

Press Release



EveryOne Counts! 2017:

Alameda County's Homeless Persons Point-in-Time Count

Data Attached for Immediate Release

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Locally known as EveryOne Counts!, the Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an enumeration of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that Continuums of Care conduct a biennial count of homeless persons to receive funding for homeless assistance programs. EveryOne Home, Alameda County's Continuum of Care, conducted this year's PIT count on January 30, 2017. Initial county-wide data is being released to support local governments in their planning and budgeting for the coming year. A full report of all findings will be available in the summer of 2017.

State of Homelessness in Alameda County

"Every person deserves the dignity of a home. If we believe that, then we have got to work together and take our efforts to scale." Elaine de Coligny, Executive Director, EveryOne Home

New, More Comprehensive Count Methodology Gives Us a New Baseline

- The 2017 Point-In-Time Count recorded 5,629 people experiencing homelessness the night of January 30, 2017.
- 3,863 (69%) are unsheltered—living in tents, parks, vehicles, vacant buildings, underpasses, etc.
- 345 volunteers and 99 Guides covered every census tract in the county at dawn to enumerate those who were unsheltered.

People Experiencing Homelessness Are Our Neighbors and Want Housing

- 82% of respondents said they lived in Alameda County before becoming homeless.
- 50% had lived here for 10 years or more.
- Only 2% of respondents were not interested in housing. Homelessness is not a choice.

"I don't need to tell anyone who travels our streets or visits our parks that homelessness has reached a crisis level in Oakland," said Mayor Libby Schaaf. **"We're challenged to respond effectively and compassionately to this sudden increase in the need for care and shelter, as well as the impacts of encampments on our neighborhoods. I thank EveryOne Home for quantifying this crisis, gathering this critical point-in-time data and recognizing that it's time for a new Plan. We must do better, faster. President Chan and I are deeply committed to collaboration, as well as drawing on the full strength of this engaged community to tackle its challenges."**

Lack of Affordable Housing Causes Homelessness

- More than half of respondents said that economic hardship was the primary cause of their homelessness.
- **Median rents have increased 25%** since 2015 while median household income increased only 5%.
- Alameda County lost **74% of state and federal funding** for affordable housing production, creating a dire shortage of units.

"People experiencing homelessness have told us it is a question of affordable housing. All levels of government must invest in creating more of it, especially for the disabled and extremely low income. Alameda County, Oakland and Berkeley voters all committed to that by passing Measures A1, KK, U1. We now need to demand

that the State and the federal government do their share." Board President, Wilma Chan, Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Current Homeless and Housing Service System Is Deploying Best Practices, Functioning at Capacity, and Is Under Resourced to Meet the Growing Need

- Our Homeless Services System serves 11-12,000 people per year with 3,000 being sustained in permanent supportive housing.
- Shelters and transitional housing were full on January 30, 2017, with 1,766 people staying in them. That's 1 bed for every 3 people experiencing homelessness.
- Each year providers exit at least 1,500 to permanent housing, while over 2,500 people become homeless.

All people deserve the dignity of a home.

We can get there with the commitment and resources of our entire community.

1. Developers and funders, exceed the commitment of 20% of new rental units for those at 20% of Area Median Income and below in local bond measures ([Measure A1](#) and [Measure KK](#)).
2. Voters, pressure State of California lawmakers to create new sources of long-term revenue dedicated to producing and preserving affordable housing ([SB 2](#)).
3. Property owners and landlords, commit to renting to our homeless neighbors.
4. Local elected officials, jointly develop and implement equitable, compassionate actions for addressing unsheltered homelessness at a Summer 2017 Leadership Summit
5. Providers, continue best practices such as Housing First and Coordinated Entry
6. Citizens, businesses and faith communities, help formerly homeless people make their place a home. Contribute at www.everyonehome.org or [click here](#).

Donate to the "Make It a Home Fund"

Local Non-profit providers help over 1,500 people a year move back into permanent housing, often with very little of what it takes to make a rental a home. Every \$500 donated will help an individual or family settle it and make a fresh start. Selected households will get dishes, bedding, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and other essential home items. Any size contribution helps. Thank you to BBI Construction and Home of Christ 6 English Ministry for their inaugural gifts to launch the fund.