



Using peer care navigators to connect individuals who are experiencing homelessness and living with HIV with a medical home in the San Gabriel Valley

Operation Link City of Pasadena Public Health Department, Pasadena, California

GEOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPE

- Los Angeles has the largest population experiencing homelessness in the country.
- Of the 90,000 homeless individuals in LA, 1,165 live in Pasadena.
- Los Angeles has the second largest number of HIV cases in the country.¹

THE CHALLENGE

- Vast geographic area
- Limited affordable housing resources
- Clients served by multiple medical providers; difficult to coordinate services

FOCUS POPULATION

- People in the San Gabriel Valley who are experiencing homelessness, living with HIV, and diagnosed with mental health and/or substance use disorders.
- Individuals newly released from treatment programs, shelters, or incarceration

THE MODEL

Peer Care Navigators (PCNs) work with clients to find established medical homes throughout the Los Angeles County area that would be both accessible from the clients' primary place of residence and able to meet the clients' medical, mental health, and substance use needs.

PARTNERS and LINKAGES

Collaboration with housing agencies in Los Angeles metropolitan area

IMPACTS

107 clients served, of which **67** graduated to standard of care services

Increased understanding of the needs of the population experiencing homelessness in Pasadena and surrounding region

Learn more: <http://cahpp.org/project/medheart>

¹California Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need, September 2009, p. 16.

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