



State of California
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Advisory Committee Meeting

November 5, 2025

Agenda

- I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call
- II. Advisory Committee Co-Chair Opening Comments
- III. Interagency Opening Comments
- IV. Working Group Evaluation Update
- V. Recovery Housing Guidance Update
- VI. Tribal Homelessness Policy Brief
- VII. General Public Comments
- VIII. 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"

III. Advisory Committee Co-Chair Opening Comments

II. Interagency Opening Comments

IV. Working Group Evaluation Update

- Strategic review, gaps analysis and recommendations

Working Groups: In Statute and Best Practice

In Statute

CA WIC § 8257 (e) "Within existing funding, **the council may establish working groups, task forces, or other structures from within its membership or with outside members to assist it in its work.** Working groups, task forces, or other structures established by the council shall determine their own meeting schedules."

Cal ICH Considerations for Creating Groups

- ✓ Established for **a defined issue or deliverable, through Council or Executive Officer**
- ✓ **Time-limited**, with clear objectives and end dates
- ✓ **Dissolved** once objectives are achieved

Working Groups: Where We Are

- All groups on pause since August 2025
 - What we found:
 - These groups operated independently of one another
 - Were not chartered by the Council, and therefore could not advise or direct work
 - Many of the focus areas are being advanced through other statewide initiatives and coordination efforts

Working Groups: Where We're Going

Council-established

- Created by Council vote or motion, ***dependent on available resources***
- Subject to Bagley-Keene and ***open to the public***
- Charged with advising or informing Council on a specific action area*

Executive Officer-established

- Created by Executive Officer, ***still dependent on available resources***
- ***Closed (non-public)*** and focused on implementation or statutory work
- Formed only when a ***clear gap or unmet need exists***

Discussion

Please share:

- Other State bodies, councils, or initiatives you participate in or are aware of that touch on ***housing and homelessness***
- Opportunities for collaboration

V. Recovery Housing Guidance Update

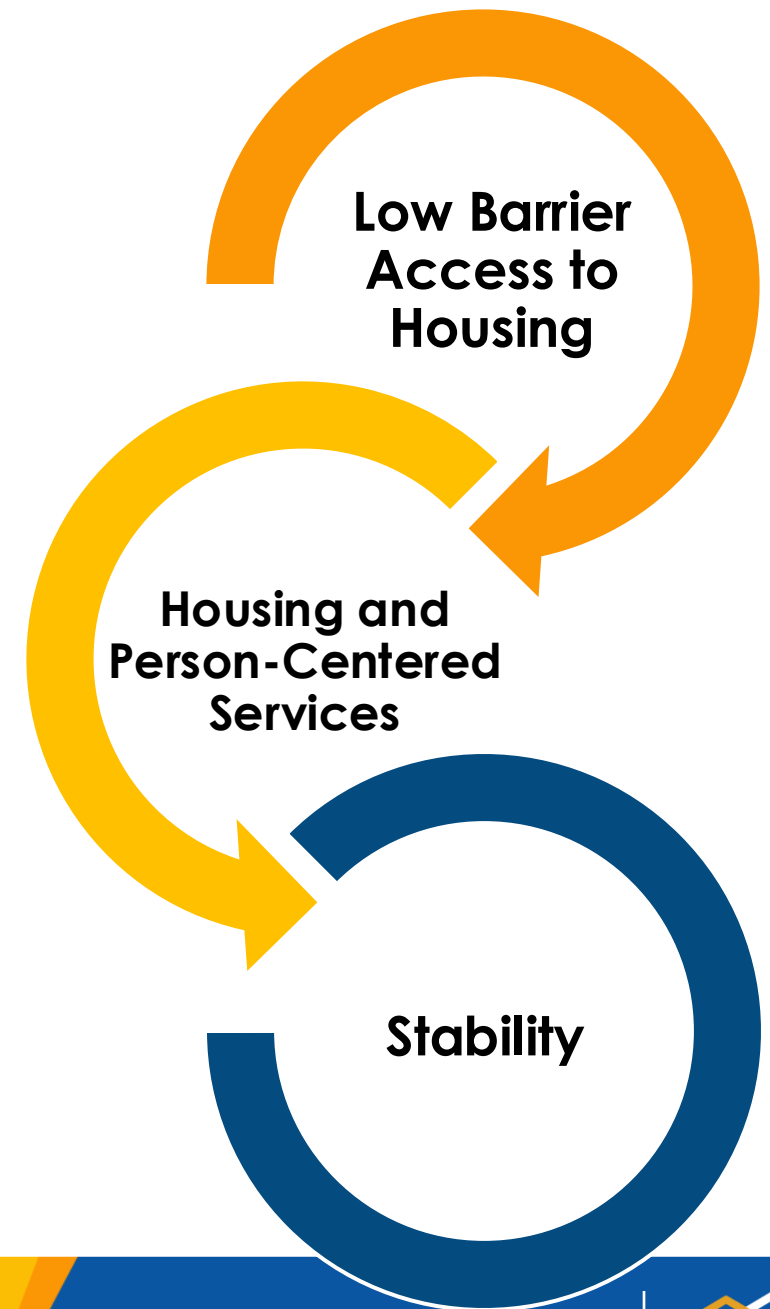
- Presentation of Final Recovery Housing Guidance Document

Housing First

Housing First is an evidence-based strategy for addressing homelessness where housing is the foundation for health, recovery, and overall, well being

- Provide stability to those who have been unable to access housing
- Provide choice for services that meet participant's needs
- Prevent returns to homelessness

Housing First is not Housing Only



Core Components of CA Law

Full Statute Language: [WIC Section 8255\(b\)](#)

1. **No requirements** for sobriety, treatment, or service participation to be selected for a program.
2. **No rejections** for financial or rental history, most criminal convictions, or lack of “housing readiness.”
3. **Accept referrals** from all areas of the homelessness response system utilized by vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.
4. Service plans are **participant-driven** and supportive services emphasize engagement and problem solving.
5. **No requirement to participate in services** in order to receive or retain housing.
6. **Participants provided a lease** in permanent housing. Not required for participants in temporary housing settings.
7. **No evictions solely for drug or alcohol** use, without other lease violations.
8. **Use coordinated entry system** or process to prioritize people based on vulnerability criteria.
9. Providers are trained in and use **evidenced-based practices**.
10. Services **use harm-reduction philosophy** to engage with participants.
11. **Physical changes** in units accommodate disabilities and promote health.

Recovery Housing

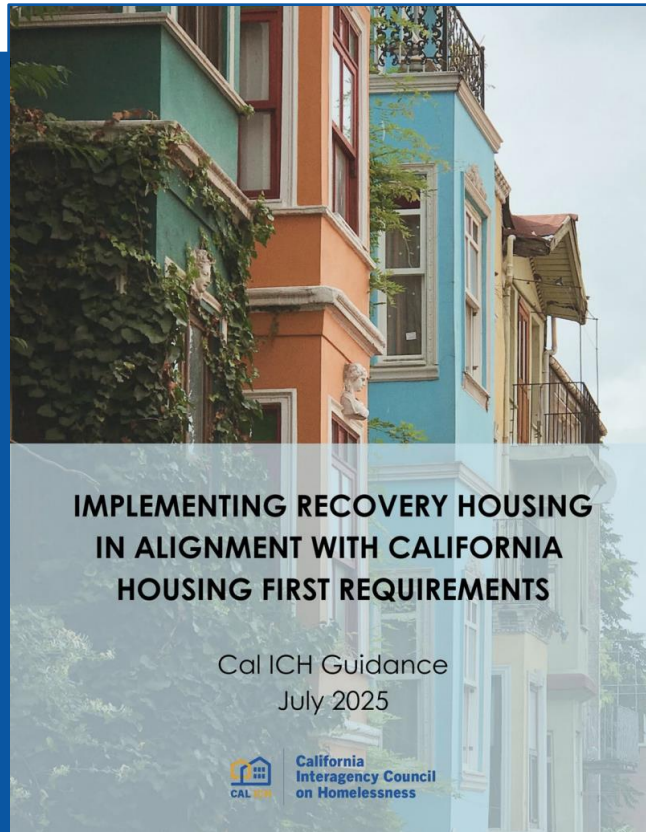
Recovery Housing:

Sober living facilities and programs that provide housing in a recovery-focused and peer-supported community for people recovering from substance use issues

Solutions to address homelessness are not one-size-fits-all

- The homelessness response system must be equipped to support people in their recovery journey
- Unless court ordered, people must be able to choose to recover in sober living settings

Recovery Housing Guidance



SUMMARY: RECOVERY HOUSING PROGRAM GUIDANCE

The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) Recovery Housing Program Guidance supports system leaders and program administrators operating state-funded Recovery Housing Programs (RHPs) in aligning with California's Housing First requirements. It ensures that state-funded RHPs honor participant choice, reduce barriers, and provide voluntary, person-centered recovery services—while upholding housing stability.

Recovery Housing Programs can align with Housing First—and when using state funds, they must.

These key principles offer a roadmap for Recovery Housing Programs serving people experiencing homelessness as they navigate the path to recovery and stable housing:

- **Alignment with Housing First:** RHPs must meet the 11 core components of Housing First, including low-barrier access, voluntary services, tenant rights, and equitable screening and referral policies.
- **Person-Centered Care & Harm Reduction:** RHPs ensure participants are at the center of their service plans and are referred to the housing and services options that meet their needs. RHPs must accommodate the use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and incorporate evidence-based practices such as motivational interviewing and trauma-informed care.
- **Participant Choice:** Entry into RHPs must be voluntary (unless court-ordered). Programs must offer alternative housing options for individuals who decline or exit recovery housing.
- **No Eviction for Relapse:** Programs cannot remove participants solely for substance use. Instead, relapse support should be offered and transitions to other appropriate housing facilitated when necessary.

Key Principles of Guidance

1. Participant Choice

- ✓ Entry must be voluntary.
- ✓ People must be offered access to other housing options if they decline or exit.

2. Person-Centered Care and Harm Reduction

- ✓ Programs must tailor services to participant goals.
- ✓ Must accommodate Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- ✓ Use motivational interviewing, trauma informed approaches, and peer support.

3. No Eviction for Relapse

- ✓ Relapse ≠ removal. Providers offer relapse support and link to other housing if needed.
- ✓ Exits to homelessness must be *extremely rare*.

4. Accountability with Compassion

- ✓ Programs support overall wellbeing and do all they can to support participants to reach their goals.

Best Practices

System-Level:

Include a variety of housing settings

- ✓ Create connections and networks between recovery settings and other settings
- ✓ Create or expand an online technical assistance for providers
- ✓ Align system goals and priorities of funding agencies

Program Level:

A participant's needs must be at the center of the decisions

- ✓ Inform staff and participants of program policies
- ✓ Evaluate program effectiveness
- ✓ Promote equity and ensure cultural competence

Discussion

- Are there connections between mainstream services and recovery housing services within your communities?
- What are the challenges in establishing these relationships? Or in accessing recovery housing services?
- Are there communities that Cal ICH should reach to share this guidance?

VI. Tribal Homelessness Policy Brief

- Presentation of California's first Tribal Homelessness Policy Brief

Honoring Tribal Sovereignty

- Why we begin public meetings with a Tribal Land Acknowledgement:
 - To honor the **sovereign governments** whose lands we're on
 - To recognize the **history of state-sanctioned violence and dispossession** Tribes have endured
 - To acknowledge the **continued presence, stewardship and resilience** of Tribal Communities
 - To commit to **right relationship and accountability** in our work



California Tribal Communities experience the greatest disparities of homelessness in the state, yet mainstream data systems consistently underestimate their needs by failing to capture the most common realities of Tribal homelessness—overcrowding and substandard housing.

Homelessness in California Tribal Communities

POLICY BRIEF

September 2025



California
Interagency Council
on Homelessness

Tribal Homelessness Policy Brief: Barriers and Solutions

Barriers

- Tribes often excluded from local homelessness solutions
- Harmful misconceptions worsen inequities
- Sovereignty is often ignored, treating Tribes like non-profits or businesses

Pathways to Solutions

- **Government-to-government** partnership, early and continuous
- **Culturally responsive engagement** rooted in humility and respect
- **Expand access** to state funding designed **with Tribes, not for them**
- **Support Tribal economic development** as a homelessness prevention strategy

Discussion

Please share:

- In what ways can better understanding the needs of CA Tribal Communities support your outreach efforts and Tribal partnerships?

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: December 3, 2025 at 1:00 pm
- Next Advisory Committee meeting: TBD

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/CalifornialCH>
 -  <https://linkedin.com/company/california-interagency-council-on-homelessness>