

A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES: COSTA MESA'S APPROACH TO HOMELESSNESS

Identify Our Homeless

Provide Outreach

Collaborate with Partners

Find and Create Housing

Help with Reconnections

A Little History

- In January 2011, Costa Mesa City Council established the Homeless Task Force.
 - The goal “establish realistic strategies and make recommendations that address the needs of the Costa Mesa community, residents, businesses and the homeless.”
 - Adopted a nine-point plan.
 - We continue to have the approach that we will always do more than our fair share
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The Network For Homeless Solutions

- In 2013, the Network for Homeless Solutions was formed, a partnership between city outreach workers, law and code enforcement, all city departments, nonprofit providers and several faith-based organizations.
- We empowered this group and agreed as equal partners to help Costa Mesa residents only.



We Can't Do It Alone

- We work with over 50 social service providers, private and public sector agencies in assisting those experiencing homelessness in Costa Mesa.
- Partner with the Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene, which serves as a homeless service center and periodic shelter for extremely vulnerable individuals.
- Partner with Trellis and The Crossing Church to provide a check-in center with 63 bins that hold property.
- We rely daily on multiple volunteers who assist the homeless.

PARTNERSHIPS

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Created and maintained working relationships with the County of Orange, Department of Social Services, Social Security and Department of Motor Vehicles.



LASTING PARTNERSHIPS

Network for Homeless Solutions have created lasting relationships with local non-profits including Mercy House, Collette's Children's Home and Families Forward.



It's Hard Work

- The City Council supports \$1 million annually.
- We hold weekly meetings with the Network for Homeless Solutions.
- The equivalent of four and a half city outreach staffers work daily with homeless individuals.
- Make fast decisions and support for those in the trenches.



A Daily Undertaking

- Outreach makes contact with 60 to 80 people each week (more than 3,000 a year) and assists park rangers, police officers and residents who encountered homeless seeking assistance in 2017.

COLLABORTIVE ACTIONS

HOUSING PROVIDERS

In 2017 there were 580 reported collaborative actions with local non-profit housing providers. This allowed NHS staff to provide housing support to recently housed clients.



We Help Our Residents

- We monitor our parks and streets with foot patrols and bike patrols.
- Dedicate three Community Policing officers to homeless issues.
- Work to keep sidewalks clear and remove unclaimed property.



Supporting The Business Community

- The city and the Chamber of Commerce provide guidance workshops on how to deal with homeless issues.
- Code enforcement works with business owners to keep homeless off properties.
- Law enforcement provides guidance to business owners on best practices (Late program).



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF BEING HOMELESS?

The City of Costa Mesa's Network for Homeless Solutions can help.

The City employs several outreach workers and has numerous partnerships with governmental and nonprofit agencies as well as faith based organizations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Submit a question or request to: costamesanhsc@costamesaca.gov
- Contact the NHS hotline at (714) 754-5346
- Intake hours at the Lighthouse Church
1885 Anaheim, Costa Mesa
Monday 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Wednesday 1-3 p.m.



CITY EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ISSUES

Ongoing dialogue with the County of Orange and State officials.

Partner with Chamber of Commerce to address business concerns.

Creation of a community service unit within the Costa Mesa Police Department to focus on pro-business quality of life strategies.



For more information on addressing homelessness in Costa Mesa, visit www.costamesaca.gov/homeless



YOU HAVE RIGHTS!



CITY OF COSTA MESA

BUSINESS OWNER REFERENCE GUIDE



The Results Are In!

HOUSING

In 2017, Network for Homeless Solutions housed 101 clients.



TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS HOUSED

To date, Network for Homeless Solutions staff have housed a total of 270 clients.



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Through the Coordinated Entry program, 80 clients have been placed in permanent supportive housing.



By The Numbers

EMERGENCY HOUSING

- 41 emergency housing placements in 2017

RECONNECTIONS

- 41 reconnected in 2017
- 112 reconnected to date

MEDICAL LINKAGES

- 245 in 2017 and 772 since 2012

SOCIAL SERVICE LINKAGES

- 191 in 2017
 - 386 to date
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Working with OC Health Care

MENTAL HEALTH LINKAGES

- 235 in 2017

OC HEALTH CARE AGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTACTS 2017

- 752 total contacts



Fewer Homeless On Our Streets

- The results of the Point in Time survey of homeless by the nonprofit service organization 211oc in 2017 indicated Costa Mesa's homeless population decreased to 103 unsheltered individuals.
- Compare that to a Vanguard University count in February of 2016 counted 158 homeless on Costa Mesa's streets.



More Work To Do!

- Costa Mesa needs to continue to work to find and create housing solutions.
 - If all OC communities helped those connected to their own community, we can create a better sense of fairness and hit our responsibilities head on.
 - Coordinate efforts within communities.
 - Focus on reconnections.
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Our Criteria



ARE YOU A COSTA MESA RESIDENT— homeless or at risk of becoming homeless?

The City of Costa Mesa and its partners are working together to provide homeless individuals and families the resources they need to achieve independent, stable and secure housing.

To prove Costa Mesa residency, individuals must meet the following criteria:

1.

STRONG TIES TO COSTA MESA COMMUNITY

- ▶ Proof that individual and/or dependents attended K-12 school in Costa Mesa within the last 10 months and have been reestablished in the community for at least a year.
- ▶ Knowledge (firsthand or recorded) by the CMPD, CMFD, City Community Outreach workers and Trellis volunteers and/or the Costa Mesa Code Enforcement that individual has been living on Costa Mesa streets for the last 36 months.

2.

DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING COSTA MESA TIES

- ▶ Copy of a previous lease.
- ▶ Confirmation of previous utility services in Costa Mesa.
- ▶ Confirmation of residency from a previous landlord, or from a transitional living facility.
- ▶ School records.

3.

QUALIFICATION AS VULNERABLY HOMELESS

- ▶ Subject to the discretion of Outreach staff.



NETWORK FOR HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

NHS Hotline (714) 754-5346
costamesaNHS@costamesaca.gov