

## **Homeless Coalition of Tahoe Truckee Update October 2020 Update**

**Goal:** Building the Continuum of Care to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Tahoe Truckee Region

### **Introduction:**

Community Collaborative partners, stakeholders, and community members have been convening to address homelessness issues since 2009. Historically, our region has lacked critical services that exist in more populated portions of the county and state, ranging from year-round shelter services to permanent day support centers. There are fewer numbers of homeless individuals in the Tahoe Truckee region compared to more populated areas of Western Placer and Nevada County and other more urban areas, making it challenging to develop and sustain resources for homeless programs.

Members of the Homeless Coalition of Tahoe Truckee have been convening to address emerging strategies over the past several months. Members include: Community Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee, Town of Truckee, Tahoe Forest Hospital District, Sierra Community House, Emergency Warming Center and Day Center/Church of the Mountains, Advocates for Mentally Ill (AMI) Housing, Connecting Point, Sierra Foothills AIDS foundation, Volunteers of America, Nevada County Health and Human Services, Placer County Health and Human Services, United for Action.

### **Current Strategies:**

- **Alignment with HUD homeless count:** In 2020, both counties completed the annual Point in Time (PIT) count. The PIT count provides a snapshot of homelessness on one night in January. 45 individuals were counted: 32 in Nevada County and 13 in Placer County (2020 HUD Point-in-Time Count).
- **Emergency Warming Center/Church of the Mountains/Pilot Navigation Center:** Church of the Mountains has been operating a weather-triggered shelter, the Emergency Warming Center (EWC), since 2015. The Center operates when the temperature drops below 15 degrees or when there is more than one foot of snow forecast. In 2019-2020, the Center was open for 314 total nights of shelter, a 173% increase of participants since its inception, and serving 66% chronically homeless, individuals who have been homeless for one year or more.
- **Homeless Outreach Coordinator:** This position is supported by Placer and Nevada County and is staffed at the Sierra Community House.
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS):** This system represents a best practice for creating an assessment and triage system known as the coordinated entry system. Individuals entering this system are assigned a vulnerability ranking and matched with the most appropriate services for their situation and needs.

- **AMI Housing:** Placer County contracts with AMI Housing to provide supportive housing services in North Lake Tahoe. These services include property management and case management.
- **Placer County Board of Supervisors:** The Board has approved moving forward with purchasing an identified property for supportive housing in North Lake Tahoe.

**Tahoe Truckee Homeless Workgroup Priorities:**

- Build the continuum of care to prevent and end homelessness in the Tahoe Truckee region.
- Analyse existing and potential strategies for sheltering homeless individuals during emergencies and inclement weather.
- Explore sustainability and options for EWC as well as regional homeless staffing.
- Secure Tahoe Truckee Supportive Housing.
- Develop strategies to educate the community on broader homelessness issues.
- Continue to build regional capacity for coordinated entry.
- Develop a coalition network.
- Strengthen connectivity to County efforts and leverage state and federal response funding.

**For more information or questions contact Jazmin Breaux, Health and Human Services Program Manager (530) 807-7792 or [Jazmin.Breaux@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:Jazmin.Breaux@co.nevada.ca.us)**