



## Homelessness

Everyone in Oakland should have a home. It is a tragedy that Oakland's unhoused population increased by nearly 50% over the last two years. The city administrator concluded in November that conditions were not improving, and that was before the pandemic. There is no reason to believe the status quo will make conditions better now when they were unable to do so before.

We can make conditions better now. Oakland owns over 20 acres of vacant public land that is not serving a public purpose. This land can support encampments that are co-governed with qualified non-profit organizations to provide basic services including showers, toilets and internet service, as well as mental or substance abuse services, if necessary.

Studies show that sanctioned encampments successfully transition people to permanent housing. These encampments do not require substantial up-front capital investment and they are cost-effective over time.

Our unhoused population has skyrocketed because Oakland does not have enough affordable housing. The city's failure to provide sufficient affordable housing was years in the making and will take time to correct. We need to amend the zoning code to allow multi-family units, expedite permitting for housing that meets building code requirements, and streamline the cumbersome process for obtaining affordable housing grants and loans.

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