



State of California
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Advisory Committee Meeting

February 5, 2024

Agenda

- I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call
- II. Consent Calendar
- III. Advisory Committee Facilitation and Connection to Council
- IV. Follow-up on Committee Recommendations to Council
- V. Draft Structure and Goals for the New Action Plan
- VI. Housing First Introduction
- VII. General Public Comments
- VIII. 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 November 6, 2023, Advisory Committee Meeting

Public Comment, 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

Advisory Committee Facilitation and Connection to Council

Malka Kopell, Senior Facilitator/Mediator

Consensus and Collaboration Program

College of Continuing Education

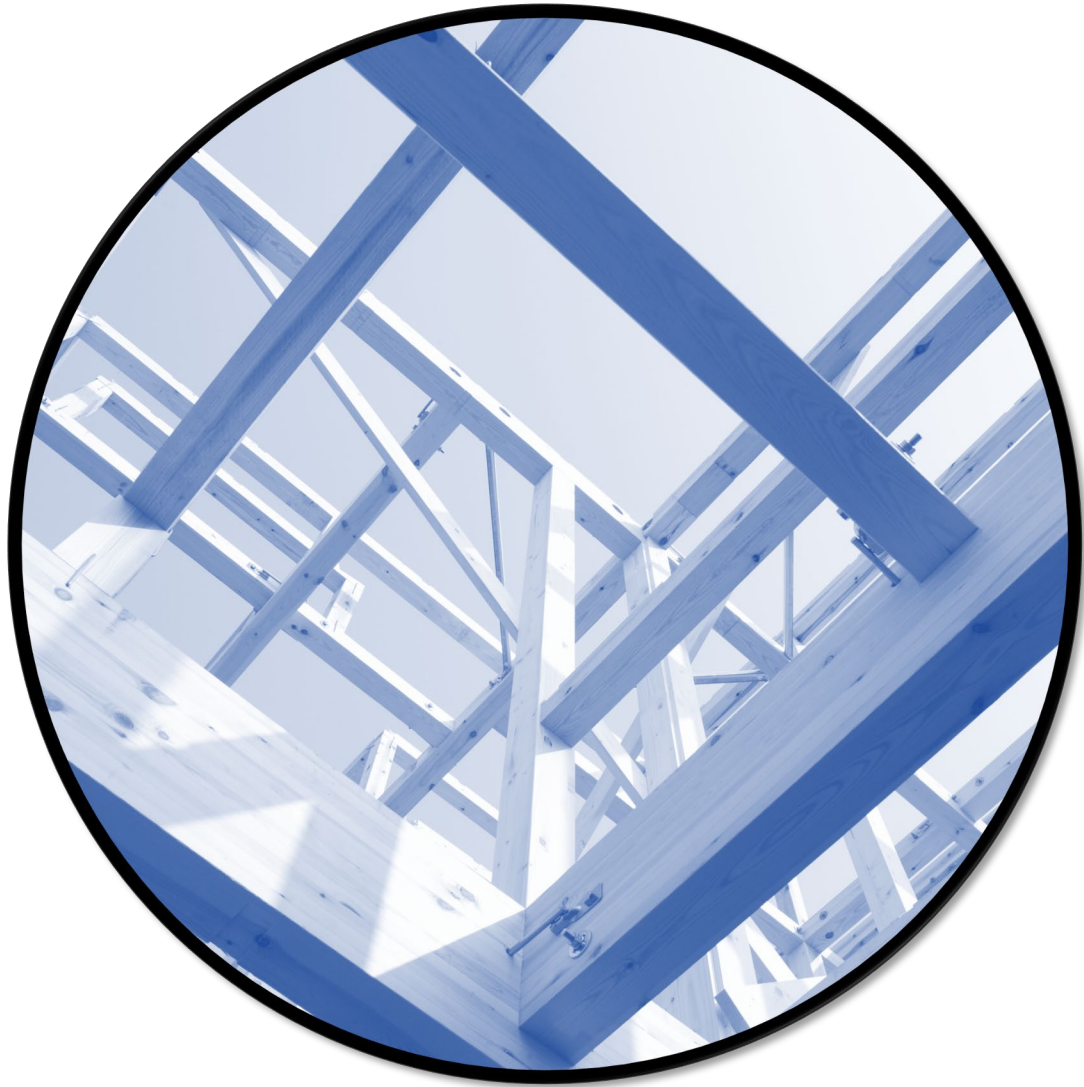
California State University, Sacramento

Follow-up on Committee Recommendations to Council

- Summary of responses to Council questions
- Proposed action steps

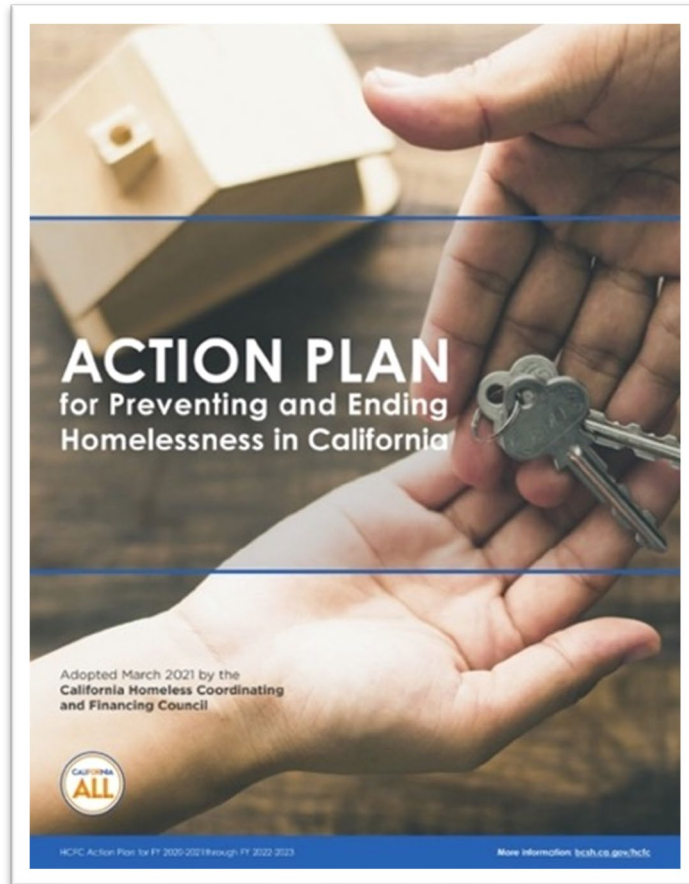
Draft Structure and Goals for the New Action Plan

- Overview of proposed Action Plan Structure
- Overview of existing California System Performance Measures and the data collected in the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS)
- Discussion of goals and key indicators for the new Action Plan



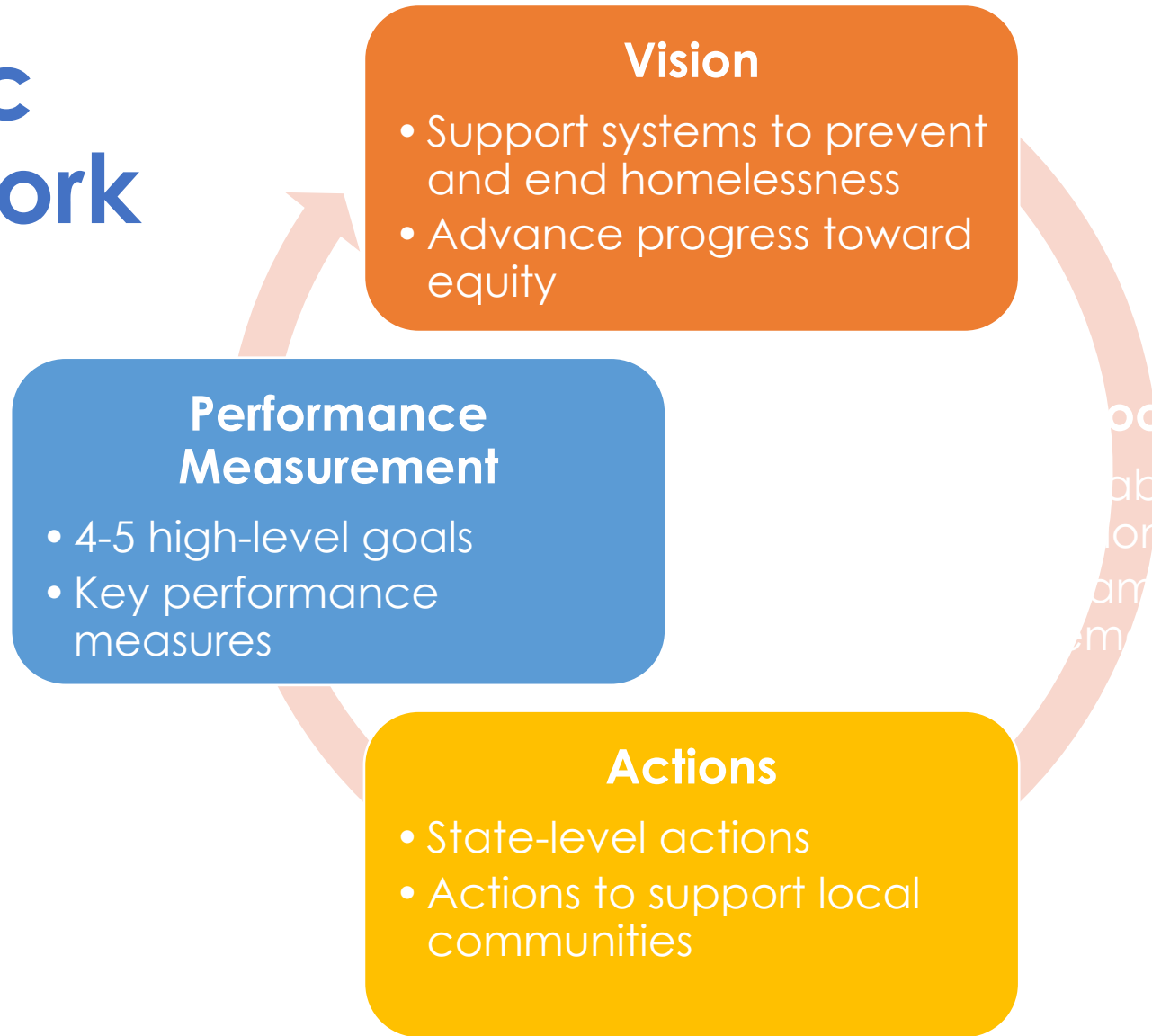
Proposed Action Plan Structure

Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness

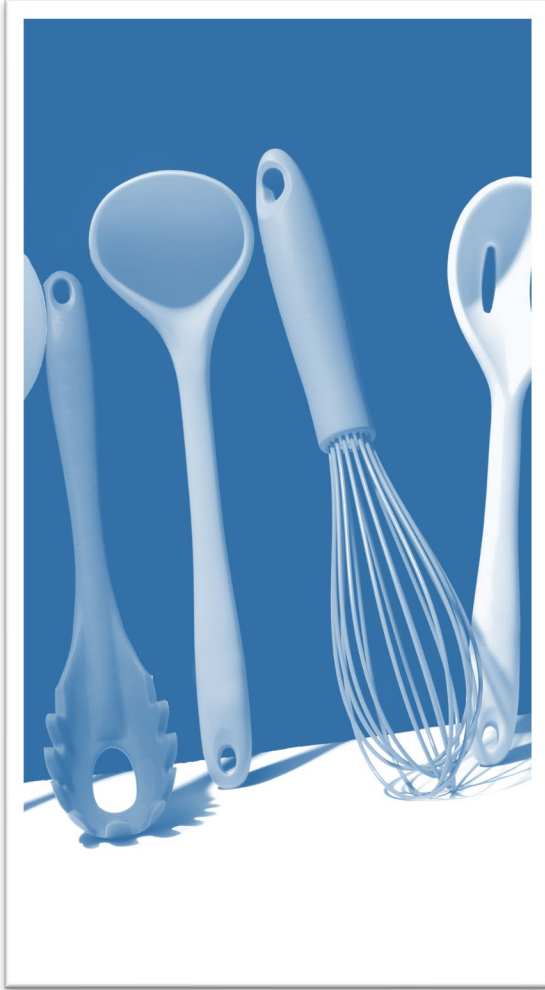


- Comprehensive collection of state activities to address homelessness
- Plan covers FY 20-21 through FY 23-24
 - Reported annually
- Vision: homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time
 - Increased leadership from the State
 - Purposeful, action-oriented coordination and alignment
 - Stronger, collaborative partnerships

Strategic Framework

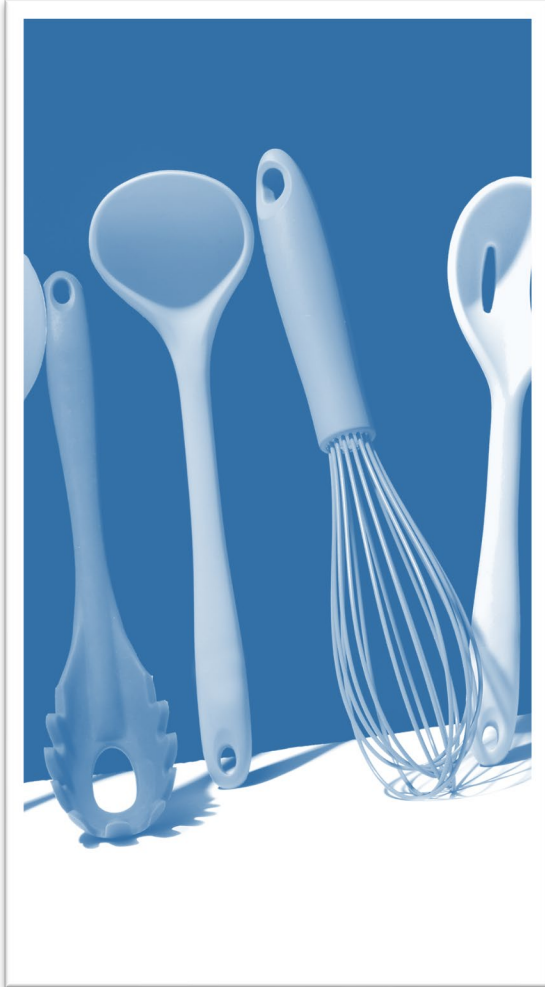


Potential Plan Structure: By State's "Tools"



1. Increasing the Supply of Housing and Services
2. Coordinating & Streamlining State Programs
3. Engaging Partners & Communities
4. Using Data Strategically
5. Advancing Best Practices & Quality

For Each “Tool”

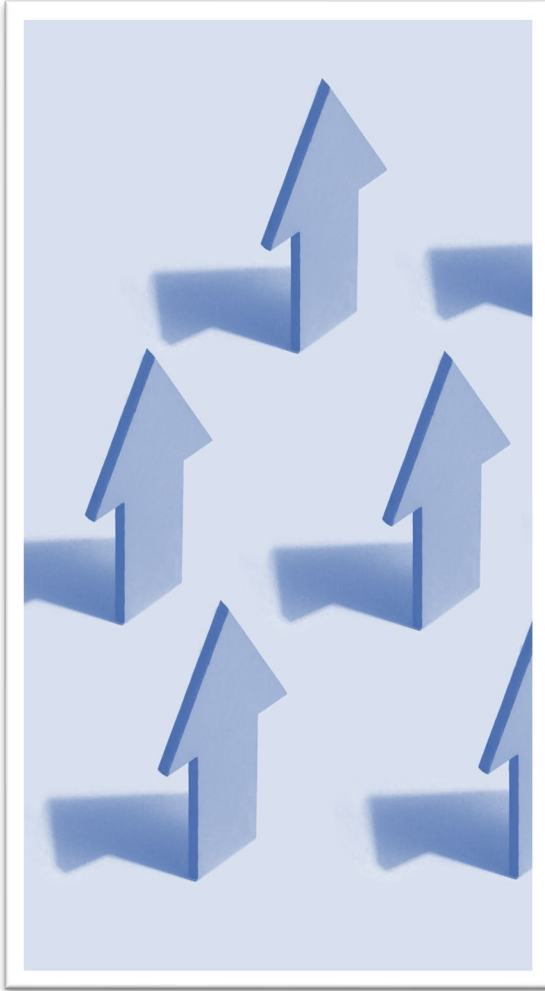


- Identify **equity-focused** frameworks to guide implementation of Actions
- Identify:
 - **State-Level Actions**
 - **Actions to Support Local Communities**
- Identify Action-level **implementation measures** connected to Plan Goals

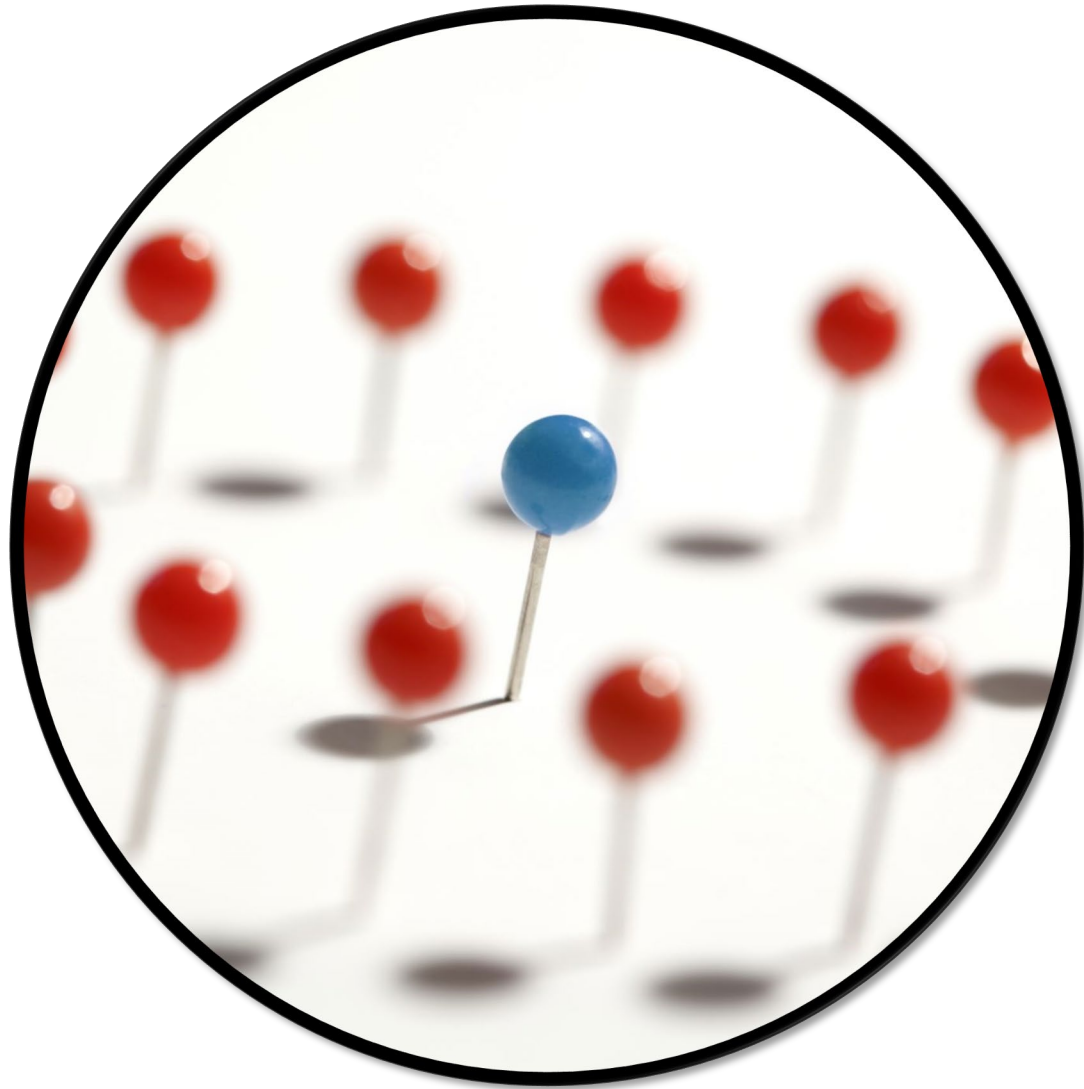
Possible Equity Frameworks

State Tools	Possible Racial Equity Framework/Intervention
Scaling Housing and Services	Equity Based Decision-Making Framework (Policy and Funding Interventions)
Coordinating & Streamlining State Programs	Collective Impact 3.0 for Racial Equity Social Justice (Systems Alignment Intervention)
Using Data Strategically	Targeted Universalism (Programmatic Interventions)
Engaging Partners and Communities	Equity Centered Community Design (Partner Engagement)
Advancing Best Practices & Quality	Continuous Quality Improvement

Performance Measurement



- **High-level Goals (4-5) the Plan will strive to achieve** and how they will be measured, tracked, and reported (more below)
- **Key Indicators** to provide supplemental information regarding homelessness response systems in CA
- **Individual implementation measures** to understand success of each Action
 - Clear connection between the Actions in the Plan and the high-level Goals



Exploring Options for Goals & Key Indicators

Action Plan Goals

- **Current Plan does not identify any explicit Goals**
 - Identifies Key Performance Measures, aligned with the California System Performance Measures (CA SPMs)
- New Action Plan proposes using CA SPMs to create a **set of directional goals**
- Goal criteria
 1. Represent core outcomes that homelessness response systems must accomplish to prevent and end homelessness
 2. Focus Council on actions that can drive progress
 3. Helps public understand key work
 4. Ability to consistently and effectively measure over time

Translating CA SPMs into Plan Goals

- CA SPMs measure system wide performance to help the state and local jurisdictions assess progress towards preventing, reducing, and ending homelessness
 - Measure outcomes for people accessing services while experiencing homelessness
- Cal ICH staff identified four CA SPMs that best serve as goals for the Action Plan:
 1. Exits to Permanent Housing
 2. Length of Time Homeless
 3. Returns to Homelessness
 4. Successful Placements from Street Outreach
- Analysis of Goals include disaggregated data by:
 - Race and ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Household composition
 - Additional sub-populations including unaccompanied youth and veterans

Goal 1. Increase The Number of People Exiting Into Permanent Housing

- Number of people exiting homelessness by moving into permanent housing destinations including:
 - Exits to permanent housing outside of the homelessness response system (“system exits”)
 - Exits to permanent housing projects that report in HMIS

Goal 2. Reduce the Length of Time People Remain Homeless

- Number of days people experience homelessness while accessing services such as street outreach, emergency shelter, or transitional housing
 - Cumulative time across all enrollments during the report period, and any that overlapped with the start of the period
- Does not include the full duration of someone's homelessness if they were not accessing services throughout

Goal 3. Reducing the Number of People Returning to Homelessness After Exiting to Permanent Housing

- Percent of people who return to homelessness within six months of exiting the homelessness response system to permanent housing
 - Does not measure returns from non-permanent destinations
 - Returns measured based on whether that client accessed services while experiencing homelessness

Goal 4. Increasing Successful Placements from Street Outreach

- Number of people served by street outreach programs who moved into emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing
 - Measures transition from unsheltered homelessness into temporary or permanent housing

Possible Indicators Based on Committee Feedback

Suggestions from Advisory Committee members from Aug 2023. Need to be reviewed for accessibility of data and feasibility of analysis.

<p style="text-align: center;">Population Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overdose and mortality data • Adverse health impacts on unsheltered and sheltered populations • Access to care • Mental and physical health 	<p style="text-align: center;">Housing and Services Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Californians accessing services • Number of children experiencing homelessness • Units created per-year • Placements in various housing types • Per-unit cost to build housing • Length of time on CE waitlist
<p style="text-align: center;">Institutional Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of jurisdictions with laws criminalizing homelessness • Number of arrests of people living unsheltered • Number of people exiting state institutions into homelessness 	<p style="text-align: center;">Equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent disaggregation of Goals and other Performance Measures by race/ethnicity • Client data on discrimination • Service provider and contractor diversity
<p style="text-align: center;">Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of services as perceived by participants • Compare service data from HDIS with PIT data • Disaggregation of impact of specific programs/funding sources 	

Discussion

- Do these four Goals focus on the right core outcomes for the state's work to prevent and end homelessness?
- What is missing from these Goals? What data sources could be used?
 - Health related outcome metrics?
 - System coordination/performance?
 - Prevention?
 - Others?
- What Indicators are highest priority to include in the Action Plan to understand CA's homelessness response systems?
 - Do any rise to the level of becoming an additional Goal?

PROPOSED GOALS:

1. Increase the number of people exiting into permanent housing
2. Reduce the length of time people remain homeless
3. Reduce the number of people returning to homelessness after exiting into permanent housing
4. Increase successful placements from street outreach

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

Pursue the vision of successful Housing First by:

- Assessing Council Agencies and Departments on their adoption of Housing First core components in grant/program requirements
- Providing resources and guidance to state partners on implementation of Housing First statute
- Identifying implementation challenges at local level and developing/sharing resources to support local partners





Expanding Housing First Focus

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



Housing **First**

Sharon Rapport, Corporation for Supportive Housing

February 5, 2024



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.





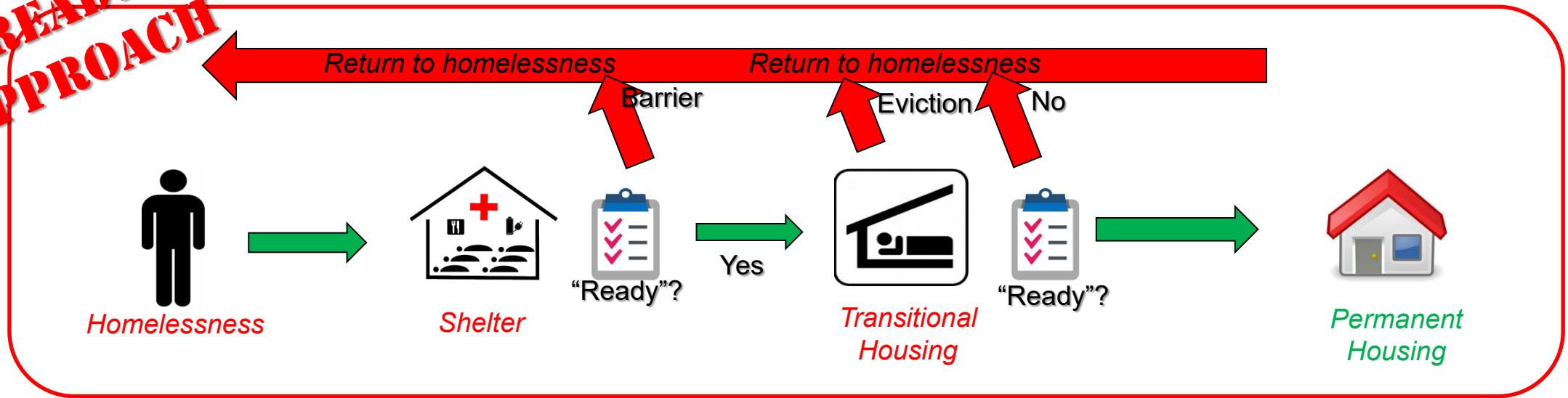
Housing First acknowledges that the cause of homelessness is housing unaffordability.

Housing First is about health, recovery, and well-being. Housing is the foundation and platform for achieving these goals.

Photo Courtesy of Winston Gaskin Homes,
Syracuse, NY, 2022

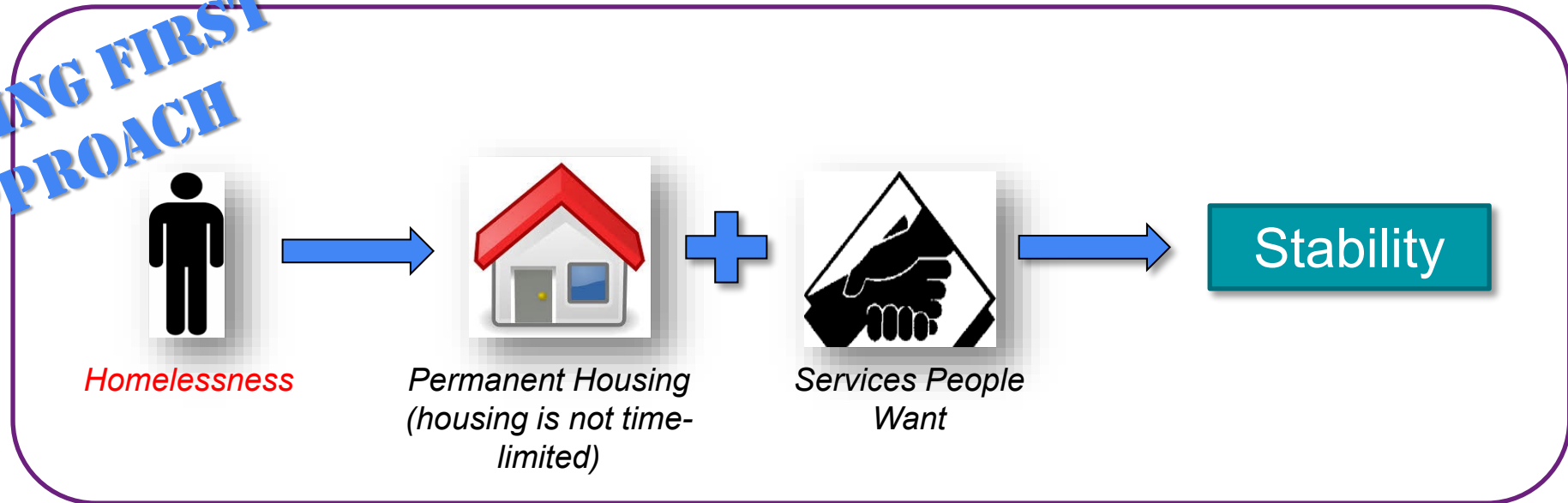
Response to Homelessness from 1980's Through **Early 2000's**

**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.



Vision of a Successful **Housing First**

Provide Consumer Choice, Self-Determination, & Autonomy

- 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
- Despite use of drugs/alcohol

Match Tenant Needs w/ Services that Are Voluntary for Tenants

- Flexible services
- Providers must offer services & engage tenants (1:10 to 1:15-1:20 caseload ratios) (*not voluntary for providers*)

Keep People Housed

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

Separation of Housing & Services

- Recovery is more likely if housed than homeless
- People shouldn’t lose housing if they choose not to participate in services that may not be right for them
- Tenant-centered: what does tenant want: services plan is the tenant’s plan, not provider’s

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 First is NOT housing only: People are offered or connected to services that are tailored to the needs of their household, but are not coerced into accepting them. Services are more effective when people choose to engage (*many more people participate in services when voluntary than mandated*).

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

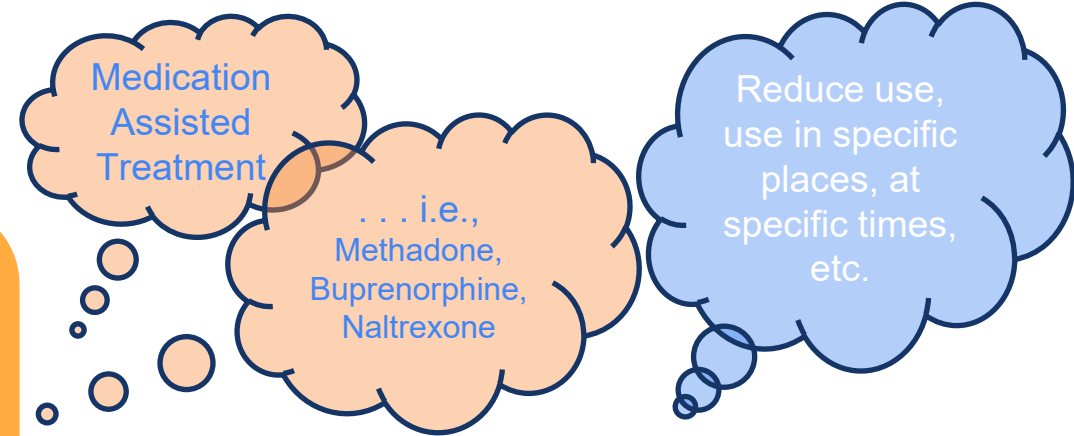
Empowerment,
Voice and
Choice

Cultural,
Historical and
Gender Issues

Harm Reduction As Core to Housing First Is Grounded in . . .

Evidence that those who participate in high-risk behaviors do better when they choose recovery path, receive education on ways to reduce risk

Requirements for service providers to engage tenants who are not contemplating abstinence



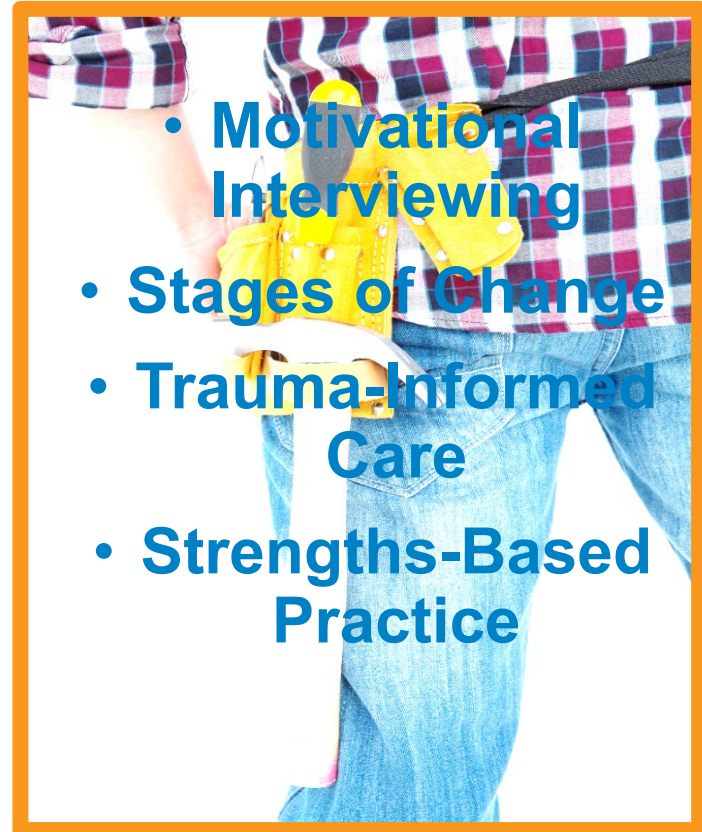
Tools for Services & Harm Reduction

Engagement



Program uses an array of techniques to engage consumers who are difficult to engage, including—

- (1) Motivational interviewing to engage consumers in a more collaborative manner,
- (2) Focus on instilling autonomy as quickly as possible,
- (3) Thoughtful process for identifying the need for assertive engagement, measuring the effectiveness of these techniques, and modifying approach where necessary



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.

Housing First Fidelity



Housing First Standards Assessment Tool

Overview: This tool aims to assess and document how closely a housing and service provider adheres to the recommended best practice model, in the context of the broader work to implement a Housing First orientation at the system-level. This tool specifically assesses Housing First, which directly impacts a system's fidelity to Housing First. In addition to the universal best practice standards identified, providers should also take into account their local community context and local written standards pertaining to Housing First when assessing. Providers can use this tool to prompt discussion and to make recommendations for improvement to projects that identify themselves as model providers.

Provider Info tab: The Provider Information tab should be completed *prior* to beginning the assessment. Specifically, the **Project Type, Population served, and Date of Assessment** fields need to be completed in order to populate the assessment standards and reports. These fields are specific to the project type and population. Please complete this section prior to printing any standards for assessment.

Standards: The standards have been arranged into the following categories: *Access, Evaluation, Services, Housing, Leases, and Project Specific*. The bottom of this page describes each of the categories in more detail. Some of the categories are not applicable for all project types. Providers need to be completed, (see "Project Type/Applicable standards" chart for the list of which standards need to be completed for each project type).

Project Type	Applicable Standards
Coordinated Entry	Access & Evaluation; Project-specific
Street Outreach	Access & Evaluation; Project-specific
Emergency Shelter	Access & Evaluation; Service & Housing; Project-specific
Transitional Housing	Access & Evaluation; Service & Housing; Leases; Project-specific
Rapid Rehousing	Access & Evaluation; Service & Housing; Leases; Project-specific
Permanent Supportive Housing	Access & Evaluation; Service & Housing; Leases; Project-specific

☰ [Instructions](#) [Provider Info](#) [Access & Input](#) [Leases](#) [Services & Housing](#) [Project Specific](#) [Report Summary](#)

Pathways Housing First Fidelity Scale (ACT version)

Tsemberis & Stefancic, January 2012

*See last page for suggested citation, item sources and references.

Item	Criterion	1	2	3	4
	HOUSING CHOICE & STRUCTURE				
1.	Housing Choice. Program participants choose the location and other features of their housing.	Participants have no choice in the location, decorating, furnishing, or other features of their housing and are assigned a unit.	Participants have little choice in location, decorating, and other features of their housing.	Participants have some choice in location, decorating, furnishing, and other features of their housing.	Participants have much choice in location, decorating, furnishing, and other features of their housing.
2a.	Housing Availability (Intake to move-in). Extent to which program helps participants move quickly into permanent housing units of their choosing.	Less than 55% of program participants move into a unit of their choosing within 4 months of entering the program.	55-69% of program participants move into a unit of their choosing within 4 months of entering the program.	70-84% of program participants move into a unit of their choosing within 4 months of entering the program.	85% of program participants move into a unit of their choosing within 4 months of entering the program.
2b.	Housing Availability (Voucher/subsidy availability to move-in). Extent to which program helps participants move quickly into permanent housing units of their choosing.	Less than 55% of program participants move into a unit of their choosing within 6 weeks of having a housing subsidy or receiving a voucher.	55-69% of program participants move into a unit of their choosing within 6 weeks of having a housing subsidy or receiving a voucher.	70-84% of program participants move into a unit of their choosing within 6 weeks of having a housing subsidy or receiving a voucher.	85% of program participants move into a unit of their choosing within 6 weeks of having a housing subsidy or receiving a voucher.
3.	Permanent Housing Tenure. Extent to which housing tenure is assumed to be permanent with no actual or expected time limits, other than those defined under a standard lease or occupancy agreement.	There are rigid time limits on the length of stay in housing such that participants are expected to move by a certain date or the housing is considered emergency, short-term, or	There are standardized time limits on housing tenure, such that participants are expected to move when standardized criteria are met.	There are individualized time limits on housing tenure, such that participants can stay as long as necessary, but are expected to move when certain criteria are met.	There are no expected time limits on housing tenure, although the lease agreement may need to be renewed periodically.

[HUD Housing First Assessment Tool:](#)

Takes providers through assessment of their program and whether compliant with Housing First (*downloadable*)

[Pathways Housing First Fidelity Scale:](#)

Scale of Housing First model fidelity, with 1 being no fidelity and 4 being complete fidelity

Questions?

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 is the best role for Cal ICH to play in pursuing the state's Housing First vision? What resources or assistance are we best positioned to provide?
 - What do you see as the opportunities for the Advisory Committee to develop or uplift Housing First best practices?
- What are the barriers to implementing Housing First that the state could help address?

VII. 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

VIII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Next Advisory Committee meeting: May 21, 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/CalifornialCH>
 -  <https://linkedin.com/company/california-interagency-council-on-homelessness>