

CITY COUNCIL

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# CITY OF LODI

2015 "Wine Region of the Year"

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June 7, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LODI, CA –

An Access Center provides a gateway to:

**All**  
**Community**  
**Counseling**  
**Employment/Empowerment**  
**Sobriety**  
**Shelter/Support Services**

### **"Helping create a Win/Win for the City of Lodi community"**

The City of Lodi Community Development Department, through its Neighborhood Services Division, is prepared to engage in a citywide informational campaign, broadcasting information and gathering feedback instrumental to developing long-term solutions to homelessness in our City. A vital ingredient, and considered as the first component of a long-term solution, centers on the development of an Access Center. This Release is the second in a series to provide information to the Lodi community.

Based on questions and feedback we have received since the first press release issued on May 19, 2021, we are providing additional information. In the coming weeks, we will also be releasing a survey, notice of community meetings, utility bill inserts, social media and website posts, and other announcements to disseminate information and continue gathering feedback from the community.

### **Where will the Access Center be located?**

Currently no final location has been selected by the City Council. City staff will consider the following, among other factors, prior to recommending a final site selection to the City Council:

- Proximity to single family residential
- Proximity to parks and schools
- Proximity to community resources (retail, groceries, etc.)
- Availability and proximity of social service resources
- Availability and proximity of transportation options

### **How is an Access Center different from resources currently available in Lodi?**

Current shelter resources in Lodi have qualifications that one must meet to reside at the shelter facility. An Access Center reduces those barriers to assist those harder to reach. As shared in the first press release, partners, pets, and possessions would be allowed. An individual would also be able to enter the Access Center shelter if they were not clean and sober so long as they remain respectful of staff and other residents and do not have illegal substances, weapons, or other prohibited items in their possession. This would allow clients the opportunity to seek out resources necessary to take the first steps towards sobriety. The Access Center will have a strong focus on job readiness or support services for those clients ready for the next steps to self-sufficiency.

**What staffing will an Access Center require?**

In addition to the security and janitorial services mentioned in the previous press release, there will be caseworkers, a shelter manager, and shelter monitors onsite, and space for social service providers to offer resources. The Access Center shelter operator would determine the level of staffing needed to meet the needs of the clients. Selection of a shelter operator has not been made.

**What would operational hours of an Access Center look like?**

An Access Center would require 24/7 staffing for shelter monitors, janitorial, and security. During the day, caseworkers and social service providers would be available to assist each client. The shelter operator would determine intake procedures for day and night shift. Unsheltered persons staying at the Access Center Emergency Shelter would be allowed to stay at the facility throughout the day. However, we will implement a good neighbor policy, which would mean no loitering outside the gates of the Access Center; clients would either remain inside the facility or leave the vicinity of premises. Regular patrols of the facility by security would ensure rules are followed.

**If you build it, they will come.**

This statement has been heard in many local communities. However, other cities within San Joaquin County are also developing their own responses to address homelessness with similar resources, so we do not anticipate any change in our unsheltered count resulting from development of an Access Center. Moreover, based on information heard through outreach efforts, many of our unsheltered population have ties to Lodi through family, friends, employment, or long-term residency; they have not come from other Cities to seek out resources in Lodi, because many are from here.

**Clarification on Engagement Plan Survey Responses.**

The Lodi Access Center Community Engagement Plan referenced 150 survey responses. This does not mean we are only going to accept 150 responses; the number was based on prior participation by the community as a success measure for the minimum number of responses we anticipate to receive. We encourage everyone to complete the survey once it opens and hope we receive many more than the anticipated 150 responses. All responses received will be a part of the final data shared with the community and City Council.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department, Neighborhood Services Division at [NeighborhoodServices@lodi.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodServices@lodi.gov). For updates on the Lodi Access Center Engagement Process, please also see the City website at <http://lodi.gov/1037/Lodi-Access-Center>

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