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## **ABOUT THE MC DIGNITY PROJECT** (©2012 an IntegrAID Project)

After becoming familiar with Monterey County's homeless service providers and participating in local advocacy groups IntegrAID began seeking innovative solutions for the growing housing shortage in California.

Our goal for researching these programs is to network partnerships and funding to test one or more of the concepts in collaboration with a local service provider for Monterey County. Because of our area's reputation for progressive solutions IntegrAID expects to fund this venture, as a feasibility study, for one or more of the philanthropic foundations addressing the homeless crisis in America.

In 2024 IntegrAID plans to do a deep dive into the California Fruit & Vegetable EBT Project which began in 2020 and was approved by the State of California July 2023. Monterey County has two participating retail outlets. The Fruit & Veggie Project matches every \$1 of CalFresh EBT funds spent on fresh fruit or vegetable, by crediting \$1 back to the recipient's EBT account, up to \$60 per month. This adds \$60 to a household's monthly income that can be spent on any CalFresh eligible food e.g. more fruits and vegetables, bread, grains, nuts, dairy, meat, etc.

## **INITIATIVES INVESTIGATED SINCE 2014 FOR MC**

We had productive exchanges with tech companies, like Twitter and Zendesk, who participated in San Francisco's offer to operate in the city's low income districts; and develop or enhance available support services in exchange for a 6-year payroll tax exclusion. The Tenderloin Technology Lab, LINK-SF.COM, a framework IntegrAID duplicated as MyLinkUp.info, and Lava Mae are products of San Francisco's incentive.

Additional ventures IntegrAID investigated are the Guaranteed/Basic Income model and the Tiny House Movement.

Unfortunately many of these projects lost traction and their founders and funding resources have begun other ventures. IntegrAID believes they are all still viable ideas.

### **Housing – [Tiny Houses](#) & [Shipping Container Residential Complex](#) ([Pictures](#) of Tiny Homes & Villages)**

Tiny house communities have been successful providing shelter for the homeless. Shipping containers have been used for emergency housing for displaced individuals from crisis-afflicted areas and now are being implemented in California to house the homeless.

### **Income – [The Economic Security Project](#) & [Y-Combinator Basic Income Proposal](#)**

The Economic Security Project proposes the 1% should pay additional taxes to cover a guaranteed monthly income for the working class earning an annual income under poverty levels. Y-Combinator is researching the Basic Income model, which gives those living in poverty a no strings attached monthly income for a set number of years.

### **Hygiene & Support Services - [Lava Mae](#)**

Lava Mae repurposes retired transportation buses into showers and toilets on wheels to deliver hygiene and restore dignity among the homeless as well as providing Pop-Up Care Villages to provide needed service

**Innovative Concepts – [LinkSF.com](#)** now managed by [ShelterTech](#) was San Francisco's first mobile-optimized website to connect homeless and low-income residents with critical and life-saving resources. Focusing on basic needs food, shelter, medical care, hygiene, and technology access; Link-SF utilized an open source platform spearheaded by ZenDesk to stream the most up-to-date information possible. The project was designed with three user groups in mind: 1) A growing population of homeless individuals and families, 2) Service providers and 3) community members to easily locate available services.