



MCHOME



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REFERRALS

For more information about **MCHOME** or if you are concerned about a homeless individual with mental illness, please call **831.883.3030** during normal business hours.



Interim, Inc. is funded through contracts with Monterey County Department of Health—Behavioral Health Bureau (including Mental Health Services Act funds) and the California Department of Rehabilitation. Other funding sources include: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care (CoC) Program, City of Monterey, City of Salinas, client fees and rents, foundation grants, and contributions. Our Federal Tax ID is #51-0159122.

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ABOUT INTERIM

Interim, Inc. is a private nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide services and affordable housing, supporting members of our community with mental illness to build productive and satisfying lives. Interim offers a wide variety of programs that support more than 1,700 clients each year using a strength-based social rehabilitation model that provides an alternative to institutionalization and offers culturally sensitive services that encourage self-direction, hope, healing and recovery.



DONATIONS

To make a donation to support Interim's programs, please visit our website, www.interiminc.org, or call our office at **831.649.4522**.



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OUTREACH, HOUSING AND SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS ADULTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS



MCHOME Provides a Way Off the Street and Into Housing and Support

MCHOME is the only program in Monterey County that provides *outreach to homeless adults with psychiatric disabilities, supportive housing, intensive integrated services* and *treatment* to help homeless adults to rebuild their lives. Moving homeless adults with mental illness off the streets and into treatment and housing requires a patient, sensitive, compassionate approach.

“THEY GOT ME OFF THE STREET AND ARE HELPING ME GET THE MEDICAL CARE I NEED. THEY ARE ALSO HELPING ME LEARN TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF MYSELF AND COPE WITH MY MENTAL ILLNESS MORE EFFECTIVELY.”

~ MCHOME CLIENT

Helping Homeless Adults Rebuild their Lives

Moving homeless adults with mental illness off the streets and into treatment and housing requires a patient, sensitive, compassionate approach. Many of them have been abused and mistreated. As a result, they are often frightened, confused and reluctant to accept shelter or housing. The MCHOME program model follows a ‘whatever it takes’ approach to moving people off the streets. Staff first works on establishing trust while persuading clients to accept shelter or housing. Safety in shelter or housing creates a strong foundation for recovery to succeed. For the community, client success translates into fewer homeless people living on the streets, as well as cost savings from a reduction in local jail and hospital stays.

FROM THE STREETS TO RECOVERY

MCHOME works with approximately 100 homeless adults each year. Once trust is established, clients are evaluated for a psychiatric disability. If they qualify, and are willing to work with MCHOME staff, they are then enrolled in intensive integrated services, which include housing, food, mental health care and help in obtaining income through work or public benefits.

We work with the Monterey County Department of Social Services and the Social Security Administration to help homeless adults file for public benefits.

For employment counseling and jobs, we work to connect homeless adults to Interim’s Supported Education & Employment Services (SEES) Program and the Department of Rehabilitation. A psychiatrist from Monterey County Behavioral Health provides the psychiatric services including medication, if indicated.

Interim offers a variety of temporary, transitional and permanent housing options. We also work with various local homeless shelters and housing providers and use some local motels to house clients.

Homeless individuals who do not qualify for MCHOME’s or Interim’s other services are referred to other appropriate service providers.

SUNFLOWER GARDENS

In June 2010, Interim opened a two-story, 18-unit apartment building (15 studios, 2 four-bedroom units and a resident manager’s apartment) for 23 adults with mental illness who are homeless or at risk for homelessness in Monterey County. This housing is targeted for those enrolled in the MCHOME program and includes on-site intensive integrated mental health support services. Sunflower Gardens was the first project in California to be built from the ground up using funding from the State’s Mental Health Services Act Housing Program (Proposition 63) administered by the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA).

PROGRAM ADMISSION CRITERIA

To qualify for MCHOME’s services, clients must be low-income and homeless, as well as diagnosed with a major psychiatric disability.

HOW ARE MCHOME CLIENTS IDENTIFIED?

MCHOME clients come from a variety of sources. While we do not have the resources to provide on-call emergency services for the homeless, we make every attempt to engage homeless individuals with mental illness. MCHOME outreach staff identifies homeless clients with a mental illness by going out onto the streets. To obtain referrals, they also work with other community agencies serving homeless persons, as well as law enforcement, faith communities, businesses and local hospitals. Interim is also a founding member of the Coalition of Homeless Services providers and works closely with member agencies to share resources and avoid duplication of effort.