



May 21, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Subject: **Receive a Presentation on the Ventura County Continuum of Care
2024 State of Homelessness and Endorse Recommendations**

Recommendation:

Receive a presentation on the Ventura Countywide Continuum of Care (VC CoC) 2024 State of Homelessness and endorse VC CoC Board Recommendations

Fiscal Mandates/Impact:

There are no additional fiscal mandate/impacts associated with this item.

Background:

The VC CoC staff, city leads, and community volunteers conduct the annual Homeless Point In Time Count and Subpopulation Survey of homeless persons during the last ten days of January, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to be eligible for Continuum of Care funding. This one-night survey of sheltered persons/families and one day count and survey of unsheltered persons/families results in a snapshot of one day of homelessness across the region. The reports help to inform the policy-leaders and other stakeholders in the community on the need for resources within the community as well as trends in the populations experiencing homelessness.

The 2024 sheltered count was conducted on the night of January 23, and the unsheltered surveys began on the early morning of January 24, 2024. All persons surveyed were asked where they slept on the night of January 23, 2024. Surveys were conducted at service sites and encampment locations during the week following the night of the count,

as allowed by HUD. Mobile application surveys were conducted with GIS mapping technology throughout the County.

Discussion:

The 2024 Point in Time Count yielded important insights into the state of homelessness in our county, including shifts in the population's makeup, the success of certain interventions, and areas where further efforts are needed to continue this trend. Given the Board's ongoing and recent commitments in addressing the entrenched issue of homelessness, for the first time since 2017, the results showed an overall decline of 3.4% in homelessness in the County. A combination of 1,431 unsheltered persons (a decrease of 202 from 2023) and 927 persons in temporary or interim shelters (an increase of 119 from 2023) made up the 2,358 persons in the 2024 survey. Investments in both congregate and non-congregate shelter, including Project Roomkey, means that more members of our homeless community had the benefit of beds, food, and security on the night of the count; while still homeless by definition, they are getting connected to services and on a path to permanent housing as it becomes available.

The cities of Oxnard and Ventura continue to have the highest number of both sheltered and unsheltered individuals, although both communities experienced an overall reduction that is attributed, at least in part, to improved survey methods (observation only individuals cannot be de-duplicated) and an influx of Emergency Housing vouchers in those communities. The observation only rate in 2023 was 57.8% but, with improved training and education, this year only 34% of unsheltered individuals were 'observation only.'

Recommendation:

An annual review of data and system performance is conducted each year following the Point-In-Time Homeless Count. This annual review includes analyzing the data from the annual Homeless Count, programs for persons at-risk of homelessness, overall system performance and an inventory of shelter and housing. Recommendations are developed as part of this annual process and presented to the VC CoC Board and other stakeholders. The VC CoC Board approved the following recommendations in April 2024 to prevent and end homelessness in Ventura County. These recommendations are aligned with the Ventura County Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness which was adopted by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in December 2023. The full plan can be found on the VC CoC website [here](#):

The following recommendations were approved by the VC CoC Board for 2024:

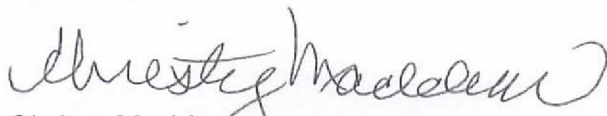
1. Achieve functional zero with homeless veterans in 2024 in collaboration with Veteran Affairs and local veteran service providers;

2. Further the efforts to end homelessness among unsheltered youth with the expansion of new transitional housing programs for transitional-age-youth (18-24);
3. Reduce the number of chronically homeless adults by 2024 with the addition of new permanent supportive housing units;
4. Encourage each jurisdiction to review their 2024 unsheltered homeless count and align local strategies to reduce unsheltered homelessness;
5. Expand the efforts of the Ventura County Continuum of Care Workgroup partnering with people with lived experience to solicit feedback and provide recommendations;
6. Reduce the number of first-time homeless households by expanding homelessness prevention programs and implementing diversion strategies; and;
7. Leverage resources to prioritize or increase supportive services for housing retention.

The Board is being asked to endorse the recommendations of the Ventura County Continuum of Care Board of Directors. These recommendations are aligned and consistent with actions taken by the Board in February 2024 to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers who assisted with the 2024 Point-in-Time Count and acknowledge the tremendous work of staff in bringing this item to you today. If you have any questions about today's item, please don't hesitate to contact Christy Madden or Jenn Harkey, at 805-654-2679 and 805-658-4342, respectively.

Sincerely,



Christy Madden
Sr. Deputy Executive Officer



Sevet Johnson, PsyD.
County Executive Officer