



FACT SHEET

Homekey Awards

Announced September 14, 2020

\$76,468,549 awarded to seven jurisdictions for 10 projects (579 units)

The COVID-19 pandemic has put people experiencing homelessness at great risk and has disproportionately affected certain communities that could fall into homelessness. To address this, Project Roomkey, a state-led effort to acquire hotel rooms for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are at highest risk of COVID-19, was created. It has served more than 22,000 people.

Building off the success of Project Roomkey, Homekey is California's innovative \$600 million program to purchase and rehabilitate housing, including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and other properties, and convert them into permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, additional awards are expected weekly until all \$600 million has been awarded.

Serving College Students Experiencing Homelessness in El Centro Who Are Former Foster Youth

Location: El Centro (Imperial County)

Region: Southern California

Applicant: City of El Centro

Project name: Living Rise Above Resilient Community

Award amount: \$3,024,114

About the project: In collaboration with Imperial Valley College and the Imperial Valley College Foundation, the City of El Centro will build 13 tiny home duplexes on property already owned by the city to create a total of 26 units, including case management and wrap-around services.

Highlights: This project will provide up to two years of permanent supportive housing for 26 transitional age homeless youth and students who are exiting the foster care system. This project is in the county hardest hit by COVID-19, with four times the per-capita national average of cases, including a large number of farmworkers.

Helping People in Bakersfield Who Are Struggling to Find Housing with Their Housing Vouchers to Find Homes

Location: Bakersfield (Kern County)

Region: San Joaquin Valley

Applicant: Housing Authority of the County of Kern

Project name: Milestone

Award amount: \$14,970,935

About the project: The County of Kern will acquire four sites totaling 151 units to utilize as permanent supportive housing.

Highlights: Currently, 83 tenants with vouchers are struggling to find housing and the Kern County Housing Authority plans to issue another 240 vouchers, so this project will help those individuals. Kern County anticipates the project will reduce the county's "point-in-time" homelessness count by 11 percent. All four projects are located near transit and other amenities.

Getting to "Functional Zero" for Chronic Homelessness in Lake Elsinore

Location: Lake Elsinore (Riverside County)

Region: Southern California

Applicant: City of Lake Elsinore

Project name: The Anchor

Award amount: \$3,136,000

About the project: The City of Lake Elsinore will use funding to acquire, rehabilitate, and operate a former motel to provide 14 interim, transitional housing units to house up to 28 residents within 90 days. The city acquired the property and is currently renovating as the general contractor. The city will use its experience and remaining [Homeless Emergency Aid Program](#) funding of \$1 million to provide operations, case management, and supportive services.

Highlights: Since 2018, the city has seen a decline in its "point-in-time" homelessness count of 33 percent. Over the next two years, this funding would help the city achieve its goal of "functional zero" for chronic homelessness.

First-Ever Permanent Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness in Mendocino County

Location: Ukiah (Mendocino County)

Region: Balance of State

Applicant: County of Mendocino

Project name: Mendocino County Transitional Housing Facility

Award amount: \$9,669,500

About the project: This project would provide 56 units to use as interim housing, with a plan to convert half of the units to permanent housing.

Highlights: Mendocino currently has no permanent homeless shelter, and only 50 year-round emergency shelter beds. This project would give the county its first-ever permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness. It is located near transit and other amenities, including a hospital, grocery store, park, library, and pharmacy.

In Pittsburgh, New Interim Housing Will Allow People Experiencing Homelessness to Move off the Street and into Permanent Housing

Location: Pittsburg (Contra Costa County)

Region: Bay Area

Project Sponsor: County of Contra Costa

Project name: East County CARE Center and Interim Housing Program

Award amount: \$21,576,000

About the project: Building upon the efforts of [Project Roomkey](#), Contra Costa County will acquire the 174-unit Pittsburg Motel 6 and provide on-site services and support to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Highlights: Based on the 2020 “point-in-time” count, East County hosts 33 percent of the county’s unsheltered population. Currently, only 20 shelter beds exist for more than 500 individuals living on the streets in this region, mostly in Antioch and Pittsburg. The county will use the property as interim, non-congregate shelter, with a coordinate exit strategy to permanent supportive housing.

San Jose Project Roomkey Property to Become Permanent Housing

Location: San Jose (Santa Clara County)

Region: Bay Area

Applicant: City of San Jose

Project name: Best Western – Sure Stay

Award amount: \$14,516,000

About the project: This is a 76-unit property currently operating as a [Project Roomkey](#) property with 74 occupants.

Highlights: This current Project Roomkey property, located just 0.1 miles from light rail transit, will operate as a non-congregate shelter for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, with a plan to convert to permanent housing. Rehabilitation can be done without displacing the occupants.

Moving from No Year-Round Shelter All the Way to “Functional Zero” for Chronic Homelessness in the Tahoe Basin (Four Projects)

Location: South Lake Tahoe (El Dorado)

Region: Sacramento Area

Applicant: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency / **Co-applicant:** Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless

Total Units: 82

1. **Project name:** Red Lodge

Award amount: \$2,828,000

About the project: Red Lodge is 24 units fully furnished and requires no rehabilitation. The Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless will own and manage the property as interim housing, occupying immediately to ensure homeless residents are sheltered and supported during the pandemic and the harsh Tahoe winter.

2. **Project name:** Bear’s Den

Award amount: \$2,828,000

About the project: Like Red Lodge, Bear’s Den is 26 units fully furnished and requires no rehab tasks and The Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless will own and manage the property as interim housing, occupying immediately to ensure homeless residents are sheltered and supported during the pandemic and the harsh Tahoe winter.

3. **Project name:** High Country

Award amount: \$1,960,000

About the project: The Apex and High Country are being sold together by the same owner as motel properties, at 16 units each. The Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless plans to own and manage them as interim housing while they rehabilitate and convert them to permanent units.

4. **Project name:** Apex

Award amount: \$1,960,000

About the project: The Apex and High Country are being sold together by the same owner as motel properties, at 16 units each. The Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless plans to own and manage them as interim housing while they rehabilitate and convert them to permanent units.

Highlights: El Dorado County currently has no year-round shelter or Permanent Supportive Housing. The Alpine area's 2019 "point-in-time" homelessness count found 110 people experiencing homelessness, of whom 78 percent were unsheltered and 53 percent were chronically homeless. Together, these Tahoe projects will help get the Tahoe Basin to its goal of "functional zero" for chronic homelessness over the next two years.