

Counties are uniquely positioned as regional providers of the full range of services needed by homeless individuals and those on the brink of homelessness. Addressing homelessness remains a top legislative priority for the California State Association of Counties (CSAC).

Spotlight: San Bernardino County

CalWORKs Housing Support Program

San Bernardino County's efforts to end chronic homelessness start with their Housing First approach. The Housing First model focuses on quickly and successfully connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions or barriers to entry.

Collaboration between the state, multiple county agencies and community non-profits is key to the program's success. The San Bernardino County Transitional Assistance Department partners with the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino and the local non-profit Knowledge and Education for Your Success (KEYS) to administer the CalWORKs Housing Support Program.

This rapid re-housing program couples short-term rental assistance with case management and family stabilization to quickly move families back into permanent housing and help them maintain housing over time.



"They truly help with everything to get you ahead, to get you stable, to get you on your feet."

Justus, Program Participant



Counties with Housing Support Programs:

Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo and Yuba.



"The goal is to rapidly re-house the family to be able to alleviate any challenges that they may be facing and to quickly get them back on their feet."

*Maria Razo, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino*



Ending Chronic Homelessness

San Bernardino is a true example of the innovative ways counties provide exceptional service to their communities. The County's Transitional Assistance Department (TAD) has developed a unique partnership with KEYS to ensure those in need are receiving the necessary prompt attention required. The KEYS staff work directly in the TAD office so when a customer comes in, they can receive immediate answers to their questions and help in identifying assistance and support they may be eligible for.

KEYS staff also work as navigators to help families access a wide variety of services including employment referrals, financial literacy classes, assistance filling out housing applications and additional services based on the individual's unique needs. Each participant receives a personalized service plan within 24 hours that identifies the quickest and most efficient way to permanently house the family and maintain long-term stability.

The unique collaborative partnership between KEYS and San Bernardino County has provided families with the opportunity to obtain long-term housing while administering comprehensive services from start to finish.

FACTS

- In FY 2018-2019, \$71.2 million was allocated for the Housing Support Program (HSP). The 2019-2020 budget included an increase in funding to \$95 million.
- Since October 2014, HSP statewide has housed over 17,600 homeless families with 53 counties participating in the program.
- San Bernardino County has processed over 4,545 referrals and helped find permanent housing for over 1,537 families since 2015.



California Counties – Driven to Serve is an ongoing profile of the important work of California's counties: helping Californians most in need. California's 58 counties deliver critical services to 39 million residents, including public health and social services, homeless supportive services, juvenile and foster care, behavioral health and addiction treatment, public safety, criminal justice and emergency services.

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Justin Garrett
CSAC Legislative Representative, Human Services
(916) 327-7500 Ext. 539 | jgarrett@counties.org



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