

**Los Angeles Police Department
Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team
Special Study**

Purpose

The HOPE Team was developed by the LAPD Homeless Coordinator. The Hope Teams foundation and success will be based on the collaboration between both internal and external organizations coming together to proactively address the needs of the homeless, while also addressing the needs of the communities and neighborhoods impacted by the drastic increase in homeless activity and related issues.

The purpose of HOPE Teams is to improve the City's overall response to the complex and diverse needs of unsheltered homeless residents and to support healthy neighborhoods. This approach is aligned with the City's commitment to expand its first responder programs, to more closely integrate with the County, and to develop stronger links to the Coordinated Entry System under the joint City and County plan to end homelessness. The team will accomplish this by connecting homeless individuals to appropriate services, respond to neighborhood issues and concerns, and develop strategies for dealing with situations that arise among unsheltered homeless individuals.

The HOPE Team will also receive and help triage calls from patrol officers or sanitation workers seeking assistance for situations involving homeless individuals or encampments. In such circumstances, the HOPE Team will advise the officers or sanitation workers of available resources or referrals, where appropriate, respond to the location, if necessary and able to do so, help coordinate patrol personnel, make notifications, or coordinate outside agency response resources.

Partnership

The HOPE Team is a direct response to the City and County's joint plan to end homelessness, and each partner will play an important role. The partners will play the following roles:

- **Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)** – The LAPD will provide for the safety of other service providers and team members. The LAPD will also proactively engage with community members who are homeless to build relationships and identify their needs and make referrals, when and where appropriate. The Department will collect data and develop meaningful baseline measures to assess the program's success. The LAPD will use enforcement as a last resort, and balance the needs and priorities of the communities they serve with the needs and rights of the people with whom they come into contact. The LAPD Mental Evaluation Unit will respond when officers identify individuals who are in crises, and will work to ensure that immediate mental health services are provided.
- **Department of Sanitation (LASAN)** – The Department of Sanitation will provide cleanup and trash removal services for the team and make determinations of immediate

risks to public health for both the homeless population and the general public. The LASAN will also rely on its newly launched CleanStat system to analyze data-driven trends, allowing for the strategic deployment of HOPE Teams and coordinate resources specifically in response to homelessness and community needs.

- **Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) or Other Homeless Services Providers (OHSP)** – The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority will play a critical role in conducting on-the-ground outreach and engagement with the people who come into contact with the HOPE Teams. LAHSA will allocate resources to rapidly place persons ready to exit the street into safe and supportive housing opportunities. LAHSA workers will also serve as the program’s key liaison to other service providers, including Coordinated Entry System Leads and the County’s Departments of Mental Health, Health Services, and Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention programs.
- **Office of the City Attorney (CA)** – The City Attorney’s Office will support the HOPE Team through its Neighborhood Prosecution Program and provide a dedicated prosecutor for vertical prosecution of HOPE Team cases or redirecting low-level offenders to community-based services instead of jail and prosecution.
- **Office of the Mayor** – The Mayor’s Office will provide programmatic oversight and coordinate communication, track resources, and guide the program’s implementation. The Homelessness Policy Director will serve as the program lead, with support from the Mayor’s Offices of Budget and Innovation (MOBI), City Services (MOCS), and Public Safety (MOPS).

Composition of HOPE Teams

The HOPE Team will consist of personnel from the LAPD, LASAN, and LAHSA, as well as a Deputy City Attorney. The LAPD will assign a total of 10 police officers and 1 sergeant to the team. **These are police officers that were already working in homelessness-related assignments such as outreach teams.** LASAN will assign 1 Maintenance Laborer, 1 Collection Truck Operator, and 2 Environmental Compliance Inspectors, along with a truck and equipment for the team, as well as an additional Senior Environmental Compliance Inspector. LAHSA will provide two outreach and engagement specialists for the program.

Members of the HOPE Team will travel in separate vehicles, though they will closely coordinate with each other. Not every circumstance will require a response from all three and the team will be able to cover more area if they travel separately. The team will work together to develop data-driven strategies for the deployment of daily operational resources. Information sources will include, but are not limited to: calls for police service.

The HOPE Team officers will complete 40 hours of Mental Health Intervention Training (MHIT) and the LAPD Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) will be available to respond if a mental health crisis is encountered.

Budget

The HOPE Team was listed as an item in the 2016-2017 Homeless Budget, with a proposed cost of \$4,585,876. That item and amount was not adopted. However, based on the fact that the involved LAPD personnel are coming from Area operations, in which they are already performing duties primarily focused on homeless issues, the impact is minimal both financially and operationally. As mentioned, the HOPE Team is primarily taking a decentralized function conducted at an Area level and making it a Centralized function at a Bureau level.

Data Sharing and Measure of Effectiveness

The HOPE Team emerged out of evidence-based practices that demonstrate proactive community policing and engagement increase positive outcomes for homeless residents. Activities of the HOPE Team will be tracked and maintained by the Mayor's Office. The following metrics will be reported out by the 20th of the following month to the Mayor and Council Offices:

- Number of calls responded to by the HOPE Team by type
- Number of incidents where the HOPE Team advised patrol officers by type
- Number of residents who were connected to at least one service
- Number of residents who entered into crisis or bridge housing
- Number of residents who entered into permanent housing
- Number of residents arrested for LAMC 56.11 enforcement violations
- Number of residents arrested for non-LAMC 56.11 enforcement violations
- Number of prosecutions by the City Attorney
- Tonnage of materials confiscated or discarded

Conclusion

The HOPE Team will improve the City's response to the complex and diverse needs of unsheltered homeless residents and to support healthy neighborhoods. The HOPE Teams leverage existing resources to expand the scope, manner and approach for addressing homelessness. This collaborative approach effectively connects appropriate service providers with people who need aid.