

**Brubaker/Housing Authority**

1. How many and what percent of your department's/city's annual client load are homeless individuals and families?

At the Lancaster Community Shelter 100 percent of our client base is homeless. This year alone we have seen 125 individual clients and 21 families with 52 children in our residents program. Additionally we have seen 494 individuals and 36 families with 59 children in our Cold Weather program.

2. What programs do you use to identify homeless people?

At the shelter we identify homeless people through referrals received from the Department of Public Social Services, the Department of Mental Health, the State Parole and Probation Departments. We also receive referrals from community based social service organizations such as churches and caring citizens in the community.

3. How much do you estimate that your department/city spends each year on services related to homeless people?

The sole purpose of the Lancaster Community Shelter is to provide housing, showers and hot meals for our residents and Cold Weather Program participants. Our annual cost of operation is estimated to be around \$450,000.00 per year.

4. What specific policies and practices produce the outcomes that your department/city currently achieves in preventing and eliminating homelessness?

Our policies and practices are to connect the homeless or family with the social service network within the Antelope Valley. We house individuals and voucher families as they seek independent living. Many of our clients receive section 8 vouchers from the county or they may be placed in low-income housing. Our program is designed to support the client through their transition from homelessness to alternative housing sources such as sober living facilities, board and care homes, and other sources of alternative housing.

5. What specific changes in resources, policies or practices on part of your department/city would make it possible to reduce the number of homeless people in the community you serve?

If there were more low-income housing available that would be most helpful. The expansion of our facility to include additional family units would be another positive suggestion.

6. What specific changes in resources, policies or practices on the part of other jurisdictions would reduce the number of homeless people in the community you serve?

If there were more half-way housing for parolees that would reduce the impact of homelessness in our community. If transportation was made available to utilize other area resources for our clients that would also help relieve some of the impact of homelessness on our facility.

7. What additional outcomes in preventing and eliminating homelessness could be achieved if specific policies and practices that you suggest in response to questions 5 and 6 were implemented?

At the Lancaster Community Shelter we see the need for job retraining and the furtherance of the education of many in the homeless population. Our Board of supporters has implemented a scholarship program in conjunction with the Antelope Valley College for the purpose of assisting our in-house clients with the completion of their educational pursuits. This has proven helpful in motivating our clients to reach for higher goals as they prepare for occupational stability in the changing workforce.