

# 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 23, 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**. Unless otherwise indicated, this report includes **actions and information to date through Friday, December 18th**.

*As the calendar year winds down, the COVID-19 Homeless Response Team would like to express their deepest appreciation to each and every one of the many individuals and agencies whose dedication and efforts this year have contributed to our community's unprecedented collaborative effort to support, shelter, and re-house hundreds of households in the midst of this pandemic. We look forward to continued, vital collaboration and partnership in 2021 and hope everyone is able to find opportunities for rest, reflection, and joy in the coming weeks.*

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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 or 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 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. The snapshot below contains re-housing data through December 18.

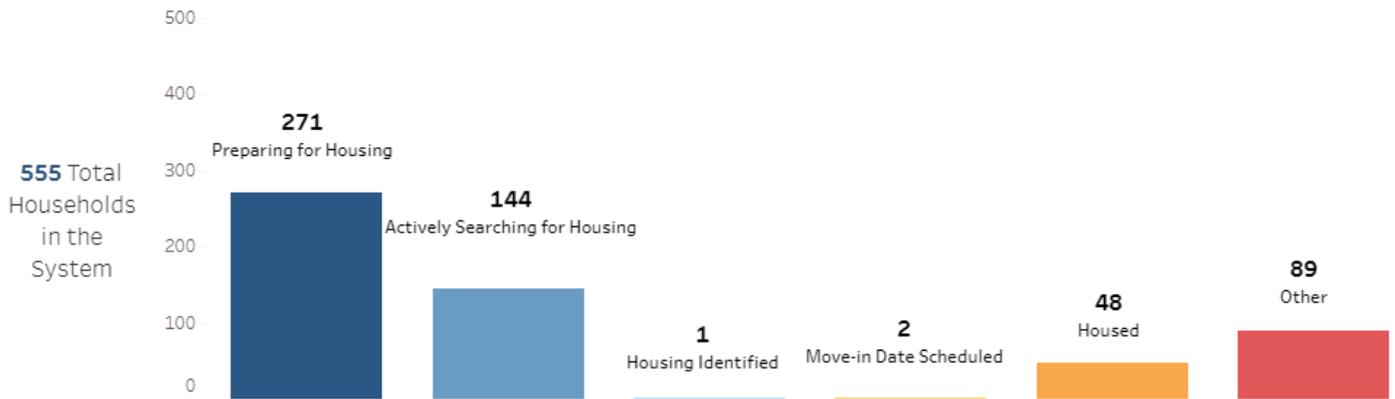
# CURRENT SYSTEM OVERVIEW

GOAL: **75%** of the **555** 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.*

*“Other” indicates households who have exited to destinations other than permanent housing. This includes households who exited to unknown destinations or places not meant for human habitation, as well as institutional settings such as hospitals and treatment centers, but the majority of households in this category exited to emergency shelters with rehousing support.*

## Re-housing Assistance into Existing Permanent Housing

Shelter guests continue to work with re-housing programs or onsite navigators to identify and progress along pathways to permanent housing. Ongoing, regular case conferencing with re-housing providers continue, supporting providers to accelerate and monitor progress toward housing.

Program leads and providers also convene on a bi-weekly basis to share progress and resources. The previous two meetings have included the presentations by and discussions about the following resources that may help re-housing working with shelter guests to secure and maintain permanent housing:

- County In-Home Supportive Services provided important information on how their clients can access these stabilizing supports.
- Mercy Housing provided a concise explanation of the various referral pathways to their Permanent Supportive Housing options, as well as information about their affordable housing programs and waitlists.
- County Behavioral Health Services shared critical details about higher levels of behavioral health care options and how to request an assessment for an individual who may qualify.

### REHOUSING PROGRAMS

Supportive Services for Veterans

City's Pathways to Health + Home

County's Behavioral Health Rehousing Services

CoC's Shelter Plus Care

County's Flexible Housing Pool – existing program clients

County's Flexible Housing Pool – expanded program

The COVID-19 Homeless Response Team greatly appreciates the significant efforts of each of the re-housing program leads and providers, as well as partners who have shared information about available resources and demonstrated commitment to collaboration in support of the re-housing effort.

## Re-housing Partner Spotlight: County Behavioral Health Rehousing Services

*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.*



Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services (BHS) and Mental Health Plan (MHP) Contractors use Prevention Assistance and Re-Housing services as temporary interventions to resolve or prevent homelessness that relates to a mental health condition. Since implementation in 2018, over 850 individuals (and households) have been housed and over 1400 have been prevented from becoming homeless.

Housing subsidies and support services are designed to prevent, divert from or resolve homelessness. This includes, but is not limited to: providing housing subsidies for permanent, transitional and temporary housing, master leases, rental security deposits, first and last month rental payments, closing rent gaps, short term emergency hotel/motel payments, utility hook ups, credit repair support, application fees, damage repair, landlord engagement and recruitment, and other fiscal housing supports as defined by BHS.

Our Contractors coordinate and collaborate with the clients' natural supports and other services to provide mental health treatment services, case management, and community care coordination. Supports are offered in a manner consistent with Housing First principles; individuals or families are not be screened out based on measures assumed to be associated with successful outcomes or due to vulnerability factors such as no or limited employment history and clients with criminal records and or evictions.

County Mental Health Plan Homeless Services Outpatient Continuum				
Program Types:	Low Intensity	Low to Moderate	Moderate Intensity Provider	High Intensity Full Service Partnerships and Wraparound
<b>Housing Interventions</b>	Wellness and Recovery Centers; Guest House	Regional Support Teams Children's FIT ← → Children's FIT	TCORE	SOAR, ARISE <sup>~</sup> , ISA, SEWP, Pathways <sup>~*</sup> , TLCS New Direction <sup>^~*</sup> , Children's Wraparound
<b>Prevention:</b> Short-term financial support, which ends when the risk of homelessness is resolved.	Independent		Semi-Supportive	
<b>Rapid ReHousing:</b> Short-term financial support up to 12 months. Room and Boards are often used.		Semi-Independent	Semi-Supportive	
<b>Permanent Support Housing Non-Chronic:</b> Client is literally homeless and linked to a high intensity mental health provider with intensive case management services.			Semi-Supportive	
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing Chronic:</b> Client has documentation verifying chronic homelessness and is linked to a high intensity mental health provider (FSP) with intensive case management services.			Semi-Supportive	
	Helps people who need brief interventions to return to previous level of functioning and developmental status.	Helps people with mental health issues maintain recovery from past episodes of significant impairment	Helps people with severe mental illness who need ongoing multi-disciplinary outpatient treatment but do not require intensive or frequent contact. Supports are used with minimal assistance.	Helps people with severe mental illness who need intensive support and treatment but need minimal support in the community
	<p>*Built units requiring chronic homeless  ~Built units requiring non-chronic homeless  ^Direct access to HUD chronic vouchers</p>			

## *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.*

**Update since last report:** CalExpo trailers, previously scheduled to close at the end of December, will remain open through mid-January to provide a safe place for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID+ to stay and receive medical supervision. The medically supported isolation units that opened in preparation for the trailers' initial closure date remain open, and will continue to be. The referral process remains unchanged.

The total number of rooms available currently and the number of individuals/households served since April 8th through December 18th are as follows:

### Medically Supported Isolation Care Center



15 rooms & 50 trailers\* available

Total of 236 individuals/203 HH served  
thru 12/18

*\*As noted above, the trailers are currently funded  
through mid-January*

### Preventative Quarantine Care Center



357 rooms available

Total of 1,205 individuals/980 HH served  
thru 12/18

*\*Total unduplicated served since 4/8/20 are: 1,155 individuals/1,143 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 8th, 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. On December 16th, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of DHS funding to continue operations of sanitation stations and water delivery through March 2021.

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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. The numbers in the table below are cumulative through Friday, December 4, 2020. We anticipate having updated numbers in our next report.*

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.*