

GIVING INSIGHTS

Homelessness & Housing



The interests of our funding community inform the choice of issues we cover in each Giving Insights publication.

Overview

Today, the Bay Area has the third-largest homeless population in the United States¹. The lack of affordable housing, economic dislocation, family instability, and structural racism contribute to deepening the crisis. Those without homes include families, individuals, youth, and veterans.

The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the affordable housing crisis as many homeless individuals were forced to face the pandemic while living on the streets. In addition, many low-income households suffered severe income loss, which intensified an already difficult housing situation. As we emerge from the pandemic, more families are at imminent risk of facing homelessness once COVID-related eviction moratoria are lifted². Thus, the need for homelessness prevention and supportive housing services is at a critical point.

Because homelessness is a complex issue, it requires a multi-faceted approach in addressing the causes of homelessness as well as alleviating the hardships that homeless people experience. This guide focuses on homelessness prevention and housing. A separate Giving Insights will emphasize wrap-around and care services that holistically meet the needs of those without homes. Some organizations do both; we are including them in these guides based on the focus of their work.

How others live in our community is central to our Jewish values and tradition. The Haftarah portion that we read on Yom Kippur, from the Prophet Isaiah, implores us to 'take the poor into our homes' - asserting that caring for the homeless is religious duty preferable to fasts and sacrifices.

Using Your Donor-Advised Fund

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, new funding from federal, state, and local sources is supporting the expansion of homelessness programs in the Bay Area. Private charitable dollars can supplement government programs in the following categories:

- **Homelessness Prevention**

Flexible support is needed to prevent evictions and help with living expenses for those facing financial losses and diminishing renter protections. Giving can also support the development of low-cost housing facilities and rapid rehousing programs that prevent homelessness from occurring.

- **Supportive Housing**

For those transitioning from homelessness or unstable homes, these organizations offer rapid housing programs, counseling, and case management services, and they invest in developing permanent affordable housing solutions to help low-income families and formerly homeless thrive in their communities.

- **Advocacy**

These organizations advocate for the unhoused by providing legal services and support to provide a pathway to a better life. Advocacy programs also encourage policymakers to take action on permanent housing issues as well as the underlying, chronic conditions leading to the homelessness crisis.

¹ Bay Area Council Economic Institute. (2019, April). *Bay Area Homelessness: A Regional View of a Regional Crisis*.

² Solomon, M., & Baldassari, E. (2021, January 27). *More Than 500 Bay Area Residents Have Been Evicted During the Pandemic, Despite Protections*. KQED.

Our donors are giving to many of the local organizations listed below. You may want to consider these when implementing your giving strategy



Advocacy



Housing Stability



Prevention



Local



Jewish

California

<p><u>Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism</u></p>	<p>Advocates for social justice issues on the federal, state, provincial, and local levels. RAC’s legislative goals include advocating for housing and homelessness issues, building new affordable housing, protecting tenants from evictions, foreclosures and rent increases, providing rent relief and emergency housing.</p>	
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All Bay Area

<p><u>Tipping Point</u></p>	<p>Supports non-profits working in six Bay Area counties through direct grantmaking and capacity-building efforts. Tipping Point supports organizations that help individuals and families with housing services, and those working on innovative solutions to end homelessness.</p>	
<p><u>All Home</u></p>	<p>Serves all of Bay Area counties. All Home is creating a pooled fund to keep people stably housed and stop homelessness before it happens. Offers homelessness-prevention programs such as financial assistance to those who need to pay rental arrears, security deposits, move-in expenses and provides financial counseling to facilitate long-term housing stability.</p>	
<p><u>Hamilton Families</u></p>	<p>Aims to end family homelessness in the Bay Area with preventative programs, shelter, and transitional housing options. Housing services include a rapid re-housing program that provides families with housing and rent assistance, case management, and job search assistance for up to 20 months to help them gain housing stability and sustain a permanent home.</p>	

San Francisco

<p><u>Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp</u></p>	<p>Builds affordable homes in the Tenderloin community and around San Francisco. Helps low-income tenants stay stably housed and provides social work support, health and wellness programming, an after-school program, and food justice advocacy.</p>	
<p><u>Rising Up-Larkin Street Youth Services</u></p>	<p>A public-private partnership including the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, five non-profit organizations, local companies, and philanthropic supporters that aims to reduce homelessness for youth aged 18-24. Through wrap-around services and rapid rehousing, youth are provided education, employment, and health services that equip them with the skills to find jobs and a stable home.</p>	

East Bay		
<p><u>Abode Services</u></p>	<p>Provides permanent housing assistance and supportive services for formerly homeless individuals and families. Develops and rehabilitates existing housing structures into supportive housing for families, chronically homeless individuals, veterans, and other vulnerable groups. Abode Services believes that once people have a home, they are better able to address challenges such as unemployment and substance abuse. In Alameda County, additional programs help families gain access to employment and rental assistance. Based in Alameda County, the organization serves Alameda, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Napa counties.</p>	
<p><u>Keep Oakland Housed</u></p>	<p>Mitigates housing loss through emergency financial assistance, supportive services, and legal representation. Provides anti-displacement services for current leaseholders and those living in housing without a legal lease to help prevent them from falling into homelessness.</p>	
<p><u>Hope Solutions (formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing)</u></p>	<p>Hope Solutions assists vulnerable residents throughout Contra Costa County to find and keep affordable housing, helping them get healthy and independent. Hope Solutions focuses on support services for those individuals and families in need of mental health services, sobriety support, conflict resolution, and parenting skills.</p>	

Peninsula		
<p><u>Life Moves</u></p>	<p>Provides interim shelter services to help families, veterans, and individuals return to stable housing quickly. In addition to providing healthcare, food, clothing, and household necessities to those in need, Life Moves connects homeless individuals to mental health care, case management services, and job placement resources. Its community outreach programs focus on preventing homelessness in Silicon Valley.</p>	
<p><u>Destination Home (Santa Clara)</u></p>	<p>A public-private partnership that works with regional partners to create more supportive housing opportunities, preventative initiatives, and provide services to homeless individuals and families to help them become stably housed in the long term. To help vulnerable Santa Clara residents impacted by COVID-19, Destination Home provides rental assistance to help them stay in their homes.</p>	

Have Questions or Suggestions?

If you have additional suggestions or questions on this topic, or would like information on other causes and ways to give, contact your philanthropy advisor or email us at philanthropy@sfjcf.org.

Federation Philanthropy Partners connects impact and meaning by helping others view the world through the lens of Jewish values. Our 100 year history at the center of Bay Area generosity—supporting both those who give and those who benefit—grants us a unique ability to amplify results and create moments of transformation in the world, our community, and ourselves.