City of Santa Fe Town Hall
Solutions to Unsheltered Homelessness

Santa Fe Community Convention Center

August 30, 2022

5:30pm-7:30pm

WHO WE ARE

In response to the COVID-19 health pandemic, **public and private funders organized in an effort to align funding and resources** for local shelters and housing providers to help prevent the spread of the virus and to help stabilize housing for multiple hundreds of families throughout the Santa Fe community.

OUR PARTNERS

Santa Fe Housing Initiative
Safe, Stable, and Supportive

We are committed to **enhanced communication, collaboration and alignment of efforts** to end homelessness. We seek to maximize use of both public and private funds, to support our community partners, to plan strategically, and to strengthen the overall homeless response system. We hold collaborative meetings and working groups to help move us forward together.

New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness

THE LIFE LINK

The Interfaith Community Shelter at Pete's Place

ST. ELIZABETH SHELTERS & SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
A non-denominational community

Built For Zero.
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

YOUTH SHELTERS & FAMILY SERVICES

CASA Milagro

PROJECT X MOXIE

Adelante SFPS

CONSUELO'S PLACE

Inter-Faith NEW MEXICO

SANTA FE HOUSING ACTION COALITION

Española Pathways Shelter

SANTA FE COMMUNITY HOUSING TRUST

Chainbreaker collective

SANTA FE Recovery Center
THE PATH TO RECOVERY

Santa Fe Housing Initiative
Safe, Stable, and Supportive

Like every city in America, **we have significant numbers of residents who are experiencing homelessness** in one form or another.

- As of August 2022, the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness Coordinated Entry System (which is not yet tracking all homeless people in Santa Fe), recorded a **total of 363 individuals, 49 families, and 18 homeless youth in Santa Fe**, with 205 individuals being chronically homeless, 22 being chronically homeless veterans, and a disproportionate number of Native American and African American people experiencing homelessness.

We have inadequate affordable housing units and supportive services, including behavioral health supports.

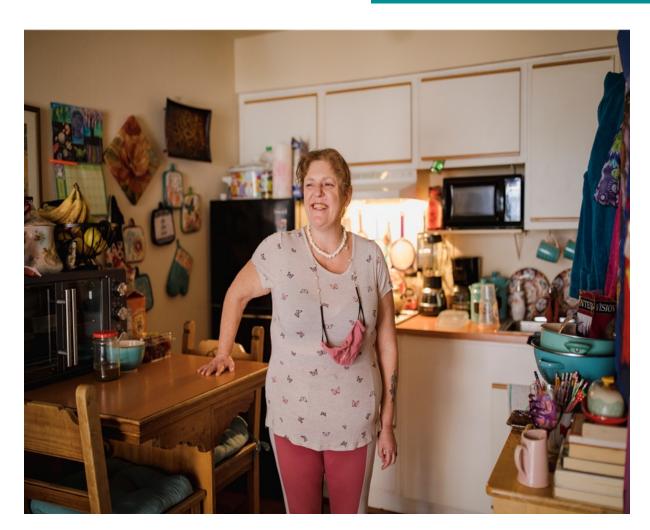**We need better data** to further inform system development.

Homelessness is not a crime. However, residents and business owners express they are bearing the brunt of the impact that people experiencing homelessness have on our community.

- Over 80 encampments reported this summer.
- $3.4 million spent on encampment enforcement and cleanup prior to pandemic.
- Police estimate that between 30-40% of all calls are homeless related.

ALL SANTA FEANS DESERVE A SAFE, CLEAN & PEACEFUL PLACE TO CALL HOME.

Santa Fe Housing Initiative
S3
Safe, Stable, and Supportive

OUR VISION

Our vision is for public and private partners to work collaboratively with community providers and advocacy groups to ensure that **Santa Fe is a place where homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring,** and that access to safe, affordable and sustainable housing is a reality for all community members.

S3 Santa Fe Housing Coalition believes in **Safe**, **Stable**, and **Supportive** housing for all Santa Fe.

GENERAL SOLUTIONS FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Santa Fe Housing Initiative
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Build affordable housing and ensure livable wages for the Santa Fe workforce.

Provide:
- Income support
- Life skills and rehabilitation
- Crisis management (for physical & behavioral health crises, eviction, etc.)
- Emergency support services
- Temporary shelter
- Supportive housing with wrap-around services

THESE SOLUTIONS REQUIRE CITY, COUNTY, STATE, FEDERAL, FAITH, BUSINESS, & PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS TO COME TOGETHER.

Santa Fe Housing Initiative
Safe, Stable, and Supportive

HUMAN BEINGS ARE COMPLEX.
THIS MUST BE CONSIDERED AS WE STRIVE TOADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

EACH INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY HAS THEIR OWN STORY. UNDERSTANDING IS CRITICAL. WHAT WORKS FOR ONE DOESN'T WORK FOR ALL. A VARIETY OF INTERVENTIONS AND STRATEGIES MUST BE CONSIDERED AND MADE AVAILABLE.

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HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS

The hidden homeless are people who access accommodation, though have no immediate prospect of permanent or stable housing. Includes individuals who may be "couch surfing" or temporarily staying with friends or family.

SITUATIONAL HOMELESSNESS

Common causes include job loss, a healthcare emergency (which may lead to job loss or overwhelming medical bills), divorce, domestic abuse, fire, and natural disasters.
These individuals are referred to as "situationally" or "temporarily" homeless which generally means that they have lived in stable housing without supports in the past and can do so again once a specific situation in their life is addressed.
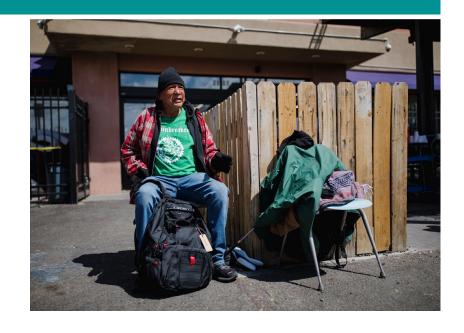
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EPISODIC HOMELESSNESS

Episodically homeless refers to individuals, often with disabling conditions, who are currently homeless and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the past year.

Among individuals in this group, jobs are less stable, housing costs consume a higher percentage of the household budget, and they have little or no financial buffers against emergencies.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

An individual experiencing chronic homelessness is someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years (must be a cumulative of 12 months) *and* has a disability.

Psychiatric diagnosis, substance use disorders, and medical comorbidities are more prevalent within chronically homeless populations.

1. **PRESERVATION AND PREVENTION**: Increase resources and develop strategies to prevent homelessness, including the preservation of existing affordable housing and enhanced utilization of social services; increased financial supports, such as the City and County Affordable Housing Trust   Funds, to prevent homelessness and stabilize those who are precariously housed; and support for local regulation and land use policy changes that increase housing stability for residents.

2. **EMERGENCY SHELTER**: Create and further develop collective community agreements specific to emergency shelter provision, including expanding options for emergency shelter care to include   safe and legal outdoor sleeping spaces and non-congregate shelter and improving shelter access to housing and supportive service resources.

3. **BUILDINGS/HOUSING UNITS**: Quantify the need for additional affordable units and, through new construction, conversion, subsidization, and redevelopment, increase the local affordable housing   stock inventory with a goal of at least 100-200 units per year.

4. **<u>INDIVIDUAL VOUCHERS/PROGRAM BASED VOUCHERS</u>:** Increase funding for housing vouchers, both short- and long-term, and develop strategies to ensure that those vouchers can be flexibly utilized in ways that promote equity and housing choice; and ensure that existing voucher programs are expended in full.

5. **<u>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</u>:** Ensure all interested individuals and families participating in housing programs have high-quality crisis intervention, behavioral healthcare, and other supportive services to maintain safe housing.

6. **<u>SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE</u>:** Continue development of the community-wide homeless response system, which includes strategic planning and clarifying the roles, function, and authority of each partner. The system development will include collective identification of system gaps through collecting accurate data, creation of cooperative strategies to address gaps, and consistent cross-agency communication on funding opportunities, housing initiatives, and overall system development.

PRESERVATION AND PREVENTION:

- Santa Fe CONNECT Program provided multiple hundreds of people with support to maintain housing
- $2 million committed from City of Santa Fe for eviction prevention in 2022-2025

EMERGENCY SHELTER:

- Consuelo's Place at Midtown Campus - non-congregate shelter for 60+ households at any given time (25% of total guests sheltered have been permanently housed)
- Emergency shelter in hotel/motel rooms to over 400 individuals during pandemic

BUILDINGS/HOUSING UNITS:

- Santa Fe Suites - permanent housing for 120+ households
- Lamplighter Inn - permanent housing for 58 households (available in 2023)
- Landlord Liaison position to improve local landlord engagement

INDIVIDUAL VOUCHERS/PROGRAM BASED VOUCHERS:

- Distribution of more than 150 housing vouchers for homeless/precariously housed (includes chronic, veterans, individuals and families)

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:

- La Sala Behavioral Health Crisis Triage Center/Mobile BH Crisis Unit assists people in crisis – walk-ins & referrals
- Alternative Response Unit (ARU) assists people in crisis via 911, many unsheltered

SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE:

- National Built for Zero Initiative – achieving quality data
- Multiple cross-agency/cross-funder working groups
- Landlord Liaison position to improve local landlord engagement
- Joint resolution on homelessness between City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County

- Enforce "no camping" ordinance
- Expand mobile outreach services & implementation of mobile hygiene unit
- Purchase another motel for conversion to non-congregate shelter and housing
- Expand day shelter services
- Develop cross-agency mobile team to provide home-based supportive services to support households to maintain housing
- Develop a local Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) to include the voice of people who have experienced homelessness in all areas of system development
- Create more affordable housing, to include set-asides of units for special needs households
- Implement a managed camp/"Safe Outdoor Space"

MANAGED ENCAMPMENTS
SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES

Santa Fe Housing Initiative
Safe, Stable, and Supportive

- Quick and effective way to shelter then house a variety of people
- Commitment to neighborhood safety
- Housing first, resource rich model
- Trauma informed
- Individualized shelters
- Access to electricity and hygiene stations
- 24-hour staffing, with at least two staff members on site

MANAGED ENCAMPMENTS SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES

What do successful managed programs look like?

- Surrounding neighborhoods are safer than they were before
- Residents are met where they are and connected to services
- Many residents exit to stable housing

What communities are doing this outside of Santa Fe?

Las Cruces, NM   Austin, TX
Denver, CO   Placerville, CA
Aurora, CO   Bend, OR
Aspen, CO   Moses Lake, WA

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER.
WE ARE ALL CONNECTED.

"Now, more than ever, the illusions of division threaten our very existence. We all know the truth: more connects us than divides us. But in times of crisis, the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers. We must find a way to look after one another as if we were one single tribe."

---from Black Panther, the movie

https://s3santafehousinginitiative.org