



# Department of Housing Housing Authority's Housing Readiness Program

## HRP PROGRAM Highlights:

- "Housing First" model
- Time limited assistance
- Case management provided by referral agency focusing on self sufficiency and housing plan after HRP



Homelessness

## Referral Agency Partners

County of San Mateo Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Mental Health Association of San Mateo County

Samaritan House's:  
Safe Harbor  
Shelter Network



In 2006, San Mateo County published Housing Our People Effectively (HOPE), a strategic plan which provides recommendations and strategies to end homelessness in the county. One of the key programmatic responses to the needs identified in the HOPE plan is the Housing Readiness Program (HRP) developed by the Housing Authority of the County of San Mateo. While using time-limited Housing Choice Vouchers, clients receive case management with a focus on self sufficiency through their referral agency. Below is one of many success stories from HRP clients.

### Miranda's Story

After ending a long term relationship, Miranda, at the age of forty-seven, found herself homeless for the first time in her life. Looking for emergency housing assistance, she turned to one of the county's community based agencies where she received a referral to Safe Harbor Shelter. The shelter's primary goal is to provide the homeless with "basic human needs" - shelter, warmth, sustenance and healthcare.

When Miranda moved to Safe Harbor Shelter in September 2008, she quickly settled in and with the support of the shelter staff, she found a job and began saving 50% of her income. After two months at the shelter, Miranda appeared to be doing well on the surface, but emotionally she was having difficulties. To ease her pain, Miranda began drinking again, and one day was found passed out near the shelter in the middle of the night. The shelter staff performed an intervention and referred her to a treatment program. Miranda was scared at first, having been in a treatment program before, and was also fearful about losing her job. The shelter staff discussed her concerns with her and she eventually agreed that a treatment program was the type of help she needed. In November 2008, Miranda entered a 60 day treatment program.

Upon completion of the treatment program, the shelter had a bed waiting for her. Miranda worked with the shelter staff and together they developed a support plan to assist her in her recovery. She also got her job back! In an effort to increase her income and help others, Miranda decided to enroll in nursing school.

In January 2009, the Housing Authority of the County of San Mateo launched its Housing Readiness Program (HRP), an innovative program that provides homeless persons with a rent subsidy for up to three years. With the news of the Housing Readiness Program, the shelter staff thought immediately of Miranda. She was the perfect candidate. She had demonstrated a commitment to maintain her sobriety and strived to live up to her potential. Miranda was referred to the program, met the program requirements, and moved into her own apartment in June 2009.

Since joining the Housing Readiness Program, Miranda continues to meet with the shelter staff regularly for support services. Miranda has completed nursing school and is a certified CNA, working two jobs, saving money, and maintaining her sobriety. Miranda says that working keeps her busy and assists her in her recovery. Miranda is happy to have a place of her own, and is working hard to achieve self-sufficiency when the housing assistance ends in June 2012.



Safe Harbor is a 90 bed homeless shelter located in South San Francisco.

To find out more about HRP and all of our other programs, please visit our website at:  
[www.smhousing.org](http://www.smhousing.org)