ALCOHOL, DRUG & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
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Dear Community Member:

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) is working with the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) to develop more permanent, affordable supportive housing for formerly homeless households with a member with serious mental illness or a serious emotional disturbance. BHCS has over $14.6 million to invest in the creation of new housing opportunities through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program. Information about the MHSA Housing Program can be found at: http://www.dmh.ca.gov/prop_63/MHSA/Housing/default.asp or by contacting the BHCS Housing Services Office.

In order to access these funds, BHCS must partner with a housing developer/owner and propose a particular housing project to DMH and CalHFA. In the months of July and October 2009, the MHSA Housing Review Committee, a local advisory group on the MHSA Housing Program, recommended moving forward with a proposed housing project in partnership with Housing Consortium of the East Bay (HCEB), Hallmark Community Solutions (HCS), and Bay Area Community Services (BACS). The proposed project known as the Ashland Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) will involve the acquisition and rehabilitation of 3-4 single family homes in the unincorporated area of Ashland within Alameda County. The project will operate as supported independent living for 9-12 adults with histories of homelessness and serious mental health issues. Tenants will live together in a shared housing situation with each tenant having their own room within a 3-4 bedroom house. The tenant portion of rent will be fixed at 30% of the current Supplemental Security Income (SSI) rate or 30% of a tenant's income whichever is higher. Bay Area Community Services (BACS) will provide supportive services to tenants at the housing sites. As part of the process of preparing the application for this project, DMH and CalHFA require a 30-day public comment and review period on the proposed project.

Enclosed with this letter are key documents outlining the proposed Ashland NSP project. BHCS and the project developers would greatly appreciate your feedback and questions related to this project over the next month. We will be accepting public comment on the project through Friday, January 8th at 5 pm. Comments that we receive will be utilized in developing our final project proposal for submission to DMH and CalHFA. One section of the application will address specific questions and concerns raised during this public comment period. Please send your questions and comments to:

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Thank you in advance for your feedback!