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

October 26, 2020

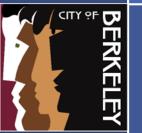


Policy Committee: Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community

Agenda

- 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.

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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.

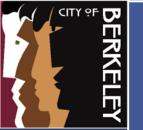


Getting folks housed:

- 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.

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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.

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 23rd 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 Page 15 of 15

Thank you.

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Questions / Committee Discussion