

The following are some Frequently Asked Questions regarding homelessness, resources the City of Beverly Hills provides for the unhoused, and new services and housing opportunities.

1. Doesn't Beverly Hills have ordinances prohibiting camping in the parks, on sidewalks, or in parking garages?

Yes, the City does have these ordinances. However, current federal case law prohibits the enforcement of ordinances that prohibit camping. In the cases of *Martin v. City of Boise* and *Blake v. City of Grants Pass*, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals declared that a city cannot criminally prosecute a homeless individual for sleeping in public unless that city offered a place for that homeless person to sleep.

2. Will the hiring of additional police officers help reduce the amount of unhoused individuals in Beverly Hills?

No, hiring additional police officers is not the solution to ending homelessness. Police Officers are not social workers and should not be asked to respond to calls for people in need of social services. Outreach workers and licensed social workers have the most success in directing the unhoused towards services and housing.

3. What can be done to reduce homelessness in Beverly Hills?

The industry best practices for addressing homelessness is to provide housing first, and supportive services. Meaning that the person needs to get off the street and into housing (of some form) and then they can receive support services to begin to recover and address their larger issues such as their physical or mental health, addiction, or employment opportunities.

4. Who is assisting with the homeless in Beverly Hills?

The City provides a comprehensive team to address various needs of the unhoused and to coordinate service delivery. The Human Services Division provides overall direction to the social services offered by the City through contracts with various non-profit organizations. The Beverly Hills Outreach Team (BHOT) is a 5-member team contracted through Step Up on Second to provide outreach services 7-days a week, and placement into shelter and housing.

BHOT is supported by the Park Rangers in the parks, the Ambassadors in the business triangle, Public Works assists with answering the Unhoused Services hotline of 310-285-2468 (BHOT) during business hours, and Nastec Security assists with answering the hotline overnight and 24 hours on weekends. BHOT works closely with the police officers on the Mental Health Evaluation Team (MHET) which are two officers and a licensed clinical social workers from Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. The Fire Department's Nurse Practitioner team is also involved in providing medical assistance to the unhoused directly at the site.

5. Does the Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF) program help the unhoused?

Community Assistance Grant Funds (CAGF): For many years the City has operated a community assistance funding process that provides grants to non-profit agencies in and around Beverly Hills

that provide valuable social services for residents of Beverly Hills. Many of these organizations work with the unhoused, and here are a few of these partnerships:

- All Saints' Episcopal Church Homeless Assistance Program - \$45,000 to provide Subway sandwich gift cards and Metro TAP cards for unhoused individuals needing to get to shelter in Downtown Los Angeles, as well as funding the Home Again Program that provides bus or air transportation to individuals seeking reunification with family in other communities.
- Collin & Katz Family YMCA - \$10,000 for Food Distribution program.
- People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) - \$100,000 for 5 Shelter beds annually.
- Saban Community Clinic - \$50,000 to community clinic that provides medical, vision, and dental services to the unhoused.
- Safe Parking LA - \$50,000 to fund operations of safe parking lots for homeless families and individuals living in vehicles.
- Step Up on Second - \$165,000 for housing and mental health services from outreach teams.
- Westside Food Bank - \$250,000 for the foodbank that serves low-income and unhoused individuals.

6. What is the Home Again Program?

The Home Again Program, administered through All Saints' Episcopal Church and funded through the CAGF process, provides bus or air transportation to individuals seeking reunification with family in other communities or states.

7. What is the Beverly Hills Scattered Site Housing Program?

Beverly Hills Scattered Site Housing Program (BHSSH) will provide appropriate resources for both the non-chronic and chronic homeless population, operated by non-profit *Step Up on Second*. The program is for ten years with a total cost of \$14,177,026, including any one-time costs and all annual costs, covering housing and services. The City Council approved this agreement on August 15, 2023.

The housing proposal is for 30 units of scattered-site permanent supportive studio apartment units. Scattered site means that tenants are placed in community-based apartment units owned by independent landlords; therefore, the tenants are not housed in Step Up owned buildings nor will all the tenants in any of the buildings be Step Up clients. Step Up has identified these 30 units by outreaching to their network of development partners and they indicate they currently have an agreement with an apartment building owner who has a Hollywood-based building with 30 vacant units, and they are willing to hold these units for Step Up.

Step Up is projecting to house in motels annually 20 individuals, averaging 14 nights per individual or family at an average rate of \$150 per night. This will allow Step Up to offer housing immediately and move people off the street quickly. The program will be able to rapidly provide short-term housing for the individual while they secure other resources to address and end their homelessness. Step Up will actively refer to appropriate programs and services throughout Los Angeles County using its extensive network.

The Step Up Housing Case Management staff will offer Case Management and Individual Rehabilitative services to the tenants. The frequency of tenant visits will vary depending on level of need; however, most tenants require a minimum of one (1) face-to-face visit per week during initial engagement. To provide this level of service, Step Up will hire three (3) full-time staff whose training and experience aligns with housing location, housing retention, and supporting newly housed individuals.

To facilitate scattered-site housing the Step Up Housing specialist staff will look for new resources and agencies to partner with to build reliable and enduring partnerships. This includes property management organizations as well as relationships with individual landlords and on-site managers.

After housing move in, the focus of the services is to support Activities of Daily Living, (i.e., living in your own apartment), housing retention, and increasing self-sufficiency. Individualized rehabilitative services may include focus on grooming/hygiene, laundry, household chores, meal preparation/planning, shopping best practices, budgeting, developing “Good Neighbor” practices (noise reduction, healthy boundaries, conflict resolution) and support in finding constructive and meaningful use of time.

8. Define chronic versus non-chronic homeless?

The population of individuals experiencing homelessness is generally divided into two categories: the non-chronic and chronic, categories established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The non-chronic population is defined as individuals who have been homeless for less than one year; and, the chronic population is defined as individuals who have been homeless more than one year.

For the non-chronic population, individuals tended to fall into homelessness due to a challenging or even catastrophic event in their lives such as loss of a job or a major health issue. For the chronic population, individuals more typically suffer from a disability that has led them into a longer-term state of homelessness such as a physical disability, mental disability or substance abuse issue, or a combination of these.

9. What does scattered-site mean? Where will the housing be?

The housing proposal is for 30 units of scattered-site permanent supportive studio apartment units. Scattered site means that tenants are placed in community-based apartment units owned by independent landlords; therefore, the tenants are not housed in Step Up owned buildings nor will all the tenants in any of the buildings be Step Up clients. Step Up has identified these 30 units by outreaching to their network of development partners and they indicate they currently have an agreement with an apartment building owner who has a Hollywood-based building with 30 vacant units, and they are willing to hold these units for Step Up.

10. Who can get housing? Criteria?

City staff, working with Step Up on Second, are developing criteria and building a vulnerability matrix to assess each individual to determine their priority and readiness for shelter or permanent

supportive housing. Some criteria to be used include the person's age, known physical or mental disabilities, years on the street, and time spent in Beverly Hills, to name a few. Prior to the first unit being leased, the known unhoused individuals in Beverly Hills will go through an assessment and based on the vulnerability matrix will be assigned a preferential rank between 1 and 30 for the housing units.

11. How much is the scattered site housing program costing us?

The Scattered Site Housing Program will provide 30 units of permanent supportive housing, 280 nights of motel stays, and support services annually to those individuals at the cost of \$14,177,026 for the entire 10-year period. That averages out to \$1,417,703 per year for each of the next 10 years.

12. Who can I call if I see someone in need?

If you see someone that appears to be in need of homeless outreach services, please call 310-285-2468 (BHOT) 24 hours a day, and the appropriate outreach team will be dispatched to the location.

If at any time you feel that the unhoused person is a danger to yourself, themselves, or others, please call 911.

13. Where can people go if they need help?

If someone is in need of homeless outreach services and they have access to a phone, they can call 310-285-2468 (BHOT) and request assistance for themselves and BHOT will meet the person at their location.

If a phone is not available, an unhoused individual can approach any Beverly Hills Police officer, Firefighter, Paramedic, Park Ranger, or Ambassador, and request to meet with BHOT and they will be connected.