



Golden Housing Community, San Bernardino

Solutions to Chronic Homelessness | Informational Sheet

Background

Following the successful County-led effort to house more than 500 homeless veterans in one year, in August 2016 the Board of Supervisors voted to expand that initiative and target chronic homelessness, particularly among youth. There are 376 people identified as chronically homeless countywide and 31 of them are chronically homeless youth ages 18 to 24. Homeless youth face increased risks of chronic homelessness, including victimization, anxiety disorders, depression, PTSD and suicide.

The San Bernardino Advisory Board on Ending Homelessness for Veterans has also been discussing strategies to access more housing units, resources, and services for chronically homeless individuals and families. Funding has been secured for services and rental assistance; however, the lack of readily available housing sites to stabilize these individuals and families has been challenging.

One of the fastest ways to secure and make available housing locations specifically for the chronically homeless is to directly acquire sites currently being offered on the open market and the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) is the best entity to do this. HACSB has years of experience in the acquisition of existing rental properties and currently owns and manages, either directly or through an affiliate nonprofit, over 3,200 rental housing units throughout the county.

Golden Apartments, San Bernardino

In September of 2016, HACSB purchased Golden Apartments, a 21-unit apartment complex in San Bernardino. This particular property is designed such that through rehabilitation, each of the existing units (which are now 2-bedrooms) can efficiently and cost effectively be converted to 1-bedroom units, thus nearly doubling the apartments available on the site to 41-units.

The Housing Authority is also identifying other apartment complexes throughout the County to house additional chronic homeless individuals, such as the City of Victorville, who per the 2016 Point in Time Count has the second highest number of homeless individuals in the County.

Partnership with Step Up on Second Inc.

Step Up on Second Inc. is a non-profit organization that has provided mental health recovery services and support since 1984. In May of 2016, "Step Up in San Bernardino", was awarded \$1.5 million as part of HUD's Continuum of Care grant dollars to the region to permanent housing for 112 community members experiencing chronic homelessness and mental health issues. Through the Housing First Approach, Step Up's efforts will include street outreach and engagement, engaging members in services such as mental health, medical, vocational, and substance abuse treatment, and housing support. The program term is 1 year.

Housing First Model

Stabilizing individuals with safe and sanitary housing, will also help stabilize their personal lives and eventually be contributors to our community's economic vitality. This is a positive step towards ending chronic homelessness in our communities.