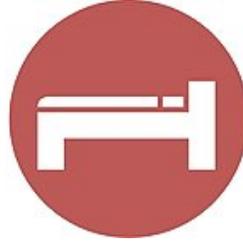
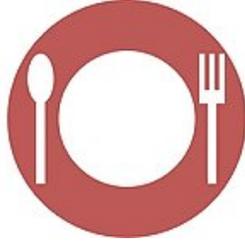


The Spotlight

September '18

Highlighting People, Programs, and Services



A Message from our Executive Director, Beth Stokes

It has been an exciting month here at ECS, as we embarked on an innovative outreach and assessment initiative for the San Francisco Adult Coordinated Entry System. As you may have read in past newsletters, this initiative was originally created by the City's Homelessness and Supportive Housing Department (HSH) and is now being run by ECS. In this newly launched program, we will have brick and mortar sites across the city where we provide streamlined access, eligibility, problem solving, assessment, and housing referrals for adults experiencing homelessness. To assist us in this incredible opportunity for impact, we created a new role, Director of Coordinated Entry, and are pleased to announce that we have hired Chris Block to lead the department. Chris spent 25 years as an affordable housing developer and nonprofit executive director before serving as CEO of American Leadership Forum



Silicon Valley (ALF). By October 31st we plan to assess 2,000 individuals in our community. Ending homelessness is a community effort, and we are truly grateful to our collaborative partners in this endeavor, including St. Vincent de Paul, Swords to Plowshares, United Council of Human Services and HSH. Please stay connected to us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), as we continuously update the public on our progress designing and implementing this new coordinated system of care.

It's September, and that means it's Back to School time. This past month we distributed over 40 backpacks and school supplies to youth who live in one of ECS' two supportive housing sites for families. I'd like to give a special "Thank you" to our generous in-kind donors and Dolby Laboratories for helping our youth start their school year off right. ECS could not provide these opportunities without you.

I'd be remiss not to mention the upcoming November Elections. Next month we will share with you our ballot slate, along with many exciting agency initiatives. In the meantime, be sure to register to vote today!

Executive Director

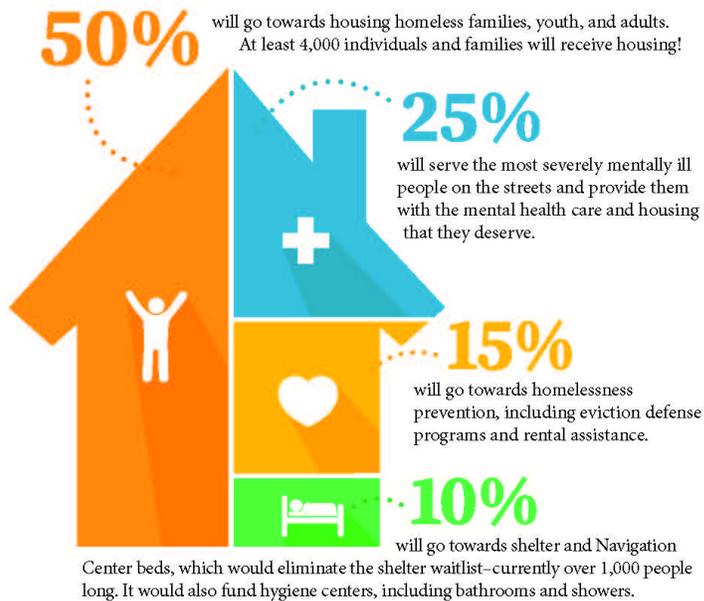
Proposition C

ECS is officially endorsing Proposition C, also known as “Our City, Our Home.”. Prop C creates the “Our City Our Home Fund” which will allow San Francisco to make real progress evidenced by a marked reduction of suffering on our streets, resulting in increased safety and quality of life for all San Franciscans. This funding is vital for ECS and our partners, to continue to provide needed homes and services for individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

Ballot Spotlight



OUR CITY, OUR HOME Measure Funding Allocation



THE TIME IS NOW

Be a part of making history!
Sign up to volunteer or donate to the campaign!

www.ourcityourhomesf.org

Follow us on Social Media:
Facebook: @OurCityOurHomeSF **Twitter:** @OurHomeSF

Press Conference Spotlight



Mayor London Breed, ECS, DISH and HSH open The Minna Lee

On August 22, ECS and partners SF Dept. of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), and Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing (DISH), guests and residents joined Mayor London Breed at a press conference to celebrate the opening of the Minna Lee, a 50-unit permanent supportive housing building in the South of Market neighborhood for formerly homeless individuals.

“This is a celebration of 50 more solutions in our collective effort to end chronic homelessness in San Francisco,” stated ECS Executive Director, Beth Stokes. San Francisco currently has more than 7,500 units of supportive housing, the most per capita in the United States. Another 1,300 units of supportive housing for adults, families, and youth are in the pipeline.

Alex Banayos, one of the first Minna Lee residents to move in, noted, “The Minna Lee is a great refuge from the streets.” All units at the Minna Lee are now occupied, each unit is furnished with a bed, dresser, sink, microwave, and mini-refrigerator. All case management and supportive services at the Minna Lee are provided by ECS and are available Monday through Friday.



San Francisco Mayor, London Breed, and ECS Executive Director, Beth Stokes

Expert Consultant: Bayview Navigation Center

ECS is the lead agency for three of the City's Navigation Centers, having piloted the first Navigation Center at 1950 Mission Street, and subsequently opening two additional Navigation Centers – 63 beds in the Central Waterfront/Dogpatch Navigation Center and a projected 80+ beds in the Navigation Center set to open soon at Fifth and Bryant Streets.

ECS is now something of an expert in this area. Given this deep experience in opening and operating Navigation Centers, ECS was recently asked to provide expert consultation on a new Navigation Center set to open in the Bayview neighborhood of San Francisco. 5 Keys Schools and Programs will be the principle organization operating the facility, which is currently being built out by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. During the initial one year opening period, 5 Keys will contract with ECS to provide consultation on early stage planning, set-up, and ongoing facility operation. ECS will also advise on best practices in the areas of staffing, service provision, and establishing site-specific policies and procedures, building 5 Keys capacity and expanding their impact in their community.

As Navigation Centers continue to become national models for resolving housing barriers for complex, high-need people experiencing homelessness through low-threshold, service-rich programs, ECS expects to further cement its reputation as an innovative thought-leader in this field and continue to work to build the capacity of communities looking to open Navigation Centers.

Program Spotlight



Back to School Spotlight



Backpack Drive and Distribution a Success!

ECS's administrative offices at the Canon Barcus Community House share the building with 47 formerly homeless families whose presence ground our work in preventing and ending homelessness.

These 47 households include 45 students, from elementary through high school, who needed support with back-to-school supplies for the upcoming academic school year. 84% of their households have an annual income of less than \$15,000. To help close this gap in accessing resources as well as uplift students' confidence and self-esteem, ECS neighbor DOLBY Laboratories sponsored the Canon Barcus' Back-to-School Giveaway with a \$1,500 grant for backpacks and other school supplies.

Assistant Support Services Manager Anica Leon-Weil expands on this Back-to-School Giveaway as a means to empower students with choice by being able to pick out what they wanted through the different selection of backpacks and supplies. The distribution event fostered excitement with the students ahead of going back to school. As Anica says, "The back-to-school giveaway becomes an external cue saying to students that yes, we value you, we value your education, and we want you to succeed."



Canon Barcus Community House student resident selecting his backpack

San Francisco Adult Coordinated Entry & Assessment Initiative

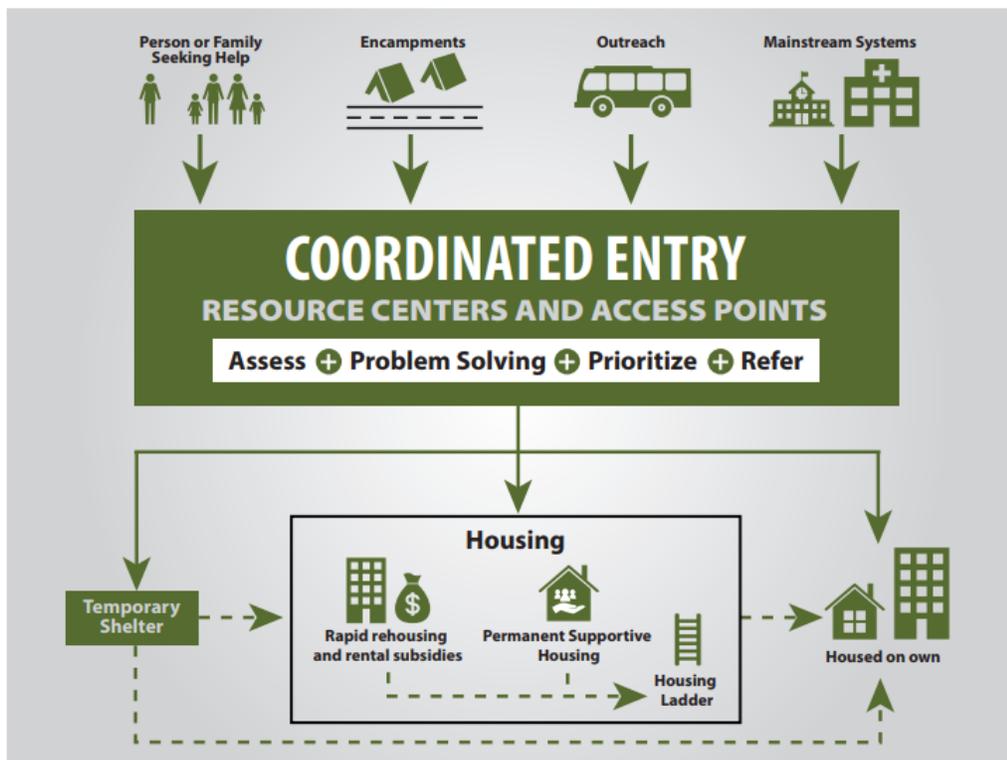
Program Spotlight

San Francisco’s Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) has named ECS as the sole operator of the City’s Coordinated Entry system for single adults. Through this contract, ECS will provide five localized access points for adults experiencing homelessness, offering coordinated assessment, problem solving and matching and referral services as well as temporary satellite locations to meet single adults’ needs. For single adults prioritized for housing, ECS will provide housing navigation services at its housing coordinated entry hub or other location convenient to the client, as well as 1 – 2 years of Housing and tenancy stabilization services at the individual’s housing site, housing coordinated entry hub, or other location convenient to the individual.



The Adult Coordinated Entry Assessment Initiative is focused on completing a primary assessment with approximately 2,000 adults experiencing homelessness between August 1 and October 31, 2018, prior to the full launch of the San Francisco Adult Coordinated Entry program in November 2018.

During the initiative, adults experiencing homelessness will be enrolled in the San Francisco Adult Coordinated Entry program and given a primary assessment that will be used to determine who will be prioritized for housing based on their health vulnerability, housing barriers, and homelessness chronicity. Additionally, demographic information will be collected.



Graphic courtesy of HSH Strategic Framework

Staff Spotlight



Senior Site Manager, Navigation Centers: John Ouertani

John Ouertani relocated to the Bay Area from New York City almost 16 years ago and has spent the last decade working at ECS. After hearing about ECS through a friend, John became an on-call worker at ECS, cooking in the kitchens and doing utilities work at Next Door and Sanctuary shelters. After working in various on-call positions for two years, John was promoted to a night time supervisor, working the “5th shift” at ECS shelters. Now, as Senior Site Manager at the Central Waterfront and 1950 Mission Street Navigation Centers, John still occasionally works the night shift when the sites are short staffed. He oversees the operation of these two Navigation Centers, ensuring that they remain national models for serving people experiencing homelessness. In 2015, John was part of the trailblazing team that **helped open the countries first Navigation Center at 1950 Mission Street**. Since then, LA, Portland, Seattle, and countless other cities have toured our Navigation Centers looking to replicate the innovative model in their own cities.

When making the transition from shelters to Navigation Centers, John and his staff had to “turn the dial” to understand the guests they were serving, the barriers guests were encountering, and the reasons for the low threshold entry at the navigation centers. “People come in so frail and weak and after the first 30 days you finally start to see who the person is. The first 30 days are like a respite for new guests, then they start to stabilize.



John Ouertani, Senior Site Manager, Navigation Centers

Grant Spotlight



Wells Fargo, Union Bank and Dodge & Cox Investment Managers

ECS applauds Wells Fargo and Union Bank Foundation for their generous grants in support of ECS's workforce development programs. Both Wells Fargo and Union Bank have been longtime supporters of ECS, and we are very grateful for their generosity. Wells Fargo awarded \$20,000 for our Adult Education, CHEFS, and Hospitality for All Programs benefiting homeless and extremely low income adults. Union Bank Foundation gave \$10,000 in support of our CHEFS program, enabling homeless and low-income adults to gain valuable job skills in San Francisco's booming food services industry.

ECS also thanks Dodge & Cox Investment Managers for their gift of \$20,000 to ECS's programs providing emergency shelter and meals and bridge-to-housing services to San Franciscan single homeless adults. ECS is grateful to all three funders for their abiding commitment to the vulnerable men, women and children served by ECS.



Game Night Volunteer Team: Invitae

A genetics testing company founded in San Francisco, Invitae moved to their current headquarters on 16th Street in Potrero Hill, not far from Central Waterfront Navigation Center, where they were confronted by the very visible issue of homelessness. Volunteer Lead Sarah McCalmon, a Molecular Biology R&D Scientist at Invitae, formed a homeless outreach fact-finding committee to help support ongoing local initiatives that work. This was how they came to learn about Central Waterfront Navigation Center.

The Central Waterfront Navigation Center offers pathways to housing, allowing individuals with lived experience of homelessness the opportunity to be with their pets, partners, and possessions while addressing their differing needs with case managers. Volunteers from Invitae host a game night twice a month with the 45 guests currently staying at ECS's Central Waterfront Navigation Center. The volunteers gather around tables in the Community Room with guests for board games or a lively game of Uno. **These fun activities help to reduce isolation for guests.**

Thanks to Invitae for maintaining a fun, friendly presence at the Central Waterfront Navigation Center.

Volunteer Spotlight



INVITAE

Donor Spotlight



The Tangelos

Local band, The Tangelos, plays shows in the San Francisco Bay Area regularly so they are familiar with the state of homelessness in San Francisco. Recently, they performed a show at a local night spot and chose to give a portion of the proceeds from their show to ECS. In their letter, accompanying their donation, they stated:

“We recently played a show to raise money and help in our own way to contribute to the great work you do in our community on a daily basis. While the check may not break the bank, we hope it can be passed along to those in need. Thank you for all that you do! Cheers, The Tangelos.”

Thank you Tangelos, for your “fresh-squeezed” donation, we couldn’t do what we do without donors like you!



The Tangelos

ECS's Adult Education Center

ECS's Adult Education Center provides workplace-focused literacy and adult education to more than 100 individuals every year who may have barriers when it comes to literacy, education, and employment in an individualized, culturally-competent environment.

As we work to create a more equitable pathways for students to gain employment, we would appreciate long-term volunteer support to:

- Teach literacy to Developmentally Delayed adults
- Tutor adults in basic reading and math
- Tutor adults in secondary-level subjects

The Social Restorative Justice Program at Next Door Shelter offers facilitated discussions with 334 guests to build community, get to know each other better, and create a safer shelter space.

We are currently looking for individuals passionate about restorative justice and would be able to provide training to become a co-facilitator for a commitment of 1.5 to 3 hours a month.

Share your skills and experience to directly effect positive change in people's lives by reaching out to Amar @ aalhosani@ecs-sf.org

Volunteer Needs Spotlight



Adult Education Center instructor and Student

Donor Spotlight



Hope in Giving

Each year during the holiday season, ECS celebrates the participants, guests, and residents of our emergency shelters, navigation centers, senior center, and permanent supportive housing communities. Enact compassion through financial contributions or gifts!

Will you join us as an individual supporter or corporate partner to donate funding or gifts to our Hope in Giving campaign and / or volunteer at one of our many winter celebrations? If so, please contact our Hope in Giving lead, Amar, at aalhosani@ecs-sf.org for more information.



Residents of Permanent Supportive Housing site, The Mentone

Episcopal Community Services | 165 8th Street | 415.487.3300 | ecs-sf.org

