

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS










Homelessness is an ongoing challenge in California, on the Central Coast, and in our City. The City is taking proactive steps by dedicating more funding and staff resources than ever before, as well as developing a City-level Strategic Plan that is aligned with a refreshed County-wide Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness. The City strives to create an environment where all community members are empowered to successfully prevent and address concerns related to homelessness, and periods of unsheltered homelessness are brief due to timely outreach and access to a variety of emergency and transitional shelter options available both locally and regionally.



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

The County is the lead social services and mental health agency to address the needs of the area's homeless population. The County receives federal and state funding from various sources to provide a wide range of programs and services including:

-  Case management
-  Emergency assistance
-  Transportation
-  Mental health services
-  Transitional & permanent housing
-  Medical & social services including drug & alcohol counseling
-  Education

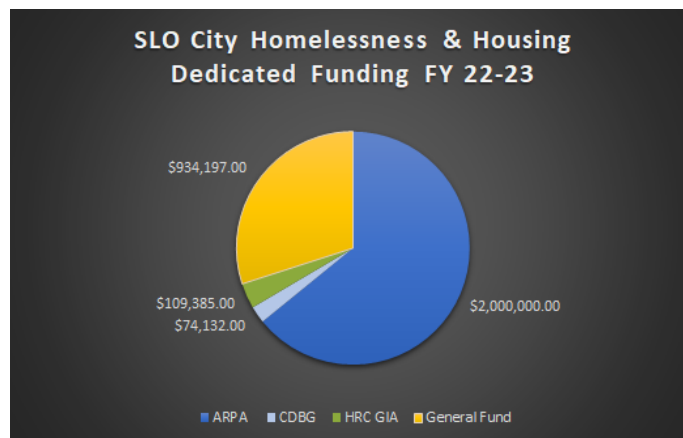
385

Homeless individuals counted in the City*

*2022 Point in Time Report




City's Top Priority: Homelessness Solutions Homelessness response was identified as a Major City Goal (Housing and Homelessness) as part of the Fiscal Year 2021-2023 Financial Plan. With the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic bringing new urgency to the City's goal of addressing homelessness in San Luis Obispo, City Council actions resulted in an enhanced, regional effort in 2021.




KEY COMPONENTS OF CITY-LEVEL STRATEGIC PLAN TO PREVENT & ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS


COMMUNICATION




DATA




PILOT PROGRAMS



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



REGIONAL COLLABORATION



Community Development

The City's Grants-in-Aid program, overseen by the Human Relations Commission, provides financial support to non-profit organizations that promote the economic and social wellbeing of the community including homeless prevention programs, support services, affordable and transitional housing opportunities, hunger and malnutrition prevention, and supportive and development services for children and seniors. The City has allocated **\$109,385** to the GIA program for Fiscal Year 22-23.

Community Action Team

The Community Action Team (CAT) began with the San Luis Obispo Police Department with two officers whose patrol focus was on the Downtown core and contacting homeless individuals. In 2018, social worker John Klevins, MSW, joined CAT through a partnership with Transitions Mental Health (THMA) and the County of SLO. As of FY 21-22, the City finalized a new contract with TMHA to hire a second social worker to expand CAT outreach efforts.

Over the last year, CAT engaged with over **400** people, and of those, **127** were treated for mental health or substance abuse, and **23** were successfully reunified with family. CAT also connects people with resources to find housing and other services such as veterans' benefits, educational opportunities, social security, and more.

Mobile Crisis Unit

Embedded with the City's Fire Department, the Mobile Crisis Unit pairs a mental health case worker with a fire department emergency medical technician (EMT) that respond to calls for service within the City and provide crisis support services to individuals suffering from non-emergency mental health challenges, drug and alcohol addiction, and chronic homelessness. Since the team's official on-boarding on June 10, 2022, they have established **79** contacts with individuals experiencing homelessness.

Partnerships with Downtown SLO and CAPSLO

The City provides funding for the Downtown Ambassador Program and a Social Enterprise Job Training Initiative. This includes the provision of a part-time social worker to assist homeless persons and be a resource for Downtown businesses. It also allows CAPSLO and the Downtown Ambassador to recruit homeless individuals for basic cleaning duties as part of job-readiness training. During Fiscal Year 2021-22, the Downtown Ambassador engaged with individuals experiencing homelessness on **684** occasions.

40 Prado (CAPSLO)

40 Prado received a total of **\$210,826** from the City's General Fund in 2021-22 for ongoing homeless support programs and operational efforts.

40 Prado Homeless Service Center Impact in Fiscal Year 2021-22:

 **839**

people received services

 **76**

children helped

 **47**

people housed

Coordination with SLO County

In December 2020, the City Council approved **\$300,000** to be used in a coordinated effort with the County of San Luis Obispo to address the ongoing impacts on homelessness due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The additional funding allowed the City to hire its first Homelessness Response Manager in April 2021. The Homelessness Response Manager is dedicated to developing a Homelessness Strategic Plan for the City and building upon existing relationships with the County, cities, other regional partners and nonprofits to maximize available and potential services.

What Can You Do to Help?

Giving to panhandlers exacerbates issues with homelessness in our community. You can help people in need by donating or volunteering with local support organizations. If you see something that needs to be reported, call the Police Department at **805-781-7312** or **911** for emergencies.

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