



Live
Healthy
Napa
County

Talking Points for Homelessness in Napa

Why Should We Care? Housing is Healthcare.

- The cost of taking care of homeless people in shelters, emergency room visits, ambulances, police and so on quickly piles up. Studies show that housing people can reduce the cost of care by nearly two-thirds. What may look like a handout is actually a wise investment.¹

The People: Who are the Homeless in Napa?

- In 2015, over 1,000 people, including 160 people under the age 18, in Napa County were homeless. The majority of homeless people in Napa have lived here for more than 25 years and two-thirds have been homeless for less than a year.
- The homeless in Napa grew up or are growing up here.

The Need: What kind of help is needed?

- The majority of homeless people in Napa County need only short-term housing assistance to get back on their feet. Just 20% of homeless people need Permanent Supportive Housing and more complex social services.

The Solution: What needs to happen?

- Shelters need to become conduits to housing solutions, not destinations. A solution will require greater community involvement and system change.
- Solutions to homelessness exist. Communities across the country have had great success in ending Veterans' homelessness. Others, like Salt Lake City, have effectively ended chronic homelessness.

• ¹ <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/09/22/home-free>

• Other Resources:

- <http://www.endhomelessness.org/page/-/files/1731%20talking%20points.pdf>
- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3393008/pdf/hesr0047-0523.pdf>
- <https://www.medicaid.gov/State-Resource-Center/Medicaid-State-Technical-Assistance/Health-Homes-Technical-Assistance/Health-Home-Information-Resource-Center.html>
- <https://www.medicaid.gov/State-Resource-Center/Medicaid-State-Technical-Assistance/Health-Homes-Technical-Assistance/Health-Home-Information-Resource-Center.html>