SACRAMENTO
STEPS FORWARD

Ending Homelessness. Starting Fresh.

Sacramento Area Point-In-Time Results Estimates:
29% Decline in Overall Homelessness Over 2022
With a 41% Drop in Unsheltered Homelessness

More Shelter Beds, Expanded Street Outreach, & More Housing Opportunities Key Factors

SACRAMENTO, Calif. June 5, 2024 – Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF), the local nonprofit entity that coordinates community-level efforts to end homelessness, today released results from last January's Point-In-Time Count of those experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, showing an overall estimated **decline in homelessness of 29%** compared to the count two years ago. Sacramento also saw **a 41% decline in unsheltered homelessness, one of the largest reported drops to date in California.**

An estimated 6,615 individuals experienced homelessness on a single night in January, compared to 9,278 identified in the previous count in 2022. An estimated 3,944 were unsheltered, compared to 6,664 identified in 2022.

Conducted as a community-wide effort that takes hundreds of volunteers to complete, the Count provides a snapshot of who is unhoused on a single night. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandates communities do the bi-annual count to qualify for federal funding. The results are reported to HUD and provide a gauge to measure a community's progress and inform future decision making.

The report revealed a slight uptick in sheltered homelessness. The number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness increased 2% from 2,614 in 2022 to 2,671 in 2024. However, the earlier PIT Count considered COVID-19 emergency shelter beds in the count. The number of long-term shelter beds increased more significantly in 2024, with

the City operating over 1,300 shelter beds and the County funding about 1,000 beds. The numbers of families, veterans, and people experiencing chronic homelessness have all decreased from 2022 to 2024.

"These results are truly outstanding and, undeniably, reflect Sacramento's City and County 'all in' approach to addressing this crisis," said Lisa Bates, CEO of Sacramento Steps Forward.

Leaders from Sacramento City and County said the decrease in unsheltered homelessness reflected the tens of millions of dollars invested by both local governments in standing up new emergency shelter beds and permanent supportive housing units, and an increasingly coordinated response to sharing resources and responsibilities.

"There are still too many people who are homeless for us to declare victory, but maybe homelessness is not so intractable after all," said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. "The 41% reduction in unsheltered homelessness is dramatic and affirms that the steady course we set seven years ago to address this state and national crisis is working."

District 2 County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy also cited the work the County has been doing, including opening two Safe Stay sleeping cabin communities in his district. A Safe Stay community now under construction on Stockton Boulevard in the City of Sacramento will include tiny homes provided to the City by the State of California. It will be run by the County through its partnership agreement with the City.

"It is encouraging to see positive results from the hard work we've been doing for years," Kennedy said. "The County has invested significant resources into new programs, services and shelter beds. I am proud to have many of these shelter beds in my district and more coming this year. Together, we're making a difference!"

Sacramento Steps Forward CEO Bates noted several significant factors that have helped ease the crisis of unsheltered homelessness in Sacramento, including:

- Direct assistance from the state to cities, counties and continuums of care through the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Grant (HHAP) program. The City, County, and Sacramento Steps Forward have received $120 million in HHAP funding since 2019. HHAP currently pays for 97% of the City's emergency shelter beds.
- The partnership agreement signed by the County and City in 2022 increased street outreach to homeless encampments with teams that include County behavioral health workers.
- An easing of rents and the availability of apartments. Bates noted that the average apartment vacancy rate rose by 58% since 2022, with rents dipping by 3%.
- The new Coordinated Access system funded by the City and County and run by Sacramento Steps Forward provides a centralized access point for shelter, housing, and homelessness prevention services.

"These results are tremendous and reflect increased funding and dynamic leadership, which has led to improved systems, additional staffing, resources, and collaboration within our continuum of care." said Angela Upshaw, Chair of the Sacramento City and County Continuum of Care, and COO of Insight Housing. "We must use this momentum and continue to invest and further expand our coordination and collaboration by developing more ways to prevent people from experiencing homelessness, shorten the length of time someone experiences homelessness, and, once housed, ensure they have the resources and support to maintain that housing. Most of all, we need to see thousands more units of deeply affordable housing to meet the needs of our community."

To read the full 2024 Point-In-Time Count report and view infographics on the results, go to www.sacstepsforward.org.

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Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that partners with local, state, and federal agencies to accomplish our shared goal of ending homelessness. We focus on strengthening our community's response to homelessness through data and analytics to drive system-level changes, prioritize racial equity, and enhance access to services.

SSF is the lead agency for the Sacramento Continuum of Care (CoC), which is the regional planning body that coordinates housing and services for homeless families and individuals in Sacramento. On their behalf, SSF administers federal, state, and local funding.