California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Gavin Newsom,   Governor
Tomiquia Moss, BCSH Secretary, Co-Chair| Dr. Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Co-Chair

Department and Federal Partner Updates

California Interagency Council on Homelessness Meeting
March 27, 2024

Note: Department and Federal Partner Updates are highly encouraged, but not required. The departments not included in these updates are CA Workforce Development Board.

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California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH)

California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) The Council welcomes new Co-Chair and BCSH Secretary, Tomiquia Moss. Secretary Moss was previously on the council as a community representative appointed by the State Senate and brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in the nonprofit and public sectors with deep expertise in housing and homelessness, public policy, civil rights, and community development. The Council also welcomes recently appointed CTCAC Executive Director, Marina Wiant.

The Advisory Committee to the Council convened on February 5th, 2024, to discuss feedback on their draft recommendations to the Council for improving State funding and programs and the upcoming 2024 Action Plan. The meeting recording and meeting materials can be accessed on our Meetings Webpage. The next Council and Advisory Committee Meetings are the following dates:

Council Meetings	Advisory Committee Meetings
• Wednesday, March 27th, 1:00 – 4:00PM	• Tuesday, May 21st, 1:00 – 3:00PM
• Wednesday, June 12th, 1:00 – 4:00PM	• Thursday, August 22nd, 1:00 – 3:00PM

To receive notice of these meetings and receive updates from Cal ICH, subscribe here.

Council Administered Grants

Grants Development Section

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP)

Since the NOFA was posted on Cal ICH's website on September 29, 2023, Cal ICH has been creating resources, answering questions, and offering ongoing support to applicants as they complete their HHAP-5 applications and their Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plans. Applications for HHAP-5 are due on March 27, 2024.

Tribal HHAP

Cal ICH has disbursed awards for round two of the Tribal HHAP program and is working with Tribes, Tribal Partners, and HCD to finalize the NOFA, application, and standard agreement documents for round three of the Tribal HHAP program. The NOFA and application will be posted in March/April of 2024 and applications for this third round of $20 million will be due on June 30, 2024.

Family Homelessness Challenge Grant (FHC)

Applications for the second round of awards for FHC will be due on February 27, 2024. Recipients of the initial round of program funds that demonstrate adequate progress towards their program goals, remain in compliance with all program requirements, and demonstrate the most promising and innovative practices which could be scaled and replicated to support statewide efforts to eliminate family homelessness will be awarded FHC-2 funds.

Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Grant Program

Cal ICH opened the rolling application period for ERF-3-R on November 27, 2023. The first application window closed on January 31, 2024. Cal ICH is currently reviewing and scoring those applications to determine who is eligible to receive an award. Cal ICH will keep the application portal open until June 30, 2024, or until all available ERF-3 funds have been exhausted, whichever comes first.

Grant Operations & Support Section

Monitoring

The Monitoring Unit is responsible for monitoring statutory expenditure, reporting and application requirements of Cal ICH grants through a support centered approach. The following provides and update on Grant Monitoring Unit activities in recent months:

- **HHAP Expenditure Deadline Support:** The Grants Monitoring Unit is currently supporting HHAP-3 grantees in meeting the upcoming obligation deadline on May 31, 2024. Based on data from the most recent HHAP-3 Quarterly Report, the Monitoring Unit developed a tiered approach to support and provided targeted guidance. One on one meetings with Cal ICH staff were provided to grantees that reported low obligation numbers in an effort to ensure grantees have all the resources necessary to meet the deadline.
- **ERF and FHC Deadline Support:** The Monitoring Unit is supporting ERF-1, ERF-2L, ERF-2R, and FHC grantees in meeting upcoming obligation and expenditure deadlines on June 30, 2024. The Monitoring Unit is currently coordinating meetings with grantees, the Cal ICH Program Implementation team, and Homebase (the ERF TA provider) to problem solve and provide creative solutions in meeting the upcoming deadlines. A total of 19 grantees have utilized these meetings to date.

Technical Assistance
The Technical Assistance (TA) Unit is responsible for providing support to all Cal ICH grantees through targeted, contracted technical assistance providers and evaluators. The following provides and update on recent developments within the TA Unit with some of the TA programs offered:

- **HHAP Youth Set-Aside Evaluation:** The University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) is currently conducting a mixed-methods evaluation assessing the impact of the HHAP youth set-aside through four objectives: guidelines to prevent, address and end youth homelessness, an evaluation survey, improved youth count, and support to youth leaders. In March, the Guidelines were released to HHAP grantees and other youth-serving organizations. These guidelines provide the best available evidence to inform decisions about spending of youth set-aside funds and the implementation of youth-centered programs. The guidelines were created by reviewing research literature for strategies and best practices, and by soliciting input from youth leaders with lived expertise in youth homelessness, youth advocates, service providers, government leads, and subject matter experts.
- **Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) TA**: TA provider Homebase provides TA support to all ERF grantees and is highly focused on program design in order to expend ERF funding within the short timeframes. This is done through a one on one and group setting approach. On January 22nd, Homebased hosted an ERF peer sharing all grantee convening where grantees were given space to discuss their successes in compassionate encampment response and learn best practices from one another. Homebase also facilitated a community learnings group regarding Working with Encampment Residents Impacted by the Criminal Legal System. Lastly, Homebase hosted a foundational training that explored De-escalation and Engagement Techniques for encampment residents.
- **Racial Equity TA:** The Technical Assistance Collaborative established phase two of the California Racial Equity Lab last year. This is a year-long engagement with the objective to identify and implement a Racial Equity Improvement Project that includes goals set forth in the HHAP-4 applications and work towards eliminating racial disparities in homelessness systems across California. The CA REAL participants have reached the stage where they define their racial equity improvement projects and are now focusing on the implementation phase where they begin to apply their strategies to achieve their goals. The participating cohort is comprised of 25 HHAP grantees.
- **Youth Programming TA:** The Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) established phase two of the Youth Action Board (YAB) Collaboration last year to focus on supporting HHAP grantees in building out youth action boards. On January 12th, TAC launched the YAB Level Up Series to inform grantees on how to engage people with lived experience and make an impact through guided programming and incorporating policies from the local, state, and national levels. There are currently 20 HHAP grantees engaged in Youth TA through one on one and group engagements.

- **Permanent Housing Solutions TA:** Focus Strategies (FS) developed Shelter Standards for Monterey and San Benito County using a Housing First principles' approach. They are using this effort to establish a "tool kit" that can be utilized by all grantees to develop shelter standards for their individual communities. FS continues to work with HHAP grantees to establish "community profiles". The community profiles are a visual guide that highlights local strategies and successes in providing support to people experiencing homelessness. The document provides regional goals for each community, significant achievements, and key collaborations toward reducing unsheltered homeliness. All the community profile interviews, and profiles will be completed by September 2024.

Data and Research

The Data and Research Unit within the Grants Division is responsible for facilitating the reconciling and evaluation of grants data, improving and maintaining grants data quality, and coordinating with the Cal ICH Data/Research and Monitoring Units to meet data needs. The following provides an update on key Data and Research Unit activities in recent months:

- **2023 HHAP and Tribal HHAP Annual Report:** HHAP and Tribal HHAP Annual Reports were due from grantees on December 31, 2023. The Data/Research Unit is currently going through the quality check and data analyzation phase. In this phase there is a lot of engagement with grantees on reconciling data related issues. The 2023 HHAP Annual Report is on target to be released in Spring 2024 and will contain fiscal and persons served data.

Statewide Policy and Local Initiatives

Action Plan

The revision of the Action Plan for FY 24-25 is currently underway. Public and Tribal input has already begun and Cal ICH staff have been collecting feedback from various conferences and Tribal engagements. There are two public input sessions scheduled for April 11 and April 25. The public and Tribal input processes will conclude in May and summaries of the input received will be presented at the June Council meeting.

Housing First

Cal ICH has identified 37 state funded, administered, or implemented programs that should comply with Housing First statute (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8255-8256). Staff have sent out a survey to the departments and agencies overseeing these programs to understand their compliance with the statutory requirements in order to strengthen the implementation of the Housing First statute. Cal ICH plans to provide guidance and resources to both state and local partners to help ensure effective implementation of the statute at all levels.

Lived Experience Advisory Board

One of the six key principles and commitments of Cal ICH is to ensure decisions are deeply informed and guided by people who have expertise grounded in lived experiences of homelessness. Meaningful input from people with lived experiences of accessing homelessness services while experiencing homelessness is required to assure that policymaker and providers learn of problems and solutions from firsthand accounts.

Cal ICH, in coordination with the contracted vendor, Homebase, formed the Cal ICH Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) to inform a broad range of Council decisions, priorities, and actions. Three-hundred and twenty (320) applications were reviewed, with representation across 42 counties in California and 55 applicants interviewed, out of which 11 members were selected in September 2023. Biographies of LEAB members have been posted to the Cal ICH website, and in November 2023, Cal ICH LEAB members introduced themselves to Council Members at the Cal ICH Council meeting.

As of December 2023, LEAB members completed their onboarding and began convening once a month to provide feedback on requests, while also continuing to build-up their organizational structure. Members meet monthly and receive reimbursement for their participation.

AB 977

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 977 (AB 977), the State of California requires grantees of specified state funded homelessness programs to enter specific data elements related to individuals and families into their local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). AB 977 requires Cal ICH to provide technical assistance and guidance to grantees or entities administering projects that receive funding from a program subject to this bill. AB 977 applies to the ten programs named in statute without limitation, and all state funded homelessness programs commencing on or after July 1, 2021. Cal ICH has contracted with Abt Associates to provide technical assistance and training to ensure that grantees have all the resources needed to be able to comply with AB 977.

Cal ICH, in consultation with respective administering state agencies or departments, is required to specify the entry format and disclosure frequency of the required data elements. The state agencies and departments expressly named in statute, in partnership with Cal ICH and Abt Associates, have issued instructions to their grantees to support HMIS data entry. Grantees of the ten programs identified in statute were required to comply with the project set up and data entry requirements when entering data into HMIS by July 1, 2023.

Cal ICH is working with Abt Associates to develop data quality reports that state agencies and departments can use to verify that their grantees are complying with AB 977's requirements. Abt Associates is supporting administering departments and agencies in reviewing and correcting data that their grantees submitted for third quarter of 2023. Cal ICH is also developing data summaries dashboards that provide administering departments with detailed data on the clients served by these programs, including the types of services provided, client demographics, and outcomes upon exiting the program.

Cal ICH is also partnering with Abt Associates to provide technical assistance to state-funded homelessness programs that commenced on or after July 1, 2021, in order to ensure grantees have the resources needed to comply with AB 977. Technical assistance efforts are currently under way for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) program (funded by the California Department of Health Care Services), and for the Veterans' Support to Self-Reliance (VSSR) Pilot (funded by the California Department of Veterans Affairs).

SB 914 & SB 918

Pursuant to Senate Bill 914, the Homeless Equity for Left Behind Populations (HELP) Act, the State of California requires cities, counties, and continuums of care who receive state funding to include families, people fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, and unaccompanied women into their homelessness planning and responses, on or after January 1, 2024. SB 914 requires Cal ICH to set initial goals by January 1, 2025 to prevent and end homelessness among these key populations. SB 914 further requires local jurisdictions to work with victim service providers to develop analyses or goals to address the specific needs of this population with data measures not included in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Pursuant to Senate Bill 918, the Homeless Youth Act of 2018, the State of California requires Cal ICH to set and measure progress towards goals aimed at preventing and ending homelessness among youth in the state, to coordinate funding, policy, and practice efforts related to young people experiencing homelessness, and to provide technical assistance and program development support.

Cal ICH has contracted with the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV) to implement SB 914 and SB 918. CPEDV is beginning a landscape analysis of available data as well as a process for engagement with stakeholders including state and local government staff, service providers, and people

with lived experience of homelessness to create meaningful and actionable goals and measures of progress. CPEDV will also support the provision of technical assistance and training activities to cities, counties and Continuums of Care to help integrate these goals into local planning processes.

Homelessness Data Integration System

Cal ICH's Homelessness Data Integration System (HDIS) aggregates data from the 44 local homelessness response systems (Continuums of Care) in California on a quarterly basis. Cal ICH released data on the [public dashboard](#) about the people who accessed the homelessness response system through the third quarter of 2023. Cal ICH also updated the [demographic data](#) posted to the state's open data portal. Cal ICH has begun processing data for the fourth quarter of 2023 and anticipates this data will be released in late spring 2024.

This data is the first data submitted by CoC pursuant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) new 2024 [HMIS](#) data standards, which include a combined race and ethnicity category, and the addition of new gender categories. Whereas HDIS previously included anyone who identified as more than one race as part of a "multiple races" category, the combined race and ethnicity category enables HDIS to include people in each of the race and ethnicity categories that they identify with. This means race and ethnicity categories will count those who identify with each race *alone* or *in combination with another race or ethnicity*. Cal ICH has updated the public dashboard to align with these new data standards and reporting methods. Cal ICH has released a [fact sheet](#) with more information about this approach to reporting. This approach was developed with input from the State Funding and Programs Working Group, Racial Equity Working Group, and homelessness researchers.

Cal ICH has also presented its first in a series of HDIS Connect workshops for local HMIS administrators, focused on the 2024 HMIS data standards updates. HDIS Connect seeks to support local HMIS administrators in improving HDIS data quality, facilitating broad research exchange, and creating a collaborative space to explore best practices and knowledge sharing. Through bi-monthly HDIS Connect workshops, Cal ICH will continue to develop relationships with HMIS administrators to generate diverse perspectives on best practices for the use of HDIS data. HMIS administrators interested in being included in future HDIS Connect sessions can reached out to HDIS@bcsh.ca.gov.

California System Performance Measures

The California System Performance Measures (CA SPMs) are a series of metrics developed by the Cal ICH that help the state and local jurisdictions assess their progress toward preventing, reducing, and ending homelessness. The CA SPMs provide standardized data to each Continuum of Care in the state on six performance measures, as well as information that can be used to identify underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

Cal ICH released new CA SPM data for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to eligible HHAP-5 applicants for use in informing their Regional Coordinated Action Plans, as well as for other planning efforts. Cal ICH has also published a [CA SPM Goal Setting Tool](#) for communities to use to analyze their CA SPMs, set goals, and identify disparities in their communities.

Homeless Data Integration System Technical Assistance and Analytics RFP

Cal ICH has posted a [notice of intent to award](#) contract to ICF Incorporated, L.L.C. to provide technical assistance to Council member departments and agencies to use HDIS data and CA SPMs, and to Continuums of Care and service providers to improve HDIS data quality and compliance. ICF will also assist with improving CA SPM methodology through stakeholder engagement and new code development and creating data visualization dashboards. ICF is scheduled to begin work in summer 2024.

California Department of Aging (CDA)

The Department of Aging (CDA) continues to focus efforts on advancing the Master Plan for Aging, including Goal One, *Housing for All Ages and Stages,* and Goal Five, *Affording Aging (MPA)*, which

includes the strategy of "Ending Older Adult Homelessness." These efforts are aimed at ensuring accessible, person-centered services and supports systems through networking, advocacy, and referral arrangements. Altogether, the MPA goals are key components to building out an age-and-disability friendly California. For more information, see the 2023-24 MPA Annual Report and the MPA Implementation Tracker. The following efforts reflect the department's housing-related efforts, as well as stakeholder engagement:

- **Modernizing California's Aging Network:** The department led a robust, year-long stakeholder process known as California 2030 that resulted in a final report and agenda for action: More than 100 stakeholders were interviewed, including all 33 Area Agencies on Aging, and over 17,000 older adults in all 58 counties responded to a statewide consumer survey. This effort is a 2024 program priority for the CalHHS Agency as reflected on the 2024-2025 Program Priority release. Specific to housing, the California 2030 report outlines strategies to improve housing information, navigation and referrals, a high priority for stakeholders who informed the project. The California Commission on Aging is sponsoring legislation, SB 1249 (Roth) to advance key recommendations in the CA 2030 report.

- **Preventing and Ending Older Adult Homelessness:** Last fall, CDA convened an invitational roundtable discussion in Los Angeles with subject matter experts, academic partners, and select stakeholders to develop a framework for preventing and ending homelessness among older adults in partnership with state, local and community-based entities. Recommendations from this convening are expected to be released in March 2024.

Programs and Initiatives:

- **Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator**: In February, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development selected California to participate in the Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator initiative. CDA is partnering with the lead state entity, Department of Health Care Services, as well as the Department of Rehabilitation, the Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency, and the Department of Housing and Community Development to continue advancing efforts to advance housing and services for older adults, in alignment with the Master Plan for Aging.

- **Elder and Disability Justice, Legal Services Technical Assistance**: CDA awarded a $1million contract to Justice in Aging (JIA) to strengthen elder justice initiatives and map California's legal landscape. The collaboration includes a comprehensive needs assessment of Legal Services in California, a collaborative roundtable discussion on relevant topics, and the opportunity to learn about different legal models and strategic plans among service providers in California. Additionally, a curriculum has been developed and posted on the JIA California Resources and Trainings webpage that is designed to equip providers with the resources, tools, and skills required to address the complex legal challenges faced by older adults and adults with disabilities. The legal service needs include housing insecurity, rental issues, tenant protections, eviction protections, and asset management such as estate planning to ensure an individual does not lose their housing. Funding for the program expires 6/30/2024.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Gap Analysis: A key initiative of the Master Plan for Aging, the CDA's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Gap Analysis and Multi-year Roadmap project will focus on assessing the landscape of non-Medi-Cal HCBS, including an analysis of affordable/accessible housing for older adults and people with disabilities. The project seeks to develop

an inventory and gap analysis of HCBS to inform a multi-year roadmap that will build upon California's HCBS infrastructure. CDA's Non-Medi-Cal HCBS Gap Analysis is being carried out in partnership with the Department of Health Care Service's (DHCS) Medi-Cal HCBS Gap Analysis and Multi-year Roadmap.

- **Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative:** The 2023-24 budget included a $50 million investment in older adult behavioral health. The initiative seeks to: 1) build capacity for trusted community-based providers to expand older adult behavioral health services, 2) address isolation and combat loneliness by continuing an contracting with Friendship Line, a statewide emotional support warmline for older adults, and 3) reduce stigma through an ethnic media outreach campaign. CDA released the Fact Sheet: Advancing Older Adult Behavioral Health that provides additional background and resource links.

- **Local Aging & Disability Action Planning Grant Program**: CDA established the Local Aging & Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant Program to support communities in developing local age and disability-friendly action plans. The local plans seek to improve a community's livability and address the current, emerging, and future needs of California's older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers through local coordination and cross-sector collaboration. The 21 grantees join the nearly 100 communities across California who have already embarked upon age- and disability-friendly action planning and implementation. The goals of the LADAP grant program align with California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA) and California's commitment to equity. The grant program runs through March 31, 2025.

- **Dignity at Home Fall Prevention and Home Modification Program:** The Dignity at Home Falls Prevention and Home Modification Program is a $10 million program operated by local Area Agencies on Aging to provide information, education, and home modifications to enable older adults to safely remain in their homes. In 2022, the program assisted 3,606 individuals and provided 312 training programs. Funding for the program expires 6/30/2024.

Stakeholder Engagement

The following stakeholder committees continue to address housing and homelessness:

- The **Implementing the MPA Together in CA** (IMPACT) Stakeholder Committee continues to elevate the need for affordable, accessible housing linked with needed health care and supportive services. Further, the Committee has advocated for more targeted investments to meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, and they hope to see more explicit allocations. Finally, they are proponents of a rental-assistance program targeted to severely rent-burdened and other precariously housed older adults and persons with disabilities.

- The **Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee** (DACLAC) housing subcommittee continues to advocate for targeted rental assistance for older adult renters who are at-risk of homelessness. This was the focus of the most recent DACLAC meeting with presentations from local communities piloting targeted rental assistance as well as updates from DHCS on the role of CalAIM community supports and new Medi-Cal housing assistance approved in the FY 23-24 state budget, subject to CMS approval.

- The **Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council** (EDJCC) continues their focus on the issues of abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults and people with disabilities. The council has explored solutions related to conservatorships, legal services the role of public guardians,

intersections with Adult Protective Services, and closer alignment with health, human services, housing and law enforcement.

In the stakeholder space, Justice in Aging, a leading advocate for older adult housing needs released an issue brief in March focused on low-income older adult renters in California and the growing threat of aging into homelessness.

California Community Colleges (CCC)

Student Housing Programs Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot (HHIP)

In fiscal year 2019-20, the state Legislature appropriated $9M annually to California Community Colleges (CCC) to support ongoing rapid rehousing services to CCC students. As a result, the Chancellor's Office launched the Homeless and Housing Insecurity Program (HHIP) to support pilot colleges develop and/or strengthen capacity to support students facing housing insecurity or homelessness by maintaining stable housing, ultimately improving their educational outcomes. The 2022-2023 budget included a $10 million dollar increase to the program. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, a cost-of-living adjustment was applied, and the program funding was increased to an annual appropriation of $20.5 million.

There are currently two cohorts of colleges participating in HHIP, and the Chancellor's Office employs a statewide data driven identification process, including analysis of county and college data, to establish participating cohorts. The first cohort consists of 14 colleges, with each college receiving $500,000-$700,000 annually for four years. The second Cohort, consisting of 13 colleges, began participation in the 2023-2024 academic year. Each received a base of $150,000, with the remaining balance being distributed around the individual campus head count, across the participating colleges. Cohort 2 colleges have now attended two in-person training sessions and are in early stages of program implementation. This will bring our cumulative total to 27 campuses participating in HHIP starting the 2023-2024 academic year.

COHORT 1	COHORT 2
Antelope Valley Community College	American River College
Barstow College	College of Marin
Butte College	LA Harbor College
Cerritos College	LA Trade Tech College
College of the Redwoods	Oxnard College
Fresno City College	San Bernardino Valley College
Gavilan College	Santa Barbara College
Imperial Valley College	Santa Rosa College
Long Beach City College	Shasta College
Los Angeles Southwest College	Southwestern College
Modesto Junior College	West Hills Lemoore College
Riverside City College	*Cuyamaca College
San Diego City College	*San Joaquin Delta

Victor Valley College	

The Chancellor's Office is currently compiling 2022-2023 academic year program data from colleges participating in the first Cohort and anticipates completing data analysis by the end of April 2024. The Chancellor's Office will use these data insights to inform professional development priorities for existing cohorts and the design of potential new cohorts.

Updates from the California State University System

CSU OVERVIEW

Critical to student success at the CSU, the Basic Needs Initiative takes a holistic look at students' well-being both inside and outside the classroom, from housing and food security to mental health. Student engagement and well-being is a priority of Graduation Initiative 2025, which is supported by ongoing state funding. The CSU is working to find better ways to support our students on their path to graduation.

With the passage of the 2021-2022 state budget (AB 128, California Budget Act of 2021), recurring funds for basic needs initiatives were provided by the state legislature to the California State University (CSU). The original $15 million investment in basic needs initiatives allows the CSU to advance Graduation Initiative 2025, the ambitious initiative to increase graduation rates for all students while eliminating equity gaps and providing the state with the graduates it needs to power the economy. These funds are the result of advocacy efforts from the CSU Board of Trustees, California State Student Association (CSSA), and countless campus and community partners and stakeholders.

The original $15 million recurring investment was increased by an additional $10 million with the passage of the 2022-2023 state budget (AB 178, California Budget Act of 2022). Beginning July 2022, the total amount from the state for basic needs initiatives in the CSU is $25 million.

In fall of 2019, California State University (CSU) campuses participated in a competitive application process to apply for $6.5 million in recurring funds made available through the amended Budget Act of 2019 (SB 109, California Budget Act of 2019) for a systemwide project known as "College-Focused Rapid Rehousing" (RRH). Resources were allocated to campuses to develop and enhance programs and services for students facing challenges with housing instability and homelessness. RRH requires that CSU campuses establish ongoing partnerships with community organizations that have a tradition of providing wrap-around services and rental subsidies to those experiencing homelessness.

The CSU has completed the process of collecting annual survey responses from the 23 CSU campuses regarding updates on food security, housing security, and financial stability program utilization and advancements in the 2022-2023 academic year. The following numbers were collected from these responses:

FOOD SECURITY

- 67,594 students were reached and supported by their campus food pantry and/or food distribution services in the 2022-2023 academic year.
- 22,827 students were assisted with CalFresh applications in the 2022-2023 academic year.

HOUSING SECURITY

- The CSU provides housing support to housing insecure or homeless students through emergency on and off campus placements and emergency grants to support housing expenses.
  - 1,190 students were reached and supported with on- and off-campus housing in the 2022-2023 academic year.
  - 12,644 students received housing support through the additional $10 million increase in funding in the 2022-2023 academic year.
- 8 campuses have participated in the Rapid Rehousing pilot (since 2019); they are collaborating with community-based organizations to assist with longer-term housing solutions.
  - 1,538 students were provided housing support through the Rapid Rehousing Program in the 2022-2023 academic year.
  - 198 students were placed in long-term housing through the Rapid Rehousing Program in the 2022-2023 academic year.
  - 68 students who participated in the Rapid Rehousing Program during their academic career graduated in the 2022-2023 academic year.

FINANCIAL STABILITY & MISCENALLANEOUS RESOURCES

- 7,602 students were supported with emergency funds in the 2022-2023 academic year.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

Action Item No.	Action Item (as written in the FY 2022-23 Cal ICH Action Plan)	Metrics (as written in the FY 2023-24 Cal ICH Action Plan)	February 2024 Quarterly Update (due to Cal ICH on March 15, 2024)
1.4.4	Address the employment needs of people transitioning from State Prison, including those who receive housing under the Returning Home Well initiative, by connecting them to local employment resources, such as leveraging the workforce partnership and Prison to Employment initiative, and linking them to Department of Rehabilitation programs. This could include the provision of Workforce Development Board stipends (if applicable.)	• Outcome Measures: Report the following metrics on a data dashboard: ○ Types of training and employment secured post-release; ○ Training participation during incarceration; and ○ Employment duration and retention measures	CDCR staff continue to work to incorporate employment data into an internal dashboard. Simultaneously, CDCR staff are strengthening processes to maximize post-release connections to employment (e.g., Prison to Employment linkage, Female Community Reentry Program / Male Community Reentry Program linkages from CDCR Career and Technical Education programs to employment), working with community reentry program contract providers to help transitioning citizens develop relationships/opportunities to engage in training and employment to develop self-sufficiency upon release.
3.9.11	Implement the Returning Home Well initiative to expand interim housing options for people	Outcome Measure: Increased community capacity to provide interim housing options to target population.	For CDCR Returning Home Well data, see table below, entitled "CDCR Returning Home Well Quarterly Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24."

	transitioning from corrections settings up to one year of release.	Output Measures: Demographics and other information regarding: o population served; o duration between release and housing placement; o duration of housing placement. o Additional measures, as identified.	
3.9.15	Explore potential opportunities for CDCR and their contracted providers to directly refer individuals releasing from State Prison who are at risk of homelessness and who are on parole and become homeless to existing, applicable programs to address housing needs. Specific emphasis will be made to explore connections to housing resources for the American Indian / Alaska Native population.	Outcome Measure: TBD (based on available and applicable housing programs.)	CDCR's Division of Rehabilitation (DRP), Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) staff are meeting on a bi-monthly basis to explore linkages for returning citizens and parolees to the CDSS Homeless Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP). DRP staff have documented and shared with CDSS the findings from initial discussions with responsive HDAP providers. CDSS is following up on CDCR's findings to evaluate compliance with CDSS requirements (or not) and to explore possibilities to leverage current technical assistance opportunities to address identified issues.
4.11.8	Monitor CDCR contractor's adherence contractual requirements related to Housing First in order to provide participants with meaningful choice and seek to minimize exits to homelessness.	**Process Measure:** Verify participants are provided with information regarding housing first during program orientations.	DRP updated the CDCR Program Accountability Review process and the related data collection system to ensure adherence to contractual requirements related to Housing First.
5.14.2	Work to establish referral processes to link unsheltered parolees who are enrolled into Medi-Cal to the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans so they may gain access to the new CalAIM Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS) benefits.	Process Measure: Documentation of consultation efforts and of modifications to policies and practices being implemented in response to findings.	CDCR's Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO), Behavioral Health Reintegration (BHR) clinicians continue to implement referrals to request ECM assessments from Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans to facilitate linkages to the Community Supports benefit. BHR and the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health are working collaboratively to support the BHR clinicians in their implementation efforts and identify areas for quality improvement. As the process becomes more established, it will be leveraged to refer unsheltered parolees to ECM (and CS). In parallel, the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health developed an informational flyer to instruct criminal

			justice partners on how to make ECM referrals, which is available on the [CCJBH website](#).
5.14.5	Partner with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to implement the HCD Reentry Pilot Project(s), which will leverage individuals with lived experience in the program design.	**Outcome Measure:** TBD (based on pilot program requirements).	HCD and CDCR continue to work collaboratively to develop the Reentry Pilot Project methodology.
5.14.6	Track CDCR pre-release and community referrals that are facilitated by CDCR's Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming contractors, who employ and leverage individuals with lived experience to address the housing needs of individuals identified as being at risk of homelessness before leaving prison or who become homeless after transitioning to their communities.	Potential Output Measures: o Number of people identified as homeless; o Number of referrals to housing; o Number of individuals placed in housing; o Type of housing placements; o Duration of housing placements. *Note: metrics for this activity are related to referrals to the housing programs mentioned above.*	As of February 29, 2024, there were 3,648 unhoused parolees (sheltered+ unsheltered). For CDCR pre-release and community referrals that are facilitated by CDCR's Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP) contractors, see table below, entitled "CDCR Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming Quarterly Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24."
5.14.6	Analyze existing data, which could include interdepartmental data matches, to better understand the scale of risks for homelessness among people preparing to exit prison settings.	*Process Measure:* Document findings from analyses.	CDCR continues to refine a Parolee Housing dashboard to track housing need for individuals who are under CDCR DAPO supervision. CDCR is also developing a Business Use Case Proposal to establish a data match between CDCR and CalICH to assess the extent to which individuals leaving CDCR are served by local Continuums of Care (CoCs).
5.14.8	Explore opportunities to establish referral pathways from CDCR to local Continuums of Care for people exiting CDCR who are identified as being at risk of homelessness upon transition to their communities and for people who are on parole who become unhoused.	**Process Measure:** Documentation of consultation efforts and of modifications to policies and practices being implemented in response to findings.	CDCR DAPO and DRP are collaborating with CalICH staff on strategies to educate Continuums of Care on CDCR's pre-release processes. CDCR is scheduled to attend and present at CalICH's CoC "Office Hours" meetings in March 2024 to establish a foundation from which to begin exploring potential linkages to CoC housing services.

5.14.9	Explore opportunities to support CoCs in using CDCR data to initiate planning efforts to address the housing and housing services needs of the pre-release and parolee populations. *Cal ICH will check with teams for support capacity.	**Process Measure**: Documentation of consultation efforts and of modifications to policies and practices being implemented in response to findings.	This Action Item relates to Action Item No. 5.14.8 and will be operationalized based on discussions with CoCs.

CDCR Returning Home Well
Quarterly Report
Fiscal Year 2023-24

RHW data for FY 23/24	Q1 (7/1/23-9/30/23)	Q1+Q2 (7/1/23-12/31/23)
Population Served	453	902
Average Days Between Release and Housing Placement	93.5	102.4
Average Days Spent in Housing Placement	74.7	70.3

CDCR Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming
Quarterly Report
Fiscal Year 2023-24

STOP data for FY 23/24	Q1 (7/1/23-9/30/23)	Q1+Q2 (7/1/23-12/31/23)
Referrals to Housing	2,844	4,531
Individuals Placed in Housing	3,835	5,211
Average Days Spent in Housing Placements*	75.2	77.5
**FOTEP	99.6	110.8
**LRT	51.8	51.4
**RRH	88.0	92.4

*Type of Housing Placements – Female Offender Treatment and Employment Program, Licensed Residential Treatment, and Recovery and Reentry Housing (includes RHW).

California Department of Education (CDE)

Supporting Access to Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Wednesday, March 21, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the Homeless Education, Technical Assistance Centers (HETACs) will be conducting a webinar with a brief overview of the McKinney-Vento homeless education and career and technical education programs and the related statutory footprints under each program, make a compelling case for the value of CTE pathways for students experiencing homelessness using new CTE access and success data, and explore possible barriers to CTE access and success for students experiencing homelessness and potential strategies to remove these barriers.

Please register at
https://cccoeschools.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bA3S1TJaS5GyUyaF7kCjvg#/registration

Early Care and Education for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Homeless Education, Technical Assistance Centers (HETACs) will review best practices to facilitate collaboration between schools, early childhood programs, and service providers to increase awareness and access to services for families with young children experiencing homelessness. This webinar will include a review of:

- The effects of homelessness on young children's development
- Types of early education programs
- McKinney-Vento requirements for early education programs
- Benefits of participation in early education programs
- Barriers to participation in early childhood programs
- Outreach strategies.

Please register at
https://cccoeschools.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2yZEPR2QTtu7hYZ33ReJ3Q#/registration

For all past sessions held by the Homeless Education, Technical Assistance Centers please visit the Training and Events Section of the HETAC website at https://www.hetac.org/events

California Department of Education's Data and Donuts Webinar Series for Homeless Education
Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 3 p.m., it's the California Department of Education's (CDE) Data and Donuts for Homeless Education. This session was: **Voices From the Field: "What's Working?"** Attendees were impressed when they heard from two local educational agencies (LEAs) leveraging data strategically. They learned about Kern County's Integrated Data System, Kern KIDS, and how they have created a streamlined approach for sharing and managing data. Attendees also heard from the CDE Homeless Innovative Program grantees and other LEAs who are having success in working with their

data. Check out the recording of this and other sessions such as the new Geographic Information System (GIS) Map centered around homeless students and their enrollment. Recordings and future sessions can all be found on the HETAC website at https://www.hetac.org/resources/data

California Statewide Homeless Education Conference 2024 (May 8- 10, 2024)

Join the California Department of Education, Homeless Education Program, led by the Homeless Education Technical Assistance Centers in partnership with SchoolHouse Connection, on May 8-10th, 2024, in person, in San Diego, California. The intent of this exciting, conference is to encourage participants to network with one another, build capacity during these challenging times, and learn strategies to navigate their roles and responsibilities for serving and supporting our children and youth experiencing homelessness. Practitioners and other experts will share practical strategies and innovative programs to support children and youth from birth through college/career. The conference also will provide:

- Multiple opportunities to relate and reconnect.
- Inspiration to reimagine and transform your programs and practices.
- Creative moments to rest, reflect, and rejuvenate.
- Informative and interactive sessions on homeless education basics and beyond.

If you missed it last year, don't wait Registration is Now Open! We are close to being sold out so don't wait! Those interested can find out more details at Conference website at https://www.cahomelesseducation.com/

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Governor Unveils Proposed 2024-25 Budget

DHCS' proposed budget supports our purpose to provide equitable access to quality health care leading to a healthy California for all. The proposed budget builds upon the Administration's previous investments and enables DHCS to continue transforming Medi-Cal and behavioral health into a system that operates more efficiently and effectively for Californians. The Governor's Budget proposes a total of $161.1 billion and 4,649.5 positions to support DHCS programs and services.

DHCS Issues Request for Application for $265 Million for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing

In January, DHCS released a third round of Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program funding to provide $265,000,000 to county behavioral health agencies for use in the expanded implementation of bridge housing services for Californians experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions (a serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder). Applications will be accepted until April 10, 2024. Award notifications will be announced in July 2024

In June 2023, DHCS released $50 million in BHBH funding to tribal entities. In October 2023 DHCS awarded $30 million of this funding to 9 tribal entities to provide support for their planning and implementation of bridge housing settings. The Track 1 – Planning Grant is intended to facilitate

engagement and community conversations to meet the immediate housing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions. The Track 2 – Implementation Grant is intended to launch and operate a BHBH Program to address the immediate housing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions. The remaining funding of $20 million is being re-released for application on February 13th.

January 2024 Medi-Cal MCP Transition

On January 1, DHCS achieved a significant milestone in its transformation of Medi-Cal with the launch of the new managed care contract and the MCP transition, under which approximately 1.2 million members gained new health plan options and/or transitioned to new MCPs (note: changing MCPs does not affect Medi-Cal member coverage or benefits). To facilitate a smooth transition between MCPs for members, DHCS created Continuity of Care protections to minimize disruptions to members' care.

DHCS developed several resources to support members, providers, and other stakeholders with the transition, including the MCP Transition Member webpage with a county "lookup" tool, links to the member notices sent by Medi-Cal about MCP changes, member frequently asked questions in all threshold languages, and a Contact Us page for members to learn more about health plan changes. There are also transition resources for providers, MCPs, and stakeholders. More information about the transition is available in the 2024 MCP Transition Policy Guide and Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter Number I 23-54.

The MCP Transition Member webpage includes resources and information to support members' transition. Members unable to resolve issues or questions after working with their MCP may contact DHCS' Office of the Ombudsman at toll-free 1-888-452-8609 or by emailing MMCDOmbudsmanOffice@dhcs.ca.gov.

California Invests $70.5 Million in Nonprofits to Improve Equity in Behavioral Health Care

On January 17, DHCS announced the awarding of $70.5 million to 101 nonprofit entities across the state as part of the Health Equity in Behavioral Health Recovery Services (HEAR US) project. These investments will help expand access to, and use of, behavioral health recovery services among communities of color and other historically marginalized communities.

Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Capacity and Infrastructure Transition, Expansion, and Development (CITED) Round 3 Application Opening

On January 15, DHCS opened the PATH CITED Round 3 application window. The PATH CITED initiative provides funding to build the capacity and infrastructure of on-the-ground partners, including community-based organizations, public hospitals, county agencies, tribes, and others, to successfully participate in Medi-Cal. The deadline to apply for PATH CITED Round 3 funding was February 15, 2024.

PATH Technical Assistance (TA) Marketplace Virtual Vendor Fair

On February 29, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., DHCS will host the first PATH TA Marketplace virtual Vendor Fair. TA Vendor Fairs are an opportunity for vendors to pitch their organization and services to potential TA recipients and encourage utilization of the TA Marketplace. TA recipients and organizations interested in learning more about the TA Marketplace, including how to apply to receive free services, are invited to

attend. This is the first in a series of upcoming Vendor Fairs and will focus on presentations from vendors providing services in Domain 3 of the PATH TA Marketplace: "Engaging in CalAIM through Medi-Cal Managed Care".

California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG)

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds a variety of activities to address homelessness, including rapid re-housing, homeless prevention, street outreach, and emergency shelter.

- On January 29, 2024, $1,189,310 in ESG Homelessness Prevention (HP) funds were approved for award by the Director's Office. The seven (7) homeless providers that were awarded applied for this one-time special HP funding under the 2023 ESG HP NOFA that was released in September 2023. This funding, in the amount of $1.7 million dollars was made available from disencumbered funds from the 2020 annual ESG HUD allocation. ESG HP funds may be used to provide housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance necessary to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or another place described by HUD, which includes but is not limited to living on the streets, in a park, or in another place not meant for human habitation. The goal is to keep people in their current housing by providing ongoing stabilization services.

- As of January 5, 2024, the ESG team started the internal routing process of standard agreements from the awards made under the 2023 ESG Continuum of Care Allocation on November 17, 2023. One of these standard agreements has already been executed.

- On December 12, 2023, 24 awards were made under the 2023 Balance of State (BoS) Allocation, Non-Competitive portion. The Non-Competitive Allocation portion is specifically designed to rapidly re-housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

- On November 17, 2023, 17 Awards were made under the 2023 ESG Continuum of Care (CoC) Allocation. ESG provides funding to: engage individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness; improve the number of and quality of emergency shelters for individuals and families experiencing homelessness; help operate these shelters; provide essential services to shelter residents; rapidly re-house individuals and families; and prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless.

Emergency Solutions Grants CARES Act (ESG-CV)

Authorized by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act enacted March 27, 2020, Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) funds prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or receiving homelessness assistance.

- On September 29, 2023, HUD approved HCD's request to extend the ESG-CV grant expiration date from December 31, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Four of the seven tribal grant agreements have been amended to add an additional $800 thousand dollars and extend for time. Two of the seven tribal grants were amended to extend for time, allowing them time to complete their ongoing ESG-

CV projects. Seven non-tribal ESG-CV grants were extended for time. As of February 5, 2023, 97-percent, or $310 million of the $319 million ESG-CV grant has been drawn.

- ICF continues to provide one-on-one technical assistance to the ESG-CV tribal grantees. Sixty-one jurisdictions and Continuums of Care have participated in technical assistance (TTA) (Direct TTA, New and Non-traditional, Office Hours, Community Workshops) in 2023.

- The ESG/ESG-CV team continues to conduct weekly office hours to provide program updates, trainings from homelessness service subject matter experts and answer questions. On average, 90 stakeholders attend each week.

- To date, over 23,000 persons have been housed with ESG-CV funding and 19 temporary emergency shelters have been constructed with this funding.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV)

Authorized by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act enacted March 27, 2020, Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funds prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus via community development and housing projects and programs that serve low- and moderate-income households, including those experiencing homelessness.

- Construction continues on the CDBG-CV Homekey projects. Completion is expected later this year. In November, the CDBG-CV team published an opportunity for CDBG-CV grantees who were awarded funds for construction projects, but who had experienced unanticipated cost increases to come in for funding augmentation to their existing awards. Applications for these additional funds are due April 15, 2024. Grantees can request augmentation that will bring their total award amount to 125% of the original amount, more if they have experienced extenuating circumstances and can substantiate the additional needed funds.

- HCD has been providing individualized technical assistance to CoCs and units of local government to use CDBG-CV funding to aid in the ramp down of ESG-CV programs as funding is exhausted. Grantees have been encouraged to use this resource available from HUD: Using CDBG Funds for ESG-CV-Eligible Activities - HUD Exchange

HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Program

HOME-ARP Program assists individuals or households who are experiencing homeless, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations, through the creation of permanent affordable rental housing and the provision of supportive services, including financial assistance, to keep Californians housed. The HOME-ARP Program is uniquely designed to address Californian's housing need by looking beyond income requirements and providing access to housing based on people's living situation. Access to HOME-ARP affordable housing is not based solely on a family's income. For example, if a family is experiencing homelessness or fleeing a domestic violence situation, their annual income can be greater than 80 percent AMI and still qualify for the HOME-ARP housing and services. Additionally, if a family is housed and are severely cost burdened, they too can qualify for HOME-ARP affordable housing. The HOME-ARP Program meets Californians where they are at in life and helps move them closer to the California dream.

- HOME-ARP Program launched two programs in 2023/2024, the HOME-ARP Rental Housing Program and Housing Plus Support Program. Additionally in 2024, HCD will launch the first of its

kind statewide investment in reentry housing, the HOME-ARP Reentry Pilot Project. More information on each HOME-ARP initiative can be found below:

- **HOME-ARP Rental Housing Program—**in October 2023 the $89 million NOFA was released. The NOFA incorporates several key innovations to reduce barriers that cause delays to the production of affordable housing and to effectively administer the HOME-ARP Program. For example, the Program incentivizes:

    - Projects where the HOME-ARP award will fill the entire funding gap or where the HOME-ARP program is funding 100 percent of the project (within program award limits), to ensure projects quickly enter the construction phase after award.

    - Projects with 30 units and less. Smaller projects are typically better suited for rural, non-entitlement, and Tribal communities where the market is smaller, and developers often have limited capacity. Funding programs that incentivize large developments can be difficult for rural, non-entitlement areas, and Tribes to access.

- Applications are due in March 2024 for non-tribal applicants and April 2024 for all others, and Awards are expected in July 2024.

- **HOME-ARP Housing Plus Support Program—**The $29.7 million NOFA was released on January 23, 2024. The program is designed to connect individuals and families who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness, with permanent housing and supportive services provided to increase self-reliance and housing stability. HPSP employs three primary strategies: providing housing case management services to ensure quick placement into permanent housing, supporting and developing strong service providers, and instituting more flexible programming.

- **HOME-ARP Reentry Pilot Project—**In collaboration with the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, the HOME-ARP team will implement the first of its kind state level investment in permanent housing for individuals exiting correctional institutions. HOME-ARP's $16 million capital investment will be complimented with supportive services to ensure housing stability long term.

    - On June 27, 2023, and June 28, 2023, Jason L. Bradley, HOME-ARP Section Manager was a panelist at the National Reentry Housing Symposium in Washington D.C. The Symposium is the result of a collaborative partnership between the Council of State Government's Justice Center, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U. S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Housing for a Healthy California/National Housing Trust Fund (HHC/NHTF)

The HHC program made funding available to developers for the acquisition, capitalized operating subsidy reserve, rehabilitation, and/or new construction of multifamily rental housing for the creation of permanent supportive housing using federal National Housing Trust Fund dollars under the authority of AB 74 (2017). The goal of the HHC/NHTF program is to provide housing for people experiencing homelessness, reducing the financial burden on local and state health-care resources. Target population includes people experiencing chronic homelessness or homelessness who are high-cost health users and are Medi-Cal eligible upon initial entry.

The state has used its federal NHTF dollars to fund the state HHC/NHTF program for federal fiscal years 2018-2021. HCD anticipates the completion of construction for all HHC/NHTF awarded projects no later than December 2026.

Since the allocation of federal fiscal year 2022 and thereafter, NHTF operates as a stand-alone program without the HHC Program overlay, which allows for greater flexibility. Draft NHTF Guidelines were published in April 2023 for a 30-day public comment period. In October 2023, HCD published the NHTF combined federal fiscal years 2022-2023 NHTF Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for approximately $172 million ($116 million FY2022 and $56 million FY2023); the Final NHTF Guidelines; and online application and workbook.

The NHTF funding was made available to developers for the acquisition, rehabilitation and/or new construction, eligible soft costs, and permanent financing of affordable multifamily rental housing developments, with a preference for projects that serve people experiencing homelessness. The NHTF Unit held two virtual workshops to review the NOFA, Final NHTF Guidelines, new on-line application and workbook with Tribal entities on October 25, 2023, and with the general public on October 26, 2023. Each workshop provided the opportunity for potential applicants to meet with NHTF staff one-on-one to ask questions and discuss potential projects.

As of February 2024, the NHTF Unit has held over 100 technical assistance appointments since October 2023. Division of Federal Financial Assistance staff worked closely with the Department's Tribal Affairs team to host formal Tribal consultations as well as numerous other tribal engagement opportunities. Coordinated efforts between the NHTF Unit and Tribal Affairs will continue seeking Tribal engagement opportunities. As of February 1, 2024, over $1.24 billion in NHTF financing was requested for 106 projects comprised of three Tribal Entities, nine Rural Areas, 27 Disaster Areas and 67 non-rural applications. The NHTF Unit will announce the awardees no later than July 2024.

Past Funding:

- The federal fiscal years 2020-2021 HHC NOFA for approximately $160 million was released on December 31, 2021.
- The NOFA provided an over-the-counter (OTC) application process for supplemental funding from previous awardees and a competitive process for new applications. Approximately $45 million was used for the OTC applications.
- The NOFA also provided rural and Tribal funding targets. Funds not awarded via these targets were added back into the general allocation as detailed below:

	Target	**Awarded**
Rural	$32 million	$12 million
Tribal	$16 million	-
All other parts of the state	$112 million	$148 million

Total Funds	$160 million	$160 million

- From August 2022 through September 2023, HCD and the developer sponsors fully executed Standard Agreements for the awarded HHC/NHTF supportive housing projects and secured $162.3 million for 20 projects, preventing recapture of the federal NHTF dollars by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The table below illustrates the 20 developments, located in seven counties, that will provide an aggregate of 1,533 new affordable apartment homes. Inclusive of the aggregate total, there will be 651 HHC/NHTF permanent supportive housing units restricted to households with incomes at or below 30% of Area Median Income (AMI), 855 other restricted units with income rage limits restricted at 20% of AMI to 60% of AMI and 27 exempt management units.

Housing For A Healthy California (HHC) FY20-FY21 Developments

County	NHTF Restricted Units (30% AMI)	Other Restricted Units (20%-60% AMI)	Exempt Management Units	Total Units
Alameda	82	145	3	230
Fresno	63	78	2	143
Los Angeles	348	280	12	640
San Mateo	12	165	2	179
Santa Barbara	93	134	6	233
Sonoma	29	29	1	59
Ventura	24	24	1	49
Total	**651**	**855**	**27**	**1,533**

- $333,634 average state contribution per unit.
- The 2021-2022 NOFA was oversubscribed by 150 percent with 27 projects not receiving funding.

- 1,533 total units will come online, which is inclusive of the 651 HHC/NHTF assisted units. Construction of all HHC/NHTF assisted projects with FY20-FY21 awards is anticipated to be complete by December 2026.

Additional Information:

- Unlike HUD's other annual programs which are funded through congressional appropriation, the annual NHTF allocations provided by HUD to states is generated based on assessments made to Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac loans. HCD's annual NHTF allocation for California decreased from $132 million in federal FY22 to $62 million in federal FY23.

- With the rise of federal interest rates and a reduction in the number of home loans made nationally as a result, HCD estimates NHTF funding to decrease for FY24 and FY25 to approximately $50 million, respectively. It is anticipated that the Federal Housing Financing Agency (FHFA) will make an announcement of the NHTF FY24 allocation in March 2024 and FY25 in March 2025. The final amount will be confirmed prior to NHTF staff seeking approval of NHTF assisted projects from the Department's Internal Loan Committee.

- The federal fiscal years 2024-2025 NHTF NOFA for approximately $100 million is anticipated to be released in March 2024. The NHTF Program provides capital loans for construction and permanent financing for the development of permanent affordable housing for households with the lowest incomes, with a preference for projects serving people experiencing homelessness.

Division of Housing Policy Development

Policy & Program Support Homelessness Unit

The Policy & Program Support Homelessness Unit (PPS Homelessness) provides guidance and support to HCD programs, coordinates with the California Interagency Council on Homelessness on behalf of HCD, and reviews homelessness response best practices for knowledge sharing within the department.

PPS Homelessness is currently supporting Homekey Round 3 by reviewing supportive services and property management plans for awarded applications. Reviews are completed to assess whether property managers and supportive services providers at Homekey Round 3 properties are following Housing First statute and implementing best practices for supportive housing.

Division of State Financial Assistance

Homekey was created as an opportunity for local public agencies to quickly acquire and rehabilitate properties like motels, multifamily buildings, and commercial properties, to expand housing for persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Since its inception in 2020, Homekey has funded 245 projects, 15,009 units, and is projected to serve 163,260 households over the life of the projects. These figures will increase as Homekey continues awarding projects under the Round 3 NOFA.

- The Homekey Round 3 NOFA made available $736 million and in November 2023, HCD added approximately $114 million, for a total of $850 million in the Round 3 NOFA.

- The Department received 82 applications in response to the Homekey Round 3 NOFA, requesting over $1.3 billion.

- As of January 29, 2024, Round 3 has awarded more than $606 million to 35 projects. The program has approximately $244 million left to award to eligible projects.

- The Homekey program will sunset after Round 3 funds are awarded since no new funds have been appropriated.

- Homekey Round 2 status as of February 1, 2024: 54 projects completed construction; 3,347 units created; 4,832+ individuals housed.

View the Homekey Round 3 Dashboard and Awardee List as of January 17, 2024, on the Homekey website: Awards Dashboard | California Department of Housing and Community Development

Homekey Tribal

The Homekey Tribal NOFA provides an opportunity for Tribal Entities to develop multifamily rental housing developments, including rehabilitation of existing housing, new construction of apartments, townhomes, or single-family rental homes, including manufactured housing, or conversion of non-residential space to residential housing. Projects developed using Homekey Tribal funding shall provide permanent housing for people and households experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Rather than utilizing a set-aside within the standard Homekey Program, this NOFA operates independently and is tailored to meet the specific affordable housing needs of California Tribes.

- The Homekey Tribal NOFA was released on June 27, 2023 and provides $75 million in grant funding for California Tribes and Tribal Entities. An amendment to add $6 million will be issued in the coming weeks.
- As of January 1st, Program received 14 Over the Counter Applications, for a total of $188,368,755; an oversubscription of $37,368,756.
- HCD made its first grant award recommendation on February 1, 2024, and is awaiting final approval, at which time the awardee will be notified and the award information made public on the Department's website.
- Awards will be continuous until all funds are awarded.

Multifamily Finance Super Notice of Funding Availability (MFSN)

The MFSN streamlines four of HCD's rental housing programs to align eligibility criteria, scoring, and release of funds allowing for a coordinated single application and award process. Programs under the MFSN include: Multifamily Housing Program (MHP), Infill Infrastructure Grant Program (IIG), Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program (FWHG), and Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP).

The second round of MFSN was released on May 18, 2023, with 241 applications received July 12, 2023. Awards were made February 2024.

Program	Funding Available	Total Program Funds Awarded	Number of Projects Funded*
MHP	$236,000,000	$239,851,929	15
IIG	$168,000,000	$139,972,246	31
FWHG	$110,000,000	$107,250,832	10
VHHP	$62,000,000	$40,190,203	4
Total	**$576,000,000**	**$527,265,210**	**52**

* Note that the Number of Projects Funded will not reconcile to the total awards. This is because one application may receive multiple types of program funds. For example, an application being awarded both MHP and VHHP funding is identified twice in this column.

This NOFA's 52 awarded projects include 4,118 total multifamily units, with 4,046 of these restricted to those earning 80% of Area Median Income or below. Of these, 2,253 units will have affordability restrictions as follows:

- 723 units for special needs and permanent supportive housing,
- 834 units with 3-4 bedrooms for families,
- 696 units for senior households.

A third round of MFSN program funds is expected to be released in 2024. The NOFA publication date is undetermined and currently under review.

No Place Like Home (NPLH)

On July 1, 2016, legislation was passed enacting the No Place Like Home (NPLH) 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 in need of mental health services and experiencing homelessness or are exiting institutions with a history of 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 program.

HCD has made 156 awards totaling approximately $1,910,349,299 in 46 counties after post-award adjustments through October 2023. These are the last planned HCD awards under this program until additional new funding becomes available:

- HCD made awards to four Alternative Process Counties in the amount of $1,070,149,587 that will result in approximately 4,705 NPLH-assisted units. As of February 2, 2024, the Alternative Process Counties have awarded these funds to 110 local projects. Remaining awards by these four counties will be made no later than June 30, 2024.
    - Alternative Process Counties are those counties with five percent or more of the state's homeless population who are designated to receive and administer their own allocations.
- HCD has awarded $840,199,712 to 42 counties in the balance of the state for 141 local projects that will result in 2,995 NPLH-assisted units.
- Overall, it is anticipated that 7,700 NPLH-assisted units will be produced. As of February 2, 2024, there were 72 completed projects, and 119 projects under construction. Additional projects are currently leasing up; however, these projects are not counted in the completed project totals above in the balance of state counties until NPLH loan documents have been executed between HCD and the project.

Portfolio Reinvestment Program (listed as Preservation Initiative in Budget)

The FY 2021-22 state budget included $300 million from the one-time Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund and $50 million from the State General Fund to provide capital to HCD legacy projects about to go market-rate to extend affordability covenants and preserve the state's affordable housing stock.

Beneficiaries of the Portfolio Reinvestment Program (PRP) are underserved low-, very-low-, and extremely low- income households, which may also include various disadvantaged special needs groups, such as the elderly, disabled, large families, female heads of households, and people experiencing homelessness. PRP is helping to preserve 1,364 units, serving 3,044 individuals, with 455 of those individuals being at-risk of homelessness.

HCD awarded 29 PRP applications and is in the process of issuing standard agreements and starting construction calls with the Sponsors. 22 applications have executed standard agreements and 7 are in the process of being executed. 8 Projects have started construction and 4 more are scheduled to begin construction by April 30, 2024. The remainder are engaged in pre-construction negotiations.

PRP issued a second NOFA on December 28, 2023. The funds are allocated from the 2023 State General Fund, Applications will be accepted on an over-the–counter basis beginning March 28, 2024. The NOFA has approximately $112 million in funding.

Transitional Aged Youth Housing Programs

The Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program encompasses three programs to prevent homelessness and secure and maintain housing for young adults aged 18 to 24 years, inclusive, with priority given to those currently or formerly in the foster care or probation systems. The three TAY programs are Transitional Housing Program (THP), Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP), and the Transitional Housing Plus Supplement Program (THP-SUP). Eligible counties receive TAY funding to support child welfare services agencies and housing navigation and maintenance to help house our most vulnerable young adults. It is encouraged that the county coordinate with the local Continuum of Care to foster communication and collaboration.

In FY 2023-24 state budget, the TAY programs received $56M to help young adults find and maintain housing, with priority given to those formerly in the foster care or probation systems. Program staff will contact eligible counties, informing them of the available TAY funding. HCD anticipates awarding these funds in Spring 2024.

THP-SUP (as of July 2023): 423 total participants served.

THP Round 1, Round 2, and Round 3 (as of July 2023): 2,305 total participants served.

HNP Round 1 and Round 2 (as of July 2023): 2,907 total participants served.

TAY (as of July 2023): 4 total participants served*.

*This program has just started.

California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)

National Mortgage Settlement (NMS) Counseling Program

California's Fiscal Year 2020-21 State Budget directed $300 million in National Mortgage Settlement (NMS) funds to the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) for housing counseling and mortgage assistance. Through its NMS Housing Counseling Program, CalHFA has allocated $141.5 million for HUD-certified housing counselors throughout the state to provide free, confidential counseling services to California residents who are in danger of eviction or foreclosure. The program is currently scheduled to run until May 31, 2026.

As of December 31, 2023, the estimated total funds disbursed is $ 86 million, with nearly 68,000 households helped since its inception. Currently, the program has 50 active Housing Counseling Agencies with a cumulative total of 405 counselors providing various counseling services.

While these households are getting help on a range of housing-related issues including homebuying and mortgage delinquency, some counselors are equipped to provide guidance that is specially for Californians who are in danger of experiencing homelessness.

The quarterly report, dated September 2023, can be found on the CalHFA website: NMS Quarterly Report and the most current report will be updated shortly.

California Mortgage Relief Program (MRP)

The California Mortgage Relief Program is funded by the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act's Homeowners Assistance Fund. It aids qualified homeowners who have fallen behind on their housing payments, property tax payments, or who have partial claims or loan deferrals taken due to pandemic-related financial hardships.

As of March 15, 2024, the program has received over 100,000 applications, assisted over 33,000 households, and distributed over $800 million with an average assistance of $25,000 per household.

It is important to note that approximately 50% of the funds have gone to socially disadvantaged communities, and for some homeowners on the lower end of the income spectrum, the assistance can prevent them from experiencing homelessness.

For the most current statistics of the program, please see the MRP website.

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

Grant Programs with Primary Purpose of Providing Emergency Shelter and/or Housing Assistance

The Victim Services Branch at Cal OES has six grant programs with the primary purpose of providing emergency shelter and/or housing assistance. They include:

➢ Homeless Youth Emergency Services Pilot (HY) Program
➢ Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing (YE) Program
➢ Homeless Youth and Exploitation (HX) Program
➢ Specialized Emergency Housing (KE) Program

➢ Transitional Housing (XH) Program

➢ Domestic Violence Housing First (XD) Program

1. **Homeless Youth   Emergency Services Pilot (HY) Program – State Funded**

The 2021 State Budget Act allocated $10 million to continue funding four existing Subrecipients under the HY Program. The HY Program supports the existing four Subrecipients for five additional years. Counties with Subrecipients include:

- El Dorado
- Fresno
- Orange
- San Bernardino

The purpose of the HY Program is to expand crisis intervention and stabilization services to homeless youth so that the immediate crises these youth face can be resolved, and they can focus on their futures.

The pilot program ends March 31, 2027.

Next Funding Opportunity

Contingent on State Budget.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023)

➢ Individuals that received emergency shelter: **1,112**

➢ Individuals that received stabilization planning services: **1,117**

➢ Employment training <u>services</u> provided: **914***

➢ Education <u>services</u> provided: **348***

*This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

2. **Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing (YE) Program – State Funded**

The 2021 State Budget Act allocated $40 million to continue and expand the YE Program. The YE Program continues to fund Subrecipients in four existing counties and expands to supporting Subrecipients in eight additional counties. The five-year program began January 1, 2022. Counties with Subrecipients selected for funding include:

- Alameda
- Humboldt
- Los Angeles
- Monterey
- Orange
- Sacramento
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Joaquin
- Santa Clara
- Stanislaus
- Ventura

The purpose of the YE Program is to establish or expand access to a range of housing options that meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness, and to provide crisis intervention and stabilization services so that the immediate crises these youth face can be resolved, and they can focus on their futures.

The program ends December 31, 2026.

Next Funding Opportunity

Contingent on State Budget.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023)

➢ Individuals that received emergency shelter: **1,173**

➢ Individuals that received transitional housing: **502**

➢ Individuals that received stabilization planning services: **1,764**

➢ Rental assistance services provided: **204***

➢ Employment training services provided: **4,603***

➢ Education services provided: **4,767***

*This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

3. **Homeless Youth and Exploitation (HX) Program – State & Federally Funded**

The purpose of the HX Program is to help homeless youth exit street life. Services provided under the HX Program include access to food, emergency shelter/housing; counseling, outreach services, screening/providing for basic health needs; linkage to other services offered by public and private agencies; long-term stabilization planning; and follow-up services. In addition, the HX Program provides specialized services for youth experiencing sexual exploitation.

The program is ongoing.

Next Funding Opportunity

Non-competitive.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023)

➢ Individuals that self-reported as homeless: **1,549**

➢ Individuals that received emergency shelter/safe house/transitional housing: **9,161***

➢ Relocation assistance services provided: **52***

* This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

4. **Specialized Emergency Housing (KE) Program – Federally Funded**

The purpose of the KE Program is to expand emergency shelter and emergency housing assistance resources in California and provide specialized services for victims of crime. Applicants may serve any or all the following communities: homeless youth, elderly, disabled, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) victims of crime.

The five-year funding cycle ends September 30, 2027.

Next Funding Opportunity

Late winter/early spring of 2027 for a Grant Subaward performance period beginning October 1, 2027.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023)

➢ Individuals that self-reported as homeless: **1,724**

➢ Emergency shelter/safe house/transitional housing services provided: **22,132***

➢ Relocation assistance services provided: **1,425***

* This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

5. <u>**Transitional Housing (XH) Program – Federally Funded**</u>

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.

The five-year funding cycle ends December 31, 2027.

Next Funding Opportunity

Late spring/early summer 2027 for a Grant Subaward performance period beginning January 1, 2028.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023)

➢ Individuals that self-reported as homeless: **2,454**

➢ Emergency shelter/safe house/transitional housing services (i.e., nights) provided: **48,658***

➢ Relocation assistance services provided: **1,199***

*This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

6. <u>**Domestic Violence Housing First (XD) Program – Federally Funded**</u>

The purpose of the XD Program is to help victims of domestic violence gain increased access to and retention of, safe permanent housing, and then provides ongoing tailored supportive services.

The five-year funding cycle ends December 31, 2027.

Next Funding Opportunity

Late spring/early summer 2027 for a Grant Subaward performance period beginning January 1, 2028.

Statistics (July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023)

➢ Individuals that self-reported as homeless: **2,460**

➢ Emergency shelter/safe house/transitional housing services (i.e., nights) provided: **17,774***

➢ Relocation assistance services provided: **10,585***

* This indicates the number of times a service was provided, not individuals. An individual may receive a service more than once.

<u>**California Department of Public Health (CDPH)**</u>

Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB)
16 members, all with recent or current experience with homelessness will be providing CDPH with their expertise to help shape policies and address issues related to homelessness, COVID-19, and health.

We recently held our third meeting and Guidehouse joined to solicit input from the board to inform the development of the Cal HHS Equity Plan. In addition, the LEAB is in the process of deciding their governance guidelines.

Housing & Homelessness Workgroup

CDPH's Lived Experience Advisory Board were consulted and recommended that the topic of a CDPH-wide staff training should be focused on compassion for people experiencing homelessness (PEH). As a result, the Housing & Homelessness Workgroup hosted a webinar, ***Truths about Homelessness: Understanding the Realities of Homelessness and Addressing Common Misconceptions*** on 12/13/23***.*** 216 CDPH staff attended the live event. The response was overwhelmingly positive with 97% of participants reporting that this training increased their understanding or knowledge of the experiences of PEH.

LHJ/CoC Coordination

CDPH is deepening its efforts to develop cross-sector approaches that can improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and strengthen the connection between Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) and Continuums of Care (CoCs)/homeless systems of care across the state. We are starting by mapping the current state of collaboration between LHJs and CoCs. We developed a survey in partnership with Homebase that was released mid-December. The deadline to complete the survey is the end of January. We are hoping to gain a better understanding of:

- How LHJs are serving people experiencing homelessness

- The nature of LHJ partnerships with CoCs

- How LHJs and CoCs coordinated during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Common challenges and opportunities to working across systems

So far over 40 surveys have been completed with more than 23 counties represented. Four follow up interviews have been completed with Alameda, Inyo, Butte, and Madera counties.

Peer Health Ambassador Program

CDPH has awarded funding to 16 community-based organizations to hire and train PEH to provide COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and treatment resources to their peers. These grants will be ending April 30, 2024. Homebase is working with grantees to explore sustainability options beyond CDPH's funding. We anticipate a final report about the program by the end of June.

San Diego State University WaSH Guidelines

CDPH has partnered with San Diego State University (SDSU), to create a statewide guidance document on the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) needs of PEH across California. This document will include recommendations for state and local agencies on how to best allocate resources to create and/or maintain sanitation infrastructure for PEH. The content of this guidance will be based on existing data and interviews/focus groups with people with current or prior experiences of sheltered and/or unsheltered homelessness; homelessness service providers; and others with key knowledge of WaSH infrastructure. The project is now in the process of conducting interviews.

Data Projects

- **PEH Mortality**: In April of 2022, the Vital Records Registration Branch, the Vital Statistics Branch, and the Informatics Branch collaborated to change the Electronic Death Registration System

(EDRS) to be able to assess whether a decedent was homeless at the time of death. If it is indicated that an individual is homeless, further data is collected to determine if they were unsheltered, sheltered, or in an institution. In December 2023, a Business Use Case Proposal (BUCP) was submitted for the California Comprehensive Master Death Files, which is currently under review by the Center for Health Statistics & Informatics.

- **PEH Data Scan**: CDPH is working to better understand what information is being captured around housing status and homelessness across the department.

California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

DOR works with community partners and stakeholders to improve access to services, supports, employment, and community-based living for people with disabilities. DOR works on the local level to support people with disabilities including those who are homeless and are important partners for No Wrong Door coordination of services. As a social determinate of health, employment can be a critical path out of homelessness.

Connecting the Disability Network to the Homelessness Response System

The DOR and the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) co-hosted a training and information session on January 25, 2024, on Connecting the Disability Network to the Homelessness Response System. The training focused on bridging gaps between disability networks and the homelessness response system to address homelessness in local communities. The session was attended by 151 participants throughout the state that represented agencies and organizations that work with people with disabilities including DOR staff, employment programs, Independent Living Centers, Area Agencies on Aging, state departments, and others from the disability and aging networks.

In 2023, with 47% of Californians accessing services while experiencing homelessness reported a disabling condition. The disability network is an integral partner supporting people with disabilities experiencing homelessness and can be a key player in supporting the transition to permanent housing.

The session provided attendees with an introduction to the homelessness response system and highlight connection, collaboration, and engagement at the local level to maximize resources for persons with disabilities experiencing homelessness. FREED, an Independent Living Center (ILC) and Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), and the DOR Orange County Vocational Rehabilitation office highlighted local coordination efforts with their local homelessness response system.

Employment Services & Supports

Alameda County: Abode and DOR Fremont Branch Office are co-located at the Fremont Family Resource Center which houses several agencies assisting the unhoused populations. Abode's services coordinates health and supportive services for participants in shelter and supportive housing programs, offering comprehensive on-site assistance. The on-site services provided at the housing sites include job training, parenting classes, financial literacy, computer training, case management, health education and activities. Also located at the Fremont Family Resource Center is City Serve's Compassion Network, a faith-based organization that matches volunteers and resources from 50+ local Christian churches with those in need

throughout the Tri-Cities (Newark, Fremont, and Union City); they provide food, goods (clothing, other items), and referrals.

Los Angeles County: The DOR Santa Clarita Branch Office receives up to four referrals per month for employment services through a collaboration with Santa Clarita Mental Health Center and Bridge to Home, that provides shelter, support services, and permanent affordable housing and advocates for sustainable solutions for individuals in need. The DOR Pasadena Branch receives up to five unhoused students per month through a collaboration with Pasadena Unified School District and the Families in Transition (FIT) Program. FIT promotes school stability and academic success according to the federal mandates of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to students and families experiencing homelessness.

Marin County: After several presentations to the case managers and the medical and mental health clinics at the Ritter House, the Novato DOR receives monthly referrals to support individuals at the Ritter House with employment goals. The Ritter House provides medical, behavioral health, housing and food services to Marin County residents experiencing economic insecurity and homelessness.

Santa Barbara County: The DOR Santa Barbara district office has formed an expedited referral process with an agency People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), an interim housing program serving homeless individual men and women. PATH provides access to 100 beds year-round for referrals from partner agencies. Services include an on-site health clinic, mental healthcare, substance use counseling, housing location, employment and benefits assistance, meals, and hygiene facilities.

In addition, the Thousand Oaks Branch has developed a referral process to expedite employment services for individuals served by the Samaritan Center. The Samaritan Center serves individuals who are homeless and food insecure with housing referrals, hot meals, case management, funds for utilities as well as vehicle and bike repairs, clothing, and medical assistance.

Community Living Services & Supports

Independent Living Centers (ILCs): DOR provides funding to California's 28 Independent Living Centers (ILCs) who provide a variety of services for individuals with disabilities of all ages and with any type of disability. For Continuums of Care and local homeless response system Coordinated Entry initiatives, ILCs are a subject matter partner to support individuals with disabilities who are unhoused or who are at-risk of losing their housing. ILC provide a wide range of services that support community living including housing assistance (referrals, advocacy, and support in finding accessible housing), information and referral, peer counseling, independent living skills training, individual and systems change advocacy, assistive technology, and transition and diversion services.

In FY 2022-23 ILCs served 27,890 individuals with disabilities with 190,717 independent living services. Of those served, 9,681 received housing services including support with finding and securing housing or shelter, applying for housing waivers and subsidies, obtaining home modifications, and other services designed to assist individuals to find, secure, and maintain affordable and accessible housing.

To find a local ILC, you can search DOR's Find your Local Office feature by zip code, city, or address.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program: The DOR's Traumatic Brain Injury Program (TBI), in partnership with its TBI Advisory Board, TBI Program sites, and community stakeholders, strives to strengthen

California's system of services and supports for people with TBI. The Program's goal is to improve the delivery and quality of person-centered services available to TBI survivors, their families, and caregivers by fostering partnerships, providing public education about TBI, and informing culturally competent policies statewide. TBI has far-reaching implications for individuals, family members, friends, caregivers, and society due to its close ties with homelessness, incarceration, substance abuse, mental health concerns, domestic violence, and US military service.

Currently, DOR provides funding to 12 TBI Program sites in California. These local programs are an important partner in supporting the homeless response system to serve individuals with TBI. Local TBI Program sites provide services to individual with TBI including community reintegration, supported living, vocational supportive services, information and referral, and public and professional education.

In FY 2022-23, TBI Program sites served a total of 1,578 individuals with TBI. Of those served, over 21% were homeless or at-risk of homeless (262 individuals were homeless and 76 at-risk of homelessness).

To learn more about TBI and to connect with a TBI Program site visit DOR's website.

California Department of Social Services (DSS)

CDSS Housing and Homelessness Programs Guidance Update

Subscribe to the CDSS Housing and Homelessness Division (HHD) newsletter and visit our website for additional information on all CDSS Housing and Homelessness programs.

CDSS Housing and Homelessness Programs

CDSS is administering just over $2 billion in funding appropriated in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 to provide funds to counties, tribes, and tribal entities to establish, continue, and expand housing and homelessness assistance through the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Housing Support Program (HSP), Bringing Families Home (BFH), Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), Home Safe, Project Roomkey (PRK) and Rehousing Strategy, and the Community Care Expansion Program (CCE). The FY 2023-24 State Budget reflects the most recent state investments in HDAP and HSP; these ongoing funds are available to spend over multiple years.

On January 10, 2024, the Governor's proposed 2024-2025 Budget was released. The proposals that pertain to HHD include the following:

- Bringing Families Home Program—The Budget proposes to delay $80 million General Fund from the FY 2022-23 appropriation to FY 2025-26 and reappropriate unspent funds from FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25.
- Home Safe Program- The Budget proposes to delay $65 million General Fund from the FY 2022-23 appropriation to FY 2025-26 and reappropriate unspent funds from FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25.
- Housing and Disability Advocacy Program—The Budget proposes to delay $50 million General Fund from the FY 2022-23 appropriation to FY 2025-26 and reappropriate unspent funds from FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25.

- Housing Support Program (HSP) - The Budget proposes to reappropriate unspent funds from FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-2025

On March 1, 2024, CDSS released the Housing and Homelessness Division Annual Report for 2022-2023. California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 10618.8 requires CDSS to report annually to the Legislature detailed information on the implementation of the CalWORKs HSP, BFH Program, HDAP, Home Safe Program, and the CCE Program. The Annual Report includes details on the implementation of CDSS' housing programs, associated expenditures and observed trends related to the housing and homelessness needs of families, individuals with disabilities, and older adults. The four sections include: Program Implementation Updates, Tribal Engagement, Contract and Expenditures, and Program Evaluation Updates.

Additional updates related to funding awards and program implementation and expansion are outlined below.

Technical Assistance

CDSS continues to support the expansion and growth of Housing and Homelessness programs state-wide, based on grantees' needs.

In December 2023, HHD hosted a Virtual Learning Forum that brought together grantees from Home Safe, HDAP, and CCE to discuss strategies for serving older adults and people with disabilities who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. A summary of the virtual sessions and video recordings can be found here.

Also in December 2023, HHD hosted two sessions at the CalWORKs Training Academy. One session was offered as a "pre-academy" session for counties operating the CalWORKs HSP. During this session counties shared best practices and challenges faced at the local level. The second session was related to analyzing program data and addressing equity in CalWORKs HSP and HA programs. These sessions were co-presented by HHD staff and HHD's contracted technical service (TA) provider, Change Well Project.

HHD has also initiated additional statewide learning collaboratives for Bringing Families Home and Home Safe in 2024.

This year, 168 TA engagements were provided, with 54 counties and 29 tribes served.

HHD provides TA, in partnership with the Change Well Project, to counties and tribes operating HHD programs. TA offerings are detailed in the Change Well Project Activities Report Dashboard. These offerings include but are not limited to:

- Individualized support to county and tribes operating HHD programs including regular teleconferences and email correspondence to problem solve county-specific challenges
- Office hours and learning collaboratives on evidence-based and housing best practices
- Resources and guidance for implementation of housing and homelessness best practices

Tribal Programming and Engagement

CDSS released an *All Tribal Leader Letter* on July 26, 2022, announcing the availability of $17.5M in FY 2021-22 funding set aside for eligible tribal entities to establish a new BFH, HDAP, and/or Home Safe program. Entities eligible to request set-aside funding included federally recognized tribes, tribal organizations (including but not limited to Tribal 638 Providers and Urban Indian Organizations), tribal consortium, and tribally led nonprofits in California. A total of 25 tribal entities requested funding to operate CDSS-funded housing and homelessness programs.

In April 2023, CDSS awarded all $35 million across all 25 tribal entities that requested funding to establish 65 new tribal housing and homelessness programs (17 HDAP, 25 BFH, 23 Home Safe programs). Additionally, $9.5 million was awarded to tribes through a $28.5 million tribal set-aside in the CCE program.

CDSS sent 65 Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) for final execution to Tribes and tribal entities, and 50 of those MOUs have been executed and signed by CDSS &Tribes. The remaining MOUs will be executed on a rolling basis as they are completed.

CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP)

The CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) assists families receiving CalWORKs who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to quickly obtain permanent housing while providing flexible wrap-around supports to foster housing retention.

- Since the program's inception in 2014 through November 2023, more than 78,300 families have been served. Of those, over 42,700 were permanently housed through HSP.
- On December 19, 2023, CDSS issued County Fiscal Letter No. 23/24-35 informing counties of the final allocation amounts for the CalWORKs HSP program for FY 2023-24. This CFL also includes information on the projected remaining balances for CalWORKs HSP for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 multi-year allocations.
- The Budget Act of 2023 approved the annual, ongoing appropriation of $95 million for HSP and CDSS released the HSP funding notice on September 27, 2023.
- The Budget Act of 2022 appropriated $285 million for HSP over multiple years, including the annual, ongoing appropriation of $95 million available over two years, and a one-time appropriation of $190 million available over three years through June 2025. These funds are in addition to the $285 million appropriation made available by the Budget Act of 2021.
- Fifty-five counties currently operate HSP. Final FY 2022-23 allocations and participating county social service agencies can be viewed in CFL 22/23-43 (December 30, 2022).

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program

The CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program serves eligible families applying for or receiving CalWORKs with up to 16 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. The CalWORKs HA program is an entitlement program, available to all eligible families applying for or receiving CalWORKs benefits.

- In FY 2022-23, over 59,400 families were approved for temporary HA (33% increase from prior year) and over 6,100 families were approved for permanent HA (128% increase from prior year).

- CDSS issued All County Letter (ACL 23-83) on October 6, 2023, providing guidance to County Welfare Departments regarding the implementation of SB 1083 (Skinner, Chapter 715, Statutes of 2022) (WIC 11450) that will increase coordination and access to services including, but not limited to: expanding eligibility for HA to include families in receipt of any notice that could lead to an eviction, regardless of the circumstances cited in the eviction notice and requiring county human services agencies to refer all pregnant CalWORKs recipients to perinatal home visiting services administered by an authorized provider or county agency.

- On December 11, 2023, CDSS issued an All County Information Notice to County Welfare Departments to provide guidance and instructions for completing and submitting the annual AB 236 CalWORKs Family Reunification (FR) Temporary Homeless Assistance (HA) and AB 557 Expanded Temporary HA for CalWORKs Applicants Fleeing Domestic Violence (DV) Caseload Surveys.

- CDSS publishes the CA 237 CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program monthly statistical report with statistical information on requests and net expenditures; these data reports are available to the public on the CDSS CA 237 HA website.

- The CalWORKs Annual Summary (2.0) is now available and posted online. It was updated to include new visualizations of Homeless Assistance and Housing Support Program data and the first ever "cost of nightly shelter" and "best practices for transitioning from temporary to permanent housing" data. This web-based format report includes the CalWORKs Annual Summary, covering various relevant components of the CalWORKs program, including caseload dynamics, demographics of families and children living in poverty and deep poverty, the Welfare-to-Work (WTW) program, and impacts of recent policy changes.

Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program

The Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program serves families involved with the child welfare system who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or are in a living situation that cannot accommodate the child or multiple children in the home, with the goals of reducing the number of families experiencing homelessness, increasing family reunification, and preventing foster care placement.

- Since BFH's inception in 2017 through September 2023, over 6,700 families have been served and more than 3,100 families have been permanently housed through BFH.

- The Budget Act of 2022 appropriated $92.5 million for BFH, available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025. These funds are in addition to the $92.5 million appropriation made available by the Budget Act of 2021.

- As of Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, a total of 53 counties operate BFH statewide. CDSS also supported the launch of 24 new tribal programs in FY 2022-23. Final FY 2022-23 allocations and participating grantees can be viewed in CFL 22/23-43 (December 30, 2022).

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)

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

- Since HDAP's inception in FY 2017-18 through September 2023, over 3,500 people have been permanently housed, over 9,600 disability applications have been submitted, and over 1,900 disability applications have been approved.

- As of FY 2022-23, a total of 57 counties operate HDAP statewide. CDSS also supported the launch of 17 tribal programs in FY 2022-23.

- The Budget Act of 2023 appropriated the annual, ongoing appropriation of $25 million in dollar-for-dollar match-required funds for HDAP.

- On November 6, 2023, CDSS released All County Welfare Directors Letters (ACWDL) notifying all 58 counties and current participating Tribal Grantees in California of the availability of FY 2023-24 Funding for the HDAP program allocated via the Budget Act of 2023 (Senate Bill 101, Chapter 12, Statutes of 2023).

- On March 1, 2024, CDSS released the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) Annual Report for 2022-2023, which details progress and outcomes related to the implementation of HDAP.

Home Safe Program

The Home Safe program supports the safety and housing stability of people involved in Adult Protective Services (APS) by providing housing assistance and homelessness prevention services. Local Home Safe Programs utilize a range of strategies to support homelessness prevention and housing stability for APS clients, or those who may be served by a Tribal social services agency who appear eligible for APS and are experiencing or at risk of homelessness for reasons of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation, including financial assistance, legal services, eviction prevention, heavy cleaning, and landlord mediation, among other services.

- Since Home Safe's inception in 2018 through September 2023, approximately 13,400 people have been served and more than 3,900 instances of housing-related financial assistance were provided. Additionally, over 2,200 people have been connected to the local Coordinated Entry System (CES).

- The Budget Act of 2022 appropriated $92.5 million for Home Safe, available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025. These funds are in addition to the $92.5 million appropriated in the Budget Act of 2021.

- All fifty-eight counties currently operate a Home Safe Program. CDSS also supported the launch of 23 tribal programs in FY 2022-23. Final FY 2022-23 allocations and participating grantees can be viewed in CFL 22/23-43 (December 30, 2022).

- In December 2021, the Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative (BHHI) of University of California San Francisco completed an interim evaluation of Home Safe pilot programming. BHHI published Home Safe Interim Findings, which highlighted a number of key successes, including that Home Safe has fostered strong relationships between APS and the larger networks of local social service providers that make up the Continuum of Care; that staff pointed to the flexibility of Home Safe as crucial to the program's success; and that Home Safe appeared to have stabilized clients who would have otherwise become homeless. In FY 2022-23, CDSS continued its partnership with UCSF to further evaluate the impact as the program expanded to all 58 counties. The evaluation includes analysis of programmatic data as well as qualitative data from interviews with stakeholders. The CDSS anticipates evaluation findings to be published in early 2026.

Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy (PRK)

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. Communities still operating PRK are in the process of determining the appropriate date for closing the program, based on local needs and in consultation with their local emergency and public health departments.

- At its peak, over 16,000 rooms were secured, representing a 50% increase in the number of shelter beds in California and exceeding statewide goal of 15,000 rooms. Over 62,000 individuals have been sheltered through Project Roomkey. Additionally, as of January 2024, over 14,000 (approximately 22%) of PRK participants exited to permanent housing; 36% exited to temporary housing or congregate shelter; 9% to institutions or other; and 18% to unknown destinations. The remaining 15% exited to unsheltered homelessness.
    - Occupancy data is updated weekly on the COVID 19 Homeless Impact Dashboard.
- The California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, in collaboration with CDSS, engaged Abt Associates to evaluate Project Roomkey. In December 2022, Abt Associates published an Evaluation of California's Project Roomkey Program: Year 1 Report highlighting the successes and challenges of PRK, including participant experiences and outcomes, and the ways in which the state's housing and healthcare systems collaborated to swiftly launch emergency programming. Abt Associates will release a final report based on additional data collection in 2024.

Community Care Expansion (CCE)

The Community Care Expansion (CCE) program is part of a statewide investment in infrastructure funding to address homelessness, support healthcare delivery reform, and strengthen the social safety net. CCE funds acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities that serve applicants and recipients of Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) or Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Funds are also available to preserve residential care settings, including through operating subsidies, to existing licensed adult and senior care facilities currently serving SSI/SSP or CAPI recipients but at risk of closing through the CCE Preservation program.

- A total of $570 million has been made available for the CCE Capital Expansion Program through a Joint RFA published on January 31, 2022. Funds may be used for capital expansion projects, including acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of residential care settings. A portion of the funds may also be used for a Capitalized Operating Subsidy Reserve (COSR) for funded projects for a maximum of five years.
- Applications for CCE Capital Expansion project funding were accepted through a Joint RFA until June 1, 2023.
- To date, CDSS has awarded $464 million across 55 projects that seek to expand capacity with an additional 2,465 beds or units within licensed residential care facilities, recuperative care sites, and permanent supportive housing.

- CCE Expansion applications are under review and will be funded on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted. Awards are posted on the [CCE data dashboard](#) [CCE website.](#)
- [In addition to the Capital Expansion program funds, CDSS has awarded $24](#)7 million in one-time, non-competitive allocations to 34 counties through the CCE Preservation program. Award information, including participating counties, can be viewed on the CCE Preservation page on the [CCE website](#).

California Department of State Hospitals (DSH)

Over the last decade, the State of California has seen significant year-over-year growth in the number of individuals charged with a felony offense who are found Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) and committed to the State Department of State Hospitals (DSH) for competency restoration services. IST defendants are determined by a court to be unable to participate in their trial because they are not able to understand the nature of the criminal proceedings or assist counsel in the conduct of their defense. When the court finds a felony defendant incompetent to stand trial in California, they can be committed to DSH to provide clinical and medical services with the goal of restoring their competency and enabling them to return to court to resume their criminal proceedings. To better understand what was potentially driving the sustained increase in felony IST referrals, DSH partnered with the University of California, Davis to study the IST patients being admitted to Napa State Hospital. One major defining characteristic of this population is that they experience high rates of homelessness. In 2016, approximately 47% of IST patients admitted to Napa State Hospital were unsheltered homeless prior to their arrest. Between 2018 and 2020, 65.5% of IST patients admitted to Napa State Hospital were homeless (sheltered or unsheltered) prior to arrest. DSH's hypothesis of what is driving this crisis is that individuals with serious mental illnesses, primarily psychotic disorders, are untreated or under-treated in their communities and are experiencing homelessness, leading to increased, repeated involvement with the criminal justice system.

Since 2018-19, DSH has worked to expand its continuum of care to provide community-based treatment options, including community-based restoration and diversion, and supporting counties efforts to increase community treatment options for individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial on felony charges with the goal of breaking the cycle of criminalization for this population that is largely impacted by homelessness. The following are updates on these actions:

- **Community-Based Restoration and Diversion** - The goal of both the CBR and Diversion programs is to effectively and safely treat individuals committed as IST in the community to connect them to meaningful treatment and supportive housing and ultimately disrupt the cycle of homelessness and criminal justice involvement for these individuals. In addition, IST individuals who successfully complete a diversion program have their current charges dropped. Both programs are designed to connect participants into ongoing treatment services in their home community upon discharge from diversion or CBR.
  - **Community Based Restoration (CBR)**- In 2018-19 DSH partnered with the Los Angeles County Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) for the first CBR program for felony incompetent to stand trial (IST) defendants in the state. In this program, ODR subcontracts for housing and treatment services and most IST clients in this program live in unlocked residential settings with wraparound treatment services. The original CBR

program provided funding for 150 beds and subsequent investments have increased the program size to 515 beds after the last set of 100 beds activated in November 2021.

- o **DSH Felony Mental Health Diversion** (Diversion) Pilot Program – In 2018-19 DSH established the DSH Felony Mental Health Diversion (Diversion) pilot program. Assembly Bill 1810 (Statutes of 2018) established the legal (Penal Code (PC) 1001.35-1001.36) and programmatic (Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) 4361) infrastructure to authorize general mental health diversion and the DSH-funded Diversion program. There are 29 counties across the state that have partnered with the DSH in the Diversion pilot program. As of June 30, 2023, pilot counties have diverted a total of 1,539 individuals.

- o **Expanding CBR and Diversion** - The 2022 Budget Act authorized DSH to significantly expand Diversion and CBR and make them permanent, ongoing programs. Once fully implemented, DSH estimates these programs will be able to admit and serve up to 3,000 new felony IST patients annually. DSH is implementing the program over four years and, upon full implementation, will have $520 million annually to support community-based treatment programming. In Spring 2023, a new contract with Los Angeles County was secured to expand its existing CBR and Diversion programs to support a bed capacity of up to 1,344 beds over a 4-year period. More recently, DSH announced the contracting process with counties in January 2024 and as of January 30, 2024, DSH has received Letters of Interest from ten counties to transition from the DSH Diversion pilot to the permanent program.

- o **Housing for CBR and Diversion**: The 2022 Budget Act authorized $469 million one-time over two fiscal years to fund the development of approximately 5,000 residential treatment beds in the community to support the IST population served in the Diversion and CBR programs. In the second quarter of 2022-23, DSH engaged with Advocates for Human Potential (AHP) to manage this project. To date, four award letters have been issued to counties for infrastructure projects with proposed bed capacities that range from 30 to 177 beds. In addition, 17 counties have informed DSH of their intent to apply in future rounds of funding opportunities, and 11 counties indicated they are considering applying at a future date. In Fall 2023, DSH and AHP announced that private providers could apply for funding in direct partnership with counties and held an informational webinar on the new process in December 2023. In addition, multiple one-to-one technical assistance calls with counties have been held to answer questions and identify potential barriers.

- **Stakeholder Workgroup Grant Opportunity** - Additional support for county planning is available through DSH's annual $100,000 Stakeholder Workgroup Grant Opportunity. This grant supports the work of local behavioral health and justice partner collaboration and planning related to the IST population, including transitioning diversion or CBR clients to longer term or permanent supportive housing and treatment. In FY 2022-23, 33 counties applied for and received the $100,000 planning grant. To date in FY 2023-24, six additional counties have applied for and been approved for the annual planning grant.

California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC)

The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) and the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee (CDLAC)

CTCAC administers programs that address critical needs for the state of California. CTCAC allocates nine percent (9%) and four percent (4%) federal low-income housing tax credits (LIHTCs) to qualified new construction projects or existing properties undergoing rehabilitation. Each number refers to the approximate percentage that is multiplied against a project's requested "qualified basis" to determine the maximum amount of annual federal credits the project may be awarded. CTCAC also administers the state's LIHTC program, which pairs with the federal LIHTCs. These programs are a critical funding source for producing and preserving affordable rental housing and helping reach the Governor's goal of producing 2.5 million units in California by 2030.

CTCAC 2023 Program Highlights:

Description	Dollars	Number of properties	Number of Units
Tax Credits (Federal and State)	$5,675,568,152	184	17,966 (17,734 affordable)

CTCAC allocated $110.6 million in annual federal 9% tax credits ($1.1 billion total) and $160.3 million in total state credits to 57 projects totaling 2,936 low-income units. CTCAC also reserved $387,010,316 million in annual federal 4% tax credits ($3.87 billion total) and $529.4 million in total state credits to 127 projects totaling 14,798 low-income units.

CTCAC held a total of 19 Compliance workshops in 2023 both in-person at various locations throughout the state and virtually to stakeholders, including owners, tax credit investors and property managers, to provide updates on CTCAC and the program generally. 140 hours of training was provided by CTCAC staff to the 2,172 participants who attended these workshops.

On November 9, 2023, the IRS released Revenue Procedure 2023-34 announcing the increase of the federal 9% low-income housing tax credit per-capita multiplier from $2.75 to $2.90. Based on the recent U.S. Census Bureau's most recent population estimate of 38,965,193, the estimated 9% federal LIHTC is estimated to be $112,999,060 ($2.90 X 38,965,193). Last year the amount was approximately $107.3 million. It is forecasted that the increase will be about $5.7 million in additional tax credits, which equates to a total increase of approximately $57 million. The IRS will issue a notice confirming the population in March 2024.

Amendments to the CTCAC regulations were adopted in January 2024, which include increasing the Native American apportionment, increasing the state credit for farmworker housing, and broadening nearby adult education campus or community college as a site amenity available to all projects.

CDLAC 2023 Program Highlights:

Description	Dollars Issued	Number of Units
Tax-Exempt Bond Financing	$4,454,334,197.17	14,975 (14,798 affordable)

CDLAC had three funding rounds in 2023 and received 224 applications. Over the three rounds, CDLAC allocated nearly $4.5 billion in tax-exempt bond financing to 127 qualified residential rental (QRRP) projects which will create 14,798 low-income units.

On November 9, 2023, the IRS released Revenue Procedure 2023-34 announcing the increase of the per-capita multiplier for private-activity bonds from $120 to $125. Based on the recent U.S. Census Bureau's most recent population estimate of 38,965,193, the estimated bond volume cap is $4,870,649,125 ($125 X 38,965,193). Last year the amount was approximately $4.7 billion. The bond cap will increase by about $187.1 Million. The IRS will issue a notice confirming the population in March 2024.

2024 Meeting Schedule and Application Due Dates

Information on CDLAC 2024 Meetings and Application Due Dates can be found here.

Information on CTCAC 2024 Meetings and Application Due Dates can be found here.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Caltrans continues to leverage partnerships with state agencies as well as local governments and Continuums of Care (CoCs) to identify and promote unique funding sources for projects that target people experiencing homelessness (PEH) and encampments on the state right of way. In coordination with Cal ICH, the agency convened a **virtual meeting with key stakeholders in the Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) program** to offer resources and support ahead of the first Round 3 application window on January 31, 2024. The joint session allowed for Caltrans' District Encampment Coordinators (DECs) and ERF eligible applicants to learn about the grant process, discuss expectations and qualifications to receive funding, and hear form previous awardees.

Caltrans also **distributed an updated ERF Round 3 Toolkit to statewide DECs** to help define their role in assisting communities apply for program grants and serve as a guide for engaging with local partners. Included in the toolkit was a template for the required Caltrans support letter as well as examples of successful letters provided for previous applicants. Moving forward, as we look toward the second Round 3 application window on April 30, 2024, Caltrans continues to collaborate with Cal ICH to ensure ERF grant information and resources are funneled to DECs and their community partners.

As a result of Caltrans' involvement in ERF Rounds 2 and 3* of the ERF grant program:

- **13 of the 23 applications** approved during the first funding window of ERF Round 2 were for projects at least partially on the state right of way. **Nearly $110 million** was awarded to fund those 13 projects. Additional information can be found here.

- **Seven of the eight applications** approved during the second and third rolling disbursement funding windows of ERF Round 2 were for projects at least partially on the state right of way. **Over $39 million** was awarded to fund those seven projects. Additional information can be found here.

- **Six of the 12 applications** approved during the first window of ERF Round 3 were for projects at least partially on the state right of way. **Nearly $38 million** was awarded to fund those six projects. Additional information can be found here. *This round of ERF funding was available only to ERF Round 2 applicants that were not ultimately funded due to lack of available funds, that were determined by Cal ICH to have satisfactorily met program requirements.**

On January 31, 2024, in coordination with the mobilization of the State Operations Center, the state's **Priority Populations Task Force (PPPTF) was activated in response to the 2024 Winter Storms.** As a member of the PPTF, Caltrans assisted with coordinating state resources, identifying and addressing unmet needs, closing gaps, and ensuring comprehensive operational preparedness and response in assistance of PEH sheltering on the state right of way during the weather event. The task force – co-chaired by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) – met daily through the nine-day activation. Caltrans was responsible for communicating with statewide DECs on all storm-related encampment operations and submitted daily PPRTF reports consisting of (1) emergency Level 1 Priority encampment removals initiated due to imminent health and safety risks and (2) ongoing coordination with local CoCs and social service providers to provide stable temporary shelter for evacuated PEH.

Caltrans continues to participate in the **Interdepartmental Disaster Preparedness and Response Group**. This work group is made up of representatives from various state agencies (including Cal ICH, BCHS, HHS and CDPH) that participate in the PPTF and focus on unsheltered populations. Currently, the work group is finalizing the outline for the **PEH Disaster Planning Toolkit**, which will consist of information, guidance, and resources to support system leaders in local government agencies, CoCs, and direct service providers in advance of and during disasters. The toolkit will support local communities in strategic preparation for future disasters or emergencies affecting PEH by sharing best practices, resources, and uplifting lessons learned, as well as communicate resources that may benefit communities in real-time during a disaster or emergency. The work group is also finalizing plans and participants for a **Lived Experience Advisory Board** (March/April) to offer firsthand knowledge and insight gained from personal experiences during an emergency event. The goal is to glean information from these individuals to create a serviceable, thoughtful, and inclusive PEH Disaster Planning Toolkit that can be shared statewide.

In partnership with the city of Redlands, the local police department and local CoCs, Caltrans District 8 Encampment Coordinators recently collaborated to remove 10 PEH from the state right of way and place them into temporary housing. These individuals were removed from the right of way, successfully connected with outreach providers, and relocated to a local hotel with wraparound services. Partners are currently working to secure permanent, supportive housing for all 10 individuals.

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)

Veterans Support to Self-Reliance (VSSR) Competitive Grant Program: In 2023, CalVet awarded $20 million in competitive grant funds to non-profit organizations to test various service models providing enhanced supportive services for veteran seniors aged 55+, veterans who are high acuity, and veterans who receive assistance or have been assisted through HUD-VASH. As of March 2024, 289 veterans have been enrolled in the VSSR Pilot with baseline data suggesting that staff consistency and regular engagement results in breaking down barriers to receiving support. To enhance and support existing PSH resources, grantees have hired a various mix of mental health specialists, peer specialists, nurses, transportation specialists, and service assistants to aid with activities of daily living, and other health related social needs.

CalVet has facilitated engagement among Pilot grantees with their corresponding CoC HMIS Leads with our implementation of AB 977, in partnership with HMIS contractor, Abt Associates. All Pilot grantees are now set up for HMIS data entry participation, and ultimately with HDIS.

The Pilot has received national attention, with recognition by the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans as a promising effort to find the right degree of resources needed to ensure that aging Veterans with high-acuity receive the supports that they need to remain stably in community-based permanent supportive housing with needs that would typically see the Veteran referred to intuitional assisted living. More information about the VSSR Pilot Grant program including the NOFA and grantee award list can be found on our website. WWW.CalVet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Veterans-Support-to-Self-Reliance

Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention (VHHP) Program: The VHHP program has encumbered $540 million through the first seven rounds of funding and is expected to encumber roughly $40 million in round 8, or the second Multifamily Finance SuperNOFA funding round.

The encumbered VHHP funding has enabled 96 multifamily affordable housing projects to come to fruition throughout California, 60 of which are currently operating or in the initial lease up phase, and nine of which were awarded under the first AB 434 SuperNOFA funding round. Directly because of VHHP, we will see 6,389 units of affordable and supportive housing to supplement housing need in California and accessible to veterans. Of those, 3,249 units will be restricted to only veterans and their families. Of the total expected units, about 4,148 units accessible to veterans are currently in service, while about 2,264 of those are restricted to only veterans and their families.

Cal ICH Action Plan for Ending Homelessness in California: CalVet has been developing a questionnaire to determine if the process of Veterans moving from VA transitional housing into permanent supportive housing, such as VHHP assisted location, could benefit from CalVet coordination support. It is recognized that this movement can be difficult for the Veteran, and could also be a significant burden to the transitional housing grantee. The questionnaire is intended to capture demographic information about typical Veteran resident that is moving, as well as characteristics of the local coordinated entry system(s) process and procedures for facilitating the movement. This effort could support operators as an additional resource for Veterans making the move, as the information collected will be reorganized and repurposed for shared understanding about the timing and potential pool of Veterans eligible for open PSH units.

Federal Partner: U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

Submitted by Helene Schneider, USICH Senior Regional Advisor

- [Fact Sheet on Targeted Federal Homelessness Funding](): How the President's Budget Compares
    - Related [Press Release from White House](): Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Book Housing Supply and Lower Housing Costs
- Recent public statements from USICH Executive Director Jeff Olivet
    - [Statement by USICH Executive Director Jeff Olivet]() on the President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. Budget would advance efforts to end homelessness, increase housing supply, reduce housing costs, and expand access to housing.
    - National League of Cities January 2024 Blog: [Cities, Don't Give Up on the Fight to End Homelessness]()

At USICH's [last quarterly Council Meeting](), the Council focused on innovative solutions for homelessness and mental health.

The Treasury Department [announced new efforts to increase the supply of housing]() in the year ahead. These efforts include:

- Updated guidance for the American Rescue Plan's (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to make it easier for recipients to use remaining funds to construct affordable housing.
- New clarifications for the ARP's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program to make clear that qualifying recipients can use remaining funds on a broad range of uses to fund affordable housing serving very low-income families.
- An extension of the Federal Financing Bank's (FFB) financing support for a risk-sharing initiative between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and state and local housing finance agencies in order to lower the cost of creating and preserving affordable housing.

HUD is offering the following resources:

- [Client-Centered Data Collection Approach: Virtual Reality Series - HUD Exchange]()
- [Key Strategies and Resources for Equitable Resilience](). These strategies and resources will serve as an introductory packet of information for communities in the immediate wake of a disaster, to alert and inform them on important elements of post-disaster resilience strategies that research has shown are often overlooked or less understood at the outset.

Congress appropriated $225 million for competitive grants to preserve and revitalize manufactured housing and eligible manufactured housing communities. Of the amount available, $200 million is reserved for the main [PRICE competition](), of which at least $10 million is intended for Indian Tribes or Tribally Designated Housing Entities and Tribal organizations designated by such Indian Tribes, and $25 million is reserved for a pilot program to assist in the redevelopment of manufactured housing communities as replacement housing that is affordable. Application deadline is June 5, 2024

- The [VA announced]() that it permanently housed 46,552 veterans experiencing homelessness in 2023 – surpassing the calendar year goal to house 38,000 veterans by 22%

The VA announced approximately [$5M for transitional supportive housing for veterans](). Applications due by April 15, 2024.

- GSA is hosting [comprehensive 3-day workshops on FY24 Real Property Disposition](), with one scheduled on July 23-25 in San Francisco. Course topics include
    - Effectively navigating real property laws, regulations, roles and responsibilities
    - Asset management and repositioning strategies
    - How to report real property excess
    - The real property disposal process and other transactional options
    - Environmental and historic laws and applications as the relate to the utilization and disposal of Federal real property.