



TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES

Engaging the unsheltered on a path to permanent housing

Homelessness Affects Us All

There are many triggers a person might experience that may lead to homelessness: family conflict, domestic abuse, physical and mental illness, substance abuse, unemployment, cost of housing, and criminal activity. There are detrimental effects of being homeless for both the unhoused and for the entire community. Increased fire risk, improper sanitation, and litter in homeless encampments, threatens the health & safety of all citizens.

Homelessness affects law enforcement efforts in Tuolumne County too. Case law prohibits moving homeless individuals from public lands unless there is a place they can go to shelter.

There is an increased awareness about homelessness in Tuolumne County. Concerned citizens, local service providers and government have come together in recent years to look for answers that will both assist individuals and families in our community who are experiencing homelessness and ensure that neighborhoods and businesses are not negatively impacted by the crisis. The work on the front line makes many significant contributions toward reducing human suffering, but more housing options are needed.

Tuolumne County Homelessness Data for 2022		
Determining the number of people who are homeless in Tuolumne County is challenging. The two metrics that Tuolumne County staff uses is based on information from CalFresh and the PIT count.		
Data Source	# of People Identified as Homeless	Demographic Breakdown
CalFresh <i>(Food assistance program)</i>	739 people	Male=454 people Female=285 people Older than 60 years=83 people Under 18 years old =70 people 18 to 26 years old=92 people
Data Source	# of People Identified as Homeless	Demographic Breakdown
Point in Time Count <i>(Federal Homeless Count)</i>	266	Chronically Homeless=109 people Veterans=17 people Mental Illness=61 people Substance Use Disorder=37 people Domestic Violence=53 people

Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency has responded to the challenges of homelessness in our community by developing programs and providing services that are aligned with the State & Federal funding that is available. To end homelessness, a community-wide coordinated, cost-effective approach to delivering services, housing, and programs is needed.

Plan to Reduce Homelessness

On December 13th, 2022, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors approved nine Homeless Services priority projects as a part of a more comprehensive plan to reduce homelessness in Tuolumne County. Two of these priorities are the development of the Navigation Center and Distributive Housing Programs.

Navigation Center

Navigation Centers are a critical tool in the effort to end homelessness. Navigation Centers provide intensive case management to connect people to the unique care and housing solutions they need. Clients receive personalized support to help address housing barriers such as lack of personal identity documents, employment opportunities, or histories of eviction. If a Navigation Center has a housing component the housing is temporary and low barrier with on-site case management, streamlined access to social services and medical care, and coordinated entry into pathways to permanent housing.

Distributive Housing

Distributive housing is a model that Tuolumne County currently uses through services provided by Health & Human Services Agency staff. Homes designated for specific purposes and distributed around the County could be used for homeless veterans, seniors, women, families, recovery, recuperation, or support to those with a mental health diagnosis. Tuolumne County has access to funds to purchase residential properties and to offer those properties to individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness for both transitional and supportive housing. Shared housing agreements and rent amounts would be fairly structured. For those who need personal, or housing supports, services would flow through HHS and other service providers who serve the homeless.

Homeless Housing Data

County staff has success in supporting unhoused individuals and families toward more permanent forms of housing. Case management and supportive services are critical components of moving the unhoused through their housing barriers toward self-sufficiency.

Prevention & Housing Placements 2022		
380 Total Referrals for Housing Support		
HSP Homeless Prevention Grant supported 21 Families from becoming homeless		
Program	Temporary Housing	Permanent Housing
Project Roomkey	77 people	0
CalWorks (<i>Families</i>)	45 people	27 people
HDAP (<i>Disabled</i>)	37 people	10 people
Other	2 people	63 people
Total	161 people	100 people

Eligibility for Homeless Housing

The Navigation Center and Distributive Housing Programs are designed to temporarily house and support participants in securing stable, permanent housing. Participants agree to the participation rules and expectations. Tuolumne County currently operates three supportive living homes; future housing initiatives will be modelled after their success.

Only homeless individuals who are engaged in Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency services are eligible for participation in the County housing programs (this includes being a Tuolumne County resident). An assessment team will determine the level of need, available supportive services, program eligibility and the appropriate housing resource. The assessment team will include Health & Human Services Agency staff, Resiliency Village staff, Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency staff, center for Non-Violent Community staff, Disability Resources Agency staff, Area 12 Agency on Aging staff, and Chicken Ranch Rancheria staff.

In addition, program participants must meet the following eligibility requirements and agree to the program rules and expectations.

Eligibility Requirements			
Literal Homelessness	Imminent Risk	Fleeing Domestic Violence	Transitional Age Youth 18-25 Years Old
Living on the street	Will lose residence in 14 days of seeking assistance	Fleeing or attempting to flee	No lease or occupancy 60 days prior
Lacking a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime address	Lacks resources to obtain housing	No other resources to obtain housing	2 or more moves in 60 days and will continue due to needs/barriers
Living in a temporary shelter			
Living in a public place not designed for regular sleeping accommodation (car, park, abandoned building, etc.)			
Discharged from an institution with <90 residence			

Housing Agreements			
No visitors – only case/household members allowed in room	No involvement in or allowance of illegal activity	Must abide by all noise ordinances/not allow noise disturbances	Agree to clean and sanitize common areas after use
Accept responsibility for any damages	Agree to keep the room neat	Agree to participate in chores	Agree to engage in service plan
Agree to announced/unannounced visits from case managing social worker	Accept responsibility for own household's food/meals	Agree to read and understand rules/violations and understand immediate termination violations leading to exit from program	Store all personal belongings in identified personal space/not leave belongings in common areas/absolve County of responsibility to replace any belongings

Violations Leading to Exit from Program			
Failure to maintain/secure full-time/part-time employment or other income (e.g., SSI) within six months of entering facility	Failure to participate in service plan to address barriers to securing permanent housing for one month time period	Failure to provide verification of participate in service plan objectives/goals	Lack of engagement and/or avoidance with case managing social worker and repeated cancellations

Lack of cooperation with unannounced home visits	Housing unapproved household members, guests, or visitors	Participating in high-risk activities or exhibiting unsafe behavior	Failure to maintain safe and sanitary living space
Failure to maintain a clean, hazard free facility (no clutter/items outside living space)	Prolonged drug use and/or alcoholism and lack of engagement in treatment/recovery support and services as identified in the service plan	Refusal to update case plan to include substance addiction treatment goals	

Immediate Termination Violations			
Dealing and/or trafficking all drugs	Violent or threatening behavior	Intentional destruction of property	Possession of weapons
Allowing known criminals with sex offenses and/or violent crimes to visit or harboring criminals with warrants	Failure to obey all laws including trespassing on adjacent parcels.		

Funding

Current available funding exceeds \$4 million which will allow for the development of a Navigation Center and the acquisition of six houses to be a part of the distributive housing program. As more grant funding becomes available consideration to build out and support these program priorities will be considered.

Program participants will be expected to pay a portion of their income for interim housing which combined with State social service funding will cover operational costs.

No County General Fund money will be used for the purchase and development of these homeless housing programs.