

ISSUES

Staffing for increased shelter and meal distribution needs. Development of recruitment strategy is underway.

Governor's "Project Room Key" initiative – lack of clarity and need to correct misinformation:
The Governor's initiative supports recommendations by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to provide shelter for PEH who are most vulnerable to COVID -19 and/or who are being isolated or quarantined from exposure to the illness. The County has secured a number of hotel rooms for these purposes. These efforts are intended to slow the spread of COVID-19 and in turn flatten the curve of infection. They are not intended to provide hotel rooms for all PEH.

Federal/state funding – what it is and how it will be spent:

1. The City will not receive any direct COVID-19 homeless funding from the state, as funds go to the County. But the City is in close partnership with the County and is benefiting from many programs the County is providing during the coronavirus pandemic.
2. The Homeless Response Manager (Brook Newman) salary is not being paid by state funding for homelessness. It is paid out of City general and enterprise funds.

Use of local venues (e.g. school gyms, Civic Auditorium, etc.) for shelters:

The County is taking the lead on identifying sites for new shelter capacity to serve PEH, including those exposed or sick with COVID-19, those at increased risk of complications from the virus, and the general homeless population. There are many sites under consideration at this time including City-owned facilities. If and when the County requests a City-owned facility for shelter provision, the City stands ready to provide the site and will work with the County to leverage other sites in the community such as those owned by partner agencies, UCSC, and school districts.