



CommonSpirit Health

Homeless Health Initiative

FY22 Year in Review



A Mission to Serve

CommonSpirit Health leadership and our Dignity Health facilities in California launched the Homeless Health Initiative (HHI) in early 2019. As one of the largest nonprofit health systems in the U.S., with more than 1,000 care sites in 21 states coast to coast, serving 20 million patients in big cities and small towns across America, CommonSpirit serves a vital role in providing services, and coordinating the care needs of our patients and community members experiencing housing insecurities and homelessness. This work has always been a part of who we are as an organization and ingrained in our mission which states “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 hospitals serve as anchor institutions and resource connectors in many of our communities for our unhoused neighbors. For our Dignity Health hospitals across California, this role has become pivotal with the launch of California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM). Further, the continued impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our communities and patients has required ongoing support.

The strategy of HHI is to co-locate, coordinate, and integrate health care, behavioral health, safety, and wellness services with housing and other social services to enhance the continuum of care. This strategy not only creates additional resources but it also helps providers to connect individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurities with resources. CommonSpirit has committed to invest a minimum of \$20 million across California 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 and;
- Developing and strengthening collaborative efforts with local community partners

FY22 Accomplishments

Through FY22, CommonSpirit and our Dignity Health facilities in California have invested **\$27.3M** in programs addressing housing insecurities and homelessness. Between July 2021 and June 2022, HHI approved over **\$8.8M** in funding across California with a continued focus on our smaller and rural communities.



Transitions of Care

- 1,448 persons served through a street level outreach program
- 89 individuals served through medical respite/ recuperative care
- Behavioral health program hired a clinician to provide services for 50 housing-insecure youth



Permanent/Interim Housing

- Building plans completed for 4 new structures
- Permanent housing achieved for 89 individuals
- 36 participants were placed in interim housing
- Capital investment funds were allocated for 130 units



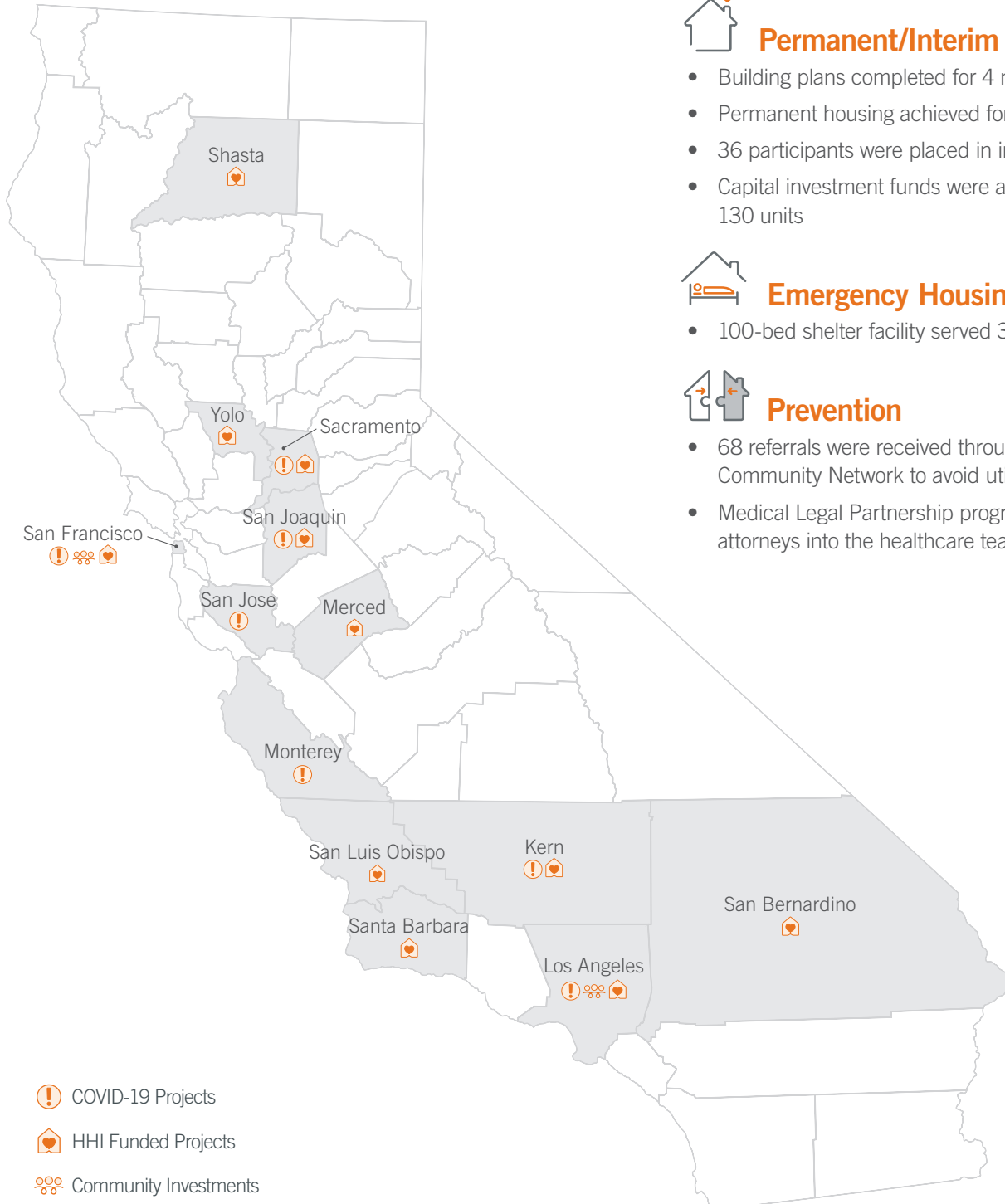
Emergency Housing

- 100-bed shelter facility served 309 individuals



Prevention

- 68 referrals were received through the Connected Community Network to avoid utility shut-offs
- Medical Legal Partnership program integrated two attorneys into the healthcare team



- ! COVID-19 Projects
- 🏠 HHI Funded Projects
- 👥 Community Investments

COVID-19 Response = \$1.14M

Since 2020 Dignity Health has invested over **\$3.8M** under our Homeless Health Initiative. FY22 support includes:

- **343,800** masks provided to a variety of community partners
- Project Homekey acquisition, rehabilitation and application technical assistance
- Development of **70** temporary non-congregate housing units to support encampment communities which housed **93** individuals
- **1,741** meals prepared and delivered by local entrepreneurs in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco
- Partnered to establish a text and document submission platform for income-eligible families to sign up for California rent relief. **3,003** unique persons accessed the platform and **33,600** text messages were sent.

\$3.8M
I N V E S T E D

70 units
H O U S I N G

1,741
M E A L S



Systems Transformation

- The **Research and Equity Advisory Council for Housing Insecurities** (REACHI) was launched, in partnership with Homebase, and composed of individuals with lived expertise of homelessness, service providers, and advocates. The aim is to ensure the leadership and voices of those with lived-expertise are centered in Dignity Health's community-driven initiatives.
- **Community Solutions and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement** is in their second year of implementing the Healthcare and Homelessness pilot. This effort brings together the health and homelessness systems to make measurable progress to end chronic homelessness, with an emphasis on racial equity.
- **National Institute for Medical Respite Care** (NIMRC) will provide technical assistance to support Medical Respite/Recuperative Care capacity building. A learning collaborative will be developed to help identify best practices.
- Aiming to align investment strategies related to homelessness/housing, the Health Systems Network for Housing Justice, led by **Funders Together to End Homelessness**, continues to convene multiple health-system partners.

“ I want to be that guy that helps someone believe. You can go through anything, it might take 33 years, but you believe and you pray, and it will happen.”
–FUSE Participant



Community Investments = \$3.2M

The Homeless Prenatal Program (HPP) partners with families and breaks the cycle of childhood poverty in San Francisco and was approved for a \$2M loan to support predevelopment costs for 60-units of permanent supportive housing for low income and homeless families, and expands job training and childcare services.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) assists community residents to transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities of choice and opportunity. LISC was approved for a \$1.2M loan to support the development of modular permanent supportive housing projects, helping in the development of 398 units of affordable housing for low-income families and homeless individuals in Los Angeles.

Community Health Improvement Grants = \$800,000

In FY 2022, hospitals across California awarded nearly \$800,000 in community health improvement grants to 14 projects that focused on housing including navigation and coordination of services, tenancy education, emergency and permanent housing, case management services and clinical services inclusive of substance use and behavioral health.

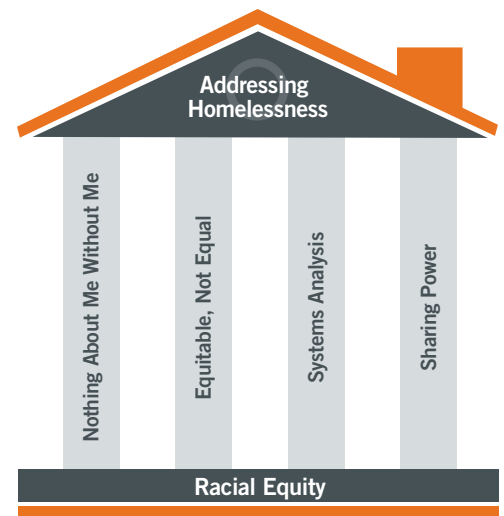


“ J has stated that prior to being housed through the Flex Pool, she was staying in a tent on the streets. Recently housed, J said that meeting with her social worker weekly makes her feel connected, decreasing her sense of isolation and loneliness. J will soon reach her one-year anniversary of being housed, which she will celebrate with her housing coordinator and her social worker.”

–Partner, *Tipping Point*

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.



“ A patient could not be safely discharged from the hospital because they were unable to establish live-in care. After getting referred to the Medical Legal Partnership program, the client was connected with an advocate who supported them with maintaining their housing voucher and securing an IHSS live-in caretaker.” –Partner, Legal Services of Northern California

Want to learn more?

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