

ITEM III. Feedback from Council on Advisory Committee Recommendations

This document is a follow up to the memo [Recommendations from Members of the Advisory Committee on Strengthening Implementation of State Homelessness Funding and Programs](#). The recommendations were presented by members of the Advisory Committee to the Council during their meeting on September 7, 2023. Council members were asked if they had any questions, clarifications, or additional information they would like to see about the initial recommendations.

Council member comments are compiled here and listed with the most related recommendation. Not all recommendations were discussed at the Council meeting. Council Staff have also listed potential groups related to Cal ICH that could help move each recommendation forward. These include various Cal ICH Action Plan Working Groups, teams within Cal ICH, or others that may have purview over the specific recommendation. Some recommendations may be outside of the purview of Cal ICH and would need to be discussed by other bodies, such as the State Legislature. The goal of this document is to facilitate conversation among the Advisory Committee about how to make the recommendations actionable across homelessness policies in the State.

As a reminder, the Council and its bodies can develop and inform policy using various methods, including:

- **Funding:** Streamline funding across State Departments and Agencies. Utilize Working Groups to coordinate targeting, prioritization, and incentive strategies of new and existing funding.
- **Communication:** Use communication strategies to message Council vision, increase focus on important topics, and adjust public thinking. Increase person-centered approaches.
- **Data:** Use data to inform State activities and encourage data-driven decisions, improve understanding of issues and strategies, and align metrics across state programs.
- **Guidance, Toolkits, and Materials:** Issue written guidance, toolkits, and materials to clarify policy, express priorities, and communicate options to support strong, evidence-based practices.
- **Amplification:** Highlight models, innovations, and examples of best practices for others to replicate and/or be inspired by. Recognize the work of successful initiatives.
- **Technical Assistance:** Recommend further assistance for targeted support to an agency, organization, or community with a development need or resource gap.
- **Inform Decisionmakers:** Provide guidance for the Governor and state legislature, as requested, to take action to drive progress via Executive Orders or legislative proposals that shape State and local activities.

Recommendations and Council Comments

#	Advisory Committee Recommendations	Comments from Council Members	Potential Group to Work on Topic
1	The Council should pursue actions to reduce administrative burden for applicants, including:		
1.1	The creation of a unified homeless funding application, especially in cases where eligible applicants and uses are duplicative, and potential consolidation of overlapping programs into one more comprehensive program.	What are the organizations and communities that interact with various state agencies and departments?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Committee • State Funding and Programs Working Group • Racial Equity Working Group
1.2	Consolidating audits across multiple programs.	Can you provide specifics for which audits and reports need to be consolidated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Committee • State Funding and Programs Working Group
1.3	Aligning timelines/reporting with similar federal funding sources.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Funding and Programs Working Group
1.4	Creating multi-year funding applications, as the federal government is considering for the CoC program.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Legislature
1.5	Direct generalized administrative funding to entities that administer homeless services, akin to CalFresh Administration or Medi-Cal Administration allocations to counties.	<i>Cal ICH staff comment: Advisory Committee may assist in identifying opportunities for generalized funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Committee • State Funding and Programs Working Group
2	The Council should explore opportunities to strengthen capacity among funded entities and their service providers with an eye towards advancing equity, including:		
2.1	Providing guidance on minimum administrative support for providers that contract with state grantees, including direction to ensure admin dollars reach culturally-sensitive providers serving marginalized communities to allow these entities to invest in needed back-office functions.	Does limiting an administrative rate to 5% have to be regulatory? How could that be increased to cover the costs associated with administering these burdensome government programs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Funding and Programs Working Group • Cal ICH Staff: Strategic Funding Guide • Racial Equity Working Group
2.2	Expediting payments and reimbursements to awardees and their funded service to reduce the "float" time and costs of programs due to factors like A) lengthy gaps between award and execution of contracts or B) the cost-reimbursement basis of funding. The Council should lower the barriers to obtaining cash advances.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Funding and Programs Working Group

2.3	The Council should work with grantees to lower barriers to smaller, culturally-sensitive providers accessing funding. This should include incentivizing grantees to remove procurement and contracting requirements that screen out organizations that are well-equipped to serve marginalized populations but may not meet all traditional procurement requirements.	How can the council support the groups and organizations that are not familiar with all the funding streams? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a way to be more proactive to bring funding to those organizations and understand their needs? How can the Council be more targeted in their approach to funding? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Committee State Funding and Programs Working Group Racial Equity Working Group
2.4	Fostering greater roles for people with lived experience of homelessness in decision-making among grantees, including allowing/incentivizing stipends for people with lived experience and greater support for peer support programs.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cal ICH Staff: Local Initiatives Lived Experience Advisory Board State Funding and Programs Working Group
2.5	Center marginalized communities: provide Technical Assistance for rural communities, invite tribal entities to the planning process, and ensure program data is disaggregated by race.	What are the barriers that smaller communities face?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Racial Equity Working Group Advisory Committee Cal ICH Staff: Research Team Cal ICH Staff: Tribal Liaison
2.6	Support the unique needs of different communities with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding that supports uses like fostering community buy-in, Peer support programs and other workforce development programs, Planning efforts to reduce permitting times, And other flexible, innovative uses. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Committee Employment Working Group Cal ICH Staff: Local Initiatives
2.7	Research the intensity of services needed to serve high acuity populations served in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and costs of delivering of those services, including property management and living wages for staff over time.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cal ICH Staff: Research Cal ICH Staff: Local Initiatives
2.8		What does it mean to uplift equity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Committee

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the council support organizational equity? • How can the council support workforce equity? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial Equity Working Group • Lived Experience Advisory Board
2.9		How can resources from the homelessness response system support K-12 children experiencing homelessness?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Funding and Programs Working Group • Advisory Committee • Youth and Young Adult Working Group
3	The Council should advocate to the Administration and Legislature to prioritize changes to how state funding is structured, including:		
3.1	Providing ongoing funding or multi-year funding for programs, including multiyear application cycles, which would reduce administrative burden and allow for longer-range planning and investments in uses such as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) that successfully end people's homelessness.	<i>Cal ICH staff comment: Advisory Committee may assist in drafting evidence-based white papers or reports to advocate for long-term funding.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Committee • State Legislature
3.2	Consider baseline funding, coupled with increased funding beyond baseline for uses such as capital and innovation.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Legislature
3.3		How can we incorporate existing models for sustainability into this work? EX: Incubation academy, marketplace, Cal AIM technical assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Committee • Cal ICH staff: Local Initiatives

Next Steps:

Members of the Advisory Committee who presented to the Council will present the feedback listed in this document to the Advisory Committee e at their meeting on November 6, 2023. From there, the Committee will consider how they would like to respond to comments from the council, how to prioritize work on the various recommendations and through which avenues they would like to take action on them.