



HOUSING FOR ALL!!!

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Finding and Housing All Homeless Youth In Northern New Mexico

by Hank Hughes, Executive Director



Sixteen young people experiencing homelessness have been housed since the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program started a few months ago in Northern New Mexico. These include four who were fleeing domestic violence, two who were homeless for over a year, and four who have children of their own. Most were placed in rapid rehousing programs where they will receive rental assistance until they can manage on their own, while one was reunited with family. We are aware of 130 more young people, who may still be in need of housing, and NMCEH with its partners are working to evaluate their situations and help them.

Tara Ortega, a Youth Navigator with NMCEH, is looking for homeless young people every day. Some days she visits the camps of homeless youth bringing water, food and hand warmers. While there she will update housing assessments and see what is needed to help the youths get housing. She also goes out with the Southwest Cares Mobile Syringe Exchange to look for youth who are homeless.

In addition to looking for homeless youth, NMCEH staff work with our other YHDP partners to help them house youth in their areas. The goal of the project is to build a system that can house any homeless youth within 30 days of their seeking help.

The project is a partnership between six agencies across the 14 counties that comprise Northern New Mexico. The partners are the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, Youth Shelters and Family Services, DreamTree, Samaritan House, Kewa House, San Juan County and Rio Arriba County. As of December housing is being offered to homeless youth from offices in Gallup, Farmington, Taos, Santa Fe and Bernalillo. By January we expect offices in Las Vegas and Espanola to be operational also.



Over 5,000 Homeless People Housed Through New Mexico Coordinated Entry

by Roman Seaburgh, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Since its inception in 2014, the New Mexico Coordinated Entry System (NMCES) transformed older models of first-come first-serve approaches to housing to a transparent, community focused process that lowers barriers to house people experiencing homelessness with the highest need and longest lengths of times unsheltered. As NMCES was created as part of nation-wide process among Communities of Care, it traveled a rocky road to build strong foundations in data and outreach to build a prioritization process that is both accessible and barrier-reducing. On this journey, NMCES has completed assessment of over 18,000 people, with close to 4,000 captured this year. Of these people supported through housing connection with NMCES, 5,430 individuals exited to permanent housing.

These thousands of people who have connected with NMCES have done so through a crucial network of community stakeholders, agencies, and layers of community engagement that has also lead to increases in access to housing, resources, and services. This increase in effectiveness and collaboration has firmly cemented NMCES as a part of the crucial process to supporting an end to homelessness across New Mexico.

There is still work to do. We collaborate to increase the effectiveness of diversion programs to connect people experiencing homelessness to a variety of housing networks, and enhance identification and prioritization of minorities, youth, and domestic violence survivors. NMCES staff are crucial to this enhancement and collaboration in the community through their dedication to models of change, ending homelessness, and building strong supportive communities.

NMCES thanks you for your support and wishes to give a special thanks to CES staff and partners who have turned an idea into a critical and supportive system of change.



The Albuquerque Coordinated Entry Team, from left: Roman Seaburgh, Kevin Arthun, AJ Johnson and Bee Chavez, have created a system that quickly houses the most vulnerable.

Our Sincere Gratitude Goes Out to These Individuals & Organizations

Thank You to Our Individual and Business Supporters (since previous newsletter)

Raphael and Karen Benjamin
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The **New Mexico Department of Health** for working with us to develop a comprehensive funding plan to end homelessness in New Mexico, which we will write more about in coming issues.

The following groups for sponsoring our Housing for All Conference in October: **The City of Albuquerque, The New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, Western Sky Community Care, CHI St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, Presbyterian, and Century Bank.**

Cathy Turner for filling in as temporary bookkeeper in November.

The following foundations for their support this year: **The McCune Charitable Foundation, The Frost Foundation, The Con Alma Foundation, The Thornburg Foundation.**

Staff:

Kevin Arthun, Coordinated Entry Navigator
BeAnna Chavez, Coordinated Entry Navigator
Kate Cleaver, Coordinated Entry Team Leader
Victoria Cruz, Data Analyst
Christa Curfiss, Coordinated Entry Navigator
Nathan Fuhr, Albuquerque CoC Program Manager
Raquel Garcia, Youth Navigator
Hana Gossett, Albuquerque CoC Program Director
Fred Hernandez, AmeriCorps VISTA
Hank Hughes, Executive Director
Julie Jacquez, HMIS Project Manager
AJ Johnson, Coordinated Entry Connection Specialist
Stephanie Lefebvre, Office Manager
Sarah Leyba, Balance of State CoC Project Manager
Michael Nitsch, HMIS Project Manager
Mark Oldknow, Program Director
Tara Ortega, Youth Navigator
Rebecca Godfrey-Poe, Domestic Violence Navigator
Roman Seaburgh, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Brie Sillery, Communication Strategist

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Member Organizations and Individuals: For a list of our 80 members, please go to www.nmceh.org

The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness



PO Box 865
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Phone: 505.982.9000
Fax: 1.888.527.6480
www.nmceh.org



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The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness

- *Creating more housing for homeless people*
- *Quickly connecting homeless people to housing*
- *Holding governments accountable*

Supportive Services for the Community

by Rebecca Godfrey-Poe, NMCEH's CES - Domestic Violence Navigator

Founded in 2000, Enlace Comunitario serves individuals and families experiencing domestic violence by working to decrease gender inequity and intimate partner violence in the Latino immigrant community in Central New Mexico. Enlace has been accomplishing this goal through transformative direct services, leadership development, preventative community education, outreach and policy, and advocacy, all in collaboration with community partners. Recognizing that domestic violence is one primary cause of homelessness, a partnership has been created between the NMCEH and Enlace Comunitario to help house victims of domestic violence in New Mexico.

The primary assistance through this partnership include financial assistance to pay for rent, utilities, rental deposits, utility deposits, and utility connection fees for victims of domestic violence who are homeless due to the abuse, regardless of immigration status, and case management assistance for those survivors receiving rental and housing assistance. In addition, with funding from other sources, the survivors served through this program also receive a range of culturally and linguistically appropriate supportive services, including civil legal representation and legal advocacy for orders of protection, divorce, child support, and custody. Individual, group, and family counseling and life skills classes, such as parenting skills, will be offered, along with leadership development opportunities. All supportive services offered through the project are voluntary.

The NMCEH's CES - Domestic Violence Navigator, Rebecca Godfrey-Poe, is currently accepting referrals for this program. For more information, please contact Rebecca at rebecca-p@nmceh.org or by telephone at 505-982-9000.

