



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Gov. Gavin Newsom, Governor
Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, MA, Co-Chair
Dr. Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Co-Chair

Date: 10/7/2022

To: Incoming Advisory Committee Members

From: Cody Zeger, Director of Statewide Policy, California Interagency Council on Homelessness

CC: Dhakshike Wickrema, Deputy Secretary for Homelessness, California Interagency Council on Homelessness
Corrin Buchanan, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Strategic Planning, California Health and Human Services Agency

Subject: **Participation in the Advisory Committee to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness**

Advisory Committee Members,

We are looking forward to meeting with you on **October 17, 2022 from 11:00am – 12:00pm** to welcome you as members of the Advisory Committee to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH). Our goals for this meeting are outlined in the meeting agenda included in this email.

This memo serves as background to your work on the Advisory Committee and provides additional resources for your review. Below is a summary of the history of Cal ICH, a description of our current work, a brief introduction to the Advisory Committee, and a description of other Cal ICH groups that help further the work of the Council. Additionally, if you'd like more information, we have enclosed other documents for your reference that largely cover the topics summarized in this memo. Our team looks 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 the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH). The Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, Lourdes Castro Ramírez, and the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency, Dr. Mark Ghaly, are identified as Co-Chairs for the Council, with an additional 16 state leaders designated and 2 legislative appointees to serve as Council members (see enclosed for a full list of Cal ICH members).

The Council 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. Cal ICH'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 meets on a quarterly basis and its work will be supported by an Advisory Committee and several Interagency Working Groups, as 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 the 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.
- Creating and disseminating resources for local partners to help share the state's resources on homelessness and share best practices. As examples, please see the enclosed *FY 22-23 Budget Letter on Homelessness and Housing Resources* on current state investments into homelessness.

Formation of Advisory Committee

The work of the Council is bolstered by the formation of an Advisory Committee, which will help advise the Council in order to ensure its work is effective and well-informed by key stakeholders.

[AB 1220 \(2021\)](#) called for the creation 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.

The Cal ICH Co-Chairs have appointed 31 members to this committee with a diverse set of expertise, including lived experience, of policy related to homelessness. Please see the Cal ICH Advisory Committee webpage for a full list of member photos and biographical statements. Further, this Advisory Committee shall designate one of its members to participate in each quarterly council meeting to provide a report to the Council on Advisory Committee activities.

The Advisory Committee is a state body created by statute and is therefore governed by the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act. This law covers all state boards and commissions, requiring that they publicly notice meetings, prepare agendas, accept public testimony, and conduct their meetings in public. A summary of this law is enclosed and will be discussed at the first Advisory Committee meeting.

Interagency Working Groups and the Lived Experience Advisory Board

In addition to the Advisory Committee, the Council's Action Plan calls for the formation of five interagency Working Groups, in order to help further the work of the Council and determine appropriate policies for specific subpopulations. These Working Groups include:

- *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
- *Racial Equity in Responses to Homelessness and Housing Instability Working Group* (Racial Equity Working Group) – Currently in development, a pre-implementation group has been formed to determine the priorities and activities of the working group. The full group is expected to begin meeting in the second quarter of FY 22-23.

- *Tailoring Strategies for Preventing and Ending Homelessness for Youth and Young Adults* (Youth and Young Adults Working Group)
- *Strengthening Employment Opportunities and Outcomes for People with Experiences of Homelessness* Working Group (Employment Working Group)
- *Preventing Homelessness Among People Transitioning Back into Communities from Corrections Settings* Working Group (Transitions/Re-Entry Working Group)

Note: Please see 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.

Cal ICH staff are also working to stand up a Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) to inform the implementation of activities throughout the Action Plan, advise on needed areas of support for grantees receiving council administered HHAP funding, and encourage and support communities to further center the voices of people with lived experiences of homelessness within their local planning and decision-making. Cal ICH has released a request for proposal seeking qualified contractors to help establish and administer the LEAB. More information will be provided to Council and Advisory Committee members as it is available.

Enclosures:

The following documents are enclosed to provide more information on Cal ICH's work.

1. Membership list for the California Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Advisory Committee
2. Background on Homelessness in California and Executive 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. Updated Draft of the *Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California* as adopted by the Council on September 1, 2022 (full document)
5. *FY 20-21 Action Plan Implementation Progress Report* (full document)
6. *FY 22-23 Budget Letter on Homelessness and Housing Resources*
7. Summary of the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act requirements