

WILLING LANDLORDS CAN HELP END HOMELESSNESS

No one should be without a safe and affordable place to live. Individuals and families experiencing homelessness need homes. This is the simple solution to ending homelessness. The complexity arises in finding homes. Limited affordable housing supply in Ventura County, extremely low vacancy rates, and prohibitive and increasing rents add to the challenge.

A community response to homelessness is needed. Landlords play an integral role in helping house those who need it most. Landlords hold the key for homeless members of our community. Not only do landlords help individuals and families take charge of their own lives by providing housing, they also make our community a better place to live.

Our county includes a network of programs to assist households experiencing homelessness. The success of each of these programs relies upon the development of partnerships with landlords. Key elements to building these relationships include understanding the core business needs and concerns of landlords, and addressing them realistically, with honesty and accountability.

When landlords partner with social service programs assisting homeless households, they have the opportunity to receive important benefits: vacancies are filled and rents are stabilized; advertising costs are reduced or eliminated; tenants are attached to needed services; case management is available to provide resources and support for tenants and landlords alike; tenants are pre-screened and versed on “smart” renting, including good neighboring and property care; mitigation is available if tenancy problems arise; and eviction prevention efforts are made.

Ending homelessness IS possible. Veterans, families, couples, transition-aged youth, and single adults become homeless for myriad reasons. Appropriate housing and case management support lead to stability and success for these populations. Are you or someone you know a landlord willing to rent to a homeless household? Your compassion and your housing resources could help someone find a way home. Ending homelessness is a benefit to everyone in our community.

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