

“Recalibrating for Results: A Five Year Evaluation and Update of the 2007–2017 County of Ventura 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness” dated January 2013, states on pages 3-5:

The five “new” Guiding Principles include:

1. Shifting away from providing more and more shelter and transitional housing for chronically homeless persons and moving towards providing permanent housing as quickly as possible along with services needed while in their housing—this principle has served as the basis to the best practice model known as Housing First;
2. Minimizing the length of stay in shelters and transitional housing programs and aligning resources to help households obtain permanent housing as quickly as possible along with home-based case management as needed—this principle serves as the base of the best practice known as Rapid Re-housing;
3. Moving away from street “outreach,” which has traditionally focused on building relationships with homeless persons over time in order to refer and/or transport them to social services, to focusing on rapid engagement, support, and housing placement in order to implement the Housing First model—this principle combines the best practices known as Assertive Community Treatment and the National Street to Home Campaign;
4. Ensuring that rental and utility assistance is given to households that are most likely to become homeless if not for this assistance—best practices concerning homeless prevention have shown that helping households with rent and utility assistance who are behind in paying their bills but not likely to become homeless, increases the likelihood that there will not be enough financial resources to help households truly at risk of falling into homelessness;
5. Implement a service plan that helps persons placed in case managed transitional “re-entry beds” obtain permanent housing.

The “original” six Guiding Principles include:

6. Providing Permanent Supportive Housing which “ends” a person’s homeless experience instead of continuously “managing” their homeless experience with emergency food, clothing, and shelter— this principle supports the best practice of Permanent Supportive Housing, which provides subsidized rental housing with home-based supportive services as needed instead of street- or shelter-based supportive services that are meant to “ready” a homeless person for permanent housing;
7. Creating permanent affordable housing units for extremely-low and very-low income households that enables them to spend no more than 30% of their monthly income on their basic housing needs which includes rent/mortgage and utilities—HUD states that if a household is paying more than 30 percent of its gross monthly income for rent and utilities combined, that there is a chance that household is overburdened and may run into difficulties paying for other necessities;
8. Providing homeless prevention resources such as rental and utility assistance in order to help at risk of becoming homeless households maintain their current housing, which is less costly and more effective than helping households obtain housing after they become homeless;
9. Preventing persons from being discharged from public and private systems of care (e.g., hospitals, jails/prisons, foster care) into homelessness, shelter, or transitional housing programs by implementing discharge protocols and procedures which includes a housing destination, which is less costly and more effective than helping individuals obtain services and housing after they become homeless again;
10. Gathering data in order to identify and monitor benchmarks and outcomes in order to focus funding and identify gaps in services;
11. Building upon a public and private partnership to end homelessness that includes business, corporate, and faith-based contributions and engagement.

These guiding principles were used by the Steering Committee to significantly shape the recommendations [in the Recalibrated Plan].