

Housing, Land Use and Planning



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Challenge

- Confront homeless and expensive housing in Santa Rosa
- Aim to use open land space to build affordable housing for homeless people and families in need
- Creating a space for homeless people to rehabilitate themselves in affordable housing and for families to afford adequate housing so they aren't displaced



Existing Conditions

- Challenge in California holding country's highest homeless rate, with 44 people out of every 10,000 experiencing homelessness
- Largest increase in homeless population of any other state from both 2020-22 (6.2%) and 2007-22 (23.4%)
- Average cost to live in Santa Rosa is \$2038 a Month

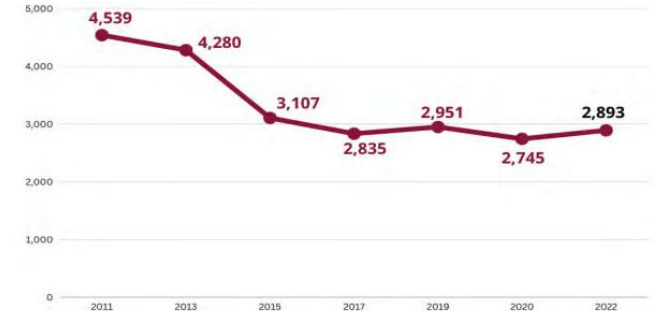


Existing Conditions

- We found that in 2022 sonoma counties homeless population was 2,893
- 2,088 (72%) are unsheltered, while 805 (28%) are sheltered in emergency shelters
- 57% of the countywide population lives in Santa Rosa
- 1,658 individuals experiencing homelessness in Santa Rosa, 1,089 (66%) individuals were unsheltered.
- Sonoma County's housing market is one of the least affordable in the nation

HOMELESSNESS IN SANTA ROSA AND SONOMA COUNTY

There's been a **36 percent reduction** in homelessness in Sonoma County since 2011, though the problem is more visible and impacts on the entire community more apparent. Most recently, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness county-wide increased by approximately five percent between 2020 and 2022, with a 13 percent increase in Santa Rosa.

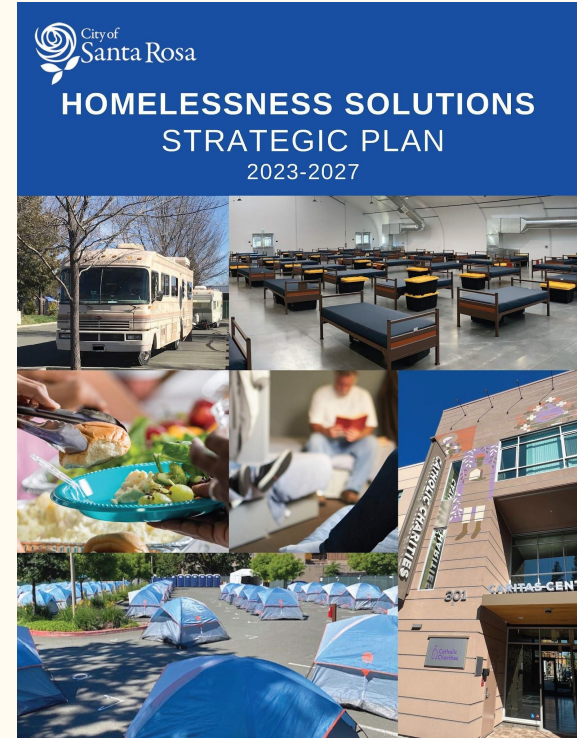


2022 Sonoma County Homeless Census & Survey Comprehensive Report, Applied Survey Research



Existing Conditions

- City has programs that benefit the homeless population, however problem continues to grow
- City works with community partners to provide outreach, shelter, housing, and services to persons experiencing homelessness, or those who are at risk of becoming homeless, and follows the Housing First Strategy, providing individualized assistance to people experiencing homelessness toward the goal of obtaining housing.
- Sonoma County's housing market, which is one of the least affordable in the nation.



Case Studies

- A solution to this would be to obtain a big piece of land and buy tiny homes.
- The tiny homes will provide a home for many homeless people.
- They are really affordable and we could have a lot of them in a small piece of land.
- It is relevant because if there is no affordable housing people become homeless.



Case Studies

- San Diego case study
- The idea was to provide more mental health services.
- It is relevant to our challenge because it is involved with housing and getting people back up on their feet.
- Made more affordable housing for people seeking help.



Lessons Learned

- We learned new ways to accommodate housing for everyone
- Tiny homes, prefabricated homes and low income housing are a way for people to have an affordable home
- We also learned that there is a lot of homeless people in Santa Rosa and the methods provided above could help our city fight it off



Short Term Recommendations

- A short term recommendation would be to buy a piece of land and put a organized and safe homeless camp until they can be relocated.
- A potential partner could be the city to provide workers or volunteers to bring them food and water and other items that they would need
- After a place for the homeless opens up we relocate them to a better location then the camp.



Long Term Recommendations

Long Term Recommendations we could use:



-We could use unused land to build better and bigger homeless shelters so more people or homeless families could have a better chance to get back on their feet.

-We can make more houses but for the low income people and have it lower priced because if you have it at the price that people can't afford, then that's how they would become homeless in the first place.

-Or instead of using land to make houses or homeless shelters, we could increase employment and income, therefore homeless people would have a better chance on getting back on their feet and low income people wouldn't be making low income anymore.

Work Cited

- <https://www.srcity.org/3026/Data>
- <https://www.srcity.org/3735/Homelessness-Solutions-Strategic-Plan>
- <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/ca/>
- <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2022/12/california-homeless-count-2/>
- <https://www.srcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37088/Final-Santa-Rosa-Homelessness-Solutions-Plan?bidId=>