



## ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN LAKE ELSINORE

### State of Homelessness

The City of Lake Elsinore estimates there are currently 55 chronically homeless individuals in the City with approximately another 30 in surrounding areas. It is believed this number has been reduced by more than 50% since 2018. Our team has had more than 1,500 engagements with homeless individuals in the last year, and information gathered through the contacts reveals most of the homeless individuals in the City suffer from substance abuse, mental health concerns, or both.

### Our Approach

The City has taken a proactive approach to addressing homelessness by getting out into our streets, understanding our existing homeless population, and securing the resources and partnerships to effectively tackle homelessness. This includes taking a Zero Tolerance approach to criminal activities while still encouraging Responsible Compassion by offering those in need a hand up, not a handout. The goal of the program is to enforce illegal activity by holding individuals accountable for committing any and all crimes in the community, while striving to help those in need who are willing to receive the help.

### The Dream Team

- City of Lake Elsinore – City Council, Staff and Code Enforcement
- Riverside County Sheriff's Office – Lake Elsinore Station
- Social Work Action Group (SWAG)

### 2019 Statistics

- 1,568 engagements with homeless individuals
- 73 individuals exited the streets, of which 20 chose to return to the streets
- 14 individuals were reunited with family
- 43 individuals were placed into temporary/transitional housing
- 10 individuals were placed into permanent housing
- 6 individuals were placed into long-term substance abuse centers/housing
- 14 Veterans received assistance
- 152 individuals accepted and received mental health services
- 278 individuals declined to answer outreach questions or listen to the available help
- Ongoing, weekly encampment clean ups resulting in hundreds of thousands of tons of junk and debris removed from our community
- This year's Point-in-Time Count is expected to decline again to approximately 50 individuals, down from 75 individuals in 2018 and 66 individuals in 2019

### What's Next

Advocating and securing additional resources to address our primary challenges: housing, mental health programs and substance abuse services. The City is further expanding its efforts this year with a \$1.5 million grant awarded to the city last spring from the California Homeless Emergency Aid Program. The City will use the funds to find critical housing opportunities in the community in which homeless people can be placed right away for up to 90 days. The City will be using existing housing operations to create critical beds needed to further our efforts. In addition, we will continue to advocate for improved programming, reduced redundancies and excessive waste in the use of funding to address homelessness.