## Agenda Item IV: Department Updates

Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Meeting, July 17, 2019

1. *Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)*:

No Place Like Home Program

In November 2018, California voters approved Proposition 2, which authorized the use of Mental Health Services Act funding to fund the No Place Like Home (NPLH) program. NPLH provides loans to counties to acquire, build, or rehabilitate permanent supportive housing for people living with a serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness, or who are exiting institutions and are at risk of chronic homelessness.

- To date, HCD has awarded over $500 million in NPLH Round 1 funds, comprised of both Competitive Allocations and Noncompetitive Allocations. Award information is located at: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/nplh.shtml#awarded. HCD anticipates releasing a second Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in Fall 2019.
- Amendments to the NPLH Guidelines are currently under consideration and will be finalized in Fall 2019.
- Counties wishing to use their Noncompetitive Allocation funds must notify HCD no later than August 15, 2019 of their intent to use these funds, utilizing the following forms: County Noncompetitive Allocation Acceptance Form and an executed copy of the Authorizing Resolution Template for Acceptance Form.
    - Counties that plan to use a portion or all of their Noncompetitive Allocation funds for one-to four-unit rental housing properties (i.e. single-family home, duplex, tri-plex, or four-plex) must submit the 2018 NPLH Optional Shared Housing Designation Form and the required attachments to HCD no later than August 27, 2019.
    - Counties must submit one or more project applications using Noncompetitive Allocation funds no later than February 15, 2021.
    - The NPLH Plan to Combat Homelessness must be submitted with a County's first project application, but no later than February 15, 2021.

Senate Bill 2:  Building Jobs and Homes Act

Of the first year's revenues from Senate Bill 2, the 2018-19 Budget allocates approximately 25 percent to Continuums of Care (CoCs) through the California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) program, and another 25 percent to the Housing for a Healthy California (HHC) program.

- *CESH Program*: CESH provides funding to CoCs for housing relocation and stabilization services, operating subsidies for permanent housing, flexible housing subsidies, shelter operations, and capacity building.

- In July 2019, HCD anticipates executing standard agreements for approximately $53 million in CESH awards, using a portion of SB 2 funds and remaining California Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) funds. All California CoCs applied and were awarded the first round of CESH funds. Award information is located at [http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/cesh/docs/2017-2018-CESH-Awards-List.pdf](http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/cesh/docs/2017-2018-CESH-Awards-List.pdf).
- On March 21, 2019, HCD released the second CESH NOFA for approximately $29 million. Applications were due on June 28, 2019 and HCD anticipates awarding the funds in August/September 2019.

- *Housing for Healthy California Program*: Created in 2017 through Assembly Bill 74, HHC is intended to reduce the financial burden on local and state resources due to the overutilization of emergency departments, inpatient care, nursing home stays and other health care services for people who are chronically homeless or homeless and are high-cost health care users. In May 2019, HCD released two NOFAs (for counties and developers, respectively), totaling $93 million. HCD anticipates awarding funds in December 2019.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program

On March 29, 2019, HCD released two ESG NOFAs for approximately $6 million for the CoC Allocation and approximately $5 million for the Balance of State Allocation. Applications were due May 30, 2019. The application deadline was extended to July 31, 2019 for applicants impacted by a 2018 Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster including Butte County, Los Angeles County, Ventura County, Shasta County, San Diego County, and Santa Barbara County. HCD anticipates announcing awards in September 2019. The ESG program offers funding to: (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street; (2) improve the number of and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents; (5) rapidly re-house-homeless individuals and families; and, (6) prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless.

Technical Assistance on Homelessness Programs

Since January 2019, HCD has been providing technical assistance to help counties and CoCs enhance, develop, or improve the delivery of homelessness programs and services. HCD is receiving and evaluating local jurisdictions' requests for technical assistance, then deploying consultants to provide assistance tailored to each jurisdiction's unique challenges and needs, at no cost to the jurisdiction.

Eligible recipients may receive:
- In-depth remote or on-site assistance from a dedicated expert in homelessness programs;
- Information on "how-to" guides through online resources, toolkits, and FAQs; and
- Interactive training and knowledge-building through online courses or webinars, regional workshops, and peer-peer learning.

In total, consultants will provide over 13,000 hours of assistance to help counties and COCs:
1. Build capacity;
2. Apply Housing First principles; and
3. Provide housing stability.

As of July 1, 2019, HCD has assisted 31 counties (by either working directly with the county or working with the CoC that includes the county), by answering 39 unique requests for technical assistance in the following categories:

- capacity-building (19);
- applying Housing First principles (13); and
- providing housing stability (7).


2. *Department of Social Services (CDSS):*

Home Safe

- 22 out of 25 counties began accepting referrals on July 1, 2019.
- CDSS hosted its first Home Safe webinar, Prevention and Diversion 201, in June 2019. Presenters included Barb Poppe, former Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) as well as Emma Hertz and Kayleigh Silver with the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania Department of Health and Human Services.

CalWORKs Housing Support Program

- The 2019-20 Budget Act authorized a funding increase in the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) to $95 million ongoing annually to assist low-income families in obtaining and maintaining housing.
- HSP has permanently housed more than 3,471 families in CalWORKs from July 2018 to March 2019 and 15,716 families since the program's inception in 2014.

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance

- Senate Bill 80, the Human Services omnibus bill passed as part of the 2019-20 Budget Act, removed the CalWORKs program rule requiring that the 16 days of temporary homeless assistance benefits be used on consecutive calendar days. This change will become effective January 1, 2020 or when the Statewide Automated Welfare Systems can program this change, whichever is later.

Bringing Families Home

- The 2019-20 Budget Act appropriated $25 million General Fund (one-time) to continue and expand funding for the Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program, authorized by Assembly Bill 1603 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2016). These funds are available over a two-year period beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.
- Since its inception in July 2016 through April 2019, BFH has successfully housed more than 649 child-welfare involved families.

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program

- The 2019-20 Budget Act appropriated $25 million General Fund ongoing annually beginning in FY 2019-20 for the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP).

- Since its inception in July 2017 through April 2019, HDAP has successfully housed 692 individuals, filed 1357 disability benefits applications, and supported 374 individuals in securing disability benefits in the program.

Technical Assistance

CDSS hosted a multi-part Housing First webinar series: *A System Response to Homelessness Using a Housing First Approach* in partnership with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) in Spring 2019 for CDSS-funded programs and their partners. Panelists included program leadership from Riverside, Nevada, and Imperial Counties, as well as LA Family Housing, Abode Services, and the Mercer County, New Jersey Board of Social Services. The recordings and PowerPoints will be posted to our website. A final webinar targeted to leadership specifically, on leading the implementation of a Housing First philosophy locally, will take place at the end of Summer 2019.