



# ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN VENTURA COUNTY



**MATT  
LaVERE**

**District 1  
Supervisor**

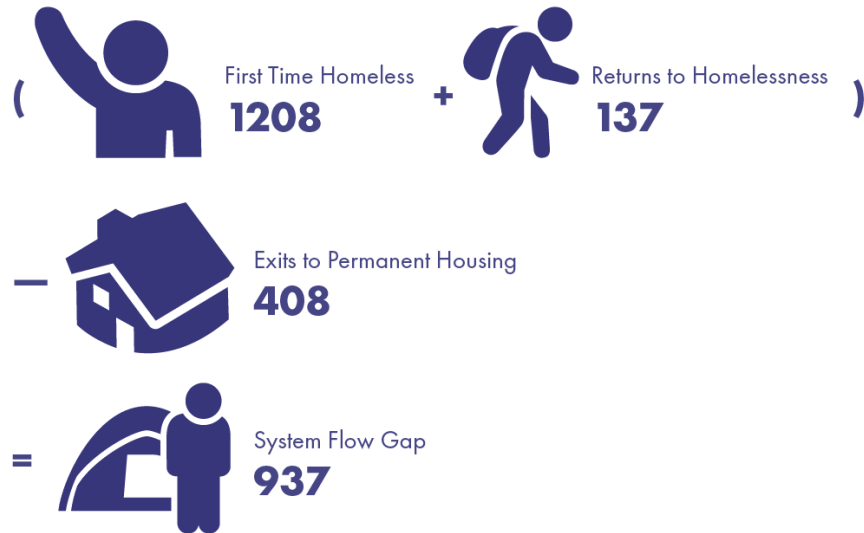


# Ventura County Continuum of Care

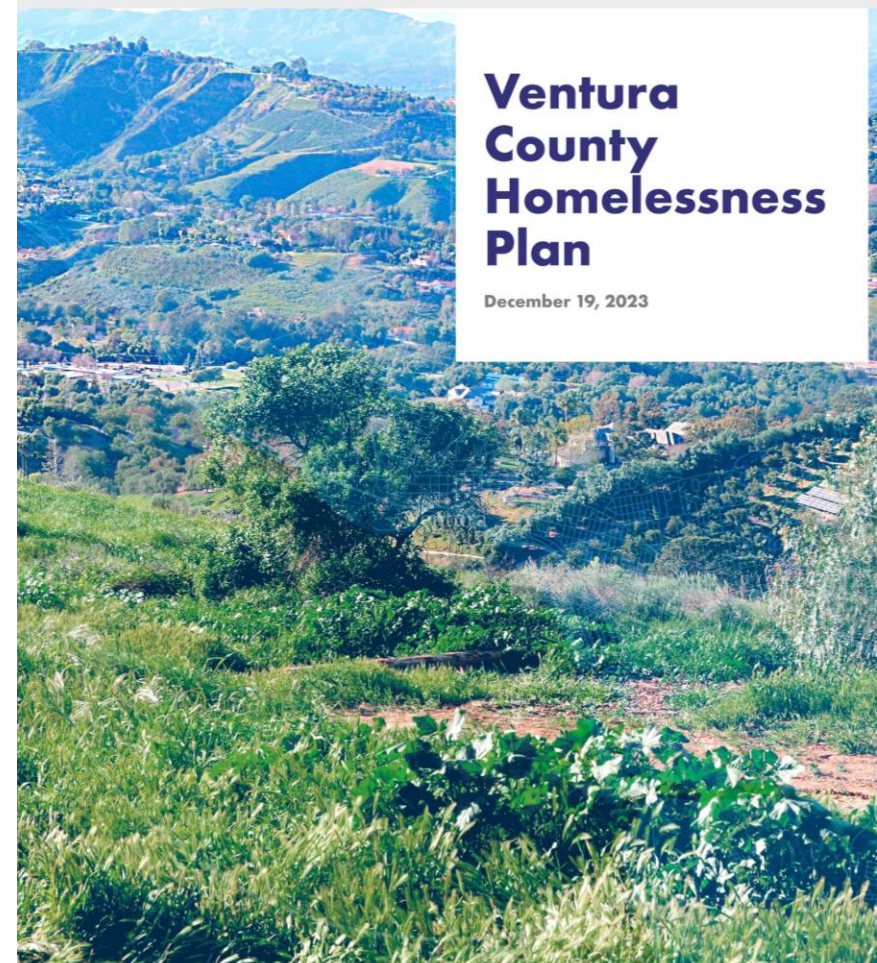
## Ventura County Plan to Prevent and Address Homelessness

### System Flow Imbalance – County Response

Ventura County 2022:



- 1:4:10 Ratio
- Homeless prevention
- Permanent funding for housing
- Expand tenant resources
- Housing based supportive services





# Ventura County Continuum of Care

## What's Working & Why

### 2024 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

Overall 3.4% Decrease

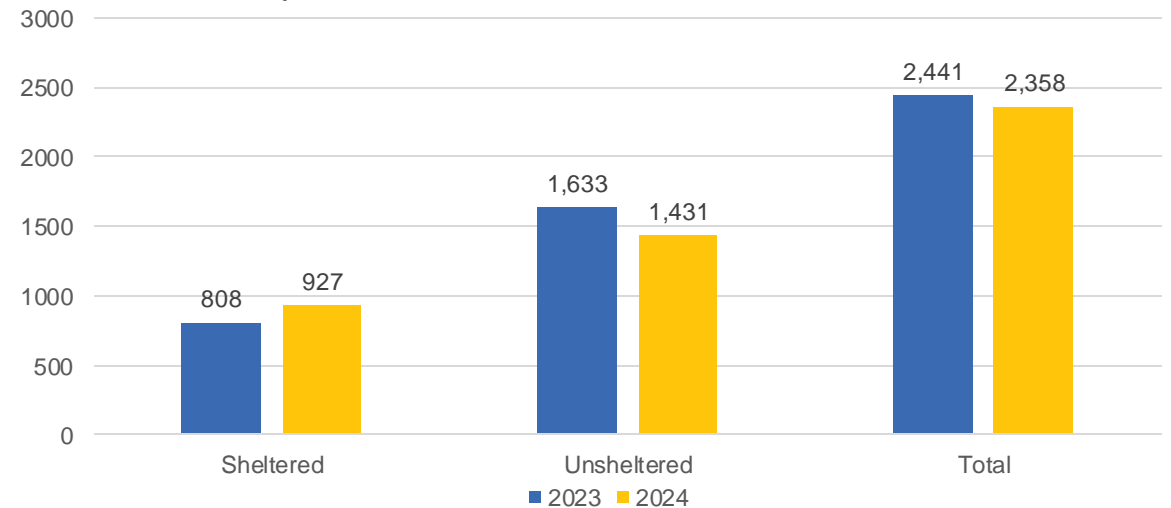
- 14.7% ↑ in sheltered persons
- 12.4% ↓ in unsheltered persons
- County Investments
- State's Priorities and Investments
  - HHAP - Prevention and Housing
  - Encampment Resolution Grants
  - Homekey



VENTURA COUNTY  
CONTINUUM OF  
CARE ALLIANCE

ENDING HOMELESSNESS  
IN VENTURA COUNTY

Comparison of 2023 and 2024 Homeless Counts





# Ventura County Continuum of Care

## Impact of State Investments – 2023

Funding Source	Program(s)	State Funding Expended	# Persons Served	% Exits to Positive Destinations	# Exits to Homelessness
CDSS	Project Roomkey	\$5.13M	254	43%	5%
HHAP 1-4	Interim Sheltering, Outreach, Supportive Services for PSH, Rapid Re-Housing, Landlord Engagement, Housing Navigation, Homeless Prevention	\$6.19M	2,363	26%*	12%

\* Many HHAP funded programs are serving persons who aren't yet in shelter or are already housed.



# Ventura County Continuum of Care

## Innovations

- Justice Partnerships
- Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- Capitalized Subsidy Operating Reserves
- Landlord Engagement Program
- Making Space for Persons with Lived Experience





# Public Defender's Office

- CoC Board Criminal Justice representative
- Sentencing Specialist has access to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for direct referrals to service providers and resources
- Community Intervention Court (CIC), Fresh Start, Homeless Court





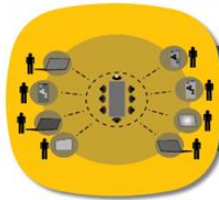
# Ventura County Health Care Agency

## Comprehensive Healthcare for Unsheltered Individuals



### Outreach & Engagement

One Stop: Community Based Access Point for Services  
Street Medicine/Backpack Medicine  
Trauma Informed Encampment Engagement



### Case Management

CalAIM Enhanced Care Management (ECM)



### Housing Supports

CalAIM Housing Transition/Navigation Services, Housing Deposits  
Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services, Recuperative Care



### Hospital and Clinic-based programs

Healthcare for the Homeless Clinic, FQHC Network with Primary and  
Specialty Care, Specialty Addiction Medicine Clinic, Emergency  
Room Substance Use Navigator Program







# Ventura County Health Care Agency

## Patient Success Story

Mr. Q was in his 20s when he enrolled in Whole Person Care (WPC) 4 years ago. He had a developmental delay, a serious heart condition, a substance use disorder, and lived unsheltered outdoors most of his life.

With the help of his WPC/CalAIM Case Management team, he entered sober living, received specialty care for his heart condition, began attending school for his GED and is now working as a security guard.

He just obtained a housing voucher which will allow him to live independently with his current income.





# Ventura County Health Care Agency

## Access

- Prioritizing increased access to care for individuals
- Community Overdose Awareness & Solutions Team (COAST) - [Data Dashboard | COAST Ventura County](#)
- In 2023 County of Ventura medical Examiner's Office Report – Total number of overdoses represent a 5% decrease since 2022 and an 8% decrease since 2021





# Ventura County Health Care Agency

## Collaboration

- Increased Collaboration between County agencies, cities, community-based organizations
- Integrated Outreach Efforts
- Multi-disciplinary team approach





# Ventura County Health Care Agency

## Housing Support

- Received approximately \$15 million in Housing Grants
- Working with community-based partners to create new short-term housing/shelter beds
- Successful Linkage to permanent housing





# Ventura County Human Services Agency

## Homeless Services

- Trauma informed, person-centered, housing first approach
- Homeless services team consists of 32 staff
- 1207 referrals received monthly; 386 households enrolled
- 97% secured permanent housing and remain stably housed after six months of case management



### Current Grants/Funding Allocations:

- **CDSS (3):** \$5,534,312 / DFA: \$3,038,570
- **HHAP (4):** \$3,617,205 / DFA: \$1,227,861
- **HUD/CoC (2):** \$644,783 / DFA: \$341,376
- **HPRP (1) :** \$360,000 / DFA: \$160,000

**Total:** \$10,156,300 / **Total DFA:** \$4,767,807

### Services/Programs Offered:

- Information & Referral
- Street Outreach
- Family Emergency Shelter
- RAIN Shelter\*
- Bridge/Interim Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Homelessness Prevention
- Permanent Supportive Housing (x2)
- Supportive Services
- Housing Navigation

\*Note: RAIN is currently transitioning from congregate shelter provision to a master lease/bridge housing model



# Ventura County Human Services Agency

## Homeless Management Information System & Coordinated Entry System (HMIS & CES)

- VC HSA serves as the lead agency for the VC CoC
- Overseen by the County Executive Office
- Dedicated full-time team of 4 staff
- Monthly trainings for providers and onboarding

### Grant Information

- HUD CoC Grant = \$402,631
- State HHAP Grant = \$105,000

**VCHMIS**  
Ventura County Homeless Management Information System





# Ventura County Human Services Agency

## By the Numbers

### FY 2023-24 HMIS Figures

- 231 System end users
- 40 Partner agencies
- 162 Active projects
- 44 Virtual trainings provided
- 516 Support calls
- 10 Ad Hoc reports created

### FY 2023-24 CES Figures

- 1,449 Entries by partner agencies
- 2,146 Referrals to HMIS projects
- 128 Households prioritized for PH/PSH
- 76 Households matched to Permanent Housing
- 5 Households matched to Transitional Housing





# Ventura County Sheriff's Office

## Homeless Liaison Unit - Collateral Team

- Existing Vulnerable Population Officers (VPO)
- HLU Collateral Team – Established in October 2021
- Collaborate with Homeless Service Providers







# Ventura County Sheriff's Office

## Homeless Liaison Unit - Full-Time Staff

- Ventura County Sheriff's Office Full-Time Homeless Liaison Unit will consist of:
  - 2 Sergeants
  - 8 Deputies
- Connecting Unhoused Individuals with Services
- Security for Social and Health Care Workers





# Ventura County Sheriff's Office

## Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

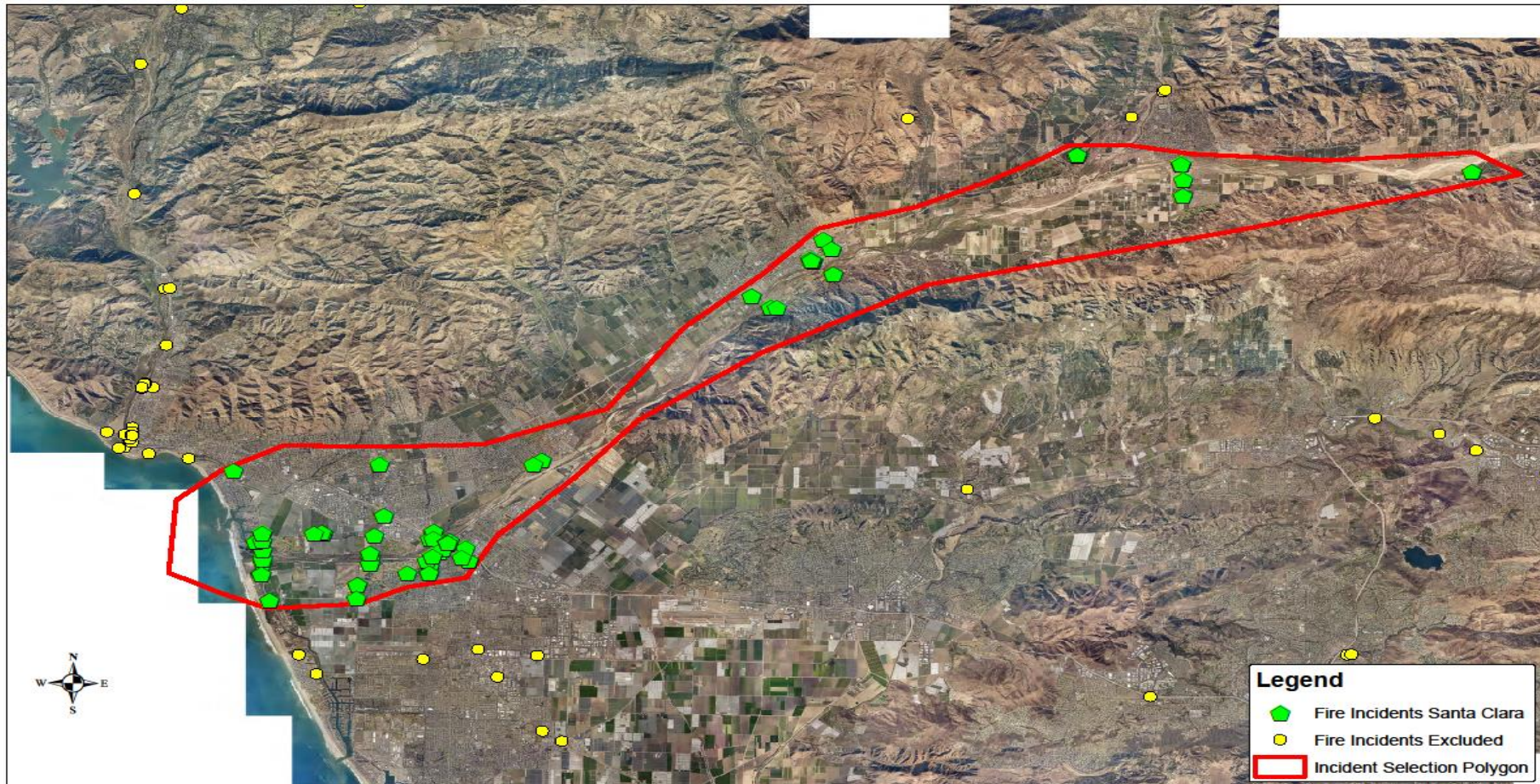
- Ventura County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to CIT training
- HLU deputies will bring a wide-range of training and experience
- Deputies with backgrounds in specialized collateral assignments and specific skillsets will comprise the team





# Ventura County Fire Department

## 2023 Fire Occurrences >1 acre in Santa Clara Valley/Santa Clara River





# Ventura County Fire Department

## Santa Clara River-Bottom Arundo & Tamarisk Mitigation



1. Backpack Medicine and Outreach Program



2. Housing, Meals, Project Roomkey



3. Notification of cleanup, fuel mitigation, referral, evacuation of region, provided safety of agency personnel



4. Hire environmental consultant and cleanup contractor of rubbish and hazardous waste over 25 tons, Public Works and Sheriff mechanized equipment assisted



5. Fire Dept Handcrew cut and removed invasive species in sensitive areas to preserve native vegetation and used Fire Dept Heavy equipment mastication to grind Arundo and Tamarisk, Fire Prevention=Education before Enforcement





# Ventura County Fire Department

## Swift-Water Rescues in Ventura & Santa Clara Rivers



**PREPOSITIONED**  
PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT





# Ventura County Public Works Agency Watershed Protection District

## Multi-Agency Protocol for Addressing Homelessness





# CITY OF OJAI

## **OJAI CITY COUNCIL COMMITMENT**

City General Fund monies for encampment infrastructure and City support personnel

## **TEMPORARY LOCATION AT CITY HALL CAMPUS**

Wilderness tents onto platforms with storage sheds for approx. 30 unhoused individuals

## **UERF GRANT AWARD OF \$12.7M**

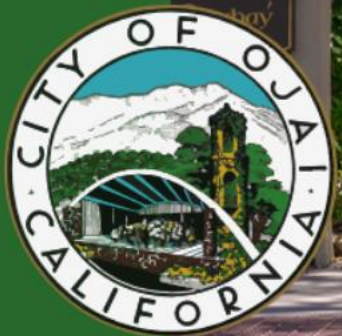
Pathway to permanent housing through tiny homes and corresponding support services

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CONTRIBUTION**

Assistance and active involvement from governmental agencies, non-profits, businesses, volunteers and other concerned groups/individuals

## **COLLABORATION WITH VENTURA COUNTY**

Close partnership with Supervisor LaVere's Office, County Continuum of Care/County Executive's Office, Ventura County Sheriff's Department and other County offices





# CITY OF VENTURA

## **CURRENT STATE OF HOMELESSNESS**

Over the past two years, the City has seen close to a 25% reduction in individuals and families experiencing homelessness

## **ARCH EMERGENCY SHELTER**

The City has assisted more than 300 individuals experiencing homelessness and successfully transitioned more than 50 individuals to permanent housing.

## **HOMELESS PREVENTION AND DIVERSION PROGRAM**

The City is providing up to \$4,000 in rental and utility assistance to prevent homelessness in the community.

## **HOMELESS SERVICES SOCIAL WORKER**

The City has provided case management, referrals and services to more than 1,500 individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

## **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS**

In 2024, the City will add an additional 190 permanent supportive housing units to our inventory

# CITY OF OXNARD

## STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

10% decrease in homelessness recorded in 2024; first decrease since 2018

## CITY SHELTERS

30% decrease in unsheltered population; 48% increase in sheltered population

## ENCAMPMENTS

ERF-2-R Program Impact

## PROGRESS

New Permanent Supportive Housing and Shelter Sites opening

- Central Terrace
- Casa Aliento
- Casa de Carmen



# CITY OF SANTA PAULA

## SPIRIT OF SANTA PAULA

- In July 2023, the City of Santa Paula agreed to provide financial support for the operation of a permanent, year-round low-barrier shelter.
- Cost-Sharing agreement between the County of Ventura, the City of Fillmore and the City of Santa Paula through July 2025.
- Provides 55 beds, 175 meals per day, Transitional Housing and Case Management services.

## CURRENT STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

- The City has experienced a 6% increase in sheltered persons along with a 17.3% increase in unsheltered persons.

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- The City is proposing a Tiny Home Village on a City-owned, 0.55-acre vacant parcel.

## PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS

- Staff is considering an existing motel property for a proposed Homekey.





# CITY OF CAMARILLO

## PROJECT HOPE

Partnership with Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Ventura County Behavioral Health, & Ventura County Health Care Agency

## PROGRAM CORNERSTONES

Provide outreach, connection, support & engagement

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023

- Camarillo Hotel Voucher Program with HHAP Grant
- Emergency shelter for 19 unhoused individuals, including 5 children
- Engaged in 1,537 repeated interactions with homeless individuals in Camarillo, providing services such as emergency shelter, food, mental health support, substance abuse treatment referrals, transportation, and more
- Placed 14 individuals into permanent housing through collaboration with multiple County agencies, non-profit & private partners
- Launched the Camarillo Homelessness Collaborative to facilitate partnership building



**THRIVE GROVE**



# CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS

## SNAPSHOT OF HOMELESSNESS

- City Council priority to address homelessness
- Increase in unsheltered homelessness
- First Navigation Center slated to open this winter

## CHALLENGES

- Lack of Permanent Supportive Housing Units will lead to Extended Shelter Stays
- State Intervention needed for completion of Project Homekey and provision of PSH Units
- Access to Housing Vouchers for long term operational sustainability



**THANK YOU!**