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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**FROM THE OFFICE OF CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER TRACY REECE**

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### Probation Supplies COVID-19 Hygiene Kits to Homeless and Reentry Population

The San Bernardino County Probation Department handed more than 200 hygiene kits over the weekend in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among the local homeless and reentry population.

The large-scale community outreach event was made possible by a grant that was allotted to three San Bernardino County agencies. The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program provides federal funding to states, local governments, and tribes to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. The hygiene kits, which were enhanced through the grant, included a first aid kit, blanket, water, gloves, light sticks, masks, sanitizer, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, a washcloth, and socks.

“This grant is being used to purchase items that will allow departments like San Bernardino County Probation to keep homeless individuals safe as COVID-19 continues to threaten the public,” said San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman. “It truly takes a community to fight homelessness, and we are working together to protect our entire community.”

More than 40 Probation staff, including Probation Officers, nurses, and homeless coordinators, spent several hours on Saturday, Sept. 11, contacting homeless probationers throughout the central region of the county. Other citizens who met the criteria of homeless, were unsheltered, or recently released back in to the community from prison or jail were served as well. Unlike a routine Probation compliance operation, the objective of this event was to distribute enhanced hygiene kits, provide resources to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, and improve the overall wellness of this population.

In the past year, 264 hygiene kits have been given out. With help from the grant, the Probation Department distributed 238 enhanced hygiene kits to the community in just one day.

“Our department understands the challenges faced by homeless probationers because we work with them every day. We also know what it takes to build strong working relationships with those we serve,” Chief Probation Officer Tracy Reece said. “Our outreach event was a great way to help a vulnerable population and we are happy to do our part.”

Additional Probation homeless outreach events are forthcoming. Please contact Public Information Officer Kathleen Huaman for more information.