



TO: Members of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness
FROM: Cody Zeger, Director of Statewide Policy
DATE: February 21, 2023
SUBJECT: State Funding and Programs Working Group Summary and Priorities

Summary

The Cal ICH [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#) calls for the creation of the State Funding and Programs Working Group. Cal ICH staff convened this group starting in October 2021. It is currently made up of staff from twelve state departments or agencies, all of whom oversee state funding or programs aimed at serving people experiencing homelessness (see member list in Appendix A, below). The charges of the group are detailed below, but its overall goal is to identify ways to better coordinate state funding and programs aimed at serving people experiencing homelessness.

State Funding and Programs Working Group (Description from Action Plan)

Maximizing Impact of State Funding and Programs on Homelessness Working Group (State Funding and Programs Working Group or SFP WG)

Comprised of State staff only, this Working Group is charged with:

- Identifying opportunities for streamlining deployment of State funding;
- Improving access to funding and programs for organizations deeply engaged with historically marginalized communities, including Tribal communities;
- Documenting and projecting the cumulative impact of State funding, programs, and initiatives on the creation or provision of housing opportunities for people exiting homelessness;
- Creating clearer standards for the housing and services interventions to be supported by State funding and programs;
- Collecting and analyzing data on current state funding, programs, and initiatives and assessing and strengthening their equity impacts;
- Providing guidance regarding best uses of Federal, State, and local funding and regarding targeting and prioritization of people for access to housing opportunities;
- Assessing and addressing challenges that smaller communities face in securing and implementing State funding; and
- Other priorities determined by the Working Group.

Membership and Meeting Topics To-Date

The initial meetings of the Working Group were focused on learning about various programs going on at the state level and identifying ways to better coordinate. Some of the topics discussed so far include:

- Ideas for coordination and deep dives into specific funding opportunities across departments, e.g. CalAIM and HHAP's Local Homelessness Action Plans
- HDIS and data collected by state programs
- Tribal outreach and engagement in grantmaking
- Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool model for state programs
- Action Plan update feedback
- Future Working Group priorities and subgroup project planning

Priorities

In January, Working Group members helped decide on a set of priorities to help direct the group's work going forward (see below). These priorities were based on Action Plan activities assigned to or involving the Working Group (see full list of these Activities in Appendix B, below). Working Group members will select which of these priorities they have capacity to work on initially. Therefore, each priority will be moved forward by a subset of the group and brought back to the full group for discussion.

Priority 1 (from Activity I.1.3)

Incorporate a **focus on racial equity data, analysis, and planned activities** within applications for State homelessness and housing-focused funding (HHAP, ESG-CV, others), and analyze the data and information gathered in response.

- **Outcome:** Reduce racial/ethnic disparities in the provider pool, and encourage funding applicants to develop plans to address racial/ethnic disparities in their service access and outcomes
- **Potential Scope:** 1) Identify which agencies are releasing funding opportunities or data-sharing agreements and pilot demographic data collection as part of the application process, 2) Pilot strategies to encourage diverse, community-based providers to participate

Priority 2 (from Activity I.3.14)

Support and strengthen expectation of **joint CoC-County-City planning and coordination** in awards and implementation of State homelessness funding.

- **Outcome:** Better consumer experience and outcomes as a result of more coordinated resources / services

- **Potential Scope:** Develop more structure around local coordination across relevant agencies (e.g. CoCs, cities, counties, local health jurisdictions, local educational authorities, etc.) by creating best practices for coordination and incentives for implementing those best practices

Priority 3 (from Activity I.2.7)

Provide guidance to local grantees regarding the eligible uses of State funds for costs associated with engaging **people with lived experience** and expertise into planning and decision-making processes, and also encourage local grantees to hire people with lived expertise into regular staff positions.

- **Outcome:** More inclusive and responsive decision-making as public agencies hire staff with lived experience AND use state funding to meaningfully engage people with lived experience
- **Potential Scope:** 1) Provide info or incentives for agencies to draw down on funding for this type of engagement (e.g., qualitative consumer interviews, best practices for engagement), 2) Provide guidance around hiring / coaching staff with lived experience and incentives to do so

Priority 4 (combines five similar activities)

Implement a wide array of other State and Federal funding programs that support **sheltering and interim housing, rehousing, affordable and supportive housing opportunities, rental assistance, and diversion and prevention services** -- with clear unit production goals, targets, and/or number of households to receive services for the implementation of each program

- **Outcome:** Improved transparency, accountability, and outcomes-focus for state-funded housing and homelessness programs
- **Potential Scope:** Understand current expected outcomes from all state funding and programs to provide as cumulative estimates for Action Plan; eventually develop shared outcome measure targets to help define data collection needs and coordinated performance measures for Action Plan

Appendix A – Participating Departments and Representatives

Department	Represented by:
California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cody Zeger, Director of Statewide Policy (co-chair) • Amber Ostrander, Chief of Grant Operations
California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Formerly Morgan Torell, Housing Policy Development (co-chair)</i> • Awaiting new representative
California Department of Social Services (DSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanna Azemati, Deputy Director, Housing and Homelessness Division (co-chair) • Marta Galan, Housing and Homelessness Branch
California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Hansen, Policy Advisor to the Directorate
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gina Buccieri-Harrington, Assistant Director, Grants Management
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Support
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alisa Becerra, Deputy Division Chief of Homelessness and Encampments • Abigail Jackson, Housing and Homelessness Solutions Lead
California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Johnson, Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program Manager
California Department of Education (CDE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karmina Barrales, Education Programs Consultant, Homeless Education Program
California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gail Tateyama, Executive Assistant
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meredith Lee, Advancing Community Equity Branch Chief
California Department of Aging (CDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Lawrence, Project Director, CA Master Plan for Aging

Appendix B – Working Group Activities in the Action Plan

The Cal ICH State Funding and Programs Working Group is identified within the Action Plan as having responsibility for overseeing or participating in the following Activities. See the Action Plan for full descriptions of these activities.

Action Area I: Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California

- *I.1.2* - Incorporate a **focus on racial equity data, analysis, and planned activities** within applications for State homelessness and housing-focused funding (HHAP, ESG-CV, others), and analyze the data and information gathered in response.
- *I.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.
- *I.2.3* - Provide guidance to local grantees regarding the eligible uses of State funds for costs associated with **engaging people with lived experience and expertise** into planning and decision-making processes, and also encourage local grantees to hire people with lived expertise into regular staff positions.
- *I.2.4* - Incorporate questions regarding the **involvement of people with lived experience and expertise into local planning and decision-making processes** within applications for State homelessness and housing-focused funding (e.g., HHAP, ESG-CV, HSP) and analyze the information gathered in response.
- *I.3.1* - Support and strengthen expectation of **joint CoC-County-City planning and coordination** in awards and implementation of State homelessness funding.

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

- *II.7.7* - Promote the eligible uses of State funding for **employing specialized peer positions** to better reach and engage people experiencing unsheltered homelessness into available services and supports.

Action Area III: Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing

- *III.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.
- *III.9.6* - Provide technical assistance and guidance that will **support the continued application of Housing First practices**, including lowered barriers and housing-focused services and supports, within sheltering and interim housing programs.

Action Area IV: Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in our Communities

- IV.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.
- IV.11.4 - Provide technical assistance, guidance, and training opportunities to strengthen the implementation of **Housing First practices and the achievement of rehousing outcomes** in the implementation of State and Federal resources.
- IV.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.
- IV.12.3 - Identify and implement efforts to **better align policies and practices across State housing agencies and programs**, while retaining significant focus on extremely low-income households and housing for people exiting homelessness.
- IV.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.
- IV.13.3 - Prioritize increased rental assistance resources within State's **federal advocacy**.

Action Area V: Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness

- V.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.