

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Team Leaders: Ryan Loofbourrow, Sutter Health: loofbor@sutterhealth.org
Donald Terry, City of Rancho Cordova: dterry@cityofranchocordova.org
Jonathan Porteus PhD, WellSpace Health: jporteur@wellspacehealth.org
Ben Avey, Sacramento Steps Forward: bavey@sacstepsforward.org

ENDING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Requested Action

Support increased funding for federal housing and homeless service programs, as well as any new legislative efforts to direct additional federal funding towards ending homelessness.

Background

Homelessness on the West Coast has hit a crisis point. For the first time in seven years, despite seeing decreases in 30 states, the number of people experiencing homelessness in America increased to 553,742 in 2017. That represents a nine percent increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations, mostly in West Coast cities. Thankfully, the crisis has been recognized at the local, state, and national levels which provides a foundation for a comprehensive joint response.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ON THE WEST COAST

Requested Action

Consider affordable housing as infrastructure and include resources to increase supply of affordable housing in any transportation and infrastructure package.

Background:

For the first time in seven years, despite seeing decreases in 30 states, the number of people experiencing homelessness in America increased to 553,742 in 2017. That represents a nine percent increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations, mostly in West Coast cities. California and Oregon have the highest rates of people experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered at 68 percent and 57 percent respectively. California, on its own,

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accounts for nearly half of all unsheltered people in the United States. California leads the nation in total increase in homelessness since 2016.

Five “major city” Continuums of Care in California and Washington State made the top ten list for largest numbers of people experiencing homelessness. Four “Smaller City, County, and Region” Continuums of Care from California made the list in their category as well.

Sacramento County and the seven cities within, saw a 30 percent increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness from 2015-2017. Among people who are unsheltered, the number increased by 85 percent. Approximately 31 percent of people who are unsheltered are chronically homeless, meaning they have experienced prolonged bouts of homelessness and are disabled. In addition to overall increases in homelessness, the report found a 50 percent increase in the number of homeless veterans since 2015.

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*For additional information, please contact Khaim Morton, Vice President of Public Policy & Economic Development
kmorton@metrochamber.org | (916) 321-9115 | www.metrochamber.org*