

DANA POINT HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS CHALLENGE



Homelessness is increasing in Dana Point

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>% increase</u>
State of CA	117,500	135,000	15%
Orange County	4450	4800	8%
Dana Point	35	64	83%

Sources:

Dana Point -Homeless Task Force Minutes/Mercy House presentation

CA/Orange County - <http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/California-s-homelessness-crisis-moves-to-the-12182026.php>

Homelessness is increasing in Dana Point

- ▶ 2015 - 35
- ▶ 2017 - 64

- ▶ WHO ARE THEY?
- ▶ 46 who need PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (on going, annual support) 12 housed to date, 34 not housed
- ▶ 11 needing RAPID REHOUSING (one-time help to get back into housing)
- ▶ 1 to be redirected to other services

Impacts on homeless individuals

Physical :

- ▶ Sleeplessness
- ▶ Hunger
- ▶ Elements
- ▶ Lack of personal hygiene
- ▶ Unsanitary conditions
- ▶ Illness (including pneumonia, Hepatitis A)
- ▶ Death

Impacts on homeless individuals (cont'd)

Mental health:

- ▶ Depression
- ▶ Alcoholism, drug addiction
- ▶ Shame, hopelessness
- ▶ Despair

Crime/Safety Risk:

- ▶ Homeless on homeless crime
- ▶ Muggings, theft, rape
- ▶ Hate crimes

Impacts on Dana Point Community

Public Health Risks:

- ▶ Public toileting
- ▶ Hepatitis A, possible spread of germs, disease

Crime and Nuisances:

- ▶ Part II crimes up 27% in 2017
- ▶ Part I crimes - attempted robbery, attempted murder...
- ▶ Panhandling, petty theft, mail theft
- ▶ Litter, mess at encampments
- ▶ Alarming public displays

Impacts on Dana Point Community (cont'd)

Property/Fiscal Impact:

- ▶ Fire risk - camping in drought affected areas
- ▶ Impact on businesses, tourism
- ▶ Possible loss of real estate value
- ▶ Cost of police, emergency services, public works

Emotional Impact:

- ▶ Discomfort when using public parks and beaches
- ▶ Perception of loss of safety, quality of life
- ▶ Fear and anxiety

REMEMBER.....

- ▶ Homeless individuals started life just like you and me. Something happened to take them off course.
- ▶ There are many root causes: job loss, financial issues, injury, mental or physical health issues, PTSD, addiction, eviction from rehab, etc.
- ▶ We need to help Dana Point's Homeless (those connected with our community) just as other cities must help theirs.
- ▶ A measure of our decency and compassion is how we treat our most vulnerable community members.

PEOPLE CRY, "SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE ABOUT THE HOMELESS" !!

We have compassion for the plight of the homeless,..
BUT...

We also need compassion for our neighborhoods and residents

How do we balance COMPASSION for both the Homeless and the Community?

What happens if we all "*do something*" and work together?

Study after study suggests that the *Housing First* approach works

- ▶ National Alliance to End Homelessness
- ▶ U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
- ▶ U. S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- ▶ Utah Model - reduced chronic homelessness by 91%

Both Mercy House and Family Assistance Ministries (FAM) assert:

95% of chronically homeless placed in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) *stay* housed.

Study after study suggests that *Housing First* is less expensive:

UNITED WAY/UCI STUDY ON HOMELESSNESS IN ORANGE COUNTY :

“Key Finding: Whatever the service or housing category, the costs of homelessness decline when the homeless are housed.”

“The estimated average annual cost of services per capita for permanent supportive housing clients is 50% lower than for the chronically street homeless (\$51,587 versus \$100,759).”

Source: <https://www.unitedwayoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Orange-County-Cost-Study-Homeless-Executive-Summary.pdf>

BENEFITS TO HOMELESS AND COMMUNITY OF *HOUSING FIRST* APPROACH:

Homeless:

Stable housing means individuals will:

- ▶ Be safe, fed, clean
- ▶ Have access to counseling for mental and physical health issues
- ▶ Have a better chance of becoming an independent, self-sustaining adult

BENEFITS TO HOMELESS AND COMMUNITY OF *HOUSING FIRST* APPROACH:

Community:

Homes for the Homeless means:

- ▶ Public health risk, nuisances, fire risks, litter, nuisances decline
- ▶ Public safety improves - both perception and reality
- ▶ Improved quality of life for residents
- ▶ Significant cost savings at city, county and state level

The Bottom Line?

Everything improves for both the homeless and the community when the homeless get off the streets and into a HOME



THE DANA POINT HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS CHALLENGE

PART ONE: Raise \$680,000 annually for Permanent Supportive Housing for identified Dana Point chronically homeless *

Supplements homeless individual's own resources** to fund:

- ▶ Affordable Rental Housing leased by charities
- ▶ Scattered vs. concentrated housing
- ▶ Supportive Counseling services
- ▶ Where feasible - costs of reunification with family or other support

* typically those who are too mentally or physically disabled to care for themselves

** median per United Way - \$860 per month

THE DANA POINT HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS CHALLENGE

PART TWO: Raise \$150,000 to fund one-time costs of rapid rehousing of Dana Point newly homeless

- ▶ Rental deposits, moving costs, etc.
- ▶ Where feasible, costs of repatriation/reunification with family or other support
- ▶ Job or other counseling
- ▶ Aimed at stopping slide into chronic homelessness

WHO HELPS WITH FUNDING? EVERYONE WHO BENEFITS

City of Dana Point - reduced costs of policing, public works, code enforcement

Churches/Charities - a permanent solution vs. a "Band-Aid"

Businesses - reduced nuisances and impact on revenue

Resorts - improved aesthetics and tourist experience

Residents - reduced nuisances, improved safety, take back parks and beaches

WHAT ARE **YOU** WILLING TO DO TO SOLVE HOMELESSNESS IN DANA POINT?

- ▶ If 10,000 people (1 in 3 residents, or every other registered voter) in Dana Point pledge \$68 per year, Permanent Supportive Housing will be funded
- ▶ If 1,500 people pledge a one time donation of \$100, Rapid Rehousing will be funded
- ▶ If businesses, resorts, charities, churches and the City make larger donations, we'll get there much sooner

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE ALL START PADDLING IN THE SAME DIRECTION?



THE RULES

- ▶ Mercy House and Family Assistance Ministries (FAM) maintain separate funds for Dana Point Homeless
- ▶ Funds will be used for specific named Dana Point homeless individuals only (Task Force will define criteria for identifying “Dana Point Homeless”. Others will be redirected to services in appropriate communities.)
- ▶ If individuals refuse help, Dana Point’s overnight camping ordinance will be enforced

THE RULES (cont'd)

- ▶ Funds will be paid to lessors, vendors and counselors, never to the homeless themselves
- ▶ Mercy House and FAM will provide full detailed accounting to Homeless Task Force Chairman only (names will be redacted in public documents to protect privacy of donors and homeless individuals)
- ▶ Donations are tax deductible and tax receipts will be provided

OTHER PIECES TO THE PUZZLE:

- ✓ Mechanism for funding temporary stays while homeless await permanent supportive housing (County, State?)
- ✓ Public education discouraging giving to panhandlers
- ✓ Strong, effective enforcement of existing laws/ordinances:
 - ▶ No overnight camping- especially on hill sides and fire danger areas
 - ▶ Littering ordinance and public smoking ban
 - ▶ Zero tolerance for public urination/defecation
 - ▶ Zero tolerance for public drunkenness (small bottle ordinance)

IS THIS THE PERFECT OR ONLY SOLUTION?

- ▶ Absolutely Not
- ▶ But it's a start, and it can be tweaked as necessary
- ▶ Hopefully it will spread to neighboring towns
- ▶ **A funded housing program = an alternative to homelessness in Dana Point**

HOW TO DONATE

Mercy House:

<https://www.commitchange.com/ca/santa-ana/mercy-house-living-centers/campaigns/dana-point-homes-for-the-homeless>

Family Assistance Ministries:

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/fam>

After credit card input, 'if you have a special purpose for your donation...' pick "Dana Point Homes 4 Homeless" in the drop down box.

Donation boxes at businesses with labels encouraging donations to Homeless Challenge in lieu of giving to panhandlers

WILL YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE?

