



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## Bridge to Housing Update

**(Woodland, CA)** – In mid-November, approximately 100 volunteers and staff moved 63 individuals experiencing homelessness, along with their 40 pets, from the North Levee encampment in West Sacramento into temporary housing, as part of the Bridge to Housing program. Now, three months later, the successes of this pilot project are becoming apparent.

Bridge to Housing, a collaborative effort between the Yolo County, Yolo County Housing, the City of West Sacramento, and several community and faith based agencies, is a time- and population-limited pilot project designed to test the Housing First model in Yolo County – an approach to ending homelessness that centers on providing people experiencing homelessness with housing as quickly as possible, and then providing services as needed. With financial support from Yolo County and the City of West Sacramento, along with private donations, the participants have since been temporarily housed, have received assistance with obtaining permanent housing and have received assistance in the areas of job training, chemical dependency, health insurance, mental health services, disability benefits and counseling.

To date, two individuals have moved into their own housing with 18 (35% of participants) well on their way. Eighty-two percent now have health insurance, up from 49% from the time of entry into the program; 75% are receiving CalFresh (formerly known as food stamps) benefits, up 49% from time of entry; 35% have a source of income, up 12% from time of entry. All participants have case workers who will continue to assist with ending the cycle of homelessness as they exit the program.

“Thanks to the hard work, contributions and compassion of many, this pilot project is seeing successes well beyond our expectations,” said Yolo County Supervisor Oscar Villegas who represents the West Sacramento area. “Beyond the successes, there are many lessons to be learned which will be analyzed in the months to come. In the meantime, we need the community’s help in continuing the success for those who have found housing.”

As project participants move into their own housing they are typically moving into empty apartments with only a few bags of personal belongings. Yolo County is seeking individuals, organizations and groups willing to “adopt” a Bridge to Housing household and furnish them with the household supplies they will need, such as: food, kitchenware and appliances, cleaning supplies, furniture and lighting, toiletries, linens and pet supplies. New or gently used items will be accepted. To “Adopt-A-Household”, e-mail [tracey.dickinson@yolocounty.org](mailto:tracey.dickinson@yolocounty.org) or call (530) 666-8046.

For more information on Bridge to Housing and “Adopt-A-Household,” go to the Bridge to Housing webpage under the Residents menu on [www.yolocounty.org](http://www.yolocounty.org).

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