

Community Town Hall Shelter

Hosted by Community Engagement Center at Sacramento State, August 19, 2009

What are the needs in the community?

Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tent City (Safe ground) • Chronic Homelessness • Sufficient beds; shelters often full • Access to shelters • Undercount of people displaced • Access to social services • Mental health treatment • Newly homeless, never been homeless before, need to know how to access resources • Family unification in shelters • Substance abuse • More concentrated services and resources (counseling, health, jobs) at shelters • Shelter space during the day • Transportation from shelters to school, or schooling at shelters • More awareness at schools about how to support & refer, prior to and during family homelessness • Shelter needs for emancipated youth • More preventative services • Transition services out of homelessness – assistance overcoming eviction history, bad credit, etc. • Medical, dental, and mental health support • People refuse to stay in shelters (unsafe, gangs, drug use, security of personal belongings) • Homeless in parks • Men/ dads/ teenage boys (many shelters only for women and children)
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Who is meeting the needs and serving as the Safety Net?

Shelter	<p>Salvation Army St. John's Shelter for Women and Children Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento My Sister's House WEAVE Volunteers of America Shelter 2-1-1 (Community Services Directory) City initiative on homelessness Transitional and low income housing McKinney Vento Grant (in school districts) Women's Empowerment Churches</p>
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What are challenges and infrastructure barriers to meeting unmet needs?

Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Insufficient resources; resources "going away" • City regulations and enforcement • Coordinating efforts & disconnect between services • Building relationship with the homeless to accept and utilize the help • Effective use of money by homeless when received • Newly homeless learning of and accessing services • Split families • Educating people about self-sufficiency • Paradigm shift • Educating the public about programs, what shelters are accomplishing, and how they are structured now
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How can University and Community partner to better support existing community assets and address unmet needs with a measurable impact?

Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sacramento State drama dept. doing outreach - create other opportunities at shelters with other departments with expertise• Assist with census and data collection• Help disseminate information and resources• Have criminal justice dept. do service learning/internships at homeless shelters and with homeless population to increase knowledge before entering workforce• Have other disciplines work with community populations to be effective in the field• Create opportunities for the homeless - i.e. mobile library, basic needs services (free haircuts), etc. organized by students• Do service learning at Camellia Community Center• Bring nonprofits together to provide networking opportunities and projects to collaborate on• Create a shelter at Sacramento State• Create housing share options so students can experience alternative housing arrangements• Financial literacy workshops• Public speaking opportunities at shelters
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