



Training Rooms 1 & 2  
14343 Civic Drive  
Victorville, CA  
[www.victorvilleca.gov](http://www.victorvilleca.gov)

## HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS TASK FORCE

**Regular Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023**

**4:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

The Homelessness Solutions Task Force (HSTF) holds its business meetings in public in accordance with the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, its established policies and procedures, and its adopted parliamentary authority. The HSTF strives to carry out its meetings in an atmosphere of professionalism with full participation by members of the body and the public. As such, the Presiding Officer is empowered to govern meetings to foster the efficient and fair administration of City business.

The HSTF welcomes and encourages public participation and invites the community to attend in person.

**Public Comments:** Members of the public may submit comments to [hstf@victorvilleca.gov](mailto:hstf@victorvilleca.gov). All email comments received by 2 p.m. the day of the meeting will be distributed to the HSTF members. Participants are invited to address the HSTF on agenda and non-agenda topics. Public comments will be no longer than three (3) minutes per community member. Should a speaker conclude their comments prior to the expiration of three (3) minutes, the speaker waives their right to speak for any remaining amount of time.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Recording Secretary at (760) 955-5135 no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the April 11, 2023, Homelessness Solutions Task Force Meeting.

**Recommendation:**

That the Homelessness Solutions Task Force approve the minutes of the Regular Homelessness Solutions Task Force Meeting held on April 11, 2023.

**Public Comment**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Written Communications**

2. Healthy and Sustainable Giving

**Recommendation:**

That the Homelessness Solutions Task Force (Task Force) discuss and take action to endorse and support Healthy and Sustainable Giving Guidelines that are intended to educate and provide best practices to the public

**Program Sharing/ Presentation**

3. Valley Star Behavioral Health, Inc. Adult Full Partnership Presentation – Clinical Supervisor, Tiffany Thomas Torres

**Round Table Updates by Homelessness Solutions Task Force Members**

**Adjournment**



Item Number: 1

**Homelessness Solutions Task Force Meeting of:**

**May 9, 2023**

**Subject:**

Minutes of the April 11 2023, Homelessness Solutions Task Force meeting.

**Recommendation:**

That the Homelessness Solutions Task Force approve the minutes of the Homelessness Solutions Task Force meeting held on April 11, 2023.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A - Minutes of April 11, 2023

# Attachment A



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## Homelessness Solutions Task Force

**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

**4:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

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**Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Homelessness Solutions Task Force was called to order by Vice Chair Webb at 4:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** Vice Chair Webb, Members Waldron, Benitez, Phillips, Brown, Overall, Roberts, Thomas, Cook

**Also Present:** Homelessness Solutions Manager Antionette Jackson, Homelessness Solutions Coordinator Lamas

**Absent:** Members Quigg, Reece, Lovato, Smith, Weatherspoon-Bell

### Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the Regular Homelessness Solutions Task Force meeting held on February 14, 2023, and the Cancelled Homelessness Solutions Task Force meeting on March 14, 2023.

Moved: Member Brown

Seconded: Member Roberts

Motion passed (9-0)

Ayes: Vice Chair Webb, Members Waldron, Benitez, Phillips, Brown, Overall, Roberts, Thomas, Cook

Absent: Members Quigg, Reece, Lovato, Smith, Weatherspoon-Bell

### Special Orders of the Day

Vice Chair Webb introduced the new task force members, Tanya Benitez, Phyllis Overall, Shelly Thomas and CJ Cook.

Member Smith arrived at 4:05 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Written Communications**

#### **3. Homelessness Solutions Task Force Bylaws**

##### **Recommendation:**

That the Homelessness Solutions Task Force discuss and take action to amend the existing Task Force Bylaws by approving Resolution No. HSTF-23-001.

Motion was made to approve staff recommendation.

Moved:               Member Brown  
Seconded:           Member Waldron

Motion passed (10-0)

Ayes: Vice Chair Webb, Members Waldron, Benitez, Phillips, Brown, Overall, Roberts, Thomas, Cook, Smith

Absent: Members Quigg, Reece, Lovato, Weatherspoon-Bell

### **Program Sharing/Presentations**

#### **4. Victor Valley College Services for Homeless and At-Risk Students – Amber Allen, Director of Student Services**

Amber Allen and Andrea Barraza gave a presentation.

Questions ensued.

### **Round Table Discussion**

Task force members and City staff shared items regarding homelessness.

### **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.



## Homelessness Solutions Task Force

### Written Communications

Meeting of: May 9, 2023

**Submitted By:**

Scott Webb, City Planner  
Antoinette Jackson, Homelessness Solutions Manager  
William Lamas, Homelessness Solutions Coordinator

**Subject:**

Healthy and Sustainable Giving

**Recommendation:**

That the Homelessness Solutions Task Force (Task Force) discuss and take action to endorse and support Healthy and Sustainable Giving Guidelines (Attachment A) that are intended to educate and provide best practices to the public and non-profit organizations.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Background:**

On November 5, 2019, City Council approved a [Homelessness Solutions Strategic Action Plan](#) that was designed to assist the City with the development and/or expansion of enhanced shelter operations, homeless outreach, preventions services, housing options and/or other areas that align with homelessness solutions. Through coordinated efforts, the City is positioned to activate category six (6), of the Homelessness Solutions Strategic Action Plan.

Healthy and Sustainable Giving Guidelines are intended to provide public awareness to the efforts of linking the homeless population with resources and service providers throughout the City. The City of Victorville's Homelessness Strategic Action Plan prioritizes the establishment of strategic partnerships with service providers to proactively house the unsheltered homeless population. It is imperative to establish best practices for partnering food service providers that give direct or indirect aid to the unsheltered population in Victorville. This is necessary to achieve the desired outcome of housing the unsheltered and reducing associated environmental impacts.

The City Council recently took action to implement requirements for food providers receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the City of



Victorville. Subrecipients of CDBG funds and their partnering feeding agencies that utilize the CDBG funding are now required to ensure their employees and/or volunteers adhere to the following operating standards when providing direct assistance to unsheltered homeless:

- Service providers shall coordinate mobile food distribution with the Victorville Homeless Engagement Outreach Division of the Code Compliance Department to ensure additional resources are provided to the unsheltered individuals.
- Service providers shall not distribute daily meals from a fixed location unless the food is served and consumed on the premises and all necessary land use, building permits and any applicable permits issued by the San Bernardino County Department of Environment Health have been obtained; and
- Service providers shall monitor areas where food has been distributed to collect and dispose of debris associated with the food distribution (e.g., bags, cartons, utensils, food waste).

Subrecipients that distribute food to feeding agencies that serve Victorville’s unsheltered population are required to list those agencies in their required CDBG reporting and reimbursement requests. Prior to distributing food to these feeding agencies, subrecipients shall obtain a signed acknowledgment from the feeding agencies to abide by the food distribution requirements listed above. Said acknowledgment(s) shall be provided to the City of Victorville with the CDBG reporting or reimbursement request.

**Discussion:**

The purpose of this broader initiative of developing giving guidelines is to reduce the unintended consequences of street charity, such as the exacerbation of continued homelessness and the dramatic increases in litter throughout the community and in the desert. It is natural to want to give to our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness; however, the nature of direct giving does not provide an opportunity for individuals to be linked to services capable of addressing the root causes of homelessness and decreasing potential safety issues for donors and recipients.

By supporting the Healthy and Sustainable Giving Guidelines (Attachment A), the Homelessness Solutions Task Force has the ability to use their voice to collaboratively influence more effective ways to support the mission of reducing homelessness in our community.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Healthy and Sustainable Giving Guidelines



# Attachment A

## Healthy and Sustainable Giving Guidelines

### Introduction

The purpose of these guidelines is to reduce the unintended consequences of street charity. It is an honorable endeavor to take part in charitable work, such as feeding individuals experiencing homelessness, and it takes an entire community to address the difficulties our homeless neighbors face daily. However, there are times where charitable acts of kindness may have adverse effects and become counterproductive to the initiatives taking place in the City and through our neighboring agencies. It's natural to want to give to our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness; however, street charity and/or giving money to panhandlers does not provide an opportunity for individuals to be linked to services capable of addressing the root causes of their need and creates potential safety issues for donors and recipients.

The establishment of principles and guidelines aim to achieve a more united and collaborative public effort in addressing the unsheltered population. The principles of this initiative are contained in the slogan acronym "i-GIVE" as described below.

### -GIVE Principles

- I**nformative: Linking individuals to services that will be effective in reversing the effects of homelessness.
- G**iving safely: Considering safety for you, those receiving your assistance, and the community at-large. We care about your safety when helping others.
- I**mpactful: Building relationships and helping individuals based on the need.
- V**iable: Giving all year long not just during the holidays. Working collaboratively with trusted service providers and community partners.
- E**nvironmentally Friendly: Consider large scale impacts to community, environment, and individuals and build processes to help alleviate unintended consequences.

## **Recommended Guidelines for Non-Profits**

All non-profit services providers giving directly and indirectly to unsheltered individuals within Victorville should establish guidelines to promote healthy and sustainable giving. This is necessary to achieve the desired outcome of housing the unsheltered and reducing associated environmental impacts. The following are some i-GIVE recommended practices for service providers:

1. Coordinate mobile food/resource distribution with organizations that are linking unsheltered individuals to additional services and/or provide linkage themselves to ensure individuals are not being diverted from services and are being connected to housing.
2. Monitor areas where food has been distributed to collect and dispose of debris associated with the food distribution (e.g., bags, cartons, utensils, food waste) to help reduce the unintended impact on the environment.
3. Avoid distributing daily meals from a fixed location unless the food is served and consumed on the premises and all necessary land use, building permits and any necessary permits issued by the San Bernardino County Department of Environment Health have been obtained.
4. Ensure that their giving does not have unintended consequences for neighboring businesses and the community (e.g., panhandling, loitering, littering, etc.).
5. Only give items to homeless individuals that can immediately consumed or be kept on his/her persons.
6. Participate in Homelessness Solutions Task Force meetings and/or any trainings regarding healthy and sustainable giving.

## **Recommended Guidelines for the Public**

The City of Victorville has so many generous families and individuals who want to give food and clothing to those experiencing homelessness. Although their hearts are in the right place, these types of single donations delivered to the streets are short-lived and can delay or divert people from seeking services that may end their homelessness. These types of donations also have unintended consequences for the surrounding area. However, there are best-practice, sustainable alternatives to giving to those in need. Here are some i-GIVE recommended practices for the public.

1. Say no to panhandling and say yes to helping agencies serving those in need.
2. Contact local non-profits who are providing services and donate.
3. Contact local non-profits who are providing services and volunteer.
4. See something, say something. Contact the City's Homeless Engagement Team to report a problem or assist those in need.
5. Advocate for services and participate in community planning events to help those in need.
6. Help to clean up our community and assist in ensuring our environment is not being negatively impacted.