



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, Sept. 19, 2022

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City's Homelessness Department Dramatically Expands Shelter, Services in First Year

STAFF TO PRESENT MAJOR MILESTONES, UPCOMING PROJECTS, FIVE- YEAR FORECAST AT TODAY'S CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SAN DIEGO – Since Mayor Todd Gloria created the Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department (HSSD) in the summer of 2021, the City of San Diego has expanded street outreach and increased shelter capacity by 28%, while simultaneously working to create more permanent housing options for San Diegans experiencing homelessness.

Today at noon, HSSD Director Hafsa Kaka and her team will deliver a holistic update to the City Council on the department's work to date and provide a five-year funding forecast for the future.

"Our Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department is working every day, alongside county-wide agencies and partners, to build a more robust system that addresses homelessness in San Diego," Mayor Todd Gloria said. "What ends homelessness one person at a time is outreach, shelter and housing, and we have made significant strides in all of these areas over the past year and will continue to do much more in the years to come."

HSSD has taken several steps to bolster the city's efforts to address homelessness, including:

- **Connecting more than 1,471 people experiencing homelessness to permanent or longer-term housing** in 2022 in collaboration with the San Diego Housing Commission. This information can be found on the [San Diego Housing Commission's dashboard](#).
- **Growing the capacity of the [City's shelter system](#)** by 28% since April 2021. The City has added hundreds of shelter beds and shelter options that serve specific needs, including non-congregate offerings, mental and behavioral health, women and seniors. HSSD is working to open additional shelters that are in various stages of progress.

- **Implementing a highly effective [Coordinated Street Outreach Program](#)** that conducts daily outreach efforts along with twice-monthly, multi-agency, [focused outreach events](#) in areas affected by homelessness across the city. Additionally, HSSD contracted with homeless service provider, City Net, to offer outreach to residents in freeway-adjacent encampments, in partnership with Caltrans. Mayor Gloria launched the Coordinated Street Outreach Program in March 2021.
- **Securing millions of dollars in state grants** to put toward programs and services as well as fund additional housing efforts, including \$27 million in Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding and a \$440,000 Family Challenge Grant.
- **Expanding the City's homelessness service-provider network** to assist residents experiencing homelessness, in collaboration with the San Diego Housing Commission. New providers include City Net (for outreach on state highway rights of way) and Catholic Charities (for a new women's shelter), and relationships with more providers are in the works.
- **Expanding the department** from a staff of five to 10 full-time positions. The City's [Community Action Plan on Homelessness](#) and a report from national homelessness expert Matthew Doherty both recommended reviewing the staffing needed to adequately respond to the City's homeless population.
- **Launching a new department [website](#)** that provides the public a comprehensive overview of homelessness programs and services offered by the City of San Diego.

In addition to highlighting the progress the department has made, HSSD will present a five-year funding forecast on the City's spending on homelessness. HSSD will provide the City's outlook and strategy for continuing to provide critical homeless services long-term when one-time funds being used now are no longer available.

Tune into the [City Council meeting](#) today, Monday, Sept. 19, at noon to hear the full update.

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