

# NEWS BRIEFS

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The state HCD Plan will be posted on their website, [www.hcd.ca.gov](http://www.hcd.ca.gov), starting November 14, 2008 along with directions on how to submit comments.

Check the Community and Economic Development website at <http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/hcd>, for news of Oakland's plan.

For more information about the Neighborhood Stabilization Program go to <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/neighborhoodspg/>.

## Housing Really is Health Care: The Evidence Continues to Grow

In its recently published final evaluation of the Frequent Users of Health Services Initiative, the authors note that homeless frequent users connected to permanent housing saw dramatic reductions in Emergency Department visits and costs as well as inpatient days and costs when compared to frequent users who remained

homeless. They also saw improved health stability.

Lifelong Medical Care's Project Respect, here in Alameda County, was one of the six programs piloted across California to "promote the development of innovative, integrated approaches to address the comprehensive health and social service needs frequent users of emergency departments, and decrease avoidable emergency department visits and hospital stays." The programs operated from 2004 and 2007 and achieved tremendous results.

The initiative funded by the California Endowment and California HealthCare

Foundation and coordinated by the Corporation for Supportive Housing quickly discovered that housing was a critical factor in addressing the health concerns of this population. With Project Respect leading the way in connecting frequent users to permanent housing it became abundantly clear that housing had as great an impact as any intervention in reducing the expensive visits to emergency departments and inpatient hospital stays as the table below indicates.

For more information on the Initiative or to get a complete copy of the Evaluation study, visit [www.frequenthealthusers.org](http://www.frequenthealthusers.org).

### 1 year in Program Connected vs. not Connected to Housing

	Connected % Change Over 1 Year	Not Connected % Change Over 1 Year
<b>Average ED Visits</b>	Down 34%	Down 12%
<b>Average ED Charges</b>	Down 32%	Down 2%
<b>Average Inpatient Admits</b>	Down 27%	Down 23%
<b>Average Inpatient Days</b>	Down 27%	Up 26%
<b>Average Inpatient Charges</b>	Down 27%	Up 49%



**EveryOneHome**  
Ending Homelessness  
in Alameda County

224 W. Winton Ave., Room 108 Hayward, CA 94544  
[www.everyonehome.org](http://www.everyonehome.org) | 510-670-5944  
[everyonehome@acgov.org](mailto:everyonehome@acgov.org)

#### EveryOne Home would like to thank the following contributors for making this issue possible:

Kathie Barkow, boona chema, Deanne Pearn, Riley Wilkerson, and Robert Ratner. If you would like to contribute in a future newsletter, please contact EveryOne Home at [everyonehome@acgov.org](mailto:everyonehome@acgov.org).

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Design: Dandy Co. [www.dandy-design.com](http://www.dandy-design.com)

## EveryOne Home Partners Make an Impact:

950 Households Find Permanent Housing, 512 New Units and Vouchers Created

Thanks to the commitment of providers throughout Alameda County to ending homelessness, individuals and families are moving into permanent housing. With just, 65% of the outreach, drop-in, shelters and transitional housing programs in our countywide system of care reporting, 950 households have obtained permanent housing. Another 250 more are now living in permanent units with transitional subsidies, meaning that when the transitional program is over the household won't have to move if they can pay the rent without a subsidy. As additional agencies provide stats and we can verify and de-duplicate more data, EveryOne Home is confident the number will continue to grow.

The goal is to ensure 2000 homeless households obtain permanent housing by June 30, 2009. Thanks to the fine work of our service providers and local landlords, both private and non-profit, we are well on our way to meeting that interim goal.

There is progress to report on the housing creation side as well. Since the EveryOne Home Plan was drafted three years ago local governments and non-profit developers have partnered to build 131 units targeted to the homeless and extremely low-income persons living with serious mental illness and/or HIV/AIDS. Another 381 housing opportunities have been created through various housing voucher programs such as Shelter Plus Care and the Full Service Partnerships. Altogether we have added 512 housing opportunities to our stock of permanent support-



ive housing in Alameda County. Our target for June 30, 2009 is 1,000 new housing opportunities. The level of collaboration and determination we are seeing across Alameda County makes this ambitious goal obtainable.

The goals for June 30, 2009 are benchmarks for EveryOne Home's overall commitment to ending homelessness in Alameda by the year 2020. Currently if an individual or family loses their housing, they can spend months even years in shelters, on the streets and bouncing from couch to couch. EveryOne Home believes that homelessness does not have to be a permanent status for anyone. We can create a system of care that is well coordinated and resourced so that homelessness is prevented or resolved within weeks, not years. To do that, EveryOne Home partners will create 15,000 housing opportunities affordable to extremely low-income and disabled persons and secure permanent housing for 15,000 households by the year 2020. Preliminary outcome data confirms we are achieving the results we had hoped for in the early years of EveryOne Home implementation.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Where God Left His Shoes Free Film Screening

Thursday, December 4  
6:00 pm Doors Open  
6:45 pm Film Screening  
Grand Lake Theater, Oakland, CA

Through a partnership between Vulcan Productions and America's Road Home, a few qualifying organizations were granted the opportunity to screen this film.



EveryOne Home is pleased to present this free community building event to raise awareness about Homelessness in Alameda County. Join your community in the holiday spirit at this wonderful free event! Invite your friends, family, neighbors and congregations!

### Resource Spotlight: 2-1-1

By now you should know that 2-1-1 is a free, non-emergency, confidential, 3-digit phone number and service that provides easy access to housing information, and critical health and human services. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with multi-lingual capabilities. What you may not know is that 2-1-1 is only as good as the updates and information it receives from housing, shelter, and service providers. If you're a provider, please contact 2-1-1 with any changes or updates to the services you provide. EveryOne can help promote 2-1-1 by placing it on your website or printing out fliers for posting, email us to request materials.



# Full Service Partnerships (FSPs) End Homelessness for Hundreds Living with Serious Mental Illness in our County

In the midst of EveryOne Home's Sponsoring Agencies' work to write a housing plan for the County's homelessness and extremely low-income person's living with serious mental illness and/or HIV/AIDS the voters of California approved The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), formerly known as Proposition 63. The MHSA went into effect on January 1, 2005 and imposes a 1% tax on personal annual incomes in excess of \$1 million in order to increase funding statewide for mental health services. A portion of MHSA funds have been set aside for the creation of special new programs known as Full Service Partnership (FSPs).

FSPs provide the most intensive level of services among the variety of MHSA-funded programs. They are targeted to individuals who have serious mental health disorders, have no other source of mental health supports, and are not currently receiving enough support to keep them from homelessness, incarceration, hospitalization, or institutionalization. EveryOne Home planners, including our two local mental health authorities- Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) and the City of Berkeley Health and Human Services Department - Mental Health Division, were determined to use FSPs to prevent and end homelessness.

There are a total of eight full service partnership programs within the County that will ultimately serve around 300 people at any point in time. Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services funds six of the FSPs within the County and each of these six FSPs have funds to help subsidize housing for individuals and families that are currently homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Some of the FSPs also utilize specific

Shelter Plus Care grants through a partnership with Alameda County Housing and Community Development to help subsidize rents for program partners (clients).



The majority of the FSPs are near their full capacity and these programs have made a tremendous difference in the lives of people who were previously unserved or underserved by the mental health system. Individuals with long histories of homelessness have been engaged in services through the utilization of a housing first approach that strives to help individuals obtain stable, permanent housing as quickly as possible. The FSPs also work with individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use issues that previously struggled to obtain ongoing support rather than crisis services.

The six county-funded FSPs include:

- **Homeless Outreach and Stabilization Team (HOST)** - Bonita House, Inc. Targets chronically homeless individuals with serious mental health issues from the northern and central part of Alameda County. Targeted to serve 90 individuals.

- **Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT)** - East Bay Community Recovery Project. Targets adults with serious mental health issues, frequent criminal justice mental health contacts, and unstable housing. Targeted to serve 60 individuals.
- **Greater HOPE** - Tri-City Homeless Coalition. Targets chronically homeless individuals with serious mental illness from the southern and eastern parts of Alameda County. Targeted to serve 40 individuals.
- **Supportive Housing for Transition Age Youth (STAY)** - Fred Finch Youth Center. Targets transition age youth (16-24 yo) that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness with a serious mental health issue. Targeted to serve 30+ individuals.
- **North County Older Adult** - Bay Area Community Services. Targets older homeless adults (60 and older) with serious mental health issues. Targeted to serve 30 individuals.
- **Transition to Independence Process (TIP)** - Berkeley Mental Health Family, Youth, and Children's Services. For transition age youth (16-24 yo) with serious mental health issues currently living with family that may be unstably housed. Targeted to serve 20 individuals.

One of the FSP partners had an opportunity to speak with Congresswoman Barbara Lee in Washington, D.C. as part of a conference on homelessness. This partner encouraged Congresswoman Lee to find ways to expand the FSP model so that others like him could be given a chance to regain their lives. BHCS in partnership with its providers hopes to make this possible with support from EveryOne Home and its partners.

## Happy Anniversary!

October 2008 marked the 4th anniversary of Alameda County's Homeless and Caring Court. And, this innovative collaboration is still going strong! Every other month, about 40 people who are homeless, recently housed or at risk of homelessness voluntarily apply to this problem solving court that holds court sessions in community-based service centers and church halls rotating through Oakland, Berkeley, and Hayward. Homeless and Caring Court participants have on average 2 - 3 pending

legal matters and have made significant progress in their life since receiving these minor legal charges. Participants and their program staff prepare a comprehensive application to the Court, detailing the circumstances when the violations occurred, all the participant's progress to date, and submitting independent verification of progress. At the Homeless Court session, participants (or litigants) are given credit for active involvement and success in shelters, recovery programs, self help programs, job training programs, successful job searches, GED or other types of educational programs, counseling, volunteer

work, or housing search and acquisition. This personal growth and progress are used in lieu of traditional fines, community service, or jail time and is tailored to each individuals' circumstances. Resolution of cases at the Homeless/Caring Court helps the homeless individual, the courts, and local communities by removing potential barriers to social reintegration, easing court case-processing backlogs, and reducing costs to both the courts and community. For questions about Homeless and Caring Court or to become a referral agency, please contact Kathie Barkow at 510.967.5161 or [kathiebarkow@earthlink.net](mailto:kathiebarkow@earthlink.net).

# Celico's Story: A Former Foster Youth Finds Home through Innovative Local Partnership

Every year in Alameda County, approximately 300 youth exit the foster care system. Research shows that two out of three youth face imminent homelessness at discharge. (California State Department of Social Services, 2002) Little more than half leave care armed with their GED or high school diploma and their long-term economic and prospects are grim.

This is the story of how the key strategies of the EveryOne Home Plan are being implemented by service providers and developers to make a difference in the lives of Alameda County residents like Celico.

As a teenager Celico made the difficult decision to leave her home in order to escape an "uncomfortable situation". Unfortunately, her new life was not much better. In order to get through her difficult teenage years she adopted the motto "survive or die". In her second foster home Celico suffered a devastating disappointment when the adoption she was hoping for never happened. Through all the set backs she continued to focus on her high school

education, graduating early with a 3.8 GPA. Celico then emancipated herself six months early from foster care.

On her own at 17 and with no stable place to live she bounced around, staying at friend's houses for years. During this time Celico became pregnant with twins and realized stable housing needed to become a priority. She contacted First Place for Youth, an EveryOne Home partner dedicated to helping youth build a foundation for life after foster care. She enrolled in My First Place, a supported housing program that provides stability for former foster youth through safe, permanent, affordable housing, intensive case management, and advocacy and support services.

Before long, Celico moved into a brand new "green" apartment in downtown Oakland conveniently located near Laney College where she is studying full-time to become a medical assistant. She is also working part-time as a marketing associate at a real estate agency.

Celico's building, Madison @14th St Apartments (pictured above) was de-



veloped by Affordable Housing Associates, another EveryOne Home partner in ending homelessness. It was the winner of the 2008 East Bay AIA Best Residential Design Award. It is home to 79 low income families, including homeless youth, many of whom are former foster youth. The collaboration between AHA and First Place incorporates the EveryOne Homes key strategies of providing permanent housing and wrap-around services to those who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. For Celico that means she has a place to call home, and that is what EveryOne Home is all about.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Countywide Annual Renewal of Federal Homeless Assistance Grant Submitted: Advocacy Is Needed

On October 22nd, EveryOne Home submitted the Homeless Assistance Grants application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This year's application contained 46 projects, totaling more than \$22 million.

The submission was coordinated by Alameda County Housing and Community Development (HCD) on behalf of EveryOne Home, funds housing and services for homeless families and individuals in the Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Shelter Plus Care Program (S+C). Renewal of existing projects comprised the majority of the projects submitted. These included 37 SHP renewals (\$12.7 million) and seven S+C renewals (\$7 million). In addition, applications for two new projects were submitted.

As in previous years, HUD allowed for a "bonus" project, called the "Samaritan Initiative", to be submitted. The Samaritan Initiative allows for communities to

apply for additional funding for permanent housing projects that exclusively serve chronically homeless populations. This year, the City of Berkeley submitted an application for a S+C project to serve 13 chronically homeless older adults in Berkeley. Funding for this project is dependant on a national scoring competition.

This year, HUD created a demonstration pilot project for the creation of "Rapid Re-housing" project to create a transitional housing projects for families that can achieve self-sufficiency in a relatively short period of time (12-15 months). Tri-City Homeless Coalition, in partnership with Building Futures with Women and Children submitted an application for this project. This project will serve 25 families at a time over a three year period. Funding for this project is dependant on a national scoring competition. About 12-15 projects will be funded nationally.

### New Housing Funds Could be Used to House the Homeless

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) is a new program of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) providing \$3.9 billion to communities that have been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis, allowing them to buy

and reuse vacant or foreclosed properties. A minimum of 25% of those funds must be used to help people with incomes below 50% of the area median income, which can include people experiencing homelessness. Advocacy is needed.

\$8,250,668 of these funds will go to the City of Oakland and another \$2,126,927 to the Urban County which includes the unincorporated County and the cities of Albany, Emeryville, Piedmont, Dublin and Newark. The rest of the cities in the County will have to apply to the state of California through the Department of Housing and Community Development which will be distributing \$145 million through the Program.

All state and local governments must submit their plan to use NSP funds to HUD by December 1st. In addition, they are required to have a 15 day public comment period. EveryOne Home supporters are encouraged to comment on our two local plans as well at the state plan urging that funds be used to create additional housing for the homeless.

The Urban County Plan is located at [www.acgov.org/cda/hcd](http://www.acgov.org/cda/hcd). Public comments can be emailed to [nsp@acgov.org](mailto:nsp@acgov.org).

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