



San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership
East Desert Regional Steering Committee

Thursday, June 18, 2026 • 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Old Joshua Tree Elementary School Rm # 19
 6051 Sunburst Street, Joshua Tree, CA 92252

To address the East Desert Regional Steering Committee (Committee) regarding an item on the agenda, or an item within its jurisdiction but not on the agenda, please complete and submit a Public Comment Request form. Requests must be submitted before the item is called for consideration. Speakers may address the Committee for up to three (3) minutes on Public Comment, up to three (3) minutes on the Consent agenda, and up to (3) minutes on each item on the Presentation/Discussion agenda.

Meeting Agenda

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER
A. Call to Order (3 minutes) B. Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation C. Roll Call D. Round Table Introductions (Name and Organization)	Robin Schlosser and April Ramirez, Co-Chairs
E. Individual Committee Member Comments (3 mins. each) or at the end of the agenda under closing. a. Town of Yucca Valley Representative b. Supervisor Dawn Rowe’s Office Representative c. City of Twentynine Palms Representative d. City of Twentynine Palms Representative e. Molding Hearts f. Morongo Basin Conservation Association g. Reach Out Morongo Basin h. Rescue + Residence	Curtis Yakimow Glen Harris Kevin Cole April Ramirez Lakita Johnson Janet Johnson Robin Schlosser Daniel Belew
PUBLIC COMMENT	
F. Any member of the public may address the Committee on any matter not on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee.	
CONSENT CALENDAR	
G. Approve Meeting Minutes from Special Meeting May 5,2026 and Regular Meeting May 21,2026	Co-Chair Robin Schlosser

Mission Statement: *The Mission of the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership is to provide a system of care that is inclusive, well- planned, coordinated, and evaluated and is accessible to all who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.*

The San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require a reasonable modification or accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the public meeting, requests should be made through the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) at least three (3) business days prior to the partnership meeting. The OHS telephone number is (909)501-0610 and the office is located at 560 E. Hospitality Lane suite 200. San Bernardino Ca 92415. Agenda and documentation can be obtained there or by email. OHS@HSS.SBCOUNTY.GOV

PRESENTATIONS

H. Receive a presentation on the Prop 36 Laws and Provisions.	Co-Chair Ramirez
I. Receive an update from Morongo Basin ARCH on Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Round 2 and 3	Alfreda Wright, Morongo Basin ARCH Program Director
J. Receive a presentation on The San Bernardino Continuum of Care Regional Action Plan on Homelessness and East Desert Implementation plan	Lindsey Barranco, Directing Analyst, Homebase

CLOSING

K. Adjournment	Co-Chair Robin Schlosser and April Ramirez
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Next Meeting: Thursday, July 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Old Joshua Tree Elementary School Room #19
6051 Sunburst Street, Joshua Tree, CA 92252

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Minutes for East Desert Regional Steering Committee “Special” Meeting

May 5, 2026

1:00 P.M.

Patriotic Hall – 5882 Luckie Avenue,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Minutes were recorded and transcribed by Christina Benton, Board Secretary

TOPIC	PRESENTER	OPENING REMARKS
<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation</p>	<p>Co-Chair Stone James</p> <p>Designee</p>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 1:03 P.M.</p> <p>Debra Breidenbach, Human Resources and Risk Manager, Town of Yucca Valley</p>
<p>Roll Call</p> <p>Round Table Introductions (Name & Organization)</p>		<p>The following Committee Members or their alternates were present at the meeting: Breidenbach, Ramirez, Johnson, Johnston, Belew, Co-Chair Schlosser, Co-Chair James. Members arriving late: Harris 1:17 p.m. Members absent:</p> <p>17 members of the public attended in-person, they introduced themselves. ***It was announced that attendees do not have to announce their name or organization to be part of the meeting.</p>
<p>Individual Committee Member Comments (3mins.each)</p>		<p>Co-Chair James opened the floor for comment from EDRSC Committee member.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternate Committee Member Debra Breidenbach no update. • Committee Member Glen Harris shared that Supervisor Rowe’s Field Representative Steve Reyes will be retiring May 31, 2026 and moving forward Iris Gutierrez will serving as Field Representative. The San Bernardino County SB 707 update will go into effect on July 1, 2026. • Co-Chair Stone James no update. • Committee Member April Ramirez mentioned updates from Sacramento meetings with state legislators and the chair of HCD

		<p>(Department of Housing and Community Development) housing. She announced that San Bernardino County is one of the counties that is due to receive HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program) 6 Funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Member Lakita Johnson apologized for missing the last two (2) meetings and provided an update on Molding Hearts. • Committee Member Janet Johnston announced the next working group meeting is Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Joshua Tree Community Center. • Co-Chair Robin Schlosser no update. • Daniel Belew no update.
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PUBLIC COMMENT		
Item F. Public Comment – non-agenda items.	Co-Chair Stone James	<p>The Co-Chair opened the floor to Public Comments:</p> <p><i>Steve Bardwell, Morongo Basin Conservation Association – mentioned Senate Bill 707, passed in 2025, requires bodies like this to have remote meeting capability for public participation. Suggestion to record meetings for later review to understand reasoning and discussion points.</i></p>
CONSENT ITEMS		
NONE		None
PRESENTER	PRESENTATIONS	
NONE		None
TOPIC	PRESENTER	DISCUSSION ITEM ACTION/OUTCOME
ITEM G. Receive update and discuss Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) 2 funding and make recommendations for reallocation of remaining funds to the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board.	Co-Chair Stone James	<p>The Co-Chair Stone James opened ITEM G and ITEM H.</p> <p>Co-Chair Stone James provided the following: Marcus Dillard, Chief of Homeless Services, San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services (OHS) reached out to the EDRSC Co-Chairs with concerns about the timeline for reallocation and potential jeopardy of losing funds if not implemented in time. San Bernardino County could lose funds or diminish its reputation with the state if funds are not implemented effectively. The goal is to keep funds within the region. Approving reallocation means a new agency outside of the Morongo Basin would likely receive the funds, which need to be spent by June 30, 2026. A new contract would have to be written, leaving the agency for less than a month to expend the</p>

ITEM H. Receive update and discuss Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) 3 funding and make recommendations for reallocation of remaining funds to the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board

funds. Mr. Dillard is concerned about meeting the needs of the region and listening to feedback from the board and stakeholders. He recognizes that some homeless individuals are not reflected in the Point-In-Time Count and there is limited access to the coordinated entry system and challenges with shelter availability. Mr. Dillard believes working through Morongo Basin Arch (MBA) can address the region's highest priority gaps, including coordinated entry, referral and support, and shelter strategy. The County wants to work with MBA to get individuals into temporary housing, ensure they are in the system, identify their needs, and help them obtain permanent housing. Mr. Dillard wants the region to know that he hears them and that it is not a forgotten region. The County will open up interim housing, covering hotel/motel placements for up to twenty (20) individuals. He is committed to using other County funding to assist after the HHAP funding ends, ensuring individuals are taken care of. He plans to work with agencies like Jewish Family Services and Inland Housing Solutions. The funding needs to be expended before the end of June. The region could lose approximately Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) if the funding goes back to the state.

MBA has been undergoing significant changes, including old leadership and material accounting problems. A new board has stepped in, essentially creating a new entity with completely new leadership. There has been a breakdown in communication between MBA and the County, which they are trying to solve.

Alfreda Wright is the new president of the board for Morongo Basin Arch. MBA has restructured with a new board and staff and they are working to establish a solid foundation. They are planning to partner with a local hotel to house about twenty (20) homeless individuals and work with a community person to provide meals. Mrs. Wright wants to help the homeless in a more accountable way.

Funding Breakdown

- HHAP 2: \$46,598.00 needs to be expended.
- HHAP 3: \$162,722.00 needs to be expended.

The County is considering the whole amount that needs to be expended.

The Co-Chair Stone James opened the items for comment by the Committee members. Discussion ensued:

- Committee Member Lakita Johnson asked if there are prerequisites for the MBA services. For example, some service providers use 211.
- Claudia Doyle, Office of Homeless Services shared that 1- Must be verified homeless and 2 – Registered in HMIS.
- Committee Member Janet Johnston asked if clients contact directly for MBA for services.

- Claudia Doyle, Office of Homeless Services advised that clients contact MBA directly.
- Alfreda Wright, Director for Morongo Basin Arch (MBA) stated that accountability is key and MBA has proved themselves. She feels that having the County for oversight is a good thing.
- Committee Member Janet Johnston shared that she has been working with Natty Jackson from the Symba Center to build a central hub.
- Natty Jackson Symba Center mentioned that she is present at the request of Janet Johnston. In 2023 San Bernardino County sent money back to the state. The High-Desert Region does not want to see more money returned to the state. Syma Center can offer support via Coordinated Entry System (CES), Regional Access Point for the region. She is will to support the MBA solution. At the end of the day she does not want to see the money returned to the state. Ms. Jackson said that she stands with Marcus on his recommendation and wants to see EDRSC thrive.
- Committee Member Janet Johnston what is the process? Who will manage the motel, especially the overnight? Is part of the contract with the County that the motel will be staffed?
- Claudia Doyle, Office of Homeless Services stated that she does not have a flow chart at this time. And said that there is more funding coming up. If you have an individual that needs help have them contact MBA directly.
- Committee Member Harris asked for the name of the hotel that MBA will be working with.
- Alfreda Wright, Director for Morongo Basin Arch (MBA) named the following board members: Alfreida Wright, Gerald Turner, Stephanie Turner, Anthony Smith, and Ramin Jimenez. She stated that they trust transparency will no longer be an issue and believe the new members have really stepped up to the plate.
- Co-Chair Stone James mentioned that there was going to be a vote to reallocate funding, but after the conversation with OHS, the funding will remain with MBA, who has already been awarded it. There is no action item regarding this.
- Alternate Committee Member Debra Breidenbach stated that Committee Member Curtis Yakimow believes in Marcus and what he is doing with the department. Curtis, as a finance guy, wants numbers. Anyone getting funding from the committee must attend meetings to report how and where funds were spent. She said that all parties need to commit to be a part of making this a success.
- Natty Jackson Symba Center mentioned using a Transparency Agreement, attend meeting to report on status.
- Committee Member Daniel Belew asked if the money was only for hotels? He suggested committing to participating and supporting the effort.
- Claudia Doyle, Office of Homeless Services mentioned that funding is for hotels and possibly food.
- Alfreda Wright, Director for Morongo Basin Arch (MBA) said that she is meeting

		<p>with Maurice at San Bernardino County on May 6, 2026 to discuss another agency will do the navigation assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Member April Ramirez stated that MBA has full support of many local agencies and has San Bernardino County oversight. • Becky Ruiz of Jewish Family Services stated that they are ready to jump in and help when called upon. • Co-Chair Stone James dismissed at 2:11 p.m. • Committee Member Lakita Johnson dismissed at 2:18 p.m.
Questions to Claudia Doyle Office of Homeless Services (OHS)	Co-Chair Robin Schlosser	Co-Chair Robin Schlosser asked for process and direction for Co-Chair Replacement
Future Agenda Items	Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Prop 36 Laws and Provisions • Discussion on the Code of Conduct of Committee • Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) 3, 4, and 5 update • Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and 211 workshop • Lighthouse presentation • Department of Behavioral Health follow-up presentation • Brown Act presentation
ADJOURNMENT		
ADJOURNMENT		Co-Chair Robin Schlosser adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.
NEXT MEETING		<p>The next meeting for the East Desert Regional Steering Committee Thursday, May 21, 2026 & 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Old Joshua Tree Elementary School Room #19 6051 Sunburst Street, Johsua Tree, CA 92252</p>



Minutes for East Desert Regional Steering Committee Meeting

May 21, 2026 from 10:00 A.M.

Old Joshua Tree Elementary School – 6051 Sunburst Street, Rm#19

Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Minutes were recorded and transcribed by Christina Benton, Committee Secretary

TOPIC	PRESENTER	OPENING REMARKS
Call to Order	Co-Chair Robin Schlosser	The meeting was called to order at 10:01 A.M.
Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation	Designee	Kevin Cole
Roll Call Round Table Introductions Individual Committee Member Comments (3mins. each)	Co-Chair Robin Schlosser	<p>The following Committee Members or their alternates were present at the meeting:</p> <p>Yakimow, Harris, Johnson, Johnston, Co-Chair Schlosser. Members arriving late: Ramirez 10:12 a.m. Members absent: Belew</p> <p>9 members of the public attended in-person, they introduced themselves. ***It was announced that attendees do not have to announce their name or organization to be part of the meeting. ***</p> <p>Co-Chair Robin Schlosser opened the floor for comments from the EDRSC Committee Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Member Curtis Yakimow – the Town Council accepted update on point-in-time count completed in January. Council authorized establishing a community engagement and homeless outreach coordinator. • Committee Member Glen Harris – Field Representative Steve Reyes is retiring at the end of the month. Iris Gutierrez is the new Field Representative. • Committee Member April Ramirez – attended a SCAG regional meeting, submitted a letter of interest to be appointed to the housing committee. • Committee Member Lakita Johnson – shared that Molding Hearts is looking forward to the new cycle of funding and they have a new location in Indio, CA. • Committee Member Janet Johnston – The next Housing Solutions Team meeting is Thursday, June 4, at 9:30am – 11am at the Joshua Tree Community Center. <p>Christina Lambren from Department of Behavioral Health Test (Triage Engagement</p>

		<p>and Support Teams) and COASST (Community Outreach and Support Teams) presented. Continuum of Care (CoC) members meeting is Wednesday, May 27, 2026 in San Bernardino.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Robin Schlosser – Thanked the Town of Yucca Valley for their Measure Y grant. Reach Out Morongo Basin is facing potential budget cuts with county funding. They are not looking at cutting services, just have to try to figure out a creative way to keep going. • Committee Member Daniel Belw – absent
PUBLIC COMMENT		
Item F. Public Comment – non-agenda items.	Co-Chair Robin Schlosser	<p>The Co-Chair Schlosser opened the floor to Public Comments:</p> <p><i>Rober Embry, Re-Enlist To Life – announced a proposed 32-resident veteran facility in 29 palms. \$18 million Home Key Plus proposal.</i></p> <p><i>Marisela Manzo, Inland Housing Solutions / HHAP 4 update – Currently serving 10 people with HHAP funding for the East Valley, two in housing navigation, two in outreach queue. Three have not made contact since March. Transitioning: 3 families in housing search, 1 in the housing field.</i></p> <p><i>Jossie Avalos, Karma TMS Mental Health Services – Karma TMS in Twentynine Palms, new mental health clinic. Specializes in alternative medicine for patients not receptive to medications or psychotherapy.</i></p>
CONSENT ITEMS		
Item G. Meeting Minutes From April 9, 2026 (Special Meeting)	Co-Chair Robin Schlosser	<p>The Chair opened the consent calendar portion of the agenda.</p> <p>The Chair opened the item for public comments. No Public comments were made.</p> <p>Committee Member Ramirez made a motion to approve the consent calendar / minutes and was seconded by Committee Member Johnson.</p> <p>The Chair opened the items for comment by the Committee members. (No) Discussion ensued.</p> <p>Vote was taken: 6 of members were in favor: Johnston, Ramirez, Johnson, Yakimow, Harris, Co-Chair Schlosser. 0 members were opposed: None</p>

		<p>0 members recused: None Absent: Belew</p> <p>The motion was approved.</p>
	PRESENTER	PRESENTATIONS
<p>Item H. Receive a presentation from Light House Social Services on program and resources.</p>	<p>Amy Hopkins, Program Manager</p>	<p>The Co-Chair Schlosser recognized Amy Hopkins, Program Manager to give a presentation on Light House Social Services. Amy provided a detailed presentation on the following programs offered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing First Model – no qualifications required for services, but programs have eligibility requirements. • Grant and Per Diem Program (Transitional Housing) Services twelve (12) veterans. Eligibility: Honorable discharge status and literal homelessness. Registered with the Loma Linda VA. • Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Both rapid rehousing and homeless prevention. Assists veterans before eviction with rental arrears (up to 6-9months). • Rapid Rehousing for Families located in Riverside County. Assists about 12 families a year with 12 months of rental subsidies and wraparound services. • Family Stabilization Program serves individuals connected with CalWORKS, referred by the Department of Behavioral Health, who have minor children. • Hope for Heroes permanent supportive housing program for chronically homeless, disabled veterans. No income limits and substance abuse counts as a disability. • Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program partners with San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health. Assist individuals exiting at least 90 days of inpatient residential substance abuse treatment who are literally homeless. • Permanent Supportive Housing for disabled individuals and children. Serves individuals who are literally homeless with a documented disability and children under 18 in the home. • Domestic Violence Rapid Rehousing Program provide rapid rehousing assistance and wraparound services for individuals experiencing or fleeing domestic violence. • Health and Housing Program for individuals with IEHP, Molina, and potentially Kaiser. • Hire Program for formerly justice-involved individuals. Connects individuals with employment opportunities to reduce recidivism. • Contact number 951 571 3533, intake specialists can provide program information and referrals. Referrals are taken from any outside agency. Call to see where individuals can get in. <p>The Chair opened the item for public comments.</p>

<p>Item I. Receive an update from Morongo Basin Arch on Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention program.</p>	<p>Alfredia Wright, Program Director</p>	<p>No Public comments were made.</p> <p>The Chair opened the items for comment by the Committee members. No Discussion ensued:</p> <p>No action taken, presentation only.</p> <p>The Co-Chair recognized to give a presentation on the Mariana Wright, Morongo Basin Arch (MBA) to give a update on Morongo Basin Arch on Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MBA has an agreement with the Starlite Inn to house 27 adults and 4 children, providing 3 meals per day. • Their team is fully volunteer, working multiple hours daily, with intakes on the 18th and 19th of May. • The goal is to wrap around these individuals from assisting with obtaining an ID to reconnecting with doctors and mental health services. • MBA is aiming to transition individuals into permanent housing and help them stand up to avoid revisiting past issues. They accept everyone and pushes for treatment, with one individual requesting detox services. • They are in need help and volunteers if you are interested and available stop by to visit at the Starlite Inn or reach out to Alfredia Wirght directly. <p>The Chair opened the item for public comments. No Public comments were made.</p> <p>The Chair opened the items for comment by the Committee members. Discussion ensued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Member Johnson asked if MBA is only focusing on homeless in Twentynine Palms? • Committee Member Yakimow asked is this HHAP funding? How are you tracking? • Committee Member Ramirez stated that Marcus Dillard from San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services (OHS) stated that San Bernardino County is monitoring the HHAP funding for the East Desert clients and will cover costs beyond that for referral to MBA. • Committee Member Johnston asked how are meals being distributed. <p>No action taken, update only.</p>
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<p>Item J. Receive a presentation on Prop 36 Laws and Provisions.</p>	<p>Committee Member Ramirez</p>	<p>The Co-Chair recognized to give a presentation on the Committee Member April Ramirez, Council Member City of Twentynine palms to give a presentation on Prop 36 Laws and Provisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Compassion without accountability enables suffering. True leadership means healing homelessness with dignity, restoring hope through action and upholding the law equally forever. •Prop 36 is a top initiative at various levels of government (city, county, state and regionally). •Prop 36 was brought on by the people of California and was on the ballot. •Prop 36 is holding people accountable for their rehabilitation. •It includes field outreach, encampment notice, and transportation documentation. •Point in Time Count - San Bernardino County counted 3,837 people, with 2,636 (68.7%) being unsheltered. •State legislators are pushing for counties to work together to bring back better numbers. •San Bernardino County is the only county slated to have HHAP 6 funding as of mid-April. •Prop 1 effective June 1st , insurance companies will have to help pay for rent. HHAP funding is going away, so agencies need to find ways to sustain themselves outside of HHAP. •Encampment Resolution Funds (ERF) are available for local jurisdictions, nonprofits, and tribal organizations. •Application period is May 18th – June 16th. •Prop 31 30% of the county will be eligible for Prop 1 or BHSA allocations for housing supports. •Projected \$950 million annually statewide for California. •Eligible intervention include rental subsidies, shelter, and project-base housing assistance units. <p>The Chair opened the item for public comments. No Public comments were made.</p> <p>The Chair opened the items for comment by the Committee members. No discussion ensued:</p> <p>No action taken, presentation only.</p>
<p>TOPIC</p>	<p>PRESENTER</p>	<p>DISCUSSION ITEM ACTION/OUTCOME</p>
<p>ITEM K. Receive nominations for the appointment of a new member to the open government</p>	<p>Co-Chair Robin Schlosedr</p>	<p>The Co-Chair opened ITEM K and ITEM L.</p> <p>Co-Chair Robin Schlosser provided the following: Office of Homeless Services advised that</p>

<p>seat and elect new member to the Committee.</p> <p>ITEM L. Receive nominations and elect government representative as Co-Chair to the Committee</p>		<p>it is appropriate for the Co-Chair to appoint another Co-Chair from a government agency to complete Co-Chair Stone James term through December 2026 or the Co-Chair could accept nominations for the Co-Chair position.</p> <p>Co-Chair Robin Schlosser stated that she would like to appoint Kevin Cole, City Manager City of Twentynine Palms as the Co-Chair to fill the seat through December 2026.</p> <p>The Chair opened the items for comment by the Committee members. Discussion ensued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Member Yakimow commented that he was on board with Co-Chair Schlosser’s appoint of Kevin Cole. • Committee Member Ramirez expressed interest in being considered for Co-Chair due to her regional work. <p>Co-Chair Schlosser appointed Kevin Cole as a Committee Member from a government agency. Kevin Cole accepted the appointment filling the seat through December 2026.</p> <p>Co-Chair Schlosser appointed Committee Member April Ramirez as the Co-Chair.</p>
<p>ITEM M. Approve changes to the date and time of Committee meetings.</p>	<p>Committee Member Janet Johnston</p>	<p>Co-Chair Robin Schlosser announced that due to timing ITEM M. will be tabled to a future meeting.</p>
<p>ITEM N. Future Agenda Items</p>	<p>Committee Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the Code of Conduct of Committee • HHAP 3, 4 and 5 update • HMIS and 211 workshop • Department of Behavioral Health follow-up presentation • Brown Act presentation • Karma TMS presentation • Re-Enlist To Life presentation
ADJOURNMENT		
		<p>Motion was made by Co-Chair Schlosser and consensus approved to end the meeting at 11:35 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The next meeting for the East Desert Regional Steering Committee Thursday, June 18, 2026 & 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Old Joshua Tree Elementary School Room #19 6051 Sunburst Street, Johsua Tree, CA 92252</p>

Homelessness Response

29 Palms to the Morongo Basin

A regional action framework integrating Prop 36, Prop 1, ERF, and the Governor's encampment guidance

FOR DISCUSSION

San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services
East Valley Regional Steering Committee

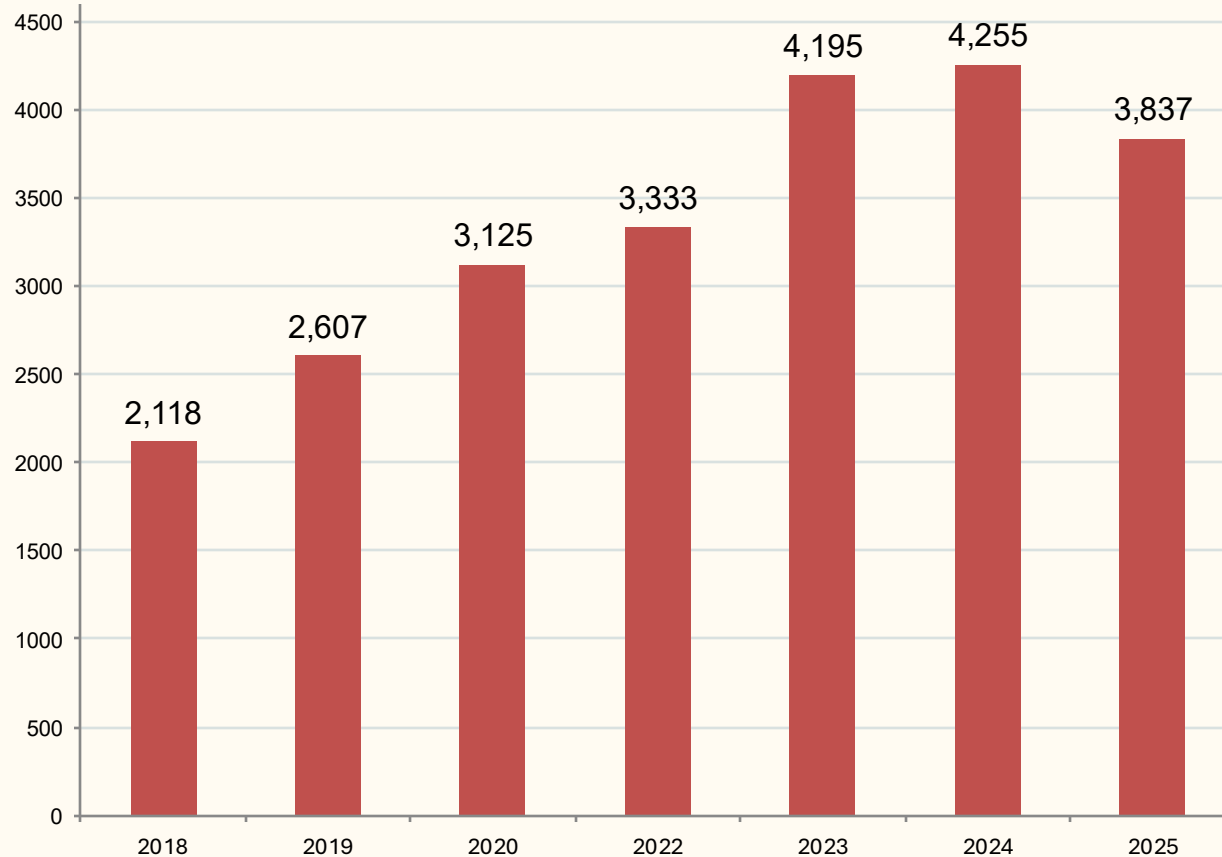
Prepared for regional alignment and coordinated implementation

Prepared by
Councilwoman April Ramirez | City of Twentynine Palms



County trend: progress is real, but the crisis remains unsheltered

2025 PITC shows a countywide decrease — yet more than two-thirds remain unsheltered.



3,837

people counted countywide

2,636

unsheltered residents

68.7%

of the count was unsheltered

-9.8%

overall change from 2024

Implication: the region needs both housing capacity and a field response that moves people from encampments into care.

Morongo Basin snapshot: small counts can hide big operational gaps

A one-night PIT count is the floor, not the full picture of rural/hidden homelessness.



2025 PIT Morongo Basin subtotal

79 people counted • 49 unsheltered • 30 sheltered/transitional

Yucca Valley



42 total
14 unsheltered

Joshua Tree



12 total
12 unsheltered

29 Palms



21 total
19 unsheltered

Landers

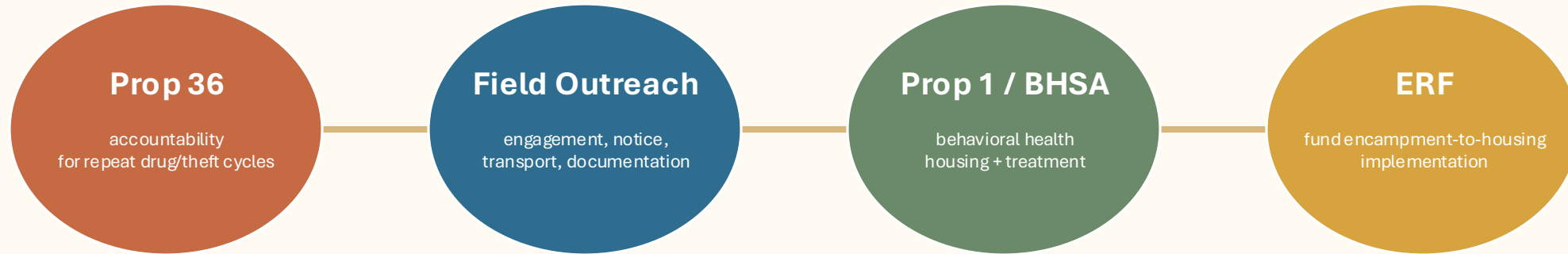


4 total
4 unsheltered

- Rural geography creates long transport times to services and court-based treatment.
- Hidden homelessness includes vehicles, couch-surfing, veterans, families, and people avoiding visibility.
- Local strategy needs data from PIT + HMIS + code enforcement + outreach + law enforcement + schools.

Policy frame: enforcement + treatment + housing must move together

The strategic error is treating these tools as separate lanes. The win is a single coordinated pathway.



Operating principle

Enforcement should be the doorway into treatment and housing — not a revolving door back to the same encampment.

Prop 36: use accountability as a treatment on-ramp

For repeat drug/theft cycles, the goal is a structured pathway into care — not criminalizing homelessness.

What it changes

- New recidivist drug and theft consequences.
- Treatment-mandated felony pathway for qualifying repeat hard-drug possession.
- Successful treatment completion can support dismissal of the §11395 charge.

How the Basin should operationalize it

- Create a field-to-court referral script: offer treatment, document refusal/acceptance, route to provider quickly.
- Coordinate DA, Sheriff, Probation, Behavioral Health, OHS, and cities on the same eligibility criteria.
- Build a treatment bed and transport protocol before enforcement escalates.



Guardrail: do not make “being homeless” the offense. Focus on conduct, public safety, repeat drug/theft cycles, and connection to care.

Prop 1 / BHSA: turn behavioral health dollars into housing stability

Prop 1 can anchor long-term treatment and housing — especially for chronic homelessness and SUD.

30%

of county BHSA allocations
for housing supports

50%

of housing funds prioritized
for chronic homelessness

\$950M

projected annual statewide
housing component

Eligible interventions to target locally

- Rental subsidies, shared/recovery housing, family housing, and operating subsidies.
- Master leasing or project-based housing assistance for units close to services and transit.
- Capital development when paired with behavioral health treatment capacity.

Recommended local target

Prioritize people leaving encampments with severe behavioral health needs, moderate/severe SUD, repeated crisis contacts, and veterans/families with children.



ERF: the fundable implementation lane for encampment resolution

The Encampment Resolution Funding program is designed for meaningful paths from encampments to safe, stable housing.

Round 5 application window: March 27 – June 30, 2026

ELIGIBLE: COUNTIES • CoCs • CITIES

Outreach + assessment

Dedicated mobile team, HMIS, risk triage, storage, multilingual engagement

Bridge options

Motel vouchers, safe parking, crisis respite, transportation, basic needs

Housing navigation

ID documents, landlord engagement, move-in funds, master leasing

Clean-up + prevention

48-hour notice process, debris removal, public health coordination, site restoration

Recommended ERF concept: “High Desert Encampment-to-Housing Response Pilot” anchored in 29 Palms, Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree, and unincorporated zones.

Governor's direction: act with urgency and dignity

The state model emphasizes notice, services, shelter offers, and enforceable public-space rules.

"There are no more excuses."

Governor Gavin Newsom, May 12, 2025

State model ordinance elements

- Prohibit persistent camping in one location.
- Prohibit encampments blocking free passage on sidewalks.
- Provide notice and make every reasonable effort to identify and offer shelter before clearing.
- Use at least 48 hours' notice, provider outreach, and proper storage of belongings.

Consequences to name clearly

Encampments can create public safety and public health risks for both residents and the surrounding community — including violence, criminal activity, property damage, and unsanitary conditions.

Local implementation must balance compassion, due process, and accountability.

Regional protocol: from encampment identification to housing outcome

A consistent protocol prevents confusion, protects dignity, and creates defensible enforcement.



Required partners at the table

OHS • County Behavioral Health • Sheriff/HOPE Team • Probation • DA • Public Health • city teams • tribal liaisons • VA/base partners • service providers • faith/community partners

90-day action plan: make the region grant-ready and response-ready

A time-bound plan turns this from discussion into implementation.

0–30 days

Build the operating picture

- Map known encampment sites and risk factors.
- Inventory shelter, motel, transport, treatment, and outreach capacity.
- Create a shared referral protocol and data fields.

31–60 days

Launch coordinated outreach

- Stand up a weekly case-conference table.
- Pilot a mobile outreach day in 29 Palms/Yucca Valley/Joshua Tree.
- Finalize ERF narrative, budget, and partners.

61–90 days

Move people into stability

- Activate Prop 36 treatment referral pathway.
- Reserve Prop 1/BHSA housing-support pipeline for chronic/SUD cases.
- Track placements, returns to homelessness, and encampment reductions.

Success metrics to report monthly

contacts made • offers accepted/refused • treatment intakes • shelter/motel placements • permanent housing moves • repeat encampment contacts • debris/waste removed • 30/60/90 day stability

Requested direction from the East Valley Regional Steering Committee

Specific asks to align county, city, and provider action.

1

Authorize a Morongo Basin encampment-response workgroup

Include OHS, cities, County Behavioral Health, Sheriff/HOPE, Probation, DA, Public Health, providers, tribal liaisons, and community partners.

2

Support a regional ERF application

Use a 29 Palms-to-Morongo Basin pilot that funds outreach, bridge options, navigation, transport, storage, cleanup, and HMIS.

3

Align Prop 1/BHSA planning with rural need

Reserve a pathway for chronically homeless and SUD-involved individuals in encampments to access housing supports.

4

Create a Prop 36 treatment referral protocol

Ensure accountability leads to treatment, not churn — with clear handoffs from field contact to court/provider/housing.

Proposed motion: Direct staff/committee leadership to convene the workgroup and return with ERF application options, Prop 1 alignment recommendations, and a draft encampment-response protocol.

Key sources

1. San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership, 2025 Continuum of Care Homeless Count & Survey Report.
2. California Department of Justice Information Bulletin 2024-DLE-19: Proposition 36.
3. California DHCS, Proposition 1 Behavioral Health Services Act Housing Supports Primer.
4. California HCD, Encampment Resolution Funding Program page, Round 5 Rolling NOFA information.
5. Governor of California press release, May 12, 2025: state model ordinance for encampments.

Note: This deck is a policy and implementation framework for discussion and should be reviewed by County Counsel/City Attorney before adoption of any ordinance, enforcement protocol, or formal grant submission.



Homebase

ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

The San Bernardino CoC Regional Action Plan on Homelessness

East Desert RSC Implementation

Our Presenters



Lindsey Barranco



Esther Wilch

Today's presentation

We'll cover highlights of the strategic plan and specific action steps for your RSC!

ON OUR WAY HOME:
The San Bernardino CoC Regional Action Plan on Homelessness
2026 - 2030

East Desert RSC Regional Implementation Plan

The East Desert, which stretches to the Arizona border, contains Joshua Tree National Park and is comprised of smaller, more remote communities like Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, and Yucca Valley. The region faces extreme geographic and resource challenges and lacks sufficient shelters, behavioral health infrastructure, and services.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the East Desert region represents 2% of the county's total population. The median rent is \$1,252 and the median income is \$35,450. Approximately 25.4% of the region's population is severely cost burdened (spending more than 50% of income on housing), while 18.8% of the population lives below the poverty line. The vacancy rate in the region is 14.4%.

Homelessness in the East Desert Region

57 UNSHELTERED	30 SHELTERED
#####	###

2% of the CoC's total PITC

The East Desert Region's Homeless Service System

The East Desert region has one of the lowest number of available beds for people experiencing homelessness in the county, with only **1% of the total beds** in the CoC in 2025.

Extreme weather, transportation deserts, and geographic isolation impact homelessness in the East Desert, which make regional collaboration and mobile service delivery critical. Faith-based organizations and churches are currently the primary providers of any emergency shelter (e.g., motel placements), underscoring the severe lack of publicly-funded, formalized shelter in the area. The RSC challenges are further compounded by the region's booming, short-term rental market, which has led to a sharp increase in the cost to rent or buy a home. Homelessness in the East Desert is often highly dispersed, with individuals and small groups living in isolated desert areas far from formal services and support networks. As such, the RSC noted that standard data sources, such as the PITC, may underestimate local need and emphasized the importance of better coordination and working with non-traditional partners, like the National Park Service (NPS), to improve the accuracy of unsheltered counts on and near federally-managed lands.

Breakdown of beds in the East Desert Region (2025 HIC)

Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Rapid Re-Housing	Permanent Housing
21	9	1	0

San Bernardino Regional Action Plan | 34

Sources of Information that Inform this Plan

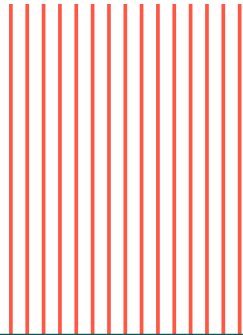
Homebase, the San Bernardino CoC, local cities and community members, and San Bernardino County have worked closely for the past year developing the plan.

- Review of Existing Data
- Gathered input at two RSC meetings
- Focus groups with people who have lived experience
- Community Survey
- Continual input from RSC Co-Chairs

Data Sources Reviewed

- Point in Time Count
- Housing Inventory Count
- Homeless Data Exchange (HMIS Data)
- American Community Survey (Census)
- Homelessness Data Integration System
- Housing Pipeline City Survey

Vision Statement



All individuals and families across San Bernardino County, regardless of their economic conditions, will have access to safe, secure, stable, affordable, permanent housing and needed supportive services.

Mission Statement



To collaborate across all regions and sectors in the county, using a person-centered approach, to connect individuals and families to a diverse range of supportive services and long-term sustainable housing that fits their unique needs.

Guiding Principles



Housing is a Human Right

Every individual deserves to be treated with respect, dignity and empathy, regardless of their circumstances. Solutions need to be designed around the person, not program rules. Prioritizing the physical and emotional well-being of every person in the county can empower people to build independence and self-sufficiency.



Housing is a Social Determinant of Health

Housing is needed to ensure health, safety, and stability for all individuals and families in the region. However, stability depends on income and opportunity, not just housing placement.



Strong Decision-Making is guided by Data and Evidence

Data-driven solutions rely on evidence, not assumptions. Continuous learning and evaluation should be core to the approach to reduce and end homelessness.



Creative and Innovative Solutions will Benefit the Entire Community

Housing and service providers need to embrace creative, evidence-based approaches that will prevent and end homelessness. They can rely on flexibility and creativity in addressing barriers to housing, employment, and stability. The work should inspire belief and hope in the possibility of change.



It is Essential to Value the Voices of People with Lived Experience

People who have lived experience of homelessness have unique voices and roles in the design of solutions to prevent and end homelessness. The community needs to create a variety of opportunities to understand their point of view and respond to their concerns.



There is Shared Ownership and Responsibility for the Homelessness Crisis

No one can sit by without acting. As a region, we must partner collaboratively – with County departments, community-based organizations, Cities, businesses, neighbors, and individuals – to be responsible and accountable together for responding to homelessness. We can no longer work in siloes and should avoid duplication of effort.



The Disparities that Exist Across the Homeless System of Care Can't Be Ignored

Racial, gender, sexual orientation, and other inequities persist and need to be addressed so that all county residents can equitably access fair housing, resources, and opportunities. Systems must identify and serve everyone in need, even when they are not visible in traditional data sources.

Goals and Strategies

Over the next five years, the CoC will unite around bold, targeted strategies to dramatically reduce homelessness in the county, guided by key goals to drive measurable change and transform lives:



GOAL 1 Permanent and Affordable Housing

Increase permanent and affordable housing capacity and provide the resources needed to ensure people can maintain stable housing.



GOAL 2 Coordination

Improve information, coordination, and collaboration between County Departments, Cities, the CoC, and RSCs.



GOAL 3 Shelter and Services

Improve and expand shelter, interim housing, and low-barrier services.



GOAL 4 Prevention and Diversion

Develop and invest in a CoC-wide prevention and diversion program, including an improved education and resource effort, to lower barriers to housing and services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.



GOAL 5 Data and Performance

Strengthen the homeless response system so that it is data-driven, fair, and results-oriented

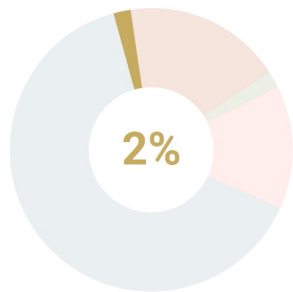


East Desert RSC Regional Implementation Plan

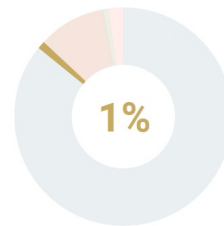
Homelessness in the East Desert Region

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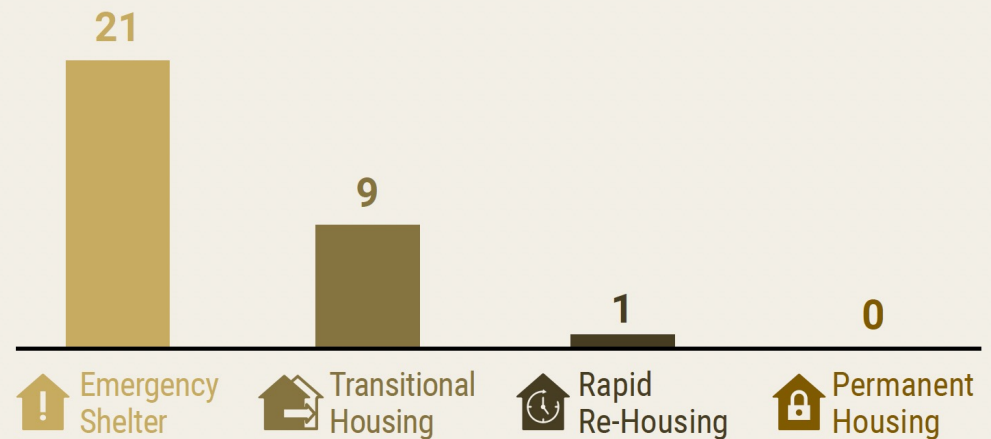



of the CoC's total PITC



The East Desert region has one of the lowest number of available beds for people experiencing homelessness in the county, with only **1% of the total beds** in the CoC in 2025.

Breakdown of beds in the East Desert Region (2025 HIC)





GOAL 1 : Permanent and Affordable Housing

Strategy 1.1: Optimize the use of existing affordable housing subsidies and programs.

Strategy 1.2: Expand access to affordable housing in underserved regions.

Obtain funding for a Morongo Basin Central Communications Hub and Housing Solutions Center that work together to serve as the central hub for information and collaboration in the East Desert, and to engage with housing providers, landlords, and property management agencies to identify all existing affordable housing in the region and explore opportunities for new housing options such as shared housing.



GOAL 2 : Coordination

Strategy 2.1: Formalize communication and collaboration between the County, CoC and RSCs.

Develop technological capacity at East Desert RSC meetings to ensure that representatives can appear virtually and work with County to ensure consistent County presence at East Desert RSC meetings.



GOAL 3 : Shelter and Services

Strategy 3.1: Develop a CoC-wide plan for shelter and interim housing.

Work with local Cities and the County to identify publicly-owned and underutilized properties to designate as safe camping or parking zones. Develop sites into innovative models for emergency shelters or transitional housing, such as tiny homes.



GOAL 3 : Shelter and Services

Strategy 3.1: Develop a CoC-wide plan for shelter and interim housing.

Explore partnerships with faith-based organizations to identify and activate underutilized facilities for temporary and severe weather sheltering and day centers.



GOAL 3 : Shelter and Services

Strategy 3.4: Integrate lived experience and equity into shelter design and operation.

Engage regional residents with lived experience of homelessness through structured outreach and listening sessions during the planning and development of the Housing Solutions Center and Morongo Basic Central Communications Hub to identify priority services, an optimal geographic location, and potential partners.



GOAL 4 : Prevention and Diversion

Strategy 4.3: Proactively identify and stabilize households at high risk of homelessness.

Develop and implement a coordinated utility assistance strategy by mapping all utility districts and available assistance programs across the region, identify gaps and overlaps in access, and convene an interest-holder focus group to improve navigation and streamline support for residents.



GOAL 5 : Data and Performance

Strategy 5.1: Enhance the functionality, integrity and equity of the Coordinated Entry System (CES).

Work with County to develop an HMIS/211 workshop specific to the East Desert to explain the importance of HMIS access and fidelity and to provide training on HMIS and coordinated entry to local providers.

Implementing the Action Steps

- Who will be responsible for leading the implementation on the action steps?
- How will the RSC keep progress moving over time?
- Are there new partners needed to accomplish these action steps?
- What are potential roadblocks? What can the RSC do to overcome these challenges?
- How will you engage people with lived experience?

Measuring Progress



Choosing the Right Milestones

How will you know you have accomplished the action step?



Collecting the Right Data

What data or information do you have access to?



Using the Data

How will you review data regularly?

Questions and Discussion



Contact us

Email the whole team:
SBPlanning@HomebaseCCC.org



Jose Lucio



Will Earley



Lindsey Barranco



Julie Silas



Esther Wilch

KDA

Karma TMS

When you tune your brain, you tune your life

KDA & KTMS

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Rancho Mirage

29 Palms

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BUILDING BETTER HEALTH

PRACTICAL TOOLS TO MANAGE YOUR HEALTH

JUNE IS MEN'S HEALTH MONTH

Men in the U.S. have an average life expectancy up to six years less across national averages and experience higher mortality rates across all Top 10 causes of death. Greater awareness of risk factors and warning signs, along with early detection and consistent healthcare engagement can help improve long-term outcomes. (Men's Health Network 2026)

This lecture will encourage healthcare engagement and focus on preventive care with practical tools to manage your personal health. Content will include blood pressure precautions, diabetes management, prostate health, as well as mental and emotional well-being through stress management. Discover what tools are available to build your better health.

FREE Health Lecture. Registration is not required to participate.

DISCOVER TOOLS
TO MANAGE YOUR
BEST HEALTH



MONDAY JUNE 15

Joshua Tree Senior Center
6171 Sunburst Ave
Lecture begins 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17

Yucca Valley Senior Center
57088 29 Palms Hwy
Lecture begins 11:30 a.m.

THURSDAY JUNE 18

29 Palms Senior Center
6539 Adobe Road
Lecture begins 10:30 a.m.



MORONGO BASIN
HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
MorongoBasinHealth.org

These free lectures are provided to raise health awareness and promote personal health management. Our mission is to improve the health and wellness of Basin residents.



Our Mission

Dedicated to enhancing lives and meeting the diverse needs of individuals, families and communities. Through the utilization of comprehensive integrated social service systems, LightHouse supports clients in breaking the cycle of homelessness, works to keep families together and strives to build strong healthy communities.

Our Programs

Family Stabilization RRH
Serves Homeless Families who receive Transitional Assistance in San Bernardino County. Contact Leticia Hernandez-(909) 494-6676

Grant and Per Diem Transitional Housing
Provides temporary housing to homeless male veterans who are living with a mental health issue, and works to assist the veteran residents with securing and transitioning to permanent housing. Contact Mary Violette-(909)895-3205

Supportive Services for Veteran Families
Assists veteran families who are homeless or at significant risk of homelessness end their housing crisis and stabilize in permanent housing. Contact Arianna Chavez-(951)571-3533

Adult Re-Entry RRH
Provides rental assistance and employment services to individuals formerly incarcerated in state prison, who are homeless in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Contact Ramiro Solis-(951)571-3533

Hope for Heroes PSH
The Hope for Heroes PSH program is committed to working with our disabled veteran heroes and their families to secure and maintain permanent stable housing. Contact Mary Violette-(909)895-3205

Disabled Persons with Children PSH
Assists persons who have children, are living with a disability, and are homeless end their housing crisis and stabilize in permanent housing. Contact Mary Violette-(909)895-3205

Rapid Re-Housing for Families
Provides Rapid Re-Housing Services for individuals and families homeless in Riverside County. Contact Mary Violette-(909)895-3205

Health & Housing
Provides permanent supportive housing services to individuals, families and unaccompanied youth who are chronically homeless and living with a chronic disability. Contact Bernice Munoz-(951)571-3533

Older Adults PSH
Provides permanent supportive housing for seniors 55+ who are unhoused in Riverside County. Contact Mary Violette-(909)895-3205

Domestic Violence RRH
Provides Rapid Re-Housing Services for individuals and families homeless in Riverside County who are fleeing domestic violence. Contact Mary Violette-(909)895-3205

In Home Clinical Support
Provides mental health crisis intervention, stabilization and short-term therapeutic support services. The Clinical Support Services Program also assists participants in connecting with on-going community-based services.