California
Interagency Council
on Homelessness

Gavin Newsom,   Governor
Tad Egawa, Acting Secretary, Co-Chair | Dr. Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Co-Chair

Department and Federal Partner Updates

California Interagency Council on Homelessness Meeting
November 30, 2023

Note: Department and Federal Partner Updates are highly encouraged, but not required.

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California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH)

California Interagency Council on Homelessness General Updates

The Council thanks former Co-Chair and BCSH Secretary, Lourdes Castro Ramírez, for her leadership and commitment to end and prevent homelessness in California. We look forward to her continued work to address homelessness in the city of Los Angeles. Since her transition out of this role, Tad Egawa serves as Acting Secretary.

The Council also welcomes recently appointed DHCS Director, Michelle Baass. We look forward to her leadership and coordination to end and prevent homelessness in the state.

The Advisory Committee to the council convened on November 6th, 2023, to discuss feedback on their draft recommendations to the Council for improving State funding and programs and the upcoming 2024 Action Plan. The meeting recording and meeting materials can be accessed on our Meetings Webpage.

The California Interagency Council on Homelessness is following SB143 (Chapter 196, Statutes of 2023), so Council members and members of the public may only attend this meeting using the teleconference/videoconference options. In-person meetings will resume in 2024.

The next Council and Advisory Committee Meetings are the following dates:

Council Meetings Advisory Committee Meetings	Advisory Committee Meetings
• Thursday, November 30th, 1:00 – 4:00PM • Wednesday, February 28th, 1:00 – 4:00PM	• Monday, February 5th, 1:00 – 3:00PM • Tuesday, May 21st, 1:00 – 3:00PM

To receive notice of these meetings and receive updates from Cal ICH, subscribe here.

Council Administered Grants

Grant Implementation & Administration Section

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP)

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for HHAP-5 was posted on Cal ICH's website on September 29, 2023. Cal ICH conducted a walk-through of the NOFA on October 18th and posted the slides and recording on the HHAP resources page. An application template is also posted online and Cal ICH will continue to post additional HHAP-5 resources on a rolling basis. Regional applications will be due on March 27, 2024, and must include a Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan.

Tribal HHAP

Cal ICH received 22 complete applications for the second round of Tribal HHAP from Federally Recognized Tribes. Cal ICH announced awards for all 22 applicants on September 22, 2023, totaling $20 million. Cal ICH is working with grantees on executing contracts and disbursing these Tribal HHAP dollars to these communities. We expect all checks to be mailed by the end of the calendar year.

Family Homelessness Challenge Grant (FHC)

The application for the second round of awards for FHC will be made available no later than December 31, 2023. Recipients of the initial round of program funds that demonstrate adequate progress towards their program goals, remain in compliance with all program requirements, and demonstrate the most promising and innovative practices which could be scaled and replicated to support statewide efforts to eliminate family homelessness are the only eligible applicants for this second round of funding.

Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Grant Program

In addition to the 57 ERF awards announced to communities across the state, including $50 million in ERF-1 dollars, and $300 million is ERF-2 dollars, as of September 12, 2023, Cal ICH has also announced the first round of awards under ERF-3 to fund the remaining 11 eligible applications from round 2 that had not yet received awards. No later than December 1, 2023, Cal ICH will open the rolling application period for the remaining ERF-3 dollars and will keep that application portal open until June 30, 2024, or until the $400 million in ERF-3 funds have been exhausted, whichever comes first.

Grant Operations & Support Section

Monitoring and Reporting

The Monitoring and Reporting Unit is responsible for monitoring statutory expenditure and reporting requirements of Cal ICH grants. The following provides and update on Grant Monitoring Unit activities in recent months:

- **2023 HHAP Annual Report**: The Annual Report is a statutory requirement for all HHAP recipients and is Cal ICH's most comprehensive review of HHAP outcomes, including fiscal progress, performance metrics, and narrative responses. The Annual Report is currently available for grantees to complete and is due back to Cal ICH on December 15, 2023. The Monitoring team oversees the distribution and return of these reports, while supporting grantees in the successful completion of the report.

- **All Grants Desk Review:** The Monitoring team is currently working through the first virtual Desk Review, which will allow Cal ICH to assess grantees at a deeper level than ever before. The team aims to complete a Desk Review for each grantee prior to the end of 2024.

Technical Assistance

The Technical Assistance (TA) Unit is responsible for providing support to all Cal ICH grantees through targeted, contracted technical assistance providers and evaluators. The following provides and update on recent developments within the TA Unit with some of the TA programs offered:

- **Youth Set-Aside Evaluation:** The University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) is currently conducting a mixed-methods evaluation of the HHAP Youth Set-Aside funds. UC Berkeley is assessing the impact of the HHAP youth set-aside through four objectives: guidelines to prevent, address and end youth homelessness, an evaluation survey, improved youth count, and support to youth leaders. The Jurisdictional Leads Survey was created to provide Berkeley information about the design, implementation, and projects funded by HHAP Youth Set Aside. This survey will be released to all HHAP grantees in early December and will close mid-January.

- **Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) TA**: TA provider Homebase provides TA support to ERF-1, ERF-2-L, ERF-2-R, and most recently ERF-3-L grantees. Homebase in partnership with Cal ICH hosted orientations for ERF-2-R as well as ERF-3-L Grantees where communities were given an in-

depth overview of their associated ERF grant program and reporting requirements. In October, 30 ERF-2-R grantees participated in group assessments where they were able to share their anticipated TA needs amongst their peers and learn about other grantee's project design and challenges. Additionally, Homebase has facilitated community learnings groups on topics such as Community Partnership and Housing Pathways & Stabilization. Lastly, Homebase created a foundational training series that explored Housing First, Continuum of Care Eligibility, and Coordinated Entry.

- **Racial Equity TA:** The Technical Assistance Collaborative established phase two of the California Racial Equity Lab earlier this year. This is a year-long engagement with the objective to identify and implement a Racial Equity Improvement Project that works towards eliminating racial disparities in homeless systems of care. In October, the CA REAL communities participated in a community of practice webinar where they presented their racial equity improvement plans, shared the challenges that were faced and their overall progress participating in CA REAL phase two. The participating cohort is comprised of 25 HHAP grantees.

- **Youth Programming TA:** The Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) established phase two of the Youth Action Board Collaboration earlier this year to focus on supporting HHAP grantees in building out youth action boards. In November, TAC launched the YAB Level Up Series Orientation to assist in leveling up the communities' YABs to better engage people with lived experience and make an impact through guided programming, and policies at the local, state, and national levels. The orientation comprised of 24 communities, and 8 additional communities are interested in being a part of the remaining sessions. TAC has introduced other forms of youth TA offerings like direct TAC and system partnerships learning lab that will begin in January 2024.

- **Permanent Housing Solutions TA:** Focus Strategies (FS) recently developed Shelter Standards for Monterey and San Benito County using the Housing First principles' approach. They are using this effort to establish a "tool kit" that can be utilized by all grantees to develop shelter standards for their individual communities. FS also completed a Performance Metrics Report for San Diego County's Behavioral Health Services where they provided recommendations for improved data collection practices that better align with San Diego's Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities. Further, the report recommends housing and homelessness-related performance metrics that to monitor across all behavioral health programs.

Data and Research

The Data and Research Unit within the Grants Division is the newest Unit at Cal ICH. The Unit is responsible for facilitating the collection and evaluation of grants data, improving and maintaining grants data quality, and coordinating with other units to meet data needs. The following provides an update on key Data and Research Unit activities in recent months:

- **ERF Reporting Quality Improvement Updates**: Analyzed past person served data provided by ERF grantees and developed an overall quality improvement process to ensure the most accurate data on persons served is being captured. The improved process establishes a HDIS-based reporting workflow for persons served data for grantees receiving funds from ERF-2-R or subsequent rounds of funding. This improved process will also streamline existing persons served reporting for ERF-1 and ERF 2-L grantees.

- **2023 HHAP Annual Report**: Analyzed the existing HHAP reporting structure including extensive review of statutory reporting requirements and streamlined existing sub-requirement for grantees to report project-level data. This also included implementation of a data validation process on current Manual Reporting Forms that were used in lieu of HMIS for persons served data to improve overall data quality. These activities were done collaboration with the Monitoring and Reporting Unit to support the release of the 2023 HHAP Annual Report.

Action Plan

On September 7, 2023, the Council voted to approve and adopt the FY 23-24 Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California. Planning has begun for the FY 24-25 update to the Action Plan with consultant Matthew Doherty, which is expected to span multiple years and will be designed in collaboration with the Cal ICH Lived Experience Advisory Board.

Cal ICH staff have completed the FY 22-23 Progress Report for the Action Plan, with participation from every Council Member agency and department. Cal ICH staff will prepare a summary of the report for the Council at their upcoming November 30th meeting.

Lived Experience Advisory Board

One of the six key principles and commitments of Cal ICH is to ensure decisions are deeply informed and guided by people who have expertise grounded in lived experiences of homelessness. Meaningful input from people with lived experiences of accessing homelessness services while experiencing homelessness is required to assure that policymaker and providers learn of problems and solutions from firsthand accounts.

 Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) members will greatly impact the work of state departments and local governments allowing communities to make significant progress in preventing and ending homelessness across our state. Cal ICH, in coordination with the contracted vendor, Homebase, are forming a Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) to inform a broad range of Council decisions, priorities, and actions. Cal ICH LEAB members may also provide guidance on the implementation of Activities throughout the Statewide Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness, advise on needed areas of support for grantees receiving council administered Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program 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 among other items.

After successful outreach that resulted in over 320 applications, with representation across 42 counties in California and 55 applicants interviewed, the final 11 members for the Cal ICH LEAB have been selected. Members will meet monthly and receive reimbursement for their participation. LEAB members will make their introductions to Council Members at the Cal ICH Council meeting on November 30. Biographies of LEAB members will be posted to the Cal ICH website soon.

AB 977

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 977 (AB 977), the State of California requires grantees of specified state funded homelessness programs to enter specific data elements related to individuals and families into their local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). AB 977 requires Cal ICH to provide technical assistance and guidance to grantees or entities administering projects that operates a program subject to this bill. AB 977 applies to the ten programs named in statute without limitation, and all state funded homelessness programs commencing on or after July 1, 2021. Cal ICH has contracted with Abt Associates to provide technical assistance and training to ensure that grantees have all the resources needed to be able to comply with AB 977.

Cal ICH, in consultation with respective administering state agencies or departments, is required to specify the entry format and disclosure frequency of the required data elements. State agencies and departments expressly named in statute, in partnership with Cal ICH and Abt Associates, have issued instructions to their grantees to support HMIS data entry. Grantees of the ten programs identified in statute were required to be in compliance with the project set up and data entry requirements when

entering data into HMIS by July 1, 2023. Cal ICH is working with Abt Associates to develop data quality reports to support administering state agencies and departments verify their grantees are complying with the requirements on AB 977.

Cal ICH, in partnership with Abt Associates, is in the process of conducting needs assessments for the development of technical assistance plans to administering state funded homelessness programs that commenced on or after July 1, 2021, which includes program through the California Department of Health Care Services and the California Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure grantees have the resources needed to comply with AB 977.

SB 914 & SB 918

Pursuant to Senate Bill 914, the Homeless Equity for Left Behind Populations (HELP) Act, the State of California requires cities, counties, and continuums of care who receive state funding to include families, people fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, and unaccompanied women into their homelessness planning and responses on or after January 1, 2024. To ensure effective service delivery across domestic violence and homelessness response systems, local jurisdictions must take specific steps to include these subpopulations in their homeless services and housing delivery supports.

SB 914 requires Cal ICH to set and measure progress toward goals to prevent and end homelessness among domestic violence survivors and their children and among unaccompanied women in California. Initial goals are to be set by January 1, 2025, and evaluated every two years, to determine if an update is needed. SB 914 further requires local jurisdictions to work with victim service providers to develop any analyses or goals to address the specific needs of this population with data measures not included in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Pursuant to Senate Bill 918, the Homeless Youth Act of 2018, the State of California requires Cal ICH to set and measure progress towards goals aimed at preventing and ending homelessness among youth in the state, to coordinate funding, policy, and practice efforts related to young people experiencing homelessness, and to provide technical assistance and program development support.

Cal ICH executed a contract with the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV) through a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the delivery of consulting services in Cal ICH's implementation of SB 914 and SB 918. CPEDV will support Cal ICH in setting and measuring progress toward goals to prevent and end homelessness among domestic violence survivors and their children, unaccompanied women, and young people in California. This will include the development of a data collection approach to measure progress, and provision of technical assistance and training activities to cities, counties and continuums of care to support integration of these goals into local planning processes.

Homelessness Data Integration System (HDIS)

Cal ICH's Homelessness Data Integration System (HDIS) aggregates data from the 44 local homelessness response systems (Continuums of Care) in California on a quarterly basis. Cal ICH released data on our public dashboard about the people who accessed the homelessness response system during the second quarter of 2023. Cal ICH also updated the demographic data posted to the state's open data portal. Continuums of Care submitted data for the third quarter of 2023 to Cal ICH in November, and Cal ICH is beginning the process of processing and validating this data. This data is the first data submitted by CoC pursuant to

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) new 2024 Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data standards. Cal ICH has been updating HDIS to align with these data standards.

California System Performance Measures (CA SPMs)

The California System Performance Measures (CA SPMs) are a series of metrics developed by the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) that help the state and local jurisdictions assess their progress toward preventing, reducing, and ending homelessness. The CA SPMs provide standardized data to each Continuum of Care (CoC) in the state on six performance measures, as well as information that can be used to identify underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness

Cal ICH released new California System Performance Measure (CA SPMs) data for the 2022 calendar year to eligible HHAP 5 applicants for use in developing their Regional Coordinated Action Plans. This data release reflects several methodological improvements made to the CA SPMs to better understand the state's homelessness response system. Statewide data for the CA SPMs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 is included in the Action Plan Implementation Report.

California Department of Aging (CDA)

Master Plan for Aging Updates

The Department of Aging (CDA) continues to focus efforts on advancing the Master Plan for Aging, including Goal One, *Housing for All Ages and Stages,* and Goal Five, *Affording Aging (MPA)*, which includes the strategy of "Ending Older Adult Homelessness." These goals are key components to building out an age-and-disability friendly California. For more information, see the 2023-24 MPA Annual Report and the MPA Implementation Tracker. The following efforts reflect the department's housing-related efforts, as well as related stakeholder engagement on housing issues:

- **Preventing and Ending Older Adult Homelessness:** On October 3, CDA convened an invitational roundtable discussion in Los Angeles with subject matter experts, academic partners, and select stakeholders to develop a framework for preventing and ending homelessness among older adults in partnership with state, local and community-based entities. Recommendations from this convening are expected to be released in January 2024

Programs and Initiatives:

- **Dignity at Home Fall Prevention and Home Modification Program:** The Dignity at Home Falls Prevention and Home Modification Program is a $10 million program operated by local Area Agencies on Aging to provide information, education, and home modifications to enable older adults to safely remain in their homes. In 2022, the program assisted 3,606 individuals and provided 312 training programs. Funding for the program expires 6/30/2024.

- **Elder and Disability Justice, Legal Services Technical Assistance**: CDA awarded a $1million contract to Justice in Aging (JIA) to strengthen elder justice initiatives and map California's legal landscape. The collaboration includes a comprehensive needs assessment of Legal Services in California, a collaborative roundtable discussion on relevant topics, the opportunity to learn about different legal models and strategic plans among service providers in California. Additionally, a curriculum has been developed and posted on the JIA California Resources and Trainings webpage that is designed to equip providers with the resources, tools, and skills required to address the complex legal challenges faced by older adults and adults with disabilities. The legal service needs include housing insecurity, rental issues, tenant protections, eviction protections, and asset management such as estate planning to ensure an individual does not lose their housing. Funding for the program expires 6/30/2024.

- **Healthier at Home Program**: CDA is putting the final touches on the RFA for the $12.5 million "Healthier at Home" initiative. This is a three-year pilot that will support residents of low-income and affordable senior housing communities by utilizing registered nurses and community health workers to coordinate care, navigate services and supports, and link to health promotion resources. CDA will issue the RFA in Winter 2024 for the pilot counties established in statute: Shasta, Fresno, Sonoma, Riverside, San Diego, Contra Costa, Sacramento, and Orange.

- **Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Gap Analysis**: A key initiative of the Master Plan for Aging, the CDA's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Gap Analysis and Multi-year Roadmap project will focus on assessing the landscape of non-Medi-Cal HCBS, including an analysis of affordable/accessible housing for older adults and people with disabilities. The project seeks to develop an inventory and gap analysis of HCBS to inform a multi-year roadmap that will build upon California's HCBS infrastructure. CDA's Non-Medi-Cal HCBS Gap Analysis is being carried out in partnership with the Department of Health Care Service's (DHCS) Medi-Cal HCBS Gap Analysis and Multi-year Roadmap.

- **Older Adult Behavioral Health Augmentation:** The 2023-24 budget included a $50 million investment in older adult behavioral health. Through a competitive local grants program, the initiative seeks to build capacity for trusted community-based providers to expand older adult behavioral health services, address isolation and combat loneliness by continuing an emotional support warmline for older adults and reducing stigma through an ethnic media outreach campaign. CDA released the Fact Sheet: Advancing Older Adult Behavioral Health that provides additional background and resource links.

- **Local Aging & Disability Action Planning Grant Program**: CDA established the Local Aging & Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant Program to support communities in developing local age and disability-friendly action plans. The local plans seek to improve a community's livability and address the current, emerging, and future needs of California's older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers through local coordination and cross-sector collaboration. On November 15, CDA awarded over $1.1 million to six (6) California organizations to plan and develop local age- and disability-friendly action plans. These new grantees join the nearly 100 communities across California who have already embarked upon age- and disability-friendly action planning and implementation, including the 15 organizations previously awarded LADAP grant program funding earlier this year. The goals of the LADAP grant program align with California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA) and California's commitment to equity. The grant program runs through March 31, 2025.

- **AARP Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) State Scorecard**: CDA participated in the national launch of a comprehensive report on state activities across a wide range of LTSS domains, including housing affordability. The national launch was followed by a briefing facilitated by The SCAN Foundation for California stakeholders and legislative staff to highlight areas in need of improvement, including housing affordability and livability, where California ranked 41st overall among all states.

Stakeholder Committees

The following stakeholder committees continue to address housing and homelessness:

- The **Implementing the MPA Together in CA** (IMPACT) Stakeholder Committee continues to elevate the need for affordable, accessible housing linked with needed health care and supportive services. Further, the Committee has advocated for more targeted investments to meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, and they hope to see more explicit allocations. Finally, they are proponents of a rental-assistance program targeted to severely rent-burdened and other precariously housed older adults and persons with disabilities.

- The **Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee** (DACLAC) housing subcommittee continues to advocate for targeted rental assistance for older adult renters who are at-risk of homelessness. This was the focus of the most recent DACLAC meeting with presentations from local communities piloting targeted rental assistance as well as updates from DHCS on the role of CalAIM community supports and new Medi-Cal housing assistance approved in the FY 23-24 state budget, subject to CMS approval.

California Community Colleges (CCC)

Student Housing Programs Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot (HHIP)

In fiscal year 2019-20, the state Legislature appropriated $9M annually to California Community Colleges (CCC) to support ongoing rapid rehousing services to CCC students. As a result, the Chancellor's Office (CO) launched the HHIP program to support pilot colleges develop and/or strengthen capacity to support students facing housing insecurity or homelessness by maintaining stable housing, ultimately improving their educational outcomes. The first cohort consists of 14 colleges, with each college receiving $500,000-$700,000 annually for four years. The 2022-2023 budget included a $10 million dollar increase to the program. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, a cost-of-living adjustment was applied, and the program funding was increased to an annual appropriation of $20.5 million.

Since our last update, two additional colleges have been added to HHIP Cohort 2 and will begin receiving funding in January 2024. This will bring our cumulative total to 27 campuses participating in the California Community Colleges Homeless and Housing Insecurity Program during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Our annual student-data reporting request has been sent out to HHIP Cohort 1 colleges for the with a due date of January 19th, 2023. The new information reported on the 2022-2023 academic year by Cohort 1, will provide the Chancellor's Office with further details regarding their individual program progressions. The Chancellor's Office will use this data to assess program success to help inform equitable selection criteria for HHIP Cohort 3 participants.

COHORT 1	COHORT 2
Antelope Valley Community College	American River College
Barstow College	College of Marin
Butte College	LA Harbor College
Cerritos College	LA Trade Tech College
College of the Redwoods	Oxnard College
Fresno City College	San Bernardino Valley College
Gavilan College	Santa Barbara College
Imperial Valley College	Santa Rosa College
Long Beach City College	Shasta College
Los Angeles Southwest College	Southwestern College
Modesto Junior College	West Hills Lemoore College

Riverside City College	*Cuyamaca College (Jan. 2024) *
San Diego City College	*San Joaquin Delta College (Jan. 2024) *
Victor Valley College	

Updates from the California State University System

CSU OVERVIEW

With the passage of the 2021-2022 state budget (AB 128, California Budget Act of 2021), recurring funds for basic needs initiatives were provided by the state legislature to the California State University (CSU). The original $15 million investment in basic needs initiatives allows the CSU to advance Graduation Initiative 2025, the ambitious initiative to increase graduation rates for all students while eliminating equity gaps and providing the state with the graduates it needs to power the economy. These funds are the result of advocacy efforts from the CSU Board of Trustees, California State Student Association (CSSA), and countless campus and community partners and stakeholders.

The original $15 million recurring investment was increased by an additional $10 million with the passage of the 2022-2023 state budget (AB 178, California Budget Act of 2022). Beginning July 2022, the total amount from the state for basic needs initiatives in the CSU is $25 million.

Critical to student success at the CSU, the Basic Needs Initiative takes a holistic look at students' well-being both inside and outside the classroom, from housing and food security to mental health. Student engagement and well-being is a priority of Graduation Initiative 2025, which is supported by ongoing state funding. The CSU is working to find better ways to support our students on their path to graduation.

The CSU is in the process of collecting annual survey responses from the 23 campuses regarding updates on food security, housing security, and financial stability program utilization and advancements in the past academic year. In the interim, the following data points persist:

FOOD SECURITY

- All 23 CSU campuses have a food pantry.
- At least 20 campuses support a meal sharing or meal voucher program.
- At least 22 campuses provide access to fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Several campuses offer or are working toward accepting Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) and/or CalFresh dollars to be used to purchase hot food on campus.
- Many campuses have partnered with community food banks to provide support to students.
- All campuses assist students with the CalFresh application process.

HOUSING SECURITY

- The CSU provides housing support to housing insecure or homeless students through emergency on and off campus placements and emergency grants to support housing expenses.
- 8 campuses have participated in the Rapid-Rehousing pilot (since 2019); they are collaborating with community-based organizations to assist with longer-term housing solutions.

FINANCIAL STABILITY & MISCENALLANEOUS RESOURCES

- Access to digital resources is provided on most campuses, as are financial literacy workshops, wellness workshops, cooking classes, and clothing closets with professional clothing options for interviews.

- At least 96% of CSUs offer programs to serve broadband and technology needs.

- 100% of CSUs offer Basic Needs emergency grants.

- At least 74% offer financial literacy programming.

- At least 87% of CSUs offer programs and services for parent students.

- At least 91% of CSUs offer programs to serve transportation needs.

Additionally, with the passage of AB-2881 Public postsecondary education: students with dependent children, the CSU will now have greater ability to collect campus data to identify the number of parenting students across its 23 campuses and their progress at the institutions. This data will bolster each campus' understanding of the needs of this population of students, and provide important, relevant context for exploring, implementing, and expanding impactful programs, resources, and initiatives for parenting students.

Updates from California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBNA)

The three higher education segments within the UC's, CSU's and CCC's continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis to plan and develop various strategic initiatives focusing on basic needs services in California's Higher Education Institutions.

CHEBNA Leaders and collaborative college practitioners participating on the planning committee have been working diligently in preparation for the upcoming Basic Needs Summit scheduled for February 21-22nd 2024. This two-day event titled, *Basic Needs: A Human Right, a Collective Responsibility*, is taking place in Sacramento at the Safe Credit Union Convention Center. The Basic Needs Summit anticipates having 1500+ attendees from across the state. The CHEBNA Summit will include workshops and speakers advocating for students in Higher Education facing economical disadvantages, housing support systems, Cal-Fresh benefits, and more. Workshop topics will include but are not limited to:

- Student Food Insecurity Interventions

- Student Housing Insecurity and Homelessness Interventions

- Economic Interventions (addressing cycles of poverty and equity, Financial Aid)

- Health Education / Health Services

- Emergency Aid / Crisis Support & Services

- Policy, Research and Evaluation of Student Basic Needs

- Institutionalizing Basic Needs Interventions and Programs

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

Action Item No.	Action Item (as written in the FY 2022-23 Cal ICH Action Plan)	Metrics (as written in the FY 2022-23 Cal ICH Action Plan)	November 2023 Quarterly Update (due to Cal ICH on November 17, 2023)

1.4.4	Address the employment needs of people transitioning from State Prison, including those who receive housing under the Returning Home Well initiative, by connecting them to local employment resources, such as leveraging the workforce partnership and Prison to Employment initiative, and linking them to Department of Rehabilitation programs. This could include the provision of Workforce Development Board stipends (if applicable.)	• Outcome Measures: Report the following metrics on a data dashboard:
		  o Types of training and employment secured post-release;
		  o Training participation during incarceration; and
		  o Employment duration and retention measures
			CDCR staff continue to work to incorporate employment data into an internal dashboard. Simultaneously, CDCR staff are strengthening processes to maximize post-release connections to employment (e.g., Prison to Employment linkage, Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program / Male Community Reentry Program linkages from CDCR Career and Technical Education programs to employment), working with community reentry program contract providers to help transitioning citizens develop relationships/opportunities to engage in training and employment to develop self-sufficiency upon release.

3.9.11	Implement the Returning Home Well initiative to expand interim housing options for people transitioning from corrections settings up to one year of release.	Outcome Measure: Increased community capacity to provide interim housing options to target population.
		Output Measures: Demographics and other information regarding:
		  o population served;
		  o duration between release and housing placement;
		  o duration of housing placement.
		  o Additional measures, as identified.
			RHW data for FY 2023-24 Q1
			• Population Served – 453
			• Average Days Between Release and Housing Placement – 93.5
			• Average Days Spent in Housing Placement – 74.7

3.9.15	Explore potential opportunities for CDCR and their contracted providers to directly refer individuals releasing from State Prison who are at risk of homelessness and who are on parole and become homeless to existing, applicable programs to address housing needs. Specific emphasis will be made to explore connections to housing resources for the American Indian / Alaska Native population.	Outcome Measure: TBD (based on available and applicable housing programs.)	CDCR's Division of Rehabilitation (DRP) and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) staff are meeting on a bi-monthly basis to explore linkages for returning citizens and parolees to the CDSS Homeless Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP). DRP staff have documented and shared with CDSS the findings from initial discussions with responsive HDAP providers. CDSS is following up on CDCR's findings to evaluate compliance with CDSS requirements (or not), and to explore possibilities to leverage current technical assistance opportunities to address identified issues.
4.11.8	Monitor CDCR contractor's adherence contractual requirements related to Housing First to provide participants with meaningful choice and seek to minimize exits to homelessness.	**Process Measure:** Verify participants are provided with information regarding housing first during program orientations.	CDCR finalized and distributed the Housing First flyer to the Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP) providers so that it may be provided to STOP program participants (see attachment). In FY 2023-24, DRP

			will perform this verification process during PARs.
5.14.2	Work to establish referral processes to link unsheltered parolees who are enrolled into Medi-Cal to the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans so they may gain access to the new CalAIM Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS) benefits.	Process Measure: Documentation of consultation efforts and of modifications to policies and practices being implemented in response to findings.	CDCR's Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO), Behavioral Health Reintegration (BHR) clinicians are now submitting referrals to request ECM assessments from Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans, which will also help to facilitate linkages to the Community Supports benefit. BHR is now monitoring these ECM referral implementation efforts to identify areas for quality improvement. As the process becomes more established, it will be leveraged to refer unsheltered parolees to ECM (and CS). In parallel, the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health developed an informational flyer to instruct criminal justice partners on how to make ECM referrals, which is available on the CCJBH website.
5.14.5	Partner with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to implement the HCD Reentry Pilot Project(s), which will leverage individuals with lived experience in the program design.	**Outcome Measure:** TBD (based on pilot program requirements).	HCD and CDCR continue to work collaboratively to develop the Reentry Pilot Project methodology.

5.14.6	Track CDCR pre-release and community referrals that are facilitated by CDCR's Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming contractors, who employ and leverage individuals with lived experience to address the housing needs of individuals identified as being at risk of homelessness before leaving prison or who become homeless after transitioning to their communities.	Potential Output Measures:
		○ Number of people identified as homeless;
		○ Number of referrals to housing;
		○ Number of individuals placed in housing;
		○ Type of housing placements;
		○ Duration of housing placements.
		Note: metrics for this activity are related to referrals to the housing programs mentioned above.
			As of November 1, 2023, there were 3,935 unhoused parolees (sheltered+unsheltered).
			
			STOP data for FY 2023-24 Q1
			• Referrals to Housing – 2,844
			• Individuals Placed in Housing – 3,835
			• Type of Housing Placements – Female Offender Treatment and Employment Program, Licensed Residential Treatment, and Recovery and Reentry Housing (includes RHW)
			• Average Days Spent in Housing Placements – 75.2
			  ○ FOTEP – 99.6
			  ○ LRT – 51.8
			  ○ RRH – 88.0

5.14.6	Analyze existing data, which could include interdepartmental data matches, to better understand the scale of risks for	***Process Measure:*** Document findings from analyses.	CDCR continues to refine a Parolee Housing dashboard to track housing need for individuals who are under CDCR DAPO supervision. CDCR is also developing a Business Use Case

	homelessness among people preparing to exit prison settings.		Proposal to establish a data match between CDCR and Cal ICH to assess the extent to which individuals leaving CDCR are served by local Continuums of Care (CoCs).
5.14.8	Explore opportunities to establish referral pathways from CDCR to local Continuums of Care for people exiting CDCR who are identified as being at risk of homelessness upon transition to their communities and for people who are on parole who become unhoused.	**Process Measure:** Documentation of consultation efforts and of modifications to policies and practices being implemented in response to findings.	CDCR DAPO and DRP are collaborating with Cal ICH staff on strategies to educate Continuums of Care on CDCR's pre-release processes. CDCR plans to attend and present at one of Cal ICH's bi-weekly CoC meetings in early 2024 to establish a foundation from which to begin exploring potential linkages to CoC housing services.
5.14.9	Explore opportunities to support CoCs in using CDCR data to initiate planning efforts to address the housing and housing services needs of the pre-release and parolee populations. *Cal ICH will check with teams for support capacity.	**Process Measure**: Documentation of consultation efforts and of modifications to policies and practices being implemented in response to findings.	This Action Item relates to Action Item No. 5.14.8 and will be operationalized based on discussions with CoCs.

California Department of Education (CDE)

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month (NHYAM)

In 2007, Congress passed its first resolution (see **original House resolution** | see **original Senate resolution**) recognizing November as NHYAM to build awareness of the issue of youth homelessness, including its causes and potential solutions, and highlight the need to work to prevent homelessness among children and teens. Since then, November has been a time to elevate the issue of youth homelessness; applaud the efforts of businesses, organizations, and volunteers dedicated to meeting the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness; and grow the commitment to intensify efforts to prevent and end homelessness among young people in the United States.

During the month of November please consider changing your virtual background to green! Our partners, the Homeless Education Technical Assistance Centers (HETAC) developed backgrounds that can be accessed online here: https://www.hetac.org/fs/resource-manager/view/25ed260d-c71e-4c39-a835-9cdfcff5bbfb

Consider posting on social media as well! Our CDE, HETACs have developed social media graphics, find those here: https://www.hetac.org/fs/resource-manager/view/008cb8ad-5baa-498f-a174-a3b1c19c3fe1

Share with school sites, businesses and other partners how to engage during the Month of November through the CDE, HETAC calendar of activities here: https://www.hetac.org/fs/resource-manager/view/4f5557a9-ae91-4237-b8c0-3d985de394d1

California Department of Education Summit- A Call to Action: Building a Better Future for Students Experiencing Homelessness (November 9 at 11 a.m.)

State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) Tony Thurmond invited educators, city and county officials, advocates, liaisons, service providers, and other key partners for a summit on November 9 at the Los Angeles County Office of Education to develop cohesive statewide solutions to reduce student homelessness statewide.

Participants brainstormed ideas for future legislation aimed at reducing homelessness and discuss strategies to secure housing and increase educational resources for homeless students.

The full summit was broadcast via Facebook Live on our CDE page, I think this is the correct link: https://www.facebook.com/CAEducation

There were also the standard announcements from communications such as: https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr23/yr23rel85.asp

The day started with a press conference at LA City Hall- the press conference is also on Facebook page. The summit included a panel with state and national advocates, students, district personnel, a land acknowledgement, a welcome from the SSPI and then went into breakout sessions. The 5 breakout sessions were held virtually and in person simultaneously, they were:

1. Leveraging and Expanding Funding
2. Increasing Identification and California's **New** nighttime Residency Report
3. Transition Needs for High School Aged Homeless Youth
4. Housing
5. Wraparound Supports

Call for Presentations for the California Statewide Homeless Education Conference in San Diego, California

Save the Date for: May 8-10, 2024, the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Centers (HETACs) will partner to host the 2024 California Statewide Homeless Education Conference in San Diego, CA.

The Call for Presentations is now LIVE. Please visit the conference website at https://www.cahomelesseducation.com/

Funding Announcement: Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Request for Applications (RFA)

The California Department of Education's (CDE) Integrated Student Support and Programs Office, Homeless Education program is pleased to announce the release of the EHCY RFA for county offices of education (COEs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs/districts).

The CDE invites LEAs, charters and COEs to participate in the federally funded EHCY Grant Program with the intent to facilitate the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success in school for homeless children and youth. In addition, the grant will help ensure homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to all other children and youth of California.

For questions specifically about the LEA EHCY RFA or the COE EHCY RFA, please email HERFA@cde.ca.gov.

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

BH-CONNECT and CalAIM Transitional Rent Services

On October 20, 2023 the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) a proposed amendment to the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Section 1115 demonstration related to transitional rent services and the new Section 1115 demonstration request, entitled the California Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT) demonstration.

In a letter to U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, **Governor Newsom** wrote: The BH-CONNECT demonstration is integral to the state's broader efforts to transform and strengthen the Medi-Cal program, offering Californians a more equitable, coordinated, and person-centered approach to maximizing their health and life trajectories. BH-CONNECT is a key component of my Administration's broader, multi-year behavioral health agenda and historic transformation of behavioral health services in California."

Said **DHCS Director Michelle Baass,** "We are seeking approval to expand access to and strengthen the continuum of community-based behavioral health services for Medi-Cal members living with significant behavioral health needs. BH-CONNECT will further advance the Governor's ongoing behavioral health initiatives."

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT: The BH-CONNECT demonstration builds upon unprecedented investments and policy transformations currently underway in California that are designed to expand access to

community-based behavioral health care and improve outcomes for Medi-Cal members living with the most significant mental health and substance use needs. California has invested more than $10 billion and is implementing landmark policy reforms to strengthen the behavioral health care continuum through initiatives like the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program, CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative, Behavioral Health Payment Reform, mobile crisis and 988 expansion, and more.

SUPPORTING CALIFORNIANS WITH RENTAL ASSISTANCE: In addition to offering six months of transitional rent services as a county opt-in benefit through BH-CONNECT beginning in 2024-25, DHCS is seeking to provide up to six months of transitional rent services through an amendment to the CalAIM Section 1115 demonstration. It is anticipated that Medi-Cal managed care plans can begin to elect to cover the benefit in calendar year 2025 for eligible individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and transitioning out of institutional levels of care, congregate residential settings, correctional facilities, the child welfare system, recuperative care facilities, short-term post-hospitalization housing, transitional housing, homeless shelters or interim housing, as well as those who meet the criteria for unsheltered homelessness or for a Full Service Partnership (FSP) program.

Transitional rent services must be cost-effective and will be provided only if it is determined to be medically appropriate using clinical and other health-related social needs criteria. Transitional rent services will be voluntary for Medi-Cal managed care plans to offer and for Medi-Cal members to use.

"The goal is to improve the well-being and health outcomes of Medi-Cal members during critical transitions or who meet high-risk criteria," said **Baass**.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS: Features of BH-CONNECT that DHCS is requesting as part of the Section 1115 demonstration include a workforce initiative to invest in a robust, diverse behavioral health workforce to support Medi-Cal members living with significant behavioral health needs, including mental health and substance use disorders; activity stipends to ensure children and youth involved in child welfare have access to extracurricular activities that support health and well-being; incentive program to support children and youth involved in child welfare who are also receiving specialty mental health services; and statewide incentive program to support behavioral health delivery systems in strengthening quality infrastructure, improving performance on quality measures, and reducing disparities in behavioral health access and outcomes.

GOAL OF BH-CONNECT: "The BH-CONNECT demonstration aims to increase access to and improve mental health services for Medi-Cal members living with significant behavioral health needs," said **State Medicaid Director (*former*) Jacey Cooper**. The demonstration builds upon California's historic commitment to creating a full continuum of care for substance use disorder treatment and recovery services; in 2015, California launched the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS), a first-in-the-nation model that has been emulated in many other states.

"Like DMC-ODS, this opportunity allows California to make historic investments in building out the full continuum of care for behavioral health, with a special focus on the populations most at risk," said **Cooper**. The BH-CONNECT demonstration will standardize and scale evidence-based models so Medi-Cal members with the greatest needs receive upstream, field-based care delivered in the community; avoid unnecessary emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and stays in inpatient and residential facilities; reduce involvement with the justice system; and report improved status. To achieve these goals, the BH-CONNECT demonstration includes some components that will be implemented on a statewide basis and other components that will be implemented on a county opt-in basis.

"California's proposed goal for the BH-CONNECT demonstration is to complement and advance these major behavioral health initiatives to establish a robust continuum of community-based behavioral health

care services and improve access, equity, and quality for Medi-Cal members in need, particularly individuals experiencing disparities in behavioral health care and outcomes," said **Tyler Sadwith, Deputy Director of DHCS Behavioral Health**.

BIGGER PICTURE: BH-CONNECT aligns with the [Governor's transformation of the behavioral health system](#) in key ways, including a focus on expanding access to housing for Californians with significant behavioral health needs, a commitment to scale evidence-based service models proven to improve outcomes for Californians experiencing the greatest inequities, a $2.4 billion initiative for long- and short-term investments in a robust, diverse behavioral health workforce, and more. Together, these initiatives will help to modernize the state's behavioral health system.

Transforming our Behavioral Health Services

On September 14, the California State Legislature passed two key bills ([Senate Bill (SB) 326](#) and [Assembly Bill (AB) 531](#)) to transform the state's behavioral health system and better address today's needs. The bills dedicate billions of dollars to new behavioral health treatment and residential beds and supportive housing units, create new accountability and transparency, and provide much needed funding for key workforce across the state. Please see the [Governor's news release](#) for more information.

This effort will build 10,000 new treatment beds and housing units, helping serve more than 100,000 people each year, with $6.38 billion funded by a bond on the March 2024 ballot to provide the resources needed to care for and house individuals with the most severe mental health needs and substance use disorders. It will also update the Mental Health Services Act passed by voters 20 years ago to focus funds where they are most needed now.

Once signed by the Governor, this transformation of the state's behavioral health system and accompanying bond will go to California voters for approval. SB 326 and AB 531 will appear jointly on the March 2024 ballot as Proposition 1.

California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Division of Federal Financial Assistance

Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG)

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds a variety of activities to address homelessness, including rapid re-housing, homeless prevention, street outreach, and emergency shelter.

- The 2023 ESG Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) for the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Balance of State (BoS) allocations were released August 15, 2023. Applications were due by October 16, 2023, and award announcements are anticipated in January 2024.

Emergency Solutions Grants CARES Act (ESG-CV)

Authorized by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act enacted March 27, 2020, Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) funds prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance.

- On September 29, 2023, HUD approved HCD's request to extend the ESG-CV grant expiration date from December 31, 2023 to June 30, 2024. HCD is finalizing remaining balances and overall

spending patterns of each ESG-CV grantee to determine if an extension will be offered. Program staff will amend contracts for those offered the extension. Amended contracts will be executed prior to the December 31, 2023 expiration date.

- HCD was awarded $3.8 million in reallocated funding in the Fall of 2022. The reallocated funding has an expenditure deadline of June 30, 2024, already in place. As of November 8, 2023, 91-percent, or $292 million of the $319 million ESG-CV grant has been drawn.

- ICF continues to provide one-on-one technical assistance to each of the seven ESG-CV tribal grantees.

- The ESG/ESG-CV team continues to conduct weekly office hours to provide program updates, trainings from homeless service subject matter experts and answer questions. On average, 90 stakeholders attend each week.

- ICF continues to hold trainings, community workshops, and provide intensive technical assistance to subrecipients and homeless services stakeholders.

- As of the end of June 2023, ESG-CV funds have been used to move 23,664 persons into permanent housing.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV)

Authorized by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act enacted March 27, 2020, Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funds prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus via community development and housing projects and` programs that serve low- and moderate-income households, including those experiencing homelessness.

- Construction continues on the CDBG-CV Homekey project. Completion is expected later this year.

- HCD has been providing individualized technical assistance to CoCs and units of local government to use CDBG-CV funding to aid in the ramp down of ESG-CV programs as funding is exhausted. Grantees have been encouraged to use this resource available from HUD: Using CDBG Funds for ESG-CV-Eligible Activities - HUD Exchange

HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Program

The HOME-ARP Rental Housing Program released its $89 Million NOFA on October 30, 2023. HOME-ARP Rental Housing Program funds will expedite the creation of affordable housing throughout California, particularly in small and rural communities.

HOME-ARP outreach is as follows:

- HCD held two in-person NOFA and Application Workshops in Hanford, CA on November 6, 2023, and in San Clemente, CA on November 15, 2023.

- HCD will hold an in-person/webinar-based NOFA and Application Workshop on November 28, 2023 at HCD's Headquarters in Sacramento CA. Register Now

- HCD will hold an in-person/webinar-based Tribal NOFA and Application Workshop on December 7, 2023 at HCD's Headquarters in Sacramento CA. Register Now

In December 2023, the $29.7 million HOME-ARP Housing Plus Support Program NOFA will be released. Housing Plus Support Program will provide non-profit supportive service providers funds to connect individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness, with

permanent housing and supportive services needed for them to increase self-reliance and stay housed. Please sign up for the [Federal Programs Listserv](#) to receive more information on the HOME-ARP Housing Plus Support Program.

Housing for a Healthy California/National Housing Trust Fund (HHC/NHTF)

The goal of the Housing for a Healthy California program (HHC)/National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) is to reduce the overutilization of emergency departments, inpatient care, nursing home stays, and use of corrections systems and law enforcement resources for people who are experiencing homelessness or chronic homelessness and are high-cost health users. The program provides funding on a competitive basis to create permanent supportive housing opportunities to developers (Article I) and counties (Article II).

HHC Article I (Developments)

- The HHC Program started in FY 2018-19 and concluded in FY 2020-21. In December 2021, HCD released the HHC NOFA from the 2020 ($45,755,245.49) and 2021 ($113,921,160.23) NHTF allocations with an aggregate amount of $163,148,767.

- HCD awarded these NHTF funds to twenty (20) affordable multifamily housing developments, which will result in 554 NHTF units inclusive of a total of 1,574 housing units. Of the twenty (20) HHC assisted developments, twelve (12) are under construction and will be leasing-up in early 2025; and the remaining eight (8) HHC assisted developments anticipate starting construction within the next twelve (12) months.
    - This is the last HHC round using the State's annual federal allocation of NHTF dollars.
    - The final HHC Article I NOFA awards are posted on the HHC webpage at: https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/programs-active/housing-healthy-california-program.

NHTF Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

- The Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 NHTF $172 million NOFA was released on October 25, 2023.

- The NHTF Program is advancing equity and tackling disparities for disadvantaged and underserved communities by targeting 20 percent of the NOFA for Rural Areas ($34.4 million), 20 percent for Federally Declared Disaster Areas ($34.4 million), and 10 percent for Native American Entities ($17.2 million).

- Based on stakeholder feedback received after the webinars, an amended NHTF NOFA is anticipated to be published by mid-December 2023, to revise and clarify language regarding the construction deadline of October 1, 2024, and to extend the application deadline from December 28, 2023, to January 5, 2024, to avoid holiday schedule conflicts.

NHTF funding awarded through the 22-23 NOFA will increase the state's stock of affordable rental housing specifically for extremely low-income households (less than 30 percent of Area Median Income), while providing preference for projects that serve people experiencing homelessness.

Division of Housing Policy Development

Technical Assistance to Improve Delivery of Homelessness Programs

Since January 2019, HCD has provided technical assistance (TA) to counties and CoCs to enhance, develop, and/or improve the delivery of homelessness programs and services. Since 2021, TA was

expanded to support Homekey applicants and grantees in areas related to supportive services, property management, and implementing Housing First core components.

- HCD has partnered with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to create supportive service plan guidance and templates for operating quality supportive housing. The guidance will be informed by supportive service providers, supportive housing developers/operators, and people with lived experience of homelessness. Guidance will include supportive housing operations best practices, supportive services and property management coordination, and incorporating Housing First components into supportive housing operating plans. Resources will be made available by the end of 2023.

- HCD and CSH will host a webinar on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 10:00am – 11:30am to provide an overview of the Supportive Housing Services Guidebook and Template. Attendees will gain an understanding of how to leverage the Guidebook and Template to plan for the implementation of quality supportive services.
    - [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Division of State Financial Assistance

Homekey was created as an opportunity for local public agencies to quickly acquire and rehabilitate properties like motels, multifamily buildings, and commercial properties, to expand housing for persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Since its inception in 2020, Homekey has funded 231 projects, 14,040 units, and is projected to serve 142,074 households over the life of the projects. These figures will increase as Homekey is currently awarding projects under the Round 3 NOFA.

- The Homekey Round 3 NOFA made available $736 million. The application period opened April 24, 2023 and closed on July 28, 2023.

- The Department received 82 applications in response to the Homekey Round 3 NOFA, requesting over $1.3 billion.

- On November 15, 2023, the Department provided approximately $114 million in supplemental funding for the purposes of funding additional existing applications.

- As of November 15, 2023, Round 3 has awarded $331 million to 21 projects. The program has approximately $518 million left to award to eligible projects.

- A separate Tribal Homekey NOFA making available $75 million for tribes, was released June 27, 2023. HCD intends to also add supplemental funding to this NOFA in the coming weeks.

- If no new funds are appropriated, the Homekey program will sunset after Round 3 funds are awarded.

- Homekey Round 2 status as of November 2023: 48 projects completed construction; 2,791 units created; 3,888+ individuals housed.

View the list of Homekey Round 3 Awardees as of November 7, 2023, on the Homekey website: https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/homekey/homekey-round-3-awardee-list.pdf

Multifamily Finance Super Notice of Funding Availability (MFSN)

The MFSN streamlines four of HCD's rental housing programs to align eligibility criteria, scoring, and release of funds allowing for a coordinated single application and award process. Programs under the MFSN include the Multifamily Housing Program (MHP), Infill Infrastructure Grant Program (IIG), Joe

Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program (FWHG), and Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP).

The second Super NOFA was released on May 18, 2023, with 241 applications received July 12, 2023. Awards are expected to be made in Winter 2023/2024.

No Place Like Home (NPLH)

On July 1, 2016, legislation was passed enacting the No Place Like Home (NPLH) program to dedicate up to $2 billion in bond proceeds from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to invest in the development of permanent supportive housing for persons in need of mental health services and experiencing homelessness or are exiting institutions with a history of homelessness. In November 2018, voters approved Proposition 2, authorizing the sale of up to $2 billion of revenue bonds and the use of a portion of Proposition 63 taxes for the program.

Through December 2022, HCD has made 156 awards totaling approximately $1,911,376,910 in 46 counties. These are the last planned HCD awards under this program until additional new funding becomes available:

- HCD made awards to four Alternative Process Counties in the amount of $1,070,149,587 that will result in approximately 4,705 NPLH-assisted units. As of October 1, 2023, the Alternative Process Counties have awarded these funds to 107 local projects. Remaining awards by these four counties will be made no later than June 30, 2024.

    - Alternative Process Counties are those counties with five percent or more of the state's homeless population who are designated to receive and administer their own allocations.

- HCD has awarded $841,227,323 to 42 counties in the balance of the state for 141 local projects that will result in 2,997 NPLH-assisted units.

- Overall, it is anticipated that 7,702 NPLH-assisted units will be produced. As of October 1, 2023, there were 64 completed projects, and 124 projects under construction.

- More NPLH data will be published in the program's annual report due to be released by December 31, 2023.

Pet Assistance and Support Program

The Pet Assistance and Support (PAS) Program provides grant funding competitively to emergency shelters with the intent of reducing barriers for those households experiencing homelessness with their pet. PAS provides funding for pet food, pet supplies, basic veterinary services, and staffing and liability insurance related to providing those services. The PAS program makes the grant funds available competitively to eligible applicants statewide. The program did not receive additional funding in the FY 23-24 Budget.

PAS program output (from January 2021 through January 2023): 1,704 participants served; 1,739 pets assisted.

Portfolio Reinvestment Program (listed as Preservation Initiative in Budget)

The FY 2021-22 state budget included $300 million from the one-time Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund to provide capital to HCD legacy projects about to go market-rate to extend affordability covenants and preserve the state's affordable housing stock. Beneficiaries of the Portfolio Reinvestment Program (PRP) are underserved low, very-low, and extremely low income households, which may also include various

disadvantaged special needs groups, such as the elderly, disabled, large families, female heads of households, and people experiencing homelessness. PRP is helping to stabilize 453 households with 455 individuals at risk of homelessness.

HCD has completed its review and approval of the PRP applications and is in the process of issuing standard agreements and starting construction calls with the Sponsors. Three of these projects have started construction.

PRP is also working on issuing a second NOFA. It is currently being routed to the Director's Office for approval. The proposed NOFA has approximately $112 million in funding and some eligibility requirements will change.

Transitional Aged Youth Housing Programs

The Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program encompasses three programs to prevent homelessness and secure and maintain housing for young adults aged 18 to 24 years, inclusive, with priority given to those currently or formerly in the foster care or probation systems. The three TAY programs are Transitional Housing Program (THP), Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP), and the Transitional Housing Plus Supplement Program (THP-SUP). Eligible counties receive TAY funding to support child welfare services agencies and housing navigation and maintenance to help house our most vulnerable young adults. It is encouraged that the county coordinate with the local Continuum of Care to foster communication and collaboration.

In FY 2023-24 state budget, the TAY programs received $56M to help young adults find and maintain housing, with priority given to those formerly in the foster care or probation systems. Program staff will contact eligible counties, informing them of the available TAY funding. HCD anticipates awarding these funds in Spring 2024.

THP-SUP program output: January – July 2023 reporting period data is being reviewed and analyzed.

THP Round 3 program output (as of January 2023): 5 participants served. January – July 2023 reporting period data is being reviewed and analyzed.

THP Round 1 and Round 2 program output (as of July 2022): 1,332 participants served.

HNP Round 1 program output (as of July 2022): 804 participants served; Round 2 (as of January 2023): 4 participants served. January – July 2023 reporting period data is being reviewed and analyzed.

California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)

National Mortgage Settlement (NMS) Counseling Program

California's Fiscal Year 2020-21 State Budget directed $300 million in National Mortgage Settlement (NMS) funds to the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) for housing counseling and mortgage assistance. Through its NMS Housing Counseling Program, CalHFA has allocated $141.5 million for HUD-certified housing counselors throughout the state to provide free, confidential counseling services to California residents who are in danger of eviction or foreclosure. The program is currently scheduled to run until May 31, 2026.

As of June 30, 2023, the total funds disbursed is $ 70.4 million, with 60,580 total households helped since its inception. Currently, the program has 54 active Housing Counseling Agencies with a cumulative total of 241 counselors providing various counseling services.

While these households are getting help on a range of housing-related issues including homebuying and mortgage delinquency, some counselors are equipped to provide guidance that is specially for Californians who are in danger of experiencing homelessness.

The latest quarterly report is found on the CalHFA website: NMS Quarterly Report

California Mortgage Relief Program (MRP)

The California Mortgage Relief Program is funded by the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act's Homeowners Assistance Fund. It provides assistance to qualified homeowners who have fallen behind on their housing payments, property tax payments, or who have partial claims or loan deferrals taken due to pandemic-related financial hardships.

Since inception, the program has received more than 82,000 applications, assisted over 26,000 households, and distributed more than $ 656 million with an average assistance of $25,000 per household.

It is important to note that approximately 50% of the funds have gone to socially disadvantaged communities, and for some homeowners on the lower end of the income spectrum, the assistance can prevent them from experiencing homelessness.

For the most current statistics of the program, please see the MRP website.

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Grant Programs with Primary Purpose of Providing Emergency Shelter and/or Housing Assistance

The Victim Services Branch at Cal OES has six grant programs with the primary purpose of providing emergency shelter and/or housing assistance. They include:

- ➢ Homeless Youth   Emergency Services Pilot (HY) Program
- ➢ Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing (YE) Program
- ➢ Homeless Youth and Exploitation (HX) Program
- ➢ Specialized Emergency Housing (KE) Program
- ➢ Transitional Housing (XH) Program
- ➢ Domestic Violence Housing First (XD) Program

1. **Homeless Youth   Emergency Services Pilot (HY) Program – State Funded**

   The 2021 State Budget Act allocated $10 million to continue funding four existing Subrecipients under the HY Program. The HY Program supports the existing four Subrecipients for five additional years. Counties with Subrecipients include:

- El Dorado
- Fresno
- Orange
- San Bernardino

The purpose of the HY Program is to expand crisis intervention and stabilization services to homeless youth so that the immediate crises these youth face can be resolved, and they can focus on their futures.

The pilot program ends March 31, 2027.

Next Funding Opportunity

Contingent on State Budget.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023)

➤ Individuals that received emergency shelter: **594**

➤ Individuals that received stabilization planning services: **564**

➤ Employment training <u>services</u> provided: **460***

➤ Education <u>services</u> provided: **17***

*This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

2. **Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing (YE) Program – State Funded**

The 2021 State Budget Act allocated $40 million to continue and expand the YE Program. The YE Program continues to fund Subrecipients in four existing counties and expands to supporting Subrecipients in eight additional counties. The five-year program began January 1, 2022. Counties with Subrecipients selected for funding include:

- Alameda
- Humboldt
- Los Angeles
- Monterey
- Orange
- Sacramento
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Joaquin
- Santa Clara
- Stanislaus
- Ventura

The purpose of the YE Program is to establish or expand access to a range of housing options that meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness, and to provide crisis intervention and stabilization services so that the immediate crises these youth face can be resolved, and they can focus on their futures.

The program ends December 31, 2026.

Next Funding Opportunity

Contingent on State Budget.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023)

- ➢ Individuals that received emergency shelter: **561**
- ➢ Individuals that received transitional housing: **243**
- ➢ Individuals that received stabilization planning services: **1,039**
- ➢ Rental assistance <u>services</u> provided: **110***
- ➢ Employment training <u>services</u> provided: **1,436***
- ➢ Education <u>services</u> provided: **1,441 ***

*This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

3. **Homeless Youth and Exploitation (HX) Program – State & Federally Funded**

The purpose of the HX Program is to help homeless youth exit street life. Services provided under the HX Program include access to food, emergency shelter/housing; counseling, outreach services, screening/providing for basic health needs; linkage to other services offered by public and private agencies; long-term stabilization planning; and follow-up services. In addition, the HX Program provides specialized services for youth experiencing sexual exploitation.

The program is ongoing.

Next Funding Opportunity

Non-competitive.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023)

- ➢ Individuals that self-reported as homeless: **797**
- ➢ Individuals that received emergency shelter/safe house/transitional housing: **4,372***
- ➢ Relocation assistance <u>services</u> provided: **24***

* This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

4. **Specialized Emergency Housing (KE) Program – Federally Funded**

The purpose of the KE Program is to expand emergency shelter and emergency housing assistance resources in California and provide specialized services for victims of crime. Applicants may serve any or all the following communities: homeless youth, elderly, disabled, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) victims of crime.

The five-year funding cycle ends September 30, 2027.

Next Funding Opportunity

Late winter/early spring of 2027 for a Grant Subaward performance period beginning October 1, 2027.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023)

➢ Individuals that self-reported as homeless: **904**

➢ Emergency shelter/safe house/transitional housing services provided: **12,661***

➢ Relocation assistance services provided: **704***

* This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

5. **Transitional Housing (XH) Program – Federally Funded**

The purpose of the XH Program is to create and/or enhance transitional housing   for crime victims. The Program will support transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and supportive services, including follow-up services that move victims of crime into permanent housing. Successful transitional housing programs provide a range of optional supportive services and let victims choose the course that best fits their needs.

The five-year funding cycle ends December 31, 2027.

Next Funding Opportunity

Late spring/early summer 2027 for a Grant Subaward performance period beginning January 1, 2028.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023)

➢ Individuals that self-reported as homeless: **1,115**

➢ Emergency shelter/safe house/transitional housing services (i.e., nights) provided: **24,311***

➢ Relocation assistance services provided: **509***

*This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

6. **Domestic Violence Housing First (XD) Program – Federally Funded**

The purpose of the XD Program is to help victims of domestic violence gain increased access to and retention of, safe permanent housing, and then provides ongoing tailored supportive services.

The five-year funding cycle ends December 31, 2027.

Next Funding Opportunity

Late spring/early summer 2027 for a Grant Subaward performance period beginning January 1, 2028.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023)

➢ Individuals that self-reported as homeless: **1,228**

➢ Emergency shelter/safe house/transitional housing services (i.e., nights) provided: **9,097***

➢ Relocation assistance services provided: **5,660***

* This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

New Staff!

CDPH has added two new staff to advance health equity among people experiencing homelessness (PEH).

Emily Pereira, PEH Equity Specialist, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and comes to CDPH after working with homeless and runaway youth for the past 14 years in Butte County.

Maggie Tufts, Research Scientist III, has been at CDPH in the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health division for the past ten years and is excited to start working with the PEH team.

Peer Health Ambassador Program

CDPH has awarded funding to 16 community-based organizations to hire and train PEH to provide COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and treatment resources to their peers.

Program highlights:

- Bayview Hunters Point (San Francisco) has three of their Peer Health Ambassadors enrolled in a Community Health Worker Certification at the City College of San Francisco so that they may continue their career as ambassadors.

- Peer Health Ambassadors at Foothill House of Hospitality in Nevada county have assisted 125 individuals experiencing homelessness by providing referrals to primary care physicians and housing resources. They have also provided 583 free COVID-19 tests.

- The outreach team at Hill Country Community Clinic in Redding, conducts outreach on the street, in encampments, and in the woods to find people who are not being served. They have linked over 600 people to urgent medical care, mental health services, and primary care providers.

As this program will be ending in April 2024, our technical assistant partners, Homebase, will be developing a report to share successes and challenges.

Lived Experience Advisory Board

16 members, all with recent or current experience with homelessness are providing CDPH with their expertise to help shape policies and address issues related to homelessness, COVID-19, and health.

We recently held our second meeting and researchers from San Diego State University joined to solicit input from the board to inform the development of guidance for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) needs for PEH. The researchers will return in the spring of 2024 to present their findings to the LEAB.

San Diego State University WaSH Guidelines

CDPH has partnered with San Diego State University (SDSU), to create a statewide guidance document on the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) needs of people experiencing homelessness (PEH)

across California. This document will include recommendations for state and local agencies on how to best allocate resources to create and/or maintain sanitation infrastructure for PEH. The content of this guidance will be based on existing data and interviews/focus groups with people with current or prior experiences of sheltered and/or unsheltered homelessness; homelessness service providers; and others with key knowledge of WaSH infrastructure. The project is in the first phase and focused on identifying key informants, data sources, and critical locations for site visits.

Housing & Homelessness Workgroup

CDPH's Lived Experience Advisory Board were consulted and recommended that the topic of the next CDPH-wide staff training should be focused on compassion for PEH. As a result, the Housing & Homelessness Workgroup is hosting a webinar on 12/13: ***Truths about Homelessness: Understanding the Realities of Homelessness and Addressing Common Misconceptions.***

California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

The DOR works with community partners and stakeholders to improve access to services, supports, employment, and community-based living for people with disabilities. The DOR works on the local level to support people with disabilities including those who are homeless and are important partners for No Wrong Door coordination of services. As a social determinate of health, employment can be a critical path out of homelessness.

Los Angeles County

The DOR Greater Los Angeles District partners with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to coordinate services for unhoused participants. The LAHSA is providing a training to community partners on the Coordinated Entry System (CES) in January 2024. The training will include an introduction to homelessness in Los Angeles, CES, and LAHSA.

San Bernardino County

The DOR is collaborating with the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools' County Community Schools to serve the students who are classified as McKinney Vento students. The McKinney-Vento Act provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness, which includes those who are: sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; staying in motels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to the lack of an adequate alternative. TriCity County Community School (located in San Bernardino) has approximately 99% of their student population falling under the McKinney Vento Act. The DOR is striving to serve these students with urgency. Some students may require DOR services to support their goals related to housing, education, and employment. Many of these students have high absence rates due to lack of stable housing, access to clean clothing, food, and other day to day resources.

San Joaquin Valley District

Merced / Madera Counties: The DOR staff has joined the Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Subcommittee for Madera County. This is an opportunity for DOR to connect with individuals with disabilities who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and help coordinate services and supports that enable them to retain and sustain stable housing and independence.

Tulare County: The local DOR team collaborates with the Tulare County Housing Authority and partners with their Aftercare Rental Assistance Program. This allows some of DOR consumers to use vouchers to

bypass the lengthy waitlist for the Housing Authority and find dependable housing at a reduced monthly rental rate. Several consumers have benefited from this program.

Kern County: The DOR staff serves on the Homeless Youth Committee that serves homeless students and youth in Kern County and are part of the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program at the America Job Center of California (AJCC).

Older Individuals Who Are Blind Program

The DOR's Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program provides services to visually impaired individuals, age 55 and older, to assist them to live independently. New this year is the inclusion of services for blind and visually impaired individuals aged 18-54. Services are available to individuals regardless of housing status, including individuals who are unhoused or are at-risk of losing their housing. The OIB program recently completed a competitive process for selecting non-profit partners for the current grant cycle. All 58 counties in California now have OIB services available from our 16 partner organizations. Find your local provider by downloading the List of OIB Agencies.

Disability Access Services

The DOR's Disability Access Services (DAS) partners with the California Department of Human Resources Cal Learns program to provide low cost and free disability employment and awareness related training to federal, state, and local government employees. The DOR is currently offering digital accessibility courses and a disability awareness and etiquette class covering disability inclusion, allyship, and communication.

The DAS also provides free webinars to the community. The next webinars will start in February 2024 and will include a wide variety of disability inclusion and employment related topics. For more information, visit the Disability Access Services website or email DAS Training Team.

California Department of Social Services (DSS)

CDSS Housing and Homelessness Programs Guidance Update

Subscribe to the CDSS Housing and Homelessness Division newsletter and visit our website for additional information on all CDSS Housing and Homelessness programs.

CDSS Housing and Homelessness Programs

The CDSS is administering just over $2 billion in funding appropriated in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 and FY 2022-23 to provide funds to counties, tribes, and tribal entities to establish, continue and expand housing and homelessness assistance through the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Housing Support Program (HSP), Bringing Families Home (BFH), Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), Home Safe, Project Roomkey (PRK) and Rehousing Strategy, and the Community Care Expansion Program (CCE). The FY 2022-23 State Budget reflected significant state investments in these housing and homelessness programs; these one-time funds are available to spend over multiple years.

Please see the full budget summary link here. To summarize, the Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022 invested a combined $21.5 billion over multiple years to advance the greater availability of housing throughout California and the 2023 Budget largely maintains these commitments and includes a housing

package of $14.7 billion for 2023-24. CDSS released CFL 22/23-84 on May 5, 2023, announcing the allocation of approximately $31 million in FY 2022-23 Targeted Strategic Investment (TSI) grants for HDAP. The Budget Act of 2023 (Senate Bill 101, Chapter 12, Statutes of 2023) approved the annual ongoing appropriation of $95 million for HSP and $25 million for HDAP. Funds for HDAP will be available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025. No new funding was appropriated for BFH, Home Safe, PRK or CCE. Additional updates related to funding awards and program implementation and expansion are outlined below.

Technical Assistance

CDSS continues to support the expansion and growth of Housing and Homelessness programs state-wide, based on grantees' needs. CDSS expanded the comprehensive Technical Assistance (TA) initiative launched in early 2022 in partnership with the Change Well Project. TA offerings include a suite of resources for Housing and Homelessness Division (HHD) grantees, including learning community discussions, webinars and learning collaboratives, curated program tools and guides, and one-on-one consultation on a wide variety of topics and issues. TA provides various learning opportunities aimed at different staff competencies and span from light-touch support to more intensive assistance, depending on the grantee's unique needs.

Since the TA initiative launch in 2022, the Change Well team has:

- Provided TA to 53 California counties and 26 tribal communities, resulting in 128 total engagements from January 2022-July 2023 with individual, in-depth technical assistance focusing on designing and redesigning programs for a newly expanded scale and strengthening overall systems of care to support better housing outcomes for program participants.

- Provided 1,081 system administrators, program managers, and direct service staff with high-impact training to develop the key competencies needed across multiple disciplines to create and scale transformative housing programs.

- Launched a six-month TA series specifically for Tribes establishing new Home Safe and/or HDAP programs that combines both group learning and tailored 1-1 TA. This series provides information on program design fundamentals.

- Created and deployed a resource dashboard that reports TA activities and is now live on the Change Well Project website.

- The Change Well Project is also working with counties to obtain highlights and success stories from counties who have participated in technical assistance.

Tribal Programming and Engagement

The CDSS released an *All Tribal Leader Letter* on July 26, 2022, announcing the availability of $17.5M in FY 2021-22 funding set aside for eligible tribal entities to establish a new BFH, HDAP, and/or Home Safe program. Entities eligible to request set-aside funding included federally recognized tribes, tribal organizations (including but not limited to Tribal 638 Providers and Urban Indian Organizations), tribal consortium, and tribally led nonprofits in California. A total of 25 tribal entities requested funding to operate CDSS-funded housing and homelessness programs.

In April 2023, CDSS awarded all $35 million across all 25 tribal entities that requested funding to establish 62 new tribal housing and homelessness programs. Additionally, $9.5 million has been awarded to tribes through a $28.5 million tribal set-aside in the CCE program.

FY 2022-23 Program Funding Notices

CDSS released an All County Welfare Directors Letters (ACWDL) on September 21, 2022, informing counties and continuing tribal grantees of the availability of $645M appropriated in FY 2022-23 for HSP, BFH, HDAP, and Home Safe. As with FY 2021-22 funding for these programs, the one-time funds awarded in FY 2022-23 is match exempt and is available for expenditure and encumbrance over multiple years. A County Fiscal Letter (CFL) 22/23-43 was released on December 30, 2022, awarding these funds to participating grantees. Additional program-specific updates are outlined below.

CDSS released CFL 22/23-84 on May 5, 2023, announcing the allocation of approximately $31 million in FY 2022-23 Targeted Strategic Investment (TSI) grants for HDAP. CDSS has been in the process of developing All County Welfare Directors Letters (ACWDLs) to announce the availability of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) and Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) allocated via the Budget Act of 2023 (Senate Bill 101, Chapter 12, Statutes of 2023).

CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP)

The CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) assists families receiving CalWORKs who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to quickly obtain permanent housing while providing flexible wrap-around supports to foster housing retention.

- Since the program's inception in 2014 through June 2023, more than 74,100 families have been served. Of those, over 40,100 were permanently housed through HSP.

- The Budget Act of 2023 approved the annual, ongoing appropriation of $95 million for HSP and CDSS released the HSP funding notice on September 27, 2023.

- The Budget Act of 2022 appropriated $285 million for HSP over multiple years, including the annual, ongoing appropriation of $95 million available over two years, and a one-time appropriation of $190 million available over three years through June 2025. These funds are in addition to the $285 million appropriation made available by the Budget Act of 2021.

- Fifty-five counties currently operate HSP. Final FY 2022-23 allocations and participating county social service agencies can be viewed in CFL 22/23-43 (December 30, 2022).

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program

The CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program serves eligible families applying for or receiving CalWORKs with up to 16 days of temporary shelter payments, as well as payments to secure or maintain housing, including a security deposit and last month's rent, or up to two months of rent arrearages.   The CalWORKs HA program is an entitlement program, available to all eligible families applying for or receiving CalWORKs benefits.

- In FY 22-23, over 59,400 families were approved for temporary HA and over 6,100 families were approved for permanent HA. A total of 65,500 families were approved for CalWORKs HA.

- CDSS issued All County Letter (ACL 23-83) on October 6, 2023, providing guidance to County Welfare Departments regarding the implementation of SB 1083 (Skinner, Chapter 715, Statutes of 2022) (WIC 11450) that will increase coordination and access to services including, but not limited to: expanding eligibility for HA to include families in receipt of any notice that could lead to an eviction, regardless of the circumstances cited in the eviction notice and requiring county human services agencies to refer all pregnant CalWORKs recipients to perinatal home visiting services administered by an authorized provider or county agency .

- The CDSS publishes the CA 237 CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program monthly statistical report with statistical information on requests and net expenditures; these data reports are available to the public on the CDSS CA 237 HA website.

Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program

The Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program serves families involved with the child welfare system who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or are in a living situation that cannot accommodate the child or multiple children in the home, with the goals of reducing the number of families experiencing homelessness, increasing family reunification, and preventing foster care placement.

- From program launch through June 2023, over 6,100 families have been served and more than 2,800 families have been permanently housed through BFH. The Budget Act of 2022 appropriated $92.5 million for BFH, available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025. These funds are in addition to the $92.5 million appropriation made available by the Budget Act of 2021.

- As of Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, a total of 53 counties and 1 tribe operate BFH statewide. CDSS also supported the launch of 24 new tribal programs in FY 2022-23. Final FY 2022-23 allocations and participating grantees can be viewed in CFL 22/23-43 (December 30, 2022).

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)

The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) assists people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who are likely eligible for disability benefits by providing advocacy for disability benefits as well as housing supports.

- As of Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, a total of 57 counties operate HDAP statewide. CDSS also supported the launch of 17 tribal programs in FY 2022-23. Since HDAP's inception in FY 2017-18 through June 2023, over 3,300 people have been permanently housed, over 7,300 disability applications have been submitted, and over 1,900 disability applications have been approved.

- The Budget Act of 2023 appropriated the annual, ongoing appropriation of $25 million in dollar-for-dollar match-required funds for HDAP.

- CDSS released CFL 22/23-84 on May 5, 2023, announcing the allocation of approximately $31 million in FY 2022-23 Targeted Strategic Investment (TSI) grants for HDAP. Approved TSI projects aim to improve, expand, enhance, or pilot a program to support HDAP clients and HDAP-specific services. Applications were requested in an ACWDL dated September 21, 2022, and accepted on a rolling basis. This funding was made available on a first come, first served basis with priority given to complete applications received no later than November 2, 2022.

- On November 6, 2023, CDSS released All County Welfare Directors Letters (ACWDL) notifying all 58 counties and current participating Tribal Grantees in California of the availability of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Funding for the HDAP program allocated via the Budget Act of 2023 (Senate Bill 101, Chapter 12, Statutes of 2023).

Home Safe Program

The Home Safe program supports the safety and housing stability of people involved in Adult Protective Services (APS) by providing housing assistance and homelessness prevention services. Local Home Safe Programs utilize a range of strategies to support homelessness prevention and housing stability for APS clients, or those who may be served by a Tribal social services agency who appear eligible for APS and are experiencing or at risk of homelessness for reasons of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial

exploitation, including financial assistance, legal services, eviction prevention, heavy cleaning, and landlord mediation, among other services.

- As of June 2023, approximately 8,700 people have received assistance through the program and more than 3,500 instances of housing-related financial assistance were provided. Additionally, over 2,000 people have been connected to the local Coordinated Entry System (CES).

- The Budget Act of 2022 appropriated $92.5 million for Home Safe, available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025. These funds are in addition to the $92.5 million appropriated in the Budget Act of 2021.

- All fifty-eight counties currently operate a Home Safe Program. CDSS also supported the launch of 23 tribal programs in FY 2022-23. Final FY 2022-23 allocations and participating grantees can be viewed in CFL 22/23-43 (December 30, 2022).

Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy (PRK)

Project Roomkey is a multiagency effort led by CDSS to provide non-congregate shelter options such as hotels and motels or self-contained trailers for people experiencing homelessness in response to COVID-19. This effort was designed to save lives, reduce transmission, and relieve pressure on the hospital system by providing safe shelter for those who are COVID-19 positive, have been exposed, or who are at high risk for medical complications if they were to contract the virus.   Communities still operating PRK are in the process of determining the appropriate date for closing the program, based on local needs and in consultation with their local emergency and public health departments.

- Since March 2020, over 16,000 rooms were secured, representing a 50% increase in the number of shelter beds in California and exceeding statewide goal of 15,000 rooms. In total, 62,000 individuals have been sheltered through Project Roomkey. Additionally, as of July 2023, 14,048 (23%) of PRK participants exited to permanent housing; 36% exited to temporary housing or congregate shelter; 9% to institutions or other; and 17% to unknown destinations. The remaining 15% exited to unsheltered homelessness.
    - Occupancy data is updated weekly on the COVID 19 Homeless Impact Dashboard.
- The California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, in collaboration with CDSS, engaged Abt Associates to evaluate Project Roomkey. In December 2022, Abt Associates published an Evaluation of California's Project Roomkey Program: Year 1 Report highlighting the successes and challenges of PRK, including participant experiences and outcomes, and the ways in which the state's housing and healthcare systems collaborated to swiftly launch emergency programming. Abt Associates will release a final report based on additional data collection in 2024.

Community Care Expansion (CCE)

The Community Care Expansion (CCE) program is part of a statewide investment in infrastructure funding to address homelessness, support healthcare delivery reform, and strengthen the social safety net. CCE funds the acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities that serve applicants and recipients of Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) or Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Funds are also available to preserve residential care settings, including operating subsidies to existing licensed adult and senior care facilities currently serving SSI/SSP or CAPI recipients through the CCE Preservation program.

- A total of $570 million has been made available for CCE Capital Expansion funding through a https://www.ccegrant.com/joint-rfa/Joint RFA published on January 31, 2022. Funds may be

used for capital expansion projects, including acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of residential care settings. A portion of the funds may also be used for a Capitalized Operating Subsidy Reserve (COSR) for funded projects for a maximum of five years.

- Applications for CCE Capital Expansion project funding were accepted through a joint RFA until June 1, 2023.   To date, CDSS awarded $353 million across 48 projects that seek to expand capacity within licensed residential care facilities, recuperative care sites, and permanent supportive housing. CCE Expansion applications are under review and will be funded on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted. Awards are posted on the CCE data dashboard.

- In addition to the Capital Expansion program funds, CDSS awarded $247 million in one-time, non-competitive allocations to 34 counties through the CCE Preservation program. Award information, including participating counties, can be viewed on the CCE website.

- The CCE program recently transitioned to third-party administrator, HORNE. They are a professional services firm that works with clients to help design and operationalize complex, large-scale, and equity-focused systems change.

California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC)

CTCAC administers programs that address critical needs for the state of California. CTCAC allocates nine percent (9%) and four percent (4%) federal tax credits to qualified new construction projects or existing properties undergoing rehabilitation. Each number refers to the approximate percentage that is multiplied against a project's requested "qualified basis" to determine the maximum amount of annual federal credits the project may be awarded. CTCAC also administers the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program in the State Treasurer's Office, which is a critical funding source for producing and preserving affordable rental housing and helping reach the Governor's goal of producing 2.5 million units in California by 2030.

First Round Nine Percent (9%) Credit 2023 Awards (November 8, 2023)

- Annual Federal Credits Awarded: $50,036,236 (totals $500,362,360)

- Total State Credits Awarded: $83,064,481

- Projects Awarded: 27

- Total Number of Units: 1,441

- Total Number of Low-Income Units: 1,416

Upcoming Rounds:

Third Round 4% Credit and Tax-Exempt Bond applications were due September 6, 2023. Awards will be announced December 6, 2023.

The Preliminary Staff Recommendation List can be found here.

2023 Meeting Schedule and Application Due Dates

Information on CDLAC 2023 Meetings and Application Due Dates can be found here.

Information on CTCAC 2023 Meetings and Application Due Dates can be found here.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Caltrans continues to actively collaborate with Continuums of Care (CoCs) and local social service providers to perform outreach and offer alternative shelter for those sheltering on the state Right of Way. These partnerships ensure a shared responsibility to address the homelessness crisis. As Caltrans widens its lens to focus on collaborative shelter solutions and safety-centric mitigation measures, **it is expanding its staff dedicated to this effort.** Collaboration and Communication are a recipe for success.

In partnership with San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, the city of San Diego, and local social service provider City Net, Caltrans District 11 Encampment Coordinators collaborated to remove PEH from the state Right of Way and into more **permanent housing**. These individuals were removed from the Right of Way and successfully connected with outreach services. After being matched with a case manager, they were able to successfully navigate the temporary housing path before receiving subsidized housing with ongoing case management to continue their stay independently. **This is a significant milestone for Caltrans as these are the first cases of PEH transitioning to permanent housing (not temporary shelters) directly from the Caltrans Right of way.**

Caltrans continues to partner with Cal ICH to publicize and promote funding opportunities available through the **Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program** and **Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) program.**

Most recently, Caltrans convened a statewide meeting with District Encampment Coordinators to share information regarding the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for HHAP Round 5, grants awarded through ERF Round 3 to fund projects addressing encampments located at least partially on the state Right of Way and participate in a special Q&A session with Cal ICH's Grants Development Section Chief.

As a result of Caltrans' involvement in Rounds 2 and 3 of the ERF grant program:

- **13 of the 23 applications** approved during the first funding window of ERF Round 2 were for projects at least partially on the state Right of Way. **Nearly $110 million** was awarded to fund those 13 projects. Additional information can be found here.

- **Seven of the eight applications** approved during the second and third rolling disbursement funding windows of ERF Round 2 were for projects at least partially on the state Right of Way. **Over $39 million** was awarded to fund those seven projects. Additional information can be found here.

- **Six of the 12 applications** approved during the first window of ERF Round 3 were for projects at least partially on the state Right of Way. **Nearly $38 million** was awarded to fund those six projects. Additional information can be found here.

Caltrans was invited to participate in the **Interdepartmental Disaster Preparedness and Response Group**. This working group is made up of representatives from various state agencies (including Cal ICH, BCHS, HHS, and CDPH) that participate in the Priority Populations Task Force and focus on unsheltered populations. This smaller workgroup intends to create, streamline, and disseminate information, guidance, and resources to support system leaders in local government agencies, CoCs, and direct service providers in advance of and during disasters. The dissemination of these resources will support local communities in strategic preparation for future disasters or emergencies affecting PEH by sharing best practices, and resources, and uplifting lessons learned, as well as communicating resources that may benefit communities in real-time during a disaster or emergency.

Caltrans recently produced an internal [video](#) that highlights the agency's successful **Shelter Lease program** that works to provide locals with options to shelter people experiencing homelessness on a temporary and emergency basis. Under the Shelter Lease program, Caltrans identifies excess Right of Way properties that could be offered to local governments to use for emergency shelters and/or feeding centers for $1/month. Caltrans is focusing on offloading these properties as soon as they become available to not only build shelter capacity but also assist in addressing the state's affordable housing shortage. An example of the Shelter Lease program in action (highlighted in the internal video) is the **St. Mary's Community Services Shelter in Stockton** which operates entirely on Caltrans property and is the longest continuously running shelter on state property in California. This year, Caltrans collaborated with St. Mary's to construct a 12-thousand-square-foot **Navigation Center** on state property. This center was a true community investment, funded in part by the City of Stockton, San Joaquin County, San Joaquin Continuum of Care, and Caltrans in partnership with local businesses and nonprofits.

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)

Veterans Support to Self-Reliance (VSSR) Competitive Grant Program: In 2023, CalVet awarded $20 million in competitive grant funds to non-profit organizations to provide enhanced supportive services for veteran seniors aged 55+, veterans who are high acuity, and veterans who receive assistance or have been assisted through HUD-VASH. Those selected for funding have three years to implement their application workplans. As of November 17, 2023, there are 209 veterans enrolled in the pilot.

All Pilot grantees are required to collect quantitative as well as qualitative data using forms provided by CalVet. This will include individual level data for each veteran who is enrolled in the Pilot and receiving the enhanced services as well as aggregate data for each housing program. CalVet staff are currently working with grantees and the Cal ICH contractor, ABT Associates, to implement AB977 requirements for HMIS data entry participation.

More information about the VSSR Pilot Grant program including the NOFA and grantee award list can be found on our website. WWW.CalVet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Veterans-Support-to-Self-Reliance

Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention (VHHP) Program: The VHHP program has encumbered $540 million through the first seven rounds of funding and is expected to encumber the remainder of AB 639 bond authority in round 8, applications of which are currently being processed by HCD. Round 7 was the first VHHP round included in the HCD SuperNOFA and about $75 million was awarded. In 2013, AB 639 (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2013) authorized $600 million for VHHP, with five percent to be used for administration, or $30 million.

The encumbered VHHP funding has enabled 96 multifamily affordable housing projects to come to fruition throughout California, 56 of which are currently operating or in the initial lease up phase, and nine of which were awarded under the SuperNOFA. Directly because of VHHP, we will see 6,389 units of affordable and supportive housing to supplement housing need in California and accessible to veterans. Of those, 3,249 units will be restricted to only veterans and their families. Of the total expected units, about 3,850 units accessible to veterans are currently in service, while about 2,080 of those are restricted to only veterans and their families.

VA Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD) Statewide Survey: CalVet is in the process of developing a statewide survey to organizations that received 2022 and 2023 GPD funding. The goals of the survey are to discover in greater detail how GPD grantees collaborated with their local coordinated entry systems, collect descriptive information about resources available for onsite supportive services, and

provide a better understanding of the pathways that exist for veterans experiencing homelessness to get into culturally competent transitional housing.

We anticipate releasing the survey in early 2024 and participants will be asked to complete the survey within 90 days of the release date.

Federal Partner: U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

- Submitted by Helene Schneider, USICH Senior Regional Advisor

- USICH elects HHS Secretary Xavier Beccera as new USICH Council Chair at its October 2023 meeting

- USICH Executive Director Jeff Olivet and Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg published an op-ed in *Governing Magazine*: Homelessness is Preventable: Ending It and Saving Lives Is a Policy Choice

- USICH initiates new collaboration with Kaiser Permanente on work addressing homelessness, particularly on improving access to health care and affordable housing.

- HHS Launches Housing Services Accelerator for Medicaid, in coordination with HUD.

- HHS ASPE (Office of the Asst. Secretary for Planning and Evaluation) released a report: Addressing Homelessness Among Older Adults, providing a roadmap for understanding the population of older adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness and what services and supports area available to serve them.

- The White House announced new federal actions to convert commercial property into affordable housing, including the following investments:

  - New Commercial to Residential Federal Resources Guidebook

  - New Dept. of Transportation guidance for states, localities and developers on how the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act and Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing programs can be used to finance energy-efficient housing development near transportation, including conversion projects.

  - Updated notice from HUD on how Community Development Block Grant funds can be used to boost housing supply, and conversion of commercial properties to residential uses and mixed-use development.

- HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing sent housing authority leaders a letter consolidating HUD's Resources on streamlining actions to help PHAs address homelessness.