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Lee Commissioners allocate \$1.9 million to extend family transitional housing program

Fort Myers, FL, Jan. 20, 2022 – The Lee Board of County Commissioners voted Tuesday to allocate \$1.9 million to continue a program to help families facing homelessness to transition to permanent housing.

Since May 2021, the Family Transition Collaborative has assisted 72 households consisting of 223 individuals, with 117 children.

Of those families:

- 61 households have exited the program, including 50 households that are now in permanent housing or other shelter locations
- 11 families who exited the program of their own accord.
- 11 families currently in transitional hotel housing are expected to move to permanent housing by Feb. 1.

The transition program is a coordinated effort between the County, our non-profit partners, and law enforcement. Centerstone, a local behavioral health provider, provided connection to temporary shelter in a hotel setting, clinical services, and case management during the hotel stays. Salvation Army connected households to permanent housing through rapid re-housing and case management once families were placed in permanent housing. The Fort Myers Police Department, through its HOT Team Officer and road patrol, assisted with daily and over-night check-ins.

The Lee Board of County Commissioners has made it a priority to assist people who are facing homelessness.

Lee County Human & Veterans Services serves as a collaborative hub for resources – federal, state, local, private and non-profit – designated to aid Lee County residents through supportive programs and services.

For more information on Lee County Human & Veterans Services programs, log on to www.leegov.com/dhs. If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness, call the department's coordinated entry help line at 239-533-7996.

To view the staff briefing and Board discussion from Tuesday, visit <https://youtu.be/IA9DoHBfZo>