



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

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NEWS RELEASE

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California Interagency Council on Homelessness Awards \$17 Million in Family Homelessness Challenge Grants to 10 Jurisdictions

Projects will provide path to safe, stable housing to more than 1,800 families currently experiencing or at risk of homelessness

SACRAMENTO – The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) will award \$17 million to 10 cities, counties and Continuums of Care (CoCs) across the state to develop new, coordinated efforts to house and support families with the goal of making families' experiences of homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

Created by Governor Gavin Newsom and the Legislature, the Family Homelessness Challenge Grant program is part of a broader \$12 billion package to address homelessness contained in the 2021-22 state budget, which included \$2.75 billion for new Homekey acquisitions, \$1.75 billion for shovel-ready projects to provide deeply affordable housing, and \$2 billion in flexible aid to local governments over two years in addition to substantial new funding for health and human services to help individuals successfully exit homelessness.

“No child should have to spend their formative years experiencing homelessness,” said Governor Newsom. “With these grants, communities throughout the state will have the resources to innovate and find solutions to family homelessness so that all of California’s children can go to bed each night with a roof over their head.”

Communities were eager to take up this challenge to address family homelessness. Cal ICH received 32 applications for the program, requesting a total of \$55 million. After a competitive scoring process, 10 applications were approved to receive the \$17 million in available funds.

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“With this initiative, we are empowering local partners to design local solutions to safely house and serve the needs of local families with children,” said Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency and co-chair of Cal ICH. “Family homelessness cannot be solved by one single agency. It requires state and local governments, schools, non-profits, and local businesses to work together to lift up struggling families and help them quickly regain permanent housing.”

As part of their applications, each community identified their partners and laid out their objectives and progress goals that will be used to evaluate their projects. Cal ICH staff will work closely with each recipient as the projects are implemented.

Projects that are demonstrating progress toward achieving their goals will be able to apply for a share of the \$15 million in additional funding available in 2023.

Local jurisdictions will have immediate access to dollars and can work to reprogram funds as soon as they are notified of their awards.

Cal ICH will be tracking the demonstration projects and will share best practices developed by the grantees with communities statewide.

[Cal ICH](#), composed of the leadership of the state housing and human services agencies and departments, is working to prevent and end homelessness in California through its [grant programs](#), statewide homelessness [action plan](#), and implementation of “Housing First” policies, guidelines, and regulations.

Following is a list of Family Homelessness Challenge Grant awardees:

- The **City of Oakland** will receive more than **\$2 million** to serve 165 families with 17 recovery-focused interim housing units linked to crisis therapy, workforce support and housing navigation.
- The **City of Los Angeles** will receive more than **\$3.5 million** to assist 366 families with a program aimed to help persons fleeing domestic violence and survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking along with their children. The program will include survivor-driven, trauma-informed, mobile advocacy; flexible financial assistance; financial coaching; and community engagement.

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- The **City of Fontana** will receive more than **\$2.7 million** to serve 156 families with two new interim shelter units and six permanent housing units, both providing supportive services.
- **Santa Clara County** will receive about **\$2.5 million** to serve 318 unhoused pregnant women and families with infants that are already awaiting housing placements.
- The **Sacramento City & County Continuum of Care** will receive **\$866,000** to work with local education agencies and serve 160 families with increased case management, housing navigation and diversion services.
- The **City of San Diego** will receive **\$441,000** to serve 60 families that are currently sleeping in vehicles with diversion programs, rapid rehousing, permanent housing and cash assistance.
- **Mendocino County** will receive more than **\$1 million** to create a physical location and phone number where families experiencing homelessness can seek assistance as well as work with partners in outlying communities to extend family services. The programs will help 420 families.
- The **City of Livermore** will receive **\$581,000** to rehouse 25 students and their families with bridge housing, supportive services and housing navigation.
- The **Pasadena Continuum of Care** will receive **\$644,000** to focus on serving 180 Latinx families homelessness prevention services including financial assistance, case management and domestic violence prevention.
- The **City of Salinas** will receive more than **\$2.6 million** to purchase single-family homes and add accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to serve four families.

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