

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF HOMELESS SERVICES IN POMONA**

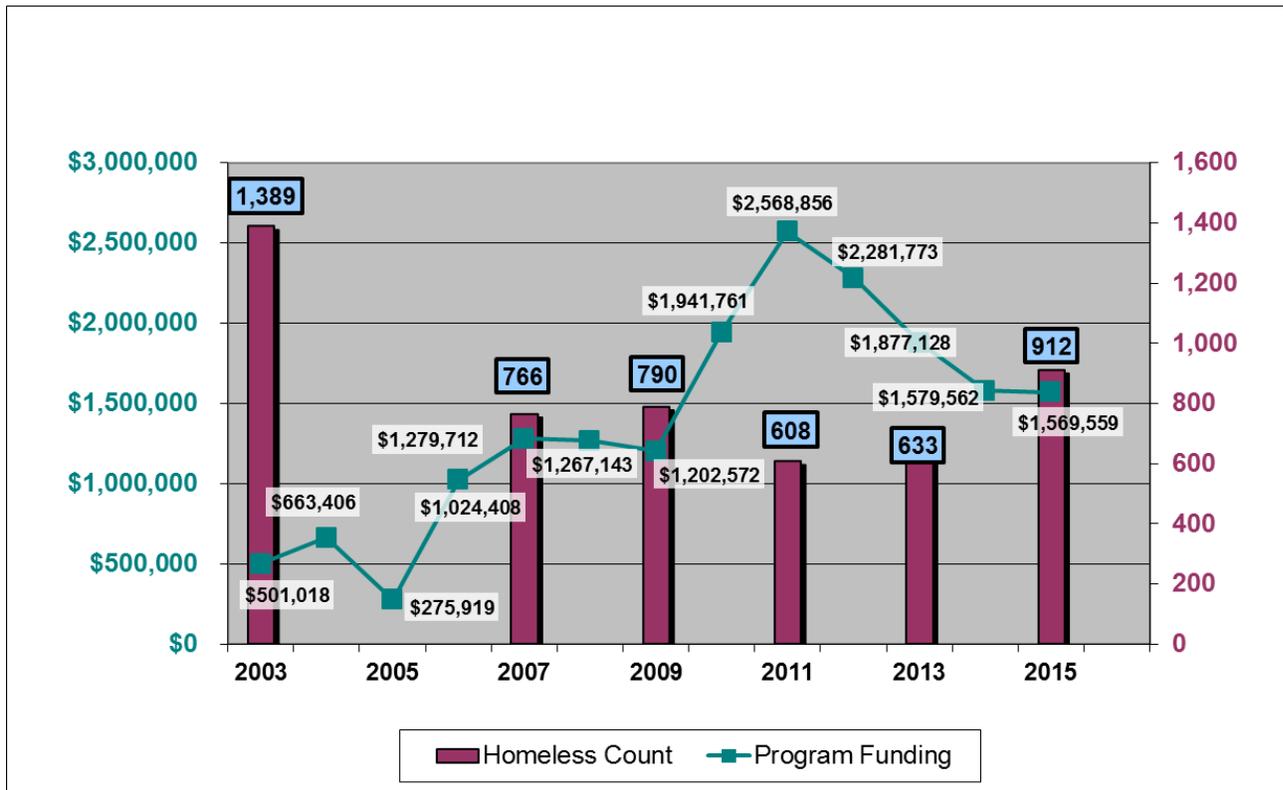
As part of the strategy to address homelessness within Pomona, the City has established the following basic working parameters to guide the programs that the City funds and that its partners operated:

- ❖ General funds are not utilized for homeless relief. Outside funding, primarily Federal, has been used in the operation of homeless programs.
- ❖ Aware that the programs funded by the City need to address the issues of homelessness within the City, a policy has been put in place mandating that City-funded programs be Pomona specific. Clients served by these programs are required to have tangible ties to Pomona, meeting specific criteria to determine Pomona residency. These criteria have been refined and clarified over the years. As of 2015 a Pomona-based homeless person is defined as someone who has lived in Pomona for at least three months (90 days), became homeless while living permanently in Pomona, is currently employed or going to school in Pomona or has a family member that works or attends school in Pomona, has a social support system of immediate family members living in Pomona that are willing to help in the remediation of their homelessness, or are certified Pomona homeless by the Pomona Homeless Outreach Team or the Pomona Homeless Services Coordinator.
- ❖ Agencies receiving funding through the City to address homelessness must serve those meeting the Pomona residency requirement.
- ❖ Agencies must also actively participate in the Pomona Continuum of Care Coalition and any research activity conducted by the City to inform programming and planning.

## AN OVERVIEW OF HOMELESS SERVICES IN POMONA

Since 2003, there have been three consistent sources of funding used by the City to assist Pomona homeless: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Shelter Plus Care (S+C). Each of these programs is funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and each of them has specific eligibility requirements and uses. Emergency Solutions Grant provides funding for essential services, homeless prevention and shelter operations. The Supportive Housing Program provides for transitional housing for up to a 2-year period and can also be used for specific supportive services such as street outreach. Finally, Shelter Plus Care provides permanent supportive housing for homeless persons with disabilities through rental assistance.

From 2003 to 2015, over \$18.4 million in targeted homeless program funds has assisted 33,318 persons, including single individuals and families with children. These funds have assisted in preventing homelessness, providing emergency shelter, transitional housing, rental assistance, and access to permanent housing, connecting people with services, offering outreach to those on the streets, and coordinating efforts to reduce homelessness in Pomona at an average cost of \$554 a person. As a result of these and other programs, prior to 2015, Pomona had seen a 54% decrease of homeless persons on the streets and had prevented over 11,800 persons from becoming homeless. In 2015, Pomona experienced a 45% increase in the number of homeless in our point in time count. The reasons for this increase are currently being studied.



As seen in the chart above, when targeted funding is increased, homelessness is decreased.