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## The Road Home





The Road Home:
A Five-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent
and Respond to Homelessness
in Alameda

October 2021

- The Road Home: A Five-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent and Respond to Homelessness in Alameda (2021-2026)
  - Mission: Prevent homelessness, address disparities, reduce chronic homelessness, and minimize time spent homeless
  - Challenges: Affordable housing shortage, high cost of living, stigma, and barriers to housing for vulnerable populations
  - Goals: Secure a housing future for all Alamedans, increase access to homeless emergency response services, and mobilize the City response to homelessnesss

# Goal 1: Secure a Housing Future for All Alamedans

**Key Strategies**: Inventory of available land for reuse or development, expansion of affordable housing, development of local policy to protect housing, and landlord incentives

- Adoption of The General Plan and the Housing Element
  - Inventoried unused, underutilized, and available properties
  - All residential and mixed zone districts permit multi-family and shared housing
  - Implemented affordable housing lottery preference points
  - Developed a landlord incentive program
- Added 226 new units of affordable housing, with 1,300 units authorized and in development

# Goal 2: Increase Access to Homeless Emergency Response Services

**Key Strategies**: Flexible funding for prevention, diversion and housing retention, low-barrier shelter expansion, and outreach and engagement to the unhoused

- Rise Up Alameda, a pilot guaranteed income program provides support to low-income households
- Hired a Community Outreach Specialist to connect individuals and families to essential resources
- Created street outreach and engagement programs
  - Street Homeless Outreach Team now operates seven days a week
  - Alameda CARE team provides a 24/7 alternative response to all non-criminal individuals facing a mental health crisis
- Increased Temporary and Emergency Shelter Capacity
  - Dignity Village 47 low-barrier, private, interim shelter units
  - 24 beds Emergency Supportive Housing
  - Shelter capacity increased by 10 new beds at the Day Center Overnight program
- Enhanced supportive services through shower and laundry provided at the Day Center

# Goal 3: Mobilize the City Response to Homelessness

**Key Strategies**: Strengthen the homeless response system, engage the community in workforce development programs, expand community involvement, improve data collection and coordination of services

- Engaged 76 community volunteers for the 2024 Point-in-Time Count
- Continued collaborations with local nonprofits and faith-based groups for meal services and warming shelters
- Implemented comprehensive data collection by all service providers through HMIS
- Developed Coordination Meetings
  - Coordinated Outreach Team (COT)
  - Collaborating and Advancing Resources, Efforts, and Supports for Alameda's Homeless (CARES)
     Team
  - Needs Assessment

## Needs Assessment

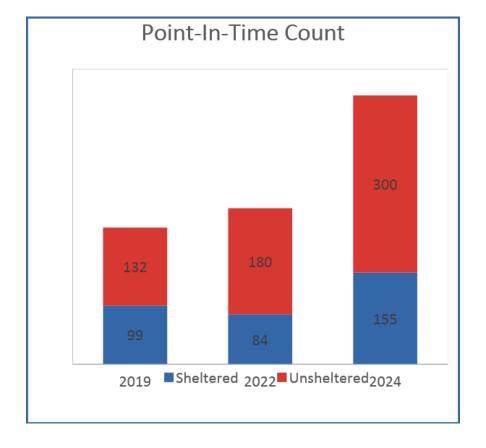
**Key Strategies**: Focused on The Road Home goals and centered around the creation of the Housing and Human Services division of the City Manager's Office, the Needs Assessment coordination meetings help providers share resources and identify gaps experienced by people in need.

- January 11, 2024, Director's Roundtable
- January 23, 2024, Community Partner Breakfast Meeting
- Commitment to continued conversations

# Data Driven Services and Planning

- 100% of programs participate in HMIS
- 150 low-income residents were enrolled in Rise Up Alameda
- 1,226 individuals have been served at the Day Center since 2020
- 94 people have been housed by Dignity Village since May 2023

Provider	# of Beds Prior to 2021	# of Beds 2024
Day Center Overnight	7	17
Dignity Village	N/A	61
Emergency Shelter Housing	N/A	24
Midway Shelter	25	25
Total	32	127



# Identified Needs and Challenges to Success

**Challenges Identified**: Increased homelessness, rising demand for affordable housing, staff shortages and the need for permanent supportive housing

#### **Continued focus:**

- Expand community engagement to strengthen partnerships and expand educational opportunities
- Mental health services and resources
- Homeless prevention and permanent housing placement assistance
- Additional staffing, training, and resources for service providers including sustainable wages or alternative supports
- Increased housing and non-congregate shelter capacity, especially for large families and seniors
- Secure funding and resources to continue expanding supportive services

## Conclusions

- Achievements: Significant progress in housing solutions, shelter capacity, and emergency services.
- Ongoing Work: Address the remaining needs, including sustainable funding and housing access.
- **Final Note**: Continued community and government communication and collaboration is essential to meet long-term goals.