



Office of the City Manager

December 22, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Ridley-Williams, City Manager

Subject: City of Berkeley earns \$14 million grant to create 43 supportive housing units

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has [officially awarded](#) just over \$14 million to the City of Berkeley and its co-applicants to purchase the University Inn and convert it to permanent supportive housing.

This joint application – alongside Housing Consortium of the East Bay (HCEB) and Memar Properties, Inc. – was made possible by the City Council's March 21, 2023 commitment of \$8.5 million in Measure U1 funding for the project. Once completed, this site will be known as University Homes and will provide 43 units of long-term housing with supportive services for formerly unhoused residents.

The grant was made through the State of California's Homekey Program, which provides government entities with funding to purchase and rehabilitate properties – including hotels, motels, and vacant apartment buildings – and convert them into interim or permanent housing. Homekey projects serve people experiencing homelessness or who are also at risk of becoming homeless. This is the third funding cycle for the Homekey program, and the City of Berkeley's second successful Homekey award.

The University Inn, located at 1461 University Avenue and was formerly known as the Rodeway Inn, is currently leased by the City as an emergency shelter and operated by HCEB. Homekey guidelines will allow current shelter guests who qualify as extremely and very low income to lease in place, if they choose to do so. The development team is currently coordinating with stakeholders and engaging program participants to ensure they have the necessary support for the project's transition to permanent housing.

The of \$14,128,813 grant includes a \$12,200,000 capital award and a \$1,928,813 operating award. City and State capital funds will be used to purchase the building, renovate units, and develop communal space and on-site services for residents. A portion of the Measure U1 and Homekey funding will also support the project's operations. The development team hopes to receive State funds and acquire the site in Spring 2024 and commence construction shortly after.

These units help move the City forward toward our ultimate goal of helping people onto the path for long-term housing. People looking to get connected to the countywide coordinated entry system should call 211 or 510-495-0131, Monday through Friday from 9am to 12 noon. They can also do the intake in person:

- North County Housing Resource Center (homeless adults only)
  - Bay Area Community Services  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 am–12:00 pm  
2809 Telegraph Avenue Suite 202, Berkeley, CA 94705  
(510) 495-0131
- North County Housing Resource Center (homeless families only)
  - Women's Daytime Drop-in Center  
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (food and hygiene services)  
Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (all other services)  
2218 Acton Street, Berkeley, CA 94702  
(510) 548-2884

People can learn more on our page about [accessing homeless services](#)<sup>1</sup>.

cc: LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager  
Anne Cardwell, Deputy City Manager  
Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, & Community Services Department  
Margot Ernst, Manager, Housing & Community Services Division  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager  
Jenny Wong, City Auditor  
Farimah Brown, City Attorney

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<sup>1</sup> <https://berkeleyca.gov/safety-health/homeless-services/accessing-homeless-services>