

Supplemental Information Packet

Public Communications Received after 3:00 p.m.

June 27, 2023

Meeting of June 27, 2023

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the Subcommittee after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available in the City Clerk's Office, 501 Poli Street, Room 204, Ventura, during normal business hours as well as on the City's Website –

www.cityofventura.ca.gov

<https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/agendacenter>

**ITEM NO. 6. Ventura County Project
Roomkey Presentation**

Project RoomKey IN VENTURA COUNTY

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Since the start of Project RoomKey (PRK) in March 2020, **OVER 800** participants have been assisted with motel vouchers in Ventura County (VC), providing temporary shelter and meals throughout the pandemic.

On any given night, PRK has been able to shelter **UP TO:**

320
INDIVIDUALS



WHO HAS BEEN SERVED

1

Project RoomKey

OF PERSONS SINCE 2020: **OVER 800**

2

Vulnerable Persons Served

UNHOUSED SENIORS 65 & OLDER AND Adults with health conditions (immune compromised)

3

Placements into Successful Housing Destinations

478

4

In partnership with VCAAA and Slate Catering

Over 1 million MEALS

5

WRAP AROUND SERVICES

FOR ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELLNESS.



6

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Homeless Service Providers support clients with CASE MANAGEMENT, PERMANENT HOUSING PLAN, REFERRALS TO OTHER RESOURCES

7

VETERAN POPULATION

OVER 40 VETERANS SUCCESSFULLY REFERRED FOR VETERAN SERVICES AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

8

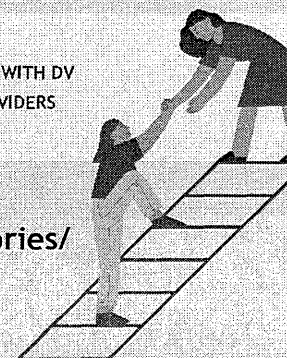
HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

84 PERSONS



PARTNERING WITH DV SERVICE PROVIDERS

Visit www.venturacoc.org/success-stories/ to learn more about PRK in VC





SUBJECT: Receive an Update on the Ventura County Project Roomkey Transition Plan

BACKGROUND: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Project Roomkey (PRK) has provided motel vouchers to support non-congregate shelter for highly vulnerable persons experiencing homelessness since March 2020. Through this temporary shelter program, the County of Ventura has supported over 800 persons with nearly 500 persons exiting to permanent housing or other temporary housing through case management services provided by homeless service providers. Additionally, over 40 veterans were referred to services and supportive housing. The County Executive Office has been providing administration and oversight which includes the review of referrals from case managers, prioritization of placements, issuing vouchers, maintaining documentation, communicating with both case management and motel staff, and managing client counts for food delivery through the VC Area Agency on Aging's (VCAAA) meal delivery program. FEMA funding covered the motel and food costs from March 2020 through February 2023. With the end of FEMA funds, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided grant funds to continue to support PRK placements and assist with rehousing strategies. We anticipate this funding will cover the motel costs until January 2024 as program participants exit to various housing placements.

DISCUSSION: The State of California has required local jurisdictions to report on Project Roomkey (PRK) participants, including the number sheltered at each motel location and the number exiting to housing or other locations. There are currently 177 persons sheltered in PRK motels. Of the 177 persons in PRK, 67 or 38% are homeless seniors 62 & older with limited Social Security Income who need affordable housing placements. The remaining 110 are those living with high-risk health conditions who need either Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or extremely affordable housing units. Homeless service providers continue to explore all housing options with clients served by PRK. The United Way of Ventura County – Landlord Engagement Program has been supporting the housing location and navigation efforts by securing rental units when available, by offering bonus funding to landlords and property managers.

There are numerous supportive housing resources coming online within the next few years, beginning this Fall 2023 with Step Up in Thousand Oaks with 77 PSH units. Additional resources include Oxnard's Casa Aliento and Central Terrace, that will collectively provide 156 new affordable housing units. In addition, the City of Oxnard has approved the construction of Casa de Carmen, a housing development that will also provide 56 new PSH units, located at 2nd and B Street. The timely availability of these units depends on several factors, including the funding awards and construction timeframes. It is likely that alternative housing options for PRK clients will need to be available by the end of December 2023 while these projects are being finalized. The County Executive Office is awaiting the award announcements for State Homekey Round 3 and evaluating other sheltering options.

PRK has been an unheralded success, thanks to the heartfelt work of the coordination of several County agencies and partners. Highlights include:

1. Providing over 200,000 motel nights
2. Serving over 1,000,000 hot meals and food boxes
3. Greatly reducing the number of Covid-19 infections and hospitalizations among the most vulnerable and unprotected members of the community

In an unexpected perk, local businesses benefitted from the injection of federal and state grant dollars to pay for program related goods and services, helping the local economy weather the challenging conditions of the pandemic.

Thanks to FEMA and CDSS funds, the most vulnerable members of the community were served with a clean, safe and comfortable space to sleep and provided with wraparound services. For a firsthand account of PRK's success and how it has transformed participants, please click [here](#) for shared testimonies. The meals provided nourishment and food security, freeing clients from having to worry where the next meal will come from. In some cases, extremely ill clients that could not recover from a variety of health complications, passed away. For these clients, PRK provided a peaceful and dignified confine where they spent their last days, away from the cold, harsh street environment.

The VC CoC staff continues to work closely with partner agencies who are supporting clients in PRK. The case managers have been completing vulnerability assessments, gathering eligibility documentation, and referring clients to the Coordinated Entry System for PSH prioritization. The number of referrals through the Coordinated Entry System has increased significantly over the past year, especially with the addition of Emergency Housing Vouchers through the local housing authorities.

In addition to the noted coordination with the varied partners, VC CoC staff has spent an extensive amount of time and emotion ensuring PRK clients will be successful on their paths towards PSH/PH. The amount hours of behind-the-scenes work staff cannot be quantified as they work towards having zero exits to the streets.