



NEWS RELEASE

Housing Authority

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Demand for affordable housing high in County

The demand for affordable housing continues to be at an all-time high. As a glimpse of the demand, the Housing Authority recently opened its Housing Services Program (formally known as Section 8) waiting list for 19 days and received 25,000 pre-applications.

Also a recent study by the McKinsey Global Institute estimates that 330 million global urban households live in substandard housing or are financially stretched by housing costs, and that within a decade at least 1.6 billion people worldwide will struggle to obtain decent, affordable housing. **Here in the U.S., in 2012 there were only 3.3 million rental units affordable and available to the 11.5 million extremely low-income households.**

The overall need for affordable housing is omnipresent and the waiting lists for affordable housing in San Bernardino County are long; however, **two Housing Authority initiatives have recently received additional funding to help homeless children and their parent(s) and veterans –two very vulnerable populations in our County.**

The County's recent Point in Time Count 2015 highlighted the needs among these two vulnerable populations - there are **58 truly unsheltered children living on the streets** of our County with their parents plus an additional **7 unaccompanied minors**; and **139 homeless veterans**.

It's unacceptable for children to be living in cars or on the street. In 2013, HACSB declared a state of emergency and began housing children and their parent(s) at an affordable housing community in San Bernardino. Recently the Housing Authority was approved to use 40 housing assistance vouchers for this program; and the **Department of Behavioral Health will provide wrap-around supportive services to ensure the long term success of the entire family.**

This unfunded program, referred to as "No Child Left Unsheltered" has gradually received funding including **\$50,000 from First 5 San Bernardino** and **\$236,605 from HUD** for housing navigators. The housing navigators will provide housing navigation, case management, and other support referrals for these homeless families.

HACSB is also prioritizing homeless veterans. Funding to house homeless veterans is awarded through HUD's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program; in which **HACSB assists 282 veteran households and recently received news of an additional 75 coming.** A huge contribution to help meet the housing demand of homeless veterans in our County.

"The number of applications is large, but even larger is the total number of family members behind that waiting list, which we estimate to be about 75,000!" states Daniel Nackerman, HACSB's Executive Director. "Stable housing is a critical foundation in life, and we hope to soon be able to help these families in need," continued Mr. Nackerman.

HACSB is committed to helping serve as many families as possible through its various housing programs and seeking additional dollars for housing while leverage its partnership throughout the County to better serve all families in need of housing in San Bernardino County; a challenging, but necessary endeavor.

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The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino is one of the largest public housing agencies in California, providing the critical resource of housing to a clientele of which the majority are seniors, persons with disabilities and children. From providing housing and home ownership, to job training and childcare, the Housing Authority helps tens of thousands of people to elevate their lives every day. For more information on the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, please visit www.hacsb.com.