

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

August 28, 2020

Welcome to the sixteenth 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, August 27.

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 8/21– 8/27	Total since 4/8
# Served in MICC Trailers	0 HH/0 individuals	65 HH/69 individuals
# Served in PQCC Trailers	3 HH/26 individuals	88 HH/100 individuals
# Served in PQCC Motels	3 HH/3 individuals	779 HH/971 individuals
TOTAL Served*	6 HH/29 individuals	932HH/1,140 individuals

**Total unduplicated served since 4/8/20 are: 832 HH/1,040 individuals.*

**The number of households has decreased due to data cleanup to connect individuals who were not previously connected to the same household in order to ensure consistency in reporting.*

- Registered Nurses and Medical Assistants COVID-19 Medical Assistance and Supply Team (CMAST) are stationed at the MICC-trailers and PQCC-motels to provide onsite support to guests 5-days per week.
- Designated referral partners who are referring into the program include hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs), outreach teams, correctional health, emergency shelters, law enforcement and other homeless service providers.

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.

Sanitation Stations	Total since 4/8
Handwashing Stations	58
Toilets	52
Locations	40

**Placement of stations is dynamic, and equipment may be moved*

Encampment Activities	Week between 8/21 - 8/27	Total since 4/8
# Meals served through Loaves and Fishes	1,000	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	2,000	10,000

Encampments and Outreach	Total
# Encampments Identified with 20+ individuals	44
# Encampments Identified with < 20 individuals	42
TOTAL Encampments Identified	86

- 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.
- The COVID-19 navigation staff continued support to people who are unsheltered includes sanitation stations as well as meal and water delivery
- The COVID-19 Homelessness Response team is evaluating resources to potentially continue to provide other ongoing services beyond September
- Various groups still continue to provide services in their existing capacities, including the medical student team, volunteer organizations, Sacramento Self Help Housing and Sacramento Covered.
- Outreach staff are supporting the rehousing effort by providing on-site navigation services at the COVID sheltering locations.
- 17 pallets of water have been delivered in the last week by SANE, Loaves & Fishes volunteers, and the volunteer network (standard pallet holds 288 gallons of water).
- The Response Team increased the supply of water being delivered to encampments over the last week in response to the heat wave. In addition to the 1-2 pallets of 1-gallon water bottles being delivered to encampments throughout the County daily, Monday - Friday, Loaves & Fishes and the volunteer network increased their efforts from 2-3 pallets per week to 6 pallets in the last week.
- \$114,000 in Donate4Sacramento mini-grants have been granted to 25 volunteer and service organizations to distribute meals, sanitation supplies, and survival gear, and to tend to health, transportation, and housing needs. Mini-grants were expended by June 30, 2020. Supplies will continue to be available for volunteer organizations to access and distribute.
- Medical assistance is provided to 8-10 encampment areas a week by volunteer medical students from UC Davis Medical School and California Northstate University, local health care providers and a Medical Integrated Health Unit, and by the WellSpace Health Street Nursing program.
- A private provider of trash removal services provides clean-up near sanitation station locations and in areas where food is distributed. This COVID related service augments clean-up occurring by the City and County.
- Servicing of sanitation stations is included with the deployment of the stations and will continue.

Keeping Existing Emergency Shelters Safe and Operational

This strategy ensures 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.

- Masks are available to emergency shelters for distribution to shelter clients.
- Elica Health’s Wellness on Wheels mobile clinic continues to visit eight congregate shelters per week to provide primary care, emergency dental services and testing for COVID-19.

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**

Access to Housing

The Response Team is accelerating work on strategies to maximize housing placements as persons exit Isolation/Quarantine units and is recommending several actions and strategies to transition up to 500 households into permanent housing stability over the next few months. The re-housing plan was presented to the City/County Continuum of Care Board on July 8, and was approved by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors on July 14 and the Sacramento City Council on August 18.

The proposed redirection changes the following in the current program:

- Reduces the original number of isolation/quarantine rooms from 850 to 600, but extends the funding for the sheltering program past the original end date through September 30.
- While one motel will be definitively closing on September 30, it is anticipated that the remaining three motels and the CalExpo trailers will be continued through the end of the year due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. Additional actions by the Board of Supervisors and the City Council will be required to continue the funding for the sheltering program, which is anticipated to take place in the near future.
- The plan seeks to facilitate re-housing and brings new case management services and re-housing assistance to participants.

Re-housing at this scale is challenging and a massive undertaking but will take advantage of both the increased stability of participants now living indoors and the unprecedented local collaboration in the COVID-19 homelessness response. Additionally, Sacramento is one of eight communities in California receiving re-housing technical assistance through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Two strategies have been proposed to meet this goal:

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

- Matching participants to existing re-housing assistance programs, and adjusting prioritization for some of those programs to support this effort (approximately 250 households);
- Expanding the County Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) re-housing program to facilitate approximately 200 housing placements; and
- Funding Room and Board placements, serving approximately 25 households.

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, including

persons currently residing in isolation/quarantine units. The motels would be purchased and operated by SHRA and/or an affordable housing developer for occupancy within five to six months. County Department of Health Services and contracted partners will provide stabilizing services, including mental health, alcohol and drug treatment, and physical health services.

In addition, housing efforts continue more broadly:

- Since April 8, 56 families have moved into permanent housing from the City's Pathways and the County's Flexible Supportive Housing Program with a Housing Choice Voucher.

Acknowledging Our Partners

We wish to acknowledge all the public, private, and community partners whose efforts are helping keep people experiencing homelessness safe and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This week's featured staff member are the volunteer groups.

Christine Wetzel has diligently served and supported people experiencing homelessness for the past four years as a Referral Specialist at Sacramento Steps Forward. When COVID-19 struck our community, Christine stepped up to the support Referral Desk by assisting clients vulnerable to COVID-19 to get off the streets and into Project Room Key. After four incredible years of service to our community, Christine is stepping down from her role as a Referral Specialist. From all of us here at Sacramento Steps Forward, **thank you**, Christine! You will be missed, but not forgotten.