



City of Malibu News

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City, County and Community Organizations Address Impacts of the Coronavirus Crisis on People Experiencing Homelessness

(Malibu, CA) – The City of Malibu has partnered with local community organizations that offer services to people experiencing homelessness and adapted services amidst the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic crisis.

As government facilities and businesses across the nation and locally have closed to help slow the spread of the coronavirus and protect vulnerable groups, people experiencing homelessness have lost access to bathrooms, sinks with soap and water and electrical power for charging their phones, which are critical for outreach workers to be able to stay in touch with them.

“The City of Malibu has a whole-community approach, and that means that our emergency response and services take all people in the community into account, including people experiencing homeless,” Mayor Karen Farrer said. “Homeless people are extremely vulnerable during this pandemic because of underlying health conditions, and lack of sanitation and access to healthcare, so we have a humanitarian duty to help those most in need.”

The City and partner organizations have taken the following action:

- The City has provided portable toilets and handwashing stations to replace the loss of access to the Malibu Library;
- One community organization is installing a power cord that homeless individuals can access to charge their phones;
- The City is providing portable, rechargeable cell phone chargers for individuals who are engaged with services through the Malibu Homeless Outreach Team;
- Community organizations who provide lunches to the homeless have switched to a "grab and go" meals and have educated homeless individuals on the importance of social distancing;
- The Malibu Homeless Outreach Team has acquired personal protection equipment to enable them to continue their field outreach services;
- City Manager Reva Feldman met with representatives from Los Angeles County on March 26 and did a walk-through of the former County courthouse building adjacent to the Malibu Library. The City and County are working on plans to establish a homeless shelter at that location;
- On Friday, March 27, a doctor from Venice Family Clinic joined the Outreach Team to do a thorough medical check of homeless individuals in the community, including assessing them for symptoms of COVID-19 and taking their temperature.

The County of Los Angeles has also adapted their services. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) secured the extension of 12 Winter Shelter Program sites past the usual end date of March 31. LAHSA is also working with the City of Los Angeles to set up 42 additional shelters, and working with partner agencies to create 2000 beds, including RVs, where they can isolate people experiencing symptoms. In addition, they are strategically placing over 300 mobile hygiene stations and have deployed 18 mobile shower facilities across the county.

For more City information about the coronavirus response and resources for the community visit www.MalibuCity.org/Coronavirus. For information about the City's efforts to address homelessness, visit www.MalibuCity.org/Homelessness.

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