

County Continues Commitment to **HOMELESS INITIATIVES**



With the approval of the recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18 on June 14, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors highlighted the County's commitment to addressing homeless initiatives with an additional \$6.2 million directed toward those efforts.

The enhanced funding comes on top of the already more than \$40 million Sacramento County spends annually on homeless services.

As the major funder of homeless services in the region—including shelters and transitional housing, and re-housing assistance—as well as the largest provider of social services, Sacramento County is committed to working with government partners and community stakeholders to continue to develop and deliver the most impactful solutions to homelessness.

Following several public workshops in 2016 and 2017, the Board of Supervisors endorsed the following initiatives for FY 2017-18:

COUNTY INITIATIVE #1

Improve Family Crisis Response and Shelters

- » This initiative seeks to shelter more families annually by helping them connect to assistance and return to housing more quickly.

Continues



County Continues Commitment to Homeless Initiatives, *Continued*

COUNTY INITIATIVE #2

Preserve Mather Community Campus

- » Operating on a unique County-owned property, Mather Community Campus (MCC) has played an important role providing transitional housing, employment services, and recovery support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Sacramento since 1996.
- » **In 2016, the Volunteers of America (VOA) served more than 885 individuals, families, former foster youth, and veterans through eight residential (267 units) and nonresidential programs.**

COUNTY INITIATIVE #3

Full Service Re-Housing Shelter

- » This initiative seeks to reach persons experiencing homelessness who have complex behavioral and/or physical health issues that often prevent them from engaging in shelter services.
- » The shelter will include 24-hour dormitory accommodations for up to 75 individuals at a time, with consideration for partners, pets and possessions, and include meals, showers and laundry facilities. **The Full Service Re-housing Shelter will serve up to 250-300 persons annually.**

COUNTY INITIATIVE #4

Flexible Supportive Re-Housing program

- » The County proposes a new Flexible Supportive Re-housing Program (FSRP) that would provide highly flexible re-housing and stabilization services to persons who have experienced long-term homelessness, who frequently utilize costly County services (such as behavioral health, emergency response, or jail), but who could, with the right assistance, stabilize in permanent supportive housing.
- » **The FSRP will re-house up to 250 individual and family households in the first year of the program.**

Public Housing Authority Resources

In addition to these initiatives, the Board of Supervisors (acting as the Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento) directed SHRA to initiate the process to increase Public Housing resources for homelessness, including:

- » Limited Preference Allocation of 150 “turnover vouchers” annually (see #4 above);
- » Up to 375 project-based vouchers over three years to support new or existing permanent supportive housing;
- » 50 vouchers over three years to help current supportive housing tenants “move on” to affordable housing and serve new families in need of intensive services; and
- » 100 vouchers for homeless youth participating in a new federal grant called “P3.”

For more information on Sacramento County’s Homeless Initiatives, visit www.saccounty.net and click on “Responding to Homelessness” under Current Topics.



WANT TO GET A JOB WITH THE COUNTY?

The County of Sacramento is an equal opportunity employer of dedicated people covering a variety of services including public safety and protection, public health, community services, municipal services and administrative support.

You can establish a great career with the County! Visit www.saccountyjobs.net to get started by searching and applying for jobs.



Foster Parenting – You Can Do It

When her two adult daughters moved out, Karla Buechler suddenly found herself with a large home and empty bedrooms.

“I love the daily parenting tasks like packing lunch and helping with homework,” Buechler says. “My girls didn’t need that anymore.”

She reached out to Stanford Youth Solutions six years ago and has since fostered two teenage girls. A single working mom, Buechler depends heavily on the support of Stanford Youth Solutions. Stanford provides services based on the needs of each child, and helps Buechler get her daughters to appointments. All health care is covered, including the necessary psychological treatment for healing.

“Many foster kids have low self-esteem and think they were abandoned because they’re bad,” Buechler says. “Of course, that isn’t true. These children were perfect when they were born.”

Buechler says anyone can become a resource parent with the proper support. She encourages those who want a family to do it.

“People think it’s expensive, but it’s not,” she says. “Most of the child’s care is paid for. You just get to love them.”

When asked why she chose to foster teens, Buechler says she feels like those kids have the greatest need. “Most of the kids in foster care are over the age of 8 and little ones get adopted pretty fast,” she says.



Karla Buechler, foster parent

For more information about how to become a foster parent, visit www.dhhs.saccounty.net/CPS or call Sacramento County Child Protective Services at (916) 875-5543.

Life Looks Good on You – Drowning Doesn’t!



Summer is here and the river is calling your name. Visiting Sacramento County public waterways, rivers and lakes is such an excellent way to cool off and enjoy the outdoors. Before you dive in, put on a life vest! Here are more tips for staying safe around public waterways:

- » **Everyone should wear a life jacket** – Whether you are fishing, boating, swimming, floating or just wading, wear a properly fitting jacket.
- » There is a **mandatory life preserver ordinance** for children 13 and under in Sacramento County public waterways. [SCO 13.08.301 (a)]
- » **Learn how to swim** – Even with life jackets, it is important to know how to swim.



- » **Obey the signs** – Read any signs you may see in the area before you enjoy any type of recreation.
- » **Never use rope swings or jump off bridges** – No matter how deep the water is, these activities can result in serious injury or death.
- » **Keep an eye on children** – Never leave children unattended near water.

KIDS DON’T FLOAT

The “Kids Don’t Float” life preserver loaner program provides jackets for temporary use at the following points: Ancil Hoffman Park, Discovery Park, Sand Cove, Howe Avenue, Paradise Beach, Sunrise and Watt Avenue Accesses. They are also available at several Sacramento Metro Fire Stations.

The California Division of Boating and Waterways also has a statewide life jacket loaner program for adults and children with 11 outlets in our area reaching from El Dorado Hills to West Sacramento and from Rio Vista to Loomis.

Code Enforcement Picks Up Record Amount of Electronic Waste in Neighborhood Clean-Up

On June 3, the El Camino/Howe neighborhood in Arden Arcade lost 24 tons – of junk that is. Sacramento County Code Enforcement collected their highest volume of electronic waste ever—6,500 pounds—in addition to the 3.99 tons of wood, 11.26 tons of trash, and 5.42 tons of metal, during their clean-up.

Currently, Code Enforcement hosts three collections a year. Neighbors line up in cars to drop off debris, and it takes approximately 35-50 people to execute each clean-up, including staff, family, friends and community members. Sacramento County Probation often assists with efforts.

Various woods and metal are recycled by the County or Atlas Disposal, which provides the 50 yard bins and their removal. E-waste is collected by the Sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit; they use the funds to purchase items for their Christmas Giving Campaign and other programs.

Code Enforcement Chief Barry Chamberlain said, "We enjoy these events. Each one provides us the opportunity to interact with the community, to fill a need, and to give back to residents."



For more info on Sac County Code Enforcement, visit www.code-enforcement.saccounty.net

6,500 pounds
ELECTRONIC
WASTE

3.99 tons
WOOD

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TRASH

5.42 tons
METAL



Sac County 311 Connect is Your Link to County Services

Where do you report an abandoned vehicle or broken street light? Or get information about County services? Get the information you need by submitting a request on the web at www.311.saccounty.net, through our mobile app or by calling 311. (916-875-4311 if calling from out of the area.)

Friendly and knowledgeable customer service representatives are available 24/7, 365 days a year to answer questions, route calls, and resolve issues.