State Resources to Address California's Homeless Crisis

CALIFORNIA
HOMELESS COORDINATING
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Funding for Homelessness in California

On a single night in January 2017, more than 134,000 people experienced homelessness in California—24 percent of the entire nation's homeless population. California also has the highest number of unaccompanied youth, veterans and chronically homeless in the United States. In fact, California accounts for nearly half of all unsheltered people in the country.

There is a severe human and fiscal cost of homelessness. However, in California, there are also new and existing funding programs to address homelessness in the following areas:

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid Rehousing
- Street outreach, shelters, and other crisis services
- Capacity Building

Below is an initial list of state resources to address California's homeless crisis. It is important to note that while these programs may permit some of the activities listed below, the eventual use of funds is often subject to local decision-making and discretion. Many of these programs also may represent one-time, rather than ongoing, funding.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive housing (PSH) is an evidence-based housing intervention that combines non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services for people experiencing homelessness, as well as other people with disabilities.

Eligible uses	Program / Funding Source
Developing a Permanent Supportive Housing Project	• No Place Like Home Program / HCD • Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program / HCD, CalVet, CalHFA • Multifamily Housing Program-Supportive Housing / HCD • Housing for a Healthy California Program / HCD • Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program / TCAC • Mental Health Services Act, Community Services and Support Component / DHCS • Special Needs Housing Program / CalHFA
Support Services for PSH project	• California Emergency Solutions Housing Program / HCD • Housing for a Healthy California Program / HCD • Mental Health Services Act, Community Services and Support Component / DHCS

Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention

The solution to homelessness is – housing. Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing through rental assistance paired with intensive case management. The core components of rapid re-housing are:

FIND housing – help people quickly find housing.

PAY for housing – help people pay for housing short term.

STAY in housing – help access services so people can stay in housing.

Homelessness Prevention programs employing a diversion strategy prevent homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements.

Programs connect participants with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. A successful program will improve the ability of a homeless assistance system to target shelter resources effectively and, most importantly, help families safely avoid a traumatic and stressful homeless episode.

Eligible uses	Program / Funding Source
Rental Assistance	• California Emergency Solutions Housing Program / HCD • Emergency Solutions Grants Program / HCD • Housing for a Healthy California Program / HCD • Homeless Emergency Aid Program / BCSH • Homeless Youth Emergency Services / Cal OES • Domestic Violence Housing First Program / Cal OES • Transitional Housing Program / Cal OES • Transitional Housing Program / CDCR • Mental Health Services Act, Community Services and Support Component / DHCS • Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach and Treatment Program / DHCS • CalWORKs Housing Support Program / CDSS • CalWORKs Homeless Assistance / CDSS • Home Safe Program / CDSS • Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program / CDSS • Bringing Families Home Program / CDSS • Whole Person Care Pilot Program / CDSS

Eligible uses	Program / Funding Source
Homelessness Prevention	• California Emergency Solutions Housing Program / HCD • Emergency Solutions Grant Program / HCD • Housing for a Healthy California Program / HCD • Homeless Emergency Aid Program / BCSH • Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach and Treatment Program / DHCS • Home Safe Program / CDSS • Whole Person Care Pilot Program / DHCS • Mental Health Services Act, Community Services and Support Component / DHCS
Housing Case Management and Navigation Staff	• California Emergency Solutions Housing Program / HCD • Emergency Solutions Grant Program / HCD • CalWORKs Housing Support Program / CDSS • Home Safe Program / CDSS • Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program / CDSS • Bringing Families Home Program / CDSS • Homeless Emergency Aid Program / BCSH • Mental Services Act, Community Services and Support Component / DHCS • Whole Person Care Pilot Program / DHCS • ACA Section 2703 Health Home Program / DHCS

Street Outreach, Shelter and Other Crisis Services

Street outreach, shelters, and other crisis services help people meet basic survival needs like shelter, food, clothing, and personal hygiene, while quickly connecting them to opportunities to obtain and maintain stable housing.

An effective crisis response:

- Identifies and engages all people experiencing homelessness across the community.
- Diverts people from homelessness services to other safe situations whenever possible.
- Provides immediate access through coordinated entry to shelter and crisis services without barriers to entry, when appropriate, including specialized shelters and services for people fleeing domestic violence.
- Quickly connects people to housing assistance and/or services tailored to the unique strengths and needs of households and which enable them to achieve and maintain permanent housing.

Eligible uses	Program / Funding Source
Street outreach, shelters, and other crisis services	• Emergency Solutions Grant Program / HCD • Homeless Emergency Aid Program / BCSH • California Emergency Solutions Housing Program / HCD • Domestic Violence Housing First Program / Cal OES • Domestic Violence Assistance Program / Cal OES • Homeless Youth and Exploitation Program / Cal OES • Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program / Cal OES • Transitional Housing Program / Cal OES • Equality in Prevention & Services for Domestic Violence / Cal OES • Native American Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program / Cal OES • Specialized Emergency Housing / Cal OES • Youth Emergency Services and Housing Program / Cal OES • Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach and Treatment Program / DHCS • CalWORKs Housing Support Program / CDSS • CalWORKs Homeless Assistance / CDSS • Home Safe Program / CDSS • Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program / CDSS • Bringing Families Home Program / CDSS • Whole Person Care Pilot Program / DHCS • Mental Health Services Act, Community Services and Support Component / DHCS

Capacity Building

Local jurisdictions may use the state funding to evaluate how well their local systems are designed and the effectiveness of those systems to address homelessness.

Eligible uses	Program / Funding Source
Coordinated Entry Systems	• Emergency Solutions Grant Program / HCD • California Emergency Solutions Housing Program / HCD • Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach and Treatment Program / DHCS
Homeless Plans	• Emergency Solutions Grant Program / HCD • California Emergency Solutions Housing Program / HCD • No Place Like Home / HCD
Data Collection and Analysis	• Emergency Solutions Grant Program / HCD • California Emergency Solutions Housing Program / HCD • CalWORKs Housing Support Program / CDSS • Home Safe Program / CDSS • Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program / CDSS • Bringing Families Home Program / CDSS