



Agenda Item V: Departmental Updates

Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Meeting, June 11, 2020

Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

No Place Like Home (NPLH)

In 2018, California voters approved Proposition 2, authorizing funding for NPLH program.

- HCD released a second competitive NOFA and amendments to the NPLH guidelines in September 2019 and applications were due January 8, 2020.
- Awards expected in June 2020.
- All counties, except Alpine County, intend to use Noncompetitive Allocation funds, and have submitted their County Noncompetitive Allocation Acceptance Form.

California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH)

The 2018-19 Budget allocates about 25% of the first year's SB 2 revenues to CoCs through CESH.

- In March 2019, HCD released the second CESH NOFA for approximately \$29M.
- Applications were due on June 28, 2019, and HCD announced the awards list on October 18, 2019.

Housing for Healthy California (HHC)

- Amended program guidelines were released February 2019.
- Round 1: Awards March 2020.
- Standard Agreements are under Development for Article I and Article II Standard Agreement is pending boilerplate approval.
- Article I NOFA released February 28, 2020; applications are due June 25, 2020; awards expected October 2020.

Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

- 2020 HUD waivers are enabling grantees with funds available to amend their existing standard agreements to deliver Tenant Based Rental Assistance to COVID-19 impacted households. The HUD waivers remain in place through the end of 2020.
- 2019 HOME NOFA issued October 31, 2019, for approximately \$42 million; awards expected to be announced July/August 2020.

Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention (VHHP)

VHHP provides loans to developers to acquire, build, or rehabilitate permanent supportive housing and transitional housing for veterans experiencing chronic homelessness or risk of chronic homelessness, or need affordable housing.

- HCD released a fifth NOFA November 8, 2019, for approximately \$75 million; applications were due February 13, 2020.
- Awards expected in May/June 2020.

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.

- Applications were due May 30, 2019, but extended to July 31, 2019, for applicants impacted by a 2018 FEMA disaster including Butte, Los Angeles, Ventura, Shasta, San Diego, and Santa Barbara Counties.
- HCD announced awards on November 12, 2019, including approximately \$6 million for the CoC Allocation and \$5 million for the Balance of State Allocation.
- 2020 CoC NOFA released on February 28, 2020; applications are due July 10, 2020, and awards expected September 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 a NOFA on June 1, 2020, for approximately \$42 million. Funds will be awarded over-the-counter through a streamlined allocation methodology to speed the deployment of funds to effectively address needs related to coronavirus impacts.
- Applications are due July 20, 2020.

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 expected beginning in July 2020 on a rolling basis.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV)

- In June, HCD will issue a NOFA for \$19 million in CDBG funding focused on emergency response for COVID-19.

Multifamily Housing Program/ Supportive Housing (SHMHP)

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.

Round One application due date was August 20, 2019, and awards were announced in December 2019.

- 18 out of 24 projects awarded were supportive housing and/or special needs projects.
- Round Two NOFA and application were released January 2020 and applications were due March 2, 2020; awards expected in June 2020.
- Round Two awards to be announced by June 30, 2020.
- Round Three NOFA scheduled for release on July 3, 2020.

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.

- 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 has been extended from April 2020 to late 2021.
- HCD is providing communities the opportunity to adapt their work plans to include COVID-19 related assistance.

Excess State Land / Local Surplus Sites

(Excess sites: Executive Order N-06-19; Local Surplus Sites: AB 1255 & 1486, 2019)

In January 2019, Governor Newsom released an Executive Order to use excess state property for affordable housing development.

- HCD and Department of General Services (DGS) are working in partnership across state departments and with jurisdictions to implement EO and are ramping up efforts to expand program.
- In January 2020, HCD announced a developer was selected to build Stockton's first 100% affordable, multifamily modular housing development.
- Request for developer qualifications were released for sites in South Lake Tahoe and San Francisco, with more developer solicitations for excess sites to be released over the next month.
- Expanding on HCD's public land work, the department will develop Frequently Asked Questions and uniform standards and guidelines to ensure local agencies comply with new legislation (AB 1486) when disposing of surplus land.

Hotel/Motel Conversion Project

- In collaboration with other state departments including DSS and HCFC, HCD is expanding on the success and efforts of Project Roomkey to reduce unsheltered homelessness in COVID-19 response and recovery.

- HCD and DGS are currently collecting and reviewing a range of data to help identify where opportunity may exist to acquire hotels and motels suitable for conversion to permanent housing.
- The Governor proposed \$600 million to support this effort, with funds that need to be spent before the end of 2020. Current budget negotiations have taken this amount to \$550 million.
- We expect to share more information about deploying these funds in the coming month, but are currently contemplating acquisitions of hotels/motels, and property work that can complete by the end of the year.
- Meanwhile, HCD is collaborating with other state Departments to evaluate transitions out of homelessness, and connection to jobs to reactivate a more resilient economy.

Department of Social Services (CDSS)

CDSS Housing and Homelessness COVID Response Guidance

- The CDSS is working closely with communities to understand the changing landscape of housing and homelessness in California in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the state's economy. The CDSS will continue providing monthly, 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.
- On March 19, 2020, the CDSS released an [All County Welfare Directors Letter \(ACWDL\): Interim Housing and Homeless Program Guidance and Recommendations on Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#), which provides guidance on existing policy and flexibilities available to grantees operating CDSS-funded housing and homelessness programs, as well as recommendations for serving communities affected by the statewide outbreak of COVID-19. An [update](#) to this guidance was released on March 31, 2020.

Project Roomkey Non-Congregate Sheltering

- [Project Roomkey/COVID Response Resources Webpage](#)
- 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 provide hotels, motels, and trailers as non-congregate shelter to protect human life and minimize strain on health care system capacity. The majority of Project Roomkey expenditures are federally reimbursable under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for both hotel/motel room occupancy agreements and operating services.
- As of early June, more than 15,000 hotel and motel units have been secured, of which more than 10,000 are occupied, and 1,338 trailers have been deployed to local governments.
- The CDSS leads regular Project Roomkey Office Hours via conference call to provide updates, best practices, and peer learnings, and to answer questions.
- On June 1, 2020, the CDSS released an [All County Welfare Director's Letter on Project Roomkey](#) which outlines the program's purpose and goals, recommended priority populations, and the resources that can be used to operationalize emergency non-congregate shelter (e.g., hotel/motels and trailers) as part of a community's emergency response to COVID-19, as well as information on FEMA reimbursement.

CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP)

- The CDSS is in the process of finalizing application guidelines for the FY 2020-21 \$95 million annual funding application.

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program

- On March 31, 2020, the CDSS released an [All County Welfare Directors Letter: Interim Housing and Homelessness Program Guidance and Recommendations on Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#), which provides updated guidance on existing policies and flexibilities available in the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) program as a result of the federal declaration of major disaster in California in response to the statewide outbreak of COVID-19. (Note, this guidance supersedes HA guidance in the earlier [March 19 ACWDL](#).)
- On January 2, 2020, the CDSS released an [All County Letter \(ACL 19-118\) on the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance \(HA\) Program](#), which removed the consecutive day rule for Temporary Homeless Assistance and expanded allowable providers of housing to include anyone with whom the family has a valid lease, sublease, or shared housing agreement.

Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program

- In January 2020, the CDSS allocated \$25 million in Bringing Families Home (BFH) state funds to 22 grantees (10 new and 12 continuing from the first three-year allocation). The CDSS received applications from 26 counties and tribes requesting a combined total of more than \$37.7 million.
- In February, the CDSS held a statewide Learning Forum for all new and continuing Bringing Families Home counties and tribes to engage in shared learning with housing partners and peers on lessons learned and best practices for operating a successful Bringing Families Home program.
- The CDSS is working with the 10 new grantees implementing BFH to support operationalization by July 1, 2020.

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)

- On November 1, 2019, the CDSS released [All County Letter \(ACL 19-104\)](#), which provided updated guidance for HDAP and clarified statutory requirements on prioritization of enrollment and clarification on housing assistance available through the program. The document also provided required program principles and recommended promising practices.
- In November 2019, the CDSS held a statewide Learning Forum for all HDAP programs to engage in shared learning with housing partners and peers on lessons learned and best practices for operating a successful HDAP program.
- On January 13, 2020, the CDSS released an [All County Welfare Directors and All Federally Recognized Tribal Governments Letter](#) requesting program applications from counties and tribes interested in applying to begin a new or continue an existing HDAP for FY 2019-20. Applications were due March 9, 2020 and three new counties applied and received funding for a total of 38 participating counties.
- Grantee allocations were announced via County Fiscal Letter (CFL) dated March 25, 2020 with the total need-based level funding and competitive funding amounts released in the [County Fiscal Letter \(CFL\) dated April 17, 2020](#). The remaining FY 2019-20 HDAP funding distribution is forthcoming.
- HDAP three-year pilot funds (\$45 million state funds with a dollar-for-dollar grantee match allocated to 39 grantees in FY 2017/18) are available for use through June 30, 2021.

- The release of the FY 2020-21 HDAP application guidelines for \$25 million in annual state funding is forthcoming. Grantees will be required to match state funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis and funds must be used by June 30, 2021.

Home Safe Program

- In January 2019, the CDSS allocated \$25 million in Home Safe state funds to 25 grantees. The CDSS received funding requests from 35 counties asking for a combined total of more than \$30 million.
- In October 2019, the CDSS held a statewide Learning Forum for all Home Safe Programs to engage in shared learning from housing partners and peers on lessons learned and best practices for operating a successful Home Safe program.
- The CDSS will continue to work with program grantees as communities face new challenges with the impacts of the COVID pandemic.

Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

Emergency Response to Interpersonal Violence – 2020 Pandemic (CO19) Program

- 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.
- Approximately \$5.3M 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 manage 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.)
- So far, the three coalitions have given out \$1,865,188 to 57 victim service provider agencies for the purposes of emergency housing under the CO19 program.