



# California Interagency Council on Homelessness

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**To:** Members of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness  
**From:** Meghan Marshall, Executive Officer, Cal ICH  
**Subject:** Cal ICH Lived Experience Advisory Board Priorities  
**Date:** June 12, 2024

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## Background

The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) staff established the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) to incorporate the insights and expertise of individuals with lived experiences of homelessness directly into Cal ICH's decision-making processes. LEAB members work to ensure that homelessness policies and programs are grounded in real-world experiences.

## LEAB Responsibilities

The Cal ICH LEAB will inform a broad range of decisions of the Council and member departments to ensure systems, programs, and decisions are deeply informed by individuals with lived experience of homelessness. This ensures that systems, programs, and policies are influenced by those with firsthand knowledge of homelessness systems. By collaborating with policymakers and service providers, LEAB members help identify both challenges and effective solutions within the homelessness response system. Cal ICH emphasizes the importance of including diverse lived experiences and prioritizing racial justice and equity in all LEAB activities. The Cal ICH LEAB works in coordination with the Advisory Committee and Cal ICH Working Groups.

## Top Priorities

In a recent survey and discussions, LEAB members identified the following top priorities to guide their work. Cal ICH staff continue to work with the LEAB to identify projects for the LEAB to take on within these priorities.

- 1. Work to End Criminalization of People Experiencing Homelessness**
  - Identify and advocate against laws and practices that penalize individuals experiencing homelessness.
- 2. Promote a Focus on Prevention**
  - Emphasize strategies that prevent homelessness before it occurs.
- 3. Advocate for More Affordable, Supportive, and Sustainable Permanent Housing**
  - Emphasize the need to prioritize funding for permanent housing with a range of supportive service options.
- 4. Center Lived Experience/Expertise in Decision Making**
  - Ensure that individuals with lived experience are integral to the decision-making processes at all levels.

## Purpose of LEAB's Priority List

The LEAB's priority list serves to:

- **Communicate Pressing Issues:** Highlight the most urgent homelessness issues to the Council, Working Groups, Homelessness Systems Leaders, and the general public.
- **Align Project Requests:** Guide the LEAB in accepting project requests that align with their priorities.
- **Drive Internal Projects:** Develop LEAB-driven initiatives creating tools for inclusive local planning, identifying strategies to support racial equity in homelessness response and beyond.

## How to Connect with the LEAB

Cal ICH is pleased to announce the formal launch of the Cal ICH LEAB request process. The LEAB's external facing request process will be managed by the Cal ICH LEAB Liaison and will include a user-friendly online form for the Council, member departments, and Cal ICH staff to submit requests for LEAB input. The LEAB reserves discretion for accepting requests and will consider them as they are submitted.

Upon project acceptance, the requester will continue working with the LEAB Liaison to present the project for feedback and commentary across further Cal ICH LEAB monthly meetings. Through this partnership with the LEAB, it is expected that the requesting entity will communicate back any direct or indirect impacts LEAB contributions make on the requesting entity's efforts.

Council members will receive formal communication inclusive of resources and materials for submitting requests to the LEAB later this month.