

Department of Human Services



Cost-Effective Strategies
for Housing
Homeless Clients

April 30, 2014

Adult Emergency Shelter

Shelter Site	Female	Male	TOTAL
Dolores Street: Santa Ana		28	28
Dolores Street: Santa Maria/Martha		57	57
Hospitality House		30	30
Lark Inn (18-24 Year Olds)	15	25	40
MSC-South	45	295	340
Next Door	166	168	334
Sanctuary	74	126	200
Providence	5	100	105
TOTAL	305	829	1134

Interfaith Winter Shelter
(Mid-November thru February)

60-110

Services Provided

Adult Emergency Shelters

- Shelters operate 11 – 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.
- Meals that follow SF Shelter Nutrition Project menu.
- Provide a mailing address for clients.
- Single stop shelter reservation system and 311 Shelter Reservation Waitlist
- On-site storage at most sites.
- Shelter security.
- Provide support Services as available, including:
 - Orientation to shelter system and homeless service referrals.
 - Housing referral to specific opportunities and general search assistance.
 - Support groups and social events.
 - Some case management.

Centralized Intake & Family Shelters

Program	No. of Beds/Families	Length of Stay
Compass Connecting Point	Centralized intake only (not residential); assessment, wait list, shelter placement	N/A
Hamilton Family Emergency Center	14 one-night beds, 32 60-day beds, 8 cribs	One night-60 days
Compass Family Shelter	22 families	90-180 days
Hamilton Family Residence	27 families	90-180 days
St. Joseph's Family Center	10 families	90-180 days
First Friendship Family Shelter	50 one-night beds	Night-to-Night
Providence Shelter	20 one-night beds	Night-to-Night

Services Provided

90-180 Day Family Shelters

- Operate 24 hours/day, 7 days/week
- Meals that follow SF Shelter Nutrition Project menu
- Children's Activities Program
- Mailing address for clients
- Support services, including:
 - intake and assessment
 - case management
 - assistance in housing search and obtaining housing
 - benefits advocacy and assistance
 - referrals
 - conflict resolution
 - support groups, social events, organized activities
 - wellness checks
 - referral to health screenings, up-to-date immunizations
 - promote peer support, community building, and team building
 - income saving program

Permanent Supportive Housing Programs

TYPE OF UNITS

	Adult					TOTAL ADULT	Family TOTAL FAMILY	TOTAL
	General	Woman -only	Senior	TAY	Vets			
SRO Master Lease								
Care Not Cash (CNC)	1253	33				1286		2523
Non-CNC	1022	85	86			1193		
Pilot Program w/HUD \$				44		44		
Shelter Plus Care (S+C)	514		16		15	545	198	743
Local Operating Subsidy Program (LOSP)	260		31			291	194	485
TOTAL						3359	392	3751

Cost Per Shelter Bed

Program	Average Cost/Bed/Night	Average Cost/Bed/Year
All Shelters	\$29	\$10,585
Next Door	\$24	\$8,760
Sanctuary	\$32	\$11,680
MSC South	\$29	\$10,585
Hamilton Family Residence & Emergency Center	\$31	11,315

Cost Per Housing Unit

Program	Operating Cost Per Unit/Year	Supportive Services Cost Per Unit/Year
LOSP	\$10,000	\$4,250
Masterlease	\$8,600	\$2,200
Shelter Plus Care	\$12,500	\$4,250

Services Provided

Permanent Supportive Housing

- Subsidized rents
- Intake and Assessment
- Outreach and Engagement (Services are voluntary)
- Case Management
- Clinical Services, Roving Behavioral Health support (at some sites)
- Benefits Advocacy and Assistance
- Information and Referral
- Mediation with Property Management, Housing Stability support
- Conflict Resolution
- Support Groups, Social Events and Organized Activities
- Community Meetings
- Food Pantries (at some sites)

Benefits of Permanent Supportive Housing Based on Research Findings

➤ **Reduced Emergency Room and Inpatient Medical and Psychiatric Healthcare Costs**

- Study of DAH Plaza Apartments in San Francisco found the healthcare costs for a group of homeless persons dropped from \$3 million the year prior to being housed to \$1 million the year after placement in housing.
- Data from Chicago's Housing for Health Partnership showed a 29% reduction in hospitalizations and hospital days, and a 24% reduction in ER visits for the intervention group.

➤ **Decline in Criminal Justice System Costs**

- Findings from Denver Housing First Collaborative included 75% fewer days in jail during the two years after entering supportive housing.
- Los Angeles "Where We Sleep" Study reported 67% savings for Sheriff mental health jail (group of individuals in supportive housing were compared with matched group of homeless individuals).

Benefits of Permanent Supportive Housing Based on Research Findings (continued)

➤ **Improved Client Health**

- Data from Denver's Housing First Collaborative reported a 50% improvement in health status and 43% improvement in mental health.
- Minnesota Supportive Housing and Managed Care Pilot found that pilot participants were more likely to receive preventative care and prescription medications.

➤ **Increased Substance Abuse Treatment and Decreased Substance Use**

- Analysis of Permanent Supportive Housing in Maine showed a 22% increase in substance abuse treatment during the year after entering supportive housing.
- Study of Seattle's Downtown Emergency Service Center found 87% fewer sobering center admissions and a 33% reduction in day of drinking to intoxication.

Benefits of Permanent Supportive Housing Based on Research Findings (continued)

➤ **Improved Employment and SSI Disability Benefit Outcomes**

- LA County General Relief (GR) Housing Subsidy and Case Management Pilot Project reported:
 - Participants were almost twice as likely to find jobs compared to the control group.
 - 85% of disabled pilot participants submitted SSI applications, compared to 33% of disabled GR recipients in the control group.
 - SSI approval rate for pilot participants was twice as high as approval rate observed in the control group .

Benefits of Permanent Supportive Housing Based on Research Findings (continued)

- **Promotes Stabilization for Families Vulnerable to Child Welfare Involvement**
 - Study of supportive housing program in Connecticut that serves child-welfare involved families found the program increased adherence to treatment/service plans.

- **Overall Savings from Lower Utilization of Public Services**
 - Rhode Island Housing First Pilot study estimated an overall annual savings of \$7,946 per client taking into account the cost of supportive housing.
 - Data from Massachusetts Statewide Housing First Pilot calculated a total annual savings of \$8,949 per person.