

## **Department and Federal Partner Updates**

Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Meeting  
November 3, 2021

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### **Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC)**

On September 29, Governor Newsom signed two bills into law that will bolster our shared work towards preventing and ending homelessness in California:

- [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1220](#) formally renames the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, modifies Council membership to include five additional state departments, standardizes the membership to director-level representatives, and formally establishes a co-chair leadership structure.
- [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 977](#) ensures more comprehensive and robust data collection on state-funded homelessness program and adds the expertise of additional key stakeholders into our work.

The [Letter from HCFC Executive Officer to the HCFC Stakeholders](#) released on October 20, provides additional details on these bills and the transition of the council.

### **Council Administered Grants**

The HCFC grants team has hit several statutory and programmatic milestones since the last quarterly council meeting.

- All 100 HHAP-2 grants have been processed and we have confirmed that funding has been mailed out to all eligible jurisdictions.
- The HHAP-3 Standard Agreement to Apply (SAA) was posted by the statutory deadline of September 15 and all eligible grantees submitted their SAA by the statutory deadline of October 15.
- More eligible grantees have chosen to submit joint applications, bringing the total number of individual grantees down from 100 in HHAP-2 to 76 in HHAP-3, reflecting the intent of HHAP to encourage local partnerships, systems alignment, and a shared vision and strategy for ending homelessness amongst jurisdictions with overlapping service areas.
- On October 29, HCFC released its first competitive grant program, the Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) Grant, a new program intended to result in innovative demonstration projects for supporting people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in encampments.

### **Action Plan Implementation and Working Groups**

HCFC prepared a [Draft FY 20-21 Implementation Progress Report](#) on the Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California. The draft report is currently available for public review and will be finalized and released following the Council's November 3 meeting. The report includes baselines for future performance measurement and a record of progress by HCFC's 13 Council member departments on statewide actions taken to address homelessness in FY 20-21; it also calls out future priorities for Council departments on actions to be continued or newly implemented in FY 21-22.

The first of five working groups described in the Action Plan, the State Funding and Programs Working Group, had its first meeting on October 5, and its second meeting on November 2. Working Group members represent 13 different state departments and agencies. The first two meetings focused on building group cohesion, coming to a common understanding of the Working Group charter and goals, and aligning on upcoming funding resources available across the state.

The Racial Equity Working Group is currently being formed and expects to have its first meeting by the end of 2021.

## **Housing First**

HCFC has worked to confirm the list of Housing First programs across our partner departments who administer programs that provide housing or housing-based services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. A current list of confirmed programs can be found in the meeting materials for the [November 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting](#). In November, HCFC will be reaching out to partner departments to follow up on recommendations from the last round of Housing First checklists in 2019 and to gain input on an updated Housing First checklist.

Instructions for the updated Housing First checklists is anticipated to be sent out to departments at the start of the New Year. HCFC will work staff from departments that have homelessness programs to complete checklists through March 2022. Following this process, HCFC will prepare a brief memo for Council Members on Housing First status.

## **California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) – not currently represented**

Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) update for Action Area 5, Objective 14, #7 of the [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness](#) in California.

To familiarize relevant stakeholders, including corrections, probation/parole, housing, and law enforcement agencies and housing and service providers, with the Council on State Government (CSG) Justice Center's [report, findings, and recommendations](#), the CCJBH and the CSG Justice Center held a virtual project launch on August 18, 2021). At the event, CCJBH and CSG shared the report findings and recommendations; subject matter experts from HCD, HCFC, DHCS, CDSS, and CDCR offered their perspectives; and individuals with lived experience shared their stories to illuminate the urgent need for more housing capacity, and San Diego County demonstrated how they are implementing programs that are in line with the recommendations. This event was CCJBH's most attended webinar of the year, 496 attendees joining, representing the housing, health/behavioral health, and justice system sectors at both the State and local levels. CCJBH and CSG are currently working to develop a series of webinars regarding the recommendations to occur during winter/spring 2022, which will help to position local agencies and providers to collaborate and better serve people with behavioral health needs, with a focus on increasing opportunities for housing and community-based treatment.

## **California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)**

### **Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP)**

On October 1, DHCS hosted a BHCIP listening session for county, Tribal, non-profit, and for-profit organizations. The listening session discussed BHCIP funding opportunities, program timelines, and available technical assistance, and provided an opportunity for eligible applicants to provide insights, including written and verbal feedback, directly to DHCS on proposed BHCIP activities.

BHCIP provides DHCS with funding to award 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. 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. A portion of the funding is available for increased infrastructure targeted to children and youth age 25 and younger.

For more information, please email [BHCIP@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:BHCIP@dhcs.ca.gov) or visit the [DHCS website](#).

### **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan**

In the [last HCFC update](#), DHCS provided details of two HCBS Spending Plan initiatives relating to homelessness: 1) Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) funds for Homeless and Direct Care Providers; and 2) the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program.

On September 3, 2021, [CMS notified](#) DHCS that California's HCBS Spending Plan was granted partial approval of the initiatives proposed, with one initiative denied and additional information requested for other initiatives. On September 17, DHCS, in collaboration with sister departments, [provided CMS with the additional information requested](#) for specific initiatives. DHCS and its partners are currently developing implementation strategies and timelines. More information will be made available to stakeholders and posted on the DHCS website in the coming weeks.

On July 12, DHCS submitted California's \$4.6 billion Medicaid [HCBS Spending Plan](#) to CMS for review and approval. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provides states with a temporary increase in federal funds for certain HCBS Medicaid expenditures from April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. The HCBS plan reflects many of the investments included in the initial version released by DHCS in early June, as well as program funding included in the 2021 Budget Act. The plan will expand services for California's most vulnerable and at-risk residents through new and existing programs that will strengthen HCBS in the state's Medicaid delivery systems. These investments will also build capacity and transform critical safety net programs, as well as promote economic mobility and social stability.

### **CalAIM Justice-Involved Advisory Workgroup**

In October 2021, DHCS, in partnership with CDCR, will conduct the first CalAIM Justice-Involved Advisory Workgroup meeting virtually. Workgroup meetings will continue through July 2023. Workgroup membership will be comprised of key stakeholders and partners identified through the Whole Person Care pilots, existing justice-involved Medi-Cal programs, and CalAIM Section 1115 demonstration public

comments. Membership will consist of 40 to 45 individuals to facilitate a robust information-sharing working environment.

DHCS and CDCR established the CalAIM Justice-Involved Advisory Workgroup to ensure stakeholder input on the policy and operational design of multiple justice-involved CalAIM initiatives that will be effective on January 1, 2023. These initiatives include: requiring all counties to implement Medi-Cal application processes in county jails and youth correctional facilities; ensuring that eligible justice-involved individuals receive select Medi-Cal services in the 90-day period prior to release from prison, jail, or youth correctional facility; facilitating referrals and linkages to behavioral health services for justice-involved populations upon release into the community; and coordinating reentry into the community, including providing connections to transition clinics, community supports, and enhanced care management.

In addition to DHCS and CDCR, workgroup members are recognized stakeholders/experts in their fields, including the following justice-involved organizations: CCJBH, SEIU California, California State Sheriff's Association, Chief Probation Officers of California, and Board of State and Community Corrections. Other members represent counties, behavioral health associations, providers, health plans, information technology systems, Whole Person Care pilots, tribal health programs, community-based organizations, and stakeholders/consumers. More information will be available on the DHCS website in the coming weeks.

### **DHCS Major Program Initiatives – Go-Live Dates**

From advancing and innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) to transforming the state's behavioral health programs, the Department's initiatives preserve and improve the overall health and well-being of all Californians. The links below reflect our major program initiatives and anticipated go-live dates, pending readiness and federal approvals. This information will be updated as necessary.

- [DHCS Major Program Initiatives – Go-Live Dates \(PDF\)](#)
- [DHCS Major Program Initiatives by Category – Go-Live Dates \(PDF\)](#)
- [DHCS Major Program Initiatives – Go-Live \(Excel\)](#)

### **California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)**

#### **California Accelerator Program (listed as Streamlining Backlogged Affordable Housing in budget)**

In July 2021, Governor Newsom signed the budget bill, AB 140, which allocated federal ARPA funding to address critical affordable housing needs in California. HCD created the California Housing Accelerator program with that funding to assist projects unable to move forward due to a severe shortage of financing available through the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee and the Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC), which historically played a critical role in funding affordable housing development. This program makes awards to projects that are otherwise shovel-ready but have a funding gap because they are unable to attain a final commitment of tax credits or state bonds due to the unprecedented shortage.

- The Project Solicitation document for Tier 1 was released September 16, 2021, and is [available on the HCD website](#).

- Tier 1 is expected to add more than 3,000 new affordable units with nearly \$500 million in existing HCD funding.
- On October 5, 2021, the application was released, and the application window opened for Tier 1 projects – the deadline to submit applications for those projects is November 3, 2021.
- The tier 2 Project Solicitation and application release date are expected late 2021 or early 2022.

### **Portfolio Reinvestment Program (listed as Preservation Initiative in budget)**

The FY 2021-22 budget includes \$300 million one-time Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund to provide capital to HCD legacy projects about to go market-rate to extend affordability covenants and preserve the state's affordable housing stock.

- Initial target of 60 to 80 projects, including projects with expired loans and regulatory agreements, as well as other projects at risk of conversion to market-rate over a five-year period.
- HCD plans to issue a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in Spring 2022.

### **Program Streamlining and Alignment (AB 434)**

The state budget included \$2.7 million General Fund to implement AB 434 to create a single application system for HCD's major housing financing program, streamline the ability for developers and local governments to apply and obtain valuable funding for affordable housing financing and development.

- Programs under AB 434 include the Joe Serna Farmworker Housing Grant Program, Infill Infrastructure Grant program (IIG), Multifamily Housing Program (MHP), and Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP).
- Draft guidelines are expected by the end of November 2021.
- The AB 434 Super NOFA release is expected February 2022, with the competitive NOFA application period closing 60-90 days later (May-June 2022)

### **Multifamily Housing Program (MHP)**

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 for lower income households.

- In July 2021, The NOFA was released for \$220 million in funds.
- \$20 million is set-aside for projects selected under Executive Order N-06-19, which identifies and prioritizes excess state-owned property and aggressively pursues sustainable, innovative, cost-effective housing projects.
- 84 applications received with a total request of \$982,338,817 with a total of 6,278 units.
- This round also included the first tribal entity proposal.
- The expected award date is January 2022.

### **Homekey**

In July 2020, HCD launched Homekey, an innovative program to purchase and rehabilitate properties - including hotels, motels, 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

- The NOFA was released September 9, 2021.
- The application and guidance were released, and a stakeholder webinar was held September 30, 2021.
- The final day for geographic-based allocations is January 31, 2022, and the final application date for Fiscal Year 2021-22 is May 2, 2022.
- Awards are continuous as complete applications are received.

### 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.

### **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 October 13, 2021, about 303,500 household applications have requested about \$4,208,000,000 in funds. Over 69,000 households have been served with total funds paid over \$815,500,000 and an average amount of \$11,819 in assistance per household.
- The program expects to be fully obligated in November and fully expended by the end of the year. The program is in contact with the U.S. Treasury for more funding.

### **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 Continuum of Care (CoC) and Balance of State (BOS) allocations. Both can be submitted on a rolling basis and are due by October 19, 2021. (see next bullet point). 2021 ESG application must be submitted through the eCivis online grants network system.
- Due to technical issues, both 2021 ESG NOFAs are being amended to extend the application due date to October 29, 2021
- Spending is ongoing on ESG-2019 funds and award letters were issued in February for 2020 ESG funds. The expenditure deadline is October 22, 2021.
- Due to wildfires and the pandemic, some grantees have had trouble expending ESG 2018 funds, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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 program funds.
- ICF was awarded the ESG-CV Consultant contract and has provided additional capacity to HCD. HCD is working with ICF to provide training, technical assistance and support to subrecipients.
- After the 3rd Quarter reporting period 17.5% of ESG-CV funds have been expended. We are on target to meet the September 30, 2021, 20% expenditure deadline set by HUD.
- The ESG/ESG-CV team are conducting weekly Office Hours to provide updates, training and answer questions from subrecipients and sub-subrecipients.
- ICF will be providing a Racial Equity Foundation training on November 2, 2021, and currently over 450 people have registered to attend.

### **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 are currently under review. Applicants will be funded, if determine to be eligible, 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.
- CDBG-CV2/3 NOFA Closed in May. As of October 13, 2021, 56 Standard Agreements have been executed and 92 more are routing for approval.
- Colonias and Tribal applications are all under review and should be routing for approval in the coming month.

### **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 CoCs.

- The Housing Stability contract (Corporation for Supportive Housing, CSH) is extended to December 2021 and Housing contract (Homebase) is extended to June 2023.
- CSH and Homebase are assisting with Homekey technical assistance related to stakeholder feedback, community engagement, and training for supportive services.

### **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 will be released on October 29, 2021, with applications due January 19, 2022. This will be the last planned NOFA under the program's current bond authority.
  - The amount available for the Competitive Allocation NOFA is a minimum of \$486 million.
  - The amount remaining in the Noncompetitive Allocation NOFA is approximately \$19 million.
- All program funds will be awarded by June 30, 2022.
- As of October 15, 2021:
  - 7 projects are complete, and 77 projects are currently under construction
  - 202 NPLH move-ins are completed or in progress.
- The NPLH Annual Report will be available by December 31, 2021.

### **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)

- HCD has reached out to the eligible counties informing them of the Round 3 funding and is awaiting counties accepting the funds and returning required documents.
- \$8 million will be awarded in Round 3 for Fiscal Year 2021-22.



### **Transitional Housing Program - Plus (THP-Plus) Housing Supplement Program**

The THP-Plus Housing Supplement Program provides additional funding to THP-Plus, within the California Department of Social Services, that funds transitional housing for young adults who exited foster care on or after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and are not yet 24 years of age.

- \$9,200,000 million shall be allocated to up to 11 counties for the THP-Plus Housing Supplement Program. A county shall be eligible to receive funding if the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the county is one of the 11 most expensive in the state during the 2020–21 federal fiscal year.
- HCD has contacted the eligible counties to determine bed capacity as of July 1, 2021, which is a factor in determining funding eligibility and allocation amounts.
- Once eligible counties are determined HCD will work with the eligible counties on allocating funds.

### **Housing Navigators Program (HNP)**

The Housing Navigators Program funds the support of housing navigators to help young adults aged 18 years and up to 21 years secure and maintain housing, with priority given to young adults in the foster care system.

- HCD has reached out to the eligible counties, informing them of the Round 2 funding and is awaiting counties accepting the funds and returning required documents.
- \$5 million will be awarded in Round 2 for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

### **Pet Assistance and Support Program**

Pet Assistance and Support Program funds for qualified homeless shelters to fund shelter, food, and basic veterinarian services for pets of individuals experience homelessness, residing in shelter.

- \$10 million will be awarded in Fiscal Year 2021-22
- A NOFA is expected to be release before the end of 2021.

### **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 November 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 Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)**

### **Special Needs Housing Program**

In 2016, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Program was essentially replaced by the passage of legislation authorizing \$2 billion for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to implement the No Place Like Home (NPLH) Program. However, prior to deployment of NPLH funds, CalHFA established the Special Needs Housing Program (SNHP) to serve as a transition between the two aforementioned housing finance programs.

SNHP allowed local governments to use MHSA and other local funds to provide financing for the development of permanent supportive rental housing, including units dedicated for individuals with serious mental illness (and their families), who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

CalHFA is no longer accepting applications for SNHP projects. The application deadline for viable SNHP projects ended on January 3, 2020, with construction loan closings required to occur no later than June 30, 2022. SNHP lending activities and CalHFA's ongoing efforts to responsibly close the program entail the following activities:

- Processing the 55 total SNHP projects that have applied for financing, including 39 projects in the lending pipeline, 15 projects in CalHFA's asset management portfolio, and one project that was assigned to the county at permanent conversion.
- From the program's inception through September 30, 2021, CalHFA has closed \$96 million in SNHP loans. Based on the loan amounts for the remaining projects in the CalHFA pipeline, the total amount of SNHP financing will be \$121,295,840 once the program fully winds down.
- A total of 3,586 units distributed throughout 16 California counties are anticipated to be financed by SNHP funds.
- All active projects are anticipated to close ahead of the June 2022 construction close deadline. 17 loans representing 1,031 units remain active (in the application or initial commitment phase). A total of 38 loans representing 2,555 units have closed and are either constructed or under construction.
- CalHFA continues to perform compliance monitoring on SNHP projects and will do so for the duration of the loan term.

### **Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program**

In a collaborative partnership, CalHFA, DHCS, HCD, California Department of Developmental Services, (DDS), and TCAC will administer California's Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration (Section 811) program to provide permanent supportive housing for extremely low-income persons with disabilities, particularly those who reside in a long-term care facility and desire to return to community living. A primary barrier to returning to the community from a long-term facility is lack of affordable housing.

The State of California was awarded nearly \$24 million in the first two funding rounds of Section 811 Project Rental Assistance by HUD to provide five-year renewable rental assistance to affordable housing projects serving persons with disabilities. The funds will be administered with specific criteria as defined by each Round.

In addition to enhancing opportunities for people with disabilities to live in integrated community settings, the Section 811 funding will help to reduce costs associated with institutionalization for people who need access to affordable housing to avoid institutionalization, or who may otherwise end up homeless.

- Round I (Funding Year 2012), CalHFA was awarded \$13.1 million in Rental Assistance to fund the first 5 years of a 20-year Rental Assistance Contract. A total of 245 units are receiving rental assistance.
- Round II (Funding Year 2013), CalHFA was awarded \$15.5 million in Rental Assistance to fund the first 5 years of a 20-year Rental Assistance Contract. A total of 233 units are receiving rental assistance.

### **National Mortgage Settlement Housing Counseling Program**

As part of the 2020-21 State Budget, \$300 million in National Mortgage Settlement funds were allocated to CalHFA for the purposes of providing HUD-certified housing counseling and mortgage assistance.

With consideration to immediate needs, [CalHFA used \\$50 million](#) of these funds to establish the NMS Housing Counseling Program, which allows California residents who are in danger of eviction or foreclosure to receive free, confidential counseling services from a network of HUD-certified housing counselors throughout the state. In addition to reimbursement for services, the program provides capacity building funds to help a struggling network of counseling agencies hire and train more counselors and upgrade their systems to support virtual counseling and make other improvements.

Through June 30, 2021, the following metrics illustrate NMS Housing Counseling Program activities:

- 11, 214 households served
- 73 active housing counseling agencies (HCAs)
- \$21.1M in funds distributed
- 189 active counselors

Counseling services provided by the HCAs can be grouped into the following categories:

- Homebuying
- Reverse Mortgage
- Mortgage Delinquency
- Rental Housing

### **Homeless Counseling**

To date, over 300 households receiving HCA counseling services sought homeless counseling. CalHFA is currently evaluating opportunities to expand outreach efforts to reach more households at risk of homelessness with counseling services.

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

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

- In 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 were due postmarked to Cal OES by October 18, 2021 and we have received nearly two dozen proposals thus far.
- 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 yearly 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 yearly 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 yearly 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. 2021 year 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)**

### **CDSS Housing and Homelessness Programs Guidance Update**

- [Subscribe](#) to the CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch newsletter and visit our [website](#) for additional information on all HHB programs

### **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 Program (CCE).

Further details pertaining to HSP, BFH, HDAP, and PRK including current program guidance and claiming instructions, as well as recent statutory changes enacted through [AB 135](#) are outlined in the [Funding for Continuation of CalWORKs Housing Support Program, Bringing Families Home Program, Housing and Disability Advocacy Program, Home Safe, and Project Roomkey and Rehousing Initiative Letter date July 19, 2021](#).

The CDSS will also be implementing a new program, the CCE Program, established by AB 172 (Chapter 20, Statutes of 2021) which will fund the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities that serve applicants and recipients of Social Security Income (SSI) including individuals who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. For more information about CCE and to learn about upcoming announcements, visit the [Community Care Expansion Program website](#).

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 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.

- Since the program's inception in 2014 through July 2021, more than 26,700 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.

- Since program implementation in summer 2017 through August 2021, more than 1,600 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.

- Since HDAP's inception in FY 2017-18 through June 2021, over 2,200 people have been permanently housed, over 4,300 disability applications have been submitted, and over 1,400 applications have been approved.
- On September 13, CDSS released the [Notice of Funding for the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program](#) to notify counties and tribes of the availability of funding to establish, continue, and expand housing and homelessness assistance through the HDAP. These funds include both a non-competitive allocation available to all counties and two continuing tribal grantees, as well as an application for additional funds to create Targeted Strategic Investments. **The deadlines for accepting these funds are December 3, 2021.** This letter also summarizes recent statutory changes, outlines continuing HDAP requirements and guidance, and provides new guidance as a result of expanded funding and changes to program statute and waives match requirements.

## **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. 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).

- On October 15, 2021, CDSS released the [Notice of Funding for the Home Safe Program](#) to announce the availability of funds for counties and tribes to establish, continue, and expand housing and homelessness assistance through the Home Safe program. These funds include non-competitive allocations available to all 58 counties or groups of counties and/or tribes. The deadline for accepting funds is December 3, 2021. This letter also contains updated guidance such as changes to program statute, allowable expansions in service, changes to program assessment requirements, and waived match requirements.

## **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 has resulted in over 16,000 rooms secured and over 48,000 individuals being sheltered through Project Roomkey since March 2020. As of October 19, 2021, over 6,800 hotel and motel rooms are occupied by over 8,800 people experiencing homelessness, most of whom are seniors and people with underlying health conditions.

- The reimbursement period for Federal Emergency Management Agency (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.
- On July 29, 2021, CDSS released [Project Roomkey Allocations Available for FY 2021-22](#). This letter is to notify counties and federally recognized tribal governments operating a Project Roomkey initiative of funding available to continue providing Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy non congregate shelter and rehousing services in FY 2021-22.
- On October 25, 2021, CDSS released the Project Roomkey Rehousing Plan template to support all communities in their work across systems to ensure participants exit into permanent housing. CDSS will continue offering grantees technical assistance, if needed, to ensure clients have a path to permanent housing.

### **New program: Community Care Expansion (CCE)**

The Community Care Expansion (CCE) program was established by [AB 172](#) (Chapter 20, Statutes of 2021) and the FY 2021-22 state budget appropriated \$805 million for the program, available over three years, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. The program will fund the acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities that serve applicants and recipients of Social Security Income (SSI), including individuals who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

- California is making a significant investment in supporting seniors and adults with disabilities to live safely in the community.
- The state budget includes historic investments in infrastructure, including \$3 billion in funding opportunities through competitive grants to qualified entities to construct, acquire and rehabilitate real estate assets. These funds are available through the CCE Program at CDSS and the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) at DHCS.
- CCE will require a match and a commitment of long-term use of the facility for the intended purpose.
- On November 2, 2021, CDSS held a CCE Program Listening Session for stakeholders and is conducting ongoing stakeholder engagement. To provide feedback or comments, please email [CCE@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CCE@dss.ca.gov).

### **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.

- 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.
- [All County Letter \(ACL\) 21-121](#) was released October 20, 2021. The purpose of this letter is to inform the counties of changes to the CalWORKs HA Program made by [SB 1065 \(Chapter 152, Statutes of 2020\)](#). The bill made several policy changes streamlining processes and simplifying the eligibility requirements for families must meet in order to access the program.



## **California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)**

### **Local Partnerships**

Caltrans continues to successfully enter promising and unique partnerships with local agencies and organizations in communities across the state. Most recently Caltrans has formally partnered with the cities of Sacramento, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Diego. These partnerships are valuable in providing more meaningful solutions in addressing homelessness and helping those sheltering along California's transportation network to relocate to better, safer, and healthier situations.

- **San Diego**

Caltrans has entered a new partnership with the City of San Diego, and the city's Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department. The city and Caltrans are contracting directly with City Net – a nonprofit homelessness-services organization that started in Long Beach in 2005 and has programs in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and Santa Barbara counties – to provide focused street outreach to people experiencing homelessness (PEH).

- **Sacramento**

Caltrans paused encampment relocations in Sacramento to allow additional time for the department to work with the city to identify available options for housing/shelter. The temporary pause on relocations will also allow the city and other local agencies to locate resources and collaborate on solutions to help PEH sheltering on the state Right of Way move into better situations. This includes exploring Caltrans' excess land beyond the Emergency Shelter leases under Executive Order N-23-20 for emergency safe sites. Caltrans and the city recently collaborated to open a 100-bed emergency homeless shelter on Alhambra at X Street. Currently, the shelter is onboarding staff to add staff. This emergency shelter was critical in helping Caltrans relocate PEH from the state Right of Way due to a highway construction project along U.S 50.

- **Long Beach**

Caltrans and the City of Long Beach agreed via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together to coordinate the delivery of services for individuals and families, who are unsheltered along the state Right of Way, by engaging with and working to identify possible temporary housing opportunities for individuals and families, when available. During the term of the MOU, both Caltrans and the city will coordinate time and resources to ensure the expeditious provision of homeless services for people on Caltrans property.

- **Los Angeles**

Caltrans and the Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) also entered an MOU, agreeing to work together to coordinate the delivery of services for individuals and families, who are unsheltered along the state Right of Way, by engaging with and working to identify possible temporary housing opportunities for individuals and families, when available. It is the intention of LAHSA's Homeless Outreach Team ("HET") members and staff members of Caltrans District 7 to work together to identify PEH and while engaging, provide resources to help in their health and safety and provide linkages to resources such as referrals to temporary or transitional housing, connections to family, mental health and substance abuse services, and transportation.

## **Training**

To assist the department in its efforts to better address PEH who are sheltering on the state Right of Way, HCFC recently trained Caltrans' Encampment Coordinators and field staff in cultivating partnerships and provided them with tools to help department staff on the front lines of homelessness as part of our newly formed partnership. ho

Caltrans' statewide field staff are also being trained by the department's encampment manager on encampment relocation protocols and best practices. These practices include gathering and storing property found at encampments, and treating people experiencing homelessness humanely and respectfully during what can often be a tense and stressful process.

## **Property Options**

Caltrans is actively looking for property that could be used for safe sites for PEH to shelter, or for cities and counties to build temporary shelter/housing options. The department is exploring what is needed to facilitate the use of these sites.

## **State-Owned Housing for Employees**

Caltrans, through a focused working group, is working to understand the housing needs among its maintenance workers who work in areas with a high cost of living and may not be able to afford to live where they work. The working group has created a survey that was sent to District 4 field staff. This survey was created to understand the housing needs among maintenance workers in District 4 as part of a proposed pilot program. Once the group has the data from the survey, it can look at the breadth and width of housing needs. The group will start looking at various housing options. Caltrans is aware that some of its staff in District 4 in entry-level positions are experiencing homelessness. Caltrans is looking into State-Owned Housing and well as exploring the use of excess lands for housing options.

## **Language and Messaging**

Caltrans is working to educate all staff on how to better communicate the issue of homelessness not only to the public but internally as well. We know that changing the way you talk about any given subject leads to a change in the way you feel and act.

### **Federal Update: U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)**

USICH is in the process of creating a new Federal Strategic Plan, and we want your input. Regardless of the path our plan ultimately takes, it will be guided by equity and evidence. USICH is dedicated to addressing deep-rooted racial inequities and to advancing proven practices like Housing First. We believe housing should be a right – not a privilege. The federal strategic plan will help communities leverage the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, which represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to not only respond to the immediate needs of the pandemic but also invest in long-term solutions to homelessness. USICH invites feedback from anyone, particularly people who have experienced homelessness; people who serve the LGBT, BIPOC, or veteran communities; and people whose work involves the justice system. USICH will accept public input through Tuesday, November 30, 2021 – [click here to send comments through the web portal](#).

USICH continues to partner with HUD and their newly launched initiative [House America](#): An All-Hands-on-Deck Effort to Address the Nation’s Homelessness Crisis. The initiative continues to receive support from elected officials nationwide, including Governor Newsom and many Mayors and County Supervisors throughout California. House America will utilize the historic investments provided through the American Rescue Plan to address the crisis of homelessness through a Housing First approach. USICH developed a document: [10 Strategies to Reduce Homelessness with the American Rescue Plan](#) to assist local communities devise their goals and maximize use of American Rescue Plan Act funding. The 10 Strategies fall under three basic premises: Lay the Groundwork, Strengthen the Rehousing System and Expand the Affordable Housing Supply. [Sign up here](#) to request further information.

On October 8, 2021, [HUD issued new rules for landlords considering eviction](#) of tenants in HUD-subsidized public housing and certain properties with project-based rental assistance. The interim rule extends the notice landlords must give tenants from 14 days to 30 days and requires them to include information about federal emergency rental assistance in their eviction notices. HUD also released an inaugural [Eviction Protection Grant Program](#) NOFO that will fund \$20 million for eviction protection and diversion services for low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction.

In October 2021, VA Secretary Denis McDonough visited the West Los Angeles VA Clinic and [announced during his monthly news conference on October 20](#) that the Department of Veterans Affairs aims to place more than 500 unhoused veterans living in Los Angeles, including 40 from the high-profile Veterans Row encampment in Brentwood, into housing by the end of the year. Secretary McDonough said that the initiative would be completed in two parts: first to house the about 40 veterans from Veterans Row by November, then to house an additional 500 unhoused veterans by the end of December. USICH is in communication with our federal partners about coordinating these efforts.