



To: Community Stakeholders

From: The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

Subject: SIP Rehousing – Pandemic Prioritization

Date: January 26, 2021

SIP Rehousing – Pandemic Prioritization

As part of Mayor Breed's Homelessness Recovery Plan, the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing is implementing the Shelter in Place (SIP) Rehousing and Demobilization Proposal in partnership with the COVID Command Center, other city departments, and over twenty local community-based partners. The Homelessness Recovery Plan is a multi-pronged approach to rehousing guests out of SIP hotels, preventing people from falling into homelessness and operating our congregate shelter in a COVID-informed manner. According to the Mayor's Homelessness Recovery Plan, the following will be needed to rehouse everyone:

- 1,500 new units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- 1,500 placements into existing PSH pipeline
- 1,500 placements into existing PSH units where turnover occurs
- Expanded Problem Solving
- Medium-term housing solutions for adults

While this is occurring, we also need to continue our mission of taking care of those still on the streets, or who are in immediate danger of experiencing homelessness. To accomplish this, the following will be needed:

- Expanded homelessness prevention strategies
- Reactivated Congregate Shelters to the COVID-informed capacity of ~1,000 beds in the adult system (prev. ~2,000 beds)
- Expanded Congregate Shelter:
 - Opened Bayview SAFE Navigation Center, and Lower Polk TAY Navigation Center
- Maintained Safe Sleep Sites and Villages

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City opened 25 Shelter-in-Place hotels to provide non-congregate shelter to COVID vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. The City is dedicated to ensuring people in SIP Hotels as of November 15, 2020 are rehoused. The SIP Rehousing Plan is an important component of the Homelessness Recovery Plan and is needed to ensure that COVID vulnerable people have the long-term housing needed to keep them safe from the dual public health crises of COVID-19 and homelessness

To achieve the goals of the SIP Rehousing Plan, a new, temporary housing placement prioritization system is needed. HSH is building off the existing Coordinated Entry System to guide the housing assessment and placement of people in the SIP hotels.

The below table shows the four categories for prioritization, who they are, and the strategies for rehousing them:



Prioritization Category	Description of Population	Exit Strategies	Estimated Population Distribution ¹
A. Housing Referral Status	People in SIP sites who were assessed as Housing Referral Status, including those with COVID vulnerabilities, and those who are not COVID vulnerable but were prioritized through the Coordinated Entry assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult PSH, including scattered site PSH• TAY PSH or RRH• Family PSH or RRH• Senior PSH, including scattered site PSH	40%
B. Pandemic Prioritization: age 60 and above, COVID Vulnerable	People in SIP sites who are not Housing Referral Status, but are COVID vulnerable due to age (60+) and will likely require a <i>permanent</i> subsidy to exit the SIP hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior scattered site PSH	25%
C. Pandemic Prioritization: COVID Vulnerable, under age 60	People in SIP sites who are not Housing Referral Status, but have a medical condition making them COVID vulnerable, and will likely require a <i>temporary</i> subsidy to exit the SIP hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult medium-term subsidies (24 months)• TAY RRH• Family RRH	25%
D. Problem Solving Status, Non-COVID Vulnerable, under age 60	People in SIP sites who are not Housing Referral Status, and not COVID vulnerable, and will likely require Problem Solving resources to exit the SIP hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem Solving rental assistance grant (Diversion Plus)	10%

Housing Referral Status

The Coordinated Entry Assessment uses barriers to housing, chronicity of homelessness, and vulnerabilities related to physical health, behavioral health and experience of trauma to determine a guest's priority for housing, including the type of housing that best fits their needs.

COVID Vulnerabilities Eligible for Pandemic Prioritization

HSH follows public health guidance when determining COVID vulnerability as part of Pandemic Prioritization for housing resources. The Department of Public Health (DPH) created a list of vulnerabilities used for assigning pandemic-related resources. SIP guests with at least one of the below criteria at any point in their medical history will be eligible for Pandemic Prioritization housing resources:

- Age 60 or above
- Chronic kidney disease

¹ Population distributions are based on data as of 11/20/20. Actual distribution likely to change as additional data is gathered about SIP guests.



- COPD, and people who are oxygen-dependent
- Solid organ transplant recipients
- Blood and bone marrow transplant recipients
- Immune deficiencies
- Uncontrolled HIV (with CD4<200/14%, detectable VL)
- Cancer
- Obesity (BMI of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, arrhythmia, Pulmonary Hypertension, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- Pregnancy
- End-stage Liver Disease
- Cystic Fibrosis

Timeline

December and January 2020-2021:

- HSH communicated with all SIP guests encouraging them to connect with care coordinators to begin the rehousing process.
- HSH and DPH work in partnership to identify all SIP guests by their age and COVID vulnerability

January 2021:

- Outreach to guests, providers and the public

February & March 2021:

- Pandemic Prioritization-informed housing match begins
- Seniors over 60 (Category B) Senior scattered site PSH
- People under 60 who are vulnerable to COVID (Category C) to Rapid Rehousing

Pandemic Prioritization will help ensure that people who are in SIP hotels (by Nov 15th) are prioritized for housing placement. This commitment centers the vision that housing is healthcare which is more critical than ever during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In addition to our commitment to rehousing this cohort of SIP guests, HSH is committed to equity and housing justice within our processes. HSH will use dashboards to monitor race and ethnicity data and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data about SIP guests in the rehousing process. At this time, there are some guests with no race or SOGI data listed in our systems of record, but we anticipate updating this data as more assessments are completed. HSH is developing plans for addressing any disparities seen in the data, which may impact the distribution of guests in each category.

While HSH is laser focused on rehousing the pre-November 15th cohort of people out of the SIP hotels, we know that there are other people in need of housing as well. Specifically, there are Housing Referral Status people outside of the SIPs waiting for housing. People placed into the SIP shelter hotels after November 15, 2020 will not be prioritized ahead of other highly vulnerable people waiting for housing but who are ineligible for the SIPs. Therefore, we must move more quickly to rehouse as many SIP guests as possible so that we can move on to reopening the housing placement system for other vulnerable populations.



Next Steps

HSH is currently in the process of sharing this information about Pandemic Prioritization with SIP guests, SIP and rehousing providers, and community stakeholders. HSH will be sending letters directly to impacted guests and holding trainings for provider partners involved in the implementation of the pandemic prioritization.

Attachment: Letter to All SIP Guests RE Pandemic Prioritization