



ALAMEDA COUNTY COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY PRESS RELEASE

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ★ CALIFORNIA

Office of Emergency Services
4985 Broder Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 2020

Jerri Randrup, Public Information Director
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

GOVERNOR NEWSOM ANNOUNCES HOMEKEY AWARD TO ALAMEDA COUNTY

Homekey funds supplement the County’s efforts to convert 104 hotel rooms to permanent housing

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – Yesterday, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that Alameda County received \$14.5M in the first round of awards for Homekey, 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.

The State’s award allows Alameda County to transition the 104-unit Comfort Inn in Oakland from a Project Roomkey temporary COVID-19 quarantine site into permanent housing for homeless individuals. The Alameda County Health Care Services Agency will support public input sessions to be held by Supervisor Nate Miley during the planning process.

“Alameda County Comfort Inn was the very first hotel opened in Alameda County in collaboration with California Department of Social Services to assist homeless people during COVID-19,” said Kerry Abbott, Director, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Office of Homeless Care and Coordination. “Already, hundreds of people have been assisted with shelter, meals, housing navigation, and health care services at Comfort Inn, and this grant from the State of California will allow us to keep the program open, and to convert the site to permanent housing.”

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Governor Newsom announced Homekey in June, and in July made \$600 million in funding available. Of that, \$550 million will be provided to cities and counties by California's direct allocation of the federal Coronavirus Aid Relief Funds, with an additional \$50 million provided by the state to supplement the acquisition and provide initial operating funds. Awards will be announced on a weekly basis through October 2020. Eligible projects that did not receive funding will be placed on a waiting list in case additional funding is made available. To learn more about the Homekey funded projects, please visit

www.bcsh.ca.gov/homekey.

PROJECT DETAILS

Details: 104 Rooms

Current Use: Isolation and Quarantine for COVID+ and Persons Under Investigation (PUI)

Current Operator: Abode Services

City: Oakland

Supervisor: Nate Miley

HCSA Partners: Dr. Clanon, Dr. Alter, Lucy Kasdin

County Partners:

- General Services Agency (GSA): Kimberly Gasaway and Rachel Johnson
- Social Services Agency (SSA): Anissa Basoco-Villarreal
- Housing and Community Development (HCD): Michelle Starratt, Suzanne Warner

Future Developer/Operator: To be selected through competitive process.

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