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**TO:** Council Members of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness

**CC:** Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Co-Chair; Dr. Mark Ghaly, Co-Chair

**FROM:** Cody Zeger, Director of Statewide Policy, Cal ICH

**DATE:** October 31, 2022

**SUBJECT:** State Council Member Survey: Advisory Committee Roles and Priorities

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*The purpose of this memo is to act as background information for a discussion at the Council meeting on November 10, 2022, between the State Council and Advisory Committee members, on possible initial priorities of the Advisory Committee.*

## **Background**

In March 2022, staff from the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) sent out a survey in part to solicit State Council member input on their priorities as well as initial priorities for the Advisory Committee that was being formed. Twelve State Council members responded to the survey. This memo summarizes the input received from members on their priorities for the State Council and the Advisory Committee.

## **Survey Results: State Council Priorities**

State Council members were asked about the work they would like to prioritize in 2022 across the six Key Principles and Priorities and five Action Areas outlined in the [Statewide Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness](#), shown below.

### Key Principles and Practices

- Pursuing racial equity and justice;
- Creating solutions for the full diversity of people experiencing homelessness;
- Seeking and valuing the expertise of people with lived experiences of homelessness;
- Aligning State activities with Housing First approaches;
- Balancing crisis response and permanent housing solutions; and
- Shared responsibility, accountability, and efficiency across State departments and programs, in close coordination with local communities.

### Action Areas

- *Action Area 1:* Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California
- *Action Area 2:* Equitably Addressing the Health, Safety, and Services Needs of Californians Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness
- *Action Area 3:* Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing
- *Action Area 4:* Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities
- *Action Area 5:* Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness

Half of the responses indicated an interest in focusing on shared responsibility, accountability, and efficiency across State departments and programs, in close coordination with local community. This was similar to another high priority: Action Area 1: Strengthening Systems. Responses show State Council departments were interested in building relationships with each other and continuing to develop coordinated strategies and solutions.

The next most frequently selected priorities were Action Area 5: Homelessness Prevention, creating solutions for the full diversity of people experiencing homelessness, and balancing crisis response and permanent housing solutions.

*Table 1. Top Six Key Principles and Practices or Action Areas, as prioritized by State Council members*

<b>Based on the key Principles and Practices and Action Areas below, what work would you like to see the State Council achieve this year?</b>
1. Shared responsibility, accountability, and efficiency across State departments and programs, in close coordination with local communities
2. Action Area 1: Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California
3. Creating solutions for the full diversity of people experiencing homelessness
4. Balancing crisis response and permanent housing solutions
5. Action Area 5: Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness
6. Pursuing racial equity and justice

### **Survey Results: Advisory Committee Roles and Goals**

At the time of this survey in March 2022, Cal ICH staff were planning for the creation of the Advisory Committee and asked State Council members for their input on two questions:

- (1) What additional perspectives would you want to include in the Advisory Committee?
- (2) What do you see as the main goals for the Advisory Committee?

There are six statutorily required roles in the Advisory Committee, including members with lived experience of homelessness, stakeholders with subject-matter expertise, and representatives from HUD. State Council members highly prioritized including **people with lived experience of homelessness** in the Advisory Committee. This includes people with different types of experiences such as those who have used behavioral health or social services, families with children, and those that have been involved in the justice system.

State Council members also indicated the need for **subject-matter experts** in various topics, such as those who work in local communities and have assisted in achieving local goals, experts for people with disabilities or behavioral health needs, and housing

developers. In general, there was interest in having Advisory Committee members who have had success navigating services so that they could provide guidance on the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

When asked about the main goals of the Advisory Committee, State Council members stated that they would like Advisory Committee members to provide **input and recommendations on policies or policy changes**. Since the Advisory Committee will have people with a variety of expertise, State Council members suggested that it would be most appropriate for Advisory Committee members to provide their perspective to identify gaps in our system and bring forward successful practices. Additionally, State Council members suggested that Advisory Committee members have some **involvement in State Council work** including setting priorities, developing goals, and reviewing work from the State Council.

*Table 2. Summary of Advisory Committee Perspectives and Goals, as prioritized by State Council members*

<b>What additional perspectives would you want to include in the Advisory Committee?</b>	<b>What do you see as the main goals for the Advisory Committee?</b>
Lived expertise: Use of behavioral health and social services	Provide input and recommendations on policy changes
Lived expertise: Families with children	Provide input on State Council work
Lived expertise: Justice system involvement	Provide input on work of State Council member departments and agencies
Subject matter expert: Housing development and permanent supportive housing	Identify gaps or successful practices
Subject matter experts: Administrators of services for people with disabilities or behavioral health needs	
Subject matter expert: Community service provider	

### **Advisory Committee Makeup**

The State Council Co-chairs appointed 31 members to the Advisory Committee. Overall, Cal ICH staff believe the membership of the current Advisory Committee well-represents the intention set out by the State Council. As shown in the table below, the members of the Advisory Committee bring a diversity of expertise, including lived experience of homelessness, to their work. This includes members from all parts of the state, with expertise on serving a variety of people experiencing homelessness — such as those with behavioral health needs, families, people involved in the justice system, those in permanent supportive housing, and more.

Table 3. Geographic Breakdown of Committee Members

Primary Region	Percent
Los Angeles	29%
Other SoCal	10%
SF Bay Area	6%
Sacramento	13%
Other NorCal	10%
Central	6%
Statewide	23%
National	3%

Table 4. Statutory Roles Filled by Committee Members

Statutory Role	Percent
(1) A survivor of gender-based violence	3%
(2) Representative of local agency/ organization	48%
(3) Stakeholder with best practices from other states	52%
(4) Representatives of committees	16%
(5) Lived Homelessness Expertise	13%
(6) Lived Youth Homelessness Expertise	6%
<i>Note: One person can represent multiple statutory roles; percentages will not equal 100%</i>	

Cal ICH staff look forward to working with the Advisory Committee to develop their own priorities. These priorities include, but are not limited to, the Advisory Committee providing input and recommendations on policies made by the State Council and its member departments and agencies to ensure the state is utilizing best practices and addressing gaps in our current homelessness response system.