



## ***Santa Monica Homelessness - Frequently Asked Questions***

*Revised: June 2017*

### **How many homeless people are there in Santa Monica?**

There are 921 homeless individuals in Santa Monica on a single night (Results from 2017 Santa Monica Homeless Count). But Santa Monica is a small city in the most populous county in America. L.A. County has the second-largest homeless population in the country – 57,794 individuals on a single night. (Results from 2017 Greater LA Homeless Count)

### **Why are so many people on the streets in L.A. County?**

- Millions of people struggle to afford rent in LA County, where over 1.5 million people live below the poverty level. According to the [California Housing Partnership](#), a renter would need to make at least **\$33** per hour to be able to afford the average apartment in L.A. County.
- There are not enough interim beds for everyone who needs or wants one. Across L.A. County there is only **1** bed for every 4 homeless people. Santa Monica has **293** interim housing beds and **125** treatment beds for homeless adults and children, or 1 bed for every 2.2 homeless persons.
- A high portion of the homeless population suffer from serious disabilities that make it hard for them to access services and navigate the complex housing system, which leaves them on the streets.

### **What services are available to people who are homeless in Santa Monica?**

Santa Monica has a broad plan and services to change people's lives for the better. The City provides over **\$2.7 million** annually to local nonprofit agencies to fund a variety of treatment, interim and permanent affordable housing options as well as mental health, substance abuse, primary health, employment, legal aid and counseling services. The City has invested in building and operating **314** permanent supportive units for homeless individuals. For more information on homeless services and the City's initiatives:

[www.smgov.net/homelessness](http://www.smgov.net/homelessness)

- **Chrysalis**: employment workshops and job readiness assistance
- **CLARE Foundation, Inc.**: residential and outpatient alcohol and substance abuse treatment
- **Legal Aid Foundation Los Angeles**: full range of legal services to low-income residents
- **New Directions**: services and housing for homeless military veterans
- **OPCC**: interim housing, permanent affordable housing, case management, treatment
- **St. Joseph Center**: permanent affordable housing, case management, treatment, food pantry
- **Step Up on Second**: case management, treatment, permanent supportive housing
- **Upward Bound House**: interim and permanent housing for homeless families
- **Venice Family Clinic**: free, quality health care to homeless and low-income residents

### **What can I do to help?**

You may see a number of homeless individuals panhandling, especially on the beach and in the Downtown Santa Monica area. As an alternative to giving cash or food handouts, please consider making a donation to a local social service organization (visit [www.westsideshelter.org](http://www.westsideshelter.org))

- You may also place loose change in the Dolphin statues located on the Third Street Promenade (at Santa Monica Blvd), on Main Street (at Ashland) and on the Santa Monica Pier (across from Bubba Gump). Donations support local agencies that help the poor and homeless.
- Call Emergency 9-1-1 if you see someone engaged in illegal activities or in need of immediate medical attention.