

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

October 30, 2020

The Sacramento COVID-19 Homeless Response Team has been reporting out on our work to implement the Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan since our first isolation/quarantine units opened in April. As our focus has now shifted to re-housing, this report will summarize the work of the Response Team from April through October and highlight the recent funding approvals to continue our COVID response work. Future reports will be focused on the re-housing effort.

Community Impact

Since adoption of the Response Plan, Response Team agencies have operationalized Plan strategies to address community needs, specifically: the medically-supported isolation care center, the preventative quarantine units, sanitation stations, encampment supports, medical supports and supplies to existing emergency shelters, COVID-19 testing for persons served through this effort, and re-housing activities.

In an effort to ensure ongoing supports to shelter participants while engaging in newly-approved and developed services such as case management and re-housing activities, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the Sacramento City Council recently approved changes to the Plan, extending the timeline and approving additional funding to continue COVID-19 shelter services and support the transition to housing.

Included below is a summary of the services and activities funded under the original Response Plan, including the total number of persons served or services provided in each program since April 8, 2020, through October 29, 2020, as well as the changes to the Plan.

Isolation/Quarantine Units for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

As an emergency response to COVID-19, medically supported isolation care centers (MICC), and preventative quarantine care centers (PQCC) were temporarily funded to provide safe places for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID+, symptomatic or otherwise highly vulnerable.

Four motels have been opened to shelter those most at risk of severe illness or death (over age 65 years and/or with underlying conditions). DHS provided medical services at these sites, and at the City’s trailers that also offered medical isolation for COVID-positive persons. A team of support staff from Goodwill Industries provided three meals per day and assisted guests with information about various social services for which they might be eligible.

| Total Care Centers | Total |
|---|---------------------------|
| # Preventative Quarantine Care Center (PQCC) Motels Open | 3 motels |
| # motel rooms Open | 372 rooms |
| # Medically Supported Isolation Care Center (MICC) Trailers Open | 18 trailers |
| # Preventative Quarantine Care Center (PQCC) Trailers Open | 41 trailers |
| <i># Preventative Quarantine Care Center (PQCC) Motels Closed</i> | <i>1 motel</i> |
| <i># motel rooms closed</i> | <i>150 rooms</i> |
| TOTAL MICC Currently Open | 18 trailers |
| TOTAL PQCC Currently Open | 413 rooms/trailers |

Since the program began on April 8, 2020 through October 29, 2020, 130 households with at least one member testing COVID positive (148 individuals) have been served in the MICC trailers. Another 941 households/1,160 individuals have been served in the PQCC trailers and motels for a total of 1,071 HH/1,308 individuals served through both programs. Because households sometimes move from medical isolation to quarantine or between quarantine locations, those numbers served include people who may have been served in multiple locations. The total number of de-duplicated individuals who have been served in the program is 1,084.

| Served in Trailers and Motels | Total since 4/8 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| # Served in MICC Trailers | 130 HH/148 individuals |
| # Served in PQCC Trailers | 78 HH/84 individuals |
| # Served in PQCC Motels | 863 HH/1,076 individuals |
| TOTAL Served* | 1,071 HH/1,308 individuals |

**Total unduplicated served since 4/8/20 are: 1,084 individuals*

Continuing Forward

The Sacramento City Council and Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved funding to extend the three remaining motel sites and the CalExpo trailers through the end of 2020, with at least one motel staying open through March 2021. One of the original four motel sites ceased operations on September 30, 2020. The Response Team will continue to refine the timing of the closings based on costs/funding and staging considerations.

Ensuring Health and Safety for Unsheltered Persons

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 equipment

Since efforts began April 8, 58 handwashing stations and 52 toilets in 40 locations have been made available for use by unsheltered persons. The ongoing servicing of these sanitation stations will continue through December with County Department of Health Services (DHS) funding. Additional trash removal services provide for clean-up near sanitation locations and in areas where food is distributed.

Encampments and outreach

In order to help identify the location of encampments and an approximate number of people living in encampments throughout the County who might need support during the COVID pandemic, significant outreach work was done mapping encampment locations:

- Number of encampments with more than 20 individuals identified: 46
- Number of encampments with less than 20 individuals identified: 48
- Total number of encampments identified: 94

Over 72,000 meals have been provided to unsheltered persons (through COVID team investments and volunteer groups) since the beginning of the pandemic, and approximately 200 pallets of water has been delivered to encampments throughout the County, with increased deliveries during the month of August.

Continuing Forward

Additional funding through the County Department of Health Services has been identified to continue encampment services through the end of December. Meal delivery, water distribution, sanitation stations, trash clean-up and distribution of consumables will continue at the same level.

Keep Existing Emergency Shelters Safe and Operational

This strategy seeks to ensure that existing shelters were able to safely remain open following CDC guidelines, moving vulnerable guests into COVID prevention care centers, and continuing to serve the general homeless populations.

Masks and other supplies have been widely distributed to emergency shelter providers for use by shelter staff and shelter guests to ensure that existing shelters can safely remain open following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and DHS. The Wellness on Wheels mobile clinic operated by Elica Health continues to visit eight congregate shelters weekly to provide primary care, emergency dental services, and COVID-19 testing. In general, congregate shelters have operated safely throughout the pandemic.

Continuing Forward

Additional funding through County CARES ESG II Funds has been approved to expand shelter capacity through the scattered site shelter program to add emergency shelter beds to be created for single adults who are experiencing homelessness.

COVID-19 Testing for Unsheltered Persons

County Public Health staff, in partnership with medical providers, have conducted COVID-19 testing at shelters, encampments and isolation/quarantine care centers to ensure the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness. To date 1,315 tests have been administered by this team, with nine tests returning positive results for COVID-19.

| 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 |

Re-Housing Activities

Our COVID-19 response has shifted focus from temporary to permanent solutions, ending homelessness one person at a time. We've set the ambitious goal of rapidly moving most households from the COVID-19 shelters into permanent housing with support for ongoing stability, or interim housing and shelters when that is not possible. This effort presents both an unprecedented challenge and a welcome opportunity to significantly impact lives and health over the long term. The general approach is to facilitate program placement and connection to re-housing providers as quickly as possible and to provide additional support to programs and clients on their pathway to permanent housing.

When one motel site ceased operations on September 30, 2020, the Response Team was able to successfully connect guests at the motel closing with shelter options and worked with re-housing programs to transition 18 participants directly into permanent homes.

Continuing Forward

Individualized housing assessments have been conducted for all COVID-19 shelter participants. Once assessed, shelter guests are linked to community re-housing programs for which they qualify, such as veteran specific re-housing programs for all veterans; or are connected to onsite teams who problem solve with the participant to identify a pathway to permanent housing. Ongoing, regular case conferencing with Re-Housing Program Leads ensures the ability for providers to accelerate and monitor progress toward housing. Additionally, a total of 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 progress towards housing and ultimately exits to a housing destination.

Response Plan Funding

To address the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of California and the Federal government allocated significant resources to help communities address the pandemic and protect people experiencing homelessness. City, County and Continuum of Care funding has been and will continue to be utilized collaboratively to fund COVID-19 shelters, re-housing and encampment support. The Sacramento City Council and Sacramento County Board of Supervisors have adopted and more recently amended the collaborative Homeless Response Plan. The following table summarizes the funding source and the amount that was allocated to each entity.

| Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan Funding Summary | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Funding Source | County of Sacramento | City of Sacramento | Continuum of Care/Sacramento Steps Forward | Total Funding Available |
| CARES ESG I | \$1,747,452 | \$1,453,941 | \$0 | \$3,201,393 |
| CARES ESG II ¹ | \$9,747,000 | \$3,400,000 ² | \$0 | \$13,147,000 |
| HEAP | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| COVID-HHAP | \$997,067 | \$2,245,840 | \$1,083,737 | \$4,326,644 |
| CARES CRF ¹ | \$1,000,000 | \$4,533,834 | \$0 | \$5,533,834 |
| CARES CDBG I | \$3,470,768 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,470,768 |
| CARES CDBG III ¹ | \$4,109,479 | \$0 ³ | \$0 | \$4,109,479 |
| General Fund ⁴ | \$2,150,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,150,000 |
| Total Per Jurisdiction | \$23,221,766 | \$11,633,615 | \$2,083,737 | \$36,939,118 |

| Funding Glossary | |
|-------------------|---|
| CARES ESG | Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Emergency Solutions Grant (I & II) |
| HEAP | Homeless Emergency Aid Program |
| COVID-HHAP | COVID-19 Emergency Funds |
| CARES CRF | Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Coronavirus Relief Funds |
| CARES CDBG | Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Community Development Block Grant (I & III) |

The following table shows the activities funded to implement the COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan:

Sacramento County COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan Cost Summary

¹ Indicates funding that has been added or increased in the Plan since Board approval of the Amended Plan on July 14, 2020

² Sacramento City Council has approved this funding toward the Plan, but this amount is subject to change

³ City CARES CDBG III funding towards the Plan is unconfirmed at the time of publishing

⁴ In August 2020, County General Fund replaced \$2,150,000 of County CRF in the Plan

| Activity Funded | Approximate Cost | Percent of Total |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| COVID-19 Motel Shelters | \$19,325,440 | 52% |
| COVID-19 Trailers | \$1,438,668 | 4% |
| Re-Housing (PRK & FHP) | \$7,449,567 | 20% |
| Shelter Supplies & Support (Mather, North A, North 5 th) | \$102,103 | <1% |
| Shelter Expansion (Scattered-Site) | \$620,000 | 2% |
| Project Exodus | \$650,000 | 2% |
| Homeless Prevention (BFH, TAY & Seniors) | \$2,500,000 | 6.7% |
| Encampment Outreach and Sanitation | \$1,859,600 | 5% |
| Project RoomKey Support Activities/Problem Solving | \$495,800 | 1.3% |
| Rental Assistance (SHRA) | \$1,154,005 | 3% |
| <i>SHRA Admin</i> | \$1,343,935 | 3.6% |
| Total Plan Funding Available | \$36,939,118 | |