

Appendix 5: Homeless Encampment Best Practices

Principle 1: Establish a Cross-Agency, Multi-Sector Response to Encampments

Yuba County participates in the Yuba-Sutter CA-524 Continuum of Care, managed by the Sutter Yuba Homeless Consortium. The Consortium coordinates with counties, cities, nonprofits, healthcare providers, public safety agencies, and housing partners through monthly stakeholder meetings to prioritize health, safety, coordinated planning, and encampment response.

Principle 2: Engage Encampment Residents to Develop Solutions

Yuba County and its partners use a Housing First and harm reduction approach when engaging encampment residents. Outreach teams build relationships, provide individualized service planning, and offer voluntary connections to shelter, housing, and supportive services before and during encampment resolution activities.

Principle 3: Conduct Comprehensive and Coordinated Outreach

The Consortium operates the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to assess and connect individuals with housing and services. Harmony Health Street Medicine and the Homeless Engagement and Resolution Team (HEaRT) provide field-based outreach, healthcare, behavioral health services, case management, and housing referrals tailored to individual needs.

Principle 4: Address Basic Needs and Provide Storage

Outreach teams provide referrals to supportive services, housing resources, and healthcare during encampment resolution activities. Chapter 7.55 of the Yuba County Ordinance Code establishes procedures for the storage and retrieval of personal property removed from prohibited encampment areas and for hazardous material removal.

Principle 5: Ensure Access to Shelter or Housing Options

Emergency shelter providers offer low-barrier access to shelter and supportive services. Staff are trained in crisis intervention, conflict resolution, LEAP, trauma-informed care, and harm reduction practices to emphasize service engagement, voluntary participation, and alternatives to criminalization.

Principle 6: Develop Pathways to Permanent Housing and Supports

The Regional Housing Authority administers Housing Choice Vouchers, Emergency Housing Vouchers, and supportive housing programs. Yuba County and the Consortium align federal, state, and local funding to expand affordable housing and permanent supportive housing using Housing First and harm reduction principles.

Principle 7: Create a Plan for What Will Happen to Encampment Sites After Closure

Following encampment resolution, Yuba County conducts site cleanup and hazard mitigation to discourage re-encampment. The County coordinates with CES providers to ensure displaced individuals remain connected to shelter, supportive services, and permanent housing resources while maintaining safe and accessible public spaces.

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Certification and Authorization:

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date