



PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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Master of Nonprofit Administration - Capstone Project

IF APPLICABLE ADD HERE A
LOGO OF THE
ORGANIZATION(S) TARGETED
IN THE PROJECT

SUMMARY

THIS PROJECT EXAMINES PREVENTION AS A STRATEGY FOR REDUCING HOMELESSNESS.

Oakland is ground zero for the state's growing homelessness crisis. Through extensive research, interviews and analysis, this project reveals critical shortcomings in the current approach to ending homelessness in Oakland. Drawing on the expertise of local and national leaders from philanthropy, academia, government and the nonprofit sector, the project concludes with a set of specific recommendations for overcoming these challenges. Included in the project are evidence-based solutions that coupled with other interventions, could help to reverse trajectory of homelessness in Oakland.

PURPOSE

- **UNDERSTAND HOMELESSNESS**, including systemic causes, triggers, risk factors, impacts and interventions
- **IDENTIFY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES** in local efforts to reduce homelessness
- **EXPLORE PREVENTION** as a potential strategy for reducing homelessness in Oakland
- **GATHER AND PROPOSE SOLUTIONS** from local and national leaders

RESEARCH

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS:

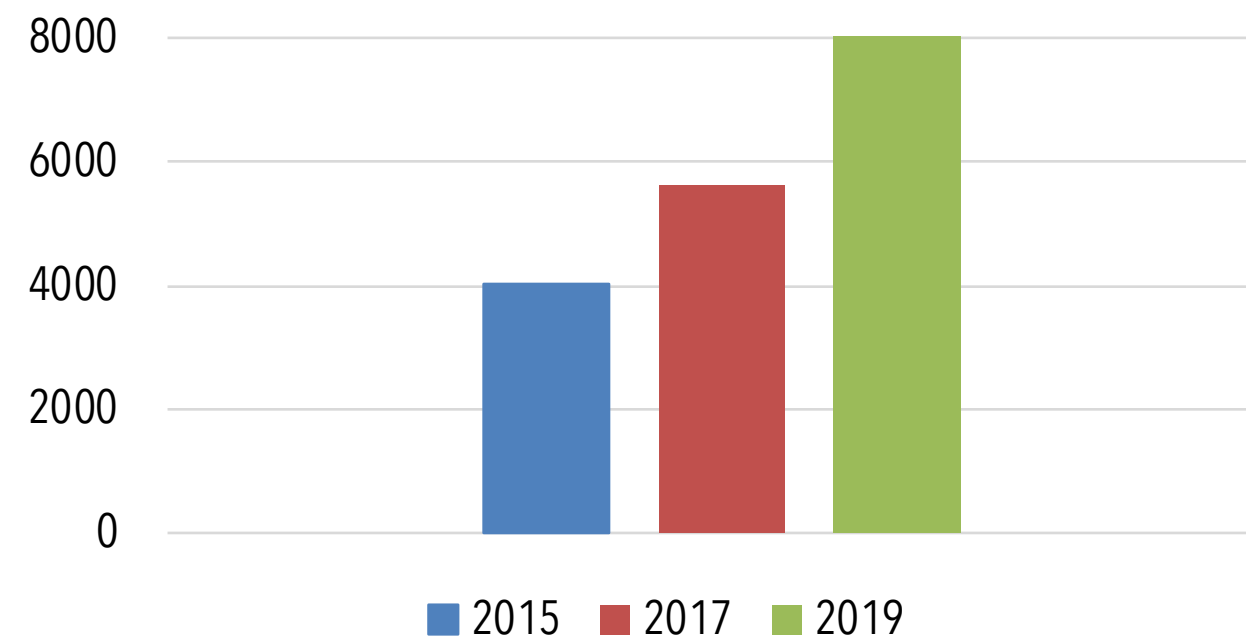
1. Where do you see challenges and opportunities to preventing homelessness?
2. Where do you believe resources need to be directed to reduce new cases of homelessness?
3. In addition to long-term solutions (like housing production), what interim solutions do you think are necessary to reduce and prevent homelessness?

METHODS

- **EXPERT INTERVIEWS:** 20 interviews including the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Funders Together to End Homelessness, Hilton Foundation, Tipping Point, Kaiser Permanente, Oakland Mayor's Office, SF Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services, UC Berkeley, UCSF, UCLA and more.
- **FOCUS GROUP** with Keep Oakland Housed attorneys and front-line prevention staff at East Bay Community Law Center, Bay Area Community Services and Catholic Charities of the East Bay.
- **ANALYSIS OF REPORTS** including data and recommendations from the Urban Institute, Oakland's Director of Human Services, and EveryOne Home.

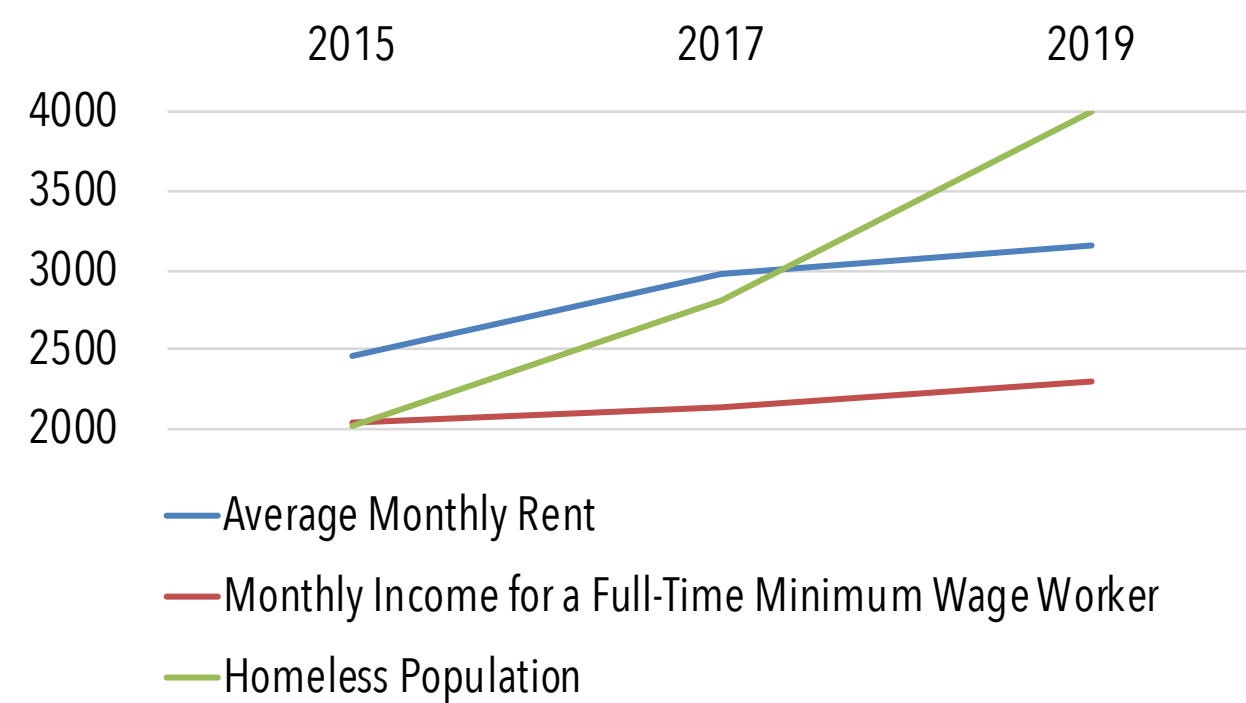
DATA AND ANALYSIS

ALAMEDA COUNTY HOMELESSNESS GROWTH



Source: EveryOne Home Point in Time Counts

RENT, WAGE, HOMELESSNESS GROWTH IN OAKLAND



KEY FACTS

Oakland has surpassed San Francisco in per capita homelessness.

-San Francisco Chronicle, August 1, 2019

- **Homelessness increased by 43%** in Alameda County from 2017-2019.
 - **8,022 people** are homeless in Alameda County. **50%** live in Oakland.
 - **78.8%** of the homeless residents in Oakland are **unsheltered**.
 - Approximately **68% are African American**
- EveryOne Home, *Alameda County Homeless Count & Survey*, 2019

RESULTS

IDENTIFIED MAJOR CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS IN OAKLAND:

1. Economic drivers: lost job (13%), eviction/foreclosure (9%), rent increase (9%)
2. Public health drivers: mental health (12%), substance use (10%)
3. Systemic drivers: housing shortage, increasing rents, racial discrimination

IDENTIFIED IMMEDIATE POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

1. 86% said rent, employment, benefits or income assistance would have prevented their homelessness. 21% said mental health services.
2. Upstream prevention for 24-37% who rented/owned before homelessness – KEEP OAKLAND HOUSED & similar programs.
3. Downstream prevention for 30-39% who were doubled up with friends/relatives prior to homelessness – DOES NOT EXIST.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **LEADERSHIP:** Launch a comprehensive, collective impact effort to end homelessness with strong leadership and a compelling call to action.
2. **COORDINATION:** Create a coordinated prevention system with an equity framework that focuses on those at greatest risk and links upstream and downstream efforts.
3. **PREVENTION:** Use local data and known risk factors to design additional prevention services targeting those at greatest risk of literal homelessness. Raise private capital and leverage public investment through a ballot measure.

"Doing the best you can is the best there is."

- Josh Bamberger, UCSF

"It's nobody's fault. It's everyone's responsibility."

- Elaine de Coligny, EveryOne Home

REFERENCES

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