



**NATIONAL SURVEY
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

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from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

California had an estimated 8,810 homeless families on a single night in 2010, with providers serving nearly three times their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: As of May 2011, California does not have an active taskforce on homelessness. Assembly Bill 1167, which is awaiting action by Assembly Appropriations, would re-establish a statewide interagency council on homelessness.

Governor's Appointee: None.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	California	Los Angeles ²	San Francisco	Alameda County	San Diego	Sacramento ³
Persons in homeless families ⁴	26,540	4,885	514	1,570	510	571
Number of family shelter beds ⁵	22,016	4,231	675	1,319	866	631
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁶	18	13	28	28	11	10
Percent of families in poverty ⁷	14.45%	17.67%	9.67%	11.18%	13.48%	14.57%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	No plan	2006	2004	2006	2006	2006
10-Year plan target population	No plan	All	Chronic	Chronic	Chronic	Chronic
Point-in-time count frequency	Locally managed	Biennially	Biennially	Biennially	Annually	Biennially
Point-in-time count managing agency	Locally managed	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority	Human Services Agency of San Francisco	EveryOne Home	San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless	Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance; Sacramento Steps Forward
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Locally managed	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority	Human Services Agency of San Francisco	EveryOne Home	San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless	Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Locally managed	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority	San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board	EveryOne Home	San Diego Housing Commission	Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance

Los Angeles CalWORKs to Assist Homeless Families

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) uses a share of its monies from California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)—the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program—to fund a project designed specifically to serve homeless and at-risk CalWORKs families. Established in April 2004, the DPSS Housing Program conducts outreach to connect families with available benefits, including up to \$2,000 in eviction prevention or moving assistance dollars, 16 days of hotel or motel stays, four months of rental subsidies, or \$1,500 in relocation aid (in cases involving documented offers of employment). DPSS also contracts with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to provide a maximum of 120 days of emergency shelter and supportive services; subcontractors competed for



The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on California and other states, visit www.icprwb.org

\$2,605,273 for the 2011–12 program year. Families in the Housing Program receive an average of \$1,290 in cash assistance. Twelve percent of households utilizing moving assistance (roughly 17% of families who were homeless at the time of application) experienced episodes of homelessness during the year after program entry, down from 59% during the year before. The rental subsidy program achieved similar results, decreasing this rate from 65% to 15% amongst its participants.⁸ In addition, 14.3% of all adult clients exiting transitional or permanent supportive housing statewide receive CalWORKs benefits in the form of monthly cash assistance, whereas 9.5% of exiting adults access TANF nationwide.⁹

San Francisco Bridging the Homelessness Services Gap

In 2004, the City of San Francisco launched Project Homeless Connect (PHC), a one-day event held every two months that links homeless families and individuals with an array of on- and off-site health and human services. Families receive specialized assistance through Family Connect, a similarly structured one-day event held every four months. In 2009, PHC worked with 3,078 volunteers and 268 private, government, and non-profit organizations to serve 10,327 persons, including 445 families. PHC, now a non-profit organization, was declared a national best practice model by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness in 2005 and has been replicated in more than 260 cities in the United States, Canada, and Australia.¹⁰

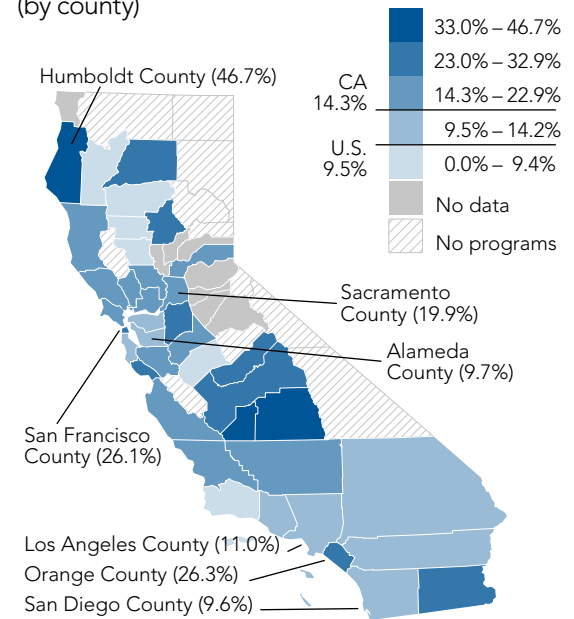
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is the centralized government agency that coordinates federal, state, and local funds for services and housing opportunities for homeless families and individuals in Los Angeles City and County. LAHSA created and implements *Bring Los Angeles Home*, the area's ten-year plan to end homelessness. Since *Bring Los Angeles Home's* adoption in April 2006, the total number of homeless persons in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care decreased 48% from 82,291 in 2005 to 42,694 in 2009 and the number of persons in homeless families fell 75% from 19,882 in 2005 to 4,885 in 2009. Area service providers, however, have witnessed increasing numbers of homeless families since the recession began in 2008. LAHSA attributes decreases in homelessness primarily to expanded services and new programs. The county's \$80 million Homeless and Housing Program Fund, a one-time allocation in 2006, financed the development of programs to prevent homelessness.¹¹

Alameda and Los Angeles Counties Identify the Hidden Homeless

Both Alameda and Los Angeles counties identify hidden homeless persons in their point-in-time counts. Alameda County defines hidden homeless as living doubled up, staying in motels, or facing eviction within seven days and using food pantries, soup kitchens, or drop-in programs. Between 2003 and 2009, the number of hidden homeless persons increased 168% from 1,134 to 3,042 and the number of hidden homeless children rose 290% from 278 to 1,085. Forty-nine percent of hidden homeless persons in Alameda County are family members and these households have less than half the average monthly income of sheltered homeless families.¹² Los Angeles County conducts a telephone survey as part of its count to identify hidden homeless households, defined as those living in garages, backyard storage units, vehicles, tents, and other structures not meant for human habitation. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority estimated the number of hidden homeless persons decreased 44.7% between 2005 and 2007 from 23,058 to 12,966 and a further 23% between 2007 and 2009 to 9,968.¹³

Percent of Clients Exiting Programs* Receiving TANF Benefits (by county)



*Data are presented for Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation for Single Room Occupancy Dwellings Program.
Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009 Exhibit 1 Continuum of Care (CoC) Application.

Endnotes

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD's 2010 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons.
- Statistics for Los Angeles include Los Angeles County but omit the cities of Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena.
- Statistics for Sacramento include Sacramento County.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations.
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- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations; U.S. Census Bureau, 2005–09 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.
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- Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2011 CalWORKs Emergency Shelter Services (ESS) Program: Request for Proposals; County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office, *An Evaluation of the Utilization and Effectiveness of Four Homeless Assistance Programs for CalWORKs Families*, 2010; County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services, "Homeless Services," <http://dpss.lacounty.gov>
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- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, *Project Homeless Connect: A Step-by-step Guide: Version 2.1*, December 2008; Project Homeless Connect, <http://www.projecthomelessconnect.com>
- Bring L.A. Home Blue Ribbon Panel, *Bring Los Angeles Home*, 2006; Cara Mia DiMassa, "Backlash Over Report Showing Big Drop in L.A.'s Homeless Population," *Los Angeles Times*, November 11, 2009; Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2009 *Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Report*; David E. Janssen (Chief Administrative Officer, County of Los Angeles) et al., letter to County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, September 26, 2006; Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, <http://www.lahsa.org>
- EveryOne Home, *Alameda Countywide Homeless Count and Survey*, December 2009; EveryOne Home, *Alameda County Homeless Count 2009: Key Trends*.
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