



DignityMoves Santa Barbara pilot interim housing

Navigating California's Housing Conundrum: Pioneering Interim Housing

The New York Times

NEWS ANALYSIS

California Housing Is a Crisis Newsom Can Take Into His Own Hands

Having survived a recall vote, the governor is free to focus on the state's homeless population and housing shortage. He has more room to maneuver than he did when he first took office.

California's Housing Crisis:

- Skyrocketing home prices and affordable housing shortage.
- Driven by population growth, zoning restrictions, regulations, and NIMBY opposition.
- High construction costs, rising land prices, income inequality exacerbate the issue.



Focus on Homeless Services:

- Concentrating on people living on the streets with trauma and special needs.
- Goal: provide safety and security for engagement with service providers.
- Advocating for practical, common-sense solutions.



Defining Interim Housing:

- Interim housing offers a short-term alternative between shelters and permanent housing.
- Faster, cost-effective, and aids individuals in stabilizing before permanent housing.

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The Housing First Approach:

- Prioritizes permanent housing before addressing other needs like income and substance use.
- Transitioning from homelessness takes time and may require multiple attempts.
- Some individuals need permanent supportive housing, while others can "self-resolve."



Barriers to Appointments:

- Homeless individuals face immense barriers to reaching appointments.
- Congregate shelters may not be viable due to time restrictions and lack of storage.
- Interim housing offers secure personal spaces, flexibility, and support.

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The Role of Interim Housing:

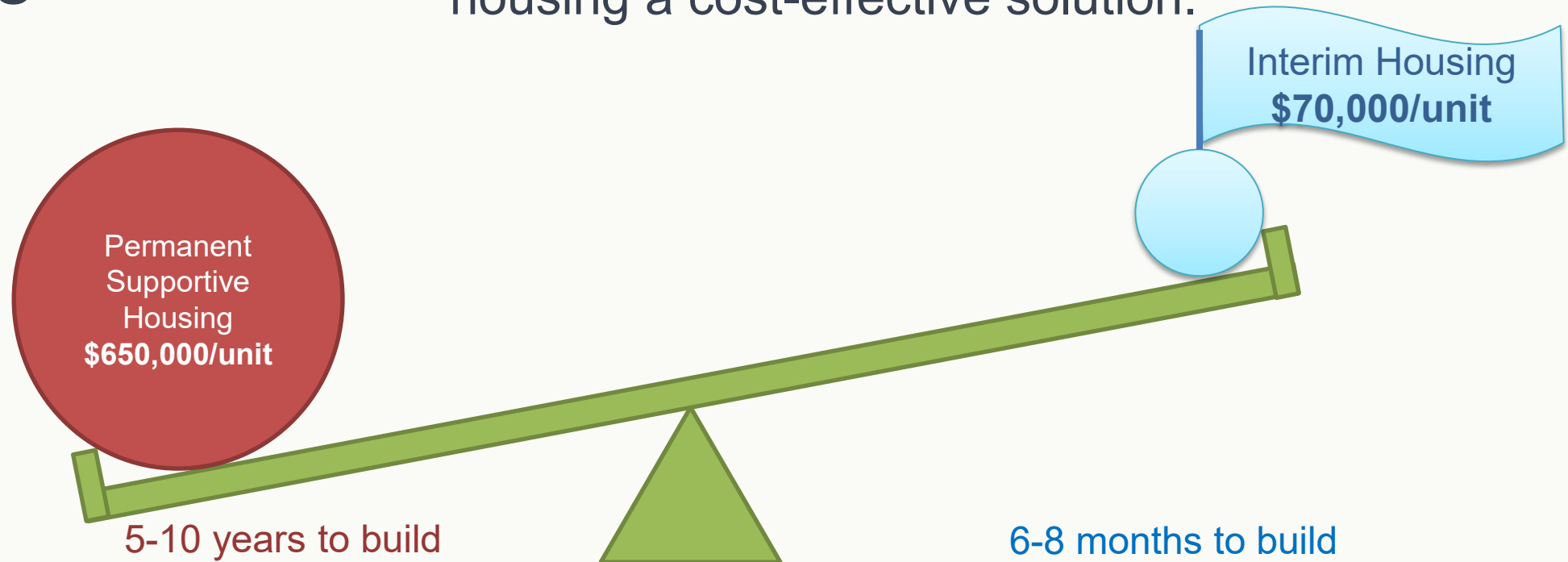
- Provides stability and support to help individuals recover from homelessness.
- Offers flexible length of stay, safety, and guidance, prioritizing progression to permanent housing.
- Advocates for small, compassionate interim housing communities.



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Cost-Effectiveness of Interim Housing:

- Permanent supportive housing units are costly (around \$650,000 per unit).
- Interim housing units are much more affordable (typically \$50,000-\$70,000 per unit).
- Rapid construction and adaptability make interim housing a cost-effective solution.



More On Cost- Effectiveness



- More than 1,357 unsheltered people in Monterey County (2022 PIT count) continue living in encampments.
- A 2015 study showed that of a study population of 6,494 homeless people, *one-third had at least one hospitalization annually, and two-thirds had one or more emergency room visits annually.*
- Average ER visit: \$4,835. The ambulance ride there: \$4,600. The average inpatient hospital stay for a person living unsheltered on the streets is 10.5 days, costing \$38,500.
- **Emergency room visits** for 905 people, conservatively, **\$8,538,675 annually.**
- **Inpatient expenses** for 452 people, **\$19,481,200 annually.**
- **That's \$28 million in medical costs alone per year for Monterey County's unsheltered.** Then stack on costs of law enforcement, courts, behavioral health treatment, and incarceration for the same 1,357 people.
- **The cost of building 500 units of Interim Housing is \$35 million.**

Dorothy's Place Success:

- Dorothy's Place offers interim housing with strong support systems, including healthcare coordination through CalAIM and CalAIM financial assistance for move-in costs (and homelessness prevention).
- Demonstrates a 74% success rate in transitioning residents to permanent housing (2023).
- Provides ongoing support even after residents secure permanent housing.



A Practical, Complementary Solution.

- **Interim housing offers a common-sense, adaptable, and portable solution.**
- **Bridges the gap while waiting for permanent affordable housing projects.**
- **Provides hope for those facing housing insecurity and homelessness.**
- **Presents an indisputably sound economic argument.**

DignityMoves works with many developers to produce interim housing that meets diverse community needs.



Santa Barbara's site blends seamlessly into downtown.



Alameda's site takes advantage of available real estate.



San Francisco & Santa Barbara build faster on parking lots.