



**AUGUST 2019**

---

## **A Message From Executive Director Beth Stokes**

We're pleased to see that the new California state budget recently signed by Governor Gavin Newsom includes major new investments in increasing affordable housing and services to address homelessness. But we need even greater commitments from state, local, and private partners in multiple sectors to stem the tide.

San Francisco released its full 2019 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey last month, after providing initial numbers in May. The report shows that over the past two years, the estimated number of homeless people in San Francisco has increased by 17%, to 8,011 people. While ECS continues to shelter, serve, and secure supportive and permanent housing for more and more people every year, it's clear that greater investments in resources are needed to combat homelessness and keep pace with the rise in individuals who are experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, the greater Bay Area, and across California.



The city's survey sheds new light on the main factors involved in the rise in homelessness. The top cause of homelessness cited by respondents was job loss (26%). When asked about the main barrier to getting permanent housing, the majority (63%) cited unaffordable rent— an increase from 48% in 2015. And homelessness among seniors has grown faster than any other age group. Since 2015, the portion of respondents who were 51 or older has increased from 30% to 35%. This information provides us with a greater understanding on who needs our services and what kinds of services we need to provide.

Ultimately, we can't end homelessness without building much more affordable and supportive housing. For our part, Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco (ECS) will continue to strengthen our dynamic range of services to address the complex nature of homelessness. That includes our supportive housing sites, the Adult Coordinated Entry System which houses those who are most vulnerable and have the highest needs, our Healthy Aging program for seniors, our Navigation Centers and rapid rehousing program, as well as our Workforce Development and Social Enterprise Program, which includes our CHEFS culinary training program. We will continue to work with persons who are unhoused, supporting each one on an individualized pathway towards stable housing and wellness.

We look forward to continuing to build partnerships and innovate new solutions to address the needs of our unhoused neighbors. Efforts like the new "All In" campaign (<http://www.sfallin.org>) to find new housing solutions across the city, driven by a coalition of San Francisco business and nonprofit leaders including ECS, represent the kind of forward-thinking, community-minded initiatives that lead to results.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to solve this crisis. If you'd like to learn more about the 2019 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey, you can view the full report on the [San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's website \(http://hsh.sfgov.org/research-reports/san-francisco-homeless-point-in-time-count-reports\)](http://hsh.sfgov.org/research-reports/san-francisco-homeless-point-in-time-count-reports).

Sincerely,



Beth Stokes  
Executive Director

---

## ECS Problem Solvers: Finding Creative, Personalized Solutions to Homelessness



*ECS's Problem Solvers help people like "Uranchimeg" (name changed for confidentiality) find personalized pathways to safe homes. In her case, they helped her reconnect with her sister and provided the resources needed for her to return to Mongolia to live with her.*

Episcopal Community Services' (ECS) Problem Solvers take an innovative, highly personalized approach to help people experiencing homelessness find creative solutions and pathways to housing. As affordable and supportive housing are available to only a limited number of persons, particularly those with the greatest need, this division of our Adult Coordinated Entry program takes an alternative approach.

Since November 2018 when the program launched, the team of more than a dozen Problem Solvers has worked closely with more than 450 people to provide a fresh look at opportunities in their specific situation to find safe homes. Of the total, 372 people have found housing.

[Click here to read the full article \(http://ecs-sf.org/?p=4487\)](http://ecs-sf.org/?p=4487)

---

## Congratulations to Our Adult Education Graduates

On July 25, we celebrated the achievements of eight new graduates from ECS's Adult Education Center and seven from the Hospitality for All program. We especially congratulate Maggie Piper and Rayvon Williamson for graduating from Hospitality for All.

Our adult education participants must often overcome tremendous obstacles to attend and complete their programs, and their achievements are a great victory. "We are proud of all of our students," said Katherine Powell, Assistant Manager of Workforce Development and program instructor.

Rayvon Williamson joined the Hospitality for All program in February 2019 after serving 27 years in prison. "I wanted to find something that I could enjoy and be motivated about and possibly make a career of," he said. "That's how I came to this program and inevitably became employed. But first I needed to complete my education."

Rayvon gave special thanks to ECS Assistant Katherine Powell Manager of Workforce Development for being "a tremendous help" and "a great encouragement and great support throughout." Today, Rayvon works for ECS as a Service Coordinator for our shelters. "This whole process has been a pleasure," he said. "So I say, thank you, thank you for the whole program." [Check out the pictures \(https://ecs-sf.org/adult-education-center-graduation-photos-july-2019/\)](https://ecs-sf.org/adult-education-center-graduation-photos-july-2019/).

---



*Katherine Powell, ECS Asst. Manager of Workforce Development, and Rayvon Williamson, Hospitality for All graduate.*

## Thank You to Our Long-Term Foundation Partners

ECS salutes our foundation partners who through their financial support help us serve the community in a variety of ways – from addressing basic human needs such as a hot meal and a safe place to sleep, to the many kinds of support services we provide to individuals on the pathway to permanent housing.



In June, we received a number of grants that help us do this important work, and thereby particularly express our gratitude to the **Covia Foundation, Crescent Porter Hale Foundation, Stupski Foundation, and the William G. Gilmore Foundation**. We greatly appreciate your long-term partnership in our efforts to serve our unhoused neighbors.

To learn more about ECS's programming, go to <https://ecs-sf.org/our-work>.

---

## Check Out Our Volunteer Opportunities



*Volunteers from Adobe facilitating Game Night at ECS's Sanctuary shelter.*

We highly value our volunteers who generously provide a variety of services to their neighbors who are homeless and/or very low-income. ECS is pleased to offer a variety of opportunities to engage with and serve people in their community.

There are a number of regular opportunities to provide much-needed services at our senior center, shelters and supportive housing sites, whether it's facilitating social activities, serving meals, helping with food pantry distributions, beautifying a building, or donating much-needed supplies.

We're also looking for skilled professionals like beauticians, manicurists, fitness instructors, and others interested in sharing their talents with our guests and residents.

If you're interested in participating in our regular volunteer opportunities, volunteering your special skills, we'd love to hear from you. We invite you to check out our [volunteer webpage \(http://ecs-sf.org/volunteer\)](http://ecs-sf.org/volunteer) to learn more.

---

**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](http://ecs-sf.org)

---

