

# 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**.



Please email [covid-19@sacstepsforward.org](mailto:covid-19@sacstepsforward.org) for additional information.

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



# 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** being delivered to Cal Expo this week.

## Projects in Early Planning

- Exploring a variety of ways to **expand shelter** and program **capacity**.

## ONGOING 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.

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