



Tehama County Continuum of Care

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Tehama CoC Awarded Over \$14.1M in State Funding to Address Unsheltered Homelessness

The California Interagency on Homelessness (Cal ICH) announced yesterday their intent to award the Tehama County Continuum of Care (Tehama CoC) just over \$14 million through the Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) program. These grant funds will be used to address five encampment sites located in Red Bluff public parks and along state rights-of-way by providing encampment residents with comprehensive services to help them move into housing.

Tehama CoC is a collaborative of community stakeholders, separate from the County and City entities in its service area, made up of non-profit and public service providers, community members and people with lived experience of homelessness, who work together towards the goal of addressing homelessness and housing insecurity throughout Tehama County. CoC activities are coordinated by The Vitality Project (TVP), a local non-profit organization, whose role includes serving as a conduit for certain types of state and federal grant funding intended to support efforts to address homelessness.

"We are excited to learn that our community is among those that the state has selected to receive this crucial investment," said Johnna Jones, Tehama CoC Executive Council Chairperson. "Tehama County has seen a concerning increase in unsheltered homelessness in recent years, particularly in Red Bluff. The community has been united in its calls for a solution to the growing encampments in our parks, waterways, and other public spaces. This funding will make it possible to expand the services to the level needed to answer those calls and ensure a healthier community for us all."

Tehama CoC will receive \$14,103,946.98 to be used to support Rural Inside Objectives (RIO) a comprehensive, collaborative project that features outreach and engagement services, interim housing, supportive services designed to assist participants obtain and



retain permanent housing, limited-term rental assistance, and connections to permanent housing options. The bulk of these funds will be distributed by the CoC through subcontracts to local service providers who are committed to working collaboratively to provide these services, including Poor and the Homeless Tehama County Coalition (PATH), whose Street Outreach Services (SOS) program and soon-to-open PATH Plaza Navigation Center will play central roles in engaging people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and providing interim housing, rental assistance, and housing case management. The City of Red Bluff, through its Homeless Liaison Officer, will provide outreach and engagement services to encampment residents, including connections to ongoing services. Supportive services will be offered by Empower Tehama, Tehama County Health Services Agency, and other programs, as needed based on participant needs. Access to permanent housing solutions will be facilitated in partnership with new and existing affordable housing projects.

The project aims to connect approximately 275 people with supportive services, interim and permanent housing over the three-year grant period, which is expected to commence in July of this year.