



A Voice for the Sacramento Area Homeless Community Since 1997

# HOMeward

## Street Journal

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## THE RISE OF THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

By Cathleen Williams

Governor Newsom's proposed 2020-2021 budget is pouring more than a billion dollars into homelessness and housing. The outlines of the plan, which has been harshly criticized by the Legislative Analyst as lacking a strategy, remain vague and blurry. The new fund is called the California Access to Housing and Services Fund, to be administered by the state's Department of Social Services. Some portion of the fund will be channeled into rent subsidies for people on the verge of homelessness, although historically rent subsidy programs have not been sustainable, especially where, as here, the money is allocated on a one-time basis and will be depleted by overwhelming ongoing need.

Another portion of the new fund will support affordable housing construction. There is no stated goal for construction in the budget proposal: According to the California Housing Partnership, the 2020-2021 budget proposal contains no comprehensive plan to build the millions of affordable houses that Newsom promised before he was elected. Newsom now has taken the position that this was a "stretch goal" and that the state doesn't have sufficient resources, despite a \$5 billion surplus.

But there are other problems with the budget package. It does not include any proposed funding measures, like a program for the state purchase of currently affordable housing, to stop

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Photo Courtesy C. Williams

## Major US Cities Helping Low-income Tenants Pay Rent

By Jared Brey

The Housing Choice Voucher program is one of the biggest programs that the federal government maintains to help low-income families find housing they can afford. Previously known as Section 8, the program gives tenants a direct subsidy to make up the difference between what they can afford to pay — no more than 30 per cent of their income — and what landlords charge for rent. But the program is limited in some critical ways. Many landlords, legally or otherwise, still don't accept the vouchers, even as more cities have begun to pass bans on "source-of-income discrimination." And the federal government doesn't provide nearly enough funding to give vouchers to everyone who qualifies for the program, leaving the local public housing authorities that administer the vouchers

with waiting lists often tens of thousands of people deep.

As housing in big cities becomes increasingly unaffordable, many officials have begun looking at ways that local programs can supplement federal vouchers. This month, Boston and Philadelphia both announced that they will launch local rent-subsidy programs, joining the ranks of Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Portland, and Washington, D.C., all of which offer some type of local rent subsidy of their own. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh announced in his State of the City address that Boston would create its first locally-funded rental voucher program, "so more low-income families can be stable and secure." And the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation (PHDC) announced a Shallow Rent Pilot Program, which will provide vouchers

of up to \$300 for low-income, cost-burdened renters.

In Boston, the program has yet to be sketched out in detail, says Sheila Dillon, the city's chief of housing and director of neighborhood development. A working group is set to convene, with city officials, tenant advocates, and affordable-housing developers discussing how the program should work. Department interns have been looking at other cities' programs, and the city is hoping its program will provide permanent subsidies like Chicago and D.C., rather than time-limited subsidies for families facing homelessness like some other cities, Dillon says. The program will likely target renters who earn less than 50 per cent of Area Median Income — which in Boston is

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# Unaffordable Rental Housing may be ‘New Normal’ in the United States

By **Carey L. Biron**

A growing number of Americans cannot afford to pay their rent as rental property prices hit a record high, researchers said on Friday, amid an outcry over rising evictions and homelessness.

The number of US households living in rentals also surged to 43.7 million in 2018 - up 21 per cent from 2004 - a study by Harvard University found, as a growing share of older, larger families can no longer afford to buy their own homes.

“This is like nothing that we’ve seen,” said Whitney Airgood-Obrycki, the study’s lead author, pointing to the rising number of households who are cost-burdened - or spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

Some 21 million US renters are cost-burdened, according to the report - accounting for almost half of all renters - in both urban and rural areas across the country, with minorities disproportionately affected.

“When we talk about cost burden, this could be the new normal,” said Airgood-Obrycki,

a researcher with Harvard University’s Joint Center for Housing Studies.

The problem of unaffordable rental housing is a global one, according to World Bank, which found that the only affordable rentals in most fast-growing developing countries were insecure, in the informal sector and with poor living conditions.

About 65 per cent of the US population are homeowners, according to federal statistics, with most of the rest in rentals. Since the 2008 recession, caused in part by a wave of homeowners unable to repay their mortgages, the number of cost-burdened renters has risen by 2.8 million, according to Apartment List, an online rental platform. These people are forced to make difficult trade-offs.

“You might cut back on health care to pay for rent, or you might miss a rent payment, which could trigger eviction or homelessness,” Airgood-Obrycki said. High-income renters have flooded the U.S. market, having either lost their homes or unable to afford to buy, leading to higher rents, the lowest vacancy rates since the mid-1980s and a spurt of rental construction tailored to them.

Households earning at least \$75,000 per year accounted for three-quarters of the growth in renters since 2010 - up by 3.2 million - the Harvard study found.

In turn, the property prices for rental apartments have reached record highs, rising 150 per cent between 2010 and late 2019. “In the past decade, the lowest-income renters have seen a loss of more than 2 million apartments affordable to them and experienced increased evictions,” said Diane Yentel, chief executive of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

“The report makes clear that the housing crisis is most acute for the lowest-income renters, particularly low-income black and Latino renters,” she said in emailed comments.

Millions of poor people who are eligible for housing subsidies have not received help as federal rental assistance programmes have grown by only about 1.5 per cent annually in recent years, the Harvard report said.

*Courtesy of Reuters / Thomson Reuters Foundation / INSP.ngo*



Young boys ride their bikes past boarded-up and abandoned row of houses in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S., May 26, 2019. REUTERS/Stephanie Keith



# THE RIGHT TO HOUSING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

or prevent the ongoing *loss* of subsidized affordable housing, as well as the loss of so-called “naturally affordable” housing in the state. The rate of loss of “naturally affordable” housing is apparently not known, but with the upward pressure on rents, it’s diminishing rapidly. There is no proposal to monitor and preserve this resource.

According to California Housing Partnership’s recent report, over 9,000 subsidized homes are at risk of converting to market rate in the next year; over the next ten years, subsidized 31,821 affordable homes are at risk.

“Sacramento County could lose a *significant share* of its government-subsidized housing units in coming years,” according to the Housing Partnership. “More than 1,000 of those units in Sacramento County are ‘at risk’ of being converted to market-rate housing.”

In addition to the conspicuous failure of the Governor or the Legislature to address the issue of

ongoing loss of affordable housing, they have not responded to the impact of corporate investment on the affordability of rental homes in California.

There is no question that Wall Street speculators are moving into rental housing as a profit source. Tens of thousands of homes and apartments in California have been bought up by hedge funds and other corporations – Blackstone/Invitation Homes alone, a leading Wall Street landlord, owns 13,000 homes in California. During the foreclosure crisis, these corporations bought at bargain basement prices, bundling thousands of government owned, foreclosed homes into a single sale. Individual owners didn’t have a chance.

The flow of investment capital into housing has devastated neighborhoods. Tenants in investor-owned homes face unrelenting pressure to pay higher rents and cover maintenance costs themselves. The practices of investors bring down the affordability of whole neighborhoods. The problem goes far beyond gentrification: cities are being reshaped, neighborhoods emptied of long time residents, people of color especially being forced out of cities.

In the face of Newsom’s timid and subservient approach to the housing and homelessness crisis, heading a government dominated by development and real estate interests, new forces are rising to challenge the forced exodus of people from their homes, neighborhoods, and cities.

Last fall, Moms4Housing, a group of houseless mothers supported by ACCE, took bold steps to challenge investor owned housing in Oakland by occupying a home kept vacant by its speculator landlord. Facing tanks and Oakland police equipped like storm troopers, they were evicted and arrested as hundreds of supporters rallied around the building.



Misty Cross (left) and Dominique Walker of Moms4Housing

*We belong here, this is our city, housing is a human right. When the Moms were accused of violating property rights, they responded swiftly – This is stolen land. Stolen from native people, stolen from the community. We claim it as a human right.*

According to CBS news, even more recently, tenants of an Oakland apartment building near the Fruitvale neighborhood have stopped paying rent, demanding that their landlord sell them the building for \$3.2 million via the Oakland Land Trust nonprofit. The rent strike is the tenants’ response to what they say are years of rent increases that threaten to push them out. At press time, support for the rent strikers is building – and the Moms4Housing are publicizing and advocating for the tenants in this latest uprising.

It is time to imagine a human right to housing, and to see it as possible. In Congress, Minnesota Representative Ilhan Omar has introduced the bold “Housing for All Act” to commit \$1 trillion to

the cause of affordable housing, funding 12 million homes. The bill would also repeal the Clinton era’s 1999 statutory cap on public housing (the Faircloth Amendment). It parallels Sanders’ and Ocasio Cortez’ Green New Deal for Public Housing, which proposes rebuilding the nation’s public housing stock.

Wise people say that the first step toward great and fundamental change is to *imagine* it. Once imagined, it becomes *possible* and, eventually is seen as *necessary*. Enslaved African Americans always had imagined Freedom, but those who publically advocated for Emancipation faced great opposition and skepticism. Some advocates died for their beliefs. Few expected the Civil War, which would follow in just decades, to crush the Slavers and outlaw that hated institution. Emancipation had to be imagined, and publically advocated, first. Imagining sufficient housing for everyone, and acting on it, is what we need to do.



Photo Courtesy C. Williams



# City Opposes Private Citizens Providing Portable Toilets

*Note: Robin Kristufek and Janice Nakashima rented two porta-potties for an encampment on B Street in Sacramento earlier this year. The police ordered the removal of the toilets. The women replaced them and Attorney Mark Merin filed a complaint in federal court for a restraining order to keep the city from removing the toilets again. A judge rejected the request, saying the claim did not rise to the federal level, so Mark Merin withdrew the complaint. The saga continues.*

**By Robin Kristufek and Janice Nakashima**

Why are private citizens supplying toilets anyway? Everybody poops and pees—young, old, Republicans, Democrats, all genders, all races. In every human culture, for thousands of years, we have made provisions for relieving our bodily wastes in privacy. Defecating and urinating in private are among our basic human rights, as old and universal as rights to access clean water and food. We believe that all of our brothers and sisters, no matter where they sleep, are entitled to the respect and dignity that follows from the basic right to privacy during elimination of wastes.

The City of Sacramento's homepage states "We are committed to solving homelessness and making the community stronger and safer for all." The City's Neighborhood Service division includes in their mission "to promote healthy communities." (cityofsacramento.org)

On a phone call to inquire about a permit for a portable toilet, we were told that the city does not issue portable toilet permits for the homeless. Because we agree with the City's stated goal of making safe communities, we went ahead and had two porta-potties installed for an encampment of thirty people, as a moral effort to avert spread of disease and potentially save lives.

Estimates are that the two porta-potties we donated to the encampment for three weeks have prevented 240 gallons of untreated human waste from entering our environment. Doesn't keeping porta-potties in places without bathroom access for blocks or miles make the community healthier and safer?

The court deems we haven't proven that depriving people of a toilet causes "irreparable harm." (Sacramento Bee 2/11/20). Yet, in 2017-18, San Diego experienced twenty deaths from Hepatitis A, and currently Los Angeles has cases of typhus, both via untreated human waste entering waterways from encampments without toilets. What else does the court want as proof that harm can result from lack of toilet access? We cannot think of anything more irreparably-harmful than death.

What did having a toilet within yards, rather than miles, mean to this particular encampment? It helped ease the very difficult lives of disabled, elderly, and very young residents, all of whom make up the camp that enjoy these donated potties. People living at the camp have pitched in to keep the potties clean. They express their gratitude daily for this basic, simple toilet—no water, no soap, or other supplies. With the cleaning supplies we gave them, the toilets have been kept clean and pleasant.

What level of empathy does it take to

understand? Can our leaders and law enforcers take one minute of their time to honestly imagine how distressing it would be to not have a toilet close by? Would they be humiliated and embarrassed if forced to "go" in public, which, by the way, is in violation of city ordinance? Can they find some understanding since they too have bodies that function? Will they, in compassion, use their expertise, creativity, and our tax dollars, to problem solve and provide for this basic human need, and to keep us all safe from disease?

We applaud the City's big dreams and efforts for long term solutions. Someday, the long promised shelters, or mini houses, or low income housing, may become available.

Someday, there may be a living wage so folks don't have to commute from work back to sleeping in a tent as we have seen. But, today, we are in a homeless crisis. Today we need our government to do its job to protect *all of us* from disease, promote healthy communities, and accommodate crisis solutions. Today toilets are needed!



Photo by Gale Filter

# Unfreedom for the Poor

By Cathleen Williams

So far no picture has emerged of the shelters referenced in the Governor's pronouncements about the billions the state is going to shower this year on local agencies and non-profits to address homelessness. But the phrase "emergency shelters" has cropped up repeatedly. The word "emergency" suggests that homelessness can be compared to a flood or a fire or other sudden and unexpected disaster. In emergencies, you have to crowd everyone together without privacy or comfort. You have to restrict freedom, increase control, impose deprivation and regimentation.

According to the Bay Area's online site *Curbed*, proposals for "centralized" facilities have been "gaining momentum" with local leaders. "Centralized" means massive concentrations of unhoused people. "Fairgrounds, decommissioned hospitals, and Caltrans properties" are the types of sites being surveyed for these shelters, according to *Curbed*. Anywhere but the cities and towns where unhoused people have history, family, and community.

The Trump officials who visited L.A. last fall apparently discussed a plan to move 10,000 unhoused residents of Skid Row to a vacant building near the airport. Mayor Eric Garcetti says the city is working closely with Trump on homeless solutions.

One California entrepreneur has even proposed building an entire new city for unhoused people at a cost of \$3 billion. It's going to be really far away and hard to get to.

The policy of crowding people into isolated facilities is called "warehousing." Long accepted as a "solution" in New York – and newly proposed in Seattle – "warehousing" has several advantages, from the point of urban landowners and businesses. On the one hand, it's *relatively* inexpensive, as compared to housing. On the other hand, warehousing accomplishes a key goal: it gets rid of unhoused people, forcing them out of sight, invisible to passersby.

But the plan is also unlawful, cruel, and absurd.

One nonprofit director has pointed out that this has been tried before. 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced out of their homes and into camps during World War II. Also, as he observed, the problem with relocation is that "people are falling into homelessness faster than they're being housed. Every day in Los Angeles County, roughly 130 people are housed, but 150 people become homeless." (*Curbed*.)

Meanwhile, in Washington DC, Robert Marbut has assumed the position of chief in the U.S. Interagency on Homelessness. Marbut founded Haven for Hope, a vast shelter complex that opened in San Antonio in 2010. Marbut's signature policy is the 'velvet hammer' strategy—a policing-heavy model that emphasizes banning panhandling, centralizing services for the homeless in massive facilities far from urban centers, and providing food and shelter only as a reward for good behavior." (*Curbed*)

The people targeted for warehousing should understand politicians have little concern for their interests, and oppose such policies.

## Freedom and Homelessness

From Homeward Street Journal's Writing and Journalism Workshop

So you think you know what freedom is?

Think about it.

Just to survive, a person is expected to spend one third of their lives working a job which hopefully pays enough to make ends meet. This is not freedom, but we accept this contract in order to live in comfort and retire in freedom.

The wages that many of today's elderly homeless were able to make was insufficient to save anything for retirement. They are forced to trade comfort for a freedom that never existed.

By John Krintz

Self-determination is a freedom attributed to the wealthy but is also a fundamental freedom of all people. It cannot be squashed though it is being oppressed and criminalized.

Forcing people into shelters may reduce the homeless count but it will not reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness. People will determine for themselves to just hide better.

A person living outdoors has a foothold on the earth, as a base... freedom as a base of operation... freedom as a home. Where ever I go is home. Where ever I am is home. Many are re-terming their houseless condition as "houseless", expressing this fact that they are not without a home.

By Paula Lomazzi

There are ups and downs to the freedoms homeless have, while the normal constraints are absent, like paying rent on a cycle basis or adhering to terms on rental/lease agreements. Those that are homeless set their own terms. They aren't bound by a piece of paper that restricts them. That's the up side.

The down side is the harassment that comes from being homeless along with the uneducated stereotyping that is labeled on them. One other downside could be safety if the homeless person or family isn't within a group that serves as a community that watches out for each other.

Yet the freedom from restraints and rules opens the door for many to forbear being homeless, in accepting the poverty and situations out of their control is eventually an optimistic mental option they must embrace to endure the plight they are captured in and enjoy freedom.

By Bobbie Ramey-Clark

Join Homeward Street Journal's Writing and Journalism workshops

Held every first and third Tuesdays from 9 to 10 AM at Loaves & Fishes' Delany Center.



# Poor People's Campaign

My name is Bobbie Ramey-Clark. I come from Sacramento, where I work with the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee and the Poor People's Campaign.

My roots are in the desperately poor communities of farmworkers in the Central Valley, where I grew up picking cotton and grapes. I wasn't even allowed to use the restroom or drink water from the well belonging to the farm where I worked.

It's not something I like to talk about, but I've been homeless myself, both as a teen kicked out of foster care, as a married woman escaping domestic violence. I have been illegally evicted and lost everything. Even today, my housing is insecure – I must sacrifice to pay the rent, and I live in fear that it will be raised to the point I cannot pay.

We are the dispossessed – without work in a rapidly automating economy, without a secure, livable income, without secure housing, without health care, targeted by the police, by social services,

by ICE. We are stigmatized, called lazy, greedy, criminal, and deplorable, unworthy of community, public and social support.

But we know different. We know we are worthy because we are human, not 3/5 of a person like slaves were.

I am here to tell you that times are changing. When I grew up, I knew little or nothing about the way we can organize and advocate, a secure and healthy life for the millions of poor people the of all ethnicities and in California and across the nation.

Through this Poor People's Campaign, we are developing a plan to win by mobilizing thousands, hundreds of thousands, and more, to enter the Campaign. We need this Campaign not just to fight back, but to claim our rights, to take the offensive, to restore peace of mind to those we care for, to the disenfranchised and dispossessed.

Join us today! Everyone has a right to live!

# City Council Changes Camping Ordinance

By Tracie Rice-Bailey

In spite of the Martin vs Boise decision, Sacramento's Anti-camping Ordinance has now been updated, not to help the poor, but rather to further displace them.

At the Tuesday, February 25th afternoon City Hall meeting, item 21 on the agenda was discussed. As the Council gave their take on the "NEW" "Beefed Up" ordinance, they all said that this was not a way to get around the Boise decision using a public safety loop-hole. (Maybe if they say it enough, often enough, people will believe that.) However, this meeting was to add chapter 8.140 to the existing anti-camping ordinance, relating to protection of critical infrastructure and wild fire risk areas.....

Instead of more housing, or any other real accommodations in place to assist our rapidly growing unhoused population, our fine City Leaders voted unanimously to add public safety locations to the existing anti-camping ordinance, thereby making many areas in the city unavailable for anyone to be, with the promise of hefty fines, potentially in the thousands of dollars, to punish people who can not even afford to buy a meal.

I totally understand not living in the city's sump pump areas or digging into the levees or even in the front of the fire or police departments, blocking the entrance. But what does a wildfire risk area look like in the 'City of Trees'? If power lines are in danger by homeless people sleeping under them, isn't housing under them also a danger? Who's property is critical infrastructure, and who's isn't? Loose wording could actually designate the entire city a risk area due to the amount of trees and other flammables within the city itself, so should everyone be made to move?

There are many more areas that can be deemed 'off-limits' with loose wording, and I have no doubt that the cops will use the excuse to consider almost everything off-limits when it comes to dealing with unhoused people.

Council member Warren did say that Safeground (a legal camping area) in every district could be necessary, council members Schineer and Carr also mentioned the idea of a Safeground in each neighborhood. Mayor Steinberg stated he did not agree with camping at all, but that Safeground could be a part of the solution.

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**of Teachers**

# Major US Cities Help

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\$113,300 for a family of four — and probably lower, she says.

“Nothing has been cast in stone, and whether or not the working group wants to prioritize households that have even lower incomes is certainly on the table,” she says.

The working group hopes to have the program designed sometime in the next few months, before the city council’s deadline for approving the mayor’s budget proposal, Dillon says. Pending that approval, it would launch over the summer with \$5 million in operating funds. Walsh announced the program alongside a commitment to spend \$500 million on housing production over the next five years.

In Philadelphia, the affordable-housing challenge is different than it is in cities like Boston, says Greg Heller, senior vice president of community investment for PHDC.

“Other cities have super-high housing costs, and even people with middle incomes have trouble affording rent, so you don’t have enough supply of affordable units,” Heller says. “In Philadelphia our problem is a little different, in that we have a pretty affordable naturally occurring housing stock, but we have such a high poverty rate and low wages that people can’t afford housing that would be affordable in other markets.”

The city’s Shallow Rent Pilot will launch with \$2 million in funding in its first year and target cost-burdened tenants, as PlanPhilly first reported. In the first phase, officials will work directly with owners of affordable-housing projects that have already received some type of subsidy. The additional voucher will be paid to the landlords in exchange for further reducing the cost of a unit for a low-income tenant. In many projects that get federal tax credits for affordable housing, rents are capped at rates that are affordable to people earning up to 60 per cent of Area Median Income. That’s too high for people with the lowest incomes,

Heller says.

“You’ve got a lot of people living in income-restricted housing projects where rents are capped — they’ve essentially got rent control — and they still can’t afford the rent,” he says.

Chicago’s local rental subsidy program, the oldest in the country, served as a guide for Philadelphia, Heller says. Chicago’s program is funded through its Low Income Housing Trust Fund, which was created by the City Council in 1989. As of 2017, the program served 2,800 families, according to a program guide. The program is project-based, meaning the fund pays landlords directly, on a quarterly basis, to make units available to qualifying families. Tenants can earn up to 30 per cent of Area Median Income (\$89,100 for a family of four), with half of the vouchers reserved for families earning no more than 15 per cent of AMI. Forty percent are dedicated to special programs that help house formerly homeless people, veterans, or people living with HIV/AIDS.

The funding for the program is tied to the city’s Affordable Requirements Ordinance, akin to inclusionary zoning, with developers paying a fee that goes partially toward the trust fund for affordable units that they don’t build onsite in new apartment buildings, says Marisa Novara, who was appointed the city’s housing commissioner last year. For that reason, the funding has changed year to year based on how much development occurs, Novara says, and has required the city to keep large reserves to ensure it isn’t putting subsidized tenants at risk of displacement when funding dips. Cities that are considering creating their own local rent subsidies should be aware of the pros and cons of that fee structure, she says.

“The thing that’s really important to us about the trust fund is that it’s deliberately targeting the renters that we have the biggest need for, and that we are able to serve the least,” Novara says.

This year, Chicago put an additional \$5 million behind into the rental subsidy program in an effort to help more families. But appropriations from a city’s general fund can change year to year, too. Asked whether the Philadelphia program had a plan for how to protect subsidized tenants in the event its funding is reduced, Greg Heller said, “I really hope we don’t end up in that position.”

Heller estimates the Philadelphia program could serve a maximum of 1,100 families in its first year. Officials are also working on a second phase of the program that would allow locally funded vouchers to go to cost-burdened tenants renting “naturally occurring” affordable housing on the private market. Local resources

will never be able to meet the need of every cost-burdened tenant, Heller says, but small rent subsidies can make a big difference for some families.

“It would be terrific if the federal government would fully fund housing vouchers in this country,” Heller says. “That would make a huge dent in our national affordable-housing crisis. But the federal government hasn’t done that, so it’s really fallen on states and cities to fill in the gaps.”

*This article was originally published by Next City, a non-profit news organization whose journalism amplifies solutions and helps spread them from one city to the next city.*

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## COUNT ON CENSUS 2020

**Why being counted matters:** It is important that everyone living in Sacramento County is counted for the 2020 Census to ensure all our voices are heard and we are fairly represented. The Census impacts our community by determining how many elected representatives our state will receive and where our districts are located for the next 10 years. For every person missed during the 2020 Census count, Sacramento County could lose approximately \$1,000 in federal funding.



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# Resources List

**Night Shelters****Salvation Army:** 12th and North B St. Shelter spaces are limited. Call for availability: 916-442-0331.**St. John's Program for Real Change:** Women and Children. Transitional housing program. Call to get on waitlist: 916-453-1482**Union Gospel Mission: Beds for Men only,** sign up 5:30pm, Newcomers/Referrals have priority. 6am breakfast for overnight guests. Showers/shaves & clothing for men: M-thru Th 9-11am & 1-2:45pm; F&Sat 9-11am only; Sun, closed. 916-447-3268**Next Move:** 24 hr Family Shelter; Families, single adults with children who have no other resource: Apply for services at the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance or online at dhaservices.saccounty.net/efs. For information call: 916-455-2160**Volunteers of America:** Register on line for shelter opportunities: dhaservices.saccounty.net. Get on waiting list. Call for information: 916-443-4688**Day Shelters****Friendship Park:** Between 12th St. & Ahern on North C: Weekdays 7am - 2:30pm. Open to adults. Many services**Meals****Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannon St.: Evening meal 7 days, Men/Women/Children: Church service 7:30pm attendance required, dinner following. Sunday 11am service, lunch at noon. 916-447-3268**Loaves & Fishes:** 1321 N. 'C' St.: Lunch every day 11:30am-1pm. Tickets available 7 am- 12:30 pm at Friendship Park weekdays: at 8 am on Saturday and 10am on Sundays.**Women's Civic Improvement Center:** Seniors Only: 3555 3rd Ave. 11:30-12:30 lunch M-F. 916-452-2866**Food-not-Bombs:** Serves free food in Cesar Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every Sunday 1:30 pm. All Welcome.**Foundation of Faith Ministries:** 2721 Dawes St. Rancho Cordova. Every 4th Sat. 3-5 pm All Welcome.**Glory Bound Street Ministry:** 4527 Parker Ave. Sundays; breakfast 11:30 am after 10 am church service; dinner 6:30 pm after 5 pm church service: Fridays; dinner 7 pm after 6 pm church service. Must attend services. 916-452-7078**Safe Haven Calvary Christian Center:**

1300 North C St. 8am, Sun, Coffee, Women's clothing, Service 9am: Wed. 6 pm bible study.

**Women & Children****Maryhouse:** 1321 N. 'C' St. suite 32: Breakfast for Women and children 8am-9am. Day shelter 8am-3pm weekdays for women and families.**Wellspring:** 3414 4th St. T&Th full breakfast. M-W-F continental breakfast for women and children. 916-454-9688**Wind Youth Services:** Drop-In Center for youth (ages 12-24) experiencing homelessness: 815 S Street, M-F 7am-6pm, S-S 7:30am-3:30pm: Shelters, Counseling. 916-504-3313**Free Clothing****Sacramento Food Bank:** 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 10am-2pm Mon - Fri. 916-456-1980**Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannon St. Women Cloths Closet. Tues & Thurs 9am to 12 noon: 1/2 hr bible study to start, no late arrivals**Glory Bound Street Ministry:** 4527 Parker Ave. Clothes Closet, Sundays 11:30 am all welcome. 916-452-7078**Medical****Mercy Clinic:** For homeless adults, children: 1300 block of N. 'C' Street next to fire station. 916-446-3345**Sacramento Dental Clinic:** 4600 Broadway (Primary Care Bldg) Walk-ins 8 am - 12:30 pm. 916-874-8300**Mental Health****Guest House:** 600 Bercut Drive. Homeless Mental Health Clinic. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling. 916-440-1500**Hope Co-operative (formerly TLCS):** 1400 N.'A' St. Bldg. A; Adults 18 yrs & up; Referrals to transitional living programs, independent living, mental health support services; SSI/SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8-11am M-F. 440-1500**Genesis:** Professional Counseling for life problems. Referrals. 401 12th St. (Delany Center). 916-699-1536**Crisis Intervention****WEAVE:** Services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Referrals to court mandated battery intervention programs, Safe house, 24 hr. crisis line: 916-920-2952**AIDS / HIV****AIDS Housing Alliance:** Provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. 916-329-1093 weekdays.**Breaking Barriers:** Homeless Outreach Program provides direct services to people living with AIDS and HIV. Transportation to social services, medical appointments, job interviews, and housing assistance. 916-447-2437**Harm Reduction Services:** 2800 Stockton Blvd. M-F noon to 6pm. Free services high risk outreach. HIV, Hep-C testing; Survival kits, first aid. Opioid information. 916-456-4849**Alternative Test Site:** Free anonymous HIV testing. Wed/Thurs. Call for appt: 916-874-7720**Legal Aid****Disability Rights, CA:** Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY:(800)776-5746**Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic:** 401 12th St. (Delany Center) Free legal assistance and advocacy for problems related to homelessness. 916-446-0368**Legal Services of Northern California, Inc:** 515 12th St. M-F 8:30am-12pm, 1pm-5pm. Problems with public benefits, landlord / tenant, divorce clinic. Call for appt: 916-551-2150**Welfare Rights:** 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm: AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. 916-736-0616**Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer Free Consultation:** (916) 658-1880**Veterans****VA Outreach:** 1-800-827-1000**Homeless VA Coordinator:** (916) 364-6547**Mather VA Social Works:** Help getting DD-214, any vet. 916-843-7064**Sacramento Veterans Resource Center:** 7270 East Southgate Dr. 916-393-8387**Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee*****https://sacshoc.org***  
**(916) 442-2156****SHOC holds open meetings on Tuesdays at 10 am in the Delany Center Conference Room, at the Loaves & Fishes Complex near Ahern and 12th Street, to discuss current issues and activities that concern homeless persons.****Miscellaneous****Francis House Center (Next Move):** 1422 C St. Must get a lottery number 9am. M,Tu,Th,F 9am-12pm & 1pm-3pm for Direct Services: ID vouchers, transp. assistance; In depth resource coaching by appt.; Veteran's advocate; Notary services Thurs. call for apt.; Job Development Center M,Tu,Th,F 9:30am - 1pm. Family Rescue motel vouchers for qualified families Mon. 1pm. 916-443-2646**Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services:** 3333 3rd Ave. (south of Broadway) Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am-1:30pm, and Wed 4pm-7pm. 916-456-1980**River City Food Bank:** Food Distribution Hours: Midtown: Monday-Friday: 11:30a. m.-3p.m. Arden Arcade: Saturday 11a.m.-1p.m. and 2nd and 4th Friday 11a.m.-1p.m. Midtown Address: 1800 28th Street Center at St. Matthew's Address: 2300 Edison Ave. 916-446-2627**Salvation Army:** Family services for help with utilities, etc.: 916-678-4010. Women's Safe Haven: 916-443-2009. For information call,**Social Services:** 28th & R ST. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. 916-874-2072**Employment Development Department (EDD):** 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. 916-227-0300**Medi-Cal and CalFresh (Foodstamps):** 1-800-773-6467, 1-888-747-1222. Or see DHA eligibility workers 1725 28th St. 916-874-2256**Social Security Office:** 8581 Folsom Blvd (East of College Greens Lite-rail stop, past the flea market) M-F 9am-4:30pm 916-381-9410: Natl line 1-800-772-1213**211 Sacramento Dial 211**

for tele-info &amp; referral service

**Califorina Youth Crisis Line:**  
**1-800-843-5200****Health Rights Hotline:**  
**551-2100****Narcotics Anonymous Hotline**  
**1-877-NA-6363**

## Welcome to Homeward:

Please help us make a difference!

Homeward Street Journal has been publishing since 1997 as a non-profit project of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee.

The paper's mission is to lessen misunderstandings between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also provides a financial self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate by being a Homeward Distributor.

**The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily of SHOC or Homeward.****Submissions and Editorial Policy**

We welcome any participation or contributions: Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted at our office in Friendship Park, or mailed to the address below.

All writing submitted for publication will be edited as necessary, with due respect for the author's intent. The editors will attempt to consult with an author if changes are necessary, however, the paper will go to print with the story as edited if the author is unavailable.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed to be published. If the writer wishes to remain anonymous s/he should so state, but the letter must still be signed.

Poetry and graphics will not be edited, either the paper will publish the submission or not.

In submitting articles to the paper, authors give their permission to print their submissions in accordance with the above stipulations, as well as possible reprinting in INSP member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Subscriptions are available with a \$20 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

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Homeward Street Journal  
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