Homelessness in Our Community
A meeting with Service Providers

Methodology

The challenges of homelessness are complex and socially impact a community. In an effort to address our homeless challenges, the City is in the process of creating a comprehensive, action-oriented Homelessness Plan that addresses the ongoing systemic social issues of homelessness. The process involved the City holding the first of a several community meetings with homeless service providers, public/private entities, and community partners. The meeting was held on May 31, 2017. City of Burbank gave a short presentation on the landscape of homelessness in Burbank and the development of a Burbank Homelessness Plan. All attendees were asked to provide feedback and comments on the core issues, common barriers to addressing homelessness, and possible solutions and strategies.

Brainstormed Ideas and Activities

Public Health and Healthcare Awareness
- Mental Health counseling and services.
- Providing services for behavioral/substance abuse/addiction.
- Affordable Health Care assistance.
- Utilize health and safety ordinances to address community concerns such as encampments and abandonment of personal property.
- Hospital Liaison aimed at helping those who were identified as homeless in locating housing before discharge.

Case Management and Outreach
- Supportive services such as transportation assistance to clients for job & housing search.
- Provide Housing Navigation Services to locate affordable housing, help with completing apartment applications, and retaining housing.
- Expand street outreach to include a robust communication system between service agencies, law enforcement, libraries, etc.
- Support community engagement events (such as a Homeless Connect Day).
- Expand outreach and supportive services to homeless families and youth in the Burbank Unified School District, colleges, and trade schools (Supportive services may include referrals to health care, food pantries, counseling).
- One-Stop Hubs or Access Centers for homeless families and individuals.
- Developing a regional resource guide (i.e.: Hopemill Resource Guide) beyond 2-1-1.
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Creating Affordable Housing
- Community support to develop more housing for special need populations.
- Create incentives for owners/landlords to rent to homeless persons.
- Marketing of success stories.
- Circulating success stories on the City website, billboards, and apartment magazines.
- Maintain an Incidental Damage & Repair Fund for housing retention of households due to tenant damages to a unit.
- Utilize a scattered site model for housing of the homeless.

Homeless Prevention
- Serving special populations that are at-risk of homeless (senior, large families, circumstantial homeless, etc) by providing temporary rental assistance.
- Provide one-time relocation benefits to persons who wish to return to a support network (family, relatives, organization) in-state or out-of-state.

Land Use and Zoning
- Explore the development of Bridge Housing, Shelters, and Single Room Occupancy’s.
- Congregate housing (Example off-site housing project University of Southern California Study)
- Analyze zoning hindrances to getting people housed.
- Is their value to creating more transitional housing vs. permanent housing units?

Increase Income
- Providing homeless jobs, training (vocational skills) to increase their earnings.
- Providing counseling and advocacy on related criminal offenses.

Other Actions to Consider
- Utilize marketing and concise message to gain community support (private and public sector).
- What does a nonprofit need from a City?
- What will be the role of the City in implementing the Homeless Strategies?
- Consider sub-regional planning with the City of Glendale to combat homelessness?