



DESTINATION: **HOME**



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**Harvard University Honors *Destination: Home*, City of San José and County of Santa Clara for Work to End Homelessness**

Harvard University selected *Destination: Home*, a program of The Health Trust, City of San José and County of Santa Clara as one of the very best innovations in American Government for their cooperative efforts to systematically reduce the number of homeless men and women on the streets through the disruption the local homeless system of care.

The “Bright Ideas” designation for “Innovation in American Government” recognized this collective campaign of organizations across Santa Clara County that aim to eliminate homelessness by 2020.

The plan aims to house the maximum amount of persistently homeless individuals while also reducing overall costs, and is based is on the proof-of-concept campaign **Housing 1000** launched in 2011.

“By working together to create more permanent supportive housing options, we’ve found ways to achieve overwhelming success that would not be possible without an effective collaboration,” said Jacky Morales Ferrand, San José Housing Director.

The public-private partnership has concentrated its efforts on ending chronic homelessness, with the initial goal of housing 1,000 chronically homeless persons, developing programs that prioritize housing for high-system users, and creating more supportive housing opportunities.

“The partnership between the City and the County was a natural since we both share responsibility for ending homelessness,” said Santa Clara County Chief Operating Officer Gary Graves.

The Housing 1000 program housed 850 homeless men and women in the first three years, and the model was subsequently adopted as the primary intervention to end chronic homelessness in Santa Clara County, the heart of Silicon Valley.

“Our success in reducing chronic homelessness wouldn’t have been possible without the leadership and support from San José and the County of Santa Clara to address one of our region’s most pressing issues” says Jennifer Loving, Executive Director for *Destination: Home*.

*Destination: Home* and its partners focused on the most vulnerable men, and women among the county’s 6,500 homeless. For the 103 highest-cost homeless residents who were housed through the **Housing 1000** program, the estimated average annual pre-housing cost to the public was \$62,473. The average annual post-housing cost was \$19,767, a reduction of \$42,706 for local governments and service organizations. The region also saw a 14% drop in overall homelessness from 2013 to 2015, the lowest concentration of homelessness in the past decade.

### **About City of San José**

Known as the Capital of Silicon Valley, San José is the nation’s tenth largest city, and the largest city in Northern California, with an ethnically diverse population of more than one million. San José was founded in 1777, once served as the state capital of California, and now encompasses 180 square miles. Facts about San José can be found here: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/780>. The City’s website is [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov).

### **About County of Santa Clara**

The County of Santa Clara has one of the highest standards of living and median incomes in the country, with a wide diversity of cultures, backgrounds and talents. Over 100 languages and dialects are spoken among the County’s 1.8 million residents. [More information about the County can be found here: \[www.sccgov.org\]\(http://www.sccgov.org\).](#)

### **About *Destination: Home***

*Destination: Home*, a program of The Health Trust (<http://healthtrust.org>), is a public-private partnership that uses collective impact strategies to accomplish its mission, ending homelessness in Santa Clara County. [More information can be found at Destination: Home’s website: <http://destinationhomesc.org>.](#)

### **About Innovations in American Government**

For more than 20 years, the Innovations in American Government Awards Program has recognized the very best innovations in American government and has brought national attention to these practices and promoted their widespread dissemination. Since its inception, the Innovations in American Government Awards competition has received over 27,000 applications for the award. Though the competition has formally recognized nearly 500 of these applicants as winners and finalists, there have naturally been many that show promise or are noteworthy practices that did advance to the final rounds of the competition. In order to shine a light on these government programs and practices, in 2010 the Innovations program launched a recognition initiative called Bright Ideas so that government leaders, public servants, and other individuals can learn about these efforts and adopt those initiatives that can work in their own communities. <http://ash.harvard.edu/innovations-american-government-awards>