

FAITH COMMUNITY

[toolkit]

Developed by members of the Pasadena Partnership to End
Homelessness Faith Community Committee.

Pasadena Partnership to End Homelessness

[Introduction]

Serving as the designated City of Pasadena Continuum of Care (CoC), the **Pasadena Partnership** to End Homelessness coordinates housing, services, and funding for homeless families and individuals. We are dedicated to the planning, promotion, and implementation of best and evidence-based strategies to effectively prevent and end homelessness in the City of Pasadena. The Partnership to End Homelessness is one of 400+ continuums of care in the United States funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Partnership to End Homelessness consists of a board, committees, and representatives at large.

The **Faith Community Committee** (FCC) is a key player in the City's response system and provides a vital voice within the Pasadena Partnership. The Faith Community Committee's efforts are guided by the shared goal of ending homelessness in Pasadena.

The work of the Faith Community Committee centers on facilitating agencies in their efforts to address homelessness in Pasadena. During our monthly meetings we work to forge partnerships within the faith community, facilitate peer learning from providers, and provide a forum for sharing best practices and evidence based-practices and resources available through the Partnership.

A VISION FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN PASADENA

The Pasadena Partnership has one primary goal - to end homelessness in the City of Pasadena. We believe that through collaborative efforts utilizing best practices we can end homelessness. By working together with local agencies, faith communities, and volunteers we can decrease the number of neighbors experiencing homelessness each year.

FOUR SIMPLE WAYS TO JOIN THIS VISION

- 1 Refer persons experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through the Coordinated Entry System (CES)
- 2 Support and follow up with families being placed into housing
- 3 Participate in the annual Homeless Count
- 4 Join the Faith Community Committee

[Help End Homelessness in Pasadena]

1 | REFER HOMELESS PERSONS TO THE COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM

The Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a county-wide system process for facilitating access to all resources designated for homeless individuals and families, identifying and assessing needs in a transparent and consistent way, and referring clients to the most appropriate service strategy or housing intervention. In doing so, CES ensures the Pasadena Partnership's limited resources are allocated to achieve the most effective results.

Two integrated systems, one for families (CES-F) and one for individuals (CES), have been developed in Pasadena that together function as a community-wide coordinated entry process for everyone who is experiencing homelessness. The system ensures that people experiencing homelessness have equitable, centralized, and timely access to housing resources in a person-centered approach that preserves choice and dignity.

2 | SUPPORT AND FOLLOW UP WITH FAMILIES PLACED IN HOUSING

Connect with local service providers like Union Station Homeless Services, Door of Hope or Imagine LA to support, provide care and continue relationships with families once they are housed.

- Create a list of volunteers that can help with the different services provided
- Congregations and faith-based organizations can be connected to agencies through the Partnership's Faith Community Committee

3 | PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL HOMELESS COUNT

The homeless count takes place in January each year and is crucial in providing data and statistics for our cities efforts to end homelessness. To participate in this year's count, please visit www.pasadenapartnership.org.

4 | JOIN THE FAITH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The FCC gathers on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. to stay up to date on housing first best practices.

CONNECTING · HOMELESS · PEOPLE WITH · HOUSING ·

FAMILIES

2-1-1 LA COUNTY

To refer families to services it is important to know who might be eligible according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness (see below). For families who are homeless, please contact 2-1-1 and request the Family Solutions Center (FSC).

NEXT STEPS FOR FAMILIES

- 1 Advise 211 that the family is experiencing homelessness and ask to be connected with a Family Resource Team (FRT).
- 2 Within 24 hours, the FRT will complete an over-the-phone assessment to determine homeless status and triage immediate needs.
- 3 Families who are homeless are offered in-person appointment at the Pasadena Family Solutions Center (FSC) within 2-3 days for a full assessment.
- 4 Families who are literally homeless and have no other place to stay until their appointments are given a motel voucher when funding permits.

HUD DEFINITION OF HOMELESS

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, meaning that:

- They are sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation; or
- They are living in a shelter, transitional housing, or hotel or motel paid for by a charitable organization; or
- They are exiting an institution where they resided for ≤ 90 days and lived in one of the above places prior to entering that institution

INDIVIDUALS

COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM (CES)

For individuals who are homeless (see definition), contact or send the individual to one of the CES intake sites to complete an assessment and begin the process of connecting them with housing and services.

CES INTAKE SITES

Union Station Homeless Services Adult Center

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
412 S. Raymond Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91105
(626) 791-6610 or (626) 390-6924

An appointment is recommended but not required. If calling, ask for a member of the Street Outreach Team or Sieglinde Von Deffner, the CES Coordinator and advise the individual of their availability or set an appointment for a future time and date.

Foothill Unity Center

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
191 North Oak Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91107
(626) 584-7420

Please call ahead to schedule an appointment

Friends in Deed

Monday - Wednesday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
444 E Washington Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91104
(626) 797-2402

Female clients only

Please call ahead to schedule an appointment

[Additional Resources]

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

- Union Station Homeless Services – Adult Center
- Union Station Homeless Service – Family Center
- Friends in Deed – Bad Weather Shelter

Weather activated (a forecast of 40 degrees or below and/or 40% chance of rain) from the day after Thanksgiving until the 1st of March

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- Door of Hope (families)
- Elizabeth House (pregnant women)
- Hillsides Youth Moving On (youth)
- Journey House (youth)
- Pacific Clinics – Casa Maria (single males)
- Hathaway Sycamores (youth)

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- Friends in Deed

[Federal Responses to Homelessness]

Evidence-Based and Best Practices

To enact the vision of ending homelessness in Pasadena, Faith-based communities are strongly encouraged to align their ministries and programs to support evidence-based and best practices that the federal government has acknowledged as effective in ending homelessness.

PERMANENT HOUSING USING THE HOUSING FIRST MODEL

We believe that the solution to homelessness is simple: permanent housing. Stable housing is the foundation upon which people build their lives-absent a safe, decent, affordable place to live, it is next to impossible to achieve good health, positive educational outcomes, or reach one's economic potential.

Providing immediate access to permanent housing for persons experiencing chronic homelessness (persons who have been on the streets for years) along with supportive services as needed can ensure that homeless individuals remain housed, even among persons with severe substance use and mental health conditions.

By embracing a housing first model, the Pasadena Partnership to End Homelessness has re-oriented its emergency shelters to facilitate this new focus. Thus, emergency services such as emergency shelters and basic services have become a pathway to permanent housing, providing temporary shelter and assessment to match homeless individuals with the most appropriate housing. This approach is working! Since implementing a housing first model in 2011, the City of Pasadena has seen a decrease in homelessness by 56%.

RAPID REHOUSING

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is a strategy, informed by a housing first approach that has been successfully used by many communities to reduce homelessness. Rapid re-housing rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services.

Rapid Rehousing often serves those experiencing homelessness due to financial crisis, domestic conflicts, or evictions rather than those who are chronically homeless. The hope of Rapid Rehousing is to minimize the negative outcomes of homelessness by helping persons return to housing as soon as possible.

TARGETED HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Targeted Homelessness Prevention seeks to identify those most at risk for homelessness and provide household assistance. The hope of prevention assistance is to preemptively support persons who risk facing homelessness by considering commonly identifiable risk factors. Typical factors considered are household income, disabilities in the household, past evictions, employment status, and more.

Faith-based communities can empower this resource by collecting information through volunteering at the annual Pasadena Homeless Count, which provides important data and statistics used to end homelessness.

[Keep the Conversation Going]

Consider committing to one or more of the following action steps

- 1 Join our email list by filling out a contact card. This is a great way to keep in touch on future gatherings, trainings and events!
- 2 Attend the FCC! We gather monthly.
- 3 Fill out our Homeless and Churches Survey to inform us on how you are already working to end homelessness in your community:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2SGFB2F>