



LAUDERTRAC

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE



Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

March 2021

BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING, AND HOPE

2021 Homelessness and Housing Opportunities Commission Top Priority Moves Forward

The City Commission met on January 29, 2021 to prioritize the initiatives they would like the City to focus on for 2021. Homelessness and Housing Opportunities is one of the identified Top Priorities continuing from 2020 that aligns with Goal 4 of the City's Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan, which is to build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods.



The primary focus of this initiative in 2021 will be to continue efforts in addressing homelessness and creating additional, attainable housing opportunities for the City's homeless population. This goal will be achieved through pursuing initiatives that prevent the causes of homelessness, expanding housing opportunities, and increasing support services for people experiencing homelessness.

The emphases will be both to increase the effectiveness of Community Court and to have the City further grow the availability of affordable and workforce housing. Additionally, a new focus will develop a workforce accelerator model to support, drive, and secure employment for the homeless. Coordination and collaboration will be encouraged with Broward County (including the Sheriff's Office and the Broward County Library system), other municipalities, and businesses. Furthermore, the City will support and create partnerships with nonprofit organizations to improve service delivery and mitigate homelessness. Relief support for existing encampments in the City will also be continued.

There are multiple departmental initiatives to meet the 2021 goal. These initiatives include:

- ▶ Increasing affordable housing through programs that create and preserve affordable homeownership and rental housing for very low, low- and moderate-income residents.
- ▶ Enhancing homeless housing and support activities by leveraging partnerships and direct service provider resources.
- ▶ Continuing Community Court services to provide the basic homeless needs such as healthcare, case management, and life skills training.
- ▶ Providing greater police homeless outreach support with reunification and other assistance.

The City has allocated \$114,866 for the Community Court Program and \$92,023 for the Homeless Intervention Administrator position in the Neighbor Support Division to prevent homelessness in the fiscal year 2021 budget. The Housing and Community Development Division continues to administer funding from the received from Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Approximately \$340,000 supports the Police Department's Homeless Outreach Unit activities. Another \$710,000 has been allocated to support non-profit groups that address additional homeless needs such as rapid rehousing, meals, and day respite programs.

Strong Partnership Creates a Greater Impact

Community Court continues to serve those experiencing homelessness and address the root causes of their situations. Untreated mental health and substance abuse disorders remain a significant contributor to chronic homelessness. The City's focus is to further strengthen partnerships and provider relations and support successful referrals into mental health, substance abuse, education/employment, and housing services to support the participants needs. The City is thankful for the extended support from its participating providers. It is often the provider and volunteer engagement that paved the way for a person to accept and complete services.

- ▶ Henderson Behavioral Health offers needs assessments, mental health, and service referrals.
- ▶ Broward Sheriff's Office assists with community service hours and other programs.
- ▶ Care Resource Community Health Centers provides housing assistance, supportive services, medical, and dental care.
- ▶ SunServe offers housing assistance, mental health services, and substance abuse case management.
- ▶ Broward Addiction and Recovery Center provides detox and substance abuse services.
- ▶ OIC of South Florida assists with training and employment services.
- ▶ Other provider services include, but are not limited, to transitional housing, employment services, veteran services, benefits, and other social services and medical providers.

If you or your agency are interested in partnering with the City's homeless initiatives, please contact Christopher Leonard in the City's Neighbor Support Division at (954) 828-6139.



GET INFORMATION AND UPDATES



24-hour Neighbor Call Center: 954-828-8000
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