



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Gavin Newsom, Governor

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To: Members of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness
From: Meghan Marshall, Executive Officer, Cal ICH
Subject: Feedback from Council Input on Proposed Action Plan '24
Date: November 22, 2023

Purpose

This memo provides background information regarding the process to create a new Action Plan to replace the [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#), starting in FY 24-25. This process has thus far been informed by feedback provided by Council Members, their staff, and members of the Advisory Committee. The feedback will be discussed at the November 30, 2023 meeting of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Council).

Creating the Action Plan '24

The Action Plan was originally adopted by the Council in March 2021, during the height of the pandemic, with the understanding that each year there would be an update. Updates in 2022 and 2023 included revised activities, objectives, and guiding principles as new departments and agencies were added to the Council and became more familiar with their roles. Starting in FY 23-24, Cal ICH staff, supported by consultant Matthew Doherty, launched a process to create a new Action Plan to take effect starting FY 24-25 (Action Plan '24). Cal ICH staff will be working closely with the Advisory Committee and the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) to ensure the new Plan is informed by key stakeholders and is person-centered, addressing the needs of the people who are most affected by the State's work to prevent and end homelessness.

In preparation for Action Plan '24, and in response to prior feedback from the Council regarding the development of the Plan, Cal ICH staff held optional briefing sessions with Council Members and their staff to discuss its vision, audience, goals, and priorities. Additionally, Cal ICH staff have engaged the Advisory Committee in discussions about Action Plan '24 and how it can be utilized to support local communities. This memo summarizes the feedback Cal ICH has received from these discussions, which will help guide the new plan's design and the overarching vision of the State's work.

Next steps for updating the Action Plan include:

- Cal ICH staff will launch a public input process in early 2024, which will include Tribal communities, lived experience advisory boards, and other stakeholders involved in housing, health, and social services.
- Cal ICH staff will continue to engage the Council, the Advisory Committee, and the LEAB regarding the goals, design, and implementation of Action Plan '24.
- Cal ICH staff will work with departments and agencies on the development of specific commitments to be included in Action Plan '24.
- The Council will consider recommendation for adoption of Action Plan '24 at the September 2024 Council meeting.

Key Elements of Input

Cal ICH staff, supported by consultant Matthew Doherty, began conversations with Council Members, their staff, and the Advisory Committee in November 2023. Input received to date has been synthesized by Cal ICH staff and placed into the following themes, including a summary of the feedback received. The bolded comments represent ones that were heard consistently across input sessions. A copy of the slides used to gather this feedback is available on the [Cal ICH Council Meetings webpage](#).

<p>Ambitions (and Hopes) for the Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department/Agency culture shift <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greater understanding of the role each department plays in preventing and ending homelessness ○ Moving toward person-centered, outcome driven measures ○ How counties can make the same culture shift • Integrate existing work (Master Plan on Aging, CA Statewide Housing Plan, ALL INside, UCSF Benioff Study) • Clarity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Easy to understand and explain (e.g. in an elevator pitch, to family, etc.) ○ Debunk myths surrounding homelessness ○ Road map: Ability to see the intersection and integration of State efforts • Inclusion of all populations and subpopulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acknowledgement of the continuum of people that are experiencing homelessness ○ Different qualifications to serve each population • Serve as a reference document for the legislature/elected officials
<p>Overarching Vision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency coordination and collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shift from focus on 'what we have' to a commitment to 'what we should accomplish' ○ Be clear how Californians are better off through the coordination laid out in the Plan • Integration of housing, health, and social services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connect the dots (still in silos)
Equity and Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metrics related to disparities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ability to see movement on those metrics ○ Provide a history lesson (backed by data) ○ Develop an equity index (ex: Master Plan on Aging) ● Highlight the structural/systemic barriers to access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call out harmful policies or barriers created by the leg/feds ● Inclusion of Tribal Nations and communities ● Inclusion of people with lived experience ● How is the State holding itself accountable to its commitment to racial equity ● Include recommendations at the community level for reducing disparities
Types of Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Simplified, clear and measurable ● Levels of goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prioritize which to work on first (short-term vs. long-term) ○ Realistic vs. ideal goals w/explanation of barriers to the ideal ● Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removal of barriers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing the benefits cliff ● Accountability measures
Information Useful for Local Partners (to consider including in the Action Plan '24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to best braid and maximize funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Match services funding to housing funding ○ CalAIM is moving towards that but can be confusing to work with ● Housing First guidance ● CES guidance ● What to expect from the State and what not to expect ● State vs. HUD SPMs ● Streamlined messaging from the various departments
Miscellaneous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlighting challenges of workforce sustainability ● Support administrative shift to decrease burden to applicants and increase program sustainability ● Using universally understood/simplified language (too much jargon)

Council Meeting Discussion

Using the feedback received from the input sessions, as summarized above, Cal ICH staff have identified the areas that will require Council departments and agencies to

shift in order to serve the vision of preventing and ending homelessness. These shifts are related to:

1. Activity identification: Moving beyond programs or activities they are already implementing to strategizing about what work they want to see implemented
2. Accountability: Committing to new strategies and activities that will have measurable impacts towards the goals identified for the Plan

Therefore, the Council's discussion at its November 30 meeting will focus on identifying ways to best execute this more ambitious vision for the Action Plan '24 and the support needed from Cal ICH staff and other member departments and agencies in order to do so. To spur this discussion, **Council members will be asked the following:**

- How can the Council as a whole best execute on its more ambitious vision for the Action Plan '24 in its planning efforts and in its actions?
- How will your department or agency identify new, more purposeful strategies that go beyond programs or activities that are already being implemented? Is your department or agency ready to do so?
- What support do Council member departments and agencies need to be able to identify and commit to new, bolder strategies and activities, that extend beyond current efforts and programs?

After the meeting, Cal ICH staff will follow up with each Council member department and agency in order to identify the staff person who will be most deeply engaged with Cal ICH staff to implement the planning efforts and identify stakeholder groups that their department can engage into the input process.

Cal ICH staff plan to report on the progress toward the restructuring of the Action Plan at the next Council meeting on February 28, 2024.