



State of California
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

**ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION FUNDING
PROGRAM, ROUND 2, SECOND
DISBURSEMENT (ERF-2-R)
APPLICANTS CONFERENCE
JANUARY 05, 2023**



AGENDA

- Grant Objectives
- Program Overview
- Statutory Deadlines
- Application
- Scoring
- Q&A



GRANT OBJECTIVES

Cal ICH will fund actionable, person-centered local proposals that resolve the experience of unsheltered homelessness for people residing in encampments with clear pathways to permanent housing using data-informed, non-punitive, low-barrier, person-centered, Housing First, and coordinated approaches.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- To be distributed through a rolling application process.
- Eligible Applicants: Counties, CoCs, and Cities of *any size*.
- Available Funds: \$237,301,738 million available through rolling application review and award beginning December 1 until June 30, 2023, or until funds are exhausted (whichever comes first).
- Eligible Population to Serve: people experiencing homelessness in encampments



STATE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Per Statute (AB 178, Budget Act of 2022): **Up to \$150 million will be prioritized for proposals that serve people living in encampments on State right-of-ways.**

- Applicants must describe how they collaborated with Caltrans on their program design, implementation plans, and projected timeline and include a Letter of Support from Caltrans.
- Local Jurisdictions have priority to apply for ERF programs on state right-of-ways, over CoC applicants, until May 1, 2023.



STATUTORY DEADLINES



Table, ERF-2-R Events	Responsible Party	Date(s)
NOFA Release Date	Cal ICH	12/01/2022
Application Release Date	Cal ICH	12/01/2022
Application Window #1	Applicant	12/1/2022 - 2/28/2023
Application Window #2	Applicant	3/1/2023 - 4/30/2023
Review and Award Window #1 Applications	Cal ICH	
Letter of Local Acknowledgement No Longer Required for CoC Applications on SROW	Applicant	5/1/2023
Application Window #3	Applicant	5/1/2023 - 6/30/2023
Review and Award Window #2 Applications	Cal ICH	
Review and Award Window #3 Applications	Cal ICH	7/1/23 - 8/31/23
Deadline to Expend 50 Percent of Allocation	Applicant	6/30/2024
Deadline to Obligate 100 Percent of Allocation	Applicant	6/30/2024
Deadline to Expend 100 Percent of Allocation	Applicant	6/30/2026



APPLICATION WINDOW AND REVIEW

Diagram, Application Window and Review									
	2022	2023							
	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
Application Window 1	Blue	Blue	Blue						
Review of Window 1 Applications				Yellow	Yellow				
Application Window 2				Blue	Blue				
Review of Window 2 Applications						Yellow	Yellow		
Application Window 3						Blue	Blue		
Review of Window 3 Applications								Yellow	Yellow



APPLICATION

Applications will include:

- Part 1: Administrative Information
- Part 2: Proposal Overview: People Served, Encampment Information, Proposal's Outcomes
- Part 3: Implementation: Centering People, Core Service Delivery and Housing Strategies, Budget and Resource Plan, Key Entities and Staff, Accelerated Timeline



REVIEW, SCORING, AND AWARD

Phase 1, Administrative Review: Applications will be reviewed and evaluated for completeness of NOFA specifications.

Phase 2, Scoring Review: Cal ICH and/or its designee will convene an evaluation panel of three qualified individuals to review and score applications in accordance with the ERF-2-R Scoring Matrix.



SCORING

Eligible applications for funding must score an average of at least 70 of the possible 100 points, in addition to averaging no less than the minimum scoring threshold for each of the sections.

Minimum Score	Section
3 of 5	People Served and Encampment Information
10 of 15	Proposal's Outcomes
16 of 20	Centering People
11 of 15	Core Service Delivery and Housing Strategies
10 of 15	Budget and Resource Plan
10 of 15	Key Entities and Staff
10 of 15	Accelerated Timeline



Q&A

*The following FAQs were submitted to Cal ICH prior to the December 21 deadline to submit questions for the Applicant Conference.
A complete list of questions and answers will be posted as an addendum to the NOFA on our website.



APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS



Q&A

Question:

Can Local Jurisdictions or CoCs that already received ERF funding apply for ERF-2-R? Does prior award affect the likelihood of award of ERF-2-R funds?

Answer:

Yes, ERF-1 and ERF-2-L Grantees are eligible to apply for ERF-2-R funding. Prior awards do not affect the likelihood of receiving an award for ERF-2-R funding.



Q&A

Question:

If we can't begin implementation of our proposed ERF project until late summer or early fall of 2023, which window should we apply in?



Q&A

Answer:

Generally, the award process (including contract execution) takes approximately three to five months from the close of the application period. While grantees are expected to begin implementing their ERF project within 30 days after receiving funding, they will have the opportunity to explain their project timeline in their application and request an extension if necessary.



Q&A

Question:

What is the definition of encampment for this Program

Answer:

Generally, it is up to an eligible jurisdiction to describe the prioritized encampment. While no explicit definition is provided in statute, available HUD resources frequently refer to people staying in temporary structures that are not intended for long-term, continuous occupancy on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, you'll find the NOFA focuses more on the people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in encampments.



Q&A

Question:

Is there a minimum size requirement for how many people must currently reside within an encampment?

Answer:

No, there is no minimum size requirement in this round of funding.



Q&A

Question:

How many applications should a jurisdiction submit when considering a project which serves multiple encampments?



Q&A

Answer:

If multiple encampments are connected by way of the same needs, resources, services, housing strategies, etc., we encourage a single application which provides clear, strategic, and compelling evidence that supports serving the identified encampments as a larger local project. On the other hand, if the sites are too dissimilar in scope, need, geography, and/or services and housing strategies, it may be more appropriate to submit separate applications.



Q&A

Question:

Is there a limit on how many applications an eligible jurisdiction can submit?



Q&A

Answer:

There is no limit on the number of applications an eligible jurisdiction may submit. Please see the response to the previous question for considerations of when jurisdictions may want to complete separate applications. Additionally, each funded ERF project will have separate reporting requirements and contracts with Cal ICH. Applicants that are denied may also improve their program design and reapply during a subsequent application window.



Q&A

Question:

Is there a maximum amount of funding an eligible jurisdiction can apply for?

Answer:

No, there is no limit on the amount of funding that a Jurisdiction can request; however, Cal ICH encourages eligible Jurisdictions to provide compelling justification for a large ask. We intend to award a variety of projects as directed by Statute and in alignment with the Program's objectives.



Q&A

Question:

Would a single application submitted by Jurisdiction A for funding to serve a project that crosses over into Jurisdiction B but is not part of Jurisdiction B's own application be viable?



Q&A

Answer:

Yes, Cal ICH would consider such an application viable, provided the applicant provides evidence of communication and collaboration with their neighboring and/or overlapping jurisdiction(s). Cal ICH will not accept multiple applications for the same encampment, so if an encampment crosses over multiple jurisdictions, these jurisdictions must collaborate and determine who will apply as lead agency over the proposed ERF project.



Q&A

Question:

Would Cal ICH support ERF projects dedicated towards encampment management only (e.g., ensuring safety and habitability) to assist those within the encampment?

Answer:

Cal ICH will fund projects that create pathways to or directly connect people to permanent housing. While encampment management services are eligible activities under ERF, in order to be fundable, the project must also include both interim and permanent housing solutions.



STATE RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECTS



Q&A

Question:

How do I collaborate with Caltrans if I would like to apply to serve an encampment on a State right-of-way?



Q&A

Answer:

Caltrans has a new division of Homelessness and Encampments Department under the Maintenance Division of Caltrans. The Department's main goal is to keep people experiencing homelessness from sheltering on the State right-of-way.

Applicants should reach out to the Encampment Coordinator in their Caltrans District. This coordinator is responsible for engaging partners to help connect people experiencing homelessness with available shelter and other services and will serve as the primary point of contact. A list of Encampment Coordinators by district can be found [here](#).



Q&A

Question:

The ERF NOFA indicates that projects entirely or partially on a state right-of-way should have a letter of support signed by the Deputy District Director of Maintenance for the local Caltrans District. How do I get this support letter?



Q&A

Answer:

For proposals on state right-of-way, applicants must describe how they collaborated with Caltrans on their program design, implementation plans, and projected timeline. Applicants should be working with the Caltrans District Encampment Coordinator to develop proposals. The District Encampment Coordinator can facilitate getting a letter of support from the Deputy Director of Maintenance.



Q&A

Question:

How does an eligible jurisdiction determine if an encampment is part of a State right-of-way?

Answer:

Health and Safety Code Section 50250(I) includes a definition of a “State right-of-way.” If an applicant needs assistance determining whether a site is on a State right-of-way, they should contact their local Encampment Coordinator.



Q&A

Question:

Caltrans has a number of sites where they have removed encampments but that are quickly repopulated by people experiencing homelessness who did not move to more suitable shelter following their displacement from the encampment on the state right-of-way. The area may or may not have people currently occupying the site, but they are likely to return. Can our proposal include areas like this for consideration of an ERF grant?



Q&A

Answer:

Yes, ERF-2-R prioritizes proposals from local jurisdictions that address encampments on state right-of-way and that meet priority criteria established by Cal ICH in consultation with the Department of Transportation. These sites include areas that may not currently have individuals sheltering there at the time of the application, but that are located in high return probable sites as designated by the Caltrans Deputy District Director of Maintenance or their designee.



Q&A

Question:

What types of projects is Caltrans most interested in supporting?



Q&A

Answer:

Caltrans is interested in helping people experiencing homelessness who frequently shelter on the state right-of-way connect with service providers and transition to safer and more stable shelter and ultimately permanent housing. The department's main goal is to keep people experiencing homelessness from sheltering on the state right-of-way. Projects that target "high return probable" sites as designated by the local Caltrans District are considered the highest priority for the Department to support. Other proposals that will help deliver immediate emergency shelter capacity and a path to permanent housing, and that result in fewer encampments on our highways will likely be supported by the Department. These projects could include safe camping/safe parking proposals, tiny home projects, navigation centers and other emergency capacity building projects. Funding for street outreach and marketing materials to support these efforts are also considered positive proposal attributes by the Department.



Q&A

Question:

What about projects that propose utilizing Caltrans property to locate temporary emergency facilities for providing shelter to people experiencing homelessness?



Q&A

Answer:

Yes! Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-23-20 to immediately and urgently provide state government assets to provide shelter and housing for those who are homeless, including state excess land. Caltrans is interested in working with local partners to identify any parcels of state land that jurisdictions could use to help provide emergency shelter.



ELIGIBLE USES



Q&A

Question:

Are capital development costs, improvements to existing shelters, and operating subsidies for Homekey Programs eligible uses of Program dollars?



Q&A

Answer:

Yes, Cal ICH considers these costs eligible uses of ERF-2-R funds. However, we encourage eligible applicants to consider the brevity of the ERF Program when developing proposals for the use of these funds. Furthermore, proposals should demonstrate how expenditures will directly support a service and housing pathway for the people proposed to be served. Wherever possible, applicants should leverage funds from other Local, State, Federal, and/or Private sources and demonstrate sustainability.



Q&A

Question:

Do ERF projects have to work through the local Coordinated Entry System?

Answer:

Communities should plan their ERF Program as an enhancement and expansion to the local homelessness crisis response system, not as a stand-alone program. Communities should work with their local Continuum of Care to identify how encampment residents can be best prioritized and served through their coordinated entry system.



Q&A

Question:

Are there any resources around best practices for addressing unsheltered homelessness that my community can review as we design our ERF program?

Answer:

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has outlined [Seven Principles For Addressing Encampments](#) that can act as a roadmap for communities as they plan their program design. Communities can also refer to USICH's [Planning Checklist](#) to shape the design of their interventions.



Q&A

Question:

What is the relationship between harm reduction and Housing First? Are there specific harm reduction practices that my community must include in their ERF project, such as needle exchange programs?



Q&A

Answer:

Harm reduction is an important part of the Housing First model as it is based on principles of self-determination and individual choice. Harm reduction can include a wide array of services to protect people from harm while using substances, such as needle exchanges, OD prevention services, safe injection sites, vaccine outreach and education, and mental wellness and healing support programs. While all communities are required to follow the Housing First model, and harm reduction services can play an important role in saving lives, no specific harm reduction services are required under the ERF program.

The CDPH Office of AIDS also has helpful resources on their [Harm Reduction Resources page](#).



Q&A

Question:

Will the recording of this Applicant Conference be made available?

Answer:

No; However, all presented materials will be posted on our website shortly.



THANK YOU

Cal ICH Website:

<https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich>

Encampment Resolution Funding Grant
Program Website:

https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich/erf_program.html

Questions: CallCHgrants@BCSH.ca.gov with
subject line “ERF-2-R”