

ORANGE COUNTY'S FACE 2024 REPORT

**Community
Snapshot:
2021–2022**

22



PURPOSEFULLY PURSUING A STRONGER ORANGE COUNTY.

As always, this year's Scorecard provides an update on our community's work over the past year in the critical areas of education, health, housing and financial stability. This foundational work to improve the lives of our neighbors is the heart of our purpose.

In 2021–2022, Orange County stretched with us to do more. Adding new efforts to proven programs and strong partnerships, we made progress. And there is still more work to do.

With our community's unique energy, compassion and determination, we will continue to purposefully tackle complex issues. We will boldly champion long-term change and an improved future for all. **Because that's The OC Way.**

Three Initiatives, One Purpose

United in intention, the people of Orange County worked tirelessly again this year to make steps forward in three key initiatives as defined by our FACE 2024 2.0 strategic plan:



UNITED FOR STUDENT SUCCESSSM

We're ensuring all Orange County students graduate prepared for college, career and beyond.



UNITED TO END HOMELESSNESSSM

We're ending homelessness in Orange County for good.



UNITED FOR FINANCIAL SECURITYSM

We're empowering Orange County families to transition from surviving to thriving.

When we help local people find a place to call home, ensure OC students receive a good education, and empower our neighbors to be financially stable, we're fulfilling our purpose. And giving everyone in our community a chance to fulfill theirs too.





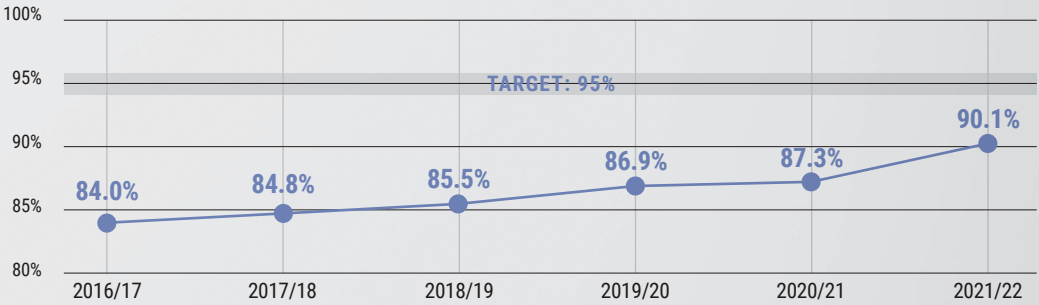
FACE 2024 2.0 GOAL

Increase the high school **graduation rate** to **95%** among **students** from **disadvantaged** socioeconomic backgrounds

THE PROGRESS



In the last six years, Orange County has made steady progress in improving the high school graduation rate. The significant increase in 2021/22, nearly three percent, may be due to changes made during the pandemic: course expectations/requirements were (appropriately) lowered, allowing a greater number of students to pass classes and graduate. In addition, California passed legislation exempting some students from local requirements, such as service hours or added courses, above the state's minimum requirements for graduation, if it would cause a student to not receive their diploma at the end of their fourth year of high school.



Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest, 2022. A student is considered socioeconomically disadvantaged if they are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals and neither of the student's parents received a high school diploma.

Still, each year over 2,000 Orange County high school seniors do not graduate. Most of these students come from local Title I low-income schools in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods and historically underserved communities. We will continue to address the inequities these students face by providing resources to support learning, empowering them to build transformative relationships, and helping them develop strategies to unlock their potential for immediate and future success.

UNITED WAY IN ACTION

2,257 underrepresented middle and high school students received academic and social support through our Destination Graduation program

1,242 students experienced work-based learning in our Youth Career Connections program

1,601 hours of academic tutoring

Our Class of 2022 e-Mentorship Program supported **153** OC high school seniors from underserved neighborhoods

Foundational Work: Supporting Student Literacy

Because a better education can lead to a better life. We're ensuring Orange County students have the materials and environments they need so they're ready to learn.

33,558 students in 52 Title I schools received resources and experiences to support their overall success

2,966 school supply kits, literacy and technology kits distributed

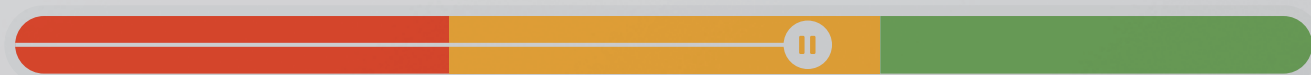
7 beautification projects to inspire students and teachers at local schools



FACE 2024 2.0 GOAL

Increase the number of **Healthy Schools** in Orange County to **50**, with **43** of these being **Title I schools**

THE PROGRESS



The pandemic disrupted learning and dramatically changed the needs of students and schools, especially in low-income neighborhoods. In recognition of these challenges, the new California Community Schools Partnership Program from the Department of Education supports schools' efforts to partner with community agencies and local government to align community resources to improve student outcomes. These partnerships provide an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement. In this evolving environment, we have paused our current health goal to reassess the most effective ways to holistically support the academic, physical and mental success of OC pupils and schools.

In the meantime, we are focused on improving health equity in our community, now and into the future. We joined Equity in OC, an Orange County Health Care Agency initiative that helps people in our underserved and multicultural communities attain their full health potential. Orange County United Way carries out community partner engagement, which includes recruiting and working with local non-profit and grassroots organizations as well as administering the various grant opportunities made available through this initiative using CDC funding.



Foundational Work: Health Equity

Because no one should face barriers to healthcare or resources for healthy living. We're helping address disparities in OC and working to improve equity, access and wellness.

143 local non-profit organizations engaged to advance health equity, access and wellness through a collective, responsive and unified approach

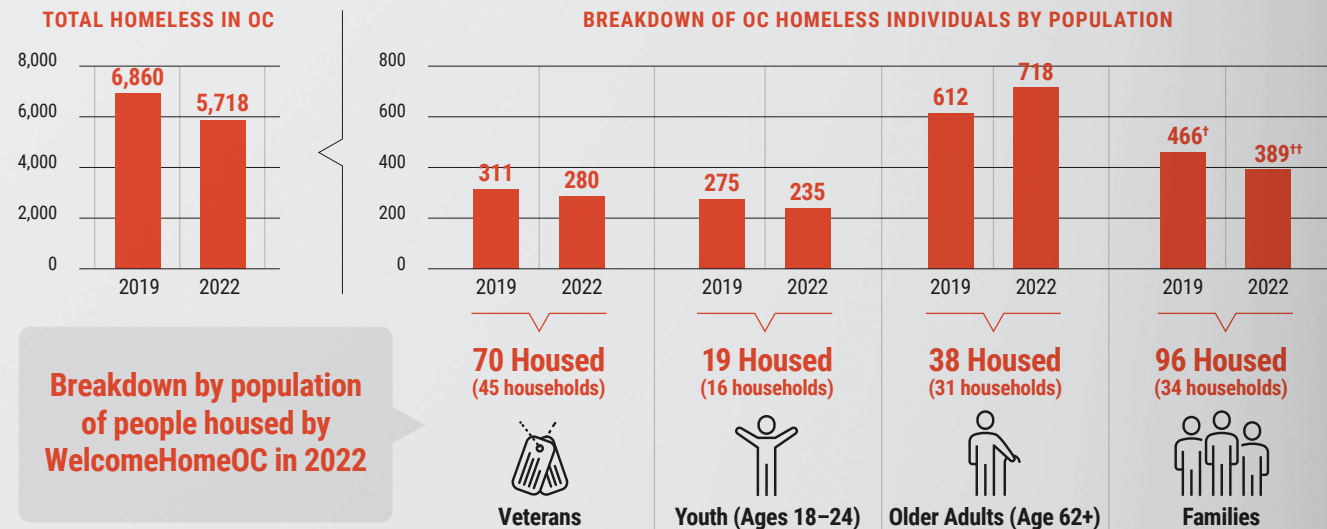


HOUSING

FACE 2024 2.0 GOAL

End homelessness by achieving functional zero* within targeted populations

We measure progress on the current state of homelessness by using data from Orange County's biennial Point in Time Count. Between 2019 and 2022, there was a 16 percent reduction in homelessness overall in Orange County as well as reductions in the number of people who were experiencing unsheltered homelessness and across most subpopulations, suggesting that system access and capacity has improved. Data shows an increase in the number of homeless older adults (62+), which calls for close monitoring, support for capacity-building and creative solutions to serve this population.



WelcomeHomeOC, our housing navigation program, has helped more than 833 local people find a safe place to call home**. Currently we are reimagining WelcomeHomeOC so we can meet today's needs to access scattered site housing effectively and quickly. Because we know that housing ends homelessness, it is critical for us to continue our awareness, engagement, education and advocacy efforts to strategically involve Orange County residents to champion proven solutions and expand housing options.

UNITED WAY IN ACTION

212 individuals housed through WelcomeHomeOC

37 property owners joined our WelcomeHomeOC network (for a total of 124**)

337 total units were approved with advocacy efforts, 215 of which will be permanent supportive housing

* Orange County will reach functional zero when the availability of services and resources to support homelessness in our community matches or exceeds the demand for them.

** As of December 2022. †1,500 Individuals ††1,201 Individuals

Foundational Work: Public Awareness and Advocacy

Because everyone should have a place to call home. We're changing hearts and minds and engaging our community to help end homelessness in OC.

2,680
people attended our virtual informational sessions about homelessness

193
people trained as Housing Champions (658 total are now engaged in this effort)

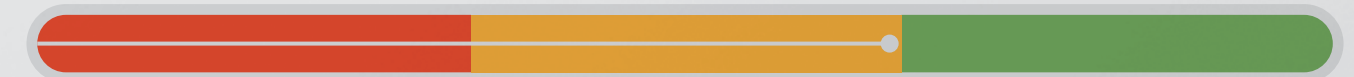


INCOME

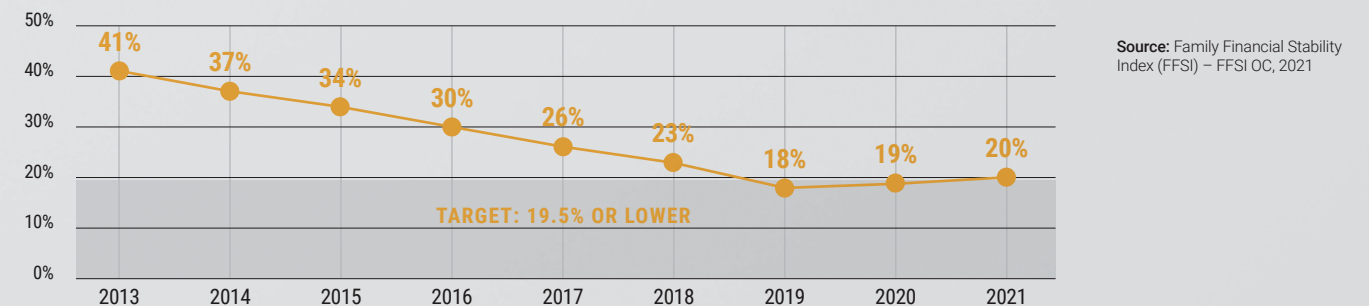
FACE 2024 2.0 GOAL

Reduce family financial instability by another 25%

THE PROGRESS



Achieving financial security in Orange County is still a struggle with one in three families living below the poverty line. A minimum wage employee must work 106 hours per week to afford a one-bedroom apartment in our community. Parents with two children need more than three full-time minimum wage jobs to support them. The pandemic is still a factor as they are caught in an institutionalized cycle of poverty.



The last two years have taken a toll on already vulnerable residents. Our focus shifted to keeping local at-risk families and individuals housed through Emergency Rental Assistance and ensuring they had food and necessities through Pandemic Relief. Now we are resuming efforts to increase financial stability.

Jobs that pay livable wages, financial literacy education and safety net supports are long-lasting and effective methods of preventing poverty and uplifting people out of the cycle. We will continue programming and expand in these areas. And we're thrilled to announce two new SparkPoint OC financial empowerment locations will open in 2023.

UNITED WAY IN ACTION

14,002 people were served by OC Free Tax Prep during the 2021 tax season

450 households coached for better financial stability through SparkPoint OC

41 individuals benefited from UpSkill OC workforce development to gain livable-wage jobs

Foundational Work: Emergency Rental Assistance, Emergency Food and Shelter

Because helping neighbors in an emergency is what we do. We assisted local individuals so they could stay in their homes, avoid hunger and have basic necessities during crisis.

860
people in Santa Ana received Emergency Rental Assistance

983,662
individuals received food and meal distribution assistance



Read Orange County United Way's 2022 Annual Report

See how Orange County is working together purposefully
to improve lives and make long-term change.

Thank You to
Our Scorecard
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18012 Mitchell South, Irvine, CA 92614 | 949.660.7600

UnitedWayOC.org