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California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Housing Support Program (HSP) FACT SHEET

Background

CalWORKs HSP, established by [Senate Bill \(SB\) 855 \(Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014\)](#), fosters housing stability for families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in the CalWORKs program. [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 135 \(Committee on Budget, Chapter 85, Statutes of 2021\)](#) updated the statute to include families in CalWORKs who are at-risk of homelessness, including recipients who have not yet received an eviction notice.

Overview

HSP is a state-funded, locally administered program in which participating counties provide housing-related supports to eligible families experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness in the CalWORKs program, including CalWORKs recipients who have not yet received an eviction notice, and for whom housing instability would be a barrier to self-sufficiency or child well-being. HSP follows evidence-based housing interventions, including homelessness prevention and core components of Rapid Rehousing.

In accordance with Housing First principles, HSP assists families in securing and maintaining permanent housing as quickly as possible without preconditions and provides the following as applicable based on family needs:

- Financial assistance and housing-related wrap-around supportive services, including, but not limited to rental assistance, housing navigation, case management, security deposits, move-in costs, utility payments, interim shelter assistance, legal services, and credit repair
- Connections with local service providers including with the homeless Continuum of Care (CoC)
- Client-centered services offered on a voluntary basis; housing is not contingent upon participation in services

The CDSS Housing and Homelessness Division provides technical assistance, in partnership with [the Change Well Project](#), to counties operating HSP. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Individualized support to county operators including regular teleconferences and email correspondence to problem solve county-specific challenges

- Office hours and learning collaboratives on evidence-based and housing best practices
- Resources and guidance for implementation of housing and homelessness best practices

Impact and Accomplishments

As of Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22, a total of 55 counties operate HSP statewide. HSP has continually grown and expanded since its inception in 2014, with only 20 counties operating HSP in FY 2014-15.

Since program launch in 2014 through July 2022, more than 30,500 families were permanently housed through HSP. HSP supported system changes within communities through new or stronger partnerships between social service agencies and local homelessness response systems, resulting in more coordinated, efficient, and effective service provision.

Counties reported that the core components of HSP supported families in addressing barriers to housing (credit, rental history, legal issues, arrears, and more) in a way that most families could not have done alone while experiencing homelessness. HSP increased the use of standardized assessment tools and prioritization strategies as well as data tracking as the program utilizes the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) and the local homelessness Coordinated Entry System (CES).

Funding History

- HSP was established in 2014 by [Senate Bill 855 \(Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014\)](#) with \$20 million statewide in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds and State General Fund (GF).
- In 2019, HSP became an ongoing program with an annual appropriation of \$95 million in federal TANF funds and State GF.
- [The Budget Act of 2021](#) appropriated \$285 million for HSP over multiple years inclusive of \$190 million in one-time funds. This is in addition to the ongoing, annual appropriation of \$95 million. Per [County Fiscal Letter \(CFL\) 21/22-90](#), FY 21-22 funds were allocated to 55 counties.
- [The Budget Act of 2022](#) appropriated an additional \$285 million for HSP over multiple years inclusive of \$190 million in one-time funds. This is in addition to the ongoing, annual appropriation of \$95 million.
- On September 21, 2022, CDSS released an [All County Welfare Director's Letter \(ACWDL\)](#) notifying all 58 counties of additional HSP funds in FY 22-23 available over multiple years to further establish and expand housing and homelessness assistance through the CalWORKs HSP.

Learn More

For more information, please visit the [HSP webpage](#).