



**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES & MERCY HOUSING  
TO DEVELOP CITY'S LARGEST  
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING  
PROJECT FOR FORMERLY HOMELESS PEOPLE**

*Up to 265 units at 1064-1068 Mission will designate 100 homes for homeless seniors*

**San Francisco, CA, April 25, 2018** -- [Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco](#) (ECS) and [Mercy Housing](#) have been selected to build and run San Francisco's largest permanent supportive housing development for formerly homeless people. The two-building development to be built near 7<sup>th</sup> and Mission will provide permanent homes for up to 265 households experiencing chronic homelessness, with 100 of these new units earmarked for formerly homeless seniors, age 62 or older. The City of San Francisco's selection panel recommended the ECS/Mercy team to exclusively negotiate a ground lease for the site near 7th and Mission, based on a detailed proposal submitted in response to a competitive Request for Qualifications.

"We'll be building on a determined three-year timetable to get keys in hands of people experiencing prolonged housing instability," said Beth Stokes, Executive Director of ECS. "Mission and 7<sup>th</sup> is at the heart of ECS's work and commitment to proven solutions that address the complex health and wellness needs of those experiencing chronic homelessness, such as supportive housing. This project will provide quality housing and stability, where seniors can age in place in a dignified setting with access to comprehensive, on-site supports necessary to remain in their housing."

Architects for the project are Herman Coliver Locus, which has enjoyed a long collaboration with both ECS and Mercy in the design of innovative supportive housing, and Lowney Architecture, local leaders in modular design and construction. The project will be built using modular-built elements for rapid construction and cost control.

"The City is dedicated to providing permanent supportive housing to San Franciscans experiencing homelessness to get people off the street as quickly as possible," said Mara Blitzer, Director of Housing Development at the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development. "We are grateful to be partnering with the federal government on this critical development."

Currently a parking lot behind the federal circuit courthouse at Seventh and Mission, the City began negotiating for control of the site in 2017 under the leadership of the late Mayor Edwin Lee. Under a 1987 law, the federal General Services Administration can relinquish property to local governments for a nominal fee, provided that it's used for homeless services.

"Projects like this are essential to the City's efforts to make significant and sustained reductions in homelessness," said Jeff Kositsky, Director of the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. "This project will add up to 265 needed new units of supportive housing to our existing portfolio of over 7,000 units, enabling us to help hundreds more as we build a homelessness response system that is focused on helping people overcome homelessness as quickly as possible."

This new supportive housing community will also become the home for the Department of Public Health's Tom Waddell Urgent Care Clinic, including dental services and a specialized Street Medicine program, and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's Homeless Outreach Team.

### **About Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco**

Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco (ECS) has provided essential services to homeless and very low-income San Franciscans since 1982, utilizing a holistic approach that addresses the multiple causes leading to homelessness. The agency serves more than 7,000 people a year – through emergency shelters, Navigation Centers, 12 permanent supportive housing sites, adult education, workforce development, and a senior day center -- guided by a mission to help homeless and very low-income people obtain the housing, shelter, and services each person needs to prevent and end homelessness. For more information about ECS, visit [www.ecs-sf.org](http://www.ecs-sf.org).

### **About Mercy Housing California**

Mercy Housing California is the largest regional division of national nonprofit Mercy Housing, Inc. Mercy Housing, Inc. is headquartered in Denver and founded in 1981 with the mission to create stable, vibrant, and healthy communities by developing, financing and operating affordable, program-enriched housing for families, seniors and people with special needs who lack the economic resources to access quality, safe housing opportunities. To date, with a presence in 41 states, Mercy Housing, Inc. has developed, preserved and financed more than 45,000 affordable homes nationwide, both rental and single family, serving more than 152,000 adults and children on any given day.

Mercy Housing California owns and manages 140 rental properties across California serving more than 18,000 low and very low-income residents: working poor families, senior citizens, persons who were formerly homeless, people with developmental and physical disabilities and persons living with HIV/AIDS. For more information about Mercy Housing, Inc. and Mercy Housing California, please visit [www.mercyhousing.org](http://www.mercyhousing.org).

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