



## Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness Quarterly Report – 21 September 2020

### Status of COVID-19 Response System Implementation via the Five Strategies Outlined in "[Addressing Homelessness in Light of COVID-19](#)" (published in April 2020)

- Support expanded hygiene and sanitation resources
  - The City-funded ([Department of Community Services](#), DCS) Pūnāwai Rest Stop continues to be available 24/7
  - Unattached park comfort stations are open during normal hours with selected comfort stations open 24/7
  - Mobile hygiene facilities continue to serve gap areas and special needs
- Address resource needs of providers and city staff in a timely manner
  - Bi-weekly Homelessness Working Group, City-State-provider interagency leadership coordinating meetings: ensures communications, planning, and action around key areas of common concern
  - All efforts coordinated through the City [Department of Emergency Management](#)
- Provide quarantine/isolation facilities for those unable to self-quarantine
  - [The Ka'aahi Temporary Quarantine and Isolation Center \(TQIC\)](#), a City-HDOH (Hawai'i State Department of Health) partnership, has been fully operational since April and has served 194 homeless clients (as of 9/15)
  - Due to the outbreak at IHS Sumner, that facility was turned into a TQIC, going back into normal operations on 9/14
  - Additional hotel rooms have been leased to address ISOQ needs for residents of O'ahu regardless of housing status; assignment is based on medical acuity and is coordinated through Hawai'i CARES 24/7 at 832.3100; as of 9/15, 293 units total are leased with 133 units available and 113 units with 180 people occupied
  - The City contracted with a Waikiki hotel to add 130 of the 293 rooms available to HDOH for isolation/quarantine purposes
- Expand shelter capacity
  - [The Provisional Outdoor Screening and Triage Facility \(POST\)](#), operated by HPD, funded by both City and State resources, and opened in April, continues to serve unsheltered homeless persons at Ke'ehi Lagoon Beach Park; as of 9/11, POST has served 481 unsheltered homeless persons with 46% (219 persons) positive placement rate (positive placement = exit to other shelter, treatment, relocation to continent, family reunification, and permanent housing)
  - Recent average occupancy at POST has been around 70 persons with a maximum operational capacity of 150 units (each unit can accommodate up to three persons)
  - POST does not require a COVID-19 test for admittance but clients must agree to testing when it is offered; POST will receive COVID-19 positive clients who have a medical clearance
  - Transportation to POST (and shelters and treatment facilities) is available 24/7 coordinated through the POST line; in August 232 persons took advantage of this service; as of 9/14 transportation for COVID-19 positive clients also began coordinated through the Hawai'i CARES line (funded by DCS)
- Homelessness Prevention
  - Suspension of evictions due to inability to pay is in effect through September, although the CDC has recommended the moratorium continue through the end of the year
  - [City and County of Honolulu COVID-19 Household Hardship Relief Fund \(HHRF\)](#), managed by DCS, launched via AUW and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
  - The majority of programs funded by ESG-CV1 were oriented toward homeless prevention programs; notice at <http://statelegals.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/13/0001279121-01/>

## Other New Projects and Programs

- Homeless Veterans Virtual Conference was held on September 9-10, 2020 with the theme, “Serving Never Stops: Assisting Homeless Veterans During the Pandemic”; sponsored by the Homeless Veterans Task Force, VA, and the Mayors Challenge; over 250 people participated with a schedule which included plenaries and 11 breakout sessions; conference presentations and videos are available at <http://www.honolulu.gov/housing/veterans/hvvc.html>
- An updated version of the Homeless Help Card was released; hard copy requests can be directed to [officeofhousing@honolulu.gov](mailto:officeofhousing@honolulu.gov) with [softcopy](#) available online for download (revised, August 2020)
- Several new affordable housing projects (targeting 50/60% AMI and below) were added to the city’s portfolio or started, including:
  - [754 McCully Street](#), 10 unit property acquired under the City [Department of Land Management](#) (DLM)
  - [West Loch Modular Housing Project](#) groundbreaking, 58 units, under DLM
  - Since 2016 the City has acquired, completed or is in development to add 1,328 housing units to the City’s affordable rental housing portfolio, **now totaling 2,508 units**, thereby doubling the number of City housing units

## Working Together throughout O’ahu

- Hurricane Douglas response: HOU and DCS, together with the Partners in Care, worked to coordinate outreach and evacuation of homeless persons with various City and State agencies; thank you to our many providers who went above and beyond in staffing evacuation shelters and special outreach efforts

## Measuring, Learning, and Sharing

- We released, [Housing in Honolulu: Analyzing the Prospect of Taxing Empty Homes](#) by the [UCLA, Luskin School of Public Affairs](#) (July 2020)
- [Rock Bottom](#) (by Pookela Intern Asher Uchiyama and VISTA Ryan Beckley), a three-part miniseries on homelessness was released in July
- From January 2020 until September 2020, there has been a 29% (81 fewer from 278 to 197) reduction in homeless veterans on the “by name list” and a 31% (32 fewer from 104 to 72) reduction in chronically homeless veterans on the “by name list”
- The City’s new [CARES Act funding dashboard](#) has gone live, available via [OneOahu.org](https://www.oneoahu.org): <https://www.oneoahu.org/dashboard>

## Mayor’s Office of Housing E-Newsletter

- Stay up to date on the latest news regarding housing and homelessness. Use the following link to subscribe for free: <http://eepurl.com/g9QoDb>

## Mark Your Calendars

- **The Annual Statewide Homeless Awareness Conference is going virtual this year: November 18-19 (Wednesday-Thursday), from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The four counties and the state will be leading the event, working with Bridging the Gap and Partners in Care

