



WORKSHOP ON HOMELESSNESS MAY 23, 2023

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County Executive

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SACRAMENTO COUNTY'S COMMITMENT

County Acknowledges the Challenges and Impact to the Community

- Homelessness is severe on many levels
- We are concerned for health and safety of our unhoused residents
- We share and understand the public's concern of all neighborhoods and businesses that are impacted by effects of homelessness

Sacramento County's Role and Commitment

- We will address homelessness with compassion, urgency and transparency
- We will take a collaborative approach
- We will continue to expand and diversify programs and services to meet unhoused residents' needs

Goals for Workshop

- Hear from the Department of Homeless Services and Housing on the history and current work being done to respond to homelessness
- As well as hear from some of our partners – both other County departments that play a key role internally, but from the City of Sacramento on our collaboration to meet the needs of those living unhoused in the City.

DIVERSITY OF NEEDS



Complex issues that -

- Lead people into homelessness
- Keep people homeless
- Make it difficult to exit homelessness

- **require a varied and flexible response**

While no person experiencing homelessness is the same as others, services must be reflective of the unique needs, challenges and strengths of the population(s) served, including:

- Transition age youth
- Seniors
- Families with minor children
- Single women
- Single men

IMPORTANCE OF HOUSING IN HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

Homelessness is largely a housing-driven economic problem
homelessness happens when incomes don't match housing costs

In California...



shortage of over a **1,000,000**
affordable and available rental
units for extremely low-income
households

76% of extremely low-income
renters with severe cost burden



<https://reports.nlihc.org/oor>

https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/SHP_CA.pdf

In Sacramento...



Working at **minimum** wage
\$15.00/hour



Each **week** you have to work
63 hours



To afford a one-bedroom rental
home at fair market value

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES & HOUSING

***Mission:** The Sacramento County Department of Homeless Services & Housing (DHS) will endeavor that homelessness in our community is rare overall and brief when it occurs and that clients are served with dignity, respect, and compassion.*

Goals for Year One



Increase Communication



Increase Engagement



Report Outcomes

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES & HOUSING

Focuses on intersectionality of homelessness with other systems of care – internal and external to the County

Partnerships reflect the populations we are serving (*just a few of the County departments that partner on homeless services*):

- Behavioral Health
- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Probation and Public Defender

DHSH also works closely with our many system partners, including:

- Continuum of Care
- SHRA
- Cities

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

countywide

- Connect to services (behavioral health, benefits, etc.)
- Shelter services & operations
- System supports

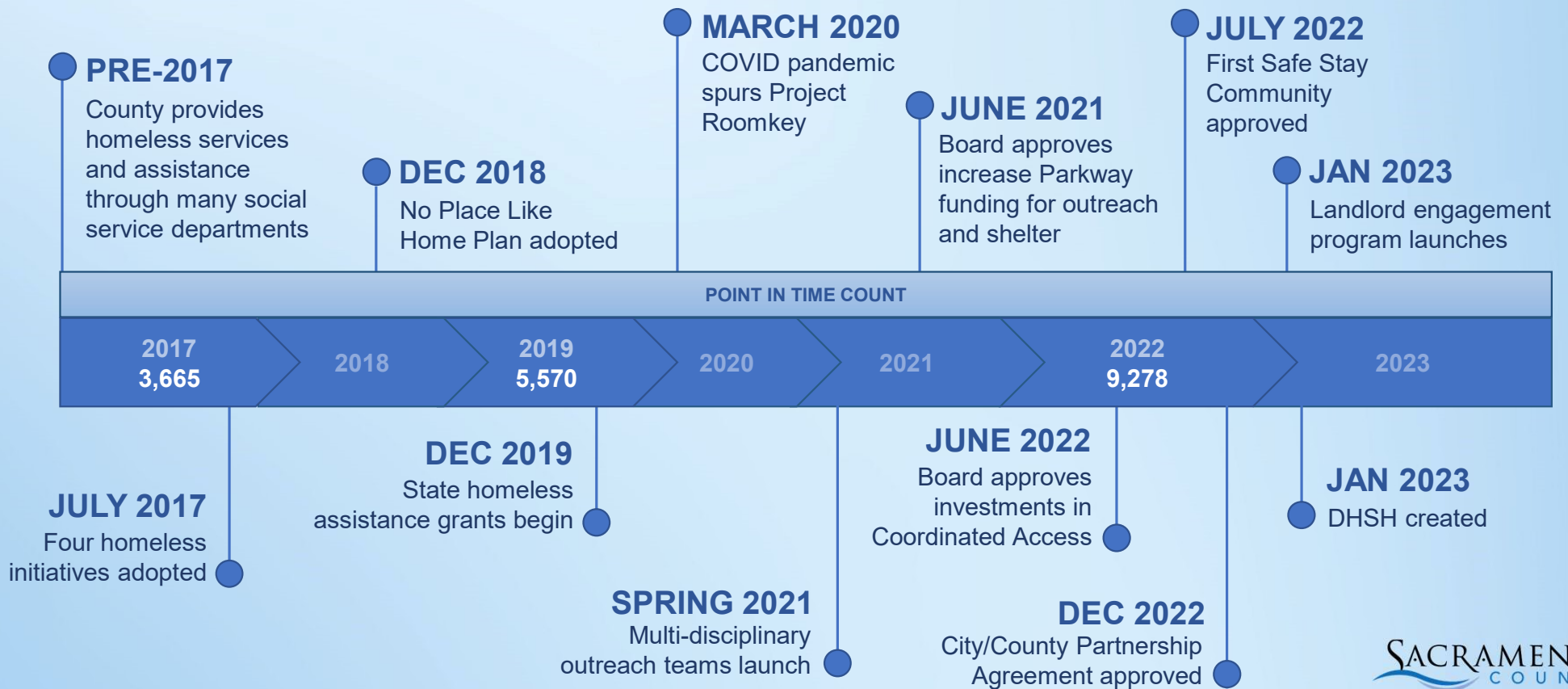
unincorporated

- Direct street outreach
- Coordination with municipal services
- Coordination with law enforcement
- Develop & manage shelters

within cities

- Deploy behavioral health outreach with city outreach teams
- Support operations of shelters

WHAT WE HAVE DONE



WHAT IS WORKING

The County funds 22 programs that participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

In FY 22-23 these programs served 6,539 people

1,500 through outreach at 176 encampments

37% connection rate to shelter/housing

34% reporting living with either an alcohol or drug condition

2,682 in county-funded shelters

46% of recipients report no income source

50% report living with a mental health condition

2,803 through rehousing services

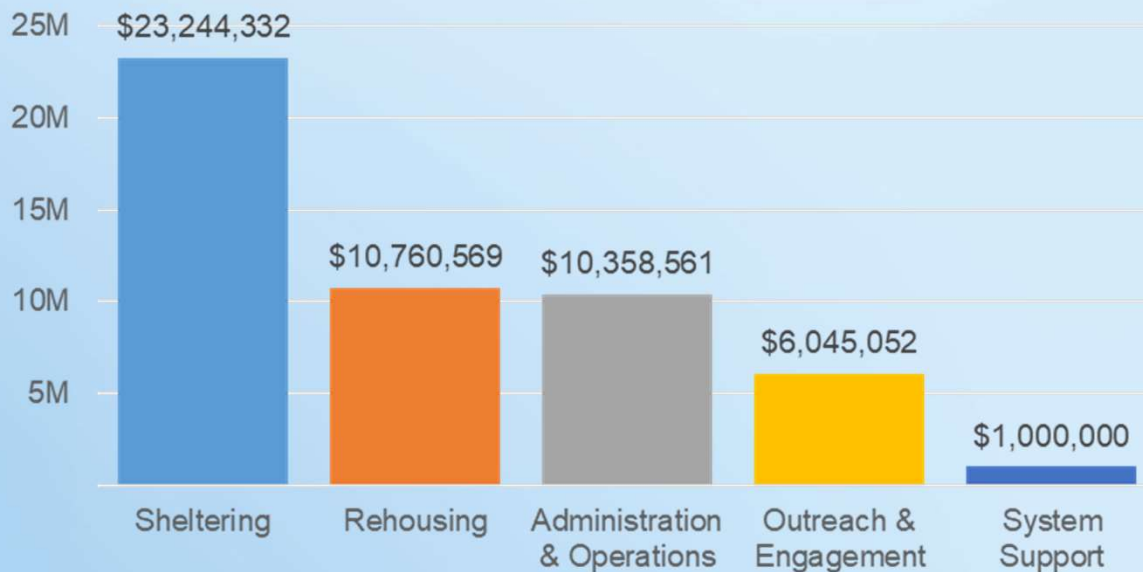
78% were literally homeless the day before entry into the program

73% identify as BIPOC

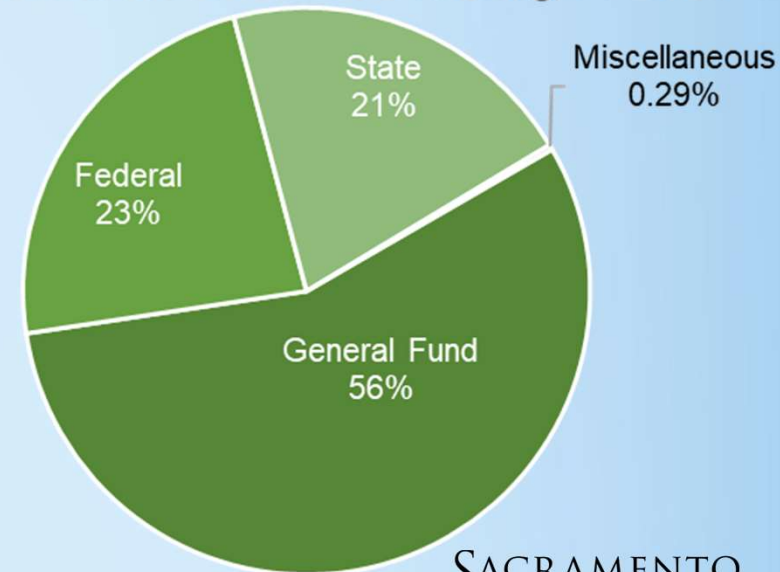
WHERE DOES THE FUNDING COME FROM?

DHSH total FY 23/24 budget = \$51.4 million

Budget by Project/Program Type
Dept. of Homeless Services & Housing, FY 23/24



Budget by Funding Type
Dept. of Homeless Services & Housing, FY 23/24



HOMELESS SERVICES & HOUSING GOING FORWARD

DHSH continuing and expanding on work in four areas:

Outreach

- Previously – County staff lead, minimal external resources
- Currently – CBO lead, diverse staff with flex funds for problem solving
- Future – Additional outreach in partnership with managed care plans

Shelter

- Previously – Mostly congregate shelters, limited options for variance, access managed by shelter operator, limited shelter operators
- Currently – Focus on non-congregate shelter space, reducing barriers to access, access based on vulnerability and need
- Future – Creating ‘safe parking’ options, increase geographic diversity, expanding shelter partners

Housing

- Previously – re-housing dependent on funding availability
- Currently – shifting County response to reflect needs and gaps in market
- Future – expand re-housing partners and exploration of policies to enhance development and re-housing supports

System Supports

- Previously – County, City and SHRA operated separate initiatives
- Currently – adoption of LHAP signaled shift in collaboration, shared goals and vision
- Future – all services coordinated under coordinated access, with common operational standards and reporting

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

- Homelessness is a Countywide issue that impacts everyone
- Meaningfully addressing the various aspects of each person's homelessness requires creative collaboration and sustainable solutions
- The County is investing more than ever in creating and managing diverse programs, dynamic partnerships and impactful solutions that will work towards the mission of ensuring homelessness is rare overall and brief when it occurs.



HOMELESS SERVICES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Agreement signed on 12/6/22 for collaborative services and programs to unhoused population within the City of Sacramento

Encampment Outreach through partnership multi-disciplinary teams

- 25 City staff, 10 Behavioral Health staff and 15 additional outreach staff will soon be hired by Sacramento Covered and funded by the Managed Care Plans, through Cal AIM.
- From **1/1/23 – 4/30/23**: Served 10 encampment locations, with more than 1,300 contacts



SHELTER & AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

- Two Safe Stay non-congregate community shelters will open in the unincorporated south part of the County by the end of 2023
- Planning underway for one Safe Stay in the northern part of the County
- City and County leadership are working with the state to identify more sites for the 350 tiny homes from the Governor
- An 11th CORE Wellness Center is scheduled to open this summer on Broadway Ave in the City
- Coordinated Access System, the coordinated entry for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, will hold referrals for both City and County shelters. This effort is led by Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) and is operated by 2-1-1.
- The Affordable Housing Plan is under development and will come back to the Board and Council in late summer/early fall.



PARKWAY ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE

MAY 23, 2023

Liz Bellas

Director

Sacramento County Regional Parks



Sacramento County Regional Parks



Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks enhances the health, enjoyment and quality of life in the region by:

- acquiring, managing, and protecting park and open space lands;
- educating the public on the uses and values of leisure time activities, and the cultural and natural history of the County;
- growing and linking a system of regional parks, trails and open space in Sacramento and neighboring counties;
- providing a broad range of recreational activities for the community's diverse populations and;
- providing stewardship and protection of Sacramento County's regional park system through partnerships, planning and community involvement.

American River and Dry Creek Parkways

American River Parkway: The American River Parkway is an open space greenbelt which extends approximately 29 miles from Folsom Dam at the northeast to the American River's confluence with the Sacramento River at the southwest. The County of Sacramento has the principal responsibility for administration and management for the portion of the Parkway from the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers upstream to Hazel Avenue, also known as the Lower American River Parkway.

Dry Creek Parkway: The Dry Creek Parkway is comprised of approximately six miles of open space and riparian corridor starting at the Sacramento/Placer County line and extending southwesterly along the two forks of Dry Creek to the Sacramento City limits at Ascot Lane. It passes through the unincorporated communities of Antelope, Rio Linda, and Elverta, and is a part of the American River Watershed.

Purpose of the Parkways

Both the American River and Dry Creek Parkways are unique regional assets which provide multipurpose benefits to the residents Sacramento County, including critical flood control and conveyance infrastructure, drinking water, preservation of open space and wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

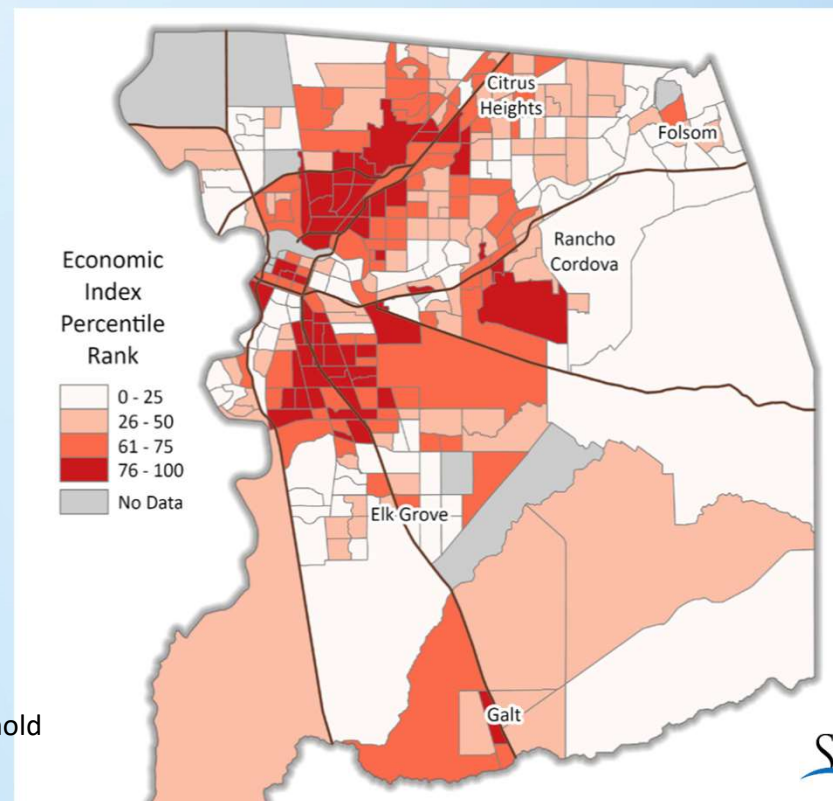
The Parkways lack the basic amenities needed for extended or continual camping such as adequate restrooms, lighting, access points, roadways, and clean water. The absence of these basic amenities leads to unsanitary living conditions and poses significant risks to the health and welfare of unsheltered individuals camping in the Parkways.

Additionally, it is not feasible to provide the infrastructure needed which would allow for extensive camping use in these natural resource areas.

Purpose of the Parkways

The Parkways serve as the closest Regional Parks for the nearby disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities, and as such serve as major recreational outlets for these communities.

Economic Index by Percentile Rank and Census Tract. Sacramento County. Source: 2016 HDI
The HDI Economic Index consists of eight economic indicators of household stability to identify those census tracts where household financial stability is weak.



Parkways Ordinance

(9.36.083) Prohibition on camping or constructing, maintaining or inhabiting any structure or camping facility in the American River Parkway or Dry Creek Parkway, except with written permission from the Director.

(9.36.083 (B)) Prohibition on modifying the parklands (e.g. dirt, landscaping) or accumulating furniture, household goods, or other items in order to create a structure.

(9.36.058(D)) Bans the use or maintenance of a container with flammable or combustible liquid or a generator, except when issued a permit by the Regional Parks Director.

(9.36.067) Prohibition on being in the American River Parkway and Dry Creek Parkway between the first hour after sunset and sunrise or such other time as is posted by the Director.

This prohibition does not apply to the following: on-duty Peace Officer, emergency/first responder or County employees; any County-sponsored functions or programs; any person who has received a permit or other written authorization from the Director for use of the Parkway after closing hours; or commuters using the trail to commute to or from their place of origin and destination outside of either Parkway.

Roles and Responsibilities

Rangers

Enforce ordinances to provide safe facilities for park visitors and to protect natural resources

Provide information and education to the public

Coordinate with DSHS for outreach and services

Maintenance

Maintain regional parks and associated facilities to provide clean, safe and functional parks

Through consistent maintenance reduce the risk of fires, floods and other natural disasters

DSHS

Connections to services (BH, APS, benefits, etc.)

Statistics Jan – April 2023



Statistics Jan – April 2023

FELONY ARRESTS (RELATED TO ENCAMPMENT ENFORCEMENT)	TOTAL
Warrants	44
Possession of Controlled Substance	15
Violation of Probation	11
Domestic Violence	2
Violation of Parole	7
Possession of Firearm by unauthorized persons	5
Failure to register as convicted sex offender	2
Recklessly causing fire	1
Vandalism	1
Possession of Controlled Substance for sale	3

Statistics Jan – April 2023

MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS (RELATED TO ENCAMPMENT ENFORCEMENT)	TOTAL
Warrants	35
Fire in unauthorized area	68
Litter below high water mark	111
Drug related	48
Weapons (non-firearm) related	15
Digging/Damaging/Destruction of natural area	5
Littering in creek	2
Vandalism	1

SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM



"SERVICE WITH CONCERN"

Sergeant Tifni Vettel



What is HOT ?

- The Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) is the Sheriff's Office response to the growing issue of homelessness in the county.

- Eight (8) Deputy Sheriffs assigned to the Homeless Outreach Team.
 - Three (3) deputies assigned to North Division.
 - Three (3) deputies assigned to Central Division.
 - One (1) deputy assigned to Work Release Division who supervises the inmate Work Project crew.
 - One (1) On-Call Deputy who is responsible for outreach and resources.
 - One (1) Crime & Intel Analyst.
 - One (1) Sheriff's Sergeant assigned as the countywide unit supervisor.
 - One (1) Sheriff's Lieutenant as an additional duty while assigned as the Operations Commander of North Division.



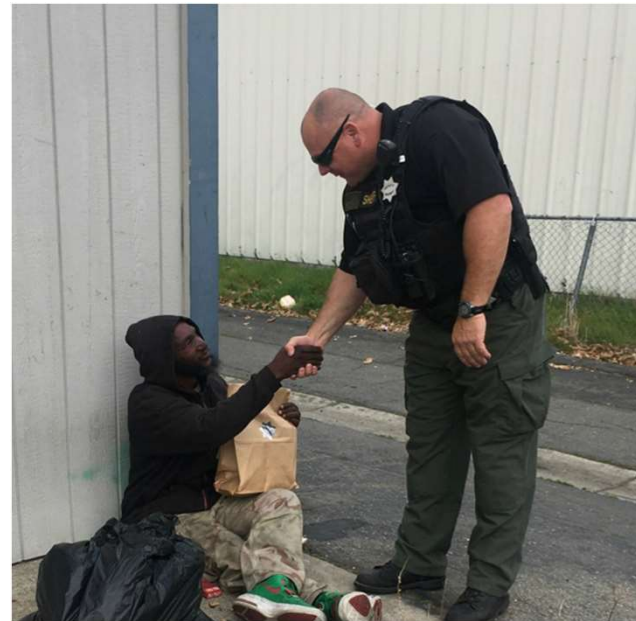
What is HOT?

- Three (3) Deputies assigned to North Division (Antelope, Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Elverta, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, McClellan Park, North Highlands, Rio Linda, and Orangevale.)
- Three (3) Deputies assigned to Central Division (unincorporated areas of South Sacramento, the Delta and Galt as well as Rancho Murieta, Herald, Wilton, Walnut Grove, and the City of Isleton)
 - East Area (Rosemont, Gold River, Lincoln Village, Mather, and Butterfield-Riviera East)



The HOT Team Mission

- Crime prevention and community safety through high visible contacts which include outreach, resources, and enforcement.
- Address the criminal activity and victimization within encampments.
- This is accomplished through an emphasis on improving law enforcement and community response to homelessness and connecting homeless individuals to support services.



How Do We Accomplish Our Mission?

- Through ongoing personal contact between the HOT officers and homeless individuals to increase trust and make referrals to service providers.
- Developing multi-agency partnerships to increase collaboration between law enforcement and service providers in order to assist the homeless in becoming self-sufficient.
- By working with local outreach organizations to coordinate medical and mental health services, housing, and employment for homeless individuals.
- Through enforcement of law violations (i.e. trespassing, public intoxication, aggressive or prohibited panhandling, etc.)



“The Three E’s”

Education of homeless individuals on what services are available through the local continuum of care.

Encourage homeless individuals upon every contact to build rapport and to accept services and make a change in their situation.

Taking **Enforcement** action when education and encouragement have failed or if the situation dictates immediate action.



In The Field

Homeless Outreach Team members are responsible for six (6) main duties:

1. Respond to community complaints regarding homeless issues received by phone, email, or in person.
2. Respond to homeless issues forwarded from patrol units.
3. Conduct proactive patrols to identify homeless individuals and encampments.
4. Engagement of homeless individuals to provide resource, outreach information, and services.
5. Assess, post, and clean encampments.
6. Respond to homeless related calls for service, when available, in order to reduce the workload for patrol units.



HOT Team Activity

- Jan 2023 – April 2023:
- 16,518 Calls for Service
 - 156 Camps Cleaned
 - 1,219 Sites Visited
 - 112 Misdemeanor/43 Felony Arrests
 - 369 Citations
 - 75 Vehicles
 - 3,117 Emails/Voicemails
 - 491 Shopping Carts
 - 7,098 Needles/Syringes



Encampment Hazards

Homeless encampments can contain unique officer safety hazards.

Officers have to be prepared to face both biological, physical, and environmental hazards.

The hazards can include:

- Human waste/feces
- Needles
- Dogs
- Unsteady terrain
- Narcotics (Fentanyl)



Before and After



Before



After



Before and After



Homeless Outreach Team



Before and After



Before and After



2023 Cleanup

From January 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023, the HOT team, in collaboration with Sheriff's Office Work Project and Waste Management, have collected over...

200 TONS

(400,000 pounds)

Of garbage and refuse from problem areas



Heavy Duty Tows



January 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022 = \$121,845
(Exhausted 2022 budget and could not tow in November and December)
January 1, 2023 through April 2023 = \$165,445

Chronic Offender Rehabilitation Effort

The CORE program was developed between the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office to address chronic offenders who negatively impact the community.

The program allows for the subject to receive intensive treatment in lieu of incarceration.

To be a candidate for the CORE program, the crimes committed have to of had a negative impact on the public safety and/or quality of life within a significant portion of the target community; **AND**

The subject has a combined total of **TEN (10)** citations, arrests, violations of probation, or warrants for nuisance related offenses in a 12 month period.

