

Agenda Item VI: Department Updates

Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Meeting
September 22, 2021

Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC)

On September 13, 2021, HCFC released a new funding guidance document, [*Putting the Funding Pieces Together: Guide to Strategic Uses of New and Recent State and Federal Funds to Prevent and End Homelessness*](#), which includes an introductory letter from HCFC Council Chair and BCSH Secretary, Lourdes Castro Ramírez. The Guide is aimed at helping local communities make effective decisions for the use of significant state and federal investments in homelessness. It is an updated and expanded version of 2020's *Guide to Strategic Uses of Key State and Federal Funds to Reduce Homelessness During the COVID-19 Pandemic*.

On August 17, 2021, HCFC also released [*Planning and Preparation Resources for Fire and Public Health Emergencies in California*](#) to provide more current information on serving people experiencing homelessness in communities challenged by wildfires, COVID-19, and other health emergencies. This letter includes resources for monitoring emergency events, emergency response and recovery, and critical planning for COVID-19.

Action Plan Implementation and Working Groups

HCFC is currently preparing a draft FY 20-21 progress report on the [*Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California*](#). HCFC has collected data from all 13 reporting departments on the 58 Action Plan activities with timeframes or milestones in FY 20-21. The draft report includes a high-level summary of FY 20-21 progress, baseline data analyses from Point-in-Time count and Homeless Data Integration System data, and summarized reporting for all 58 activities. This draft report will be sent to the Council for review ahead of the November 3, 2021, council meeting, where the Council will vote on its approval.

With the implementation of the Action Plan, the first working group, State Funding and Programs, is underway. The State Funding and Programs working group is tasked with setting outcome targets and documenting the impact of State funding, aligning new funding and program requirements, enhancing access to funding for marginalized communities, and uplifting the expertise of those with lived experience in these programs. Co-chairs of this working group include Corrin Buchanan, Assistant Director of Housing and Homelessness of the Department of Social Services (DSS), and Zachary Olmstead, Chief Deputy Director of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The first meeting of this working group is anticipated on October 5th, 2021, and includes staff from state departments who receive funding for homelessness programs.

Housing First

HCFC will begin a new round of Housing First assessments this fall. The last round was completed in 2019 and was a major focus of that year's Council meetings. In late September, staff will begin scheduling meetings with Council member departments to confirm the list of homelessness programs to

be reviewed, and to review previous Housing First checklists. HCFC will follow up in October and November on recommendations included in previous checklists. These conversations will also be an opportunity for department staff to give input on an updated Housing First checklist.

At the November 3, 2021, council meeting, HCFC staff will share the updated checklist along with a full list of homelessness programs to be reviewed. HCFC plans to offer the checklist as a fillable online form for ease of use. Through March 2022, HCFC will work staff from departments that have homelessness programs to get checklists completed. Following this process, HCFC will prepare a brief memo for Council Members on Housing First status.

Council Administered Grants

As of September 15, HCFC has processed 90 of 100 HHAP-2 grant packets to release another round of flexible state funds to Cities, Counties, and CoC's. These funds will continue the work started with HHAP-1 to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address their immediate homelessness challenges.

The HEAP program ended on June 30, 2021, and HCFC is working with grantees to gather final fiscal and programmatic data. We are excited to report that 100% of the \$500M in HEAP grant funds were spent. Final fiscal and program data is due to HCFC on October 15, and we will be releasing a final HEAP report before the end of the year.

On September 15, HCFC met our first statutory deadline for HHAP-3 with the release of the standard agreement to apply for HHAP-3 funds. This standard agreement to apply allows eligible grantees to notify HCFC of their intent to pursue HHAP-3 funds, whether they will be applying for funds individually or jointly with other eligible grantees that share their geographic service area, and authorizes HCFC to begin releasing initial HHAP-3 funds.

HCFC is in the process of implementing a new challenge grant program for encampment resolution. The 2021-2022 Budget provided \$50 million for Encampment Resolution Funding to support collaborative, innovative efforts to resolve encampment issues. HCFC will encourage a broad range of applicants in the hopes of representation from all types of communities; grants are competitive and will be awarded to highest scoring applicants; details on timelines for applications and awarding of funds will be released in coming months.

California Community Colleges (CCC)

The Budget Act increases overall funding for community colleges by more than \$3.5 billion over 2020-21 levels through a combination of ongoing and one-time funds, including noticeable investments in student basic needs.

Housing

Ongoing Funding:

Student Housing Services. This funding was established with the Budget Act of 2019. It provides ongoing funding of \$9 million to establish ongoing partnerships with community organizations that have a

tradition of helping populations experiencing homelessness to provide wraparound services and rental subsidies for homeless and housing insecure students. These funds may be used for:

- Connecting students with community case managers who have knowledge and expertise in accessing safety net resources.
- Establishing ongoing emergency housing procedures, including on- and off-campus resources.
- Provide emergency grants that are necessary to secure housing or prevent the imminent loss of housing.

The California Community Colleges are in year two of implementing a pilot program at 14 colleges.

One-time Funding:

Student Housing. The enacted budget includes \$2 billion in one-time General Funds to create a new fund for student housing at the three higher education segments. The funding will be split over three years, with \$500 million available in 2021-22 and \$750 million in each of the next two years. Specific details of the program will be established through later legislation.

Basic Needs

Ongoing Funding:

Basic Needs Centers. The Budget Act includes ongoing funding of \$30 million to create and support basic needs centers and coordinators in all the community colleges. Trailer bill language clarifies that each college must do the following:

- Develop a document for students that clearly lists all on- and off-campus basic needs services and resources by February 1, 2022. The document must be provided to students as part of orientations and given to faculty with encouragement to include relevant information in their syllabi. The document must include a description of each service or resource, the location where it is provided, a point of contact, and any eligibility restrictions.
- Streamline the application and intake process for on-campus basic needs services, create an easily accessible page on the campus website related to those services, and develop and implement a plan for outreach to students who have basic needs insecurity by February 1, 2022.
- Establish a Basic Needs Center by July 1, 2022, a central location on campus where services, resources, and staff would be available to students. The center must connect students to the financial aid office to ensure they are receiving all available financial aid. An existing Basic Needs Center can satisfy the requirement as long as it provides the required services.
- Designate a staff person as the Basic Needs Coordinator by July 1, 2022, who would act as a broker in identifying and linking students to on- and off-campus food, housing, mental health, and other basic needs resources.
- Report annually to the CCCCO on the services provided; the number of students served and their demographic backgrounds; whether those students remained enrolled and graduated; and challenges and best practices in providing basic needs services.

Basic Needs Centers can provide support to students who can be reasonably expected to enroll in the upcoming term, and to students during summer and winter breaks who were previously enrolled or are

enrolled for the upcoming fall or spring term. Funds can be provided directly to students to address urgent needs.

One-time Funding:

Basic Needs. The budget includes an additional \$100 million one-time for colleges to support basic needs, including to maintain food pantries, assist students with enrollment in CalFresh, support students in obtaining nutrition assistance, and assist homeless and housing-insecure students in securing stable housing, among others. These funds can be used until June 30, 2024, and the CCCCO must submit a report on their use by June 30, 2025.

Immediate Action Budget Package. Senate Bill 85, passed in February 2021, amended the Budget Act of 2020 by adding \$121.1 million in one-time local assistance funds to provide funding for immediate COVID-19 response and relief efforts, while making investments for an equitable, inclusive and broad-based economic recovery. Specifically, the package included the following to address students' basic needs related to housing and food insecurity:

- \$100 million for emergency student financial assistance grants for low-income students (allocated from federal ARP funds);
- \$3.1 million for outreach and application assistance to students applying for CalFresh

The funds were allocated at the district level, with districts encouraged to use a data driven approach to disbursing the funds to colleges in alignment with the needs of their low-income student populations. While no spending deadline was specified, districts were encouraged to disburse and spend the funds quickly to meet the immediate needs of students.

California Department of Education (CDE)

- The CDE received through the American Rescue Plan (APR) Homeless Children and Youth (HCY) Fund \$98M to support and provide wrap around services to students and families experiencing homelessness. ARP HCY funds consists of Homeless I and II funds. Homeless I funds will be allocated to local educational agencies (LEAs) currently receive a 21-24 Educating Homeless Children Youth grant. Homeless II funds will be allocated to LEAs based on its Title I allocation and the number of homeless youth enrolled in the 2018-19 school year.
- In August, the CDE provided two webinar trainings for LEA to better identify and support students and families experiencing homelessness in preparation for in-person instruction.
- The CDE is hosting its first statewide Homeless Education Conference entitled, Educating California's Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: From Identification to Implementation on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

This update provides information on key initiatives that have been funded under the 2021-22 California Budget or requested in the California Home and Community Based Services Spending Plan. These initiatives are in development and more information will be released soon. For more information about

any of the items listed here, including key implementation dates and stakeholder engagement opportunities, please see the [DHCS main web page](#) and sign up for DHCS' stakeholder update ListServ: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/DHCSListServ.aspx>.

State Budget Items

Funding to implement CalAIM

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) is fully funded in the 2021-22 Budget. Under CalAIM, DHCS is expanding on Medi-Cal's existing efforts in housing through two cornerstone programs: Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and In Lieu of Services (ILOS). ECM services provide whole person care through intensive care management for medical, behavioral health and social service needs. Complementary ILOS services include housing transition and navigation services, housing deposits, tenancy and sustaining services, short-term post-hospitalization housing, recuperative care (medical respite), day habilitation, and sobering centers. ECM and ILOS are Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan services, but most services will be provided in the community by medical, social service, county, public hospital and community-based providers who are contracted through the managed care plan. Notable timelines and other information is available at the ECM and ILOS [website](#).

Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Project (BH-CIP)

The 2021-22 Budget provides \$743.5 million (one-time, total funds) for the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Project for competitive grants to qualified entities to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets or to invest in mobile crisis infrastructure to expand the community continuum of behavioral health treatment resources. Additionally, once approved in the 2022-23 budget, \$1.5 billion to support the BH-CIP would be available for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2022-23. This is an investment to build thousands of beds, such as Crisis Intervention and Stabilization, Crisis Residential, Residential Treatment, Social Model Residential, Day Rehabilitation, Day Treatment Intensive or Partial Hospitalization with Housing Supports, Forensic, and Outpatient and Community Based Behavioral Health Services, including Wellness Centers, Adult and Senior Care Facilities, Room and Board with Intensive Outpatient Services, and Peer Respite and Shared Housing. Applicants will describe how they will use various wrap-around services, such as ECM and ILOS, social services to address social determinants of health, and county behavioral health.

Justice-Involved CalAIM Initiatives and Medi-Cal Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Funding

As part of the CalAIM Initiative, the Budget includes \$200 million (one-time, total funds) Justice-Involved Capacity Building: PATH funding would maintain and build on current WPC pilot pre-release and post-release services as a bridge to implementation of the full suite of CalAIM justice-involved initiatives in 2023. PATH funding also would provide resources to support collaboration and planning, and funding for correctional officials related to the design and launch of Medi-Cal application assistance and 90-days pre-release services, as well as to develop the IT services and infrastructure to support justice-involved Medi-Cal application process and 90-days pre-release services.

In coordination with the strategies noted above, California is requesting federal approval to authorize federal Medicaid matching funds for the provision of a set of targeted Medicaid services to be provided in the 90-day period prior to release for eligible justice-involved populations. These pre-release Medi-Cal services include ECM or care coordination, as appropriate, and community-based physical and behavioral health clinical consultation services provided via telehealth or, optionally, in person as

needed. In addition, services will include a 30-day supply of medication, including MAT, and DME for use post-release into the community. Authority to cover these services is requested for persons incarcerated in State prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities.

California’s Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan: Enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures

Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) funds for Homeless and Direct Care Providers

DHCS will provide an additional \$100 million in PATH funds (one-time, total fund) for Homeless and HCBS Direct Care This complements the \$200 million PATH funding noted above that is approved in the Budget. Through this funding, California is proposing a significant expansion of the homeless system of care that will create over 2,000 direct service jobs for those providing services to homeless and formerly homeless individuals. To successfully implement new Medi-Cal services like ECM and ILOS, local governments and community-based organizations will need to recruit and train a new workforce to serve disabled and aging populations. Funding will support outreach efforts to publicize job opportunities, workforce development strategies to train staff in evidenced based practices, implement information technology for data sharing, and support training stipends.

Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program

This program would provide \$1.3 billion (one-time, total funds) for Medi-Cal managed care plans to earn incentive funds for making investments and progress in addressing homelessness and keeping people housed. Funds would be allocated by Point in Time counts of homeless individuals and other housing related metrics determined by DHCS. Managed care plans would have to meet specified metrics to draw down available funds. Managed care plans and the local homeless Continuum of Care, in partnership with local public health jurisdictions, county behavioral health, Public Hospitals, county social services, and local housing departments must submit a Homelessness Plan to DHCS. The homelessness plan must outline how Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program services and supports would be integrated into the homeless system, build off of existing local HUD or other homeless plans, and address unmet need. The Homelessness Plans must include mapping the continuum of services with focus on homelessness prevention, interim housing, rapid re-housing (families and youth), and permanent supportive housing. Plans should articulate how CalAIM services, such as ECM and ILOS, are integrated, and how they will address equity in service delivery.

California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Homekey

In July 2020, 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.

Round 2

- In July 2021, the state budget passed AB 140, which includes an additional \$2.75 billion for Homekey over Fiscal Years 2021-22 and 2022-23.

- The Round 2 NOFA will be released in September 2021 and applications will be submitted on a rolling basis.
- The application and related guidance are expected to be released at the end of September 2021.

Round 1

- The legislative report for Homekey Round 1 was released April 1, 2021 and is on the [HCD website](#).
- On December 3, 2020, HCD made its 10th and final round of awards, providing a total of \$846 million to 94 projects, which resulted in 5,911 useable units created for more than 8,000 people in communities throughout California.

In July 2021, the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) published a Case Study on the [Homekey Program](#) in their series on [Hotel to Housing Case Studies](#).

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Senate Bill (SB) 91 created California's Emergency Rental Assistance program, which began in March 2021. The bill was amended by AB 832.

- As of August 31, 2021, about 116,000 household applications requesting \$1,398,112,090 in funds. Over 36,000 households have been served with total funds paid \$425,727,183 and an average amount of \$11,810 in assistance per household.
- The federal government has approved two rounds of Emergency Rental Assistance funding, administered through the U.S. Treasury, providing about \$5.6 billion in resources to the state of California.
 - Funds have been both directly allocated to jurisdictions over 200,000 in population and to the state to be administered to support smaller communities.

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.

- The ESG 2021 NOFA was posted on August 17, 2021, for the CoC and Balance of State (BOS) allocations. Both can be submitted on a rolling basis and are due by October 19, 2021.
- 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 Standard Agreements have been executed for ESG-CV Round 1. These Standard Agreements are being amended to include ESG-CV Round 2 funding. Of the 40 Amendments, 27 have been fully executed.
 - Under the CARES Act, costs can be incurred as of the date a State or unit of local government began preparing for coronavirus, which HUD shall presume to be January 21, 2020. HCD staff have been encouraging 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. ICF was awarded the ESG-CV Consultant contract and that contract is currently being reviewed by DGS.

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.

- HCD is expecting to release the 2022 NOFA in January
- In January 2021, a CDBG NOFA for approximately \$30 million in funding was announced. Applications were due in June and July and are currently under review.
- Awards made under the January 2020 NOFA have been announced and Standard Agreements have been executed by HCD.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV)

- In April 2021, HCD made available an over-the-counter application for the \$50M in CDBG-CV2 reserved for projects in support of Homekey. Applications were due on August 31, 2021, and will be reviewed for eligibility on a first come first serve basis.
 - Pursuant to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment, funds were 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).
 - Awards have been announced and HCD is processing Standard Agreements for the standard CDBG-CV 2/3 allocation
- Other amendments to maximize benefit to tribal communities was 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 Continuum of Care.

- Under a second amendment made in late May, the tribal set-aside deadline was extended to June 28, 2021.
- Applications for the Colonias and Tribal set-asides under CDBG-CV 2/3 have closed and are currently under review.

Technical Assistance (TA) to Improve Delivery of Homelessness Programs

Since January 2019, HCD has provided three types of technical assistance (TA) to help counties and CoCs enhance, develop, and/or improve the delivery of homelessness programs and services. Eligible entities are counties and Continuums of Care (CoCs).

- Building Capacity TA ended in April 2021 and resources produced from the TA program, along with the final report, have been shared with a Homelessness TA cross-departmental working group (HCFC, HCD, and DSS).
- Housing Stability and Housing First TA are working on several active workplans and the contracts have been extended until December 31, 2021.
- Over 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 TA ended at the end of April 2021 and is no longer receiving requests.

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 Round 4 NOFA is expected to be released October 2021.
 - The amount available for the Competitive Allocation NOFA will be at least \$486 million.
 - The amount remaining in the Noncompetitive Allocation NOFA is approximately \$19 million.
- As of August 2021, 5 projects are complete, and 75 projects are currently under construction.
- As of August 2021, 152 move-ins are completed or in progress.
- The Round 3 NOFA was released in October 2020. Awards were made for Competitive and Noncompetitive funds for Non-Alternative Process Counties in June 2021 for 36 projects totaling \$212,295,797.
- The Alternative Process County Round 3 awards to 3 counties total \$14,607,213.

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.

- The Round 6 VHHP NOFA was posted May 3, 2021, for \$75 million. Applications were due July 15, 2021. A total request of \$149,721,120 from 21 applicants was received. All awards will be announced by November 2021.

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)

- \$8 million will be awarded in Round 3 for Fiscal Year 2021-22.
- Remaining funds for Round 2 were awarded to Los Angeles County.

Housing Navigators Program (HNP)

- \$5 million will be awarded in Round 2 for Fiscal Year 2021-22.
- Round 1 funding of \$5,000,000 was awarded in FY 2020-21 to 46 counties
 - Remaining funds were awarded to Los Angeles County, San Bernardino County, Sacramento County, and Riverside County.

Housing for a Healthy California (HHC)

The goal of the Housing for a Healthy California program is to reduce the overutilization of emergency departments, inpatient care, nursing home stays, and use of corrections systems and law enforcement resources for people who are experiencing homelessness or chronic homelessness and a high-cost health user. The program provides funding on a competitive basis to deliver supportive housing opportunities through grants to counties for capital and operating assistance or to developers for operating reserve grants and capital loans.

- The next NOFA for \$170 million is expected to be released in September 2021.
- The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has awarded more than \$39 million from the Housing for a Healthy California (HHC) program.

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

Grants Funding and/or Program data (2021-year totals where available)

- In 2021 the 2021 State Budget Act, Cal OES received State General Funds to support two of its existing homeless youth programs:
 - \$10 million to continue funding four existing Subrecipients under the Homeless Youth Emergency Services Pilot (HY) Program; and
 - \$40 million to continue the Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing (YE) Program, but with 12 new Subrecipients – to be selected competitively.
- Entities eligible to apply for funds: For the HY Program – the existing four HY Program Subrecipients will receive this \$10 million and will have five years to fully expend these funds. For the YE Program – a Request for Proposal was released on August 17, 2021. To be eligible,

Applicants must be non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a history of serving youth experiencing homelessness.

- Notable timelines: Proposals for the YE Program are due to Cal OES by October 18, 2021.
- More Information: Interested entities can find more information about the YE Program [HERE](#). Once on this page, enter “YE” in the “SEARCH” box, and then click on the RFP link.
- There are 4 Federally funded grants specifically for housing and shelter. 1 is specifically for Homeless as a victim of crime, in particular domestic violence. The programs are in their fourth year and target victims of crime housing specifically, with, aside from the XD grant, 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.
 - 2021 year totals (first and second quarter):
 - New clients that were Homeless: **1,502**
 - Clients receiving services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House/Transitional Housing: **8,143**
 - Received relocation assistance: **1,364**
 - 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.
 - 2021 yearly totals (first and second quarter)
 - New clients that were Homeless: **6,207**
 - Clients receiving services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House/Transitional Housing: **132,952**
 - Received relocation assistance: **12,676**
 - Homeless Youth and Exploitation – Shelter (HX)
 - The HX Program is a comprehensive program to help homeless youth exit street life. Services provided under the HX Program include access to food, shelter/housing; counseling, outreach services, screening/providing for basic health needs; linkage to other services offered by public and private agencies; long-term stabilization planning; and follow-up services. In addition, the Program provides specialized services for youth experiencing sexual exploitation.
 - 2021 year totals (first and second quarter)
 - New clients that were Homeless: **1,755**
 - Clients receiving services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House/Transitional Housing: **770**

- Received relocation assistance: **5**
- DV Housing First – Shelter (XD)
 - The XD Program provides local assistance to domestic violence service providers throughout the State that focuses on helping victims increase access to and retain safe, permanent housing, and provides tailored supportive services to domestic violence victims
 - 2021 year totals (first and second quarter)
 - New clients that were Homeless: **2,666**
 - Clients receiving services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House/Transitional Housing: **30,540**
 - Received relocation assistance: **10,781**
 - 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. 2021year totals (first and second quarter)
 - New clients that were Homeless: **31,014**
 - Received Shelter and Housing services: **263,993**
 - Received relocation assistance: **18,241**
- There are 2 State funded victim of crimes programs targeting homeless (primarily homeless youth and human trafficking victims), offering sheltering, transitional housing, and rental assistance, as well as many other services. The 2021 reporting data is not available currently.
 - Clients provided services and assistance in 2020: **28,095**
 - Received Shelter and Housing assistance in 2020: **18,141**

California Department of Social Services (DSS)

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

Expansions to CDSS Housing and Homelessness Programs

As part of the Administration’s historic \$12 billion investment in ending homelessness, CDSS will administer just over \$2 billion in funding over the next two years to provide grant funds to counties and tribes to establish, continue and expand housing and homelessness assistance through the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP), Bringing Families Home (BFH), Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), Home Safe, and Project Roomkey (PRK) and Rehousing Strategy, along with the creation of a new program called the Community Care Expansion (CCE). Further details pertaining to each of these programs including current program guidance and claiming instructions, as well as recent statutory changes enacted through [Assembly Bill 135](#) are outlined in [All County Welfare Directors Letter \(ACWDL\) and Federally Recognized Tribal Governments in California](#) (July 19, 2021).

Continued partnership between state agencies, local governments, community organizations, and Continuums of Care will remain critical to build upon existing success and to expand our reach to more Californians in need of housing support. The CDSS looks forward to the continued collaboration with the Homeless Coordinating Financing Council (HCFC) and the other state departments represented on the Council.

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. For more information on the CalWORKs HSP, including participating counties and allocations, please visit our [website](#).

- On July 22, 2021, CDSS released [County Fiscal Year Letter \(CFL\) 21/22-05](#) informing counties of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 initial planning allocation for CalWORKs HSP, totaling \$95.0 million of the \$285.0 million available based on the Budget Act of 2021.
- Since the program's inception in 2014 through June 2021, more than 26,000 families have been permanently housed through HSP.

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. For more information on the BFH Program, please visit our [website](#).

- Through June 2021, more than 1,500 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. For more information and resources on HDAP please visit our [website](#).

- Since HDAP's inception in FY 2017-18 through March 2021, over 1,900 people have been permanently housed, over 4,000 disability applications have been submitted, and over 1,250 applications have been approved.

Home Safe Program

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 June 2021, over 2,500 people have received assistance through the program, including over 2,100 instances of temporary housing being provided to clients and more than 1,200 rental payments made. Additionally, over 600 people have been connected to the local Coordinated Entry System (CES).

Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy (PRK)

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. Please visit our [website](#) for more information on Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy.

- This has resulted in over 16,000 rooms secured and over 42,000 individuals being sheltered through Project Roomkey. As of August 23, 2021, over 7,400 hotel and motel rooms are occupied by over 9,200 people experiencing homelessness, most of whom are seniors and people with underlying health conditions.
- On July 29, 2021, CDSS released an [Letter to All County Welfare Directors and Federally Recognized Tribal Governments in California](#) notifying counties and federally recognized tribal governments operating a PRK initiative of funding available to continue providing PRK and Rehousing Strategy non congregate shelter and rehousing services in FY 2021-22.
- The reimbursement period for FEMA-eligible Project Roomkey non-congregate shelters and related non-congregate shelters has been extended through December 31, 2021.
- In June 2021, an Issues Brief was released on [PRK: Outcomes to Date and Looking Ahead](#). This issue brief outlines PRK outcomes to date and the future of the PRK and Rehousing Strategy.

New Program: Community Care Expansion (CCE)

The Community Care Expansion (CCE) program is designed to fund the acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities in support of individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Budget Act of 2021 appropriated \$805 million to the CCE program.

Other Program Updates

Eviction and Homelessness Prevention

- The CDSS has been strongly encouraging grantees, counties, and other stakeholders to refer clients to the [CA COVID-19 Rent Relief](#) program through CDSS funded county and grantee check-ins and the CDSS monthly newsletter.
- The CDSS hosted a [CA COVID-19 Rent Relief webinar](#) in partnership with the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency (BCSH), the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), informing DSS grantees about the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program and the application process, you can access slides to the webinar [here](#).
- The CDSS has added announcements on the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program to the client facing Statewide Automated Welfare System announcements with the goal of empowering clients of social service programs to inquire about rent relief resources and to visit the Housing is Key website to access CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program benefits.

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program

The CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program serves eligible CalWORKs applicants and recipients with up to 16 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](#).

- In FY 2020-21, 30,836 families received temporary HA and 1,683 received permanent HA – for a total of 32,519 approvals of CalWORKs Homeless Assistance. This is a decrease from previous years which may be due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic and eviction moratorium.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

While Caltrans does not have specific homelessness programs, the Department is a partner in the effort to provide jobs to and relocate persons experiencing homelessness from our right of way into better situations.

Since July 1, 2021, Caltrans has held eight hiring events for its Clean California Program. In addition to significantly reducing litter along state highways and beautifying California's transportation network, this program is also expected to provide job opportunities for artists, veterans, and people experiencing homelessness. To get the word out, Caltrans has worked with state Senators and Assemblymembers to organize events in specific locations around California. The department has also partnered with community non-profit organizations and employment agencies to provide flyers with hiring event information to people experiencing homelessness. In Los Angeles, Caltrans has held at least one hiring event at the city's homeless shelters on Hope Street. So far, Caltrans has made 60 job offers to people experiencing homelessness.

Through Clean California, Caltrans will also be providing litter removal services at or near encampment sites through a project enabling persons experiencing homelessness to collect unwanted trash and limited hazardous materials and place these items into trash bags, sharps containers, and doubled walled containers for unused aerosols cans and batteries. Our goal is to remove litter at 800 encampments over three years while not displacing persons experiencing homelessness. There is an available budget of \$10 million divided into three years.

Caltrans does not receive funding and it is tasked with using monies from our budget for any efforts on homelessness. Any information being sought about our hiring events or litter removal services at or around encampments can be found on the Clean California website: <https://cleancalifornia.dot.ca.gov/>

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

- USICH created [a resource to use as a Guide to American Rescue Plan Funding](#) that impacts people experiencing homelessness. It provides an overview of how much money is available, for how long and how it can be used for more than 30 funds and programs.
- USICH issued a report on 8/31/21: [Treasury, HUD & DOJ Urge States, Localities and Lawyers to Take Action to Prevent Evictions](#). While California's Eviction Moratorium is still in effect, we urge all parties to expedite emergency rental assistance relief as much as possible. To that effect, the [U.S. Treasury Department issued seven new policies](#) that can assist in this manner:

- Self-attestation can be used in documenting each aspect of a household's eligibility for ERA, including with respect to: a) financial hardship, b) the risk of homelessness or housing instability, and c) income.
- During the public health emergency, state and local ERA programs may rely on self-attestation alone to document household income eligibility when documentation is not available.
- State and local grantees may advance assistance to landlords and utility providers based on estimated eligible areas.
- State and local grantees may enter into partnership with nonprofits to deliver advance assistance to households at risk of eviction while their applications are still being processed.
- Grantees may make additional rent payments to landlords that take on tenants facing major barriers to securing a lease, including those who have been evicted or experienced homelessness in the past year.
- Past arrears at previous addresses may be covered.
- A tenant's costs associated with obtaining a hearing or appealing an order of eviction may be covered with ERA funds as an eligible "other expense."
- On August 18, 2021, HUD published the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- Informed by the CDC and coordinating with HHS, HUD, VA, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and the National Alliance to End Homelessness, USICH issued some [new guidance](#) intended to help communities minimize the spread and impact of the Delta-variant of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness, including these recommendations:
 - Encourage and support vaccinations
 - Strengthen routine testing, especially in congregate facilities
 - Continue to use COVID-specific non-congregate shelter (NCS) for people who test positive, were exposed, or are at high-risk of severe illness or death
 - Maintain or re-institute COVID-19 mitigation protocols
 - Continue to rehouse as many people as possible.