



TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Vyto Adomaitis, Neighborhood Services and Public Safety Director

CONTACT: Claudia Dato, Senior Project Manager
Dominique Samario, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Homelessness Strategic Plan Update

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Provide input on the proposed Goleta Homelessness Strategic Plan outline, including, but not limited to, overall goals and focus of the Plan; and
- B. Consider establishment of a Homelessness Issues Standing Committee.

BACKGROUND:

At the direction of the City Council, staff from the Neighborhood Services & Public Safety Department (NSPS) have been working on a City of Goleta Homelessness Strategic Plan (Plan). The City Council has expressed a desire to adopt such a Plan to help prioritize and guide City funding efforts in the area of homelessness. NSPS staff last presented to City Council on the Plan on September 17, 2019. At that time, staff presented information and an outline of the proposed process. As presented at the September meeting, NSPS staff are providing an update detailing actions taken since then, as well as an outline of the proposed Plan.

Over the past six months, City staff have undertaken the following steps towards the development of Goleta's Homelessness Strategic Plan:

- Regularly attending regional meetings on homelessness
- Gathering background data particular to Goleta
- Meeting with stakeholders and homeless advocates
- Speaking with houseless individuals to discuss their needs and concerns

In late November, NSPS staff developed two surveys on homelessness, one directed at members of the general public as one method to garner input from the community, and another directed at current or former houseless individuals as one means of obtaining their feedback on matters including their priority needs, obstacles to obtaining shelter or housing and other concerns. These surveys were released online in the first week of

December 2019, with links provided on the City's main website, and a new homelessness page created by staff found at:

www.tinyurl.com/GoletaHomelessnessPlan

The survey has been publicized in news releases, the City's various social media outlets, direct distribution to stakeholders, interested parties and at the City's first public meeting for the Homelessness Strategic Plan (detailed below).

NSPS staff organized a Community Open House on Homelessness at the Goleta Valley Community Center that was held on December 11, 2019. This event was a unique opportunity for the community to interact on a one-on-one basis with City staff and homelessness service providers, as well as provide ideas and input on homelessness in our community. Organizations participating included: Peoples' Self-Help Housing, Isla Vista Youth Projects, New Beginnings Safe Parking Program, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), Showers of Blessing, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness, Santa Barbara County Housing and Community Development, Housing Authority of Santa Barbara County, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Southern Santa Barbara County, EqualiTech, and Home for Good.

Approximately 150 people attended the Open House. In addition to members of the general public, City staff and service providers were able to speak with a number of current or former houseless individuals. Surveys, (Attachment 1) were also made available for the general public and for houseless individuals. In addition to paper copies, EqualiTech set up several laptops so people could complete the surveys online.

In addition to the Open House, staff hosted meetings with other stakeholder groups including homelessness service providers, the local business community, and the faith-based community. Staff also met with individual homeless advocates, many of whom reached out to City staff. Finally, over the past three months, staff went out to various sites in Goleta and Isla Vista to speak directly with houseless individuals and get their input on the surveys. This included attending free hot showers with Showers of Blessings, and free hot meal servings (lunch or dinner) on several occasions.

To date, the City has received more than 430 survey responses from the general public and nearly 50 from area houseless individuals. Although staff is still in the process of tabulating data that came in after this staff report was prepared, a summary of the survey information received to date is provided below. The survey generally closed the first week of February although we are still receiving surveys and intend to include data/feedback from them in the draft Homelessness Strategic Plan.

A second community meeting on the Plan was held on February 19, 2020, at the Goleta Valley Community Center. At this meeting, staff presented an update on the Plan process and took feedback on potential goals and implementation actions as well as other public comments people had to share. Staff placed large post-it sheets around the room with potential goals and action items listed individually on each sheet. Participants were given green and red dots and asked to indicate their acceptance or support of these using the green dots, or their opposition using the red dots.

A general discussion of data and feedback from all sources is included in the Discussion section of this staff report which forms the foundation of the outline and draft goals and implementation actions.

DISCUSSION:

As indicated above, in addition to the input received at the public open house, meetings with stakeholders and other sources, we have received more than 430 community surveys and nearly 50 surveys from current or formerly houseless individuals. Staff would like to begin this discussion by providing a summary of information obtained from the surveys. While not the only source of input, surveys provide some consistent statistics because the majority of those completing the surveys answered the same questions. Other questions allowed for unique answers. For those open-ended questions, staff has tried to identify any trends when multiple people answered in the same or similar fashion.

Community-Based Survey

Of those taking the community-based survey, 83% were residents of Goleta, nearly 10% were Goleta business owners, 48% were Goleta property owners, 36% work in Goleta, nearly 6% were students, and 16% were other interested parties. Over 74% of respondents feel homelessness is one of the most critical issues within the City of Goleta. The most prominent concerns of respondents about homelessness in Goleta are identified in the table below:

Concerns About Homeless Situation in Goleta

Concern	% Response
Safety	66%
Trespassing	66%
Well-being of those experiencing homelessness	61%
Lack of affordable housing/housing for those in need	55%
Panhandling	46%
Increase in crime	44%
Impact on businesses	38%
Access to food and water for those living in Goleta	27%
Other (common responses: trash, human waste, fire safety, need for mental health and substance abuse services/treatment, environmental impacts)	22%

What Services Would You Be Willing to Support?

Services Willing to Support	% Response
Case Management/Outreach Services	64%
Job Training	61%
Safe Parking Spaces	54%
Transitional Housing	53%
Warming Center	51%
Permanent Supportive Housing	44%
Homeless Shelter	43%
Day Center	39%
Rental Assistance	36%
Group Housing	33%
Other (common responses: mental health/substance abuse treatment, relocation/family reunification assistance)	22%

As demonstrated by the summary of responses in the above table, the majority of respondents are supportive of case management/outreach efforts, job training, additional Safe Parking spaces for those living in cars/RVs, transitional housing and a Warming Center.

In regard to what people perceive to be the primary causes of homelessness, most people believe mental health issues (90%) and substance abuse (89%) are the foremost causes. The full range of response is detailed in the table below:

What Do You Believe Are the Primary Causes of Homelessness?

Causes	% Response
Mental Health Issues	90%
Drug/Alcohol Addiction	89%
Lack of Affordable Housing	51%
Job Loss	46%
Lack of a Living Wage	44%
Trauma/Domestic Violence	42%
Lack of Family Support	39%
Physical Disability	34%
Incarceration	30%
Medical Bills	28%
Lack of Education	17%
Other (common responses: lifestyle choice, veterans with PTSD, poor decision-making, lack of resources)	15%

Another question in the community survey asked whether homelessness had touched the respondent’s life or the life of someone they love. Of those completing the survey, 23 had at one time or another been homeless themselves, and another 25 had family members who were or had experienced homelessness at one time or another.

In terms of the signs or outward manifestations of homelessness in the community, the majority of respondents to the survey indicated they had observed homeless encampments and/or panhandlers in various locations around town. However, one caveat should be stated about panhandling and that is that not all panhandlers are houseless individuals, although people often assume that that is the case. Other observations are noted in the table below.

What Signs of Homelessness Are You Seeing in the Community?

Signs of Homelessness Observed	% Response
Encampments, People camping in Parks/Open Space	61%
People Panhandling	40%
People with Possessions in Shopping Carts/Abandoned Carts	14%
People Living in Cars/Recreational Vehicles	9%
Evidence of Drug Use (drug needles or drug use in public)	3%
Other (common responses: people wandering the streets with possessions, apparent mental illness, etc., people loitering in shopping centers, people seeking warmth/shelter at the library, people sleeping on sidewalks/by buildings)	32%

At the time this report was prepared, staff was still making a concerted effort to visit the various free meal and shower sites to connect with current houseless individuals and solicit their input via the homelessness survey. As noted above, 23 people completing the general community survey had at one time been homeless themselves, and nearly 50 surveys were obtained from currently houseless individuals, predominantly those living on the streets and in cars/RVs. Of the currently houseless individuals staff has spoken with to date, over 83% said they were Goleta residents (currently residing in Goleta). Many of the others reside in Isla Vista where some of the surveys were completed. Approximately 22% have lived in Goleta between one and three years, 12% have lived here for 4-5 years, and 56% have lived in Goleta for more than five years. Only 10% have lived in Goleta for less than a year. To the question of where people were living when they became homeless, 28% were Goleta residents when they became homeless, while 22% were residents of the City of Santa Barbara, 15% were living in other areas of Santa Barbara County, 13% in another area of California, and 22% were living outside of California.

When asked where they normally sleep, 41% responded “In a tent or other outdoor camp,” 55% said they were living in a car or RV, 5% indicated they were currently sleeping at a homeless shelter, and 5% said they were couch surfing. In a couple cases respondents put down two answers (e.g. in a tent and on a friend’s couch) meaning they fluctuate between the two, resulting in a total percentage that exceeds 100%. When asked if they would be willing to stay in a shelter, 27.5% said yes. For the other 72.5% of respondents who said no, a follow-up question was asked as to “why?” These responses are included in the table below. Also included below is feedback on the type of facilities houseless people would utilize if available in Goleta.

What Prevents You from Wanting to Stay in a Shelter?

Things that prevent people from staying in a shelter:	% Response
I like having my own space	59%
I don't want to be away from my possessions (i.e. lack of storage)	26%
I don't like dorm-style living arrangements	24%
They don't allow pets	18%
They are too far away	12%
No transportation	12%
Shelters are too far from my services/job	3%
Other (common responses: too many rules/regulations, too many drugs, they take your food stamps, bad atmosphere)	44%

Would you use any of the below facilities if they were available in Goleta?

Facilities people would use if in Goleta:	% Response
Free storage unit for belongings	81%
Day center (place to rest during the day, do laundry, a take shower)	74%
Permanent Supportive Housing (private unit w/supportive services)	68%
Warming Center (Nighttime shelter on cold/rainy nights in winter)	47%
Emergency Shelter	36%
Group Home	28%
Sobering Center (24-hour place to stay to rest and recuperate)	15%
Other (common responses: supervised campground, daytime parking, more safe parking spaces, laundry services, shelter with private rooms, free meals)	30%

When asked if there was anything else that respondents wanted to share about homelessness in our community, some of the most common responses were:

- Need more affordable housing
- More free showers and meals
- Need warming centers year-round with a higher temperature threshold
- Need more work experience, employment assistance
- Want a place to be without being harassed or kicked out
- Better treatment by law enforcement
- Lack of education/ignorance about houseless community

In addition to survey data, input is being gathered from the City of Goleta's City Assist System and the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office calls for service data. Data and input from in-person meetings with stakeholders, small groups, and individual constituents, as well as two community meetings also inform the draft goals and implementation recommendations.

Community Input Meeting

On February 19, 2020, staff held an interactive Community Update Meeting for the Homelessness Strategic Plan at the Goleta Valley Community Center. Approximately 50 community members and representatives from a variety of organizations attended and learned more about the steps being taken to craft the Homelessness Strategic Plan. Attendees were asked to provide input on the prioritization of objectives to be included in the draft plan. Community input is an essential component of the planning process and input received during the meeting has been summarized in charts in the following section. It is important to note that the overwhelming response to the proposed objectives was positive, with less than 10% of the total "votes" in opposition to an objective. Staff appreciate the community's involvement and input in this process thus far and look forward to continued engagement during this important effort.

Draft Goals and Implementation Objectives

Over the past twelve months NSPS staff have expanded our knowledge and expertise on homelessness issues and strategies as we have moved through the strategic planning process. As suspected, we have learned through attending workshops, public feedback, and firsthand contact with the houseless population that the issue of homelessness and how to address it has many complexities and a myriad of issues surrounding it. Likewise, the tools for addressing these issues are plentiful, running the gamut from sock/clothing drives to permanent supportive housing. Some actions can be accomplished almost immediately, while others may take a few or several years to bring about. Given this reality, staff proposes the Strategic Plan be structured to follow a span of short-term (1-2 years), mid-term (3-5 years), and long-term (5-10 years) goals.

Based on the many sources of information considered over the past several months (public input at meetings, survey feedback, best practices from other communities, workshops, meetings with stakeholders, and other relevant sources), staff has developed a list of possible goals and implementation objectives that City Council may ultimately select as part of the adoption of the final Homelessness Strategic Plan.

The below table represents a list of potential options on which staff is seeking initial feedback from City Council before preparing the draft Homelessness Strategic Plan, which will come before City Council in the spring of 2020.

Potential Goals to Address Homelessness and Implementation Objectives

Short-Term Goals (1-2 yrs.) <i>Increase Access to Safe Emergency Shelter and Critical Services</i>	Mid-Term Goals (3-5 yrs.) <i>Provide Transitional Housing and Support Services; Prevention</i>	Long-Term Goals (5-10 yrs.) <i>Increase Supply of Perm. Supportive Housing, Affordable Housing, and Basic Needs</i>
Continue to support regional efforts to address homelessness in Santa Barbara County	New Emergency Shelter in Goleta or Isla Vista	Increase number of permanent supportive housing units within the Goleta city limits
Develop public education campaign on homelessness	Develop Panhandling Diversion Program	
Secure additional spaces for Safe Parking Program	Develop Tiny Home Village or Designated Camping Area	Increase supply of affordable housing
Establish Warming Center Revise Oversized Vehicle Ordinance	Establish Transitional Housing Shelter or Units in Goleta	Work with County to establish permanent Crisis Intervention Team Program
Coordinated Entry System Location in Goleta	Establish Day Center	Pass a Living Wage Ordinance for Goleta
Partner with local nonprofits and businesses to establish job training program	Establish storage facility/provide storage units for houseless residents	Develop public restrooms with showers open 24/7; portable restrooms in key locations
Work with faith-based community to establish a Showers of Blessing site in Goleta City limits	Support emergency grant program to prevent homelessness (i.e., rental and/or deposit assistance)	Provide additional public trash cans and hydration stations available for use 24/7

Feedback from February 19, 2020 Community Input Meeting

Short-Term Objectives		
(1 - 2 years)	In Favor Of	Against
Establish a Showers of Blessing site in Goleta (mobile shower trailer taken to different sites)	21	1
Additional spaces for Safe Parking Program	24	0
Establish Warming Center in/near Goleta	15	0
Establish a Coordinated Entry System location in Goleta	13	2
Partner with local nonprofits and businesses to establish Job Training Program	12	0
Place portable public restrooms in crucial locations (TBD)	9	1

Mid-Term Objectives		
(3- 5 years)	In Favor Of	Against
Open new emergency shelter in Goleta	6	3
Develop Panhandling Diversion Program	7	9
Develop tiny home village or designated supervised camping area	23	2
Establish Day Center	14	0
Establish storage facility/provide storage units for houseless residents	21	0
Support emergency grants to prevent homelessness (i.e., rental and/or deposit assistance)	19	1

Long-Term Objectives		
(5-10 years)	In Favor Of	Against
Increase permanent supportive housing and/or transitional housing units	25	1
Pass a Living Wage Ordinance for Goleta	8	6
Work with County to establish permanent Crisis Intervention Team Program	18	0
Provide additional public trash cans and hydration stations available for use 24/7	11	0
Develop public restrooms with showers open 24/7	9	1
Increase supply of affordable housing	25	0

The goal is to complete the Draft Plan and present it to City Council for review and comment by the end of April 2020. Staff will then edit the Draft Plan to incorporate Council's comments before releasing the Draft Plan for a 30-day public review period. Staff envisions that the outline of the Draft Plan can be used by the Grant Funding Review Committee to guide grant funding decisions in the area of homelessness services or prevention. Staff's goal is to present the Final Plan to the City Council by the end of June 2020.

Establishment of Homelessness Issues Standing Committee

With the number of initiatives, programs, problems and upcoming implementation of the Homelessness Strategic Plan all relating to "homelessness" issues within the City of Goleta, staff would like for the City Council to consider forming a Standing Committee on Homelessness Issues. As the City has established itself as a regional partner on homelessness issues, there will continue to be opportunities related to addressing homelessness that will necessitate prompt consideration and recommendations from the Council's Standing Committee as staff bring these items to the full City Council for consideration and decision-making on critical community issues. Given how important homelessness issues are locally, it will be imperative that staff and a Council Standing Committee have the ability to vet sensitive concepts collaboratively prior to crafting final recommendations for the full City Council.

This would begin with review of the Draft Homelessness Strategic Plan and future implementation actions, future clean-up activities and the expected volume of initiatives that are intersecting on "homelessness" issues, both locally and regionally. With the adoption of the Homelessness Strategic Plan by City Council a few months from now, there will be clear and organized policy guidance for staff and the Committee. The Committee will be staffed by employees of the Neighborhood Services and Public Safety Department. Staff recommends inviting stakeholders to attend the Committee meetings.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There are minimal fiscal impacts to the preparation of the Plan, which is being completed by in-house City staff. Minor expenses will be associated with public noticing and miscellaneous meeting costs. These costs are currently being accounted for in NSPS's Conferences, Meetings & Travel account (101-5-6100-102).

If these costs cannot be accommodated within existing NSPS FY2019-20 budget, staff will request a budget adjustment. If necessary, staff proposes using budgeted funds in the following accounts: 101-5-6100-104 Special Department Supplies, 101-5-6100-115 Printing & Copying, and 101-5-6100-116 Postage & Mailing. At the time of this report, these accounts have \$16,200 available collectively.

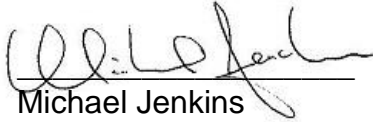
ALTERNATIVES:

At this time City Council can opt to direct staff to terminate preparation of a Homelessness Strategic Plan. Council can also recommend the Plan preparation be completed under a different timeline or process than staff is currently working. In the case that additional

steps or outreach methods are requested, there will be a delay in Council's receipt of the final draft of the Homelessness Strategic Plan.

Legal Review By:

Approved By:


Michael Jenkins
City Attorney


Michelle Greene
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Homelessness Strategic Plan Surveys
2. Homelessness Strategic Plan Update PPT

ATTACHMENT 1:

Homelessness Strategic Plan Surveys



Community Input on Homelessness in Goleta

As the City of Goleta embarks on its first-ever comprehensive Homelessness Strategic Plan, we want to hear from you. Those experiencing homelessness, residents, business owners, students, people who work in Goleta, visitors to the region, and service providers all have important insights we want to consider as we draft our plan. This survey is only one way we are involving the community in our planning process. Please also look out for a community open house on homelessness, survey responses from our houseless population, draft plan review opportunities, and City Council meetings. It's important to note that if none of those methods work for you, we still value your input. Feel free to call or email us directly. We look forward to learning from you.

Claudia Dato and Dominique Samario

Phone: 805-690-5126

Email: cdato@cityofgoleta.org or dsamario@cityofgoleta.org

1. Do you feel homelessness is one of the most critical issues within the City of Goleta?

Yes

No

2. What are your concerns about the homeless situation in the City of Goleta?

(Select all that apply.)

- Impact on businesses
- Safety
- Lack of affordable housing/access to housing for those in need
- Pan handling
- Inability to use parks and open spaces due to presence of those experiencing homelessness
- Access to food and water for those living in Goleta
- Trespassing
- Increase in crime
- Well-being of those experiencing homelessness in Goleta
- Other (please specify)

3. Are you aware of services for those experiencing homelessness currently being provided within Goleta? (Select all that apply.)

- Free showers through Showers of Blessing
- Rental housing mediation assistance
- Safe overnight parking for those living in their vehicles
- Public safety and mental health response teams
- Outreach to those experiencing homelessness
- Free meals and food provided by various organizations throughout the week
- Other (please specify)

4. What services would you be willing to support within the City of Goleta to assist those experiencing homelessness or to prevent homelessness? (Select all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warming center | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day center | <input type="checkbox"/> Group housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe parking spaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Case management/outreach services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Rental assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent supportive housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Job training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

**5. What do you believe are the primary causes of homelessness?
(Select all that apply.)**

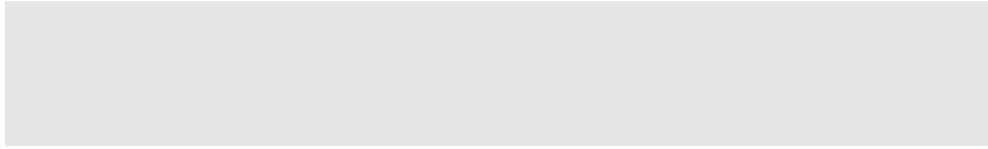
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of affordable housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical bills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of education | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trauma/domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Drug/alcohol addiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of family support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job loss | <input type="checkbox"/> Incarceration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a living wage | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

6. What signs of homelessness are you seeing in the community?

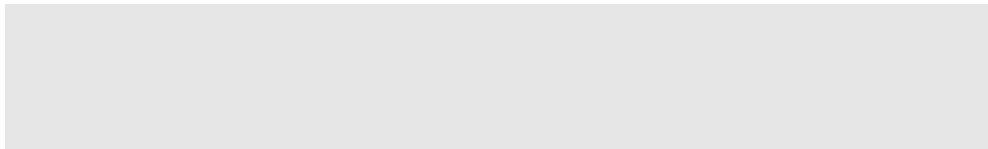
7. If homelessness has touched your life or the life of someone you love, please share your experience.

8. What concerns do you have around the issue of homelessness?

9. Please share any ideas you have for addressing the homelessness crisis both here in Goleta and regionally.



10. Is there anything else you'd like to share about homelessness in our community?



11. Are you? (Please check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A resident of Goleta | <input type="checkbox"/> A student (K-12) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Goleta business owner | <input type="checkbox"/> A college student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Goleta property owner | <input type="checkbox"/> A homelessness service provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Goleta visitor (tourist) | <input type="checkbox"/> Someone who works in the nonprofit field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Someone who works in Goleta | <input type="checkbox"/> Other interested party |

12. Are you interested in helping in some way? Please let us know if you would be willing to assist with any of the following.

- Volunteer at homelessness shelter
- Connect staff to a parking lot that may be available for safe overnight parking
- Connect staff to a place that may serve as a warming shelter in inclement weather
- Share this survey with another interested party
- Other (please specify)

[Redacted text box]

13. If you would like updates about Goleta's Homelessness Strategic Plan or how to volunteer, please share your contact information.

Email Address [Redacted text box]
Phone Number [Redacted text box]



Homelessness in Goleta Survey

As the City of Goleta embarks on its first-ever comprehensive Homelessness Strategic Plan, we want to hear from you. We especially want to hear from our houseless residents. This survey is only one way we are involving the community in our planning process. Please also look out for a community open house on homelessness, draft plan review opportunities, and City Council meetings. It's important to note that if none of those methods work for you, we still value your input. Feel free to call or email us directly. We look forward to learning from you.

Claudia Dato and Dominique Samario

Phone: 805-690-5126

Email: cdato@cityofgoleta.org or dsamario@cityofgoleta.org

1. Are you a Goleta resident?

- Yes
- No

2. If yes, for how long?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 - 3 years
- 4 - 5 years
- More than 5 years

3. Where do you normally sleep?

- In a tent or other outdoor camp
- In a warming center
- On a sidewalk
- On a friend's couch
- In a doorway or other outdoor sheltered area (e.g. under a bridge, in a public restroom, etc.)
- In a car or RV
- In a homeless shelter

4. Where were you living when you became homeless?

- Goleta
- Other area of California
- Santa Barbara
- Outside of California
- Other area of Santa Barbara County

5. Do you have a pet?

- Yes
- No

6. Would you be willing to stay in a shelter?

- Yes
- No

7. If no, why not/what prevents you from wanting to stay in a shelter?

Check all that apply.

- Too far away
- They don't allow pets
- I don't want to be away from my possessions
- I don't like dorm-style living arrangements
- Other (please specify)
- I like having my own space
- No transportation
- Shelters are too far from my services/job

8. What services are you currently using?

- Free showers from Showers of Blessing
- Emergency shelter
- Warming centers
- Day centers
- Other (please specify)
- Free meal services or other food programs
- Free medical care
- Behavioral health services
- Veterans Administration (VA) services

9. Would you use any of the below facilities if they were available in Goleta:

- Day Center (i.e. a place to hang out or rest during the day, take a shower, do some laundry, connect with services if desired, receive a hot meal and snacks, use a computer/WiFi, etc.)
- Emergency shelter
- Warming Center (Nighttime shelter on cold/rainy nights including dinner and place to sleep overnight)
- Group home
- Sobering Center (24-hour stay to rest and recuperate)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (private apartment with support services available)
- Free storage unit for your belongings
- Other (please specify)

10. If you would not use any of the above services, please share why not.

11. Is there anything else you'd like to share about homelessness in our community?

12. If willing, please share your first name and first initial of your last name.

Name

ATTACHMENT 2:

Homelessness Strategic Plan Update PPT



City of Goleta Homelessness Strategic Plan UPDATE

City Council Meeting
March 3, 2020

Department of Neighborhood Services & Public Safety

Vyto Adomaitis, Director

Dominique Samario, Management Analyst

Claudia Dato, Senior Project Manager

Homelessness Strategic Plan Process

(November 2018 – June/July 2020)



- Attend regional meetings on homelessness
- Gather background data particular to Goleta (e.g. Point-in-Time Count)
- Meetings with stakeholders and service providers (November – February)
- Surveys on homelessness (433 Community Surveys; 48 Houseless Surveys)
- Community meetings (December 11, 2019 and February 19, 2020)
- Research current best practices from other jurisdictions
- Obtain City Council input on priority goals and objectives
- Present Draft Plan to City Council for review and input
- Release Draft Plan for 30-day public review period
- Edit Draft Plan as appropriate and incorporate public comments
- Return to City Council for adoption of Final Plan (targeted for June/July 2020)

Who are Goleta's Houseless Residents?

Based on the nearly 50 people surveyed by City staff and other homeless services providers (using City Survey):

- 83% of those interviewed currently reside in Goleta (most of the remaining surveyed live in Isla Vista)
- 68% have lived in Goleta 4 years or more (56% more than five years)
- 65% were living in Santa Barbara County when they became homeless
- 41% sleep in a tent or other outdoor area; 55% in a vehicle

Who are Goleta's Houseless Residents?

Based on 2019 Point-in-Time Count:

- 119 houseless people counted; 78 in vehicles, 41 in camps/tents or on the streets
- Likely many more people not counted; 2020 count is expected to be higher
- Average age is 52; 15% female; 85% male; 37% chronic health condition; 34% mental health or brain injury; 31% physical disability; 26% substance abuse issue

What Are Their Needs?

Facilities people would use if in Goleta:	% Response
Free storage unit for belongings	81%
Day center (place to rest during the day, do laundry, a take shower)	74%
Permanent Supportive Housing (private unit w/supportive services	68%
Warming Center (Nighttime shelter on cold/rainy nights in winter)	47%
Emergency Shelter	36%
Group Home	28%
Sobering Center (24-hour place to stay to rest and recuperate)	15%
Other (common responses: supervised campground, daytime parking, more safe parking spaces, laundry services, shelter with private rooms, free meals)	30%

What Are Their Needs?

Most common responses to what else they wanted to share about homelessness in our community:

- Need more affordable housing
- More free showers and meals
- Need warming centers year-round with a higher temperature threshold
- Need more work opportunities, employment assistance
- Want a place to be without being harassed or kicked out
- Lack of education/ignorance about houseless community

Community Survey Results

74% of respondents feel homelessness is one of the most critical issues for Goleta

Concerns About Homeless Situation in Goleta

Concern	% Response
Safety	66%
Trespassing	66%
Well-being of those experiencing homelessness	61%
Lack of affordable housing/housing for those in need	55%
Panhandling	46%
Increase in crime	44%
Impact on businesses	38%
Access to food and water for those living in Goleta	27%
Other (common responses included trash, human waste, fire safety, need for mental health and substance abuse services/treatment, environmental impacts)	22%

Community Survey Results

What Services Would You Be Willing to Support to Assist Those Experiencing Homelessness?

Services Willing to Support	% Response
Case Management/Outreach Services	64%
Job Training	61%
Safe Parking Spaces	54%
Transitional Housing	53%
Warming Center	51%
Permanent Supportive Housing	44%
Homeless Shelter	43%
Day Center	39%
Rental Assistance	36%
Group Housing	33%
Other (common responses included mental health/substance abuse treatment, relocation/family reunification assistance)	22%

Community Input “Dot” Exercise

- Large “Post-It” sheets categorized into Short-Term, Mid-Term and Long-Term Goals for addressing homelessness
- Participants provided six green and three red dot stickers
- Participants were asked to place a green dot sticker on at least one objective under each goal they would support
- Participants were asked to place a red dot sticker under any objective they would definitely not support
- Participants were asked to prioritize objectives they support most and/or they have absolute opposition to



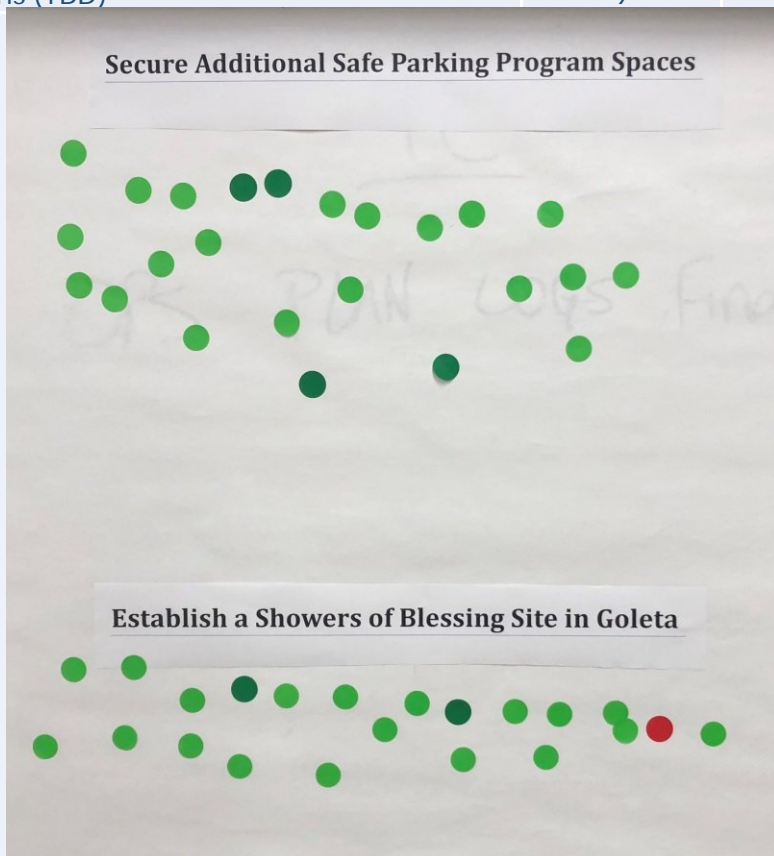
February 19, 2020
Community Input Meeting

Community Input “Dot” Exercise Results

Short-Term Objectives (1 - 2 years)	In Favor Of	Against
Establish a Showers of Blessing site in Goleta (mobile shower trailer taken to different sites)	21	1
Additional spaces for Safe Parking Program	24	0
Establish Warming Center in/near Goleta	15	0
Establish a Coordinated Entry System location in Goleta	13	2
Partner with local nonprofits and businesses to establish Job Training Program	12	0
Place portable public restrooms in crucial locations (TBD)	9	1

Mid-Term Objectives (3- 5 years)	In Favor Of	Against
Open new emergency shelter in Goleta	6	3
Develop Panhandling Diversion Program	7	9
Develop tiny home village or designated supervised camping area	23	2
Establish Day Center	14	0
Establish storage facility/provide storage units for houseless residents	21	0
Support emergency grants to prevent homelessness (i.e., rental and/or deposit assistance)	19	1

Long-Term Objectives (5-10 years)	In Favor Of	Against
Increase permanent supportive housing and/or transitional housing units	25	1
Pass a Living Wage Ordinance for Goleta	8	6
Work with County to establish permanent Crisis Intervention Team Program	18	0
Provide additional public trash cans and hydration stations available for use 24/7	11	0
Develop public restrooms with showers open 24/7	9	1
Increase supply of affordable housing	25	0



February 19, 2020
Community Input Meeting

Potential Goals to Address Homelessness and Implementation Objectives

Short-Term Objectives (1 - 2 years) GOAL: Increase Access to Safe Emergency Shelter and Critical Services	Mid-Term Objectives (3- 5 years) GOAL: Provide Transitional Housing and Support Services; Prevention	Long-Term Objectives (5-10 years) GOAL: Increase Supply of Perm. Supportive Housing, Affordable Housing, Basic Needs
Establish a Showers of Blessing site in Goleta (mobile shower trailer taken to different sites)	Open new emergency shelter in Goleta	Increase permanent supportive housing and/or transitional housing units
Secure additional spaces for Safe Parking Program	Develop Panhandling Diversion Program	Pass a Living Wage Ordinance for Goleta
Establish Warming Center location in/near Goleta	Develop tiny home village or designated supervised camping area	Work with County to establish permanent Crisis Intervention Team Program
Establish a Coordinated Entry System location in Goleta	Establish Day Center	Provide additional public trash cans and hydration stations available for use 24/7
Partner with local nonprofits and businesses to establish Job Training Program	Establish storage facility/provide storage units for houseless residents	Develop public restrooms with showers open 24/7
Place portable public restrooms in crucial locations (TBD)	Support emergency grants to prevent homelessness (i.e., rental and/or deposit assistance)	Increase supply of affordable housing

Definitions of Terms

Coordinated Entry System - The Coordinated Entry System (CES) connects people to services and housing that aim to rapidly resolve their housing crisis. CES works to connect the highest need, most vulnerable persons in the community to available housing and supportive services.

Crisis Intervention Team Program - An innovative first-responder model that pairs a crisis intervention trained law enforcement officer with a licensed clinical therapist to respond to calls involving a mental health or substance abuse issue to help persons access medical treatment or other services as a diversion to the criminal justice system.

Day Center – A center that provides a safe place to rest during the day, along with other essential resources like restrooms, laundry, storage, showers, wi-fi access, charging stations, mail, phones, fax, and access to employment and education services, including a computer lab. Individuals can also connect with case managers.

Job Training Programs - Those experiencing homelessness do not always have the right skills to match available jobs, and sometimes need assistance developing the life skills needed to reliably hold a job. The most effective job training programs provide professional skills, paired with life skills training and job placement assistance.

Living Wage Ordinance - A living wage ordinance requires employers to pay wages that are above federal or state minimum wage levels to meet basic subsistence needs in a particular geographic area.

Definitions of Terms

Panhandling Diversion Program – A citywide program aimed at diverting people from providing cash money to panhandlers, and instead donate to charities working to assist those experiencing homelessness in the community.

Permanent Supportive Housing - Permanent supportive housing pairs housing with case management, mental health and supportive services to help people stay housed.

Safe Parking Program - Safe Parking Program provides case management and outreach to the homeless and safe, monitored overnight parking to individuals and families living in their vehicles.

Showers of Blessing – A mobile shower and restroom unit that temporarily stages at various sites to provide free hot showers and community to people experiencing homelessness. Guests receive a clean towel and washcloth, a pair of new cotton socks, a pair of new underwear, hygiene items, and limited emergency clothing.

Transitional Housing - Supportive housing for a limited time, typically up to twenty four months; provides people with help after a crisis such as homelessness or domestic violence and helps them achieve permanent, stable housing.

Warming Centers – Provides supervised overnight accommodations for the homeless from November 15th to March 15th when temperatures drop below 35 degrees (F) or rain is forecast, creating life-threatening weather conditions.



Questions?

City of Goleta Homelessness Strategic Plan Update
