



Data as of July 30, 2013

HACSC's mission is to provide and inspire affordable housing solutions to enable low-income people in Santa Clara County to achieve financial stability and self-reliance.

A Commitment to Ending Homelessness

Homelessness is a persistent problem throughout the country, and the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara (HACSC) has long led efforts to provide cost-effective local solutions that improve the lives of our homeless citizens while also benefiting the community. In recent years, HACSC has provided permanent rental assistance to nearly 2,500 homeless families and individuals at a cost of more than \$58 million (*through July 30, 2013*).

HACSC's innovative programs for the homeless include targeted voucher allocations, supportive housing for veterans, and Shelter Plus Care (*now called Continuum of Care*) subsidies for the disabled, among others. All of HACSC's homelessness programs provide some level of case management support services. A strong supporter of the Housing 1000 Campaign, HACSC in 2012 allocated 30% of its turnover vouchers to the chronically homeless (*up to 100 vouchers*). Since then, HACSC has issued a number of vouchers through the Chronically Homeless Direct Referral program, and will continue to work with case management providers to issue the remaining vouchers to this population (*up to 100 vouchers*). In June 2013, HACSC was awarded approximately \$1.2 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for an additional 100 vouchers to support the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program.

HACSC understands that devising solutions to homelessness requires a multifaceted community effort, the availability of quality case management services, a commitment to tenant stability and program sustainability, consideration of self-sufficiency and income eligibility, streamlined administration, and extensive communications with various constituencies and stakeholders.

HACSC Homelessness Program Snapshots

■ Chronically Homeless Voucher Allocation and Direct Referral Program:

In 2006, HACSC established a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) waiting list preference to assist chronically homeless applicants. In 2010, HACSC launched the Chronically Homeless Direct Referral program in partnership with 21 local service providers. This program was designed to match vouchers and appropriate case management services with chronically homeless families quickly and effectively. HACSC has assisted 750 chronically homeless families over the past five years.

■ Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing:

HACSC has received VASH awards since May 2008. This program combines HCV rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Due to HACSC's successful partnership with the VA, HACSC was awarded an additional 100 vouchers (*to total 635*) in 2013 which will be issued to eligible veterans. HACSC has assisted 608 families through this program.

■ Shelter Plus Care Program (*now called Continuum of Care*):

Since 1992, this program has provided rental assistance and supportive services on a long-term basis for homeless and chronically homeless persons with disabilities. As of July 2013, HACSC has assisted 561 families through this program.

HACSC Homelessness Program Snapshots (continued)

■ Opportunity Center of the Midpeninsula and other Project-Based Voucher Housing:

The Opportunity Center is an 88-unit Housing Authority development that provides homeless and near homeless families with permanent affordable housing and connections to extensive services including case management, an on-site medical clinic, computer stations, a clothes closet, and more. HACSC has assigned project-based vouchers (PBV) to 22 of the units. Since 2006, The Opportunity Center has housed 193 homeless households. The tenants' average stay of 4 years, with 20% of the tenants living at the Center for more than 6 years, demonstrates that these formerly homeless households have managed to stabilize their lives.

In addition to the project-based vouchers for The Opportunity Center, HACSC has allocated a total of 50 PBVs to other housing developments including Kings Crossing, Sobrato, and Tully. So far, HACSC has assisted 80 families through the Project-Based Vouchers program.

■ Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy Program:

This program assisted very low-income homeless individuals in obtaining permanent housing in privately-owned, rehabilitated buildings. The program ended in 2009, and HUD ensured continued assistance to those affected by providing them with HCVs. HACSC has provided assistance to 319 families through the life of this program.

Forecasting Future Costs

HACSC estimates a cost of \$105 million for ongoing assistance to current participants over the next five years. The chart below shows the breakdown of estimated costs for each of the five HACSC Homelessness programs.

HACSC Homelessness Program	Estimated Cost 2013 - 2017	Fiscal Year Program Began
Chronically Homeless Voucher Allocation	\$48 million	2007
Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	\$33 million	2009
Shelter Plus Care Program (S+C)	\$12 million	1992
Project-Based Vouchers	\$5.3 million	2006
Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy Program (MR8 SRO)	\$7 million*	1995*

* Program ended in 2009, but participants continue receiving assistance through Housing Choice Vouchers. Cost estimate for next five years is based on HCV program average costs.

Moving Forward

HACSC is committed to a multi-pronged approach to ending homelessness. There is a need to develop a strategic plan with input from a variety of informed sources and constituencies. Any plan should carefully consider these points:

- The reality is: Implementing solutions to homelessness requires the efforts of the entire community.
- Across the board federal budget cuts threaten HACSC's ability to commit future vouchers.
- The community must strategically leverage existing resources while seeking out new sources of support.
- A primary focus is to ensure that all current voucher holders retain assistance.
- Third-party reviews of case management services help ensure standards of quality and consistency are met.
- All plans must emphasize the importance of appropriate data collection and program evaluation.

