The California Interagency Council on Homelessness is seeking applications for four membership seats on the State Council’s Racial Equity Working Group

ANNOUNCEMENT

Summary
The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) is seeking applications for membership on the State Council’s Racial Equity Working Group (REWG).

The historic – and very current – causes of racial injustice and inequities in housing and homelessness, and the racially disparate impacts of housing instability and homelessness, are clear, stark, and even deadly. Cal ICH and State Council member agencies are committed to deepening their knowledge and understanding of these issues, and to taking action through the implementation of the Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California, which calls for a focus on racial justice and equity in housing and homelessness through the formation of the REWG.

Working Group Membership
The REWG will be composed of approximately 17 members, including up to 10 members representing State agencies and departments, and community members and partners with experience serving historically disenfranchised populations, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, other persons of color and/or persons with lived expertise of homelessness.

For this inaugural round of nominations to the REWG, Cal ICH is seeking to fill four vacant seats from community members in California or Tribal Nations.

The Committee intends to include representatives with a wide range of views, from State agencies and departments, anti-racist organizations, lived experience action boards and advocacy groups, Continuums of Care (CoCs) or organizations that collaborate closely with the CoCs, Tribal Nations and Tribal Housing Entities, homelessness service providers across all special populations, advocacy groups, community-based groups, as well as others focused on the advancement of equity priorities within the State of California.

Membership balance will not be static and may change, depending on the work of the Working Group. The REWG shall meet at such intervals as are necessary to carry out its duties. It is estimated that the REWG will meet up to 12 times per year (once a month), virtually or in person. Meeting cadence will be decided by the group based on need. As the REWG gets launched during its first few months, there may be additional meetings to attend a series of foundational racial equity trainings. Membership terms will be decided once the full REWG is established.

Members with lived experience of homelessness who are not receiving outside compensation for their time (e.g., through their employer), may be eligible for compensation for their meeting attendance and travel.

Members of the REWG may be required to adhere to a conflict-of-interest commitment.
Objectives and Priorities
The general purpose of the Racial Equity Working Group is to implement the priority of the State Council, as described in the Action Plan, of advancing racial equity and addressing acute disparities for communities of color who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent inequality in homelessness systems, funding, services, and strategies.

Initial Working Group priorities detailed in the Action Plan include, but are not limited to:

- Expanding the range of strategies and activities being implemented by State agencies;
- Analyzing data and reporting across State programs to assess equity in access, housing interventions, services, and outcomes for Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color;
- Refining procurement processes to ensure more equitable distribution of funds and reach into historically marginalized communities, including Tribal communities;
- Engaging with State agencies’ offices of equity and the Department of Fair Employment and Housing more fully;
- Providing guidance to support communities in not implementing inequitable policies and practices, including criminalization measures and enforcement activities; and
- Other strategies and activities to address inequities in homelessness and housing instability determined by the Working Group.

Application Process for Racial Equity Work Group
Community Members
The REWG seeks to collectively represent as many perspectives as possible. Minimum parameters for involvement in the REWG include the following criteria:

- The applicant must demonstrate and have a history of race equity-centered personal or professional experience, community leadership, or be engaged in housing and homelessness issues; or
- The applicant must have lived experiences related to housing and homelessness.

Our intention is to create a group with an intersectional perspective on racial equity, with experience serving diverse populations. Our current members represent a wide array of expertise serving people identifying with a racial group that has been historically marginalized, people with lived experience of homelessness, people with disabilities, and other communities. Through this application process we are looking to fill up to four seats for community members with expertise, perspective and lived experience in the following areas to increase knowledge, wisdom, and skills of the REWG:

- Tribal Nation member, urban and rural Native communities, or landless tribal members
- People with experience working with or have knowledge of Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian issues or perspectives
- People with experience working with or have knowledge of Native Hawai`ian, Pacific Islander issues or perspectives
- Transitional Aged Youth (18-24)
- Elder individuals ages 65+
- Veterans
• Trans, Two Spirit Individuals
• Residing or serving rural communities
• Residing or serving small counties
• Persons living with HIV or AIDS

The REWG also seeks to reflect geographical representation, including but not limited to people with experience addressing homelessness in the following geographic areas:

• Urban and Rural (understands unique needs and has expertise working in those areas)
• Tribal Nations (urban Indigenous, rural Indigenous, and landless tribes)
• Communities with high rates of homelessness and mobility within those regions: Bay Area, Central Valley, and Greater LA
• Northern, Central, and Southern CA
• Small, medium, and large counties

Membership will not be static and may change, depending on the needs of the REWG.

Applications can be submitted here through an online portal. The submission of the application will be open on Friday, December 22nd, 2022 @ 9am and closes on Friday, January 20th, 2023 @ 5pm.

If you need assistance in filling out this form, including having someone read through the questions and you verbally providing the answers so that we can populate it in the form, please contact CAL-REAL-TA@tacinc.org. If you need translation support, please contact Cal ICH at calich@bcsh.ca.gov.

For questions or to schedule time to discuss this effort, please contact:

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