



Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency  
Gavin Newsom, Governor | Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, Secretary

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May 17, 2021

Dear Members of the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council:

Since our last meeting in March, the [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#) has been released and the [Homeless Data Integration System](#) (HDIS) has successfully launched, providing us with better insights about our shared work towards preventing, reducing, and ending homelessness, and doing so equitably. I am grateful to the members of this Council and all our partners across the state who continue to strive to make California even better than it was before the pandemic took hold last year.

Last Friday, Governor Newsom announced the details of the California Comeback Plan which included a historic \$12 billion package to tackle the homelessness crisis, helping more than 65,000 people secure safe and stable housing. The CA Comeback Plan promotes and maintains stable housing through additional and expanded rental assistance, foreclosure prevention, and down payment assistance investments. The Plan continues the momentum on housing production through innovative ways to further plan, produce, preserve, and enhance the state's supply of long-term affordable housing, all with a focus on people.

The CA Comeback Plan is a commitment to housing our most vulnerable Californians in an equitable way. True equity relies on improving our systems of care to respond to diversity of needs and reasons people become homeless through comprehensive and person-centered supports and services that lead to stable housing. To this end, I would like to share highlights from Governor Newsom's California Comeback Plan which most immediately impact our shared work to prevent and end homelessness in California, with a focus on interagency collaboration and mutual support:

- **\$3.5 Billion to End Family Homelessness:** A bold, interagency plan that seeks to end family homelessness within five years by increasing investments that we know work, including establishing additional units for families through Homekey funding, a significant expansion of Department of Social Services' family homelessness programs, along with shelter resources to bolster services and approaches. Notably, \$40 million over five years is proposed for HCFC to provide challenge grants and technical assistance to local jurisdictions to be innovative in their pursuit to end family homelessness in their communities and to move the state closer to attaining functional zero for family homelessness in an equitable and holistic manner.

- **\$53 Million in Encampment Focused Funding:** One-time funding for HCFC and Caltrans to work in collaboration with local partners to assure the safety and wellness of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in encampments. Over \$50 million is intended for HCFC-administered encampment resolution grants to resolve critical encampments and transition individuals into permanent housing.
- **\$5.6 Million to Conduct a Statewide Landscape Analysis:** The California Comeback Plan also includes \$5.6 million for HCFC to build on the efforts of HDIS by conducting a landscape assessment of local homelessness service providers and state funded homelessness programs. The assessment will provide a detailed view of the range of services and strategies that are utilized at the local level and help determine if state investments are aligned with local homelessness response systems. This assessment will ensure that collectively, there is greater accountability around the planning and expenditure of homelessness resources.

Other components of the CA Comeback Plan include:

- **\$447 million to address student homelessness** at California Community Colleges, California State Universities, and the UC System.
- **\$150 million to rehouse Project Roomkey clients** out of temporary shelter settings into permanent housing.

The Governor's full proposed package of housing and homelessness funding will offer housing stability for more than 300,000 Californians and provide 65,000 people with new housing placements. While this significant increase in funding will be a major step forward, the continued efforts at all levels of government, throughout local communities, and by this Council will be critical to fully prevent and end the crisis of homelessness in California.

I look forward to our next quarterly meeting on June 17 to discuss this further. In the meantime, a full version of Governor Newsom's California Comeback Plan can be found here: <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2021-22MR/#/BudgetSummary>

In partnership,



Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Secretary  
Council Chair