



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

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For Immediate Release

California Interagency Council on Homelessness releases first policy brief on tribal homelessness to help guide existing state programs

SACRAMENTO, CA – In honor of California Native American Day, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) has released its first-ever policy brief dedicated to homelessness in California Tribal Communities. The brief highlights the severe disparities California Tribal Communities face in addressing homelessness and outlines solutions grounded in Tribal sovereignty, respect, and partnership. Using these recommendations, the state will continue to build and expand existing supports for tribal partners and communities.

California is home to 109 Federally Recognized Tribes, the second largest number in the nation. Yet Tribal Communities experience some of the most extreme conditions of homelessness, including overcrowded homes, substandard housing, vehicle dwelling, and unsheltered encampments. The brief also underscores significant data gaps, noting that mainstream homelessness statistics often exclude Tribal Communities, despite evidence that homelessness rates among California Tribes can reach as high as 40%.

“Native American Day is an opportunity to celebrate the progress made, and to recommit to the work still ahead of us to create a California for all,” said Governor Gavin Newsom. “This brief offers clarity on what disparities and challenges need to be addressed, which will help direct and hone the ongoing work the state is partnering with tribes on.”

Eddie “E.J.” Crandell, Vice Chairman of the Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians and Lake County Supervisor, shared: “As a Tribal leader and County Supervisor, I see firsthand the unique challenges our communities face in addressing homelessness. Overcrowding, lack of affordable housing, and systemic exclusion from mainstream programs continue to leave too many of our people without safe, stable homes. This brief is an important step in recognizing these realities and advancing solutions that honor our sovereignty. True partnership with Tribes is not optional-it is essential if we are to create lasting change for all Californians.”

“On Native American Day, we honor the resilience of California Native American tribes and recommit to ensuring their voices lead the solutions,” said Christina Snider-Ashtari, Governor’s Tribal Affairs Secretary and Cal ICH Councilmember. “This brief is both a reflection of tribal knowledge and a call to action to strengthen government-to-government relationships that respect the sovereignty of tribal communities – and to cultivate and nurture programs that provide equitable access to resources and account for historic inequities.”

Meghan Marshall, Cal ICH Executive Officer, added: “California cannot meaningfully address homelessness without working in true partnership with Tribal Communities. This policy brief reflects the voices and lived experiences of California Native Americans and provides a roadmap for solutions rooted in sovereignty, respect, and collaboration. On California Native American Day, it is especially important that we uplift this work and commit to building systems that no longer leave Native people invisible.”

The policy brief outlines recommendations for state, local, and federal partners, including:

- Expanding access to housing and homelessness programs for tribal communities.
- Ensuring early and sustained tribal consultation in the design of policies and programs.
- Supporting tribal economic development as a pathway to housing stability.

More housing and support

California is working directly with tribal leaders and communities to implement new programs designed to help address the unique challenges and needs of Native communities in terms of housing and homelessness support.

Native American tribes throughout the state [received more than \\$91 million](#) to address housing and homelessness, including \$71 million from the first-ever awards from the state’s Tribal Homekey program and an additional \$20 million through the state’s Tribal Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program, both administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The state also announced new tools and funding to help create permanent supportive housing faster, with \$121 million in new funding for Native American communities through the [Homekey+ program funded by voter-approved Proposition 1](#).

Building support together

As part of its ongoing commitment to better incorporate tribal perspectives in the development of state strategies to address homelessness, Cal ICH recently hosted a Listen-and-Learn webinar entitled “Tribes and Continuums of Care: Partnerships and Point-in-Time Counts on Tribal Lands.” The session highlighted strategies for more accurate data collection and stronger collaboration between Tribal governments and local homelessness systems. A [recording of the webinar](#) is available on the Cal ICH website, along with a [Tribal PIT Count Resource Sheet](#) designed to support this work.

The policy brief can be accessed online at https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/documents/tribal_homelessness_policy_brief.pdf.

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The California Interagency Council on Homelessness is the state entity charged with leading California’s efforts to prevent and end homelessness. For more information regarding this press release, contact Cal ICH External Affairs at comms.calich@bcsh.ca.gov. For more information about Cal ICH, visit <https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/>