

# Women's Housing in SF

*Why we urgently need safe housing for chronically homeless women.*

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Sammie Rayner, Community Forward SF

# Our Mission



Community Forward helps the most vulnerable individuals of SF get off the street, find comprehensive services, and achieve stability so they may thrive.

# Population-specific Care



**Women**



**Medical Crisis**



**Substance Use Disorder**



**Older Adults**

# The Women's Housing Coalition

*Establishing a city priority for safe housing opportunities for cis and trans women in San Francisco.*



# The Problem

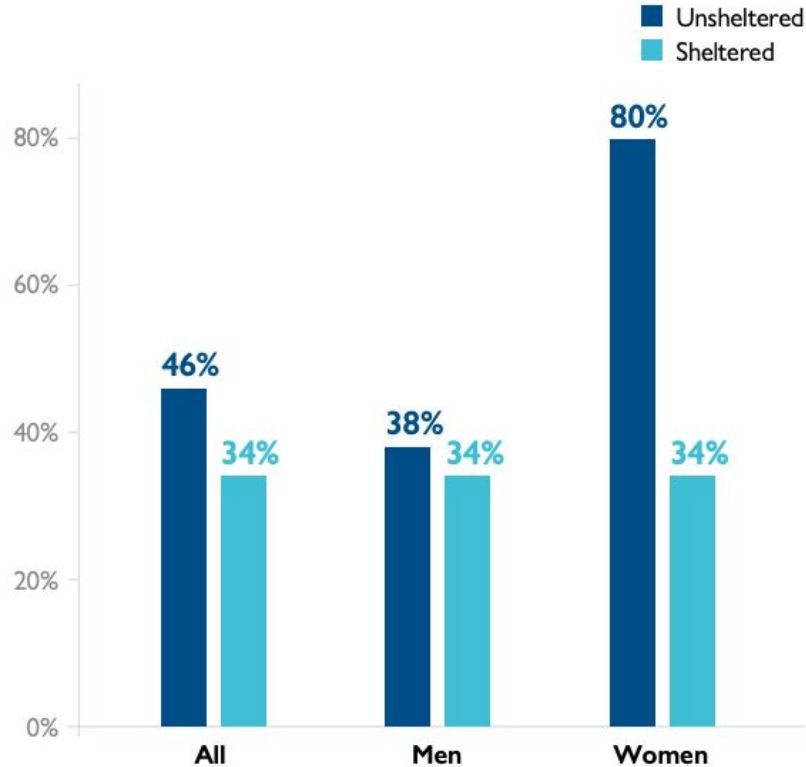
On any given night, there  
are at least  
**2,700 unhoused women**  
in San Francisco.



SF Point-in-Time  
Count 2022

Women experience  
homelessness differently  
than men.

FIGURE 3. Unsheltered and sheltered adults who experienced trauma<sup>10</sup>



80% of unsheltered women report abuse and/or trauma as the cause of their homelessness.

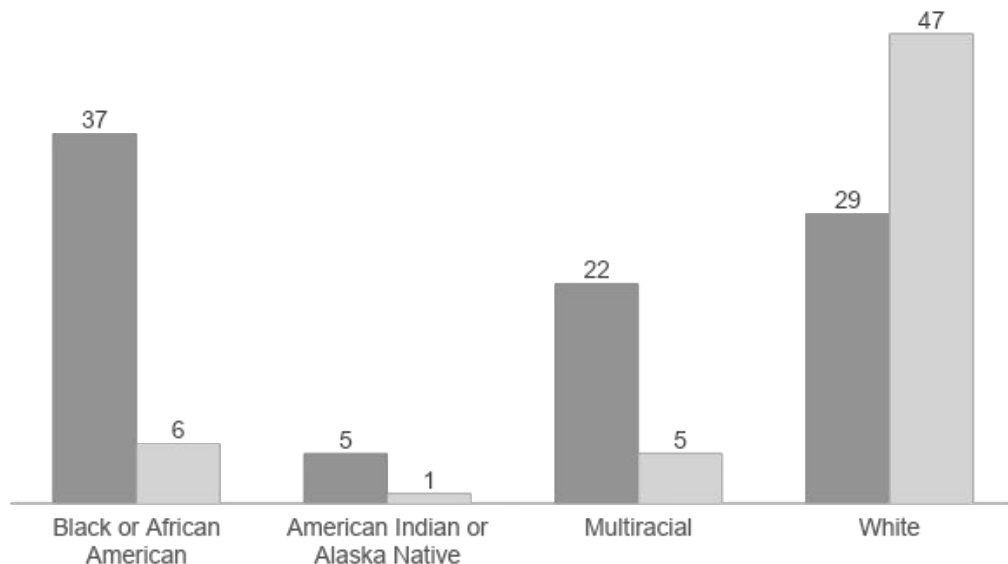
- *California Policy Lab*

In San Francisco, 74% of transgender adults and 44% of females experiencing homelessness report domestic violence.



## Race & Homelessness

■ Homeless Population ■ SF General Population



Black women are 6 times more likely than white women to experience homelessness.

Trans people are 18 times more likely to be homeless.

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SF Point-in-Time Count 2019



It costs the city  
\$91,250/year  
(\$250/day) to house a  
woman in jail,  
compared to approx  
\$65,000/year at  
CBOs.

Unhoused, unaccompanied women wait on average more than **10 years** to access stable housing, a rate twice that of men.

The average age of death for chronically homeless women is 48 years old compared to 83 years old for housed women.

Los Angeles County Department of  
Medical Examiner-Coroner



Only 99 shelter beds and 157 permanent supportive housing units are women-only in San Francisco.





The Solution

# Stabilize and Expand Safe Spaces for Women

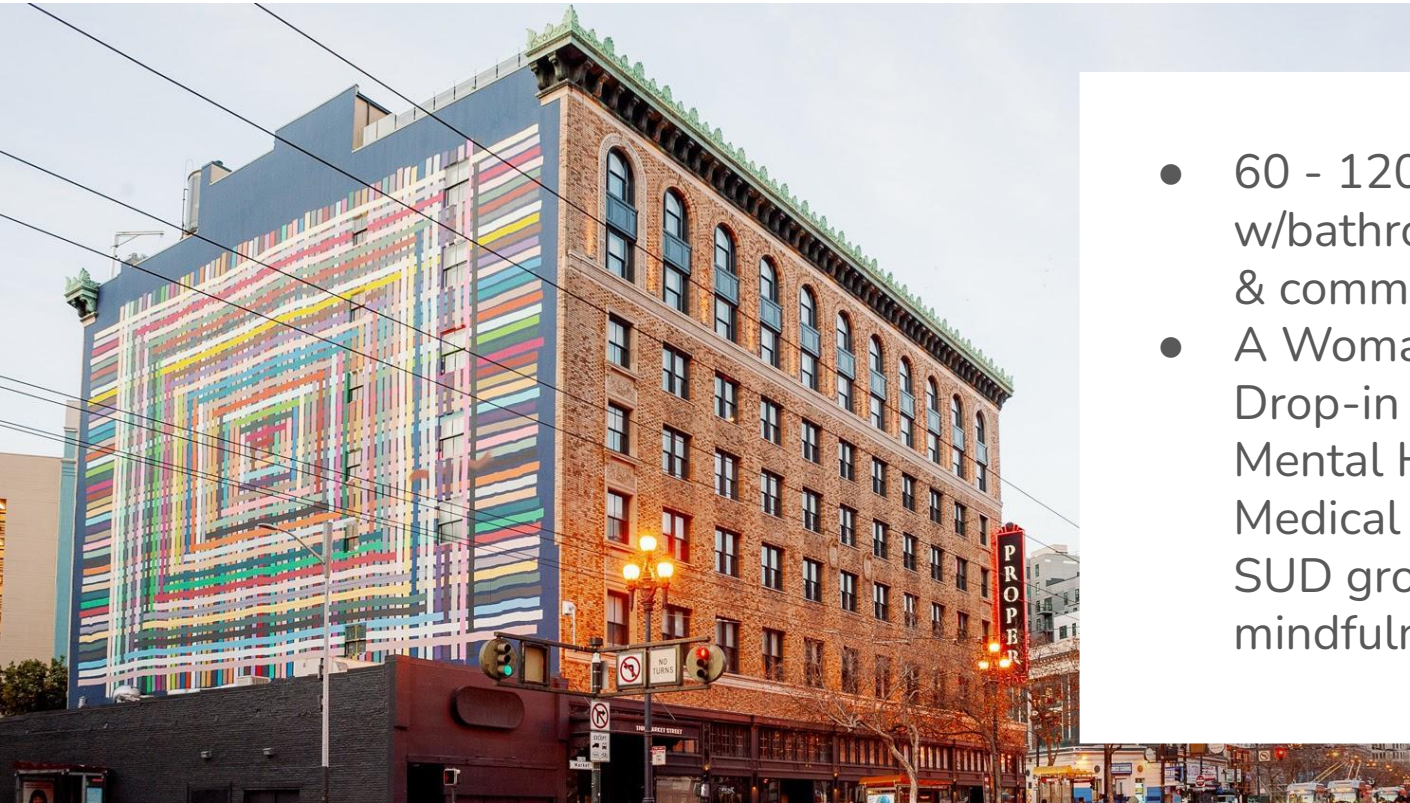


## How OCOH can help:

- ✓ Expand safe housing for women by dedicating a newly acquired building as women-only
- ✓ Stabilize existing women's programs by making contracts a part of long-term plan to end homelessness
- ✓ Increase mental health services to address unique traumas of unhoused women
- ✓ Educate service providers and the community about unique issues women face



# Women's Center Vision



- 60 - 120 unit buildings w/bathrooms, kitchens, & community space
- A Woman's Place  
Drop-in Services: CFSF  
Mental Health team,  
Medical Clinic onsite,  
SUD groups,  
mindfulness activities



# Progress

- ✓ Buy-in from 100 women who want our housing
- ✓ Over 1,000 signatures of support from the broader community
- ✓ \$1.5M in addback secured from Board of Supervisors
- ✓ \$170k raised from private funders toward startup costs
- ✓ Press coverage from The Chronicle, ABC7, All In and KCBS





What would it mean  
to live in a  
women-only  
building?

*“It would be helpful because I  
would just be able to be myself.”*

Cayah, Transgender Mental  
Health Program Client

# Thank you!

Sammie Rayner

Chief Operating Officer

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