

# 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

**December 7, 2020**

Welcome to the bi-weekly report highlighting progress and highlights of the COVID-19 Homeless Response Team's response efforts as part of the **Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan**. This report includes **actions to date through Friday, December 4th**.

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### *Re-Housing*

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Our COVID-19 response remains focused on permanent solutions as we work toward our ambitious goal of rapidly moving most households from the COVID-19 shelters into permanent housing with support for ongoing stability, with interim housing and shelters as an alternative when that is not possible. This effort continues to require unprecedented collaboration as we work to facilitate and support program placement and connection to re-housing providers as quickly as possible and to provide additional support to clients on their pathway to permanent housing.

To facilitate transparency and allow the Response Team to efficiently monitor progress toward our goal and identify potential barriers as quickly as possible, we have developed a data dashboard for the rehousing effort, which we will be sharing via these reports. This first snapshot contains re-housing data through November 30, as well as information on where households are along the continuum toward permanent housing.

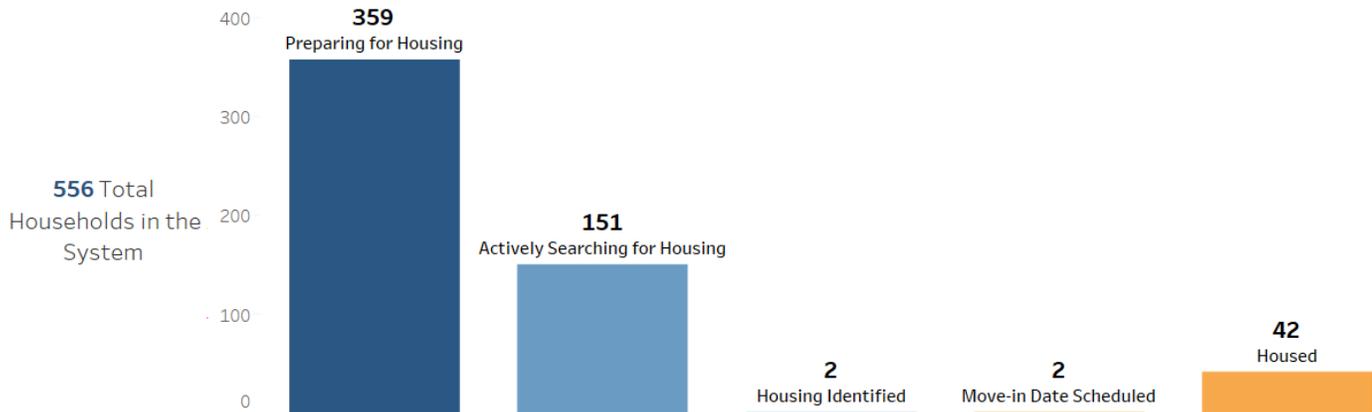
# CURRENT SYSTEM OVERVIEW

GOAL: **75%** of the **556** eligible households are **permanently housed**.



## Households Currently in Each Phase

Click a bar to view clients that fall within that data set.



*“Preparing for Housing” includes critical steps such as collecting needed documentation or preparing other information necessary to establish eligibility for certain housing programs and resources or to increase the likelihood of successful applications for private market housing, among other things. Providers and navigators work directly with clients to support these activities.*

*Please note that this initial snapshot likely shows an undercount of actual households who have moved on from the “preparing for housing” phase as we await updated data from some providers.*

## Re-housing Assistance into Existing Permanent Housing

Shelter guests have all been linked to community re-housing programs for which they qualify, or have been connected to onsite teams who are working with individuals and households to problem solve and identify a pathway to permanent housing. Ongoing, regular case conferencing with providers and Re-Housing Program Leads ensures the ability for providers to accelerate and monitor progress toward housing. Program leads and providers also convene on a bi-weekly basis to share progress and resources; this week, County In-Home Supportive Services provided important information on how their clients can access these stabilizing supports.

Additionally, at least 200 households will be referred and enrolled for services in the expanded County Flexible Housing Pool (FHP); 115 households have been referred to date. FHP providers work with clients by providing intensive case management services and help to secure housing. We anticipate that future reports will show increased progress towards housing and exits to permanent housing destinations.

The COVID-19 Homeless Response Team appreciates the significant efforts of each of the re-housing program leads and providers.

### **Development of New Permanent Supportive Housing through Motel Acquisition and Conversion:**

Four applications from SHRA and the City were submitted to the State under Project Homekey, which provides an opportunity to purchase motels or other real estate for use as permanent supportive housing for persons experiencing homelessness. The following three Homekey projects are moving forward:

- SHRA and Mercy Housing’s Woodspring Suites project on La Mancha Way in south Sacramento.
- The City of Sacramento and WEAVE, Inc.’s project for manufactured housing units.
- The City of Sacramento and Saint John’s Program for Real Change to serve households with manufactured housing and efficiency units.

The COVID-19 Homeless Response Team is working to maximize connections to these developments, to the maximum extent feasible.

### **New State Funding For Project Roomkey and Rehousing**

On November 16th, Governor Newsom announced a one-time allocation of \$62 million to local governments to allow Project Roomkey operations to continue while clients transition to permanent housing. The funds will be provided by the Department of Social Services to counties implementing Project Roomkey on a formula basis, with Sacramento County to receive an allocation of \$2,284,970, to be used, in relevant part, to:

- Support continued Project Roomkey operations while local communities develop re-housing plans so that no one is forced to leave a Project Roomkey unit and become unsheltered; and

## **REHOUSING PROGRAMS**

- Supportive Services for Veterans
- City’s Pathways to Health + Home
- County’s Behavioral Health Rehousing Services
- CoC’s Shelter Plus Care Program
- County’s Flexible Housing Pool – existing program clients
- County’s Flexible Housing Pool – expanded program

- Develop and implement plans to transition individuals from Project Roomkey into permanent housing. This money can be used for rental subsidies, case management, housing navigation and landlord incentives, among other things.

Funding will be allocated to continue operations of COVID-19 shelters well into the first quarter of 2021 and to serve additional households as part of the re-housing effort.

## Re-housing Partner Spotlight: Pathways to Health + Home

*To highlight partners providing critical work toward our overall re-housing effort, and to share information about community resources available throughout the community, we will be regularly spotlighting specific programs in these reports.*



The [Pathways to Health + Home](#) Program (Pathways) seeks to meet the health and housing needs of the sickest individuals experiencing homelessness in Sacramento, with costly, unmet medical and behavioral health needs. This [Whole Person-Care pilot program](#) is run by the City of Sacramento and funded in partnership with local hospital systems and Medi-Cal.

Since the program began in November 2017, Pathways has served more than 2,100 persons and housed over 800. With the help of our partners, the program has resulted in [better health and housing outcomes](#). Working in collaboration with local housing and health organizations (see list of [partner organizations here](#)), the program's mission is to improve the health, quality of life, and housing stability these individuals through one seamless integrated system of care. Our collective shared vision is a city where all individuals have access to health care and a home.

Pathways providers work together to provide intensive supports to patients through a community care coordination approach. **Each client has a care team comprised of a local clinic coordinator, a housing navigator and a Community Health Worker (CHW), all working together to stabilize the client in our community and see that their unmet health and housing needs are addressed.** The Pathways model brings providers together in a new way to extend services beyond the four walls of their respective organizations and into the community in a client-centered approach.

For more information, please visit the Pathways to Health+Home [website](#).

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## Isolation/Quarantine

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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.

**Update since last report:** With the closing of the CalExpo trailers in December, units for medical isolation will continue to be offered at one of the motel sites. The team has worked to ensure minimal disruption and the continued existence of safe places for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID+ to stay and receive medical supervision. Referrals into the new medical isolation location opened on Friday, November 27. The referral process remains unchanged.

The total number of rooms available currently and the number of individuals/households served since April 8 through December 4 is as follows:

Center Type	Rooms	Individuals/HH Served
Medically Supported Isolation Care Center	15 rooms*	195 individuals/162 HH total served
Preventative Quarantine Care Center	357 rooms	1,201 individuals/976 HH total served

*\*Total unduplicated served are: 1,132 individuals/868 HH*

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## Ensuring Safety and Health for Persons Living Outdoors

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*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<sup>th</sup>, County Department of Health Services (DHS) has installed 58 handwashing stations and 52 toilets in 40 locations; water has been regularly delivered to encampments throughout the County; and SSF has coordinated meal delivery through COVID team investments and volunteer groups. DHS funding had previously been secured to continue encampment services through the end of December and pending approval on December 8<sup>th</sup> from the Board of Supervisors for additional funding, DHS will extend operations of sanitation stations and water delivery through March 2021.



58 handwashing  
stations



52 toilets



On-going water  
distribution

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## COVID Testing

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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	718	3	715	0
Encampments	Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic	409	0	409	0
Isolation/Quarantine Care Centers	DHS Medical Staff	1,001	11	990	0
Loaves and Fishes	DHS Medical Staff	486	2	484	0
<b>TOTAL TESTS</b>		<b>2,614</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>0</b>

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