



Carolina Flores - Testimony on
Agenda Item on
Housing

BENITO JUAREZ ASSOCIATION.
3621 Dayton St.
Sacramento, CAI 95838
(916) 529-5299

12/9/2-24

To: Sacramento City Council

From: Benito Juarez Association

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the new Sacramento City Council, and special congratulations to the new council who is here for your first City of Sacramento public hearing.

Since 2016, the Benito Juarez Association has been a civic engagement organization for Spanish speaking farmworkers and their families. They are **California Resident Immigrants**. We are a grassroots organization well known for our civil advocacy work for labor rights, civil rights and educational equity in Sacramento schools. We are a 100% volunteer group and have not received any government funding. One of our most popular and neediest service that we provide is our **weekly food distribution for the past 3 years** and certainly the most neediest of resources.

I am here to challenge you to improve this city's housing programs for the homeless. I am presenting to you an summary analysis of San Jose in comparison to Sacramento's homeless housing programs. According to the homeless leadership, San Jose is regarded as one of the best homeless programs. Attached you will find a summary comparison of these two cities.

The 3 best cities in the nation and the key points in their success are **Houston, Texas, Salt Lake City and L.A.** We are submitting to you the specific points to their success and look forward to your utilizing the protocol and steps that these cities implemented. Houston, Texas housed 25,000 homeless and **reduced the veterans homeless to zero population**. Salt Lake City core philosophy is to prioritize immediate, permanent housing without preconditions, sobriety or employment. It is evidence based & has the program flexibly to meet the needs in Mental health, recovery treatment & job training. L.A. offers comprehensive services and has placed thousands of individuals & families into permanent homes annually.

Pls. Review these successful programs and respond within 30 days announce to the public your success and how you tailored to expanded the Sacramento's current housing plan. We will support your success in providing permanent housing for all those in need.

Sincerely,

Benito Juarez Board members:
Carolina E. Flores, MSW-Director of Communications
Alfonso Caro-president
Maria Rangel-Secretary
Ramona Landero-CEO & Founder

Carolina

Benito Juarez Association research data on successful nationwide homeless programs:

Here are three of the most impactful homeless programs in the U.S., along with the points that contribute to their effectiveness:

1. Built for Zero (Community Solutions)

Why It's Effective:

- **Data-Driven Approach:** Focuses on real-time data to understand the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Collaboration:** Brings together stakeholders, including local governments, nonprofits, and housing authorities.
- **Success:** Over 100 communities participate, and some have achieved "functional zero" homelessness for specific populations, such as veterans.
- **Scalability:** The program is designed to be replicable across diverse cities and counties.

2. Housing First (Pathways to Housing and National Alliance to End Homelessness)

Why It's Effective:

- **Core Philosophy:** Prioritizes immediate, permanent housing without preconditions (e.g., sobriety or employment).
- **Evidence-Based:** Proven to improve housing retention rates, reduce costs, and improve quality of life.
- **Flexibility:** Tailored to meet individual needs, offering services like mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and job training after housing is secured.

3. LA Family Housing (Los Angeles, CA)

Why It's Effective:

- **Comprehensive Services:** Combines housing solutions with supportive services, including employment training, mental health counseling, and substance abuse recovery.
- **Partnerships:** Works with local and federal programs to leverage resources efficiently.
- **Impact in Scale:** In a city with one of the nation's largest homeless populations, LA Family Housing has successfully placed thousands of individuals and families into permanent homes annually.
- **Innovative Models:** Pioneers in bridge housing to transition people from emergency shelters to permanent housing.

Key Points of Success:

1. **Focus on Permanent Solutions:** Programs like Housing First emphasize stability through permanent housing rather than temporary shelter.
2. **Tailored Support Services:** Holistic programs that address underlying issues like addiction, mental health, or unemployment are essential for long-term success.
3. **Collaborative and Scalable Models:** Built for Zero's community-driven, scalable approach ensures adaptability to diverse settings and populations.

These programs demonstrate that data-driven, individualized, and collaborative approaches can make significant strides in addressing homelessness.

examples of cities often recognized for effective homelessness initiatives, such as Houston, Salt Lake City, and Los Angeles, due to their approaches to affordable housing, outreach, and supportive services.

2-BENITO JUAREZ ASSOCIATION -Public Testimony Dec. 10th, 2024 City Council hearing.

To Sacramento City Council:

Benito Juarez Association board did some research data to compare City of Sacramento to City of San Jose. Benito Juarez Association challenges the new city council to make measurable outcomes and improvements in Sacramento housing and housing the homeless.

THIS IS THE CRITICAL INSIGHT THAT MUST BE INSTILLED BY THIS NEW CITY COUNCIL & THESE PLANS MUST BE FURTHER ESTABLISHED IN SACRAMENTO TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS.

Comparing recent spending on homelessness and housing programs in Sacramento and San Jose highlights **significant differences in funding use and accountability, according to recent audits.**

Sacramento has allocated considerable resources toward emergency shelters, affordable housing, and outreach services. **However, it still struggles with transparency and effectiveness in tracking outcomes.** In contrast, San Jose received millions in funding from state and federal sources like the Homekey and HHAP programs, yet a recent audit found the city lacking a clear reporting system. **Over \$50 million remains unspent,** with delays in utilizing funds for converting hotels into housing. Both Sacramento and San Jose have similar issues with monitoring program efficacy, with much of the funds going to outside providers without robust outcome evaluations

California State Auditor

California State Auditor

AD07 | HOOVER - Assemblyman Josh Hoover

Senator Dave Cortese

Overall, a substantial portion of funds in both cities has been directed toward service provision rather than direct housing placement, with audits recommending stronger accountability and reporting structures to improve the impact of homelessness interventions.

Benito Juarez Association Board of Directors

Carolina E. Flores, MSW, Director of Communications

Alfonso Caro-President

Maria Rangel Secretary

Ramona Landeros-CEO & FOUNDER

