DESCRIPTION
Today, California is facing intersecting public health crises: (1) the raging COVID-19 pandemic and (2) the ongoing homelessness crisis, which has left hundreds of thousands of Californians on the street. The Governor and State Legislature have made historic investments to fund permanent affordable housing development, including through Homekey, as well as homeless services, including through HHAP. Still, these investments alone are not robust enough to meet the scale and urgency of today’s need.

With a one-time $5 billion investment in a statewide flexible rental assistance program, California could expeditiously move 50,000 people experiencing homelessness into housing for over 5 years. This state-administered program would capitalize on the infrastructure already developed through Housing is Key in order to provide rental housing support directly to unhoused Californians.

PROCESS: The State would provide grants to local cities, counties, COCs, or non-profits to identify and move people experiencing homelessness into housing. The State would then take over payment of rent directly with the landlord. Any money not expended by the local provider would revert back to the fund.

BUDGET: $5 billion, 5 year program, 50,000 people served

POPULATION: People in California experiencing homelessness

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: Health and Human Services Agency jointly with the Department of Housing and Community Development

ELIGIBLE USES: 80% of the fund ($800m/year) directly to landlords or tenants
- Rental assistance in permanent housing
- Self resolution
- Master leasing

10% of the fund ($100m/year) grants to providers including COCs, non-profits, cities, counties, PHAs competitively w/ match requirement (HHAP qualifies) to connect people to housing (State would then administer the rental assistance moving forward)
- Landlord incentives
- Housing navigation
- Housing sustaining services
- Services
- Mitigation fund
- Holding deposits/fees

10% State and local administrative costs
House California Challenge

SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING:

- Housing California
- CSH
- Certified Consulting
- American National
- Brilliant Corners
- Compass Family Services
- CLC
- Collaborising
- EBHO
- LEA
- LAHSA
- H4H
- RCAC
- TNDC
- California Coalition for Rural Housing
- Sacramento Regional Coalition to END Homelessness
- ONE generation
- Public Interest Law Project
- ACLU California Action
- Public Health Justice Collective
- Ready to Rent
- SFHDC
House California Challenge

SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING:

- Housing Ahora Now!
- PATH Making it Home
- Davis United Methodist Church
- FSY Architects
- Helping Hands AV
- Merritt Community Capital Corporation
- United Way of California
- United Way Greater Los Angeles
- San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness
- Steinberg Institute