



## Alameda County Leaders Meet to Address Homelessness Crisis

Alameda County convened an historic meeting of regional leaders on Monday to discuss a deepening homelessness problem and to promote increased collaboration to maximize opportunities to address homelessness and to assist those in jeopardy of falling into homelessness in keeping their homes.

The meeting brought together the full Alameda County Board of Supervisors and mayors and city managers from each of the County's 14 cities for an unprecedented discussion of solutions to the region's homelessness crisis. The meeting came in response to figures from a Point-In-Time count conducted earlier this year showing homelessness grew by 43 percent across the County over the past two years.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for County leaders to highlight more than \$937 million in funding the County has identified to address the crisis in the coming years. County leaders urged their city partners to join them in pulling out all the stops to turn the tide against a homelessness problem that is affecting communities across the nation.

"Alameda County has been seizing every opportunity to expand the fight against homelessness, but the problem is growing so quickly that every level of government needs to do more," County Supervisor Keith Carson said.

Alameda County last year launched a 3-year, \$340 million plan to address the regional homelessness problem on multiple fronts. The plan is funding initiatives to prevent homelessness through support to people at risk of losing their homes; direct healthcare and mental health outreach to the homeless; an expansion of shelter space across the County; and the development of a coordinated system of care to address the wide array of issues that may cause a person to fall into homelessness.

At Monday's meeting, officials said Alameda County is investing \$130.2 million to address homelessness this year. Combined with spending by Alameda County cities, more than \$177.4 million in regional investments are being made this year to support homelessness assistance programs and services.

The County is also leveraging funds from voter-approved Measure A1, a \$580 million bond measure to support affordable housing projects across the County. Already, the County has awarded more than \$245 million in Measure A1 funds to support more than 2,400 affordable rental units countywide, including more than 800 units for the homeless. The County couples its Measure A1 investments with spending by cities to maximize the measure's impact in expanding affordable housing across the region.

So far, the County has provided direct services to more than 13,000 individuals and assisted more than 1,400 people in obtaining permanent housing.

"There is no doubt that we are all committed to ending the homelessness crisis across Alameda County," said County Supervisor Wilma Chan. "But the number of our neighbors who are living on the streets is unacceptable. We all must continue to step up to meet a crisis that is getting worse."

### CONTACT

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