Homelessness is a critical concern for the Santa Rosa community and one of the City Council’s top priorities. The City’s five-year Homelessness Solutions Strategic Plan (2023-2027) outlines key strategies and actions the City will take to address homelessness in collaboration with the regional system of care. The Plan follows the evidence-based practices of Housing First, which prioritizes the provision of permanent housing as the primary tool for ending homelessness in alignment with Federal and State policy. The goal is to achieve “Functional Zero” homelessness in which a person’s experience with homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. To that end, the City is making strategic investments in five key initiative areas.

### Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>Homeless Services Center at Caritas Center</strong>: Provides showers, laundry, telephone, mail service, referrals and shelter intake, and serves as home base for the Homeless Outreach Services Team. <strong>The Living Room</strong>: Open to women and their children who are experiencing homelessness, or at-risk of homelessness. Comprehensive services focused on promoting stability and self-reliance, including meals, showers, community referrals, and case management.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Street Outreach &amp; Encampment Resolution</strong></td>
<td><strong>Homeless Outreach Services Team</strong>: A street outreach team working to engage persons experiencing homelessness into services and housing in collaboration with the Santa Rosa Police Department and other service providers and community partners. <strong>City Encampment Team</strong>: A multi-disciplinary team focused on a compassionate approach to address the health, safety, and shelter needs of persons living in encampments and to ease the impacts to surrounding communities. <strong>Safe Parking</strong>: Up to 50 parking spaces for community members who are experiencing homelessness to safely park their vehicle or RV with access to basic services, such as food, sanitation, and shower facilities, and wrap-around services to help end participants’ homelessness.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency Shelter</strong></td>
<td><strong>YWCA Safe House</strong>: Emergency shelter for families and individuals who are homeless victims of domestic violence, plus supportive services to empower victims and provide skills for self-sufficiency and increased safety. <strong>Family Support Center at Caritas Center</strong>: A 192-bed emergency shelter for families with wrap-around services, including case management, childcare, health services, educational and job training, and more. <strong>Samuel L. Jones Hall Homeless Shelter</strong>: Up to 213 beds for individuals prioritized by the Homeless Outreach Services Team with beds designated for medical respite, public safety, and the City Encampment Team or during emergent situations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Housing Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rental Assistance</strong>: Financial resources to assist with move-in expenses, security deposits, and rental payments plus funding to incentivize landlords to rent to persons experiencing homelessness. <strong>Housing Choice Vouchers</strong>: Federal rental assistance targeted for Coordinated Entry system referrals in addition to leveraging federal dollars to create permanent housing. <strong>Santa Rosa Housing Trust</strong>: Sponsors the development of permanent supportive and affordable housing for low-income persons.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community-Based Solutions</strong></td>
<td>The Community Homeless Assistance Program allows services to be established on property zoned for commercial and assembly uses, including safe parking with access to bathroom facilities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learn more about each program and initiative at SRCity.org/Homeless
There’s been a 36 percent reduction in homelessness in Sonoma County since 2011, though the problem is more visible and impacts on the entire community more apparent. Most recently, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness county-wide increased by approximately five percent between 2020 and 2022, with a 13 percent increase in Santa Rosa.

**IMPACTS**

**Results of City-Funded Programs and Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2021/22**

- **219 Housed**
  Number of individuals housed through City-funded programs, including direct placements into housing through street outreach or persons exiting emergency shelter to permanent housing

- **1,271 Sheltered**
  Number of individuals sheltered through City-funded emergency shelters, including referrals to shelter through day services and street outreach and persons directly sheltered through City-funded emergency shelters and safe parking

- **3,209 Served**
  Totality of individuals served – including those sheltered and housed – through City-funded programs, including day services, street outreach, emergency shelter, and safe parking

**FUNDING**

Current annual investment in Santa Rosa’s Homelessness Solutions
$4.9 million

- **75%** City of Santa Rosa Contribution
- **19%** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **6%** other local funds

**City Investments Over Past 6 Years**

- **2016/17** $1.7M
- **2017/18** $1.6M
- **2018/19** $3.4M
- **2019/20** $3.4M
- **2020/21** $5M
- **2021/22** $7.6M*
- **2022/23** $4.9M

*2021/22 included one-time funding for the Safe Parking Program ($2.8M) for a two year period.

**ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS TAKES THE EFFORT OF MANY**

The following is a partial list of community partners who provide homeless services support in Santa Rosa:

- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa
- Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County
- Community Support Network
- COTS (Committee on the Shelterless)
- Faith Community
- Interfaith Shelter Network
- The Living Room
- Social Advocates for Youth
- Sonoma Applied Village Services
- Sonoma County Acts of Kindness
- St. Vincent De Paul
- YWCA Sonoma County

*For accessible information, please call (707) 543-3010/ TDD (707) 543-3063*