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How ECS Supportive Housing Helps Families Out of Homelessness

By **Beth Stokes**, ECS Executive Director



Episcopal Community Services's efforts to end family homelessness include an array of services to support formerly homeless families at its supportive housing sites.

According to the newly released 2019 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey, there are about 201 homeless families in the city, comprised of 601 family members.

ECS provides 98 units of supportive housing dedicated to families at two locations. *In August, we are excited to open a third supportive housing site for families in Hayes Valley, adding 33 additional supportive housing units.*

ECS's Family Supportive Housing Sites

Canon Barcus Community House (48 Units)

Opened in 2002, all 48 units at ECS's Canon Barcus Community House are supportive housing for homeless families. The building also hosts ECS's offices and Adult Education Center, which offers free high school equivalency and workforce training and employment services to low-income adults.

1180 4th Street (50 Units)

Opened In 2014, 1180 4th Street is a 149-unit building owned and operated by Mercy Housing. Of the total units, 50 (34%) are dedicated to supportive family housing with services provided by ECS.

Coming Soon: 455 Fell Street (33 Units)

In August, a new affordable housing site will open at 455 Fell Street, between Laguna Street and Octavia Boulevard in Hayes Valley. Of the 108 housing units, 33 will be dedicated to supportive family housing with services provided by ECS. The rest will be below-market rate units provided by Mercy Housing, which will own and operate the building.



A rendering of the new supportive housing site opening in August at 455 Fell Street.

ECS's Family Support Services

ECS staff works to support its resident families in every aspect of their lives.

Family Homelessness Facts

201 homeless families in San Francisco (601 family members)

45% experienced a food shortage in the past four weeks

Top causes of family homelessness: **Job loss** (21%), **eviction** (17%), **rent increase** (14%), **argument with a friend or family member** (14%), **family/domestic violence** (12%)

Source: 2019 San Francisco Homeless Count & Survey

Here are some of the key services ECS and its partners provide for highest-need, chronically homeless families in supportive housing:

- Health and wellness care coordination
- Therapeutic and social support groups
- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) parenting training
- Employment support services
- Work with schools to maintain student attendance and provide tutoring
- Rental assistance
- Weekly free food pantry from the San Francisco Food Bank at the Canon Barcus Community House, plus emergency food pantries at all sites
- Free dental screenings provided by the University of California, San Francisco
- Nurse screenings provided each semester by Samuel Merritt Nursing University
- Monthly community meetings and a weekly breakfast group
- Annual recreational outings to amusement parks and other destinations

Our family service providers are proud to help teach life skills, foster a sense of community, and set formerly homeless families on a course towards a brighter future.

Navigation Centers Are a Key Element to Ending Homelessness



Bryant Navigation Center

Navigation Centers are a critical tool in the effort to end homelessness in San Francisco. They provide a low-barrier respite from the streets for a highly vulnerable population, in tandem with on-site case management, streamlined access to social services and medical care, and coordinated entry into pathways to permanent housing.

In 2015, Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco (ECS), in partnership with the City of San Francisco, opened the city's first Navigation Center at 1950 Mission St. and currently

manages the Central Waterfront and Bryant Navigation Centers. In addition, ECS provided training and support to 5 Keys, which manages the Bayshore Center.

Navigation Centers have shown strong signs of success in helping people exit homelessness, and they are different from traditional shelters in a number of ways. Navigation Centers have few barriers to entry and provide intensive case management to connect people to the unique care and housing solutions they need. They provide community space and welcome people with partners, pets, and possessions. Clients receive personalized support to help address housing barriers such as a lack of personal identity documents, employment opportunities, or histories of eviction.

Read more (<https://ecs-sf.org/?p=4405>)

ECS Announces our New Board Officers



Left: Gordon Leong, President; Yvonne Tatsuno, Vice-President/Treasurer; and Frederic Knapp, Vice-President/Secretary - pictured with Beth Stokes (second from left), Executive Director.

We thank our new Board officers for their dedication and support of the Mission of ECS to help homeless and very low-income people every day and every night obtain the housing, jobs, shelter, and essential services each person needs to prevent and end homelessness.

See the complete list of Board Members (<https://ecs-sf.org/team>).

ECS Discussion: Integrating Employment Placement Into Homeless Services

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is an evidence-based practice designed primarily to help people with behavioral health conditions work at regular jobs of their choosing. The model has also evolved to serve others, including transition-aged youth, veterans, justice-involved individuals, people receiving public benefits, and, significantly, people experiencing homelessness.

In June, Episcopal Community Services was proud to host a packed discussion on IPS at Google's office in San Francisco, where nationally recognized experts Rick DeGette and Emery Cowan shared lessons on the process of integrating employment support into homeless systems of care. Speaking to a crowd of homeless service providers from ECS, the City of San Francisco, and other organizations, they reviewed the basic principles of implementing IPS, how those principles have been applied successfully in other counties, states, and organizations, and how this process might be applied for San Francisco's homeless population.



Emery Cowan and Rick DeGette, experts on Individual Placement and Support, shared lessons on how to integrate employment into homeless systems of care.

Read more (<https://ecs-sf.org/?p=4412>)

ECS Thanks Our Wonderful Volunteers at Reception

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. Last month, we showed our appreciation to our wonderful ECS volunteers with a reception at the Canon Kip Senior Center.

Thanks to Bi-Rite Market for providing the delicious food, and **a huge thank you to all who volunteer their valuable time and energy to help move ECS's mission forward!**



Directly engage and become a part of the solution.

Volunteer Opportunities

Donate Today

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

