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CDSS Programs	 Counties/Providers Must Accept Tenants Regardless of Sobriety/Completion of Treatment	 Counties/Providers Do Not Reject Applicants for Poor Credit/Financial History, Criminal Background	 Counties/Providers May Not Impose a "Housing Readiness" Requirement on Applicants for Housing	 Counties/Providers Receive Referrals to Housing from Homeless Response System	 Program Offers Funding Incentives to Providers to Accept Referrals from Coordinated Entry/Assessment Systems
CalWORKs Housing Support Program					
<p>Comments: The CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) eligible population is CalWORKs families experiencing homelessness (as defined in the HSP All County Welfare Director Letter dated June 28, 2018). HSP is designed to address the housing needs of these families so that they can become self-sufficient. HSP assists homeless CalWORKs families in obtaining housing, and can provide temporary shelter, help with moving costs, short to medium term rental subsidies and wraparound case management.</p> <p>Funded by CDSS, HSP is operated at the county-level. CDSS continues to work toward ensuring tenant screening compliance at the county-level. Examples of these efforts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HSP 2017-18 and 2018-19 All County Welfare Director Letters (ACWDL) require HSP be operated in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&I Code section 8255. • In order to receive HSP funds, County Welfare Directors must certify that they will "operate an HSP consistent with all state and federal laws, including Welfare and Institutions Code sections 8255" and that they "understand that the HSP shall make any necessary changes in order to adhere to the core components of Housing First enumerated in WIC 8255 on or before July 1, 2019." • To receive HSP funding, counties are required to demonstrate in their application how they will incorporate the core components of Housing First. • CDSS has provided ongoing technical assistance, including mandatory targeted technical assistance for counties identifying areas for improvement in Housing First. • CDSS hosted learning forums for all counties in receipt of HSP funding in July 2017 and April 2018 which included sessions by national housing experts on Housing First. • CDSS is hosting a Housing First webinar series in partnership with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) for all CDSS-funded housing programs. • CDSS regularly disseminates related trainings and materials published by our state and federal counterparts (HCD, HUD, USICH, etc.) on Housing First best practices. 					
<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSP should include the requirement for counties to operate in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&I Code section 8255 in forthcoming regulations. • CDSS should include continue providing guidance on addressing barriers such as prior evictions, poor credit, criminal history, etc. • CDSS will continue providing individual Housing First TA to counties, which is informed by their monthly data and expenditure reporting. • CDSS will issue a Housing First All County Letter (ACL) by summer 2019. 					

Housing-Based Services:	Are Services Tailored to Tenant's Needs, Rather Than to Meet Set Programmatic Requirements?			
State Programs	 <p>Counites/Service Providers are Required to Offer Services Emphasizing Engagement & Problem-Solving, rather than Meeting Set Therapeutic Goals</p>	 <p>Services Providers Use Evidence-Based Practices for Engagement</p>	 <p>Services Providers Practice Harm Reduction and/or Recognize Drug/Alcohol Use as Part of Tenant's Lives & Recovery</p>	 <p>Providers Offer Tenants Education on Avoiding Risky Behaviors, and Connect to Evidence-Based Treatment By Choice</p>
CalWORKs Housing Support Program				
Comments:				
<p>Wraparound case management is a core component of the Housing Support Program. Funded by CDSS, HSP is operated at the county-level. CDSS emphasizes the flexibility of HSP, as well as the importance of progressive engagement and tailoring case management to the individual needs of each family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HSP 2017-18 and 2018-19 All County Welfare Director Letters (ACWDLs) require that HSP be operated in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&I Code section 8255. To receive HSP funding, among other things, counties are required to demonstrate how they incorporate the core components of Rapid Rehousing, including how case management services are delivered and how family needs and barriers are identified and addressed. CDSS has provided ongoing technical assistance, including mandatory targeted technical assistance for counties identifying areas for improvement in Housing First Targeted technical assistance areas include case management, service coordination and progressive engagement. CDSS hosted learning forums for all counties in receipt of HSP funding in July 2017 and April 2018 which included sessions by national housing experts on Housing First. CDSS is hosting a Housing First webinar series in partnership with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) for all CDSS-funded housing programs. CDSS regularly disseminates related trainings and materials published by our state and federal counterparts (HCD, HUD, USICH, etc.) on Housing First best practices 				
Recommendations:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSP should include the requirement for counties to operate in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&I Code section 8255 in forthcoming regulations. CDSS will continue providing individual Housing First TA to counties, informed by monthly data and expenditure reporting. CDSS should include guidance on engagement, including motivational interviewing, trauma-informed care, client-choice, harm-reduction and other evidence-based practices in forthcoming guidance and technical assistance efforts. CDSS will issue a Housing First All County Letter (ACL) by summer 2019. 				

Services Are Voluntary:	Does the Program Prohibit Conditioning Housing Tenancy on Tenant Participation in Services or Program Compliance?	
State Programs	 <p>Counties/Housing Providers Must Accept Most Vulnerable Californians Eligible for Program, Regardless of Applicant's Willingness to Participate in Services (though program may require services providers to offer services)</p>	 <p>Program Disallows Housing/Services Providers from Conditioning Tenancy on Participation in Services or Program Compliance</p>
CalWORKs Housing Support Program		 <p>HSP conditions participation on being an active CalWORKs recipient.</p>
<p>Comments: The CalWORKs Housing Support Program is designed to address the housing needs of homeless CalWORKs families. HSP statute is written specifically to address homeless and housing support in the CalWORKs program to meet a critical need for families working to achieve self-sufficiency. CalWORKs has specific requirements to maintain program eligibility that may present barriers to persons experiencing housing instability or homelessness. Many of these requirements are federal or statutory.</p> <p>Counties are required to collaborate with their Coordinated Entry System and CoC to prioritize their most vulnerable CalWORKs families and ensure coordination of appropriate services. While HSP statute mandates that an individual/family must be a CalWORKs recipient to be eligible, participants should receive the components of the program including housing supports, regardless of their participation in CalWORKs services. CDSS emphasizes the flexible nature of HSP and importance of case management to ensure no additional requirements are added through HSP and encourages counties to provide HSP case management in coordination with the CalWORKs case worker/case plan to ensure that housing is prioritized and supported within the CalWORKs plan. Additionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 11330 (h), counties may continue to provide housing supports under this section to a recipient who is discontinued because he or she no longer meets the income eligibility requirements of Section 11450.12. • To receive HSP funding, among other things, counties are required to identify and demonstrate their program need, as well as demonstrate their plan and goals for prioritization and HSP integration into Coordinated Entry. • CDSS has provided ongoing technical assistance, including mandatory targeted technical assistance for counties identifying areas for improvement in Housing First Targeted technical assistance areas include outreach, prioritization, and integration into the coordinated entry system to ensure appropriate and adequate levels of intervention are provided. 		
<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDSS HSP should include the requirement for counties to operate in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&I Code section 8255 in forthcoming regulations. • CDSS will continue providing individual Housing First TA to counties, informed by monthly data and expenditure reporting. • CDSS will issue a Housing First All County Letter (ACL) by summer 2019. 		

Housing Permanency	Does the Program Require Housing Providers to Offer Housing Without Limit on Length of Stay, with a Lease? <i>If the Housing is Time-Limited, Is the Housing Provider Required to Connect Tenants to Permanent, Decent, Safe Housing Upon Exit?</i>			
State Programs	 <p>Program Requires Housing Providers to Provide Tenants with Leases and Reflects Tenants' Rights & Responsibilities of Tenancy Under CA Law <i>(including eviction protections)</i></p>	 <p>Program Disallows Housing Providers from Evicting Tenants for Use of Drugs/Alcohol w/o Lease Violations</p>	 <p>Program Does Not Fund Time-Limited Housing, Unless Housing/ Services Providers Assist Tenants in Relocating to Decent, Safe Permanent Housing Tenant Can Afford Upon Exit</p>	 <p>If Funding Homeless Youth Program, Any Time-Limited Housing Documents Efforts to Avoid Eviction & Help Tenant Find Permanent, Decent, Safe Housing Upon Exit</p>
CalWORKs Housing Support Program				n/a
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The August 2, 2018 CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL): Implementation of Revised HSP Monthly Status Report defines permanent housing as “housing for the family that is meant to be long-term, there is no anticipated end date, and there is typically a written agreement (e.g., lease, written tenant protections). Permanent housing may be subsidized or unsubsidized, and it does not necessarily need to be funded by HSP. Examples of permanent housing could include: family moves into a home with HSP rental subsidy; family moves into a home paid for through a combination of voucher and client income; family moves into a home and HSP only assists with the deposit and move in costs; family moves in with a family member typically with a written agreement in place and no HSP funds assisted with the housing.” CDSS has provided guidance on eviction prevention and risk mitigation, as well as sample lease agreements to counties through technical assistance efforts and requires that counties collaborate with their Coordinated Entry and CoC to prioritize their most vulnerable CalWORKs families and ensure coordination of and connection to appropriate services. HSP utilizes a Rapid Rehousing model per statute and therefore employs a flexible, best practice time-limit of up to 24 months. However, CDSS mandates that counties work with their Coordinated Entry and CoC to ensure any necessary additional supports are provided beyond rapid rehousing. HSP is not a youth serving program, aside from youth qualifying for CalWORKs on behalf of the family household unit. 				
<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDSS HSP should include the requirement for counties to operate in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&I Code section 8255 in forthcoming regulations. CDSS should provide additional guidance on lease agreements, risk mitigation, landlord incentives and housing navigation in the forthcoming guidance and technical assistance efforts. CDSS will continue providing individual Housing First TA to counties, informed by monthly data and expenditure reporting. CDSS will issue a Housing First All County Letter (ACL) by summer 2019. CDSS plans to host a Tenants Rights webinar in 2019. 				