



## Santa Clara County Creates Inclusive Housing Finance Program in Partnership with the Regional Center

On March 12, 2019, Santa Clara County broke significant new ground in the quest to fulfill the promise of California's Lanterman Act that all people with developmental disabilities should be able to live in

integrated community housing.

The Board of Supervisors authorized \$10 million in county funds to create an inclusive housing finance program for people with developmental disabilities. The county financing will be made available by the County Office of Supportive Housing to affordable housing developments that commit to make some rental units in the property subject to a preference for extremely low-income and very low-income people with developmental disabilities who need the services of San Andreas Regional Center to live in community rental housing.

The action implemented the commitment made by the Board of Supervisors on September 11, 2018, when it directed the County Executive's Office to find \$40 million in funding to create the program. More than a hundred people with developmental disabilities, their families and supporters turned out on September 11 to make the case for the county funding. Since then, Housing Choices has provided detailed information to the County Executive's Office on six pending projects to show that the financing gap is real and is affecting the viability of pending projects with significant city commitments.

According to Housing Choices Executive Director, Jan Stokley, "The county initiative addresses a systemic barrier to financing inclusive housing for people with developmental disabilities. Cities and developers across Santa Clara County have risen to the challenge of addressing this housing need, but even with significant city funding, as well as state and federal funding, the projects have a financing gap which the county dollars will address."

Please take a moment now to congratulate the Board of Supervisors on their commitment to creating truly inclusive housing communities and to urge them to stay the course in implementing a successful program that will make Santa Clara County an inclusive housing leader in California and the nation:

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*To learn more, please contact Housing Choices' Executive Director, Jan Stokley, email [jan@housingchoices.org](mailto:jan@housingchoices.org).*