

Santa Maria / Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care COVID-19 Homelessness Task Force



Overview

The COVID-19 Homelessness Task Force will initiate efforts to address the health and safety of our homeless neighbors by partnering with local organizations and governmental agencies. The primary goal is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our homeless populations and further protect the community at large.

COVID-19 Homelessness Task Force Objectives:

1. Prevent and mitigate COVID-19 impacts for persons who remain unsheltered through mobile support centers and outreach providing access to showers, device charging, food and hygiene supplies.
2. Sustain shelter capacity for persons not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
3. Establish non-congregate settings for specific COVID-19 impacted populations unable to isolate because of lack of adequate housing.
4. Enhance homelessness prevention and housing activities through increased funding for rental assistance and supportive services.

Stakeholder Engagement and Coordinated System

COVID-19 Task Force Calls occur Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 11am for coordination of homeless response. Coordinated Outreach Meetings and Coordinated Entry System Case Conferencing Meetings continue as scheduled. SBACT facilitates calls to collect feedback on impacts and provide updates to service providers on Mondays and Thursdays. County Public Health and Community Services staff participate in calls.

Links to Resources:

- County of Santa Barbara | Public Health Department | Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) webpage: <https://publichealthsb.org/>
- County of Santa Barbara | Community Services Department | Housing and Community Development Division | Homeless Assistance | COVID-19 Resources webpage (information about emergency shelter, interim guidance for shelters, hand washing stations and restrooms, food distribution, and public health advisories): <http://countyofsb.org/housing/homlessassistance/covid-19.sbc>
- State of California | Coronavirus (COVID-19) in California webpage (do's and don'ts, what you can do, other key updates): <https://covid19.ca.gov/>
- State of California | Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency | Interim Guidance for Homeless Assistance Providers on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/covid19_homeless_guide.pdf
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) | Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | Homeless Shelters Plan, prepare, and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 webpage (interim guidance for homeless shelters; cleaning and disinfection recommendations; people experiencing unsheltered homelessness): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/index.html>