



State of California  
**BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY**



# **California Interagency Council on Homelessness**

## **Council Meeting**

March 12, 2025

# 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. AB 977 Updates
- VI. Housing First Update
- VII. Advisory Committee Membership
- VIII. Action Plan Implementation
- IX. Council Co-Chair Closing Remarks
- X. General Public Comments
- XI. 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 December 3, 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. Council Co-Chair Opening Remarks

# IV. Executive Officer Updates

# V. AB 977 Updates

- Updates on the implementation of Assembly Bill 977 (AB 977)
- Overview of the technical assistance available to support grantees of programs required to comply with AB 977

# Purpose of 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).

The additional and improved data made available by these reporting standards allows for:

- A more accurate account of people served by the homelessness response system
- A more comprehensive understanding of program outcomes
- Better-informed policy decisions

# Current Programs

## Department of Veterans Affairs

- Veterans Support to Self-Reliance Pilot Program

## California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

- Community Colleges Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Program

## Department of Social Services

- Bringing Families Home Program
- CalWORKS Housing Support Program
- Housing and Disability Advocacy Program

## Department of Housing and Community Development

- Homekey
- Housing for a Healthy California Program
- No Place Like Home Program
- Multifamily Housing Program
- Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Act of 2014
- Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program\*
- Encampment Resolution Funding Program\*
- Family Homelessness Challenge Grants\*

*\*Formerly administered by Cal ICH*

## Department of Health Care Services

- Behavioral Health Bridge Housing

# Progress to Date

## Initial Implementation

Cal ICH contracted with Abt Global to provide initial TA to programs and grantees, supporting grantees to successfully enter required data

## AB 977 in Effect

Passed September 2021 and in effect as of January 2023, the bill required HMIS data entry for specified programs

## Monitoring & Targeted TA

Supported programs and grantees to increase the quality and completeness of data via quarterly assessments of AB 977 data in HDIS

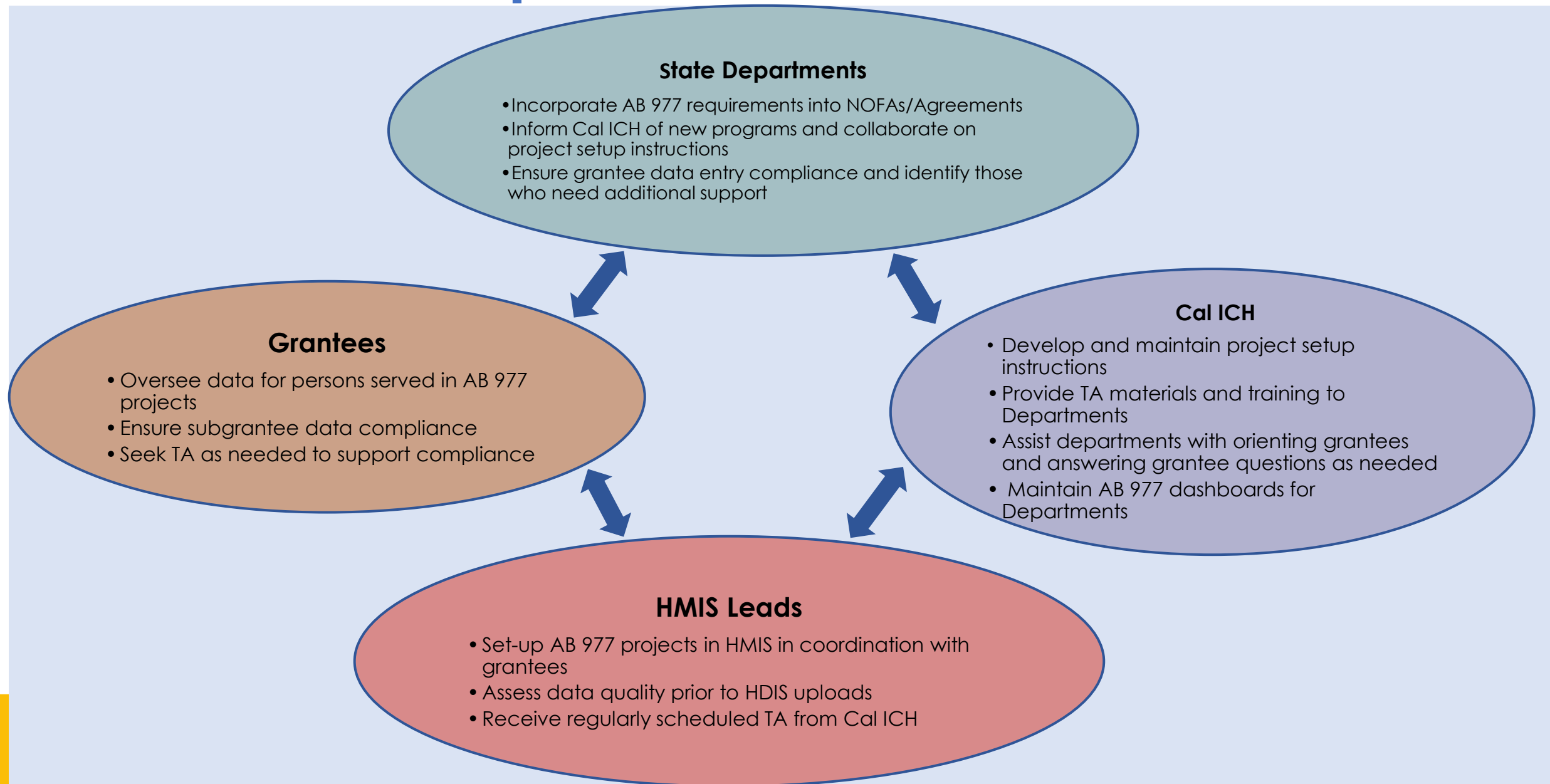
## Tool Development

Development of data dashboards to support departments and HMIS Leads in monitoring grantee data

## TA Transition

Cal ICH will provide modified TA beginning July 1, 2025, following the end of contracted services

# Roles and Responsibilities in AB 977



# Updates to TA Provision

Beginning July 1, 2025, Cal ICH will continue existing TA activities in a modified capacity including:

## Department TA

- Serve as technical HMIS experts
- Develop and maintain data tools for tracking grantee compliance
- Provide summaries of collected data back to departments to support tracking of service usage and outcomes

## Grantee TA (via Departments)

- Develop and update TA materials for grantees
- Provide technical HMIS expertise to assist departments in answering grantee questions
- Orient new grantees to AB 977 requirements

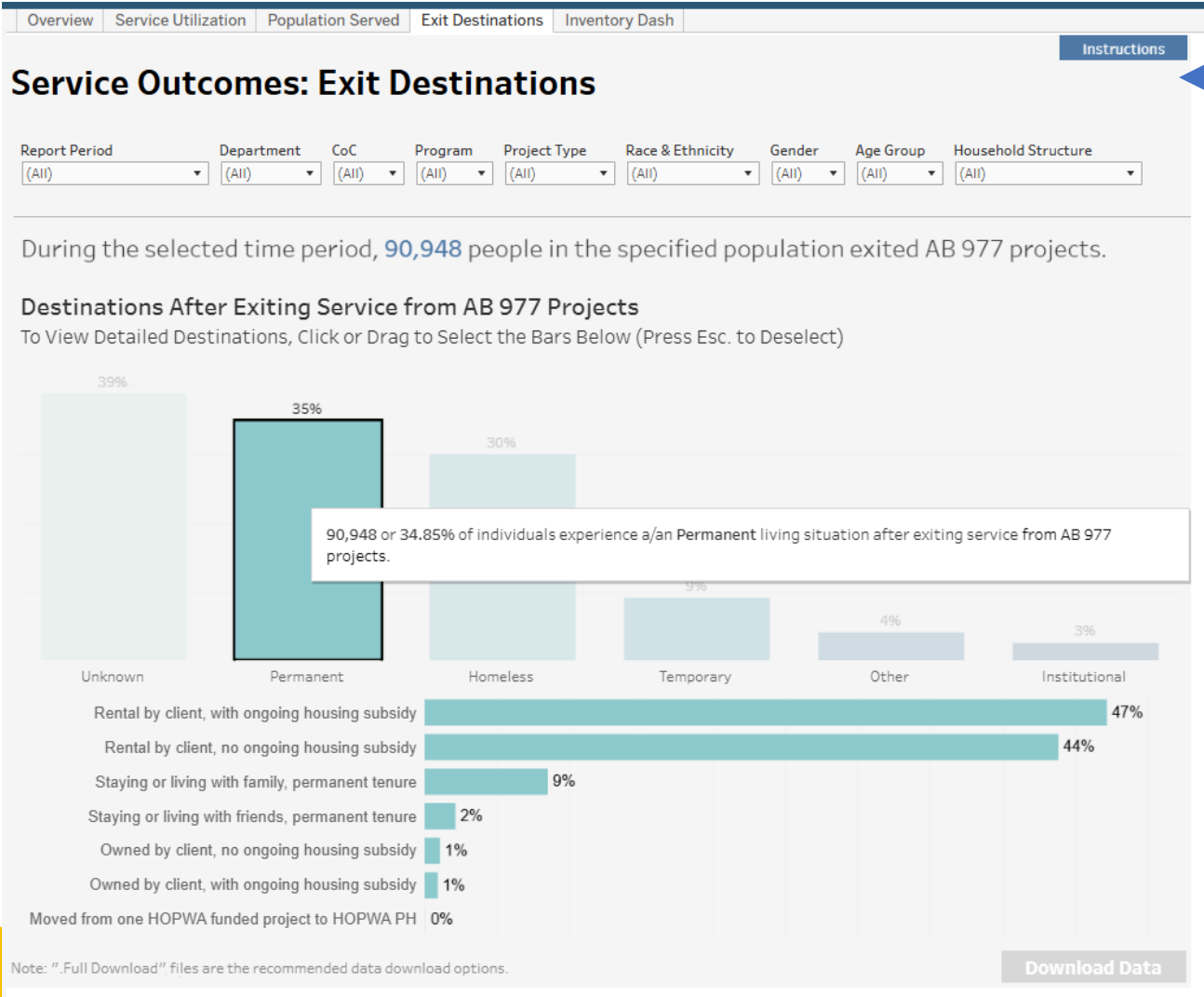
## HMIS Lead TA

- Communicate AB 977 requirements to HMIS leads
- Support HMIS leads to improve data quality



# Data Tools (Dashboards)

Developed to assist departments and HMIS Leads in tracking compliance and data quality.



## Tools for Department Staff

**AB 977 Data Summaries Dashboard**  
Displays data on service utilization, demographics, and outcomes for people served. (Screenshot covers all programs)

**State Department Compliance Dashboard (planned launch Spring 2025)**  
Allows department staff to identify grantees with compliance or data quality issues for targeted interventions

## Tools for HMIS Leads

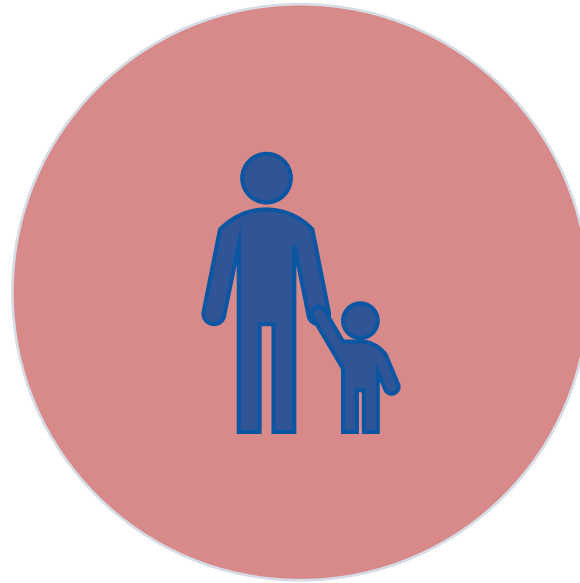
**CoC Data Quality Dashboards**  
Provides information on data quality rates and errors in HMIS records before upload into HDIS and may assist in overall compliance achievement.

# Key Takeaways from AB 977 Data

Across all AB 977 programs from January 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024...



There were **2,535** projects funded statewide



There were **338,462** people served by these projects



There were **99,705** people moved into permanent housing

# New Program Survey

To identify programs that must adhere to AB 977 reporting requirements and begin to offer technical assistance, Cal ICH will be sending a survey to all member departments.

- 1. New Program:** The program commenced on or after July 1, 2021.
- 2. State-Funded:** The program receives funding, in “whole or in part,” from state funding sources. A program administered by the state but fully funded by the federal government would not be considered state-funded.
- 3. Express Purpose:** The program has the express purpose of addressing or preventing homelessness or providing services to people experiencing homelessness. This requirement applies to any programs with language in their statute or enabling authority that meets this express purpose definition.
- 4. Serving Individuals and Families:** The program serves individuals and families. AB 977 requires grantees or entities of state homelessness programs to enter data on the individuals and families they serve into HMIS. (Welfare and Institution Code § 8256(d)(1).) If a program does not provide direct services to individuals and families, such as a program funding capacity building or coordination, there would not be any data to enter into HMIS.

# TA for New Programs - Cal ICH will...



**Develop** program-specific project setup instructions in consultation with departments



**Orient** department staff to HMIS data entry consistent with new project setup instructions



**Attend** introductory webinars as requested to provide expertise on HMIS project setup to assist with orienting grantees



**Conduct** quarterly meetings with departments to discuss compliance achievement progress and address any TA needs that arise



**Provide** tools and training for departments to continue monitoring grantee compliance

# Questions?

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding AB 977 requirements or technical assistance to the Cal ICH Research Team at [HDIS@bcsh.ca.gov](mailto:HDIS@bcsh.ca.gov).

# VI. Housing First Update

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

# Connection to the Action Plan

## Action Plan Guiding Principles and Commitments

Advancing Racial Equity & Justice

Increasing Access to Resources for California's Tribal Communities

Creating Solutions for the Full Diversity of People Experiencing Homelessness

Seeking, Valuing, and Acting Upon the Expertise of People with Lived Experiences of Homelessness

**Strengthening Housing First Approaches**

Balancing Prevention, Crisis Response, and Permanent Housing Solutions

Advancing Trauma-Informed Care and Person-Centered Services

Aligning Health, Housing, and Homelessness Strategies

# 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

## Cal ICH Staff

Oversee the implementation of Housing First

(WIC § 8255– 8256)

- 11 Core Components
- State programs addressing or preventing homelessness, including recovery housing

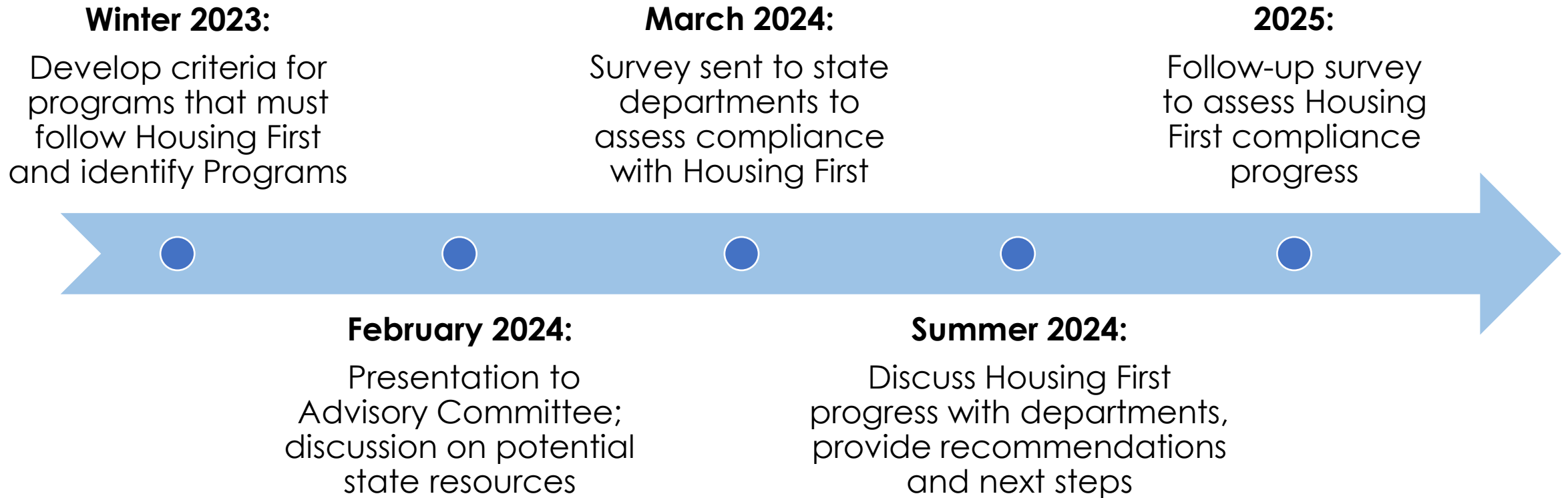
## Collaborating with State Partners:

- Assess the adoption of Housing First core components in grant/program requirements
- Provide recommendations, resources and guidance

## Expanding Focus on Community Level:

- Provide resources and guidance, including best practices and specific topics
- Uplift trauma-informed and culturally appropriate practices

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

### 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.

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

[\[Linked Here\]](#)

# LEAB Member Perspectives on Housing First

# LEAB Discussion

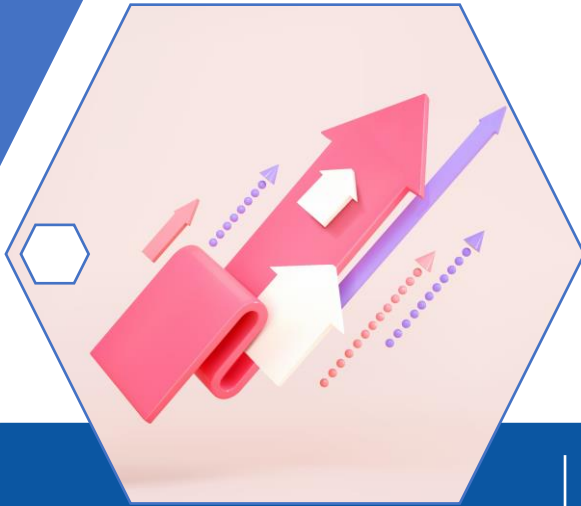


Have you participated in Housing First programs?  
Did key elements of Housing First **help you succeed in reaching your goals?**



How can state programs better support communities to **strengthen or expand** Housing First?

What elements of housing first would you like Cal ICH to **emphasize and provide support** on?



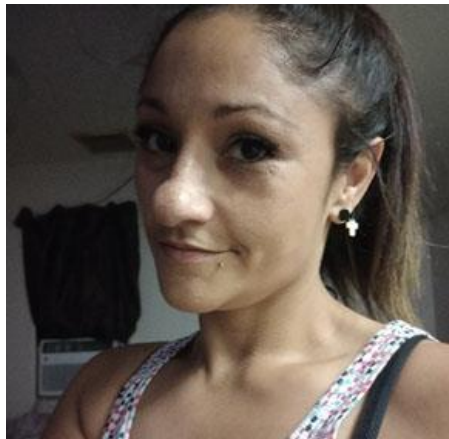




**Melanie Robledo**



**Monique Guerra**



**Mary  
Maldonado**



**Marjorie Beazer**

# LEAB Representatives

# Council Discussion

- What guidance around Housing First would be helpful for your programs or grantees?
- Where would you like to see Cal ICH play a bigger role in Housing First implementation?

# 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

# VII. Advisory Committee Membership

- Updates on Committee membership changes and discussion of Committee makeup
- Vote on desired makeup of Advisory Committee

# 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:

a. African Americans

**b. Youth**

c. 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.*

*...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 Committee Additional Expertise Recommended

(1) Cal ICH Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) members **(2)**.

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

(3) A representative of a committee or organization that specifically serve Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities **(1)**.

(4) A representative of committee or organization that specializes in delivering and designing direct services to families with minor children experiencing homelessness **(1)**.

(5) A representative with expertise in homeless services and best practices for rural communities in California **(1)**.

(6) A representative of statewide associations, such as CWDA, CBHDA, CHEAC and CSAC **(2)**.

(7) Representatives from Northern **and** Southern California academic research institutes/centers **(2)**.

(8) A representative from a Managed Care Plan **(1)**.

(9) A representative of a committee or organization that specializes in delivering and designing direct services for older adults **(1)**.

(10) A representative of a committee or organization that specializes in delivering or designing reentry services/coordination **(1)**.

**Total Members Recommended: 22**

# Public Comment on Agenda Item VII. Advisory Committee Membership

- 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

- Shall Item VII. Advisory Committee Membership be approved?



# VIII. Action Plan Implementation

- Overview of final Action Plan design
- Summary of implementation activities for Year 1
- Discussion on additional needs for implementing Action Plan

# Action Plan

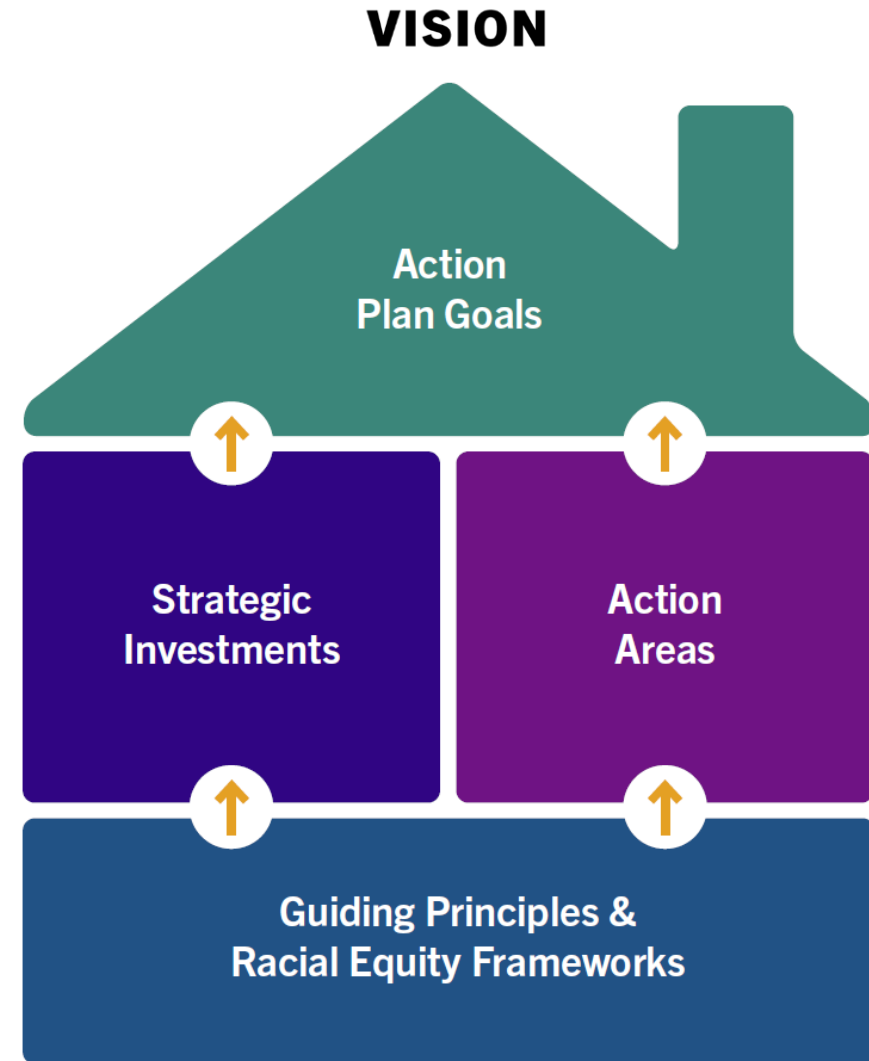
for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California  
2025–2027

APPROVED BY COUNCIL DECEMBER 2024  
MORE INFORMATION: [BCSH.CA.GOV/CALICH](https://BCSH.CA.GOV/CALICH)



# Vision

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



# Goals

	CY 2023 Baseline	Three-Year Goal	North Star
<b>GOAL 1</b> Help more people leave unsheltered homelessness	42%	70%	100%
<b>GOAL 2</b> Help more people move into housing	18%	60%	100%
<b>GOAL 3</b> Ensure people do not experience homelessness again	89%	95%	100%
<b>GOAL 4</b> Prevent more people from experiencing homelessness	To Be Determined		
<b>GOAL 5</b> Create more housing	890,000 (126,000)	1.5 million (710,000)	2.5M (1M)

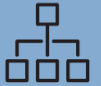
# Strategic Investments

Plan Goals	GOAL 1: Help more people leave unsheltered homelessness	GOAL 2: Help more people move into housing	GOAL 3: Ensure people do not become homeless again	GOAL 4: Prevent more people from experiencing homelessness	GOAL 5: Create more housing
Strategic Investment (Lead Department/Agency)	Investments will drive progress toward the goals noted for each				
<p><b>Homekey+</b>: Providing funding to build more permanent supportive homes faster for veterans and residents experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges. (HCD)</p>	●	●	●		●
<p><b>Homekey Tribal Program</b>: Provides Tribal Entities funding to develop multifamily rental housing developments, including rehabilitation of existing housing, new construction of apartments, townhomes, or single-family rental homes, including manufactured housing, or conversion of non-residential space to residential housing. (HCD)</p>	●	●	●		●
<p><b>Encampment Resolution Funding Program (ERF)</b>: Grants for local jurisdictions to develop coordinated strategies to resolve encampments and transition people experiencing homelessness in encampments into safe and stable housing. (HCD)</p>	●	●	●	●	

# 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

# Equity Frameworks



**Equity-Based Decision Making**  
(Policy & Funding Interventions)



**Collective Impact 3.0 for Racial Equity & Social Justice**  
(Systems Alignment)



**Equity-Centered Community Design**  
(Partner Engagement)



**Targeted Universalism**  
(Programmatic Interventions)



**Continuous Quality Improvement**  
(Person-Centered Input Processes)

# Guiding Principles and Commitments

**Advancing Racial Equity & Justice**

**Increasing Access to Resources for California's Tribal Communities**

**Creating Solutions for the Full Diversity of People Experiencing Homelessness**

**Seeking, Valuing, and Acting Upon the Expertise of People with Lived Experiences of Homelessness**

**Strengthening Housing First Approaches**

**Balancing Prevention, Crisis Response, and Permanent Housing Solutions**

**Advancing Trauma-Informed Care and Person-Centered Services**

**Aligning Health, Housing, and Homelessness Strategies**



# Implementation Plan



**Regular and Transparent  
Performance  
Measurement**



**Analyzing and  
Addressing Inequities**



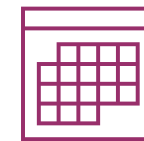
**Coordination Across  
Council Departments  
and Agencies**



**Collaboration with  
External Partners**



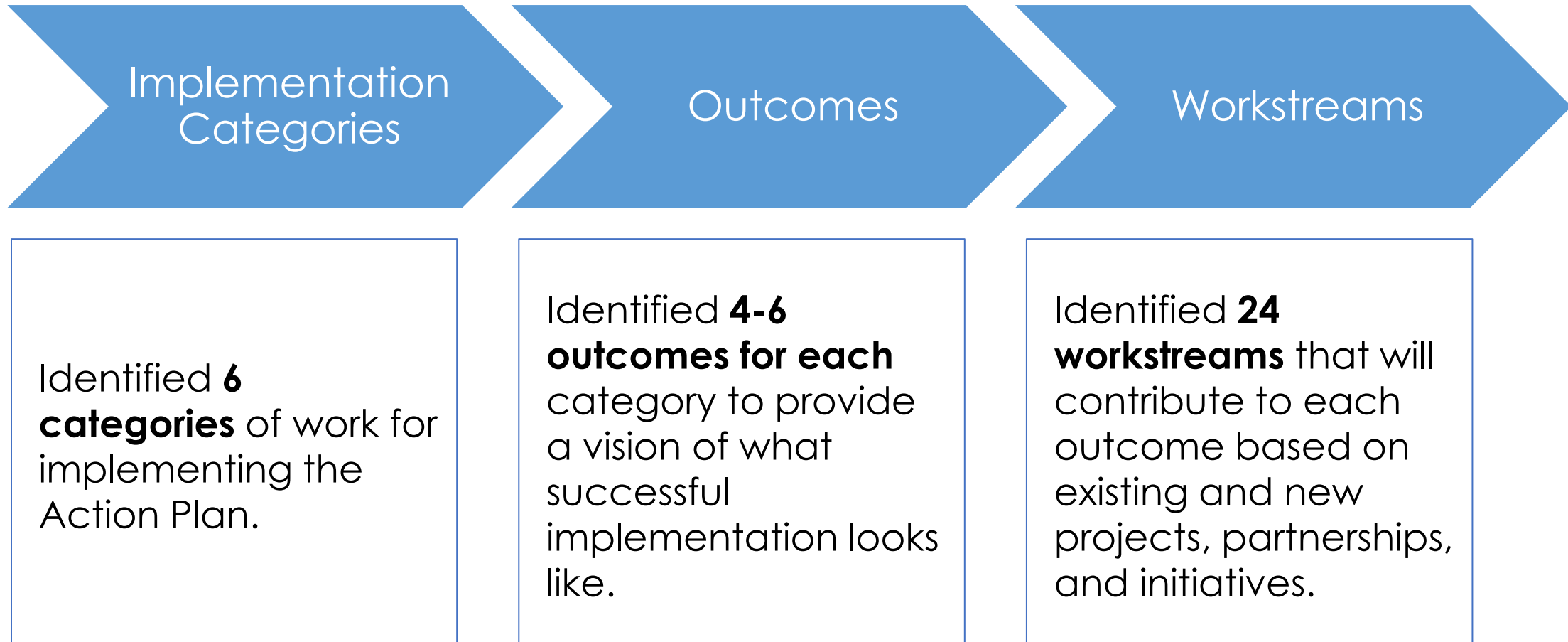
**Public Education and  
Awareness**



**Refining the Plan for  
the Future**



# Implementation Plan Development



# Implementation Plan Development - Example



## Regular and Transparent Performance Measurement

State departments and agencies, with Cal ICH staff, are **collaboratively looking at data regarding the implementation and outcomes** of the Plan's strategic investments to identify opportunities to strengthen impact.

- Action Plan Annual Progress Reports
- Strategic Investment Outcome Measurement
- Cross-Department Planning & Coordination
- Interdepartmental Data Sharing
- HDIS Administration
- Interagency Working Groups

# Implementation Workstreams

## Ongoing Work

- Council Meetings
- Quarterly Council Department Updates
- Department Planning & Decision Making
- HDIS Administration
- Governor's Office Coordination and Collaboration
- Legislative Affairs and Engagement
- Technical Assistance

## Expanded Work

- Action Plan Annual Progress Reports
- Coordinated Public Communications
- Cross-Departmental Planning & Coordination
- Monthly Department Check-Ins
- Lived Experience Advisory Board & Advisory Committee Partnership and Engagement
- Interagency Working Groups
- Local Partner Convenings
- Engaging & Learning From Other States
- Tribal Partnership and Engagement
- Written Guidance and Tools

## New Work

- Action Plan Goal Measurement
- Action Plan Strategic Investment Outcome Measurement
- Cal ICH Data Dashboards
- Interdepartmental Data Sharing

# Council Discussion

- What work would you prioritize within/across Council departments and agencies in order to successfully implement the Action Plan?
- What additional work is necessary in order to successfully implement the Action Plan?

# IX. Council Co-Chair Closing Remarks

# X. 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

# XI. Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Next Council meeting: June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1:00 pm

# Contact Information

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