



2016 Pomona Homeless Count Shows Significant Drop in Homelessness

On Thursday June 29th, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the agency tasked with addressing homelessness in Los Angeles County, released the results of the City of Pomona's Point-in-Time homeless count, conducted in January 2016. The data released showed a count of 689, a 24.45% reduction in homelessness in Pomona.

Beginning in 2016, LAHSA began replacing their bi-annual point-in-time homeless count for the Los Angeles County Continuum of Care, with an annual count. The point-in-time count is a one day snapshot of homelessness that captures data on both sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families. On January 26, 2016, the City of Pomona, in coordination with LAHSA, participated in this count with 96 volunteers deployed to count the homeless throughout Pomona, covering 26 census tracts within our city boundaries. 29% of those who volunteered to count that night were Pomona residents.

On June 29, 2016, the City of Pomona received the results of the "Pomona Only" count from LAHSA which showed that the homeless population in Pomona has decreased from 912 homeless persons in 2015 to 689 in 2016. This is a decrease of 223 persons or -24.45% in a one year period. Of those counted in 2016, 366 or 53% were unsheltered persons, found to be living on the streets, in vehicles, encampments or campers/tents. This represents a 37.76% reduction in unsheltered homeless persons since the 2015 count. The remaining 323 person were sheltered homeless person living in emergency or transitional housing, the 2015 count showed 324. (See table below for details)

Much of the reduction in persons living on the streets may be attributed to the Housing First focus that the City has implemented. From February 1, 2015 through January 30, 2016, more than 575 homeless persons have been served through direct street outreach or housing focused services, such as permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing services, funded by the City. Of those served, 265 or 46% were placed in housing.

Although an overall 6.51% increase in the point-in-time homeless count was reported throughout Los Angeles County, the San Gabriel Valley region, known as Service Planning Area 3, experienced a 15.55% decrease, the largest decrease in the county. The City of Pomona's count decrease contributed to 46% of the overall region's decrease.

While this decrease in homeless numbers is good news, it does not reduce the urgency to continue to search for solutions to assist those who still remain on our streets, placing themselves at risk and visibly impacting the Pomona community.

Pomona Homeless Point-in-Time Count	Total	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Individuals	Persons in Families	Unaccompanied Youth
2016	689	323	366	552	137	0
2015	912	324	588	703	197	12
Difference	-223	-1	-222	-151	-60	-12
	-24.45%	-0.31%	-37.76%	-21.48%	-30.46%	-100.00%