



Supportive Housing Ends Homelessness



“ I can take a shower when I want to. I love that I can nuke a hot dog and fill my fridge up. I don't want to be homeless ever again.”
- Frenchie, formerly homeless

ONE COMMUNITY, ONE PLAN

“We want a community in which all residents have access to appropriate and affordable housing and the support they need to retain it. We can end homelessness. We know how.”

COMMUNITY PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

New Housing Opportunities Units and Rental Subsidies



WE KNOW WHAT TO DO

Supportive housing using the Housing First approach has been proven as an effective solution for chronic homelessness.

Voter approval of the 2016 Measure A Affordable Housing Bond provides new funds to build new supportive housing and homes for people with very low and extremely low incomes.

These new homes will look like other new apartment buildings, but include support services to help new residents live productively in the neighborhood and keep their housing. Services are designed to stabilize, help with community integration and make it easy to get treatment.

The Housing First approach works by giving people a safe, stable place to live with the services and support they need. The model has been successful across the country for people who have not been able to maintain housing in the past. The model ends homelessness by providing long-term housing stability and improved health outcomes. It has been proven to reduce use of public services like emergency departments, hospitals and jails.

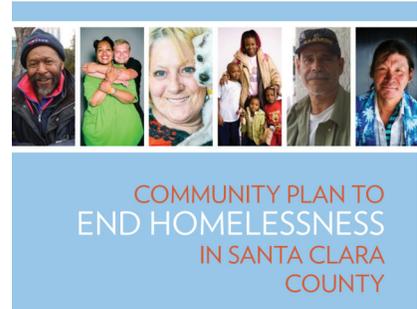




COMMUNITY PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

In 2014, Destination: Home, the County of Santa Clara and over 200 stakeholders created the county-wide 2015-2020 Community Plan to End Homelessness, a roadmap guiding the collective work of neighborhoods, service organizations, and local governments to prevent and end homelessness.

Since then, we have made significant progress toward our goal of creating 6,000 new supportive housing opportunities.



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

What services are provided?

In supportive housing developments, professional property management provides building management, maintenance, resident services and security like in other apartment buildings.

The County of Santa Clara and service organizations provide case management and on-site services, including health services, subsidized rent, meaningful daily and wellness activities.

Who will live in new supportive housing?

Supportive housing is most successful for people who need the highest level of support services. A county-wide assessment system is used to prioritize housing and end homelessness for the people most in need.

New supportive housing developments try to prioritize people who are homeless in the neighborhood where the new homes are built, and conducts targeted outreach in the surrounding neighborhoods. This strategy increases the quality of life for new residents and also for the entire community.

What is rapid re-housing?

Rapid re-housing helps people quickly exit homelessness by helping them find a home and stabilize in permanent housing. Rapid re-housing support includes rental assistance, case management and supportive services.

Does the Housing First approach work?

Housing First is an approach to helping homeless people that starts with housing. In the past, homeless people were expected to get clean and sober, find a job, or commit to treatment before receiving help to find a home.

Studies have shown, however, that most people need housing before they are able to successfully work on other problems. A home provides the stability necessary to allow people to take care of themselves, pursue personal goals and seek needed treatment.

Is building new homes an expensive way to address homelessness?

Providing housing is actually one of the most cost effective ways to address homelessness, specifically for those who need the most help. Public services cost about \$62,000 per person per year for the most vulnerable individuals when living on the streets. After moving into supportive housing, that cost is reduced to \$20,000.

Is supportive housing like a shelter?

Homeless shelters provide a temporary place to sleep for homeless people, usually limited to six months or less. By contrast, supportive housing provides permanent homes and wraparound support services to ensure residents are able to stay in housing.

TAKE ACTION

- 1** Download and print the complete toolkit
- 2** Make copies for friends and neighbors
- 3** Host a meeting or dinner to share what you learn
- 4** Share with your neighborhood association and other community organizations
- 5** Visit the toolkit website to sign-up for updates and action alerts