



## NATIONAL SURVEY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

CALIFORNIA  
Summer 2010

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from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

California had an estimated 8,613 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving nearly three times their bed capacity over the course of the year.<sup>1</sup> This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

### State Taskforce on Homelessness

**Taskforce:** As of August 2010, California does not have an active taskforce on homelessness. Assembly Bill 1177, which is awaiting passage by the state legislature, would re-establish a statewide interagency council on homelessness.

**Governor's Appointee:** None.



### Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	California	Los Angeles <sup>2</sup>	San Francisco	Alameda County	San Diego	Sacramento <sup>3</sup>
Persons in homeless families <sup>4</sup>	26,144	4,885	514	1,570	854	543
Number of family shelter beds <sup>5</sup>	22,592	4,627	690	1,303	921	557
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) <sup>6</sup>	18	13	27	28	20	10
Percent of families in poverty <sup>7</sup>	14.20%	17.06%	9.26%	10.80%	13.47%	13.99%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	No plan	2006	2004	2006	2006	2006
10-Year plan target population	No plan	All	Chronic	Chronic	Chronic	Chronic
Point-in-time count frequency	Locally managed	Biennially	Biennially	Biennially	Annually	Biennially
Point-in-time count managing agency	Locally managed	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority	San Francisco Human Services Agency	EveryOne Home	San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless	Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Locally managed	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority	San Francisco Human Services Agency	EveryOne Home	San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless	Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Locally managed	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority	San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board	EveryOne Home	San Diego City Planning and Community Investment Department	Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance

### Effects of State Budget Cuts on Homeless Families

As a result of California's current budget shortfall, it is likely funding for some programs that assist homeless persons will be curtailed. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's May 2010 proposed budget recommended reducing funding for Proposition 1C, which supports shelter and affordable housing programs (including 2,350 homeless shelter beds), from \$600 million in fiscal year (FY) 2010 to \$131 million in FY11. Additionally, the proposed budget eliminates the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash assistance program, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs).<sup>8</sup> The program served 47,614 homeless households in FY09.<sup>9</sup> Previous state budgets have already resulted in reduced state aid to homeless families. The FY10 budget

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The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on California and other states visit [www.icprwb.org](http://www.icprwb.org)

included measures to restrict CalWORKs receipt and reduced program expenditures by \$509.6 million.<sup>10</sup> The 2009 budget eliminated the Emergency Housing Assistance Program, the primary state funding source for emergency shelter and transitional housing that totaled \$3.8 million in FY08.<sup>11</sup>

### Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is the centralized government agency that coordinates federal, state, and local funds for services and housing opportunities for homeless families and individuals in Los Angeles City and County.<sup>12</sup> LAHSA created and implements *Bring Los Angeles Home*, the area's ten-year plan to end homelessness.<sup>13</sup> Since *Bring LA Home's* adoption in April 2006, the total number of homeless persons in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care decreased 48% from 82,291 in 2005 to 42,694 in 2009, and the number of persons in homeless families fell 75% from 19,882 in 2005 to 4,885 in 2009. Area service providers, however, have witnessed increasing numbers of homeless families during the recession.<sup>14</sup> LAHSA attributes decreases in homelessness primarily to expanded services and new programs, such as those financed through the county's \$80 million Homeless and Housing Program Fund, a one-time allocation of funds in 2006 for the development of innovative programs that prevent homelessness.<sup>15</sup>

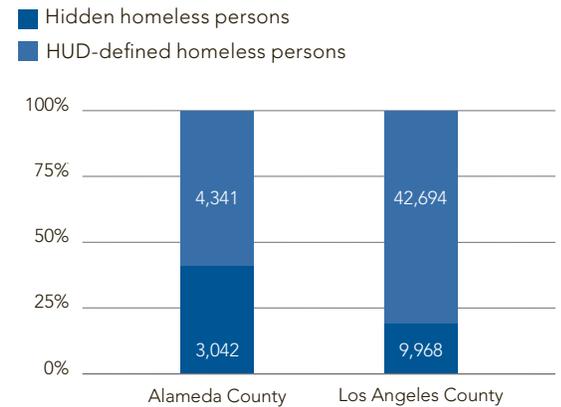
### Connecting San Francisco Homeless Families with Shelter

Compass Family Services is a non-profit organization that provides transitional housing and an array of services to more than 3,000 homeless families and prevents homelessness for more than 200 families in San Francisco each year.<sup>16</sup> In addition, the organization operates Connecting Point, San Francisco's centralized intake hotline that links homeless families with emergency shelter, food, clothing, childcare, educational programs and transportation. The Compass Children's Center, established in 1976, was San Francisco's first licensed childcare program serving homeless children. The center provides full-day childcare focused on early childhood development. Compass also manages the area's Family Resource Center, which offers case management, bilingual family activities, health education, and parenting courses to homeless families.<sup>17</sup>

### Identifying the Hidden Homeless

Both Alameda and Los Angeles counties identify hidden homeless persons in their point-in-time counts. Alameda County defines hidden homeless as precariously housed persons living doubled up, staying in motels, or facing eviction within seven days who used food pantries, soup kitchens, or drop-in programs. Between 2003 and 2009, the number of hidden homeless persons increased 168% from 1,134 to 3,042 and the number of hidden homeless children increased 290% from 278 to 1,085. Forty-nine percent of hidden homeless persons in Alameda County are family members, and these households have less than half the average monthly income of sheltered homeless families.<sup>18</sup> Los Angeles conducts a telephone survey in its count to identify hidden homeless households, defined as persons living in garages, backyard storage units, vehicles, tents, and other structures not meant for human habitation. LAHSA estimated the number of hidden homeless persons decreased 44.7% between 2005 and 2007 from 23,058 to 12,966, and a further 23% between 2007 and 2009 to 9,968.<sup>19</sup>

### Number of Homeless Persons (by county and housing status)



Source: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2009 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Report; EveryOne Home, Alameda Countywide Homeless Count and Survey, December 2009.

### Endnotes

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