



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Cal ICH Member Department and Agency Summaries

July 11, 2024

DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY	ROLE IN HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SYSTEM
Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretary serves as Cal ICH Co-Chair.• Oversees BCSH departments and alignment of policies, practices, and funding across State housing departments and programs.• Works across state agencies and departments to forge better connections between state housing resources and transportation, healthcare, and climate resources.• Communicates with local jurisdictions and community partners regarding housing and homelessness issues and related State programs.• Participates in in disaster and climate change planning (e.g., Extreme Heat Action Plan).• Advocates for relevant investments and policies at the federal level.• Leads California's participation in federal All Inside initiative to reduce regulatory barriers and expedite connections to housing and services.• Determines interagency practices and recommendations for sharing and, where feasible, integrating, data from health and human services, housing, and homelessness programs.
Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretary serves as Council Co-Chair.• Oversees CalHHS departments/offices to support alignment of policies, practices, and funding across programs to meet the health, human service, and housing needs of Californians experiencing homelessness.• Oversees implementation of Proposition 1 Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program and the Behavioral Health Services Act.• Co-chairs the Priority Populations Task Force with CalOES which includes a focus on meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness during disasters.

- Advocates for relevant investments and policies at the federal level and participates in the federal HUD and HHS Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator.
- Launching effort to integrate homelessness, health, and human services data to better understand service utilization among people experiencing homelessness and to drive policy to address inequities and unmet needs.

**Housing and
Community
Development
(HCD)**

- Closing the State's housing gap
 - Provides affordable and supportive housing development investments, including into projects in high-resource communities, through variety of funding programs.
 - Administers federal funding, including disaster recovery funding (ESG, CDBG, CDBG-DR, etc.)
 - Pilots efforts to create permanent housing opportunities exclusively for individuals exiting correctional settings.
 - Inventories and maps State-Owned Excess Sites and provision of technical assistance to support development, including Surplus Lands Act.
 - Preserves existing affordable housing.
 - Administers HHAP, ERF, and Family Homelessness Challenge grants.
- Accountability to increase outcomes
 - Oversees Housing and Homelessness Accountability and Results Partnership
 - Oversees Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing requirements, Regional Housing Needs Allocation process, Prohousing Designations, and Housing Element review and enforcement.
 - Oversees codes and standards for emergency shelters.
- Policy innovation and streamlining
 - Engages in housing policy research, technical assistance, and implementation.
 - Administers programs aligned with housing policy best practices and Housing First principles.
- Tribal Housing
 - Engages with Tribal partners, developers, local governments, tribal entities, PHAs, code enforcement,

CoCs, and homelessness housing and services organizations.

Department of Social Services (DSS)

- Oversees and delivers services that support low-income households, including people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Including but not limited to cash assistance/income supports, CalFresh, childcare services, Transitional Housing Placements for youth transitioning from the Foster Care system, in home supports and access to licensed adult and senior care facilities, other elements of the California social safety net.
- Designs and implements an array of targeted homelessness programs, including housing and prevention, many aligned with County Welfare Departments and Tribal programs in order to target California's most vulnerable populations in a whole-person, client-centered approach.
- Implements other special initiatives, including Community Care Expansion program, Guaranteed Income (GI) Pilot for youth aging out of Foster Care, and rehousing of people out of Project Roomkey sites.
- Provides engagement, technical assistance, and guidance to Counties and Tribal entities to support implementation and integration of programs and resources.
- Leads strategic coordination and goals around integration of housing, homelessness, and social services systems including through data integration, best practices guidance, and more.

Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)

- Administers programs focusing on the development of new housing units, including the Mixed-Income Program (MIP), Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program and Special Needs Housing Program (SNHP), and Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Grant Program.
- Administers programs focused on keeping people housed, including the National Mortgage Settlement (NMS) Mortgage Counseling Services and HUD Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program.
- Engages in federal program and policy advocacy.
- Engages in advocacy and education so people understand homelessness is a housing problem and promotes the need for a continuum of affordable housing options.
- Administers financing for multi-family housing.

**California Tax
Credit
Allocation
Committee
(CTCAC)**

- Awards low-income housing tax credits for multifamily housing projects, including Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects and targeted site aside programs.
 - Requires all projects to provide a certain percent of extremely low-income units.
 - Administers a Tribal set aside.
 - Administers a BIPOC developer set-aside within the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee.
- Meets with HCD, DDS, and HFA on the implementation of HUD Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program to ensure compliance.
- Advocates regarding federal programs and policies.
- Modifies Qualified Allocation Plan to incentivize projects in alignment with State priorities.

**Department
of Health
Care Services
(DHCS)**

- DHCS is the state Medicaid (Medi-Cal) agency that funds health care services for about 15 million Californians.
- With most Medi-Cal members enrolled in contracted Medi-Cal managed care plans, DHCS administers aspects of CalAIM and Medi-Cal transformation initiatives through the managed care delivery system. Additionally, DHCS administers high-quality and accessible specialty mental health and substance use disorder services through the county behavioral health system for Medi-Cal services and through other programs.
- Establishes program requirements through managed care delivery and behavioral health systems.
- DHCS leads the design and implementation of CalAIM waivers and initiatives, including Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports.
- Oversees the Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) initiative to support building the necessary capacity and infrastructure for ECM and Community Supports.
- Implements health-focused housing initiatives including the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) program and oversees many components of the state's behavioral health transformation.
- Oversees other services and benefits that reach members experiencing homelessness such as the Community Health Worker benefit, Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists, and coverage of street medicine services.

**Department
of Aging
(CDA)**

- Implements and monitors the Master Plan for Aging.
- Engages with and oversees the Area Agencies on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Connections across California.
- Collects data regarding older adult needs and gaps within the system.

**Department
of State
Hospitals
(DSH)**

- Oversees the network of State Hospitals throughout California.
- Delivers services, including residential treatment and transitional housing beds, that support individuals with serious mental illness who are committed as Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST), conserved under the Lanterman Petris-Short (LPS) Act, and other populations.
- Implements diversion and other community-based treatment programs for individuals deemed IST and other justice-involved populations with serious mental illness to ensure placement into the least restrictive treatment setting while engaging with the legal systems.
- Serves as an evaluator for CDCR populations preparing to exit prison to determine if they meet statutory criteria to be committed to DSH for continued treatment in the state hospital continuum of care at the time of their parole.
- Operates, in partnership with counties and private providers, the California Forensic Conditional Release Program, a system of outpatient community treatment for certain populations exiting the state hospital system.

**Department
of Public
Health
(CDPH)**

- Ensures the health and safety of Californians.
 - Protects people from communicable diseases and advancing the provision of vaccinations.
 - Oversees public health preparedness and response to public health crises.
 - Creates recommendations and guidelines to support the provision of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene services for unsheltered Californians and standards for cleanliness and care protocols at shelter and interim housing sites.
 - Connects Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) to state funding programs and Continuum of Care organizations.
 - Provides guidance and training options for staff regarding overdose referrals, access to safer drug use supplies, and referrals to treatment options.
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- Supports peer health ambassadors to increase connection to health and social services as well as access to testing, vaccinations, and treatment for COVID-19.
 - Implements and consults with CDPH Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB).
 - Analyzes public health data (and other social determinants of health data) with HDIS.
 - Enhances availability of data regarding mortality among people experiencing homelessness.

**Department
of
Rehabilitation
(DOR)**

- Ensures the health and safety of Californians with disabilities.
- Implements vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs to connect people with disabilities to resources for independent living.
- Oversees the network of California Independent Living Centers (ILCs).
- Convenes and facilitates the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board and other consumer-centered Advisory Committees and Councils.
- Implements and executes the Vocational Rehabilitation portion of the Unified State Plan.
- Implements the Community Living Fund program to advance initiative in the Master Plan on Aging.
- Develops partnerships with businesses to ensure employment opportunities for Californians with disabilities.

**California
Department
of Veteran's
Affairs
(CalVet)**

- Implements the Veterans Home master plans to continue to provide premier care and services at eight State Homes for Veterans across California.
 - Veteran Resource Officers provide linkages to VA benefits and services at local levels
 - Implements Veterans Support to Self-Reliance Pilot to enhance supportive services within permanent supportive housing
 - Benefits access, services and supports for justice-involved Veterans to reduce risks for re-incarceration and homelessness
 - Veterans are among priority populations within CA's participation in All INside initiative, collaboration and alignment with federal VA programs
 - Develops and implements a veteran strategic plan to address the service needs of all veterans, including those experiencing homelessness
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- Veterans will be the most protected, connected and respected
- Including policy changes, organizational changes and data changes
- Connecting veterans with their benefits
- Policy and process structures that incorporate the intersectionality of housing and health related service needs
- Implements Prop 1 funding for veteran supportive housing, utilizing best practices learned through VHHP, No Place Like Home, and Homekey.
- Leverages the capabilities of various partners to ensure resources are available to serve veterans experiencing homelessness

**Department
of Education
(CDE)**

- Responsible for identification of children and youth preschool through grade 12, under the McKinney-Vento Act definition. Children and youth experiencing homelessness are identified and served ensuring student's rights and protections to academic access and success in California schools and beyond.
- Administers the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Federal Grant. Federal designation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons and implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Implements and supports the role of the Homeless Education Technical Assistance Centers based on ARP-HCY federal funding to provide support to county offices of education and local educational agencies as well as professional development opportunities.
- Communicates and monitors the state's 58 County Offices of Education (COEs) and the more than 1600 Local Educational Agencies (LEAs, known also as districts and charters), including provision of guidance and technical assistance.
- Provides connections and, when applicable, referrals to mainstream housing resources to students experiencing homelessness via coordination and collaboration of LEAs and COEs. COEs and LEAs enable students to continue their education through direct provision of resources such as transportation, uniforms, school supplies, tutoring, nutrition, afterschool supports, early education services, academic evaluation and considerations, and more to ensure access and success.

- Experts on student homelessness for the Council (provide expertise to the Council, students are considered young children, children, youth and unaccompanied youth and their families).

Community Colleges Chancellors Office (CCCCO)

- Serves as Cal ICH liaison for all higher education segments (including UCs and CSUs) through membership in the CA Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance to foster collaboration and coordination on homelessness work.
- Implements the Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot program and the network of Basic Needs Centers for students on campuses.
- Uplifts the programs and funding available to UCs and CSUs, including the rapid rehousing funding and emergency housing assistance funding, with the goal of successfully leveraging these programs across institutions.
- Oversees the health, safety, wellbeing, and academic success of students enrolled in community colleges.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

- Operates the Division of Adult Institutions, Division of Rehabilitative Programs and Division of Adult Parole Operations, working alongside the California Correctional Health Care Services, to facilitate the successful reintegration of incarcerated individuals back into their communities through the provision of education, treatment, and rehabilitative and restorative justice programs.
- CDCR Secretary also chairs the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health.
- Engages in re-entry planning, which includes pre-release assessments to identify risk and needs for homelessness among people preparing to exit prison settings on parole supervision. Make community referrals to programs and services for individuals identified as being in need of housing before leaving prison. In addition, provides access to services to individuals on parole who become homeless after transitioning to their communities.
- Provides probation the opportunity to engage with incarcerated individuals via Pre-Release Video Conferencing to address the needs of individuals preparing to exit prison to Post Release Community Supervision.
- Seeks to address employment needs of people returning to communities through connections to local resources and partnerships.

- Collaborates with HCD on the HOME-American Rescue Plan Re-Entry Housing Pilot Project to produce affordable rental units for California's parole population.

**Department
of
Transportation
(Caltrans)**

- Deploys Encampment Coordinators throughout Caltrans' 12 districts and implements an encampment training academy.
- Provides annual training for all Caltrans maintenance personnel on encampment removal guidelines including posting requirements and proper storage and handling of possessions of people experiencing homelessness during removals.
- Conducts annual statewide encampment survey and analyzes data to assess the effectiveness of strategies used to address encampments on Caltrans-owned property.
- Works to improve the accuracy of the 2024 encampment survey data and integrating it into a web mapping application. Currently, the goal is to identify 2024 encampments and identify high-return sites.
- Hires people experiencing homelessness into Caltrans' Service Assistance Maintenance positions.
- Proactively promotes and educates local jurisdictions and community partners regarding opportunities available on appropriate state-owned land provision of emergency sheltering, interim housing, and permanent housing opportunities.
- Working to help connect people sheltering in encampments on Caltrans-owned property to access services and assistance.
- Member of Priority Populations Task Force. Activates wellness checks during natural disasters and disastrous emergencies of known frequented encampment areas and works to assess the needs of people sheltering on the state highways system through coordinated emergency efforts.
- Promotes, assists, supports, and validates Encampment Resolution Grants designed to address encampments on the state right of way.
- Researches the homelessness crisis through other state departments of transportation to share information, methodologies, and successes.
- Conducts studies on impacts to people experiencing homelessness from sheltering on the state right of way, for example, an increase in vehicle incidents/deaths.

**Workforce
Development
Board**

- Connects members of underserved communities with career opportunities and job training.

(CWDB)

- Implements multiple programs to connect people to employment, including programs for people transitioning from state institutions and those historically disadvantaged to address disparities within the workforce.
- Oversees local Workforce Development Boards, including the provision of guidance and best practices.

**Governor's
Office of
Emergency
Services****(Cal OES)**

- Oversees the well-being and recovery of Californians affected by natural disasters, domestic violence and human trafficking, including responding, directing, and coordinating state and federal resources and mutual aid assets.
 - Disseminates various disaster preparedness guidance, including the Listos California Disaster guide and the Extreme Heat Action Plan.
 - In partnership with HHS and DSS, convenes and leads the Priority Populations Task Force to ensure the safety and well-being of underserved populations during disasters through resource and information dissemination.
 - Implements temporary/transitional housing for youth and people fleeing domestic violence and human trafficking who would otherwise become homeless.
 - Coordinates with and acts as the point of contact for FEMA during and after natural disasters.
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