



Helping the Homeless in South Gate

City's Ongoing Actions & Strategies

Homelessness is a growing problem that affects cities throughout California, including South Gate. The state's homeless population numbers approximately 115,000, and on any given day about 150 people live in the streets of our City. Although homelessness is a regional problem with no easy solutions, South Gate is and has been doing all it can to help the homeless in our City.

Outreach & Prevention

- The South Gate Police Department has an independent homeless outreach team as well as partnering with the LA County Department of Mental Health, local homeless shelters, and other law enforcement agencies for outreach and mitigation efforts. These efforts include temporary housing, drug treatment, and physical and mental health care.
- South Gate partners with an organization called PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) that performs similar outreach services in the southeast region. Since 2012, PATH has contacted over 2,400 people and helped 83 find permanent housing.
- South Gate provides funding for HYC (Helpline Youth Counseling), which provides services to prevent homelessness by offering rapid rehousing services, rent and utility payment assistance, and credit repair.
- Since 2011, the City has conducted a homeless count every January which is critical for resource allocation and our ability to seek funding to address homelessness.

Affordable Housing

- One of the key causes of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing, which is something the City has been addressing for many years. Recently, the Calden Court apartment building was constructed, providing 216 units of new affordable housing on a previously vacant lot.
- The City has also just approved a new project that will provide 60 units of permanent, supportive housing to mostly homeless veterans. The project will be constructed by Path Ventures, a non-profit housing developer, on a vacant site at 5610 Imperial Highway.
- The City is working with a non-profit housing developer to build new, affordable homes on city-owned property.

Shelters

- South Gate believes strongly in providing shelter for those in need of temporary housing. For over a decade, the City has provided up to \$85,000 annually to our regional Salvation Army Shelter in Bell. South Gate is the only City providing direct financial assistance to the Shelter, which helps over 500 people a day.
- The City amended its Zoning Ordinance to identify areas where emergency shelters are permitted "by right." Compliance with this state law allows for faster development of homeless facilities.

Encampments

- The City communicates and coordinates regularly with other organizations such as LA County, Caltrans and the Union Pacific Railroad to address homeless encampments along the 710 Freeway, LA River and railroad corridors.
- On a daily basis, our Public Works Department quickly addresses homeless encampments occurring in the City.

Joint Effort

- Homelessness is an immensely complex and difficult problem that requires strong actions from all levels of government. South Gate is committed to be part of the solution. The City hosted the first LA County homeless summit for 56 cities and regularly meets with other governmental and non-profit organizations. Within South Gate itself, all departments coordinate closely and consistently to address this important issue.

Contacts

- For general information on homelessness, call Abel Torres, Management Analyst at (323) 563-9528.
- To report homeless encampments, call the South Gate Police Department at (323) 563-5436.