Action Area 1. Strengthening Our Systems to Better Prevent and End Homelessness in California

What are examples of successful implementation activities that we can learn from, expand or refine?

The State's rent relief program was an example of an effective partnership. State created the initial program but was open to feedback from cities that led to refinement

Tribes/Tribal Entities finally have direct opportunities to obtain State Funds (i.e. Homekey, PRK, ESG-CV, HDAP, BFH, Tribal HHAP, etc.) and carry out programs/activities

Some communities are doing admirable jobs getting people sheltered, but the volume of newly homeless overwhelms the system. Need more preventive measures (rent ass't..)

(1 of 2) Rather than focus on action areas, I would like to talk about the state's primary role as a funder. E.g., how agencies has bespoke reqs that cause ops problems on the grou

CalAIM is great but the reimbursements are not that great and it essentially created another parallel system from the COC... confusing for consumers.

With Tribal Set Asides, Tribal Entities were able to directly serve a population that is historically underserved and overlooked

Lived Experience participation at every level.

I notice that more funders are requiring greater inclusion of people with lived expertise in local planning & decision-making including research (i.e. HPRI).

Homekey is one of the best programs we have access to. We increased our PSH units by 939% due to Homekey. Issues that still remain is long-term sustainability.

CoC's requiring agencies to have a racial equity plan and demonstrate it in funding requests has helped with local implementation.

Objective 1: Would like to see statewide racial equity goals, many communities are addressing, but lack KPIs to understand progress.

Need to ensure the system is set up for the crisis we see and can move quickly, often barriers lead to delays

(2 of 2) - also how the state across all funding sources chronically underfunds operating costs and/or creates perverse incentives for provider performance

Not enough support for administrators is a huge problem and will cause entities to walk away from opportunities.

Mayor Bass "Inside Safe" Folks are housed in less than 30 days

VASH Vouchers have been a critical link (funding) for supportive services. Critical in keeping veterans off the street and in our programs.

Need more opportunities for training and peer support

Decreasing PIT = decrease in funding = increase in PIT

Expanding on my Homekey comment: there is a small population of people who don't qualify for vouchers so they, in turn, don't qualify for Homekey units. (290, undocumented, etc)

Objective 5: There was great local collaboration among multiple agencies during the COVID crisis that generated many lessons that can be replicated in future crisis.

Regions revisiting policies that adult youth and engage in authentic conversations on better measures to prevent and reduce housing crisis' for youth/young adults.

Youth-specific services are being acknowledged and bolstered.

An overall issue with the action plan is that it is built top-down, with a focus on the systems and funding going to those. This is logical, because it's from the State level.

What is needed to solve homelessness and housing insecurity is to help people build their lives from the bottom up ie training, peer support, adding social and community skills

Re: Objective 4 - Connection between homelessness programs and employment/education has been very weak. Glad to see the State focus on this critically under-noticed issue.

We need to properly recruit, train and retain workers that assist clients. There is often too much turnover and this contributes to knowledge loss in the system.

Need more SUD programs Treatment facilities to support ones recovery efforts

Remain curious about doing Homekey, but are reluctant to commit because the long-term financial sustainability issue remains. State must offer a perm financing solution.

10% set-aside for youth in HHAP $$ contributed to reductions in youth homelessness from 2020-22.

THP-Plus (Transitional Housing Program Plus) for TAY (18-24) to prevent and address homelessness.

Homekey--both because it brought housing online quickly, but also because of speed and clarity.

What are examples of successful implementation activities that we can learn from, expand or refine?

ERF is a great resource and should stick around for a few years.

Look closely at AB 271 Homeless death review committees in light of Action Area 1, Objective 3: #13 which states "Enhance the availability of data regarding mortality

Partnering with FQHCs which have federal Section 330e funding to provide services at designated facilities and working to make those collaborations effective.

Adding more lived experience voices at the table driving accessibility to resources for varying populations impacted by homelessness.

Look closely at SB-914 HELP Act which states that the bill requires "the California ICH to set and measure progress toward unaccompanied women

Making specific efforts to address the needs of people who are particularly vulnerable when unsheltered, including women and LGBTQ individuals who are not attached to family

Note trauma-informed design along with trauma-informed care in Action Area 1, Objective 6 and other places in the plan where trauma-informed care is noted.

Right now in Sonoma County, someone took the only public water tap out of Guerneville, and the homeless are using the public fountain. Clean water is only given out in hot month

Broadening the definition of "homelessness" for rural communities. Homelessness in Urban (LA) areas is not the same as in Rural (Laytonville).

PRK showed us that many people who had not been served before would come in (quickly) indoors to enable stability.

Looking at climate and practices that disproportionally impact engagement with all the resources noted.

Partnering with local universities and their mobile nursing/medical units to tag along during street outreach efforts to provide medical care.

San Francisco's targeting of people living unsheltered in the Bay View for EHVs, lessons learned through that process of helping people to navigate the voucher and lease up process

State making COVID-19 vaccines available to people experiencing homeless on a priority basis

Multidisciplinary models for outreach have been successful throughout the state - linking them to immediate shelter availability is critical

PRK and ESG-CV allowed Tribal Entities to quickly respond with supplies and emergency shelter during spikes of COVID in Tribal Communities

Action Area 3. Expanding Communities' Capacity to Provide Safe and Effective Sheltering and Interim Housing

What are examples of successful implementation activities that we can learn from, expand, or refine?

State has funded programs (Homekey, PRK, ERF, clinically-enhanced bridge hsg), which decreased proportion of unsheltered pop., but low exits to perm housing (30% or less).

Shelters/Nav Centers struggle to house undocumented individuals. Homekeys are an option for the couple of years that are covered by the State. After that we don't know what to do

Expanding access to mental health resources in shelter settings would be helpful.

The Returning Home Well Program quickly increased interim housing with supportive services. This was done quickly and effectively between State and Local systems of care.

Looking at the ratio's of non congregate to congregate shelter for vulnerable populations as we look to expand availability.

Possibly need to take a hard look at traditional congregate sheltering to recognize that it may not have great outcomes. Does it perpetuate homelessness?

Homekey projects during the pandemic moved very quickly. Local quick interim housing starts to house folks in isolation locations is an example of how this can work quickly

Housing first models that can support and serve people who use drugs.

County/State funded bridge housing from SUD treatment of sufficient time to allow for permanent housing.

CalVet/HCD Veteran Housing and Homeless Prevention Program has added significant housing stock.

Action Area 4. Expanding and Ensuring Equitable Access to Permanent Housing in Our Communities

What are examples of successful implementation activities that we can learn from, expand, or refine?

Homekey is a great example of how to expand PSH. More work needed on financial sustainability.   +another 1

+1

San Diego's' ability to utilize all EHV's is a model that could be looked at across the state for other subsidy programs.

Objective 13: L.A. County's Dept of Health Services Housing 4 Health is a model of moving people quickly from the streets into housing through master-leasing agree

Experimenting with ongoing shallow subsidies as a way to keep people stable when deep subsidies are not available

Master-leasing as a strategy to give access to the private market for those people typically excluded, maximize program resources, minimize competition between programs

Apply a version of the Accelerator program specifically to permanent supportive housing projects

Successful permanent supportive housing sites need ongoing operating subsidy for security and on-site staff. (Maybe $500 per unit per mnth) Rental assistance is not enou

Streamlined funding, permitting, and utility company responses must be in place to reduce development timelines.

SF Accelerator Fund for PSH and affordable housing development paired with innovation in construction.

As we think about equitable access to housing, let's not forget about accessibility at all levels, which helps disabled people use tools that are helpful.

HHAP includes outcomes on equity local grantees are supposed to track. Could strengthen with greater specificity and tie bonus funding to equity goals.

Need to look for examples of successfully leveraging MediCal/CAL AIM funding for robust supportive services.

i think we need to look at both success and challenges. many PSH sites are struggling with mismatch between the needs of new residents and the services available.

Objective 11: Related to implementing a Housing First approach, communities are re-examining their CES assessment tools to ensure greater access & equity.

Objective #11: Communities are creating cross-system meaning of housing first, although guidance of prioritization remains a challenge.

Multiple state programs can fund permanent housing.

Helping agencies maintain skilled housing staff. Turnover of staff hurts.

Action Area 5. Preventing Californians from Experiencing the Crisis of Homelessness

COVID 19 Rent Relief Program helped thousands not fall into homelessness.

State-funded prevention has to be rigorously targeted to those who would become homeless without the assistance. More research is needed to inform targeting

Emphasize and fund Housing Problem Solving specifically. The practice encourages households to develop their own self-sufficient solutions.

Affordable housing programs funded annually, and some prioritization for supportive housing. Can strengthen through annual, ongoing operating and services $$.

HHAP funds for youth serving programs demonstrated that flexible investment in prevent works and that CA can reduce youth homelessness by addressing crisis drivers.

We need more services and coordination for those exiting jails and prisons.

In San Diego, the community care coordination (C3) program has shown great results in reducing homelessness upon exit from incarceration.

More funds for prevention. Many folks end up on the streets when intervention could have happened to help prevent this or respond to this.

The absence of supportive services funded for HCV and EHV vouchers is contributing to people falling back into homelessness. Advocates in place to assist folks with...

We must address the definition of homelessness that excludes those exiting residential programs and incarceration.

There are models that some states have implemented in partnership with providers to create identification of people falling into homelessness from other systems...

particularly those funded by the state. In Massachusetts we created a Close the Front Door into homelessness initiative later adopted generally by NAEH

Landlord engagement and advocacy programs assist with housing retention, preventing episodes of homelessness.

retention would reduce recidivism.

Santa Clara, collaboration w/ community orgs and targeting ERA to people below 30% AMI resulted in most resources going to households of color

CPL has research both on prevention targeting tools and on predictive analytics for targeting prevention

Tribal Entities were able to utilize the U.S. Department of Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide rent/utility relief and prevent homelessness