

# Opportunity House: Fairfield



**Vacaville Solano Services  
Corporation**

707 447 1988 | [www.vsscorp.org](http://www.vsscorp.org) | 267 Bennett Hill Ct. Vacaville CA

# A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors and County Staff,

Vacaville Solano Services Corporation (VSSC) has been Vacaville's leading homeless advocacy organization for over 30 years! Our flagship program—Opportunity House Homeless Shelter—has been successfully providing a comprehensive work-to-housing sober living program to Solano County's homeless individuals and families since 1990 and has helped hundreds of people regain self-sufficiency. VSSC proudly participates in the Point-In-Time Count and the Solano County CoC Board.

We are requesting the County's assistance in providing \$10,893,156 operating and staffing funds towards our efforts of opening and running a 150 bed work to housing program in Fairfield from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2026 to serve the increase of homelessness in Solano County due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration of this important effort to end homelessness. Please contact Executive Director Colleen Berumen if you have questions regarding this proposal.

**COLLEEN BERUMEN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# VSSC: Our History

1990

- Opportunity House First Opened

2013

- Current location of Opportunity House opened serving 52 women & children

2018

- Collaboration with Vacaville Police Community Response Unit for Community Outreach

2019

- Dedicated homeless youth outreach program

2020

- Comprehensive child-focused program for the children living with their parents at Opportunity House Shelter
- Vacaville Project RoomKey
- Vacaville Warming Shelter serving 250 clients

2021

- Collaboration with Vacaville Housing Authority providing housing navigation services for their Emergency Housing & Mainstream Voucher Programs

2022

- My Friends House 8 Bed Transitional Age Youth Room & Board Shelter

2023

- **OPPORTUNITY HOUSE:  
FAIRFIELD**

Vacaville Solano Services Corporation has been providing life-changing homeless advocacy programming and temporary housing services in Solano County for the past 30 years. What began as a small shelter serving only homeless women has grown in capacity over the past few years.

We are proud of our history and ability to implement new programs to fill gaps in services in our community while continuing to build on the foundation of recovery and our roots as a work to housing program.



## STATEMENT OF NEED

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Solano County conducts an unsheltered PIT count every two years, counting the number of persons experiencing homelessness and collecting demographic survey information as well as information about service needs and utilization to create a report detailing and measuring the prevalence of homelessness in the county. In 2019, Solano County Point-in-Time count identified 1,151 persons experiencing homelessness with 53% of these individuals having spent a night in Fairfield within the last year, averaging Fairfield's homeless population at 610 individuals.

Per the PIT count, 345 individuals stated that employment assistance and 287 individuals stated that alcohol and drug counseling and support would have prevented their homelessness. Implementing our Work to Housing Sober Living Program will provide these individuals a safe shelter, and an opportunity to learn financial responsibility allowing them to get back on their feet and become self-sufficient.

Our target population is individuals and families in need of adequate housing or shelter, living on the streets or in a car and are not living in safe environments meant for human habitation, and also looking for a housing opportunity that includes wrap-around services and solutions based on proven outcomes.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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- Long Term Transitional Housing Program serving
    - Formerly Incarcerated
    - Homeless
    - At-risk homeless
    - Formerly in substance use treatment
  - Intense Individualized Case Management
  - Life Skills
    - Accountability
    - Responsibility
  - Financial Literacy
    - Savings
    - Budgeting
  - Housing Navigation
    - Housing Search Assistance
    - Landlord Relations
    - Collaboration with local housing authorities
  - Referrals to Community Resources & Public Assistance
    - Substance Abuse
    - Mental Health
    - County Benefits
    - Legal Support
- PROGRAMS:**
- Children Health & Wellness
  - AfterReach
    - Extended follow-up care services
  - Building Blocks Job Readiness
    - Job Searching Assistance
    - On-the-job training
  - Community Outreach
    - Collaboration with FF HIT & VV CRU



## OUR SOLUTION

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Opportunity House is a long-term transitional housing program for persons who for various reasons are unable to sustain permanent housing. Our goal for participants in the program is to achieve stability and leave our program with a two-year life plan developed including a budget, sustainable housing, and a minimum of three months of living expenses in savings. Successful transition from shelter to self-sufficiency varies per individual from 6 months to 18 months.

Our approach begins with providing individuals and families with shelter and services. These services include a comprehensive case management plan based on the individual's needs including financial literacy, life skills training, employment assistance and parenting classes. The second phase of the work to housing program continues with our specialty programs of children's health and wellness, job readiness, and housing navigation where participants will work one-on-one with a specialty coach in each of these domains to increase skills for gainful living wage employment and access to affordable housing. After participants graduate from our program, they are able to enroll in our AfterReach program which is an extended aftercare outreach program that provides follow-up services connecting participants to the community to continue their journey toward self sufficiency.

Opportunity House: Fairfield Work to Housing Program would implement the 2020 Fairfield Homeless Strategies:

- Protecting the Health and safety of Fairfield Residents
  - Proven track record of collaborating with local law enforcement agencies to enforce existing city ordinances in respect to criminal activities in and about homeless locations while providing humane care and preserving individual dignity assisting individuals with referrals to homeless services agencies.
- Increase Housing Opportunities & Displacement Support
  - Proven successful outcomes
  - Wrap around services
- Strengthen System of Care Services & Programs
  - Collaboration with local law enforcement providing direct outreach to homeless
  - AfterReach extended care program to prevent and divert the recurrence of homelessness.
  - Strong collaboration of county service providers
- Improve Public Policy and Community Engagement
  - Encourage recovery and integrity leading to reduction of homeless related criminal activity.
- Strengthen Regional Capacity to address Homelessness.
  - Collaboration with Resource Connect Solano, local law enforcement, and County Behavioral Health to expedite referrals for housing & supportive services

# PROPOSED OUTCOMES

## (BASED ON VACAVILLE ACTUAL OUTCOMES)

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- 35% families
- Average Length of Stay: 94 days
- Completion Rate: 87% for individuals who stay 6 months or longer
- Of our Completed Residents
- 70% Report Sustained Success
- 53% Sustain Stable Housing
- 52% Report Continued Stable Employment
- 35% are active in their Personal Health & Wellness

## OBJECTIVES

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- Decrease in Homelessness in Solano County
- Increase in:
  - Number of Sheltered Homeless in Solano County
  - Successful referrals to services.
  - Knowledge of life skills (parenting, recovery, anger management)
  - Tenancy skills
  - Job readiness skills
  - Number of individuals with a savings and budget plan
  - Household management skills
  - Individuals with a job
  - Permanently housed individuals and families
  - Individual self esteem

## BUDGET

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The proposed funding request is to cover staffing and operating costs for a 150 bed Opportunity House: Fairfield Work to Housing Program.

### STAFFING

Shelter Operations.....	\$1,272,700
Case Management.....	\$390,000
Programs.....	\$559,000
<b>Total Staffing .....</b>	<b>\$2,221,700</b>
<b>UTILITIES .....</b>	<b>\$236,875</b>
<b>OPERATING COSTS .....</b>	<b>\$262,338</b>
<b>BUILDING .....</b>	<b>provided by County</b>
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL COST .....</b>	<b>\$2,723,289</b>

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**TOTAL 4 YEAR COST .....\$10,893,156**

**Opportunity  
House:  
Fairfield**



**Vacaville Solano Services Corporation**

**Colleen Berumen, Executive Director**

**707-447-1988**

**[cberumen@vsscorp.org](mailto:cberumen@vsscorp.org)**

