

VSSC YOUTH SERVICES



**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 serves on the Solano County CoC Board.

We are requesting the County's assistance in supporting our youth services programs - My Friend's House Shelter and Youth Rising Outreach - by investing \$2,110,380.00 through 2026.

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

COLLEEN BERUMEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VACAVILLE SOLANO SERVICES CORP.

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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.



STATEMENT OF NEED

Solano County conducts an unsheltered Point-In-Time (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, the PIT count identified 1,151 persons experiencing homelessness, though many homeless services providers believe the true number to be much higher.

The 2019 PIT count data showed that 23%, or roughly 265 people, fell between the ages of 0-24. Of the 204 identified Transition-Age Youth (TAY) homeless residents, 83% of them were unsheltered on the streets instead of in a shelter program working towards self-sufficiency. Additionally, the Vacaville Unified School District reported an average of 215 McKinney-Vento students per school year since 2019. We believe that those numbers are even higher in the Fairfield-Suisun Unified and Vallejo Unified School Districts.

The COVID-19 crisis has only heightened the need for housing and supportive services as we are anticipating higher numbers of homelessness than ever before. In 2020, HUD released data showing that for the first time ever, unsheltered homeless numbers surpassed sheltered homeless numbers - mostly due to a lack of shelter beds and awareness on how to access services.

OUR SOLUTION

VSSC has taken a comprehensive approach to tackling the youth homelessness problem in our county. Through a multi-pronged approach and a variety of programs designed to serve current homeless youth as well as preventing future youth homelessness, we are on a mission to end youth homelessness in Solano County.

For current homeless youth ages 0-18 that are experiencing homelessness with their families, the Opportunity House Shelter program is available to shelter the family while helping parents complete a rigorous work-to-housing program that leaves graduates with thousands of dollars in their savings accounts and all the tools they need to succeed long-term in safe and stable housing on their own. While at Opportunity House, the youth residents have access to their own Case Manager and a comprehensive Children's Health & Wellness program that works with the youth and their parents to build resiliency and set them up for success once they leave the shelter.

For homeless TAY ages 18-24 that are experiencing homelessness alone, VSSC's new My Friend's House supervised shelter program is available to help young Solano County residents get stabilized and back on their feet while identifying and reaching personal goals. Through personalized Case Management, our ultimate goal is to reconnect these young people with their support systems and/or get them stably housed on their own.

Finally, for local youth ages 12-24 who are at risk of homelessness, the Youth Rising outreach program strives to reach, connect with, and begin serving local youth before they become victims of drugs, street gangs, sex trafficking, incarceration, or homelessness. VSSC currently has 3 Youth Rising outreach offices throughout Solano County, including Vacaville High School where we are on campus during school hours, and Armijo High School where we provide an engaging after school program for any FSUSD middle school and high school students that could benefit from mentorship, tutoring, and positive peer interactions!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MY FRIEND'S HOUSE TAY SHELTER:

- 8-bed supervised room & board shelter for Solano County youth age 18-24.
- Includes meals and essential goods including clothing, personal care items, school supplies, and more!
- Access to personalized Case Management to help clients identify and reach their personal goals. This could range from anything to finishing their GED to reconnecting with their families.
- Connection to VSSC's Housing Navigator to help identify and apply for safe, stable housing.
- Mentorship opportunities, job readiness training, engaging group classes, and more!

YOUTH RISING OUTREACH:

- Outreach offices in Vacaville and Fairfield that serve any at-risk youth age 12-24. We currently have offices on Vacaville High School's campus and Armijo High School's campus where we can meet with school-age youth, as well as an office at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Vacaville where we meet with TAY.
- Personalized Case Management for youth who need a little extra help identifying their needs and getting connected to services beyond our scope.
- Access to food, clothing, school supplies, and personal care items.
- Fun, interactive, and age-appropriate activities ranging from after school gardening club to topic-specific support groups.

OBJECTIVES

MY FRIEND'S HOUSE TAY SHELTER:

- Provide safe, temporary, supportive housing to 25 TAY clients (age 18-24) per year
- Create connections to behavioral health care and/or substance use support for 17 TAY clients per year
- Facilitate education completion and/or job readiness for 15 TAY clients per year
- Assist with identifying and transitioning to long-term housing for 15 TAY clients per year

YOUTH RISING OUTREACH:

- Reach and serve 100 homeless and/or at-risk youth (age 12-24) per year, and either provide clients with or connect clients to:
 - Personalized Case Management
 - Safe stable housing options
 - Food, clothing, school supplies, and personal care items
 - Substance use treatment and/or behavioral health care
 - Adult and peer mentorship
 - Job readiness and/or education completion

MY FRIEND'S HOUSE SHELTER BUDGET

The following budget is for operating the My Friend's House TAY supervised room & board shelter program from July 1, 2023 (when our current grant funding ends) through the end of December 2026.

ANUAL RECURRING EXPENSES:

STAFFING

Shelter Operations.....	\$212,212
Case Management.....	\$60,564
Total Staffing	\$272,776
UTILITIES	\$10,000
OPERATING COSTS	\$17,224

TOTAL ANNUAL COST **\$300,000**

ONE-TIME EXPENSES:

SHELTER PURCHASE.....	\$381,100
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TOTAL 3.5 YEAR COST **\$1,431,100**

YOUTH RISING OUTREACH BUDGET

The following budget is for operating the Youth Rising outreach program from January 1, 2023 through the end of December 2026.

ANUAL RECURRING EXPENSES:

STAFFING	\$157,820
OPERATING COSTS	\$12,000

TOTAL ANNUAL COST **\$169,820**

TOTAL 4 YEAR COST **\$679,280**



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Colleen Berumen, Executive Director

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