



Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign Progress Update

Issue #7

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66%

Campaign reaches another significant milestone!

Dear Campaign Supporters and Partners:

We are thrilled to report the continued progress of the Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign toward its initial goal of ending homelessness for 125 people; as of now, 82 people - fully 66% of that goal - are now off the streets and actively working with services providers on a path toward permanent supportive housing. See the Tracking Our Progress section below for more detailed information!

We would also like to congratulate the San Diego Regional Continuum of Care Council for being awarded funding for all three of its new projects applications under the 2010 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care grant competition. See the Staying Informed section below for additional information on these important projects.

In this edition, you will also find stories regarding the approval of Winter Shelter locations for next season, the first hearing of the California Assembly's Select Committee on Homelessness, the uncertain fate of the Neil Good Day Center, the release of national 2010 Point-In-Time Count data, and other stories.

Stay tuned for updates and news of the Campaign's progress in future editions of this newsletter!

Sincerely,

Follow Our Progress on Facebook!



About Us

The Downtown San Diego Ending Homelessness Leadership Team is comprised of:

- Downtown Business Leaders
- Elected Government Representatives
- The County of San Diego
- City of San Diego
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- The San Diego Police Department
- 10-Year Plan Leaders
- Hospitals and Health Clinics
- Medical Services Providers
- Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Experts
- Homelessness Experts
- Veterans Advocates



Join our Mailing List



Robin Madaffer, Co-Chair
Ending Homelessness
Campaign Leadership Team



Jennifer LeSar
Ending Homelessness
Campaign Coordinator

Tracking Our Progress

Moving Forward and Moving People "Home": All of the partners involved in the Campaign's efforts to provide housing and services solutions for at least 125 of our most vulnerable community members continue to make remarkable progress! As of mid-April:

- 82 people - 66% of the initial goal of 125 people - were off the streets and working with staff from the VA, Community Research Foundation, or Mental Health Systems to end their homelessness forever.
- 24 people - including 18 veterans - were all the way "home" - living in permanent supportive housing and continuing to work with their services providers to address their challenges, achieve stability, and make progress on their goals.

How significant is this progress? Consider these facts:

- More than 11% of all the people surveyed during Registry Week are now off the streets and receiving critical services.
- More than 21% of the survey participants who were assessed as vulnerable - at a higher risk of dying if they remained homeless - are now receiving the care they need.
- More than 32% of the women who were assessed as vulnerable are now living in safe, supportive environments.

What do all these numbers really mean? They mean that change is possible - both for the people in need of help to end their homelessness and for the systems that seek to help them.

For an overview of the Campaign, and more information regarding the progress to date, please see our [Overview and Progress Report](#).

Lessons from the Field: During last month's Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign Leadership Team meeting, representatives from the Community Research Foundation, Mental Health Systems, and the VA San Diego Healthcare System discussed the progress and challenges they've experienced while engaging and working with homeless individuals identified during Registry Week. Topics included successful community networking strategies to streamline the process from initial outreach; the challenges of building trust and rapport with clients; the impact of mental health issues, substance abuse, and trauma on the clients' skills at navigating complex systems; the barriers in accessing benefits; and the on-going challenges to housing stability that clients face due to mental health and addiction issues. The panelists also provided feedback on ways in which the homeless services system in San Diego could be strengthened, and shared several client stories and successes that illustrated these challenges - but also demonstrated that progress is possible, and how their clients' lives are transformed by the opportunity to end their homelessness.

Staying Informed

HUD Awards Over \$1.5 Million in Continuum of Care Funding for New Projects in San Diego: Three new homeless permanent supportive housing projects in the San Diego region were recently awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2010 Continuum of Care (CoC) grants process, federal funding to address the problems of homelessness in a comprehensive manner. This past year, HUD awarded more than \$1.4 billion in 2010 Continuum of Care grants nationally for transitional and permanent housing and supportive services programs. One of the three new local projects, located in the City of San Diego, is the Maternity Shelter Program for Homeless Youth, a permanent supportive housing project with 11 beds for pregnant and parenting transition-aged young women which is sponsored by HomeStart and was awarded \$713,464. The other two projects, both located in San Diego County, are: the El Norte Permanent Supportive Housing Development Project for disabled veterans, a Community HousingWorks project, which was awarded \$581,744 for the acquisition and operations of 5 units; and the New Solutions 2 Expansion, a 3-unit permanent supportive housing project receiving \$222,240, with up to 10 beds for families with a disabled head of household and sponsored by the North County Solutions for Change. These newly awarded local projects bring the regional total in CoC Homeless funding from the 2010 HUD Competition to \$15,618,830.

For additional information on the Continuum of Care Program, read the HUD Press Release, [HUD Secretary Donovan Announces \\$216 Million in Homeless Grants](#).

City Council Approves Shelter Locations for Next Winter: On May 9, the San Diego City Council approved plans and locations for next season's Emergency Winter Shelter and Veterans Winter Shelter by a 6-1 vote. The Winter Shelter will be operated by Alpha Project from late November 2011 to late March 2012, will be located in an open lot in Barrio Logan at Newton Avenue and 16th street. The Veterans Winter Shelter, which has been run by the Veterans Village of San Diego for the past 14 years, will be located again in Loma Portal off of Pacific Highway.

For more details, read the May 11th San Diego Union-Tribune Story, [S.D. Council Makes Early Decision On Shelter](#).

HPRP Program Helps Move People into Permanent Housing: In our last issue, we reported on the great job the San Diego Housing Commission had done in linking people from the Winter Shelter to their Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) Program. Learn more and read about the impact on one couple's lives in this San Diego Union-Tribune story, [A City Shelter Closes. Another Door Opens](#).

Select Committee on Homelessness Holds First Hearing: On April 28, 2011, the California Assembly's Select Committee on Homelessness, chaired by Assemblymember Toni Atkins (76th District), held its first of a series of hearings around the state dubbed "The Road Home". San Diego is also represented on the Select Committee by Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher (75th District). The first meeting focused on informing Committee members, the public and statewide policymakers about the Select Committee's long term goals, federal and state plans, and best practices. The Committee's goals include: reviewing all programs addressing homelessness to eliminate redundancies and streamline service delivery; eliminating silos and barriers between agencies and branches of government to make service delivery more effective; incorporating national best practices from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Veterans Administration, and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness; and advancing California's strategies to end homelessness in our communities. Its next hearing is currently planned for July 20th in San Diego, and will focus on strategies for ending homelessness among veterans and other people experiencing

chronic homelessness. For more information about the Select Committee, please contact Lindsey Masukawa in Assemblymember Atkins' office at Lindsey.Masukawa@asm.ca.gov or view the hearing materials from last month's meeting at [The Road Home](#).

HUD Point-In-Time Count Data Released: On April 22, 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the 2010 National Point-In-Time Count (PITC) data documenting the number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons counted in communities across the country in January 2010. The PITC helps provide agencies across the country with important information to help end homelessness, and also enables communities, including San Diego, to leverage millions of dollars in federal funding. Initial review of the national data indicates that the number of people experiencing homelessness in 2010 was largely unchanged from 2009, including in California, where an estimated 132,931 sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons were counted in 2010, compared to 133,129 counted in 2009. The 2010 PITC data will be further analyzed to gauge the impact of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP).

To view the national Point-In-Time Count Data, please see HUD's [Full Summary Report](#).

To view the California Point-In-Time data counts from previous years, please visit HUD's [Homelessness Reports Search](#).

Fate of Neil Good Day Center Remains Uncertain:
Unfortunately, no solution has yet been identified to provide funding that would prevent the closure of the Neil Good Day Center on July 1, 2011. In the past, the Day Center has received awards of Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, but it has not received such an award this year. The Day Center, operated by Alpha Project, has been a crucial partner for the VA, MHS, and CRF as they have sought to locate and engage people surveyed during Registry Week and help them access services and housing. The San Diego Housing Commission is working on a transition plan in case funding is not identified and the Day Center is forced to close. The Housing Commission is also exploring if it is possible for any of the Day Center's services to be provided at other locations.

Staying Connected and Getting Involved

VVSD Planning Annual Stand Down for mid-July: Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) is continuing to plan for its annual Stand Down event, a three-day program designed to help homeless veterans "combat life on the streets". First organized by VVSD in 1988, Stand Down has since been replicated in more than 200 cities nationwide, and provides a range of services to participants, including meals, clothing, showers, medical and dental services, counseling, 12-step meetings, employment counseling, homeless court, and recovery services. Last year, 947 total participants attended, the most ever. To learn more about 2010's Stand Down, see <http://www.vvsd.net/sdstats.htm>. To find ways that you can help support this year's event, visit www.vvsd.net/standdown.htm.

Help Support Homelessness Efforts in San Diego: Check out Volunteer San Diego at www.volunteersandiego.org and search with keyword "homelessness" to find additional volunteer opportunities to support efforts to end homelessness in San Diego.

If you have any questions regarding any of the information in this Campaign Progress Report, please contact Matthew Doherty, Principal,

