

Neighborhood Engagement Training

Acting together across multiple sectors to
prevent and reduce homelessness

Our focus

Purpose of today

Help understand the face of homelessness

Explore the barriers to returning home

Learn how to help those who want help

Learn healthy interactions

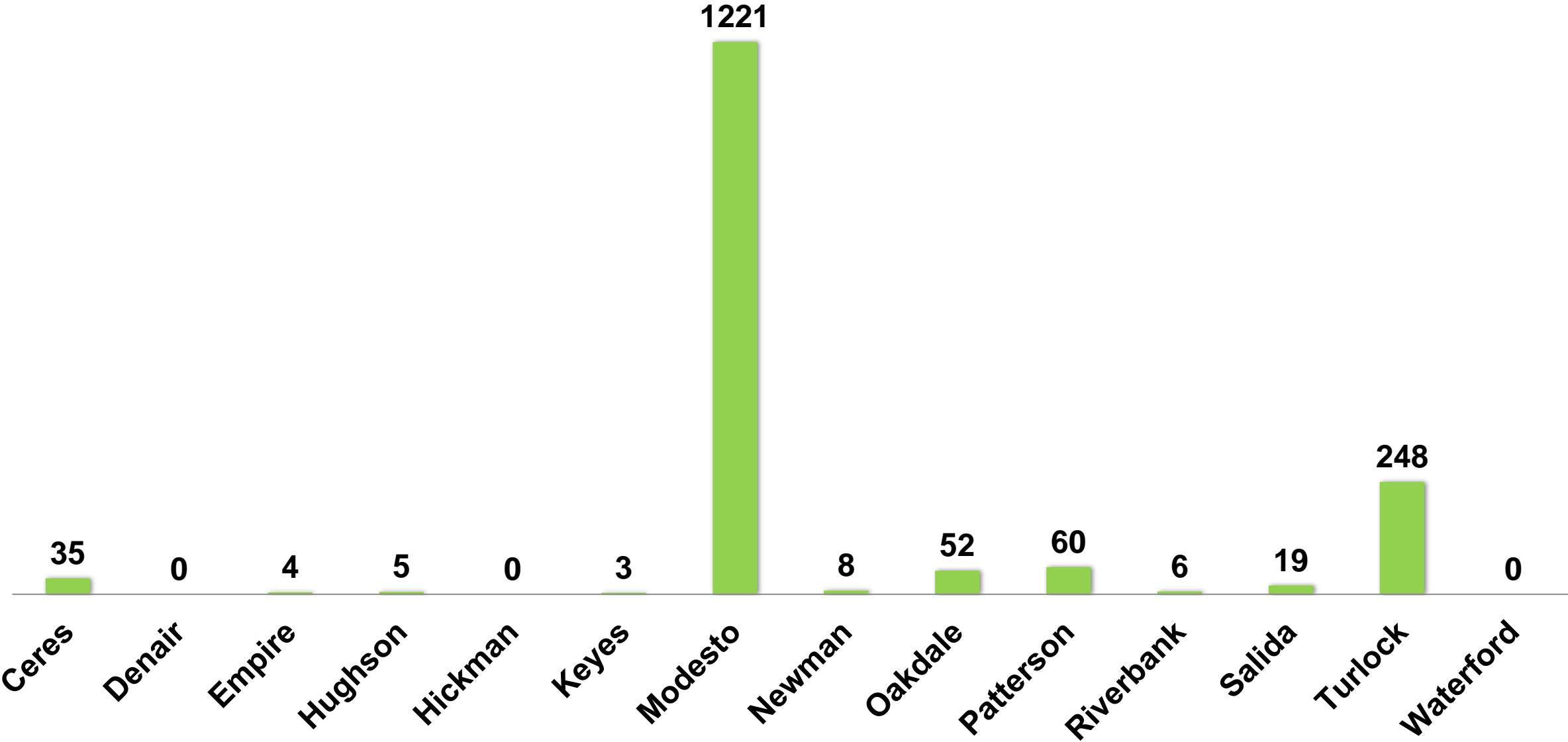


The face of homelessness

The face of homelessness

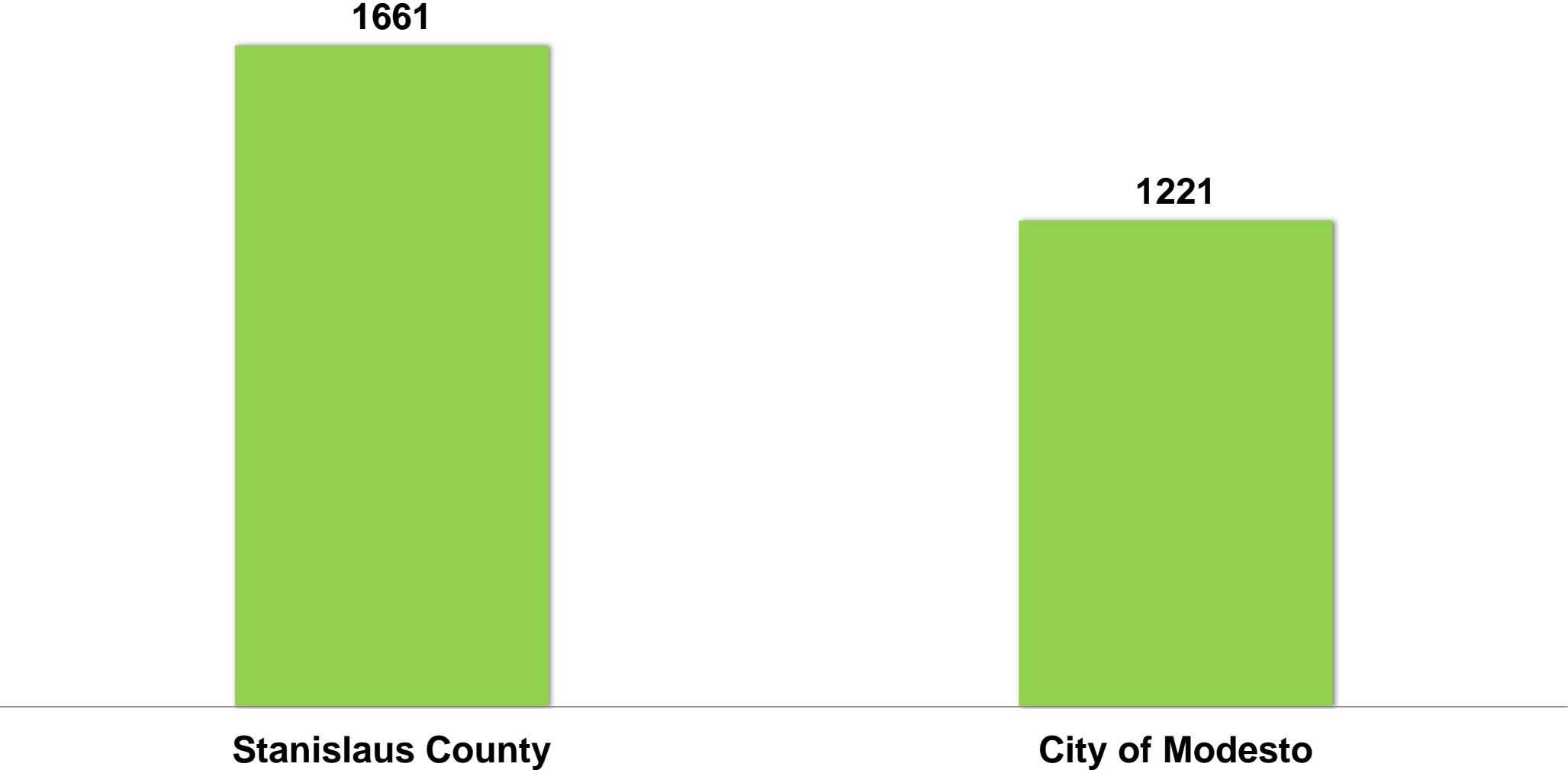
2017 Point-in-Time Count

Total 1661



The face of homelessness

2017 Point-in-Time Count



The face of homelessness

Primary causes of homelessness

Economic hardship/unemployment

Domestic violence

Mental health issues
unaddressed/unmaintained

Substance abuse

Foster kids who mature out of system
with no available support

Broken bridges/no support system



Barriers to returning home

Barriers to returning home

Contributing Causes

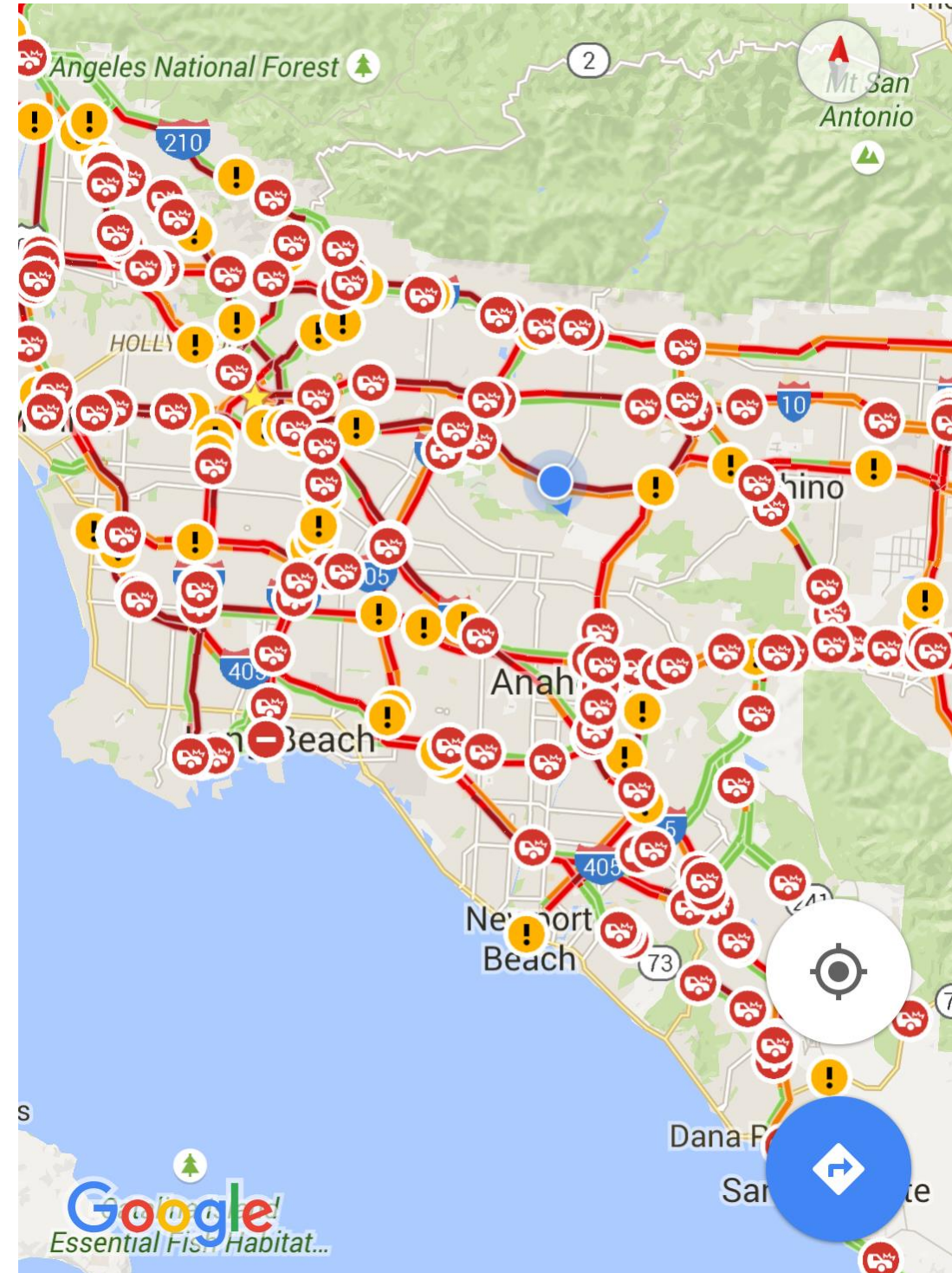
Lack of financial resources to break cycle

Severe mental illness

No support system

Ready to accept services

Lack of housing availability



Barriers to returning home

Housing availability: 2017 PIT Count • Housing Inventory

Total People Experiencing Homelessness in 2017

821 Shelter

840 Unsheltered

Permanent Housing

Capacity 462

Usually Full with a Waitlist



Barriers to returning home

Transportation

Food

Clothing

Medical needs

Mental health medications/therapy

Substance abuse treatment

Legal commitments/probation

Child custody

Citizenship

Birth Certificate

ID

Social Security Cards

Cash Aid

Employment

Benefits

Housing

Voucher Woes – HUD Data

Transitional Housing –
Where and how long

Getting involved - Take 1

Getting involved

Giving my time

Where does my giving do the most good?

How do I get involved somewhere?



Getting involved

Where does my giving do the most good?

Harm can come from giving money/food/resources without any accountability.

Do our due diligence in discerning whether our acts of compassion are actually contributing to the very issues that hold people in homelessness.



Getting involved

How do I get involved somewhere?

Get involved serving in the following categories:

- Mental health support
- Food service
- Housing/shelter
- Children care



Getting involved - Take 2: Healthy interactions

Healthy interactions

Best practices for engagement

Relationships are pivotal in moving someone forward to next steps.

All human beings desire relationships. We must first **identify with others** as having worth and needing to feel valued.

This is the **heart of compassion.**



Healthy interactions

Building trust and relationship

Having **helpful tools** is essential to be able to direct or walk with someone through the barriers that apply to them.

But without compassion and seeing ourselves as people with struggles of our own, we will not connect with people in a way that builds **trust and relationship**.



Healthy interactions

Setting an intention to connect

Make and maintain eye contact

Speak with kindness

Fully listen to their story

Treat them with respect, dignity, and compassion

Build a bridge



Healthy interactions

Engaging in conversation

Introduce yourself; ask for their name

Inquire to understand their primary need;
How are they doing right now?

Give them time to answer

Do your best to avoid:

- Making assumptions about their readiness for help
- Acting as the “expert” in knowing what they need
- Making it your responsibility to make them go anywhere



Healthy interactions

The invitation to you as a neighbor

Those who are in the parks are there for a reason.

Understand that you are one of many making up your neighborhood.

Your security comes first. If you reach out, don't do it alone.

There are resources that are available to help.

If something illegal is happening, call the Police.



Healthy interactions

Remember

Don't go alone.

Don't give money.

Don't be discouraged if they don't respond as you may have hoped.

If someone is obviously agitated, do not try to engage in conversation.



Healthy interactions

Resources to offer or connect people to

Homelessness

Engagement Team

209-543-5140

Modesto Gospel Mission

209-529-8259

Salvation Army

209-523-7577

Turning Point

Empowerment Center

209-544-1913



Final reflections

Final reflections

Some final reminders

There are multiple efforts addressing the issues of homelessness, unlike any other time in our city and county.

Be aware Modesto and Stanislaus County are not alone in this struggle.

How your neighborhood addresses these issues may be different than other neighborhoods.



Final reflections

Some final reminders

Everyone on this planet has the **potential to grow and progress.**

Our purpose as neighbors is not to fix people's problems, but rather to help support those struggling while promoting personal responsibility in progress.

