



NEWS RELEASE
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Treatment on Demand Community Council Holds Rally to Advocate for Safe Injection Sites
San Francisco Advocates Show Support for California Assembly Bill 186

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – (Sept 19, 2018) On Thursday, September 20 at 10:30 a.m., The Treatment on Demand Community Council, a coalition of organizations and community members dedicated to creating accessible substance use and behavioral health treatment for San Franciscans, will be holding an Action Rally on the steps of the California State Courthouse (350 McAllister St.) in support of Assembly Bill 186. This bill, which currently awaits a signature from California Governor Jerry Brown, would allow San Francisco to start a three-year pilot project of safe injection sites.

Committed to combating poverty and addressing homelessness in San Francisco, Community Housing Partnership supports innovative solutions to offer individuals who use intravenous drugs the opportunity to be in a safe environment and off our streets — helping to reduce drug-related fatalities and provide critical access to recovery services and tools. Creating access to safe spaces for substance use is central to the organization’s commitment to helping individuals, families and seniors who have experienced homelessness rebuild their lives, and break the cycle of poverty that plagues our community.

This bill follows reports of similarly successful programs implemented in Canada, Europe, and Australia in recent years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the leading cause of accidental deaths nationwide is drug overdoses – but Community Housing Partnership and other safe injection site advocates believe such overdoses can be heavily alleviated by monitoring drug use in a safe environment. Countries who have implemented this model have seen both a significant reduction in overdoses as well as contractions of diseases such as hepatitis C and HIV.

“Supporting San Francisco’s most-vulnerable residents at safe injection sites gives those suffering from opioid addictions a protected, clean environment where they can gain access to recovery services and tools,” shares Community Housing Partnership CEO Gail Gilman. “With so many people suffering on our streets, it is critical we support out-of-the-box solutions that can help break the cycle of addiction and put a stop to preventable deaths in our community.”

San Francisco Mayor London Breed has also shown support for safe injection sites, in an August 28 statement sharing, “Safe injection sites save lives. We are in a public health crisis and this bill will help us by preventing overdoses while connecting people to medical care that can help treat their addiction.”

Thursday’s rally is open to the public – any community member interested in helping save lives by addressing the opioid crisis is welcome to participate. For more information contact CORE@chp-sf.org.

ABOUT COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Founded in 1990, Community Housing Partnership is an award-winning San Francisco nonprofit dedicated to helping homeless people secure housing and become self-sufficient. As a dynamic service organization, Community Housing Partnership pairs affordable housing with support services, employment preparation, job training, a transitional employment social enterprise, and community organizing activities. Together these services offer San Francisco’s most-vulnerable residents a direct pathway from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Community Housing Partnership utilizes safe, stable housing as a platform to deliver services to clients which help promote both increased self-sufficiency as well as long-term retention of housing. Community Housing Partnership owns, manages, or provides services at 17 buildings with over 1,300 units and has more than 240 additional units in development. Community Housing Partnership’s housing and services annually impact the lives of over 1,700 formerly homeless adults, seniors, veterans, and children.



Community Housing Partnership's Public Policy, Community Organizing & Resident Engagement (CORE) program trains leaders who catalyze change for social justice issues critical to poverty and homelessness. For over a decade, CORE has empowered our residents to become civic leaders – and has focused on issues from health, access to education, criminal justice reform, and housing as they relate to homelessness and poverty in San Francisco.

Visit chp-sf.org to learn more about how Community Housing Partnership is leading the charge to provide long-term solutions for homelessness in San Francisco. Follow Community Housing Partnership on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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