

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS



Homelessness is an ongoing challenge in California, on the Central Coast, and in our City. The City continuously works with the County of San Luis Obispo and various organizations such as Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) and Transitions Mental Health Association (THMA) to provide assistance to unhoused people. Being homeless is not a crime, nor is using a public space.

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



City's Top Priority in 2020-2021: San Luis Obispo's economic stability, recovery, and resiliency. This priority adopted by the City Council as part of the 2020-21 Supplemental Budget, provides the structure and focus for the City of San Luis Obispo to continue to respond to, and recover from, COVID-19's public health, economic, and social impacts to the community. As part of the City's top priority, the City has continued to direct funds to provide additional homeless services.

Police Department

\$747,285

2020-21 budget for staffing for Downtown/Homeless outreach

- 2** CAT (Community Action Team) Officers
- 4** Downtown Bicycle Officers

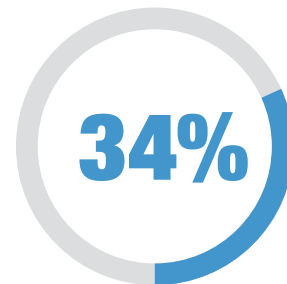
6 people dedicated in the Downtown: 4 bicycle officers, 1 sergeant, 1 non-sworn field technician

29,448 total calls for police service



7,457 calls involved a homeless individual

4,122 calls in the Downtown area for police service



1,432 calls involved a homeless individual

Fire Department

Community Services (Ranger Services, Public Works)

32

Encampment Fires



516

Medical Incidents



135

Illegal Camps



70

Tons of Trash Removed



\$679k

spent annually on staff, clean up and maintenance activities



1

Contract Homeless Response Manager



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 **\$150,000** to the GIA program annually for Fiscal Years 2019–20 and 2020–21.

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. John Klevins works side-by-side with SLOPD Officer Tim Koznek focusing on outreach and preventive engagement with the city's most vulnerable populations.

Over the last year, CAT engaged with over **500** people, and of those, **127** were treated for mental health, substance abuse, or other issues. CAT also connects people with resources to find housing and other services such as veterans' benefits, educational opportunities, social security, and more.

Officer Koznek and John Klevins say their most notable successes are when they are able to reconnect individuals with their families. By helping people to identify the support they need to get on a path to recovery or out of homelessness, they are often able to move back in with family members and mend relationships.

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.

40 Prado (CAPSLO)

40 Prado received a total of **\$157,000** from the City's General Fund in 2020–21 for ongoing homeless support programs and operational efforts.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS

Since opening:



2,044

people received services



159

children helped



34%

from the City of SLO



299

people housed

46

children housed

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

- Full-time County Mental Health Therapist on-site working with individuals with "moderate to severe" mental health issues
- Interns from the Community Counseling Center are on-site working with individuals with "mild-to-moderate" mental health issues

HEALTH CARE

- 2 full-service primary medical care exam rooms open four days per week
- Recuperative Care helps medically fragile people coming out of the hospitals who would otherwise be on the street. A dedicated nurse and case manager are assigned to this project.

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 will allow the City to hire a full-time employee 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 services available.

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.

[slocity.org](https://www.slocity.org)