



Community Engagement

- I. More than 33,000 Southern Nevadans including families with children, couples, and individuals of all ages will be homeless at some point this year.
- II. This is devastating for those families and individuals, and significantly impacts all taxpayers as local government budgets pay for the medical care, police and social services that serve the homeless
- III. Government entities, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups and corporate partners work together to provide homeless prevention and assistance programs that have helped reduce the number of homeless in Southern Nevada. But we still have a long way to go.

Call to Action



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

- On any given night approximately 827 youth (under 18) are homeless in Southern Nevada.
 - This is about 11 percent of the estimated 7,355 people who are homeless in Southern Nevada on any given night.
- Homeless youth includes those accompanied by their families and those who are unaccompanied.
 - Unaccompanied homeless youth may be in a shelter program, living on the street, or squatting in an abandoned building.
 - Unaccompanied homeless youth may be runaway/throwaway youth, which means they are the victim of family conflict, possible victim of abuse, or left their home due to perceived threat or by order of a parent/guardian.
 - In addition to the homeless youth, more than 6,000 youth are in households that are struggling with housing, such as multiple families sharing a single family residence, or families staying in weekly hotels.
- Homeless youth have a disproportionate impact on police and juvenile justice agencies.
- Homeless youth are at significant risk of being homeless as adults.
- In recent years, organizations in our community have added beds for homeless youth, and set aside beds for pregnant youth and youth with children.
- Help us work to end youth homelessness in Southern Nevada by donating your time or money to the homeless trust fund, one of our community partners, or one of several events held throughout the year. Go to www.helphopehome.org for more information.

Testimony: "I never imagined that finishing high school meant that I had to be separated from my family. Times are hard and I know that my family had to do what they did for a better future, even if that meant finding jobs in another state. And I had to stay here to do what I had to do: graduate. Living without my family has been one of the most challenging things I have ever done. It is true that one does not truly appreciate what they have until it is gone." - 18-year-old high school senior



VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

- On any given night an estimated 866 veterans are homeless in Southern Nevada.
 - This is about 12 percent of the approximately 7,355 people who are homeless in Southern Nevada on any given night.
- The number of homeless veterans in Southern Nevada has decreased more than 35 percent since 2011.
 - This is thanks to a various efforts, including the HUD Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, which combines housing vouchers with case management services.
 - Locally, 877 homeless veterans received housing through the HUD-VASH program since 2008.
- Nationally, veterans are 14 percent of the homeless population, but only 10 percent of the US population.
 - Veterans (whether homeless or not) have higher rates of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), sexual trauma (harassment and/or assault of female members of the military), and traumatic brain injuries than the general population. These issues increase the risk of homelessness.
- Homelessness is devastating for those families and individuals, and significantly impacts all taxpayers as local government budgets pay for the medical care, police and social services that serve the homeless
- To learn more about ways to help homeless veterans, through donations and/or volunteering, please visit the www.helphopehome.org and call the VA's Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) at (702) 791-9077.

Testimonial: "My name is Stan and I am a 42 year old male Navy Veteran. I had been living on the streets for many years with my 2 dogs. Recently, the VA came out to the homeless camp that I had been living at and told me that I could go to a shelter that night and in 2-3 months I could move into an apartment. I said no, because my dogs would die without me. But the CRRC and Lorna and Thomas never stopped working with me. They even sat with my dogs outside when I needed to fill out paper work. In 10 days they were able to help me move into an apartment with "Rosie and Keno". And I am now reconnected with VA doctors. I can finally leave my dogs in a safe place while I go to appointments and try again to find work."



CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

- On any given night there are an estimated 695 chronically homeless in Southern Nevada.
 - This is about 9 percent of the approximately 7,355 people who are homeless in Southern Nevada on any given night.
 - To be chronically homeless means having a mental and/or physical disability in addition to being homeless for at least one year or having at least four episodes of homelessness within the past three years. (Substance abuse, depression and other mental issues qualify as disabilities.)
- There was a 56 percent decrease in the number of chronically homeless in Southern Nevada from 2011-2013.
 - This was achieved through targeted efforts by government agencies and nonprofit organizations.
- Chronically homeless individuals can significantly impact government and private sector resources, specifically emergency rooms, mental health services and police departments.
- Help us work to end chronic homelessness in Southern Nevada by donating your time or money to the homeless trust fund, one of our community partners, or one of several events held throughout the year. Visit www.helphopehome.org for more information.

Testimonials:

“My name is Stanley Dzienanowski. I became homeless due to not working. I went to Idaho and started working in a potato plant for 4 months and then got laid off, then came back to Nevada and became homeless again. HELP of Southern Nevada came to the park I was homeless at and ask me if I wanted to get off the street, and I did not think twice about saying yes, and I do not regret my decision. Now all I am looking for is to keep going in the same direction as I'm going now.” - Stanley D., 62, homeless for over 2 years

“To Whom it May Concern, I was a client of HELP of Southern Nevada (Homeless Services). The program walked me thru Drug and Alcohol rehab, showed me how to talk to people and got me involved with Voc Rehab. Today I'm the Manager Assistant at Jaramillo Landscape. I'm able to pay my bills and take care of myself. My quality of life is outstanding. I have hope. Thank you Mindy Torres and HELP of Southern Nevada.” - Robert M., 41, homeless for over 4 years



Homelessness in Southern Nevada - Overview

- More than 33,000 Southern Nevadans including families with children, couples, and individuals of all ages will be homeless at some point this year.
- On any given day 7,355 people in Southern Nevada are homeless, this is a significant decrease over two years
- The number of homeless in Southern Nevada fell by 22 percent from 2011 to 2013.
 - The decrease is thanks to the government agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups and corporate partners that have worked together to provide homeless prevention and assistance programs that have helped reduce the number of homeless in Southern Nevada. But we still have a long way to go.
- A survey conducted in conjunction with the count of the homeless in Southern Nevada showed:
 - 40 percent were in shelters
 - 60 percent were unsheltered, meaning they were spending the night on the streets, in a car or abandoned building, or some other place not meant for human habitation.
 - 53.3 percent reported becoming homeless after losing their job
 - Almost half (49.4 percent) said it was their first time being homeless.
 - 74 percent were male and 26 percent female.
 - African Americans were 36 percent of the homeless population, even though they make up only 13 percent of the general population.
 - Approximately 6 percent of all survey respondents (sheltered and unsheltered) had children under the age of 18 living with them.
 - 33.8 percent of respondents indicated they had at least one disabling condition.
 - Approximately 12 percent of respondents said they were veterans.
 - 37.7 percent of respondents reported experiencing mental illness, including PTSD, depression, etc.
- Homelessness is devastating for those families and individuals, and significantly impacts all taxpayers as local government budgets pay for the medical care, police and social services that serve the homeless.
- Help us work to end homelessness in Southern Nevada by donating your time or money to the homeless trust fund, one of our community partners, or one of several events held throughout the year. For more information, please go to www.helphopehome.org.