



State of California
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Advisory Committee Meeting

November 6, 2023

Agenda

- I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call
- II. Consent Calendar
- III. Feedback from Council on Committee Recommendations
- IV. Action Plan '24 Update Discussion
- V. Housing First Introduction
- VI. General Public Comments
- VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call

Tribal Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge that Sacramento is the homeland of the Southern Maidu, Valley and Plains Miwok, the Nisenan people, the Patwin Wintun people, and members of the Wilton Rancheria Tribe, who have inhabited this landscape since time immemorial.

We extend our gratitude to the ancestors of all California Native American Tribes and their descendants, as we recognize that wherever we are joining from in our virtual community, we are all on California Native American land.

Committee Member Roll Call

- Please say "here" or "present"

II. Consent Calendar

- Adoption of the Meeting Summary from the August 14, 2023, Advisory Committee Meeting

Public Comment on Agenda Item II

Consent Calendar

- If joining by Zoom, click the “raise hand icon”
- If connected by phone, press “*9” to indicate that you would like to comment

Council Member Vote

- Shall items on the Consent Calendar be approved?
- Adoption of the Meeting Summary from the August 14, 2023 Committee Meeting

III. Feedback from Council on Committee Recommendations

Previous Council Meeting

- Council Meeting on September 7, 2023
 - Roxanne Wilson and Ludmilla Bade presented recommendations from Committee memo: *Strengthening Implementation of State Homelessness Funding and Programs*
- Received feedback and questions from Council Members
 - Cal ICH staff reviewed and summarized feedback
 - Identified possible paths for each piece of feedback

Committee Recommendations

The Council should pursue actions to reduce administrative burden for applicants, including:

- Consolidating audits across multiple programs
 - Can you provide specifics for which audits and reports need to be consolidated?
- Aligning timelines/reporting with federal funding
 - Which reports conflict with the federal timeline for program reporting?

Committee Recommendations continued...

The Council should explore opportunities to strengthen capacity among funded entities and their service providers with an eye towards advancing equity, including:

- Guidance on minimum administrative support for providers that contract with state grantees
 - Does limiting an administrative rate to 5% have to be regulatory? How could that be increased to cover the costs associated with administering these burdensome government programs?
- Lower barriers to smaller, culturally-sensitive providers accessing funding
 - What are the barriers that smaller communities face?

Committee Recommendations continued...

The Council should explore opportunities to strengthen capacity among funded entities and their service providers with an eye towards advancing equity, including:

- Center marginalized communities
 - What does it mean to uplift equity?
 - How can the council support organizational equity?
 - How can the council support workforce equity?
- Support the unique needs of different communities
 - How can the council support the groups and organizations that are not familiar with all the funding streams?
 - Is there a way to be more proactive to bring funding to those organizations and understand their needs?
 - How can they be more targeted in their approach to funding?

Other Comments from Council

- **Resources for K-12 children:** How can resources from the homelessness response system support K-12 children experiencing homelessness?
- **Intersection of Council groups:** How do the active (Advisory Committee, State Funding and Programs Working Group, Racial Equity Working Group and LEAB) and future Council groups interact and intersect with the Council? How will these recommendations make it into the Action Plan?
- **Uplifting Equity:** What does it mean to uplift equity in our work?
 - How can the council support organizational equity?
 - How can the council support workforce equity?
- **Sustainability:** How can we incorporate existing models for sustainability into this work? (Example: Incubation academy, Cal AIM marketplace and technical assistance)

Potential Topics for Committee Based on Council Feedback	Potential Topics for Other Groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying opportunities for a unified funding application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligning timelines and reporting with federal funding sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying audits that can be consolidated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating multi-year funding application
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying Barriers to small communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing guidance on minimum administrative support for providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing guidance to direct generalized administrative funding to homelessness services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expediting payments and reimbursements to awardees and their funded service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying barriers to smaller, culturally-sensitive providers accessing funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering greater roles for people with lived experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing guidance to center marginalized communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researching the intensity and costs of services needed to serve high acuity people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting unique needs of difference communities with various activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering baseline funding coupled with funding beyond baseline for capitol and innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uplifting equity, including across organizations and within provider workforce 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting K-12 children with resources from the homelessness response system 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocating for ongoing or multi-year funding for programs 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating existing models for sustainability into the work 	

Next steps

Prioritize recommendations and respond to feedback/questions

- Identify members to work on each



Cal ICH bring recommendations to other Council groups

- Report back to the Committee on feedback from other groups



Return to Council with the information requested from their considerations



Council direct them to the appropriate groups or projects

- E.g. Working Groups, Action Plan, etc.

Discussion Questions

- How would the Committee prioritize the comments and feedback from the Council?
- What does the Committee want to do next to move its recommendations forward?
 - Are there any volunteers, yourself or your staff, to work to further any of these topics?
- For next agenda item: Which of these would be most appropriate for inclusion in the new AP '24?

IV. Action Plan '24 Update Discussion

- Background and Process
- Discussion and Feedback for AP '24



For AP '24, intended audiences are:

Primary: State agencies and departments, including Council members and other staff

Intentions: Increase cross-departmental understanding of strategies and programs, provide framework for communicating intentions/objectives, and increase accountability of State entities

Secondary: Leaders within local homelessness response system and other local policymakers

Intentions: Expand awareness of State activities, demonstrate transparency and accountability by State, communicate strategic intentions of State efforts





Do you have questions or feedback about those audiences?

What overarching vision, principles, and/or intentions should the Plan communicate to the primary and secondary audiences?

Action Plan Creation Timeline (FY 23-24)



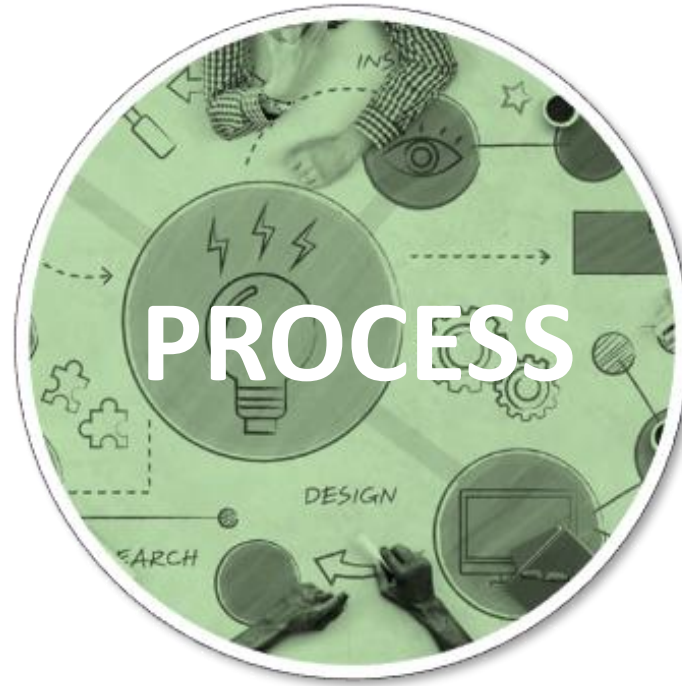
<p>Q1 + Q2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High-level discussions about vision, structure, and goals ▪ Identifying stakeholders to provide input, including Tribal engagement and planning discussions with member agencies and departments ▪ Initial discussions with Council and Advisory Committee
<p>Q3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize structure ▪ Present draft goals to the Council ▪ Conduct public input ▪ Discussions with member agencies and departments on activities
<p>Q4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize Plan content and department commitments ▪ Incorporate public input ▪ Develop dissemination strategy
<p>September 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Propose new Action Plan to Council for adoption



How would you like the Advisory Committee to be involved in the process of developing AP '24?

Please reply via Poll:

1. I would like to receive updates at upcoming Advisory Committee meetings
2. I would like to have further discussions to inform the Plan at upcoming Advisory Committee meetings
3. I would like to have special meetings scheduled to have further discussions to inform the Plan
4. Other (please explain in chat box)



Who are critical stakeholder groups that should be consulted to inform the development of the next version of the Plan?

Are you able to help facilitate connections to any of those groups?

Prior Committee Feedback: Areas for Expansion or Refinement

Areas for Expansion or Refinement	Advisory Committee Feedback
Uplift Positive Models of Collaboration	E.g., examples of successfully leveraging MediCal / CalAIM funding for robust supportive services
Ongoing Support and Sustainability	Not enough support for administration of grants and programs, causes long-term sustainability issues for communities; other issues include funding formulas that reduce funding based upon positive outcomes and the lack of ongoing subsidies for housing.
Voices with Lived Experience	Including lived experiences voices to ensure resources reach the most vulnerable.
Addressing Vulnerability	Ensuring outreach teams have the training to work with vulnerable unsheltered populations, including single women and LGBTQ+ individuals.

Prior Committee Feedback: Areas for Expansion or Refinement

Areas for Expansion or Refinement	Advisory Committee Feedback
Shelter Models	Evaluating the effectiveness of current shelter models and ensuring the inclusion of necessary resources within shelters.
Streamlining Resources	Efforts to build new housing currently hindered by the various processes that could be streamlined for greater efficiency.
Accessibility	Inclusion of people with physical disabilities, who also face numerous barriers to housing.
Funding Gaps	Need greater funding for prevention efforts to support communities, especially for the justice-involved population.



Which of those prior themes would you especially highlight to be prioritized for AP '24?

Are there other themes you'd highlight and prioritize?



What are the most important guidance, analyses, and/or information the State could provide to communities and organizations to help strengthen local efforts?

Next Steps

- Council member listening sessions on high-level vision questions
- Discussion at November 30 Council meeting
- Cal ICH starts stakeholder input
- Specific questions for Advisory Committee in future meetings

V. Housing First Introduction

- Overview of Housing First in California and Cal ICH's role
- Discussion of how Cal ICH can support local implementation of Housing First

California Housing First Statutes

Housing First Definition

- “**Housing First**” means the **evidence-based model that uses housing as a tool**, rather than a reward, for recovery and that centers on providing or connecting [people experiencing homelessness] to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Housing First **providers offer services as needed and requested on a voluntary basis** and does not make housing contingent on participation in services.

(WIC Section 8255(d)(1))

SB 1380, 2016

- Establishes HCFC to **oversee the adoption of the Housing First statute** into guidelines and regulations
- Defines Housing First and its requirements, including eleven **core components** for programs addressing homelessness

AB 1220, 2021

- Renames and restructured HCFC to Cal ICH
- Applies Housing First implementation to state programs funding **emergency shelters**

SB 197, 2021

- Provides requirements for specific programs funding **recovery housing**

Housing First Core Components

WIC Section 8255(b)

1. **Tenant screening and selection practices** that promote accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services.
2. **Applicants are not rejected** on the basis of poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, criminal convictions unrelated to tenancy, or behaviors that indicate a lack of "housing readiness."
3. **Acceptance of referrals** directly from shelters, street outreach, drop-in centers, and other parts of crisis response systems frequented by vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.
4. **Supportive services that emphasize engagement and problem solving** over therapeutic goals and service plans that are highly tenant-driven without predetermined goals.
5. Participation in services or program compliance is **not a condition of permanent housing tenancy**.
6. Tenants have a lease and all **the rights and responsibilities of tenancy**, as outlined in California's Civil, Health and Safety, and Government codes.
7. The **use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself**, without other lease violations, **is not a reason for eviction**.
8. In communities with coordinated assessment and entry systems, **incentives for funding promote tenant selection plans for supportive housing** that prioritize eligible tenants based on criteria other than "first-come-first-serve," including, but not limited to, the duration or chronicity of homelessness, vulnerability to early mortality, or high utilization of crisis services. Prioritization may include triage tools, developed through local data, to identify high-cost, high-need homeless residents.
9. Case managers and service coordinators who are trained in and **actively employ evidence-based practices** for client engagement, including, but not limited to, motivational interviewing and client-centered counseling.
10. Services are **informed by a harm-reduction philosophy** that recognizes drug and alcohol use and addiction as a part of tenants' lives, where tenants are engaged in nonjudgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use, and where tenants are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices, as well as connected to evidence-based treatment if the tenant so chooses.
11. The project and specific apartment may include special **physical features that accommodate** disabilities, reduce harm, and promote health and community and independence among tenants.

Cal ICH Housing First Role

- Assess Council Agencies and Departments on their adoption of Housing First core components in grant/programs requirements
- Provide resources and guidance to state partners on implementation of Housing First statute
- Identify implementation challenges at local level and develop/share resources to support local partners





Expanding Housing First Focus

- Resources and guidance to state partners and community-level providers
- Addressing needs of specific populations experiencing homelessness
- Uplifting trauma-informed and culturally appropriate practices



Housing **First**

Sharon Rapport, Corporation for Supportive Housing

November 6, 2023



About **CSH**

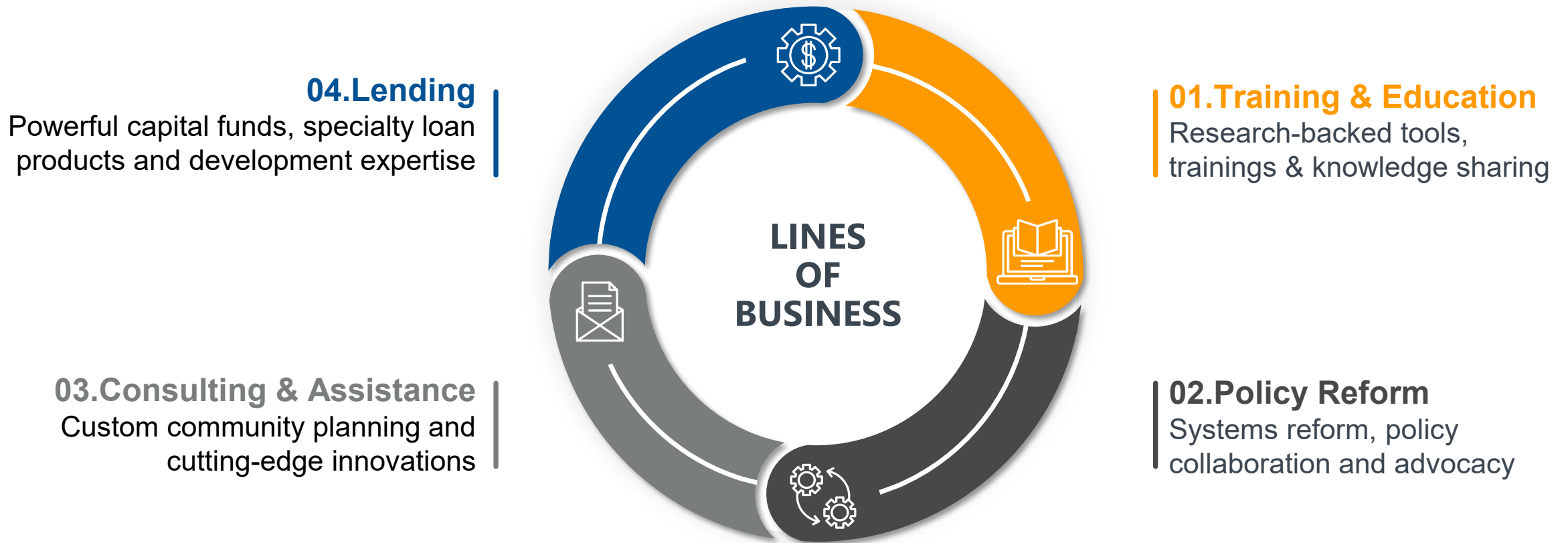
CSH collaborates to advance solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people, maximize public resources and build healthy communities.



[csh.org](https://www.csh.org)

What We Do

CSH is a touchstone for new ideas and best practices, a collaborative and pragmatic community partner, and an influential advocate for supportive housing.





Housing First Acknowledges Cause of Homelessness:

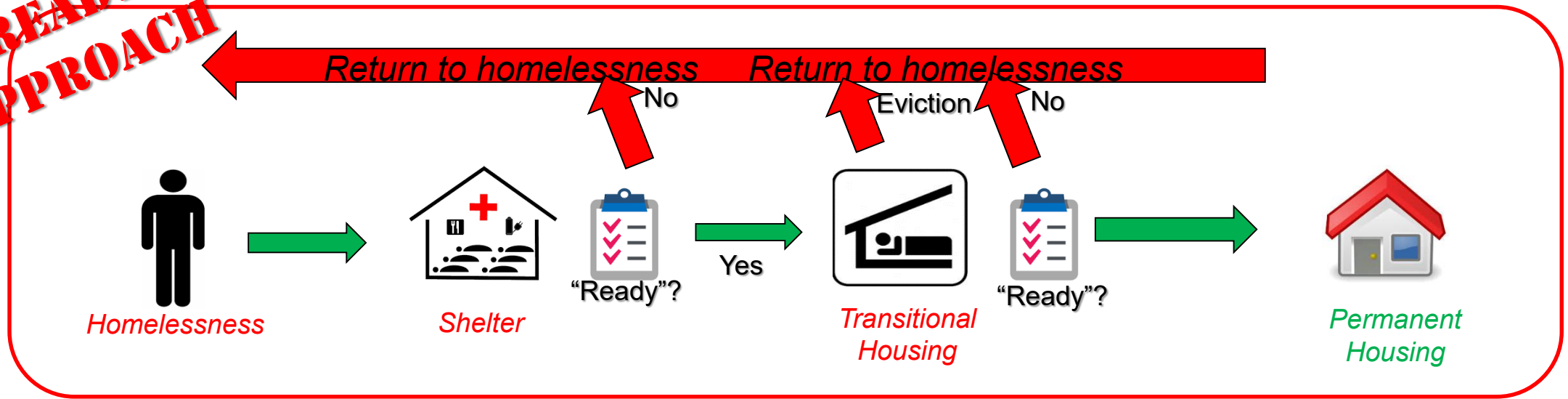
Lack of housing people can afford on their incomes

Onset of homelessness in 1980's:

- Decrease from 350,000 federally-funded affordable housing units per year to 50,000 affordable units created per year
- Income inequality dramatically increased (leading to demand for luxury housing, little to no supply of market-rate affordable)

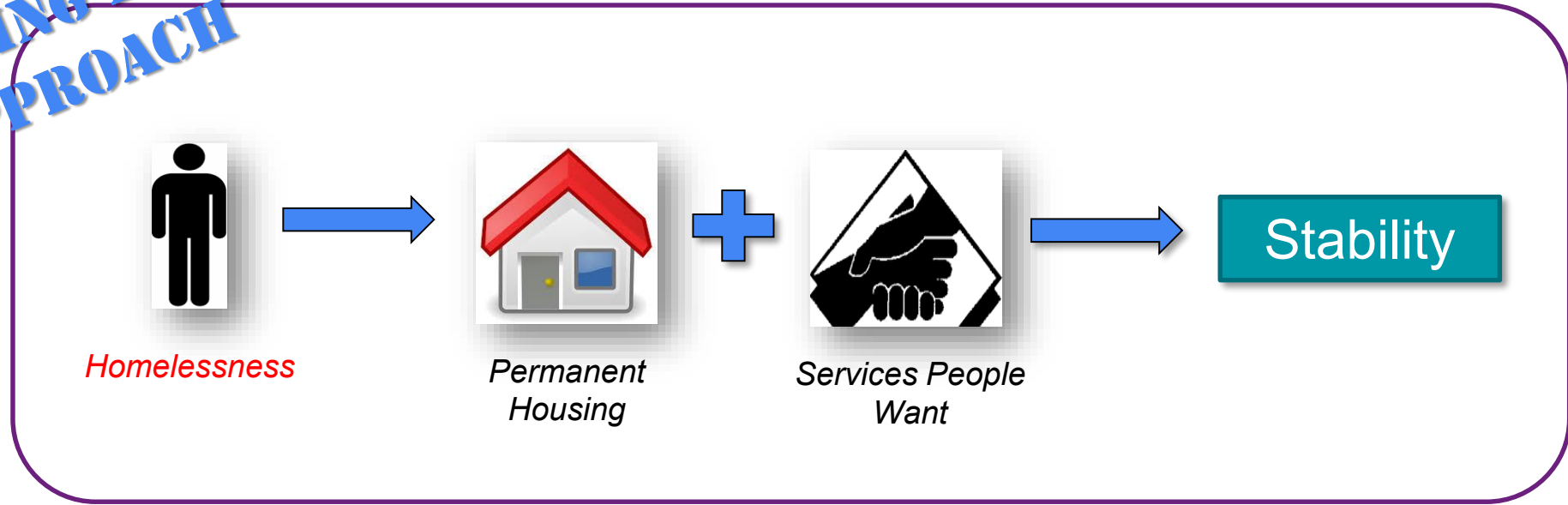
Response to Homelessness from 1980's Through **Early 2000's**

**HOUSING
READY
APPROACH**



Housing First

HOUSING FIRST
APPROACH



- Connect homeless people to an apartment as quickly as possible, removing barriers to housing.
 - Provide choice in whether to participate in person-centered services.
- Developed to respond to homelessness among people with acute, chronic conditions and chronic homelessness.



Principles of Housing First

Consumer Choice & Self-Determination

- Where to live
- Whether to receive services
- Ask, “how can I help you?”
Decision is consumer’s

Removing Barriers to Housing

- Despite eviction history, criminal record, poor credit
- If using drugs/alcohol

Services Match Tenant Needs

- Flexible services
- Providers must offer services & engage tenants (1:10 to 1:15-1:20 caseload ratios)

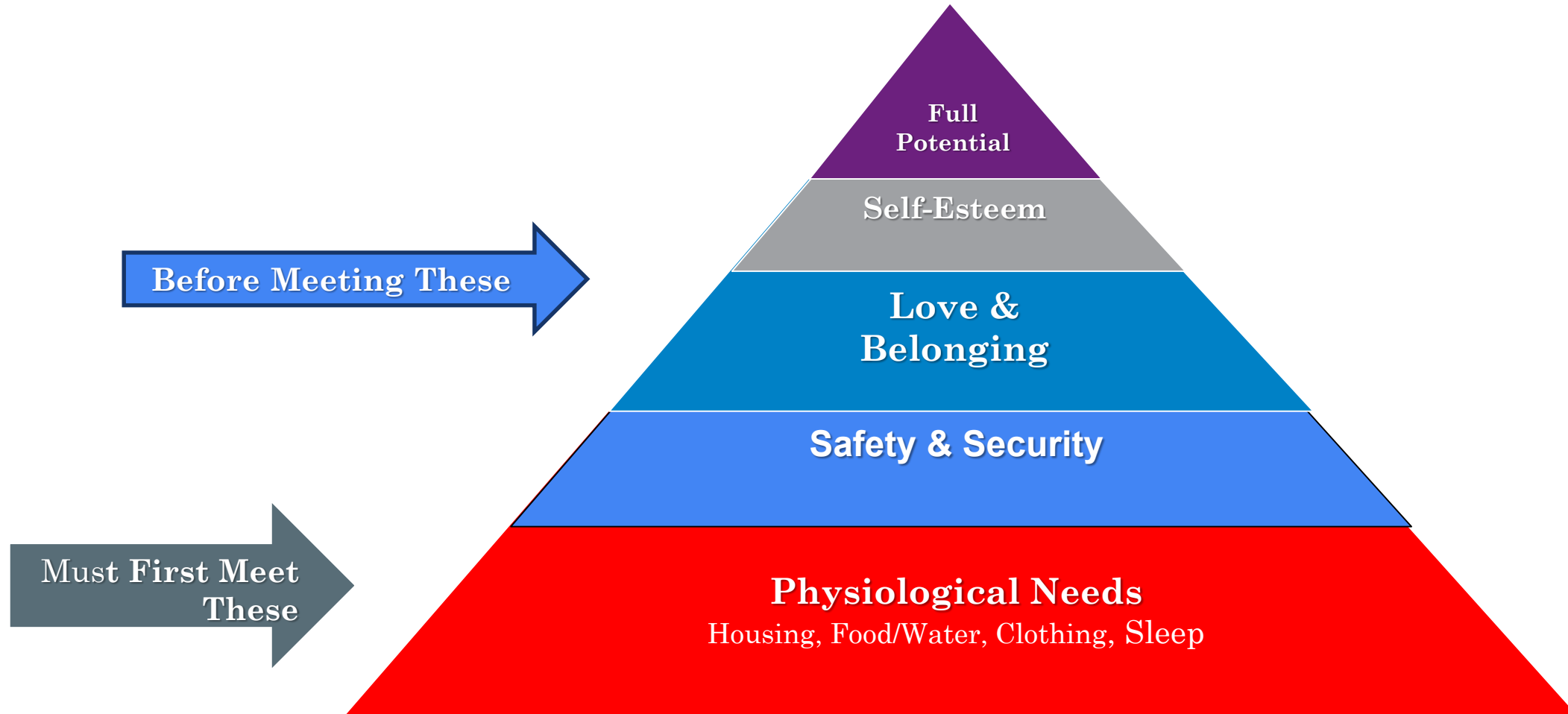
Keep People Housed

- Evictions should be rare
- Engagement on tenant’s terms is essential

Separation of Housing & Services

- Recovery from conditions if housed is more likely/possible than if homeless
- Services are voluntary for tenant (i.e., they don’t lose housing if don’t participate)
- Tenant-centered: what does tenant want

Consistent with Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Services Models Consistent with Housing First

Assertive Community Treatment:

multidisciplinary team (including psychiatrist), case load ratios of 1:10, offers services directly, services provided in home, offsite/on-call services available 24/7.

Intensive Case Management Services:

case management team provides supports and brokers services from treatment/providers in the community, with case load ratios of 1:15 to 1:20.

Trauma-informed care is part of services approach:

Recognizes the strong impact that trauma has on people's lives, as well as the potential for recovery.

SAMHSA's Six Key Principles of a Trauma-Informed Approach:

Safety

Trustworthiness
and
Transparency

Peer Support

Collaboration
and Mutuality

Empowerment,
Voice and
Choice

Cultural,
Historical and
Gender Issues

What Housing First **is NOT** . . .

Housing First is not a one-size-fits all approach: it is a highly individualized approach that seeks to determine the right kinds and intensity of supports that each person wants & needs to achieve success.

Housing only: People are offered or connected to services that are tailored to the needs of their household. But people are not coerced into accepting them. Services are more effective when people choose to engage.

Housing First is an Evidence-Based Practice

Housing First programs have lower rates of return to homelessness, allow people to exit homelessness faster, and serve more vulnerable populations than transitional models.

Tenants in Housing First programs access services more often, have a greater sense of choice, and incur fewer days in institutions than “treatment first” programs.

Housing First programs allow tenants to remain stably housed longer than other programs.

People who are chronically homeless or cycling through institutions and homelessness significantly decrease health, corrections, & child-welfare costs.

Thank you!

Learn more at www.csh.org



Stay in Touch!



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Discussion

- As Cal ICH will be increasing focus on Housing First:
 - What should be Cal ICH's priorities?
 - What do you see as the opportunities for the Advisory Committee to develop or uplift Housing First practices?
- What are the barriers to implementing Housing First that the state could help address?

VI. General Public Comment

- If joining by Zoom, click the “raise hand icon”
- If connected by phone, press “*9” to indicate that you would like to comment

VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Next Advisory Committee meeting: February 5, 2024 at 1:00pm

Contact Information

- Cal ICH Website: <https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich>
- Questions: calich@bcsh.ca.gov
- Social Media
 -  https://twitter.com/Cal_ICH
 -  <https://facebook.com/CaliforniaICH>
 -  <https://linkedin.com/company/california-interagency-council-on-homelessness>