

October 20, 2021

Dear Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Stakeholders,

On September 29, Governor Newsom signed two bills into law that will bolster our shared work towards preventing and ending homelessness in California. [Assembly Bill 1220](#) formally renames the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, modifies Council membership to include five additional state departments, standardizes the membership to director-level representatives, and formally establishes a co-chair leadership structure. [Assembly Bill 977](#) ensures more comprehensive and robust data collection on state-funded homelessness program and adds the expertise of additional key stakeholders into our work.

These actions continue California's forward momentum towards the state's broader vision for greater statewide leadership and coordination around its response to the homelessness crisis. In doing so, we strive to support local capacity to invest these state funds strategically and with greater accountability in addressing homelessness going forward.

The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council meeting on [November 3](#) will be our final quarterly meeting this year and will also mark a period of transition for the council. We will close this year and this chapter in the Council's work looking again towards a fundamental belief in a vision for a future in which homelessness in California is: rare, because it is prevented whenever possible; brief, ended quickly whenever it does occur, through a focus on Housing First approaches and housing outcomes; and a one-time experience, ended successfully the first time, so that no Californians experience homelessness repeatedly. We are grateful for the numerous ways each member has demonstrated commitments to these ideals through our shared work and want to express our deep gratitude to the following members who will be leaving the council:

- Russell Atterberry, Undersecretary for California Department of Veterans Affairs
- Alexis Barries, Advocate
- Gina Buccieri-Harrington, Assistant Director of Grants Management for Victim Services Programs, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Corrin Buchanan, Assistant Director of Housing and Homelessness for California Department of Social Services
- Donald Cavier, Chief Deputy Director for California Housing Finance Agency
- Gail Gilman, Chief Strategy Officer for All Home, California
- Jody Ketcheside, Deputy Regional Director for Turning Point of Central California
- Gary McCoy, Congressional Aide for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
- Emilio Ramirez, Housing Director for City of Oxnard
- Joe Uchishiba, former Police Officer with City of Fairfield

We hope to continue working with these outgoing council members who will surely continue to work towards addressing homelessness, be it on our new advisory committee or otherwise. Stay tuned for more details on additional changes to the Council and Council committees.

Lastly, below are highlights from AB 1220 and AB 977:

### **Assembly Bill 1220 - Homelessness: California Interagency Council on Homelessness (AB 1220)**

AB 1220 makes important changes to statute that reflect the high level of coordination needed between state officials and stakeholders to prevent and end homelessness, including:

- **Name Change:** The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council will be renamed to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH), effective January 1, 2022. The Council and its staff will continue to be housed administratively under the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency.
- **Council Co-Chairs:** The Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency and the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency will serve as co-chairs of Cal-ICH.
- **Council Members Added:** The Council's membership will expand to include five new members: the State Public Health Officer, the Director of the California Department of Aging, the Director of Rehabilitation, the Director of State Hospitals, and the executive director of the California Workforce Development Board. In addition, existing state agencies on the Council will now be represented by its Director or Secretary.
- **New Council Advisory Committee:** Current non-state government council members will move off the Council and onto a new advisory committee created to provide guidance to the Council. Membership of the advisory committee will include multiple members who have experienced homelessness, representatives from local Continuums of Care, and other stakeholders.
- **New State Agency Requirement:** State agencies or departments that administer homelessness programs will be required to participate in Council working groups and provide information about their programs if requested by the Council.

### **Assembly Bill 977 - Homelessness Program Data Reporting: Homeless Management Information System (AB 977)**

AB 977 makes changes that will strengthen the State's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) by ensuring robust data collection from state-funded homelessness programs into local Homelessness Management Information Systems (HMIS). This will allow state and local stakeholders to better understand homelessness in California and make data-informed policy decisions.

- **New Data Requirements:** By January 1, 2023, grantees or entities operating certain state-funded homelessness programs, including any that commence on or after July 1, 2021, will be required to enter data on households served into their local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which are then linked to the State's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS). The data reporting into

HMIS must align with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reporting requirements.

- **Ramp Up Period:** Any new programs or new grantees of existing programs may be granted up to one year from program launch to come into full compliance.
- **Technical Assistance:** Technical assistance and guidance to support HMIS implementation and data collection will be available for current and new grantees upon request.
- **Continuum of Care (CoC) Data Requirement:** CoCs will continue to share their HMIS data with the HCFC, ensuring that HDIS will continue to be populated with complete and accurate data, even if HCFC is not providing direct funding to the CoCs.
- **Reporting on Fiscal Data on Homelessness Programs:** HCFC will collect, compile, and report out on fiscal data for all state-funded homelessness programs.

These new laws bring important changes that build upon existing collaborative efforts across the state. California's homelessness crisis is complex, requiring coordination across state systems, complete and accurate data to inform and measure our progress, stronger state and local partnerships, and investment in innovative strategies to effectively address the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. I am incredibly grateful for your continued work toward our shared vision of reducing, preventing, and ending homelessness in our state.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to [hcfc@bcsh.ca.gov](mailto:hcfc@bcsh.ca.gov).

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Lo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julie Lo, Executive Officer  
Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council