

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 4, 2020

**To:** Marisa A. Zapata, PhD  
Director, PSU-HRAC

**From:** Lauren E. M. Everett  
Graduate Research Assistant, PSU-HRAC

**Subject:** Updates on COVID-19 response, housing, and people experiencing homelessness nationwide, December 28 - January 3.

### News

1. How COVID-19 [changed the conversation](#) about housing and homelessness in 2020.
2. In [San Francisco](#), activists protested the city's plan to phase out hotel shelters. The city's decision was based on the 30-day FEMA approval period, which created a precarious situation in regards to needed funding. However, FEMA recently updated the approval period to include the entire duration of the emergency, and the city has not changed their plans.
3. Homeless activists and supporters in [Tacoma, WA](#) took over 18 rooms at the Fife Travelodge Motel as emergency housing. At least five unhoused people have already died of exposure this winter in the city. The group paid for the rooms on Christmas Eve, and was demanding that the city pay the hotel manager for the rest of the guests' stay. [The group left the hotel](#) on Wednesday when police arrived and informed guests that felony charges might be forthcoming.
4. The [New York](#) Legislature passed an extension of the state's eviction moratorium through April that will apply to residents who have experienced COVID-related hardship. The law also applies to residential foreclosure proceedings. In [New York City](#) the case of 200 homeless men living in The Lucerne hotel will be determined by the State Appellate Court in the coming weeks. Lawyers for both sides explain that the case will set a precedent in the state.
5. COVID cases in [King County's](#) (Seattle area) homeless population are on the rise, including at the Renton Red Lion hotel. Meanwhile, the county plans to purchase [up to a dozen hotels](#) to provide permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness.
6. A look back at nine months of [California's](#) groundbreaking Project Roomkey.
7. In [Ann Arbor, MI](#) city officials hope to partner with the University of Michigan to provide emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness in the school's residence halls.
8. City officials in [Baltimore](#) have extended contracts to house about 500 homeless residents in hotels through March. The hotel program was set to expire at the end of the year alongside CARES Act funding expiration, but the city will pay for the three-month extension through its general fund with a 75% reimbursement from FEMA.

9. City officials in [Philadelphia](#) are facing a backlash for moving houseless people out of hotels and into less suitable accommodations, which in some cases include shared bathrooms and deficient plumbing.
10. How two [California](#) cities have responded to the housing and homelessness crisis.

**\*The National Low Income Housing Coalition Monday call was on hiatus this week for the winter holiday.**