

Homeless Outreach Quarterly Report

October 1-December 31, 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 factors such as weather, housing and shelter availability, unemployment rates and more.

	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Street Homeless	40	43	40

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 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. PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) will present on February 16, 2023, and will provide an overview of its outreach and engagement services in Orange County. The Orange County Office of Care Coordination is scheduled to present on April 18, 2023, and will provide an overview of the County’s collaborations, resources and efforts to end homelessness. Both programs are free to attend for all community members.

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 the Public Works Departments. Each day of the week, team members are present in the community, proactively interacting with those experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach. 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. Lieutenant Joshua Vincelet serves as the Area 1 commander, which includes the Peninsula Enforcement Team.

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 City Net 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 to provide urgent, non-facility-based care.

Month	Outreach Contacts
October 2022	73
November 2022	45
December 2022	67

City Net housed five people this quarter. City Net staff collaborated with social workers from Hoag Hospital to place a disabled older adult into assisted living. He had experienced homelessness for several months in a wheelchair. A mother and son experienced homelessness in Newport Beach for several years and now reside in Irvine. Another person experienced homelessness for two years and now resides in Aliso Viejo and works in Newport Beach. A fifth person moved into his new apartment after experiencing homelessness for two years.

In addition, City Net staff and the Homeless Liaison Officer placed nine people into the new Project Homekey transitional housing in the City of Huntington Beach. HB Oasis provides 67 units of non-congregate transitional housing with on-site housing navigation services.

City Net's dedicated mental health professional completed two disability verification assessments in the field. This assessment ensures people receive the correct benefits and housing options to address their conditions.

City Net staff also placed five people in the Yale Navigation Center in Santa Ana.

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 988 interactions with community members, business owners, and people experiencing homelessness. The team processed four shelter intakes at the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter and two intakes at the Yale Navigation Center. The team also placed eight people into crisis stabilization units and one in a psychiatric facility. Be Well provided transport to 52 service providers, shelter intakes, and other appointments.

The Be Well OC team also participated at the Newport Beach Police Department's Mobile Café event at the Westcliff Plaza to provide resources and information to the community.

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 26 projects in Newport Beach from October to December 2022, including trash removal during peak beach days. To date, Trellis completed 111 projects for Newport Beach since fall 2021.

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 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 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.

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. As previously mentioned on this report, City Net placed five people at the Yale Navigation Center from October to December 2022 and Be Well placed two people at the Yale Navigation Center this quarter. These seven people now receive housing navigation and other services on-site at the shelter.

The County was not able to open its emergency cold weather shelter by the end of the calendar year because it could not find a shelter operator.

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. Both firms are still 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 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 opened two Project Homekey sites in early October 2022. HB Oasis in the City of Huntington Beach provides 62 units of transitional housing and services. North Harbor in the City of Anaheim provides 87 units of transitional housing and services. As previously mentioned in this report, nine people experiencing homelessness with Newport Beach ties were placed at HB Oasis.