



State of California
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Council Meeting

December 3, 2024

Agenda

- I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call
- II. Consent Calendar
- III. Council Co-Chair Opening Remarks
- IV. Executive Officer Updates
- V. Action Plan Overview
- VI. Resources for Local Partners
- VII. Housing First Update
- VIII. General Public Comments
- IX. Final Remarks and Adjournment

I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call

Tribal Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge that Sacramento is the unceded homeland of the Southern Maidu, Valley and Plains Miwok, the Nisenan people, the Patwin Wintun people, and members of the Wilton Rancheria Tribe, who have inhabited this landscape since time immemorial.

We extend our gratitude to the ancestors of all California Native American Tribes and their descendants, as we recognize that wherever we are joining from in our virtual community, we are all on California Native American land.

Council Member Roll Call

- Please say "here" or "present"

II. Consent Calendar

- Adoption of the Meeting Summary from the July 11, 2024, Action Plan Input Meeting
- Adoption of the Meeting Summary from the September 5th, 2024 Council Meeting

Public Comment on Agenda Item II - Consent Calendar

- Public comment related to Consent Calendar items only
- If joining by Zoom, click the “raise hand icon”
- If connected by phone, press “*9” to indicate that you would like to comment

Council Member Vote

- Shall items on the Consent Calendar be approved?

III. Co-Chair Opening Remarks

IV. Executive Officer Updates

V. Action Plan Overview

Action Plan Development

September – December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Initial planning conversations with Council and Advisory Committee✓ Draft structure presented to the Council
January – March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Initial public input on Action Plan✓ Initial planning sessions with Cal ICH LEAB✓ Draft goals presented to the Council
April – August 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Continued public and Tribal input✓ Continued input from LEAB✓ Individual planning with Council agencies and departments✓ Special Council meeting to develop collaborative actions
September – December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Finalized Plan goals and actions<input type="checkbox"/> Propose new Action Plan to Council for adoption<input type="checkbox"/> Begin dissemination and implementation

LEAB Presentation

The Problem

- On a given night, over **180,000 people experience homelessness** (68% unsheltered)
- Over the course of 2023, over **340,000 access homelessness services**
 - Nearly 1 in every 100 Californians
- Stark racial inequities. Those accessing homelessness services were...
 - Four times more likely to identify as Black or African American
 - Two times more likely to identify as American Indian or Indigenous
 - Two times more likely to identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- For every five people accessing homelessness services in 2023, 1 exited to housing

Action Plan Vision

An equitable and just California in which homelessness is rare, brief, and never more than a one-time experience.

Guiding Principles and Commitments

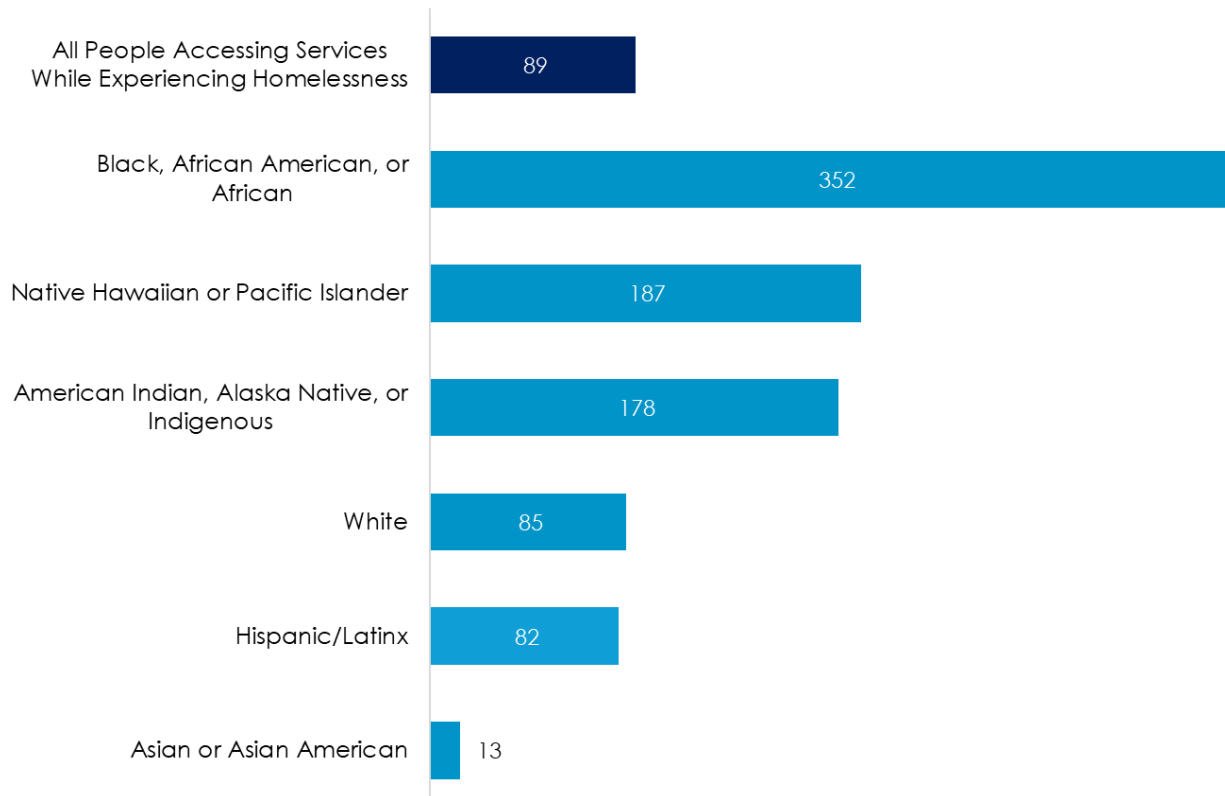
By adopting this Plan and its vision, Cal ICH member departments and agencies are also committing to **utilizing 8 shared guiding principles in the design and implementation** of their strategic investments and all their Plan actions:

- Pursuing racial equity and justice
- Increasing access to resources for California's Tribal communities
- Creating solutions for the full diversity of people experiencing homelessness
- Seeking and valuing the expertise of people with lived experiences of homelessness
- Strengthening Housing First approaches
- Balancing crisis response and permanent housing solutions
- Advancing trauma-informed care and person-centered services
- Aligning health, housing, and homelessness strategies

Equity in the Action Plan

Californians Accessing Services While Experiencing Homelessness

Rate by Race & Ethnicity (per 10k Californians)



Plan integrates **racial equity frameworks**:

- Targeted Universalism
- Equity-based Decision Making
- Equity-Centered Community Design
- Collective Impact 3.0
- Continuous Quality Improvement

Ensure equity and effectiveness by:

- Collecting and analyzing data
- Involving communities in planning and decision-making
- Providing training and TA to partners
- Increasing resources equitably

REWG advise and partner with departments to implement frameworks, recommend strategies, and launch **Racial Equity Implementation Hub**

Draft Action Plan Three-Year Goals

Action Plan North Star:

Have a housing placement available for every person served

Three-Year Goal:

For every 2.5 people served, 1 is placed in housing during that year

Five individual Action Plan goals:

- North stars listed for each individual goal
- Plan goals designed to get **halfway to all north stars** by 2027
- Focuses on redressing profound racial inequities and other disparities
 - Black or African American; Native American or Indigenous; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander communities
 - Detailed demographic analysis with performance measurement

Goals

1. Help more people leave unsheltered homelessness	Increase the percent number of people who leave unsheltered homelessness and enter either emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing from 42% to 70% .
2. Help more people move into housing	Increase the percentage of people who move into permanent housing from 20% to 60% .
3. Ensure people do not experience homeless again	Ensure that at least 96% of the people who move into permanent housing do not experience homelessness within six months.
4. Strengthen prevention through improved connections to health and social services	Increase the percent of individuals or families at risk of homelessness who are enrolled in and receiving Medi-Cal and CalWORKs.
5. Create more housing	Permit more than 1.5 million homes , with no less than 710,000 of those meeting the needs of low- and very low-income households.

Investments (sample)

Plan Goals	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5
Measures	# experiencing unsheltered homelessness moving into shelter	# moving into housing	% remaining in permanent housing after six months	# at risk connected to Medi-Cal or CalWORKs	# units created
Homekey+ (HCD)	●	●	●		●
Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (DHCS)	●	●	●	●	●
Home Safe (CDSS)	●	●	●	●	
Low Income Housing Tax Credit Programs (Cal HFA)					●
Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Program (CCCCO)	●	●	●		

Action Areas



Action Area #1: Increasing People's Access to Housing & Services



Action Area #2: Coordinating & Streamlining State Programs



Action Area #3: Engaging Partners & Communities



Action Area #4: Using Data Strategically



Action Area #5: Advancing Best Practices & Quality

- Action Areas:
 - 5 Action Areas
 - 15 Objectives
 - 170+ Actions
- Commitments to specific action-oriented coordination across State agencies and programs and deeper collaboration with public and private partners in communities
- Actions associated with Plan goals

Implementation

Implementation Activities

- Regular and Transparent Performance Measurement
- Focus on Addressing Inequities
- Coordination Across Council Departments & Agencies
- Collaboration with External Partners
- Public Education and Awareness
- Refining the Plan for the Future

Year 1 (January – December 2025):

- Begin data collection on outcomes associated with each goal for strategic investments.

Year 2 (January – December 2026):

- Report out on collective progress made toward each Plan goal during Year 1.
- Begin to identify successes and challenges involved in this work.

Year 3 (January – December 2027):

- Report out on collective progress made toward each Plan goal during Year 2.
- Share recommendations with Council on additional policies, programs, areas of focus, etc. needed to meet goals and lessons learned from implementation.

Next Steps

- Questions on Action Plan overview
- Council members propose/vote on Action Plan adoption
- Implementation discussion

Council Member Vote

- Shall the Council adopt the new Action Plan?

Public Comment on Agenda Item V - Action Plan

- Public comment related to the Action Plan only
- If joining by Zoom, click the “raise hand icon”
- If connected by phone, press “*9” to indicate that you would like to comment

Council Member Vote

Implementation Discussion

Council departments and agencies have many external partners integral to the implementation of the Action Plan.

- How can Cal ICH help orient these partners to the Plan to ensure alignment around our work?

Implementation Discussion, cont.

Performance measurement will center around reporting on outcomes from strategic investments.

- How can Council departments and agencies prepare for this over the next year?
- What data is already being collected related to the goals?

VI. Resources for Local Partners

- Presentation and discussion on Disaster Preparedness Toolkit

Connection to Action Plan

Action Area #3, Objective C

Collaboratively Communicating and Planning with Partners

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Lead Departments</i>	<i>Collaborating Departments</i>	<i>Plan Goals Impacted by Action</i>
33. Coordinate the Strategies, Tools, and Emergency Preparedness for Unsheltered Populations (STEP-UP) group in coordination with the Priority Populations Task Force to ensure inclusion of people experiencing homelessness in disaster response efforts. Support local jurisdictions in planning for future emergencies affecting people experiencing homelessness by developing a toolkit for leaders on the best practices and resources available for serving this population.	Cal ICH	CDSS, CDE, CDA, Caltrans, HCD, Cal OES, CDPH	Will impact all plan goals

LEAB Presentation

Homeless Emergency and Active Readiness Toolkit (HEART)

Cal ICH interdepartmental emergency preparedness group: Strategies, Tools, and Emergency Preparedness for Unsheltered Populations (STEP-UP)



HOMELESS EMERGENCY AND ACTIVE READINESS TOOLKIT (HEART)

Prepared by

CALIFORNIA INTERDEPARTMENTAL
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GROUP

NOVEMBER
2024

www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich

STEP-UP Interdepartmental Group

Goal:

Support local jurisdictions in preparing and planning for future disasters and emergencies affecting people experiencing homelessness.

Representatives from:

- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- California Department of Education (CDE)
- California Department of Aging (CDA)
- California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH)

Toolkit Goals

The goal of this toolkit is to help those working in emergency planning and response agencies and the homelessness response system at the local level by:

- **Creating a shared understanding** of the different needs of persons experiencing homelessness during a disaster.
- **Informing local partners** of respective roles and capacities.
- **Supporting local interagency collaboration.**
- **Providing strategies** for supporting persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness during disasters or emergencies.



Development Process



- Combined information from a variety of resources
- Integrated State agencies' information and their connection to local services during emergencies



- Reviewed 58 County Emergency Operations Plans and Annexes
- Distributed a survey to California's 44 Continuums of Care, 58 counties, and large cities



- Conducted interviews with 6 local jurisdictions
- Sought feedback from Cal ICH's Lived Experience Advisory Board

Three-Part Approach to Addressing the Needs of People Experiencing Homelessness During Disasters

Part 1 - Be Informed

- Emphasizes the importance of understanding emergency response and homelessness systems. Encourage readers to learn about their county's emergency plans.

Part 2 - Get Connected

- Emphasizes collaboration, a whole-community approach, and inclusion of people experiencing homelessness in emergency planning.

Part 3 - Take Action

- Advocates for proactive and comprehensive support for individuals experiencing homelessness during emergencies, focusing on communication, transportation, shelter, essential services, safety, equity, trauma-informed approaches, and transition to recovery.

Additional Elements



Key
Takeaways



Collaborative
Opportunities



Tools and
Templates to be
adapted



Checklists and
Information
created by Cal
ICH



Links to
Additional
Resources

Toolkit Launch & Next Steps

Communication

- Cal ICH Newsletter
- Social Media
- STEP-UP Partner Presentations

Webinar Series

- Toolkit Introduction & Overview
- Be Informed
- Get Connected
- Take Action

Additional Content

- Funding Guide
- Fact Sheets
- Exemplary Practices Case Studies

STEP-UP FY 2024-2025

STEP-UP is in the process of finalizing activities following the release of the toolkit which may include developing quarterly bulletins to further expand on specific topic areas, developing or updating resources, and other activities to be finalized with the group shortly.

Discussion Questions

Cal ICH will be working in coordination with STEP-UP member departments to present the toolkit to various stakeholder groups such as the California Welfare Directors Association.

- Are there other forums we should be engaging with to share out this resource?
- What additional resources could the STEP-UP group prioritize the development of to support local communities in planning for future emergencies affecting people experiencing homelessness?

VII. Housing First Update

- Overview of Cal ICH's work to oversee Housing First implementation
- Discussion of creating resources to help state and local partners

Connection to Action Plan

Guiding Principle: Strengthening Housing First Approaches

Housing First is an evidence-based model that uses housing as a tool, rather than a reward, for recovery and that centers on providing or connecting people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing as quickly as possible. **Housing First is not housing only; Housing First approaches offer services as needed and requested voluntarily.** Housing is never contingent on participation in these services, but services are offered to support long-term success. **Additionally, providers must make clear the full set of services available for participants, ensuring they are fully informed and empowered to make the best choices for their needs.** It is crucial to acknowledge that while housing is a fundamental step, there are still significant gaps in providing individuals with the comprehensive, wraparound services—such as mental health support, job training, and substance use treatment—that are essential for maintaining long-term stability and preventing a return to homelessness. **California has a legal commitment to implement all state homelessness and housing programs using Housing First approaches to remove barriers, ensure people have access to the housing and services necessary to support their success, and reduce returns to homelessness.**

Through the adoption of this plan, Cal ICH and its member departments and agencies **commit to incorporating the Housing First statutory requirements into their relevant programs and funding,** as well as working with their grantees and local partners to ensure its proper implementation.

Housing First as Defined by CA Statute

Statute Timeline

2016: Senate Bill 1380 (Mitchell)

- Defines Housing First and its requirements, including 11 core components

2021: Assembly Bill 1220 (Rivas)

- Expands Housing First implementation to state programs funding interim settings

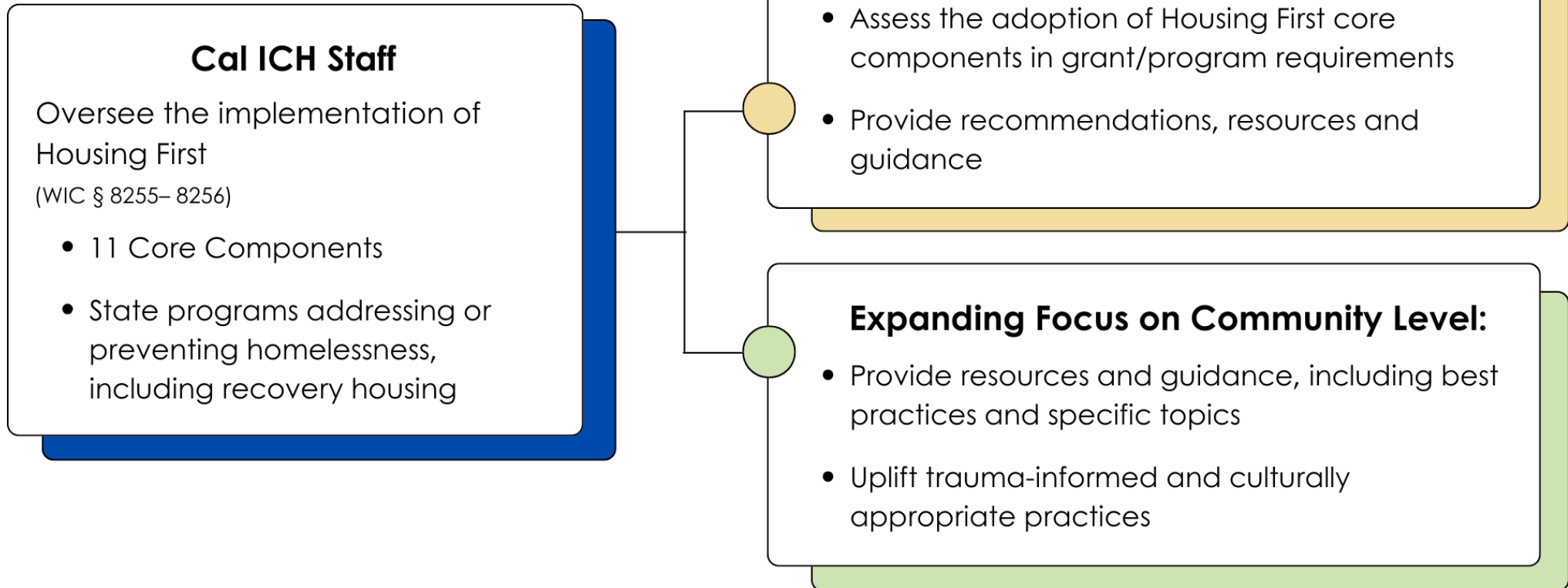
2021: Senate Bill 197 (Committee on Budget)

- Provides requirements for specific programs funding recovery housing.

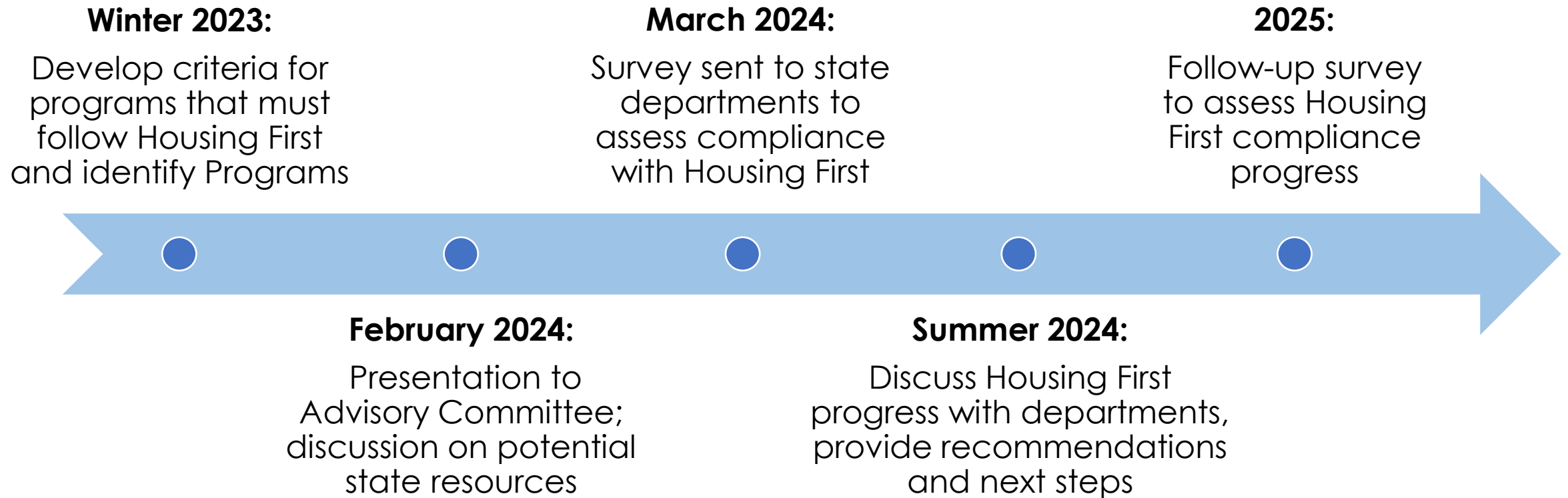
“‘Housing First’ means the evidence-based model that uses housing as a tool, rather than a reward, for recovery and that centers on **providing or connecting [people experiencing homelessness] to permanent housing as quickly as possible**. Housing First providers offer services as needed and requested voluntarily and does not make housing contingent on participation in services.”

(Welfare and Institutions Section 8255(d)(1))

Cal ICH Role in Housing First



Timeline of Housing First Efforts



Housing First Monitoring

PURPOSE

- Ensure state-funded and administered programs have policies aligned with State law
- Create a shared understanding of Housing First and how it applies to their programs and grantees

HOUSING FIRST SURVEY

What it is:

- Survey of 38 programs across 8 council agencies and departments
 - *Cal OES, CalVet, CCCCCO, CDCR, DSS, DHCS, HCD (including former Cal ICH programs), and CTCAC*
- Assess compliance including each core component and additional requirements, when applicable, into program guidelines and regulations
- Assess current challenges of implementation and communication with grantees

What it is not:

- Monitor the implementation of Housing First core components among state grantees

Housing First Survey Outcomes

- Identified program compliance with Core Components and, if applicable, other statutory Housing First requirements
- Each department or agency provided recommendations on steps to reach full compliance
 - Most State programs need minor fixes to reach compliance – already implement core components in practice, but not explicitly stated/required
- Cal ICH working with State agencies and departments
 - State programs are underway to being fully compliant
 - Follow-up survey in 2025 to assess progress in compliance

Guidance and Resources

Cal ICH is the lead entity for developing guidance and uplifting best practices on Housing First

GUIDANCE AVAILABLE

- Guide to California's Housing First Law
- CA & USICH Housing First Training: Putting Plans into Practice in California

UPCOMING GUIDANCE

- Recovery Housing Guidance

REPORTED SUPPORT NEEDED

- Guidance, TA, and trainings for providers (high turnover and new staff), contractors, and the public
- Specific guidance relating to shelters, Tribal communities, harm reduction, etc.
- Understanding connection to the Action Plan
- Data driven studies on harm reduction, progressive engagement, trauma-informed care, and other similar evidence-base best practices
- Tools to implement and measure Housing First
- Collaboration on webinars and other materials

Cal ICH Guide to California Housing First Law

- Published October 2024; may be updated in the future
- Answers frequently asked questions about the State law
 - Defines Housing First and provides background
 - Explains core components – voluntary participation in services, low barriers to access, using harm reduction practices, etc.
 - Provides expectations for applying Housing First in different settings (e.g. recovery housing and shelters)



Cal ICH Guide to California's Housing First Law

Updated October 2024

The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) is the lead entity for coordinating state efforts to prevent and end homelessness. Cal ICH was originally created to oversee the state's implementation of Housing First guidelines and regulations. This guide provides answers to frequently asked questions about the implementation of Housing First in state-funded programs. Cal ICH plans to continue putting out resources for state and local partners related to Housing First implementation across a variety of topics.

What is Housing First?

"Housing First" refers to an evidence-based model that uses housing as a tool, rather than a reward, for recovery, and that aims to provide or connect people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Under this model, providers offer services as needed and requested, and participation in services are not a requirement for housing ([Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) §8255\(b\)](#)).

Why does California use a Housing First model?

The Housing First model was developed to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness who face behavioral health, mental health, or substance use challenges. Programs that mandate behavior or substance use treatment to receive or maintain housing can cause individuals to cycle in and out of housing without improvement, hindering their long-term stability. Housing First acknowledges that a stable place to call home is crucial to one's success in addressing any health or substance use needs, and therefore removes those barriers to accessing housing for people experiencing homelessness. Housing First has been well-studied and is found to have stronger outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.¹

What are the State's legal requirements for Housing First?

California law includes eleven Housing First core components that must be incorporated into state program requirements. These core components must be adopted by state departments or agencies that fund, administer, or implement programs for the purpose of providing housing or housing-based services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. For the full statutory language, please see [WIC §8255\(b\)](#).

Are people required to be sober, in treatment, or have met other prerequisites to be enrolled in a housing or service program?

People are not required to have met prerequisites related to sobriety or treatment to be eligible for participation in state-funded homelessness and housing programs. Additionally, participants must not be rejected for their financial or rental history.

¹ [USICH \(2019\). The Evidence Behind Approaches that Drive an End to Homelessness.](#)

[\[Linked Here\]](#)

Next Steps

CONTINUE SURVEYS

- Provide recommendations to state departments
 - Follow up on department and agency progress to implement Core Components
- Upcoming survey in 2025 to assess progress towards compliance

DEVELOP GUIDANCE

- Continue developing guidance for State and local partners

CONNECT WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- Work with local communities to assess and navigate Housing First implementation in their communities

Discussion

- What guidance around Housing First would be helpful for your programs?



VIII. General Public Comment

- Public comment on items discussed this meeting
- If joining by Zoom, click the “raise hand icon”
- If connected by phone, press “*9” to indicate that you would like to comment

IX. Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Next Council meeting: March 12, 2025 at 1:00 pm

Contact Information

- Cal ICH Website: <https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich>
- Questions: calich@bcsh.ca.gov
- Social Media
 -  https://twitter.com/Cal_ICH
 -  <https://facebook.com/CaliforniaICH>
 -  <https://linkedin.com/company/california-interagency-council-on-homelessness>