

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

September 4, 2020

Welcome to the twenty-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 Thursday, Sept. 3.**

Access to Housing

The next phase of our COVID-19 response shifts focus from temporary to permanent solutions, ending homelessness one person at a time. We've set the ambitious goal of rapidly moving most households from the COVID-19 shelters into permanent housing with support for ongoing stability, or interim housing and shelters when that is not possible. This next phase presents both an unprecedented challenge and a welcome opportunity to significantly impact lives and health over the long term. The general approach is to facilitate program placement and connection to re-housing providers as quickly as possible and to provide additional support to programs and clients on their pathway to permanent housing.

We anticipate changes and innovation during implementation as we tap into the experience, expertise and creativity of all partners.

Strategy 1. Re-housing assistance into existing permanent housing:

- The COVID-19 Team is working with participants across all preventative quarantine sites who are connected to existing re-housing assistance programs. Participating re-housing programs include:
 - Supportive Services for Veteran Families
 - City's Pathways to Health + Home
 - County's Behavioral Health Re-Housing Services
 - CoC's Shelter Plus Care Program

- County Flexible Housing Pool (existing and expanded with COVID funding)
- The expanded County Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) re-housing program is anticipated to facilitate approximately 200 housing placements; and
- Funding Room and Board placements, serving approximately 25 households.
- In addition, the CoC has temporarily modified the Coordinated Entry prioritization criteria through the end of the year to include COVID vulnerabilities. As permanent supportive housing becomes available through the coordinated entry process, participants in the COVID sites will be placed through coordinated entry.

Progress over the past few weeks includes:

- Re-Housing Program Leads have been identified to liaison with providers in their program area, encouraging, problem solving, and tracking progress. All programs are now engaging with clients and offering re-housing services.
- Re-Housing Program Leads had their first orientation meeting on August 19 and second meeting was held on August 26, inviting broader community partners to brainstorm ways to remove barriers and connect participants to services that support housing placement and stability. Promising connections were explored in: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), employment services, substance use programs, rehabilitation centers, medically assisted treatment program to name a few.
- The first cohort of 25 participants were referred to an expanded County Flexible Housing program. Households are being prioritized based on age and the first group began with participants residing at the motel site closing at the end of September. In the coming days, participants will be connected to community providers offering intensive case management and property related services through the FHP program.

Onsite Navigation and Problem Solving

In addition to connecting to re-housing programs, a onsite navigation/problem solving team comprised of SSF navigators, Goodwill staff and DHA social workers has been organized to engage and support participants in their transition to permanent housing, when possible, or temporary shelter. Progress includes:

- Deployment of a strengths-based housing assessment of all willing participants across all sites;
- Beginning at the first preventative quarantine site on September 1, team members began meeting with each household problem solve housing pathways and services;

- A new problem-solving financial assistance program is nearly ready to launch. It will assist households who are able to secure permanent housing with one-time, limited financial assistance.
- Also underway is the development of a re-housing program in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that will assist re-housing case managers and provide the basis for ongoing reporting. More to come on this in future reports.

Strategy 2. Development of new permanent supportive housing through motel acquisition and conversion:

This strategy would take advantage of the opportunity to purchase motels or other real estate for use as permanent supportive housing for persons experiencing homelessness. Four applications from SHRA and the City have been submitted to the State under Project Homekey. The State received \$1 billion of requests for a \$600 million program. The Sacramento applications are as follows:

- SHRA and Jamboree Housing Corporation application for the Hawthorne Suites in the Richards Boulevard area.
- SHRA and Mercy Housing application for the Woodspring Suites on La Mancha Way in south Sacramento.
- The City of Sacramento and WEAVE, Inc. application for nine manufactured housing units.
- The City of Sacramento and Saint John’s Program for Real Change application for 20 manufactured housing and efficiency units.

In addition, housing efforts continue more broadly:

- Since April 8, 62 families have moved into permanent housing from the City’s Pathways and the County’s Flexible Supportive Housing Program with a Housing Choice Voucher.

Isolation/Quarantine Units for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

As an emergency response to COVID-19, medically supported isolation care centers, and preventative quarantine care centers have been temporarily funded to provide safe places for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID+, symptomatic or otherwise highly vulnerable.

Total Care Centers Open	Total Since 4/8
# Preventative Quarantine Care Center (PQCC) Motels	4 motels
# motel rooms	522 rooms
# Medically Supported Isolation Care Center (MICC) Trailers	18 trailers
# Preventative Quarantine Care Center (PQCC) Trailers	41 trailers
TOTAL MICC	18 trailers
TOTAL PQCC	563 rooms/trailers

* Seven trailers are currently offline. The number of available trailers may change week to week.

Served in Trailers and Motels	Week between 8/27–9/3	Total since 4/8
# Served in MICC Trailers	9 HH/10 individuals	97 HH/110 individuals
# Served in PQCC Trailers	1 HH/1 individuals	110 HH/70 individuals
# Served in PQCC Motels	6 HH/14 individuals	779 HH/985 individuals
TOTAL Served*	16 HH/25 individuals	948HH/1,165 individuals

*Total unduplicated served since 4/8/20 are: 837 HH/1,054 individuals.

Ensuring Safety and Health for Persons Living Outdoors

This strategy is focused around providing coordinated support to people who are unsheltered to remain safely in place per CDC guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19.

- Since efforts began April 8, teams have installed 58 handwashing stations and 52 toilets in 40 locations. The placement of these stations is dynamic, and equipment may be moved.

Encampments and outreach:

Number of encampments with more than 20 individuals identified: 45

Number of encampments with less than 20 individuals identified: 48

Total number of encampments identified: 93

Encampment Activities	Week between 8/28 - 9/3	Total since 4/8
# Meals served through Loaves and Fishes	n/a	19,400
# Meals served by Sacramento Covered	n/a	14,800
# Meals served by volunteer groups*	n/a	16,251
# Meals served by Solomons/YMCA	3,000	13,000

- As the COVID-19 Homelessness Response Team shifts its focus to rehousing the Project Roomkey guests, the enhanced outreach to encampments for access to these rooms has ended. During the course of their regular duties, outreach workers still conduct the assessments with people who are COVID+ or awaiting test results to access medical isolation trailers. However, the majority of these entries come directly through hospitals and other health care providers.
- Additional funding through the County Department of Health Services has been identified to continue encampment services through the end of December.
- During this reporting period, 14 pallets (288 gallons) of water were distributed to encampments throughout the county. The three pathways of delivery are the volunteer network, SANE and Loaves & Fishes.

COVID Testing

County Public Health in partnership with medical partners are completing robust COVID-19 testing at shelters, encampments and isolation/quarantine care centers with the goal of being able to do widespread testing to ensure the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness.

Testing Locations	Lead Testing Partner*	# Tests Administered	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Tests
Shelters	Elica Health	389	4	385	0
Encampments	Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic	117	0	117	0
Isolation/Quarantine Care Centers	DHS Medical Staff	561	4	558	0
Loaves and Fishes	DHS Medical Staff	248	1	247	0
TOTAL TESTS**		1,315	9	1,307	0

***Tests for specific testing locations may administered by lead testing partner or by another partner**

*** There are no new COVID test results to report on this week. Testing updates when results are available.**

- We are also working to ensure that existing shelters can safely remain open following CDC guidelines, moving vulnerable guests into COVID prevention care centers, and continuing to serve the general homeless populations.