HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is an ongoing challenge in California, on the Central Coast, and in our City. Many City departments work on numerous aspects of addressing the issue of homelessness through emergency medical services, police enforcement, public health and safety clean-up efforts.

Regional Effort to Address Homelessness

The City continuously works with the County of San Luis Obispo and various organizations such as Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) and Transitions Mental Health Association (THMA) provide assistance to unhoused people. Being homeless is not a crime, nor is using a public space.

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

The County is the lead social services and mental health agency to address the needs of the area’s homeless population. The County receives federal and state funding from various sources to provide a wide range of programs and services including:

- Case management
- Mental health services
- Education
- Emergency assistance
- Transitional & permanent housing
- Transportation
- Medical & social services including drug & alcohol counseling

Homeless individuals counted in the City

482

Police Department

$892,000

2019-20 budget for staffing for Downtown/Homeless outreach

- 2 CAT (Community Action Team) Officers
- 4 Downtown Bicycle Officers
- 6 people dedicated in the Downtown: 4 bicycle officers, 1 sergeant, 1 non-sworn field technician

32,421 total calls for service in 2018

7,591 calls in some way related to a homeless individual

4,825 calls in the downtown corridor in 2018

1,557 calls involved a homeless individual

Violations include alcohol & drug offenses, trespassing, smoking in public, leash laws and warrants

Fire Department

30 encampment fires

508 medical incidents

Ranger Services

182 Illegal Camps

22 Tons of Trash Removed

$457k spent removing illegal camps
What can you do to help?

Giving to panhandlers exacerbates issues with homelessness in our community. You can help people in need by donating or volunteering with local support organizations. If you see something that needs to be reported, call the Police Department at 805-781-7312 or 911 for emergencies.