamlining housing and social services by co-locating both interim housing and longer-term supportive housing next to each other. There are currently 30 residents occupying the project with full occupancy of 90% - 95% anticipated by March 2024.

SAFE SLEEP

Culver City opened its first safe sleeping programming, Wellness Village, at a City owned parking lot in August 2023.

Safe sleep programming aims to reduce loss of life, eliminate encampments, and provide greater access to resources for unhoused neighbors in Culver City.

The safe sleep programming is the first of its kind for Culver City. It features 20 transitional tents referred to as suites with around the clock staffing and supportive services – including three meals a day, restrooms, showers, garbage and recycling collection, access to laundry services, health care and additional support. The Wellness Village can support up to 40 residents at the site to allow couples to remain together. Pets are also allowed on site.

Wellness Village is operated by Urban Alchemy (UA), a nonprofit with a mission to transform traumatized urban spaces through supportive and compassionate care. To date, 37 unhoused neighbors have participated in the Wellness Village and 17 persons have transitioned to permanent supportive housing.





OUTREACH SERVICES

Culver City contracts with St. Joseph Center to provide homeless outreach services. St. Joseph's Center's mission is to provide working poor families, as well as homeless men, women, and children of all ages with the inner resources and tools to become productive, stable and self-supporting members of the community.

St. Joseph's Homeless Outreach Team develops relationships and trust with people experiencing homelessness in order to effectively connect them with housing, medical care, and support services.

UPWARD BOUND HOUSE FAMILY SHELTER

Upward Bound House (UBH) Family Shelter provides 18 beds of emergency interim housing for unhoused children and their families. Through a contract with UBH, the city provides case management and supportive services to unhoused children and their families as well as homeless children attending the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD).

HEALTHCARE IN ACTION

Healthcare in Action (HIA) Medical Group is a non-profit medical group exclusively dedicated to providing medical care and social services for patients experiencing homelessness using a "street medicine" model.

HIA street medicine teams offer full scope general medical services, addiction treatment, psychiatric care, and case management for the unhoused populations. The HIA street teams bring these services to unhoused patients using mobile medical vans. Through this street medicine approach, HIA can offer the same comprehensive medical and social services as a community clinic for the most vulnerable unhoused residents of Culver City, who do not have access to traditional medical facilities.

HIA will launch in Culver City in March 2024 and provide weekly health services at Culver City interim housing sites including Wellness Village and Project Homekey as well as providing health services to locations throughout the City where the unhoused population concentrates.

MOBILE CRISIS TEAM

Culver City is activating a non-emergency mental health crisis intervention approach to public safety that will enhance the city's ability to serve and protect the community. With the creation of the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT), Culver City will be able to directly engage people experiencing a mental health episode or substance use issue, while using a referral system that utilizes community partners in conjunction with city staff to provide additional follow up services both inpatient and outpatient.

The Mobile Crisis Team will operate a specialized van that will be able to provide immediate assistance once a call is received. The Mobile Crisis Team will include a Housing and Human Services Division Manager, a Mental Health Clinician, a Mental Health Specialist, and two Case Managers. The team will work in concert with the St. Joseph's Center Homeless Outreach Team, Culver City Police Department Mental Health Evaluation Team, Culver City Fire Department Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Healthcare in Action, a Street Medicine Team.

The City will celebrate the launch of our Mobile Crisis Team on February 27, 2024 from 11 am to 3pm during a Wellness Fair open to the public. The Wellness Fair will celebrate mental health with local partners and explore the benefits of mindfulness, meditation, and art.

The MCT will be in full service to Culver City on March 4, 2024.

MOTEL LEASING

Through an innovative Motel Master Leasing Program, Culver City partners with local motel providers to offer temporary interim housing as our unhoused neighbors transition to Project Homekey, Safe Sleep, or other shelter and housing options that meet them where they are and serve their individual needs.

The City works with two local motels in Culver City, which provides 64 units of interim housing for the Culver City unhoused community. The Motel Lease Program also provides 24/7 security as well as 3 daily meals provided Every Table to the participants of this program. Currently, 41 unhoused persons participate in the Motel Leasing Program.