A seven story hotel in San Francisco’s Tenderloin neighborhood has been converted by Community Housing Partnership and Mercy Housing into 84 single-room occupancy apartments for homeless individuals with disabilities. Known as the Essex, the building was first constructed in 1912 and has undergone substantial renovations, a process that included several upgrades to meet current safety standards as well as features that satisfy Enterprise’s Green Communities criteria. Offering a supportive, but independent living environment, the studio apartments each have bathrooms and kitchenettes. In addition to the apartments, the building features 3,000 square feet of street-level commercial space and 5,500 square feet of community facilities where the Community Housing Partnership provides supportive services to residents. CHP will also serve as the building’s property manager and owner.

The Essex interior was designed to ensure a comfortable, efficient and healthy living environment. Low-flow water fixtures replaced older, less efficient ones while Energy Star lighting fixtures, insulated pipes and a high-efficiency boiler help keep energy costs and the project’s carbon footprint down. Also, materials such as green-certified carpets and bathroom surfaces were selected for being both healthy for resident and environmentally friendly.
Residents of the Essex are all formerly homeless and earn on average less than 12 percent of the area median income. Rent for an approximately 250 square foot unit is $216 per month.

The basement includes a community room, kitchen and laundry facilities.

CHP provides a continuum of services. Services provided at the Essex will include:

- Housing retention services
- Case management and counseling
- Crisis intervention services
- Information and referral services
- Family and senior services
- Community building/tenant organizing
- Employment and training programs

Mercy Housing California and Community Housing Partnership are committed to creating healthy, supportive communities with quality, affordable housing for families throughout the United States. Founded in 1981 by the Sisters of Mercy in Omaha, Mercy Housing has developed nearly 20,000 homes that provide safe living environments for over 58,000 people. In addition to providing housing, Mercy’s projects aren’t just about housing, however; its communities serve to strengthen connections between families and provide opportunities for advancement, such as a better job, higher education or economic independence.

Established in 1990, Community Housing Partnership (CHP) is the only agency in San Francisco exclusively dedicated to providing permanent affordable housing to people who have been homeless. CHP currently owns and/or serves 774 units of housing for formerly homeless individuals and families. CHP offers integrated property management, supportive services, job training and civic engagement opportunities to its residents, all part of their work toward a permanent solution to homelessness.