



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

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CONTACT:

Morgan Torell, Planner III
mtorell@co.slo.ca.us
805-781-5113

2011 HOMELESS COUNT SHOWS 3,774 ARE WITHOUT PERMANENT HOUSING IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – There are 3,774 homeless persons in San Luis Obispo County on any given night according to the 2011 Homeless Enumeration Report. The count was completed over a 24-hour time period on January 25th and 26th. Among the homeless population, 51% (1,927) are adults and 49% (1,847) are children under 18 years of age.

Patricia Gomez, Executive Director to the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) said, “The report gives a rich portrait of who in our community are without shelter, what propelled them into homelessness and how they survive. It is a valuable resource for planning future programs and affirms our collective resolve to end homelessness in our county.” The findings show that all areas of the County have people living without homes. The highest percentages were in the City of San Luis Obispo (35%) and the North County (36%) region. The South County has 26% of the homeless population. Sixty five percent of those surveyed reported that they have lived here more than five years, and 16% were veterans. Forty-eight percent of those surveyed slept outside or in a vehicle on the night of the count. Others slept in homeless shelters, transitional housing, motels, and other locations. When asked “What do you need to change your life?” most often heard was a home and a job.

The 2011 Homeless Enumeration Report is the result of a collaborative effort between Cal Poly, Community Action Partnership, the County of San Luis Obispo, and over one hundred volunteers and stakeholders. The HSOC continues to work toward implementing “Path to a Home: San Luis Obispo Countywide 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.” To help address the unmet needs of homeless in the South County area, San Luis Obispo County was recently awarded \$107,100 in new funding per year for both housing and services. This success as well as others will provide the much needed housing to reduce homelessness one person and one family at time.

The 2011 Homeless Enumeration Report can be viewed on the County Department of Planning and Building’s website as www.sloplanning.org. Click on the “Housing & Economic Development” link under Quicklinks to view the report.