

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 5, 2021

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

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

**Subject:** Updates on COVID-19 and disaster response, housing, and people experiencing homelessness nationwide, March 29 - April 4.

### News

1. President Biden's \$2 trillion [American Jobs Plan](#) includes \$213 billion to both create and preserve more than two million affordable homes.
2. While the CDC [extended the eviction moratorium](#) through the end of June, it failed to address shortcomings that advocates have been calling for.
3. Meanwhile, [evictions](#) are occurring across the country despite the moratorium.
4. The [New York City](#) housing authority adopted new guidelines that include a mandate to provide high-speed internet infrastructure and service to residents at no cost.
5. Recent data show that [the number of people experiencing homelessness has increased](#) by 15,000 people between January 2019 and 2020. This increase was accounted for by unsheltered homelessness specifically, and does not include people who are doubled up with family and friends.
6. Amidst claims of financial hardship from landlords nationwide, a new report reveals that some of [the biggest landlords in the country have enjoyed exceptional profits](#) during 2020.
7. After months of debate, [Seattle](#) City Council approved \$12 million for hotel rooms and tiny homes to temporarily house people experiencing homelessness. The funding is expected to support 200 additional individuals for the rest of the year, and the city hopes for FEMA reimbursement.
8. [Oakland](#), CA will use FEMA funding to lease a former student dormitory building to serve as a hotel shelter for unhoused people during COVID.
9. *The Sacramento Bee* looks at the successes and challenges in [California's Project Roomkey](#), one year into the program.
10. The aftermath of last week's high-profile police sweep of a large encampment in [Los Angeles'](#) Echo Park.
11. A new study looks at the connection between [evictions and health related behaviors](#).

### Other resources:

1. The Urban Institute's new collection of resources for understanding [structural racism](#) and its impact on urban planning and policy.

2. The National Homelessness Law Center's fact sheet on setting up [hotel shelter programs](#) for people experiencing homelessness.
3. The Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard's recent study on [the impact of AirBnB](#) on renters in New York City.

**\*Note: The National LowIncome Housing Coalition's regular weekly call was on hiatus.**