



**STANISLAUS COUNTY FOCUS ON PREVENTION INITIATIVE  
BUILDING A MOVEMENT TOWARD HOME: EMERGING PRIORITY STRATEGIES**

The following is a compilation of potential strategies that have emerged to date from the Homelessness Action Council meetings and the County-wide Summit on Homelessness.

**RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY-LEVEL STRATEGIES**

Note: (\*\*) indicates community-level strategies that are recommended for county-wide adoption.

FOCUS AREA 01: RELATIONSHIPS	
<b>Initial outreach • engagement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Improve and expand outreach and engagement efforts</b>—e.g.,               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide community showers</li> <li>b. Develop a homeless outreach center</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Increase community awareness</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Educate and raise awareness on homelessness, including:                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Resources</li> <li>2) The impact of giving to panhandlers</li> <li>3) Roles, laws, ordinances</li> <li>4) Police programs—e.g., National Night Out</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Convene meetings—e.g., neighborhood functions in the park</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Transitional communities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>Provide trainings and support for ongoing outreach and engagement</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop and deliver curriculum to different sectors about how to do effective outreach and engagement</li> <li>b. Develop action plans for criminal behavior</li> <li>c. Provide additional trainings to sectors—e.g., mental health first aid</li> <li>d. Expand Neighborhood Watch concept to include community building activities and outreach and engagement efforts</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Permanent communities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <b>Increase engagement of homeless and at-risk individuals</b> in extracurricular activities—e.g., Peer Recovery Art Project, ballgames, in nature (**)</li> <li>5. <b>Increase/decrease use of parks for engagement</b>—e.g., take back parks and walking trails; clean up parks</li> </ol>

Focus area 02: Shelter • Housing	
<b>Overarching</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Increase number of beds</b>—e.g.,               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Improve and expand existing shelters and housing</li> <li>b. Develop new shelters and housing</li> <li>c. Increase housing for people with mental illness and co-occurring disorders</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Provide housing-related financial education and support</b>—e.g.,               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide financial education</li> <li>b. Provide financial support—e.g., offer micro-loans</li> <li>c. Make available or mandatory financial literacy assistance (**)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

**Focus area 02: Shelter • Housing**

<b>Temporary shelter</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>Increase temporary shelter beds (**)</b></li> <li>4. <b>Increase pet-friendly shelters (**)</b></li> <li>5. <b>Expand shelters' hours of operation</b>—e.g., keep shelters open 24 hours a day, keep shelters open year-round (**)</li> <li>6. <b>Require all municipalities to comply with SB2 (**)</b></li> </ol>
<b>Transitional housing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. <b>Increase transitional housing beds (**)</b></li> <li>8. <b>Develop short-term (6 months) transitional housing (**)</b></li> </ol>
<b>Permanent housing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. <b>Increase permanent housing beds</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase subsidized, affordable housing—e.g., Section 8 housing (**)</li> <li>b. Redefine eligibility for housing (**)</li> </ol> </li> <li>10. <b>Use Housing First model (**)</b></li> <li>11. <b>Improve partnership with landlords</b></li> </ol>

**FOCUS AREA 03: SERVICES • SUPPORTS**

<b>Overarching</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Increase community awareness</b> of available services and supports             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop a comprehensive up-to-date resource list/directory</li> <li>b. Educate the community, including homeless individuals (**)</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Develop and connect people to services</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase case management</li> <li>b. Connect people to services that support longer-term wellbeing</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <b>Expand services and supports for homeless and at-risk children and teens</b></li> <li>4. <b>Increase paid employees and trained volunteers</b> for agencies providing services</li> </ol>
<b>Immediate</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <b>Establish a “one-stop shop”</b> for <i>immediate services</i>—e.g., day center</li> <li>6. <b>Improve and expand food services</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Food vouchers</li> <li>b. Consolidate meal serving, food distribution, and food handlers accreditation</li> <li>c. Stop feeding in parks: use private property instead</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <b>Improve public transportation</b>—e.g., provide transportation vouchers, bus passes, assistance; schedule busses to run more regularly</li> <li>8. <b>Improve public facilities</b>—e.g., public toilets; paid monitor biohazard container like San Francisco</li> <li>9. <b>Increase access to animal support and day storage</b> that is centrally located</li> </ol>
<b>Health</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. <b>Expand health services</b></li> </ol>
<b>Behavioral health</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <b>Improve and expand mental health and AOD services</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide timely access and treatment</li> <li>b. Be alert for individuals and families at risk of homelessness</li> <li>c. Improve neighborhood/home visits and outreach</li> <li>d. Involve Master of Social Work students and professors in providing support and case management; connect families to early literacy and mentoring</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

**FOCUS AREA 03: SERVICES • SUPPORTS**

<b>Employment • Education</b>	<p>13. <b>Increase employment opportunities</b>—e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Engage employers and businesses to build relationships</li> <li>b. Provide volunteering and internship opportunities that lead to employment</li> <li>c. Increase opportunities for people coming out of jails</li> </ul> <p>14. <b>Increase support to improve job readiness</b>—e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide education and training—e.g., GED, financial, vocational, life skills</li> <li>b. Increase use of parks for engagement in educational opportunities</li> </ul> <p>15. <b>Increase support for current employees</b>—e.g., increase flexibility for working around needs of employees</p> <p>16. <b>Increase salaries/minimum wage</b></p>
<b>Other</b>	<p>17. <b>Increase advocacy</b>—e.g., signing people up for SSI, medicare, disability, etc</p> <p>18. <b>Provide legal services</b>—e.g., expungement of criminal record, citizenship</p> <p>19. <b>Provide child care services</b></p>

**FOCUS AREA 04: COORDINATION AMONG PROVIDERS**

1. **Improve engagement of providers:** Encourage providers to attend Continuum of Care meeting
2. **Pool resources and improve referral system**
  - a. Identify all resources available to support people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness (\*\*)
  - b. Develop and make available to all community members an up-to-date online directory and map of resources, organized by location(\*\*)
  - c. Develop a reliable way to keep this current—e.g., website to update information
  - d. Create simple pamphlets or handouts that can be widely distributed (Challenge: Keeping printed material up-to-date)
  - e. Create panels with a list of resources (include charging stations for cell phones), and place them in places where people who are homeless congregate
  - f. Make 211 as well known as 911
3. **Improve coordination of service delivery**
  - a. Convene service providers to develop shared agreement
    - 1) Discuss smart ways to help, then educate the community(\*\*)
    - 2) Research best practices and streamline services
    - 3) Get buy-in on the right way to respond—e.g., identify who does or does not desire change, develop approaches unique to individuals, Rapid Response Teams (\*\*)
    - 4) Improve legislation—e.g., improve consistency among policies pertaining to homelessness
    - 5) Agree on where services need to be provided (\*\*)
  - b. Improve continuum of engagement and care
    - 1) Create a single point of contact and entry
    - 2) Improve mentorship and volunteer coordination and integration (\*\*)
    - 3) Develop a user-friendly, universal information sharing and release form (\*\*)
    - 4) Develop a centralized case management database (\*\*)
    - 5) Assess current system of care and document bottlenecks (\*\*)
    - 6) Connect immediate support efforts with providers of longer-term support

## ADDITIONAL COUNTY-WIDE STRATEGIES

In addition to the community-level strategies outlined in the previous section that are recommended for county-wide adoption, as indicated by (\*\*), the following are county-wide strategies being considered.

### Focus area 05: Coordination among communities

1. An overarching strategy  
**Each community develops an agreed upon process to:**
  - a. Quickly identify and engage people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness
  - b. Intervene to prevent the loss of housing and divert people from entering the homelessness services system
  - c. Provide immediate access to shelter and crisis services while stable permanent housing and appropriate supports are being secured
  - d. Quickly connect people who have become homeless to assistance and services—tailored to their unique needs and strengths—to help them achieve and maintain stable permanent housing
2. **Services**
  - a. Develop specific programs—e.g., focused on literacy, parenting, mentorship
  - b. Develop Welfare-to-Work program specifically for people who are homeless
  - c. Provide support with screening, training, and job placement
  - d. Increase opportunities in jail/prison
3. **Improve cross-sector collaboration**
  - a. Strengthen relationships
  - b. Improve strategic coordination
    - 1) Increase educational engagements—e.g., about housing
    - 2) Hold agencies accountable to task, budget, outreach, graduation, success stories
4. **Increase funding for services**
  - a. Increase economic growth and allocate funds appropriately
  - b. Increase services that are funded with flexible dollars
  - c. Create opportunities for fundraising, sponsorships, and volunteering
5. **Improve data collection and tracking systems**
  - a. Improve count of people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness
    - 1) Improve identification of PIT count locations
    - 2) Involve Master of Social Work students and professors in PIT count
    - 3) Improve count and tracking of homeless students
    - 4) Increase frequency of PIT and SCOE counts
  - b. Improve Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
  - c. Improve tracking of service delivery
    - 1) Track those who feed the poor
    - 2) Track 911 calls—e.g., to assess how less expensive resources (like non-emergency transportation) can be accessed instead

# Strengthening support and prevention

Mapping the current system for people who are homeless

