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HOUSING MATTERS TO RECEIVE \$2.24M FOR 801 RIVER ST. APARTMENTS

California's Homekey Program awards funds for 7-unit Permanent Supportive Housing residence adjacent to the Housing Matters campus

SANTA CRUZ, CA — Dec. 7, 2022 — Housing Matters and the County of Santa Cruz jointly announced today that the State of California is awarding Housing Matters \$2.24 million in grant funding to support 801 River St., a building adjacent to the Housing Matters campus that will provide Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for up to seven households exiting homelessness.

"801 River St. will provide a healing environment for people experiencing chronic homelessness," said Phil Kramer, Housing Matters CEO. "These are people who suffer from one or more disabilities and have experienced homelessness for a year or more. Easy access to supportive health services is necessary to help this extremely vulnerable group stay successfully housed."

The grant will be awarded to the County of Santa Cruz on behalf of Housing Matters through the California Department of Housing and Community Development's Homekey Program. Launched in 2020, California's Homekey provides funding to acquire or rehabilitate buildings and create housing specifically for people experiencing homelessness or who are at-risk of homelessness. To date, Homekey has funded the creation of more than 12,500 homes in California.

"This represents the third Project Homekey award in Santa Cruz County, and we are pleased the State has chosen to partner with the County and local providers to deliver much-needed permanent supportive housing for local residents," said Robert Ratner, director Santa Cruz County's Housing for Health Division. "The key to resolving homelessness is housing, and these Homekey developments will provide the needed space so that individuals can successfully establish a pathway to a better life."

801 River to Welcome First Residents in Spring 2023

Located directly across the street from Housing Matters, 801 River St. was originally a single-family Victorian home that had long been vacant. Housing Matters acquired the property in 2019 and began a major renovation effort to create seven separate living spaces — two one-bedroom apartments and five studios — designed specifically for people with ongoing healthcare needs. The renovation is now in its final phases, and Housing Matters expects to welcome its first residents before the end of this year.

Residency at 801 River St. will be managed by the John Stewart Company, a multifamily property management company.

Additional funding for 801 River St. was received from New Way Homes, Community Foundation Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz County Bank, Common Spirit, Kaiser Permanente, and private donors.

For more information on Harvey West Studios, visit housingmattersssc.org. For information on California's Homekey Program, visit hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/homekey.

About Housing Matters

Housing Matters partners with individuals and families to create pathways out of their homelessness and into permanent housing. Housing Matters offers housing support services and case management as well as emergency shelter and direct services — including hot showers, public bathrooms, and a mailroom — to people experiencing homelessness. Our campus shares space with a County-operated healthcare clinic and Dientes, a full-service nonprofit dental clinic, making these services easily accessible to Housing Matters' guests. Our case management and housing navigation services help end homelessness for hundreds of individuals and their families every year. Plans to build 120+ permanent supportive housing units are currently underway. Learn more at www.housingmattersssc.org or connect with us on Facebook or Instagram.

About the Housing for Health Partnership

The Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with local homelessness service providers. It acts as the federally designated continuum of care for Santa Cruz County and helps allocate State and federal funding to address homelessness. The County of Santa Cruz serves as lead agency for the H4HP. Follow the H4HP on Facebook at facebook.com/housingforhealthpartnership and learn more at www.housingforhealthpartnership.org.

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