

FINAL

CITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND COMBAT HOMELESSNESS CITY OF LA VERNE

1. City and Plan Information

Name of City	Period of Time Covered by Plan	Date of Plan Adoption
La Verne	July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2021	June 18, 2018

2. Why is the City working to develop and implement a homelessness plan?

Homelessness in Los Angeles County has risen dramatically in the past several years, including in the County Service Planning Area (SPA) 3, which includes the City of La Verne. From 2016 to 2017 this area saw an increase of 36% in its total homeless population, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Point in Time Count (PIT Count).¹

This increase should be viewed as a symptom of the larger housing crisis affecting many large cities in the US, and almost all of the West Coast.² The exaggerated lack of housing in Los Angeles County, in particular, has driven the recent unprecedented number of individuals experiencing homelessness.³ This, in turn, spurred the development of the County Homeless Initiative and passage in 2017 of Measure H. The County, Council of Governments, and cities throughout the County have all made significant efforts to coordinate and drive change that will result in more housing and satisfy other best-practice solutions to homelessness.

Homelessness in the City of La Verne should be looked at in terms of the relatively small adult population (11 people), and the much larger youth population, comprising both Transition Age Youth (TAY) between 18 and 24 years of age, and minors.

La Verne had a population of 26 TAY in 2017, staying in transitional housing operated by David & Margaret Youth and Family Services.⁴ In addition, 47 youth were experiencing homelessness within the Bonita Unified School District that same year.⁵ This latter group includes youth enrolled in public school who meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless—essentially that they must lack a “fixed, regular, and adequate” nighttime residence, but not necessarily be living outside or in a shelter.

City-level data from the regional Coordinated Entry System (CES) provides an enhanced view of individuals who are literally homeless, according to the HUD definition, using responses to

¹ Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. 2017 Homeless Count-Count by City/Community. Available: <https://www.lahsa.org/dashboards?id=13-greater-los-angeles-homeless-count-by-city-community>.

² Garfield, Leanna . “A map of America’s homeless problem reveals the best and worst states for affordable housing.” Business Insider. March 22, 2018.

³ Hiltzik, Michael. "California's housing crisis reaches from the homeless to the middle class — but it's still almost impossible to fix." Los Angeles Times. March 30, 2018.

⁴ Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Housing Inventory Count. 2017

⁵ Los Angeles County Office of Education. Aggregated LA County Homeless Student Count 2016-2017 Dataset.

the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) survey and other indicators of a person's overall health and wellbeing.

Based on this data, which was collected from July 2016 through November 2017, 86% of assessed individuals who said they resided in La Verne were TAY between 18-24 years old, while the remainder were over the age of 40. Of this largest subpopulation, 24% reported being homeless because they had run away from home, 29% left due to violence in the home, and 34% left because of an abusive relationship. In addition, 47% reported having spent time in an emergency room within six months of completing the assessment.

A useful aspect of the VI-SPDAT survey is the determination of an acuity score, which can help identify an appropriate housing intervention for someone experiencing homelessness. In LA County it is suggested that people experiencing homelessness who fall into the low-acuity scoring range of the assessment (0-3) should be able to find housing on their own, or self-resolve; those in the mid-acuity scoring range (4-11) are best served by Rapid Re-Housing programs; and high-acuity individuals (12+) generally need supportive housing. 77% of assessed individuals who said they live in La Verne are in the mid-acuity range, indicating a substantial need for time-limited housing assistance, such as Rapid Re-Housing. In addition, 3% of individuals were high-acuity (12+) and 20% were low-acuity (0-3).

3. Describe your City's planning process

The Homeless Plan was created through a collaborative process that included the input of multiple stakeholders from different sectors. Key activities of the plan process included a review of interviews with persons experiencing homelessness in the City, and two input sessions targeted to different stakeholders, including the City Council, City departments, homeless services provider partners, the general public, and the faith-based community. As a part of each stakeholder input session, groups were asked to provide feedback on the challenges of homelessness within the City as well as to provide input regarding possible strategies, many of which make up the approved goals and actions for the City within the plan. For summaries of challenges as well as strategies from each input session see Appendices B and C.

The City also conducted an online survey to collect input from the La Verne community. The survey took place from March 28 through April 15 and collected over 300 responses.

4. What are the goals of the City's plan and related actions? Review the example below, then respond to the prompts for your own City goals. Add sections for additional goals if needed.

Goal 1: Improve Coordination Among Key Stakeholders and Engage the Community (Homeless Initiative Strategy Link(s): A1, A5, B3, C4/C5, E5, E6, E7)
<p>Action 1a: Consider forming a subregional taskforce on homelessness to understand homelessness and its cause in La Verne and subregionally, and to assist with implementation of the Homeless Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City could coordinate a quarterly meeting in which participants share information and ideas for local and subregional efforts

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants might include faith-based organizations, educators, City law enforcement, members of the business community, and service providers, including TCMHC, David & Margaret Youth and Family Services, Haynes Education Center, and Camp Afflerbaugh-Paige Objective should include understanding the causes of homelessness in La Verne and surrounding area, and strategies for addressing these, in order to prevent homelessness 				
<p>Action 1b: Engage City staff and community partners with regard to key Homeless Initiative Strategies that can be used to impact homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Community Services Department staff and Police Department staff, as well as local homeless services providers, know how to use LA County web-based referral system to enable making outreach referrals Ensure Community Services Department staff and Police Department staff, as well as local homeless services providers understand the process for accessing housing through regional CES, including Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing (A1: Homeless Prevention Program for Families and A5: Homeless Prevention Program for Individuals, B3: Expand Rapid Re-Housing) Encourage homeless services providers to engage SPA 3 CES lead via regional case conferencing Ensure Community Services Department staff and Police Department staff, and other community partners are educated on County programs that provide SSI/SSDI/Veterans benefits advocacy and understand referral process (C4: Countywide Supplemental Security/Social Security Disability Income and Veterans Benefits Advocacy and C5: Establish a Countywide Veterans Benefits Advocacy Program for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness) 				
<p>Action 1c: Work on a subregional level with other neighboring cities to support local service providers acting as CES access points (<i>E7: Strengthen the Coordinated Entry System</i>). Service providers may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David & Margaret Youth and Family Services (already providing CES access to clients) Tri-City Mental Health (working to become CES access point) Bonita Unified School District (BUSD), which serves San Dimas, La Verne and part of Glendora, would be a good CES access point for families. In collaboration with other cities, we can work with BUSD to become a CES access point (perhaps a BUSD social worker). 				
<p>Action 1d: Work with LVPD to engage individuals experiencing homelessness and better understand the connection between crime and homelessness in La Verne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better understand how City can participate in the HOST program and the requirements of this program If appropriate, City could work with the City of Pomona Police Department and LA County to access AB109 funds for homeless outreach services (<i>E5: Decriminalization Policy, E6: Expand Countywide Outreach System</i>) 				
Associated Policy Changes	Goal Measurement	Goal Ownership	Leveraged City Resources	Timeline
1a, 1b, 1c: No	1a: Summary report	1a, 1c:	City staff time	1a: 6 months,

associated policy changes 1d: Potential allocation of staff time to HOST training and ongoing work	1b: Trainings on referral system, prevention, RRH/PSH, SSI/SSDI/Veterans benefits advocacy programs; Increased local participation in case conferencing 1c: Convene/participate in a subregional meeting on this issue 1d: Summary report on HOST program requirements and potential benefit to the City	Community Development Department 1b: Community Development Department, Police Department 1d: Police Department	to accomplish goals and actions	ongoing 1b: 6 months-1 year 1c: 6 months, ongoing 1d: 6 months
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Goal 2: Expand Supportive Housing and Preserve Affordable Housing (Homeless Initiative Strategy Link(s): F7)				
Action 2a: Explore developing a shared housing program for TAY and seniors, along with Bonita Unified School District, University of La Verne, David & Margaret Youth and Family Services, and Claremont Senior Services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program could also partner with Tri-City Mental Health's roommate training and landlord engagement programs 				
Action 2b: Work with LA County CEO Office and Community Development Commission to catalog affordable housing covenants that are due to expire and explore options for preserving them (<i>F7: Preserve and Promote the Development of Affordable Housing for Homeless Families and Individuals</i>).				
Associated Policy Changes	Goal Measurement	Goal Ownership	Leveraged City Resources	Timeline
No associated policy changes	2a: Summary report 2b: List of housing projects and addresses sent to CDC	Community Development Department	Staff time	2a: 1 year 2b: 3-6 months

Goal 3: Increase Income for People Experiencing Homelessness (Homeless Initiative Strategy Link(s): C2)
Action 3a: Engage Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, and social enterprise organizations (e.g. Dave and Maggie's Café) to explore available opportunities for hiring homeless and formerly homeless individuals (<i>C2: Increase Employment for Homeless Adults</i>)

<i>by Supporting Social Enterprise).</i> Potential opportunities include the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit for veterans and California New Employment Credit for hiring CalWorks recipients				
Associated Policy Changes	Goal Measurement	Goal Ownership	Leveraged City Resources	Timeline
No associated policy changes	Meeting with Chamber, businesses	Community Development Department	Staff time	3a: 6 months-1 year

Goal 4: Develop Communication Plan for Engaging Community Partners and La Verne Residents (Homeless Initiative Strategy Link(s): None)				
Action 4a: Develop a strategy for engaging City residents and informing them about the Homeless Plan and homelessness in general, in particular with regard to perceived links between homelessness and crime; homelessness prevention efforts; and the differing needs of various homeless subpopulations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the United Way's "Everyone In" campaign • Consider producing a referral guide and distributing via handout or the City website • Work with Bonita Unified School District and the University of La Verne to better understand homeless and at-risk youth, and TAY population • Make La Verne residents aware of the TCMHC plan on homelessness and how it complements La Verne's Homeless Plan 				
Action 4b: This Plan should be reviewed on an annual basis, at a minimum, at a time corresponding with, or after, the release of the most recent annual Point in Time Count results, and the Community Development Department Director will report plan progress to the City Council.				
Associated Policy Changes	Goal Measurement	Goal Ownership	Leveraged City Resources	Timeline
3a: Potential adoption of "Everyone In" messaging 3b: No associated policy changes	1a: Completed plan for participating in "Everyone In" campaign; Completion of referral guide; Community outreach event on TCMHC and City Homeless Plan 1b: Annual review of Plan	Community Development Department	Staff time	4a: 1 year 4b: 1 year

5. Identify City employees or other staff who will lead implementation of the plan.

Table 1: Primary Contact for Plan Implementation

Name & Position	Address & Email	Phone	% of
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			Time
Eric Scherer, Director, Community Development Department	3660 D Street La Verne, CA 91750	909-596-8706	TBD

6. Describe the City's participation or plans to participate in any new or ongoing collaborative efforts, within the City and/or with other cities and/or in the Service Planning Area.

In response to the issues described above, as well as the resulting strain on local resources, the City's leadership has committed to creating a Homeless Plan that will guide the City over the course of three years with reducing instances of homelessness. In addition, the Homeless Plan will help the City to be proactive in identifying ways to implement LA County Homeless Initiative strategies. The City recognizes the need to contribute to these strategies.

Considerable work by City leadership and community partners has already gone into this effort. Recent achievements include the City's becoming compliant with State Bill 2, concerning local planning efforts and homelessness, and the development of affordable housing for Transition Age Youth, in collaboration with the David & Margaret Youth and Family Services organization.

The majority of this work is performed at the city level by the Community Development Department, the Police Department, and the Community Services Department. Representatives from these Departments conduct outreach, issue referrals, and partner with service providers and other stakeholders in the City to create resources for low-income households and people experiencing homelessness.

Another significant partner for La Verne is Tri-City Mental Health Center (TCMHC), a public agency with a Legal Entity Agreement with LA County Department of Mental Health to provide outpatient mental health services to the cities of La Verne, Pomona, and Claremont. In this capacity TCMHC fills a significant role in La Verne, acting as primary responder for calls for service related to mental health treatment or homelessness, as well as operating a homeless outreach team and case management services. The agency also provides supportive services for local supportive housing and conducts other critical homeless-oriented programs, including roommate training and a landlord engagement program.

TCMHC is currently engaged in writing a strategic plan for addressing homelessness in the Tri-City area and has collaborated with City of La Verne staff in coordinating those efforts with the drafting of this plan.

The City and its partners are currently engaged in the following additional activities:

- The University of La Verne operates a student-sponsored food pantry for ULV students
- Sowing Seeds for Life operates a food pantry for LA County residents, who must self-certify income levels upon registering, as well as additional services

- The City of La Verne 2014-2021 Housing Element identified at least 252 affordable units within the City, and additionally, the City has covenants for several other housing properties that have units set aside for very-low-, low-, and moderate-income households. A new multi-family property currently under construction is anticipated to have 6 affordable units, and a multi-family property completed in 2014 includes 26 affordable units.
- The Community Services Director coordinates City staff and community volunteer participation in LAHSA's annual Point in Time Count
- David & Margaret Youth and Family Services operates a CES access point for TAY
- The City is involved in subregional partnership meetings with the Cities of San Dimas, Glendora, Claremont, and Pomona

7. Review specific County Homeless Initiative Strategies from the table below and consider how the City could collaborate and align planning efforts to achieve mutual goals.

Table 2: City Planning Activities tied to County Homeless Initiative Strategies

	Plan to participate	Currently participating	County Homeless Initiative Strategies
A – Prevent Homelessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A1. Homeless Prevention for families
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A5. Homeless Prevention for Individuals
B – Subsidize Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B3. Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Rehousing
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B4. Facilitate Utilization of Federal Housing Subsidies
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B6. Family Reunification Housing Subsidies
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B7. Interim/Bridge Housing for those Exiting Institutions
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B8. Housing Choice Vouchers for Permanent Supportive Housing
C – Increase Income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C1. Enhance the CalWORKs Subsidized Employment Program for Homeless Families
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C2. Increase Employment for Homeless Adults by Supporting Social Enterprise
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C4/5/6. Countywide Supplemental Security/Social Security Disability Income and Veterans Benefits Advocacy
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C7. Subsidize Employment for Homeless Adults
	Plan to participate	Currently participating	County Homeless Initiative Strategies

D – Provide Case Management & Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D2. Jail In-Reach
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D5. Support for Homeless Case Managers
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D6. Criminal Record Clearing Project
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D7. Provide Services for Permanent Supportive Housing
E – Create a Coordinated System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	E4. First Responders Training
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	E5. Decriminalization Policy
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	E6. Expand Countywide Outreach System
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	E7. Strengthen the Coordinated Entry System (CES)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	E8. Enhance the Emergency Shelter System
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	E10. Regional Coordination of Los Angeles County Housing Agencies
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	E14. Enhance Services for Transition Age Youth
F – Increase Affordable/ Homeless Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F1. Promote Regional SB2 Compliance and Implementation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F2. Linkage Fee Nexus Study
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F4. Development of Second Dwelling Units Program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F5. Incentive Zoning/Value Capture Strategies
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F6. Using Public Land for Homeless Housing
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F7. Preserve and Promote the Development of Affordable Housing for Homeless Families and Individuals
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F7. Housing Innovation Fund (One-time)