

Riverside County

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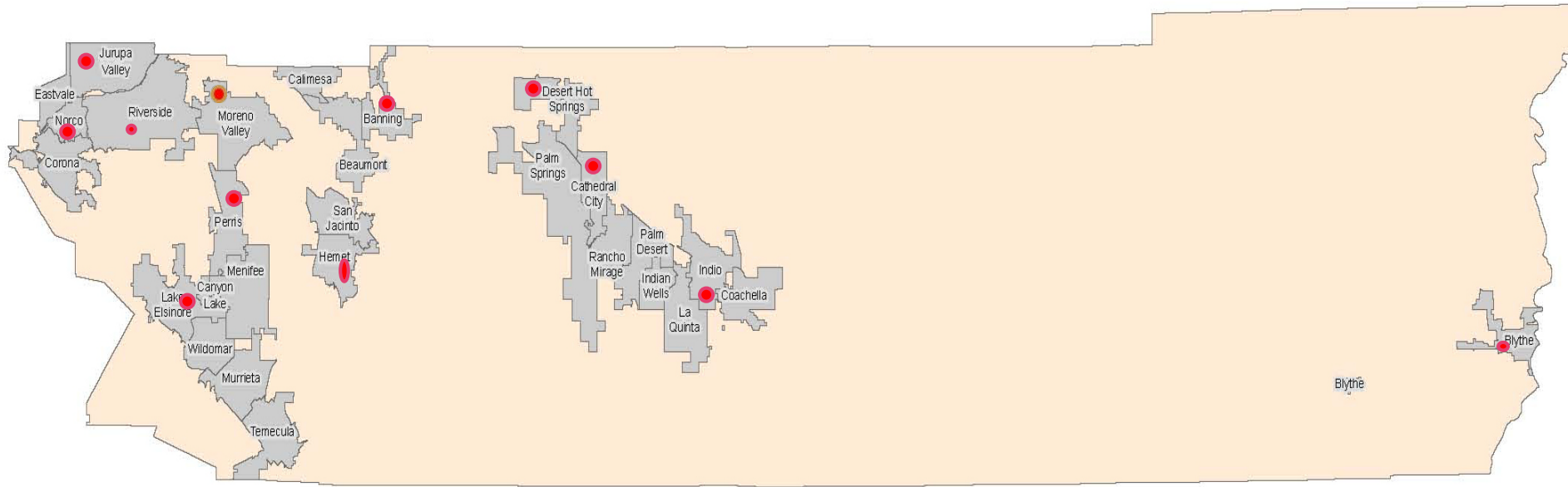
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Riverside County Map



← Roughly 180 miles wide →

- County population (2017) : 2,423,266 (95% urban, 5% rural)
- Land area in square miles: 7,207
- There are 28 Cities within the county
- 10th most populous County in the United States
- 4th largest County in California by area

At a Glance...

- ▶ The Housing Authority Mission: “To transform and promote healthy, thriving communities, re-ignite hope and restore human dignity through the creation and preservation of high quality and innovative housing and community development programs which enhance the quality of life and revitalize neighborhoods to foster self-sufficiency.”
- ▶ The Housing Authority is comprised of the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside, EDA’s Housing division and the Riverside Community Housing Corporation (RCHC) which serves as the non-profit arm of the Housing Authority.
- ▶ The Housing Authority has earned the HUD designation of “High Performer” for the last 15 consecutive years for its Section 8 program, which is an accomplishment achieved by only 2% of all public housing agencies nationwide.

Riverside County Accomplishments

- ▶ In May, 2013, the Board of Supervisors approved the VALOR initiative to formulate a local strategy of “No Veteran Left Behind” with the goal of ending homelessness among veterans.
- ▶ 2017 – Riverside County became the 1st large county in the nation to end homelessness among veterans through the achievement of “functional zero.”

VALOR: Homeless Veteran Stats

- ▶ Per the 2013 Riverside County Point In Time (PIT) Homeless Count there were 285 homeless veterans in Riverside County on any given night
- ▶ 140 homeless veterans were housed in the first 100 days of the effort.
- ▶ Over 1,000 homeless veterans were housed during the course of the VALOR initiative

VALOR: Housing Resources

- ▶ 589 VASH vouchers allocated by HUD
- ▶ Secured 152 Project Based VASH vouchers through a national competition
- ▶ Created 275 units of affordable housing earmarked over low-income and/or homeless veterans
- ▶ The Housing Authority established a preference for veterans in the Housing Choice Voucher/Section 8 program
- ▶ Utilized CoC housing beds and CoC housing navigators through the county's Coordinated Entry System
- ▶ Local landlords played an integral role

VALOR: Keys to Riverside County Success

- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Successful Launch of Coordinated Entry System
- ▶ Coordination of Public and CBO Mobile Outreach Teams
- ▶ Special Programs team within the Housing Authority dedicated to housing homeless veterans
- ▶ Close relationship between LLVAMC and Housing Authority
- ▶ Housing effort was supported at the federal, state and local level. Housing resources were funded by all three parties and effectively leveraged.
- ▶ Development of Housing Navigators
- ▶ Commitment

What is Ahead...

- ▶ 2019 PIT Count:
 - ▶ 2,811 total sheltered and unsheltered PIT Count (21% increase from 2018)
 - ▶ 2,045 total unsheltered PIT Count for 2019 (21% from 2018)
 - ▶ 766 total sheltered PIT Count for 2019 (21% increase from 2018)
- ▶ Working with Community Solutions and the Built for Zero Initiative to:
 - ▶ Sustain Functional Zero in Veteran Homelessness: *The goal is to achieve and sustain “functional zero” – a well- coordinated and efficient community system that assures homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring and no Veteran is forced to live on the street.*
 - ▶ Ending Chronic Homelessness (*2019 PIT Count 727 total – 8% Increase from 2018)
 - ▶ & Homelessness among Seniors (*2019 PIT Count 129 total – 16% Increase from 2018)

County-wide Homeless Action Plan

- ▶ In 2018, Riverside County committed to an Action Plan to address homelessness. The plan focuses on the role County departments play in preventing and ending homelessness. As plan implementation proceeded, the scope of County engagement grew so that 20 County departments and agencies are now actively engaged in at least one aspect of the plan.
- ▶ In the last year, the Executive Office has been coordinating these activities internally, and in collaboration with cities and non-profit stakeholders.

System Coordination

- ▶ The Executive Office has been working with County depts. To better understand their spending on homeless-related issues.
- ▶ A longstanding challenge is coordinated discharge planning, or connecting homeless patients released from the hospital and inmates released from jail to shelter and housing services: *Whole Person Care (WPC), state funded program* and California Senate Bill 1152 (SB1152), passed in 2018. Both programs are led by Riverside University Health System – Population Health*
- ▶ **Housing Authority – Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher Program:**
 - ▶ The Housing Authority updated it's Housing Choice Voucher Extraordinary Local Preference to support homeless referrals through the Coordinated Entry System.
 - ▶ The Housing Authority has also developed a “Moving On” Initiative with Cities who are committed to prioritizing and supporting homeless referrals and earmarking funding for the first 12 months of rental assistance. The Housing Authority will provide a Section 8 voucher to households on the 13th month.

Housing Resources

- ▶ Thanks for increased funding from the State we have increased the supply of bridge housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing:
 - ▶ 145 new shelter and bridge housing beds
 - ▶ 55 new units of rapid rehousing
 - ▶ 162 units for persons with mental illness under No Place Like Home (NPLH), leveraging another 257 units. The Housing Authority of the County of Riverside provided a match of 162 Project Based Vouchers to support NPLH consumers.
 - ▶ New construction of Veteran affordable housing units: Liberty Village, Beaumont, CA – 38 units
 - ▶ 79 new units pf permanent housing through HUD's Section 811 Mainstream Program
 - ▶ *Pending Housing for Healthy California Application – 400* units/HA leveraging vouchers

Support Services

- ▶ A new Health Homes program operated by the Riverside University Health System Community Health Centers targets vulnerable, high-risk patients, and has strengthened its collaboration with Behavioral Health. The State of California created this program with approval from the federal centers for medicare and Medicaid services. Locally, Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) is implementing the program with RUHS.
- ▶ In 2018-19, the Workforce Development Department (WDD) increased employment opportunities by enrolling 56 homeless individuals for services that included stress solutions, interview skills, resume writing, and personal accountability.

Additional Strategies to Build Capacity

- ▶ Riverside County Information Technology (RCIT) has been providing support to the Executive Office in the area of project management and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping
- ▶ Integrating Cities into County strategies is currently being address in the encampment protocols strategy and is also occurring as a result of State requirements of funding recipients to participate in the Continuum of Care (CoC).
- ▶ Encampment Response: 17 County departments and agencies involved in planning a more coordinated and sustainable response to homeless encampments. Emergency Management Department (EMD) model. (i.e. ESRI map, draft procedures, creation of an Encampment Coordinator)

Key to Riverside County Successes

- ▶ State, county, and federal housing resources effectively leveraged
- ▶ Licensed Real Estate Agents to assist with housing search
- ▶ Leverage the Housing Authority's connections with over existing 3,000 landlords
- ▶ Leadership Commitment
- ▶ Special Program Prioritization allowing for households who need additional financial assistance to transition to a Housing Choice Voucher
- ▶ "In-house Fiscal Team" available to expedite payments to landlords to avoid losing units
- ▶ Active participation within Continuum of Care, HMIS, and CES Oversight Committee meetings, DPSS FSS/HSP Meetings

QUESTIONS?

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