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 insecurity 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 insecurity 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.

Want to learn more?
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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.

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.
**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. Dignity Health invested $9.5M to address homelessness through our hospital prevention and care transitions for people experiencing homelessness. This included 11 major projects to support homelessness over $9.2M in funding across California.

**FY 2020 impact includes:**

- ***Community Grants and Community Investments***
  - Dignity Health invested $9.5M to address homelessness through our hospital prevention and care transitions for people experiencing homelessness. In addition, and rural communities. This included 11 major projects to support homelessness over $9.2M in funding across California.

  - Between July of 2019 and June of 2020, the Homeless Health Initiative approved FY 2020 accomplishments

  - **Santa Cruz**
  - **San Francisco**
  - **San Luis Obispo**
  - **San Joaquin**
  - **Sacramento**
  - **Los Angeles**
  - **Stanislaus**
  - **San Bernardino**
  - **Merced**

  - **Shasta**
  - **Kern**

**Transitions of Care/Care Coordination**
- Managed acquiring buildings to increase medical respite bed capacity by 47 beds in Santa Barbara and Merced Counties.

**Permanent/Interim Housing**
- Secured round-the-clock 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 200 individuals.

**Emergency Housing**
- Added 460 shelter beds and expansion of assigned services in 50 shelters across California.

**Prevention**
- Addressed energy insecurity by educating hospital staff and community members on how to avoid utility shutoffs and tap statewide programs.

**Community Investments**

- Developed a web-based, consumer-facing platform to help San Francisco and Los Angeles residents find available resources.

**COVID-19 Projects**
- Jointly funded projects in 10 counties.

**Future Focused FY2021**
- Supporting applications for Project Homewrap with counties, cities, and housing authorities.
- Expanding a mobile street response model to four emergency and transitional housing shelters, a medical clinic, and a 12-bed respite Recuperative Care Center (RCC).
- Advocating for state and national policies that will bring stability and sustainability to the efforts under way.

**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 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.

**Community Investments = $8M**

- The Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC), a nonprofit affordable housing developer in the City of San Francisco, is acquiring and operating 80 units of affordable housing in 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.**
- 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.

**FY2021**

- Near $1.5M was awarded for 28 community grants focusing on housing insecurity and homelessness.

- Areas of focus included: Navigation and linkages to medical and behavioral health services (including substance use services)
- Extreme housing emergency
- Permanent housing

**Hospital Community Grants = $1.5M**

- In FY20, nearly $1.5M was awarded to 32 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, CommunityFirst and its Dignity Health facilities worked with local governments and public health officials to understand local COVID-19 guarantee and isolation response efforts and the implications for not only our hospitals, but for those experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.