

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE HOMELESS ASSISTANCE INITIATIVES

- The City has partnered with the United Way who administers the Broward Business Council, United We End Homelessness Initiative by assigning the City's Homeless Interventions Administrator (Administrative Supervisor) to help execute the United We End Homelessness Initiative and provide administrative support to the Senior Director of the Broward Business Council for one year. Through this partnership, Broward Business Council and the Homeless Interventions Administrator (Administrative Supervisor) manage new Fort Lauderdale homeless initiatives funded by private and public funding.
- On November 6, 2018, City Commission approved \$800,000 in funding for a City contribution towards United Way's efforts to address homelessness within the City of Fort Lauderdale. The United Way of Broward County is a recognized organization that supports the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. The funding will be used to address chronic homelessness within the City of Fort Lauderdale.
- The City is expanding our efforts to provide a comprehensive homeless strategy that leverages resources and unifies a collaborative effort to ending homelessness in Fort Lauderdale by initiating a Community Court Pilot Program that directly addresses the City's strategic goals of reducing non-violent crimes, supporting public safety, and reducing homelessness, as an innovative pilot program. The overall purpose of the court is to address the quality of life issues of our neighbors in downtown and the entertainment district of Fort Lauderdale with a swift, more constructive sentencing approach for public order offenders. The City applied for and received a \$200,000 grant from the Center for Court Innovation and the Department of Justice to implement and administer the first Community Court in Florida.
- To continue our effort to ending homelessness, the City Commission approved funding to support a Food Repatriation Program as staff has identified a significant source of food waste, and created a program to address the repatriation of it from restaurants/venues to homeless shelters and food pantries around the City that serve meals to neighbors. Depending on the organization, food pantries and shelters serve anywhere between 100-700 meals per day, with up to 15% of their budgets often going to food resources to make meals. The Food Repatriation Program furthers the City's comprehensive homeless strategy addressing the City's strategic goals.

- Over the last two years, Fort Lauderdale successfully administered a Rapid Rehousing Program that leveraged \$900,000 in state funding along with local resources to provide permanent housing for 498 of the most vulnerable homeless in our City, which included 115 families. Partnering with HOPE South Florida and the Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc., the City provided move in assistance, first and last month's rent, security deposits, hotel stays, utility deposits, support services and case management. All of these persons are now safely off the streets, permanently housed, and on their way to self-sufficiency.
- Fort Lauderdale joined with Operation Lift Hope and launched the Crisis Bridge Housing Pilot Program, a new and innovative initiative to address homelessness in our City. Though a unique public/private partnership, homeless Veterans, families, and children were provided temporary housing at local hotels and received the necessary support services until an appropriate permanent housing solution was achieved. This comprehensive approach united Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, businesses, non-profits, local agencies and community stakeholders in a collective effort to work toward a long-term permanent solution to this important and complex issue. The Crisis Bridge Housing Pilot Program served 20 households that received permanent supportive housing assistance through the City's Rapid Rehousing Program.
- Fort Lauderdale was the first City in South Florida to establish a dedicated FLPD Homeless Assistance Unit as part of its Police Department in 1999. This Unit works directly with the Task Force Fore Ending Homelessness (TFEH) on a daily basis conducting outreach at various locations throughout the City. From January to June 2017, the unit has made approximately 8,347 contacts and 5,636 placements, providing homeless individuals with access to housing, critical medical care and social services.
- The City of Fort Lauderdale continues to operate the Homeless Reunification Program, which offers free bus transportation to homeless individuals who have an out of town family member or relative that has agreed to take them in and provide care and support. To date, the program has reunited 402 homeless individuals with family members.
- A new program being utilized by the FLPD Homeless Assistance Unit and others countywide is the Central Receiving Facility (CRS), located at 4740 State Road 7. If an officer makes contact with a homeless individual who is in a crisis state but does not meet

the Baker Act criteria, the officer can transport the individual to the CRS, where professionals will provide an immediate mental health assessment in order to assist the individual with the proper resources. This can be used in lieu of an arrest for a minor infraction.

- The number of homeless individuals being assisted through the City's Housing First Program has nearly doubled. The program, which was funded through a \$446,000 federal Chronic Homeless Housing Collaborative Grant, continually served nearly 40 of the most vulnerable homeless individuals, couples and families by taking them off the streets and providing them with permanent supportive housing and essential medical and social services. The Housing First program is part of a national campaign that reverses the traditional approach that required the homeless to go through addiction counseling and job training before earning a roof over their heads.
- Clients in the Housing First Program have been moved from a central housing location to numerous individual housing locations located throughout the County. This approach has enhanced safety and security and resulted in a decrease in substance abuse.
- Vice Mayor Ben Sorenson is a member of the Broward County Continuum of Care (CoC) Advisory Board. This board acts in an advisory capacity to the Broward County Commission making recommendations for the establishment and implementation of joint local homeless assistance and Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP) programs with municipalities and private entities within Broward County.
- Vice Mayor Sorenson also participates to identify solutions and make recommendations to the Broward County CoC Advisory Board that addresses homeless concerns specific to downtown Fort Lauderdale.
- The City maintains an active partnership with the United Way and its Mission United Program, which is dedicated to providing housing and social services to homeless Veterans. With the City's support, the United Way opened and is successfully operating the Jean and David Colker Center, a facility which houses the Mission United Program and provides expanded housing, services and support to Veterans and their families.

- Another of the City's partners, the Salvation Army, expanded their services to the homeless by launching the Open Door Project, an initiative that provides additional shelter for 45 homeless individuals each night along with breakfast the following morning.
- In addition to United Way of Broward County, Mission United, and the Salvation Army, the City maintains partnerships, provides resources and support to Broward County, the Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Broward County Continuum of Care, Homeless Initiative Partnership of Broward County, Hope South Florida, and the Task Force For Ending Homelessness. These partnerships represent an outstanding example of how homelessness needs to be addressed – by bringing together a variety of agencies and organizations to collaborate, share resources, and leverage strengths in a unified effort to comprehensively impact homelessness through the coordination and delivery of essential programs and services.