

Project 50 – 1 year Progress Report



"When we dream alone, it is only a dream.

When we dream together, it is the beginning of reality."

- Dom Helder Camara

Purpose of Project 50

Identify, then place into permanent supportive housing, the 50 most vulnerable people who have been sleeping on the streets of Skid Row the longest

Project 50 Overview

- Phase I: Create a registry according to mortality risk and length of homelessness
- Phase II: Transition from streets into housing
- Phase III: Retain in housing with an Integrated Supportive Services Team (ISST) approach

Project 50 - Timeline

- Oct 4, 2007: Decision to launch Project 50
- Nov 20, 2007: County Supervisors Passed Motion to Implement Project 50 within 100 days
- Dec 2007: Identified 140 vulnerable individuals out of 471 found sleeping outside
- Jan 28, 2008 – 1st person placed into housing
- Feb 2009: 1 year progress report
- 2009: Continue with updated registry, housing placement, and housing retention efforts

Project 50 – Extensive Collaboration

- County Supervisors
- LA County CEO
- LA County DPH
- LA County DMH
- LA County DHS
- LA County DPSS
- LA County ADPA
- LA County Sheriff
- LA County Probation
- HACLA
- LAHSA
- LA City Mayor's Office
- LAPD
- Skid Row Housing Trust
- Didi Hirsch
- JWCH
- VOA
- Courts
- Public Defender
- Public Counsel
- LA City Attorney's Office
- US Veteran's Affairs
- CDC
- Common Ground

Phase I (registry)



- DMH
- DPSS
- DPH
- LAHSA
- VA
- HHCLA
- 25 total
- LAPD support

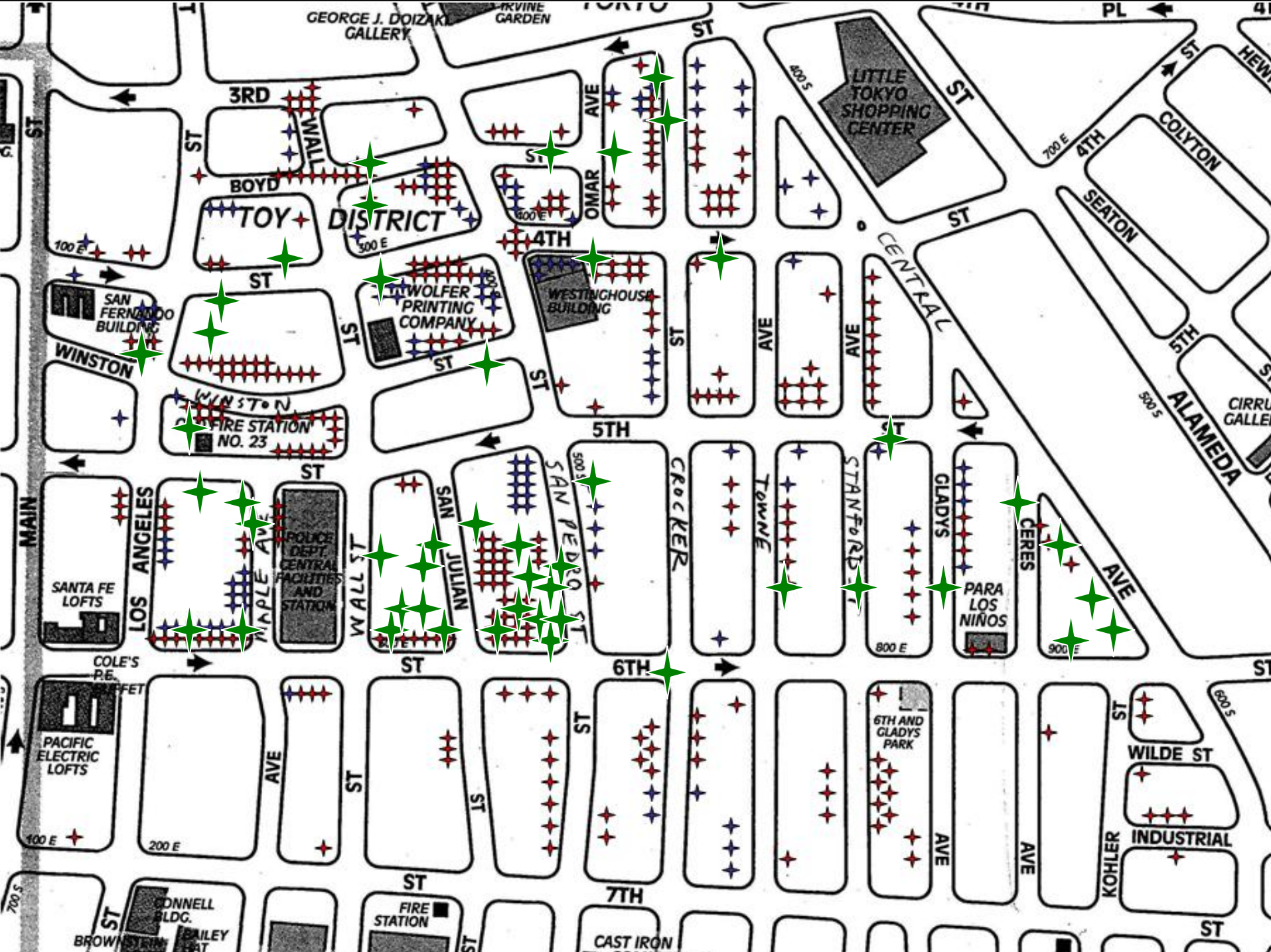
Phase I (registry)



Phase I (registry)



- Safety First
- Assertive
- Respectful
- Sensitive
- Persistent



GEORGE J. DOIZAKI GALLERY

IRVINE GARDEN

3RD ST

BOYD ST

TOY DISTRICT

WINSTON ST

WINSTON ST

LOS ANGELES ST

COLE'S RECREATION CENTER

PACIFIC ELECTRIC LOFTS

CONNELL BLDG.

BAILEY ST

4TH ST

WOLFERT PRINTING COMPANY

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LOS ANGELES ST

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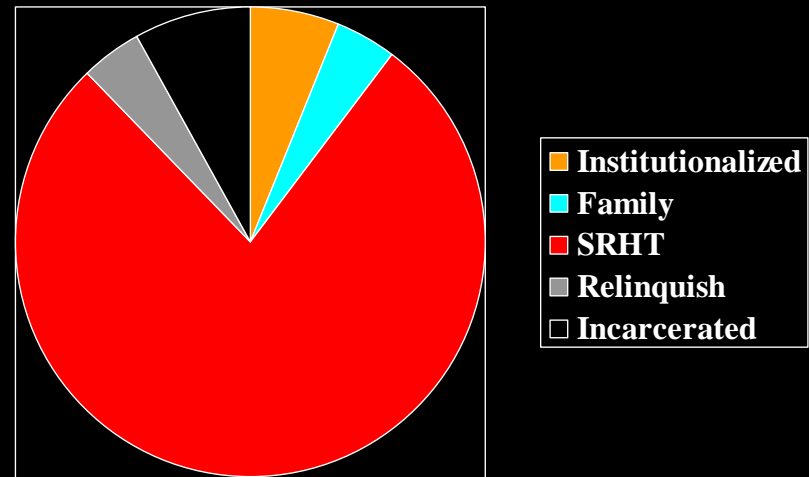
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Phase II (housing placement) Outcomes

- 30 out of 50 most vulnerable people found by Outreach team
 - 14 could not be found
 - 6 were in jail/prison before housing could be offered
- Opened eligibility to all 140 people identified as vulnerable
- As of November 30, 2008: 49 housing placements
- 96% of those offered housing accepted

Phase III (housing retention) Outcomes

- 49 people placed into housing
- 43 people (88%) remain housed
 - 38 in Skid Row Housing Trust
 - 3 in institutional care
 - 2 reunited with family
- 6 (12%) dropped-out
 - 4 incarcerated
 - 2 relinquished apartments but could come back



Profile of Tenants

- Average 9.8 years homeless, Range 1-37
- Average age 54, Range 35 to 70
- Race:
 - 85% Black/African American
 - 12% White
 - 3% Other
- Gender
 - 90% Male, 10% Female

Risk Indicators of Tenants

Risk indicator	%
Tri-morbid	55%
3x hospital last year	41%
3x ER last 3 months	31%
Liver Disease	14%
Frostbite/Cold Weather	14%
> 60 years old	29%
Kidney Disease	14%
HIV+/AIDS	6%

Tenant Profile - Before

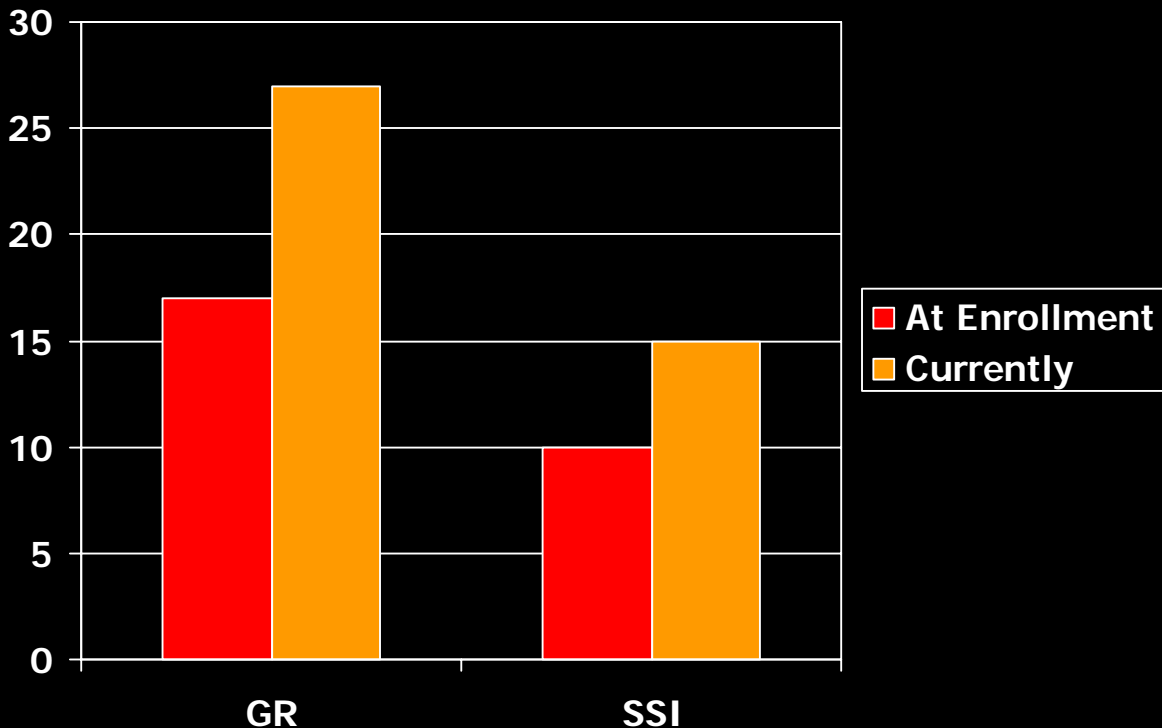


Tenant Profile - After



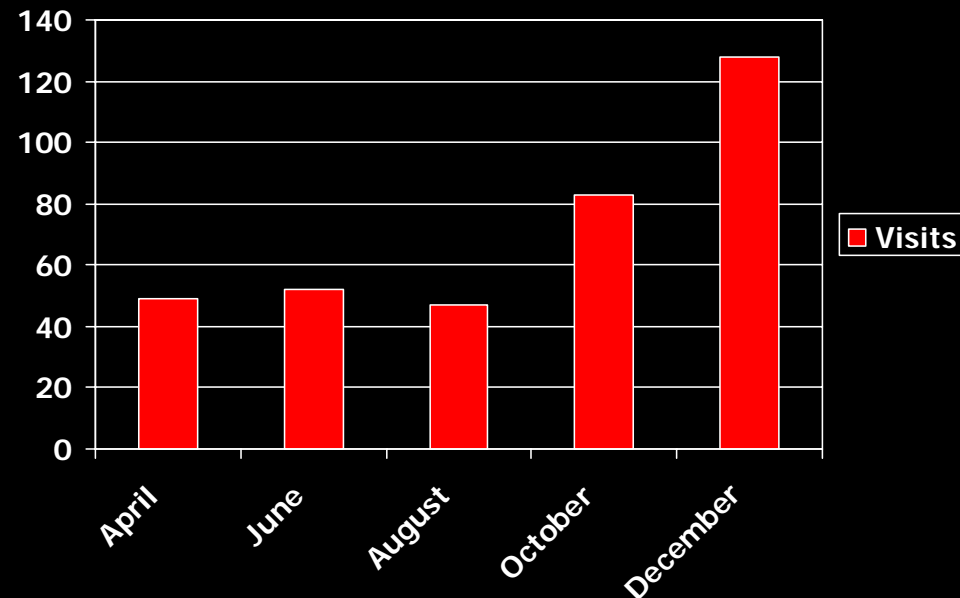
Phase III (Housing Retention) Income Progress

- 43 out of 49 people currently receiving benefits
- 56% of participants recognized an increase in benefits since enrollment
- GR (\$220) to SSI (\$842)
- 16 on MediCal

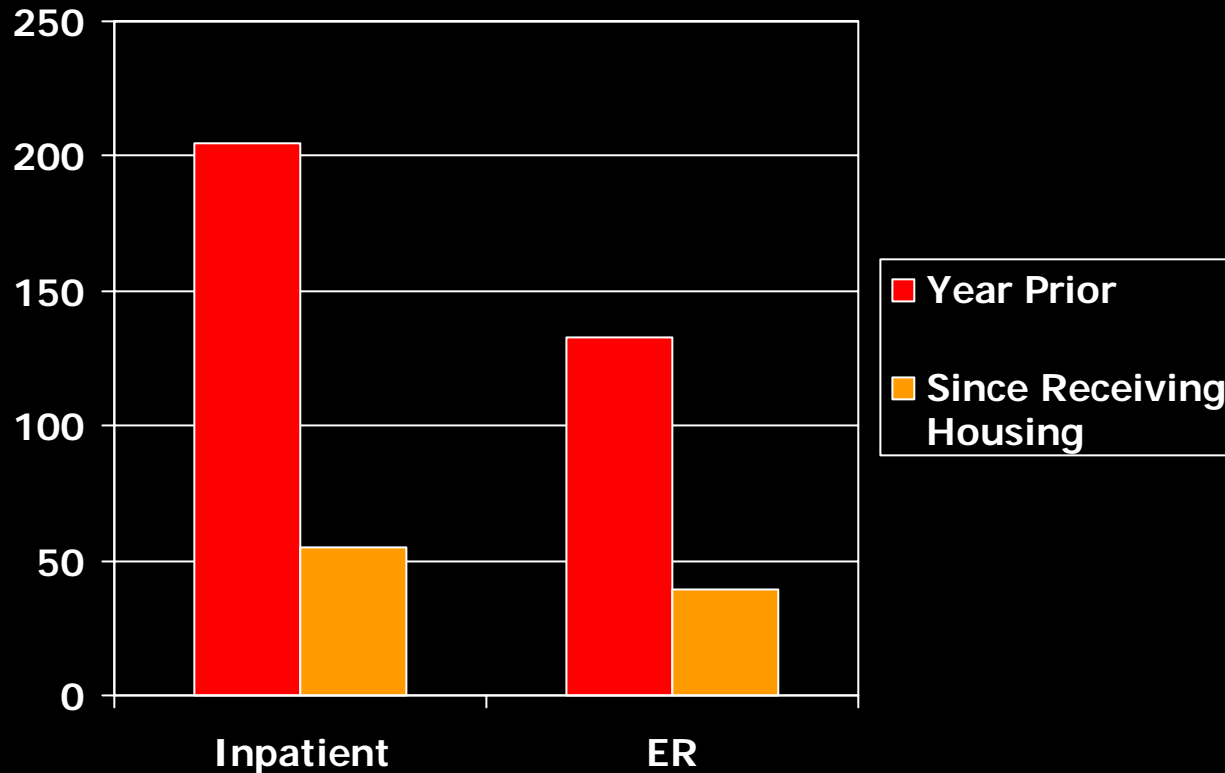


Health Outcomes

- Steady increase in Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) utilization
- Model enables cost shifting from County General Fund to State/Federal Gov't
- Proactive health care delivery model
- Intensity of services was warranted due to severity of health care needs



Hospital Days Year Prior to Housing and To Date



Estimated cost of hospitalizations in prior year: \$677k

Estimated cost of hospitalizations since housing: \$185k

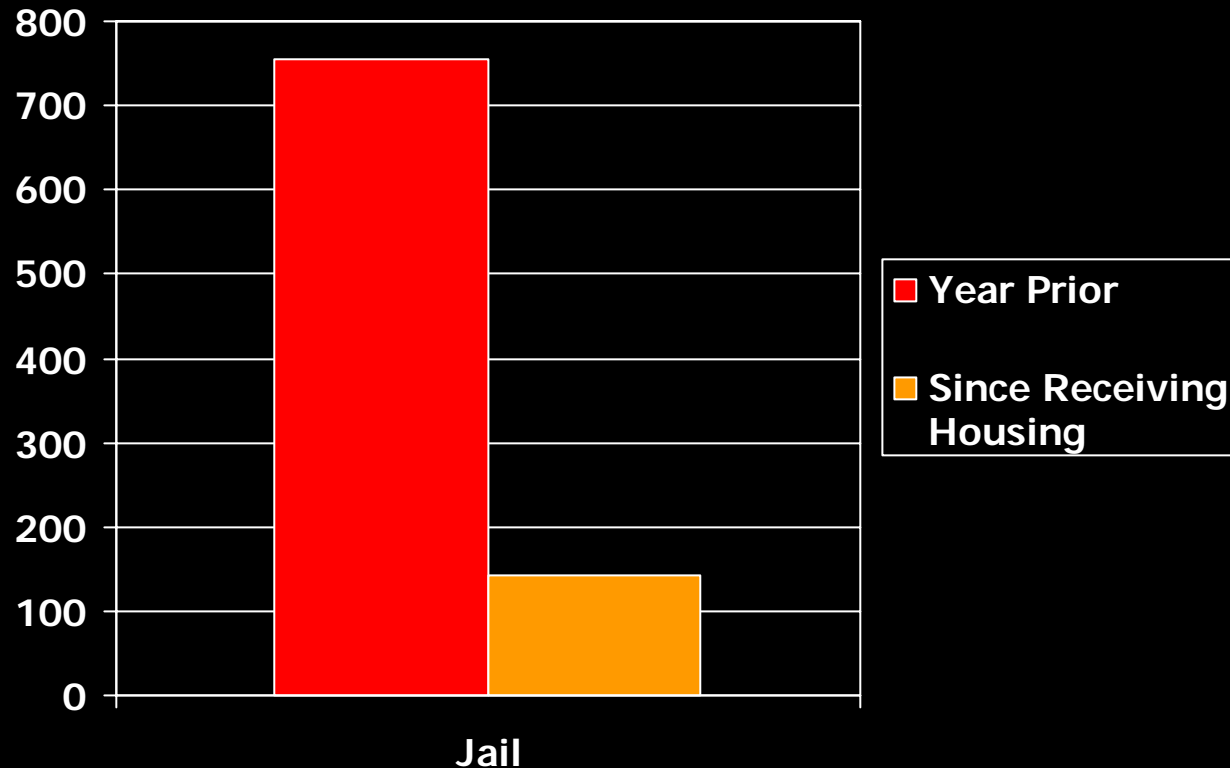
Behavioral Health Outcomes

- 39 out of 43 tenants (91%) diagnosed with a Mental Illness
- 37 out of 39 individuals (95%) are receiving treatment
- Department of Mental Health services for Project 50
 - outreach and engagement
 - crisis intervention
 - medication support
 - individual and group treatment
 - targeted case management

Behavioral Health Outcomes

- 36 out of 43 tenants (84%) report a history of substance abuse
- 22 out of 36 tenants (61%) are addressing addiction issues
 - 19 tenants received treatment
 - 2 tenants became abstinent upon receiving housing
 - 1 individual was incarcerated and states: “prison is my drug treatment program”

Days in Jail Year Prior to Housing



Estimated cost of jail year prior to housing \$79k

Estimated cost of jail since being housed: \$15k

Veterans

- 9 out of 49 (18%) tenants self-reported as veterans
 - 3 out of 9 (33%) confirmed Veteran status by VA
 - 3 out of 9 (33%) potential Veteran status by VA
 - 3 out of 9 (33%) determined not Veterans by VA
- No Project 50 participants receiving VA benefits at this time

Housing

- Shelter Plus Care Vouchers intended for this population
- Median 12 days from 1st outreach contact to housing placement
- Record 1 day from 1st outreach contact to housing placement
- Enabled systems change – HACLA/DPSS electronic exchange of income verification to expedite housing application
- Helpful to have pre-existing housing and registry

Year 1 Cost to County to Date

Item	CGF	Non-CGF
Gross Actual Cost	\$1,150,000	
MHSA (State)		(\$258,000)
Net Actual Cost	\$892,000	
One-Time Start-Up	(\$352,000)	
Net Actual Operating	\$540,000	

In the year prior to Project 50, estimate LA County spent **\$756,000** on the same 43 individuals on hospital and jail costs alone (does not include additional costs of LAPD, courts, ambulance services, health care in jail, etc.)

Cost to Date

- Authorized \$3.6 million over 2 years
- Current trends suggest significant cost avoidance in hospitals and jails to achieve entirely different outcomes
- Caution on cost comparisons: Project 50 is targeted to the very most vulnerable individuals and includes costs beyond supportive housing
 - registry creation using Vulnerability Index
 - extended outreach
 - integrated health and behavioral health care
 - medication

Opportunities for Year 2

- Update the registry using the Vulnerability Index so that all vacancies can be filled
- Expedite MediCal enrollment for further cost shifting
- Continue to identify and eliminate multi-agency barriers
- Look for opportunities to integrate innovations and lessons learned from Project 50 into standard operating procedures for wider impact
- Enhance staff recruitment and retention efforts
- Continue to identify opportunities to replicate this approach for the most chronic and vulnerable homeless across the county

Summary

- Unprecedented collaboration across 24 public and private agencies, especially across city-county
- Myths about desires and capabilities the homeless shattered
- 49 of the most vulnerable and long-term street homeless individuals were housed
- 43 (88%) remain stable in their housing
- More money was spent on hospital and jail visits the year prior to housing than the net operating cost of Project 50
- Trend toward more opportunities for cost shifting
- Elements of Project 50 already replicated in Santa Monica
- Plans underway to replicate at 4 additional sites across LA County