



CSH Partners with Los Angeles City & County to End Chronic Homelessness

A striking humanitarian crisis has gripped Los Angeles County where 58,000 people are homeless on any given night and more people with disabilities are [experiencing chronic homelessness](#) than anywhere else in the country. As the result of an intense grassroots education and strategy-building effort within the community, Los Angelinos decided this shouldn't define their city and county and voted overwhelmingly to raise nearly \$5 Billion to fully address needs in order to end homelessness over the next ten years.

Building a Foundation of Awareness

In the mid-2000's CSH opened a hub office in Los Angeles, and a broad coalition of homeless system partners came together to use data and stories of lived experiences to [educate the public](#) that affordable housing is the solution to homelessness, and supportive housing is the solution to chronic homelessness. Members included the City and County of Los Angeles, CSH, United Way, the Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority, the Housing Authorities of Los Angeles City and County, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, CSH Speak Up!™ [advocates](#), and many concerned citizens. At the same time, CSH leadership shared models from other states where supportive housing agreements among private and public partners were leveraging resources to create new affordable housing and tenancy support services to address homelessness.



Clarifying the Need and Changing the Dialogue

In 2015, local leaders began to change the years-old script of “what is possible?” to “what is needed?” to end homelessness. On behalf of the Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority, CSH created a county-wide [housing and services financial model](#) to address three critical questions:

1. How many supportive housing units are needed to end chronic homelessness?
2. How much will this cost in terms of capital, operating, and service dollars?
3. What resources already exist and what must be generated to address the need at scale?

The findings were shocking—billions were needed. This changed the conversation dramatically—for the better. Having a clear goal created a heightened personal and professional motivation for everyone working on the issue to go “all-in” like never before. A strong comprehensive [coalition](#) began to form, and a cross-jurisdictional team began developing a plan. Growing grassroots

involvement gave key leaders and elected officials a reasonable amount of confidence to support the plan – and to declare that ending homelessness can be accomplished!

Unprecedented Public Support and New Resources

CSH worked closely with the State legislature, and the State dedicated billions to create new units of supportive housing and created Medicaid Whole Person Care program to pay for supportive housing services. Simultaneously in Los Angeles City and County, campaigns were launched for two groundbreaking voter initiatives, both of which were overwhelmingly supported.

On July 1, 2016 the state played an important role by creating [No Place Like Home](#), a \$2 billion carve-out of its Mental Health Services Act funding (a millionaires tax), to construct supportive housing for people with mental illness experiencing chronic homelessness.



On November 8, 2016 the voters of the City of Los Angeles passed [Proposition HHH](#), a \$1.2B housing bond primarily dedicated to creating supportive housing.



On March 7, 2017 the voters of the County of Los Angeles passed [Measure H](#), a quarter cent sales tax increase that will generate approximately \$355 million per year for the next ten years to fund all aspects of services, interim, and permanent housing.

An Enhanced System-Wide Approach

An enhanced approach to [system-wide alignment](#) is now underway to address clear, community-wide goals and national quality standards.

- Comprehensive strategies designed to end homelessness throughout Los Angeles were simultaneously passed by the City and County on February 8, 2016. Priorities are clearly aligned; there is an understanding that permanent housing is the solution; and people who are in the greatest need are prioritized for new housing placements.
- CSH created a \$60 million [Supportive Housing Loan Fund](#) with the City of Los Angeles and multiple private foundations to provide pre-development and acquisition financing.
- A combined funding application and award system for permanent housing is being refined.
- A policy team of leading agencies, including CSH, meets regularly to monitor progress while each participating agency is accountable for distinct strategies, monitoring, and reporting to the public.
- CSH is building capacity for providers, developers, and public systems to infuse national quality standards into supportive housing production through supportive housing institutes, training, and technical assistance.
- In November 2017 a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) was signed by the County and the City of Los Angeles to codify their working relationship to create permanent supportive housing, and several more of the 88 cities in Los Angeles are signing on.

Working with CSH

CSH advances solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people, maximize public resources, and build healthy communities. We are part of the solution in Los Angeles and dozens of other communities across the country. If you would like more information about partnering to end chronic homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization, please visit us at csh.org or contact us directly at consulting@csh.org.