

2025 Challenge Award: Success Through Interim Housing Projects

Executive Summary

Overview

Two County-developed tiny-home villages have provided safe shelter and supportive services to more than 350 people experiencing homelessness in their first year. [A County-produced video](#) captures residents' stories, showing how these projects are changing lives.

Challenge

Santa Barbara County faced increasing numbers of people living unsheltered, many in unsafe conditions without access to health care or basic services. In South County, encampments near Highway 101 posed safety concerns, while in North County, residents often battled chronic illnesses without stable housing. The County sought a rapid, cost-effective solution that could provide both privacy and comprehensive support. Equally important was earning public understanding and support for the approach. A compelling, story-driven video became central to showing the real people behind the statistics and the life-changing impact of interim housing.

Solution

Through strategic partnerships and the use of County-owned land, the County developed two interim supportive housing projects — La Posada in South County and Hope Village in North County — both built by DignityMoves and operated by Good Samaritan. Residents live in private units and receive individualized case management, behavioral and physical health services, and employment support. Hope Village also includes 30 recuperative care beds and 10 units for transitional-age youth, addressing critical service gaps for medically fragile and young adult populations. The County-produced video documented residents' journeys from living unsheltered to achieving stability. By combining first-person interviews with authentic visuals, the video showed the humanity behind the statistics and built community and policymaker support for interim housing as a proven, compassionate solution.

Innovation

These projects represent a new model for addressing homelessness in California — one that combines rapid

construction on public land, purpose-built tiny-home communities, and integrated wraparound care. By incorporating recuperative care beds directly into a homeless services site, Hope Village has bridged a gap between healthcare and housing, preventing hospital re-admissions and enabling long-term stability. The County's approach demonstrates how jurisdictions can leverage underutilized public land, temporary structures, and nonprofit partnerships to deliver immediate and lasting results. The video bridged the gap between service delivery and public understanding, portraying medical recoveries, employment milestones, and personal pride in a safe home. This helped foster a sense of shared community investment.

Results

In their first year, La Posada served 147 individuals, including 10 veterans, while Hope Village served 212 people, including 20 veterans, 29 transitional-age youth, and 171 individuals with disabilities (some individuals fit multiple categories). Many participants have transitioned to permanent housing, gained employment, and improved their health. Success stories include residents who once lived in encampments now thriving in permanent supportive housing, and medically fragile individuals who received life-saving treatment while in recuperative care. Combined with an earlier downtown Santa Barbara site, the County's three interim housing villages have served over 475 people since 2022. By pairing service delivery with powerful storytelling, the County was able to showcase the success of the programs and strengthen the foundation for future projects.

Replicability

Santa Barbara County's interim supportive housing model can be replicated in other California counties by following a similar framework: utilize public land, invest in modular housing for speed and cost efficiency, partner with experienced nonprofit developers and operators, and integrate healthcare and social services onsite. The addition of a storytelling video helps gain community buy-in and share the success of the model by providing firsthand examples of lives that were changed because of the program. The model is adaptable to urban and rural contexts and can be promoted as a best practice for rapidly addressing unsheltered homelessness while building pathways to permanent housing.

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Additional Materials

Video: [County of Santa Barbara Interim Housing Projects](#)