



# **ACTION PLAN**

**for Preventing and Ending  
Homelessness in California**

## **Implementation Progress Report for Fiscal Year 20-21**

November 2021

# Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council

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# Introductory Letter

This past year has been one of both uncertainty and immense opportunity. Throughout this time, California has worked in partnership with federal, state, local and community partners to advance a collective and comprehensive approach towards preventing and ending homelessness in California. Under the leadership of Governor Gavin Newsom, the state has made substantial progress through investments in our work across state systems. In doing so, we've taken bold strides to increase transparency and accountability within our shared work.

In March 2021, the Council adopted California's first ever comprehensive action plan to address homelessness. The [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#) includes commitments from all state departments and agencies on the Council for Fiscal Years 2020-21 through 2022-23. The Action Plan serves as the framework to make homelessness in California a rare, brief, and one-time occurrence.

This report details actions state departments took in FY 2020-21 to further our shared goals. In it, you will find information on the Action Plan, data on homelessness to be used as benchmarks for measuring future progress, and detailed progress reporting on the Action Plan activities themselves. Council member departments contributed to this report through updates to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), and we thank them for their hard work and dedication.

One of the key principles within our Action Plan is shared responsibility, accountability, and efficiency. With this report we intend to demonstrate the state's commitment to those ideals by bringing transparency to our actions addressing homelessness and drawing attention to examples of great progress throughout state government, of which there are many.

Between March 2020 and October 2021, California showed urgency of action in protecting people experiencing homelessness from COVID-19 by standing up 16,000 non-congregate shelter rooms and serving over 48,000 individuals through Project Roomkey. The state also launched Homekey, which has helped local governments create nearly 6,000 housing units for people experiencing homelessness—including over 4,800 units of permanent housing—through the purchase of hotels, motels, and other buildings. At the same time, California enacted significant protections to keep people housed, committed more than \$22 billion for housing and homelessness programs over the next two years, and stood up its COVID-19 Rent Relief program—which has assisted over 75,000 households through October 19, 2021.

These are only a few highlights of efforts the State of California has taken in the past fiscal year toward preventing and ending homelessness. While this report serves as a record of key actions taken in FY 2020-21 by member departments within our Council, the work ahead is just as important. HCFC will update our Action Plan in FY 2021-22 to include newly planned activities and fresh data for performance measurements. We hope you will appreciate the hard work that helped create this report, and we thank you for taking the time to read it.

In partnership,



Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Council Chair  
Secretary, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

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# Action Plan Development and Reporting

## Vision and Intent of the Action Plan

On any given night, more than 161,000 people are experiencing homelessness in California—representing more than one-quarter of all people experiencing homelessness in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Making significant progress in preventing and ending homelessness across the state requires sustained and focused efforts at the federal, state, and local levels.



Through the [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#) adopted in March 2021, the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC)—the state's interagency council on homelessness—pursues a vision for the state's work to prevent and end homelessness that features:

- Increased leadership from the state for identifying and supporting short- and long-term solutions;
- Purposeful, action-oriented coordination and alignment across state agencies and programs; and
- Stronger, collaborative partnerships with public and private partners in communities.

The Action Plan orients the state's efforts to drive purposeful, meaningful, and measurable progress toward preventing and ending homelessness in California. This effort is motivated by a vision of 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.

The implementation of the Action Plan is aligned with several **key principles and practices**, including:

- ✓ Pursuing racial equity and justice;
- ✓ Creating solutions for the full diversity of people experiencing homelessness;
- ✓ Seeking and valuing the expertise of people with lived experiences of homelessness;
- ✓ Aligning state activities with Housing First approaches;
- ✓ Balancing crisis response and permanent housing solutions; and
- ✓ Shared responsibility, accountability, and efficiency across state departments and programs, in close coordination with local communities

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, "The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report \(AHAR\) to Congress"](#)

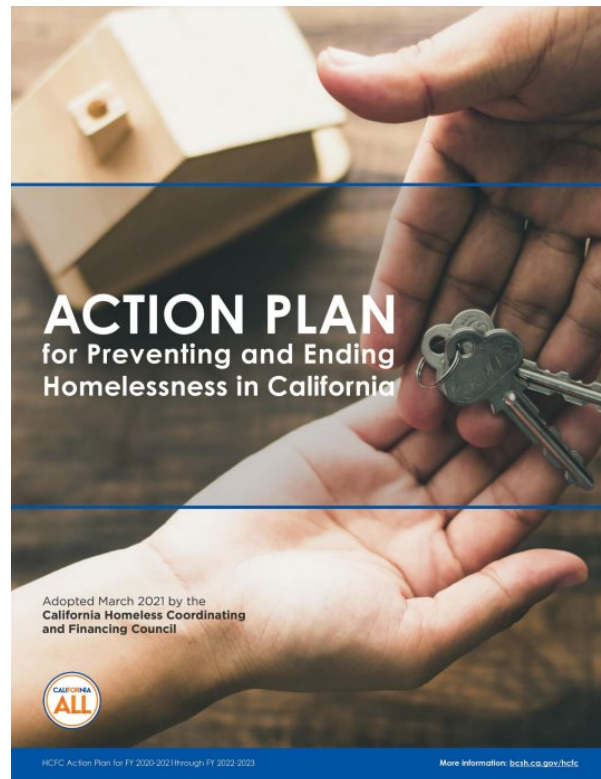
## Development of the Action Plan

The development of the Action Plan was led by HCFC staff and consultant Matthew Doherty, under the guidance and direction of the Council, and deeply informed by planning conversations with state staff and input discussions with external stakeholders. The HCFC Council meetings were used as critical milestones and decision points in its development. The planning process was initiated in July 2020, including surveying conversations with Council members and the initiation of extensive external input conversations.

A special Council meeting was held in September 2020, focused on discussion of the Plan's action areas, to inform the development of the Plan's objectives and activities. The Council adopted the plan's draft objectives at its October 2020 meeting. The Council's December 2020 meeting focused on discussion of current and planned activities across state agencies that are driving or will drive progress toward these objectives, as well as potential priorities for additional state activities based on external stakeholder conversations and discussions with staff from state departments.

The Council discussed a draft of the Action Plan at a special meeting in February 2021. Revisions based upon that discussion, and based upon follow-up meetings with department staff, were incorporated into a final draft of the Action Plan.

The Council officially adopted the Action Plan during its March 2021 meeting.



## Driving Progress Across Five Action Areas

Implementation of the Action Plan drives progress across five distinct, but interrelated and complementary action areas, inclusive of the full range of activities necessary to prevent and end homelessness.

### ACTION AREA 1

#### Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California



Activities focused on pursuing **racial equity** in response to homelessness and housing instability; engagement and partnership with people with **lived expertise** from experiences of homelessness; support of interjurisdictional and **regional planning**; partnerships to strengthen outcomes related to education, employment, income, and assets; **disaster preparedness** and response; and communications and **public awareness**.

### ACTION AREA 2

#### Equitably Addressing the Health, Safety, and Services Needs of Californians Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness



Activities focused on addressing health and safety needs and increasing access to State-supported services and programs for people who are experiencing **unsheltered homelessness**.

### ACTION AREA 3

#### Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing



Activities focused on expanding the supply of safe, housing-placement focused **sheltering and interim housing** models and addressing health and services needs of people staying within such programs.

### ACTION AREA 4

#### Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities



Activities focused on strengthening Housing First approaches and expanding **permanent housing opportunities** through development strategies, short- and long-term rental assistance, and other rehousing activities.

### ACTION AREA 5

#### Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness



Activities focused on reducing entries into homelessness as people exit and/or receive services through State-funded programs and systems and enhancing communities' capacity to provide targeted homelessness **prevention and diversion** services and assistance.

Each action area contains multiple objectives, with a total of fifteen, to be prioritized and pursued. Each objective further details multiple activities that one or more departments have committed to pursuing in order to drive progress toward the overall goal of preventing and ending homelessness. There are a total of 89 distinct activities over three fiscal years, each of which contains:

- Activity reference numbers, arranged by Action Area, Objective, and Activity Number
- A description of the activity to be implemented;
- The lead department(s) responsible for implementing each activity;
- The collaborating department(s) deeply involved in implementing each activity;
- Timeframes for each activity; and
- Performance measurements that will be used to assess progress and impact, including process measures, output measures, and, when possible, outcome measures.

The Action Plan identifies objectives, activities, and performance Measures from FY 20-21 through FY 22-23. It is not intended to be inclusive of every strategic activity or investment that state agencies or the Council will undertake, but instead seeks to focus on the highest-priority strategies and efforts that will have the greatest impact. Performance measures can include:

- **Process Measures** focused on assessing if activities have been implemented as intended;
- **Output Measures** focused on documenting the amount or scale of actions taken; and
- **Outcome Measures** focused on the results or impacts of the activities.



For more information, please refer to Attachment A in this report for a list of all the Action Plan's objectives, Attachment B for a list of all of the FY 20-21 activities included, and the complete [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#) for more details regarding the information in this section as well as a full list of activities over all three fiscal years.



## Focus and Structure of this Implementation Progress Report

Driving progress to prevent and end homelessness—and toward more racially equitable outcomes—requires multi-pronged, multi-year strategies across sectors and systems. These must be supported by data analyses, performance measures, and metrics that help assess, refine, and revise those strategies. The development and adoption of the Action Plan responded to those needs and represents a commitment to a sharpened focus on performance measurement, data, and analysis.

The Action Plan is inclusive of activities that were being implemented during FY 20-21. This allowed the Council to document and recognize significant and meaningful efforts already under way, to align them within the Action Plan's objectives, and to incorporate those activities into the accountability mechanisms that the Council and HCFC staff are using to monitor the implementation of this Action Plan.

This first Implementation Progress Report focuses on reporting progress related to activities that were expected to be implemented during FY 20-21. HCFC will report annually following the close of each fiscal year included in the Action Plan.

This report organizes the assessment of progress in implementing the Action Plan into the following sections:

- **Highlights from FY 20-21 Implementation Progress** describes several specific, high-impact accomplishments by Council member departments during FY 20-21.
- **Key Measures for Defining and Assessing Progress** collects baseline data for key measures regarding homelessness in California that were identified within the Action Plan for HCFC to regularly analyze, review, and report on publicly. This section also includes a comparison with national and regional trends as well as an equity analysis of certain key measures.
- **Implementation Progress Reporting** documents the progress that departments have made implementing each Action Plan activity. This section is organized by the Action Plan's five action areas and fifteen objectives, but only includes activities expected to be implemented during FY 20-21. Further, each activity is accompanied by one or more icons that communicate the nature of the activity being implemented.
- **Fiscal Year 21-22 Priorities** identifies high-priority activities the state has committed to implement during FY 21-22. These activities do not represent all the work to be done during this period, but serve as an example of the significant ongoing effort to achieve the vision laid out in the Action Plan.

Informed by these regular assessments of implementation progress, the Council will update the Action Plan ahead of FY 22-23 to make any modifications to the Plan's objectives and to identify additional specific activities to be implemented during FY 22-23.

# Highlights from FY 20-21 Implementation Progress

This section describes key achievements state agencies and departments reported from the past fiscal year and organizes them by the five action areas. Looking at the totality of the work the state completed during FY 20-21, however, a few common themes emerge that cut across all action areas.

First, in FY 20-21, many state departments focused a significant portion of their work on mobilizing resources, funding, and direct support to people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic and other natural disasters. At the same time, Council departments continued implementing, and even expanding, programs to prevent and end homelessness in California. Finally, the state sharpened its focus on improving coordination among state actors and systems in order to better serve people experiencing homelessness and address systemic inequities. In doing so, the state has established a key foundation upon which the Council will continue in its charge to serve as a coordinating body of the diverse and complex array of state services and resources dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness.

The activities below are only a portion of the work completed during FY 20-21, but display the breadth and depth of the state's work to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

## ACTION AREA 1

### Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California



- HCFC completed implementation of the **Homeless Emergency Aid Program**, which provided \$500 million over three years to 54 California communities as block grants to implement new initiatives, promising service models, and best practices in pursuit of reducing and ending homelessness.
- California Department of Education (CDE) helped administer funds and plan the first annual conference to improve the identification, educational stability, access, support, and academic achievement of **K-12 students experiencing homelessness**.
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has worked to make it easier to **employ people who have experienced homelessness** in their department by hosting job fairs, adjusting their interview process and requirements, and more. In FY 20-21, Caltrans extended 60 offers to people experiencing homelessness for Service Assistance Maintenance positions.
- The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office provided three-year grants to 14 community colleges, which provided services to 519 **community college students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity** and assisted 116 students in maintaining stable housing for six months or more.
- HCFC's most recent **Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP)** grant requires applications to include plans to address racial disparities, involve people with lived experience of homelessness, and work collaboratively with regional partners—with technical assistance provided to applicants on these pieces.

- California's Department of Social Services (CDSS) and Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) conducted outreach, listening sessions, application workshops, and **technical assistance to Tribal Organizations** applying for their funding.
- HCFC launched the **Homeless Data Integration System**, which brings together data on individuals seeking homelessness services from nearly every Continuum of Care (CoC) to create a fuller picture of who experiences homelessness in California than the state has ever had before.

## ACTION AREA 2

### Equitably Addressing the Health, Safety, and Services Needs of Californians Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness



- CDSS implemented **Project Roomkey**, a brand-new program to provide non-congregate shelter to protect people experiencing homelessness from COVID-19. Between the program's March 2020 launch and August 2021, 50 counties and two Tribes have participated, securing 16,000 rooms and serving over 42,000 individuals.
- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) **aided communities applying for federal reimbursement** for their Project Roomkey programs.
- HCFC hosted frequent webinars and published guidance for state and local partners on topics such as strategically utilizing the variety of **funding sources available during the pandemic, adjusting shelter** during COVID-19, and **making vaccines available** to people experiencing homelessness.
- HCFC provided guidance on how homelessness service providers should respond to fires and other natural disasters in their areas.

## ACTION AREA 3

### Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing



- CDSS continued to operate their existing **statewide housing and homelessness programs** that allow for the provision of safe and effective sheltering and interim housing, among other eligible uses. As an example of outcomes from one of these programs, in FY 20-21, **CalWORKs Homeless Assistance** approved funding for more than 32,000 families to help cover the costs of temporary shelter, a security deposit, or prevent eviction.
- California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) adapted activities within **Whole Person Care** to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness during COVID-19, which assisted at least 9 counties in building upon their Project Roomkey efforts.
- HCD continued to implement the federal **Community Development Block Grant CARES Act** program that provided \$150 million to support acquisition, construction, conversion, and rehabilitation of temporary shelter in California.
- Cal OES continued implementing multiple grants that include housing services for **youth and adult victims of crime** who are experiencing homelessness.

## ACTION AREA 4

### Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities



- In response to the availability of hotels for Project Roomkey and the need for more housing for people experiencing homelessness, the state funded **Homekey** to facilitate the purchase and conversion of buildings to augment the supportive housing stock. As of April 2021, HCD reports that Homekey has supported 103 housing projects to bring 5,911 housing units—including 4,862 units of permanent housing—online across the state.
- In partnership with California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), HCD also helped continue implementation of the **Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program**, which made awards to 16 projects to build 421 units of affordable, supportive, or transitional housing for veterans.
- California Housing Finance Agency operated the **Special Needs Housing Program**, which financed 796 permanent supportive housing units in FY 20-21 for individuals with serious mental illness and their families who are experiencing homelessness.
- California Tax Credit Allocation Committee provided priority for within both the 9% and 4% **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** applications for projects serving people experiencing homelessness.
- HCFC continued to implement the **HHAP** grant program, which has so far provided \$950 million over two rounds of funding to support regional coordination and expand local capacity to address homelessness.

## ACTION AREA 5

### Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness



- BCSH implemented California's **COVID-19 Rent Relief Program** that helps income-eligible households who have been impacted by COVID-19 cover the cost of rent and utilities. As of October 19, 2021, the state program had received over 433,000 household applications requesting approximately \$4.5 billion in assistance. To date, the state program has paid or approved for payment approximately \$1.7 billion in assistance. Of that total, over \$897 million has been expended, assisting more than 75,000 California households.
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in partnership with the Amity Foundation, helped implement the **Returning Home Well program**, which expands the housing services available to people leaving prisons.
- HCD issued agreements to six counties totaling \$60.1 million for the **Housing for a Healthy California** program, which provides housing for individuals who are recipients of or eligible for Medi-Cal.

# Key Measures for Defining and Assessing Progress

HCFC will use data from a variety of sources to regularly analyze, review, report upon, and publicly share key measures regarding homelessness in California. This will serve to assess the impact of federal, state, and local efforts; document and analyze racial inequities; and refine this Plan's objectives and activities.

The charts below use the most recent U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts and System Performance Measures (SPM) to document baseline data for key measures, comparing these to national and regional trends, and providing an analysis of racial and ethnic disparities where data is available. In future reports, HCFC plans to utilize the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) to document changes from these baseline measures and provide more detail into subpopulations and demographics. For more information on the methodology used in this summary, see Attachment C.

## Key Measures

1. The number of **Californians experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness at a point in time**, including Veterans, people experiencing chronic homelessness, families with children, adults, and unaccompanied youth.
2. The number of **Continuums of Care in California reporting increases versus decreases** in the number of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness within annual Point-in-Time counts.
3. The number of people spending time in **emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe havens** in California annually.
4. The number of Californians experiencing homelessness for the **first time, successfully exiting** homelessness, and **returning to homelessness** each year.
5. The number of **children and youth experiencing homelessness at some point during the school year** in California, including students in families and unaccompanied students.

## FY 20-21 Measures Summary

In January 2020, California estimated it is home to over **161,000 people experiencing homelessness**, making it the state with the largest such population in the country.

Of these individuals, approximately **70% were unsheltered**. This unsheltered rate is higher than that of the country overall (39%) as well as other west coast states like Nevada and Oregon (61%), and Washington (47%).

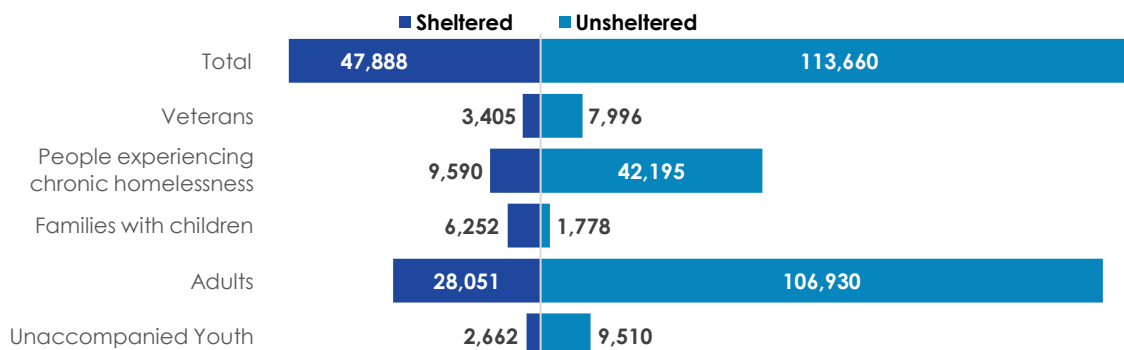
Also, over **30% identified as Black or African American**. This represents a huge disparity given the overall population identifying as Black or African American in California is 6.5%.

Throughout 2020, CoCs reported serving over **130,000 people in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe havens**. Additionally, nearly **77,000 people experienced homelessness for the first time**.

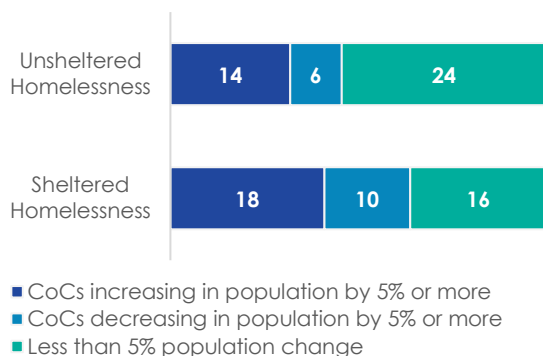
Last, while the national population of people experiencing homelessness has declined by about 9% in the past decade, California's has **increased by over 30%**.

# Fiscal Year 20-21 Key Measures

**Measure 1:** The number of Californians experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness at a point in time, including Veterans, people experiencing chronic homelessness, families with children, adults, and unaccompanied youth. *Source: HUD 2020 PIT Count.*



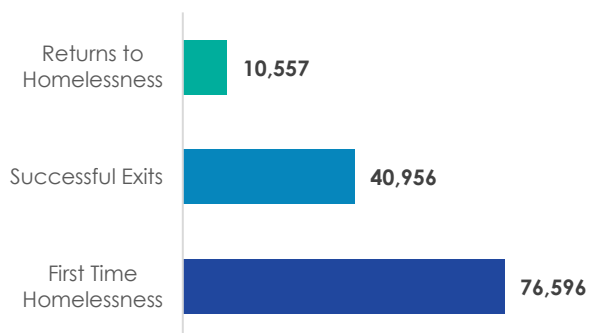
**Measure 2:** The number of Continuums of Care in California reporting increases versus decreases in the number of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness within annual Point-in-Time counts. *Sources: HUD 2020 and 2019 PIT Counts.<sup>2</sup>*



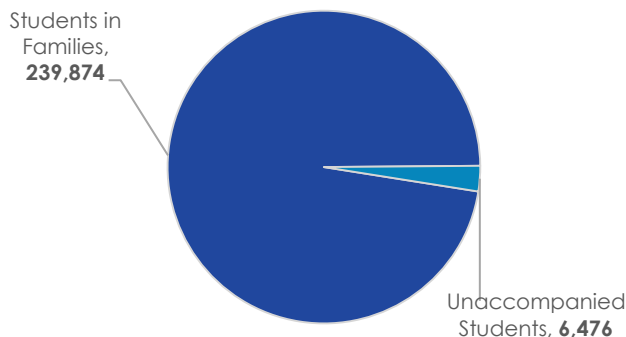
**Measure 3:** The number of people spending time in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe havens in California annually. *Source: HUD 2020 SPM.*

**130,289**

**Measure 4:** The number of Californians experiencing homelessness for the first time, successfully exiting homelessness, and returning to homelessness each year. *Source: HUD 2020 SPM.*



**Measure 5:** The number of children and youth experiencing homelessness at some point during the school year in California, including students in families and unaccompanied students. *Source: CDE 2019-2020 school year data.*

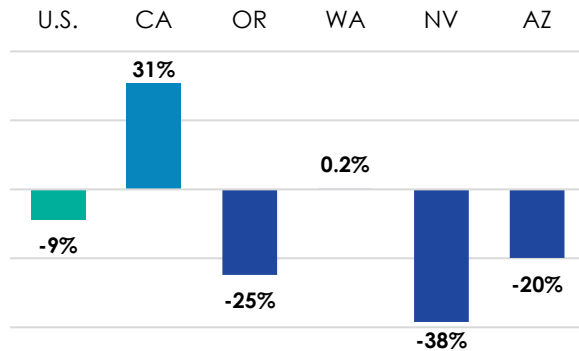


<sup>2</sup> Note: CoCs are not required to submit unsheltered counts in even-numbered years, therefore 21 CoCs reported no change in their unsheltered population between their 2019 and 2020 PIT Counts.

# Comparison to National and Regional Data and Trends

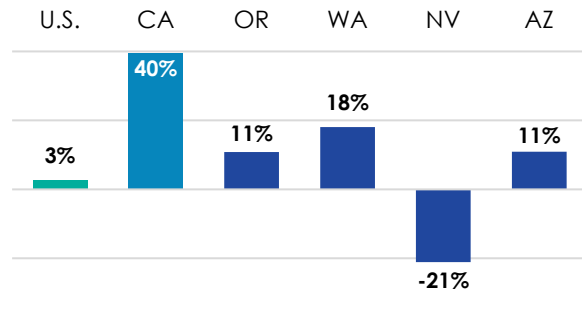
## Percent Change in Population of People Experiencing Homelessness, 2010 to 2020

U.S., California, and select West Coast states  
 Source: HUD 2020 and 2010 PIT Counts



## Percent Change in Population of People Experiencing Homelessness, 2015 to 2020

U.S., California, and select West Coast states  
 Source: HUD 2020 and 2015 PIT Counts



California's homelessness crisis stands out from the west coast and the U.S. overall in a few ways. First, California is home to the largest number of people experiencing homelessness in any state. With 28% of the nation's homeless population, it comes ahead of New York (16%), Florida and Texas (5% each). However, when looking at homelessness as a rate, California comes in fourth with Washington D.C. ranked first (90.4 people experiencing homelessness per 10,000 residents), followed by New York (46.9), Hawaii (45.6), and California (40.9).<sup>3</sup>

Additionally, while the U.S. and most west coast states have seen decreases in homelessness over the past decade, homelessness in California has risen by 31%. Since 2015, however, more states have seen increases in homelessness (or greater increases), which has made homelessness in the U.S. increase as well. This demonstrates that preventing and ending homelessness in California is not only urgent for the state, but can also have a crucial impact on the progress of the country as a whole.

## Equity Analysis

The response to homelessness requires a commitment to addressing and reducing the racial inequities among people experiencing homelessness, how they are served, and their outcomes achieved within the homelessness response system. The annual PIT count provides estimates of racial and ethnic groups experiencing homelessness in California. While data is not currently available for all subpopulations across each key measure, in future reports HCFC will utilize HDIS to provide additional insights into racial and ethnic disparities across the population of people experiencing homelessness overall, those served in sheltered and unsheltered settings, and those going through key events (as described in the Key Measures section above).

<sup>3</sup> Source: [National Alliance to End Homelessness, "State of Homelessness: 2021 Edition"](#)

**Racial Breakdown of CA Population, People Experiencing Homelessness, and those in Sheltered Settings (Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Havens) and Unsheltered Settings in CA**

Source: HUD 2020 PIT Count; 2019 California Census

	CA Population	People Experiencing Homelessness	Sheltered Settings	Unsheltered Settings
<b>White</b>	71.9%	54.1%	54.1%	53.9%
<b>Black/African American</b>	6.5%	30.7%	30.7%	29.1%
<b>Asian</b>	15.5%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
<b>American Indian</b>	1.6%	4.0%	4.0%	4.4%
<b>Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander</b>	0.5%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
<b>Multiple Races</b>	4.0%	8.1%	8.1%	9.4%

According to the 2020 PIT Count, people identified as Black/African American are overrepresented in the population of people experiencing homelessness in California, making up 30.7% of the population as compared to only 6.5% of the state's population overall. People identified as White and Asian are underrepresented among those experiencing homelessness. Across sheltered and unsheltered settings, however, the racial demographics are relatively proportionate to groups' representation in the population of people experiencing homelessness.

**Ethnic Breakdown of CA Population, People Experiencing Homelessness, and those in Sheltered Settings (Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Havens) and Unsheltered Settings in CA**

Source: HUD 2020 PIT Count; 2019 California Census

	CA Population	People Experiencing Homelessness	Sheltered Settings	Unsheltered Settings
<b>Hispanic/Latinx</b>	39.4%	32.2%	32.2%	31.5%
<b>Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx</b>	60.6%	67.8%	67.8%	68.5%

When looking at the ethnic breakdown, people identified as Hispanic/Latinx appear to be slightly underrepresented in the population of people experiencing homelessness. Similar to the racial breakdown, however, the ethnic demographics across sheltered and unsheltered settings are relatively proportionate to groups' representation in the population of people experiencing homelessness.



# Implementation Progress Reporting

The reporting of implementation progress in this section is organized by the Action Plan's five action areas and fifteen objectives, and only includes progress reporting for activities which were to be implemented during FY 20-21. See Attachment B for details on each activity to be implemented in FY 20-21, and the [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#) for a complete list of activities to be implemented through FY 22-23. See Attachment D for a list of acronyms commonly referred to throughout this section.

In August 2021, HCFC reached out to staff from Council member departments for updates on their FY 20-21 activities. Departments were asked to report data specifically for FY 20-21 whenever possible. However, if this information was not yet available, departments provided the most current data or noted when FY 20-21 data will be available.

To help communicate the nature of the activities being implemented, each activity is coded with one or more of the following icons:



**Activities Focused on Addressing Racial Equity:** This icon denotes activities with an explicit focus on addressing racial equity within state and local efforts to prevent and end homelessness.



**Activities Documenting and Strengthening the Impact of State Programs:** This icon denotes activities related to strengthening the implementation and impact of state and federal funding, programs, and policies. As described within the Action Plan, during FY 21-22, state departments will set targets for many of these activities and future reports will assess progress toward those goals.



**Activities Providing Technical Assistance, Training, and Guidance:** This icon denotes activities offering technical assistance, training, or guidance to assist community partners as they implement programs to address homelessness.

## ACTION AREA 1

# Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California



This action area includes activities focused on pursuing racial equity in response to homelessness and housing instability; engagement and partnership with people with lived expertise from experiences of homelessness; supporting interjurisdictional and regional planning; partnerships to strengthen outcomes related to education, employment, income, and assets; disaster preparedness and response; and communications and public awareness.

► **Objective 1:** Strengthen racial equity-focused responses, strategies, and activities of State agencies and of local agencies and organizations receiving State funding for any homelessness services and housing activities.

**Activity 1:** Provide and coordinate technical assistance focused on racial equity to support equitable access and outcomes within State-funded programs, and to strengthen coordinated entry systems, prioritization policies, and targeting strategies in order to address disparities in access to services and resources.



HCFC's FY 20-21 [Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention grant \(HHAP-2\)](#) required applicants to prioritize racial equity in their use of funds. Additionally, HCFC contracted to provide technical assistance (TA) to grantees around racial equity in the design and evaluation of their programs. This included individualized TA, cohort models, and creation of materials was made available to grantees statewide. Forty-four (44) of the 100 HHAP-2 grantees received this TA.

**Activity 2:** Incorporate a focus on racial equity data, analysis, and planned activities within applications for State homelessness and housing-focused funding (HHAP, ESG-CV, others), and analyze the data and information gathered in response.



HCFC incorporated a focus on racial equity into HHAP [annual reports](#) and [funding applications](#) beginning Q2 FY 20-21.

HCFC published an analysis of qualitative annual report data related to racial equity in [HCFC Annual Funding Report](#) in Q3 FY 20-21. Among the findings were that grantees sought community input on their programs, conducted disparate impact analyses, and prioritized HHAP funding to serve disparately impacted communities where possible.

HCFC completed initial analysis of racial equity data from HHAP round 2 (HHAP-2) applications in Q3 & Q4 FY 20-21 to inform application approvals and provided TA to 44 of 100 grantees to assist with further planning for this work.

## ACTION AREA 1

**Activity 3:** Provide guidance and education regarding requirements of AB 686: Housing discrimination: affirmatively further fair housing, and perform reviews of local governments' Housing Elements with a focus on addressing racial inequities and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.



In April 2021, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) released an [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing \(AFFH\) guidance memorandum](#). The memo provides a comprehensive guidance to assist local governments in meeting AB 686 requirements. This release included an AFFH Data Viewer tool to assist local governments in accessing data to conduct a strong AFFH analysis. HCD sent the document and data tool link to all 539 jurisdictions. HCD provided webinars on the guidance and data tool to stakeholders, including local governments.

HCD has provided guidance and education regarding the requirements of AB 686 as well as performed 120 reviews of local governments' housing elements in FY 20-21, with a focus on addressing racial inequities and affirmatively furthering fair housing for all housing elements reviewed.

**Activity 4:** Provide technical assistance and training opportunities, and adapt program guidelines and guidance, to enhance Tribal Organizations' access to State homelessness and housing programs and resources.



Federally recognized Tribes are eligible grantees for California Department of Social Services (CDSS) programs including Project Roomkey, Housing Disability and Advocacy Program (HDAP), Home Safe, and Bringing Families Home (BFH). CDSS encourages regional applications between Tribes and counties through formal application guidelines.

- Since FY 19-20, a total of 12 Tribes have participated in locally operated CDSS housing programs. The CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch works in close collaboration and consultation with the CDSS Office of Tribal Affairs for tribal program model and design considerations, outreach for funding, and support in ongoing TA.
- In FY 2020-21, \$3 million was set aside for Tribes interested in operating the HDAP. In partnership with a TA provider, CDSS hosted bi-weekly learning sessions with eight Tribal grantees to help facilitate successful programs.

HCD has worked to update guidelines and Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) to explicitly include Tribal Organizations. They have completed this work for two guidelines and five NOFAs, and are in process of updating two more guidelines with this information.

- HCD conducted five listening sessions with Tribal Organizations, one application workshop, 22 individual program TA conferences, and four office hours.
- HCD received three applications for Homekey 1.0 funding from Tribes and awarded funds to all three. Additionally, HCD received applications from 19 Tribes for Community Development Block Grant - CARES Act funding for 21 service activities/projects.

## ACTION AREA 1

**Activity 5:** Utilize the newly developed Homeless Data Integration System to support both Statewide and local analyses of data, focused on documenting and understanding racial inequities in experiences of homelessness and provision of services, including the creation of a public dashboard documenting analyses.



HCFC launched the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) in April 2021 with a [public dashboard](#) published on the HCFC website. The current release includes 42 of 44 Continuums of Care (CoCs) reporting data from 2017 - 2020. The next release will include all 44 CoCs reporting more current data.

HCFC is currently working with a contractor to build out and strengthen HDIS's capacity to support analyses focused on racial inequities.

**Activity 6:** Expand efforts to ensure that developments funded through the Multifamily Housing Program and other State funding sources are also being developed in high-resource communities.



New draft guidelines for HCD's Multifamily Housing Program, proposed June 2021, will expand availability of higher loan amounts to include supportive housing units in order to incentivize and facilitate production in high resource areas. HCD will also oversee to help ensure these units continue to serve this population over time.

Additionally, HCD proposed application scoring changes that include point increases for developments located in high resource opportunity areas, as well as new criteria for moderate and emerging opportunity areas.

**Activity 7:** Provide relevant training and skill-building opportunities, such as California's Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity training, to State agency staff to enable staff to provide more expert advice and guidance to partners and communities.



Activity not yet started. HCFC reports plans to make progress on this goal beginning in FY 21-22.

Documenting progress on this activity will be one of the priorities of the Racial Equity Working Group to be formed in FY 21-22.

## ACTION AREA 1

► **Objective 2:** Ensure that State and local planning and decision-making processes are deeply informed and guided by recommendations from people with lived expertise from experiences of homelessness.

**Activity 2:** Proactively engage local boards and committees of people with lived experience and expertise to provide input on the development of the HCFC Action Plan.



HCFC held input discussions with at least 62 organizations during Q2 and Q3 FY 20-21 to inform Action Plan development. At least three of these groups included people with lived experience and expertise of homelessness.

Continued engagement with local lived expertise boards and committees, both adult and youth, throughout FY 20-21 to discuss HCFC Action Plan and future Lived Experience Advisory Board. Conducted meetings with similar boards in Santa Clara County, Los Angeles County, and Santa Cruz as well as with California Youth Connection.

**Activity 4:** Incorporate questions regarding the involvement of people with lived experience and expertise into local planning and decision-making processes within applications for State homelessness and housing-focused funding (e.g., HHAP, ESG-CV, HSP) and analyze the information gathered in response.



HCFC incorporated questions regarding the involvement of people with lived experience into HHAP [funding applications](#) beginning Q2 FY 20-21.

HCFC completed an initial analysis of local planning and decision-making data from HHAP-2 applications in Q3 & Q4 FY 20-21 to inform application approvals and provided technical assistance to grantees to assist with planning for this work.

Confirmed that all 100 grantees submitted information about incorporating people with lived experience into planning and decision-making, but detailed quantitative measures on outcomes from these grants are not yet available.

► **Objective 3:** Incentivize interjurisdictional and regional planning, decision-making, and accountability, and support capacity for such coordination through “mapping” and local gaps analysis activities focused on needs, demographics and inequities, and service delivery capacities.

**Activity 1:** Support and strengthen expectation of joint CoC-county-city planning and coordination in awards and implementation of State homelessness funding.



HCFC incorporated questions related to partnership and collaboration in annual reporting for both the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and HHAP round 1 (HHAP-1). It included qualitative analysis of this data in the HCFC Annual Funding Report in Q3 FY 20-21.

HCFC solicited and processed applications for HHAP-2, which solicited details on how jurisdictions coordinate to address regional needs, per Health and Safety Code Section 50220.5 (d).

HCFC has worked with participating departments to form the State Funding and Programs Working Group in Q1 FY 20-21. This group had its first meeting in October 2021 with this activity included as a potential priority.

## ACTION AREA 1

**Activity 3:** Utilize the Homeless Data Integration System to conduct analysis to support regional and cross-jurisdictional analyses, planning discussions, and decision-making.



HCFC launched HDIS in April 2021 with a [public dashboard](#) on the HCFC website.

HCFC has regularly pulled data from HDIS and used for analyses including, but not limited to:

- An analysis of families with children accessing services in the homelessness response system to evaluate characteristics of these families and factors associated with permanently housing families. Through this analysis, HCFC provides recommendations for ways CoCs can assess their systems and house families at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Policy Brief under review.
- An inventory of all state-funded programs and an analysis of the coverage of HCFC-funded programs in Homeless Management Information Systems, in order to provide better guidance and technical assistance to grantees on these guidelines. Memo forthcoming.

HCFC has hosted monthly HDIS Academy Learning Sessions that build community and connections among CoCs, assist with using data to address the day-to-day issues that arise in their work, and allow for collaboration around how to make HDIS more effective. Almost 100 unique CoC staff from 36 CoCs have attended an HDIS Academy session since the launch in May 2021.

**Activity 4:** Leverage HCD's role in reviewing and regulating Housing Elements, with HCFC's interagency scope, to deliver a new level of technical assistance on homelessness to cities and counties, and, in collaboration with other State departments, develop an interagency guide on actions city governments can take to address homelessness.



HCD is developing a technical guide for state homelessness programs to provide local planning departments with resources and information on addressing homelessness. The guide will require the input of program information from other HCFC member departments, likely through the State Funding and Programs Working Group.

**Activity 5:** Provide grants resources that support local and regional planning and initiatives through SB 2 Planning Grants, Local Early Action Planning Grants, and Regional Early Action Planning Grants.



As of August 13, 2021, HCD awarded 488 [SB 2 Planning Grants](#), 497 [Local Early Action Planning Grants](#), and 19 [Regional Early Action Planning Grants](#). These grants are aimed at providing funding and technical assistance to local governments for streamlining approvals for housing developments, accelerating production, and facilitating regional projects.

HCD is on track to meet or exceed goal of awarding 1,027 grants by the end of FY 22-23.

## ACTION AREA 1

► **Objective 4:** Enhance partnerships between homelessness services systems and services and systems which can support asset building and wealth building, including improving access to educational opportunities and employment services and employment for people experiencing and exiting homelessness.

**Activity 2:** Provide technical assistance to enhance capacity of local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide services and supports for students experiencing homelessness and housing instability to foster educational achievement and progression.



The California Department of Education (CDE) Homeless Education Program (HEP) staff provided a series of webinars during the 2020-2021 school year and disseminated 352 TA emails through the Homeless Education Resource Listserv. All webinar presentations can be viewed on the [CDE Website](#).

**Activity 3:** Assess the impact of employment opportunities provided through Caltrans' Service Assistance Maintenance positions on hiring of people experiencing homelessness and access to promotional opportunities and career ladders.



The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has made conditional job offers to 60 people experiencing homelessness for its Service Assistance Maintenance positions at eight separate Clean California hiring events in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties. Caltrans has worked with local organizations to disseminate information about these hiring events specifically to people experiencing homelessness.

Caltrans has worked to remove barriers for people experiencing homelessness gaining employment by offering entry-level positions that have no license requirements, providing employment examinations in person instead of on a computer, and offering next-day interviews that can result in conditional job offers.

**Activity 4:** Collaborate with local educational agencies (LEAs), state level educational partners, youth organizations and across divisions within the CDE to identify needs of students experiencing homelessness related to distance learning and develop strategies, resources, and tools to address those needs.



CDE's HEP staff presented at various conferences, meetings, and state-level events throughout the 2020-2021 school year. These presentations focused on identification of students experiencing homelessness, services and supports available, and resources for distance learning.

HEP staff also developed and posted a Housing Questionnaire in multiple languages and encouraged all LEAs to use it to better identify homeless students. Additionally, the Resources for Homeless Children and Youth website was updated with COVID-19 resources.

## ACTION AREA 1

**Activity 5:** Communicate and disseminate guidance to county offices of education (COEs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and partnering agencies to strengthen support for students experiencing homelessness.



CDE posted a [Request for Applications](#) for a 3-year project to provide support and technical assistance to COEs to ensure they have the capacity, resources, and the tools required to support their LEAs with implementation of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act.

CDE's HEP staff is currently working on fact sheets to post and disseminate regarding various homeless education topics such as identification, enrollment, transportation, collaboration, etc.

**Activity 6:** Implement and evaluate the Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot (HHIP) Program, which provides housing services and support to homeless and housing insecure students.



HHIP provided 14 California community colleges with three-year annual grants of up to \$700,000 each to help homeless and housing insecure students find reliable shelter. Preliminary, self-reported data indicates the following outputs between January 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020: 224 homeless students received services, 295 housing insecure students received services, and 116 homeless or housing insecure students maintained stable housing for six months or more.

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) also provided professional development trainings to colleges piloting the HHIP program on topics including how to strengthen program and community partnerships and develop and maximize institutional structure and resources to support students in the program.

CCCCO is launching student-level data collection from the 14 pilot sites in late 2021. Full report on HHIP outcomes to come.

**Activity 7:** Implement the Returning Home Well initiative in partnership with philanthropic organizations, addressing the employment needs of people transitioning from corrections settings, including through the provision of stipends to support people's participation in employment services and through the leveraging of local workforce services and partnerships.



The Returning Home Well (RHW) Initiative is a partnership between California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and Amity Foundation to increase the services available to those released from incarceration. RHW has established a partnership with the Center for Employment to distribute stipends to support people's participation in employment services. A total of 1,095 stipends have been distributed.



## ACTION AREA 1

**Activity 8:** Monitor local educational agencies' (LEAs') implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.



CDE disseminated TA letters to LEAs based on information provided through the Consolidated Application and Reporting System (CARS). The number and type of letters sent were as follows:

- 598 *Zero Spent Title I Letters* sent to outline how to ensure funds for homeless education are reserved and spent.
- 308 *Less Than \$10 Reserved Title I Letters* sent to help LEAs determine an appropriate amount to reserve for homeless education.
- 702 *At Least 1 Training Missing Letters* sent to remind LEA representatives to offer professional development opportunities around education of homeless students.
- 527 *Old or No Board Policy Letters* to inform LEAs to update or create new homeless education board policies.

CDE also used CARS information to determine which LEAs would receive a Homeless Education Federal Program Monitoring review for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. For the 2020-2021 school year, 30 LEAs were monitored through this process.

**Activity 9:** Participate in California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance intersegmental workgroup with CSU and UC systems to advance basic needs security including addressing homelessness and housing insecurity for students to increase their success.



CCCCO participates in bi-weekly meetings of the California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBNA) with the California State University and University of California systems. The CHEBNA hosted a [virtual learning series](#) for higher education professionals to address ways to continue to support students, including their access to financial aid, healthy food, safe housing, and health and mental health support.

Recent CHEBNA meetings have focused on reviewing and providing feedback about the BenefitsCal program, to ensure students are able and eligible to utilize this tool. Additionally, CHEBNA is reviewing and providing feedback regarding student eligibility policies for CalFresh.

## ACTION AREA 1

► **Objective 5:** Support California communities to develop disaster preparedness plans that are more inclusive of the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

**Activity 1:** Produce and disseminate the Listos California *Disaster Guide for People Experiencing Homelessness*.



Listos California was originally designed to disseminate disaster preparedness data and information to the underserved communities and populations, homelessness being one of those populations. Listos officially ended in March 2021, but another iteration is being considered. An [impact report](#) is available on their website.

The [Disaster Guide for People Experiencing Homelessness](#) was published and disseminated widely. Among others, it was sent to current subrecipients of the following grants managed by California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), whose target populations include people experiencing homelessness:

- Homeless Youth and Exploitation
- Homeless Youth Emergency Services Pilot
- Homeless Youth and Emergency Services and Housing
- Specialized Emergency Housing
- Transitional Housing
- Domestic Violence Housing First

**Activity 5:** Incorporate focus on eligibility of people experiencing homelessness for FEMA-funded assistance into federal advocacy efforts.



HCFC partially addressed this through inclusion of this topic in the Strategic Spending Guide in September 2020. Distributed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) related letters, resources, and links; resources are currently listed under [COVID-19 Resources webpage](#).

## ACTION AREA 1

► **Objective 6:** Expand State communications efforts to create public awareness of the State's homelessness strategies, successes, challenges, and the importance of Housing First approaches.

**Activity 1:** Continue implementation of the Housing is Key campaign, providing materials and resources to help Californians stay in their homes, understand their housing options during COVID-19 and beyond, and to educate the public regarding the causes of homelessness, effective solutions, and State strategies and programs.



In September 2020, the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) launched [Housing is Key](#), which provides online resources to help Californians stay in their homes or understand housing options during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. This website contains information about tenant and homeowner protections, an application portal for the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program, and more resources for tenants, landlords, and homeowners across the state.

The COVID-19 Rent Relief program focuses on assistance to the lowest-income Californians who may be at greater risk to become homeless from pandemic-related hardships. According to BCSH's [online program dashboard](#), the COVID-19 Rent Relief program provided over \$897 million in total assistance to more than 69,000 California households through October 19, 2021. Of the households assisted, approximately 84% are at 50% Area Median Income (AMI) and below and nearly 60% are at 30% AMI and below.

**Activity 2:** Provide homelessness-focused communications to local partners, including webinars, videos, tools, guidance, and other resources and materials, focused on Housing First implementation, strategic use of funding sources, and effective programs and practices.



HCFC conducted multiple webinars, published documents, and provided technical assistance for partner organizations. Examples include:

- Supportive Services for Veteran Families: HCFC presented on funding guidance and key resources in December 2020.
- 100-Day Challenge: As of May 2021, seven CoCs have completed a 100-Day Challenge in two cohorts. Additional cohorts are planned for FY 21-22.
- HDIS Academy: Learning sessions happen monthly since May 2021 to help communities use their Homeless Management Information System data in new and useful ways.

HCFC provided targeted technical assistance and updates to communities focused on funding sources as well as effective and promising practices for addressing homelessness. Examples include:

- COVID technical assistance calls with CDSS in April and May 2020.
- In coordination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), HCD, and CDSS, HCFC conducted targeted outreach to communities to address an array of issues related to rehousing individuals, with a focus on housing first. In FY 20-21, communities participated in 11 of these “pulse check” meetings.
- HEAP and HHAP youth set-aside support check-in calls.

## ACTION AREA 1

**Activity 3:** Prepare public-facing materials and articles based upon data and information drawn from the Homeless Data Integration System warehouse, to educate the public on challenges, activities, and implementation of programs and resources.



HCFC launched HDIS in April 2021 with a [public dashboard](#) published on the HCFC website. HCFC did not publish any reports based on HDIS during FY 20-21, however, a Family Homelessness Policy Brief is currently under leadership's review, intended to be released in Q2 FY 21-22 with an accompanying webinar.

**Activity 4:** Proactively analyze and develop educational materials that interpret and communicate key findings of national reports focused on homelessness and featuring California data, such as HUD's Point-in-Time count data and reporting.



HCFC started this activity with the HDIS rollout and Key Measures section of this report. HCFC will be engaging further in these efforts in FY 21-22.

## ACTION AREA 2

# Equitably Addressing the Health, Safety, and Services Needs of Californians Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness



This action area includes activities focused on addressing health and safety needs and increasing access to state-supported services and programs for people who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

► **Objective 7:** Continue to support California communities to implement multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional outreach and protective measures addressing the health and safety needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

**Activity 2:** Continue to support COVID-19 focused adaptations to Whole Person Care programs and services to better address the needs of unsheltered people during the pandemic and beyond.



In response to COVID-19, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) adapted activities within Whole Person Care (WPC) to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness during COVID-19. Some examples include WPC funding being used for outreach and infrastructure expansion to help shelter people experiencing homelessness, on-site housing navigation, hotel voucher programs, and redesigning hospital discharge protocols, among others.

While Project Roomkey programs did not always utilize WPC funds, they often built on work started by WPC and helped to improve local systems of care. At least 9 counties were able to utilize this funding to help build upon their Project Roomkey programs.

**Activity 3:** Create, disseminate, and support implementation of resources related to vaccination efforts for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and outreach staff, including promoting eligible uses of State funding for such efforts.



HCFC conducted the webinar *Vaccine Eligibility Guidance for People Experiencing Homelessness & Vaccine Rollout Considerations* on March 19, 2021. The webinar featured presenters from CA Department of Public Health, Blue Shield, HCFC, and HCD.

HCFC published [Vaccine Preparation for California's Homeless Response System](#) on its website in February 2021.

HCFC published [Preparing to Vaccinate People Experiencing Homelessness Who Are Unsheltered](#) on its website in March 2021.

HCFC published [Lessons Learned: Planning and Implementing a Vaccine Strategy for People Experiencing Homelessness](#) on its website in March 2021.

HCFC posts other relevant resources on its [Vaccine Resources](#) website as they become available.

## ACTION AREA 2

**Activity 4:** Promote strong practices for identifying and engaging unsheltered young people into available services and supports.



HCFC collects and publishes local and federal resources specific to homeless youth on its [Resources](#) webpage and shares them in ongoing engagement with local partners.

HCFC provided technical assistance to communities to promote strong and promising practices to support unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. Example session topics include distance learning for youth experiencing homelessness as well as homeless youth federal grants and promising practices.

HCFC hosted a presentation by CDE and local partners on education and homelessness system collaboration to better support students experiencing homelessness in Q1 of FY 21-22.

Ongoing work deferred to Youth and Young Adults Working Group, which is slated to launch in FY 21-22.

**Activity 6:** Provide guidance and support for the utilization of State funding to effectively address the health and safety needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including guidance regarding State funds that can be used for basic needs and protective measures, e.g., showers, hygiene supplies, and sanitation services.



HCFC provided technical assistance to communities to support and strategize state funding and safety needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in encampments, non-congregate and congregate shelters.

HCFC and partners provided multiple guidance resources related to the pandemic and other disaster response. Examples include:

- [\*Disaster Guide for People Experiencing Homelessness\*](#)
- [\*Planning and Preparation Resources for Fire and Public Health Emergencies in California\*](#)
- [\*Rehousing out of Project Roomkey and other non-congregate shelters\*](#)
- [\*Guide to Strategic Uses of Key State and Federal Funds to Reduce Homelessness During the COVID-19 Pandemic\*](#)

**Activity 7:** Promote the eligible uses of State funding for employing specialized peer positions to better reach and engage people experiencing unsheltered homelessness into available services and supports.



Activity not yet started. HCFC will utilize the Employment Working Group to better address this activity when it is launched in FY 21-22 or early FY 22-23.

## ACTION AREA 2

► **Objective 8:** Improve access, and address racial inequities within such access, to essential State-supported services appropriate for the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including through Medi-Cal and behavioral health care reforms.

**Activity 3:** Continued operation of Whole Person Care pilots and Health Homes Program care coordination and housing services in 2021 to continue to strengthen access to health and behavioral health services for people who are unsheltered.



DHCS amended Whole Person Care (WPC) pilot contracts to allow for continuation of activities through December 31, 2021. All 23 WPC pilot contracts were extended, and 22 have been fully executed. WPC pilots continue to provide health and behavioral health services for unsheltered individuals via this contract extension.

WPC and Health Homes Program (HHP) Medi-Cal member enrollment, care coordination, and housing support services will continue to be provided through 2021. Beginning January 1, 2022, services will be available through Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services.

DHCS continues to track enrollment and utilization of WPC by individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness for each WPC pilot. Quarterly data for 2021 will be available in April 2022.

DHCS continues monitoring the enrollment of Medi-Cal managed care plan members who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness into HHP. DHCS published [updated data](#) on HHP enrollment figures in June 2021, which showed that 42,683 members had enrolled across the state between July 2018 and April 2021.

**Activity 4:** Continue operation and enrollment of Community Services and Supports program housing services through county-level plans through Mental Health Services Act resources.



DHCS finalized county data submission standards related to housing status so they can more accurately determine the number of individuals enrolled in a Full Service Partnership (FSP). FSPs provide wrap-around services to clients, including housing services such as rent subsidies, housing vouchers, house payments, and transitional and temporary housing.

DHCS initiated technical assistance to counties to improve data collection and to ensure timely submission of data, which they continue to collect. In FY 21-22, DHCS will review and analyze data submissions from counties to determine the number of individuals enrolled in an FSP, the type of housing provided, employment or educational status, legal, and other demographic information.

## ACTION AREA 3

# Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing



This action area includes activities focused on expanding the supply of safe, housing-placement focused sheltering and interim housing models and addressing health and services needs of people staying within such programs.

► **Objective 9:** Partner with communities to implement innovative approaches and expand the supply of safe, housing-placement focused sheltering and interim housing models for Californians experiencing homelessness.

**Activity 1:** Rapidly mobilize Homekey resources to support acquisition of sites by local partners, including sites planned for use as interim housing on a temporary or ongoing basis.



Homekey has facilitated the acquisition of sites for interim housing by local partners. As of April 2021, Homekey had supported 18 interim housing projects with a total of 1,049 units. A [2021 legislative report on Homekey outcomes](#) is available on HCD's website.

**Activity 2:** Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding that support the provision of safe, effective housing-placement focused sheltering and interim housing models for people experiencing homelessness, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of shelter or interim housing opportunities to be supported through each program.



A number of state departments implemented funding to support housing-placement focused sheltering and interim housing models in FY 20-21. Some examples are below. Initial performance measures for this activity are to be determined by the State Funding and Programs Working Group, which held its first meeting in October 2021.

HCD utilized a mix of funding resources, including the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs, to serve people experiencing homelessness in overnight shelters. They also implemented Community Development Block Grant - CARES Act, which provided funding to California communities for eligible uses including shelter and interim housing.

- HCD establishes 5-year goals/targets and reports accomplishments annually to HUD. In FY 20-21, HCD expected to assist 4,800 individuals access overnight shelters, but ended up assisting 13,776 due to the impacts of COVID-19. A draft report on these outcomes is available in [HCD's FY 20-21 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report](#).
- Additionally, HCD awarded \$8 million to 48 counties through their FY 20-21 Transitional Housing Program as well as \$5 million to 46 counties through their FY 20-21 Housing Navigators Program.

CDSS funds a number of housing programs that are designed to support program participants through their quick and safe transition to permanent housing, which may include emergency shelter through



hotel/motel vouchers, non-congregate shelter via Project Roomkey and interim housing options.

- Between Project Roomkey's inception in March 2020 and August 2021, 50 counties and two Tribes participated in the program, securing 16,000 rooms that have served over 42,000 individuals. CDSS has provided support to local communities to help them utilize these funds effectively through ongoing and varied technical assistance. Occupancy data is updated weekly on the [COVID-19 Homeless Impact Dashboard](#).
- CDSS operates [Home Safe](#), which provides housing-related assistance to individuals in Adult Protective Services. The program provides a bridge between a client's previous housing situation and safe, affordable, permanent housing. From program inception in July 2018 to June 2021, over 2,500 people have received assistance through the program, including over 2,100 instances of temporary housing being provided to clients and more than 1,200 rental payments made.
- The CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch works closely with the CDSS Transitional Youth Policy Unit in the Children and Family Services Division to ensure the Transitional Housing Programs for current and former foster youth are connected to housing services for which they are eligible. Programs include Transitional Housing Placement Program, Transitional Housing Placement-Plus-Foster Care, Transitional Housing Program-Plus, and Transitional Housing-Plus Housing Models.
- [CalWORKs Homeless Assistance](#) can help families in the CalWORKs program pay the costs of temporary shelter, pay a security deposit for permanent housing, or pay to prevent eviction. In FY 20-21, more than 30,000 families were approved to receive temporary HA benefits, which help pay for the cost of temporary shelter.

HCFC's HHAP grant helped fund new navigation centers and emergency shelters. These shelters were required to show a demonstrated need including a "plan to connect residents to permanent housing" per Health and Safety Code Section 50220.5 (d)—strengthening the focus on housing placements from shelter and interim housing. More detailed program data for FY 20-21 will be available in HCFC's next annual funding report.

Cal OES manages six grants that support sheltering and interim housing models. These grants are for victims of crime and may help support people experiencing homelessness. Under the Homeless Youth Exploitation Program, 2,027 individuals received emergency shelter, safe haven, or transitional housing services in FY 20-21; under the Specialized Emergency Housing Program, that number was 19,493; under the Transitional Housing Program, 229,528; and under the Domestic Violence Housing First Program, 64,391.

Two additional Cal OES programs, the Homeless Youth and Emergency Services and Housing Program, and Homeless Youth Emergency Services Pilot Program, provided shelter and housing assistance to a total of 18,141 individuals in calendar year 2020. Grants are described in more depth on the [Cal OES website](#).

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), in partnership with HCD, released a NOFA for the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Program with funding available for transitional housing for veterans, among other housing types.

**Activity 3:** Provide guidance and supports to sustain and strengthen the implementation of Project Roomkey non-congregate sheltering sites to address the health and safety needs of people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic, and identify and share lessons learned.



Starting in March 2020, CDSS has provided guidance and support to local communities to stand up and sustain Project Roomkey. In addition to funding, CDSS—in partnership with the California Department of Public Health, BCSH, and HCD—has provided ongoing guidance, training materials, and technical assistance to support local communities' continued Project Roomkey operations. Among other activities, this support has included:

- Monthly office hours with approximately 75-100 attendees.
- Daily updates and program announcements for a variety of audiences.
- Ongoing individual and intensive technical assistance to grantees regarding program operations.
- Daily collection, review and compilation of regular data reports from communities.
- 8-10 times per month, connect Project Roomkey grantees with Cal OES partners to support FEMA reimbursement process.

Occupancy data is updated weekly on the [COVID-19 Homeless Impact Dashboard](#).

**Activity 4:** Provide and promote guidance and technical assistance regarding modifications of land use, zoning, and other requirements for emergency shelters, navigation centers, and interim housing programs.



HCD holds monthly office hours and co-hosted webinars with local governments, totaling over 50 sessions in FY 20-21, as well as various workshops and webinars on planning grants, TA, and housing elements 2-3 times monthly. HCD's TA Program webinar series with the Institute for Local Government, which has held six sessions since April 2020, regularly includes 200-300 local elected officials. HCD also provides guidance and technical assistance through its [Housing Planning HUB](#) and TA specific to housing element requirements for people experiencing homelessness through the [People Experiencing Homelessness webpage](#).

## ACTION AREA 3

**Activity 5:** Implement the Returning Home Well initiative, in partnership with philanthropic organizations and local partners, to expand residential treatment and interim housing options, including recovery housing models and quarantine options during the pandemic, for people transitioning from corrections settings.



CDCR's RHW initiative increased the available capacity to provide temporary housing assistance to those exiting state prisons by 1,000 slots. Within these slots, stakeholders were able to dedicate specific capacity to formerly incarcerated individuals who needed isolation and quarantine services to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

**Activity 6:** Provide technical assistance and guidance that will support the continued application of Housing First practices, including lowered barriers and housing-focused services and supports, within sheltering and interim housing programs.



Housing First requirements are explained in the NOFA and guidance for all [HCFC-administered grants](#). In FY 20-21, HCFC conducted webinars, hosted calls with community partners, and provided written guidance related to applying housing first practices to low-barrier shelters and other homelessness programs.

► **Objective 10:** Expand alignment and engagement of State resources, including Medi-Cal and behavioral health care resources, in efforts to address health disparities and services needs among Californians temporarily staying within sheltering and interim housing options.

**Activity 2:** Continued operation and enrollment of Whole Person Care pilots and Health Homes Program in 2021 to continue to strengthen access to health and behavioral health services for people who are staying in shelter and interim housing sites. Enrolled Health Home and Whole Person Care members will be transitioned to Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services care coordination and housing services, including incentive funding, in 2022.



DHCS amended Whole Person Care (WPC) pilot contracts to allow for continuation of activities through December 31, 2021. All 23 WPC pilot contracts were extended, and 22 have been fully executed. WPC pilots continue to provide health and behavioral health services via this contract extension.

WPC and Health Homes Program (HHP) Medi-Cal member enrollment, care coordination, and housing support services will continue to be provided through 2021. Beginning January 1, 2022, services will be available through Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services.

DHCS continues to track enrollment and utilization of WPC by individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness for each WPC pilot. Quarterly data for 2021 will be available in April 2022.

DHCS continues monitoring the enrollment of Medi-Cal managed care plan members who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness into HHP. DHCS published [updated data](#) on HHP enrollment figures in June 2021, which showed that 42,683 members had enrolled across the state between July 2018 and April 2021.

## ACTION AREA 4

# Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities



This action area includes activities focused on strengthening Housing First approaches and expanding permanent housing opportunities through development strategies, short- and long-term rental assistance, and other rehousing activities.

► **Objective 11:** Mobilize State resources, technical assistance, and guidance to strengthen implementation of Housing First approaches and other best practices in support of equitably and urgently rehousing people from Project Roomkey sites, from other temporary settings, and from unsheltered homelessness.

**Activity 1:** Implement Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy funding and technical assistance to support the rehousing of people staying within Project Roomkey sites into permanent housing opportunities.



Funding provided as part of the Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy (\$59 million in November 2020, \$142.5 million in July 2021) is eligible and encouraged to be used for rehousing Project Roomkey participants.

CDSS has provided technical assistance to 52 communities that have participated in Project Roomkey. In December 2020, CDSS contracted with a TA provider to begin offering additional assistance through individual targeted rehousing support and various peer learning and training opportunities. These have included:

- Individualized technical assistance with 12 communities (who may continue to request individualized TA on an ongoing basis).
- A bi-weekly learning community between April and June 2021, specifically for the 12 communities receiving individualized TA.
- Approximately eight weeks of weekly FEMA office hours tailored to Project Roomkey operators seeking FEMA reimbursement, available to all 52 communities.
- A 10-week Landlord Engagement webinar series available to all Project Roomkey grantees.

**Activity 2:** Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that support the rehousing of people experiencing homelessness into a diverse range of housing models, including models appropriate for youth and young adults, with identification of clear rehousing goals and targets for the implementation of each program.



A number of state departments implemented funding to support rehousing in FY 20-21. Some examples are below. Initial performance measures for this activity are to be determined by the State Funding and Programs Working Group, which held its first meeting in October 2021.

CDSS provides funding, program development, and technical assistance for multiple statewide housing programs that provide rehousing services. These programs assist children, families, and individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

- [CalWORKs Housing Support Program](#) (HSP) assists families in the CalWORKs program secure and maintain permanent housing as quickly as possible without preconditions. HSP offers interventions such as rapid rehousing and housing-related

wrap-around supportive services. Since program inception in 2014, through June 2020, HSP grantees have assisted more than 22,900 families secure permanent housing.

- [BFH program](#) reduces the number of families in the child welfare system experiencing or at risk of homelessness, among other goals. It does this, in part, through offering rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing depending on the family's level of need.
- [HDAP](#) provides housing support, among other services, to individuals who are disabled or likely disabled and who are experiencing homelessness. HDAP can connect participants to rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing. HDAP grantees have integrated this funding into the Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy to support those most vulnerable during the COVID response.
- [Home Safe](#) provides housing-related assistance to individuals in Adult Protective Services. The program provides a bridge between a client's previous housing situation and safe, affordable, permanent housing. As of June 2021, over 2,500 people have received assistance through the program, including over 2,100 instances of temporary housing being provided to clients and more than 1,200 rental payments made.

HCFC continued the implementation of 54 grants through the [HEAP](#) and 102 grants through [HHAP-1](#), which include support for rapid rehousing. Additionally, they solicited and processed applications for the second round of HHAP-2, awarding 100 grants and soliciting goals tailored to specific local housing needs and conditions. More detailed program data for FY 20-21 will be available in HCFC's next annual funding report.

In FY 20-21, HCD assisted 2,209 individuals through the ESG rapid rehousing activities. Their original goal for this program was 300 individuals assisted, but they saw a large increase due to COVID-19-related waiver of the program's typical fair market rent requirements.

Cal OES operates six grant programs that offer a diverse range of housing models such as emergency/medium-/long-term shelter, rental assistance, hotel vouchers, and long-term housing. Three of these grants are exclusively for youth. In FY 20-21, Cal OES-managed grants funded at least 40,605 instances of housing relocation assistance services. Cal OES recently released a request for proposals to extend the Homeless Youth and Emergency Services and Housing grant for an additional four to five years.

## ACTION AREA 4

**Activity 4:** Provide technical assistance, guidance, and training opportunities to strengthen the implementation of Housing First practices and the achievement of rehousing outcomes in the implementation of State and Federal resources.



HCFC has provided Housing First tools from Federal resources on the HCFC [Resources](#) page. HCFC has not yet provided technical assistance or training on the implementation of Housing First practices, but plans to in an ongoing manner throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23.

HCFC will conduct a webinar and peer-sharing virtual event on Housing First and best practices in Q2 of FY 21-22.

**Activity 5:** Assess and revise the current Housing First Checklist for State agencies, confirm alignment with Housing First requirements of relevant State programs, and provide guidance, training, and support to State departments who need to modify programs and policies to achieve alignment.



HCFC created a Housing First checklist and completed one round of Housing First assessments prior to FY 20-21.

HCFC is in the process of revising the Housing First checklist, which will be digital with enhanced user-friendly options. This checklist will be used in a new round of Housing First assessments, which will include any new programs related to housing and homeless funded by the state.

► **Objective 12:** Foster the creation of an expanded supply of affordable and supportive housing opportunities, paired with appropriate health and behavioral health care resources, and accessible and culturally responsive to people exiting homelessness, to people at lowest income levels, and to people from historically marginalized communities.

**Activity 1:** Implement Homekey program to support rapid financing and development of permanent housing units.



Homekey has facilitated the acquisition of sites for permanent housing by local partners. As of April 2021, Homekey had supported 103 housing projects to create 4,862 permanent housing units across the state. A [2021 legislative report on Homekey outcomes](#) is available on HCD's website.

**Activity 2:** Implement a wide array of other State and Federal funding programs that support expansion of affordable and supportive housing opportunities, with identification of clear unit production goals and targets for the implementation of each program.



A number of state departments implemented funding to support the expansion of affordable and supportive housing opportunities in FY 20-21. Some examples are below. Initial performance measures for this activity are to be determined by the State Funding and Programs Working Group, which held its first meeting in October 2021.

CalVet, in partnership with HCD, continued to implement the VHHP Program, with the purpose of building affordable, supportive, or transitional housing for veterans. Round 5 awards made in June 2020 to 16 projects, totaling over \$83 million for 421 units.

The Housing for a Healthy California (HHC) program, administered in part by HCD, creates supportive housing for individuals who are recipients of or eligible for health care provided through the Medi-Cal program. In June 2020, National Housing Trust Funds via HHC awarded \$39 million to expand affordable housing opportunities. This includes 406 affordable units, of which at least 158 were permanent supportive housing opportunities.

HCD administers the [No Place Like Home Program](#) (NPLH), which supports the development of permanent supportive housing for persons who are in need of mental health services and are experiencing homelessness, chronic homelessness, or who are at risk of chronic homelessness. In FY 20-21, 75 NPLH projects were under construction and five were completed. Of those completed, 152 move-ins were completed or impending. Additionally, NPLH Round 3 awards were made for 39 projects totaling nearly \$227 million.

Cal OES administers the Homeless Youth and Emergency Services and Housing grant, which provides a range of housing options, including supportive housing, to homeless youth ages 12-24. This grant was originally only awarded to four counties but is currently expanding to 12 counties.

The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) provides priority for projects serving people experiencing homelessness in both the federal 9% and 4% low-income housing tax credit applications. According to their [annual report](#), in 2020 CTCAC awarded \$210.2 million in 9% credits to 103 proposed housing projects, totaling 6,884 affordable rental units. They awarded \$301.7 million in 4% credits to 181 projects, totaling 16,908 units.

CDSS funded housing programs help connect families and individuals to the right housing intervention and provide flexible funding for rental and utility assistance, security deposits, move-in costs, habitability, legal services, and more. Some examples of how CDSS programs help expand affordable and supportive housing opportunities, include:

- Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy supports costs related to housing navigation, move-in costs, and time-limited rental subsidies to support exits to permanent housing. Approximately 20% of Project Roomkey participants have exited to permanent housing statewide.
- The BFH Program has increased utilization of the federally funded Family Unification Program. Since program inception in 2017, more than 1,200 families have been permanently housed through BFH.
- Local operators of HDAP have linked individuals to permanent supportive housing and affordable housing vouchers. Since HDAP's inception in FY 17-18, over 1,900 people have been permanently housed.

- In FY 20-21, the [CalWORKs Homeless Assistance](#) program approved more than 1,600 families to receive permanent HA benefits, which help pay for the cost of permanent housing or to prevent eviction.

The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) operates the [Special Needs Housing Program](#), helping finance the development of permanent supportive housing units for individuals with serious mental illness and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In FY 20-21, CalHFA closed \$25.9 million in Special Needs Housing Program loans, which financed projects totaling 796 units.

HCFC continued implementation of HEAP and HHAP-1, which include support for affordable and supportive housing as eligible uses. HCFC also solicited and processed applications for HHAP-2. Approximately \$33.3 million (12%) of these grant funds were budgeted in the Delivery of Permanent Housing category, with an additional \$80.1 million (28%) budgeted for operating subsidies to support navigation centers, emergency shelters, and affordable and supportive housing. More detailed program data for FY 20-21 will be available in HCFC's next annual funding report.

**Activity 3:** Identify and implement efforts to better align policies and practices across State housing agencies and programs, while retaining significant focus on extremely low-income households and housing for people exiting homelessness.



Efforts between BCSH and housing-related entities are ongoing to ensure that programs are better able to prioritize financing for low-income households and housing for people exiting homelessness.

**Activity 4:** Accelerate selection of developers to create affordable and supportive housing on State-owned land.



HCD released six new excess state sites (goal of eight to ten for FY 20-21) through developer solicitation and selected developers for eight sites (goal of six) released through 2020 solicitations. Additionally, HCD released one request for proposals (goal of five) between January and August 2021. Data publicly available on HCD's [Public Lands for Affordable Housing Development webpage](#).



## ACTION AREA 4

► **Objective 13:** Improve access to short- and longer-term forms of rental assistance to encourage innovations, to support racially equitable and successful exits from homelessness, and to support housing development activities.

**Activity 1:** Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that support provision of various forms of rental assistance, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of households to receive rental assistance through each program.



A number of state departments implemented funding to support various forms of rental assistance in FY 20-21. Some examples are below. Initial performance measures for this activity are to be determined by the State Funding and Programs Working Group, which held its first meeting in October 2021.

Cal OES manages five programs that have rental assistance as an eligible housing option: Transitional Housing, Specialized Emergency Housing, Domestic Violence Housing First, Homeless Youth and Exploitation, and Homeless Youth and Emergency Services and Housing.

CalHFA implements the federal Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program to support innovative state approaches to providing supportive housing for people with disabilities. Between Rounds I and II of Project Rental Assistance Program, CalHFA was awarded \$24.1 million in rental assistance for to fund the first five years of a 20-year rental assistance contract. A total of 312 units are receiving rental assistance and another 153 have encumbered funding for rental assistance.

CDSS encourages program grantees to provide housing related financial assistance in the form of move-in costs, utility and security deposits, rental subsidies in permanent housing once housing is located; other housing-related costs associated with supportive housing placements for those with the highest needs; and other forms of financial assistance related to housing stabilization. Additionally, flexible, short-, and long-term rental subsidies are a core component of all CDSS-funded housing programs.

HCFC continued implementation of HEAP and HHAP-1, which include support for rental assistance as eligible uses. Per the most recent [HCFC Annual Funding Report](#), as of September 2020 HEAP grantees had expended approximately \$32 million (11% of total HEAP funds) on rental assistance, and HHAP-1 grantees had obligated approximately \$46 million (14% of total HHAP-1 funds) for rental assistance. HCFC also solicited and processed applications for HHAP-2, during which time approximately \$20.8 million (7%) of grant funds were budgeted for rental assistance. More detailed program data for FY 20-21 will be available in HCFC's next annual funding report.

**Activity 3:** Prioritize increased rental assistance resources within State's federal advocacy.



BCSH launched the [Housing is Key](#) campaign website, which includes resources for tenants, landlords, local governments, and tribes on federal rent relief funds. Available federal rental assistance resources are documented through web pages and an easily accessible [facts sheet](#) describing tenant protections and available assistance.

## ACTION AREA 5

# Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness



This action area includes activities focused on reducing entries into homelessness as people exit and/or receive services through State-funded programs and systems and enhancing communities' capacity to provide targeted homelessness prevention and diversion services and assistance.

► **Objective 14:** Reduce entries into homelessness as people exit and/or receive services from State-funded settings and systems, addressing racial inequities within risks of experiencing homelessness, with initial focus on people re-entering communities from jails and prisons, young adults connected to the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems, and people exiting health care settings and programs.

**Activity 1:** Implement the Housing for a Healthy California program for individuals who are recipients of or eligible for health care provided through the Medi-Cal program, providing tenant-based rental assistance with supportive services or capitalized operating reserve to existing rental projects.



The HHC program creates supportive housing for individuals who are recipients of or eligible for health care provided through the Medi-Cal program. In FY 20-21, HCD issued Standard Agreements to six counties for a total of \$60.1 million.

HCD awarded funding to 11 projects to help pay down the construction financing. The first completed projects will begin converting next year and will utilize referrals from local CoCs to fill tenant vacancies.

In the next 36 months, these 11 projects will be completed and add 688 affordable units throughout the state, 276 of which will serve tenants who are experiencing chronic homelessness and/or have high healthcare utilization.

**Activity 5:** Implement the Returning Home Well initiative, in partnership with philanthropic organizations and local partners, to prevent experiences of homelessness for people transitioning from corrections settings by expanding residential treatment and interim housing options, including recovery housing models and quarantine options during the pandemic, and by addressing transportation needs to facilitate access to such options.



The RHW initiative has established a partnership with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition to provide transportation to individuals released from state prisons.

## ACTION AREA 5

**Activity 7:** Assess recommendations from the Council of State Governments' *Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prisons and Jails* report and identify priorities for actions to be taken in FYs 21-22 and 22-23.



The Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH)'s full Council meeting in July 2021 focused on available funding to support the expansion of existing or new housing projects with a panel of cross-departmental subject matter experts.

CCJBH and the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center held a [virtual project launch](#) of CSG's [recommendations](#). At the event, CCJBH and CSG shared the report findings and recommendations, subject matter experts who contributed to the report offered their perspectives, and individuals with lived experience shared their stories to illuminate the urgent need for more housing capacity.

CCJBH and CSG are also exploring opportunities to offer a series of webinars to help local agencies and providers collaborate and better serve people with behavioral health needs, with a focus on increasing opportunities for housing and community-based treatment.

► **Objective 15:** Enhance communities' capacity to provide targeted homelessness prevention interventions and to successfully divert people from entering shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

**Activity 2:** Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that support provision of various forms of diversion and prevention services, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of households to receive diversion and prevention services through each program.



A number of state departments implemented funding to support diversion and prevention services in FY 20-21. Some examples are below. Initial performance measures for this activity are to be determined by the State Funding and Programs Working Group, which held its first meeting in October 2021.

BCSH implemented California's [COVID-19 Rent Relief Program](#) that helps income-eligible households who have been impacted by COVID-19 cover the cost of rent and utilities. As of October 19, 2021, the state program had received over 433,000 household applications requesting approximately \$4.5 billion in assistance, according to BCSH's [online program dashboard](#). To date, the state program has paid or approved for payment approximately \$1.7 billion in assistance. Of that total, over \$897 million has been expended, assisting more than 75,000 California households.

- For the week of October 11, assistance expended hit a weekly record of nearly \$100 million in expenditures, assisting over 8,000 households. Of the households assisted, approximately 84% are at 50% AMI and below and nearly 60% are at 30% AMI and below.

CalHFA implements the National Mortgage Settlement Housing Counseling Program, which allows California residents who are in danger of eviction or foreclosure to receive free counseling services. In FY 20-21, the program had 73 active Housing Counseling Agencies, served over 11,000 households, and distributed approximately \$21.1 million in funds (see the most recent [Quarterly Report](#)).

HCD operates the [California Emergency Solutions and Housing](#) program, which explicitly includes prevention and diversion as an eligible activity. In FY 19-20, the program provided rental assistance, housing relocation or stabilization services to 5,057 individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

CDSS operates the Home Safe Program, which provides a wide range of diversion and prevention services to older adults and Adult Protective Services clients. During FY 20-21, around two-thirds or about 1,300 of Home Safe participants were housed, but at risk of becoming homeless, at program intake and received prevention services. Additionally, the CalWORKs Permanent Housing Assistance provided up to 1,680 families with services for retaining housing.

HCFC continued implementation of HEAP and HHAP-1, which both include support for various forms of diversion and prevention services as eligible uses. Per the most recent [HCFC Annual Funding Report](#), as of September 2020 HHAP-1 grantees had obligated approximately \$19 million (6% of total HHAP-1 funds) for prevention and diversion. HCFC also solicited and processed applications for HHAP-2, during which time approximately \$20.5 million (7%) of grant funds were budgeted for prevention and diversion services. More detailed program data for FY 20-21 will be available in HCFC's next annual funding report.

**Activity 3:** Continue implementation of the Housing is Key campaign, providing materials and resources to help Californians stay in their homes or understand their housing options during COVID-19 and beyond.



In September 2020, BCSH launched [HousingisKey.com](#), which provides online resources to help Californians stay in their homes or understand housing options during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. BCSH uses this website contains information about tenant and homeowner protections, an [application portal](#) for the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program, and more resources for tenants, landlords, and homeowners across the state.

The COVID-19 Rent Relief program and messaging focus on assistance to the lowest-income Californians who may be at greater risk to become homeless from pandemic-related hardships. According to the [CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Program Dashboard](#), as of October 19, 2021, COVID-19 Rent Relief program provided over \$897 million in total assistance to more than 75,000 California households. Of the households assisted, approximately 84% are at 50% AMI and below and nearly 60% are at 30% AMI and below.

## ACTION AREA 5

**Activity 4:** Provide guidance to support schools to develop community collaborations and stronger referral systems with public, private, and faith-based partners that can help address housing instability and homelessness, and other service needs, among students and their families.



CDE's HEP staff hosted a [Zoom webinar](#) in May 2021, related to collaboration and coordination to support youth experiencing homelessness. SchoolHouse Connection, an organization focused on early care and education of children and youth experiencing homelessness, was also part of the presentation.

CDE published a [Request for Applications](#) for funding through the Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center. This funding will help improve identification, education stability, access, support, and academic achievement of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The application also included a requirement that COEs to have an established working relationship with one or more community-based organizations that are well positioned to identify and connect children and youth experiencing homeless to educational related support and wraparound services.

Additionally, in their webinars, CDE staff continue to stress the importance of braiding together multiple funding sources to serve youth experiencing homelessness.

**Activity 5:** Identify strategies to serve older adults and people with disabilities at risk of experiencing homelessness, including meeting the need for in home supports and access to licensed adult and senior care facilities.



The [Master Plan on Aging](#) sets forth the goals to expand homelessness programs that serve older adults. CDSS programs have served older adults and people with disabilities through housing models that allow them to age in place and in supportive and inclusive communities. Such CDSS programs that advance the goals of the Master Plan on Aging include:

- The HDAP and Home Safe Program support the safety and housing stability of individuals involved in Adult Protective Services, including the less-abled elderly. Housing modifications are an eligible Home Safe expenditure.

Home Safe also identifies and provides services and non-medical supports needed for housing stabilization, including mental health assistance and enhanced case management.

# Fiscal Year 21-22 Priorities

The activities listed below are a sample of the work that is prioritized to be completed in FY 21-22. Activity reference numbers are provided along with their descriptions from the Action Plan. While many of the activities from FY 20-21 will continue into this year, new programs and priorities are also being added. From expanding significant funding opportunities, to launching interagency working groups, to building out a more comprehensive statewide database, the state is poised to make significant progress in the year ahead toward its goal to prevent and end homelessness in California.

## ACTION AREA 1

### Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California



During FY 21-22, state agencies and departments will be placing an increased focus on a variety of activities within Action Area 1, including:

- 1.1.1 Provide and coordinate technical assistance focused on racial equity to support equitable access and outcomes within State-funded programs, and to strengthen coordinated entry systems, prioritization policies, and targeting strategies to address disparities in access to services and resources.
- 1.1.4 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities, and adapt program guidelines and guidance, to enhance Tribal Organizations' access to state homelessness and housing programs and resources.
- 1.2.1 Implement a Lived Experience Advisory Board to inform the considerations and decisions of the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council and member departments.
- 1.6.3 Prepare public-facing materials and articles based upon data and information drawn from the Homeless Data Integration System warehouse, to educate the public on challenges, activities, and implementation of programs and resources.

## ACTION AREA 2

### Equitably Addressing the Health, Safety, and Services Needs of Californians Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness



During FY 21-22, state agencies and departments will be placing an increased focus on a variety of activities within Action Area 2, including:

- 2.7.1. Create, disseminate, and support implementation of clear and effective policies and procedures for addressing the needs of people currently staying in encampments, including on State-owned land.
- 2.8.1 Utilize new Homeless Data Integration System to begin Phase 2 of the system, featuring data-matching to other statewide data systems, with the intent to analyze the participation and access to benefits and services of people who are unsheltered within key State programs.

- 2.8.2 Implement CalAIM proposals seeking to extend statewide the service options available under Whole Person Care and Health Homes Program through the Enhanced Care Management program and In Lieu of Services, including incentive funding, to better address the health and behavioral health care needs of people who are unsheltered.

### ACTION AREA 3

#### **Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing**



During FY 21-22, state agencies and departments will be placing an increased focus on a variety of activities within Action Area 3, including:

- 3.9.1 Rapidly mobilize Homekey resources to support acquisition of sites by local partners, including sites planned for use as interim housing on a temporary or ongoing basis.
- 3.9.2 Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding that support the provision of safe, effective housing-placement focused sheltering and interim housing models for people experiencing homelessness, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of shelter or interim housing opportunities to be supported through each program.
- 3.9.3 Develop and advance CalAIM proposals seeking to extend statewide the service options available under Whole Person Care and Health Homes Program through the Enhanced Care Management program and In Lieu of Services care coordination and housing services, including incentive funding, to better address the health care needs of people who are staying in shelter and interim housing sites.

### ACTION AREA 4

#### **Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities**



During FY 21-22, state agencies and departments will be placing an increased focus on a variety of activities within Action Area 4, including:

- 4.11.1 Implement Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy funding and technical assistance to support the rehousing of people staying within Project Roomkey sites into permanent housing opportunities.
- 4.11.2. Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that support the rehousing of people experiencing homelessness into a diverse range of housing models, including models appropriate for youth and young adults, with identification of clear rehousing goals and targets for the implementation of each program.
- 4.11.5 Assess and revise the current Housing First Checklist for State agencies, confirm alignment with Housing First requirements of relevant State programs, and provide guidance, training, and support to State departments who need to modify programs and policies to achieve alignment.
- 4.12.1 Implement Homekey program to support rapid financing and development of permanent housing units.

- 4.12.2 Implement a wide array of other State and Federal funding programs that support expansion of affordable and supportive housing opportunities, with identification of clear unit production goals and targets for the implementation of each program.
- 4.13.1 Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that support provision of various forms of rental assistance, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of households to receive rental assistance through each program.

## ACTION AREA 5

### Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness

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During FY 21-22, state agencies and departments will be placing an increased focus on a variety of activities within Action Area 5, including:

- 5.14.3 Implement CalAIM to provide care coordination and housing services to people exiting corrections settings through Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services.
- 5.14.8 Utilize the Homeless Data Integration System to conduct analyses regarding people experiencing homelessness and their prior engagement with the homelessness response system to identify patterns of engagement and service utilization that can inform prevention and diversion strategies.
- 5.15.1 Implement the Emergency Rental Assistance resources administered through the U.S. Department of the Treasury to provide financial assistance to households facing rental arrears and risks of eviction and/or homelessness.
- 5.15.2 Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that support provision of various forms of diversion and prevention services, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of households to receive diversion and prevention services through each program.
- 5.15.3 Continue implementation of the Housing is Key campaign, providing materials and resources to help Californians stay in their homes or understand their housing options during COVID-19 and beyond.



# Conclusion and Acknowledgements

This past fiscal year presented both significant challenges as well as unprecedented opportunities in the effort to prevent and end homelessness in California. While this report is the most comprehensive collection of the state's efforts toward this goal in FY 20-21, we acknowledge that it does not capture the full scope of work that state departments put into these activities. However, the information presented does present the areas where Council departments have been successful in making progress across our five action areas that is purposeful, meaningful, and measurable.

The state's multi-pronged and multi-year strategies to prevent and end homelessness require huge structural investments—such as those made in the Project Roomkey, Homekey, COVID-19 Rent Relief, and HHAP programs, to name a few. Our shared commitment in the day-to-day work of coordination between local, state, and national organizations is required to make these investments impactful. Activities such as the technical assistance provided to local partners, the adjustment of funding guidelines to better serve historically marginalized communities, and partnerships between subject matter experts, help ensure the state can effectively serve all communities of people experiencing homelessness.

FY 21-22 will continue the state's progress on both of these fronts. From renewed investments in programs like Homekey and HHAP, to the formation of multiple working groups that bring together experts to implement more coordinated and effective programs and policies, the state is prepared to make significant strides toward preventing and ending homelessness in the fiscal year ahead.

HCFC appreciates the work that staff from all 13 reporting departments put into providing us with updates and information to include in this report. We hope this uplifts the important work we are all doing and puts us on a path toward even greater progress in the coming year.

## **Contributing Departments and Agencies within the State of California**

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

Housing Finance Agency

Office of Emergency Services

Department of Transportation

Department of Veterans Affairs

Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Department of Education

Department of Health Care Services

Department of Social Services

Department of Housing and Community Development

Tax Credit Allocation Committee

# Attachment A: Action Plan Objectives



## ACTION AREA 1

### Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California

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#### ▶ Objective 1

Strengthen racial equity-focused responses, strategies, and activities of State agencies and of local agencies and organizations receiving State funding for any homelessness services and housing activities.

#### ▶ Objective 2

Ensure that State and local planning and decision-making processes are deeply informed and guided by recommendations from people with lived expertise from experiences of homelessness.

#### ▶ Objective 3

Incentivize interjurisdictional and regional planning, decision-making, and accountability, and support capacity for such coordination through “mapping” and local gaps analysis activities focused on needs, demographics and inequities, and service delivery capacities.

#### ▶ Objective 4

Enhance partnerships between homelessness services systems and services and systems which can support asset building and wealth building, including improving access to educational opportunities and employment services and employment for people experiencing and exiting homelessness.

#### ▶ Objective 5

Support California communities to develop disaster preparedness plans that are more inclusive of the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

#### ▶ Objective 6

Expand State communications efforts to create public awareness of the State's homelessness strategies, successes, challenges, and the importance of Housing First approaches.



## ACTION AREA 2

### Equitably Addressing the Health, Safety, and Services Needs of Californians Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

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#### ▶ Objective 7

Continue to support California communities to implement multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional outreach and protective measures addressing the health and safety needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

#### ▶ Objective 8

Improve access, and address racial inequities within such access, to essential State-supported services appropriate for the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including through Medi-Cal and behavioral health care reforms.



## ACTION AREA 3

### Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing

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#### ▶ Objective 9

Partner with communities to implement innovative approaches and expand the supply of safe, housing-placement focused sheltering and interim housing models for Californians experiencing homelessness.

#### ▶ Objective 10

Expand alignment and engagement of State resources, including Medi-Cal and behavioral health care resources, in efforts to address health disparities and services needs among Californians temporarily staying within sheltering and interim housing options.



#### ACTION AREA 4

### Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities

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#### ► Objective 11

Mobilize State resources, technical assistance, and guidance to strengthen implementation of Housing First approaches and other best practices in support of equitably and urgently rehousing people from Project Roomkey sites, from other temporary settings, and from unsheltered homelessness.

#### ► Objective 12

Foster the creation of an expanded supply of affordable and supportive housing opportunities, paired with appropriate health and behavioral health care resources, and accessible and culturally responsive to people exiting homelessness, to people at lowest income levels, and to people from historically marginalized communities.

#### ► Objective 13

Improve access to short- and longer-term forms of rental assistance to encourage innovations, to

support racially equitable and successful exits from homelessness, and to support housing development activities.



#### ACTION AREA 5

### Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness

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#### ► Objective 14

Reduce entries into homelessness as people exit and/or receive services from State-funded settings and systems, addressing racial inequities within risks of experiencing homelessness, with initial focus on people re-entering communities from jails and prisons, young adults connected to the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems, and people exiting health care settings and programs.

#### ► Objective 15

Enhance communities' capacity to provide targeted homelessness prevention interventions and to successfully divert people from entering shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

# Attachment B: Fiscal Year 20-21 Activities

Activity Reference #	Activity Text	Lead Department	Collaborating Department(s)	Timeframes	Performance Measures
1.1.1	Provide and coordinate Technical Assistance (TA) focused on racial equity to support equitable access and outcomes within State-funded programs, and to strengthen coordinated entry systems, prioritization policies, and targeting strategies in order to address disparities in access to services and resources.	HCFC	HCD, DSS, and will also engage with SGC	TA initiated by Q4 of FY 20-21	Process Measure: Initiation of Technical Assistance in timely manner. Output Measure: Number of communities receiving formal technical assistance. Outcome Measures: Specific outcome measures will be developed and tracked for each TA engagement.
1.1.2	Incorporate a focus on racial equity data, analysis, and planned activities within applications for State homelessness and housing-focused funding (HHAP, ESG-CV, others), and analyze the data and information gathered in response.	HCFC, via State Funding and Programs Working Group	HCD, DSS, CalOES, DHCS, CDCR	Incorporated into funding applications beginning Q2 of FY 20-21. Analysis of initial data and information by Q1 of FY 21-22.	Process Measure: Annual documentation of homelessness and housing funding programs that have included focus on racial equity data, analysis, and planned activities. Process Measure: Timely analysis of data and information gathered, provided to relevant Working Groups to inform planned strategies and activities. Outcome Measure: Increase the number of State programs that are including a focus on racial equity data and strategies.
1.1.3	Provide guidance and education regarding requirements of AB 686: Housing discrimination: affirmatively further fair housing, and perform reviews of local governments' Housing Elements with a focus on addressing racial inequities and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.	HCD	DFEH, CalHFA	Revised technical guide to be issued by Q4 of FY 20-21	Output Measure: 47 Housing Elements to be reviewed during FY 20-21, 217 during FY 21-22, and 128 during FY 22-23. Output Measure: 80% of jurisdictions contacted and provided with technical guide.

1.1.4	Provide technical assistance and training opportunities, and adapt program guidelines and guidance, to enhance Tribal Organizations' access to State homelessness and housing programs and resources.	HCD, DSS	(HCFC, BCSH, CalHFA, CalOES, Caltrans, CalVet, CCC, CDCR, CDE, DHCS, DSS, HCD, TCAC)	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23. Adapt program guidelines and guidance in alignment with funding processes through FY 21-22.	Process Measure: Documentation of updated program guidelines and NOFAs to reflect tribal access. Output Measures: Number of tribal engagement and outreach efforts, and number of Tribal applications for funding. Outcome Measure: Number of Tribes receiving awards of State homelessness and housing program funding.
1.1.5	Utilize the newly developed Homeless Data Integration System to support both Statewide and local analyses of data, focused on documenting and understanding racial inequities in experiences of homelessness and provision of services, including the creation of a public dashboard documenting analyses.	HCFC	(HCFC, BCSH, CalHFA, CalOES, Caltrans, CalVet, CCC, CDCR, CDE, DHCS, DSS, HCD, TCAC)	Public Dashboard to be launched by Q3 of FY 20-21. Utilization of data ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23.	Process Measure: Timely implementation of HDIS, performance of analyses, and creation of dashboard. Process Measure: Documentation of how data regarding racial inequities are being used to inform State planning and activities.
1.1.6	Expand efforts to ensure that developments funded through the Multifamily Housing Program and other State funding sources are also being developed in high-resource communities.	HCD	CDLAC, TCAC	Review of recently adopted regulation changes at both CDLAC and TCAC for opportunities to align Multifamily Housing Program (MHP) guidelines and leverage valuable State resources completed by Q3 of FY-20-21. Draft guidelines to be issued in Q4 of FY 20-21.	Process Measure: Timely completion of guidelines.

1.1.7	Provide relevant training and skill-building opportunities, such as California's Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE) training, to State agency staff to enable staff to provide more expert advice and guidance to partners and communities.	HCFC	(HCFC, BCSH, CalHFA, CalOES, Caltrans, CalVet, CCC, CDCR, CDE, DHCS, DSS, HCD, TCAC) and will also engage with SGC	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Documentation of training activities across HCFC member agencies and departments. Outcome Measures: Determine if outcomes measuring the impact of training opportunities can be documented.
1.2.2	Proactively engage local boards and committees of people with lived experience and expertise to provide input on the development of the HCFC Action Plan.	HCFC	N/A	Input discussions held during Q2 and Q3 of FY 20-21	Process Measure: Documentation of input sessions held.
1.2.4	Incorporate questions regarding the involvement of people with lived experience and expertise into local planning and decision-making processes within applications for State homelessness and housing-focused funding (e.g., HHAP, ESG-CV, HSP) and analyze the information gathered in response.	HCFC, via State Funding and Programs Working Group	DSS, HCD, CalOES, DHCS, others TBD	Incorporated into funding applications beginning Q2 of FY 20-21. Analysis of initial data and information by Q1 of FY 21-22.	Output Measure: Annual documentation of homelessness and housing funding programs that have included focus on involvement of people with lived experience and expertise into local planning and decision-making processes. Process Measure: Timely analysis of data and information gathered in response and provided to relevant Working Groups to inform strategies and activities.
1.3.1	Support and strengthen expectation of joint CoC-County-City planning and coordination in awards and implementation of State homelessness funding.	HCFC, via State Funding and Programs Working Group	HCD, DSS, DHCS, Caltrans, others TBD	HCFC review HHAP Round 2 applications to ensure meaningful coordination, by Q4 of FY 20-21. Funding and Programs Working Group to report back on efforts to Council by Q2 FY 21-22.	Process Measure: Timely convening and reporting of Working Group with focus on this Activity. Process Measure: Documentation of guidance and support provided to local communities.

1.3.3	Utilize the Homeless Data Integration System to conduct analysis to support regional and cross-jurisdictional analyses, planning discussions, and decision-making.	HCFC	DSS, HCD	Public Dashboard to be launched by Q3 of FY 20-21. Utilization of data ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23.	Process Measure: Timely implementation of HDIS, performance of analyses, and creation of dashboard. Output Measure: Number of regions supported through provision of HDIS analyses.
1.3.4	Leverage HCD's role in reviewing and regulating Housing Elements, with HCFC's interagency scope, to deliver a new level of technical assistance on homelessness to cities and counties, and, in collaboration with other State departments, develop an interagency guide on actions city governments can take to address homelessness.	HCD	HCFC, CDSS, CalVet, DHCS, CDCR, CalOES	Review of Housing Elements ongoing throughout FYs 20-20-21, 21-22, and 22-23. Interagency guide to be developed during Q2 of FY 21-22.	Output Measure: 47 Housing Elements to be reviewed during FY 20-21, 217 during FY 21-22, and 128 during FY 22-23. Process Measure: Timely development and issuance of interagency guide.
1.3.5	Provide grants resources that support local and regional planning and initiatives through SB 2 Planning Grants, Local Early Action Planning Grants, and Regional Early Action Planning Grants.	HCD		Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Output Measure: Number of grants awarded by end of FY 22-23, with target of approximately 1,027 grants.
1.4.2	Provide technical assistance to enhance capacity of local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide services and supports for students experiencing homelessness and housing instability to foster educational achievement and progression.	CDE		Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Documenting TA offering provided. Output Measure: Number of LEAs participating in TA opportunities. Outcome Measure: Increased number of LEAs receiving TA.
1.4.3	Assess the impact of employment opportunities provided through Caltrans' Service Assistance Maintenance positions on hiring of people experiencing homelessness and access to promotional opportunities and career ladders.	Caltrans	HCFC, CalVet, and in coordination with CalHR	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Document processes implemented to recruit and hire people experiencing homelessness into positions. Output Measure: Number of people experiencing homelessness hired into positions.

1.4.4	Collaborate with LEAs, state level educational partners, youth organizations and across divisions within the CDE to identify needs of students experiencing homelessness related to distance learning and develop strategies, resources, and tools to address those needs.	CDE	HCFC	Materials and webinars developed and implemented throughout FY 20-21 and may extend into FY 21-22 depending upon needs	Process Measure: Documentation of materials developed and webinars implemented.
1.4.5	Communicate and disseminate guidance to county offices of education (COEs), LEAs, and partnering agencies to strengthen support for students experiencing homelessness.	CDE	HCFC	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Documentation of guidance materials created/provided.
1.4.6	Implement and evaluate the Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot (HHIP) Program, which provides housing services and support to homeless and housing insecure students.	CCC		Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23. Colleges submit HHIP reports to Chancellor's Office at least annually.	Process Measure: Documentation of data collection regarding student homeless and housing insecurity. Process Measure: Submission of an annual legislative report about the HHIP Program, including scalability recommendations. Output Measure: Number of homeless or housing insecure students that received services and supports. Outcome Measures: Decrease barriers to academic success.
1.4.7	Implement the Returning Home Well initiative in partnership with philanthropic organizations, addressing the employment needs of people transitioning from corrections settings, including through the provision of stipends to support people's participation in employment services and through the leveraging of local workforce services and partnerships.	CDCR	DSS, and in coordination with CWDB and DOR	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21 and 21-22, and activities expected to be sustained into future Fys	Outcome Measures: Being developed and reported upon in partnership with MDRC.



1.4.8	Monitor LEAs' implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.	CDE	HCFC	Implemented on an annual basis FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Monitoring of all LEAs via Consolidated Application and Reporting System and documentation of other monitoring processes with prioritized LEAs. Process Measure: Review and analysis of high school graduation rates.
1.4.9	Participate in California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance intersegmental workgroup with CSU and UC systems to advance basic needs security including addressing homelessness and housing insecurity for students to increase their success.	CCC	HCFC	Ongoing in alignment with the legislative cycle	Process Measure: Documentation of engagement with stakeholders to review regulations, policies, and practices. Output Measure: Guidance to basic needs programs in higher education including professional development; and recommendations for regulation, policy, and procedural change.
1.5.1	Produce and disseminate the Listos California Disaster Guide for People Experiencing Homelessness.	CalOES	BCSH, HCFC, DSS	Released in Q2 of FY 20-21	Process Measure: Documentation of dissemination strategies.
1.5.5	Incorporate focus on eligibility of people experiencing homelessness for FEMA-funded assistance into federal advocacy efforts.	HCFC	HCD, DSS, CalOES	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Document any efforts and outcomes by end of Q4 of FY 21-22 and by end of FY 22-23.
1.6.1	Continue implementation of the Housing is Key campaign, providing materials and resources to help Californians stay in their homes, understand their housing options during COVID-19 and beyond, and to educate the public regarding the causes of homelessness, effective solutions, and State strategies and programs.	BCSH	HCFC, HCD, DFEH	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Documentation of homelessness-focused messaging and efforts implemented through the Housing is Key campaign.

1.6.2	Provide homelessness-focused communications to local partners, including webinars, videos, tools, guidance, and other resources and materials, focused on Housing First implementation, strategic use of funding sources, and effective programs and practices.	HCFC	(HCFC, BCSH, CalHFA, CalOES, Caltrans, CalVet, CCC, CDCR, CDE, DHCS, DSS, HCD, TCAC)	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Output Measure: Annual compilation of communications activities implementation focused on these topics.
1.6.3	Prepare public-facing materials and articles based upon data and information drawn from the HDIS warehouse, to educate the public on challenges, activities, and implementation of programs and resources.	HCFC	HCD, DSS	Utilize ongoing reports and dashboards as source throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Output Measure: Annual compilation of public-facing materials developed focused on these topics.
1.6.4	Proactively analyze and develop educational materials that interpret and communicate key findings of national reports focused on homelessness and featuring California data, such as HUD's Point-in-Time (PIT) count data and reporting.	HCFC	HCD, DSS, DHCS	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Development of materials and dissemination plan; incorporate information into analysis and guidance. Output Measure: Annual compilation of educational materials developed focused on these topics.
2.7.2	Continue to support COVID-19 focused adaptations to Whole Person Care (WPC) programs and services to better address the needs of unsheltered people during the pandemic and beyond.	DHCS		Adaptations were retroactively approved starting January 1, 2020	Process Measure: COVID-19 Alternative Budget option for pilots to divert funds to WPC COVID-19 activities, including housing service expansions. Output Measure: Expand outreach and engagement, housing navigation, and shelter-in-place services to homeless and COVID-19 target population. Report number of individuals in the COVID-19 target population and utilization of COVID-19 related services (includes housing services).

2.7.3	Create, disseminate, and support implementation of resources related to vaccination efforts for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and outreach staff, including promoting eligible uses of State funding for such efforts.	HCFC	DSS, HCD, and also engaging with CDPH	Ongoing, beginning in Q3 of FY 20-21	Process Measure: Documentation of guidance materials, training activities.
2.7.4	Promote strong practices for identifying and engaging unsheltered young people into available services and supports.	HCFC, via Youth and Young Adults Working Group	HCFC, CalOES, DSS, HCD, CCC, CDE	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23. Youth and Young Adults Working Group to report back to Council by end of Q4 of FY 21-22.	Process Measure: Timely convening and reporting of Working Group with focus on this Activity.
2.7.6	Provide guidance and support for the utilization of State funding to effectively address the health and safety needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including guidance regarding State funds that can be used for basic needs and protective measures, e.g., showers, hygiene supplies, and sanitation services.	HCFC	HCD, DSS, DHCS	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Documentation of guidance materials, training activities.
2.7.7	Promote the eligible uses of State funding for employing specialized peer positions to better reach and engage people experiencing unsheltered homelessness into available services and supports.	HCFC	HCD, DSS, DHCS	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Documentation of guidance materials, training activities.

2.8.3	Continued operation of Whole Person Care (WPC) pilots and Health Homes Program (HHP) care coordination and housing services in 2021 to continue to strengthen access to health and behavioral health services for people who are unsheltered.	DHCS		HHP and WPC pilots continue to serve Medi-Cal members through December 2021. In January 2022, Medi-Cal members in WPC and HHP will transition to ECM and In Lieu of Services.	Process Measure: Amend DHCS WPC pilot contracts to extend another year to allow continuation of WPC housing activities. Output Measure: Continuation of tracking enrollment and utilization of WPC homeless/at-risk of homelessness beneficiaries. Outcome Measures: 1) Percentage of homeless individuals who are permanently housed longer than six (6) consecutive months' experience of permanently housed. 2) Percentage of homeless who received housing services after being referred for housing services. 3) Percentage of homeless who received supportive housing after being referred for supportive housing. Process Measure: DHCS continues monitoring access to HHP housing support services for HHP members who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Process Measure: HHP and WPC continue to enroll Medi-Cal members and provide care coordination and housing support services through 2021.
2.8.4	Continue operation and enrollment of Community Services and Supports program housing services through county-level plans through Mental Health Services Act resources.	DHCS	CalVet	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Finalize County data submission standards related to housing status – June 2021. Output Measure: Review and analyze County Full Service Partnership data to determine the number of individuals enrolled in an FSP that are housed.
3.9.1	Rapidly mobilize Homekey resources to support acquisition of sites by local partners, including sites planned for use as interim housing on a temporary or ongoing basis.	HCD	HCFC	Acquisitions using initial funding completed by Q2 of FY 20-21. Other timeframes TBD by Department.	Outcome Measure: Expand capacity of local communities to end homelessness through the creation of 1,300 additional interim housing beds.

3.9.2	Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding that support the provision of safe, effective housing-placement focused sheltering and interim housing models for people experiencing homelessness, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of shelter or interim housing opportunities to be supported through each program.	HCD, HCFC, DSS, CalOES, CalVet, depending on funding source	Caltrans	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23. Timing determined for each funding program. State Funding and Programs Working Group to determine timing for development of targets.	Process Measure: State Funding and Programs Working Group to determine timing for development of targets. Outcome Measures: In future, measure performance against targets.
3.9.3	Provide guidance and supports to sustain and strengthen the implementation of Project Roomkey non-congregate sheltering sites to address the health and safety needs of people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic, and identify and share lessons learned.	DSS	HCFC, DHCS, CDPH	Implemented Q3 of FY 19-20. Ongoing throughout FY 20-21.	Outcome Measure: Individuals served and occupancy data.
3.9.4	Provide and promote guidance and technical assistance regarding modifications of land use, zoning, and other requirements for emergency shelters, navigation centers, and interim housing programs.	HCD	HCFC	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Documentation of guidance and technical assistance activities. Outcome Measure: Approximately 68% of jurisdictions with commitments to amend zoning for emergency shelter parking requirements, low barrier navigation centers, and by right permanent supportive housing.
3.9.5	Implement the Returning Home Well initiative, in partnership with philanthropic organizations and local partners, to expand residential treatment and interim housing options, including recovery housing models and quarantine options during the pandemic, for people transitioning from corrections settings.	CDCR	DSS	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21 and 21-22, and activities expected to be sustained into future Fys	Outcome Measure: Increased community capacity to provide treatment and interim housing options to target population.

3.9.6	Provide technical assistance and guidance that will support the continued application of Housing First practices, including lowered barriers and housing-focused services and supports, within sheltering and interim housing programs.	HCFC	(HCFC, BCSH, CalHFA, CalOES, Caltrans, CalVet, CCC, CDCR, CDE, DHCS, DSS, HCD, TCAC)	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	<p>Process Measure: Documentation of guidance materials, training activities, and initiation of technical assistance in timely manner.</p> <p>Output Measure: Number of communities receiving formal technical assistance.</p> <p>Outcome Measures: Specific outcome measures will be developed and tracked for each formal TA engagement.</p>
3.10.2	Continued operation and enrollment of Whole Person Care (WPC) pilots and Health Homes Program (HHP) in 2021 to continue to strengthen access to health and behavioral health services for people who are staying in shelter and interim housing sites. Enrolled Health Home and Whole Person Care members will be transitioned to Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and In Lieu of Services (ILOS) care coordination and housing services, including incentive funding, in 2022.	DHCS		<p>HHP and WPC pilots continue to serve Medi-Cal members through December 2021.</p> <p>In January 2022, Medi-Cal members in WPC and HHP will transition to ECM and ILOS.</p>	<p>Process Measure: Amend DHCS WPC pilot contracts to extend another year to allow continuation of WPC housing activities.</p> <p>Output Measure: Continuation of tracking enrollment and utilization of WPC homeless/at-risk of homelessness beneficiaries.</p> <p>Outcome Measures: 1) Percentage of homeless individuals who are permanently housed longer than six (6) consecutive months' experience of permanently housed. 2) Percentage of homeless who received housing services after being referred for housing services. 3) Percentage of homeless who received supportive housing after being referred for supportive housing.</p> <p>Process Measure: DHCS continues monitoring access to HHP housing support services for HHP members who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Process Measure: HHP and WPC continue to enroll Medi-Cal members and provide care coordination and housing support services through 2021.</p>
4.11.1	Implement Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy funding and technical assistance to support the rehousing of people staying within Project Roomkey sites into permanent housing opportunities.	DSS	HCFC, HCD	Technical assistance launched Q3 of FY 20-21	<p>Process Measure: Documentation of technical assistance efforts related to rehousing out of Project Roomkey.</p>

4.11.2	Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that support the rehousing of people experiencing homelessness into a diverse range of housing models, including models appropriate for youth and young adults, with identification of clear rehousing goals and targets for the implementation of each program.	HCFC, DSS, HCD, CalOES, CDE, depending on funding source	Caltrans, CalVet	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23. Timing determined for each funding program. State Funding and Programs Working Group to determine timing for development of targets.	Process Measure: State Funding and Programs Working Group to determine timing for development of targets. Outcome Measures: In future, measure performance against targets.
4.11.4	Provide technical assistance, guidance, and training opportunities to strengthen the implementation of Housing First practices and the achievement of rehousing outcomes in the implementation of State and Federal resources.	HCFC	DSS, HCD	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Documentation of guidance materials, training activities. Output Measure: Number of communities receiving formal technical assistance. Outcome Measures: Specific outcome measures will be developed and tracked for each formal TA engagement.
4.11.5	Assess and revise the current Housing First Checklist for State agencies, confirm alignment with Housing First requirements of relevant State programs, and provide guidance, training, and support to State departments who need to modify programs and policies to achieve alignment.	HCFC	(HCFC, BCSH, CalHFA, CalOES, Caltrans, CalVet, CCC, CDCR, CDE, DHCS, DSS, HCD, TCAC)	One round completed prior to FY 20-21. Next round to commence by Q3 of FY 21-22.	Process Measure: Documentation of Housing First checklist and supporting documents provided to HCFC member agencies and departments. Outcome Measure: Document State departments/programs improving alignment with Housing First expectations.
4.12.1	Implement Homekey program to support rapid financing and development of permanent housing units.	HCD	HCFC, DSS	Acquisitions using initial funding completed by Q2 of FY 20-21. Other timeframes TBD by Department.	Outcome Measure: Expand capacity of local communities to end homelessness through the creation of 2,600 additional permanent supportive housing beds.

4.12.2	Implement a wide array of other State and Federal funding programs that support expansion of affordable and supportive housing opportunities, with identification of clear unit production goals and targets for the implementation of each program.	HCD, TCAC, HCFC, DSS, CalOES, CalVet, depending on funding source	Caltrans	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23. Timing determined for each funding program. State Funding and Programs Working Group to determine timing for development of targets.	Process Measure: State Funding and Programs Working Group to determine timing for development of targets. Outcome Measures: In future, measure performance against targets.
4.12.3	Identify and implement efforts to better align policies and practices across State housing agencies and programs, while retaining significant focus on extremely low-income households and housing for people exiting homelessness.	BCSH	CalHFA, TCAC, HCD, CDLAC	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Documentation of key policy and practice improvements and changes.
4.12.4	Accelerate selection of developers to create affordable and supportive housing on State-owned land.	HCD	In coordination with DGS	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Output Measures: During 2021, release 8-10 new excess State sites through developer solicitation, select developers for 6 sites released through 2020 solicitations, and 5 Requests for Proposals per calendar year.
4.13.1	Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that support provision of various forms of rental assistance, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of households to receive rental assistance through each program.	HCD, CalHFA, TCAC, HCFC, CalOES, DSS, depending on funding source		Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23. Timing determined for each funding program. State Funding and Programs Working Group to determine timing for development of targets.	Process Measure: State Funding and Programs Working Group determines timing for development of targets. Outcome Measures: In future, measure performance against targets.
4.13.3	Prioritize increased rental assistance resources within State's federal advocacy.	BCSH	CalHFA, HCD, DSS	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22	Process Measure: Documentation of new federal rental assistance resources that are directly aligned with State's advocacy efforts and priorities.



5.14.1	Implement the Housing for Healthy California (HHC) program for individuals who are recipients of or eligible for health care provided through the Medi-Cal program, providing tenant-based rental assistance with supportive services or capitalized operating reserve to existing rental projects.	HCD	DHCS	Direct assistance to tenants expected to begin by end of FY 20-21, continuing until funds are exhausted or end of FY 23-24. Capitalized operating reserve to be awarded to individual projects by end of FY 23-24. Commence collecting program data in June 2021 and analyzing program data June 2022.	Process Measure: Report summarizing program data submitted to legislature by January 2024. Output Measure: Number of people who are chronically homeless, or homeless and high healthcare cost users, served by the program. Outcome Measure: Reduction in emergency department visits and hospitalizations.
5.14.5	Implement the Returning Home Well initiative, in partnership with philanthropic organizations and local partners, to prevent experiences of homelessness for people transitioning from corrections settings by expanding residential treatment and interim housing options, including recovery housing models and quarantine options during the pandemic, and by addressing transportation needs to facilitate access to such options.	CDCR	DSS	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21 and 21-22, and activities expected to be sustained into future Fys	Outcome Measure: Increased community capacity to provide treatment and interim housing options to target population.
5.14.7	Assess recommendations from the Council of State Government's Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prisons and Jails report and identify priorities for actions to be taken in FYs 21-22 and 22-23.	CDCR, via Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health	HCFC, DSS, HCD, DHCS, and others	Prioritized actions to be identified during Q4 of FY 20-21, activities implemented throughout FYs 21-22 and 22-23. Provide update report to Council regarding activities	Process Measure: Prioritized actions identified and report to Council provided in timely manner. Additional measures to be developed based upon prioritized actions identified.

				to be implemented by Q2 of FY 21-22.	
5.15.2	Implement a wide array of State and Federal funding programs that support provision of various forms of diversion and prevention services, with identification of clear goals and targets for the number of households to receive diversion and prevention services through each program.	HCD, TCAC, HCFC, CalHFA, CalOES, DSS, depending on funding program		Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23. Timing determined for each funding program. State Funding and Programs Working Group to determine timing for development of targets.	Process Measure: State Funding and Programs Working Group determines timing for development of targets. Outcome Measures: In future, measure performance against targets.
5.15.3	Continue implementation of the Housing is Key campaign, providing materials and resources to help Californians stay in their homes or understand their housing options during COVID-19 and beyond.	BCSH	HCFC, HCD, DFEH	Ongoing throughout FYs 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23	Process Measure: Documentation of homelessness prevention-focused messaging and efforts implemented through the Housing is Key campaign.
5.15.4	Provide guidance to support schools to develop community collaborations and stronger referral systems with public, private, and faith-based partners that can help address housing instability and homelessness, and other service needs, among students and their families.	CDE	HCFC	Webinar to be offered Q4 of FY 20-21; TBD for future Fys	Process Measure: Documentation of guidance provided.

<p>5.15.5</p>	<p>Identify strategies to serve older adults and people with disabilities at risk of experiencing homelessness, including meeting the need for in home supports and access to licensed adult and senior care facilities.</p>	<p>DSS</p>	<p>HCFC, HCD, DHCS, CalVet, and in coordination with CDA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Outcome Measure: Advancement toward housing goals outlined in the Master Plan on Aging.</p>
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# Attachment C: Baseline Measures

## Methodology

In order to assess the impact of Federal, state, and local efforts to address homelessness, these five baseline measures include data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and System Performance Measures (SPM), as well as from the California Department of Education (CDE).

Measure 1 provides the number of Californians experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness at a point in time, including Veterans, people experiencing chronic homelessness, families with children, adults, and unaccompanied youth. This measure uses the HUD 2020 PIT count. The PIT counts are conducted by Continuums of Care (CoCs) during one night in January. The reported sheltered count consists of people in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens, while the reported unsheltered count includes those living on the street, in abandoned buildings, and in other in places not meant for human habitation.

Measure 2 provides the number of CoCs reporting increases and decreases in the number of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness from the 2019 PIT count to the 2020 PIT count. A threshold of 5% population change was implemented to demonstrate the count of CoCs who had notable changes in their population of people experiencing homelessness. CoCs are not required to report an unsheltered count in even numbered years, including for the 2020 PIT Count. Therefore, 21 of the 44 California CoCs reported no change for their unsheltered count from 2019 to 2020.

Measure 3 is the number of people spending time in emergency shelters and transitional housing, including safe havens in 2020. This number comes from the 2020 SPM total Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) count. HMIS is a local information technology system used by CoCs to collect client-level data and data on the provision of services. Although service providers that receive Federal funding and some state funding are required to participate in local HMIS, independent providers are not required to participate, which means this data likely does not capture all individuals experiencing homelessness in the state.

Measure 4 provides the number of people experiencing key events in the homelessness response system, including first-time homelessness, successfully exiting homelessness, and returns to homelessness. Counts for these key events were gathered from the 2020 SPM.

The first-time homelessness count includes people entering emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and permanent housing projects for the first time recorded in HMIS or for the first time in over 24 months. The count of successful exits includes people exiting to permanent destinations (such as permanent supportive housing, rental housing, etc.) from emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional housing, rapid-rehousing projects, and from street outreach. The count of people returning to homelessness includes people who return to seeking services after having exited to a permanent destination within the past 24 months.

Measure 5 is the number of children and youth experiencing homelessness at some point during the school year, including students in families and unaccompanied youth. This number is provided by CDE from 2019-2020 school year data. The total students experiencing homelessness consists of students in families, and unaccompanied youth, a subgroup of students experiencing homelessness.

Information for the comparison to national and regional data and trends section as well as the equity analysis came from HUD's PIT Count available on the [HUD Exchange](#) website as well as from the National Alliance to End Homelessness summary of that data, [State of Homelessness: 2021 Edition](#).

In future reports, HCFC plans to utilize HDIS to provide additional information on subgroups of people experiencing homelessness and the demographic disparities present across the key measures.

# Attachment D: Acronyms Used in this Report

AB	Assembly Bill
BCSH	California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
BFH	Bringing Families Home Program
CalAIM	California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal
CalHFA	California Housing Finance Agency
Cal OES	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CalVet	California Department of Veterans Affairs
CalWORKS	California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids
CCCCO	California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
CDBG-CV	Community Development Block Grant – CARES Act
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CDE	California Department of Education
CDSS	California Department of Social Services
CoC	Continuum of Care
COE	County Office of Education
CTCAC	California Tax Credit Allocation Committee
DHCS	California Department of Health Care Services
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grants Program
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FY	Fiscal Year
HCD	California Department of Housing and Community Development
HCFC	California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council
HDIS	Homeless Data Integration System
HEAP	Homeless Emergency Aid Program
HEP	Homeless Education Plan
HHAP	Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program
HHC	Housing for a Healthy California Program
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
LEA	Local Education Agency
Medi-Cal	California's Medicaid healthcare program
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability
PIT	Point-In-Time Count
RHW	Returning Home Well Initiative
SB	Senate Bill
TA	Technical Assistance
WPC	Whole Person Care



California  
Community  
Colleges



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



**Cal HFA**<sup>SM</sup>  
California Housing Finance Agency



**CAL VET**  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS