

CITY OF CHICO

Unhoused Strategic Plan

Proposed Five-Year Framework 2027 through 2031

Draft for City Council and Community Discussion

Prepared September 2026

Considered for adoption November 17, 2026

Purpose

This proposed plan provides a practical roadmap for reducing unsheltered homelessness, improving pathways to shelter and permanent housing, and keeping Chico's public spaces clean, safe, healthy, and accessible while doing so in a lawful manner. It is designed to thoughtfully guide policy, partnerships, budgeting, contracting, and annual performance reporting after the Warren v. City of Chico settlement expires on January 14, 2027.

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Executive Summary

Chico has established a substantial local response to homelessness, including the Genesis emergency shelter, the Torres Community Shelter, Jesus Center programs, Outreach and Engagement Team, the Alternative Camping Site required by the Warren settlement, extreme-weather response centers, affordable housing investment, and partnerships across the Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care. The next phase of local response must convert this collection of programs into a comprehensive, coordinated, measurable system with clear expectations and shared accountability.

The 2025 Point in Time count identified 1,065 people experiencing homelessness in Chico. Of those, 705 were sheltered and 360 were unsheltered. Chico represented approximately 77 percent of the countywide count. Although Point in Time data are often an undercount and cannot by themselves show annual system performance, these figures establish the scale of the local challenge and the need to improve exits from shelter and the street into stable housing.

This plan recommends continuing to accomplish the six short-term initiatives directed by City Council on May 19th, 2026, and working towards these six goals:

Goals

Goal	Direction	What changes
1	Lead a coordinated regional system	Define City leadership, formalize partner roles, and align resources with the Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care and other regional partners.
2	Improve outreach shelter and housing pathways	Preserve effective shelter capacity while increasing engagement, case planning, housing navigation, and successful exits.
3	Maintain safe, healthy and accessible public spaces	Use a consistent outreach-led encampment protocol, lawful enforcement, environmental protection, and sustained site restoration.
4	Prevent homelessness and increase housing stability	Target flexible prevention, landlord engagement, affordable housing, supportive housing, and rapid rehousing resources.
5	Coordinate behavioral health and high utilizer interventions	Build multidisciplinary responses for people with complex health, substance-use, justice, and repeated-service needs.
6	Measure results and strengthen public accountability	Create common data definitions, a public dashboard, contract performance standards, and annual plan updates.

Recommended first-year priorities are:

1. Adopt plan and annual work program to implement Unhoused Strategic Plan
2. Complete post-Warren legal and operational package of ordinance updates and develop and implement enforcement
3. Create and distribute educational material for unhoused regarding program changes, shelter and services
4. Transition and close Alternative Camping Site
5. Execute operating and performance audits and updates for all shelters receiving City, state or federal funding or partnership
6. Launch increased executive and interagency coordination
7. Enhance County relationships with mental health partners and service providers
8. Create reporting system on website/cell phone for housing and encampment needs

9. Adopt citywide encampment response protocol, name task force, and implement
10. Map priority sites and restoration status; monitor sites
11. Support and expand Roving Shelter Program with faith-based partners for safe parking
12. Launch landlord engagement and flexible housing development fund design
13. Create and implement Reunification Plan
14. Publish baseline dashboard online
15. Implement Extreme Weather Centers-review existing program and identify areas to improve
16. Create back-up program for when no beds exist (i.e., hotel and mobile home vouchers, HELP or other existing programs and/or creation of new programs)
17. Return with Year 2 Action Plan and budget

**Any new program, staffing level, or recurring expense remains subject to Council authorization in a publicly noticed meeting, dependent on available funding, procurement, and applicable law.

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1 Planning Purpose and Approach

Purpose

The City of Chico cannot end homelessness acting alone, but it has an essential role in coordinating local action, coordinating or funding key programs, managing public property, legally enforcing local laws, investing housing funds, and advocating for regional resources. This plan sets the City's direction for 2027 through 2031 and identifies where the City can lead, partner, fund, regulate, and monitor.

How the plan was developed

The framework adapts useful elements from the City of Vallejo Houseless Strategy, City of Sunnyvale Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness, and City of Concord Homeless Strategic Plan. It also reflects Chico's 2025 Point in Time data, current City programs, the May 19, 2026 City Council staff report regarding post-Warren options, City housing and homelessness webpages, and relevant federal, state, and regional policy. In addition, structured engagement involving people with lived experience, service providers, neighborhood and business representatives, faith communities, property owners, health and public-safety partners, and the broader public was utilized to ensure all stakeholders provided input into plan development. It's important to note the purpose and approach is not abandoning emergency shelter and services after the Warren V. Chico settlement agreement expires. Rather, a plan to transition to a more sustainable approach that balances compassion, individual accountability, responsible use of resources, and the community's expectation of clean and safe public spaces.

Scope and limitations

- This is a City strategic framework, not a substitute for the Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care plan or the responsibilities of Butte County agencies. The intent is to increase partnership with other agencies moving forward.
- Point in Time (PIT) results are a one-day estimate and a known undercount. Program and HMIS data should be used alongside PIT data.
- Proposed numeric targets should be confirmed after a Year 1 baseline review and may be adjusted if definitions, funding, law, or system capacity materially change.
- Nothing in this plan authorizes a specific expenditure, contract, land use approval, enforcement action, or change in law. Those actions require normal City Council approvals and compliance with open meeting laws.

2 Chico Conditions and Existing Response

2025 homelessness snapshot-2025 PIT Count

Indicator	2025 result	Interpretation
People counted in Chico	1,065	925 in 2023; a 15 percent increase, subject to methodology and coverage differences
Sheltered	705 66%	573 in emergency shelter and 132 in transitional housing
Unsheltered	360 34%	Down from 40 percent of Chico respondents in 2023
Primary unsheltered locations	118 encampment; 51 street or sidewalk; 42 vehicle, boat or RV; 35 parks; 27 under bridges	53 locations were recorded as unknown
Long local ties	76% of Chico respondents	Reported living in Butte County when they became homeless
Long term residency	56% of responding Chico residents	39 percent reported 20 or more years in Butte County and 17 percent reported 10 to 19 years
Housing barriers countywide	49% affordable housing; 42% rent or deposit; 33% job; 31% credit	Respondents could select multiple barriers
Disabling conditions in Chico	39% mental health impact; 35% physical disability impact	Self-reported conditions affecting work or independent living

Data from the table above reflects two simultaneous realities. Chico's shelter system has reduced the share of people sleeping unsheltered, yet the total number of people counted has increased and housing exits remain constrained by low incomes, housing costs, disability, behavioral-health needs, rental barriers, and a limited supply of deeply affordable units (households at or below HUD's 30% area median income (AMI) calculation). With 74% reporting a disability or mental health condition, this reality underscores the necessity of regional coordination with mental health and healthcare providers, which the City does not provide.

Housing market conditions

The 2025 Butte County PIT report identified a 2.2 percent countywide rental vacancy rate. It reported studio and one-bedroom Fair Market Rents ranging from \$1,153 to \$1,570 and noted that 31 percent of people counted had no income. The report also identified recent affordable housing additions in Chico, including Creekside Place and North Creek Crossings, with The Foundation scheduled to add units in 2025. Since 2020, Chico has seen the completion of 12 affordable housing developments totaling 1,117 units, supported by Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Disaster Recovery and CDBG-DR funding made available following the Camp Fire. These units serve households at varying Area Median Income (AMI) levels. Another four projects are under construction and will add 276 units over the next two years.

These additions are important, but they do not eliminate the need for extremely low-income, permanent supportive, and landlord-supported housing placements.

Current Chico response assets

Asset	Current role	Strategic direction
Catalyst Domestic Violence Services and Emergency Shelter	Emergency shelter including DV services.	Haven and Cottage housing and rapid re-housing and Housing first programs. Insert number of beds
Genesis emergency shelter	City-created pallet shelter operated with contracted services. Budget allocated PLHA funding committed: \$562,375 since 2023.	Continue post-settlement with updated rules, strong case management, length-of-stay review, and outcome-based contracting consistent with applicable Housing First requirements. 354 beds.
Torres Community Shelter	Community emergency shelter. PLHA funding committed: \$1.5 million since 2024.	Maintain referral coordination and real-time understanding of appropriate bed availability. Bed capacity is 188.
Jesus Center programs	Shelter and specialized capacity, including family and senior resources.	Coordinate referrals, diversion, benefits, housing navigation, and service transitions. 224 beds.
Outreach and Engagement	City process for contacting and assessing unsheltered residents, includes weekly internal staff meetings to respond to priorities for clean-up including complaints, environmental sensitivity, public safety of housed and unhoused.	Retain as the front door for field response and connect activity to shared regional case conferencing and performance data.
Alternative Camping Site	Settlement-required tent camping site at Eaton and Cohasset Roads.	Plan for orderly closure after settlement expiration, individual transition efforts, property management, and site restoration. 24 tent capacity.
Everhart Village	20 emergency shelter beds for people experiencing chronic homelessness and receiving Butte County Behavioral Health services.	Use as a model for cross-system partnership and targeted non-congregate capacity.
Extreme-weather response	City and County warming and cooling center activation framework.	Review thresholds, operator capacity, accessibility, transportation, communications, budget and after-action data annually. Insert numbers served 2025/26
Affordable housing programs	City housing funds, land-use tools, and project partnerships.	Prioritize units and subsidies that can serve extremely low-income and formerly homeless households. Since 2020, 1,117 affordable housing units have been completed with another 276 under construction.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

Warren settlement transition

The Warren v. City of Chico lawsuit was filed in April 2021, challenging the City's enforcement of anti-camping ordinances against individuals experiencing homelessness. Following extensive litigation and court-supervised negotiations, the City entered into a five-year settlement agreement effective January 14, 2022. The Agreement required the City to establish additional sheltering options, resulting in the creation of the Genesis Emergency Shelter and Alternate Camping Site, and implement specific outreach, notification, and shelter assessment procedures resulting in a 17-day period before enforcing anti-camping ordinances.

The Warren v. City of Chico settlement is scheduled to expire on January 14, 2027. The City's May 19, 2026 City Council agenda report recommended closing the Alternative Camping Site, continuing Genesis with updated operating rules, pursuing grant funding, reviewing and amending relevant municipal code provisions, using a phased Outreach and Engagement model for enforcement, and forming a High Utilizer and Service Resistant Team. This plan incorporates these concepts as proposed strategies while preserving the need for Council action, legal review, and implementation planning.

Governing requirements

- City of Grants Pass v. Johnson. The United States Supreme Court held in 2024 that generally applicable public-camping penalties do not violate the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution solely because a person is involuntarily homeless. The decision does not eliminate other constitutional, statutory, disability, due-process, property, or state-law requirements.
- California Executive Order N 1 24. The order directs state agencies to address encampments on state property and encourages local governments to use available resources while providing advance notice and support services.
- Housing First. State-funded programs may require Housing First consistency. Program rules and performance management should be designed with funding conditions and legal advice in mind.
- Property and notice procedures. Chico Municipal Code and applicable case law govern notice, storage, removal of personal property, accessibility, and enforcement. The City Attorney should review protocols annually and before material policy changes.
- Civil rights and fair housing. All activities will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, fair housing and nondiscrimination laws, procedural due process, and reasonable-accommodation duties.

Operational principle: lawful enforcement and meaningful offers of assistance are complementary tools. The City should document outreach and available options, apply rules consistently, protect personal property and due-process rights, and distinguish homelessness from unlawful conduct.

4 Vision Principles and Outcomes

Proposed vision

Chico will maintain clean, safe, and accessible public spaces while working with regional partners to ensure that people experiencing homelessness can move quickly from crisis to appropriate shelter, services, and stable housing.

Guiding principles

- **Shared responsibility.** The Federal government, State, City, County, Continuum of Care, service providers, health systems, housing partners, businesses, neighborhoods, and people with lived experience each have distinct roles and responsibilities.
- **Housing-focused response.** Outreach and shelter options should be organized around safe, appropriate, and sustainable exits rather than indefinite program stays. Multi-level housing opportunities should be offered to provide for individualized needs rather than a one size fits all approach.
- **Compassion with accountability.** People should receive respectful engagement and clear choices; public-space rules and program expectations should be understandable, lawful, and consistently applied.
- **Public spaces should be maintained to the public's expectation of clean, safe, and accessible.**
- **Right resource for the need.** Match prevention, shelter, housing, behavioral health, recovery, medical, and justice interventions to the person rather than relying on a single program.
- **Fiscal sustainability.** Use time-limited funds for time-limited purposes, identify operating obligations before launch, and avoid expanding fixed costs without a durable funding plan. Utilize partnership and grant funding as often as possible to provide sustainable, less-impactful funding.
- **Data and transparency.** Measure outcomes, costs, equity, service quality, and public-space impacts; report what is working and adjust what is not.

Five year proposed outcomes

Outcome	Proposed direction	Measure
Reduce unsheltered homelessness	Goal of at least 25 percent reduction below the 2025 Chico PIT baseline of 360 by the 2031 PIT, subject to comparable methodology and Year 1 confirmation.	Yearly reporting from shelters; PIT Count every two years conducted by COC.
Improve housing exits	Achieve a progressively higher share of shelter and outreach exits to permanent housing, with Year 1 baselines and program-specific targets in all contracts.	Yearly reporting from shelters
Reduce returns to homelessness	Track 6- and 12-month returns to homelessness for people exiting participating programs and improve annually.	Yearly reporting from shelters
Shorten time in crisis	Reduce median time from first documented engagement to shelter and from shelter entry to permanent housing.	Coordinate with COC report out yearly
Sustain public-space restoration	Monitor and track whether priority sites remain clear and usable 7, 30, and 90 days after resolution.	City staff monitoring and reporting by site and potentially GIS mapping.
Reduce high-utilizer system impact	For a defined cohort, reduce repeat police, fire, emergency department, cleanup, and crisis contacts while increasing treatment and housing engagement.	Track calls for service from PD/FD that require unhoused response
Increase prevention effectiveness	Track households assisted, housing retained at 6 and 12 months, and average cost per successful prevention.	Funding designated to homeless prevention/services from CBBG, HOME or NSP funding.

Outcome	Proposed direction	Measure
Improve public confidence	Publish accessible quarterly dashboards and an annual progress report with spending, activity, outcomes, lessons, and next-year actions.	City staff to update website dashboard quarterly with these metrics and distribute via communication platforms

5 Goals and Strategies

Goal 1 Lead a coordinated regional system

Homelessness crosses jurisdictional and service-system boundaries. Chico should define what it owns, what it funds, and what it expects from regional partners.

No	Strategy
1.1	Create an executive City of Chico Homeless Response Coordinating Team led by the City Manager's Office with Housing, Police, Public Works, Fire, City Attorney, Finance, and communications participation. (Rename the Enforcement Team- CARE: Chico Assistance and Responsible Unhoused Engagement). Draft Protocol for the task force is attached in Exhibit E (this policy is adopted and adapted by Administrative Policies and Procedures at the City Manager Direction).
1.2	Establish a recurring interagency operations forum with Butte County departments, the Butte County facilitated Continuum of Care and HIMS lead agency, shelter and housing providers, behavioral-health partners, hospitals, schools and higher education, and other key systems. (Establish Quarterly meetings and data sharing)
1.3	Adopt written roles for field response, shelter referral, benefits, behavioral health, housing navigation, encampment resolution, and public communication.
1.4	Use a common grant calendar and regional advocacy agenda so Chico receives resources proportionate to local need and demonstrates readiness for competitive funding. Maintain partnerships with quarterly meetings to ensure support on all funding opportunities.
1.5	Include people with lived experience and affected community stakeholders in planning and evaluation of this strategy as well as plan outreach.

Goal 2 Improve outreach for shelter and housing pathways

Chico should preserve a strong emergency response while making every program more effective at moving people toward stable housing.

No	Strategy
2.1	Continue Genesis after settlement expiration, subject to Council direction, with revised operating standards, defined length-of-stay review, assigned case management, safety expectations, neighborhood-impact controls, and outcome-based contract requirements.
2.2	Coordinate Genesis, Torres, Jesus Center, Everhart Village, Catalyst, Esplanade House, and other providers through a transparent referral and bed-matching process based on eligibility, accessibility, household composition, pets, safety, and service needs. Coordinate funding opportunities and monthly outcome reports with each provider.
2.3	Work with operators to adopt a housing-focused service plan within 14 days of program entry and conduct multidisciplinary case review for extended stays or repeated unsuccessful exits. Coordinate with CalAIM on existing process.

No	Strategy
2.4	Create flexible problem-solving resources for identification, transportation, application costs, deposits, arrears, reunification when safe and voluntary, and other documented barriers to housing.
2.5	Evaluate targeted gaps, including couples, people with mobility or medical needs, transition-age youth, families, older adults, people living in vehicles, and persons subject to registration or other placement restrictions. Plan for shelter in the gap areas.
2.6	Require warm handoffs and discharge planning from hospitals, treatment facilities, foster care, and correctional settings to reduce discharges to the street. Support development of a street medicine team.
2.7	Conduct pointed outreach prior to January 15, 2027 to inform affected unhoused community of changes, options and services moving forward Post Warren. Utilize lived experience partners to assist with outreach.

Goal 3 Maintain safe healthy and accessible public spaces

Public spaces must be available for their intended use. Encampment response should be coordinated, thoughtful, predictable, legally reviewed, and paired with engagement and sustained restoration.

No	Strategy
3.1	Adopt a citywide encampment response protocol covering prioritization, outreach, notice, accessibility, personal property, sanitation, fire and environmental risk, enforcement, restoration, and documentation with the City of Chico CARE Team.
3.2	Prioritize locations using transparent risk factors such as fire danger, waterways, schools, critical infrastructure, ADA access, traffic safety, repeated crime or victimization, environmental harm, and intensity of public use.
3.3	Use a phased geographic approach beginning with high-use civic, commercial, park, and transportation areas and expanding based on risk, capacity, and demonstrated ability to sustain restoration. Start downtown and in high risk areas then work outward, rotating through each district and utilizing GIS hotspot mapping for tracking. Encampments located within designated high and very high wildfire danger areas, or those presenting an imminent threat to life or property, shall be prioritized regardless of the established geographic rotation schedule.
3.4	Close the Alternative Camping Site after settlement expiration through an individual transition plan, reasonable notice, intensive case management, environmental review as applicable, property handling, security, and site restoration
3.5	Create post-resolution maintenance plans and measure site conditions at regular increments to avoid repeated cycles of cleanup without sustained results.
3.6	Maintain and augment extreme-weather operations and review activation criteria, locations, operator agreements, transportation, accessibility, communications, and utilization after each season.
3.7	Update Ordinances to reflect legal requirements and implement enforcement legally.

Goal 4 Prevent homelessness and increase housing stability

Reducing inflow into homelessness and increasing permanent housing exits are necessary to prevent the shelter and outreach systems from becoming permanent holding systems.

No	Strategy
4.1	Create outreach materials for affected unhoused community to communicate existing services including mental health support, medical, housing navigation, financial assistance, legal referrals, and connection to other local, regional, state, and federal benefits. Butte 211 is currently the primary access point for the Coordinated Entry System for affordable

No	Strategy
	housing and homeless referrals, and shelters also conduct intakes. Coordination for increased information sharing is needed.
4.2	Establish landlord engagement and housing navigation functions that recruit units, mitigate risk, support tenants and owners, encourage housing retention and shorten lease-up time. Utilize grants and other creative funding sources to support.
4.3	Prioritize City housing funds and development partnerships for extremely low-income housing, permanent supportive housing, and units accessible to people leaving homelessness, consistent with each funding source.
4.4	Use project-based vouchers, master leasing, shared housing, rapid rehousing, and shallow subsidies where partners and funding make them feasible when available.
4.5	Align affordable-housing pipeline tracking with homeless-system demand, including unit type, accessibility, eligibility, service funding, and expected lease-up dates. Look at feasibility of long-term supportive housing opportunities at priority sites.
4.6	Provide Reunification Assistance for those who need assistance to return home to family or friends for housing and other support. Partner with existing programs such as HELP, and augment to provide additional assistance.

Goal 5 Coordinate behavioral health and high utilizer interventions

A smaller group of people with complex and recurring needs can account for a disproportionate share of emergency and public-space impacts. A focused, lawful, multidisciplinary response can improve both individual and community outcomes.

No	Strategy
5.1	Work with existing service providers and shelters to re-evaluate rules of participation and pare down programming as unhoused community becomes housed. Continue support of tenancy and housing retention.
5.2	Partner with Butte County Behavioral Health, health care providers, emergency medical services, law enforcement, courts, Care Court, and other housing providers to increase access to treatment, recovery, benefits, and supportive housing.
5.3	Measure reductions in repeat crisis contacts and increases in housing, treatment engagement, and continuity of care for the defined cohort.

Goal 6 Measure results and strengthen public accountability

The City should identify whether its investments reduce homelessness and community impact. Activity counts are useful but insufficient without outcome, quality, equity, and cost measures.

No	Strategy
6.1	Create a baseline inventory of City spending, contracts, staffing, shelter capacity, outreach activity, encampment response, and housing outcomes. Monitor and match funding sources to need.
6.2	Require participating contractors to use HMIS when permitted and applicable, maintain data quality, report common performance measures, and participate in coordinated entry and case conferencing.
6.3	Publish a concise quarterly dashboard and a detailed annual report that includes outcomes, spending, challenges, opportunities and recommended adjustments.

No	Strategy
6.4	Use competitive procurement, clear scopes, performance-based renewals, invoice verification, and corrective-action requirements for contracted services.
6.5	Return to Council annually with the next 12-month action plan, budget, target adjustments, and any policy decisions requiring authorization.

6 Implementation Framework

Implementation should proceed in phases so the City can manage the post-settlement transition, protect service continuity, establish reliable baselines, and avoid committing to programs without sustainable operating resources.

Phase	Timing	Primary work
Transition	Now through January 15, 2027	Council direction; legal and operational review; Alternative Site transition; Genesis contract and rule updates; first-year budget; ordinance updates, community outreach, baseline data inventory, grant identification.
Build	January 15, 2027 through January 2028	Launch governance, common measures, landlord engagement, standardized encampment protocol, and public dashboard.
Scale	Fiscal Years 2028 through 2030	Expand strategies with demonstrated outcomes and secured funding; align housing pipeline and supportive services; refine geographic public-space response.
Sustain	Fiscal Year 2031	Evaluate five-year results, recurring costs, system gaps, and the next strategic plan.

Roles and responsibility

Entity	Primary responsibility
City Council	Set policy; authorize budgets, contracts, ordinances, and major program changes; review annual results.
City Manager's Office	Executive ownership; interdepartmental coordination; partner accountability; Council reporting; public communication.
Community Development-Housing Division	Housing funding and pipeline; prevention and housing navigation partnerships; CoC alignment; data and contract oversight.
Police Department	Site assessment, property/evidence handling, Public safety; lawful enforcement; victimization and crime response; data contribution.
Public Works	Cleaning/clearing refuse from enforced/cleared public spaces, environmental, sanitation, property handling in some instances, restoration, infrastructure protection, and maintenance.
Fire Department	Fire and life-safety risk, emergency medical coordination, extreme-weather support, wildfire risk assessment, hazard prioritization, and mitigation recommendations.
Community Development-Code Enforcement	Code violation and tracking; program and ordinance creation and implementation.

Entity	Primary responsibility
City Attorney	Legal review of policies, notices, contracts, accommodations, enforcement, data sharing, and changing law. Draft new ordinances, and coordinate on enforcement options.
Butte County and CoC	Behavioral health, social services, coordinated entry, HMIS, regional funding, health services, and system planning.
Contracted and nonprofit providers	Direct services, shelter operations, housing placement, data quality, and contracted outcomes.
Community partners and lived experience advisors	Program design feedback, volunteer and housing partnerships, implementation review, and public accountability.

7 Performance Measurement and Reporting

Balanced performance framework

Domain	Measures
System impact	Total and unsheltered PIT count; inflow; active homelessness; length of time homeless; returns to homelessness.
Housing outcomes	Permanent housing placements; lease-up time; retention at 6 and 12 months; exits by destination.
Shelter performance	Utilization; referral acceptance; entries; median length of stay; permanent housing exit rate; returns; cost per exit.
Outreach performance	People engaged; repeat contacts; documents and benefits obtained; shelter and housing connections; declined offers.
Public-space performance	Priority sites resolved; time to resolution; cost; waste removed; 7-, 30-, and 90-day condition; complaints and hazards.
Wildfire Safety-Encampment Related Fires	Total incidents and incidents within designated high/very high wildfire danger areas. Number high risk sites identified, cleared, and remaining. Number of identified high-risk sites assessed and mitigated during watches and warnings.
Fiscal performance	City spending by funding source and program; leveraged funds; unit cost; budget variance; expiring funds and unfunded obligations.

Proposed reporting cadence

- Weekly check-in calls to implement programs and protocol with full task force team. Conduct internal operations review for unresolved cases, shelter flow, public-space priorities, risks, and contract performance.
- Quarterly public dashboard using stable definitions and plain-language notes on limitations.
- Annual Council report with prior-year performance, spending, community feedback, legal and funding changes, and a proposed next-year action plan.
- Five-year evaluation before renewal or replacement of the strategy.

Target setting

The City should confirm baselines during the first six months of implementation. The proposed 25 percent reduction in unsheltered PIT homelessness provides a five-year goal.

8 Funding Strategy and Fiscal Guardrails

Known fiscal context

The May 19, 2026 City agenda report states that Genesis was budgeted at approximately \$4.73 million in Fiscal Year 2024–25 and incurred approximately \$3.49 million in actual costs. It also identifies Encampment Resolution Funding Round 3, Permanent Local Housing Allocation funds, and Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention funds supporting City or partner activities. These figures provide context, not a full five-year budget.

Funding priorities

- Protect core functions that demonstrate results: outreach, emergency shelter, housing navigation, case management, and safe public-space operations.
- Pursue federal, state, County, Continuum of Care, health, philanthropic, and private resources and coordinate applications regionally.
- Match one-time funds with one-time capital, transition, pilot, or time-limited activities unless a recurring replacement source is identified.
- Require an operating plan, service plan, performance measures, and exit strategy before acquiring or developing any new site.
- Calculate full lifecycle cost, including staffing, security, maintenance, utilities, transportation, insurance, data, restoration, and closeout.
- Use annual budget hearings to show all City homelessness spending in one cross-departmental schedule.
- Focus on permanent solutions rather than temporary projects.

9 Governance Community Engagement and Plan Review

Governance

The City Manager's Office (CMO) will own implementation and convene a monthly executive team meeting. The Unhoused Strategic Plan will be implemented by the CMO and task force team consisting of interdepartmental lead staff. Each strategy action should have one accountable lead, identified supporting partners, a budget status, a due date, and a performance measure.

Community engagement

Before final adoption, engagement included one community outreach meeting, focused provider and partner sessions, direct engagement with people currently and formerly experiencing homelessness, and targeted conversations with businesses and neighborhoods affected by encampments or shelter operations. A summary of what was heard, what changed, and which suggestions require further analysis is attached as Appendix D.

Plan review and change control

Staff will bring the plan to Council annually to report on successes and areas to improve and seek direction from City Council and the community. Material changes to the vision, goals, five-year targets, major program portfolio, or fiscal commitments should require Council approval. Operational refinements may be made administrative when consistent with adopted policy, budget authority, contracts, and law.

Partners

Many partners were consulted during the drafting of the plan including but not limited to: Jesus Center, Genesis, Butte County Behavioral Health, Faith based partners, NorCal Shelter Advocates, CC4J, Chamber of Commerce, Healthcare partners, Enloe, Chico State, True North Housing Alliance, Legal Services of Northern CA, CoC members providing services for Chico residents, Chico community members citywide to name a few.

Appendix A: First Year Action Plan

ID	Action	Lead	Timing	Funding status	Deliverable
A1	Adopt plan and annual work program to implement Unhoused Strategic Plan	CMO and all departments	Q1	Staff time	Adoption and named action owners and funding include all stakeholders and roles
A2	Complete post-Warren legal and operational package of ordinance updates	CMO and City Attorney, all City depts	Q1	Existing plus TBD	Council decisions; updated protocols. Camping, safe parking, encampment proximity, and other related nuisance and risks including wildfire risk ordinance updates.
A3	Create and distribute educational material for the unhoused on program changes, shelter and services	CMO, PIO, partners, lived experience partners	Before Q1-pre plan implementation	Existing plus TBD	Handouts and online materials
A4	Transition and close Alternative Camping Site	CMO, Public Works, PD, Community Partners	Q1-Q2	TBD	All occupants offered individualized transition; site restored
A5	Execute operating and performance audits and updates for all shelters receiving city, state, federal funding or partnerships	CMO and Housing	Q1	Existing budget and grants	Contract measures; housing plans; monthly review; audits and adjustments to improve
A6	Launch executive and interagency coordination	CMO	Q1	Staff time	Monthly meetings; issue and decision log
A7	Enhance County relationships with Mental Health partners and service providers	Housing, CMO, and County partners	Q1-Q2	Staff time and partner resources	Regional coordination on grants opportunities and services
A8	Create reporting system on website/cell phone for housing and encampment needs	CMO, PW, CODE, PD, FD	Q1	Staff time and software programming funding	Website and cell reporting tool
A9	Adopt citywide encampment response protocol, name task force and implement	Public Works, City Attorney, CODE, CMO, PD, FD, community partners	Q1	Staff time and TBD funding	Approved protocol and staff training. Protocol to include: Required Staffing, resources, projects per month; rotation beginning with core and rotating through each district; prioritization metrics, maintenance and monitoring.
A10	Map priority sites and restoration status	Public Works, CODE, PD, FD	Q1-Q2	Existing systems plus TBD	GIS inventory; 7-, 30-, 90-day checks, include wildfire risk areas
A11	Complete homelessness spending inventory and track yearly	Finance and Housing	Q2	Staff time	Cross-departmental fiscal schedule
A12	Create Roving Safe Car Parking Shelter Program with Faith based partners	CMO and partners		Faith based partners	Rotating schedule for overnight car parking and services at faith based locations
A13	Launch landlord engagement and flexible housing development fund design	Housing; community partners and funders	Q2-Q3	TBD and utilize existing and future grants	Program design; unit recruitment and lease-up targets; identify new permanent housing projects

ID	Action	Lead	Timing	Funding status	Deliverable
A14	Create and Implement Reunification Plan	CMO and partners	Q1	Staff time; bus and plane ticket funding (Chamber and partner funds)	Number of people reunified with family or friends
A15	Publish baseline dashboard online	CMO, PWHousing and CODE	Q3	Staff time plus TBD	Public quarterly dashboard updates
A16	Implement Extreme Weather Centers - review existing program and identify areas to improve	CMO, Housing, community partners	Q2	Partner time and funding	Number people served
A17	Create Back up program for when no beds exist-hotel and mobile home vouchers	CMO, Housing	Q1	Staffing and partner funding; grants	Hotel and mobile home voucher program, other bed options
A18	Return with Year 2 action plan and budget	CMO, all depts	Q4	Staff time	Annual report and Council action

Q1 through Q4 refer to the first four quarters after plan adoption. “TBD” means that the action requires cost development and separate budget or contract authorization before expenditure.

Appendix B: Performance Measure Definitions

Measure	Working definition
Active homelessness	People known to be experiencing homelessness during the reporting period, using HMIS and approved supplemental data without double counting where possible.
Engagement	A meaningful interaction in which needs, options, or next steps are discussed; a visual observation alone is not an engagement.
Shelter placement	Entry into an emergency shelter, interim housing, or other eligible temporary placement, verified by the receiving program.
Permanent housing exit	Exit to a permanent housing destination under HUD-aligned definitions.
Return to homelessness	A new homeless-system entry within 6 or 12 months after a permanent housing exit.
Median length of stay	Middle number of days between program entry and exit for people exiting during the period.
Site resolution	Completion of noticed cleanup, property handling, hazard mitigation, and restoration steps for a defined location.
Sustained restoration	Defined site remains available for intended public use and without a re-established encampment at consistent timelines.
High utilizer	A person meeting objective, Council- or administratively approved thresholds for repeated cross-system contacts during a defined period.
Cost per successful outcome	Eligible program cost divided by verified outcome count; reported with scope and exclusions to avoid misleading comparisons.

Appendix C: Sources and Reference Plans

Reference plans supplied by the City Manager

- City of Vallejo. Vallejo Houseless Strategy 2024–2025 and Administrative Rule 7.10.
- City of Sunnyvale. Draft 2026–2030 Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness.
- City of Concord. Homeless Strategic Plan. March 2024.

Chico and regional sources

- [Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care 2025 Point in Time Executive Summary](#)
- [City of Chico May 19 2026 agenda report on post-Warren options](#)
- [City of Chico Housing and Homelessness pages](#)
- [City of Chico Shelter Bed Availability](#)
- [City of Chico Alternative Camping Site](#)
- [City of Chico Outreach and Engagement Process](#)
- [City of Chico Warming and Cooling Center](#)
- [United States Supreme Court City of Grants Pass v Johnson opinion](#)
- [California Executive Order N 1 24](#)
- City of San Jose
- City of Marina City of Marina, Homeless Encampment Procedures (2024)

City of San Bernadino Citywide Policy on Encampment Cleanups

Appendix D: Community Engagement Summary of Outreach Activities

TBD

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Appendix E: DRAFT Encampment Response, Cleanup & Abatement Protocol

CITY OF CHICO

Encampment Response, Cleanup & Abatement Protocol

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY | Effective January 15, 2027 (proposed) | For interdepartmental and City Attorney review

Status: Proposed policy only; not adopted. Intended to become effective January 15, 2027, following the scheduled January 14, 2027 expiration of the Warren v. City of Chico settlement. Implementation is contingent on City Attorney confirmation that the settlement has expired without extension or superseding court order, and on final approval by the authorized City official. All otherwise applicable laws and property protections remain in effect.

Effective-date and transition rule

This protocol governs encampment response actions initiated on or after January 15, 2027. Until the end of January 14, 2027, staff shall continue following the Warren settlement and existing City procedures. No notice, assessment, cleanup, citation, or enforcement action begun before the effective date may bypass requirements applicable when that action occurs. For actions spanning the transition, the City Attorney shall determine the governing procedures before implementation.

Beginning January 15, 2027, the settlement-specific 17-day outreach and notice sequence is not incorporated as a standing requirement of this proposed protocol, provided the settlement has actually expired. The separate 72-hour advance notice in Section 7 is a proposed City administrative standard for nonemergency operations, not a continuation of the Warren process. Outreach and service referrals remain policy practices; no shelter-availability prerequisite is created by this document. This protocol does not override constitutional, statutory, ADA, property, or other applicable legal requirements.

1. Purpose and scope

Establish a consistent, documented, service-oriented and legally defensible process for receiving reports, assessing risks, coordinating outreach, conducting cleanup or abatement, preserving personal property, and monitoring City-controlled locations.

Applies to City personnel, contractors, and partner agencies acting at City direction. Does not itself authorize entry onto private, state, county, railroad, or other non-City property; establish new offenses; or supersede applicable court orders or settlement agreements.

2. Guiding principles

Protect life, health, public access, the environment, and critical infrastructure while treating every person respectfully. Prioritize documented conditions and conduct rather than housing status. Use outreach and voluntary compliance whenever practicable. Apply notice, property safeguards, disability accommodations, and individualized assessment.

A cleanup of trash and hazards should be distinguished from an encampment closure requiring occupants to relocate. Avoid displacement solely to facilitate routine sanitation when safe alternatives exist.

3. Definitions

Encampment: A location containing tents, temporary shelters, bedding, or other indicia of habitation. **Cleanup:** Removal of litter, waste, or identified hazards. **Closure/abatement:** An authorized action requiring removal of an encampment or occupants from a specified area.

Personal property: Items reasonably appearing to be owned or used by someone, whether attended or unattended, including tents, sleeping bags, identification, documents, medications, mobility aids, clothing, tools, and electronics. **Trash:** Material objectively discarded as refuse; unattended does not mean abandoned.

Emergency: A documented, immediate threat requiring action before standard notice can reasonably be completed (e.g., active fire, imminent flood, blocked emergency access, acute hazardous exposure). **ADA accommodation:** An individualized modification or assistance needed to afford a person with a disability meaningful access to the process.

4. Roles and approval

City Manager or designee: Policy oversight; approval of planned closures under a written delegation; resolution of cross-department disputes. **Public Works:** Site assessment, sanitation, cleanup leadership, contractor safety, property inventory and storage coordination, site restoration.

Police Department: Response to crime, violence, threats, and enforcement of applicable laws; assist in site safety when justified. Police involvement is not automatic for routine sanitation. **Designated outreach lead:** Coordinate with Butte County, Continuum of Care and local providers; document offers and referrals without requiring acceptance as a condition of property protection.

City Attorney: Review legally sensitive actions, private-property access, emergency exceptions, notices and any remaining court orders and transition obligations. **ADA Coordinator:** Review accommodation requests and ensure an accessible process. **Incident lead:** Named for each operation and responsible for documentation and final go/no-go decision.

5. Intake, assessment and prioritization

Record each complaint or proactive observation in a central case log with date, location, land ownership, photographs, reported impacts, and reporting source. Verify facts onsite rather than relying solely on allegations. Screen for vulnerable residents, accessibility needs, and available services.

Assign a documented response level:

Level	Examples	Proposed response
1 — Immediate	Active fire, imminent flood, blocked emergency response, serious acute hazard	Emergency coordination; narrowly tailored immediate action; document reasons
2 — High	Critical infrastructure risk, ADA route blockage, significant biohazards	Expedited assessment and notice where feasible; targeted mitigation
3 — Standard	Unlawful camping or accumulated refuse without imminent threat	Outreach, planned notice, voluntary compliance and scheduled response

4 — Monitor	Low-impact location without verified violation or hazard	Outreach, sanitation support and reassessment
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6. Outreach and case coordination

Before a planned closure, make reasonable attempts to contact occupants, explain the reason and timeline, provide accessible written and oral information, and coordinate with available service providers. Offer referrals to shelter, housing navigation, behavioral health, medical care, benefits, transportation, and storage assistance as available; record offers accurately without claiming placement that was not secured.

Hold a recurring interdepartmental encampment coordination meeting and provider case-conferencing only as permitted by privacy rules. Do not condition the return of property on accepting services.

7. Planned notice and scheduling

Proposed baseline: post and document written notice at least 72 hours before a nonemergency closure or significant cleanup involving personal property; consider longer notice, including seven days for large or complex sites, when feasible. These are proposed administrative standards, not statements of universal legal minimums.

Notices should identify a map or precise boundary, reason and legal authority, planned date and start window, expected activity, outreach contact, ADA accommodation contact, instructions to protect belongings, storage location and retrieval method, and translation/accessibility assistance. Provide oral explanation when practicable. Photograph and log all postings.

If the scheduled work window is missed or the scope materially changes, re-evaluate whether reposting is required. Notify partner outreach teams early enough to coordinate continuity of care.

Review and update municipal ordinances and encampment response procedures to establish expedited notification and removal protocols for unauthorized encampments within designated high and very high wildfire danger areas. During declared fire season, establish a notification period of 24 hours or less where legally permissible. During National Weather Service Fire Weather Watches, Red Flag Warnings, or other documented imminent wildfire threats, establish procedures for immediate hazard assessment and emergency encampment clearance when authorized by applicable law. Procedures shall address outreach, available shelter options, reasonable accommodations, personal property protections, documentation, and interdepartmental responsibilities.

8. Pre-operation review and authorization

The incident lead completes a checklist confirming jurisdiction, legal basis, priority, site conditions, outreach attempts, notice, ADA requests, storage capacity, staffing, safety plan, weather, fire/environmental precautions, and any settlement restrictions. City Attorney review is required for disputed authority, novel enforcement theories, contested property claims, or unusual legal risk.

Conduct a day-of briefing. Assign staff for occupant communication, safety, documentation, property triage, transport and incident reporting. Stop or modify work when material new risks or accommodation needs arise.

9. Cleanup and property handling

Allow occupants a reasonable opportunity to gather belongings and request help. Distinguish attended property, unattended property, trash, hazardous items, contraband/evidence, and vehicles. Do not destroy property solely because it is unattended, dirty, inexpensive, or associated with homelessness. When classification is uncertain, preserve and store when safe.

Photograph and inventory collected property with date, location, description, identifier, storage destination, and responsible employee. Bag and label items; segregate sensitive records, medication and mobility aids; provide expedited return of essential items. Document any item discarded for a specific unsafe-to-store condition. Evidence and vehicles follow separate applicable procedures.

Proposed retention period: 90 days for retrievable personal property, without a retrieval fee, subject to legal review and any longer required period. Post a storage notice with a case number, accessible phone/contact, hours, and retrieval instructions. Provide a simple ownership-verification process without an inflexible identification requirement. Offer reasonable assistance for people with disabilities.

10. Disability, language and medical safeguards

Accept oral or written accommodation requests at any point, including the day of work. Refer promptly to the ADA Coordinator or designee and engage in an individualized interactive process. Potential accommodations include additional time, accessible transportation, help packing, accessible storage/retrieval, mobility equipment, and alternative communication. Document decisions and provide a review route.

Arrange interpretation or translated notices when needed. Call emergency medical services for urgent conditions. Avoid unnecessary collection or disclosure of sensitive medical information.

11. Emergency actions

An incident commander may authorize narrowly limited immediate action only upon specific, documented imminent danger. Record the hazard, why delay was unsafe, alternatives considered, personnel present, photographs, items moved, notice attempted, and follow-up contact. Preserve property and provide retrieval information whenever safe and feasible. Emergency designation is not a substitute for ordinary planning.

12. Enforcement and non-City property

Use only currently valid and applicable laws, with individualized factual findings and required warnings. Enforcement decisions remain with authorized personnel. Housing status or refusal of services alone is not grounds for detention, citation, or arrest.

For private or other non-City property, verify ownership, permission, access authority and the legal process. Refer trespass complaints to the appropriate agency; do not perform cleanup or seize property without a valid independent legal basis, consent, or order.

13. Post-operation and quality control

Restore and inspect the site, address fire/flood/vegetation hazards as appropriate, and assess fencing or design improvements only where lawful. Schedule follow-up outreach and periodic inspections. Record re-encampment and displacement effects, not just the number of sites cleared.

Within five business days, prepare a closeout report with location, legal basis, notices, outreach, accommodations, actions, property log, expenses, incidents, complaints, and follow-up tasks. Conduct periodic supervisory audits and annual training for staff and contractors.

14. Recommended operating sequence

Report → Verify ownership and conditions → Classify priority → Outreach and services → Approve response → Post/document notice → Review accommodations and logistics → Conduct operation → Inventory/store property → Post retrieval notice → Restore and monitor → Close out and audit.

15. Implementation decisions for Chico

Before adoption, designate the responsible division and incident approval authority; verify the Warren settlement and any injunctions; confirm Chico Municipal Code provisions; establish a property-storage site and 90-day budget; select a central case-management system; finalize outreach agreements and privacy rules; and train all personnel.

The City Attorney should approve the notice templates and review state/federal law, constitutional property protections, disability access, and applicable judicial decisions as of the adoption date.

Appendix A — Minimum notice template

CITY OF CHICO — NOTICE OF PLANNED ENCAMPMENT CLEANUP / ABATEMENT

Site / map: _____ Posted date and time: _____ Planned start and time window: _____

Reason and authority: _____ Work description and boundary: _____

You may remove your belongings before the operation. Items collected by the City that qualify as personal property will be inventoried and stored for retrieval. Contact: _____ Storage address/hours: _____

For assistance, language access or disability accommodations contact: _____. This notice does not limit emergency response to imminent threats.

Appendix B — Field checklist

Case ID / site / owner verified / legal basis / risk tier / photographs / outreach attempted / service referrals / notice posted / ADA review / translation needs / supervisor approval / day-of briefing / personal property inventory / hazardous disposal record / storage notice / post-operation inspection / closeout approval.

Appendix C — Sources and limitations

City of Marina, Homeless Encampment Procedures (2024): reporting, liaison and provider coordination, risk prioritization, advance notice, cleanup, connections to services, enforcement, site security and follow-up. The Marina table contains both a proposed 72-hour notice and descriptions of actual verbal notice and one-to-two-week practices; this draft proposes a unified Chico standard rather than treating these as identical.

City of Vallejo, Administrative Rule 7.10 (revised 2014): differentiated trash removal, unlawful camping, City versus non-City property, warnings, cleanup and code enforcement; includes three-day trash notice, seven-day notice for certain large encampments/code enforcement, and 90-day storage.

San Bernardino, Citywide Policy on Encampment Cleanups (provided copy): 72-hour notice, specific scheduling, disability accommodation, property categories, additional unattended-property notice, 90-day storage, hearings, training, and separation of public works and law enforcement functions. This draft adapts selected safeguards but does not reproduce every procedural detail.

All three supplied examples are policy models, not confirmation of current law or of Chico authority. Chico-specific department assignments, notice durations, emergency framework, and operational thresholds are proposed for review.

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