

## **CITY OF EL CENTRO**

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# **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City of El Centro Awarded \$3 Million for Construction of Tiny Home Project**

El Centro, Ca. September 25, 2020 – Governor Gavin Newsom announced on September 16<sup>th</sup> that the City of El Centro received \$3,024,114 in the first round of awards for the Homekey Program, California’s innovative \$600 million program to purchase and rehabilitate housing, including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and other properties, and convert them into permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The City of El Centro, in collaboration with Imperial Valley College and the Imperial Valley College Foundation are working together to construct 26 tiny home units. The tiny home units will be for the use of IVC students who are homeless with priority given to foster youth. The tiny homes project is known as the Lotus Living Rise Above Resilient Community and will be located at 1998 N. 12th Street (southwest corner of 12th Street and Bradshaw Avenue). The project is scheduled to be completed by December 30, 2020.

“The City of El Centro is very excited about this innovative project in our community – we are committed to our partnerships with IVC and the IVC Foundation. Homelessness is a societal problem that has impacted our community greatly and we are hopeful that this project will make strides towards eradicating homelessness in El Centro,” said Mayor Pro Tem, Jason Jackson.

“We are excited for this partnership between IVC, IVC Foundation and the City of El Centro to create Lotus Living Rise Above,” said Garcia. “This tiny home community will primarily house homeless youth students who are pursuing higher education at IVC because they believe that through education, their lives will change. Where they succeed, we all benefit.”

“This is an extremely exciting project for our Foundation and one with the potential and aspiration to expand for more tiny homes for homeless youth students,” said Rod Smart foundation executive director. “We are very pleased to provide housing opportunity to some very deserving students.”

Governor Newsom announced Homekey in June, and in July made \$600 million in funding available. Of that, \$550 million will be provided to cities and counties by California’s direct allocation of the federal Coronavirus Aid Relief Funds, with an additional \$50 million provided by the state to supplement the acquisition and provide initial operating funds. Awards will be announced on a weekly basis through October 2020. To learn more about the Homekey funded projects, please visit [bcsh.ca.gov/homekey](https://bcsh.ca.gov/homekey).

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