

### THE HOMECOMING PROJECT

The Homecoming Project Offers Homes and Hope to Formerly Incarcerated Men and Women

"Stable housing gave me a real shot at success."

— Alejandro Lee, Oakland, CA





#### **What is the Homecoming Project?**

Thousands and men and women leave prison each year in California and rejoin their communities. One key factor to successful re-entry is a safe and reliable place to live, which is increasingly hard to find in this housing market.

If you have a room to rent, this is a great opportunity to make a difference and make some money. Just as Airbnb allows people to monetize their extra living spaces, the Homecoming Project is an innovative pilot program that taps into hidden housing assets in Alameda County. The program provides daily subsidies to homeowners in exchange for renting an extra room to people returning home from lengthy prison terms.

## How You Can Help? Why?

By offering and receiving safe and stable housing, both hosts and returnees benefit from the program. Your community will also see reductions in homelessness and rates of recidivism, as well as increased opportunities for employment and reunification with family.

### How does the Homecoming Project protect both hosts and renters?

- A strong screening and matching process: The Homecoming Project ensures a careful and thorough screening process, including compatibility interviews and assessments between hosts and returnees.
- **Housing stipend**: Hosts will be paid a stipend while a returnee resides in their home.
- > **Time limits**: The maximum time allowed for hosts and renters under this program is six months. If a renter and host build a good relationship, the host can offer to continue renting to the returnee. They will be expected to create new rental terms that does not include compensation from the Homecoming Project.
- Ongoing support: Support staff for both hosts and renters are available to answer questions and in case of emergencies. In addition, hosts will have access to ongoing trainings provided by the Homecoming Project and our partner organizations. Renters will also be paired with life coaches to help them successfully reintegrate back into the community.

# What kind of rules will hosts and renters have to abide by?

- The Homecoming Project will help to establish customized house rules.
- Host and renters must follow all parole conditions.
- No weapons or drugs in the house.
- No acts of verbal or physical aggression/ assault.

#### **More Information**

Contact **Terah Lawyer** at homecomingproject@impactjustice.org or call 707-794-2151.

"The Homecoming Project offers a unique and needed service. I'm making extra money while helping someone find security and stability as they transition back to the community. It's a win win for me, the person coming home, and the entire community."

—Host Candi Thornton, Opening Doors, Oakland, CA



Impact Justice is a national innovation and research center advancing new ideas and solutions for justice reform. We work to dramatically reduce the massive number of youth and adults in our justice system, improve conditions and outcomes for those who are incarcerated, and provide meaningful opportunities for the formerly incarcerated to rejoin their communities.

**The Homecoming Project** is one of the **Impact/Innovation** projects at Impact Justice, which offers new, groundbreaking ideas to accelerate justice system change. **impactjustice.org**