

COVID-19 Food Security & Shelter Working Group - Success Stories

Homeless Hubs & Meal Distribution

In early April, the Department of Human Services and community partners opened four pop-up Homeless Hubs to provide food, hygiene items, and information on COVID-19 to homeless individuals who are unsheltered and without access to food, water, and hygiene due to the impacts of COVID-19. This coalition of non-profit, faith based, and private organizations is working to fill the gap from increased demand among unsheltered homeless for food. Staff and volunteers from Travis Park Church/Corazon Ministries, SAMMinistries, Christian Assistance Ministries (CAM), Centro San Antonio, and Harvest Church are helping to operate the four hubs, recruit volunteers, and provide showers (CAM only). SAPD is collecting hygiene items at police substations and many restaurants have donated meals for distribution at the hubs. As of May 1, almost 4,000 meals have been provided at the hubs. Additionally, Catholic Charities, Catholic Worker House, Church Under the Bridge, and Salvation Army have served more than 10,000 meals across the City and Haven for Hope has delivered more almost 5,000 meals to unsheltered homeless individuals living in encampments across the County.

Second Hotel for High Risk Homeless Individuals

The City's Emergency Operations Center secured a downtown hotel to provide isolation or quarantine for community members who have a need to isolate. On April 27, the City opened rooms at the hotel for individuals experiencing homelessness who are older or medically vulnerable to ensure their health and safety. Currently unsheltered or newly homeless are unable to access existing homeless shelters due to closed intake. People experiencing homelessness or service providers can call the Homeless Hotline for information on shelter options as needed. As of May 4, there are 36 homeless individuals and families staying at the hotel, which is staffed by City employees redirected from multiple departments and programs.

