HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE ACTIONS TAKEN TO PROTECT HOMELESS CALIFORNIANS FROM COVID-19

- March 10, 2020 – The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) released guidelines to protect persons experiencing homelessness, employees of homeless assistance providers, and people who come into contact with persons experiencing homelessness from COVID-19 infection.

- March 11, 2020 – The Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency hosted a homeless providers stakeholder call walking through the HCFC guidance. Over 1000 stakeholders participated.

- March 17, 2020 – Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 89, which was approved unanimously by the state Legislature. SB 89 authorized a total appropriation of up to $1 billion to aid help fight the spread of COVID-19.

- March 18, 2020 – Governor Gavin Newsom took emergency actions, signing an executive order granting local flexibility on spending and building shelters, purchasing 1309 trailers, announcing efforts to lease hotels and motels for emergency protective measures, and authorized $150 million in emergency funding from SB 89 to protect homeless Californians from COVID-19 and reduce the spread of COVID-19. $100 million of that funding was set aside to go directly to all counties, Continuums of Care and the 13 largest cities – allocated using the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention program (HHAP) methodology.

- March 18, 2020 – HCFC released updated guidelines to provide public health guidance to homeless shelters and homeless service providers, and additional guidance on funding and resource availability.

- March 23, 2020 – The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council sent award letters allocating the $100 million in COVID-19 emergency homelessness funding to all 58 counties, 44 CoCs and 13 large cities and published an allocation table showing where dollars will go.