

SBCEH Advocacy Committee Report

March 23, 2022

National

A variety of legislation on funding and policy issues regarding housing are working their way through the legislative process. On the National Low Income website the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) an education, strategy and action hub has a webpage with information about the housing programs impacts at . <http://www.nlihc.org/explore-issues/projects-campaigns/campaign-housing-and-community-development-funding>. The coalition of more than 70 national organizations work to ensure the highest allocation of resources possible to support affordable housing and community development. The www.nlihc.org website has summaries of the programs and legislation.

State

Governor's Newsom announced a Blueprint plan for California to include \$2 billion for housing the homeless and the CARES court program. "Governor Newsom's new investments expand on last year's \$12 billion package – all told, creating 55,000 new housing units and treatment **slots** for people exiting homelessness." According to the Governor's office. CARE Court proposal offers court-ordered individualized interventions and services, stabilization medication, advanced mental health directives, and housing assistance –community-based. Plans can be up to 12-24 months. In addition to their full clinical team, the client-centered approach also includes a public defender and a supporter to help individuals make self-directed care decisions. The proposal is controversial by some groups in that could be used to force individuals to get treatment, into some form of housing and violates civil rights. The availability of housing and treatment services and availability of mental health health workforce are also questioned. For more information see <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2022/01/10/governor-newsom-releases-california-blueprint-to-take-on-the-states-greatest-existential-threats-and-build-on-historic-progress/>.

There are also a variety of state legislative proposals for reentry housing AB 1816, universal application for providers and government streamline service delivery AB 2325, aligning housing and Medi-Cal for older adults AB 2483, and rent stabilization ofr older adults and people with disabilities.AB2547. For more information see Corporation for Supportive Housing website at www.csh.org. CSH is having an Advocacy Day on April 22.

Cal AIM multiyear initiative to improve the quality of life and health outcomes by implementing broad delivery system, program and payment reform across Medi-Cal program Medicaid 1115 waiver expires can be extended for five years . <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/CalAIM.aspx>

County

The Blue Ribbon Committee is continuing its discussion as reported in and updated in the SBCEH newsletter on a comprehensive study of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) governance structure by reviewing existing reports and recommendations, identify and analyze the challenges inherent to the existing system, and to provide recommendations to change and improve its efficiency. See <https://brch.lacounty.gov/>.

Related to homeless and the criminalization of homelessness, Supervisor Kuehl proposed a motion that was approved by the Board of Supervisors to today to aggregate LA County programs currently operated by multiple offices and departments under one roof in order to more quickly establish coordinated services, and to identify and optimize available funding sources. The Justice, Care, and Opportunities department is expected to house the County's Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative, the Jail Closure Implementation Team, pretrial services, as well as reentry programs for youth and adults. Current clinical services will remain within the County's three health departments.