

Sacramento Homelessness COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

Weekly Progress Report

Brought to you in partnership by Sacramento County, City of Sacramento, Sacramento Steps Forward and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

April 17, 2020

Welcome to the first weekly report highlighting progress and highlights of the COVID-19 Homeless Response Team's work to implement the **Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan**. This report includes actions to date through April 17th.

In addition to measuring our impact "by the numbers", we recognize that much of this work is nuanced and not easily measurable. Therefore, we will also share what is happening "on the ground" to highlight milestones, changes, and partnerships. The actions of the Response Team and our many partners are aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19 and mitigating impact on persons experiencing homelessness.

Since adoption on April 7th and 8th by the County Board of Supervisors, Sacramento City Council and City/County Continuum of Care, three strategies have been launched:

1. Keeping Existing Emergency Shelters Safe and Operational

- The Response Team has provided written guidance and holds regular meetings with community shelter partners on sanitation, daily and entry assessment, and social distancing.
- On April 13th, the Shelter Partner Nurse Advice Line opened for designated shelters needing additional guidance or consultation.
- Community shelter partners were trained April 9th and are able to make referrals to Isolation/Quarantine units.
- Public Health began assessment of a congregate shelter where one client tested positive, including contact tracing and testing of those exposed. The person who tested positive has been moved to the Medically Supported Isolation Care Center.

2. Creating Isolation/Quarantine Units for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

- The first Preventative Quarantine units at a 113 unit hotel opened April 8th, and the first guest was welcomed on April 11th.
- Sacramento is the first large city in the State to open trailers. The State Fire Marshal provided final clearance to open the 59 Medically Supported Isolation Care Center trailers at CalExpo on April 15th, and the first guest was welcomed that same day.
- Onsite medical support at isolation units includes a team of Registered Nurses, privately contracted with InSync Consulting Services. Telehealth support at quarantine units include a team of doctors from UC Davis who can provide phone and video consultation, when medically necessary.
- Designated referral partners who have been trained include hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs), outreach teams, correctional health, emergency shelters, and law enforcement.
- Based on referral experience and feedback, eligibility was broadened on April 16th to include older persons with pre-existing health vulnerabilities, without symptoms, and the age limit for “elderly” was lowered from 65 to 55 years of age.
- Safe transportation was secured this week through a private medical transport company for both contagious and noncontagious populations.

Referrals and Placements

Households Placed in Preventative Quarantine Units (motels)	32 households
Households Placed in Medically Supported Isolation Care Center (trailers)	3 households (2 pending)
Total Assessment Surveys Completed	73
Referrals Declined by Client	4

Note: On April 13th, eligibility opened to Priority Group 6, and on April 16th the age limit on the prioritization criteria changed from 65+ to 55+. The Response Team is following up with clients who may have previously been deemed ineligible, but now are eligible.

For more information on the isolation/quarantine program, see the fact sheet and FAQ documents attached.

3. Ensuring Safety and Health for Persons Living Outdoors

- 37 designated outreach workers from the County, Sacramento Steps Forward, Sacramento Self-Help Housing and Sacramento Covered are monitoring and working with people living outdoors. 47 Encampments with < 20 people and 69 encampments with 20+ people have been identified.
- \$68,000 granted to 16 volunteer organizations with funding from Donate4Sacramento for meals, personal hygiene kits, sanitizer, sleeping bags, socks, backpacks, blankets, tents, showers, and other survival gear.
- 200 meals/day Monday-Friday through Loaves and Fishes, with additional meals from Sacramento Covered and volunteer organizations for a total of 400 plus meals daily.
- Medical screening/assistance team of 25 led by UC Davis medical students, with other medical schools and local health care providers, and a Medical Integrated Health unit.
- Communicating twice a week with 37 volunteer organizations
- First phase of sanitation has been placed, a total of 40 handwashing stations and 40 toilets at 27 locations

Other Ongoing Key Actions

- **Supplies:** 24 organizations have been supported to date with materials and supplies. Access to supplies remains a challenge. The Response Team continues to work with the EOC and private vendors to access supplies.
- **Communications:** Regular stakeholder email alerts, and [blog post](#)
- **Access to Permanent Housing:** Improving access into permanent housing for clients served through these initiatives by accelerating placement into permanent housing from both the City's Pathways Program and County's Flexible Supportive Housing Program for those persons eligible for Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV).

Families from the two programs who have a voucher and are looking for a home	207 families
Families that have found homes that are pending approval	9 families
Families that are newly housed in the HCV program	15 families

The team is also working on other strategies to maximize housing placements as persons exit Isolation/Quarantine units, that can include increasing access to existing market units, new acquisition/rehabilitation projects, and exploring alternate construction methods to expedite housing development.

Acknowledging Our Partners

We wish to acknowledge all the public, private, and community partners whose efforts are bringing this response to fruition, helping keep people experiencing homelessness safe and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It is impossible to list all the accomplishments of each and every partner, but we intend to highlight a partner each week that represents the passion, hard work, and contributions that typify all our partners. This week's featured partner is Goodwill Industries.

In Sacramento, and across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a pronounced impact on daily life—changing the day to day experiences for our homed and unhomed community members—all in the blink of an eye. Goodwill Industries has stepped up to support the local COVID-19 response efforts by providing operational support to the County administered COVID prevention motel program and the City administered COVID isolation trailers at Cal Expo. Goodwill uses its revenue generated through their retail stores to support community-based organizations including its family of nonprofits, all of which work with the most vulnerable populations, including those experiencing homelessness.

“Goodwill is a deeply rooted community organization who works tirelessly to improve the lives of those who face disadvantages to self-sufficiency. Recognizing the community’s need for capacity, it was clear that reallocating Goodwill’s existing infrastructure and staff would be essential to standing up these programs in a swift manner.”

– Richard Abrusci, President and CEO, Goodwill Industries Sacramento Valley and N. Nevada