

Report: 5-Year Plan to End LA Homelessness

The "Home For Good" report touts successes and highlights shortcomings for a region called LA's "homeless capital"

By Jason Kandel

Thursday, Feb 23, 2012 | Updated 2:16 PM PST



Community leaders and volunteers at Santa Monica's 2011 Homeless Count.

Some 3,137 of Los Angeles County's homeless moved to permanent housing last year, according to a report on homelessness released Thursday.

The "Home For Good" report, by the Business Leaders Task Force, a project of the United Way of Greater Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Area Chamber, said 2,273 chronically homeless people were moved from the streets to permanent housing and 864 homeless veterans moved to permanent housing.

"Our community has taken enormous strides in the first year of implementing Home For Good," said Renee White Fraser, a task force chairwoman. "We've much more work to do, but we are off to a very impressive running start."

The report, presented at a Thursday summit meeting of local, regional and federal leaders, aims to end chronic and veteran homelessness in the Greater L.A. area in five years.

The report's accomplishments:

- Implemented a system by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to better understand who's homeless and what they need;
- Conducted an extensive homeless count throughout L.A. County;
- Momentum to house homeless in 18 communities throughout the County;

While the report touts its successes, it also lays out its shortcomings.

The report says that only 31 of the 88 cities in the county opted in to the full homeless count in 2011. It also said that 18 out of 20 communities conducted a comprehensive registry of vulnerable individuals.

The report's goals for next year are to get 70 cities to opt into the 2013 homeless count and to increase to 60 percent the use of the new homeless tracking system.

It also aims to cut to 60 days the time it takes to place homeless in housing. It currently averages about 100 days.

There are 51,000 homeless people in Los Angeles, making the city of Los Angeles the "Homeless Capital" of the United States, according to the Institute for the Study of Homelessness and Poverty at the Weingart Center.

Follow NBCLA for the latest LA news, events and entertainment: Twitter: @NBCLA // Facebook: NBCLA

Posted Thursday, Feb 23, 2012 - 12:41 PM PST

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Report-5-Year-Plan-to-End-LA-Homelessness-140198543.html>