The Helping Hand
Homeless Services Update

this issue

FULLERTON 2019 POINT IN TIME COUNT

On January 23rd & 24th more than 1,167 volunteers were broken into 244 teams, using 239 presdesignated maps to survey people experiencing homelessness throughout all 34 cities and unincorporated areas of Orange County. Of those, more than 70 people focused on Fullerton maps.

During those two early mornings and late nights, a total of 473 were surveyed in Fullerton. Of those 165 were sheltered and 308 were unsheltered.

It was found that 5% of the total unsheltered population are Veterans, 4% are Transitional Aged Youth (18 to 25) and 11% are Seniors. Using those same percentages for Fullerton, it can be assumed then that 15 are unsheltered Veterans, 12 are Transitional Aged Youth and 34 are Seniors.

In addition, among the unsheltered population who were surveyed Fullerton (assuming the same percentages as the total unsheltered population), 51.9% (160) are Chronically Homeless, 32.9% (101) suffer from Substance Abuse, 30.8% (95) are Disabled, 26.5% (82) have Mental Health issues, 13.7% (42) are Developmentally Disabled, 9.58% (30) are Victims of Domostic Violence, and 1.8% (6) are diagnosed with HIV/AIDs.

To read the report go to: https://cms.ocgov.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=92098 .

2019 POINT IN TIME NORTH SPA SUMMARY COMPARED TO 2018 NORTH ORANGE COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS COUNT AND 2017 POINT IN TIME COUNT

Point in Time 2017

North Orange County SPA

- 1 event (January 28, 2017)
- 4 hours
- 80 interviews
- 936 unsheltered
- Statistical Sampling Count
- Purpose: HUD Funding
- 13 North Orange County cities

Homeless Census 2018

North Orange County SPA

- 11 events (March 19-April 20, 2018)
- 44 hours (3-four hours shift per day)
- 1,140 interviews
- 1,474 unsheltered
- 363 sheltered
- Census
- Purpose: What is the problem? Who are our homeless? Where are the homeless? Do we have the appropriate allocation of resources and services? Create a by name registry of the census respondents.
- 13 North Orange County cities
- Shared Responsibility: Law enforcement led field teams of trained census takers deployed into the 13 North Orange County cities to canvas maps and interview people experiencing homelessness as result 1,114 hours of law enforcement officers time utilized in the regional effort

Point in Time 2019

North Orange County SPA

- 2 events (January 23 & 24, 2019)
- 16 hours (2-four hours shift per day)
- 1,596 unsheltered
- Statistical sampling and survey based count
- Purpose: HUD Funding
- 13 North Orange County cities

Source: 211-OC Point in Time 2017; North Orange County Public Safety Task Force Homeless Census Report 2018; County of Orange Everyone Count 2019 Point In Time

On December 15, 2018, the Fullerton Armory opened its doors to provide shelter during the cold weather season. During the 103 nights the Armory was open, a total of 651 unduplicated people received a nutritious meal, a warm shower, and a safe place to sleep.

In addition, many volunteers passed out donations of warm clothing and many Service Providers were available to provide needed services to those who were interested in receiving services.

Of those who were sheltered, a total of 183 (28.11%) were from Fullerton. The next largest population 167 (25.65%) came from Anaheim. There were 55 (8.45%), who came from outside of Orange County, but were from California. There were also 44 (6.76%) from Santa Ana, and 38 (5.84%) from Buena Park, with the remainder of the clients coming from 23 other Orange County cities, unincorporated Orange County areas, and outside of California.

While the Armory had capacity to shelter up to 200 people a night, on average the nightly occupancy was 79 people, with the highest night of occupancy showing a total of 116 people being sheltered.

FULLERTON HEIGHTS AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING PROJECT RECEIVES THE 2019 SPECIAL NEEDS DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Studies have shown that Affordable Housing with wrap around social services have been found to be the answer to homelessness.

Fullerton Heights is one of the first projects in Orange County developed with Mental Health Services Act funds to help address homelessness. This 36 unit affordable rental project is located at 1220 W. Orangethorpe Avenue and includes approximately 2,000 square feet of commercial space. The 18 one-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units will be rented to special needs tenants who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness and have a diagnosed mental illness. The remaining two and three-bedroom units are designated for low-income family households. Pathways of Hope will provide supportive services to all tenants to ensure they are successful.

The project also includes a cafe that will be operated a local nonprofit. Amenities also include a community room with computer lab, community kitchen, community garden and on-site laundry.

Fullerton Heights was developed with the highest United States Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED® certification level – Platinum. Some of its green features include drought tolerant plantings, solar panels, solar hot water system, bioswales, and high efficiency appliances.

The total cost of the project was $18.8 million. This project received $3.0 million from the City, as well as $3.15 million from the County in Mental Health Services Act funding to develop the 18 one bedroom units and 6 two bedroom units affordable to extremely low income households at or below 30% Area Median Income (AMI) and eleven three beroom units affordable to very low income households at or below 50% AMI for 55 years.

This project contributes to a reduction in the homeless population which is a critical issue in Orange County with 2,765 homeless individuals counted in the North SPA during the 2019 Point in Time count, of which, 473 were counted in Fullerton. Preference was given to those who live and/or work in Fullerton. As well as households with Mobility/Hearing/Sight impairment were given priority for units designed for the mobility impaired and for those with hearing and sight impairment. More than 175 applied, and the project is now fully occupied.

On April 25, 3019, A Community of Friends, received the 2019 Awardable Housing Award for Special Needs Development from the Affordable Housing Clearinghouse, Orange County Community Housing Corporation and the Kennedy Commision. Congratulations on their achievement.

On April 30, 2019, a ribbon cutting event was held to showcase the project. For more information on this and other affordable housing projects go to: https://www.acof.org/ .