



Meet the Essential Needs of the County's Most Vulnerable Populations

Lead Partners San Mateo County Core Service Agencies, San Mateo County Housing, San Mateo County Human Services Agency, Second Harvest

Support Partners Community-based organizations, nonprofits, foundations

- Implementation Objectives**
- Provide targeted financial and other assistance to ensure vulnerable residents remain housed
 - Increase the number of affordable housing units throughout San Mateo County
 - Provide support to “mom and pop” property owners
 - Ensure sufficient food and essential supplies are provided to those in need
 - Leverage state and federal resources and legislative opportunities
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COVID-19 has amplified inequities and created extreme hardships for the community's unserved, underserved, under-resourced, and ineffectively served individuals and families. Vulnerable populations include those who are at higher risk for experiencing poor health outcomes because they face significant hardships (e.g., financial, educational, housing, etc.), have cultural or linguistic barriers to accessing quality health services, or live in locations where providers aren't readily available. These groups may include low-income children, families, and older adults, racial and ethnic minorities, rural communities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, people with physical or cognitive disabilities, non-English speakers, immigrants (documented and undocumented), and people experiencing homelessness. The response to COVID-19 included eviction moratoriums and a surge in emergency financial assistance to these groups. But these are short-term solutions, and many vulnerable populations need multifaceted support. Ensuring that basic needs are met for vulnerable populations advances equity and provides access to quality services for all unserved, underserved, under-resourced, and ineffectively served individuals and families.

Challenges

- Eviction moratoriums are temporary relief for renters
- Many low-income or unemployed renters lack the ability to pay back missed rent
- Possible increase of homelessness once eviction moratorium expires
- Property owners, particularly “mom and pop” property owners, are struggling to make mortgage payments and pay for taxes, insurance, and maintenance costs without rental income
- An increasing number of individuals and families rely on food distribution
- Many children may have a gap in meals with schools closed
- Older adults and the medically vulnerable are sheltering at home
- COVID-19 unemployment benefits have been reduced

Identified Needs

- Expanded rental assistance programs
- Property owner assistance programs
- Transitional policies in anticipation of the expiration of eviction moratorium
- Options for individuals who are homeless once Project Roomkey ends
- Expanded food distribution and delivery options

Relevant Data

- Requests for rental assistance by geographic area, income, and demographic data such as age, race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, etc.
- Rental vacancy rates and average monthly rent by geographic area
- Applications for the Immigrant Assistance Program
- Requests for assistance from small property owners by geographic area, income, and demographic data such as age, race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, etc.
- Project Roomkey utilization
- People served, amount of food distributed, and number of distribution sites
- Senior meals delivered (Great Plates and Meals on Wheels)
- CalFresh applications for food assistance
- Case management applications and referrals by geographic area, income, and demographic data such as age, race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, etc.
- Number of overdoses with relevant demographic metrics such as age, race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, etc.
- Number of virtual alcohol and substance abuse recovery groups

Current Programs

- ✓ [County Board of Supervisors Order related to eviction moratorium/rental payback](#)
- ✓ Tracking state and federal eviction and rent assistance proposals
- ✓ [Core Services Agencies COVID-19 Emergency Financial Assistance Program](#)
- ✓ [San Mateo County Immigrant Relief Fund](#)
- ✓ Small property owners' assistance program through CARES funding
- ✓ South San Francisco Small Property Owner Assistance Program
- ✓ Legal and other assistance for renters and property owners
- ✓ [Second Harvest Food Bank](#)
- ✓ [Great Plates Program](#)
- ✓ School District Universal Meals Pilot Program
- ✓ Homeless shelters
- ✓ [State Homekey Program](#)

Vulnerable Populations Support Committee Members

- Hon. Alicia Aguirre, City of Redwood City, Cañada College
- Stephanie Balon, Filipino Mental Health Initiatives
- Tanya Beat, Human Resources
- Laura Bent, Samaritan House
- Pat Bohm, Daly City Partnership
- Lisa Mancini, San Mateo County Health Aging and Adult Services
- Mary McGrath, San Mateo County Office of Education
- Alex Melendez, Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County
- Hon. Mark Nagales, South San Francisco

- Nancy Chang Stanford University
- Marci Dragun, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
- Georgia Farooq, Thrive Alliance
- Will Gibson, San Mateo County Planning and Building
- Scott Gilman, San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
- Stewart Hyland, Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County
- Jack Johnson, San Mateo County Office of Sustainability
- Connie Juarez-Diroll, San Mateo County Manager's Office
- John Keller, Burlingame Hills Association
- Susan Kokores, Commission on the Status of Women
- Francisco Sapp, San Mateo Pride Center
- Caleb Smith, San Mateo County Office of Sustainability
- Robert Spencer, San Mateo County Correctional Health
- Mike Stancil, Daly City Partnership
- Shawneece Stevenson, The Primary School
- Olga Talamante, Chicana Latina Foundation
- Michele Tate, NOVA
- LaTrice Taylor, Samaritan House
- Lisa Tealer, Bay Area Community Health Advisory Council
- Kava Tulua, One East Palo Alto
- Justin Watkins, Get Healthy San Mateo
- Tracy Weatherby, Second Harvest Food Bank
- Stephanie Weisner, StarVista



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Objectives	Recommendations
1. Provide targeted financial and other assistance to ensure vulnerable residents remain housed	1.1. Continue to provide emergency rental assistance to qualifying households that have been adversely affected by COVID-19 1.2. Continue to project future needs for emergency rental assistance funding and work with public, private, and other funders to meet projected demand 1.3. Provide funding to community-based organizations and nonprofits to expand culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and application assistance to residents for financial assistance programs 1.4. Pilot an incentive program for renters and property owners to compromise on back rent 1.5. Continue to contract with community-based organizations and nonprofits to provide legal support for renters and track ongoing needs for legal service 1.6. Continue to contract with community-based organizations and nonprofits to provide information and referral and other support services for renters and property owners 1.7. Identify opportunities for long-term rental and mortgage assistance over multiple months 1.8. Identify opportunities to reduce overcrowding in COVID-19 hotspot areas
2. Increase the number of affordable housing units throughout San Mateo County	2.1. Maintain County funding commitment to the Affordable Housing Fund 2.2. Continue community engagement efforts as requested by cities to support affordable housing 2.3. Continue support for affordable housing solutions such as second units and shared housing 2.4. Identify strategies for cities to invest their affordable housing funds to build new affordable units 2.5. Meet Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) by building the required number of affordable housing for all income levels

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| 3. Provide support to “mom and pop” property owners | 3.1. Target financial support to small “mom and pop” residential property owners (those with few units and who are dependent on rent to pay the mortgage) to assist the most vulnerable property owners and renters
3.2. Provide culturally and linguistically appropriate marketing and application support for small property owners for financial and all other assistance programs
3.3. Track applications for small property owner assistance and assess the County program to determine additional needs for assistance and any changes that would improve program operation if additional funding is available |
| 4. Ensure sufficient food and essential supplies are provided to those in need | 4.1. Work with Second Harvest and community partners to identify any unmet food needs in geographically targeted low-income communities
4.2. Continue receiving updates from Second Harvest on the extent of need and their ability to meet that need
4.3. Continue getting updates from San Mateo County Human Services Agency on applications, approvals and backlog (if any) for CalFresh
4.4. Expand capacity of Second Harvest and other local organizations to provide assistance with groceries and meals if an increased need arises
4.5. Assess targeted needs for meal and essential item delivery and develop options for expanding meal delivery programs for homebound vulnerable residents and residents who need to isolate |
| 5. Leverage state and federal resources and legislative opportunities | 5.1. Advocate for, monitor, and analyze state and federal legislation and policy and how it may affect local property owner and renter assistance and protection
5.2. Advocate for, monitor, and analyze state and federal legislation and policy and how it may affect provision of food and essential items to vulnerable residents
5.3. Advocate for more income-based housing vouchers |
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