Maximizing Opportunities for Mothers to Succeed (MOMS)
The MOMS Program can serve up to 11 women and 55 children. The Program provides gender responsive education, individual and group counseling, housing assistance, vocational/educational assistance, services coordination, and access to an array of post-release services including substance abuse treatment, mental health and physical health services, among others. The program has served over 850 women and 1700 children, with an 80% “graduation” rate.

**Owner/ Sponsor:** Oakland Housing Authority and Volunteers of America Bay Area

**Developer:** Oakland Housing Authority

**Property Management:** Volunteers of America Bay Area

**Service Provider:** Volunteers of America Bay Area

**Tenant Profile:** Mothers attempting to reunite with their families upon release from the Santa Rita jail in Alameda County

**Service Approach:** A voluntary service model

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### Key Features and Innovations:

- The MOMS Program is a partnership with the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office, who runs the in-custody educational component, the Oakland Housing Authority, who provides transitional housing for 18 months, and Volunteers of America Bay Area, who provides wrap around case management services to the clients and their children.

- Almost one-fifth of MOMS clients were homeless or at high risk of becoming homeless immediately prior to incarceration; 79% have a substance abuse problem; and only half of MOMS clients have legal custody of their child prior to incarceration.

- The Program can serve up to 11 women and 55 children.

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### Financing

The in-custody portion of the MOMS Program is funded by the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office Inmate Welfare Fund. The Inmate Welfare Fund provides the Program Specialist, Program Assistant/Group Case Manager, a Sheriff Technician, two teachers, two deputy sheriffs, and the ProgramEvaluator.

The out-of-custody portion of the Program is the most critical component of the program and the most difficult to obtain on-going funding for. The Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Agency has been a partner from the beginning of the Program. B.H.C.S. provides the funding necessary to acquire the two case managers from Second Chance, Inc. and covers the cost of services. Alameda Public Health has provided funding for the grant writer, and the MOMS Program has received grant funding from Every Child Counts, which has provided the Eden I & R Housing Academy, program support staff, program supplies, furniture and appliances for the Oakland Housing Apartments and the State Legislature for replication of the program nationwide.
About Volunteers of America Bay Area
Volunteers of America's first stop on the West Coast in 1896 was San Jose, California, where it established mission services and a home for troubled girls. In the early 1900s, San Jose Volunteers of America established a shelter for homeless women and their children. Oakland services soon followed. Over the years, Volunteers of America Bay Area services have included a strong emphasis on community corrections and prison relief efforts, a direct outgrowth of the work of the founders. In 1976, an innovative community work-furlough program was developed -- the first in California to have inmates supervised by non-correctional personnel. Volunteers of America's mother-infant programs serve as a national model, allowing women inmates to serve their time while still caring for their infant and young children -- allowing the essential bonding process to take place.

www.voaba.org

CSH and the Sponsor
The Corporation for Supportive Housing provided significant technical assistance to MOMS partners including the Oakland Housing Authority, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office, and the community-based partners.

About CSH
The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) is a national, nonprofit organization that helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. CSH advances its mission by providing high-quality advice and development expertise, by making loans and grants to supportive housing sponsors, by strengthening the supportive housing industry, and by reforming public policy to make it easier to create and operate supportive housing. CSH delivers its core services primarily through eight geographic hubs: California, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, and Southern New England (Connecticut, Rhode Island). CSH also operates targeted initiatives in Kentucky, Maine, Oregon, and Washington, and provides limited assistance to many other communities.