

Community Focus Statement E: Improve the delivery of essential services such as police and fire to the community.

Action Statement E.5: *Treat our local homeless and disadvantaged population with respect and assist them with finding adequate housing.*

E.5

Benchmark: Adequate housing for all populations in the community is identified and assistance provided where possible.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$1,000

A lack of affordable housing and the limited scale of housing assistance programs go hand in hand with the number of homeless persons in a community. Annually, San Bernardino County conducted a point-in-time homeless count, which is a way to identify the homeless and assess their needs. The count is a way to facilitate street outreach and engagement activities in an effort to reach the homeless population. While Lucerne Valley was not specifically called out in the 2016 point-in-time count, the neighboring communities of Apple Valley (45 homeless persons counted) and Hesperia (12 homeless persons counted) were included. While these communities are more urban, it would be safe to assume that there could be 5–10 homeless persons in Lucerne Valley.

Several agencies in San Bernardino County provide mainstream services that can help homeless residents transition to permanent housing, shorten the experience of homelessness, and prevent future instances of homelessness. The San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership's (SBCHP) guide to homeless service providers includes approximately 150 agencies that provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing, domestic violence shelter, case management, rental assistance, utility assistance, food banks, and supportive services to the homeless in the county. Varying services are available throughout the county, including in Lucerne Valley.

The County has a Homeless Provider Network and an Interagency Council on Homelessness to help plan for and meet the needs of the homeless. Many programs are located in and specific to cities throughout the county. However, there are countywide resources that include the Transitional Assistance Department (TAD), which provides financial, nutritional, and medical assistance. TAD programs operate through the Department of Human Services and include programs to assist the homeless, including financial assistance and welfare to work programs, food stamps, child-care subsidies to encourage employment, cash assistance to elderly and disabled immigrants, a general relief program that provides loans for housing, food, and transportation, a refugee assistance program that provides medical and financial assistance to refugees, and Medi-Cal that provides health insurance to low-income residents.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a group of local Housing Advocates.	Champion	Month 1	San Bernardino Homeless Counts http://www.sanbernardinocountyhomelesscounts.com/
2. Complete a point-in-time count to identify the number of homeless persons in need of housing or assistance.	Local housing advocates with County Department of Human Services	Month 1	San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dbh/sbchp/
3. Work with the Lucerne Valley & Johnson Valley Municipal Advisory Council and/or the County to identify available resources.	Local housing advocates	Month 2	San Bernardino County Housing Partnership http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dbh/sbchp/community-projects/project-homeless-connects/
4. Create a strategic plan to address the needs of the homeless and disadvantaged populations.	Local housing advocates with County Department of Human Services	Month 3	PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) http://www.epath.org/site/main.html
5. Work to set up a Project Connect modeled after the San Bernardino County Housing Partnership.	Local housing advocates with County Department of Human Services	Month 4, ongoing	