



OPPORTUNITY HOUSE: VACAVILLE



**VACAVILLE SOLANO
SERVICES CORPORATION**

707-447-1988 | 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 \$807,304 operating and staffing funds towards our efforts to sustain the additional programming we have implemented prior to Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic, thrift sales and fundraising efforts that support our program have decreased as well as the need for services has increased due to more individuals becoming homeless.

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

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.



WHAT WE DO

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. Our mission is to break the cycle of homelessness for individuals and families in Solano county through collaborative and locally-driven solutions that connect those in need to community resources.

We provide non-medical services and support to help families and individuals eliminate the obstacles that led to their homelessness. Opportunity House believes that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity, empowerment, inclusion, and integrity. Our goal is to provide a safe, secure, drug-free, weapon-free, empowering environment, and good quality temporary accommodations. The length of time to accomplish this is very individualized and varies for each resident and can be up to 18 months. An extension of time may be available under certain circumstances, which vary based on each individual and determination by the resident's Case Manager.

Our approach begins with providing individuals and families up to 18 months of 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. Residents build trust with a dedicated case manager to help set and achieve personal goals, including family reconciliation, financial savings plans, and more. Residents participate in daily group meetings on topics such as personal finance, parenting, and recovery support in order to build important life skills needed to sustain a healthy life outside of the shelter.

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.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAMS

- **CHILDREN HEALTH & WELLNESS** These child-specific services focus on meeting the special needs of homeless children providing stability & support during their family's journey to permanent housing.
 - Counseling
 - Tutoring services
 - Nutrition Education
 - Emotional Stability Support
- **HOUSING NAVIGATION** Supportive services to improve effective accessibility and assistance with the housing search and leasing process and timely transition to a unit.
 - Assistance with Housing Voucher Programs & Referrals
 - Landlord Navigation
 - Housing Search & Application Assistance
- **AFTER-REACH** An after care outreach program linking recently homeless individuals to supportive services and activities, enabling them to make progress towards economic independence and housing self-sufficiency.
 - In-home case management
 - Financial Literacy Education
 - Landlord & Tenant Rights Education
- **BUILDING BLOCKS TRANSITIONAL JOBS** Building Blocks is designed to overcome employment obstacles by using time-limited, wage-paying jobs that combine real work, skill development, and supportive services in order to transition participants successfully into the labor market.
 - Job Readiness & Life Skills classes to support successful workplace behaviors.
 - Employment-focused case management
 - A Transitional Job
 - Retention Services

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Serves on average 85 Individuals per year
 - 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
-

FUNDING GAPS

COSTS

TOTAL SHELTER OPERATING COSTS \$715,778

REVENUE

THRIFT CONTRIBUTIONS..... \$350,916

FUNDRAISING & PRIVATE DONATIONS \$163,036

TOTAL SHELTER INCOME \$513,952

ANNUAL FUNDING GAP \$201,826

Over the last 2 years continued funding to run our supportive services programs has declined due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thrift store sales took a major hit over the pandemic as did our fundraising efforts and private donor contributions. The need for our support services increased due to the pandemic, as clients are in more need of children wellness services, housing navigation, and employment readiness skills. We are seeking funding of \$807,304 over the timeframe of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2026 to continue providing these supplemental supportive services.

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Vacaville Solano Services Corporation
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