TOOLKIT
FOR ADDRESSING
HOMELESSNESS
FOR CULVER CITY
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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.
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**.

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

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.
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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>42</td>
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- Cars
- Tents
- Makeshift Shelters
- RVs/Campers
- Vans
- On the Street
- Emergency Shelters

2016 | 2017
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.

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.

32% of people in westside cities report domestic violence experience. Some may leave their homes due to domestic violence, abuse, or other safety reasons.
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.
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.
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<th>BUSINESS OWNERS...</th>
<th>WHAT CAN YOU DO?</th>
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<td><strong>Consider hosting a COMPANY-WIDE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY</strong> such as completing a shift at a soup kitchen or a school supply drive for homeless children.</td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Make sure your LIGHTING AND SECURITY systems (locks, cameras, etc.) are operational to discourage trespassing or vandalism.</strong></td>
<td><strong>EDUCATE yourself on best practices. UNDERSTAND what is being done to address homelessness in Culver City and how public funding is being used.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
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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.
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
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:
1-310-337-4333

VETERANS’ SERVICES:

US Department of Veterans Affairs
Culver City Office:
www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=516,
1-310-641-0326
RESOURCES

GENERAL RESOURCES:

Los Angeles County Information Line:
www.211la.org/
2-1-1 or 1-800-339-6993

City of Los Angeles Information Line:
www.lacity.org/311-services
3-1-1 or 1-213-473-3231
LA Homeless Service Authority:
www.lahsa.org/
1-213-683-3333

LA Legal Aid Foundation:
https://lala.org/
1-310-899-6200

People Assisting the Homeless (PATH):
www.epath.org/, 1-310-644-2216

Westside Coalition:
www.westsideshelter.org/
1-310-314-0071

CRISIS/EMERGENCY:

Psychiatric Emergency team:
www.dmh.lacounty.gov/
1-800-854-7771

Police Dispatch:
www.culvercitypd.org/operations-bureau/contacts
1-310-837-1221

Sanitation issues:
1-310-253-6400

LA County Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-978-3600

LA Rape and Battering Hotline:
www.peaceoverviolence.org/hotlines, 1-310-392-8381
Emergency: 9-1-1