



## Sacramento Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative

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916.447.7063 / [www.communitycouncil.org/homelessplan](http://www.communitycouncil.org/homelessplan)

**November 26, 2008**

Dear Faith Leader:

Sacramento's Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative has launched an effort we are calling the Faith & Family Initiative, and, as a leader of your congregation, we want to invite you to join this urgent effort. Homeless shelters for families in our community are experiencing increasing numbers of homeless families with children due to the housing and economic crisis. They report having to turn away as many families as they are able to serve on a daily basis. Our state and local governments are facing staggering deficits, and human services agencies will experience another year of public funding cuts. Despite these challenges, we are compelled to act by implementing a new Faith Leadership Council, which is a collaboration with service providers and faith-based communities on best practices around our country.

The Faith & Family Initiative is patterned after successful programs in Denver, Colorado and Boise, Idaho, which seek to provide homeless families with limited and temporary housing assistance, mentoring/financial planning and other support services through a partnership with faith congregations and homeless service providers. We are targeting families who are newly homeless, who just need short term assistance to get back on their feet and do not have significant problems with mental illness or drug/alcohol addictions. We have attached a short program description. We are attempting to implement a structured pilot program with at least five diverse faith congregations by January 2009.

We know you share our concern for the safety of homeless families in our community, and we hope you will consider joining this new and exciting effort. Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

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