

Vision and Strategies for Homeless Services and Community Quality of Life

Vision: A centralized and coordinated approach that prevents and reduces homelessness while enhancing the overall community's quality of life.

Strategies:

1. Hold all shelters accountable for behavior of their clients on their property and surrounding area, including public and private spaces.
2. Enact Quality of Life ordinances that limit or prohibit camping, loitering, public feeding, panhandling, giving to panhandlers, and other problem behaviors anywhere other than the interior of a designated shelter.
3. Make changes to City Hall property to enhance business image and reduce homeless activity.
4. Develop zoning and other regulations that control the location and expansion of homeless shelters.
5. Create a Sobriety Center (public intoxication drop-off center) operated by non-profit or medical staff to drop off public intoxication/mental illness cases instead of taking them to jail. This will be done with County, MHMR (Behavioral Health Center) and Hospital District participation.
6. Create a single location (___acres) away from downtown/uptown for centralized, coordinated provision of shelter, mental health, substance abuse treatment, training and other services by non-profits to the homeless population.
7. Concentrate City and federal funding toward achievement of the City's vision and strategies; discourage funding to services not aligned with the City's vision.
8. Identify partners/stakeholders and create a coalition of public, non-profit and private agencies that have a role in social services. These include Nueces County, Homeless Issues Partnership and the Texas Homeless Network.

Expected Outcomes - Measuring Success:

1. Corpus Christi is seen as an attractive community to local residents, businesses and visitors.
2. Corpus Christi has a minimal number of homeless on the streets.
3. There is no panhandling in the City of Corpus Christi.
4. There is no feeding of people in public areas, parking lots or on the streets.
5. There is no visible loitering outside shelters, public buildings or businesses.
6. Those homeless individuals that want permanent housing have access to it.
7. Homeless individuals have a safe place to go for services and a safe place to sleep.
8. Homeless individuals are located and served in areas away from downtown, city hall complex and entertainment districts.
9. Social service agencies are cooperating to provide a full spectrum of services to solve the root causes of homelessness, not competing or duplicating efforts.