

Where housing and services come together



# Operationalizing 'Whatever It Takes': Lessons from LA County's Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool

June 12, 2018 William F. Pickel, Executive Director



#### **Brilliant Corners**

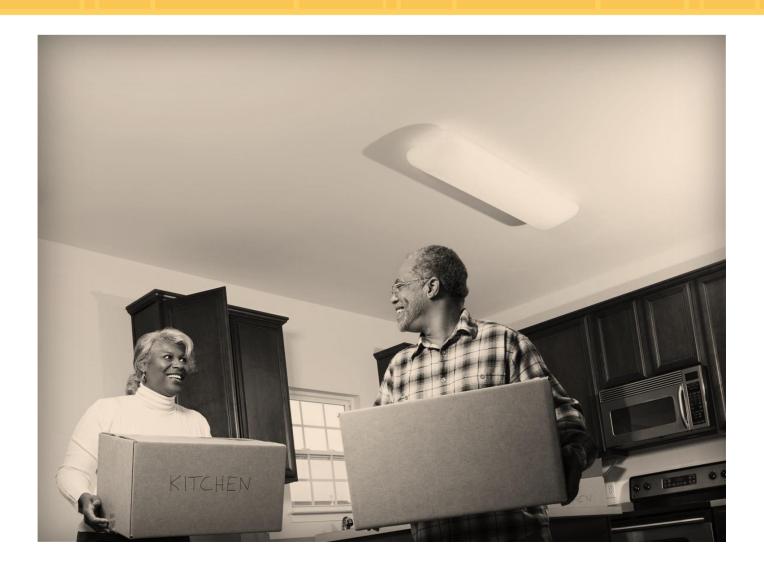
- Mission-driven supportive housing provider founded in 2004
- Over 5000 people housed since 2008 through creative use of existing housing resources
- Recognized for piloting and scaling innovative supportive housing solutions with an emphasis on people experiencing homelessness or transitioning from institutions



#### **Brilliant Corners**

- \$270M Budget
- 225 employees (Los Angeles, San Francisco, etc.)
- 200+ licensed and supportive housing sites in operation or development
- 4000+ legally controlled housing units in varied settings

# Los Angeles County Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool





### FHSP Goals

FHSP combines housing brokerage, rent subsidy administration, ongoing housing supports and intensive case management services to:

- 1. Create 10,000 units of housing rapidly
- 2. Reduce inappropriate use of expensive health care resources
- **3. Improve health** outcomes for vulnerable populations
- 4. End homelessness in LA County



## FHSP Key Partners

#### FHSP - An expanding collaborative infrastructure:

- LA County Dept. of Health Services
- Other gov't partners (DMH, Probation, ODR, PHA's)
- Hilton, Weingart and other foundations
- Several dozen Intensive Case Management partners
- 100's of market-rate and affordable housing providers





### Brilliant Corners' FHSP Role

#### **FHSP Operator and Central Housing Liaison**

- 15-Year Contract
- Housing Brokerage / Landlord Engagement Services
- Rent Subsidy Administration
- Property-Related Tenant Services & ICMS Coordination





## Brilliant Corners' FHSP Role

- Engage landlords and secure units
- Coordinate housing intake and planning with ICMS providers
- Match participants with housing units
- Coordinate lease-up and move-in
- Manage rent subsidy & client assistance funds
- Provide ongoing housing retention and landlord liaison services
- Continually adjust strategies to market conditions





## FHSP Program Structure

#### **Brilliant Corners Core Teams:**

- Housing Specialists
  - Housing Brokerage
- Occupancy Specialists
  - Tenant Matching
- Housing Coordinators
  - Housing Retention Services
- Operations Support
  - Rent Subsidy Administration





## Key Partners: ICMS

In addition to landlord engagement, rent subsidy administration, and property related tenant services, FHSP funds intensive case management services:

- Brilliant Corners coordinates with dozens of DHSfunded third-party ICSM providers, including all of LA County's 8 Service Planning Area CES leads;
- ICMS providers refer potential FHSP participants and provide individualized service plans and links to health, mental health, and substance use disorder services;
- ICMS may be on site or off site.



## How FHSP works

Brilliant Corners identifies available unit(s) and engages landlords
 Brilliant Corners negotiates lease and vacant unit hold terms for 1 or more units
 Brilliant Corners works with DHS and case managers to match referred program participants to available units
 Brilliant Corners coordinates lease signing, security deposit, rent payment, and move-in
 Tenant receives on-going housing retention and case

management services

#### How FHSP Works for Landlords

Landlords benefit financially while helping our community:



IMPROVED COLLECTIONS

On-time payments every month from Brilliant Corners.

Security Deposit assistance.



HIGH OCCUPANCY / LOW TURNOVER

Reduced unit turnover cost and lower vacancy loss.

Targeting long-term tenancy and housing stability



EASE OF MANAGEMENT

Single point-of-contact for all tenant issues.

24-hour emergency phone number for owners.

Housing retention and intensive case management promote housing stability.

Brilliant Corners aims to maintain excellent neighborhood relations.

### FHSP Landlord Incentives

Brilliant Corners designs, pilots and administers an evolving array of landlord incentives:

- Vacant Unit Holds
- Damage mitigation funds
- Eviction prevention funds
- T/A navigating federal subsidy processes
- Pinpointed tenant matching



## FHSP Supportive Housing

# FHSP expands supportive housing inventory across a variety of settings:

- Units in existing and planned market rate housing
- LIHTC PSH Pipeline (30+ projects)
- Interim & Recuperative Care Sites
- Board and Care Sites (250+ placements)
- Motel Conversions



## FHSP Accomplishments

- 4,200+ people housed, 3,700 scattered-site units secured since 2013
- Investments from LA Care (\$20M), Hilton & Weingart Foundations, DMH, Probation, other sources
- Enhancing use of federal subsidies

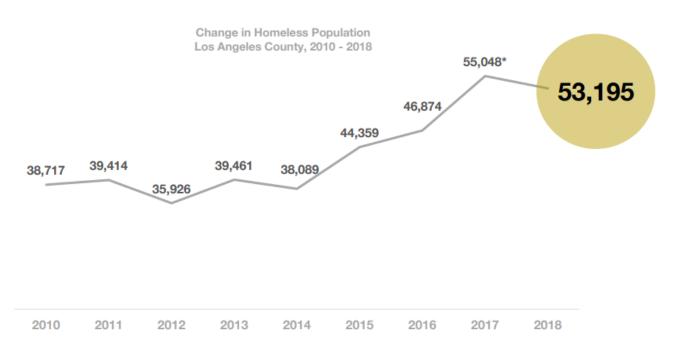
**2017:**2400 rental subsidies

1200 rental

2018: 3500 rental subsidies 2019: 6000 rental subsidies

## 2018 Homeless Count Results

# For the first time in 4 years homelessness decreased



#### WHY?

- More people are being placed into housing than ever before
- Strategies have been developed, more resources deployed, and we're starting to see results







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