Bringing Families Home (BFH)

The Bringing Families Home (BFH) program, created by Assembly Bill (AB) 1603 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2016), is intended to help reduce the number of families in the child welfare system experiencing homelessness, to increase family reunification and prevent foster care placement.

- **Eligibility Requirements**
  - Program targets homeless families involved with the child welfare system and is designed to offer housing supports in order for families to successfully reunify.
  - County programs are required to utilize a Housing First model, including Rapid Rehousing or Supportive Housing, depending on the family’s level of need.
  - Collaboration and coordination with homeless programs, child welfare, and juvenile dependency courts is critical to program success.

- The 2016-17 Budget Act allocated $10 million that is available through June 2019. BFH is an optional state-funded program with a dollar-for-dollar county match requirement.

- The CDSS consulted with the California County Welfare Directors Association, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, and Housing California to develop the content requirements for county plans.

- The CDSS received interest from 23 county welfare departments with a total of $18.7 million requested to implement local BFH programs. Counties with the strongest BFH program plans will be contacted and asked to submit more detailed program information by late March/early April 2017. The BFH funds will be allocated to the strongest county programs in mid-May.

- **Next Steps:**
  - February 2017: Program Concept papers received from county welfare departments
  - Late March/early April 2017: Additional program information due to CDSS
  - Mid-May 2017: CDSS will allocate $10 million on a competitive basis
Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)

The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), created by Assembly Bill (AB) 1603 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2016), is designed to assist homeless and disabled individuals apply for disability income programs while providing housing assistance.

- Due to state budgetary concerns, the Governor's Budget proposes not to fund the program.

- The CDSS had worked with several stakeholders to develop the program and its requirements. The CDSS also worked to develop county match requirements and consulted with the Social Security Administration relevant to the Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) requirements.

- The CDSS, along with the key program stakeholders listed below, developed a program application package including a draft Request for Proposal (RFP). The key stakeholders that reviewed and provided comments to the draft RFP included:
  - The Corporation for Supportive Housing
  - Housing California
  - California County Welfare Directors Association
  - The California Institute for Behavioral Solutions
  - SSI Outreach, Access and Recovery
  - The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative County Executive Office
  - County general assistance/general relief programs

- If a decision were made to release 2016-17 funding, the CDSS anticipates the program could be implemented according to the timeline below:
  - 1st Month: Stakeholders review instructions; CDSS issues instructions and releases RFP
  - Months 2-3: County plans due back to CDSS (30-60 days after RFP is released)
  - Months 4-5: CDSS reviews county plans and allocates funds to participating counties (30-60 days after plans are received)
  - Months 5-6: Program implementation begins