



State of California
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY



CALIFORNIA

HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCING COUNCIL

Council Meeting
September 15, 2020

Agenda for today

- I. Call to order and roll call
- II. Adoption of June 11th, 2020 meeting summary
- III. Overview of HCFC action planning process
- IV. HCFC Action Plan discussion
- V. Future meeting agenda topics
- VI. Public comment

HCFC Action Planning: Intent

- Identify priorities for HCFC meetings and discussions
- Strengthen coordination across State agencies and between State and regional and local partners
- Align strategies across agencies, focus on best practices
- Identify actions to be taken jointly – and independently
- Create accountability mechanisms
- Translate lessons from COVID-19 response to longer-term homelessness response
- Drive greater progress on preventing and ending homelessness

HCFC Action Planning: Approach

- Consultant support from Matthew Doherty
- Using national Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Response as structure for initiating planning
- Close coordination with Governor's Office
- Surveying conversations with every HCFC member
- Stakeholder input conversations, including people with lived expertise
- Dialogues across State agencies
- HCFC meetings as milestones in process

HCFC Action Planning: Timeframe

- ✓ **Special September 2020 HCFC Meeting** - Input on priorities and objectives
- ✓ **October 2020 HCFC Meeting** - Approve initial draft of priorities and objectives
- ✓ **December 2020 HCFC Meeting** - Recommendations for State actions in support of those priorities and objectives
- ✓ **March 2021 HCFC Meeting** - Approval and adoption of Action Plan

National Framework



The Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response

#HousingEquity

[HousingEquityFramework.org](https://www.bcmh.org/hcfc/)

National Framework: Partners



National Framework: Key Principles

1. Advance racial justice and equity

Both homelessness and the pandemic shine a light on racial and economic inequities in our nation so new funds should help eliminate disparities in communities – not exacerbate them.

2. Address the highest needs first

People who are unsheltered, older, disabled, medically fragile, literally homeless and extremely low income should be helped first. Start by addressing needs of people who are currently experiencing homelessness.

3. Grow Partnerships

By reinvigorating partnerships with a broad range of organizations and mainstream systems there will be more resources and you can reach deeper into impacted communities.

4. Get people into housing

The best health intervention is stable housing. Stable housing is necessary for economic recovery.

5. Act quickly

Business as usual will not work. We must act quickly in the context of the pandemic and the growing economic crisis.



National Framework: Action Areas

1. Unsheltered People
2. Shelter
3. Housing
4. Diversion and Prevention
5. Strengthening Systems for the Future
 - Implemented in phases that span from immediate public health response through economic recovery

Action Area: Unsheltered People

- Providing people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with access to safety and hygiene resources
- Connecting people who are unsheltered to non-congregate shelter opportunities and to health care services
- Strive to drastically reduce unsheltered homelessness through housing and public health focused strategies

Action Area: Shelter

- Establishment of non-congregate emergency sheltering for purposes of social distancing, isolation, and quarantine
- Keep people safer within decompressed congregate shelter settings.
- Sustain and expand sheltering opportunities during the pandemic
- Strive to transform their sheltering system to focus on non-congregate environments into the future

Action Area: Housing

- Expanding efforts and capacity to end sheltered and unsheltered people's homelessness through access to diverse models of housing and services
- During the initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic and throughout the period of economic recovery
- Expand housing resources and options and strengthen landlord engagement efforts
- Ensure equitable access to resources and equitable outcomes.

Action Area: Diversion and Prevention

- Reducing new entries into homelessness through diversion practices and through targeted homelessness prevention strategies
- Effectively reach people with the greatest risks of homelessness
- Focus on people who have exited homelessness, people from historically marginalized communities, people with the lowest incomes, and people whose support networks have fewer resources

Action Area: Strengthening Systems

- Strengthen homelessness response systems moving into the future
- Greater focus on issues of racial justice and equity
- Stronger coordination with public health systems
- Stronger housing and employment outcomes
- Better preparedness for future health crises and disasters.

Questions and Feedback



Councilmember Surveys

- Scheduling with all HCFC members – can invite colleagues & partners to participate

Completed:

- Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez
- Alexis Barries
- Corrin Buchanan
- Gail Gilman
- Gary McCoy
- Gustavo Velasquez
- Jacey Cooper
- Jennifer Loving
- Jody Ketcheside
- Russell Atterberry

Scheduled:

- 9/17 – Emilio Ramirez
- 9/18 – Toks Omishakin
- 9/21 – Don Cavier
- 9/22 – Amy Anderson
- 9/23 – Gina Buccieri-Harrington
- TBD – Joe Uchishiba

HCFC Action Planning: Surveying Conversations

Use Framework to help
structure the conversation

Seeking input on:

- Priorities for HCFC
- Programs and services
- Partnerships



Emerging Themes: Overarching



- HCFC can strengthen active partnerships across State agencies, define strategic roles
- Sustain focus on urgency and flexibility mobilized in response to COVID-19
- Greater role for State in providing guidance, training, tools and resources
- More proactive communication about strategies, changes, streamlining opportunities
- Mapping needs, demographics, inequities, service-delivery capacities

Emerging Themes: Overarching

- Value of setting bold goals
 - ✓ racial equity
 - ✓ rehousing people
 - ✓ reducing unsheltered homelessness
- Explore State roles in driving local goal-setting and progress – from encouraging to incentivizing to mandating
- Supporting capacity across all parts of state to make progress and achieve goals



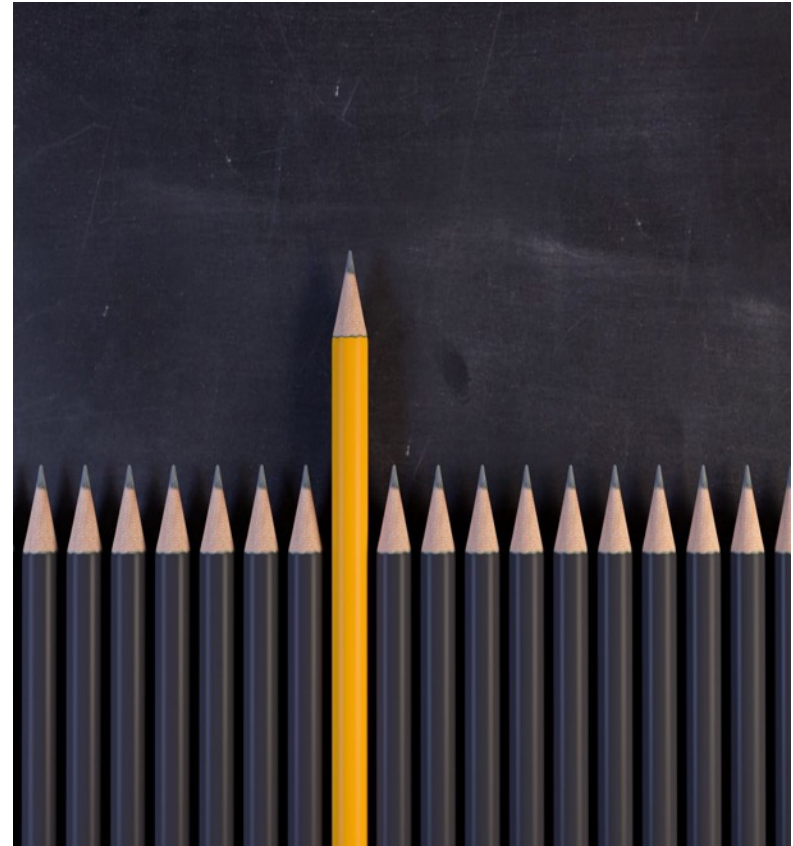
Emerging Themes: Unsheltered



- Foster a balanced focus on sheltering and on housing – not one or the other
- Define a clear set of interventions communities should use to reduce unsheltered homelessness
- Strengthen access to State-funded services and programs for people while unsheltered
- Role of health care and other services in supporting people while homeless, but also supporting exits from homelessness and stability

Emerging Themes: Shelter

- Build upon the urgent work and partnerships that responded to COVID-19
- Expand sheltering capacity not as end points, but as pathways out of homelessness
- Reimagine shelter, focus on innovative non-congregate sheltering models – interim housing funded through Homekey, recuperative care options
- Ensure sheltering options provide meaningful opportunities – safe, leads somewhere, treat people with respect and dignity



Emerging Themes: Housing



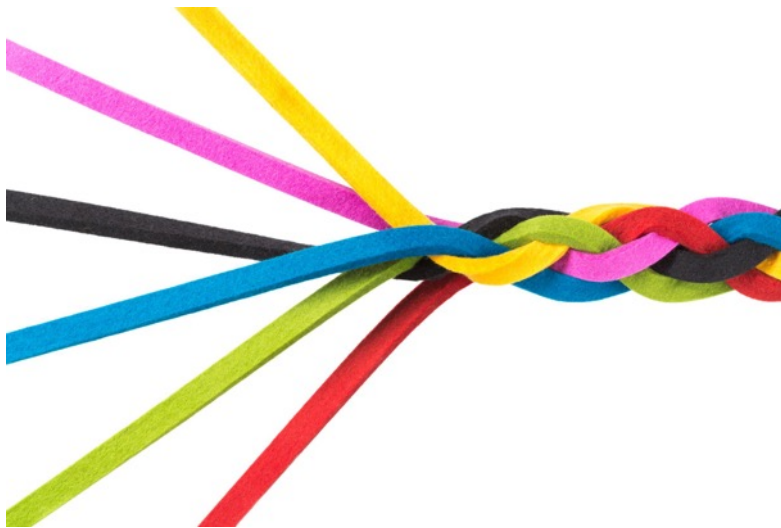
- Housing production and affordability needs to remain a primary focus for the State – support full range of options and models
- Ensure State programs are reaching households with the lowest incomes, most at-risk of homelessness, aligned with needs of population
- Regional approaches, including assisting people to get access to housing and stability across jurisdictional boundaries
- Focusing on housing stability plans early in work with clients

Emerging Themes: Diversion and Prevention

- Better data to help document pathways into homelessness
- Differentiate State strategies and resources across diversion, homelessness prevention, and eviction prevention.
- Partnership opportunities across health, education, corrections, foster care and other systems to prevent homelessness
- Strengthening re-entry planning and services
- Strategies for preventing youth homelessness
- Targeting and being attentive to identifying when people are at risk



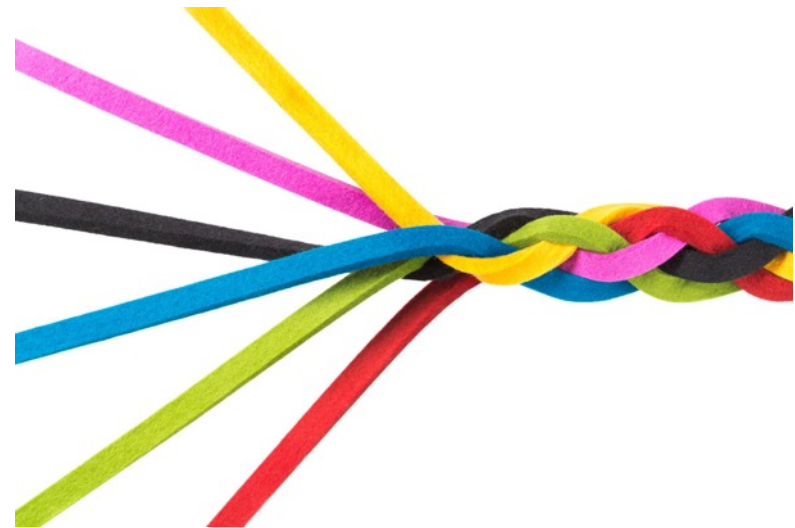
Emerging Themes: Strengthening Systems for Future



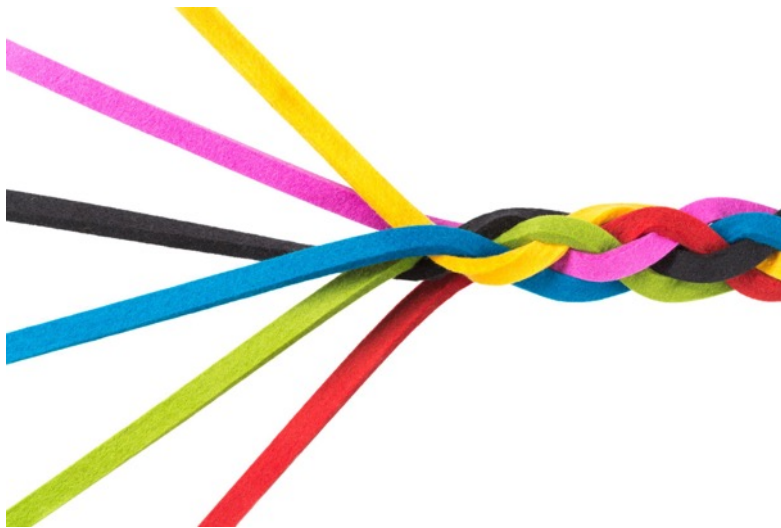
- Ensure HCFC is hearing and learning from communities and other States
- Racial equity:
 - ✓ State data systems
 - ✓ Consistent approach across State funding programs
 - ✓ Training and capacity building
- Housing First – public understanding and capacity to implement
- Align with coordinated entry systems – but strengthen those systems, address equity issues

Emerging Themes: Strengthening Systems for Future

- Document homelessness status or housing instability among participants in non-homelessness-focused State-funded programs
- Coordination between State agencies and local and tribal partners
- Foster regional strategies and collaboration
- State-Federal partnership and Federal policy agendas
- Remove obstacles together



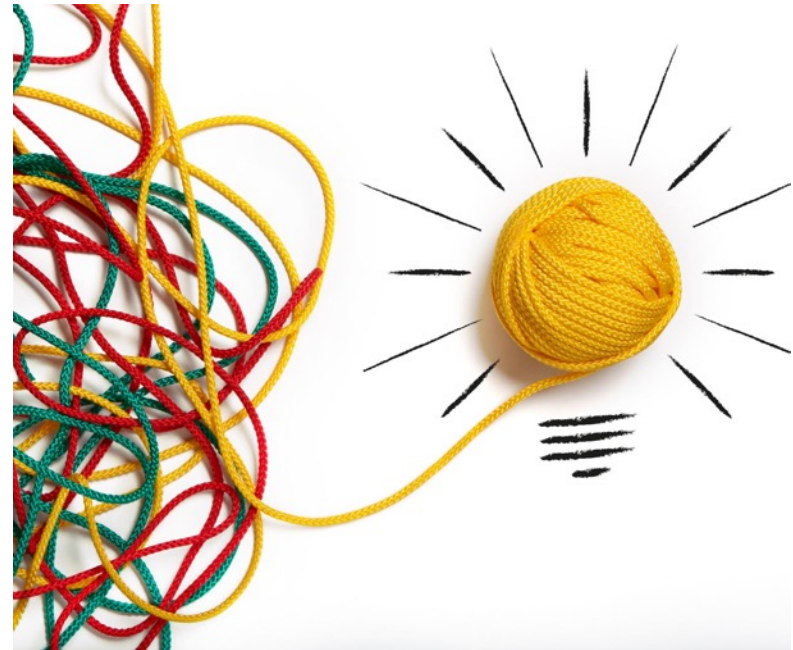
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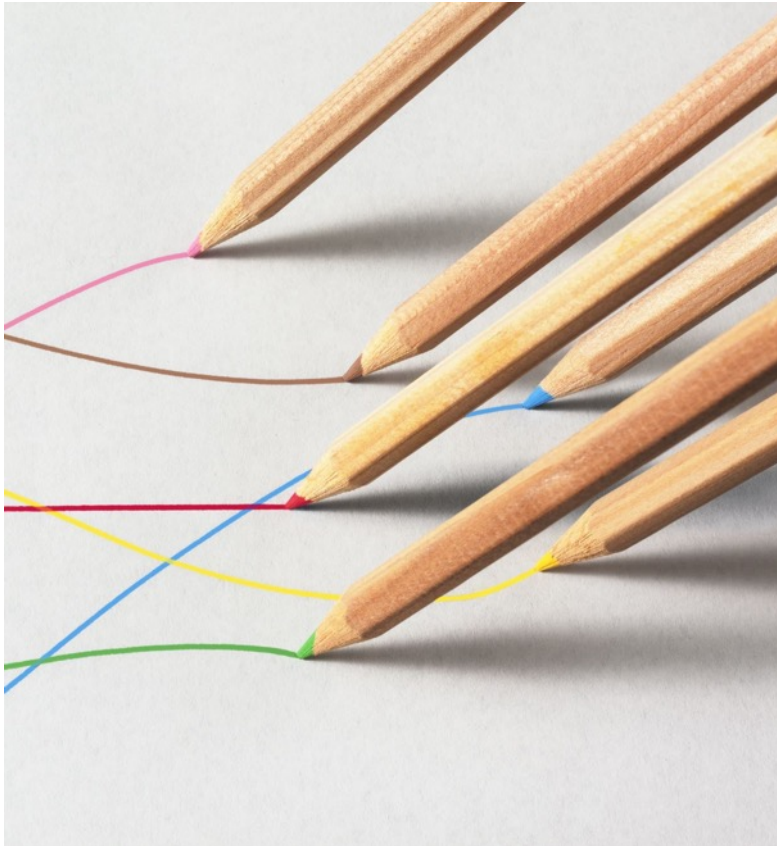
- Test innovative models that create greater opportunities for long-term success for households
- Set more expectations regarding use of State resources
- Foster consistent standards for interventions, and client engagement and outreach
- Utilize and coordinate State-funded TA as strategically as possible

Discussion and Input: Priorities for HCFC

- What ideas, objectives, or strategies do you see as top priorities for HCFC and the Action Plan?
- Where can HCFC and State actions most add value and have an impact?



Discussion and Input: Programs and Services



- Where are the biggest opportunities for State agencies and State-funded programs to drive progress on:
 - ✓ Unsheltered homelessness
 - ✓ Shelters
 - ✓ Housing
 - ✓ Diversion and Prevention

Discussion and Input: Partnerships

- What priorities should HCFC have for fostering partnerships:
 - ✓ Between State agencies?
 - ✓ With Federal, local, tribal partners?
 - ✓ For strengthen systems for preventing and ending homelessness?



Public Comment on Action Plan





Future Meetings

- ✓ **October 26th, 2020 HCFC Meeting** - Approve initial draft of priorities and objectives
- ✓ **December 18th, 2020 HCFC Meeting** - Recommendations for State actions in support of those priorities and objectives
- ✓ **March 2021 HCFC Meeting** - Approval and adoption of Action Plan

General Public Comment



Contact Information

- HCFC Website <https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/hcfc>
- Questions: HCFC@BCSH.ca.gov
- To request HCFC staff presentations:
<https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/hcfc/webapps/request.php>
- Social Media
 -  https://twitter.com/CA_HCFC
 -  <https://facebook.com/CaHCFC>