

HOPE SF: Transforming San Francisco's Public Housing

San Francisco is currently undertaking a bold new initiative to rebuild eight seriously distressed public housing authority properties, which will transform the lives of low-income residents and build vital new communities where diverse households can thrive. HOPE SF is modeled after the federal HOPE VI program but takes advantage of local resources, support and expertise. The HOPE SF principles include:

- One-for-one replacement of public housing
- Emphasis on onsite relocation and minimal displacement of current residents
- Commitment to creating as much affordable housing as possible
- Resident engagement throughout the development process
- Integration with neighborhood plans
- Incorporation of green building principles

The public housing neighborhoods identified for rebuilding in San Francisco have the highest incidences of gang activity, poverty levels and high school dropout rates of any neighborhood in California. HOPE SF represents an opportunity for the city to transform the communities by creating new types of environmentally and economically sustainable mixed-income homes. In total, HOPE SF plans to rebuild 2,500 existing public housing units and create an additional 3,000 new affordable/market-rate rental and ownership homes. HOPE SF also includes resident services (transportation access, community centers, training classes and employment opportunities) and community-oriented schools.

Enterprise is supporting HOPE SF by:

- Developing new sources of capital and using traditional sources in various ways
- Organizing trainings and leading tours of other cities for HOPE SF leaders to learn from the experiences and best practices of successful HOPE VI projects
- Engaging consultants and other outside experts to share expertise on resident services, tenant engagement and community involvement
- Introducing the HOPE SF development teams to the Green Communities[®] resources, including funding, technical assistance and best practices for building sustainable neighborhoods
- Taking the lead on a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study to grow additional sources of capital for HOPE SF, focusing on the human element of community transformation and building green, sustainable housing

The city of San Francisco, Enterprise and its many partners are inspired and motivated by the challenges of this great project. The HOPE SF initiative leaders are applying creative solutions to turn this bold vision into a reality. They are tapping into knowledge and experiences from around the country, testing new green building practices and applying innovative strategies to prepare residents and tenant associations for the transitions ahead. The first phase of HOPE SF is underway; the vision for building healthy, sustainable and stable mixed-income communities is becoming a reality.

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