

Agenda Item VI: Department Updates

Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Meeting
March 23, 2021

California Community Colleges (CCC)

California Community Colleges are in year two of implementing the Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot (HHIP) Program at 14 of the colleges. Additionally, the California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance is in the process of organizing basic needs learning series with 6-7 sessions for higher education professionals. These events will take place over the next few months.

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Previous DHCS updates for the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council focused on several initiatives under the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) proposal that are important for addressing homelessness and health in the Medi-Cal population. For more background on how CalAIM addresses homelessness and health, see the DHCS updates for [March](#) and [October](#) of last year. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, DHCS postponed the CalAIM implementation timelines. The focus of this update is the status of DHCS' relaunch of CalAIM.

CalAIM Full Proposal Relaunch

DHCS completed the CalAIM proposal update on January 8. DHCS held a webinar on the [2021 CalAIM Proposal](#) on January 28. The webinar reviewed the components of the proposal including changes that were made to the original proposal based on stakeholder feedback. The [Presentation Slides](#) are available for viewing. Please email any general questions or comments on CalAIM to DHCS at CalAIM@dhcs.ca.gov.

CalAIM Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services Relaunch

DHCS held an Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and In Lieu of Services (ILOS) Relaunch Webinar on February 25. The webinar reviewed the draft ECM and ILOS documents noted below and provided updates such as timelines for implementation, the process the Managed Care Plans (MCPs) will be expected to follow to implement ECM and ILOS, and upcoming technical assistance and implementation engagement activities. The webinar presentation is available at the [DHCS ECM and ILOS Web Page](#).

DHCS released the draft ECM & ILOS documents below for public comment on February 16:

- [DHCS-MCP ECM and ILOS Contract Template](#): Standardized statewide requirements regarding the administration and delivery of ECM and ILOS that will be appended to DHCS-MCP model contracts.
- [ECM and ILOS Standard Provider Terms and Conditions](#): Standardized contract requirements that MCPs will be required to include in contracts with ECM and ILOS Providers.
- [CalAIM ECM and ILOS Model of Care Template](#): In which each MCP will describe how it plans to design, implement, and administer ECM and ILOS.

- **[ECM and ILOS Coding Guidance](#)**: A defined set of HCPCS codes and modifiers that must be used for encounter reporting by MCPs for all ECM and ILOS services.

The public comment period for the four ECM & ILOS draft documents listed above ended on March 12. Any additional comments or questions can be submitted to DHCS by email at: CalAIMECMILOS@dhcs.ca.gov. DHCS will review stakeholder feedback and finalize the documents listed above in April.

CalAIM Data Exchange Roadmap

Many CalAIM providers, such as ECM and ILOS program participants, will have limited experience seamlessly coordinating services they provide with other health system providers, and may have limited health information technology capacity to do so—yet their participation and ability to share and use administrative, health and social service information will be vital for program success.

In a recent webinar, funded by the California Health Care Foundation and supported by DHCS, Manatt Health:

- Described how ECM and ILOS program stakeholders will be expected to share and use information to fulfill program functions;
- Identified legal and regulatory, technical, financial, and operational barriers to information sharing across program stakeholders; and
- Outlined specific actions that California policymakers, government agencies, MCPs and providers can take to mitigate them.

Click [here](#) to view the recent program free, on demand, and download the presentation and materials.

California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Project Homekey

In July, HCD launched Homekey, an innovative program to purchase and rehabilitate properties - including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and other properties - and convert them into interim and permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This program makes awards directly to local communities with properties ready for conversion.

- By the end of March, projects should have obtained substantial occupancy.
- \$750 million for Homekey 2.0 was proposed in the January 2021 budget.
 - Of the \$750 million, \$250 was proposed as Early Action for this current budget year.
 - The legislature has not taken any action on this proposal to date.
 - Nonetheless, HCD is reviewing lessons learned and engaging with stakeholders to discuss in an effort to plan for Homekey 2.0
- There will be a report released to the legislature on April 1 that summarizes the initial outcomes of Homekey 1.0
- On December 3, 2020 HCD made its 10th and final round of awards, providing a total of \$846 million to 95 projects, which resulted in 6,029 homes for more than 9,000 people in communities throughout California.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Assembly Bill (AB) 3088 created California's Emergency Rental Assistance program. The program is available for tenants at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI), with a priority emphasis on helping tenants at or below 50 percent of AMI. Landlords can choose to accept 80% for any rent owed from April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021. If a landlord accepts this funding, the landlord forgives the remaining 20%. If a landlord chooses not to participate, the tenant can still apply for relief valued at 25% of whatever back rent they owe for the covered time period.

- The call center went public on March 12, 2021
- The state program went Live on March 15, 2021
 - Local partners are in various stages with their programs and about half went Live on March 15, 2021

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.

- Spending is ongoing on ESG-2019 funds and award letters were issued in February for 2020 ESG funds.
 - Due to wildfires and the pandemic, some grantees have had trouble expending ESG 2018 funds, and HUD approved an extension from February 2021 to December 12, 2021 to completely expend these dollars.

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.

- All 40 Round One contracts have been executed and all award letters have been sent out for ESG-CV Round Two. Grantees are working with staff to amend budgets to incorporate Round Two funds into their previous Round One budget.
 - Under the CARES Act, costs can be incurred going back to the beginning of the pandemic and staff has been encouraging Continuum of Care (CoC) Grantees to incur costs that are eligible for reimbursement prior to execution of the Standard Agreement to ensure timely expenditure of these one-time funds.
- HCD released an RFP in mid-February for an ESG-CV Consultant that would provide staff capacity building and grantee technical assistance for the duration of the ESG-CV expenditure period. Applications were due March 12, 2021 and the consultant is expected to be selected and begin work by early April.

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 2021, a CDBG NOFA for approximately \$30 in funding was announced. Applications are due in April and May.
- Awards made under the January 2020 NOFA have been announced and Standard Agreements are being finalized.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV)

- HCD is working on developing an over-the-counter application for the \$50M in CDBG-CV2 reserved for projects in support of Homekey.
 - Pursuant to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment, funds will be available to waitlisted Homekey projects, and projects that were awarded Homekey funds for acquisition but need additional financial support to complete renovations to bring the property to its ultimate functionality.
- An amendment to the CDBG-CV2/3 NOFA was made the week of March 1, 2021 to extend the deadline for applications from rolling deadlines in February and March to May 7th.
 - The reason for this extension was to accommodate the need for grantees to make changes to any plans they had to apply for assisting community members with rental arrears, as this will now be covered by the U.S. Treasury funded Emergency Rental Assistance (ERAP) program that will be operated by the state in its non-entitlement jurisdictions (i.e. small jurisdictions that don't receive CDBG funds directly from HUD and apply for them as a pass-through from the State).
- Other amendments to maximize benefit to tribal communities and Colonias were to increase the maximum award amount for any one tribe from \$500K to \$700K. A priority was added for Colonias applications for those that demonstrated collaboration with the local homeless CoC.

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.

- Housing Stability TA is still receiving requests and the contract has been extended until December 2021.
- HCD is working on a second round of the TA program and expects to release an RFP summer 2021.
- Consultants conducted stakeholder engagements on January 29, 2021 to generate specific feedback on eviction-prevention and rehousing strategies under AB 3088. Consultants provided a summary and recommendations that were submitted to the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing (BCSH) Agency to inform the state's rental assistance program.
- 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.
- Building Capacity and Housing First TA are nearing completion and no longer receiving requests. These TA programs will be completed by end of April and June 2021.

No Place Like Home (NPLH)

On July 1, 2016, Governor Brown signed landmark legislation enacting the No Place Like Home program to dedicate up to \$2 billion in bond proceeds from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to invest in the development of permanent supportive housing for persons who are in need of mental health services

and are experiencing homelessness, chronic homelessness, or who are at risk of chronic homelessness. In November 2018 voters approved Proposition 2, authorizing the sale of up to \$2 billion of revenue bonds and the use of a portion of Proposition 63 taxes for the NPLH program.

- The 3rd of four No Place Like Home NOFAs was issued last October. Block grant awards to the four counties with the biggest homeless populations were made in February. For the remainder of the counties that applied, individual project awards will be made in late Spring,
- As of mid-February, NPLH had 51 projects under construction, including 18 that are expected to complete construction in 2021. Another 61 projects are expected to complete construction in 2022.
- NPLH’s final NOFA under its current bond authority (Round 4) is planned for release in October of this year.

Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention (VHHP) Program

In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 12, the Veteran’s Bond Act of 2008, authorizing \$900 million in general obligation bonds intended to help veterans purchase single family homes, farms, and mobile homes through the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) Home Loan Program.

In 2013, AB 639 (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2013, Pérez) restructured the Veteran’s Bond Act of 2008 authorizing \$600 million in existing bond authority to fund multifamily housing for veterans.

- Round 6 VHHP draft guidelines are in process with an expected May 2021 posting of the guidelines and NOFA.

Transitional Housing Program (THP)

The Transitional Housing Program provides funding to counties for child welfare services agencies to help young adults aged 18 to 25 years find and maintain housing, with priority given to those formerly in the foster care or probation systems. (SB 80, Statutes of 2019)

- Round 2 – Awards were made to 48 counties in early February. Standard Agreements are being created and routed for execution.
- HCD met with the California Department of Social Services, the John Burton Advocates for Youth, and the County Welfare Directors Association of California to provide updates on the Housing Navigator Program (HNP) and THP. Discussions included how to allocate remaining Round 2 THP funds and Round 1 (only round) of HNP funds, and to discuss the Round 3 THP formula and funding.

California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)

Special Needs Housing Program (SNHP)

Of the original 16 participating SNHP counties, CalHFA still has active agreements with the following 8 counties and is closing out their respective pipeline projects:

County	Number of Projects	Total Number of SNHP Restricted Units	Total Number of Affordable Housing Units	Total SNHP Financing
LOS ANGELES	20	352	1,464	\$ 33,543,153

ORANGE	17	268	1,055	\$ 54,581,855
SAN DIEGO	9	136	618	\$ 18,724,266
FRESNO	3	50	96	\$ 6,168,706
SAN BERNARDINO	3	34	210	\$ 4,798,479
SACRAMENTO	1	15	92	\$ 2,000,000
SHASTA	1	5	20	\$ 601,608
TEHAMA	1	15	32	\$ 877,773
TOTALS	55	875	3,664	\$ 121,295,840

Breakdown of Project Loan Status

Project Loan Status	Number of Projects	Total Number of SNHP Restricted Units	Total Number of Affordable Housing Units	Total SNHP Financing
Active (Application/Initial Commitment)	22	267	1,281	\$ 51,097,567
Closed (Construction Period)	26	469	1,883	\$ 62,258,273
Closed and transferred to Asset Management	7	139	500	\$ 15,015,046
TOTALS	55	875	3,664	\$ 121,295,840

The SNHP program target conversion date is December 15, 2023 for projects in the pipeline.

National Mortgage Settlement (NMS) Counseling Program

In 2020, the Legislature allocated \$300 million in National Mortgage Settlement (NMS) funds to CalHFA pursuant to Government Code section 12531. Using \$50 million in NMS funds, the Agency launched the NMS Housing Counseling Services Program for housing counseling services to homeowners, former homeowners, or renters; as well as mortgage assistance to qualified California households. Currently, 74 housing counseling agencies and nearly 500 housing counselors across the state provide confidential counseling services free of charge. In addition, Program funds can be used to hire attorneys to train housing counselors, and individuals can get up to four hours of legal services to resolve, among other things, their fair housing disputes. CalHFA expects the \$50 million investment to help 30,000 to 40,000 families. Program housing counseling agencies are required to report various demographics and details on a quarterly basis, and we expect an accounting in April which we will incorporate into our next update to the Council.

California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Major activities since last meeting

Cal OES COVID Disaster Responses and Program data:

- Trailers – 1,305 delivered to Counties

Project Roomkey:

- 13,492 rooms acquired for Homeless Population
- 9,141 Rooms Occupied

Hotel Rooms for Healthcare Workers:

- Over 2,276,361 room nights
- 40,000 Total individuals served

Critical Supplies Distributed:

- Over 1 billion total units distributed

Meal Support:

- Over 603 million meals distributed and served

Housing for Harvest:

- 1,411 room nights
- 133 participants sheltered

Project Hope:

- 12 Participants in Hotels currently
- 1,111 participants released to date

Great Plates:

- 28 million meals provided so far
- Program end date: April 7, 2021

Statewide Vaccine Efforts:

- Almost 11 million administered
- 14.6 million delivered

Funding and/or program data (2020 year totals)

Specialized and Transitional Housing VOCA programs are in fourth year and target victim housing specifically, with the subrecipient determining the target population served.

Specialized Emergency (KE) Housing Program

- The purpose of the KE Program is to maintain and expand emergency shelter and emergency housing assistance resources in California, providing specialized services for victims of crime.

- 2020 year totals:
 - 402,544 have received services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House,
 - 73,163 have received relocation assistance.

Transitional Housing (XH) Program

The purpose of the XH Program is to create and/or enhance transitional housing for crime victims. The Program will support transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and supportive services, including follow-up services that move victims of crime into permanent housing. Successful transitional housing programs provide a range of optional supportive services and let victims choose the course that best fits their needs.

- 2020 yearly total
 - 330,400 have received Transitional Housing services.

There are 20 other ongoing federal Programs that offer sheltering and/or housing assistance as one of the services available in addition to other services. The programs are trauma-informed and victim centered and designed to provide timely assistance to victims of crime. The programs range includes Domestic Violence, Children's, Human Trafficking, Sexual Assault, Underserved Victims, and Victim Witness.

- 56,128 homeless have received services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House, Transitional Housing and Relocation Assistance in the 2020 year.

There are 4 programs targeting homeless (primarily homeless youth and human trafficking victims), offering sheltering, transitional housing and rental assistance, as well as many other services.

- 33,717 have received Emergency Shelter assistance in 2020.
- 47,290 have received Transitional Housing assistance in 2020.
- 24,343 have received Rental assistance in 2020.
- 146,094 have received Stabilization Planning (case management) in 2020.
- 219,438 have received Employment and Education training and services in 2020.

*Note that reports are generated quarterly and as of the time of HCFC March 23 meeting, no 2021 data was available.

**Note that service delivery for many programs was affected by Pandemic.

California Department of Social Services (DSS)

CDSS Housing and Homelessness Program COVID Response Guidance

- [Subscribe](#) to the CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch newsletter

Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy

- Project Roomkey is a multiagency effort led by CDSS to provide non-congregate shelter options such as hotels and motels or self-contained trailers for people experiencing homelessness in response to COVID-19.

- This effort was designed to save lives, reduce transmission, and relieve pressure on the hospital system by providing safe shelter for those who are COVID-19 positive, have been exposed, or who are at high risk for medical complications if they were to contract the virus. This includes seniors and people with underlying health conditions who have been housed in large numbers through this effort.
- Over the past 12 months, CDSS has led the coordination and technical assistance to 55 counties and three tribes operating Project Roomkey. This technical assistance (TA) includes monthly office hours, individualized community technical assistance, and the distribution of resources and guidance through a monthly newsletter and the [Project Roomkey/COVID-19 Response Resource Webpage](#). This has resulted in over 16,000 rooms secured and over 35,000 individuals being sheltered through Project Roomkey. Today there are over 9,550 hotel and motel rooms that are providing safe shelter to roughly 12,400 individuals, most of whom are seniors and people with underlying health conditions.
- In November 2020, CDSS allocated additional funding in an [All County Welfare Directors Letter \(ACWDL\)](#) to expand rehousing services to ensure that all Project Roomkey participants are provided support to exit to permanent housing. These rehousing services include direct financial assistance (such as move-in costs, landlord incentives, and rental assistance), housing navigation, and housing case management.
- On January 21, 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration released a [memorandum](#) announcing that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement for non-congregate shelter would increase to 100% of costs incurred dating back to January 2020, and would be extended to September 2021. Governor Newsom released a [statement on February 5, 2021](#) clarifying the impact of these changes on non-congregate shelter.
- CDSS has partnered with the Population Change Institute to provide targeted TA related to rehousing efforts out of Project Roomkey and the current FEMA reimbursement process. This effort includes:
 - Individualized TA relating to Project Roomkey and Rehousing
 - Group learning opportunities relating to Project Roomkey and Rehousing
 - Resources, guidance, coordination, and ongoing office hours specific to the FEMA reimbursement process. These resources are available for the public on the [Population Change Institute TA platform](#).

CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP)

- The CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) assists families receiving CalWORKs who are experiencing homelessness to quickly obtain permanent housing while providing flexible wrap-around supports to foster housing retention. Fifty-four counties and local HSPs participate in the program. They utilize a Rapid Rehousing model and provide flexible assistance and wrap-around supports to meet the needs of each family, which may include: rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, moving costs, hotel and motel vouchers, landlord recruitment, case management, housing navigation and stabilization supports, legal services, and credit repair. For more information on the CalWORKs HSP, including participating counties and allocations, please visit our [website](#).
- On January 14, 2021, CDSS released the All County Welfare Directors Letter: [Resources and Guidance for Eviction and Homeless Prevention](#).

- This letter provides guidance for County Welfare Departments and Tribal Governments on programs and resources available to assist with eviction and homelessness prevention due to COVID-19 related economic distress. It includes options available through the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, Tribal TANF, other CDSS Housing Programs, Refugee Support Services, and CalFresh Employment and Training.
- Since the program's inception in 2014, more than 24,000 families have been permanently housed through HSP.

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program

- The CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program serves eligible CalWORKs applicants and recipients with up to 16 cumulative days of temporary shelter payments, as well as payments to secure or maintain housing, including a security deposit and last month's rent, or up to two months of rent arrearages. For more information on the CalWORKs HA Program, please visit our [website](#).
- On January 14, 2021, CDSS released the All County Welfare Directors Letter: [Resources and Guidance for Eviction and Homeless Prevention](#)
- In FY 2019-20, 52,258 families received temporary HA and 5,961 received permanent HA – for a total of 58,219 approvals of CalWORKs Homeless Assistance.

Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program

- The Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program serves families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in the child welfare system with the goals of reducing the number of families experiencing homelessness, increasing family reunification, and preventing foster care placement. Twenty-two counties and one tribe participate in the program and local BFH Programs utilize Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing models and provide flexible assistance and services tailored to the unique needs of each family. Services may include: rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, moving costs, hotel and motel vouchers, landlord recruitment, case management, housing navigation and stabilization supports, legal services, and credit repair. For more information on the BFH Program, please visit our [website](#).
- To-date, more than 1,200 families have been permanently housed through BFH.

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)

- The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) assists people experiencing homelessness who are likely eligible for disability benefits by providing advocacy for disability benefits as well as housing supports. Forty-four grantees including 42 of 58 counties and two tribal entities participate in the program and provide outreach, case management, disability benefits advocacy, and housing assistance, tailored to meet the needs of the individuals served. For more information and resources on HDAP, including allocations, please visit our [website](#).
- Since HDAP's inception in FY 2017-18 through December 2020, 1,960 people have been permanently housed, over 4,000 disability applications have been submitted, and over 1,000 applications have been approved. CDSS completed the [Housing and Disability Advocacy](#)

[Program \(HDAP\) Annual report](#) on February 1, 2021, which includes additional information related to HDAP.

Home Safe Program

- The Home Safe Program supports the safety and housing stability of people involved in Adult Protective Services (APS) by providing homeless assistance and prevention. Local Home Safe Programs utilize a range of strategies to support homelessness prevention and housing stability for APS clients, including short-term financial assistance, legal services, eviction prevention, heavy cleaning, and landlord mediation, among other services. Please visit our [website](#) for more information on the Home Safe Program.
- As of March 2021, over 2,200 people have received assistance through the program, including over 1,700 instances of temporary housing being provided to clients and more than 1,000 rental payments made. Additionally, over 450 people have been connected to the local Coordinated Entry System (CES).
- An evaluation is currently underway with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) regarding the impact of the Home Safe program on older and dependent adults facing and experiencing homelessness.