



HOMELESS OUTREACH QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2022

OVERVIEW

Once a month, the City of Newport Beach counts the number of people experiencing street homelessness within the community. The number of people counted varies due to a variety of factors such as weather, housing and shelter availability, unemployment rates and more.

	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022
Street Homeless	37	45	47	47	46	49

City Response to Homelessness

The City of Newport Beach’s efforts to address and reduce homelessness focuses on outreach - connecting individuals with services and shelter. Our top priority is to help people experiencing homelessness find and maintain permanent housing. There is also an enforcement component to the City’s response; the Newport Beach Police Department actively enforces the laws in Newport Beach against anyone, housed or unhoused, who violates the law.

The City is committed to transparency in its homeless response efforts, through this quarterly update, the City Manager’s The Week in Review, published every Friday, (sign up to receive that [here](#)). The City also posts monthly data on its [website](#) and periodic updates on its social media channels.

OUTREACH

City Staff

The City’s response team includes staff members from the City Manager’s Office and the Police, Fire, Park Patrol, Recreation & Senior Services, and Public Works Departments. Two dedicated, full-time staff members are responsible for the day-to-day activities of the homeless outreach program. Homeless Coordinator Natalie Basmacyan and Homeless Liaison Officer Cynthia Carter have each served in their respective roles for more than two years. Every day of the

week, team members are present in the community, proactively interacting with those experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach.

Sgt. Gary Clemente Leads Peninsula Enforcement Team

Sergeant Gary Clemente, a 16-year veteran of the Newport Beach Police Department, began a new assignment as the head of the Peninsula Enforcement Team (PET) in June 2022. Sergeant Clemente supervises the Homeless Liaison Officer and the members of this specialized team. Prior to joining the PET, Sergeant Clemente served as a school resource officer, crisis negotiator, and gang suppression specialist for the department.

Contract Services

City Net

City Net, a social services provider, helps connect individuals experiencing homelessness to services, shelter and housing. City Net provides a report to the City each month that reflects the number outreach contacts City Net staff made during the previous month. This number reflects interactions conducted with the specific purpose of reaching out to unsheltered homeless neighbors in a process of building trust and offering support toward the long-term goal of connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services; and providing urgent, non-facility-based care. This number can be duplicated in any given reporting period.

Month	Outreach Contacts
April 2022	33
May 2022	90
June 2022	54

In May 2022, City Net’s Newport Beach case manager was promoted and reassigned to a different city. Before leaving our community, the outgoing case manager prepared the incoming case managers by introducing them to all the people experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach through multiple contacts to establish rapport. The higher-than-average May outreach contacts reflects this transition to the new team. The April and June outreach contacts were lower than those in May, as the case managers met with specific clients to work on their housing plans and provided services and resources such as obtaining new identifying documents or processing a shelter intake.

Three people enrolled in City Net case management moved into permanent housing during this quarter. Two of the people were sheltered at the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter and one person was sheltered in a vehicle.

Be Well OC

Be Well OC operates a mobile crisis response unit in Newport Beach and provides mental health services to those experiencing homelessness, as well as residents and visitors who may be experiencing a mental health crisis.

Be Well responds to requests for service made through the Police Department's non-emergency line, 949-644-3717, and emergency line, 9-1-1.

In between calls for service, the Be Well team travels the city in a bright blue van, stopping at popular locations to interact with community members and provide information about the services they provide.



During this reporting period, the Be Well team recorded 560 interactions with community members, business owners, and people experiencing homelessness. The team processed 22 shelter intakes and reunified seven people with their loved ones. The team also placed 15 people into crisis stabilization units for treatment and seven into the Be Well sobering station at its Orange campus.

Trellis International

Trellis is a non-profit organization that works with homeless and housing insecure individuals by assisting them in re-entering the workforce and eventually returning to a self-sustaining level of employment. Trellis' Community Impact Team gives current and former homeless individuals an opportunity to participate in work projects on a volunteer basis. The program teaches and reinforces critical job skills. Under a grant from the City, Trellis' Community Impact Team began to perform projects around town in fall 2021. Trellis' Community Impact Team completed 21 projects in Newport Beach from April to June 2022.

Shelters & Housing

Per Federal Judge David O. Carter's direction, Orange County was divided into three Service Planning Areas (SPAs) – north, central and south. Newport Beach is in the Central SPA along with Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Garden Grove, Seal Beach, Fountain Valley, Tustin, Westminster and certain County unincorporated areas. The cities within each SPA work together and with the County of Orange to identify, develop and share homeless response resources within each SPA.

Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter

The cities of Newport Beach and Costa Mesa entered into a partnership that provides Newport Beach with the use of 20 of the 70 beds in Costa Mesa's Temporary Bridge Shelter. Since the shelter opened in spring 2021, Newport Beach has filled, on average, 18 to 20 of these shelter beds. Many nights, all beds are filled.

Bracken's Kitchen began operating the commercial kitchen in the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter in June 2022. Bracken's Kitchen focuses on food rescue, culinary training and community feeding throughout Orange County. This local nonprofit organization was founded in 2013 with the sole intent of using food to improve peoples' lives. The Bracken's Kitchen staff prepares and serves three meals per day to shelter guests. The organization plans to provide vocational training in the culinary arts for shelter guests in the coming months.

Other Shelters

In addition to the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter, as part of the Central SPA, Newport Beach has access to shelter beds at the County's Yale Navigation Center shelter. Since the beginning of the year, the City and its contract service providers have connected 24 individuals to shelter at this location. The Yale Navigation Center ceased intakes indefinitely in June 2022 due to a COVID-19 outbreak among guests and staff.

Additional Shelter Beds

In 2019, the City sought to open a shelter in Newport Beach, but the City was unable to find a cost-effective location. Should another possible location become available, the City will again embark on an extensive community outreach process. In the meantime, the City continues to seek agreements with cities within the Central SPA that would allow Newport Beach access to additional, dedicated beds in other shelters.

Permanent Supportive Housing

The City issued a request for proposals and selected two developers to compete to develop a viable housing project with up to 50 units in Newport Beach. Each firm must identify a site and develop a concept to present to the City Council. As of April 2022, both firms are still working to identify a viable site.

City staff continues to seek opportunities to partner with other cities within the Central SPA on a permanent supportive housing project.

Housing Vouchers

In 2021, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released 70,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers across the country. The County of Orange received 1,035 vouchers and 10 people experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach were awarded a voucher. Each voucher covers 30% of a person's monthly rent. The balance is paid for by funds received by the County through the American Rescue Plan Act.

During this reporting period, seven people were permanently housed utilizing housing vouchers. Several of the people stayed at the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter while others sheltered in their vehicles.

ENFORCEMENT

It is not a crime to be homeless and the government cannot criminalize conduct such as sleeping on the street if there is no alternative shelter. However, if there are shelter options available or people otherwise voluntarily violate the Newport Beach Municipal Code or break the law, the Newport Beach Police Department will issue citations and, if warranted, make arrests. Officers have done so at the Newport Transportation Center and other locations in Newport Beach, including, when appropriate, for camping on public property.

Lt. Pete Carpentieri recently presented at a Speak Up Newport meeting and spoke about the NBPD's outreach and enforcement efforts. You can find the full presentation [here](#).

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How may I assist people experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach?

Thank you for your interest in how to help people experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach. We appreciate your efforts to approach this crisis using a humanistic approach that focuses on giving in a good way. Funds donated to the Good Giving program are used in several ways. The outreach staff purchases household items when people secure housing, provides transportation to reunify people with their loved ones, and supplies new clothing when people enter treatment facilities.

To make a financial donation to the Good Giving program, please [click here](#).

Does the City have an anti-camping ordinance?

Yes, the City does have an anti-camping ordinance that pertains to public spaces and it does enforce it. However, as a result of a federal case called *Martin v. Boise*, cities and counties cannot enforce their anti-camping ordinances if there isn't a shelter option available at that specific time.