

Filling the Gap Needs II Gathering 3/30/23 Summary

Submitted by the Faith Subcommittee of VSSTF

These were suggested and discussed about each gap need:

-Expanding the Foul Weather Shelter Program: Arrange a meeting with advocates of the unhoused and council members from neighboring cities to coordinate efforts and share ideas to meet the need for the three to four months of winter weather. Use county buildings, fairground barnyard area, and renting empty storefronts and restaurants that could be used seasonally. Provide transportation to and from shelters when needed. Doubling the number of motel rooms available. Increase the number of participating faith communities, organizations, and businesses for shelter needs and meal supports.

-Expanding the Safe Sleep Program: Lower the barriers on the two sites available (UUCV and Salvation Army), which require a Ventura License, registration, and insurance.

-Provide more Bathroom access: Since Portland Loos, presently at Kellogg Park and West Park on Ventura's west side are so expensive (\$500,000), possibly several downtown restaurants and businesses might pool their resources to purchase. Our city is now deciding the location of one Loo purchased recently.

Strategically placed porta potties, which rent for \$100-150 a month or approximately \$700 to purchase, might be an alternative.

A flagging system identifying if bathrooms are open or being serviced, which could be seen at a distance might prevent unnecessary trips or congregations around closed bathrooms.

Remind local restaurants and businesses of the need to keep bathrooms available to the public.

Using the same model as beach cleanup day, groups of volunteers could help maintain and clean restrooms.

Tap into high school or college/technical school students regarding "design challenge" for well-ventilated bathroom unit, possibly made with a 3-D printer.

-Storage Units for personal papers and belongings: Research how the city of San Diego currently maintains three storage centers with 1100 bins and 304 lockers, serving 1400 individuals. Their homeless individuals safely store their belongings while accessing supportive services, attend school, or go to work. The city offers storage bins, restrooms, 24-hour security, housing navigation, job training, mental health

treatment and substance use treatment. The first two locations listed are run by TURN Behavioral Health Services Systems.

Logan Heights Storage Connect Center, 116 S. 20th Street, San Diego, CA 92101
619-894-8894

Open M-F 7am-7pm, Sat./Sun. 8am-11am

Lea Street Storage Connect Center, 5483 Lea Street, San Diego, CA 92105 619-800-7972

Open M-F 8am-5pm, Sat./Sun. 8am-11am

Think Dignity Transitional Storage Center, 252 16th Street, San Diego, CA 92101 619-537-8736

Open M-F 7am-11am and 4:30-7:30pm, Sat. 8am-12pm

Participants are required to be homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and be willing to self-certify as homeless as part of the enrollment process. They must be 18 years old or older, reside in the city of San Diego, sign a terms of service agreement, acknowledge the rules and regulations, and check-in at least once a week.

Things that cannot be stored are food or beverages, perishables; alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia, medication, weapons; hazardous, combustible, or chemical material, animals or living things, items showing signs of infestation, any illegal items, shopping carts, bicycles, carts or other wheeled devices, except privately owned shopping carts that fit.

-Dump Stations: When flushing a toilet in a trailer, camper, or van, there are tanks to store the waste material. Generally, there are two tanks: toilet effluent (black water) and dishwashing and sometimes shower drainage (gray water). They are usually drained at least once a week, for a unit with one full time occupant.

Access to Ventura dump stations is restricted and expensive for folks on limited resources. Those who camp without hookups to electrical water and sewer services also require dump stations. Some RV residents are using the storm drains and also local fields to dump. This is both an environmental and homeless services issue.

Bill's RV Service in Ventura (Montalvo) is open from 9-11 am on weekdays for dumping. It costs \$15 to use the facility for non-potable water. Ventura Beach RV Resort is open year round for registered guests only to dump potable and non-potable water. These are Ventura's only two dump stations available.

We need a permanent station, which would cost \$500,000. Interim solutions are necessary, including a portable vacuum truck stationed at a particular site, a portable vacuum truck that moves to different sites), a voucher system managed by One Stop or Community Action. We also need grant writing by engaged advocacy groups, RV groups, environmental groups and businesses, and advocacy at the County Board of Supervisors for these stations.

Supervisor Matt La Vere may support a pilot program where a pump truck is stationed at the same location(s) during a test period.

-Laundry Love: This support provides regular opportunities to accompany people who are struggling financially and assists them in laundering their clothes. Currently at 110 N. Olive (behind Vons) 805-642-3262. It is available the 2nd Sat. 9-11am of every month and is managed by **Two Trees Church** volunteers. The cost is \$700 for quarters and supplies for two hours once a month. 6 volunteers are needed. More info: <https://laundrylove.org> and Laundry Love Ventura County (Facebook)

Other possible sites:

Launderland, 5722 Telephone Road (near Vons across from Wells Fargo),

Peter Timpson 805-402-9812

Coin Wash, 9308 Telephone Road (at Petit)

Marina Village Wash/Dry, 2413 E. Harbor Blvd

Thompson Square Wash/Dry, 2611 Thompson Blvd, 805-628-9181