



# California Interagency Council on Homelessness

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **California Interagency Council on Homelessness Approves Annual Update to Statewide Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness**

*Action Plan annual update reflects importance of addressing both health and housing in efforts to address unhoused crisis*

SACRAMENTO –The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) today approved the annual update to its *Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness*, which includes the work of the state departments and agencies newly added to the Council at the beginning of 2022 when the Homelessness Coordinating and Financing Council was renamed and expanded to form the revamped Cal ICH.

The Action Plan, which Governor Newsom described as “a playbook for staring down the challenge of homelessness” was originally adopted in March 2021, covers the state’s work from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023, to make homelessness in California a rare, brief, and one-time event. The annual update adopted by council are for Fiscal Year 2022-23, which runs from July 1, 2022, until June 30, 2023. The updated Action Plan is available on the Cal ICH website at: [https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/calich/meetings/materials/20220901\\_draft\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/calich/meetings/materials/20220901_draft_action_plan.pdf).

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“The annual updates we made to the Action Plan today embrace a whole-person approach to addressing homelessness,” said Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency and Council co-chair. “We recognize that our interagency collaboration will be most successful where housing, health care and human services intersect, and our updated Action Plan now reflects that.”

With the addition of the California Health and Human Services Agency and several of its member departments to the Council, the updated action plan reflects an expanded focus on the intersections of public health, physical and behavioral health care, and homelessness and housing strategies and resources.

Another area of expanded focus is on preventing homelessness in the population that is receiving state-funded services, including those exiting health care programs or incarceration.

“With new departments incorporated into the updated Action Plan, the number of activities that are being led collaboratively has grown,” said CalHHS Secretary and Council co-chair Dr. Mark Ghaly. “It is clear that we cannot end homelessness department by department, instead we will only be successful by owning our shared role and through integrated approaches.”

This updated Action Plan will guide member departments and agencies as they implement the historic \$22 billion investment in homelessness and housing that the Governor and Legislature included in this year’s budget.

Throughout the updated Action Plan, the Council has recognized the importance of incorporating the voices of persons with lived experience of homelessness in the action areas, objectives and activities. During the meeting, the council discussed ways to further incorporate lived experience in its work.

The Council co-chairs are currently finalizing the appointments to the Council’s new advisory committee, and in accordance with statute are including several persons who personal experiences with homelessness. The Council staff has also recently posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a vendor to establish and

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administer a lived-experience advisory board that will provide guidance and insight to both council staff and the Council.

At the meeting, the council also received a status update on the 75 local homeless action plans that were submitted by cities, counties, and continuums of care as part of their applications for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 3 funding. All of the jurisdictions submitted their plans on time, and Cal ICH staff are currently reviewing the applications and expect to report back to the council at the next meeting in November.

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