

# CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, MA, Co-Chair | Dr. Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Co-Chair

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**Date:** 12/14/2021

**To:** [NAME, TITLE, AGENCY/DEPARTMENT]

**From:** [Julie Lo, Executive Officer, California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council / Cody Zeger, Interim Director of Statewide Policy]

**CC:** [Corrin Buchanan, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Strategic Planning, California Health and Human Services Agency]

**Subject:** **Participation in California Interagency Council on Homelessness**

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I am looking forward to meeting with you on [BRIEFING DATE] to welcome you as [an incoming/a continuing] member of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH). Our goals for this briefing are to:

- **Provide background information** regarding the work of the Council, including an overview of the *Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness*, which to date has served as a broad framework for our shared actions and guiding principles to address homelessness.
- **Learn about the role of [DEPT/AGENCY NAME]** in advancing Governor Newsom's prioritized focus on preventing and ending homelessness in California.
- And finally, **preview council activities in the first quarter of 2022**, leading up to the first meeting on January 27, 2022 from 1:00 – 4:00pm.

Below are summaries of the history of Cal ICH, the current state budget investments in preventing and ending homelessness, and the Advisory Group and Interagency Working Groups that are being formed to help move this work forward. Additionally, we have enclosed other documents for your reference that largely cover our proposed discussion topics above, and are provided in advance for your convenience. I look forward to meeting with you.

## The California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Cal ICH was authorized and created by [AB 1220](#), approved by Governor Newsom in September 2021, which modified the existing Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) by relaunching it as Cal ICH. The Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency and the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency are identified in AB 1220 as Co-Chairs for the Council, with an additional 18 state leaders designated to serve as Council members (see enclosed for a full list of Cal ICH members).

HCFC was created in 2017 and has served as the state's interagency council on homelessness, providing leadership, coordination, and guidance to strengthen and align efforts across all of state government. The Council's mission is to develop policies and to identify and coordinate resources, benefits, and services that work toward preventing and ending homelessness in California. It is also charged with overseeing the implementation of Housing First policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California.

The Council will continue to meet on a quarterly basis and its work will be supported by the formation of an Advisory Committee and several Interagency Working Groups, described later in this memo.

## Cal ICH Staffing and Roles

In addition to referring to the Council of 20 state leaders, Cal ICH also refers to a team of approximately 50 staff within the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH). These staff help structure and support the work of the Council. They are also responsible for:

- Managing the implementation and progress reporting for the *Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California* (see enclosed for documents that summarize the Action Plan and highlights from its implementation in more detail);
- Implementing significant grant programs, including the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP), the Encampment Resolution Fund Program, and an upcoming Family Homelessness Challenge Grant program;
- Overseeing the development and ongoing management of the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS);
- Coordinating Council activities across State agencies and departments to ensure alignment with the Action Plan and with the Council's policy priorities and best practices;
- Working in partnership with Continuums of Care (CoCs), Federal agencies, city and county governments, non-profits, housing and services providers, and others;
- Conducting research on topics related to homelessness in California in order to provide the most relevant information to help drive decision making, both internally and for our state partners; and
- Working in consultation with the Governor's Office and with the Legislature as subject-matter policy experts to guide and strengthen the State's response to homelessness.

## State Budget Investments into Strategies for Preventing and Ending Homelessness

The FY 21-22 budget includes a historic infusion of state and federal resources into programs for addressing homelessness and housing needs in California, totaling \$12 billion over two years, for a wide variety of programs and activities, including:

- **\$2.75 billion in funding for the Homekey program, administered over 2 years**, using a mix of American Rescue Plan funding (\$2.25 billion) and General Funds (\$500 million) to support the acquisition and conversion of properties into affordable and supportive housing or interim housing.
- **\$1.75 billion in one-time American Rescue Plan funding to create the California Housing Accelerator program**, to provide capital funding to shovel-ready affordable and supportive housing development in lieu of tax credit equity in order to enable projects to proceed to development.
- **\$1.2 billion in additional federal funding for the California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program**, providing financial assistance to prevent evictions and entries into homelessness.
- **\$1 billion annually in General Funds for the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program for each of the next 2 years**, with funds to be allocated to Continuums of Care, counties, and large cities.

- **\$50 million for the Encampment Resolution Funding Program**, to demonstrate successful approaches to addressing the housing and services needs of people living in encampment sites.
- **\$40 million for Family Homelessness Challenge Grants and technical assistance**, with funds to be awarded through a competitive application process and funds to be expended over 5 years.
- **\$150 million in General Funds to the Project Roomkey (PRK) and Rehousing Strategy** to support the stability of the state's non-congregate shelter population, and to transition individuals from Project Roomkey into permanent housing.
- **\$805 million in one-time funding for FY 21-22, for competitive grants to qualified county and tribal entities for the acquisition and rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities** for those who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homelessness and have higher level of care needs, or for capitalized operating reserves to help preserve existing facilities.
- **Significant investments to expand a variety of programs administered by the Department of Social Services**, including the CalWORKS Housing Support Program, the CalWORKS Homeless Assistance program, the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program, Home Safe, and Bringing Families Home.

**Note:** For more information regarding the budget, the programs identified above, and many other significant investments, please see the following enclosures: *The California Comeback Plan: Governor Newsom's Comprehensive Approach to Clean & Safe Streets For All* and *Putting the Funding Pieces Together: Guide to Strategic Uses of New and Recent State and Federal Funds to Prevent and End Homelessness*.

## Formation of Advisory Committee and Interagency Working Groups

The work of Cal ICH will also be supported by the formation of an Advisory Committee and the formation and efforts of several interagency Working Groups.

AB 1220 requires the formation of an Advisory Committee, as follows: The Council shall regularly seek guidance from and, at least twice a year, meet with an Advisory Committee. The Co-Chairs of the Council shall appoint members to this Advisory Committee that reflects racial and gender diversity, and shall include the following:

- A survivor of gender-based violence who formerly experienced homelessness.
- Representatives of local agencies or organizations that participate in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program.
- Stakeholders with expertise in solutions to homelessness and best practices from other states.
- Representatives of committees on African Americans, youth, and survivors of gender-based violence.
- A current or formerly homeless person who lives in California.
- A current or formerly homeless youth who lives in California.

Further, this Advisory Committee shall designate one of the above-described members to participate in every quarterly council meeting to provide a report to the Council on Advisory Committee activities. It is our intention that the Advisory Committee will first be convened no later than the last quarter of FY 21-22.

In addition, the Council's Action Plan calls for the formation of five interagency Working Groups, as follows:

1. Maximizing Impact of State Funding and Programs on Homelessness Working Group (State Funding and Programs Working Group)
  - Working Group is currently active and meeting monthly
  - [Agency/Department is currently represented by XX]
2. Racial Equity in Responses to Homelessness and Housing Instability Working Group (Racial Equity Working Group)
  - Working Group Expected to first meet in 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of FY 21-22
  - Working Group members will be recruited in near future
3. Tailoring Strategies for Preventing and Ending Homelessness for Youth and Young Adults (Youth and Young Adults Working Group)
  - Working Group Expected to first meet in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of FY 21-22
  - Working Group members will be recruited in 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of FY 21-22
4. Strengthening Employment Opportunities and Outcomes for People with Experiences of Homelessness Working Group (Employment Working Group)
  - Working Group Expected to first meet in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of FY 22-23
  - Working Group members will be recruited in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of FY 21-22
5. Preventing Homelessness Among People Transitioning Back into Communities from Corrections Settings Working Group (Transitions/Re-Entry Working Group)
  - Working Group Expected to first meet in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of FY 22-23
  - Working Group members will be recruited in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of FY 22-23

**Note:** Please see pages 12 – 14 of the enclosed *Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California* for more detailed descriptions of the planned roles and participants of these Working Groups.

## **Priorities for [Agency/Department] Activities in Support of Action Plan**

*Existing Depts/Agencies:*

As [AGENCY/DEPARTMENT] has been represented on the Council in the past, many of your priorities for preventing and ending homelessness are likely already outlined in the Action Plan. **Please review the activities your department committed to working on** in this current fiscal year as well as the next.

Additionally, Cal ICH staff will be going through a process of updating the Action Plan in 2022, so if there are **activities you would like to add or update, please follow up with us** to discuss this directly or identify staff in your office who we can work with to make sure your priorities are accurately reflected in this update.

Last, **please look through the list of Working Groups and begin to identify staff** who may be appropriate to participate in work on those topics. You already have a member in the State Funding and Programs Working Group, but we will begin recruitment for other groups over the next few quarters. We appreciate your participation.

*New Depts/Agencies:*

As [AGENCY/DEPARTMENT] has not been represented on the Council in the past, we would like to make sure your priorities for preventing and ending homelessness are accurately reflected in our Action Plan. Cal ICH staff will be going through a process of updating the Action Plan in 2022 and we would like to include any activities or work you all will be doing around homelessness in the next few fiscal years. **Please identify any staff in your office who we can work with in ensuring your priorities are reflected in the updated Action Plan.**

Additionally, we would like to ensure the funding and programs your department oversees relating to serving people experiencing homelessness are reflected in our work going forward. To this end, **please help us identify any resources you have committed to this work.**

Last, **please look through the list of Working Groups and begin to identify staff** who may be appropriate to participate in work on those topics. The first Working Group has already been launched, so we will reach out separately to recruit representatives from your team for that work. We appreciate your participation and look forward to our ongoing partnership.

**Enclosures:**

1. Membership list for the California Interagency Council on Homelessness
2. Background on Homelessness in California and Summary of the *Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California*
3. Highlights from the *FY 20-21 Action Plan Implementation Progress Report* and Action Plan Priorities for FY 21-22
4. *Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California* (full document)
5. *FY 20-21 Action Plan Implementation Progress Report* (full document)
6. *The California Comeback Plan: Governor Newsom's Comprehensive Approach to Clean & Safe Streets For All* (full document)
7. *Putting the Funding Pieces Together: Guide to Strategic Uses of New and Recent State and Federal Funds to Prevent and End Homelessness* (full document)

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## Member Composition of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness November 2021

The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) was authorized and created by [AB 1220](#), approved by Governor Newsom in September 2021, which modified the existing Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) by relaunching it as the Cal ICH. The Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency and the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency are identified in AB 1220 as Co-Chairs for the Council, and 18 additional state leaders are designated to serve as Council members. The inaugural composition of Cal ICH is expected to include:

- **Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez (Co-Chair)** – Secretary, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
- **Dr. Mark Ghaly (Co-Chair)** – Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
- **Kathleen Allison** – Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- **Amy Anderson** – Senior Vice President, Housing Affordability Philanthropy, Wells Fargo (appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules or the Speaker of the Assembly)
- **Tomás J. Aragón** – State Public Health Officer and Director, Department of Public Health
- **Jacey Cooper** – State Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director of Health Care Programs, Department of Health Care Services
- **Mark Ghilarducci** – Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- **Vito Imbasciani** – Secretary, Department Veterans Affairs
- **Kim Johnson** – Director, Department of Social Services
- **Tiena Johnson Hall** – Executive Director, Housing Finance Agency
- **Jennifer Loving** – Chief Executive Officer, Destination: Home (appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules or the Speaker of the Assembly)
- **Kim McCoy Wade** – Director, Department of Aging
- **Toks Omishakin** – Director, Department of Transportation
- **Tim Rainey** – Executive Director, Workforce Development Board
- **Nancee Robles** – Executive Director, Tax Credit Allocation Committee
- **Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy** – Vice Chancellor for Educational Services, Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- **Lindsay Tornatore** – Director of Student Achievement and Support, Department of Education (appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction)
- **Gustavo Velasquez** – Director, Department of Housing and Community Development
- **Joe Xavier** – Director, Department of Rehabilitation

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## Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness Homelessness in California and the Action Plan

Through its [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#), adopted in March 2021, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) is pursuing a vision for the Council and the state's work to prevent and end homelessness that features:

- **Increased leadership from the State** for identifying and supporting short-term and long-term solutions;
- **Purposeful, action-oriented coordination** and alignment across State agencies and programs; and
- **Stronger, collaborative partnerships** with public and private partners in communities.

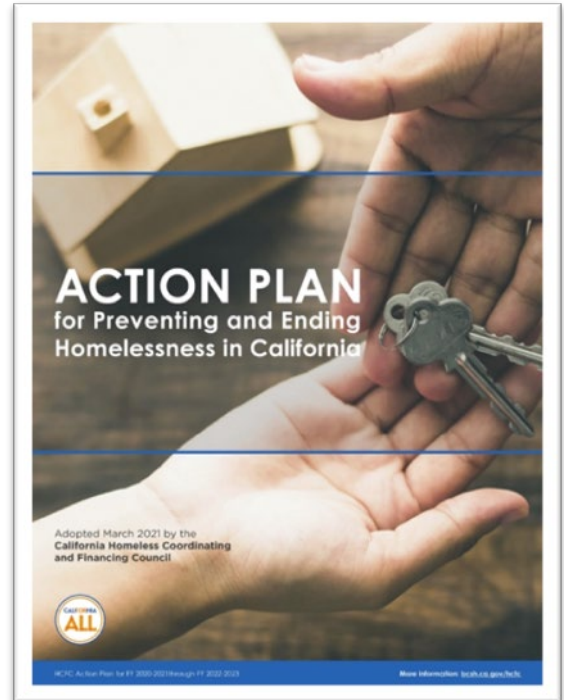
### Background: Homelessness in California

The most recent estimates show that, on any given night, more than 161,000 people are experiencing homelessness in California, representing more than one-quarter of all people experiencing homelessness in the United States. This includes:

- Nearly 136,000 adult individuals;
- Nearly 26,000 people in families with children;
- More than 12,000 unaccompanied youth;
- More than 11,000 Veterans; and
- Nearly 49,000 chronically homeless individuals (people with disabilities with long-term and repeated patterns of homelessness).

Among California's homeless population, approximately 70% are unsheltered and 30% are sheltered. Unaccompanied youth have a higher rate of unsheltered homelessness than other populations, with about 8 in 10 not having shelter on any given night across California.

Homelessness in California reflects stark racial inequities and the impacts of systemic racism. Predating our current crisis, the disproportionate negative impacts of housing discrimination, involvement in the criminal legal system, lack of quality and affordable health care, and the continued impacts of redlining policies, as well as a host of other socially determined factors, have had catastrophic impacts on Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) in California. Black Californians make up about 7% of the state's population yet represent nearly one-third (31%) of people experiencing homelessness in the state. The persistence of these racial inequities has been perpetuated by public policies that have actively worked to the disadvantage of BIPOC communities and require thorough analysis and urgent, innovative, and sustained actions to address, reduce, and eventually eliminate these disparities.





## How the Action Plan Seeks to Prevent and End Homelessness

This Action Plan orients the state's efforts to drive purposeful, meaningful, and measurable progress toward preventing and ending homelessness in California, motivated by a vision of a future in which homelessness in California is: **rare, because it is prevented** whenever possible; **brief, ended quickly whenever it does occur**, through a focus on Housing First approaches and housing outcomes; and a **one-time experience, ended successfully the first time**, so that no Californians experience homelessness repeatedly.

The Action Plan seeks to drive progress across **five distinct but interrelated and complementary action areas and fifteen objectives**, inclusive of the full range of actions necessary to prevent and end homelessness.

### ACTION AREA 1

#### Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California



- ▶ **Objective 1:** Strengthen racial equity-focused responses, strategies, and activities of State agencies and of local agencies and organizations receiving State funding for any homelessness services and housing activities.
- ▶ **Objective 2:** Ensure that State and local planning and **decision-making processes are deeply informed and guided by recommendations from people with lived expertise** from experiences of homelessness.
- ▶ **Objective 3:** **Incentivize interjurisdictional and regional planning, decision-making, and accountability**, and support capacity for such coordination through "mapping" and local gaps analysis activities focused on needs, demographics and inequities, and service delivery capacities.
- ▶ **Objective 4:** Enhance partnerships between homelessness services systems and services and systems which can support asset building and wealth building, including **improving access to educational opportunities and employment services and employment for people experiencing and exiting homelessness**.
- ▶ **Objective 5:** Support California communities to **develop disaster preparedness plans that are more inclusive of the needs of people experiencing homelessness**.
- ▶ **Objective 6:** Expand State communications efforts to **create public awareness of the State's homelessness strategies, successes, challenges, and the importance of Housing First approaches**.

### ACTION AREA 2

#### Equitably Addressing the Health, Safety, and Services Needs of Californians Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness



- ▶ **Objective 7:** Continue to support California communities to **implement multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional outreach and protective measures addressing the health and safety needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness**, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

► **Objective 8:** Improve access, and address racial inequities within such access, to essential State-supported services appropriate for the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including through Medi-Cal and behavioral health care reforms.

### ACTION AREA 3

#### Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing



► **Objective 9:** Partner with communities to implement innovative approaches and expand the supply of safe, housing-placement focused sheltering and interim housing models for Californians experiencing homelessness.

► **Objective 10:** Expand alignment and engagement of State resources, including Medi-Cal and behavioral health care resources, in efforts to address health disparities and services needs among Californians temporarily staying within sheltering and interim housing options.

### ACTION AREA 4

#### Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities



► **Objective 11:** Mobilize State resources, technical assistance, and guidance to strengthen implementation of Housing First approaches and other best practices in support of equitably and urgently rehousing people from Project Roomkey sites, from other temporary settings, and from unsheltered homelessness.

► **Objective 12:** Foster the creation of an expanded supply of affordable and supportive housing opportunities, paired with appropriate health and behavioral health care resources, and accessible and culturally responsive to people exiting homelessness, to people at lowest income levels, and to people from historically marginalized communities.

► **Objective 13:** Improve access to short- and longer-term forms of rental assistance to encourage innovations, to support racially equitable and successful exits from homelessness, and to support housing development activities.

### ACTION AREA 5

#### Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness



► **Objective 14:** Reduce entries into homelessness as people exit and/or receive services from State-funded settings and systems, addressing racial inequities within risks of experiencing homelessness, with initial focus on people re-entering communities from jails and prisons, young adults connected to the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems, and people exiting health care settings and programs.

► **Objective 15:** Enhance communities' capacity to provide targeted homelessness prevention interventions and to successfully divert people from entering shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

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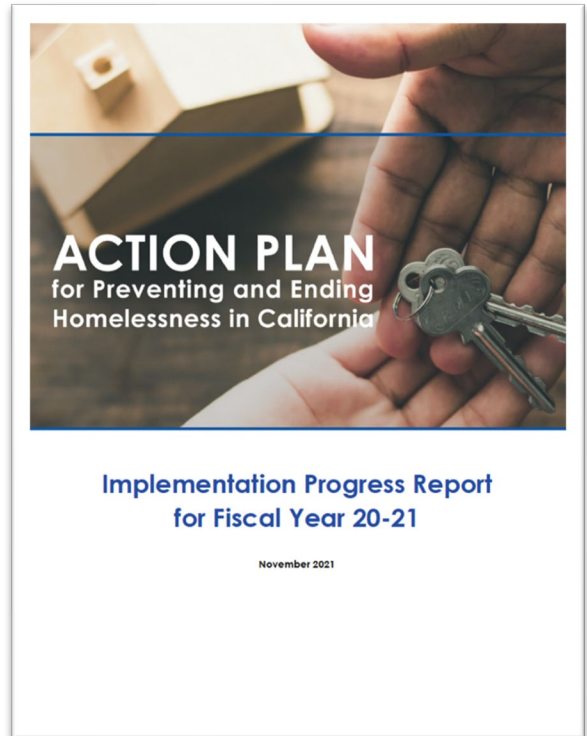
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## Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness FY 20-21 Implementation Highlights and FY 21-22 Priorities

Drawn from the [Implementation Progress Report for Fiscal Year 20-21](#) for the [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#), **key achievements of state agencies and departments from the past fiscal year are highlighted below**, organized by the Plan's five action areas.

### Key Highlights from FY 20-21

Looking at the totality of the work the state completed during FY 20-21, **a few common themes** emerge that cut across all action areas. First, in FY 20-21, many state **departments focused a significant portion of their work on mobilizing resources, funding, and direct support to people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic** and other natural disasters. At the same time, Council departments continued **implementing, and even expanding, programs to prevent and end homelessness** in California.



Finally, the state **sharpened its focus on improving coordination among state actors and systems** in order to better serve people experiencing homelessness and address systemic inequities. In doing so, the state has **established a key foundation upon which the Council will continue in its charge to serve as a coordinating body of the diverse and complex array of state services and resources** dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness.

The activities below are only a portion of the work completed during FY 20-21, but display the breadth and depth of **the state's work to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time**.

### ACTION AREA 1

#### Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California



- HCFC completed implementation of the **Homeless Emergency Aid Program**, which provided \$500 million over three years to 54 California communities as block grants to implement new initiatives, promising service models, and best practices in pursuit of reducing and ending homelessness.
- California Department of Education (CDE) helped administer funds and plan the first annual conference to improve the identification, educational stability, access, support, and academic achievement of **K-12 students experiencing homelessness**.

- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has worked to make it easier to **employ people who have experienced homelessness** in their department by hosting job fairs, adjusting their interview process and requirements, and more. In FY 20-21, Caltrans extended 60 offers to people experiencing homelessness for Service Assistance Maintenance positions.
- The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office provided three-year grants to 14 community colleges, which provided services to 519 **community college students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity** and assisted 116 students in maintaining stable housing for six months or more.
- HCFC's most recent **Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP)** grant requires applications to include plans to address racial disparities, involve people with lived experience of homelessness, and work collaboratively with regional partners—with technical assistance provided to applicants on these pieces.
- California's Department of Social Services (CDSS) and Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) conducted outreach, listening sessions, application workshops, and **technical assistance to Tribal Organizations** applying for their funding.
- HCFC launched the **Homeless Data Integration System**, which brings together data on individuals seeking homelessness services from nearly every Continuum of Care (CoC) to create a fuller picture of who experiences homelessness in California than the state has ever had before.

## ACTION AREA 2

### Equitably Addressing the Health, Safety, and Services Needs of Californians Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness



- CDSS implemented **Project Roomkey**, a brand-new program to provide non-congregate shelter to protect people experiencing homelessness from COVID-19. Between the program's March 2020 launch and August 2021, 50 counties and two Tribes have participated, securing 16,000 rooms and serving over 42,000 individuals.
- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) **aided communities applying for federal reimbursement** for their Project Roomkey programs.
- HCFC hosted frequent webinars and published guidance for state and local partners on topics such as strategically utilizing the variety of **funding sources available during the pandemic, adjusting shelter** during COVID-19, and **making vaccines available** to people experiencing homelessness.
- HCFC provided guidance on how homelessness service providers should respond to fires and other natural disasters in their areas.

## ACTION AREA 3

### Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing



- CDSS continued to operate their existing **statewide housing and homelessness programs** that allow for the provision of safe and effective sheltering and interim housing, among other eligible uses. As an example of outcomes from one of these programs, in FY 20-21, **CalWORKs Homeless Assistance** approved funding for more than 32,000 families to help cover the costs of temporary shelter, a security deposit, or prevent eviction.
- California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) adapted activities within **Whole Person Care** to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness during COVID-19, which assisted at least 9 counties in building upon their Project Roomkey efforts.
- HCD continued to implement the federal **Community Development Block Grant CARES Act** program that provided \$150 million to support acquisition, construction, conversion, and rehabilitation of temporary shelter in California.
- Cal OES continued implementing multiple grants that include housing services for **youth and adult victims of crime** who are experiencing homelessness.

## ACTION AREA 4

### Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities



- In response to the availability of hotels for Project Roomkey and the need for more housing for people experiencing homelessness, the state funded **Homekey** to facilitate the purchase and conversion of buildings to augment the supportive housing stock. As of April 2021, HCD reports that Homekey has supported 103 housing projects to bring 5,911 housing units—including 4,862 units of permanent housing—online across the state.
- In partnership with California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), HCD also helped continue implementation of the **Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program**, which made awards to 16 projects to build 421 units of affordable, supportive, or transitional housing for veterans.
- California Housing Finance Agency operated the **Special Needs Housing Program**, which financed 796 permanent supportive housing units in FY 20-21 for individuals with serious mental illness and their families who are experiencing homelessness.
- California Tax Credit Allocation Committee provided priority for within both the 9% and 4% **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** applications for projects serving people experiencing homelessness.
- HCFC continued to implement the **HHAP** grant program, which has so far provided \$950 million over two rounds of funding to support regional coordination and expand local capacity to address homelessness.

## ACTION AREA 5

### Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness



- BCSH implemented California's **COVID-19 Rent Relief Program** that helps income-eligible households who have been impacted by COVID-19 cover the cost of rent and utilities. As of October 19, 2021, the state program had received over 433,000 household applications requesting approximately \$4.5 billion in assistance. To date, the state program has paid or approved for payment approximately \$1.7 billion in assistance. Of that total, over \$897 million has been expended, assisting more than 75,000 California households.
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in partnership with the Amity Foundation, helped implement the **Returning Home Well program**, which expands the housing services available to people leaving prisons.
- HCD issued agreements to six counties totaling \$60.1 million for the **Housing for a Healthy California** program, which provides housing for individuals who are recipients of or eligible for Medi-Cal.

### Action Plan Implementation Priorities for FY 21-22

While many of the activities implemented during FY 20-21 will continue into FY 21-22, the Progress Report also **identifies activities prioritized for implementation in the current fiscal year**, listed below. Activity reference numbers are provided along with their descriptions from the Action Plan.

From **expanding significant funding opportunities, to launching interagency working groups, to building out a more comprehensive statewide database**, the state is poised to make significant progress in the year ahead to prevent and end homelessness in California.

## ACTION AREA 1

### Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California



During FY 21-22, state agencies and departments will be placing an increased focus on a variety of activities within Action Area 1, including:

- 1.1.1 **Provide and coordinate technical assistance focused on racial equity to support equitable access and outcomes within State-funded programs**, and to strengthen coordinated entry systems, prioritization policies, and targeting strategies to address disparities in access to services and resources.
- 1.1.4 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities, and adapt program guidelines and guidance, to **enhance Tribal Organizations' access to state homelessness and housing programs and resources**.
- 1.2.1 **Implement a Lived Experience Advisory Board** to inform the considerations and decisions of the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council and member departments.
- 1.6.3 **Prepare public-facing materials and articles based upon data and information drawn from the Homeless Data Integration System warehouse**, to educate the public on challenges, activities, and implementation of programs and resources.

## ACTION AREA 2

### Equitably Addressing the Health, Safety, and Services Needs of Californians Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness



During FY 21-22, state agencies and departments will be placing an increased focus on a variety of activities within Action Area 2, including:

- 2.7.1. Create, disseminate, and **support implementation of clear and effective policies and procedures for addressing the needs of people currently staying in encampments**, including on State-owned land.
- 2.8.1 Utilize new Homeless Data Integration System to begin Phase 2 of the system, featuring data-matching to other statewide data systems, with the intent to **analyze the participation and access to benefits and services of people who are unsheltered within key State programs**.
- 2.8.2 Implement CalAIM proposals seeking to **extend statewide the service options available under Whole Person Care and Health Homes Program through the Enhanced Care Management program and In Lieu of Services**, including incentive funding, to better address the health and behavioral health care needs of people who are unsheltered.

## ACTION AREA 3

### Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing



During FY 21-22, state agencies and departments will be placing an increased focus on a variety of activities within Action Area 3, including:

- 3.9.1 Rapidly mobilize Homekey resources to **support acquisition of sites by local partners, including sites planned for use as interim housing** on a temporary or ongoing basis.
- 3.9.2 Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding that **support the provision of safe, effective housing-placement focused sheltering and interim housing models** for people experiencing homelessness, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of shelter or interim housing opportunities to be supported through each program.
- 3.9.3 Develop and advance CalAIM proposals seeking to **extend statewide the service options available under Whole Person Care and Health Homes Program through the Enhanced Care Management program and In Lieu of Services care coordination and housing services**, including incentive funding, to better address the health care needs of people who are staying in shelter and interim housing sites.

## ACTION AREA 4

### Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities



During FY 21-22, state agencies and departments will be placing an increased focus on a variety of activities within Action Area 4, including:

- 4.11.1 Implement Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy funding and technical assistance to **support the rehousing of people staying within Project Roomkey sites into permanent housing opportunities.**
- 4.11.2. Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that **support the rehousing of people experiencing homelessness into a diverse range of housing models, including models appropriate for youth and young adults**, with identification of clear rehousing goals and targets for the implementation of each program.
- 4.11.5 Assess and **revise the current Housing First Checklist for State agencies, confirm alignment with Housing First requirements of relevant State programs, and provide guidance, training, and support to State departments** who need to modify programs and policies to achieve alignment.
- 4.12.1 Implement Homekey program to **support rapid financing and development of permanent housing units.**
- 4.12.2 Implement a wide array of other State and Federal funding programs that **support expansion of affordable and supportive housing opportunities**, with identification of clear unit production goals and targets for the implementation of each program.
- 4.13.1 Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that **support provision of various forms of rental assistance**, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of households to receive rental assistance through each program.

## ACTION AREA 5

### Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness



During FY 21-22, state agencies and departments will be placing an increased focus on a variety of activities within Action Area 5, including:

- 5.14.3 Implement CalAIM to **provide care coordination and housing services to people exiting corrections settings** through Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services.
- 5.14.8 Utilize the Homeless Data Integration System to **conduct analyses regarding people experiencing homelessness and their prior engagement with the homelessness response system** to identify patterns of engagement and service utilization that can inform prevention and diversion strategies.
- 5.15.1 Implement the Emergency Rental Assistance resources administered through the U.S. Department of the Treasury to **provide financial assistance to households facing rental arrears and risks of eviction and/or homelessness.**
- 5.15.2 Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that **support provision of various forms of diversion and prevention services**, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of households to receive diversion and prevention services through each program.
- 5.15.3 Continue implementation of the Housing is Key campaign, providing materials and resources to **help Californians stay in their homes or understand their housing options during COVID-19 and beyond.**



# CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, MA, Co-Chair | Dr. Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Co-Chair

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The remaining documents in this enclosure could be found online:

4. *Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California* (full document)  
[https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/documents/action\\_plan.pdf](https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/documents/action_plan.pdf)
5. *FY 20-21 Action Plan Implementation Progress Report* (full document)  
[https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/meetings/materials/20190717\\_progressreport.pdf](https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/meetings/materials/20190717_progressreport.pdf)
6. *The California Comeback Plan: Governor Newsom's Comprehensive Approach to Clean & Safe Streets For All* (full document)  
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CA-Comeback-Homelessness-Plan.pdf>
7. *Putting the Funding Pieces Together: Guide to Strategic Uses of New and Recent State and Federal Funds to Prevent and End Homelessness* (full document)  
[https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/documents/covid19\\_strategic\\_guide\\_new\\_funds.pdf](https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/documents/covid19_strategic_guide_new_funds.pdf)