

# CITY HOMELESSNESS

The City of San Dimas would like to provide some information regarding those who are unhoused. Please see below for some common frequently asked questions.

## What is the City doing about the unhoused?

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) has a contract with Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Abuse (L.A. CADA) for their outreach team to service San Dimas along with neighboring cities. The L.A. CADA team is a multidisciplinary team consisting of a case manager, licensed vocational nurse/emergency technician, housing navigator, outreach worker, and project director. The team conducts proactive outreach throughout the City, offering assistance such as reconnecting to family, substance treatment, housing solutions, and mental health.

At the February 28, 2023 City Council meeting, the Council approved a contract with L.A. CADA for expanded services in San Dimas. An outreach team will be present in the City Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday each week. The more contact outreach teams have with individuals, the more willing they are to accept services. Building relationships and connecting at a personal level helps foster a feeling of trust.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Special Assignment Officers regularly interact with the community's unhoused. This team is familiar with the unsheltered population in the City, and often have the most contact with them as they patrol the City.

## If I notice/see a homeless person what should I do?

Homelessness is not a crime, and all members of the public are welcome to enjoy public spaces. If someone is acting aggressive, erratic, or assaultive, call 9-1-1. To request outreach services to an individual:

- Submit a request on the fMy San Dimas mobile app.
- Contact the Sheriff's Department nonemergency line at (909) 450-2700
- Contact the City's Community Development Department at (909) 394-6250

A referral will be made to the L.A. CADA team to contact the individual. If after normal business hours or the weekend, contact the Sheriff's Department.

You may submit an outreach request through LA-Hop which is coordinated by Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), who assists people in LA County with outreach services. A specialized team will be dispatched and attempt to connect with the individual. You may call (213) 683-3333 or visit: <https://www.lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop/>

## Why do I keep seeing the same unhoused individuals in the community?

It is important to note that acceptance into programs and treatment is voluntary, and unsheltered individuals cannot be forced against their will. In order to be willing to accept services, continuing contact and follow-ups are necessary for someone to be ready to take that step. As a result, it may take time before an individual is ready to make a change. You may see the same individuals around the community and wonder why nothing is being done. Typically, services have already been offered and encouraged, but it is up to the unsheltered individual to accept services.

## Why can't the City just cite and arrest the homeless?

As mentioned above, homelessness is not a crime. The landmark 2018 United States 9th District Court case *Martin v. Boise* found that people cannot be penalized for sleeping on public property if they have no shelter or home to go to. Simply put, the 9th Circuit held that "as long as there is no option of sleeping indoors, the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premise they had a choice in the matter." The Supreme Court was petitioned to hear the case and rejected the request thereby affirming the 9th District Court's ruling.

## For resources:

- Review the Homeless Resource Guide, or visit the City's Housing webpage
- Dial LA County's 2-1-1 helpline or visit [www.211la.org](http://www.211la.org)
- Contact the Sheriff's Department or City for L.A. CADA outreach services
- Submit an LA-Hop request through LAHSA
- Contact a local homeless service provider