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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE #1**

DATE: January 19, 2024

RE: Lassen County and ColWest Investments, LCC to Receive a Homekey Grant

Susanville, CA – On January 18, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom announced grant awards from the third round of Homekey, an initiative to help communities to address the challenge of homelessness by rapidly expanding the availability of housing for at-risk individuals and families.

“Homekey is a national model for rapidly creating affordable housing for Californians in need,” said Governor Newsom. “In a few short years, this initiative has created more than 15,000 homes, to help over 163,000 people. Homekey demonstrates what is possible when people think outside the box and refuse to accept the status quo.”

Homekey Round 3 grant funding – administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) – is an opportunity for communities to quickly develop permanent housing for people experiencing or at risk for homelessness. This includes the development of housing specifically for young people transitioning to adulthood from foster care or an unsafe environment.

“Over a three-year period, Homekey has funded projects that will provide housing security to more than 163,000 Californians over the decades to come,” said HCD Director Gustavo Velasquez. “The current set of awards includes housing dedicated to veterans, and the conversion of a shuttered hospital to shelter those experiencing homelessness. This program has allowed jurisdictions to get creative with adaptive reuse of existing spaces, and with providing a full array of services that help make homelessness rare, one time, and non-recurrent.”

Lassen County and ColWest Investments were awarded \$2,917,454.00 to convert a former medical facility in Susanville into fifteen units of permanent housing for individuals experiencing homelessness. Ten of these units will be for young adults, ages 18-24 years old.

Updates and opportunities for feedback will be posted at: <https://www.lassencounty.org/dept/housing-and-grants/lassen-county-housing-and-grants>

Additional information on Homekey can be found at: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/homekey>

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