



ACTION PLAN

for Preventing and Ending
Homelessness in California

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**California
Interagency Council
on Homelessness**

Updated Action Plan adopted
September 2022 by Council

VISION AND INTENT

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. Making significant progress in preventing and ending homelessness across the state will require sustained and focused efforts at the Federal, State, and local levels. Through its [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#), the California Interagency Council on Homelessness 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 both short-term interventions and long-term solutions:** The State's activities will continue to embrace and advance Housing First practices and approaches, as well as expand access to permanent housing opportunities that people need to end their homelessness successfully and which can provide the platform from which they can pursue other goals, including educational advancement and employment.
- **Purposeful, action-oriented coordination and alignment across State agencies and programs:** A primary emphasis will be placed on continuing to strengthen the alignment of housing, homelessness, and health care strategies and solutions, to ensure that all Californians, including our most vulnerable neighbors, have equitable opportunities to find home and well-being, as we all deserve.
- **Stronger, collaborative partnerships with public and private partners in communities:** As we continue to scale the investment of State resources into local communities, we will both deliver the guidance and technical assistance that communities need to succeed and implement accountability mechanisms to ensure the effective stewardship and impact of public resources.

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.

DRIVING PROGRESS ACROSS FIVE ACTION AREAS

The Action Plan drives progress across five distinct, interrelated, and complementary Action Areas, inclusive of the full range of actions necessary to prevent and end homelessness. The Plan is focused on fifteen Objectives that are aligned with these Action Areas and also identifies approximately 150 Activities that are being implemented in pursuit of those Objectives, as summarized below.

Action Area 1. Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California



Objectives and Activities are focused on pursuing racial equity in response to homelessness and housing instability; engagement and partnership with people with expertise from lived experiences of homelessness; supporting interjurisdictional and regional planning; partnerships to strengthen outcomes related to education and employment; public health and disaster preparedness and response; and communications and public awareness.

Action Area 2. Equitably Addressing the Health, Safety, and Services Needs of Californians Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness



Objectives and Activities are focused on addressing health and safety needs and increasing access to State-supported services and programs for people who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Action Area 3. Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing



Objectives and Activities are focused on expanding the supply of safe, housing placement-focused sheltering and interim housing models and addressing health and services needs of people staying within such programs.

Action Area 4. Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities



Objectives and Activities are focused on strengthening Housing First approaches and expanding permanent housing opportunities through development strategies, short- and long-term rental assistance, and other rehousing activities.

Action Area 5. Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness



Objectives and Activities are focused on reducing entries into homelessness as people exit and/or receive services through State-funded programs and systems as well as enhancing communities' capacity to provide targeted homelessness prevention and diversion services and assistance.

IMPLEMENTATION AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

The Action Plan was first adopted in March 2021 and covers the State's work from FY 20-21 through FY 22-23. The plan focused on the highest-priority strategies that will have the greatest impact, with a commitment to update Activities during FY 22-23. This update also includes the addition of five additional departments added to the council when the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council was reformed into the California Interagency Council on Homelessness in January 2022.

The Plan requires a focus on performance measurement and analyses. Performance measures are identified for every Activity, and implementation progress will be reported to the Council on a regular basis. Cal ICH will use data from the State's newly developed Homeless Data Integration System, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and from the California Department of Education to assess the impact of Federal, State, and local efforts; to document and analyze racial inequities; and to refine this Plan's Objectives and Activities.

Cal ICH, along with its member agencies and departments, will pursue the Plan's vision with shared accountability across State entities and with local partners, including consistent and transparent reporting of progress in the implementation of the Plan. The [Action Plan Implementation Progress Report for Fiscal Year 20-21](#) was prepared based upon reporting provided by all of the Council's member agencies and departments, and was adopted by the Council in November 2021. A progress report for FY 21-22 is being prepared at this time for release in Fall 2022.

The Action Plan lays the foundation for shared state accountability that is mirrored by new mechanisms for increased local accountability, including through a requirement for Local Homelessness Action Plans which were initiated by the state through [Round 3 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention](#) program. Local Homelessness Action Plans provide region- and jurisdiction-specific plans, projections, and intent for marshalling state resources towards more efficient systems, as evidenced through key metrics. The design and criteria for approval of the plan components were vetted and approved through the Council.

CONCLUSION

Driving progress on preventing and ending homelessness requires multi-pronged, multi-year strategies across sectors and systems, supported by data analyses, performance measures, and metrics to assess, refine, and revise those strategies. It also requires a focus on racial equity and an incorporation of people with lived expertise in order to address the disparities that currently exist in our systems. The updating of this Action Plan represents Cal ICH's commitment to action-oriented, evolving, and continuously strengthened coordination across State entities and programs, in pursuit of a future in which homelessness in California is a rare experience, and is brief and one-time when it does occur.

For More Information:

Please visit Cal ICH's website at bcsh.ca.gov/calich for the full *Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in California*, for progress reports, and for other important information.