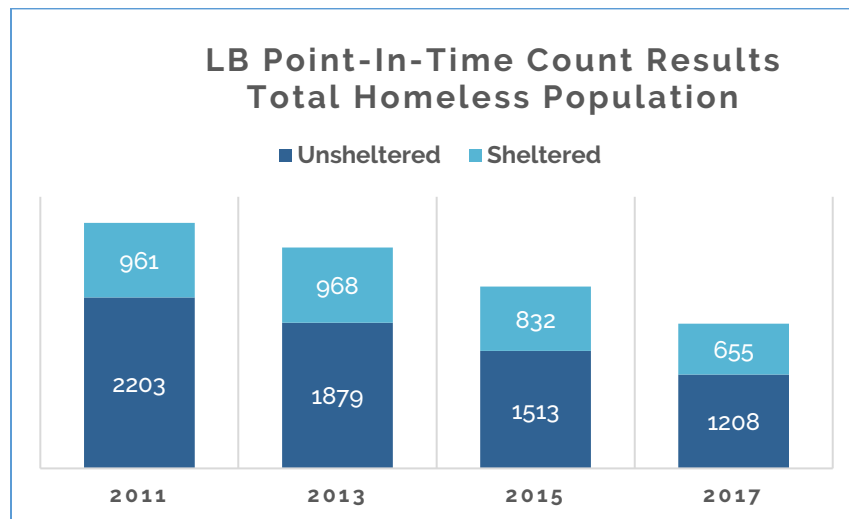


PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a complex issue and addressing it requires commitment from the entire community. The City of Long Beach has a long history of building infrastructure for addressing homelessness beginning with a 1987 Task Force on Homelessness.

Long Beach's approach to addressing homelessness emphasizes coordination and collaboration. The City is at the forefront of fostering cooperation across departments and nonprofit partners to solve homelessness. For example, the City's Street Outreach Network brings together staff from the Health and Human Services Department, the Police Department, the Fire Department, Public Works, Parks, Recreation, and Marine, the Library, the City Attorney and the City Prosecutor's offices. This multidisciplinary team addresses the homeless impacts on those experiencing homelessness and the effects on the broader community. The Street Outreach Network is considered a best practice model of interdepartmental and multi-agency collaboration. The model engages the unsheltered homeless population and offers services and connections to housing.



This approach is working well for Long Beach. Point-In-Time (PIT) count data for the past 6 years indicates that the homeless population in Long Beach dropped by 41% between 2011 and 2017. This decrease is due in part to our unique outreach model, coordinated entry system, conversion of transitional housing programs into rapid rehousing models, federal investments in housing resources for veterans and the expansion of permanent housing for homeless households.

In 2017, Long Beach community stakeholders produced a Statement of Possibility to define “what success looks like” in Long Beach’s mission to end homelessness.

STATEMENT OF POSSIBILITY

The experience of homelessness in Long Beach is rare and brief when it occurs.

1. Capacity of strong and innovative collaborative partnerships are leveraged to ensure that individuals and families are sheltered within 48 hours of seeking shelter and quickly moved to permanent housing solutions integrated and supported in communities across Long Beach.
2. Prevention is a city priority reflected in concerted efforts to expand low-income and affordable housing and to ensure that supports are in place to help those at imminent risk of homelessness remain housed. Individuals and families at risk of homelessness are identified long before they fall into homelessness and supports are provided.
3. Residents experiencing homelessness access culturally competent services available 24/7 across the City, that both allow them to acquire skills and resources needed to remain housed and that create a sense of purpose and belonging.
4. Data are utilized to track results and successes and to identify areas in need of improvement.
5. Members of our communities can access the information needed to ensure they have the knowledge and comfort level to assist those experiencing homelessness and actively engage as part of a positive solution.
6. We do not give up on the possibility of yes.

The Statement of Possibility is used as a guide to develop strategies and initiatives for the next five years. Making this Statement of Possibility a reality will require broadening the effort to the whole community. Active contributions will be required from all sectors in Long Beach including other City departments, housing developers and policy makers, the Apartment Association, those who have experienced homelessness, businesses, hospitals, education systems, social services, and the general public.