

May 13, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is seeking applications from County Welfare Departments (CWDs) interested in continuing an existing or implementing a new California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Housing Support Program (HSP) through Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

May 13, 2021

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FROM: JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

SUBJECT: **CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM (HSP) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021-22: REQUEST FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is seeking applications from County Welfare Departments (CWDs) interested in continuing an existing or implementing a new CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) through Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22.

The objective of the HSP is to foster housing stability for families experiencing homelessness in the CalWORKs program. Per [Welfare and Institutions \(WIC\) Code sections 11330-11330.5](#), HSP funding must be used to support projects that follow evidence-based housing interventions, including the core components of [Rapid Rehousing](#). Further, [WIC section 8255](#) requires that all state-funded housing programs incorporate the core components of Housing First. Therefore, CDSS requires that HSP be operated in adherence to core components of Housing First as enumerated in WIC section 8255 and further outlined in [All County Letter \(ACL\) 19-114](#).

Family homelessness in California has seen significant increases in recent years, with a **14.6% (or 3,276 families) total increase in families experiencing homelessness from 2019-2020** – the largest increase in the nation – and over **25,777 families experiencing homelessness on any given day** in 2020, according to HUD's [2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report \(AHAR\) Part 1 to Congress](#). The partnership between social services and the homelessness response system is inextricably linked to solving California's complex housing and homelessness crisis, as well as ensuring those experiencing homelessness have access to public benefits programs that provide essential supports. **With this, counties are encouraged to request the total annual funding required to meet their community need, while ensuring they have the capacity to utilize the funds during the upcoming fiscal year.**

Instructions for Continuing Counties

Counties seeking funds to continue operating an existing HSP for FY 2021-22 are required to submit a complete FY 2021-22 Program Assessment and Update, as described in Attachment One: Application Guidelines. New to FY 2021-22, the Program Assessment and Update will be collected electronically. **A link to the FY 2021-22 Program Assessment and Update will be emailed to the current designated HSP program leads upon release of this ACWDL; the link includes all materials that need to be submitted for a complete application.** If your HSP has not received an email from CDSS with the link by May 14, 2021, email housing@dss.ca.gov.

All continuing counties requesting funding are required to submit a complete Program Assessment and Update, as described in this letter and Attachment One: Application Guidelines, regardless of amount requested.

Funding for FY 2021-22 for counties continuing an HSP will be allocated according to the criteria outlined in Attachment One: Application Guidelines, in accordance to the steps below:

Round 1: An initial planning allocation based on:

- a. A base allocation equal to the FY 2020-21 base funding allocation, as specified in [County Fiscal Letter \(CFL\) No. 20/21-01](#) and
- b. A performance allocation for each benchmark that the county meets standard or strong performance in FY 2019-20, as described in Attachment One: Application Guidelines.

Round 2: A final allocation:

- c. Amount awarded in the planning allocation and
- d. Competitive funding allocated based on responses provided within the HSP FY 2021-22 application, with an emphasis on a county's adherence to best practice and requirements, equitable program impact, and continuous quality improvement in accordance with the evaluation criteria described in Attachment One: Application Guidelines.

Counties are encouraged to request the total annual funding required to meet their community need, while ensuring they have the capacity to utilize the funds during the upcoming fiscal year. HSP final allocations to counties will be up to, but not to exceed, the total amount requested by the county.

Upon receipt of a complete application, continuing counties will be eligible to receive a planning allocation equal to their FY 2020-21 base allocation, as specified in [CFL No. 20/21-01](#) and additional funding based on the county's program performance in FY 2019-20. Funds requested in excess of the planning allocation will be competitively allocated in accordance with the evaluation criteria described in Attachment One: Application Guidelines.

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Note: Counties that implemented a new HSP in FY 2020-21 will receive 75% of the total FY 2020-21 allocation as a planning allocation and are able to compete for additional funds if needed.

Instructions for New County Applicants

Counties seeking funds to implement a new HSP program for FY 2021-22 must provide a notification of intent to apply by sending an email to housing@dss.ca.gov no later than June 3, 2021 indicating their interest in applying and the amount of funding the County intends to request. Following the notification of intent to apply, CDSS will email the New County Application.

Additional information about required elements for new counties can be found in the FY 2020-21 ACWDL in the [July 14, 2020 HSP ACWDL](#). Note, upon receipt of the letter of intent, CDSS will provide additional guidance and application materials.

Funding for FY 2021-22 for counties seeking to implement a new HSP will be allocated based on the County's HSP plan as described in the application. There will not be a planning allocation for new county applicants. New applicants may not be funded or may not receive their full ask.

Application and Allocation Dates

All Counties	
FY 2021-22 HSP All County Welfare Directors Letter Released (electronic link for Program Assessment and Update emailed to current HSP leads)	May 13, 2021
HSP Application Overview led by CDSS	May 21, 2021 10am
Final FY 2021-22 CFL Total Allocations Released	Fall 2021

Continuing Counties	
Deadline for Continuing County HSP Applications	June 24, 2021 5pm
FY 2021-22 CFL Continuing County Planning Allocations Released	July 2021

New County Applicants	
Deadline for New County HSP Notice of Intent to Apply	June 3, 2021 5pm
Deadline for New County HSP Applications	June 24, 2021 5pm

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The Continuing County FY 2021-22 Program Assessment and Update must be submitted electronically by June 24, 2021. Late applications will not be accepted without prior written approval from CDSS.

Please contact the Housing and Homelessness Branch at (916) 651-5155 or at housing@dss.ca.gov with questions.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

Corrin Buchanan, Assistant Director of Housing and Homelessness
Housing and Homelessness Branch
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

Attachments: (Continuing Counties)

- Attachment One: Application Guidelines
- Attachment Two: Definition of Homelessness, Prioritization and HSP 14
- Attachment Three: Program Resources

**CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) FY 2021-22
Application Guidelines for Continuing Counties**

A. PURPOSE

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is seeking proposals from County Welfare Departments (CWDs) interested in continuing an existing or implementing a new CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) through Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22. The goal of the program is to foster housing stability for families experiencing homelessness in the CalWORKs program through evidence-based housing models consistent with Housing First core components.

HSP remains a critical resource to combat family homelessness. Family homelessness in California has seen significant increases in recent years, with a **14.6% (or 3,276 families) total increase in families experiencing homelessness from 2019-2020** – the largest increase in the nation – and over **25,777 families experiencing homelessness on any given day** in 2020, according to HUD's [2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report \(AHAR\) Part 1 to Congress](#). The partnership between social services and the homelessness response system is inextricably linked to solving California's complex housing and homelessness crisis, as well as ensuring those experiencing homelessness have access to public benefits programs that provide essential supports.

B. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Effective immediately, the definition of homelessness used for HSP has been revised. CalWORKs HSP funding is now required to be used to assist CalWORKs recipients who are experiencing homelessness, pursuant the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of *Homelessness* in [24 CFR section 91.5 under "Homeless" Sections \(1\)-\(4\)](#). This change is being made to better align with the broader homelessness response system. Counties operating an HSP shall prioritize HSP services for CalWORKs families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence followed by those who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence (see Attachment Two: Definition of Homelessness, Prioritization and HSP 14 for the full definition).

C. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Program Design and Evidence-Based Practices

Counties are required to follow the core components of Housing First (enumerated in [WIC section 8255](#) and further outlined in [All County Letter \(ACL\) 19-114](#)) and evidence-based housing interventions, including Rapid Rehousing in alignment with national

[Rapid Rehousing Performance Benchmarks and Program Standards](#). Additional Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, and evidence-based resources and guidance can be found in Attachment Three: Program Resources.

Collaboration and Integration with Local Homelessness Response System

Counties operating HSP are required to coordinate with the broader homelessness response system, including participation in the local homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC), Coordinated Entry System (CES), and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to understand and meet the needs of the local community as well as engage in necessary steps to address racial disproportionality for people experiencing homelessness and ensuring equitable provision of services for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness and COVID-19. Additional resources and guidance can be found below and in Attachment Three: Program Resources.

Racial Equity

Most minority groups, especially Black and Indigenous people, experience homelessness at [significantly higher rates](#) than Whites, largely due to long-standing historical and structural racism. In California, Black people account for 7% percent of the general population, but represent more than 31% of people experiencing homelessness. From slavery to segregation, Black people have been systemically denied rights and socioeconomic opportunities. Other minority groups, including Indigenous and Latinx people, share similar histories. The disproportionality in homelessness is a by-product of systemic inequity – the lingering effects of racism continue to perpetuate disparities in critical areas that impact rates of homelessness, including poverty, segregation/rental housing discrimination, incarceration, and access to health care.

In order to successfully reach and serve all eligible families through HSP funding, CDSS requires counties to demonstrate a commitment to addressing racial disproportionality for people experiencing homelessness and ensuring equitable provision of services for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness and COVID-19. Additional racial equity resources and guidance can be found in Attachment Three: Program Resources.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

The [Homeless Management Information System \(HMIS\)](#) is used to collect client, program, and system-level data on the provision of housing and services to people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness. HMIS can help communities better match people with resources and interventions; understand their community need, populations served, interventions needed, and outcomes; as well as identify intersections and gaps in services. Each CoC is responsible for operating an HMIS system in alignment with

HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards. HMIS is a critical part of an effective Coordinated Entry System and system-wide approach to homelessness.

Effective July 1, 2020, CDSS required all counties or their contracted partners operating an HSP to enter all HSP participants into the local HMIS to better align HSP with the broader homelessness response system.

CDSS strongly recommends that counties collect both the Universal Data Elements (UDEs, items 3.01-3.917) and the Common Data Elements (CDEs, items 4.02-4.20 and W5) in their HMIS for all new HSP clients enrolled in HSP. When collecting CDEs, please follow guidance provided by [HUD's HMIS Data Standards Manual \(Section 4\)](#). HSP grantees should follow HUD guidance on HMIS project set-up and collect the CDEs that are appropriate for the HSP project. CDSS is available to program technical assistance to communities in order to meet this strongly recommended program practice.

D. COVID-19/DISASTER RESPONSE

CDSS will continue working with local communities to understand and address the impacts to families who are experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfire disasters response and recovery. Additional COVID/disaster response and recovery resources and guidance issued by CDSS and partners to support families throughout the ongoing crisis can be found in Attachment Three: Program Resources.

E. PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND UPDATE

In order to demonstrate alignment with program requirements and best practices, counties must complete an HSP self-assessment. This assessment was developed using the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) [Rapid Rehousing Performance Benchmarks and Program Standards](#), NAEH [Rapid Rehousing Toolkit](#), Housing First core components in [WIC 8255](#), United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) [Housing First checklist](#), HUD [Housing First Assessment Tool](#), [SPARC Phase One Study Findings](#) and the [LAHSA Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness](#).

This assessment includes questions on demonstrating the items outlined below. Applications with missing or unanswered questions will be considered incomplete.

New to FY 2021-22, the Program Assessment and Update will be collected electronically via Survey Monkey. A Survey Monkey link for the FY 2021-22 Program Assessment and Update will be emailed to the current designated HSP program leads upon release of this ACWDL; **the link includes all materials that need to be submitted for a complete application.** If your HSP has not received and email from CDSS with the link by May 14, 2021, email housing@dss.ca.gov.

All counties requesting funding are required to submit a complete Program Assessment and Update, as described above, regardless of amount requested.

Counties are encouraged to request the total annual funding required to meet their community need, while ensuring they have the capacity to utilize the funds during the upcoming fiscal year. HSP final allocations to counties will be up to, but not to exceed, the total amount requested by the county.

F. FUNDING COMPONENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

HSP funding will continue to be allocated on a competitive basis. Counties are encouraged to request the total annual funding required to meet their community need, while ensuring they have the capacity to utilize the funds during the upcoming fiscal year. Funding will occur in two rounds, consistent with prior years of HSP allocations: the planning allocation and additional competitive funds (additional details below).

Counties continuing an existing HSP will receive the planning allocation, as described below, with total amounts found in Table 1 of Section H, but may not receive their full request of funds in excess of the planning allocation.

Round 1: FY 2021-22 Planning Allocation

Base Allocation

HSP continuing counties will receive a base allocation equal to their FY 2020-21 base allocation, as specified in [County Fiscal Letter \(CFL\) No. 20/21-01 Attachment 1, Column 3](#) in addition to a performance allocation as described below.

Performance Allocation

Counties that demonstrate the ability to meet or exceed performance standards will receive additional funds, in addition to the base allocation described based on an evaluation of the county's performance. These performance metrics are outlined in the [All County Welfare Directors Letter dated June 28, 2018](#) and are summarized below:

- 1. Set and meet appropriate goals.**
 - Standard Performance: Housing 75% - 89% of the number of families targeted to newly house
 - Strong Performance: Housing 90% or more of target to newly house
 - Note: housing over 125% is considered standard performance due to inaccurate goal setting
- 2. Utilize the HSP funds allocated to the county in a manner that is cost effective and impactful to the identified need.**

- Standard Performance: Claiming 80% - 89% of the allocation on the County Expense Claims
- Strong Performance: Claiming 90% or more of the allocation on the County Expense Claims
- Note: spending over 125% is considered standard performance due to inaccurate budgeting

3. Maximize the use of HSP funds for direct financial assistance and minimize the use of HSP funds on administrative costs.

- Standard Performance: Direct financial assistance reported on HSP 14 is 50% - 59% of total amount claimed on the County Expense Claims
- Strong Performance: Direct financial assistance reported on HSP 14 is 60% or more of total amount claimed on the County Expense Claims

For FY 2021-22, each county will receive a 5% increase over the FY 2020-21 base allocation for performance that meets standard performance and a 7.5% increase over their FY 2020-21 base allocation for performance that meets strong performance (up to a total of 22.5%).

Total planning allocations, including base and performance allocations, are reflected in the Table 1 in Section H below.

Note: CDSS measured county performance in the areas identified above using county data reported in the monthly HSP-14 report and the County Expense Claims (CEC) submitted by counties for FY 2019-20. **CDSS will provide current primary HSP contacts the data used for the evaluation of county performance via email upon release of this ACWDL.** Counties wishing to dispute this data may send a email titled 'Performance Dispute' to the housing@dss.ca.gov inbox at the time of submitting their electronic application. The disputing county will need to provide a narrative explaining the discrepancies and include copies or plans of revised HSP 14 reports and/or the County Expense Claim as applicable. Upon receipt of the information, CDSS will evaluate for the need of a potential correction. If additional funds should be allocated based on the county meeting strong or standard performance, the funds will be included in the final allocation announcement.

If the county agrees with CDSS assessment of the performance criteria, the county does not need to complete any additional documentation.

Round 2: Criteria for Evaluation for Competitive Funding

All counties will have the opportunity to compete for additional funds, in addition to the base and performance funding described above. CDSS will award competitive funds according to the criteria outlined below with a heavy emphasis on a county's adherence to best practice and requirements, equitable program impact, and continuous quality improvement. Counties will respond to questions about various components of their HSP within the HSP self-assessment and update.

In evaluating county requests, CDSS will give priority to those counties that:

1. Demonstrate alignment with evidence-based and best practices, including the core components of Rapid Rehousing and Housing First
2. Demonstrate programming responsive to needs of people disparately impacted by homelessness
3. Demonstrate use of HMIS and tracking of program outcomes, including re-entry into homelessness and client self-sufficiency outcomes, and demonstrated positive outcomes across these measures of impact

G. PURCHASE OF HOUSING STRUCTURES IN HSP

Consistent with FY 2019-20, counties interested in purchasing structures may send a request titled “Structures Request” to the housing@dss.ca.gov inbox at the time of submitting their electronic application to use funds in this manner. Additionally, due to specific criteria, structure proposals can be submitted to the housing@dss.ca.gov on a rolling basis. For more information on purchasing structures with HSP funding, refer to [ACIN I-85-18](#). Please note, CDSS is not setting aside HSP funding for the purchase of structures for FY 2021-22; rather, counties interested in using a portion of their HSP allocation to purchase structures can submit a request for CDSS review.

H. TOTAL HSP PLANNING ALLOCATION FY 2021-22

County	FY 2021-22 Base Allocation (FY 2020-21 Planning Allocation)	FY 2021-22 Performance Allocation	FY 2021-22 Planning Allocation
ALAMEDA	\$2,158,632.00	\$161,897.40	\$2,320,529.40
AMADOR	\$195,500.00	\$43,987.50	\$239,487.50
BUTTE	\$2,400,000.00	\$540,000.00	\$2,940,000.00
CALAVERAS	\$186,735.00	\$14,005.13	\$200,740.13
COLUSA	\$90,000.00	\$11,250.00	\$101,250.00
CONTRA COSTA	\$2,657,291.00	\$332,161.38	\$2,989,452.38
DEL NORTE	\$226,701.00	\$28,337.63	\$255,038.63
EL DORADO	\$1,067,869.00	\$133,483.63	\$1,201,352.63
FRESNO	\$1,244,900.00	\$186,735.00	\$1,431,635.00
GLENN & TRINITY	\$806,995.00	\$121,049.25	\$928,044.25
HUMBOLDT	\$744,107.00	\$167,424.08	\$911,531.08
IMPERIAL	\$1,020,000.00	\$229,500.00	\$1,249,500.00
KERN	\$1,163,535.00	\$232,707.00	\$1,396,242.00
KINGS	\$824,165.00	\$103,020.63	\$927,185.63
LAKE	\$333,500.00	\$66,700.00	\$400,200.00
LASSEN	\$188,425.00	\$23,553.13	\$211,978.13
LOS ANGELES	\$8,039,183.00	\$803,918.30	\$8,843,101.30

County	FY 2021-22 Base Allocation (FY 2020-21 Planning Allocation)	FY 2021-22 Performance Allocation	FY 2021-22 Planning Allocation
MADERA	\$474,972.00	\$94,994.40	\$569,966.40
MARIN	\$971,106.00	\$72,832.95	\$1,043,938.95
MARIPOSA	\$130,523.00	\$6,526.15	\$137,049.15
MENDOCINO	\$394,450.00	\$78,890.00	\$473,340.00
MERCED	\$2,713,034.00	\$542,606.80	\$3,255,640.80
MODOC	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00
MONTEREY	\$1,150,000.00	\$230,000.00	\$1,380,000.00
NAPA	\$256,053.00	\$19,203.98	\$275,256.98
NEVADA	\$518,460.00	\$103,692.00	\$622,152.00
ORANGE	\$1,300,000.00	\$292,500.00	\$1,592,500.00
PLACER	\$752,387.00	\$112,858.05	\$865,245.05
PLUMAS	\$110,000.00	\$8,250.00	\$118,250.00
RIVERSIDE	\$3,311,100.00	\$662,220.00	\$3,973,320.00
SACRAMENTO	\$3,696,441.00	\$554,466.15	\$4,250,907.15
SAN BENITO	\$198,831.00	\$24,853.88	\$223,684.88
SAN BERNARDINO	\$4,761,000.00	\$595,125.00	\$5,356,125.00
SAN DIEGO	\$4,771,875.00	\$715,781.25	\$5,487,656.25
SAN FRANCISCO	\$5,367,234.00	\$268,361.70	\$5,635,595.70
SAN JOAQUIN	\$932,744.00	\$69,955.80	\$1,002,699.80
SAN LUIS OBISPO	\$3,010,791.00	\$225,809.33	\$3,236,600.33
SAN MATEO	\$2,223,205.00	\$333,480.75	\$2,556,685.75
SANTA BARBARA	\$922,851.00	\$138,427.65	\$1,061,278.65
SANTA CLARA	\$4,954,950.00	\$1,114,863.75	\$6,069,813.75
SANTA CRUZ	\$2,252,275.00	\$450,455.00	\$2,702,730.00
SHASTA	\$1,162,300.00	\$261,517.50	\$1,423,817.50
SISKIYOU	\$432,280.00	\$86,456.00	\$518,736.00
SOLANO	\$2,702,482.00	\$472,934.35	\$3,175,416.35
SONOMA	\$1,524,781.00	\$152,478.10	\$1,677,259.10
STANISLAUS	\$1,673,344.00	\$209,168.00	\$1,882,512.00
SUTTER	\$1,025,050.00	\$205,010.00	\$1,230,060.00
TEHAMA	\$172,486.00	\$21,560.75	\$194,046.75
TULARE	\$496,714.00	\$62,089.25	\$558,803.25
TUOLUMNE	\$276,000.00	\$34,500.00	\$310,500.00
VENTURA	\$1,296,000.00	\$162,000.00	\$1,458,000.00
YOLO	\$2,250,000.00	\$337,500.00	\$2,587,500.00
YUBA	\$1,358,162.00	\$101,862.15	\$1,460,024.15
Total	\$82,966,419.00	\$12,022,960.70	\$94,989,379.70

**CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) FY 2021-22
Definition of Homelessness, Prioritization and HSP 14**

Definition of Homelessness and Prioritization

Effective immediately, the definition of homelessness for the purposes of HSP eligibility has been revised to align with the to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of *Homelessness* in [24 CFR section 91.5 under “Homeless” Sections \(1\)-\(4\). CDSS has made this change](#) to better align with the broader homelessness response system and is further outlined below.

Funded programs shall prioritize HSP services for families in the CalWORKs program who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence followed by those who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence.

For HSP, *Homelessness* is defined by [24 CFR section 91.5 under Homeless](#):

- (1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - i. An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
 - ii. An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
 - iii. An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;
- (2) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
 - i. The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
 - ii. No subsequent residence has been identified; and
 - iii. The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks needed to obtain other permanent housing;

(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

- i. Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);
- ii. Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
- iii. Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
- iv. Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect), the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or

(4) Any individual or family who:

- i. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
- ii. Has no other residence; and
- iii. Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

Interim HSP 14 Reporting Update

With adoption of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of *Homelessness* in [24 CFR section 91.5 under “Homeless” Sections \(1\)-\(4\)](#), CDSS is providing interim guidance on how to report families' residence status at time of approved request/referral under in the HSP -14 under this new definition of

homelessness. To further implement this change, additional instructions and updates regarding reporting in the HSP-14 will be provided under separate cover.

Specifically, for reporting families under Item 9, the family's residence status at time of approved request/referral:

- For anyone who meets homeless definitions 24 CFR section 91.5 under "*Homeless*" (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) should be reported in Item 9.a.1. "Family has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately-operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations" (cell 24).
- For anyone who meets homeless definitions 24 CFR section 91.5 under "*Homeless*" (1)(i) should be reported in Item 9.a.2. "Family resides in a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings" (cell 25).
- For anyone who meets homeless definitions 24 CFR section 91.5 under "*Homeless*" (2), (3), and (4) should be reported in Item 9.b. "Family is in receipt of judgement for eviction, as ordered by the court" (cell 26).

CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) FY 2021-22 Program Resources

The following sections provide information formerly shared and emerging resources and guidance for HSP providers to understand and operate programming in alignment with evidence-based and best practices within housing and homelessness.

Program Design and Evidence-Based Practices

Rapid Rehousing

CDSS Rapid Rehousing Guidance

- [CalWORKs Housing Support Program Rapid Rehousing Academy](#) (May 2019)
- Budgeting and Projecting in Rapid Rehousing Webinar: [Recording](#) | [Materials](#)
- [County Letter \(ACWDL\) dated May 26, 2016: Rapid Rehousing](#) (highlights [NAEH benchmarks and programs standards](#) below)

Other Rapid Rehousing Resources

- [Rapid Rehousing Toolkit](#) (NAEH)
- [Rapid Rehousing Performance Benchmarks and Program Standards](#) (NAEH) (published in CDSS [County Letter \(ACWDL\) dated May 26, 2016](#) above)
- [Rapid Rehousing Performance Evaluation and Improvement Toolkit](#) (NAEH)
- [Rapid Rehousing Tips for High Cost, Low Vacancy Communities](#) (NAEH)
- [Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Best Practice Standards](#) (SSVF)

Housing First

CDSS Housing First Guidance

- [All County Letter \(ACL\) 19-114](#)
- CDSS Housing First Webinar Series: A System Response to Homelessness: Using a Housing First Approach (in Partnership with NAEH)
 - Housing First Webinar: [Recording](#) | [Materials](#)
 - Housing First Webinar II: [Recording](#) | [Materials](#)
 - Housing First Webinar III: (No Recording) | [Materials](#)

Other Housing First Resources

- [Welfare and Institution Code \(WIC\) 8255](#)
- [Organizational Change: Adopting a Housing First Approach Toolkit](#) (NAEH)
- [Housing First Assessment Tool](#) (HUD)
 - [Housing First Implementation Resources](#)

- [Housing First Checklist](#) (USICH)
- [Establishing Domestic Violence Housing First in California: A Process Evaluation](#)
(Includes participant feedback surveys in English and Spanish)

Collaboration and Integration with Local Homelessness Response System

Funding Resources

- [Guide to Strategic Uses of Key State and Federal Funds to Reduce Homelessness During COVID](#) (BCSH)
- [Behavioral Health Services for People Experiencing Homelessness FAQ](#) (DHCS)

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- [Homeless Management Information System](#)
 - [HUD's HMIS Data Standards Manual \(Section 4\)](#)

Systemwide Rehousing/COVID Response Resources

- [Planning a Housing Surge to Accelerate Rehousing Efforts in Response to COVID-19](#)
- [Disaster Response Rehousing](#)
- [Leveraging Integrated Data to Support and Enhance COVID-19 Response](#) (HUD)
- CA Rehousing Webinar Series
 - [Rehousing Strategy Planning Webinar](#)
 - [Shared Rehousing Webinar](#)
- [Landlord Engagement Resources](#)

Racial Equity

Reports

- [Racial Inequalities in Homelessness, by the Numbers](#)
- [SPARC Phase One Study Findings](#)
- [A Brief Timeline of Race and Homelessness in America](#)
- [Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Resources

- [Equity-Based Decision-Making Framework](#)
- [Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response](#)
- [Advancing Racial Equity through Assessments and Prioritization](#) (HUD)

COVID-19/Disaster Response

CDSS County Letters

- [Resources for Eviction and Homelessness Prevention](#) (January 14, 2021)
- [CalWORKs, RCA/ECA, TCVAP, CalFresh, Housing and Homelessness Programs Guidance Regarding the California Wildfires](#) (September 1, 2020)
- [Issuance of CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Benefits During COVID-19](#) (July 28, 2020)
- [Interim Housing and Homelessness Program Guidance and Recommendations During COVID-19](#) (March 31, 2020)

Prevention Resources

- [California's COVID 19 Rent Relief](#)
*This program can assist landlords and tenants who have unpaid rent with up to a year of relief and **does not jeopardize other federal or state benefits.***
- [CA Housing is Key Campaign](#)
- [Homelessness Prevention Resources](#) (HUD)
- [Strategies for Eviction Prevention](#) (HUD)