

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS INITIATIVE

Discernment Guide -

Preparing for Collaboration: A Guide for Faith Congregations/Organizations

On February 9, 2016, the County Board of Supervisors approved a comprehensive plan to prevent and combat homelessness which included 47 strategies. With the approval of Measure H, four additional strategies to combat homelessness were added. These strategies were developed after the County's Homeless Initiative conducted 18 policy summits that brought together frontline stakeholders from 30 cities, 25 Los Angeles County Departments, and more than 100 community organizations. Within the 51 strategies, there are 11 strategies in which Faith Congregations/Organization could integrate their work to enhance services available to our homeless neighbors and families/individuals at risk of homelessness.

This document is intended to assist your Faith Congregation/Organization to discern your congregation/organization's readiness, ability and desire to integrate and serve, in coordination with the Homeless Initiative strategies. Items for consideration include: assessing resources currently available to address the problem, and determining how your Faith Congregation/Organization could collaborate with the County/Homeless Service Delivery partners on the identified strategies.

GENERAL HOMELESS ASSESSMENT

What are the most significant issues around homelessness that impact your congregation/organization?

What programs or services does your faith congregation/organization currently have available to serve the homeless?

Does your Faith Congregation/Organization have a protocol for interacting with community members who are homeless?

Aside from programs/services provided by your faith community, to which homeless services do you connect families and individuals experiencing homelessness? Do you use 211?

Are you familiar with the County's Coordinated Entry System (CES) for Families, Single Adults and Youth that serves your region? If so, are you able to link families and individuals you encounter to your local CES lead agencies?

With which community or county service agencies would it be most beneficial for your congregation/organization to collaborate around homelessness?

How much does your Faith Community/Organization currently spend in serving homeless residents?

COUNTY STRATEGIES TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS WHERE FAITH COMMUNITIES/ORGANIZATIONS HAVE A KEY OPPORTUNITY TO INTEGRATE WITH COUNTY/ HOMELESS SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNERS

ENHANCING CONNECTION AND PROVIDING SERVICES

The faith community can play an integral role in strategies that focus on enhancing connection and providing services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness. Strategies with the greatest opportunity for integration and partnership on these areas include:

- Strategy A1: Homeless Prevention for Families**
- Strategy A5: Homeless Prevention for Individuals**
- Strategy C2: Increasing Employment Opportunities by Supporting Social Enterprise**
- Strategy C7: Subsidized Employment Program for Adults**
- Strategy E7: Enhancing the Coordinated Entry System**

Homeless Prevention for Families and Individuals (A1/A5)/Enhancing the Coordinated Entry System (E7)

How does your Faith Congregation/Organization identify families, single adults and youth who are at risk of homelessness?

What are ways in which your Faith Congregation/Organization could partner with the County to reduce the number of families, single adults and youth who become homeless?

What opportunities exist within your Faith Congregation/Organization to connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to the County's Coordinated Entry System (CES) for Families, Single Adults and Youth that serves your region?

What resources does your Faith Congregation/Organization have or that could be redirected for homeless prevention services for families, single adults and youth?

How frequently does your Faith Congregation/Organization encounter disabled homeless neighbors?

How can your Faith Congregation/Organization provide support to each of the below populations who experience homelessness?

- Disabled homeless individuals pursuing SSI
- Young people, ages 18-24

- Families which include at least one child under age 18
- Single Adults
- Veterans
- Single Adults who have been homeless for at least one year

Increase Employment for Homeless Adults through Supporting Social Enterprise (C2) / Subsidized Employment for Individuals (C7)

Social Enterprises are profit or non-profit organizations whose primary purpose is “the common good and advancing their social, environmental and human justice agendas.” Many Social Enterprises provide a supportive work environment for those with significant barriers to employment. Social Enterprises provide those with barriers to employment, including individuals experiencing homelessness, those reentering the community from incarceration, Veterans, disconnected youth, and those with disabilities, subsidized transitional employment combined with case management, supportive services and job readiness skills to prepare the hard-to-serve individual for unsubsidized, permanent employment.

How could your Faith Congregation/Organization work with the local Chamber of Commerce and business owners to increase employment opportunities for homeless/recently homeless neighbors by partnering with social enterprise?

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What support could your Faith Congregation/Organization provide to an individual who was recently employed (i.e., transportation assistance, appropriate clothing, etc.)?

Additional recommendations or suggestions from Faith Congregations/Organizations

What are other possible opportunities for your Faith Congregation/Organization to partner with the county or its homeless service providers to serve families and individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness?

INCREASING SHELTER AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The faith community can play an integral role in strategies that focus on increasing shelter and housing opportunities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Strategies with the greatest opportunity for integration and partnership in these areas include:

Strategy B1: Provide Subsidized Housing to Homeless Disabled Individuals Pursuing Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Strategy B3: Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Rehousing
Strategy B4: Facilitate Utilization of Federal Housing Subsidies
Strategy E8: Enhance the Emergency Shelter System
Strategy E14: Enhanced Services for Transition Age Youth
Strategy F7: Preserve Current Affordable Housing and Promote the Development of Affordable Housing for Homeless Families and Individuals

Provide Subsidized Housing for Homeless Disabled Individuals Pursuing SSI (B1) / Expanding Rapid Rehousing (B3) / Facilitate Utilization of Federal Housing Subsidies (B4) / Enhanced Services for Transition Age Youth (E14) / Preserve Current Affordable Housing and Promote the Development of Affordable Housing for Homeless Families and Individuals (F7)

What could your Faith Congregation/Organization do to encourage landlords to provide housing opportunities to homeless individuals and families?

How does your Faith Congregation/Organization currently support families and individuals who have been recently housed in your community?

What resources does your Faith Congregation/Organization currently have or could redirect to provide support for individuals and families who have become housed?

What are the housing opportunities (e.g. shared housing opportunities, congregation-owned property) available within your Faith Congregation/Organization that could be appropriate for each of the below populations experiencing homelessness?

- Disabled homeless individuals pursuing SSI
- Young people, ages 18-24
- Families with at least one child under age 18
- Single Adults
- Veterans
- Single Adults who have been homeless for at least one year

How could your Faith Congregation/Organization assist in identifying properties and housing opportunities that LAHSA and/or LA County departments and/or nonprofits can use for permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing? These housing opportunities could be single family homes, multi-family housing, non-residential buildings that could be converted, or vacant land where housing could be built.

Enhancing the Emergency Shelter System (E8)

Does your Faith Congregation/Organization provide shelter for individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness?

Does your Faith Congregation/Organization provide safe parking for persons experiencing homelessness and living in their cars/recreational vehicles? If not, would your congregation/organization be interested in doing so?

Does your Faith Congregation/Organization have access to under-utilized property or property that could be converted for ongoing use as short-term emergency housing or bridge housing?

What are ways your Faith Congregation/Organization could partner with the County to enhance the Emergency Shelter System?

Enhanced Services for Transition Age Youth (E14)

What are ways your Faith Congregation/Organization could encourage members to become host homes for young people?

Does your Faith Congregation/Organization have any space that could be used as a Transition Age Youth drop-in center?

Preserve Current Affordable Housing and Promote the Development of Affordable Housing for Homeless Families and Individuals (F7)

What can your Faith Congregation/Organization do to provide education to the community to support siting of affordable housing?

How can your Faith Congregation/Organization be mobilized to advocate for the development of affordable housing for homeless families and individuals?

IDENTIFICATION OF STRATEGIES WHERE YOUR FAITH CONGREGATION/ORGANIZATION IS INTERESTED IN POTENTIAL COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNTY AND/OR COMMUNITY HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

FAITH CONGREGATION _____
SERVICE PLANNING AREA YOU ARE IN: _____

Contact Information:

Name:

Title:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Our faith congregation/organization is interested in partnership opportunities around strategies focused on enhancing connection and providing services.

- Strategy A1: Homeless Prevention for Families
- Strategy A5: Homeless Prevention for Individuals
- Strategy C2: Increasing Employment Opportunities by Supporting Social Enterprise
- Strategy C7: Subsidized Employment Program for Adults
- Strategy E7: Enhancing the Coordinated Entry System
- Other: (Please provide details on separate sheet) _____

We are interested in serving the following populations who experience homelessness (check all that apply)

- Single Adults
- Families with at least one child under age 18
- Young People, ages 18-24
- Veterans
- Disabled homeless individuals
- Single Adults who have been homeless at least one year

Our faith congregation/organization is interested in partnership opportunities around strategies focused on increasing shelter and housing opportunities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

- Strategy B1: Provide Subsidized Housing to Homeless Disabled Individuals Pursuing Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Strategy B3: Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Rehousing
- Strategy B4: Facilitate Utilization of Federal Housing Subsidies
- Strategy E8: Enhance the Emergency Shelter System
- Strategy E14: Enhanced Services for Transition Age Youth
- Strategy F7: Preserve Current Affordable Housing and Promote the Development of Affordable Housing for Homeless Families and Individuals
- Other: (Please provide details on separate sheet) _____

We are interested in providing shelter/housing the following populations who experience homelessness (check all that apply)

- Single Adults
- Families with at least one child under age 18
- Young People, ages 18-24
- Veterans
- Disabled homeless individuals
- Single Adults who have been homeless at least one year

Please complete and return this document to:

**Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative
493 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**

**500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Email: HomelessInitiative@lacounty.gov

Upon receipt, a representative of the County will be in touch with the designated contact person/s.