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.
- Operationalizing 200 motel rooms with services.
- Sanitation supplies have been delivered to 14 homeless service providers.
- Food and medicine distribution under way for higher-risk clients.
- Held initial conference call on safety protocols for homeless service providers with County Public Health.
- 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 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.

**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.

**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.**

**TEAM APPROACH**

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

- **Clear and regular communications** with leaders, providers and the public.
- **Redirected staff** working exclusively on COVID-19 response.

Deploying an organized and intentional effort for most impactful outcomes.

- **Multi-agency**, working across homeless services, public health, primary health and behavioral health.
- **Working collaboratively** with community partners.

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