



## COVID-19 and Homelessness

### City of Oceanside Homeless Resources

Oceanside's Neighborhood Services Department is in touch with the County to work on ways to shelter people during this crisis and beyond. The City continues to provide services to our homeless community through the Homeless Outreach Team and the City Housing Authority, call 760-435-4500 or 211 to access services.

It is not a crime to be homeless and the City cannot force homeless individuals to accept services, however the City provides a wide array of resources for those who want housing, as follows:

**Homeless Outreach:** The City funds two Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT) which engage with homeless individuals to assist them in breaking the cycle of homelessness by connecting with needed resources, leading to permanent housing. The teams include two officers and a social worker. HOT travels in the field and works alongside the City's Housing Authority and community groups to provide resources for housing, jobs, mental health, recovery services and specific to COVID-19 response, HOT is providing educational materials and is assessing vulnerability for referral to the County's public health nurses. They work to build rapport, trust, and communication, which leads to constructive problem solving. The HOT team also works with the County's Public Health Department to connect nurses with homeless individuals to provide immunizations, flu shots, and COVID-19 referrals, and works with the Police Department's Psychiatric Emergency Referral Team (PERT) as-needed for mental health evaluations.

**Housing Authority:** The City's Housing Authority has social workers that help the homeless navigate services, operates the Housing Voucher program, provides Homeless Prevention services, and funds bridge housing and case management.

- **Housing Vouchers:** The City has 407 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers for emergency housing needs including homeless veterans, family unification, homeless preference, disabled persons, homeless families with children, housing

for persons with HIV/AIDS and homeless with severe mental illness. Call 760-435-4500 to access these services.

- **Bridge Housing:** The City funds temporary living for chronically homeless while they are working on their housing plan for permanent housing. Individuals can stay up to 90 days. Access to Bridge Housing is coordinated by the social workers. Call 760-435-4500 to connect with this resource.
- **Emergency Shelters:** The City funds emergency shelters through its participation in the Alliance for Regional Solutions. There are currently two emergency shelters in Oceanside for special populations: the Women's Resource Center has 28 beds for female victims of domestic violence and the YMCA has 4 beds for transition aged youth. Operation Hope in Vista reports that approximately 25% of its 45-bed shelter for families with children and single women are occupied by Oceanside residents. Call 211 to access these services.

**COVID-19-related:** In addition to the [ongoing programs](#) to assist the homeless, City staff are working with the County to secure beds for homeless individuals who are ill or at risk. Homeless persons who are ill should call 211 to connect with services.

**Food Resources:** Oceanside residents ages 60+ can arrange for meal delivery through "Serving Seniors" by calling (760) 435-5285. City staff are working with Oceanside Kitchen Collaborative to provide funding for 3,500 meals per week. Food distribution resources for all in need are listed on the [City COVID-19 webpage](#). City staff are also working with the Sanctuary, Brother Benno's and Bread of Life to assist with needs for homeless and provide those resources through the COVID-19 epidemic.

#### **How to Help:**

- Contact our local [homeless service providers](#) to see if they need donations or volunteers.
- [Landlord incentives](#) are available for landlords who rent to homeless individuals and families through the housing voucher programs.