

**2009 Housing Element
Transgendered Community Notes from Conversation
November 21, 2008**

- Statewide survey-want to share housing results with us
- One out of 5 transgendered have been homeless since coming out
- Large portion unemployed
- Large range of need ability
- People facing landlord discrimination credit problems, People living in publicly subsidized units experience harassment
- Access and maintain place in housing
- Transitional housing services-experiencing discrimination-how can we better educate shelter work ass case managers etc.
- Provide clear notices and publications that inform tenants of their rights under San Francisco anti-discrimination ordinances and California state law. Include instructions on filing complaints regarding housing discrimination with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and/or the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.
- Focus on safety and inclusion in temporary housing units. Transgender communities are chronically unemployed and underemployed because of various sources of discrimination.
- Require trainings for shelter and SRO employees to reduce anti-transgender bias.
- House residents of homeless shelters by gender identity rather than sex. Ensure access to restrooms and showers based on gender identity. Provide gender neutral restrooms and showers when possible.
- Eliminate individuals being turned away from homeless shelters based being transgender.
- Construct outdoor areas with maximum visibility. As violence against transgender individuals is disproportionately high, areas in which they live should be well lit and constructed to avoid places for people to easily hide.
- Provide curtains or other barriers to ensure privacy within the housing unit to prevent spying on residents others might think are transgender.
- Work to ensure historically socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, such as transgender communities, are aware of their low income housing options. Conduct outreach to community centers such as API Wellness' TransThrive program.
- Place an emphasis on sober shelter and single room occupancy hotels. Many transgender people are recovering from addiction.
- Instruct the Shelter Monitoring Committee to actively investigate and report housing issues that afflict transgender communities (bathroom safety, privacy, anti-discrimination, etc.).
- For an excellent publication on housing issues that afflict the homeless transgender community, please see the publication, "Transitioning our Shelters: A Guide to Making Homeless Shelters Safe for Transgender People."