

# Homeless Outreach Quarterly Report

July 1-September 30, 2022

## OVERVIEW

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

	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022
Street Homeless	48	53	47

## City Response to Homelessness

The City of Newport Beach's efforts to address and reduce homelessness focuses on outreach and collaboration to connect individuals with appropriate 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, and 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.

The City created the Homeless Services Community Forum series to educate the community about Newport Beach's contract services and local non-profit organizations that assist people experiencing homelessness. The September 2022 program featured City Net. To view the program, please click [here](#).

## OUTREACH

### City Staff

The City's response team includes staff members from the City Manager's Office and the Police, Fire, Park Patrol, Recreation and 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 work closely to ensure people receive the correct services and resources to end their homelessness. Sergeant Gary Clemente, head of the Peninsula Enforcement Team, oversees homeless outreach efforts for the Newport Beach Police Department. Team members are present in the community every day of the week, proactively interacting with those experiencing homelessness.

## Contract Services

### City Net

City Net, a social services provider, helps connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to services, shelter and housing. City Net provides a report to the City each month that reflects the number of outreach contacts its staff made during the previous month. This number reflects interactions conducted with the specific purpose of reaching out to unsheltered homeless neighbors to build trust and offer support. The long-term goal of the outreach contacts is to place people into emergency shelters, housing or critical services; and providing urgent, non-facility-based care.

Month	Outreach Contacts
July 2022	61
August 2022	71
September 2022	73

During this reporting period, City Net staff placed a woman fleeing domestic violence into a transitional living facility. She experienced street-level homelessness for several months before accepting assistance and moving into this safer environment, which includes counseling and permanent housing navigation services. City Net also housed three people at the end of September. One couple experienced homelessness in Newport Beach for several years and they now reside in Riverside. Another person experienced homelessness for five years and now resides in Stanton.

In addition, the Homeless Liaison Officer utilized City Net to relocate a couple back to Riverside County for a job opportunity. The couple needed assistance with proper clothing and toiletry items to prepare for the interview. The team located an affordable motel room for them and provided transportation to the new location.

City Net staff also assisted the Homeless Liaison Officer with reuniting a minor child with developmental disabilities with their housed parent. The unhoused parent had brought the child to Newport Beach and became stranded without means to return to Northern California. In another case, City Net staff conferred with the Homeless Liaison Officer to place a minor child into foster care after their adult companion became homeless in Newport Beach.

In addition, City Net's dedicated mental health professional completed eight disability verification assessments in the field. This assessment ensures people receive the correct benefits and housing options to address their conditions. City Net staff placed one person at the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter and one in the Yale Navigation Center in Santa Ana.

City Net staff also participated in the Newport Beach Police Department's National Night Out event and provided information regarding its services and housing success stories to the community.

## Be Well OC

Be Well OC operates a mobile crisis response unit in Newport Beach. The Be Well OC team provides mental health services to those experiencing homelessness, as well as residents and visitors who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. Be Well OC 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 OC 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 OC team recorded 722 interactions with community members, business owners, and people experiencing homelessness. The team placed four people at the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter and reunified seven people with their loved ones. The team also placed 10 people into crisis stabilization units, six people into the Be Well sobering station at its Orange campus, and one into a psychiatric facility for treatment.

The Be Well OC team participated in the Newport Beach Police Department's National Night Out and Mobile Café events and provided information about Be Well's services. The team also participated in the City's Health Fair, a suicide prevention program co-hosted by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Newport Harbor High School, and a regional meeting of recreation services professionals.

## Trellis International

Trellis is a non-profit organization that works with homeless and housing insecure individuals by assisting them in re-entering the workforce with the goal of returning to a self-sustaining level of employment. Trellis' Community Impact Team gives current and former homeless individuals an opportunity to participate on work projects on a volunteer basis. The program teaches and reinforces critical job skills, such as reliability and cooperation. Under a grant from the City, Trellis' Community Impact Team began to perform projects around town in fall 2021. Trellis's Community Impact Team completed 24 projects in Newport Beach from July to September 2022, including trash removal during peak beach days.

## **Shelters and Housing**

Per Federal Judge David O. Carter's direction, Orange County is 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 with the County of Orange to identify, develop and share homeless response resources.

### ***Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter***

The cities of Newport Beach and Costa Mesa have established 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.

The Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter was placed on a COVID -19 quarantine closure from July 6 to August 29, 2022, per the Orange County Healthcare Agency. During this closure period, no new shelter intakes were permitted. Eighteen people from Newport Beach stayed enrolled at the facility to work on their housing plans and receive services. The two remaining beds were filled the day after the closure order was lifted.

### ***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. City Net and Be Well OC each placed four people at the Yale Navigation Center from July to September 2022. These eight people now receive housing navigation and other services on-site at the shelter.

### ***Permanent Supportive Housing***

The City has selected two qualified 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. Both firms are working to identify a viable site.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

Homelessness is not a crime 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 if 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 illegally camping on public property.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### ***What is Project Homekey?***

Project Homekey, a state of California program that began in 2020, provides grant funding to cities and counties to convert older motels and other properties in need of rehabilitation into permanent supportive housing and transitional housing for people experiencing street-level homelessness. The permanent supportive housing model provides on-site services for residents, such as social services, Veterans' Administration access, or senior care resources.

The County of Orange plans to open two Project Homekey sites in October 2022. HB Oasis in the City of Huntington Beach will provide 62 units of transitional housing and services. North Harbor in the City of Anaheim will provide 87 units of transitional housing and services. Several people experiencing homelessness with Newport Beach ties may be matched to these housing opportunities.