

BREAKING BARRIERS

An Innovative Cross-Sector Solution

Breaking Barriers is a groundbreaking program in Los Angeles County that provides housing stability and employment training to individuals on felony probation. The program was designed to support the Los Angeles County Probation Department's efforts to reduce recidivism and address the issue of homelessness among individuals on felony probation in Los Angeles County.

The Need

People exiting criminal justice settings face major barriers to housing and employment because of discrimination, coupled with LA County's untenable rental market and wages that have failed to keep up with market prices. Housing is key to breaking the cycle between incarceration and homelessness, as national homelessness data indicates that people are more likely to be re-incarcerated if they lack stable housing.

Breaking Barriers is a visionary rapid rehousing program providing housing, tenancy support, case management, and employment services to adults on felony probation who are experiencing homelessness or unstable housing.

The Solution

In recognition of these challenges, Brilliant Corners, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS), Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), Chrysalis, and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, launched Breaking Barriers in 2015. Breaking Barriers provides a critical intervention through access to stable housing and employment training, coupled with case management services and tenancy supports to help clients thrive and succeed.

The Impact



**474 clients
housed since
launch**



**700 clients
received case management
& employment services**



**125 families
with children
housed since launch**

[1] <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html>

Breaking Barriers – BSCC Criteria

The Breaking Barriers program has secured Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) funding and is now open to a limited number of new referrals. Due to current funding requirements, Breaking Barriers has adopted specific eligibility criteria. At this time, we can only accept referrals who meet this new criteria.

Program Overview:

- Breaking Barriers is a rapid rehousing program serving adults on felony probation in Los Angeles County who are experiencing homelessness.
- The goal of the program is for clients to “transition in place” at the end of the program and continue living in their housing unit while paying the full rental amount.
- 3 Components:
 - *Housing* – each client will sign a lease for an apartment or room and receive a rental subsidy through Brilliant Corners, with the client contributing a percentage of their monthly income to the rent.
 - *Case Management* – each client will be provided intensive case management services through Brilliant Corners.
 - *Employment Services* – each client will be provided employment services through Chrysalis.

Eligibility Criteria:

Note: New criteria is in bold.

- Referral must be on formal felony probation, or on AB109 supervision.
- Referral must be homeless or at-risk of being homeless.
- **Referral must have been formerly incarcerated in a California State Prison at some point in time**
- **Referral ideally is employed or has been employed within the last year (this time frame can be flexible) and is currently work ready.**
- **Referral must have the ability to “transition in place” and take over the full rental amount within 12-18 months.**
- **Referral ideally is a single adult or a small family; larger families will be considered on a case by case basis depending on employment stats**
- Referral must be motivated to make positive changes in their life.

Breaking Barriers is looking for individuals who are currently employed or well positioned to gain employment quickly. The ideal referral is low acuity and work ready. The criteria has been modified to accommodate the shorter length of rental subsidy (now 12-18 months instead of 24 months). Due to these changes, Breaking Barriers will have to be more restrictive about the referrals who are ultimately enrolled in the program.

How to Refer:

- If you think someone meets the criteria and would be a good fit for the program, please have the individual connect with their Probation Officer and discuss the program. The Probation Officer can contact the Probation Analyst at Breaking.Barriers@probation.lacounty.gov for the referral form.
- The Probation Officer should complete the form with the participant and email it to Breaking.Barriers@probation.lacounty.gov. The referral will be reviewed by a Probation Analyst and then emailed to the Program Manager if the referral meets the program criteria.

Please note: Only Probation Officers and R-ICMS providers can submit referrals to the Probation Analyst. Breaking Barriers cannot directly take referrals from community partners, all referrals must be submitted and reviewed by the Probation Analyst first. (Breaking.Barriers@probation.lacounty.gov)