



# TEN YEAR PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN SACRAMENTO

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT | JULY 2007



Cheri James has lived in Sacramento since 1983, where she spent nearly 20 years homeless. In early 2007, Cheri moved into a Permanent Supportive Housing program through Sacramento Self Help Housing.

"I was homeless, living on the streets, sleeping by the river, behind buildings and sometimes not eating for days at a time. After moving into Self Help Housing I have maintained my sobriety and almost completed my Prop 36 Drug Court program successfully. I have been given the opportunity to continue doing positive things with my life. The County Drug Court has made me client of the month for outstanding success. I would not have been able to succeed without the support of Self Help Housing. Thank You."

During the winter of 2006/2007, Sacramento's City Council and County Board of Supervisors adopted our Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. See [www.Communitycouncil.org/homelessplan](http://www.Communitycouncil.org/homelessplan).

## How Are We Doing So Far?

Since the adoption of the Plan, our community has placed at least 195 homeless individuals into permanent housing, of which 69 were chronically homeless.\*

## Goals, Results to Date, Progress to Come

- 1**

**GOAL**  
**Develop 280 New Permanent Supportive Housing Units Within Five Years**

**RESULTS**  
Two projects totaling 99 units for homeless individuals, 79 units of which are for chronically homeless, are underway and will be occupied Fall, 2008.

**PROGRESS TO COME**  
Financing in the pipeline for 86 units for chronically homeless.
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**GOAL**  
**Create 218 New Housing Opportunities for Chronically Homeless in Leased Units Within Three Years**

**RESULTS**  
Three contracts have been executed with community providers to house and serve 114 individuals.

**PROGRESS TO COME**  
Funding for an additional 140 housing opportunities will be ramped up during 2008-09.
- 3**

**GOAL**  
**Set up a new Central Intake system to screen and place chronically homeless people into housing-plus-services programs**

**RESULTS**  
Central Intake office opened June 5, 2007 and has screened 68 homeless people. Eleven people have been housed, and 38 are awaiting new housing placements as they become available.

**PROGRESS TO COME**  
New clinical staff to facilitate disability diagnoses and placements.

4 **GOAL**  
**Prevent Chronic Homelessness by creating 200 new and preserving 100 existing Single Room Occupancy housing units that will serve extremely low income people with disabilities**

**PROGRESS TO COME**

Financing in the pipeline for two projects totaling 140 SRO units.

5 **GOAL**  
**Create a New Leadership Structure for Sacramento's homeless services system**

**RESULTS**

A completely new leadership structure has been established, consisting of:

- a Policy Board with high level political and private sector participation.
- the Interagency Council to End Homelessness (ICEH) with representation from important housing and services sectors.
- ten committees of the ICEH working on new initiatives and partnerships.
- two new fulltime dedicated staff and two Americorps volunteers.

**PROGRESS TO COME**

New program initiatives include:

- a **Veterans Services Task Force** determined to end homelessness among Veterans in the Sacramento area.
- a review of federally-funded (Continuum of Care) homeless programs to maximize our ability to end homelessness.
- new ways to use **health services** systems to support homeless disabled people in permanent housing.
- improvement in the **criminal justice** system's interactions with homelessness.
- planning for appropriate responses to save lives of homeless people during **severe weather** events.

6 **GOAL**  
**Improve Sacramento's Point-In-Time Homeless Count**

**RESULTS**

In the early morning hours of January 30, 2007, nearly 230 members of the community, mostly volunteers, came together to canvass the streets, parks, and riverbanks to count those without a home. For the first time, Sacramento used a statistically reliable, research-based methodology, yielding the best quality homeless count in Sacramento history.

**PROGRESS TO COME**

Sacramento has now committed to conducting a count every year, and will include more locations.

## Homelessness in Sacramento County

\*A *Chronically Homeless* person is defined as a single person with a disability who has been homeless for a year or more or who has been homeless 4 or more times in the last three years. In order to *end chronic homelessness* in Sacramento, we need to produce about 1500 permanent housing opportunities accompanied by support services.

Sacramento County's 2007 homeless count found 2452 homeless people either on the streets or in shelters. From this data, we estimate that 4367 people in the County experience homelessness over the course of a year.

## Housing First

Many of our new housing opportunities for chronically homeless people embrace the nationally recognized practice of *Housing First*, providing immediate access to safe, affordable housing without requiring initial participation in psychiatric services or addictions treatment.

Providing housing with access to services is highly **cost effective**. Homeless people with disabilities consume very expensive health care, public safety and homeless services. Studies have shown costs savings of up to \$16,000 per client per year.

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