



# California Interagency Council on Homelessness

**Lourdes Castro Ramírez, MA**  
Secretary

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

**Dr. Mark Ghaly**  
Secretary

California Health and Human Services Agency

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **California Interagency Council on Homelessness Approves Updated *Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California***

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) today approved [updates to the Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#) reflecting activities that its member departments, agencies and entities will implement during Fiscal Year 2023-24.

The updated plan now identifies 170 activities, including 33 new activities, for preventing and ending homelessness in California that align with the plan's five action areas and 15 objectives. After the end of each fiscal year, the Cal ICH staff compile a progress report detailing progress on each activity.

“Our Action Plan demonstrates the state's commitment to ensuring all Californians have safe and stable places to call home,” said Council co-chair and Business, Consumer Services and Housing (BCSH) Agency Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramírez. “This blueprint for change is centered on improving the housing and health outcomes of persons experiencing homelessness through an all-of-government approach that holds both state and local partners accountable.”

“Today, the Council furthered its commitment to the coordination that is necessary to turn the corner on homelessness,” said Dr. Mark Ghaly, Council co-chair and California Health & Human Services Agency (CalHHS) Secretary. “By adopting the updated Action Plan, we are expanding our all-in approach—one that recognizes the whole-person needs of Californians who are experiencing homelessness, including health care, supportive services, and housing.”

## **California Interagency Council on Homelessness Approves Updated Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California**

Page 2

The new activities address priorities identified by the Council during its May 2023 meeting:

- Interagency coordination and collaboration;
- Racial equity and Tribal engagement;
- Inclusion of people with lived expertise in policy making and program design;
- Communications and public awareness.

In recognition of how climate change is disparately affecting people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations, the updated plan calls for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to expand its efforts to serve the needs of the unhoused in disaster preparation and response.

The updates also call for increased collaboration with California's federal partners in addressing homelessness, including work on [President Biden's All INside initiative](#) and the [White House Housing Supply Action Plan](#).

Another new activity in the plan calls for CalTrans to begin work on conducting annual count of persons living in encampments.

The revised plan also calls for both BCSH and CalHHS to deepen their data sharing and integration by developing interagency data sharing and governance policies during 2023.

The *Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California*, which Governor Newsom described as "a playbook for staring down the challenge of homelessness," orients the state's efforts to drive purposeful, meaningful, and measurable progress toward preventing and ending homelessness in California. Motivated by a vision of a future in which homelessness in California is rare, brief, and one-time, the plan was originally adopted in March 2021.

In preparing the updates, Cal ICH staff met with every member department, agency and entity along with external partners and interested parties. The staff also held two public input sessions, received input from people with lived experience of homelessness, and held listening sessions with California Native American Tribes.

The Council, co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency and California Health and Human Services Agency, is a committee comprising director-level representatives from 18 state departments and agencies, with two individuals representing community organizations appointed by the state Legislature.

## California Interagency Council on Homelessness Approves Updated Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California

Page 3

The updated Action Plan can be found on the Cal ICH website at:

[https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich/meetings/materials/20230907\\_action\\_plan\\_update.pdf](https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich/meetings/materials/20230907_action_plan_update.pdf)

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*The California Interagency Council on Homelessness is co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency and the California Health and Human Services Agency. It is comprised of director-level representatives from 18 state departments and agencies, with two community organization representatives appointed by the state Legislature. The Council oversees the implementation of [“Housing First”](#) policies, guidelines, and regulations and identifies resources, benefits, and services to prevent and work toward ending homelessness in California. For more information, visit [bcsh.ca.gov/calich](https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich).*