



State of California
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Advisory Committee Meeting

February 5, 2025

Agenda

- I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call
- II. Consent Calendar
- III. Executive Officer Updates
- IV. Housing First
- V. Advisory Committee Membership and Role
- VI. General Public Comments
- VII. 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.

Committee Member Roll Call

- Please say "here" or "present"

II. Consent Calendar

- Adoption of the Meeting Summaries from the August 22 and November 12, 2024, Advisory Committee Meetings

Public Comment, Agenda Item II

Consent Calendar

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

Committee Member Vote

- Shall items on the Consent Calendar be approved?
- Adoption of the Meeting Summaries from the August 22, 2024 and November 12, 2024 Committee Meetings

III. Executive Officer Updates

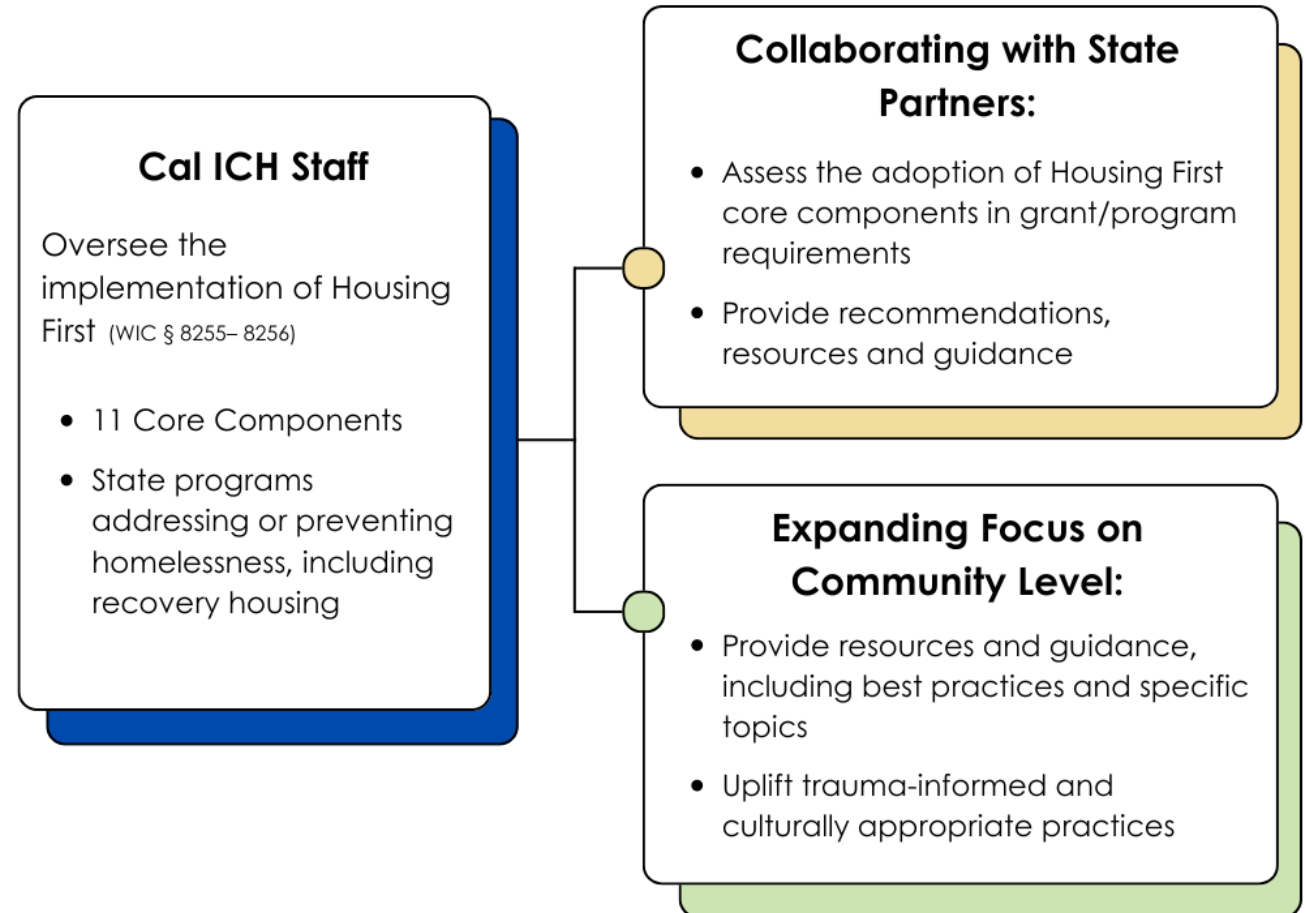
IV. Housing First

- Update on State Housing First Monitoring
- Discussion on Draft Recovery Housing Guidance

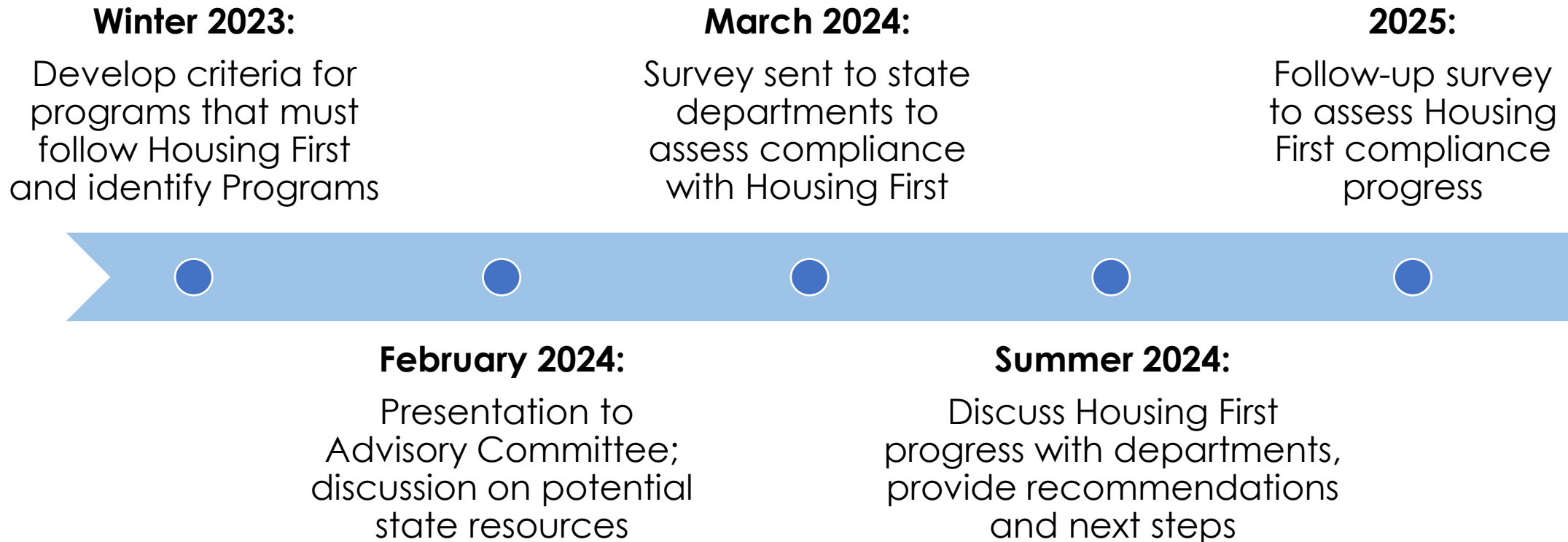
Housing First in California

“‘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))



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, CCCCO, 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 local grantees and partners

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

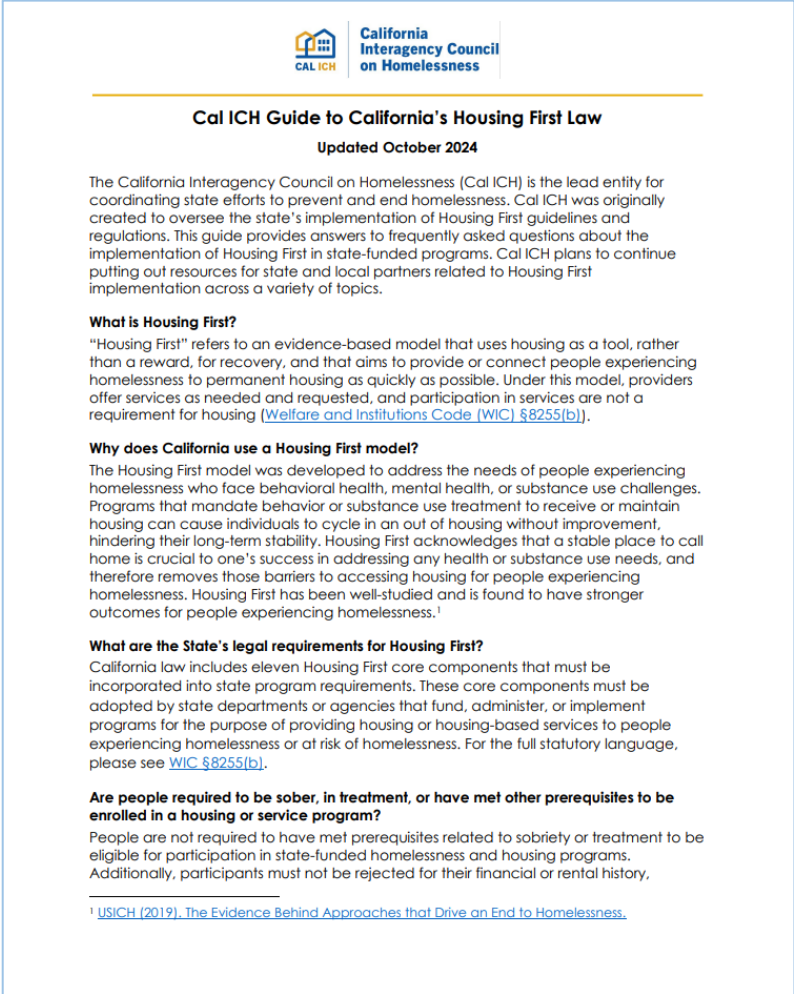
- Recovery Housing Guidance

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's 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)



The image shows the cover of a guide titled "Cal ICH Guide to California's Housing First Law". At the top right, there is a logo for the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (CAL ICH) and the text "California Interagency Council on Homelessness". Below the logo, the title "Cal ICH Guide to California's Housing First Law" is centered, followed by "Updated October 2024". The main body of the cover contains several sections of text: "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." This is followed by three sections: "What is Housing First?", "Why does California use a Housing First model?", and "What are the State's legal requirements for Housing First?". Each section has a brief paragraph of text. At the bottom, there is a footnote: "¹ USICH (2019). The Evidence Behind Approaches that Drive an End to Homelessness."

[\[Linked Here\]](#)

Recovery Housing Guidance

- Upcoming Guidance – *February 2024*
- Provides guidance to state and local partners who fund recovery housing projects or who are interested in funding these projects
 - Outlines nuances of recovery Housing and how Housing First applies

Recovery Housing Guidance

- Clarifies that state funds can be used to support recovery housing programs so long as they comply with Housing First core components
- Explains the additional requirements for CDCR programs that fund recovery housing
- Provides best practices for implementing Housing First within recovery housing settings

Discussion

- How have your organizations or partners been able to successfully implement Housing First in recovery housing settings?
- Is there anything that should be included or further expanded within the Recovery Housing guidance?
- What other guidance or resources are needed from Cal ICH to successfully implement Housing First?

Next Steps

DEVELOP GUIDANCE

- Continue developing guidance on a variety of topics for State and local partners

CONNECT WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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

CONTINUE SURVEYS

- Upcoming survey in 2025 to assess progress towards compliance

V. Advisory Committee Membership and Role

Cal ICH Advisory Committee in Statute

Welfare and Institutions Section 8257(c)(1) states: "The cochairs of the council shall appoint members to this advisory committee that reflects racial and gender diversity, and shall include the following:

(1) A survivor of gender-based violence who formerly experienced homelessness.

(2) Representatives of local agencies or organizations that participate in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program.

(3) Partners with expertise in solutions to homelessness and best practices from other states.

(4) Representatives of committees on African Americans, youth, **and** survivors of gender-based violence.

(5) A current or formerly homeless person who lives in California.

(6) A current or formerly homeless youth who lives in California.

(7) A current or formerly homeless person with a developmental disability.

(8) This advisory committee shall designate one of the above-described members to participate in every quarterly council meeting to provide a report to the council on advisory committee activities."

Cal ICH Advisory Future Additional Expertise to be Recommended

(1) Cal ICH Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) members.

(2) Representatives from Northern **and** Southern California Tribal communities.

(3) Representatives of committees on Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities.

(4) Partners with expertise in homeless services and best practices for rural communities in California.

(5) Representatives of statewide associations, such as CWDA, CBHDA, CHEAC and CSAC.

(6) Representatives from Northern **and** Southern California academic research institutes/centers.

(7) Representatives from Managed Care Plans.

Discussion

- Who is missing from additional experts? If any, what value do they bring to the Advisory Committee?
- What should recruitment of future members look like?
- What improvements can Cal ICH make to the Advisory Committee to ensure active engagement?

VI. General Public Comment

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

VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Next Council meeting: March 12, 2025 at 1:00 pm
- Next Advisory Committee meeting: May 7, 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>