



COUNTY OF LAKE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
P.O. Box 9000
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Crystal Markytan
Social Services Director
Public Guardian/Administrator

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Homekey – Hope Center

Lake County, CA (September 29, 2020) – Governor Gavin Newsom announced yesterday that Lake County has been granted \$3.3 million in the first round of awards for Homekey, California’s innovative \$600 million program to provide long-term housing for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Lake County Department of Social Services, in partnership with Adventist Health Clear Lake, has contracted with Hope Rising Lake County, to operate Hope Center in Clearlake, CA. Hope Rising Lake County is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community benefit organization composed of health systems and services, county leaders, non-profits, and other relevant organizations that serve Lake County. Hope Rising Lake County leads a joint effort to leverage resources and to improve the overall health and wellbeing of the community.

Hope Center in Clearlake, CA is a 20 bed interim housing facility as well as a Housing Navigation Hub which will provide additional housing navigation services and resources for those not sheltered at Hope Center.

Examples of services available to participants include (but are not limited to):

- Housing case management
- Medical services and health screenings
- Mental health and substance use disorder treatment
- 12-step meetings
- Health and nutrition education
- Job training and work experience (e.g., catering, landscaping)
- Benefit enrollment
- Legal assistance
- Transportation

Lake County residents who meet eligibility requirements may self-refer or be referred by partner agencies, Law Enforcement, EMS, or the Emergency Department of local hospitals. Acceptance of applicants during the COVID-19 pandemic will prioritize clients identified by Health Services as being particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 in our community. Access to programs is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, lack of a criminal record, completion of treatment, participation in services, or other unnecessary conditions not related to safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hope Center interim housing is not just a “homeless shelter.” This project is focused on Housing Navigation: empowering Lake County residents currently experiencing homelessness to find sustainable paths to housing.

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Adult Services
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In January of this year, 572 people were identified as experiencing homelessness or living in a place not meant for human habitation in Lake County. Hope Center will allow Lake County to begin to address this housing crisis even in the midst of COVID-19.

We will release additional information in the coming weeks. Further information may also be found on the following websites:

Hope Rising Lake County: <http://www.hoperisinglc.org/>

Adventist Health: <https://www.adventisthealth.org/>

Lake County Dept. of Social Services:
http://www.lakecountyca.gov/Government/Directory/Social_Services.htm

Lake County Dept. of Social Services Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/LakeCountySocialServices/>

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