

Homeless Health Initiative

In 2019, CommonSpirit Health was formed by the alignment of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) and Dignity Health. Our mission is to make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all. Our vision is a healthier future for all – inspired by faith, driven by innovation, and powered by our humanity. Addressing housing insecurities and homelessness with a social justice lens is key to ensuring we demonstrate these characteristics daily when serving our communities across the nation, including our large California footprint.

As part of this alignment, CommonSpirit leadership and Dignity Health facilities in California launched the Homeless Health Initiative (HHI). Among the biggest challenges to this work are duplication and inefficiency – services are provided in a variety of locations and by an array of organizations, institutions, and agencies. The HHI is the start of a statewide strategy to co-locate, coordinate, and integrate health care, behavioral health, safety, and wellness services with housing and other social services. This strategy will help providers to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with these resources. We have committed to invest a **minimum of \$20 million through FY 2024** in programs that address two focus areas:

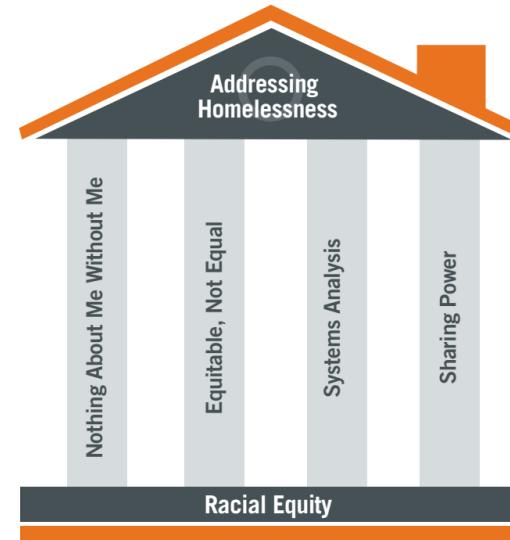
- Housing insecurities and homeless prevention for individuals and families who are at-risk of experiencing homelessness;
- Coordinating care, services, and resources for populations experiencing homelessness with local community partners and government agencies.



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Guiding Principles

- Recognize that housing is health care and the lack of stable and affordable housing negatively impacts an individual's health.
- Advance system transformation of the healthcare system and of communities.
- Focus on upstream and prevention interventions including activities that address social determinants of health – food security, transportation, health coverage, child care as well as housing
- Support community driven initiatives that advance **racial equity** and promote equitable access to housing and healthcare.
- Pursue a “Housing First” approach which prioritizes providing permanent housing to individuals experiencing homelessness thus positioning them to pursue personal goals to improve their quality of life.
- Provide innovative solutions including the use of new technologies and strategies.
- Serve as a catalyst for building capacity to address the need.
- Create collaborative, scalable and sustainable impact.



Homeless Health Initiative

Want to learn more?

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FY 2020 accomplishments >\$9.2M

Between July of 2019 and June of 2020, the Homeless Health Initiative approved over \$9.2M in funding across California, and prioritized investment in our smaller and rural communities. This included 11 major projects to support homelessness prevention and care transitions for people experiencing homelessness. In addition, Dignity Health invested \$9.5M to address homelessness through our hospital community grants and community investments.

Over \$9.2 million in funding across California focusing on smaller and rural communities.

FY 2020 impact includes:



Transitions of Care/Care Coordination

- Began acquiring buildings to increase medical respite bed capacity by 47 beds in Shasta and Merced Counties

Permanent/Interim Housing

- Secured scattered site housing in San Joaquin and Shasta County (total of 7 homes to be purchased and 2 additional units to be built)
- Invested in the San Francisco Flexible Housing Subsidy pool which will provide permanent housing to at least 250 individuals.
- Began developing a campus that will include 61 permanent housing units for single adults in Yolo County

Emergency Housing

- Added 490 shelter beds and expansion of wraparound services in Yolo, Kern and San Bernardino Counties

Prevention

- Addressed energy insecurity by educating hospital staff and community members on how to avoid utility shutoffs and tap statewide programs.
- Developed a web-based, consumer-facing platform to help San Francisco and Los Angeles residents find available resources.

- COVID-19 Projects
- HHI Funded Projects
- Community Investments

housing insecurities and homeless response to COVID-19 – \$1.2M

As the pandemic has continued to spread, we've focused on supporting people who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, low-income, or are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in many aspects of life.

During the pandemic, focus was placed on supporting these populations after recognizing that they were at high-risk of being exposed. It was apparent after connecting with many community partners that the need was growing beyond local available resources. As part of our immediate reaction, **Dignity Health has provided nearly \$1.2M in support to non-profit organizations** and will continue to support local and statewide efforts.

“Now this is a box that makes me feel dignified. This looks like someone cared about the contents that went into this box and not just thrown in leftovers from a pantry.”

– AARP Food Box Program Recipient

In partnership with community-based organizations across the state, we have supported the delivery of meals and food supplies in communities experiencing food insecurity, supported the expansion of shelter services to ensure that even those who were homeless could shelter in place, provided general relief funds for undocumented immigrants, supported youth crisis services, partnered to distribute hygiene supplies and provided flexible funds to non-profit organizations to fill gaps in services such as childcare and community education.

As part of California's **Project Roomkey**, CommonSpirit and it's Dignity Health facilities worked with local governments and public health officials to understand local COVID-19 quarantine and isolation response efforts and the implications for not only our hospitals, but for those experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.



community investments = \$8M



The Homeless Services Center (HSC) in Santa Cruz, CA operates four emergency and transitional housing shelters, a medical clinic, and a 12-bed respite Recuperative Care Center (RCC). HSC is renovating a residential property adjacent to the campus

into seven permanent housing units to assist patients of the RCC to transition out of homelessness.

Total investment = \$1.5 million, leveraging \$2.1 million in funding.

The Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC), a nonprofit affordable housing developer in the City of San Francisco, is acquiring and rehabilitating 86 units of affordable housing of which 24 units will be for affordable rental units for homeless families.

Total investment = \$5.0 million, leveraging \$27.7 million in funding.

First Step Staffing, Inc. is an agency that places low income and formerly homeless job seekers into temporary and permanent positions. Funds will help First Step expand services in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

Total investment = \$1.5 million, leveraging \$8.6 million in funding.

hospital community grants – \$1.5M

In FY20, nearly \$1.5M was awarded for 28 community grants focused on housing insecurity and homelessness. Areas of focus included:

- Navigation and linkages to medical and behavioral health services (including substance use services)
- Emergency housing
- Permanent housing

- Expansion and coordination of resources
- Food insecurity
- Recuperative care and medical respite services
- Case management services

future focused

FY 2021 Progress to Date

- Supporting applications for Project Homekey with counties, cities, and housing authorities
- Expanding a mobile street response model to four rural communities that will meet people in their own environments and link them to available services
- Adopting a common platform for sharing data among providers and agencies

- Convening national strategic partners to develop state and national priorities on which multiple health systems can collaborate
- Assessing rural homelessness across California to identify the challenges and opportunities
- Advocating for state and national policies that will bring stability and sustainability to the efforts under way.

FY20

Nearly 1.5M was awarded to 28 community grants.