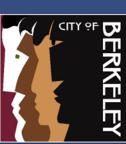
# **COVID-19** Berkeley's Response to Residents Experiencing Homelessness

October 26, 2020







- Getting people housed:
  - Safer Ground Hotels
  - Safer Ground Voucher Program
  - Berkeley Respite Program
  - Permanent Housing Solutions
- Serving people who are unhoused:
  - COVID-19 Prevention in Shelter
  - Outreach

## Getting People Housed





#### Safer Ground Hotel Program

- > Quality Inn (41 units) and Roadway Inn (29 units)
  - Provides non-congregate temporary housing to eligible unhoused households
  - Households must be 65 or older or have a CDC qualifying documented underlying medical condition
  - Both hotels are at 100% capacity



#### Safer Ground

#### **Voucher Program**

- Allows eligible households and their service provider(s) to apply for financial resources to pay for stays in non-congregate housing (typically a hotel)
- Stays can last up to 90 days



#### Berkeley Respite Program

- Safe housing for homeless individuals who meet CDC criteria:
  - 65 years and older, or
  - Qualified and documented underlying medical condition
- > Participants are identified by outreach teams in Berkeley
- > Three locations:
  - 701 Harrison Street 10 RVs
  - 1281 University Avenue 8 RVs
  - 1654 5th Street 4-bedroom house
- > BFHP is the operator and provides:
  - 3 meals per day, wellness checks, and housing navigation (linkage to health care and support with collecting documents for housing)
- Additional resources include nursing services and mental health supports
- > The contract has been extended through December 31, 2021 and to add rapid rehousing resources to support exits to permanent housing.



### Bridge from Safer Ground and Respite to Permanent Housing

Emergency Solutions Grant COVID-19 Funding (ESG-CV) – Rapid Rehousing Assistance

- \$2.1 million for Rapid Re-housing for up to 88 Berkeley clients in the North County Safer Ground Hotels
  - Abode to provide landlord liaison services and rental assistance
  - County will pay for housing navigation and housing retention services
- \$491,095 for Rapid Rehousing for households in the Berkeley Respite Program
  - BFHP will provide housing search and retention services.



#### Getting folks housed:

- Safer Ground and Respite Program
  - ❖97 households, 111 people
  - ❖3% families
- Seven households have utilized the voucher program.
- Two households have exited to permanent housing destinations.
- ❖ 12 Households have been matched to permanent supportive housing and are searching for housing.
- 18 households have been matched to Rapid Rehousing.

# Serving People Who Are Unhoused





#### Prevention in Emergency Shelter

- > Berkeley shelters now open 24 hours per day
  - Providing three meals a day to limit exposure
  - Distributing Personal Protective Equipment
  - Increased cleaning and disinfection schedule
  - Allowing hazard pay for staff
- The Public Health Officer has:
  - Toured shelters to determine new reduced census to comply with
    6' distancing requirements
  - Established a COVID response plan for shelter to report presumed or positive cases.

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## Coordinated Outreach in Berkeley



#### Community Partners:

- Homeless Outreach and Treatment Team (HOTT)
- City of Berkeley Neighborhood Services
- ❖Life Long Medical Care Street Medicine Team (LLMC)
- ❖Bay Area Community Services (BACS)
- University of California, Berkeley (Cal)
- Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA)
- Berkeley Community Resource Center (BCRC)
- Berkeley Outreach Coalition



#### **Outreach Services Provided**

- ❖ Between April and October 23<sup>rd</sup> more than
  - > 7,800 bags of food
  - > 9,900 warm meals
  - > 8,000 bottles of water
- COVID education and more than 4,400 individual hand sanitizer and 7,000 face coverings
- ❖Approximately 85 Tents, 15 Solar Chargers; and first aid kits
- More than 100 referrals to Safer Ground and Berkeley Respite Sites



#### **Outreach Services Provided**

More than 150 Coordinated Entry System Assessments

HOTT was accompanied by a COB Public Health Nurse who provided 40 COVID tests in the field.

Housing Navigation to support housing referrals

Linkage to Service Providers and benefits



#### City Services Provided

Increased the # of porta-potties by 20 and handwashing stations by 22

Expanded shower and laundry program

Activated a Clean Air Center and a Cooling Center at Old City Hall

## Thank you.

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#### **Questions / Committee Discussion**