



COMMUNITY PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

April 2025



SANTA CLARITA
COMMUNITY
TASK FORCE ON
HOMELESSNESS

Introduction

With the adoption of the first Community Plan to Address Homelessness (Plan) in 2018 and its subsequent iteration in 2022, the City of Santa Clarita (City), in partnership with the Community Task Force on Homelessness (Task Force), has sought to develop solutions to address the steadily increasing issues regarding homelessness facing our communities. Over 35 stakeholders from across the Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) have contributed to the development of the past Plans through consistent collaborative efforts designed to build ownership of the Plan and its priorities, align local resources, and ensure that goals are met.

The Task Force has established the following four subcommittees to fulfill the goals of the new Plan: Case Conferencing, Funding, Housing, and Prevention. Each subcommittee is tasked with specific duties and responsibilities to ensure the Plan's actionable items are met in an efficient and timely manner. Major action items the subcommittees previously accomplished include:

- In 2024, a full-service homeless shelter, operated by Bridge to Home, opened on Drayton Street. The shelter includes 69 individual beds and eight apartment-style units for families.
- Also in 2024, a transitional housing complex, operated by Family Promise, opened on Newhall Avenue. The complex offers four apartment-style family units and an emergency overnight unit for families and pregnant women experiencing homelessness in the Santa Clarita Valley.
- Six innovation grants were provided to six different organizations to identify or improve services for homelessness in the SCV.
- Measure H funding was provided to the City, Bridge to Home, and Family Promise for homeless coordination services, a new homeless shelter, and a transitional housing complex.
- Individuals experiencing homelessness, or who are at-risk, were linked to various health services through Samuel Dixon Family Health Center, North Valley Health Corporation, the Department of Social Services, and Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital.
- Members of the Task Force worked collaboratively to create two resource guides, which are available on the Task Force's website.

The new two-year Plan is built on the Task Force's existing efforts to prevent and combat homelessness, and serves as the next phase in the Task Force's attempts to mitigate the occurrence of homelessness. The framework for the goals of this Plan is structured in a SMART format which stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound.

City and Plan Information

Name of City: Santa Clarita

Period of Time Covered by Plan: April 2025 - April 2027

Date of Plan Adoption: April 2025

Challenges

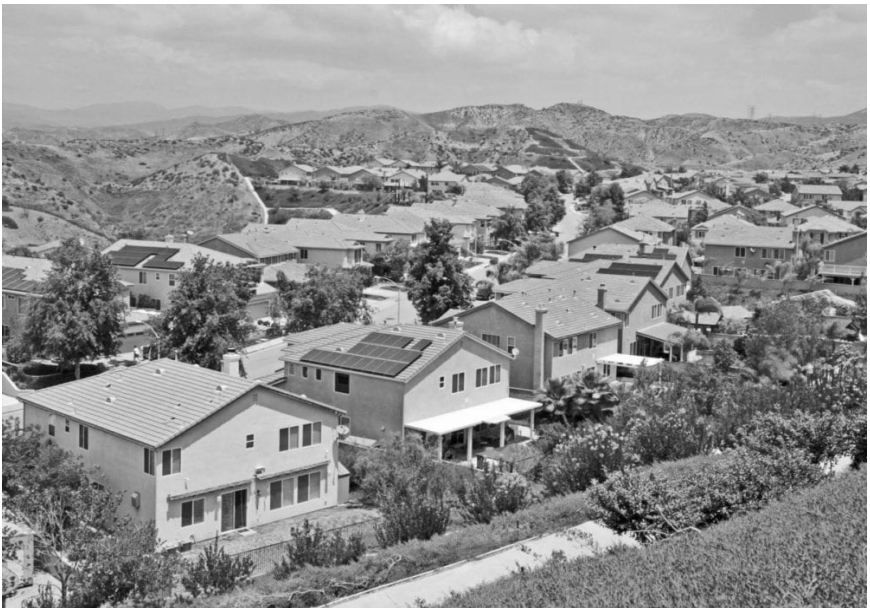
Per data collected in the City's Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2024-2028, approximately 38 percent of Santa Clarita households had a housing cost burden – those that spent more than 30 percent of their gross household income on housing. Citywide, severe cost burden impacted 17 percent of the households – those that spent more than 50 percent of gross household income on housing. As the housing affordability crisis hits those households on the lower end of the income spectrum the hardest, unaffordable housing options can potentially push households into homelessness.

The lack of low-income and Permanent Supportive Housing services creates high barriers for those individuals attempting to move into permanent housing solutions. The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), which is determined by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), establishes requirements for cities to accommodate zoning where housing units can be built. The RHNA process follows an eight-year cycle, and the City's total RHNA share for the 2021-2029 cycle is as follows:

- 10,031 units
 - 3,397 units for very low-income housing (0-30 percent of Area Median Income (AMI))
 - 1,734 units for low-income housing (31-50 percent AMI)
 - 1,672 units for moderate-income housing (51 – 80 percent AMI)
 - 3,228 units for above-moderate income housing (81 percent – 120 percent AMI)

For the current 2021-2029 cycle, up until March 2024, the following entitlements have been issued by affordability:

- 442 units entitled
 - 29 units for very low-income housing
 - 173 units for low-income housing
 - 0 units for moderate-income housing
 - 240 units for above-moderate income housing



Since cities do not build housing units themselves and must rely on private developers, nonprofit organizations, and market conditions to produce affordable housing, meeting RHNA obligations can be challenging.

Funding Streams

Many stakeholders recognize the limited resources available to cities for addressing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. In November 2016, Los Angeles County (County) voters approved Measure H, establishing a ¼ cent sales tax to fund the County's Homeless Initiative (HI) strategies. However, throughout the life cycle of Measure H, only a small portion of revenues was distributed directly to local governments. Sales tax within the City of Santa Clarita (City), for example, contributed approximately \$8.4 to \$11 million annually to Measure H, totaling \$68.1 million through Fiscal Year 2023-24. Despite this significant contribution, the City received only \$1.4 million – or just 2 percent – to address homelessness within its jurisdiction.

In November 2024, County voters approved Measure A, replacing Measure H with a *permanent* ½ cent sales tax, effectively doubling the previous rate. Measure A is projected to generate approximately \$1.1 billion annually to address homelessness and expand affordable housing throughout the County. Under Measure A, 61.25 percent of the proceeds are allocated to the County for comprehensive homelessness services, local solutions, innovative programs, and accountability measures; 35.75 percent is allocated the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHS) for affordable housing initiatives and homelessness prevention; and, 3 percent is allocated to the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA).

While Measure A provides a dedicated, ongoing revenue stream for homelessness services, cities continue to receive only a small share of the funds, making it difficult to develop localized solutions that address community needs.

To compensate for the lack of sustained funding, one-time investments from various sources – including the City, the County, and state legislative offices – have been instrumental in supporting the construction of two local housing facilities. However, while these investments have helped expand shelter capacity, they do not provide ongoing funding for services and operations, underscoring the continued need for additional revenue sources.

Beyond Measure A, stakeholders continue to face challenges when applying for the right forms of funding. Navigating the complex network of federal, state, county, and city funding streams remains difficult. The key issues include a lack of awareness about available funds and uncertainty regarding which funding sources stakeholders should pursue.

Homeless Count Data

In LA County, the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) has shown a significant increase in homelessness over the years. Within the broader Los Angeles Continuum of Care (covering all of LA County except Pasadena, Glendale, and Long Beach), the PIT Count has risen from approximately 40,000 individuals in 2016 to 75,000 in 2024. While homelessness had been steadily increasing year-over-year, the 2024 PIT Count recorded a slight decline Countywide of 0.27 percent compared to 2023 (See Figure 1). Although this change falls within the margin of error, LAHSA considers it a significant milestone in efforts to reverse the upward trend in homelessness.

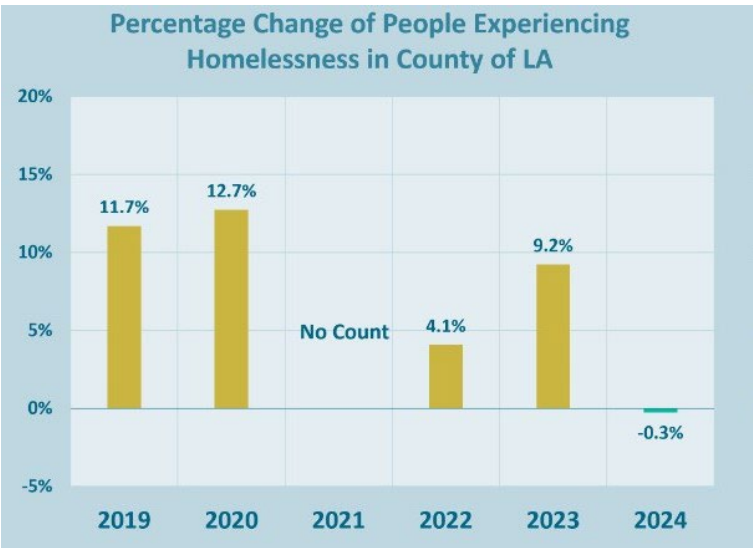


Figure 1: Data from 2024 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Infographics

In the City, the 2024 PIT Count identified 119 homeless persons, reflecting a 13.8 percent decrease from the previous year’s count of 138. Of those recorded, 58 were unsheltered, while the remaining 61 were in shelters. However, this figure does not account for individuals at risk of homelessness, nor has it been adjusted by a multiplier to estimate the total number of individuals living in temporary housing situations such as tents, recreational vehicles, etc.

While the PIT Count is a valuable tool for assessing homelessness trends, it is not a perfect science. The methodology relies on a one-night snapshot, which can miss individuals who do not fit traditional definitions of homelessness, often referred to as the “invisible homeless.” These include people couch surfing with friends, living in vehicles in less visible areas, or generally unseen the evening of the PIT Count. The PIT Count is also dependent on volunteer participation and weather conditions, both of which can influence the accuracy of the data collected.

Information from local service providers suggests that the actual number of homeless individuals in Santa Clarita is higher than what the PIT Count reflects. To develop more effective solutions, a more comprehensive approach to data collection - incorporating service provider records, outreach reports, and real-time tracking methods - would provide a clearer picture of the true scope of homelessness in the community.

SUBCOMMITTEES AND THEIR GOALS

1. Case Conferencing

Purpose: The Case Conferencing Subcommittee plays a critical role in fostering collaboration and coordination among the community organizations that form the Task Force. Its primary function is to build and maintain the necessary infrastructure for effective monthly case conferencing sessions. These sessions allow service providers to discuss complex cases, coordinate care, share resources, and craft holistic strategies for individuals and families experiencing housing instability and homelessness.

In this context, a “case” refers to an individual or family experiencing housing instability or homelessness who is actively engaged with service providers. A case may involve various challenges such as chronic homelessness, mental health concerns, substance use disorders, or financial instability. During case conferencing sessions, providers collaborate to assess the individual’s or family’s needs, coordinate care across multiple agencies, and develop tailored strategies to connect them with housing and other supportive services.

Goals include:

- Create standardized protocols and guidelines for case conferencing sessions, in compliance with confidentiality laws;
- Implement virtual case conferencing meetings;
- Create local agency engagement by identifying and recruiting agencies with interest in participating in case conferencing; and,
- Identify a target subpopulation, such as single parents or individuals living with substance abuse and mental health issues, and locate trends and gaps in services to strategically approach this subpopulation.

Goals

- **Create standardized protocols and guidelines for case conferencing sessions, in compliance with confidentiality laws.** Establishing standardized protocols ensures that all participating agencies have a clear, consistent, and legally compliant framework for case conferencing. By developing clear guidelines and procedures, participating agencies can engage in structured, solution-oriented discussions while maintaining client confidentiality in accordance with HIPAA and other relevant regulations. These protocols will also define roles, expectations, and processes for information sharing, which strengthens inter-agency collaboration.

SMART GOAL 1	Accomplished By:
Develop Case Conferencing protocols to ensure adherence to confidentiality laws.	1. Research best practices for case conferencing protocols used by similar task forces, ensuring compliance with HIPAA and other confidentiality laws.
	2. Draft participation guidelines to ensure all participants understand and adhere to data protection requirements.
	3. Continuously gather feedback on the participation guidelines and refine as-needed.

- **Implement virtual case conferencing meetings.** Case conferencing sessions allow service providers to discuss complex cases, coordinate care, share resources, and craft holistic strategies for individuals and families experiencing housing instability and homelessness. Virtual meetings expand accessibility, increase agency participation, and provide a flexible alternative to in-person sessions.

SMART GOAL 2	Accomplished By:
Launch a recurring virtual case conferencing platform.	1. Track attendance and maintain meeting notes for each case conferencing session.
	2. Create a standardized virtual meeting schedule to ensure consistency and commitment from all agencies.
	3. Develop a method for tracking outcomes by recording the number of cases discussed and identifying trends in service needs.

- **Create local agency engagement by identifying and recruiting agencies with interest in participating in case conferencing.** The success of case conferencing depends on diverse agency participation. Actively identifying and engaging new agencies expands the resource network available to clients, increases cross-sector collaboration, and enhances the Task Force’s capacity to address complex client needs.

SMART GOAL 3	Accomplished By:
Create local agency engagement by identifying and recruiting agencies with interest in participating in case conferencing.	1. Identify key agencies that provide relevant services, such as mental health care, substance use treatment, and housing assistance, to expand participation.
	2. Conduct direct outreach to agency leaders, explaining the benefits of case conferencing and inviting them to participate.
	3. Share success stories with the rest of the Task Force, highlighting how the case conferencing meetings have helped in different scenarios.

- **Identify a target subpopulation, such as single parents or individuals living with substance abuse and mental health issues, and locate trends and gaps in services to strategically approach this subpopulation.** Focusing on a specific population segment allows the Task Force to tailor interventions that address the unique barriers and service needs of that group. By identifying a target population, such as single parents or individuals living with mental health issues, the Case Conferencing subcommittee can better align its strategies, partnerships, and resource development. This focus can result in more effective program delivery, deeper impact, and improved outcomes for those most at risk of long-term homelessness.

SMART GOAL 4	Accomplished By:
<p>Identify a target subpopulation, such as single parents or individuals living with substance abuse and mental health issues, and locate trends and gaps in services to strategically approach this subpopulation.</p>	<p>1. Leverage the experience and knowledge from current organizations that focus on key target populations.</p>
	<p>2. Create a presentation for the full Task Force to highlight a target population, increasing awareness and sharing methods to better assist those living with substance abuse and mental health issues.</p>
	<p>3. Create a mechanism to better assist target populations once they have been identified by the subcommittee.</p>

2. Funding

Purpose: The Funding subcommittee will be aiming to track and raise awareness of potential funding sources that Task Force members may be eligible to pursue and to assist them along the application process.

Goals include:

- Increase awareness of funding sources;
- Analyze the feasibility of hiring a shared grant writer, and;
- Identify local lead agencies that could apply for funding available through LAHSA, Measure A, nongovernmental agencies, and state or federal resources.

Goals

- **Increase awareness of funding sources.** Funding is limited and difficult to obtain, making it crucial to raise awareness as a first step in helping local non-profits, service providers, and governmental agencies access additional funding resources. By increasing awareness of available grants, subsidies, and other funding opportunities, the subcommittee can better support affordable housing initiatives and community programs, ultimately helping member organizations within the Task Force to secure the necessary resources to drive meaningful solutions.

SMART GOAL 1	Accomplished By:
Increase awareness of funding sources	1. Create a tracking sheet of any available funding opportunities to address homelessness.
	2. Invite experts from government agencies, foundations, and financial institutions to discuss funding options and knowledge on application processes.
	3. Share real-time updates on funding opportunities on the Task Force's website and via direct email communication.
	4. Share success story spotlights of organizations within the Task Force that have successfully secured funding, showcasing their strategies and outcomes.

- **Analyze the feasibility of hiring a shared grant writer.** Many nonprofits and local community organizations struggle to secure critical funding due to limited capacity, and staffing needed to navigate the complex grant application process. The complexity of grant applications, combined with limited internal resources, often prevents these organizations from accessing financial opportunities that could significantly benefit their programs.

One potential solution is for the Task Force to explore hiring a grant writer who would be shared among its members. While the Task Force itself cannot apply for funding as a collective entity, a grant writer could assist individual member organizations in identifying and applying for relevant funding opportunities. This could potentially enhance the success rate of grant applications and increase funds available to our local providers.

The first step before moving forward with this decision, is to conduct a feasibility study that can assess the practicality, cost, and potential impact of this initiative.

SMART GOAL 2	Accomplished By:
Analyze the feasibility of hiring a shared grant writer	1. Assess the available funds or potential sources to support hiring a grant writer who would be shared amongst the members of the Task Force.
	2. Survey the Task Force to understand their current needs for grant writing support amongst the members of the Task Force.
	3. Submit a report of the findings of the feasibility study to all the members of the Task Force.

- **Measure A, and state or federal resources.** The Task Force does not have the ability to apply for funding or act as a lead agency in securing grant dollars. However, the subcommittee can play a vital role in connecting members with potential funding opportunities that align with their needs. The goal of this subcommittee is to identify local lead agencies with the capacity and expertise to apply for grants, such as those available through LAHSA, Measure A, and state or federal resources. The subcommittee can help match organizations with funding that supports their operations. These lead agencies can also ensure that funds are effectively managed and distributed, strengthening local housing efforts and expanding critical services for those at risk of homelessness.

SMART GOAL 3	Accomplished By:
Identify local lead agencies that could apply for funding available through LAHSA, Measure A, nongovernmental agencies, and state or federal resources.	1. Track and identify the local organizations that can act as potential lead agencies.
	2. Encourage active collaboration between lead agencies and other organizations within the Task Force.
	3. Monitor available funding opportunities that potential lead agencies can apply to.

3. Housing

Purpose: The Housing subcommittee is comprised of members with experience in, and knowledge about, developing and financing affordable housing; the housing market in the SCV; and economic development. The purpose of this subcommittee is to identify relevant solutions relating to affordable housing for the SCV's at-risk/homeless population, and provide recommendations to the Task Force on whether to increase the supply of affordable housing; on strategies to support rental, supportive, and transitional housing; and on funding initiatives to support housing-related services.

Goals include:

- Increase efforts to assist target populations, such as senior citizens, at-risk youth, low-income families, etc.;
- Create an internal record of individuals and/or families who have successfully been housed through the efforts of the subcommittee;
- Identify and evaluate innovative strategies to expand access to affordable housing, such as shared housing models, tiny homes, and safe parking programs; and,
- Organize efforts to advocate to the State Legislature regarding housing legislation.

Goals

- **Increase efforts to assist target populations, such as senior citizens, at-risk youth, and low-income families.** Expanding housing assistance efforts for key target groups is essential to address the growing housing crisis. These groups face unique challenges that prevent them from accessing stable housing, and without targeted support, their situations often worsen. Expanding assistance can provide stability, reduce homelessness, and improve overall community well-being.

SMART GOAL 1	Accomplished By:
Expand housing assistance efforts for key target populations	1. Collaborate with local non-profits that already assist target populations in order to increase the accessibility and awareness of the programs they offer.
	2. Re-visit the Shared Housing Program by locating a lead agency that can go over the feasibility of this program.
	3. Create a list of direct emergency housing options for families, veterans or seniors, to be shared with the Task Force.

- **Create an internal record of individuals and/or families who have been housed through the efforts of the subcommittee.** It is important that the subcommittee tracks the outcomes of its efforts to measure the effectiveness of its initiatives and the impact of the coordinated work among its members. By documenting the number of individuals and/or families who have successfully transitioned into stable housing, the subcommittee can better understand the success of its strategies and identify areas where improvements may be needed.

SMART GOAL 2	Accomplished By:
Establish and maintain an internal record of individuals and/or families housed through the efforts of the subcommittee	1. Collaborate with local service providers to collect and share information on housing placements.
	2. Create and manage an ongoing spreadsheet to update on a quarterly basis that depicts the number of individuals housed through efforts of this subcommittee.
	3. Track reports and information from stakeholder monthly updates during the subcommittee meetings.

- **Identify and evaluate innovative strategies to expand access to affordable housing, such as shared housing models, tiny homes, and safe parking programs.** Innovative housing strategies are essential to address the growing housing crisis in our local community, most notably among our low-income individuals and families. Traditional housing solutions may not be enough to meet current demand, and exploring new approaches, such as the Shared Housing program, can be more flexible, cost-effective options to increase housing availability.

SMART GOAL 3	Accomplished By:
Identify and evaluate innovative affordable housing strategies.	1. Re-visit the Shared Housing Program by locating a lead agency that can go over the feasibility of this program.
	2. Research and pilot new programs to test new strategies on a small scale to assess feasibility and impact before full implementation.
	3. Continue to invite outside agencies/and non-profits to share "Spotlight Presentations" with the subcommittee to increase awareness and create future partnerships.
	4. Foster relationships with developers or private equity firms that may be interested in financing the repurposing of a building.

- **Organize efforts to advocate to the State regarding housing legislation.** With an increasing number of housing-related legislation being introduced at the State level, it is important for this subcommittee to assess their impact on local communities. Although the Task Force does not have the ability to act as a lead agency engaging in advocacy, the Housing Subcommittee will focus on keeping Task Force members informed about legislation that may affect funding, housing initiatives, and local land use authority. By evaluating new and proposed legislation, the subcommittee will ensure that members are aware of relevant changes.

SMART GOAL 4	Accomplished By:
Coordinate advocacy initiatives to influence State housing legislation.	1. Track and analyze proposed housing bills to assess their potential impact on local housing and homeless services.
	2. Keep Task Force members informed through regular updates on key legislative developments, enabling coordinated advocacy efforts.
	3. Monitor the State's budget process for potential discussion and policies in support of shared housing initiatives.

4. Prevention

Purpose: The Prevention subcommittee is designed to connect at-risk of homelessness individuals and families with the appropriate community-based resources to assist them with receiving basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing; mental health services; substance use disorder services; domestic violence services; and youth and family services.

Goals include:

- Develop a data tracking system related to individuals at risk of homelessness, including demographics, resource utilization, and outcomes;
- Identify additional resources available to our local population;
- Increase outreach to improve awareness of available resources;
- Utilize existing local databases for enhanced resource-sharing;
- Identify organizations that provide direct resources for eviction prevention programs.

Goals

- **Develop a data tracking system related to individuals at risk of homelessness, including demographics, resource utilization, and outcomes.** The effective tracking of data improves coordination and information management for individuals and families at risk of homelessness. The data tracking system will focus on individuals who have sought assistance due to housing instability or are at risk of homelessness. Key steps include identifying Task Force members responsible for maintaining relevant data, creating and managing a quarterly updated spreadsheet for case referrals, and assignments, and integrating reports from monthly stakeholder meetings. Additionally, the system will leverage existing local databases to enhance resource sharing and support effective case management.

SMART GOAL 1	Accomplished By:
Develop a data tracking system.	1. Identify current members of the Task Force that maintain information regarding individuals and families that are at-risk of homelessness.
	2. Create and manage an ongoing spreadsheet to update on a quarterly basis for tasks and assignments; case referrals; setting timelines for case management assistance; etc., to utilize as a database for the Task Force.
	3. Track reports and information from stakeholder monthly updates during the subcommittee meetings.
	4. Utilize existing local databases for enhanced resource-sharing.
	5. Establish a benchmark of individuals the subcommittee will strive to assist in achieving self-reliance.

- Identifying additional resources to better support the local at-risk population.** This goal will be achieved by surveying and engaging with community organizations to uncover available programs, services, and funding opportunities. Additionally, researching State and Federal assistance programs will help identify underutilized resources. Collaboration with local businesses and faith-based organizations will further expand access to charitable programs and services, ensuring a more comprehensive support network for those in need.

SMART GOAL 2	Accomplished By:
Identify additional resources available to our local population	1. Survey and engage with community organizations to identify available programs, services, and funding opportunities for at-risk populations.
	2. Research State and Federal assistance programs that may be available but underutilized within the local community.
	3. Make stakeholders aware of the use of “problem-solving” practices, when encountering cases of imminent eviction.
	4. Collaborate with local businesses and faith-based organizations to identify charitable programs or services they offer.

- Increase outreach and awareness of available services for individuals in need.** This goal will be accomplished by updating the Task Force’s ‘Resource Guide’ with current service listings for residents of Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding areas. Additionally, maintaining and enhancing the Task Force website will provide a centralized hub for resource information and upcoming events. Outreach efforts will include direct engagement with homeless individuals through in-person contact with City Code Enforcement and LA Sheriff’s Department.

SMART GOAL 3	Accomplished By:
<p>Increase outreach to improve awareness of available services</p>	<p>1. Update the Task Force's 'Resource Guide', which contains a list of services available to residents of the Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding areas.</p>
	<p>2. Maintain and continue to enhance the Task Force website to serve as a centralized location for information on available resources and upcoming events.</p>
	<p>3. Coordinate with homeless individuals by conducting outreach via in-person contact (e.g. accompanying with City Code Enforcement or LA Sheriff's).</p>

Community Task Force on Homelessness Stakeholders

Action Family Counseling

Website: actiondrugrehab.com

America's Job Center of California (AJCC)

Website: ajcc.lacounty.gov

Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo's Office

Website: a40.asmdc.org

Assistance League

Website: assistanceleaguesantaclarita.org

Bethlehem SCV

Website: bethlehemscev.com

Bridge to Home

Website: btohome.org

California Institute of the Arts

Website: calarts.edu

County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office

Website: lacounty.gov

Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital

Website: henrymayo.com

LAHSA

Website: lahsa.org

Lighthouse Church

Salvation Army

Website: santaclarita.salvationarmy.org

Samuel Dixon Family Health Center

Website: sdfhc.org

Santa Clarita Food Pantry

Website: scvfoodpantry.org

Child & Family Center

Website: childfamilycenter.org

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Website: local.churchofjesuschrist.org

City of Santa Clarita

Website: santaclarita.gov

College of the Canyons

Website: canyons.edu

Congressman George Whitesides' Office

Website: whitesides.house.gov

Family Promise

Website: familypromisescv.org

Finally Family Homes

Website: finallyfamilyhomes.org

Newhall School District

Website: newhallschooldistrict.com

Northeast Valley Health Corp

Website: nevhc.org

Real Life Church

Website: reallifechurch.org

Rotary Club

Website: scvrotary.com

Santa Clarita Grocery

Website: santaclaritagrocery.org

Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce

Website: scvchamber.com

Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corporation

Website: scvedc.org

Santa Clarita Valley Mental Health Center

Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center

Website: myscvcoa.org

Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station

Website: lasd.org

Saugus Union School District

Website: saugusud.org

Senator Suzette Valladares' Office

Website: suzettevalladares.com

Single Mother's Outreach

Website: singlemothersoutreach.org

Sulphur Springs Union School District

Website: sssd.k12.ca.us

Valencia United Methodist Church

Website: Umcv.org

William S. Hart School District

Website: hartdistrict.org