



Episcopal Community Services (ECS) is the largest homeless services agency in San Francisco, serving nearly 7,000 people a year with traditional safety net services and innovative programs that enable people to exit homelessness permanently.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, ECS sheltered and fed over 4,000 unduplicated clients in our two year-round emergency shelters and two seasonal (winter) shelters. Our year-round shelters were open continuously 24-7 (a blessing to all, but especially for those guests who are ill and those working night shifts). Our shelters provided guests with a stable foundation to access longer-term services. ECS's shelter behavioral health team linked homeless individuals to vital health and social services, assisting 781 people with enrollment in public healthcare, medical referrals, counselling, and linkage to treatment and successful housing exits. ECS staffs and manages San Francisco's Coordinated Entry team for single homeless adults, which has assisted 533 chronically homeless adults to secure housing since the program began three years ago.

ECS was integral to the nationally acclaimed success of the Mission Navigation Center, which together with the Waterfront Navigation Center (added in May 2017), helped over 300 homeless people to become housing-ready or achieve positive exits from homelessness last year. The Navigation Centers have an intensive case management model, smaller size, and higher staff-to-client ratio than traditional shelters to help homeless participants address difficulties such as lack of ID, criminal records, and behavioral health problems so that they can transition to housing when affordable units become available. The Centers' guests come directly from street encampments.

As a result of these successes and to further facilitate rapid housing placement, ECS has expanded our permanent supportive housing program. Last year, our twelve sites housed 1,350 formerly homeless single adults and families and offered case management, clinical and vocational counseling, and public benefits enrollment to help them improve their quality of life and stay housed. Fewer than 3% returned to life on the streets, a testimony to the life-changing stability of supportive housing.

Our Canon Kip Senior Center supplied low-income seniors and disabled adults with nutritious meals, free weekly groceries, health clinics, and many socialization activities such as daily exercise and games. Our education and employment services provided adult education classes that included literacy, computer, and high school equivalency classes, as well as tutoring, employment counseling, and the CHEFS culinary training program. All students were offered lunch, which, for some, is their only nutritious meal of the day.

In all of this work, ECS involved nearly 1,500 volunteers, many of them from Episcopal congregations. We are grateful for their generosity as well as the many donations that donors and funders have contributed to ECS's mission of helping homeless and very low-income people obtain the housing, shelter, jobs and essential services to prevent and end homelessness.

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