

# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **WESTGATE COMMUNITY OPENS DOORS TO 40 NEW UNITS** *Community dedicated to providing low-barrier housing expands*

**[Tallahassee, Fla]** This week, Westgate Community opened doors to two new buildings with a total of 40 single residential occupancy apartments. The first of their kind in the capital city, these apartments increase Tallahassee's inventory of low-barrier housing for low- and extremely-low income households. The new units are the first private apartments in Westgate, giving each resident his or her own bedroom, sink, refrigerator and cook top for \$490 per month. A subsidiary of Comprehensive Emergency Services Center (CESC), Westgate works in lockstep with The Kearney Center to move people from the emergency homeless shelter to more stable, long-term housing situations.

"Part of the struggle for those experiencing homelessness are barriers to housing that go beyond having steady income," said Randy Vick, Program Director at Westgate Community. "Our residents qualify to moving into Westgate without having to provide a large security deposit and first month's rent, and these new units give them a greater sense of independence as they work to transition to traditional housing."

As part of CESC, Westgate provides low-barrier housing opportunities to those transitioning out of The Kearney Center and to those on the verge of experiencing homelessness. Opened in 2014, the community offers a variety of choices including bunk- and dorm-style living options. The bunk-style options are open-bay buildings with single beds and bunk beds in one large

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*Westgate cont.*

room. Five dorm-style buildings offer double-occupancy rooms as well as options for families. Currently, 108 people live at Westgate.

“Opening up these new units marks another milestone in our fight to end homelessness in the Big Bend,” said Monique Ellsworth, Chief Operating Officer of CESC. “Each bed at Westgate represents one person who is moving forward, getting back on his or her feet. I am thrilled that there are more options and opportunity for greater independence for those at Westgate.”

For more information Westgate Community, please contact Randy Vick at 850-574-0624, and for more information about CESC, please contact Monique Ellsworth at [Monique.Ellsworth@cesctlh.org](mailto:Monique.Ellsworth@cesctlh.org).

#### **About Westgate Community**

Westgate Community offers a variety of low-barrier housing options for those transitioning out of or on the verge of homelessness. The community is a subsidiary of Comprehensive Emergency Services Center, a nonprofit headquartered in Tallahassee and serving those in and around Leon County struggling with homelessness.

#### **About CESC, Inc.**

Comprehensive Emergency Services Center (CESC) was founded with the goal of ending homelessness. The organization works to create a network to assist individuals experiencing homelessness in Tallahassee by providing resources including emergency shelter to support services and long-term housing. CESC works to foster a culture and community of individuals and businesses who combine resources in order to ensure that when homelessness in Tallahassee does occur, it is rare, brief and non-recurring. For more information about CESC or their family of brands including Westgate, The Kearney Center and The Dwellings, please contact [info@cesctlh.org](mailto:info@cesctlh.org).

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