



Homeless Services Partnership Agreement City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento

Six-month Status Report: June 1 - December 31, 2023



INTRODUCTION

This report is to provide City Council and County Board of Supervisors an accountability and progress report on metrics of the City-County partnership agreement with the understanding this agreement was created to coordinate strategies, enhance programs, and improve efforts to prevent and address homelessness in the City of Sacramento.

Each category in the agreement is rated with a red, yellow, or green symbol to determine its progress. A red circle ● indicates the section has not been initiated or addressed, a yellow circle ● indicates the section is in progress and has not yet met the requirement language of the agreement, and lastly a green circle ● indicates the requirement has been met.

The following categories and their subcategories were reviewed for this report.

- Outreach
- Services
- Shelter and Housing
- Training and Information

OUTREACH

- Within six months of the effective date of this Agreement, the CITY and COUNTY (Along with its Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan partners) shall provide 10 encampment engagement teams to engage in intensive outreach, assessment, navigation, service delivery, and housing to as many people as possible in encampments within the City limits. **We have restructured the teams and service delivery which allows engaging a minimum of 10 encampment engagement teams providing these services.**
- CITY will provide 25 encampment workers (either Department of Community Response staff or contracted providers) to provide encampment assessment, coordination of outreach and mitigation services (debris removal, etc.), and linkages to sheltering and housing supports. **City is staffed with 28 encampment workers, 14 from DCR and 14 from Hope Cooperative.**
- COUNTY will provide 10 mental health workers with the ability and qualifications to provide a behavioral health assessment and enroll or link persons to an appropriate level of mental health and substance use services, based on the individuals' level of need. **The County has 6 behavioral health workers and 6 peer specialists for a total of 12. SB 803 expanded behavioral health workforce core competencies and certification of Peer Support Specialists allowing the assessing, enrolling, and linking of people into Behavioral Health Services.**
- The COUNTY will work assertively to hire additional mental health workers sufficient to serve persons experiencing homelessness within the City limits and will deploy 67% (based on the unsheltered PIT Count) of all its behavioral health outreach team members to work within the City limits. **An agreed upon schedule provides at least 67% of all County field-based behavioral health specialists and peer specialists are deploying to encampments within the City limits.**
- COUNTY shall provide 15 Homeless Engagement Workers, who are contracted with and funded by the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans, to provide assessments and referrals to ECM/CS services as well as to provide the services themselves for a period of one year. **The County currently has 12 Homeless Engagement Workers in the field and 3 who are in training.**
- The COUNTY's staff in the encampment engagement teams shall conduct behavioral health assessments for willing people in encampments and city-run shelters and, if eligible, enroll them in county-funded services and programs, regardless of whether they are insured or uninsured.

The County teams are conducting behavioral health assessments in encampments and City-run shelters.

OUTREACH CONTINUED

- The CITY staff shall be responsible for determining which sites the encampment engagement team will be deployed to each day, conducting initial outreach, and coordinating CITY services, such as solid waste removal, code enforcement, and public safety services. Roles and responsibilities within encampments will be developed through the Coordination Protocol. ***The City determines sites to deploy teams daily using heat maps and 311 call data. Coordination Protocols were created and continue to be updated.***
- Each encampment engagement team shall engage and provide services to people experiencing homelessness in at least two large encampments within the City limits each month. The intent of this Agreement is to have the encampment engagement teams actively intervening in at least 20 large encampments within the City limits per month. ***Based on geographical data, the equivalent of 20 large encampments per month are actively engaged and provided services.***
- If a person has travelled into the City limits from another jurisdiction, the encampment engagement teams will endeavor to navigate them back to the other jurisdiction when appropriate arrangements can be made. ***“Return to home” bus tickets have been made available when appropriate.***

SERVICES

- The COUNTY shall continue to fund and operate at least three CORE Wellness Centers within the City limits. A fourth CORE center shall be opened by the COUNTY in the Central Business District within nine months of the effective date of this Agreement, provided a reasonable and appropriate location has been identified. The CITY shall assist the COUNTY and any of its contracted providers with identifying appropriate properties for these facilities. ***There are four CORE centers operating within the City limits.***

- The COUNTY shall continue to support a sobering center operating within the City limits to meet the needs of those who are detoxing from substances. ***Crisis Receiving Behavioral Health (CRBH) is operated by WellSpace on 7 St./H St. and another expansion location being considered.***
- The COUNTY and CITY shall work through the encampment engagement teams to refer all persons experiencing homelessness to programs that provide care coordination for the unhoused. In some cases, the most appropriate level of care will be through a Full-Service Partnership (FSP) which utilizes a “whatever it takes” approach for individuals with a severe mental illness who qualify for Specialty Mental Health services. ***Individuals are being enrolled in FSPs.***
- Other individuals who do not qualify for an FSP may be referred to a slightly lower level of care through CORE Centers. ***Individuals are assessed for a lower level of care and referred.***
- Individuals who do not meet criteria for Specialty Mental Health treatment may be referred to CalAIM Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports, which will ensure that each individual who is willing, is linked to a program that provides care management. ***This service has recently become available, and capacity is improving as staff are hired and trained.***
- If the County’s FSP program reaches full capacity, the COUNTY will add slots to accommodate the need. Enrollment into CalAIM ECM or CS is based on approval by the Managed Care Plans and is not a COUNTY funded, operated, or controlled program. ***This is currently being achieved and is reported monthly through a public facing dashboard.***
- The COUNTY shall meet the State standards for access to the continuum of substance use disorder services and supports as identified in the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Waiver. ***Approved in December 2021.***
- Some individuals may qualify for involuntary behavioral health treatment or diversion programs through a variety of programs funded by or operated by the COUNTY when engagement is neither successful, nor appropriate (Laura’s Law/Assisted Outpatient Treatment, Public Conservatorship/Guardianships, Care Courts upon implementation, etc.). The COUNTY Encampment Engagement Team members will be responsible for assisting with referrals and coordination with the most appropriate Program to meet the needs of the individuals. ***The County is referring into involuntary care as needed.***

SHELTER AND HOUSING

- Within 12 months of the effective date of this Agreement, the COUNTY shall open emergency shelter sites within the County limits with a minimum of 200 shelter bed. ***As of December, 2023, the County has added an additional 191 beds.***
- Within 36 months of the effective date of this Agreement, the COUNTY shall open additional emergency shelter sites within the County limits with a minimum of 200 shelter beds. ***On track – Watt Avenue scheduled to open in 2025, and will contain 200+ beds***
- If the CITY provides shovel-ready sites or existing buildings within the City limits that can support non-congregate sheltering, for this purpose, the COUNTY shall open and operate an additional emergency shelter site or sites at those locations with a minimum total of 200 beds between those sites. However, if the COUNTY provides a site or sites within the City limits and opens and operates an emergency shelter site at that location, the number of beds on that site or sites shall be counted toward the aforementioned 200-bed requirement. ***175 beds being built by the State at Stockton; 25 of the beds at Watt will complete this requirement.***
- In order to ensure the most efficient use of resources, within 60 days of the effective date of this Agreement, the CITY and COUNTY shall fully integrate all of their emergency shelter beds into the coordinated access system to the extent possible, including all new beds. ***We are currently at 83% of City and 66% of County emergency shelters fully integrated. Both County Safe Stays at Florin and East Parkway will be integrated by the end of second quarter 2024, however, referrals through DSHS from the City are currently being taken. Once the last two County sites are entered, to the extent possible, the City and County will have integrated all emergency shelter beds into CAS.***
- The CITY and COUNTY shall work aggressively to meet the permanent supportive and affordable housing needs identified in the Local Homelessness Action Plan. Within 180 days of the effective date of this Agreement, the CITY and COUNTY will finalize an affordable housing plan that follows the strategies outlined in the Local Homeless Action Plan to increase permanent housing opportunities. ***The Affordable Housing Plan was approved on October 24th, 2023.***

- The County agrees to use all reasonable efforts to seek additional funding that will either directly fund or provide reimbursement to the County. The sources of this funding may include, but are not limited to, Federal sources such as FEMA, and COVID-relief grants and programs; and State sources such as Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (“HHAP”) funds (Cal. Health & Saf. Code, § 50216 et seq.), Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act 2013 funds (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5848.5), and Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission grants relating to the Mental Health Services Act. CITY agrees to commit dedicated homeless funding for the purposes of carrying out this agreement and agrees to cooperate and assist COUNTY in additional funding pursuits. **Both partners are committing the necessary dedicated homeless funding to carry out this agreement and the City is cooperating and assisting the County in additional funding pursuits including the Encampment Resolution Funding Program.**

TRAINING AND INFORMATION

- The COUNTY shall provide Mental Health First Aid training to CITY-designated community partners and providers that serve individuals within the City limits. **This training has been provided.**
- The COUNTY shall provide County Public Health education and relevant communicable disease screening tools to shelter operators contracted by the CITY. **These screening tools have been provided.**
- The COUNTY shall advise CITY-designated staff of all the processes by which people experiencing homelessness within the City limits will have direct access to COUNTY-administered programs and benefits, including through encampments outreach teams. **City and County staff have determined areas needing further education and training will be initiated by April 2024.**
- To the extent allowed by law, CITY and COUNTY shall track and share customer information and aggregate data on program participation and outcomes for purposes of services improvement and trends analysis. This includes the CITY’s and COUNTY’s use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Coordinated Access System (CAS). The CITY and COUNTY shall facilitate the execution of customary data sharing agreements or releases of information as needed. **The City and County are inputting information into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and using the Coordinated Access System (CAS). Tracking and sharing of customer information and outcomes continues to be built and**

is an area needing improvement. The County is continuing to invest in building out a Social Health Information Exchange (SHIE), which will further our efforts in data integration.

- The COUNTY shall provide training and authorization for CITY-designated staff to write and issue 5150 holds (pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150). ***The City initially delayed requesting the 5150 training but has determined its use necessary in specific cases. The County will initiate the training, by June 2024.***

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Every six months following the effective date of this Agreement, the CITY and COUNTY shall present a joint report for discussion (i.e. not on the consent calendar) at the meetings of both the Sacramento City Council and Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. The report must include metrics on all the conditions of this Agreement.