

Sacramento Homelessness COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

Weekly Progress Report

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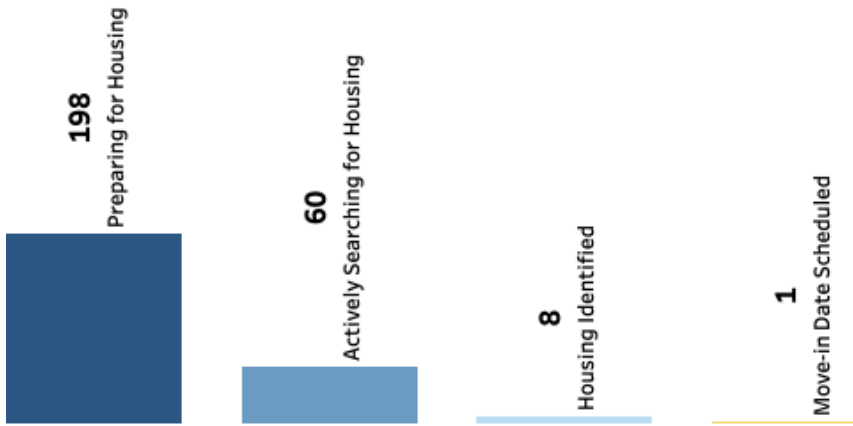
July 23, 2021

Welcome to the 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 and information to date through mid-July 2021**, with specific dates noted for each update provided.

Re-Housing

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 or with interim housing and shelters as an alternative when that is not possible.

- **As of July 12, 2021, 318 total individuals have exited the COVID-19 shelters to stable housing** since the shelters opened in April 2020. An additional 227 have exited to temporary housing or shelter destinations such as emergency shelter or transitional housing programs.
- Shelter guests continue to work with re-housing programs or onsite navigators to identify and progress along pathways to permanent housing. **As of July 20, 2021, there are 267 individuals in the COVID-19 shelter rehousing program.** Of those 267 individuals, **60 are actively searching for housing, 8 have identified housing, and 1 has a move-in date scheduled.**



Note: "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.

Support for re-housing providers working with clients in COVID-19 shelters continues to assist providers to accelerate and monitor progress toward housing, including ongoing, regular case conferencing by program and bi-weekly meetings of Program Leads and providers. Recent provider meetings have included a presentation by Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA) representatives about their programs and employment and training resources and information relating to Sacramento’s Emergency Housing Voucher program.

New Resource: Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) Program



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated \$5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for emergency housing vouchers for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The funding is allocated through the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program. Through EHV, HUD is providing 70,000 vouchers to approximately 7,000 housing authorities. Sacramento received 494 vouchers. The EHV program is a joint program between the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) and Sacramento Steps Forward (the CoC).



SHRA and the CoC set a lofty goal to lease 494 households within 6 months. The Sacramento program is prioritizing the following subpopulations: chronically homeless and literally homeless, seniors (62+), survivors of domestic violence, and move-on eligible residents in current permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs, and recently homeless eligible residents in rapid re-housing (RRH) programs.

Through collaboration and partnership, all referrals for the EHV program will come through the SSF's coordinated entry (CE) system or from a victim service provider. SHRA will provide housing search assistance for enrolled households and has set up a landlord incentive program to ensure success in quickly leasing eligible households. Examples of landlord incentives include new and current landlord bonuses, damage claims, application fees, and security deposits. For more information about the EHV program visit: <https://sacramentostepsforward.org/2021-sacramento-ehvs/>.

Isolation/Quarantine

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.

The total number of rooms available currently and the number of individuals/households served since April 8, 2020 **through July 19, 2021** are as follows:

<p>Medically Supported Isolation Care Center</p>  <p>15 rooms available</p> <p>Total of 422 individuals/369 HH served thru 7/19/2021</p>	<p>Preventative Quarantine Care Center</p>  <p>357 rooms available</p> <p>Total of 1,543 individuals/1,281 HH served thru 7/19/2021</p>
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**Total unduplicated individuals served since 4/8/20: 1,572.*

COVID Vaccines and Testing

Vaccine Planning and Distribution

County Public Health is coordinating vaccine distribution for persons experiencing homelessness and is utilizing the Johnson and Johnson single-dose and the Moderna 2-dose vaccine for vaccination efforts for persons experiencing homelessness.

As of July 19, 2021, a total of 1,870 vaccination doses have been administered to people experiencing homelessness by the Public Health Department Vaccination Partnership:

- 1,361 Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses
- 509 Moderna vaccine doses

Testing

County Public Health in partnership with medical partners continue with 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.

As of Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, a total of 6,907 COVID-19 tests had been administered to people experiencing homelessness at shelters, encampments, quarantine care centers, and Loaves and Fishes, **57 of which returned positive results and 6,850 of which returned negative results.** Testing has continued in March, April, May, and June and we anticipate having updated numbers to share in a future report.

- Antigen testing (15-minute test result) has been incorporated into the intake process at preventative quarantine care centers to better serve guests. Ongoing PCR testing continues at all three care centers.
- Partners seeking to ramp up their testing capacity can receive technical assistance from the Public Health Department on how to access the state's free Valencia lab.

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.

In April 2020, the Board of Supervisors voted to fund sanitation stations (toilet and sinks) at several dozen locations across the county to serve homeless encampments as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 40 stations, while dynamic in location, have been serving our neighbors experiencing homelessness since then.

The County planned to scale back emergency funding on the sanitation stations, when local case rates were on the decline. The plan was to continue funding up to 25 locations in unincorporated county and provide vendor and placement details to each city for them to determine how to move forward with locations in their jurisdiction. However, given the recent upward trend of COVID-19 cases in our community, the county paused any plan to make changes to the current sanitation station structure.