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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Solano County Approves Homeless and Housing Services Contract

Three-year contract with Abode Services, one of the Bay Area's largest providers of homeless housing and services, starts November 2023.

At their meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, the Solano County Board of Supervisors approved a multi-year contract for homeless and housing services with Abode Services – one of the Bay Area's largest providers of housing and services for those experiencing homelessness.

Abode will provide street outreach, housing navigation, landlord engagement, subsidy administration, rapid rehousing, forensic respite, and permanent supportive housing services to individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges in Solano County. Abode's work in the county will run from November 2023 through June 30, 2026.

"Abode Services is excited to partner with Solano County to bring an expanded set of services and housing opportunities to people experiencing homelessness," said Abode Services Chief Operating Officer Vivian Wan. "Building on shared values that promote the dignity of all unhoused and housed residents and sparking each other strengths, we are eager to work with the community to support and ultimately find sustainable homes for people experiencing homelessness."

Solano will be the seventh Bay Area county in which Abode provides housing and services to help the region's most vulnerable people and strengthen its communities. Abode currently serves more than 14,000 people each year across the counties of Alameda, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Napa, and Santa Cruz.

Abode uses the Housing First approach, which has proven to be far more successful at reducing homelessness than past, traditional strategies. Housing First finds that once a formerly homeless individual has a roof over their head, the services that follow are much effective at helping that person gain and keep their home.

"We know that housing is treatment and people who are housed have significantly better health outcomes," said Emery Cowan, Chief Deputy Behavioral Health Director for Solano County Behavioral Health. "This contract – which will bolster current outreach engagement efforts and support increased housing, subsidies, engagement, and individualized supports – is a major commitment and investment that will positively impact our entire community."

In the past few years, Solano Behavioral Health has successfully received grants and non-competitive allocations for housing and homeless services to support the needs of those with the most significant mental health and substance use challenges, who often also experience the highest rates of poverty, incarceration, trauma, homelessness, and crisis. This contract will support as many as 800 people per year through six new funding sources, in addition to Medi-Cal reimbursement. Furthermore, the funds will increase housing by providing opportunities to nearly 200 households annually through respite, permanent housing, and rapid rehousing.

About Abode

Abode's mission is to end homelessness by assisting low-income, un-housed people, including those with special needs, to secure stable, supportive housing; and to be advocates for the removal of the causes of homelessness. We develop and implement innovative programs to end homelessness. Our agency is built on the principles of Housing First, a proven approach that has demonstrated results far superior to past approaches to homelessness. Established in 1989, Abode has provided homes to more than 10,243 adults and children since 2020. Last year, Abode assisted 15,050 people and ensured that on any given night 6,748 people slept in a home rather than on the street. For more information, visit abode.org.

About Solano County Behavioral Health

Solano County Behavioral Health each year assists more than 6,000 children, youth, and adults who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis, addiction, or who have significant mental and emotional disabilities. Visit Solano Behavioral Health or email bhinfo@solanocounty.com.