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**Joint Release By:** Burbank Housing  
& City of Petaluma

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## **Petaluma & Burbank Housing Awarded \$15.6 Million in State Homekey Funds**

*The project increases the number of permanent supportive housing units in Sonoma County by more than 70%*

**Petaluma, CA – Mar. 10, 2022** – The City of Petaluma and Burbank Housing have been awarded \$15,680,382 in State of California funding through its Project Homekey program. The award will support the creation of 60 single occupancy permanent supportive housing (PSH) units at the Studios at Montero (formerly America's Best Value Inn Petaluma) at 5135 Montero Way in northeast Petaluma, and once completed will be the largest Homekey-funded project in Sonoma County.

The Studios at Montero will be owned and operated by Burbank Housing and will be the third Homekey project in Sonoma County that the organization is involved with. The 60 units at the Studios at Montero marks the first PSH partnership between Burbank Housing and the City of Petaluma, and upon its completion would provide critically needed housing for over 10% of the chronically homeless population in Sonoma County identified through the 2020 Point-In-Time (PIT) count. In addition to housing, the funds will be utilized to provide wraparound house-based supportive services and case management by local Petaluma-based nonprofit Committee on the Shelterless (COTS). Burbank Housing's President and CEO Larry Florin expressed his appreciation for the award, and praised the City of Petaluma for their desire to meaningfully tackle the issue of homelessness head-on.

"Getting the green light for a project of this scale speaks volumes about the seriousness the City of Petaluma is willing to bring to bear to tackle homelessness not just in Petaluma, but in Sonoma County" said Florin. "Burbank Housing is appreciative to the state of California, the County of Sonoma, and to the City of Petaluma for this partnership opportunity to leverage its decades of experience in creating safe, sustainable, and affordable housing for people in our community."

The City of Petaluma sees the partnership with Burbank Housing and acquisition of the Studios at Montero as part of its strategy to address homelessness in a comprehensive way that sets up its residents, and city, for future success.

"The addition of the Studios at Montero helps us achieve our ultimate goal of creating safe, permanent housing in Petaluma for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless," said Petaluma City Manager Peggy Flynn. "It is this continuum—from shelter to permanency—that our coordinated effort with the State, County, Burbank Housing, and COTS really shines and delivers the safe, affordable, dignified places for people to belong to our community. Couldn't be more grateful for the focused commitment to end homelessness in Petaluma and countywide."



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The County of Sonoma is also keen to provide more robust options to county residents experiencing homelessness, and will contribute to the project through project-based vouchers from the County Housing Authority. The vouchers will cover costs for on-site support services and subsidize a portion of the resident's monthly rent.

“This project adds needed permanent supportive housing in Petaluma and South Sonoma County which will provide stability, safety, and services to those in need” said, Supervisor David Rabbitt who represents Petaluma and District 2. “Permanent supportive housing is proven to help people succeed and break the cycle of homelessness. The County of Sonoma is pleased to collaborate with the City of Petaluma once again by providing operational funding for this program.”

Started in 2020 as Project Roomkey, the State of California's Homekey program provides funding to local public entities and nonprofit housing organizations to “convert commercial properties and other existing buildings to Permanent or Interim Housing”.

The project is scheduled to be completed and open by November of this year.

#### **About Burbank Housing**

Burbank Housing is the North Bay's leading affordable housing nonprofit. For 42 years, the organization has built, preserved, and managed safe, affordable rental and for-sale homes in the North Bay. It currently provides homes to approximately 10,000 people across more than 70 rental communities, and has built 1,000 ownership homes. Burbank Housing also has more than 500 affordable housing units in its predevelopment pipeline.

