



Newport Beach Addressing Homelessness through **Coordinated Approach**

Moving people from streets to housing requires multiple agencies, non-profits

In Newport Beach, as with nearly every community in Southern California, there are individuals experiencing homelessness. The number of people varies depending on the season, weather, and other factors such as employment rates and housing costs. Homelessness is transient in nature; the majority of unsheltered individuals who pass through town are here for a short time. Some individuals stay much longer. To some, Newport Beach is home, as they were raised here, were once housed here, have a family connection to the community -- but due to financial hardship, illness (physical or mental), addiction, or other circumstances, no longer have housing.

The City's homeless outreach and response program primarily focuses on connecting individuals with services and shelter. This is the most successful and longest-lasting way to help people experiencing homelessness get on a path to finding and maintaining a permanent home. Law enforcement is a component of City's response to illegal activities, whether someone is housed or unhoused. However, it does not generally produce sustainable lifestyle changes among homeless individuals.

The work can be challenging, and results aren't always immediate. However, our efforts have helped many people living on Newport Beach streets move into permanent housing with jobs and resources to support their ongoing success. Here are some of the ways the City is working to reduce homelessness:

See Reverse Side



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Homeless Outreach Team

Newport Beach's core team includes a full-time homeless coordinator and a full-time homeless liaison officer, a sworn member of the Newport Beach Police Department. They are supplemented by contractors, NBPD officers with experience in homeless outreach, as well as staff from several City departments. The homeless outreach team is generally the first point of contact with individuals experiencing homelessness to offer assistance, including placement in temporary shelters. Every day of the week, team members work throughout the community, proactively interacting with those experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach. To contact the outreach team, email homelessoutreach@newportbeachca.gov.



Social Services

Newport Beach partners with City Net, a social service agency that specializes in homeless outreach and service coordination. City Net employees are on duty in Newport Beach five days a week, and available on-call to meet with individuals experiencing homelessness, develop relationships and assess their needs. City and City Net staff help individuals find housing and assist with moving and transportation needs. Between January 1 and March 30, City Net has engaged in 156 outreach contacts and has helped house 13 people, including elderly women and families with young children.



Temporary Shelters

Newport Beach utilizes up to 20 beds in Costa Mesa's Bridge Shelter, which opened in Spring 2021, under an agreement with the City of Costa Mesa. The shelter offers temporary bed space, meals, counseling and access to a variety of services while individuals await placement into permanent housing. Since the shelter opened, Newport Beach has filled 18-20 beds every night on average. As of March 30, about 70 people have moved from the shelter to permanent housing. The average length of stay is 21 nights. Newport Beach also utilizes countywide shelters as space is available.

While the Bridge Shelter and other shelter facilities are important tools to help transition people from living on streets or in vehicles to permanent housing, they do not solve the homelessness issue. Shelters tend to fill quickly, and the City faces challenges in securing additional bed space.



Good Giving Donations

The City supports an ongoing drive to raise funds and discourage direct donations, as homeless individuals can be reluctant to accept help from the City if they are supported by donations from the community. Funds donated to the campaign are used in a variety of ways to help formerly homeless individuals maintain housing and employment. If you would like to contribute, please visit newportbeachca.gov/give.



Mobile Crisis Intervention Unit

In February, the City and Be Well OC launched a new partnership to bring mobile mental health crisis intervention to Newport Beach. The Newport Beach Be Well van is staffed with a team of licensed mental health professionals who work 12-hours a day, seven days a week, to assist those in the community that are dealing with mental health issues. This service works in coordination with the Police and Fire departments and our homeless response team. It assists homeless individuals as well as community members and visitors experiencing mental health crises. In February and March, the Be Well team placed six people into crisis stabilization units, six people into Be Well's sobering station in Orange, and two people into psychiatric facilities. The team connected 17 people experiencing homeless to social service agencies and de-escalated several incidents among housed residents. Be Well services can be accessed through the Newport Beach Police Department at 949-644-3717 (for emergencies dial 911).



Workforce Re-entry Training

The City partners with Trellis, a non-profit organization that works with homeless and housing insecure individuals to assist them in re-entering the workforce and eventually returning to a self-sustaining level of employment. Between January 2021 and March 2022, Trellis completed 30 projects for the City. Crews have assisted with cleaning up storm debris on the beach, keeping parks and arterials tidy, sweeping up debris, and other tasks. As of March, six people who worked on the Newport Beach team have gained full-time employment.



Emergency Housing Vouchers

In 2021, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development issued 70,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers, which cover 30 percent of a person's monthly rent, to counties across the nation. The County of Orange received 1,035 vouchers, which were then distributed to cities. More than 10 people experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach have been awarded emergency vouchers. The City then facilitates their placement in permanent housing.



Permanent Supportive Housing

The City is exploring potential development partnerships to add additional units of permanent, supportive housing in Newport Beach. Finding viable sites for permanent supportive housing, as well as temporary shelters, presents challenges for Newport Beach and other Orange County coastal communities. However, we continue to actively explore potential sites and development opportunities.

newportbeachca.gov/homeless