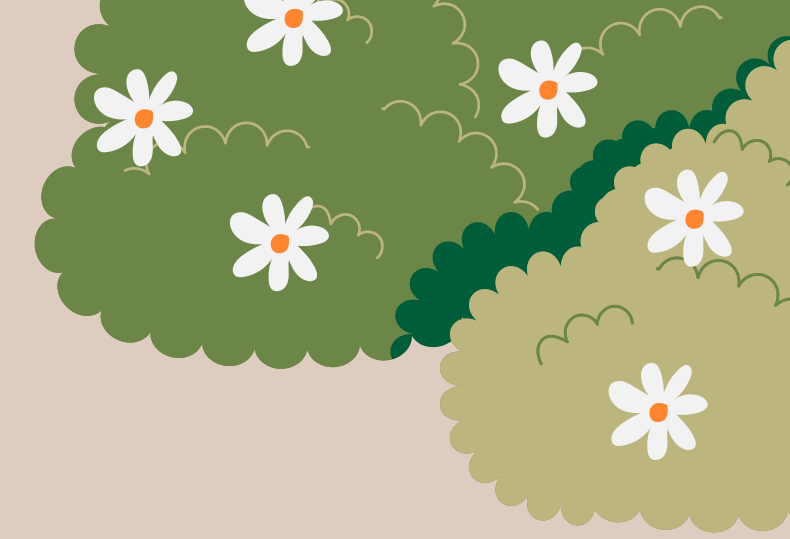


Housing-First Approach in Orange County

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Project Partner: Project Hope Alliance

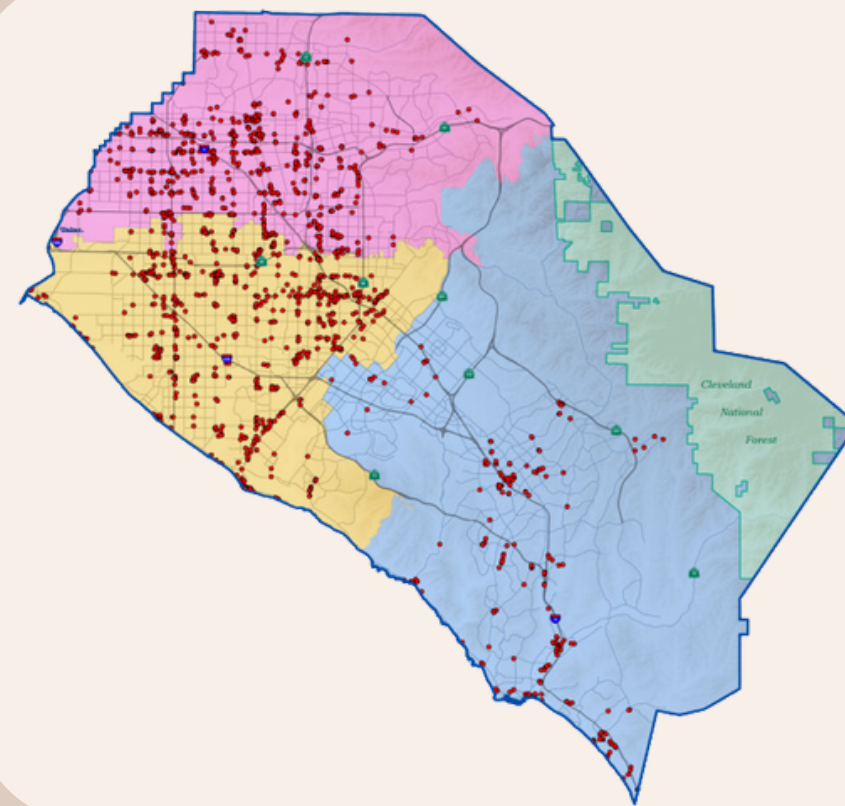


Introduction

- Nearly 3,000 of the 5,700 homeless in Orange County are unsheltered (1).
- Several families with children are unhoused in Orange County, and are at higher risk for sexual violence and mental and physical health problems.(2).
 - Homeless mothers experience **higher rates of mental illness and substance abuse**.
 - Furthermore, **unhoused youth are at risk of failing to complete their high school education** because of how disruptive homelessness can be.
- Homelessness is a **direct threat to sustainability** that impedes the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Climate crises danger unhoused people due to extreme weather such as rain, snow, and heat. Such crises destroy existing shelter and contribute to an **uninhabitable environment outdoors**.

Cost Benefit Analysis

- Homelessness costs Orange County an estimated **\$299 million annually**.
 - Driven by the chronically homeless, high healthcare and law enforcement costs (5).
- Providing housing for unhoused people in Orange County **decreases the cost of homelessness per person by half**, on average (5).
- Children who graduate high school contribute roughly **\$75k to the economy annually compared to those who don't** (6).



Visualization of homeless people in Orange County in 2022

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Solution

- **Temporary supportive housing for unhoused mothers**, using an empty lot to develop up to **14 affordable housing using units**.
 - \$10 million + 2 million annually
 - Evaluation based on progress participants make during and after their time in the shelter.
- Media campaign to **garner community support** -- targeting NIMBYism
- Focus on **mothers with children** experiencing homelessness.
- **A Housing-First Approach** posits that unconditional access to housing, followed by other services, is the foundation of helping people out of homelessness.
- Removing barriers to homelessness services
 - Homeless single mothers reported **housing, food, and employment** were the services they needed the most (3).

Approach

- **Total Cost: \$10 million initially plus \$2 million annually**
 - **\$6.5 million: 14 housing units**, which cost roughly **\$450,000 each** to build (4).
 - **\$1.5 million** for salaries
 - 3 mental health and substance abuse professionals
 - 2 doctors
 - 1 pediatrician
 - 14 caseworkers.
 - **\$2 million** for media campaign - billboards, ads, social media
- **Mechanisms for Paying:**
 - Municipal grants
 - Orange County Trust Fund
 - Community Services Block Grant
 - Orange County community services budget