

Agenda Item VII: Department Updates

Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Meeting
December 18, 2020

California Department of Education (CDE)

- 2021-24 Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Request for Applications (RFAs) are available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fq/fo/af/>
 - There are two RFAs; one for local educational agencies such as school districts and direct-funded charter schools, and one for county offices of education, only.
- There are new Training Modules for various stakeholder posted on the California Department of Education's Homeless Education Resource web site at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/>. You can also find most recent information on COVID-19 resources.
- Starting January 2021, CDE will be hosting monthly webinars for the various stakeholders. If you are interested in that schedule, please let me know.

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

The focus of this update is the status of DHCS's 1115 waiver extension request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Whole Person Care (WPC) Pilot activities to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

1115 Waiver Extension Request

The DHCS update in October noted that on September 16, 2020, DHCS formally requested that CMS approve a one-year extension of the current 1115 waiver programs and funding - through 2021. This request includes continuation of the Health Home Program (HHP) and the WPC Pilots, which coordinate health care, social services, and housing case management services for our most vulnerable Medi-Cal members. As part of the DHCS California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) proposal, these programs had been scheduled to transition into the Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and In Lieu of Services (ILOS) programs at the end of 2020. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, DHCS postponed the CalAIM implementation timelines. For more background on CalAIM, the 1115 waiver extension request, HHP, and WPC, see the DHCS updates for [March](#) and [October](#).

CMS let DHCS know that the DHCS 1115 waiver extension request met CMS's completeness requirements and was posted on the Medicaid.gov website for a 30-day public comment period that ended on November 1, 2020. In the event CMS is not able to complete the review of the waiver extension request before December 31, 2020, DHCS expects CMS to grant a "temporary extension." WPC and HHP would continue to operate while negotiations continue. DHCS is confident that CMS will see the value of WPC and HHP and extend these programs until DHCS can fully implement CalAIM, including ECM and ILOS. DHCS is encouraging our partners to plan for the extension of WPC and HHP through 2021, and for a transition to ECM and ILOS thereafter.

WPC Pilot COVID-19 Activities

The local WPC Pilot Programs adjusted their 1115 waiver-funded pilot services to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 for their target populations. DHCS worked with CMS to approve requests made by the local WPC Pilot Programs:

- The addition of a new WPC Pilot target group for COVID-19. The COVID-19 target group was added to the existing target groups for people experiencing homelessness, justice-involved reentry, and people with chronic conditions, behavioral health comorbidities, and frequent utilization of health care services.
- Reimbursement for temporary, emergency recuperative care shelter relating to COVID-19.
- The ability for WPC Pilots to modify their current-year budgets in response to COVID-19.

Additional local WPC Pilot Program activities for the WPC population include:

- Expanding support staff to provide COVID-19 related services.
- Working with local health departments and community partners to increase education, outreach, and engagement for Medi-Cal eligible individuals who are at-risk of contracting COVID-19, diagnosed with COVID-19, or recovering from COVID-19.
- Expanding the capacity of navigation centers for people experiencing homelessness.
- Performing assessments and care coordination with an enhanced emphasis on connecting individuals to Medi-Cal-funded telehealth services.
- Expanding the capacity of medical recuperative beds to shelter people discharged from health care facilities and recovering from COVID-19, while maintaining safe social distancing.
- Linking into California's Project Roomkey and Project Homekey initiatives.

California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Project Homekey

In July, HCD launched Homekey, an innovative program to purchase and rehabilitate properties - including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and other properties - and convert them into interim and permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This program makes awards directly to local communities with properties ready for conversion.

- On December 3, HCD made its 10th and final round of awards, providing a total of \$846 million to 95 projects, which will result in approximately 6,000 homes for more than 9,000 people within the next 90 days in communities throughout California.
- Meeting an expedited deadline, set by federal law for Coronavirus Relief Funding (CRF) expenditures by the end of this calendar year, HCD has issued 88 Standard Agreements and disbursed 76 payments since October, to equip awardees to implement Homekey projects, with the final agreements and disbursements scheduled to occur within the next two weeks.
- By the application deadline of September 29, a total of 153 applications had been received from 73 entities statewide, with over \$1.06 billion requested - far exceeding the \$600 million originally allocated to the program. Of the \$600 million in initial Homekey grant funds, \$550 million is derived from the State's direct allocation of the federal Coronavirus Aid Relief Funds (CRF), and

\$50 million is derived from the State's General Fund. An additional \$200 million was approved October 8 as a supplemental allocation of CRF authorized by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee at the request of the Governor, to meet demand and need. There is also an additional \$46 million in philanthropic donations to supplement the General Fund for operating support, bringing the total Homekey Program to \$846 million.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)

ESG provides funds for a variety of activities to address homelessness including rapid re-housing, homeless prevention, street outreach and emergency shelter.

- Awards have been made for about \$2.2m in recaptured funds available on a one-time basis to areas impacted by 2017 and 2018 wildfire disasters. Agreements are in the execution phase.
- 2020 Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) closed July 10, 2020, Awards expected December 2020.

Emergency Solutions Grants CARES Act (ESG-CV)

Authorized by the CARES Act enacted March 27, 2020, these funds are to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance.

- HCD issued an ESG-CV1 NOFA on June 1, 2020 for approximately \$42 million. And an ESG-CV2 NOFA on October 2 for an additional \$253 million. Applications for both rounds have been received and reviewed. Funds have been awarded over the counter through a streamlined allocation methodology for the ESG-CV1 funds, and agreements are in processing. ESG-CV2 funds will be added to existing agreements to speed the deployment of funds to effectively address needs related to coronavirus impacts.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

CDBG provides funds for several activities that address homelessness such as public services funding which can fund shelter operations, public facilities funding for homeless shelters and subsistence payments and business assistance which can help prevent homelessness.

- In January 2020 HCD issued a NOFA for approximately \$60 million in funding available for these and other eligible activities. Awards are being announced on a rolling basis and agreements for the first \$30 million are in processing.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV)

- In August HCD released a CDBG-CV1 NOFA for \$19 million in CDBG funding focused on emergency response for COVID-19. Applications were due in September, and awards are in processing. HCD will release a CDBG-CV2 and 3 NOFA for an additional \$77 million in early December 2020. Applications will be due on a rolling basis starting in January 2021.

Technical Assistance (TA) to Improve Delivery of Homelessness Programs

Since January 2019, HCD has provided three types of technical assistance to help counties and CoCs enhance, develop, and/or improve the delivery of homelessness programs and services.

- Housing Stability consultants will conduct stakeholder engagement, in early January 2021, to generate specific feedback on eviction-prevention and rehousing strategies under AB 3088.
- 83% of eligible jurisdictions have received some form of TA by either working directly with the county or working with the CoC that includes the county.
- Housing First and Housing Stability TA are still receiving requests and the contracts have been extended until June 2021 and December 2021.
- Building Capacity TA is no longer receiving requests and will be completed by the end of April 2021.
- Earlier in the year, HCD provided communities the opportunity to adapt their work plans to include COVID-19 related assistance. Several recipients of the TA program have modified their workplans to focus on COVID-19 response with HCD's TA providers.
- HCD is working on potential modification of the TA program in 2021.

No Place Like Home (NPLH)

- The 3rd of four No Place Like Home NOFAs was issued at the end of October. Awards to the four counties with the biggest homeless populations are anticipated by early January. For the remainder of the counties, project applications are due January 19th, and we will target spring to make those awards to try to streamline our award letter issuance more closely with the CDLAC and TCAC competitive application processes. Staff are currently holding individual TA sessions with counties and their development sponsors to provide project-specific application assistance.
- NPLH currently has several projects under construction, and four projects that will complete rent-up in the first quarter of next year.
- NPLH's first annual report to the legislature and the California Health Facilities Financing Authority will be available by December 31st.

Housing for Healthy California (HHC)

In 2017, AB 74 directed the Department to utilize 2018-2021 federal National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) allocation for HHC. The HHC program creates supportive housing for individuals who are recipients of or eligible for Medi-Cal and who are chronically homeless or homeless and a high-cost health user.

- Amended program guidelines were released February 2019.
- Round 1: Awards March 2020.
- Standard Agreements for Article I. Boilerplate approved November 2020. Standard Agreements for Article I are being created and routed for execution; Anticipated completion date, end of December 2020. Article II Std. Agreement is pending policy decisions for boilerplate approval.
- Article I NOFA released February 28, 2020, Applications due June 25, 2020, Awards expected December 2020. Standard Agreements to be created and routed for execution by end of December 2020.
- Next NOFA for HHC Article I February/March 2021. Approximate funds available \$50M.

Awards anticipated for August of 2021.

Multifamily Housing Program (MHP)

In 2018, voters approved Proposition 1, authorizing the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act. MHP consists of bonds for new construction, acquisition/rehabilitation of permanent or transitional rental housing, and conversion of nonresidential structures to rental housing.

To date, two rounds of MHP funding have been completed and Round Three applications are under review.

- Round One awards were announced in December 2019. 18 out of 24 projects awarded included supportive housing and/or special needs units.
- Round Two awards were announced in June 2020. 16 out of 24 projects awarded included supportive housing and/or special needs units.
- Round Three NOFA was released in July 2020 along with a streamlined MHP pilot application. This application to be a template for other programs.
- Round Three applications were due on September 15, 2020; 79 applications were received and are currently under review.
- Round 3 Rating & Ranking was completed on November 17, 2020 and highest-ranking applications are currently under feasibility review. MHP anticipates 18 awards totaling \$192,557,403. Awards include one “excess sites” project.
- Round Three awards to be announced in December 2020.
- MHP 2020 Guidelines and Round 4 NOFA placed on pause pursuant to Department notification dated 11/16/2020.

Transitional Housing Program (THP)

- Round 1 – 49 Standard Agreements contracts are currently with the Contracts unit for processing.
- Round 2 - applications were due November 12.

Housing Navigator Program (HNP)

- 47 Standard Agreements contracts are currently with the Contracts unit for processing.

California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Major activities since last meeting

Cal OES COVID Disaster Responses and Project Roomkey:

- Trailers – over 1,300 delivered to Counties
- Project Roomkey:
 - 22,300 rooms acquired for Homeless Population
 - Average stay of 37 nights
 - Average cost per night \$150/night
- Hotel Rooms for Healthcare Workers – Over 1,150,000 room nights

- Critical Supplies Distributed – total of over 800 million units distributed
- Meal Support – over 120 million meals distributed and served

2020 Pandemic (CO19) Program – Emergency Response to Interpersonal Violence – Status data collected from most current quarterly Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) reports:

- The Grant Program was created to respond to the increase of domestic and sexual violence, and child abuse/neglect due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. Total Program Funding was \$6,608,205.
- \$6,524,713 was distributed to three coalitions – the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA), Child Abuse, Listening, Interviewing and Coordination Center (CALICO) and the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV) - that specialize in these victimizations as the Subrecipients.
- The coalitions managed the distribution of funds to local victim service providers to cover additional costs associated with providing services to victims while adhering to social distancing requirements, including but not limited to:
 - Emergency housing (e.g., hotels to meet the increased need and to create distance between victim family units)
 - Procurement of equipment for providing services remotely
 - Administrative time off for staff unable to work – only with appropriate policies in place
 - Hazard pay for staff working in high risk environments (e.g., communal living shelters or prisons) – only with appropriate policies in place
 - Emergency assistance to victims (e.g., food, clothing, utilities, etc.)
 - 57 victim service provider agencies for the purposes of emergency housing under the CO19 program.
 - Over 6174 victims served
 - 1956 received shelter/safe house assistance
 - 1388 received transitional housing assistance
 - 440 received relocation assistance
 - 3217 received crisis intervention
 - 910 received assistance completing Victim Compensation claims
 - 1745 received personal advocacy
 - The program end date was 8/15/2020 with final reporting in October 2020.

Funding and/or program deadlines

Specialized and Transitional Housing VOCA programs are in third year and target homelessness specifically with the subrecipient establishing the target population served.

- Specialized Emergency (KE) Housing Program

- The purpose of the KE Program is to maintain and expand emergency shelter and emergency housing assistance resources in California, providing specialized services for victims of crime.
- 6,287 have received services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House, Transitional Housing and relocation assistance in the last reporting quarter.
- Transitional Housing (XH) Program
 - The purpose of the XH Program is to create and/or enhance transitional housing for crime victims. The Program will support transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and supportive services, including follow-up services that move victims of crime into permanent housing. Successful transitional housing programs provide a range of optional supportive services and let victims choose the course that best fits their needs.
 - 49,272 have received services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House, Transitional Housing and Relocation Assistance in the last reporting quarter.

There are 20 other ongoing federal programs that offer sheltering and/or housing assistance as one of the services available in addition to other services. The programs are trauma-informed and victim-centered and designed to provide timely assistance to victims of crime. The programs range includes Domestic Violence, Children's, Human Trafficking, Sexual Assault, Underserved Victims, and Victim Witness.

- 149,218 have received services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House, Transitional Housing and Relocation Assistance in the last reporting quarter in these other ongoing Programs.

There are 5 state programs that offer sheltering, transitional housing and rental assistance and target specific populations, primarily homeless youth and human trafficking victims.

- 2,629 have received Emergency Shelter assistance in the last reporting period.
- 248 have received Transitional Housing assistance in the last reporting period.
- 210 have received Rental assistance in the last reporting period.
- 22,742 have received Stabilization Planning (case management) in last reporting period.
- 27,491 have received Employment and Education training and services in the last reporting period.

California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

CDSS Housing and Homelessness Program COVID Response Guidance

- CDSS is working closely with communities to understand the changing landscape of housing and homelessness in California due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state's economy. CDSS will continue providing regular, program-specific technical assistance calls with all CDSS-funded housing program grantees and looks forward to learning from communities, sharing promising practices and problem-solving ways to overcome challenges.
- [Subscribe to the CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch newsletter](#)

Project Roomkey Non-Congregate Sheltering

- Project Roomkey is a state-supported, locally administered effort to provide non-congregate shelter for people experiencing homelessness in response to COVID-19. The goal of Project Roomkey is to provide hotels, motels, and trailers to people experiencing homelessness to protect human life and minimize strain on health care system capacity.
- On November 30, 2020, [FEMA reimbursement approval was extended through December 29, 2020](#), allowing for up to 75% reimbursement of local eligible expenses, such as room costs and core operating services. Note: the state is seeking an extension of this approval and will update PRK leads as soon as possible.
- On November 19, 2020 the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and CDSS released a [Joint Letter on Rehousing out of Project Roomkey and Other Non-Congregate Shelters](#).
- On November 18, 2020 CDSS released an All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL): [Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy: Funding Announcement and Guidance](#) which provides information and guidance on Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy and Funding Guidance, stemming from the Governor's announcement of emergency funding (\$62 million) to protect and rehouse people living in Project Roomkey placements. \$59 million of these funds have been deployed to counties and tribes to support ongoing non-congregate shelter and rehousing strategies across the state.
- To-date, more than 23,000 people have been served through Project Roomkey.
- [Project Roomkey/COVID Response Resources Webpage](#)
- [Subscribe to the CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch newsletter](#)

CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP)

- The CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) assists CalWORKs families experiencing homelessness to quickly obtain permanent housing while providing flexible wrap-around supports to foster housing retention. 54 counties participate in the program and local HSPs utilize a Rapid Rehousing model and provide flexible assistance and services tailored to the unique needs of each family, which may include: rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, moving costs, hotel and motel vouchers, landlord recruitment, case management, housing navigation and stabilization supports, legal services, and credit repair.
- On October 20, CDSS released the County Fiscal Letter (CFL 20/21-34): [Updated Fiscal Year 2020-21 CalWORKs Housing Support Program Allocation](#)
- Since the program's inception in 2014, more than 20,000 families have been permanently housed through HSP.

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program

- The CalWORKs Homeless Assistance program serves eligible CalWORKs applicant and recipients with up to 16 cumulative days of temporary shelter payments, as well as payments to secure or maintain housing, including a security deposit and last month's rent, or up to two months of rent arrearages.

- On November 17, 2020, CDSS released All County Information Notice (ACIN 1-83-20): [CalWORKs Homeless Assistance \(HA\) Program: Implementation Date of the Removal of the Consecutive Day Rule for Temporary Homeless Assistance, Pursuant to Senate Bill \(SB\) 80](#), which informs counties of the October 1, 2020 implementation date of the removal of the consecutive day rule for temporary HA, pursuant to SB 80.
- On November 5, 2020, CDSS released guidance via [ACIN 1-76 20](#) on continued requirements and obligations to provide access to and delivery of public social service benefits, including CalWORKs Homeless Assistance, during an emergency or disaster.
- SB 1065 was signed September 2020 which initiates ten unique changes to the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program. These changes will be formalized and implemented via [County Letter](#).
- In FY 2018-19, 57,971 families received temporary HA and 6,123 received permanent HA – for a total of 64,094 families served through CalWORKs Homeless Assistance.

Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program

- The Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program serves families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in the child welfare system with the goals of reducing the number of families experiencing homelessness, increasing family reunification, and preventing foster care placement. 22 counties and one tribe participate in the program and local BFH Programs utilize Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing models and provide flexible assistance and services tailored to the unique needs of each family, which may include: rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, moving costs, hotel and motel vouchers, landlord recruitment, case management, housing navigation and stabilization supports, legal services, and credit repair.
- From 2017 – January 2020, 950 families have been permanently housed and 48 families have been connected to other community-based housing programs through BFH.

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)

- The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) assists people with a disability and who are experiencing homelessness apply for disability benefit programs while also providing housing assistance. 43 counties and one tribe participate in the program and local HDAPs utilize Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing models and provide four core components: outreach, case management, disability benefits advocacy, and housing assistance, tailored to the needs of the individuals served.
- On October 27, 2020, CDSS released All County Welfare Directors and Federally Recognized Tribal Governments Letter: [Housing and Disability Advocacy Program \(HDAP\) Extension of Application Period for FY 2020-21 Program Applications](#). The application process and requirements for continuing programs and new applicants are outlined in the [August 10, 2020 letter](#).
- On October 21, 2020, CDSS released County Fiscal Letter (CFL 20/21-36): [FY 2020-21 Housing and Disability Advocacy \(HDAP\) Program Allocations and HDAP Allocation Balances for FY 2017-18 and FY 2019-20](#). Grantees are required to match state funds dollar-for-dollar and funds must be used by June 30, 2021. Funds are flexible and may be matched with federal or local

dollars. CARES Act funds are an eligible match source and strongly recommended. Refer to BCSH's [strategic funding guide](#) for more information on CARES Act funds and uses.

- Since HDAP's inception in FY 2017-18, 1,102 people have been permanently housed, 2,972 disability applications have been submitted and are awaiting determination and 645 have been approved.

Home Safe Program

- The Home Safe Program supports the safety and housing stability of people involved in Adult Protective Services (APS) by providing evidence-based homeless assistance and prevention. Local Home Safe Programs utilize a range of strategies to support homelessness prevention and housing stability for APS clients, including short-term financial assistance, legal services, eviction prevention, heavy cleaning, and landlord mediation, among other services.
- As a result of the pilot program, counties have reported forging new or stronger collaborations between APS and the local housing and homelessness network. Counties have also reported that more clients than expected require intensive case management. The ability to provide financial support for arrearages, repairs and ADA upgrades have assisted with retaining housing for clients. Some clients have reached housing stability through the intensive case management provided by the social workers alone.
- As of October 2020, over 1,900 people have received assistance through the program.
- The first round of the University of California, San Francisco evaluation of the Home Safe program will be complete in early February. It will use data and interviews to analyze how counties are using Home Safe funds to serve APS clients, including best practices and where improvements can be made.

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)

Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Program (VHHP)

In November, four VHHP sites completed construction and have started leasing housing units:

- Imagine Valley (Lancaster) – Located adjacent to the Penny Lane Center, Imagine Valley features 74 total income-restricted housing units, 36 of which will be studios, one- and two-bedroom units restricted to veteran households experiencing homelessness. The lead veteran supportive services provider will be US Veterans Initiative.
- Pico Robertson Senior Community (Los Angeles) – Of the 47 total income-restricted housing units, 12 one-bedroom units will be restricted to veteran households experiencing homelessness with New Directions for Veterans, Inc. as the lead veteran supportive services provider. The remaining 35 units are one-bedroom apartments open to the general population (including veterans) with income limits ranging at 40-60% of the area median income.
- Edwin M. Lee Apartments (San Francisco) – Located in the Mission Bay area, Edwin M. Lee is a five-story urban infill site with 118 total income-restricted housing units. Of those, 62 units are restricted to veteran households experiencing homelessness. The other 56 units are a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments open to the general population (including veterans) with income limits ranging at 50-60% of the area median income. The lead veteran supportive services provider is Swords to Plowshares.

- Ybarra Village (Los Angeles) – Of the 63 total income-restricted housing units, 36 one- and two-bedroom units will be restricted to veteran households experiencing homelessness with New Directions for Veterans, Inc. as the lead veteran supportive services provider. The remaining 27 units are one- and two-bedroom apartments open to the general senior population (including veterans) with income limits ranging at 40-60% of the area median income.

Current VHHP housing units:

- VHHP units completed/leased: 1,232 (959 homeless)
- VHHP units under construction: 833 (666 homeless)
- VHHP units pending construction start: 480 (405 homeless)

Roughly \$200 million remaining to award.

Round 6 VHHP Guidelines draft public comment period anticipated for January.