

The Independent Living Association (ILA) supports Independent Living (IL) owners, residents and the community by promoting high quality Independent Livings. In the sixth year of the program, the ILA focused on a number of important components, including:

- **Increase the Number of Independent Livings that meet the Quality Standards.**
- **Expand the Impact of the ILA.**
- **Operate a valued ILA Directory.**
- **Support the Process to become an ILA Member Home.**
- **Conduct Education and Training.**
- **Engage in Advocacy/Systems Change.**

OVERVIEW

This Evaluation Report relies on multiple methods, both quantitative and qualitative, including community meetings, data generated from a survey of users of the ILA Online Directory, data on website use patterns using Google Analytics, observations during Peer Review and Accountability (PRAT) inspections, pre- and post-tests to measure knowledge gained through the training courses, participant evaluations of the training courses and a review of program documents and progress reports.

EVALUATION FINDINGS

The ILA evaluation found that all the components of the project have been implemented successfully and on schedule. Stakeholders who partner with the ILA as members, residents, or community members report the benefit of the ILA to their work and in achieving recovery.

ILA Membership.

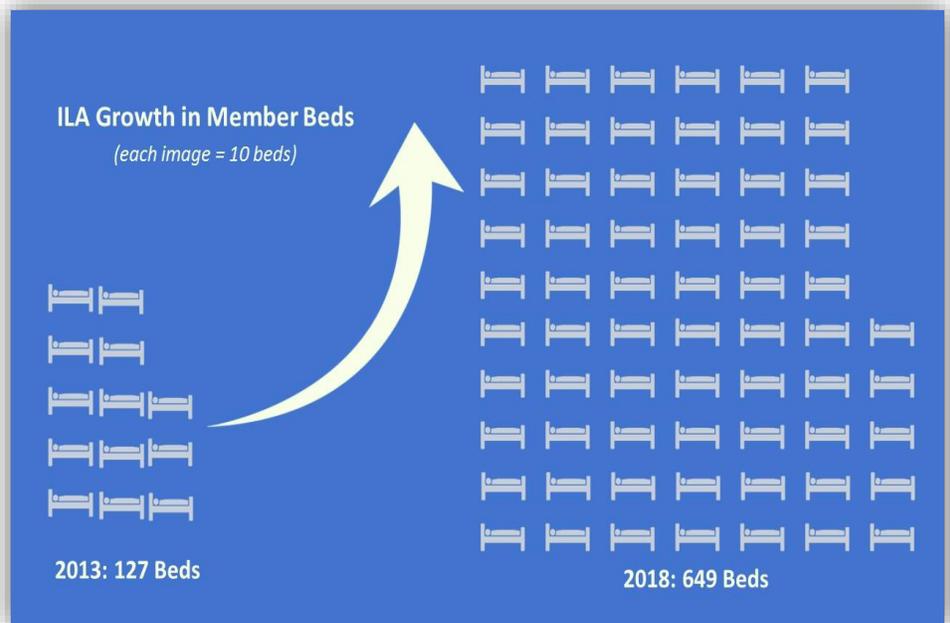
As of June 2018, the ILA had 74 approved members listed in the online directory, representing 649 beds; with 14 pending member applicants. This represents a significant and steady increase in member homes from the project inception and a 9% increase in member homes over FY 16/17. A total of 12 homes closed or were removed from the registry in FY 17/18, reflecting the value of the quality standards and the importance of ongoing inspections and trainings to ensure quality housing options for IL home residents.



ILA Directory.

With the increase in member homes over the last fiscal year, the ILA also saw an increase in the number of available beds, from 604 to 649. The continued growth of the ILA drove a 12% increase in users of the www.ilasd.org website. This reflects ongoing year over year increases and a low Bounce Rate (the proportion of users who view only one page on the website and leave).

Based on focus groups and information from an on-line survey, users find the content and structure of the ILA Online Directory valuable and easy to navigate.



Quality Standards & PRAT.

The ILA Quality Standards, including attributes, indicators, and an inspection checklist, were developed by the Independent Living Association Advisory Committee and are updated regularly. These Quality Standards are the recommended best practices for Independent Livings. ILA Members must adhere to the all of the ILA Quality Standards.

The ILA Peer Review Accountability Team (PRAT) is a group that consists of owners, residents and CHIP staff that determine each Independent Living Homes' adherence to the Quality Standards and provide individualized coaching to help owners to improve their business. The ILA developed, and continues to refine the PRAT process by incorporating best practices as well as feedback from owners, residents and community stakeholders. In FY 2017/18, The ILA revised the Quality Standards and PRAT checklist to reflect the continuing evolution and learning from members and Independent Living residents.

Education and Training.

In Fiscal Year 17/18, the ILA conducted 13 formal owner training courses serving 251 participants across San Diego County. The average change between the pre- and post-test scores for all training courses was 28% percentage points, exceeding the goal of increasing knowledge by 10 %. Based on their evaluations, training participants were very satisfied with the course content and trainers and all participants unanimously reported that they would recommend the ILA trainings to others.



To contact the ILA: 858.609.7972 or email: info@ilasd.org

Advocacy/Systems Change.

The ILA continued work on Advocacy and Systems Change efforts, with the goal of *ensuring that the rights of Independent Living owners, residents and the community are supported in laws, enforcement and in practice*. This is a critical component of the ILA's work as local governments often try to limit shared living homes, creating barriers to housing for people with disabilities. Advocacy activities included:

- Form/inform Policy: in particular local municipal ordinances related to shared housing/Independent Livings/Sober Livings. Several bills were introduced in the California legislature to try and limit sober livings and independent living homes. None have been signed into law and the ILA continues to prioritize policy efforts related to shared housing.
- Address Stigma (for owners and tenants): The ILA reached out to key community members with a message of "housing as healthcare" at a range of events, including hospital and health fairs, community gatherings, and networking events.
- Laws and Regulations: a number of expert trainings were offered focused specifically on laws and regulations that apply to ILs, such as Fair Housing Laws, the "6 and under" Rule, and Common Misconceptions.

"My Independent Living home changed my life. I have a home. A place I belong.

Since I moved in everything is better – I even went back to school."

Independent Living Member Home Resident

These efforts were described by owners as building a strong understanding of the laws and protections related to Independent Livings and an increase in knowledge regarding the legal basis for shared housing options.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the coming 18/19 Fiscal Year, the ILA will pursue the key recommendations listed above, along with these key focus areas:

- Recruiting new members.
- Increasing the functionality of the Online Directory.
- Providing valuable trainings to new applicants and owners.
- Increasing community awareness about the existence and importance of the ILA.
- Expanding collaborative efforts with law enforcement and first responders.
- Engaging in advocacy work, particularly related to municipal ordinances.

EXPANSION OF THE MODEL

Alameda County Expansion.

The ILA initiative has been recognized as a critical resource that provides access to quality shared housing and has been replicated in Alameda County. The Alameda ILA team will continue to expand the model and recruit additional partners in Northern California and potentially other counties in California.

Recovery Residence Association (RRA).

The coming fiscal year, 2018/19, will see a complete transformation of the substance use disorder system in San Diego as the County implements its Drug Medi-Cal waiver plan that emphasizes evidence based practice in substance use disorder treatment, which is prioritized by medical necessity criteria. This shift includes planning for an enhanced network of Recovery Residences and Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP) will be replicating the ILA model to form a Recovery Residence Association in the coming fiscal year.