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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 29, 2022

## Press Release

### New Era for Former Youth Shelter Facility

Program to serve individuals 18-24 years old experiencing homelessness

**Fresno, CA:** In September 2022, Fresno EOC announced a re-designation of its Sanctuary Youth Shelter facility from an emergency shelter for homeless and runaway youth ages 12-17 to Bridge Housing for 18-24-year old individuals experiencing homelessness.

#### **Shifting services to meet the current needs of the community.**

As a poverty-fighting agency, we are committed to listening to the community's needs. Therefore, Fresno EOC staff conducted meetings with community partners and others to determine the best use of the facility. As a result, Fresno EOC is repurposing the facility to serve young adults 18-24 years old with Bridge Housing. The primary goal is to give individuals and families an immediate, stable, safe place until a permanent housing opportunity is available. The program offers case management, access to supportive services identified through a client's case plan, employment, and educational assistance services, and referrals to mainstream services. Individuals and families eligible for Bridge Housing are referred to available providers through the Coordinated Entry System. To access the Coordinated Entry System in Fresno and Madera, go to: <https://fresnoeoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Access-Site-Contact-Information-08.08.2022-FULL-PAGE.pdf>.

“Fresno EOC continues to be the only provider for Youth Bridge Housing in Fresno County. Due to the increased housing need for young adults, we are shifting the Youth Shelter facility to serve more individuals experiencing homelessness in the 18-24 age group,” Misty Gattie-Blanco, Sanctuary and Support Services Director.

“We are dedicated and passionate about serving youth in our community, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to youth safety.” Michelle Tutunjian, Fresno EOC Chief Operating Officer.

If you know of a youth or are a young person under 24 in need of services, please access Safe Place by texting for help. Text the word “safe” and your current location (address, city, state) to 4HELP (44357), 24 hours a day. Youth can also call or text the California Youth Crisis Line, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at (800) 843-5200. Youth under 18 can also receive help at Sanctuary Transitional Shelter located at 1046 T Street, Fresno, CA 93721. Program staff will provide referrals to services based on your needs.

To learn more about housing and shelter programs available, please visit:

<https://fresnoeoc.org/homeless-services/>

### [About Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Support Services](#)

Sanctuary and Support Services provides a variety of programs to meet the needs of at-risk youth and young adults. Services include housing and shelter programs, providing overnight shelter and crisis intervention services for young adults, and administers 260 Safe Place sites throughout Fresno County. Additionally, Sanctuary operates the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, and Central Valley Against Human Trafficking, a regional project to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking.

### [About Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission \(EOC\)](#)

Established in 1965, Fresno EOC is a non-profit Community Action Agency that provides opportunities, strengthens self-sufficiency, and offers support for all people. We listen to the needs of the communities we serve to create effective programs and services. Fresno EOC is at the forefront, continuing the war on poverty with more than 35 programs dedicated to getting people the help they need to achieve their goals.

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