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 12,000 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.

First Tribal project to receive Homekey funds will reduce Tribe’s homeless members by two-thirds

Location: Santa Rosa
Region: Bay Area
Applicant: Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
Project name: Kashia Homekey Project
Award amount: $2,684,824

About the project: The Kashia Homekey project will acquire a vacant motel and rehabilitate 20 units to be used initially for interim housing for the Tribe’s homeless members. It will then transition to permanent supportive housing at which onsite services will be available to the residents.

Highlights: This is Homekey’s first tribal project to be receive an award. It will decrease the number of the Kashia Band’s members experiencing homelessness by two-thirds.
Reducing city’s homeless population by 40 percent in Riverside County

**Location:** Riverside County  
**Region:** Southern California  
**Applicant:** Housing Authority of Riverside County  
**Project name:** Riverside County: Homekey 1  
**Award amount:** $4,250,000

**About the project:** A motel with 81 units will be used as interim housing until converted to permanent housing.

**Highlights:** The total units that will be created by this project will house roughly 40 percent of those identified in the city’s 2019 homelessness “point-in-time” count. The development will create a regional balance in the delivery of homeless services, and place housing in job-rich communities.

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Providing permanent homes for California’s farmworkers

**Location:** Riverside County  
**Region:** Southern California  
**Applicant:** Housing Authority of Riverside County  
**Project name:** Riverside County: Homekey 2  
**Award amount:** $2,000,000

**About the project:** This project will see the purchase of 40 new manufactured homes to house farmworker families. Once purchased, occupancy will occur within 30 days.

**Highlights:** Farmworker communities of Oasis, Mecca, and Thermal have the highest concentration of COVID-19 cases in the County. Many farmworkers are currently residing in unpermitted mobile home parks, where this past summer several hundred families lost power, lacked access to water, or were forced to move. The County of Riverside, through its Housing Authority, worked to relocate these families, but there are not enough suitable locations. When this project is completed, 40 farmworker families will exit substandard housing conditions and move into brand new units.
Safe, stable housing for LGBTQ+ youth, people living with HIV, and vulnerable seniors

Location: Riverside County
Region: Southern California
Applicant: Housing Authority of Riverside County
Project name: Riverside County: Project Legacy
Award amount: $4,251,697

About the project: This interim housing will include acquisition of six properties, with 50 beds and onsite services. The project will also include a community center. Residents will then move to permanent housing.

Highlights: A scattered site project with six connected properties, Project Legacy will provide protected spaces for LGBTQ+ youth, people living with HIV, and vulnerable seniors.

Housing with services for seniors and emergency shelter for families in an opportunity-rich neighborhood

Location: Oakland
Region: Bay Area
Applicant: City of Oakland
Project name: Clifton Hall
Award amount: $10,165,880

About the project: Clifton Hall is a 63-unit dormitory building in amenity-rich Rockridge and is currently owned by the California College of the Arts. It will provide 42 units of permanent supportive housing for seniors, and 21 units of emergency family shelter.

Highlights: This project will provide family shelter on ground floor and senior permanent housing on top two floors. It’s located in a high-opportunity neighborhood.

Location: Oakland
Region: Bay Area
Applicant: City of Oakland
Project name: Project Reclamation
Award amount: $10,186,000

About the project: Project Reclamation is a scattered-site project that will bring 100 units in total (20 sites) to the Oakland community. Residents will receive supportive services and rents will be deeply affordable.

Highlights: Clifton Hall and Project Reclamation together show the breadth and creativity of the solutions that Homekey applicants have embraced.
Interim housing to convert to permanent — all occupants will be offered permanent place to call home

Location: Fresno  
Region: San Joaquin Valley  
Applicant: Housing Authority of the City of Fresno  
Project name: City of Fresno: Homekey 1  
Award amount: $7,635,125

About the project: The Housing Authority of the City of Fresno will acquire a 99-unit motel to provide interim housing that will convert to permanent housing and offered to all occupants of the interim housing.

Highlights: While the project provides an ideal location and facility for temporary housing of homeless individuals, the city intends to create a mixed-income neighborhood and services community in order to avoid concentrating poverty in the area.

County with highest per capita density of homelessness will more than double its shelter beds and help tenants move to permanent homes

Location: Mountain View  
Region: Bay Area  
Applicant: City of Mountain View  
Project name: Homekey Mountain View  
Award amount: $12,350,000

About the project: The City of Mountain View will acquire land for 100 manufactured units. Units will serve as interim housing with supportive services and residents will move to permanent housing.

Highlights: The overall project cost is under $100k per unit in the high-cost Bay Area, where the County has the highest per capita density of people experiencing homelessness in the state. The current need for emergency shelter in Mountain View is 10 times greater than existing capacity, and the Homekey project will more than double shelter beds in the city.
Innovative partnership will provide shared housing throughout Shasta County

Location: Shasta County  
Region: Balance of State  
Applicant: Shasta County  
Project name: Square One Homes  
Award amount: $2,199,721

About the project: The Square One Homes project will entail the procurement and rehabilitation of five single-family properties, representing thirteen individual bedroom units in a shared housing model throughout Shasta County.

Highlights: Shasta County has engaged in an innovative partnership to provide much-needed shared housing in the county.

Severely distressed property will convert to new apartments, joining 14 units for people with special needs

Location: Ventura  
Region: Southern California  
Applicant: HA of San Buenaventura  
Project name: El Portal  
Award amount: $1,200,000

About the project: El Portal is a 29-unit substantial rehabilitation of a severely distressed property. The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura will provide 12 newly renovated apartments.

Highlights: New units will be in addition to the 14 units of housing for people with special needs, which were committed to the project.
San Francisco hotel to become permanent housing for those most in need

**Location:** San Francisco  
**Region:** Bay Area  
**Applicant:** City and County of San Francisco  
**Project name:** San Francisco: Homekey 1  
**Award amount:** $44,840,003

**About the project:** The acquisition of a hotel will create 232 units of permanent housing in San Francisco for those experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness.

**Highlights:** To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among its homeless population, the City has booked 2,600 hotel rooms on a temporary basis. San Francisco City has an emergency need to secure new permanent housing to ensure no one ends up back on the street.

Five motels to convert to permanent housing in less than two years

**Location:** Los Angeles County  
**Region:** Los Angeles  
**Applicant:** County of Los Angeles  
**Project names:** LA County Homekey 1, LA County Homekey 2, LA County Homekey 3, LA County Homekey 4, LA County Homekey 5  
**Award amount:** $12,703,147 / $9,574,426 / $6,788,490 / $7,875,967 / $16,976,433

**About the project:** Acquisition of five motel properties for interim housing with the goal of converting to permanent housing by 2022. Los Angeles County intends to acquire 430 total units to provide interim housing with the goal of permanently housing people experiencing homelessness and at risk of homelessness.

**Highlights:** These properties will be converted to permanent housing by 2022 after adding kitchenettes, community room space, and offices for property management and supportive services staff.
Residents staying in San Diego Convention Center’s temporary shelter expected to be among new tenants in housing ready for immediate occupancy

**Location:** Mission Valley  
**Region:** San Diego  
**Applicant:** San Diego Housing Commission  
**Project name:** San Diego Housing Commission: Mission Valley  
**Award amount:** $27,700,000

**About the project:** The San Diego Housing Commission will purchase a 192-unit motel that already underwent a comprehensive rehabilitation in 2018. All 192 units have kitchens and are ready for immediate occupancy. With 38 two-bedroom units, the property has the capacity to house 228 individuals.

**Highlights:** Residents of the San Diego Convention Center temporary homeless shelter that opened in April 2020 — through “Operation Shelter to Home” in response to COVID-19 — are expected to be among the new tenants. This property can be immediately occupied as permanent housing and includes two-bedroom units.

**Location:** Kearney Mesa  
**Region:** San Diego  
**Applicant:** San Diego Housing Commission  
**Project name:** San Diego Housing Commission: Kearney Mesa  
**Award amount:** $10,000,000

**About the project:** San Diego Housing Commission will purchase a 144-unit motel that underwent a comprehensive rehabilitation in 2018. All 144 units have kitchens and are ready for immediate occupancy. With 34 two-bedroom units, the property has the capacity to house 176 individuals

**Highlights:** Residents of the San Diego Convention Center temporary homeless shelter that opened on April 1, 2020, through “Operation Shelter to Home” in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to be among the new tenants. This property can be immediately occupied as permanent housing and includes two-bedroom units.
Immediate housing available with kitchenettes and bathrooms in every unit

Location: Milpitas  
Region: Bay Area  
Applicant: County of Santa Clara  
Project name: County of Santa Clara: Milpitas  
Award amount: $29,200,000

About the project: This occupancy-ready, 146-room property with kitchenettes and bathrooms in every unit will provide 132 permanent residences. The site will include community space and on-site supportive services.

Highlights: As of June, Santa Clara County had connected 1,421 homeless individuals to shelter, with 739 people currently living in temporary motels, hotels, or shelter beds.

Hotel rooms become 100 studio apartments, offering immediately available permanent homes

Location: Sacramento  
Region: Sacramento Area  
Applicant: City of Sacramento Housing Authority  
Project name: Sacramento: Homekey1  
Award amount: $13,710,934.00

About the project: This project will immediately convert an existing 124-room extended stay hotel into 100 studio apartments as permanent housing with supportive services.

Highlights: The property offers a unique opportunity to provide permanent housing almost immediately upon acquisition.