



HOUSING WORKS

EMPOWERMENT WORKS PROJECT

A brief Overview of Housing Works

- ▶ Founded in 2003 by a group of concerned members of the Immaculate Heart Community
- ▶ In response to **the rise of homelessness, growing housing crisis, and lack of affordable rental units in the county of Los Angeles.**
- ▶ The program is based on a well-documented, successful housing first approach using harm reduction strategies – **“whatever it takes for as long as it takes!”**
- ▶ Harm reduction refers to a range of services and policies that lessen the adverse consequences of drug use and protect public health. Unlike approaches that insist that people stop using drugs, harm reduction acknowledges that many people are not able or willing to abstain from illicit drug use, **and that abstinence should not be a precondition for help.**

Housing Works Program Services

- ▶ Outreach and engagement of persons experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ Identification of affordable housing units.
- ▶ Assistance in obtaining tenancy approval.
- ▶ Provision of comprehensive support services.
- ▶ Provision of voluntary opportunities to foster the growth of mutually supportive relationships.
- ▶ Since 2007, Housing Works has housed over 350 persons with a housing retention rate of 98%.
- ▶ Creating a community of services.

Empowerment Works Project Objectives

Develop and implement opportunities that help participants re-imagine a nurturing society where a person can take safe risks, fulfill lost dreams, and contribute/participate as an enfranchised member of society.

- ▶ Employment preparation, Soft skills, Resume, Mock interviews.
- ▶ Retention services and support group activities.
- ▶ Develop job placement opportunities.
- ▶ Develop volunteer opportunities, paid/unpaid.
- ▶ Develop Skills upgrade opportunities.
- ▶ SSI/SSDI Benefit Planning & Counseling Referral.

Empowerment Works Project Services

- ▶ Individualized and tailored services for each participant.
- ▶ Navigate, Enhance, and supplement workforce services.
- ▶ Engage participant regardless of perceived readiness.
- ▶ Mobile staff, multisystem navigation.
- ▶ Commitment to the Hard To Employ.
- ▶ Link to mainstream Workforce Services, Employers and/ or volunteering agencies.
- ▶ Advocacy, Advocacy, Advocacy.

Empowerment Works Success

- ▶ Currently working with 39 participants.
- ▶ 15 are currently engage with Employment, Volunteering and Skill Upgrade activities.
- ▶ A total of 60 participants have engage in Community Enrichment activities which include attending community events.
- ▶ Community events at the Hollywood Bowl, Griffith Observatory, California Science Center, and Descanso Gardens.

COLLABORATING PARTNER AGENCIES

- ▶ Make Overs That Matter
- ▶ LA. Kitchen, Los Angeles
- ▶ Habitat For Humanity of Greater Los Angeles
- ▶ Habitat For Humanity San Gabriel Valley
- ▶ Foothill Workforce Investment Board
- ▶ Verdugo Employment & Training Center/AJCC
- ▶ Pasadena Employment & Training Center/AJCC
- ▶ Work Incentive Planning Assistance Program (SSI/SSDI Benefits) Verdugo Job Center.
- ▶ Senior Community Employment Program (SCSEP) State and National Grantees
- ▶ County of Los Angeles Veteran program
- ▶ Employment Development Department State of California (EDD)
- ▶ LA County America's Job Centers of California
- ▶ Los Angeles Economic & Workforce Development Department

THANK YOU

Contact information

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