



CALIFORNIA HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCING COUNCIL

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
Gavin Newsom, Governor | Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, Secretary

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Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Adopts Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in California

The *Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in California* aims to coordinate state efforts and meet the state's Housing First mission

SACRAMENTO – The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) has approved the state's first-ever long-term plan to address homelessness in California. The [*Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in California*](#) was approved unanimously by the Council on March 23, 2021.

“The Action Plan is a comprehensive vision for a coordinated, equity-centered effort to prevent and end the crisis of homelessness in California,” said Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramírez, who chairs the Council. “It will enable better coordination among state, regional and local partners as we develop short- and long-term solutions to make homelessness rare and, when it does occur, brief.”

The *Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in California* contains five action areas for a multi-pronged, multi-year effort across sectors and systems, including:

- Strengthening systems to better prevent and end homelessness in California.
- Equitably addressing the health, safety and services needs of Californians experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- Expanding communities' capacity to provide safe and effective sheltering and interim housing.
- Expanding and ensuring equitable access to permanent housing in our communities.
- Preventing Californians from experiencing the crisis of homelessness.

“In approving this Action plan, the Council has explicitly committed to the work it will accomplish and expressed its clear intention to deliver on the opportunities we have,

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right now, to build toward an equitable future,” said BCSH Deputy Secretary for Homelessness Ali Sutton. “We know the challenges are daunting, but we will be better prepared to face them in partnership with our state and local colleagues, private collaborators and people who have expertise because of their own experiences of homelessness.”

“We applaud the many stakeholders from throughout California who came together to create the state’s first comprehensive plan to address homelessness,” said Helen Schneider, Regional Coordinator for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). “We know that strong coordination and collaboration are key components necessary to address the urgent and important challenge of homelessness, and we look forward to standing with California as your federal partner in our shared work to reduce, prevent and end homelessness.”

The Action Plan will set tangible and measurable goals and benchmarks for progress and require regular reporting to document progress. This approach emphasizes the effective use of coordinated, data-informed analyses, performance measures, and metrics to assess, refine, and revise the State’s policy and decision-making strategies.

Additionally, the Action Plan outlines a framework for establishing five working groups to address high priority topics already identified by the Council and its stakeholders. These working groups include maximizing state funding and program coordination, racial equity, youth and young adults, employment opportunities, and re-entry from corrections settings. The Working Groups will be staffed by State agency leadership and are expected to be set up and begin their assigned activities on a rolling basis commencing later this year.

The two-year Action Plan is expected to be implemented immediately upon adoption with regular, annual revisions as new data, policy, and best practices are discovered.

What our Council Members are saying:

“This is our moment to end homelessness. With this clear and comprehensive plan, we can ensure that every Californian has a safe, affordable home in a vibrant, inclusive, sustainable community. The lives of hundreds of thousands of Californians depend on us to deliver.”

- ❖ **Gustavo Velasquez**, Director, California Department of Housing and Community Development.

“This plan will help California deepen our impact, advance racial equity, and will support our collective efforts to end homelessness in our state. It proves that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

- ❖ **Corrin Buchanan**, Assistant Director of Housing and Homelessness, California Department of Social Services

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“With homelessness continuing to be one of the key issues facing California, particularly as the COVID-related financial struggles are being felt by our state's lowest-income residents, the development of this Action Plan gives the Homelessness Coordination and Financing Council a roadmap to target assistance to the most vulnerable Californians. Additionally, I am encouraged to see a focus on creating permanent housing solutions, which are so vital when addressing the issue of homelessness.”

❖ **Donald Cavier**, Acting Director, California Housing Finance Agency

“The California Department of Education is focused on closing the opportunity gap for the approximately 200,000 K-12 students experiencing homelessness. As a member of the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Committee and partner on the 2021 Action Plan, we are committed to improving the education outcomes of our students experiencing homelessness through targeted interventions and supports.”

❖ **Lindsay Tornatore**, Director of Student Achievement and Support Division, California Department of Education.

“DHCS’ CalAIM and other initiatives in this plan are exciting, but real, ‘whole-person’ progress on the complicated issue of homelessness requires the coordinated, multi-department focus that we have in this action plan.”

❖ **Jacey Cooper**, Chief Deputy Director of Health Care Programs, California Department of Health Care Services

“As a councilmember representing Cal OES, I’m excited to be part of the development of the HCFC Strategic Action Plan. This is a vital step in our effort in achieving the mission of ending homelessness throughout California.”

❖ **Gina Buccieri-Hamilton**, Assistant Director, Grants Management Victim Services Program, Governor’s Office of Emergency Services

“Caltrans is committed to working with our partners to advance solutions aimed at ending homelessness, including for the people living along our transportation network. We will continue our efforts to lease department-owned land to cities as an option for emergency homeless shelters and to hire people experiencing homelessness into positions at Caltrans.”

❖ **Toks Omishakin**, Director, California Department of Transportation

“This action plan represents a comprehensive roadmap for addressing the issue of homelessness in California and includes the needs of target populations such as our state’s veterans.”

❖ **Russell Atterberry**, Undersecretary, California Department of Veteran Affairs

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“The Action Plan is a groundbreaking tool for giving all of the many State agencies that touch the lives of people experiencing homelessness a clear and aligned path for making change.”

❖ **Amy Anderson**, Chief Housing Officer for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

“I am highly committed to continuing to focus on homeless solutions that will support youth. Youth are the future.”

❖ **Alexis Barries**, Uplift Family Services

“For the first time, the state of California will have a framework and strategic direction in how to disrupt homelessness at the state-wide level.”

❖ **Gail Gilman**, Chief Strategy Officer, All:Home

“Ending homelessness will require both decisive action and significant investments from the State, and this action plan provides a framework for how we can all come together to address this growing humanitarian crisis.”

❖ **Jennifer Loving**, CEO, Destination: Home

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The Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency protects consumers by licensing and regulating California professionals and businesses; promotes and funds safe, affordable, and dignified rental and homeownership opportunities; guards the civil rights of all Californians from acts of hate violence and unlawful discrimination; and partners with local communities to prevent and end homelessness. For more information, visit www.bcsh.ca.gov.

The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council oversees the implementation of “Housing First” policies, guidelines, and regulations and identifies resources, benefits, and services to prevent and work toward ending homelessness in California. For more information, visit www.bcsh.ca.gov/hcfc.