



ALL IN

TOWARD A HOME FOR EVERY COUNTY RESIDENT

*The Santa Cruz County Community Strategic Plan
to Prevent, Reduce, and Eventually End Homelessness*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All In – Toward a Home for Every County Resident represents a new vision for the Santa Cruz County community, a vision that everyone can share. In this resilient community that rallied after the destruction of the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, we know great things can happen. We believe that preventing, reducing, and eventually ending homelessness is possible. And we hold firmly to the vision that everyone in Santa Cruz County should have access to safe, stable housing.

The community's original strategic plan, the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, made impressive strides since being introduced in 2003. *All In* reaffirms the ambitious goals of the Ten Year Plan, while expanding our scope and commitment to aid our most vulnerable residents, who can be found throughout the county, north and south, urban and rural, sheltered and unsheltered. As we continue our recovery from the worst economic slump since the Depression, we find even more of our neighbors are at risk – just a paycheck from the streets – and increased homelessness demands our urgent attention.

The end of the previous plan, the shock of a homeless count that found a 27% increase in homelessness in just two years, the effect of homelessness on everyone, and new national strategic directions and ideas have all served as catalysts for creating *All In*. It was a timely opportunity for all the stakeholders in Santa Cruz County – policymakers, providers, funders, advocates, people with experience of homelessness, and community members – to reflect on successes and challenges we all faced over the past decade and to plan for new, innovative strategies to prevent, reduce, and eventually end homelessness, and to lessen its impact.

All In has eight strategic priorities (cross-systems and population-specific) that reflect the most innovative thinking both locally and nationally on how best to address homelessness and its results. It was created over a full year of extensive community participation and feedback from over 250 stakeholders, including people who have experienced homelessness themselves. At the very core of these strategic priorities is the intent to use the evidence-based Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)¹ to match individuals and families to the most appropriate housing and service intervention available. In this way, residents experiencing the longest-term, chronic homelessness – often the most visible – will be prioritized for services. See reverse side for a summary of the strategic priorities and intended results.



1. See <http://100khomes.org/resources/spdat-and-vi-spdat-evidence-brief> for further information on the VI-SPDAT.

1

TRANSFORMING THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

- Coordinated entry system implemented to improve access to housing and services for all populations.
- Increased prevention and diversion resources to reduce the number of households falling into homelessness.
- Interim housing returned to its original emergency purpose.

2

INCREASING ACCESS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

- Sufficient permanent affordable housing developed & maintained for all who are homeless or at risk.

3

INTEGRATING SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- People experiencing homelessness receive the mainstream services needed and become and remain stably housed.
- Protocols are in place to prevent institutional discharge of persons directly to the streets.
- Community perception of safety is improved.

4

ENDING CHRONIC AND OTHER ADULT HOMELESSNESS

- End chronic homelessness by 2020, while reducing homelessness among seniors and other adults.

5

ENDING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

- Family homelessness is ended by 2020.
- Fewer at risk families fall into homelessness.

6

ADDRESSING NEEDS IN SOUTH COUNTY

- Ensure that the benefits of a comprehensive, culturally competent homeless assistance system fully extend to traditionally underserved communities in the Pajaro Valley.

7

INITIATING A RESPONSE TO YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS

- Initiate a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate system of services for unaccompanied youth and young adults, ages 14-24, including youth formerly in foster care.

8

ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

- Veteran homelessness is ended by 2016.
- All veterans have stable housing and uniquely tailored supportive services enabling them to stay housed.