



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: February 5, 2016

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Miguel Santana
City Administrative Officer 

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Homeless Strategy

Transmitted herewith for Council consideration is the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy as amended by the Homelessness and Poverty Committee on January 27, 2016 and referenced on the Committee Report as Recommendation 2. The Comprehensive Homeless Strategy provides 62 Strategies in seven categories to address the broad spectrum of needs among the homeless.

In addition, the Committee adopted 14 principles to guide the City's policy and service delivery goals and objectives. Those principles are attached as well.

The Committee identified Strategies that should be prioritized in terms of funding, both in FY 2015-2016 and FY 2016-2017. The Committee requests that the Mayor consider these priorities as he develops the FY 2016-2017 Budget. Further, the Committee requested that the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst report on additional budget and funding matters related to homeless programs, including a detailed analysis of potential new funding sources to support housing development.

14 Guiding Principles for the City's Comprehensive Homeless Strategy

1. Set a goal to reduce homelessness to functional zero.
2. Make a multi-year commitment with consistent and ongoing tracking of evaluation metrics;
3. Adopt a "No Wrong Door" approach to improve the City's interactions with homeless individuals and give City staff the tools, relationships and resources necessary to connect individuals to appropriate services and systems of housing;
4. Establish a governance infrastructure within the City, accountable for the City's homelessness programs.
5. Improve and use the Coordinated Entry System as the core process through which homeless individuals are identified, assessed and matched with appropriate services and housing;
6. Take a Coordinated Response: Preventing those at risk of homelessness from becoming homeless in the first place; identifying and engaging those who are homeless and connecting them with case management; and matching homeless people with housing and the support they need to remain stable and housed;
7. Ensure that services and housing are provided throughout the City and County. Homelessness is a Citywide and regional concern and the solutions must be provided Citywide and throughout the region;
8. Integrate interim housing and long-term housing, and connect temporary shelter to systems of Rapid Re-Housing;
9. Embrace the "Housing First" approach that seeks to reduce upfront barriers to housing;
10. Make more housing available at all levels using leasing strategies for immediate response and construction of new housing in the longer-term;
11. Use City funds to leverage other Federal, State and County funding and to fill unfunded gaps to ensure that programs serve City residents and are as effective as possible;
12. Collaborate with the County on shared goals and with mutual responsibility, and coordinate appropriate roles among the City, County, LAHSA, and non-governmental organizations;
13. Use LAHSA as a shared resource and key administrator and project manager of programs in the City; and
14. Balance the needs to keep our streets and public areas clean and safe with the rights and needs of people who are without other options than living in public spaces.