

**YOU SHOULD NOT BE HOMELESS WHILE ON PAROLE, ESPECIALLY
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

****IF YOU ARE AT RISK OF BEING HOMELESS AT ANY POINT WHILE YOU
ARE ON PAROLE, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE BY CALLING US
COLLECT AT (415) 433-6830.**

**ATTACHED IS INFORMATION REGARDING HOUSING RESOURCES
AVAILABLE DURING THE PANDEMIC (AND PERHAPS AFTERWARDS)**

Enclosure A - Project RoomKey - Project Roomkey was established in March 2020 as part of the state response to the COVID-19 pandemic. People known to be COVID-positive or know to have been exposed to COVID but do not need hospitalization; and those with high-risk factors such as age over 65, chronic health conditions or respiratory issues.

Enclosure B - Operation Hope - The Project Hope program was created to protect people releasing from prison during the COVID-19 pandemic and the California communities to which they are returning. This voluntary initiative provides free hotel accommodations to people released from state prison who have a need to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19 exposure or positive status.

Enclosure C - STOP Temporary Housing - Additional funding through the Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) has been allocated to provide temporary housing services for parolees with an identified housing need. The DRP has contracted with the Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP) to provide the following temporary housing and services.

Enclosure A

Project Roomkey/Housing and Homelessness COVID Response

Project Roomkey was established in March 2020 as part of the state response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of Project Roomkey is to provide shelter options for people experiencing homelessness.

California has a demonstrated need for hotel and motel rooms around the State to immediately provide non-congregate shelter options for the sick and medically vulnerable. Project Roomkey gives people who are experiencing homelessness and are recovering from COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 such a place to recuperate and properly quarantine outside of a hospital. It also provides a safe place for isolation for people who are experiencing homelessness and at high risk for medical complications should they to become infected.

Project Roomkey units are intended to be temporary, emergency shelter options, while also serving as a pathway to permanent housing.

Eligibility/For Whom

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) recommends prioritizing this extremely scarce resource in a manner consistent with state and federal public health guidance, and for people experiencing homelessness which includes people who have tested positive for COVID 19, have been exposed to COVID 19, or are “high risk” of health complications.

Eligibility and How to Apply

Project Roomkey Program is administered locally. Eligibility varies by community and includes:

- a. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 who do not require hospitalization, but need isolation or quarantine (including those exiting from hospitals);
- b. Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 (as documented by a state or local public health official, or medical health professional) that do not require hospitalization, but need isolation or quarantine; and
- c. Individuals who are asymptomatic, but are at “high-risk,” such as people over 65 or who have certain underlying health conditions (respiratory, compromised immunities, chronic disease), and who require Emergency shelter as a social distancing measure.

We have attached contact numbers and names for County Welfare agencies that administer Project Roomkey in each California County.

Enclosure B

Project Hope

Through Project Hope, individuals who are actively positive for COVID-19, or who are identified as having been exposed to COVID-19 while incarcerated, are able to safely quarantine or isolate upon release from prison. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and other state agencies have joined together to provide safe transportation, hotel accommodations, and meal service to all participants.

Who will be occupying the rooms?

People being released from state prison who have a need to quarantine due to confirmed direct exposure to someone with COVID 19, or those with a need to isolate due to having an active case of COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic or do not require significant medical care and can reside independently.

The program's eligibility criteria exclude some people, including those required to register under sex offense laws, those convicted of arson, or those whose mental health designation while incarcerated was Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP), indicating long-term mental health treatment needs. For these individuals, CDCR's Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) and Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) work with both the releasing individual and the county to which they are returning to identify appropriate housing, including reentry programs, private residences, and emergency beds activated during the pandemic.

How does someone get a room?

The placement option is automatic and should not require the incarcerated individual to ask for services. CDCR and California Correctional Health Care Services work closely together at all institutions to identify those people who are due to be released, either on their natural release date or who have had their release date expedited. Prior to release, institution staff share information about Project Hope with the eligible individual. Institution staff, as a function of the pre-release process, ask the releasing individual if they would like to participate.

What services are provided?

Transportation is provided by CDCR directly to the hotel and participants receive three meals a day through the duration of their stay. DAPO staff work with participants to order meals from delivery services that provide no-contact drop-off.

CDCR also provides a hygiene kit to each releasing individual that includes a toothbrush, tooth powder, soap, and other hygiene items. An extra set of clothing is provided, along with five non-perishable box lunches (provided in addition to food delivery). Project Hope participants are provided contact information should they encounter any challenges. Staff are available 24/7 to resolve any issues related to Project Hope or its wraparound services.

What happens after the quarantine period is completed in Project Hope?

Upon the completion of the 14-day quarantine period, the participant will begin their established reentry plans, including CDCR-funded transitional housing or other reentry programs. If there are concerns about the participant's health, their stay at the hotel can be extended on a case-by-case basis.

Enclosure C

Temporary Housing Resources – through STOP (Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming)

The Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) has granted the Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) additional funding to provide temporary housing services for parolees with an identified housing need. The DRP has contracted with the CDCR's Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP) to provide the following:

- Temporary housing for 30 days with the option to extend their stay up to 120 days.
- A clean, safe location to reside while looking for permanent housing, employment and/or public assistance.
- Resources such as food (3 meals a day), linens, and onsite house manager.
- Assistance with obtaining local resources and services.

Parolees do NOT need to have a history of substance use in order to qualify for this temporary housing service.

To secure housing for a parolee, DAPO staff shall include the following verbiage, "Temporary Housing" in the comment section when completing the referral in the Parole Violation Disposition Tracking System (PVDTS). STOP requires at least 48 hours to secure a possible location. If temporary housing is not available in the desired county, STOP will attempt to find an alternative housing placement in the surrounding counties, with DAPO approval.

Parolees participating in Project Hope, Operation Roomkey, or a county emergency quarantine may be referred to STOP for temporary housing, following release from quarantine. To ensure a seamless transition from quarantine, referral for services to STOP should be completed prior to release from quarantine.