Sacramento Homelessness
COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM
The Homelessness COVID-19 Response Team is a part of a broader County and City emergency and public health response to COVID-19.

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Sacramento County
- Department of Health Services
- Department of Human Assistance
- Director of Homeless Initiatives

City of Sacramento

Sacramento Steps Forward

Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency

PURPOSE

1. **Proactively address COVID-19 affecting the homeless and sheltered population.**
2. **Slow the spread** of COVID-19 in the homeless population by supporting programs serving the homeless so they can stay open and safe for clients and workers.
3. **Create and operationalize new capacity** for shelters that can serve vulnerable unhoused clients.

ACTIONS TO DATE

- Adding **200 beds** in existing shelter programs, consistent with CDC shelter guidance.
- Sanitation supplies have been delivered to 14 homeless service providers.
- Held initial conference call on **safety protocols** for homeless service providers with County Public Health.
- Operationalizing **200 motel rooms** with services.
- Food and medicine distribution under way for higher-risk clients.
- SHRA expediting **200 Housing Choice Vouchers** for homeless families.

COVID-19 RISKS FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- Higher risk of inability to **meet daily needs** and stay safe and healthy.
- Higher risk of exposure for people in **congregate living**.
- Higher risk of inability to **access** reduced and limited **services**.
- Higher risk of inability to **isolate** and recover.

*Evolving work and expect this to be a long-term activity.*

Please email covid-19@sacstepsforward.org for additional information.
SHELTERING & HOUSING ACTION PLAN

Coordinating closely with the State to identify resources to support our goal to serve 1,800 COVID-19 impacted individuals/families experiencing homelessness.

Projects Currently Underway
- Maintain and expand sheltering programs and expedite planned shelters, ensuring health and safety.
- Create new shelter capacity and programs through trailers, motel and scattered sites, and moving voucher holders into permanent housing.

Among these efforts are:
- Adding 200 beds in existing shelter programs, consistent with CDC shelter guidance.
- Operationalizing 200 motel rooms with services in the near-term, with a goal of 800 rooms.
- SHRA expediting 200 Housing Choice Vouchers for homeless families.
- 63 trailers expected to be delivered to CalExpo this week.

Projects in Early Planning
- Exploring a variety of ways to expand shelter and program capacity.

ON GOING KEY ACTIONS

- HEALTH SERVICES: Mobilizing health services and staffing to assist shelters, day centers and unsheltered individuals.
- HYGIENE: Facilitating personal protective equipment supplies to homeless service providers.
- DAILY NEEDS: Mobilizing food and medicine distribution.
- REFERRALS: Establishing a referral system to identify, prioritize, refer and transport most vulnerable clients to shelter programs.
- PROVIDER CAPACITY: Assessing and assisting provider needs, including daily alerts, surveys and coordinating scheduled peer-to-peer calls.
- GUIDANCE: Providing ongoing written shelter guidance, and guidance to outreach programs and law enforcement to implement CDC guidance. Coordinate conference calls on safety protocols for providers with County Public Health.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Providing regular updates on homeless efforts to providers and broader community, development of COVID-19 homeless webpage, and daily alerts to providers.
- STAYING IN PLACE: Resources, support, and connectivity for unsheltered populations staying in place per CDC guidance.

TEAM APPROACH

Part of a larger emergency/disaster response, recognizing the need for a specialized effort for homelessness.

Deploying an organized and intentional effort for most impactful outcomes.

Multi-agency, working across homeless services, public health, primary health and behavioral health.

Clear and regular communications with leaders, providers and the public.

Redirected staff working exclusively on COVID-19 response.

Working collaboratively with community partners.

*Evolving work and expect this to be a long-term activity.*