



## Gateway Cities Council of Governments:

### Homeless Action Plan

Rev. March 10, 2011

#### Key Points:

- There are approximately 6,000 to 14,000 homeless people in the COG region.
- There is an estimated \$30 million of public funds allocated annually to serve and house homeless people in the COG. The County is investing an additional \$1.2 million annually toward the COG Homeless Action Plan.
- The Action Plan will emphasize permanently housing homeless people in the COG region.
- The Plan will leverage existing resources to create a seamless system of housing and services in the region.
- The Action Plan will target “hot spots” of homelessness throughout the region—this includes encampments in the rivers, along freeways, and in parks.
- The COG will contract with a regional Program Implementation Agency, and this agency will oversee four local agencies, in order to implement the action plan.

#### Background

The Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) partnered with PATH Partners in July 2008 to launch a region-wide effort to address homelessness among the 27 cities and the County unincorporated parts of its region.

As part of the initiative, the COG adopted a set of “Guiding Principles” that embodies the values of the COG cities and helped guide the process for developing approaches that effectively respond to homelessness within the COG. These are:

- *Locally-driven*: Solutions that are developed with local expertise, planning and oversight
- *Multi-sector*: Engages stakeholders from different sectors of the community
- *Outcomes*: Results-based efforts to address homelessness
- *Partnerships*: Foster creative and strategic partnerships and alliances

The COG also developed regional groups within the COG, called Local Planning Areas (LPA) to reflect a more locally-focused community engagement process. These LPAs have transitioned into Local Coordinating Alliances (LCA). The four LCA groups comprise of the following cities:

- LCA 1: Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood, South Gate, and Vernon
- LCA 2: La Mirada, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier

- LCA 3: Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Compton, Downey, Lynwood, Norwalk, Paramount
- LCA 4: Avalon, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, and Signal Hill

\*\*The strategy includes the County unincorporated communities of East La Mirada, East Los Angeles, East Rancho Dominguez, Firestone, Florence Graham, Los Nietos, Rancho Dominguez, Rosewood, Walnut Park, Unincorporated Whittier, and Willowbrook.

## **Community Engagement**

In the past two years, hundreds of community stakeholders have been engaged through three main avenues: (1) group and one-on-one interviews; (2) surveys; and (3) community forum planning groups.

Common themes that have arisen during this community planning process from stakeholders throughout the region include:

- Cities acknowledge that homelessness is an issue
- A regional strategy is necessary
- Cities have a stake in solving homelessness
- Attention should be focused on preventative measures
- Effective solutions will require increased communication and cooperation between diverse stakeholder groups

## **A Regional Strategy to End Homelessness**

After months of community engagement and discussions within the COG, the COG adopted the following homeless strategy:

- LEAD – Actions aimed at building the necessary regional leadership to oversee the coordination, engagement, collaboration and implementation of the strategy.
- ENGAGE – Actions that involve various sectors of the community to foster community support and “buy-in” for strategy and efforts.
- COLLABORATE – Actions aimed at getting stakeholders to work together to reach common actions and goals.
- IMPLEMENT – Actions which describe actual programs and approaches of the strategy that will directly serve the needs of homeless persons in the region.

As part of the homeless strategy, COG stakeholders discussed priorities for implementation action items at several forums and small group sessions. The four implementation action items are:

- Homeless Prevention
- First Responders Program
- Interim Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing

## COG Homeless Leadership Structure

In the past year, the regional LCA groups met numerous times to discuss ways the region will address homelessness, based on the initiative's previous research, values, and strategy. The action items listed below reflect the initiative's strategy. (See "Attachment 1: COG Homeless Leadership Structure.")

### LEAD

**Leadership Entity.** Develop a leadership entity to oversee the coordination, engagement, collaboration and implementation of the strategy.

**Completed Item 1a:** The COG adopted a leadership structure within its existing governing body. (See Attachment 1) This structure includes four levels:

- Gateway Cities COG Board of Directors
- COG Committee on Homelessness (7 members from the COG Board)
- COG Homeless Leadership Entity (13 members including City Managers Steering Committee, representatives from the County, cities and the LCA's)
- Four Local Coordinating Alliances (LCA) (Each LCA group has a city representative as the Chair and a community leader as the Vice-Chair)

**Homeless Services Liaison for Each City.** The Homeless Services Liaison will be the point person for homeless planning and implementation for each city, and will be the city representative with the COG Leadership Entity.

**Item 2a:** Each city will assign a city staff member as a "homeless liaison". (See Attachment 2)

### ENGAGE

**Stakeholder Regional Homeless Alliance.** This group of stakeholders within the COG cities will represent businesses, faith groups, law enforcement, providers, city officials, and residents. They will advise the COG Leadership Entity on homeless issues and strategies.

**Completed Item 3a:** The COG established four alliances, called Local Coordinating Alliances (LCA).

**Implement Connections Strategies to Engage the Community.** Connect stakeholders to the COG Homeless Initiative in order to increase support.

**Action Item 4a:** LCA groups are the initial step toward engaging the community. Listed in the implementation phase, the LCAs will recruit community stakeholders to participate in surveying homeless "hot spots."

**Public Education Campaign.** Market the initiative so the community feels they are involved, and have tools to respond to homelessness in their respective cities.

**Action Item 5a:** Listed in the implementation phase, the COG will set up an online Homeless Prevention Community Resource Database.

**Action Item 5b:** The COG will hold a COG-region Homeless Summit in order to promote the importance of addressing homelessness, coordinating services, and engaging other stakeholders. This would include: dialogues with different law enforcement agencies, health care providers, housing developers, homeless service agencies, and city/County departments.

## **COLLABORATE**

**Enhance Government-wide Collaboration.** Establish government collaboration among the region to leverage and increase public funding and resources.

**Completed Item 6a:** By leveraging the work of the COG Homeless Initiative, the COG has already received \$4.46 million in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funding for four COG cities. The COG Leadership Entity will continue to coordinate HPRP efforts.

**Completed Item 6b:** The COG has been working with the County Department of Mental Health (DMH) to address homelessness within the rivers and drainage systems of the COG. This was a collaborative effort with DMH, PATH Partners, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). The COG will continue to expand this effort throughout the region.

**Completed Item 6c:** The COG has started developing a relationship with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in order to connect veterans' services and housing resources with homeless veterans living in the COG. The COG will continue to expand these efforts.

**Completed Item 6d:** The COG is working with LAHSA to encourage its cities to participate in the LAHSA bi-annual homeless count. This count is mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for communities who receive HUD homeless funding. The COG will continue to coordinate with LAHSA homeless counts and to explore ways to increase HUD funding for the COG region.

**Implement Homeless Collaborative Event.** An annual event that integrates services and resources across public and private agencies, and that engages the community to assist in addressing homelessness.

**Action Item 7a:** Listed in the implementation phase, the LCAs will recruit community stakeholders to participate in surveying homeless "hot spots."

**Homeless Prevention Services.** One of the most effective approaches to alleviating homelessness is to prevent evictions from occurring. Homeless prevention services prevent immediate threats of eviction, and also stabilize adults and families over time to reduce the risk

of homelessness. Some prevention services include: rental subsidies, utilities assistance, legal services, and eviction prevention programs.

**Action Item 8a:** The COG currently has Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) programs in nine cities within the region that were implemented during the design phase of the COG Homeless Initiative. These HPRP programs are in all of the LCA regions, except LCA 2. However, the County HPRP covers all four LCAs, including LCA 2. The COG will continue to coordinate these efforts, and will work to expand these programs. The current HPRP program consists of the following:

<b>City</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Agencies</b>
Paramount	\$ 900,000	PATH/Our Place Housing Solutions
Bellflower	\$ 1,200,000	PATH/Our Place Housing Solutions
Lakewood	\$ 1,500,000	PATH/Our Place Housing Solutions
South Gate	\$ 865,273	PATH/Helpline Youth Counseling
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>\$ 4,465,273</i>	
Long Beach	\$ 3,566,451	Beyond Shelter, Catholic Charities
Compton	\$ 848,514	City of Compton
Downey	\$ 611,834	Beyond Shelter
Huntington Park	\$ 566,611	Volunteers of America
Norwalk	\$ 633,782	City of Norwalk
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>\$ 6,227,192</i>	
<b>COG Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,692,465</b>	

**Action Item 8b:** The COG will set up an online Homeless Prevention Community Resource Database. The homeless prevention community resource database will be an online resource for service seekers and community partners to find housing and services in and around the 27 Gateway communities. The system will be designed to provide preventative information to those who are at risk of homelessness, and housing and services information to those who are homeless.

The database will provide multiple points of entry for service seekers so they can find services online, receive assistance from city staff, community based organizations, faith based organizations, or any other community members with Internet access. The COG will confer with the director of socialserve.com, the developer of the LA Housing Resource Database, to determine if a Gateway specific carve-out can be accomplished. This will leverage and expand an existing resource for the County.

# COG Homeless Action Plan

## IMPLEMENT

(See “Attachment 4: Homeless Action Plan Flow Chart” for a visual flow chart of the plan.)

1. **“Hot Spot” Identification and Engagement of Homeless.** There is significant need for geographic-based identification and engagement of homeless persons in “hot spot” areas of the COG. This includes identifying homeless persons, engaging them in housing placement, and coordinating services and housing.

**Action Item 9a:** The COG will create one Gateway region-wide homeless engagement and coordination team, consisting of two workers and a van, to provide the following services:

- Regular “hot spot” surveys of the region to give the COG an accurate geographic and demographic assessment of homelessness throughout the region. This will also include locations, migration patterns, and types of places where homelessness persists. In 2010, the PATH Partners Outreach Team performed a “hot spot” survey of nearly all of the COG region. (See Attachment 5)
  - Regular communication and training on homelessness that will guide and support COG stakeholders who encounter homelessness—law enforcement, EMT workers, housing providers, hospitals, and community groups.
  - Coordination with community groups and homeless service agencies within each LCA to provide up-to-date information on the location, migration patterns and demographics of homelessness in the region to assist groups in coordinating efforts to engage individuals within these “hot spots”.
  - Using a standardized assessment tool, perform personal surveys on homeless individuals within each “hot spot” and develop individual plans and prioritization for directing specific services and housing.
2. **Housing Entry.** Local LCA Priority Projects will implement a rapid re-housing/housing strategy for homeless individuals. The emphasis of these projects will be to permanently house homeless persons found in the local “hot spots” and identified through personal homeless surveys.

**Action Item 10a:** A local agency within each LCA will be identified through competitive bid, and will implement these activities. Activities geared specifically to permanently house people found in LCA “hot spots” include, but not limited to:

- Engagement activities to identify homeless persons, and work with them through the process of housing placement
- Housing placement services to assist homeless people in finding housing subsidies, housing resources, and working with landlords
- Move-in assistance funds for permanent housing
- Motel vouchers for temporary, immediate housing assistance
- Local coordination of existing services and housing

- Public benefits assistance that will help people access housing. (For example, the County’s BEST program.)

3. **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).** The Gateway Cities COG will work to increase the stock of Permanent Supportive Housing units within the region. This includes building permanent housing units as well as funding scattered-site leasing units. Emphasis will be placed on permanently housing people identified and prioritized in the regional “hot spots.”

The five year goal for the region is to implement 665 units of Permanent Supportive Housing which will double the current number of PSH in the region. The goal includes: one 40-unit development, 175 units of PSH set-aside units (units within a larger development but set aside specifically for our target population), and 450 scattered-site leasing units.

**Action Item 11a:** The First Supervisorial District has committed \$500k of one time funding to develop permanent supportive housing opportunities for homeless families, transition-aged youth and other homeless individuals. **In addition, the First Supervisorial District has committed \$300k of one time funding to develop rapid re-housing opportunities for homeless families.**

**Action Item 11b:** Work with Corporation for Supportive Housing, Gateways Cities COG, and COG Homeless Coordinator (described below in 12a), to address the five year goal for implementing permanent housing opportunities stated above.

4. **Implementation of the Homeless Action Plan.** In order for the COG region to coordinate effectively among the LCAs, and among the 27 cities and the unincorporated parts of the County, the COG will retain a Program Implementation Agency through competitive bid that will insure the implementation of the Homeless Action Plan. This agency will partner with the Gateway Cities COG and the County CEO’s Homeless and Housing Unit. (See Attachment 3: COG Action Plan Implementation Structure)

**Action Item 12a:** COG Homeless Services Coordinator will be hired by the Program Implementation Agency to coordinate with regional housing developers, local LCAs, city housing agencies, homeless service providers, the County, to implement the five year PSH goal referenced above and the overall Homeless Action Plan.

**Action Item 12b:** Homeless Coordination will include:

- Coordinate and staff all COG Homeless Initiative meetings, including the Committee on Homelessness and the Leadership Entity
- Coordinate and support the LCA groups
- Coordinate and implement the three Implementation Action Items: “Hot Spot” Identification and Engagement, Housing Entry, and Permanent Supportive Housing
- Coordinate with private and public agencies
- Oversee community/cities engagement, education, and ongoing communication

- Pursue, on behalf of the COG, federal, state and local public and private funding opportunities for housing, rental subsidies, and services. This includes applicable Housing Authorities, HUD, SAMHSA, etc.

**Action Item 12c:** The COG will provide the administrative support for the Homeless Action Plan. This includes: maintaining membership databases, recording meeting minutes, providing meeting space and refreshments, sending out announcements, and regularly updating the County CEO's Homeless and Housing Unit and the COG board.

**Action Item 12d:** The Gateway Cities COG will develop Request For Proposals (RFP) for funded Homeless Action Plan items. The County CEO's Homeless and Housing Unit will review and approve the final RFP documents.

## IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET

The County is providing \$1.2 million per year for the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Homeless Strategy. The following budget reflects the action items listed above:

Action Items	Activities	Annual Amt	One Time
<b>“Hot Spot” Identification and Engagement</b>			
	Engagement and Coordination Team	\$130,000	
	Online Database (SocialServe.com)	\$ 20,000	
<b>Housing Entry</b>			
	Rapid Re-Housing/Housing		
	LCA 1 (Local Agency)	\$120,000	
	LCA 2 (Local Agency)	\$120,000	
	LCA 3 (Local Agency)	\$120,000	
	LCA 4 (Local Agency)	\$120,000	
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>			
	PSH Development		\$500,000
	Rapid Re-Housing for Families (Action Item 11a)		\$300,000
	Permanent Supportive Services in Housing (County wrap-around services for housing, Healthcare, mental health, and substance abuse; \$100,000 per LCA)	\$400,000	
<b>Implementation of Homeless Action Plan</b>			
	Coordination (Program Implementation Agency)	\$100,000	
	Administration (COG)	\$ 60,000	
	Regional Homeless Summit	\$ 10,000	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>	

## Attachment 1: COG Homeless Leadership Structure

**Gateway Cities COG Board of Directors**

**Committee on Homelessness  
(7 Members)**  
(Chair to be from among elected officials)

- 4 COG Board Members from Cities
- 1 COG Board Member from Long Beach
- 1 COG Board Member from County Board of Supervisors Offices
- 1 City Manager from City Managers Steering Committee (this position is also Chair of Leadership Entity)

**Leadership Entity  
(13 Members)**

- 1 Chair – City Managers Steering Committee Rep
- 3 Representatives – one from each BOS Office
- 1 Representative from Long Beach
- 8 Representatives from LCAs
  - o 1 City Rep per LCA (Chair)
  - o 1 Non-City Rep per LCA (Vice Chair)  
(LCA reps are also Chair and Vice Chair of LCAs)

**City Managers Steering Committee**

**Local Coordinating Alliances  
(4 LCAs)**  
Open to All Stakeholders – City Staff/Departments, Providers, Faith, Business, Residents, Consumers, Law Enforcement, etc.

**Local Coordinating Alliance 1 (LCA 1)**

Bell  
Bell Gardens  
Commerce  
Cudahy  
Huntington Park  
Maywood  
South Gate  
Vernon  
County Unincorporated

**Local Coordinating Alliance 2 (LCA 2)**

La Mirada  
Montebello  
Pico Rivera  
Santa Fe Springs  
Whittier  
County Unincorporated

**Local Coordinating Alliance 3 (LCA 3)**

Artesia  
Bellflower  
Cerritos  
Compton  
Downey  
Lynwood  
Norwalk  
Paramount  
County Unincorporated

**Local Coordinating Alliance 4 (LCA 4)**

Avalon  
Hawaiian Gardens  
Lakewood  
Long Beach  
Signal Hill  
County Unincorporated

## Attachment 2: COG City Homeless Liaison List

Rev. October 15, 2010

### LCA 1

Bell	Magdalena Prado	
Bell Gardens	Aldo Shindler	Director of Community Development
Commerce	Loretta Gutierrez, Chair	Assistant Director of Community Services
Cudahy	Angel Perales	Director, Parks and Rec
Huntington Park	Manny Acosta	Housing and Community Development Manager
Maywood	Juanita Bravo	Police Dept.
South Gate	Vivian Garcia	Housing Administrator
Vernon	Kevin Wilson	Director of Community Services & Water
Vice-chair	Jeff Farber	Community Rep
County Unincorporated	Angie Castro	District 1 - Molina: Walnut Park, E. LA, South Whittier

### LCA 2

La Mirada	Diana Ruedas	Housing Technician 2
Montebello	Michael Huntley	Director of Planning & Community Development
Pico Rivera	Christina Gallagher	Assistant Planner
Santa Fe Springs	Maricela Balderas	Director of Family and Human Services
Whittier	Marlene Martel, Chair	Program Manager Parks, Rec. & Comm. Srvc
Vice-chair	Ted Knoll	Community Rep
County Unincorporated	Angie Castro	District 1 - Molina: Walnut Park, E. LA, South Whittier
County Unincorporated	Andrea Avila	District 4- Knabe: Downey, La Mirada, Norwalk, Whittier
County Unincorporated	Dick Simmons	District 4 - Knabe: La Habra Heights

### LCA 3

Artesia	Jose Hernandez	Assistant Planner
Bellflower	Dale DuBois	Deputy Director of Public Safety
Cerritos	Connie Hinger	Community Participation Manager
Compton	Derek Hull	Director Planning and Economic Developmt.
Downey	Shannon DeLong	Special Projects Coordinator
Lynwood	Deborah Jackson	Director of Neighborhood Services
Norwalk	Tak Hamabata, Chair	Director of Social Services
Paramount	Alex Khojikian	Management Analyst
Vice-Chair	Ryan VerWys	Community Rep
County Unincorporated	Julia Orozco	District 2- Ridley-Thomas: Florence, Willowbrook, Rosewood, Rancho Dominguez
County Unincorporated	Erin Stibal	District 4- Knabe: Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Paramount

### LCA 4

Avalon	Amanda Cook	Planning Director
Hawaiian Gardens	Sylvia Gooden	Community Outreach Liaison
Lakewood	Sonia Southwell	Director of Community Development
Long Beach	Susan Price, Chair	Homeless Officer, DHHSB for Ron Arias
Signal Hill	Scott Charney	Director of Community Development
Vice-chair	Lesley Braden	Community Rep
County Unincorporated	Connie Sziebl	District 4 - Knabe: Avalon, Long Beach, Signal Hill

## Attachment 3: COG Action Plan Implementation Structure

The Gateway Cities Council of Governments Homeless Action Plan will be staffed and operated according to the following structure:

- Leadership: Gateway Cities COG (See Attachment 1: COG Homeless Leadership Structure)
- Regional Implementation: Program Implementation Agency (1 agency)
- Local LCA Implementation: Local Agency (4 agencies, one per LCA)

### Leadership

COG Board  
Committee on Homelessness and Leadership Entity

Function: funding, policies, strategic planning,  
contract negotiations, City/County relations.

### Regional Implementation

COG retains a Program Implementation Agency

**Administration** (COG) - Coordinate meetings, provide administrative support, communication materials.

**Regional Coordination** (Program Implementation Agency) - Be the “point” for the COG on homelessness. Coordinate local LCA implementation work.

**Regional First Responders** (Program Implementation Agency) - Regular “hot spot” assessments, first responder training, coordination of street case management.

### Local LCA Implementation

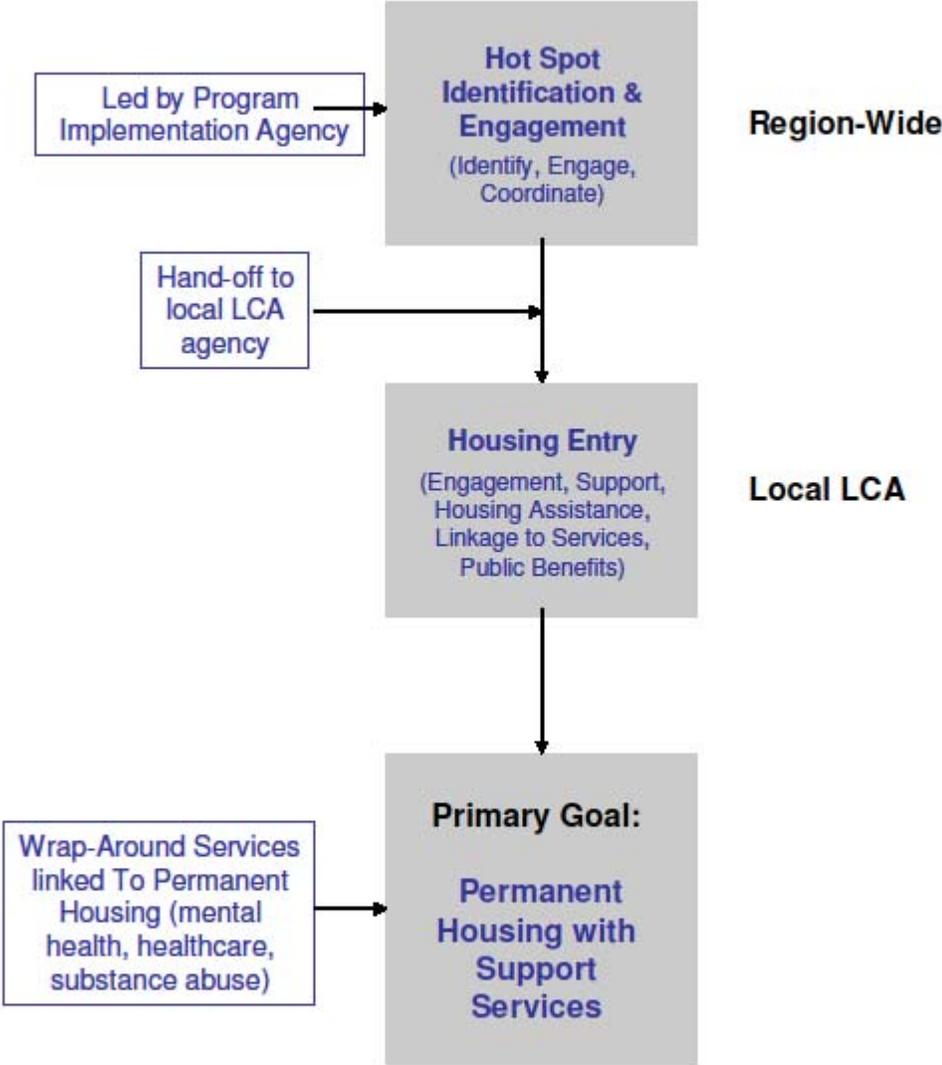
Each LCA has one local agency

**Street Case Management** - Direct services to homeless persons identified in hot spots.

**Community Navigators** - Housing location, coordinate volunteers, work with landlords, coordinate existing homeless service agencies.

**Housing Assistance** - Set-aside funds for rapid housing: motel vouchers, rental assistance, transportation.

**Attachment 4: Homeless Action Plan Flow Chart**



## Attachment 5: COG Homeless “Hotspot” Surveys

Date: Summer/Fall 2010

### COG Homeless Assessment Local Coordinating Alliance 1

*Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood, South Gate, Vernon*

Homeless assessments for this area began on August 10<sup>th</sup> and were completed on August 20<sup>th</sup>. PATH Street Outreach staff canvassed this community during these dates, for 4 hours daily, to observe homeless patterns within set boundaries. Valuable information was collected from various business owners, local residents and many park staff.

#### **Bell**

**LA River** (*Gage & LA River*): Staff noticed at least two encampments under the bridge. At the time, none were present. Encampment displayed signs of frequent activity: many broken bottles, clothing, food, and materials for cooking and preparing meals.

**Salvation Army Bell Shelter** (*Eastern Ave & Rickenbacker Rd*): Staff noticed homeless individuals walking to and from the shelter at different points in time.

#### **Bell Gardens**

**Eastern & Florence**: Staff observed several homeless individuals drinking alcohol on the bus bench. These persons had several shopping carts full of recyclables and their belongings.

**Eastern & Gage**: A group of 4-7 homeless individuals drinking alcohol behind the “Star Way” liquor store.

**Veterans Park**: Staff noticed 2-3 homeless individuals sleeping in the park with their belongings.

**John Anson Ford Park**: Staff engaged 3 homeless individuals adjacent to the riverbed. One explained that the local police department is very strict within Bell Gardens and frequently “hassles” the homeless. Another claimed that officers give tickets to people for pushing shopping carts, and after multiple infractions, the individual will usually be arrested. He said that a large group of homeless individuals congregate during the day around the riverbed between Florence & Eastern. They do not carry many belongings for fear of being seen.

#### **Commerce**

**Rosewood Park** (*Harbor & Commerce*): Outreach workers noticed approximately 3-5 homeless individuals sleeping on benches. Vehicles in the parking lot show signs that people are definitely sleeping there.

#### **Cudahy**

Outreach workers did not observe many homeless individuals during their multiple visits to Cudahy. However, there were clear signs of homelessness, including backpacks containing personal belongings and cardboard bedding materials along alleys near Atlantic Ave & Santa Ana.

#### **Huntington Park**

**Salvation Army** (*2965 E. Gage Ave*): Spoke to Captain Maria Ramirez of the Salvation Army. Her facility runs a food line on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 11:30 AM. They serve lunch to approximately one hundred people each day. Homeless gather at the location for the food line, stay to eat, and have the opportunity to use the showers at 1:00pm

The PATH Street Outreach team observed that the largest population of homeless individuals is located in the parks during the day and in the area around the Salvation Army, which provides feeding

programs, showers, clothing supplies, and other drop-in services. Overall, the largest concentration is in the area between Alameda and State streets as well as the following locations:

- McDonalds at Slauson & Pacific
- Recycling Center at Wilmington & Randolph
- Seville & Belgrave
- Baptist Day School at Rita & Clarendon
- Community Park at Florence & Salt Lake
- Robert H. Keller Memorial Park, City Hall & Police Department

### **Maywood**

Outreach workers have not noticed any significant number of homeless individuals in this city. Staff encouraged businesses to remain in contact as they observe homeless activity throughout the city.

### **South Gate**

**South Gate Park (9615 Pinehurst Ave):** Approximately three campers in the park appear to house 7-10 homeless persons. We approached all, but none were willing to communicate after several efforts.

**Atlantic & Tweedy:** Staff observed 4-5 persons gathered at this intersection.

### **Vernon**

**23rd & Santa Fe:** Outreach workers noticed a homeless couple and a woman in her 50's sleeping under the bridge. One person stated that others assemble during evening hours to sleep along Washington Blvd. & the LA River on nightly basis.

## **COG Homeless Assessment Local Coordinating Alliance 2**

La Mirada, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier

Homeless assessments for this area began on August 10th and were completed on August 20th. PATH Street Outreach staff canvassed this community during these dates, for 4 hours daily, to observe homeless patterns within set boundaries. Valuable information was collected from various local residents and many park staff

### **Whittier**

**Whittier Transportation Center (Greenleaf & Mar Vista):** Staff regularly noticed a large group of homeless individuals in the park. We learned that this is where the largest group of homeless people regularly congregate. Various sources in the city directed us to this location. Estimate is between 15 – 20 regularly gather there.

**St. Matthias Episcopal Church (7056 S. Washington Ave):** Monday through Friday hot meals are being served for homeless people at the Church. An average of 100 homeless individuals eat a hot meal and utilize their services. Some of the services include: using church address to get mail delivered, a clothing closet, hygiene kit and case management. This place is definitely a hot spot in the city of Whittier.

The PATH Street Outreach team would like to acknowledge Dottie Anderson for the guidance she provided to us during this effort.

### **Pico Rivera**

**Slauson & Bequette;** Several RV's parked at this intersection provide housing for approximately 10-12 homeless.

**Washington & Passons:** Staff at a *Recycling Center* at this intersection regularly see anywhere between 10-15 homeless daily.

**Smith Park** (*Rosemead & Mines*): Outreach staff noticed 5-7 homeless individuals in the park. Some indicate usage of food pantry at St. Hilary.

**Pico Park** (*Beverly & Durfee*): Outreach workers observed campers adjacent to the park and storage facility. Estimate between 10-15.

### **Montebello**

**Montebello City Park:** PATH Street Outreach workers counted 8-12 homeless regularly congregating at this location.

**Beverly Blvd.** (*east & west of Beverly Hospital*): 10-12 homeless observed moving in both directions along this busy boulevard at very different times of day

### **Santa Fe Springs**

**Los Nietos Park** (*Pioneer and Jersey*): The PATH Street Outreach team noticed two homeless men sitting at the park bench and drinking beer. They had bicycles parked next to them and two big backpacks. This may be a place that others may be congregating at this location regularly.

**Transportation Center** (*off Imperial Highway*): Outreach workers noticed a male lying on a bus bench with all of his belongings. When approached this person informed us that more homeless frequently stop to rest at this location.

**Lakeland between Shoemaker and Bloomfield:** The outreach team noticed two RV's that appeared to have signs of people living in them. Limited parking restrictions may be a sign that this intersection is a safe overnight parking spot.

**Shoemaker and Lakeland:** Staff noticed 2-3 homeless persons regularly panhandling at this intersection.

### **La Mirada**

**Creek Park** (*Imperial and Las Flores Ave*): The outreach team encountered 2-3 homeless persons at this park during subsequent visits.

**La Mirada & Imperial** (*Home Depot parking lot*): The outreach workers noticed a 2-3 homeless persons pushing shopping carts towards the trash container in search of recyclables.

**Valley View & Imperial:** 3-5 men could be found regularly going through trash cans as they appeared to be recycling.

## **COG Homeless Assessment Local Coordinating Alliance 3**

Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Compton, Downey, Lynwood, Norwalk, Paramount

Homeless assessments for this area began on August 10th and were completed on August 20th. PATH Street Outreach staff canvassed this community during these dates, for 4 hours daily, to observe homeless patterns within set boundaries. Valuable information was collected from various business owners, local residents and many park staff.

### **Bellflower**

**91 Fwy & Lakewood off ramp:** Staff identified at least 10 shopping carts near two large encampments. Approximately 30 feet apart from this location, we noticed another smaller encampment containing 3-5 carts.

**Bellflower Recycling Center** (*Artesia & Woodruff*): A group of 5-7 homeless individuals could be regularly found selling their recyclables at this intersection.

**China Super Buffet** (*Lakewood & Los Angeles*): Staff recognized three vehicles displaying signs that homeless may be sleeping inside. Several individuals could be seen panhandling in a parking lot at this intersection.

### **Cerritos**

**Liberty Park** (*Studebaker & 195<sup>th</sup>*): 3-5 homeless persons with many personal belongings could be often found at this location.

**South Street & 605 North & South exits**: Approximately 5-7 male homeless individuals panhandling at both exits, some describing themselves as veterans. Items for sleeping and camping could be seen nearby for this group.

### **Compton**

**Compton Swat Meet** (*Pine & Long Beach*): 7-10 homeless people frequently seen panhandling and drinking at this address.

**Santa Fe & Compton**: Multiple RV's regularly found at this intersection at various times throughout the day.

**Lueders Park** (*Rosecrans & Bullis*): Outreach staff observed five homeless individuals in the park with multiple shopping carts filled with personal belongings.

**Supra Liquor Groceries Store** (*Bradfield & Rosecrans*): A small grassy area neighboring this store acts as a significant homeless hot spot. 7-10 homeless could be frequently seen at this location.

### **Downey**

**I-5 south freeway entrance** (*Florence & Studebaker*): Outreach workers observed three very large homeless encampments. Structures displayed characteristics of those built by military veterans. It was very well camouflaged and difficult to notice even from a close distance. Our initial estimate is that there may be 15-20 persons, including several women, living there.

**Crawford Park** (*Rio Hondo Wash & Dinwiddie*): A group of at least five homeless persons identified at this location. Outreach workers observed several tents with many belongings. More encampments could be seen beyond the railroad tracks.

**Downey Police Department** (*10911 Brookshire Ave*): Staff met with Code Enforcement Officer, who provided much valuable insight with regards to Downey's homeless population. He explained that two years ago, Downey P.D. began practicing a "maximum enforcement," policy towards homelessness. He identified two major hot spots where there has been much crime reported.

Additional locations in Downey identified as "Homeless Hot-Spots"...

- *Telegraph & Slauson*
- *Pico Vista & Telegraph*
- *Paramount Blvd & Firestone*
- *Downey Bus Depot (Downey & Firestone)*
- *Recycling Center (Firestone & Patton)*
- *Recycling Center (Florence & Paramount)*
- *Rio San Gabriel Park*

### **Lynwood**

**Superior Market** (*Bullis & MLK*): The parking lot at this store has a recycling center regularly operating throughout the day. A group of approximately 5-7 homeless men could be seen regularly at this location.

**All Peoples Church Food line** (*Linden & MLK*): On Friday evenings at approximately 7 pm many homeless persons assemble at this intersection in order to obtain food.

## **Norwalk**

**Firestone & Woods:** Staff met four homeless individuals sitting in front of 99 cents store with 3 shopping carts filled with personal belongings.

**Imperial & Firestone:** Three persons could be seen regularly panhandling throughout the day at this intersection.

**Rosecrans & Pioneer:** 4-6 homeless frequently seen at this intersection at various points in time.

**161st & Pioneer:** Outreach workers noticed two homeless individuals next to a storage building.

**Front St. & Rosecrans:** Outreach workers noticed two RV's, possibly housing persons, parked alongside the railroad tracks.

**Wal-Mart Parking lot (Imperial & Woods):** Evidence that at least 4 RV's could be seen throughout the day & night.

## **Paramount**

**105 East & Paramount:** The PATH Street Outreach team noticed five large tents with a multitude of belongings. Next to the tents there were several cooking items: a kitchen with frying pans, cups, mugs and plates. This encampment was enormous and the outreach workers suspected that a large group of homeless individuals congregate there. No one was present there, while we were there.

**Recycling Center-next to the Lucky Liquor Store (Paramount & Main):** Outreach workers learned that early in the morning the recycling center is very busy and many homeless individuals sell their recyclables there. They have noticed that the sheriff gets complains about this area due to arguments that occur between homeless people.

**Garfield & 105 freeway exit:** The outreach team learned that several homeless individuals regularly panhandle at the freeway exit throughout the day.

**Jack's Liquor (Orange & Rosecrans):** Outreach workers observed that homeless individuals loiter regularly in front of the store and consume alcohol throughout the late afternoon and early evening hours.

**710 Freeway North & Rosecrans:** We found a very large encampment under the freeway consisting of 2 tents and 2 mattresses. No one was present while we were there.

**Home Depot Parking Lot (6400 Alondra Blvd):** Staff observed that many of the day laborers at this location are homeless and regularly sleep at the encampment found at the 710 Fwy & Rosecrans.

**Car Wash (near Century & Rosecrans):** Our team learned that many of the local homeless people take showers at the car wash. Public safety responds very often to calls from this location.

**Shoe Warehouse (Rosecrans & Century):** Staff observed that the homeless population uses trees as a bathroom. They often climb the trees up to the upper branches and defecate and urinate from there. Public safety responded to many calls from local residents, whose properties are adjacent to these trees.

In summary, the homeless population in the City of Paramount is very mobile. They regularly stay near the borders of the city and move from one city to another. The city has a very strict policy to not allow any overnight parking of RV's in the city.

The PATH Street Outreach team would like to acknowledge Alex Khojikian and Angel Arredondo for assisting us with homeless hot spots identification in Paramount.

## **COG Homeless Assessment Local Coordinating Alliance 4**

Avalon, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Signal Hill, unincorporated County of Los Angeles

### **Signal Hill**

**California & 405 South** (*both sides of the freeway*): The PATH Street Outreach team talked to 4 homeless individuals that were sleeping in the bushes. Some of them have been collecting recyclables and selling them at a nearby recycling center.

On the other side of the freeway, staff noticed an encampment with massive quantities of trash. We found a person was sleeping under a pile of this trash. The homeless individual appeared to have been living at this location for a very long time. The pile of trash was actually a very large encampment underneath and not easy accessible for anyone but him.

**Home Depot** (*Between California and Atlantic*): The outreach workers talked to a homeless individual who was resting on the side of the Home Depot facing the freeway. He was interested in utilizing a shelter and accessing other services. Referrals as well as detailed instructions were provided.

**Recycling Center at Food-For-Less parking lot** (*1600E Willow*): Outreach workers talked to a worker at the recycling center. He informed us that some homeless people sell their recyclables at the center, but many of them go to the nearby city of Lakewood to obtain the items they bring.

The PATH Street Outreach team wishes to acknowledge Gary Jones for his insight and direction during this effort.

### **Lakewood**

**Woodruff & South**: Staff noticed an encampment under the power line on South Street just before Woodruff. When approached, no occupants were found.

**Del Amo Bridge & San Gabriel River**: The outreach workers engaged three homeless individuals residing at an encampment under this bridge.

**Carson Bridge & San Gabriel River**: Outreach workers met two homeless individuals residing at an encampment under this bridge. They indicated that they've been living at this location for over 1 year. They felt safe and isolated so that they would not be bothered by anyone.

**Palms Park** (*Norwalk and 207<sup>th</sup>*): 3-5 vehicles providing shelter for the homeless parked adjacent to this public park.



The Gateway Cities Council of Governments Homeless Action Plan was facilitated by PATH Partners. For more information on PATH Partners, please contact:

Joel John Roberts  
PATH Partners  
340 N. Madison Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90004  
(323) 644-2200  
Email: [PATH@epath.org](mailto:PATH@epath.org)  
Website: [www.epath.org](http://www.epath.org)  
Blog: [www.PovertyInsights.org](http://www.PovertyInsights.org)