

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

February 16, 2021

Agenda



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

Getting People Housed

During COVID-19



Safer Ground Hotel Program

- › Quality Inn (41 units) and Rodeway Inn (29 units)
 - Non-congregate temporary shelter
 - Funded by Alameda County
 - Participants must be 65 or older or have a CDC qualifying documented underlying medical condition
- › Quality Inn closed at the end of December 2020.
- › Rodeway Inn remains open
 - Total Number of People Served to date: 92
 - Current Census at Rodeway Inn: 22 households (23 people)



Safer Ground

Voucher Program

- Financial resources to pay for stays in non-congregate housing (typically a hotel) anywhere in Alameda County
- Funded by Alameda County
- Stays can last up to 90 days

- **At least 7** Berkeley Households participated in this resource



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 – 12 RVs
 - 1281 University Avenue – 5 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, mental health supports, and rapid rehousing funding
- › City of Berkeley funded through December 31, 2021



Bridge from Safer Ground and Respite to Permanent Housing

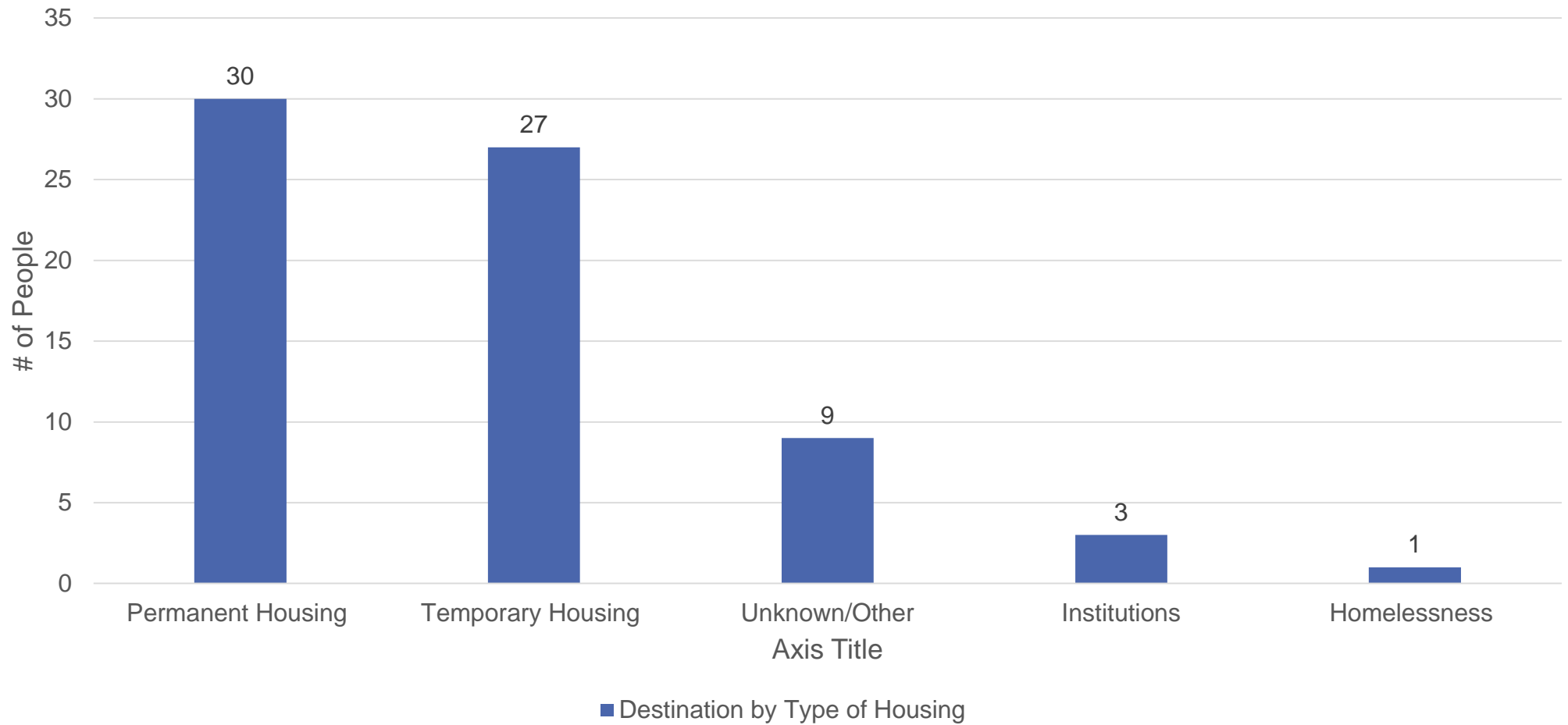
CARES Act Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Assistance

- › \$2.1 million for RRH for up to 78 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 RRH for households in the Berkeley Respite Program
 - BFHP will provide housing search and retention services.



Safer Ground/Respite Housing Outcomes



Serving People Who Are Unhoused

During COVID-19



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.

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 January 31st the following were provided*
 - › 11,700 bags of food
 - › 15,542 warm meals
 - › 9,873 bottles of water

- ❖ COVID education and 5,548 individual hand sanitizer and 8,480 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 241 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 to 25 and handwashing stations to 31

- Expanded shower and laundry programs: provided more than 4,900 showers and 248 loads of laundry

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

Thank you.

Josh Jacobs, Homeless Services Coordinator

jjacobs@cityofberkeley.info

Jennifer Vasquez, Community Services Specialist III

jvasquez@cityofberkeley.info

Questions / Council Discussion