SDHC AT-A-GLANCE
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN ON HOMELESSNESS
September 30, 2026 Update

The Community Action Plan on Homelessness for the City of San Diego guides long-term decisions in addressing homelessness by identifying the needs in the homelessness response system and maintaining a system-wide focus. An update on progress toward addressing those needs was presented to the San Diego City Council in October 2026. To view the full presentation, **CLICK HERE.**

Homelessness Response Capacity has Increased Since 2019
Inventory by Intervention, 2019-2026

Overall Capacity
+95%
5,924 in 2019 → 11,572 in 2026

Intervention	Inventory Comparison between 2019 and 2026	% CHANGE
Supportive Housing	2019: 3,229 / 2026: 6,804	111%
Rapid Rehousing	2019: 877 / 2026: 1,352	54%
Crisis Response	2019: 1,698 / 2026: 3,061	80%
Safe Parking	2019: 120 / 2026: 355	196%

Capacity has expanded across most interventions, with the largest inventory in Supportive Housing

Landscape Overview
A changing system. A growing need.

Change in Demand
Demand for services has increased over the past seven years, reflecting a greater need and ongoing system pressure.

This requires a more efficient and equitable system.

System Performance
We continue to improve system performance and expand impact.

- More people served
- Improved housing placements
- Streamlined processes and partnerships

Outflow Data
There is an increase in successful housing placements in 2026 as compared to 2019, demonstrating a more efficient and improved system flow.

Change in Demand
Overall homelessness remains above 2019 levels.

Persons Served

10,775 in 2019 → **14,769** in 2026

+37% since 2019 | Overall homelessness remains higher than the 2019 baseline.

Demand remains elevated, but who is experiencing homelessness is changing, Requiring the system to continually adapt its resources and interventions.

System Performance
The homeless response system is more effectively housing people, though the time to resolve housing remains high.

Average Length of time Homeless
771 days in 2019 → 980 days in 2026

▲ **+27%** longer

The average length of time people experience homelessness has increased, indicating higher ongoing system pressure.

Returns to Homelessness
14.3% days in 2019 → 13.6% days in 2026

▼ **0.7%**

A slightly lower share of people are returning to homelessness, suggesting improved housing stability over time.

Exits to Permanent Housing
4,616 days in 2019 → 6,279 days in 2026

▲ **36%** more exits to permanent housing

More people are successfully exiting to permanent housing programs.

System Performance is improving overall, with more people exiting to permanent housing and fewer returns, though the time to resolve homelessness remains higher than 2019.

A More Strategic System
Sustaining impact in a changing funding environment.

Stronger System
We are stronger today despite pressures on budgets and availability to invest in additional programming.

Maximizing Resources
Working collaboratively with partners to leverage and maximize all available resources.

Invest with Purpose
Intentional investments based on data and return on investments to achieve the greatest impact.

What has changed?
Strengthening the system at every level.

System Level
Stronger infrastructure, better coordination.

- **Coordinated Shelter Intake Program** Allow us to maximize resources and better understand shelter demand
- **Improved Data Integration and Tools** Supports Data-driven decision-making, transparency
- **Coordination and Collaboration** Maximizes resources and allows better leveraging of full system of care
- **Universal Terms of Service & Appeals** Set standards of service and care for shelter system
- **Client Feedback Systems** Elevating client voice to drive improvements

Program Level
Expanded options. More targeted support.

- **Encampment Resolution Grants** State resources to support encampment resolution
- **Coordinated Outreach** More strategic and coordinated outreach efforts
- **Coordinated Shelter Intake Program** Streamlining entry process into shelters
- **Diversified Shelter Portfolio** Expanded options, including congregate & non-congregate settings, and more special population beds
- **Safe Sleeping** Introduction of Safe Sleeping options

Strategy & Policy Shifts
New resources. Smarter strategies. A more targeted response.

New State Funding
State introduced new funding for homelessness, allowing new investments and increased system capacity.

Prevention & Diversion
Greater local investment in Prevention & Diversion strategies and upstream interventions.

Targeted Populations
Diversifying programming to focus on special populations and their needs such as seniors, families, TAY, and first-time homelessness.

Intentional Investments
Invest in solutions that support timely exits/diversion from homelessness; and investing in high impact solutions.

Strategic Partnerships
Increased partnership with funders, philanthropy, and higher education leveraging data to demonstrate our impact.