

June 14, 2021

To the Davis City Council,

Thank you for the work you are doing with the Housing Element of Davis CA.

Page 206 of the Draft Housing Element states that HEART of Davis (formerly IRWS) has a 40-bed emergency shelter capacity. This is not the case.

Currently HEART is running the Davis Emergency Shelter Program, (DESP), which ends on July 31, 2021, effectively before the Housing Element 2021-2029 begins and should not be counted in the Housing Element. This program is funded by time-limited COVID-inspired ESG-CV1 & 2 grants. DESP is not a conventional emergency shelter. The 23 apartments in Davis provide shelter primarily for those most at-risk for complications from COVID 19, i.e., seniors and those with pre-existing conditions that make them vulnerable to COVID-19.

Beginning August 1, 2021, HEART will begin a new Bridge program. This is not an emergency shelter program, but rather it is a **rapid rehousing program**. 20 apartments will be available to house around 25-34 participants. Participants must pay 30% of their adjusted income towards rent. The Bridge program ends on July 31, 2022.

The Bridge program was inspired by HEART's experience running DESP. Participants in DESP became long-term emergency shelter residents because of the length of time it takes to receive a housing voucher (up to 5 years). Because of Davis's extremely low rental vacancy, participants that receive vouchers can still wait up to a year before finding an apartment that meets the affordability requirements of their voucher.

Project RoomKey (PRK) is also a time-limited COVID-related program and will be ending soon.

Please change Table 72 and the related succeeding calculations. The need for emergency shelter presented in the Davis Housing Element draft report overestimates current inventory and underestimates present and future need by 40+ beds.

Here is our suggested rewording regarding existing shelter capacity (pg. 206):

*"Based on the most recent point in time homeless count of 190 individuals and existing shelter capacity for approximately **45** individuals, a need for at least **145** shelter beds remains. Based on the City's limitation of 35 beds on shelters that are permitted by right, it is estimated that **four** sites would be necessary to accommodate the City's remaining need for **145** emergency shelter beds."*

Additionally, on page 145, the following sentence should be removed:

*"The Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter provides cold weather shelter to the Davis homeless population at different member congregations throughout the winter."*

**IRWS no longer exists and the new program, HEART of Davis, will not be running an emergency rotating winter shelter.**

The Davis Social Services Commission has drafted an excellent document, the Housing Trust Fund. We recommend that this document to be added as an appendix to the Housing Element.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you again for your time.

Regards,

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