

Recommendations of the Ventura Social Services Task Force on the revised County of Ventura 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, the Ventura Social Services Task Force voted to ask the Ventura City Council and its Committee on Homelessness to endorse the revision to the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness and to give priority to the recommendations therein as follows:

Recommendation #9 (48 votes): Permanent Very Low Income Housing: Develop 300 additional units of permanent affordable housing for extremely low and very low-income families and individuals during the next five (5) years of implementation of plan.

Recommendation #7 (31 votes): Shelters: Create small local short-term year-round shelters which are intended to be short-term harbors while permanent housing solutions are sought.

Recommendation #1 (25 votes): Housing First Model: Adopt and implement a Housing First Model when access to permanent supportive housing (i.e., Supportive Housing Program, Shelter+Care, HUD BASH Voucher, Section 8 Voucher) or permanent affordable housing is readily available and the appropriate level of services and supervision can be provided for episodic homeless households who are housing-ready as well as for chronic homeless households that may not be traditionally viewed as "housing-ready."

Recommendation #12 (18 votes): Homeless Prevention Resources and Services.

- Increase homeless prevention resources and services that will help more households remain in their housing by alleviating the problems that place them at risk of becoming homeless and that such assistance is more effective and efficiently delivered to households within the stability of their own housing;
- Increase financial resources for rental and utility assistance to households that are most likely to become homeless if not for this assistance.

Recommendation #18 (14 votes): Business Community Involvement:

- Increase the number of business organizations and individual business leaders that actively become involved in the implementation of the recommendations of the 10-Year Plan.
- Identify employment opportunities for homeless and formerly homeless persons who have successfully obtained housing;
- Provide on-the-job-training (OJT) and entry level job opportunities;
- Create partnerships between homeless prevention service providers and business community to ensure that the community's workforce is aware of homelessness prevention resources and services; and
- Support local homeless service providers and the homeless persons that they serve through the donation of funds or the provision of in-kind services.

Recommendation #4 (13 votes): Permanent Supportive Housing Beds: Develop at least 100 more permanent supportive housing beds during the next five (5) years of the implementation of the plan to serve the chronically homeless population. These beds will serve homeless individuals and families with mental disabilities, chronic substance abuse, and/or infected with HIV/AIDS with long-term affordable rental housing and a broad range of on-site and/or off-site supportive services.

Summary of Discussion:

It was pointed out multiple times during the meeting that the solution to homelessness is housing and that the City can have great impact on the availability of housing for extremely low-income and low-income families through its policies, procedures, and distribution of resources. The City can also adopt programs and procedures that encourage the business community to become more fully involved in ending homelessness within the City.

Respectfully submitted,

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