

# Homelessness in Southern Nevada

## 2019 Homeless Point-In-Time Count & Survey

Every year during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2019 Southern Nevada Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 23, 2019. The entire county was canvassed by teams of volunteers. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

# 5,530

Total number of persons experiencing homelessness



60%

Unsheltered

40%

Sheltered

Subpopulations

88% Single Adults

6% Families with Children

22% Unaccompanied Youth

10% Veterans

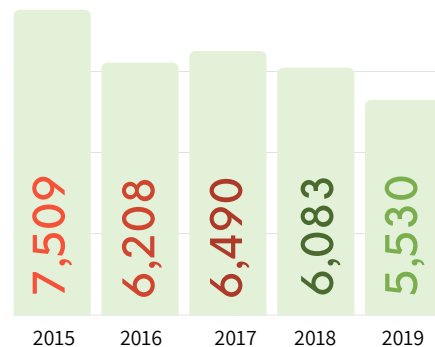
\*These groups are not mutually exclusive

# 14,114

will experience homelessness in our community at some point this year

9% decrease in the number of individuals counted during the PIT census between 2018 and 2019

Total Number of Individuals Counted During the PIT Census



## Unsheltered Survey Results

45%

Experiencing homelessness for the first time

### Top 5 Causes of Homelessness

- 1 Lost Job or Unemployment
- 2 Alcohol or Drug Abuse
- 3 Mental Health Issues
- 4 Asked to Leave Family or Friends' Home
- 5 Illness or Medical Problems

68%

Lived in Southern Nevada at the time they first experienced homelessness

## Top 5 Barriers to Housing Stability

1 Lack of Employment or Income

2 Inability to Afford Rent

3 Inability to Afford Move In Costs

4 Housing is Unavailable

5 Lack of Transportation

44%

of survey respondents self reported 1 or more disabling conditions

(Multiple response question)



Physical/Medical

67%



Mental Health

48%



Substance Abuse

13%



Developmental

4%



HIV/AIDS

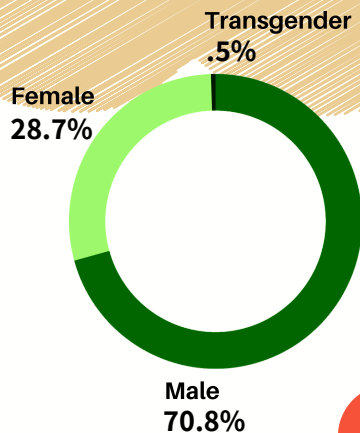
.07%

Developed in partnership with

# 2019 Southern Nevada Point-In-Time Results

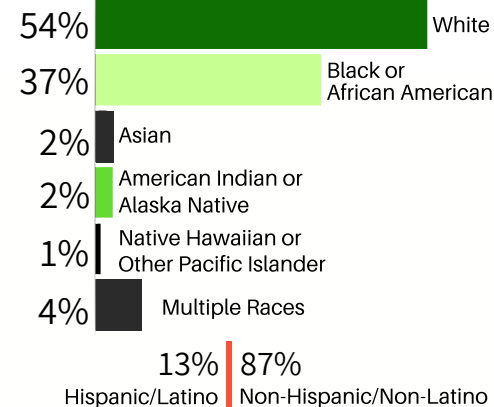
**91%**

Emergency shelters were nearly full on the night of the PIT Count.



**5,530**

People were experiencing homelessness in Southern Nevada on January 23, 2019



**60%**

**3,317**

were unsheltered

**40%**

**2,213**

were sheltered

**5%**

**284**

in tunnels

**51%**

**2,801**

on the street, outdoors, vehicles, desert, encampments

**4%**

**232**

Courtyard Resource Center

**30%**

**1,670**

in Emergency Shelter

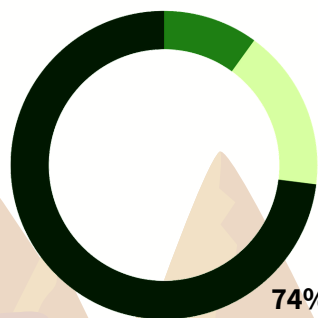
**10%**

**543**

in Transitional Housing/Safe Haven

Children (Under 18)

**9%**



Transition Aged Youth (18-24)

**17%**

**74%**  
Adults (Over 24)



**342**

individuals were in Families with Children



**1,184**

individuals were unaccompanied youth and young adults



**557**

individuals were Veterans



Help Hope Home

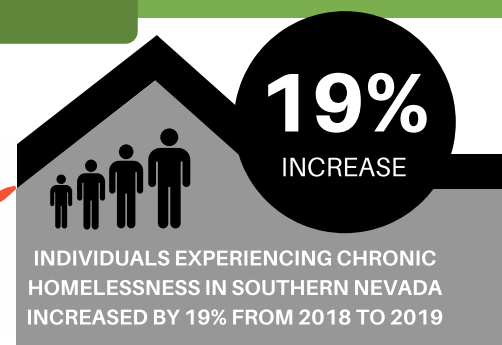
# Homelessness in Southern Nevada

## Chronic Homelessness

622

ON  
ANY  
GIVEN  
NIGHT

IT IS ESTIMATED  
THAT 622  
INDIVIDUALS ARE  
EXPERIENCING  
CHRONIC  
HOMELESSNESS IN  
SOUTHERN NEVADA



People who are **CHRONICALLY** homeless have **EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS** for **AT LEAST A YEAR** – or repeatedly – while struggling with a **DISABLING CONDITION** such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability.

**25%**

of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness are unsheltered



I made a good living in the internet marketing industry and had a condo in Summerlin. Life was good. In 2016, in a matter of 6 months I lost nine of my family members; my mom, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, two of my cousins, and my dad. Then, on the day of dad's funeral my son was killed in a car accident. My entire family was gone. I guess you could say, my cheese fell off my cracker. I lost my mind, then my job, and then my home. I began using meth to cope. I became homeless and have lived on the streets for the last three years. I've been beaten, stabbed, and robbed. My dog was stolen. A few months ago, I was ready to end my own life. I was standing on an overpass, when a police officer I've come to know well, stopped me and reminded me that my life is not over yet. I checked myself into the VA hospital and got clean. I've been clean for 120 days while staying at U.S.VETS and the Salvation Army. Now, I'm getting ready to move into an apartment through the VA's HUD-VASH program. I'll never use again. My life is most definitely not over yet.

-Howard

Most  
commonly  
occurring  
disabling  
conditions



**48%**

Mental  
Illness  
Depression  
PTSD  
Schizophrenia



**41%**

Physical/  
Medical  
Cancer  
COPD  
Diabetes



**4%**

Substance  
Abuse  
Disorders



**2%**

HIV/  
AIDS



**2%**

Developmental  
Disorders

## Ending Chronic Homelessness

Permanent supportive housing, which pairs a housing subsidy with case management and supportive services, is a proven solution to chronic homelessness. It has been shown to not only help people experiencing chronic homelessness achieve long-term housing stability, but also improve their health and well-being.

### What Causes Chronic Homelessness?

People experiencing chronic homelessness typically have complex and long-term health conditions, such as mental illness, physical disabilities, and/or substance abuse disorders. Regardless, of what immediately caused them to lose their housing, once they become homeless, these conditions can make it difficult for them to get into housing, and they can face lengthy or repeated episodes of homelessness.

You can help by joining Built for Zero and investing funds towards more Permanent Supportive Housing for people who are chronically homeless. Investing in supportive housing saves money and lives! Learn more at <http://builtforzerosn.org/>

**Built For Zero.** | Southern Nevada



Help Hope Home

# Homelessness in Southern Nevada

## Families with Children Homelessness



These families are living in a place not meant for humans to live, such as in a car or on the street, or are staying in an emergency shelter or transitional housing

**On any given night 119 families with children are homeless in Southern Nevada on any given night.**

**50%**

of homeless families surveyed in Southern Nevada reported at least one disabling condition.

**93%**

of homeless mothers experienced at least one trauma, according to a national study.

**81%**

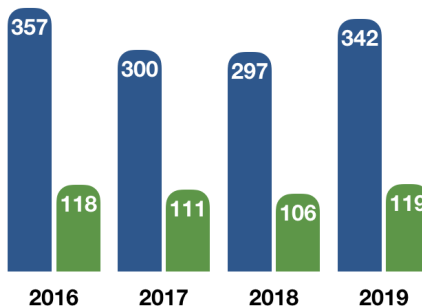
of homeless mothers experienced multiple traumatic events with violent victimization being the most common, according to a national study.



In Hawaii my husband and I worked two jobs each, but because of the cost of living we still struggled to make ends meet for our family of eight. We decided to follow my brother to Las Vegas where it is more affordable to live. Soon after moving here, I began working and learned I was pregnant. Towards the end of my pregnancy, my employer let me go due to the time I requested off to attend doctor appointments. Our baby arrived early due to the stress I was under. Soon after, our savings was quickly used up and we became homeless. We were provided with emergency shelter by Family Promise, and within a week I started a new job. We were given a month of rental assistance which helped us secure an apartment and get back on our feet. Today I work 75 hours a week between two jobs, and my husband provides care for our 7 children at home. It's difficult for him to find good-paying work due to a conviction he had in the past, and for us to afford childcare. We named our newborn girl Miracle, because despite all we faced during my pregnancy with her, we are blessed that she is healthy. We're so grateful for the help we received, that we want to do our part to give back. This Easter we hosted an egg hunt for our neighbors and gave out school supplies and candy. We want to keep doing all we can to give back, while saving up to move into a home in a safer neighborhood.

-Mary

Individuals in Households  
Households



## Leading causes

- Lost Job
- Divorce or Separated
- Asked to leave by family/friend
- Landlord sold home/stopped renting

**50%**

80% of families reported they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

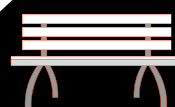
Before experiencing homelessness, 50% of families were living in a home they rented/owned and 50% were staying with friends or relatives.

At the time they became homeless, 50% of families reported they were living in Clark County.

**\$18.85**

Lack of affordable housing places low-income families at risk. For a single-earner family to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent in Nevada, they would need to earn at least \$18.85/hour.

On any given night  
**56,342**  
families with children  
experience  
homelessness in the  
United States.



585 families entered into homelessness

1,971 families  
(6,384 individuals)  
were permanently housed



**Ending Family Homelessness in 2018**





Help Hope Home

# Homelessness in Southern Nevada

## Youth Homelessness

# 1,184

On any given night, there are 1,184 unaccompanied youth who are homeless in Southern Nevada.



I was a junior in high school when I found out my mom had become addicted to drugs. Later that year we lost our home and were in and out of weekly motels and family members' homes. The first day we were homeless I was scheduled to take my ACTs. I sat looking at the test, and thought, "What am I doing here? I don't have a future." Some nights I would have nowhere to go, so I would just ride the bus all night. During my senior year of high school I moved in with my friend and her family. At first my mom tried to stop me, but eventually she signed over guardianship. I was so happy on that day because I no longer feared that my mom and her addiction could interfere with my success. Next year, with support from the HOPE Scholars Program, I will graduate from UNLV with my Bachelors Degree. I'm applying for grad school to get my Masters Degree in Public Administration. I plan to start a nonprofit to help homeless youth. I didn't experience homelessness because of me, but I believe I experienced homelessness for me to make a difference and create change for other young people. Today I'm an advocate and have helped to pass statewide legislation to help homeless youth through my role on the Young Adults in Charge (YAC) Youth Action Board. I know this is just the beginning of the change I can make to end youth homelessness.

-Theresa

Nevada has the highest incidence rate of youth homelessness in the Nation

82%

of homeless unaccompanied youth are unsheltered in Southern Nevada on any given night

22%

of the total homeless population on any given night are unaccompanied youth

25%

report their parent or caregiver was homeless

17%

report they have experienced physical or emotional abuse

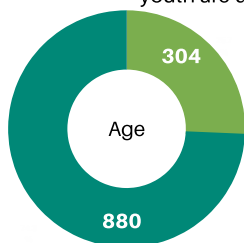
8%

report neglect.

### Leading causes

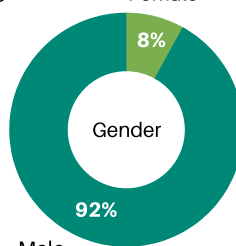
- Kicked out of family/friends homes
- Lost job
- Family/Domestic Violence

Unaccompanied homeless youth are under the age 18



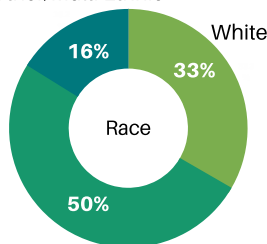
Unaccompanied homeless youth are 18-24

Female



Male

Other/Multi Ethnic

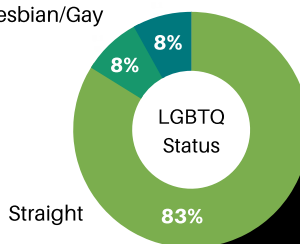


Black/African-American

75% Non-Hispanic/Latino  
25% Hispanic/Latino

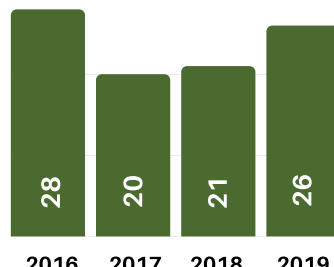
Lesbian/Gay

Bisexual



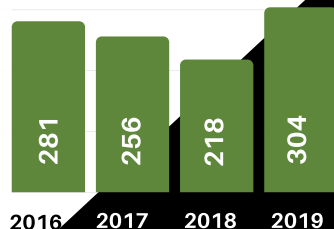
Straight

Parenting Youth Households - Homeless youth under age 24 with children \*

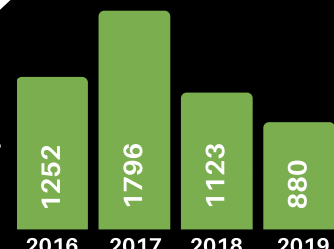


\*this number is not reflected in the overall youth number since they are included in the family count

Unaccompanied homeless youth under age 18



Unaccompanied homeless youth 18-24



### Ending Youth Homelessness

In November 2018, the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness was released. Join the movement to end youth homelessness and put the plan into action. <https://nphy.org/themovement>



**bethemovement**  
to end youth homelessness in Southern Nevada

# Homelessness in Southern Nevada

## Veteran Homelessness



557 individuals self-identified as Veterans during the 2019 PIT Census

# 75%

OF HOMELESS VETERANS WERE SHELTERED DURING THE 2019 PIT CENSUS



I was born and raised here in Las Vegas. I joined the Marines to stay out of trouble, but trouble still found me. Violence changes you, ya know? It shakes you up the first time, but like anything in life, even bad things, the more you do something, the more normal it becomes. After I left the Marines, I was a carpenter for thirty-five years. But I was in and out of trouble with the law, and struggled off and on with addiction and homelessness. Sometimes, it was easier to just live out in the desert by myself. It's easy to camp for extended periods when you're a Marine. But now I'm getting to be an old man, and it's not so easy. I've had to learn to control my anger and get help for my depression. I've been sober for over a year, and am getting an apartment through the VA's HUD-VASH program. I hope my story might help some other Vets get the help they need too.

-Scott

## Leading Causes

- Landlord sold property/stopped renting
- Alcohol/Drug Use
- Lost job
- Landlord raised rent
- Divorced/Seperated
- Mental Health related issues

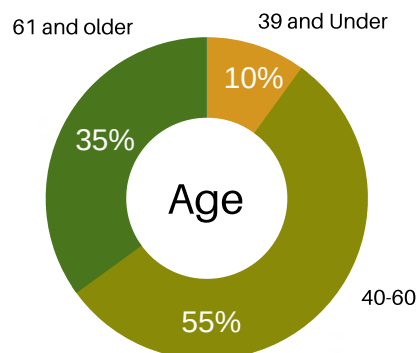
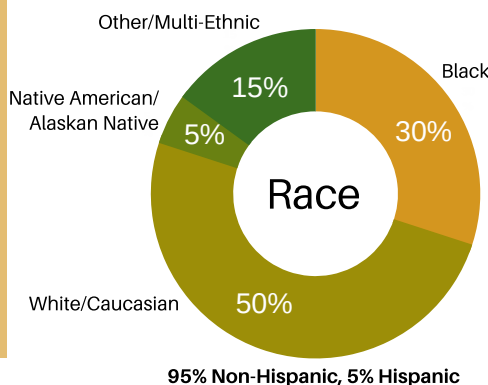
# 75%

of homeless veterans surveyed report they have a disabling condition  
The following **Disabling Conditions** were reported:

**45%** Physical/Medical

**18%** Mental Health

**9%** Substance Abuse



# URGENT NEED



Greatest shortage  
in the U.S.

Nevada has the greatest shortage of affordable housing for Extremely Low Income (ELI) households in the Nation.

Only **19** for  
Every **100**

Nevada has the greatest shortage among states in the Nation with only 19 available affordable units for every 100 ELI households.

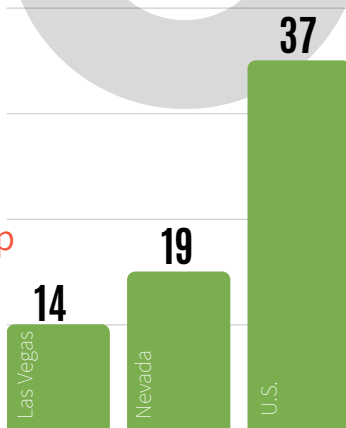
**-73,158**

the shortage of affordable and available rental homes for extremely low income renters

## ELI: Extremely Low Income

In Nevada, a family of four is considered extremely low income when earning \$24,300 or less a year.

79% of extremely low income households are severely cost burdened by rent.

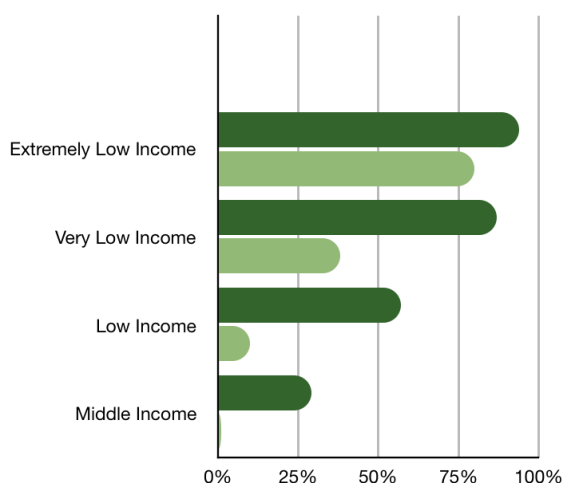


**\$18.85 per hour**  
just for rent

In Nevada, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$980 per month. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$3,266 monthly or \$39,198 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week at 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates to an hour housing wage of \$18.85 per hour.

## Housing Cost Burden by Income Group

■ Cost Burdened ■ Severely Cost Burdened



Nevada has the worst shortage of affordable and available rental homes in the nation. For every **100** homes needed, only **19** are available Statewide. The shortage is even greater in Las Vegas with only **14** available units for every **100** affordable homes needed. The National average is **37**.

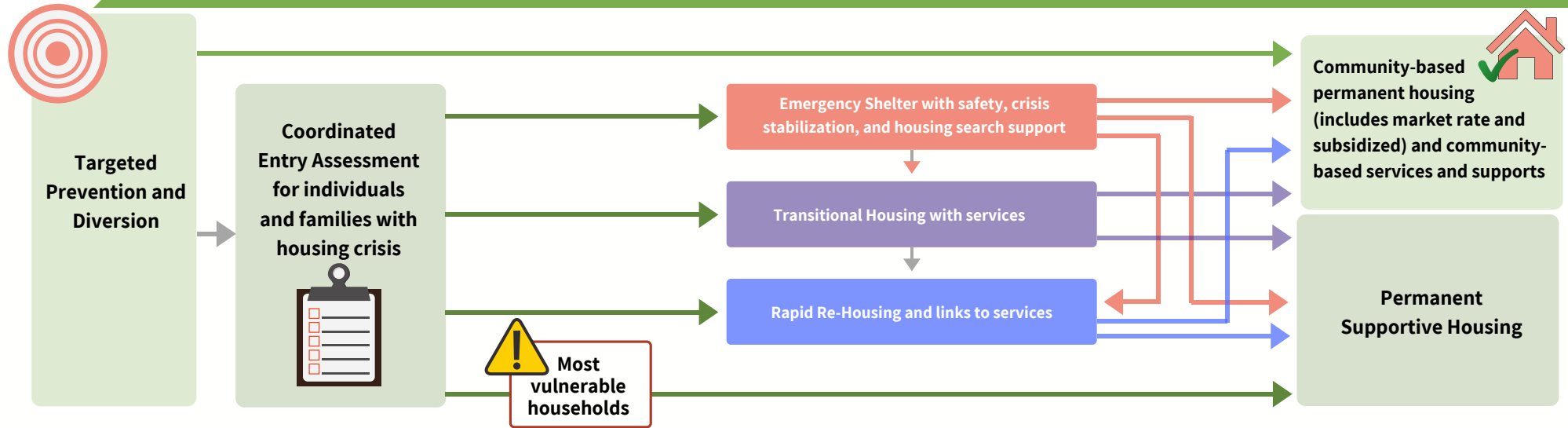
## Statewide efforts to address the crisis

In 2019 the Nevada State Legislature enacted legislation that:

- Created the Nevada Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program
- Reduces/subsidizes impact fees to lower the cost of affordable housing construction
- Establishes the Advisory Committee on Housing
- Improves data-collection efforts on affordable housing needs

More work is needed at the local, state, and federal level to build and preserve affordable housing, and to reduce the gap between low wages and high housing costs.

# Southern Nevada Homeless Response System



## Individual/Families Service Interventions

Prevention & Diversion	Outreach	Coordinated Entry	Emergency Shelter	Bridge Housing	Transitional Housing	Rapid Re-Housing	Permanent Supportive Housing
<p><b>Prevention:</b> Preventing a housed person from becoming homeless.</p> <p><b>Diversion:</b> A strategy that diverts people from entering the homeless system, such as helping them identify immediate alternative arrangements.</p>	<p>Individuals/Families are connected to emergency shelter, coordinated entry, and other appropriate services through mobile street outreach teams, events, SafePlace sites, and resource/drop-in centers.</p>	<p>Individuals/families complete an assessment at a Coordinated Entry Site to be matched to an appropriate housing program among all homeless service agencies in the system, based on their need and vulnerability.</p>	<p>Designated space to sleep that provides safe, secure, violent-free place for persons and families who would otherwise be living on the streets.</p>	<p>Provide immediate temporary housing and services for individuals and families eligible for housing programs.</p>	<p>Temporary housing with supportive services to facilitate a household's successful movement to permanent housing.</p>	<p>Provides short-or medium-term rental assistance and targeted supportive services to help individuals/families achieve and maintain housing stability as quickly as possible.</p>	<p>Pairs a housing subsidy with intensive case management and robust supportive services.</p>





# Regional Response to End Homelessness

Help Hope Home is the Southern Nevada Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC), an inter-agency regional planning body committed to ending homelessness. Through the CoC, cross-sector collaboration occurs between local governments, non-profits, public, and private industries to develop and implement the regional plan to end homelessness in Southern Nevada.



## What We're Doing

### Regional Plan



#### Help

Building a community-wide commitment to the goals of ending homelessness and the infrastructure for collaboration



#### Hope

Increasing access to and effectiveness of mainstream programs



#### Home

Providing funding to rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families. Optimizing self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness

**Help Hope Home is Southern Nevada's coordinated regional plan to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.**

### Building the System

Goal: Make Homelessness Rare, Brief, and One-time

#### Rare

Reduce the occurrence of homelessness through effective prevention and diversion efforts

#### Brief

Reduce the length of time people experience homelessness through comprehensive outreach, low barrier emergency shelter, coordinated entry and swift connections to permanent housing

#### One-Time

Ensure people exit homelessness into permanent housing, stably and successfully

## Take Action on Our Plans to End Homelessness:

**Regional Plans:** Help Hope Home and the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness

**Statewide Plan:** Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness Statewide Strategic Plan

**Federal:** Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Find these plans at [HelpHopeHome.org](http://HelpHopeHome.org)

## What You Can Do



### Rent or Hire

- If you're a landlord, partner to provide housing
- If you're an employer, partner to fill jobs



### Share

- Volunteer your time at a homeless service agency
- Donate goods, services, or money to partner agencies assisting the homeless
- View a list of project ideas at [www.NevadaHomelessAlliance.org/GiveHelp](http://www.NevadaHomelessAlliance.org/GiveHelp)



### Speak Up

- Talk to your friends, family, and co-workers about homelessness. If you agree that homelessness is a crisis, get others involved
- Retweet or post stories from @HelpHopeHome
- Sign-up for action alerts from the Nevada Homeless Alliance