

*Dedicated to the Health  
Of the Whole Community*



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## **Section D.4..... Description of Target Population to be Served**

Consistent with the MHSAs Housing Program regulations, at this housing site the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department (MHD) will be serving seriously mentally ill, low-income adults with severe mental illness who meet the criteria for MHSAs services and are homeless or at risk of homelessness, according to the definitions specified in the application.

Consistent with the County's *Community Services and Support Plan*, the target population to be housed and served in this housing complex will be the following:

**1. Mentally Ill Homeless, Jail-Involved, ER Frequent Users and Dually Diagnosed**, defined as:

Adults with persistent, serious mental illness who have multiple, co-existing disorders resulting in multiple psychiatric hospitalizations, chronic homelessness, substance abuse, multiple incarcerations, chronic medical conditions leading to multiple ER visits, and other physical disabilities. This population is not typically interested or ready for traditional treatment, often leading to multiple discontinued treatment episodes. This population has distress across several life domains, and this compounds the treatment of their mental and substance abuse issues.

**2. Unserved and Underserved SMI Adults**, defined as:

Adults who have a mental disorder, which is severe in degree and persistent in duration, including schizophrenia and major affective disorders. As a result of the mental disorder, the person has substantial functional impairment in one or more life domains (e.g., independent living, social relationships, vocational skills, and/or their physical condition) or the person has a psychiatric history demonstrating that without treatment there is imminent risk of decomposition.

**In addition, all qualified tenants must meet one of the following two criteria (with it being understood that if they are approved for tenancy in an MHSAs housing unit, their participation in services is voluntary):**

1. Consumers must be users of services at clinics/contract agencies, that is, seriously mentally ill clients who do not currently need 24-hour, institutional care and are able to live independently with supportive services. These are consumers who are homeless or at risk of homelessness (according to MHSAs Housing Program Application) and who:
  - a) are connected to outpatient services and are usually dependent on such;

- b) are able, with support, to manage their Activities of Daily Living and medications in an independent living situation; and
  - c) have severely limited income and are assumed to have a continuing income deficiency for the next 12 months.
2. Have left a 24-hour care setting and have demonstrated success or have completed their stay in a transitional or residential care facility and can move to permanent supportive housing as a next step in their recovery  
(This includes new consumers who have previously been unserved.)

Note: The staff at the County clinic or contract agency can determine which consumers fulfill these criteria and then refer the candidate to the MHD according to the Tenant Selection Process.