



Employment and Social Services

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Update on COVID-19 response related to County and CoC service provider's efforts to reduce the impact on those experiencing homelessness.

Background:

- March 18, 2020 the Governor announced a significant investment to support the urgent need to protect the public health and safety of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals
- \$100 million directly to large cities, counties and CoCs for shelter support and services
 - CA-519 (Butte) CoC allocation \$246,720.24 was redirected to the County
 - County allocation \$226,989.22, total for the region \$473,709.46
- \$50 million not allocated but available to secure rooms in hotels, motels and other facilities including trailers, requested through the EOC to the State once all other emergency funds expended
- County has initiated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to respond to the crisis
 - EOC follows federal procurement procedures, typical for disasters and emergencies, allowing County to make purchases on behalf of local providers, expediting funds and assists in finding supplies and resources

Current responses and interventions:

- Dialogue between County and local emergency shelter provider, MOUs and contracts to be implemented
- Resource requests are being processed and filled for the homeless service providers upon request through the EOC
- County works with local hospitals and homeless service providers to shelter homeless/unsheltered individuals who meet criteria as directed by the State and Federal Government
 - County engaged local hoteliers to participate in non-congregate shelter response
 - True North Housing Alliance point of contact for North County, to provide wraparound services, Jesus Center to provide meals
 - Oroville Rescue Mission point of contact for South County, to provide wraparound services and meals
 - Torres Shelter and Sabbath House refer high-risk individuals, to be moved from shelters on 4/6 to non-congregate sheltering
 - True North Housing Alliance to coordinate deployment of teams of outreach workers to encampments and parks to identify and triage individuals who qualify for emergency non-congregate shelter specific to the 65 and older or high-risk with underlying health concerns

- Outreach workers will be a collaborative effort of individuals from the North Valley Harm Reduction Coalition (NVHRC), Chico Democratic Socialists of America (Chico DSA), North Valley Mutual Aid (NVMA), and Safe Space Winter Shelter (SSWS)
- Exploration of alternative locations/concepts for sheltering of the homeless/unsheltered population in the event we need to expand beyond the hotel/motel operation
- FEMA approves Public Assistance (PA) funding for costs related to emergency, non-congregate sheltering, provided certain criteria is met
 - Tested positive with COVID-19 not requiring hospitalization
 - Exposure to COVID -19, does not require hospitalization, but needs isolation or quarantine (documented by Public Health official or medical health professional)
 - Asymptomatic high-risk individuals (65 or older or with underlying health concerns) and who require emergency non-congregate shelter
- Enhanced ESG funds to become available
- HUD to implement use of HMIS for COVID-19 response, working directly with vendors on templates for NCS and Enhanced ESG

Butte County continues to work closely with the State and closely monitors all guidance and new requirements as they become known as it related to the Care/Sheltering needs of the community. The County will continue to work with the CoC service providers and will communicate new information as it is received.