



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



October 12, 2021

Benita McLarin, FACHE  
DIRECTOR

Board of Supervisors  
County of Marin  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, California 94903

20 North San Pedro Road  
Suite 2002  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415 473 6924 T  
415 473 3344 TTY  
[www.marincounty.org/hhs](http://www.marincounty.org/hhs)

**SUBJECT: Department of Health and Human Services, Divisions of Whole Person Care requests approval of a resolution authorizing the Department to apply for and, if awarded, accept competitive Homekey grant funds pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 50675.1.3 (Assem. Bill No. 140 (2021-2022 Reg. Sess.), § 20.). (Resolution)**

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Adopt resolution authorizing Health and Human Services (HHS) to apply for and, if awarded, accept Homekey grant funding from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

**SUMMARY:** The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is issuing approximately \$1.4 billion of Homekey Program competitive grant funding. Building on the Project Roomkey initiative, which provided funds to lease motel rooms to house people experiencing homelessness, Homekey is a statewide effort to expand housing for persons who are currently experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, and who are impacted by COVID-19. Homekey is an opportunity for local public agencies to purchase motels and a broad range of other housing types in order to increase their community's capacity to respond to homelessness and the current COVID-19 pandemic. Of the \$1.4 billion in statewide Homekey funding, \$1.2 billion is derived from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF), which must be expended within 8 months of award and \$250 million is State General Funds, which must be expended by June 30, 2026.

Homekey funds can be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, conversion of nonresidential to residential, master leasing of properties and purchase of affordability covenants and restrictions for units.

**DISCUSSION:** The County is working with partners, including our development sponsor, Episcopal Community Services (ECS), on how to use funds from the Homekey program as part of our ongoing commitment to Housing First, understanding that housing is essential to a successful response to homelessness. The Homekey program is an opportunity to increase the supply of permanent housing available to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. In 2020, Marin County received approximately \$8.6 million from Homekey to aid

the purchase of 63 new units of supportive housing in Corte Madera and San Rafael.

On September 21, 2021, the County, the City of Larkspur, and ECS co-released a media release to announce the possibility of a viable Homekey site at 1251 S. Eliseo in Larkspur, which could serve as a 43-unit permanent supportive housing (PSH) program for single adults experiencing homelessness. PSH is an evidence-based housing intervention that combines affordable housing with wraparound supportive services and is a proven solution to chronic homelessness. The County, with your Board's approval, intends to submit an application in partnership with ECS for Homekey funding in an amount not to exceed \$16 million for the Larkspur property shortly after the statewide competition opens on October 1, 2021. Should the Homekey funds be awarded, they will support the acquisition and renovation of the Larkspur property and a portion of the operating costs; the County is working to secure additional operating and supportive services funding from both public and private sources. ECS is currently negotiating the purchase of the property, which will be subject to a professional appraisal and comprehensive due diligence. If purchased, ECS would own the property.

**EQUITY IMPACT:** African American and Latinx people are significantly overrepresented in Marin County's homeless population compared to the general population. Marin County Project Homekey sites will be designed to stabilize and re-house people experiencing homelessness to directly address this inequity. Episcopal Community Services is committed to inclusivity and hiring culturally and linguistically competent staff that reflect the agency's clientele and regularly provides staff training opportunities on racial, ethnic, and cultural competency issues. Clients will be placed through the County's Coordinated Entry system, which has been designed to ensure that people are placed in housing in proportion to their representation in the homeless population, and which is currently being redesigned under an equity lens.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no increase in net county cost associated with this request. Approval of the proposed resolution authorizes the Department to participate and potentially receive one-time funds consistent with funding requirements. Should the funds be awarded, the Department will return to your Board for review and approval of any property being considered for purchase.

<b>REVIEWED:</b> County Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Department of Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Respectfully Submitted,

Benita McLarin  
Director

