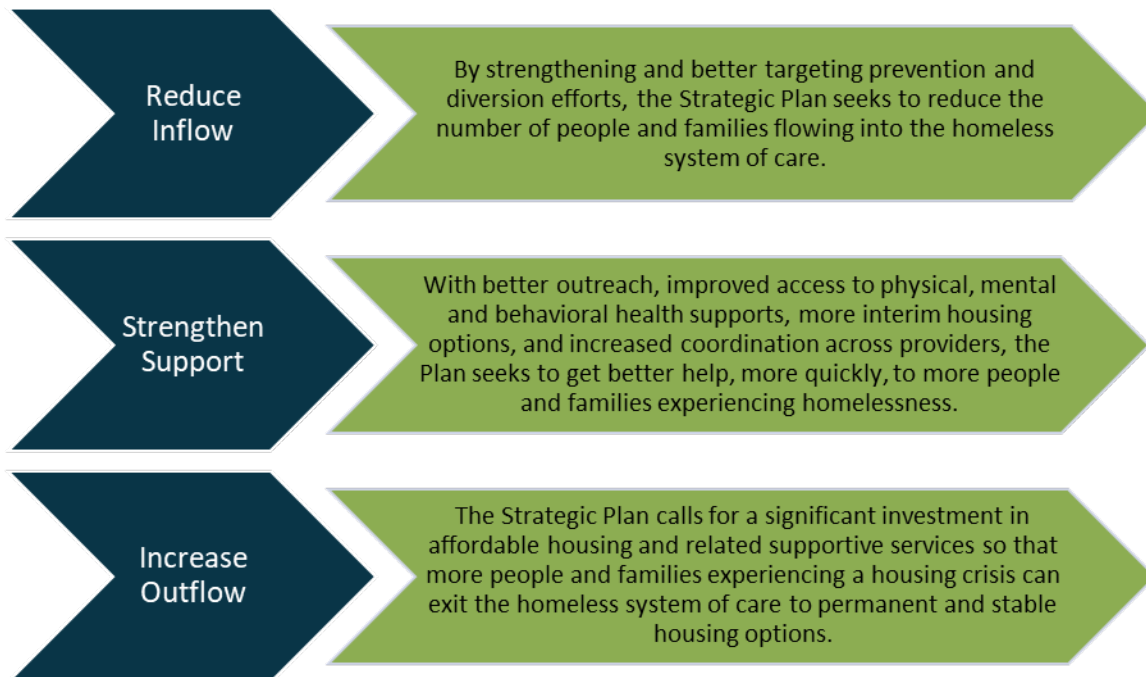


Kern County Homeless Strategic Action Plan

May 2024

The Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness in Kern County seeks to strengthen the current system of care so that it has the capacity to meet the full needs of the Kern County community. The Plan adopts eight goals that, collectively, are designed to do three things: (1) reduce the number of people and families flowing into the homeless system of care, (2) deliver better help to the people and families who do experience homelessness, and (3) increase the number of people and families who exit the homeless system of care to permanent and stable housing arrangements.



GOAL 1: Reduce Inflow. *By strengthening and targeting prevention and diversion, we seek to reduce the number of people and families flowing into the homeless system of care.*

OBJECTIVE 1: Reduce the number of persons experiencing homelessness through prevention and diversion.

STRATEGY 1A: Increase prevention and diversion resources and services.

STRATEGY 1B: Reduce homelessness for those exiting institutions.

STRATEGY 1C: Utilize data across systems to identify themes and trends for homelessness and those at-risk of homelessness.

STRATEGY 1D: Ensure that homeless and formerly homeless people are represented throughout the system to support lived experience perspective in resource development, planning and advisement of service provision.

STRATEGY 1E: Educate the public on what services exist for those at risk of homelessness.

STRATEGY 1F: Improve economic security and workforce development programs that target those who are at risk of homelessness.

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase timely, equitable access to Coordinated Entry System (CES).

STRATEGY 2A: Expand outreach services throughout Kern County.

STRATEGY 2B: Improve system navigation of CES for clients.

GOAL 2: Strengthen Support. *With better outreach, improved access to physical and behavioral health supports, more housing options and increased coordination across providers, the Plan seeks to get better help, faster, and to more people.*

OBJECTIVE 3: Use data across the system to measure inflow, access to service, and outflow to measure program success and achievements.

STRATEGY 3A: Develop and implement a plan to expand HMIS license access and sustainability for HMIS programming.

STRATEGY 3B: Develop a data dashboard for HMIS to demonstrate key metrics for homeless goals.

STRATEGY 3C: Complete a full assessment of utilization of the HMIS system and user activity.

STRATEGY 3D: Utilize data to make equity informed decisions and develop solutions to support equitable access for services and resources.

OBJECTIVE 4: Increase access to supportive services.

STRATEGY 4A: Ensure that wraparound and case management services are available for all housing and shelter options.

STRATEGY 4B: Increase the capacity and training for crisis response to behavioral and physical health care needs.

STRATEGY 4C: Enhance support for homeless specialty sub-populations.

STRATEGY 4D: Improve economic security, healthcare, and behavioral health care access for those who are homeless.

OBJECTIVE 5: Improve emergency shelter options to increase access to quality emergency shelter beds.

STRATEGY 5A: Support resources for innovative plans that address the needs of specialty homeless sub-populations.

STRATEGY 5B: Strengthen referral and discharge between service providers to prevent unsheltered homelessness.

STRATEGY 5C: Better prepare emergency shelter clients to achieve housing stability.

STRATEGY 5D: Develop disaster contingency plans for sheltered and unsheltered individuals.

OBJECTIVE 6: Increase the inventory and access to interim, transitional, and bridge housing.

STRATEGY 6A: Increase advocacy, funding, resources, and services for interim, transitional, and bridge housing.

STRATEGY 6B: Utilize data to identify and prioritize the needs for specialty sub-populations to have equitable access to interim, bridge, and transitional housing options.

GOAL 3: Increase Outflow. *The Strategic Plan calls for a significant investment in affordable housing and related supportive services so that more people and families experiencing homelessness can exit the homeless system of care to permanent and stable housing options.*

OBJECTIVE 7: Increase the inventory and access to affordable, permanent housing.

STRATEGY 7A: Encourage and support local efforts to increase affordable housing.

STRATEGY 7B: Increase the number of Rapid Re-Housing beds.

STRATEGY 7C: Coordinate and incentivize developers to increase affordable housing.

STRATEGY 7D: Increase landlord engagement to create more available units.

OBJECTIVE 8: Reduce recidivism for those exiting into permanent housing.

STRATEGY 8A: Enhance availability of after-care case management programs.