



The County of San Diego links homeless San Diegans who suffer from mental illness to supportive housing as a first step towards stability and recovery.

Connections Housing

1250 Sixth Avenue | San Diego, CA | 92101

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PATH
epath.org

Connections Housing
(619) 756-6277

Affirmed Housing Group, Inc.
www.affirmedhousing.com

Project Description

Connections Housing is an integrated service and residential community located at 1250 Sixth Avenue in San Diego to help homeless individuals living on neighborhood streets rebuild their lives and secure permanent housing. Affordable housing developers PATH and Affirmed Housing Group partnered together to develop Connections Housing to provide quality, affordable housing in connection with supportive services to bring personal stability and improved quality of life for people in need.

Connections Housing provides 73 permanent supportive housing units and two manager units on floors 4 through 12. Of the 73 permanent supportive housing units, seven are designated for individuals with serious mental illness eligible for supportive services under the County of San Diego’s Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) program to link homeless or at risk of homelessness individuals with mental illness to permanent housing and social services. All MHSA units target residents earning at or below 30 percent of the Area Median Income.



Connections Housing

Total Units	223
MHSA Units	7
Permanent Supportive Housing Units	73
Short-Term Transitional Supportive Units	16
Grand Opening	March 2013

Full Service Partnership:
Mental Health Systems, Inc.

TOTAL COST	\$33,900,000
MHSA CAPITAL FUNDS	\$787,000

Floors 2 and 3 of Connections Housing hold 134 interim housing beds for homeless and at-risk of homelessness individuals, including those with mental and physical disabilities, and 16 short-term transitional supportive units. The first floor of the building has a health care facility operated by Family Health Center of San Diego, and the basement has a social services center called the PATH “Depot,” where multiple service providers offer services and case management. The sub-basement has dining facilities for the residents of the interim housing beds, administrative offices, meeting rooms and storage.

Why is this project here?

Connections Housing is right sized to serve the specific needs of its downtown neighborhood location and serves as a demonstration project that can be replicated in any area of San Diego County seeking solutions to end homelessness. Connections Housing provides virtually every resource an individual needs to break the cycle of homelessness and lead fulfilled, self-sufficient lives. The development is designed using best-practices from San Diego and around the country, including linking health care to federal housing vouchers provided by the San Diego Housing Commission, rapid re-housing, strategic street outreach and homeless prevention.

Residents of Connections Housing have access to services and transportation to live as independently as possible. The building is situated within walking distance to ample public transportation, and amenities including pharmacies, grocery stores, medical and dental offices, libraries, Balboa Park, banks, restaurants and more, providing residents convenient access to regular community destinations as well as potential employment opportunities.

The building is a one-stop services and housing facility that seeks to provide social services and permanent supportive housing for homeless or at-risk of homelessness individuals. Mental Health Systems, Inc., the service provider for the seven MHSA units, has more than 30 years of experience providing integrated specialized services and is uniquely qualified to offer mental health, corrections and alcohol and drug services. The service provider for all 73 supportive housing units is PATH, California's leader in innovative approaches to ending homelessness for people and communities

What is MHSA "supportive housing"?

Supportive housing is a community-based service model that provides housing integrated with support services such as: mental health services, primary health care, alcohol and drug services, case management, and social services to help homeless individuals with mental illness gain stability and live more productive lives.

Supportive housing consists of two main components: permanent housing, and social and mental health services. The combination of a stable home, coupled with access to mental health and social services, medical care, counseling, education and employment, has been proven to benefit not only the participants, but their neighborhoods and communities as a whole.

As of January 2018, an estimated 8,576 people are homeless in San Diego. Roughly 30 percent of unsheltered homeless individuals suffer from severe mental illness, a major contributing factor to their homelessness.

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is partnering with service providers and housing developers to address the dual stigmas of homelessness and mental illness. The partnership recognizes that housing matters, because a stable home in combination with social and mental health services can break the cycle of homelessness.

Home is where recovery begins.

For more information about:

MHSA's Housing Matters campaign
www.HousingMattersSD.org

PATH
www.eopath.org

Affirmed Housing Group, Inc.
www.affirmedhousing.com
(858) 679-2828

The FSP Provider:

Mental Health Systems, Inc.- Center Star
www.mhsinc.org
(619) 523-8121