



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **COUNCIL APPROVES SHRA PLAN FOR CABIN COMMUNITY IN NORTH SACRAMENTO AS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR HOMELESS YOUTH**

**Sacramento, CA** | A plan developed by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency to house 48 unsheltered transitional age youth between 18-24 years old in a cabin community to be built in North Sacramento received unanimous approval from the City Council on Tuesday.

The community, located in City Councilmember Allen Warren's district, is slated to open in late March and is a response to Governor Newsom's 100-day challenge announced in December which would provide funding for jurisdictions that quickly launch housing solutions to get more homeless off the streets.

Mayor Steinberg said while he was grateful that the City's homeless plan has gotten to this point, he would like the Emergency Bridge Housing Program to include a focus on the unsheltered population reported in the County's point-in-time count conducted in January 2019 which found over 5,500 homeless people, including over 400 youth between 18-25 years old.

"This is not the end by any means but it's another major step toward not just talking about it but actually doing something real by making it happen," Steinberg said.

Councilmember Warren thanked Pastor Larry Joyner and the congregation of the St. Paul Church of God in Christ for their willingness to partner with the City to be part of the solution to addressing homelessness.

"If this project is successful maybe other churches, other community organizations will step up and, hopefully, as we link together on this problem we can start to see a measurable impact in the City of Sacramento."

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SHRA ([www.shra.org](http://www.shra.org)) is a Joint Powers Authority created by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. SHRA has a FY 2020 budget of \$211.9 million and 246 employees. The Agency owns and/or manages approximately 3,200 units of affordable housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers approximately 13,200 rent assistance vouchers per month.

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A total of 24 Tuff Shed-style units will each house two people and will be placed on a vacant parcel adjacent to the church facilities at 2271 Grove Avenue. The church owns the lot and has agreed to partner with SHRA to place the Emergency Bridge Housing at Grove Avenue community on the site.

The site will also include a portable facility with restrooms and showers, and an administrative services building. The community will also provide wrap around supportive services and resources including jobs or job training and education opportunities to help the youth transition into permanent affordable housing.

SHRA officials say targeted youth are a vulnerable population who are typically aged out of foster care and have suffered significant trauma and have difficulty adjusting to sleeping in regular shelters with adults.

“This is a young population that is less likely to become chronically homeless if we stabilize them now through supportive transitional housing,” said Sarah O’Daniel, SHRA Director of Homeless Innovation.

The program will operate for two years and will eventually expand to 50 cabins to accommodate 80 to 100 youth. The goal is to transition youth to permanent housing within six to 12 months. First Step Communities will operate the community with resource services provided by organizations that include Wind Youth Services, Waking the Village, Lutheran Social Services and Cosumnes River College. SHRA will oversee the entire operation. The two-year project will cost about \$7.9 million which will be allocated from the State Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention funds.

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