



Los Angeles County
HOMELESS INITIATIVE
REAL HELP. LASTING CHANGE.

Achieving Functional Zero: An Interactive Tool

South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Homeless Services Taskforce Meeting
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LA County Homeless Initiative

Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative

Established in 2015, the **Homeless Initiative** is **Los Angeles County's** unprecedented effort to expand and enhance its safety net for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, governed by the **Board of Supervisors** and largely financed through **Measure H**.

In 2016, the Board approved a comprehensive plan to **combat** and **prevent homelessness**, comprised of 51 strategies.

In the long term, the County and its partners are seeking to **end homelessness** in the region.



What does it mean to “end homelessness”?

Functional Zero is that point when a community’s homeless services system is able to prevent homelessness whenever possible and ensure that when homelessness does occur, it is rare, brief and one-time.

Achieving and sustaining functional zero necessitates having adequate housing and support services for everyone who needs it.



Homeless Count is less than or equal to **System Capacity**



What impacts our ability to achieve functional zero?

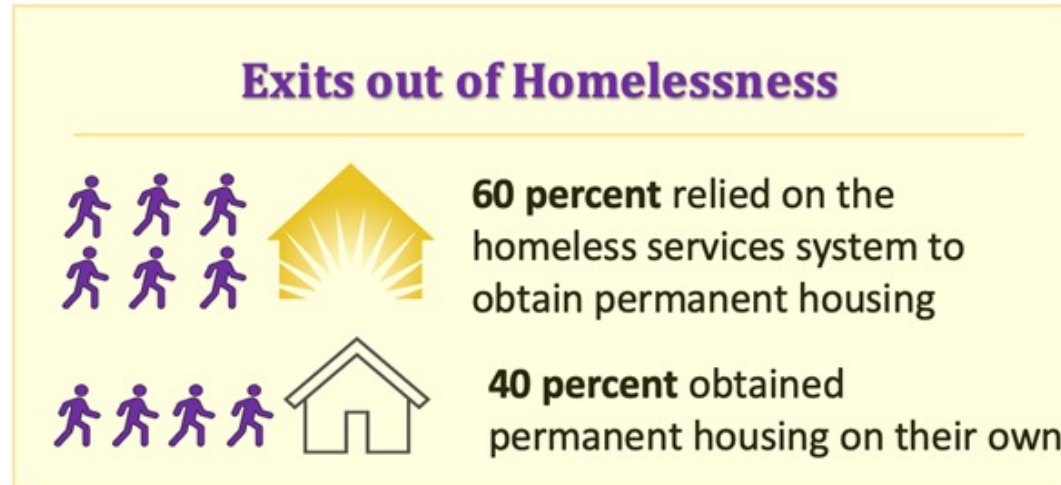
To chart the path to functional zero, we need resources that will:

- **House people who are currently experiencing homelessness (outflow)**
 - Includes housing and services – and the resources and policies needed to make them available and sustain them.
- **Prevent new people from becoming homeless (inflow)**
 - Includes eviction prevention, rent control, financial assistance, and other safety nets – and the resources and policies needed to sustain them.

→ *The Functional Zero Tool helps us to show the impact of increasing exits and decreasing inflow, as well as adjusting other variables, on our ability to end homelessness. We can use this tool to determine which/how much of the above resources are needed and what policies are necessary to make them available.*



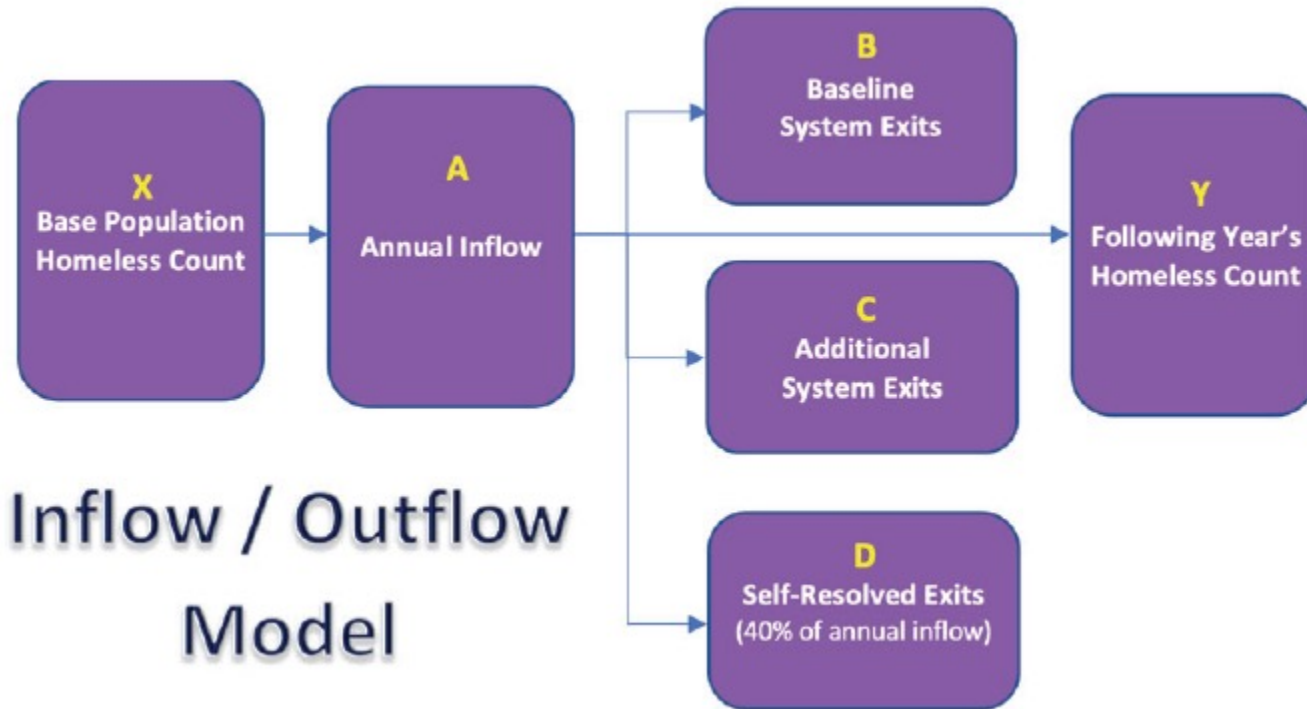
Homelessness Exits



- In LA County, an estimated 60% of the people who become homeless every year depend on the system to place them into permanent housing and to help them stay housed. Currently, the system has the capacity to help about 21,000 people exit homelessness annually, which equates to 60% of 35,000.
- This means any inflow exceeding 35,000 will trigger another increase in the Homeless Count unless the system can be expanded correspondingly to increase the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.



Inflow/Outflow Model



Inflow Reduction Calculator

Baseline Population

Los Angeles County's annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count.

Annual Inflow

The number of people who become newly homeless in a given year.

Baseline System Exits

The current capacity of the homeless service system to enable people to move from homelessness into permanent housing. In 2021, the system has the capacity to permanently house 21,000 people.

Self-Resolved

The number of people experiencing homelessness who are able to obtain permanent housing on their own, without assistance from the system. This typically equates to about 40% of the annual inflow.

Additional System Exits

The number of additional permanent housing placements that are possible beyond the baseline system exits in a given year. Along with reduced system inflow, these additional system exits help drive reductions in the Homeless Count.

Inflow Reduction Tool Example

Achieving Functional Zero in LA County



<https://homeless.lacounty.gov/functional-zero/>



Sample Projections of Timelines to Functional Zero

Inflow/Outflow Model Timeline Projections

Base Population: Current Homeless Count	Annual Inflow	Baseline System Exits	Additional System Exits	Self- Resolved Exits (40% of annual inflow)	Following Year's Homeless Count	Years to Reach Functional Zero
X	A	B	C	D	Y	Z
66,000	40,000	21,000	5,000	16,000	64,000	32
66,000	60,000	21,000	5,000	24,000	76,000	never
66,000	40,000	21,000	10,000	16,000	59,000	8.4
66,000	60,000	21,000	10,000	24,000	71,000	never
66,000	40,000	21,000	15,000	16,000	54,000	4.5
66,000	50,000	21,000	15,000	20,000	60,000	10
66,000	60,000	21,000	15,000	24,000	66,000	never



Uses of the Functional Zero Tool

This tool can help us to:

- Project the pathway to ending homelessness if we continue to have a similar level of resources
- Gauge the impact of policy changes, such as:
 - Increasing funding for rental subsidies
 - Increasing the supply of affordable housing
 - Increase homeless prevention resources
 - Establishing policies to prevent unjust evictions
- Strengthen our advocacy work

How can you use this tool? How can we make it more useful to you?

<https://homeless.lacounty.gov/functional-zero/>



QUESTIONS + COMMENTS

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