

City of Westminster

Homeless Outreach



City Net

Our Story

City Net is a team of nonprofit professionals who work to end street-level homelessness in a city or region through the coordination of community efforts and activities.



Homeless Realities



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Homelessness Defined:

Two Federal Agencies, Two Very Different Definitions

1. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Definition:

“People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation”, meaning you are “homeless” you are living in:

- A homeless shelter or residential program
- The streets
- Abandoned buildings
- Public parks
- “Camping” in riverbed, foothills, freeway off ramps
- A car



Homelessness Defined:

Two Federal Agencies, Two Very Different Definitions

2. Department of Education Definition:

“An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence”, meaning you are “homeless” if you meet any of the HUD definitions, but also if you are living in:

- A motel
- A garage or sheltered space not up to code
- “Couch surfing” at a friend’s or relative’s apartment
- “Doubled up” in a house or apartment
- A recreational vehicle



Homeless Realities

1. National Numbers

- 2017 Point in Time (PIT) Count
 - 192,875 unsheltered homeless people nationwide (0.7 incr from 2017)
 - 360,867 sheltered/transitional housing
 - **553,742 total**
- Since 2015 PIT...
 - Homelessness decreased nationwide by 14.4%
 - Most dramatic decrease was veterans – 34% decrease
 - 30 of 50 states saw overall homeless numbers decrease

2. California Numbers

- 2017 Point in Time (PIT) Count
 - **134,278 total**
 - **24.25% of the national total**
- California had the largest increase of all 50 states!
- 13.7% increase between 2016 and 2017 alone!

*source is www.endhomelessness.org



Homeless Realities

3. Orange County County Numbers

- 2019 Point In Time (PIT) Count
 - **6,860 People** experiencing homelessness
 - Of that, 3,961 are unsheltered

4. Westminster Numbers

- 2019 PIT = **184 People** experiencing homelessness
- Of that, 159 are unsheltered



Root Cause of Homelessness

- Securing or retaining jobs with sustainable wages: 40%
- Finding or retaining affordable housing: 36%
- Family issues: 28%

Source: 2017 HOMELESSNESS IN ORANGE COUNTY COUNTY: The Costs to Our Community. Orange County United Way, Jamboree & UCI Sponsored Study

HOMELESSNESS IN ORANGE COUNTY
THE COSTS TO OUR COMMUNITY



Root Cause of Homelessness

Homelessness is an **economic condition** – the financial difference between cost of housing and the resources to which an individual has access in order to pay for housing.

There are plenty of people who don't work/don't want to work, with addictions, with mental health issues, etc., who *are* housed.



Summary

1. Living wage – those working full-time at low-end of wage scale struggle to afford housing
2. Housing shortage – 2% vacancy rate in OC
3. Mental illness
4. Addiction
5. Lack of coordination of and access to existing resources



Myths About Homelessness



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#1

Myth #1: It is a person's fault that they are homeless.

Three decades of research and experience show that people become homeless for a myriad of reasons: loss of a job or lowered wages, health care crisis, increased rent, a family emergency or even landlord bullying.

According to a cost study, which United Way of Orange County produced (2017), the top three reasons why people become homeless are:

- Securing or retaining jobs with sustainable wages: 40%
- Finding or retaining affordable housing: 36%
- Family issues: 28%

#2

Myth #2: Homeless people are lazy and don't want to work.

About 44 percent of homeless people around the country did some paid work during the previous month, according to [a comprehensive 1996 Urban Institute survey](#). A 2013 US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [study](#) found 17 percent of homeless adults in families, who share different characteristics than homeless individuals, had paying jobs, and 55 percent had worked during the previous year.

#3

Myth #3: People come to California to be homeless

The official counts and companion studies of L.A.'s growing homeless population have consistently shown that most homeless people have lived in Los Angeles for at least 10 years. These are our longtime neighbors who were priced out of their apartments by rents that are rising faster than their incomes, or who were struck by some crisis that rendered them unable to keep a permanent roof over their heads. It may have been a job layoff, a divorce, a cataclysmic and costly health breakdown, an addiction.

#4

Myth #4: They prefer living on the streets

Greg Spiegel, director of strategic initiatives at the Inner City Law Center, says this is the most common misconception about people experiencing homelessness — that they don't want help.

“Almost everybody wants permanent housing,” Spiegel says. “What there is often is resistance to is homeless shelters. There’s a lot of barriers to participating in shelters. There’s big crowds. There’s rules. Couples are split up. You can’t bring your dog in. You can’t bring your stuff in.”

That said, those who provide services to the homeless say that once they form a relationship and develop trust with them, most homeless people choose housing over sleeping on the streets.

There are also people who want to sleep in a shelter but can't get in. Los Angeles has roughly 12,000 emergency shelter beds, which fill up nearly every night. New York City, by comparison, has enough shelters to house more than 60,000 people a night. That means L.A. only has the capacity to shelter about a quarter of its homeless residents. The fact is that if every homeless person wanted to get help tomorrow, there wouldn't be anywhere near the capacity to help them.



City Net's Role



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City Net's Role in Westminster

1. Weekly Outreach
2. Local Homeless Registry Management
3. Partnership Development & Integration
4. Street Exit Goals



City Net's Role in Westminster



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Homeless Services Dashboard Report
October 2019



Street Outreach and Engagement Highlights:

	Outreach Contacts ¹	Outreach Line Calls	Client Engagement ²	GOAL: Street Exits ³	ACTUAL: Street Exits
April-June 2017	254		14	15	9
July-Sep 2017	98		33	15	21
Oct-Dec 2017	71		66	15	37
Jan-Mar 2018	59		67	15	18
April-June 2018	307		100	15	31
July-Sep 2018	116		109	15	9
Oct-Dec 2018	158		118	15	17
Jan-Mar 2019	149		124	15	8
April-June 2019	111	80	107	15	6
July 2019	39	29	102	5	2
Aug 2019	26	18	94	5	1
Sept 2019	72	36	81	5	5
Oct 2019	63	23	72	5	3
TOTAL	1,460	163		155	167

- Annual net societal cost savings for exiting 166 homeless neighbors from the streets: \$1,450,176.⁴
- 64 (38%) of the street exits were directly into placements that HUD classifies as “permanent” placements; the others are sheltered in more temporary arrangements with the hopes of transferring into permanent housing.
- 57 of the exited clients are children.



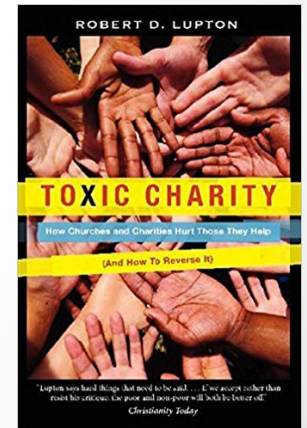
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Faith-Based Engagement Best Practices

Faith Community Engagement

1. Be Informed

- Commitment to a Role in the Continuum of Care
 - Ready, **AIM**, Fire
 - Be at the table
- Data and Solutions Focus
 - Definitions & root causes
 - Scope of the problem
- Digging Deeper...
 - “Million Dollar Murray”
 - Book Studies
 - Others!?



Faith Community Engagement

2. Donate

- Give Time
- Speak positively
- Whatever it takes resources!
- Highly leveraged (Stewardship)



Q and A

