Agenda Item IV. HCFC Council Member Updates

Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Meeting
June 17, 2021

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

The Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health is working to address Action Area 5, Objective 14, Activity 12 of the Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California: 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.

To familiarize relevant stakeholders, including corrections, probation/parole, housing, and law enforcement agencies and housing and service providers, with the Council on State Government (CSG) Justice Center's report, findings, and recommendations, the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) and the CSG Justice Center will hold a virtual project "launch party" in Summer 2021 (currently scheduled for July 14, 2021). At the event, CCJBH and CSG will share the report findings and recommendations, subject matter experts who contributed to the report will offer their perspectives, and individuals with lived experience will share their stories to illuminate the urgent need for more housing capacity. CCJBH and CSG are also exploring opportunities to offer a series of webinars after the project launch to occur from summer 2021 through winter 2022, which will help to position local agencies and providers to collaborate and better serve people with BH needs, with a focus on increasing opportunities for housing and community-based treatment.

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Previously DHCS provided updates on the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) proposals for Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and In Lieu of Services (ILOS), which provide new services to address homelessness and health in the Medi-Cal population. For more background on CalAIM, ECM and ILOS, see the DHCS update for March. Four new updates are provided below.

Additional Guidance for ECM and ILOS

DHCS is expanding on Medi-Cal's existing efforts in housing through two cornerstone programs: ECM and ILOS. People who are experiencing homelessness are among the highest need Medi-Cal members and will be a critical focus for community-based ECM and ILOS providers. ECM services provide whole person care through intensive care management for medical, behavioral health and social service needs. Complementary ILOS services include housing transition and navigation services, housing deposits, tenancy and sustaining services, short-term post-hospitalization housing, recuperative care (medical respite), day habilitation, and sobering centers. While federal rules prohibit Medicaid funding for ongoing rental subsidies, ECM and ILOS are meant to work in conjunction with other state and local programs that pay for rent.

On February 16, DHCS released draft ECM and ILOS requirements for public comment, which ended on March 12. Requirements included contract templates, provider terms and conditions, a 'model of care' template, and encounter coding guidance. After reviewing extensive stakeholder feedback, in early June DHCS released finalized documents with key policy updates, important implementation milestones, and technical assistance information. To view the new guidance and additional resources, please visit the ECM and ILOS website. Additional comments or questions can be submitted to DHCS by email at: CalAIMECMILOS@dhcs.ca.gov.

ECM and ILOS Incentives and Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Funding

The Governor's May Revise includes $1.165 billion on an annual basis for ECM and ILOS. This includes $600 million through the Managed Care Plan (MCP) Performance Incentive Program that will be launched later in the year. The Governor's May Revise also includes $200 million through the PATH initiative under the Medi-Cal 1115 waiver. PATH funding provides on-the-ground capacity support to enable coordination among justice-involved agencies, Medi-Cal, MCPs, and providers to ensure effective pre-release care. The MCP Performance Incentive Program and PATH funding will help support the community-based ILOS providers, including housing service providers.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan

On March 11, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Section 9817 of the ARPA provides qualifying states with a temporary 10 percentage point increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures for HCBS programs from April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. States must use the federal funds to supplement existing state funds expended for Medicaid HCBS. Two of California's proposed ARPA HCBS Spending Plan proposals further bolster the Governor's May Revise investments noted above for PATH funding and MCP Performance Incentives relating to housing and homelessness.

DHCS will provide an additional $100 million in one-time PATH funds for Homeless and HCBS Direct Care Providers to support a multi-year effort to shift delivery systems and advance the coordination and quality of services authorized under DHCS' Section 1115 and 1915(b) waivers. This complements the $200 million PATH funding proposal in the Governor's May Revise noted above. Through this funding, California is proposing a significant expansion of the homeless system of care that will create over 2,000 direct service jobs for those providing services to homeless and formerly homeless individuals. To successfully implement new Medi-Cal services like ECM and ILOS, local governments and community-based organizations will need to recruit and train a new workforce to serve disabled and aging populations. This funding will support recruitment and training.

DHCS will provide an additional $2 billion in one-time funding for the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program for MCPs to earn incentive funds for making investments and progress in addressing homelessness and keeping people housed. 85 percent of the funds must go to beneficiaries, providers, and/or counties. Funds would be allocated by Point in Time (PIT) counts of homeless individuals and other housing related metrics determined by DHCS. Managed care plans would have to meet specified metrics to draw down available funds. This additional funding furthers the proposals included in the Governor's May Revision on housing and homelessness, including the incentives relating to ECM and ILOS noted above.

MCPs, in partnership with local public health jurisdictions, county behavioral health, Public Hospitals, county social services, homeless Continuum(s) of Care, and local housing departments must submit a Homelessness Plan to DHCS. The homelessness plan must outline how incentivized supports would be

integrated into the homeless system, including a housing and services gaps/needs assessment, and prioritization of aging and disabled homeless Californians, including those with a behavioral health disability.

Examples of Administrative and Delivery System incentives:

- Hire Homelessness lead/liaison at managed care plans
- Implement closed loop referral system for connecting homeless individuals to service bundles, housing, rental subsidies, etc.
- Sign contracts with local entities such as the county, Continuum of Care, and/or housing CBOs
- Investing in the creation or expansion of a flexible housing subsidy pool
- Investing in the creation or expansion of a training academy for homeless services workers (bonus for specialized community health workers training)
- Partnering with local health care providers for the homeless program
- Creating a housing voucher program
- Partnering with existing housing capital and acquisition programs including Homekey, Community Care Expansion, and Behavioral Care Continuum Infrastructure Program

Examples of Performance Measures:

- Incentive for every person housed
- Tiered bonus payments for % of county homeless housed
- Reduction in chronic homelessness (x% within the next X years OR Decrease X% over prior year)
- Incentive for keeping someone housed; paid on 6 month increments
- Reduced recidivism (x% within the next X years OR Decrease X% over prior year)
- Reduction in first time homeless (prevention) OR number of households who receive homeless prevention services
- Reductions in street homelessness
- Reduction of repeat occurrences of homelessness
- % maximizing other entitlements (SSI, Food, Medi-Cal, CalWorks, IHSS, in-home support, etc.)
- Reduction in people experiencing homelessness in local jails
- Addressing racial disparities (by monitoring demographics in PIT count and HMIS)

Please see the DHCS main web page for links to more information about the HCBS Spending Plan proposals.

Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure

The Governor's May Revise increased the proposed funding to $2.455 billion to expand the behavioral health continuum of care across the lifespan, ensure better treatment outcomes, and prevent the cycle of homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization. DHCS will provide competitive grants to qualified entities to acquire and rehabilitate real estate assets or for new construction. Grant applicants may include counties, tribal entities, non-profit entities, for-profit entities, and others. Applicants must provide matching funds, include an operating budget and ongoing source of funds, and commit to continuous dedicated use for 30 years, or repay the grant.

The additional funds provide more opportunities to invest in population and age-appropriate facilities and services, especially for children and youth aged 25 and younger, and individuals with a serious mental illness who are deemed Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) on a felony charge. Programs designed to mitigate a felony IST finding, and therefore a state hospital admission, may be offered in the funded facility. These include mental health jail diversion and competency restoration treatment.

These infrastructure grants will build approximately 15,000 beds, units, or rooms, including:

- **Treatment Facilities** such as Crisis Intervention and Stabilization, Crisis Residential, Residential Treatment, Social Model Residential, Day Rehabilitation, Day Treatment Intensive or Partial Hospitalization with Housing Supports, Forensic, and Outpatient and Community Based Behavioral Health Services, including Wellness Centers.
- **Housing Facilities** with intensive wrap-around supports, such as ECM and ILOS, and county behavioral health services funded by Medi-Cal, California Mental Health Services Act, or other local funds. Residential settings including Adult and Senior Care Facilities, Room and Board with Intensive Outpatient Services, and Peer Respite and Shared Housing.

Applicants will describe how they will use various wrap-around services, such as ECM and ILOS, social services to address social determinants of health, and county behavioral health.

California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Homekey (updates as of June 4, 2021)

In July 2020, HCD launched Homekey, an innovative program to purchase and rehabilitate properties - including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and other properties - and convert them into interim and permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This program makes awards directly to local communities with properties ready for conversion.

- The legislative report for Homekey Round 1 was released April 1, 2021 and is on the [HCD website](#)
- On December 3, 2020, HCD made its 10th and final round of awards, providing a total of $846 million to 94 projects, which resulted in 5.911 useable units created for more than 8,000 people in communities throughout California.
- The governor's May Revision of the budget released on May 14, 2021, included $3.5 billion with a family set-aside for Homekey Round 2 and will be finalized pending approval of the budget.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) (updates as of June 4, 2021)

Senate Bill (SB) 91 created California's Emergency Rental Assistance program. The program is available for tenants at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI), with a priority emphasis on helping tenants at or below 50 percent of AMI. Landlords can choose to accept 80% for any rent owed from April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021. If a landlord accepts this funding, the landlord forgives the remaining 20%. If a landlord chooses not to participate, the tenant can still apply for relief valued at 25% of whatever back rent they owe for the covered time period.

- The call center went public on March 12, 2021
- The state program went Live on March 15, 2021

- - Local partners are in various stages with their programs and about half went Live on March 15, 2021, with the last few programs going live as of June 2021.
- As of June 1, 2021, over 70,000 applications had been completed requesting over $530,000,000 in rental and utility assistance.
    - Representing approximately 40-percent of available state-administered funding as part of the initial tranche of ERAP funding.
- As of June 1, 2021, the state program has processed over $30 million in payments and approved over $150,000,000 in rental assistance.
    - The first utility payments will be processed the week of June 7, 2021.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)

ESG provides funds for a variety of activities to address homelessness including rapid re-housing, homeless prevention, street outreach and emergency shelter.

- Spending is ongoing on ESG-2019 funds and award letters were issued in February for 2020 ESG funds.
    - Due to wildfires and the pandemic, some grantees have had trouble expending ESG 2018 funds, and HUD approved an extension from February 2021 to December 12, 2021, to completely expend these dollars.
- The ESG 2021 NOFA has been routed to DFFA for second review. The HCD ESG team has been working to set up the ESG 2021 applications in eCivis

Emergency Solutions Grants CARES Act (ESG-CV)

Authorized by the CARES Act enacted March 27, 2020, these funds are to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance.

- All 40 Standard Agreements have been executed for ESG-CV Round 1. These Standard Agreements are being amended to include ESG-CV Round 2 funding. Of the 40 Amendments, 27 have been fully executed.
    - Under the CARES Act, costs can be incurred as of the date a State or unit of local government began preparing for coronavirus, which HUD shall presume to be January 21, 2020. HCD staff have been encouraging Grantees to incur costs that are eligible for reimbursement prior to execution of the Standard Agreement to ensure timely expenditure of these one-time funds.
- HCD released an RFP in mid-February for an ESG-CV Consultant that would provide staff capacity building and grantee technical assistance for the duration of the ESG-CV expenditure period. ICF was awarded the ESG-CV Consultant contract and that contract is currently being reviewed by DGS.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

CDBG provides funds for several activities that address homelessness such as public services funding which can fund shelter operations, public facilities funding for homeless shelters and subsistence payments and business assistance which can help prevent homelessness.

- In January 2021, a CDBG NOFA for approximately $30 in funding was announced. Applications are due in June and July.

- Awards made under the January 2020 NOFA have been announced and Standard Agreements have been executed by HCD.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV)

- In April 2021, HCD made available an over-the-counter application for the $50M in CDBG-CV2 reserved for projects in support of Homekey. Applications are due by August 31, 2021, and will be reviewed for eligibility on a first come first serve basis.
  - o Pursuant to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment, funds are available to waitlisted Homekey projects, and projects that were awarded Homekey funds for acquisition but need additional financial support to complete renovations to bring the property to its ultimate functionality.
- An amendment to the CDBG-CV2/3 NOFA was made the week of March 1, 2021, to extend the deadline for applications from rolling deadlines in February and March to May 7th.
  - o The reason for this extension was to accommodate the need for grantees to make changes to any plans they had to apply for assisting community members with rental arrears, as this will now be covered by the U.S. Treasury funded Emergency Rental Assistance (ERAP) program that will be operated by the state in its non-entitlement jurisdictions (i.e. small jurisdictions that don't receive CDBG funds directly from HUD and apply for them as a pass-through from the State).
- Other amendments to maximize benefit to tribal communities and Colonias were to increase the maximum award amount for any one tribe from $500K to $700K.
- A priority was added for Colonias applications for those that demonstrated collaboration with the local homeless Continuum of Care.
- Under a second amendment made in late May, the tribal set-aside deadline was extended to June 28, 2021.

Technical Assistance (TA) to Improve Delivery of Homelessness Programs

Since January 2019, HCD has provided three types of technical assistance (TA) to help counties and CoCs enhance, develop, and/or improve the delivery of homelessness programs and services. Eligible entities are counties and Continuums of Care (CoCs).

- Housing Stability and Housing First TA are still receiving requests and the contracts have been extended until December 31, 2021.
- Over 83% of eligible jurisdictions have received some form of TA by either working directly with the county or working with the CoC that includes the county.
- Building Capacity TA ended at the end of April 2021 and is no longer receiving requests.

No Place Like Home (NPLH)

On July 1, 2016, Governor Brown signed landmark legislation enacting the No Place Like Home program to dedicate up to $2 billion in bond proceeds from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to invest in 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 November 2018 voters approved Proposition 2, authorizing the sale of up to $2 billion of revenue bonds and the use of a portion of Proposition 63 taxes for the NPLH program.

- Round 3 block grant awards to the four counties with the biggest homeless populations were made in February. For the remainder of the counties that applied, individual project awards will be made by the end of June.
- As of April, NPLH had nearly 80 projects under construction, including 18 that are expected to complete construction in 2021. Another 61 projects are expected to complete construction in 2022. Five projects are currently complete and rented up or in the rent-up process.
- NPLH's final NOFA under its current bond authority (Round 4) is planned for release in October of this year.

Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention (VHHP) Program

In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 12, the Veteran's Bond Act of 2008, authorizing $900 million in general obligation bonds intended to help veterans purchase single family homes, farms, and mobile homes through the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) Home Loan Program.

In 2013, AB 639 (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2013, Pérez) restructured the Veteran's Bond Act of 2008 authorizing $600 million in existing bond authority to fund multifamily housing for veterans.

- The Round 6 VHHP NOFA was posted May 3, 2021, for $75 million. Applications are due July 15, 2021. Updated guidelines were not finalized, as those are expected to be finalized at a later point, in accordance with AB 434.

Transitional Housing Program (THP)

The Transitional Housing Program provides funding to counties for child welfare services agencies to help young adults aged 18 to 25 years find and maintain housing, with priority given to those formerly in the foster care or probation systems. (SB 80, Statutes of 2019)

- Remaining funds for Round 2 were awarded to Los Angeles County, based on the highest need, small amount remaining, and after discussion with the California Department of Social Services, the John Burton Advocates for Youth, and the County Welfare Directors Association of California.
- $8 million is expected in the 2021-2022 Budget Act for Round 3.

Housing Navigators Program (HNP)

- Remaining funds were awarded to Los Angeles County, San Bernardino County, Sacramento County, and Riverside County, based on the highest need, a county agreeing to accept additional funds, and after discussion with the California Department of Social Services, the John Burton Advocates for Youth, and the County Welfare Directors Association of California. Alameda County was offered additional funding, but declined the additional funding.
- $5 million is expected in the 2021-2022 Budget Act for Round 2.

Housing for a Healthy California (HHC)

The goal of the Housing for a Healthy California program is to reduce the overutilization of emergency departments, inpatient care, nursing home stays, and use of corrections systems and law enforcement resources for people who are experiencing homelessness or chronic homelessness and a high-cost health user. The program provides funding on a competitive basis to deliver supportive housing opportunities through grants to counties for capital and operating assistance or to developers for operating reserve grants and capital loans.

- The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has awarded more than $39 million from the Housing for a Healthy California (HHC) program.
- The HHC program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was released on February 28, 2020, and amended on June 22, 2020. Applications were due July 23, 2020. Funding available for this round was more than $39 million and was oversubscribed (more funds requested than available) by $43.1 million.

California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)

In 2016, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Program was essentially replaced by the passage of legislation authorizing $2 billion for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to implement the No Place Like Home (NPLH) Program. However, prior to deployment of NPLH funds, CalHFA established the Special Needs Housing Program (SNHP) to serve as a transition between the two aforementioned housing finance programs.

SNHP allowed local governments to use MHSA and other local funds to provide financing for the development of permanent supportive rental housing, including units dedicated for individuals with serious mental illness (and their families), who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

CalHFA is no longer accepting applications for SNHP projects. The application deadline for viable SNHP projects ended on January 3, 2020, with construction loan closings required to occur no later than June 30, 2022.

Since the application deadline passed, CalHFA staff have been working with project sponsors and participating counties to wind-down the program. There are 55 total SNHP projects between the CalHFA lending pipeline (47 projects), asset management portfolio (7 projects), and one project that was assigned to the county at permanent conversion. The following information is intended to provide an update on SNHP lending activities and CalHFA's ongoing efforts to responsibly close the program.

Funding

As of March 31, 2021, CalHFA has closed $86 million in SNHP loans since the program's inception. Based on the loan amounts for the remaining projects in the CalHFA pipeline, the total amount of SNHP financing will be $121,295,840 million once the program fully winds down. A breakdown of closed and projected SNHP financing by fiscal year is included below in Table 1.

Table 1: SNHP Funding Volume by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Loan Volume
Closed Loans	
2016-2017	$1,200,000
2017-2018	$13,241,098
2018-2019	$20,467,800
2019-2020	$32,859,565
2020-2021*	$18,295,518
Closed Subtotal	$86,063,981
Projected Closings	
2020-2021*	$9,927,988

2021-2022	$25,303,871
Projected Subtotal	$35,231,859
Grand Total	**$121,295,840**

*As of 3/31/2021

Project Loan Status

The latest SNHP loan is scheduled to close is March 2022, which means all active projects are scheduled to close ahead of the June 2022 "construction close" deadline. Table 2 provides a breakdown of the project status for all 55 SNHP projects, along with a unit count and funding volume for each status.

Table 2: Project Status for 55 SNHP Projects

Project Loan Status	Number of Projects	Total Number of SNHP Restricted Units	Total Number of Housing Units	Total SNHP Financing
Active (Application/Initial Commitment)	19	222	1,089	$35,231,859
Closed (Construction Period)	28	504	1,899	$69,474,125
Closed and transferred to Asset Management	7	139	500	$15,015,046
Closed and transferred to Locality*	1	10	98	$1,574,810
Total	**55**	**875**	**3,586**	**$121,295,840**

*Transferred to San Bernardino County at permanent conversion and will be monitored by the county for compliance.

County Participation

CalHFA operated the SNHP through Participation Agreements with sixteen county mental health agencies. Participation in the SNHP ensured County MHSA funds were not redirected locally for other purposes. Counties were also able to roll over any residual receipt loan payments and deposit supplemental MHSA funds into the SNHP for the development of new housing opportunities and supplement expiring capitalized operating subsidy reserve (COSR) accounts to ensure a longer term of affordability for their MHSA residents.

Of the original sixteen participating SNHP counties, CalHFA still has active agreements with the eight counties listed in Table 3 (see below) and is closing out their respective pipeline projects. The projects in Sacramento and Shasta counties have already closed their SNHP loans, while the projects in the other six counties are at various stages in the CalHFA pipeline.

Table 3: Counties with active SNHP agreements

County	Number of Projects	Total Number of SNHP Restricted Units	Total Number of Housing Units	Total SNHP Financing
LOS ANGELES	20	352	1,463	$ 33,543,153
ORANGE	17	268	1,055	$ 54,581,855
SAN DIEGO	9	136	618	$ 18,724,266

FRESNO	3	50	96	$ 6,168,706
SAN BERNARDINO	3	34	210	$ 4,798,479
SACRAMENTO	1	15	92	$ 2,000,000
SHASTA	1	5	20	$ 601,608
TEHAMA	1	15	32	$ 877,773
TOTALS	**55**	**875**	**3,586**	**$ 121,295,840**

CalHFA is currently working with the participating counties to return all unused SNHP funds to the county or apply the funds to the counties' existing project COSR's. Each county elects to either have the unused funds returned or apply the funds to COSR's, specifying the percentage of funds that go towards their projects. To date, funds have been returned for all but four counties (Los Angeles, Fresno, San Bernardino, and Tehama) and the return of funds for those four counties is in process.

Compliance Monitoring

Per the terms of the participation agreements, CalHFA performs compliance monitoring on SNHP projects for the duration of the loan term. The majority of the SNHP loan terms are set at 55 years, with a handful of loans set for 57-year terms. CalHFA receives an annual servicing fee of $7,500 per project to conduct compliance monitoring for the SNHP portfolio.

Since the NPLH program serves the same target population as the SNHP, and because there has been an overlap of the two programs due to participating counties requesting the extension of the SNHP application deadline to January 3, 2020, there are a total of 15 SNHP projects that have both SNHP and NPLH as a source of funds. In an effort to save these projects costs and to reduce a duplication of efforts between CalHFA and HCD, CalHFA is currently working on an effort to transfer the compliance monitoring of projects that received funding from both SNHP and NPLH to HCD.

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Major Activities Since Last Meeting

Cal OES COVID Disaster Responses and Program Data:
- Trailers delivered to Counties: 1,305
- Project Roomkey:
  - Acquired for Homeless Population: 13,278 rooms
  - Rooms Occupied: 9,147
- Hotel Rooms for Healthcare Workers:
  - Total Reservations made to date: 213,007
  - Room nights: Over 2,554,081
  - Total individuals served: Over 40,000
  - Program is set to end on June 15, 2021 except San Diego, Imperial, and Riverside counties.
- Critical Supplies Distributed:
  - Total units distributed: Over 1.2 billion

- Meal Support:
    - Meals distributed and served: Over 767 million
    - Households served: Over 33 million
- Housing for Harvest:
    - Room nights: 1,542
    - Participants sheltered: 148
- Project Hope:
    - Participants in Hotels currently: 0
    - Participants released to date: 1,145
- Great Plates:
    - Meals provided to date: 34.7 million
    - Program end date extended to June 7, 2021
    - Although this program primarily aims to serve individuals who are ineligible for existing state and federal feeding programs, it also supports local restaurants, other food providers, agricultural workers, and other food service providers who have closed or are struggling to remain open due to COVID-19.
- Statewide Vaccine Efforts:
    - Administered: Almost 38 million
    - Delivered: 46 million

Grants Funding and/or Program Data (2021 Year Totals Where Available)

Specialized and Transitional Housing VOCA programs are in fourth year and target victim housing specifically, with the subrecipient determining the target population served.

- Specialized Emergency (KE) Housing Program
    - The purpose of the KE Program is to maintain and expand emergency shelter and emergency housing assistance resources in California, providing specialized services for victims of crime.
    - 2021 Year Totals (First Quarter):
        - New Clients receiving services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House: 685
        - New clients that were Homeless: 683
        - Received services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House/Transitional Housing: 5,064
        - Received relocation assistance: 749
- Transitional Housing (XH) Program
    - The purpose of the XH Program is to create and/or enhance transitional housing for crime victims. The Program will support transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and supportive services, including follow-up services that move victims of crime into permanent housing. Successful transitional housing programs provide a range of optional supportive services and let victims choose the course that best fits their needs.
    - 2021 Yearly Totals (First Quarter):
        - New clients having received services in Transitional Housing: 2,347
        - New clients that were Homeless: 1,151
        - Received Transitional Housing services: 55,707

> ▪ Received relocation assistance: 953

There are 20 other ongoing federal Programs that offer sheltering and/or housing assistance as one of the services available in addition to other services. The programs are trauma-informed and victim centered and designed to provide timely assistance to victims of crime. The programs range includes Domestic Violence, Children's, Human Trafficking, Sexual Assault, Underserved Victims, and Victim Witness.

- New clients that received services in Emergency Shelter/Safe House, Transitional Housing and Relocation Assistance in the first quarter of 2021 year: 123,768
- New clients that were Homeless: 11,276
- Received Shelter and Housing services: 189,723
- Received relocation assistance: 15,624

There are 4 programs targeting homeless (primarily homeless youth and human trafficking victims), offering sheltering, transitional housing and rental assistance, as well as many other services. The 2021 reporting data is not available at this time.

- Clients provided services and assistance in 2020: 28,095
- Received Shelter and Housing assistance in 2020: 18,141

California Department of Social Services (DSS)

CDSS Housing and Homelessness Program COVID Response Guidance

- Subscribe to the CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch newsletter

Expansions to CDSS Housing and Homelessness Programs

CDSS is preparing for program expansions in fiscal year 21/22 and beyond. At the time of submission of this update, proposed funding would expand a number of housing and homeless assistance programs under a coordinated framework of prevention, shelter, housing, and long-term supportive services including Project Roomkey, CalWORKs Housing Support Program, Bringing Families Home, Housing and Disability Advocacy Program, and Home Safe along with the creation of a new program called the Community Care Expansion. Continued partnership between state agencies, local governments, community organizations, and Continuums of Care will remain critical to build upon existing success and to expand our reach to more Californians in need of housing support. The CDSS looks forward to the continued collaboration with the Homeless Coordinating Financing Council (HCFC) and the other state departments represented on the Council on the proposed housing and homelessness expansions.

CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP)

- The CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) assists families receiving CalWORKs who are experiencing homelessness to quickly obtain permanent housing while providing flexible wrap-around supports to foster housing retention.
- Fifty-four counties and local HSPs participate in the program. They utilize a Rapid Rehousing model and provide flexible assistance and wrap-around supports to meet the needs of each family, which may include: rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, moving costs,

hotel and motel vouchers, landlord recruitment, case management, housing navigation and stabilization supports, legal services, and credit repair.

- On May 13, 2021, CDSS released the FY 21-22 All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) seeking applications for continuing and new counties interested in operating the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) through FY 21-22. Counties have until June 24, 2021, to apply.

- Since the program's inception in 2014, more than 25,000 families have been permanently housed through HSP.

- For more information on the CalWORKs HSP, including participating counties and allocations, please visit our website.

Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program

- The Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program serves families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in the child welfare system with the goals of reducing the number of families experiencing homelessness, increasing family reunification, and preventing foster care placement.

- Twenty-two counties and one tribe participate in the program and local BFH Programs utilize Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing models and provide flexible assistance and services tailored to the unique needs of each family. Services may include: rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, moving costs, hotel and motel vouchers, landlord recruitment, case management, housing navigation and stabilization supports, legal services, and credit repair.

- To-date, more than 1,400 families have been permanently housed through BFH.

- For more information on the BFH Program, please visit our website.

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)

- The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) assists people experiencing homelessness who are likely eligible for disability benefits by providing advocacy for disability benefits as well as housing supports.

- Forty-four grantees including 42 of 58 counties and two tribal entities participate in the program and provide outreach, case management, disability benefits advocacy, and housing assistance, tailored to meet the needs of the individuals served.

- The CDSS completed the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) Annual report on February 1, 2021, which includes additional information related to HDAP.

- Since HDAP's inception in FY 2017-18, over 1,900 people have been permanently housed, over 4,000 disability applications have been submitted, and over 1,200 applications have been approved.

- For more information and resources on HDAP, including allocations, please visit our website.

Home Safe Program

- Home Safe Program supports the safety and housing stability of people involved in Adult Protective Services (APS) by providing homeless assistance and prevention. Local Home Safe Programs utilize a range of strategies to support homelessness prevention and housing stability for APS clients, including short-term financial assistance, legal services, eviction prevention, heavy cleaning, and landlord mediation, among other services.

- Twenty-five grantees are participating in the Home Safe Program and each program is tailored to meet the needs of the local community.
- As of May 2021, over 2,200 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. Additionally, over 528 people have been connected to the local Coordinated Entry System (CES).
- An evaluation is currently underway with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) regarding the impact of the Home Safe program on older and dependent adults facing and experiencing homelessness.
- Please visit our website for more information on the Home Safe Program.

Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy

- Project Roomkey is a multiagency effort led by CDSS to provide non-congregate shelter options such as hotels and motels or self-contained trailers for people experiencing homelessness in response to COVID-19.
- This effort was designed to save lives, reduce transmission, and relieve pressure on the hospital system by providing safe shelter for those who are COVID-19 positive, have been exposed, or who are at high risk for medical complications if they were to contract the virus. This includes seniors and people with underlying health conditions who have been housed in large numbers through this effort.
- This has resulted in over 16,000 rooms secured and over 42,000 individuals being sheltered through Project Roomkey. Today there are over 8,900 hotel and motel rooms that are providing safe shelter to over 11,000, most of whom are seniors and people with underlying health conditions.
- In November 2020, CDSS allocated additional funding in an All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) to expand rehousing services to ensure that all Project Roomkey participants are provided support to exit to permanent housing. These rehousing services include direct financial assistance (such as move-in costs, landlord incentives, and rental assistance), housing navigation, and housing case management.
- On January 21, 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration released a memorandum announcing that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement for non-congregate shelter would increase to 100% of costs incurred dating back to January 2020, and would be extended to September 2021. Governor Newsom released a statement on February 5, 2021, clarifying the impact of these changes on non-congregate shelter.
- The CDSS has partnered with the Population Change Institute to provide targeted technical assistance (TA) related to rehousing efforts out of Project Roomkey and the current FEMA reimbursement process. This effort includes:
  - o Individualized community TA relating to Project Roomkey and Rehousing
  - o Monthly Office Hours relating to Project Roomkey and Rehousing and the FEMA reimbursement process
  - o Distribution of resources, guidance, coordination, a monthly newsletter, and the Project Roomkey/COVID-19 Response Resource Webpage
  - o These resources are available to the public on the Population Change Institute TA platform

New program: Community Care Expansion Program

- The proposed Community Care Expansion program is designed to fund the acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities in support of individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- The number of Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) recipients residing in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly and Adult Residential Facilities has decreased significantly and is expected to continue to decline due to the economic impact of COVID-19.
- Program funds will be designed to preserve and expand the number of adult and senior care facilities across the state and will be directed to grantees including counties and tribes.

Other Program Updates

Eviction and Homelessness Prevention

- On January 14, 2021, CDSS released the All County Welfare Directors Letter: Resources and Guidance for Eviction and Homeless Prevention.
- This letter provides guidance for County Welfare Departments and Tribal Governments on programs and resources available to assist with eviction and homelessness prevention due to COVID-19 related economic distress. It includes options available through the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, Tribal TANF, other CDSS Housing Programs, Refugee Support Services, and CalFresh Employment and Training.
- The CDSS has been strongly encouraging grantees, counties, and other stakeholders to refer clients to the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program through CDSS funded county and grantee check-ins and the CDSS monthly newsletter. CDSS has added announcements on the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program to the client facing Statewide Automated Welfare System announcements with the goal of empowering clients of social service programs to ask their county case workers about rent relief resources and to visit the Housing is Key website to access CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program benefits.

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program

- The CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program serves eligible CalWORKs applicants and recipients with up to 16 cumulative days of temporary shelter payments, as well as payments to secure or maintain housing, including a security deposit and last month's rent, or up to two months of rent arrearages.
- In FY 2019-20, 52,258 families received temporary HA and 5,961 received permanent HA – for a total of 58,219 approvals of CalWORKs Homeless Assistance.
- For more information on the CalWORKs HA Program, please visit our website.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Service Assistance Maintenance (SAM) Positions

- In alignment with California's Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California, Caltrans is committed to increasing employment opportunities for people experiencing

homelessness including hiring into low barrier Service Assistant Maintenance (SAM) positions which include full benefits, retirement, and access to career ladders within Caltrans where individuals can gain diverse experience, including assistance in obtaining licenses and qualifications to grow professionally.

- While Caltrans has already begun hiring people into SAM positions throughout state, Caltrans is launching a series of in-person hiring events specifically for SAM positions this month beginning in the Los Angeles area. Caltrans will hold 4 hiring events in June including an event at a local homeless shelter.

- An additional 300 SAM opportunities may soon be available through Caltrans' Clean California budget proposal, which aims to increase litter abatement efforts significantly over the next 3 years. As part of this proposal, Caltrans is also committed to providing at least 3,000 paid jobs over 3 years through expanded partnerships with Employment Social Enterprises (ESEs). ESEs such as Chrysalis, Centers for Employment Opportunities, the California Conservation Corps, and many other entities, provide not only jobs but services and pathways to self-sufficiency for people who are overcoming barriers to work and may not be ready for permanent employment, including people experiencing homelessness. In one year or less on average, people have a high success rate of obtaining and maintaining full time employment after building foundations through these programs. People with experiences of homelessness have already been successful in bridging from an ESE program into their career with Caltrans.
  - Efforts related to Clean California are pending budget approval.

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)

Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention (VHHP) Program

- The VHHP Program has recently released the $75 million Round 6 NOFA with applications due by July 15.
- Held VHHP Stakeholder Input session and Tribal Leader listening session to help inform program changes needed to promote use of funding on tribal land.
- Veteran Village of Cathedral City celebrated its groundbreaking in April, marking the first VHHP project to be built in the Coachella Valley area.
- Grand Opening and One Year Anniversary for the VHHP funded Edwin M. Lee project in San Francisco featuring speeches by CalVet Secretary Dr. Vito Imbasciani and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi. Play video: starts @ 58:15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09gAJcRRCIk
- To date numbers:
  - Projects and units **completed and leased (or leasing):** 35 projects, 1,220
  - Projects and units **under construction:** 27 projects, 1,014 units
  - Projects and units **pending construction start:** 10 projects, 305 units