



# Access to Sanitation for People Experiencing Homelessness

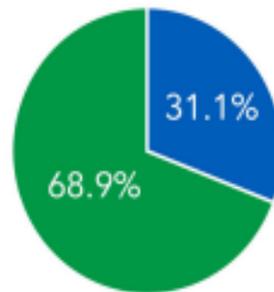
# Homelessness in California

## CALIFORNIA



Total Homeless, 2018  
**129,972**

**33** in every **10,000**  
people were experiencing  
homelessness



■ Unsheltered (89,543)  
■ Sheltered (40,429)

### Estimates of Homelessness

**109,008** individuals

**20,964** people in families  
with children

**12,396** unaccompanied  
homeless youth

**10,836** veterans

**32,668** chronically homeless  
individuals

**\*\*sheltered is emergency shelter or transitional housing\*\***

# HOMELESSNESS IN CALIFORNIA

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- California continues to be first in the nation when it comes to the number of people experiencing homelessness.
- California - 25% of the Nation's homeless population, despite only making up 12% of the nation's population.
- California has the highest number of unaccompanied youth, veterans, and chronically homeless in the United States.
  - 54% of all unsheltered homeless unaccompanied youth (9,920)
  - 50% of all unsheltered veterans (7,214)
  - 49% of all unsheltered chronically homeless
    - Although CA experienced the largest decline of unsheltered chronically homeless, we continue to have the highest number.

(HUD) defines a "chronically homeless" person as **"an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition"**. There are other conditions to that definition. It has to be someone who has either been homeless for a year or more, or has been homeless four episodes times in the past three years.

# MYTHS OF HOMELESSNESS

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- **Myth:** People come to CA when they become homeless because of the weather, etc.
- **Truth:** Most people experience homelessness close to where they lost their housing.
  
- **Myth:** People are homeless because they choose to be or because they have a drug addiction and/or mental health issues.
- **Truth:** California has an extreme shortage of affordable housing. It is also extremely difficult to receive health services when unsheltered.
  
- **Myth:** If we provide toilets, washing stations, and water it will encourage unsheltered individuals to continue living on the streets and discourages housing solutions.
- **Truth:** Access to water and sanitation is a basic need that human beings have the right to. Providing for basic needs and building housing are mutually exclusive

# SYSTEM IMPACTS

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- The lack of shelter is expensive for communities and has severe consequences for people experiencing homelessness.
- People living without shelter lack access to toilet facilities, sinks, showers, and clean drinking water.
- Homelessness is a state-wide crisis impacting multiple systems.
  - Medical costs are the largest share of cost that homeless people incur.
  - Caltrans spent over 10 million dollars in 2017 cleaning encampments.

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

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- Homeless persons with underlying health conditions, disabilities, or other mental or physical challenges face the most serious risks.
- Lack of access to water causes serious health problems for individuals—dehydration, complications related to diabetes, and sometimes death.
  - Women face additional health risks related to menstrual hygiene and urinary tract infections.
- Without access to hygiene facilities, they are at high risk for communicable diseases like hepatitis A.
- These problems are additionally expensive as medical care is received by admissions to public emergency rooms and hospitals.

# SOLUTION

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## HOUSING



# INTERIM SOLUTIONS

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- Improving access to water and sanitation is critical.
  - Although AB 685 establishes a human right to water and sanitation for all Californians, the bill does not establish standards or guidance to help municipalities guarantee water access by residents—unsheltered or otherwise. It also lacks any enforcement or funding mechanism to induce or support jurisdictions to take action.
- Understanding how systems interface, reducing silos.
- Raising awareness and understanding.
- Enhancing collaboration and forging new partnerships.
- Understanding what resources there are and braiding the infrastructures.
- Assessing resources, identifying gaps, and establish funding priorities.

# HOW FUNDING FLOWS

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- Continuums of Care
- Coordinated Entry System (CES)

# CONTINUUMS OF CARE (CoCs)

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- 44 in the State of California.
- CoCs are mandated by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- CoCs are a geographically based entity that carries out the planning and local funding priority responsibilities.
- A CoC is made up of local stakeholders committed to ending homelessness, such as local non-profits, those who are or have experienced homelessness, law enforcement, local business leaders, local government leaders, etc.
- A CoC can be a county, a city, a non-profit organization.
- For additional information and resources:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>

# COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM (CES)

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- CES is a process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access.
- Goals of CES:
  - To ensure accessibility to services no matter where or how people present.
  - To ensure people are quickly identified, assessed for and referred to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs.
  - To reduce long waiting times to receive assistance
  - To prevent people from being screened out of needed assistance.
  - To help communities identify gaps and needed resources
- The system varies for each CoC.

# STATE FUNDING RESOURCES

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- Three new programs introduced in 2018 intended to provide flexible funding to assist local communities.

STATE FUNDING	
Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)	Administered by Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council
California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH)	Administered by Housing and Community Development (HCD)
No Place Like Home (NPLH)	Administered by Housing and Community Development (HCD)

# HEAP FUNDING

- HEAP funding is divided into 3 categories of distribution.
- Eligible applicants were the 11 large cities and 43 Continuums of Care (CoC).

Category for Distribution	Funded Amount	Eligible Applicants
(a) CoC -Based on Point in Time Count Ranges	\$250M	CoC
(b) CoC -Based on Percentage of Homeless Population	\$100M	CoC
(c) City/City that is also a County -Based on general population	\$150M	Large cities with a population over 330,000

# KEY ELEMENTS OF HEAP

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- Eligible Applicants
  - CoCs and large cities must demonstrate that a local collaborative process was conducted prior to application submission.
  - A shelter declaration for each jurisdiction **wanting to be a direct recipient** of HEAP funds **must** be in place at the time of award.
- Disbursement
  - Once deemed complete, the standard agreements and award letter were issued simultaneously within 15 calendar days.
  - Once executed agreements were received, 100% of allocated funds were disbursed to the administrative entity within 15 calendar days.
- Expenditure Deadlines
  - 50% of awarded funds must be contractually obligated by January 1, 2020.
  - 100% of awarded funds must be expended by June 30, 2021.
- Homeless Youth Set-Aside
  - At least five percent of HEAP funds must be used to establish or expand services meeting the needs of homeless youth or youth at risk of homelessness.
    - 5 percent is the **minimum**, additional dollars may be allocated to youth providers/programs.
    - This is the first time funds mandated a set-aside specific to homeless youth.
- Eligible uses must align with Housing First policy

# HEAP FUNDING PROCESS

- We deliberately set out to make the program as simple, transparent, and streamlined as possible.
  - Determined the core components needed to implement the program.
  - Determined what elements were critical or mandated and what could be reduced or eliminated.
  - Engaged in ongoing communication with the Continuums of Care and large cities.
  - The HEAP application process was non-competitive.
  - Funds were disbursed up front and not a reimbursement.
  - All funds were disbursed by April 3, 2019.

Application-Award-Disbursement Process	
Program Guidance Issued	August 2018
Application Map	August 2018
NOFA Release and On-line application portal open	September 5, 2018
Disbursement of Funds begins	October 2018
Application Cut-off Date	December 31, 2018
Final date to submit documents	January 15, 2019
Final date to award funds	January 31, 2019

# FEDERAL FUNDING



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
Community Planning and Development (CPD)

<b>FEDERAL FUNDING</b>	
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	ESG is awarded to communities through direct entitlement or through the state
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	CDBG is awarded to cities and counties through a direct entitlement. Smaller cities can apply to the state for funding.
Continuum of Care (CoC)	CoC is awarded to non-profit and government agencies.

# FEDERAL FUNDING

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- **Federal funding to address public sanitation is limited.**

- HUD funding can be used to support Street Outreach and Case Management.
- Must clearly show the expense for these items was for homeless (e.g., funding for toiletries could be allocated to the non-profit that is providing the direct service to homeless encampments).

**Example:**

- A program gathers professionals from a variety of county and city agencies, including Police, Public Works, Public Health and non-profit service providers to develop strategies to solve the issues of sanitation.
- The team meets weekly to map out a cleaning and intervention for specific encampments.
- Working with individuals to engage with them to address sanitation issues.

- **CDBG cannot be used to fund general activities of government. Public Works and sanitation fall under that designation.**

- Using funds for this must be couple with direct services to homeless.
- The items listed below would be used to support, not replace, the local jurisdictions' sanitation services.
  - **Facilities:** CDBG can be used for the acquisition, construction and conversion of buildings to support homeless.
  - **Sanitation:** Porta potties, purchasing trash bags and sanitation items to distribute.

# WHAT WE LEARNED WITH HEAP

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- First, the authorizing statute was clear in the major program structure, eligible applicants and uses, and allocation formula provisions.
- Second, we deliberately set out to make the program as simple, transparent, and streamlined as possible.
- Third, we recognized that establishing partnerships with the CoCs, large cities, and other partners was key.
- Finally, providing ongoing support and technical assistance is critical.

# PROJECT EXAMPLES

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## CORE-Coordinated Outreach Referral and Engagement

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What is CORE?

Outreach teams that work to identify and engage individuals living on the streets, assess their housing and service needs, and facilitate connection to shelter, healthcare, and other benefits and services.

# A day in the life of street outreach...



# CORES IMPACT TO DATE



# HEAP FUNDED PROJECTS

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- Santa Barbara
  - Mobile Showers that are ADA Compliant
- Humboldt
  - ADA compliant portable showers
  - Constructing showers and laundry facilities at a drop-in center for youth
  - Purchase and upgrade from septic system to city sewer system
  - Funded multiple projects to provide supplies like water, lotions, medical supplies, hats, soap, etc.
- Tehama
  - Navigation Center project to increase showers, bathrooms, and laundry services.

# GAPS IN FUNDING AND RESOURCES

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- Data
- Funding
- Permitting
- Access to facilities and services
  - not available 24/7
  - location
  - not enough

# WHAT WE KNOW.....

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- Homelessness is a complex social problem with a variety of underlying economic and social factors.
- Combatting homelessness must be a priority.
- We need to demonstrate compassion to the most vulnerable human beings in our society.
- Partnering to identify resources is critical and necessary for substantial impact.

# Contact Information

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- HCFC website <https://www.bcsch.ca.gov/hcfc/>
- Questions: [HCFC@BCSH.ca.gov](mailto:HCFC@BCSH.ca.gov)
- To request HCFC staff presentations:  
<https://www.bcsch.ca.gov/hcfc/webapps/request.php>
- To receive information releases regarding the HEAP program, please register for the program [listserv](#)
- Social media
  - [https://twitter.com/CA\\_HCFC](https://twitter.com/CA_HCFC) 
  - <https://www.facebook.com/CalHCFC/> 
- Lahela Mattox, Local Government Liaison and Acting HEAP Grant Manager
  - 916-651-2770
  - [Lahela.mattox@bcsch.ca.gov](mailto:Lahela.mattox@bcsch.ca.gov)



# California State Homelessness Funding Programs



[https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap\\_funding\\_matrix.pdf](https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap_funding_matrix.pdf)



# State Resources to Address California's Homeless Crisis

[https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap\\_funding\\_resources.pdf](https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap_funding_resources.pdf)